



# NEWSLETTER

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49<sup>th</sup> Sapru House Lecture by the Honourable Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 1 August 2024



50<sup>th</sup> Sapru House Lecture by The Honourable Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia, 20 August 2024



Curtain Raiser Seminar on “UN Summit of the Future”, 19 September 2024



Talk by Madame Delia Domingo Albert, Former Secretary of Foreign Affairs (Foreign Minister), Philippines, 6 September 2024

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## Sapru House Paper (SHP) discussion by Dr Sanjeev Kumar, Senior Research Fellow, ICWA, 4 July 2024

The discussion of the Sapru House Paper (SHP) titled “China’s Foreign Policy towards its Neighbourhood: Trajectory of Guiding Principles from Mao Zedong to Xi Jinping,” written by Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Senior Research Fellow, was held on July 04, 2024.

The meeting was chaired by Amb Gautam Bambawale, former Ambassador of India to China. He appreciated the choice of the topic of the SHP and highlighted the significance of the paper.



The paper analyses the guiding principles of Chinese foreign policy towards its neighbourhood since 1949. The paper is divided into five segments, each of which examines China’s policy towards its neighbours under Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao and Xi Jinping, respectively.

The two discussants were Professor Avinash Godbole, Professor of China Studies and International Relations, O P Jindal Global University, Sonipat, and Dr Rajiv Ranjan, Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi.

## Dr. Rafiq Dossani, Director, Centre for Asia Pacific Policy (CAPP), RAND Corporation, called upon Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA, 5 July 2024



Dr. Rafiq Dossani, Director, Center for Asia Pacific Policy (CAPP), RAND Corporation called Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA, to discuss academic and research collaboration.

## Interaction with Dr. Jacobo Silva Parada, Assistant Professor on India, Centre of International Relations, University of Mexico, 9 July 2024



ICWA Research Faculty held an interaction with Dr. Jacobo Silva Parada, Centre of International Relations, University of Mexico, at Sapru House. Dr. Jacobo Silva Parada delivered a talk on “Mexican Politics and India-Mexico Relations.” The talk was followed by a Q&A session. The interaction was chaired by Dr Nivedita Ray, Director (Research), ICWA.

## 49<sup>th</sup> Sapru House Lecture by Honourable Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 1 August 2024



The 49<sup>th</sup> Sapru House lecture was delivered by the Prime Minister of Vietnam, HE Pham Minh Chinh. The Acting Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs, Ambassador Soumen Bagchi, delivered the welcome address.

Vietnam is an important part of India’s Act East Policy and a key partner in India’s Indo-Pacific vision. In 2022, India commemorated the 50th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations. In 2016, bilateral relations were elevated to a comprehensive strategic partnership. As political and security partners, India and

Vietnam have converging interests in a multipolar and rebalancing world. India has supported each other’s objectives, whether in ASEAN-led forums or on global platforms. Our shared respect for international law, including UNCLOS 1982, and a rules-based order is a strong commonality. These common traits make us the foundation of a multipolar Asia in the coming years.

In his speech, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh expressed sincere gratitude to India for their messages over the passing of Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong. Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh expressed his

impression of the great achievements of the Ganges civilisation and the remarkable development of India today. Regarding the global situation, the Vietnamese leader noted that the world is still witnessing increasing complexities and uncertainties, with many unprecedented issues emerging. Per the PM, the rapid and complex fluctuations in today's global situation are reflected in four major aspects. First, the uncertainty and instability of the global security environment stay at a high level, with increasing complexity in local conflicts and the trend towards enhanced militarisation. Secondly, the global economy has entered a new development cycle but continues to face many risks. Thirdly, multilateralism continues to play a crucial role, yet its effectiveness is seriously challenged. Fourthly, the 21st century is one of the Indian Ocean-Asia-Pacific regions, which, however, also faces significant risks and challenges from hot spots, local conflicts and competition amongst powers. The global issues require a comprehensive mindset, requiring all countries and multilateral institutions to persist in dialogue and cooperation more than ever in the spirit of solidarity and unity in diversity to find effective, inclusive and global solutions.

