



Sustainability is living on
nature's income rather
than its capital.
— ANONYMOUS

Contents

Chairman's Message	4
--------------------	---

INTERNATIONAL	
The India-Japan Forum	8
The India-US Forum	12
The Ambassador Series	
Integrated Review Refresh: Exploring new horizons in UK-India partnership	16
India-Sri Lanka Relations: Promoting Connectivity, Catalysing Prosperity	17
Navigating the Future: A Post-G20 Discussion on India-US Bilateral Relations	18
India-Germany Bilateral Relations	19
Strategic Dialogues	
2 nd India-Bangladesh Strategic Dialogue	20
22 nd India-Korea Strategic Dialogue	21
Conversations & Roundtables	22

LEADERSHIP	
Ananta Godrej Ideas India 2023, Hyderabad	30

PUBLIC POLICY	
G20 Summit Series	34
Pre-budget Sessions	37

Board of Trustees	38
Publications	40
In The Media	41

Chairman's Message



RAJAN NAVANI
Chairman, Ananta Centre

Dear Readers,

Truth is rarely pure and never simple. Was Oscar Wilde being prescient about the post-truth world of today? From breaking news to breaking views, we are at risk of becoming a nation of argumentative Indians, without an argument.

The world is grim enough to leave us confused or outraged, or both. Reason and empathy are at a premium, which should give us pause – a good society stands on these powerful pillars. From furious nature to raging wars, from pandemics to poverty, from need to greed, humankind appears to be a lost race. We can find our way back, collectively, with leaders who understand why reason must score over rhetoric. There has never been a more pressing need for leaders who believe in dialogue and consensus building. It makes me proud to report Ananta Aspen Centre's efforts in this direction.

The Centre's marquee leadership program, the Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship (KBF), seeks to develop a new generation of values-based, action-oriented leaders to take India forward. The 9th cohort graduated in 2023 and joined a large and active alumni that leverages its skills and agency to shift the needle from professional success to social significance.

I must mention one of the interventions that a few KBF fellows run: the Ananta Aspen Emerging Leaders Fellowship. This fellowship works with potential leaders, from colleges across India, and equips them with the skills they need to become leaders who can drive crucial change. In 2023, the fellowship programme was held in Wardha (Maharashtra), Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), and Bagar (Rajasthan). The Shri Ram Ananta Aspen leadership School (TSAALs) also works with young people. It is a two week residential programme for children in grades 9-12. This programme works to build

“Give and take is the basis of civilised living, and there has been no better time to revisit this basic tenet than the present.”

the ability of a child to engage confidently with the world by helping them identify and work on their strengths and values.

There is another leadership program that we at the Centre are particularly proud of: the GP Birla Fellowship for Women Leaders. For all those who were witness to our latest graduating class, the power of women leaders was never more apparent. Every year, the application process deepens our faith in the need for such a program. The number of remarkable female leaders on the ground far exceeds the number of leadership development programs available to them. Indian industry, for one, must look at this space; it would benefit everyone to do so.

But the idea of terms like benefit, advantage, and progress must be approached through different lenses because they mean different things to different people. Which is why it is important to arrive at a clear and common understanding instead of relying on semantics. What better way to do so than through dialogues, that facilitate the exchange of knowledge and perspective. Ananta Aspen Centre has been running several important ones over the years.

I would like to touch upon a few related to two of the biggest challenges ahead of us - climate change and geopolitics.

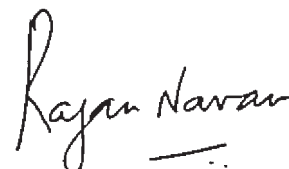
The US-India Track II Dialogue, co-convened by the Aspen Institute Energy and Environment Programme and the Ananta Aspen Centre, has, for the last 12 years, been a platform for non-partisan and open discussion on the most consequential global challenge that cuts across borders. This year's dialogue focused on climate finance, hydrogen, climate resilience, supply chains, critical minerals, and cooling. Some of the recommendations on bilateral cooperation in the space

of climate change included: securing funds to educate the future green workforce; ocean-climate action and protecting marine biodiversity in international waters; reforms of international financial institutions for adaptation; and knowledge sharing around community engagement and resource management.

The Centre's India-UK Track II Dialogue on Climate Change & Energy served its purpose as an important platform for both the countries. In the past year, the discussions focussed on climate finance, adaptation and resilience. Some of the important recommendations made at the dialogue were: advancing the zero net targets of the developed nations from 2050 to 2040; supporting the call to triple global renewable capacity by 2030 and the co-development of non-polluting, energy-efficient, and cost-effective solutions. I think co-developing solutions is a good idea. Such solutions ensure that both sides are heard and therefore more likely to succeed.

I would like to end this note by saying that many voices need to be heard and many truths acknowledged as we adapt to a new world. Building a good society falls on all of us. At Ananta Aspen Centre, we help to equip generations for the task, by helping them to reason and question, with sympathy, with respect. We need your continued support in this endeavour.

Regards





The background is a solid dark blue color. Overlaid on this background are numerous thin, white, wavy lines that flow across the entire surface. These lines vary in frequency and amplitude, creating a sense of movement and depth, reminiscent of ocean waves or stylized hair. The overall effect is a textured, organic pattern.

I N T E R N A T I O N A L



The India-Japan Forum

NEW DELHI, 28–29 JULY 2023

The India-Japan Forum, organized by Ananta Centre and the Ministry of External Affairs, provides a platform for leaders to shape bilateral and strategic partnerships. The invitation-only event, held under Chatham House Rule, aims to bolster cooperation, exchange of ideas, and build trust. The relationship is anchored in technology, bilateral priority-setting within a regional context, and domain-specific convergences.

GEOPOLITICS AND DEFENSE

India and Japan can collaborate on development initiatives in Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, and the Himalayan region. They can engage small nations in the Indo-Pacific and integrate them into the multi-layered cooperative networks of the Indo-Pacific. The two countries can strengthen their strategic infrastructure through partnerships on cyber security, data privacy and space cooperation.

To enhance defense trade, the focus is on building a comprehensive partnership including industrial ecosystems and technology transfer. The two nations can address shared challenges from China through bilateral defense integration and potential trilateral cooperation with South Korea. Maritime security is emphasized, particularly in managing choke points like the Straits of Hormuz, Malacca, and Lombard. This partnership aims to contribute significantly to regional stability and development in the Indo-Pacific.

STRATEGIC TECH AND DIGITAL SECURITY

India can become an alternative to China in the critical mineral processing industry through an enabling policy environment. India's semiconductor mission and sector-agnostic investment incentives can attract Japanese investors and potentially establish India as a manufacturing hub.

India's thriving start up ecosystem offers opportunities for Japanese digital expansion. India's data reserves and software expertise complement Japan's computing power. Collaboration potential exists in data sharing, electric vehicles, 6G technology, and digital identification. However, India's lagging IP protection has deterred Japanese digital market entry, presenting an opportunity for improved cooperation in digital content.



THE India Japan FORUM

28 - 29 JULY 2023 | NEW DELHI



INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND GREEN ENERGY

Japanese investments have improved connectivity in Northeast India, with potential to transform these into comprehensive economic corridors. Engaging local stakeholders is crucial for project financing and creating positive narratives. India and Japan can jointly develop the youth potential in Northeast India and Bangladesh, fostering a tech-savvy entrepreneurial ecosystem.

As Japanese businesses shift focus from China to India, opportunities arise for both large corporations and MSMEs. Japanese investments can expand in green hydrogen, green

steel, and electric mobility sectors in India. The countries' complementary strengths in clean energy present collaboration opportunities.

