

-----FICCI-KAS Leadership Fireside Chat Series-----

**‘Politics and Governance in the post COVID scenario’**



An Interaction with

**Shri Bhupender Yadav, MP and Chair of FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians**

June 16, 2020  
1700-1820 hrs  
on Webex

## Programme Overview

The world is faced with an unprecedented crisis which has had an effect on political, social, economic aspects of life. With the changing dynamics of politics in the current scenario and the efforts of governments all across the world in trying to cope up with and contain the effects of the pandemic, has led to a paradigm shift. It is important that we understand the varied aspects of the political and societal living as well as assess the importance of democratic legitimacy with respect to efficacy, legal accountability and social inclusion in the context of the New Normal.

To understand the different perspectives of the evolving nature of politics and various aspects of governance in the new normal in the light of the global pandemic, FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians in partnership with the India Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung organised the first interaction with **Shri Bhupender Yadav, MP and Chair of FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians** under the Leadership Fireside Chat Series on '**Politics and Governance in the post COVID scenario**' '□□□□□ □□□□□□□□ □□□ □□□□□□□ □□ □□□□' on Tuesday, **June 16, 2020** between **1645-1800 hrs** on WebEx.

The interaction witnessed the presence of eminent guests including representatives from the industry, academia, diplomats and policy think tanks.

**Dr. Sangita Reddy**, President FICCI presided over the meeting. Past Presidents- **Dr. Jyotsna Suri and Mr. Harshavardhan Neotia**, Past Presidents, FICCI and Co-Chairs of FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians Council led the discussions with Shri Bhupender Yadav.

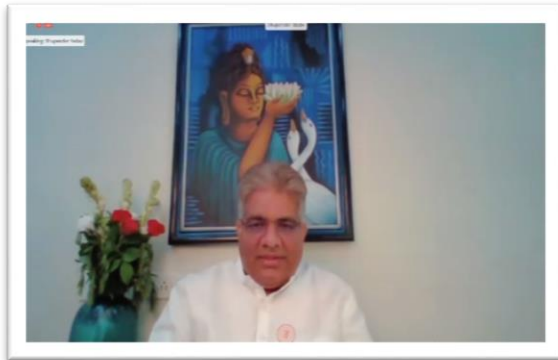
## Key Takeaways

- The world is faced with an **unprecedented crisis which has had a comprehensive effect on political, social, economic aspects of life**. The whole world, as a civilisation, has been affected by the pandemic.
- There has been a **paradigm shift in the way that countries have been operating**. Governments, all over the world, have been trying to cope up with and mitigate the harmful ramifications of the pandemic.
- The issue of **political decentralisation, changing dynamics of market economics and public policy discourse, have come to the surface**.
- With the changing dynamics of politics in the current scenario, it is important that one understands the varied aspects of the political and societal living as well as assess the **importance of democratic legitimacy with respect to efficacy, legal accountability and social inclusion in the context of the New Normal**.
- Over the years, there have been **changes in the political sphere ranging from conduct of elections** for the first time to forming a government to the evolution in political communication with the use of radio and TV.
- Corona has propagated this change, which was inconceivable a few years or months ago. The means of communication have changed wherein **digital technology has been inculcated into people's lives** through the aspects of work from home, telemedicine and digital consultations, online schooling, online governance and so on.
- The 60-days lockdown period has **created a consciousness amongst people and made them prioritise health** and digital technology. Post corona, in politics, the world will have to get used to these changes in the New Normal where politics or governance will be data driven.
- The **Government is working to bring about data protection acts** and devise new norms and policy reforms to make the New Normal people-friendly.
- Local governance has also come into limelight in the present context, where people were being served by the local authorities in terms of essential supplies, food and medicines, sanitation facilities. **In the New Normal, local governance will play a major role than ever before**.

