



Public Affairs Forum of India

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

**1600 – 1655 Hours**

**Session with Partner State: Karnataka**

Opening



**Ajay Khanna**

Forum Chairman & Co-Founder, PAFI  
Chief Strategic & Public Affairs,  
Group Ombudsperson  
Jubilant Bhartia Group

Ajay Khanna is the Chief - Strategic & Public Affairs & Group Ombudsperson of Jubilant Bhartia Group: [www.jubilantbhartia.com](http://www.jubilantbhartia.com)

The Jubilant Bhartia Group has presence in diverse sectors like Pharmaceuticals, Life Science Ingredients and Drug Discovery Services, Performance Polymers, Food Service (QSR), Food, Auto, Consulting in Aerospace and Oilfield Services.

Headquarter in India; the Group has presence in the United States, Canada, Europe, China, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Jubilant Life Sciences Limited and Jubilant FoodWorks Limited are the flagship companies of the group.

Ajay is a graduate in Commerce from Shriram College of Commerce & a Degree in Law from University of Delhi.

Ajay was founding Chief Executive Officer (2002-2006) of India Brand Equity Foundation ([www.ibef.org](http://www.ibef.org)). This was a unique Public Private Partnership initiative to Promote, Project & Position India's growth story globally. The IBEF, under Ajay's leadership, together with



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Confederation of Indian Industry led “India Everywhere” campaign at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos in 2006. A number of high profile global initiatives were taken during Ajay's four-year stint as the CEO of IBEF, a joint initiative of Ministry of Commerce, Government of India & Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Ajay was Deputy Director General (1999-2008) with the Confederation of Indian Industry ([www.cii.in](http://www.cii.in)), an apex industry association. He held several leadership positions in his career span of over 27 years with CII & led several key functions at international, national & regional levels. One of the key function was the relationship with the World Economic

Forum, which Ajay handled for over 20 years. This included participation at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos & arranging its annual India Economic Summit.

Ajay also worked with Accenture India as a Partner (2008-2009) responsible for managing relationships with the Governments & Corporates before joining Jubilant Bhartia Group. He has been member of several high-level Government delegations, committees and task forces of the World Economic Forum. He was the Vice Chair of South Asia Regional Strategy Group (RSG) of World Economic Forum & is closely involved with the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneur of the Year- India Award. He is a regular at WEF annual meeting in Davos where he has been participating for over 30 years.

In 2008, Ajay Co-Founded Public Affairs Forum of India ([www.pafi.in](http://www.pafi.in)). Since its inception, PAFI has been actively promoting transparent Public Affairs, Advocacy & Policy making. It provides a networking platform and opportunities to exchange views and share experience between corporates and various stakeholders, through panel discussions, seminars, close-door dialogues and the Annual National Forum. PAFI is the only platform for corporate public affairs practitioners in the country. Its objective is to redefine the paradigm of engagement for businesses with external stakeholders, from Government to Media to Civil Society and Academia. PAFI is dedicated to raise and maintain standards in Public Affairs, Public Policy & Advocacy and to enable the industry to attain recognition and credibility.

Ajay is married to Renu, a Corporate Lawyer & a Social Worker. Their daughter, Dr Surbhi is a medical Psychiatrist & son Dr Ankur is a dentist.



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### Welcome



**Rahul Sharma**  
**Past President & Founding Member PAFI &**  
**Managing Director**  
**APCO Worldwide, India**

Rahul is presently the Managing Director of APCO Worldwide, India, and brings nearly 30 years of experience in media and public affairs to the table.

A former newspaper editor, Rahul has lived and worked in various countries. Starting his journalism career in India, he joined Reuters in early 1990s where he covered some of the biggest political and economic stories in the region before returning home as Editor, Delhi, Hindustan Times. In his last journalistic role, Rahul was Editor of the Dubai-based Khaleej Times, the oldest English-language daily in the Gulf region.

Formerly, President, Rediffusion Communications, Rahul was President, Public Affairs, South Asia, at Genesis Burson-Marsteller where he led policy and political campaigns. As a public affairs expert, he has worked with clients across sectors, advising them on policy and crisis issues. Rahul has written extensively on global and regional financial markets and economic issues. His subject interests include China, foreign policy and international relations, and he has contributed to various Indian and foreign publications.

An alumnus of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Rahul has a Masters in International Relations and Security from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at the Tufts University and a Masters in International Trade and Economy from Flinders University, Adelaide.



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### Address by



### **Nisha Biswal**

President, USIBC &  
Senior Vice President, South Asia  
US Chamber of Commerce

Nisha Biswal is president of the U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) and senior vice president for South Asia at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Biswal provides strategic guidance and leads advocacy efforts on behalf of USIBC's more than 300 member companies, promoting long-term commercial partnerships to advance the bilateral trade relationship between the U.S. and India.

Biswal served as assistant secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs at the U.S. Department of State from 2013 to 2017. There she oversaw the U.S.-India strategic partnership during a period of unprecedented cooperation, including the launch of an annual U.S.-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue. During Biswal's tenure, bilateral commercial trade between the U.S. and India nearly doubled, reaching \$115 billion in 2016. In recognition of her efforts, Biswal was awarded the prestigious Samman Award by the president of India in January 2017.