Regarding the situation in Vietnam, PM Chinh stated that after nearly 40 years of renewal (Doi moi) process, Vietnam has developed a theoretical framework for its reform path, which represents the crystallisation of the awareness, will and aspirations of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) and the Vietnamese people regarding socialism and the path towards socialism.

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh affirmed that the achievements, in reality, have testified to the correctness of Vietnam's policies and viewpoints, which are based on three main pillars: socialist democracy, a socialist rule-of-law state and a socialist-oriented market economy, with the cornerstone stance on maintaining political and social stability, taking people the core, the subjects, the targets, the driving force and the most important resource of development and not sacrificing progress, social equity and environmental protection for mere economic growth.

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh stated that from a country under siege and embargo, Vietnam now has diplomatic relations with 193 countries, including over 30 comprehensive partners and strategic partners. Vietnam is also an active and responsible member of nearly 70 global and regional organisations.

In an endeavour to transform Vietnam into a developing country with modern industry and upper middle income by 2030 and a high-income developed nation by 2045, Vietnam is focusing on maintaining macroeconomic stability, managing inflation, promoting growth and ensuring major economic balances. It is stepping up industrialisation and modernisation and restructuring the economy, renewing traditional growth engines while fostering new ones, optimising the use of both internal and external resources, ensuring social welfare,



environment protection and climate change adaptation, strengthening national defence-security and promoting external relations and global integration to create an environment conducive to national development.

Amidst developments in the world, Vietnam and India should strongly uphold their tradition of friendship and solidarity and enhance their effective cooperation to achieve new strategic goals together.

## Quiz by XLRI Delhi NCR, Jhajjar, Haryana, 3 August 2024

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Following the ICWA-XLRI MoU, XLRI, in association with ICWA, organised a quiz competition on the “Impact of Changing Dynamics of India’s Foreign Policy on Indian Commerce” at the XLRI Delhi-NCR campus in Jhajjar on August 03, 2024. Shri Hitesh Rajpal, Director, ICWA, delivered a keynote address. The welcome speech was delivered by Dr. Fr KS Casimir SJ, Director, XLRI Delhi-NCR campus. The students of XLRI enthusiastically participated in the quizzes.



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## CSCAP Meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CSCAP Study Group on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in the Asia-Pacific, Bangkok, 5-6 August 2024

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The 11<sup>th</sup> CSCAP Study Group meeting on non-proliferation and disarmament in the Asia Pacific was co-chaired by CSCAP Vietnam and CSCAP USA. It was attended by 21 participants, including three members from the young leaders programme. The three principles of the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) - (i) non-proliferation, (ii) disarmament and (iii) the peaceful use of nuclear energy - were discussed by the study group members in the course of the meeting. The rise of new alliances, such as Russia and North Korea and Russia-North Korea-Iran and Pakistan, was discussed in view of increasing strategic competition between the great powers.

The collapse of arms control mechanisms was highlighted as a concern. Areas of cooperation have emerged, and it includes a convergence of interest in building robust safety and security systems, which include computer security and keeping AI away from nuclear command and control. There is also convergence on ensuring that nuclear weapons are not deployed in this space. With respect to the topic under discussion, the challenges before UN Resolution 1540 were highlighted. The meeting also discussed issues that have emerged as a result of the end of the UN Panel on North Korea. It was pointed out that without the panel, the UN has lost its ability to monitor the sanctions implementation and violations. The role of emerging technologies like drones, AI and small satellites in aiding as well as causing disruptions in nuclear verification was highlighted. The positive aspect of nuclear energy for civilian power was a positive development, and the study group concluded that cooperation in this aspect needs to be further encouraged, especially in the development of nuclear fusion. While discussing this, the positive role of India was highlighted.

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## H.E. Josel F. Ignacio, Ambassador of Philippines to India met Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Additional Secretary, ICWA, 13 August 2024

H.E. Josel F. Ignacio, Ambassador of Philippines to India met Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Additional Secretary, ICWA to discuss enhanced collaboration and other areas of mutual interest.



