

# Foresight India

## India's role in a multi-polar world

Date: 25/26 March 2010

Venue: Sapru House, Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi

### Agenda\*

#### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March

10.00 onwards Registration

10.30 – 10.45 **Welcome remarks**  
**Sudhir Devare**, Director-General, Indian Council of World Affairs  
**Wolfgang Nowak**, Managing Director, Alfred Herrhausen Society, the  
International Forum of Deutsche Bank

10:45 – 11:15 **Introductory address**

11:15- 11:30 Coffee break

11.15 – 12.45 **Session I - India at the crossroads: understanding the multiple transformations**

Following a decade of rapid economic growth, India stands at a critical juncture. As a plural democracy in the developing world, it has extraordinary symbolic significance. At the same time, it continues to manifest endless contradictions. However it is described and characterised, the opposite may also be true: an economy based on cutting-edge technology or subsistence level agriculture, a state that is a 21<sup>st</sup> century global power or a poor developing country? In spite of the multiple realities, one thing is clear – India is undergoing a period of remarkable transformation.

- In this context of competing demands and rapid change, what are the visions for India and its future?
- What factors drive Indian policymaking and what are the implications of India's history and identity for its perception of the international system?

---

\* Correct as of 23rd March

**Introduction: K.S. Bajpai**, Chairman, Delhi Policy Group

**Speakers:** **Kapila Vatsyayan**, Member, Rajya Sabha; **Sunil Khilnani**, Director of South Asian Studies, Johns Hopkins University; **Suresh Tendulkar**, formerly Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister of India; **Edwina Moreton**, Diplomatic Editor of the Economist; **K.P. Fabian**, former Indian Ambassador to Italy

**Chair: Kanti Bajpai**, Professor in the Politics and International Relations of South Asia, Oxford University

12.45 – 13.00

**Intervention: Nandita Das**, actress & film-maker

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.30

### **Session II – Sustaining economic globalisation: building a fair regime**

Throughout the 1990s, it was the advanced industrialised economies that pushed the agenda of economic globalisation. Many developing countries suffered from this process, especially during the East Asian and Latin American crises. On the other hand, for countries such as India, the process of liberalisation worked well, largely because they followed a step-by-step approach to opening up. These divergent experiences led to a tentative consensus in favour of special provisions in international economic regimes that take into account different stages of development. Following the recent financial crisis, the roles seem to be reversed and the consensus on economic globalisation appears to be faltering. In the advanced economies, there is increasing anxiety that jobs are being lost to the emerging economies, resulting in increasing protectionist sentiment.

- In the current context of economic uncertainty, how can we sustain economic globalisation while ensuring that it is beneficial for all?
- As debate about the continuing role of special provisions and differential treatment in trade increases, how can we reach a consensus on what constitutes a “fair” regime?

**Speakers:** **Sanjaya Baru**, editor, Business Standard; **André Sapir**, Professor of Economics, University Libre de Bruxelles; **Surjit Bhalla**, Managing Director, Oxus Research and Investments; **Raymond Vickery**, former US Assistant Secretary for Commerce; **A.N. Ram**, former Indian Ambassador to Thailand

**Chair: Pär Nuder**, former Swedish finance minister

15.30 – 16.00

Coffee break

16.00 – 17.30

### **Session III- Transnational terrorism: regional dimensions of a global challenge**

From Bali to Beirut, transnational terrorism presents a complex and varied global security challenge. Traditionally an area where states have zealously guarded their sovereignty, the events of 9/11 acted as a catalyst for deepening international cooperation, particularly in the context of the UN. However, this process has encountered numerous difficulties, including a tendency to become mired in the interests of great powers. In the fight against terrorism, including the ongoing military conflict in Afghanistan, there is a growing view that regional and local actors and solutions have often been neglected. Indeed, many think that the geopolitical calculations of great powers and their lack of understanding for historical and regional specificities have exacerbated tensions in areas prone to terrorism, including the South Asian region. And yet, in light of the transnational nature of contemporary terrorism, international cooperation will continue to be vital in addressing terrorist threats.

- What are the prospects for and difficulties of increasing the role of local and regional actors, including through regional organisations, in guarding against the threat of terrorism?
- How can we ensure that international interventions serve to enhance, rather than undermine, the fight against terrorism in South Asia and other international hotspots?

**Introduction:** Daniel Benjamin, Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism, US State Department

**Speakers:** Leela Ponnappa, former Indian Deputy National Security Adviser; Bernd Mutzelbürg, German Special Envoy for Afghanistan & Pakistan; Sergei Karaganov, Chair, Russian Council for Foreign and Defence Policy; Prem Shankar Jha, Former Editor, Hindustan Times & former Media Adviser to PM of India; General Harald Kujat, former Chairman of NATO's Military Committee

