



Public Affairs Forum of India

**PAFI 7<sup>th</sup> National Forum 2020  
Building Trust, Charting Growth  
October 22, 2020**

**1925 - 2030 Hours**

**Session 4: The India Advantage**

Welcome



**Harish Krishnan**

Past President and Co-Founder,  
PAFI and  
Managing Director – Public Affairs & Strategic Engagements  
Cisco India and SAARC

As Managing Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagements, Cisco, India & SAARC, Harish leads Cisco's strategic engagement with National and State Governments of India on wide range of policy issues that concern Cisco in India - as an investor, globalization hub, seller and as a corporate citizen.

Harish actively participates in public policy forums in India and is a member of the Confederation of Indian Industry's National Committee on Telecom, Executive Council of MAIT, Vice Chairman, American Chamber of Commerce in India (Northern Region), FICCI's National Committee on Telecom and USIBC's digital task force.

With over 22 years of experience in Public Affairs, Harish worked in IBM & Confederation of Indian Industry before joining Cisco in 2007.



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### Moderator



#### **Shivnath Thukral**

Public Policy Director

WhatsApp, India

Shivnath is one of the most well-known media & communications professionals in the country. He was a leading TV anchor and business analyst for India's premier English TV news channel New Delhi Television where he played a prominent role in the growth of the channel over the last two decades. Having spent 15 years in NDTV, Shivnath was the channel's leading face for business news and policy analysis and also established the business channel NDTV Profit in 2003.

Shivnath is a graduate of the Delhi School of Economics. He also has a post-graduate degree in communications from the Southern Illinois University. Shivnath gained experience in policy matters & US national politics when he interned at the US Senate in the office of Richard Durbin of Illinois. In 2009 Shivnath moved on to join the Essar, a \$39 billion corporation as its Group President of Corporate Branding & Strategic Initiatives.

At Essar, he leads branding, strategic and digital communications as well as critical government affairs assignments for the group across the globe. Shivnath was at the helm of the UK listing of one of its companies, he also managed the branding and post-acquisition integration of a new British refinery purchase. He also leads the internal and external digital communications strategy for Essar and responsible for all content across all social & other platforms.

In 2012, Shivnath was selected as an Eisenhower Fellow, a prestigious program run out of Philadelphia, United States chaired by Colin Powell. He explored the changing relationship between government and corporations in a fast changing social media landscape which demands greater transparency from organisations. He also spent time exploring future communication and technology trends in Google & other organisations while on his fellowship.

Shivnath Thukral in his earlier role was the managing director of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, India and set up the global think tank's India office, leading operations and fundraising.



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Prior to joining Carnegie, Thukral worked with an Indian corporation with a turnover of over \$35 billion. He led its global marketing efforts, including strategic and digital communications for the group across the world.

Thukral has been a speaker at global events such as the World Economic Forum and the Milken Institute conference, as well as Indian industry summits on issues ranging from India's economic policies, domestic politics, and the impact of new digital technologies on society.



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## Fireside Chat with



### **Amitabh Kant**

CEO

NITI Aayog

Amitabh Kant is presently CEO of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog). He is a member of the Indian Administrative Service, IAS (Kerala Cadre: 1980 batch). He is the author of Branding India-An Incredible Story, Incredible India 2.0 and has edited “The Path Ahead-Transformative Ideas for India”. Kant has been a key driver of the “Make in India”, Startup India, “Incredible India” and God’s Own Country” initiatives that positioned India and Kerala State as leading manufacturing and tourism destinations. These campaigns have won several international awards and embraced a host of activities – infrastructure development, product enhancement, private-public partnership and positioning and branding based on extensive market research.

Amitabh Kant has been the Chairman & CEO of the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC). The Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) is being developed by the Government of India as a global manufacturing and investment destination supported by world class infrastructure and enabling policy framework. The DMIC project is aimed at the development of futuristic, smart industrial cities in India which will converge and integrate next generation technologies across sectors. The DMIC cities will address not merely the urbanization requirements of India, but with manufacturing as the main economic base, will also contribute significantly to the economic growth of India.

In his capacity as Secretary (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) Govt. of India, he vigorously drove the Ease of Doing Business initiative and ranking of States on outcome parameters. These initiatives have led to India making a quantum jump in the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Index and enabled Indian States to compete in the spirit of competitive federalism. He is the Chairman of the Committee to implement Digital Payment in India.

Mr. Kant has been the recipient of Economic Times Policy Change Agent of the Year Award, the Bloomberg TV Personality of the year Award, the NDTV Administrator of the year Award and the Distinguished Fellowship of the Institute of Directors. He is the recipient of One Globe Award-



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2016 for leadership in Transforming Governance for the 21st Century. He is also the recipient of Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship awarded by the Prime Minister of New Zealand. He is a Member of the Steering Board of “Shaping the Future of Production Systems” of World Economic Forum. He is also the recipient of Golden Peacock Award for Leadership in Economic Transformation-2017.

