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— NAUSHAD FORBES

Ananta Aspen Centre
Annual Report
2020–21

Message from the Chairman



NAUSHAD FORBES

Dear Friends,

The year 2020 reset our lives. It has prompted a rethink of what matters to us most—in our lives, for our countries and the world around us.

We need to think of our grandchildren and the world they will inherit. What can we do differently? Can leaders across the world make changes for the better—marrying introspection with intent is a good way to begin.

I am happy to report that Ananta Aspen Centre in partnership with Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellows ran three brilliant digital dialogue series with this in mind. Being David focussed on the power to make a change that rests with every leader, no matter what the sphere of influence. Ome-las 2.0 was about recognizing the closeted problems in our society, while a third series called Practicing Resurrection was about elements of a better society.

Most of Ananta Aspen Centre’s Leadership Programmes stayed on track despite the constraints of the pandemic. They were held digitally and saw no decline either in numbers or engagement.

Our Track 2 Dialogues focussed, expectedly, on how to navigate the uncertain waters of the future. The pandemic has scarcely left any nation unscarred. Business, trade, lives and livelihoods have been significantly impacted across the world. Healthcare is stretched and there are tears in the fabric of society.

The priority for the world at this moment is clearly to heal itself and commit to a more equitable and sustainable future. The tone and tenor of our Track 1.5 and Track 2 Dialogues have been about the need for collective and considered action to this end.

“The quality of our future journey is in our hands. Let’s choose to make it a happy one by working together, drawing on the values that unify us as human beings regardless of our diverse origins.”

Our public policy sessions were about gearing up India for a new normal. These sessions aim to influence policy discourse in the country. The last year saw a particularly important series on India’s Migration Crisis. The migrant problem is a multi-faceted one involving social and economic factors. We need to look beyond labour laws and welfare schemes and focus on some big changes – making our cities healthier places for migrants to live in and more caring places to work in, rejuvenating rural economies, setting up public infrastructure and providing the governance needed to initiate this transformation. Pandemic or no, our police force is the frontline of every crisis. The ongoing series on policing in the pandemic brought to attention the initiatives and bravery of the men and women of the police force during this time. Our unwavering focus on gender equality continues with the Woman Speaks series.

The pandemic seems to be in no hurry to leave us. As I write this, a third wave is being predicted even as the country is trying to recover from our devastating and mishandled second. The quality of our future journey is in our hands. Let’s choose to make it a happy one by working together, drawing on the values that unify us as human beings regardless of our diverse origins.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Naushad' followed by a stylized flourish.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

STRATEGIC DIALOGUES

Strategic dialogues bring together various stakeholders, including governments, businesses, academia and civil society, to engage in open and frank discussions. They are a highly effective mechanism, aligned with India's foreign policy objectives, to strengthen India's relations with other countries.



23rd US-India Strategic Dialogue

MARCH 23-24, 2021 / This Dialogue is co-convened by Ananta Aspen Centre, the Aspen Strategy Group and the Confederation of Indian Industry. It was initiated in 2001-02 when the India-US relationship was still in its nascent stages. Over the last two decades, this Track II has evolved with the bilateral relationship. Along with strategic opportunities in critical technology and climate action, India-US cooperation has expanded to include an important platform like the Quad in the Indo-Pacific region. Based on the discussions in this meeting, three joint working groups have been created under the aegis of this dialogue for solution oriented, in-depth conversations between annual meetings. These groups are on strategic security cooperation; trade, technology and investment and the Quad. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India and Kurt Campbell, Deputy Assistant to the President and Coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs on the National Security Council, The White House, addressed the dialogue.



CO-CHAIRS Condoleezza Rice, Tad & Dianne Taube Director, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, Former Secretary of State, & Co-Chair, Aspen Strategy Group and Joseph Nye, University Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, Harvard Kennedy School & Co-Chair, Aspen Strategy Group from the US; Jamshyd N. Godrej, Chairman, Ananta Centre and Chairman & Managing Director, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Ltd and Tarun Das, Founding Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre and Chairman, Institute of Economic Growth, from India



10th India-US Track II Dialogue on Climate and Energy

FEBRUARY 22-24, 2021 / This year, the Track II Dialogue engaged on how the two countries might work together to support climate finance, subnational cooperation, and efforts around water and climate resilience. The Group recommended that President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi launch a new bilateral Enhanced Platform for Partnership on Energy and Climate Change at their first leader-level summit, to signify their shared pursuit of a COVID-19 green recovery plan and commitment to accelerating job creation. Recommendations from the working papers and joint statement of this dialogue have already featured in bilateral announcements made over the last few months – in the India-US Climate Partnership announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joseph R. Biden and the revamping of the Strategic Energy Partnership

(SEP) announced by Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Secretary Jennifer Granholm.

CO-CHAIRS Jamshyd N. Godrej, Chairman, Ananta Centre and Chairman & Managing Director, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Ltd from India; John Podesta, Founder, Center for American Progress and William Reilly, Former Administrator, United States Environmental Protection Agency, from the US



13th India-Singapore Strategic Dialogue

MARCH 2, 2021 / The Dialogue was co-convened by Ananta Aspen Centre, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and Confederation of Indian Industry. Singapore and India have always had a very warm and natural partnership. The dialogue was first launched in 2017 with the aim of enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation between various stakeholders of the two countries. This edition of the meeting focused on bilateral developments & cooperation and recent regional developments. The discussions ranged from geopolitics, economic trends to collaborations in emerging areas such as Fintech, Industry 4.0, skill development, upskilling, clean technology, sustainable solutions and smart cities.



CO-CHAIRS Jamshyd N. Godrej, Chairman, Ananta Centre and Chairman & Managing Director, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Ltd; Rajan Navani, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Jetline Group of Companies from India; Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman, RSIS, NTU and Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore from Singapore



9th India-China Strategic Dialogue

AUGUST 18, 2020 / Ananta Aspen Centre, in partnership with the China Reform Forum, started the India-China Strategic Dialogue in 2010 to discuss the issues affecting the bilateral relationship. The 9th edition of this Dialogue focused on two key issues of strategic thinking – defence & security and mutual development and cooperation under/post COVID-19. The participants included business and corporate leaders, defence and security experts, economists and senior journalists. **CO-CHAIRS** S. K. Lambah, former Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of India; Ni Jianmin, Vice Chairman of China Reform Forum, Former Vice President of All-China Federation of Trade Unions



5th Japan-India Strategic Dialogue

JULY 16, 2020 / The Japan India Strategic Dialogue is convened by Ananta Aspen Centre in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry. The dialogue was initiated in 2006 as a trilateral with USA, Japan and India. Recognising the strategic potential for expanding the bilateral cooperation on economic opportunities, regional and global challenges and shared values, the Japan India Strategic Dialogue evolved in 2013. The relationship between the two countries has been truly transformed into a strong partnership. The 5th edition focused on Japan-India relations post COVID-19 from a strategic political and economic point of view, including energy, space and cyber. The India-China and US-China

relationships and their strategic impact on the Japan-India relationship were also discussed.

