







### **POST - EVENT REPORT**

#### INTERACTIVE VIDEO CONFERENCE ON

## SELF RELIANT INDIA: MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT'S VISION FOR EMPOWERING INDIA

**25<sup>th</sup>June 2020** 







NATIONAL APEX CHAMBER

# SELF RELIANT INDIA MEMBER'S OF PARLIAMENT VISION FOR EMPOWERING INDIA

Thursday, 25th June 2020 | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (IST)



Shri Manoj Kumar Tiwari Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, North East Delhi (NCT of Delhi)



Shri Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha. Srikakulam (Andhra Pradesh)

#### A GERMAN PERSPECTIVE OF SELF RELIANT ECONOMY



Mr. Peter Rimmele
Representative of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
KAS in India
KAS Leadership

#### Moderator



Ms Prema Sridevi

Founder, Editor - Fourth Estate Newscorp Private Limited (Former News Editor Times Now and Editor Republic TV)

#### PHDCCI Leadership



Dr. D.K Aggarwal



Mr. Sanjay Aggarwal



Mr. Pradeep Multani





#### **ABOUT PHDCCI**

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) have been working as a catalyst for the promotion of Indian industry, trade and entrepreneurship for the past 115 years. It is a progressive, proactive and dynamic pan-India apex organization. As a partner in progress with industry and government, PHD Chamber with a special focus on MSMEs works at the grassroots level, with strong national and international linkages for propelling progress, harmony and integrated development of the Indian economy.

#### ABOUT KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) is a German foundation and has its headquarters situated in Berlin. KAS is active in more than 120 countries and in India since 1968 with the basic philosophy of respect for partner country's sovereignty in a spirit of partnership and cooperation. KAS is associated with many Think tanks, Apex bodies and non-profit organizations. Specifically, KAS offers to contribute by assisting India in its process of social, structural and political transformation based on democratic values and the rule of law; strengthening economic reforms, the small and medium business sector and an effective social market economy as well as supporting the integration of India into the global economy; intensifying the dialogue between Germany, Europe, and India and other major powers, especially on current foreign and security policy as well as promoting the education of young print journalists.





#### **INTRODUCTION**

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in partnership with the India Office of the Konrad-Adenauer- Stiftung (KAS) organised an Interactive Video Conference on "Self-Reliant India – Young MP's Vision for Empowering India" on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

The session included the following eminent speakers:



Dr. D K Aggarwal, President, PHDCCI



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



**Mr. Manoj Tiwari,** Member of Parliament, North East Delhi



**Mr. Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu,** Member of Parliament, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh



Mr. Pradeep Multani, Vice President, PHDCCI



Mr. Saurabh Sanyal, Secretary General, PHDCCI



**Ms. Prema Sridevi,** Journalist, Founder, Editor, Fourth Estate Newscorp Private Limited





#### **Key Outcomes**

- Self Reliant does not mean Self-Interest but being Self Strong which means strengthening the local supply chain to integrate into the global supply chain.
- It's time for India to strengthen local market, make India competitive, reduce the cost of production and labor which will reduce the cost of logistics and bring efficiency in productivity.
- The young and dynamic Members of the Parliament have a vision for India and they will play a bigger role in coming time.
- India needs to focus on importing technology that will help it to lay a red carpet instead of red tape.
- Digital Technology can be one of the weapons for India to emerge as a superpower in the future.
- During the pandemic, India realized its dependence on global markets in various sectors and in particular health and pharmaceutical.
- All political parties and agencies should work together and assist the government in the best possible manner to overcome the pandemic crisis
- Self-Reliant should be a long term goal which can be achieved with strong robust policy-making, active communication and involvement of each citizen.
- Manufacturing is an important sector in Make in India and should be on priority of the policy makers.
- Need for young leaders in politics that can strengthen the bond between India and Germany.
- The fates of the next generations are in capable hands along with the economy of the nation
- The parliament should also be functional virtually.
- The foreign companies face difficulties in setting up in India due to the lack of last mile connectivity
- The Centre and State governments should work together to make the policy on the Ease of Doing Business. They have to be proactive in order to attract investment and betterment of the MSME.





