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centre



THE INDIA-US FORUM

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INAUGURAL EDITION: A GLIMPSE

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THE INDIA–US FORUM

The inaugural edition of The India US Forum was convened by Ananta Centre and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India on 31st July - 1st August 2017 in New Delhi. The Forum brought together more than 40 speakers and 100 participants including Members of Parliament, business and political leaders, eminent media

personalities, senior officials and thought-leaders to discuss the various dimensions of the India-US partnership. The Forum, which followed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US, addressed major issues in political and trade relations, security cooperation as well as innovation, technology, and environment and energy.



(From left to right) **GENERAL VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)**, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, **SUSHMA SWARAJ**, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India & **JAMSHYD GODREJ**, Chairman, Ananta Centre & Chairman, Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

Honourable Minister of External affairs Smt. Sushma Swaraj gave the inaugural address



underlining the essential shared values and challenges of the Indo-US relationship. The Minister introduced the forum as a platform for creating a strategic dialogue between the two countries and acknowledged that last two decades have witnessed a rapid transformation in India-US relations which has truly become a strategic partnership of global significance. In fact, support for India-US Partnership cuts across political divides in both countries, which share a clear agenda for bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation. India's emergence as the world's fastest growing major economy and the revival of growth in the US has created win-win opportunities for both countries.

HIGHLIGHTS OF HONOURABLE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER'S ADDRESS

ON INDO-PACIFIC REGION: *"One of the main challenges confronting the world today is the evolving situation in the Indo-Pacific. Strong India-US partnership is critical for peace, stability and prosperity in this region. Enunciation of common principles to guide our approach in the region during the visit of Prime Minister is, therefore, significant. India and the US stand together in upholding an international rules-based system that has benefited all nations."*

ON TERRORISM: *"Both the countries have been direct victim of this terrorism. In India we have been facing cross border terrorism for many years now. This is now recognised as larger, regional and even global challenge."*

ON AFGHANISTAN: *"The rising instability in Afghanistan due to terrorism is a cause of mutual concern for both India and the US. We deeply appreciate the sacrifices of US to preserve peace, democracy in Afghanistan. On the other India has made its own contribution and we remain committed to continue supporting the government of Afghanistan."*

ON INDIA-US PARTNERSHIP: *"At bilateral level, we are today cooperating effectively in all areas that the two countries can possibly conceive of. The US is a partner of choice when it comes to India's social and economic transformation through our various flagship programmes. Our growing trade & investment engagements have helped build prosperity and well-being of our citizens by creating jobs and expanding growth opportunities. India's emergence as the world's fastest growing major economy and the revival of growth in the US create win-win opportunities for both countries."*

SESSION ON INDO-US POLITICAL RELATIONS: TIES THAT BIND, ISSUES THAT DIVIDE

“The US is the world’s oldest democracy and India is the world’s largest democracy. Both countries have more in common than differences.”

“India will continue to play a great role in the future. Both India and the United States should cooperate in areas such as terrorism, cyber security and space technology.”

“GST is the single most significant reform since 1947. It can be considered as an equivalent to the Interstate Commerce Act of the US.”

“America first does not mean USA alone.”

“Disputes should be dealt with diplomacy, discussion and non-confrontation.”



Panellists reflecting on the Indo-US Political Relations: Ties that bind, Issues that divide. (Clockwise from top left) **M J AKBAR**, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India; **JOHN A. SANCHEZ**, Lieutenant Governor, New Mexico; **BAIJAYANT PANDA**, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha); **FREDERICK KEMPE**, President and CEO, Atlantic Council; **ALICE G WELLS**, Acting Assistant Secretary, the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, US Department of State & **N K SINGH**, Former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha & Senior Member, Bharatiya Janata Party (Chair)

CONVERSATION BETWEEN
MR N CHANDRASEKARAN, CHAIRMAN, TATA SONS &
MR JACKSON DIEHL, DEPUTY EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR,
THE WASHINGTON POST