CO-CHAIRS *Yoshiyuki Kasai*, Chairman Emeritus, Central Japan Railway Company from Japan; *Tarun Das*, Founding Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre and Chairman, Institute of Economic Growth, from India



The 19th India-Korea Strategic Dialogue

SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 / India-Korea Strategic Dialogue is co-convened by Ananta Aspen Centre, the Korea Foundation, and the Seoul Forum for International Affairs in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. It brings together policymakers, representatives of the government, subject experts, business leaders, academicians and journalists from both India and Korea. The theme for this year's dialogue was Crafting New Korea-India Strategic Partnership amid COVID-19 Pandemic: Co-Navigation and Emerging Opportunities. In recent years, the two countries have developed a robust, multi-dimensional partnership in areas of mutual interest—economic cooperation, maritime security, energy cooperation, counterterrorism and nuclear disarmament. Indian-Korean cooperation aims to address the three unprecedented and simultaneous challenges of current times: global health security, economic welfare, and national and territorial security. Ambassadors of both countries, their Excellencies *Shin Bong-kil* and *Sripriya Ranganathan* addressed and participated in the Dialogue.

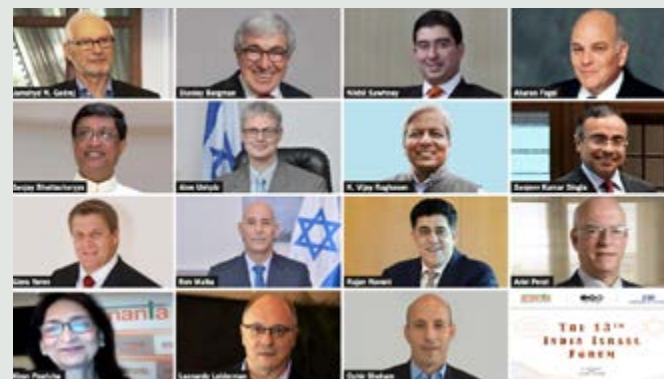
CO-CHAIRS *Naushad Forbes*, Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre and Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall Pvt. Ltd; *Professor Choong Yong Ahn*, Distinguished Professor, Chung-Ang University

flected on the new avenues of bilateral collaboration against COVID-19 focussing specially on AI, Digital Health and Quantum Computing. As in the previous years, the Forum also constituted two Expert Groups. This year the focus was on Digital Health Care and Movement of Capital and Goods (Trade and Supply Chains) which identified areas to enhance healthcare delivery; data and communication technologies to address health problems; domestic policy reforms,



maintenance of macroeconomic strengths and adoption of technology to improve productivity in agriculture and the manufacturing sectors. The Forum concluded on the need for both countries to develop an agenda to mobilize resources to augment mutual trust and cooperation in the identified areas and strengthen the promising nature of the bilateral relationship going forward.

CO-CHAIRS *Jamshyd N. Godrej*, Chairman, Ananta Centre and Chairman & Managing Director, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Ltd; *Nikhil Sawhney*, Managing Director, Triveni Turbine Limited and Director, Triveni Engineering and Industries Ltd; *Stanley Bergman*, CEO and Chairman, Henry Schein; *Aharon Fogel*, Chairman, Ayalon Insurance



13th India-Israel Forum

NOVEMBER 22, 2020 / Ananta Aspen Centre, Confederation of Indian Industry and Tel Aviv University jointly convene the India Israel Forum. The 13th edition of the Forum re-

CONVERSATION

Fireside chat on COVID-19 and the New World Order

MAY 27, 2020 / Ambassador Blackwill highlighted that the US has generally seen international institutions at the margin of its foreign policy and its international behavior. Both China and the have recognized the increasing influence of international institutions on the international system and therefore the need for human rights, values of international orders and democracy in the new world order. China has also recognized that the international institutions will have an increasing influence on the international system. Therefore, during the last 5-7 years, it has worked very hard to strengthen its positions in various UN agencies. There is a systemic Chinese effort to strengthen its positions in these international organizations at the expense of human rights, values of international orders and so forth. If the US and the West don't respond now, having seen this occur with the WHO, international institution will essentially be driven by Chinese authoritarian models. That will be grievous for all countries that have democratic preferences.



CONVERSATION BETWEEN *Ambassador Robert Blackwill*, Henry A. Kissinger Senior Fellow, US Foreign Policy, Council on Foreign Relations and *Professor C. Raja Mohan*, Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University, Singapore



CONVERSATION

US Elections 2020: A conversation with John J. Hamre

25 AUGUST, 2020 / A few weeks before the US presidential election, the United States was simultaneously struggling with a pandemic, a reeling economy and a divided electorate. This special session covered the key campaign issues of Joe Biden and President Trump, the evolving social and political dynamics in the US, safeguarding elections amid COVID-19, the future of the Indo-US relationship and the world order.

CONVERSATION BETWEEN *John J. Hamre*, President and CEO, Center for Strategic and International Studies, USA and *Indrani Bagchi*, Senior Diplomatic Editor, The Times of India and Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow

“Even if VP Biden is elected, there is a very strong bipartisan consensus on the importance of India”.

JOHN HAMRE

● CONVERSATION

India and International Institutions post COVID-19

23 APRIL, 2020 / Trouble with multilateral institutions started long before the global crisis amongst us today. Harmonising interests between the superpowers has become exceedingly tough, making it harder to move forward on international cooperation. Hence, it is critical to identify India's role in shaping these institutions for the future. The session focused on three key considerations: WHO critical role in global health security today, and the need for its strengthening and internal restructuring. Second, the scope for conventional issues considered by the UNSC to be broadened. Last, the governance of multilateral institutions, issues of their accountability, efficiency of spending and degree of autonomy need to be revisited.

SPEAKERS Professor C. Raja Mohan, Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore; Ashok Malik, Policy Advisor, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



● CONVERSATION

Leadership post COVID: Veni, Vidi, Vici?

27 AUGUST, 2020 / There are many crises looming behind the shadow of the largest healthcare crisis the world has seen. These economic, political, humanitarian, socio-cultural and environmental issues are waiting to be

recognized and dealt with. The panellists discussed these challenges. A remedial strategy discussed during the discussion turned prophetic a few months later - accelerated and organized vaccine strategies as the key to rebuilding ravaged economies and reimagining a safer future. The speakers had expressed their concern that in the absence of a global vaccination machinery, second and third waves of the pandemic would continue to haunt countries across the world.



SPEAKERS Elmar Brok, Advisor to EU President Von der Leyen; Akihiko Tanaka, President of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Tokyo; ONG Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Ambassador-at-Large, Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs
CHAIR Naushad Forbes, Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre and Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall Pvt. Ltd

● CONVERSATION

The Way Forward: India-UK Bilateral Relations

17 FEBRUARY 2021 / India and UK bilateral relations are laid on foundations of rich history, language and culture solidified by stronger people-to-people ties. In the current geopolitical changes, both countries have a growing congruence in strategic ties and are keen to gain from tapping each other's strengths and enabling greater mobility for both talent and companies across the UK-India tech corridor. The conversation focussed how the two countries could collaborate as they started their post-Covid plans.



