

# Annual Report 2020–21



**The world is made  
of compromises and  
considerations.  
The more there is, the  
harmonious it is.**

— Dr S. Jaishankar

Ananta Centre  
Annual Report  
2020-21



# Message from the Chairman



JAMSHYD GODREJ

Dear Friends,

They say hindsight is 2020; last year validated this belief. The pandemic held up a mirror to our society and compelled us to reflect. I am sure there has been learning and epiphanies for everyone. My own has been that credit and blame are always collective. If we want a future that is very different, we will have to walk the path together.

The pandemic threw many of us into the deep end of the pool; Ananta Centre did a great job of swimming against the tide. It held all the programmes in the digital mode without compromising on quality or participation. In fact, thanks to the ease of engagement, we held many more dialogues under our public policy vertical and even launched a new series on gender equality, *The Levelling*. This initiative believes that influencers need to move from being achievers to active levellers in matters of gender. Two other dialogues were especially pertinent given the Covid situation—on mental wellbeing and a roundtable on loneliness; both called out mental health as the elephant in the room.

One of the Centre's flagship leadership programmes, Ananta Godrej Ideas India 2020, had an interesting concept, *How Big is your Circle?* It highlighted the need for inclusion and tolerance in society. The plenary titled *There are no 'Others'* provided deep insights into issues of otherisation. The road to inclusion is long. I feel leaders are best placed to bring about sustainable and deep-rooted changes in society.

Ideas India is an initiative of the Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellows. Every edition encourages open dialogue on a unique set of challenges faced by society. The event brings together the Fellows and other eclectic leaders in sessions designed for both action and reflection.

*“In the end, it always boils down to the choices we make as an individual and as communities. It’s time to make ones that serve the larger good”.*

The theme for the 4th India-US Forum 2020 was *Life After Corona—A Shared Vision*. The India-US partnership has a long history. Stephen Biegun, Deputy Secretary of State from the US and Dr S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India, took part in the discussions.

Stephen Biegun's quote reflects the tone and tenor of the Forum: “We do not seek to change India's traditions. Rather, we want to explore how to empower them and India's ability to defend its own sovereignty and democracy and to advance Indian interests, across the Indo-Pacific region. Strengthening bilateral relations should be a continuous and sincere process involving relevant stakeholder groups.” I am happy that Ananta Centre can contribute to this process.

I had begun this note with the importance of hindsight and I would like to end on a positive note. Covid has not receded, and the future continues to be uncertain, but the best is yet to come. In the end, it always boils down to the choices we make as individuals and communities. It's time to make ones that serve the larger good.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Jamshyd Godrej' in a cursive script.

# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**The changing global realities have reshaped India's traditional approach to diplomacy. Track II diplomacy and other stakeholder meets now hold a bigger space in channels of communication.**

**Ananta Centre works to strengthen these channels through well-established, multi-stakeholder forums and public sessions. These platforms help in building informed public opinion, which is an important input for shaping foreign policy.**



## ■ INDIA US

## 4th India-US Forum

OCTOBER 12, 2020 / The India-US partnership goes back a long way. Bilateral collaboration now spans defence and security cooperation, mutual law enforcement support, trade and investment ties, a multi-pronged energy partnership, scientific and technological collaboration, educational links, support for strengthening and reforming international organizations and, perhaps most critically this past year, unprecedented cooperation to combat the coronavirus pandemic. This year the theme was 'Life After Corona-A Shared Vision'. Stephen Biegun, Deputy Secretary of State from the US and S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs Government of India, added to the discussions at the Forum on issues such as securing emerging technology and restructuring global supply chains, health security and the future of the Quad.

For three decades, each successive US administration has successfully built upon and deepened the accomplishments of its predecessor regarding relations with India.

Over the years, expansion and inclusiveness of India and the US have increased beyond the political arena. India considers the US both an Atlantic and a Pacific power, but understanding the distinct strategic nature of the Indo-Pacific is crucial.

The Quad can be a powerful tool to meet the implementation gap caused by net challenges across the globe rising while



S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India

the capacity to tackle them is reducing. A coalition like the Quad testifies to the evolving landscape of the multipolar world order. The Quad brings an ad hoc combination of countries with shared interests and ideas. Together, it represents nearly a quarter of the world's population.

