



Public Affairs Forum of India

10

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INDIA'S VISION @ 2030: 3RD LARGEST ECONOMY
ISSUES, IDEAS, IMPLEMENTATION

Session 9 - The Road from G20

Thursday, October 26, 2023

1840 - 1925 Hrs

Discussant



Ajay Khanna

**Co-Founder & Chairman - Annual Forum, Public Affairs Forum of India,
Independent Director, Professor of Practice**

Ajay is a leader in Strategy, Public Policy & Public Affairs, Advocacy and Stakeholder Engagement, with a demonstrated history of working across sectors, including social economy. A lawyer by education, he is an experienced Ombudsperson, Advisor, Board member & Professor of Practice with a career span of over 40 years. With strong global connects, he focuses on ethical and value-based leadership and is a regular contributor on topical subjects in major newspapers.

He co-founded Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI) in 2008. PAFI aims at aligning business, society and government on long term priorities; fostering trust across all stake holders; collaboratively developing smart and relevant policies, proposals and processes that foster innovation and rely on evidence-based research and promotes capacity building to navigate change within the context and complexity of India. He chairs its flagship annual forum since its inception in 2014.

He is Group Strategic Advisor & Global Ombudsperson of Jubilant Bhartia Group since 2009. As an Ombudsperson, he is an impartial, confidential and independent

resource to help stakeholders resolve workplace or business-related issues and build a corporate culture based on values, ethics and compliance.

He recently joined as a Director on the Board of Aakash Educational Services Limited, a leading educational institution in India that provides comprehensive test preparatory coaching services to students preparing for medical & engineering entrance exams, school/board exams, competitive & scholarship exams.

He has been associated with the World Economic Forum for over three decades & was the Vice Chair of its Regional Strategy Group (RSG). He is a regular participant at its annual meeting in Davos for over 35 years & leads the social entrepreneur of the year award initiative of the Schwab foundation & Jubilant Bhartia Foundation in India since its inception in 2009. He is currently member of the WEF - Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship.

He is also a Global Advisor to the Catalyst 2030 - a global movement & a network of leading social entrepreneurs & innovators, academics and funders who believe in collective action & bold, new strategies to achieve the Sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030. He has been member of several high-level Government delegations, committees and task forces.

Ajay is a Professor of Practice & Advisor- Careers with Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP). Founded on the commitment to world-class faculty, extensive industry linkages and innovative approach towards design and management of policy, ISPP aims to transform the art of policymaking. He is also an Adjunct Professor at The Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru. He is Senior Advisor with The Convergence Foundation, dedicated to building foundations in strategic areas of development in India. He is also a member of Advisory Board of SaveLife Foundation & Pahle India foundation.

He was founding Chief Executive Officer (2002-2006) of India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), a joint initiative of Ministry of Commerce, Government of India and CII, a unique public private Partnership initiative to Promote, Project & Position India's growth story globally. IBEF, under his leadership, led "India Everywhere" campaign at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos in 2006, amongst several other high profile global initiatives. He was Partner with Accenture India (2008-2009) & before that, he spent twenty seven years with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as deputy director general & held several national & global positions from 1981 to 2008.

Ajay has a Degree in Law from University of Delhi and is an alumni of the Shriram College of Commerce. He lives in Delhi NCR, India & is married to Renu, a lawyer, and a social worker. Their children - Dr Surbhi and Dr Ankur are both medical practitioners in USA.