



4TH INDIA THINK TANK FORUM

January 12-13, 2020

Viceregal Hall, The Claridges, APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi – 110011



AGENDA

12 January 2020	
19:00-19:30	Cocktail Reception
19:30-20:10	<p>The Future of Think Tanks and Policy Advice in Asia</p> <p>In the post-Cold War era, think-tanks became proponents and managers of globalisation. They paid lip service to the disruption of cultural identities, economic displacement and increasing socioeconomic inequalities that resulted from it. The advent, and rapid diffusion of digital technologies has caught think tanks in their tailwind. This panel will discuss how think tanks need to reengineer themselves to cater to the individual and be effective in a digital age. Given that philanthropies in Asia are unlikely to write large cheques for perpetuity, how should think tanks adjust to seek financial sources and maintain human resources to produce cutting edge research?</p> <p>Co-Chairs: Samir Saran, President, Observer Research Foundation</p> <p>James G. McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania</p>
20:10-22:00	Inaugural Dinner
13 January 2020	
08:30-09:00	Participant Registration
09:00-09:15	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <p>James G. McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania</p> <p>Harsh V. Pant, Director, Studies, and Head, Strategic Studies Program, Observer Research Foundation</p>
09:15-10:15	<p>Globalization 2.0: Asia and the New World Order</p> <p>As we enter the third decade of the Asian Century, the international order is being called into question. “Global” values of the western liberal order are increasingly coming under pressure. While Asia’s rise is redefining global</p>



4TH INDIA THINK TANK FORUM

January 12-13, 2020

Viceregal Hall, The Claridges, APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi – 110011



	<p>flows of trade and commerce, the prospect of Asian values and cultural norms implicating the emerging global order seems less certain. This panel will discuss the constituent elements and dynamics of the new global order. Can the fundamentals of liberalism and democracy survive the Asian Century or is there an alternative version of liberalism and democracy brewing in Asia?</p> <p>Chair: Harsh V. Pant, Director, Studies, and Head, Strategic Studies Program, Observer Research Foundation</p> <p>Conversation Starters: Mohan Kumar, Chairman, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)</p> <p>Asanga Abeyagoonasekera, Director General, Institute of National Security Studies Sri Lanka (INSSSL)</p> <p>Harinder Sekhon, Consultant, Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF)</p>
10:15-11:15	<p>Rethinking Models of Economic Growth and Development</p> <p>Globalization is in scrutiny around the world. Multilateral trade is failing and plurilateral and regional trading regimes are coming to the fore. The tension between populism and globalisation will only test the possibility of a trade off between global trade and nationalist economic policy making. The proliferation of digital technologies is allowing for distributed enterprise and flexible organograms – creating new efficiencies and new risks. Is it possible to discover a new global deal that spurs economic integration in a sustainable and equitable manner?</p> <p>Chair: James G. McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania</p> <p>Conversation Starters: Rajesh Chadha, Program Director, Natural Resources, Brookings India</p> <p>Manoj Panda, RBI Chair Professor, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG)</p> <p>Rudrani Bhattacharya, Associate Professor, National Institute of Public Finance & Policy (NIPFP)</p>
11:15-11:30	Tea/Coffee Break
11:30-12:30	#SheLeads: Strengthening Women Leadership in Policy and Politics



4TH INDIA THINK TANK FORUM

January 12-13, 2020

Viceregal Hall, The Claridges, APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi – 110011



	<p>There is a wide consensus for having more participation by women in the decision making processes of policy and politics. However, we hardly see this translating into action. This panel will discuss how both public and private institutions can overcome traditional barriers that curtail the effective participation of women in policy and politics, why women are underrepresented in leadership positions in academia and policy making, and what objective, implementing a gender bias, serves for policy and politics.</p> <p>Chair: Sabina Dewan, President & Executive Director, Just Jobs Network</p> <p>Conversation Starters: Malgorzata Bonikowska, President, Center for International Relations, Poland</p> <p>R. S. Vasan, Director, Chennai Centre for China Studies (C3S)</p> <p>Renu Adhlakha, Professor, Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS)</p>
12:30-13:00	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>Ashok Malik, Policy Advisor, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India</p> <p>Chair: Sunjoy Joshi, Chairman, Observer Research Foundation</p>
13:00-14:30	<p>Lunch Session - Hate Bytes: Countering Violent Extremism Online</p> <p>The convergence of technology and extremism is the worst feedback loop between the real and the virtual. Online platforms enable communities to exchange ideas, but have also been exploited by extremists to build coalitions across the world, hitherto unseen or unheard of. States today find it extremely arduous to foil both domestic and transnational attempts to foment violence in their domiciles. While the spread of violent narratives has been perennial, relentless and global, responses have been sporadic. This panel will discuss the approaches to be taken to respond to tech-enabled terrorism.</p> <p>Chair: Shruti Pandalai, Associate Fellow, Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, India</p> <p>Conversation Starters: Shanthie M. D'Souza, Founder & President, Mantraya, India</p> <p>Magdalena Kirchner, Country Director Afghanistan, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung</p>