- For India, the period from lockdown to a **graded cautious opening of the economy, has led to a restored confidence that the healthcare system has been readied.**
- The healthcare system has been well equipped in the case of supply chains wherein around 4 lakh **PPEs have been manufactured over the past few months, making India a major centre for medical supply chain.**
- In the lockdown period, the Government took various measures for the poor and migrant labours. Some major initiatives, which were taken in the last 5 years such **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhar and provision of mobiles, have been instrumental in helping the needy and the vulnerable during the pandemic crisis.**
- Around 36 crore accounts were opened during this crisis out of which 20 crore accounts received money directly. Also, about 8 crore women have received money under the Ujjwala Yojana and subsidy of ₹1000 per month. Also, about 8 crore peasants have received their money. Money has also been transferred to disabled persons and old people in over 3 crore accounts.
- The Government has also **eased the labour laws and introduced various reforms.** About 54 conventions of the International Labour Law Organisation, have been ratified by India, which have a humanitarian approach and will benefit the industry.
- Additionally, the **Minimum Wages Act, Payment of Bonus Act and the Equal Remuneration Act, have already been passed by the Parliament.**
- The Industrial Dispute Act, Industrial Empowerment Act and the Trade Union Act, have been combined to form the core of the industrial act, which will be discussed in the next session of the Parliament.
- The plantation labour, contract labour, working journalists have been categorised in the occupational safety and health code.
- Another labour code has been designed to deal with social security aspect- Law of Compensation for Labours for provident fund. This is a big reform in the industry and labour section in the country. In the Essential Commodities Act, the Government is planning to bring about amendments.
- In India, **to strengthen agriculture, which is one of the largest sectors, the Government has decided to advocate policies to benefit the agriculturists in the near future.**

- The Government has also called for measures to be taken by the industry to provide **safe and hygienic working conditions** to the workers and to **adhere to the standard procedures of operation** and **social protection measures** to create a conducive working environment.
- Corona is a global crisis, which has shown mankind the importance of sustainable and inclusive development. **Development cannot be done at the cost of others and measures such as conserving the depleting natural resources and saving our ecosystem, is the need of the hour.** The human kind will have to make efforts in order to survive on this planet and to ensure a sustainable future for upcoming generations.

## Glimpses



## Key Note Address

**Shri. Bhupender Yadav, Member of Parliament; Chair, FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians**



*“We should conserve nature, encourage sustainable living and leave behind a beautiful earth for the future generation. This should be one of the aspects around which politics and governance should evolve”- Shri Bhupender Yadav, Member of Parliament*

**Shri. Bhupender Yadav** commenced his speech by thanking FICCI and KAS for organising this timely and interesting interaction. He remarked that the whole world has been overtaken by the pandemic, which has affected the civilisation. He mentioned that if one looks at all the developments in the fields of medicine and science, as well as when one talks about politics before the 19th century, it is evident that it all had started suddenly. Mankind has come a long way from a time when there were no elections to the formation of the first government. He alluded that people never had imagined that easy political communication could be possible through the means of radio and TV and would become a major source of political debates and political opinions. Similarly, if one would have talked about organising webinars and online meetings about a year ago, it would have been inconceivable but is possible now and the world is compelled to explore new ways of communicating and staying connected.

He mentioned that the world has entered a digital era, which has been propagated by the Corona crisis and has led to a change in the means of communication. He suggested that conducting big meetings in the future would not be advisable and reiterated that telemedicine, digital consultations, online schooling, work from home, etc. are all a part of this New Normal. He gave an instance of a judge in Rajasthan Court who had advised the

lawyers to properly dress to the online Court hearings. He further remarked that the work from home culture is something which might not apply to a politician, as a politician is someone whose major work centres around the people and their issues. But with the changing times, one will have to look at new ways of reaching out to people.

Shri Yadav noted that the 60 days lockdown period had created a consciousness in people about health and wellbeing. There have been continuous developments in the health sector especially concerning digital technology. It will have a significant impact on politics in the post-COVID-19 period. According to him, the future will unfold several changes in politics and governance, which will be data-driven. In this aspect, he also talked about the data protection act brought out by the Government and the new norms which will be implemented in the future.

Furthermore, he talked about the resilience and cooperation shown by the people of India in exercising restraint in the past few months and avoiding socialising or celebrating festivals in a grand manner. He said that despite the economic or regional situation, people chose to stay at home and practice social distancing. He praised the role of the local governance in the times of crisis, in terms of the measures taken to provide supplies, medicines or to ensure sanitation. He remarked that one will have to prioritise cleanliness and sanitation in the future and abide by the regulations made for the welfare of society. He talked about the importance of the role of the village panchayats. In this context he highlighted the preventive and isolation measures undertaken in the villages for migrant workers returning from cities.