SPEAKERS Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry; Karan Bilimoria, Founder, Cobra Beer and Chairman, Cobra Beer Partnership Limited; Shobana Kamineni, Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd; Nandita Sahgal Tully, Managing Director, Thomas Lloyd
CHAIR Tarun Das, Founding Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre and Chairman, Institute of Economic Growth

● PUBLIC SESSION

Central Asia and COVID-19: Health, Economy, Infrastructure and more

21 MAY, 2020 / Covid-19 has severely affected the wellbeing of citizens all over the world. H.E. Yerlan Alimbayev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of India, Sanjay Kumar Pandey, Professor, Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University and moderator Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar, Distinguished Fellow, Central Asia, Ananta Aspen Centre; President, Institute of Global Studies and Former Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan, Sweden and Latvia discussed how the energy based economy has been impacted and the role of leadership in dealing with the threat of the virus.

● PUBLIC SESSION

China's Place in the Post COVID-19 World Order

05 MAY, 2020 / Gautam Bambawale, Former Indian Ambassador to China; S L Narasimhan, PVSM, AVSM*, VSM, PhD (Retd.), Director General, Centre for Contemporary China Studies; N Sivasamban, Vice-President, Global Corporate Affairs, Tata Sons Limited spoke on the future of the BRI, other Chinese investments and China's role in the global supply chain. The discussion also touched upon China's relations with other countries, and whether India could capitalize on the situation in its favour. The session was moderated by Pramit Pal Chaudhuri, Foreign Editor, Hindustan Times and Distinguished Fellow & Head, Strategic Affairs, Ananta Aspen Centre, India.





● PUBLIC SESSION

COVID 19 and Evolving Geo-Politics of West Asia

11 JUNE, 2020 / The conversation between *Asher Susser*, Professor Emeritus of Middle Eastern History, Tel Aviv University (TAU) and *Pramit Pal Chaudhuri*, Foreign Editor, Hindustan Times and Distinguished Fellow & Head, Strategic Affairs, Ananta Aspen Centre focussed on COVID 19 and evolving geo-politics of West Asia. on 11 June 2020. It covered critical questions regarding the Syrian and Yemeni civil wars, the conflict between Iran-Saudi Arabia, radical extremism and the many travails of a weak Iraq's internal and a volatile oil and gas economy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.



● PUBLIC SESSION

Africa During the Pandemic

07 MAY, 2020 / *David Rasquinha*, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Export-Import Bank

of India; *Mahesh Sachdev*, President, Eco-Diplomacy & Strategies, Delhi and Former High Commissioner to Algeria & Nigeria; and *Pramit Pal Chaudhuri*, Foreign Editor, Hindustan Times and Distinguished Fellow & Head, Strategic Affairs, Ananta Aspen Centre, India discussed the economic consequences of the pandemic on the African continent as also the future of China's relationship with Africa. *Dipanjana Roy Chaudhuri*, Senior Assistant Editor, The Economic Times, Delhi, moderated the session.



● ROUNDTABLE

Roundtable on RCEP-EU-China-India

24 MARCH, 2021 / Despite strong motivations, several concerns made it difficult for India to join the agreement. The fear of Chinese imports flooding the market, concerns regarding the rules of origin and antidumping duties are challenges for India. This session chaired by *Naushad Forbes*, Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre and Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall Pvt. Ltd sought leading experts, policy makers, academics and industry representatives to deliberate on the future course of action for India, its economic relationship with the EU and the concerns posed by China.

● TECHNOLOGY

Masterclasses on Emerging Technologies

These masterclasses are organised under the aegis of the India-Israel Forum and jointly convened by the Ananta



Aspen Centre, Confederation of Indian Industry and Tel Aviv University. The objective of this series is to promote academic linkages between India and Israel and help students to understand latest trends in technology, global standards, practices and, augment capacity building in the field of emerging technologies. The Online Masterclasses on Emerging Technologies were supported by Triveni Turbine Limited and conducted by leading experts to understand contemporary trends and dynamics in the global technology front.

Hardware Fingerprinting by Avishai Wool, Professor, School of Electrical Engineering, Tel Aviv University

03 NOVEMBER, 2020

Curious Behaviour of Robots vis-à-vis Children by Goren Gordon, Professor, Department of Industrial Engineering, Tel Aviv University

25 NOVEMBER, 2020

Complexity and Simplicity in Market Design by Michal Feldman, Professor, Blavatnik School of Computer Science, Tel Aviv University

19 JANUARY, 2021

Using Big Data Analytics to Sense, Understand and Shape Social Behaviour by Erez Shmueli, Senior Lecturer and Head, Big Data Lab, Industrial Engineering, Tel Aviv University

25 MARCH, 2021

● SERIES

India-Japan Partnership Perspectives

The India-Japan relationship is deemed to be a shaper of the 21st century geopolitical dynamics. The two countries have close economic and strategic relationship. Ananta Aspen Centre, in partnership with the Nippon Foundation, initiated the India-Japan Partnership Perspectives series to discuss the different contours of this relationship and leverage opportunities in sectors such as security, trade, infrastructure and energy. The series had seven sessions. Discussions ranged from if the Partnership could be the crucial pillar for a free and open Indo-Pacific, whether the energy co-operation between the two could reshape Asia's energy future; what lay ahead for QUAD and maritime cooperation in the East and, opportunities for co-creating and co-innovating.

Towards a More Matured India-Japan Partnership

JULY 14, 2020 / **SPEAKERS** *H.E. Mr Satoshi Suzuki*, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to India and *B. J. Panda*, National Vice President and National Spokesperson, Bharatiya Janata Party; Founding Trustee, Ananta Centre

MODERATOR *Naushad Forbes*, Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre and Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall Pvt. Ltd



Can India-Japan Partnership be the crucial pillar for a free and open Indo-Pacific?

OCTOBER 22, 2020 / **CONVERSATION BETWEEN** *Nobukatsu Kanehara*, Professor, Doshisha University, Former Japanese Senior Diplomat and Assistant Chief Cabinet Secretary to Prime Minister Abe Shinzo & *Pramit Pal*



Chaudhuri, Foreign Editor, Hindustan Times, Distinguished Fellow & Head-Strategic Affairs, Ananta Aspen Centre.

Reshaping Asia's Energy Future: Indo-Japanese Energy Cooperation

NOVEMBER 12, 2020 / **SPEAKERS** Hirofumi Katase, Executive Vice Chairman and Member of the Board, I-Pulse and Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General The Energy and Resources Institute

MODERATOR James Abraham, Founder and Director SolarArise

“Maximising technology development and disseminating forces of innovation can foster bilateral cooperation between India and Japan”.

HIROFUMI KATASE

India-Japan Digital Partnership: Opportunity for co-creating and co-innovating

JANUARY 18, 2021 / **CONVERSATION BETWEEN H.E. Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Varma**, Ambassador of India to Japan and **Rajan Navani**, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Jetline Group of Companies.



