



The greatest threat to our planet is the  
belief that someone else will save it.

— ROBERT SWAN

**ANANTA ASPEN CENTRE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2022–23**

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“A society is the reflection of its leaders. The reverse is equally true.”



## Message from the Chairman

As I write this, severe rain is wreaking havoc across the country. For several years now, the monsoons have been bringing more than just respite from the heat and the promise of bounty. It has now become the force that washes away the platitudes and proclamations that we shelter under all year and exposes us for what we are fast becoming: the tower of babble.

Everyone is talking, so it begs the question: who exactly is listening? If there ever was a time to revisit verbs, it is now. Listening, reflecting, researching, and dialoguing—many of the action words that were once a part of civilised language now seem to be making their way to the list of the archaic. Which is why I place my trust in the Ananta dialogues. They validate the belief that most problems in this world can be solved through consensus. And that pursuit of consensus is the hallmark of civilization.

Ananta Aspen Centre holds many strategic dialogues; there are a few that I would especially like to call out this year. The India-UK Track II on Climate Change and Energy was held in Cambridge, UK, in May 2022. Both India and the UK are in the vanguard of a new approach to growth that is clean, sustainable, resilient, and inclusive. The dialogue brought to the fore potential areas for collaboration: co-learning on operationalizing transition bonds and developing asset monetization programmes; joint working groups established by banks to map out Net Zero transition plans; joint advocacy for increased monitoring by International Financial institutions; and the management of critical raw materials required for off-grid solutions and battery storage.

India and the UK are poised to play a significant role in helping developing countries be a part of the Global South's green transition. Change at scale is neither homogenous nor fair, especially while balancing the twin imperatives of development and mitigation. Therefore, it's important to have strong checks and balances to keep the policy design process informed, inclusive, and focused on the greater good. Ananta is also recommending a UK-India citizen dialogue with a two-way learning flow to build stronger public support for policies that support a just transition to a sustainable future. I am optimistic about its future.

The 24th US-India Strategic Dialogue (2-3rd November 2022) also merits a mention. The first edition of the dialogue was held in 2001, when the India-US relationship was still in its nascent stages. More than two decades later, this series remains a testament to the power of intent and engagement. It has stood the test of time, weathering two global economic crises, multiple changes in governments on both sides, and more recently, a global pandemic. The scope of this Track II has evolved with the bilateral relationship; its role today is more vital than it has ever been before. The 24th edition focused on the Quad, matters of trade, technology, and investment, and strategic issues like defence cooperation.

India and Japan, which constitute half of the Quad, will celebrate 70 years of diplomatic relations this year. Both countries are committed to strengthening relations based

on shared values and ambitions, and Track 2 Dialogues help to this end. The Ananta Aspen Centre holds the Japan-India Strategic Dialogue in partnership with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. The 2022 edition was held in Tokyo in November 2022. The dialogue highlighted the growing importance of non-traditional security issues, ever-changing geopolitical dynamics in the Indo-Pacific, resilient infrastructure development, and economic prosperity.

We also held the 14th India-Singapore Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi. It was held in person after a gap of three years due to the pandemic. The sessions covered bilateral ties between India and Singapore, ASEAN, climate, technology, Quad, IPEF, and China. The level of candidness that is the hallmark of this track, reflects the level of trust that exists between the two nations.

I am optimistic that all these conversations will help inform a geo-strategy for the balance of powers in the Indo-Pacific, East Asia, and the Middle East.

History has shown us that skewed power is detrimental to the wellbeing of any society. Across the world, leaders driven by the lust for power have been the reason why nations have regressed. The fact that history repeats itself too often is proof that we refuse to learn from it.

A society is the reflection of its leaders. The reverse is equally true. The only way we can break this vicious cycle is by building a cadre of leaders disposed to make values-based decisions. I am proud that Ananta Aspen Centre invests considerable effort in this direction. We believe the way to a fair and just society is through its leaders.

As you know, Ananta runs leadership programmes for different groups: youth, children, women, and, of course, professionals. The Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship is its marquee programme. Every year, it works with a carefully selected cohort of young, entrepreneurial leaders from business, government, and civil society and helps them align their leadership journey to their personal vision for society. This year, the Fellowship will graduate its ninth class. I am equally proud of the GP Birla Fellowship for Women Leaders, which is doing a sterling job of helping young women from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities define their leadership journeys.

But it is really a smaller programme that I would like to mention. The Ananta Aspen Emerging Leaders Fellowship is a unique programme that helps build leadership capabilities and transform college students into values-based, action-oriented catalysts of change.

India is a young country, and youth is the greatest asset of any nation. It is unforgivable to raise them on cynicism and half-truths. To quote Friedrich Nietzsche: “All things are subject to interpretation. Whichever interpretation prevails at a given time is a function of power, not truth.” Let us, Ladies and Gentlemen, commit ourselves to backing the absolute truth. That is the sacred geography on which we have built this nation.

Thank you for walking with us.

**NAUSHAD FORBES**

The background is a solid blue color with a fine, regular halftone dot pattern. Overlaid on this pattern is a faint, light-colored map of Europe, showing major landmasses and some country borders. In the upper right quadrant, there is a dark, curved shape that resembles the nib of a fountain pen, pointing towards the top right corner.

**INTERNATIONAL**

## Strategic Dialogues

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

### 3rd India UK Track II on Climate

4–6 MAY 2022



#### CO-CHAIRS

**Nick Stern**, Chair, Grantham Research Institute, The London School of Economics and Political Science

**Jamshyd Godrej**, Chairman, Ananta Centre and Chairman & MD, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited

This Dialogue brings together distinguished members from the UK and India, with support from both High Commissions, to discuss bilateral priorities in climate change and energy. The third meeting was held in Cambridge, UK from 5-6 May 2022; co-convened by the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK and the Ananta Aspen Centre, India.

India and the UK are in the vanguard of a new approach to growth that is clean, sustainable, resilient, and inclusive. It is generating exciting opportunities propelled by discovery and innovation that will yield great benefits across the board. However, the investments and innovations needed for this new story of growth are substantial; they must be recognised, fostered and financed. Each country must build on its individual strengths, whilst taking careful account of the special circumstances of its economy and society.

Our Dialogue emphasised the vital importance of moving quickly on to this new growth path. The dialogue identified the following areas to help accelerate the transition:

1. India could consider developing its own “country platform” to leverage green investment.
2. The use of ‘transition bonds’ along with green bonds could accelerate early decommissioning of inefficient coal plants.
3. There is potential for co-learning between India and the UK on operationalizing transition bonds and developing asset monetisation programmes.
4. Indian and UK central banks should establish joint working groups to map out Net Zero transition plans.
5. India and UK should press for increased monitoring by International Financial Institutions, to reduce risk and generate private and public investment into low carbon assets.
6. IFIs should be integrated with the COP and G20 processes.
7. Both countries could work together to improve availability and management of critical raw materials required for off grid solutions and battery storage.
8. India and UK should create their own market for green hydrogen with their own safe storage systems and resilient supply chains.
9. The dialogue identified five principles in approaching energy security:
  - a. Move further away from fossil fuels;
  - b. Consider improving on nuclear as a baseload power particularly with new generation small modular reactors;
  - c. Natural gas as a transition fuel;
  - d. Reduce demand by increasing energy efficiency and switching fuels (e.g. electric vehicles);
  - e. Add to storage, improve connections and grid structure for both gas (including LNG) and electricity (including batteries).
10. India's G20 presidency in 2023 will be a crucial, once-in two decades opportunity for leadership. India and UK will play a significant role within the Global South's green transition by supporting developing countries through platforms like the International Solar Alliance, and initiatives like the One World One Sun One Grid.
11. Adaptation-resilience-mitigation approach. All infrastructure choices must focus on leveraging technology and nature-based solutions. We encourage the investigation of risk to food, water and extreme weather at the local and national levels. In India, this risk assessment should be reported to Parliament, Ministry of Finance, key ministries and form part of budget discussions.
12. Take the difficult but necessary steps towards privatizing DISCOMS by building incentive structures to enable the transition to a more fiscally responsible path.
13. We recommend initiating a UK-India citizen dialogue with a two-way learning flow to build stronger public support for policies of just transition to a sustainable future.



