



*A man is but the product of his thoughts.
What he thinks, he becomes.
— Mahatma Gandhi*

Annual Report

2019-20

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



DR NAUSHAD FORBES
Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre

The global situation has ensured that we need to re-examine our priorities as a society and work collectively towards a better future. This is the time for organisations like Ananta Aspen Centre to up the ante when it comes to catalysing dialogues, collaboration and ethical leadership. These are fundamental traits of a strong and open society and gives it the wherewithal to face adversity.

I am happy to report that 2019-2020 saw Ananta Aspen Centre move steadily towards its goals.

The Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship, shaped its 7th cohort. This marquee programme works with a new generation of leaders taking them through the journey from thought to action. The GP Birla Fellowship for Women Leaders, that works with women from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, graduated its second class while the Emerging Leaders Programme for the youth held three chapters in the course of the year. The third seminar of the ASEAN India Leaders Fellowship was also held. This is a unique four-seminar values-based leadership programme, conceptualized in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs.

Strategic ties are important in the current era of globalisation.

Every nation is deeply impacted by the major international developments across the globe. India must develop effective and responsive strategies to tackle the challenges while capitalizing on the opportunities. As a part of its mission, the Centre undertook multiple initiatives to catalyse dialogues on cross-cutting issues related to foreign policy.

The 4th Japan India Strategic Dialogue was held in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry, in Tokyo. On the agenda were discussions on economic opportunities, energy collaboration, cyber security, space co-operation and the prevalent political situations in both the countries. The 12th India Singapore Strategic Dialogue focused on political and economic ties and defence and security relations.

A new dimension was added to the 12th Annual Meeting of the India Israel Forum in the form of the first Youth India Israel Forum. A special meeting of the India-Israel Water Experts Seminar deliberated on the effective application of science, technologies, policies, and reforms for sustaining water. Another

interesting offshoot of the Forum is the Online Masterclass Series – an initiative to enhance technical knowledge and awareness about emerging technologies among college students in India.

The India-U.S. Track II Dialogue on Climate Change and Energy held its ninth meeting in New Delhi, India in February 2020. This Track II event brings together an array of thought leaders from India and the United States to inform and encourage India-U.S. partnership at a strategic level on climate and energy issues.

Ananta Aspen Centre, the Korea Foundation and the Seoul Forum for International Affairs co-hosted the 18th India-Korea Strategic Dialogue, in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. The 18th edition of the Dialogue helped reaffirm that India's Act East Policy was aligned to South Korea's New Southern Policy.

The Centre's Ambassador Series is a unique platform for interaction with the heads of foreign missions in India. Interesting sessions were held – with Ambassador Nils Ragnar Kamsvåg, Norwegian Ambassador to India; Dr Ron Malka, Ambassador of Israel to India, Ambassador Andre Aranha Correa do Lago, Ambassador of Brazil and High Commissioner Nadir Patel, High Commissioner of Canada to India.

Jamshyd N Godrej spoke on 'Climate Crisis and Biodiversity Preservation Challenge: Role of Industry and Civil Society' at the 8th C K Prahalad Memorial lecture. The Centre organizes this lecture jointly with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to commemorate the legacy and contribution of Late Professor CK Prahalad to shaping the idea of India as a morally, economically and technologically advanced nation, capable of leading the world.

It is such an India that we are committed to shaping with your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Naushad Forbes', written in a cursive style.

“The COVID 19 pandemic has laid bare the fault lines in societies across the world. It has brought about the recognition that we need to re-examine our priorities as a society and work collectively towards a better future.”

Leadership

Kamalnayan
Bajaj Fellowship

GP Birla Fellow-
ship for Women
Leaders

ASEAN-India
Leaders Fellow-
ship

The Shri Ram
Ananta Aspen
Leadership
School

Ananta Aspen
Emerging Leaders
Programme

Ananta Aspen Centre has a portfolio of leadership programmes that work to build a cadre of ethical leaders in society by helping participants view their leadership goals through the lens of their core values.

These programmes serve different stakeholders groups – women, youth, children and successful entrepreneurs. They use the Socratic Dialogue Method to take the participants on an introspective journey which helps them transition from thought to action and work for the larger good.

Currently, the Centre runs five leadership programmes which over the years has created over 800 Fellows.



Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship

The KAMALNAYAN BAJAJ FELLOWSHIP works with entrepreneurial leaders, 35-45 years of age, who have made a mark in their area of work.

The programme uses the Socratic Dialogue method to help participants better understand their own leadership values also those of their peers. It encourages them to engage more effectively with the challenges of their communities and explore new ways of contributing to society.

The Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellows are a part of a growing community of entrepreneurial leaders of the Aspen Global Leadership Network (AGLN). This network has over 3000 fellows from 60 countries and gives Bajaj Fellows a platform to network, share knowledge and interact with emerging leaders from across the world.

In 2019-2020, Class 7 of the Bajaj Fellowship went through Seminar 2 and 3.

Seminar 2: The Aspen Seminar

During this seminar, the group read, discussed, debated the writings of a wide range of thinkers and contextualized their reading to present-day conditions. Different view point on the core issues that face societies currently were explored and a collective vision of a good society was drawn. The participants also performed Antigone as a team building exercise.

Seminar 3: Leadership in an Era of Globalization

In this seminar, the participants explored how globalization is influencing their world and the tensions arising thereof. They broadened the vision of "good society" created in the previous seminar to include the rest of the world and examined what globalization meant for their leadership and how they could harness it to serve the greater good.

The Fellows attended seminars in – Aspen Colorado, USA; Jordan and South Africa. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the seminars in India, Panama and Singapore were cancelled. ■

A good society comes out of balancing individual needs with a broader sense of shared purpose and destiny. Neither of these two aspects may be denied, for they are fundamental to the very nature of man as both a private and social being.





Class 7 Fellows performing Antigone

G P Birla Fellowship for Women Leaders



The GP BIRLA FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN LEADERS is a unique programme for young women leaders (27-35 years), from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities in India.

This unique Fellowship combines mentoring and coaching with reflective dialogue based seminars. It equips the young women with tools and resources to accomplish their leadership goals, guides their process of inquiry, their leadership journey and provides a platform for collaborative support for each other.

The GP Birla Fellowship graduated its second class in 2019-2020. The Fellows

Above Mrs Amita Birla sharing her story with the Fellows

participated in two seminars.

Seminar 1: The first seminar on the **Challenge of Leadership** was a six-day convening that focussed on the qualities of leadership necessary to face the forces of change. The Readings encouraged them to examine the issues countries across the world were facing and evolve their own vision of a good society and evaluate how they measured up as leaders in it.

Seminar 2: The second seminar focused on refining each participant's definition of a good society and the role played by the government and businesses in shaping it.

It shifted the conversation from thought to action and encouraged discussions on how leaders could collaborate to address challenges facing the country.

A highlight of the seminar was a play titled "Unravel." It was scripted, produced, directed and performed by the Fellows themselves. The play was an interpretation of Mahabharata and sought to present the complexities of ethical decision making.

The second seminar was also the graduating platform for Class 2. **Mr CK Birla** and **Mrs Amita Birla** were present at the graduation ceremony. The evening was made all the more special by Mrs Birla who shared her own journey with the participants. ■

“This fellowship has given me perspective which would have taken me many more years. I hope through my venture ‘ANTHILL’ & my life I contribute to make this world a better place through my leadership. I also want to take this learning to a lot more people. Thank you for giving me this circle of trust and making me believe in myself.

Pooja Rai, Co-Founder & CEO, ANTHILL Creations



Above Moderators of GP Birla Fellowship – **Sameer Walia**, Founder and Chief Executive, Ripples of Hope and **James Abraham**, Founder and Director, SolarArise **Left** **Reshma Anand**, CEO, Hindustan Lever Foundation **Below** Fellows perform a play



Congratulations!

LEADERSHIP

GP Birla
Fellowship
for Women
Leaders

GP BIRLA FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN LEADERS

CLASS-2



CK Birla, Amita Birla and Kiran Pasricha with the Class 2 Fellows at their graduation ceremony.

ASEAN India Leaders Fellowship

Ananta Aspen Centre and the Ministry of External Affairs conceptualized the ASEAN-INDIA LEADERS FELLOWSHIP to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN India Partnership.

The programme was approved by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the ASEAN (CPR). The programme has been approved under the ASEAN-India Fund (AIF).

The programme has four seminars. Each ASEAN country is represented by two participants, except Brunei which was unable to nominate members. There are an equal number of participants from India as well. The programme has 11 women and nine men in the cohort.

The ASEAN-India Leaders Fellowship has helped promote ties among successful young leaders from the region and encouraged socio-cultural ties among India and ASEAN member states. The Fellowship held its third seminar in October 2019.

Seminar 3: Culture and Identity

After looking critically at leadership in Seminar 1 and then at the construct of a 'good society' in Seminar 2, the third seminar focused on 'globalisation'. This was a critical subject given that the participants

Seminar 3 15-19 October, 2019 New Delhi

were from ten different countries. The seminar examined the impact of globalization on their country as well as on their individual leadership styles. There were Readings from the literature written by leaders from participating countries.

