

# **Welcome Remarks**

**by**

**Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia**

Director General, ICWA

**at**

**Special Address**

**by**

**H.E. Mr. Xi Jinping**

President of the People's Republic of China

**at**

**Taj Palace, New Delhi**

**18 September 2014**

Your Excellency, Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China,

Sri M. Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice President of India and President of the Governing Council of ICWA,

Distinguished Members of the Chinese Delegation,

Excellencies, Esteemed Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,



Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia, DG, ICWA welcoming H.E. Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China

It is a great privilege for us to extend a warm welcome to Your Excellency. The Indian Council of World Affairs feels deeply honoured by Your Excellency's acceptance of our invitation to deliver a public address.

We are confident that Your Excellency's speech today will cover a whole range of issues that are at the heart of your visit to India and the region. It will be heard with keen interest not only in this hall but well beyond it.

I also welcome Sri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India and President of the Governing Council of ICWA, who is presiding over this function.



*Ambassador Rajiv K Bhatia, Director General, ICWA delivering Welcome Remarks.*

We are particularly delighted by the gracious presence amidst us of the First Lady, Mme Peng Liyuan.

Further, we extend a friendly welcome to all members of the distinguished Chinese delegation.



*Audience at Address.*

The audience before Your Excellency comprises Members of Parliament, members of the Governing Council of ICWA, scholars, researchers and analysts, India's former diplomats and serving officials, members of the diplomatic corps, business leaders, members of media and civil society and many others who have abiding interest in your great country.

Without further ado, may I now invite Your Excellency to address our distinguished audience.

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