

**Annual Report**  
**2021–22**



**“Resilience is the greatest  
asset of a powerful society.  
And that resilience is as  
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as of the mind”.**  
**— Jamshyd Godrej**

# Ananta Centre

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# Message from the Chairman

Dear Friends,

For an organization like Ananta Centre, an Annual Report is more than an exercise in compliance. It is a validation of the belief that brings us together as the Ananta Family. The road to a powerful society, driven by values-based leadership, that rests on dialogue and debate is long. Every year is a meaningful step in that direction.

I would like to think of the year 2021–2022 as the year when we realised that resilience is the greatest asset of a powerful society. And that resilience is as much a function of the body as of the mind. This is the spirit that drove most of our conversations this past year.

One highlight was the inaugural edition of the **Indo-Japan Forum** convened by the Centre in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs. The rapidly changing global landscape warranted newer discussions between India and Japan on issues of global concern. The fifth edition of the **India-US Forum**, co-convened by Ananta Centre and the Ministry of External Affairs was the first since President Biden took over. Many of the discussions once again were on navigating the changing times using sense and sensibility.

**Ananta Godrej Ideas India** – the Centre’s flagship leadership programme convened by the Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellows – too reflected the need to look at things afresh. The theme was *Imagine Anew: Rethinking Community & Leadership*. The pandemic has set new definitions for

what leadership is. As we look ahead, we need to imagine anew communities and leaders of the future.

Ananta Centre also held the second edition of **The Levelling**, which is the Centre’s new gender initiative. The concept of gender parity was central to this year’s conference. The goal was to show how India is slowly but steadily developing a level playing field for women in all walks of life. In times to come, it will be an economic imperative to create and tap a talent pool that is gender agnostic and based on merit. The sooner, we as a society, invest in this, the better. The Centre also held classes of its **Values Based Leadership Programme** that works with leaders who are looking to develop and hone their skills so that their leadership affects society positively. This is a programme to keep an eye on – I am sure it will be a force multiplier in the years to come.

There has never been a time where the need for dialogue, collaboration and ethical leadership has been stronger. The time for organizations like Ananta Centre has come. I thank each of you for your time and support and look forward to walking many more meaningful miles together.

I would like to conclude by mentioning the change in the Centre’s leadership. Kiran Pasricha retired as CEO having built the Institution from scratch and Indrani Bagchi, reputed foreign policy editor took charge. Thank you, Kiran; welcome Indrani.



JAMSHYD GODREJ  
Chairman, Ananta Centre



*“I would like to think of 2021–2022 as the year when we realised that resilience is the greatest asset of a powerful society. And that resilience is as much a function of the body as of the mind.”*



# International Relations





# Public Sessions and Roundtables

## India-China Relations: Challenges and Emerging trends

**Roundtable** 11, 18, 25 May & 1 Jun 2021

The Ananta Centre, in conjunction, with the Centre for Contemporary China Studies convened four Digital Roundtables on “India-China Relations: Challenges and Emerging Trends”, bringing together 50 experts from 21 different countries to share their perspectives on India, China and the region. The roundtables were on four key themes:

- Impact of India and China’s conflict and cooperation on the neighbourhood
- Effects of China’s internal fissures on other countries
- Force of the Belt and Road Initiative
- Economic ties between India and China.

The four roundtables recognised important challenges for India in dealing with China and made recommendations on how to address them. All deliberations were closed door and held virtually under the Chatham House Rule.

## The Situation in Afghanistan

**Roundtable** 25 Jun 2021

The roundtable was organized to examine the situation in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of US-led troops and take-over by the Taliban. The wide-ranging discussions encapsulated the security scenario in Afghanistan, the impact of international relations and the South Asian region, and the impact of growing Taliban influence on Pashtun irredentism in Pakistan. Key experts delved deeper into assessing China’s role and interests in the

matter. Taliban’s ideological orientation and growing instability will continue to concern the Chinese despite the security and stability of their restive Xinjiang province. It was noted that the Taliban have not evolved ideologically but their strategic communication has improved significantly. As a result, their push for control of Afghanistan causes concern among regional countries, which do not see the Taliban as a legitimate stakeholder in Afghanistan or the region at large. The closed-door discussions also looked at the potential strategic risks for India in the evolving situation and assessed who could be India’s partners within and outside Afghanistan to secure its interests.



## The Afghanistan Conflict: On Ground Experiences from Kabul

**Public Session** 9 Sept 2021

The recent events in Kabul have grabbed headlines across the globe and also in India. These developments have been a matter of great international concern and those concerns have only compounded with the composition of the Taliban government. Against this backdrop the Ananta Centre held a digital session on “The Afghanistan Conflict: On ground experiences from Kabul” with **Shubhajit Roy**, Associate Editor and Deputy Chief of National Bureau, The Indian Express chaired by **Ambassador Sharat Sabharwal**, Distinguish Fellow, Ananta Centre

and Former High Commissioner of India to Pakistan. Subhajit Roy, who was on ground zero actively covering the conflict, shared anecdotes and insights on the situation.

## Wendy Sherman in Conversation with Jamshyd Godrej

**Public Session** 7 Oct 2021



**Wendy Sherman**, US Deputy Secretary, discussed multiple facets of the India-US relationship during a session co-hosted by the US Consulate Mumbai and Ananta Centre, concluding her two-day visit to India. Her visit came a few days after PM Narendra Modi’s USA trip for the maiden Quad leaders’ summit held in person. Deputy Secretary Sherman acknowledged that the India US partnership is firmly rooted in shared values and ideals, as the world’s two largest democracies. India and the US stood together and helped each other during the pandemic, becoming crucial global leaders in the fight against COVID-19. She highlighted that ending the pandemic is not enough. We need to build back better by investing in climate justice, education and building resilient supply chains. Our military-to-military cooperation is strong and growing. There is scope for expanding cooperation in multiple areas, including through more information sharing, joint and multilateral exercises and cooperation in the maritime space.

