



# NEWSLETTER

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Hon'ble Vice President of India and President of ICWA Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar visited ICWA for the inauguration of the Renovated Sapru House Library and interaction with the ICWA Research Faculty on 13 September 2023



Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Government of India delivered the Keynote Address at the Panel Discussion on "India-Cuba Relations: Present Trajectory and Way Forward: On the Occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fidel Castro's Visit to India" on 27 September 2023



44<sup>th</sup> Sapru House Lecture was delivered by H.E. Mr. Bujar Osmani, MFA, the Republic of North Macedonia & Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE on "Policy of North Macedonia & Presidency of OSCE" on 31 August 2023



43<sup>rd</sup> Sapru House Lecture was delivered by H.E. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Republic of Maldives on "The Power of Small-The Maldives Story" on 11 July 2023



Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA and Prof. Mohd Faiz Abdullah, Chairman, Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia concluded an MoU for cooperation in Kuala Lumpur on 8 August 2023

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## 43<sup>rd</sup> Sapru House Lecture by H.E. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Republic of Maldives on “The Power of Small–The Maldives Story”, 11 July 2023



The 43<sup>rd</sup> Sapru House lecture on “The Power of Small–The Maldives Story” was delivered by H.E. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Republic of Maldives, on 11 July 2023 at Sapru House. The welcome remarks were given by Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA.

In her remarks, Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh said H.E. Abdulla Shahid’s tenure as the President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) was deeply appreciated. When the world was dealing with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, he spoke of hope and emphasised the need to have courage to meet challenges. She said his Presidency brought to the fore the positive role Maldives plays in multilateral and regional platforms, particularly in articulating the perspectives and concerns of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including their climate vulnerability.

H.E. Abdulla Shahid spoke at length on about 58 years of Maldives independent foreign policy and many successful strategies adopted. He termed those strategies as three “P’s”, i.e, Principled approach, Pragmatic approach and Prioritization. He said, for small states, being accepted into multilateral organisations – of which the biggest is the United Nations – becomes an international endorsement of their sovereignty and integrity. It becomes an acceptance of the country as an equal member of the international community. He also said Maldives is the heart of the Indian Ocean. The strategic location comes with serious responsibility and serious exposure to competing external interests. He concluded by saying that the Maldives story showcases the journey of how a small state navigated the perils of international diplomacy through adapting and adjusting. It demonstrates how a small state can defend itself and others and their interests with bigger states and in global settings.

## Sapru House Paper Discussion on “Geopolitics of Infrastructure Building in South Asia: Causes and Consequences” written by Dr. Shrabana Barua, Research Fellow, ICWA, 13 July 2023

ICWA organised the Sapru House Paper (SHP) discussion on "Geopolitics of Infrastructure Building in South Asia: Causes and Consequences" by Dr. Shrabana Barua, RF, ICWA, on 13 July 2023. It was chaired by Prof. Swaran Singh, Centre for International Politics Organization and Disarmament, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Dr. Nivedita Ray, Director Research, ICWA, delivered the introductory remarks. Mr. Amit Bhandari, Senior Fellow, Gateway House and Prof. Prabir De, RIS, New Delhi, were the discussants.



## Interaction of ICWA Research Faculty with the delegation from Korea Association of International Studies (KAIS), 14 July 2023



ICWA Research Faculty interacted with a delegation from Korean Association of International Studies (KAIS), which was led by Dr. Cho Wondeuk, Assistant Professor, Department of Asian and Pacific Studies, Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA). The KAIS delegation consisted of Dr. Kwak Sungil, Director, Department of Economic and Security Strategy, Korean Institute of International Economic Policy (KIEP); Dr. Lee Su-jin from Korean Institute of Defense Analysis (KIDA); Mr. Shim Jaecheol, Second Secretary, Strategic Analysis and Coordination Division, MoFA; and Ms. Choi Seoyeon from Yonsei University.

Dr. Nivedita Ray, Director Research, ICWA, conducted the proceedings of the interaction. From ICWA, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Senior Research Fellow, Dr. Stuti Banerjee, Senior Research Fellow, Dr. Tunchinmang Langel, Research Fellow, and Dr. Pragya Pandey, Research Fellow, participated in the interaction. The discussions were based on South Korea's Indo-Pacific Strategy & India-South Korea cooperation in the Indo-Pacific regional & strategic affairs.

