



ASPEN INSTITUTE INDIA

Volume I Issue II

Gautam Thapar Elected Chairman of Aspen Institute India



Mr. Gautam Thapar

Mr. Gautam Thapar, Chairman and CEO of Avantha Group has been elected as the new Chairman of the Aspen Institute India. He succeeds Mr. Jamshyd N Godrej, Chairman and Managing Director, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd. as Chairman of the Institute. Mr. Godrej will now assume the role of Chairman-Emeritus. Mr. Thapar was chosen to assume chairmanship of the Aspen Institute of India due to his commitment to fostering values-based leadership and for encouraging business leaders to incorporate in their work the ideals and ideas that define a good society.

"It is a great and exciting opportunity to chair the Institute at a time of such historic transformation in the Indian landscape," Gautam Thapar

said. "I am looking forward to interacting with a broader cross-section of our leaders to share with them the Institute's philosophies."

"How Efficiently Can India Bridge the Gaps in its Society?": Nobel Laureate Michael Spence



Nobel Laureate Prof. Michael Spence with R C Bhargava, Chairman, Maruti Udyog Ltd.


On September 07, 2009, Nobel Laureate in Economics 2001 and Professor, Stanford Graduate School of Business, Stanford University, USA Prof. Michael Spence talked about the global economic crisis with a select group of industry members and intellectuals at a session organized by Aspen Institute India in New Delhi.


Prof. Spence referred to the crisis as having demonstrated the failure of regulators, academics and consumers.


It was a collective failure of the


stakeholders in the financial system, who assumed that the systems are self-regulatory. However, it is worrisome that as the crisis passes, the pressure on re-regulation will also decline and lose momentum. Slipping back into the existing system, with its lapses and loopholes would not be a very stable or sustainable state for the global financial architecture. The impact in India has been visible. India has become unduly cautious about its lending programs. Since the contemporary pattern of consumption is based on advance spending, it may now become a challenge to secure financial support in India for further growth of business. However, most probably the lines of credit will open up with slightly greater financial stability. Lending may become a little more expensive but will not be cut off. The anxiety about India, going forward, is


IN THIS ISSUE:

 Prof. Nick Burns outlines the upcoming challenges in the India-US relationship

 Nobel Laureate Michael Spence speaks about the global financial crisis

 The 'Second Wave' of the India Leadership Initiative (ILI) attends the third seminar in Kolkata.

 Fellows from the first batch of ILI have their annual reunion.

 Aii organizes another edition of the Aspen India Seminar in Manesar

 A delegation of the Aspen Rodel Fellows meets with fellows of the India Leadership Initiative, moderators and friends of Aii.

how efficiently it will be able to bridge the gaps within its society. While the private sector is going great guns and the corporate keep getting richer by the day, there are 600 million people living in a sea of poverty and there is a huge disconnect there. Indian businesses can contribute so much more- whether it is in education or healthcare or skill building, which are the primary services required by the large Indian population. The corporate sector needs to be more forthcoming on the domestic “inclusion” agenda, without losing out on its global competitiveness factor.

To read more about this session [click here](#)

“India One of the Top Relationships for the US”: Prof. Nick Burns



Prof. Nicholas Burns with Aii Vice Chairman, Mr. Gautam Thapar

On August 21, 2009 Aspen Institute India organized an interactive session with Nicholas Burns, Professor, Practice of Diplomacy and International Politics, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and Former Under Secretary of Political Affairs, US Department of State in New Delhi. The session was moderated by Aii Vice Chairman, Mr. Gautam Thapar. Nick Burns made insightful observations about the future of India-US relations, demonstrating that India is one of the top 2 or 3 important relationships for the USA. The visit of Prime Minister Singh in November 2009 at the invitation of President Obama will be the first official State visit.

This is a dynamic time for both countries, who cannot afford to be isolationist or unilateralist in nature. Complex challenges confronting the world are climate change, terrorism, global economic recession, trafficking of women and children, and pandemics among others. India and the US share a common strategic interest, more than any other 2 countries in the world, be it pertaining to the South Asian region or the world. Both countries must work towards overcoming their historical and ideological differences to build a stronger partnership.

India and the US have differing points of view on issues such as **climate change**, **international trade** and the **nuclear issue**. However, there are many areas, which can be positive forces as strong pillars of our relationship:

- **Counter Terrorism**
- **Defence cooperation**
- **Agriculture**
- **Green Technologies**

To read more about this session, [click here](#)

