



# NEWSLETTER

Issue: 41 | April - June 2025



## HIGHLIGHTS



Panel Discussion on "MDA in the Indo-Pacific Region", 9 May 2025



Panel Discussion on "Operation Sindoor: Starting a New Narrative?", 13 June 2025

53<sup>rd</sup> Sapru House Lecture by His Excellency Mr. Gabriel Boric Font President of the Republic of Chile on 'Chile and India Side by Side on the Global South', 2 April 2025



Panel Discussion on 'Re-evaluating Iran amidst turbulence in the Middle East', 23 April 2025

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## 53<sup>rd</sup> Sapru House Lecture by His Excellency Mr. Gabriel Boric Font President of the Republic of Chile, 2 April 2025

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The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) organised the 53<sup>rd</sup> Sapru House Lecture on “Chile and India: Side by Side on the Global South” by H.E. Mr. Gabriel Boric Font, President of the Republic of Chile, on 2 April 2025, at Sapru House. President Boric praised India's democratic values and global leadership, emphasising the need for democracies to reduce inequalities. He reaffirmed Chile's commitment to strengthening ties with India in trade, technology, and multilateral cooperation. Highlighting investment opportunities, he expressed interest in attracting Indian investments into Chile, particularly in infrastructure, renewable energy, and technological collaboration.

Additionally, President Boric underscored the importance of cultural and educational exchanges, emphasizing potential collaborations in education, arts, cinema, Ayurveda, and Yoga. He noted the convergence of Indian and Chilean foreign policies in safeguarding supply chains, strengthening multilateralism, and promoting democracy and human rights. President Boric concluded by highlighting the decisive role of the India-Chile partnership in shaping the Global South in the coming decades. The lecture was chaired by Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Additional Secretary, Indian Council of World Affairs.



## Visit of H.E. Mr. Reuben Gauci, High Commissioner of Malta to India to Sapru House, 4 April 2025

H.E. Mr. Reuben Gauci, High Commissioner of Malta to India met with Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Additional Secretary, ICWA on 4 April 2025 at Sapru House. Both sides noted that India and Malta share cordial relations and the scope of cooperation between the two countries has expanded further in recent years. They also discussed upcoming joint projects between ICWA and the Malta High Commission to celebrate 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India-Malta diplomatic relations which were established on 10 March 1965.



## Conclusion of Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS), 7 April 2025

Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS), a tri-services think tank under Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff, Ministry of Defence, located at New Delhi, have agreed to collaborate in pursuit of their goal of expanding awareness and knowledge on international affairs, Indian foreign policy and India's national security. The MoU provides for collaboration in conducting joint studies, joint activities such as seminars, panel discussions, and exchange of eminent persons and publications.

## Panel Discussion on “Recent Developments in Syria & their Regional & Global Implications”, 8 April 2025



ICWA held a panel discussion on ‘Recent Developments in Syria and their Regional and Global Implications’ 8 April 2025 at Sapru House. It was chaired by Amb. Sanjay Singh, former India’s ambassador to Iran and Secretary (East), GOI. At the discussion, Dr. Deepika Saraswat, Associate Fellow, MP-IDSA, Dr. Md. Muddasir



Quamar, Associate Professor, JNU and Atul Aneja, Former Editor, The Hindu were the panelists. On the occasion, the welcome remarks were delivered by Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Additional Secretary, ICWA.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, 11 - 13 April 2025

Amb. Prashant Pise, Deputy Director General from ICWA participated in the 4th Edition of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum in Antalya, Turkey from 11-13 April 2025. This forum is a high-level gathering of professionals who deal with diplomacy such as political leaders, diplomats, opinion makers or academics. The forum had participants from 148 countries, including 19 heads of state and governments, 52 ministers of foreign affairs, 20 deputy ministers and members of parliament and 1 speaker of parliament.

## Panel Discussion on “Inside the Hermit Kingdom: Decoding the DPRK’s Politics, Society, and Global Role”, 15 April 2025



ICWA held a Panel Discussion on “Inside the Hermit Kingdom: Decoding the DPRK’s Politics, Society, and Global Role” on 15th April 2025 at Sapru House. It was chaired by Amb. Skand R. Tayal, Former Ambassador of India to Republic of Korea and Uzbekistan. Prof. Hwang Jihwan, Department of International Relations, University of Seoul; Prof. Alexander Vorontsov, PhD in History, Head of the Korea and Mongolia Department, RAS Institute of Oriental Studies, Russia; Prof. Sandip Kumar Mishra, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of

International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU); and Prof. Choe Wongi, Department of Indo-Pacific Studies, Head – Centre for ASEAN-India Studies, Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA) were the panellists. At the discussion, welcome remarks were delivered by Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Acting Director General, ICWA. This panel discussion examined the DPRK's politics, socio-economic profile, and strategic role in global affairs. It explored leadership continuity, Western policy approaches, nuclear proliferation, international sanctions, regional alignments with Russia and China, and implications for India's Indo-Pacific strategy.



