



7TH NATIONAL FORUM

OCTOBER 22 - 23, 2020

BUILDING TRUST, CHARTING GROWTH

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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WHO ARE WE

Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI) is the only platform for corporate public affairs practitioners in the country.

PAFI has representation from large and medium-sized transnational Indian and foreign companies.

- Formed in 2008
- Registered as a Not for Profit Society in 2012
- Platform for Public Advocacy, Public Policy, Public Affairs and Communications
- Engagement with Various Stakeholders
- Driving Transparent Dialogue Through Ethical Code of Conduct



PAFI'S OBJECTIVES

The objective of PAFI is to provide knowledge and context to aid an informed decision making on Public Advocacy, Public Policy, Public Affairs and Communication.



Engage with External Stakeholders: Governments – Central and State, Regulators, Media, Industry Associations, NGOs, Multilateral Agencies and Think Tanks



Platform to Exchange Information, Share Knowledge and Experiences



Advance and Develop the Field of Public Advocacy, Public Policy, Public Affairs and Communications



Serve as a Professional Resource



Provide Tools and Resources Enabling Members to Achieve their Business and Professional Goals in an Ethical Manner



Capacity Building of Public Affairs Practitioners

INTRODUCTION

PAFI's National Forums, have become a meeting ground for public affairs professionals over the years. It is the flagship annual event of PAFI for conversation around important issues impacting the industry with Government officials, CEOs, regulators, media, think tanks and legislators in an informal setting. The Forum is designed to promote discussions, debates and dialogues around important issues.

The theme for PAFI's 7th National Forum 2020, held on October 22 & 23, 2020 was **"Building Trust, Charting Growth"**. For the first time PAFI's National Forum was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Forum set the agenda for businesses to adapt to the new realities with regard to external stakeholders and focussed on strategies needed to be adopted by the industry for an effective public affairs practice. The Forum brought together diverse stakeholders from around the world to deliberate on this important aspect of Building Trust.

Forum had 13 sessions with more than 60 distinguished speakers from across the world.

Wide ranging topics included - Emerging economic challenges and the impact of the ongoing pandemic - COVID-19; Building trust by deepening stakeholder engagement; Invested in India; The perceived diminishing role of multilateralism in global trade and international affairs; Issues related to global supply chains; Geopolitics; Issues for emerging technologies; Reputation, Risk & Crisis Management.



SPECIAL PLENARY SESSION PARTNER STATE: KARNATAKA

[Click to View Session](#)

PAFI, partnered with the state of Karnataka, a first for its Annual National Forum, this year. As the world thinks of rebuilding economies and industries, organisations like PAFI play a critical role in supporting advocacy and public policy environment that will further support greater investment for this cause.

The State of Karnataka has not only been the technology hub of India and but has also given birth to several sectoral advances in the past few decades.



PANEL



Chief Guest
Mr B S Yediyurappa
Chief Minister of Karnataka

Mr Jagadish Shettar
Minister for Large &
Medium Industries,
Government of Karnataka



Mr Gaurav Gupta
Principal Secretary
– Commerce & Industry
Department, Government of Karnataka



Ms Nisha Biswal

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



Mr Ajay Khanna

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



Mr Rahul Sharma

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



Mr Ishteyaque Amjad

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

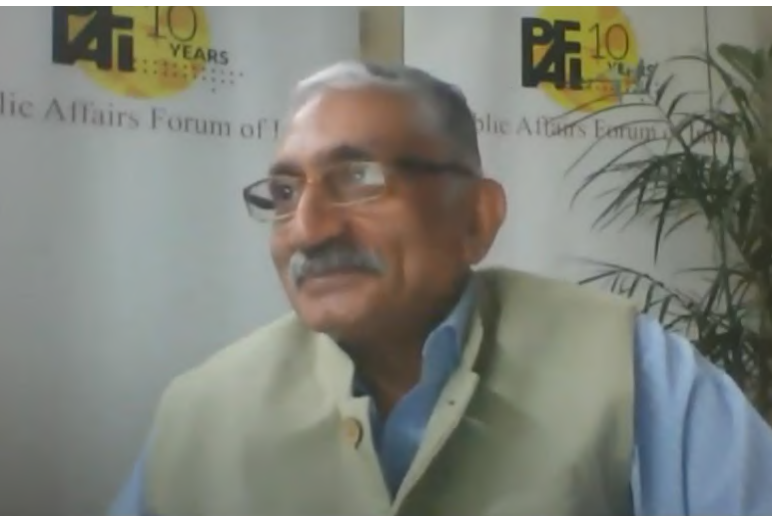
HIGHLIGHTS

Mr Ajay Khanna welcomed all the participants and handed over to **Mr Rahul Sharma** who introduced the session and speakers. At the outset, **Ms Nisha Biswal**, remarked on the crucial role of the state of Karnataka in the US-India Corridor and in advancing India's knowledge economy. **Mr B S Yediyurappa** in his address shared Karnataka's commitment towards skill development, sustained economic growth to help boost employment and livelihood apart from its focus on keeping the investment climate strong in the state. He spoke on increasing Karnataka's share in India's goal of a \$5 Trillion digital economy and the huge investments attracted by the state in 2020 and the jobs that would create in turn.

Stressing that the state is committed to bringing investment and ease of business, **Mr B S Yediyurappa** also mentioned that Karnataka became the first state in the country to launch an amendment to Industrial Facilitation Act, by which the industry would not need any statutory permissions for the first three years, hence enabling their projects to take-off faster.



Mr Jagadish Shettar, shared at length the efforts by the state of Karnataka towards creating more jobs for youth, easing of labour norms and heightened focus on automobiles, aerospace, IoT, biotech and artificial intelligence sectors. **Mr Gaurav Gupta**, highlighted Government's focus on implementing policies to protect citizens, harnessing the potential of multitude of industries present in the state to further economic growth. The closing remarks of the session were delivered by **Mr Ishteyaque Amjad**.



“Karnataka is already the hub for IT & ITes service which is in line with recently introduced IT policy 2020-25 by India. We should help increase Karnataka’s share in India’s goal of a \$5 Trillion digital economy and to achieve this goal, Karnataka is working on strengthening skills of our workforce, so that industry can get quality skilled workforce easily.”

B S Yediyurappa, Chief Minister of Karnataka

“Our Government has launched new industry policy 2020-25 to build a prosperous Karnataka and create jobs for the youth. The Government’s endeavour is to create 20 lakh jobs in various sectors.”

Jagadish Shettar, Minister for Large & Medium Industries, Government of Karnataka.

“COVID-19 has been an opportunity for the Government to focus on policies which have been there for a long time. We are also looking at the deeper integration with the global value chain, localising the supply chain around Karnataka.”

Gaurav Gupta, Principal Secretary – Commerce & Industry Department, Government of Karnataka

“Karnataka is a harbinger of opportunities for industries and workers alike. This conference is a great opportunity to explore, be a partner to PAFI, and to flow greater investment in US-India corridor.”

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

INAUGURAL SESSION

Building Trust, Charting Growth

[Click to View Session](#)

Trust across the whole spectrum of stakeholders remains a critical element for organisations to get to growth. Focus on trust has become far more evident since the outbreak of the pandemic as deliberations and transactions have gone completely digital with a collaborative and collective approach. Trust is also important for a strong Industry-Government engagement. Economic growth remains vital for all stakeholders in these challenging times and to build growth rates that can be sustained, industry and Government must create engagement platforms to strengthen the partnership. The session focussed on the critical question of how can industry partner with the Government to ensure growth and to build a strong policy ecosystem.



PANEL



Chief Guest
Dr Rajiv Kumar
Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog



Special Guest
Mr Uday Kotak
President, CII and
Managing Director & CEO,
Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited



Moderator
Ms Shereen Bhan
Managing Editor,
CNBC TV18



Mr Ajay Khanna

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

Mr Ishteyaque Amjad

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



Mr Subho Ray

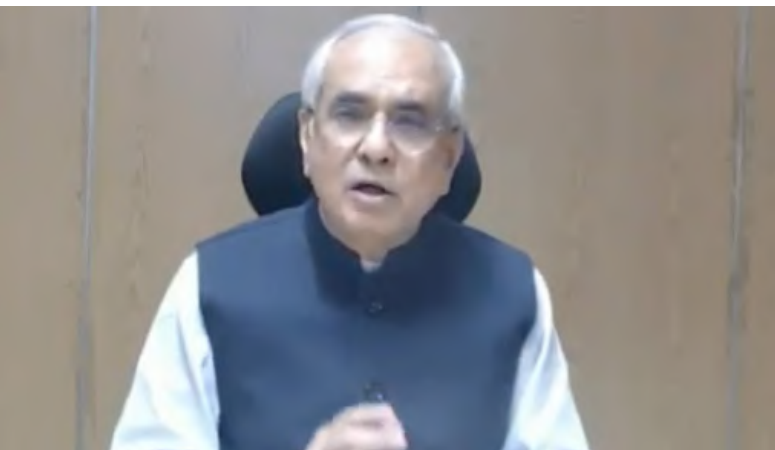
Vice President, PAFI &
President, Internet and Mobile
Association of India (IAMAI)



HIGHLIGHTS

The session was opened by **Mr Ajay Khanna**, and the panellists were welcomed by **Mr Ishteyaque Amjad**. Speaking on the theme of the session, **Dr Rajiv Kumar** stressed on the need for trust building at the state level.

Dr Rajiv Kumar also congratulated PAFI on its journey of 12 years and their remarkable achievements. He added that Public Affairs professionals have played an important role in the past few months towards building an environment where Government and corporates can work together to take care of these very special and tough times. Sharing an overall outlook for the economy amidst the pandemic **Dr Rajiv Kumar** cited signs of sharp recovery and noted that a broad-based recovery across sectors has been observed. He urged that the next fiscal stimulus from the Ministry of Finance ought to focus on infrastructure with special emphasis on short-gestation projects for a strong multiplier effect and sustained growth. Speaking on the vaccine delivery mechanism for COVID-19, he stated that the Government is working on creating an effective system which involves aspects of universal coverage, unique and portable IDs and the optimum use of biometrics and technology. **Mr Uday Kotak** agreed with **Dr Rajiv Kumar** on strong signs of recovery in the Indian economy and urged for focus on healthcare, education and sustainability apart from infrastructure in the next stimulus. He also commented that the best time to invest in some key sectors of Indian economy is when things are most challenging. While global investors are looking at money and stable, predictable and consistent policies over a period of time, he asserted that the domestic policy has to encourage unlocking of domestic risk capital. The closing remarks for the session were delivered by **Dr Subho Ray**.