Country presentations

During the seminar the participants presented a short story about their own country to the rest of the group. They delved

into their culture and presented their history, traditions, language quirks, current issues, cuisine, tourist places, and their relationship with the world, using videos, songs, movies, drama and traditional arts.

Richer perspective

Seminar 3 encouraged the Fellows to think of themselves as members of a global community and assess their leadership values in a globalized world. The discussions gave

them an insight into the cultural and political sensitivity and diversity that has to be accepted as a corollary of globalization. It also helped them evolve their stand on the issues of globalisation. ■

Below ASEAN Fellows at a Diwali celebration



The third seminar encouraged the Fellows to think of themselves as members of a global community and assess their core values as a leader in a globalized world.

The Shri Ram Ananta Aspen Leadership School 2019

Ananta Aspen Centre and The Shri Ram School offer a two-week residential programme for students of grades 9-12 to help them develop values-based leadership skills and move from thought to action.

The intense yet fun-filled curriculum includes sessions on Socratic Dialogue, communication skills, theatre, experiential learning, motivational lectures, yoga, adventure sports, social work commitment and other activities. It takes students through structured modules in a safe and supportive environment, to help them uncover the hidden leader within. ■

**19 May –
01 June, 2019**
Rishikesh;
72 students,
27 schools, 12
cities



**Dr Meeran Chadha
Borwankar, Director
General, (Retd)
Bureau of Police Re-
search and Develop-
ment, at TSAALS**



AADI GUPTA

YUVAAN BERY

ROLI GUPTA

ROHAN KATHURIA

TANYA SINHA

PRINCE SHUKLA

SANA BHATNAGAR

BHUMIKA MATHO

NIRVAN CHAWLA

MIHATARA KHATUN

ANESH BANERJEE

JAMES ABRAHAM

RHEA BATRA

AARAV WADHWANI

SIYA TAYAL

KARTIK KUMAR

ANISH KUMAR

Ananta Aspen Emerging Leaders Fellowship

The ANANTA ASPEN EMERGING LEADERS FELLOWSHIP is an initiative of the Fellows of Class 5 of Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship. It is a unique six-day Leadership Programme that works with a group of 24 college students from across India.

The students, aged 18-22, engage in global readings curated and moderated by Aspen trained moderators. These readings set the context for discussions around building a better society and nation. The students are also equipped with the skills required to become agents of change.

Three editions of the Emerging Leaders Fellowship have been held thus far. The programme has created 60 youth leaders with the power to catalyse change.

10-15 June 2019, Coimbatore

14-19 October 2019, Wardha

03-08 January 2020, Baggar, Rajasthan

The 4th Edition of Emerging Leaders Fellowship was held in Kumaraguru College of Technology, Coimbatore from 10-15th June 2019.

20 Fellows graduated from this edition.

The Fellowship was moderated by **Mr Shankar Vanavarayar**, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow of class 5 and Joint Correspondent, Kumaraguru College of Technology and Executive Director of Sakthi Auto Motors. **Ms Shobana Kumar**, Poet and Founder, Small Differences was also a moderator.

Below Discussion during a Socratic Dialogue session



The 5th Edition of Emerging Leaders Fellowship was held in the Bajaj Institute of Technology, Wardha, Maharashtra. from 14-19th October 2019.

22 Fellows graduated from this edition.

The Fellowship was moderated by **Mr Pallav Patankar**, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow of class 5 and Director Partnerships of Avegen India Pvt Ltd. **Mr Mohd. Nadeem Khan**, author was also a moderator.

The 6th Edition of Emerging Leaders Fellowship was held in the Piramal School of Leadership, Bagar, Rajasthan from 3-8th January 2020.

21 Fellows graduated from this edition.

The Fellowship was moderated by **Mr Aditya Natraj**, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow of class 5 and Founder and Director, Kaivalya Education Foundation (KEF) & the Piramal School of Leadership. He was supported by **Ms Tripti Vyas**, Director, Gandhi Fellowship Program, Kaivalya Education Foundation and **Ms Manpreet Kaur**. ■

The students engage in global readings curated and moderated by Aspen trained moderators. These readings set the context for discussions around building a better society and nation



Ice Breaker session
among the Emerging
Leaders Fellows

Banyan Tree Dinner



The Banyan Tree holds a special place in Indian folklore, with many tales centered around it from time immemorial. And what holds true to this day is that its eternal nature, ever-growing branches and roots and wide canopy make it a perfect community centre – under which wise men and women congregate to share, think and converse. And that's what we are set to do.

