



# ASPEN INSTITUTE INDIA

## Volume I Issue IV

### An Interaction with Jairam Ramesh



Minister of state for Environment and Forests Mr. Jairam Ramesh

Aspen Institute India organized a session with the Minister of State for Environment and Forests Mr. Jairam Ramesh on India's role at the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009. Mr. Ramesh explained how for the first time, the issue of climate change was dominated more by the developing nations, i.e. the BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, China). It was

decided in the Copenhagen rounds that a global goal for 2050 has to be achieved. The global goal includes: (i) Limiting Temperatures, (ii) Percentage reduction in emissions and (iii) decrease Carbon Emissions. He explained the need for a regime for monitoring mitigation and for the framework to be legally binding. Mr. Ramesh emphasized the need for multinational cooperation to tackle climate change. He implored that steps for India were one to accept this as a challenge and be in a position to dictate terms as they did at the Copenhagen summit. The pro solution stance of India was well received by the world and by the audience, one of the first in some time.

### The United States and India: Charting the Future Course

Aspen Institute India and the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) organized a Session on The United States and India: Charting the Future Course on 12 January 2010 in New Delhi. R. Nicholas Burns, Professor at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and Former US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs said that the objective of this new think tank will be to evaluate the role of US as a global citizen and a country



Ms Nirupama Rao addressing the session

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that resolves problems. CNAS India Initiative will be undertaking a study which will assist in defining the future course of US-India 3.0 relationship; the outcomes of the study will be announced in Autumn 2010.



(L-R) Toby Simon, Robert Kaplan, R. Nicholas Burns, Tarun Das, C Raja Mohan and Richard Fontaine

Applauding the CNAS India Initiative, Ms Nirupama Rao, Foreign Secretary, Government of India said the US-India relationship has boundless opportunities of collaboration and cooperation, ranging from issues related to energy and climate change, trade and agriculture, science, technology, health and innovation. US and Indian scientists need to collaborate in agriculture production, risk management, weather forecasting and increasing the shelf life of food products. Another opportunity is building the regional disease detection center. Pilot projects in solar energy production and developing bio-fuels are strategically important objectives in achieving energy security.

### Christophe Jaffrelot –“ India has a very robust inclusive brand of politics”



On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2009, Aspen Institute India invited Mr. Christophe Jaffrelot, Research Director for the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, to talk about “The Indian Democracy: Challenges Ahead”. Moderated by Mr. Arun Maira, Member Planning Commission, the talk focussed on how the Indian democratic system is on the path of stability but is still quite fragile. Socio-economic factors are drastically changing in India, which is causing a major gap between the rich and the poor. The main challenge is now how to handle this growing gap and further reduce it.

Gap such as these are a cause of revolution, such as the Maoist insurgency in the east. This according to him is the failure of inclusive representation, yet where

inclusive representation is vibrant, the gap is not leading to revolutionary mentalities. “Inclusive representation in politics keeps the energies of revolt down”

### Session on Community Based Policing

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, Aspen Institute India and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) organized a session with two members of the Toronto Police Board on the concept of community based policing in India.

Moderated by Mr. Jayadev Ranade, Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Air Power Studies, Dr. Alok Mukherjee, Chairman of the Toronto Police Board and Chief of Police, William Blair outlined how Toronto, a large multi ethnic city as been able to increase safety and security through community based policing. Dr. Mukherjee gave a general overview of the situation in Toronto, drawing a description of laws and legislatures in action that help the Toronto police achieve goals of safety. Mr. William Blair further explained the workings of community based policing, showing how it



has helped in achieving safety and security in a city which boasts more ethnicities than any other in the world. Community based policing can help in achieving an understanding in cities of multi-ethnic backgrounds like Toronto. All three agreed that governance and sound domestic policies are needed to achieve community based policing not only in understanding the problem in cities as large as Delhi or Mumbai, but in achieving a function system of community based policing.

### Timothy Knatchbull- “India is in my genes”

Timothy Knatchbull, author of “From a Clear Blue Sky” addressed Aspen Institute India on March 8, 2010. Mr.



*Timothy Knatchbull, Author and Grandson of Lord Louis Mountbatten and Kishan S Rana, Former Ambassador to Germany*

Knatchbull, using excerpts from his book, he explained the chronology leading up to the bombings, his relationship with his grandfather – Lord Louis Mountbatten - but more importantly his twin brother and his coming to terms with tragic day. His speech was broken into three parts. The first was about the day of the bombing. He used, pictures from before the bombing and memories, illustrated the closeness he had shared with his family and especially with this twin brother Nicholas and how it was shattered by the events of that day. The second part of his speech was about his twin brother and what it was like to be an identical twin. In this, he explained how similarities were not only in the physical appearance but at the emotional and subconscious level as well. The third and final part of

his speech was on the closure he achieved by returning to the site of the bombing years later. In his speech, Mr. Knatchbull mentioned that his book was not about his grandfather, it was not political or created out of anger, but personal, a tool for him to grow, say goodbye and achieve some peace. He acknowledged that many people have car crashes that change their lives, this book was acknowledgement of his own ‘car crash’, the one tragic moment that changed his life.

