



ICWA NEWSLETTER

INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS | SAPRU HOUSE, BARAKHAMBAA ROAD, NEW DELHI

EVENTS ORGANISED AT SAPRU HOUSE, NEW DELHI



21st Sapru House Lecture by Rt. Hon'ble Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal

22 February 2016

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) organised the 21st Sapru House Lecture on 22 February 2016 at Sapru House. The lecture was delivered by the Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli. He was accompanied by the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Kamal Thapa. External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj chaired the event. In his welcome remarks, Director General, ICWA, Ambassador Nalin Surie said that state visits have strengthened the age-old links between India and Nepal, which have historical and civilizational ties. Smt. Sushma Swaraj, in her Opening Remarks appreciated that the relationship between the two countries did not depend on government engagements, but are self-sustained due to people-to-people contact at large. She also commended

ICWA HIGHLIGHTS...

- Twenty First Sapru House Lecture by Rt. Hon'ble Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal
- Twenty Second Sapru House Lecture by H.E Mrs. Claudia Ruiz-Massieu Salinas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico
- ICWA-IFANS (Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security) Dialogue
- Roundtable on "India-US Partnership" with the participation of the visiting US Congressional Delegation at Sapru House
- Talk by H.E. Mr. Ranjit Rae, Ambassador of India to Nepal
- Twentieth Sapru House Lecture by H.E. Dr. Milan Brglez, Speaker of the Parliament of Slovenia
- Lecture by Ambassador Samantha Power, Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations
- Pre-India Africa Forum Summit-III Academic Conference
- Foreign Policy awareness programme in HINDI



the manner in which relations between the two nations have been growing, and the paths adapted by both the countries in facing challenges.

After the Opening Remarks, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal, Mr. Kamal Thapa gave a Special Address. He said that the close proximity and relationship between the two countries have endured all kinds of challenges and will be strengthened further. He mentioned that the present Constitution of Nepal encompasses universal democratic values. With regard to democratic representation, he said that Nepal is a progressive society and though some sections of the Nepalese society are not happy with the Constitution, they have several mechanisms to address those grievances within the Constitutional framework.

Nepal's Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, presented his keynote address in two parts: first, Nepal's political development and second, Nepal's relationship with India. He called Mr. Modi's Nepal visit as 'historic', and an occasion where all doubts were eliminated from the hearts and minds of the Nepalese people. He appreciated India's response to the earthquake in Nepal and said that the support itself is a manifestation of understanding and love between the two countries. He spoke about Nepal's political transition in the last ten years where he mentioned that the unitary monarchical system of governance has been replaced with a federal democratic polity. He described in detail the manner in which the present constitution was made and the methods adapted.

In regard to India-Nepal relationship, he said

that the bilateral relationship is extensive, deep and multi-dimensional; formal documents and treaties alone cannot capture their essence.

There are very few countries in the world today whose past as well as future are so closely intertwined with each other. PM Oli said that if he has to define the relationship between India and Nepal, then the relationship can be classified in one single term, which is 'sovereign fraternity'.

He also mentioned about Nepal's relationship with China. He said that Nepal wants to benefit from the enormous progress both countries are making in economic growth, science and technology, information-technology and trade. He said that Nepal is accused of trying to play the India card against China and vice versa, which is baseless. He said that India and China are Nepal's two big neighbours and the Nepalese would like to maintain good relations with both the countries and have benefit from both.

However, in respect to the security and sensitivity of India, Mr. Oli said that Nepal will not allow any anti-India activity on Nepalese soil. He said that India and Nepal need to make determined efforts to ensure that their lands are not misused by any unscrupulous elements to the detriment of vital interests of both countries. He emphasized the need of cooperation in the economic and energy sectors. In conclusion, he said that the relationship between India and Nepal should be forward-looking and progressive, with a solid foundation for development and prosperity.



Twenty Second Sapru House Lecture by H.E Mrs. Claudia Ruiz-Massieu Salinas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico

11 March 2016

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) hosted the 22nd Sapru House Lecture (SHL) on "International Perspective of Mexico: Mexico-India Relations" delivered by H.E Mrs. Claudia Ruiz-Massieu Salinas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico on 11 March 2016. The event was presided by Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA.