## Panel on “Yuktiniti: Mandala, Multipolarity and the Global Family in India's Strategic Thought”, ICWA and USI, 19 April 2025



A conference themed 'Rakshamanthan: Defence, Dharma, Diplomacy' was organised by Geojuristoday, a student organization, along with USI, ICWA's MoU partner, on 19 April 2025. Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Acting Director General, while addressing a Panel on 'Yuktiniti: Mandala, Multipolarity and the Global Family in India's Strategic Thought', emphasized on multipolarity as an essential element of the emerging New World Order that lends itself to long term stability, pluralism and a fairer and more equitable world. In visualizing multipolarity, she sought to draw from India's own historical experience as well as its civilizational thought and ethos as vasudhaiva kutumbakam. She emphasized that multipolarity was the yukti (strategy) for the world today which is ridden by conflicts and polarization and the yukti for India today accordingly was to devise and deploy defence and diplomatic strategies that accelerated such an outcome.

## Panel Discussion on “Re-evaluating Iran amidst turbulence in the Middle East”, 23 April 2025

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On April 23 2025, ICWA organized a Panel Discussion on “Re-evaluating Iran amidst turbulence in the Middle East” at Sapru House, New Delhi. The welcome remarks delivered by Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Acting Director General, ICWA, followed by the remarks of the Chair and Moderator Amb. Sanjay Srivastava, former ambassador of India to Iran. The panel discussion featured following speakers- Prof. Reshmi Kazi from Jamia Millia Islamia, Mr. Atul Aneja, Strategic Analyst, Former Strategic Affairs Editor at The Hindu, and Dr. Omid Babolian, Research Fellow at Institute for Political and International Studies, who joined virtually from Tehran.

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## ICWA Workshop on “Public Speaking, Professional Excellence and Impression Management”, 24-25 April 2025

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ICWA along with the Pria Warrick Finishing Academy organised a two-day workshop on “Public Speaking, Professional Excellence and Impression Management” from 24-25 April 2025 at Sapru House. The workshop was participated by all the Research Faculty along with the Dr. Nivedita Ray, Director Research. The interactive and participative sessions included improving communication skills, presentation, etiquette, protocol training and leadership and image enhancing lessons and exercises.

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## International Open Dialogue “The Future of the World: A New Platform for Global Growth” Moscow, 28–30 April 2025

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, in partnership with the National Center "Russia" hosted an International Open Dialogue titled "The Future of the World: A New Platform for Global Growth" from 28–30 April 2025, in Moscow, Russia. Experts and delegates from 42 countries were invited to exchange insights on tackling the challenges and seizing the opportunities that lie ahead. Dr. Anwesha Ghosh, Research Fellow at the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi, was invited as an expert in the Open Dialogue, where she presented on the theme "Unlocking the Future by Investing in People." She emphasised that investing in human capital has long been a catalyst for innovation and progress, shaping both historical and contemporary successes. Dr. Ghosh highlighted the critical importance of prioritizing education, skill development, and healthcare to empower

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individuals, strengthen communities and drive sustainable global economic growth. In a world navigating unprecedented challenges and opportunities, she affirmed that placing people at the center of development strategies is key to building a better future.

## Panel Discussion on “Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) in the Indo-Pacific Region”, 9 May 2025



ICWA held a Panel Discussion on "Maritime Domain Awareness in the Indo-Pacific Region" on 9 May 2025 at Sapru House. It was chaired by Capt. Sarabjeet Singh Parmar, Distinguished Fellow, Council for Strategic and Defence Research, New Delhi. Capt. (Dr) Gurpreet Singh Khurana, Professor, Naval War College, Goa; Mr. Abhijit Singh, Retired Naval Officer and Former Head Maritime Policy Initiative, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi; and Cdr (Dr) Arnab Das, Founder and Director, Maritime Research Center, Pune were the panellists. Welcome remarks were delivered by Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Additional Secretary, ICWA.

In her welcome remarks she stated that the present geo-political space the Indo-Pacific region, spanning from the eastern shores of Africa to the western Pacific Ocean, has emerged as the epicentre of global geopolitical and economic activity. Its strategic importance is underpinned by vast maritime spaces, complex and often contested maritime boundaries, and some of the busiest and most crucial Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOCs) in the world. The need to focus on Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) in the Indo-Pacific is more urgent than ever. Along with Automatic Identification Systems (AIS), Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), and Unmanned Surface and Underwater Vehicles (USVs/UUVs), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Big Data analytics enable the processing of vast streams of data to detect anomalies, predict potential threats and facilitate preparedness and pre-emption, Satellite-based monitoring, including the use of optical and radar satellites, plays an increasingly pivotal role in MDA. Maritime Domain, as a part of the global commons, is often subject to neglect or overuse because it does not belong to any single nation. Developed countries, equipped with more capability, resources and technological



capacity, should take the lead in forming robust, inclusive frameworks for the sustainable governance of oceans and carry others along. By actively engaging in looking after these commons, nations are not just sharing legitimate benefits, but also committing to their nurturing and preservation with a sense of trusteeship and respect for the common heritage of mankind - an essential step toward ensuring long-term peace, stability, prosperity and harmony with the environment.

