

Press Release

“Need to build regional networks to make regional impact”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s coming visit to Berlin for the fourth edition of the Inter-Governmental Consultations with Germany will deepen the strategic and economic partnership that exists between the two countries. Germany is a key investment and technology source for India’s ambitious manufacturing agenda and infrastructure development. Germany is also considered key to bolstering ‘Skill India’ programme given its status as a world-leader in vocational education and to India’s ambitious renewable energy goals. The session, jointly organized by Ananta Aspen Centre and the German Embassy, focussed on current bilateral relations between the two countries and discussed ways the two countries can further develop a mutually beneficial relationship in the coming years.

Monday, 22nd May 2017

Ananta Aspen Centre in partnership with Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany organised a session on **“India and Germany in the 21st century: Partners in an Uncertain World”** in New Delhi. **Mr. T.N. Ninan**, *Chairman, Business Standard Pvt Ltd* moderated the session. **Ambassador S K Lambah**, *Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre and Former Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of India*, **H.E (Dr.) Martin Ney**, *Ambassador of Germany to India* and **Dr. Ummu Salma Bava**, *Professor of European Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University* were among the panellists.

Ambassador S K Lambah, *Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre and Former Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of India*, highlighted the opportunities that could be leveraged from the Indian-German bilateral relationship. “There are several issues that hamper us from achieving the favourable trade, still the two countries share a strong desire for mutual cooperation and development”, he said. He also spoke at length about a huge opportunity for India to engage the German medium sized companies and their vocational training system. Further, Indian Railways provides another big platform where the two countries can work together. Germany is very important for India for its “Make in India” initiative and there exists an enormous potential for cooperation in the defence sector, he added. Nuclear area is another important sector where cooperation should be taking place between the two countries, he highlighted. **Professor Ummu Salma Bava**, *Professor of European Studies, School of International Studies, and Jawaharlal Nehru University* further added that “Business is thriving and there will be multiple opportunities to take this relationship forward, but in an uncertain world, India and Germany will have to expand their vertical and horizontal engagement both at the business and the Foreign policy level”. **H.E (Dr.) Martin Ney**, *Ambassador of Germany to India* in his remarks said that “both Germany and India have common understanding about the principle of Democracy and rule of Law and both root for stability in the multi polar world through a multilateral order.” He also spoke of the need to resume talks for free trade and investment protection treaties in addition to bringing German expertise to the table as railway modernisation and expansion plans in India offer enormous opportunity for commercial cooperation. He also added that, “Germany invests greatly in Indian renewable energy, smart cities and urban transportation as economic development co-operation remains a huge aspect of the bilateral relationship.”

About Ananta Aspen Centre:

Engaging India, Nurturing Change

Ananta Aspen Centre is an educational and policy studies organisation based in New Delhi. It focusses on values based leadership and open dialogue on challenges facing Indian society to help foster its transformation. The

Centre engages civil society, business, governments and other key stakeholders to share ideas and bring a wide range of perspectives on issues important to India's development, foreign policy, strategic affairs and national security. Ananta Aspen Centre is an independent non-profit organization registered under the Indian Trusts Act and under 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act. For more information, contact:

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