

NEWSLETTER

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PM of Japan H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida delivered the 41st Sapru House Lecture on “The Future of the Indo-Pacific- Japan's New Plan for a 'Free & Open Indo-Pacific' - Together with India as an Indispensable Partner” in New Delhi on 20 March 2023. Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar was also present on the occasion.



ICWA, in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs, organised the International Conference on Shanghai Cooperation Organisation: Reconnect ~ Rejuvenate in New Delhi on 23-24 March 2023 under India's Chairmanship of SCO. Secretary (ER), MEA Mr. Dammu Ravi delivered the keynote address.



40th Sapru House Lecture by H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, President, 77th UN General Assembly (UNGA) on “Solutions through Solidarity, Sustainability and Science at the UN”, was organised by ICWA on 30 January 2023.



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Zhengixn Z., Director Assistant at the Centre for South Asia–West China Cooperation & Development Studies, Institute of South Asian Studies, Sichuan University, People's Republic of China, 2nd SCO Resident Scholar, 01 January 2023

In the year of India's chairmanship of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) (2022–2023), ICWA is hosting the SCO Resident Researchers Program in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs from December 2022 to June 2023. Over seven months, one nominated young researcher from each SCO member country (following the SCO practice of Russian alphabet order: Kazakhstan – December 2022, China – January 2023, Kyrgyzstan – February 2023, Pakistan – March 2023, Russia – April 2023, Tajikistan – May 2023 and Uzbekistan – June 2023) will reside with ICWA for a period of one month. The program includes a week's module of the SCO scholar's visit to Bangalore, Chennai and Pondicherry, which is being coordinated by ICWA in collaboration with its MoU partner National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore.



Tajikistan – May 2023 and Uzbekistan – June 2023) will reside with ICWA for a period of one month. The program includes a week's module of the SCO scholar's visit to Bangalore, Chennai and Pondicherry, which is being coordinated by ICWA in collaboration with its MoU partner National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore.

In the month of January 2023, ICWA hosted a SCO scholar from the People's Republic of China: Zhengixn Z., Director Assistant at the Centre for South Asia–West China Cooperation & Development Studies, Institute of South Asian Studies, Sichuan University, People's Republic of China. He held interactions with leading think tanks and academic institutions of India, including the O. P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat; Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi.

ICWA Panel Discussion on “Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 - Celebrating the Diaspora in an era of Amrit Kaal-PBD Curtain Raiser”, 04 January 2023





ICWA hosted a Panel discussion on "Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 - Celebrating the Diaspora in an era of Amrit Kaal". Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary (CPV & Overseas Indian Affairs), Ministry of External Affairs delivered special remarks and chaired the discussion. Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA delivered the opening remarks. Amb. Virendra Gupta, President, Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad; Amb. Anil Trigunayat, Former Amb. of India to Jordan, Libya, and Malta; Prof. Binod Khadria, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and Mr. Sushil Pandit, Working President, People of Indian Origin Chambers of Commerce and Industry were the panellists.

In her opening remarks, Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA reflected upon the significance of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) as an important platform for re-engaging and reconnecting with the Overseas Indians. On the historical relevance of the PBD, she noted that the PBD commemorates the return of the greatest Pravasi who led India's freedom struggle, Mahatma Gandhi, to India from South Africa on 9 January 1915. She noted that the Indian diaspora is one of the oldest and the largest diasporas in the world with an approximate strength of 32 million spread across the globe. She stated that India's approach on engaging with diaspora has been characterised by the four C's – Care, Connect, Celebrate and Contribute – a comprehensive framework designed to take care of our diaspora. She concluded her remarks by highlighting the special relevance of the 17th PBD, in that it coincides with India's G20 and SCO Presidency and gives diaspora members an opportunity to witness the confidence and energy with which India is assuming its role as chair of these two crucial organisations.

While delivering the special address, Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary (CPV & OIA), Ministry of External Affairs noted that over the years PBD has grown into an extremely important forum for connecting and strengthening bonds with the overseas Indian community spread across the world. He stated that the Indian diaspora is well spread across countries and has emerged as a very dynamic and powerful entity, recognised globally for their skills, hard work and law-abiding nature. He noted that the diaspora is also gaining political influence worldwide. This fits in very well with India's growing prominence in world affairs. On the diaspora's contribution towards propelling India's growth and development, he noted that the Indian diaspora has been instrumental in many ways such as promoting trade and investments, technology transfer, remittances, and so on. India, with about USD 87 billion, was the highest recipient of remittances even during the peak of the pandemic. The working class alone contributed about USD 54.42 billion of the total remittances, indicating the resilience of not only the monetary flows but also the Indian origin people. Dr. Sayeed stated that as an important element of India's foreign policy, the diaspora is regarded as a living bridge, strengthening its bond between India and the countries where they are living. This growing prominence is also evident in all important visits of high-level officials from India including that of the visits of ministers to any country wherein they make sure that there is invariably a diaspora engagement. He remarked that PBD is not only a celebration of our ties with overseas Indians but also a manifestation of our will to remain connected with our diaspora.

Amb. Virendra Gupta, President, Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad, observed that there has been growing assertiveness among the diaspora about the expression of their cultural identity. He noted that the institution of the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas in 2003 has been a path-breaking initiative introduced by the Government of India in terms of diaspora engagement. He stated that the diaspora has contributed in many ways, such as investments

and technology transfers; however, there is more potential that can be tapped. He noted that Indian CEOs in other countries can influence the working of their organisations in setting up facilities in India. Amb. Gupta suggested some initiatives that can be undertaken such as providing support to PIO institutions through financial assistance. On furthering engagement with diaspora youth, more Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships can be provided to PIO students, their numbers participating in Know India Programme can be increased and greater access in Indian educational institutions can be facilitated for them.

Amb. Anil Trigunayat, Former Amb. of India to Jordan, Libya and Malta, remarked that the diaspora today has become a strategic asset and that the 4 C's approach is a matrix to bind them. He stated that the World Bank has declared India as the largest recipient of remittances this year with USD 100 billion, which is indicative of the diaspora's confidence in India. A significant share comes from the diaspora in Gulf countries. Amb. Trigunayat further observed that more proactive involvement is needed in encouraging and enabling overseas employment for people. In this regard, PIO institutions and missions can help in identifying employment opportunities in countries. He also noted that the Indian diaspora in Africa has grown in terms of its influence. Engaging with the diaspora in this region can be a real bridge as we move into the next century which is going to be dominated by Asian and African countries.

Prof. Binod Khadria, Jawaharlal Nehru University, suggested that while the Indian diaspora's contributions are innumerable which have had an impact not just in India but also at a global level, there is still a need to look at the Indian diaspora beyond harnessing their potential. Prof. Khadria further explained the several complexities involved in the efforts towards incorporating migration in the UN agenda. He observed that India has the potential to be the leader of the Global South in furthering the agenda on migration at the global level. In his opinion, PBD is the right moment to reflect on whether India through G20 Presidency or independently can take up the leadership of being the origin country of the world's diaspora. He also shared that the Indian diaspora should no longer be viewed as an asset for the development of the country but rather as an asset for the development of third-world nations.

The last discussant Mr. Sushil Pandit, Working President, PIO Chambers of Commerce & Industry, pointed out that there has been a growing realisation of the diaspora's untapped potential. He stated that policies in India are now technologically enabled & transparent, thus facilitating accessibility and representing an opportunity for the PIO's greater involvement in these areas. This engagement can be further enhanced by enabling simpler bureaucratic channels. Mr. Pandit shared his opinion that collaboration among PIOs from different countries, as well as entrepreneurs in India, can be beneficial in terms of offering market access to each other, exchange of expertise, experiences, capital & technology. This collaboration has the potential to act as force multipliers & increase the speed & scale of diaspora's contributions and also strengthen the connection with the Indian economy.

Mr. Atem Garang Deng Dekuek, Member, Transitional National Legislative Assembly, South Sudan met Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, 11 January 2023

Mr. Atem Garang Deng Dekuek, Member, Transitional National Legislative Assembly, South Sudan met Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA on 11 January 2023 and discussed possible institutional linkage and research cooperation with think tanks in South Sudan. He was in India under Indian Council for Cultural Relations' Distinguished Visitors Program.



Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, Chair, Task Force 7 – T20, India, and DG, ICWA, delivered the Spotlight Address at the Think 20 Inception Conference, 13 January 2023

Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, Chair, Task Force 7 - T20, India, and DG, ICWA, delivered the Spotlight Address on “Reformed Multilateralism: A Global Imperative” at the Plenary 1 session of Think 20 Inception Conference on 13 January 2023.



On the Occasion of Egypt’s Participation as Chief Guest at India’s Republic Day 2023, ICWA Panel Discussion on “India-Egypt Ties in Changing Global Order”, 16 January 2023



On the occasion of Egypt’s participation as chief guest at India’s Republic Day 2023, ICWA held discussion on “India-Egypt Ties in Changing Global Order” on 16 January 2023. Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary (CPV & OIA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, delivered the keynote address. Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh delivered the welcome remarks. H.E. Wael Mohamed Awad Hamed, Amb. of Egypt to India, delivered special remarks. Amb. Navdeep Suri, Distinguished Fellow, ORF, and Former Amb. of India to Egypt and UAE; Dr. Atul Aneja, Editor, India Narrative; and Mr. P. S. Jayaraman, Chairman, TCI Sanmar Chemicals, were the discussants.

Discussions highlighted that India and Egypt are strong voices for the Global South, apart from being ancient and great civilizations. The visit as the Chief Guest during 2023 Republic Day was the third visit by President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to India since he became President of Egypt. In this fast-changing scenario in world politics, it becomes crucial for countries like India and Egypt to share perceptions to take stock of India and Egypt’s present relations to chart the future. The relationship received momentum with visits of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to India in 2015 for the 3rd India-Africa Forum and in 2016, which was a state visit. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi had meetings on the margins of several international forums, particularly UNGA 2015, BRICS 2017, and so forth. There is also tremendous scope for the two countries to expand economic and commercial ties in different fields, particularly in the renewable energy sector. Through the years, a robust



defence partnership has evolved between the nations. The collaboration has been manifesting in the form of joint exercises and active participation in defence exhibitions and training modules. Since 2000–21, Egyptian students have also been availing scholarship facilities under the ICCR and the India-Africa Forum partnership. India has extended 83 scholarships to Egyptian students. India will be hosting diplomats from Egypt at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service; a dedicated course for 33 Egyptian diplomats during the month of September 2023. Inviting President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi as the Chief Guest during the Republic Day shows the nature of importance India attaches to its relations with Egypt.

It was stated that India is a significant country in the Indian Ocean, and the security of the Indian Ocean starts from the security of the Red Sea. For Egypt on the Suez Canal, the security of the Suez Canal starts with the security of the Red Sea, which links both the countries together geo-strategically. The Indian Ocean, the Suez Canal, and the Red Sea are one continuum that flow from one another.

Discussants stressed the importance of soft power and how Bollywood has been a great connector, especially among women. As both the economies grow, there is a need to support young entrepreneurs and professionals to take advantage of such economic growth. The need for enhanced internship programs was emphasized for building ties among the youth.

India and Egypt have the capacity, bandwidth and history to shape this new world order. The two countries need to be extremely ambitious to seize the current geopolitical and geo-economic moment and expand the bilateral space and then play a leadership role not only with the developing countries but also in influencing the global agenda at the UN, multilateral forums such as G20.

Two-day International Virtual Seminar on “Celebrating 75 Years of Indian Foreign Policy”, 17-18 January 2023

ICWA organised a two-day online International Seminar titled “Celebrating 75 Years of Indian Foreign Policy” on 17–18 January 2023 at Sapru House, New Delhi. The seminar was held in virtual format and it saw the participation of former diplomats and defence personnel, eminent scholars, strategic thinkers from India and abroad. The objective of the



seminar was to mark 75 years of Indian foreign policy through deliberating upon its trajectory since independence as well as the present and future policy priorities.

In the inaugural session, Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, highlighted the broad contours of Indian foreign policy and its evolution over the past seven decades since independence. She highlighted that, guided by its traditional values and principles, India's foreign policy in the past 75 years, while serving the national interest well, has overcome many challenges and made seminal contributions to the global discourse. India has pursued an independent foreign policy which has stressed on the need to maintain strategic autonomy and continues to evolve to address emerging challenges. India will continue to fulfil its role among the comity of nations as a force for good and a voice of reason. India will continue to participate actively in various multilateral or plurilateral platforms and will continue to be a voice of the developing world.



The first session titled “From Oppression to Freedom: An Independent World View” was chaired by Amb. Nalin Surie, Former High Commissioner to the UK and Former Amb. to China and Poland. The speakers of the session were Dr. Arvind Gupta, Director, Vivekananda International Foundation; Prof. Swaran Singh, Centre for International Politics Organization and Disarmament, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Dr. Sanjaya Baru, Member, Governing Body, ICWA; and Amb. Vishnu Prakash, Former Amb./High Commissioner to Canada and South Korea. The session deliberated upon the emergence of Indian foreign policy from the shackles of colonialism to lay the foundation of an independent world view of a young and developing nation. It discussed the shaping of foreign policy of a civilizational state which re-emerged on the international arena. Speakers stressed the need to study India's history, ethos, culture and civilizational background to better understand its contemporary foreign policy. Discussions were held on how India played a leadership role in the third world in its struggle against colonialism. It also focused on how the story of today's India is that of an aspirational nation which considers its development and growth as not being separable from that of other countries of the Global South.

The second session on “Setting the Norms: The Indian Way” was chaired by Prof. S. D. Muni, Former Member Executive Council, MP-IDSA, and Professor Emeritus, JNU. Speakers of the session included Amb. Anil Trigunayat, Former Amb. of India to Libya and Jordan; Amb. Manjeev Singh Puri, Former Amb. to Nepal and Brussels; and Amb. Ajay Bisaria, Former High Commissioner to Canada and Pakistan. The session highlighted that the current world order is in a state of flux facing interconnected challenges such as the pandemic, rising geopolitical tensions, economic inequalities and digital vulnerabilities. The experts examined India's role in various regional, multilateral and international bodies like UNSC, G20 and SCO in leading or contributing to solutions to challenges like global warming, climate change, sustainable development and counter-terrorism. The session acknowledged that India seeks to promote a pluralistic and inclusive global order that is based on the foundation of an internationally agreed normative architecture.

The third session titled “New India: Foreign Policy in the Present Decade” was chaired by Amb. Asoke Kumar Mukerji, Former Indian Permanent Representative to the United Nations. The speakers of the session were Amb. Amar Sinha, Former Amb. of India to Afghanistan; Amb. Navdeep Suri, Former High Commissioner to Australia and Amb. to Egypt and UAE; and Mr. Rudra Chaudhuri, Director, Carnegie India. Experts in the session underscored India's role as a sustainable developmental partner that is shaping a new discourse on the pathway of cooperation. India's development partnership model based on trust, respect, sovereignty, transparency,

collaboration and requirements of the partner country was positively assessed. India's development partnership is growing in scale and scope and is a mutually beneficial partnership that is human-centric in its approach. It was acknowledged that India has a polity with a flavour that is uniquely its own which is shaping its expanding global engagements, its engagements in new constructs and its global initiatives.

The fourth session on "Indian Foreign Policy: Perspectives from Various Geographies" was chaired by Dr. C. Raja Mohan, Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore. The speakers in this session were Dr. Ji Yeon Jung, Research Professor, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul; Dr. Nicolas Blarel, Associate Professor of International Relations at the Institute of Political Science, Leiden University, the Netherlands; Dr. Amrita Narlikar, President, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Germany; and Dr. Michael Kugelman from the Wilson Center, Washington, DC. The session deliberated on how India's foreign policy is viewed and perceived by other nations/regions. The experts underscored that India's importance in global politics has been growing steadily and cooperation with India with various regions of the world remains significant and unique. While the present-day world is faced with strife and conflicts, India as a rising power and major economy remains confident in building dynamic and constructive relations with all nations and global actors alike. Discussions were held on how various regions of the world perceive India's growth and development, its conduct of foreign policy, and how India is a positive force in the emergence of a new world order.



