

India Trilateral Forum 11

September 8-9, 2016 | Stockholm, Sweden

The German Marshall Fund of the United States is grateful for the additional support of PhRMA and FAM.

Agenda

Thursday, September 8

SESSION I: ASIA'S NEW ECONOMIC LEADER: INDIA'S GROWTH AND REFORM AGENDA

India has been growing strongly and has enjoyed macroeconomic stability even as the global economy slows and internal imbalances grow in other major economies. The progress of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a significant “big-bang” reform, and the government has liberalized key sectors for foreign investment. But liberalization of land and labor markets remains mixed. What is the outlook broadly for economic reform? How is competition among Indian states driving the agenda for reform and growth? How can the central government leverage progress on liberalization in the states to bring its economic reform agenda to more of the country? Do the politics of economic reform become easier or harder as India moves towards national elections in 2019?

CONVERSATION WITH SWEDISH MINISTER MARGOT WALLSTRÖM

SESSION II: INDIA AS A GLOBAL ACTOR

India possesses the world’s fastest-growing economy and one of its largest armed forces. Its recent foreign policy activism has led to improved relations not only within South Asia, but more broadly with the United States, East Asia, and Europe. India is engaging ambitiously with international institutions; it stands on the threshold of membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group and seeks a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. How should we judge India’s success in rising not only as a regional but as a global power? What are the implications for the international order of a more confident, powerful, and assertive India? What partnership opportunities does this create for the United States and Europe. What risks and challenges will India need to navigate as it rises to world power?

SESSION III: UNLOCKING INDIA’S HUMAN CAPITAL

India has a \$1 trillion gap in funding for hard infrastructure that the government and private sector are endeavouring to fill. But development also requires close attention to a human capital agenda that produces healthy, educated, productive, and engaged citizenry. India’s extraordinary prospects hinge on its wealth of human capital. What is the outlook for reforms to India’s health care, welfare, education, and other social infrastructure? Can India increase its low female labor participation rate and expand women’s empowerment of women in ways that juice growth and enhance opportunity? How can India’s government and private sector extend the country’s economic miracle to underprivileged parts of society, including through reforms to antiquated labor laws and modernization of the welfare system? How can collaboration with the

United States and Europe support India's human development aspirations so that the country achieves its singular potential?

Friday, September 9

Conference Venue Sjöfartshuset

BOOK TALKS FOLLOWED BY Q&A

- Nisid Hajari, *Midnight's Furies: The Deadly Legacy of India's Partition*; Mihir Sharma, *Restart: Last Chance for the Indian Economy*

SESSION IV: POPULISM: DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND ITS DISCONTENTS

The Modi government's 2017 budget contained some populist measures to appeal to farmers and other less-privileged groups in Indian society. Meanwhile, in America, Donald Trump is the Republican nominee for president despite resistance from the party establishment, while Bernie Sanders' vigorous populist challenge surprised Hillary Clinton in her race for the White House. The pressures of "Brexit" and the rise of populist & nativist politics in the European Union raise hard questions about the future of European integration. What are the foreign policy implications of the volatile public mood in the West and in India? How can foreign policy leaders in the United States, Europe, and India shape a new internationalist consensus that enjoys popular support and resists protectionism, nativism, and isolationism?

SESSION V: THE FUTURE OF INDIA-CHINA RELATIONS & IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WEST

The Indian government has turned its predecessors' "Look East" policy into an "Act East" one. New Delhi has vigorously strengthened strategic and economic ties with major powers in Southeast and East Asia. But Asia's fragile power balance is eroding as China asserts expansive claims in the region and conducts the world's largest military buildup. China single-handedly blocked India's accession to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and Beijing has doubled down on strategic partnership with Pakistan in part to stymie India's ascent. At the same time, China is an important economic market and partner for India as for the United States and Europe. How successful has the Modi government been in its attempt to balance intensifying strategic competition vis-à-vis China with attempts to rebalance and grow India-China economic ties? What is at stake for the United States and Europe of India's emergence as an East Asian power?

SESSION VI: GOVERNING CYBERSPACE & ENFORCING CYBER-SECURITY: CAN FREE SOCIETIES PROTECT THE GLOBAL INTERNET?

China, Russia, and certain Middle Eastern countries have built firewalls around their domestic internets, even as American and European citizens and governments identify digital freedom as a personal right and stimulus to innovation. India, whose leader has the largest Twitter following of any elected politician, has taken a middle position between an unregulated internet and one that contains safeguards for social and political content. How can free societies ensure that the internet is not Balkanized and remains a miracle tool for social, economic, and political

empowerment? And how can they protect their societies, citizens, and companies against cyberattack from both state and private entities? What role can India play as the world's largest open society, and how can it work with Europe and America to preserve access to the cyber-commons? Will cyberspace become the most contested global common in the 21st century, and what does this mean for the future of liberal order more broadly?

SESSION VII: THE NEW GEO-ECONOMICS & THE FUTURE OF THE GLOBAL TRADING ORDER

The Trans-Pacific Partnership and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership are mega-regional deals, the biggest in history if enacted, which will reorder the international economy. But both are on the rocks due to political pressures at home. India is excluded from both, as well as from APEC, Asia's premier economic grouping. India-EU FTA negotiations are going nowhere fast, although a post-Brexit India-Britain FTA has become possible. India and China are sparring in negotiations for a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership that would encompass Asia but exclude the United States and Europe. China's Belt & Road initiative promises to enlarge China's penetration of Eurasia and connectivity to Europe, but India and other powers are wary of the political influence it could bring with it. China, India, and Europe cooperate in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, although America and Japan view it as a parallel institution that risks undermining the liberal international order. What are the strategic implications of these and other initiatives for a lackluster global economy, and for closer trade and investment ties between India, the United States, and Europe? What geoeconomic tools might India bring to bear to enhance its security and economic prospects?

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