## 50<sup>th</sup> Sapru House Lecture by The Honourable Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia, 20 August 2024



The 50<sup>th</sup> Sapru House Lecture by the Honourable Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia on "Towards a Rising Global South: Leveraging on Malaysia-India Ties" was held at Sapru House, on 20 August 2024. The lecture was chaired by the Acting Director General (ADG) of ICWA, Shri. Shri Soumen Bagchi. The lecture was followed by the Q&A.

The key points of the 50<sup>th</sup> Sapru House Lecture are as follows:

- The Global South represents the reclaiming of a voice that can no longer be ignored in the emerging international order. As a driver of global prosperity, the Global South today accounts for roughly 40% of world GDP and around 85% of the world's population. By 2030, three of the four largest economies will be from the Global South - one of them is India. The Global South, despite overwhelmingly negative connotations from detractors, is not meant to exclude the Global North.
- Present trade between Malaysia and India stands at \$16.5 billion, bolstered by an impressive compounded annual growth rate of 8.5% in the last two decades. This growth trajectory is not just a statistic but a testament to the deepening economic linkages facilitated by frameworks, such as the Malaysia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement and the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement.



- There is much scope for India and Malaysia to capitalise on each other’s capabilities in the high-tech sector, for instance, in the semiconductor industry.
- As the upcoming ASEAN Chair, Malaysia will not only focus on strengthening existing ASEAN mechanisms and institutions and making them fit for purpose but also find synergies with other frameworks that are crucial for regional development and prosperity.
- We must say no to the naysayers who contend that multiculturalism, inclusivism and shared prosperity are mere constructs of convenience that are impossible of fulfilment because, as they say, man is an economic animal driven by the instinct of self-preservation and self-aggrandisement.



## Talk by Madame Delia Domingo Albert, Former Secretary of Foreign Affairs (Foreign Minister) of the Philippines, 6 September 2024



ICWA organised a talk by Madame Delia Domingo Albert, Former Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines (Former Foreign Minister), on “Women, Peace, and Security in ASEAN,” held on September 6, 2024. The welcome remarks of the event were delivered by Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, AS, ICWA. Her lecture was followed by a moderated question-and-answer session. The event was attended by women heads of

missions, members of the diplomatic core, academics and experts of Gender and Security Studies and ICWA in-house faculty members.

While delivering the welcome remarks, Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, AS, ICWA, extended a warm welcome to Madame Delia Domingo Albert and introduced her illustrious career to the gathering. Subsequently, she briefly reflected on the “friendly and problem-free relations” between India and the Philippines. She opined that the role of women within the broader domain of international relations and diplomacy needs serious reflection. ICWA has been focusing on gender-related issues pertaining to international security and diplomacy. ICWA organised a conference on the mentioned theme, wherein the need for applying a gendered perspective to foreign policy issues ranging from peace and security, development, human rights, humanitarian assistance, development cooperation and so on, were discussed. She also stated that women’s voices in leadership are key to sustaining peace, stability and development and shaping the agenda for international norm-setting and discourse. Given the ongoing conflicts, the efforts to implement women’s peace and security agendas are more critical now than ever. On the issue of women’s peace and security, she highlighted that the intellectual economy of the WPS agenda is heavily populated by voices from the Global North, and Madame Albert’s voice is an important voice from the South. It is essential to bring forth unique views from respective regions.



Madame Delia Domingo Albert thanked ICWA for the invitation and shared that she was delighted to be back in India again after several visits in the past, first as a Diplomat, then as a Minister and now as a private citizen and a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation. She mentioned that 50 years ago, she was instrumental in establishing relations with Eastern Europe as she opened the first post behind the Iron Curtain. Until 1972, the Philippines did not have a relationship with Eastern Europe. She also mentioned joining diplomatic services in 1967 and narrated being a witness to the formation of ASEAN (ASSA at that time), with five countries leading the initiative, namely Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand. The leaders of these five countries were passionate about golf, and this common interest helped in the trust-building process: “Up to today, golf is the glue that keeps ASEAN together.” She spoke about the formation of ASEAN, its core principles, dynamics within the organisation, the role of the Philippines within ASEAN, ASEAN-India relations, Philippines contribution to India-ASEAN relations, and women’s role in peace and security, amongst other issues.

