

Annual Report
2021-22



Ananta Aspen Centre

Annual Report 2021–22

Deeply missed

2022 will be archived as the year Ananta lost two good men. Men who walked with the kings without losing their common touch, who treated triumph and defeat as equal imposters; men who filled the unforgiving moment with sixty seconds of distance run. Rest in Peace, Rahul Bajaj (Patron, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship) and Ambassador S.K. Lambah (Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre). If only we had more time with you.

Message from the Chairman	4
International Relations	6
Leadership	12
Public Policy	18

Message from the Chairman

Dear Friends,

The pandemic has prompted us to re-examine our belief systems and worldview. Many argue we need a new definition of “good” for progress and development. It is rare that countries, irrespective of their standing, find themselves dealt the same hand by circumstances. This is an opportunity to create a world that is more sustainable, that offers more opportunity for all, in rich world and poor.

Most of the conversations we began in the Ananta Aspen Centre in 2021–2022 reflected this belief. We started two new dialogues. **Europe-India Strategic Dialogue** with Institut Montaigne, Fundação Oriente and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and the **Track II Dialogue on Climate Change & Energy** with the UK, in partnership with the Grantham Research Institute of the London School of Economics. This decade will be decisive in charting the course for the future of our planet and the bilateral/multilateral cooperation of the biggest emitters in the world will play a key role in driving pervasive, immediate as well as long-term, climate action. I am very optimistic about the potential of these dialogues to re-look at strategic ties and uncover new convergences. Our co-chairs, Jamshyd Godrej and Lord Nicholas Stern, co-wrote a joint letter to the two Prime Ministers with their recommendations based on the outcome of the dialogue. The key message was India and UK have a unique opportunity to work together – “(Climate change) is generating exciting opportunities propelled by discovery and innovation that will yield

great benefits. However, the investments needed for this pathway are substantial and each country must build on its individual strengths to make all this happen.”

Our Leadership programmes were on the mark in their theme and intent. The long-due graduation seminar for the **ASEAN Leaders Fellowship** was finally held virtually, and the programme graduated its first class. The seminar pushed the Fellows out of their comfort zones, into a space where they could think differently, to steer change, social or organisational, at the grass-roots level or at policy-making levels in their countries. India has long-standing ties with the ASEAN and we are optimistic that this new cadre of leaders will help add extra dimensions to the relationship. Our marquee leadership programme, **Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship**, started its 8th class. This programme seeks to develop a new generation of values-based, action-oriented leaders to serve India. We need more such leaders now and I am happy that Ananta Aspen Centre is helping grow the cohort.

We can only do this together. And we can only do this through dialogue and understanding. Understanding does not mean agreement, but it does mean respect. This spirit of fostering deep conversations on critical subjects, of building leaders who convert values into action and enterprise, will continue to guide our work at Ananta Aspen in the years to come.



NAUSHAD FORBES
Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre



“These are uncertain times, but changing times can lead to new beginnings. We can only do this together. And we can only do this through dialogue and understanding.”

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.

10th India China Strategic Dialogue

8 Apr 2022



Co-Chair (India) **Ambassador S.K. Lambah** Former Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of India, **N.K. Singh** Chairman, 15th Finance Commission, Government of India
Co-Chair (China) **Ambassador Ma Zhen-gang** Senior Advisor of China Reform Forum, Member of the Advisory Committee for Foreign Policy of MFA and Former China Ambassador to UK, **Maj. Gen. Wang Junli** Vice Chairman, China Reform Forum

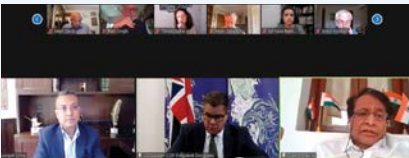
Ananta Aspen Centre, in partnership with the China Reform Forum, held the 10th meeting of the India China Strategic Dialogue virtually, on 8th April, 2021. The Dialogue was initiated in 2010 to discuss the various issues affecting the current state of affairs between the two countries, including shared economic opportunities and security threats and challenges. At the 10th meeting, the discussions focused on two key issues “Regional Security and Stability” and “Suggestions on the Development of China-India Relations: A Strategic Perspective”. The participants included business and corporate leaders; defence and security experts; economists and thought leaders; and senior journalists.

