

Dr. Suryesh Kumar Namdeo



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Expertise & Skills -

Scientific research
Policy research
Stakeholder engagement
Project management
Capacity building

Experience

April 2024 - Ongoing: Senior Research Analyst, Centre for Society and Policy, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru

January 2025 - December 2025: Fellow, Asia Centre for Health Security, NUS Singapore

June 2022 - March 2024: Visiting Scholar & Project Scientist, DST CPR, IISc, Bengaluru

March 2023 - March 2024: Director of Outreach and Engagement, Journal of Science Policy and Governance (JSPG) - Voluntary & Part-time

June 2022 - March 2023: Consultant, Science & Technology, Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Geneva

June 2020 - June 2022: Programme officer- Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy Fellowship Programme, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. This work was conducted at the DST- Centre for Policy Research- Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, India

January 2019 - June 2020: Consultant, Policy at the UNX Life Pvt. Ltd.

Education

2014 - 2018: PhD in Molecular Biology, Sommer Lab at the Max Planck Institute for Biology, Tübingen, Germany

2009 - 2014: Bachelor's in Science, Master's in Science (B.S.- M.S. Dual degree), Indian Institute for Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, India

2010 - 2012 (Summers): Diploma in Biology, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru, India

Awards and Recognitions

- Finalist, Peace nuclear Abolition and Climate Engaged Youth (PACEY) Award 2026, a prestigious international award for significant contribution to peace and international security through youth engagement, for my work on science-informed biosecurity governance.
- Member, Indian National Young Academy of Sciences (INIAS). INIAS Coordinator for International Relations and Science 20 (S20) under G20.
- Member of the small team that drafted the UN ' Youth Declaration for Biosecurity' as part of the Youth for Biosecurity initiative of the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs.
- One of 25 young leaders from around the world who formulated and signed the 'Seoul Youth Declaration for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation', a joint initiative by the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs and the Republic of Korea.
- Professional Certification in Bio Risk Management by the International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA).
- Co-chair, expert group, US National Academies (NASEM) multinational workshop series on biological threats in the age of emerging technology (2024-25). Member, NAM Expert committee on 'Preparing for a Future of AI-Enabled Biology' (2026).
- Participated in the prestigious US International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) in July 2025 on the invitation of the US Department of State.
- Participated in the European Union Visitors Program (EUVP) in June 2024 on the invitation of the European Union.
- Member of the Global Roster of Experts of the International Science Council (ISC).
- Member, National Policy Research Network, Indian National Science Academy (INSA).
- Best Public Speaker Award in 'Science Slam' competition organised by the Graduate Academy, University of Tübingen, Germany in 2018.

Funding

- Awarded a grant of USD 220,000 for three years by the Emergent Ventures at the Mercatus Center, George Mason University in 2026 to develop a policy research and training programme on bio-responsibility at the Centre for Society and Policy (CSP), IISc Bengaluru.
- Awarded a USD 56000 grant for two years by the Emergent Ventures at the Mercatus Center, George Mason University, in 2023 for conducting policy research to analyse India's biological security challenges and develop potential solutions.

Selected Publications

Book Chapters

1. Namdeo, S.K., 2026 (In Press). 'Rethinking Global Biosecurity Governance: Emerging Non-Western Perspectives', in J. Zhang (ed), *Building a BioGovernance Commons: Reflections on China's Role in Global Risk Governance*, **Springer**
2. Thorat, K. and Namdeo, S.K., 2025. 'Securing the Life Sciences: The Role of Biosafety and Biosecurity in the Biological Weapons Convention' in A. Lele (ed), *50 YEARS OF THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION: Tracking the Journey*, **Pentagon Press**, Chapter 10.
<https://idsa.in/publisher/book/50-years-of-the-biological-weapons-convention-tracking-the-journey>

Policy Research Articles

1. Namdeo, S.K., Aziz, F., Friedman, S.M., 2026. Developing multi-stakeholder engagements to strengthen biosecurity. *Health Security*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23265094261438869>
2. Namdeo, S.K. and Chandan, G.N., 2025. Scientometric Analysis of Research on Deliberate Biosecurity Threats Reveals North-Transatlantic Dominance. *Journal of Biosafety and Biosecurity*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jobb.2025.04.002>
3. Namdeo, S.K. and Zhang, J.Y., 2024. Rethinking science diplomacy and global biosecurity: challenges, emerging practices and the way forward. *International Affairs*, 100(6), pp.2623-2635. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iaae187>
4. Mahuli, A., Kumar, S. and Namdeo, S.K., 2023. Identification of Strategic International Partnerships for Emergent Global Artificial Intelligence Policies. *Cambridge Journal of Science & Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.17863/CAM.101466>
5. Koley, M., Namdeo, S.K., Bhattacharjee, S., & Afifi, N. A. (2022). Digital platform for open and equitable sharing of scholarly knowledge in India. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, 55(2), 403-413. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09610006221083678>
6. Namdeo, S.K. and Koley, M., 2021. Citizen science in India: introduction, challenges and way forward. *DIALOGUE: Science, Scientists and Society*, pp.1-15. <https://dialogue.ias.ac.in/index.php/dialogue/article/view/28>

