ICWA NEWSLETTER

Issue: 19 **October - December 2019**

Presentation and Book Release on 'Sikh Heritage of Nepal', Sapru House 17 October, 2019

To commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji, ICWA and B.P. Koirala India Nepal Foundation organised a presentation and book release on "Sikh Heritage of Nepal" on October 17, 2019. The Guest of Honour for the event was Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Civil Aviation, and Minister of State for Commerce and Industry. The event was chaired by Amb. Dr. TCA Raghavan, DG, ICWA. The two speakers were Amb. Manjeev Singh Puri, Ambassador of India to Nepal and Amb. Nilamber Acharya, Ambassador of Nepal to India. The program sought to bring focus on the rich Sikh heritage of Nepal. The Sikh community has contributed in strengthening the India-Nepal relationship in many ways, which is unfortunately forgotten, lost, and fading. The speakers noted that the book is like rediscovering an excellent bond between India and Nepal through the prism of the Sikh linkages.

ICWA HIGHLIGHTS...

- ICWA-ASCON National Conference on 'External Dimensions of Security of the Northeast Region'
- Presentation and Book Release by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Sixth ICWA Bilateral Dialogue with Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs , Sapru House
- Third Russia-India International Conference with Russia International Affairs Council (RIAC), Moscow
- Fourth India-China Think Tanks Forum (4th ICTTF), Beijing
- Function to commemorate the "International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People".
- Commemorating the life and works of Dr. A. Appadorai, Former Secretary General, ICWA

ICWA-ASCON National Conference on 'External Dimensions of Security of the Northeast Region', 10-11 October 2019, Sapru House

The Indian Council of World Affairs in collaboration with Asian Confluence, Shillong organised a one and a half day National Conference on 'External Dimensions of Security of the Northeast Region', at Sapru House from October 10-11, 2019. Dr Inderjit Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, delivered the Opening Address. The Conference had a total of 35 participants including 22 from all the eight states of NorthEast. These included representatives from the administration, armed forces, academia, media, and civil society. The conference explored the broad security dimensions under four sessions which are; Policy Overview: Governance, External Dimension of Security of the Northeast: Part One [China], External Dimension of Security of the Northeast: Part One [Bangladesh and Myanmar] and The Policy Outreach: Emerging Perceptions and the Politics of Identity in the Public Narrative. During the various sessions it was stressed for the need to promote skill development, entrepreneurship, the strengthening of economic relations with the neighbors; in which the 'Act East' policy would play an instrumental role. It also discussed the issue of governance in the Northeast and how there is a requirement to incorporate the developmental agendas such as connectivity and trade to help address the larger issue of security. The impact of China on the security in the Northeast region & China's support to insurgent groups in the past to its current developmental projects had a bearing on the region also was discussed. There was also discussions on the internal factors which have had an impact on the security of the North East.

ICWA- Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) Dialogue - Visit of ICWA's delegation to IPIS, Tehran, 13 October, 2019

A three-member delegation led by Amb. Dr T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, ICWA, including Amb. Rakesh Sood and Deepika Saraswat, Research fellow visited the Institute for Political International Studies, Tehran on October 13, 2019 for a dialogue on maritime perspectives of the two countries. Amb. Gaddam Dharmendra, Indian Ambassador to Iran was also present. On the Iranian side, Dr. Saeed Khatibzadeh, Vice President IPIS and Prof. Kayhan Barzegar from Islamic Azad University participated in the dialogue. Dr. Raghavan noted India's historic relations with the Pacific region, especially the voyage taken by Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore to Japan and China in 1920s and how Kalidas Nag, a historian who accompanied Tagore documented India's cultural linkages with the region. It was stated that South-East Asia is the bridge between the Indian and Pacific Ocean and the notion of Indo-Pacific as an inclusive and open region. Capt. Aftab Ahmed Khan also emphasised that in 21st century, ocean would be a key enabler in India's global resurgence. Amb. Sood argued that in the post-Cold War era, when the Western binary ideological framework of regional division of the world became irrelevant, India was able to envisage a maritime dimension in a wider context. In contrast to the Cold-War thinking, India's vision for the future of Asian continent was informed by Asia's history of plural co-existence among multiple civilisations.

