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 **FICCI** *Forum of
Parliamentarians*

Reimagine India: India Growth Story Post Covid

Shri Gaurav Gogoi
Hon'ble Member of Parliament

September 12, 2020 | 1530-1700 HRS on Webex

JOINED BY CO-CHAIRS, FICCI FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

 <p>Dr. JYOTSNA SURI Past President, FICCI; CMD, Lalit Suri Hospitality Group</p>	 <p>Mr. HARSHAVARDHAN NEOTIA Past President, FICCI; Chairman, Ambuja Neotia Group</p>	 <p>Mr. PETER RIMMELE Resident Representative Konrad Adenauer Stiftung</p>
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RSVP: Ms. Daulata Chakraborty, 9716161365 | Email: forumofparliamentarians@ficci.com

REIMAGINEINDIASERIES

India Growth Story Post COVID-19

Special Address and Conversation with

Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament

September 12, 2020; 1530-1700 hrs on WebEx

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 deliberate on the aspects of economic revival and inclusive development, in the new normal, FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians in partnership with the India Office of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung organised an interaction with **Shri Gaurav Gogoi**, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, under the banner of **Reimagine India Series**, on **September 12, 2020**, between 1530-1700 hrs on WebEx. The title of the interaction was '**India Growth Story Post COVID-19**'.

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

Dr. Jyotsna Suri and **Mr. Harshavardhan Neotia**, Past Presidents, FICCI and Co-Chairs of FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians Council and **Mr. Peter Rimmele**, Resident Representative to India, KAS, along with **Ms. Naina Lal Kidwai**, Past President FICCI, were present at the discussion.

Key Takeaways

- COVID-19 has changed the trajectory of politics, economics and has redefined the political ecosystem.
- The pandemic has led us to believe that **global connectivity and global leadership**, are very important while dealing with such crises.
- Countries have to be **inward looking where economic self-reliance can be a plausible solution** to this vulnerability. But **economic self-reliance is not autarky** and countries need to rely on each other to become stronger together.
- In India's context, more than major **legislative reforms**, it is necessary to have **economic and financial sector reforms** for the country's overall growth.
- The developing inequalities across the states, need to be addressed. Some of the Indian States which have traditionally seen interest from the private sector, both domestic and international, should be **given the freedom to pursue domestic and foreign investments in an organised manner**.
- The States need to **organise business summits, have trade councils, common Chief Ministers' forum or leadership councils** to help bring reforms and ease investment in their respective States.
- The **role of the Indian industry, both in the technological space and in terms of employment creation**, is crucial for India's development.
- In the current state of our economic growth map, the sectors which can create the **maximum number of jobs - textiles and garment, manufacturing, oil, mines, healthcare technology, mobiles, electric cars, automobiles**, should be supported as they need sector-wise reform in order to help them grow.
- India needs to focus on **Start-Ups** not only in the Technology sector or AI but also help **Start-Ups and MSMEs in the pharmaceuticals and generic medicine sector**. It is also important to help these firms with registration, recognition and access to funding, in an easier manner.
- The **Indian Generic Drugs industry** has been lauded in the world to make drugs affordable and accessible. COVID-19 has taught us that India needs to **ramp up the investments in the healthcare sector**.
- There is need to develop further India's **diplomatic outreach and capacity**. Countries like **Germany, France, Netherlands, Belgium and Austria** have a lot of potential, that needs to be tapped into from India's side especially in the **sectors of Technology, Defence, Cyber Security, Maritime Cooperation and Energy**.
- While the world has called India to be a part of the larger global economic narrative, **the withdrawal of India from RCEP**, did not contribute to its image favourably.
- With a country like China having an expansionist view, India's **relationship with Japan, South Korea and Australia** is much more important especially in **Defence and Maritime space**.

- India is considered as a big brother in the region especially from the perspective of the South Asian countries. With countries like **Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, the key allies**, there is a need to **build upon the diplomatic efforts** and personal outreach to the Heads of State.
- India needs to see this crisis as an opportunity and needs to focus on **economic revival, good governance and augment the capacities of the governments**, both at the Centre and at the State levels, to deliver as well as engage countries within and outside Asia.

Glimpses



Key Note Address

Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament



Shri Gaurav Gogoi mentioned that in the pre-pandemic period, the world was witnessing an increased momentum towards de-globalisation and many nations were beginning to withdraw from international commitments and were leaning inwards. He noted that the world has awakened to the aspect of global connectivity and global leadership, which is instrumental in fighting with COVID-19 and other global challenges in the future. The trends like increased nationalism, which was starting to gain traction, has only grown in the past few months.