## Workshop on Student Mobility under India-EU CAMM II, 10 September 2024



To facilitate safe, legal and well-supported student mobility within the EU-India corridor, ICWA, along with project partners the International Centre for Migration Policy Development and the International Labour Organization, India organised a “Workshop on Facilitating Student Mobility and the Use of Educational Consultants in India” in New Delhi. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Additional Secretary, ICWA, gave the opening address along with Archana Nair, JS (EP&W), MEA, Franck Viault, Minister Counsellor-Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to India. The ICWA played a key role in facilitating panel discussions that included high-level representations from the Ministry of Education, EdCIL and NIEPA. Indian educational consultants from PPROEED and Jamboree also enriched discussions on opportunities and challenges in student mobility.

## **Dr. Elena Remizova, the Head and Director of the Russian House in New Delhi, and Victor Gorelykh, the incoming Head of the Russian House in Mumbai, met the Additional Secretary, ICWA, 12 September 2024**

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Dr. Elena Remizova, Head and Director of the Russian House in New Delhi, met Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Additional Secretary, ICWA, to discuss institutional collaboration. She was accompanied by Victor Gorelykh, incoming Head of the Russian House in Mumbai.



## **Alessia Castelfranco, Administrator, Development Fund, International Organization of Migration (IOM), met the Additional Secretary, ICWA, 12 September 2024**

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Alessia Castelfranco, Administrator, Development Fund, International Organization of Migration (IOM), met Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Additional Secretary, ICWA, at Sapru House to discuss and review ongoing cooperation between ICWA and IOM, including Project Promoting Regular and Assisted Migration for Youth and Skilled Professionals (PRAYAS). The Additional Secretary also briefed her about the workings of the Center for Migration, Mobility and Diaspora Studies (CMMDS) at ICWA.



## Hindi Diwas 2024, 14-15 September 2024



A five-member delegation from the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA), led by Director (Administration) Shri Anand Prakash, attended the Hindi Diwas-2024, fourth All India Official Language Conference, and Diamond Jubilee Year events at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on September 14-15, 2024. The delegation also comprised Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Senior Research Fellow; Dr. Athar Zafar, Senior Research Fellow; Renu Pawar and Dr. Shashi Rawat.

## Curtain Raiser Seminar on “UN Summit of the Future”, 9 September 2024



The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) organised a curtain-raiser seminar on the UN Summit of the Future on September 19, 2024, at Sapru House. The focus was on two overarching themes of the Summit, encompassing the priorities of the Pact of the Future, which were Sustainable Development and Transforming Global Governance. The seminar saw the participation of former diplomats, academicians, experts, scholars from Indian universities and think tanks.

In her welcome remarks, Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Additional Secretary, ICWA, underscored the critical need for renewed multilateralism at the upcoming UN Summit of the Future scheduled for September 22–23, 2024, given the current global atmosphere of polarisation, conflicts and insecurity. She outlined three key outcome documents of the Summit: the Pact for the Future, the Declaration on Future Generations and the Global Digital Compact, aimed at addressing pressing global challenges. The importance of inter-generational solidarity and the necessity of international cooperation to ensure an inclusive and sustainable future for all generations were highlighted.

The first session on Sustainable Development was chaired by Amb Manjeev Puri, former Ambassador/DPR to the UN and lead Climate Change negotiator, and presently distinguished fellow, TERI. The speakers were Shashi Shekhar Vempati, Co-founder of DeepTech for Bharat Foundation, former CEO - Prasar Bharati (DD&AIR),

Dr. Ajey Lele (Retd), Deputy Director General, MP-IDSA, Dr. Shailly Kedia, Associate Director, Sustainable Development and Outreach, TERI.