India-UK Track II Dialogue on Climate Change & Energy

25–26 Apr 2021



Co-Chair **Lord Nick Stern**, Chair of the Grantham Institute
Co-Chair **Jamshyd Godrej**, Chairman, Ananta Centre and Chairman & Managing Director, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd —
Motivated by the decade long success of the India US Track II on Climate Change & Energy, Ananta Aspen Centre has started a Track II Dialogue on Climate Change & Energy with the United Kingdom in partnership with the Grantham Research Institute of the London School of Economics. This first Track II Dialogue meeting preceded a virtual summit between India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson. This decade will be decisive in charting the course for the future of the planet and the bilateral/multilateral cooperation of the biggest emitters in the world will play a key role in driving pervasive, immediate as well as long-term climate action.



The 20th India–Korea Strategic Dialogue

7 Oct 2021



Taking advantage of the virtual format brought on by the pandemic, two meetings were held in the same year to maintain momentum between annual discussions and stay on pace with the rapidly evolving global landscape. The first meeting in 2021 was thus an Interim Meeting which was held on 31st May, 2021. This was a first, in the history of the Dialogue. Two meetings in a year allowed deeper discussions, sharing more nuanced insights on each side’s state of play in geo-strategy, healthcare and economy, and orienting the discussions towards the future. India-Korea Strategic Dialogue is a track 1.5 diplomatic dialogue that aims to highlight new opportunities and challenges for strengthening the bilateral relations between India-Korea and provide policy recommendations.

Europe India Strategic Dialogue

18–19 Nov 2021



This year, Ananta Aspen Centre, in partnership with Institut Montaigne, Fundação Oriente and the Ministry of External Affairs, the Government of India launched the inaugural edition of Europe-India Strategic Dialogue. Eminent people from various fields including senior government officials, business leaders, journalists, policymakers, and academicians, from both India and EU member states, deliberated on the outcomes of the May Summit and topics of mutual interest like bilateral relations, trade, and investment, restructuring supply chains, climate change, multilateralism, and co-operation in the Indo-Pacific region to nurture a mélange of convergences and uncover new potential between Europe and India.



The 14th India-Israel Forum

8–9 Dec 2021

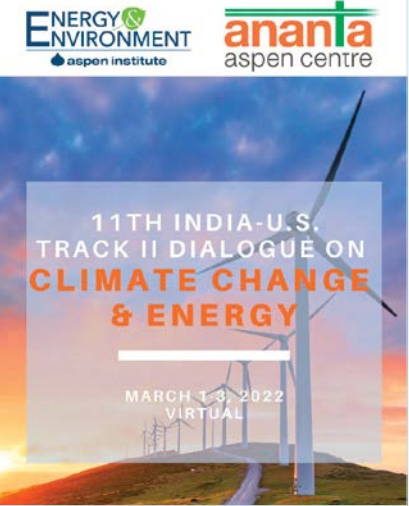


The 14th annual meeting of the India-Israel Forum was held virtually on 8–9 December 2021 and featured a speech by Israeli President **Isaac Herzog**, who emphasized the need to deepen relations between the two countries and create new avenues of cooperation. The forum was co-convened by Ananta Aspen Centre, the Confederation of Indian Industry, and Tel Aviv University. Key government officials, stakeholders, academics, and experts from India and Israel discussed contemporary challenges and brainstormed new ways to strengthen bilateral relations. In addition to discussing past efforts and recent developments to enhance the bilateral relationship, this edition also deliberated on measures to be taken to safeguard a sustainable future in the healthcare sector, trade, defense, and skill development.



11th India-US Track II on Climate Change & Energy

1–3 Mar 2022



Members from the U.S. and Indian Delegations of the Track II Dialogue on Climate Change and Clean Energy met via Zoom for the 11th chapter. This year, the Track II Dialogue engaged on key issues related to the bilateral climate and energy relationship, including how the two countries can yield significant benefits on the topics of climate finance, subnational action, water and climate resilient solutions, engagement with China, and green hydrogen. The Track II Dialogue, co-convened by the Aspen Institute Energy and Environment Program and Aspen Ananta Centre, has for the last 11 years provided a necessary medium for non-partisan, independent and open discussion among distinguished representatives from academia, research institutions, civil society and industry.

