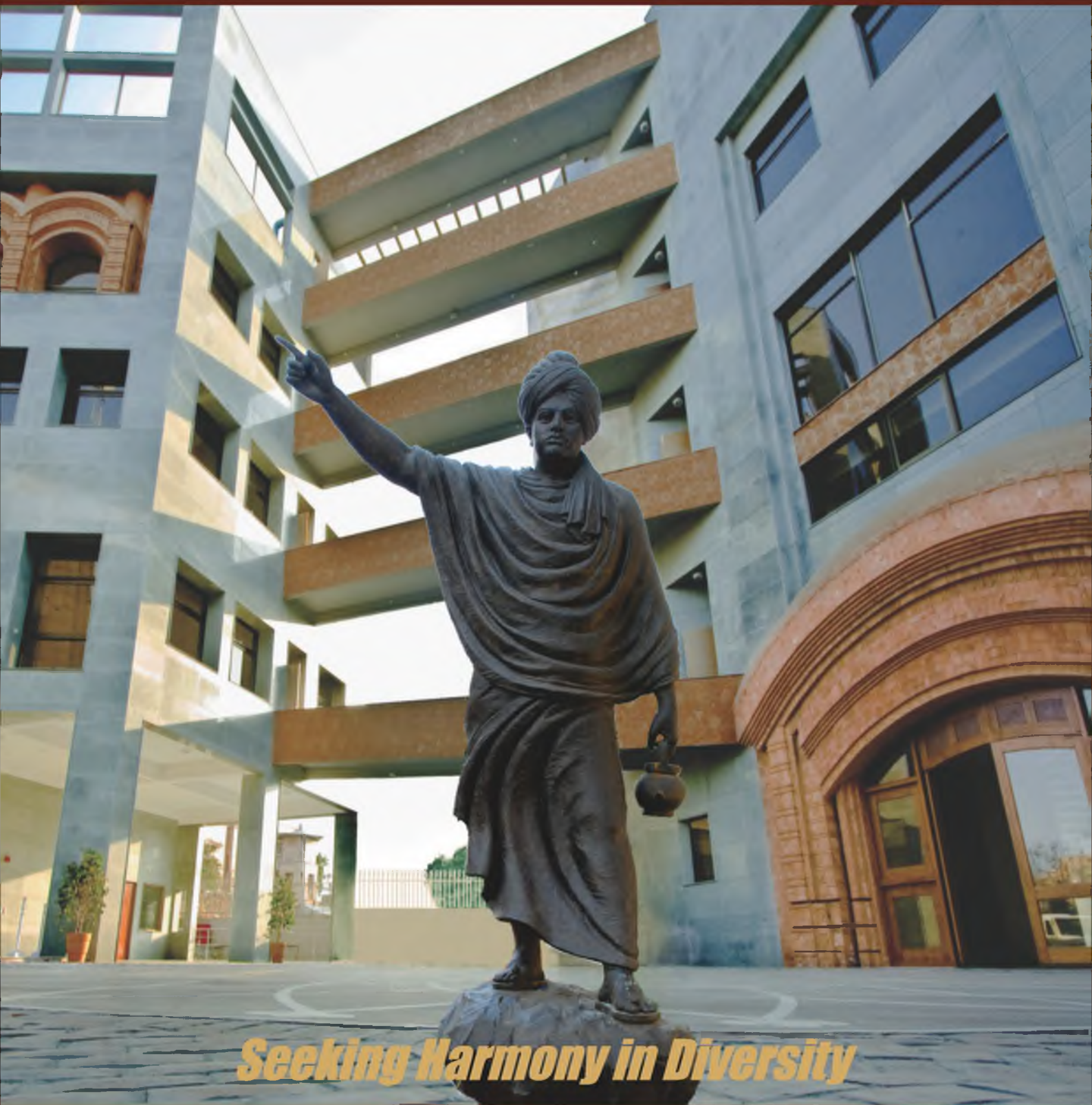




Vivekananda International Foundation



Annual Report 2015 - 2016



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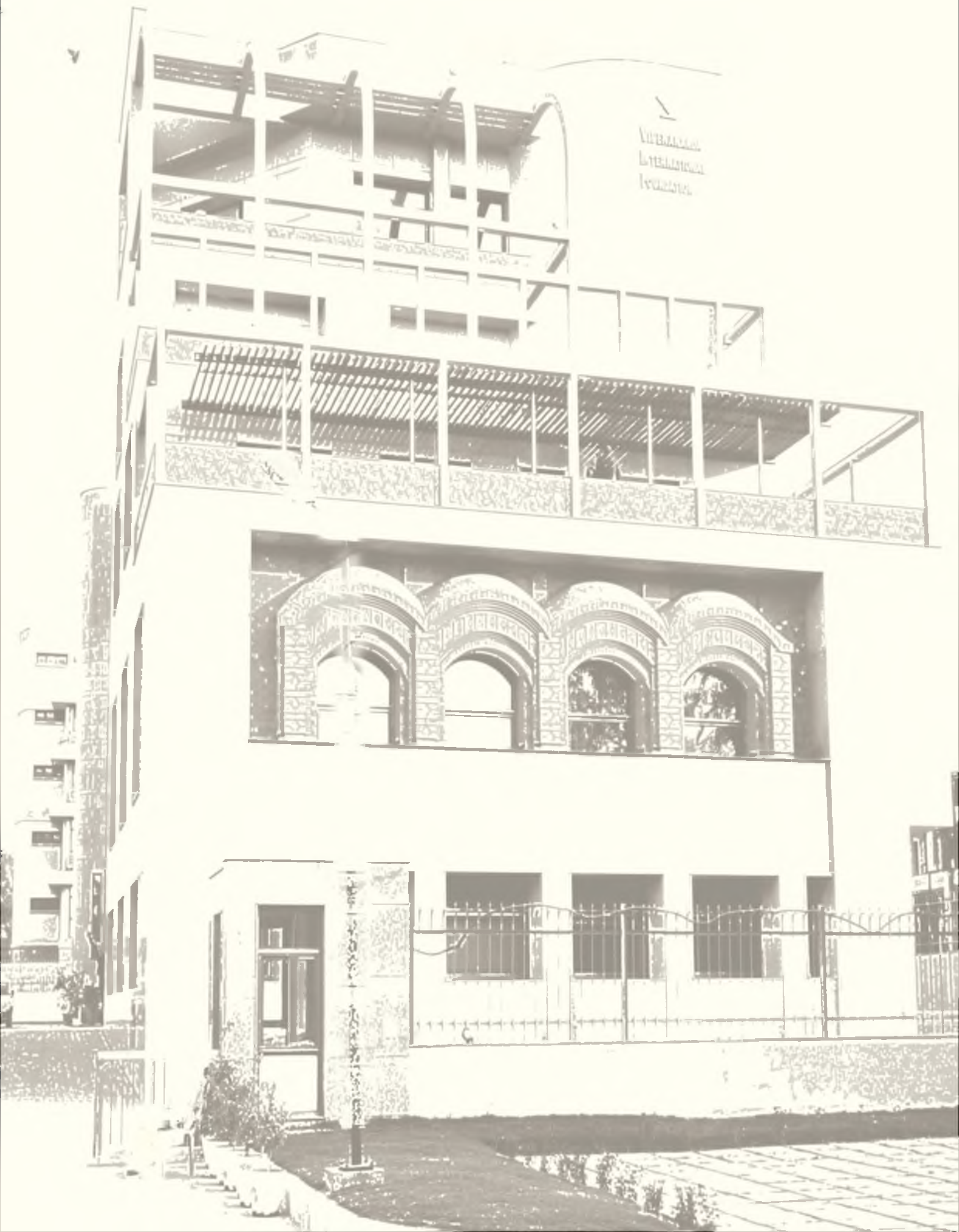
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Vivekananda International Foundation



Annual Report 2015 - 2016





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The World Is Optimistic About India

India - Upbeat on many fronts

After being swept into power with an unprecedented majority, the year 2015 saw PM Modi's Government making progress on economic reforms in a measured manner despite the varied political and bureaucratic obstacles. Despite the general deceleration in the global economies, Indian economy is being viewed in a positive light with a potential for further acceleration as the ongoing reforms gain momentum. PM Modi has also been pro-active in his diplomatic efforts both in the neighbourhood and global level. Addressing challenges to the global commons and finding common grounds with international community on a variety of issues like climate change, terrorism, nuclear security and non-traditional security concerns have been part and parcel of his endeavours at the international level. He has received very favourable response in these issues.



In this year too, like in the years gone by, VIF hosted a range of activities such as seminars, conferences, workshops and round table discussions and based on these provided inputs to the Government and other stakeholders. We also undertook deliberations with our partners in the form of bilateral/trilateral and Quad Plus dialogues. In addition, we had interactions with foreign/Indian delegations and speakers on a vast range of topics. The essence of these efforts were published by us in the form of Books/Monographs/Occasional Papers/ Situational Briefs. As I recount the year, I would also attempt to give you a glimpse of some of the major activities that the VIF undertook in the year under review.

Globally: Less to Cheer about

This year saw radicalism and terrorism spreading its tentacles as the ISIL or Daesh took its fight beyond its home territory and carried out attacks across three more continents as witnessed in France, Turkey, Sinai and San Bernardino. The attacks in Brussels were just a continuation of such a trend. Over the past year, VIF has been studying this menace and as a part of the same had organized a Workshop in November 2015 on 'Public-Private Partnership in Countering Online Radicalization and Recruitment to Violence' in association with Maryland University, Facebook & US Embassy which suggested possible solutions to this global menace.