Delivering the 22nd SHL, Minister Salinas spoke of the growing relations between India and Mexico. She also narrated Mexico's relations with US, its strategic position in Latin America, and its growing role as an geo-

strategic and economic player in the world, being one of the largest economies in the world.

While going through significant structural adjustments and economic reforms, Mexico has made an indelible impact on global economic growth and stability. Mexico can learn from India's experience with its diaspora. The changing political spectrum has given birth to new economic alignments and arrangements. She also narrated the manner in which Mexico has been actively participating in global governance, striving for stringent laws to protect the climate, adapting steps to attain sustainable development goals, as well as playing a dynamic role in the UN.

She stated how the Indian vision of "Make in India" and the Mexican vision of "Moving Mexico" can benefit both the economies making it mutually productive.

She said "Mexico has a clear vision for our common future: through a renewed and strong relationship, both countries must take full advantage of the myriad of opportunities at our fingertips... Mexico is a natural bridge for India's dive into the most dynamic regions worldwide. Our network of Free Trade Agreements and strategic alliances make us an entryway to North America and Latin America".



**Roundtable on
"India-US
Partnership" with
the participation of
the visiting US
Congressional
Delegation at Sapru
House**

18 January 2016

Amb. Nalin Surie (retd.), Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), welcomed the delegation of Congressmen from the United States. Amb. Surie stated that there has been a qualitative and quantitative change in the India-United States relations. He also pointed out that this change has bipartisan support in both countries. He further added that while much talk is on how the two – the largest and the oldest – democracies have come together, the importance of democracy in the relationship should not be understated. India needs access to high technology, markets and FDIs. In allowing this access to India, the US Congress plays an important role. He further pointed out that differences are natural and the two countries have to find ways to overcome and mitigate them. The process of building trust is important and in this, again, the US Congress has a significant role to play.

The visiting delegation members included Congressman Billy Long (R. Missouri), a

member of the House Committee on Energy, Trade and Commerce, Congressman Derek Kilmer (D. Washington), who is also a member of the House Committee on Trade, Congressman Juan Vargas (D. California), a member of the House Committee on Financial Services and House Administration, Congressman Brendan Boyle (D. Pennsylvania), member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and also a member of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans and Congressman Ami Bera (D. California), also a member and Co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans.

It was discussed how US India relations have grown in the last few years. The manner in which India has been in the focus of the US Administration, playing an important role in the US Pivot to Asia policy, the growing maturity of the Indian diaspora in US in playing a transformative role, and various other issues were discussed during the roundtable discussion.



**Talk by H.E. Mr. Ranjit Rae, Ambassador of India to Nepal on
"The Current Situation in Nepal"
Chaired by Ambassador Nalin Surie, DG, ICWA
11 January 2016**

On January 11, 2016, India's Ambassador to Nepal Ranjit Rae spoke at the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi, about the current situation in Nepal. Ambassador Rae's candid speech was an attempt to elucidate the key concerns attached to current problems in Nepal. He shared his view on nature of the current problem, agitator's dilemma and India's approach. The talk was chaired by Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA and attended by distinguished fellows, diplomats, academicians and journalists. Narrating India's Nepal Policy, Ambassador Rae said that India wants to see peace and stability restored in the Nepal. He was firm that the difference of opinion between major parties and Madheshi agitators would disappear soon through dialogues.



**Twentieth Sapru House Lecture by
H.E. Dr. Milan Brglez, Speaker of the Parliament of Slovenia on "Slovenia's Decade in the European Union - A Look Back and Opportunities for the Future"; Chaired by:
Ambassador Dinkar Khullar**

26 November 2015

The Twentieth Sapru House lecture on "Slovenia's Decade in the European Union -A Look Back and Opportunities for the Future" was delivered by Dr. Milan Brglez, Speaker of the Parliament, the Republic of Slovenia on 26 November 2015 at the Sapru House, New Delhi. The event was chaired by Ambassador Dinkar Khullar. In his welcome remarks, Shri Ajaneesh Kumar, Deputy Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), mentioned the current political and economic challenges faced by the European Union (EU), including persisting economic slowdown, the migrant crisis, etc. In his remarks, Ambassador Khullar spoke about India's historical relations with Slovenia, when the country was part of Yugoslavia. After the break-up of Yugoslavia, Slovenia joined the EU in 2004. Slovenia has also held the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2008. Ambassador Khullar also talked about the current political and security problems in Europe, particularly security issues, economic crisis and migrant crisis.

