



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

On

**Energy Security and Connectivity in Asia:  
Exploring Opportunities & Possibilities**

**February 17-18, 2018**

## PREAMBLE

Asia is going through a phase of transition. As it has been able to maintain its position as an attractive economic destination, despite political upheavals and disputes, both as a market and a provider of resources, there is renewed interest among all the major powers for greater political and economic engagement with Asian powers. Especially, after the global financial crisis of 2008, the Western world looked towards Asia, with a great amount of hope and expectation, to sort out the trade imbalances and help itself in warding off the economic disaster. The emerging powers of Asia were incorporated into global economic governance and were made members of G-20. The increasing economic prowess of the Asian countries has led to their growing political influence in world politics. Particularly, the rise of China and India challenge the role of the established industrial powers of Europe and North America in many ways and also force them to come to the negotiating table on contentious trade issues. Many analysts believe, despite adversities and political differences, the Asian economies would surely play a vital role in the global economic order, eventually paving the way for greater political assertion by them. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Asia can no more be ignored as a continent of poverty and underdevelopment as countries like Japan, China, South Korea, India along with other East Asian economies account for more than 40 percent of global output. It is believed that if Asia continues to grow at current speed, it could, by 2050, account for more than half of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), trade and investment and enjoy greater prosperity and affluence. Its per capita income could rise six fold to reach the global average and match the European levels today. If Asia succeeds in achieving this feat, it could very control more than half of the total global financial assets and occupy the most dominant position in the global economic structure.

Asia, developing very fast, is set to dominate global demand for additional energy resources and investments given its strong projected GDP growth rates, large population, and relatively low current per capita energy use base. It is estimated that by 2030, Asia will represent almost a third of global primary energy demand. Energy consumption in these countries is expected to outstrip growth in indigenous supply well before 2030, which has to be met only through imports. Estimates suggest that the region's dependence on imported oil will increase from 43% in 2002 to 78% in 2030. While China will be importing three quarters of its oil by 2030, India will be importing over 90% of its requirements. As Asian economies are making rapid strides towards greater development, the main challenges they face include continuous access to sustainable energy resources and how to pursue the goals of development not affecting the environment. In recent years, energy security and sustainable development have become critical issues for Asia where economic growth has led to a substantial increase in the demand for energy and also massive strain on the environment. In this context, it is imperative to examine crucial issues related to 'energy', 'environment' and 'development' from Asian perspective. It would examine whether cooperation could be achieved, especially among energy rich countries of West and Central Asia and major energy consuming countries of South, East and South East Asia, for sustainable use of resources that would lead towards a common strategy of development for Asia through concerted efforts and collective action. The Conference seeks to fulfill the following objectives:

- To explore how a collaborative mechanism could be established whereby all

regions of Asia would cooperate and coordinate to ensure proper and judicious use of scarce energy resources;

- To explore the options for Cross-regional and Multilateral solutions in the energy sector to achieve greater **Regional Energy Connectivity**;
- To develop a regional ‘vision’ for cooperative framework and policy coordination among different regions of Asia for achieving energy security and connectivity;
- To suggest ways for Promoting and Facilitating **Inter-Country Energy Development Opportunities**;
- To assess the current energy situation of the region and formulate a **Common Strategy** to address regional energy concerns;
- To devise ways and means through which India can achieve **greater connectivity and energy security** through partnership with other Asian countries for gaining regional and international competitiveness.

**NetajeeAbhinandan**  
Organizing Secretary

## THE DISTINGUISHED PANELISTS

### INAUGURATOR

Prof. Ishan Kumar Patro  
Vice-Chancellor, Ravenshaw University

### KEYNOTESPEAKER

Prof. ChintamaniMahapatra  
Rector, JNU

### VALEDICTORYSPEAKER

Ambassador AbasaraBeuria

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**Prof.Sanjay Deshpande** Director, Department of Eurasian Studies, University of Mumbai

**Prof.Arvind Kumar** Head,DepartmentofGeopoliticsandInternational Relations,ManipalUniversity

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**Dr. Jagannath P. Panda**      Research Fellow and Centre Coordinator, East Asia, IDSA

**Dr. Gadde Omprasad** Assistant Professor, Sikkim Central University  
**Dr. Vivek Mishra**      Assistant Professor, Netaji Institute of Asian Studies

**Dr. Monish Tourangbam**      Assistant Professor, Manipal University

**Dr. Obja Borah Hazarika**      Assistant Professor, Dibrugarh University

**Dr. Urbi Das**      Assistant Professor, Dibrugarh University

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**Prof. Asima Sahu**      HOD, Department of Political Science, Ravenshaw University

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**Dr. Gyanaranjan Swain**

**Dr. Ramakrushan Pradhan** Assistant Professor, FM University

**Dr. Manoj Kumar Mishra**      Lecturer, SBM Autonomous College

## **Future of Nuclear Energy in the Twenty First Century: India's Perspective**

**Prof. Arvind Kumar**

The debates on the future of nuclear energy gained momentum after Fukushima nuclear disaster happened in March 2011. There seemed to be an anticipation that there will be slowing down in the contributions of the nuclear component in the overall energy security basket. Most of these signs of slowing down became evident after the declarations made by Japan that it will be phasing out all nuclear power by 2040 after existing plants would reach the end of their 40 year licensed operating lives. This declaration took a new turn when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made an announcement that 'Japan cannot do without nuclear power'. It signaled to the rest of the world that

that Japan cannot do without nuclear power. It signaled to the rest of the world that Japan will certainly move ahead and see that nuclear safety measures are strengthened and nuclear power is going to remain. Japan has established nuclear regulation authority in 2012 to create nuclear safety. However, there will certainly be difficulties in mobilizing public opinion in the favour of nuclear power. The Three Mile Island nuclear accident in 1979 also had halted the developments in the field of nuclear reactors in the United States because of the pressure from the civil society. The United States has not added even one single nuclear reactor since 1979.

The research paper would make a modest attempt in assessing and analyzing the nuclear power capacity worldwide and will also examine the emerging trends in nuclear power. There are roughly 50 reactors, which are under construction currently. The paper will also analyse how a number of countries have been improving their capacity significantly by plant upgrading. The nuclear component constitutes eleven percent of the total world's electricity and it is roughly touching to 400 GWe of electricity. The research paper will highlight whether the nuclear component would contribute to global power generation in the foreseeable future. The future trajectory of nuclear power would be assessed from India's perspective.