Going forward, Quad should aim for sharper contours. In Southeast Asia especially it can deepen engagement with ASEAN, cooperate in defending freedom of the seas, and work together on governance, health, environmental protection, water conservation and transparent data sharing.

Both India and US have undertaken many medical diplomacy exercises to combat COVID-19 and collaboration is underway in the areas of diagnostics and therapeutics of the disease. India exported 50 million hydroxychloroquine tablets to treat COVID-19 patients in the US very early in this battle. The public-private partnership across both countries will be essential to face the challenges rising from the pandemic.

There needs to be systemic removal of barriers to technology, trade, data, and eventually movement the people all around the world in order to restructure & diversify the supply chains. We can go further if both countries recognise each other as they are, democracies with polarised political & economic values, rather than India expecting US to be like Japan and US expecting India to be like China.



Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary, Government of India and Stephen Biegun, Deputy Secretary of State, US



**“We do not seek to change India’s traditions. Rather we want to explore how to empower them and India’s ability to defend its own sovereignty and democracy and to advance Indian interests, across the Indo-Pacific region.”**

STEPHEN BEIGUN



### CO-CHAIRS

Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary, Government of India

Jamshyd N. Godrej, Chairman, Ananta Centre; Chairman & Managing Director, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Ltd





## ■ INDIA

# What Next for Neighbourhood First?

MARCH 15, 2021 / India's future in world affairs depends on its neighbouring countries. These nations are strategically important to India because of the deep inter-connectedness between geography, culture and history. India's relations with its neighbouring countries affect Indian states that border these countries and therefore India's neighbourhood remains the primary diplomatic arena and the top foreign policy priority. The country's Neighbourhood First policy and the PM's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishvas, reflects this priority. This has become a central pillar of India's foreign and security policy since 2014. As India's economy grows, it must remain forward looking, demand-driven and flexible. The potential for collaborative development continues to grow in various sectors: blue economy, the digital space, maritime cooperation, logistics sector, in education – joint degree programmes, joint research projects or joint campuses, among others. It is now imperative for us to leverage this momentum of existing interaction and build new areas of cooperation, creating a more interlinked and prosperous neighbourhood.



## IN CONVERSATION WITH

*Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary, Government of India*

## MODERATOR

*Jamshyd Godrej, Chairman, Ananta Centre; Chairman & Managing Director, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Ltd*



## ■ INDIA

# Is it Time to Reevaluate India's Foreign Policy?

MAY 28, 2020 / This discussion focussed on important aspects of India's foreign policy vis-à-vis the international and regional orders, including the membership of the United Nations Security Council and the Nuclear Suppliers Group, along with the impact of RCEP and the need to reorient India's economy.

## PANEL

*Tarun Das, Founding Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre; Chairman, Institute of Economic Growth; Naushad Forbes, Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre; Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall Pvt. Ltd*  
*P. S. Raghavan, Chairman, National Security Advisory Board, Government of India; Former Ambassador of India to Russia.*

## CHAIR

*Indrani Bagchi, Senior Diplomatic Editor, The Times of India*



## ■ MYANMAR

# Myanmar's China Dilemma

JULY 21, 2020 / This session was held against the backdrop of Myanmar's discomfort with Beijing over China's alleged military support to the rebel groups in Myanmar. It provided insights into the dynamics of China-Myanmar partnership and role of India as a balancing factor.

## PANEL

*Gautam Mukhopadhyaya, Former Ambassador of India to Afghanistan and Myanmar*  
*G. Parthasarathy, Chancellor, Central University of Jammu and Former High Commissioner of India to Pakistan*

## MODERATOR

*Dipanjana Roy Chaudhury, Senior Assistant Editor, The Economic Times, Delhi*

## ■ INDIA RUSSIA CHINA

# The Shape of the post-COVID, India-Russia-China Triangle

JULY 28, 2020 / Since its inception in 2005, the evolution of the Russia-India-China Dialogue has been influenced by the bilateral relationship of the three nations and by the transformations in the global geopolitical equations.