- The government should act as facilitator by take the concept of Ease of Doing Business from Metros to the smaller cities and villages.
- In addition to the ease of doing business (EODB), it is very important to have competitive cost of doing business (CODB) as well that may be achieved by lowering cost of power, logistics etc.
- The cost of labour in India seems very low, it is important to improve the productivity of the labour in India.
- The cost of land in India also needs to reduce.
- The government should focus on education, healthcare, skill development and research and development.
- It is also important that every state should make land banks for the foreign investors to choose from in the different states.
- Now is the time to introspect in search of solutions and to be self reliant especially in the strategic resources such as health care.
- It is not the time to play politics; it's time to assist the government in the best possible manner.
- Healthcare infrastructure development needs to be a long term goal that can be achieved with strong robust policy-making, active communication, and involvement of each citizen.
- For a self-reliant India, a robust manufacturing sector can act as a strong lever for economic growth. The target under Make in India is to create manufacturing sector's growth to 25% which is now stood at 17%.
- India and Germany stand on the same page when it comes to young faces in politics.





#### The proceedings of the session are as follows:



**Dr. DK Aggarwal, President, PHDCCI** welcomed the eminent dignitaries and thanked the Hon'ble Members of Parliament for accepting the invitation. He appreciated the bold steps

undertaken by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi in making India self-reliant and promoting local manufacturing of goods and services. He said that as every adversity brings an opportunity, India realised its dependence on global markets in various sectors including healthcare and pharmaceuticals as over 90% of India's requirement of **Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient** (APIs) is imported from China. The need for PPE Kits, Sanitisers and Masks during the current pandemic further added to India's problem as the Indian pharmaceutical companies were not producing as per the requirement. The Indian Industry rose to the occasion and within one month set up factories successfully for manufacturing PPE kits, Masks, Sanitizers etc. to meet the pressing and growing demands of these items in India. Today within a very short span of time India is self-reliant in producing and supplying these items within India and to the world.

Dr. Aggarwal mentioned that Self-Reliant does not mean Self-Interest but being Self-Strong which meant strengthening the local supply chain to integrate into the global supply chain so that there is not much dependency on imports. He further added that it is an opportune time for all the political parties of India and the trade bodies like PHDCCI to unite and strengthen in making India self-reliant.

Dr. Aggarwal mentioned that the decision of the Government of India has been duly echoed by PHDCCI as it is not about isolating India from other economies, but to strengthen India's capability, its economy and local supply chain to integrate it with the global supply





chain and making it the manufacturing hub of the world. India has the capability to become the factory of the world.

Dr. Aggarwal echoed the voice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of "Be Vocal for Local" and PHDCCI as an industry Chamber wishes for a strong and self-reliant India. It's time for India to strengthen its local market, make India competitive and reduce the cost of production and labour that will lead to a reduction in the cost of logistics and efficiency in productivity. In addition to the ease of doing business (EODB), it is important to have competitive cost of doing business (CODB) that can be achieved by lowering cost of power, logistics etc. The cost of labour in India seems very low in comparison to the world including that of China, but when compared on per piece production basis, the cost of labour in India is higher as the productivity of labour in India is comparatively very less which needs to be improved. The cost of land in India also needs to be lowered.