He further elucidated that digital transformation has and will lead to new world order. According to him, schooling and education systems would be reformed wherein the children will adapt to the new ways of learning through online classes. In the case of medicine and healthcare, he opined that although there is a scientific approach to almost everything, yet to assume that science has all the answers, is impractical. He noted that medical science is progressing and would impact positively in the days to come.

Shri Yadav further talked about the various initiatives taken by the Government in the lockdown period, especially for the poor and migrant labours. He highlighted the various schemes introduced by the Government in the last five years such as Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhar and provision of cell phones to the people. While 36 crore accounts have been



opened out of which 20 crore Jan Dhan accounts have received direct benefit transfers. About 8 crore women have received money under the Ujjwala Gas Yojana and subsidy of ₹1000 rupees per month. Additionally, 8 crore peasants have received the money in their accounts and so have 3 crore disabled persons and old people. He also talked about the relief measures and various schemes which made it easier for people to receive money directly into their accounts. He noted that no cases of corruption or black money, robberies or shop looting have been reported in these past few months. The country has been gradually moving towards a technologically driven economy where transparency is the key.

Talking about the various reforms and policy measures taken by the Government, he mentioned that in the reforms of the labour law, post-COVID-19, when work will resume in the factories and offices, the working conditions should be good, hygienic and all standard procedures and social protection measures should be adhered to. In the Conventions of the International Labour Law Organisation, 54 conventions have been ratified and these amendments have a humanitarian approach which will benefit the industry. He also talked about the laws passed by the Parliament like the Minimum Wages Act, Payment of Bonus Act and the Equal Remuneration Act as well as the code of industrial relations- Industrial Dispute Act, Industrial Empowerment Act and Trade Union Act, which have been combined to form the core of Industrial Act, for which a report is being made by the Standing Committee and will be brought out in the next session of the Parliament.

He remarked that the plantation labour, contract labour and working journalists have been categorised under the occupational safety and health code. Another labour code- Law of Compensation for Labours for Provident Fund, which deals with the social security aspect, has been reformed. He informed that in the Essential Commodities Act, the Government is planning to bring about amendments in the near future. He also commented on the agriculture sector in India and mentioned that the Government is going to introduce policies to strengthen the agriculturists and farmers. Talking about the other sectors such as space, defence, MSMEs, he noted that the Government is also planning to bring in necessary reforms.

Shri Yadav reiterated that Corona is a global crisis and to deal with it, one will have to take into account the important aspect of sustainable development. He concluded by remarking that development cannot be done at the cost of others and one will have to focus on

conserving the depleting natural resources and saving the ecosystem. The humankind will have to make efforts to survive on this planet and to ensure a sustainable future for upcoming generations.

## Welcome Remarks

**Dr. Sangita Reddy**, President FICCI



**Dr. Sangita Reddy** remarked that the past few months of the Corona outbreak and the nationwide lockdown, has unleashed an unprecedented predicament on India and on mankind. This has had an effect on political, social, economic aspects of life as well as on health and on livelihoods. She noted that in a difficult time like this, one needs the inner strength to deal with such a situation and innovation to devise new solutions and apply them too to protect the lives and livelihoods of people. She mentioned that the virus has put people at risk and has ravaged the economies, with the result, the world is faced with the problem of recession and immense global losses.

She opined that there has been a paradigm shift in the way that countries have been operating. The issues of political decentralisation, changing dynamics of market economics and public policy discourse, have come to the surface. It brings to the forefront the questions of what will the countries do to mitigate the harmful implications of the pandemic, what will be the alignments going forward in the future? She remarked that India has witnessed two phases- the lockdown period and the unlock period with a graded cautious opening of the economy with a growing confidence that the healthcare system has been readied.

Dr. Reddy also talked about Hon'ble PM's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and the measures that are needed to preserve the livelihoods and revive the economy. She also noted that self-reliance and enhancement of one's capabilities to participate in the disrupted global supply chain, are crucial. She highlighted the measures which are important to revive the economy such as enhancement of exports, strengthening of the MSMEs- fiscal, non-fiscal and policy making.