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## Growing a Green Economy with Renewable Energy: Thomas Friedman in Conversation with Jamshyd Godrej

**Public Session** 21 Oct 2021



20 leading economies produce 80% of global emissions today. While some economies are historical emitters, the future is the responsibility of every economy. A conversation, co-hosted by the US Consulate Mumbai and Ananta Centre brought together Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author **Thomas Friedman** and the Chairperson & MD of Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd **Jamshyd Godrej**, to discuss the way forward for growing green economies with renewable energy. It was proposed that developed countries like the US should use their resources to innovate clean technologies in wind, solar and nuclear and then use government and market tools at their hands to deploy expensive technologies and bring down the cost volume curve to a point where developing countries like India can adopt them without bearing the innovation investment burden. Also, India and China have immense innovation potential; technologies created in these countries can bring down the cost and become globally scalable.

## How the Chinese Negotiate with India

**Public Session** 9 Nov 2021

The rise of China is amongst the most significant changes that the world is witnessing. India needs to understand the Chinese negotiators and how they



negotiator with India. The Ananta Centre held a digital session on “How the Chinese Negotiate with India” with **Vijay Gokhale**, Distinguished Professor, Symbiosis International, Pune chaired by **Syed Akbaruddin**, Former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and Former Spokesperson, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. The fundamental mismatch between India and China has affected the negotiations between both countries. There is a mismatch of both perception and approach. India’s approach is Ahimsa and negotiation, while China relies on force. China plays the long game, using time flexibly to pin the other side on the mat. It uses it as a method of deflection by buying time and tilting the balance of power in its favour. India also can play the long game, but it needs governmental stability and long-term strategic thinking in the government. It also needs to have leverage with other countries like USA, Japan, Germany etc. to balance and counter China.

## Understanding the US-China Tech Race: Implications for India

**Public Session** 30 Nov 2021



The competition between the United States and China in technology and innovation has caused a paradigm shift in geopolitics. The tech rivalry has the potential to alter global business rules, most notably the long-standing primacy of the world’s open trading system. Both countries are attempting to exploit ad-

vanced technology to their advantage. As a result, technology has emerged as a key battleground for both the United States and China seeking to make capital investments in India.

To understand how the recent tensions between India and China give an opportunity for US companies to expand its foot prints into India, the Ananta Centre held a digital session on “Understanding the US-China Tech Race: Implications for India.” **Anja Manuel**, Co-Founder and Partner, Rice, Hadley, Gates & Manuel LLC, and Director, Aspen Strategy Group and Security Forum was the speaker for the session, and **Ambassador Gautam Bambawale**, Former Ambassador of India to China, Bhutan, and High Commissioner to Pakistan and Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre chaired the session.



## An Interaction with the Minister for the Armed Forces of France, H.E. Ms Florence Parly

**Public Session** 17 Dec 2021

The bond between India and France has grown considerably in recent years. Ananta Centre hosted a conversation on a digital platform between **Florence Parly**, Minister for the Armed Forces of France and **Ambassador (Dr) Mohan Kumar**, Chairman, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). India and France’s shared values, including respect for national sovereignty, are clearly evident in the two countries’ industrial partnership. France actively supports the ‘Make in India’ initiative and the integration of Indian firms into global supply chains. The ‘Make in India’ initiative has proved extremely beneficial to the French industry, particularly in the defence sector. Both countries advocate for multilateralism, international securi-



ty, and the preservation of a rules-based international system. India is a major contributor to UN Peacekeeping Operations, while France has contributed to international security in several parts of the world. The two countries also have the potential to mobilize international partners on significant issues and global challenges, including climate change.

## US and India-China: The Great Power Rivalry

Public Session 8 Feb 2022



In the 21st century, China's rising uncertain behaviour and rapid increase in its influence forms the crux of India-US relations. With this rising uncertainty in the geopolitical arena, the India-US ties have witnessed a consistent effort to develop a closer and more meaningful relationship at the economic, political and strategic front. Today, India and the US have a relationship with China that involves elements of cooperation, competition, and potentially, conflict in different degrees, providing an opportunity for the United States and India to work together, as both countries see a role for each other to address the China problem. In light of this, Ananta Centre hosted a digital session with **Elbridge Colby**, Co-founder and Principal, The Marathon Initiative, USA, in conversation with **Prof. C. Raja Mohan**, Senior Fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute, and Visiting Research Professor, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore.

## War Clouds Over Ukraine: What They Portend for Global Geopolitics

Public Session 15 Feb 2022



The current tensions and developments near the Ukrainian border have been a matter of great global concern. These tensions highlight the post-Cold War geopolitical flux which has not yielded to a settled world order. Against this backdrop the Ananta Centre held a digital conversation on "War clouds over Ukraine: What They Portend for Global Geopolitics" between **Ambassador P.S. Raghavan**, Former Indian Ambassador to Russia and **Prof. C. Raja Mohan**, Senior Fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute and Visiting Research Professor, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore. The conversation touched on the origins of the current tensions, the perspectives of the main stakeholders—the US, Russia and Europe, wider implications of the standoff on power dynamics and how this development impact India's interests and global ambitions.

## India and Japan: 70 Years of Cooperation and the Way Forward

Public Session 24 Feb 2022

The virtual conference on "India-Japan: 70 years of cooperation and the way forward" convened by the Ananta Centre in partnership with the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi was chaired by **N.K. Singh**, Chairman, 15th Finance Commission and Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre. Strengthening cooperation between India-Japan on strategic and economic fronts withhold immense potential to shape a multipolar world. In the coming years the global supply chain, digital and green transformation, nurturing and sourcing highly skilled human resources

will be the four key pillars engagement between India and Japan. Cooperation between the two is key to creating a stable and secure Indo-Pacific region. Their engagements as members of the Quad Security Dialogue, India and Japan share mutual interests and principles that are deep-rooted in the common vision for the Indo-Pacific. Amongst the various maritime theatres, the Indo-Pacific region has emerged as the key area of interest and cooperation.



## Roundtable with Keizai Doyukai

Roundtable 16 Mar 2022

Ananta Centre convened a roundtable with Keizai Doyukai (Japan Association of Corporate Executives) on 16th March 2022. This initiative provided a platform for corporate leaders from India and Japan to exchange ideas, gain a deeper understanding of macro issues affecting the bilateral relationship and identify areas of cooperation and limitations through frank and open discussions. The roundtable was 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 from the Japanese side.

# The India-Japan Forum

Inaugural Edition 20 Jul 2021



Ananta Centre convened the inaugural edition of the India-Japan Forum in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. The forum was co-chaired by **Harsh Vardhan Shringla**, Foreign Secretary, Government of India and **N.K. Singh**, Chairman, 15th Finance Commission, Government of India, and trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre.