**Chair:** General Satish Nambiar, former Director, United Services Institute

19.00 onwards

**Dinner** - Reception in the residence garden of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

## Friday, 26 March

- 10.00 onwards Registration
- 10:30 – 11:15 **Discussion - Can there be a global grand strategy in a multi-polar world?**
- Stephen Krasner**, Graham H. Stuart Professor of International Relations, Stanford University and former Director for Policy Planning, US State Department  
**Amitabh Mattoo**, Professor of International Relations, Jawaharlal Nehru University  
**Radha Kumar**, Director, Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Jamia Milia Islamia University
- 11:15 to 12:00 **Keynote address - Shashi Tharoor**, Indian Minister of State for External Affairs
- 12:00 – 12.15 Coffee break
- 12:15 – 13:45 **Session IV - Ensuring resource security: from a local problem to a global challenge?**
- As the gap between living standards in advanced economies and developing countries starts to narrow, the global consumption of essential resources is increasing. At the same time, the availability of food, water and energy resources is likely to be adversely affected by climate change and many reports predict severe shortages by 2030. From tensions over river waters in different parts of the world to territorial disputes in the Arctic to concerns about a new 'scramble for Africa', the number of resource hotspots with potential for conflict is rising. However, efforts to manage disputes over water and other essential resources are complicated because of the trans-boundary nature of many resources, which makes sovereignty difficult to define, and because scarce resources are heavily intertwined with local political disputes. Historically, this has resulted in weak global norms for regulating the use of essential resources. However, as global scarcity increases and more powers compete for access to essential resources, there is a growing need to strengthen international mechanisms for delivering resource security.
- From norms regulating technology transfers to new systems of dispute resolution, what are the prospects for strengthening international mechanisms aimed at broadening access to and ensuring more sustainable use of scarce resources?
  - In the long run, given existing rates of resource depletion, resource diplomacy will need to be complemented with more sustainable global patterns of growth and consumption. What steps should be taken in the various world capitals to prepare for this?

**Speakers:** **Ligia Noronha**, Director, Resources and Global Security, The Energy and Resources Institute; **Qingguo Jia**, Professor of International Studies, Peking University; **Fyodor Lukyanov**, Editor, Russia in Global Affairs; **Ajay Shankar**, former Indian Secretary for Industrial Policy; **Saideh Lotfian**, Professor of Political Science, Tehran University

**Chair:** **Brahma Chellaney**, Professor of Strategic Studies, Centre for Policy Research

13.45 – 14.30

Lunch

14.30 – 16.00

### **Forging common futures: India's role in a multi-polar world**

**Introduction:** **Thomas Matussek**, German Ambassador to India

**Speakers:** **James Purnell**, former UK Secretary of State for Work & Pensions; **Wu Jianmin**, President, China Foreign Affairs University; **Charles Kupchan**, professor of international relations, Georgetown University; **Vasily Mikheev**, Deputy Director, Russian Institute of World Economy and International Relations; **Stela Goldenstein**, Special Advisor to the Governor of São Paulo; **Arundhati Ghose**, Distinguished Fellow, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies and former Indian High Commissioner to the UN in Geneva; **G. Parthasarthy**, Visiting Professor, Centre for Policy Research and former Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan

**Chair:** **Suhasini Haidar**, Deputy Foreign Editor, CNN-IBN

16.00 – 16.15

### **Concluding remarks**

**Sudhir Devare**, Director-General, Indian Council of World Affairs  
**Roger Liddle**, Chair, Policy Network

\*\*\*\*



### Alfred Herrhausen Society

The non-profit Alfred Herrhausen Society is the international forum of Deutsche Bank. Its work focuses on new forms of governance as a response to the challenges of the 21st century. The Society seeks traces of the future in the present, and conceptualises relevant themes for analysis and debate. It works with international partners across a range of fields, including policy, academia and business, to organise forums for discussion worldwide. Through these forums and other activities, it forges international networks and builds temporary institutions to help find better solutions to global challenges. It targets future decision-makers, but also attempts to make its work accessible to a wide public audience. AHS is dedicated to the work of Alfred Herrhausen, former spokesman of the Deutsche Bank board of directors, who advocated the idea of corporate social responsibility in an exemplary manner until his assassination by terrorists in 1989. The Alfred Herrhausen Society is an expression of Deutsche Bank's worldwide commitment to civil society.



### Policy Network

Policy Network is an international, London-based thinktank dedicated to promoting progressive policies necessary to meet the new challenges of the global age. Policy Network seeks to facilitate the sharing of ideas and experiences among leading policymakers and experts across Europe and the world. Its aim is to find innovative solutions to common problems and provide quality research on a wide range of policy areas, including the future of the welfare state, globalisation and social justice, immigration and integration, climate change and energy, the future of the European Union, and global governance.



### Indian Council of World Affairs

The Indian Council of World Affairs was established in 1943 by a group of Indian intellectuals led by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, and with support from the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The thinktank is devoted to the study of international relations and foreign affairs. ICWA has hosted many conferences and lectures including the historic Asian relations conference. International leaders who have spoken at Sapru House include Henry Kissinger, Margaret Thatcher, Thabo Mbeki and Kevin Rudd, amongst others. A research faculty was recently established, within which research fellows contribute to a wide range of publications. The flagship publication is India Quarterly, a journal of international affairs. ICWA houses a research library on international relations with historic volumes and papers. The Vice-President of India is the President of the Council. The Director-General of ICWA is Ambassador Sudhir T. Devare and the Deputy Director-General is Dr. AVS Ramesh Chandra, a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.