

  
**ASPEN INSTITUTE INDIA**

**Session on  
“The United States and India: Prospects for Values-Based Cooperation”  
4:00pm, December 8th, 2010  
WWF Auditorium, 172-B, Lodi Estate, New Delhi**

Aspen Institute India organised a session on “ The United States and India: Prospects for Values-Based Cooperation” with the members of the US based think-tank, Foreign Policy Initiative’s delegation to India on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 at New Delhi.

In his welcome speech, C Raja Mohan, Strategic Affairs Editor, Indian Express stated that the US-India relationship has grown over the decades and has now begun to cross some important milestones –cooperation, resolving nuclear disputes and expanding economic and other engagements. According to him, both the countries need to develop new connecting factors to share political values.



William Kristol, Editor of The Weekly Standard, mentioned that world’s oldest and world’s largest democracy need to work together for the betterment of the world. He believes that the depth of common commitment to certain co-principals are partly with the Indian public and American public and has also become an important part of the geo-strategic fact of the world today. He felt that a

good in depth intellectual connection between the two great democracies of the world has to be developed at the government, business as well as at the public level to promote values based cooperation.

Robert Kagan, Senior Fellow, Centre on the United States and Europe at the Brookings Institution, was of the view that the balance of power at the level of “great powers” has a tremendous impact on the overall direction of the world. He further added that India is the future and it is vital for India to play a greater role in a value based manner.

Ashley J. Tellis, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, specializing in international security, defence, and Asian strategic issues made three propositions on the roles that values would play in the context of US-India partnership. He mentioned that nations can share a common set of visions and principals to have a liberal democracy. He added that although political systems differ in their details, the fundamental premise on which the system exists to serve the individuals has to be balanced. He spoke about the values that can provide us a vision to aspire in terms of creating a just political order and serve as a clue to certain strategic orientation and direction. It also provides a guarantee not to threaten the deep political interest of other.