Prof. Barzegar noted that Iran's proposal of Hormuz Peace Endeavour comes on the back of important geopolitical changes, such as regionalisation of regional security and the failure of foreign interventions owing to asymmetric wars as the experience in Yemen has underscored. The HOPE initiative seeks a regional mechanism for ensuring safe navigation, economic connectivity and battling terrorism.

Closed door lecture cum discussion by Prof. Arogyaswami J. Paulraj, Sapru House, 21 October, 2019

On 21 October 2019, Prof. Arogyaswami J. Paulraj, Emeritus Professor, Stanford University and the Inventor and Pioneer of Mimo (Multiple Input Multiple Output) Wireless Technology delivered a closed door lecture on 'Chinese Advances in Technology'. Ambassador Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi chaired the lecture. Drawing on historical and institutional development of science and technology in China, Prof. Arogyaswami evaluated Chinese advancement in cutting edge areas like quantum computing, quantum radar and quantum cryptology in a comparative perspective.

Indo-Germany Dialogue, Sapru House, 01 November, 2019

The First India-Germany Strategic Dialogue was jointly organized by Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) and German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) on 1st November 2019 at Sapru House, New Delhi. Thematically, political strategic and economic issues related to India-Germany bilateral relations were discussed. Emerging regional and global scenarios and political crises in different parts of the world were also analyzed.

Sixth ICWA Bilateral Dialogue with Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), Sapru House, 06 - 08 November, 2019

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) hosted a day-long bilateral dialogue with the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) on 7 November 2019 at Sapru House, New Delhi. The two institutions are MoU partners since 2005, and this Dialogue was the sixth in the series. The fifth one was held in Beijing in September 2018.

The Indian delegation was led by Amb. Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, ICWA. The Indian delegation included Amb. H. K. Singh, Amb Anil Wadhwa, Amb Gautam Bambawale, Commodore RS Vasan IN (Retd.), Prof. Madhu Bhalla, Editor, India Quarterly as well as experts from thinks-tanks and academic institutions of India.

Amb. Yang Yanyi, led an eight-member delegation from China to participate in the sixth dialogue at Sapru House. The Chinese Delegation included Amb. Ou Boqian, Vice President, CPIFA, Amb Wang Chungui and Prof. Ye Hailin, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The one-day exercise was planned to understand and discuss a number of key issues pertaining to bilateral and global interests of the two sides.

The dialogue deliberated on three main themes: (a) From Wuhan to Chennai: Looking Forward to the 70th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations; (b) Global Economic Outlook: Perspectives from India and China and (c) Significance of Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges.

Both sides reiterated the need to hold regular interaction between the two institutions and among the members of think-tanks academic and strategic community. The Dialogue proved to be a productive exercise. Both sides noted that co-hosting of a dialogue regularly would foster mutual understanding and mitigate differences.

Interaction with the Visiting Delegation from Vietnam
Sapru House, 14 November, 2019.

ICWA hosted a three member Vietnamese delegation led by Col. Le Viet Cuong, Director, Strategic Studies Division, Institute of Military Strategy, Ministry of National Defence, Socialist Republic of Vietnam on November 14, 2019. ICWA delegation was led by Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, JS, ICWA, Dr. Nivedita Ray, Director (Research) and other Research Fellows.

Ms Nutan Kapoor Mahawar started the interaction by introducing the ICWA delegation to the Vietnamese side, highlighting the history and research focus of ICWA. This was followed by Opening Remarks by Col. Le Viet Cuong, Director, Strategic Studies Division, Institute of Military Strategy, Vietnam.

Brief presentations were made by two Research Fellows of ICWA Dr. Vivek Mishra and Dr. Stuti Banerjee. An open interaction between the two delegations followed where the two sides exchanged their views on their respective and common visions of the Indo-Pacific.

