

## 'Good Governance, Education Key to Success'



*L-R: **Amit Bhatia**, CEO, Aspire Human Capital Mgmt Pvt. Ltd.; **Tushar Poddar**, Chief Economist, Goldman Sachs India; **B J Panda**, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha (Biju Janata Dal); **Sanjeev Sanyal**, President, The Sustainable Planet Project and Adjunct Fellow of the Institute of Policy Studies at the National Univ. of Singapore; Moderator: **Anand Shah**, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Indicorps*

Good governance and education are keys that can help the nation to go on the path of progress and development irrespective of the huge population. Now people have started looking at population not as a liability but as an opportunity for increasing the workforce. This was the overriding thought at the concurrent session today on 'Young India: A Demographic Dividend or Nightmare?' a part of 'Ideas India 2008' being organized by Aspen Institute India in New Delhi.

The panelists at the session pointed out that acquiring necessary skills, better educational opportunities and learning from life experiences can help the Indian youth to become more competitive on the world stage.

Citing figures of labour force in India, **Mr Tushar Poddar, Chief Economist, Goldman Sachs India**, said the labour force in India is much larger than that of G7 countries. He pointed out that unless more women are included in the labour force, the demographic dividend is going to increase. He suggested that there is a need to privatize education, both at the vocational and university levels. According to him, "allowing an institutional framework is better than to opt for personality-based education centres."

Stressing on the need to create employment opportunities for the young generation, **Mr Amit Bhatia, CEO, Aspire Human Capital Mgmt Pvt. Ltd**, said setting up special education zones can go a long way in addressing this issue. "There should be an entrepreneur system of skills development," he added. He pointed out at three aspects of demographic dividend -- share demand, supply chain and competitiveness – that can help in yielding rich benefits. He also suggested the need to create standards in vocational training to impart necessary skills to the young.

**Mr Sanjeev Sanyal, President, The Sustainable Planet Project and Adjunct Fellow of the Institute of the Policy Studies at the National University of Singapore**, said that demographic dividend is a phase in population dynamics. He pointed out that there is a benefit to demographic dividend. "When people go for demographic dividend they start generating savings," he said adding, "In terms of labour, demographic change is best."

**B J Panda, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha (Biju Janta Dal)**, stressed on the need for the right kind of education system in the country. Speaking on providing equal education opportunities to children, he said that "school vouchers are going to make a big impact." He lamented the fact that in India education is not considered to be a crucial aspect of development and growth. For this, he said, "we need to break the system of government patronage in education." He said that in terms of economic freedom, India ranks 120th and "we need to focus on individual initiatives."

The session was moderated by **Anand Shah, Co-Founder, Indicorps**.

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