She mentioned that the Government has been making exemplary efforts through the introduction of various initiatives and schemes and FICCI has been partnering on multiple

initiatives and extending support to make the industry's voice heard and to ensure that the financial support from the banks benefits the industry and businesses.

She further remarked that the pandemic has presented us with a significant opportunity to leverage the potential of the digital space and to devise policies to improve the healthcare infrastructure and enhance the scope for telemedicine in India. She concluded by stating that a resilient economy can be built through strengthening the social welfare schemes, supporting industry, opening up of the coal sector and enhancing the agriculture sector.

## Remarks

**Mr. Peter Rimmele**, Resident Representative to India, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)



**Mr. Peter Rimmele** welcomed Shri Bhupender Yadav and remarked that in the present times, it is important to reflect upon the various measures taken by the governments across the world. He presented a German perspective and highlighted the aspect of the initial response of Germany towards the Corona crisis and the lockdown.

He mentioned that while the power to tackle the crisis rests with the governments of the German states, the federal government was not able to just push through universally binding legislation and so, an emergency legislation had to be called for in order to empower the federal government to enact country-wide legislation.

He further highlighted the role of the federal government in the implementation of the lockdown. He noted that the measures taken by the states and endorsed by the federal government, have been approved by the Germans and termed as good crisis management. He also shared that the federal government is also primarily concerned with the economic aspects of the crisis and states have created their own emergency funds.

Mr. Rimmele also mentioned about the similar measures like India, taken by the German states to ease or tighten restrictions within their borders. He opined that while the frequent calls for further centralizing are a recurring element of federal states, the majority of Germans are content with the way decisions have been made so far. Local and regional decisions are being made on the local and regional levels, while the federal government takes care of grander, more long-term decisions like economic planning.

He concluded his remarks by mentioning that federalism and decentralisation are crucial in a time like this where despite the competition between regional politicians within the German states due to their disparate policies, Germany is currently recovering better from the virus than some of its European partners.

## In conversation with the Panel

The discussion encompassed a candid conversation led by **Mr. Harshavardhan Neotia** covering the current scenario on politics, elections and Shri. Bhupender Yadav's political and personal life

**Q. In the present times where a growing economy is based on the growing consumerism and materialism, how can the issue of growing population which gives rise to a greater consumer demand, be dealt with?**

A. India as a developing country has an issue of a growing population for which no specific laws have been created, yet it is important that the people are made aware of and are helped in controlling the population growth. Also, as per the recent data, when the consumption pattern of a citizen from a developed country is compared to that of a developing or underdeveloped country, there's a difference in the yardstick of the consumption of the resources. So, even if consumption cannot be stopped but one should look at the resources which can be regenerated and which do not deplete soon. This has to be done through changes in the policy and technological advancements. There should be a middle path wherein neither there is excessive consumption nor very less to no consumption. In terms of the environmental problems as well, the developing and underdeveloped countries differ in the extent and impact, but awareness is important as in a democracy, awareness leads to better outcomes, both on the policy implementation side as well as on the acceptance side.

**Q. What measures will the Government take for the urban poor, those engaged in the informal sector or the middle class?**

A. At the onset of the pandemic, there were talks of devising policies to help the urban poor and the Government had mandated the collation of data and information for necessary measures to be taken. Under the Disaster Management Act, the funds were allocated like in Delhi, people who were not able to get ration due to a lack of Ration Card, they were provided ration under this act but they did not receive direct benefit transfers. However, in the case of rent or salaries, the Government had asked the companies to pay their employees on time. The Government has plans of including the urban poor while devising the future policy framework.

**Q. 2020 has been a major blow to the health sector and has brought to the surface the shortcomings of the healthcare sector in the country. What kind of reforms does the Government plan on introducing in the healthcare sector especially public healthcare?**

A. The lessons have been learnt from the current pandemic and the people will have to be conscious in terms of their health and the Government also has to be better prepared. While health has always been on the prime agenda of our Government since the last 5 years and measures had been taken such as increased number of seats in the medical colleges, to work on creating a proper ratio given by WHO for doctors and nurses per hospital as well as for establishing medical colleges in each Zilla. Work has been done in terms of producing PPE kits and ventilators and other necessary supplies, yet health infrastructure has to be strengthened.

