



PRESS RELEASE

“Terrorism, National Security, China and India will be the key determinants”

The 2016 US Presidential Election will be a historic event given its far reaching consequences. While Mrs. Hillary Clinton could become the first woman President of the United States, Mr. Donald Trump could be the first billionaire to win the election in the history of the United States. Given the implications of this election on the global economy and geopolitics, a public session by Ananta Aspen Centre was organized to understand the different dynamics underlying the 2016 US Presidential Election.

New Delhi, 21st September 2016: Ananta Aspen Centre organized a public session on **“2016 US Presidential Election: Will It Be A Turning Point in Global Politics?”** with **Ambassador Naresh Chandra**, *Former Indian Ambassador to the US*, **Ambassador Timothy Roemer**, *Former U.S. Member of Congress and Ambassador to India*, **Mr. Bruce Stokes**, *Director, Global Economic Attitudes, Pew Research Center*. **Mr. Ashok Malik**, *Senior Columnist and Commentator* moderated the session. The session highlighted how the election of either Trump or Clinton would affect India in terms of who will be more willing to renegotiate the terms of TPP and facilitate economic cooperation, take further steps to strengthen security in the region, and balance against China.

Ashok Malik put across the core issues that concern America and the world to the distinguished panelists and how the two very strong but extremely polarizing presidential candidates can fit into the frame of the next president of the United States. This included terrorism, national security, China and India. Mr. Bruce Stokes came up with fresh statistics from Washington DC where Clinton was ahead of Trump by a narrow margin of 2%. He further elaborated on the grounds on which the American population is going to vote for its next president which included racism, equality and terrorism. Ambassador Timothy Roemer outlined major determinants of the outcomes of this election which were a fractioned and contaminated democracy, Obama’s popularity, third party existence and the will to change the existing pattern to send a message to Washington DC. For Ambassador Chandra, Trump was quicker in attending to the dissatisfaction of the people whereas Clinton missed it. On China, according to Ambassador Chandra, Trump would be more aggressive in comparison to Clinton and would expect support from India. As far as partnership with India is concerned, Clinton’s policy would be same as that of the Obama administration whereas Trump’s move could not be predicted.

On the issue of TPP, Mr. Stokes stressed that the only chance of getting it passed is to do it before the elections with the old Congress present. The best chance to pass a trade agreement that addresses the component of rebalance within Asia and has the economic dimension to it which is crucial to compete in Asia and other parts of the world against China. The panel agreed on how the next President of the United States will have legacy issues as President Obama has completely shifted the foreign policy towards India (the new rising power), ASEAN, China and even an uninformed Trump policy cannot turn its back on it.

About Ananta Aspen Centre- *An independent organization, Ananta Aspen Centre is registered under the Indian Trust Act. It focuses on leadership development and encourages frank and open dialogue on the most important*

issues facing Indian society, to help foster its transformation. The Centre also engages civil society, business, governments and other key stakeholders on issues of importance to India's development, foreign policy, strategic affairs and national security.

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