Interactive Session with Dr. Mohsen Bilal, Head of Higher Education Bureau of the ruling BAATH party, Syria", Sapru House, 15 November, 2019.

On November 15, Dr. Mohsen Bilal, Head of Higher Education Bureau of the ruling Ba'ath party, Syria visited ICWA for an interactive session on 'The Dynamics of Bilateral Engagements between India and Syria.' Amb. Gautam Mukhopadhyay chaired the session. Amb. Mosen Bilal noted that in 2011, Syria was bombarded by 'enemies of humanity,' the so-called Islamists, who were actually fanatics from Europe, Latin America. He argued that Syria is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country and during the Syrian war against terrorism, people from not just one but all sections have stood united behind the government. He told the audience that the current debate in Syria is about how to free our country from foreign occupation that is the US military presence in Dier-ez-Zur and Turkish military presence in northern Syria. He also maintained that during Syria's dark period from 2011 to 2015, India never disappointed and has always supported Syrian cause internationally by taking a firm stance against foreign intervention in the country. Syria looks East to India to learn the values of tolerance and co-existence.

Third Russia-India International Conference with Russia International Affairs Council (RIAC), Moscow, 19-20 November, 2019.

Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) held the 3rd International Conference, "Strategic Visions of Russia-India Relations in a Changing World Order", at Moscow on 19-20 November 2019. It followed up the 1st and 2nd conference that took place in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

The discussions revolved around the fact that there is a dynamic transition that is taking place in the world order.

There is a tussle between uni-polarity and multi-polarity. In this transition, India and Russia, the two big powers are assisting in constructing the world order and restore the world governance. However, the outcomes of their contribution are not satisfactory though there are success stories too. The two countries can contribute more regionally and globally. Both India and Russia share important regional platforms such as the SCO along with the selected few which stand core factor for the promotion of multilateral world order. It was shared that bilaterally there is lot of untapped potential between the two countries. Speakers also shared their views that the world is no longer safer or stable. Situations all over the world are becoming unpredictable. India and Russia confronts serious challenges. The role of ICWA and RIAC becomes important in helping the governments to find solutions by looking beyond the horizons and through out-of-box thinking.

Fourth India-China Think Tanks Forum, Beijing, 26 November - 2 December, 2019.

Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, DG, ICWA led a 15-member Indian delegation to participate in the 4th Fourth India-China Think-Tanks Forum (ICTTF) held in Beijing on 28-29 November 2019. The Forum was jointly organized by the ICWA and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). The Indian delegation included Amb. Ashok K. Kantha, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), Mr. Soumen Bagchi, DDG, ICWA, Mr. Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Prof. Madhu Bhalla, Editor, India Quarterly as well as experts from thinks-tanks and academic institutions of India. The Chinese delegation was led by Prof. Xie Fuzhan, President of CASS.

The inaugural session of the 4th ICTTF was addressed by Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, DG, ICWA and Dr. Acquino Vimal, DCM, Embassy of India, Beijing from the Indian side and Prof. Xie Fuzhan, President CASS and Amb. Luo Zhaohui, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China from the Chinese side.

The theme of the Fourth Forum was "China-India Relationship in the Asian Century". The Fourth Forum deliberated on issues of bilateral and mutual interest especially (a) Building Closer Developmental Partnership between China and India; (b) Development Strategies and Experiences in China and India; and (c) Communication and Mutual Learning between Chinese and Indian Civilization. The major thrust of the Forum was to understand the development discourse in both the countries as well as explore newer avenues of cooperation between the two countries. Both sides highlighted that the second informal summit between PM Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Chennai further strengthened the bond between the two Asian giants.

Following the Think-Tanks Forum in Beijing, the Indian delegation also visited Zhejiang International Studies University, Hangzhou as well as Fudan University and exchanged views on issues of mutual interests between India and China.

Interaction with Ambassador Galma M. Boru, Director, Foreign Science Academy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya, Sapru House, 28 November, 2019.