**Q. Recently the Ministry of Finance announced Rs 3 lakh crore collateral-free automatic loans for MSMEs wherein MSME borrower accounts with combined outstanding loans across all lending institutions of up to Rs 25 crore, can benefit. But the issue here is that it is applicable to few companies. So, how can the banks resolve this and can the Government make any amendments in the norms so that it can benefit maximum number of companies?**

A. The practical aspects of implementing a policy come to the surface only after the policy has been implemented. The initial approach was to provide 20 per cent of enhanced working capital to the MSMEs but if there are issues with the current policy, then the Government will definitely look into this matter.

**Q. With the world struggling with the pandemic, what will happen to the slated legislative assembly polls in 2020? You are in-charge of the party affairs in Gujarat and Bihar, and with elections slated for Bihar this year, how will election work including campaigning will be conducted? Are there going to be any alternative ways of voting such as e-voting?**

A. There are two aspects as far as elections are concerned- one is the issue of conducting the elections in villages through e-polling as the people lack basic technological resources as well as if campaigns are done on-line then how will that reach the villages? The other is that of rush in the polling booths if voting is physically done. In case of former, when the party had conducted a video conference call to discuss about the elections and campaigning with the state representatives in Bihar, they agreed to join webinars through whatever resources they

could. Secondly, the issue of polling at the booths, then the state Government might have to take measures to increase the number of booths. Also, there have been measures taken for the army personnel to cast their votes through postal ballots which now has been upgraded to e-voting. The Delhi Government had also introduced the e-ballot for senior citizens. So, building upon these experiences, measures can be taken for the conduction of e-election.

**Q. The democracies in the world are mandated to hold sessions of their houses in a stipulated time. What arrangements, is the Indian Parliament, going to make for the upcoming Monsoon Session, in the wake of this imminent crisis?**

A. Parliament is not only a place to speak but it is a place of exchanging views and expressions, which might not be possible through online sessions. But if measures are taken to ensure social distancing inside the Parliament then it can be possible to hold sessions. Also, we need to wait till the effects of the pandemic have been controlled to a large extent.





Leadership Fireside Chat with  
Shri Bhupender Yadav, MP and Chair of FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians  
on 'Politics and Governance in the post COVID scenario'

बदलते परिदृश्य में राजनीति और शासन

June 16, 2020: 1700-1820 hrs on Webex

Programme

1645 - 1700 hrs	Logging into respective devices for webinar
1700 - 1705 hrs	Welcome Remarks by <b>Dr. Sangita Reddy</b> , President FICCI
1705 - 1710 hrs	Remarks by <b>Mr. Peter Rimmele</b> , Resident Representative to India, KAS
1710 - 1712 hrs	Introduction of Shri Bhupender Yadav by <b>Dr. Jyotsna Suri</b> , Past President and Co-Chair of FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians Council
1712 - 1735 hrs	Key Note Address by <b>Shri. Bhupender Yadav</b> , MP and Chair of FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians
1735 - 1755 hrs	A conversation with Shri Yadav and other speakers led by <b>Mr. Harshavardhan Neotia</b> , Past President and Co-Chair of FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians Council
1755 - 1815 hrs	Audience interaction Moderated by <b>Mr. Dilip Chenoy</b> , Secretary General, FICCI
1815 - 1820 hrs	Vote of Thanks by FICCI

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बदलते परिदृश्य में राजनीति और शासन

June 16, 2020; 1700-1820 hrs on Webex

Speaker Profiles

Key Note Speaker

**Shri Bhupender Yadav, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; National General Secretary, Bharatiya Janata Party; Chair, FICCI's Forum of Parliamentarians**



**Shri Bhupender Yadav** is the National General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party. He has played instrumental role in party during elections having direct charge of several states. He has held leadership roles in several Committees such as Select Committee of Rajya Sabha on the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill, the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Second Amendment) Bill, Repealing and Amending Bill, 2014; Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2015; Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill; Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill.

