

## **Report on Fireside Chat:**

# **“Geo-Political and Geo-Economic Consequences of COVID-19”**



**FOUNTAINHEAD OF EXCELLENCE**

**Live Event on  
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Fireside Chat on**

# **Geo-Political and Geo-Economic Consequences of COVID-19**

**Mr M K Narayanan**

Former National Security Advisor of India (NSA)&  
Former Governor of West Bengal

**In conversation with**

**Prof Harsh V Pant**

Director, Studies & Head of Strategic Studies Programme  
Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi

held on **Wednesday, 29 April 2020 at 6.00 pm**

# Geo-Political and Geo-Economic Consequences of COVID-19

**Wednesday, 29 April 2020**

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Fireside Chat on

# **Geo-Political and Geo-Economic Consequences of COVID-19**

by

**Mr M K Narayanan**

Former National Security Advisor of India (NSA)  
Former Governor of West Bengal

*in conversation with:*

**Prof Harsh V Pant**

Director, Studies & Head of Strategic Studies Programme  
Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi

at **6.00 pm Wednesday, 29 April 2020**

## The Context

The Covid-19 pandemic that originated in China in December 2019 has since spread like wildfire from one country to another and rattled the entire world. Lockdowns have been announced in most countries, with the objectives of flattening the virus spread curve, freeing the health care system from overloading and saving precious lives.

But lockdowns have led to severe disruption in economic activities and public disenchantment with many of their leaders for either failing to shield them from the tentacles of the virus by judicious action and / or for failure to protect them from the effects of recession and economic meltdown. Many world leaders, have been caught unawares and clearly exposed, by Covid-19. Thus, the global order is witnessing serious changes.

The geo-political and geo-economic fallout of the Covid pandemic is unlike any other global crisis in the post-war era. While the Plague and the Spanish flu took their toll on human lives, their geographical impact was not this spread out and hence the geo-political and geo-economic impact was non-existent. In economic terms, the Great Depression is the closest parallel but it did not cause death or fear of death in nations, governments and populations.

The two Great Wars also do not fit into the Covid matrix. Today, given the global connect, the situation is different. In context, it becomes pertinent for an aspirational power like India to assess the emerging global situation and relate them to domestic conditions and emerging power-projections, over the short, medium and long terms.

With this objective, Madras Management Association (MMA), Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and Observer Research Foundation (ORF) have teamed up to initiate dialogues with eminent personalities / thought leaders from various fields.



## Programme Overview

MMA in association with ORF and KAS presented a live Fireside Chat on the theme “**Geo-Political & Geo-Economic Consequences of COVID-19**” featuring **Mr. M. K. Narayanan**, Former National Security Advisor of India (NSA) and Former Governor of West Bengal in conversation with **Prof Harsh V Pant**, Director, Studies & Head of Strategic Studies Programme, Observer Research Foundation(ORF), New Delhi at 6 pm on Wednesday, 29th **April** 2020 for the benefit of MMA Members and Management professionals.

The Speakers included:

- **Gp Captain Vijayakumar**, Executive Director, MMA
- **Mr Peter Rimmele**, Resident Representative to India, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
- **Mr Christian Hirte**, Honourable Member of German Parliament
- **Prof Harsh V Pant**, Director, Studies and Head of the Strategic Studies Programme at Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi
- **Mr MKNarayanan**, former National Security Adviser of Government of India
- **Mr N Sathiya Moorthy**, Head of Observer Research Foundation, Chennai

In view of the restrictions on account of COVID – 19 with relevance to social distancing and keeping in view the safety and well-being of members, the chat was done online with the event beamed live on ZOOM/ MMA Webcast / YouTube and Facebook.

Viewers had the option to intervene in the chat and send in their questions to the speakers through the chat option. Such questions were taken up in the Q&A session.

## Profile of the Speakers

### **M K Narayanan**

Mayankote Kelath Narayanan is an Indian diplomat and former IPS officer.

M. K. Narayanan joined the Indian Police Service in 1955 and passed out as the best all-round officer of his batch. After a brief stint as Sub-Divisional Police Officer in the erstwhile State of Madras, he went on deputation to the Intelligence Bureau in February 1959. The rest of his service career was spent under the Government of India, mainly in the Intelligence Bureau, in which he dealt with a whole range of issues concerning internal and national security.