Climate cooperation can be enhanced through technological partnerships in early warning systems, disaster-resilient infrastructure, industrial decarbonization, carbon credits, carbon capture, and ecosystem restoration. This collaboration aims to leverage mutual strengths for sustainable development and regional economic growth.







The India-US Forum

NEW DELHI, 27–29 JANUARY 2024

The India-US Forum is a platform for Indian and American leaders to shape the future of India-US strategic partnership through dialogue and collaboration. It is annually convened by the Ananta Centre and Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. The Forum is held under the Chatham House Rule and participation is by invitation only. The attendees are high level representatives from government, Congress/Parliament, industry, media, academia and think tanks.

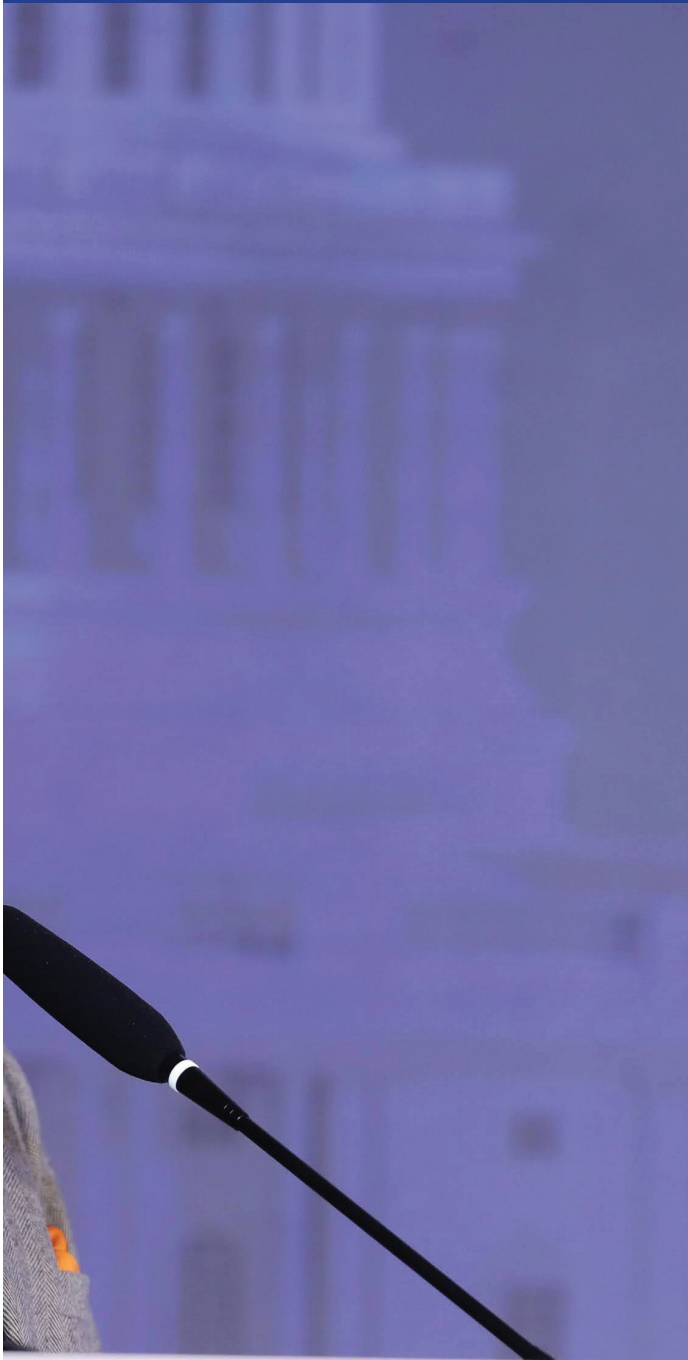
Over its 7 editions, the Forum has emerged as a coveted space to exchange ideas and set the bilateral agenda for cooperation. The 7th edition, held from 27–29 January 2024 in New Delhi, was co-chaired by **Vinay Mohan Kwatra**, Foreign Secretary, Government of India, and **Jamshyd Godrej**, Chairman, Ananta Centre and Chairman, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited.

In a productive and historic year for the India-US Partnership, there has been an unprecedented level of cooperation, demonstrating a new era of strategic alignment. The regular visits of heads of major US agencies and departments to India highlight this multiplicative relationship. With the agenda expanding from 2–3 to 163 concrete deliverables, the depth of collaboration is evident. This approach was adopted during the Forum as well. The agenda covered a diverse range of topics including the Quad, West Asia, future of warfare, supply chains and investment, green transition, R&D and tech, maritime security, health and planetary defense.

The discussions highlighted a noteworthy shift in the India-US bilateral relationship through the increased trust between India and the US as partners. This trust manifests itself in the increased scope of the partnership, the increased intensity of exchanges at a ministerial level, the growing scale of engagement, as well as in the nature of conversations, which have become frank and cooperative. Subjects such as trade, technology, Iran, Iraq and China, which were issues of friction, have now become areas of cooperation.

As intent and alignment converge, the focus now shifts to collective ability. New opportunities for the India-US Partnership are presented by changes in the international political arena, the evolving technological landscape, increased trade fragmentation, newer forms of multilateralism, and increased conflicts. Many challenges that the world faces today will actually make the relationship between the two countries stronger.









THE AMBASSADOR SERIES



Integrated Review Refresh: Exploring new horizons in UK-India partnership

- **Speaker: Alex Ellis**, British High Commissioner to India
- **Chair: Indrani Bagchi**, Chief Executive Officer, Ananta Centre

10 MAY 2023 The conversation between Alex Ellis, British High Commissioner to India, and Indrani Bagchi, CEO of Ananta Centre, highlighted the India's importance in the UK's long-term foreign policy, especially in the context of the Indo-Pacific's rising importance. The UK is a major knowledge partner for India and other countries in the region. Their collaboration extends to research, with a significant influx of Indian students to the UK.

The India-UK relationship is deepening across multiple domains. India has become the top source country for UK visas across all main categories, surpassing China for student visas. The two nations are negotiating a Free Trade Agreement and addressing migration policies.

India's significance stems from its position as a driver of global growth, particularly in technology and science. The UK sees India as crucial in areas like future telecom infrastructure and achieving Sustainable Development Goals. The relationship encompasses political, human, knowledge, trade, and defense elements.

On security matters, the UK aligns with India's broader concept of security, which includes considerations beyond immediate borders. Both countries see potential for increased cooperation in the eastern coast of Africa and the Pacific region.

THE AMBASSADOR SERIES



India-Sri Lanka Relations: Promoting Connectivity, Catalysing Prosperity

- **Speaker: Milinda Moragoda**, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India
- **Chair: Nirupama Subramanian**, Independent Journalist

30 AUGUST 2023 Milinda Moragoda, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India spoke with Nirupama Subramanian, Independent Journalist on the special relationship that has evolved between India and Sri Lanka in the recent years. Both countries have emphasized the importance of driving the five key facets mapped in the 'India-Sri Lanka Economic Partnership Vision' document, and have highlighted that they would remain as the key enablers in elevating the existing relationship into a new level.

The discussion touched on issues related to connectivity and investment and the evolving scenarios in the Indian Ocean and the wider Indo-Pacific. Sri Lankan economic stabilization efforts are underway and the future India-Sri

Lanka relationship would heavily focus on connectivity and investment founded on a promising economic integration road-map that was agreed upon during the recent visit of the Sri Lankan President to India. Canada, India and Japan together can jointly invest in Sri Lanka. But there are challenges given Sri Lanka's current situation and it is critical for it to focus on restructuring the government to be able to absorb these investments.