Scientific Research Articles

1. Namdeo, S.K., Moreno, E., Rödelberger, C., Baskaran, P., Witte, H. and Sommer, R.J., 2018. Two independent sulfation processes regulate mouth-form plasticity in the nematode *Pristionchus pacificus*. *Development*, 145(13), p.dev166272. <https://doi.org/10.1242/dev.166272>
2. Werner, M.S., Sieriebriennikov, B., Loschko, T., Namdeo, S.K., Lenuzzi, M., Dardiry, M., Renahan, T., Sharma, D.R. and Sommer, R.J., 2017. Environmental influence on *Pristionchus pacificus* mouth form through different culture methods. *Scientific Reports*, 7(1), p.7207. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-017-07455-7>
3. Sommer, R.J., Dardiry, M., Lenuzzi, M., Namdeo, S.K., Renahan, T., Sieriebriennikov, B. and Werner, M.S., 2017. The genetics of phenotypic plasticity in nematode feeding structures. *Open biology*, 7(3), p.160332. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsob.160332>
4. Serobyanyan, V., Xiao, H., Namdeo, S.K., Rödelberger, C., Sieriebriennikov, B., Witte, H., Röseler, W. and Sommer, R.J., 2016. Chromatin remodelling and antisense-mediated up-regulation of the developmental switch gene *eud-1* control predatory feeding plasticity. *Nature Communications*, 7(1), p.12337. <https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms12337>

PhD Thesis

1. Namdeo, S.K., 2018. *Molecular mechanism involved in the regulation of mouth-form dimorphism in nematode *Pristionchus pacificus** (Doctoral dissertation, Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen, Germany). https://pure.mpg.de/pubman/faces/ViewItemOverviewPage.jsp?itemId=item_3508595

United Nations Reports

1. [Namdeo, S.K.](#) 2023. Multi-stakeholder Engagement Strategy to Strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention. Report submitted to the **United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)**.
2. [Namdeo, S.K.](#), 2023. Science and Technology Developments: Benefits and Risks for the Biological Weapons Convention. **United Nations**. ISBN (PDF): 9789211068146. <https://doi.org/10.18356/9789211068146>

Strategy Documents/Roundtable Proceedings

1. [Namdeo, S.K.](#) and Friedman, S.M. 2025, Deliberate Biological Threats in India: Existing Risks and National Capacity for Prevention and Mitigation. Strategy document Submitted to **Centre for National Security Studies (CNSS), Bengaluru**.
2. [Namdeo, S.K.](#), Dey, D., Koley, M., Lala, K. 2022. Proceedings of the Multi-stakeholder Roundtable on Citizen Science Policies and Practices in India. Submitted to the **Department of Science and Technology, Government of India**.

Policy Briefs

1. Sarawagi, T. and [Namdeo, S.K.](#) Aug 27, 2026. The Double Helix of Danger: Securing Synthetic DNA in India. **ORF**. <https://www.orfonline.org/research/the-double-helix-of-danger-securing-synthetic-dna-in-india>
2. Sarawagi, T. and [Namdeo, S.K.](#) Jan 8, 2026. Navigating AI-Bio Risk Frontier: A Four-Domain Framework. **Journal on Chemical and Biological Weapons**, Volume 20, ISSN: 0974-0619. <https://idsa.in/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/cbw-20-1-jan-jun-2026-tsarawagi-sksnamdeo.pdf>
3. [Namdeo, S.K.](#) and Vera, N. May 16, 2023. Contours of Space Diplomacy in the Global South. **AAAS Science & Diplomacy**. <https://doi.org/10.1126/scidip.adi7595>
4. [Namdeo, S.K.](#) Science and Technology Advancements and Biosecurity: New Horizons. **Journal on Chemical and Biological Weapons**, Volume 15, ISSN: 0974-0619. <https://www.idsa.in/system/files/page/2015/cbw-winter-jul-dec-2022.pdf>
5. Namdeo, S.K. and Goveas, J.J. Feb 2021. Indian Innovation Diplomacy: Choices, Challenges and Way Ahead. **Science Diplomacy Review (RIS)**. <https://www.fisd.in/sites/default/files/Publication/SDR%20November%202020.pdf>
6. [Namdeo, S.K.](#) 24 Aug 2020. Towards an Internship Policy in STEM. **Science Policy Forum**. <https://thesciencepolicyforum.org/articles/perspectives/internship/>

Invited Book Review

1. [Namdeo, S.K.](#) 2021. (Invited Book Review) 'Barefoot Global Health Diplomacy: Field Experiences in International Relations, Security, and Epidemics' by Sebastian Kevany. **Current Science**, Vol 121, No. 7.