A five member Kenyan delegation headed by Amb. Galma M Boru, Director-Foreign Service Academy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs(head) visited the Indian Council of World Affairs on 28th November 2019 for a closed door interaction. Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Joint Secretary, welcomed the delegation on behalf of ICWA and spoke about the historical ties between Kenya and India and how that has evolved over the years into a robust and multifaceted partnership marked by high level visits, increasing trade, investment and extensive people to people contact. This was followed by a detailed presentation on the background of ICWA, its current structure, areas of work and linkages with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Govt. of India.

Lecture by Dr. Ganeshan Wignaraja, Executive Director, Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute (LKI), Colombo, Sri Lanka, Sapru House, 3 December, 2019.

A lecture on " The Outlook for India Sri Lanka Relations After the Presidential Elections in Sri Lanka by Dr. Ganeshan Wignaraja Executive Director, Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute (LKI), Colombo, Sri Lanka on 3 December 2019 at Sapru House. The talk was chaired by Amb. Ashok K. Kanta, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, and former Indian Ambassador to Sri Lanka. The welcome remarks were delivered by Dr. TCA Raghavan, DG, ICWA. Dr. Ganeshan Wignaraja said that the high-level visit paid by President of Sri Lanka Gotabaya Rajapaksa to India in November 2019 underlines importance of the India-Sri Lanka strategic relationship as the closest maritime neighbours. He stated that Sri Lanka's new government led by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has four major priorities, namely political stability and security, economic development, reform in state institutions and non-aligned foreign policy. Also, he observed that recalibration of India-Sri Lanka relations is taking place in a new and more challenging international era and development context. While emphasising the strength and synergy between the two countries, the speaker called for adept handling of some of the sensitive and complex issues on both sides. The speaker lauded India's role in Sri Lanka's humanitarian disaster relief and post-conflict reconstruction.

Function to commemorate the "International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People", Sapru House, 4 December, 2019.

ICWA organized "International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People" on December 4 2019. A number of former and serving diplomats in addition to the scholars and journalists attended the event. The keynote address was delivered by Amb Sanjay Singh, former Secretary East, MEA, GOI. Other distinguished speakers who graced the occasion included H.E. Mrs. Alyaa Ghannam Arab League Amb in New Delhi , H.E. Mr. Adnan Abu Alhaijaa, Amb of the State of Palestine, Amb of Saudi Arabia, Dr. Saud Mohammed Alsati and Mr. Berkel, representative of National Information Officer, UNIC. Welcome remarks was delivered by Dr. TCA Raghavan, DG, ICWA.

Interaction with OSW Delegation (Polish Think-tank) Sapru House, 4 December, 2019.

A six-member delegation from the Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich [Centre for Eastern Studies], Warsaw, Poland visited Sapru House on 4 December 2019. The Polish delegation was led by the Director, Dr. Adam Eberhardt. The discussion revolved around growing Russia-China nexus and how does it affects Indian foreign policy matrix, how Poland views the developments in India-Russia relations and its relations with Russia per se. The changing transatlantic partnership with focus on NATO was also discussed with the emphasis on Polish defence strategy. India-Poland relations were also discussed in the backdrop of the recent visit of External Affairs Minister to the country.

Commemorating the life and works of Dr. A. Appadorai, Former Secretary General, ICWA. Sapru House, 10 December, 2019.

Seminar commemorating the Life and Works of Dr. A. Appadorai, Former Secretary General, ICWA, was held in the Sapru House on 10 December 2019. Dr. Appadorai became the first full-time Secretary, and later Secretary General of the ICWA in 1944, a position he held till 1955. In 1955, he became the founding Director of the Indian School of International Studies (ISIS). He became the member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in 1967. Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, DG, ICWA chaired the event.

In his Welcome Remarks Dr. Raghavan, said that the purpose of the event was to recall the contribution of Dr. Appadorai to the ICWA. He elaborated Dr. Appadorai's significant contribution to the studies on International Relations and Area Studies, and to the evolution of Indian foreign policy in its formative years in India.

