





## **REIMAGINEINDIA SERIES**

Special Address and Conversation with

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and India's Sherpa to G- 20 and G-7

September 17, 2020; 1515-1630 hrs

#### Programme Overview

The world is faced with an unprecedented crisis which has affected political, social, economic aspects of life. The global pandemic has ravaged the societies and economies of the world. For an emerging economy, such as India, domestic growth replicates into overall inclusive development and its growth pattern will determine the future of Asian economy as well as the health of trade and investment in the world. India has a vital stake in the stability of the international economic architecture and with Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat, India is aiming for self-reliance and sustainable economic growth.

The Reimagine India Series is an endeavour to understand the varied aspects of the political and societal living, with respect to the New Normal, through engaging discussions with Members of Parliament.

To understand how India will regain its stature of one of the fastest-growing economies of the world in the post pandemicera, FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians in partnership with the India Office of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung organised an interaction with **Shri Suresh Prabhu**, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and India's Sherpa to G- 20 and G-7 under the FICCI-KAS Reimagine India Series on September 17, 2020 from 1515- 1630 hrs.

The webinar witnessed the presence of **Dr. Jyotsna Suri**, Past President, FICCI and Co Chair, FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians and **Mr. Peter Rimmele**, Resident Representative to India, KAS, were present at the discussion. **Dr. Jyotsna Suri** delivered the Welcome Remarks and talked about the initiatives of the Forum.

### KeyTakeaways

- The COVID- 19 pandemic has tested the resolve of people, which had compelled India and other countries, to **suspend economic activities** in the first few months and focus on overcoming the pandemic.
- The impact of this has been drastic on various sectors, especially the **hospitality sector**, which is the largest employer and the **backbone of the service sector** of India.
- India has seen a remarkable journey in the past years of post- Independence, especially in terms of the development of the democratic process and transformation of rural India.
- Due to **the population explosion** in the past, India's **natural resources have been stretched**. India is a young country in terms of the demographic dividend, and its people are an asset yet managing large population can pose a challenge in the future due to the **increase in population number as well as sharing of natural resources**.
- In the coming years, the decision-makers and economists would need to strike a balance between economic development and conservation of natural resources.
- India is becoming a digital-first country creating an abundance of available information, but it is necessary to assess the authenticity and reliability of the information before being shared.
- The two phenomena are simultaneously operating in the world, where on one hand, the countries are becoming inward and protectionist, on the other hand, globalisation has impacted the way the countries operate. While globalisation has created an interconnected world, it has also led to the downsides of interconnectedness. It has led to economic benefits which in turn has led to job creation.
- The **global supply chains**, a result of globalisation, have spread across sectors including **manufacturing and agriculture**. It is also a way of ensuring that consumers get the **best products**, **best available components**, **at competitive prices**.
- There is a need to amalgamate the two aspects of global and local in our approach and Hon'ble PM's idea of Atmanirbhar Bharat, encompasses complementarity in interests and capability.
- India needs to have a strong stand on multilateralism as a platform for global governance, which focuses on democracy, openness and rules-based order.
- There is also the need for ensuring that while multilateralism focusses on global governance, democracy is adopted as a means of ensuring national/local governance.

- The **Parliamentarians** in India and the world, need to play an active role in **governance**. The **civil society organisations**, being non-governmental actors, can contribute towards the country's growth.
- In terms of the industry, India's growth is largely dependent upon the growth of the private sector, start-ups and service sector. The role of businesses is extremely important in ensuring overall development of the country as India can develop only when Indian businesses develop.
- In a new world order ensuing post the pandemic, the countries of the **QUAD** have the chance to **work together and create a vision for a free Indo-Pacific and a multilateral world order**.
- India's role on the international platform including **G-20 and G-7** is crucial. India is set to host the G-20 Summit in 2022, which also coincides with India's 75th Independence Year, which will provide **ample opportunities for India to not only engage with the world but also establish itself as a catalyst for the growth of Asian economy and the world**.