India and Japan have enjoyed the warmest of relations. The age-old cultural links and shared values of democracy, freedom and rule of law bring great strength to this relationship. The partnership between India and Japan is seen as among the most natural and close. In the past year, the pandemic has caused a reset in the global and domestic priorities of both countries. The rapidly changing global landscape warrants enhanced cooperation between India and Japan to work together on mutual issues of global concern, deepen mutual understanding, strengthen strategic ties and boost security cooperation. The year 2022 will mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment



of diplomatic relations with new opportunities for enhanced cooperation between the two countries.

The Forum brought together nearly 80 high quality speakers/ participants from Japan and India – ministers, representatives from both governments, business leaders, CEOs, heads of think tanks, academics, thought leaders, senior journalists and authors. Closed-door deliberations, held under the Chatham House Rule, dwelt on issues of peace, security & socio-economic development in the Indo-Pacific and bilateral trade & investment. The deliberations went beyond political, geographical and economic boundaries and discussed ways to elevate the Indo-Japan bilateral relationship to a new level. The second edition of the Forum will be convened in 2022.



The rapidly changing global landscape warrants India and Japan to work together on mutual issues of global concern, deepen their mutual understanding, strengthen strategic ties and boost security cooperation.

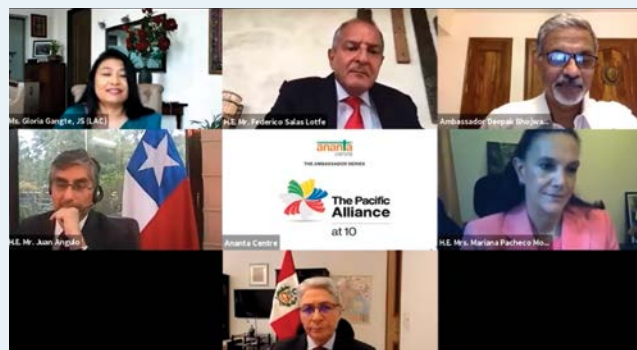


# The Ambassador Series

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

## □ The Pacific Alliance at 10

15 July 2021 Ananta Centre held this digital session with **Gloria Gangte**, Joint Secretary, Latin American & Caribbean, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, **H.E. Mariana Pacheco Montes**, Ambassador of Colombia to India, President Pro-Tempore Pacific Alliance, **H.E. Juan Angulo M.**, Ambassador of Chile to India, **H.E. Federico Salas Lotfe**, Ambassador of Mexico to India, and **H.E. Carlos Rafael Polo Castaneda**, Ambassador of Peru to India chaired by **Ambassador Deepak Bhojwani**, Former Ambassador of India to Colombia, Venezuela and Cuba and Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre. India-Pacific Alliance has been one of the most significant regional groupings in the Latin America and the Caribbean. It has witnessed significant progress over the past few years. This session was held in the light of the emerging significance of this grouping.



## □ India-Uzbekistan Relations: Growing Coherence and Convergence

28 Jul 2021 The bilateral ties between India and Uzbekistan have seen a significant upswing since Indian Prime Minister Modi and President Shavkat Mirziyoyev assumed charge. President Mirziyoyev has introduced several reforms, which have made Uzbekistan an attractive investment destination. In the light of growing relationship, Ananta Centre held a digital session on “India-Uzbekistan relations: Growing coherence and convergence” with **H.E. Dilshod Akhmatov**, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to India and **H.E. Manish Prabhat**, Ambassador of India to Uzbekistan chaired by **Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar**, Former Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan, Sweden & Latvia and Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre.



## □ UK-India: Evolution to Transformation

27 Aug 2021 UK has over the years become one of India's most important strategic partners. Both the countries enjoy robust political and economic links. People-to-people ties are symbiotic and the 1.5 million Indian diaspora in the UK is a living bridge between the two democracies. The relationship has evolved in various aspects. In light of significant developments in the relationship between the two, the Ananta Centre hosted the UK High Commissioner (HC) to India **H.E. Alex Ellis** for a public session. It was moderated by **Y. K. Sinha**, the former Indian High Commissioner to the UK.



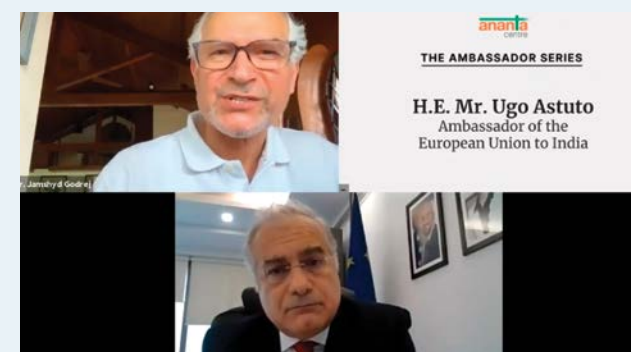
## □ India and Bangladesh: Re-imagining a Connected Destiny

7 Sep 2021 India and Bangladesh have witnessed intense high-level engagements over the past few years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Bangladesh to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the war of liberation and his meetings with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina threw light on the shared history of both the countries. Both sides

renewed their commitment to further strengthen economic and cultural ties and security cooperation. In the light of the growing relationship, Ananta Centre held a digital session with **H.E. Vikram K. Doraiswami**, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh. It was chaired by **Dr Naushad Forbes**, Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall and Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre.

## □ Ambition and Action in the Fight Against Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss : the Need for Multilateralism

26 Oct 2021 Ananta Centre organized this virtual session ahead of COP26 scheduled at Glasgow. Ambassador of the EU to India **H.E. Ugo Astuto** addressed the session, while **Dr Jamshyd Godrej**, Chairman, Ananta Centre, chaired it. The European Union and India can together contribute to shaping the international agenda in pursuit of Global Commons, biodiversity and climate change. It is essential we work together for the success of COP26. The EU and India are ideally placed to steer the discussions in such forums.



## □ India-UAE Relations: Breaking New Grounds

10 Feb 2022 The Ananta Centre held a digital session on “India-UAE Relations: Breaking New Grounds” addressed by **H.E. Dr Ahmed A.R. Albanna**, UAE Ambassador to India. **K. P. Nayar**, Columnist and Strategic Analyst, chaired the session. The historic relationship between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been centred on energy, trade and diaspora. Now, it has expanded to defence, security, cybersecurity, healthcare, and advanced technologies such as AI and

Blockchain. As the UAE intends to become the global hub for technology in the future, both countries should adopt a joint vision in the digital technological field.



