



NEWSLETTER

Issue: 31 | October - December 2022



Hon'ble Vice President of India and President, Indian Council of World Affairs **Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar** chaired the 21st Governing Body & 20th Governing Council Meeting of the ICWA on 18 November 2022.

External Affairs Minister and Vice President of ICWA **Dr. S. Jaishankar** and **Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs** and Vice-President of ICWA **Shri P. P. Chaudhary** also participated.



To commemorate the 30th Anniversary of India-Central Asia Diplomatic Relations, ICWA organized an International Conference on “Dynamics of India-Central Asia Relations: Scale & Scope” on 15 December 2022. Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Sanjay Verma delivered the keynote address. H.E. Mr. Nurlan Zhalgasbayev, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to India, H.E. Mr. Lukmon Bobokalonzoda, Ambassador of Tajikistan to India, H.E. Mr. Azamat Seidibaliev, Cd'A of Kyrgyzstan, H.E. Mr. Aziz Baratov, Cd'A of Uzbekistan to India and Mr. Isgender Ataliyev, Representative from Embassy of Turkmenistan in India also addressed the Conference.



A closed-door interaction with H.E. Dr. Ali Bagheri Kani, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and top negotiator on JCPOA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran was organised on 24 November 2022.



Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA led a delegation to the General Conference on The Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), Indonesia, Jakarta held on 8-9 December 2022.

Contents

Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “China and the Arab World: Past and Present” written by Dr. F.R. Siddiqui, Senior Research Fellow, ICWA, 03 October 2022	4
ICWA Book Discussion – “China’s BRI in Different Regions of the World: Cooperation, Contradictions & Concerns” (An ICWA Publication, edited by Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Senior Research Fellow, ICWA), 07 October 2022	4
Ambassador of Vietnam to India H.E. Mr. Nguyen Thanh Hai called on Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, 11 October 2022	5
Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “Security Dynamics in India-Sri Lanka Relations: Post 2009” written by Dr. Samatha Mallempati, Research Fellow, ICWA, 11 October 2022	5
Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “China’s Engagement with Nepal Since 2008” written by Naresh Kumar B.K., Research Fellow, ICWA, 13 October 2022	6
Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “China and the South Pacific: Unfolding Geopolitical Shifts in the Region” by Dr. Pragya Pandey, Research Fellow, ICWA, 18 October 2022	6
Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “The Crisis in Afghanistan and the Taliban Regime” written by Dr. Anwesha Ghosh, Research Fellow, ICWA, 19 October 2022	7
Interaction between ICWA and Vietnamese Delegation led by Prof. Dr. Vo Dai Luoc, President, Vietnam-Asia Pacific Economic Center on “Economic Relations with US, Russia and China in the new Global Context”, 20 October 2022	7
ICWA Panel Discussion on “Abraham Accords and Emerging Political Realities in West Asia”, 09 November 2022	8
Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “An assessment of the prospective FTA between India-Australia” by Dr. Rahul Nath Chaudhary, Research Fellow, ICWA, 11 November 2022	9
Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “Russia-China Relations and a Changing World Order” written by Dr. Himani Pant, Research Fellow, ICWA, 14 November 2022	9
Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “Understanding SICA: Towards Building a Stronger Partnership” written by Dr. Stuti Banerjee, Senior Research Fellow, ICWA, and Dr. Arnab Chakrabarty, Research Fellow, ICWA, 15 November 2022	10
8 th ICWA-Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) Dialogue, 16 November 2022	10
21 st Meeting of the Governing Body of ICWA and 20 th Meeting of the Governing Council Meeting of ICWA, 18 November 2022	12
Informal Discussion with the Korean Delegation led by Dr. HONG Hyunik, Chancellor, Korean National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA), Republic of Korea, 24 November 2022	13

Closed door in-person interaction with H.E. Dr. Ali Bagheri Kani, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and top negotiator on JCPOA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran on ‘Consolidating Peace and Security in SCO Context: A Vision from Islamic Republic of Iran’, 24 November 2022	13
10 th Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Thinktank Forum on "Sustainable Security in Asia in a Period of Turbulence and Transformation: Challenges and Vision", 30 November 2022	14
Ms. Gulden Kaskarbayeva, Ph. D. Candidate, Faculty of International Relations, L. N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan, 1 st SCO Resident Scholar of ICWA, 01 December 2022	15
General Conference of Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), Jakarta, Indonesia, 08-09 December 2022	16
Talk by U Min Zin, Founding Member & Executive Director, Institute for Strategy and Policy (ISP), Myanmar on “Developments in Myanmar and Regional Response”, 13 December 2022	17
India-Central Asia International Conference - Commemorating 30 th Anniversary of India-Central Asia Diplomatic Relations on “Dynamics of India-Central Asia Relations: Scale & Scope”, 15 December 2022	17
Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “Japan-China Foreign-Security Relations”, written by Dr. Sudeep Kumar, Research Fellow, ICWA, 19 December 2022	21
Interaction between ICWA and Institute for Foreign Policy and Strategic Studies, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, 20 December 2022	21
Outreach Events	22
Publications	24
India Quarterly-Editorial	27

Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “China and the Arab World: Past and Present” written by Dr. F.R. Siddiqui, Senior Research Fellow, ICWA, 03 October 2022

ICWA organised a Sapru House Paper Discussion on ‘China and the Arab World’ written by Dr. Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui, Senior Research Fellow, ICWA on 03 October 2022. The discussion was chaired by Ambassador D. P. Srivastava, Former Ambassador of India to Iran. Dr. Waïel Awwad, an International Independent Journalist and Dr. P. K. Pradhan, Research Fellow, IDSA were the discussants. This paper identifies main contours of the China-Arab relationship in a historical perspective and it explores how the different stages of the relationship have witnessed different priorities.



ICWA Book Discussion on “China’s BRI in Different Regions of the World: Cooperation, Contradictions and Concerns” (An ICWA Publication), 07 October 2022



ICWA organised a book discussion on “China’s BRI in Different Regions of the World: Cooperation, Contradictions and Concerns” (an ICWA Publication) edited by Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Senior Research Fellow, ICWA, at Sapru House, New Delhi on 7 October 2022. The opening remarks were delivered by Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA. The book discussion was chaired by Amb. Ashok Kantha, Former Ambassador of India to China and Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi with Lt. Gen. S.L.