Throughout the year, a catastrophe of gigantic proportions in terms of the sectarian conflict taking place in Syria played out. To further its understanding of the West Asian imbroglio to include the Syrian conflict, VIF held deliberations with Mr Daniel Pipes, President of the Middle East Forum, who is an expert on the subject.

Like in the past three decades, unilateral actions by China continued to occupy the global



geostrategic landscape. China continued giving substance to its claims in the South China Sea by creating artificial islands around reefs and submerged rocks and complicated matters further by building airstrips and military installations on them. This was done against the backdrop of a massive military modernization programme having been undertaken by the PLA. Needless to say, all these caused apprehensions amongst its neighbours as to what direction a militarily powerful China might take. Along the India-China border the situation has apparently become somewhat quieter as compared to the previous years.

Strengthening our efforts to develop a better understanding of each other's perspective and exploring possibilities for mutual cooperation, VIF continued its long term engagements with Chinese Think Tanks. As part of these endeavours, delegations from VIF and China undertook reciprocal visits throughout the year. VIF delegations which visited China in October and December of this year undertook deliberations with a number of Chinese think tanks such as CICIR, CIIS, CISS, China Foreign Affairs University, CASS, SIIS, Tsinghua University, Beijing University, Fudan University, Sichuan University and International Department of Communist Party of China. These deliberations covered a wide range of topics of mutual interest such as Asia-Pacific Situation and Regional Integration, Political and Security Situation in South Asia and Sino-Indian Relations and World Counter-Terrorism Situation and Global Governance. In addition, as a consequence of the ongoing studies being undertaken at VIF aimed at developing a better understanding of the PLA and the modernization being undertaken by it, a book and a number of monographs and occasional papers are being published on this subject during the year.

However this year, the one Chinese strategic initiative which caught the world's, including our's was the One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative. Though the initiative boasts of a grandiose scale, as of now, it still lacks clarity and definition. During the visit of a VIF delegation to Beijing, the interlocutors at the National Defence Reforms Commission did try to sell the OBOR as a mutually beneficial economic initiative, yet many of its facets remain under-developed and nebulous. The geo-political, security and even economic challenges to the concept do not seem to have been paid much attention to. Hence this year, VIF laid particular stress on the OBOR to study the initiative/strategy in detail. As a consequence, four monographs titled (i) "Understanding China's One Belt One Road", (ii) "China's Land and Maritime Silk Roads: Implications for India", (iii) "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Economic Viability and Strategic Implications for India" and (iv) "China's Maritime Silk Route and its implications for India" providing a detailed and comprehensive analysis of the OBOR were published by us.

Global

In addition, in March 2016, we held our annual VIF-RUSI-CICIR workshop on a related topic titled "Silk Road Trade and Connectivity in Central and South Asia". This workshop threw up interesting analysis, comments and suggestions with respect to the ways that India and China could find some common grounds on connectivity related issues.

Positive developments at the international stage during the year included striking of a global deal on climate change at the Paris COP 21. Equally significant were the fruitful negotiations on Iran's nuclear program which resulted in lifting of sanctions. To understand the significance of the lifting of Iranian sanctions and also develop relations between our nations, a senior level delegation from VIF visited Iran in March 2016 and undertook wide ranging deliberations on varied topics to include the likely beneficial impact for India's 'Connect Central Asia' policy and



connectivity to Afghanistan. The VIF delegation was provided unusually high access, underlining the importance of India in their scheme of things.

India's Foreign Relations are Looking Up

India has increasingly come to occupy a new role in the world as a confident rising power that is willing to claim its place on the global high table and discharge the responsibilities that come along with it. Nowhere was this more visible than in 'Our immediate neighbourhood' wherein India followed an articulated policy of 'Neighbourhood First'.

The earthquake in Nepal in April 2015 saw India launch 'Op Maitri' which established its role of being a responsible provider of emergency relief and long-term reconstruction in the region. Towards the year end, there was a positive breakthrough in the Nepalese constitutional impasse between Nepalese Government and the Madhesi agitators. In fact throughout the year, VIF during its interactions with visiting Nepalese delegations belonging to the government and civil society repeatedly stressed upon the necessity of a peaceful resolution to the ongoing impasse. Hence, we at VIF welcome the efforts at a peaceful settlement and feel that it is a step in the right direction.

During April 2015, VIF's 'South Asia' Cell organized a Round Table Discussion on the way forward for Indo Bangladesh Relations and came up with many suggestions regarding the same. Hence it gives us great happiness that relations with Bangladesh have been on an upswing thanks to India and Bangladesh inking 22 agreements during PM Modi's maiden visit to that nation. Besides a historic boundary agreement, other important agreements are the commencement of two key bus services and extension of a New Line of Credit (LoC) of US \$ 2 billion by India to Bangladesh. It would be fair to say that these agreements have built up overall confidence and trust levels between the two countries.

A similar upswing was seen in India-Sri Lanka relations, thanks to Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Ranil Wickremesinghe's India visit within the first month of assuming office. The two prime ministers' decision to boost India-Sri Lanka bilateral trade is a step in the right direction. Although India looks forward to the long-pending Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) being concluded at the earliest, it appears that in the near future, India and Sri Lanka could only enter into an economic and technology collaboration pact. To further strengthen Indo Sri Lanka relations, a VIF delegation visited Sri Lanka and held detailed interactions with Pathfinder Foundation of Sri Lanka in Dec 2015.

Unfortunately, the Af-Pak region remains an area of great instability and cause for concern. During the year Afghanistan's CEO, H.E Abdullah Abdullah and other important dignitaries visited VIF for interactive sessions on situation in Af-Pak region. The RTDs and workshops which were held cast doubts on the feasibility of the Pak led Afghan peace process. These include recently concluded VIF-Rusi-China and Afghanistan workshop to find answer to Af-Pak region. The US and China seem to have abdicated their responsibility and largely it appears that Pakistan is in the driving seat of the so called peace process. With the prospects of Quadrilateral Coordination Group succeeding not being bright, the time is very much ripe to consider other alternatives. India must continue to play its important part in assisting Afghanistan.

For the first time, India outlined a comprehensive vision for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) focused on security and growth for all the littoral states. The same was backed by the PM's visits to the Indian Ocean island countries including Sri Lanka, Seychelles and Mauritius and his engagement with the Pacific Island countries which was followed by the organisation of the



Pacific Islands Forum Summit. Here at the VIF, we are aware of the immense geostrategic importance of the IOR and the inherent issues of maritime security involved with it. In line with this understanding, a Quad Plus Dialogue was held at Bali in February 2015 between VIF and its partners the Heritage Foundation, Tokyo Foundation, Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), the Habibie Centre and the Albert Rosario Institute to work towards an Indo Pacific region that offers equal opportunities to all. Consequent to this, a joint VIF-Heritage publication titled "The Quad Plus: Towards a Shared Strategic Vision for the Indo-Pacific" was released. Later, as a part of our ongoing Quad Plus Dialogues, in February 2016, VIF hosted its partners The Heritage Foundation, The Tokyo Foundation and Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) in Jaipur for the third such dialogue. During the same, intense deliberations were held on issues such as maritime governance, cyber challenges and current architecture and role of Quad Plus in Indo Pacific.

India also expanded its diplomatic footprints by PM Modi paying a visit to the Central Asian Republics and Saudi Arabia, while the EAM visited Iran. India also successfully hosted the India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi. In the multilateral arena, India made notable contributions to the working of important groupings like the G20, BRICS, Commonwealth and the SCO.

Good Things Happening in India

One of the most significant trends during the year was the establishment of close linkages between our foreign policy and our domestic developmental aspirations. India's global interactions have focused on giving shape to the Government's 'Make in India' program by showcasing the favourable investment climate being created in India. This has resulted in a significant increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows over the past 12 months. The fact that India emerged over the past year as the fastest growing major economy in the world is testimony to this positive narrative. The launch of the India-US Infrastructure Collaboration Platform; the Japanese support for the Chennai Metro Project, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train, the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor and for improvement of road network in our northeastern states; the launch of the UAE-India Infrastructure Investment Fund with a target investment of US\$ 75 billion; and the India-UK Partnership Fund are some of the notable recent bilateral mechanisms that herald fresh waves of foreign investment for development of physical infrastructure in our nation.

Defence manufacturing was a bold new area of emphasis within the 'Make in India' programme and the year saw commitments by US, French and Russian companies to set up manufacturing facilities in India for some of their platforms, in partnership with Indian counterparts. VIF has played a lead role in 'Make in India' program by holding a seminar on DPP in March 2015, publishing a book on Defence Procurement and holding a International Conference on 'Design and Make in India in Electronics' in June 2015. There are some more events on the anvil.

Apart from indigenous manufacturing, India also focused on augmenting defence preparedness through proactive strategic dialogues with its key partners. Towards this end, the India-US Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) was a notable instrument and progress was made in the same by initiating four Pathfinder projects. A discussion on this subject was held with Pentagon DTTI Group led by Keith Webster on 06 Apr 2016 and another one is scheduled on 05th May 2016. VIF and US think tanks have had a close association over the years and, in this year by building upon the same, sincere efforts were put in to further strengthen the strategic dialogue existing between our two nations. With this in mind, a Congressional bi-partisan Delegation (07 members) led by Chairman, Ed Royce visited VIF in March 2015. Also in the same



month, VIF, Atlantic Council, US Embassy and CII held a seminar on “India-US 2015 : Partnering for Peace and Prosperity”. The year was rounded off by a VIF Delegation visiting Washington (US) and holding deliberations with the Heritage Foundation, Atlantic Council, Pentagon, US State Department and White House Officials in November 2015.

