



Highlights



The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) hosted book launch of the ICWA-MEA joint publication titled "Indian Diplomacy and COVID Response" on 21 April 2022. Remarks were made by Shri Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations) MEA, Dr. V. K. Paul Member, NITI Aayog and Shri Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary (Health and Family Welfare), Government of India. Keynote address was delivered by Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary, MEA.



On 17 May 2022, ICWA hosted the launch of a book titled "India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons" authored by Amb. Rajiv Bhatia. The book was released by Dr. S. Jaishankar, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Government of India. Dr. S. Jaishankar also delivered special remarks on the occasion.



On 23 May 2022, to commemorate Africa Day, ICWA organized a Book launch and Discussion of the ICWA publication "The Harambee Factor: India-Africa Economic and Development Partnership" by Amb. Gurjit Singh. Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan delivered the special remarks on the occasion. It was followed by the Ambassador's Panel Discussion on "Food & Health Security in Africa: An Agenda for India-Africa Cooperation". The book was launched by Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA; Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Chief Coordinator, G-20; and Shri Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations), MEA.



A five-member ICWA delegation led by Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA visited Hanoi, Vietnam for the 3rd ICWA-VASS Dialogue held on 26 May 2022. Dr. Dang Xuan Thanh, Vice President, VASS, led the VASS delegation during the Dialogue. Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA also met with Bui Nhat Quang, President, VASS, and discussed a wide-range of bilateral, regional & global issues.

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Book Discussion on “Between Survival and Status: The Counter-Hegemonic Geopolitics of Iran”, 5 April 2022



An online book discussion was organised by ICWA to discuss ICWA publication “Between Survival and Status: The Counter-Hegemonic Geopolitics of Iran” by Dr. Deepika Saraswat, Associate Fellow, MPIDSA, New Delhi on 5 April, 2022. The discussion was chaired by Amb. D. P. Srivastava, Former Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran. A presentation was made by the author followed by discussions among Prof. Gulshan Dietl (Rtd.), Centre for West Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Prof. Krishnendra Meena, Associate Professor, CIPOD, JNU, New Delhi; and Mr. Rezaul Hasan Laskar, Foreign Affairs Editor, Hindustan Times, New Delhi. The chair highlighted that the book is novel in the sense that it provides an Iranian and Indian viewpoint on Iranian incidents and personalities. The time period that the book covers, 1979 till 2019, remains extremely important in the geostrategic sense, not only for the Middle-East, but also for Afghanistan and India.

The author, in her book, narrates how Iran has created counter-hegemony while facing and surviving the hegemony of United States. The author highlights that Iran has been able to establish a counter narrative to the Western narrative, creating an identity of itself in politics and an identity of Shia Islam. The book has narrated the manner in which Iran rose in the geo-political spectrum during the 2000s building Shia coalitions that brought forth a Shia Crescent. This has brought various sectarian and geo-political coalitions in the region having deep geo-political implications. Prof. Gulshan Dietl mentioned that Iranian history is chequered with towering leaders and personalities. The author has dealt with each personality separately bringing out the characters in her narration and how they functioned in their respective contexts and times.

Prof. Krishnendra Meena based his discussion on the five tenets of critical geo-politics of Gerard Toal, and analysed how the author has successfully integrated the same in her book. He also agreed with the author that in the last four decades, Iran has been able to imagine itself as a counter-hegemon both at the regional and global level. Mr. Rezaul Hasan Laskar appreciated the need to have such academic works as the role and relationship of India and Iran is extremely crucial, and requires in depth analysis.

ICWA- Embassy of Brazil: Discussion on “Contributions of India and Brazil to Peacekeeping”, 18 April 2022



The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and the Embassy of Brazil, New Delhi, India, to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence and the 200th Anniversary of Brazil's Independence, organised a Discussion On ‘Contributions of India and Brazil to Peacekeeping’ on 18 April 2022 at Sapru House. The discussion was held under Chatham House Rules. The Discussion was chaired by Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA with remarks by Amb. André Aranha Corrêa do Lago, Ambassador of Brazil, India.

The Discussion deliberated on the contribution by India and Brazil to peacekeeping from the perspective of the military, diplomacy and the police force. Lieutenant-General Elias Martins Rodrigues Filho (Retd), Former Force Commander of MONUSCO; Major General (Dr.) A.K Bardalai (Retd), Distinguish Fellow, the United Service Institution of India; Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations; Mr. Eduardo Uziel, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Brazil to India; Mr. Frank de Oliveira, Former Police Officer, UNAVEM and Civilian Attaché, Embassy of Brazil to India and Mr. Surendra Sharma, Former Inspector General of Police presented their view. The discussion was followed by a question and answer session.



Book Launch of ICWA-MEA Publication of “Indian Diplomacy and COVID response”, 21 April 2022



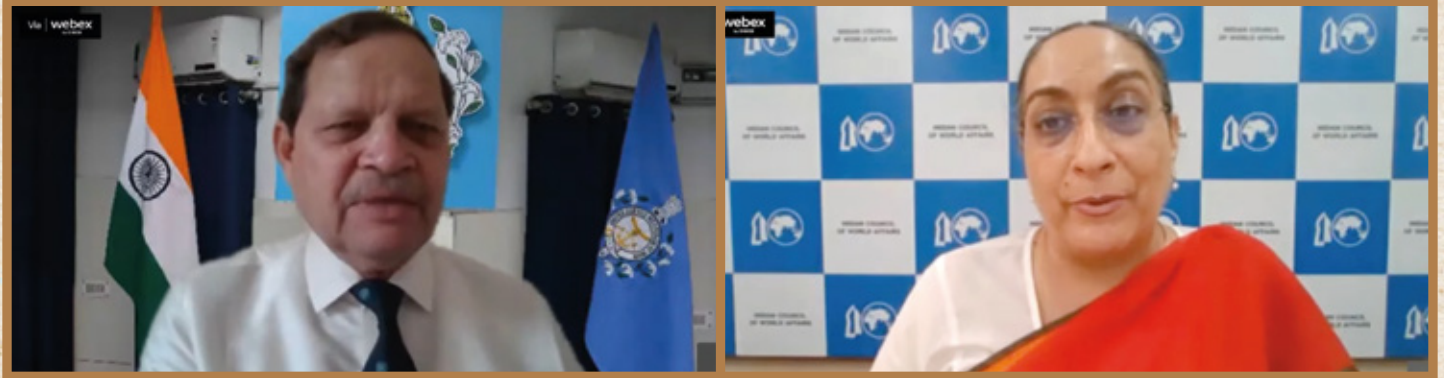
The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) hosted book launch of the ICWA-MEA joint publication titled “Indian Diplomacy and COVID Response” on 21st April 2022. The book launch was followed by remarks by Shri Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations) MEA, Dr. V.K. Paul Member, NITI Aayog, Shri Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary (Health and Family Welfare), Government of India, and Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary, MEA. The remarks highlighted that the book was an attempt to record the diplomatic and administrative response of the ministries in dealing with the extreme challenges of the COVID-19. In the last two years, the global nature of the pandemic required India to work with other countries and

international organisations to meet its medical requirements. Indian diplomacy was quick to address the unprecedented situation and challenging circumstances. In this regard, the book presents various verticals along which the Ministry of External Affairs response was organised. These include Vande Bharat, Outbound evacuation, Procurement during the first and second waves, Outbound HADR and relief operations, Vaccines, Diplomatic Initiatives and Outreach.

It was emphasised that the response to the pandemic was a ‘whole of government, the whole of society approach’ - where MEA was but one component. The whole of government approach included working closely with the concerned ministries, departments, agencies and state governments and the diplomatic corps. It was pointed that the MEA worked under stressful conditions and provided solutions to complex challenges – from execution of the Vande Bharat Mission, the timely rollout of vaccines, procurement and supply of essential medicines and, medical equipment on a priority basis. Within the MEA, existing chains of command were re-engineered and assigned specific pandemic related roles over and above their normal responsibilities. Task forces, dealing with specific issues without being named as such, emerged. This created a surge capacity within the Ministry that allowed it to scale up literally overnight to meet the unexpected challenges. Existing coordination mechanisms that integrated and mobilized the Ministry's global network of Missions and Posts were repurposed and plugged into national networks dealing with domestic problems. The Ministry and Embassies worked together with Armed Forces under severe constraints of time and operating freedom due to the restrictions and lockdowns.

It was highlighted that this was not the last crisis we will face. There is a need to institutionalise the lessons learnt and best practices from India's response to the pandemic. In the Ministry of External Affairs, several structures such as a Rapid Response Cell have been created that can surge capacities to deal with future crises. This book is an effort to describe how MEA tried its best with the resources it had to deal with the pandemic. It is an effort to reflect, to preserve the lessons of the pandemic in Indian context, and to identify what can be scaled and replicated in future.

