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A N N U A L R E P O R T



US-India Strategic Dialogue

Leading in the 21st Century

Do Values Matter In A Global Marketplace?

Voices from the North East *CHANGING GEOGRAPHY OF INNOVATION*

STRATEGIC & FOREIGN POLICY CHALLENGES FOR INDIA

The Moral Case for Capitalism *China as a World Power*

Defence Roundtable India-Turkey Forum

Aspen India Seminar *India-US-Japan Trilateral*

India & the US Young Leaders & Development

India-Latin America partnership India-Japan Strategic Dialogue

INDIA'S FUTURE AND THE CITIZEN ELITE *Indo-Pak Rivalry*

India-Turkey Forum India-Singapore Dialogue

India-China Strategic Dialogue New Road to Mandalay

Building Leaders Global Swing States

A Resilient National Security Policy The CEO Series

Toxic Pollution: The Unseen Health Menace

CHINA & INDIA Ami Bera: the Indian American Congressman

India-US Track II Dialogue on Climate Change *India-Asean Ties*

C K Prahalad Memorial Lecture East Asia Security Challenges

Indian Mujahideen: A Computational Analysis

The Growth Net Economic Impact of Internet in India

The U.S. Re-balance to Asia India Africa Development Partnership

INNOVATION CULTURE: Myths, Realities, Ideas

INDIA LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (ILI)

The AHA Moment: India & our Ice-Covered World

The Energy Landscape: Shaping The Future



ASPEN INSTITUTE INDIA

is now

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NURTURING CHANGE, TRANSFORMING INDIA.

Ananta Aspen Centre focuses on leadership development and frank and open dialogue on the most important problems and challenges facing society at large and helps foster the transformation of Indian society. It also engages the civil society, business, governments and other stake holders on issues of importance to India's development and National Security.



NURTURING CHANGE, TRANSFORMING INDIA.

"I BELIEVE, India with its vibrant democracy, rule of law and economic heft, is well placed to emerge as a key global player and help shape the world of tomorrow"

Over the last few years, the world has become an increasingly complex place to live and work in. This is manifest in increasing global economic turbulence, rise of fundamentalism and climate change worries. At the same time, the globalised era has enhanced the interdependence of nations and economies, adding to uncertainties and complexities.

I believe, India with its vibrant democracy, rule of law and economic heft, is well placed to emerge as a key global player and help shape the world of tomorrow. The Ananta Aspen Centre understands this vision and is keen to play an enabling role in India's emergence as a global game changer.

It is in this backdrop that the Centre has convened the "leaders of change" platform to discuss, debate and throw light on significant contemporary issues of relevance to the domestic audience and the international community. I strongly believe such initiatives can catalyse change and help shape public discourse in India and abroad.



GAUTAM THAPAR
Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SEEKING TO strengthen India's relations with other countries, Ananta Aspen Centre provides a platform for dialogues on matters of national importance and global relevance.

A highly effective mechanism, aligned with India's foreign policy objectives, is the Track II Dialogue process. Featuring some of India's leading thought-leaders, the Dialogues seek to strengthen India's bilateral and multilateral relations.

This year, the Centre has convened the Sixth India-Israel Forum, the Seventh Aspen-GMF India Trilateral Forum, the Fourth India-China Dialogue, the XIX US India Strategic Dialogue and the Third and Fourth editions of the US India Track II Dialogue on Climate Change and Energy. The discussions held in these forums have invariably resulted in the development of strong avenues of collaboration.

The Annual Workshop on National Security and Foreign Policy has become an influential platform to examine India's national security preparedness.



SHIVSHANKAR MENON & S. K. LAMBAH

SECURITY & DEFENCE:

WORKSHOP ON NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN POLICY

India being the largest country in South Asia has a security parameter that encompasses the others. Acknowledging the complex security system along with its diversity and disparity, the challenging neighborhood and cross-border terrorism and the increasing importance of cyber security, water security along with economic security, there is a growing paradox in India. There is an inconsistency between the situations of being 'increasingly secure' and 'increasingly paranoid'.

The threats we face today are regarding the stability and strategic autonomy that are not existential in nature. Nevertheless, these are very complex threats. West Asia is in turmoil and East Asia is no longer what

it used to be, jihadi terrorism is on the rise, also rise of China and retreat of a Super Power are real issues. India is less confident than able to face rapid challenges to social aspiration and social mobility.

Emphasizing on these aspects, Ananta Aspen Centre (formerly Aspen Institute India) convened the **3rd Annual National Security & Foreign Policy Workshop**. The workshop was chaired by Ambassador S K Lambah, and Mr. Shiv Shankar Menon, the then National Security Adviser, was the special invitee who delivered the inaugural address. The workshop was a closed door discussion between a select group of former diplomats/service officers, academicians, and representatives from media, thinktanks and corporates.



TARUN DAS & JAIMINI BHAGWATI



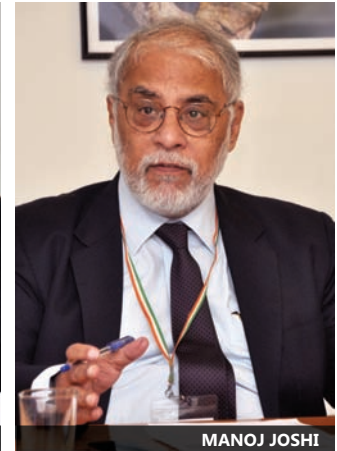
SHYAM SARAN



G. K. PILLAI



SATISH INAMDAR & RONEN SEN



MANOJ JOSHI

The 3rd workshop included a series of discussions on "India's Current Security Landscape" and "The Volatile Neighbourhood" which included discussions on 'US-India relations: Getting ties back on track', 'Internal Security: How prepared are we' and 'Rise of an assertive China: Imperatives for India'.

Following the workshop, recommendations on the way forward included developing the existing security apparatus while reforming national security. It has been observed that Defence production practices must be reviewed and greater investment in National Security is needed.

State and Society issues need to be re-visited. Policy reforms, law enforcement must be revamped considering that India is in RTI/Lokpal age. The national security issues should be moved beyond the purview of the professionals and taken to the public. There is a need for public debate and creation of a template to discuss the national security strategy and that must be backed by political consensus.

India's economic relations can be used as a hedge against de-stabilising affects. An effective mix of bureaucratic diplomacy and entrepreneurial diplomacy would yield better outcomes. The border

THE THREATS WE FACE today are regarding stability and strategic autonomy that are not existential in nature. West Asia is in turmoil and East Asia is no longer what it used to be. The rise of jihadi terrorism and the retreat of a Super Power are the real issues.

regions have to be tailored to prosperous relations with the neighbours. Bhutan's Per Capita Income is higher than India and also Bhutan's bordering Indian states. These border regions require immediate social, economic and infrastructure development.

These were the contours of the discussions at the third edition of the workshop indicating the need for defence modernisation and corrective policies to facilitate rapid economic growth in order to improve India's national security preparedness. ☘

TRACK II DIALOGUES:

US-JAPAN-INDIA

TRACK II STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

Delegations from the United States, Japan and India met for the tenth U.S.-Japan-India Track Two Strategic Dialogue in Tokyo, Japan. The dialogue was jointly convened in collaboration with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The delegates met with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, and other senior government officials responsible for foreign affairs, defense, energy and economic strategy.

The Indo-Pacific concept as an economic corridor based on the unobstructed flow of goods in an open and secure maritime domain and the emphasis on

peaceful diplomacy to resolve disputes were some of the ideas that were discussed at the trilateral forum. Participants concurred that the three nations shared common interests and were well poised to develop a joint vision for a rules-based order and security architecture in Asia.

Their key areas of convergence were: having a common interest in promoting stability and economic

THE PARTICIPANTS noted the advances in bilateral U.S.-India & Japan-India security cooperation and expressed hope that trilateral naval exercises could be regularized in the future.



DELEGATES' DINNER WITH PM SHINZO ABE



CO-CHAIRS OF THE TRILATERAL DIALOGUE

progress in Pakistan and Afghanistan; the development of safe and secure energy resources, including nuclear power; countering proliferation challenges, particularly those emanating from North Korea; and continuing support for the adoption of democratic norms internationally. Delegates agreed that economic strength in all three countries is critical to sustained leadership in the international system.

The Trilateral dialogue brought about discussions centered on the impact of domestic politics on economic and foreign policy, improved stability in Japanese politics, prospects for forward moving economic reforms in India, and some concern over current trends in political discourse in the United States. There was broad agreement that there will likely be continued bipartisan support for strengthening all three bilateral relationships. The delegations noted the advances in bilateral U.S.-India and Japan-India security cooperation and expressed hope that trilateral naval exercises could be regularized in the future.

The participants celebrated the bonds of trust and friendship that permeate these exchanges and extended support towards convening the eleventh round of the U.S.-Japan-India Track Two Strategic Dialogue at an early date in Japan. ☘





TRACK II DIALOGUES:

THE SIXTH INDIA-ISRAEL FORUM

Assembling in Tel Aviv from 28th to 30th October 2013, delegates from India and Israel met to explore collaborative opportunities at The Sixth India-Israel Forum. The Forum was organised in collaboration with The Harold Hartog School of Government & Policy at Tel Aviv University and Confederation of Indian Industry to add new dynamism to bilateral ties.

Since its onset in 2008, the Forum has grown from broad-based areas such as "Economic Partnership" to increasingly focussed sessions in areas such as Agriculture, Infrastructure, Financial Services and Investments and High-tech cooperation. This has also led to the creation of Domain Working Groups in



SIGNING OF MOU BETWEEN TATA INDUSTRIES AND RAMOT



DELEGATES WITH PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL, MR. SHIMON PERES

fields like Healthcare, Energy and Water.

Over the course of three days, the delegates discussed a range of topics in response to domestic and international trends in regional ecosystems.

The Forum this year established two working groups on "Food Security" and "Cyber Security" and Roundtable on "Innovation". By addressing these topics, the Forum created a foundation on which to further explore bilateral projects. The forum was successfully concluded with the signing of Tata Industries five million dollar funding commitment to RAMOT at Tel Aviv University, The Indian delegation also had the opportunity to meet the President of Israel, Mr. Shimon Peres. President Peres advocated the need for stronger economic relations between the two countries. The Forum continues to play a catalytic role in deepening the exchange between the two nations across a three-tiered approach; Business to Business (B2B), Government to Government (G2G) and Academia to Academia (A2A). ☘

IN AN ERA OF international integration, the relationship between India and Israel has been one of understated synergy and potential. Both countries must establish long-term collaborations centred on common challenges & opportunities.

TRACK II DIALOGUES:

FOURTH INDIA-CHINA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

In 2010, the inaugural India-China strategic dialogue was initiated in collaboration with China Reform Forum to discuss the various issues affecting the current state of affairs between the two countries including shared economic opportunities as well as security threats and challenges.

Continuing the initiative, the 4th India-China

Strategic Dialogue was held in Beijing. The dialogue observed that though economic cooperation was the key to India-China relationship, certain irritants that stymie diplomatic and political ties need to be ironed out. India & China's bilateral relationship is considered essential for peace, growth and development in both the countries.

DELEGATES AT THE INDIA-CHINA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE



Areas of common interest were identified and the delegation agreed on greater level of engagement. The delegation discussed people-to-people exchanges and visits between faculties and students. Both countries agreed on multilateral level coordination on Afghanistan. The new areas for collaboration that were identified included Nuclear, Space, Cyber, Energy, Food, Climate and Water.

Underscoring national security as a bilateral concern, participants discussed the issues of terrorism, threats of nuclear proliferation, role and activities of the Taliban and other extremist non-state actors in the region. Establishment of a Hotline between the two nations is in the pipeline. It was decided that the countries would cooperate to achieve greater convergence on global economic outlook. ☞

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DELEGATES AT THE JAPAN-INDIA DIALOGUE

TRACK II DIALOGUES:

JAPAN-INDIA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE



GAUTAM THAPAR RAISING A TOAST AT THE DINNER

The Japan-India Strategic Dialogue was held in Tokyo from November 19-21, with the aim of expanding the canvas of opportunities between the two Asian giants. The Dialogue preceded the much anticipated visit of their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress of Japan to New Delhi.

