

REFLECTIONS 2017



ANNUAL REPORT
2017/18

A multicultural society does not reject the culture of the other but is prepared to listen, to see, to dialogue and, in the final analysis, to possibly accept the other's culture without compromising its own.

– Reuven Rivlin



Message from the Chairman

CONSTRUCTIVE COMMUNICATION is fundamental to a robust democracy. The process of expressing differing views leads to comprehensive awareness and confers legitimacy on policies. At Ananta Aspen Centre we are proud to contribute to the larger national discourse through our events and publications. Our initiatives are the result of a sustained effort to help influencers reach consensus through dialogue and debate.

Under our foreign policy pillar this year, we successfully convened four Track II Dialogues with Singapore, Israel, South Korea and the United States of America. The interactions during the dialogues were rich, thought provoking and constructive.

Our flagship values-based leadership programme, the Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship has creditably completed its sixth edition. The Shri Ram Ananta Aspen Leadership School programme completed its seventh successful year. Following their successes, several more dynamic programmes for leadership development were initiated this year. The Emerging Leaders Programme is aimed at the college going youth and aims to uncover the hidden leader within. A programme for young women leaders from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities is helping them reach professional and personal success through enlightened introspection and a spirit of collaboration.

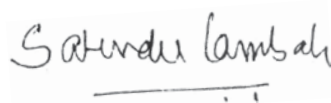
With the ASEAN – India Leaders Fellowship, we have

successfully linked our foreign policy initiatives to our leadership work. This programme aims to hone the values-based leadership skills of young leaders from the ten ASEAN countries and India.

Roundtables to examine the road ahead for data privacy and data protection in India are particularly relevant in the context of a digital economy. Under Public Policy, I would also like to mention the Entrepreneurship Series, which focused on the rejuvenation of the entrepreneurship ecosystem in India. Having clear and strong policies that lead to a robust entrepreneurship ecosystem is imperative for our country.

These programmes are especially critical for India at this juncture and our demography dictates we have more such initiatives. We are also working on a more holistic set of programmes for our universities to promote the culture of values-based leadership, dialogue and debate.

2017 has been a remarkable year for the Ananta Aspen Centre. We look forward to doing more in 2018, with your continued support



Ambassador Satinder K Lambah
Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre

This being free

■ Leadership in modern society



Bhairavi Jani
Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow
and Executive Director, SCA Group

From the days of the early Greeks who seeded the idea of a collective state, of a citizen led nation, there has been a continuous and intense transformation of the democratic state and its ethos. This evolution has not been without its pains and bloodshed, if you will. And the idea of a democratic state and polity has emerged from the fires of doubt, belief, conflict and confluence. Although the process has been in continuum for over millennia and in India we can trace its roots to the early Indus civilisations but at certain points in the timeline of history there have been significant and massive shifts in this idea of a democratic state.

The nature of the democratic polity and society is again at the crossroads of a massive shift currently. Whether it is climate change, technological advent, information sharing and communication, terrorism, radicalisation or the new global geopolitical order – everything has converged at this point in time in the history of mankind. This point, where you and I are not just living and breathing this transformation but are actively shaping it. The nature, the role, the constituents and the very being of a democratic society is going through one of its most significant transformation, right now!

The idea of a state that is of the people, for the people and by the people is under examination now. The role of the state, the citizen and the leaders who represent those citizens are all under debate now. At the heart of this debate is the very idea of a democratic polity, nation and state. And there is a larger and more difficult conversation waiting – in a democratic society who really is the State? What is its role? Who maketh the state? Who is responsible for society?

I once had the opportunity to witness a rich exchange between a young person and a business leader at a seminar. The youngster had asked similar questions and the answer he received was interesting – leaders, are responsible for

the society; we can all be leaders if we wish to. Leaders being a collective noun for people with the ability to influence a course of action.

There are no simple answers but I do think there is a section in the Mahabharata that offers a beautiful perspective.

Bhishma, lying on his bed of arrows in the middle of the battlefield, has a conversation with Yudhishtir, part of which involves the king and his duties. Bhishma offers that – a king like any other human being creates the times he lives in and not vice versa. However, the king through his governance also creates the times his society lives in. The conditions his actions create, determine the action of the people and sets in motion the great wheel of karma. Just as the karma of an individual influences his present, so does the collective karma of a society determine the collective times. In other words it is not some accident of history that determines the course of events but the logic of acts.

What is extraordinary for me in this nuanced exchange is that there is no ruler and no ruled. The king is just the first among equals, invested with power and therefore responsible for setting the tone of the times. And so it should be with the modern-day leaders. In the great machination of living together in a complex collective, each person must play his or her role – enact their dharma as it were. Each person is equally essential in keeping the wheels of society rolling. And therefore leadership is not something that is the destiny of a chosen few beyond the doors of access but every citizen can practice their own dharma and choose where they want to lead and contribute to the workings of the state. And yet we need people like Gandhi, Vivekananda and Mandela to show us the way sometimes, to lead us to a point where we can start searching for and finding and walking on our paths.

So what is the role of leaders in this complex society that we have evolved into? I think the fundamental role of leaders is to be the keepers of values. Shared values that are enshrined in the very foundations of the society and which are the DNA of a democratic state. Leaders therefore hold the trusteeship of these values that give a society its identity and its way of life.

Given the crossroads at which the democratic state is and many factors that are influencing it, leaders too are not unaffected by it. The push and pull of divergent views and values are also posing challenges for the leadership. And this leads to many a circumstance where values are at a risk of compromise or subversion. Compromising with a situation is not the same as compromising with values. No

I think the fundamental role of the leader is to be the keeper of values.

one should, especially leaders. It sets in motion the great wheel of cause and effect and also the tone of the times.

When we look at what is at the heart of current metamorphosis of a democratic state, it is driven by the unrealised potential of holistic inclusion. Inclusion that allows every human being in the society to realise his or her full potential. A kind of Poorna Swaraj that Gandhiji hoped for and a manifestation of Antyodaya that Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya foresaw. As a society led by a collective, we have not addressed inequity in all its aspects. There has been significant progress for access to education, health and livelihood. And there has been the success of the voting franchise for every Indian but if we dive deeply into the conundrum that impedes our society today we will soon discover that we need to create a mechanism for the access to leadership.

To allow every citizen who is an integral part of the state to wield their right and unleash their potential as leaders. This is only possible if leaders in the society take the plunge into the unknown deep waters for searching the answers and finding the pearls of wisdom and truth that can set us free one more time.

