

PRESS RELEASE

Indo-British Scholars' Association panel discussion on 'India@75:Agenda for Change'

Kolkata, 16 August, 2023:Indo-British Scholars' Association (IBSA) organised a panel discussion on 'India@75: Agenda for Change' with the support of Tata Steel at The Bengal Club, Kolkata on 14 August, 2023.

The panel discussion is crucial at a time when India is going to mark its Independence Day and about to host the G20 Summit.

Eminent thought leaders from corporate, academics, law and foreign policy will come together on the panel to discuss India's economic and industrial environment. The panel discussion shone the spotlight on the pace of reforms in India's education sector and the urgent need for employment generation and upskilling. The personalities will also discuss the challenges posed by urbanisation and environmental pollution, the state of regulation and justice delivery and India's place in the world order and aspirations of being an economic power.

The panelists were **Prof. Anuradha Lohia**, Former Vice Chancellor, Presidency University (formerly Presidency College), **Mr. Krishnan Srinivasan**, Former Foreign Secretary and Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth, **Prof. Nirmalya Kumar**, Professor of Marketing, Lee Kong Chuan School of Business at Singapore Management University, **Mr. ShivSiddhant Kaul**, Managing Director, Nicco Engineering Services Ltd. and Honorary Consul General, Republic of Korea, Kolkata & **Mr. Vikramjit Banerjee**, Senior Advocate practising at the Supreme Court of India.

Mr. Alex Ellis, British High Commissioner to India gave a special address through video. The panel discussion was moderated by **Prof. Suman Mukerjee**, Director General, Bhawanipur Education Society College.

Mr. Subrata Paul, President, Indo-British Scholars' Association said: *"Indo-British Scholars' Association is delighted to host a panel discussion on 'India@75: Agenda for Change'. We have luminaries from the field of corporate, diplomatic services, academic and law who talked and debated on India's growth story and its challenges. We are delighted to have a special address by Alex Ellis, British High Commissioner to India. India is poised to grow exponentially in the coming decade. This growth presents a strain on resources, infrastructure, healthcare and education. One of the challenges would be to achieve sustainable and equitable growth. We would have to focus on creating employment opportunities and skilling workforce to sustain economic growth. Panel will focus on these challenges and discuss the right strategies to continue the impressive growth trajectory. It is a country which is at the cusp of a changeover from an under-resourced to a full-fledged developed nation."*

Note to the Editor:

- Indo-British Scholars' Association (IBSA) is an association of individuals and corporates, with connection to the United Kingdom, and who have benefitted from a UK education and training or have worked there.
- IBSA was inaugurated on the sidelines of the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) Partnership Summit in January 1997 by the then UK Prime Minister John Major at the behest of the British Council.
- Ever since its inception, IBSA has been promoting enduring relations between India and the UK through Education, Arts, Culture, Science and Technology.
- IBSA has also supported social causes including providing scholarships to deserving students for courses at the British Council.
- One of the flagship annual events of IBSA are the 'World Environment Day' photography competition in collaboration with the British Deputy High Commission Kolkata.
- IBSA is also a key partner of the 'Indo-British Heritage Cup' cricket match played between the Bengali diaspora in the UK and the UK community in Kolkata.

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