The speakers in Session I emphasised the importance of achieving a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047 through sustainable means. Attention was drawn to the role of global governance in determining the destiny of individual nations, especially the countries of the Global South. It endorsed the focus of the UN Summit on accelerating the timely achievement of SDGs. It dwelt upon the reasons for the delay, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and present-day conflicts, and called for collective focus on SDG fulfilment as a central objective of multilateralism. India's contribution through a variety of global climate-friendly initiatives, such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA), the Coalition for Disaster Resistant Infrastructure (CDRI) and the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA), was highlighted, in addition to myriad domestic efforts. Ethics and risks of new and emerging technologies, such as AI, were discussed while emphasising the need for regulation and internationally agreed norms on their use. The need for publicly accessible datasets to ensure AI development is inclusive and will result in sustainable livelihoods was noted. On climate change, the need to set a new collective quantified goal or a climate finance target taking into account the needs of the Global South at COP29 was emphasised. The discussions in Session I culminated in a call to reinforce community resilience and moral integrity while leveraging innovative solutions to confront pressing environmental and social challenges.



The second session on Transforming Global Governance was chaired by Amb Asoke Kumar Mukerjee, Former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations. The speakers were Dr. CSR Murthy, Former Professor (Retd), School of International Studies, JNU; Dr. Rajat Kathuria, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiv Nadar University and Dr. Archana Negi, Associate Professor, School of International Studies, JNU. The speakers emphasised India's call for reformed multilateralism, with a focus on two main areas: a human-centric approach to global governance and the need for India's participation in global governance decisions. It was noted that putting a human-centric focus at the centre of global governance and multilateralism has been India's consistent policy since it became a founding member of the UN. As opposed to the recent plurilateral bodies such as the G-20, it was pointed out that the UN system is based on treaties reflecting a higher level of commitment on the part of countries. It was also mentioned that every good treaty has a review provision, with Article 109 of the UN Charter being such a provision that needs to be explored. Challenges posed by adopting a multi-stakeholder approach on issues of international peace and security were mentioned.

Session II emphasised that unfettered markets have not led to efficiencies and enhanced welfare. A rules-based market system with effective enforcement capacity was called for. The session addressed the need for reforms in international financial institutions, such as the IMF, changing the culture of the organisation and increasing quotas for developing countries. The discussion highlighted signs of stagnation in the functioning of the WTO, including a crisis of credibility based on free-liberal trade and a jeopardised dispute settlement system.

Overall, the seminar articulated optimism that, amidst ongoing geopolitical shifts, the UN Summit of the Future could foster meaningful dialogue and cooperation amongst nations, ultimately leading to impactful solutions for global challenges, emphasising the need for a spirit of compromise on all sides as stated by the UN Secretary-General.

## Hindi Pakhwara 2024 at ICWA, 26 September 2024



A commemorative event was held on 26 September 2024 at the Indian Council for World Affairs, Sapru House, to mark Hindi Diwas and 75 years of Hindi as the official language. The program was presided over by Nutan Kapoor Mahavar, Additional Secretary, ICWA. Key highlights in the event included competitions in four categories on Hindi themes, a discussion on “Hindi’s Role in National Unity,” and an administrative vocabulary competition. The event saw enthusiastic participation from officers and employees.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Dialogue between the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) and the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), Hanoi, Vietnam, 27 September 2024



The 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)- Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) Dialogue was held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 27 September 2024. The theme of the dialogue was ‘India and Vietnam in the New World Order’.

The dialogue had an inaugural address followed by four sessions. The sessions were themed on “India in the new world order and opportunities for India - Vietnam cooperation”; “Vietnam in the new world order and opportunities for Vietnam - India cooperation”; “Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in the new world order: security & defense, trade and investment, science technology & innovation” & “India – Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic

Partnership in the new world order: tourism, education, cultural exchanges & people-to-people ties”.

The Vietnamese delegation was represented by Dr. Ngyun Duc Minh, Vice-President of VASS, Amb. Dr. Ton Sinh Thanh, former Ambassador of Vietnam to India, Dr. Vo Xuan Vinh, Deputy Director General in-charge of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies at VASS, Dr. Pham Anh Tuan, Acting Director General, Vietnam Institute of Economics, VASS, Dr. Phan Cao Nhat Anh, Deputy Director General, Institute for South Asian, West Asian and African Studies, VASS and Dr. Le Thi Hang Nga, Institute for South Asian, West Asian and African Studies, VASS.