Sixth ICWA-USI Webinar on UN Peacekeeping on “Challenges of Mission Leadership in UN Peace Operations”, 22 April 2022



As part of the USI-ICWA series on UN Peacekeeping Operations, the 6th Webinar on “Challenges of Mission Leadership” in Delivering the Mandate was held on April 22, 2022. With the UN peacekeeping operations becoming multi-dimensional, the webinar discussed the leadership of a UN Peacekeeping Mission that requires a broad range of skills, knowledge, and competencies in order to deal with a range of complex and intertwined issues set out in the Mission’s mandate. The welcome remarks were given by Maj. Gen. P. K. Goswami, (Retd.) Deputy Director, USI, who stated that the aim of the webinar was to bring together the experiences of all the eminent speakers to share them with a larger audience and generate cross-fertilisation of ideas about the role of leadership in UN peacekeeping operations. The opening remarks was delivered by Maj. Gen. B. K. Sharma, (Retd.) Director, USI, and emphasised how the UN Peacekeeping has become multi-dimensional with Mission leaders expected to deliver in a very alien conflict environment laden with sectarian and ethnic conflicts.

The webinar was moderated by Lt. Gen. C. Prakash (Retd.) who introduced the theme. It was followed by perspectives from former HoM and FC of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), Lt. Gen. Satish Nambiar (Retd.); perspective from former FC and Deputy SRSG (Deputy HoM) of United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), Lt. Gen. J.S.Liddar (Retd.); and perspective from Dy HoM and Director of Political and Civil Affairs of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Mr. Jack Christofides. This was followed by remarks by Special



Invitee, Lt. Gen. S Tinaikar (Retd.) who stated that the political, military, and civil actors should make it a joint responsibility to uphold and implement the mandate of the UN. In her closing remarks Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, stated on how the nature of peacekeeping has changed, and how it has become far more demanding, complex and possibly more dangerous because, apart from interstate conflicts, there are intra-state conflicts that are far more difficult to handle and challenging esp. for mission leadership.

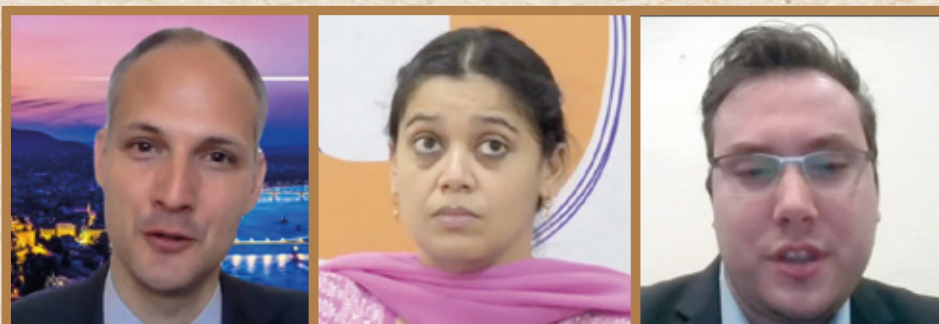
Third ICWA-Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT) Hungary Dialogue, 26 April 2022

Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi held the third dialogue with its MoU partner in Hungary, The Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT) on 26 April 2022. Speakers in the opening session included Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs, Mr. Márton Ugrósdý, Director, The Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Amb. Partha Satpathy, Ambassador of India to Hungary and Amb. András László Király, Ambassador of Hungary to India.

In the opening session, it was emphasized that the relations between India and Hungary are marked by high degree of trust and mutual respect. Both share long-standing friendly relations, marked by political contacts, economic engagement and cultural links. It was noted that the evolving situation in Ukraine has far-reaching impact on geo-politics and geo-economics. It has heightened great power contestation and put stability of the international order under stress. It has sped up processes which are shaping the future international order.



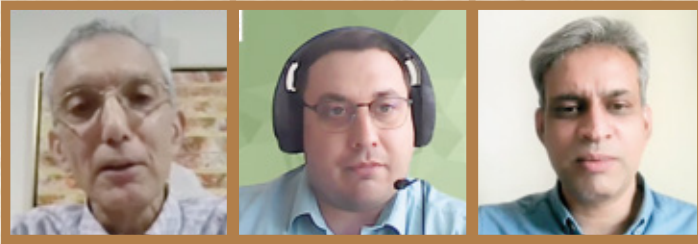
Session 1 on Changing Global Scenario: Perspectives from India and Hungary was chaired by Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, Professor, Centre for Canadian, US & Latin American Studies, School of International Studies, School of International Studies, JNU. Speakers included Mr. Viktor Eszterhai, Senior Researcher, IFAT and Dr. Ankita Dutta, Research Fellow, ICWA. Discussions were held on recent developments in the global arena. It was highlighted that the



world is in a state of flux. A series of crises ranging from Covid-19 pandemic, information warfare, Ukraine conflict, energy crisis, food insecurity among others are leading to major changes in the global order. Amidst this, India has stood out as an 'island of stability'. Several Ministerial visits to India have taken place in the

aftermath of the Ukraine crisis, indicating India's unique position amidst geopolitical shifts.

Session 2 on Emerging Dynamics in the Indo-Pacific was chaired by Mr. Márton Ugrósdý, Director, IFAT. Speakers for the session were Dr. Stuti Banerjee, Research Fellow, ICWA and Mr. Zsolt Trembeczki, Associate Research Fellow, IFAT. The session focused on the geopolitical dynamics in the Indo-Pacific and the emerging trends in the region. It was emphasised that national interests of the countries involved or present in the Indo-Pacific region need to be examined. US-China strategic competition was disadvantageous for the region. The European Union's strategy towards the



Indo-Pacific region had two dimensions – working with like-minded partners and enhancing its capabilities. Growing importance of the Indo-Pacific region due to its strategic and economic significance was noted.

Session 3 on Exploring New Vistas in Economic Cooperation was chaired by Amb. Rahul Chhabra, Former Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, India. Speakers included Mr. Kristóf Végyvári, Area Manager, Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Rohit Sharma, Director and Head-Europe, CIS and Turkey Division, FICCI. Discussions were held on the opportunities and challenges for economic cooperation between India and Hungary in the post-pandemic world. It was noted that in the recent past India had undertaken a series of steps to facilitate business environment in the country. The discussions highlighted electric vehicles, hydrogen gas production, IT services, etc. as possible new sectors for collaboration between India and Hungary. Cooperation also needed to be explored in sustainability technologies such as those related to pollution and water purification.

Interactive session between Dr. Eldor Aripov, Director of Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (ISRS) and the Research Faculty of ICWA, 26 April 2022

An interactive session between Dr. Eldor Aripov, Director of Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (ISRS) and the Research Faculty of ICWA was organised at Sapru House on 26 April 2022 from 10:30-11:30 hours. Dr. Eldor Aripov was accompanied by Ambassador of Uzbekistan to India H.E Mr. Dilshod Akhatov.

Welcome Remarks were made by Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA. Referring to cordial India-Uzbekistan relations, she mentioned that the first India-Central Asia Foreign Ministers dialogue was held jointly by the two countries in Uzbekistan in 2019. The first India- Central Asia Online Summit on 27 June 2022

is a key milestone in the evolution of India's relations with the Central Asian Region. Reference was made to India's AatmaNirbhar Bharat policy and the Development Strategy of Uzbekistan. It was mentioned that there is focus on Chabahar port, INSTC and Ashgabat Agreement to improve connectivity between India and Central Asia. She also referred to the situation in Afghanistan, Ukraine.

Thanking the participants, Dr. Eldor Aripov, Director, ISRS, referred to growing regional cooperation and said that Central Asia is becoming more consolidated, more united. He said that the countries in the region are facing water problems & are looking for common solutions. He called for greater interaction between India and the region and said that it was time to revive the historical relations and utilise untapped resources of Central and South Asia.

Research Faculty members Dr. Athar Zafar, SRF, ICWA; Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, SRF, ICWA; Dr. Anwesha Ghosh, RF, ICWA; Dr. Lakshmi Priya, RF, ICWA; & Dr. Himani Pant, RF, ICWA made brief observations about Central Asia & developments in neighbouring regions, including challenges of terrorism & insecurity, prospects of connectivity and potential in bilateral economic engagement, & cooperation in multilateral spheres. The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr. Punit Gaur, RF, ICWA.