N CHANDRASEKARAN, Chairman, Tata Sons with **JACKSON DIEHL**, Deputy Editorial Page Editor, The Washington Post

“*There is a need for people to defocus from the rhetoric of joblessness and focus on skills...
...there is a lot of noise about slower growth of jobs in the world of automation, situation is strongly reminiscent of what happened in the 1990s when the internet took over us.*”

(From left to right) **JAMES CARAFANO**, Vice President, Foreign and Defense Policy Studies, the Heritage Foundation; **JOHN HAMRE**, President and CEO, Centre for Strategic and International Studies; **RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY**, US House of Representative; **SHOBANA KAMINENI**, Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited and President, Confederation of Indian Industry; **CLIFFORD SAMUEL**, Senior Vice President, Global Access Operations and Emerging Markets Business, Gilead Sciences and **P S RAGHAVAN**, Convenor, National Security Advisory Board (Chair)



SESSION ON

THINKING BEYOND BOUNDARIES: CHANGING NATURE OF GLOBAL CHALLENGES

“The leaders from both the countries have agreed to intensify efforts in the areas of anti-terrorism as well as cyber-security and internet governance. The idea is to identify practical measures to tackle these issues.”

“There is immense pressure on jobs from automation and robotics. To add to this problem, expenses have also risen in the recent past. There is a need for upgradation of technical skills of the workforce and this needs to be done at the high school and college community level.”

“When looking at China and dealing with OBOR, the strategy should be Quad plus. This not only implies containment of China, but also providing a dialogue that will promote understanding of how China deals with foreign issues.”

“We need to work on job creation, higher wages and high employability. 4 out of 5 jobs are in a vulnerable space in the developing world. We need to build up investments to counter this space. Women participation in the market needs to increase in both the countries.”

“The key challenge in India is how to foster innovation and ensure access to medicine.”

“The rise of China constitutes the greatest strategic challenge that we will have to deal with in the next 30 years. It's no longer a military strategy. We are building a fabric of mutual reassurance of sovereignty, of economic and diplomatic activity to contain China. And in this case, America isn't the primary weaver, it is Japan and India.”



SESSION ON BUILDING A STRONGER SECURITY PARTNERSHIP



(From left to right) JAYANT D PATIL, Senior Executive Vice President and Whole Time Director - Defence, Member of the Board Larsen & Toubro Limited, LISA CURTIS, Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for South and Central Asia, National Security Council, The White House; GENERAL VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD), Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India; ORLANDO CARVALHO, Executive Vice President- Aeronautics, Lockheed Martin Corporation; T. SUVARNA RAJU, Chairman and Managing Director, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited & MUKESH AGNI, Director, DXC Technology (Chair)

“The US President has recognized that the past approaches have not been accurate and has asked the National Security team to develop a new approach towards South Asia.”

“India and the US share more of a supplier and buyer relationship. Partnership can be made stronger by sharing technologies. Co-production and co-development is the best way forward... Today, India makes its own airplanes and it is one of the six nations in the world to make, design, and produce its own helicopters.”

“There have been times when India and the US have found themselves on the opposite sides of the table. However, times have changed and both India and the US must sit together and find mutually agreeable solutions to various issues.”

CONVERSATION BETWEEN
JOHN T CHAMBERS, EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, CISCO &
TARUN DAS, CHAIRMAN, INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

“Cultural diversity is what makes India unique. The attitude of American businesses to India is more positive than ever. The continuing process of digitalization in India can be defined as a role model for the rest of the world and PM Modi’s vision of development makes India a really interesting and trustful place for cooperation and investment by major US companies. The rising intensity of this digital era also implies responsibility towards the start-up sector which is likely to replace run out businesses.”