“ A great deal of trust building is required at the state level between private sector and Government establishments. Building trust is going to be important going forward and also reposing trust in those who have already invested in India. ”

Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog

“ Key issue is - what are we doing to take care of structural fiscal challenges? India needs to dramatically increase spend on health, education, sustainability and defence. Time is bold and time is now. ”

Uday Kotak, President, CII and Managing Director & CEO, Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited

“ It has been rightly pointed out that there is a need to bridge the trust deficit that exists between the centre and the states and ensure that we act in a much cohesive and coordinated fashion. ”

Shereen Bhan, Managing Editor, CNBC TV18

PLENARY SESSION 3

Where Is Global Growth Headed In 2021?

[Click to View Session](#)

COVID-19 has hugely impacted global economic prospects. China has managed to stem the spread of the pandemic and seems to be on the mend. However, most of the other countries are struggling to crank up the struggling economy and there are no indications of any positive growth in 2020 for most nations. Forecasts, however, show that 2021 will see a revival for nearly all countries, across continents.

How and by when is the global economy likely get back on track? What is the possibility of India using the lessons learnt during the pandemic to build a base for sustainable and high growth in the next few years? The above questions were deliberated upon in the session.



PANEL



Moderator
Mr Anil Padmanabhan
Managing Editor,
Mint



Dr Omkar Goswami
Founder & Chairman,
CERG Advisory Private Limited



Dr Taimur Baig
Managing Director & Chief Economist,
DBS Bank, Singapore



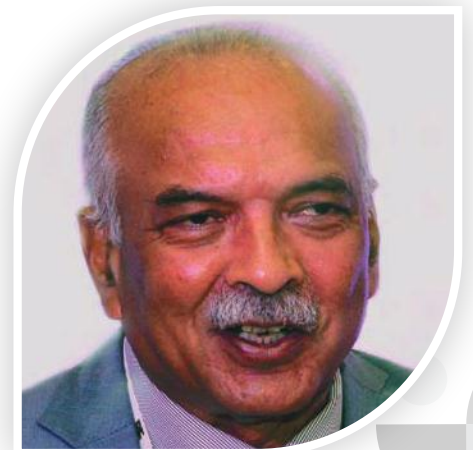
Mr Javed Sayed
Associate Executive Editor,
The Economic Times

Dr Mukesh Aghi
President & CEO,
USISPF



Dr K C Ravi
Past President and Co-Founder, PAFI
& Chief Sustainability Officer,
Syngenta India Limited

Mr Sanjay Singh
Managing Committee Member,
PAFI & Former Principal Resident
Executive, Tata Sons





HIGHLIGHTS

Dr K C Ravi welcomed the participants and set the context for the session by commenting on the current state of world and Indian economy amidst the pandemic. Opening the discussion, **Mr Anil Padmanabhan** commented on how the economy was already running into a perfect storm even before COVID-19 and global growth was fragmented but the pandemic hit the reset button on almost everything. He also shared that there is hope for rebound next year but there are a lot of structural challenges that need to be addressed in next 1-2 years. **Dr Omkar Goswami** deep dived into the fiscal deficit problem of Indian economy and stressed on the role of informal economy picking up quickly. He ended his opening remarks on a positive note by mentioning India as one of the only few hustler countries in the world right now. **Dr Taimur Baig** brought to focus the bigger issue of the 'scarring', impacting long term GDP potential. He also said that more than reviving it is important to know the time frame to retrace the losses already met. **Dr Mukesh Aghi** brought in the US perspective in the session, sharing the four



point strategy and the stimulus that helped. He added that the future growth course is still dependent on the course of the virus which is undecided. **Mr Javed Sayed** commented that the extent of rebound depends on extent of fiscal support, timing of vaccine roll out and whether or not there will be a 2nd or 3rd wave. The closing remarks for the session were given by **Mr Sanjay Singh**.



“ The real issue is how quickly are we going to come back to normal with respect to the Indian economy? Out of the major problems the Indian economy will face is a fiscal deficit of about 8-8.5% of the GDP due to the pandemic, as the exchequer will not be able to give the kind of money we need for infrastructure & public health. ”

**Omkar Goswami, Founder & Chairman,
CERG Advisory Pvt Ltd**

“ By the time the GDP level goes back to pre-COVID-19 level and we would have made up for our losses it would be towards end of 2021 if we are lucky. India still captures interest of foreign investors. India is a rising star with \$200 billion in investment in last five years but we cannot go with another decade of 1% annualised return. ”

**Taimur Baig, Managing Director & Chief Economist,
DBS Bank, Singapore**

“ In every aspect, US will be challenging China. US cannot take China alone in the pacific region. That is where India comes in. US companies also say their supply chain dependence on China is high and need to de-leverage. India is stepping up and working on the QUAD. If strategic interests are aligned, then you can also align economic and trade areas. This is how India and US are becoming closer geopolitically. ”

Mukesh Aghi, President & CEO, USISPF

“ Both 2020 and 2021 are gap years. Although there has been some sharp recovery but whether it is pent-up demand or if its sustainable, we are yet to see. So far India has been conservative when it comes to fiscal action and maybe a bigger stimulus is required now. For the last 25 years we have been talking about 2nd generation reforms. Two vital parts of which were agricultural reforms and labour reforms and the Government has acted on both. In that respect credit has to be given to the Government. ”

**Javed Sayed, Associate Executive Editor,
The Economic Times**

“ We were heading into a perfect storm even before the pandemic hit us. Globalisation was running out of steam and global growth had begun to fragment. The pandemic came and hit a re-set on almost everything. We are in a difficult year. ”

Anil Padmanabhan, Managing Editor, Mint

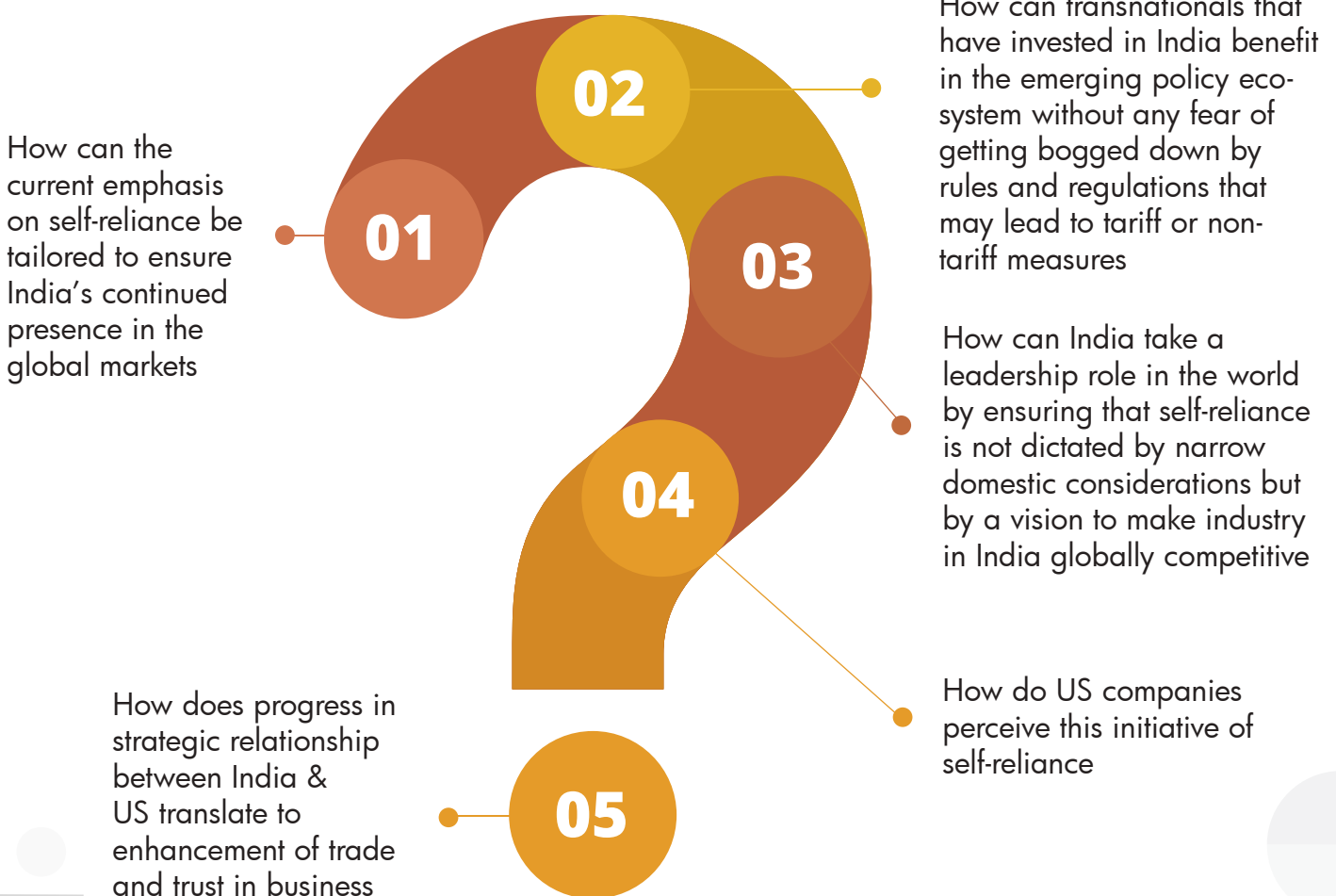
SESSION 4

The India Advantage

Click to View Session

The **COVID-19** pandemic has underlined the need for India to move away from being over reliant on global supply chains for essential products like PPE kits, ventilators, APIs, etc. that could have been easily manufactured in India. The Prime Minister has called for building a '**Self-Reliant India**' or **ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT** and to become more vocal for local. The Government's intent is to reduce India's over dependence on imports, especially from a single source and is a step in the right direction. However, at the same time it will be important for India to remain engaged with the global supply chains to sustain a high growth economy.