Fifth ICWA- ANZF and NZIRI (New Zealand) Track II Dialogue, 27 April 2022

ICWA hosted the 5th Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)-Asia-New Zealand Foundation (ANZF) and New Zealand India Research Institute (NZIRI) Track II Dialogue on 27 April 2022. The Dialogue was held virtually. The inaugural session had Heads of Delegations from both the sides deliver remarks. Amb Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA highlighted the changes underway in regional and global geopolitical environment, with the Indo-Pacific region particularly witnessing increasing strategic competition. She emphasized that India and New Zealand share many positives to further build close ties. Prof David Capie, Director New Zealand India Research Institute, Centre for Strategic Studies, Victoria University of Wellington also highlighted that we are witnessing times of extraordinary and significant

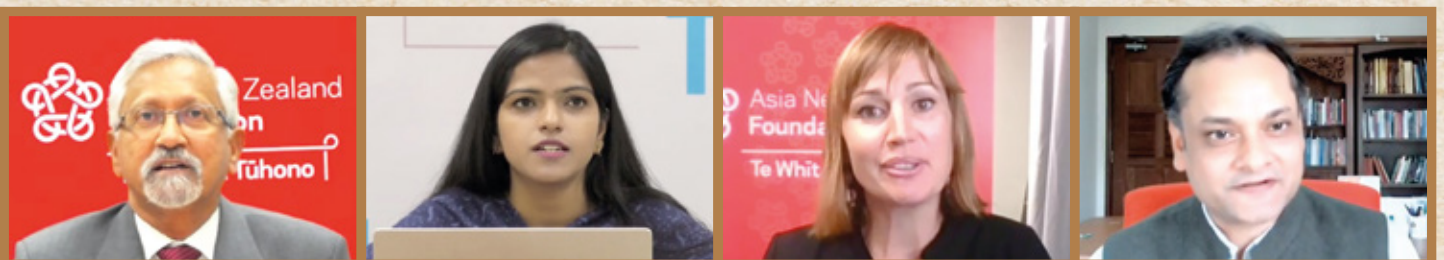


change. India and New Zealand, as democracies with deep and abiding interest in international law, should work together.

The first session of the Dialogue focused on 'Changing Global and Regional Geopolitical Scenarios'. The session was chaired by Amb Rajiv Bhatia, Distinguished Fellow, Foreign Studies Programme, Gateway House, Mumbai. Panelists included Dr Manjeet Pardesi, Senior Lecturer in the Political Science and International Relations Programme, Victoria University, Wellington and Prof Sanjay Chaturvedi, Chairperson, Department of International Relations South Asian University, New Delhi. Mr. Andrew Wilford, China Research Centre Coordinator at Victoria University, Wellington was the lead discussant for the session. Discussion



focused around the crisis in Ukraine, US-China contestations in the Indo-Pacific region and perspectives of India and New Zealand on current geopolitical developments. It was highlighted that the war in Ukraine had diverted limelight to Europe. Indo-Pacific should be seen as a combination of maritime and continental strategic space. New Zealand sees India's role growing in the Indo-Pacific region and in the future international order.



The second session was on India-New Zealand Bilateral Relations – Way Forward. The session was chaired by Prof. Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, Emeritus Professor of History, Victoria University of Wellington. Panelists Dr Pragya Pandey, Research Fellow, ICWA and Ms Suzannah Jessep, Director (Research and Engagement), ANZF, highlighted issues and areas of common interest and concern for the two countries for furthering their close bilateral relationship. Dr Rahul Mishra, Former Research Fellow, ICWA was the lead discussant for the session. It was noted that New Zealand is developing a more holistic approach to its relations with India looking beyond trade ties. There is a need to focus on niche areas of cooperation such as climate change and sustainable development. People-to-people ties are a major aspect of bilateral relations which need to be built upon through generating more information about each other. Both countries should work towards perception management and contribute to setting the global narrative.

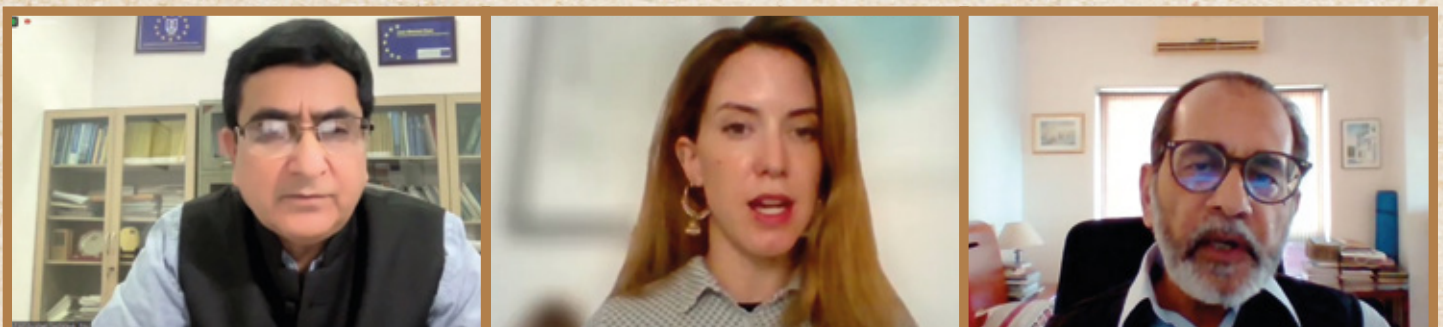
High Commissioner of India to New Zealand H.E. Mr. Muktesh Pardeshi and High Commissioner of New Zealand to India H.E. Mr. David Pine attended the Dialogue.

ICWA-CASA Asia (Spain) Dialogue, 10 May 2022



Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi held a dialogue with its MoU partner in Spain, Casa Asia on 10 May 2022. Speakers in the opening session included Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs, and Mr. Javier Parrondo, Director General, Casa Asia.

In the opening session, it was emphasized that the relations between India and Spain are marked by high degree of trust and mutual respect. Both share long-standing friendly relations, marked by political contacts, economic engagement and cultural links. It was noted that the evolving situation in Ukraine has far-reaching impact on geo-politics and geo-economics. It has heightened great power contestation and put stability of the international order under stress. It was pointed that India has been historically known for having its own profile in international relations and for maintaining



independent outlook in terms of geopolitics. Policies such as Look East Policy from 1991 as well as most recent Act East Policy show India's genuine interest in the Indo-Pacific region.

Session 1 on Global Developments was chaired by Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva, Professor, Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies, JNU. Speakers included Ms. Irene Martinez, Real Instituto Elcano and Amb. Rakesh Sood, Former Ambassador of India to France. The focus of the discussions was the recent developments in the global arena and the strategic competition between US and China. During the discussions, it was pointed out that there are two shifts observed at the global level - the Ukraine crisis and emerging dynamics between US and China. The US-China rivalry was full spectrum - economic, military, technological and ideological. On the Ukrainian crisis, it was pointed out that, owing to the response of Kiev and the West, the endgame of the crisis remains to be seen.



Session 2 on Dynamics in the Indo-Pacific was chaired by Mr. Rafael Bueno, Casa Asia. Speakers for the session were Amb. Anil Wadhwa, Former Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs and Amb. Emilio de Miguel, Casa Asia and Spanish MOFA. The session focused on the geopolitical dynamics in the Indo-Pacific and the emerging trends in the region. It was emphasised that EU realises the geopolitical and geo-economic importance of the Indo-Pacific and this is reflected in its strategy towards the region. It was pointed out that the EU seeks a multifaceted relation with the countries of the Indo-Pacific and it would like to explore areas of cooperation in the region with India. During the discussions various regional initiatives were highlighted – such as Quad, which has evolved to address 21st Century challenges; India, Israel, UAE and US (I2U2) coming together to cooperate on infrastructure development and connectivity; the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

SCO Public Diplomacy Forum on “People’s Diplomacy-Mutual Understanding for Development”, 11 May 2022

In the framework of its Chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Uzbekistan organised the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Public Diplomacy Forum themed “Public Diplomacy - Mutual Understanding for Development”, on 11 May 2022 at Tashkent. The Forum was jointly hosted by the SCO Center for Public Diplomacy in Uzbekistan, the Senate of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament), and the Government of Uzbekistan. The SCO Center for Public Diplomacy in Uzbekistan is ICWA's MoU partner.

Representatives from SCO Member States attended the Forum. From ICWA, Dr. Athar Zafar, Senior Research Fellow, participated in the event. The Forum was also addressed by former Secretaries General of SCO Amb. Vladimir Norov and Amb. Rashid Olimov.



The significance of SCO in the region was highlighted and it was said that the organisation should contribute towards building a fair international order. New international order should be of multipolarity and fair distribution of wealth. Problems like international terrorism, extremism, separatism, and climate change require concentrated global actions. No country can overcome the problems individually.

Building trust in the SCO family was important. In this, public diplomacy is important as SCO connects 3.2 billion people with each other. Public diplomacy brings ordinary civilians, government representatives and scholars together on a platform. It encourages educational and cultural exchanges. It was underlined that youth are an important component not only of society but for dynamic development of nations. Participation of youth is important in public diplomacy. It may be noted that Uzbekistan is the current chair of SCO, India will assume the chairmanship for one year in September 2022.

