All ICDL 2016 conference participants are welcome to attend the special events. For special event on “Discussion Panel: Digitization & Economic Development”, please [Register here](#).  

**Day 04: 16 December 2016 (Friday)**

**Discussion Panel: Digitization & Economic Development**

**Timing** (2:00 pm – 3.30 pm)  
**Venue:** Silver Oak

**Background**

With extensive digitization in place at international level, the economic growth of a nation is linked primarily to the extent of adoption of information and communications technology for global good and finding value of such adoption in terms of economic development in the country. Corporates and policymakers increasingly facing complex challenges in today's transformed environment and started using ICT tools in decision making process powered by Internet of Things and Big data analytics. The amount of data generated globally is expanding exponentially in available in different formats. In every country, leaders of government and businesses are investing heavily on digitization and utilizing value added data for decision making through policies and strategies for ICT, Internet access, communications media, and digital applications. In essence, ICT tools are used extensively to promote and structure the digitization of production, implementation processes for economic development.

Countries that have achieved advanced levels of digitization, defined as the mass adoption of connected digital technologies and ICT applications by consumers, industries and governments. The stakeholders have realized significant economic, social, and political benefits. For them, digitization is a pathway to economic growth and development and other countries are falling unduly behind.

**Chair:**

*Prabir Sengupta*  
Distinguished Fellow, Director, Knowledge Management Division, TERI, New Delhi, India

**Panelists:**

- **Rajat Kathuria**  
  Director, ICRIER, New Delhi

- **Kiran Karnik**  
  Chair, Oxfam India; Chairman, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology; President, IHC, India

- **Biswajit Dhar**  
  Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning School of Social Sciences, JNU, India