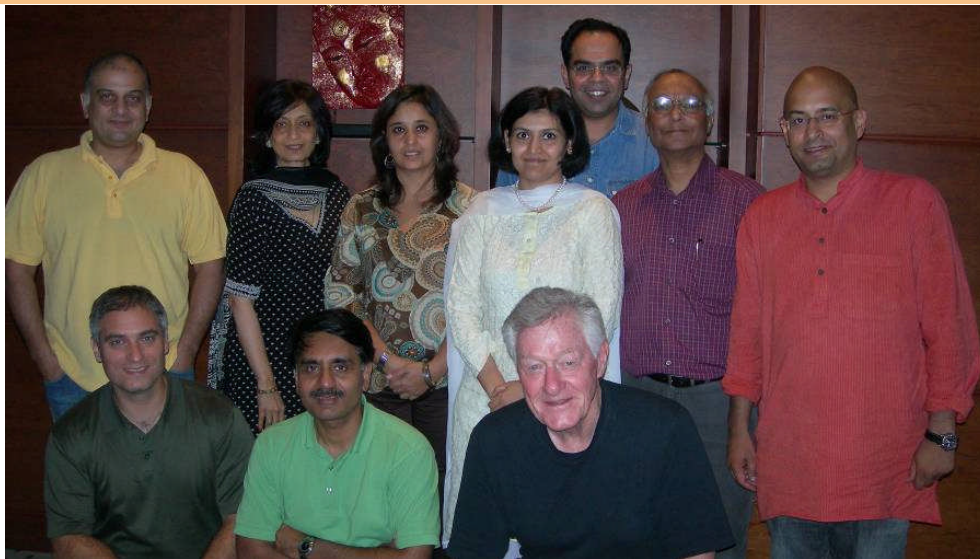
The 'Second Wave' of the India Leadership Initiative attends the seminar, 'Leadership in an Era of Globalization' in Kolkatta



India Leadership Initiative's 'Second Wave' in Kolkatta along with moderators and supporters

The second batch of the India Leadership Initiative (ILI) fellows, also known as the 'Second Wave' attended the third of the four-seminar programme in Kolkatta from September 8-13 2009. The seminar is a 4-day convening exploring the political, economic, technological, cultural and ethical challenges of globalization and the skills necessary to meet them. The seminar was moderated by the Aspen Institute's Keith Berwick along with Ravi Bhoothalingam and Sunil Nehru. Alongside attending the seminars, the fellows are now also working on their community leadership projects which will be sustained upon the completion of the programme. The India Leadership Initiative Fellows consists of twenty three men and women who are undertaking a program of advanced leadership seminars and individual leadership projects under the direction of experienced Aspen Institute-certified moderators and senior local mentors. For details about the programme [click here](#)

ILI Class I Fellows meet for their Annual Reunion in Kolkatta



Fellows of the ILI, moderators, and supporters at the ILI Class I Reunion in Kolkatta

On September 12-14, Aspen Institute India brought together fellows from the inaugural class of the India Leadership Initiative (ILI) in Kolkatta. The purpose of the reunion is to re-connect with friends and supporters, while also attending specially designed 'alumni' seminars. The reunion particularly afforded the opportunity to discuss how fellows have been able to apply learnings from ILI to their professional and personal lives.

Aspen Institute India organizes the Aspen India Seminar in Manesar



Fellows of the Aspen India Seminar in Manesar

Aspen Institute India organized the Aspen India Seminar from 3-5 September 2009 at The Heritage Village, NH8, Manesar, Gurgaon. This Seminar was based on the lines of the classic Aspen Seminar of Aspen Institute USA, which has now been transformed to cater to the need for timeless values and enlightened leadership in the 21st century. The Seminar has been modified to keep

the discussions grounded in the Indian context. The Aspen India Seminar seeks to challenge accomplished Indian participants to think more deeply about leadership, values and the good society. The Seminar is designed to enable its participants to become better leaders by understanding the goals that motivate us and how our values both coincide and conflict with those of others. The Aspen India Seminar focuses on leadership for the 21st century. For details [click here](#)

***Focusing on
Leadership for the
21st Century....***

A delegation of Aspen Rodel Fellows in Public Leadership visits India



Aspen Rodel Fellows meet ILI Fellows, friends and supporters of Aspen Institute India

Aspen Institute India hosted a 20 member delegation of the Aspen Institute's Rodel Fellows in public leadership that visited India from 7-8 August 2009. The fellows are elected officials, representing 22 American states serving at both local and state levels of government. During their visit to New Delhi, the fellows had the opportunity to meet and interact with the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Shashi Tharoor as well as India's Foreign Secretary, Ms. Nirupama Rao. Mr. Tharoor provided a broad overview of India while outlining the various foreign policy challenges confronting India, especially in the context of its unstable South Asia context. The Rodel Fellows also met with fellows of the two batches of the India Leadership Initiative as well as moderators and other friends and supporters of Aspen Institute India. During the interactions they were able to discuss the domestic challenges and opportunities facing India, more so in the context of the country's rising economic power.

Forthcoming Activities

October 28, 2009: Session on "The Difficulty of Being Good: On the Subtle Art of Dharma" with Gurcharan Das.

December 17-19, 2009: Ideas India 2009.

To receive information about All events and activities please [click here](#)