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**DOs & DON’Ts***Any participant found flouting the following norms and  
guidelines will run the risk of being ejected from the forum*

1. This is a freewheeling, informal conversation among friends, acquaintances and so-far strangers; this is *not* a high-brow, pseudo-intellectual seminar nor a formal symposium. But ‘informal’ does *not* mean ‘casual’ or ‘trivial’.

2. **NRI-*Natter*** is an attempt to have a meaningful exchange of brilliant ideas, incisive views and enlightening insights, in a professional, structured and orderly yet friendly, informal fashion.

3. You are expected to be dignified, mature, objective and polite, and not create any ruckus, cacophony, noise or nuisance.

4. The exchange of ideas is a means to know each other, and perhaps explore potential hidden opportunities that could suddenly pop up for future partnerships for startups, entrepreneurial ventures, and so on.

5. How this meeting will progress: After the introduction of the keynote speaker, we will have a quick round of introductions (basically name, highest education, profession, current job and organization, current location, *very* brief overview of career, main interests, future plans).

6. After the keynote address (which will follow soon) and introduction of the topic: Using a numbering system drawn on ‘first-come-first-served’ basis, each participant will be requested by the moderator to share his/her view on the points being discussed. Each speaker will get three minutes, which may be extended, if the situation demands, at the sole discretion of the moderator.

7. The moderator has a list of participants, which she/he will use to steer the discussion forward. We will have a five-minute break on the hour, every hour. So, newcomers will get an opportunity to introduce themselves.

8. If any member wishes to interject, he/she may use the “raised-hand” feature in the Zoom app (or similar feature in other apps, depending on the app used on the day). Or, simply raise your hand facing the camera. Preferably, the member should use his/her turn to make the points, rather than interjecting in between (which could create noise and disrupt proceedings – best avoided). If you wish not to say or add anything, you may pass your turn. But you are strongly encouraged to speak and speak up. **NRI-*Natter*** is not for passive participants.

9. General guideline: VERY, VERY IMPORTANT -- When not speaking, please **mute** your Zoom. And remember to **Unmute** when it is your turn to speak. This helps reduce background noise.

10. REQUEST: Be polite, cordial, respectful. Speak clearly, calmly, so everyone can understand you. Make your point succinctly, directly, wherever possible. Desist from using foul language, cuss words, profanities, sharp expressions. Do not launch personal attacks on other participants, or attribute motives to them. Do not make accusations or resort to emotional over-reactions. Pay attention to your tone of voice as well as body language.

11. **WARNING**: Do not discuss politics, political ideologies, political parties, and forms of governance! Avoid even indirect references, if you wish not to be ejected by the conference moderator.

12. You may join the meeting at any time as per your convenience. As a mark of courtesy to fellow participants, it would be preferable if you join at the start though. If you wish to exit midway through the meeting, just click/tap “leave meeting” in red letters at the far right of the interface menu. You may re-join whenever you want. In either case, no announcement is necessary.

13. There is no formal dress code as such, but you are expected to be presentable, and not appear in front of the camera in a state of undress, semi-nudity, or wearing outsize goggles, cap, hat, mask, etc. Avoid appearing in inner wear or shabby clothes. Maintain a decent posture so that other participants can follow you clearly and have a meaningful interaction. Avoid noisily eating or drinking/slurping, or any other form of rude sounds, during the event. Use features like “Mute” and “Stop video”, if necessary.

14. Ensure there is no background noise (like the hum of an air conditioner, or an oscillating pedestal fan / table fan / mixer-grinder / household appliances, or even noisy children. Also ensure there is adequate lighting so that there are no dark or grainy patches on screen. You may move around if you are using a smartphone. But ensure there are no connectivity problems or dropped calls. Ideally, during your log-in time, you must be in a place where there are no connectivity issues – that is, connectivity should be excellent. If necessary, run a test well before the actual event.

15. Most conversations will be in English, with a bit of Hindi here and there. Do not use regional languages to communicate, unless all the participants can understand you.

16. You are expected to be an active participant, not just a passive or shy listener with no views to share. Come prepared for the day’s topic, backed with relevant facts, figures.

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