India-Japan Defence Cooperation: ACSA, Malabar and Beyond

JANUARY 28, 2021 / **SPEAKERS** Admiral Tomohisa Takei, JMSDF (Retd), 32nd Chief of Staff, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force; Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chairman, National Maritime Foundation, Former Chief of Naval Staff, Indian Navy

CHAIR Ambassador Gautam Bambawale, Former Ambassador of India to Bhutan, China and High Commissioner to Pakistan; Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre



An Indo-Pacific Axis: Future of QUAD and Maritime Cooperation in the East

FEBRUARY 18, 2021 / **SPEAKERS** Michael J. Green, Senior Vice President for Asia and Japan Chair, CSIS; Director of Asian Studies, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University; C. Raja Mohan, Director Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore; Professor Tomohiko Taniguchi, Keio University Graduate School of System Design & Management and Special Advisor to Prime Minister ABE, Shinzo's Cabinet (Retd)

CHAIR Ambassador Gautam Bambawale, Former Ambassador of India to Bhutan, China and High Commissioner to Pakistan; Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre



“The US desire to share the burden more equally and a rising India playing larger role in the world, provides the basis for imagining a burden sharing structure where we can create multiple ways in which to collaborate, coordinate and work to develop the Indo-Pacific”.

C. RAJA MOHAN



Scaling India-Japan Strategic Cooperation: Challenges and Opportunities

MARCH 18, 2021 / Japan and India share a very special partnership with a high level of commitment from governments on both sides. In the past year the pandemic has caused a reset in the global and domestic priorities of both India and Japan, resulting in intense bilateral engagement. The roundtable, held by Ananta Aspen Centre with the support of the Nippon Foundation, aimed to engage the next generation in exploring and leveraging more innovative areas of collaboration and, to advance this important bilateral relationship by continuously enriching the ongoing discourse between the two sides. The discussions during the roundtable focused on the economic opportunities, maritime security, defence cooperation and the new pillars of convergence like healthcare, skill development, startups, cybersecurity and digitalization.

CHAIR Rajan Navani, Vice-chairman & Managing Director, Jetline Group of Companies

THE AMBASSADOR SERIES

The Ambassador Series engages with ambassadors and heads of foreign missions to facilitate expansion of India's multi-dimensional ties with countries across the world. It is a unique initiative that allows an audience to interact with ambassadors and high commissioners and understand various aspects of the relationship between the countries.



Resilience in the Indo-Pacific, with H.E. Emmanuel Lenain



OCTOBER 5, 2020 / Bolstering 'Resilience in the Indo-Pacific' across all its dimensions from maritime security and economic development to the balance of strategic interests with adherence to climate change was the focus of discussion between *H.E. Emmanuel Lenain*, Ambassador of France to India and *Ambassador Mohan Kumar*, Chairman of Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). The strategic partnership between France and India rests on shared interests and values of stable, rule-based, and multipolar order. With the pandemic halting the world and creating political distractions, the shared interests of France and India to foster a resilient Indo-Pacific region remain mutual.



Lion Nation, Lion City: The Future of India-Singapore Relations, with H.E. Simon Wong Wie Kuen



SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 / India and Singapore share a unique and time-tested friendship rooted in longstanding historical, cultural and people-to-people links. It is the unity of spirit between the lion nation and the lion city that makes Singapore part of the gateway of India to the east. Successive Indian and Singaporean governments have worked hard to expand the scope and impact of bilateral cooperation for mutual benefit. What is the vision of India-Singapore relationship and how to further strengthen ties of friendship and co-operation and trust? Against this backdrop, the Ananta Aspen Centre held a session on 'Lion Nation, Lion City: The Future of India-Singapore Relations' with *H.E. Simon Wong Wie Kuen*, High Commissioner of Singapore to India. This session was chaired by *Naushad Forbes*, Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre and Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall Pvt. Ltd.



Australia and India in the post-COVID-19 world, with H.E. The Hon Barry O'Farrell AO



DECEMBER 18, 2020 / India and Australia share a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which has allowed both countries to increase the bilateral engagements with each other. Both countries have mutual trust, respect, and integrity towards each other. This relationship could develop into one of the most valuable regional partnerships in the Indo-Pacific as a free Indo-Pacific remains a mutual goal shared by both Australia and India as well as collectively in the Quad grouping. Areas such as climate change and renewable energy are some of the focus areas for collaboration between the two countries. Speaker was *H.E. The Hon Barry O'Farrell A.O.*, Australia's High Commissioner to India. This session was chaired by *Govindraj Ethiraj*, Founder-Editor, IndiaSpend & BOOM Live.



India-Indonesia relations and the Indo-Pacific, with H.E. Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro



JANUARY 11, 2021 / India and Indonesia are two vibrant democracies with converging interests resting on shared history and rich cultural linkages dating back centuries. Both countries, given their size, population and status as key maritime entities, share leading roles in the region. The past few years have underlined that the foundation of the bilateral

relationship between India and Indonesia stands strong but must extend beyond shared history and cultural linkages to new contemporary areas of strategic significance. Against this backdrop, *H.E. Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro*, Ambassador of Indonesia to India and *Naushad Forbes*, Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre and Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall Pvt. Ltd discussed 'India – Indonesia relations and the Indo-Pacific'. Over the years, both governments have made conscious efforts to enhance cooperation. The discussion highlighted potential areas of collaboration which included shipping and maritime cooperation, pharmaceuticals, infrastructure projects, tourism and student exchange programmes.



Acting East During the Pandemic with H.E. Sripriya Ranganathan and H.E. Pranay Verma



JULY 7, 2020 / *H.E. Sripriya Ranganathan*, Ambassador of India to the Republic of Korea and *H.E. Pranay Verma*, Ambassador of India to Vietnam, discussed New Delhi's spirited engagement with countries to the East, the health and economic challenges as well as the cooperative efforts taken by the governments to ensure the critical supply of medical supplies. *Indrani Bagchi*, Senior Diplomatic Editor, The Times of India moderated the session.



LEADERSHIP

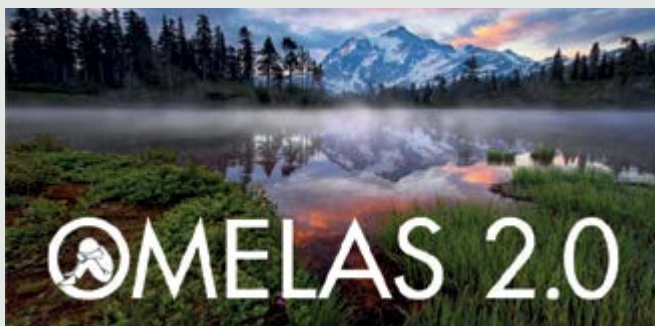
KAMALNAYAN BAJAJ FELLOWSHIP

During the pandemic, the Fellows have been trying to weave stories of impactful changes either through their individual, or organizational endeavours. They were constantly at the forefront, trying to contribute their due share to society and conducted a series of closed-door sessions.