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## **Online Keynote Lecture by Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA at the Heads of Missions Training Programme 2023 of the Hungarian Diplomatic Academy, 14 July 2023**

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Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA delivered the keynote lecture at the Hungarian Heads of Missions Training Program 2023 of the Hungarian Diplomatic Academy virtually at the invitation of Ms. Orsolya Pacsay-Tomassich, President of the Hungarian Diplomatic Academy, on 14 July 2023.

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## Conclusion of Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati, 19 July 2023

On 19 July 2023, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati signed an MoU to collaborate in pursuit of their goal of expanding awareness and knowledge on international affairs and Indian foreign policy. Hon'ble Vice-President of India Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, during his address at the convocation ceremony of IIT Guwahati on 04 July 2023, had announced an MoU of ICWA with IIT Guwahati. The major objective of the MoU will be to organise studies and seminars on agreed upon topics on international affairs and Indian foreign policy.



## Closed-Door Panel Discussion on “Economic Recovery of Sri Lanka & Visit of the President of Sri Lanka H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe to India”, 26 July 2023

ICWA organised a closed-door panel discussion on "Economic Recovery of Sri Lanka and Visit of the President of Sri Lanka Hon'ble Ranil Wickremesinghe to India" with H.E. Mr. Milinda Moragoda, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India as the lead speaker on 26 July 2023 at Sapru House. It was chaired by Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA. Ambassador Ashok Kantha, Former High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka and Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Prof. and Dean of the Office of International Affairs and Global Initiatives, Jindal School of International Affairs, O. P. Jindal University, Sonipat, and Former Ambassador of India to Bahrain and France were the discussants.





Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh mentioned that the vision document titled “Promoting Connectivity, Catalysing Prosperity: India–Sri Lanka Economic Partnership Vision” adopted at the Summit level during the visit of President Ranil Wickremesinghe to India in July 2023 was forward-looking as it envisages connectivity in various areas such as maritime, trade, energy, air, economy, digital connectivity, and people-to-people connectivity.

H.E. Mr. Milinda Moragoda, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India, highlighted the main objectives of the President of Sri Lanka visit to India. He thanked the Indian Prime Minister for the support and for providing USD 3.9 billion during the economic crisis, as it helped Sri Lanka in stabilising its economy and also saved lives from the economic crisis. He mentioned the role of the Indian leadership in building trust and confidence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Mr. Ajit Doval had invited the Sri Lankan President for a one-on-one meeting to discuss further cooperation and to create personal bonding. The Ambassador charted the way forward to integrate the two economies. He observed that, as India was part of Sri Lanka’s phase of economic stability, it is imperative that India is a part of its recovery phase as well. Ambassador Ashok Kantha stressed upon integrating the economies of India and Sri Lanka and emphasized Sri Lanka’s strengths with respect to human resources, strategic location, geography, and proximity to maritime routes. Ambassador Mohan Kumar highlighted the issue of nationalism, and the need for an honest conversation on China and Tamil issue between India and Sri Lanka.





## **Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence met Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, 27 July 2023**

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Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence met Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA on 27 July 2023 to discuss institutional collaboration and topics of mutual interest.



## **H.E. Mr. Alejandro Simancas Marin, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to India met Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, 27 July 2023**

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H.E. Mr. Alejandro Simancas Marin, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to India met Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA on 27 July 2023 to discuss India-Cuba bilateral relations and academic collaboration.



## **10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) Study Group on “Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in the Asia Pacific”, 27-28 July 2023**

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The 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) Study Group on “Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in the Asia Pacific” was organised in Bangkok, Thailand, on 27-28 July 2023. Dr. Rajiv Nayan, Senior Research Associate, MP-IDSA, was the CSCAP-India representative.

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## Sapru House Paper (SHP) Discussion on “the Republic of Korea’s (ROK) Foreign Policy Approach: From New Southern Policy (NSP) to the Indo-Pacific Strategy” written by Dr. Tunchinmang Langel, Research Fellow, ICWA, 28 July 2023

On 28 July 2023, Dr. Tunchinmang Langel, Research Fellow, ICWA, made his Sapru House paper presentation on “the Republic of Korea’s (ROK) Foreign Policy Approach: From New Southern Policy (NSP) to the Indo-Pacific Strategy”. Ambassador Skand R. Tayal, Former Ambassador to the Republic of Korea and Uzbekistan, chaired the proceedings of the discussion and the two discussants, Dr. Sandeep Kumar Mishra, Associate Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies School of International Studies, JNU, and Professor Wongi Choe, Head, Centre for ASEAN-India Studies, Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA), gave their comments and feedback on the paper.