Participants from both the countries discussed various strategic and economic areas of cooperation. Detailed discussions were held on opportunities for Japanese companies to invest in India, especially in the infrastructure sector. During the Dialogue, the high level delegation met Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe. ☘

TRACK II DIALOGUES:

US-INDIA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

Ananta Aspen Centre, in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and The Aspen Institute (U.S.), has been co-convening the US India Strategic Dialogue (Track II) since 2001-2002. The Dialogue series seeks to synergise US India bilateral relations, especially in economic, social and political spheres. The participating delegates included senior diplomats, academics, media-persons, foreign policy experts and institutional representatives from across the spectrum, thereby enabling impact-oriented discussions.

The XIX meeting of the 'U.S. India Strategic Dialogue' was held in Washington D.C. from February 2014. The Dialogue was chaired by Ambassador SK Lambah and Mr. Tarun Das from Indian side and Ambassador Nicholas Burns and Mr. Joseph Nye from the U.S. side.

The key issues raised in the meeting included

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bilateral strategic issues (including security and counterterrorism), trade and economic relations, rise of China, situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan, cooperation in the fields of science and technology, energy and climate, and defence. ✂



WILLIAM J. BURNS, U.S. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE FLANKED BY THE INDIAN CO-CHAIRS & NISHA BISWAL, U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE



TRACK II DIALOGUES:

TRACK II DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE & ENERGY

With an aim to foster greater synergy in cooperation on climate change and energy, the Third and Fourth Track II Dialogues on Climate Change and Energy were convened by Ananta Aspen Centre in collaboration with The Aspen Institute and the Confederation of Indian Industry. The dialogues held in New Delhi and Washington DC respectively, provided a platform to build on existing ties and an opportunity to streamline energy and environmental priorities and boost bilateral collaborations on climate change mitigation. The high-ranking experts from India





DELEGATES AT THE THIRD DIALOGUE

LEADERSHIP IN BOTH U.S. and India have made climate change planning a priority but much more needs to be done. The price tag for both sudden-onset and slow-onset climate events will be large but resilience measures that aim to protect coasts, water resources, agriculture and other areas can lower the cost.

and the United States discussed key energy and climate change issues as well as the papers produced by four thematic working groups.

The key issues raised in the meetings included bilateral energy and climate cooperation; common priorities and challenges; renewable energy innovations; low carbon pathways for growth; climate resilience, HFCs and energy efficiency. Seeking to support the Track I talks between the governments, the Dialogue participants conveyed their recommendations through a letter addressed to the

US Secretary of Energy, Ernest Moniz and the then Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, India, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia in March 2014.

The ongoing initiative underscores the emergence of India as a key country that can assist the international community in making the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon growth path to tackle climate change challenges. The content-driven dialogue brings fresh focus on the core competencies and available opportunities for US–India collaboration in this realm. ☞

TRACK II DIALOGUES:

ASPEN INDIA – GMF TRILATERAL FORUM



PANEL DISCUSSION AT THE FORUM

The seventh meeting of the India Trilateral Forum was held in Mumbai November 8-9, 2013. Co-organized with the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF), and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, participants from India, the U.S and the European Union gathered to discuss current political and economic affairs.

Over the course of the two-day forum, seven panels were held on a variety of topics concerning foreign policy, national security, and international trade. These topics ranged from the impending Indian elections, to

developments in the political ecosystems of the West and South Asian subcontinents, and the United State's strategic foreign policy rebalancing towards the East.

The panels served as foundations for collaborative policy initiatives that improve trilateral relations. Comprising participants from various fields of expertise, these dialogues revealed areas of convergence and divergence between the three democratic polities on issues of interest, provoking further questions and constructive debate amongst the forum at-large.



THE FORUM DELIBERATED the current strengths and weaknesses and the future prospects of domestic politics globally. The delegation agreed that the framework in which the government operates dictates the effectiveness of the democracy.



The Indian elections had dominated daily exchanges amongst Indians and interested foreign nationals alike for the past year. The gravitas of the event was no more evident than at the India Trilateral Forum as the delegation speculated both formally and informally, on how the results would shape India in the coming five years.

The Forum deliberated the current strengths and weaknesses and future prospects of democratic politics globally. The delegation agreed that the framework in which a government operates dictates

the effectiveness of the democracy.

Another similarity amongst the citizenry of the three polities is a desire for increased trade. In each bilateral relationship (India-EU, India-US, US-EU), there are free trade agreements (FTA) being negotiated at present.

Participants also reflected upon the impact of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), with members of the Indian delegation expressing a necessity for India to join the negotiations. Indian participants highlighted that India must refrain from being "outsider-looking-in" to these trade blocks, as this would risk trade partnerships with Asia-Pacific nations.

Raising issues concerning the global political economy, participants discussed impactful developments in the international community. More specifically, the delegation centred its focus on the ongoing churning in Asia as an opportunity for enhanced trilateral collaboration with China, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Overall, the recommendations sustained and the fruitful dialogues held largely demonstrate the value of the India Trilateral Forum as an agenda setting and network-building forum to advance common understanding of India's diverse priorities and challenges. ☘

TRACK II DIALOGUES:

THE THIRD INDIA–TURKEY FORUM

The relations between India and Turkey have been gaining momentum over the years. Recently, both countries have seen historic exchange of Presidential visits. All these efforts are being made with a key emphasis to boost momentum in relations to reach its full potential.

To explore avenues of further co-operation between the two countries The India–Turkey Forum was created, and the third meeting of the Forum was held in Istanbul, Turkey.

In the last 5 years Turkey has strengthened its embassy in India and a new Consulate is being established in Hyderabad. It was suggested that both countries should develop people-to-people exchange. Turkey is expected to increase Turkish courses in Indian universities.

The delegates at the Third Forum observed that regarding Defence co-operation, especially Navy interactions, India's engagement with Turkey has somewhat been constrained because of Turkey's relations with Pakistan. It was noted that India and Turkey need to have a two pronged approach—strategic and business—in making progress in relations. It was decided a joint group should be set up for exploring Energy co-operation along with a proposed Action Plan to look at new avenues of Partnerships. ✂

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a two pronged approach
– strategic and business – in
making progress in relations.*



DELEGATES AT THE INDIA – TURKEY FORUM

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE & ENERGY:

THE AHA MOMENT: INDIA & OUR ICE-COVERED WORLD



OLAFUR RAGNAR GRÍMSSON

Addressing a special session on “The AHA Moment: India and our Ice-Covered World,” the President of Iceland, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, a leading advocate of renewable energy, drew attention on the future of nation bordering the Himalayas. The session was organized by Ananta Aspen Centre in collaboration with Council on Energy Environment and Water (CEEW) and World Wildlife Fund-India (WWF-India).

“THE FUTURE depends profoundly on the understanding of the science that ice is melting and also in strengthening international cooperation to tackle the crisis looming large before the world.”

—PRESIDENT ÓLAFUR RAGNAR GRÍMSSON

In his address, the President said the future depends profoundly on the understanding of the science that ice is melting and also in strengthening international cooperation to tackle the crisis looming large before the world. He warned that nations, including India and China, would be greatly affected by the melting of the ice in Arctic and the glaciers in the Himalayas due to the rising of sea levels. He also underscored that increased water flow in rivers would cause severe problems in transport systems, power networks, food production and daily life for affected nations.

Grimsson also urged political parties, functional communities and environmental organizations to come together and hold dialogues on how to tackle the possible emerging scenarios. He also called for linking the ‘AHA’ with the other ice-covered areas of the earth and stressed that the international dialogue on climate needed an “AHA” moment.

Pointing out that the Arctic, the Himalayas and Antarctica (AHA) are not isolated and separate parts of the globe; the President said their fate and fate of the people and future are closely connected. ☘



(L-R) PRAMIT PAL CHAUDHURI, CARLOS SERGIO SOBRAL DUARTE, CRISTIAN BARROS MELET & JAIME NUALART

THOUGHT EXCHANGE:

INDIA-LATIN AMERICA: A GROWING PARTNERSHIP

The rise of India and Latin America as the major economic hubs of the 21st century provides immense opportunities for enhancing their bilateral economic and commercial ties. The resiliency displayed by them during the global economic meltdown of 2008 generated confidence and motivation for deeper engagement. However, trade between India and the region stands merely at US \$25 billion, which both sides agree is far below the potential. India's aspiration to double this figure in the next five years would require a greater multi-dimensional engagement.



India & Brazil share strong ties across the spectrum. The two nations have witnessed a ten-fold increase in trade in the last decade. The challenge now is to diversify our economic engagements and to enable exchange of best practices.

—AMBASSADOR OF BRAZIL, CARLOS SERGIO SOBRAL DUARTE



During the last 20 years, India has become of economic presence in almost every country in Latin America. At the same time, Chile has emerged as one of the world's most open economies, with a growth rate of 5 percent. This new economic scenario has deepened the relationship between both countries.

— AMBASSADOR OF CHILE, CRISTIAN BARROS MELET

Over the last 60 years, Mexico's relationship with India has been one of fruitful political engagements, trade relations and collaborations. We wish to partner with Indian companies in the fields of science and innovations, biotechnology, water management and new and renewable energy.

—AMBASSADOR OF MEXICO, JAIME NUALART SANCHEZ



To explore and promote the potential for greater trade and integration between the two economies, the first edition of 'The Ambassador Series' – "India-Latin America: A Growing Partnership" with the Ambassador of Brazil H.E. Carlos Sergio Sobral Duarte, Ambassador of Mexico H.E. Jaime Nualart and Ambassador of Chile H.E. Cristian Barros Melet was held. The session was moderated by Foreign Editor of Hindustan Times, Pramit Pal Chaudhuri.

The Ambassadors agreed that trade between the two regions is far less than the potential. They discarded geographical distance been a limiting factor

drawing comparisons with China that is the biggest trade partner of Latin America notwithstanding the huge physical distance. Panelists observed that India and Latin America should be focused on building strategic partnerships. Developing forums along with exchange of experiences in social policies are important areas of engagement and cooperation.

The discussants reiterated the need for displaying greater political will and urged the business communities to move faster to tap the opportunities. They also mentioned the success stories of some of the Indian companies in the region. ☘

THOUGHT EXCHANGE:

AMI BERA ON US POLITICS,
THE DYNAMICS OF BEING
A CONGRESSMAN, CHALLENGES &
OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIA-US
RELATIONS & INDIA AS
AN EMERGING GLOBAL POWER



AMI BERA & RONEN SEN

Dr. Ami Bera, the only Indian-American member in the U.S. Congress, discussed the opportunities to boost relations between New Delhi and Washington, and the emergence of India as a global power at a special session. Highlighting India's rise as a global power, Bera urged Indian and U.S. investors to build on the fast-expanding canvas of opportunities in the two economies. "At present, U.S. has an energy surplus, while India has some pressing energy needs. There are opportunities for mutually-beneficial bilateral partnerships not only in the space of renewable energy, but also in shale gas, oil and gas security as well. The future for India-U.S. cooperation looks very bright," said the Congressman.

Washington has begun pulling out its troops stationed in Afghanistan in a phased manner as part of a process to hand over combat operations against extremist insurgents to Afghan security forces by 2014. However, a spectrum of political analysts and stakeholders have expressed reservation over the move, while highlighting the perceived weaknesses in Afghanistan's political and social structures.

New Delhi has a critical role to play in fostering peace and stability in Afghanistan, U.S. Congressman Dr. Ami Bera asserted. He emphasized that India had emerged as a key stabilising force in the region, owing to a range of initiatives pertaining to education, public health and infrastructure in Afghanistan.