THE AMBASSADOR SERIES



Navigating the Future: A Post-G20 Discussion on India-US Bilateral Relations

- **Speaker:** Eric Garcetti, US Ambassador to India
- **Chair:** Indrani Bagchi, CEO, Ananta Centre

20 SEPTEMBER 2023 Eric Garcetti, US Ambassador to India, spoke on the dynamic momentum that continues to gain traction in the India-US bilateral relations. The session was moderated by Indrani Bagchi, CEO, Ananta Centre held at the Ananta Aspen Centre in New Delhi.

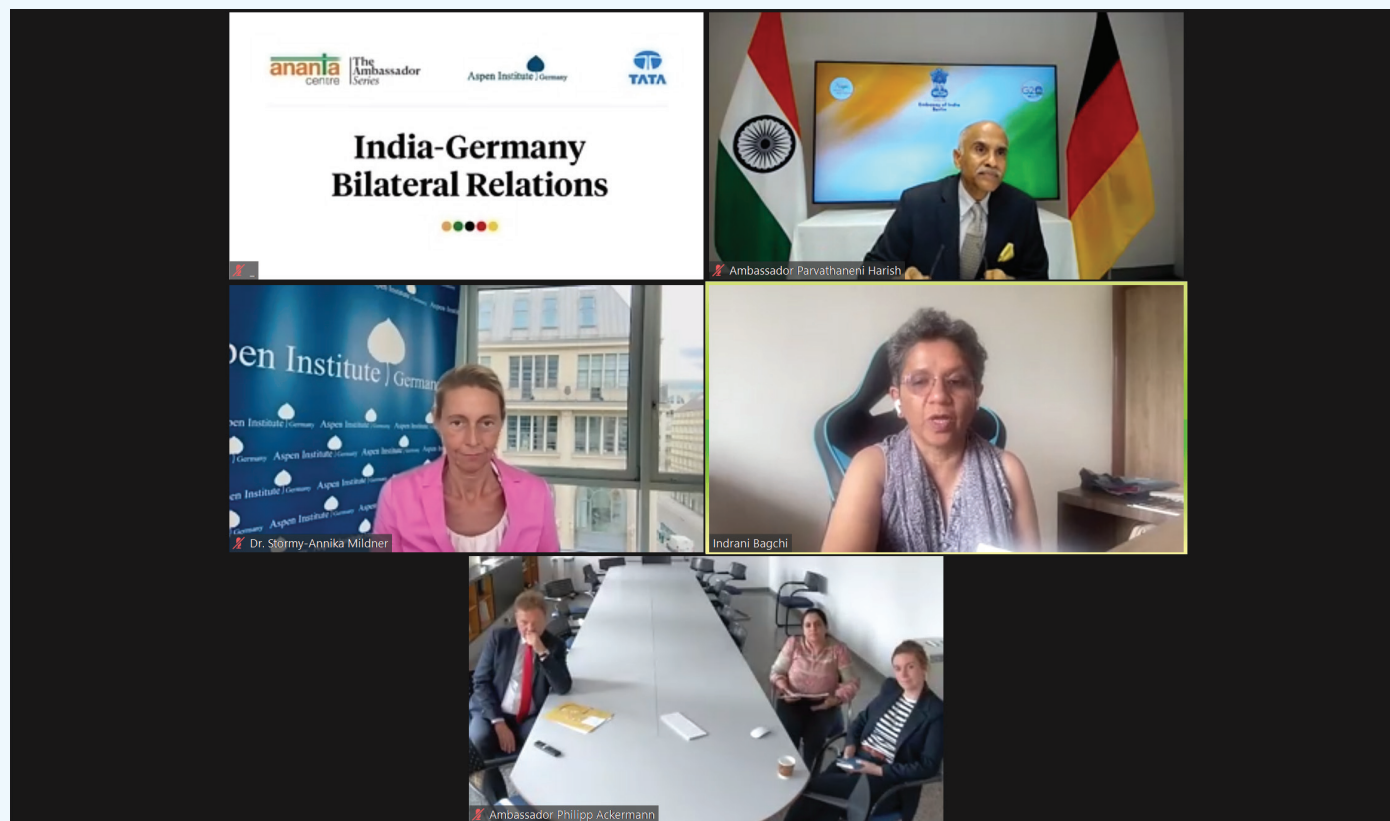
Ambassador Garcetti highlighted India's G20 success and the role played by this year's G20 summit in building consensus and accelerating global development. He emphasized that the G20 is no longer just a platform for token inclusion but has evolved into a forum that fosters meaningful dialogue, making it both relatable and interconnected.

Ambassador Garcetti underscored four pivotal areas for ongoing collaboration between India and the US: climate action and carbon neutrality, tech cooperation,

inclusion, and defense which prioritizes acquisition, co-production and interoperability equally. He noted that the IMEC corridor is an ambitious representation of the multipolar world. It will not only facilitate international trade and connectivity but also boost domestic development in all involved geographies. He added that the corridor can benefit from the technological expertise of the United States.

Ambassador Garcetti also addressed the ongoing tensions between India and Canada and highlighted that the US respects territorial sovereignty and endorses justice and accountability; he expressed that while Canada continues to be a close ally of the US, the India-US relationship is not defined by such incidents.

THE AMBASSADOR SERIES



India-Germany Bilateral Relations

- **Speakers:** **Philipp Ackermann**, German Ambassador to India & **Parvathaneni Harish**, Ambassador of India to Germany
- **Chair:** **Indrani Bagchi**, CEO, Ananta Centre

21 SEPTEMBER 2023 The Ananta Centre, in partnership with Aspen Institute Germany, organised a virtual session on India-Germany Bilateral Relations with Philipp Ackermann, German Ambassador to India, and Parvathaneni Harish, Ambassador of India to Germany. Indrani Bagchi, CEO of Ananta, chaired the session.

The discussions touched upon new avenues of cooperation for a sustainable and green pathway to economic development. Scientific, technological, industry and business collaboration can bring about a smooth and sustainable green energy transition for both countries and also help other developing countries in the global south. The India-Germany Green Hydrogen Task Force has done excellent work. Both countries have announced their own national green hydrogen policy to enable the production of

five metric million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030. Both India and Germany are keen to understand the concerns of developing countries. The concerns tabled by the leaders of the global south on issues such as food and energy insecurity and agriculture-related vulnerabilities were integrated into the overall agenda of India's G20 presidency this year. Germany was an active partner and collaborator as India worked to build consensus on ways to solve the pressing problems that humanity faces today. Both countries have also decided on a tripartite development partnership approach to implementing projects in the global south.

STRATEGIC
DIALOGUES

2nd India-Bangladesh Strategic Dialogue

NEW DELHI, 22–23 JUNE 2023

The second India-Bangladesh Strategic Dialogue, marked the first in-person edition of this important bilateral dialogue. It was organized by the Ananta Centre and the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka with **Naushad Forbes** and **Fahmida Khatun** serving as the co-chairs.

The dialogue brought together experts, policymakers, and journalists to discuss critical issues in the India-Bangladesh relationship. **Md. Mustafizur Rahman**, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India, and **Harsh V. Shringla**, Chief Coordinator of India's G20 Presidency and former High Commissioner to Bangladesh were some of the important voices at this dialogue.

The deliberations focused on key areas such as connectivity, trade barriers, and future collaboration opportunities. Participants emphasized the importance of viewing the relationship through a lens of friendship and

shared history while acknowledging the need to address existing challenges.

The discussions covered various aspects of the bilateral relationship, including political, security, economic, and geopolitical ties. The dialogue highlighted the strategic importance of the partnership and the potential for deeper collaboration across these domains.

