

"Nuclear Deal Opens up World Market for India"



*L-R: **Tejpreet Singh Chopra**, President and CEO, General Electric – India, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh; **Ashley Tellis**, Senior Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, USA; **Arundhati Ghosh**, Former Ambassador of India to Egypt and South; Permanent Representative to UNESCO and to UN Offices in Geneva; **Atul Punj**, Chairman, Punj Lloyd Group; Moderator: **Prमित Pal Chaudhuri**, Senior Editor, The Hindustan Times*

"The recent India-US nuclear deal has not only opened up for India opportunities to have access to new technologies and the required nuclear fuel but also access to large world markets where India can contribute through exports of its own technologies and services and gain immensely," said **Ms Arundhati Ghosh**, former Ambassador of India to Egypt and South; Permanent Representatives to UNESCO and to UN Offices in Geneva.

She was speaking at the session on '**Seeking Energy Security for India: Options and Opportunities**' on the second day of the 3-day conference on ideas to turbo-charge India's developmental process, '**Ideas India 2008**', organized by Aspen Institute India here today.

"When we talk about the energy security, we must look at the energy requirement of different states separately as they are much wider than what we really think," stressed Ms Arundhati.

Mr Ashley Tellis, Senior Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said, "The role of nuclear deal in India's dealing with the issue of energy

security management is embedded in its capacity for a sustainable economic growth."

"There is no doubt that the new nuclear deal has opened up the door for great opportunities for India and provided access to international markets. But it is also a fact that nuclear energy can satisfy only a small part of the total energy requirements in the country," he added.

"India needs to be very careful about the strategic choices in the field of energy generation and security," cautioned Mr Ashley.

Mr Tejpreet Singh Chopra, President and CEO, general Electric – India, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh, said, "We in India must look at the ways to conserve and save energy as much as possible as the energy saved is equivalent to the energy produced."

"The new nuclear deal has opened up great opportunity for India to export its services and products to the world markets," he added.

"I firmly believe that, in spite of all the ongoing debates about the viability of non-viability of nuclear energy, we don't have any choice in this respect," stressed **Mr Atul Punj, Chairman, Punj Llyod Group.**

"India must learn from the good practices and experiences of other countries in the field of energy security. If we look at China, in particular, we see that they have managed this crucial requirement through very systematic and strategic methods," he added.

While talking about India's resources to fulfill these requirements, Mr Punj said, "Money is there in the system. What we really need is a proper delivery mechanism and our will to achieve the targets in a time-bound manner."

Mr Pramit Pal Chaudhari, Senior Editor, The Hindustan Times, while moderating the session, remarked: "After all said and done about so many alternative energy sources, the fact remains that India is basically coal-based economy and will remain so for the next 40 years. So, we must look at ways to upgrade and modernize our coal companies in order to improve their performances."

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