According to Shri Gogoi, while COVID-19 has proved to be an obstacle for India's growth and will continue to be a hindrance in the coming times, yet India will overcome this crisis and will emerge as a stronger country and a leading Asian power. He remarked that India's demographic advantages, economic growth post-1991, strategic importance post-2008, US-India Civil Nuclear Treaty has attracted attention where the world has demanded India's guidance on handling global issues.

He mentioned that India is a country of 1.2 billion people with 800 million people who are not in the middle-income segment, and with the presence of development inequalities across the state, there is a lot to be done within the country before embarking onto a global platform. A goal has to be set in assessing whether India is growing as a country.

Emphasising on the role of the Indian industry, Shri Gogoi alluded that while the Indian industry has been worst hit by the pandemic, it is important to acknowledge that it was not doing well before COVID-19. He informed that in India, there have been major legislative reforms in terms of GST, cut in Corporate Tax Rates, yet measures such as private sector investment and buying credit, are crucial. India may be rising on ease-of-doing-business index yet economic and financial sector reforms especially helping the private sector to grow and attract both domestic and foreign investors, are necessary for the country's overall growth.

Shri Gogoi also elucidated the importance of expanding businesses, and the need for States to organise Business Summits, have Trade Councils, common Chief Ministers' forum or leadership councils to help bring reforms and ease investment in their respective States.

Shri Gogoi mentioned about the challenges faced in a complex regulatory framework in terms of gaining a license, setting up a business or expanding it. He noted that the GST Council has shown that State Governments can work with the Central Government to create a common tax platform. This can be reimagined where the States are given the impetus of organising business summits, have trade councils, common Chief Ministers Forum or leadership councils to help bring reforms and ease investment in their respective States. The States should be given the freedom to pursue domestic and foreign investments in an organised manner.

He remarked that there is a need to improve the capacities of State officers and the Indian States like Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, which have traditionally seen interest from the private sector, both domestic and international, can have state council representative in the Indian High Commission abroad.

He noted that in the post-COVID-19 era, India will have to reimagine business and investment and it is important to encourage the setting up of small-scale manufacturing firms to set up their base in India. Shri Gogoi opined that the current state of India's economic growth map is such where there is a need to promote certain sectors which employ a large workforce. The sectors like Textiles and Garment, Manufacturing, Oil, Mines, Healthcare Technology, Mobiles, Electric Cars, Automobiles, can create the maximum number of jobs and should be supported as they need sectoral attention and reform. He also mentioned that the role of the Indian industry, both in the technological space and in terms of employment creation, is crucial for India's development.

Shri Gogoi further talked about the shortcomings of the Healthcare sector especially in India, which has been brought to the fore by the pandemic. He mentioned that in dealing with AIDS, the Indian Generic Drugs industry has been lauded in the world to make drugs affordable and accessible. COVID-19 has taught us that India needs to ramp up the investments in the healthcare sector, to become a hub for exports in the pharmaceuticals sectors and expand the market base to countries of South Asia, Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe and LAC. He remarked that India needs to focus on Start-Ups not only in the Technology sector or AI but also help Start-Ups and MSMEs in the pharmaceuticals and generic medicine sector. It is also important to help these firms with registration, recognition and access to funding, in an easier manner.

According to Shri Gogoi, there is a need to enhance India's diplomatic efforts to push forward India's national interest and economic interests. India's diplomatic attention and capacity have been cornered by major powers like the USA. It is crucial to promote economic and strategic interest in a region like Europe, especially in Germany, France, Netherlands, Belgium and Austria, which have a lot of potential that can be tapped into from India's side especially in the sectors of Technology, Defence, Cyber Security, Maritime Cooperation and Energy.

Giving an analogy of Assam being a big state in the North-Eastern region of India, Shri Gogoi pointed out that India is considered as a big brother in the region especially from the perspective of the South Asian countries. With countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan,

Nepal, the key allies, there is a need to build upon the diplomatic efforts and personal outreach to the Heads of State.

He reiterated that there is a need for diversifying and enhancing diplomatic efforts in terms of high- level visits and engagements with India's neighbours especially the South Asian and South-East Asian countries. He mentioned that while the world has called India to be a part of the larger global economic narrative, the withdrawal of India from RCEP, did not contribute to its image of rising power, favourably.

He further noted that India strategic position with China on one side and Pakistan on the other brings advantages and disadvantages, which cannot be ignored and so India needs to foster its relationship with Japan, South Korea and Australia especially in Defence and Maritime space.

He concluded by noting that India needs to see this crisis as an opportunity and needs to focus on economic revival, good governance and augment capacities of the governments, both at the Centre and the State levels, to deliver as well as engage countries within and outside Asia.