The fifth session of the seminar titled "India and the Global Order: Setting the Narrative" was chaired by Amb. Pankaj Saran, Former Deputy National Security Advisor of India, Former Amb. to Russia and Former High Commissioner to Bangladesh. The speakers in the session were Lt. General Syed Ata Hasnain, Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir; Lt. Gen. Vinod G. Khandare (retd.), Adviser, Ministry of Defence, GoI; and Dr. Zorawar Daulet Singh, Adjunct Fellow, Institute for Chinese Studies, New Delhi. In this session, speakers discussed how India is charting the global strategic narrative, by reflecting on the changing nature of India's foreign policy of reacting to global initiatives to setting the narrative. This strategic shift in approach is reflected in how India, both as a maritime and continental power, is shaping its role as a global player beyond its neighbourhood & extended neighbourhood. The session emphasised that various factors, such as India's economic performance, self-confidence in its growth, internal political stability and resilience, have allowed India to assert itself in the international arena. Indian foreign policy was acknowledged to have successfully shown the ability to navigate the complex & turbulent world in recent years & leverage geopolitical & geo-strategic advantages.

The last session on the theme "Indian Foreign Policy – The Next Seven Decades" was chaired by Amb. D. B. Venkatesh Varma, Former Amb. to Spain and the Russian Federation. The speakers in this session included Prof. Ajay Darshan Behera, Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi; Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, Founder and Honorary Chairman of Kalinga Institute of Indo-Pacific Studies; and Dr. Zorawar Daulet Singh, Adjunct Fellow, Institute for Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The speakers underlined that India's foreign policy, besides being an instrument for domestic development, security and prosperity and for fulfilling domestic aspirations, is positively contributing to global developments and to meeting regional and global challenges. It was assessed that the current geopolitical tumult can provide India an opportunity to strengthen its role in international affairs. The session emphasised the areas in which India would have to build its capabilities to fulfil its vision of a developed India by the centenary of its independence in 2047. The experts maintained that a multi-polar world is conducive for India's growth and development given India's unique ability of maintaining balanced relations with countries across the world.



Slamet Soedarsono, Deputy Minister for Political, Legal, Defence and Security Affairs, Ministry of National Development Planning, Indonesia met Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, 18 January 2023

Slamet Soedarsono, Deputy Minister for Political, Legal, Defence & Security Affairs, Ministry of National Development Planning, Indonesia met Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA on 18 January 2023 to discuss India-Indonesia bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.



Round Table Discussion on “Reflections on India-Bangladesh Relations”, 19 January 2023

ICWA Round Table Discussion on “Reflections on India-Bangladesh Relations” with Mr. Syed Badrul Ahsan, Veteran Bangladeshi Editor, was held on 19 January 2023. It was chaired and moderated by Shri Shantanu Mukharji, Advisor, NatStrat, and Former National Security Advisor of Mauritius. Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh delivered opening remarks. Prof. Sanjay Bhardwaj, JNU, New Delhi, and Shri Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury, Diplomatic Affairs Editor, The Economic Times, were the discussants.



40th Sapru House Lecture by H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, President, 77th UN General Assembly (UNGA) on “Solutions through Solidarity, Sustainability and Science at the UN”, 30 January 2023



H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, President, 77th UN General Assembly, delivered the 40th Sapru House Lecture on “Solutions through Solidarity, Sustainability and Science at the UN” at ICWA on 30 January 2023. Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, chaired the session and stated that H.E. Kőrösi was elected, in June 2022, as President of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, and has been serving the community of member states and working with a host of stakeholders at the United Nations through the 77th GA session. In many ways, he can be called an architect of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The role of the United Nations to promote international peace, security and cooperation has become ever more important today in a world faced with multi-dimensional crises. As a founding member of the United Nations, India has made significant contributions to upholding the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and to the shared pursuit of peace and development of all member states. India works with a spirit of solidarity with member states to achieve comprehensive and equitable solutions to global challenges whether it is peace building and peacekeeping, sustainable development, climate change or reformed multilateralism. The theme of India’s G20 presidency of “One Earth, One Family, One Future” reflects the importance of oneness and solidarity. Sustainability is at the core of India’s approach to development. India launched Mission LiFE, i.e. Lifestyle for Environment in 2021, promoting the need for each individual to adopt a responsible approach towards the environment. The role of science and technology is fundamental to development. India has established an impressive digital public infrastructure which has been used for health, financial inclusion and citizen-centric governance.



H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, President, 77th UN General Assembly (UNGA), in his remarks stated that, in the world of international affairs, think tanks are “seats of learning, analysis, and discussion” and since they are independent,

they can provide innovative solutions for the future. In fact, given the urgency of today's crises, there is a need to look, think and act outside the box. We need a paradigm shift. The presidency is working towards fostering cooperation through solidarity (amongst nations and people), sustainability (to ensure our solutions stand the test of time) and science (to address the dearth of common understanding). The UNGA is the parliament of the world and together the nations have to meet the challenges, through a two-pronged approach – to achieve real results and to focus on quality of output over quantity. The UNGA shares the same principles on sovereignty and territorial integrity as India and supports India's call for diplomacy and dialogue to resolve issues, including in the Ukraine crisis. 2023 marks the halfway point for the Agenda 2030, which is lagging behind. At the SDG summit in September 2023, we need an honest assessment of work.

India's effort to implement Agenda 2030 goals through its flagship programs at local, sub-national and national level is commendable. Even during the COVID pandemic, which was a setback to the SDGs, India's contributions, such as exporting of vaccines, as also championing recovery through chairmanship of G20 is commendable. We need a methodology for measuring sustainability transformation in a way that integrates human well-being, natural capital, and all the other aspects of our investments. This is the 'Beyond GDP' initiative. We cannot transform what we cannot measure. There is also a need to focus on sustainable transformation which would need the management of natural resources such as water. We need to think of the future of our rivers, lakes and oceans. We need to base our actions for sustainable development through science



and in this India's efforts to clean and rejuvenate its rivers through various programs such as 'Namami Gange' are commendable. The multilateral institutions cannot overcome today's challenges with yesterday's ideas. There is a need to process reforms in the UN which is the demand of one-third of the UNGA members. India has pushed for reforms and has brought the issue to the UNSC as well. As partners in the UN for the past seven decades India has provided the UN with its first female president, helped fight diseases like the polio, empowered women and made a human contribution through troops to the UN peacekeeping force. Like Mahatma Gandhi said, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world".

Karagulov Batyr-Mukhammad Azamatovich, Leading Specialist, Department of International Relations, Kyrgyz Republic, 3rd SCO Resident Scholar of India, 01 February 2023

In the year of India's chairmanship of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) (2022–2023), ICWA is hosting the SCO Resident Researchers Program in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs from December 2022 to June 2023. Over seven months, one nominated young researcher from each SCO member country (following the SCO practice of Russian alphabet order: Kazakhstan – December 2022, China – January 2023, Kyrgyzstan – February 2023, Pakistan – March 2023, Russia – April 2023, Tajikistan – May 2023 and Uzbekistan – June 2023) will reside with ICWA for a period of one month. The program includes a week's module of the SCO scholar's visit to Bangalore, Chennai and Pondicherry, which is being coordinated by ICWA in collaboration with its MoU partner National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore.



In the month of February 2023, ICWA hosted a SCO scholar Karagulov Batyr-Mukhammad Azamatovich from Kyrgyz Republic, who is the third resident scholar in India for ICWA's SCO Resident Researchers Program. He is a leading specialist at the Department of International Relations, National Academy of Sciences, and Fellow, Konrad Adenauer Foundation and German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany. He held interactions with leading think tanks and academic institutions of India, including the O. P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat; Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi; and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi.



ICWA-RIAC Dialogue on “India-Russia Strategic Partnership: New Challenges and Opportunities in a Changing World Order”, 02 February 2023

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), in collaboration with the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC), organised a dialogue on “India-Russia Strategic Partnership: New Challenges and Opportunities in a Changing World Order” on 2 February 2023 at Sapru House in a hybrid format. The inaugural remarks were made by Amb.



Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA; Dr. Andrey Kortunov, Director General, RIAC; H.E. Pavan Kapoor, Amb. of India to the Russian Federation; and H.E. Denis Alipov, Amb. of Russian Federation to India. The dialogue focused on new opportunities and challenges for India and Russia in the backdrop of the ongoing global geopolitical flux.

In the inaugural session, the participants reiterated that over the years, both countries have maintained independent foreign policies and pursued strategic autonomy while dealing with changes in the global and regional scenarios. It was noted that despite challenges posed by Covid-19 and the Ukraine crisis, the two countries maintained regular dialogue on matters of convergences and divergences. This reflects the resilient nature of the India-Russia bilateral ties.