Narasimhan, Director General, Centre for Contemporary China Studies, New Delhi, Prof. Srikanth Kondapalli, Dean, School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi and Prof. Sreeram Chaulia, Dean, Jindal School of International Affairs, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Haryana as panellists.

While delivering her opening remarks, Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA averred that an analysis of Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI) projects provide valuable insights in understanding China - its behaviour, expanding footprint and the functioning of Chinese State. The Chair, Amb. Ashok Kantha, underscored that this volume provides various regional perspectives by putting together relevant inputs while at the same time providing an

overview of the nature of BRI, its contradictions, challenges and the likely trajectory of the initiative. While delineating the structure of the book Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, editor of the volume, described the three key terms used in the book- Cooperation, Contradictions and Concerns.

While commending ICWA for bringing out a comprehensive publication on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Lt. Gen. S.L. Narasimhan noted that the book gives a very good overview of Chinese funded land-based projects all along the world. Prof. Srikanth Kondapalli appreciated the contribution of ICWA and highlighted the importance of the book as it challenges the Chinese narrative about the BRI. Prof. Sreeram Chaulia stated that the book provides a global survey of Chinese projects. It also outlines the working of a great power using economic statecraft on a grand global stage. There is a need for more critical judgments to convey Indian viewpoints.

Ambassador of Vietnam to India H.E. Nguyen Thanh Hai called on Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, 11 October 2022

H.E. Nguyen Thanh Hai, Ambassador of Vietnam to India called on Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA to discuss present and future collaboration between ICWA and counterpart institutions in Vietnam. During the meeting, bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest were also discussed.



Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “Security Dynamics in India-Sri Lanka Relations: Post 2009” written by Dr. Samatha Mallempati, Research Fellow, ICWA, 11 October 2022

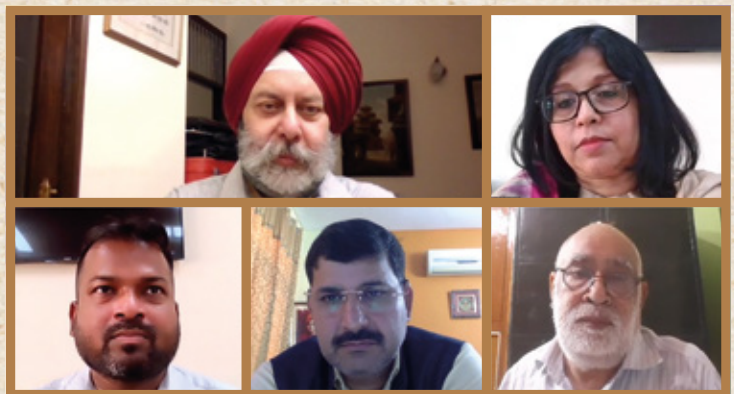


A Sapru House Paper discussion on "Security Dynamics in India-Sri Lanka Relations-Post 2009" written by Dr. Samatha Mallempati, Research Fellow, ICWA, was organised by ICWA on 11 October 2022. It was chaired by Amb. Ashok Kantha, Former Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, & Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi. Dr. Mayilvaganan M, Associate Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies & Malinda Meegoda, Research Associate, Lakshman Kadirgamar

Institute (LKI) were the discussants. The paper argued that, since 2009, India-Sri Lanka relations have undergone significant changes and, therefore, it looks into domestic and external factors that are influencing the security dynamics between India and Sri Lanka in the post-War years such as the ethnic issue, reconciliation, fishermen issue, outlook towards the peace and security of the Indian Ocean, and the role of external actors.

Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “China’s Engagement with Nepal Since 2008” written by Naresh Kumar B.K., Research Fellow, ICWA, 13 October 2022

A Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “China’s Engagement with Nepal Since 2008” written by Naresh Kumar B.K., Research Fellow, ICWA, was organised by ICWA on 13 October 2022. Amb. Manjeev Singh Puri, Former Ambassador of India to Nepal, chaired the discussion. Prof. Sanjay Bhardwaj, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Prof. Shiv Bahadur Singh, DAV PG College, BHU, Varanasi, were the discussants. It assesses the increasing strategic profile of China in the changing geopolitical scenario in Nepal by studying its engagement in various sectors such as energy, connectivity, trade, socio-cultural engagements and cooperation under the rubric of BRI.



Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “China and the South Pacific: Unfolding Geopolitical Shifts in the Region” written by Dr. Pragya Pandey, Research Fellow, ICWA, 18 October 2022

A Sapru House Paper discussion on “China and the South Pacific: Unfolding Geopolitical Shifts in the Region” written by Dr. Pragya Pandey, Research Fellow, ICWA was organised by ICWA on 18 October 2022. The discussion was chaired by Prof. Sanjay Chaturvedi, Professor & Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of International Relations, South Asian University, New Delhi. Capt. Sarabjeet Singh Parmar, Senior Fellow, National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi and Prof. Ian Hall, Professor of International



Relations and Acting Director, Griffith Asia Institute, Brisbane, were the discussants. The primary objective of the paper is to evaluate geopolitical shifts in the South Pacific region in the light of China's increasing diplomatic and strategic presence. It aims to analyse approaches of major players in their engagement with the Pacific Island Countries (PICs).

Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “The Crisis in Afghanistan and the Taliban Regime” written by Dr. Anwesha Ghosh, Research Fellow, ICWA, 19 October 2022

A Sapru House Paper Discussion on “The Crisis in Afghanistan and the Taliban Regime” written by Dr. Anwesha Ghosh, Research Fellow, ICWA was organised by ICWA on 19 October 2022. The discussion was chaired by Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva, Professor and Jean Monnet Chair, Centre for European Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Dr. Vishal Chandra, Research Fellow, MP-IDSA & Prof. Dhananjay Tripathi, Associate Professor, South Asian University were the discussants. The paper discusses the major political developments that led to the collapse of the Afghan Republic in August 2021 & in this context, it also looks at earlier regime changes in Afghanistan & ends by looking at the Taliban regime that presently rules Afghanistan.