Remarks

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



Mr. Peter Rimmele remarked that the COVID-19 has changed the trajectory of politics, economics and our everyday lives. According to him, COVID-19 has taught that nothing is permanent and for the past few months, global trade is at a standstill with the production of goods and major trade arteries that fuel domestic consumption, have been severed.

He noted that the impact of the pandemic has made one realise the importance of interdependence and connectedness as a halt in production in China has affected the markets in India and Germany. He alluded that economic self-reliance or Atmanirbhar Bharat is a possible solution to this vulnerability. He explained that self-reliance is not autarky and countries need to rely on each other to become stronger together and give importance to cooperation.

He mentioned that the service sectors of the economy have digitised overnight where online appointments with your doctor, e-learning via Zoom at schools, online grocery shopping, e-banking, have been driven by necessity and the need for survival. Most gastronomy outlets had to switch to take-out service and e-commerce portals like Amazon and Alibaba's stranglehold on the online market are such that it is extremely difficult for smaller businesses to achieve a breakthrough in Germany.

Mr. Rimmele opined that the pandemic has been a challenge for both consumers and small enterprises. He reiterated that nation-states are stronger together and vulnerable alone. He concluded that the future economic model of the post-COVID-19 must be equipped to handle challenges and disruptions.

In Conversation with the Panel

Q. With Assembly Polls slated for 2021 in the State of Assam, and with the agitation on CAA-NRC that took place before the pandemic, how do you think things will pan out for Assam in the upcoming days?

A. The protests which were held against the CAA and NRC bills passed before the pandemic, have completely altered the political reality in Assam and have created two aspects- pre- CAA-NRC political reality in Assam and a post-CAA-NRC political reality in Assam. The people are grappling with the economic impact of the lockdown, where the agriculture sector and the livelihoods of farmers, fishermen, migrant labours, have been hit badly. The State is currently engaged in fighting the pandemic and the economic repercussions.

Q. While the cases surged in the country, Assam comparatively had lesser numbers of COVID-19 cases. Was anything done differently to make sure that the COVID graph is not as bad as the other Indian States?

A. Assam was doing quite well in terms of handling the cases of COVID-19 and there were lesser number of cases from March to August but recently there has been a rise in cases. Daily, there are about 2000 cases in Assam whereas other states in North East India are in a much better position. While the numbers are not as high as Tamil Nadu or Maharashtra, the Government had hoped for a dip in the cases by mid- August but the revised figures predict that it is likely to get worse in the coming months.

Q. With the India Parliament opening up for the monsoon session, which will function under tremendous restrictions, as with changes such as suspension of the Question Hour, as the Deputy Leader of your party, how do you see the legislative process take place?

A. As we know that usually, the Parliament's monsoon session begins around July but due to the pandemic, it will be a delayed session. While the rest of the world had their Parliament sessions and meetings of Standing Committees on time, India being the largest democracy should have adopted similar means of conducting sessions. Also, while the functioning of the Parliament would be a little different and working days too have been extended, yet a fundamental aspect like the Question Hour, which gives the right to the legislator to question the Executive especially at a time of health and national security crisis, has been suspended. Even provisions have been made where in the questions would be submitted in writing to the Government as well as to keep the Zero Hour for 30 minutes instead of 1 hour. This shows the gaps that a pandemic or a similar crisis might be used as a tool to strengthen the Executive and weaken the Legislative.

Q. The migrant labour crisis has left many homeless and jobless and has disturbed the equilibrium. Going forward, what do you think India needs to do, in terms of providing social security to workers as well as have an economic strategy for India especially for the poor and the unorganised sector?

A. In terms of the COVID-19 response to the vulnerable and the ones in the unorganised sector, there was an unequal response in rural India as compared to urban India. While in rural India, the social welfare mechanisms were present and so were the PDSs, which were effectively put into force and rations and essentials were made available to the needy. Also, the Panchayati Raj, the governance structure of the village, helped and supported the people. With the help of MNREGA, people also got opportunities to work and earn their livelihood. On the other hand, a major challenge was faced by the urban poor who had to struggle to survive and get access to necessities. This pandemic has exposed the basic inequality that exists between the poor in rural India and those in urban India in terms of social welfare mechanisms. This calls for a bottom-up approach for governance as well as a decentralised system for urban India.

Q. What role can the Members of Parliament play in broadening India's agenda of climate change, wildlife conservation and preserving the ecology?