The Being David Series

APRIL TO AUGUST 2020 / The Pandemic highlighted the need for values-based leadership like never before. It pushed leaders to recognize and respond to a new normal and lead the society into an uncertain future. The Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellows organized and moderated a series of 10 digital discussions under the umbrella of Being David—where they came together to share how they were responding to the changing situation and working on the challenges being thrown their way.



The Omelas 2.0 Series

JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2020 / This was a series of 12 moderated dialogues by and for the Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellows. Each week, several of fellows shared their experiences and perspectives on privileges and inequity. Importantly, they identified at least one area where they could commit to personal action to use their privilege to correct an inequity, and in effect, rescue the caged child in Omelas.



The Practice Resurrection Series

OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER 2020 / If Being David and Omelas 2 were about contemplation and realization, then Practice Resurrection was about being inspired to act. This series of five dialogues saw the Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellows examine old rhythms in the context of a new world and explore how best to use their privileges to shape it into one that is more equitable and just.

Should Successful Businesses also Become Significant?

14TH AUGUST 2020 / This session was held in partnership with Central America Leadership Initiative (CALI). It was a special edition of Being David Series, held through 2020 by the Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellows. In this session, the Aspen Global Leaders Network Fellows of India and Central America explored the ideas of the role of business in their respective countries and learn from each other.

PANEL *María Luisa Navarro*, Director, GRB Management MHC and Fellow of Central America Leadership Initiative; *Juan Carlos Paíz*, Co-founder and CEO of Pani-Fresh and Fellow of Central America Leadership Initiative; *Radhika Piramal*, Executive Vice Chairperson of VIP Industries Ltd, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow; *Aditya Somani*, Industrialist, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow

MODERATOR *James Abraham*, Founder & Director, SolarArise; Trustee, Ananta Centre; Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow



Rethinking the Social Contract: Global Leaders Weigh in

4TH DECEMBER 2020 / This conversation was hosted by Central America Leadership Initiative in collaboration with Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship and Middle East Leadership Initiative explored the robustness of social contracts across the world. Social contract holds that a persons' moral and political obligations depend on a contract or agreement among them to form the society in which they live. When this contract appears to weaken, it is important to revisit the basic questions: what is social contract? What does it mean in your part of the world, community, or Industry? How does it affect one personally? How do we become accountable? The session discussed the commonalities that societies across the world were facing.

PANEL *Michelle Muschett*, Managing Director, Fourth Sector Group and Central America Leadership Initiative Fellow; *Ghassan Hasbani*, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health, Government of Lebanon and Middle East Leadership Initiative Fellow; *Neera Nundy*, Managing Partner, Dasra—Catalyst for Social Change and Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow; *Dele Olojede*, Publisher & Chairman, AFAR Media Group, Africa Leadership Initiative—South Africa and AGLN Moderator

MODERATOR *Chadia El Meouchi Naoum*, Managing Partner, Badri and Salim El Meouchi Law Firm, Co-founder, Middle East Leadership Initiative and Henry Crown Fellow

India-China Fellows Roundtable in Collaboration with China Fellowship

NOVEMBER 6, 2020 AND APRIL 22, 2021 / A few Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellows participated in a closed-door dialogue with their Chinese peers to have an honest conversation on the bilateral relation between the countries. China and India are two of the largest countries in the world, with shared borders and a long history of cultural and economic relations. Over time, this bilateral relationship has been a mixed one for several reasons.

Discussion on Race in America

10TH JUNE 2020 / This conversation, organized by Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellows, brought together Fellows from Aspen Finance Leaders Fellowship, Henry Crown Fellowship, Africa Leadership Initiative-South Africa and Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship. The intent was to understand the race issues in the US and the learning there in for a socially complex society like India. Speakers from the US brought to the table their deep knowledge of the race issue in America. The conversation also served to hold a mirror up to India's own conflicted social structures.

PANEL *Kofi Bruce*, Chief Finance Officer, General Mills; *Dele Olojede*, Publisher & Chairman, AFAR Media Group; *Nike Irvin*, Managing Director, Civil Society Fellowship; *John Simpkins*, Former Vice President, Aspen Global Leadership Network at the Aspen Institute

MODERATOR *James Abraham*, Founder & Director, SolarArise; Trustee, Ananta Centre; Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow



There Are No Others

OCTOBER 2, 2020 / The discussion pivoted around the demeanor of the majority population towards refugees. Even though people sympathise with the cause of refugees, they often develop a degree of cynicism around these immigrants. Creating newer platforms for people to come together and acquainting people with each other's experiences can be a probable way forward in bridging this gap.

SPEAKERS *Tanya Amador*, CEO, Corner of Love and Fellow of Central America Leadership Initiative; *Emarine Kharbhih*, Program Manager, Impulse NGO Network and Fellow of G. P. Birla Fellowship; *Amjad Tadros*, Middle East Producer, CBS News and Fellow of Middle East Leadership Initiative

MODERATOR *Govind Ethiraj*, Founder, BOOM Live & IndiaSpend, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow

● CONVERSATION

The Road Ahead: An Exclusive Dialogue with Three Acclaimed Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellows



Manoj Kumar, CEO, Naandi Foundation, Trustee, Ananta Centre and Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow



Srikumar Misra, Founder & CEO, Milk Mantra and Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow



Govind Ethiraj, Founder, BOOM Live & IndiaSpend and Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow

APRIL 28, 2020 / The Road Ahead with its three panelists, discussed the individual experiences of the Fellows in responding to the Covid-19 crisis and the future that lays ahead. An unprecedented event to which the entire world succumbed had posed different challenges to each of the Fellows in their respective fields. From handling a public information crisis which posed a serious threat to the general well-being of people, to redirecting new ways in dealing with the scarcity of food and safeguarding the needs of the farmers, to being an essential service provider. Our panelists had to come up with never before thought ideas to tackle with the crisis. With the dawn of a new era, that had halted our traditional way of thinking, living and consumption. The Fellows offered insights into some new age solutions that could be both conscious and sustainable.

MODERATOR *James Abraham*, Founder and Director, SolarArise; Trustee, Ananta Centre; Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow



● VALUES BASED LEADERSHIP

Ananta Aspen Emerging Leaders Fellowship

3 EDITIONS BETWEEN DECEMBER 2020-MARCH 2021 / Fellows of Class 5 of Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship set up the Ananta Aspen Emerging Leaders Fellowship as a Leadership Programme for college students across India. The aim is to identify and work with bright students in the age of 18-22, who have leadership potential and equip them with the skills required to become agents of change. Students engage in global readings curated and moderated by Aspen trained moderators. These readings set the context for discussions on building a better society and nation. Six editions of the Emerging Leaders Fellowship have been held and have created over 120 youth leaders with the power to catalyse change. In 2020, the Centre decided to run Ananta Aspen Emerging Leaders Fellowship virtually. Three editions were held, each spanned a period of six days. The 7th Edition was held from 14th of December to the 19th of December. This cohort graduated 21 Fellows in total. Aditya Natraj was the lead moderator. The 8th edition graduated 18 Fellows and was conducted from 4th to the 9th of January, 2021; Pallav Patankar and Kalyan Akkipedi served as the moderators. The 9th edition had a total of 17 Fellows and was held from the 8th to the 13th of March and was moderated by Shankar Vanavarayar.