The cost of compliance in India is high and there is too much compliance as well, said Dr. Aggarwal. As in case of Pharmaceutical sector, the companies have to deal with over 4000 compliances and it is important that the number and cost of compliances are brought down so that entrepreneurs can focus more on expanding business. In the current pandemic many countries are shifting their manufacturing plants out of China to a country offering favorable environment and it is an opportunity for India to become favourable destination. India has to undertake several reforms to lure the companies to invest in India and shift their bases to India. The reforms that are particularly needed are in the field pf legal spheres, labour and land. India has to undertake a lot of reforms so that instead of red tape, red carpets are laid and invite foreign companies to invest in India by having a system of one window for all permissions and clearances. These reforms will make India the factory of the world in





future. Dr. Aggarwal insisted that as the cost of technology in India is very high, India should import new technologies and produce or manufacture in the country itself. As many production facilities are moving out of China, it is an opportunity for India to become the next favourite destination of the world. Dr. Aggarwal mentioned that there is a need to introspect on why companies choose Thailand, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Vietnam and India should adapt reforms such as FDI or legal, so that the companies are attracted towards India and Industry chambers like PHDCCI can act as a facilitator for such companies.

Dr. Aggarwal further added that there is an urgent need to improve the infrastructure and the government must allocate budgets for developing world class infrastructure in the next 5 years. This will make India self — reliant. The government should focus on education, healthcare, skill development and research and development. Government must focus and spend more on R&D activities in every sector and also incentivize the private sector as well for encouraging R&D activities. Dr. Aggarwal pointed out that it is important that every state should have land banks, so that if any foreign investor comes to India, they should immediately have the options of available land to choose from in the different states.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Aggarwal mentioned that with the stimulus package of US\$ 260 billion, technology will be India's real weapon to emerge stronger, and make India a super power of the 21st century.







Mr. Peter Rimmele, Resident Representative to India, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), while giving a German perspective of Self Reliant Economy emphasized the need for young leaders in the politics that can strengthen the bond between India and Germany. He dwelled upon three key points:

- (i) Importance of young people and politics;
- (ii) Self-reliance
- (iii) Vision for the future

Mr. Rimmele said that India and Germany stand on the same page when it comes to young faces in politics which is apparently less. The leaders and societies in both the countries, highly value age and experience over youthful enthusiasm and there are only few young political leaders in both the countries. Citing the example of German Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel, Mr. Rimmele said that Ms. Markel has been appointed for the last 15 years and her government's response on fiscal policies has proven that fate of the next generation is in capable hands and same has been the economic policies of the current Indian government. The need of experienced politician is also important, as they have the first hands experience of what works and what not and are more practical and sensitive in their approach according to the demands and change. These leaders have been empowered for long time, and there is need to have fresh approaches, reforms and youthful zeal in the modern politics of both the countries.

Mr. Rimmele mentioned that Germany focuses on fiscal responsibility so as to ensure that the next generation is in capable hands and similar things are needed in the policies of the Indian government. He further added that their foundation Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) believes in the Next Generation and that those who inherit the country have a right to take





responsibility for them and have a right to make their voices heard, but KAS also firmly believe in the value of experience and tradition.

Mr. Rimmele stressed that Covid-19 pandemic has taught everyone a harsh but valuable lesson in international relations. Everyone nations have realized that they were overdependent on their neighbours once their own production facility stopped and there was shortage in the supply for domestic consumption during the current crisis. Both India and Germany have been affected with the disruption in supply from China and this has made everyone today to think about Self-Reliance and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" as Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi called few days back.

Mr. Peter Rimmele said that the International Trade has turned out to be a very fragile network as it reacts sensitively to even the slightest tremor especially with regards to strategic resources. He cited the example of health sector wherein the Indian entrepreneurs managed to move out of the dependency on imports, and produced locally the pressing needs of PPEs, Masks etc. It is important to be self - dependent. He insisted that there may not be a great degree of self-reliance in the sector, but, self-reliance is difference from economic independence. It is important to be self – reliant especially in the strategic resources such as health care. He said that in today's scenario, we have to rely on others no matter how big and how powerful we are as we are always stronger together. He brought out a critical argument stating that business man asks for protection and protection of their goods and at the same time for export subsidies, so the Protectionism is not the same then self-reliance. The protectionist India is not a self-reliant India. He said that protection is obviously a short-term solution, but for the long-term one has to look how we can cooperate with other countries and what are our Visions for tomorrow which is important for the future generation. What does will be the future world order, as there will be rise of a new global power in the East and the decline in the west. It is not just international trade, but the entirety of international relations that is changing at the moment a process that has





been accelerated. It is difficult to predict exactly what the international order of the future will look like but making predictions is essential now.