Most recently, Biswal was a senior adviser at the Albright Stonebridge Group, where she helped expand the firm's India and South Asia practice. Previously, Biswal was assistant administrator for Asia at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), directing and supervising overseas operations across South and Southeast Asia. She also spent over a decade on Capitol Hill, working as staff director on the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee and the Foreign Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives.

Biswal served on the board of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition and is a member of the U.S. Institute of Peace International Advisory Council and the Institute for Sustainable Communities board of directors. She received a bachelor's degree in international affairs from the University of Virginia.



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### Address by Chief Guest



### **B S Yediyurappa**

Chief Minister of Karnataka

Shri B.S. Yediyurappa is currently the Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka. He is serving as the Chief Minister of Karnataka for the fourth time, the only Chief Minister to do so in the history of Karnataka and is also the only person in the history of Karnataka to serve 3 times as Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly.

During his tenure as Chief Minister, he was awarded Doctorate at Saginaw Valley University, Michigan State USA on 11 Dec. 2008 by Dr. Gilbertson, VC, in recognition of his services.

As Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister, he successfully presented two budgets with a thrust on Development and People welfare.

He has been instrumental in introducing new initiatives viz. Loan waiver, Abolition of Arrack and Lotteries, Farm Credit at 4% interest rate, Bhagyalakshmi Scheme to empower girl children from BPL families, Distribution of Free Bicycles to 8th Standard students from BPL families, Suvarna Kayaka Employment Training Scheme to tackle unemployment problem, Sandhya Suraksha Social Security Pension Scheme for Senior Citizens etc.

Shri B.S. Yediyurappa will be spearheading the upcoming Invest Karnataka – Global Investors' Meet 2020 in November 2020 and believes in providing complete support and commitment by the Government of Karnataka towards facilitating and grounding of investments in the State.



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Address by



**Jagadish Shivappa Shettar**

Minister of Large and Medium Scale Industries  
Government of Karnataka

Shri Jagadish Shettar is currently the Minister for Large and Medium Enterprises for the Government of Karnataka. He was earlier the 21st Chief Minister of Karnataka. He has served as a Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister from 2009 to 2012.

He represents the Hubli-Dharwad Central legislative seat and has a special focus towards the development of neglected North Karnataka. He also initiated the establishment of Tata Motors Company at Dharwad.

He was instrumental in establishment of South-Western Railway headquarters in Hubballi, IIT & IIIT in Dharwad and state of the art Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) between Hubballi and Dharwad and many drinking water and irrigation projects. BRTS Hubballi-Dharwad has been awarded as the “Best Urban Mass Transit Project” by Government of India in 2019.

Shri Shettar believes in providing all the support required for industrial development in the State and has taken a special interest in improving the ease of doing business in the State. He will also be spearheading the upcoming Invest Karnataka – Global Investors’ Meet 2020 in November 2020.

During his tenure as revenue minister he was instrumental in bringing good governance and implementation of several projects, including the “Nemmadi” Project.



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### Address by



### **Gaurav Gupta**

Principal Secretary  
Government of Karnataka

Shri Gaurav Gupta is an officer of Indian Administrative Service of the 1990 batch. He has over 25 years of experience in fields of Commerce & Industries, Infrastructure, Power, Urban Development & Transportation.

He is one of the senior most bureaucrats in Karnataka and has been instrumental in establishing the leading position of Karnataka as an economic and technology hub of India.

Presently, he is serving as a Principal Secretary, Commerce & Industries Department, Government of Karnataka. He also holds the concurrent charge as Principal Secretary, Transport Department, Government of Karnataka.

Prior to this, he served as Principal Secretary, Department of Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science and Technology, where he envisaged key policies to enable the growth and development of disruptive technologies in the State.

Earlier, as the Commissioner, Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Karnataka and was the key driver for the 'Invest Karnataka 2016', the flagship mega-investment summit. He is currently working to create critical infrastructure for transport and making Karnataka as the most innovative and progressive state for doing business in India.



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### Closing Remarks



#### **Ishteyaque Amjad**

President, PAFI &  
Vice President – Public Affairs,  
Communications & Sustainability  
Coca-Cola, India and South West Asia

He spearheads the practice and his charter includes government relations, policy advocacy, communications and sustainability. With a career spanning over two decades, Ishteyaque has had the opportunity to work across a diverse set of industries through stints in organizations such as Cargill, HCL and Essar Group.

As one of India's leading practitioners of public/corporate affairs, Ishteyaque is passionate about social issues and is a strong advocate for deploying business solutions to address societal challenges. He is often described as someone with a *capitalist's mind* and an *activist's heart!*

Ishteyaque serves on the Advisory Board of AIESEC India and has served on the Board of Management of TERI School of Advanced Studies. He has been a jury at the Cannes Lions the Festival of Creativity. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Aligarh Muslim University and is also an alumnus of the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.

With a flair for words, Ishteyaque prefers poetry and anecdotes as the perfect medium for storytelling. A skill he exercises often during fun weekends with his two boys, sipping a Coke Zero 'on the rocks'.