Public Sessions, Roundtables & Masterclasses

India-Japan Cybersecurity Co-operation: Securing a Stronger Future

Public Session 14 Jun 2021



This digital session was a part of a series on India-Japan Partnership Perspectives. India and Japan over the last decade have agreed on various partnership agreements to build cooperation in cyberspace and create a resilient cybersecurity defence structure together. Against this backdrop, Ananta Aspen Centre supported by The Nippon Foundation held a digital session on “India-Japan Cybersecurity cooperation: Securing a stronger future” with **Mihiko Matsubara**, Chief Cybersecurity Strategist, NTT Corporation and **Govindraj Ethiraj**, Founder, Boom and IndiaSpend; Ananta Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow. India and Japan have signed various agreements to make cybersecurity stronger, including the Memorandum of Co-operation on ICT and joint agreement at the QUAD Summit. Both countries have agreed to set up a working group on cybersecurity and emerging technologies.

Israel's New Government: Challenges, Priorities and Pitfalls

Roundtable 28 Jul 2021

ISRAEL'S NEW GOVERNMENT: Challenges, Priorities and Pitfalls

Given the recently concluded elections in Israel and the change in power after 12 years, a roundtable was held to understand more about the new government's priorities and its approach toward Israel's neighbors, the world, and India in particular. Participants also analyzed if the new government would represent continuity or change in Israel's policies at home, on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and what would be the prospects that the coalition will survive long enough to have any significant policy impact.

Masterclass Series on Emerging Technologies



The 3rd edition of the Online Masterclass Series was convened jointly by Ananta Aspen Centre, Confederation of Indian Industry, and Tel Aviv University, Israel, under the aegis of India-Israel Forum. Leading Israeli experts conducted the Masterclasses to help students to un-

derstand the latest trends in technology, global standards and practices and, augment capacity building in the field of emerging technologies. The Online Masterclasses on Emerging Technologies were supported by Triveni Turbine Limited to help promote academic linkages between India and Israel.

27 Oct 2021 **New Space, Cube Satellites and Earth Observations** by **Colin Price**, Head, Environmental Studies Department, The Porter School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, Tel Aviv University.

23 Nov 2021 **Neural Networks in Artificial Intelligence** by **Jonathan Berant**, Associate Professor, Blavatnik School of Computer Science, Tel Aviv University.

16 Feb 2022 **New Horizons in Privacy Engineering** by **Eran Toch**, Head, Undergraduate Program, Department of Industrial Engineering, Tel Aviv University.

10 Mar 2022 **Future of Autonomous Vehicles** by **Mor Kaspi**, Professor, Head, Analytics for Urban Transportation & Operations Laboratory, Department of Industrial Engineering, Tel-Aviv University.

Ambassador Series

The Ambassador Series is a unique initiative to interact with the heads of foreign missions in India. It contributes towards development of India's foreign relations, facilitates outreach, and helps in the expansion of India's multi-dimensional ties with countries across the world.

Charting the Future of India-Canada Relations

8 Jun 2021



India and Canada have a unique relationship which has seen enormous growth in recent years. The pandemic has thrown new challenges and opportunities for the two countries to work together on. Against this backdrop, Ananta Aspen Centre held a digital session on Charting the future of India-Canada Relations with **H.E. Ajay Bisaria**, High Commissioner of India to Canada, chaired by **Dr Naushad Forbes**, Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall and Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre.

India and Canada have had a strategic partnership in place since 2015, when Prime Minister Modi visited Canada. The relationship gained momentum in 2019, and both countries came back with renewed mandates to cement the relationship even further. After the new government came in, there was a talk of a more pragmatic phase of engagement and a strong focus on the economic partnership, and the strategic partnership between India and Canada. Canadian portfolio investors and investment firms, particularly, have made investments of about five billion dollars in 2014-15. It has risen to about 50 to 60 billion dollars today.

Both countries have the opportunity to co-create a strong startup ecosystem by enriching resource pool and common linkage to further bring in major investments and take the bilateral relationship forward.

Italy and India, Partners in Sustainability and Multilateralism

10 Jun 2021



India and Italy agreed to work together on a sustainable and inclusive post COVID-19 recovery, finding solutions to the climate crisis and identifying new areas of economic partnership. In the light of growing relationship, Ananta Aspen Centre held a digital session on “Italy and India, Partners in Sustainability and Multilateralism” with **H.E. Mr. Vincenzo De Luca**, Ambassador of Italy to India, chaired by **Ambassador Anil Wadhwa**, Former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Former Indian Ambassador to Italy.

Amidst the ongoing second wave of COVID-19, Italy extended its support to India by promoting collaboration between the healthcare sectors of two countries. Italy further assisted India by providing oxygen and pharmaceutical products. Moreover, Italy has pledged 300 million Euros for the COVAX facility, 200 million for climate and health in poor countries, 15 million doses for COVID vaccines for low income countries. In the effort to promote solidarity and friendship.