The session focussed on some crucial questions



PANEL



Fireside Chat
Mr Amitabh Kant
CEO, NITI Aayog



Mr John Chambers
Co-Founder & CEO,
JC2 Ventures



Moderator
Mr Shivnath Thukral
Public Policy Director
WhatsApp, India



Mr Harish Krishnan

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

Mr Ravi Aurora

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



HIGHLIGHTS

The panellists were welcomed by **Mr Harish Krishnan**.

Mr Shivnath Thukral opened the session by commenting on how the current times have an advantage for India thanks to initiatives of digitization and 'Make in India' by the present Government. **Mr John Chambers** stressed on the global community's immense confidence in India's capability. He further elaborated on how India has improved on crucial parameters like 'ease of doing business' which helps India fit into the global picture with its self-reliance. **Mr Amitabh Kant** spoke at length on the various radical steps taken by the Government towards making India self-sufficient including the use of technology at a large scale. He also said that India now needs to step up and look at the global markets. Mr Kant remarked on how this crisis is a great opportunity for India and that the country will soon become a manufacturing and technological hub of the world. Speaking on challenges of implementation at the ground level, Mr Kant shared that one of the key changes over the past couple of years

has been the breaking down of silos within the Government which has enabled to push a number of reforms forward. The closing remarks of the session were presented by **Mr Ravi Aurora.**



“ If India has to grow, we have to look at global markets & become a key exporting nation. We cannot have sustained growth without penetrating global markets. ”

Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog

“ India has improved its position in ease of doing business and infrastructure. It needs to have the same dramatic improvement in the next five years as it has had in the last five years. Every country and company has to have a degree of self-reliance. It is an important foundation to have. It is much like playing a game of chess - you have to see how India’s self-reliance fits into the larger global picture. ”

John Chambers, Co-Founder & CEO JC2 Ventures

“ This is a pivotal moment for India looking at all the opportunities that are coming. The COVID-19 challenge and the way India and the rest of the world are fighting, is a lesson. It has taught us to become self-sufficient in a different way. ”

Shivnath Thukral, Public Policy Director, WhatsApp, India

PLENARY SESSION 5

Session With States - Invested In India

[Click to View Session](#)

In a federal democracy like India, states play a crucial role in building growth. While many state Governments have focused on attracting investments, there seems to be a growing need to also focus on companies that have invested in the state to sustain economic growth and build employment opportunities. The session focussed on how industry and states can work together to create partnerships for growth and what would be the vital areas for states in the next few years to overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic.



PANEL



Mr K T Rama Rao

Cabinet Minister for IT E & C, MA & UD and Industries & Commerce Departments
Government of Telangana



Mr Saurabhchai Patel

Energy Minister,
Government of Gujarat



Mr Sidharth Nath Singh

Cabinet Minister - Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Investment & Export, NRI, Sericulture, Textile & Handloom, Khadi & Gramodyog
Government of Uttar Pradesh



Mr Subhash Desai

Minister of Industries,
Mining and Marathi Language
Government of Maharashtra



Mr Dilip Chenoy

Secretary General,
FICCI



Mr Raman Sidhu

Past President and Founding Member,
PAFI & Chief Executive Officer,
EBG Federation



Mr Aman Jain

Head, Government Affairs
and Public Policy,
Google India



HIGHLIGHTS

The panellists of the session were welcomed by **Mr Raman Sidhu** who also highlighted the importance of empowerment of states by the centre at the outset. Moderator for the session, **Mr Dilip Chenoy** set the context by commenting on how each state in India is working towards improving ease of doing business. **Mr K T Rama Rao** asserted that it's time to change the narrative as India has performed better than most of the world in handling the pandemic despite its limitations of medical infrastructure. He echoed with **Mr Sidhu** on the significance of states being empowered with respect to economic activities to come out of the crisis and put India on the map of global competition. **Mr Sidharth Nath Singh** enumerated the achievements of the state of Uttar Pradesh on ease of doing business as well as on ease of living. He spoke at length about the state's five point agenda focussing on infrastructure, law & order, education, health and good industrial policy, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals chartered out by the United Nations to bring overall development in the state. **Mr Subhash Desai** highlighted the crucial initiatives by the state of Maharashtra for investors and companies investing in the state to sustain





economic growth, bring transparency, speed and build employment opportunities. **Mr Saurabhchai Patel** stated the advantage, the state of Gujarat brings to investors and companies which includes lower cost of manufacturing, availability of skilled manpower, well developed ports, nearness to the ports, infrastructural support among others. The closing remarks were delivered by **Mr Aman Jain**.

“ Government of India is responsible for overarching policy, but real action is at the state. Empowerment of state in terms of economic activity and industrial activity is needed. Telangana is the first state in India to introduce self-certification programme for investors. It is particularly important to have existing investors happy. They can be your biggest ambassadors across the world. ”

**K T Rama Rao, Cabinet Minister for IT E&C, MA&UD
and Industries & Commerce Departments,
Government of Telangana**

“ We need to compete with the world. There is an opportunity for India because of the pandemic and disrupted global supply chain. Our states can come together and look at a larger collaboration for the nation. ”

Sidharth Nath Singh, Cabinet Minister - Micro, Small and Medium, Enterprises, Investment & Export, NRI, Sericulture, Textile & Handloom, Khadi & Gramodyog, Government of Uttar Pradesh

“ Maharashtra’s contribution in GDP is 15% and it will keep growing. FDI has been largest in the state, year on year. Skilled manpower has been our strong point. ”

Subhash Desai, Minister of Industries, Mining and Marathi Language, Government of Maharashtra

“ Gujarat will be cutting down cost for industry, provide good business environment, single window clearance and all that is required by the industries to put in fresh investment. ”

Saurabhbai Patel, Energy Minister, Government of Gujarat

“ In a federal democracy like India, states play a crucial role. All states are looking at attracting investments & improving the ease of doing business and each of the states we have interacted with have been incredibly supportive. ”

Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General, FICCI

SESSION 6

India's Role In A Changing Geo - Political World Order

[Click to View Session](#)

The pandemic has had a deep impact on the geo-political situation across the globe. The session had deliberations on how India can benefit from the recent geo-political shifts around the world. The panellists deliberated on critical questions like - Is India playing a leading role in changing power equations across the globe and grabbing the opportunity that the pandemic has provided?



PANEL



Moderator
Mr Sanjoy Roy,
Managing Director,
Teamwork Films

Interaction with
Dr Shashi Tharoor
Member of Parliament - Congress
Chairman Parliamentary Standing
Committee on Information Technology



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



Ms Neelima Dwivedi

Group Head & Director, Government Affairs and Public Policy, Microsoft India

HIGHLIGHTS

The panellists were welcomed by **Mr Rahul Sharma**.

Mr Sanjoy Roy set the context for the session by bringing up pertinent questions on India's role in the new geo-political situation. **Dr Shashi Tharoor** in his conversation touched upon the various nuances of India's positioning in international institutions/forums like the United Nations Security Council and its current relationship with its neighbouring countries. He spoke on the impact of India's position and stand on its future spot and economic growth. Dr Tharoor also observed that India could elevate its position and use it for positive and constructive changes in the global governance through moral authority which comes from successful management of internal challenges. The closing remarks were delivered by **Ms Neelima Dwivedi**.





“ We need economic growth and prosperity on one hand. We also need a moral authority which comes from successful management of our own challenges. India must use its position to demand constructive changes in global governance. ”

**Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament – Congress, Chairman
- Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology**

“ In today’s changed world we have seen an unprecedented collaboration between Governments, pharmaceutical companies & scientists trying to race ahead of time to get the vaccine out. This kind of collaboration has not been seen in recent times. ”

Sanjoy Roy, Managing Director, Teamwork Films

SESSION 7

Building a Pandemic Resistant World

[Click to View Session](#)

COVID-19 has exposed the unpreparedness of nations and societies, in preparing for challenges posed by a global pandemic. The session – ‘Building a Pandemic Resistant World’ had India’s top healthcare experts discuss the roadmap and strategies on how industry can work together with stakeholders like the Government, health agencies and multilateral institutions in building a pandemic resilient world. The panellists deliberated on whether countries are willing to work together in building a pandemic resistant world and what changes are required in ensuring that countries can get together to manage health crises.



PANEL



Moderator
Mr R Sukumar
Editor-In-Chief,
Hindustan Times

Ms Sangita Reddy
Managing Director,
Apollo Hospital & President,
FICCI



Dr Randeep Guleria
Director,
AIIMS



Dr Naresh Trehan

Chairman & Managing Director,
Medanta

Dr Shubhashis Gangopadhyay
Research Director, IDF and
Dean, Indian School of Public Policy



Mr Subho Ray

Vice President, PAFI & President,
Internet and Mobile Association
of India (IAMAI)

Ms Anubhuti Bhrany
Head, Government Affairs – India,
Bangladesh & Sri Lanka,
HP Inc



HIGHLIGHTS

The panelists were welcomed by **Mr Subho Ray**.

Mr R Sukumar set the context for the session that deeply reflected on how a pandemic resilient world can be built on the base of collaboration and cooperation. **Ms Sangita Reddy** in her opening remarks emphasised on the overall strengthening of the healthcare system and not just on building preparedness for a particular pandemic. She added that this includes universal health coverage & insurance, risk surveillance, building a stronger health infrastructure, rethinking the policies and processes afresh, digital adoption among several others. **Dr Naresh Trehan** brought in the underfunding of healthcare system universally in his address and called for a greater synchronisation between Government programs that have shared grounds and can work towards decreasing the overall disease burden, and cited the example of **'Swachh Bharat'** and **'Swasthya Bharat'** programmes by the Government. He emphasised that the actual wealth lies in preventing diseases and promoting health. He insisted that India can





compete and become a soft power in delivering world class healthcare. **Dr Randeep Guleria** said that there has been a lack of political and policy makers' commitment towards preparedness for the pandemic beforehand. He emphasised on the importance of a global collaborative surveillance system which could have avoided the current situation and role of data sharing which could have facilitated it. He also said that data sharing within the country is important to fill the gaps in the policies. A need to look at health holistically was also pointed out by **Dr Guleria**. **Dr Shubhashis Gangopadhyay** stated that healthcare is the backbone of an economy. He further suggested that a healthy economy will improve productivity and that health sector is the largest employer in the country in a broader sense. He added that use of data in policy making, strategizing and planning is crucially needed and it is important for us to move from a data-rich country to a data-intelligent country. The closing remarks were delivered by **Ms Anubhuti Bhrany**.