JOHN T CHAMBERS, Executive Chairman, Cisco & TARUN DAS, Chairman, Institute of Economic Growth

SESSION ON TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION: TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE

“ *Digital India could be explained as banking the unbanked, funding the unfunded, pensioning the unpensioned and providing security to the unsecured... Under Digital India, the government has created 280 million bank accounts for the poor and linked them to Aadhar. Total \$ 9 billion was saved as middlemen were removed from the system... Digital profile of India can be described as 1.3 billion people with 1.18 billion mobile phones among which 500 million are smart phones.* ”

“ *In order to eliminate poverty through sustainable economic development and commerce, it is necessary to ensure access to credit, bank account and enable commerce.* ”

“ *Open markets and open borders lead to progress. It is the heart of the India- US meet.* ”



(Clockwise from top left) **RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD**, Minister of Law and Justice and Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India; **ED MCLAUGHLIN**, President, Operations & Technology, Master Card; **DEEPAK PADAKI**, Executive Vice President- Strategy, M&A and Chief Risk Officer, Infosys Limited; **UDAY KOTAK**, Executive Vice Chairman, and Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited, **VIVEK LALL**, Chief Executive US and International Strategic Development, General Atomics & **RICHARD VERMA**, Vice Chairman and Partner, the Asia Group (Chair)

SESSION ON FUTURE OF INDIA–US TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS



(Clockwise from top left) **ROBERT L. NELSON, JR.**, Partner, Shearman and Sterling LLP; **ARUNDHATI BHATTACHARYA**, Chairman, State Bank of India; **BERTRAND MARC ALLEN**, President, Boeing International; **HASMUKH ADHIA**, Revenue Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India; **NAUSHAD FORBES**, Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall & **FRANK G. WISNER**, International Affairs Advisor, Squire Patton Boggs, LLP and Former Ambassador of US to India (Chair)

“GST will result in a spill-over effect on direct taxation.”

“Job creation in India is a quality problem, not a quantity problem. Jobs have been created in the informal sector, but productivity has not increased.”

“Usage of electronic cards after demonetisation went up to 450%.”

“Labour regulations need to be addressed to achieve long term macroeconomic stability.”

“The ‘Buyer- Seller’ model between India and US should be transformed into ‘Partner- Co-developer’ model.”

SESSION ON INDIA-US: ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CHALLENGES AND THE WAY AHEAD



(Clockwise from top left) **HARISH HANDE**, Chief Executive Officer, SELCO Foundation; **KENNETH R. WEINSTEIN**, President and CEO, Hudson Institute; **ANIL KAKODKAR**, President, National Academy of Sciences; **K R SRIDHAR**, Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Bloom Energy; **HARSHAVARDHAN NEOTIA**, Chairman, Ambuja Neotia Holdings Pvt Ltd & **ARUNABHA GHOSH**, Chief Executive Officer, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (Chair)

“One may identify that decentralized distributed systems in combination with networked and centralized systems lead to lowering of cost and increased accessibility. We need distributed systems and micro grids connected to various sources.”

“Solar will be faster than clean coal in providing high efficiency power to the poor to get them out of poverty today.”

“There can be some collaboration between India, US and Japan on the aspect of infrastructure required for supplying LNG.”

“For a country like India to guarantee adequate quality of life, the energy supply would have to grow manifold. Energy is critical for economic growth. In the past few years, there has been an improvement in the situation of energy supply vis-à-vis the current demand but as the economy moves forward, we will require more and more energy.”

INDIA–US AND THE CHANGING WORLD

“India-US relationship is more important than ever. It began with the rise of China. The Civil nuclear agreement with India was moved in the US congress to counter the rise of China... .The US-India relationship is a stabilizing factor in the world order.”

“A looser world order is autonomous of Chinese behaviour... .A good conversation for India and US will be to discuss this looser world order and ascertain where exactly is it headed and how the two countries can benefit most from it?”



(L-R) **ROBERT D. BLACKWELL**, Henry A. Kissinger Senior Fellow, U.S. Foreign Policy, Council on Foreign Relations and **S JAISHANKAR**, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

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