Professor and Head, Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal Academy of Higher Education

### **India-US Energy Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific Era**

Dr. Monish Tourangbam

India's rise necessitates continued growth and development which in turn necessitates uninterrupted supply of energy sources. In the coming years, India's energy demand is projected to increase. The traditional suppliers in the oil rich Persian Gulf usually come to mind when it comes to India's energy partners. However, the rise of the United States as a major energy exporter has signalled a changing trend, in terms of the options that energybuyers like India might have. The component of energy security in the India-US strategic partnership have largely been subsumed under the civil nuclear energy cooperation agreement and in India-US partnership pertaining to renewable energy research and deployment. However, great potential for cooperation between the two

research and deployment. However, great potential for cooperation between the two countries also lie in the demand and supply of crude oil and gas imports. New options for buyers like India means more room for negotiations for cheaper deals. India is emerging as a lucrative market for energy suppliers, besides other major Asian buyers like China, Japan and South Korea. The reinvigorated understanding between India and the United States on the complementariness in energy sector, have assumed new meaning with the first shipment of US crude oil to India. Buying US crude oil is being seen as cost competitive for Indian refineries in the emerging scheme of things. Moreover, Indian companies, both public and private have invested substantially in US shale gas assets. Energy trade also has the potential to substantially improve the bilateral trade volume between the two countries, making it a win-win scenario for the two countries. While the US was already moving to become energy self-reliant and a major energy exporter, the US National Security Strategy released last year showed a more assertive tone, by declaring that “for the first time in generations, the United States will be an energy-dominant nation,” proclaiming an aim “to lead in innovative and efficient energy technologies, recognizing the economic and environmental benefits to end users.” How India and the United States will take forward their energy cooperation, while balancing demands for uninterrupted energy supplies and the need for cleaner energy, remains an important dynamic of the India-US strategic partnership that demands sober analysis.

Assistant Professor, Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal Academy of Higher Education

## **Contours of India- Afghanistan Relations: Need for comprehensive engagement**

Dr. Manoj Kumar Mishra

India and Afghanistan shared long historical, cultural and political contacts. Prior to the partition of the Indian subcontinent, Afghanistan was a neighbour of undivided India and had a history of close contacts with Indian people and vice versa. However, emergence of Pakistan with its anti-Indian identity to the west of India complicated the bilateral relationship. Pakistan adopted a military strategy and promoted radical Islamic ideology to marginalise India's influence in Afghanistan. India, on its part, took concerted efforts to undercut Pakistani influence in Afghanistan and enhance its own. The superpower rivalry in the form of Cold War further complicated the Indo-Afghanistan relationship after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. The powers of the region formally allied with the superpowers or maintained strong ties with them in order to secure an advantaged position on the regional and bilateral issues. Pakistan being an ally of the US took advantage of the Soviet intervention by amassing arms, aid and by providing gas and infrastructure to promote radical Islamism in the form of Jihad to spread its influence from the Central Asian part of the former Soviet Union via Afghanistan to Kashmir. India's relationship with Afghanistan

has witnessed both highs and lows in different phases of transition in Afghan political history. The Soviet intervention and its attempt to exert control over Afghan political institutions and ideas, the Soviet withdrawal leading to the Afghan civil war, the Taliban rule, and the US-led War on Terror in Afghanistan are important phases of Afghan history which shaped the contours of Indo-Afghan relationship.

As another important phase is approaching in the form of the American withdrawal, India has to redefine its role in Afghanistan. The full-length paper would endeavour to discuss the impact of all these phases in shaping the contours of Indo-Afghan relations.

Coordinator, Department of International Studies, Ravenshaw University

## **‘New Nepal’ with the old Game: A study of its relations with India**

Dr Anil K. Mohapatra

The erstwhile kingdom of Nepal has now come up with a democratic Constitution which it had dreamt to make since the establishment of its first ever Constituent Assembly in April 2008. However, instead of celebrations all around it has been plunged into crisis since the coming into effect of its much-awaited Constitution on 27 September 2015. The centre

to effect its much-awaited Constitution on 27 September 2015. The centre of the current crisis is the Terai region which is quite unhappy with the constitutional provisions. The residents of the area, called Madhesi, feel grossly neglected by the constitutional scheme. Neither have they got equal representation in the Nepali Parliament as par with the other regions such as hill and mountain nor were their aspirations as a federal unit duly recognized and accommodated in the 'New Nepal'. The changes in the proportional representation system also have been alleged to have done to the disadvantage of the people of these western districts in the Terai plain. As a result, the people in the Terai have been revolting against the statutory attempt to marginalize them. Accordingly they are expressing their frustration, anxiety and anger through mass-on-the-street demonstrations which have affected the transportation of goods from the side of India to Nepal as the area is adjacent to India. But the irony of the matter is that, instead of focusing on its own internal problems, Nepal is harking back to its old game of blaming India in the moments of any such crisis. The Nepali leadership and intelligentsia have started playing the blame game targeting India as the people of the region are known for their connections with India. Of course, India took up the issues and concerns of the Madhesi with the Nepali leadership stressing the necessity of a consensus sufficiently before the promulgation of the Constitution which has been overlooked by the lawmakers there. Against this background, the proposed paper wishes to look into the reasons of the trust deficit of Nepal vis-à-vis India while seeking the strategic lapses on the part of India as well, in dealing with its tiny neighbour.

## **Act East through North East: Possibilities and opportunities of electricity trade between India and Myanmar**

Dr. Gadde Omprasad

India's North East and Myanmar share a land border of over 1600 km and a maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal. India-Myanmar relations are rooted in shared historical, ethnic, cultural and religious ties. As the land of Lord Buddha, India is a country of pilgrimage for the people of Myanmar. In spite of the fact that both the countries enjoy these exchanges whether trade, culture, people-to-people, official level, are limited in the post-independence period of India because of various reasons. Since India is now following Act East policy, it gives an opportunity to



strengthen its relations with Myanmar. One of those opportunities comes from possible electricity trade and cooperation. Given the geographical proximity and mutual requirements/benefits, there is an urgent need to prioritise the electricity trade between India's North East and Myanmar. As the World Bank Report (2006) envisages, the energy trade would provide tremendous scope for regional economic development, enormous financial gain through energy trade, mainstreaming energy trade as a fundamental aspect of regional resource management to foster broader regional integration, more attractive markets for private investment, better use of global investment flows and technology transfers, easier integration with global markets and reduced cost of supply for all participants.