Both countries agreed to create a centre for research on new treatment for pandemics on genomics and on other promising fields of research to be better prepared for future global pandemics. Therefore, India and Italy realise the growing synergies between them and aim to enrich the bilateral relationship in coming years.

Leadership



Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship

The Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship is a unique initiative to interact with the heads of foreign missions in India. It contributes towards development of India's foreign relations, facilitates outreach, and helps in the expansion of India's multi-dimensional ties with countries across the world.

The Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship seeks to develop a new generation of values-based action-oriented leaders to serve India. It focuses on young, entrepreneurial leaders from Business, Government and Civil Society between the ages of 35-45. The text-based Socratic dialogue provides these young leaders with an opportunity to better understand their own leadership values and those of their peers. It also encourages them to engage more vigorously with the challenges of their communities and country, while exploring new ways to work in concert to improve Indian society and the world at large. Class 8 "Elev8" was launched in August with 17 fellows starting their Aspen journey with the Challenge of Leadership seminar from 24 to 29 August 2021 in New Delhi. This seminar nudges Fellows to think about their own role and responsibility as leaders, as they are exposed to a range of leaders offering different leadership styles and models. During the seminar, the Fellows produce a personal handbook of the attributes of effective, enlightened leaders and of what such leaders do and don't. Along with this, they conceptualize a venture which reflects their own passion and interest and provides an opportunity to apply their vision of a 'good society' in tangible ways.

Class 7 "Shaken Not Stirred" graduated after the final seminar in the series of four. This seminar is the most introspective and was held from 20 to 24 October 2021 in Goa. In this seminar Fellows share the results and lessons learned from their ventures and explore issues of balancing work and family, community engagement and personal legacy. They are poised from here to engage in the next phase of their leadership and have begun their journey from success to significance..

India-China Fellows Roundtable

A few Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellows participated in the second closed-door dialogue with their Chinese peers who are part of the Aspen Global Leadership Network, 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.



Introduction to the Fellowship



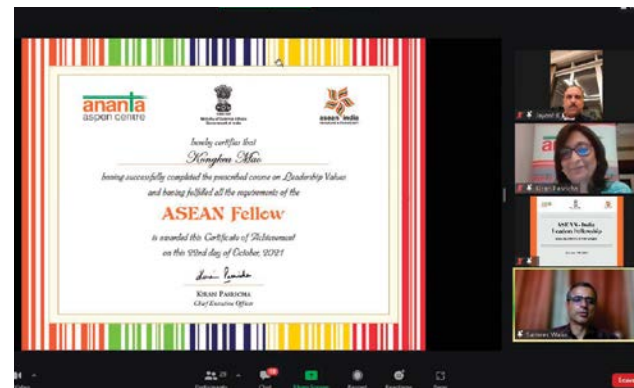
The moderators



Team building exercise



Asean India Leaders Fellowship



Seminar 4 : The Promise of Leadership

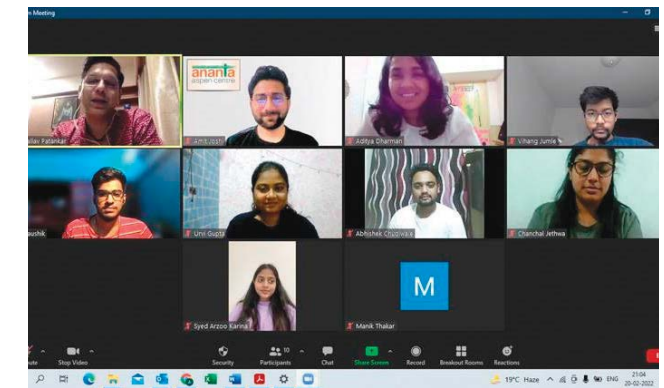
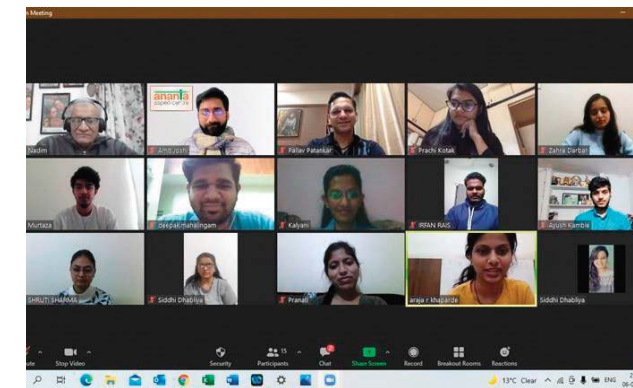
Seminar 4, also called the 'Graduation Seminar' for the Fellows, was to be held from March 17 to 21, 2020, but was delayed by the pandemic. It was finally held in a virtual environment from October 18–22, 2021.