"As we work to advance our shared economic prosperity, we must continue to partner in addressing our shared security," said Bera in an engaging discussion moderated by the former Indian Ambassador to the U.S., Ronen Sen. "India has made extraordinary contributions and strategic investments to the effort in Afghanistan. As the U.S. draws down its troops, India has a critical role to play in holding onto and maintaining some of the gains we have made, and a critical role in anchoring stability in that region. So we must both remain committed to an enduring strategic

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partnership in the region, both to spur development between the dynamic economies of South and Southeast Asia, and to ensure that we can support the will of the Afghan people as they prepare for the upcoming 2014 elections," the Congressman added.

He also warned against politicising the issue of immigration, saying, "Issues pertaining to visas and immigration need to be negotiated through regular channels. There are loose ends that need to be mended in the U.S. as well as India, and we must refrain from making the issue a political one in both nations."

A robust trading relationship with India is important to the U.S. economy and helps create American jobs. In California, exports to India are worth more than \$3.7 billion annually. Much of Bera's visit focused on promoting trade and economic development in the Sacramento region, and expanding the bilateral economic relationship. ☘

THOUGHT EXCHANGE:

GLOBAL SWING STATES: INDIA & THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER



DANIEL KLIMAN

Recognizing the growing influence of India in the international order, a session was organised in collaboration with the German Marshall Fund of the United States. The discussion revolved around “Global Swing States”, a report co-authored by Dr. Daniel Kliman, Senior Advisor of the German Marshall Fund of the United States and Mr. Richard Fontaine of the Center for a New American Security. The report focused on how India—along

with Brazil, Indonesia, and Turkey—will decisively influence the trajectory of the current international order. The Indian perspective on the report was presented by Amb. Kanwal Sibal and the session was moderated by Mr. Daniel Twining, Senior Fellow for Asia at the GMF.

Dr. Kliman underlined the basic elements of the present order and the multiple sources emanating stress upon it. He observed that the present system is

perfect but needs to be re-structured by bringing in new partners with common values (democracy, respect for human rights) and large economies like India, Brazil, Indonesia and Turkey which he termed as Global Swing States. He said that India is 'swinging' between taking greater global responsibility



DANIEL TWINING



KANWAL SIBAL

and managing domestic issues. Its orientation towards the international order is in flux. He stated that India's engagement with the international order would require greater cooperation with international institutions and urged greater investment into Indo-US relations.

Presenting India's perspective, Amb. Sibal lauded certain assumptions made in the report like India's enhanced status, the need for reforming global

“THE CURRENT international system is under strain, especially due to fiscal pressures in the U.S. and Europe. The role of India is pivotal in strengthening the international order. It is crucial for the U.S. to deepen ties with India in the form of stronger bilateral and strategic alliances.”

— DR. DANIEL KLIMAN

institutions and agreed that no rival order can be created against the existing one. However he argued that the international institutions are dominated by the west that is reluctant to cede power even in terms of necessary reforms considering the existing realities. He said, 'the IMF continues to be dominated by the west while any expansion of the UN Security Council seems improbable'. Regarding the India-US equation in the international order, Amb. Sibal observed India will not be comfortable being termed a swing state—helping any state preserve its power to maintain the international order.

There was significant convergence of views regarding strengthening of the India-US relations. The Indo-US nuclear deal has removed several obstacles from pursuing greater strategic cooperation. Discussants concurred that though the US consciously would not go against India's interest but it must consider sharing power.

Another area of convergence was the uncertainty associated with the rise of China and its impact on international order—whether it gets incorporated or resists it. India would be much happier to preserve the broadly liberal order than a Chinese dominated or influenced order. The panel concluded that there was a need to manage the current order through greater cooperation. ☘

THOUGHT EXCHANGE:

INDIA & THE UNITED STATES WITH **MR. SHIVSHANKAR MENON** NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

Over the past decade, the steady expansion of the India-US bilateral ties has raised optimism of transforming the relationship into a broad strategic partnership. However, since the past two years, there is a growing perception of the relationship getting plateaued. In the run up to the elections the latest visit was of PM Manmohan Singh to the US in September 2013. As a precursor to the visit, a session on "India and the US" was conducted with Mr. Shivshankar Menon, National Security Adviser. The session was chaired by

**“OUR BILATERAL
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on a strong and steady
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that matter.**

—MR. SHIVSHANKAR MENON

Mr. Gautam Thapar, Chairman, Aspen Institute India and Chairman & CEO, Avantha Group.

Mr. Menon noted that the high quality Aspen India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue has helped to build the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Referring to PM Manmohan Singh's visit to the US, Mr. Menon re-visited the developments of his earlier visits since 2005 and how the momentum of the previous years have established a new, bold and transformative agenda for this relationship. Mr. Menon exulted the maturation of the relationship on grounds that what were once considered breakthroughs in the relationship, are now regarded as routine and normal. The countries now have strategic consultations on every major issue including non-proliferation, export controls and nuclear issues.

Regarding defence cooperation, Mr. Menon said that India and the US are steadily moving to joint research, co-development and co-production of defence products through partnerships between our defence industries. The Homeland Security Dialogue since 2011 has been of mutual benefit in protecting the two countries. The countries have also begun exploring the potential of cooperative engagement in cyber and space security.

"Our bilateral relations have stayed on a strong and steady course despite rough seas, because of convergence on a broad range of issues that matter" Mr. Menon said.

Mr. Menon said that the impression of drift is partly due to economic factors. It arises from the



SHIVSHANKAR MENON

macro economic situation. The US mentions concerns about economic reforms and specific policy issues in India. India's IT industry, the locomotive of our economic partnership, which provides employment to 280,000 people in the US, also has genuine difficulties with certain discriminatory provisions of the Immigration Reform Bill.

He said that the US will continue to be a key partner for capital, technology, knowledge and skills and also in India's development effort as a potentially important source of clean energy technology and hydrocarbons; an important partner in areas like intelligence and counter terrorism; a key interlocutor in adjustments to the global security and economic architecture and also in India's efforts to seek peace and stability in our extended neighborhood and globally. ☸



GAUTAM THAPAR AND SHIVSHANKAR MENON

THOUGHT EXCHANGE:

STRATEGIC & FOREIGN POLICY CHALLENGES FOR INDIA

The upcoming general elections in India are set to take place against the backdrop of a rapidly transforming international context. At present, the country faces a multitude of traditional as well as non-traditional challenges that are magnified due to the

perceived lack of strong institutionalized mechanisms. Closer home, India is also facing challenges emerging from an increasingly unstable and volatile neighbourhood. Underscoring these concerns, Dr Sunil Khilnani, Ananta Professor and Director of King's India



SUNIL KHLNANI

Institute at the King's College, London, addressed a session on "Strategic and Foreign Policy Challenges for India", chaired by Ambassador G. Parthasarathy, Visiting Professor, Centre for Policy Research, the discussion also featured Dr Srinath Raghavan, Senior Research Fellow at the King's India Institute.

"The conduct of our foreign policy today directly impacts domestic issues. The Indian economy must not be decoupled from the rest of the world, and neither should foreign policy," Khilnani opined. Reflecting on the domestic trends in the context of the upcoming 2014 polls, Khilnani cautioned, "We are at a moment, internationally, of transition, of volatility and of uncertainty. This electoral cycle, there is a danger of us looking inward, like we did in the mid-1990s during the advent of coalition politics."

"There is a growing anxiety that long-term challenges, such as those in domestic and foreign policy, will only be given attention when they become crisis issues. That is why, we may be good at preventing famines, but still fall short in curbing chronic malnutrition," he quipped.

Shedding light on the future of US in global arena, Khilnani added, "There is a growing recognition that the limits of US power have been reached. It is clear that increasingly, the US will want to outsource many of its global responsibilities. It would want to hand them over to local partners. The clearest example of this is in Afghanistan. The US is moving towards the policy of not being physically present across the globe, but being able to act in specific ways to protect its interests."

India therefore would need to move forward cautiously being aware of the direct impact and potential counter-productive effect of its policies both international and domestic. ☘



SRINATH RAGHAVAN

THERE IS A GROWING recognition that the limits of US power have been reached. It is clear that, increasingly, the US will want to outsource many of its global responsibilities. The clearest example of this is Afghanistan...



THOUGHT EXCHANGE:

INDIA'S ROLE IN REGIONAL CO-OPERATION: IS INDIA READY TO WALK THE EXTRA MILE?

Ms. Indrani Bagchi, Diplomatic Editor, The Times of India, ILI-3, fellow while moderating the session stated that "As India develops, so does her international interest. However, India's core foreign policy imperative still remains ensuring a peaceful neighbourhood."

Helen LaFave, the newly appointed US Consul General in Kolkata presented the Welcome address. In her remarks Ms. LaFave recognized the geo-political importance of India as a large, multiethnic, economically powerful democracy and the key role that India plays on the international scene, specifically in Asia.

Opening the discussion, Mr. Alope Sen, Former Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, argued that despite India's superior position in terms of size, resource spread and stage of development, regional co-operation was far less than expected a la member countries of ASEAN, EU and SAARC. The question raised again was whether New Delhi can really walk the extra mile, amid the prevailing wave of political turbulence between India and Pakistan.

Major General (Retd) Arun Roye, AVSM, VSM- Founder Director of CENERS, Kolkata shed light on the geographical position of India. Roye emphasized



(L-R) ALOKE SEN, INDRANI BAGCHI & ARUN ROYE

*IT IS EXPECTED that by 2015,
there will be \$100 billion
worth of trade between India
and ASEAN.*



ALOKE SEN

that national interest comes first for any nation, and it is natural for any country to think about its own benefit rather than walking the extra mile.

Mr. Shiv Siddhant Kaul, Managing Director, Nicco Engineering Services identified trade as the driving factor for India's regional commitment and its potential for development. As per FTA, the trade of India with ASEAN has grown with a compounded growth rate of 22% in last 7-8 years. In 2012, total bilateral trade touched \$ 80 billion and in next 2 years, the target amount has been set with Thailand itself at \$ 46 billion. Earlier, trade was only limited to goods, but now it has extended to services as well. It is expected that by 2015, there will be \$100 billion worth of trade between Indian and ASEAN.

Currently, India's trade with China is worth \$66 billion, but India's current trade deficit with China is \$39 billion. This means, China's large corporate houses can invest here, driving more FDI into India. Still, the trade policy with China is edgy because of the lack of communication and mutual trust. Mr. Kaul concluded saying that India's defence needs encouragement, as there are excellent defence manufacturing institutions for Shipbuilding and even for Railways. ☘



ARUN ROYE



SHIV SIDDHANT KAUL



DAVID BROMWICH

THOUGHT EXCHANGE:

WHAT IS AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM?

Aspen Institute India, in collaboration with Jnanapravaha, organized a session on "What is American Exceptionalism?" with Prof. David Bromwich, Sterling Professor of English at Yale University. In his talk, Prof. Bromwich argued that the belief in American exceptionalism had fostered different approaches to dealing with the rest of the world. He linked the resurgence of the idea to the political rhetoric that America is an exception, a unique political entity that ought to be spread by the country to the rest of the world. Prof. Bromwich

talked about how expansionist interpretations of these American ideals appeared with the Mexican war, and how belief in such ideologies is an important influence on decisions such as the war on Iraq. He pin-pointed the Kosovo intervention as the turning point where the United States completely turned away from the caution of its founding leaders and restored belief and confidence in American exceptionalism. He concluded by questioning whether the US was too thickly planted with international commitments to remain long at peace. ☘

THOUGHT EXCHANGE:

PIVOT OR PIROUETTE: THE US RE-BALANCE TO ASIA

The Barack Obama administration's "rebalance to Asia" strategy has received widespread attention globally. The moot point is whether the rebalance to Asia can in fact resolve the fundamental challenges facing the United States of America and its allies in the region.