2nd Europe India Strategic Dialogue

10–11 OCTOBER 2022



Session I underlined the reasons behind the stalling of the FTA negotiations to ensure the same does not happen again. The session additionally noted that the EU and India should be willing to open up their markets for strategic purposes because India is an emerging market that can no longer be ignored. Additionally, access to EU investment and the EU's emerging technologies is central to India's optimistic goal to become a developed country by 2047.

Session II on Energy transitions spoke on the need for India and the EU to cooperate bilaterally in key sectors:

- ♦ Climate finance must include public and private finance.
- ♦ India can work with the EU while developing its own Green Taxonomy.
- ♦ Co-development can be part of FTA. India and the EU can share their experience in Industrial sectors, green hydrogen, and clean energy developmental approach.
- ♦ Market Mechanism: An opportunity for India and the EU to cooperate on carbon constraints.

Session III on Connectivity Partnership highlighted a need for sectoral cooperation between India and the EU on digital financial inclusion, financing technologies, digital governance, and digital identity. The core consensus noted that India has experience in this arena and should assist the EU.

Session IV on Regional Security issues noted that a critical aspect of regional security is food security and that India and the EU should cooperate more on this aspect. The Indian delegation raised its concerns about the EU's engagements with Pakistan. The EU's eight-point guidelines on arms exports create confusion, and a lack of clarity on the authorization of these guidelines creates a lack of trust. Some of the defence exports to Pakistan have security implications, and India feels that the EU is not implementing its own law.

24th US-India Strategic Dialogue

2–3 NOVEMBER 2022

CO-CHAIRS

**Jamshyd Godrej**, Chairman, Ananta Centre; Chairman and Managing Director Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co Ltd  
**Joseph Nye**, University Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, Harvard Kennedy School and Co-Chair, Aspen Strategy Group

**Bob Blackwill**, Henry A. Kissinger Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations

**Tarun Das**, Founding Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre and Former Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry

CO-CONVENORS

**Ananta Aspen Centre**, India; **Aspen Strategy Group**, US; **Confederation of Indian Industry**

24th edition of the dialogue was held virtually between 2–3 November, 2022. The first edition of the dialogue was held in 2001, when the India – US relationship was still in its nascent stages. In the last two decades, over 24 meetings, this dialogue has discussed many matters of grave importance to both countries and persisted in our efforts through two global economic crises, multiple changes in governments on both sides and more recently a global pandemic. The scope of this Track II has grown as the bilateral relationship has evolved and strengthened but its role today is more vital than it has ever been before. This edition was centred around three key themes:

1. Quad

- The need to review the current 26 working groups and pare down the focus to a few priority areas filtered through the question: which work streams advance the cooperation interests?
- Is there an appetite to co-develop a roadmap for defence and security?
- How can the ASEAN and the Pacific Islands be engaged individually and collectively ?

2. Trade, technology and investment

- Digital handshake as the next frontier of the bilateral trade agenda.
- Supply chain transparency and auditing and building a high trust data corridor via the IPEF.
- Creation of a US-India-EU trade and technology council.
- Utilising the G20 to make India Stack truly global.
- Tackle agricultural market access issues from a food security and technology co-development perspective.
- Education and skilling cooperation – US should



Japan-India Strategic Dialogue

make an earnest attempt to open institutes of eminence in India.

- Initiate a joint multilateral to address mineral security.

3. Strategic Security and Defence Cooperation

- Geostrategy for the balance of powers in the Indo-Pacific, East Asia and the Middle East.
- Joint analysis of the role of technology in the Russia -Ukraine War.
- Collaboration on the development and roll out of 6G.
- Foundational agreement for mutual cooperation in space.
- Collaborate to work on CAATSA.
- Take up India's appeal to become a member of the UN Security Council.

Japan-India Strategic Dialogue

17–18 NOVEMBER 2022

India and Japan have been deeply committed to building and strengthening relations based on shared values and ambitions. Japan-India Strategic Dialogue, in partnership with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, was held in Tokyo on 17–18 November 2022.

With both countries celebrating 70 years of diplomatic relations this year, the Track II dialogue provides an opportunity to focus on different areas of cooperation and the future of this partnership.

Great power competition is very active in the Indo-Pacific since seas are the highways through which commerce flows. It's important to collectively respect an open and free

Indo-Pacific, focus on capacity building, and bring about regional cooperation.

The motherboard exercise is expanding geographically to the Pacific Ocean as well while expanding participants, which clearly indicates that Indian government interest is expanding both geographically and in content on multiple securities. Japan's participation as a regular member clearly indicates Japan's strong willingness to work with India on maritime security in the Indian Ocean. Ministers have expressed their determination to work with India to shoulder the heavy responsibility we have been charged with, namely the preservation of the sea lanes while involving like-minded countries. Indeed, Japan's defence exchange and defence cooperation were conducted with an emphasis on secure securing sea lanes in the Indo-Pacific.

Japan's investment and interest in Northeast India have helped in the development of the region. New projects like air connectivity will only enhance the region and attract more growth in the near future.

In order to build a better supply chain and galvanize digital technology, Japan and India have been working very closely together in human resources development programmes. There is increasing cooperation between Japan and India, especially on the industrial side. And now there is more opportunity to work on strategic areas, defence, aerospace

The dialogue highlighted the growing importance of non-traditional security issues, ever-changing geopolitical dynamics in the Indo-Pacific, resilient infrastructure development and economic prosperity. The dialogue is a way forward in new global realities and enhancing state-to-state relations.

## 21st India Korea Strategic Dialogue

30 NOVEMBER 2022

India and Korea continue to strengthen their relations. The 21st India-Korea Strategic Dialogue was co-convened by Ananta Aspen Centre, the Korea Foundation, and the Seoul Forum for International Affairs in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

The dialogue highlighted cooperation between like-minded countries in areas such as economy, technology, defence and overall development for peace and prosperity as both countries respect the concept of inclusiveness and an open and free Indo-Pacific.

Indo-Pacific is becoming the core of a global geopolitical ecosystem and it is important to establish the concept of inclusivity and rule-based order in the Indo-Pacific. Korea's Indo-Pacific strategy will emphasize the importance of increasing cooperation with India. India can encourage South Asian countries to join various cooperation efforts in the Indo-Pacific.

The requirement for ROK and India to engage each other through an amalgam of various maritime collaborations will emphasize on the freedom of navigation, and any actions that could escalate tensions have to be refrained.

Based on growing economic power, India's status in the international community is rapidly rising. Although Korea has a small land area, it has the world's 10th largest economy and is a country with dynamic energy for development.

South Korea, surrounded by geopolitical vulnerability, due to confrontation with North Korea and the strife with neighbouring countries such as China, are now looking for friendlier relations in the Indo-Pacific region.

Korea is a major player in the economic and maritime security in the region, therefore Korea's interest in QUAD can play an important role in strengthening the framework.

With the everchanging pace of the geopolitical scenario, it is important that India and Korea focus on the inclusion of resilience of trade and supply chains. Both countries recognise the importance of cooperation principles, inclusivity and trust.

Cross-learning can improve the movement of skilled human resources and therefore, Indian start-ups are looking at solving problems at the grassroots level with the help of emerging technology.