The Promise of Leadership was the final seminar in the series of four and was the most introspective. Hereon, the Fellows begin the next phase of their leadership journey from success to significance. By the end of the Fellowship, seminar participants had enhanced their ability to solve the problems that confront society in a creative manner.

Fellows moved from reading about leadership to becoming full-fledged leaders themselves, capable of putting their values-based leadership abilities into practice.

In this seminar, Fellows shared the results and lessons learned and explored issues of balancing work and family, community engagement and personal legacy. The Fellows also presented their leadership ventures to the moderators and co-Fellows. Discussions and peer reviews amongst the cohort preceded the venture presentations. Many of these inputs were critical in helping the ventures to move in the right direction. The selected Readings took the Fellows on an arc where they moved from reading about leadership to becoming full-fledged leaders capable of putting their values-based leadership abilities into practice..

Ananta Aspen Emerging Leaders Fellowship



Alumni Sessions 2021–22

Ananta Aspen Centre has started several outreach activities to ensure continued contact with the participants. As physical meetings were not possible, and we did not want to have a break in the engagement, Ananta Aspen Centre held several sessions with the Fellows which were conducted by moderators via digital platforms. As part of the formal interactions, Ananta Aspen Centre planned a few Virtual Alumni Sessions to bridge distances and bring the Fellows together. These virtual Sessions were for a duration of 2.0 hours. An Aspen trained moderator and co-moderator conducted the Sessions on an online platform where the Fellows, moderators and organisers came together for a duration of two hours to discuss the curated Readings. Appropriate Readings were selected so that the Fellows could visualize the situation around them and discuss the issues facing the world during the time of the pandemic. The Readings were shared in digital format with the Fellows before the date and discussed during these moderated sessions. The online sessions pushed participants out of their comfort zones into a virtual

“It was extremely helpful in staying connected and hear everyone’s diverse thoughts on each of our readings.

— Participant

environment where they had to combat different time zones, erratic internet connectivity and express their views on the readings at hand. Everyone was extremely participative and always tried their best to join. Most of the Fellows voiced the view that the online sessions were very effective in many ways.



Public Sessions and Roundtables

India's R&D Ambitions: Challenges and Imperatives

Roundtable 29 Sep & 16 Nov 2021

The Ananta Aspen Centre and the Centre for Technology, Innovation and Economic Research (CTIER) jointly organise a series of roundtable discussions on “India's R&D Ambitions: Challenges and Imperatives”. These discussions have been closed door virtual roundtable discussions; participants include a select and eminent group of academics, policymakers, and industry professionals. The roundtables follow the Chatham House rule to encourage a free and frank discussion among the participants.

The discussions focused on themes that included the relevance of basic research in R&D, the importance of investing in basic research to spur faster productivity growth, the various initiatives currently underway in India to spur innovation and the structural and institutional challenges that need to be addressed. Through these discussions various aspects of India's R&D and innovation landscape were covered-especially points relating from basic research in India to translation

and commercialisation, funding research in higher education institutes, new models of R&D funding and building a better trained and creative workforce. Some of the recurring themes that emerged in each of the discussions were the need to revisit the funding of public research in India and the current research infrastructure. Public R&D laboratories perform the bulk of public-funded research; India must look at ways to expand the footprint of science in India.

The first discussion, held on 29 September 2021, was based on a preliminary report that had been prepared as part of the Aspen Institute for Pure Science Project. It looked at the relevance of basic research in R&D and also carried a comparative analysis of India with other select countries in terms of Basic Research being performed. The second session held on 16 November 2021 included a presentation by the International Monetary Fund. The presentation touched upon the IMF's October 2021 World Economic Outlook and policy priorities required to secure the global recovery, including investing in the post pandemic future. There was special focus on the importance of investing in Basic Research to spur productivity.