# Glimpses







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## Introductory Remarks

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



**Dr. Jyotsna Suri** welcomed everyone to the interaction. She talked about the genesis of FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians in the year 2000, which is chaired by Shri. Bhupender Yadav, Rajya Sabha MP and National General Secretary of BJP, and noted that it is a Track II initiative for engaging MPs as a voice for Parliamentarians in the world's largest democracy. She informed about the activities of the Forum which encompasses political outreach across party affiliations covering both Houses of the Indian Parliament in a true bipartisan spirit and has witnessed several interactions between Indian MPs with their foreign counterparts from countries like UK, Japan, US, Germany and many more.

Talking about the current unprecedented crisis, Dr. Suri mentioned that there has been a considerable shift in the way the economies are operating where everything has become virtual. She introduced the *Reimagine India Series* as an endeavour to understand the varied aspects of the political and societal living, with respect to the New Normal, through engaging discussions with Members of Parliament.

Introducing Shri Suresh Prabhu as the key speaker, Dr. Suri remarked that Shri Prabhu is a well-known political figure in Indian Politics. He is an Ace Administrator, who has had a vast political career, spanning for over more than two decades. He has been elected to the Lok Sabha four times and has also served as Union Railway Minister of India from November 2014 to September 2017. He was elected as Rajya Sabha member from Andhra Pradesh in 2016 and currently is Prime Minister's Sherpa to G- 7 and G- 20. As the G20 Sherpa, Shri Prabhu's contributions include shaping the official agenda of the Government of India on key issues for G7 &G20 Summit, engaging with global leaders/thinkers and leading delegations across the globe. His exemplary role as Minister for Industry, Minister of Environment and Forests, Minister of Fertilizers & Chemicals, Power, Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises, during the Premiership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee [1998 to 2004], is noteworthy. Shri Prabhu, in his capacity as the Union Minister for Power, is known to have introduced major reforms in India's power sector through advocating and implementing the Electricity Act, 2003.

He is associated with Social Work as well as various international forums in various capacities and has received several accolades for his contribution to Indian politics, governance and polity. Dr. Suri noted that the economies of the world are struggling to revive their economy and it is important that the government, policy makers, business community and the civil society to reimagine India and ensure that it regains its stature of one of the fastest-growing economies of the world.

## KeyNote Address

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and India's Sherpa, G-20 and G-7



**Shri Suresh Prabhu**, in his Key Note Address, talked about the remarkable journey of India in the past years of post- Independence, especially in terms of the development of the democratic process and transformation of rural India. He mentioned that India before COVID had its economy at USD 3 trillion which has been severely affected due to the pandemic where the focus was on saving lives and avoiding personal contact which also led to the suspension of economic activities in the first few months. He noted that the impact has been drastic on various sectors, especially the hospitality and tourism sector, which is the largest employer and the backbone of the service sector of India which is 60 per cent of GDP of India.

He remarked that achieving economic progress through democratic institution by respecting certain norms is a great achievement. He mentioned that India has come a long way in terms of its democratic and electoral process and evolution but in terms of the per capita availability of natural resources, due to population explosion, the natural resources of India have been stretched.

Shri Prabhu mentioned that India is a young country in terms of the demography and its people are an asset, yet managing large population can pose a challenge in the future due to the increase in population number as well as sharing of natural resources. He suggested that the decision-makers and economists will have to balance between economic development and conservation of natural resources.

He opined that the industries will have to address the expectations of their stakeholders and customers, similarly the legislators, judiciary and decision-makers will have to address the expectations of the citizens. This would also put pressure on media, the fourth pillar of democracy.

Shri Prabhu further noted that in the world, there are two forces which are operating in tandem where on the one hand the countries are becoming inward and protectionist while on the other hand, globalisation has impacted the way the countries operate. While globalisation has created an interconnected world, it has also led to the downsides of interconnectedness. It has led to economic benefits which in turn has led to job creation. He remarked that the global supply chains, a result of globalisation, have spread across sectors including manufacturing and agriculture which was an effective way of ensuring that consumers get the best products, at best available assembling price, best components, best marketing network at competitive prices. This has also led to innovation as unless something is conceived on a large scale, innovation will not take place since there is a need to amortise the cost of innovation. He noted that there is a need for amalgamating the two aspects of global and local in our approach and Hon'ble PM's idea of Atmanirbhar Bharat, encompasses complementarity in interests and capability.