Special remarks were made at the event by Prof. S.D. Muni, Professor Emeritus JNU, Prof. Rajan Harshe, Founder and Former Vice Chancellor, Central University of Allahabad and Dr. Rakesh Batabyal, Associate Professor, Centre for Media Studies, School of Social Sciences, JNU, New Delhi, who recollected fond memories of Dr. Appadorai as a teacher and his role.

Three former Director Generals of ICWA Ambassador Sudhir T. Devare, Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia and Ambassador Nalin Surie were present on the occasion. Dr. Vivek Mishra, Research Fellow, ICWA presented a paper titled "Angadipuram Appadorai: Life, Work Scholarship".

This was the fourth event in the series of events on the history of ICWA.

Sixth Edition of Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD-6), First Indian Ocean Rim Association Expert Group Meeting on Academic, Science and Technology Cooperation (EGMASTC); and 25th Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (IORAG) Meeting, 12-13 September, 2019.

ICWA in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) held the Sixth Edition of Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD-6), First Indian Ocean Rim Association Expert Group Meeting on Academic, Science and Technology Cooperation (EGMASTC); and 25th Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (IORAG) Meeting on 12-13 December 2019 at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, New Delhi. The 25th IORAG and the 1st EGMASTC took place on 12 December 2019. The 6th IOD took place on 13 December 2019. In the IORAG, South Africa handed over the chair to India, which was followed by enumeration of the past report by delegation from South Africa. It was followed by sessions that discussed issues related to marine litter and debris, IUU fishing and desalination.

The first EGMASTC discussed the draft Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Working Group on ASTC (Academic, Science and Technology) and comprehensive suggestions were made. Specific takeaways included renaming the Working Group from 'Academic, Science and Technology' with 'Science, technology and Innovation', which was unanimously agreed by the members. In the second session the Work Plan for EGMASTC was discussed among the members. In the third session the Malaysian representative from the Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA) made a presentation on the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for maritime affairs as agreed under the Jakarta Concord and IORA Action Plan 2017-2021. A joint valedictory session for the 25th IORAG and 1st EGMASTC was held towards the end.

The Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) comprised an Inaugural Session, followed by three themed Plenary Sessions. In the Inaugural Session Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi warmly welcomed the esteemed panel, delegates, guests and all those gathered in the audience. The three Plenary Sessions were respectively titled, "Indo-Pacific: Seamless and Collective"; Maritime Connectivity and Infrastructure; and "Delivering Public Goods at Sea". The three Plenary Sessions were followed by the Ministerial Session which was also the Valedictory Session of the IOD-6. In the Valedictory Session Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan delivered his remarks and highlighted the attributes of the Indo-Pacific concept including its openness, freedom, inclusion, rules-based architecture and equality of all nations.

Lecture by Prof. (Ms.) Qiu Yonghui, School of International Studies, Sichuan University, Chengdu on "Hinduism in China" Sapru House, 19 December, 2019.

Prof. (Ms.) Qiu Yonghui delivered a lecture on Hinduism in China: Past and Present on December 19, 2019. She argued that Hinduism travelled from India to China by four different ancient routes. The first was the traditional Silk Road. The second is the Himalaya Road which was the India-Nepal-Tibet route. The third is the ancient passage of Tea and Horse, which is the route through Assam and Yunnan. The fourth is the Maritime Silk Road which is through Fujian. The routes are same through which Buddhism travelled to China. A large number of Chinese scholars have worked on the first two routes. There is now an added focus on the route through Fujian after the recently concluded informal summit at Chennai.

According to her Quanzhou's 1000 years of relations with India is very detailed. It is recorded that a community of Tamil traders lived in Quanzhou during the Song (960-1279) and Yuan (1279-1368) dynasties. It was also discussed that Hindu Gods have been adapted in the Folk religions of the Fujian region. This is a very interesting cultural phenomenon that integrates naturally into the local belief system. A number of Hindu gods and goddesses are also worshipped as Buddhist gods. Another major discovery has been the discovery of Narasimha in the Tianzhu and YunFeng Temple of Yongchun, Fujjian.