Interaction between Dr. Beata Gorka Winter, Research Fellow, Polish Institute of International Affairs and Research Faculty of ICWA, 12 May 2022



Dr. Beata Gorka-Winter, Research Fellow and Program Coordinator on international security in the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM) visited the Council for an interaction with the Research Faculty on 12 May 2022. The key points of discussion included the Ukrainian crisis, the steps taken by Poland towards mitigation of the crisis, and various responses of the stakeholders. Discussions were also held on the situation of Afghanistan. It was pointed out that the West did not pay heed to President Putin's Munich Security Conference 2007 speech and overlooked Russian warnings despite Moscow undertaking actions like in Georgia in 2008 and the annexation of Crimea in 2014. It was

highlighted that the diplomatic efforts towards finding solution to the crisis have not been successful, and the impact of the sanctions remains to be seen. In such a situation, the endgame of the conflict remains highly unpredictable. On Afghanistan, it was highlighted that the situation continues to be worrisome. With Taliban being in power, there is no guarantee that the humanitarian aid will help ordinary people. Condition of women will continue to deteriorate and women's rights will be affected.

Book Launch and Discussion - "India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons" Authored by Amb. Rajiv Bhatia, 17 May 2022

The ICWA on 17 May 2022 hosted the launch of a book titled "India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons" authored by Amb. Rajiv Bhatia, Distinguished Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies Programme, Gateway House. The book was released by Dr. S. Jaishankar, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Government of India. The welcome remarks were given by Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA, which was followed by presentation on the book by Amb. Bhatia. This was followed by remarks by Dr. S. Jaishankar. The book launch was followed by a panel discussion which was chaired by Amb. Lalit Man Singh, Former Foreign Secretary of India and the discussants of the book were – Prof. Rajen Harshe, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Allahabad; Ms Ruchita Berry, Senior Research Associate and Centre Coordinator, Africa, Latin America, Caribbean and United Nations Centre, MP-Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis; and Dr. Nivedita Ray, Director (Research), Indian Council of World Affairs.



During the book launch, the External Affairs Minister highlighted that India-Africa relations are deep rooted and go back into the recesses of history. India and Africa were connected through trade, commerce and travel across the Indian Ocean. Today, maritime cooperation is an important pillar of our relations. The Minister reiterated the guiding principles for India's engagement with Africa, as enunciated by Prime Minister Modi in 2018 during his visit to Uganda, which is to respond to Africa's priorities, to meet Africa's demands and needs, rather than bring a unilateral

agenda. Furthermore, the Minister stated that development partnership and capacity building are at the core of India-Africa relationship and speaks for the shared desire of India and Africa to develop together as equals. India is helping African countries to bridge the digital divide. The Pan Africa e-Network, launched in 2009, was taken forward with the first phase completed in 2017. The second phase started with the introduction of e-Vidya Bharati for tele-education and e-Arogya Bharati Project for telemedicine (E-VBAB). To boost people-to-people links, India has extended e-Visa facilities to 33 African countries. India has also emerged as an attractive destination for medical tourism.

A long-standing facet in India-Africa defence contacts has been through UN peacekeeping operations in Africa. Overall, India has undertaken 12 such missions in the continent. Currently, 4483 Indian personnel serve in five peacekeeping Missions in Democratic Republic of Congo, Morocco, Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia. India and African nations have joined forces to urge equitable and affordable access to vaccines, including through a TRIPS Waiver. India believes that Africa must have an adequate presence and voice in global decision-making, including in the reformed UN Security Council. Furthermore, in his speech, the External Affairs Minister said that India counts on Africa to stand up for a partner with whom it has a past, a present and a future. India believes that Africa's growth and progress is intrinsic to global rebalancing. Its enormous demographic dividend needs to be realized. It is only when this continent attains its true potential that the world will really become multipolar.



During the panel discussion, it was highlighted that in strategic partnerships, India needs to focus on bilateral relations with countries that are of importance to India. It should be selective strategic partnership with a focus on ties that bind India and Africa. For example, the Focus Africa Programme (2002) identified seven African countries that India needs to build relations with. Drivers that shape India's re-engagement with Africa include rise in commercial interest, technology, education and training, and people-to-people. The book provides an insight into how Africa is interacting with the world and provides a balanced assessment of its transitions from the "Age of Hope" in the 1960, to Afro-pessimism which shifted to Afro-Optimism in the 1990s to present Africa which is an aspirational Africa articulating its vision through its Agenda 2063. The book provides a detailed analysis of India-Africa relations taking into account the multilevel engagement of India and Africa at the continental, regional, and bilateral- while also emphasising on the social connections such as the diaspora, media which are other dimensions of India-Africa relations. It provides a roadmap for future cooperation and the partnership needs to look beyond the strategic factors and focus on the emotional connects between India and Africa.

Conference on “India-Japan Relations at 70: Reflections and Way Forward”, 19 May 2022

On May 19 2022, ICWA organised a one-day virtual conference, 'India-Japan Relations at 70: Reflections and Way Forward', to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the India-Japan bilateral diplomatic relations. With the participation of leading experts from India and Japan, the conference was a valuable platform for taking stock of bilateral relations over the last seventy years and charting a way forward.



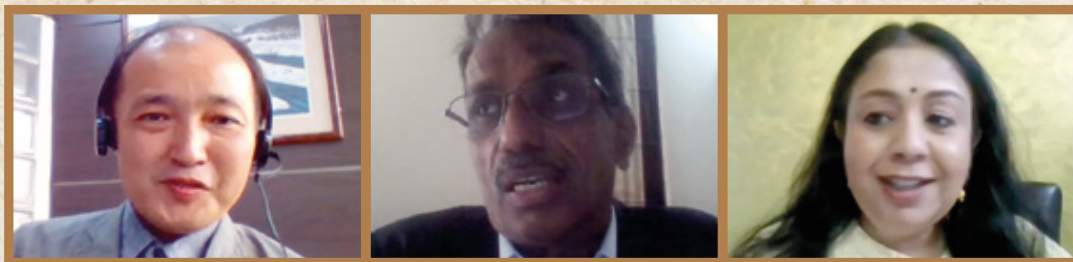
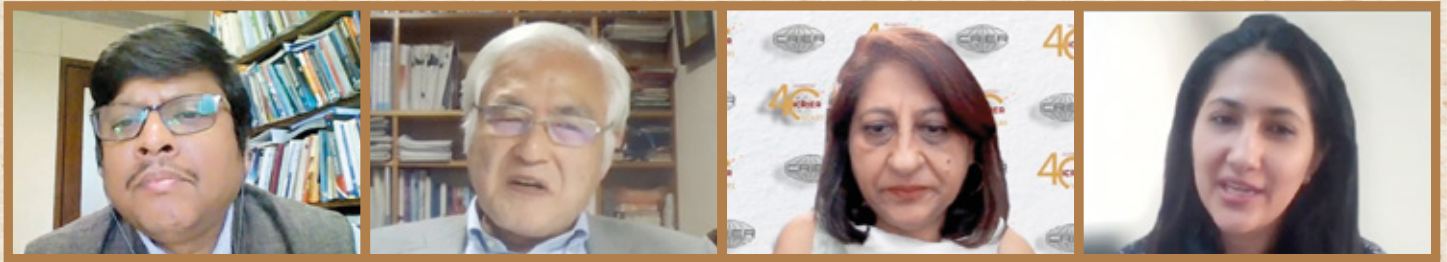
In her welcome remarks at the inaugural session, Amb Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, said that India-Japan relations have a long history rooted in strong cultural and civilisational ties and building on this strong foundation, relations over the last 70 years have grown from strength to strength to make Japan India's most trusted and reliable partner. Amb. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan, emphasized that Japan is India's trusted partner and reliable friend. He also highlighted that it was always India's endeavor to find convergences with Japan and build upon them while respecting divergences. In his remarks, Mr. Kawazu Kunihiko, Charge d' affaires, Embassy of Japan, New Delhi, highlighted that PM Kashida's visit to India in March 2022, his first physical bilateral visit to any foreign country after he was appointed PM of Japan, shows the importance attached by Japan to its relationship with India. During his keynote address, Amb. Hiroshi Hirabayashi, Former Japanese Ambassador to India and President/Representative Director of the Japan-India Association, Tokyo, mapped the evolution of India-Japan relations in the last seventy years, highlighting key milestones.

Amb. Deepa Wadhwa, Former Indian Ambassador to Japan and Chairperson of the India- Japan Friendship Forum, chaired the second session, '70 years of India-Japan Relations: Reflections'. In her remarks Amb. Wadhwa highlighted that the last two decades of the India-Japan relationship had witnessed a new high, though there is a lot of potential which still needs to be realised. Prof. Purnendra Jain, Emeritus Professor, University of Adelaide, Australia, Prof. Srabani Roy Choudhury, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and Prof. GVC Naidu, Professor (Rtd), Jawaharlal



Nehru University, New Delhi, respectively presented the evolution of India-Japan political, economic and strategic relations over the last seventy years.

