Dr Isher Judge Ahluwalia is a renowned Indian economist, with wide experience in the fields of urban planning and development, economic growth, productivity, industrial and trade policy reforms. She is currently Chairperson on the Board of Governors for the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), a leading think-tank based in New Delhi engaged in policy oriented research. At ICRIER, Dr Ahluwalia is leading a major research and capacity building programme on the challenges of urbanisation in India. She was awarded Padma Bhushan by the President of India in the year 2009 for her services in the field of education and literature.

Dr. Ahluwalia was Chairperson of the High Powered Expert Committee on Urban Infrastructure and Services during 2008-11, which submitted its Report to the Government of India in March 2011. She was a Member on the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council and is on the Boards of a number of premier research institutes in India. Dr Ahluwalia was Vice Chairperson of the Punjab State Planning Board from 2005 to 2007.

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Dr Ahluwalia has written a number of books, the latest being “Transforming Our Cities: Postcards of Change” (HarperCollins, 2014), and a co-edited volume titled “Urbanisation in India: Challenges, Opportunities and the Way Forward” (Sage India, 2014), which proposes critical reforms and policy interventions. She is also the co-editor together with Prof. IMD Little of “India’s Economic Reforms and Development: Essays for Manmohan Singh” (OUP,2013),which is an updated version of the original volume published in 1998.