Myanmar with 60 million population and about 4000 MW of power generation lags far behind in reaching electricity to all corners of the society. India on the other hand looking forward to integrate its North Eastern region in its greater paradigm of regional cooperation vis-a-vis South East Asian countries through Act East policy. Electricity trade and cooperation in this regard can play a vital role. It will not only connect the regional grids of both the countries and enable exchange of electricity but also gives an opportunity to further strengthen and widen the network of connectivities between the countries located in the region including Bangladesh and Thailand.

At present India's North East and Myanmar's electric grids are not yet interconnected. There is a tremendous possibility of connectivity and electricity transfer on both the sides. If there is connectivity between North Eastern grid of India and North Western grid of Myanmar, that will help both the countries to benefit from each other. The electricity peak demand time difference and the weekly and seasonal holiday difference make it possible for the two countries to exchange electricity.

India's North Eastern region and Myanmar have a huge scope for power generation from hydroelectric sources. Myanmar especially relies heavily on hydropower for most of its electricity generation (71% in 2011). There is a great scope for electricity demand in Myanmar as 51 percent of its population and 71 percent of rural population still lacks access to electricity.

According to International Energy Agency estimates, in addition, aging power plants and poor electricity transmission infrastructure causes severe power shortages. Consequently, traditional biomass and waste (typically consisting of wood, charcoal, manure, and crop residues) is widely utilized and accounts for about two-third of Myanmar's primary energy consumption. This has provided huge scope to invest in more hydroelectric, natural gas, and coal-fired electricity capacity, improve grid reliability, and promote demand management. Since India has adequate experience in these fields, it can play an important role in this regard and can involve North Eastern region in the development and further integration process.

The paper explores the possibilities of electricity trade between India and Myanmar

through  
North Eastern region and also explore the mutual financial, social, strategic benefits of power trade  
between the countries. It will also identify economically beneficial grids and voltage transmission  
lines for such possible trade. Further it will also explore the possibilities, opportunities and benefits  
of regional cooperation and integration through bilateral electricity cooperation between India  
and Myanmar. Through this it will identify electricity as a mechanism in implementing the Act  
East policy of the Government of India.

# indian foreign policy in the context of South-east Asian nations with the Chinese perspective

Dr. Satya Prakash Dash

Foreign policy of a nation deals with the external affairs and relations with other nations, but simultaneously the foreign policy, to a great extent, depends upon the nation's domestic policies. This assumes much greater proportion in the present era of globalised polity with greater economic inter-dependence. Trade and commerce have assumed greater proportions and are a determining factor in directing the path of foreign policy. Globalization has opened up new avenues in the arena of foreign policy determinants, preceded by the end of the cold war and bipolarization of global politics. Nations do not have to adopt an ideological basis in designing the foreign policy, and neither do they have to align to any particular power bloc anymore. Globalization has at least contributed in making both the 'domestic' and 'foreign' policy 'market determined'.

Nations are now more interested in policies that will supplement the market and in the process will lead to development and economic prosperity. Trade and commerce together constitute one of the primary factors in framing the foreign policy. Nations are now more interested in focusing their foreign policy in the direction of development, socio-economic welfare, and market. From a 'military and power domination', power equations and dynamics are gradually changing to 'market-determination'. The 'geo-strategy' is gradually losing relevance to 'eco-strategy', where 'eco' includes economy and ecology, the significant factors in global politics. Economy and environment together constitute the bigger strategy for any nation-state. These two dynamics act as the two sides of the coin, and have to be addressed enthusiastically in order to avoid any sort of complicity to the citizens. The objectives of foreign policy need to be looked in a new perspective considering the challenges and priorities of the twenty-first century.

Indicating the importance of the diplomats in the Heads of Indian Missions Conference on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2015 in New Delhi, the Prime Minister advised to 'shed old mindset' and help the country to position itself in a leading role, rather than just a balancing force globally, in view of countering the new 'actors' and new 'threats' to global peace and prosperity, challenging the world community. Referring to challenges of climate change, he opined India to lead in countering it and also to work for a changing global attitude towards it. This shows the dimensional change

ein foreign policy, and not limiting it to just and cordial relations with other countries. The diplomats must engage in focusing India in the changing context, dimensions and challenges of global politics.

India's 'Look East Policy' is now being transformed as 'Act East Policy' aims at increasing engagements in various sectors with the south-east Asian countries. Vietnam has always been a steadfast supporter of India's permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council. Vietnam is another country that has reciprocated a friendly hand with India, after the visit of the President Pranab Mukherjee to Vietnam in September 2014. India has diplomatic ties with Vietnam for the last forty years. India signed the Foundation for Strategic Partnership with Vietnam in 2007. The trade volume between India and Vietnam has been worth \$8 billion during 2013-14, and it is planned to reach \$15 billion by 2020. The representatives of the two countries signed an agreement on oil exploration in the South China Sea, among other agreements. This attempt to collaborate with

India for the drilling operations in the disputed South China Sea is seen by many experts as a move by Vietnam to counter China's influence. China and Vietnam do not have a good relationship due to their differences over the South China Sea, which is a major source of hydro-carbons. China has been objecting to any activity in South China Sea region, including Indian oil exploration, as it has territorial disputes with some ASEAN countries like Vietnam and Philippines. The Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) reported that Vietnam reclaimed about 65,000 metres of land at West Reef, part of western Spratly Islands (Indian Express, 10.05.2015). Vietnam also appears to have added 'defensive structures' and harbor. Beijing foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said that both Vietnam & Philippines had been carrying out massive construction on the illegally-occupied Chinese maritime features.

The paper will focus more on the Indian foreign policy in the context of south-east Asian nations.