While recognizing the progress made in the relationship, the dialogue also underscored the necessity of addressing bottlenecks, particularly in trade, to fully realize the partnership's potential. The dialogue concluded with plans for the next edition to be held in Dhaka in 2024, signalling an ongoing commitment to strengthening ties between India and Bangladesh.

STRATEGIC DIALOGUES



22nd India-Korea Strategic Dialogue

SEOUL, 27–28 NOVEMBER 2023

Over the years, the India-Korea Strategic Dialogue has emerged as a key platform for discussing bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Ananta Centre, the Korean Foundation, and the Seoul Forum for International Affairs co-convened the event in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. **Naushad Forbes** (India) and **Yoon Young-Kwan** (Korea) co-chaired the event. Key participants included Indian Ambassador **Amit Kumar** and **Chang Ho-Jin**, 1st Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs for South Korea. This track 1.5 diplomatic engagement aimed to explore new opportunities for bilateral relations and recommend areas for engagement. Some of the recommendations made were:

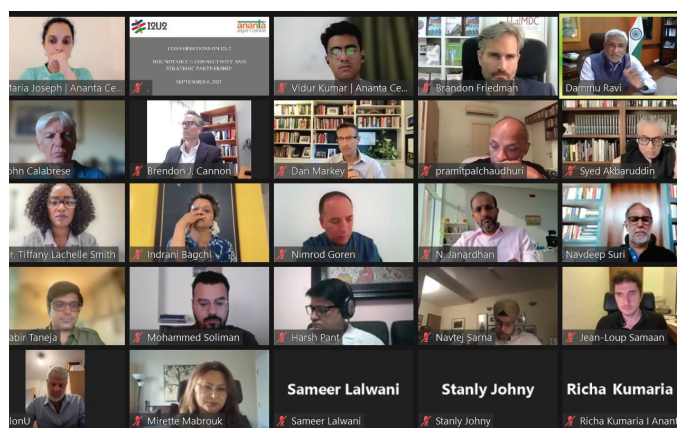
- Strengthening economic and industrial ties
- Prioritizing technology collaboration, especially in semiconductors and industrial innovation
- Elevating the relationship to political and strategic levels, including trilateral cooperation with the US
- Engaging business leaders for realistic insights into industry challenges
- Collaborating on supply-chain resilience in digital transformation, semiconductors, electric vehicles, and critical minerals
- Modernizing the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)
- Continuing industry-specific dialogues for focused discussions
- Exploring collaborative skill-development initiatives
- Encouraging public-private partnerships in key sectors
- Deepening discussions on semiconductors, climate issues, defence, space, and corporations

CONVERSATIONS & ROUNDTABLES

Conversations on I2U2

Conversations on I2U2 is an ongoing series of closed-door discussions hosted by the Ananta Centre in a virtual round-table format. The principal aim is to facilitate dialogue towards building a robust strategic and economic partnership between I2U2 members – India, Israel, UAE and the US. The I2U2 roundtables bring together policymakers, experts and other stakeholders from the group's constituent countries.

ROUNDTABLE ONE • CONNECTIVITY AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



6 SEPTEMBER 2023 The I2U2 minilateral framework, though still in its early stages, represents significant shifts in foreign policy for its members and potential future partners. While, the framework reflects frustration with diminishing effectiveness of multilateral institutions, there is need to acknowledge that minilateralism cannot be seen as an immediate alternative option to the conduct of international order. A calibrated approach to multilateralism is required for its replacement with minilaterals like the I2U2. The I2U2, and minilateralism at large, is a Plan B for dealing with the larger issues of global governance. While these are positive and innovative vehicles, they leave questions of the stability of the international order in the balance.

I2U2 reflects the regional flux that is the immediate consequence of the Abraham Accords. As bilaterals reach a saturation point, UAE sees value in minilateral vehicles as a new entrant into the multi-aligned foreign policy space. As a middle power, the UAE gets a seat on the global political

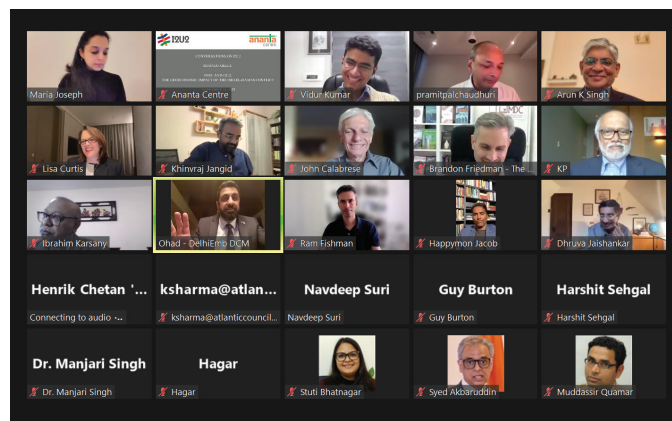
stage at the I2U2. The Accords also mark a significant shift in Israel's foreign policy conduct, however, challenges to the partnerships in the region might continue. It also reflects a shift in India's foreign policy conduct in the Middle East as it marks a divorce from the near-exclusive bilateral approach employed in the region. It indicated further, the desire to expand the Indian footprint in the region through collaborative projects.

As a pragmatic partnership without an institutional framework, the I2U2 might lack the steam to power through. The group will require the ability to reinvent itself when necessary and come up with new projects. The I2U2 mechanism, just 2 years old, is yet to mature and establish its pilot project. This will be the first step before the partnership can be expanded to other countries and regions. Formalization and institutionalization will be needed as projects materialise. To finance I2U2 projects, it is important that the private sector be protected with a comfortable safety net established by the governments in order to instil confidence in the projects

ROUNDTABLE TWO • IMEC AND I2U2 – THE GEO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT

16 NOVEMBER 2023 The roundtable recognised that while the current conflict could slow down some processes, the underlying trends towards regional cooperation and integration would likely continue, albeit with potential adjustments based on conflict outcomes.

Middle Eastern geopolitics, particularly in GCC countries, is driven by two key trends: 'post-Arab Spring Arab nationalism' and a new form of non-alignment. The first



trend has led to nation-centric leadership and concerns about Iran's growing regional influence. The second involves maintaining US ties while exploring relationships with Russia and China. For the United States, the move for IMEC is congruent with the current geo-economic realities of alternative partners for the UAE and Saudi Arabia in the region.

These shifts have resulted in the Abraham Accords, normalizing relations between some Arab states and Israel, with Saudi Arabia seen as a potential major addition. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and the I2U2 partnership (India, Israel, UAE, USA) are outcomes of these evolving relationships, reflecting a new strategic landscape in the region that balances traditional alliances with emerging economic and diplomatic opportunities.

3rd China Roundtable Discussions with Centre for Contemporary China Studies

The Ananta Centre in conjunction with the Centre for Contemporary China Studies convened the third series of four Digital Roundtables on “China’s Foreign Policy in Europe and Africa” in July-August 2023, bringing together 70 experts from 28 different countries to deliberate on two critical regions, i.e., Europe and Africa. The four digital roundtables were divided into two key themes of China-Europe, and China-Africa, focusing in detail on the following topics:

EUROPE’S ‘STRATEGIC AUTONOMY’ IN THE MIDST OF US-CHINA STRATEGIC COMPETITION

13 JULY 2023 The first roundtable delved into the war in Ukraine and how it has dramatically reshaped Europe’s strategic landscape, pushing the continent closer to the US while raising concerns about dependence on China. The war in Ukraine has reshaped Europe’s strategic landscape—European public opinion sways against China, aligning Europe more with the US. However, Europe remains cautious not to alienate China completely, especially considering its economic clout. Europe is taking a two-pronged approach: defensive measures like investment screening and diversification through trade deals with countries like India and New Zealand. This reduces reliance on China and the US. Europe treads carefully on Taiwan, fearing actions that could provoke China or fuel US confrontation. They prioritize keeping US military engagement in Europe to support Ukraine. The war also raised concerns



about Europe’s role in the Indo-Pacific. While some Eastern European countries see value in cooperation, others are wary of a US-driven approach. Europe currently lacks the resources and strategy for a robust Indo-Pacific presence. The war strained China-EU relations. China is reassessing its European strategy, unsure if they’ll face a receptive or hardened Europe post-war. Europe contemplates “de-risking” by reducing dependence on China, but concrete actions are unclear. The future of Europe-China relations remains fractured. Europe walks a tightrope between the US and China, caught in a new Cold War. The war’s long-term effects (potentially reaching the 2024 US elections) will further define Europe’s strategic positioning.