A. The role of legislators, legislation and the Parliament, especially in areas like the environment and climate change, unlike countries of Europe, has considerably diminished over the past few decades. In terms of legislation, the ones implemented in the '80s are operational be it the Environmental Protection Act, the Air Act or the Water Act but work is also being done in the form of the Solar Mission, the transformation of the automobiles sector and their gradual move towards electric and hybrid cars. So, it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure certain measures to preserve the environment, through various schemes and programmes for environmental protection and should also incentivise the industry to adopt green technologies. In India, with a major portion of the population living in poverty, the environment cannot be delinked from livelihood. In the case of a pandemic like COVID-19, it has been acknowledged that health cannot be delinked from livelihood similarly it is true for the environment as for the sake of environmental protection, industries cannot be shut as they would lead to unemployment nor can one carry out economic activities at the cost of the environment. The solution could be to look at tradition industries and create sustainable economic models. The role of industries, both big and small, in mitigating the harmful effects of pollution and devising environment-friendly solutions, is crucial.

Social Media Coverage

FICCI @ficci_india · Sep 12
 Join us for a special interaction with Mr @GauravGogoiAsm, Member of Parliament today at 1515 hrs. Watch the session live at youtube.com/watch?v=NCi008...

#FICCIWebinar

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FICCI @ficci_india · Sep 12
 Prior to the setting in of COVID, the world was seeing an increased momentum towards de-globalisation. The health crisis has allowed us to awaken to the importance of global connectivity: Mr Gaurav Gogoi, MP at FICCI Reimagine India Series- India Growth Story Post COVID.

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FICCI @ficci_india · Sep 12
 In a changing world the cooperation between countries becomes more difficult & compromise gives way to confrontations: Mr Peter Rimmele, Resident Representative, @KASonline at the FICCI Reimagine India Series India Growth Story Post COVID.

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FICCI @ficci_india · 12.09
 I would through this forum invite people from the industry to be champions of clean air: Mr Gaurav Gogoi, MP at FICCI Reimagine India Series- India Growth Story Post COVID.

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REIMAGINE INDIA SERIES:

Special Address and Conversation with Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament

'India Growth Story Post COVID-19'

September 12, 2020: 1515-1700 hrs

Programme

1515 – 1530 hrs	Logging into respective devices for webinar
1530 – 1535 hrs	Setting the tone by Mr. Manish Singhal , Dy. Secretary General, FICCI
1535 – 1540 hrs	Remarks by Mr. Peter Rimmele , Resident Representative to India, KAS
1540 – 1545 hrs	Introduction of <i>Shri Gaurav Gogoi</i> by Dr. Jyotsna Suri , Past President, FICCI and Co-Chair of FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians Council
1545 – 1615 hrs	Key Note Address by Shri Gaurav Gogoi , Hon'ble Member of Parliament
1615 – 1640 hrs	A conversation with Shri Gaurav Gogoi led by Mr. Harshavardhan Neotia , Past President, FICCI and Co-Chair of FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians Council
1640 – 1655 hrs	Audience interaction moderated by FICCI
1655 – 1700 hrs	Vote of Thanks by Mr. Harshavardhan Neotia , Past President, FICCI and Co-Chair of FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians Council

REIMAGINE INDIA SERIES:

Special Address and Conversation with Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament

'India Growth Story Post COVID-19'

September 12, 2020: 1515-1700 hrs

Special Address and Interaction

Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament



Shri Gaurav Gogoi is a Lok Sabha MP from Indian National Congress, representing Kaliabor constituency in Assam. He is the Member of Standing Committee on Finance. By profession, he is an Entrepreneur and a Social worker and has pursued Btech in Electrical Engineering. He has been elected to Lok Sabha for the second time.

Shri Gogoi is a youth leader and a proactive MP and has been an advocate for people's rights and development of the North East region, both inside and outside of Parliament. He is the son of former Chief Minister of Assam- Late Shri Tarun Gogoi.

Shri Gaurav Gogoi has recently been appointed as the Deputy Party Whip of Congress in the Lok Sabha. He is also the AICC in-charge for West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tripura and Manipur. In 2015, he had been accorded as the Young Global Leader from India by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

He is involved in various activities in his State including the promotion of cultural events like the Brahmaputra Festival and Film Festivals, developing sports facilities for the youth along with establishing a youth forum for foreign policy and bringing together foreign policy stakeholders, students and young professionals on a common platform.

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

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.

Mr. Harshavardhan Neotia, Past President, FICCI; Co-Chair, FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians and Chairman, Ambuja Neotia Group



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

ORGANISERS

Mr. Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General, FICCI



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

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

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

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

Mr. Peter Rimmele, Resident Representative, 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 (QF) 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.