Interaction between ICWA and Vietnamese Delegation led by Prof. Dr. Vo Dai Luoc, President, Vietnam-Asia Pacific Economic Center on “Economic Relations with US, Russia and China in the New Global Context”, 20 October 2022

A five-member delegation from Vietnam led by Prof. Dr. Vo Dai Luoc, President, Vietnam-Asia Pacific Economic Centre, visited ICWA on 20 October 2022 to interact with its Research Faculty on the theme; “Economic Relations with US, Russia and China in the new Global Context”. The Vietnamese delegation also included Assoc. Prof. Bui Tat Thang, Vietnam-ASEAN Association for Economic Cooperation Development, Dr. Pham



Anh Tuan, Vice General Director, Vietnam Institute of Economics, MA Vo Hai Minh, Institute of World Economics and Politics and MA Tran Cam Trang, Vietnam-Asia Pacific Economic Centre. ICWA Research Faculties comprised of Dr. Nivedita Ray, Director (Research), Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Senior Research Fellow, Dr. Stuti Banerjee, Senior Research Fellow, Dr. Himani Pant, Research Fellow, Dr. Teshu Singh, Research Fellow, and Dr. Temjenmeren Ao, Research Fellow. The interaction focussed on the ongoing geo-political shifts along with the Ukrainian conflict. At the time when the world was still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic, the discussion highlighted how it is leading to high inflation, energy crisis and the prospects of some nations heading towards global recession. The discussion looked into sectors where India and Vietnam can have greater cooperation and collaboration which includes IT, Renewable Energy, especially wind, Pharma, including in R&D, Tourism and Agriculture. The ongoing geopolitical shifts present challenges to both India and Vietnam in terms of their relations with great powers but also opportunities in terms of strengthening bilateral ties and exploring trilateral cooperation.

ICWA Panel Discussion on “Abraham Accords and Emerging Political Realities in West Asia”, 09 November 2022

ICWA organised a Panel Discussion on Abraham Accords and Emerging Political Realities in West Asia on 09 November 2022, at Sapru House, New Delhi. The discussion was chaired by Amb. Anil Trigunayat, Former Ambassador to Jordan, Libya and Malta. He remarked that the Abraham Accords are a positive step and they were initiated by the US to bring Israel closer to the ambit of the Arab



countries and the endeavor has been largely successful. UAE and Israel have benefited majorly from the accords; the bilateral trade reached US\$ 900 million and the two countries signed a Free Trade Agreement in June 2022. Morocco and Sudan have maintained the desired momentum of bilateral ties since the signing of the accords in September 2020. I2U2 and the Lebanon-Israel maritime deal are the results of the positive space created by the Abraham Accords. West Asia is going through a major churn and India’s relations with the region has evolved from being transactional to truly strategic.

Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, Former Rector, JNU observed that Abraham Accords have been successful as opposed to the earlier attempts of Arab-Israel peace processes including Camp David Accords (1978) and Oslo Peace Accords (1993). The success of Abraham accords is evident through the signing of arms deal and conduct of joint naval exercises among the signatory countries. Prof. Bansidhar Pradhan, Centre for West Asian Studies, JNU stated that the Abraham Accords marked a new phase in the history of Israel-Palestine conflict. They are a result of convergence of perceptions and interests of the engaged actors. The issue of Palestine not mentioned in Abraham Accords needs to be addressed. Dr. Waiel Awwad, Senior International Independent Journalist observed that the Abraham Accords aimed to accommodate Israel in the West Asian region and it has succeeded to an extent. The importance of the principle of coexistence of Israel and Palestine should not diminish.

In the discussion, the participants observed that people’s perception is an important consideration in evaluating the success of Abraham Accords. If politics fails to deliver, economic growth and partnerships should be given a chance through innovative thinking. The success of the Abraham accords and the rights of Palestinians should

not be linked. It is in everyone's interests to allow the Abraham Accords to work. Iran also needs to be given space; it is worth a try. It is important to give strength to Arab leaders domestically; only strong leaders can make peace. India welcomed the Abraham accords that brings peace and stability in the region. India is in a unique position with close and friendly ties with Israel as also the Arab world and Iran.

Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “An Assessment of the Prospective FTA between India-Australia” written by Dr. Rahul Nath Chaudhary, Research Fellow, ICWA, 11 November 2022

A Sapru House Paper Discussion on "An Assessment of the Prospective FTA between India-Australia" by Dr. Rahul Nath Choudhury, Research Fellow, ICWA, on 11 November 2022. It was chaired by Dr. Prema-Chandra Athukorala, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University. Dr. D. N. Nayak, RBI Chair Professor, Department of Business Economics, MS University of Baroda, Vadodara Gujarat & Dr. Sunandan Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Humanities of Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur were the discussants.



Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “Russia-China Relations and a Changing World Order” written by Dr. Himani Pant, Research Fellow, ICWA, 14 November 2022



A Sapru House Paper discussion on “Russia-China Relations and a Changing World Order” written by Dr. Himani Pant, Research Fellow, ICWA, was held on 14 November 2022. The discussion was chaired by Amb. Venkatesh Varma, Former Ambassador of India to Russia. Prof. Suba Chandran, Professor and Dean School of Conflict and Security Studies, National Institute of Advanced Studies and Mr. Amit Bhandari, Senior Fellow, Gateway House were the discussants. The paper examines recent trends in

Russia-China relations with an emphasis on Russia's evolving policy towards China. It traces the evolution of Russia-China relations since the 1990s and highlights major vantage points of competition and cooperation.

Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “Understanding SICA: Towards Building a Stronger Partnership”, written by Dr. Stuti Banerjee, Senior Research Fellow, ICWA and Dr. Arnab Chakrabarty, Research Fellow, ICWA, 15 November 2022



A Sapru House Paper Discussion on "Understanding SICA: Towards Building a Stronger Partnership" written by Dr. Stuti Banerjee, Senior Research Fellow, ICWA and Dr. Arnab Chakrabarty, Research Fellow, ICWA was organised by ICWA on 15 November 2022. It was chaired by Dr. Sreeram Chaulia, Professor and Dean, Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA), O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU), Sonapat. Dr. Aparajita Gangopadhyay, Professor, Department of International Relations, Goa

University and Dr. Aprajita Kashyap, Assistant Professor, Centre for Canada, United States and Latin American Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, were the discussants. The paper explored the proposition that, as India begins to extend its focus beyond the conventional Latin American partners in the region, the economic and strategic potential of the Central American States is gaining prominence among Indian policymakers.