## 58<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), 8 August 2023



On 8 August 2023, Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, attended the 58<sup>th</sup> CSCAP Steering Committee meeting. At the meeting, CSCAP Canada under Dr. Charles Labrecque, Research Manager, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada was appointed the non-ASEAN co-chair and Prof. Mohd. Faiz Abdullah, Chairman, ISIS Malaysia of CSCAP Malaysia was appointed as the new ASEAN co-chair, taking over from CSCAP Indonesia. Discussions were held regarding finance; and on the Study Groups on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (NPD), International Law and Cyberspace, Rules-Based Order, geo-politics of Northeast Asia, Women, Peace and Security, Asia and the Pandemic; and the CSCAP Regional Security Outlook.

## Conclusion of Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia, 8 August 2023

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Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, signed an MoU with Professor Dr. Mohd. Faiz Abdullah, Chairman, ISIS Malaysia, in the presence of H.E. B. N. Reddy, High Commissioner of India to Malaysia on 8 August 2023. The MoU provides for an institutional framework for collaborative activities, which will contribute to further strengthening India-Malaysia ties.



## 36<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Round Table of Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), 9 August 2023

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Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, along with Dr. Tunchinmang Langel, Research Fellow, ICWA, attended the 36<sup>th</sup> edition of the Asia-Pacific Round table (APR) conference as delegates on behalf of the Council. It was held from 8 to 10 August 2023 at Kuala Lumpur, organised by ISIS Malaysia. The theme of the 36<sup>th</sup> APR was “An Age of Strategic Uncertainty”. The round table was organised by ISIS Malaysia in cooperation with the ASEAN-ISIS Network, made up of Southeast Asia’s leading think tanks. The round table held discussions on topics such as the impact of global events on the region, the importance of multilateral mechanisms like ASEAN that need to enhance efforts on establishing and upholding international norms, the need for collaboration among regional groupings and international stakeholders, and the role of technology and innovation in shaping the future of the region.

## Conclusion of Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT), Jaipur, 16 August 2023

On 16 August 2023, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT) concluded an MoU to collaborate in pursuit of their goal of expanding awareness and knowledge on international affairs and Indian foreign policy. Hon'ble Vice-President of India Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar visited MNIT, Jaipur, on 23 June 2023 and had announced an MoU of ICWA with MNIT, Jaipur. The major objective of the MoU will be to organise studies and seminars on agreed upon topics on international affairs and Indian foreign policy.

## 6<sup>th</sup> ICWA-Asia New Zealand Foundation (ANZF) and New Zealand India Research Institute (NZIRI) Track II Dialogue, 18 August 2023

ICWA organised the "6<sup>th</sup> Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)-Asia New Zealand Foundation (ANZF) and New Zealand India Research Institute (NZIRI) Track II Dialogue" on 18 August 2023 at Sapru House. In the inaugural session, Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, and Prof. David Capie, Director, NZIRI, Centre for Strategic Studies, Victoria University of Wellington,

delivered remarks. H.E. Mr. David Pine, High Commissioner of New Zealand to India and H.E. Ms. Neeta Bhushan, High Commissioner of India to New Zealand also spoke.



Session 1 on "Evolving Global and Regional Geopolitical Scenarios" was chaired by Ambassador Gitesh Sarma, Former Secretary West, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Prof. David Capie, Director, NZIRI, Centre for Strategic Studies, Victoria University of Wellington; Dr. Manjeet Pardesi, Associate Prof., School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations, Victoria University of Wellington; Prof. Sanjay Chaturvedi, Prof. and Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, South Asian University, New Delhi, India; and Capt. Sarabjeet Parmar, Distinguished Fellow, USI, were the speakers. The session focused on the changing global geopolitical dynamics in the light of the Ukraine crisis, its knock-off effects and great power competition. Significant developments in the Indo-Pacific regions including the continued Chinese belligerence in South and East China Sea, situation in the Korean Peninsula and China's aggressive behaviour in South Pacific were discussed. The two sides exchanged views on the convergences between their Indo-Pacific outlooks and evaluated emerging issues in their respective neighbourhoods.