Banyan Tree Dinner – Conversation with a Purpose

The evening provides an occasion to engage in a conversation with a purpose and designed to make one pause and think. The conversation are moderated by Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow and Trained moderator. The nominated participants are carefully selected to constitute a rich and

12 April 2019, Kolkata
Moderator:
Abheek Singhi

20 December 2019, Jaipur
Moderator:
Sameer Walia

balanced mosaic of accomplished leaders from different walks of life – civil service, business, profession, arts and culture, governance, social sector. The group size is limited to 20 participants to allow for greater participation for all. ■



Above Participants of the Banyan Tree Dinner, Jaipur
Opposite page Participants of the Banyan Tree Dinner, Kolkata

International Relations



Dialogues



Closed Door



Webinar



Public sessions

The changing global realities have reshaped India's traditional approach to diplomacy. There is now space for informal channels of communication like Track II diplomacy and stakeholder meets that have a strong government representation.

Ananta Aspen Centre works to strengthen these informal channels through well-established multistakeholder forums as well as ad hoc public sessions. These platforms help in building informed public opinion, which is an important input into foreign policy making.



4th Japan India Strategic Dialogue

Ananta Aspen Centre, in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry, held the fourth edition of the Japan-India Strategic Dialogue in Tokyo.

On the Indian side, the Dialogue was co-chaired by **Dr S Jaishankar**, then President, Global Corporate Affairs, Tata Sons Private Limited and **Mr Tarun Das**, Founding Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre and Chairman, Institute of Economic Growth.

Mr Yoshiyuki Kasai, Chairman Emeritus, Central Japan Railway Company and Dr Tomohiko Taniguchi, Special Adviser to the

14–16 May, 2019 | Tokyo

Cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe were co-chairs from the Japanese side

On the agenda were discussions on economic opportunities, energy collaboration, cyber security and space co-operation. The political situation in both the countries were discussed along with security threats and challenges. ■

Below The delegations from India and Japan at the Dialogue.

Below The Indian delegation with **Yohei Sasakawa**, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation (second from left)



12th India Singapore Strategic Dialogue

Ananta Aspen Centre, Confederation of Indian Industry and Institute of South Asian Studies, National University Singapore jointly convened the INDIA-SINGAPORE STRATEGIC DIALOGUE.

The 12th edition was co-chaired by **Mr Jamshyd N Godrej**, Chairman, Ananta Centre and Chairman of Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Ltd and **Ambassador Ong Keng Yong**, Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore. Ambassador Ong Keng Yong is also the Executive Deputy Chairman, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University.

The Dialogue focused on political and economic ties; digitalization and skills; future social and cultural linkages and defence and security relations. The delegates also interacted with **Dr S Jaishankar**, Honourable Minister of External Affairs, Government of India. ■

22–23 July, 2019 | New Delhi

Below **S Jaishankar**, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India and **Ong Keng Yong**, Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore and Executive Deputy Chairman, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University



Above The delegations from India and Singapore at the Dialogue in New Delhi

The 12th Annual Meeting of the India Israel Forum

Ananta Aspen Centre, Tel Aviv University and Confederation of Indian Industry jointly convene the INDIA ISRAEL FORUM. The 12th edition saw four key areas take center stage – water security, cross border investments, artificial intelligence and quantum opportunities. All these sectors are emerging as strategic collaboration avenues for both countries and serve common objectives.

This year, a new dimension was added in the form of the first India Israel Youth Forum to explore areas of collaboration between the youth of the two countries.

A special meeting of the India-Israel Water Expert Seminar was also convened. The focus was on effective application of science, technologies, policies, and reforms for sustaining water. The meeting concluded

15–17 December, 2019 | Tel Aviv

that evidence-based advocacy is key going forward and an idea for the formation of a facilitation center for technologies and data analytics was also proposed.

Building further on last year's expert seminar on semiconductors, **Ambassador Ron Malka**, Ambassador of Israel to India, and **Ambassador Sanjeev Singla**, Ambassador of India to Israel, officially released a report on the "Feasibility Study of a Semiconductor Fabrication Facility in India." ■



Above The delegations from India and Israel at the Forum in Tel Aviv

9th India US Track II Dialogue on Climate Change & Energy

The INDIA-U.S. TRACK II DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY held its ninth meeting in New Delhi, India from February 3-5, 2020. The meeting was convened by the Ananta Aspen Centre, India and the Aspen Institute, U.S. Since its inception in 2010, this dialogue has brought together a diverse array of thought leaders from India and the United States — former senior government officials, industry leaders, sub-national officials and heads of civil society organizations — to inform and encourage India-U.S partnership at a strategic level on climate and energy issues. This meeting of the dialogue focused on key climate and clean energy-related issues critical to the bilateral relationship, including: policy developments in each country; perspectives on the forthcoming COP26 meeting; and potential policy-related cooperation on short-lived climate pollutants, electric

3–5 February, 2020 | New Delhi

mobility, and sustainable finance.