## 14th India-Singapore Strategic Dialogue

9-10 DECEMBER 2022



The Ananta Aspen Centre along with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University Singapore, co-convened the 14th edition of the India-Singapore Strategic Dialogue (ISSD). The dialogue was co-chaired by **Jamshyd Godrej**, Chairman, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co Ltd, **Rajan Navani**, Vice Chairman and MD, Jetline Group of Companies, and **Ong Keng Yong**, Chairman, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. The dialogue was held in person after a gap of three years due to the pandemic at the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi.

The sessions covered the bilateral ties between India and Singapore, along with pertinent discussions about ASEAN, climate, technology, Quad, IPEF, and China. **Vishvas Vidu Sapkal**, Joint Secretary (South), addressed the Indian and Singapore delegations for the dinner session. The discussions enabled deeper conversations and were unanimously appreciated. The dialogue was also attended by **Alice Cheng**, Deputy High Commissioner of Singapore to India, **N. K. Singh**, Chairman, 15th Finance Commission and Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre, and **Sujeet Kumar**, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha. The discussions were very rich and the feedback from all participants has been very positive. The candidness of the India-Singapore dialogue demonstrated trust and gave the confidence that both countries are in a good place. The trust level ought to be enhanced.

## 15th India-Israel Forum

14-15 DECEMBER 2022

The 15th annual meeting of the India-Israel Forum was held in person in New Delhi. The Forum was co-convened by the Ananta Aspen Centre, Confederation of Indian Industry and Tel Aviv University.

The meeting was a milestone as it marked 30 years of diplomatic relations. India and Israel share thirty years of partnership, a deep cultural connection, and military and economic cooperation. To commemorate this occasion Ananta Aspen Centre and Tel Aviv University came out with



a book titled *Trusted Partners: 30 years of India Israel* with essays from experts from Israel and India. To deepen the association and engagement, the co-chairs of the Forum have decided to convene more often to discuss and deliberate on matters relating to the Forum and to take the bilateral relationship forward.

The in-person meeting held after two years reflected on past efforts as well as recent developments to strengthen the bilateral relationship and deliberated on measures to be taken to secure a sustainable future. Key government officials, stakeholders, academics, and experts from India and Israel discussed contemporary challenges and brainstormed to find innovative solutions.

Against this backdrop, the Forum included sessions on global power play, economic relations and new opportunities, academia and R&D, and future technologies. As in the previous years, the Forum held its annual workshop on cyber security. The 15th India Israel Forum ended with a public session on Future Tech and the Interplay with Geopolitics: Where do India and Israel stand?

## India-US Track II Dialogue on Climate Change: Energy, Interim Meeting Pre COP 27

18 OCTOBER 2022

A virtual meeting to identify policy recommendations for both governments before COP27. The aim of the discussions was to arrive at solutions that move the needle at all levels – domestic, bilateral and multilateral.

The two main topics of discussion were climate finance and hydrogen:

- ♦ One is the most urgent piece in the global climate action puzzle. Finance is the element that ties together all current national and international net-zero and sustainable growth plans. Without dramatically increased investments and transparent assessment of these flows, none of our targets are realistic.
- ♦ On the other hand, hydrogen is a nascent sector. It's a versatile fuel, particularly useful for otherwise hard to decarbonize sectors. It will be crucial to get ahead of the curve on this. Build global governance standards; Invest in development and implementation mechanisms.

This was the first meeting of the dialogue with a new co-chair from the US side: **Gina McCarthy**, the former White House National Climate Advisor who replaced one of our founding co-chairs **John Podesta**. John, in his new role as the Senior Advisor to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation, joined the meeting for a special interaction to understand the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act.



## Conversations & Roundtables



### ROUNDTABLE

#### The Current Afghan Conundrum in the Changing World Order

**8 FEBRUARY 2023** / The European Union's Special Envoy for Afghanistan **Tomas Niklasson** visited India, to discuss developments in Afghanistan with Government representatives. Given the ongoing challenges in Afghanistan in the form of a grave humanitarian situation, complexities, banning on women's education, Ananta Aspen Centre in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Union to India hosted the Afghanistan Roundtable.

The Afghanistani population has experienced much despair given the nation's circumstances. The Taliban government has drawn global criticism for imposing several restrictions, including a prohibition on women attending school. In that regard, the roundtable was timely, held under Chatham House rules, and was attended by Indian civil society experts working on Afghanistan.

The roundtable aimed for a rich and forward-looking conversation. Gladly, the discussions were insightful, suggestive, and stirred some very critical questions – a way forward for the EU consultations with India in its mission to Afghanistan.

### CONFERENCE

#### India-Japan Relations in the Emerging Indo-Pacific

**27 MARCH 2023** / Today, India and Japan share a global vision of peace, stability and shared prosperity, based on sustainable development. The friendship between the two countries

has a long history rooted in spiritual affinity and strong cultural and civilizational ties. Both share commitment to the ideals of democracy, tolerance, pluralism and open society. Over the years the ties between the two countries have deepened in every sphere, be it strategic, economic or people-to-people contacts.

International politics is oftentimes swayed by the tides created by geopolitical and geostrategic forces. In the face of such challenges, the case for India and Japan to collaborate more closely on foreign policy and security questions has become even stronger. The emergence of a new construct of an Indo-Pacific geographic area is a direct outcome of the emerging new realities and dynamics of state-to-state relations of the greater Asian region.

To expand such important discussions within India, a one-day conference was organized in Bengaluru (Karnataka), for greater outreach. The focus of the conference was to discuss the strengthening and growing bilateral relationship between India and Japan especially in current geopolitical environment, the challenges ahead and provide a comprehensive view of the situation. The Conference had high quality speakers who are experts in their field and good



participation from academics, researchers, think tanks, institutions, industry, business chambers and the Japanese Consulate in Bengaluru. The conference was convened in partnership with The National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru.

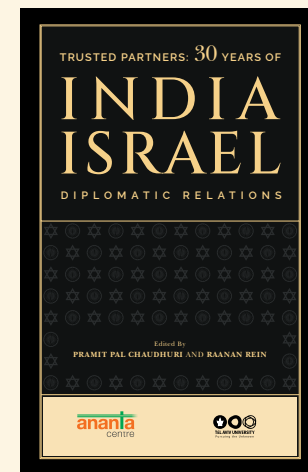
#### Roundtable with Members of Parliament from Japan and India

**27 APRIL 2022** / Ananta Aspen Centre hosted a roundtable with Members of Parliament (MP) from Japan and India. This roundtable was chaired by **Baijayant 'Jay' Panda**, National Vice-President, BJP, four times Member of Parliament & Trustee, Ananta Centre and held under Chatham House rules. The roundtable was attended by four MPs from Japan and eight MPs from India.

This roundtable aimed for a rich and forward-looking conversation. A lot of discussions have happened to strengthen people-to-people ties, to rebuild the international order that is threatened at present, and to collaborate on multilateral engagement. India and Japan are collectively cooperating and collaborating on some of the critical issues that the world is facing, including energy, geopolitical changes both in Asia and Indo-Pacific and the current challenge in Ukraine.

### BOOK RELEASE

#### Trusted Partners: 30 Years of India Israel Diplomatic Relations



**21 JUNE 2022** / To commemorate 30 years of India Israel relations, Ananta Centre in partnership with Tel Aviv University came out with a publication titled "Trusted Partners: 30 years of India Israel Diplomatic Relations" with expert contributions from Israel and India covering range of themes like; Geopolitics to Agriculture; start-ups and defence.

The book was edited by **Pramit Pal Chaudhuri**, Head of India Practice, Eurasia Group, and Former Foreign Editor, Hindustan Times and Visiting Fellow, Ananta Aspen Centre; and **Raanan Rein**, Head, Daniel Abraham Center, International and Regional Studies, Elias Sourasky Professor, Latin America and Spanish History and Former Vice President of Tel Aviv University.

