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ASPEN INSTITUTE INDIA

THE ASPEN SEMINAR: INDIA LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE CLASS 3

The Aspen Seminar was first developed in the 1950s with the purpose of fostering discussion on the concept of the 'good society'. Questions which arise in the process are: What is a good society? What values should prevail? What role can one as a leader play in making it a reality?

The notion of the 'good society' is not immediately easy to grasp. Fortunately, humankind has been discussing it for millennia. To help with this quest, senior moderators Peter Reiling and Keith Berwick of the Aspen Institute USA, invited the participants to what Aspen calls 'The Great Conversation' — a conversation that spans the ages as well as the globe — with writers such as Aristotle, Hobbes, Rousseau, Sumner, Marx, Popper and Simone de Beauvoir. Also included were extracts from Plato's *The Republic*, Arthur Okun's *Equality and Efficiency: The Big Trade Off*, Gandhi and Tolstoy's *Letter to a Hindu*. Each reading formed a

springboard for discussion of a different aspect of the 'good society.'

The ILI: 3 fellows thereafter engaged in a passionate dialogue around the inevitable tensions that arise in defining and building the 'good society.' The moderators helped the group to tease out

meanings from the timeless texts and apply them to modern day life and challenges faced by each one of them as leaders. The different readings came together in the 'Four Poles of the Good Society' by James O'Toole in his book *The Executive Compass*.

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Third batch of India Leadership Initiative Fellows at Kovalam

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– A CONVERSATION WITH AKSHAT VERMA



Prof. Amartya Sen and Ms. Mamta Banerjee releasing the book with Prof. Sugata Bose

HIS MAJESTY'S OPPONENT: SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE & INDIA'S STRUGGLE AGAINST EMPIRE

Aspen Institute India in collaboration with Penguin organized the book launch of *His Majesty's Opponent: Subhas Chandra Bose and India's Struggle Against Empire* in Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi, Dhaka and Chennai in the month of July, 2011.

The book was first released in Kolkata by Nobel Laureate, Prof. Amartya Sen in presence of Chief Minister Ms. Mamta Banerjee. In Mumbai the launch was graced by Director, Mr. Shyam Benegal.

The Delhi launch of the Book took place on 18th July in Teen Murti Bhawan. The book was launched by actress Sharmila Tagore in the presence of Congress MP Shashi Tharoor & Senior Journalist M J Akbar who then engaged in conversation with Prof. Bose. Similarly in Chennai the book was launched by former West Bengal Governor, Shri Gopal Krishna Gandhi & Mr M.V. Subbaih, Chairman, National Skills Development Corporation.....[READ ON](#)

NELSON MANDELA INTERNATIONAL DAY COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE

To mark the 93rd birth anniversary of Mr. Nelson Mandela, Aspen India in collaboration with South African High Commission organised a commemorative lecture by anti-apartheid activist, long time friend, comrade and prison-mate of Mr. Mandela, Mr. Ahmed Kathrada. Mr.

Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce & Industry graced the occasion along with the High Commissioner of South Africa, Mr. H.M. Majeke. The session celebrated the power of Mr. Mandela's leadership, the non-violent struggle against apartheid and the value of spirit.....[READ ON](#)



Mr. Tarun Das, Ms. Barbara Hagan, Mr. Ahmed Kathrada, Mr. Anand Sharma, High Commissioner H.M. Majeke

WHAT MATTERS IS WHAT IT TAKES



Ashish Gupta, Deepa Prahalad, Rajan Navani, Bhairavi Jani, Radhika Shapoorjee, James Abraham, Manoj Kumar

Leadership is about the future and it is about change. Leadership is about hope." With these words, the great visionary C.K. Prahalad decided to focus on India@75 and not India@60 during the celebration of India's 60th anniversary and hence inspired a new vision. This is a vision that sees all the 1.2 billion Indians as leaders in their own right; a nation led forward by what it really stood for – its peo-

ple. Aspen Institute in collaboration with India@75 organised a Session on "What Matters is What It Takes" to celebrate the birth Anniversary of Prof C.K. Prahalad (1941 – 2010). The panel consisted of IILF Fellows-James Abraham, Rajan Navani, Ashish Gupta, Manoj Kumar, Radhika Shapoorjee, Bhairavi Jani (moderator) and Ms. Deepa Prahalad, daughter of Mr. C.K. Prahalad.

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A SESSION ON ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

Economic diplomacy and its impact on the growth and sustainability of Nation states have risen to the top of international policy agenda, driven by a blend of political and economic factors. Economic diplomacy can be used to generate and increase economic security; it can be used as a political tool and can also be affected negatively by politics. The understanding of this phenomenon is of eminent importance given the trend in globalization with new economic powers becoming stronger each day. It is the broad awareness of these realities that acted as a fulcrum to the discussions by a panel of well informed experts brought together by Aspen Institute India in a session on ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY. This session featured



High Commissioner Stewart Beck, High Commissioner Karen Tan, Mr. Siddharth Shriram, Ambassador Kishan Rana

H.E. Ms. Karen Tan, High Commissioner of Singapore to India, H.E. Mr. Stewart Beck, High Commissioner of Canada to India, and Amb.

Kishan Rana, Former Indian Ambassador to Germany at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

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BOOK LAUNCH: RAKESH MOHAN'S *GROWTH WITH FINANCIAL STABILITY: CENTRAL BANKING IN AN EMERGING MARKET*



Dr. Bimal Jalan, Dr. Rakesh Mohan, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Dr. C Rangarajan

Great fluctuations in the international financial system leading to financial crises have become a common phenomenon in the last two decades. This can be attributed to the changes in finance brought about by increasing interdependence, internationalization and integration. This has the unintended consequence that failures and lack of growth can significantly impact not only individual economies but also markets, financial intermediaries, and economies around the world. In the immediate aftermath of the recent financial crisis, there is a need for a

new paradigm and way of doing things. Dr. Rakesh Mohan's book *Growth with Financial Stability* talks about this need. It was launched by Aspen Institute India in collaboration with Oxford University Press and ICRIER. Dr. Monetek Singh Ahluwalia, *Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission*, Dr. Bimal Jalan, *Former Governor Reserve Bank of India*, and Dr. C. Rangarajan *Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister Government of India* participated in the panel discussion with the author.

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