This session on the shape of the post-Covid India-Russia-China triangle, had key elements of the RIC dialogue and explored how this would affect the post-COVID realignment of global geopolitical equations.

## PARTICIPANTS

*P. S. Raghavan, Chairman, National Security Advisory Board; Former Ambassador of India to Russia*  
*Vijay Gokhale, Former Indian Ambassador to China and Foreign Secretary*

## ■ AFGHANISTAN

# Roundtable on Afghanistan–Peace or Greater Turmoil?



MAY 14, 2020 / On 29th February 2020, the USA and the Taliban signed an agreement in Doha, on bringing peace to Afghanistan. The agreement resulted from eighteen months of negotiations. The deal provides for withdrawal of all foreign forces from Afghanistan within 14 months, subject to the Taliban acting on their commitment to not allow the use of Afghan soil to threaten the US and its allies; intra-Afghan negotiations between the Taliban and Afghan sides for a permanent ceasefire and the future political roadmap of Afghanistan; release of all prisoners by both sides and lifting of US and UN sanctions against the Taliban. The roundtable, 'Afghanistan–Peace or Greater Turmoil' discussed the implications of the US-Taliban deal for Afghanistan, Pakistan's objectives in the developing situation, implications of the deal for India's security and its options in the evolving situation. It also looked at whether India should engage with the Taliban.

## CHAIR

*Sharat Sabharwal, Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre; former High Commissioner of India to Pakistan*





# PUBLIC POLICY

**India has a powerful people's voice. Multiple worldviews and perspectives co-exist and add to the robustness of the democracy. Ananta Centre works to build strong, non-partisan dialogue platforms that encourage these different viewpoints.**

**These forums bring together leaders from all walks of life to examine critical issues facing the country and explore solutions in the spirit of shared responsibility. Some of these dialogues are long standing while others are standalone public sessions.**



## THE ECONOMY &amp; POLICY

## Green Stimulus and the Economic Relief Package

JULY 29, 2020 / The pandemic brought the economy to almost a grinding halt and affected lives and livelihoods at a scale never seen before. India's most pressing problem in the COVID era is the loss of livelihoods; it needs to be addressed on a war footing and the government's relief package is a step in the direction. While there are different ways to rejuvenate livelihoods, the pandemic has made a powerful case for the path of sustainability. It has also given us the opportunity to walk this path by changing the very context for growth. Now is a good time to course-correct and walk a path that sustains both the people and the planet. This means making choices in favour of sustainability and weaving it into the very fabric of our economic outlook. If we do so, we will thrive irrespective of disasters that come our way.



## PANEL

*Seema Arora*, Deputy Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry  
*Jamshyd N. Godrej*, Chairman, Ananta Centre;  
 Chairman of the Board, Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Co. Ltd  
*Navroz Dubash*, Professor, Centre for Policy Research

## MODERATOR

*A. K. Bhattacharya*, Editorial Director, Business Standard



## THE ECONOMY &amp; POLICY

## Taking Stock of the Indian Economy

DECEMBER 15, 2020 / The pandemic has devastated the economic landscape of many a country. India has not been an exception. While the present situation makes a strong case for keeping the doors of the economy open, it is equally important to keep pursuing self-reliance as a growth philosophy. Manufacturing and exports will play a key role here. We should look at small and medium industries as vital players in the manufacturing ecosystem.

## PANEL

*Naushad Forbes*, Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre; Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall Pvt. Ltd  
*Deepak Shetty*, Deputy CEO and Managing Director, JCB India Ltd  
*B. Thiagarajan*, Managing Director, Blue Star Ltd

## MODERATOR

*A. K. Bhattacharya*, Editorial Director, Business Standard



## THE ECONOMY &amp; POLICY

## Union Budget 2021: Has it Lived up to Expectations?

FEBRUARY 5, 2021 / India faces lost growth estimates, livelihoods issues and poor government finances. Some of its taxation policies, as well as reforms, have met with resistance. In this context, the Union Budget 2021 needs to be evaluated for its revive quotient. The budget does a fair job in creating rebound policies, though it does not negate the possibility of inflation. The proposed disinvestment, infrastructural changes and the institutional changes will have to be implemented effectively in order for the budget to achieve its goals. A stable tax regime is crucial for a healthy economy and, therefore, the government should not change the existing tax regimes.

