Issue: 13 | April - June 2018

# ICWA NEWSLETTER

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

## Third Track II Dialogue between India and New Zealand 23 April 2018 .

Indian Council of World Affairs welcomed a six member delegation from Asian New Zealand Foundation and New Zealand India Research Insitution for the Third Track II Dialogue. The delegation comprised of Mr Simon Draper (Head of Delegation) Executive Director, Asia New Zealand Foundation, Professor Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, Director, New Zealand India Research Institute, Dr Kate McMillan, Victoria University of Wellington, Dr Manjeet Pardesi, Victoria University of Wellington, Dr James To, Asia New Zealand Foundation, and Mr Abbas Nazari, Asia New Zealand Foundation Leadership Network Member. The Dialogue focused on the need to strengthen relations between India and New Zealand. Issues such as closer economic cooperation, collaboration on climate change, renewable energy and maritime conservation were discussed along with the need to cooperate in the Indo-Pacific. Education and tourism were identified as sectors that need more support.

## ICWA HIGHLIGHTS...


- Third Track II Dialogue between India and New Zealand
- Talk by Shri V. Srinivas, IAS
- 29th Sapru House Lecture by H.E. Mr. Ivica Dačić, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia
- 13th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Forum Meeting
- First Bilateral Seminar with FUNAG
- Second ICWA-LAC International Conference
- ICWA-IFANS Bilateral Track 1.5 Dialogue
- 30th Sapru House Lecture by His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, United Arab Emirates
- Talk by Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, United Nations Under Secretary-General

## Talk by Shri V. Srinivas, IAS, Chairman Board of Revenue for Rajasthan & Chairman Rajasthan Tax Board on "The Rise of China in the International Monetary System" 27 April 2018

Shri V. Srinivas, IAS, Chairman Board of Revenue for Rajasthan & Chairman Rajasthan Tax Board delivered a talk on "The Rise of China in the International Monetary System" at Sapru House on April 27, 2018. The session was chaired by Ambassador Nalin Surie, DG, ICWA.

Shri Srinivas highlighted that economic growth model of China is based on high investment, inexpensive labour, productivity enhancing FDI and strong global demand. However, periods of cyclical surge in economic activities and high inflation are followed by periods of economic slowdown.

He explained that in 1996, RMB became convertible for current account transactions with People's Bank of China putting a limit of daily movement to ±0.3 percent. China pursued a gradual approach to capital account liberalization given the weaknesses in the financial system. Full convertibility was the stated goal to be achieved gradually.

He concluded by mentioning that reform of the exchange rate was to be carried out in tandem with the reform of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and clearance of non-performing assets (NPAs) and conversion of state-owned commercial bank operational mechanism.

# 29th Sapru House Lecture by H.E. Mr. Ivica Dačić, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia on "Serbia in the region, Europe and the World" 3 May 2018

The 29th Sapru House Lecture was delivered by H.E. Mr. Ivica Dacic, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia on "Serbia in the region, Europe and the World", on 3 May, 2018. The session was chaired by Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs.

While discussing the security and political challenges that Republic of Serbia faces, Mr. Dacic said that its key foreign policy priorities can be understood as preservation of its territorial integrity and sovereignty, continuation of negotiations for full membership of EU, strict adherence to the policy of military neutrality, and maintaining relations with its new and traditional partners. In the context of Serbia's regional participation, he said that Serbia is very active in strengthening cooperation and connectivity with its regional partners. Serbia was in favour of creating a single Balkan market to facilitate foreign investments and boost economic development. He added that development is the most important pre-condition for progress and better future, not only for Serbia but for the entire region.

On India-Serbia relations, Mr. Dacic said, that India and Serbia enjoy a close and historic relationship. Indian literature, culture, yoga etc are famous in Serbia. He referred to Rabindranath Tagore's visit to Belgrade and that the Indian texts Ramayana and Mahabharata were part of the Serbian curriculum. He said India and Serbia have been committed partners since the establishment of their relations. Serbia had eased visa norms for India since September 2017. It had abolished visas for visiting Indian nationals, while India has extended e-visa facility to Serbian nationals. Serbia can learn a lot from initiatives such as Make in India, Start Up India, Smart Cities and Skill India. He said several Indian companies have invested in the areas of information technology, agricultural machinery and vehicles. Indian firms can take advantage of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Serbia has with Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Turkey.

Increasing economic activities was in the interest of both countries. Mr. Dacic concluded by quoting Rabindranath Tagore, "Civilisation must be judged and prized, not by the amount of power it has developed, but by how much it has evolved and given expression to by its laws and institutions, the love of humanity".

# 13th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Forum Meeting
## Astana, Kazakhastan
## 4-5 May, 2018

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has mandated ICWA to be the nodal Think Tank for representing India at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Forum meetings.