For this becoming free is not about one day when as a nation you gain independence and declare yourself free. This becoming free is a process of churn and transformation where a society and its people take the leadership of their democratic state as a matter of personal choice and endeavour, and practice resurrection to achieve freedom daily. For the 21st century India, being free cannot be a status of a polity, it should be a way of life that is practiced every moment by every citizen so as to set the tone of times and as Bhishma said to play our part in the great wheel of Karma.

Leadership Programmes

HIGHLIGHTS 2017

Ananta Eclectic Speaker Series *Guwahati*

The Ananta Eclectic Speaker Series is a collaboration between Ananta Aspen and the Eclectic Group that focuses on outreach in North East India. Tejpreet Singh Chopra, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow and President and CEO, Bharat Light & Power, spoke to Karma Paljor, Senior Consulting Editor, CNN News 18, on how to create an ecosystem for sustainable entrepreneurship.

Banyan Tree Dinners *Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai*

This series of dinner conversation is designed to introduce participants to Socratic Readings with moderated discussions. Invitees to this 'conversation with a purpose' are often nominated for the Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship.

Emerging Leaders *Wardha and Coimbatore*

This six-day residential seminar for outstanding college students encourages them to move from thought to action and discover the hidden leader within. Two classes were held in 2017, at Wardha and Coimbatore.



Ananta Aspen
Leadership Programmes
guide potential leaders
through a personal
journey of reflection so
that they can move from
thought to action.



The Shri Ram Ananta Aspen Leadership School 6th Edition

Rishikesh, May 19 - June 2, 2017

THE SHRI RAM ANANTA ASPEN LEADERSHIP SCHOOL is a two-week residential programme, for students of grades 9-12, held at Rishikesh every summer.

A flagship initiative of the Ananta Aspen Centre, it aims to build values-based leadership skills in the participants and helps them interpret complex ideas such as diversity, value and ethics.

The 2017 edition was attended by a diverse group of students from schools across the country.

The curriculum at the residential seminar comprises of Socratic Readings, theatre, social work commitment, communication and soft skills, yoga, team building exercises, motivational lectures and adventure sports.





As part of this leadership programme, the students are required to initiate a project in their respective communities. Here is Joel Sebastian's story.

Singing against starvation

By his own admission, the 14 days he spent at the leadership camp in the summer of '16, changed Joel Joseph Sebastian's attitude to life.

When a tiny hungry girl asked him for food, he did not stop at just feeling terrible. Instead, he decided to do something about it.

Thus was born, Singing against Starvation - a band that holds concerts and donates the proceedings to charities working with the poor and the needy.

Joel and talented band believe that resources realize their optimum value when they reach those that need them the most. However, the reason for instituting the band is somewhat larger. "We are doing this not just for charity but to inspire other youngsters," says the wise young Joel.



Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship 2017

THE KAMALNAYAN BAJAJ FELLOWSHIP seeks to create a diverse community of values-based, action-oriented leaders for India. It identifies entrepreneurial leaders from business, government and civil society and helps them connect with their potential to lead change.

Four seminars spread over a year help the participants move from *'success to significance'* and from *'thought to action'*.





A Fellow's Initiative

Manoj Kumar, a Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow, heads the Naandi Foundation which works to transform the lives of adivasi families in the hilly region of Araku, in Andhra Pradesh.

The organisation has helped make the region synonymous with world-class coffee. The produce retails in Paris as Araku coffee. This coffee cultivation initiative has both, helped reverse climate change in the area as well as lift the tribals from poverty.

Additionally, with the active participation of the farmers, over 10 million diverse fruit trees have been planted. This has transformed the eco-fragile region into the world's largest biodynamic agriculture hub spread across 1500 square kilometres.

Manoj is now spearheading the replication of the Araku model in Vidarbha, Maharashtra where, instead of coffee, the focus is on pomegranate.





■ OTHER LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES AT A GLANCE



ABOVE

Be Bold for Change, New Delhi, brought together four trend-setting women to discuss the struggle of challenging the status quo in a society where women's role is constantly undermined.

LEFT

Ananta Everest Speakers Series: 'An Inside View on the Middle East: Emerging Opportunities and Challenges for Indian Business' by Amb. Talmiz Ahmad, Adviser, West Asia & North Africa, Ananta Centre moderated by Abheek Singhi, Senior Partner & Director-The Boston Consulting Group.





LEFT

CK Prahalad Memorial Lecture, Bangalore. Nandan Nilekani, Chairman, EkStep and ex-Chairman of UIDAI delivered the 6th lecture. Among other things, he spoke on how big data could create an investment cycle leading to growth and jobs. He also mentioned that India could go from a data poor to data rich nation in three years.

BELOW

A programme for the teachers of St. Mary's School, Pune. This was held to help them connect with the Socratic Dialogue methodology and adapt it to their curriculum.



Let my soul awake

■ Introspecting in modern India



James Abraham

Chairman, Leadership Committee,
Ananta Aspen Centre and
Founder and Director, SolarAries

*Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
Where knowledge is free
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
By narrow domestic walls
Where words come out from the depth of truth
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards
perfection
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit
Where the mind is led forward by thee
Into ever-widening thought and action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country
awake.*

Most of us remember having to memorize this from our school days. At that time it was a chore, but somehow the calling of this poem has been a constant companion. It captured our dreams for India, for our country. Its images were our visions. Its ideas were our touchstones.

As we approach the 75th anniversary of our independence, we must ask if we are nearer or farther from Tagore's vision.

Every line is an indictment. The rich have access to knowledge and information the rest cannot afford. We have divided ourselves along lines of community, religion, gender, and economics. We speak of changes needed in our land, but strive only to preserve our habits. And truth is relative, used only for advantage.

How well has India used our seventy-plus years as a nation?

... But that's the wrong question. Consider the story of the Maharajah of Nawanagar.

At the dawn of World War 2, over six hundred women and children from Poland found their way to India. There are differing accounts on how they reached the shores of

Jamnagar in Gujarat. Some say they came from Russian Siberia, on their long way home after Russia shut down the labour camps. They found no rest until they reached Gujarat in India. Some say they were put on a ship to escape oppression. The ship sailed from port to port, through Europe, parts of Africa and Central Asia. They were rejected at every port. They finally sailed into Mumbai harbour, where the British governor of India refused them entry because he had no instructions from London.

All accounts agree on the story of one person, the Maharajah Jam Saheb Digvijaysinhji of Nawanagar. He was moved by the condition of these rejected women and children. Though facing opposition from the British rulers, he gave them shelter in his own home. He told the refugees that this was their home and he was their family. When the British viceregal of Delhi objected to giving sanctuary to these foreigners, the Maharajah said they were his children and he produced adoption papers to support his claim.