The third session focused on the evolving dynamics of India-Japan relations in the Indo-Pacific. Delivering the Chair's remarks, Amb. HK Singh, Director General, Delhi Policy Group/ Former Indian Ambassador to Japan, highlighted that the Special Strategic Partnership between India and Japan is driven by a shared interest in a stable, balanced Indo Pacific. He noted that the trajectory of the India-Japan relationship will likely mirror developments in India-US ties. Prof. Yoichiro



Sato, Ritusumeikan Asia Pacific University, in his presentation, outlined different scenarios of the future of the Indo-Pacific, highlighted that the India-Japan relationship would raise a collective voice in the region. Dr. Titli Basu Associate Fellow, MP-IDSA, highlighted the prospects and challenges of India- Japan relations in the Indo-Pacific, while Dr. Jojin V. John, Research Fellow, ICWA, assessed the India-Japan Third Country partnership in the Indo-Pacific.

The fourth session of the conference focused on the emerging dynamics of India-Japan economic relations. Prof. Prabir De, Professor, RIS, was the session's Chair. Dr. De highlighted that India-Japan are not only partners for trade and investment but also key partners in international economic governance through their cooperation in G20, SCRI, QUAD etc. Prof. Makoto Kojima, Professor Emeritus, Takushoku University, evaluating the contemporary dynamics of India-Japan economic cooperation, argued that India's PLI scheme and engagement in SCRI would further boost economic ties. Dr. Nisha Taneja, Professor, ICRIER, mapping the trends of India-Japan trade, explained the opportunities and challenges for India to have greater market access in Japan. Dr. Kalpana Tokas, Assistant Professor, NMIMS highlighted that, despite CEPA, only a minuscule increase in the services trade between India and Japan had taken place. She highlighted the excellent potential for service trade between the two countries in the sectors such as education, IT, technology, start-up and engineering services.

Mr. Kijo Sato, Director General Japan Foundation, New Delhi, chaired the session on civilisation and people to people ties. Mr. Sato argued that the "two wheels" of India-Japan relations, i.e bilateral relations and people to people contacts, need to move together to achieve a robust and dynamic relationship between the two nations. Prof. PA George of JNU, in his presentation on the state of Japanese Studies in India, observed that despite significant developments in

India-Japan relations, Japanese Studies in India remain stagnated and demand urgent attention. Mapping historical Buddhist contacts between India and Japan, Dr. Ranjana Mukhopadhyaya, Professor, DU, observed that Buddhism is the most important and enduring spiritual, cultural and intellectual connection between India and Japan.

The concluding session of the conference was chaired by Amb. Sujan R. Chinoy, Director General, MP-IDSA, New Delhi/ Former Ambassador to Japan & Honorary Patron, Indo-Japan Friendship Association (Gujarat). In his remarks, Amb. Chinoy observed that current dynamism in India-Japan relations has been nurtured under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi. He also stressed that India and Japan can do much more together for the peace and security of the world. Panellist, Mr. Saito Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA, New Delhi, observed that the way forward for India-Japan relations is by focusing on investment and trade facilitation from a world value chain perspective, technology and knowledge exchange under common challenges, people to people exchange involving job market and moving from aid to real two-way cooperation. Prof. Siddharth Singh, Professor, Banaras Hindu University/ Former Director, Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Tokyo, highlighting the role of culture in India-Japan relations, argued for the need for the two countries to pay attention to foundational and sustainable action, translation projects, establishing museums highlighting the contribution from both sides, engaging the local population and organising events at iconic places.

Celebration of “AFRICA DAY 2022” and Ambassador Gurjit Singh’s Book Launch & Discussion, 23 May 2022



To commemorate Africa Day, on 23 May, ICWA organised the book launch and discussion of an ICWA publication "The Harambee Factor: India-Africa Economic and Development Partnership". It was followed by the Ambassador's Panel Discussion on "Food & Health Security in Africa: An Agenda for India-Africa Cooperation". Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V Muraleedharan delivered the special remarks on the occasion of Africa Day. The book was launched by Amb Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA; Shri Harsh Shringla, Chief Coordinator, G-20; and Shri Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations), MEA. At the book launch, ICWA's engagement with Africa was highlighted. ICWA has a history of commemorating





Africa Day. The Council has been promoting India-Africa relations through research, dialogues and conferences. In fact, in 2002 it had set up an Africa Centre. The book 'The Harambee Factor: India-Africa Economic Relations and Development Partnership' is the 21st-century account of what India and Africa did together.

The book discussion was chaired by Shri Dammu Ravi. Gurjit Singh, Pramit Pal Chaudhuri, Foreign Editor, Hindustan Times and Pranav Kumar, Head, International Trade Policy Division of Confederation of Indian Industries were the panelists. The book discussion underscored

that the dynamics of India's engagement in Africa have undergone a significant change in the 21st century. This is largely influenced by how the world, including India, looks at Africa. This change in perception has been because the world sees Africa as the continent of the 21st century. India-Africa Forum Summit is an important platform that has enabled greater engagement between Africa and India. This Forum Summit process also reflects the commitment towards the ties by the leadership in both India and Africa at the highest level. The book 'The Harambee Factor' has identified that there is sufficient room for multiple players to engage with Africa with the intent of fostering a mutually beneficial partnership. Mr Chaudhuri observed that Africa has a very good start-up and venture capitalist ecosystem, with South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda, and many others leading the way. Through the inflow of capital to the African start-ups, the year-on-year growth that has been registered stands at 600 percent. This kind of growth is the highest in the world and cannot be compared with any other economy.

The book discussion was followed by the Ambassador's Panel Discussion on "Food and Health Security in Africa: An Agenda for India-Africa Cooperation". The session was chaired by Shri Rahul Chhabra, former Secretary (ER) of MEA.

The panelists included: H.E Mr. Abdillahi Assoweh Isse, Ambassador, Embassy of Djibouti; H.E. Dr. Tizita Mulugeta Yimam, Ambassador, Embassy of Ethiopia; Mr. Ernest Nana Adjei, Minister-Counsellor/ Political & Economic Officer Ghana High Commission; H.E. Tahina Rasamoelina, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Madagascar; H.E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki, Ambassador, Embassy of Morocco.



The panel discussion highlighted the fact that India offered 37 million vaccines to 32 African countries, and is also aiding them to combat HIV and Tuberculosis. East Africa has one of the largest arable lands suitable for agriculture and may become an asset especially in the light of the issues related to food security. However, persistent drought in East Africa is also a matter of concern that needs to be looked into. The Ukraine crisis has affected the global supply chains. Globally, price of wheat has gone up which has affected food security negatively. Russia is also an important exporter of fertilizers to Africa which has also been greatly affected. Health and food security are two main aspects when it comes to relations between the African nations and India. India has awarded various scholarships to African countries so that students can come and study in India. Africa being populated mostly by young people could do a lot with scholarships and technical assistance which may aid them in getting employment in the future.

Third ICWA-VASS Dialogue on “Strengthening Vietnam - India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership”, Hanoi, Vietnam, 26 May, 2022

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) held its third dialogue with its MoU partner, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) on May 26, 2022 in Hanoi, Vietnam. Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA, led a five member ICWA delegation comprising of Dr. Prabir De, ASEAN India Centre, RIS, New Delhi; Prof. Parul Pandya Dhar, Department of History, University of Delhi, Delhi; Dr. Udai Bhanu Singh, Former Senior Research Associate and Coordinator, Southeast Asia and Oceania Centre, MPIDSA, New Delhi and Dr. Temjenmeren Ao, Research Fellow, ICWA. Dr. Dang Xuan Thanh, Vice President, VASS, led the Vietnamese delegation. Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA had a meeting with Bui Nhat Quang, President, VASS, during which a wide-range of bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed.



The third ICWA-VASS Dialogue coincided with the 50th anniversary of the establishment of India-Vietnam diplomatic relations. The theme of the Dialogue was “Strengthening India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership”.