“ No time in the history of the world has healthcare been so central to every theme, every topic around us. Building preparedness or a pandemic resistant environment is important. But the heart of it is building a stronger healthcare system which is affordable and accessible to all. There is a global shortage of healthcare workforce. First, we need to take care of India, to increase our own healthcare workforce. Second, we need further investment into the overall healthcare system. Using biology, bytes & bandwidth, we can enable a distant rural environment for a second opinion service, to predict and do more. ”

**Sangita Reddy, Managing Director - Apollo Hospital
and President, FICCI**

“ The Government and private sector have broken down many barriers and worked together in the last few months. That is a good lesson for our country to learn. The wealth lies in preventing diseases. We need to pay equal attention, money, infrastructure into building health, to decrease burden of disease. We will then not require the build-out in medical system that we estimate today. ”

Naresh Trehan, Chairman & Managing Director, Medanta

“ Surveillance, Containment and Collaboration are crucial to create a pandemic resistant world. All countries need to come together to create a robust surveillance system with proactive involvement and invest considerably to improve the global health infrastructure. We also need to have big investment in ‘one health’. Unless we look at the health in holistic terms, we won’t be able to prevent outbreaks. ”

Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS

“ Healthcare is not just a sector, but should be viewed as the fundamental backbone of any economy. Investment in healthcare would reduce the demand on healthcare services and also increase productivity of the nation. Additionally, the healthcare sector is potentially the biggest employer in the country and may aid in solving unemployment issues. ”

**Shubhashis Gangopadhyay, Research Director,
IDF and Dean, Indian School of Public Policy**

“ We have a reasonably clear picture of what we need to do not only from the health perspective but also the environmental and investment perspectives. Data and science must guide our response to the pandemic as these are the only two things that matter. ”

R Sukumar, Editor-In-Chief, Hindustan Times

SESSION 8

Global Economy Where Are We Headed?

[Click to View Session](#)

The globe has been bearing the onslaught of the pandemic. Protectionism seems to be on the rise across countries. The panellists reflected on what 2021 has in store for the global economy and the 'New Normal' for economies across the world.



PANEL



Moderator

Mr Shekhar Gupta

Editor-In-Chief & Chairman,
The Print

Interaction with

Mr Martin Wolf

Associate Editor &
Chief Economics Commentator,
Financial Times



Mr T S Vishwanath

Past President & Founding Member,
PAFI and Principal Adviser,
APJ-SLG Law Offices



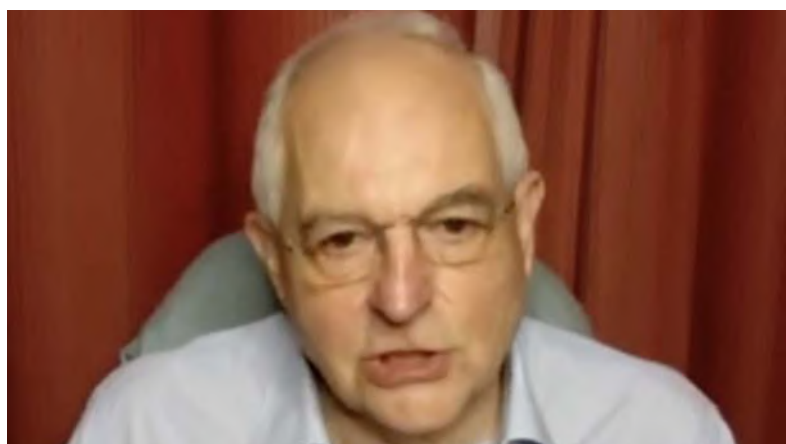
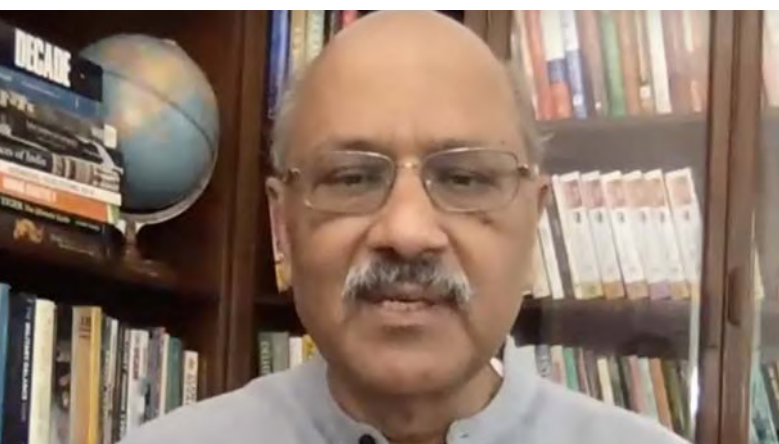
Ms Medha Girotra

Managing Committee Member, PAFI
& Director - Communications,
South Asia, MasterCard India
Services Private Limited

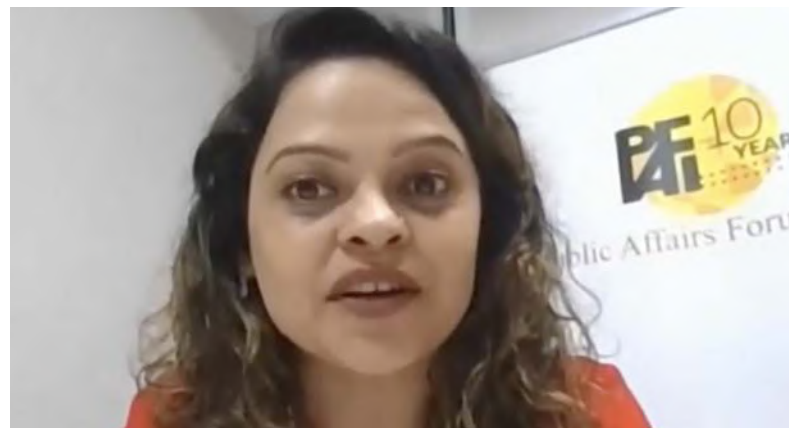
HIGHLIGHTS

The session was opened and the context was set by **Mr T S Vishwanath**.

Mr Martin Wolf delved deeply into the diagnosis of what ails the world economy currently. In his opening remarks Mr Wolf cited the financial crisis of the West which had struck 12 years back and how the economies could never fully recover from it. The financial crisis critically affected the surge in populism, protectionism and nationalism. Speaking on change, he said that there has been big change in global economic power with the rise of emerging countries particularly China and India. There has also been progressive breakdown in relations, between US and China. Replying to **Mr Shekhar Gupta** on the current economic situation he said that COVID-19 hit a very deep recession in most of the countries. This was partly due to voluntary action by people and partly by policies of lockdown. The first two quarters saw dramatic plunges in the economy. Recoveries were seen in 3rd quarter in some countries, particularly in the developed world, but were petering out - partly because of 2nd wave in Europe & partly because people were cautious. He also added that trade relations were not going to go back to normal as



an implication of political economic stresses. Speaking on overall recovery he said that recovery will be quite weak with long scars and the world economy will face a long 'Economic COVID-19'. He also elaborated on how COVID-19 has had dramatically unequal effects on society - while the disease affects the old more, the young are impacted by economic crisis unleashed by the situation. The closing remarks of the session were given by **Ms Medha Girotra**.



“ With the right policy resources, India could attract enormous amount of foreign capital. It should fix debt overhangs, balance sheets in public-private sector, work out a serious investment programme, involving PPP & trade liberalisation, plus long-term spends on education & health. Investible funds are not the issue. The real issue with investments in India is profitable investments that work. ”

Martin Wolf, Associate Editor & Chief Economics Commentator, Financial Times

“ India had a species called the 'economy bureaucrat'. These were professional economists or even IAS officers who specialised in economics. They transcended the tenure of many political systems and Governments hence there was continuity of economic thought, particularly since the reforms came in. ”

**Mr Shekhar Gupta
Editor-In-Chief & Chairman, The Print**

SESSION 9

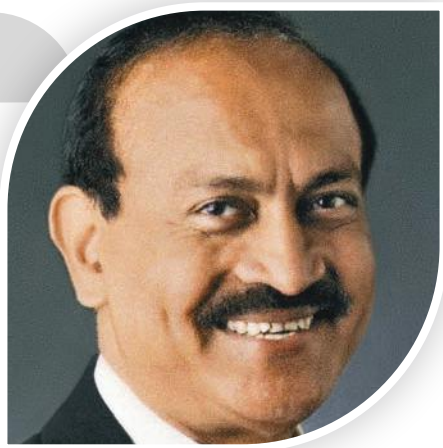
Session on Punjab

[Click to View Session](#)

The state of Punjab has been working closely with the industry over the years to build trust. This special session on Punjab reflected on how industry can help partner the state in building a strong economy and what sectors would be best suitable for investments. The session also focussed on the platforms that Punjab can create, to help the companies already invested in it.



PANEL



Moderator

Mr Raj Chengappa,
Group Editorial Director,
India Today Group

Interaction with
Mr Manpreet Singh Badal
Minister of Finance & Planning,
Government of Punjab



Mr Ishteyaque Amjad

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



Mr Viraj Chouhan
Chief Government Affairs &
Communications Officer,
PepsiCo India

HIGHLIGHTS

The panellists were welcomed by **Mr Ishteyaque Amjad** and the context for the session was set by **Mr Raj Chengappa**.

Mr Manpreet Singh Badal in his remarks underlined the three point agenda with the potential to bring about agricultural reforms in the state of Punjab. The three point agenda highlighted by Mr Badal included – ‘No buying below MSP’, ‘No conduct of business without a valid license’ and ‘All produce has to come to the market yard’.

The Minister also stated that the state of Punjab favours Green Revolution 2.0 and is already moving towards producing quality seeds for grains and potato.