He brought in cooks to feed them and set up schools with free education. He built homes and communities to move them out of the refugee camps. They celebrated birthdays and christmases as one family.

The Maharajah's actions led the way for many refugees to find sanctuary in India, welcomed by a people who were far from xenophobic.

The Maharajah lived the ideal of Tagore's India. He rejected the 'dead habits' of many rulers around the world. He embraced the truth that there are no walls between people. We are one family. He didn't rest on these ideals, but stretched himself to act.

The Maharajah understood something about Tagore's poem that I'm now beginning to see. That poem is not about our country. It's not a call to our nation to rise up and be free.

An India of Tagore's ideal is impossible without people of Tagore's ideal. Every line is an indictment. If there are

The rich have access to knowledge and information the rest cannot afford. We have divided ourselves along lines of community, religion, gender, and economics. We speak of changes needed in our land, but strive only to preserve our habits. And truth is relative, used only for advantage.

narrow domestic walls, they were created in my mind. If truth is selective, it is my choice. If we are stuck in the desert sand of dead habit, it's because I am too afraid to embrace the clear stream of reason. This is a call to my soul.

The right question is ... how well have I used the years of my life?

Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my soul awake.

Public Policy Dialogues

HIGHLIGHTS 2017

Discussion with Dr. Meeran Chadha Borwankar, IPS, *New Delhi*

In a conversation with Tarun Das, Founder Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre, Dr. Meeran Chadha Borwankar, former Director General, Bureau of Police Research and Development, discussed contemporary issues regarding the relationship between the police, public and the political elite.

Dialogue on Right to Privacy *Bangalore and New Delhi*

Two roundtables examined the road ahead for privacy and data protection in India. A diverse group of 30 experts discussed how judicial and regulatory processes could interact in building a data protection law for India and, what such a law might look like. The session was conducted in partnership with Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow Mishi Choudhary, CEO of SLFC.in.

Roundtable on Drug Abuse *New Delhi*

Drug abuse has reached alarming proportions in some parts of the country. This closed door roundtable focused on policy areas that need to be strengthened and the reforms required to tackle drug addiction and rehabilitation in India.



Ananta Aspen Public Policy dialogues facilitate information exchange and consensus building between influencers from different stakeholder groups on challenging issues facing the country.



Ananta IEF Workshops New Delhi

The Ananta-IEF Entrepreneurship Series 2017

This comprised a series of four discussions on how rejuvenating India's entrepreneurship ecosystem could reignite the spark of self reliance across all segments of society and help achieve Gandhi's vision of complete independence or Poorna Swaraj.

The sessions were attended by leading names from businesses, civil society, media and academia.



Ananta-IEF Entrepreneurship Series

POORNA SWARAJ THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

5th October | New Delhi





ABOVE & LEFT

The IEF workshops saw both, the tabling of interesting perspectives from leaders in the space and innovative ideas from future entrepreneurs.



ABOVE

An Urgent Deliberation about Dialogue in our Democracy, New Delhi. Arun Maira speaking at the roundtable.

LEFT

Roundtable on Data Privacy, New Delhi. A closed door session in progress.



The importance of Track II dialogues in a changing world



Jamshyd N Godrej
Chairman, Ananta Centre and
Chairman of the Board,
Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing
Company Limited

Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.

- Chief Seattle, Duwamish Tribe, (1780-1866)

There never has been a time when these words have rung truer. We have become a somewhat solipsistic world; our thinking determined by the narrow lens of our own worldview. We have evolved in material terms, but when it comes to expanding our minds we seem to have regressed. Thinking up new technologies is not necessarily a sign of intellectual progress.

I don't need to get into the state of the world today to illustrate this point. There's enough happening for every sane person to start caring about putting not just their house, but also the world in order. Which means it is time we started engaging with our country's response to a changing world.

Traditionally, diplomacy has been the domain of a niche group of trained professionals who operate behind closed doors. This is both necessary and needed; formal talks between countries are structured and require skill and discipline. But the very structure that aids discipline also limits the depth of exchange. Which brings me to the concept of Track II diplomacy and its importance in current times. Across the world, there is now a shift in the way relationship between countries are being conducted. Track II diplomacy pertains to discussions between influencers from two countries - people from the civil society, industry,

In a conflicted world, initiatives such as Track II dialogues broaden the range of stakeholders in the dialogue process and help break the barriers between opposite groups.

media and think tanks. These talks have agendas similar to the government but the manner in which they are held is quite different.

Track II diplomacy permits deep and nuanced discussions that allow for complexities. It helps both parties delve deep into the psychology of the other side. This often helps talks move towards impact on people. Policies should be about people; a nation, by itself, is just a cold and common noun.

In a conflicted world, initiatives such as Track II dialogues broaden the range of stakeholders in the dialogue process and help break the barriers between opposite groups.

India's tryst with Track II began in 2002 when the Indo-US relationship was just beginning to thaw post the Cold War. The going was not easy; there was skepticism and misconceptions on both sides. However, the nature of the dialogue allowed candid discussions that focussed on the way ahead.

Infact, the dialogue was where the idea of a bilateral nuclear agreement was first seeded; it went on to become a reality during the George W. Bush administration. The Indo-US nuclear agreement served to break the deep distrust New Delhi had developed regarding Washington during the Cold War.

It is important to note that Track II does not have an agenda that is independent from that of the government. What it has, however, is the freedom of an unfettered conversation. In that sense Track II supplements Track I dialogues with insights and perspectives and thereby contributes to more strategic relationships.