Against the global economic pall of gloom, an Indian growth rate prediction of “7.5%” in the coming years is being seen by most as the one bright spot. To further such thinking, VIF held a number of talks and interactions with academia and experts on the subject. Dr Anantha Nageswaran’s talk and VIF’s interaction with the National Committee on Construction and CII are a few of instances of the same.

India’s energy diplomacy was another success story and it saw significant activity in 2015. India and USA launched a US\$ 30 million initiative to scale up integration of renewables into India’s power grid. Agreements with Japan, UK, Canada, Kazakhstan and France also gave impetus to the growth of the renewable energy and the civil nuclear sector in India. Being closely associated with India’s quest for energy security, in May 2015, we held an Energy Security Conference alongwith CII on India’s overall energy requirements through the medium of Thermal Energy. Subsequently in February 2016, a round table discussion on utilisation of renewable energy (solar and wind) was organized. More such deliberations are planned in future as part of an ongoing project.

Key VIF Events of 2015: Enhancing Cultural & Civilisational Links

VIF believes that India has a huge role to play in weaning and leading the world away from conflict towards harmony by the soft power bestowed by its philosophy, thoughts and culture. With this firm belief, the high point of VIF’s activities in 2015 was a flagship Global Conclave on ‘Hindu-Buddhist Initiative on Conflict Avoidance and Environment Consciousness’ which was held from 03-05 September 2015 in association with Tokyo Foundation, Japan and International Buddhist Confederation (IBC). The key note address of this conclave was delivered by PM Narendra Modi while the valedictory address was given by the External Affairs Minister Mrs Sushma Swaraj. The conclave pursued a Samvad i.e. dialogue on the following themes:-

- Theme 1 – Conflict avoidance potential of Indian civilization as an alternative to a world caught in conflict resolution model.
- Theme 2 – Environmental consciousness rooted in Indian civilization as an alternative paradigm for environmental issues.

Through this conclave it was stressed that the way to promote dialogue is to adopt the philosophic road map which is open to the other persons view point and shun the ideological approach which is based on inerrancy of texts and shuts out dialogue. A publication titled “Hindu-Buddhist Initiative on Conflict Avoidance and Environment Consciousness” is in progress and should be ready by end 2016.

The second leg of such Hindu Buddhist conclave was held in Tokyo in January 2016 titled “Shared Values and Democracy in Asia”. VIF, The Tokyo Foundation, Japan Foundation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan and Nikkei participated in this conclave. This will now become an ongoing feature with regular frequency in the Indo-Pacific belt.

Another Flagship area of VIF has been the field of India’s ‘Historical and Civilisational Studies’. As a part of our ongoing efforts in this field, we held a seminar on Indian Civilization (2000-500 B.C.) in collaboration with ASI in June 2015. VIF has decided to publish 11 volumes on India’s civilisational history titled “Ancient History of India”. As of now five volumes on the same have been published and work on volumes 6, 7 and 8 is in progress and will be published this year.



Enhancing Our Global Footprints

In a short span of six years since inception, VIF has developed an international standing as a “Go To Think Tank”. We already have global relationships with 39 think tanks of repute and are in the process of establishing relations with many more think tanks. We believe that, as our relations grow, we can work with the best in the field and contribute towards the betterment of our societies in specific and the world at large.

Looking Forward to 2016

For us here at the VIF, 2015 was an extremely satisfying year as we achieved the goals that we set for ourselves and could also in the process make meaningful contributions by acting as a bridge between the civil society and the state. At the end of it all, it was heartening for us to see that our efforts have been recognized by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) instituted by the University of Pennsylvania who in their 2015 Global Go to Think Tank Index Report have ranked VIF 137th in the Top Think Tanks Worldwide (Non US) list. This should only mark the beginning and we must aspire to gain further recognition.

In 2016, we are striving at developing certain areas of expertise and hence are looking at working on the following themes:-

- Developing a flagship “Act East” dialogue on national and international level which looks at enhancing India’s connectivity. This will be done in two halves with guests from neighbouring countries participating.
- Focusing on maintaining the centrality of India in IOR and maritime security.
- Expanding our capabilities in terms of research and expertise to cover Japan, CAR, West Asia, Iran and Central Asia.
- Expanding our existing dialogues like Quad Plus to include think tanks from other interested countries. One more in the form of a trilateral which is in the offing is a dialogue between VIF- Hudson Institute (US) and Japan Institute for National Fundamentals JINF (Tokyo).
- Furthering India’s quest for Renewable Energy by having a seminar on national and regional transmission grids to include existing cooperative frameworks and working towards developing similar dialogues with states in the future.
- Holding further global samvads on ‘Hindu-Buddhist Initiative on Conflict Avoidance and Environment Consciousness’ with other countries such as Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Mongolia.

From this year we would also commence the “Annual Vivekananda Memorial Lecture” as a flagship programme. First such lecture titled “Swami Vivekananda - The Maker of Modern India” is slated to be held in October 2016 by the VIF in partnership with ASSOCHAM.

Signing Off

During the year the emphasis continued on having focused discussions and workshops among the practitioners, experts and research scholars rather than holding long conferences though where necessary, these were also resorted to. We were able to provide very useful inputs to the relevant ministries and departments of the government as also to the other opinion makers. These contributions have been deeply appreciated and surely would have influenced the Governmental approach on many an issues.

I am grateful to Vice Admiral KK Nayyar, PVSM, AVSM Chairman and other members of the Trust,



Members of Advisory Board and Executive Council, who with their practical suggestions and active participation contributed towards achieving the goals and objectives of the VIF. I wish to thank Sh. S Gurumurthy who was the guiding light for Hindu Buddhist Conference and without whose support and contribution, conduct of such a strategically important international conference would have been almost impossible. I also need to put on record his continued inspiration and support to VIF's endeavours and activities. Needless to say that the VIF Senior faculty members like Mr CD Sahay, Lt Gen Ravi Sawhney, Ambassador TCA Rangachari, Ambassador PP Shukla and quite a few more have continued to be pillars of strength. They have been very ably supported by our next rung of Senior Fellows, research and administrative staff, for the success of the VIF in its endeavours. No words of gratitude for our Founding Director Mr AK Doval are enough, who provided us such a fine foundation.

As I sign off, I can't help but feel a great sense of optimism towards India being a beacon of hope for the global community in the coming year. While India's credentials as a growing economy have been recognized by most, I am sanguine that in the coming year India will continue to be recognized as a responsible rising power that discharges its share of responsibilities willingly. Further, while doing so it would carve for itself a place on the global stage that it rightfully deserves. We here at the VIF are confident and hopeful that we would be able to meaningfully contribute towards India fulfilling its role admirably.

(General NC Vij)

PVSM, UYSM, AVSM

Director VIF

Former Chief of the Army Staff

&

Founder Vice Chairman, NDMA

New Delhi

12 April 2016



VIF is a non- partisan independent think tank focusing on study of contemporary India: its international relations, security problems, governance and civilisational issues from an Indian perspective. Monitoring the emerging trends, it aims at engaging experts, both within and outside the Foundation, to evolve informed policy options and working out alternative strategies. Through public discourse and interactions, it strives to create greater awareness among the people and partner with the civil society to make people vital stakeholders in national affairs. Some of India's leading experts in the field of security, diplomacy, governance and economy have got together under the aegis of the Foundation to generate ideas and stimulate action that could lead to India's all round empowerment and its ability to contribute to regional and global security and stability. Independently funded, VIF is not aligned to any political party, religious group or business house. Dedicated to India's long term strategic, developmental and civilisational interests, it aims to ideate on fresh ideas and channelize them to those responsible for managing affairs of the nation on the one hand and people at large on the other. VIF works under the guidance of a Trust with eminent people in public life as its Trustees. It has an Advisory Board and an Executive Council comprising of distinguished persons from diverse fields with high professional accomplishments and long experience. The Director is the Chief Executive of the Foundation and is nominated by the Trust.

Objectives

- Analyse India's external and internal security environment to offer inputs to shape policies and response strategies.
- Offer policy alternatives to contain internal conflicts caused by India's socio-economic disparities and political rivalries.
- Ideate on economic policies and models that would facilitate the well being and prosperity of one and all.
- Interact with civil society and offer institutional support for exchange of ideas among conflicting groups.
- Deliberate on public policies, the working of national institutions and the democratic bodies and suggest measures for their revival and rejuvenation.
- Evolve benchmarks for good governance and efficiency in public institutions.
- Reassess, formulate and develop India's civilisational and cultural imperatives in an increasingly globalised world.
- Promote initiatives that further the cause of peace and global harmony.



