

## **Isher Judge Ahluwalia Steps Down as Chairperson of ICRIER**

After 15 years as Chairperson of the Board of Governors of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia stepped down from her position due to declining health. She was elected Chairperson at the Annual General Meeting held on August 8, 2005, and her resignation accepted, in a special meeting of the Board of Governors held, by coincidence, on August 8, 2020. She is succeeded by Mr. Pramod Bhasin, currently Vice Chair of the Board of Governors. Isher, as she is affectionately known to friends and colleagues, will continue as Chairperson Emeritus, a position specially created to honour her exceptional contributions to ICRIER.

ICRIER's efforts to realise the ambitions of the founders as an independent, high quality think tank creating knowledge for evidence based policy formulation got a boost when Isher became Director & Chief Executive in 1998 and were further advanced when she assumed the position of Chair. Her outstanding leadership and deep commitment meant that ICRIER became synonymous with her and with the qualities of excellence, integrity and independence she embodies. It was during her tenure that ICRIER rose to be ranked as India's best think tank in international economic policy and international development for years on and continues to occupy that preeminent position. In addition, ICRIER is known for the excellence of the quality of its research, particularly in areas like Agriculture, Trade Policy and Telecom. She curated and chaired the ICRIER-India Habitat Centre 'Conversations on Urbanisation' that became very successful and widely appreciated. She was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the President of India in the year 2009 for her services in the field of education and literature. Her own scholarship has always been excellent and ICRIERs researchers have benefitted immensely from that association. ICRIERs research output is regularly cited in the popular media, in journals, in Parliament and above all used by the various Ministries and Departments that focus on policy formulation. Some of ICRIERs research work is also used as essential reading in universities in India and abroad.

Entirely due to Isher's efforts, ICRIER's Endowment Fund was strengthened considerably and ICRIER acquired new office premises. She also built up an extremely distinguished Board of Governors at ICRIER, comprising the best of Entrepreneurs, Bureaucrats and Academicians,

who are committed to building ICRIER into India's foremost independent Research organisation. Her successor, Pramod Bhasin said 'we are extremely sad that Isher felt compelled to retire as she's synonymous with ICRIER and built this excellent Research organisation. Her shoes are impossible to fill--nevertheless I am committed to leveraging the foundations she has built to help develop ICRIER into the foremost research organisation in the areas that will be critical to India's emerging needs'. Pramod is former President & CEO, GE Capital India & Asia, the Founder of Genpact Ltd and Chairman, Clix Capital Services. He has been the Chairman of Nasscom and was voted IT Man of the Year by DataQuest and Manager of the Year by EY & Co. He is Chartered Accountant (England & Wales) by profession and one of the prominent alumni of Shri Ram College of Commerce. ICRIER is delighted to welcome Pramod as the new Chairperson.