## □ The Philippines: India's New Indo-Pacific Partner

5 Apr 2022 This session was held by Ananta Centre. **H.E. Shambhu S. Kumaran**, India's Ambassador to the Philippines addressed the session and it was chaired by **Pramit Pal Chaudhuri**, Columnist and Former Foreign Editor, Hindustan Times, Visiting Fellow, Ananta Aspen Centre. India and the Philippines ties have traditionally been centred on trade, commerce and political cooperation. It has now expanded to defence, security, cybersecurity, healthcare and advanced technologies. India and the Philippines are set to take the transformational moment in their bilateral ties to newer heights. Their partnership can tackle global and regional challenges and leverage several opportunities. This session explored some of the ways to do so.





# 5th India-US Forum

2-3 December 2021



The fifth edition of The India-US Forum, co-convened by Ananta Centre and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, was held virtually on December 2 & 3, 2021. The partnership between the United States and India has the potential to address the most pressing issues of our time. This was the first gathering of the Forum since President Biden took office, and it brought together over 100 high quality speakers/participants with the largest delegation yet from the US. The closed-door talks were on the following themes:

1. Quad and Future of the Indo-Pacific
2. A Shared Health Security Agenda
3. The Way Forward for Afghanistan
4. A New Quad for West Asia
5. The Path for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership
6. Collaboration for Climate Action

## The Key takeaways from the session were:

- The US-India foreign policy is built on six pillars-defending shared Indo-Pacific interests, increasing prosperity for working families, confronting Covid-19 and other health challenges, galvanizing global climate action, strengthening democratic values and institutions and strengthening

people-to-people ties.

- The United States and India are natural allies in the fight for strong global health security. The Quad COVID-19 response and the Quad Vaccines Experts Group's relief partnership will better align the two countries' plans to support health security throughout the Indo-Pacific.
- Technology would be the next area where cooperation between the Quad countries could and should be expanded as it touches on a variety of issues such as establishing the semiconductor supply chain, launching a business-government dialogue to enable 5G diversification, and facilitating the Public-Private STEM Fellowship.
- The Quad countries unquestionably perceive ASEAN as Asia's key convening mechanism, given all major international forums are based through it. Each of the four countries wants to see an ASEAN that is strong and effective. Since the missions of the Quad and ASEAN are complementary, initiatives should be taken to increase engagement between the two.
- The world needs to meet the needs of the climate crisis. Prime Minister Modi's commitment to achieving 500 GW of clean energy capacity by 2030 is remarkable. The US and India are expediting the development and deployment of essential clean energy technologies through the US-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership to support this vision.
- US companies have made significant investments in India in e-commerce, aviation, railways, and telecommunications, and Indian investments in the US reached \$12.7 billion in 2020.
- The United States and India have a deep vested interest in each other's economic development, with strong people-to-people ties at the heart of it. Two-thirds of the 70,000

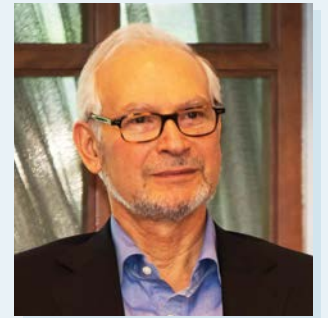
**The US and India are expediting the development and deployment of essential clean energy technologies through the US-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership**



The Forum included keynote addresses and interactions with (L) Antony Blinken, United States Secretary of State and (R) S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India



The Co-Chairs of the 5th India-US Forum: (L) Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary, Government of India and (R) Jamshyd N. Godrej, Chairman, Ananta Centre and Chairman & MD, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited



- students that received visas for the United States in 2021 are in STEM. Together, Indian and American students are forming tomorrow's tech workforce. This will have a positive and long-term impact on both countries.
- Both countries are preparing to extend their relationship in new and crucial emerging technologies such as space, cyber, health security, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, 5G, 6G, and next generation telecommunications technology. Given the weight that these two countries bring to these enterprises, they have the capacity to determine the economic and security landscape in the next few years, which will have significant ramifications for democracy and privacy.
- In the past, the United States and India did not have convergence in terms of strategy regarding Afghanistan. Now, they have a shared determination that Afghanistan never becomes a safe haven for terrorists and that the Afghan people's rights stay protected. Both countries have made significant investments in Afghanistan in the last two decades.
- With the adoption of the India-US Nuclear Accord, the two countries became key defence allies, enabling the defence, security, and strategic alliance to flourish. Over the last twenty years, this aspect of the relationship has grown include acquisition, dialogues, exercises, and training. The two countries are also considering adding another phase to the agreement, which would add depth and diversity through joint innovations, co-production, and joint ventures.
- The West Asian Quad has a promising future in terms of building security solutions and economic collaboration. The four countries are working together to integrate solutions at a systemic level.

- Defence and security companies can work together to either leverage existing capabilities or partner with other nations in multilateral agreements that may be cross-leveraged into other fields.
- The robust startup ecosystem in each of these countries is a potential area in both the Indo-Pacific Quad and the West Asian Quad. Startup ecosystems can be big catalysts and contributors to expanding capabilities, as well as accelerating economic collaboration at a faster rate.
- The United States and India should consider joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership and develop a roadmap to do so. India already has bilateral agreements with Japan, Singapore, and the ASEAN countries and is also pursuing bilateral agreements with Australia and Canada. The United States has bilateral relations with Japan, Australia, Canada, Mexico, Peru, Chile, and Singapore, and has trade relationships with half of the TPP members. Attempting to negotiate entry into the TPP would be faster and easier than negotiating individual bilateral agreements, and would put the US and India in a network with trusted partners.