Reflecting on these perspectives a session was conducted on "Pivot or Pirouette: The U.S. Re-balance to Asia" where Ashley Tellis, author of India's Emerging Nuclear Posture and co-author of Interpreting China's Grand Strategy: Past, Present, and Future asserted that U.S. will continue its efforts to rebalance Asian political order in the wake of China's rise in the international arena. In collaboration with the Embassy of the United States of America, the session was chaired by Ms. Indrani Bagchi, Diplomatic Editor of The Times of India.

In an engaging presentation, Tellis—a senior associate with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace—said, "The U.S. looks at Asia because that is where the action is. Since the end of the Second World War, U.S. engagement in Asia has been with three objectives, which are to protect its allies from adverse players, to preserve peace among U.S. allies in Asia, and to dampen efforts toward proliferation. However, transition in China and its rise have triggered anxieties in the regional political order, on whether the US will be able to protect the interests of allies which were till recently taken for granted. I would like to stress on one thing—The U.S. is still the strongest state in terms of any matrix of power, despite China's rise."

Outlining the future of U.S. role in Asia, Tellis

*“THE U.S. LOOKS at
Asia because that is
where the action is.”*

—DR. ASHLEY TELLIS

opined, "U.S. is going to be present as an active participant in multilateral arrangements. However, whether or not the rebalance strategy has been effective is debatable, since it is too early to draw conclusions. Before consolidating its engagements in Asia, it is imperative for the U.S. to firstly examine its financial infrastructure, and secondly, recommit itself to a series of ongoing engagements with several players in Asia." ☘



ASHLEY TELLIS



JAMES MANN & SHYAM SARAN

THOUGHT EXCHANGE:

CHINA AS A WORLD POWER

Prof. James Mann, an Avantha Senior Fellow at Aspen Institute India addressed a talk in New Delhi on 'China as a World Power' chaired by Former Indian Foreign Secretary, Mr. Shyam Saran. The discussion revolved around the key steps taken by China to consolidate its economic and political power, and the role played by countries such as the U.S. in buoying China's rise on the global stage. Talks on the same theme were held across India in Bangalore and Kolkata.

In an engaging presentation, Prof. Mann addressed questions on the future of the global world order vis-a-vis China's growth and its internal politics, while underscoring the growing unrest in China's middle class. "Over the last six years, I have been impressed by Chinese middle class concerns in three areas. The first is pollution and air quality, which is really bad. The second is food quality, or product quality. Even basic milk is tainted in China, and people are importing milk from Hong Kong and overseas because they cannot trust anything they buy. The third is



internet censorship, which is viewed as a daily annoyance and insult for middle class people,” Prof. Mann opined. “Yet, China is still an economically powerful country with a developed military, even though its political systems are fragile. In my view, China will not change politically, though it will get stronger and stronger economically for the next 20 years or so.”

“Reflecting on the changing dynamics in the U.S.–China relationship, Prof. Mann argued that Washington’s ‘integrationist model’ had begun to wear out. “Since 2008, there has been a growing recognition among American leaders that the U.S. policy would not bring China to political liberalization. They are beginning to wonder if China would come into the international order without seeking to change it. I also feel U.S. policies have started to change in response to China’s policies. This fundamental change finds its roots in the U.S. financial crisis of 2008, when China seems to have done a strategic reassessment, assuming the U.S. was a

“U.S. POLICIES HAVE started to change in response to China’s policies. This fundamental change finds its roots in the U.S. financial crisis of 2008, when China seems to have done a strategic reassessment, assuming the U.S. was a declining power and that Beijing should assert its might. —PROF. JAMES MANN

declining power and that Beijing should assert its might. From mid-2010, the Obama administration too began hardening its policies towards China, and this seems to me like a fairly long-term U.S. strategy towards China.” ☞



JAMES MANN WITH STUDENTS OF JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA UNIVERSITY, NEW DELHI

NEW ROAD TO MANDALAY



PRAMIT PAL CHAUDHURI

Aspen Institute India in association with iLead organised a session on “New Road to Mandalay: the promise and challenges of a new relationship.”

The discussion revolved around the impact of Myanmar rejoining the global mainstream on Asia’s contentious geopolitical environment. With the world fast taking note of Myanmar, the window of opportunity is short for India to stamp its own global footprint vis-à-vis existing and emerging competition.

According to moderator Dr. Kingshuk Chatterjee, “The game has not yet begun as China has given 5 goals and India is just 5 minutes into the game. I am a bit skeptical on whether India will be able to do it because China has a head start.”

At the helm of the discussion was Pramit Pal Chaudhuri, foreign editor of the Hindustan Times, and a member of the government’s National Security Advisory Board. He threw interesting light on the maneuverings and diplomatic thrusts India should undertake when sticky situations arise in neighbouring countries like Myanmar, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

In Myanmar, India is looking for joint ventures

“INDIA HAS A MAJOR stake in one of the world’s biggest infrastructure projects—the 3,200 kilometre trilateral highway linking India, Myanmar and Thailand

—MR. PRAMIT PAL CHAUDHURI

and also making investments in infrastructure development of the country to make a more visible presence, stated Pramit Pal Chaudhuri. India has a major stake in one of the biggest infrastructure projects in the world now—the 3,200 km trilateral highway linking India, Myanmar and Thailand (now Cambodia and Vietnam also want to join in). India is also exploring possibilities of better cooperation in areas like skill transfer, more private sector participation, tourism, especially the Buddhist pilgrimage route, among others, Pramit opined.

Mr. Subir Bhowmik, the former senior journalist of BBC India was also present, who raised issues on the ethnic problems of Burma which the new government might have to face as a major challenge. ☘



SUHASINI HAIDAR & SUMIT GANGULY

THOUGHT EXCHANGE:

WHY THE INDO-PAKISTANI RIVALRY WILL PERSIST

Rivalries sometimes peter out because one side concludes that it simply cannot prevail, because an exogenous shock (such as a disastrous defeat in a war) leads those in authority to conclude that it is better to make peace or because a new set of political actors change the preferences of one of the rivals. These explanations, of course, are neither mutually exclusive nor exhaustive of the possible conditions for rivalry termination.

Sadly, none of these factors singly or in combination

arise in the discourse of India-Pakistan conflict, argued Prof. Sumit Ganguly, Director of the Center on American and Global Security at Indiana University, U.S at a session on "Why the Indo-Pakistani Rivalry Will Persist?." In his address, Prof. Ganguly stressed that the decades-old India-Pakistan rivalry was unlikely to conclude anytime soon, primarily due to Islamabad's stance towards New Delhi. The discussion was steered by Ms. Suhasini Haidar, Foreign Affairs Editor of CNN-IBN. ☘

THOUGHT EXCHANGE:

DEMOCRATIZING SHANGRI-LA

Political democratisation has boosted avenues for inclusive development in the mountain kingdom of Bhutan – asserted the Chairperson of the National Council, Parliament of Bhutan, H.E. Dr. Sonam Kinga at two sessions on “Democratizing Shangri-La,” held in New Delhi and Kolkata. The sessions were chaired by Member of Indian Parliament, Mr. Baijayant Panda and Ambassador Alope Sen in New

Delhi and Kolkata respectively. The event was hosted in collaboration with the Thimphu Seminars.

In the last few years, the democratic transition in Bhutan has been substantially peaceful, with the monarchy itself providing impetus to the process. Bhutan witnessed its first general elections in 2008, which were followed by a peaceful and smooth transfer of power in the 2013 polls. Presenting an engaging overview of the transition to democracy in Bhutan, Dr. Kinga asserted, “A wide range of factors have triggered democratisation in Bhutan. There was a widespread advocacy spearheaded by the growing middle class for a regime change. Catalysing the change were also class conflicts and popular social movements.”

Highlighting the positive political changes witnessed in Bhutan, Dr. Kinga said, “There is a need to tackle electoral corruption, and the mindset of the considering alternative and opposing views as unpatriotic and disloyal. To strengthen the process, it is imperative to take steps that promote education and awareness among citizens on the different facets of democracy.” ❀



SONAM KINGA



BAIJAYANT 'JAY' PANDA

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

INDIA-AFRICA DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP



SHYAM SARAN & T. N. NINAN

India's partnership with Africa is a unique milestone in the history of South-South cooperation, placing development cooperation within a much broader context of overall relations between the two entities. India-Africa development relations are conceived in terms of a unique three-tiered pattern, encompassing bilateral, regional and pan-African cooperation.

To learn more about this unique model of cooperation, a session on "India – Africa Development Partnership" with Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, National Security Advisory Board & former Foreign Secretary of India.

Ambassador Saran highlighted certain aspects of India's development cooperation efforts in Africa. The first aspect of Indian development cooperation is that of capacity-building. The second aspect of development cooperation is that of institution-building linked to capacity-building, like that of small entrepreneur development programs. The third aspect of such cooperation efforts has been building up of a strong Pan – African basis of cooperation. This can be seen with the establishment of the Pan – African Network that lends digital and electronic fiber optic

connectivity to the whole of Africa. All this is further expanded by the increasing demand in Africa for such Indian programmes and skills.

Mr. T.N. Ninan, Chairman, Business Standard Limited & Trustee, Aspen Institute India, spoke on the strategic constraints faced by India from strong Chinese presence in Africa. The panelists stated that India must not compare with China and instead focus on its own strengths. There is a definite value to India – Africa relations that has nothing to do with India – China rivalry and this valued partnership must not be viewed from the prism of India's relationship with China.

Today, India has been able to carve a niche for itself in Africa and this is the reason behind India's positive and benign image in the continent. There is a sense of genuine commitment and goodwill being generated by India and which is also being well received by African partners.

Ambassador Saran stated that 'India has a good story to tell' with regard to its developmental initiatives in the African region. India has used its limited resources to build a sound network of cooperation globally. ☘

SECURITY & DEFENCE:

IT AS A TOOL TO FIGHT TERRORISM & INCREASE SECURITY

There is an increasing realization amongst counterterrorism experts, around the world, about the unparalleled opportunity offered by data collection using media like mobile phone inputs, cheap cameras and sensors, online news, social media and crowd sourcing to help fight terrorism. "Big Data Analytics" can not only help predict upticks and downticks of terrorist attacks, but can also be used to generate sophisticated policies to reduce such attacks. Professor V S Subrahmanian, Professor of Computer Science and Director, Centre for Digital International Government, University of Maryland, USA gave his insights about these trends in counter – terrorism and the use of IT methods for strategic analysis at a session on "Using IT to Fight Terrorism and Increase Security".

Professor Subrahmanian explained that his research was primarily done through "open source information" with no classified data. The research tool of 'big box retailer analogy' was used, which allows the researcher to come up with a behavioural model

"BIG DATA ANALYTICS can not only help predict upticks and downticks of terrorist threats, but also generate sophisticated policies to counter such attacks."

—PROF. V S SUBRAHMANIAN

of a person accessing the internet. In the process, the analogy makes it possible to guess probabilities of behaviour patterns and this was applied in the case of identifying behavior patterns of terrorist groups like the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

The study was carried out using a set of 770 variables (both action and environmental) to understand LeT behavior. Analyzing this data, the researchers accordingly made forecasts as well as put forth recommendations to counter terrorist activities.

The study observed that traditional law enforcement actions against the LeT were followed by an uptick of attacks by the terrorist group on civilians, while harder targets were left alone by the LeT. The LeT was also seen to attack when they did not have internal cohesion. With the death of its leaders, LeT was less likely to carry out attacks on public places, said Prof. Subrahmanian.