Reader & Head of Department, Political Science, Sambalpur University

## **Border Management and Physical Connectivity as the Basis of Indo-Myanmar Relations**

Dr. Sabita Harichandan

India shares land and maritime boundaries with Myanmar. Geopolitics and India's neighborhood policy necessitate effective and prudent border management in the context of improvement of Indo-Myanmar relations. It needs to be pointed out that a large part of Indo-Myanmar border is porous, mountainous and inhabited. This fosters large influx of insurgent

s, increase in subversive activities by insurgent strains in Myanmar, trafficking of women and children from north-east region of India to Myanmar, smuggling of arms and narcotics etc. Tribal groups like Singhphos, Nagas, Kukis and Mizos are forced to reside as citizens of different countries. Against this backdrop, Indo-Myanmar border trade and bilateral economic engagement in the framework of bilateralism, sub-regionalism and regionalism suffer a lot. These things undoubtedly have adverse implications for India's internal security, border security, military security, economic security and human security. Hence, border management through constructive bilateral engagement is an imperative need for achieving security and stability in all fronts. Prioritization of border management and physical connectivity should constitute the cornerstones of India's Foreign Policy. This is required to provide strength and dynamism to India's 'Look East Policy'. This would give an impetus to cross-border trade and cross-border economic interactions. The benefit of membership of BIMSTEC and Mekong Ganga Cooperation Initiative can be reaped. The importance of ASEAN-Indian connectivity is quite discernible. In fact, the thrust of India's foreign policy has been to erect a strategically secure, politically stable, harmonious and economically cooperative neighborhood. Of course, the success rate in this regard is minimal. Even though both have set up a number of institutionalized mechanisms at various levels to discuss issues related to border security and management, these interactions have not yielded substantial output. Therefore, more sincere endeavor has to be made at the bilateral level to overcome the challenges and tap the opportunities. This paper will examine and analyze the constraints, challenges and issues related to border management and physical connectivity and prospects of Indo-Myanmar relations.

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## **India's China Quandary in Asia-Pacific: The Emerging Intricacy**

Dr. Jagannath Panda

The phenomenon of “Indiarising” has hitherto been overshadowed by “Chinarising”. A point of view has taken root that China as an emerging economic powerhouse is taking the lead to restructure and redesign the global financial and political order. Perceived indicators of this trend are China’s propelling the establishment of an Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the New Development Bank (NDB) under BRICS (a concept which, incidentally, India put forth first), the revival of the idea of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP), and taking the lead in the ASEAN-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). With the course of building new institutions which are primarily alternative in nature, Beijing exhibits the tendency of a revisionist power, a “trading nation” or “banking country” with the distinction of being the largest manufacturer and exporter. With a capacity of almost \$4 trillion of international reserve assets, China aims to overturn the American place of being the largest economy of the world. The Chinese aims and objectives with regard to Asia or the regional financial order are a step in the progress towards its global aspirations and strategy, and most of these are replicated eloquently in the Asia-Pacific region. Where does India stand in this scenario? Without being a typecast of an obstructionist or a revisionist power, India is progressing chapter on the global stage, still trying to bring about a balance between its economic attraction and political weight. Nevertheless, India’s choice of joining the AIIB points to the emerging facets of the changing course of Asia’s regional order where both RCEP and Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) are important factors. (Not being a member of APEC, India is not a factor in the TPP negotiations.) India’s regional outlook is based on an advanced and pragmatic outlook where the RCEP is an important trade liberalizing model. Even though India does not identify its strategic interests as being congruent with the American “pivot Asia” strategy, the Indian outlook is different when it comes to economic undertakings. India does see the importance of China and identifies its own regional economic undertaking with China. This paper looks at the emerging India-China intricacy at regional level and the quandary that India lives with regard to China in the Asia-Pacific region.

## **The Trajectories of India- Japan Relations: A Growing convergence of interests**

Dr. Asima Sahu

The rapidly changing strategic scenarios in Asia have led to Japan's increasing ties with India over the last few years. Major global and regional geopolitical shifts are taking place in the contemporary world. These include the rise of China, the US policy of rebalancing and pivot to Asia, and the response of regional countries, evolution of a new security architecture in Asia, maritime security challenges in Indian and Pacific Oceans, nuclear tests by North Korea, tensions on account of territorial disputes in South China Sea and East China, evolution of ASEAN into a community. The two Asian democracies are making concerted attempts to intensify their relationship at various levels-economic, strategic and political.

Though the two countries had never exhibited much keenness in each other's priorities, a confluence of various factors such as structural, domestic and individual leadership have given a new push to the bilateral relationship in recent years.

At the structural level, the rise of China in the Asia-Pacific and beyond has led India and Japan to rethink their attitudes toward each other. This has led to a fundamental alteration in the strategic calculus of India and Japan. India's burgeoning economy has made it an attractive trading and business partner for Japan. India has also displayed a positive attitude towards Japan's pre-eminent role in shaping the evolving Asia-Pacific security architecture. At the individual level, the political leaders of both the countries are reviewing each other differently with a lot of warmth and conviviality. All these factors have contributed to a different trajectory of India-Japan relations.

The present paper attempts to examine and evaluate the changing dimensions of bilateral relations between the two Asian democracies against the backdrop of the evolving security and strategic scenarios in the Indo-Pacific region.



Reader, Department Of Political Science, Ravenshaw University

## **Power Play in Asia-Pacific and India**

Dr. Prashant Kumar Singh

In recent decades, Asia-Pacific has witnessed great transformations. The centre of gravity of the world economy has shown a shift towards the region. The region has seen intensification of regional processes involving the regional and extra-regional powers. Also, the region has witnessed rise of Chinese economic and military power. Many would argue that a Chinese preeminence has developed in political and economic landscape of the region. The region has responded to this rise cautiously. Maritime territorial disputes in the East China Sea and the South China Sea involving China on the one hand and various other countries on the other are a cause of deep security anxiety in the region. The USA's reengagement with the region after a decade of entanglement in the West Asia and Afghanistan has been viewed as a rebalancing in the region vis-à-vis China. In the meantime, from Indian point of view, India has also increased its footprint in the region in a last decade or so. This presentation aims at understanding current regional strategic scenario with reference to perceived power play between China and the USA underlining India's place in this power play.

Associate Fellow, IDSA

## **Developing a Conceptual Model in Bilateral Ties: Locating India-Australia Ties**

Kamala Kanta Dash

There is abundant material on India's Foreign Policy and her bilateral ties. But there has been insufficient attempt to conceptualize bilateral ties. Why do countries engage with each other? Why do they prioritize certain countries over others? In this backdrop, this paper wants to analyse how India does engage in the Indo-Pacific especially with Australia?

This paper looks at the conceptualization of bilateral ties and proposes to develop a VETI model by taking the case of India-Australia ties. 'V' stands for Shared Values, 'E' stands for shared Economic Interest, 'T' stands for shared Threats and 'I' stands for shared Institutions. The paper develops an expanded VETI scale to assess bilateral ties which will also be tested for its predictive value in foreign policy analysis and formulation.

