

FICCI-KAS Virtual Dialogues: The New Normal Series

Dialogue One: Global Pandemic- Future of Work

Background

FICCI in partnership with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) organises the FICCI-KAS Virtual Dialogue Series on topics of strategic, geo-economic and contemporary relevance. The FICCI-KAS virtual dialogue series is a proposal to stay connected and ideate on vital issues and concerns of today's challenges faced by society.

Context

Given the global pandemic outbreak, we are faced with the 'New Normal' in all aspects of our societal living. This is 'New Normal' series first dialogue will focus on the future of work, the world of work, and the changing world of work. The first webinar attempts to grapple with the global pandemic COVID-19 outbreak titled 'The Global Pandemic: Future of Work' is being jointly organised by FICCI and KAS through Zoom/Microsoft webinar.

For our first FICCI-KAS Virtual Dialogue on this 'New Normal', we aim to discuss the ramifications for work as we contend with covid-19 global outbreak. This virtual dialogue series would engage and discuss the perspective from India and Partner Nations on what changes are in store for the workplace, the workforce, and the nature of work itself in the future. Globalization, demographics, climate change, geopolitical transformations and global pandemics such as COVID-19 outbreak are already making a momentous bearing on the future of work landscape.

Technology has changed our lives forever in the past half a century. Through the platforms of internet, mobile, social media, computing innovations, technology has changed the manner in which global citizens connect and work with each other globally as well as within the national spectrum. Today's world is more interconnected than ever before. In less than 50 years, the world has gone from zero digital wireless devices to more than 4 billion; this has contributed to one third of the world's population now plugged onto the internet. Also, in addition expected 2-3 billion people will get online marking this as the

fastest period of internet adoption in history. The first FICCI-KAS virtual dialogue seeks to discuss the ramifications for society based on how much the future of work through digital connectivity will escalate. Greater digital connectivity equates to consequences for the future of work and to more opportunities for citizens to peruse and purchase both goods and services in digital channels. While the growth of digital commerce is a universal concept, digital has and will continue to manifest itself differently depending upon the industry vertical and its level of digital maturity especially with the current corona outbreak situation globally impacting value chains and supply chains.

In addition, technological innovations have developed at an accelerated pace across the globe, wherein cognitive skills and tasks that were once assigned for human beings are increasingly being carried out by machines as a result of AI and robotics, triggering increasing concerns and influence on jobs and the consequent risks for government, business and society at large. The FICCI-KAS virtual dialogue will discuss how it is crucial to form public-private partnerships and nurture cooperative federalism could help workers and society at large to tackle the inevitable transition with the minimum disruptions, while maximising the potential benefits for society.

Objective

Governments, Companies and almost all organisations except essential work around the globe have rolled out mandatory remote work from home policy due to covid-19 global pandemic. Whether you're a newbie or WFH veteran, this webinar will discuss ways and means to stay productive in challenging times such as this.

Most institutions both public and private have been preparing for a possible outbreak by giving enhanced teleconferencing tools to their clients for free to help make it easier for people to work from home. The webinar will discuss the benefits, best practices and potential safety risks involved with remote work owing to corona outbreak.

About the FICCI-KAS Webinar Series

The FICCI-KAS Dialogue Series is an endeavour to bring together thought leaders, opinion shapers and subject experts to discuss topics of contemporary interest that are of high geo economic and strategic relevance to India and the world. The Dialogue Series also covers topics of relevance to Indo-German cooperation.

About the Partners

FICCI-Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Established in 1927, FICCI is the largest and oldest apex business organisation in India. Its history is closely interwoven with India's struggle for independence, its industrialization, and its emergence as one of the most rapidly growing global economies.

A non-government, not-for-profit organisation, FICCI is the voice of India's business and industry. From influencing policy to encouraging debate, engaging with policy makers and civil society, FICCI articulates the views and concerns of industry. It serves its members from the Indian private and public corporate sectors and multinational companies, drawing its strength from diverse regional chambers of commerce and industry across states, reaching out to over 2,50,000 companies.

FICCI provides a platform for networking and consensus building within and across sectors and is the first port of call for Indian industry, policy makers and the international business community. FICCI's vision is to be the thought leader for industry, its voice for policy change and its guardian for effective implementation.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Freedom, justice and solidarity are the basic principles underlying the work of the Konrad- Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS). The KAS is a political foundation, with a strong presence throughout Germany and all over the world. We cooperate with governmental institutions, political parties and civil society organizations building strong partnerships along the way. In particular we seek to intensify political cooperation in the area of development cooperation at the national and international levels on the foundations of our objectives and values. Together with our partners we make a contribution to the creation of an international order that enables every country to develop in freedom and under its own responsibility. The Konrad- Adenauer-Stiftung has organized its program priorities in India into five working areas:

- Political Dialogue and cooperation
- Foreign and Security Policy including Energy Policy
- Economic policy and management
- Rule of Law
- Media and training programmes for students of journalism

In implementing its project and programs the Foundation cooperates with Indian partner organisations, such as think tanks, Government and Non-Governmental Institutions.