Indian IT firms understand the use of such data analysis and already use it for a variety of purposes like catching fraud in stock markets and credit cards, assessing the profiles of people and their spending patterns. Other possible applications of such data analysis can include predicting outcomes in the education sector in terms of indicators like enrollment of children in the primary level and the number of female enrollment. ☘



V. S. SUBRAHMANIAN

SECURITY & DEFENCE:

EAST ASIA SECURITY CHALLENGES

The Asia-Pacific is emerging as the world's most militarily significant and challenging region. With China's growing military prowess, North Korea's belligerence and efforts at acquiring nuclear weapons, development of counter force capabilities by USA and its allies—Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK), and Australia—and the emergence of new regional powers and partners like Singapore, India, Indonesia, and Vietnam, East Asian region is facing serious security challenges. Throwing light on these underlying currents, Ananta Aspen Centre organized a session on "East Asia Security Challenges" with Mr. James Steinberg, Dean of the Maxwell School, Syracuse University and former US Deputy Secretary of State. The session was chaired by Kanwal Sibal, former Foreign Secretary of India.

Opening the discussion, Mr. Steinberg stated that since the beginning of the Obama Presidency, the US has put its weight behind the East Asia Summit (EAS) as the right framework of cooperation in the East Asia Region. In the context of evolving right strategies, Mr. Steinberg observed that the strategy for dealing with a powerful China involves allowing space for China's

U.S. SEES INDIA as part of East Asia's strategic security environment and has been very supportive of India playing a proactive role there.

—MR. JAMES STEINBERG



JAMES STEINBERG

increasing power while ensuring that it does not become a destabilizing and threatening power to the rest of the region. A strategy of containment and rivalry with China will not produce positive outcomes.

The discussants further asserted that the prospects of regional cooperation in the region reveal that bilateral relations are tricky. Regional Cooperation led by ASEAN has gained momentum and considerable consensus. ASEAN can use its moral authority to compel states to better behaviour like putting enormous pressure China on certain security matters. Ambassador Sibal highlighted the need for a 'community of strategic thinking' for dealing with security issues in the East Asia Region.

Speaking about the role of India in the region, Mr. Steinberg opined that USA sees India as part of the East Asia strategic security environment and has been very supportive of India playing a proactive role there. Both India and USA have like-minded attitude towards resolving security issues through rules-based solutions. Like the USA, India does not want to see domination by a sole hegemonic nuclear power, he stated. ☸

SECURITY & DEFENCE:

ROUND TABLE ON DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

Amid the debate surrounding India's Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) - 2013 that came into force on June 1, 2013, various institutions have engaged in deliberations over defence procurement and the way forward for defence indigenization in India. As has been assessed, this DPP aims to balance the competing requirements of expediting capital procurement, developing a robust indigenous defence sector and conforming to the highest standards of transparency, probity and public accountability.

In this backdrop a Defence Procurement Roundtable was organized with a conversant panel chaired by former Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, Indian Navy, Vice Admiral (retd) Premvir Das. The panelists included a cross-section of stakeholders in the Indian defence sector - ex-senior officials of the Ministry of Defence and armed forces personnel, serving defence officers, prominent members of the private sector and senior media persons.

Following an engaging discussion over the role of the Indian services, the process till Approval of

Necessity (AoN,) the development aspect, the procurement process and of utmost prominence, private participation in the Indian defence industry, the Roundtable made broad recommendations to support the military planning.

It was identified that there is a lack of political thrust in India's Defence Procurement Process. Clearly outlining a national security strategy will provide the Indian defence sector as well as the Planning Commission a better direction.

It was observed that consideration should be given to constitute a Defence Planning Board to deal with matters related to collective military coordination and defence procurement. This will provide long-term guidance, clarity and planning amongst the stakeholders involved and the subsequent procurement process.

The need for an empirical study of the Indian defence sector was highlighted in order to avoid a





(CLOCK-WISE FROM TOP LEFT) N. V. TYAGI, VINOD MISRA, A. S. LAMBA & M. MATHESWARAN

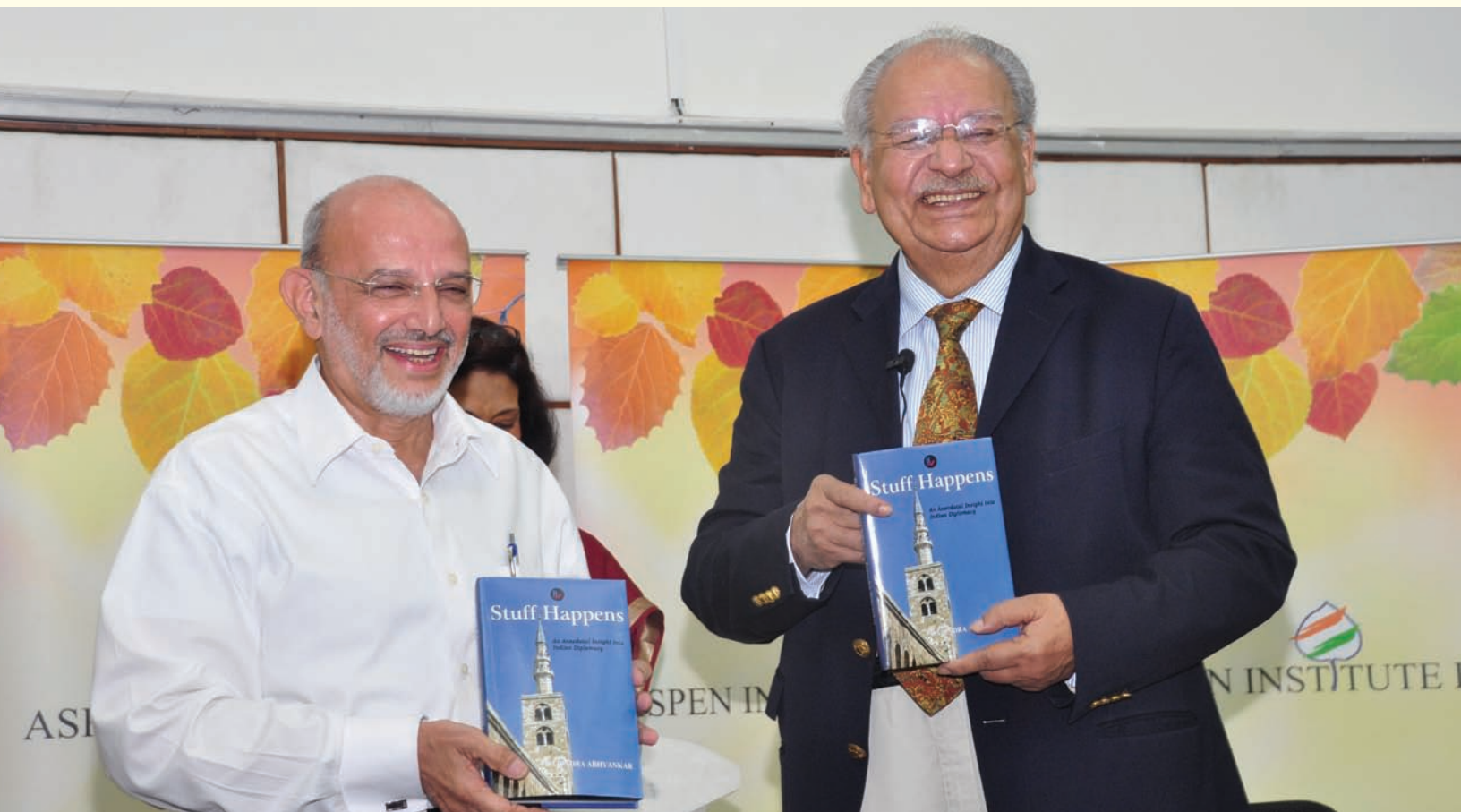
subjective analyses of previous shortcomings and strong points upon which recent developments have been based.

The panelists advanced the opinion that in today's globalized context, it may be difficult to create a cost effective system without import. A percentage system that curtails imports within limits can be introduced. While there has been a primary focus on establishing import guidelines, there has been a lack of parameters set for export oriented trade for the Indian defence sector. Therefore a standard set of guidelines on export procedures must be clearly outlined to avoid confusion and allow for indigenous development.

Other recommendations included the formation of a committee to deal with minor technical and administrative glitches that could be set up in order to avoid prolonged process of correction through a general decision-making body. It was agreed that in

**CONSIDERATION SHOULD
be given to constitute a
Defense Planning Board to
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to collective military
coordination & procurement.**

order to fight corruption in the defence sector, the Prevention of Corruption Act, Section 13 (1) D, must be reassessed so as to redefine what constitutes an 'act of corruption'. ☘



RAJENDRA ABHYANKAR & NARESH CHANDRA

BOOK DISCUSSION

STUFF HAPPENS: AN ANECDOTAL INSIGHT INTO INDIAN DIPLOMACY



Inspired by the idea to bring Indian Diplomacy closer to the public, Aspen Institute India organized the launch of the book "Stuff Happens: An Anecdotal Insight into Indian Diplomacy" authored by the retired Indian Diplomat, Ambassador Rajendra Abhyankar; Former Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg.

"Stuff Happens" takes a look at the practice of India's foreign policy at the micro level and is a recounting of how policy could, did and can change often on the basis of single events.

The book is a compilation of tales from the

author's professional life-ranging from meetings with people as unusual as Saddam Hussein to visiting places as unique as San Marino and to extreme adventures like the cross-examination of events that led to the murder of Rajiv Gandhi.

In this book, Amb. Abhyankar covers his experiences from West and Central Asia, South Asia, Europe and the United States. He shared these narratives with the audience as well as with the Program Chair, Ambassador Naresh Chandra, Former Ambassador of India to USA & Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre. ❧

BOOK DISCUSSION

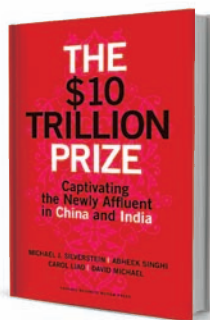
THE \$10 TRILLION PRIZE: CAPTIVATING THE NEWLY AFFLUENT IN CHINA & INDIA

Chinese and Indian consumers are expected to spend \$64 Trillion between 2010 and 2020—and \$10 Trillion in 2020 alone. “To fully participate in the emerging \$10 Trillion consumer market, the West should embrace China and India—not distrust or ignore them”, said Abheek Singhi, Partner and Director of The Boston Consulting Group and co-author of “The \$10 Trillion Prize: Captivating the Newly Affluent in China and India”.



To fully participate in the emerging \$10 Trillion consumer market, the West should embrace China and India—not distrust or ignore them

— MR. ABHEEK SINGHI



ABHEEK SINGHI & SUMIT MAZUMDER

Why another book on India and China? The answer to this, said Abheek, is that no book has truly focused on the vital force that will transform these countries and their economies in the decade ahead—namely, the new consumers—or shown how companies can capitalize on these new opportunities. Many talk about infrastructure, economy & the macro picture but they don't usually follow on the micro picture, the complete picture—with all the details of the rural and urban communities, the rich and the poor, and the burgeoning middle class—has yet to be drawn.

The book is intended to serve as a playbook for “captivating” or winning over these newly affluent consumers. The author also highlighted a number of strategies that have been successfully deployed by companies such as Kraft, PepsiCo, Gucci, LVMH, BMW and Pernod Ricard. ☘



US-India Strategic Dialogue

Leading in the 21st Century

Do Values Matter In A Global Marketplace?