**With the adoption of the India-US Nuclear Accord, the two countries became key defence allies, enabling the defence, security and strategic alliance to flourish**



# Leadership



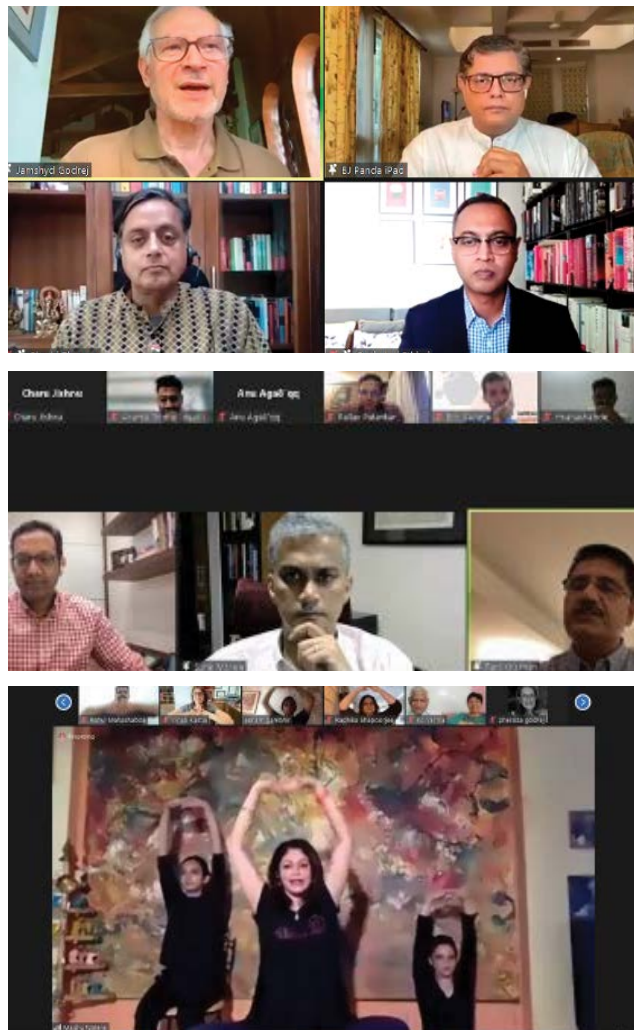
# Ananta Godrej Ideas India 2021

8-10 October, 2021



The Ananta Godrej Ideas India 2021 was held virtually from 8th to 10th October 2021. The overall theme for this year was *Imagine Anew: Rethinking Community & Leadership*. The pandemic has shown that community sometimes matters and has set new definitions of what leadership is. As we look ahead, as we imagine anew, what future communities and leaders will be like, and more importantly what do we want them to be, even as we look within ourselves, to examine our roles and equations in this new world? *Ananta Talks Virtual Socratic Dialogues* allowed participants to engage in classic text-based dialogue with a cohort of Fellows. Plenaries and Discussion featured special guests and Fellows who had powerful and enriching discussions on topics that encompass our theme.

**The pandemic has shown that the community sometimes matters above all and, has set new definitions of what leadership is.**



# Ananta Values-Based Leadership

## Class 2

During the lockdown last year, Ananta Centre launched the first virtual Leadership programme. The programme was extremely well received by the participants of the inaugural class, especially Ananta corporate members. Consequently, the second edition was exclusively for the members of Ananta Centre. The Ananta Values-based Leadership Programme is based on the Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship and the GP Birla Fellowship. The course is designed for accomplished leaders seeking to build on their traditional skills to hone the purpose of their lives and their organisations. This is a three-seminar course and must be taken in sequence.



Seminar 1: Models of Leadership | 22-26 March 2021

Seminar 2: The Good Society | 24-28 May 2021

Seminar 3: Leadership Identity | 5-9 July 2021

Class 2 was held successfully and was moderated by **James Abraham**, Trustee, Ananta Centre; Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow and the Founder and Director, SolarArise and **Vinati Kastia Kilambi**, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow and Senior Partner, AZB & Partners. 19 Fellows graduated from this edition.

## Class 3

Seminar 1: 18-22 October 2021

Seminar 2: 13-17 December 2021

Seminar 3: 21-25 February 2022

Class 3 was held successfully and was moderated by **Aditya Nataraj**, Chief Executive Officer, Piramal Foundation, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow, **Pallav Patankar**, Director Partnerships, Avegen India Pvt. Ltd & Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow. 19 Fellows graduated from this edition. The alumni include senior management from Ashok Leyland, Forbes Marshall, Tata Steel Limited, Naandi Foundation and Writer Corporation among others.





# Public Policy





Despite significant structural and societal challenges, women in India have continued to overcome barriers to achieving success and contributing to their fields and the country.

While stories of individual heroes are inspiring, there is also a growing realisation that for social, political and economic structures to change for women, a lot more needs to be done. This will happen when paths are created for women to experience equity in families, communities, companies and society.

Mindsets and patriarchal beliefs that diminish the role of women are widespread and well entrenched. They can change when alternative narratives are shared in a constructive, non-judgemental, safe space.

The Levelling is an annual conference that Ananta Centre organizes to highlight how India is slowly but definitively creating a level playing field for women across professions and vocations, in families and communities and, in business and governance.

The second edition of this three-day conference was held from 2nd to the 4th of March 2022 with the concept of *Parity* as its central theme. The goal was to show how India is slowly but steadily developing a fair playing field for women in all walks of life.

**Indra Nooyi**, former CEO of PepsiCo, flagged off The Levelling 2022 with a keynote address. In a conversation with **Govindraj Ethiraj**, she spoke of the world’s untapped talent pool and the importance of developing a system that both nurtures and draws from it. Amongst other things this entails recognizing and rewarding talent equally. Ms Nooyi also noted that more women mentors could help the cause of meritocracy by helping more women to reach their potential.

The other conversations were:

- 1. Manufacturing: Shattering the Glass Ceiling
- 2. Uniformed Forces: Does Integration Lead to Equality?
- 3. Inclusion and Exclusion in the Arts
- 4. Mainstreaming Women Leaders in Politics
- 5. Gender Responsiveness in Rural Development
- 6. Mind the Gap & Fix the Mix Private Equity
- 7. Parity: What Does it Mean to the Next Generation?



“ We need to change the lenses. We look at men and women differently. If men make a point passionately it is looked at positively whereas if women make one, it’s looked at as being all over the place and emotional.