#### Visit of Indian Members of Parliament to Japan

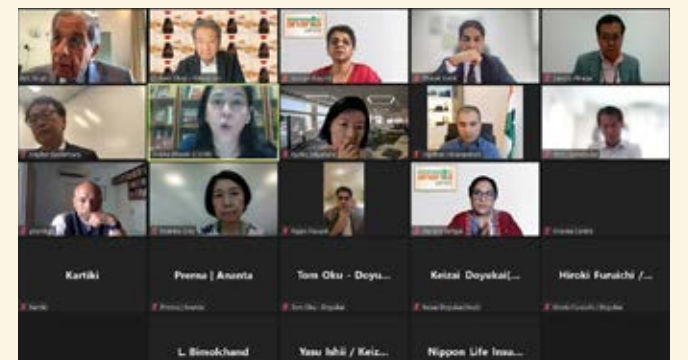


**12–19 SEPTEMBER 2022** / Ananta Aspen Centre identified and liaised to build a pool of gender balanced and dynamic Members of Parliament from India across political parties to form a multi-partisan delegation to take for a visit to Japan. The aim of this visit was to enhance India- Japan Bilateral Relations even more so as they both face a plethora of common issues and challenges.

The MP's met with high level government officials and Industrialists of Japan and discussed enormous opportunities between the two democracies in the fields of Technology, Education, Defense, Digitalization and many more. In terms of investments, how Japan and India's friendship and prosperity can work hand in hand was also discussed. The MP's that went for this visit were **Rajdeep Roy**, Lok Sabha, BJP (Leader of the delegation), **Priyanka Chaturvedi**, Rajya Sabha, Shiv Sena, **Manoj Kumar Jha**, Rajya Sabha, Rashtriya Janata Dal, **Ritesh Pandey**, Lok Sabha, Bahujan Samaj Party, **Saptagiri Ulaka**, Lok Sabha, Indian National Congress.

### ROUNDTABLE

#### Net Zero Carbon Mandate



**16 MARCH–30 SEPTEMBER 2022** / A series of roundtable discussions with Keizai Doyukai (Japan Association of Corporate Executives) had been convened. The initiative provides a platform for corporate leaders from India and Japan to exchange ideas, gain a deeper understanding of the macro issues affecting the bilateral relationships and identify areas of cooperation and limitation through open and candid discussion. So far two virtual roundtables have taken place, on 16th March 2022 and 30th September 2022. The roundtables were co-chaired by **N. K. Singh**, Chairman, 15th Finance Commission, Government of India and Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre from the Indian side and **Mitsunobu Koshiba**,

Chair of International Affairs Committee, Keizai Doyukai, and Chairman, Emeritus JSR Corporation for the first interaction and **Osamu (Sam) Mogi** (Co-Chair), Chair of International Affairs Committee, Keizai Doyukai, and Senior Executive Corporate Officer, Kikkoman Corporation for the second roundtable discussion.

Collaborations in new-age manufacturing technologies and innovation in AI, industrial IoT, nuclear, quantum technology, solar and renewable. India and Japan rely heavily on coal and fossil fuel for energy. The insurance market is neglecting and criticizing the coal and fossil fuel energy business. Russia and Ukraine conflict has slowed down the current movement of energy resources. The under-investment in fossil fuels and growing prices of gas have also initiated policies towards adopting renewable energy.

Both nations are looking at significant changes, innovation, and technology that contributes to achieving a net zero society. The transition to sustainable global order requires more actions and restructuring of multilateral developmental initiatives to provide a standard quality of life sustainably.

ROUNDTABLE

Interaction with Yuichi Hosoya, Professor of international politics at Keio University



12 OCTOBER 2022 / On October 12th, a discussion was held with **Yuichi Hosoya**, Professor of International Politics at Keio University (Tokyo), and Managing Director & Research Director at the Asia-Pacific Initiative (API), Tokyo. India and Japan are celebrating their 70 years of diplomatic relations. Both nations are improving the current collaboration models while finding new foundations of cooperation. The productive discussions focused on regional and international geopolitics, Indo-Pacific, new emerging global trends, economic benefits, technology sharing, military engagement, and other areas of mutual interest and cooperation. A fruitful discussion on issues relating to India and Japan's shared interests, such as regional cooperation, economic trends, defence partnership, a free and open Indo-Pacific, and opportunities for cooperation to strengthen bilateral and strategic partnerships.

ASPEN DIALOGUES

Russia's war on Ukraine: Implications for Europe and Asia

7 DECEMBER 2022 / Held in partnership with the Aspen Institute, Kyiv.

SPEAKERS

**Kenneth I Juster**, Former United States Ambassador to India  
**Natalie Jaresko**, Chairperson of the Aspen Institute Kyiv Supervisory Board, Minister of Finance of Ukraine (2014–2016)  
**Pavlo Klimkin**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (2014–2019)

**Ashok Malik**, Partner and Chair of the India Practice, Asia Group

**Pramit Pal Chaudhari**, Senior Associate, Rhodium Group  
**Indrani Bagchi**, CEO, Ananta Aspen Centre

MODERATOR

**Prerna Bountra**, Assistant Director, Ananta Aspen Centre

The conversation explored a few key questions:

- For three decades, the foundations of EU-Russia relations were economic and energy interdependence. Now all areas of relations have been securitized. Member states have shown unity in their sanctions policy and have taken steps to diversify this interdependence, but it will take a few years. Will the European members continue their united support of Ukraine or will war fatigue play a role in the face of economic slowdown?
- The commodity markets - energy and food in particular, have suffered massive shocks with this war. Will European countries double down in their support of Ukraine as the economic impacts become more dire or will they begin prioritizing self-interest?
- The unity of European members in adopting sanctions against Russia is often talked about. These have been the

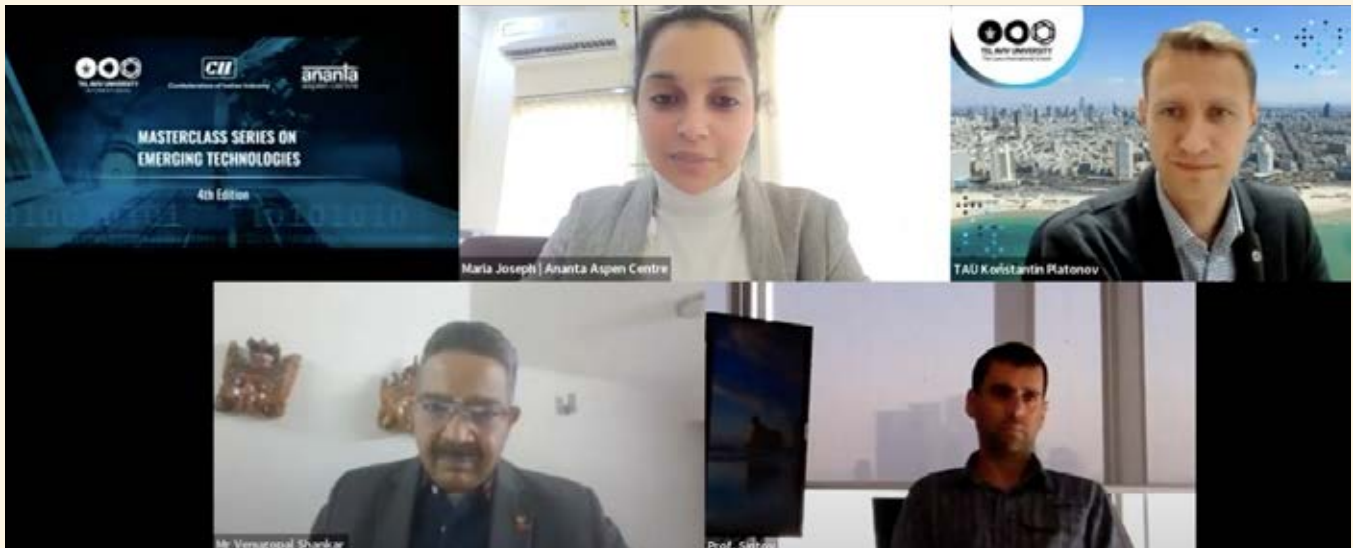


most severe sanctions levied against a country so far. The aim seems to be total economic and technological isolation of Russia. Are these a necessary tool to end the war or are these pushing Russia towards China and creating a complication in the long run?