He headed the Intelligence Bureau (IB) from 1987 to 1990, before heading the Joint Intelligence Committee for a year.

He was National Security Adviser of India from 2005 to 2010. Subsequently he served as Governor of West Bengal from 2010 to 2014.

The Government of India awarded him the civilian honour of Padma Shri in 1992.

## Prof Harsh V Pant

Professor Harsh V Pant is Director, Studies and Head of the Strategic Studies Programme at Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi. He holds a joint appointment with the Department of Defence Studies and King's India Institute as Professor of International Relations at King's College London. He is also a Non-Resident Fellow with the Wadhvani Chair in US-India Policy Studies at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, DC. Professor Pant has been a Visiting Professor at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore; a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania; a Visiting Scholar at the Centre for International Peace and Security Studies, McGill University; and an Emerging Leaders Fellow at the Australia-India Institute, University of Melbourne. Professor Pant's current research is focused on Asian security issues. His most recent books include *New Directions in India's Foreign Policy: Theory and Praxis* (Cambridge University Press), *India's Nuclear Policy* (Oxford University Press), *The US Pivot and Indian Foreign Policy* (Palgrave Macmillan), *Handbook of Indian Defence Policy* (Routledge), *India's Afghan Muddle* (HarperCollins), and *The US-India Nuclear Pact: Policy, Process and Great Power Politics* (Oxford University Press). Professor Pant writes regularly for various Indian and international media outlets including the Japan Times, the Wall Street Journal, the National (UAE), the Hindustan Times, and the Telegraph.





## Peter Rimmele

Peter Rimmele is currently the Resident Representative of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung to 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.

**Report on Live Fireside Chat**  
**“Geo-Political and Geo-Economic Consequences of Covid-19”**  
**Mr MKNarayanan in conversation with Prof Harsh V Pant**

## Key Statements

1

- A large and wealthy country like the US can do without WHO but many African, Latin American and Asian countries cannot - **Mr Peter Rimmele**, Resident Representative to India, KAS

2

- Right now, nations should stop blaming each other for the pandemic outbreak and start working together - **Mr Christian Hirte**, Honourable Member of German Parliament

3

- Even before the advent of Covid-19 crisis, tectonic plates of the global politics were shifting. The Covid crisis has clearly exposed the Chinese vulnerability - **Prof Harsh V Pant**, Director, Studies -ORF, New Delhi

4

- Pandemics have led to dynasties collapsing. We are on the cusp of an Armageddon, if I may use the word. – **Mr M K Narayanan**, former NSA

5

- This is the kind of interaction that would benefit all of us and the nation, as we look to manage the post Covid scenario - **Mr N Sathiya Moorthy**, Head of ORF, Chennai

## Key Takeaways

- Covid-19 has undoubtedly geo-political and geo-economic ramifications worldwide, some of which can be assessed now and some of which will be felt in the distant future.
- Due to the current leadership vacuum created by the US, the process of recovery from Covid-19 could be harder and longer.
- With the image of US leadership taking a hit, it needs to be debated as to what will happen to multilateralism, a concept in which countries like Germany and India firmly believe in and promote.
- Europe has been watching the US response to the pandemic with alarm, particularly the US deciding to halt funding for the World Health Organisation (WHO). This is seen by European nations as increasing evidence of the US withdrawing from its role as a responsible global leader.
- A large and wealthy country like the US can do without WHO but many African, Latin American and Asian countries cannot and therefore WHO needs to be supported.
- Germany is one of India's most important trade partners and also a preferred destination, of late, for Indian students. The challenge now is to intensify exchanges in areas other than education, post Covid-19.
- Germany can prosper only when other nations in the EU and the rest of the world do well, so that Germany can sell its products and interact with other economies.
- EU must accept its role as an innovative global leader. Issues like migration, terrorism, climate change and health crisis can only be tackled by a coalition of like-minded allies.
- Covid-19 outbreak has strained the US-China relation to the point that they are worse than earlier. Right now, nations should stop blaming each other for the pandemic outbreak and start working together.
- China will challenge the US supremacy. But nations like Japan, Russia, South Korea and India too will have key roles to play in the post Covid era.
- International Organisations like the UN Security Council, the World Health Organisation (WHO) have failed the world. The WHO's image has diminished to a considerable extent.