The Indian delegation was represented by Amb. Soumen Bagchi, Acting DG, ICWA, Amb. Sandeep Arya, Ambassador of India to Vietnam, Dr. Rahul Mishra, Associate Professor, at Jawahar Nehru University, Dr. Temjenmeren Ao, Research Fellow Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), Prof. Dr. Prabir De, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and Dr. Sripathi Narayanan, Research Fellow, ICWA.

Discussions during the Dialogue pointed out that the rise of India is one that is in harmony with the world. India is also providing leadership for the Global South when it comes to addressing the concerns of the developing world. It was also pointed out that both India and Vietnam have a similar objective of seeing significant economic progress for their respective countries and their people.

## OUTREACH EVENTS

### Two-day National Seminar (in Hindi), R.C.A. Girls' (PG) College, Mathura, 6-7 September 2024



A two-day national seminar on “Indo-Pacific Region: Opportunities and Challenges” was organised on 6 and 7 September under the joint aegis of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi, and Faculty of Social Sciences, RCA Girls Post Graduate College, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. The seminar was sponsored by the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi. The ICWA was represented by Dr. Punit Gaur, who introduced the topic of the seminar and presented his views on the strategic importance of the Indo-Pacific region. He shared the council’s policies and research work on international issues. Dr. Punit Gaur also chaired the first technical session and presented a review of the research papers presented during the session.

### Three-day National Seminar (in Hindi) at महाराणा प्रताप महाविद्यालय, जंगल धूषण, गोरखपुर, Gorakhpur, 7-8 September 2024



The Department of Political Science, Maharana Pratap Degree College, Jungle Dhushan Gorakhpur (U.P) organised two-day national seminar titled, “Bhartiya Videsh Niti Ke Badalte Aayam: 2019 Se Abtak” on 7-8, September 2024. The conference was organised with the collaboration of ICWA, New Delhi. Dr. Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui, SRF, ICWA, was nominated by the Council to the conference. The inaugural session was chaired by Professor Kavita Shah, Vice Chancellor, Siddharth University Kapilvastu, Siddharth Nagar (U.P) and the keynote



speaker for the occasion was Professor Tej Pratap Singh, BHU, Varanasi. The seminar had different sessions spread over two days covering themes of changing dynamic of India’s foreign policy, India’s relations and growing connectivity with the larger world and enforcement of India’s strategic autonomy in its global engagement. The conference was attended by students, scholars, and faculty members of the college. The valedictory session of the seminar was addressed by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, India’s former ambassador to Nepal, EU, Luxemburg, and India’s Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN.

## Two-day National Seminar by Mahila Mahavidyalaya (PG), Kanpur, 20-21 September, 2024



The Department of Sociology, Mahila Mahavidyalaya PG College, organised a two-day national seminar on “ASEAN-India: Youth and Socio-Cultural Connectivity” in collaboration with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) on 20 and 21 September at the Mahila Mahavidyalaya Seminar Hall, Kanpur. Dr Anwesh Ghosh, a research fellow, represented the Council at the event.

