Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu  
Former Union Minister, GoI

Suresh P Prabhu is a four-time Member of Lok Sabha from Rajapur constituency, Maharashtra — one of the biggest states of India. In his first spell as Lok Sabha member, he served as industry minister, GoI. Next, he held the position of Minister of Environment and Forests, GoI and then, Minister of Fertilizers and Chemicals. He has also held the position of Union Minister of Power, Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. As Union Minister for Power, he imparted a new dynamism to the functioning of the Ministry and was committed to the all-round development of this crucial sector. He has also been Chairman of Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers with status and rank of Union Cabinet Minister. He has been able to take very far-reaching initiatives to inculcate new technologies, and at the same time taken care of complex environmental issues confronting us today. He has taken the developmental initiative involving a network of 105 NGOs for the 1200 villages of Rajapur constituency each looking after the development of approx. 10 to 12 villages in its area of operation through a Parivartan Kendra (Centre of Development).

Ms Anusha Rizvi  
Film Director

Ms Rizvi is a young film director and Screenwriter. Her directorial debut is ‘peepli Live’. The movie won the Best First Film award at the Durban film festival. She was a journalist before venturing into film direction. She graduated in history from St Stephen’s College, University of Delhi. ‘peepli Live’ selected as the Indian nomination in the Best Foreign Film category for Oscars 2011.

Ashok Vajpeyi  
Chairman, Lalit Kala Academy

A distinguished Hindi poet, critic, editor, and cultural administrator, Ashok Vajpeyi has been a senior civil servant in the fields of culture and the arts. He was the first Vice-Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, GoI. Founder of the multi-art center, Bharat Bhawan, in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, Mr Vajpeyi has done much to promote cultural and literary concerns. He has won two prestigious national awards for poetry, namely the Sahitya Akademi Award and Dayavati Modi Kavi Shekhar Samman in 1994. Vajpeyi is the author of many poetry books, including: Shahar Ab Bhi Sambhavna Hai, Ek Patang Anant Mein, Agar Itne Se, Tatpurush, Kahin Nahin Vahin, Ghas Mein Dubaka Akash, Tinka Tinka, Bahuri Akela, Thodi Si Jagah, Viviksha, among others. Currently, he is Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi in New Delhi. As a translator, he translated works of four major poets of Poland, Czeslaw Milosz, W. Szymborska, Z. Herbert and T. Rozewicz into Hindi. He has been decorated by the President of Republic of Poland by the outstanding national award ‘The Officer’s Cross of Merit of the Republic of Poland’, the French Govt. by the award of ‘Officier De L’Ordre Des Arts Et Des Lettres’ and the Embassy of Romania to India by the award ‘Best Promoter of Indo-Romanian Relations’.
Ashok Rane
Film Academician and Film Critic

Ashok Rane, Director of Indian Film Academy, is a noted film critic, a film academician, researcher and writer. He has been working in the field of film journalism for the last three decades. In this tenure of thirty years, he has been writing extensively on Indian and world cinema. This academician has watched and studied films made all over the world, right from the world’s first film made by the Lumiere Brothers of France in 1895. Rane has been invited as film critic to the Berlin International Film Festival since 1996 and so far, has attended the prestigious festival seven times. He was also invited to the Locarno Film Festival (Switzerland) in 1999 and Sundance and Asian Film Festival (Orlando) in USA in 2002. He has been member of Federation Internationale de la Presse Cinematographique Jury for Moscow International Film Festival 2003. Cinemachi Chittarkatha, Chitra Manatta, Anubhav, Chitrapat Ek Pravas and the compilation of his most popular column Sakkhe Sobti in the largest circulating Marathi Daily Loksatta are few of his popular published works. Rane received the National Award for his book Cinemachi Chittarkatha in 1996 and the second one for Best Film Critic in 2002.

Bikram Grewal
Trustee, Wildlife Protection Society of India and Publisher

Bikram Grewal loves to spend time in the forests. According to him, as told in an interview to The Hindu, he spends 80 percent of his time in the forests. His love for nature, perhaps stems from the fact that he spent his early years living close to nature in Assam and Himachal Pradesh. He serves as a trustee of several wildlife-based institutions and also acts as an expert on ecotourism to several Indian states. He is currently helping the Government of Nagaland set up a five-year biodiversity conservation programme. He has written over thirty books on diverse subjects, ranging from travel to the joys of collecting British natural history art. Grewal’s first book on Indian birds sold over 250,000 copies. His latest book is A Photographic Guide to the World of Birds. He helped conceive the ‘birdsofindia’ website, which is now the biggest birding website in India and is ranked amongst the top ten birding sites in the world. Grewal is a trustee of the Wildlife Preservation Society of India (WPSI), a premier NGO working to prevent illegal trade in tiger parts.

Dr Purnamita Dasgupta
Ford Foundation Chair and Acting Head, Environmental Economics Unit, IEG, Delhi.

Dr Dasgupta’s areas of specialisation are environmental and natural resource economics, rural and urban development, research methods. A PhD in environmental economics, Dasgupta has served on several government and non-government committees in various capacities including as member of the expert committee and drafting committee on Electronic Waste Legislation (India), co-ordinating lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Scientific Steering Committee on Economic Costing and Ethics of the IPCC, Policy Research Committee of the ICFRE, Member Secretary of the expert committee for Net Present Value of Forest Lands constituted as per the Supreme Court of India directive among many other special assignments. She has held visiting professor positions and fellowship at the University of Cambridge, UK and Johns Hopkins University, USA. She has been researching on the interface between socio-economic scenarios and climate change in India for India’s National Communication to the UNFCCC (NATCOM).