At the inaugural session, remarks were made by Dr. Dang Xuan Thanh, Vice President, VASS; Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA; and Amb. Pranay Verma, Ambassador of India to Vietnam. It was noted that India-Vietnam relations are poised to grow stronger amidst the emerging geo-political and geo-economic trends in the region and the world. Emphasis was laid on the ‘India-Vietnam Joint Vision for Peace, Prosperity, and People’ announced in 2020 as a guide to develop the future bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership through enhanced defence cooperation and security partnership which is a key factor in achieving peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Session One on ‘Regional and Global Issues – India and Vietnamese Perspectives’ was chaired by Dr. Dang Xuan Thanh, Vice President, VASS. Speakers included Dr. Pham Cao Cuong, DDG, Institute of Indian and Southwest Asian Studies, VASS and Dr. Udai Bhanu Singh, Former Senior Research Associate, MPIDSA, New Delhi. Comments were made by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Xuan Trung, DG, Institute of Americas Studies, VASS and Dr. Prabir De, ASEAN India Centre, RIS, New Delhi. Discussions were held on the emerging developments in the regional and global arena and the ongoing geo-political and geo-economic contestations. Both sides expressed their commitment to further strengthen bilateral ties and work towards addressing common challenges such as climate change, poverty alleviation for sustainable development, and inclusive growth.

Session Two on ‘India and Vietnam – Partnership for Peace’ was chaired by Dr. Udai Bhanu Singh, Former Senior Research Associate, MPIDSA, New Delhi. Speakers included Dr. Temjenmeren Ao, Research Fellow, ICWA and Lieut. Vu Van Khanh, Institute of Defense Strategy, Ministry of National Defense. Comments were made by Dr. Udai Bhanu Singh, Former Senior Research Associate, MPIDSA, New Delhi and Dr. Phan Cao Nhat Anh, DDG, Institute of Indian and Southwest Asian Studies, VASS. The session focused on defence and security which is one of the important pillars of the India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Strategic trust shared between India and Vietnam is the foundation for close cooperation between the two in the regional and international arena.

Session Three on ‘India and Vietnam – Partnership for Prosperity’ was chaired by Dr. Pham Cao Cuong, DDG, Institute of Indian and Southwest Asian Studies, VASS. Speakers included Dr. Prabir De, ASEAN India Centre, RIS, New Delhi and Dr. Vo Xuan Vinh, DDG, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, VASS. Comments were made by Dr. Temjenmeren Ao, Research Fellow, ICWA and Dr. Phi Vinh Tuong, Acting DG, Institute of World Economics and Politics, VASS. It was emphasized that deeper trade and investment, stronger value chain networks, all-weather connectivity and digital

integration are important for taking the bilateral partnership to a higher level. The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has opened up opportunities to further strengthen ties.

Session Four on 'India and Vietnam – Cultural links and People-to-People Ties' was chaired by Dr. Prabir De, ASEAN India Centre, RIS, New Delhi. Speakers included Prof. Parul Pandya Dhar, Department of History, University of Delhi, Delhi and Dr. Huynh Thanh Loan and Dr. Le Thi Hang Nga, Institute of Indian and Southwest Asian Studies, VASS. Comments were made by Dr. Udai Bhanu Singh, Former Senior Research Associate, MPIDSA, New Delhi and Prof. Dr. Do Thu Ha, Head of Indian Studies Department, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Social Sciences & Humanities, VNU. During the discussion, it was brought out that both countries share deep civilizational linkages which have sustained their friendship. It was emphasised that the antiquity and richness of this connected history has been brought forward in modern times through a renewed commitment to cooperation in the fields of culture, education, technology, and diplomacy.

In the closing session remarks were made by Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA and Dr. Dang Xuan Thanh, Vice President, VASS. It was emphasised that, given the geo-political shifts currently underway, India and Vietnam should continue to strengthen their dialogue mechanisms, trade cooperation, people-to-people exchanges, bilaterally and through other sub-regional mechanisms such as the Mekong Ganga Cooperation. It was emphasized that bilateral ties are poised to grow stronger based on the foundations of deep mutual trust and understanding.



17th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Forum, 26 May 2022

ICWA delegation participated in the XVII SCO Forum meeting hosted by MGIMO, Russia, on 26 May 2022 in online format. The ICWA delegation was led by Ambassador P. S. Raghavan, Former Ambassador of India to Russian Federation, and former Chairman, National Security Advisory Board. Members of the delegation were: Prof. Srikanth Kondapalli, Dean, School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi; Prof. Alok Sheel, former RBI Chair Professor of Macroeconomics, ICRIER, New Delhi; and Prof. K. Warikoo, Editor, Himalayan and Central Asian Studies, New Delhi. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation established the SCO Forum as a multilateral

track II expert mechanism to support research work in the organisation. In 2018, the Ministry of External Affairs of India nominated ICWA as the nodal think tank from India to the SCO Forum. So far, ICWA has represented India in five annual SCO Forum meetings since 2018. The themes of XVII SCO Forum on 26 May 2022 were: 1. Fundamental changes in the international system and intensification of interaction between the SCO states in international security; 2. Economic consequences of international crisis situations and problems of economic cooperation in the SCO; and 3. Cultural and civilisational pluralism of the 'Shanghai spirit' and humanitarian cooperation within the SCO.



National Seminar on "India's Development Partnership: Expanding Vistas", 15-16 June 2022

On June 15-16 2022, ICWA organised a two-day virtual National Seminar on 'India's Development Partnership: Expanding Vistas'. The seminar had scholars from eminent institutions, who spoke on India's development partnership programme in its immediate neighbourhood, in South East Asia, Indian and Pacific Ocean islands, in the Indo Pacific, Central Asia, West Asia, Africa, the Latin America and the Caribbean. On the tenth anniversary of the Development Partnership Administration of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, the seminar took stock of its activities, achievements and challenges. The seminar had thirty-two speakers from think tanks, academic institutions, media as also former diplomats.



At the inaugural session, Amb Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA said that India has steadily walked the path of economic growth with impressive development of its agricultural, industrial, technological base. Even as it has been developing itself, India has continually shared its developmental experience and technical expertise with other developing countries. India's Development Partnership has become one of the principal tools for strengthening its ties with other developing countries and a pillar of its foreign policy. India's Development Partnership underpinned by a firm commitment to South-South Cooperation has been long, regular and fruitful.

Shri Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations), MEA said the solidarity and logic of sharing with developing countries has been an important component of India's external relations to build a peaceful and stable order. India has been active in implementing projects such as lines of credit in the last couple of decades; for example, more than 600 projects are either completed or ongoing, showing India's commitments towards developmental assistance in various regions of the world. Development Partnership has multidimensional effects on bilateral ties.

Shri Prabhat Kumar, Assistant Secretary (Economic Relations and DPA), MEA, elucidated his experiences with development partnership projects in Colombia, Kazakhstan, and Nepal which ranged from training local teachers in English language, providing prosthetic limbs along with exchanges of medical professionals, setting up of centres of excellence in IT, to building hospitals and libraries. India is also engaging in trilateral cooperation in developing countries with the participation of developed countries. Shri Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS gave an overview of the genesis and evolution of India's developmental partnerships. He stated that from 1947 to 2022-23, India's growing development cooperation stands at USD 156.9 billion.



The first session "Neighbourhood First: Enhanced Focus" was divided into two parts. Amb. Amar Sinha, Former Ambassador of India to Afghanistan chaired part one of the first session. He emphasized the manner in which India has

played a development partnership role while respecting the partner country's needs, showing respect to their sovereignty. Dr. Nihar Nayak, Research Fellow, MPIDSA, Dr. Biswajit Nag, Professor & Head (Economics Division), Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and Prof. Medha Bisht, Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, South Asia University spoke about the various partnership programs, the progress and challenges in Nepal, Sri Lanka and the energy projects and partnerships with Bhutan.



The second part of the first session themed “Neighbourhood First: Enhanced Focus” was chaired by Amb. Ranjit Ray, Former Ambassador of India to Nepal. He stated that he was witness to the crucial role of Indian Missions abroad in advancing developmental partnerships in the neighbourhood and beyond. He mentioned about the important role of the private sector and civil society in such cooperation. The governments can create the infrastructure but a mechanism for interface with the private sector and civil society is crucial for sustainable growth and better reach. Srimanti Sarkar, Assistant Professor, West Bengal State University, Kolkata, Angshuman Choudhury, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, Dr. N. Manoharan, Associate Professor, Christ University, Bangalore and Dr. Shanthie Mariet D'souza, Founder & President, Mantraya; Visiting Fellow, SWP, Berlin spoke about the various prospects, challenges and the way ahead for India in development partnership projects in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Maldives and Afghanistan.

The second session titled ‘Act East and the Indo-Pacific: New Opportunities’ was chaired by Amb. Gautam Mukhopadhyay, Former Ambassador of India to Myanmar. He noted that it is important to strike a balance between the principles and values of India's development partnership and geopolitical, strategic and economic interests. It is important to critically evaluate the concepts, mechanisms, operational procedures, scope and direction to make the development partnership programme more robust. Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka, Independent Researcher on International Politics and Security Issues, Dr. Vivek Mishra, Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi and Dr. Pragya Pandey, Research Fellow, ICWA spoke about the various partnership programmes, structures and architecture that are getting built in South-East Asia and the Pacific and Indian Ocean region. Discussion also covered the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and the role of India in the Indo Pacific.