8th ICWA-Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) Dialogue, 16 November 2022



The 8th ICWA-Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) Dialogue was held on 16 November 2022 in the virtual format. The two institutions have been MoU partners since 2005. Around 25 delegates from the two sides participated in the dialogue.



In the Inaugural session, Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA and Head of ICWA delegation; and Amb. Li Jie, Vice President, CPIFA and Head of CPIFA delegation delivered their remarks. The Indian delegation included Amb. Nalin Surie, Distinguished Fellow, Delhi Policy Group (DPG), New Delhi, Former Ambassador to China, Former High Commissioner to the UK; Amb. Ashok K. Kantha, Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi, Former Ambassador to China and Former High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Amb. T. S. Tirumurti, Former Permanent Representative of India at UN, Amb. Gautam Bambawale, Distinguished Professor, Symbiosis International University, Pune, Former Ambassador to China and Bhutan, Former High Commissioner to Pakistan; Mr. Jayadeva Ranade, President, Centre for China Analysis and Strategy, Prof. Madhu Bhalla, Editor, India Quarterly; Prof. Srikanth Kondapalli, Dean, School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi, Commodore Gopal Suri, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Contemporary China Studies, New Delhi, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Senior Research Fellow, ICWA and Dr. Teshu Singh, Research Fellow, ICWA.

The Chinese delegation included Amb. Wei Wei, Former Ambassador to India, Singapore and Brunei; Mr. Liu Qing, Vice President, China Institute of International Studies; Dr. Hu Shisheng, Director, Institute for South Asia Studies, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), Dr. Zhang Jianping, Director General, Centre for Regional Economic Cooperation, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM); Dr. Wang Xu, Executive Deputy Director, Center for South Asian Studies, Peking University, Prof. Lin Minwang, Deputy Director, Center for South Asian Studies, Fudan University, Prof. Ma Xiaolin, Senior Professor and Director, Institute for Studies on the Mediterranean Rim (ISMR), Zhejiang International Studies University (ZISU), Mr. Ye Hailin, Deputy Head of National Institute of International Strategy (NIIS), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), Dr. Liu Zongyi, Secretary General of China and South Asia Cooperation Research Center, Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS), and Dr. Wu Hongying, Director, Center for BRICS & G20 Studies, CICIR.

A number of key issues pertaining to the bilateral and multilateral relations of the two



countries were discussed. The first session of the dialogue was focussed on “Global and regional developments: Views from India and China”. The second session of the dialogue discussed “Cooperation between India and China for Mutual Benefit: Economic, Cultural and People to People Exchanges”. The third session of the dialogue deliberated upon “Reformed Multilateralism and True Multilateralism: Commonalities and Contradictions”.

21st Meeting of the Governing Body of ICWA and 20th Governing Council Meeting of ICWA, 18 November 2022



Informal Discussion with the Korean Delegation led by Dr. Hong Hyunik, Chancellor, Korean National Diplomatic Academy, Republic of Korea, 24 November 2022

A 3-member Korean delegation led by Dr. Hong Hyunik, Chancellor, Korean National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA), Republic of Korea, interacted with Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA and Research Faculty, ICWA at Sapru House on 24 November 2022. Dr. Hong Hyunik, Chancellor KNDA, Dr. Choe Wongi, and Dr. Cho Wondeuk were the members of the Korean delegation. The two sides held discussions on further strengthening India - South-Korea bilateral relations & exchanged views on the Indo-Pacific.



Closed Door Interaction with H.E. Dr. Ali Bagheri Kani, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Top Negotiator on JCPOA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran on 'Consolidating Peace and Security in SCO Context: A Vision from Islamic Republic of Iran', 24 November 2022



A closed-door interaction with H.E. Dr. Bagheri Kani, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Iran & top negotiator on JCPOA, Iran, who spoke on 'Consolidating Peace & Security in context of SCO' was held at Sapru House, on 24 November 2022. The talk was chaired by Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG ICWA. Former Ambassadors of India and scholars on Iran participated in the interaction.

The discussion focused on Iran's entry into Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) as a member country. It was emphasized that Iran has joined SCO because multilateralism is important and SCO is one of the instruments to create a new pattern in the multinational arena. (Iran has also applied to join BRICS to promote multilateralism.) In SCO, Iran's focus will be on capacity building in Central Asia so as to enhance security and stability in the region. It will help in dealing with traditional as well as non-traditional security challenges in the region. India

welcomes Iran’s entry in the SCO and hopes that connectivity projects in the region will receive the required push and momentum with this development. Peace and security in the SCO region has immense significance for India and the region and there should be a coordinated effort on part of the SCO members in this regard especially in the backdrop of the recent developments in Afghanistan.

10th Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Thinktank Forum on "Sustainable Security in Asia in a Period of Turbulence and Transformation: Challenges and Vision", 30 November 2022

The 10th Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Think Tank Forum was held on 30 November to 1 December 2022. The theme of the Forum was “Sustainable Security in Asia in a Period of Turbulence and Transformation: Challenges and Vision”. The Shanghai Institute for International Studies (SIIS), Shanghai, China, as the current Chair of the Forum, hosted the event in hybrid mode. Participants from India joined the Forum online.



The Forum, apart from inaugural and concluding sessions, consisted of three academic sessions on Capacity Building for Sustainable Security in Asia: Food Security and Energy Security, Capacity Building for Sustainable Security in Asia: Transformation and Connectivity, and 30 Years of CICA: Achievements, Challenges and Prospects.

Three ICWA experts participated in all three sessions. Mr. Siraj Hussain, Former Agriculture Secretary, Government of India, and Promoter Director, Arcus Policy Research (APR), spoke on “Challenges to Food Security of Asia” in Session I. Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, Founder-CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), New Delhi, spoke on “Capacity Building for Sustainable Security in Asia: Green Transformation and Connectivity” in Session II. Dr. Athar Zafar, Senior Research Fellow, ICWA, gave his presentation on “CICA’s Transformation: A Perspective on Prospects and Challenges”.