The 13th SCO Forum meeting was held at Astana, Kazakhstan, on 4-5 May 2018. A six-member ICWA delegation, led by Ambassador P. S. Raghavan, participated in the Forum meeting.

It was the first Forum meeting after India's formal admission to SCO as a full member.

There were five thematic plenary sessions and the presentations by the participants were on wide range of subjects. The participants welcomed India's inclusion in the SCO.

Ambassador P S Raghavan, Leader of the Indian Delegation; Mr. Ajaneesh Kumar, DDG, ICWA; and Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Dr. Athar Zafar & Dr. Indrani Talukdar, Research Fellows, ICWA, presented views on India's engagement with the SCO, and how India and the Organization can benefit from each other particularly in economy, security and connectivity spheres.

# First Bilateral Seminar with The Alexandre de Gusmao Foundation (FUNAG), Brazil on "Brazil-India: 70 years of Diplomatic Relations", Brazil, 16-17 May, 2018

The First ICWA-FUNAG bilateral seminar on the theme '70 Years of Diplomatic Relations between India and Brazil' was held in Brasilia, Brazil (16-17 May 2018). FUNAG is the MoU partner institution from Brazil. The ICWA delegation was led by Ambassador Nalin Surie (Director General, ICWA) and comprised of five participants. Prof. Abdul Nafey (JNU), Dr. Nitya Nanda (TERI), Mr. Pranav Kumar (CII), Mr. Ajaneesh Kumar (DDG,ICWA) and Dr. Stuti Banerjee, (RF,ICWA). The participants from Brazil were identified by FUNAG and comprised scholars who have expertise in India studies. The seminar was a two day event and began with a lecture series that looked at seventy years of diplomatic relations. Thereafter, over three sessions the two sides deliberated and presented their views on the pertinent issues of food and energy security, ways to enhance trade and investment relations between the two nations and the partnership they can build in the global governance system of the 21st Century.

# Second ICWA-LAC International Conference on the theme "India and Latin America & the Caribbean: Strengthening the Partnership", Brazil, 18 May, 2018.

The Second ICWA-LAC International Conference on the theme "India and Latin America & the Caribbean: Strengthening the Partnership" was held in Brasilia, Brazil (18 May 2018). The ICWA delegation was led by Ambassador Nalin Surie (Director General, ICWA) and comprised of five participants, Prof. Abdul Nafey (JNU), Dr. Nitya Nanda (TERI), Mr. Pranav Kumar (CII), Mr. Ajaneesh Kumar (DDG,ICWA) and Dr. Stuti Banerjee, (RF,ICWA). Six scholars from Latin America and the Caribbean region participated in the conference. They were from Brazil (Dr. Ana Flavia Barros-Platiau, Professor of International Relations, University of Brasilia), the Dominican Republic (Ms. Stephanie Rodríguez, FUNGLODE), Ecuador (Prof. Santiago Javier Garcia Alvarez, Central University of Ecuador), Mexico (Ambassador (Rtd.) Eduardo Roldan, COMEXI), Peru (Dr. Sebastien Adins. Professor, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú)and Suriname (Dr. Riad J. Nurmohamad). The Conference was a one day event over three sessions. In the working sessions the scholars deliberated and presented their views on the thematic issues to take the relations between India and the countries of the Latin America and Caribbean region forward in the future. Deliberations were made on areas of cooperation, which included trade and investment relations and the partnership they can build in specific areas viz. sustainable development, renewable energy, forest rights, telecommunication and space technology.

# ICWA-IFANS Bilateral Dialogue, at Seoul, Korea, 28 May, 2018.

Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), led a five-member delegation to Seoul on May 29, 2018 to participate in the 3rd ICWA-KNDA/IFANS-bilateral dialogue on "Opening a New Chapter in ROK-India Relationship". The delegation consisted of Ambassador V. S. Seshadri, Senior Advisor, Confederation of Indian Industry, New Delhi; Ambassador Skand R. Tayal, former ambassador of India to ROK; Dr. Sanjeev Kumar and Dr. Jojin V. John, Research Fellows, ICWA. Indian embassy was represented by. Ambassador Vikram Doraiswami, Indian Ambassador to Republic of Korea, Mr. Satish Sivan, Deputy Chief of Mission and Mr. Ramkumar C., First Secretary (Pol.& Culture). The bilateral 1.5 dialogue was held as per the provisions of "India-Republic of Korea Joint Statement for Special Strategic Partnership" signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Republic of Korea in May 2015.The bilateral dialogue was divided into the following three sessions; security and stability of Korean Peninsula and Indo-Pacific region, bilateral economic cooperation and regional economic architecture and towards the Successful Korea-India Summit 2018. The bilateral dialogue between ICWA and KNDA/IFANS was referred to as an important exercise just before South Korean President Moon Jae-in's forthcoming visit to India in July 2018.