Voices from the North East *CHANGING GEOGRAPHY OF INNOVATION*

STRATEGIC & FOREIGN POLICY CHALLENGES FOR INDIA

The Moral Case for Capitalism *China as a World Power*

Defence Roundtable India-Turkey Forum

Aspen India Seminar *India-US-Japan Trilateral*

India & the US Young Leaders & Development

India-Japan Strategic Dialogue

INDIA'S FUTURE AND THE CITIZEN ELITE *Indo-Pak Rivalry**India-Turkey Forum* *India-Singapore Dialogue**India-China Strategic Dialogue*

P U B L I C P O L I C Y

Building Leaders *Global Swing States**ANANTA'S National Security Policy* *The CEO Series*

Toxic Pollution: The Unseen Health

CHINA & INDIA

India-US Track II Dialogue on Climate

C K Prahalad Memorial Lecture

Indian Mujahideen: A Computational Analysis

The Growth Net

The U.S. Re-balance to Asia: India Africa

INNOVATION CULTURE: Myths

INDIA LEADERS

The AHA Moment: India's Four Ice-Covered Worlds

Defence Procurement

India-Israel Forum

*India-China Strategic Dialogue**India-Latin America*

India's Role in Regional Co-operation

NEW ROAD TO MANDALAY *American**Indo-Pakistani Rivalry* *East Asia*

In a bid to make national development a priority, Ananta Aspen Centre has

been undertaking guided action towards

issues pertaining to India's public policy.

This includes several relevant focus areas such as education, environment, health

and social issues, governance, and gender,

to name a few. The Public policy sessions

also serve as nonpartisan fora for analysis,

consensus building, and problem solving

on a wide variety of issues.

Through different outreach fora, the

Centre not only facilitates informed

interactions, but also fuels the

progression of new thoughts. All this is

aligned with the organisation's vision to

build on ideas for a better India, to help

in nation building and create a more

inclusive society.

THOUGHT EXCHANGE:

THE MORAL CASE FOR CAPITALISM



ARTHUR C. BROOKS

The global economy is at crossroads from the United States to Europe to India. Free enterprise is on the defensive as the size and scope of government continues to grow. This is not because statisticians have won the intellectual debate on how to increase prosperity. Rather, it is a direct result of limited government advocates failing to make the moral case for free enterprise.

To debate this, a session on “The Moral Case for Capitalism” was organised in which Dr. Arthur C. Brooks, President of the American Enterprise Institute highlighted a strange paradox in American politics. According to Brooks, 70 per cent Americans felt in a poll that they were “pro-free enterprise” despite the recent financial crisis and the consequent recession. However, at the same time, a majority of Americans voted for politicians who were anti-capitalist in their stance. The paradox revealed that despite American love for free enterprise, they were choosing economic non-freedom in reality.

Talking about the concept of ‘earned success’, Brooks defined it as something that enables a person to

THE PERCENTAGE OF the world's population living on less than a dollar a day has declined by 80 per cent since 1970. This... has been made possible due to the values of free enterprise—globalisation, free trade, rule of law & property rights.

create value in their own lives as well as in the lives of others in a way that is commensurate with their skills. It is about serving people with compassion and doing it in a manner that is in keeping with their talents. It is about matching one's skills with one's passion. Ultimately, it is neither money nor fame nor power that makes an individual happy, but earned success that is the key to a happy life.

Dr. Brooks also argued that earned success as made possible by the free enterprise system is not confined to only the rich, well-connected or well-educated or talented sections of society. In this context, he highlighted the fact that the percentage of the world's population living on less than a dollar a day since 1970 had declined by 80 per cent. This 80 per cent reduction in global poverty rates had been made possible due to the values of free enterprise—trend of globalisation, free trade, rule of law, and property rights.

On the cause of the financial crisis in the USA, Dr. Brooks opined that this crisis can be attributed to a distortion of the free enterprise system, whereby capitalist state cronyism and big government bureaucracy affected the values that the free enterprise system actually stands for. In the process, the poor people got affected the most. ☘

THOUGHT EXCHANGE:

THE CHANGING GEOGRAPHY OF INNOVATION

In the current global landscape, economic growth is closely linked to technology and innovation. This dynamic relationship is the reason why innovation-driven regions witness sustained growth and economic vibrancy, and those that don't stagnate and fall behind. By spurring a spirit of competitiveness and sharing of opportunities, innovation also boosts employment and capacity-building in society. This is also one of the reasons why the Indian government has declared 2010-2020 as the 'Decade of Innovation.'

Reflecting on these incisive perspectives, Prof. Soumitra Dutta, the Anne and Elmer Lindseth Dean and Professor of Management at the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University, addressed a session on "The Changing Geography of Innovation". The discussion was chaired by Dr Arunabha Ghosh, CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water.

In an engaging presentation, Dr Dutta highlighted the role of education in sparking innovation-driven growth. "India is changing dynamically in terms of innovation. An increasing number of graduates are starting their own ventures, and the new role model in India is the young technology software entrepreneur.



SOUMITRA DUTTA

BY SPURRING A SPIRIT of competitiveness and sharing of opportunities, innovation boosts employment and capacity-building. This is why the Indian government has declared 2010-2020 as the 'Decade of Innovation'. ←



ARUNABHA GHOSH

Dr. Dutta, who is also the creator and co-editor of the Global Innovation Index 2013, also quipped, "The social power of innovation must not be underestimated. In this day and age, the pace of innovation has become faster. This phenomenon can be measured by the new technologies that are emerging. All social organizations, including the government, must use this effectively. Today, governments have to respond and adopt faster to the social media revolution." ❧

THOUGHT EXCHANGE:

INNOVATION CULTURE: MYTHS, REALITIES & IDEAS



R. GOPALAKRISHNAN

Innovation is a mindset, it should be spontaneous and it does not always have to be a “big bet”. This was one of the key take away from a session organised with Mr. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Tata Sons, on “Innovation Culture: Myths, Reality, Ideas”. The session was chaired by Mr Jamshyd N Godrej, Chairman of the Board, Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Ltd.

“That it is essential to be the first in the market has been deeply instilled in us, but what you remember is not who came first but who survived,” stated Mr Gopalakrishnan, dispelling the first myth about innovation. He gave examples of how people thought of HP when it came to copiers but it was, in fact, Kodak that produced them first. Similarly, he said, it was not Pampers but Chux that first produced disposable

diapers, and it was not Microsoft but Netscape that was the first browser. According to Gopalakrishnan, the idea of research and development as a measure of innovation is a myth, as is the concept that innovation is more difficult in services than in products. He spoke about how Starbucks experimented with the music, cups, colours, again and again to hit the sweet spot.

“Mindset is what creates innovation. There are two types of mindsets—the fixed mindset and the growth mindset. Fixed mindset says ‘I’m good at this. Let me do more of this’ and if it doesn’t work, they get angry,” Gopalakrishnan opined.

Recalling instances from his exhaustive experience at the Tatas and Hindustan Unilever, Mr. Gopalakrishnan stated that the primary reason the Tatas had managed to stay on top was largely because of the importance attached to innovation.

“While most other large companies of the country tell their employees what to do and chart out certain rules, we at Tata group do totally the opposite. We tell them the things to be done and the rest is left to them, which gives birth to innovation. People often ask me how we manage to keep focus on each of our companies. Well, the basic idea is that all the companies are not being monitored from the top. The structure is based on the idea of a tree. We try to provide nourishment to all the branches from the roots which eventually leads to better results from all the group companies”, he asserted. ☘



(L-R) ANUJ PODDAR, R. GOPALAKRISHNAN & JAMSHYD GODREJ

THOUGHT EXCHANGE:

WHAT ARE YOUNG LEADERS BRINGING TO THE DEVELOPMENT DEBATE?—BJ PANDA



SANJAY WADHWANI

In the run up to the Indian elections 2014, a session on “What are Young Leaders bringing to the Development Debate” was organized in collaboration with the RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group and the British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata. The public program featured Mr. Baijayant ‘Jay’ Panda, Member of Parliament, (BJD) Lok Sabha and Mr. Sanjay Wadhvani, British Deputy High Commissioner for Eastern India.

Speaking at the session, Baijayant ‘Jay’ Panda urged young people to engage in politics by casting their votes to make India a better democracy. Panda had helped form the Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF) and is its Convener; he has also been associated with the India-USA Forum of Parliamentarians as Chairman.

He narrated how he viewed politics with scepticism and felt like an outsider in the political world even today. He pointed out that “the glass needs to be seen as half empty and half full at the same time”. As he stated, in India “the ills exist despite democracy, not because of democracy”. It was indeed a very bold statement when backed by his examples of China and Egypt, where corruption rates are much higher than India. Panda said that while many young Indians may not become

politicians, they should at least engage in the political system. Interestingly, he added, India has the “largest gap between the average age of the population and average age of the (Union) Cabinet”.

Panda introduced the innovative idea of online voting where voters can vote from the comfort of their homes. He showed how this facility would increase the number of potential voters to a huge extent thus affecting the system as a whole. He was hopeful that the next election would give us many younger MPs.

The session provided an interesting perspective on the political scenario and underscored the need to correct the ills of the nation. His call to each and every person for their valuable vote was an earnest attempt towards engaging the masses with the system. ☘



BAIJAYANT ‘JAY’ PANDA



(L-R) RAVI SINGH, RICHARD FULLER & H. CONRAD MEYER III

THOUGHT EXCHANGE:

TOXIC POLLUTION IN INDIA: THE UNSEEN PUBLIC HEALTH MENACE

Toxic pollution, chemicals and waste constitute an under-recognized global health hazard. One-fifth of the global burden of disease is attributable to environmental health problems, as per the World Health Organisation.

According to the World Bank, environmental degradation costs India \$80 billion annually and accounts for 23 percent of the country's child mortality rate. Sadly, children and pregnant women are the ones most affected by toxicants such as lead, mercury and chromium—commonly found at waste sites.

To bring greater public focus on this issue, the Ananta Aspen Centre—in collaboration with WWF India—hosted a public session on "Toxic Pollution in India: The Unseen Public Health Menace". To bring greater public focus on this issue, a discussion on "Toxic Pollution in India: The Unseen Public Health Menace" was organized in collaboration with WWF India. The discussion was chaired by Mr. Ravi Singh, Secretary General, WWF – India. "Our 2013 study on hotspots across India revealed that exposure to potent

neurotoxins such as lead and hex chromium directly affects immune responses, increases the threat of cancer and cardiovascular disease, and may even cause disability. Also, contrary to common perception, the main sources of exposure are not international Multi-National Corporations, but smaller local companies, abandoned waste sites and artisanal units," asserted Mr. Fuller.

With help from World Bank, Blacksmith Institute and others, the Indian government is tackling this issue. It is currently remediating the 10 worst polluted sites in the country. But the scale of the problem requires efforts from all stakeholders: government, industry, NGOs and the general public.

Reflecting on the Indian response to the challenge, Mr Meyer said, "India has begun to take strong steps in a positive direction. There is both a will and a way to mitigate toxic pollution here. I believe pushing for strong enforcement by government agencies and encouraging big, private players in helping the smaller units is key to bring about a change." ❧

THOUGHT EXCHANGE:

INDIAN MUJAHIDEEN: COMPUTATIONAL ANALYSIS & PUBLIC POLICY

Identifying a pattern in the recent strikes orchestrated by the banned outfit Indian Mujahideen (IM), globally acclaimed computer expert Prof. VS Subrahmanian warned that the group was likely to execute another terror attack between January and May this year.

Speaking at a session on "Indian Mujahideen: Computational Analysis and Public Policy," Prof Subrahmanian provided a glimpse of the IM from its inception to the present day. Using a data set on 770 variables describing both IM's environment and their attacks over the years, he revealed how data mining had helped discover conditions that could predict future IM attacks.

"Through an analysis of the existing data, we have noticed that Indian Mujahideen attacks public sites within a few months of an improvement in India-Pakistan diplomatic relations. Indian Mujahideen-led strikes also occur soon after arrests of IM operatives, or incidents of religious violence in the country. Based on our study of all the

variables, there is a real possibility of an attack in the January-May 2014 timeframe," said Prof.

Subrahmanian, Professor of Computer Science at the University of Maryland (US). The session was chaired by Ambassador G Parthasarathy, Visiting Professor, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi.

In an engaging presentation, Prof Subrahmanian also indicated that it was possible to pre-empt IM's sinister plans and take definitive policy action to rein in future attacks by the extremist group. "In my view, the policy responses required to prevent IM attacks include beefing up security whenever there is a breakthrough in India-Pakistan ties; maintaining constant vigil on communal violence, and attempting to infiltrate IM conferences to get crucial data," he opined.