According to him, India needs to have a strong stand on multilateralism as a platform for global governance, which focuses on democracy, openness and a rules-based order. There is also the need for ensuring that while multilateralism focusses on global governance, democracy is adopted as a means of ensuring national/local governance. He allude d that this should be the guiding principle with a commitment towards democracy and democratic processes at all levels.

Talking about the role of the Parliamentarians in India and the world, Shri Prabhu remarked that the legislators need to play an active role in global governance along with the civil society organisations and other non-governmental actors. He noted that the Parliamentarians need to be entrusted with greater role and responsibilities across the world as they are people's representatives as well as lawmakers and policymakers and have the background of direct understanding of ground-level problems.

He concluded by noting that India's growth is largely dependent upon the growth of the private sector, start-ups and service sector and the role of businesses is extremely important in ensuring overall development of the country as India can develop only when Indian businesses develop.

## Remarks

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



**Mr. Peter Rimmele** highlighted the longstanding association of KAS with Shri Suresh Prabhu and mentioned about the delegations led by him in the past. Mr. Rimmele noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had tested the resolve of people worldwide and India has been badly affected by it yet there's hope that India will be able to overcome this crisis and emerge stronger.

He highlighted the 75-year old relations between India and Germany post the WWII and mentioned about the diplomatic ties between the two nations which were strengthened by the spirit of mutual trust and equal opportunities. He remarked that Germany and India also share strong cultural ties which is evident through the various cultural exchanges between the two countries. Highlighting the strategic partnership and high level diplomatic and economic ties shared between India and Germany, Mr. Rimmele mentioned about the important G2G or B2B meetings such as the Indo-German Government Consultations and Indo-German Business Dialogue, which have led to mutual agreement on foreign affairs, R&D and economic progress. He also mentioned about the Indo-European Free Trade Agreement which has not materialised.

Mr. Rimmele further remarked that the countries of the QUAD have the chance to work together and assure a vison for a free and open Indo-Pacific, adherence to International Law and the presence of a multilateral world order.

## Discussion

Q. India is slated to have the G20 Presidency in 2022, which also is India's 75<sup>th</sup> Year of Independence as well as the 46<sup>th</sup> G- 7 summit is expected to be scheduled later this year, what will be India's priorities in the upcoming G- 7 and G- 20 summits?

A. India's role on the international platform including G-20 and G-7 is crucial. There are two aspects of G20 agenda: one is that every presidency has certain priorities that they portray at the various meetings followed by the summit in addition to the priority agenda which were presented at the previous summits. India is set to host the G-20 Summit in 2022, which also coincides with India's 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Year, which will provide ample opportunities for India to not only engage with the world but also establish itself as a catalyst for the growth of Asian economy and the world.

Q. How can India reimagine its various aspects of democracy, economy and economic diplomacy?

A. India with its strong civilisational and cultural roots, has the potential to turn this crisis into an opportunity to rebuild, reshape and reinstate the country and to emerge stronger and resilient in the coming years.

Q. How can digitisation be used to improve the process of availability goods and services, provide public services to the citizens electronically and make the government accountable?

A. India is becoming a digital-first country, exchange of information has created an abundance of availability of information, which has created a challenge in terms of information authenticity and reliability. As the world progresses further and with information technology becoming an accessible tool, the expectations of people will arise in term.