The first session of the dialogue focused on “Security Agenda in India and Russia”. The panel was chaired by Dr. Ivan Timofeev, Director of Programs, RIAC. Remarks were made by Amb. P. S. Raghavan, Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) and Former Amb. to Russia; Dr. Andrey Kortunov, DG, RIAC; Dr. Dmitri Trenin, Leading Research Fellow, Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO); and Capt. Sarabjeet S. Parmar, Senior Fellow at the National Maritime Foundation. The

participants delved on the uncertain security scenario and the far-reaching effects of the disruptions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis. The participants also acknowledged the growing role of India as a major power and considered it as a positive development for the emerging world order. India's inclusive vision of the Indo-Pacific region and a rule-based maritime order was also highlighted in the session.



The second session delved on “Economic Cooperation: Traditional and Innovative Areas”. The session was chaired by Amb. Ajay Bisaria, Former Joint Secretary, Eurasia, Ministry of External Affairs, GOI. Remarks were made by Prof. D. Subachandran, Dean and Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru; Dr. Ivan Timofeev, Director of Programs, RIAC; Mr. Amit Bhandari, Senior Fellow, Energy, Investment and Connectivity – Gateway House, Mumbai; Dr. Lydia Kulik, Head of India Studies, Skolkovo Institute for Emerging Markets; Dr. Chaitanya Giri, Associate Professor, Environmental and Space Studies, Flame University, Pune; and Dr. Alexey Kupriyanov, Head, Center of Indian Ocean Region, IMEMO RAS. It focused on traditional spheres of cooperation such as energy; role of new technologies, innovations and digital economy; promising avenues for expanding trade and stimulating mutual investments between the two countries and also delved on the challenges of collaboration due to sanctions. The speakers underscored the importance of enhanced cooperation in the Arctic and Space sector for mutual benefit.

The third session focused on the theme of “Cooperation in the Sphere of Higher Education and Science - a Basis for Future Generations”. The speakers reiterated the importance of promoting bilateral educational programs and student exchanges between Russian and Indian universities. The speakers noted that there is immense potential in the domain of education and science that is yet to be tapped to its fullest potential. In this respect, thrust needs to be put on information sharing, youth programs and education fairs. The closing remarks were delivered by Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, and Dr. Andrey Kortunov, DG, RIAC.

Round Table Discussion with Mr. Michal Pavuk, Director General for Political Affairs, Ministry of External & European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, 09 February 2023

ICWA hosted a Round Table discussion with Mr. Michal Pavuk, Director General for Political Affairs, Ministry of External & European Affairs of the Slovak Republic on 09 February 2023 at Sapru House. It was chaired by Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA. Dr. Shalini Chawla, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Airpower Studies (CAPS) (Pakistan/ Afghanistan); Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Senior Research Fellow, ICWA (China); and Prof. Bhaswati Sarkar, Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies, JNU (Europe), were the speakers. Discussions were held on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.





Tim Hall, First Secretary (Policy), Australian High Commission, India visited ICWA, 10 February 2023

Tim Hall, First Secretary (Policy), Australian High Commission, India visited ICWA and interacted with Dr. Sripathi Narayanan, Dr. Pragya Pandey and Dr. Samatha Mallem pati, Research Fellow, ICWA on 10 February 2023. Discussions were held on bilateral and regional issues.



Book Discussion on “The Pashtuns: A Contested History” by Tilak Devasher, 13 February 2023



ICWA organised a book discussion on “The Pashtuns: A Contested History” by Tilak Devasher, Member, National Security Advisory Board, on 13 February 2023 at Sapru House. Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, chaired the discussion. Amb. Vivek Katju, Former Indian Amb. to Afghanistan, and Dr. Shalini Chawla, Distinguished Fellow, Center for Air Power Studies, were the discussants.

The Chair, in her introductory remarks, highlighted three historical events that had a deep impact on Pashtuns. First is in 1747, when Ahmad Shah Abdali founded Afghanistan, giving it a sense of a nation. Second, after the establishment of the Afghan state right from 1948 onwards, the Pashtuns and Afghans have been fighting the Sikhs. Third is in 1893, when an agreement was signed between the British Government and the Amir of Afghanistan. The British wanted a buffer state between its Empire and Soviet Empire, but for the Afghans it meant division of their homeland. The Pashtuns have never accepted this division, nor the Durand line, and raised the Pashtunistan issue.

The author mentioned that the book is not about Afghanistan and Pakistan but is about the Pashtuns that live in these countries. The book seeks to answer questions such as: where did they come from? what are their cultural and religious beliefs? going on to talk about the contact with the British, the Durand line, Khan Abdul Gafar Khan and the politics of partition, the revolution and Russian invasion, the Mujahedeen and civil war to the US intervention in 2001, the Taliban insurgency for twenty years and their resurgence since 2021, the incubation of the ISKP and Al Qaeda and the dubious role of Pakistan in these event.

The first discussant Amb. Vivek Katju explained that the book is divided into seven sections and each section successfully navigates very complex subjects with ease. He argued that a lot of our knowledge on Pashtuns is based on British colonial literature, which is a problem as it has led to a static account of the Pashtuns. He said, the book gives a brilliant account of how Pashtuns in Pakistan evolved and that we should not look upon the Pashtuns as violent people. He also argued that the Durand is not going to change for two reasons. One is Pakistan. Second, which is equally important, is that the non-Pashtuns in Afghanistan don't want the Durand to change.

The second discussant Dr. Chawla stated that the book has provided unparalleled knowledge on an unexplored subject and has brought out dynamics that explain the current geopolitical challenges. There is also discussion on the influence of Sufism and Barelvi practices on Pashtuns. She touched upon the issue of Durand Line, Frontier Gandhi's quest for rights and provincial autonomy of the Pashtuns in Pakistan, the altered geopolitical dynamics post-Soviet invasion of 1979, the Taliban movement and Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan. She argued, the Pashtuns are polarized and Pakistan has manipulated the situation to serve its strategic interests.

H.E. Saleh Eid Al Hussein, Amb. of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to India met Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, 16 February 2023

H.E. Saleh Eid Al Hussein, Amb. of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to India met Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, on 16 February 2023. Discussions were held on further strengthening India-Saudi Arabia relations and issues of mutual interest.



Amb. of the Republic of Guatemala to India, H.E. Mr. Omar Castaneda Solares met Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, 17 February 2023



H.E. Mr. Omar Castaneda Solares, Amb. of the Republic of Guatemala to India, met Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, on 17 February 2023. Discussions were held on further strengthening India-Guatemala relations and issues of mutual interest.

Dr. Soraya Caro Vargas, Director, CESICAM, and Advisor to Minister of Commerce of Colombia met Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, 20 February 2023

Dr. Soraya Caro Vargas, Director, CESICAM, and Advisor to the Minister of Commerce of Colombia met Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, on 20 February 2023 and discussed future academic and research collaboration and ways to further strengthen India-Colombia bilateral relations. CESICAM, Colombia, is ICWA's MoU partner.



Round Table Discussion with Ms. Gunda Reire, Deputy Foreign Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, 01 March 2023



ICWA hosted a Round Table discussion with Dr. Gunda Reire, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Latvia, on 01 March 2023 at Sapru House. Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, delivered the opening remarks. Prof. Ummu Salma Bava, Professor, School of International Studies, JNU (Europe); Prof. B. R. Deepak, Professor, CC&SEAS, SIS, JNU (China); Prof. Ajay Darshan Behera, Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia (Pakistan and Afghanistan); and Dr. Pragya Pandey, Research Fellow, ICWA (Indo-Pacific), were the speakers. Discussions were held on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Amb. Doniyor Kurbanov, Director, Information and Analytical Center for International Relations (CIRS) under Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan met Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, 03 March 2023



Amb. Doniyor Kurbanov, Director, Information and Analytical Center for International Relations (CIRS) under Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan met Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, on 03 March 2023. He was accompanied by Amb. Dilshod Akhatov, Amb. of Uzbekistan to India. Discussions were held on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. CIRS is ICWA's MoU partner in Uzbekistan.



Mr. Damon Wilson, President & CEO, NED, Washington met Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, 06 March 2023

Mr. Damon Wilson, President & CEO, NED, Washington met Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, on 06 March 2023. Discussions were held on Indo-Pacific, regional and global issues of mutual interest, and institutional exchanges.