Amitabh Kant has worked as CMD – ITDC, Joint Secretary – Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, Secretary – Tourism, Government of Kerala, Managing Director, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation, District Collector, Kozikhode and Managing Director, Matsyafed. During his tenure in Kerala he structured the Calicut Airport as a private sector project based on User's Free and developed the BSES Power Project and Mattanchery Bridge under Private Public Partnership. He was also responsible for introducing new technology (fiberglass crafts and outboard motor) in the fisheries sector and launching beach level auctions which substantially enhanced returns to traditional fishermen.

Amitabh Kant did his schooling from Modern School, Delhi, graduation in Economics (Hons) from St. Stephens, Delhi University and M.A from Jawaharlal Nehru University. He is a Chevening Scholar. He has also undertaken a mid-term course with John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmadabad.



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### **John Chambers**

Co-Founder & CEO JC2 Ventures

John Chambers is the Chairman Emeritus of Cisco. Chambers served as CEO, Chairman and Executive Chairman at Cisco Systems. During his 25+ year tenure at Cisco, he helped grow the company from \$70 million when he joined in 1991, to \$1.2 billion when he became CEO in 1995, to \$47 billion when he stepped down as CEO in 2015. As Executive Chairman, a position Chambers held until December 2017, he led the Board of Directors and provided counsel to the CEO and leadership team on strategy, digital transformation and strategic partnerships. John also spearheaded the creation and development of Cisco's country digitization program, where he partnered with government leaders across the world to harness the power of technology to create economic opportunities.

John Chambers is the founder and CEO of JC2 Ventures. In his role, Chambers focuses on helping disruptive startups from around the world build and scale, while also promoting the broader development of startup nations and a startup world. He invests in companies across categories and geographies that are leading market transitions, such as Airware, Aspire Food Group, Dedrone, OpenGov, Pindrop, Privoro, Sprinklr, and Uniphore. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Airware, OpenGov, Pindrop, and Sprinklr.

In addition to investing in and mentoring startups, Chambers is focused on promoting entrepreneurship, gender equality, and accelerating overall new business creation around the world, as he believes that startups will be the core driver of economic growth and job creation in the Digital Age. Chambers is also the Chairman of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), working closely with business and government leaders in both countries to create meaningful opportunities that have the power to change the lives of citizens.

Chambers has received numerous awards for his leadership, including being named the number two "Best-Performing CEOs in the World" in 2015 from Harvard Business Review and receiving the Edison Achievement Award for Innovation. Chambers was most recently awarded the Outstanding Civil Service Medal by the U.S. Army, as well as France's National Defense Gold Medal, the only foreign business leader to ever receive the award in its 35-year history.

Chambers has worked closely with government leaders around the world, including nine U.S. Secretaries of State. Chambers also served two American presidents during his career. He was



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Vice Chairman of President George W. Bush's National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC), where he provided industry experience and leadership to help protect critical U.S. infrastructure. He also served on President George W. Bush's Transition Team and Education Committee, and on President Bill Clinton's Trade Policy Committee.

He has been widely recognized for his philanthropic leadership, including receiving the U.S. State Department's top corporate social responsibility award (ACE) twice, from both former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in 2010 and former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in 2005. He also received the first-ever Clinton Global Citizen Award from former U.S. President Bill Clinton and has been awarded the Woodrow Wilson Award for Corporate Citizenship and the prestigious Excellence in Corporate Philanthropy Award, an award given by CEOs to their CEO peers.

Prior to 1991, Chambers spent eight years at Wang Laboratories (1982–1990) and six years with IBM (1976–1982). He holds a bachelor of science/bachelor of arts degree in business and a law degree from West Virginia University, as well as a master of business administration degree in finance and management from Indiana University.



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### Closing Remarks



#### **Ravi Aurora**

Senior Vice President/Executive Director,  
Global Policy Affairs & Community Relations  
MasterCard

Ravi Aurora is Senior Vice President / Executive Director, Global Policy Affairs & Community Relations at Mastercard. In this role, he leads a series of diverse global thought leadership initiatives focused on public policy, advocacy and community engagement affairs across the globe. He is responsible for Mastercard's Advocacy Center of Excellence coupled with Digital Tech Policy and strategic relationships with multilateral organizations such as the World Bank Group, UN, AFI (Alliance for Financial Inclusion) and others.

He is also the global strategic advisor for EAST (Exploring Asian Societies and Trends), an employee-led Business Resource Group at Mastercard focused on creating a more inclusive culture and effectively driving business growth, financial performance and success in the global marketplace.

Mr. Aurora serves on the Executive Committee of the Better Than Cash Alliance (BTCA) and on Board of Directors of Woodstock Institute whose mission is to create a just financial system in which lower-wealth persons and communities, and people and communities of color, can achieve economic security and community prosperity.