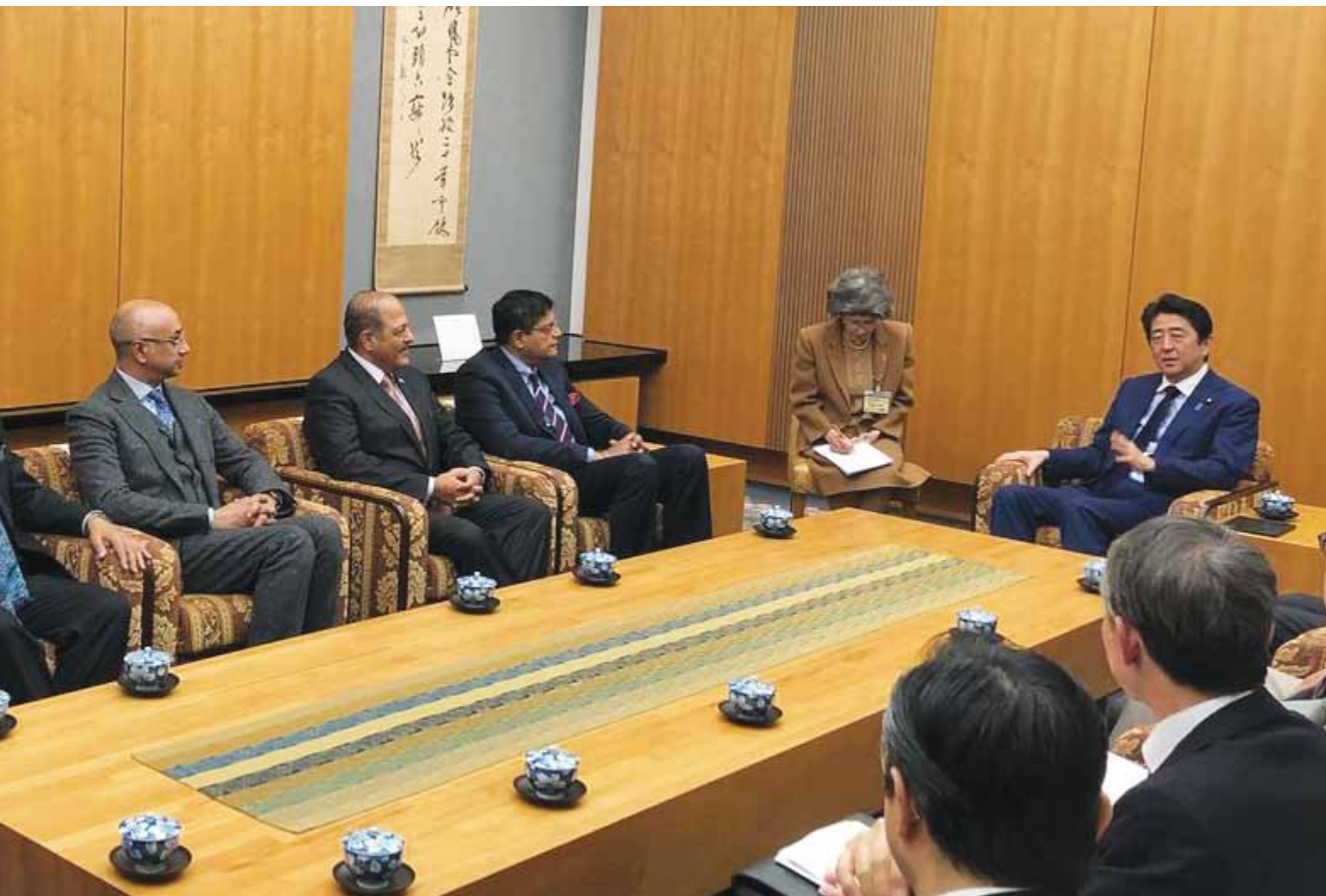
Moral of the story, on your way to the world center stage, when things go off course it is best to change tracks. Not in terms of agenda but in the manner of diplomacy.

Foreign Policy Dialogues

HIGHLIGHTS 2017

Ananta Aspen Foreign Policy dialogues facilitate nuanced talks between influencers from India and other countries so that they can inform policies back home.





ABOVE

A closed door session with the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

FAR LEFT

Dr. Henry Kissinger, Former National Security Adviser, USA (centre) interacting with the Indian delegation.

LEFT

Interaction with Goh Chok Tong, Emeritus Senior Minister, Singapore.



India-US Track II Dialogue on Climate Change and Energy, New Delhi

THE INDIA-US TRACK II DIALOGUE on Climate Change and Energy held its seventh meeting in New Delhi, India.

Convened by the Ananta Aspen Centre India and the Aspen Institute, US, this initiative has been bringing together a diverse group of thought leaders from India and the US to inform and encourage India-US partnership on climate and energy issues, at a strategic level. The 2017 dialogue focussed on the clean energy transitions occurring in both countries at the national and sub-national level.





EXCERPTS FROM THE JOINT STATEMENT

It is very important that we preserve and defend the Paris agreement in its essence and spirit through national and sub-national cooperation.

India and US should continue to work together productively as leaders to address the challenges and opportunities in clean energy and climate change.

There is tremendous potential for cooperation between India and the US on the Research and Development of EVs especially in producing cost-efficient technology and, electrochemistry and manufacturing.

A cooperative programme or forum between stakeholders in the US and India, interested in carbon cap and trade programmes, could create a platform to share knowledge on implementing a regional or state-level carbon tax and scale efforts up in the future.



India-Japan Strategic Dialogue , Tokyo

THE INDIA-JAPAN TRACK II DIALOGUE was held in Tokyo, on the 23rd and the 24th of May 2017, under the co-chairmanship of Yoshiyuki Kasai, Chairman Emeritus Central Japan Railway Company and Tarun Das, Founding Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre.

This was the third meeting of the India Japan Strategic Dialogue. The meetings noted how political stability in both the countries was enabling steady reforms and international partnership between like-minded countries. It also affirmed the importance of both the countries working to ensure stability and freedom in the Indo-Pacific region.

EXCERPTS FROM THE JOINT STATEMENT

Support for bilateral relationship remains nonpartisan in both the countries. If anything, support at the political and public level for the relationship is increasing.

India and Japan should explore the possibility of coordinating their natural gas purchases with an eye to improved price stability and lower overall prices.

The announcement of Asia-Africa Growth Corridor involving the Indian Ocean littoral African countries was welcomed as evidence of the potential in Indo-Japanese collaboration in third countries.

BELOW

L to R: Yoshiyuki Kasai, Chairman Emeritus, Central Japan Railway Company, Kazuhiro Sugita, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, Japan, BJ Panda, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and Tarun Das, Founding Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre.





ABOVE

Members of the India-Japan Strategic Dialogue in Tokyo, Japan.

LEFT

Amb. SK Lambah, Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre & Former Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of India with Hirofumi Katase, Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan.





LEFT

L to R: Atul Punj, Member, India-Japan Business Leaders Forum & Chairman, Punj Lloyd Limited, Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry, Katsuyuki Kawai, Special Adviser for Foreign Affairs to President Shinzo Abe of the Liberal Democratic Party and, Kiran Pasricha, Chief Executive Officer, Ananta Aspen Centre at the India-Japan Strategic Dialogue.



LEFT

Members of the Indian Delegation at the India-Japan Strategic Dialogue.

BELOW

Takeo Akiba, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, with Sujan R.Chinoy, Ambassador of India to Japan.



India-Korea Strategic Dialogue, New Delhi

THE 16TH INDIA-KOREA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE, co-convened by the Ananta Aspen Centre and the Seoul Forum for International Affairs, was held in New Delhi India. The Dialogue was held in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and the Korea Foundation.