The third session titled “Africa: A Trusted Partnership” was chaired by Amb. Gurjit Singh, Former Ambassador of India to Ethiopia, Djibouti. He said that India needs to shift its focus from ‘doing’ projects with Africa to doing ‘better’ projects with Africa. Mr. Pramit Pal Choudhury, Senior Editor, Hindustan Times, Dr. Sankalp Gurjar, Research Fellow, ICWA and Dr. Ruchita Beri, Senior Research Associate, MPIDSA emphasized upon the role of FinTech and India's IT programmes in Africa and the need for sustainable energy cooperation.

Session four titled “Latin American Countries: Renewed Vigour” was chaired by Amb. R. Vishwanathan, Former Ambassador of India to Venezuela, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. He said that there has been a dramatic shift in perception in the 21st century, where Latin America started to see India as an emerging power in IT & a growing prosperous nation and where India sees Latin America as a region which is stable. Prof. Aparajita Gangopadhyaya, Professor, School of International and Area Studies, Goa University and Dr. Priti Singh, Associate Professor, Centre for Canadian, US & Latin American Studies, JNU spoke about the need of strengthening India's local participation through capacity building with the help of the Indian diaspora in the region and the need for a focus on CARICOM in strengthening relations with the Caribbean.

The next session themed “Connect Central Asia: Building on Traditional Goodwill” was chaired by Amb. Skand Tayal,

Former Ambassador of India to Uzbekistan. He said education and health sectors are important areas of cooperation for India and Central Asia. Dr. Athar Zafar, Senior Research Fellow, ICWA and Dr. Angira Sen Sharma, Assistant Professor, Allahabad University stated that India enjoys immense goodwill among the people in Central Asia. Two-way synergy between India and Central Asia can bring better results for the region. Capacity building and human resource development are important for strengthening of ties between India and Central Asia.

The final session titled “Look West: Building Bridges” was chaired by Amb Anil Trigunayat, Former Ambassador of India to Libya and Jordan. He said that Middle East is an important region for India. India’s key engagements are in the field of energy security, food security, maritime security, human security, trade and investment, and technology partnership. Ms Priya Singh, Associate Director and Programme Coordinator, Asia in Global Affairs, Kolkata, Prof. Kingshuk Chatterjee, Professor, Department of History, University of Calcutta and Dr. Deepika Saraswat, Associate Fellow, West Asia Center, MPIDSA spoke about the need to look at India’s ‘Look West’ policy through a holistic framework, the need to look at food, films and music, which can be used to promote cultural ties between India and the region. India is well-positioned to expand into clean energy and partner with the Gulf countries that are dealing with the challenge of energy transition. India’s economic diplomacy in the region will help forge development partnerships.



International Conference on "Shanghai Cooperation Organisation: From Central Asia to Eurasia" to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the SCO Charter, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 17 June 2022

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the SCO Charter, the International Institute of Central Asia (IICA) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan organised an international conference "Shanghai Cooperation Organisation: Central Asia to Eurasia", on 17 June 2022 at Tashkent. ICWA delegation led by Amb. Vinod Kumar, former Amb. to Uzbekistan and Dr. Punit Gaur, RF, ICWA, participated in the conference. Ambassador of India to Uzbekistan Manish Prabhat addressed the conference's inaugural session.



National Coordinators, Ambassadors and representatives of partner research institutes of the SCO member-states attended the conference. Except for China, all SCO members' representatives had physical participation in the conference. Mr. Zhang Ming, SCO Secretary General delivered his remarks through a recorded video message. The inaugural speech was delivered by Mr. Gayrat Fazilov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan. Mr. Anvar Nasirov, Director, IICA, delivered the introductory remarks. Key observations and recommendations were made by the participants.

The first session was on Cooperation to enhance stability and security in the SCO space: Ensuring Sustainable Development and Constructive Interaction. The second session was about the current state and prospects for the Development of Economic cooperation between the member states of the SCO. In both the sessions, Amb. Vinod Kumar delivered statements. The third session was related to Cultural and Humanitarian Aspects of Interaction within the framework of the SCO: Topical Issues, Achievements, Prospects. Dr. Punit Gaur, RF, ICWA presented his remarks in this session.



OUTREACH EVENTS

International Conference on “China in India’s neighbourhood: Shifting regional dynamics and the future Asian power politics”, Kolkata, 5-6 May 2022

Asia in Global Affairs (Research Institute), Kolkata in collaboration with Institute of Foreign Policy Studies, University of Calcutta and Department of History, University of Calcutta organised an international conference on “China in India’s neighbourhood: Shifting regional dynamics and the future Asian power politics” on 5-6 May 2022 at Loreto College, Kolkata. The conference was financially supported by the Indian Council of World Affairs. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, SRF, ICWA participated (in person) in the conference and represented ICWA.



The conference was held in hybrid (physical and virtual) mode. Around 30 presentations were made during the two-day academic deliberations. About one-third of speakers, mainly experts from our neighbourhood/extended neighbourhood (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Iran and Sri Lanka) made presentations using virtual platform while others participated physically. The conference also organised a roundtable with young scholars on the subject 'China in India's Neighbourhood'.

The seminar began with detailed case studies analysing Chinese bilateral relationships in the Indian neighbourhood and then moved to examine the extent and significance of Chinese influence through the lens of strategic, economic and infrastructural arrangements and Chinese interventions and influences in South, Southeast and Central Asia. The conference was successful and productive. It witnessed rich academic deliberations on a number of important issues pertaining to the subject of the international conference.

International Conference on “The Evolving Idea of the Indo-Pacific Region: Issues, Challenges and Responses”, Manipal, Karnataka, 22-23 June 2022

Department of Geopolitics and International Relations (DGIR), Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) organized an International Conference on “The Evolving Idea of the Indo-Pacific Region Issues, Challenges and Responses” in collaboration with Indian Council of World Affairs from 22-23 June 2022 at Manipal, Karnataka. Dr Sankalp Gurjar participated in the Conference as ICWA representative. During the conference he presented his paper on “Indian Ocean Island States: Evolving Geopolitics and Security Perspectives”.

The conference had sessions on themes such as: Differing Ideas of the Indo-Pacific?, China and the Indo-Pacific: Emerging Hegemon or a Paper Tiger?, India and the United States' Strategic Approach to the Indo-Pacific, Addressing 'Unconventional' Issues in the Indo-Pacific, Challenges for International Governance in the Indo-Pacific, Evolving Power

Dynamics in the Indo-Pacific, Impact of Critical Technology within the Indo-Pacific, East & Southeast Asia's Engagement with an Evolving Indo-Pacific Region and Young Minds in Geopolitics and International Relations. Prof Chintamani Mahapatra delivered the Keynote address on “India in the Indo-Pacific” whereas Prof Seshadri Chari delivered the valedictory address.





ICWA Publication

Advancing Reformed Multilateralism in the Changing World

Edited By: Nutan Kapoor Mahawar and Deepika Saraswat

(ICWA; Macmillan Education; 2022)

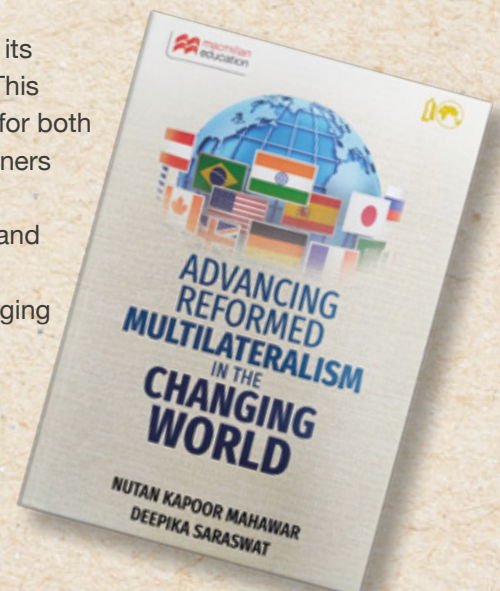
Foreword

Over the past several decades, India has been a leading voice calling for a reformed global multilateral system, with a reformed United Nations (UN) at its centre. The UN, the only existing universal multilateral organisation, was formed to promote peace and security after a globalised war that was presaged by the rise of ultra-nationalism and imperialist rivalries. Recent years have seen the resurgence of nationalism worldwide, and the pandemic has accelerated an inward turn among major economies, further weakening the pace of globalisation and the spirit of internationalism. On the 75th anniversary of the founding of the UN, while addressing a virtual session of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 17 July 2020, the current Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that this was 'an occasion to recognise UN's many contributions to human progress and also an opportunity to assess the UN's role and relevance in today's world, and to shape a better future for it.' He also said that 'only reformed multilateralism with a reformed United Nations at its centre can meet the aspirations of humanity' and called on the UN Member States to 'pledge to reform the global multilateral system to enhance its relevance, to improve its effectiveness, and to make it the basis of a new type of human-centric globalisation.' This vision of reformed multilateralism articulated at the highest level was reflected when India declared a New Orientation for a Reformed Multilateral System (NORMS) as its declared objective as it joined the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the eighth time as an elected member for a 2-year term (2021-22).