Mr. Patryk Kugiel, Senior Analyst, The Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), Poland visited ICWA, 06 March 2023

Mr. Patryk Kugiel, Senior Analyst, The Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), Poland interacted with Dr. Nivedita Ray, Director Research, ICWA, and Dr. Himani Pant, Research Fellow, ICWA, on 06 March 2023. Discussions were held on regional, global and bilateral issues and ways to promote institutional cooperation between ICWA and PISM.



Prof. Chisako Masuo, Kyushu University, Japan visited ICWA, 14 March 2023



Prof. Chisako Masuo, Kyushu University, Japan visited ICWA on 14 March 2023 and interacted with ICWA Research Faculty including Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Dr. Athar Zafar, Dr. Punit Gaur, Dr. Teshu Singh and Dr. Tunchinmang Langel. Discussions were held on SCO.



Mr. Arai Masayoshi, DG, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan met Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, 14 March 2023

Mr. Arai Masayoshi, DG, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan met Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, on 14 March 2023 at Sapru House. Discussions were held on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.



Dr. Aleksei Zakharov, Research Fellow, Higher School of Economics (HSE), Moscow interacted with ICWA Research Faculty, 15 March 2023

Dr. Aleksei Zakharov, Research Fellow, Higher School of Economics (HSE), Moscow interacted with ICWA Research Faculty on 15 March 2023 at Sapru House. Discussions were held on "INSTC as a New Trade Avenue between India and Russia".



41st Sapru House Lecture by PM of Japan H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida, 20 March 2023



PM of Japan H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida delivered the 41st Sapru House Lecture on "The Future of the Indo-Pacific- Japan's New Plan for a 'Free & Open Indo-Pacific' - Together with India as an Indispensable Partner" at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi, on 20 March 2023. Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar was also present on the occasion.

In his Lecture, PM H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida stated that the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) is the cornerstone of Japan's foreign policy as it is a guiding perspective of Tokyo's



engagement with the international community. This is so as the world is at a crossroads that could result in further fissures within the ranks of the international community. Owing to the nature of developments in Eastern Europe, there is the fundamental challenge of defending peace and challenges that can undermine the collective concerns on the "global commons", which today include a number of issues like climate change, global health and cyberspace, to name a few. And as such these new challenges are part of Japan's FOIP policy that covers all concerns of and on the global commons. He said that one of the key factors that can be noted here is the fact that the international community is at a history-turning point, which has seen the rise of the Global South with new players like India shaping the world order. Owing to this shift in the global balance of power, there is a need for greater understanding between nations when it comes to addressing the burden of global governance. This change in the global discourse will transcend geopolitics as advancements in science and technology will have an important impact that will influence the developmental model of nations, societies and individuals.



Against this backdrop, FOIP is to be seen as a policy articulation by Japan that aims to embrace various voices from various stakeholders with the aim of fostering greater cooperation among nations and limiting the impact of divisions and confrontation among nations. To this end, FOIP pays significant emphasis on connectivity, which would place a premium on freedom, rule of law and a global normative order that would foster great prosperity. With respect to rule of law, Tokyo's understanding of FOIP upholds the key tenets of the principles of the UN Charter, such as respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the peaceful resolution of disputes and the non-use of force. Along with this issue of diversity, inclusiveness and openness are too attached in equal measure. In short, he said, FOIP is based on four pillars of cooperation. These are (i) Principles for Peace and Rules for Prosperity, (ii) Addressing Challenges in an Indo-Pacific Way, (iii) Multi-layered Connectivity and (iv) Extending Efforts for Security and Safe Use of the "Sea" to the "Air".



ICWA-Ministry of External Affairs International Conference on SCO: Reconnect ~ Rejuvenate, 23–24 March 2023



In association with Ministry of External Affairs of India, Indian Council of World Affairs, Sapru House, New Delhi, organized a two-day International Conference on Shanghai Cooperation Organization: Reconnect ~ Rejuvenate, on 23-24 March 2023 at New Delhi. The Conference was held to commemorate India's chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The event was held in hybrid format and attended by experts from academia, think tanks and Heads of Mission/Diplomats of SCO Member, Observer and Dialogue Partner countries as well as the SCO Secretariat. Representatives of India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Iran, Mongolia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Egypt, Cambodia, Qatar, Kuwait, Maldives, Myanmar, UAE, Sri Lanka (22 countries) participated in the SCO Conference. The Conference, apart from the Plenary and Concluding sessions, had four working sessions.

In the Plenary Session Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA, made the Welcome Remarks; the Keynote Address was delivered by Ambassador Dammu Ravi, Secretary [Economic Relations], Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Special Address was made by Ambassador Grigory Logvinov, Deputy Secretary General, SCO. It was noted that SCO has grown organically from within the region and pursues its policies by consensus among its members. The objectives of SCO, which include to strengthen mutual trust, friendship, and good-neighbourliness between the member states, were reaffirmed. It was noted that the world has entered a phase of global transformation, in which a new multi-polar world order is taking shape. Given the geopolitical shifts underway, SCO can provide a platform for enhanced understanding, sharing of experiences and knowledge, and multifaceted dialogue. India's view that 'world is one family' or Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam characterises its approach to its SCO chairmanship. India's efforts have been to engage with Observers and Dialogue Partners in a substantive and meaningful manner.

The first working session of the Conference "Reconnect and Lead: SCO's Role in Enhanced Integration" was Chaired by Amb. Ashok Sajjanhar, former Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan, and panel members were Mr. Zhumabek Sarabekov, Expert and Head of the Eurasian Studies Program of the Institute of World Economy and Politics under N. Nazarbayev Foundation, Astana, Kazakhstan; Dr. Gohar Iskandaryan, Head, Department of Iranian Studies, Institute of Oriental Studies, National Academy of Science, Armenia; Mr. Lim Menghour, Director, Mekong Centre, Asian Vision Institute, Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Dr. Ahmed Kandil, Head of the International Affairs Unit, and Head of Energy Studies Programme, al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, Cairo, Egypt; and Mr. Khin Maung Zaw, Joint Secretary, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies,

Yangon, Myanmar. The session primarily discussed the integrative issues pertaining to SCO in the backdrop of regional and global developments. The centrality of Central Asia in SCO was underlined. It was noted that peace, tranquillity and stability in the region is a prerequisite for SCO's success though the Eurasian countries are facing security challenges in a fast changing world. The scourge of terrorism effects



peace and stability in all SCO countries and there is a need to collectively address this menace with full force. Radicalism, drug trafficking, misuse of cyberspace are other problems faced by SCO.

The second working session of the Conference was titled “Reconnect for Stability: Ensuring Secure re-Emergence of Eurasia” and it was chaired by Amb. Pankaj Saran, former Deputy National Security Advisor & former Ambassador of India to the Russian Federation. The panellists of the session were Mr. Deng Hao Secretary General of China Center for SCO studies; Senior Research Fellow of SIIS, and Executive Editor of SCO Blue Book, China, (online); Dr. Saidmurodov Lyutfillo, Director, Department of Comparative Economic Research, Institute of Economics and Demography, National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan; Dr. Oleg S. Makarov, Director, Belarusian Institute of Strategic Research, Minsk; Belarus, Amb. Jasem Ibrahim Alnajem, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to India, New Delhi; Prof. Alexander Lukin, Head of Department of International Relations, National Research University, Higher School of Economics; Director, Center for East Asian and SCO Studies, MGIMO University, Russia. This session noted that the global economic focus is shifting eastwards, and India and China are two engines of growth in Eurasia. Economic cooperation within SCO needed to be strengthened through enhanced project implementation. Instability in Afghanistan affects the SCO countries in multiple ways. Countries in the region need to work together to help Afghan people achieve their basic needs and fulfil their aspirations. Regional countries should continue efforts in providing aid and humanitarian relief for the Afghan people. There were discussions on climate change and it was suggested that climate action should be part of the discussions within SCO.