### Research Interns at ICWA



Madhu Shree  
IGNT University



Julia Jose Thachil  
Central University of Gujarat



Vijay Anand Panigrahi  
Pondicherry  
University



Aditi Mishra  
Pondicherry  
University



Nandini Khandelwal  
Pondicherry University



Mrityunjay Goswami  
Jindal School of International Affairs



Shivam Kumar  
Rashtriya Raksha University



Shatakshi Tyagi  
Rashtriya Raksha University



Mohd Zulfikar Firoz Pathan  
Rashtriya Raksha University



Sugandhi  
Jamia Millia Islamia



Eddula Varshitha  
Pondicherry University



Kushagra Kushwaha  
Manipal University



Abon Gooptu  
Manipal University



Saurav Das  
Manipal University



R. Ajitesh  
Manipal University



Dahagam Manaswini Srivatsav  
Manipal University



Marshalin Mathew  
Manipal University



Ashamita Dutta  
Manipal University



P Rama Krishna Teja  
Manipal University



Diya Chaudhry  
Shiv Nadar University



Gayatri Singh  
Shiv Nadar University

## ICWA Publications

### Issue Briefs

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1. Mukesh Kumar, The FRCV Project: A Vision to Boost India's Arms Modernisation (30 September 2024)
2. Dr. Anwesha Ghosh, Navigating the Humanitarian Dilemma in Afghanistan (30 September 2024)
3. Dr. Tunchinmang Langel, North Korea and the United Nations (20 September 2024)
4. Dr. Samatha Mallem pati, Main Issues in the Sri Lanka Presidential Election and Probable Outcome (20 September 2024)
5. Dr. Dhruvajyoti Bhattacharjee, Balochistan: A Boiling Cauldron (18 September 2024)
6. Dr. Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui, Flourishing Drug Empire amidst a Decade of Civil War in Syria: An Assessment (13 September 2024)
7. Dr. Stuti Banerjee, The Shift in U.S.-Bangladesh Relations (10 September 2024)
8. Dr. Tunchinmang Langel, Kishida to Step Down: Japan's Political Landscape (2 September 2024)
9. Dr. Punit Gaur, Navigating Central Asia's Changing Geopolitical Landscape (2 September 2024)
10. Vijay Anand Panigrahi, The 2024 Paris Olympic Games: Advocating for Sustainability at Major Sporting Events (2 September 2024)
11. Dr. Stuti Banerjee, Presidential Election and Turmoil in Venezuela (29 August 2024)
12. Dr. Anwesha Ghosh, Three Years of the Taliban Rule in Afghanistan (13 August 2024)
13. Dr. Arnab Chakrabarty, The Political and Economic Crisis in Bolivia (13 August 2024)
14. Aman Kumar, NATO at 75: The European Pillar of the Trans-Atlantic Alliance (13 August 2024)
15. Diya Chaudhry, EU's Efforts towards Enhancing Ukraine's Defence: Implications for Europe's Military-Industrial Complex (5 August 2024)
16. Dr. Teshu Singh, Emerging Trends in China-Russia Relations in the Wake of the Ukraine War (2 August 2024)
17. R. Ajitesh, Implications of Kuril Islands Dispute on the Indo-Pacific Region (29 July 2024)
18. Saurav Das, Security Cooperation Between India and Central Asian Republics (26 July 2024)
19. Kushagra Kushwaha, Masoud Pezeshkian and the Future of Iran (26 July 2024)
20. Abon Gooptu, China in the Caribbean: Presence Matters (25 July 2024)
21. Marshalin Mathew, President Joe Biden's Executive Order on Immigration: Expectations and Challenges (24 July 2024)
22. Dr. Lakshmi Priya, Iranian Approach III: Connecting through Connectivity (15 July 2024)
23. Dr. Pragya Pandey, Bougainville's Quest for Independence: The Stalemate and the Future (5 July 2024)
24. Aman Kumar, The Far-right in the European Parliament and their Agenda for Europe (4 July 2024)
25. Ambi, Bracing for a Storm: Migration acts as a fulcrum in the EU General Elections '24 (4 July 2024)
26. Dr. Arnab Chakrabarty, Major Economic Trends in Latin America in 2024 (3 July 2024)
27. Dr. Samatha Mallem pati, A Look at the Debate on the 2024 Presidential Elections in Sri Lanka (3 July 2024)

