

3rd Annual India Think Tank Forum

January 7, 2019

Taj Mahal Hotel, Man Singh Road, New Delhi - 110001

AGENDA

08:30-09:00 **Participant Registration**

09:00-09:10 **Welcome Remarks**

Dr. James G. McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania

09:10-09:40 **Keynote Address: A World Reorder**

Shri Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog

09:40-09:45 **Vote of Thanks**

Dr. Samir Saran, President, Observer Research Foundation

09:45-11:15 **India and the World in Era of Turbulence and Transition**

The balance of power in the international system is changing rapidly. In the coming decades, India is expected to rank among the largest three economies in the world. This transformation will give it the unique capability to shape and influence the emerging global order. Increasingly, India is positioning itself as the anchor of a rules-based international order. What are the elements of an Indian consensus in the global political framework? What institutions and partnerships must India cultivate to enable its growth and security? And finally, what are the strategic challenges that India will face in the coming years?

Chair:

Dr. Harsh V. Pant, Director, Studies, and Head, Strategic Studies Program, Observer Research Foundation

Conversation Starters:

Amb. Hemant Krishnan Singh, Director General, Delhi Policy Group (TBC)

Dr. Amrita Jash, Associate Fellow, Centre for Land Warfare Studies

11:15-11:30 **Tea/Coffee Break**

11:30-12:00 **Featured Address: Women Helping to Power Economic Growth and Development in India**

Chair:

Dr. Parth J. Shah, President, Centre for Civil Society

Conversation Starter:

Ms. Anu Madgavkar, Partner, McKinsey Global Institute

12:00-13:00

The New India: Bridging the Digital, Demographic and Development Divide

India is destined to host the world's largest working age population in an era of sweeping technological and political disruptions. This will compel India's state and society to seek new solutions to manage rising aspirations and expectations. However, the fact remains that India is yet to complete the 20th century project of delivering infrastructure, education and healthcare to its citizens. Simultaneously, India must address new challenges, such as technological unemployment and climate change. What will a new generation of India's demand from their government? What political solutions will allow India to successfully manage this transition? How can India deliver equitable economic growth in the midst of the fourth industrial revolution?

Chair:

Dr. Harsh V. Pant, Director, Studies, and Head, Strategic Studies Program, Observer Research Foundation

Conversation Starters:

Ms. Ruhee Neog, Director, Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies

Dr. Subodh Kandamuthan, Director, Centre for Health Care Management
Administrative Staff College of India

13:00-14:30

Lunch Session - India Think Tanks: Strategies and Operational Challenges

A group of Chief Executive officers from across India will discuss the key policy issues confronting the country and the organizational challenges facing their respective think tanks. The discussion will focus on the key policy issues, strategies, plans and programs that each CEO have developed to meet both the organizational and policy challenges and opportunities presented by this new and complex environment in which all think tanks must operate.

Chair:

Dr. James G. McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania

Conversation Starters:

Dr. Rahul Tongia, Senior Fellow, Governance Studies Program, Brookings Institution India

Dr. V. S. Sambandan, Chief Administrative Officer, The Hindu Centre for Politics & Public Policy

14:30-14:45

Group Photo

14:45 -16:15

Think Tanks and SDG's: Catalysts for Ideas, Analysis and Implementation

Launched in 2015, the SDGs are intended to complete the goals set by the MDGs; that is, to eliminate hunger, poverty, child deaths and other targets. Given the magnitude of the task, Think Tanks are expected to support Government efforts by providing area expertise, data based research, law & policy recommendations, and assist with designing innovative strategies to "meet the needs of the present without comprising the needs of future generations". This panel will aim to discuss the role of Think Tanks

in this regard, and the assistance needed in analysing new ideas, analysis and methods for implementation of SDGs.

Chair:

Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, Chief Executive Officer, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

Conversation Starter:

Mr. Rohit Magotra, Deputy Director, Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe)

Mr. Amar Deep Singh, Senior Programme Officer, CUTS International (TBC)

16:15 – 16:30 **Tea/Coffee Break**

16:30-18:00 **Think Tanks in the Digital Era: Incubating Policy Conversations in 280 Characters**

The Panel will reimagine the role of think tanks in the new attention economy as interlocutors of policy conversations. How must think tanks evolve to communicate complex policy challenges to younger demographics? With an increasing number of policymakers adopting new media technologies, must think tanks modernize or be left behind?

Chair:

Ms. Shruti Pandalai, Associate Fellow, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

Conversation Starters:

Mr. Apar Gupta, Executive Director, Internet Freedom Foundation

Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander, Head, Communication and Policy Engagement Team, Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy

18:00-19:00 **Closing Session: Discussion, Conclusions and Action Agenda for 2019**

The Round Table discussion will formulate a series of conclusions that might be drawn from the Forum and a set of actions that the participants might work on in the months following the Forum.

Co-Chairs:

Dr. James G. McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Harsh V. Pant, Head, Strategic Studies Program, Observer Research Foundation

Closing Remarks: The Challenges and Opportunities Facing India and Its Think Tanks

Amb. Neelam Deo, Co-Founder & Director, Gateway House (TBC)

Mr. Anirudh Burman, Senior Research Analyst, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace India

19:00-22:00 **Dinner and Networking**