— Indra Nooyi, Former CEO, PepsiCo



SPEAKERS

**Jamshyd N Godrej**, Chairman, Ananta Centre and Chairman of the Board, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Ltd  
**Indra Nooyi**, Former CEO, PepsiCo  
**Govindraj Ethiraj**, Founder, BOOM and IndiaSpend  
**Rama Kirloskar**, Jt MD, Kirloskar Brothers Ltd and MD, Kirloskar Ebara Pumps Ltd  
**Anuradha Razdan**, ED, HR Hindustan Unilever and VP, HR, Unilever South Asia  
**Sunil Khurana**, CEO, JCB India Ltd  
**James Abraham**, Founder and Director, SolarArise  
**Zainab Patel**, Lead Inclusion and Diversity, Pernod Ricard India  
**Wg Cdr Neelu Khatri**, Co-Founder and SVP, Akasa Air

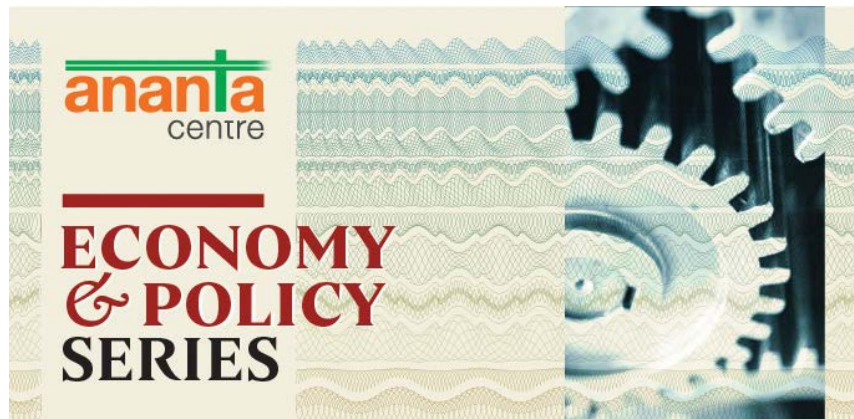
**Aparna Kumar** (IPS), Inspector General/Director, ITBP Academy, Mussoorie  
**Maj. Gen. (Dr) Sagarika Patyal**, SM, VSM (Retd.) Senior Consultant, Center for Sight, New Delhi  
**Gunjan Shah**, Partner, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co.  
**Deeya Bajaj**, Mountaineer, Adventurer, Explorer and Motivator  
**Pheroza Godrej**, Founder, Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai  
**Sourabh Gupta**, Founder and Principal Architect, Archohm  
**Anil Srinivasan**, Classical Pianist, Arts Entrepreneur, Associate Professor  
**Anuj Poddar**, ED, Bajaj Electricals Ltd  
**Deepthi Ravula**, CEO, WEHUB, Govt of Telangana  
**Sushmita Dev**, MP, (Rajya Sabha), West Bengal, All India Trinamool Congress

**Aparajita Sarangi**, MP, Bhubaneswar & National Spokesperson, BJP  
**Atishi Marlena Singh**, MLA, Delhi, Aam Aadmi Party  
**Bhairavi Jani**, ED, SCA Group & Chairperson, IEF  
**Krithi Karanth**, Chief Conservation Scientist, Centre for Wildlife Studies  
**Srikumar Misra**, Founder & Chairman, Milk Mantra  
**Hasina Kharbhih**, Founder & MD, Impulse Social Enterprises  
**Sugandha Munshi**, Senior Specialist, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)  
**Divyata Ashiya**, Ex-COO, Merchant Banking Division International, Goldman Sachs  
**Renuka Ramnath**, Founder, MD & CEO, Multiples Alternate Asset Management  
**Sameer Brij Verma**, MD, Nexus Venture Partners

**Vinati Kastia Kilambi**, Senior Partner, AZB & Partners  
**Nikita Yadav**, Student, University of Delhi  
**Suzzane Chelsea Zerín**, Student, University of Delhi  
**Suyash Tawde**, Student, Mumbai University  
**Gaurav Gupta**, Student, Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts  
**Aditya Natraj**, CEO, Piramal School of Leadership  
**Indrani Bagchi**, CEO, Ananta Centre



# Public Sessions and Roundtables



## The Growth Prospect After the Second COVID Wave – Taking Stock of the Indian Economy

Public Session 18 Jun 2021

India, being a country with a vibrant and diverse economy, has immense potential to grow and tap into opportunities by addressing issues that have influenced its economic activities in recent times. As India emerges from the second wave of the pandemic, its economy has been affected immensely. To understand the severity, impact, challenges and the growth prospects, the Ananta Centre organized a session on “The Growth Prospect after the second COVID wave – Taking Stock of the Indian Economy”, with **Dr Ila Patnaik**, Professor National Institute of Public Finance and Policy; **Dr Naushad Forbes**, Co-Chairman Forbes Marshall and Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre and **Dr Nitin Desai**, Chairman, The Energy & Resource Institute and Trustee, Ananta Centre. **A.K. Bhattacharya**, Editorial Director, Business Standard, moderated the session.



## The Mid-Year Indian Economy Review: Assessing Growth Prospects

Public Session 23 Sep 2021

The Indian economy is recovering from the damages caused by the second wave of COVID-19. The Ananta Centre organised a session on “The Mid-Year Indian Economy Review – Assessing Growth Prospects” to examine the current state of the Indian economy, identify the possible recovery signs and indicate the growth prospects in the second half of the financial year. The panel consisted of **Janmejaya Sinha**, Chairman, Boston Consulting Group India; **Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia**, Former Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of India and **Dr Naushad Forbes**, Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall and Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre. **A.K. Bhattacharya**, Editorial Director, Business Standard, moderated the session.



## Assessing the Direction of India's Trade Policy

Public Session 15 Dec 2021

While the Indian economy is still recovering from the damages caused by COVID-19, the direction of India's trade policy and where it is headed is an important factor to assess. While India has done well in terms of exports, its policies are increasingly appearing to be protectionist. The Ananta Centre hosted the digital session “Assessing the Direction of India's Trade Policy” against this backdrop. It was moderated by **A.K. Bhattacharya**, Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre, Editorial Director, Business Standard. The panel consisted of **Professor (Dr) Amita Batra**, Professor of Economics, Centre for South Asian Studies, School of International Studies, JNU, **Ambassador (Dr) Mohan Kumar**, Chairman, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), and **Dr Naushad Forbes**, Co-Chairman Forbes Marshall, and Chairman Ananta Aspen Centre. The session covered a wide range of topics, including export performance, the future of free trade agreements (FTAs), and the overall trajectory and direction of India's trade policies.