EUROPE’S TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION WITH CHINA

31 JULY 2023 The second roundtable explored the challenges Europe grapples to manage technology cooperation with China while balancing economic benefits with security concerns and a desire to maintain a competitive edge. Europe is aware that China has benefited from access to European technology and markets while developing its capabilities. This raises concerns about security risks and losing a competitive edge. For example, European suppliers played a key role in China’s successful domestic aircraft, but export controls limited their access to advanced technology for military use. The EU is debating how to manage technology cooperation with China. Proposed measures include



export controls and investment screening to target military end users and prevent technology leakage. However, some argue these measures shouldn't hinder legitimate economic partnerships. Europe and China share goals for tackling climate change, but cooperation faces hurdles. China seeks European capital, technology, and markets for its green industries. However, Europe worries about becoming overly reliant on China and wants to avoid politicizing cooperation. China is heavily investing in research and development (R&D) to address its economic slowdown. While China is catching up to Europe in R&D spending, a funding gap is emerging due to fewer venture capital deals.

Additionally, a decline in returning Chinese students from abroad weakens the talent pool. China's technological advancements are prompting Europe to reconsider its industrial policy. Europe acknowledges past mistakes, such as failing to address Chinese dumping in the solar panel industry. The EU is now exploring how to support strategic sectors like green technologies. Despite challenges, the EU-China cooperation framework remains in place. Europe is focusing on de-risking its green tech supply chains, which are currently dependent on China. By learning from past missteps, Europe aims to regain competitiveness in critical industries.

CHINA-AFRICA RELATIONS: PROSPECTS AND RISKS

3 AUGUST 2023 The third roundtable discussed China's rise as a major player in Africa, particularly in resource extraction. China has become a major player in Africa, especially in the resource extraction sector. Their dominance is concentrated in specific countries and minerals, controlling a significant portion of the Democratic Republic of Congo's cobalt production for example. This focus on resources stems from China's desire to secure raw materials for its high-tech industries. The Communist Party of China (CPC) has its unique approach to foreign policy in Africa. They prioritize the party's interests above the nation's, and their strategy involves promoting a specific



image of China through concepts like “community human destiny” and “ecological civilization.” The CPC leverages various tools to achieve its goals, including diplomats, state-owned enterprises, and friendship groups. There are concerns regarding the impact of Chinese involvement in Africa, particularly on labour and the environment. African countries often lack the resources to enforce their own environmental and labour standards, leading to situations where Chinese companies bring in their workers and potentially disregard local regulations. Despite these concerns, China's investment has also filled a gap in infrastructure development for many African countries. The challenge lies in maximizing the benefits of this investment for African nations. This includes ensuring a transfer of skills and knowledge through local employment and transforming raw resource extraction into value-added industries. Ultimately, the success of China-Africa relations depends on African governments' ability to manage these investments effectively.

CHINESE FOOTPRINT IN EAST AFRICA

10 AUGUST 2023 The fourth roundtable explored China's growing political and economic influence in Africa. China's influence stems from its long-standing support for African independence and its opposition to Western imperialism. This ideology continues to shape China's approach to Africa today. China has become a key political ally for



many African nations, offering support to international organizations and challenging the Western-led world order. However, African countries are also seeking to diversify their partnerships and regain autonomy. China is a major lender to Africa, particularly for infrastructure projects. However, concerns exist about high interest rates, unclear loan terms, and potential debt traps. China's investments in Africa are driven by strategic considerations like access to resources, maritime security, and countering piracy.

Additionally, China seeks to establish a foothold in the Indo-Pacific region through its engagement with African island nations. China dominates the market for renewable energy technologies in Africa. While this provides access to clean energy, it also raises concerns about dependence on



The Trilateral Commission Asia Pacific Group Seoul Regional Meeting, Seoul, 24–26 November 2023

a single source. The future of China-Africa relations hinges on finding a balance between mutual benefit, responsible lending practices, and diversification of partnerships for both sides.

The Trilateral Commission Asia Pacific Group Seoul Regional Meeting

The Trilateral Commission Asia Pacific Group Regional Meeting was held on 24–26 November 2023, Seoul, South Korea to promote dialogue on key issues facing the international community. Ban Ki-moon, former Secretary-General of the United Nations and KONO Taro, Minister for Digital Transformation, Prime Minister's Office of Japan addressed the meeting and interacted with participants from Asia Pacific Group.

The discussions focused on the current political, security, economic, and social situations of countries in Asia Pacific; Navigating North Korea: Military challenges and human rights; Fragmented global trade order and its Challenges, opportunities, and cooperation in the Asia



Pacific region; Climate, energy and food crisis; and impact of Crisis in the Middle East.

Roundtable Series on India-East Africa Relations

Ananta's roundtable series on India-East Africa relations aims to create a sustained dialogue between stakeholders across the Western Indian Ocean. The series aims to host a conversation in short intervals on subjects relevant to partners in both region. The format of these discussions is kept highly interactive



Interactive session with Lt Gen. Y.K. Joshi, Director General, Centre for Contemporary China Studies, New Delhi, 15 June 2023

and conversation-driven while being held under Chatham House rules to encourage candid dialogue.

ROUNDTABLE ONE • STRATEGIC WATERS AND INTERNATIONAL ORDER

15 JANUARY 2024 *1. Networks of Cooperation between India and East Africa:* This conversation focused on the networks of cooperation between India and East Africa. The discussion looked at the AU's priorities and the scope for multi-lateral cooperation among G20 members. South-South Cooperation from an African perspective was discussed, along with balancing options for partners in East Africa for economic projects and security cooperation. The conversation also discussed subnational actors, and business and cultural links of the Indian diaspora in East Africa.

2. Regional and Maritime Security Cooperation: The second conversation looked at Maritime Security and Strategic Competition in the West Indian Ocean Region. Traditional and novel maritime security challenges like piracy and other maritime crimes like illicit fishing and smuggling were discussed as common challenges to be addressed. The conversation also looked at partners' strategic interests in the West Indian Ocean to highlight areas, avenues, sectors and frameworks of security cooperation.

ROUNDTABLE TWO • DIPLOMACY & DEPENDENCIES: A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP?

1 MARCH, 2024 Roundtable two of the India-East Africa series was held on and explored health cooperation, diplomacy and manufacturing of health products as part of the relationship. Discussants highlighted the history of healthcare cooperation between India and East Africa, an evolving private sector environment for cooperation post COVID-19 and the pitfalls of current government approaches in the sector. Trusted supply chains and value chains were highlighted in this regard, along with the need to identify multi-actor convergences to blow wind in the sails of healthcare cooperation.