Assistant Prof of Public  
Policy and Communication, Faculty of Good  
Governance and Public Policy, Sri Sri University

## **the emergence of Eurasian economic union and India's prospects**

Dr. Bhagaban Behera

The past one and half decade has seen a notable rise in India's effort to engage with Central Asia and this is primarily driven by India's energy requirement and to tap the considerable commercial potential of the region. India is a late comer to the region compared to China. China has enhanced its position in the region in various fields like economy and energy through bilateral

relations and multilateral initiatives. Complementarity between Chinese and Central Asian economies promoted the development of deeper economic relations. China emerged the major trade partner for the Central Asian states. The growing Chinese influence in Central Asia and the success of the Sino-Central Asian energy cooperation poses a serious geo-political concern for Russia which fears that the region could fall under the sway of this powerful neighbour. After initial years of negligence and with the US involvement, Russia relooked these countries with a clear vision and focus. Russia has now moved to strengthen its role selectively around the Customs Union and intend to store-integrate the region through the Eurasian Economic Union. The choice left for the Central Asian states to choose either Russia or China in order not to lose their GDP. In any case, the states prefer not to be faced by this option and remain engaged with a number of states in the neighbourhood. In this scenario, the energy rich countries of the region provide ample opportunities for India's long term economic engagement. India is an net importer of energy resources and much of it from the volatile Middle East. Central Asia is thus of prime importance of India's energy security policy besides other trade activities. On this backdrop, the present paper tries to analyze the hypothetical answers involving Russia and China in Central Asia and their implications for India. Besides, the paper tries to find out India's trade potential in the region.

Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University

## **Energy Factor in India's Foreign Policy: New Delhi's Central Asian Option**

Dr. Ramakrushna Pradhan

No other element has shaped the history of past one hundred years so much as the fight to control and administer energy and its sources. Energy is what keeps the present world going. Throughout history—in all countries and throughout all ages—energy has been the driver of economic growth, the source of military power and the main determinant of people's welfare. It is the access to energy; whether human, animal, or natural that has primarily determined the scale and success of a civilisation or state. In 21<sup>st</sup> century energy alone emerged as the sole driving force of global economics and politics pushing the rest of traditional security concerns into well below the limelight.

India is no exception to the case. A country with vast population of around 1.26 billion standing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the world in terms of size, 3<sup>rd</sup> largest economy in world in terms of PPP, 8<sup>th</sup> largest industrial economy and a rapidly growing economy has an energy appetite which is growing constantly. At the same time the inefficiency and inadequacy of domestic energy resources dominated by coal has resulted into energy insecurity and climate change concerns. Hence India has no other options but to look for equity oil and energy to meet its burgeoning demands. India henceforth attempted to enhance its energy security through foreign policy initiatives. However, in this front also New Delhi has to meet clear limits, such as the unstable security situation in and India's tense relationship with neighboring countries—which would become transit countries—particularly constrain India's energy strategy. At the international level, most of the claims at attractive sites are already distributed. In its pursuit of remaining opportunities, India often faces disadvantageous competition with China. Moreover, India's energy cooperation with countries such as Iran complicates its relationship with Western governments, especially with the US. In this backdrop, this article focuses on India's foreign policy response to meet its energy security demands through equity oil and energy. Further the study will examine how energy has been able to transform the foreign policy on India over the years putting the energy concerns right at the top among the list of priorities. It is in this background, this paper makes a modest attempt to look at Central Asian energy hub as an option for Indian energy security.

Central Asia has a huge untapped oil and gas with enriched uranium coupled with massive hydroelectricity potential has the capability to meet Indian demands at an affordable price. Since it is proximate to India, transportation would not be tough though there is always a neighborhood syndrome. As the region is politically stable there is hardly any chance of disruption of service. Hence, this paper likes to investigate what energy policies India maintains to secure the cheap oil and energy of the heartland region. Further the paper provides a brief concluding observation of India's foreign policy towards Central Asia and especially her equity oil policy.

## India-Tajikistan Relations: An Analytical Perspective

Dr. Jajneswar Sethi

India-Tajikistan relations have undergone various phases of emotional attachments, understanding political reality, metamorphosis of economic ties in the light of respective economic compulsions and subsequently an integrationist approach with a view to bring about an enriching culture of reconciliation, economic prosperity and regional peace. Both the countries share a common perspective on various issues, such as the threat of religious fundamentalism, national separatism and cross-border terrorism which constitute the main threats to regional security, stability and development. So far as political and diplomatic factors are concerned, India was one of the first foreign countries, which recognized independence of a new country in Central Asia, the Republic of Tajikistan on August 28, 1992. Since independence, the Republic of Tajikistan has clear and peaceful foreign policy with priorities of the principle of transparency, fairness and multilevel. In the sphere of economy, the inter-regional economic links between India and Tajikistan reached at its height. After Tajikistan gained political independence, favourable opportunities for establishing and developing mutually beneficial economic relations with the Republic of India came up. In the matter of security, both India and Tajikistan have a common source in South-West Asia in the sphere of external threats to their security. The newly independent secular Republic of Tajikistan faced on its southern frontiers an altogether different statehood and political process which very few of the former Soviet Republics had to confront. All the three states are thus obliged to evolve a joint response to this common threat to their security from a single source. The Indian military base in Tajikistan has been accepted as natural and attempts have continued for strengthening military alliance with Tajikistan on a bilateral or multilateral basis. Thus, the Indo-Tajik relations have remained close and cordial since the independence of the Republic of Tajikistan. India's basic thrust towards the region has been one of the positive engagements. Their relationship is more

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## India's Rising Profile in Central Asia in New Perspectives

Subas Chandra Sethy

India's rising profile in Central Asia has not received the attention it deserves. Nonetheless, any discussion of trends and touching Central Asia would be incomplete without discussion of Indian policy. Undoubtedly, India's policies toward Afghanistan and the former Soviet republic of Central Asia reflect changing perspectives in its long-standing rivalry with Afghanistan, perspectives that have been affected by years of warfare in Afghanistan, the terror campaign in Kashmir event and afterwards. But India's strategy also reflects major trends in Indian foreign policy that go beyond these reflections. Those trends reflect India's growing economic and military power and its policymakers' enlarged attention to an interest in becoming a major pan-Asian player, not just the leading power on the subcontinent. India's policies toward Central Asia therefore dispose of all the instruments of power: economics, diplomacy, and military power. The military instrument is used directly in the form of the ridge of Indian military power and in the form of arms sales and security assistance to key states there. Likewise, Indian diplomacy has cemented a series of regional partnerships, if not alliances, with key actors, often actors whose own interests are at wild variation with each other except in Central Asia: Israel, Iran, and the United States. There is no doubt that India is continuing to expand its "investment" in Central Asia and that it will deepen