MODERATORS *Aditya Natraj*, Director, Kaivalya Education Foundation (KEF) & the Piramal School of Leadership; *Pallav Patankar*, Director, Partnerships of Avegen India Pvt Ltd; *Kalyan Akkipedi*, Founder, ProtoVillage; *Shankar Vanavarayar*, President, Kumaraguru Institu-

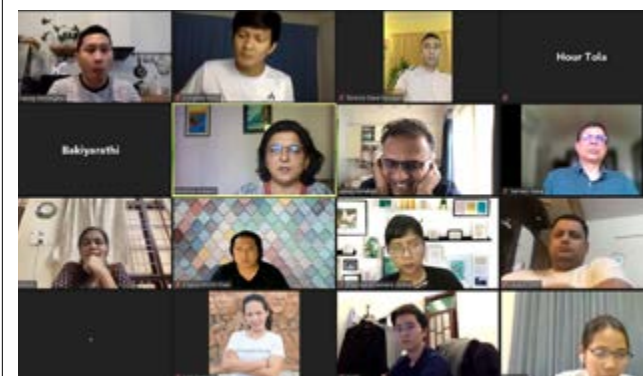
tions. All lead moderators were from Class 5 of the Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship as this is their Class Venture.

● CONVERSATION

ASEAN India Leaders Fellowship

SEPTEMBER-MARCH 2021 / Ananta Aspen conducts this unique, values-based leadership programme in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; it was conceptualized to celebrate the 25th anniversary of ASEAN India Partnership. The programme has served as a big step towards promoting ties among successful young leaders from the region and enhancing socio-cultural ties among India and ASEAN member states. The programme has participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and India. The graduation seminar of the ASEAN India Leaders Fellowship, scheduled for early 2021, was postponed due to the global pandemic, but the cohort has been keeping in touch through formal and informal interactions. Four virtual mini seminars were coordinated over the year from September to March 2021. These online seminars allowed the Fellows to join in and participate from their own countries.

MODERATORS *James Abraham*, Director & Founder, SolarArise; *Sudha Iyer*, Founding Director, Quadratic Insights Pvt. Ltd; *Sameer Walia*, Founder and Chief Executive, Ripples of Hope



● ART & CULTURE

Wizkids 2020

NOVEMBER 2020-JANUARY 2021 / Wizkids is South Asia's largest Interschool Literary, Art & Cultural Festival. For, over 20 years, this legendary event has impacted the lives of millions of students across five countries giving them a platform to showcase their talent. This year, Wizkids was held virtually to give student a platform to showcase their talent and be rewarded for their skills and quest. The programme also sought to find the Most Talented School of India. Ananta Aspen Centre was the Personality Talent partner for Wizkids 2020. Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow *Amitav Virmani* was one of the judges. *Sudha Iyer*, also a Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow, conducted two Master-classes for the participating students on how to launch their ventures to build a good society. More than 3000 students participated across the country.



● EDUCATION

Diversity and Identity

JUNE 1-5, 2020 / There were several requests from the alumni of The Shri Ram Ananta Aspen Leadership School (TSAALS) to conduct a Socratic dialogue. The country was under lockdown but bowing to the requests, Ananta Aspen Centre conducted a five-day virtual seminar to have heart-to-heart discussions based on Aspen style Socratic dialogue on the theme 'Diversity and Identity'.

MODERATORS *James Abraham*, Director & Founder, SolarArise; *Sudha Iyer*, Founding Director, Quadratic Insights Pvt Ltd



PUBLIC POLICY

● ECONOMY & POLICY

Road to Recovery: The Indian Economy Post Lockdown

APRIL 16, 2020 / While the pandemic posed unique challenges to different sections of people, the government was faced the critical challenges of an overburdened healthcare system, lack of economic growth and a migrant crisis on a scale never seen before. As the country tries to navigate turbulent waters to recovery, it needs to look at its preparedness in the face of crises. Going ahead, digital technologies will determine the quality of this preparedness and the government needs to work towards the penetration and protection of these technologies.

PANEL *Naushad Forbes*, Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre and Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall Pvt. Ltd
A. K. Bhattacharya, Editorial Director, Business Standard, *Arvind Kumar*, Chairman, Centre for Chest Surgery & Lung Transplantation; Director, Institute of Robotic Surgery at Sri Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi
MODERATOR *Govindraj Ethiraj*, Founder, IndiaSpend and BOOM Live; Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow, Ananta Aspen Centre.



● ECONOMY & POLICY

Trade Prospects in the Next Five Years

12TH MAY 2020 / Countries benefited from open economies; the pandemic will likely cause a downturn. However, trade and geopolitics also go hand in hand and impact the world order. The geopolitics of the South China Sea is critical to the international trade. India has the potential to drive up international trade dynamics. It needs to ramp up its capacity to achieve its \$5 trillion target in the economy. This digital session was a part of a series on “Covid-19 and the World Order” and focussed on aspects of international trade, Asian economy trends and role of Indian industry in coming years.

PANEL *Suresh Prabhu*, Prime Minister’s Sherpa for the G-20 Summit, Government of India; *Naushad Forbes*, Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre and Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall Pvt. Ltd; *Mohan Kumar*, Chairman of Research and Information System for Developing Countries
MODERATOR *A. K. Bhattacharya*, Editorial Director, Business Standard

“We have not benefitted from open trade as much as China due to domestic constraints”.

SURESH PRABHU



● SPECIAL SERIES

India's Migration Crisis

MAY-JULY 2020 / The nation-wide lockdown announced in the wake of the Coronavirus triggered off a reverse migration on a scale never seen before. Lack of official communication, the absence of a support system and lack of clarity on the way forward—caused migrants to head home, often on foot. Many did not make it and those who did faced the possibility of the same penury they had sought to avoid by migrating. The migrant crisis was a humanitarian one and a wake up call for both the government and society.

Ananta Centre organised a series of four discussions on India's Migration Crisis in partnership with India Spend. The conversations attempted to both analyse the problem and arrive at solutions.

PART 1: The Next 100 Days – Relief and Rehabilitation

This discussion focussed on immediate possible measures to address the crisis. And, on how the large scale displacement and humanitarian crisis brought about by the sudden lockdown, made the case for sweeping changes in labour laws.

SPEAKERS *Naushad Forbes*, Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre and Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall Pvt. Ltd; *Manoj Kumar*, CEO, Naandi Foundation, Trustee, Ananta Centre and Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow; *Parth M.N.*, Independent Journalist, Mumbai
MODERATOR *Govindraj Ethiraj*, Founder, IndiaSpend & BOOM Live; Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow

PART 2: Building Bridges

The Indian economy rests on cheap labour, but those

providing it have the odds stacked heavily against them. This session looked at measures that could bring the equation to a more even keel and give the informal workforce its due.