4TH INDIA THINK TANK FORUM

January 12-13, 2020

Viceregal Hall, The Claridges, APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi – 110011



	<p>Poonam Dabas, Founding Trustee & President, Centre for Media & Strategic Studies, India</p> <p>Kabir Taneja, Fellow, Strategic Studies Programme, Observer Research Foundation</p>
14:30-14:45	Group Photo
14:45-15:45	<p>Road to 2030: Strategies for Achieving Sustainable Inclusive Growth and Development While Saving Our Planet</p> <p>The global order is being disrupted both politically and economically, rendering ever more difficult, the emerging world's quest to ensure sustainable development. Developing countries are struggling to raise finance to fuel their sustainable development pathways, while trillions of dollars remain locked up in Western pension funds and insurance schemes. Moreover, the global developmental agenda is being increasingly securitised. National security is being evoked to marginalise civil society, international organisations and voices that are most implicated by climate change. Walls around technology will lead to more inequality with developing states losing much access to key tools for development and growth. In the midst of these complexities and uncertainties, how do we ensure inclusive and sustainable growth?</p> <p>Chair: Ashok Khosla, Chairman, Development Alternatives</p> <p>Conversation Starters: Jyoti Parikh, Executive Director, Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), India</p> <p>Shibani Ghosh, Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, India</p> <p>Syed M. Kamal, Senior Research Associate, Policy Research Institute, Bangladesh</p>
15:45-16:00	Tea/Coffee Break
16:00-17:15	<p>India Think Tanks: Strategies, Operational Challenges and Action Agenda 2020</p> <p>The churn, complexity and uncertainty in global politics has several implications on domestic issues too. Think tanks in India are being increasingly sought by policymakers for their expertise to navigate a complex world. Technology and polarisation in politics also pose as challenges for</p>



4TH INDIA THINK TANK FORUM

January 12-13, 2020

Viceregal Hall, The Claridges, APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi – 110011



	<p>Indian think tanks, to conduct empirical policy research work. In such a situation, how should Indian think tanks contribute to India’s growth story? What are the challenges, actions and strategies they should adopt to be relevant to governments and the public?</p> <p>Co-Chairs: James G. McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania</p> <p>Harsh V. Pant, Director, Studies, and Head, Strategic Studies Program, Observer Research Foundation</p> <p>Conversation Starters: Neelam Deo, Co-founder & Director, Gateway House, India</p> <p>Pradeep Singh Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International</p> <p>Arun Sahgal, Senior Fellow, Delhi Policy Group, India</p>
17:15-18:00	Transfer to Taj Palace
18:00-19:30	<p>Book Discussion: The New World Disorder and the Indian Imperative</p> <p>As we approach the end of the second decade of the twenty-first century, all about us is chaos. The international liberal order is facing a moment of crisis. With Darwinism (or the survival of the fittest) having guided the construction and management of international systems of governance for seven decades, it is no surprise that as sweeping change overtakes the world, there are no longer many takers for these arrangements. The New World Disorder and the Indian Imperative is a major study of this new moment. The book identifies the new actors and ideas that will emerge from the remnants of the old dispensation to script the architecture of the twenty-first century. India’s sustained commitment to constitutional democracy and its unique identity as a non-hegemonic global power will be central to this new order. In today’s multipolar, contested, and uncertain world, India, the authors argue, may well be the only country with the credentials and capability to script an equitable ethic for a new international order.</p> <p>Chair: Yalda Hakim, Journalist, BBC World News</p> <p>Conversation Starters: James G. McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania</p> <p>Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, India</p>



4TH INDIA THINK TANK FORUM

January 12-13, 2020

Viceregal Hall, The Claridges, APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi – 110011



	<p>Jane Holl Lute, CEO, SICPA</p> <p>Tobias Feakin, Australia's Ambassador for Cyber Affairs</p> <p>Shen Dingli, Professor, Fudan University</p> <p>(Combined Session with Raisina Young Fellows)</p>
19:30-20:00	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>James G. McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania</p> <p>Harsh V. Pant, Director, Studies, and Head, Strategic Studies Program, Observer Research Foundation</p>
20:00 onwards	<p>Networking Dinner</p>