Commenting on diversification of agri-food processing industry, he said that the state needs investments in R&D. He also added that Punjab is focussing on building a strong dairy sector and in a few years will be in a position to provide better breed of milch animals to other states. He deemed the new industry policy a success and mentioned



the coming-up of three major industrial parks. The state has also frozen power tariffs for industry and the 'Invest Punjab' office, which offers a single-window clearance and is helping industry investing in Punjab.

Minister Badal also highlighted the need for assistance from the central Government in setting up cold-chain infrastructure, special cargo flights to the UAE and neighbouring countries, and setting up logistics infrastructure. The closing remarks of the session were given by **Mr Viraj Chouhan**.



“Diversification in agriculture cannot be abrupt, it has to be organic. In the past 3.5 years, Punjab has had Rs 69,000 crore worth of investments grounded and of this Rs 3,600 crore worth of investments came in during the last few difficult months. Punjab’s new industrial policy has been a success. We launched ‘Invest Punjab’, which is not just single window but the only window.”

**Manpreet Singh Badal, Minister of Finance & Planning,
Government of Punjab**

“Punjab is the state that heralded the green revolution and we are proud of the state for being the grain board of India but it surprises me that when the Government has moved these major agricultural reforms, Punjab has opposed it tooth and nail rather than be the leader of the green revolution 2.0.”

Raj Chengappa, Group Editorial Director, India Today Group

SESSION 10

Building A Strong Industry – Government Partnership In Challenging Times

[Click to View Session](#)

Overcoming a pandemic requires partnerships. The fireside chat in this session had conversations on what have Governments across the world done to build and nurture Industry-Government partnerships that can help tied over the challenging times. It deliberated on the important sectors where such partnerships need to be built and sustained and what needs to change for building partnerships of trust between industry and Government after the pandemic is tackled.



PANEL

Moderator
Mr Pranjal Sharma,
Economic Analyst,
Advisor and Author



Fireside Chat
Mr Brende Borge
President,
World Economic Forum



Mr Chandrajit Banerjee,
Director General,
CII



Mr Ajay Khanna

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

Ms Shagufta Kamran

Public Policy India,
Twitter



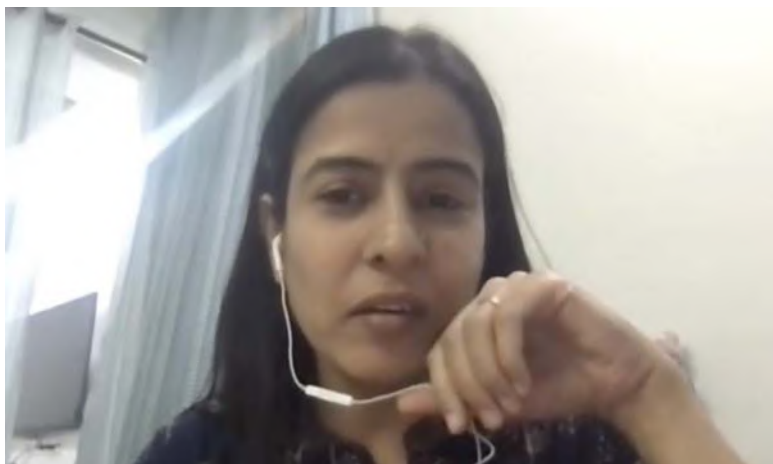
HIGHLIGHTS

Mr Ajay Khanna welcomed the panellists of the session.

Setting the context for the session, **Mr Pranjal Sharma** remarked that coming together of the Government, civil society and industry is inevitable in this newly shifted geo-political situation, so as to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. **Mr Brende Borge** in his address commented on how this pandemic has revealed the important role of Government in the form of the stimulus to citizens and industry. He further added that how this stimulus is utilised depends on the close collaboration between the two. Talking about the kind of society the world wants in a post COVID-19 era, he stressed on the need for sustainable growth, more jobs and more inclusivity in coming times. He also spoke with optimism on Asia, India in particular and the unique opportunity it has in terms of technology. He also emphasised on the importance of upskilling in the present times. **Mr Chandrajit Banerjee** remarked that the last few months have been a testing phase for everyone and India has seen some phenomenal industry to industry and industry to Government collaborations



to ensure self-sufficiency in times of need. The initial bottlenecks were removed by quick collaborations. Citing the example of empowered committees by the Government that brought in the confidence, he said that the collective approach of Government and industry helped in dealing with the pandemic and the economy at the same time. Commenting on a 'never normal world' he said, the new world order will be a mix of physical and digital but will miss the nuances of a physical world. The closing remarks were delivered by **Ms Shagufta Kamran**.



“ This is Asia’s century. This year Asia accounted for 50% of global GDP, 50% of population, for the first time. For India, I am very optimistic on long term. India can leapfrog based on new technologies - leading in a world of e-commerce, digital trade and be at the forefront. India will have to invest in skills by upskilling all its young people. ”

Brende Borge, President, World Economic Forum

“ There are many opportunities for both Government and industry to work together where livelihoods for all are prioritised and enhanced. A lot of policy implementation action today rests with the states. A co-ordinated partnership between the centre, states and the district administration is crucial. ”

Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII

“ We are also in the era of extreme localisation, whether we look at the impact of job loss or COVID-19 management it must be at the district or the state level. New frameworks are required for Governments and private sector to become responsible employers and manage the transition at a local level. ”

Mr Pranjal Sharma, Economic Analyst, Advisor and Author

SESSION 11

Building Trust, Strengthening Federalism

[Click to View Session](#)

Trust is at the core of any country that is steeped in federalism. The central and state Governments have to work together to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth across the country. Legislations enacted by the Parliament need to ensure that the interests of all regions are taken into account. How strong is the federal structure in India? Does the legislative process ensure that the interests of all regions are equally represented? How can disruptions in the Parliament be minimised?



PANEL



Moderator
Mr Vikram Chandra,
Founder,
Editorji Technologies



Mr Dinesh Trivedi
Member of Parliament,
Rajya Sabha,
TMC



Ms Priyanka Vickram Chaturvedi,
Member of Parliament,
Rajya Sabha & Deputy Leader,
Shiv Sena



Mr Swapan Dasgupta
Member of Parliament,
Rajya Sabha,
BJP

Mr Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo
Former Member of Parliament,
BJD



Mr Tanmoy Chakrabarty
Treasurer, PAFI &
Group Government
Affairs Officer,
Tata Sons Private Limited

Mr Vasudevan Rajagopalan
Head Customs Compliance - India
DHL Express (India) Pvt. Ltd.



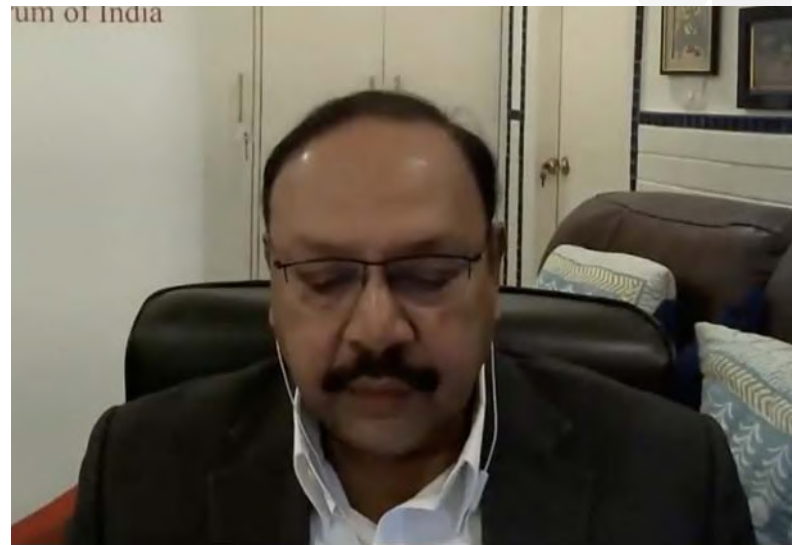


HIGHLIGHTS

In welcoming the panel **Mr Tanmoy Chakrabarty**, emphasised the critical role of trust in various layers and levels of Government that India has as a construct, across centre, state, local and panchayat level of governance. **Mr Vikram Chandra** along with the imminent panellists deliberated on the various aspects impacting federalism in India right now, the relationship between parties, centre and state and how trust is at the centre of it all. **Mr Swapan Dasgupta** spoke about the change in today's times citing example of a much more competitive political space than ever before. He added that there is a far greater degree of accountability and scrutiny for the Governments, thanks to the media, including social media, due to which smaller issues also become state issues. **Mr Dinesh Trivedi** emphasised on the need for more discussions between the centre and states. Citing example of the farmers' stir he said that it could have been eased with the help of more interaction and dialogues. He restated that the federal structure needs to be further strengthened and that trust within the Government institutions is especially important or these institutions will collapse. **Ms Priyanka Vickram Chaturvedi** stressed that trust is a two way street and that the centre also needs to have trust in states



and respect their opinion and way of working. **Mr Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo** mentioned that in centre's bid to consolidate power, several aspects of the constitution are coming under pressure. He highlighted that there is also a lack of consensus building by the Government and that the centre has to reach out to parties both at opposition and at regional level more often. The closing remarks were delivered **Mr Vasudevan Rajagopalan**.



“ We are today in a situation of highly competitive politics in each state. This wasn't the case in the first couple of decades. Now you have a greater degree of inquisitiveness, accountability & focus. ”

**Swapan Dasgupta, Member of Parliament,
Rajya Sabha, BJP**

“ The base is trust. We also have conflicts in the family, but trust is never broken. What is lacking in India is more interactions and discussions between the centre, opposition and the states. ”

**Dinesh Trivedi, Member of Parliament,
Rajya Sabha, TMC**

“ The structures that have been placed constitutionally have to be respected. ”

Priyanka Vickram Chaturvedi, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Deputy Leader, Shiv Sena

“ Social media is a medium, just like traditional media was. Social media does not claim to have an independent view. Media has become opinionated and divided. ”

Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, Former Member of Parliament, BJD

“ When we look at the situation around us there is a constitution which specifically says this is the way federalism, centre-state relationship and institutions should work and that’s then layered with 70 years of experience and precedence. One is getting the sense that some of that is starting to fray at the edges. ”

Vikram Chandra, Founder, Editorji Technologies

SESSION 12

Reputation, Risk & Crisis Management

[Click to View Session](#)

In challenging times, corporates are faced with the task of mitigating risk and crisis while managing their reputation. The session focussed on the lessons learnt by the corporate world during the pandemic on coping with risks and crises and looked for answers of critical questions like will companies chart a different route to reputation management in the coming years?