The purpose of this dialogue was to highlight the opportunities and challenges of strengthening India-Korea bilateral relations and to provide concrete policy recommendations and suggestions in this regard.

EXCERPTS FROM THE JOINT STATEMENT

In the face of the fast changing security landscape, Korea and India may make collective effort to cope with traditional and non traditional security challenges (including cybersecurity) in both regional and global settings.

Both sides acknowledged job creation as the utmost important policy goal of the two countries.

The participants agreed to identify specific targets for culture and people flow :

- Give high priority to cultural exchange
- Increase the total number of tourists to 1 million
- Increase the total number of exchange of students to 5,000 with special focus on science and technology





LEFT

L to R: BJ Panda, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Dr. Jung Ku-Hyun, President, The Seoul Forum for International Affairs, Dr. Naushad Forbes, Co- Chairman, Forbes Marshall, Dr. Ahn Choong Yong, Chair, Korea Commission of Corporate Partnership, Gaddam Dharmendra, Joint Secretary (PP & R), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Tarun Das, Founding Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre at a Session on "India- Korea Relations in a Changing Global Environment".



FAR LEFT

Members of the Korean Delegation at the India-Korea Strategic Dialogue.

LEFT

Preeti Saran, Secretary East, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of India with Dr. Naushad Forbes, Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall.





TOP LEFT

Members of the 16th India-Korea Strategic Dialogue, New Delhi.

TOP RIGHT

Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, addressing the participants.

LEFT

RK Singh, Minister of State, Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India, interacting with the Korean Members of the 16th India-Korea Strategic Dialogue.



India-Israel Strategic Dialogue, Tel Aviv

THE TENTH MEETING OF THE INDIA ISRAEL FORUM was held on 13th of November 2017, in Tel Aviv. As the two countries commemorate 25 years of engagement, the Forum alongside celebrated 10 years of this Track II initiative. From what was described as “non-relations”, India-Israel relationship has evolved into the most enduring one and this Forum is privileged to make its modest contributions towards strengthening this partnership.

SOME KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

India-Israel relations should be judged based on ideas rather than on trade value.

On geopolitical issues, India and Israel share different point of view with respect to Iran. There is an understanding in Israel about India’s position on Iran.

The bilateral trade in non-defence sector is \$4 billion and is stagnating. This needs to be promoted.

There was partnership in space cooperation in the past but this has gone slow for different reasons and needs a push.

India is developing a national campaign on water conservation in partnership with Israel. The latter will be visiting India soon to take this ahead.





LEFT

Shai Babad, Director General, Israeli Ministry of Finance, (second from right) addressing the member of the 10th India Israel Forum, Tel Aviv.



LEFT

Pavan Kapoor, Ambassador of India to Israel (second from right) addressing the members of the 10th India Israel Forum.

The US-India Strategic Dialogue, Washington D.C.

THE 22ND MEETING OF THE US-INDIA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE was held on October 12–14, 2017 in Washington D.C. The Members discussed the future of US India Strategic Partnership; changing economies and a new global outlook on trade; new strategies and challenges around Afghanistan and Pakistan; defense cooperation and India-China relations in a One Belt and One Road era.





ABOVE

R to L: The Co-Chairs of the US-India Strategic Dialogue BJ Panda, Prof. Joseph Nye and Prof. Condoleezza Rice with Amb. Richard Verma, Former Ambassador of USA to India.

FAR LEFT

Tulsi Gabbard, Member of US Congress (extreme right) interacting with the Indian delegation.

LEFT

The Indian delegation at the US-India Strategic Dialogue.

Enhancing India-Japan Relations: Visit of Indian Members of Parliament to Japan





JAPAN AND INDIA share a “Special Strategic and Global Partnership” and the relations between the two countries are of immense importance to each other and the world. From building industrial corridors in India to becoming the formal partner of the Malabar Exercise, a resurgent Japan and a transforming India could potentially reshape the Asian Strategic landscape.

In 2017, Ananta Aspen Centre, with the support of The Nippon Foundation, launched a project to strengthen India-Japan bilateral relationship by developing and promoting greater understanding and cooperation between Indian and Japanese policy makers, business leaders, media and academics. Several initiatives were undertaken during the year including the visit of Members of Parliament to Japan in February 2018.

The delegation was led by Baijayant Panda and the members included Jayadev Galla, Prem Das Rai, Bharatendra Singh and Vivek K Tankha. During the visit, the delegation called on Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Hiroshige Seko, Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry. The delegation also interacted with leading industry members, strategists and media in Japan.

LEFT
Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman, The Nippon Foundation with the delegation of Indian Members of Parliament and Harshit Sehgal, Senior Director, Ananta Aspen Centre.



LEFT
Taro Kono, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Japan, with the Indian Members of Parliament.

BELOW
L to R: Tarun Das, Founding Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre, Shinjiro Koizumi, Member, House of Representatives and Kiran Pasricha, Chief Executive Officer, Ananta Aspen Centre.





LEFT

BJ Panda, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and Hiroshige Seko, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan.

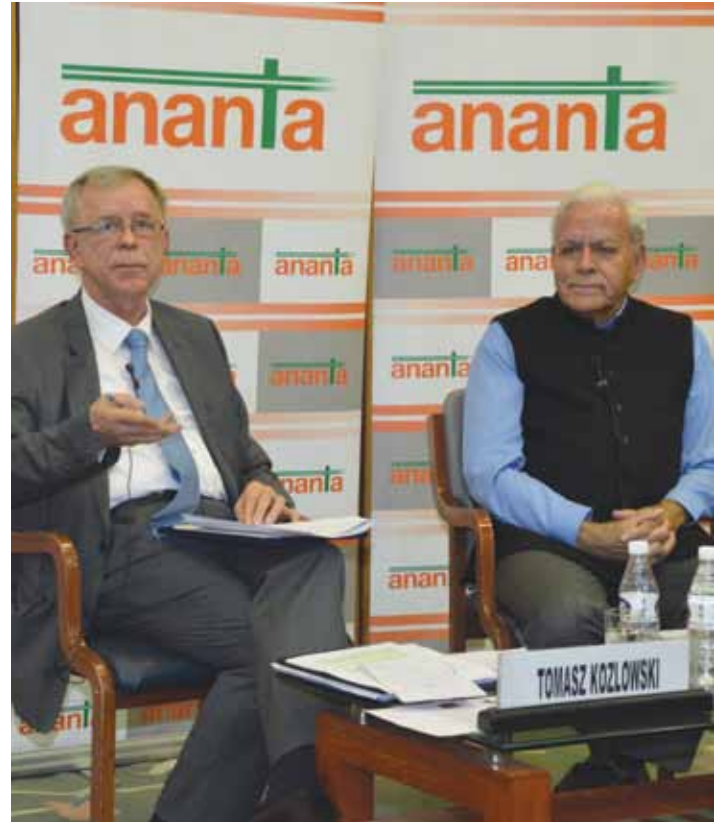
BELOW

L-R: Katsuyuki Kawai, Special Adviser for Foreign Affairs to President Shinzo Abe of the Liberal Democratic Party, Ichiro Kabasawa, Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation, BJ Panda, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha & Dr. Tomohiko Taniguchi, Special Adviser to the Cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Professor, Graduate School of System Design, Keio University at a session on 'India-Japan Ties in A Changing Global Environment', on 20th February 2018, Tokyo.