In her conclusion she argued that the Hindu gods and goddesses entered China peacefully and without conflict along the Silk Road or the southern Silk Road or the ancient Tea and Horse Road, the Himalaya Mountain Road and the Maritime Silk Road area. Secondly the recent discovery of the Narasimha Statue and pottery lions in Fujian, the Benzhu Belief in Yunnan and other similar examples highlight the fact that the Hindu gods and goddesses have adapted themselves to the Chinese Buddhism and folk religions and now have a permanent existence. Thirdly, Hinduism in China has helped in enriching Buddhism. It has helped in facilitating the spread of Buddhism in China. Fourthly, throughout history the Hindu priests and translators have worked together with the Buddhist and have helped in developing a long term understanding of China. Hinduism has also had an important effect on other aspects like mathematics, astronomy, sculpture etc.

Outreach Programmes of ICWA

Three day International Conference organised by Department of Political Science, Directorate of Distance Education, Madurai Kamaraj University, 29-31 October, 2019

A three day International Conference on Navigating the Idea of the Indo-Pacific: Indian and Southeast Asian Perspectives, was organised by the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Directorate of Distance Education, Madurai Kamraj University, Madurai from 29-31 October 2019. The inaugural address was delivered by Amb. Dr. TCA Raghavan, Director General Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA). An MoU was signed between the ICWA and the Directorate of Distance Education, Madurai Kamaraj University on the 29 October 2019. Dr. Dhrubajyoti Bhattacharjee and Dr. Pragya Pandey, Research Fellows of the Council presented papers in the seminar.

Two Day National Seminar organized by R.C.A. Girls (PG) College, Mathura, 15-16 November, 2019

A two day National Seminar on "Kashmir: Reimaging Solution Feasibility of Dialogue between India and Pakistan" was organised by R.C.A. Girls (PG) College, Mathura, on 15-16 November, 2019 . The conference was partially funded by ICWA. The various dynamics of India Pakistan relations were discussed in the national conference. Dr. Ashish Shukla, Research Fellow, ICWA, participated in the conference.

One Day National Conference organized by St. John's College, Agra, 07 December, 2019

An international conference on "India and European Union: Exploring New Horizons in Strategic Partnership" was organized by the St. John's College, Agra. The conference was sponsored by the Indian Council of World Affairs, Sapru House, New Delhi under its outreach programme. College students, researchers, academics and policy makers participated in the conference. A number of papers were presented on various aspects of India-European Union Relations such as on unfolding geopolitical scenarios in Europe, Brexit, economic and energy cooperation, security cooperation, food security, academic exchange, translations, etc. Dr. Dinoj Upadhyay, RF, ICWA, represented the Council in the Conference.

One day International Conference organized by Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development (CSIRD), Kolkata, 11 December, 2019

Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development (CSIRD) and Institute of Foreign Policy Studies (IFPS), University of Calcutta, in association with Indian Council of World Affair (ICWA) and IVS Global Services, organised an international conference at Kolkata on 11-12 December 2019. The title of the conference was 'West Asia 2020: Of Faultlines and Possible Meltdowns'. The conference was financially supported by the ICWA. Dr. Athar Zafar, RF, ICWA represented the Council in the Conference.

Two day International Seminar organized by Department of Political Science, University of Kerala, 11-13 December, 2019

On 11-13 December 2019, Department of Political Science, Kerala University organised a three day international conference on "The Geopolitics of Indo-Pacific: Perceptions, Opportunities and Challenges". Professor Srikanth Kondapalli of Jawaharlal Nehru University delivered the keynote and Prof. Shankari Sundararaman of Jawaharlal Nehru University delivered the valedictory address. The conference was partially funded by ICWA. Dr. Jojin V. John, Research Fellow, ICWA represented the Council in the conference and delivered remarks in the inaugural session.