PANEL



Moderator

Ms Shweta Rajpal Kohli

Head of Public Policy,
Sequoia Capital India & South East Asia

Ms Shobana Kamineni
Executive Vice Chairperson,
Apollo Hospitals and
Past President, CII



Mr Brad Staples
Chief Executive Officer,
APCO worldwide, UK



Mr Mark Read
Chief Executive Officer,
WPP, London



Mr Mark Weil
Chief Executive Officer
TMF-Group, London



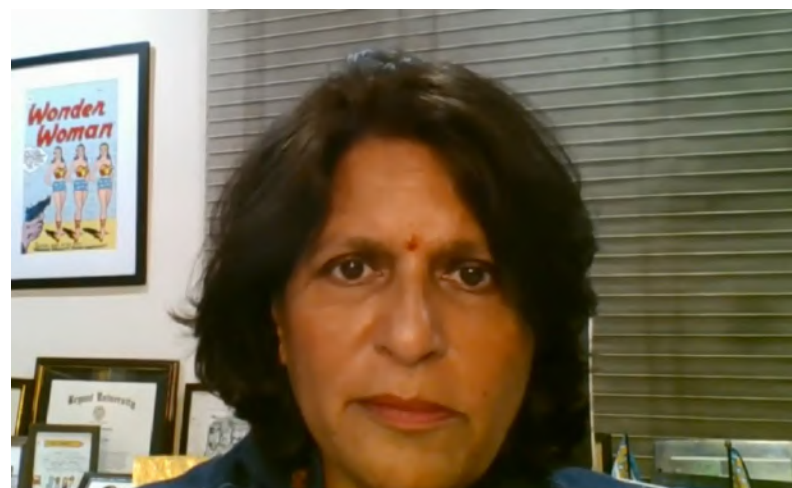
Ms Prema Sagar
Founding President & Co-Founder, PAFI
& Chairperson and Founder,
BCW India Group

Mr Rajeev Batra
Past President & Founding
Member, PAFI &
Former Group Head Corporate Affairs,
Hindustan Unilever Limited



HIGHLIGHTS

The panellists were welcomed by **Ms Prema Sagar**. She set the context for the session by raising several questions on the way the pandemic has panned out for corporates in terms of reputation management, crisis control, mitigation, stakeholders risk mapping, sectoral and geographical differences in risks amongst others. Moderator **Ms Shweta Rajpal Kohli**, along with the panellists deliberated on how hard it has been for the leaders across organizations and how the corporate reputation rule book has been changed completely by COVID-19. **Mr Mark Read**, remarked that in crisis situations like these, the initial purpose set out by the organisation guides one to take tough decisions. He added that in COVID-19 times they tried harder to protect jobs and focussed on the balance of stakeholders.



Mr Mark Weil stressed that while crisis is a tough time it is also an opportunity to stand out. He added that by focussing on the values of the organisation one can find the focus areas for the organisation during the time of crisis. He also mentioned a big pick up in colleague engagement during COVID-19 and extended their utmost support to their clients and helped them navigate through Government support schemes smoothly. **Ms Shobana Kamineni**, recollected the initial days of the pandemic and remarked that India had an advantage in terms of early lockdown which gave a chance to learn from the world. She added that, the realisation of contribution towards saving lives as the most critical factor during the COVID-19 crisis, resulted in prompt ramping up of capacity to meet the rising demand. Ms Kamineni also expressed that the pandemic has seen new collaborations with stakeholders' realisation that the unique situation requires joint efforts at all fronts. **Mr Brad Staples** stressed about leaning heavily on own value and organisational culture that gave direction to the business in tough times. He further added that the economic impact of the pandemic has been very asymmetrical and organisations that sailed through more smoothly are those which invested more in unanticipated



situations and potential crisis situations. He also remarked how the pandemic brought about a new mindset of political risk management and crisis management in the world. The closing remarks for the session were delivered by **Mr Rajeev Batra**.



“ This pandemic has been the fastest learning curve in the world. It has made companies highly agile and underlined the importance of healthcare. Many collaborations have taken place during this time. It is also about trust in people. ”

**Shobana Kamineni, Executive Vice Chairperson,
Apollo Hospitals and Past President, CII**

“ Reputation is critical and is an investment for companies now. What is important is how you behave. You can't fake it, you can't invent. It has to come from top of the corporation. ”

Mark Read, Chief Executive Officer, WPP, London

“ Crisis is difficult, but it is also a chance to stand out from the crowd. ”

**Mark Weil, Chief Executive Officer,
TMF-Group, London**

“ A degree of honesty sets a benchmark in these uncertain time. Leaders have to demonstrate human qualities, otherwise it becomes obvious very quickly. ”

**Brad Staples, Chief Executive Officer,
APCO worldwide, UK**

“ These are unprecedented times that we live in with leaders facing so many tests – on one hand, to keep their revenues flowing, keeping businesses afloat while pivoting to the new normal, most importantly, managing perceptions, reputation and risks! ”

**Shweta Rajpal Kohli, Head of Public Policy,
Sequoia Capital India & South East Asia**

SESSION 13

Concluding Session & Way Forward

[Click to View Session](#)

The world order seems to have changed for good and India now stands at a point in its history when it has to make very hard choices. While the global upheaval provides India an opportunity to become a leading power, India also has to decide who it can trust. Building trust is not a short term process. The last session of PAFI's National Forum focussed on the choices India has — battling economic slowdown and a volatile neighbourhood — to find its due place in the world.



PANEL



Moderator
Mr Samir Saran
President, ORF

**Fireside Chat with
Chief Guest**
Dr S Jaishankar
Minister of External Affairs,
Government of India



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



Mr Virat Bhatia

Managing Director –
Strategy & Policy, Apple

Mr Ishteyaque Amjad

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



HIGHLIGHTS

The panellists were welcomed by **Mr Ajay Khanna** who also thanked PAFI members, sponsors, supporters and contributors for actively participating and contributing towards the success of PAFI's 7th National Forum 2020.

The Chief Guest and the moderator for the session were introduced by **Mr Virat Bhatia**.

Mr Samir Saran, as a moderator of the session raised pertinent questions in the beginning, like - how the country's foreign affairs policy affects business, how can industry support India's relationship with the neighbourhood, important learnings in the past few months among others. **Dr S Jaishankar** stated that the message 'India at 75' should send to the world are on its qualities of creativity, energy, buzz, dynamism and talent, as these will attract the world to India. He stressed in his address that trade cannot be at the cost of domestic economy but should expand domestic economy.



On the topic of Aatmanirbharta, **Dr Jaishankar** said that according to him, Aatmanirbharta is building the capacity to have a stronger hand when you go out in the world. The Japan story of development proves that '**Aatmanirbharta**' need not be in contradiction to global value chains. According to **Dr Jaishankar** there are aspects of the Japan model, which has learnings for India, to build the manufacturing, to strategise and engage in global value chains, amongst others. He stressed that Japan can directly drive post COVID-19 recovery, resilience and reform as one of India's key partners. Speaking about the QUAD, **Dr Jaishankar** remarked how the world is becoming more multipolar, i.e there are now more countries with the ability to influence and shape global outcomes. He further added that in a fractured world, there would be many ad-hoc combinations of countries with converging interests who would find it useful to consult on issues such as maritime security, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance, disaster management, and resilient supply chains. Sharing his views on the role of



corporate sector in assisting Government's foreign policy, the Minister said that the corporate sector are employment creators and contribute directly to India's capability, creating demand and enhancing its reputation abroad. Elaborating further he said, that it also facilitates in the flow of Indian talent to the global economy, since it is in our interest to make the world not only a marketplace, but also a workplace. **Mr Ishteyaque Amjad** thanked the Minister for sharing his insights.



“As a foreign minister, businesses mean different things to me. Today, we all accept the concept of comprehensive national power, a lot of which rests on economic strengths. Businesses can make a big difference here. The direction the world is moving-in is multi-polar. We will find increasingly these ad-hoc combinations of countries which will work together based on different shared interests.”

**S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs,
Government of India**

“There is a degree of Indian scepticism around trading relations of the past, vulnerable supply chain is the term we hear often. How do you reconcile this scepticism with the global value chain and the need to be more present in more parts of the world? How does 'Atmanirbharta' and international opportunities move together?”

Samir Saran, President, ORF

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Kalikesh Nareyan Singh Deo



Sushanta Dev



Amolshi Keri



Sangha Reddy



Uday Kotak



Martin Wolf



Shekhar Gupta



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Dr. Shubhasha Georgepadhyay



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Anil Padmanabhan



Brad Staples

Mark Wall

Dr. G. Venkatesh

R. Sukumar

Raj Chhangappa



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Medha Girela



Sanjay Singh



Virel Bhatia



Aman Jain



Anubhavi Bhargava



Neelima Dwivedi

Ravi Arora

Vasudevan Rajasekaran

Vraj Chhabra

Thursday, October 22, 2020; 1530 - 2030 Hours** | Friday, October 23, 2020; 0900 - 1950 Hours**

* Invited **Timing subject to change

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 COMING UP @ 5 PM: @ShereenBhan speaks to @udaykotak & @RajivKumar1 at the national forum hosted by @PAFIIndia on the state of the economy & #RestartingIndia



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B.S. Yediyurappa @BSYBJP

Had a fruitful interaction with industry captains, business houses, and thought leaders at the virtual meet organised by @PAFIIndia. Spoke about the vast investment opportunities in Karnataka in IT, BT, machine tools, manufacturing, aerospace & engineering design.