Ambassador Series

AT A TIME when the world is socially and politically unstable, leaders of society can play a strong role in ensuring peace and progress. Ananta Aspen Centre launched the Ambassador Series, in May 2017, to give a diverse group of stakeholders the unique platform to interact with the heads of foreign missions in New Delhi. Ambassadors of Germany, Israel, EU and Japan have spoken, thus far under this series.



ABOVE

Amb. Tomasz Kozlowski, Ambassador of the European Union to India and Amb. Ashok Sajjanhar, Former Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan, Sweden and Latvia at the session 'India-EU Relations: Can it be a Factor of Stability in an Uncertain World?'

LEFT

Amb. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India, speaking at the session on 'India and Japan: Towards a Higher Stage' chaired by BJ Panda, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha.





TOP

Dr. Martin Ney, Ambassador of Germany to India (second from right) speaking at the session 'India and Germany in the 21st century: Partners in an Uncertain World'.

LEFT

Amb. Daniel Carmon, Ambassador of Israel to India with Amb. SK Lambah, Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre and Former Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of India, at the session 'India and Israel: A Growing Partnership'.

‘The world economy: Watch out for the resilience tests’

Claude Smadja, President, Smadja & Smadja Strategic Advisory, gave his insights about the world economy in a discussion chaired by Ashok K Bhattacharya, Editorial Director, Business Standard. According to Claude Smadja, the world economy was entering a new phase and this called for equal measures of optimism and caution. He stated that some countries had done a bad job of handling globalization. He also said that if Indian companies did not opt for high-end technology like Artificial Intelligence, they stood the risk of being sidelined.



‘Can China Innovate?’

PROF. KRISHNA G PALEPU, Ross Graham Walker Professor of Business Administration and Senior Adviser to the President of Harvard University, USA, spoke at the session. He noted that the productivity of the Chinese was due to their investment in education, health, infrastructure and finance. He further observed that China focussed on people’s innovation and both welcomed as well as learnt from companies abroad. Shivshankar Menon, Former National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of India and Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, chaired the session.



‘India’s multi-alignment and Russia’s geopolitics: Recipe for discord?’

AMBASSADOR PS RAGHAVAN, Convenor, National Security Advisory Board and former Indian Ambassador to Russia and Ambassador SK Lambah, Chairman Ananta Aspen Centre led the discussion. They spoke of key Indian and Russian expectations from the bilateral partnership and reflected upon the divergent strategic objectives of India’s multi-alignment and Russia’s actions in our neighbourhood.

It was noted that both the nations had worked closely in the fields of space and nuclear capabilities along with defence, science and technology. There was also a joint recognition and belief in the concepts of Eurasian unity and multi-polarity in the world order. The strategic partnership with Russia gave an impulse to defence cooperation.



In the News

PM MODI'S US VISIT Public policy forum report says India needs to show how it can help US economy, including creating jobs in IT

Show What You Can Do for US: Aspen to India

Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India should highlight what it can do for the benefit of the United States, leading public policy forum Aspen India has said as part of a set of recommendations in a report on boosting bilateral ties that comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit to the US in the last week of this month.

At a time when President Donald Trump's trade against countries including India while pulling out of the Paris climate deal may have cast a shadow on the PM's visit, the report, a copy of which has been made exclusively available to ET, said India needs to bring to the table what it can do to contribute to the American economy including creating jobs in the IT sector.

Experts on India-US ties said the first meeting between PM Modi and President Trump, which the report said will be a "clean sheet meeting", will enable the two leaders to know each other better.

"India must show more resolve and confidence in dealing with the US. Need to get President Trump focus on India. It should not be diffident about pursuing its interests as a country nor should it be apologetic about its interests. India needs to get into US value chains and get their companies to invest in India. There is an increasing need to work on the ground level in addition to the strategic level," the report said.

India needs to package the positives vis-à-vis President Trump since the country is still a big importer of oil and gas, the report

Boosting Bilateral Ties

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IN DEFENCE SECTOR, India has a good foundation but there is always a greater promise of traction with the US

Indian IT industry in US is supporting more than **400,000** jobs

US Sees India as Major Defence Partner: Mattis

WASHINGTON: The US recognises India as a major defence partner partly out of respect for India's indispensable role in maintaining stability in the Indian Ocean region, US Defence Secretary James Mattis said. The US is exploring ways to address new challenges posed by spread of terrorism in SE Asia, Mattis said at Shangri-La Dialogue. PTI

recommended. "This is important for the US as it will be producing good white working class jobs," it said.

In defence sector, India has a good foundation but there is always a greater promise of traction with the US, the report suggested. India is the fourth largest buyer of weapons from the US. Referring to the contribution made by the Indian IT industry to US economy the report said, "The IT is a key sector in India-US relationship for a variety of reasons. There is a level of interdependency between the two countries. They need our market, we need their skills. Indian IT industry in US is supporting more than 400,000 jobs. While the growth in the job market in the US has been less than 2%, the growth in the IT sector has been close to 10% in the last few years. 85% Indian companies in the US have a concrete investment plan for the next five years."

Business Standard

Japanese PM, Indian delegation discuss security cooperation

THE 1. Tokyo (Reuters)
Last updated on February 17, 2019 16:28 IST

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Northwest is at heart of Act East policy: PM Modi

Northwest at heart of Act East Policy: Modi

ASEAN is important to India's Act East policy: MEA

India committed to enhance maritime cooperation with

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and a delegation of Members of Parliament on Monday here discussed maritime security cooperation, improving connectivity in the wider Indo-Pacific region, and strengthening cooperation with ASEAN.

The delegation led by Bajajant Jay Pande, a senior BJP janata Dal MP from Odisha, comprised of MPs

Guntur MP Galla Jayadev meets Japanese PM

DECCAN CHRONICLE
Published Feb 21, 2019, 6:38 am IST Updated Feb 21, 2019, 6:38 am IST

Mr Jayadev informed that the MPs forum visiting Japan from February 17 and they will stay in Japan till February 27.