Prof. Subrahmanian's work has been used extensively by both Industry and Government to shape opinion in social media, influence terrorist group behaviors and analyze educational outcomes. ☘



G. PARTHASARATHY & V.S. SUBRAHMANIAN



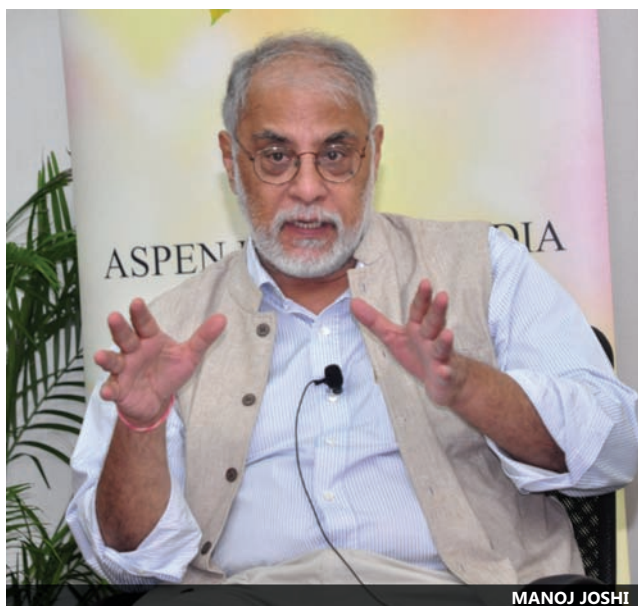
G. PARTHASARATHY

THOUGHT EXCHANGE:

TOWARDS A RESILIENT
NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY

Underscoring the vulnerabilities in the existing national security paradigm, Indian defence analysts strongly advocated the need of formulating a well-defined strategic policy framework while addressing a session on "Towards a Resilient National Security Policy". The discussion featured Former Chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), Mr. K.C. Verma, Indian author and former diplomat, G Parthasarathy, Former Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy's Eastern Naval Command, Admiral Premvir Das, and Indian journalist and author, Mr. Manoj Joshi.

At present, India faces a multitude of traditional as well as non-traditional security challenges that are exacerbated due to the perceived dearth of strong institutionalized mechanisms for streamlining national security needs. Further complicating the



MANOJ JOSHI

problem is the emergence of multiple international sources of threats, which are often intertwined and interdependent in today's globalized world.

Encapsulating the trends observed in India's military history, Admiral Das, said, "A strong policy doctrine requires consistent reassessments and transformations based on the prevailing trends. However, this re-examination of policy can be carried out only through strong institutions. Security is a complex business, and cannot be conducted in an un-institutional manner."

Voicing support for a national policy on security, Mr. Joshi emphasized, "An effective national security doctrine must reflect India's core interests. A framework of this nature should also be publicly articulated to reassure citizens as well as to warn adversaries. India is a nuclear weapon state, and her adversaries also possess similar weapons. The threat of nuclear weaponry requires the country to understand with great clarity the imperatives of power and how it must be used."

Echoing similar views, Mr. Verma asserted, "India needs a national security doctrine. This doctrine on national security must be a declaratory statement of

intent that should be put out in the public domain. It also needs to be coherent, consistent and be borne out of the consensus of the political parties. We cannot have a doctrine that undergoes a change every five years."

Identifying economic growth as a driver of security, Ambassador Parthasarathy opined, "In 60 years, we have not been able to become self-reliant in defence equipment manufacturing, largely because we do not have an industrial base. Security means keeping the internal and external climate of a country in a way that keeps all the citizens safe. To enhance national security, economic growth is vitally important with strong industrialization."

Analysts also underscored the fact that sensitive issues such as water and energy access, human rights, social unrest due to underdevelopment and climate change need to be re-examined through the prism of national defence and security capabilities. To counter these challenges, there is a tangible need to step up human resources and security infrastructure, upgrade India's technological capacity, and identify the core strengths and weaknesses in the existing strategic defence framework. ❧



PREM VIR DAS

➤ *A strong policy doctrine requires consistent reassessments and transformations based on the prevailing trends.*

— ADMIRAL PREM VIR DAS

India needs a national security doctrine that needs to be coherent, consistent and be borne out of the consensus of the political parties. We cannot have a doctrine that undergoes a change every five years.

— MR. K C VERMA



K. C. VERMA



LEADERSHIP

Values-based Leadership has been a key focus area of the Ananta Aspen Centre. One of the flagship initiatives in this realm is the India Leadership Initiative (ILI), a unique Fellowship that has been running successfully since 2006. To date, four batches of ILI fellows have graduated and joined the alumni of the broader Aspen Global Leadership Network comprised 1,900 Fellows from over 48 countries of entrepreneurial leaders with their focus on values and sights set on creating a better world.

Another path breaking endeavour has been The Shri Ram Ananta Aspen Leadership School (TSALS) program aimed at nurturing values and ethics in the younger generation for a better future. Launched in 2012 in partnership with The Shri Ram School, the widely-acclaimed initiative is a one of its kind two-week residential program for 9th-12th graders which brings together Socratic dialogue and discussion, community involvement along with adventure sports.

Recognizing the role of Corporate leadership in catalyzing progress, 'The CEO Series' launched in 2013 brings together top business personalities, to share their thoughts and personal experiences on transformational leadership.

CEO SERIES:

A CONVERSATION WITH Ms. NAINA LAL KIDWAI

The essence of leadership is to take charge in times of crisis, even when the decisions seem scary. However on a regular basis it is teamwork that must be emphasized upon. Trust is an essential element of success as there may be someone who can execute better than oneself.” Such were the leadership values shared by Ms. Naina Lal Kidwai, Country Head India & Director HSBC Asia Pacific and Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre.

The frank conversation saw her reflect upon her life’s journey and asserted that ‘it is the things you do not take for granted that allow you to push yourself, after which, one gains the confidence else and learns to work hard to succeed.’

Believing in the need to make initiatives pragmatic and relatable, she set up the Water Mission

at FICCI. Allowing people to connect saw substantial initiatives by corporates, especially power companies conducting studies on the best practices in the power sector in terms of water management.

On returning to India, Ms. Kidwai said, ‘it was a major decision, but if you really want to make a difference, it is here. The ability to have an impact in India is far greater than the world. During the span of my career, I have seen the transition from physical shares to the DMAT system. I believe that it is better to be a big fish in a small bowl rather than a minnow in the ocean.’

Concluding the session, she highlighted the role of Corporate Social Responsibility, the need to empower people through livelihood creation and health programs. ☘

*I believe that it is better
to be a big fish in a small
bowl rather than a
minnow in the ocean.*

— MS. NAINA LAL KIDWAI



NAINA LAL KIDWAI



RAHUL BAJAJ

CEO SERIES:

LEADING IN THE 21ST CENTURY WITH RAHUL BAJAJ

Globalization has benefitted the financially weaker sections of Indian society, Chairman of Bajaj Industries and Former Member of Parliament Rahul Bajaj asserted while addressing a special session hosted by Aspen Institute India as part of its ongoing 'CEO Series'. Moderated by Aspen Institute India's Founding Trustee, Mr. Tarun Das, the session—themed 'Leading in the 21st Century'—saw Mr. Bajaj at his wittiest best as he shared his views on issues ranging from economy and politics to his business secrets.

During the candid discussion, Mr. Bajaj, one of India's most respected business leaders, strongly criticized the developed nations for getting into protectionist mode, and underscored the advantages of globalization. "I feel globalization is a good thing. It is here to stay. Look anywhere in the world, and you will find the poor have benefitted from globalization. One downside of this, however, is that inequalities have widened between nations and within nations." Calling it a case of 'shoe pinching the other foot,' Mr. Bajaj said that while developed nations had been advocating the virtues of free trade, they were not adopting the practice due to global financial turbulence.

I joined politics because I am a very aware citizen of this country, and wanted to get involved in the process.

— MR. RAHUL BAJAJ

Reflecting on his stint in politics as a parliamentarian, Mr. Bajaj revealed, "I joined politics because I am a very aware citizen of this country, and wanted to get involved in the process."

Culminating the discussion, Mr. Bajaj also shared his business 'mantras' with budding entrepreneurs. "There are three core values behind a successful business. One, always maintain your honesty and integrity. It might bring you losses initially, but will prove to be very beneficial in the long run. Two, there is no substitute for hard work. I have worked very hard to build and strengthen by business, for nearly 40 years. And three, do what you want to do, and do it with passion. That is all," he asserted. ☘



YOSHIYUKI KASAI & TARUN DAS

CEO SERIES:

A CONVERSATION WITH MR. YOSHIYUKI KASAI

Mr. Yoshiyuki Kasai, Chairman of the Central Japan Railway Company and Co-Chair US-Japan-India Trilateral Track 2 Strategic Dialogue, reflected on India-Japan ties, high-speed trains and the potential for nuclear power cooperation at a 'CEO Series' organized in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in New Delhi.

Enhancing public mobility through high-speed train networks would boost India's economic growth. Japanese high-speed railway system is designed to minimize travel time for commuters, which has a

great economic benefit. High-speed railways make travel time between cities shorter by several hours. Due to this, different cities are integrated into a single economic life zone. The Central Japan Railway Company (JRC) operates the Tokaido Shinkansen bullet train system that links Japan's principal metropolitan areas of Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka. JRC is also the developer of the maximum speed 581 km/h Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) System.

Reflecting on the potential for replication of Japan's widely lauded 'Tokaido' train model in India,

India is one of the best countries for Japan. We have common cultural linkages, and substantial bilateral cooperation exists on a wide range of issues. In my view, nuclear cooperation is an area where India and Japan need to work together.

— MR. KASAI-SAN



Mr. Kasai said, "India has a strong conventional railway network. However, there is immense potential for high-speed trains in an industrializing India. There will be cost implications to setup a high-speed railway network between important Indian towns and cities lying within a 300-600 kilometer radius, but the long-term economic and social impact will be huge. This can be done through public-private partnership to minimize the financial burden."

Hailing India-Japan ties, Mr. Kasai identified nuclear energy as a possible avenue of cooperation

between the two Asian nations. "India is one of the best countries for Japan. We have common cultural linkages, and substantial bilateral cooperation exists on a wide range of issues. In my view, nuclear cooperation is an area where India and Japan need to work together. India-Japan nuclear power cooperation is not only possible, but also necessary. India is developing and industrializing at a rapid pace, and its energy needs will also grow. I feel nuclear energy is crucial to meet this growth. Safety issues can always be taken care of," Kasai-San opined. ☸



India must embrace the human capital theory where growth will be based much on sustained investment in the human capital institutions & governance.

the country needed to bet big on investments in online education, making it available to those struggling and aspiring for higher achievements. One small step towards this was the recent announcement of about seven Indian Institute of Technology (IITs), and Nasscom, along with other private technology companies, deciding to join forces to launch a bunch of free online courses.

He said the need of the hour is to have job-led growth for which the country must cultivate entrepreneurs and promote small and medium enterprises. He also suggested a constituency model that aims to leverage local MP's and his field office as powerful last mile solution for a student. "On a national scale if each MP is responsible for training 5,000 youth in his or her constituency, then in the next five years we will have 1.5 crore skilled workforce," he said.

The second plan is The National Service Scheme—a youth focused initiative, which has grown considerably from 0.4 million to 2.3 million members in 2013, operating in 219 institutions. He said that there is a move by Ministry of Youth Affairs to reposition the NSS by introducing skills training. "A 10 university pilot is being launched this year and if successful it will provide a demonstrable model for future," he added. He also highlighted the Maharashtra initiative, which is trying to bridge the demand for skilled labour by launching a portal next month.