## Tehran Dialogue Forum 2025, 17-19 May 2025

An ICWA delegation led by Amb. Prashant Pise, DDG, ICWA participated in the Tehran Dialogue Forum 2025 organised by the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) in Tehran, Iran. IPIS is ICWA's MoU partner. The Forum brought together diplomats, scholars and experts for discussions on regional and global developments. DDG, ICWA shared India's perspectives on the evolving international order at the Forum, as also his perspectives on the further strengthening of India-Iran bilateral relations. Amb. Rudra Gaurav Shresth, Ambassador of India to Iran accompanied DDG, ICWA at the Forum.



## Termez Dialogue on Connectivity between Central and South Asia, 19-22 May 2025



Amb. Prashant Pise, Deputy Director General from ICWA participated in the Termez Dialogue on Connectivity between Central and South Asia, titled “Building a Common Space of Peace, Friendship, and Prosperity” organised by the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS), in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan. ISRS is ICWA’s MoU partner. The Dialogue brought together diplomats, scholars and experts for discussions on regional & global developments.

## XX (20<sup>th</sup>) Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Forum Meeting, 21-22 May 2025

As Chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Forum (SCO Forum) for 2024-25, the SCO Study Centre of ICWA, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, organized the XX SCO Forum meeting on the theme of SECURE SCO: Leading Towards a Transformed Region in the Spirit of 'The World is one Family', on 21-22 May 2025 in New Delhi. Apart from India, the Forum was attended by delegations from Belarus, Iran, China, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as the SCO Secretariat.



Besides Inaugural and Concluding sessions, the two-day Forum had three plenary sessions: I – ‘SCO’s Expanding Role: Advancing Collective Vision for a Secure and Stable Region’; II – ‘Synergizing the Comparative Advantages for Sustainable Development in SCO Area’; and III – ‘SCO as a Platform for Cooperation in Culture’.



In the Inaugural Session, Welcome Remarks was delivered by Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Additional Secretary, ICWA, who referred to the recent terrorist attack in India and called for collective efforts to eradicate terrorism. Keynote Address was delivered by Mr. Mayank Singh, SCO National Coordinator & JS, MEA. He focused on cooperation to countering terrorism, and he also underlined the importance of reformed multilateralism. Special Address was made by Mr. Oleg V. Kopylov, Deputy Secretary General, SCO, in which he reaffirmed SCO’s commitment to a just, inclusive, democratic & multipolar world order.



It was highlighted in the Forum that while a churn is underway in international relations, there is steady rise in SCO’s footprint both at the regional and global levels. Time has come to transform the 'SCO Spirit' into 'SCO Way'. Participants expressed concern over terrorism, extremism, and separatism, and underlined the need for coordinated efforts to counter them. About India’s role in SCO, it was mentioned that India does not believe in the world of alliances and firmly believes that the world is heading towards multipolarity. India’s ability to contribute to SCO and world affairs will grow over time.

The SCO Forum chairmanship was handed over to Iranian national research centre which will hold the next Forum meeting.



## Talk by Prof S.I. Rajan, Founder Chair, International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD), 27 May 2025



The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) hosted a talk by Prof. S. Irudaya Rajan, Founder Chair, International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD), on 27th May 2025 at Sapru House, New Delhi. The session explored India’s demographic trends, worker and student mobility, and the need for robust migration governance to harness the country’s time-bound demographic dividend.

In her welcome remarks, Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Acting Director General, ICWA, reflected on whether India is truly experiencing a demographic dividend, noting declining fertility, deteriorating life expectancy, and growing health risks among the youth. She also highlighted the duality in migration governance across

Europe and the U.S. Prof. Rajan argued that India needs to urgently adopt data-driven migration policies, ethical recruitment practices, and international skilling partnerships to harness its demographic dividend. He stressed the need for improved migrant data, reintegration of returnees, and stronger regional cooperation with destination countries.

The session concluded with a Q&A and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Centre for Migration, Mobility and Diaspora Studies (CMMDS) – the migration vertical of ICWA and IIMAD to further develop collaborative research and evidenced policy on international migration and mobility.



## Conclusion of Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) & Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism”, 29 May 2025

Indian Council of World Affairs and Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism”, a leading non-governmental foreign policy think tank located at Kyiv, Ukraine, have agreed to collaborate institutionally through an MoU for promotion and support of activities that contribute to better understanding and relations between India & Ukraine.