Guntur: Guntur MP Galla Jayadev said that the team of MPs: Bajajant Pande, Dr Sugata Bose, Prem Das Rai, Bharatendra Singh and Rajya Sabha member Vivek K. Tankha met Japan Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe in Tokyo and discussed subjects of bilateral and strategic interest between the two countries.

DIPLOMATIC SQUARE

Editorial Theme Story News Face to Face Embassy Events Perspectives Visits

THEME STORY

Published on December 2, 2017 - Last updated

Korea – the land of the morning calm

09.12.2017: Yesterday at Delhi, a productive session on 10th India-Korea Strategic Dialogue was held by the Ananta Aspen Centre – the theme being 'India-Korea Relations in a Changing Global Environment'.

The level of discussion was a quite a few notches higher due to the presence of a very eminent panel including Tarun Dua, Founding Trustee and Former Member – CIL, Girdhar Dharwadkar, NGA, Alok Chandra Singh, Chair, Korea Committee of Corporate Partnership, Nandkishore Prabhu, Co-Chairman, Parbat Marshall, Jung Kw-Hyun, President, Seoul Forum for India Affairs and RJ Pande, Member of Indian Parliament.

The topics for discussion by the panelists were obvious but the most question that arose was, 'Despite of the great potential, why have India-Korean bilateral relations not kicked off?' despite the fact that both countries are natural partners with no historical baggage of the sort as will these down both countries share similar geo-political chances of a nuclear armed hostile

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Hindi News / खबरें / देश

जापान के PM आबे से मिला भारतीय MPs का दल, आसियान के मुद्दों पर चर्चा

भारत में कई ऐसे प्रोजेक्ट चल रहे हैं जो सीधे-सीधे जापान के साथ हुए समझौतों के बाद शुरू हुए हैं। मुंबई और गुजरात के बीच बुलेंट ट्रेन परियोजना में जापान एक अहम भूमिका अदा कर रहा है। वहीं सातवें चाइना सी में भी जापान की एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है।



सांसदों के साथ पीएम आबे



आशुतोष मिश्रा [Edited by: अनुग्रह मिश्र]
नई दिल्ली, 20 फरवरी 2018, अपडेट 04:17:15

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THE NEWS SCROLL

14 FEBRUARY 2018 | Last updated at 12:00 PM

Japanese PM, Indian delegation discuss security cooperation

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Tokyo (Japan), Feb 18 | Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and a delegation of Members of Parliament on Monday here discussed maritime security cooperation, improving connectivity in the wider Indo-Pacific region, and strengthening cooperation with ASEAN.

The delegation led by BJP's Jay Prakash Narayan (JPN) from Odisha, comprised of MPs from different political parties such as Bharatendra Singh from Bharatiya Janata Party, Vivek Tadga from the Congress Party, P.D. Rai from Shiksha Democratic Front and Jayadev Galla from the Telugu Desam Party.

The delegation is also scheduled to meet various high-ranking officials, businessmen, and political thought leaders.

SHEIN
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SHIPPING INFO:

MPs delegation meets Japan PM

OUR BUREAU

Guntur: An MPs delegation comprising Galla Jayadev, Rajyot Jay Prakash, Bharatendra Singh, Vivek Tadga and P.D. Rai met Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo and discussed subjects of bilateral and strategic interest between the two countries. They visited The Nippon Foundation Paralympic Support Centre in Tokyo and met the foundation chairman, Susukawa Sui and others. The Support Centre was established with an objective to promote Paralympic sports and encourage paralympic sports persons. It may be mentioned that in November 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Japan and met Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. In the meeting Shinzo Abe had said that the summit meeting was significant that substantially advanced the new era in Japan-India relations, and he hoped the two countries would lead the



Guntur MP Galla Jayadev with Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo on Tuesday

prosperity and stability of the Indo-Pacific region by coordinating the "Free and Open India and Pacific Strategy" and the "Act East" policy.

Wed., 21 February 2018
 e-paper: thehansindia.com/c/26428887

Japan lauds India 'resilience' on trijunction row

Indrani Bagchi
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Japan has welcomed the resolution on Doklam, saying it was India's "persistence and resilience" that resulted in a peaceful settlement.

Addressing thinktank Aspen Ananta Centre, the Japanese PM's foreign policy adviser Katsuyuki Kawai added, "Japan confronts every day Chinese expansionist behaviour."

Ahead of premier Shinzo Abe's visit to India next week, Kawai said Japan is looking for a "big leap" in its relationship with India. Kawai said Abe expected the three pillars of the India-Japan relationship to move forward substantively during his visit. First, on the high speed railway, Japan wants to move beyond the present Mumbai-Ahmedabad line which is expected to be done by 2023 to others (Delhi-Varanasi, for instance) which are currently under negotiation.

Security and defence cooperation is the second pillar, Kawai said, where the Malabar exercise is a "symbol of cooperation." Kawai made a strong pitch for Australia to be included in the exercise. Canberra has openly said it wants to be part of the Malabar exercises though India still has some reservations.

The third pillar, Kawai said, was joint development of defence equipment between India and Japan. This is significant, given the current regional security context.

Making a rare intervention, Kawai said, "The security environment around Japan (has) moved to a decidedly different phase."

The time has arrived he said, to consider the possibility of Japanese Self Defence Forces (SDF) acquiring cruise and ballistic missiles. On August 29 North Korea fired a missile over Japan, which has added to destabilisation of the region.

Kawai who is in India just days before Abe's visit here, said North Korea's nuclear test last Sunday is "unacceptable and unpardonable."