Mr. Rimmele further added that India will have and should have major role to play in it all the future International Order. Some people predict the emergence of a new cold war with only two sides to choose from, to prevent that scenario, it is believed that smaller and medium-sized nations with similar values and international aims need to come together to uphold the balance in the Primacy. The India and Germany are two such Powers and the Democratic countries with a common vision for an international order and undisturbed by the pretence of imperial grandeur. Both India and Germany look at Indian Ocean for sea free and equal trading access for everyone willing to accept the rules of fair play together in order to shape a future in everyone's benefits.

Mr. Rimmele concluded by lauding the steps taken by the Government of India in making India self-reliant and deliberated the rise of global powers post COVID-19 along with the shift change in international relations.





#### **Panel Discussion**



Ms. Prema Sridevi, Editor – Fourth Estate, Newscorp Pvt Ltd (Former News Editor, Times Now and Editor, Republic TV) moderated the Panel Discussion which mainly focussed on

firstly on current Covid-19 situation, secondly on the problem of growing unemployment and the overall situation of Indian economy which has been on a downward slide over the past few months and thirdly on the concept of ease of doing business especially for start-ups and MSMEs and also what steps can be taken to make India more self-reliant.

Ms. Sridevi initiated the discussion by raising the concern of COVID situation in Delhi particularly the North East Delhi constituency of Mr. Manoj Tiwari and the unique measures being taken in the constituency and to know about the hurdles and challenges being



Mr. Manoj Tiwari, Member of Parliament from the North East Delhi, informed that the Covid-19 situation in the constituency is very dangerous as are in several other parts of the country and they are going through a very tough

time. He said that there are over 4 million people in the constituency living in very close knit society i.e. in the small houses with narrow lanes due to which there are several challenges, but all are working on war footing front under the guidance of the Central Home Ministry. He further informed that recently over 32 test centres for Covid-19 test has been set-up and several beds for treatment, new makeshift hospitals and isolation centres have been added. These measures have brought in a little improvement in the constituency.

While responding to the question on why BJP Government has unlocked now when there is huge rise in the Covid cases, Mr. Tiwari responded by saying that the lockdown had adverse





effects on the economy and hence the government had to unlock it. He said that under the Disaster Management Act, each state has the right to extend the lockdown if the situation is critical. He reiterated that it was due to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi that the people are so much aware about Covid-19, everyone today knows about masks, sanitizers and is following social distancing. He assured that the situation in Delhi and in his constituency North East Delhi would be under control. He said, due the current situation which is not in good condition, they have planned to unlock slowly. As their government don't want any confusion among the parties (BJP, Congress and AAP), Mr. Amit Shah visited hospitals and has personally taken control of the situation. He said that BJP has arranged 10,000 beds hospitals with ventilators in Delhi. Earlier the cost of the testing was Rs. 4,500, it was decided to cut down and it was drastically reduced to Rs. 450 only and they made arrangements for the COVID antigen test totally free of cost. He mentioned that he does realise the overall situation in Delhi regarding the total number of patients and death rates etc., it is a pandemic and there is need to solve the situation.

He also cited some examples of developments from his own native village and said that the country is on its way towards development. He concluded by singing an excerpt from a song describing India would fly high and become self reliant.



Shri Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, Member of Parliament, Srikakulam (Andhra Pradesh) appreciates the platform and the initiative of PHDDCI to organise the interactive session. He updated about the situation in his

constituency about the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and spread of information and other measures adopted by his constituency in combating the pandemic. He said the government is taking all pro-active steps to check the spread of the pandemic by tightening the lockdown restrictions. He emphasized that it is a time to assist the government in the best possible manner.