Mr Jamshyd Godrej, Chairman, Ananta Centre and Chairman of the Board, Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited is the co-chair from the Indian side. **Mr John Podesta**, Founder, Center for American Progress and **Mr William Reilly**, Former Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency are the co-chairs from the US side.

Below Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Former Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of India (left) in conversation with dialogue co-chair **William Reilly**, Former Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency



The dialogue culminated with a public session on the role of citizens and governments in India and US towards climate change mitigation. The session, built on the momentum of the past year, in which student driven action propelled the creation of an emergent narrative around the global conversations on climate change making it a priority point of discussion at international engagements like the UN General Assembly, the G20 Summit and the World Economic Forum. There is a need for urgent climate action but policy and industrial movements are yet to catch up to the calls for action being made around the world.

The session established that there needs to be a three-pronged approach for tackling this crisis: regulating the industries; providing incentives in the form of carbon

credits; and then pricing the carbon so as to exercise the sense of being conscious towards our consuming limits. ■

Below Suresh Prabhu, Prime Minister's Sherpa to the G7 and G20 Summits (left) in conversation with dialogue co-chair **John Podesta**, Founder, Center for American Progress.





Above The Indian and American delegations at the Dialogue in New Delhi

18th India Korea Strategic Dialogue

Ananta Aspen Centre, the Korea Foundation and the Seoul Forum for International Affairs co-hosted the 18th INDIA-KOREA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE, in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. South Korea is an important partner for India in East Asia. This Dialogue serves to evolve important conversations and policy recommendations which can strengthen ties between the two countries.

The 18th edition of the Dialogue, themed Reinventing Strategic Ties in a Volatile World reaffirmed that India's Act East Policy was aligned to South Korea's New Southern Policy and could act as a platform to catalyze important collaborations. It also threw up the need for both governments to engage more frequently on Indo-Pacific architecture and evolve a common vision encompassing trade, security, tourism and investment.

Other conversations were around the need for greater investment coopera-

8–9 November, 2019 | New Delhi

tion between the countries given India's infrastructure requirements and growing SME sector, joint ventures in Defence and regular exchange of perspectives on developments in the Indo-Pacific region to generate ideas for shared objectives of India-Korea cooperation's.

Ms Vijay Thakur Singh, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and **Mr Suresh Prabhu**, Prime Minister's Sherpa to the G7 and G20 Summits, addressed the delegations and interacted with them on various aspects of this crucial bilateral partnership. ■

Below L to R **Shin Bongkil**, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to India; **Ahn Choong Yong**, Distinguished Professor, Chung-Ang University/Formal Chairman, Korea Commission for Corporate Partnership (co-chair); **Vijay Thakur Singh**, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; **Naushad Forbes**, Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre and Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall (co-chair); **Surh Sung-yol**, Auditor-General, The Korea Foundation/former Ambassador to the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire



Above The delegations from India and South Korea at the Dialogue in New Delhi



Left Suresh Prabhu, Prime Minister's Sherpa to the G7 and G20 Summits (left) in conversation with dialogue co-chair **Naushad Forbes**, Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre and Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall

Israel, Iran and the Arabs: The Middle East of the 21st Century

Professor Asher Susser, Professor Emeritus of Middle Eastern History, Tel Aviv University addressed sessions on Israel, Iran and the Arabs: The Middle East of the 21st Century in New Delhi and Pune.

The discussions focused on how the Middle East of the 21st century had broken away from its past and was dominated by the non-Arab states of Iran, Turkey and Israel. The relative decline of crucial Arab states of the 20th century, such as Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia had created political and economic difficulties and could potentially

1 May 2019, Delhi
3 May 2019, Pune

impact heterogeneous Arab societies and influence regional politics.

The session in Delhi was chaired by **Mr Nikhil Sawhney**, Co-chair, India Israel Forum and Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Triveni Turbine and Director, Triveni Engineering. The public sessions in Pune were held in collaboration with Savitribai Phule University and the Pune International Centre (PIC). Former **Ambassador Gautam Bambawale** chaired the session at PIC. ■



Left Asher Susser, Professor Emeritus of Middle Eastern History, Tel Aviv University (left) and **Nikhil Sawhney**, Co-chair, India Israel Forum and Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Triveni Turbine and Director, Triveni Engineering (right) in New Delhi.