## PANEL

*Shankar Acharya*, Former Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India  
*Naushad Forbes*, Chairman, Ananta Aspen Centre and Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall Pvt. Ltd  
*Bidisha Ganguly*, Chief Economist, CII

## MODERATOR

*A. K. Bhattacharya*, Editorial Director, Business Standard



**“The recovery that’s taking place is very marginal and will probably not be robust until the health issues are behind us.”**

NAUSHAD FORBES



## HEALTH

## Launch of the White Paper: The World's Pharmacy Expands its Reach in Global Health

MARCH 30, 2021 / India is known as the pharmacy of the world because of its manufacturing capacity. In a Quad Summit, participants proposed leveraging this capacity to manufacture COVID vaccines for the world. Global Health Strategies (GHS) White Paper-India: The World's Pharmacy expands its Reach in Global Health—looks at an integrated and self-sufficient Indian pharmaceutical industry. The paper was launched by *Harsh Vardhan Shringla*, Foreign Secretary, Government of India, at a special digital session.

The session also featured a fireside conversation with *Renu Swarup*, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, and Chairperson, BI-RAC; *Hari Menon*, Country Director, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and *David Gold*, CEO, Global Health Strategies. *Govind Ethiraj*, Founder, IndiaSpend & BOOM Live and Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow moderated the session. The conversation was about India's efforts to become a global hub of vaccine manufacturing, and Mission COVID Suraksha, launched with this idea, in which 200–250 million dollars have been invested.



## TECHNOLOGY

# India, Singapore and the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 / India and Singapore are among the founding members of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)—a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting innovative research and applied activities on AI-related priorities. Data governance is one such priority area. Several factors influence developing a data governance framework – adequacy of existing data infrastructures, availability of standardised data sets and the regulatory balance between data availability and privacy are especially important. India, for example, is data-rich but not ‘data intelligent’. Rich data available through publicly funded initiatives are not publicly available. India should, therefore, focus on creating open data platforms where data generated through government initiatives, for example, can be accessed and leveraged easily by other stakeholders. Data privacy is a concern, especially while accessing data generated by the private sector. While the government is looking to bring a new Personal Data Protection Bill, it should also look at sector-specific regulatory mechanisms used in countries such as Norway.

On a broader level, India should look at an AI market place especially where data sets come for a price. This is necessary for Indian start-ups to raise venture capital (VC) funds. The inability to quantify the costs of procuring a specific data set to deploy AI solutions can be a hindrance to raising VC funding. Finally, India must



move beyond developing AI applications and introduce policies to help cultivate technical skills and foster innovation.



## TECHNOLOGY

## Microsoft NextGen Network Workshop on Artificial Intelligence

DECEMBER 17, 2020 / The participants comprising emerging young leaders in the AI space in India, representing a broad cross-section of stakeholders from start-up founders and entrepreneurs, to academicians, government representatives, NGO and civil-society activists, tech-innovators and inventors, school and college students. The workshop focused on issues unique to India and the customised initiatives India has taken in different sectors to promote growth.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

*Abheek Singhi*, Senior Partner and Managing Director, Boston Consulting Group

## SESSION CHAIR

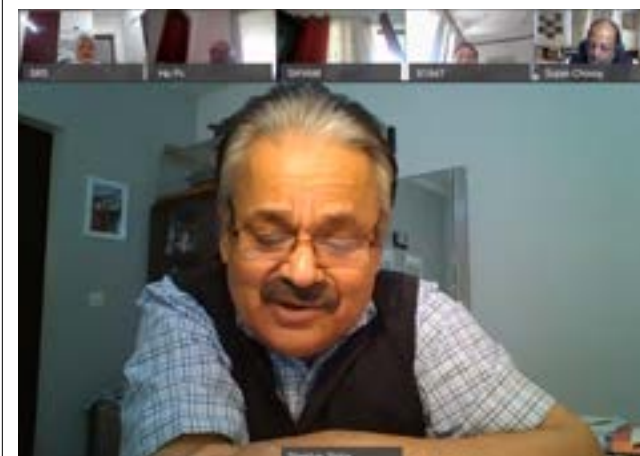
*Sameer Walia*, CEO, Ripples of Hope; Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre



## DEFENCE

## India's Defence Policy: Covid-19 and India's Defence Planning and Preparedness

MAY 26, 2020 / The ongoing India-China conflict provides and changing geo-politics makes it imperative for India to stay focussed on building military strength even in the face of a national disaster like COVID-19. Going forward, India may have to trim defence budgets to meet more pressing priorities, but it is important to keep on track for self-reliance in the sector. The allocation for revenue and capital expenditure is an area that needs to be looked into, as also the Defence Offset Policy to benefit domestic manufacturers. FDI through offsets is a major expenditure in the defence and aerospace sector. India should also look at transferring its



R&D from the government to the private sector in the interest of competitiveness.

## PANEL

*Sanjay Mitra*, Former Defence Secretary, Government of India

*Shekhar Sinha*, Former Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, and Commander in Chief, Western Naval Command

*R. K. Tyagi*, Former Chairman, HAL

*Jayant D. Patil*, President, SIDM, Whole-Time Director (Defence, L&T) and Member of the Board, Larsen & Toubro

*Subhash Chandra*, Former Special Secretary, Ministry of Defence

## MODERATOR

*Sujan R. Chinoy*, Director General, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses



**“Our planning is to stand against any assertiveness on the northern border and be absolutely prepared for offensive action at any time on the western border.”**

VICE-ADMIRAL SHEKHAR SINHA



## GENDER

# THE Levelling

## TOWARDS AN UNGENDERED WORLD

MARCH 6–7, 2021 / The Levelling aims to help create a level playing field for women through collective effort. It stems from the belief that women (and men) need to move from being ceiling breakers to levellers in the gender space. The conference followed a mixed-format: panel discussions, closed-door sessions, talks and virtual performance. The conversations focussed on four aspects of an ungended world—Liberty, Equality, Efficiency and Community. Ananta talks, short monologues from women leaders working for an inclusive society for women, were especially engaging. This was the inaugural chapter of The Levelling. The Centre is committed to making it a flagship event in the space of gender equality.



“In my mind, equality between men and women means equality in power shared by men and women.”

RADHIKA PIRAMAL

### Ananta Talks

These were 15 minute sessions slotted before the plenaries. In each, a woman shared her gender journey and set the context for the plenary to follow. *Shaheena Attarwala*, Design & Research Manager, Microsoft; *Radhika Piramal*, Executive Vice Chairperson, VIP Industries; *Faye D'Souza*, Independent Journalist and *Sairee Chahal*, Founder of Sheroes, were the speakers.



### Plenary

#### Liberty: Breaking through Patriarchy

This segment comprised daughters and their mothers, exploring what liberty means to women across generations. They spoke of their individual challenges and what they did to overcome them as also what could be done to make things easier for the future generation of women to come.



### Plenary

#### Equality: Storming Male Bastions

In the ideal world, men would feel just as comfortable inhabiting homes as women. Role-Modelling is therefore necessary for younger generations to see choices women have been making and how they have been supported to do so. This segment focused on how leaders are creating a pathway of equal opportunities and providing women with the tools to thrive without succumbing to established stereotypes.



### Plenary

#### Efficiency: Making Meritocracy Work for Women

Society scrutinises a woman's success and is often judgemental of it. Gender bias is often implicit and subtle, making it difficult for women to achieve the same level of success as their male peers. This segment brought together leaders to discuss how they were promoting meritocracy as a tool to create fair competition in their area of influence. Their own personal journeys, along with the stories of how they were attempting to create an efficient system, were the central focus while discussing this theme.



### Plenary

#### Community: Building Your Tribe

This segment brought together leaders who have achieved success, but realise that it is important to create a community which can extend support and act as a safe space for those women who lack opportunities or self-belief. Personal experiences, which included stories of the women they work with, were a constant thread during the session.

### Fireside Chat

The Levelling was launched with a fireside chat between Jamshyd Godrej, Chairman Ananta Centre and Kiran Pasricha, CEO of Ananta Centre. The conversation dwelt on the importance of values-based leadership and the need to pave the way for more women leaders.

