



Indian Council of World Affairs
Sapru House, Barakhamba Road
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Press Release

on

**Seminars on
'Change in Myanmar: Impact on India-Myanmar Relations'**

A multi think tank scholars' delegation, led by Ambassador Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, Director-General, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) will be visiting Myanmar from 3-9 March 2013 to take part in a conference organised by the ICWA in collaboration with the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS). Former Foreign Secretary and Padam Bhusan awardee Ambassador Shyam Saran will also be the part of the delegation.

The delegation will travel to three cities in Myanmar- Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, and Mandalay and interact with a number of think tanks, universities, and ethnic communities including the Indian community. The delegation is also likely to call on a number of Senior Ministers and high officials, including the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, Hon'ble Thura U Shwe Mann, and the leader of the National League for Democracy, Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

India and Myanmar have shared historical, ethnic, cultural, and religious ties, which got disrupted on account of various internal and external exigencies. The commencement of the reform processes in Myanmar has provided an opportunity to reengage the country, which is India's immediate neighbour and shares a long land boundary of 1643 Kms with India's northeast region and maritime borders in the Bay of Bengal region.

India has a stake in developing good relations with Myanmar from both security and economic perspectives. Myanmar's cooperation is necessary for developing India's north-east region and also for meeting energy security requirements.

Myanmar has the potential to become a convenient transit route for India's growing trade relations with Southeast Asia, and also to develop the Mekong Ganga cooperation

(MGC) sub-region. Myanmar is scheduled to chair ASEAN in 2014, which further necessitates India's engagement with Myanmar.

The ICWA and the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) signed MOUs with MISIS during the historic visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh in May 2012. This is an important initiative to connect the academic and strategic communities of the two neighbouring countries.
