



Launch of the Responsible Nations Index (RNI) 2026

The Responsible Nations Index (RNI) was formally launched on **19 January 2026** at the **Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi**, marking an important moment in contemporary global policy discourse. Conceived and developed by the **World Intellectual Foundation (WIF)**, in collaboration with **Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)** and methodologically validated by the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Mumbai**, the RNI introduces a new framework for assessing nations—not by power or prosperity alone, but by responsibility towards citizens, the environment, and the international community.

The launch brought together an eminent gathering of policymakers, jurists, economists, academicians, and global thought leaders. More than a ceremonial unveiling, the event represented the culmination of a multi-year academic and policy exercise, as well as the beginning of a broader global conversation on ethical governance, stewardship, and accountability in an increasingly fragmented world.

High-Level Expert Roundtable Conference

Preceding the public launch, a **closed-door High-Level Expert Roundtable Conference** was convened as part of the conceptual journey of the Responsible Nations Index. The roundtable served as a reflective space for interdisciplinary engagement, bringing together scholars and practitioners from diverse fields such as public policy, economics, law, public health, climate studies, governance, and international relations.

The discussions focused on redefining responsibility in the context of global interdependence. Participants deliberated on how national decisions increasingly generate cross-border consequences, and why responsibility must be understood not merely as intent, but as measurable outcomes of governance choices. The roundtable consciously avoided power-centric frameworks, instead emphasising ethics, restraint, accountability, and care for the global commons. Insights from these deliberations directly informed the conceptual foundations and normative orientation of the RNI.

Panel Discussion on Responsibility and Global Governance

A major highlight of the launch proceedings was a **panel discussion led by Shri N. K. Singh**, Chairman of the Fifteenth Finance Commission of India. The panel examined responsibility as a practical principle of governance—spanning fiscal prudence, institutional credibility, cooperative federalism, and international engagement. Shri N. K. Singh underscored that in today's interconnected world, responsible governance is essential not only for domestic stability but also for sustaining global trust.

The discussion was enriched by contributions from other distinguished panelists, who reflected on responsibility in the domains of economic governance, development pathways, and multilateral cooperation. An important international perspective was offered by **Prof. Edouard Hossun**, who situated the Responsible Nations Index within wider global debates on

multilateralism, development asymmetries, and ethical leadership. The panel collectively reinforced the idea that responsibility is no longer a moral abstraction, but a necessary condition for sustainable global order.

Addresses at the Formal Launch

The formal launch ceremony featured a series of thoughtful addresses by eminent national leaders and academic figures. **Shri Ram Nath Kovind Ji, Hon'ble Former President of India**, reflected on the ethical foundations of public life and the enduring relevance of responsibility in governance. He emphasised that true leadership is defined not by dominance, but by service to people, institutions, and humanity.

Justice Arun Kumar Mishra, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, spoke on constitutional morality, accountability, and the rule of law as integral to responsible state behaviour. **Prof. Santishree D. Pandit**, Vice Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, highlighted the role of universities and intellectual institutions in shaping normative global discourse. **Prof. Manoj Kumar Tiwari**, Director of IIM Mumbai, reflected on the importance of methodological rigour and evidence-based evaluation in redefining global leadership metrics, while **Prof. Jagdish Mukhi**, former Governor, spoke on ethics, inclusion, and India's civilisational commitment to global welfare.

A Beginning, Not a Conclusion

The launch of the Responsible Nations Index represents not an endpoint, but the beginning of a sustained intellectual and policy engagement. By placing responsibility at the centre of global evaluation, the RNI seeks to reorient international conversations away from dominance and competition, and towards care, fairness, and long-term thinking. Through continued dialogue, research, and reflection, the Index aspires to contribute meaningfully to shaping a more accountable, cooperative, and humane global order.