- We have one country from which the Covid-19 pandemic started and which failed to alert the world in time -China. But they have recovered early and are keen to exploit the opportunities emerging out of the crisis, rather than helping the nations. We need to take a good, hard look at China.
- Globally, there is a leadership vacuum. Barring Germany, the rest of Europe's leadership has not been promising. We need people who can think well beyond their immediate problems and have the moral courage to take on major issues.
- Inspiring leadership revolves around building institutions. Today, there are no leaders who can do it. Thanks to the bruises from Covid-19, there is no country that has the capacity and leadership to restart international institutions. China is trying to fill this vacuum. In some ways, geopolitics is worse than geo-economics.
- One of the major effects of this crisis is that nations are going to look inwards rather than outwards. The concept of international community may become narrow.
- Nations today will try to work in silos and save themselves from the effects of recession. But they have to work in coordination with other nations and organisations like World Bank and IMF and together find a solution. Otherwise, they will be doomed.
- As recession intensifies, people may come out on the streets and we may end up with law and order issues. Serious debates need to happen in this direction. Pandemics have led to dynasties collapsing.
- The Indian lockdown has been the strictest in the whole world. The lockdown has freed its healthcare system considerably and helped the nation in managing the pandemic.
- However, India's economic capacities have bottomed out. There are other countries like Vietnam who are in a better position. China is still not down. They are buying stocks across the world.
- China and India are two ancient but different civilisations. China has a healthy respect for India and its intellectual strength. They regard India as a bigger threat than other countries.
- India needs to maintain good relations with China, in a deft manner. At the same time, India has to be wary of China, as they will not like India sitting on the same side of the table with them as an equal.

- The pandemic has paralysed India's economy and even before that, India's economy was not doing well. Yet, India is too big a country to be side-lined.
- India has been laying great emphasis on building relations with the US. As the world is getting re-aligned, Indian foreign policy needs to be reviewed. The US is in deep trouble. India needs to work on its relationship with Russia. It has to be on good terms with countries across the globe.
- India's relations with China will be important in the next two to three decades. It needs to strengthen its position in South Asia. SAARC has to be brought back and India should be seen as the glue that keeps SAARC together.
- India has a very young population and that is a huge advantage. India has the potential to overcome the crisis but it needs to prove to the world that it can be a beacon of light.
- Indian Prime Minister has shown leadership and our response to the pandemic has so far been good. It remains to be seen how we cope with the situation and how we maintain relations with our neighbours and beyond. We have to wait and see if our leadership can reach out to the rest of the world.

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## Welcome Address

**Group Captain R Vijayakumar (Retd), VSM, Executive Director, MMA**



Mr R Vijayakumar, ED, MMA initiated the online meet and welcomed the eminent guests and participants. He gave an overview of the programs lined up by MMA over the next few days to keep the members engaged intellectually and provide the policy makers with quality inputs through dialogues with eminent personalities and thought-leaders, in the backdrop of the global pandemic.

He introduced Prof Harsh V Pant, the moderator for the discussion with former National Security Advisor Mr. M. K. Narayanan. He also introduced Mr Peter Rimmele who is the current resident representative of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in India and thanked him for the great support extended to MMA. He requested Mr Peter Rimmele to deliver the introductory remarks.

## Introductory Remarks

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



Mr Peter Rimmele welcomed the panel members and the participants. He set the context for the discussions through his introductory remarks. As a Resident Representative of KAS to India, he offered a European and Trans-Atlantic perspective of the Covid-19 crisis.

He said that Covid-19 has undoubtedly geo-political and geo-economic ramifications worldwide. Talking about the US leadership, he observed that the European Union has been so far looking up to the United States for guidance as a big brother but the global crisis management scenario is different this time. “Europe has been watching the US response with alarm, particularly the US deciding to halt funding for the World Health Organisation (WHO),” he said.

He noted that a large and wealthy country like the US can do without WHO but many African, Latin American and Asian countries cannot and that stopping the funding of WHO is seen by European nations as increasing evidence of the US withdrawing from its role as a responsible global leader.