- There is a common theme in the civil and military implications of this war, the balance of dependence and autonomy. The war has reinvigorated the Atlantic alliance but it has also deepened Europe's strategic dependence on the United States. NATO allies continue to help Ukraine beat back Russia. There is a longer-term challenge of rebalancing trans-Atlantic defense. Will Europe's strategic and defence calculus evolve because of this war?
- On the evolution of strategic and defence calculus. American focus before this war was on the Indo-Pacific and China. As the war rages on, what signals are Asian countries receiving? Is East Asia shoring up on deterrence?
- This war has brought back nuclear threats. It has reminded the chatterati that nuclear weapons still matter. How concerned should the world be at this point about escalation? How are vulnerable states in Asia responding to this?

Masterclass Series on Emerging Technologies

23–24 JANUARY 2023, 13–14 FEBRUARY 2023 / Organised under the aegis of India – Israel Forum, and jointly convened by Ananta Aspen Centre, Confederation of Indian Industry and Tel Aviv University, Israel, this Online Master Class series was an initiative to promote academic linkages between India and Israel by enhancing technical knowledge and awareness about emerging technologies among college students in India. Under the backdrop, the focus of these classes was to provide students the opportunity to understand emerging trends in technology, global standards, practices, and augment capacity building in the field of emerging technologies.



The participating students had the opportunity to attend four Master Classes conducted by leading experts to understand contemporary trends and dynamics in the global technology front. Israel is at the forefront of breakthrough technology and these experts were leading Faculty members from different departments of the Tel Aviv University (Israel), School of Mechanical Engineering and School of law.

**Avishai Sintov**, Assistant Professor at the School of Mechanical Engineering, TAU Faculty of Engineering, and Head of the Robotics Lab at Tel Aviv University presented *Master class 1: The in-hand manipulation problem in Robotics* and *Master class 2: Motion planning and learning under uncertainty in Robotics*.

**Michael Birnhack**, TAU Buchman Faculty of Law, Founding Director of the S. Horowitz Institute for Intellectual Property, Co-Director of Computers & Ethics at the Mishkenot Sha'ananim Ethics Center in Jerusalem presented *Master class 3: Privacy in Crisis in Digital Privacy* and *Master class 4: Privacy by Design in Digital Privacy*

The sessions were for a duration of 90 minutes and students had the opportunity to interact with the speakers at the completion of the lecture. The Masterclasses were attended by over 127 students from 15 Universities and Colleges spread across India. This series of masterclasses was possible thanks to the generous support of Triveni Turbine Limited.



## Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship

The Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship seeks to develop a new generation of values-based action-oriented leaders to serve India. The Fellowship focuses on young, entrepreneurial leaders from Business, Government and Civil Society between the ages of 35–45.

Each year, a class of 20–22 leaders is chosen to engage in a thought-provoking journey of personal exploration—to move beyond success to a place of growing significance in the world. Fellows also become a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network (AGLN) which is a worldwide community of more than 3,000 high-integrity, entrepreneurial leaders from business, government and the non-profit sector in more than 50 countries. Because of their demonstrated accomplishments and abilities, they have been selected to be part of one of 14 geographic or sector-specific Fellowships around the world.

The Fellowship challenges each individual through text-based dialogue to learn and to teach, and to stretch themselves further than they ever thought possible.

The 18-month program is comprised of a structured series of four seminars (approximately 24 days in total) under the guidance of skilled AGLN trained moderators along with a required leadership Venture of each Fellow's own design and choosing.

**The Aspen Seminar** (second in the series of four seminars), is a seven-day seminar that gives the Fellows the opportunity to explore the concept of “the good society” and their leadership role in making it a reality. Fellows also present and discuss their leadership projects through this seminar. Class 8 led by the moderators – **James Abraham**, **Aditya Natraj** and **Sameer Walia** held their Aspen Seminar in Lucknow from 27 April to 3 May 2022. After a 4 months gap, Class 9 led by the moderators – **Manoj Kumar**,

**James Abraham** and **Sejal Shah Gulati** held their Aspen Seminar in Varanasi from 12 to 18 September 2023.

**Leading in an Era of Globalization** (third in the series of four seminars), is a 7-day seminar exploring the challenges of leading in an increasingly complex and intertwined world. This seminar is offered in a variety of locations around the world and taken with other Fellows from across the Aspen Global Leadership Network. Time is set aside for Fellows to discuss progress in the implementation of their leadership ventures. This year, it was a super-cycle, the largest participation of fellows and it included fellows

who could not participate in 2021–22 cycle as their globalization seminars were cancelled due to pandemic. We had 9 Fellows from Class 7 and entire class of 8 and 9 who participated in the super cycle 2022–23 which were held from October 2022 to March 2023 in locations – Singapore, Greece, South Africa, San Diego, Costa Rica, India and Washington.

**Recipient of McNulty Catalyst Fund** Journalist **Karma Paljor** and entrepreneur **Tanushree Hazarika** founded EastMojo to be the first digital news outlet dedicated primarily to North-east India, a region of over forty-five million people that has long been overlooked by India's national media. The ‘Land of the Seven Sisters’ home to seven states is remote, connected to India only by a thin strip of land to the north of Bangladesh and is home to many long-neglected indigenous populations. This physical and cultural separation means Northeast India's voice goes unheard in national conversation, and a lack of a healthy fourth estate to investigate problems — a void that increasingly gets filled with dangerous rumors on social media. Now in operation since 2018, EastMojo has almost 1 million unique monthly visitors and ensures this vibrant and crucial region has a voice in the national dialogue.



### Moderator Training Workshop

The Leadership programmes are growing and to have a larger pool of moderators, the Centre conducted a local moderator training from 9 to 15 May 2022 which was led by **James Abraham**. Fellows of Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship and GP Birla Fellowship participated in the workshop and practiced their moderation at our programmes – The Shri Ram Ananta Aspen Leadership School for school students, Ananta Values-Based Leadership Programme, Emerging Leaders Fellowship for College Students.



CHENNAI



MIDDLEBURG USA



COSTA RICA



SAN DIEGO



GREECE



SOUTH AFRICA



SAN DIEGO



## The Shri Ram Ananta Aspen Leadership School

**A**nanta Aspen Centre and The Shri Ram School come together to offer a 2-week residential programme for students of grades 9-12 that aims to build values-based leadership skills and enlighten them to move from thought to action. The intense yet fun-filled curriculum comprising leadership case studies, adventure sports and experiential learning, takes students through structured modules in a safe & supportive environment, to help uncover the hidden leader within.

The programme was held in Rishikesh from 2 to 14 June 2022 and was moderated by Aspen trained moderators who are instrumental in keeping both the Socratic discussion and the journey of self-discovery on track. The Socratic is complemented by other modules – Yoga, Communication, Theatre and Community Action Venture.

The 2022 class consisted of 71 students and the wholesome journey brought together students from 17 schools across 10 different cities. Everyone received an immense amount of learning from one another and students who came in from different regions, integrated with one another beautifully. The students felt like they had built a close connection and a circle of trust with everyone.