Left Gautam Bambawale, former Ambassador of India to Bhutan, China & High Commissioner to Pakistan and Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre

Ambassador Series

AMBASSADOR SERIES is a flagship programme of Ananta Aspen Centre. It is a unique platform for interaction with the heads of foreign missions in India. The invited Ambassador delivers a keynote address and sessions are focussed on the current relations between India and the respective country and the opportunities and challenges ahead. ■

Right Nils Ragnar Kamsvag, Norwegian Ambassador to India (left) and **Ashok Sajjanhar**, former Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan, Sweden and Latvia; President, Institute of Global Studies and Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre



Above left Ron Malka, Ambassador of Israel to India (left) and **Indrani Bagchi**, Diplomatic Editor, The Times of India
Above right High Commissioner Nadir Patel, High Commissioner of Canada to India
Left Andre Aranha Correa do Lago, Ambassador of Brazil to India (left) and **Pramit Pal Chaudhuri**, Foreign Editor, Hindustan Times, and Distinguished Fellow & Head, Strategic Affairs, Ananta Aspen Centre

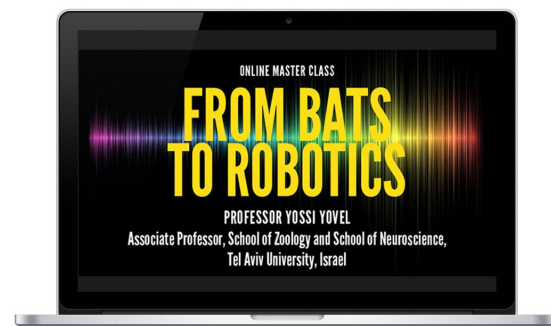
Online Masterclass

Organised under the aegis of India-Israel Forum, jointly convened by Ananta Aspen Centre, Confederation of Indian Industry and Tel Aviv University of Israel, the ONLINE MASTER CLASS SERIES was an initiative to promote academic linkages between India and Israel by enhancing technical knowledge and awareness about emerging technologies among college students in India.

More than a million students in India are joining the workforce every year. Education systems over the world are trying to cope up with the speed at which technological changes take place. Under this backdrop, the focus of these classes were to provide opportunity to students to understand emerging trends in technology, global standards, practices and capacity building in the field of emerging technologies.

The participating students had the opportunity to attend Four Master Classes conducted by leading experts in emerging technologies from international faculty to understand contemporary trends and dynamics in the global technology front. Israel is at the forefront of technological research and experts taking the Classes were all leading Faculty members from Tel Aviv University.

These Masterclasses were targeted at students from technical institutions and over 500 students from 34 universities and colleges spread across India attended all the classes. The series was supported by Triveni Turbine Limited. ■



Foreign Policy Webinar Series

India and the Great powers

by Ambassador P S Raghavan, Chairman, National Security Advisory Board, Government of India and Former Ambassador of India to Russia

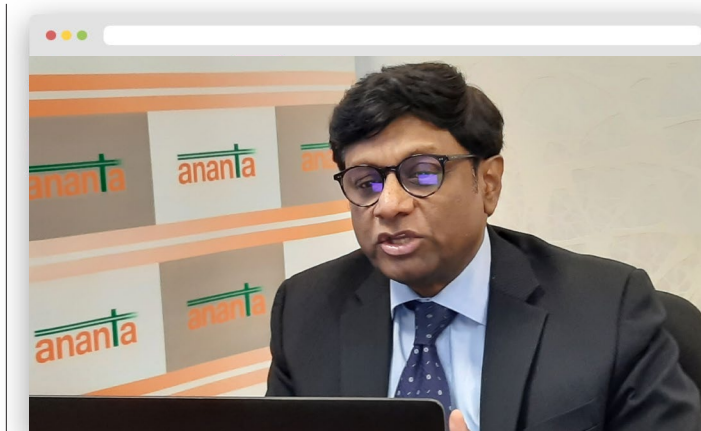


Recent years have seen an extraordinary flux in global geopolitics. This course of relations between the US, Russia and China has created new ground realities across geographies. It has had a major influence on the churn in Europe, conflicts in West Asia, tensions in South Asia and uncertainties in the Indo-Pacific. It has impacted on the foreign policy strategies of countries seeking to further their national interests by preserving strategic autonomy.

The webinar examined the emerging power triangle between India, China and US and what India needs to do to navigate the changing international power politics. ■

Tenets of India's Trade Policy

by Ambassador (Dr.) Mohan Kumar, Chairman of Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and Former Ambassador to France



India's trade policy rests on two fundamental assumptions. One, the "Mahatma Gandhi litmus test" which is that whatever the Government does, it cannot leave citizens in extreme poverty worse off than before. Two, the overriding preference of the Government to retain as much policy space as possible. These two articles of faith can help understand the Government of India's decisions on international negotiations.