He lamented that the US now uses tweets and newspaper reports to replace traditional diplomatic channels of communication. He recalled the role of the previous US President in effectively combating another pandemic –Ebola, in 2014.

Mr Peter Rimmele remarked that he does not expect the EU to step in, as EU may get overburdened and it does not have that capability; China is also not in a position to step into the big shoes of the US, not only because of its lack of acceptance but mainly due to its lack of capacity.

With the image of US leadership taking a hit, Mr Peter Rimmele wondered as to what would happen to multilateralism, a concept in which countries like Germany and India believe in firmly and promote actively. He felt that in such a situation, China may try to take advantage. He suggested that the EU must accept its role as an innovative global leader and added, "Issues like migration, terrorism, climate change and health crisis can only be tackled by a coalition of like-minded allies."

Talking of Indo-German relations, he said that Germany is one of India's most important trade partners and also a preferred destination, of late, for Indian students. He concluded his speech mentioning that the challenge now is to intensify exchanges in other areas, post Covid-19.

## Guest View

### **Mr Christian Hirte, Honourable Member of German Parliament**



Sharing his views on the Covid-19 crisis, **Mr Christian Hirte** who joined the panel from Germany highlighted that Germany is much better-off than most other EU nations. He said that the problems Germany is facing now are in the supply chains, with materials imported from other countries not getting delivered, as the overseas suppliers are not working due to the pandemic. “Both imports and exports have taken a hit. EU is at the moment focussed on solving its internal problems,” he said.

He noted that Germany is supporting Africa in its battle against the Covid-19 pandemic. “Covid-19 outbreak has strained the US-China relations which are now worse than it was earlier. Right now, nations should stop blaming each other for the pandemic outbreak and start working together,” he said.

Mr Christian Hirte was of the opinion that China will challenge the US supremacy but nations like Japan, Russia, South Korea and India too will have roles to play. “South Korea has been a role model for other nations in containing the pandemic. Japan has tested 5 times lower than South Korea. Testing is very important in managing Covid-19,” he observed.

He felt that the Indian lockdown has been the strictest in the whole world and that must have freed the nation’s healthcare system to some extent. “India has a very young population and that’s an advantage. I am positive that India can overcome the situation and conquer the pandemic,” said Mr Christian on a positive note.

He expressed his opinion that Germany can prosper only when other nations in the EU and the rest of the world do well, so that Germany can sell its products and interact with other economies.

## Conversation between Prof Harsh VPant and Mr M K Narayanan

Mr Vijayakumar, ED, MMA introduced **Prof Harsh V Pant**, Director, Studies and Head of the Strategic Studies Programme at Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi. Prof Harsh V Pant greeted all the members and introduced the guest speaker **Mr MK Narayanan**, former National Security Advisor of India.



### Prof Harsh V PantMr. M.K Narayanan

Prof Harsh V Pant set the contours of his chat with Mr M.K.Narayanan under three broad areas:

- ✓ The geo-political impact of Covid-19
- ✓ The geo-economic impact of Covid-19
- ✓ India's position, post Covid-19

He remarked that even before the advent of Covid-19 crisis, tectonic plates of the global politics were shifting and that the pandemic has clearly exposed the Chinese vulnerability.

“There is a great shift taking place, we are moving from the global order we have known since 1945 to a new global order, an extremely uncertain one,” remarked Mr. M.K. Narayanan. He outlined the new emerging global order. “The new world order is no longer dominated by the US; China is to some extent in the driving seat and most other countries are badly bruised by Covid-19 and the global recession,” he said.

### Globalisation in retreat

According to Mr. Narayanan, globalisation has undeniably been in retreat for some years now and the coronavirus pandemic is likely to exacerbate this process. He felt



that though there is a lot being said about international cooperation and international community, one of the devastating impacts of COVID-19 will be that nations are going to look inward seven more than what has been the case in the recent past. Rather than look beyond its borders, nations will focus on their narrowly defined national interests.

### **Leadership Vacuum**

“In times of crisis, leadership is the key. Unfortunately, across the world we have a leadership vacuum. There is an absence of leaders who can think beyond their immediate problems and well beyond their immediate surroundings,” Narayanan observed and added that the US is faltering and for a variety of reasons, it has been retreating from the world stage for some years now. This has created a big vacuum.