We had screened more than 50 nominations and after a one-on-one interaction with the students, we had selected 26 bright young need-based students who were provided the scholarship.



## Ananta Aspen Emerging Leaders Fellowship

In a global world where innovation and change are happening at astounding speeds and competitive pressure is far greater than it ever has been, profits and personal gains drive motivation. There is an increasing need to guide and motivate the youth towards values-based leadership and to create leaders of tomorrow who are compassionate and committed to building better societies, communities and a stronger nation.

The Ananta Aspen Emerging Leaders Fellowship is a unique programme that helps build leadership capabilities and transform students into values-based action-oriented leaders. The aim is to bring together a group of 22–24 outstanding students, with equal gender balance from colleges across India between the ages of 18–22 years and provide them with vital skills and awareness to become leaders who can be engines of change for a better tomorrow.

The Ananta Aspen Emerging Leaders Programme for college students is a venture of Class 5 Fellows of the Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship, for young entrepreneurial leaders, and was launched after the success of The Shri Ram Ananta Aspen Leadership School for high school students. 12 editions have been held till 2022 at Wardha, Coimbatore and Bagar in Rajasthan with over 220 students from across India.

**“It was absolutely enriching. Thank you so much for the opportunity. It definitely stimulated a lot of thoughts and my hunger for knowledge.”**

### 10th Edition, Coimbatore

Convened from the 6th of June to the 11th of June, 2022. This cohort graduated 21 Fellows in total. The group was moderated by **Shankar Vanavarayar**, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow and President, Kumaraguru Institutions and **Shobhana Kumar**, Author and Poet. In the 10th edition, participation included fellows hailing from 13 different cities. The participants represented a wide spectrum of academic backgrounds, encompassing Engineering, Management, Law, and Medical disciplines.

### 11th Edition, Wardha

The 11th edition graduated 22 Fellows and was conducted from 10th to the 15th of October, 2022. Moderation for this cohort was conducted by **Pallav Patankar**, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow & Vice President-Digital Bharat Collaborative, Piramal Swasthya and **Reshma Sagari**, GP Birla Fellow & Founder, Rida Wellness.

### 12th Edition, Baggar

The 12th edition of the Emerging Leaders Fellowship had a total of 27 Fellows. It convened from the 16th to the 21st of January 2023, and was moderated by **Reshma Sagari**, GP Birla Fellow & Founder, Rida Wellness and **Tripti Vyas**, Director, Gandhi Fellowship Programme and **Manpreet Kaur**.

### BAGGAR, JANUARY 2023



### COIMBATORE, JUNE 2022



### WARDHA, OCTOBER 2022



**“The program has enriched my life with diverse perspectives and has helped me to further my understanding on various social systems and schools of thought.”**

## GP Birla Fellowship, Class 3

The GP Birla Fellowship aims to steer young women leaders on a journey in leadership by opening their minds to a rich and diverse set of learning experiences and move from thought to action and from success to significance. Inspired to be leaders and change-makers of tomorrow and significantly transform the course of their organizations, communities and cities.

This unique Fellowship combines mentoring and coaching with reflective dialogue based seminars for emerging women leaders in the 27–35 years age group from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities in India.

The Fellowship equips the young women leaders with tools and resources that help them accomplish leadership goals; inculcate the spirit of being a part of a safe and trustworthy support group; guide their process of inquiry in developing values-based leadership and provide a platform for collaborative support for each other.

The Fellowship comprises of two on-site residential seminars of 6 days 5 nights each, spread over 12 months.

**Seminar 1: The Challenge of Leadership** was held from 21– 26 November 2022, at Radisson Blu, Faridabad.

**Seminar 2 : The Aspen India Seminar** was held from 19– 24 March 2023, at Taj Dwarka, New Delhi.

Class 3 of GP Birla Fellowship for Women Leaders has 19 young women entrepreneurs from Tier II and Tier III and was moderated by **Vinati Kastia**, Senior Partner, AZB & Partners and Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow, Class 6 and **Reshma Sagari**, Founder, Rida Wellness and GP Birla Fellow, Class 1 who are accompanied by Trainer and Coach **Gayatri Das Sharma**.



The fellowship takes the group of young women with leadership potential through a series of experiences and sessions that catalyze their journey from success to significance, through a strong foundation of self-belief, enlightened introspection and a formidable spirit of collaboration.

The cohort comes together to discuss the concepts of Equality vs Equity, values, challenging different styles of leadership, the need to pause and reflect and to Lead with Integrity.

Experiential learning workshop held by **Gayatri Das Sharma** made the Fellows build trust and open up and discuss various topics such as answering the question “Who am I?” “What are the values that help me be at my best?”, exploring the concept of MA - the space of silence and discuss the strategies to influence using the right language and what are the tensions or dilemmas one is holding on to.

After a flurry of Socratic dialogues, experiential learnings the fellowship comes to a vibrant and positive conclusion.

The highlight was a play curated by the fellows on an excerpt from Mahabharata that reiterated the challenge of belief system and traditions and their values-based leadership putting across their learnings and reflections from the fellowship.

**“It takes a true visionary to make the fellowship of this quality and impact come to life. We will forever be indebted to you. You have paved the way for us to create change and realize ones true potential.”**



**“Thank you from the bottom of my heart for this fellowship. It has meant a lot and has impacted me in such a way that I am confident in who I am and this is a privilege which I will not take for granted anymore.”**