## Viewpoints

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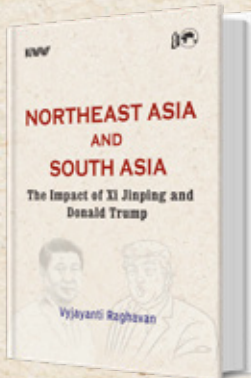
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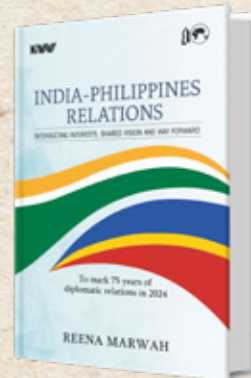
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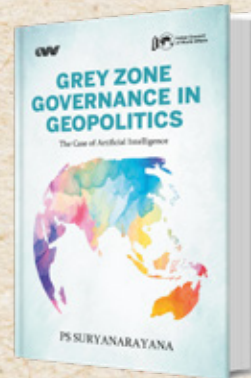
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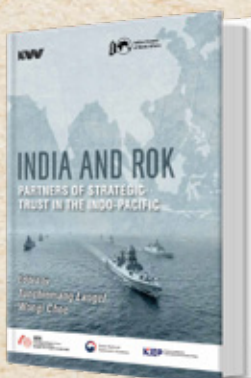
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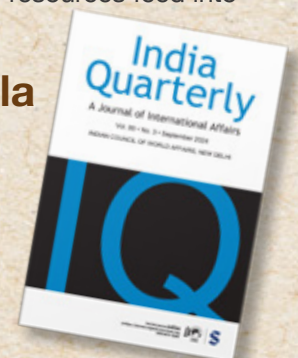
**Editorial**

The summer of discontent is upon us. Yet, as the world seems to spiral out of control, there is a greater effort to seek solutions to potentially dangerous situations. The havoc in Palestine has renewed focus on global institutions like the International Court of Justice, and middle powers like South Africa, Norway, Ireland and Spain have seized the space to consolidate global public opinion around the ethics of war and humanitarian values in global policy. In many ways, the Global South is more global but less just South, with states in the North breaking away from the fundamentals of Western policy. The casuist link between historical victimisation and current ambitions that endorse the seizure of land, the right to livelihood and human dignity from others is no longer acceptable to a larger number of countries across the world. Issues around development and security remain at the heart of global and national debates as governments seek to make their populations more secure, prosperous and equipped for the challenges ahead. Significantly, even as the shocks of COVID-19 and the Ukraine-Russian war and now the war in Gaza provide a rationale for national industrial policies, de-globalisation, decoupling and de-risking, there seems to be an equally strong argument for recalibrating existing globalisation, as one author in this issue argues. Undoing existing supply chains, global investments and maritime and land links is fraught with greater economic danger than evolving better, transparent and consensual regulatory mechanisms to protect national interests. Thus, “India should see the notion of decoupling as distinct from US-China decoupling. Rather than decoupling, diversification away from China in a phased manner is found to be critical to secure India’s future in the evolving technological landscape.” With the WTO in a state of coma, it falls to regional institutions and states to power the next steps.

Other papers in this issue of the India Quarterly speak to some of these concerns. On another note, India finds itself still struggling to make the connections it needs for regional connectivity and energy security, both issues central to policy concerns. In its Northeast, the Act East policy has raised hopes and

fears in equal measure, as one article points out. The potential for connections with Southeast Asia is exciting, but policy on the ground still has a long way to go to address local needs for employment, economic growth and infrastructure. The question most often asked is whether policy from New Delhi will bypass local communities to connect with ASEAN. In its broader energy policy with the oil-rich regions of Central Asia, as well, geography, geopolitics and the direction of its own external trade hamper Indian initiatives. Here, it seems that New Delhi is hemmed in as much by South Asian politics as by geopolitical realities. However, open borders, land and maritime connections have their security implications. Where relatively open borders do exist, “the connection between drugs, conflict and power is a key regional dynamic with implications for its neighbours and beyond,” as one author writes. Thus, the conflict in Myanmar has encouraged the smuggling of amphetamines not only through India’s northeast but also through the West Bengal-Bangladesh border, using existing channels for smuggling other contraband products. In addition, the Indian coast, with its exposure to many maritime paths, is increasingly vulnerable to radiological and nuclear smuggling, with implications for misuse by criminal and terrorist elements and national security. As global attention pivots to Europe’s wars, greater crises elsewhere get short shrift. In Sudan, conflict is building up to a preventable humanitarian disaster. Across the continent, West Africa’s dominant power, Nigeria, is dealing with increasing cross-border crimes, which derails its regional integration policies and sets back much-needed regional development. The Global South would do well to pay attention to its health even as the greater military and aid resources feed into Ukraine and Israel.

**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 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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