



PRESS RELEASE

“There can be no solution to Jammu and Kashmir if one country wins and another loses.”

New Delhi, 7th December, 2017

Ananta Aspen Centre organized a session on **“The Current State of India-Pakistan Relations”** to discuss the above issues. **Mr. Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri**, *Former Foreign Minister of Pakistan* spoke at the session which was chaired by **Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar**, *Former Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, India*.

Mr Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri shared his views on the current state of India-Pakistan relations by stating that “isolation of Pakistan is not possible” and “India can’t be ignored as it is too important for Pakistan”. He emphasized that endless war is not a solution and no one country will win but both the countries will face colossal losses. He stressed the need to alter the behavior of the Pakistan Army so that when India – Pakistan relations begin to improve there is no attacks in India. “We have fought many wars and will fight many wars but that will only cause tension, solution to this can only be through Composite Dialogue. We need to address the real problem and stimulate dialogues.” He concluded by stating that **“once India and Pakistan start talking, the result will be fruitful. We need to stop doubting Pakistan and start new dynamics through various dialogues creating a new understanding”**.

Mr Mani Shankar Aiyar, expressed his thoughts and constituency of peace in Pakistan is improving. “Diversity of option is in every segment of Pakistan.” “There are people in Pakistan who like us, who resent us or are indifferent towards us”. He said that **even if Pakistan were to disappear one day there would still be problems related to Kashmir**. He was confident that if issues of Jammu and Kashmir need to be solved, it can only be done through a structural Dialogue. The sentiment **that peace can be achieved by both countries only through dialogue** was reiterated throughout the session.

About Ananta Aspen Centre:

Engaging India, Nurturing Change

Ananta Aspen Centre is an educational and policy studies organisation based in New Delhi. It focusses on values based leadership and open dialogue on challenges facing Indian society to help foster its transformation. The Centre engages civil society, business, governments and other key stakeholders to share ideas and bring a wide range of perspectives on issues important to India’s development, foreign policy, strategic affairs and national security. Ananta Aspen Centre is an independent non-profit organization registered under the Indian Trusts Act and under 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act.

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