“There has been a total failure of international organisations, such as the United Nations and WHO, to step up to the present challenges. WHO has been charged with grossly underestimating the pandemic,” he said and commented that to rebuild or repair institutions of eminence, we need great leaders but such leadership is missing today.

### **Geo-politics worse than Geo-Economics**

“In some ways, the geo-political situation is far more threatening than the geo-economics,” opined Mr Narayanan stressing that leadership of a nation gains precedence over the nation’s economics.

Assessing the geopolitical landscape, Mr Narayanan felt that the European Union is struggling with its own internal problems; Other than Angela Merkel of Germany, the EU does not have a promising leader. Post-Brexit, the UK too is weakened. West Asia has been in shambles for some time now and the region is set to face further difficulties due to the oil price meltdown. Russia, he felt, may not be severely affected. India could have offered some leadership but is handicapped by its economic situation, he argued.

### **China: Black Swan to White Swan**

While China is undoubtedly trying to fill the leadership vacuum, Mr Narayanan felt this was not the situation that the world wanted to be in. According to him, China should have been stigmatised for its failure to alert the world in time about the virus.

It first identified and detected the virus COVID-19 in Wuhan in December 2019, but sounded the alarm only in January 2020, Narayanan pointed out.

“Having had an early recovery, China is now trying to exploit the situation by utilising its manufacturing capability into an advantage sending out masks and PPE to Asia and Africa. Instead of helping the affected countries, it is trying to exploit the opportunities. It is attempting a change from being a Black Swan to a White Swan,” cautioned Mr Narayanan.

### **COVID-19: An Opportunity for India?**

Narayanan felt that it's wishful thinking to believe that India can exploit opportunities created out of companies trying to move out of China. Countries like Vietnam are more likely to benefit from it than India. He explained that though India has the resilience to survive the crisis, it is not in a position to exploit it because of its economic downturn.

“Lockdown has been very important in terms of restricting the spread of the virus but economic capacities have bottomed out. China holds all the cards, what are the cards that India holds?” he asked.

### **Reordering Foreign Policy Priorities**

Looking ahead, Narayanan felt that India's foreign policy had invested far too much in the US. The world is changing in crucial ways; India's foreign policy and its diplomatic efforts need to reflect these new changes. To hitch our wagon to the US now would be unfortunate,” he said.

He recommended that India needs to strengthen its position in South Asia and SAARC has to be brought back. “India has to be seen as the glue that puts SAARC back together. It is imperative for India to strengthen itself in South Asia, only then will the rest of the world will see it as a leading power, said Mr. Narayanan and added that political clout doesn't always rely on economic growth.

### **Future of Pakistan-India Relations**

Given Pakistan's refusal to join the SAARC video conference, Narayanan was asked, if India-Pakistan relationship had a future. “Every relationship has a future. India can deal with Pakistan and it has to deal with Pakistan” Narayanan stated.

## **Maintaining Relations with China**

Having been a foreign policy practitioner and China expert since the sixties, Mr. Narayanan stated that China will not be happy with India's efforts to gain influence in South Asia. "However, China will not look to get into a conflict with India. Rather, it will look to constrict India in its neighbourhood and isolate it from the rest of the world," he added.

He also said that China recognises India's intellectual strength. Therefore, maintaining good relations with China will be India's biggest foreign policy goal and challenge and which will throw up challenges as well as opportunities, requiring deft handling.

To conclude, Mr. Narayanan said, "India is too important a country to be side-lined in the world. India should strive to be a beacon of light to the world."

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## Q & A : Mr MKNarayanan's Answers to Viewers' Questions

**Q:** Talking about Indian Prime Minister Mr. Modi's outreach to SAARC recently, we see that India and Pakistan cannot get along even during Covid-19. Does this relationship have a future at all?

**A:** Every relationship has a future. You can work hard on it. It is not easy. Who would have thought India and the US could have an agreement on the nuclear deal? When Mr Manmohan Singh was the PM and I was the NSA, people scoffed at the idea. It required a President Bush and PM Manmohan Singh to make it happen. There will always be pinpricks with neighbours and we can deal with it. Pakistan has its own problems. In any case, if we are not able to influence SAARC nations, how can we influence the rest of the world? We can and we have to deal with Pakistan. Indian diplomats are one of the best in the world.

