

Reverse Brain Drain: Reality or Myth?



*L-R: Moderator: **Rajan Navani**, Managing Director, Jetline Group; **Anupama Arya**, Managing Director, Mobera Systems Pvt. Ltd.; **Ashok Soota**, Chairman & Managing Director, MindTree Ltd.; **Shashi Tharoor**, Chairman, Afras Ventures and former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations **Sugata Bose**, Gardiner Professor of History and Director of the South Asia Initiative Harvard University, USA*

"When we talk about the phenomena like brain drain or its reverse process, we normally register our subjective experiences. It is really a matter of perspectives. However, what is important to look at, in this context, is vast opportunities that India now presents to professionals and entrepreneurs," said **Mr Shashi Tharoor, Chairman, Afras Ventures and former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations**.

He was speaking at the session on '**Reverse Brain Drain: Reality or Myth?**' during conference on ideas to turbo-charge India's developmental process, '**Ideas India 2008**', organized by Aspen Institute India.

The session deliberated over the issue of whether it is fact or imaginative fiction that buoyed by surging economic growth, there are indications that India might currently be experiencing an unprecedented reverse brain drain.

Ashok Soota, Chairman & Managing Director, MindTree Ltd, said, "I think still there is no such thing like reverse brain drain. Those, who came back to India, are really the exceptions. It is just a trickle and not a flood."

"Back in 1990s when India opened up its market there were surge of opportunities, which grew with time. That prompted many Indians living abroad, who were already thinking about returning to India for their personal reasons, to speed up the process and pack their bags," he added.

Anupama Arya, Managing Director, Mobera Systems Pvt Ltd, said, "India today has everything now to inspire people to work here. The market is changing. There are amazing developments in many fields. On the top of it, now the salary package is almost world class here. That is an icing on the cake. We have great opportunities to grow our business here without any need to look outside."

"It is human tendency to go to places where one can find better opportunities and better chances for success. It is up to us to call it brain drain or by any other name. There are also emotional contacts and bonding that matter," said **Mr Rajan Navani, Managing Director, Jetline Group**.

The session was moderated by **Dr Sugata Bose, Gardiner Professor of History and Director of the South Asia Initiative, Harvard University, USA Panel**.

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