List of Organisations having Cooperatation / Exchanges with the VIF

USA

The Atlantic Council, Washington DC
Heritage Foundation, Washington DC
US India Security Council Inc, Washington DC
The Centre for Near East & South Asia, National Defence University, Washington DC
START, University of Maryland
Hudson Institute, Washington DC
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Facebook, California

China

China Institute of International Strategic Studies, Beijing,
China Institute of International Studies, Beijing
Centre for South Asian Studies, Peking University, Beijing
The Research Institution of Indian Ocean Economies, Yunnan University of Finance and Economics, Kunming
National Institute of Strategic Studies, China Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing
Sichuan University, Chengdu
Silk Road Think Tank Network (SILKS, Development Research Council), Beijing

Japan

Japan Institute for National Fundamentals, Tokyo
The Japan Institute of International Affairs, Tokyo
Tokyo Foundation, Tokyo
Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Tokyo

UK

Royal United Services Institute, London

Canada

Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, Vancouver, BC

Saudi Arabia

The Middle East Centre for Strategic and Legal Studies, Jeddah

Russia

Gorchakov Fund, Moscow
Russian International Affairs Council, Moscow

**Israel**

The Jerusalem Centre for Public Affairs, Jerusalem
Galilee Institute, Tel Aviv

Iran

The Institute for Political & International Studies, Centre for International Research & Education (CIRE), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iran

Sweden

Utrikespolitiska Institutet, Stockholm

Germany

The Institute of Transnational Studies, Munich

Australia

Australian Strategic Policy Institute, Canberra

Indonesia

Habibie Centre, Bali

Philippines

Yuchengco Centre, De La Salle University, Manila
Albert Del Rosario Institute for Strategic & International Studies, Manila

Srilanka

Pathfinder Foundation, Colombo

Vietnam

The Institute for Foreign Policy and Strategic Studies (Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam) Hanoi

Bangladesh

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute, Dhaka

Taiwan

Prospects Foundation, Taipei

UAE

The Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies & Research, Abu Dhabi

Italy

University of Turin

Indian Universities

Gorakhpur University
Tumkur University

Glimpses





Glimpses



Glimpses





If 2014 saw VIF's emergence as a leading intellectual hub in the national capital, in 2015-16, the organization continued to remain the cynosure of all eyes, from think tanks to academia and strategists to students of India's contemporary and long term interests, from across the country and the world. The discussions, seminars, talks and round tables organized by the VIF on issues of national, regional and global importance witnessed wide participation by leading thinkers, strategic analysts, serving and retired diplomats and bureaucrats, scholars of international acclaim, media persons and representatives of internationally acclaimed think tanks. The VIF faculty too participated in major national and international conferences both in India and abroad and interacted with their counterparts on a wide range of key security, strategic, international and socio-economic issues. Leading national and international experts and think tanks sought to understand from the VIF the implications of contemporary developments for India, its neighbourhood and the global geopolitical environment. The continued relationship with leading think tanks & Institutions from the world over during the year is ample proof of this growing recognition of VIF as the nation's leading think tank. The books and research papers published by VIF, the contents on its website were widely read and appreciated by the strategic community with several eminent persons contributing their mite to them.

In the year gone by, VIF succeeded to a great extent in achieving its objective of presenting to national and international policy makers and influencers views on critical security, strategic and economic issues in consonance with India's national interests. We are looking ahead to carry forward our mission as India surges ahead to claim its rightful place under the sun.





International Relations & Diplomacy

Indo-Israeli Perspective on Regional and Global Security: 20 January 2015

On 20 January 2015, VIF in collaboration with the Jerusalem Centre for Public Affairs (JCPA), Israel held a joint seminar titled 'Indo-Israeli Perspectives on Regional and Global Security.' The conference highlighted perspectives of the two countries across a wide spectrum of issues, including situation in the Af-Pak region and West Asia, threats of global terrorism, and security and defence cooperation between India and Israel. The Israeli delegation comprised an impressive array of security experts Amb Dore Gold, President JCPA, Col. (Dr.) Jacques Neriah, Foreign Policy Advisor to former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Shimon Shapira, former Military Attaché to Israel's current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Amb Alan Baker, Director Institute for Contemporary Affairs, JCPA, and representatives from Embassy of Israel in India. With General NC Vij, Director VIF presiding over the event, formal presentations were made among others by C.D. Sahay, Lt Gen. Ravi Sawhney, Lt. Gen. Ata Hasnain, Lt. Gen. JP Singh & Amb. Sanjay Singh. Besides, Shekhar Dutt, former Governor of Chhattisgarh, Amb Kanwal Sibal, former Foreign Secretary of India, Amb Rajiv Sikri, Amb PP Shukla and Amb Arundhati Ghosh were among other prominent attendees who made important contributions and interventions during the conference. The seminar was essentially aimed at finding ways to broaden the scope for strategic cooperation between India and Israel, two countries sharing common values and common threats, each located in unstable regions. At the end of seminar, the two institutions signed and exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), expressing intent to carry out joint studies to further bilateral cooperation.



Gen N C Vij & Amb Dore Gold



Israeli Delegation



L to R : Amb Kanwal Sibal, Gen N C Vij, Amb Dore Gold



The Quad Plus Dialogue: 1-3 February 2015

A VIF team led by its Director, General N. C. Vij, and comprising Lt General Ravi Sawhney and Ambassador Sanjay Singh as members, participated in the Quad-Plus dialogue held at Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia from February 1 to 3, 2015. Other participants were from the Heritage Foundation, USA, Tokyo Foundation, Japan, Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), Australia, The Habibie Centre, Indonesia and the Albert Rosario Institute, Philippines. The discussion focused on "Regional Challenges to peace and Interstate Security", "Defence Cooperation: Operations and Industry" and "Counter Terrorism/Extremism Cooperation". At the conference, there was consensus that the Quad-Plus was an effective platform to discuss issues pertaining to the Indian Ocean and Asia-Pacific regions and the Indo-Pacific. There was agreement that Quad Plus countries should promote an open, inclusive, rule based regional architecture, which safeguards peace and stability and promotes prosperity. It was essential to cooperate to strengthen democratic and like-minded countries, which would help engendering checks and balances.



Quad Plus Dialogue in Bali



Director VIF, Gen N C Vij delivering his remarks at Quad Plus Dialogue in Bali

Indo-US Relations-The Way Forward: 5 February 2015

VIF and the Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based think tank, jointly organised a seminar 'India-US Relations: the Way Forward' on 5 February 2015 at VIF. The seminar, third in a series of ongoing interactions between the two institutions, sought to explore potential for evolving a broader framework of cooperation between India and the United States across the entire bilateral and regional spectrum. The three main themes of the conference were challenges and opportunities in defence



Indo-US Relations-The Way Forward



cooperation, developments in Afghanistan and counter-terrorism cooperation, East Asian security architecture and regional power play. The Heritage Foundation was represented by three eminent experts James Carafano, its Vice President, Walter Lohman, Director Asia Studies, and Lisa Curtis, Senior Fellow. Participants from the VIF, led by General NC Vij, former Chief of the Indian Army and present Director, included, among others, Lt Gen RK Sawhney, Amb Kanwal Sibal, Amb Satish Chandra, Amb Rajiv Sikri, CD Sahay and Dr. VK Saraswat. Amb Richard Verma, the then newly appointed US Ambassador to India, delivered the Keynote address. Describing US President Barrack Obama's recently concluded visit to India as 'transformative', the Ambassador said the leaders of the two countries, through a series of official as well as personal engagements in recent months, have not only opened up new possibilities in bilateral cooperation but also set forth a grand vision for partnership that can lead the world to greater peace, prosperity and security.



L to R : Gen N C Vij, Amb Richard Verma,
Mr James Carafano

India-Europe Relations: 16 February 2015

VIF, in collaboration with the Institute for Transnational Studies (ITS), Germany, held a seminar titled 'Contemporary India-Europe Relations: Prospects and Issues' on 16 February 2015. Participants in the conference discussed issues of mutual strategic interests. While the aim of the seminar was to develop a greater understanding of the common challenges faced by Europe and India, an effort was also made during the seminar to explore areas of potential cooperation between the two entities, especially in areas of energy, trade, security and counter-terrorism. Dr Klaus Lange, leader of the European delegation, said Europe and India need to join hands to ward off international marginalization. Dr. Klaus Lange was accompanied by two other experts - Come Carpentier De Gourdon, Convener Editorial Advisory Board, World Affairs and Mr. Cesare Onestini, Minister and Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to India.



Gen N C Vij & Dr Klaus Lange



L to R : Lt Gen Sawhney, Amb Rajagopalan,
Dr Klaus Lange & Mr Onestini



Visit by a US Congressional Delegation: 10 March 2015

A five-member bipartisan US Congressional delegation, led by Ed Royce, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, visited the VIF on 10 March 2015 for an interaction with faculty members and other strategic experts on the dynamics of evolving Indo-US partnership, driven largely by the growing needs of containing terrorist threats in the region, US rebalancing in Asia, and India's quest for self-reliance in defence production, among others. In his opening remarks, Chairman Ed Royce, a key facilitator of the 2006 US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement and former co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, shared his perspective both on the geo-political shifts currently sweeping the region and the investment opportunities available for American businessmen in India. He remarked that for India to develop a credible and effective deterrence against its adversaries it is imperative to develop first a strong and vibrant economy. Lauding India's remarkable contributions towards stability in Afghanistan, anti-piracy and others, the Senator said India has the capacity to keep peace in the region and beyond. Accompanying the delegation, Ms Nita Lowey, a Ranking Member of the House Appropriation Committee, also shed light on the imperatives of stronger strategic partnership between India and the US, two countries sharing similar traits of DNA and similar sets of challenges. She said there is broad recognition that an India that is strong at home can take on challenges more confidently and more strongly outside the borders. She reaffirmed the view that the growing level of cooperation between US and India is not only mutually beneficial but is also in the interest of the region.



Gen N C Vij & Mr Ed Royce, US Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee



Dr V K Saraswat, Member NITI Ayog & Dean Centre for Scientific & Technological Studies, VIF making his presentation



Interaction with US Congressional Delegation



Conference on India-US 2015-Partnering for Peace and Prosperity: 16-17 March 2015

The Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) in collaboration with the Atlantic Council, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and U.S Embassy in New Delhi organised a two-day international conference titled, “India-US 2015: Partnering for Peace and Prosperity” on March 16-17, 2015. The conference brought together a number of distinguished speakers who deliberated on the emerging contours of the Indo-US bilateral relations. Mr. Chandrajeet Banerjee, Director General, CII, appreciated the significant role played by Foreign Secretary Dr S. Jaishankar in guiding the Indian industry to acquire a global outlook in order to compete on an equal footing with global companies. He further mentioned that as the two countries built a robust economic partnership, they needed to move beyond being transactional and should look for ways to ramp up mutual investments in their respective economies, encourage Joint Ventures in third countries through crafting joint identities.