### Live performance

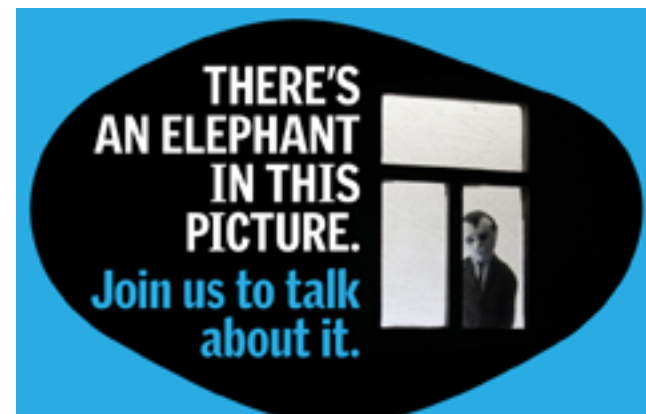
#### Reclaiming Brilliance: Mosaic Imagery of the Feminine Principle

A live performance by *Madhu Nataraj*, Director, Natya Institute of Kathak and Choreography and Natya STEM Dance Kampni was also held at the end of the first day.





## OTHER EVENTS



### MENTAL HEALTH

## Mental Wellbeing for College Students

OCTOBER 24, 2020 / Keeping in mind the rise in mental health issues, there is an increasing need for each of us to look inwards and address our vulnerabilities. Ananta Centre, in partnership with Reboot Wellness, organised a series of two workshops under the umbrella theme 'The Elephant in our Room'. These workshops equipped participants with coping strategies to deal with difficult situations and stay on course for their life goals.

**For College Students: Hanging Out Online – Social Links of the New Normal / Coping Mechanisms for Dealing with Uncertainties Around COVID-19**



The workshop touched on loneliness and brought out the need to acknowledge and accept the emotion without trying to justify or discard the emotion. The next step is to identify what would help discard the emotion and finally take action. It also covered how one could manage stress and anxiety by focusing on three circles: Circle of Control, Circle of Influence, and Circle of Concern. It is important to focus on things which one can control and influence and work towards them. Negative bias is the root cause of stress and anxiety; it is easier to register and keep negative stimuli and focus on things which are outside the sphere of control. To avoid this, it is important to recognise personal character strengths such as creativity, kindness and humour and use them to overcome challenges and cope better.

**For Adults, Parents, Working Professionals: Digital Fatigue – Post Covid Coping Mechanisms / Dealing with the Digital Burnout and Coping with the New Stressors of Life**



The changed reality of working from home to living at work is the new ice-breaker for today's workforce. Key themes discussed in the workshop were signs of digital fatigue; why is working from home more fatiguing and how it is affecting us; coping with and reducing digital fatigue for working professionals, and coping with and reducing digital fatigue for parents.

#### FACILITATOR

*Saloni Mira Chaudhary*, Psychotherapist and Educator, Reboot Wellness

### SOCIETY

## Roundtable on Loneliness

**Organised by Ananta Centre and Aspen Digital**

DECEMBER 18, 2020 / Ananta Centre, in collaboration with Aspen Digital, organised two roundtables in India on the challenges and opportunities at the intersection of loneliness, technology, and social connection in India.

The first roundtable, 'Loneliness and Technology', centred around the definition of loneliness that has developed over the years. In ancient Indian texts and traditions, being alone was an integral part of one's journey to know the self. However, the amplified point of the discussion was that there is a difference between being alone and being lonely. These ancient texts and traditions highlighted various states of minds and, over time, they identified certain mental disorders. The post-colonial era saw the emergence of modern psychiatry, which informed policies in this space. However, these policies failed to address the socio-economic and political inequity that engulfs the people of this country.

Many people do not access mental healthcare facilities because of cost and stigma. India is a heterogeneous country; there is no common vocabulary for mental health, which also leads to ignorance and neglect. The nexus between technology and growing awareness around mental health disorders was another foci of discussion. One cannot undermine the benefits of technology and the growth of social media in raising awareness of mental health. However, on the downside, researches have often shown that social media can end up aggravating certain mental health conditions such as depression,



anxiety and stress. The discussion further expanded on the existence of loneliness in India as a continuum to that of solitude. Thus, remarking that the focus should be more on providing people with necessary skills in order to navigate their loneliness rather than try to find a cure for it.