Session 2 on "Securing Our Economies and Staying Connected – Contending with Major Power Economic, Tech Competition and Opportunities for Enhanced New Zealand-India cooperation" was chaired by Prof. David Capie, Director, NZIRI, Centre for Strategic Studies, Victoria University of Wellington. Dr. Chaitanya Giri, Associate Prof., FLAME University; Dr. Nisha Taneja, Prof. ICRIER; Ms. Tracey Epps, Law and Trade Specialist; and Suzannah Jessep, Director, Asia New Zealand Foundation and former Deputy Head of Mission to India, were the speakers. The session delved into the world of trade and tech and how major power economic competition, the Ukraine crisis, US-China rivalry over trade, tech and supply chains are impacting India and New Zealand. The two sides explored ways of working together when it comes to diversification strategies & closer economic relations & also in the areas of climate change, people-to-people exchanges, Pacific development & post-pandemic recovery.

## **Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA called on Hon'ble Vice-President of India and President of ICWA, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, 23 August 2023**



Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA called on Hon'ble Vice-President of India and President of ICWA, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, on 23 August 2023 and presented a copy of "Global Review 2022" published by ICWA.

## 44<sup>th</sup> Sapru House Lecture on “Policy of North Macedonia and Presidency of OSCE” by H.E. Mr. Bujar Osmani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Republic of North Macedonia and Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), 31 August 2023

ICWA organised the 44<sup>th</sup> Sapru House lecture on “Policy of North Macedonia and Presidency of OSCE” by H.E. Mr. Bujar Osmani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Republic of North Macedonia and Chairman-in-Office of OSCE on 31 August 2023 at Sapru House.



In her opening remarks, Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh observed that India shared deep-rooted ties with the Balkan countries. After North Macedonia became independent from Yugoslavia in 1991, India was one of the 40 co-sponsors of the resolution in the UNGA for the admission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The two countries have warm and friendly relations shared by historical ties, over the years. North Macedonia has expressed keen interest in Indian culture. Being a large country and a growing economy, India can collaborate with North Macedonia in sectors like food security, information technology and bio-technology. North Macedonia’s membership of EU will help in strengthening India-EU partnership. She further observed that North Macedonia is chairing the OSCE during challenging times when global crisis is a recurring phenomenon and the Ukraine conflict has had an impact on the European and global security by leading to supply chain disruptions. She emphasised that the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi supports diplomacy and dialogue instead of conflicts.



H.E. Bujar Osmani focused on the policy of North Macedonia and Presidency of OSCE. He said that although geographically far apart, India and North Macedonia are closely bound by the legacy of a strong woman, Mother Teresa, an Albanian from North Macedonia, who pursued her noble mission in India, serving those in need with love and humility. The two countries also have a common link in the Roma community who are proud of their

roots and origin from India. He added that the war in Ukraine doesn't concern only the people of Ukraine, it threatens the world peace. He urged that as a member of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, & South Africa), India should use its own means and instruments to assist in ending this war, & in bringing Russia back into the family of law & rules abiding nations. Underlining the North Macedonia's support to multilateralism, he said that the country is firmly attached to the values and principles enshrined in the UN Charter. Lastly, he said that, North Macedonia is playing an active role in the process of normalisation of relations between Serbia & Kosovo.

## Visit of Hon'ble Vice-President of India and President of ICWA, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar to ICWA for the Inauguration of the Renovated Sapru House Library and interaction with the ICWA Research Faculty, 13 September 2023



On 13 September 2023, Hon'ble Vice-President of India and President of ICWA inaugurated the renovated library of Indian Council of World Affairs and addressed ICWA's research faculty.

The Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, urged research scholars of ICWA to be at the forefront of countering “pernicious, sinister narratives that are floated periodically about India”. Stressing on the need to engage in in-depth analysis of such narratives, the Vice-President said, “Your role is important in neutralising such a crafted strategy only to taint, tarnish, demean, and decimate our Constitutional institutions.”

Emphasising that India was in a defining moment of history, the Vice-President urged researchers to make people aware of the achievements of the nation. “You are the window for every outsider to the country, and for every Indian citizen to the world,” he underlined.