Governor Jon M Huntsman, Jr., Chairman, Atlantic Council in his opening remarks warmly reflected on his association with India and India-American community in USA. He remarked that a robust people to people partnership has been crucial in transforming relations between the two countries. In his special remarks at the inaugural function, Foreign Secretary, Dr. S Jaishankar cautioned about the dangers emanating from the past that might affect future opportunities. Dr Arvind Gupta, Deputy National Security Advisor delivered the keynote address at the conference. In his address, Dr Gupta listed some of the visible trends in the foreign policy of the current government. The conference comprised five main sessions



Deputy NSA, Dr Arvind Gupta speaking at the Conference on India-US 2015-Partnering for Peace and Prosperity



Railway Minister Mr. Suresh Prabhu speaking at the Conference



Power Minister Mr Piyush Goyal speaking at the Conference on India-US 2015-Partnering for Peace and Prosperity



spread over two days and covered key areas like Emerging Regional Security Order in East Asia, Security situation in the Af-Pak region, Indo-U.S. trade and economic relations, India-U.S. Middle East strategy and the security of global commons. It was agreed that there has been an exponential increase in US-India trade in recent years but to further increase trade and take it across the proposed US \$ 500 billion mark, much more needs to be done by both countries. India-US Middle East strategy was the theme of the fourth session. This is a region of great importance to both India and the United States on account of its vast oil reserves. For India, the Gulf provides for 60 percent of India's energy security and large numbers of Indians live in the gulf region. India is therefore cooperating with Gulf countries on a range of issues such as counter-terrorism, curtailing terror financing activities, keeping tabs on money laundering etc.

Interaction with Amb Mark Sofer, Deputy Director General, Asia & Pacific Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel: 24 March 2015

On 24 March 2015, Ambassador Mark Sofer, Deputy Director General for Asia & Pacific Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel, accompanied by Ambassador of Israel to India Daniel Carmon, visited the VIF for a talk on Israel's approach to India, followed by an interactive session. While the talk was intended primarily to focus on the bilateral issues, the ensuing interaction brought up a number of regional and global issues for substantive discussions. At the outset, General NC Vij, Director, VIF, said India attaches great importance to its relationship with Israel, evident from the flurry of events, both on diplomatic and security fronts, especially since the new government has taken over in New Delhi. Adding weight to General Vij's views, Mark Sofer, the Ambassador to India from 2007 to 2011, said what binds India and Israel together is the commonality of interests and values cherished globally. Transcending from a negative phase that marked the bilateral relationship prior to 1992, India and Israel are fast on track to achieving what is described as a normal state to state relationship. The ambassador spoke candidly on the entire threat spectrum facing the Middle East and cleared Israel's position on many issues.



Amb Mark Sofer



Interaction on India-Israel relations



Interaction with ACM Sir Stuart Peach, VCDS (UK): 21 April 2015

The Vivekananda International Foundation hosted Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach KCB CBE ADC, UK's Vice Chief of the Defence Staff on April 21st, 2015 for an interaction on issues relating to India's security and defence. With General NC Vij, Director, VIF, presiding over the session, a wide galaxy of security experts, Amb Kanwal Sibal, former Foreign Secretary, Lt Gen RK Sawhney, former DGMI, and Vice Admiral Anup Singh, former C-in-C, Eastern Naval Command, among others, interacted on the broader dimensions of India's strategic environment, increasingly defined and influenced by factors such as the US pulling out of Afghanistan and leaving behind a region in flux, China making deep inroads into South Asia and the increasing vulnerabilities to the shipping lanes in the Indian Ocean both on account of traditional and non-traditional threats. Presentations by the above experts illustrated both the prevailing security environment in the adjoining region as also the perceptible changes in India's foreign policy especially since the change in government last year. As part of the interaction, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach shared a historical perspective on the process of integrating the three wings of the UK armed forces under a joint command, a structure India has begun to seriously explore, especially keeping in view the evolving nature of modern warfare.



Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach,
UK's Vice Chief of the Defence Staff



VIF Delegation interacting with
ACM Sir Stuart Peach

Interaction with Mr. Stewart Beck: 25 May 2015

Mr. Stewart Beck, former High Commissioner of Canada to India and currently President of the Vancouver based Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada, visited the VIF on 25 May 2015 for a round table discussion on the future course of India-Canada relations. In his welcome remarks, Director VIF, Gen. NC Vij, mentioned that while bilateral business and commercial linkages are the key drivers of the wide ranging India-Canada partnership, other important areas for expanding bilateral cooperation are civil nuclear energy, renewable energy, education and



Mr Stewart Beck



skills development, agriculture, security, science, technology, innovation and space, regional and global issues. The discussion centered around three main themes: nuclear energy co-operation; Canada-India co-operation on Afghanistan, and developing a Track-II mechanism to further strengthen Indo-Canadian bilateral relations to develop upon the positives that have emerged from the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Canada in April 2015. There was consensus around the table that while India and Canada have a longstanding bilateral relationship based on shared democratic values, pluralistic societies and strong people-to-people contacts, a lot more can be done to further strengthen relations between India and Canada.



Interaction on India-Canada Relations

Interaction with French Diplomats on the UN Conference on Climate Change: 27 July 2015

Nicolas Hulot, Special Envoy of the French President on the Protection of the Planet, accompanied by Laurence Tubiana, France's Special Representative on Climate Change, visited the VIF on July 27th 2015 for an interaction on issues that are likely to dominate the agenda of the 21st session of the Conference of Parties (COP21), a UN sponsored international conference on climate change taking place in France from November 30 to December 11, 2015. The Indian viewpoints on the subject were put across by four prominent speakers, namely, Prabhat Shukla, Satish Chandra, Ajai Malhotra – all former ambassadors, and Maj General Vinod Saigal. General NC Vij, Director VIF, chaired the session, while Amb Prabhat Shukla, moderated the discussions. Nicholas Hulot, speaking for his government, pinned his hopes on the collective vision and collective intelligence of the participating countries. Stressing the need for a legally binding agreement on climate change, Ms Laurence Tubiana, France's Special Representative for COP21, said that progressing economies need to invest more on technologies and research that drive them to low carbon economies.



L to R : Mr Nicolas Hulot, Special Envoy of the French President, Mr Francois Richier, Amb of France to India & Ms Laurence Tubiana, France's Special Representative on Climate Change



Interaction with French Diplomats on UN Conference on Climate Change



Round Table Discussion on India-Russia Relations: 27 August 2015

The VIF hosted a focused Round Table discussion on India- Russia Relations: the way Forward on August 27, 2015 to look at ways to reenergize India's relations with Russia at a time when Russia is isolated internationally and is being drawn increasingly into China's fold. The need for such a discussion was felt as Indo-Russian relations have traditionally been marked by genuine warmth and trust resulting in close economic and security cooperation between the two countries since India's independence. The Round Table discussion comprised five main themes, viz.

1. Russia's geopolitical importance for India. The Eurasia factor.
2. Russia and China: implications for India
3. Russia and India's energy security
4. The future of India-Russia Defence Cooperation
5. Scope for Economic Engagement

The discussion was moderated by Ambassador Kanwal Sibal while VIF Director, Gen NC Vij, made both the opening as well as closing remarks. Precise presentations on each of the themes were made by Ambassadors Prabhat Shukla, Ajai Malhotra and TCA Rangachari, Lt. Gen. JP Singh, AVM Manmohan Bahadur, Dr. Sanjaya Baru, Mr. Nandan Unnikrishnan, Mr. Samar Shakil and Mr. Deepak Loomba. There was consensus that India needs to factor in geopolitical developments in Eurasia into its overall foreign policy calculus and devise ways to forge closer strategic ties with an internationally isolated Russia. The weakening of Russia's international role is against India's strategic interests. For India, a strong relationship with Russia is necessary to balance its foreign policy priorities and for its own strategic autonomy. The strengthening Russia-China relationship, including the increased flow of Russian defence supplies to China, in response to western pressures on Russia is also contrary to our interests requiring a frank dialogue with Russia.



Amb Ajai Malhotra & Dr Sanjaya Baru



RTD on India-Russia Relations



Lt Gen J P Singh making a point during the RTD on India-Russia Relations



Third India-Africa Forum Summit-A Curtain Raiser: 12 October 2015

A Round-Table discussion on the forthcoming 'India-Africa Forum Summit' scheduled in New Delhi from 26-29 October 2015 was held at the VIF on 12 Oct 2015. The gathering was briefed by a panel of 3 experts on Africa, Ambassador R. Rajagopalan, Ambassador H.H.S. Viswanathan and Ambassador V.B. Soni. The salient points that were made / emerged were:

- Africa's emergence has resulted in concerted efforts by major nations to interact with the continent as a whole - through AU and also sub-regionally and bilaterally. Those holding 'Forum Summits' with Africa are the US, China, Japan, Turkey and India.
- India's engagement with Africa up till now has been episodic. While heightened activities are witnessed around India-Africa Forum Summits, these are usually followed by long periods of lull. The interregnum needs to be carefully monitored and not allowed to lag by default.
- India's perceived 'benign neglect' of the region long has been rued by many African countries. Diplomatic engagements, therefore, need to be undertaken more frequently, especially at the higher levels, in order to set the perception right.
- A 'top-down' approach when it comes to diplomatic exchanges is preferred by many African leaders. The 'bottom-up' approach pursued by India often tends to run out of steam or get bogged down due to obvious tangles. There have been rather minimal contacts at the highest levels between India and Africa. Many African leaders have been frustrated with our inability to host them 'more frequently'.