The second roundtable focused more on connectivity across the country and the existence of a rural-urban divide. The number of people having access to digital platforms in the country is astounding even in the rural areas. One can tap this digital access in order to bridge the gap between the rural and the urban communities and their access to platforms guiding people on mental health issues. However, the problem that remains is that of priority. Many people living in these rural areas struggle to meet even their basic needs, such as food or clothing. Social inequity thus continues to be a problem in the country. This further adds an impetus to exclusionary behaviours and aggravates issues of loneliness in these societies. Navigating through the lens of inaccessibility, developing skills in order to cope with loneliness can also be a matter of privilege. Even though there has been no blanket definition to explain loneliness across the country, the efforts to deal with it should remain constant.



**Ananta Leadership Programmes help shape leaders who, powered by their personal values, redefine their leadership goals and work for a better society.**

**Socratic Dialogues take the participants on an introspective journey in the course of which they can see their leadership goals in the light of their core values. This empowers the Fellows to relook at their definition of success and work for the larger good.**

# LEADERSHIP



## VALUES BASED LEADERSHIP

## Ananta Godrej Ideas India 2020



OCTOBER 2–4, 2020 / Ideas India is an initiative of the Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellows. Every edition encourages open dialogue on a unique set of challenges faced by society. The event brings together the fellows and other eclectic leaders in sessions designed for both action and reflection.

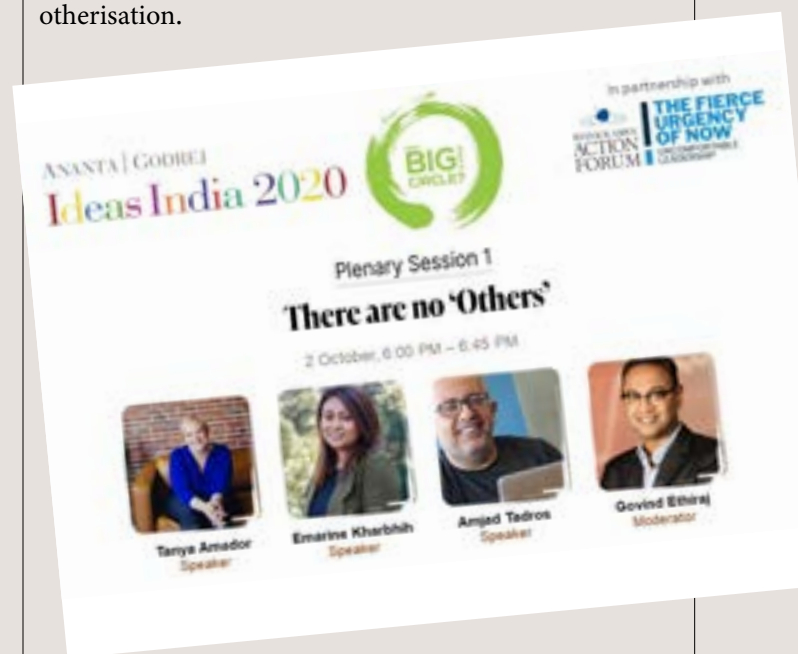
The overall theme for Ananta Godrej Ideas India 2020 was ‘How Big is your Circle?’ The digital format was a response to the pandemic and made it possible to convene a group larger than the previous editions.

A special feature of the 2020 edition was the first plenary, titled “There are no Others”. It was a joint exercise with the Resnick Aspen Action Forum and provided a deep insight into otherisation and the need to expand one’s circle to find answers.

**“Don’t do to others what was done to you”.**

*Plenary***There are no Others**

This was the pivotal session of Ananta Godrej Ideas India 2020. It reflected on the need to expand one’s circle and make it more permeable to absorb people that fall outside its ambit. Refugees featured prominently in the conversations because they are a powerful illustration of otherisation.



Though continents apart, refugee crises in Venezuela, Nicaragua, Middle East or that of the Rohingya’s are quite similar to one another. Refugees have no right, no voice and no prospects of being absorbed in the country they have sought refuge in. Even though people sympathise with their cause, there is hesitance in engaging with them constructively. Creating newer platforms for both sides to come together in the spirit of understanding could be a good way forward.