In his address, Dr. Milan Brglez discussed the Slovenian perspective of the EU as well as current challenges for the EU and Slovenia. Analyzing the nature and evolution of the EU, he said that the EU is a supra-national institution or organization. Dr. Brglez noted that the foundation of the European integration was laid down on free movement of goods, capital, services and people.

On the foreign and security policy of Slovenia, due to its geographical stature, it is more dependent on the EU market and more vulnerable to changes in the world. However, he argued that small member states would play a more vital role in the common security and foreign policy of the EU. Slovenia has adopted sustainable ways of development and promoting green economy. Dr. Brglez pointed out that there is a need to develop more understanding about the EU.

On India - EU relations, he mentioned Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Germany, France and the UK, as well as visits of small European countries' leaders to India. He said that Slovenian people's perception about former Yugoslav President Marshal Tito is negative. He stated that Slovenian people have positive perception about the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM). The EU is making efforts to find solution of the refugee crisis. He also underlined that Turkey's role would be crucial in the dealing with migrant/refugee crisis in Europe. It would be difficult for the small member states of the EU to accommodate large number of migrants. On the economic crisis, he discussed about the recent economic growth trends in Europe, and said that the Greek crisis is not over.



**Lecture by Ambassador
Samantha Power, Permanent U.S.
Representative to the United
Nations on "Toward More
Effective Peacekeeping in the
21st Century".
20 November 2015**

The Special lecture on "Toward More Effective Peacekeeping in the 21st Century" was delivered by Ambassador Samantha Power, Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations on 20 November 2015 at the Sapru House, New Delhi.

Ambassador Power began her lecture by highlighting the important role that India has been playing under the guidance of an able Indian leadership, for promoting international peace and security. India first contributed military hospitals and field ambulances to the UN command in Korea, and then deployed in 1956 to the UN peacekeeping mission in Suez, Egypt.

In the present decades since the early UN missions, peacekeeping has evolved significantly. More and more, UN peacekeepers were deployed to volatile situations, where rebel groups and militia continued to fight, often attacking civilians, and in some instances targeting peacekeepers. Today, two-thirds of peacekeepers operate in active conflicts – this is the highest percentage ever.

Further, peacekeepers have been asked to take on new responsibilities – far from the expectations for early peacekeepers. The early blue helmets would not recognize the mandates given by their successors in the present day, which include disarming armed groups, facilitating the safe delivery of humanitarian aid, supporting efforts to hold accountable the perpetrators of war crimes and atrocities, and protecting civilians from those crimes themselves. In the meantime, the demand for peacekeeping has soared, driven by a growing number of crises. The number of uniformed personnel rose from fewer than 20,000 fifteen years ago, to 50,000 ten years ago, to 100,000 today. And that number does not even count the more than 20,000 peacekeepers serving in the African Union operation in Somalia.

Ambassador Power mentioned the manner in which the role of peacekeepers have changed creating a predicament for India and for many traditional contributors to peacekeeping, who now bear a larger share of troop contributions –in environments where the host governments were weak or where they cooperated only sparingly with the blue helmets, where certain parties had not laid down their arms, and where peacekeepers increasingly risked being drawn into conflict. In these environments, India's long-standing commitment to live up to the "larger cause of humanity" was increasingly in tension with the tradition of non-interference that India champions.

She reiterated the commitment of the present US leadership in bolstering the role of UN peacekeeping, and the manner in which it has taken steps to strengthening its commitment for the promotion of international peace and security. She stated how one is encouraged by Prime Minister Modi's announcement on September 2015 that, in addition to all of its other contributions, India will provide an additional field hospital, engineering company, and a company to support communications.

She concluded by stating that there is a need to urgently improve medical support for uniformed personnel, from more rapid medical evacuations to higher standards of emergency care. There is a need for more investment in the safety and security of uniformed personnel, including by ensuring that they have the necessary equipment and training to serve in inhospitable environments. And one must do better at holding those who attack peacekeepers accountable for their crimes.