@PMOIndia

8:45 PM · Oct 22, 2020 · Twitter for Android

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Amitabh Kant @amitabhk87 · Oct 22
 A pleasure interacting with @JohnTChambers in a Fireside chat during @PAFIIndia Forum where we discussed the India Advantage. Every crisis is an opportunity & India has leveraged it to drive pathbreaking reforms. 🇮🇳 will become the manufacturing hub & the tech garage of the world



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Rajiv Kumar @RajivKumar1 · Oct 22

Today on the #PAFINationalForum, I joined the panel in discussing the new modalities of the upcoming quarter: from Productivity-Enhancing Projects for the next stimulus to the possibilities of viable, efficient technology that could help phase out India's recovery story. @PAFIIndia



Public Affairs Forum of India

993 Tweets

Public Affairs Forum of India @PAFIIndia · Oct 23

Way out of this crisis has to be state empowered and take lead. Government of India is responsible for overarching policy, real action is at state. Empowerment of state in terms of economic activity and industrial activity is needed. - @KTRTRS, #PAFINationalForum



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FICCI @ficci_india · Oct 23

During the current pandemic, each state is working towards attracting investments and improving the ease of doing business: Mr Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General, @ficci_india at the session on States-Invested in India at the PAFI's 7th National Forum 2020. #PAFINationalForum



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Synergies between states to move from competition to cooperation to make India the most attractive investment destination. @PAFIIndia #PAFINationalForum



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We need economic #growth and #prosperity on one hand. We also need a moral authority which comes from successful management of our own challenges: Dr @ShashiTharoor, MP, LS at #PAFINationalForum



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Using biological... we can enable a distant... environment to provide... If... #PAFINationalForum



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Shashi Tharoor

@ShashiTharoor · Oct 23

An accurate account of my key message (in response to one question out of several) at a web discussion today at the 7th national forum of the Public Affairs Forum of India @PAFIIndia: "India Needs To Fix Domestic Issues To Win Respect Abroad": [ndtv.com/india-news/ind...](https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/ind...)



Priyanka Chaturvedi @priyankac19

Oct 21 · 1:05 PM

Looking forward to this discussion. Strong federal structure is India's strength not its weakness. Some working to weaken this structure will not succeed. 🇮🇳 <https://t.co/O0I8PI7qub>



Minister for IT, Industries, MA & UD, Telangana ...

Oct 23 · 2:19 PM

IT and Industries Minister @KTRTRS participated in a session on 'States-Invested in India' at the Public Affairs Forum of India's 7th National Forum 2020. #PAFINationalForum <https://t.co/KJXez4NYkC>



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New Stimulus Must Focus on Infra: Niti VC

Upbeat about recovery in Aug & Sept, says it was broad-based, quite smart and sharper

Our Bureau

New Delhi: NITI Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar on Thursday said India's economy might end up with a lower contraction in current fiscal than projected by various organisations while suggesting that the next stimulus should focus on infrastructure.



On Recovery Path

Broader-based economic recovery in August & September

Next stimulus should focus on infrastructure projects

Stimulus needs to scale up, improve efficiency

Need for greater competition in the financial sector

keep in mind, one is compared to April and May the situation in October in terms of the real economy especially in tradable and physical areas, have certainly got much better." He said the focus of the government should be on infrastructure, healthcare, education and sustainability. Talking about the financial implications of the government's intent to provide Covid-19 vaccine to its billion plus population, as and when it comes, Kumar said it is too premature to comment as a lot will depend on modalities on how we go about it. Admitting that access to credit continues to be a weakness of India's financial sector, Kumar emphasised on the need for risk, specialisation, competition and risk management capacity in the financial sector. "There is a huge potential to mobilise the financial domestic savings. However, we need to improve the efficiency of our banking sector," he said.

Kumar was upbeat about the economic recovery in August and September, which he said was "broad-based, quite smart and sharper". "The Reserve Bank of India has projected the Indian economy to contract 9.5% in the current fiscal while the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank estimate the contraction at 10.3% and 9.6%, respectively. Commenting on the much anticipated stimulus, Kumar said the next stimulus should focus on short-gestation infrastructure projects as it has strong multiplier effects and can sustain growth. "At the moment we are looking for stimulus which can sustain growth and help us to recover this year, we are seeing already and I am hoping that the ministry of finance will be focusing in the same direction," he said. "There are enough productivity enhancing expenditure which can be rolled out in a relatively short span," he said. Speaking at the forum, Uday Kotak, managing director of the Kotak Mahindra Bank, said: "There are some important aspects we need to



Next stimulus should focus on infrastructure projects: Rajiv Kumar

NEW DELHI, PTI

NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar on Thursday said the Indian economy might end up with a lower contraction in the current fiscal than projected by various organisations and also stressed that the next stimulus should focus on short-gestation infrastructure projects. Participating in a virtual event organised by Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), Kumar said helicopter money is not something that the government is looking at. Generally, helicopter money refers to quantitative easing policy by the central bank to ensure more liquidity in the system. "There are some people who now say that it may not be as bad as it has been forecast and there are signs that we may not have economic contraction (of) 9.5 per cent or 10% that we thought



about," he said.

According to him, recovery in August and September was quite smart, and it has been witnessed across many high frequency indicators. "I think this third quarter, we will see smaller contraction (in economic growth) than had been forecast and fourth quarter could well be a wash if not a small positive.

"So if that is true, then, I think we might end up with a contraction, which is lower but nonetheless contraction itself is very unprecedented thing," he said.

The Reserve Bank of India has projected the Indian economy to contract 9.5% in the current fiscal while the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank have estimated contraction at 10.3% and 9.6%, respectively.

Kumar also said the next stimulus should focus on short-gestation infrastructure projects as it will have a strong multiplier effects and can sustain growth.

"There are enough productivity enhancing expenditure which can be rolled out in a relatively short span," he said.

RAJIV KUMAR SEES LOWER CONTRACTION THAN PROJECTED BY 'OTHERS'

Next Stimulus Must Focus on Infra: Niti VC

Our Bureau

New Delhi: NITI Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar said the economy may end up with a lower contraction in the current fiscal than projected by various organisations while suggesting that the next stimulus should focus on infrastructure. "I think this third quarter, we will see smaller contraction than has been forecast and the fourth quarter could well be a wash or a small positive," he said while speaking at the virtual 7th National Forum 2020 of the Public Affairs Forum of India on Thursday. Kumar was upbeat about the economic recovery in August and September, which he said was "broad-based, quite smart and sharper". The Reserve Bank of India has projected the Indian economy to contract 9.5% in the current fiscal while the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank estimates the contraction at 10.3% and 9.6%, respectively.



Speaking at the forum, Uday Kotak, managing director of Kotak Mahindra Bank, said: "There are some important aspects we need to keep in mind. One is compared to April and May the situation in October in terms of the real economy, especially in tradable and physical areas, has certainly got much better." Commenting on the much-anticipated stimulus, Kumar said the next stimulus should focus on short-gestation infrastructure projects as they have strong multiplier effects and can sustain growth. "We in NITI have been talking about the fact that this stimulus should be focused on infrastructure," he said.

Next stimulus should focus on infra: NITI Aayog chief

NEW DELHI

NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar on Thursday said that the next round of stimulus package from the government should be focused on infrastructure as it has multiplier effect and can sustain growth.



His statement comes just days after Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that another round of stimulus is not off the table for the government. Calling for special emphasis on short-gestation projects, the NITI Aayog Vice Chairman also said that productivity enhancing measures are required to boost the economy.

Speaking at the seventh National Forum of Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), he also observed that the contraction in India's GDP in the current financial year may not be as bad as projected by many. He attributed his observation to several signs of recovery in the months of August and September.

नीति आयोग के उपाध्यक्ष का मत

अनुमान से कम गिरावट आएगी

न्यूज एजेंसियाँ

मुंबई: नीति आयोग के उपाध्यक्ष राजीव कुमार ने को कहा कि विभिन्न संघटनों के अनुमान के विपरीत देश की अर्थव्यवस्था में चालू वित्त वर्ष में गिरावट कम रहने की संभावना है. उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि अगले प्रोत्साहन पैकेज में कम अवधि में तैयार होने वाली ढांचागत परियोजनाओं पर जोर दिया जाना चाहिए. फिक्कल अफेयर्स फोरम के 'ऑनलाइन कार्यक्रम' में भाग लेते हुए कुमार ने कहा कि सरकार 'हेलीकॉप्टर मनी' पर जोर नहीं कर रही है.



हेलीकॉप्टर मनी से आशय अर्थव्यवस्था में केंद्रीय बैंक द्वारा नकदी को मात्रा यानी मुद्रा की आपूर्ति बढ़ाने के उपायों से है. उन्होंने कहा कि कुछ लोग हैं जो अब कह रहे हैं कि यह उतना खराब नहीं हो सकता जितना कि पूर्वानुमान लगाया गया है. इस बात के संकेत हैं कि अर्थव्यवस्था में 9.5 प्रतिशत या 10 प्रतिशत की गिरावट आने की आशंका नहीं है, जैसा कि हमने पहले सोचा था. कुमार ने कहा कि अगस्त और सितंबर में पुनरुद्धार वेहतर रहा है और पोएमआई, विजिली खपत, औद्योगिक उत्पादन जैसे कई प्रमुख आंकड़ों से यह पता चलता है.

Stimulus 3.0 should focus on infra: NITI Aayog V-C

GreenChandnaPillai green@pfiw.com NEW DELHI

The next round of economic stimulus measures should focus on infrastructure projects that can be executed quickly, which can lead to sustainable recovery, federal policy think tank NITI Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar said.



NITI Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar said infrastructure projects can facilitate a strong multiplier effect in the economy.

NITI Aayog would suggest that the focus should be on infrastructure projects for the next round of stimulus, rather than helicopter money. Kumar welcomed economic

facilitate quick capital spending with a strong multiplier effect. "What you want at the moment is not something that is one-off. We are not looking at helicopter money. We are looking at stimulus which can sustain growth and give us the recovery. I am hoping that the ministry of finance is focused in the same direction," said Kumar. Uday Kotak, managing director and vice president of Kotak Mahindra Bank and president of industry chamber Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) said government spending has to be increased dramatically in healthcare, education and sustainability in addition to infrastructure. Earlier in the week, finance

minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the government should not wait for another round of stimulus. Reserve Bank of India governor Shaktikanta Das, too, said the central bank was constantly striving to be innovative in financing measures to boost liquidity and to aid the economic recovery in sync with the fiscal policy. Kumar said railway station redevelopment was one such example, which can get off the ground quickly. Many economists have said that infrastructure projects could be the antidote to economic contraction as such projects can drive a multiplier effect. Kumar said the government has the ability to monitor such projects on a real-time basis.