Amb H H S Viswanathan



Amb V B Soni



Curtain Raiser : 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit



VIF Delegation in Washington DC: 3-6 November 2015

A delegation from the VIF comprising Director, General NC Vij, Lt. Gen. Ravi Sawhney, Ambassador Kanwal Sibal and Dr. Harinder Sekhon visited Washington DC from November 3 to November 6, 2015. The VIF team was invited by the Atlantic Council and the Heritage Foundation for return conferences. VIF has MoUs with both the organizations and ongoing collaborations on US-India bilateral relations and the Quad plus Dialogue respectively. Indian Ambassador, Mr. Arun Kumar Singh hosted a dinner for the VIF team to which leading members of the strategic community in Washington DC were also invited for an interaction with the visiting delegation. At the US Capitol, the VIF team had exclusive meetings with Senator John Cornyn, who is the co-Chair of the Senate India Caucus, along with Senator Mark Warner; Congressman Ed Royce, Chairman of the United States House Committee on Foreign Affairs; and Congressman George Holding, Representative for North Carolina's 13th Congressional District who serves on the House Committee on Ways and Means.

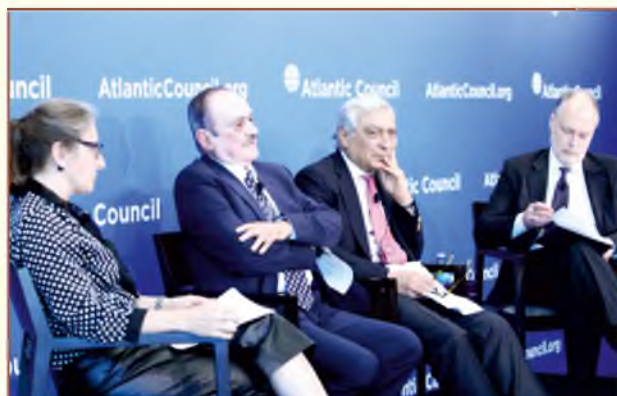
At US State Department, the VIF team met with Ms. Nisha Biswal, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia and her team of senior officers. It was a very frank and informal discussion that covered various bilateral and regional issues including areas where Indian and US interests and views converge and matters where the two countries disagree. It was very much the same when the visitors from New Delhi interacted with Dr. Peter Lavoy, Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for Asian and Pacific Affairs and his senior staff at the US National Security Council office at the White House in Washington. At the US State Department and at the Pentagon, the VIF delegation had a meeting with Mr. Keith Webster, Director, Under Secretary of



VIF Delegation led by Director VIF, Gen N C Vij interacting with Chairman Ed Royce



VIF Delegation with Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Ms Nisha Biswal



Interaction with Atlantic Council



Defense (USD) for International Cooperation, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (AT&L) and his team of officers that forms the India Rapid Reaction Cell at the Pentagon that focuses on the DTTI initiative of Secretary Ashton Carter. Another evening reception was hosted in honour of the visitors at the Metropolitan Club in Washington DC to meet with the Indian diaspora. On November 4, the Atlantic Council's South Asia Center hosted a discussion on US-India bilateral relations which aimed at addressing the ways in which the US-India relationship can be sustained, and ultimately advanced to new levels. The event featured a panel each on "Regional Security Challenges in Asia," and "Prospects for US-India Defense and Economic Relations."



VIF Delegation in Washington DC

On November 5, the Heritage Foundation hosted the VIF delegation for a discussion on security challenges in East Asia and the theme was "The Quad: an Idea Whose Time has Come." The panelists discussed how the Quad could cooperate in the future on a host of issues to include ensuring freedom of the seas, peaceful resolution of territorial claims, fighting terrorism, improving cyber security, and promoting free trade and commerce.

Interaction with Dr. Martin Ney, Ambassador of Germany to India: 19 November 2015

On 19 November 2015, Dr. Martin Ney, Ambassador of Germany to India, held an interaction with members of the VIF faculty on a broad range of issues, including, among others, the shifting strands in the present world order; the challenge of ISIS-borne terrorism across Europe, Russia's pro-active foreign policy, especially its intensifying involvement in the Syrian conflict, and the issues of mutual strategic interests between Germany and India. Dr. Ney began his talk with an insightful analysis of the underlying dynamics in the present bilateral relationship between Germany and India, underscored by a growing level of mutual trust between the present leadership in both the countries, increasing volumes of bilateral trade, and an almost 20 percent increase in the number of Indian students going to Germany for higher studies. He further said, while Germany and India stand for common values, there are imminent threats to these values.



Ambassador of Germany to India Dr Martin Ney



Interaction with Goran Persson: 11 December 2015

On 11 Dec 2015, VIF hosted ex-Prime Minister of Sweden Mr. Goran Persson for an interaction on regional economic prospects, climate change, terrorism and Europe's relations with Russia, among other issues. Mr. Goran Persson, an expert across a range of subjects including public affairs, finance, climate change, and international relations, among others, was quite forthcoming on all the issues he discussed with the members of the VIF faculty. He shared his views on the prospects of regional economic growth, especially India's. Among other things discussed by Mr. Persson in his presentation were the effects of aging population on economies around the world, new political agendas which are being set across the South Asian region as part of a debate on the effects of aging on economic growth, the crisis facing the European Union, especially on counts of Euro and the refugee problem, the Syrian crisis and climate change. Later, members of VIF had a lively interaction with the former Swedish Prime Minister on all the issues raised by him through the course of his presentation.



Director VIF, Gen N C Vij & Former Prime Minister of Sweden Mr Goran Persson



VIF Delegation at the interaction with Mr Goran Persson

Interaction with an Australian Delegation: 18 December 2015

Leading a six-member delegation, Mr. Ric Wells, a senior career diplomat with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia, visited the VIF on 18 Dec 2015 for an interaction with members of the VIF faculty. Discussions were held across a range of subjects including, the implications of the rise of regional countries, more specifically China and India among a host of others, the relative decline of the US, and the concomitant shift in the global power balance, among others. Mr. Ric Wells said that China needs to be more adaptive to international norms, an obvious reference to China's muscle-flexing attitude in the border disputes with its neighbours. The interaction was held in a frank and candid atmosphere. General NC Vij, Director, VIF, moderated the discussions, while Admiral KK Nayyar, Lt Gen Ravi Sawhney, Mr. CD Sahay, and Amb Tariq Karim, among others, formed the VIF panel of experts



Mr Ric Wells



that engaged the Australian delegation. What makes the Indian case even more potent is that the country is driven by a dynamic leadership and is heading for an inbound growth, part of the economy that remains insulated from external upheavals. It was also highlighted during the interaction that a mating of Japanese technologies and capital investments with Indian production facilities, especially the easy availability of raw materials, a skilled, youthful and affordable work force, ease of doing business etc. is a win-win situation for both, a higher returns on the Japanese capital investments and a more prosperous India capable of taking on greater security responsibilities in the region.



Australian Delegation at the VIF

Interaction with a visiting Japanese Economic and Cultural Exchanges Delegation: 1 February 2016

Members of the VIF faculty on 01 February 2016 held a wide ranging interaction with a 15-member visiting delegation from Japan, led by Mr. Kenichi Watanabe, Chairman of FEC Japan India and Cultural Economic Exchange Committee and comprising of a few eminent industrialists and businessmen leaders. Dr. Arvind Virmani, a former Chief Advisor (Dev. Policy) to the Indian Planning Commission and subsequently Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India during the UPA's regime, Mr. Vikas Khitha, from L&T Group's Financial Services, Adm KK Nayyar, and Lt Gen Ravi Sawhney, among others, formed the panel that interacted with the visiting Japanese delegation. The interaction kicked off with General NC Vij, formerly COAS and presently the Director, VIF, underlining the need for further cementing of ties between Japan and India, two Asian democracies sharing common national ethos and cultural linkages and facing common security challenges. The ensuing interaction underlined that strengthening of the bilateral relationship is further mandated by a depleting global economic environment,



VIF Delegation interacting with Japanese Delegation



Japanese Economic and Cultural Exchanges Delegation



especially China hitting an economic downslide, and India emerging as the next most favoured destination for foreign direct investment across the world.

Interaction with Mr. Daniel Pipes: 10 February 2016

On 10 February 2016, VIF invited Daniel Pipes, an internationally acclaimed scholar on radical Islam, an expert on the Middle East and also President of the Middle East Forum, for a talk on Islamism and the politico-religious dimensions of the conflict in the Middle East, followed by an interactive session. Through the session which lasted for about an hour and half and was divided equally between the presentation and the time spent on Q&A session, Daniel Pipes made some very useful, interesting and thought provoking observations about Islamism, branding it not as a perversion of Islam but as another form of Islam, which the



Mr Daniel Pipes

radical Islamists across the Middle East are trying to impose on the free secular world. He however stressed that the political version of Islam practiced in countries like Turkey is far more threatening than the violent form of Islam practiced by the Islamic State (IS).