The Rise of Geopolitical Swing States: A discussion with Jared Cohen, President, Global Affairs and Co-Head, Office of Applied Innovation at Goldman Sachs

MAY 2024 Building on the momentum in generated by PM Modi's visit to the United States in May 2023, a group



Interaction with Japanese and Indian Members of Parliament, New Delhi, July 2023

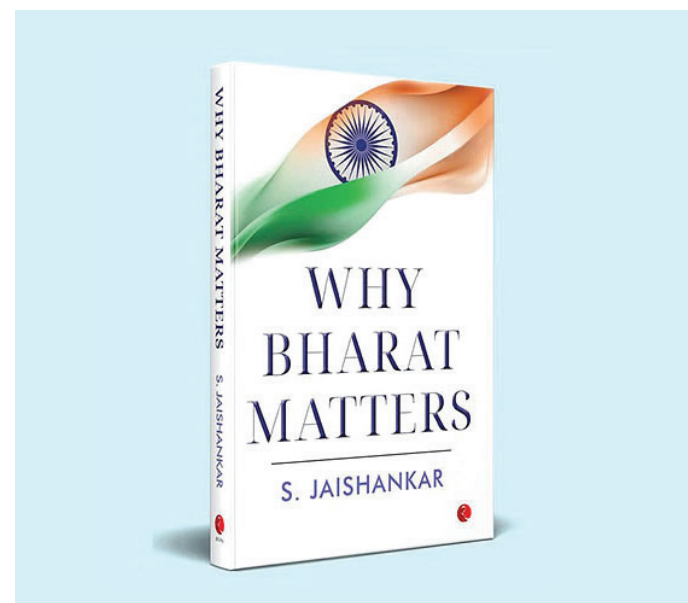


India-US experts gathered to discuss the future of this bilateral partnership and whether India could be considered a swing state in the American geopolitical calculus. The conversation also covered the impact of AI on geostrategy and the role of tech in the shifting balance of power.

A Book Discussion with S. Jaishankar: Why Bharat Matters

2 MARCH 2024 The Ananta Centre hosted a conversation between the author, S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, India and Indrani Bagchi, CEO, Ananta Centre on the former's book, *Why Bharat Matters*.

Jaishankar highlighted several facets of the complexities of the world of foreign policy and India's ever changing and evolving standing in the same. He spoke on matters of security, both in the context of physical borders but also modern day threats caused by AI. He urged the average Indian to be more involved in conversations around foreign policy and drew parallels from India's past to better illustrate the future.





L E A D E R S H I P

Ananta Godrej Ideas India 2023, Hyderabad

IDEAS INDIA, an initiative led and driven by the Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellows, encourages discussion on a set of pressing themes and critical challenges faced by society. The event draws an eclectic set of leaders and thinkers from across sectors and regions to engage in text-based dialogues and specially curated sessions designed to help reflect on one's values and spur them into action.

The theme for this year was **"Bridging Divides"**. The event aimed to encourage individuals to come together, heal divisions, and build connections. This theme emphasizes the importance of finding common ground and recognizing our shared humanity, transcending differences.

The event took place in Hyderabad from September 1st to 3rd. One notable aspect of the event was the Socratic Dialogue, a unique and reflective module organized by Ananta Centre. There was a theatre workshop led by the CCDC group, during this 3 hours session, topics such as humility, selflessness, humanity, and honesty were discussed and left a positive and heartwarming impact on the participants, further emphasizing the importance of these values in bridging divides and building connections among people.

The programme was attended by over 70 Fellows & Trustees along with their spouses.





ANANTA | GODREJ Ideas India 2024





The background is a solid red color with a complex, abstract pattern. It features stylized, overlapping faces in various orientations (profile, frontal, and three-quarter views). There are also concentric circles, dots, and wavy lines scattered throughout the composition, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall style is reminiscent of mid-century modern graphic design.

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

I G20 SUMMIT SERIES

SESSION 1

LiFE: India's Mission For Green Transition

31 JANUARY 2023 The Development Working Group meeting observed LiFE (Lifestyle For Environment) as a major part of its G20 Green agenda intending to integrate development and climate issues. Our very first session under this series focused on the primary objective of this initiative and how to make the lifestyle of people environment-friendly and sustainable. This conversation also explored LiFE as a concept for commercial benefits and how we can provide economic services that fit into a Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE).



■ Speakers

ARUNABHA GHOSH, Founder-CEO, CEEW

NIDHI MADAN, Associate Director, Climate Policy, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation

■ Moderator

JAMES ABRAHAM, Trustee, Ananta Aspen Centre

SESSION 2

Fuels Of The Future: Envisaging A Global Alliance On Biofuels

22 FEBRUARY 2023 The Government of India stated that under India's G20 Presidency they will advocate for a global alliance on biofuels at the G20 summit. Since Brazil is the world's largest producer of biofuels and next in line for the G20 presidency, this discussion focused on what the global agreement in regards to biofuels should be about and what methods can the G20 nations in the world adopt to implement them. Furthermore, this conversation explores what



the fuels of the future will be and what is the role of all the G20 nations in aiding to meet the universal carbon goals. The Summit brings together a diverse group of experts, including industrialists, economists, and representatives from notable think tanks, to discuss and analyze the role and function of the G20 in shaping the future global order, by providing a platform for dialogue and collaboration, the Summit hopes to contribute to the development of effective solutions to the challenges facing the international community.

■ Speakers

RAHOOL PANANDIKER, Managing Director and Senior Partner, BCG

ANDRÉ ARANHA CORRÊA DO LAGO, Ambassador of Brazil to India

■ Moderator

PRAMIT PAL CHAUDHURI, Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Aspen Centre

SESSION 3

Crypto Currency Digitization: The Next Chapter

28 MARCH 2023 As part of its G20 Presidency agenda, India is seeking to get governments to agree to a common regulatory framework for cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum. This would include issues like taxation, financial integrity and the possible macroeconomic stability implications of such digital products. India is drawing from proposals made by the IMF, OECD, and the Financial Stability Board and Bank of International Settlements but still has to find a common ground. A collective global endeavour needs to be made to deal with cutting-edge digital



technology that also carries with it considerable disruptive potential. A collective global endeavour needs to be made to deal with cutting-edge digital technology that also carries with it considerable disruptive potential. This discussion explored the future of cryptocurrency digitisation and how the G20 nations can come together to make this possible.

■ *Speakers*

JAIDEEP REDDY, Counsel, Trilegal

ARNAB KUMAR, Director, India Market Expansion, Coinbase

■ *Moderator*

SRIKUMAR MISRA, Founder, Milk Mantra & Fellow, Ananta Aspen Centre

SESSION 4

Disaster Risk Reduction: A Shared Responsibility

31 MAY 2023 India established the first G20 working group on Disaster Risk Reduction, to encourage collective work by the G20 and undertake multi-disciplinary research and exchange best practices on disaster risk reduction.



Growing disasters around the world, the majority of which are currently driven by climate change, but also bearing in mind the destructive power of deadly geophysical hazards, threaten the lives of millions and are taking an increasing toll on economic development. Hence this session discussed Early Warning Systems, Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, stronger national financial frameworks, disaster response systems and increased application of ecosystems-based approaches to DRR.

■ *Speakers*

AMIT PROTHI, Director General, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

SHUVA RAHA, Head, New Initiatives, CEEW

■ *Moderator*

HIMANSHI DHAWAN, Senior Editor, TOI

SESSION 5

Amplifying the Voice of the Global South



6TH JULY, 2023 India is a strong pillar of the developing world, and, therefore, assuming the chairmanship of the G20 offers several implications. India aims to champion the concerns of the Global South during its G20 presidency. Thus, this session focused on how to provide the Global South with relief on healthcare, debt, digital infrastructure, supply chains and other developmental issues. This is to ensure that these countries have more room to manoeuvre and wider options to avoid becoming embroiled in the great power politics of the time, while championing third world solidarity.

