



India Trilateral Forum 17

October 21-22, 2019 – New Delhi, India

Agenda

Monday, October 21

Conference Venue: Longchamp, Taj Mahal Hotel, Mansingh Road, New Delhi

9:30-10:00 *Registration*

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

- **Samir Saran**, President, Observer Research Foundation
- **Julianne Smith**, Director, Asia Program, German Marshall Fund
- **Gautam Bhattacharyya**, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Sweden, India

10:10-10:45 **Opening Keynote**

- **Jayant Sinha**, MP, Chairperson of Standing Committee on Finance

10:45-12:00 **SESSION I: INDIA'S ECONOMY UNDER MODI 2.0**

After years of unprecedented growth, India's economy is facing a slow-down. Manufacturing, consumer demand, and household saving rates are worrying, and questions remain about the extent to which this is structural, cyclical, or both. How will the new government respond to the economic downturn? Which reforms are necessary to address the situation?

- **Shamika Ravi**, Director of Research, Brookings India
- **Ila Patnaik**, Professor, National Institute for Public Finance and Policy
- **Robin Sukhia**, Secretary-General, Sweden-India Business Council
- Moderator: **Richard Rossow**, Senior Advisor and Wadhvani Chair in U.S.-India Policy Studies, Center for Strategic and International Studies

12:00-12:15 **TEA / COFFEE**

12:15-13:30 **SESSION II: INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.**

U.S.-India relations have continued on a firm footing under the Trump administration. However, the relationship is also facing significant obstacles on issues of trade, technology, and India's energy and security partnerships with Russia and Iran. How can these differences be addressed while continuing pursuit of joint strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific?

- **Gourangalal Das**, Joint Secretary (Americas), Ministry of External Affairs
- **Cara Abercrombie**, President, Defence Security Cooperation University
- **Harsh V. Pant**, Director of Research, Observer Research Foundation
- **Jeff Smith**, Research Fellow, South Asia, Heritage Foundation
- Moderator: **Tanvi Madan**, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

13:30-15:00 **Lunch Conversation** with Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Ayog

- Moderator: Sunjoy Joshi, Chairman, Observer Research Foundation

15:00-16:15 **SESSION III: INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH EUROPE**

Europe-India relations have revived to some degree with greater diplomatic engagement. However, major developments, including on trade do not appear to be forthcoming. What are areas of near-term promise in India-Europe relations? How are both parties engaging each other given changes in the United States, China, and other regions, not to mention preoccupations at home?

- **Ranjan Mathai**, Former Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India
- **Hans-Christian Hagman**, Chief Analyst and Senior Advisor to the State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden
- **Ugo Astuto**, Ambassador of the European Union to India
- Moderator: **Garima Mohan**, Fellow, German Marshall Fund

16:15-16:30 **TEA / COFFEE**

16:30-17:45 **SESSION IV: KASHMIR AFTER ARTICLE 370**

India's decision to revoke Kashmir's special status has injected significant uncertainty into a situation long defined by sporadic violence and unrest. What will be the long-term implications of this move? How will it impact regional security and stability? How has this decision been received in India and its partners?

- **Ashok Malik**, Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation
- **Aparna Pande**, Director, Initiative on the Future of India and South Asia, Hudson Institute
- **Khalid Shah**, Associate Fellow, Observer Research Foundation
- Moderator: **Samir Saran**, President, Observer Research Foundation

18:30 **Evening Keynote & Cocktails**

- **Manish Tewari**, MP, Indian National Congress

19:30-21:00 **Dinner**

Tuesday, October 22

09:00-10:15 SESSION V: TRILATERAL COOPERATION ON CONNECTIVITY

As Asia's connectivity and infrastructure needs continue to grow, US, Europe and India are developing their own connectivity initiatives. As each works to strengthen its presence in the Indo-Pacific, more coordinated approaches will likely be necessary. What are the scope and instruments of cooperation between the three partners? What are India's expectations of the US and Europe?

- **Romana Vlahutin**, Ambassador at Large for Connectivity, European External Action Service
- **Kaush Arha**, Senior Adviser, USAID
- **Vikram Doraiswami**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India
- **Constantino Xavier**, Fellow, Brookings India
- Moderator: **Mihir Sharma**, Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation

10:15-10:30 *Coffee break*

10:30-11:15 SESSION VI: THE FUTURE OF UK FOREIGN POLICY POST-BREXIT

While the impact of Brexit negotiations on British domestic politics are evident, their effects on British foreign policy are less clear. Despite calls for a "Global Britain," a broader foreign policy agenda vis-à-vis Asia needs to be clearly articulated. How will the continued negotiations over Brexit impact the future of British foreign policy? How will the UK's priorities in Asia change?

- **Richard Moore**, Political Director, UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office
- Moderator: **Julianne Smith**, Director, Asia Program, German Marshall Fund

11:15-12:30 SESSION VII: CHINA AND RUSSIA: DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

The China-Russia relationship has grown closer in recent years, extending beyond military cooperation to economics and international institutions. While of concern to India, the United States, and Europe, different parties have adopted different attitudes and approaches to this important relationship. What are areas of convergence and divergence when it comes to Sino-Russian relations?

- **Eric Brown**, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute
- **Nandan Unnikrishnan**, Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation
- **Jabin Jacob**, Associate Professor, Shiv Nadar University

- **Indrani Bagchi**, Diplomatic Editor, Times of India
- Moderator: **Dhruva Jaishankar**, Director-U.S. Initiative, Observer Research Foundation

12:30-13:30 **SESSION VIII: 5G TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ITS FUTURE**

The conversation on 5G telecommunications networks has ignited a broad discussion about safeguarding strategic infrastructure around the world. The United States, Australia, and Japan have already decided to build 5G networks without Chinese technology citing security concerns. Washington is actively trying to convince allies and partners that they should follow suit. Meanwhile Europe is still on the fence. Which direction will India take with its 5G network infrastructures? What measures and approaches can successfully limit risks?

13:30-13:45 **CLOSING REMARKS**

13:45-14:45 **Lunch**

19:00 **Informal Closing Dinner**

List of Participants

Ms. Cara Abercrombie

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Workforce Development Directorate
U.S. Department of Defense

Ms. Eynas Ahmed

Policy Planner, Strategy Directorate
U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Dr. Kaush Arha

Senior Advisor
United States Agency for International
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Dr. Henrik Aspengren

Research Fellow and Deputy Head, Asia
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Mr. Dominic Asquith

High Commissioner to India
U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth
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Ambassador Ugo Astuto

Ambassador of European Union to
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European External Action Service

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Ministry of External Affairs, India

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Member of Parliament, Chairperson of
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