*Plenary***What do we owe?**

The second plenary session of Ideas India 2020 dealt with the question of what people owe to others who are different and outside their circle and explored what the community can do to help the less privileged in economic and social terms.

*Plenary***There is only one world and we all have to live in it.**

This concluding session of Ideas India 2020 was about the importance of empathy in an incongruent world. Empathy is not just the domain of an individual but of nations as well. It is through the empathy and collective action that the world will become a harmonious place.



S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India and James Abraham, Founder and Director, Solar-Arise; Trustee, Ananta Centre and Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow speaking at the plenary session ‘There is only one world and we all have to live in it!’



Madhu Natraj, Director, STEM Dance Kampni, Natya Institute of Kathak & Choreography and Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow, presented Movement Mandala, a workshop on mindfulness, meditation and movement.





SEPTEMBER, 2020–JANUARY, 2021 / Ananta values-based leadership programme enables leaders seeking to leverage their inherent skills, hone their personal and professional goals. It uses Socratic dialogue to explore the tensions between goals and values in the leadership journey. The programme has three seminars: Models of Leadership, The Good Society and Leadership Identity. The inaugural edition graduated 19 Fellows from corporates and civil society in January 2021. Class 2 of the programme is also being held virtually from March to July 2021. This edition is only for the members of Ananta Centre. James Abraham, Trustee, Ananta Centre; Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow and Founder and Director, SolarArise and Vinati Kastia Kilambi, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow and Senior Partner, AZB & Partners, moderated the first seminar of Class 2..

#### MODERATORS

*Aditya Natraj*, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow and Director, Kaivalya Education Foundation (KEF) and the Piramal School of Leadership

*James Abraham*, Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow; Founder and Director, SolarArise; Trustee, Ananta Centre



**“The values-based leadership seminar has led me to something I don’t do often enough: question myself.”**

*SHOBHANA KUMAR, Author and Poet*

## Newsletters



#### AF-PAK DIGEST

*by Ambassador Sharat Sabharwal*  
Former High Commissioner of India to Pakistan and Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre



#### AFRICA DIGEST

*by Pramit Pal Chaudhuri*  
Foreign Editor, Hindustan Times, and Distinguished Fellow & Head, Strategic Affairs, Ananta Aspen Centre



#### CENTRAL ASIA DIGEST

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



#### EAST ASIA DIGEST

*by Ambassador Gautam Bambawale*  
Former Ambassador of India to China and Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre



#### EUROGAZE

*by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri* Former Ambassador of India to the European Union, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Nepal; Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre



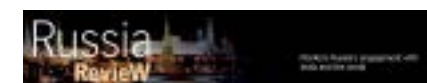
#### INDIAN ECONOMY REVIEW

*by A.K. Bhattacharya*  
Editorial Director, Business Standard and Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre



#### LAC REVIEW

*by Ambassador Deepak Bhojwani*  
Former Ambassador of India to Colombia, Venezuela and Cuba and Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre



#### RUSSIA REVIEW

*by Ambassador P. S. Raghavan*  
Chairman, National Security Advisory Board and former Indian Ambassador to Russia



#### USA REVIEW

*by Pramit Pal Chaudhuri*  
Foreign Editor, Hindustan Times, and Distinguished Fellow & Head, Strategic Affairs, Ananta Aspen Centre



#### UNCOVERED

*by Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin*  
Former Permanent Representative of India to the UN; Former Spokesperson, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India; Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre



#### WANA DIGEST

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



#### SYNOPSIS

This quarterly newsletter rounds up Ananta’s programmes and initiatives and serves to keep the larger Ananta family in the know.



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# In the Media



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Our Leadership Programmes build a cadre of values-based leaders that bats for the larger good.

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We help catalyze informed policies by bringing together important stakeholders for dialogue and debate.

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### Membership benefits

The primary benefit of being a member is the opportunity to engage with the best minds in the world and help shape critical thinking.

### Request a call or write to us

If you would like to know more about us, do let us know. We will be happy to get in touch.

### Please contact

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