The penultimate session “Reconnect, Synchronise, Grow: Quest for Enhanced Connectivity,” was chaired by Amb. D. B. Venkatesh Varma, former Ambassador of India to the Russian Federation. The session had the following panel members: Mr. Batyr Tursanov, Deputy Director, International Institute of Central Asia, Tashkent, Uzbekistan; Mr. Naghi Ahmadov, Leading Advisor, The Center of Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center), Baku, Azerbaijan; Dr. Mr. Sodikov Metarkhon, Associate Professor, Department of World Economy and International Trade, Tajik State University of Finance and Economics under the Ministry of Finance of Tajikistan; Ms. Yasoja Gunasekera, Additional Secretary/ Bilateral Affairs (East) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombo, Sri Lanka; Dr. D. Suba Chandran, Professor & Dean, School of Conflict and Security Studies; NIAS, Bangalore, India; Dr. Ebtesam Alteneiji, Director of Community Services Sector, Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research, UAE. The significance of connectivity in all its aspects were discussed. The importance of enhanced connectivity within SCO was reiterated, given that many SCO countries are landlocked. Efforts need to be enhanced to improve the Central Asian region's connectivity with different regions, including South Asia, through multiple initiatives such as the INSTC and the use of the Chabahar port.



The fourth and last working session of the conference was titled “Reconnecting the People: Invigorating Hearts & Minds”. The session was chaired by Amb. Ajay Bisaria, former High Commissioner of India to Pakistan and the speakers of the panel were: Mr. Asif Khan, Counselor, High Commission for Pakistan in India, New Delhi; Ms. Altynai Kanatbekovna Aliaskarova, National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek,

Kyrgyzstan; Ms. Soyolgerel Nyamjav, Head of the International Security Center and Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Strategic Studies, Mongolia; Dr. Aly Shameem, Assistant Professor, Maldives National University, Male, Maldives; Amb. Abdulrahman AlGaoud, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain, New Delhi, Bahrain. It was emphasised that SCO has rich cultural heritage and countries are connected to each other through their common history, traditions and culture. It was observed that an inter-civilizational dialogue among SCO member states is required, and that the revitalization of historically shared experiences, including of Buddhism and Sufism, can create greater understanding among SCO members. Given that youth are the carriers of future innovation, the need for greater youth engagement in cultural events was emphasized.

In her Concluding address Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, underlined that there is a willingness in SCO to collaborate on security, economy and civilisational and cultural ties. Terrorism, cross border crime, money laundering, cyber threats and the situation in Afghanistan are among immediate challenges before the SCO. Economic integration is a key aspect for the SCO for the future and role of connectivity of rail, road, air, digital and people to people, is critical in achieving this objective.

ICWA concluded a Memorandum of Understanding on “Cooperation in the Field of Research” with the Belarusian Institute of Strategic Research, 23 March 2023

ICWA concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on “Cooperation in the Field of Research” with the Belarusian Institute of Strategic Research (BISR), a leading think tank of Belarus, on 23 March 2023. Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, and Dr. Oleg S. Makarov, Director, BISR, signed the MoU on behalf of ICWA and BISR.





Prof. D. Subachandran along with Research Scholars from NIAS interacted with ICWA Research Faculty on 27 March 2023

Prof. D. Subachandran along with research scholars from NIAS interacted with ICWA research faculty on 27 March 2023 at Sapru House. The opening remarks were delivered by Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA. Session on Pakistan was chaired by Prof. Ajay Darshan Behera, JMI, and session on Africa was chaired by Amb. Rajiv Bhatia. NIAS is ICWA's MoU partner.



OUTREACH EVENTS

Two-Day International Conference on “Contributions of Indian Diaspora in Freedom Struggles of India and the Rise of Global India during Amrit Kaal”, 10–11 January 2023

The School of Economics, Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (DAVV), in collaboration with Organization for Diaspora Initiatives (ODI) conducted a two-day national seminar on “Contribution of Indian Diaspora in Freedom Struggle of India and the Rise of Global India during Amrit Kaal” on 10–11 January 2023, at Indore. The international seminar was sponsored by ICWA and ICSSR. The Chair of the inaugural session



of the seminar was Prof. Renu Jain, Vice Chancellor, Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya. The Guest of Honour of the inaugural session was Prof. Markandey Rai, Senior Advisor, UN-Habitat and Patron, ODI. Dr. Surabhi Singh, Senior Research Fellow, ICWA, attended on behalf of the council as its representative.



NIAS Area Studies India-Africa Book Discussion on “The Harambee Factor: India-Africa Economic and Development Partnership”, 30 January 2023

NIAS organised a book discussion on “The Harambee Factor: India-Africa Economic and Development Partnership”, book by Amb. Gurjit Singh on 30 January 2023 at NIAS, Bangalore. Scholars, researchers and professors from NIAS participated in the discussion. NIAS is ICWA’s MoU partner.



2-Day International Conference on “The Baltics in a Changing Europe” organised by Centre for European Studies, SIS, JNU, 23-24 February 2023

Dr. Himani Pant, Research Fellow, ICWA participated in a 2-day International Conference on “The Baltics in a Changing Europe” organised by Centre for European Studies, SIS, JNU on 23-24 February 2023. She presented a paper on “Ukraine & Beyond: Understanding the Foreign Policy of Baltic States”.



Panel Discussion on "Trade and Connectivity via Land Ports: Unleashing Opportunities for North-Eastern States" Organised by the Land Ports Authority of India, 21 March 2023

Dr. Temjenmeren Ao, Research Fellow, ICWA, participated in a Panel Discussion on "Trade and Connectivity via Land Ports: Unleashing Opportunities for North-Eastern States" organised by the Land Ports Authority of India, MHA, GOI, at Land Port Dawki, Meghalaya, on 21 March 2023.





5th Edition of Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues, 24-26 March 2023

Dr. Tunchinmang Langel, Research Fellow, ICWA participated as a speaker in the session on "India-Japan Relations: Exploring & Building on the Buddhism Connect" at the 5th Edition of Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues, held at Bodh Gaya, Bihar from 24-26 March 2023.



Lecture on "South Asian Geopolitics & International Trade" at Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies, Indraprastha University, 28 March 2023

Dr. Dhruvajyoti Bhattacharjee, Research Fellow, ICWA delivered an expert lecture on "South Asian Geopolitics & International Trade" at Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies, Indraprastha University on 28 March 2023.





ICWA Publications

Issue Briefs

1. Dr. Arshad, Turkiye-Syria Rapprochement: A New Path Ahead? (13 January 2023)
 2. Dr. Stuti Banerjee, The Challenges before Brazil and President Lula (13 January 2023)
 3. Dr. Lakshmi Priya, Emirates Reaches for the Moon (18 January 2023)
 4. Dr. Shrabana Barua, Pakistan's Economy from 2022 to 2023 Looks Dismal (23 January 2023)
 5. Anjali Singh, Changing Dynamics of Turkiye-Israel Relations: Regional Implications (24 January 2023)
 6. Dr. Gauri Narain Mathur, Recent Crisis in DRC: Regional and Global Responses (24 January 2023)
 7. Dr. Stuti Banerjee, Brazil and G20: The Power of the Global South (25 January 2023)
 8. Naresh B. K., Current Economic Situation in Nepal (27 January 2023)
 9. Dr. Tunchinmang Langel, Deconstructing Republic of Korea's (ROK) "Strategy for a Free, Peaceful and Prosperous Indo-Pacific" (31 January 2023)
 10. Muskan, Japanese Security Policy in the East China Sea (31 January 2023)
 11. Dr. Pragya Pandey, Australia-China Relationship: Efforts to Mend Strained Ties (01 February 2023)
 12. Dr. Sripathi Narayanan, Will Myanmar Return Back to the Democratic Fold? (03 February 2023)
 13. Dr. Temjenmeren Ao, Indonesia's G20 Presidency: Factors and Priorities that Set its Agenda (06 February 2023)
 14. Yuvraj Singh, Kyrgyzstan – Tajikistan Conflict: Impact on Regional Cooperation (07 February 2023)
 15. Dr. Sripathi Narayanan, Fifteenth Malaysian General Elections (07 February 2023)
 16. Dr. Teshu Singh, The East China Sea Dispute: Implications for the Indo-Pacific Region (09 February 2023)
 17. Dr. Gauri Narain Mathur, South Africa and G20: Priorities and Concerns (20 February 2023)
 18. Rahul Ajnoti, Iran's Membership of SCO: Expectations vs Reality (21 February 2023)
 19. Parag Das, Israel's increasing engagements in Sub-Saharan Africa (24 February 2023)
 20. Dr. Tunchinmang Langel, Expectations from Japan's Presidency of the Group of Seven (G7) in 2023 (06 March 2023)
 21. Dr. Stuti Banerjee, New START Treaty and Challenges before Arms Control (13 March 2023)
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Viewpoints