India depended heavily on the security and predictability provided by the MFN-based multilateral trading system embodied by the WTO. Now that the MFN-based, WTO-anchored multilateral trading system is close to extinction, the question for India is how it can flourish in this environment. The future of international trade appears to be decidedly moving towards FTAs

or preferential trading arrangements. It is hard to see how India can buck this trend. Against this backdrop, India's decision to pull out of RCEP has profound consequences.

The webinar examined what India had to do to find its legitimate status as a big Asian trading player and to fulfil the goal of a 5 Trillion Dollar economy. ■

Public Policy



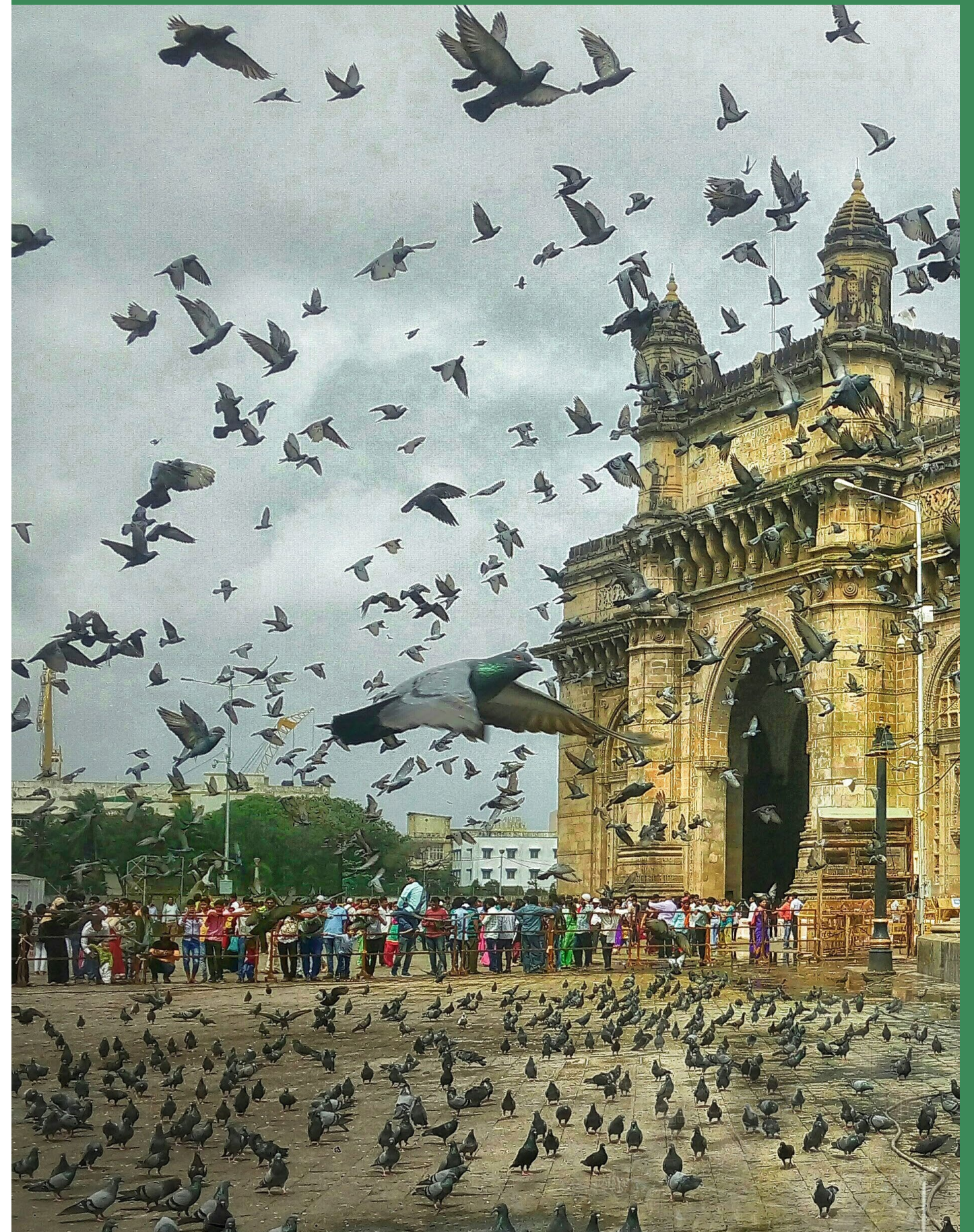
Closed Door



Public sessions

India has a strong people's voice. Multiple worldviews and perspectives co-exist and add to the robustness of the democracy. Ananta Aspen Centre works to build strong, non-partisan dialogue platforms that make space for these different viewpoints.