The participants discussed various factors affecting food security and international transportation, especially in Asia. Food security has acquired a critical dimension due to rising global population, geopolitical issues and COVID-19 impact. Cooperation, knowledge and experience sharing among CICA members in various fields was suggested, especially for sustainable development. Speakers also mentioned that the CICA Think Tank Forum has become a prominent stage to discuss and collaborate on important regional issues of Asia.

Ms. Gulden Kaskarbayeva, Ph. D. Candidate, Faculty of International Relations, L. N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan, 1st SCO Resident Scholar of ICWA, 01 December 2022

In the year of India's Chairmanship of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) (2022-2023), ICWA is hosting the SCO Resident Researchers Program in collaboration with 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-Dec 2022, China-Jan 2023, Kyrgyzstan-Feb 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 December 2022, ICWA hosted a scholar from Kazakhstan: Ms. Gulden Kaskarbayeva, Ph. D. Candidate, Faculty of International Relations, L. N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan; and Expert of the Analysis and Forecasting Group of the Foreign Policy Research Institute under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Kazakhstan.

She held interactions at leading think tanks and academic institutions of India, including the O. P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat; Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi.

General Conference of Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), Jakarta, Indonesia, 08-09 December 2022



Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA & Chairperson, Conference of Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), India led a 3-member delegation at the 13th CSCAP held on 08-09 December 2022 at The ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA & Chairperson, CSCAP-India delivered the keynote speech at the panel titled “Prospect of the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific” of the General Conference held on 09th December 2022. Amb. D. B. Venkatesh Varma, Former Indian Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament (Geneva), Spain, and Russia, made a presentation at the panel titled “ASEAN Centrality and Security Challenges in the region” of the General Conference held on 08th December 2022.

The Conference deliberated on the following themes - Great Power Competition and Competing Regional Order, ASEAN Centrality and Security Challenges in the Region, Economic Security, Global Health Cooperation: Lessons from the Pandemic, Impact of War in Ukraine to Indo-Pacific Region, Prospect of the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific.

Experts from CSCAP member countries, including Australia, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, the USA, and Vietnam participated in the General Conference.

Talk by U Min Zin, Founding Member & Executive Director, Institute for Strategy and Policy (ISP), Myanmar on “Developments in Myanmar and Regional Response”, 13 December 2022

A talk on “Developments in Myanmar and Regional Response” by U Min Zin, Founding Member & the Executive Director, The Institute for Strategy & Policy- Myanmar was organised by ICWA at Sapru House, New Delhi, on 13 December 2022. It was chaired by Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA. The discussions were held under Chatham House rules.



India-Central Asia International Conference to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of India-Central Asia Diplomatic Relations on “Dynamics of India-Central Asia Relations: Scale & Scope”, 15 December 2022

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of India-Central Asia diplomatic relations, ICWA hosted a one-day International Conference, “Dynamics of India-Central Asia Relations: Scale & Scope”, at Sapru House, New Delhi on 15 December 2022. The Conference saw in-person participation by Ambassadors/Charge d’Affaires of Central Asian Republics and scholars & former diplomats from Central Asian countries and India. Members of the diplomatic corps in Delhi and the academic and strategic community also attended the Conference.



In the Inaugural Session, Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, said that the 30 years of India's relations with Central Asian countries have been a momentous journey of friendship and cooperation. India was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with all five countries of the region. Over the period, the relationship has evolved into enduring strategic partnerships with different countries in the region. She underlined that growing areas of convergence between India and Central Asian countries include regional connectivity, regional security, energy security, economic cooperation, and people-to-people contacts.

In his Keynote Address, Amb. Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, elaborated that in the last three decades, India has worked with Central Asia mainly through the bilateral track. Today, the engagement benefits from the 'CA 5 Plus' mechanism of consultation, which began in 2019 at the Foreign Ministers' level, and it has now been raised to the level of a Summit, with the First India-Central Asian Summit held in January 2022. In terms of scale and scope, India and Central Asian countries needed re-imagination informed by the fast-changing realities of our times. The opportunities and challenges of India-Central Asia ties can and must change for mutual advantage. Central Asia, strategically located at the centre of the Eurasian landmass, is not a distant region from India, it is very much a part of India's 'Extended Neighbourhood'.

The Inaugural Session was also addressed by Mr. Nurlan Zhalgasbayev, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Mr. Lukmon Bobokalonzoda, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to India; Mr. Azamat Seidibaliyev, Cd'A of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to India; Mr. Aziz Baratov, Cd'A of the Republic of Uzbekistan to India and Mr. Isgender Ataliyev, Representative from Embassy of the Republic of Turkmenistan in India. They emphasised greater cooperation in various spheres, including connectivity and regional security between India and the region.

The First Session on 'India-Central Asia Security and Strategic Interests' was Chaired by Amb. Gitesh Sarma, Former Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs and Former Ambassador of India to Uzbekistan. Speakers of the Session were Prof. Svetlana Kozhirova, Professor, Head of the Center for Chinese and Asian Studies, International Science Complex "Astana", Astana, Kazakhstan; Mr. Eldor Tulyakov, Executive Director, Development



Strategy Centre, Tashkent, Uzbekistan; Dr. Saihomid Sharipov, Head of the Department for Analysis and Forecasting of the Internal Policy of the Centre for Strategic Research under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Dushanbe, Tajikistan; and Dr. Rajorshi Roy, Associate Fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi.

The First Session discussed Central Asia's security and strategic interests, the challenges related to regional geopolitics and regional security, and the necessity to combat extremism, terrorism, narcotics trafficking, and arms smuggling. Security challenges in the Central Asian region are related to political stability, social and economic development, internal security threats, and unhindered transportation. Establishing effective mechanisms for consolidating the aspirations of all the Central Asian states is crucial to address modern threats and challenges. Panellists spoke on the Russia-Ukraine crisis and Afghanistan, which remains the main external

concern of the region. The participants highlighted that the geopolitical situation in Central Asia depends on the growth and emergence of new global players such as India and China.