1. Dr. Surabhi Singh, The 17th PBD and Leveraging the Pravasi – Business Connect (04 January 2023)
2. Dr. Tunchinmang Langel, Japan's Non-Permanent Membership for UNSC 2023–24 (06 January 2023)

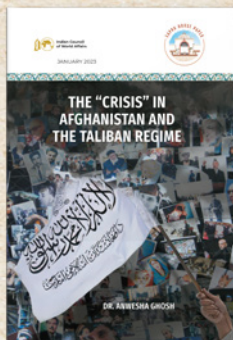
3. Dr. Monika Gupta, Malta and Switzerland on Being Elected as UNSC's Non-Permanent Members: An Assessment (06 January 2023)
 4. Dr. Stuti Banerjee, New Non-Permanent Members to the UN Security Council: Perspective from Ecuador (06 January 2023)
 5. Dr. Gauri Narain Mathur, Mozambique's Non-Permanent Membership to UNSC for 2023–24 (06 January 2023)
 6. Dr. Samatha Mallem pati, Cambodian PM's Visit to Maldives: Outcome (30 January 2023)
 7. Dr. Temjenmeren Ao, New Development in the Philippines-US Military Ties (08 February 2023)
 8. Dr. Athar Zafar, South Caucasia Moving Towards Stable Peace? (16 February 2023)
 9. Dr. Himani Pant, President Vladimir Putin's State of the Nation Address: Russia's Foreign Policy Priorities (28 February 2023)
 10. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, China's Attempt to Balance its Stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict (06 March 2023)
 11. Dr. Anwesha Ghosh, High-Level Pakistani Delegation Meets Afghan Taliban to Discuss Security Concerns (09 March 2023)
 12. Dr. Teshu Singh, US-China Relations and the Curious Case of the Chinese Spy Balloon (15 March 2023)
 13. Dr. Sripathi Narayanan, Can ASEAN Toughen its Approach towards Myanmar? (15 March 2023)
 14. Dr. Surabhi Singh, Expanding Horizons of Mobility – the New Age Migration Agreements of India (15 March 2023)
 15. Avni Sablok, Towards a Global UPI Payments System (16 March 2023)
 16. Dr. Lakshmi Priya, Significance of the Saudi-Iran Deal (16 March 2023)
 17. Dr. Pragya Pandey, PM Kishida's Reinvigorated 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific' (FOIP) (31 March 2023)
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ICWA Guest Columns

1. Minister of Mongolia, "Irrationalism and International Relations" Tsogtbaatar Damdin, Member of Parliament and Former Foreign Minister of Mongolia (17 January 2023)
2. Eldor Tulyakov, "Voice of Global South Summit and Uzbek-India Relations" (20 January 2023)
3. Sanjay Baru, M. P. Muralidharan, N. Manoharan, Asanga Abeyagoonasekera, Athaulla A. Rasheed, Anup Mudgal, A. Subramanyam Raju, Priya Bahadoor, Malshini Senaratne, Juvenice F. Ramasy and R. S. Vasan, "India and the Island States in the Indian Ocean: Evolving Geopolitics and Security Perspectives" (01 February 2023)
4. Rahul Kulshreshtha and Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui, "Beyond Fez and Nazar: Views from India on Turkiye" (03 February 2023)

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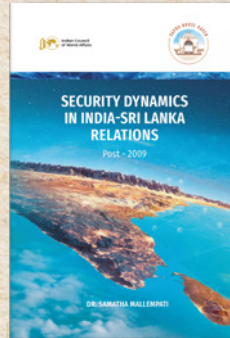
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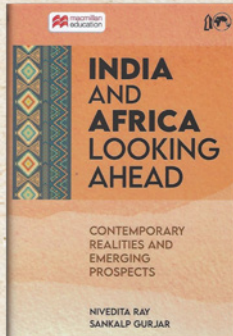


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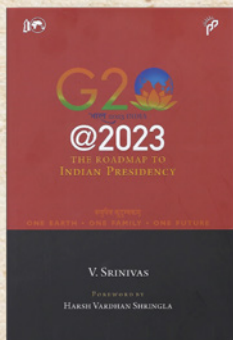
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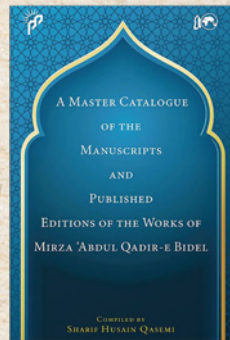
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Special Publications



“India and the Island States in the Indian Ocean: Evolving Geopolitics and Security Perspectives”

By Sanjay Baru, M. P. Muralidharan, N. Manoharan, Asanga Abeyagoonasekera, Athaulla A. Rasheed, Anup Mudgal, A. Subramanyam Raju, Priya Bahadoor, Malshini Senaratne, Juvence F. Ramasy & R. S. Vasan,
(1 February 2023)



“Beyond Fez and Nazar: Views from India on Turkiye”

By Rahul Kulshreshtha and Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui,
(3 February 2023)



“Concluding on a High Note in the UN Security Council: An Assessment of India's Term 2021-2022”

By Amb. T. S. Tirumurti,
(17 February 2023)



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Special Issue: India's Borderlands

Editorial

'Borderlands' as a conceptual category is informed by disciplinary insights from geography, anthropology, law, economics, history, literature, linguistics and geopolitics among others. Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly (2005) proposes a model for studying borderlands deploying four main analytical lenses that examine structure and agency in borderland politics. These are as follows: (a) market forces and trade flows, (b) multi-scalar state processes on adjacent borders, (c) the political clout of borderland communities and (d) the specific culture of borderland communities.

To study South Asian borderlands, we need to filter Brunet-Jailly's theory of borders through the prism of post-coloniality as the global praxis of sovereignty, nation-state and consequently the framing of borders/borderlands continues to be ontologically grounded in the experience of the empire.

For example, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, historian and public intellectual Yuval Noah Harari asserted that since the second world war, "not a single independently recognised country was wiped off the map by external invasion" (Harari, 2022). Harari's statement reflects a deep-rooted historically inscribed hierarchy in epistemic categories of nation, sovereignty and borders. Contrary to Harari's assertion, China invaded Tibet in 1950 and erased it from Asia's political map, changing the borders of the Himalayan region. Whether Tibet had 'global' diplomatic recognition was a function of the Euro-centric institutionalisation of IR which prioritises Westphalian norms.

Tibet's diplomatic status in post-war institutions of global politics was certainly not a determinant of whether Tibetans are a people with a sense of nation and history who continue to resist the Chinese claims on their land and identity. Therefore, decolonising the entrenched conceptualisations of nation, sovereignty and borders is a political project of contemporary

relevance to the post-colonial nations of South Asia and continues to unfold in borderlands scholarship of the region (see Chatterjee, 2018; Pande, 2017). Within this scholarship, South Asian borderlands are envisioned as the site of contention not only between the empire and its power hierarchies but between the post-colonial state and its many peripheries (see Cons & Sanyal, 2013; Ibrahim & Kothiyal, 2022). Here, top-down sovereign processes of territoriality interact with mobilities, flows, and social and cultural elisions at the borderlands. This often results in the post-colonial state having a fractious political, administrative and effective relationship with its historical and geographic margins.

Several borderland scholars foreground the cartographic, political, material and emotional burden of being at the edge of national and political imaginaries. Roluahpuia (2022), Ziipao (2022), Ferdoush (2021), Kothiyal (2021), Gergan (2020), India Quarterly 79(1) 7–10, 2023 © 2023 Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), Reprints and permissions: in.sagepub.com/journals-permissions-india, DOI: 10.1177/09749284221147275 journals.sagepub.com/home/iqq 8, India Quarterly 79(1), Ibrahim (2020), Baruah (2003, 2020), Gohain (2019), Kikon (2019), Cons (2016), McDuié-Ra (2008) and Van Schendel (2002) in their respective examinations of South Asian borderlands focus on the hierarchies of power between the centre and borderlands and question the emancipatory potential of the post-colonial state as it enforces its state-making process at its borderlands. Who belongs in the nation and is a legitimate citizen of the state is increasingly tied to notions of blood and soil as South Asian states take a territorial approach to questions of nationhood and citizenship to address their cartographic anxieties.