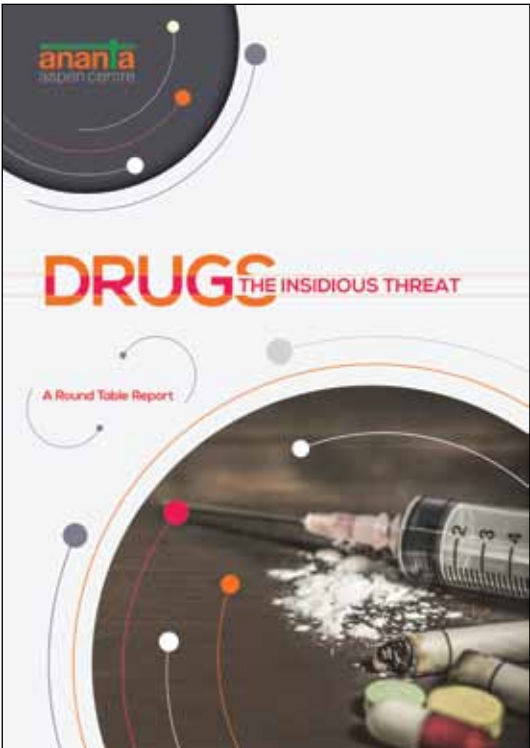
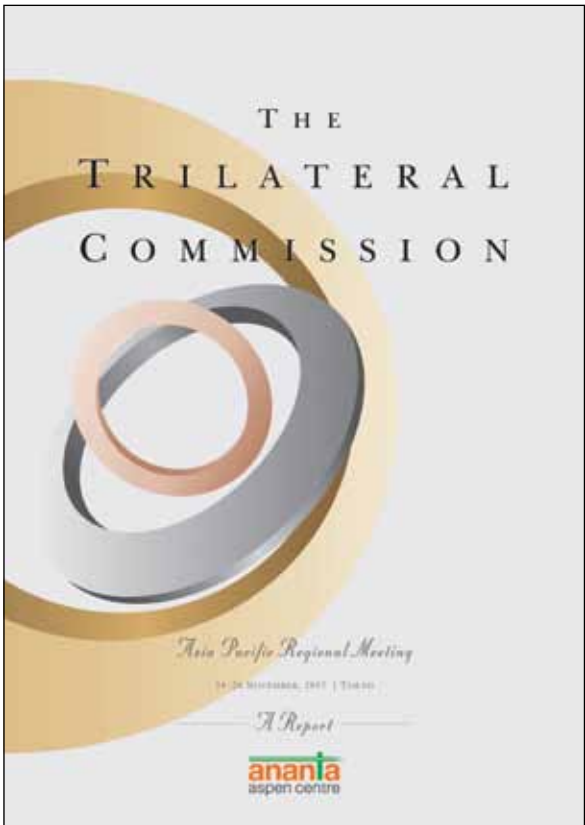
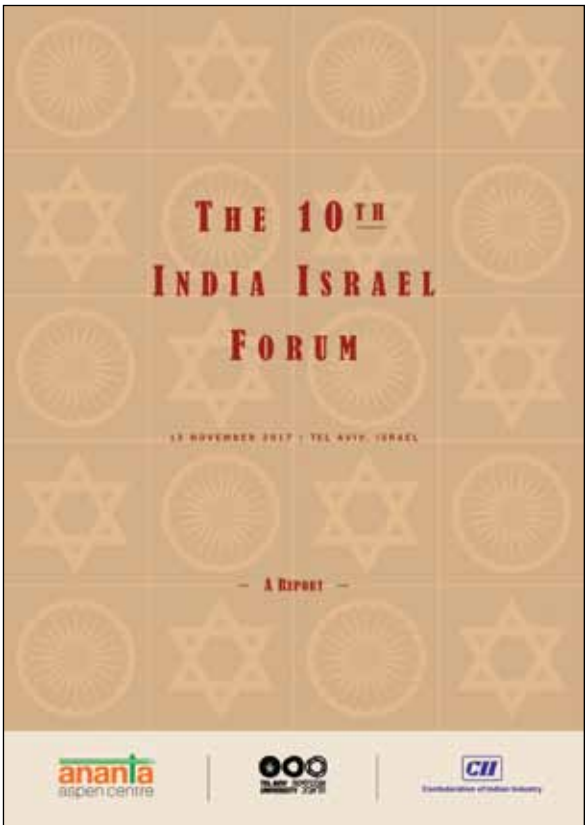
Kawai said he had delivered three messages to the US on behalf of Japan's PM: first, there should be no talks with DPRK now, only "effective pressure"; second, Japan "welcomed" Trump's announcement that "all options were on the table"; and third every action by DPRK should have a reaction.

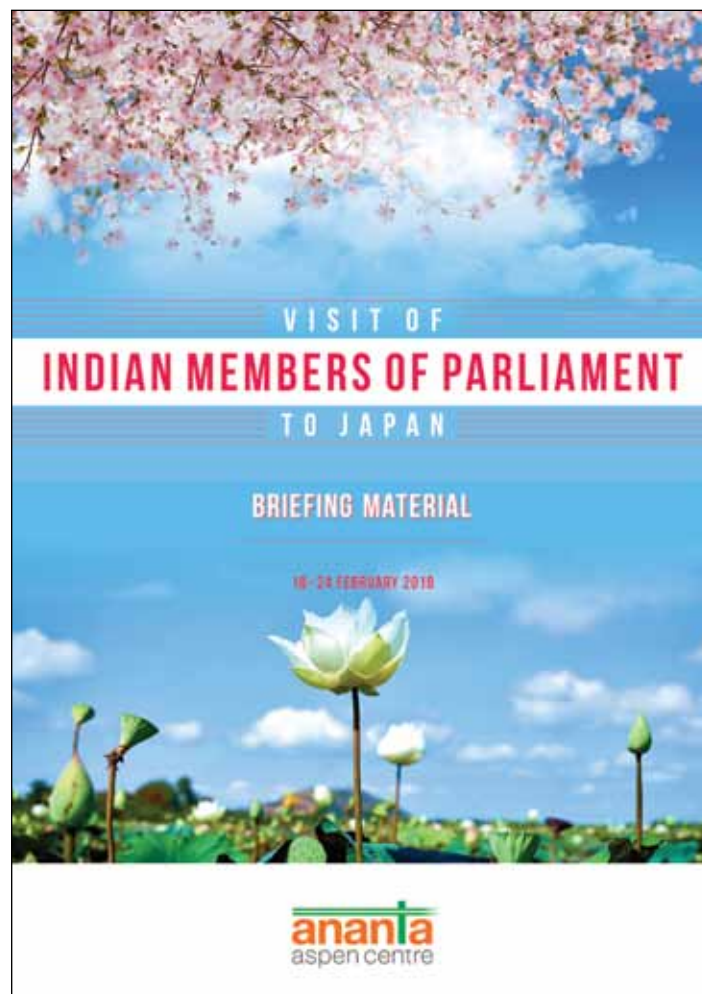
"We should be careful not to fall in the dialogue and negotiation trap."

Continuing, Kawai said, Kim Jong is neither under pressure, nor is he cornered. "Rather, Kim' has the upper hand, he is playing Xi Jinping." He is taking advantage of the fact that Xi does not want trouble before the 19th Chinese party congress.

But equally, he said, Kim's actions "help Xi achieve the desired outcome for himself and China by the US — the more provocative Kim becomes, the greater the value of China as a 'tamer' of the US." The US procrastination about naming China a currency manipulator is a prime example. In addition, China has a deep aversion to a unified Korea under US influence emerging on its doorstep, Kawai observed.

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