## Film Appreciation Session, 5 June 2025

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All research faculty participated in viewing *Babel*, a 2006 film directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu and written by Guillermo Arriaga. The multi-narrative drama features an ensemble cast and portrays interwoven stories taking place in Morocco, Japan, Mexico, and the United States. The movie provides a glimpse of how people from different geographies, economies and cultures are impacted by a single thread of event, which changes their lives and their views. The director was able to weave a story that brought all these dimensions into a common thread of humanity. The screening was followed by a discussion among the faculty about the impact of such films of creating a narrative and create a better understanding of global geo-politics.

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## Panel Discussion on “Operation Sindoor: Starting a New Narrative?”, 13 June 2025

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On June 13, a panel discussion titled “Operation Sindoor: Starting a New Narrative” was held at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA). The discussion was chaired by Ambassador Satish Chandra, Former Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA) and High Commissioner of India to Pakistan and other panelists include Lt. General (Rtd.) Syed Ata Hasnain PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM & Bar and Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir, Mr. Aditya Raj Kaul, Executive Editor, TV9, New Delhi, and Dr. Tanwir Arshed, Department of Political Science, Presidency University, Kolkata. Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Acting Director General, ICWA, delivered the welcome remarks.

The discussion put forth a strong critique of Pakistan’s strategic behaviour. Discussants described Operation Sindoor as a decisive shift in India’s security posture—moving from restraint to active deterrence. Highlighting the operation’s success in dismantling terror infrastructure and exposing Pakistan’s nuclear bluff, they urged a firm approach involving political and economic punishment, rejection of dialogue, and revisiting confidence-building measures. They framed the operation as a turning point, calling on the global community to view Pakistan as a state sponsor of terror, while positioning India as a confident, assertive rising power.



## One-Day Conference on India-Mongolia: Celebrating Seven Decades of Diplomatic Relations and a Decade of Strategic Partnership, 17 June 2025



ICWA in collaboration with Embassy of Mongolia, New Delhi hosted an International Conference on "India-Mongolia: Celebrating Seven Decades of Diplomatic Relations and a Decade of Strategic Partnership" on 17 June 2025 at Sapru House, New Delhi. Special Remarks was delivered by Amb. Atul Malhari Gotsurve, Ambassador of India to Mongolia, and Amb. Ganbold Dambajav, Ambassador of Mongolia to India. The keynote address was delivered by Professor Lari Azad, Head of the Department of History at NREC PG College, Uttar Pradesh. The Conference included discussions on key themes such as India and Mongolia: Regional and Global Perspectives, Bilateral Economic and Strategic Partnership: Opportunities and Challenges, and Cultural and Spiritual Linkages: The Enduring Soft Power Ties. Sessions were chaired by Amb. Ashok Sajjanhar, Former Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan, Sweden and Latvia; Amb. Phunchok Stobdan, Senior Fellow for Eurasian Security at Delhi Policy Group (DPG) and Former Ambassador of India to Kyrgyzstan; and Ambassador Ganbold Dambajav. Welcome Remarks was delivered by Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Acting Director General, ICWA.



## Dr. Rafiq Dossani, Director, Center for Asia Pacific Policy (CAPP), RAND Corporation visit to Sapru House, 18 June 2025



Dr. Rafiq Dossani, Director, Center for Asia Pacific Policy (CAPP), RAND Corporation met Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Acting Director General, ICWA on 18 June 2025 at Sapru House to discuss academic and research collaboration. Dr. Dossani was accompanied by senior RAND researcher John Parachini.

## 62<sup>nd</sup> CSCAP Steering Committee Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, 19-20 June 2025



The 62<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) was held on 19-20 June 2025 at Hilton, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It was Co-Chaired by Prof. Faiz Abdullah (ASEAN Chair) and Mr Liu Qing (Non-ASEAN Chair).

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, SRF, ICWA and Coordinator, CSCAP-India Committee, participated in the meeting. He also participated in the CSCAP Finance Committee Meeting as a Member on behalf of CSCAP-India. ICWA serves as Secretariat for CSCAP-India.

Discussions were held on ongoing and new Study Groups on various topics of global and regional importance as well as financial and administrative matters.

## Exercise Neeti Kaushal: 2025 [Strategic Gaming Exercise] in collaboration with USI, 19-20 June 2025



ICWA–USI organised a Strategic Gaming Exercise Workshop named “Exercise-Neeti Kaushal: 2025” in Sapru House on June 19-20, 2025 for the ICWA Research Faculty. It was coordinated by Maj Gen RS Yadav, VSM (Retd), Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies and Simulation (CS3), USI. It was mentored by Amb. Jayant Prasad, Former Ambassador of India to Nepal and Former DG, IDSA; Air Marshal Sk Ghotia, PVSM, VSM (Retd), Lt Gen Harsha Gupta, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, VSM (Retd), Amb. Ashok K Kantha, Former Ambassador of India to China; Amb. TCA Raghavan, Former High Commissioner of India to Pakistan; Amb. Sanjay Singh, Former Ambassador of India to Iran and Former Secretary (East), MEA; Amb. Preet Malik, Former Ambassador of India to Myanmar; and Vice Adm AK Chawla, PVSM, AVSM, NM, VSM, ADC (Retd), who provided guidance and shared their expertise during the Exercise. USI is ICWA's MoU partner.