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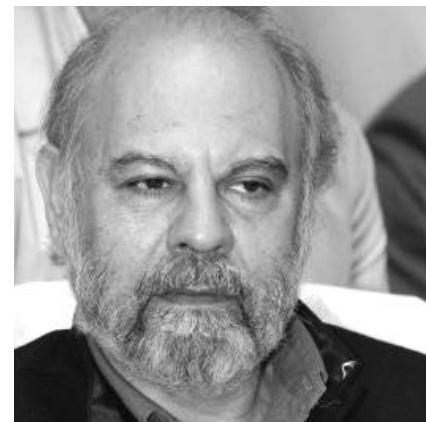
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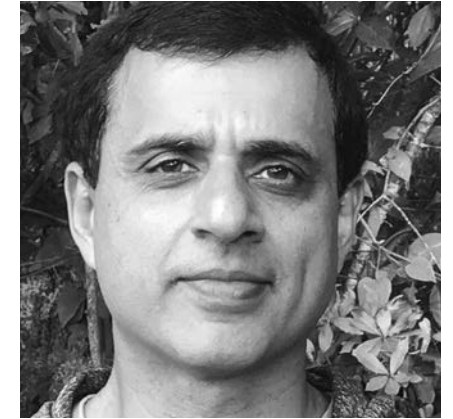
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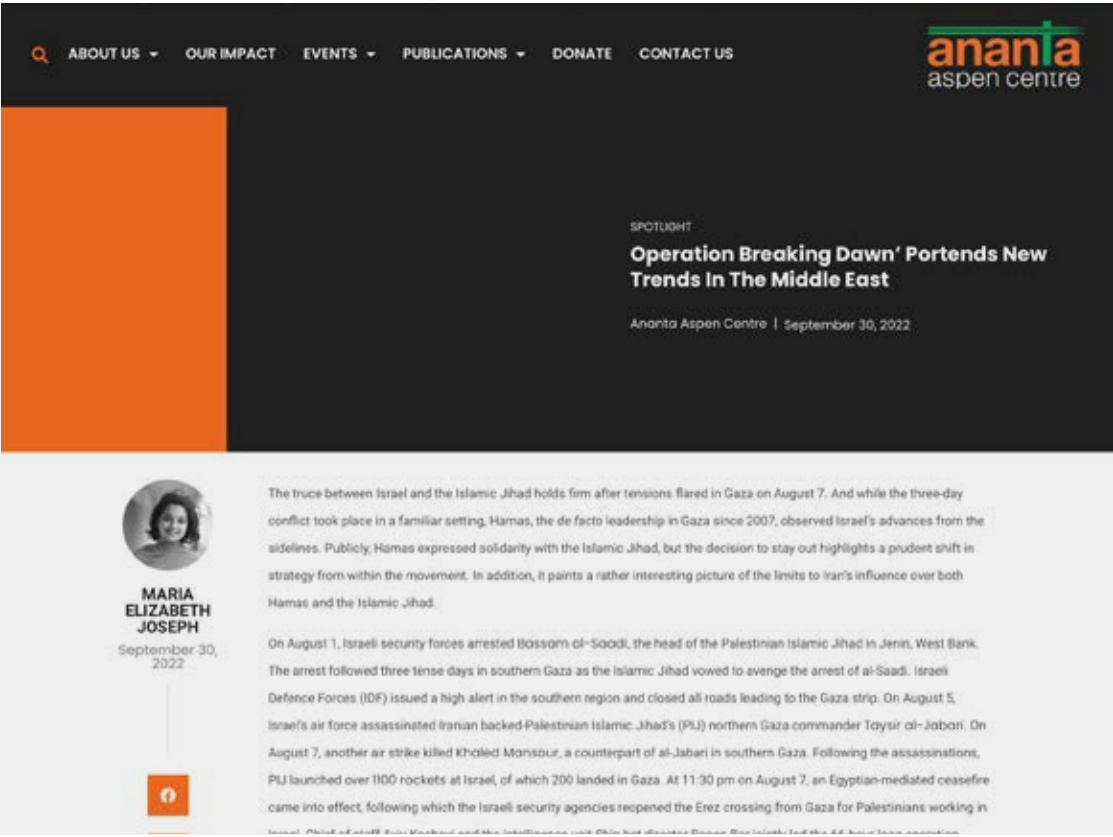
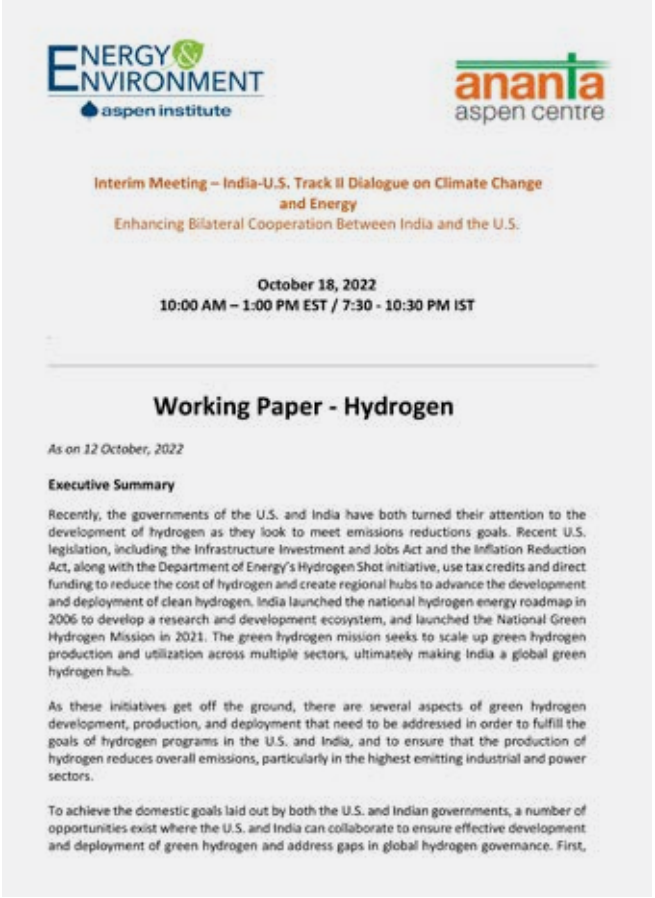
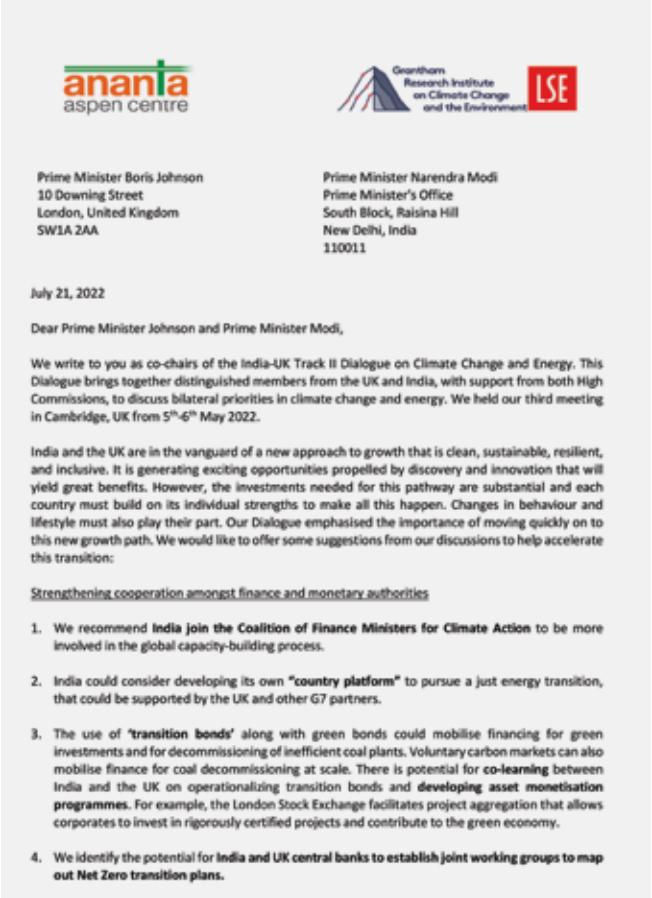
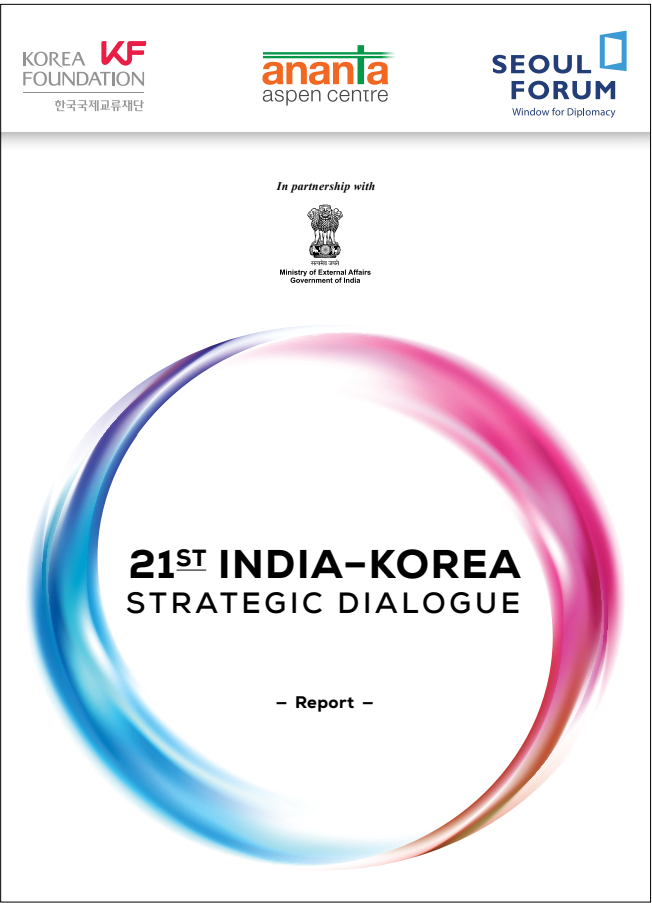
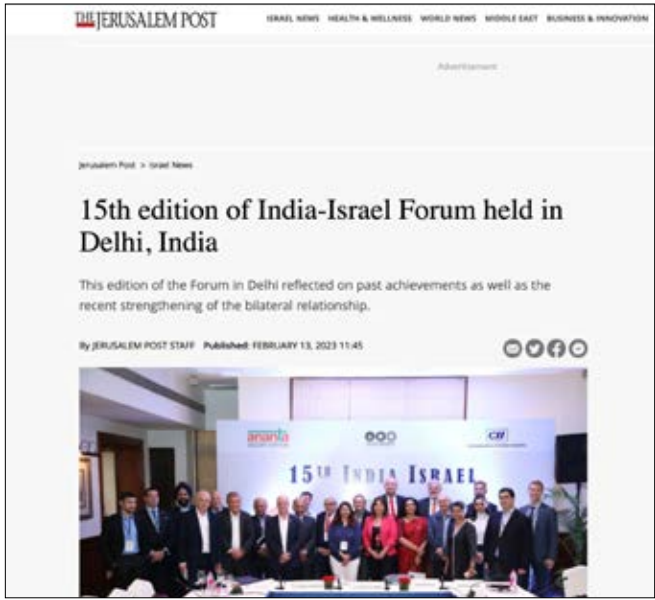