The Second Session on ‘India-Central Asia Connectivity: Regional Cooperation and Multilateral Engagement’ was Chaired by Amb. Vinod Kumar, Former Ambassador of India to Uzbekistan. The panellists of the Session were Mr. Nurbek Mamytov, Researcher, National Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Mr. Tursunov Batir Erkinovich, Deputy Director, International Institute for Central Asian Studies, Tashkent, Uzbekistan; and Dr. Meena Singh Roy, Senior Fellow & Head, West & Central Asia Centre, Tillotama Foundation.



This Session discussed regional cooperation and connectivity through multilateral engagements. The participants highlighted that India and CARs had undertaken important initiatives to strengthen the connectivity links, such as the INSTC and Ashgabat Agreement and to utilise the potential of Chabahar Port. They noted that Chabahar Port could play an essential role in connectivity for India and Central Asian countries. The need to go beyond physical connectivity and explore digital connectivity in areas such as tele-education and tele-medicine was also noted. The participants also noted that multilateral forums, such as SCO, CICA and EEU, are vital in improving linkages. They can also assist in understanding the trajectory of regional cooperation and multilateral engagements between India and the wider Eurasian region.

The Third Session on ‘India-Central Asia: Cultural and People to People Relations’ was Chaired by Amb. Ashok Sajjanhar, Former Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan. Speakers of the Session were Mr. Evgeny Kablukov, Acting Professor, Faculty of International Relations and Oriental Studies, Kyrgyz National University, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Mr. Mamurdzhon Mirvaisov, Head, Dept. of International Relations, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan; Prof. K. Warikoo, JNU (Retd.), Secretary General, Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation, New Delhi; and Prof. Sanjay Pandey, Professor, Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies, JNU, New Delhi.

The third session underscored the strong historical and cultural connections between India and the Central Asian region. The speakers suggested that both sides have a strong base to build fruitful engagement in various common areas. They mentioned that bilateral relations have to be developed in a broad-based manner. Both sides need to update information about each other. It is a fact that there is a New India



and a New Central Asia. Many speakers underlined the aspects that bind India and Central Asian countries in common cultural perceptions and people-to-people engagement. It was highlighted that the young generation should be made aware of the shared heritage through enhanced media sensitisation. As regards the shared Buddhist heritage, urgent steps are needed to restore, protect, and document edicts, historical and cultural sites in the region. The potential of tourism, medical tourism, healthcare sectors and enhanced air connectivity was emphasised.



The Fourth Session on ‘India-Central Asia: Energy Geopolitics, Economy and Trade’ was Chaired by Amb. Yogendra Kumar, Former Ambassador of India to Tajikistan. The panellists of the Session were Mr. Kairat Batyrbayev- Executive Director, Eurasian International Studies Association, Astana, Kazakhstan; Mr. Ameet Kumar, Director, South and Central Asia, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi; and Dr. Mahesh Ranjan Debata Assistant Professor, Centre for Inner Asian

Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

The Fourth Session elucidated the broad contours of the economic relationship between India and the region. It was suggested that there is a vast scope for enhancing cooperation in the economic sphere. Apart from a lack of direct land connectivity, structural limitations have resulted in sub-optimal economic ties. Development of direct contacts between various Indian states and Central Asian regions can address some of these impediments. The Ukraine conflict has disrupted supply chains in the region, resulting in a growing realisation of the need to diversify especially the energy supply routes. The energy routes leading to India are considered promising for the region. It was noted that building a strong investment relationship between India and Central Asia needed to be prioritised; for India, the Central Asia region is a gateway to CIS and European markets.

Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, delivered Concluding Remarks. She observed that India-Central Asia relations are set to grow further with intensified diplomatic engagement and enhanced cooperation in a wide range of sectors including connectivity and energy. The Conference was successful in achieving its objective of exchanging views on global developments, the strategic environment and its implication on India and Central Asia’s relationship. In this changing landscape, the Conference aimed to explore the prospects for working together with India and Central Asian countries and also identify the challenges involved in the process.



Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “Japan-China Foreign-Security Relations”, Dr. Sudeep Kumar, Research Fellow, ICWA, 19 December 2022

A Sapru House Paper Discussion on "Japan-China Foreign Security Relations" written by Dr. Sudeep Kumar, Research Fellow, ICWA was organised by ICWA on 19 December 2022. It was chaired by Prof. Swaran Singh, Centre for International Politics Organization & Disarmament (CIPOD), JNU today. Dr. Sandip Mishra, Associate Prof., Centre for East Asian Studies, JNU & Dr. Sriparna Pathak, Associate Prof., Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA) were the discussants.



Interaction between ICWA and Institute for Foreign Policy and Strategic Studies, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, 20 December 2022

ICWA hosted a three-member Vietnamese delegation including Dr. Vu Le Thai Hoang, Director General, Institute for Foreign Policy and Strategic Studies, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV), Dr. Nguyen Bich Ngoc, Assistant Director General, Institute of Foreign Policy and Strategic Studies, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam and Ms. Le Nhu Mai, Research Fellow, from the Institute of Foreign and Security Studies, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV) for an interaction with ICWA research scholars. The interaction was moderated by Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA. In her remarks she stated that India was a young nation but an old civilization with the old philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. This philosophy has also been part of our G20 presidency which is on the theme One World, One Family, One Future. India's foreign policy is based on the fundamental principles of non-interference, support for dialogue and respect of rule of law and respect for all nations. These principles guide India in its relations with the major powers and in building a safe, secure, free and inclusive Indo-Pacific.



Dr. Vu Le Thai Hoang, Director General, IFPSS - DAV, in his remarks highlighted that India and Vietnam share similar principles that guide their foreign policy. Strategic autonomy is important to Vietnam & its foreign policy is guided by its national interest. Vietnam would like to continue to have good relations with China, Russia & the US. Vietnam looks at the Indo-Pacific Ocean's Initiative as an important manifestation of India's vision for the region & in addressing non-traditional security threats there is a lot of room for collaboration between India & Vietnam.

