



ASPEN INSTITUTE INDIA

Session on
“The state of the World in 2010”
12:15 Hours: September 29, 2010
Jacaranda Hall, IHC, Lodi Estate, New Delhi

Aspen Institute India organised a Session on “The State of the world in 2010” with Ambassador Richard Hass, President, Council on Foreign Relations. The session was moderated by Ambassador Naresh Chandra, Former Ambassador of India to the United States of America on September 29th, 2010.



Amb. Hass highlighted the three biggest global challenges which would define the world in the 21st century.

Firstly, according to him **Diffusion of power** today in the world has moved from bilateralism during the Cold War era to Unilateralism and is now in a state of “non polarity” where powers centres are diffused and not always vested in states.

Secondly, **an ironic challenge of the weak states**, states which are unable or unwilling to exercise and fulfil their responsibilities and obligations of sovereignty within their borders. Pakistan, Haiti, Sweden, Yemen are some of the examples of weak states where governments are unable or

unwilling or both to usher authority within their borders to meet the obligations of their neighbours, region or the world.

And thirdly, **challenges posed by non states**, actors like the Al Qaida, Jihadi groups and so on.

According to him, the challenges that are going to keep US-India preoccupied in the coming year include- Greater Middle East including Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, North Korea and by and large Asia. He added that to resolve some of the differences that have now lingered for more than half a century among some of the principal countries like- Japan, Russia, China are reconciliation and growth of regional institutions. Asia requires both reconciliation of dealing with disputes and Institutional dimensions to maintain stability and be dynamic.

Apart from discussing about the world's challenges, he also spoke of the need for suitable International Institutions in order to narrow the gap in global challenges. Current institutions like the UN are inadequate to undertake the challenges posed by the tasks and need to be redesigned or new institutions put in place.

"I don't believe in democracy based foreign policy to solve the world's problems. Problems are numerous and severe but the real challenge is to develop habits of cooperation and talk about real stability and peace." he said.

Ambassador Chandra concluded the session by stating that problems cannot be solved but have to be managed.