■ *Speakers*

AMBASSADOR GURJIT SINGH, Former Ambassador of India to Germany, Indonesia, Ethiopia, ASEAN and the African Union

ARCHNA VYAS, Deputy Director, Advocacy,

Communications and Behavioural Insights, India Country Office, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

■ *Moderator*

SUBHOMOY BHATTACHARJEE, Adjunct Faculty, Jindal School of Journalism and Communication, and Consulting Editor, The Business Standard

SESSION 6

The Stop at New Delhi – Between Bali and Rio

17 OCTOBER 2023 The culminating session of Ananta Centre's G20 Summit Series explored the key outcomes of the Delhi Declaration under India's G20 Presidency. The panellists discussed the significance of consensus building and its operational relevance. The conversation focussed on the growing relevance of Digital Public Infrastructure, climate priorities and the recent inclusion of the African Union into the G20 framework. They discussed the timely interventions made by India through its Presidency and how they will support Brazil's forthcoming presidency. The discussion was followed by a Q&A session which covered pertinent issues such as the North-South divide and Global South cooperation as well as the virtual summit in November.

■ *Speakers*

EENAM GAMBHIR, Joint Secretary [G20-III], Ministry of External Affairs

RUDRA CHAUDHURI, Director, Carnegie India

UTTAM KUMAR SINHA, Senior Fellow, MP-IDSA

■ *Moderator*

RICHA KUMARIA, Programme Executive, Ananta Aspen Centre





PRE-BUDGET SESSIONS

Economic Scorecard or Political Opportunity: Pre-Budget session



20 DECEMBER 2023 As the upcoming budget, or, more accurately, vote-on-account will be the last by the Modi government before general elections, the budgetary exercise of February 1 will be watched with interest by economists and political analysts alike. In the session that concluded on 20th December 2023, our speakers discussed how the economy fared and what are the prospects going forward. Will the government use this as an opportunity to push reforms or will it play safe. Our panel of experts unpacked and analyzed the economic and political potential of the announcements of February 1 and how will this budget impact election prospects for those on either side of the political divide?

ANANTA CENTRE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



RAJAN NAVANI

Chairman, Ananta Centre;
Chairman & Managing Director, JetSynthesys
(Jetline Group of Companies)



JAMES ABRAHAM

Founder & Director, Mynzo Carbon



BANMALI AGRAWALA

President, Infrastructure, Defence &
Aerospace and Global Corporate Affairs,
Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd



SUGATA BOSE

Gardiner Professor of History,
Harvard University



**TARUN DAS
(FOUNDING TRUSTEE)**

Chairman, Sasakawa-India
Leprosy Foundation



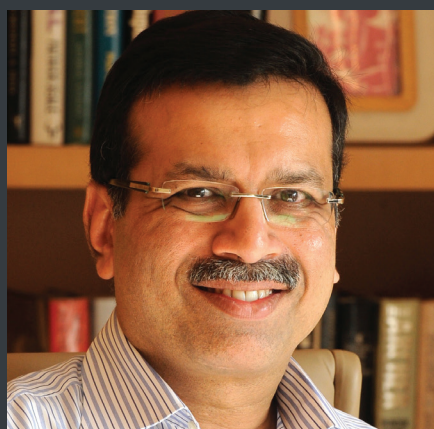
NITIN DESAI

Chairman, Governing Council,
The Energy and Resources Institute



**JAMSHYD N GODREJ
(FOUNDING TRUSTEE)**

Chairman of the Board, Godrej & Boyce
Manufacturing Company Ltd



SANJIV GOENKA

Chairman, RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group



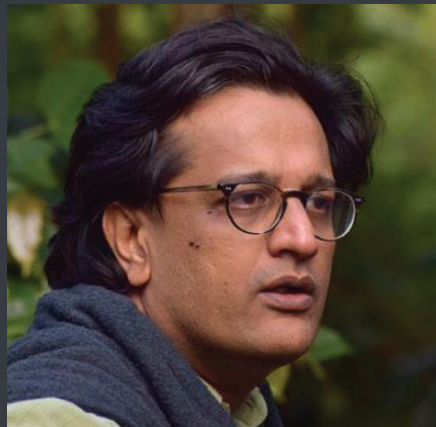
BHAIRAVI JANI

Executive Director, SCA Group &
Chairperson, IEF

ANANTA CENTRE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



SHOBANA KAMINENI
Executive Vice Chairperson,
Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd



MANOJ KUMAR
CEO, Naandi Foundation



HARSHAVARDHAN NEOTIA
Chairman, Ambuja Neotia Holdings Pvt. Ltd



B J PANDA
(FOUNDING TRUSTEE)
National Vice President, Bharatiya
Janata Party



ANUJ PODDAR
Managing Director & CEO,
Bajaj Electricals Ltd



JANMEJAYA SINHA
Chairman, India Boston Consulting Group



VIPIN SONDHİ
Former Managing Director & CEO,
Ashok Leyland Ltd & JCB Ltd



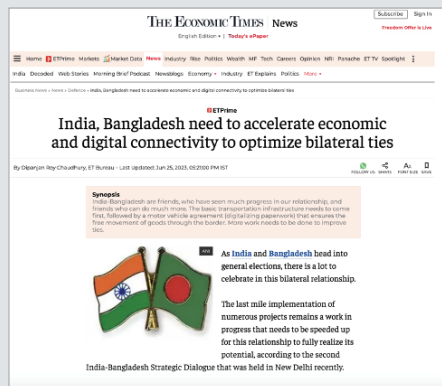
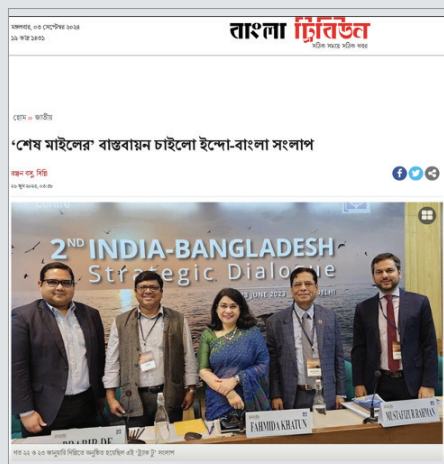
SHASHI THAROOR
Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha



INDRANI BAGCHI
CEO, Ananta Centre

Media

2nd India-Bangladesh Strategic Dialogue



India-US Forum

siliconindia.com/news/usindians/us-diplomats-aim-to-reinvigorate-india-us-ties-mid-227893-cid-49.html



BLOGGERS

Insights, Thoughts, Musings, & Insights

Share Your Travel Experiences As A Blogger

Of Professionals: By Professionals: For Professionals

Amidst geopolitical changes, the U.S. officials' visit to India underscores the enduring bilateral strength, aiming for enhanced cooperation and reaffirming commitment to a strategic partnership for global peace.

In a significant diplomatic move, a delegation of top U.S. diplomats is set to travel to Delhi to engage in discussions concerning a range of crucial bilateral issues and energy cooperation. The visit holds added significance as it is anticipated to include deliberations on potential dates for the Quad Summit involving the leaders of the United States, Australia, Japan, and India. Amidst recent speculations of a 'pause' in the relationship over the past few months, the delegation aims to strengthen ties between the two nations.