Quad Plus in Jaipur : 14 – 16 February 2016

The Vivekananda International Foundation hosted the third Quad Plus Dialogue at Jaipur from February 14 to 16, 2016. This initiative was started in 2013, when security and strategic affairs experts from four major think tanks—the Heritage Foundation (USA), VIF (India), the Tokyo Foundation (Japan) and the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (Australia) launched this plan, entitled the “Quad-Plus” with the aim of promoting expert discussions around shared strategic concerns among the four democracies – along with some “Plus” countries. This year the “Plus” participants came from three countries - the Pathfinder Foundation, Sri Lanka, Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia, and the Habibie Centre, Indonesia.

Security issues and a desire for strategic balance have largely been the drivers behind the quad-plus. This concern was significantly but not solely driven by the reality of a rising China and questions about how to manage or



L to R : Mr Akiyama, President Tokyo Foundation, Gen Vij, Director VIF & Mr James Carafano, Heritage Foundation





deal with that development. The drivers of that shared concern were largely security issues and, thus, the focus of quad discussions about potential cooperation has been more security-oriented as well. All four countries also have interests in areas like the freedom of the seas, the shape of regional diplomatic architecture, maritime governance, counter-terrorism, and other non-traditional security issues like common responses to disaster management and the impact of climate change. The Dialogue tries to seek solutions to these challenges and the role of the Quad Plus in strengthening the current regional architecture. The six panels of the two-day dialogue discussed The Cyber Challenge, Maritime Governance: Indian Ocean vs Pacific Ocean, China's Place in Regional Calculations, Enabling Tools of Cooperation, Countering Terrorism/Extremism – Best Practices, and Role of the Quad-Plus. Speakers from the VIF were its Director, Gen. NC Vij, Ambassador Kanwal Sibal, Lt. Gen Ravi Sawhney, Lt. Gen Davinder Kumar, Vice Admiral Anup Singh and CII representative, Mr. Pranav Kumar.



Vice Admiral Anup Singh making a point during the Quad Plus Dialogue at Jaipur

Interaction with Dr. Thomas Bagger: 24 February 2016

Dr Thomas Bagger, Head of Policy Planning, German Foreign Office, visited the VIF on February 24, 2016 for an interaction that ranged across a wide and varied geostrategic landscape, inter alia, the future of the European Union, German foreign policy challenges amidst the rise of China, Russia's reassertion in world affairs, the situation in the Middle East, the ever growing refugee crisis facing Europe, and the potential for furthering bilateral cooperation between India and Germany. Dr. Bagger emphasised that Germany's relations with the world are shaped by the framework of European Union. The immediate challenges that Germany faces today includes the possibility of Britain's exit from EU, Russia's relations with Europe, Refugee crisis in Europe and the growing radicalism within Europe and the world over. On Russia, Dr Bagger stressed that isolating it is not a viable option for Germany. In West Asia, Germany hopes to reduce the tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia but Dr Bagger did concede that Germany does not have significant leverage over the two.



Director VIF & Dr Thomas Bagger



Amb T C A Rangachari with the German Delegation



Interaction with a Thai Delegation: 2 March 2016

In continuation of their efforts to set up a premier think tank in Thailand, a ten-member delegation of Thai defence and security experts, led by Mr. Vera Urairat, Deputy Director General, National Security Council Secretariat, Thailand, visited the Vivekananda International Foundation on 02 March 2016 for an interaction, aimed partly at getting acquainted about the VIF – its vision, thrust areas of study, faculty etc, and partly at discussing potentials of cooperation in areas of common strategic interests – maritime security, terrorism and cyber security, to name a few. In his welcome remarks, Director VIF, General NC Vij wished the delegation all success in their endeavour and promised to support them in his capacity as the current Director of the Foundation. Elaborating on the VIF's vision & mission, General Vij underlined that conflict avoidance rather than conflict management has been the guiding light behind the VIF's core mission. As part of the interaction, presentations were made by the VIF's team of experts on maritime security, terrorism, and cyber security, broadly in the context of bilateral cooperation between India and Thailand. Vice Adm Anup Singh, while highlighting the growing threats of non-traditional security, especially in the maritime domain of Asia-Pacific region, harped on the necessity of stepping up maritime security cooperation between the two countries and also urged the participants to think through a cooperative mechanism among like minded countries to ensure avoidance of a single country's dominance of the strategic choke points in the region while keeping the non-traditional security challenges at bay. Through a highly calibrated presentation, Lt Gen RK Sawhney, Dean, Centre for Defence Studies, VIF, spelt out the dangers posed by Daesh to liberal and secular countries around the world. The



Thai Delegation at VIF



VIF Delegation



Thai Delegation



use of internet by certain states to bring down their adversaries and by non-state actors including terrorists to carry out their nefarious activities came out quite vividly in the presentation made by Lt Gen Davinder Kumar. The presentations were followed by an interactive session through which Adm KK Nayyar, Amb Sanjay Singh, Mr. PC Halder, former Chief of Intelligence Bureau, Mr. KM Singh, the newly appointed Chairman & Managing Director of state-run power producer NHPC, among others, participated in a free and candid exchange of views with the visiting delegates.

Visit to Iran by VIF: 5 – 8 March 2016

The VIF-IPIS Joint forum on India-Iran cooperation in Post-JCPOA held its first meeting in Tehran from March 5 to 8, 2016. The Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) is part of the Centre for International Research and Education (CIRE) of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The VIF delegation was led by Director VIF, Gen N C Vij and comprised of Mr. C D Sahay, Distinguished Fellow VIF, Lt Gen Ravi Sawhney, Dean- Centre for Defence Studies- VIF, Amb Kanwal Sibal, Dean Centre for International Relations & Diplomacy- VIF, Dr. Meena Singh Roy, Research Fellow, IDSA & Mr. Manish Mohan, Regional Director- International, South & Central Asia, CII. Apart from a meeting with Dr Hadi Soleimanpour, the head of CIRE and a roundtable on India-Iran relation chaired on the Iranian side by Dr Mostafa Zahrani, the Director-General of IPIS, the VIF delegation had a Roundtable discussion at the Centre for Strategic Defence Studies (CSDS), a think tank of the Iranian Ministry of Defence that was chaired on the Iranian side by the former Commander of the Revolutionary Guards and Minister of Defence (2009-2013) Ahmad Vahidi, a meeting with Dr Kamal Kharrazi, former foreign Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister Morteza Sarmadi. All the discussions were detailed, open and friendly, with little suggestion that the burden was on us to put in extra effort to woo an over-confident Iran with widened options today.



VIF Delegation Visits Iran



VIF Delegation Visits Iran



Discussion on India-Iran Relations



Interaction with Amb PS Raghavan, India's Former Ambassador to Russia: 9 March 2016

The VIF, on March 9, 2016, invited Amb PS Raghavan, who last served as India's Ambassador to Russia till his retirement in January this year, for a discussion on 'India-Russia relations: opportunities and challenges', attended, among others, by top functionaries from the military fraternity and senior diplomats, including two earlier Ambassadors to Russia--former Foreign Secretary Amb Kanwal Sibal and Amb PP Shukla. The interaction kicked off with General NC Vij, Director, VIF, underlining the evident drift in Indo-Russian relations in recent years, especially with Russia increasingly cosyng up to India's arch rivals and India hunting for weapons elsewhere, both traditional no-go zones in their bilateral relationship. The interaction was largely aimed at exploring measures which could arrest this unsavoury trend in their relationship and put the bilateral ties back on tracks. Amb Raghavan's presentation, while going into the nuts and bolts of Indo-Russia relationship, flagged several prominent issues for serious consideration among experts. He stressed, among other things, the relationship between India and Russia in recent years has become a prisoner to a set of negative narratives on both sides. A major takeaway from the interaction was the need to create as many pillars as possible to support the architecture of bilateral relationship so that if one pillar starts crumbling there will be others to support it. It emerged from the discussions that while defence cooperation will continue to form the bulwark of strong Indo-Russian bilateral relationship for the foreseeable future, new vistas of cooperation need to be explored to reenergize the relationship as also sustain it over the long term. To that extent, nuclear energy, hydro carbon, tourism, and regular interactions between prominent think tanks were identified among sectors where India and Russia can cooperate more vigorously in pursuance of common interests.



Director VIF & Amb P S Raghavan



Interaction on India-Russia Relations



Interaction on India-Russia Relations



Interaction with Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP): 14 March 2016

A team of three members from the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) visited the VIF on 14 March 2016 for an interaction on a wide range of issues. The team comprised of Colonel Christain Buhlmann (Head of Regional Development Program, GCSP), Colonel (GS) Christof Gertsch (DA for India and Singapore) and Colonel Urs Amiet (Senior program Adviser, GCSP). The VIF panel was led by Lt General R.K Sawhney with the other members being Brig Vinod Anand, Commodore Gopal Suri, Group Captain Lalit Joshi and Colonel Ashish Sirsikar. Lt General R.K Sawhney started the proceedings by giving a brief overview of the functioning of VIF and also touched upon the areas of expertise that VIF possesses. While giving a brief about their institution, the GCSP delegation brought out that their institution had been established over 20 years ago and was now engaged in the three major areas of Education, Research and Global Fellowship Programs. They felt that VIF and GCSP could fruitfully engage in a number of areas of interest such as 1) Researchers from VIF pursuing a Non Resident Fellowship with the GCSP through its Global fellowship Program. 2) Undertaking of common research 3) Engaging in bilateral discussions on areas of common concern such as Asian security, cyber security, IOR security and other such issues. 4) Specialists from VIF engaging in a skype conversation with the students of courses run at GCSP. Lt General R.K Sawhney brought out that while the points suggested by GCSP were welcome, some issues which could be immediately undertaken for implementation were 1) Commence a bilateral dialogue on a mutually agreed topic by the year end. Towards this end he suggested that, the first such dialogue should be held at VIF with a team from GCSP visiting the VIF in Nov – Dec 2016 2) Sign a MOU at the earliest so as to formally commence our relationship 3) Exchange published material 4) VIF would be glad to post GCSP articles on its website.