OUTREACH EVENTS

Two-day National Seminar on “75 years of India’s Foreign Policy: Achievements and Possibilities”, 12-13 November 2022

The D.A.V. College, Kanpur, UP organised a two-day national seminar on the theme ‘75 years of India’s Foreign policy: Achievements and Possibilities’ on 12-13 November 2022. Dr. Stuti Banerjee, Senior Research Fellow represented the Council in the seminar. The keynote address was given by Amb. J.K. Tripathi, Former Ambassador of India to Zimbabwe.



Two-day National Seminar on “Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project: Prospects and Problems”, 24-25 November 2022



The Department of Political Science, Mizoram University, conducted a two-day national Seminar, on ‘Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project: Prospect and Problems’ on 24-25 November 2022, at Seminar Hall, School of Social Sciences, Mizoram University, Aizawl, Mizoram. The National Seminar was sponsored by ICWA and the Planning & Programme Implementation Department, the Government of Mizoram. The Chief Guest of the Inaugural Session of the seminar was Dr. R. Lalthangliana, Minister of Commerce and Industries,

Government of Mizoram. The Guest of Honour of the inaugural session was Mr. V. K. Jakhar, Executive Director, NHIDCL. Dr. Temjenmeren Ao, Research Fellow, ICWA attended on behalf of the Council as its representative. The two-day National Seminar focused on five key thrust areas – transportation, connectivity, trade, security and policy strategy, and socio-economic and environment.

Two-day National Conference on “India-Arab Relations: Understanding the Old and New Trajectories” on 14-15 December 2022

The India Arab Cultural Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) organised a two-day National Conference on ‘India-Arab Relations: Understanding the Old and New Trajectories’ in collaboration with ICWA at New Delhi on 14-15 December 2022. Dr. Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui, Senior Research Fellow, ICWA, represented the council at the event. The conference had eight sessions apart from inaugural & valedictory sessions. The Inaugural-cum plenary session was held on 14th December 2022 at FTK Centre for Information & Technology (CIT) of the university.



ICWA Publications

Issue Briefs

1. Dr. Monika Gupta, Understanding the Sweden Elections 2022 (11 October 2022)
 2. Dr. Stuti Banerjee, India and Peru: Building a Future Ready Partnership (18 October 2022)
 3. Dr. Tunchinmang Langel, South Korea-Japan Reconciliation in Sight Amidst the North Korean Threat (27 October 2022)
 4. Dr. Temjenmeren Ao, ASEAN and its Quest for Energy Resilience and Security (10 November 2022)
 5. Aashriti Gautam, The Greco -Turkish dispute over the Aegean Sea (14 November 2022)
 6. Dr. Shrabana Barua, Pakistan's exit from the FATF 'grey list': Implications for Global Counter-Terrorism Efforts and for Islamabad (14 November 2022)
 7. Dr. Tunchinmang Langel, Outlook on South Korea and Vietnam's progression towards a "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership" (18 November 2022)
 8. Dr. Surabhi Singh, Need for a Migration and Mobility Track in India's G20 Presidency (21 November 2022)
 9. Dr. Anwesha Ghosh, Long-standing border dispute and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan reignite tensions between Taliban and Pakistan (07 December 2022)
 10. Dr. Pragya Pandey, Canada Embraces the Indo-Pacific with a Formal Strategy (09 December 2022)
 11. Dr. Samatha Mallempati, Post July 2022 Developments in Sri Lanka: Economy and Politics (20 December 2022)
 12. Dr. Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui, Istanbul Blast and its Implications: An Overview (21 December 2022)
 13. Dr. Tunchinmang Langel, Significance of Japan's New National Security Strategy 2022 (26 December 2022)
 14. Kaushik Nag, Growing Power Cooperation in South Asia (28 December 2022)
 15. Tarveen Kaur, Growing German Engagement in the Indo-Pacific (28 December 2022)
 16. Dr. Gatha Nautiyal, EU's Border Externalisation Approach: The Case of EU-Egypt Cooperation on Border Management (30 December 2022)
 17. Oonmona Das, Formalising Skills, Encouraging Mobility: A Case Study of Sri Lanka's Skills Passport and Bahrain's New Work Permit (30 December 2022)
-

Viewpoints

1. Dr. Samatha Mallempati, Maldives: Exploring a Greater Role in the Region (4 October 2022)
2. Dr. Gauri Narayan Mathur, William Ruto's Presidency: What is in Store? (13 October 2022)
3. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, China's 20th Party Congress and 'Party Building' Project (17 October 2022)

4. Dr. Pragya Pandey, US-Pacific Island Country Summit and Pacific Partnership Strategy: An Assessment (18 October 2022)
 5. Dr. Monika Gupta, First Summit of the European Political Community: Key Takeaways (03 November 2022)
 6. Dr. Stuti Banerjee, The 'New Left' and its Coming to Power in Latin America (11 November 2022)
 7. Dr. Temjenmeren Ao, ASEAN's Approach to the Indo-Pacific, (18 November 2022)
 8. Dr. Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui, Return of Netanyahu to Power: An Assessment, (01 December 2022)
 9. Dr. Lakshmi Priya, Implications of Iranian Drones in Ukraine (14 December 2022)
 10. Dr. Teshu Singh, Veracity of Chinese Overseas Police Stations (19 December 2022)
 11. Dr. Pragya Pandey, China's First Indian Ocean Region Forum and its Growing Assertiveness in the Region (21 December 2022)
 12. Dr. Himani Pant, The Growing Relevance of Eurasian Economic Union for Russia (22 December 2022)
 13. Ishani Agnihotri, Political Stalemate in Libya (30 December 2022)
-

Special Reports

1. Dr. Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui, Lebanon-Israel Maritime Deal: One Step Forward Two Steps Backward
-

ICWA Guest Columns

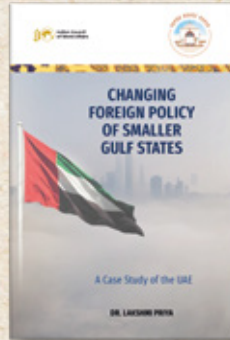
1. Dr. Alok Sheel and Amb. Manjeev Singh Puri & Damodar Pujari, 'G20@2023: India's Presidency: Two Essays' (12 October 2022)
 2. Amb. P.S. Raghavan, Amb. D.B. Venkatesh Varma, Prof. Swaran Singh & Prof. Ummu Salma Bava, 'Ukraine Crisis: A Point of Inflection for the Emerging World Order' (12 December 2022)
-