## Social Media Coverage







#### present

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Vision for India @ 75

Special Address and Conversation with

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and India's Sherpa, G-20 and G-7

September 17, 2020; 1515- 1630 hrs

## Programme

1515 – 1530 hrs	Logging into respective devices for webinar
1530 – 1535 hrs	Welcome Remarks by <b>Mr. Dilip Chenoy</b> , Secretary General, FICCI
1535 – 1540 hrs	Remarks by <b>Mr. Peter Rimmele</b> , Resident Representative to India, KAS
1540 – 1545 hrs	Introduction of <i>Shri Suresh Prabhu</i> by <b>Dr. Jyotsna Suri</b> , Past President, FICCI and Co-Chair of FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians Council
1545 – 1610 hrs	Key Note Address by <b>Shri Suresh Prabhu,</b> Hon'ble Member of Parliament and India's Sherpa, G- 20 and G- 7
1610 – 1625 hrs	Audience Intervention moderated by <b>Mr. Manish Singhal</b> , Deputy Secretary General, FICCI
1625 – 1630 hrs	Vote of Thanks by <b>Mr. Dilip Chenoy</b> , Secretary General, FICCI



#### present

## **REIMAGINE INDIA SERIES**

Vision for India @ 75 Special Address and Conversation with Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and India's Sherpa to G- 20 and G-7

September 17, 2020; 1515- 1630 hrs

### **Special Address and Interaction**

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and India's Sherpa to G-20 and G-7



Shri Prabhu is a well-known political figure in Indian Politics. He is an Ace Administrator, who has had a vast political career, spanning for over more than two decades. He has been Chairman of Saraswat Co-operative Bank Limited. He was also Chairman of Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers with a status and rank of Union Cabinet Minister. He has been elected to the Lok Sabha four times and has also served as Union Railway Minister of India from November 2014 to September 2017. He was elected as Rajya Sabha member from Andhra Pradesh in 2016 and currently is Prime Minister's Sherpa to G- 7 and G- 20. As the G20 Sherpa, Shri Prabhu's contributions include shaping the official agenda of the Government of India on key issues for G7 &G20 Summit, engaging with global leaders/thinkers and leading delegations across the globe. He has pitched for various issues of importance in G20 Forum including global growth, employment generation, removal of hurdles in global movement of services, climate change and much more.

His exemplary role as Minister for Industry, Minister of Environment and Forests, Minister of Fertilizers & Chemicals, Power, Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises, during the Premiership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee [1998 to 2004], is noteworthy. Shri Prabhu, in his capacity as the Union Minister for Power, is known to have introduced major reforms in India's power sector through advocating and implementing the Electricity Act, 2003.

He is associated with Social Work as well as various international forums in various capacities, to name a few, he is the Chairman of Asia Energy Foundation; South Asia Chair of Global Water Partnership, Chairman of Global Foundation of Farmers, President of World Forum for Global Governance, Member of United Nations Commission for Biodiversity & Land Use Change, Global Advisory Council of the World Economic Forum.

Shri Prabhu was declared as the "Best Member of Parliament in 13th Lok Sabha" in April 2004 by Aaj Tak. He was also ranked as the 2<sup>nd</sup> best performing Minister in India Today's report in 2001. He featured amongst top three Indian leaders of the future in the cover story, "Giant on the Move" September 2000 of the Hong Kong based Asiaweek Magazine. He has several accolades to his credit including Suresh Prabhu. He received the Goud Saraswat Brahmin Samaj Maharatha Award on 18 August 2016, by Aaj Tak. Dr. Jyotsna Suri, Past President, FICCI; Co-Chair, FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians and 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 privatelyowned 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.

Dr. Suri was conferred with the Order of The Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star by Japan Government recently 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; Co-Chair FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians; 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.

#### 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 advices 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.

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



**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.

### Mr. Manish Singhal, Deputy Secretary General, FICCI



**Mr. Manish Singhal** is currently the Deputy Secretary General, FICCI and Head, International Affairs. He has been with FICCI since 2012 and oversees the global outreach of FICCI, to further the business interests of Indian industry and strategic approach of Govt of India. He also oversees the Resource Conservation &Management (RCM) and FICCI Quality Forum (FQF) Divisions which focus on audits, improvement planning and related capacity building initiatives with industry in India and abroad. Prior to FICCI, he has spent over 22 years with some of the best in class Indian transnational companies like Tata Motors, Eicher (Volvo), Tata Autocomp Systems, Moser Baer and BEML. Career involves immense exposure to global multi-cultural business environment, covering over 60 countries, besides India.

## **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.