

Editor's Note

Rains, negotiating Mumbai's new highways, and launching The Infravision Foundation's latest initiative, June was hectic, as TIF also readied its latest research study and finalised its future plans.



Do you want to be an InfraPandit ?

The Infravision Foundation (TIF) has announced the InfraPandit awards for dissertations in fields related to infrastructure. Scholars who have obtained their PhDs in the last three years may apply. A citation and two cash prizes are on offer. More details inside.

Infrastructure think tank launches awards for doctoral research

Event Update

TIF's ropeways study is ready

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QUIZ

TIF launches awards for doctoral research in infrastructure



From left - TIF Founder Vinayak Chatterjee, InfraPandit Jury Member Dr Soumya Kanti Ghosh, TIF Co-Founder Rumjhum Chatterjee, TIF Trustee Kiran Karnik, Jury Chairman Prof G Raghuram

In one of the first of its kind, The Infravision Foundation (TIF) announced an initiative to recognize and celebrate outstanding doctoral research in infrastructure that can drive India's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. The InfraPandit Awards will promote industry-academia linkages and support innovative research with direct relevance to India's infrastructure development. The dual emphasis on academic rigour and real-world applicability is expected to translate into meaningful opportunities for collaboration with TIF's ongoing work in this sector. The InfraPandit Awards will recognise excellent PhD dissertations in engineering, technology, management, finance, public policy, economics, and urban planning. Two awardees will be selected for 2025. Each award will include a citation by the jury highlighting the significance and impact of the dissertation, along with a handsome cash prize.

Announcing this at the launch event for the Awards in Mumbai, Chairman of the Jury and former IIM Bangalore Director, Prof G Raghuram, said it was a unique experiment which would shine the spotlight on the good work being done. TIF Founder and Managing Trustee Vinayak Chatterjee called it a much-needed initiative given India's emphasis on infrastructure in the overall development of the economy. The act of discovery of the number of PhDs in the country would enable good research to be converted into good practices, he added. Dr Soumya Kant Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser at the State Bank of India and newly appointed member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, was also present on the occasion. A member of the jury as well as Distinguished Fellow, TIF, he said social, physical and digital infrastructure would get a fillip with the award.

TIF Trustee and one of India's premier institution builders Kiran Karnik said the quality and transparency of the awards would spur more work in this area. The process of selection has begun and is open to all who qualify. The winners will be announced by November 15, 2025. Retired IAS officer KP Krishnan; Chairman, India Practice, BCG, Janmejaya Sinha; and Savita Mahajan, accomplished management professional, will also participate in the selection process as members of the jury.



TIF hosted a meeting of the Council of Advisors and Distinguished Fellows in Mumbai. TIF presented its work so far, and its plans for the future. TIF CEO Jagan Shah spoke at length on the Unified Transport Metropolitan Authority (UMTA) and the think tank's focus on its progress across the country.



TEAM TIF: (Seated) **Vrinda Singh**, Research Associate, The Infravision Foundation; **Sunil Mathur**, Managing Director and CEO of Siemens Limited, India and South Asia and Member, Council of Advisors, The Infravision Foundation; **Khurshed Daruvala**, Chairman of Sterling and Wilson Group and Member, Council of Advisors, The Infravision Foundation; **Nasser Munjee**, Chairman of Development Credit Bank, Chairman of other Aga Khan institutions in India and Member, Council of Advisors, The Infravision Foundation; **Arun Nanda**, Member, Council of Advisors, The Infravision Foundation; **Kiran Karnik**, Trustee, The Infravision Foundation; **Subramanian KR**, Operating Partner, The Convergence Foundation; **Dilip Cherian**, Top Image Consultant, Council of Advisors, The Infravision Foundation (Standing) **Praveen Khangta**, Head, Strategy, Investment and Portfolio Development, The Convergence Foundation; **Akhilesh Tilotia**, Co-founder at Thurro and Distinguished Fellow, The Infravision Foundation, **Prof. G Raghuram**, Former Director, IIM Bangalore and Member, Council of Advisors, The Infravision Foundation; **Dr. Soumya Kanti Ghosh**, Group Chief Economic Advisor, State Bank of India and Member, Council of Advisors, The Infravision Foundation; **Kaveree Bamzai**, Head, Advocacy, The Infravision Foundation; **Vinayak Chatterjee**, TIF Founder and Managing Trustee; **Rumjhum Chatterjee**, TIF Co-Founder and Managing Trustee; **Jagan Shah**, TIF CEO



Meeting of TIF CoA members and DFs in progress

TIF's ropeways study is ready

Having established the demand for ropeways in urban areas as a sustainable, efficient, and reliable alternative to conventional urban transit solutions, the TIF study in collaboration with iDeCK, has recommended that a national level programme be launched under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to promote the adoption of ropeways for urban mobility. The programme can be implemented in phases, with each phase prioritizing a different category of cities that may be identified after suitable analysis. This phased approach will allow for targeted planning, efficient allocation of resources, and gradual scaling based on learnings from earlier phases. Among the other recommendations the report makes is the effective integration of ropeways into the broader urban transport ecosystem, the inclusion of ropeways in the Gati Shakti platform, creating fast track approval mechanisms, and encouraging the use of Made in India technology.

Congratulations!

TIF Co-founder and Managing Trustee Rumjhum Chatterjee has been appointed to the Working Group of the SAMRIDH Himachal 2045 Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Infrastructure and Disaster Management, chaired by Rajesh Sharma, IAS, Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Government of Himachal Pradesh. The colloquium series, being conducted in three phases at the Manmohan Singh Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration, Shimla, aims to create a long term vision for the economic self-reliance of Himachal Pradesh, grounded in seven core principles—ranging from social inclusivity and administrative practicality to moral justice and long-term sustainability.

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TIF Founder and Managing Trustee Vinayak Chatterjee focused on India's renewed interest in revving up nuclear power generation; and more importantly, with significant private sector participation. He endorsed this in his long running monthly column in Business Standard and spoke about it to NDTV Profit, where he said nuclear power is going to be a very important portion of the country's energy basket.

Chatterjee also spoke to Financial Times on whether the Air India crash tests Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attempt to get his country flying.

Chatterjee was one of the three experts quoted in Menaka Doshi's insightful article in Bloomberg on the second wave of infrastructure where past investments in core infrastructure such as highways and airports are now being supplemented with the sizzle of social infrastructure and high tech industries.

<https://www.ndtvprofit.com/business/indias-nuclear-energy-ambitions-at-critical-inflection-point-vinayak-chatterjee>



QUIZ: Test Your Infra Power

1. Goutam Ghose's Parikrama looks at the resettlement of villages displaced by which dam?
2. How many km is the Samruddhi Mahamarg between Navi Mumbai and Igatpuri?
3. What is the name of one of the oldest railway bridges in India, built on Godavari river at Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh's East Godavari district, which is to be restored and repurposed?
4. What authority is Delhi setting up to boost last mile connectivity?
5. What is the World Health Organisation average of doctors per 1,000 people (In India it is merely 0.7 doctors per 1,000 people)?



1. The Sardar Sarovar Dam over the Narmada river
2. 700 km
3. Havelock Bridge
4. UMTA
5. 2.5 doctors per 1,000 people



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