Mr. Naidu said that the entire country is facing the COVID-19 situation and there is no way to go and no idea on what to do and are just waiting the governments set up and rules in this regard. There is chaos in Srikakulam, and we are trying to advocate the awareness regarding following the procedures for not spreading the COVID. We assist the Government whichever way is possible and follow the rules everything. As the situation is worst and with the lockdown lifted the cases have started to increase.

Talking about migrant's labour, Mr. Naidu suggested that their movement should have been more systemically done with provision of proper food and accommodation and arrangements of transportation for them. In his constituency there are 50000 to 70000 migrants staying in other places and were struck in Gujarat etc., with no accommodation and language problems and according to him the government should work on the migration workers. Many labourers have come back to their own districts and constituency. There was some gap in providing quarantine facilities to them and the Government is trying to step up and control the situation.

While lauding the steps of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Mr. Naidu said that healthcare infrastructure development needs to be a long term goal that can be achieved with strong robust policy-making, active communication, and involvement of each citizen. Covid-19 pandemic brings an opportunity to India to become self-reliant in order to strengthening the economy. He stressed on the need for support from the State and Central Government authorities to retain investor interest in economic zones and provide greater flexibility and improved ease of doing business in order to boast economy. MSME must build management capabilities to be able to respond to a crisis with their inherent strength and resilience. There is a need for Government to make strong and robust policy backup with long term approach.





Ms. Prema Sridevi enquired from the panellist that while the BJP party is at the helm in the Government and Government had strictly implemented the lockdown for first three months, which was a very good decision, what was the reason for unlocking amidst the increasing cases of the spread of the Covid-19,

**Mr. Tiwari** responded that even before the WHO advised for the lockdown, the lockdown was implemented which prevented the spread of Covid-19. The government is following the Disaster Management Act which states that each State has the right to extend the lockdown. At present every people, including children, youth and elderly people are using masks, sanitisation, maintaining social distance as advised.

**Dr. D K Aggarwal, President, PHDCCI** said that the lockdown for two and half months was enough and there is no need to extend the lock down. It is necessary to keep the economy moving forward as currently the deaths are due to Covid-19, in future it will happen due to poverty and unemployment.

Ms. Sridevi further asked the panellists that whether lockdown is good or unlock down is good and the impact of it on the economy. She further queried on the transparency, citing the increase in cases in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, she wanted to know the ground realty as Telangana has not published the data of testing.

Mr. Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, MP, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh responded that the transparency is an issue as the concerned the government is not releasing the true facts on the number of testing that has been done and the number of patients in the state. On the other hand in Telengana, he said, enough testing has been done considering the robust state and the economic activity, in particular the city of Hyderabad is very active and





progressive in terms of testing, provision of PPE kit and others that is needed to stop the spread. In AP there is no disclosure regarding the COVID patients.

The moderator, Ms. Sridevi further raised the concern that as Delhi has over taken Mumbai in total number of cases, and sought information on the Challenges, Problems and Solutions for Delhi.

**Mr. Tiwari** responded that there have been many issues related to the Covid-19 situation raised to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi such as kitchen, ration and migrant workers etc., but the response has been very lukewarm. It is only after the intervention of the Hon'ble Home Minister Mr. Amit Shah himself that hospitals with 10,000 beds and other necessary needs have been arranged. He further criticised the decision of Delhi Government on opening of the liquor shops, which has sparked the increase in community spread in Delhi.

Ms. Prema Sridevi said that India is facing number of problems such as job losses, salary cut and the economy is on downward slide. She asked the Panellist on the strategies for employment and how to make people to make self-reliant.

Mr. Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu said that the unemployment problem has been there from the past but the current Covid-19 crisis has created another opportunity to look at the ground realty of the employment problem. He appreciated that the appeal of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi to make India self-reliant which is very much needed. He suggested that the solution of looking at this problem should be temporary and building a Self-Reliant India be based on the five pillars of economy, infrastructure, technology-driven system, vibrant demography and demand to be self reliant should have the long term ideas and strong pillars of Indian economy.