This special issue on India's borderlands highlights this experience of the state in India's borderland communities along its Himalayan borders and



Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar. All the papers in this issue are written by younger scholars from the region offering archival or ethnographic interventions centred around race, territory, citizenship, migration and gender. Limasenla Jamir's paper on state-making in India's northeast brings to light the role of World War II in converting a hitherto neglected frontier into a strategic space at the edge of the British empire in South Asia. Jamir uses archival sources to weave together various positions of influential colonial administrators like J. P. Mills, Robert Reid, Andrew Clow and Olaf Caroe, advocating for or against creating a post-war Crown Agency to centrally administer the hill regions of the northeast with the expectation that Britain would continue to exercise control over this strategic frontier even after Indian independence.

Today, this appears to be an anachronistic, even an outlandish, expectation of the British empire. However, it provides us a clarifying window into the racialised and paternalistic approach of the empire towards the people of the Himalayan borderlands, which unfortunately was too deeply ingrained in the bureaucratic machinery to change substantively upon independence. Swati Chawla uncovers how the racialised narrative of the 'Mongolian Fringe' exercised by the British in the Himalayas was deployed by the Sikkim Darbar in negotiating the post-colonial restructuring of frontiers and borders. Chawla establishes that the Sikkimese aristocracy foregrounded essentialised narratives of indigeneity that papered over long-standing economic and religious rivalries and strife between Himalayan communities (Bhutias and Lepchas) to create a persuasive religious, political and ethnic identification oriented to a Lhasa rather than New Delhi.

This was done in its pursuit of a new independent identity for Sikkim within the post-colonial order emerging in India. Chawla draws our attention to the nationalist bordering technologies that came into play when the promised forces of political decolonisation simulated independent demands of territorialisation among the smaller Himalayan states as they contemplated their position within the larger Indian republic. Ketoukhrieü maps the cross-border lived practices of two trans-border Naga tribes whose indigenous lands have been carved up by the

top-down post-colonial imposition of borders between India and Myanmar. These groups are negotiating and resisting the statist discourses of India and Myanmar through fluid notions of citizenship. This resistance is often complicated as borders are multi-layered sites of power struggle and simultaneously produce antagonistic dynamics between the centre and its periphery, between different factions within borderland communities as well as cross-border hostilities and solidarities.

The author captures the imposed top-down nature of boundary-making through a grounded ethnographic Guest Editorial 9 study of the Konyak and Khiamnungan Nagas living under the disruptive impact of an imposed international border. Thanggoulen Kipgen examines the social dynamics of Kuki migration from the Indo-Myanmar borderlands to Singapore. This paper traces the central role of the Church in the social life of Kuki migrants in Singapore to map the formation of ethnic and kinship networks that have become integral to sustaining this diaspora in a global city.

This diaspora predominantly constitutes single women engaged in domestic care work and men who have migrated in search of better livelihood. Kipgen demonstrates how Kuki migrants in Singapore recoup their Kuki identity which was split into territorialised groups between the post-colonial states of India and Myanmar. In contrast, Samir Sharma's paper on the Indo-Nepal borderlands discusses how the trans-border community of the Gorkhas has aligned its interests with post-colonial territorial consolidation with respective host states.

Sharma's paper provides a useful counterpoint to the experience of the Naga and Kuki trans-border communities in the Indo-Myanmar borderlands demonstrating the fracturing impact of territorialised notions of citizenship on the Gorkha community. Anamika Roy uncovers the deeply marginalising impact of the territorialised notion of citizenship on the lives of enclave dwellers on the Indo-Bangladesh borderlands. Roy deploys gender as a lens to examine citizenship as an exclusionary exercise that exacerbates the patriarchal exploitation of women who exist as the nation's stateless fragments in these enclaves. Roy details how women bear the affective,



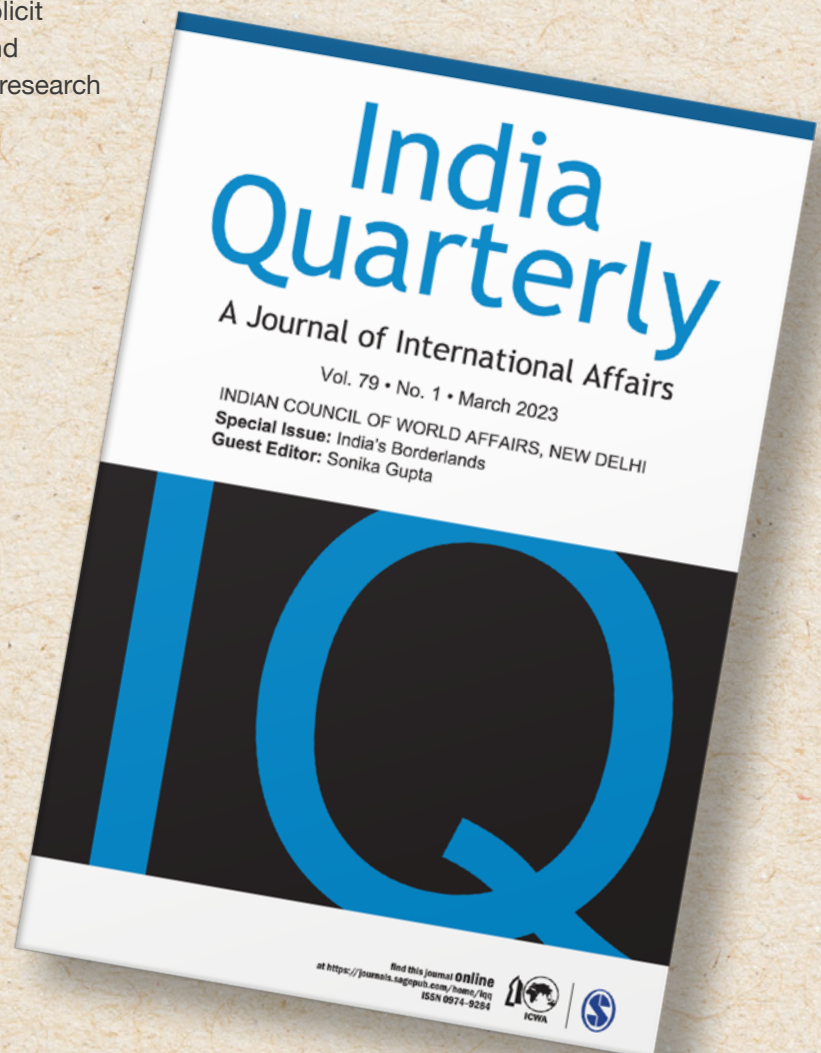
material and psychological costs of being the carriers of the nation and its identity. In these borderlands, women who are citizens are instrumentalised as paths to citizenship for stateless males; or, if they are stateless, they serve as undervalued marital partners for others at the bottom of the social hierarchy. In either case, their social value within the marital relationship is tied to territorialised materialities that they have no control over.

Finally, Noel Joseph provides a synthetic reading of the existing literature on Himalayan borderlands. Joseph brings together scholarship on the Himalayas located in concerns of empire, race, territory, war, citizenship, trade, migration and environment to lay the ground for a decolonial turn in the approach to the region. This review essay frames the implicit concerns of the other papers in this issue and attempts to sketch out an agenda for future research in South Asian borderlands scholarship.

Sonika Gupta

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South Asian borderlands simultaneously present fractured arrays of (im)mobilities, flows, identities and belonging, along with imbricated civilizational and historical narratives transformed by their common experience of colonisation. These overlapping narratives continue to be deeply ingrained in the state-making processes of South Asian states, including India. While India continues to aspire to harness the solidary potential of its anti-colonial history, there is an resurgence of democratic citizenship (Holston, 2009) from its borderlands. The papers in this issue raise crucial and relevant questions for this aspiration to be realised.





ABOUT ICWA

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) was established in 1943 by a group of eminent intellectuals led by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Dr. H.N. Kunzru. Its principal objective was to create an Indian perspective on international relations and act as a repository of knowledge and thinking on foreign policy issues. The Council today conducts policy research through an in-house faculty as well as through external experts. It regularly organizes an array of intellectual activities including conferences, seminars, round table discussions, lectures and brings out a range of publications. It has a well-stocked library, an active website, and publishes the journal 'India Quarterly'. ICWA has over 50 MoUs with international think tanks and research institutions to promote better understanding on international issues and develop areas of mutual cooperation. The Council also has partnerships with leading research institutions, think tanks and universities in India.



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