SPEAKERS *Anshu Gupta*, Founder & CEO, Goonj; *Rajiv Khandelwal*, Executive Director, Aajeevika Bureau; *Rohit Poddar*, Managing Director, Poddar Developers Ltd; Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow
MODERATOR *Govindraj Ethiraj*, Founder, IndiaSpend & BOOM Live, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow

PART 3: The New Rural Economy

At the core of the migration problem is the weakening of rural economies. This session looked at what could be done to rejuvenate these economies and stem the rural-urban exodus.

SPEAKERS *Tarun Sawhney*, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Triveni Engineering Industries Ltd., Director, Triveni Turbine Ltd.; *Rukmini Banerji*, CEO, Pratham Education Foundation; *Ashok Gulati*, Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture, ICRIER
MODERATOR *Govindraj Ethiraj*, Founder, IndiaSpend & BOOM Live, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow

PART 4: The Migrant in Me

Many urban dwellers are migrants, but everyone is-disempowered. It is the informal sector that is denied the opportunity for a better life in cities. This can only change if there is a recognition of their right to move to any city and expect the same opportunities and services available to others in the city. This session was about the need to engage proactively with this sector and make changes at individual and organizational levels.

SPEAKERS *Tarun Das*, Founding Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre and Chairman, Institute of Economic Growth; *Dipankar Gupta*, Sociologist and Former Professor, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, JNU; *Naghma Mulla*, Chief Operating Officer, EdelGive Foundation
MODERATOR *Govind Ethiraj*, Founder, IndiaSpend and BOOM Live, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow



CLIMATE & COVID 19

Between a Rock and a Hard Place

MAY-JUNE 2020 / Between a Rock and a Hard Place dealt with two grave problems facing humans: Climate Change & COVID-19. The pandemic showed that devastation does not discriminate and that to survive as a race, we need to hit the road running. This means bringing about a significant change in the way we operate socially and economically. The disruption it has caused in the status quo could be the perfect opportunity for planning and executing overhauls in existing mobility, industrial, governance and service sectors to create new economically and ecologically sustainable systems.

PART 1: Climate Change & COVID-19 co-convened by AAC and Tel Aviv University

SPEAKERS Jamshyd N. Godrej, Chairman, Ananta Centre and Chairman & Managing Director, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Ltd; Colin Price, Professor, Porter School of the Environment and Earth Sciences and the Head of the Department of Environmental Studies, Tel Aviv University

CHAIR Arunabha Ghosh, CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow

PART 2: Reducing Carbon Footprint: The Post COVID 19 challenge

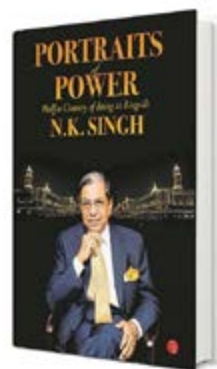
SPEAKERS O. P. Agarwal, Chief Executive Officer, World Resources Institute, India; Aniruddha Agnihotri, Head, Environmental Sustainability, Health & Safety, Tata Consultancy Services; Harish Hande, Founder and Chief Executive, SELCO Foundation

CHAIR Govindraj Ethiraj, Founder, IndiaSpend & BOOM Live, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow

BOOK LAUNCH

Critical Appreciation of the Autobiography of N.K. Singh

JANUARY 25, 2021 / **Portraits of Power, Half a Century of Being at Ringside**, is the autobiography of N.K. Singh – a renowned civil servant, economist, politician and senior member of the BJP. The book provides an insight into his experience in public service and his overarching influence over the economy and policy making over several decades.



THE PANEL N. K. Singh, Chairman, Fifteenth Finance Commission, Government of India
Arvind Panagariya, Former Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and Professor of Economics, Columbia University
Uday Kotak, CEO, Kotak Mahindra Bank
Jayant Sinha, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha
MODERATOR Tarun Das, Founding Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre and Chairman, Institute of Economic Growth



TECHNOLOGY

Masterclass on How AI and IoT can Drive Productivity and Keep Workers Safe Post COVID

14TH AUGUST, 2020 / The pandemic has changed the paradigm of normal. This disruption has created the space for technology to bloom. Terms like AI and IoT, till recently unfamiliar to many, are now being seen as important tools with which to repair the social and economic fissures in the country. Highlighting the benefits of these technologies can help stakeholders understand their potential to bring transformative change. This session focussed specifically on how AI and IoT can allow businesses to continue during a pandemic.

SPEAKER Tejpreet S. Chopra, President and CEO of BLP Group

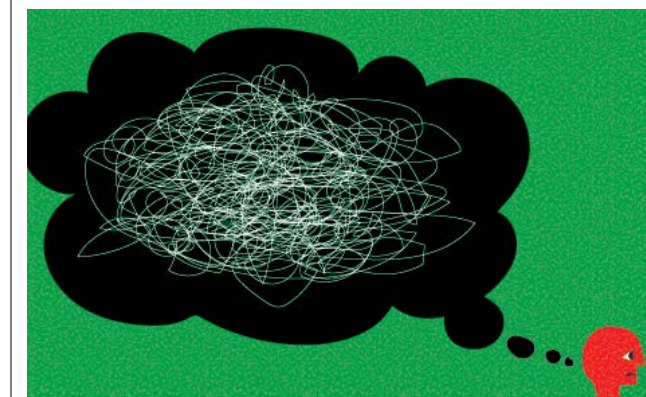
“The next generation of data collection will be through electrical signals”.

TEJPREET S. CHOPRA

TECHNOLOGY

Cyber after Corona

APRIL 15, 2020 / Ananta Aspen Centre organised an exclusive digital discussion comprising experts from India and Israel on cyber and its role during the pandemic and after. The panel comprised Prof. Isaac Ben-Israel, Chairman of Israel Space Agency & Head of the Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Studies Centre; Menny Barzilai, Partner and Co-founder at Herzog Strategic; Josey George, Practice Head, Strategic Initiatives, CRS; Distinguished Member of Technical Staff @ Wipro, Editor, State of Cybersecurity Report; Ram Levi, CEO, Konfida; Dr Sundeep Oberoi, Head of Cyber Security Group, TCS. The session was moderated by Govind Ethiraj, Founder, BOOM Live and IndiaSpend and Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow.



MENTAL HEALTH

The Mind Matters: Webinar on Mental Health and Wellbeing

APRIL 30, 2020 / Ananta Aspen Centre organised an exclusive digital discussion with mental health experts on the mid and long-term mental health challenges for individuals, organisations and people in leadership positions, due to COVID-19. It focussed on the effect of lockdown on people and the need to acknowledge the problem across sector.