He said for a self-reliant India, a robust manufacturing sector can act as a strong lever for economic growth. The target under Make in India is to create manufacturing sector's growth to 25% which presently is at 17%. He stressed that one sector that the Government must look at is the manufacturing and the idea behind Make in India. Make in India is here for some time now and it has not yet achieved the success. It has to go back to the policy making team of Make in India to overcome the challenges With the help of lawful policy implementation.

Ms. Prema Sridevi requested to members of PHDCCI- to share their views on the Specific problems the women in the country are facing.

**Dr. D K Aggarwal**, President, PHDCCI responded that this is the situation that will benefit empowering women. People have learned and realised that working from home is also possible as earlier it was felt that efficiency that cannot be high if somebody is working from home and we were not used to allow anybody to work from home. Today the concept and paradigm have absolutely changed and everyone believe that working from home is much better. Mr. Aggarwal felt that more opportunities are available for women and PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has a Women Child Welfare Committee and PHD Family Welfare Foundation which are working towards empowering women through several activities and also organising Seminars to create awareness that women need to empower. Currently in India 24% women are employed whereas 72% of men are working.

The question raised by Mr Pradeep Multani, Vice President, PHD Chamber regarding the economy will be US Dollar 5 trillion economy by the year 2024 with a commitment to doubling pharma income and to achieve ease of doing business, attracting Foreign Direct Investments into India enabling every Indian to stay above the poverty line. Mr. Tiwari assured to PHD Chamber and members to give all support and cooperation in the near future.





Ms. Prema mentioned that as the monsoon parliament is approaching, all parliamentarian gets an opportunity to amend the differences amongst themselves and work in a uniform manner to seek solutions to people problems, she wanted to know on how will the parliament function safely in the coming session through virtual meetings or any other meet?

Mr. Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, said that functioning of the Parliament is very important as the countries are in crisis and but their functioning are decided by the convention of the Parliament. Prime Minister has been holding meetings with Chief Ministers and various people from the industry through online virtual meetings, but it is a very difficult task to connect all 543 MPs together. India is ready to take up these challenges because the discussions and deliberation on the current situation should be happening regularly. He advised MPs should meet virtually even though it will be a challenging task but will be a big achievement if all 543 MPs connect virtually.

#### Ms. Prema asked on ways to boost MSMEs and start up community.

Mr. Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, mentioned Policy making is very important and for this the Central Government and State Government should work together. The primary thing is ease of doing business and the governments have reciprocated to this and should stress upon and be very proactive. Depending upon the local regional strength such as coastal sectors where fishery and marine activity is very important the Government can create some economic zones.

Dr. D K Aggarwal, President, PHDCCI said the government should work on the MSME sector and create a common facilities based on the specialisation which will be very economical and competitive. On Ease of Doing Business, Mr. Aggarwal said that the government should





act as a facilitator and the mindset has to change and the Government strategies to promote MSME should not be limited to metros and main cities, it should be at the district and local level.



Mr. Pradeep Multani, Vice President, PHDCCI while delivering the vote of thanks highlighted that the Parliament of India is the supreme legislative body of the Republic of India, the

Members of Parliament, Lok Sabha is directly elected by the Indian Public for 5 years and the role of these Member of Parliamentarians is to represent issues of general public in the Lok Sabha and pass the bills related to these issues. As for the young parliamentarians in India, people in India are in good hands and their presence in various roles and capacity in the Government shows their empowerment and prosperity. We seek active support and help from the young dynamic leaders from Parliamentarians to achieve the goals and to make India and all Indians rich and prosperous.

Mr. Multani specially thanked Mr. Peter Rimmele for his support and highlighted that Germany is a role model for world and Germans are known for advanced technology, high efficiency and highly skilled manpower. He also thanked Ms. Prema Sridevi for excellently moderating the session.





#### **GLIMPSES**