### Ken Lieberthal - “What China is seeking is to achieve wealth and power and be respected as a great nation and protect its sovereignty/territorial integrity”

“What China is seeking is to achieve wealth and power and be respected as a great nation and protect its sovereignty/territorial integrity” Said Dr. Kenneth Lieberthal, Director of the John L. Thornton China Center and



*Keith Lieberthal, Brookings Institute*

Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy and Global Economy and Development at the Brookings Institution, USA while addressing a session on “China: How it Works and What it Seeks” in New Delhi on February 10, 2010. According to him, China’s has already achieved spectacular success in economic reforms in last thirty years with an average annual growth of 17 percent in foreign trade and foreign exchange of USD 2.4 trillion. The authoritarian ‘one party rule’, extraordinary breadth of ‘reach’ of the political system directly into economy, education, social, public health and other spheres, substantial domestic coercive capability of the party, highly flexible, entrepreneurial and internally competitive environment and decentralized and very pragmatically adaptive nature of the system were mainly responsible for rapid economic growth of China,

according to Dr. Lieberthal. “Political economy has been a key driver of sustained development that made the China’s political system into a growth machine”, he said. “As political power is a rule to harness rapid economic



growth in China, CCP has become in reality the China Bureaucratic Capitalist Party,” he said. According to Dr Lieberthal “The current global economic crisis has increased China’s global role faster than anybody in China anticipated. The new major power status has produced a new attitude in China that is confident and becoming increasingly arrogant. China is in the midst of a debate as to how to handle new opportunities and responsibilities.”

### **“The Invisible Pollution That's Poisoning People Silently”**



*(L-R) Dr. Richard Fuller, President, Blacksmith Institute, Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Minister of Environment and Forests, Mr. Tarun Das, President, Aspen Institute India*

On the 12th of March, 2010, Aspen Institute India, CII and WWF India organized an interactive session on ‘The Invisible Pollution That’s Poisoning People Silently’ with President of the Blacksmith Institute, Dr. Richard Fuller and the Minister for Environment and Forest, Mr. Jairam Ramesh. In his presentation, According to Dr. Fuller, three major points stick out. (1) the overall situation of hidden toxins that most don’t know about and their effects,(2) Where in India work is being done (3) the solutions for the future

ahead. There is documented evidence that 20% of global diseases are caused by hidden toxins predominantly Hexavalent Chromium, Mercury and Lead. The current position of India in terms of toxins and hazardous waste and the steps the government is undertaking were outlined by Mr. Jairam Ramesh. He described the India produces 6.2 million tonnes of hazardous waste or toxins every year. About half of this is recycled and 1.5 million tonnes can be stored. The remainder is floating in the system and needs to be treated and stored. In his efforts to solve the problem of these pollutants, Mr. Ramesh is currently in the process of creating the Indian version of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Other projects include a joint World Bank initiative to boost storage capacities in existing sites. There is a need for laws and litigation for curbing such toxins in the system and active solutions to start reducing affects and possible consequences of toxins in the Indian environment is clearly needed.

### **India Leadership Initiative**



*ILI Class 2 in Goa*

#### **Second Wave Class Graduates**

The Second Class of the India Leadership Initiative (“Second Wave” class) had their graduation session in Goa from February 17-21, 2010. The class was moderated by Keith Berwick and Skip Battle – both Senior Moderators from Aspen Institute, USA.

#### **ILI Fellows in the News**

**Sugata Srinivasaraju**, an ILI 2 fellow has recently edited and introduced a book by H Y Sharada Prasad's entitled 'A Window on The Wall - Quit India Prison Diary of a 19-year-old,' Sharada Prasad was a writer, journalist and a long time Information Adviser to Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi and was also in Morarji Desai's PMO. The book launch took

place on Sunday, February 28 in Bangalore.

**Adarsh Kumar** –another ILI 2 fellow has been awarded the Ashoka Fellowship for his work on connecting poor rural producers to the mainstream economy. He has set up Livelihoods Equity Connect (LEC), which operates as a venture capital fund, invests equity in producer-owned structures and provides them with business advice and assistance to help them become successful enterprises and scale up operations. LEC seeks to promote a

commercially sustainable and scalable model of organizing large groups of farmers and artisans to connect to mainstream markets and realize their commercial potential.

**Sumita Ghose** The cover story of the February issue of Outlook Business is on “The New Colours of Venture Capital”. Sumita Ghose (ILI I) is featured as an example of how her company, Rangasutra is making a difference in the life of villagers. The article is available online at: <http://business.outlookindia.com/article.aspx?264361>.

## US-India Strategic Dialogue



*Members of the India and US Delegation for the US-India Strategic Dialogue*

Experts in academia, industry and the government from India and the US came together at the “US-India Strategic Dialogue” organised in collaboration with the Aspen Strategy Group (ASG) and CII on 9-10 January 2010 in New Delhi. The delegates held in-depth discussions in advancing Indo-US relations with a strategic perspective, as part of their Track II dialogue. They exchanged views in issues relating to energy and climate change, the defence partnership and bilateral relations post the economic recession. They also discussed possible options in tackling geopolitical issues in Pakistan, Afghanistan and China.

## India-Singapore Strategic Dialogue



The India Singapore Strategic Dialogue was convened in Singapore on February 18-19, 2010. The dialogue has met twice earlier (one each in Singapore and Delhi) and this was the third in the series. The Co-chairs for the dialogue are Ambassador Tommy Koh of Singapore and Ambassador S K Lambah, Special Envoy to the Prime Minister of India. The Dialogue covers and discusses all aspects of India’s bilateral and multilateral relationship with Singapore and touches upon economic, regional, transnational and strategic issues, in a closed setting. The members of the Dialogue also met with key Government officials to share the outcome and feedback from the Dialogue.

## Forthcoming Activities

**March 21-23:** India-China Strategic Dialogue, Beijing. (By invitation only)