



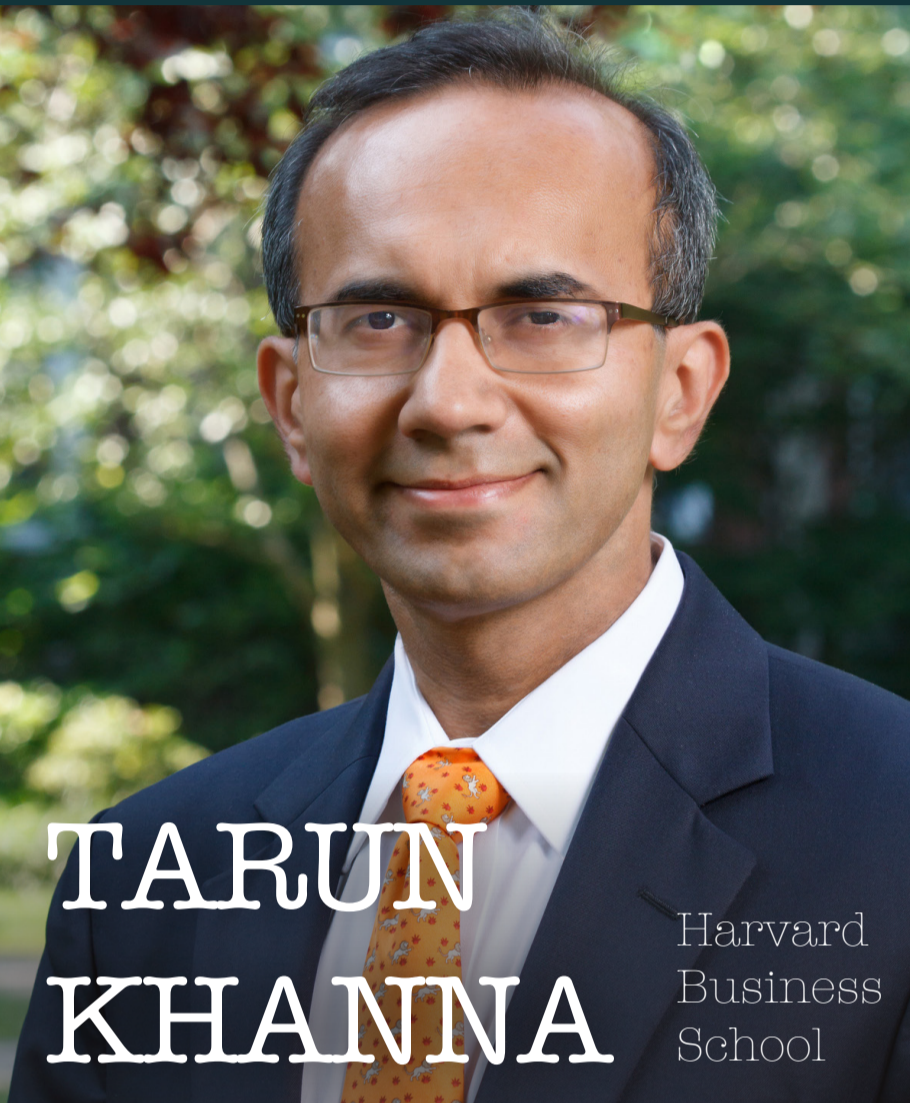
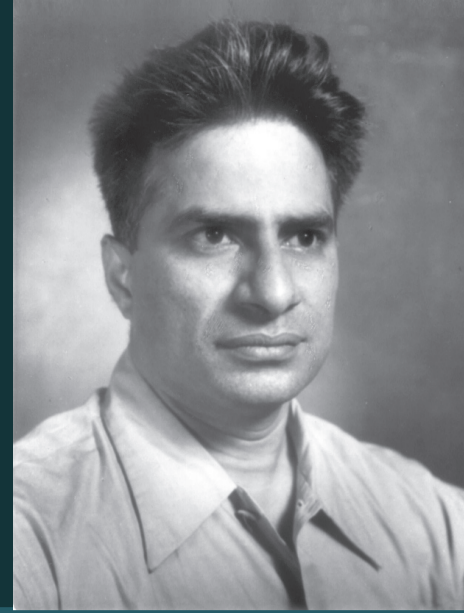
INTERNATIONAL  
CENTRE for  
THEORETICAL  
SCIENCES

TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

## D. D. KOSAMBI LECTURE

*Damodar Dharmanand Kosambi* was a mathematician and statistician who made pioneering and foundational contributions to the methods and study of ancient Indian history. He was the first professor of mathematics at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (1946-62).

The *ICTS D. D. Kosambi lectures* are delivered by eminent scholars in the social sciences, the arts and the humanities.



TARUN  
KHANNA

Harvard  
Business  
School

Tarun Khanna is the Jorge Paulo Lemann Professor at Harvard. He has taught at Harvard Business School for 25 years and at Harvard College for the last decade. He works primarily with entrepreneurs across many developing countries. This work finds expression in scholarly articles, books, and in the founding of numerous for-profit and not-for-profit ventures across emerging markets. It has enabled his collaboration with organizations as varied as the World Economic Forum, Boston's Museum of Fine Arts and India's Niti Aayog. Recently, the Government of India has appointed him to lead several committees connected to entrepreneurship and higher education. He is the first director of Harvard's Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute, a university-wide endeavor that brings together natural and social scientists with artists and humanists in joint academic pursuits. His latest book, *Trust*, and his earlier *Billions of Entrepreneurs*, chronicle creative ventures in China, India and beyond.

## A paean to learning to 'see'

Inspired by Kosambi's use of analytic methods to understand history, I will structure this talk around the use of basic analytics to better 'see' some overlooked regularities in human behavior. I will draw on examples from recent Indian history (crowdsourced memories of the Partition of British India; timeless religious gatherings like the Maha Kumbh Mela) as well as from contemporary social phenomena (ubiquity of unskilled youth and the demographic bulge; an unmanageable epidemic of chronic disease across the developing world). Such analytics require some degree of consilience, so that scholars can triangulate insights from different academic disciplines. I will conclude with some remarks on the institutional landscape in developing countries that bedevil this quest for consilience, and suggest some policy initiatives that nudge communities, universities, industry and government into a tentative and hopefully constructive embrace, drawing on my experiences with the Boston and Bengaluru ecosystems.

4 PM, MONDAY  
25 NOVEMBER 2019  
ICTS, BENGALURU

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