These forums bring together leaders from all walks of life to examine critical issues facing the country, table their viewpoints and explore solutions in the spirit of shared responsibility. Some of these dialogues are long standing and others are in the form of public sessions.



What are the Priorities for Economic Growth for India 2019/20?

The Ananta Aspen Centre organized a session on “What are the Priorities for Economic Growth for India 2019/20?” on 25th June 2019 at the India International Centre in New Delhi.

The discussion was organized at the end of the first quarter 2019/20 and two weeks prior to the unveiling of the union budget. The Centre brought together a dream team of India’s finest economic thinkers, who have all held the office of the Chief Economic Advisor, to deliberate the priorities for India’s economic growth.

At the session **Dr Shankar Acharya**, Honorary Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), **Mr Nitin Desai**, Chairman, The Energy & Resource Institute and Trustee, Ananta Centre and **Dr Rakesh Mohan**, Senior Fellow at the Jackson Insti-

**25 June 2019,
New Delhi**

tute for Global Affairs, Yale University and Distinguished Fellow at Brookings India had clear recommendations of what should be done for India to stay on the path of a robust economic growth. The conversation was very ably moderated by **Mr Tarun Das**, Chairman, Institute of Economic Growth and Founding Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre. ■

Below L-R Nitin Desai, Shankar Acharya, Rakesh Mohan and Tarun Das



What are the Priorities for Economic Growth for India 2019/20? The Union Budget and After

After the overwhelming response of the previous session on Economy and Policy, the Ananta Aspen Centre organized another session on Economy and Policy – “What are the Priorities for Economic Growth for India 2019/20? The Union Budget and After” on 1st August 2019 at the WWF auditorium in New Delhi.

The Centre brought together an outstanding panel to deliberate the priorities for India’s economic growth in light of the recently released Union Budget; two of whom have held the office of the Chief Economic Advisor.

The session featured **Mr AK Bhattacharya**, Editorial Director, Business Standard, **Mr Nitin Desai**, Chairman, The Energy & Resource Institute and Trustee, Ananta Centre and **Dr Rakesh Mohan**, Senior Fellow at the Jackson Institute for Global

**1 August
2019,
New Delhi**

Affairs, Yale University and Distinguished Fellow at Brookings India. It was moderated by **Mr Tarun Das**, Chairman, Institute of Economic Growth and Founding Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre.

The focus of the discussion was on the key issues and policies to bring about a higher growth rate. The panel gave their diagnosis on what are the issues burdening the Indian economy and what can be done to put India on to a new growth trajectory. ■

Below L-R AK Bhattacharya, Nitin Desai, Rakesh Mohan and Tarun Das



8th C K Prahalad Memorial Lecture by Mr Jamshyd N Godrej

Mr Jamshyd N Godrej, Chairman, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited delivered the 8th CK PRAHALAD MEMORIAL LECTURE on 'Climate Crisis and Biodiversity Preservation Challenge: Role of Industry and Civil Society' on August 10, 2019 in Coimbatore.

CK Prahalad Memorial Lecture is an annual event jointly organised by Ananta Aspen Centre and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to commemorate the legacy and contribution of Late Professor CK Prahalad to shaping the idea of India as a morally, economically and technologically advanced nation, capable of leading the world. Professor Prahalad, held as amongst the finest thinkers of his time, was the Paul and Ruth McCracken Distinguished University Professor of Corporate Strategy at University of Michigan, Stephen M. Ross School of Business. He was invested in eradicat-

10 August 2019, Coimbatore

ing poverty; his book "The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid: Eradicating Poverty through Profits" changed the market paradigm for businesses.

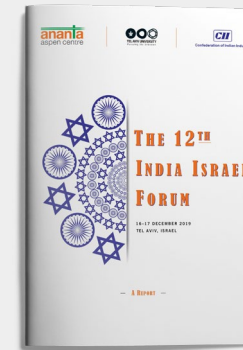
This edition is the 8th in the series of lectures organised earlier at different locations. The theme of this lecture is inspired with the ongoing global clout on an issue that is affecting the world over.

The lecture covered diverse issues like green buildings, and saving energy from getting depleted by considering at alternative energy endowments harnessed by different countries. ■

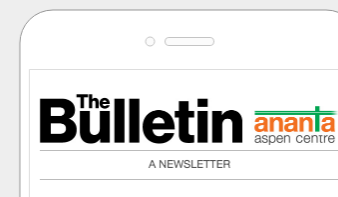
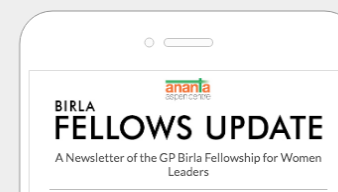
Below Jamshyd N Godrej (left) and Naushad Forbes at the lecture



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