He has been the Chairman in several Committees and Joint Committees such as Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2015; the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017;

Committee on Commerce; Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill and several others.

He has been the Member in several Committees such as Committee of Transport, Tourism and Culture; Public Accounts, Joint Parliamentary Committee on Security in Parliament House Complex; Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Defense and Business Advisory Committee. He was the General Secretary, All India Lawyers Organisation (Akhil Bharatiya Adhivakta Parishad) from 2000-2009. He is a lawyer by profession.

He has written numerous articles in leading newspapers and magazines. He has co-authored the book Supreme Court on Forest Conservation including the legal magazine Nyaypravah.

## **Dr. Sangita Reddy, President FICCI**



**Dr. Sangita Reddy** is a Global Healthcare Influencer, Healthcare Technocrat, Social Entrepreneur and Humanitarian. She has been conferred with an Honorary Doctorate by Macquarie University Australia, in recognition transformative changes in healthcare and development of Health IT. She is an Honorary Consul of Brazil in Hyderabad.

Dr. Sangita Reddy is a member of The World Economic Forum, Rockefeller working Group, past member on Health for the Twelfth Five Year Plan, Planning Commission, Govt of India. She is also a Member of the Tech Devpt Board, Department of Science and Tech, Govt of India and is an Executive Member at NASSCOM.

Dr. Sangita Reddy is focused on setting benchmarks in futuristic health care projects enabling IOT, AI, Data Analytics, Drone Tech and Block Chain. Under her leadership, Apollo Hospitals received three consecutive HiMSS-Elsevier ICT achievement awards and four hospitals have achieved the HiMSS Level-6 certification.

An Entrepreneur Promoting Affordable and Sustainable Social Initiatives - One of her initiatives, Apollo Reach, aims to build a string of secondary care hospitals in rural India. Dr. Sangita Reddy is also Chairman at Apollo Knowledge, an education initiative focused on shaping healthcare human capital for tomorrow by setting up of Medical Colleges, the online learning platform Medvarsity and Apollo MedSkills. Dr. Sangita Reddy heads Apollo Philanthropy, an umbrella entity encompassing 'Save a Child's Heart Initiative', SAHI, CURE and the Billion Hearts Beating Foundation and Total Health Foundation.

Dr. Sangita Reddy has been a recipient of numerous prestigious awards for business and leadership in the health care industry.

## Past Presidents

**Dr. Jyotsna Suri, Past President, FICCI and Co-Chair, FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians Council; CMD, Lalit Suri Hospitality Group**



**Dr. Jyotsna Suri** has been associated with Bharat Hotels since its inception. In the year 1989, she became the Group's Joint Managing Director. In 2006, she took on the mantle of Chairperson & Managing Director and since then, has been the driving force of the Group's operations.

Under her stewardship, The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group became one of the leading privately-owned domestic hotel brands in India, engaged in the business of operating and managing hotels, palaces and resorts, with a focus on the luxury segment. The Group operates 12 luxury hotels, palaces and resorts under The LaLiT brand and two mid-segment hotels under The LaLiT Traveller brand across India's key business and leisure travel destinations, offering 2,261 rooms, in addition, the Group holds exclusive rights to operate and provide management consultancy services to a hotel in London, The LaLiT London, offering 70 rooms.

Recently Dr. Suri was conferred with the Order of The Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star by Japan Government for her contribution towards strengthening strategic ties between India and Japan in economic and tourism sectors. She is the first Indian Woman to have received the Imperial honour since its commencement for foreign nationals in 1981.

Besides this she has been recipient of over 30 National and International awards and recognitions. She has also been featured in several power and business listings by renowned publications like Business World, Fortune India, Forbes Asia to name a few.

Dr. Suri holds various portfolios with Industry Associations – Past President FICCI; Chairperson FICCI Tourism Committee; Chairperson, Creative Industries Committee, FICCI; Executive Member of HAI; Council Member of World Travel & Tourism Council, India Initiative; Member

of Board of Governors for National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology  
and Member of Board of Governors of Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs.