**Q:** You talked about leadership. How do you see the leadership shown by the Indian PM during this crisis?

**A:** Indian Prime Minister has shown leadership and our response to the pandemic has so far been good. The PM did not waste too much time to deal with a problem that originated from beyond the shores of India and he has a difficult task on hand. He has been managing it reasonably well. Till now, this has been good enough. Now that the lockdown is being lifted, it remains to be seen how we cope with the situation and how we maintain relations with our neighbours and beyond. We have to wait and see if our leadership can reach out to the rest of the world.

**Q:** Traditionally, leadership of a nation is linked to its economic growth. Now, due to the strained economic situation, are there other mechanisms to demonstrate leadership?

**A:**It is possible. Take for instance India's position in the late 40s and 50s. I know Mr Pandit Nehru is not the most favoured leader in India today. But at a

time when India was economically weak, India still provided leadership to the rest of the world. India reached out to Africa. The Non-Aligned Movement came into being. When countries were in conflict, they looked up to India to influence. Indian leaders, bureaucrats and diplomats have the capacity to do this and I think we will do it. If you are stronger economically, it makes your task easier but it does not entirely depend on economic strength.

**Q:** Can India hope to fund and finance its neighbours, like China does and if so, how? This can be important for political and strategic reasons.

**A:** At the moment, India is not in that position financially. But we can still reach out through diplomacy. Money is not everything and we don't need to compete with China. The countries that have received aid from China are definitely not comfortable as China exploits every penny that they invest to their advantage. On the contrary, wherever India has gone, they have made friends. They may not be loved but definitely, they are not feared. We have done it in the past and we can do it in future too.

**Q:** Do you think China will be on the back-foot post Covid-19 and how do you think India can exploit the situation?

**A:** China will recognise strength but it will resent India's attempts to replace it as a dominant power in the region. They realise that India has inherent strengths to take on any situation. So, they will never think of having a conflict with India. 1962 was an aberration.

They will try to constrict India and deny us space. We have ups and downs. But it lies within us to challenge China. We have the ability to recover faster than many countries from the Covid-19 crisis. We need not be unduly bothered about the economic growth rate coming down to around 2%. The economy will surely recover post Covid-19. The present may be a little disturbing but the future of our nation is bright. We have the capability. India and China will dominate the Asian region. We need a leadership that will go beyond the immediacy of India.