Addressing research faculty of ICWA at Sapru House that day, the Vice-President noted the widespread appreciation for India’s role during its Presidency of the G20, and the success of the recently concluded G20 Leaders’ Summit. “India’s Presidency of G20 was a breakthrough. It generated global consensus. There was legitimate, rightful recognition across the board of a resurgent India as a global power,” he said.



Highlighting India’s rising stature on the global stage, the Vice-President traced India’s journey from being part of the “Fragile Five” to being the fifth-largest economy in the world. Some of the accomplishments that were taking place in India had once seemed beyond imagination for the world, he said. “They can never imagine that this could happen in a country that has diversity of religion, caste, creed and language,” he elaborated.



## 28<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (IORAG) meeting organised by IORA in Cape Town, South Africa, 26-27 September 2023

South Africa as the Chair of the IORAG organized the 28<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (IORAG) Meeting on 26-27 September 2023 at Cape Town, South Africa to facilitate discussion among academia within IORA Member States, Dialogue Partners and Observers. Dr. Nivedita Ray, Director Research, ICWA participated in the Meeting. Following the ‘High-Level Strategic Dialogue on IORA’s 25-Years – Reflection, Review & Renewal’ and the ‘IORA’s African Member States’ Response to the Indo-Pacific Concept Outlook’ held in Mauritius on the 19-24 June 2023, the 28<sup>th</sup> IORAG meeting focused on identifying feasible activities to implement the outcomes and recommendations of the meetings. How the IORAG can better utilise IORA as a platform to meet IORA research needs and to communicate relevant research outcomes to policymakers was also discussed.





## Panel Discussion on "India-Cuba Relations: Present Trajectory and Way Forward: On the Occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fidel Castro's Visit to India", 27 September 2023



ICWA hosted a panel discussion on “India-Cuba Relations: Present Trajectory and Way Forward: On the Occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fidel Castro’s Visit to India” on 27 September 2023 at the Sapru House. Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, Hon’ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Government of India delivered the keynote address, in which she noted the deep and historical connections between India and Cuba. H.E. Mr. Alejandro Simancas Marín, Ambassador of Cuba, Delhi, in his special remarks highlighted that the relationship between the two nations is based on a foundation of friendship, collaboration, mutual respect, solidarity and all on the basis of shared principles and values.

The panellists for the discussion included Ambassador Bhaskar Balakrishan, former Ambassador of India to Cuba, and Prof. Soniya Surabhi Gupta, Professor, Latin American Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia University, Delhi, who elaborated on the strong relations between the two nations and highlighted some key areas of future collaboration notably in tourism, science and technology, pharmaceuticals, etc.

## OUTREACH EVENTS

### Training of Trainers Workshop on Pre-Departure Orientation, 3-4 August 2023

A two-day workshop on "Training of Trainers on Pre-Departure Orientation" was held in Chandigarh, Punjab, on 3-4 August 2023. Dr. Surabhi Singh, SRF, ICWA, and Head, Centre for Migration, Mobility & Diaspora Studies, trained the trainers in this workshop along with Ministry of External Affairs, India, officials.



### Two-day National Seminar in Hindi

“आज़ादी के अमृत महोत्सव काल में भारत- चीन सम्बन्ध”, 7-8 September 2023



Under its University Outreach Programme, ICWA supported the National Seminar on "आज़ादी के अमृत काल मे भारत-चीन संबंध" organised by RS PG College, Rudrapur, UP, on 7-8 September 2023 in hybrid format. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, SRF, ICWA, participated in the seminar and represented the Council.

## Dr. Nivedita Ray, Director Research, ICWA participated as a panelist in the India–South Africa Symposium organised by Zakir Hussain Delhi College, University of Delhi, 14 September 2023



Dr. Nivedita Ray, Director Research, ICWA participated as a panellist in the India–South Africa Symposium on “India–South Africa @ G20: Convergence and Concerns” organised by the Zakir Hussain Delhi College, University of Delhi, on 14 September 2023.

## Two-day National Conference “Assessing India’s Act East Policy in Strategic Framework of Indo-Pacific”, 14-15 September 2023

Dr. Sripathi Narayanan, RF, ICWA, attended a seminar on “Assessing India’s Act East Policy in Strategic Framework of Indo-Pacific” organised by Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit & Ancient Studies University, Nalbari, Assam, on 14-15 September 2023.