## MoU between Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Bihar (MGCUB) and ICWA, 25 June 2025

In pursuance of Hon'ble Vice-President of India and President, ICWA Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar's visit to Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Bihar (MGCUB) during which he had announced an MoU between ICWA and Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Bihar, an MoU was signed on 25 June 2025 at Sapru House by Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Acting Director General, ICWA & Prof. Sanjay Srivastava, Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Bihar. Both institutions have agreed to collaborate in conducting joint activities such as seminars, studies, publications for expanding awareness and knowledge in international affairs and Indian foreign policy, also ICWA offering internships to students of Mahatma Gandhi Central University.



## Commemorating 50 Years of the Establishment of the Raj Bhasha Parishad, 26 June 2025

To commemorate the completion of 50 golden years of the establishment of the Raj Bhasha Parishad, the Department of Official Language organized a "Swarna Jayanti Samaroh" on 26 June 2025 at "Bharat Mandapam", Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The ceremony was presided over by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah. The ICWA delegation comprised of Dr. Athar Zafar, Senior Research Fellow; Dr. Punit Gaur, Research Fellow; Dr. Shashi Rawat and Mrs. Renu Pawar, who attended the ceremony.



## Book Discussion on “Indian Parliament: Shaping of Foreign Policy?” authored by Shri K.V. Prasad, 26 June 2025



ICWA organised a book discussion on “Indian Parliament: Shaping Foreign Policy”, an ICWA publication, by Shri K V Prasad, Senior Journalist on 26 June 2025 at Sapru House. It was chaired by Amb TCA Raghavan, Former High Commissioner of India to Pakistan and Former Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs. Shri Harivansh Narayan Singh, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha delivered the Special Remarks and Shri Sujeet Kumar, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Member, Consultative Committee for Ministry of External Affairs was the discussant. Welcome remarks were delivered by Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Acting Director General, ICWA.

### Six-day Workshop by Christ (Deemed to be University), Pune, 31 March - 5 April 2025

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In collaboration with ICWA, Christ University, Pune Lavasa campus, organised a Futures Literacy Workshop & International Conclave on the theme “Strategizing India’s Role in a Dynamic Asian and Global Landscape” on 31 March - 5 April 2025. The Conclave aimed to engage with experts and discuss real-world case studies to apply strategic foresight in policymaking and governance, aligning India’s future actions with global and regional dynamics. Shri Hitesh Rajpal, Joint Secretary, ICWA, represented the Council in the International Conclave and delivered the Inaugural Address on 3 April 2025. In his remarks, he highlighted the importance of Futures Literacy and the need for embracing it in strategic planning, the fast-changing Asian and global landscape, India’s role and vision for the future of Asia and the world, key pillars for strategizing India’s role in Asia, India’s vision and approach. During the inauguration ceremony, Dr. Fr Lijo Thomas, Dean and Director, Christ University Lavasa campus delivered the presidential address and Dr. Lija Jacob, Associate Professor and Head, School of Sciences and Convenor of the Conclave, introduced the elements of the Conclave. Among international participants, Ms. Tine Ternest and Ms. Lies Verstraete, Vives University of Applied Sciences, Belgium delivered special address, followed by keynote sessions. Felicitation speech was delivered by Fr Justin P Varghese, Academic Coordinator, Christ University. The Conclave included various keynote sessions and paper presentations by various participants. Faculty and students of Christ University enthusiastically participated in the Conclave.

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## Two-day Conference Department of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 15 - 16 April 2025



A two-day National Conference titled "Reimagining Political Landscapes: Governance, Rights and India's Global Trajectory" was organised by the Department of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi in collaboration with ICWA on 15-16 April 2025. Dr. Dhrubajyoti Bhattacharjee, RF, ICWA represented the Council in the Conference. The Key Note Address was delivered by Prof. Amitabh Mattoo, Dean, SIS, JNU. Prof. Pawan Kumar Sharma, Controller of Examination, Jamia Millia Islamia also made special remarks. During the Valedictory Session, the Valedictory Address was delivered by Prof. Mazhar Asif, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia. Special remarks were made by Prof. Prabhat Kumar Datta, Professor of Law, Public Administration and Political Science, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata. The Conference had twelve sessions held parallelly excluding the inaugural and valedictory session. The conference was attended by researchers and scholars from institutions in Delhi as well as throughout the country.