Naushad Forbes
Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre;
Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall Pvt. Ltd



Anu Aga, Founding Trustee
Former Chairperson, Thermax Ltd



Sanjiv Bajaj
Chairman and Managing Director,
Bajaj Finserv Ltd



Chandrajit Banerjee
Director General, Confederation of Indian
Industry



Radhika Bharat Ram
Joint Vice-Chairperson, The Shri Ram Schools



C. K. Birla
Chairman, OK Birla Group



Tarun Das, Founding Trustee
Chairman, Sasakawa-India Leprosy
Foundation



Jamshyd N. Godrej, Founding Trustee
Chairman Ananta Centre; Chairman of the
Board, Godrej & Boyce Mfg Co. Ltd



Naresh Gujral
Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha



Vinati Kastia Kilambi
Senior Partner, AZB & Partners



Suresh Prabhu
Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha



Ravi Singh
Secretary General & CEO, WWF India



S. K. Lambah
Former Special Envoy of the Prime Minister



Nikhil Sawhney
Vice Chairman & Managing Director,
Triveni Turbine Ltd



Sameer Walia
Founder and Chief Executive, Ripples of Hope



Sumit Mazumdar
Chairman and Managing Director, TIL Ltd



N. K. Singh
Chairman, 15th Finance Commission

SENIOR STAFF
Kiran Pasricha, CEO
Indrani Bagchi, CEO-Designate
Harshit Sehgal, Senior Director
Wikky Katyal, Head Operations
Mukesh Gusain, Administration Manager
Charu Athiya Jishnu, Programme Officer
Amit Joshi, Programme Officer
Perna Bountra, Programme Officer

Thank you,
Kiran!



Kiran Pasricha, who has been the driving force behind the Ananta Centre and Ananta Aspen Centre, formally stepped down from her role as CEO on March 31, 2022, capping a stellar career that spanned several decades and continents.

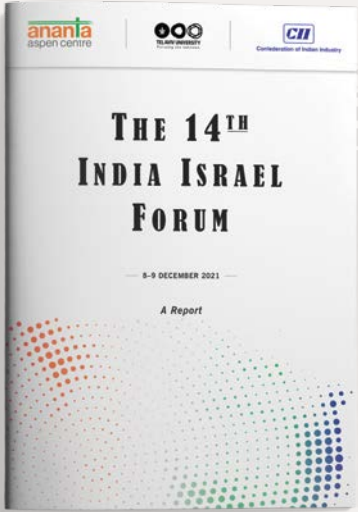
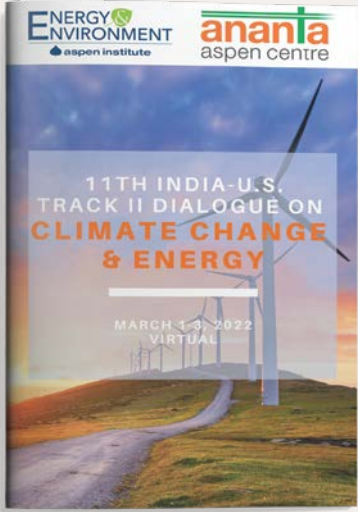
Since the creation of Ananta, Kiran has been synonymous with the institution. She built it up to where it is today—epitomising a higher standard in all its activities and achievements. Kiran steered Ananta through its journey, nurturing it during lean and sunny years. The pandemic upended all certainties but Kiran ensured that the Ananta ship sailed undaunted, embracing technology and the new normal to keep programs intact and adding new areas to Ananta's work.

It's not for nothing that Ananta did not want Kiran to walk away into the sunset. She is our Shepherd, and will continue to guide the Ananta flock for a long time to come.

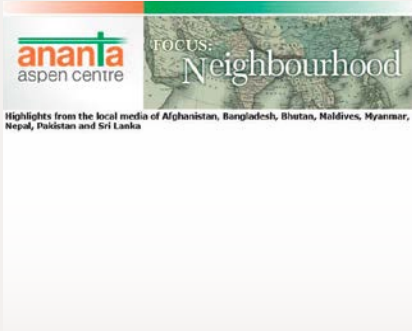
We have enclosed some glimpses from her farewell lunch which was a unique event, a time for everyone whose lives were touched by Kiran's smiles, her tears and her incredible organisational capability to give back some of the love.

FAREWELL LUNCH, 26 MARCH 2022





Newsletters



ANANTA ASPEN CENTRE

IETE Building, Ground Floor, 2 Institutional Area Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003, India

Tel: +91 11 4754 1489 | Email : admin@anantacentre.in

www.anantaaspencentre.in