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## **Locating Iran In India's Look West Policy: Challenges And Opportunities**

Saswati Dash

India's relations with Iran has contributed largely towards shaping the broad contours of India's West Asia policy. The relationships which India is now sharing with the countries in the region and particularly with Iran have emerged as more mutually beneficial. Earlier India was too ideological towards the region, failing to pay sufficient attention to India's national interests, particularly in the context of subdued ties with Iran. Currently India is developing its Middle-East policy by taking special care to nurture these relationships and pursue its substantial regional interest. The Indian government welcomed news of the Iran deal. The deal could open up economic and strategic opportunities for India and thus it's being seen mostly with hope; however, those hopes are tempered by some challenges and uncertainties.



In some ways, India has been preparing for a deal for several months, re-engaging Iran at the highest levels. Since February 2015, the Indian national security advisor, transport minister and foreign secretary have traveled to Iran, and the foreign minister intended to do the same until her meeting was postponed. Most recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with President Hassan Rouhani on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Ufa, Russia, in July. He reiterated an invitation for Rouhani to visit India and said he looked forward to visiting Iran as well. After focusing its first year on India's immediate neighborhood, the Asia-Pacific and the G-7, the Modi government has made clear its intention to "look west" over its second year, including with high-level trips to Central Asia, Israel, Palestine, Jordan, and Turkey. This engagement becomes easier and more crucial for Delhi with the Vienna deal, which has implications for India in the energy, economic and geopolitical spheres.

The strategic map of Iran's immediate neighborhood will change dramatically following the landmark nuclear deal between Iran and the P5+1. Given the tremendous geostrategic stakes involved, Iran has already begun to explore greater opportunities for economic and security cooperation in the region. India, as well as Iran are trying to maximize their bilateral relationship, which will be beneficial for both the countries. This paper analyzes the past and present relationship of both the countries and trying to find out its impact on world politics.

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## **Religion And New Terrorism: Legitimizing The 'Just War' Tradition** Dr. Niranjana Mohapatra

The multiple grievances which compete with each other for resources and support within groups may change over time and so would change the definition of terrorism. The term 'terrorist'

has an uncomplimentary value that is significant in delegitimizing those who commit such acts. However, reaching a consensus as to what constitutes terrorism is difficult. For instance, some terrorists are driven by religious reasons to kill as many of the non-believers and unfaithful as possible since they are motivated by promises of rewards in the afterlife. Religious fundamentalism is not a negative problem. Yet, one has to understand its root cause. Preaching principles of freedom of expression alone is not enough. One has to delve deep into the cause to know what makes terrorists stick and influence them to take up arms and be ready to sacrifice their lives. Differences in value structures make the deterrence of religious terrorism difficult since secular states cannot effectively threaten materially the ideas that are valued spiritually by the terrorists. The present paper intends to identify the ways and means by which religious terrorism seeks to legitimize the 'just war' tradition by trying to replace rather than modify, the normative structure of society.

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# Energy Security As A Major Strand For India's Foreign Policy: Deviating Directions & Policy Puzzle

Hemant K. Dash

Looking at the present global political scenario, the game involving balance of power and the attempts by nation states to achieve status of prominence largely depends on their ability to achieve self-reliance in terms of resources. Apart from acquiring this status in terms of economic might, political stability and decision making, the most crucial aspect for future time is going to be "independence in terms of energy resources". These resources will define the path of national progress, domestic policy planning and certainly, as a crucial instrument of foreign policy. In this respect, India's fragile energy security is under severe pressure from its rising dependence on imported oil, regulatory uncertainty and opaque natural gas pricing policies, small pool of skilled manpower and poorly developed upstream infrastructure and dependence on fossil fuels as the dominant source of energy in the near future.

The deviating directions of four energy policy framework and the policy dilemma lies with the governmental agenda of deeper energy integration into national development policy which bears a juxtaposed relation with its real initiatives. Ever increasing trend of national energy-dependence on fossil fuels by discouraging exploration of local resources like solar, wind, geo-thermal and other non-conventional forms of energy, absence of unified policy approach in the energy domain and fragmented sectoral existence lacking coordination has constantly weakened our national energy planning. At global platforms focusing on future energy sustainability mechanisms & in that respect, at global climate change summits, our foreign policy blueprint has not trace of energy as a strand.

The policy puzzle remains with rising import dependency lacking any long term vision plan. Therefore, while connecting the missing links between aspiration for a strengthened foreign policy approach for neighbours and global players at large, the justification for energy centrality in its ambit, the contradiction thus arising in our development policy agenda and assessment of recent document "India Energy Security Scenario 2047" of Energy & Research Division, NITI Aayog will be evaluated in this paper. Drawing a policy parallel between traditional strands of foreign policy & energy policy aspirations (security dimension coupled with national plan framework) is analysed in the paper to fetch lacunas in our approach towards energy sustainability and procurement of green energy. Ultimately, the Indian fragile aspirations at several international platforms stand stark reality back home raises the concern of policy puzzle leading towards deviating directions which this paper will try to address through its arguments.

# **Vulnerable Waters In A Turbulent Time : Maritime Security Concerns For India And Challenges Ahead**

Bibhabati Dash

Any nation state having a boarder to share with mighty water bodies has another dimension of security strategy involved apart from its conventional security setup. Historical tradition has always enriched India as a maritime nation. It's geophysical configuration & geopolitical circumstances make it extremely dependent on these water bodies just like an island nation. It is a remarkable feature that, 11 maritime states and existence of numerous island territories gives it a rare distinction of more sea-faring population than the combined European human head count. On a broader perspective, holistic focus on maritime sector by Asian countries has reaped tremendous economic benefits along with reinforcing their maritime security aspirations. In this regard, at this turbulent time when the whole globe is struggling with severe crisis situations like terrorism, refugee-migration-asylum debates, piracy, modern means of warfare & resource management, the seas have by default become vulnerable waters.