Sapru House Papers



Geopolitics of the Northwest Indian Ocean: Exploring the Strategic Presence of West Asian States

By Dr. Sankalp Gurjar,
(Indian Council of World Affairs 2022)



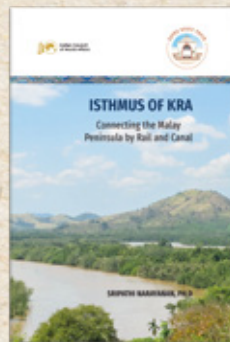
Changing Foreign Policy of Smaller Gulf States: A Case Study of the UAE

By Dr. Lakshmi Priya,
(Indian Council of World Affairs 2022)



Why Visegrad 4?: Prospects of India - V4 Cooperation

By Dr. Ankita Dutta,
(Indian Council of World Affairs 2022)



ISTHMUS OF KRA: Connecting the Malay Peninsula by Rail and Canal

By Dr. Sripathi Narayanan,
(Indian Council of World Affairs 2022)

Special Publications



'G20@2023: India's Presidency: Two Essays'

By Dr. Alok Sheel and
Amb. Manjeev Singh Puri &
Damodar Pujari
(12 October, 2022)



'Maritime Security Complexes of the Indo-Pacific Region', Joint ICWA-CPPR Publication

By Vijay Sakhujia & W. Lawrence S.
Prabhakar,
(06 December 2022)



'Ukraine Crisis: A Point of Inflection for the Emerging World Order'

By Amb. P.S. Raghavan, Amb.
D.B. Venkatesh Varma, Prof.
Swaran Singh & Prof. Ummu
Salma Bava,
(12 December 2022)

India Quarterly A Journal of International Affairs
Volume 78, Issue 4, October-December 2022
“Special Issue on Afghanistan”

Editorial

The return of the Taliban to Kabul in 2001 has struck a final body blow to the ill-conceived policies of democratic nation-building in a largely tribal, divided and fundamentalised Afghanistan. While this has resulted in questions about the endgame of the western alliance in Afghanistan, it has also revealed that the post-Taliban national government was merely a hiatus between the first and, now, the second Taliban regime. And, once again, it has raised questions over the nature of the regime given the now greatly complicated situation with the rise of the Islamic State and its many regional branches, new alliances among Afghan fundamentalist groups seeking a voice in a politically fragile state and the stakes of Afghanistan’s neighbours in preventing a spill over across borders.

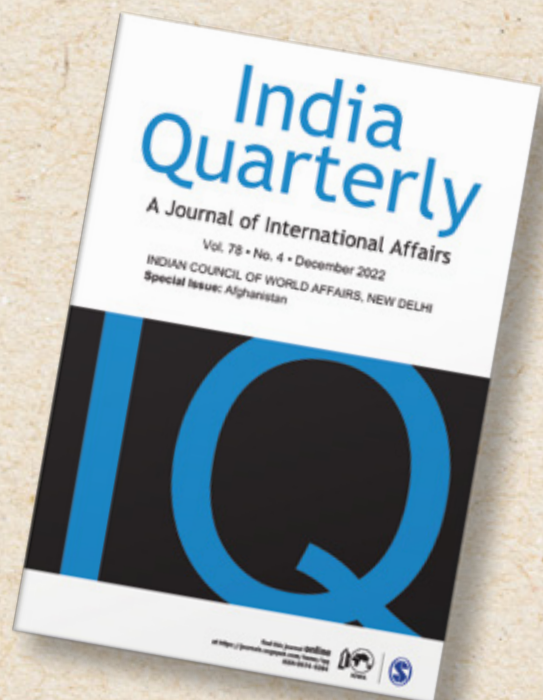
This issue of the India Quarterly addresses many of these issues. As one article points out, Afghanistan is ‘in the crosshairs of a security vacuum and a near-failed state, where increasing radicalisation of its populace appears to be an inevitable reality’. An imminent danger to the new Taliban regime comes from the Islamic State-Khorasan Province (IS-KP) which since 2015 is increasingly popular given demands for the greater radicalisation of the state and demands for a pan-Islamic vision for the Afghan regime. Other jihadi groups like Al-Qaeda (largely Afghan-Arabs), with roots in the mujahideen of the 1980s, also shape the conflict in Afghanistan given the Taliban’s tolerance of them. This line-up provides

meagre space for a different domestic and foreign policy course from the Taliban’s earlier avatar, as another article argues. Foreign policy choices are also hindered by Afghanistan’s geostrategic space in the sub-continent, as another author notes, with policy ‘shaped by a dynamic triangular relationship among Afghanistan, India and Pakistan...’ with little potential for addressing stability in the region.

Yet, the objective situation also provides scope for new policies on many fronts. In 2022, the Taliban faces a different set of aspirations and opportunities. The jihadi war can no longer be the state’s objective. The years between its first coming and its second have also planted the seeds of new aspirations for prosperity and well-being for its young population; the tide of women’s rights may not be possible to elide for long and the Taliban’s own ambition to be regarded as part of the global community as it pulls Afghanistan back from becoming a perpetual failed state are gradually moving it towards greater pragmatism in dealing with neighbours like India.

Madhu Bhalla

Editor, India Quarterly,
Indian Council of World Affairs



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.



Mentor : Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA, Sapru House, New Delhi.
Editor : Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Joint Secretary, ICWA, Sapru House, New Delhi.
Managing Editor : Dr. Nivedita Ray, Director Research, ICWA.
Assistant Editor : Dr. Dhruvajyoti Bhattacharjee, Research Fellow, ICWA.
Assisted by : Ms. Anvity Mohilay, Assistant Manager, MyGov/ICWA

Connect with us



/Sapru.House



@ICWA_NewDelhi



/ICWA_NewDelhi



www.icwa.in



/company/indian-council-of-world-affairs1

Newsletter Published by ICWA, Sapru House, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi - 110001

Website: <https://www.icwa.in>; Tel No. 011-23317246 Fax No. 011-23310638