In Seoul, the delegation led by DG, ICWA also had separate meetings with Ambassador Enna Park, Ambassador, Public Diplomacy, ROK, Indian Chamber of Commerce in Korea, East Asia Institute and Sejong Institute, during this visit.

## Round Table Discussion with the Visiting Experts from Center for Policy and Research, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel, at Sapru House, 10 April, 2018

On April 10, 2018, Mr. Ajaneesh Kumar, Deputy Director General, ICWA, chaired an interaction of ICWA Research Faculty with the visiting delegation of experts from the Center for Policy and Research, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel. The discussions were on growing India – Israel relations, political developments in West Asia, and fthe oreign policy of Israel.

## Interaction with Dr. Greg Mills, Director, The Brenthurst Foundation, South Africa, at Sapru House, New Delhi, 30 May, 2018.

On May 30, 2018, Mr. Ajaneesh Kumar, Deputy Director General, ICWA, chaired an interaction of ICWA Research Faculty with Dr. Greg Mills, Director, The Brenthurst Foundation, South Africa. Dr. Mills discussed his recently published book on Africa as well as the development of international multilateral institutions.

## Interaction between Delegation from the Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea, at Sapru House, New Delhi, 21 June, 2018.

On June 21, 2018, Dr. Nivedita Ray, Director Research, ICWA, chaired an interaction of ICWA Research Faculty with East West Institute, Yonsei University. Korean delegation was headed by Prof. Yong Suhk Pak, Director, Institute of East & West Studies, Yonsei University & Professor of International Business, School of Business, Yonsei University.

## 30th Sapru House Lecture by His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, United Arab Emirates Sapru House, New Delhi, 26 June, 2018.

On June 26, 2018, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, United Arab Emirates, delivered the 30th Sapru House Lecture on India –UAE Relations and Regional Affairs. The session was chaired by Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs. The lecture followed Chatham House rules.

## Talk by Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix United Nations Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Sapru House, New Delhi, 28 June, 2018.

Mr. Jean-Peirre Lacroix, United Nations Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations visited the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and delivered a talk on the topic, "The current state of UN Peacekeeping and the way forward". The talk was chaired by Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA and attended by distinguished guests, diplomats, researchers and media-persons.

Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix in his presentation highlighted the importance of India in UNPKO, the challenges faced by United Nations Peace Keeping (UNPK) and the response to these challenges. He recognized India as a major country not only in terms of largest troop contribution but also as a major stakeholder in UNPK. Mr. Lacroix identified several challenges faced by UNPK including lack of progress in most of the political processes which UNPK supports; increasingly dangerous environment for peace-keepers to work and operate; increasingly difficult logistical environment and such others.

In order to overcome these challenges, Mr. Lacroix underlined certain solutions including sharing with member-states the same understanding of the challenges; upgrading equipment with new technologies; systematic and strategic review of missions led by independent professionals; reform undertaken at the UN Head Quarters, particularly in management and peace and security architecture and; increased support of member-states in peace-keeping.

## Two days National Seminar at GDC Memorial College, Bhiwani , Haryana, 13-14 April 2018

A national seminar was organized by the GDC Memorial College, Bahal, Bhiwani, Haryana, on 13-14 April 2018. The seminar was titled 'Vartman Bhartiya Surakhsha wa Videsh Niti' (Current Defence and Security Policy of India). ICWA partially funded the two-day programme. In the seminar, presentations were made over the developments with regard to the state of democracy and its progress in India and the emerging situation with China, Russia and Afghanistan. Dr. Athar Zafar, RF, ICWA presented a paper on behalf of ICWA.

## Two days National Seminar at Department of Political Science, Jawaharlal Nehru College, Chakradharpur, Jharkhand, 6-7 April 2018

The Department of Political Science, Jawaharlal Nehru College, Chakradharpur organised a two day national seminar on the theme 'Indian Democracy at 70: Challenge Ahead'. It had brought together scholars from Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chandigarh apart from students of the university. The theme of the seminar was with an idea to try to understand Indian democracy and looking at the journey that India has traversed in the last seventy years and the challenges that it is likely to face in the future. Dr. Stuti Banerjee, RF, ICWA presented a paper as well as chaired a session on behalf of ICWA.

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# About **ICWA**

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) is India's oldest foreign policy Think Tank, specializing in foreign and security policy issues. It was established before the independence of India in 1943 by a group of eminent intellectuals under the inspiration of Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister. The Indian Council of World Affairs has been declared an "institution of national importance" by an Act of Parliament in 2001.

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 civil society policy models and strategies, and serves as a platform for multi track dialogues and interaction with other foreign Think Tanks.

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