Two day National Conference organized by Department of Economics, G.T.N. Arts College (Autonomous), 12-13 December, 2019

G.T.N Arts College organized a two day national Conference on "Business opportunities Issues and Challenges in BRICS Countries" on 12-13 December, 2019. The conference was partially funded by ICWA. The conference began with a Welcome address by Prof. P. Balaguruswamy, Principal, G.T.N. Arts College. The conference had six sessions spread over two days and ended with a valedictory session. Dr. Priyanka Pandit, RF, ICWA was the Guest of Honour and delivered key note address at the inaugural session. The conference had participations of students and professors from other colleges and Universities in Tamil Nadu. The conference also received mention in the local and national dailies.

Two day National Seminar organized by UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, Kumaun University, 13-14 December, 2019

Two days National Seminar on "Inter-Dependence of Nations in Shaping the Global Future: Issues, Challenges and Way Forward" was organized by UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, Kumaun University in collaboration with Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi on 13-14 December, 2019.

Dr. F. R. Siddiqui, Research Fellow represented ICWA and he has also presented a paper. It was attended by Diplomats, academics and researchers from most of the states in northern and central India.

ICWA Analyses (October - December 2019)

VIEWPOINTS		
1	Dr Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui	Finally, Peace Ushers in Sudan's Complex Politics (10 October)
2	Dr. Gunjan Singh	Taiwan's diminishing diplomatic space(15 October)
3	Dr. Priyanka Pandit	Where is China's State-Owned Enterprise Reform headed after 70 years (22 October)
4	Dr Anwesha Ghosh	China's growing influence in Afghanistan and its implications for the Peace Process (26 November)
5	Dr. Saurabh Mishra	Political Overtones of the First Russia-Africa Summit (28 November)
6	Dr Temjenmeren Ao	India-ASEAN Economic Engagement: Looking beyond RCEP and following up the Presidential visit to the Philippines (3 December)
7	Dr. Stuti Banerjee	Unrest in Chile (6 December)
8	Dr. Stuti Banerjee	Argentina Elections: Expectations from the Alberto Fernandez's Presidency (6 December)
9	Dr. Deepika Saraswat	Anti-Government Protests in Iraq and the Terminal Crisis of the Post-Saddam State (12 December)
10	Dr. Priyanka Pandit	India's RCEP Exit: Boon or Bane? (16 December)
11	Dr. Stuti Banerjee	Costa Rica: 71 Years of a Nation without an Army (27 December)
ISSUE BRIEFS		
1	Dr. Priyanka Pandit	Losing the "Developing Country" Status in the World Trade Organization: Responses from India and China (10 October)
2	Dr Gunjan Singh	The Tale of Three White Papers on Xinjiang in 2019 (11 October)
3	Dr. Deepika Saraswat and Tarang Jain	Time for a New Security Architecture in the Persian Gulf: Understanding the American, Iranian and Russian Security Visions(31 October)
4	Dr Stuti Banerjee	India's Outreach to the Island Nations: Summits with CARICOM and the FIPIC (01 November)

5	Dr Chandra Rekha	The Russian Far East: India's Approach and the Expanding Chinese Footprint (13 November)
6	Dr Ashish Shukla	The Kartarpur Sahib Corridor: Silver Lining in Indo-Pak Relations? (20 November)
7	Dr Temjenmeren Ao	On President Jokowi's Second Term (03 December)
8	Dr. Stuti Banerjee	Canada Elections and Prime Minister Trudeau (11 December)
9	Dr. Ankita Dutta	Climate Change Cooperation between India and the European Union: A Review (17 December)
10	Kasturi Misra	The Yemeni Conflict – Beginning Of The End? (19 December)
11	Dr. Vivek Mishra	Evolution of the Indo-Pacific: Increasing Russian Stakes (23 December)
12	Dr Rashmini Koparkar	"Dustlik": A Step Forward in India-Uzbekistan Security Partnership (24 December)
13	Dr. Samatha Mallempati	The 2019 Presidential Elections in Sri Lanka: Opportunities and Challenges for India-Sri Lanka Relations (27 December)
POLICY BRIEF		
1	आकाश वर्मा	अफगान शांति प्रक्रिया: ट्रंप की नीति में तालिबान (4 अक्टूबर)

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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.

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