## International Conference by Dr. O.P. Bhalla Central Library, Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies, Faridabad, Haryana, 27-28 May 2025



Dr. Shashi Rawat, Library Assistant, attended a two-day international conference titled "Innovation & Digital Transformation in Academic Libraries (ICIDTAL)" held on 27th–28th May 2025, organized by the Dr. O. P. Bhalla Central Library at Manav Rachna International Institute of Research & Studies, Faridabad, Haryana, India. She presented a paper entitled "Ethical Use of AI Tools like ChatGPT & Gemini in Research," focusing on the transformative role of AI in academic settings. The Chief Guest in the Conference was Prof. Mazhar Asif, Honourable Vice Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia. The key Note Address was delivered by Prof. Devika P. Mandalli, Director, INFLIBNET.

# RESEARCH INTERNS AT ICWA

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Ms. Eddula Varshitha  
Pondicherry University



Ms. Aishwarya Upreti  
University of Rajasthan



Mr. Saumyasingh Kshatriya  
Pondicherry University



Ms. Nandini Khandelwal  
Pondicherry University

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Ms. Stuti Gogoi  
Jawaharlal Nehru  
University



Ms. Aditi Mishra  
Amity University  
Noida



Ms. Manaswita  
Jawaharlal Nehru  
University



Ms. Ritika Mourya  
Pandit Deendayal  
Energy University  
Gandhinagar

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Ms. Sugandhi  
Jamia Millia Islamia



Ms. Monya Sudersanam  
Monash University



Mr. Kannam Chandan  
Nalanda University



Ms. Kushubu Kumari Yadav  
Nalanda University

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Ms. Preeti Kumari  
Nalanda University



Mr. Swetang Choubey  
Nalanda University



Ms. Harshita Banga  
Nalanda University



Ms. Bagmita Borthakur  
BITS Pilani

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Mr. Mayuk Kumar Paul

BITS Pilani



Ms. Neetu Yadav

BITS Pilani



Ms. Vidisha

Symbiosis School of  
International studies



Ms. Vasundhara

Symbiosis School of  
International studies



Mr. Gagandeep Bajar

Gokhale Institute of  
Politics & Economics



Mr. Shreyas Sriram

Gokhale Institute of  
Politics & Economics



Ms. Snehal Singh

Gokhale Institute of  
Politics & Economics



Ms. Bhavishya Lakshmi B

Manipal Academy of  
Higher Education



Ms. Nayantara Nandini Uppal

Manipal Academy of  
Higher Education



Ms. Nandita Pai

Manipal Academy of  
Higher Education



Mr. Akash Tripathi

Shiv Nadar University



Ms. Shreya

O. P. Jindal Global  
University

# ICWA PUBLICATIONS ISSUE BRIEFS

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1. The Suspension of the Indus Water Treaty: Its Implications for India, Dr. Dhruvajyoti Bhattacharjee | 19 June 2025
2. Philippines-New Zealand Deepening Defence Ties, Varshitha Eddula | 16 June 2025
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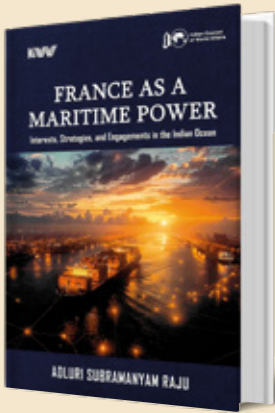
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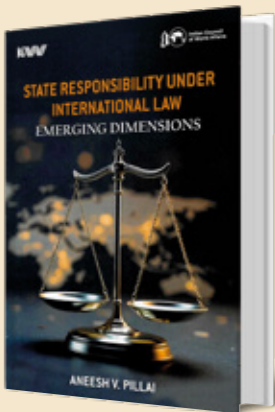
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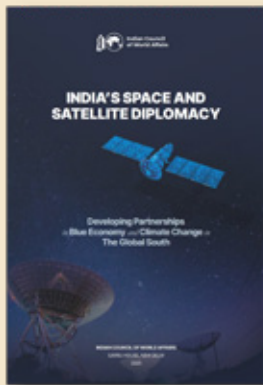
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## भारत - मध्य एशिया संबंध सांस्कृतिक आयाम

प्रोफ. सतीश कुमार,  
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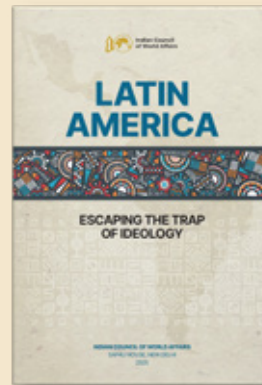
# SPECIAL PUBLICATION



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## India Quarterly A Journal of International Affairs Volume 81, Issue 2, June 2025

### Editorial

The world order that has evolved in the post-Second World War period has never remained static. The ups and downs of Cold War, birth and death of détente, end of the Cold War and unprecedented growth in the Chinese comprehensive power, upsurge in terrorist activities globally, rapid globalisation and incremental opposition to globalisation, rise and then stagnation of Europe and Japan, insignificance of non-aligned movement and emergence of the Global South and several other developments have kept the world order modular.