### Research Interns at ICWA



Mr. Abhishek Kumar  
Pondicherry University



Maahir Sachdeva  
King’s College London,  
University of London



Ms. Bantirani Patro  
Delhi University



Mr. Vijay Anand Panigrahi  
Pondicherry University

## ICWA Publications

### Issue Briefs

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1. Dr. Anwesh Ghosh, Appointment of a New Taliban Prime Minister Amidst Internal Rift Speculations (04 July 2023)
2. Dr. Surabhi Singh, Immigration Reforms in Germany and Opportunities for India (04 July 2023)
3. Dr. Himani Pant, Wagner Group Rebellion in Russia: Drivers and Implications (04 July 2023)
4. Dr. Punit Gaur, EU-Central Asia Meeting: Finding Convergence in Changing Regional Dynamics (05 July 2023)
5. Elina Ghosh, China's Influence in the Indo-Pacific: Responses from the US Allies (14 July 2023)
6. Rajan Sai Sukrut, US-China Chip war (14 July 2023)
7. Dr. Teshu Singh, China's Foray into the Arctic (17 July 2023)
8. Dr. Gauri Narain Mathur, Violent Extremism in Western Sahel (17 July 2023)
9. Alphy Joseph, Quad Summit 2023 and Undersea Cables (19 July 2023)
10. Avni Sablok, SDG 17 Partnership for Goals – India's Approach and Initiatives (21 July 2023)
11. Varuna Shankar, Significance of a NATO liaison office in Japan (21 July 2023)
12. Dr. Arnab Chakrabarty, Renewing Brazil's Foreign Policy under President Lula (24 July 2023)
13. Yashvi Barot, Understanding the Increasing Engagement of the Extra-Regional Powers with the Island States in the Western Indian Ocean Region (25 July 2023)
14. Dr. Tunchinmang Langel, Strengthening and Expansion of Japan and the ROK Partnership with NATO (31 July 2023)
15. Dr. Stuti Banerjee, The Transatlantic Partnership: Similar Concerns but Different Approaches (03 August 2023)
16. Dr. Arnab Chakrabarty, China's Approaches towards Latin America (17 August 2023)
17. Dr. Athar Zafar, Uzbekistan President's Iran Visit Boosts Bilateral, Regional Cooperation Prospects (28 August 2023)
18. Dr. Samatha Mallempati, Maldives Presidential Elections September 2023: The Candidates, Pledges and Probable Outcome (30 August 2023)
19. Dr. Arnab Chakrabarty, Elections in Argentina – An Overview (31 August 2023)
20. Nikhil Guvvadi, Egypt's Water, Food, and Energy Security Nexus: Challenges and Opportunities (04 September 2023)
21. Dr. Surabhi Singh, Ukraine Refugee Crisis & the Demography Question in Europe (15 September 2023)
22. Dr. Tunchinmang Langel, Decoding Kim Jong-Un's visit to Russia 2023 (20 September 2023)
23. Dr. Chander Shekhar, Unfolding Political Realities in the Mekong Sub-Region and Cementing the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Initiative (27 September 2023)
24. Dr. Athar Zafar, Is it Persisting Volatility in South Caucasus or a Move Towards Stability? (27 September 2023)

## Viewpoints

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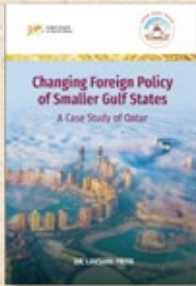
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1. Ambassador Arun K. Singh, Prof. Srikanth Kondapalli and Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, "US-China Strategic Contestation: Aspects and Prospects" (12 July 2023)

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### Changing Foreign Policy of Smaller Gulf States: A Case Study of Qatar

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### Changing Connectivity Dynamics in Central Asia and India's Growing Engagement

By Dr. Punit Gaur,  
(Indian Council of World Affairs 2023)

## Special Publication



### "US-China Strategic Contestation: Aspects and Prospects"

By Ambassador Arun K. Singh, Prof. Srikanth Kondapalli and Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra,  
(12 July 2023)

## ICWA Books



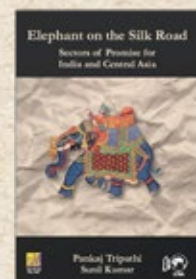
### India's Development Partnership: Expanding Vistas