## Vote of Thanks

**Mr N Sathiya Moorthy**, Head of Observer Research Foundation, Chennai proposed the vote of thanks.



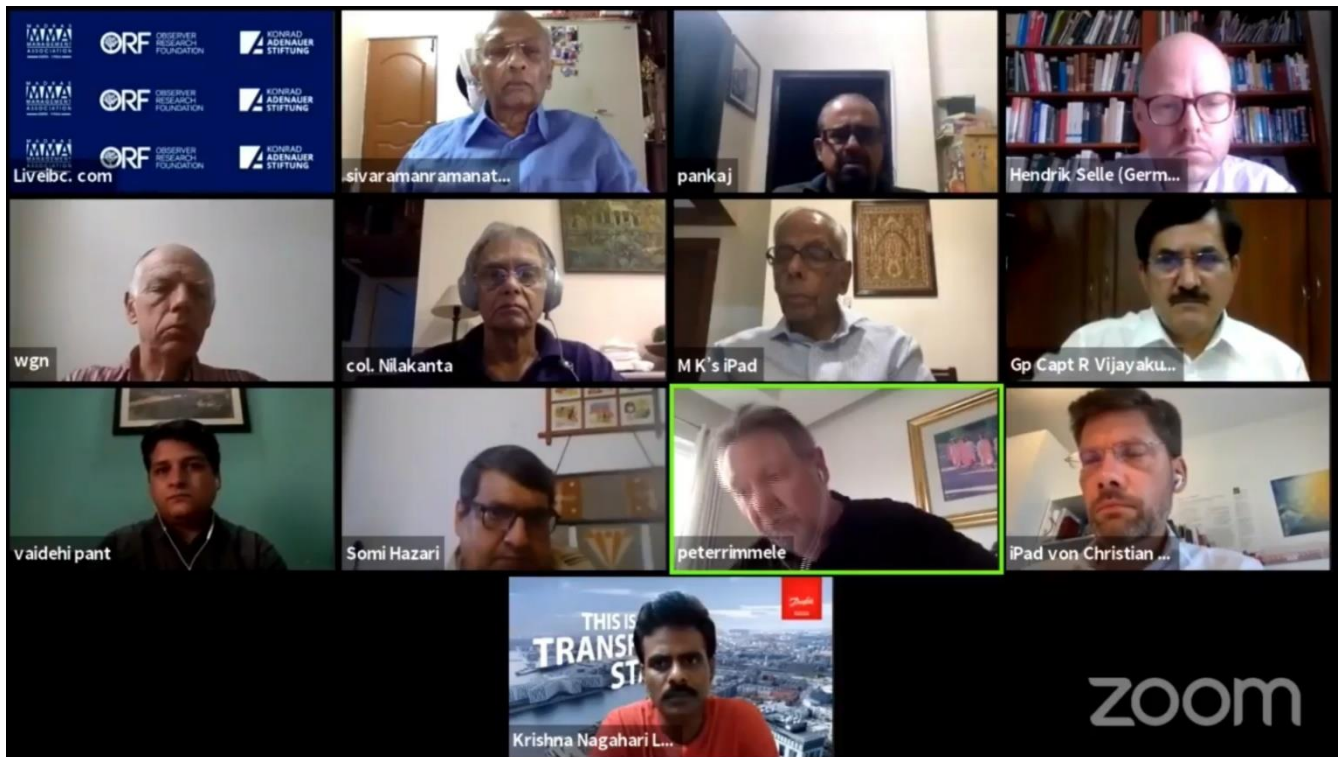
He summed up the session as a very useful and meaningful one. He pointed out that Mr Pant's questions were sharp, Mr Narayanan's answers were focused and this is the kind of interaction that would benefit all of us and the nation, as we look to manage in the post Covid scenario.

He thanked Mr Narayanan for taking his time out, Mr Harsh V Pant for leading the discussion, Mr Peter Rimmele, KAS for his Welcome Address, Mr Christian Hirte, Honourable Member of German Parliament for sharing his thoughts, Mr Pankaj Madan, KAS, Team MMA, Team ORF and all the participants.

The event concluded at 7:45 PM.

## Photos

### Photographs taken during the Live Fireside Chat on the theme Geo-Political and Geo-Economic Consequences of COVID-19





## Links for the Recording

**Link for the recording of the event Geo-Political and Geo-Economic  
Consequences of COVID-19**

We are pleased to share that the recording of the event is available for viewing pleasure through the links indicated below:

**[www.liveibc.com/mma/](http://www.liveibc.com/mma/)**

**<https://www.facebook.com/mmachennai/videos/162978148429513/>**

**<https://youtu.be/kzJKPx CZ8XI>**



**The response to the event has been excellent and we had larger number of viewers logged in live through Zoom, MMA Live webinar, YouTube and Facebook.**

**Total Number of Participants:**

**Zoom: 100**

**YouTube: 175**

**Facebook: 635**

**MMA Webinar: 741**

**Total number of participants at the event - 1651**



## The Partners – MMA, KAS and ORF

### About Madras Management Association (MMA)

**Madras Management Association (MMA)** was established in 1956 with the prime objective of promoting management education, training and development activities in this part of the country. The vision of MMA is “To be the Fountainhead of World class Management Excellence in India”.

Over the past six decades, MMA has striven for development and nurturing management expertise, combining Indian ethos with International Management thoughts and practices. MMA has contributed immensely to the enhancement of management capability in this part of the country, and in particular Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. MMA has over 7000 corporate houses, industries, professionals, academics and executives on its rolls as members. MMA annually organizes about 725 executive development activities, including seminars for top management with a total participation of fifty-nine thousand executives and entrepreneurs.

MMA is the largest affiliate association of All India Management Association (AIMA) in the country and has been adjudged as the Best Management Association in India by AIMA for ten times in a row including the “National Excellence Award” for the year 2017-18.