**Sameer Walia**  
Founder and Chief Executive, Ripples of  
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SPOTLIGHT

## "De-Nationalizing" The R&D Landscape In India: A Roadmap For The Future

Ananta Aspen Centre | November 1, 2022



**KEY HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Sector-wise R&D expenditure in India
- Industry and Academic Collaborations with regard to R&D
- Innovation-oriented impediments faced by domestic SMEs
- A policy framework/enabling mechanism to encourage private sector participation
- Emphasis on an R&D-centric disclosure and funding mandate

**ROHAN GIRISH RAJ**  
November 1, 2022

The relationship between science and innovation within R&D has been looked at for decades by scholars worldwide. Science is seen as very much of a global endeavour as it reflects knowledge, which flows seamlessly across borders in the form of publications and findings. Innovation, on the other hand, tends to be more geographically limited not only within national boundaries but even within the borders of organizations. In the field of R&D, it is observed that the private sector continues to be a significant contributor in nations that are deemed as global leaders in R&D. In terms of the share of R&D in national R&D expenditure by sector (2018), industry on average globally accounted for about 70% (world average). In India, it was very little at


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SPOTLIGHT

## The Israel-Lebanon Maritime Agreement: A Strategic Conflict-Solving Model In The Region

Ananta Aspen Centre | November 28, 2022



**MARIA ELIZABETH JOSEPH**  
November 28, 2022

The rare **diplomatic breakthrough** between Israel and Lebanon on the Maritime Border Agreement is a strategic and economic bargain between the two countries. Mediated by the United States of America at a UN base near the border, the agreement does not signal a move to normalize relations. It will, however, significantly reduce short term conflicts between the two warring countries.

Israel and Lebanon have contested the boundary agreement, separating the exclusive economic zones for over a decade. The disputed waters contain the Karish and Qana prospect gas fields, lucrative gas deposits in the Eastern Mediterranean. In 2011, Israel and Lebanon submitted their respective EEZ demarcations to the UN. Israel asserted their maritime boundary north of Line 1, giving it the right to operate in Karish with access to other gas reserves. Lebanon marked their maritime boundary further south at Line 99. In 2017, a UN mediator suggested a midway boundary line called the 'half line' but neither


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SPOTLIGHT

## The Climate Of Fear And Uncertainty Continues To Haunt Afghanistan

Ananta Aspen Centre | November 24, 2022



**SWATI SINHA**  
November 24, 2022

Despite the Taliban's several assurances towards moderation during the innumerable reconciliation processes in the last two years, it all came to be a watershed after the insurgent group captured Kabul on 15 August 2021. The previous year of Taliban rule has been defaced by an upsetting **rollback** of women's fundamental rights and privileges. It almost dissipated the 20 years of hard-earned efforts of Afghan women. It became more prominent after Mawlawi Hebatullah Akhundzada, a hardliner, earlier this week formally ordered the **full implementation of Islamic Law** in Afghanistan. It raises more concerns over the growing human rights situation in Afghanistan. Combined with Afghanistan's existing patriarchal culture, and the excessive control over women's mobility, and fundamental rights, the Taliban policies only raise more concern.

The **Moscow format consultations on Afghanistan** that India was part of, which concluded on November 16, and discussed the current humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. The Moscow format is a necessary for regional stakeholders-India


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SPOTLIGHT

## Imperatives For Afghanistan's Future

Ananta Aspen Centre | March 2, 2023



**SWATI SINHA**  
March 2, 2023

The sad reality of Afghanistan is that although the war has ended, violence continues. The security situation is grave, and amid the political chaos and the absence of structured institutions, the Taliban are unable to effectively tackle the resistance groups in the country. Several non-state actors are thriving in the political vacuum: the Islamic State Khorasan (IS-K) has carried out several offensive strikes, and directed assaults in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, and al-Qaeda has been laying its bases under the radar.

These events have turned hope into despair, and the future of Afghanistan is seen as resting on a knife-edge. The Afghan crisis points to the importance of a stable political administration that is crucial for peacebuilding and preventing the ascent of non-state actors. Law and order in Afghanistan are in shambles, with public floggings, revenge attacks on the old regime, assassinations, and suicide bombings. The country is in the midst of a serious humanitarian and economic crisis.



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SPOTLIGHT

**“Such Things Have Always Happened. It’s Part Of Destiny’s Plan.” – Recep Tayyip Erdogan**

Ananta Aspen Centre | March 29, 2023



ANANTA ASPEN CENTRE

March 29, 2023

Following the disastrous earthquakes that struck Turkey and Syria on 6 and 7 February 2023, the administration of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan scrambled to save face as slow relief efforts and reports and videos on construction scams fuelled public outrage. With elections for the presidency and parliament just months away, the emergency powers invoked by Erdogan to deal with the aftermath of the catastrophe could curtail public opinion, gag the media, and even lead to the postponement of the elections.

The first earthquake, of 7.8 magnitude and lasting 75 seconds, struck at 4:17 am local time on 6 February, in the middle of a winter storm. Nine hours later, a second earthquake of 7.5 magnitude hit, followed by one of 5.6 magnitude and another of 5.5 magnitude on 7 February. Estimates by the Turkish government in the middle of March put the loss of lives in Turkey at more than 22,000.



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SPOTLIGHT

**Cross-Strait Relations: Continuity And Change**

Ananta Aspen Centre | April 14, 2023



SUYASH DESAI

April 14, 2023

In the report to the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in October 2022, CCP General Secretary Xi Jinping said, “China will continue to strive for peaceful reunification with the greatest sincerity and utmost effort, but we will never promise to renounce the use of force. We reserve the option of taking all measures necessary.” This was not the first time that China has referred to the use of force in case of reunification with Taiwan. The People’s Republic of China (PRC) has consistently refused to rule out the use of force if Taiwan takes overt actions toward independence and has built military capabilities to make this threat credible. Furthermore, the Chinese government, in its 2020 work report to the Chinese National Party Congress (NPC), had also dropped the word “peaceful” while referring to reunification with Taiwan, breaking with nearly three decades of precedent – also indicating the worsening of the cross-strait relations.

*Indonesian Cross-Strait Relations: Continuity*



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