Today, in addition to the traditional challenges to international peace and security, the need to effectively deal with issues of global public health, climate change, and cyber security amidst intensifying great power rivalries, a global pandemic and uncertainties related to the future of economic globalisation require more rather than less multilateral cooperation.

Given the crises plaguing the post-war liberal multilateral institutions, India as an aspirational, responsible power has risen to play its part in bridging the gap between the demand and supply of multilateralism. While India has long been a leader in South-South cooperation, in recent years, it has demonstrated leadership in forming broad-based coalitions involving both developing and developed countries on pressing global problems, such as India's initiative of International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. India has also joined the Franco-German initiative of 'Alliance for Multilateralism', an informal grouping of countries that believe in a multilateral order based on respect for international law.

The Indian Council of World Affairs held a 1-day Webinar on Advancing Reformed Multilateralism in the Changing World on 10 December 2020 on the eve of India assuming the non-permanent seat in the UNSC for 2021-22. This edited volume is an outcome of the discussions and deliberations in the Webinar looking at the evolution of India's multilateralism, its approach to multilateral institutions including the UN and the Bretton Woods institutions, agenda and processes, such as climate change negotiations, and delving into the opportunities and challenges facing India as it makes a renewed push to realise its vision of reformed multilateralism during its tenure at the UNSC. This volume will be useful for both scholars and practitioners interested in India's multilateral relations, and it would also be a bellwether of an emerging narrative of reformed multilateralism.



Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh

Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs

ICWA Publications

Issue Briefs

1. Dr. Sudeep Kumar, China-Japan Relations and the Taiwan Issue (05 April 2022)
2. Dr. Punit Gaur, Election in Turkmenistan: Continuity or Change? (06 April 2022)
3. Gunjan Sidana, China's growing engagement with Central Asia (07 April 2022)
4. Dr. Arnab Chakrabarty, The crisis in Ukraine and Russia's engagement with Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba (19 April 2022)
5. Dr. Samatha Mallempati, The Crisis in Sri Lanka: Stalemate Continues (20 April 2022)
6. Dr. Rahul Nath Choudhury, What India gains from trade deal with Australia and the UAE? (20 April 2022)
7. Dr. Anwesha Ghosh, Is China looking for a greater role in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan? (20 April 2022)
8. Dr. Stuti Banerjee, India and the Emerging Dynamics of the Indo-Pacific (17 May 2022)
9. Dr. Arshad, Political Journey of Tunisia under President Saied: An Assessment (17 May 2022)
10. Dr. Ankita Dutta, Ukraine Crisis – Evolving European Security Architecture (20 May 2022)
11. Dr. Lakshmi Priya, India and UAE Fostering Economic Ties through CEPA (03 June 2022)
12. Dr. Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui, Lebanon Elections: An Assessment (03 June 2022)
13. Dr. Jojin V. John, Crisis in Ukraine and Japan-Russia Relations (07 June 2022)
14. Dr. Ankita Dutta, Europe's Energy Security in the Aftermath of Ukrainian Crisis (13 June 2022)
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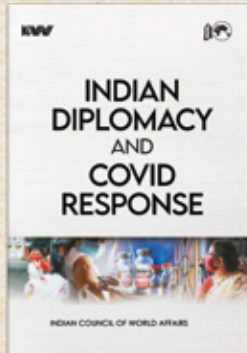
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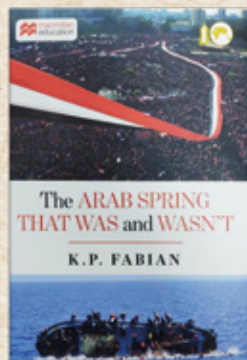
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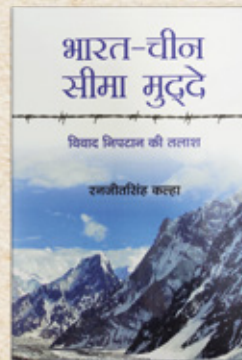
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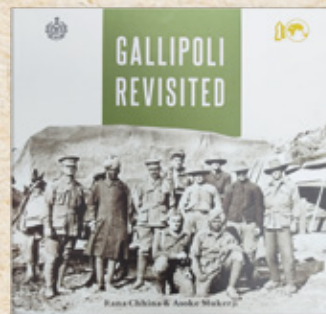
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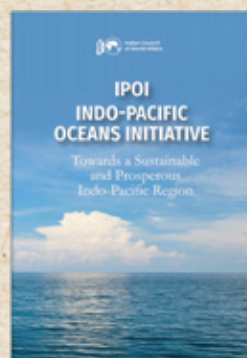
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India Quarterly

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Guest Issue

Editorial

As India celebrates 75 years of its Independence this year, it is also a time to reflect on the trajectory of one of the most interesting and significant democratic experimentations in human history. India's journey has been bold, audacious and, at times, even tempestuous, but it has always been linked to the wider trends in the global order. From the very beginning, Indian policymakers wanted to carve a special role for their nation in the global polity.

It is, therefore, imperative to assess Indian foreign policy over the past seven decades and to outline future challenges at a time when global order is passing through an unprecedented flux with structural, institutional and normative shifts, making it imperative for nations to be highly adaptive in their approach and policy frameworks. India's rise has made it central to most of the conversations on global governance, and unlike in the past, there are some critical choices to be made.

It has become a cliché to suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a transformative impact on global politics. Indeed, for a health issue to be at the centre of international political cross-currents is a rare development, though some pandemics in the past too have changed the global calculus to a considerable degree. For all the debate on the changing nature of security for the last several decades, it took the onslaught of COVID-19 to make the world realise that the so-called non-traditional security issues are actually rather traditional. And as the world continues to grapple with a health crisis that has morphed into a wealth crisis, policymakers are having to re-evaluate their assumptions to a significant extent.

But international politics has a logic of its own too. With or without the pandemic, the tectonic plates of the post-1945 global order had begun to shift. In more ways

than one, COVID-19 has merely accelerated the trends that were already visible before the devastation from Wuhan struck us in 2020. Great power politics does not really need a pandemic to reveal itself.

China's rise has shaken the global political order, and since the pandemic, it has revealed the multiple dimensions that have been impacted by the rise of a power in the third decade of the twenty-first century that really wants to shake up the status quo. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has also underscored the fragility of the extant order even in Europe.

Today, New Delhi wants to play a 'leading role' in the international system so that it can shape global outcomes, rather than merely being a recipient of the frameworks set by others. In the Indo-Pacific, a large part of its foreign policy today is to find opportunities in a challenging environment to shape global outcomes. One of the ways in which India along with others have responded to this is to push the envelope on building issue-based coalitions among like-minded nations. The plethora of minilaterals in the Indo-Pacific today underscore the stark void in this vast geography when it comes to institutionalisation. And in the absence of major power consensus, the ideas of middle powers like India have found greater receptivity.

In the global order fundamentally transformed by the COVID-19 pandemic and sharpening great power contestation, India has been able to approach its global and regional engagement firmly rooted in the philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family). Where some of the richest and most powerful nations in the world turned inwards and erected barriers, India opened its heart and purse strings as a responsible member of the world community.



Great power politics is once again shaping every dimension of the global order: climate change and sustainable development, infrastructure and connectivity, trajectory of trade partnerships, technological developments for the Fourth Industrial Revolution and global health paradigms. Indian foreign and security policies will have to contend with these shifts much like other nations. But if we can get it right this time and shed our ideological shibboleth, then this inflection point in global politics offers New Delhi an opportunity to emerge as a 'leading power' in the true sense of the term.

This special issue of India Quarterly examines Indian foreign policy across multiple dimensions and through different prisms: theoretical and empirical. These articles speak to the foreign policy issues of today even as they explore the historical dimensions of India's engagement with the wider world. While this issue explores India's vision for the Indo-Pacific and the evolving trajectory of India's ties with Europe, it also engages with the debate

on nuclear disarmament in India and India's management of its ties in the Middle East.

India's relations with China remain central to India's foreign policy aspirations, but India's climate agenda, economic diplomacy, education policy and the need for a refugee law are also explored, showcasing the emerging dimensions in India's engagement with the wider world.

India's past diffidence in making certain foreign policy choices is rapidly giving way to greater readiness to acknowledge the need for reassessing old assumptions. This special issue aims to push this debate to new frontiers at a time of great flux in India as well as the world at large.

Harsh V. Pant

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Guest Editor





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, roundtable 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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