Scheduled to participate in these discussions is U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, Donald Lu, who will also be attending the U.S.-India Forum organized by the esteemed think tank Ananta Centre. The closed-door seminar, inaccessible to the public and media, is expected to host officials such as Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources Geoffrey Pyatt, Governor of Texas Greg Abbott, Pentagon officials, representatives from the White House National Security Council focusing on India and climate issues, and U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti.

siliconindia

Follow Page

Verde Innovation targets \$100 million revenue with ValueLeaf's acquisition

Verde Innovation, the spearheading local language innovation platform behind Daily Hunt and Josh, has made a huge stride towards upgrading its promoting capacities by getting a larger part stake in ValueLeaf Group, a Bharat-

etvbharat.com/en/bharat/governor-abbott-champions-texas-india-economic-partnership-at-7th-india-us-dot-s-forum-in-n

ETV Bharat / Bharat

Governor Abbott Champions Texas-India Economic Partnership At 7th India-US Forum In New Delhi

By ETV Bharat English Team

Published : Jan 28, 2024, 5:43 PM IST

3 Min Read

Texas Governor Greg Abbott emphasised the strong economic partnership between Texas and India during the 7th India-US Forum held in New Delhi. The keynote address highlighted economic collaboration between the two regions.



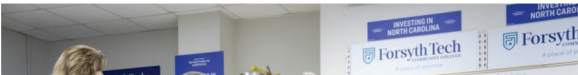
new.nsf.gov/news/week-nsf-director-panchanathan-41

This week with NSF Director Panchanathan

February 2, 2024

NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan has just concluded several days filled with impactful activities. Highlights included joining first lady Dr. Jill Biden in North Carolina to announce two of the first-ever NSF Regional Innovation Engines, leading a media briefing for the official launch of the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource (NAIRR) pilot, and traveling to India to attend the seventh India-U.S. Forum 2024.

On Friday, Jan. 26, the Director and first lady launched the Piedmont Triad Regenerative Medicine Engine and the North Carolina Sustainable Textiles Innovation Engine. Each project will receive up to \$15 million for two years and up to \$160 million over 10 years. This groundbreaking investment in place-based science and technology research and development will spur economic growth and catalyze breakthrough technologies in regenerative medicine and textile manufacturing. A total of 10 new flagship NSF Engines were announced on Monday to power innovation and jobs across the country, part of President Joe Biden's Investing in America agenda under the bipartisan "CHIPS and Science Act of 2022."



foxsanantonio.com/newsletter-daily/texas-governor-announces-14b-indian-investment-at-india-us-forum

FOXSA PULO

NEWS WEATHER FEATURES DAYTIME GAME CENTER WATCH LIVE

Texas governor announces \$1.4B Indian investment at India-U.S. Forum

by SBG San Antonio Staff Reports | Sun, January 28th 2024 at 2:20 PM



VIEW ALL PHOTOS

Governor Greg Abbott emphasized the robust Texas-India economic partnership during his keynote address at the 7th India-U.S. Forum in New Delhi. (Greg Abbott)

TOPICS: TEXAS INDIA INVESTMENT GOVERNOR ABBOTT ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

timesofindia.com/article/141291-deliberations-of-india-us-forum-reflect-trust-openness-which-characterise-ties-jai

Times of India

Oman T Tv World Business Sports Opinion Technology T-Mag Roundup



Listen

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke at the 7th India-US Forum in Delhi on Saturday. He stated that the deliberations of the India-US Forum showcase the trust and openness which characterise the ties between the two nations.

In a post on X, Jaishankar stated, "Pleased to speak at the 7th India-US Forum in New Delhi today. The deliberations of the Forum reflect the trust and openness which characterise our ties now. Thank @AnantaAspen Centre for their efforts at putting it together."

Earlier this week, Outgoing Indian Ambassador to the United States, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, during a farewell reception, lauded the transformation in the ties between New Delhi and Washington. Sandhu strongly reflected on the progress and potential of

daily-sun.com/post/732271

daily sun

Bangladesh Economy Diplomacy Sports Entertainment

Donald Lu to lead US delegation at India-US Forum in New Delhi

UNB, Dhaka

Published: Saturday, 27 January, 2024 09:49



US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu. Photo Collected

ANANTA CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2024 41

us-official-lands-indias-jaw-dropping-progress-in-infrastructure-10710714b291477.html

hi 34°C

Hindustan Times

Loan ₹10 Lakh Games & Puzzles Real Estate India Work

In New Delhi, Pyatt participated in two panels at the India-US Forum, where he discussed shared energy priorities and the challenges and opportunities surrounding critical minerals for the global energy transition. These discussions aimed to deepen cooperation between India and the United States in addressing the evolving energy landscape.

Pyatt also held meetings with senior Indian officials to further the bilateral agenda on energy transition, emphasising the need for collaboration in ensuring energy security and building resilient supply chains.

During his time in Hyderabad, Pyatt met with representatives from the private sector and innovators to explore avenues for partnership and investment in the energy sector.

(With inputs from agencies)

Top U.S. officials to head to India this week, to discuss bilateral ties and Quad dates

Visits come amidst cloud over Panrun case indictment, declined Republic Day invitation and speculation over trouble in India-US ties

Updated - January 25, 2024 06:48 am IST Published - January 24, 2024 10:18 pm IST - NEW DELHI

SUMASINI HAIDAR



According to sources, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu will travel to Delhi for the meetings, as well as to attend the U.S.-India Forum organised by think tank Ananta Centre. Photo: state.gov

The Ambassador Series

story/india-canada-diplomatic-ties-us-envoy-eric-garcetti-justin-trudeau-2438689-2023-09-21

Listen to Story Live TV Share



United States Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti. (File photo: AFP)

Geeta Mohan New Delhi, UPDATED: Sep 21, 2023 17:56 IST

Amid escalating **diplomatic tensions between India and Canada** triggered by allegations raised by Justin Trudeau regarding the involvement of Indian agencies in the **killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar**, the United States Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, emphasised the need for a cautious approach in addressing this sensitive matter.

business-standard.com/india-news/was-best-g20-summit-we-ve-ever-seen-us-ambassador-on-india-s-presidency-125

BS Home Latest E-Paper Markets BS at 50 Opinion India News Portfolio Politics

US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti on Wednesday here in the national capital said that India has hosted the best-ever G20 and emphasised that India and the US are witnessing one of the most important stretches of the US-Indian engagement.

Speaking at Ananta Centre in New Delhi, the US Ambassador said, "I believe it was the best G20 we've ever seen, the breadth and depth of showing off your country, the successes that we brought together by making sure that we demonstrated to the world what finding what brings us together is not only as strong, but I believe, stronger than what sets us apart is a triumph that the entire country of India can claim credit for."

msn.com/en-in/news/india/china-an-existential-threat-to-india-envoy-eric-garcetti-says-us-ready-to-help/ar-AA1h1ZeM?api

Search the web



'china an existential threat to india': envoy eric garcetti says us ready to help

© Provided by Times Now

New Delhi: Speaking at an Ananta Centre function, US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, while replying to a question about attacks on Indian diplomats in the United States, said the protection of diplomats was a serious issue and any violence had to be dealt with.

Speaking about China and the border problems India has had in the last 3 years, he said America is ready to help. He understood that for India, China is an "existential threat," and wanted to ensure that India could defend itself.

Notifications blocked latimes.com/politics/story/2023-11-06/eric-garcetti-ambassador-india-la-mayor-political-future



Eric Garcetti is greeted by Indrani Bagchi, chief executive of Ananta Centre, in New Delhi. (Smita Sharma / For The Times)

The Ananta Centre team

Harshit Sehgal

Senior Director and Head, International Relations

Wikky Katyal

General Manager



The Ravi Shankar Centre
7, Dr Jose P. Rizal Marg, Chanakyapuri
New Delhi, Delhi 110021
Email: admin@anantacentre.in