RAJIV KUMAR SEES LOWER CONTRACTION THAN PROJECTED BY 'OTHERS'

Next Stimulus Must Focus on Infrastructure: Niti VC

Our Bureau

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Speaking at the forum, Uday Kotak, managing director of Kotak Mahindra Bank, said: "There are some important aspects we need to keep in mind. One is compared to April and May the situation in October in terms of the real economy, especially in tradable and physical areas, has certainly got much better."


Commenting on the much-anticipated stimulus, Kumar said the next stimulus should focus on short gestation infrastructure projects as they have strong multiplier effects and can sustain growth. "We in Niti have been talking about the fact that this stimulus should be focused on infrastructure," he said.

Infrastructure, which has short gestation periods, where you can get things off the ground and money out of the door as quickly as you can because that has its own very strong multiplier effects, he said.

"At the moment, we are looking for stimulus which can sustain growth and give legs to recovery that we are seeing already and I am hoping that the ministry of finance will be focusing in the same direction... There are enough productivity enhancing expenditures which can be rolled out in a relatively short span," he said.

Kotak said the focus of the government should be on infrastructure, healthcare, education and sustainability.

Talking about the financial implication of the government's intent to provide Covid vaccine to its billion plus population as and when it comes, Kumar said it is too premature to comment as a lot will depend on modalities on how we go about it. Admitting that access to credit continues to be a weakness of India's financial sector, Kumar emphasised on the need for size, specialisation, competition and risk management capacity in the financial sector.



At the moment, we are looking for stimulus which can sustain growth and give legs to recovery

RAJIV KUMAR
Vice Chairman, Niti Aayog

'Next stimulus should focus on short gestation infra projects'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar Thursday said the Indian economy might end up with a lower contraction in the current fiscal than projected by various organisations and also stressed that the next stimulus should focus on short-gestation infrastructure projects.

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Quad is in keeping with times and rise of India is good for the world, says S Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke on the evolving landscape of a multipolar world at the 'Quad' online conference organised by Public Affairs Forum of India Friday.

PTI 24 October, 2020 9:06 am IST



New Delhi: The coming together of India, Japan, the US and Australia under the 'Quad' or Quadrilateral coalition was very much in keeping with changing times, and a reflection of the evolving landscape of a multipolar world, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Friday.

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Karnataka has attracted highest investments in India

S Yediyurappa

Yediyurappa said Karnataka's economy was worth nearly US\$ 250 billion

Bharath Joshi, DHNS, Bengaluru, OCT 22 2020, 20:27 IST | UPDATED: OCT 22 2020, 20:27 IST



Karnataka has attracted investments worth Rs 1.38 lakh crore and this is the highest in India, Chief Minister S Yediyurappa said Thursday.

This will create 70,000 direct employment in the state, Yediyurappa said while wooing investors during his address to the 7th National Forum 2020 of the New Delhi-based Public Affairs Forum of India that was held virtually.

Yediyurappa was referring to investment proposals that have come since January this year.

showcases infrastructure

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa on Thursday held talks with industry captains and detailed opportunities in IT, ITES services, machine tooling, manufacturing, aerospace, biotechnology and engineering design. The CM said Karnataka has attracted investment worth Rs 1.38 lakh crore, the highest in the country which would create 70,000 direct employment in the State.



of the state remains strong, he said, and added that they look forward to working with Bharti Enterprises to support its growth opportunities in the state.

He also said measures were taken to make land procurement and labour compliances easier. Government has ensured that any approved project can start the next day without waiting for any downstream approvals by suitable amendments to Karnataka Industrial (Facilitation) Act, he said.

Rakesh Bharti Mittal, vice chairman, Bharti Enterprises, said they were interested in 5 (G) equipment manufacturing and also setting up telecom manufacturing components in Karnataka. He elaborated on their telecom and electronics network in Karnataka and also spoke about their involvement in providing vocational training and Quality Support Programme in Karnataka and in government schools of Ramanagara. 94

'K'taka got most investments'

DHNS BENGALURU

Karnataka has attracted investments worth Rs 1.38 lakh crore, which is the highest in India, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa said on Thursday.



BS Yediyurappa

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Yediyurappa was referring to investment proposals that have come since January this year.

"Karnataka is the favoured

choice of investors and is home to 400 of the Fortune 500 companies in the world. The state is currently ranked second in terms of FDI investments for the period ending June 2020," Yediyurappa said.

India's most "industrially advanced", Yediyurappa said Karnataka's economy was worth nearly \$250 billion. "The state has been leading the country in several sectors. The state has traditional strengths in a wide range of industries such as machine tools, heavy machinery, automobiles, electronics, aerospace & defence, biotechnology," he said.

Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar pointed out that the state had launched an "ambitious" reforms programme to make it "easier and quicker" to start businesses in the state.

Investments, Page 4



ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.ಯೆಡಿಯುರಪ್ಪ ಅವರ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 7ನೇ ದೇಶೀಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಂಘಟನೆಯ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಯೆಡಿಯುರಪ್ಪ ಅವರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವವರು.

ಉದ್ದಿಮೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ನೆಚ್ಚಿನ ತಾಣ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಉದ್ಯಮಿಗಳಿಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯವೇ ನೆಚ್ಚಿನ ತಾಣವಾಗಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆಯು 250 ಬಿಲಿಯನ್ ಅಂದಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯವು ವಿವಿಧ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಗ್ರಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಲ್ಲುತ್ತಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯವು ವಿವಿಧ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಗ್ರಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಲ್ಲುತ್ತಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯವು ವಿವಿಧ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಗ್ರಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಲ್ಲುತ್ತಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯವು ವಿವಿಧ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಗ್ರಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಲ್ಲುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಹೊಡೆತೆಗೆ ಮುಂದಾಗುವಂತೆ ಉದ್ಯಮಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಿಎಂ ಮನವಿ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಒತ್ತು

ಡಿ ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್ 2020

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಉದ್ಯಮಿಗಳಿಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯವೇ ನೆಚ್ಚಿನ ತಾಣವಾಗಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆಯು 250 ಬಿಲಿಯನ್ ಅಂದಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯವು ವಿವಿಧ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಗ್ರಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಲ್ಲುತ್ತಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯವು ವಿವಿಧ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಗ್ರಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಲ್ಲುತ್ತಿದೆ.

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Punjab doesn't want confrontation with Centre over farm laws: Manpreet Badal

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23



Punjab is not looking at any confrontation with the Centre and is only urging it to shed its arrogance and consult stakeholders before implementing the farm laws, Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal said on Friday.

Speaking at a virtual event, Badal said the Centre should not tinker with the existing system of the minimum support price (MSP) and procurement as it has stood the test of time.

He said knowing how diverse India is, the Centre should include farmers in the decision-making process. "We are not looking at any confrontation with the Government of India. All Punjab is saying is why do you want to tinker with the system which has stood the test of time and made India self-sufficient in food," he said.

Punjab is opposing the farm laws and has urged the Centre to have a rethink on the issue, saying they will leave farmers at the mercy of private players.

Don't want conflict with Centre: FM

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"Why the arrogance that only we know best. In a diverse and big country like India, food security is as important as national security. I am sure India's policymakers would think of that," he said.

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India-US will ensure extraordinary importance to its relations: Shashi Tharoor

24th Oct 2020

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on the 7th national forum of the Public Affairs Forum of India said that India and United States have reached a level that both countries will give importance to its relations. "India-US relationship has reached a level where whether it's Republican or Democratic administration in the US, or whether it's BJP or Congress government in India, both countries will give extraordinary importance to the relations," said Shashi Tharoor.

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India needs to fix domestic issues, economy to face world with more credibility: Tharoor

NEW DELHI

Underlining that India has been more of a "rule taker" than a "rule maker" at the UN, senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Friday said the country needs to fix its domestic issues, including the economy and law "moral authority" if it wants to be a rules contributor to the world.

The former Union minister said he has always argued India's international credibility is often a reflection of its domestic postures and the success at home is the best guarantee that "we will be respected and effective abroad."

"Now we have unfortunately been going through a few very bad years domestically in terms of crumbling social cohesion, the eruption and uncontrollable spread of the coronavirus pandemic, the border troubles with China, the economic collapse after the demonetisation, unemployment figures worst recorded in the history in these years,

everything is wrong," he said at a session of the 7th national forum of the Public Affairs Forum of India.

Tharoor said India must use its capacity to demand constructive changes in global governance.

"India has to be what it was trying to be before the last five years or so which was a sort of an example to the developing world - the world's first development power," the former UN under secretary general said.



'India-US will ensure extraordinary importance to its relations:' Tharoor

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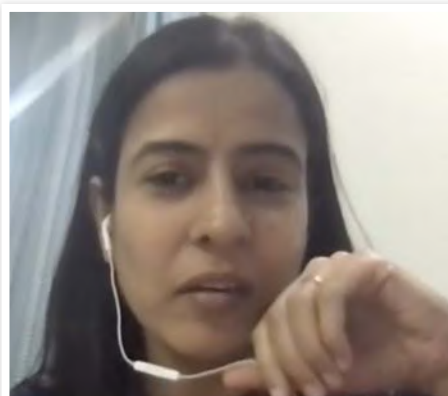
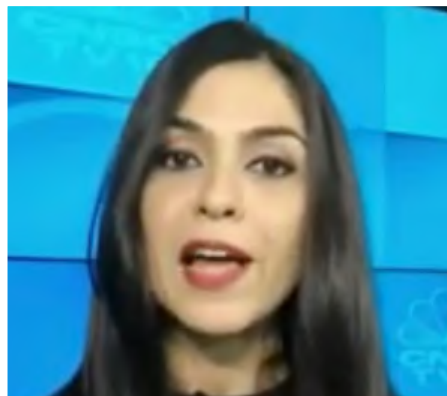
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