Selected Op-eds/Community Articles

1. [Namdeo, S.K.](#) and Rajan P. Oct 24, 2025. Securing India: Balancing self-reliance and collaboration. **The Times of India**. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/voices/securing-india-balancing-self-reliance-and-collaboration/>
2. [Namdeo, S.K.](#) and Koley, M. Dec 2, 2024. Research security should be a national priority. **The Hindu**. <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/research-security-should-be-a-national-priority/article68935590.ece#:~:>
3. Koley, M. and [Namdeo, S.K.](#) May 30, 2024. Open access is crucial for self-reliance in science. **The Hindu**. <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/open-access-is-crucial-for-self-reliance-in-science/article68228874.ece>
4. [Namdeo, S.K.](#) Aug 7, 2023. Emerging biological risks: The shadow side of technological progress. **IndiaBioscience**. <https://indiabioscience.org/columns/indian-scenario/emerging-biological-risks-the-shadow-side-of-technological-progress>
5. [Namdeo, S.K.](#) Jul 17, 2023. India's G20 Presidency: Charting the course of international science policy. **IndiaBioscience**. <https://indiabioscience.org/columns/indian-scenario/indias-g20-presidency-charting-the-course-of-international-science-policy>
6. Parvatam, S. and [Namdeo, S.K.](#) 7 Feb 2021. 'Citizen science' can help India boost scientific understanding, curb WhatsApp pseudo-science. **The Print**. <https://theprint.in/science/citizen-science-can-help-india-boost-scientific-understanding-curb-whatsapp-pseudo-science/599779/>
7. Parvatam, S. and [Namdeo, S.K.](#) Mar 26, 2022. Why India Needs a National Biosecurity Policy. **The Wire Science**. <https://science.thewire.in/the-sciences/india-needs-national-biosecurity-policy-leadership-biological-weapons-convention/>

Selected Initiatives

- Organised a series of '[Science for Diplomats](#)' events at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, and prepared a multistakeholder engagement strategy for the UN Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).
- Organised the UNODA [International Science and Technology Conference in preparation of the BWC Ninth Review Conference in New Delhi](#) on 11-12 October 2022. This conference had over 55 experts from around the world to discuss the latest science and technology advancements relevant to the BWC.
- Contributing as an Advisory Member, [Sequence Biosecurity Research Consortium](#) (SBRC), a leading organisation for reducing biological threats from the misuse of synthetic DNA.
- Contributed as a Member of the Working Group, [AIxBio Global Forum](#), Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) since April 2024.
- Facilitated several high-level stakeholder engagements for preparing India's biosecurity strategy as a Non-Resident Fellow at the Centre for National Security Studies, Bengaluru.
- Created the [STI Policy Resource Directory](#), the largest of its kind compendium of Science, Technology and Innovation policy resources to support professionals and aspirants in the area of science and technology policy.
- Expert group member for [NASEM workshop series](#) on Preventing Harmful Exploitation of Biological Data (2022-23).
- Signatory of the '[Madrid Declaration on Science Diplomacy](#)' and the [Statement on Biosecurity Risks at the Convergence of AI and the Life Sciences](#).
- Member, Team managing the public and expert consultation process for formulation of India's draft Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP2020). Chief coordinator, Panel discussion series: '[Across the Table](#)', which contributed towards gathering and prioritising evidence from the top national policy experts.

Selected Conferences/Panels/Roundtables

International

- Delivered expert remarks at the panel discussion titled "[AI-Accelerated Biological Risk: Delving into Asia's Challenges and Emerging Solutions](#)" held on October 30 2025, and co-organised by AI Safety Asia, Singapore AI Safety Hub, and Southeast Asia Biosecurity.
- Delivered panellist remarks at the iGEM Responsibility Conference in Paris in a session titled '[Strategies for Community Engagement on Mirror Life](#)' on October 29 2025.
- Delivered panellist remarks at the Game Changers Seminar of the Brown University Pandemic Center titled '[Regional Policies for Mitigating Risks Associated with AI-enabled Biodesign](#)' on August 27 2025.
- Participated in the annual [Biosecurity Innovation and Risk Reduction Initiative](#) (BIRRI) meetings of the US-based Nuclear Threat Initiative in Amsterdam in 2025 and at the University of Cambridge, UK in 2024.
- Talk on biosecurity and science diplomacy delivered at the conference on '[Biogovernance and Science Diplomacy](#)' organised by RIS New Delhi and the University of Kent, UK, in August 2023.
- Speaker at an event titled '[Mobilising Youth to Strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention](#)' at the sidelines of the Meeting of State Parties (MSP) of the Biological Weapons Convention at the United Nations on November 22, 2021.

National

- Delivered an invited talk titled 'Emerging Challenges for Biological Security' at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) on June 25 2025.
- Delivered [panellist remarks](#) in the Fellow's Seminar Series event of the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) titled 'AI meets Biotech: Building an effective biosecurity framework for India' on April 14 2025.
- Participated in the Expert Roundtable on 'Crisis Communication and Crisis Management during a Novel Biological Crisis' at the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation in Chennai on March 4, 2025.
- Conducted training session on Science Diplomacy organised for the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer Trainees in June 2022 and April 2023.
- Participated in Science 20 (S20) Summit in Coimbatore under India's G20 Presidency, July 2023.
- Talk on Biological Risk Reduction delivered at a conference on the [role of STI in Disaster Risk Reduction policies](#) organised by the DST CPR, Panjab University in January 2023.