But the challenges to some of the principal structures of the post-Second World Order have never become so manifest as it is with the commencement of the Trump 2.0 administration in the United States. From the moment President Donald Trump entered the Oval Office in the White House, he put his signature on numerous executive orders that have sought to upend domestic policies and overturn some international norms, thus raising questions over the survival of the post-Second World War world order. A flurry of his

statements made almost everyday has sprung unimaginable surprises. To some, Trump appears to be acting as an emperor with global ambitions. He has taken steps to fire a large number of bureaucrats to fill the bureaucracy with his loyalists. He exercises unparalleled control over the Republican Party to an extent the Congress may just remain a silent spectator or a collaborator in his efforts to reshape the domestic politics. Once the executive and the legislative branches come under Trump's control and influence, only the judiciary can be expected to check and balance the President. But most of the court decisions against his policies are termed temporary as of now and the final outcome of the cases filed is unknown.

Domestic politics provides the base for foreign engagements; thus, the future of the US foreign engagements will depend on the domestic political landscape in the United States during the next four years. President Trump has aired his desire to expand America's territory by restoring its control over the Panama Canal, buying Greenland from Denmark,

suggesting annexation of Canada as the 51st State of the United States and even floating the idea of displacing Palestinians from Gaza and turning the Gaza Strip into a Riviera. But he has delivered the greater blow to America's European partners by his approach to Russia, his position on the Ukraine War, his threat to impose 25% tariff on the European Union and his warning to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies to bear more financial burden or expect marginalisation.

President Trump has been pleasanter to the traditional adversaries and rivals of the United States and offensive to America's allies in North America and Europe. He has so far little to say about the developing countries. He has reversed his predecessor's Ukraine policy in Europe and threatened with higher tariff to his most important trading partners in North America—Canada and Mexico, if they would not stop illegal migrants from entering the United States and stopping smuggling of fentanyl.

By withdrawing from Paris Climate Accord and World Health Organization (WHO) and challenging continuation of World Trade Organization (WTO) by proposing a system of reciprocal trade, Trump has made it clear that he is neither interested in multilateralism nor in multilateral institutions. The future of G7 unity and weight of G20 hangs in balance, while his threat to impose 100% tariff on the grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS), if it tries to have an alternate payment system to bypass the US dollar, poses a fresh challenge.

How far President Trump will be able to achieve his imperial goals is an open question. But resistances to his aspirations have already begun to emerge. When the Oval Office open verbal exchanges between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and President Trump ended with the cancellation of the scheduled joint press conference and without the signing of the expected rare earth and mineral agreements, Europe stood firm with the Ukrainian President. Before Zelensky's visit to Washington, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer had met with President Trump and returned to their respective capitals unsuccessfully trying to convince the American President that he should continue backing Ukraine

and not hand over an easy victory to Russia by pressing upon an early ceasefire agreement without security guarantees.

Britain took an unusual step by quickly concluding an arms deal with Ukraine worth more than two billion pounds, which signalled gaps in the Special Anglo-American alliance.

BRICS, on the other hand, does not seem to be cowed down by Trump's threat. Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has stated that under his country's presidency of BRICS in 2025, alternative payment systems will be discussed. Egypt and Jordan have refused to take the Palestinians from Gaza to facilitate Trump's dream of building a Riviera in Gaza Strip. In the meantime, Japan and South Korea have come to realise that Trump 2.0 would do little to dissuade North Korea from abandoning the nuclear weapon path and at the same time the cost of alliance relations with the United States would increase further. That actually throws open the possibility of further proliferation of nuclear weapons.

While Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first four foreign leaders to meet with President Trump in the White House indicating the importance India puts on its strategic partnership with the United States, India will surely continue to stick to its policy of maintaining strategic autonomy, simultaneously nurturing positive ties with the United States. India will be part of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) along with the United States and other partners, but will strive to solidify its ties with the European Union (EU), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), BRICS and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and promote its idea of Security and Growth for All in the Region ('SAGAR').

With fast changing geopolitical landscape, mammoth challenges are in store for the International Relations (IR) analysts. By the time the current issue of India Quarterly is released, many more unanticipated developments may have taken place.