Taking into consideration of all these aspects crucial for national security and coupling it with peace & democratic stability of governance, India's maritime security challenges have a lasting impact on our axis of global trade relations (strongly impactful leading to our hope of achieving global superpower status), its varied strands at the present existing power equations & its implications are the dimensions on which this paper aspires to focus on. Covering the entire range of factors from low intensity conflict and piracy to major power strategic contests & hot spots of trade are crucial aspects which the paper will try to address through its arguments. Based on the fact that, the distinctive geography & the shift of global maritime focus from the Atlantic-Pacific combination to the Indo-Pacific continuum has made these security strategy for India more challenging & dynamic in nature. This transition has been dealt with critical assessment in the paper. Ultimately, the paper will try to draw a comparison between existing Indian maritime security strategies & road map knitted with future policy directions.

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## **India's Evolving Southeast Asia Policy: making a Strategy out of a Compulsion**

Dr. Binoda Kumar Mishra

Though words like "Evolving" and "Policy" figure in title, one needs to take them with a pinch of salt as it is often pointed out that probably India does not have a foreign policy. This is not anihilist criticism of Indian foreign policy, rather a pointer to the ad hoc nature of Indian foreign policy. This is more than clearly pronounced in India's engagement with Southeast Asia. The paper, in this context, will attempt to refute some of the popular conjectures around the Look East Policy (LEP) and would argue that India's post-Cold War engagement with Southeast Asia was more of a compulsion under duress. There was no grand strategy of propelling India to global prominence behind the engagement. The paper would further argue that the evolution of this engagement (LEP to Act East Policy) is also more a matter of reaction to the regional strategic build up rather than an attempt to shape the regional strategic architecture.

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Finally, the paper would discuss the opportunities that exist in the region for India to exploit to her advantage. The common anxieties among the ASEAN members vis-à-vis China, the global

concerns regarding global commons (both material and ideological) in the region do provide India the opening to step into the region and play a protagonist in creating an expanded and normative regional order. This, first of all, requires a clear articulation of India's strategic vision for the region and a road map to implement it. Rhetoric and emblematic moves such as Project Mausamma may turn detrimental unless prudently steered with the backing of demonstrated will.

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## **Recalibrating Indo-Israel Relations: Discursive Analysis of Indian foreign policy**

Sushant

This paper attempts to study the importance of discourse policy analysis as a prism to look at a country's foreign policy. It is argued that social and ideational factors do play a significant role in shaping off foreign policy of any country. Foreign policy analysis cannot be only about study of facts and events. Politics of foreign policy is essentially struggle over ideas and values

and therefore it also matters as to how these facts and values are interpreted and how they shape discourse formation. Several traditions of international relations have recently devoted themselves in studying concepts such as ideas, beliefs, perceptions and values. We are witnessing an academic struggle between different approaches as to which of them have appropriate theoretical tools to understand and analyse these ideational concepts. 'Rationalism' which is dominant perspective of international relations stands challenged in this struggle as it undervalues the importance of the above mentioned concepts. Discourse policy analysis has emerged as a main contender in this academic struggle and this paper argues that by application of this method one can get clearer and comprehensive understanding of foreign policy of a country. Further it is argued that the recent changes in Indian foreign policy (under present NDA government with Narendra Modi as Prime Minister) can be better analysed by developing an analytical and theoretical model in the theory of discourse. Discourse policy analysis of Indian foreign policy is both under-recognised and under-theorised. For an enhanced understanding of the recent pragmatic shift in Indian foreign policy we should employ the tools of discourse policy analysis. One of the most intriguing and at the same time ambivalent areas in Indian foreign policy is relations with Israel. The recent Indian government has intensified its engagement with Israel and has publicly acknowledged the age long partnership they share which previous regimes were discreet and restrained about. This paper also attempts to analyse Indo-Israel relations through the lens of discourse policy analysis.



## -Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies-

The Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies was set up at the joint initiative of the Government of India, Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Government of West Bengal. Registered as a Society under the West Bengal Registration of Societies' Act of 1961, with Prof. Nurul Hasan, then the Governor of West Bengal, as the President of the Society on the 4th of January 1993. It is funded by the Department of Culture, Government of India. Presently, His Excellency, Governor of West Bengal, is the President of the Society. A nacre of land in Bidhannagar (Salt Lake City), Kolkata, was allotted to the Institute by the Government of West Bengal for building the Institute campus.

The Foundation Stone of the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies Salt Lake campus was laid by the then Hon'ble President of India, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, on the 12th of March 1993, in the presence of the then HRD Minister Shri Arjun Singh and the then Chief Minister of West Bengal Shri Jyoti Basu. The Salt Lake campus is expected to be fully operational at the end of 2009. Currently, the Institute is located in the former residence of Maulana Azad at Ashraf Mistry Lane.

The Memorandum of Association envisaged the objectives of the Institute as follows:

The Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies is a centre for research and learning with focus on social, cultural, economic and political/administrative developments in Asia from the middle of the 19th Century onwards with special emphasis on their links with India, and (b) on the life and works of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

Till date, the emphasis has been on specialising on modern and contemporary affairs in South Asia, Central Asia and West Asia, and carrying on area studies on the five Central Asia Republics of the former Soviet Union (Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan), Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. The Institute now looks forward to widening its area of study to the Northeast region of India, Southeast Asia and China;

To establish and maintain a library of books, pamphlets, newspapers, periodicals, micro-films, still photographs, motion pictures, sound recordings and other materials bearing on the secular tradition of Modern India;

To establish and maintain a personalia Museum at the former residence of Maulana Azad in Calcutta. The Museum would highlight the life and works of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad as a distinguished national leader and thinker;

- To make available to the public in a suitable place the collections of papers and library sources for study and research.

- To organise, undertake, conduct, encourage and promote study and research in the field

of secularism and universal brotherhood and the life and work of Maulana Azad;

- To sponsor or commission studies, based on original research or translation or compilation and for this purpose, to pay honorarium or remuneration or royalty, or to make payments for the acquisition of copyright of works already published. To undertake and to promote publication of books, monographs, periodicals and papers incorporating the results of the studies and research carried out in the Institute and/or any other place as the Institute may decide;

- To foster academic contacts within India as well as in other countries through exchange of personnel and research materials;

- To collaborate with institutions of comparable standing in India and abroad with



To collaborate with institutions engaged in similar activities in India and abroad with a view to further the aims and objects of the Institute;

To institute and award fellowships, scholarships and monetary assistance in accordance with the rules and bylaws;

- To undertake all such activities as are incidentally necessary or conducive to the attainment of all or any of the above mentioned objectives.