"India must embrace the human capital theory where growth will be based much on sustained investment in the human capital institutions and governance. The education system needs to embrace this new reality and needs to reinvent itself to groom our children for the changed world." ❀

SESSIONS:

CK PRAHALAD ANNUAL MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Second Annual C K Prahalad Memorial Lecture, organized in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry, was delivered by S Ramadorai, Vice Chairman, Tata Consultancy Services, and advisor to the Prime Minister in the National Skill Development Council (NSDC). The theme was 'Skill Development' and the session aimed at engaging youth in sharing the vision and desire of Professor C K Prahalad in creating an Inclusive India by 2022.

He said that the education system, as a conventional model of assorted brick and mortar schools, would soon be questioned as the global universities were going online. He pointed out that

SESSIONS:

OUR VOICE, OUR JOURNEY IV: VOICES FROM THE NORTH EAST

It is not easy to live in fear, to be made to feel like an outsider. But despite the challenges, inhibitions and prejudices, five exemplary women from the Northeast have risen despite all odds to become catalysts of change.

Highlighting their inspirational life stories, Ananta Aspen Centre and American Centre-Kolkata co-convened the annual discussion of "Our Voice, Our Journey", featuring Ms. Binalakshmi Nepam, the Founder of Manipur Gun Survivors Network (video feature); Ms. Jahnabi Phookan, the Director of Assam-Bengal Navigations; Ms. R. Lalramengzami, the Vice-President of Mizoram Cancer Foundation; Ms. Szarita Laitphlang, the Vice-Chairperson of the State Development Reforms Commission and the State Secretary of Meghalaya Pradesh Congress Committee;

and Ms. Abokali Sumi, the Programme Founder of Organic Nagaland. Ms. Helen LaFave, the US Consul-General in Kolkata, moderated the session.

Ms. Phookan underscored the need to bring issues of the northeast to national mainstream. A video featuring Nepam's work on the rehabilitation of insurgency-hit victims of Manipur received appreciation from the audience. Ms. Laitphlang described her dream project of launching an entirely women-run enterprise for gender upliftment in Meghalaya.

In a touching presentation, Ms. Lalramengzami shared her tough struggle against breast cancer. Sumi spoke of Nagaland, its culture, her people and how they live in fear when the Indian Army checks on them suddenly. ☸



(L-R) ABOKALI SUMI, JAHNABI PHOOKAN, HELEN LAFAVE, R. LALRAMENGZAMI, SZARITA LAITPHLANG



ADVENTURE SPORTS BY THE FELLOWS

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

THE SHRI RAM ANANTA ASPEN LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

Understanding the need to inculcate leadership among the youth, Ananta Aspen Centre strives to go beyond the school classroom. Providing a platform to enable the development of leadership amongst teenagers, the 2nd edition of The Shri Ram Ananta Aspen Leadership School (TSALS) was conducted in Shivpuri, Rishikesh, next to the river Ganges.

Implemented by Manju Bharat Ram, Founder, Chairperson of the Managing Committee & Member of the Board of Trustees, TSRS, and Gautam Thapar,



DEPICTION OF THE MAHABHARATA

THE PROGRAM in its second year of activity saw the number of students increase by nearly double from 30 to 56, hailing from 11 different cities and 15 different schools.



GROUP OF FELLOWS RIVER-RAFTING IN RISHIKESH

Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre, the program in its third year of activity saw the number of students increase by nearly double from 30 to 56, hailing from 11 different cities and 15 different schools.

The program involved the study of text-based Socratic dialogue around issues like (i) The Challenge of Leadership, (ii) The Promise of Leadership, (iii) The Good Society, (iv) The Possibility of Heroism, and (v) The Meaning of Life. It also included practical and foundational leadership case studies and a series of motivational guest lectures. The students were provided a platform to develop their communication and soft skills along with a personalized counseling session. ☸



FELLOWS ASSEMBLING A RAFT

INDIA LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE:

MR. MANOJ KUMAR, ILI-2 FELLOW, MCNULTY PRIZE 2013 FINALIST

The Aspen Institute and Institute Trustee Anne Welsh McNulty announced Mr. Manoj Kumar's project Araku Originals Ltd as one of the sixth annual John P. McNulty Prize finalists – a group of four extraordinary leaders who bring the spirit of innovation and excellence that characterized their success in the private sector to bear on some of the most intractable issues of our time.

CEO of the Naandi Foundation, Manoj Kumar, created Araku Originals Ltd to enable the inhabitants of the Araku Valley to change the economics of their coffee farms by harnessing the power of niche global markets to build economically and environmentally sustainable sources of income. ✂



MANOJ KUMAR

ILI 4- FELLOWS ENACTING *ANTIGONE*

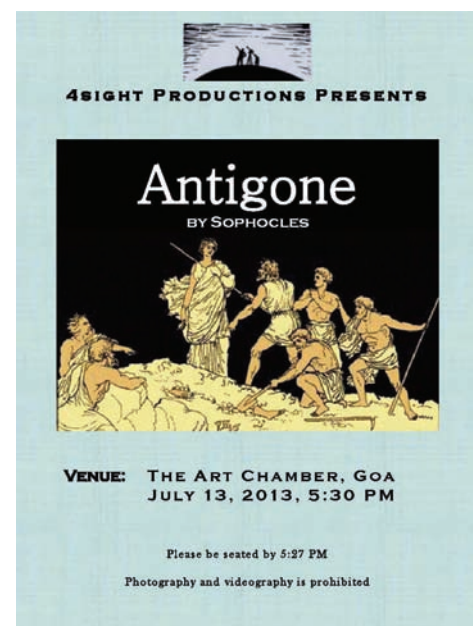
INDIA LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE:

INDIA LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE-4

Continuing their leadership journey, the ILI-4 Fellows came together for the second seminar in July 2013.

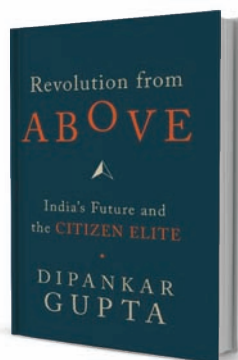
Exploring new ideas, the Fellows staged an enactment of *Antigone*, a play by Greek dramatist Sophocles.

Backed by a powerful script, the cast brought the tragic drama to life with an evocative performance. ☘



BOOK DISCUSSION

REVOLUTION FROM ABOVE: INDIA'S FUTURE & THE CITIZEN ELITE



Over the past few years, there has been a tangible churning in India's socio-political order. Owing to mass movements spearheaded by the media, academic community and civil society, issues such as corruption, accountability and transparency have come into the forefront of public debate.

Highlighting these trends in his latest book, "Revolution from Above: India's Future and the Citizen Elite," Prof. Dipankar Gupta – one of India's foremost authorities on sociology and social anthropology – has explored these trends in detail, questioning whether Indian democracy is driven by citizens or by the citizen elite. The book advocates the theory that systemic changes require active intervention by the citizen elite, who are not concerned with short-term electoral calculations but have a vision for strengthening democracy.

Reflecting on these incisive perspectives at an Aspen Institute India session Prof. Gupta underscored the need for the country's citizen-elite to emerge as a 'vanguard of democracy.' In an engaging presentation, the renowned social scientist asserted, "Democracy is not meant to represent reality as much as to change it. Democracy does not strengthen if a leader listens to the people. Democracy strengthens when that leader does what is right and leaves it to the people to judge its merit."



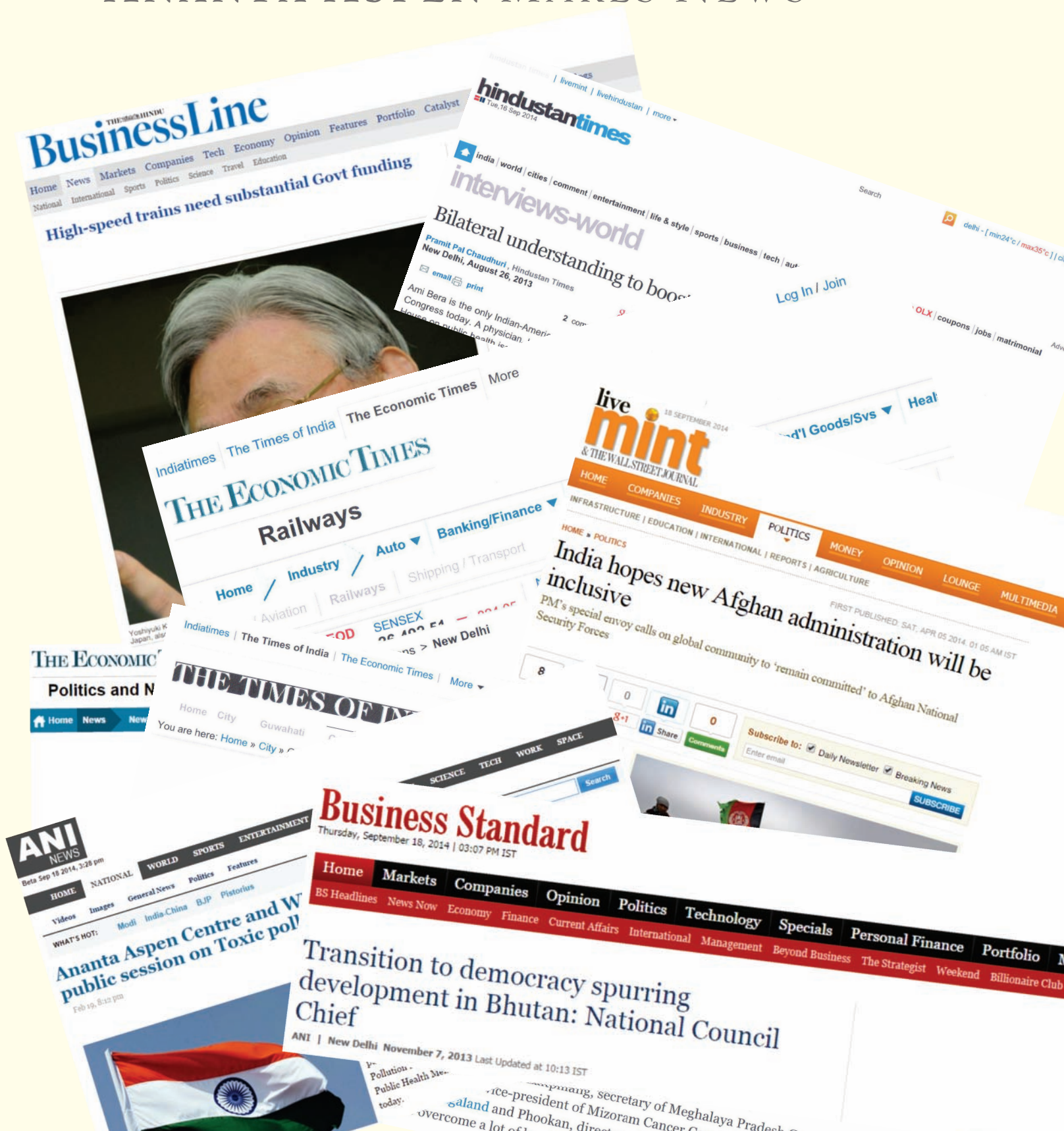
DIPANKAR GUPTA

The book argues that 'The Citizen Elite' is the vanguard of democracy because they think "society" and not sectional interests; they plan for the future, and not for immediate gains; they plan for universal welfare, not for targeted group.

In a distinguished academic career spanning more than three decades, Dr Gupta has taught at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), the Department of Sociology, University of Delhi. He is currently Distinguished Professor at the Shiv Nadar University. Dr Gupta has won several awards, including the *Chevalier De L'Ordre Des Arts Et Des Lettres* in 2010. ☞

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ANANTA ASPEN MAKES NEWS





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TEL: +91-11-407 33 3333 | FAX: +91-11-407 33 3350 | Email: admin@aspenindia.org | Website: www.aspenindia.org