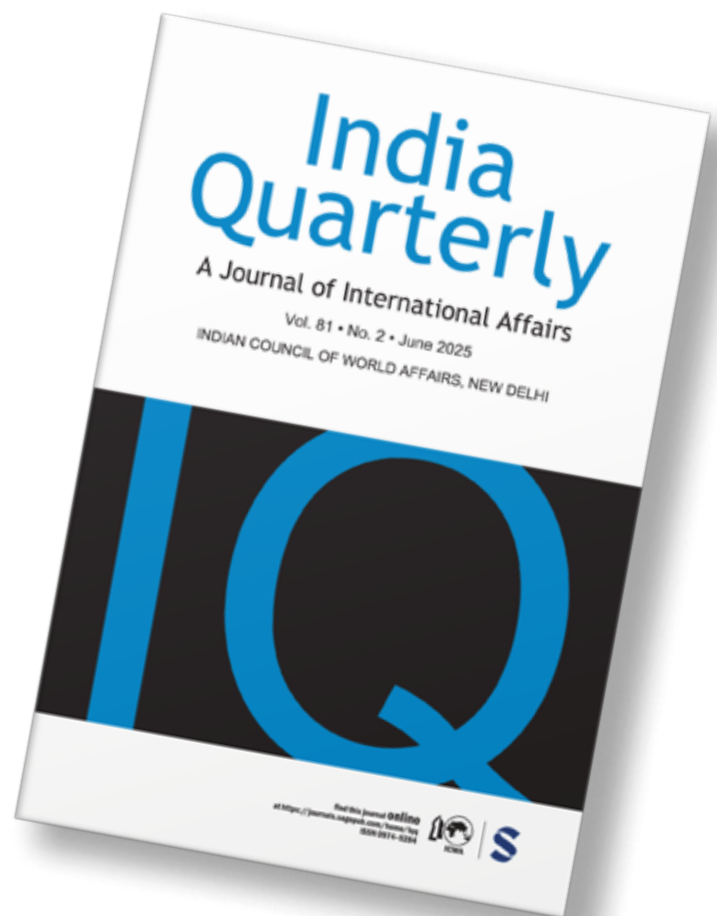
The current issue of India Quarterly carries a series of articles with continuing relevance in the face of rapid changes occurring in IR. The article on 'BRICS Expansion: Threat or Opportunity for ASEAN' makes a thought-provoking analysis and examines relevance of some of the ASEAN models for BRICS and possibility

of more ASEAN members joining BRICS and its implications. ASEAN is a regional organisation and BRICS is not and that is why the article makes a stimulating discussion. The Trump phenomenon, rift in Trans-Atlantic relations, potential disruptions to international trade and foreign aid policies are bound to impact the 'Global South'. How 'representations of race play a role in shaping world order' and despite the retreat of 'explicit racisms', legacies of historical racial significations continue in discourses of the Global North on Global South are theoretically analysed in the article on 'Racialized Representations and the Global South: Insights from Critical Race Studies'.

Significantly, Afghanistan, a landlocked and underdeveloped country, has been in the eye of the storm during colonial times and rivalry between two superpowers during the Cold War. It yet again became the centre of global concerns in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, leading to about two decades of United States and NATO military intervention in the twenty-first century. Historical analysis on developments in Afghanistan and foreign interventions is never ending. The article 'The US in Afghanistan: Interests, Compulsions, and Consequences (1979–1989)' is yet another attempt to reexamine motivations and interests of the United States in supporting the Islamic forces against the former Soviet Union. Notably, even after the US troops withdrawal undertaken by the Biden Administration, reports have appeared about President Trump's statement regarding returning to Afghanistan to counter China.

Amid geopolitical transformations occurring around the world, India's rise as a global player has been a significant development. While India has found a seat around the high table, has been a regular invitee to G7 meetings, a critical player in G20 meetings including its pivotal role during its G20 presidency, and its positive role in the Indo-Pacific, India has invested a great deal in becoming the voice of the Global South, cultivating cooperative ties with smaller Island countries in the South Pacific and Southeast Asia. In the light of these developments, the article on 'PM Modi's historic visit to Brunei: A New Chapter in India–Brunei relations' is a welcome addition to this issue.

Last but not least, nuclear threats have yet again appeared in international politics. Starting with Russian President Vladimir Putin's nuclear war warning to the US deliberations on developing newer nuclear weapons to nuclear/missile sabre-rattling by North Korea, the apprehensions about further proliferation of nuclear weapons are real. It is in this light that the article on 'The Changing Contours of India's Arms Control and Disarmament Policy' suggests a proactive role by India for nuclear disarmament.



**Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra**  
Editor, India Quarterly

## ABOUT ICWA

The ICWA was established in 1943 by a group of eminent intellectuals led by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Dr. H.N. Kunzru. Its 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 organises an array of intellectual activities, including conferences, seminars, roundtable discussions and lectures, and brings out a range of publications. It has a well-stocked library and an active website and publishes the journal 'India Quarterly'. ICWA has over 50 MoUs with international think tanks and research institutions to promote a better understanding of international issues and develop areas of cooperation. The Council also has partnerships with leading research institutions, think tanks and universities in India.



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

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