- To create and institute administrative, ministerial, technical, research and such other posts as may be necessary and to make appointments, thereto, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Society, subject to any directions, that may be issued by the central Government from time to time; To obtain or accept grants, subscriptions, donations, gifts, requests from Governments, Corporations, Trusts or any persons for the purposes of the Society;

- To draw, make, accept, endorse and discount cheques, notes or other negotiable instruments and for this purpose, to sign, execute and deliver such assurances and deeds as may be necessary for the purpose of the Institute;

- To acquire, hold and dispose of property in any manner whatsoever, for the purpose of the Institute, provided that prior approval of the central Government is obtained in the case of acquisition or disposal of immovable property;

- To deal with property belonging to or vested in the Institute in such manner as the Institute may deem fit for advancing the functions of the Institute;

- To borrow and raise money, with prior approval of the central Government, with or without security or on the security of any Mortgage charge or Hypothecation of pledge over all or any of the immovable properties belonging to the Institute or in any other manner whatsoever for the purpose of the Institute;

Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, the then President of India, laid the Foundation Stone during March 1993 for the building. Due to administrative reasons, the plot could be registered only in 1997. However all efforts are being made to complete the building by December, 2007.

- To build, construct and maintain houses, hostels, or other buildings and alter, extend, improve, repair, enlarge, or modify the same with light, water, drainage, furniture, fittings, instruments, apparatuses and appliances and other things for the use to which such buildings are to be put or held in connection with objects of the Institute;

- To construct or otherwise acquire, layout, repair, extend, alter, enlarge, improve and use any land, park and any other immovable property belonging to or held by the Institute;
- To appoint committees or sub-committees as it may be deemed fit to carry out the ob-

committees as it may be deemed fit to carry out the objectives of the Institute; To delegate any or all its powers to the Executive Council or to any of the committees or sub-committees constituted by it;

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To do all such lawful acts and things, whether incidental to the powers aforesaid or not, as may be requisite in order to further the objects of the Institute as a Centre for study and Research;  
The studies and research programmes conducted by the Institute shall be open to persons of either sex and of whatever race, religion, creed, caste or class and no test or conditions shall be imposed as to religious belief or profession in admitting or appointing members, scholars, workers or in any other connection whatsoever, and,

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No benefactions shall be accepted by the Institute which, in its opinion, involves conditions

or obligations apposed to the spirit and objects of the Institute.

One of the important objectives of the Institute is to promote a study of Modern and Contemporary Asia with primary focus on social and cultural movements and India's relations with the neighbouring Asian countries.

The Institute has concentrated on Central Asia as a priority area for its research. Needless to say, the Central Asian region has acquired a great significance for India in view of four traditional, historical and cultural ties and its increasing importance as a potential source of energy and other important minerals as also in the context of an intensified international rivalry over this region in our neighbourhood in the wake of disintegration of USSR of late, forces inimical to our national interests have become active in this region with a view to acquiring a strategic depth.

Under the North-East Programme of the Government of India, the Institute has launched over twenty research projects since the year 2000 in the North-East part of the country on a variety of themes including the study of the society and culture of the tribals of the North-East region, problems of insurgency, trafficking in drugs and narcotics, illegal arm trade, etc.

The Institute has been ranked as one of the "Centres with Potential" in a report prepared for Research Councils, UK, by the India Foundation For The Arts, Bangalore, in June 2010. titled "Arts and Humanities Research Mapping, India- An overview of the arts and humanities research landscape in India: Mapping the centres of excellence, potential funders, emerging themes, strengths and weaknesses".



## -Indian Council of World Affairs-

The Indian Council of World Affairs was established in 1943 by a group of Indian intellectuals as a think tank. It was registered as a non-official, non-political and non-profit organisation under the Registration of Societies Act 1860. By an Act of Parliament in 2001, the Indian Council of World Affairs has been declared an institution of national importance. The Vice President of India is the ex-officio President of ICWA.

It is devoted exclusively for the study of international relations and foreign affairs. Historic international conferences like 'Asian Relations Conference' in 1947 under the leadership of freedom fighter Sarojini Naidu and 'United Nations and the New World Order' in 1994 have been held by this think tank in which world renowned dignitaries addressed huge gatherings of intellectuals. Scores of conferences, meetings and panel discussions have been organised by the Council in its elegant building called "Sapru House".

The first Prime Minister of independent India, late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the architect of India's foreign policy, was a regular visitor to Sapru House to confer with noted scholars, intellectuals and academics.

The historic 'Asian Relations Conference' was held under the auspices of the ICWA in March 1947 under the leadership of Sarojini Naidu and was addressed by Mahatma Gandhi.

In 2009, an initiative was taken to commemorate the 'Asian Relations Conference' and a conference titled "Emerging China: Prospects for Partnerships in Asia" was organized. It was addressed by 25 foreign scholars from 15 countries and was attended by academics, diplomats and policymakers.

Spread over two acres of land in the heart of New Delhi, Sapru House has lush green lawns with high quality infrastructure. The present building was inaugurated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in May 1955. It is named after the eminent Indian jurist and intellectual, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, the founder President of the Council. A number of renowned and prestigious Indian think tanks and organisations like the "Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses" (IDSA), "School of International Studies" (which was later merged with the famous Jawaharlal Nehru University), "Children's Film Society of India" and the "Press Institute of India" were established in this building. The Council has a state-of-the-art Auditorium with a seating capacity of 380 persons. It has a separate Conference Room and a Conference Hall where panel discussions and seminars are held regularly. International personalities come and address meetings at Sapru House on a regular basis.

### Aims and Objectives of ICWA-

The Indian Council of World Affairs Act, 2001 lays down the objectives of the ICWA. Section 1

3 of the Act lists the objectives as:

- To promote India's relations with other countries through study, research, discussions, lectures, exchange of ideas and information with other organisations within and outside India engaged in similar activities.
- To serve as a clearinghouse of information and knowledge regarding world affairs.
- To publish books, periodicals, journals, reviews, papers, pamphlets and other literature on subjects covered under clauses (i) & (ii).
- To establish contacts with organisations promoting objects mentioned in this section.
- To arrange conferences and seminars to discuss and study the Indian policy towards international affairs.
- To undertake such other activities for the promotion of ideas and attainment of the above mentioned objects.