**Pre-India Africa Forum Summit-III
Academic Conference on "India-Africa in
the 21st Century: Scale and Scope of
Comprehensive Partnership"**

15-16 October 2015

The Indian Council of World Affairs organised the Pre Third India-Africa Forum Summit Conference on India –Africa Partnership: Scale and Scope of Comprehensive Partnership with the support of Ministry of External Affairs, on 15 and 16 October 2015 at Sapru house, New Delhi. Scholars and experts from Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, Mauritius, Ghana and Nigeria participated in the conference. The Conference was also attended by a cross section of academics, experts from various think tanks, analysts, business, media, and policy makers from India.

The presentations and discussions during the two-day conference was structured along six sub-themes namely political cooperation, enhancing economic relations, peace and security challenges, development cooperation, people to people linkages and multilateral engagement. The Opening session was chaired by Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA, Shri Navtej Singh Sarna, Secretary (West), MEA, delivered the keynote address and a special address was delivered by HE Mrs. Gennet Zewide, Dean of the African Diplomatic

Corps & Ambassador of Ethiopia, New Delhi. The other dignitaries attending the Pre-India Africa Forum Summit-III were Dr. Solomon Dersso, Commissioner in the African Union Commission, Ethiopia, Dr. Alex Mwamba Ng'oma, Lecturer in University of Zambia, Ambassador Dinkar Khullar and many other policy makers, academicians, scholars, researchers and other luminaries from various African nations as well as from India.

The India-Africa relationship is based on 3Cs: Connectivity, Complementarity and Cooperation. Connectivity is basic to people-to-people contacts and availability of connectivity is a platform for increased cooperation. And the Summit wanted to strengthen the above mentioned routes bringing the nations of Africa closer to India.

EVENTS ORGANISED OUTSIDE DELHI

**Foreign policy Awareness
Programme in Hindi in Mathura:**

1-2 February 2016

In a two day seminar on 1-2 February 2016, at RCA Girls' College Mathura, a seminar focusing on India's foreign policy, especially India's Act East policy was sponsored by ICWA. Scholars and students participated from various parts of northern India. The Chief Guest, Prof S.D. Munir delivered the keynote address.

From ICWA side, Dr. Smita Tiwari, participated and presented a paper.



Two day National Seminar - "India's Act East Policy: Problems and Prospects in North East India" at Imphal, Manipur, Sponsored by ICWA, 28-29 January, 2016.

A two day seminar on 28-29 January, 2016, was organized by the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Regional Campus, Manipur. The Seminar was held in the Tribal Research Institute Seminar Hall, Chingmeirong, Imphal, Manipur, in which various aspects of the Act East Policy of the Government of India were discussed. It was attended by academic luminaries and scholars from the entire region.

From ICWA side, Dr. Dhrubajyoti Bhattacharjee, participated and presented a paper.



Three day International Seminar - "Multilateral Cooperation: Emerging Global Scenario" at Tirupati, Sponsored by ICWA, 22nd – 24th February 2016.

In a three day international seminar on 22nd – 24th February 2016, was organized by the UGC Centre for Southeast Asian & Pacific Studies, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh which was held in Tirupati. The seminar was attended by scholars and researchers from all throughout India, Vietnam, Japan, Afghanistan, Iran and Sri Lanka.

From ICWA side, Dr. Dhrubajyoti Bhattacharjee, participated and presented a paper.



Two day National Seminar - "India's Northeastern States & Eastern Neighbours: The Way Forward" at Shillong, Meghalaya, sponsored by ICWA, 5-6 December 2015.

A two day national seminar on 5-6 December 2015, was organized by the Asian Confluence's Young Scholar's Forum, which was held in Shillong, Meghalaya. The seminar was attended by scholars and researchers from all throughout the region. The seminar discussed the manner in which the Northeastern states can play an integral role in making the Act East Policy a success.

From ICWA side, Dr. Stuti Banerjee, participated and presented a paper.



About ICWA

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) is a prestigious pro-active autonomous Think Tank specializing in foreign policy issues and external affairs. It was established in 1943 by a group of eminent intellectuals under the inspiration of Jawaharlal Nehru, who served as the first Prime Minister of India. The Council conducts policy research through its in-house faculty as well as external experts. It regularly organizes an array of intellectual activities including conferences, seminars, round table discussions, lectures and publication. It maintains a landmark and well established library, website and a journal named 'India Quarterly'. It is engaged in raising public awareness about India's role in international affairs and offers to the Government and people policy models and strategies, and serves as a platform for Track-II dialogue and interaction with other foreign Think Tanks.



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