**Mr. Harshvardhan Neotia, Past President and Co-Chair of FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians Council**



**Mr. Harshvardhan Neotia** is Chairman of Ambuja Neotia Group that operates across the Real Estate spectrum alongside four verticals - Hospitality, Healthcare, Education and Start-Up Incubation. He has been instrumental in turning Ambuja Neotia into a pioneer in India's social housing sector, gifting Kolkata and eastern India world-class homes and malls, hospitals and hotels, educational institutions and smart workplaces. A Padma Shri awardee, a connoisseur of art, and Past President of FICCI as well as All India Management Association, Harshvardhan Neotia is also the Honorary Consul of Israel in West Bengal.

## **ORGANISERS**

**Mr. Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General, FICCI**



**Mr. Dilip Chenoy** is currently Secretary General of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). He leads the permanent secretariat of the industry chamber, which is the largest and oldest apex business organisation in India, and a potent voice for policy change. FICCI represents over 2,50,000 members through Member Bodies covering all the States of India.

Before joining FICCI, Dilip served as Managing Director & CEO of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). NSDC fosters private sector investment and initiatives in training and skill development.

Dilip has also worked in several key industry organizations, including SIAM as its Director General. He was a member of the Harvard Business School project under Professor Michael Porter that worked on the competitiveness of Indian industry. With varied experiences of working in the private sector, he advises start-ups including organisations in the digital, education, skills and livelihood space. Dilip has also served as Chairman of an Engineering Institute.

A fellow of the World Academy of Productivity Science (WAPS), he was awarded the Indian Achievers Award in 2018, The Game Changer Award in 2015 and the Rashtriya Media Ratan Award in 2013.



## **KAS Leadership**

### **Mr. Peter Rimmele, Resident Representative, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung**



**Mr. Peter Rimmele** is currently the Resident Representative of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Office, India.

He has a First Law Degree from Freiburg University, as well as a Second Law Degree from the Ministry of Justice Baden-Württemberg, Germany and a M.A. in Geography.

After working as, a jurist, judge and lecturer, he took public office as Ministerialrat, Head of Division at the State Ministry of the Interior in Saxony, Germany, from November 1991 on until 2000.

There he first served in the Police and Security and later in the Local Government Department.

On behalf of the German Foreign Ministry he served in East Timor as Registrar General, Head of Civil Registry and Notary Services (UNTAET), and became later the principal Advisor for Governance Reform for GIZ (German International Cooperation) to the Ministry of Administrative Reform and the Anti-Corruption-Commission of the Republic of Indonesia, where he served for 7 years. He then moved to Rwanda, also as Principal Advisor Good Governance/Justice Program. Earlier he was Resident Representative Lebanon, Director of Rule of Law Program Middle East North Africa, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

## **About the Partners**

### **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**

Established in 1927, FICCI is the largest and oldest apex business organisation in India. Its history is closely interwoven with India's struggle for independence, its industrialization, and its emergence as one of the most rapidly growing global economies.

A non-government, not-for-profit organisation, FICCI is the voice of India's business and industry. From influencing policy to encouraging debate, engaging with policy makers and civil society, FICCI articulates the views and concerns of industry. It serves its members from the Indian private and public corporate sectors and multinational companies, drawing its strength from diverse regional chambers of commerce and industry across states, reaching out to over 2,50,000 companies.

FICCI provides a platform for networking and consensus building within and across sectors and is the first port of call for Indian industry, policy makers and the international business community. FICCI's vision is to be the thought leader for industry, its voice for policy change and its guardian for effective implementation.

### **Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)**

Freedom, justice and solidarity are the basic principles underlying the work of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS). The KAS is a political foundation, with a strong presence throughout Germany and all over the world. We cooperate with governmental institutions, political parties and civil society organisations building strong partnerships along the way. In particular, we seek to intensify political cooperation at the national and international levels on the foundations of our objectives and values. Together with our partners, we contribute to the creation of an international order that enables every country to develop in freedom and under its own responsibility. The Konrad- Adenauer-Stiftung has organized its program priorities in India into five working areas:

- Political Dialogue and cooperation
- Foreign and Security Policy including Energy Policy
- Economic policy and management

- Rule of Law
- Media and training programmes for students of journalism

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung's India office takes great pride in its cooperation with Indian partner organisations who implement jointly curated projects and programmes.