The activities of MMA are planned to achieve managerial excellence in the functioning of industries and professional managers in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. In this direction, MMA chapters have been established at various towns in Tamil Nadu mainly to cater to the needs of SMEs. Nine such MMA Local Chapters at Ambur, Attur, Erode, Hosur, Namakkal, Salem, Sri City, Trichy and Puducherry are functioning effectively.

Apart from corporate leaders, MMA has, in its Managing Committee, the Vice Chancellors of Madras University & Anna University, the Directors of IIT Madras and IFMR and the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, as members.

### OUR VISION

To be the Fountainhead of World Class Management Excellence in India

### OUR MISSION

- Synthesise Indian Ethos with international management thought
- Be a reservoir of expertise in management
- Inspire individuals to actualise their potential
- Nurture creativity and originality



## About Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)

**The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)** is a German political foundation, with a strong presence throughout Germany and all over the world. Freedom, justice and solidarity are the basic underlying principles of the work of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

With more than 80 offices abroad and projects in over 120 countries, it makes a unique contribution to the promotion of democracy, the rule of law and social market economy. To foster peace and freedom KAS encourages a continuous dialogue at the national and international levels.

Human beings in their distinctive dignity and with their rights and responsibilities are at the heart of its work. KAS is guided by the conviction that human beings are the starting point in the effort to bring about social justice and democratic freedom while promoting sustainable economic activity. By bringing people together who embrace their responsibilities in society, KAS develops active networks in the political and economic spheres as well as in society itself. The guidance it provides on the basis of political know-how and knowledge helps to shape the globalisation process along more socially equitable, ecologically sustainable and economically efficient lines.

KAS cooperates with governmental institutions, political parties and civil society organizations 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 organised its program priorities in India into the following working areas:

1. Foreign and Security Policy
2. Economic and Energy Policy
3. Rule of Law and local Self-Government
4. Social and Political Training and Development
5. Indo-German Parliamentary Dialogue programmes

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

## **About Observer Research Foundation (ORF)**

### **The Beginning**

ORF began its journey in 1990 at the juncture of ideation tempered by pragmatism. During the period of India's transition to a new engagement with the international economic order, several challenges emerged, evoking a need for an independent forum that could critically examine the problems facing the country and help develop coherent policy responses. ORF was thus formed, and brought together, for the first time, leading Indian economists and policymakers to present the agenda for India's economic reforms.

### **What We Are Today**

Propelled by the process of reforms initiated in the 1990s, ORF, over the past 30 years of its existence, has effectively narrated and participated in India's story as the country has acquired an unmistakable global footprint. From primarily looking inward and engaging with domestic reforms, to gradually forging global partnerships, ORF today plays a seminal role in building political and policy consensus that enables India to interact with the world.

As new powers re-emerge onto the global stage, existing systems face challenges of agreeing on a new set of rules to control and regulate the new frontiers of space, the oceans, the internet and the human mind. The world continues, also, to navigate persisting concerns related to security and strategy, economy and development, energy and resources. As India begins to play a larger role in the 21st century, ORF continues to push normative boundaries, bring new ideas into the policy discourse and provide a platform to a new generation of thinkers. It is supported in its mission by leading intellectuals, academicians, policymakers, business leaders, institutions and civil society actors.

ORF's aim is to encourage voices from all quarters, geographies and gender, both those that fall in and those that question dominant narratives. It is this plurality of thought and voice — in a country of over a billion individuals — that ORF seeks to carry abroad, while simultaneously bringing contemporary global debates to India.

### **The Mandate**

ORF seeks to lead and aid policy thinking towards building a strong and prosperous India in a fair and equitable world. It sees India as a country poised to play a leading role in the knowledge age — a role in which it shall be increasingly called upon to proactively ideate in order to shape global conversations, even as it sets course along its own trajectory of long-term sustainable growth.

ORF helps discover and inform India's choices. It carries Indian voices and ideas to forums shaping global debates. It provides non-partisan, independent, well-researched analyses and inputs to diverse decision-makers in governments, business communities, and academia and to civil society around the world.

Our mandate is to conduct in-depth research, provide inclusive platforms and invest in tomorrow's thought leaders today.

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