## Union Budget 2022 – What has it Achieved

Public Session 16 Feb 2022

This session moderated by **Govindraj Ethiraj**, Founder India Spend and Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow, Ananta Aspen Centre, included **A.K. Bhattacharya**, Editorial Director, Business Standard and Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre, **Nitin Desai**, Chairman, Governing Council, The Energy and Resources Institute and Trustee, Ananta Centre and **Deepak Shetty**, CEO and Managing Director of JCB India Limited. The session covered the positive aspects and significant initiatives of the budget, like the solid and consistent focus on infrastructure that recognises the seven engines of growth: road, railways, ports, logistics, mass transport, airports and waterways. The budget also covered different technology verticals like 5G spectrum auction, con-

firmation on the launch of a digital version of the rupee as a currency, taxation structure for investment in virtual assets such as cryptocurrency, and boost for the electronics manufacturing will have a positive impact on the technology sector.

## RTI Act, 2005: A Tool for Effective Governance

Public Session 2 Jul 2021

The Right to Information Act has altered the data and information landscape in India. More information entering the public domain has created an interesting situation where, with a surge in information, citizens have actually demanded supplementary information as well. This Act keeps pressure on the government and public authority not only to perform but to be more responsive to the needs of the public. In light of this, the Ananta Centre held a digital session on RTI Act, 2005: A Tool for Effective Governance with **Y.K. Sinha**, Chief Information Commissioner of India, and **Govindraj Ethiraj**, Founder, Boom and IndiaSpend and Ananta Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow, in the chair.



## Women Leadership in Law: Becoming Allies for the Next Generation

Public Session 12 Aug 2021

It is often difficult for women to thrive at workplaces because of the rules framed by generations of men who have dominated the space for so long. It is no different in the legal profession. To understand what challenges women in law face and how those who rise to the leadership position can help the next generation of women, the Ananta Centre held a virtual session on “The Woman Speaks Series – Women Leadership in Law: Becoming allies for the next generation”.

The speakers were **Mishi Choudhary**, Legal Director, SFLC, New York; **Vinanti Kastia Kilambi**, Senior Partner, AZB & Partners and **Jayna Kothari**, Senior Advocate & Executive Director, Centre for Law and Policy Research. **Amitav Virmani**, Founder CEO of The Education Alliance moderated the session.



## Parliamentary Series: Roundtable with Jayant Sinha

Roundtable 30 Aug 2021

Standing Committees are an important part of the Indian parliamentary system and law-making exercise. They play a crucial role in bringing together MPs from different political parties to examine some of the most pressing issues concerning the citizens of the country. In light of this, Ananta Centre convened a closed-door roundtable with Member of Parliament **Jayant Sinha**, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, on 30 August 2021. The participants were briefed on the functioning and the role played by the Parliamentary Standing Committees. The closed-door session was attended by senior industry leaders, Members of Parliament and media representatives.

## India-Japan Strategic Cooperation in Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation

Public Session 20 Jan 2022



As the global race for technological dominance continues, India and Japan have strengthened strategic cooperation on the new frontiers of technology and innovation. Both countries have further shared a vision for developing their economic ecosystems to achieve peace, stability, and shared prosperity by leveraging emerging technologies in the region. In this backdrop, key experts from Japan and India participated in the roundtable and discussed emerging and existing issues of data protection, deep tech, 5G, information sharing, the potential of private sector partnership on new technologies, population reskilling and skilling and, best practices to help drive the bilateral journey of digital transformation.

## Roundtable on India's R&D Ambitions: Challenges and Imperatives

Roundtable 21 Jan 2022



The Ananta Centre and the Centre for Technology, Innovation and Economic Research (CTIER) organized a closed door round table discussion on “India's R&D ambitions: Challenges and Imperatives”. This was a virtual roundtable discussion with a small and select group of about 20 participants from the basic sciences and industry. This was the third roundtable discussion in a series on India's R&D Ambitions: Challenges and Imperatives. The session featured an in-depth discussion with **Prof K. Vijay Raghavan**, Former Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, on the various initiatives being undertaken by the Office of the PSA to strengthen India's R&D and innovation ecosystem.





**James Abraham**  
Founder and Director, SolarArise



**Sugata Bose**  
Gardiner Professor of History,  
Harvard University



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



**Rajan Navani**  
Vice Chairman & Managing Director,  
JetSynthesis (Jetline Group of Companies)



**Harshavardhan Neotia**  
Chairman, Ambuja Neotia Holdings Pvt. Ltd



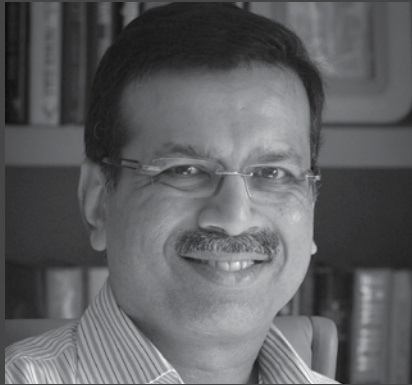
**B. J. Panda, Founding Trustee**  
National Vice President, Bharatiya Janata Party



**Nitin Desai**  
Chairman, Governing Council, The Energy and  
Resources Institute



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



**Sanjiv Goenka**  
Chairman, RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group



**Anuj Poddar**  
Executive Director, Bajaj Electricals Ltd



**Vipin Sondhi**  
Former Managing Director & CEO,  
Ashok Leyland Ltd & JCB India Ltd



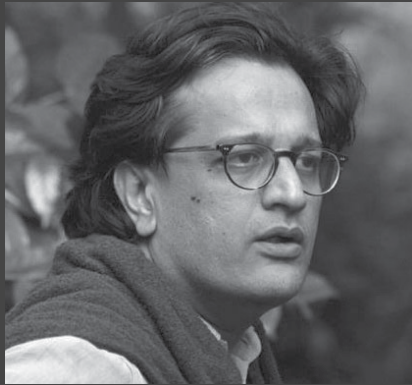
**Shashi Tharoor**  
Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha



**Bhairavi Jani**  
Executive Director, SCA Group  
& Chairperson, IEF



**Shobana Kamineni**  
Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals  
Enterprise Ltd



**Manoj Kumar**  
CEO, Naandi Foundation

SENIOR STAFF  
**Kiran Pasricha**, CEO  
**Indrani Bagchi**, CEO-Designate  
**Harshit Sehgal**, Senior Director  
**Wikky Katyal**, Head, Operations  
**Roshni Kerketta**, Programme Officer





### Gautam Bambawale

Former Ambassador of India to China; Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Ananta Centre



### A. K. Bhattacharya

Editorial Director, Business Standard; Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Ananta Centre



### Deepak Bhojwani

Former Ambassador of India to Colombia, Venezuela and Cuba; Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Ananta Centre



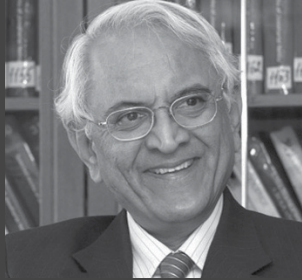
### Mohan Kumar

Former Ambassador of India to France; Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Ananta Centre



### Manjeev Singh Puri

Former Ambassador of India to the EU; Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Ananta Centre



### P. S. Raghavan

Chairman, National Security Advisory Board and former Indian Ambassador to Russia



### Sharat Sabharwal

Former Indian Ambassador to Pakistan and Uzbekistan; Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Ananta Centre



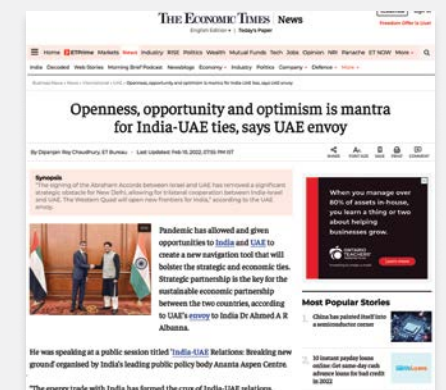
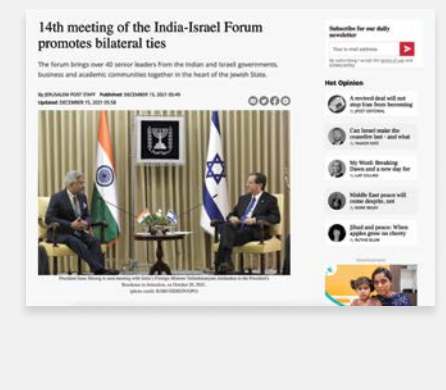
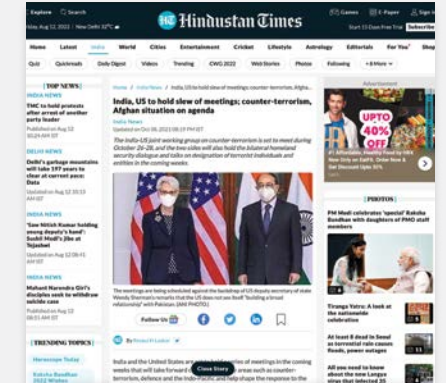
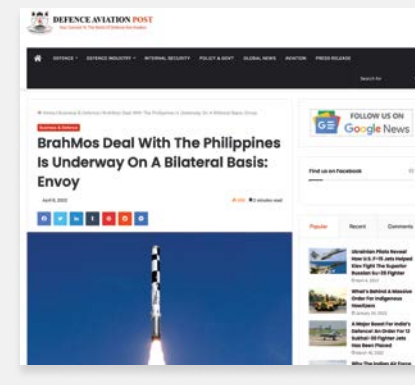
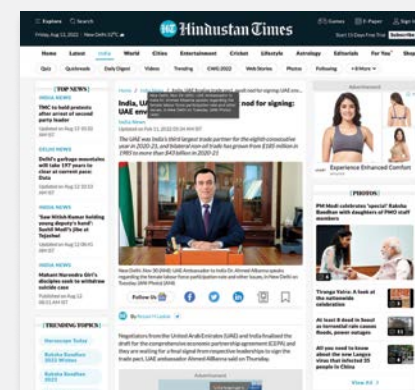
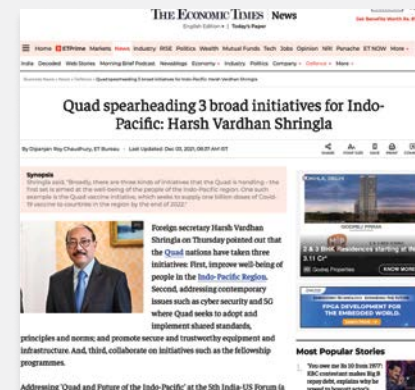
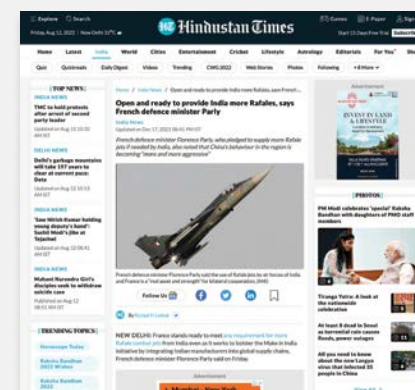
### Mahesh Sachdev

Former Ambassador of India to Algeria, Norway and High Commissioner to Nigeria; Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre



### Ashok Sajjanhar

Former Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan, Sweden and Latvia; President, Institute of Global Studies; Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre





Thank you,  
Kiran!



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

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

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

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



FAREWELL LUNCH, 26 MARCH 2022





Corporate Members

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Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited  
Bajaj Electricals Limited  
Bajaj Finserv Limited  
Bharat Forge Limited  
Blue Star Limited  
Boston Consulting Group India Private Limited  
CESC Limited  
Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Limited  
Export-Import Bank of India  
Forbes Marshall Private Limited  
Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited  
JCB India Limited  
Jetline Industries Private Limited  
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Nestle India Limited  
Oracle India Private Limited  
Orient Electric Limited (a CK Birla Group Co.)  
PN Writer & Co.  
Patton International Limited  
Sundram Fasteners Limited  
TAAL Tech India Private Limited  
TATA Advanced Systems Limited  
Tata Chemicals Limited  
Tata Sons Private Limited  
Tata Steel Limited  
Thermax Limited  
TIL Limited  
Triveni Turbine Limited  
Tube Investments of India Limited  
TVS Supply Chain Solutions Limited  
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