



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Investment in Education, Health and IT is the key to mutually beneficial relations**

In the backdrop of growing India-Africa ties and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recently concluded four-nation visit there, the **Ananta Aspen Centre** brought out a book titled "**India & Africa: Towards a New Dawn**" edited by **Mr. Pramit Pal Chaudhuri**. The book is a collection of essays by experts from both Indian and African countries articulating many aspects of this emerging relationship; the key areas of cooperation and collaboration; the challenges and roadblocks ahead. The Book Launch highlighted the depth and the complementarity of this relationship and the impact this would have across the world.

**New Delhi, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016:** India and Africa have a plethora of areas in which they can collaborate, evidence of the maturity that now denotes their relationship. These include trade and investment, development and democracy, technology and education, maritime security and counter terrorism. The Centre invited an esteemed panel of speakers who contributed to the book to discuss various areas of cooperation that will strengthen partnership between India and Africa to bring out new perspectives on enhancing the mutually beneficial relationship between the two regions.

**Pramit Pal Chaudhuri**, Foreign Editor, Hindustan Times highlighted that "there has been an enormous surge in the economic relationship between the two regions as they continue to share a strong economic backbone, security relationship, and historical legacy." He also made a very interesting observation about India's constant comparison with China which he felt was completely inappropriate as China is much bigger than India in terms of its economy.

**H.E. Mr. Ernest Rwamucyo**, High Commissioner of Rwanda to India asserted that he saw great potential in three major areas- Trade and Investment, Development Cooperation and People to People Connections. He further emphasized that "Indians have been in Africa for centuries and continue to play a constructive role in their economy, academia and research. Trade between India and Africa has grown but its volume and quality has to improve."

**Dr. Shashi Tharoor**, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs agreed with the High Commissioner on the fact that trade is under exploited with only USD 90 billion right now. He also believed "there is a need to move beyond raw materials with an opportunity to explore other options between the regions." He also underlined the great interest of Indian companies in particular telecom industry to invest in West Africa as it gives tremendous returns.

**Lt Gen. Satish Nambiar**, Distinguished Fellow, IDSA and former Deputy Chief, Indian Army talked about the long association of Indian Armed Forces with Africa. He further stated that "India has participated in every peacekeeping operation in Africa and out of its 16 peacekeeping operations, 9 were in Africa. India's involvement continues to be its commitment to the stability in Africa."

The discussion concluded accentuating the need for India to be involved more strongly in trade and investment in the African continent with information technology and communications taking the lead and driving it forward.

**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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