PANEL Dr Shekhar Saxena, Professor of the Practice of Global Mental Health at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health and Director of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, WHO, Geneva from 2010

to 2018; *Dr Amit Malik*, Co-founder and CEO, Inner-Hour; *Neha Kirpal*, Co-founder, Librum Mental Health Consulting, UK and Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow. **MODERATOR** *Govind Ethiraj*, Founder, BOOM Live and IndiaSpend and Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow



● LAW & ORDER

Police & Policing

DECEMBER 2020–JANUARY, 2021 / Police serve as first responders in most crises. They have been at the front-line during the pandemic and have risen to the occasion, serving beyond the call of duty. While frontline health workers have been widely commended for their untiring efforts, the police force perhaps has not been given its due. Many police personnel have succumbed to the disease and yet others are struggling with the stress of these hard times.

Ananta Aspen Centre organized a series on Police and policing to engage Officers on the many challenges of policing in India, not just during a crisis like the pandemic but also in general. It touched upon issues such as gender disparity in the force, biases, human resource development and public perception about the forces..

PART 1: Pandemic Policing: Human Stories from the Ground

The officers in the panel shared their experience of assuming roles beyond that of a protector. The police served as first responders, counsellors, and keepers of discipline. Many police personnel even perished in the line of duty. To combat the situation, police officers adapted to digital approaches for training and communication

SPEAKERS *K. Shilpavalli*, Additional DCP, Rachakonda

Police, Telangana; *Atul Kumar Thakur*, IPS, DCP South District, Delhi; *Deepak Yadav*, IPS, Additional DCP New Delhi District; *Urvish Thakur*, Assistant Commandant, CISF, Robin Kumar, IPS; SP, Barpeta, Assam; *Jaydev G.*, IPS, SP; District Police Chief, Kottayam, Kerala; *Dawood Sayyad*, Police Naik with Unit-2, Crime Branch, Pune; *Ganesh Tukaram Wagh*, Police Sub-Inspector, Welfare Branch, Satara, Maharashtra; *Hari Balaji N.*, Superintendent of Police, Amaravati Rural Maharashtra **MODERATOR** *Govind Ethiraj*, Founder, BOOM Live & IndiaSpend; Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow.

PART 2: Women Leadership

In the second session senior police women shared their experiences of balancing work and home lives, battling-gender bias, their mental health and also shared personal anecdotes to illustrate life in the forces.

SPEAKERS *Bharti Arora*, IPS, IG, Karnal Range; *Aparajita Rai*, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Special Task Force, Kolkata Police; *Divya V. Gopinath*, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Law & Order, Thiruvananthapuram City; *Arti Singh*, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Amravati City

MODERATOR *Capt. Raghu Raman*, Founding CEO, NATGRID



● WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The Woman Speaks

MAY 12–JUNE 19, 2020 / The Ananta Centre organizes a series of dialogues on Women and Gender Issues that highlight areas of concern to women and focus on developing strategies for increasing women's access to opportunities, resources, public spaces, power and most importantly, strengthen their ability to effect change. The Centre held three dialogues – Young Women Entre-

preneurs and their Experience in the Pandemic; Young Women in the Non-Profit Sector and Their Experience During the Pandemic and Looking at the Future: Building a New Normal.

Part 4: Young Women Entrepreneurs and their Experience in the Pandemic

The pandemic was tough on all entrepreneurs. The women entrepreneurs discussed rethinking product design, revisiting their business plans, keeping their human resources while introspecting on their organisation's core goals to keep on track were all seen to be important strategies to stay afloat during the crisis.

SPEAKERS *Shriti Pandey*, Co-founder, Strawcture ECO; *Dipika Prasad*, Co-founder, PortalFrame; *Pooja Rai*, Co-founder and CEO, Anthill Creations

MODERATOR *Reshma Anand*, CEO, Hindustan Unilever Foundation; Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow, Ananta Aspen Centre

Part 5: Young Women in the Non-Profit Sector and their Experience in the Pandemic

Women from the non-profit sector found greater empathy for grassroots issues amongst the public, given that the pandemic lay bare the great disparity that still exists in the society for people to see and respond to. This empathy can be leveraged to strengthen the culture of crowdfunding. Technology can also be the catalyst to create a more level playing ground in the future.

SPEAKERS *Ayeshna Kalyan*, Co-founder and Director, Varitra Foundation, Karnal; *Khushboo Avasthi*, Co-founder, Mantra4Change and COO, ShikshaLokam; *Rachita Sinha*, Co-founder of Youth Conservation Action Network (YouCAN)

MODERATOR *Reshma Anand*, CEO, Hindustan Unilever Foundation and Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow, Ananta Aspen Centre.

PART 6: Looking at the Future–Building a New Normal

The effect of the pandemic on people and how it has forced them to struggle with personal stress and anxiety. At such a juncture, women's role as leaders who can solve problems has assumed greater importance because the pre-existing issues of social inequality and access to services to the poor got accentuated. Philanthropy and reactive measures cannot solve the crisis at hand. There has to be a long-term plan rooted in new thinking that caters to a very different vision for the future.

SPEAKERS *Anu Aga*, Former Chairperson, Thermax

Limited; *Radhika Bharatram*, Joint Vice Chairperson, The Shri Ram Schools; *Reshma Anand*; CEO, Hindustan Unilever Foundation

MODERATOR *Amitav Virmani*, Founder & CEO, The Education Alliance.

“There is no saying when this pandemic will clock out therefore it is important to be prepared for the future as we have no idea how things may turn out”.

ANU AGA

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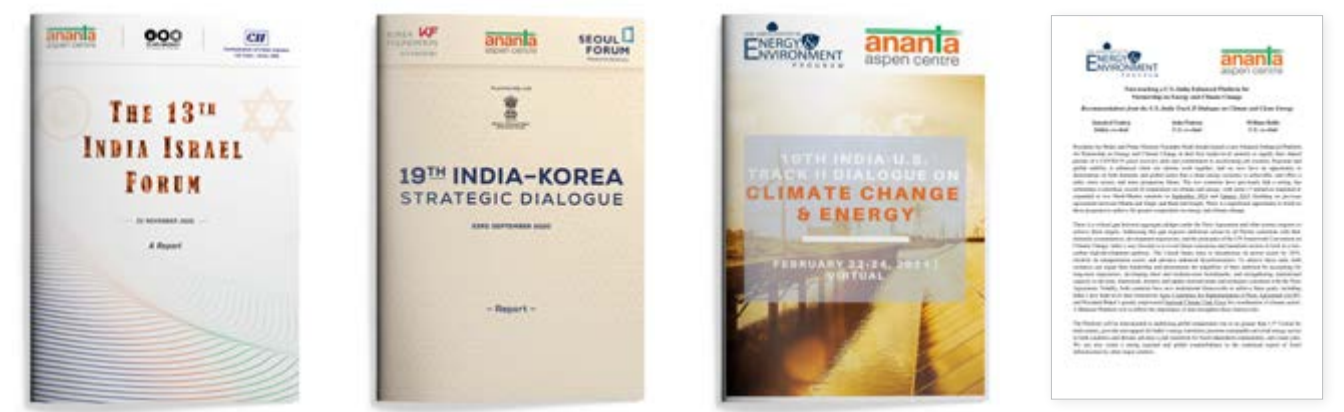


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