Edited by Nutan Kapoor Mahawar and Dhrubajyoti Bhattacharjee,  
(Indian Council of World Affairs; KW Publishers, 2023)



### ICWA Global Review 2022

(Indian Council of World Affairs; KW Publishers, 2023)



### Elephant on The Silk Road: Sectors of Promise For India And Central Asia

By Pankaj Tripathi and Sunil Kumar  
(12 July 2023)

## India Quarterly A Journal of International Affairs

Volume 79, Issue 3, September 2023

### Editorial

This issue of the India Quarterly provides a broad menu of articles focusing on regional concerns, growing strategic partnerships, reforms of global institutions and areas of cooperation between states and non-state agencies.

For India, the crisis in Pakistan has raised questions fundamental to the stability of the region. A failed Pakistani state is of no one's choosing, given its unthinkable strategic and economic outcomes. Pakistan's "deep economic crisis, political paralysis and a resurgent terror threat", and its declining advantages with friends and partners abroad can only be of deep concern. The crisis is likely to persist given the nexus between its military and religion, as will the potential threats to India from both. As events unfold, India's need to respond to competitive strategic claims by its neighbours is uppermost. Hence, significant bilateral defence agreements, like the Logistic Exchange Memorandum with the United States, are intended to increase capabilities in the region and in the larger Indo-Pacific region.

Beyond military and defence agreements, the competition over strategic space is also embedded in economic initiatives. Motives might seem transparent here but unintended consequences often create security concerns as two articles on China's foreign economic policy argue. Hence, the agency of African states is important in containing China's hegemonic intent. But the Digital Silk Road, an offshoot of China's Belt and Silk Road, also presents a Chinese model of the use of surveillance technologies for governance, impinging on the sovereignty and polity of partner states. On a more promising note, two other articles indicate where cooperation may just be possible between two competitive states, or where culture creates a positive understanding of the other. In one, the author examines the cooperation between India and Pakistan to stem the tide of the locust invasion in 2019–2020, an invasion that impacted food security in both countries. Significantly,

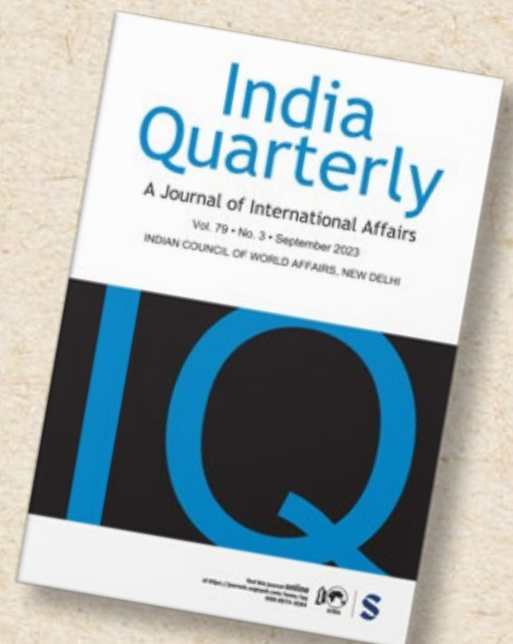
cooperation occurred because both were part of regional and international mechanisms to deal with the threats. In another, the authors look at the surprising popularity of Indian films amongst Chinese citizens. Despite the negative outpourings about India on Chinese social media and the strained relations between the two governments, Bollywood has made India familiar to younger Chinese.

Closer home, the outbreak of ethnic violence in Manipur has recently pointed to the many issues surrounding the creation of material spaces in India's northeast. A discussion of what this entails in one state here, Arunachal, reveals how policymakers need to redefine inclusivity, be sensitive to shifting demographics and common and individual rights to land and resources, and balance security and development in fragile ethnic cultures.

Clearly, the certainty of change in the region, beyond it & within institutions, prompts competitive responses but need not exclude more cooperative actions where immediate human security needs are concerned.

### Prof. Madhu Bhalla

Editor, India Quarterly



## ABOUT ICWA

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



<b>Mentor</b>	: Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA, Sapru House, New Delhi.
<b>Editor</b>	: Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Joint Secretary, ICWA, Sapru House, New Delhi.
<b>Managing Editor</b>	: Dr. Nivedita Ray, Director Research, ICWA, Sapru House, New Delhi.
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