Members of Geneva Centre for Security Policy



VIF Delegation



VIF Representative with Members of GCSP

Glimpses





Glimpses





Glimpses





Glimpses





Seminar on Make in India & DPP 2013: 27 May 2015

On May 27, 2015 VIF put together a panel of eminent policy experts on defence, comprising, among others, serving and retired high ranking military officers, senior bureaucrats and representatives from the defence manufacturing industry for a seminar on 'Make in India' and DPP 2013. Encompassing the entire spectrum under which the defence procurement in India operates – the civil-military interface, finances, regulations, contracts, offset provisions, military-industrial complex et al, the seminar not only brought out the existing lacunas in the defence acquisition processes but also suggested way forward in terms of policy guidelines. In his opening remarks, General NC Vij, a former Army Chief and the VIF's current Director, gave out an overview of the need to reform the defence procurement processes in India. While it has long been felt that defence procurement in India needs immediate reform, not much headway has been made in this direction despite the Vijay Kelkar Committee's recommendations. The seminar sought to address all these problems and many more against the backdrop of Prime Minister's clarion call to 'Make in India'. While several useful recommendations were made, it was pretty evident that the long term solution to defence modernization in India can come only when weapons and weapon platforms are designed and produced at home. Mr. Shekhar Dutt, former Defence Secretary who later became the Governor of Chhattisgarh, Mr. Dhirendra Singh, former Home Secretary, Jayant D Patil, Executive Vice President - Defence and Aerospace, Larsen & Toubro, Lt Gen JP Singh, former DCOAS and Dr. VK Saraswat, former DRDO Chief and presently a Member of Niti Aayog, were among other key contributors to the seminar.



L to R : Director VIF, Dr V K Saraswat & Dr Sudershan Kumar



L to R : Mr Shekhar Dutt, Dr Deven Verma & Mr K D Nayak



Seminar on Make in India



Seminar on Design and Make in India in Electronics Sector: 3-4 June 2015

With a view to evolve the future roadmap towards building comprehensive national capabilities in design and manufacturing in the Electronic Sector, the VIF, in collaboration with the DRDO, CII and the American Chamber of Commerce in India (AmCham India), organised an important seminar 'Design and Make in India - Electronics Sector' on 3 & 4 June 2015. While Defence Minister Mr. Manohar Parrikar delivered the keynote address at the seminar, a high-powered panel of experts representing the government, the industry and the Diaspora comprehensively discussed, over five highly focused sessions, a broad range of issues relating to the electronics industry in India, including the policy framework and regulations, capabilities in indigenous design and manufacturing, research and development in secured and trusted systems, strategic electronics, commercial systems, developing synergies between different research organizations, and international cooperation, among others. Prominent Speakers included Dr Arvind Gupta, Deputy National Security Advisor, Mr. Amitabh Kant, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotions (DIPP), Dr. VK Saraswat, formerly Chief of the DRDO and presently Member of the Niti Aayog, Mr. Chandrajeet Banerjee, Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Dr. Kiran Kumar, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and Dr. Gulshan Rai, National Cyber Security Coordinator, NSCS. The participants at the seminar identified the gaps in the existing framework of policies and actions as also the technologies that need to be targeted in three specific high technology sectors – cyber security, telecom sector, defence and aviation. Several recommendations that emerged during two days of proceedings were collated in the form of policies during the concluding session, chaired by Dr. VK Saraswat.



Defence Minister Mr Manohar Parrikar speaking at the Seminar on Design and Make in India in Electronics Sector



L to R : Gen N C Vij, Mr Manohar Parrikar & Dr V K Saraswat



Seminar on Design and Make in India in Electronics Sector



Round Table Discussion on Counter Measures against Naxalism: 19 June 2015

On June 19th, 2015, VIF hosted Lt. Gen VK Ahluwalia, formerly Army Commander, Central Command, for a talk on 'Counter Measures against Naxalism', followed by a round table discussion. General Ahluwalia's presentation included a long overview of more than six decades old Naxal insurgency in the country, followed by a string of counter Naxal measures which he suggested as part of a strategy to contain the Naxal violence. Taking a broad view of the extent of Naxal insurgency in the country, the General said while the Naxal presence is felt in large parts of central and eastern India, it is concentrated mostly in tribal dominated areas which are abysmally low on human development indicators. While the tribal areas are rich in natural resources, the tribals themselves have never been a part of India's growth story.



Director VIF & Lt Gen V K Ahluwalia

Round Table Discussion on an Indo-Centric Assessment of Chinese Military Capabilities and Options in the Near Future: 13 July 2015

With China ostensibly scaling to new heights in military combat power every year and continuing with its assertive stance, especially around contested territories, increasingly grabbing international headlines, a Round Table Discussion was organised by the VIF on July 13th 2015, aimed at carrying out an Indo-centric realistic assessment of China's military capabilities as also its options to use force against perceived adversaries, especially India. The two-pronged discussion, held against the backdrop of overall global situation, China's own internal upheavals and contradictions, and its possible politico military aims and the stakes, among others, examined both the strength and weaknesses of Chinese military capabilities in critical areas--institutional (command structures, organisations, professional ethos etc.), combat capabilities (leadership, training standards, combat experiences etc.), jointness in operations (doctrines and levels of integration), and the state of modernization (equipment upgrades and absorption, level of IW readiness, scientific



Maj Gen V K Shrivastava & Lt Gen Gautam Banerjee



Maj Gen Sheru Thapliyal & Amb Nalin Surie



temper of the forces etc.), as well as Chinese impulses and options for force application over the next decade, especially against India. With General NC Vij, Director, VIF, in the Chair, Maj Gen VK Shrivastava moderated the discussions, while a large contingent of prominent security experts, including former diplomats, former military commanders and former chiefs of intelligence services, among others, participated in the brainstorming, their practical experience bringing additional value to the discussions. While no one in the panel disputed that China is looking to replace the US as the *numero uno* power, there were perceptible differences of opinion as regards the threat to India. With both China and India vying for the same strategic space, market and resources, a clash between the two seemed quite possible, but not imminent. The general understanding across the table however was that India needs to fast-track capacity building vis-à-vis China utilizing the window that is available to her. Lt Gen Gautam Banerjee, Lt Gen JP Singh, Lt Gen Ravi Sawhney, Amb TCA Rangachari, and Mr. CD Sahay were among others who made important interventions during the discussions.



L to R : Lt Gen Hasnain, Lt Gen J P Singh, AVM Manmohan Bahadur



Lt Gen Aditya Singh making a point during the RTD

Discussion on a Book by AS Dulat: 22 July 2015

A discussion on the recently released book 'KASHMIR-THE VAJPAYEE YEARS', authored by Mr A S Dulat, former Chief of Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), India's external intelligence agency, was organized at the VIF on July-22, 2015. The programme was chaired by Mr. Vijai Kapoor, former Lt. Governor of Delhi with Mr. Dulat as the main speaker. In his opening remarks, Mr. Kapoor observed that the key message coming out of the book was the need for maintaining dialogue with all the stake holders in J&K that included the mainstream political leaders, the separatists and even the militants. However, such engagements should be with a clear purpose and objective. India's territorial integrity will always have to remain non-negotiable. Good governance can play a crucial role in amelioration of people's grievances in J&K as well as in the far flung states in the North



Mr A S Dulat



East. The existing 'disconnect' between the Centre and these states must be bridged. Responding to the observations, Mr. Dulat, stated that 'bridges' between New Delhi and Srinagar and between Delhi and Islamabad can be built only through continuous engagement and reduction in the trust-deficit. He conceded that the 4-Point formula may not eventually have led to a permanent resolution of the Kashmir issue but it would have certainly ended militancy in the valley at least for the next 15-20 years.



L to R : Mr C D Sahay, Mr Vijai Kapoor & Mr A S Dulat

Symposium on Golden Jubilee of Indo-Pak Conflict 1965: 11 September 2015

A symposium, commemorating India's first definitive military victory against Pakistan in 1965, was held by the Vivekananda International Foundation on 11 September 2015. Military analysts, historians, and war veterans, among other distinguished participants, analysed the causes and consequences of a war that Pakistan thrust upon India soon after India's China war debacle in 1962, ostensibly with the objective of wresting Kashmir from her. Notwithstanding the odds were heavily stacked against India, the Indian military did a marvelous job by giving a most befitting reply to the Pakistani misadventures. Not only did the Indian military throttle the Pakistani advances in Chamb and Akhnoor sectors, they also opened up new fronts in Punjab, taking the Pakistanis by complete surprise. Pakistan was outwitted, outflanked and outfought in almost every theatre where the battle was fought. Compared to India, Pakistan suffered more casualties and lost more territory and tanks. General NC Vij, former COAS and the VIF's present Director in his opening remarks held that Pakistan has been misleading the world that it was they who won the war in 1965, apparently taking advantage of India's reticence to claim a well-deserved victory. Following Director's opening remarks, Nitin A. Gokhale, author of '1965 Turning the Tide: How India won the War' and Senior Fellow, VIF, gave a bird's eye



Symposium on Golden Jubilee of Indo-Pak Conflict



Symposium on Golden Jubilee of Indo-Pak Conflict



view of the prevailing strategic environment leading to the 1965 war, while Lt Gen Ata Hasnain, former GOC of Srinagar-based 15 Corps gave a riveting account of the fierce ground battles fought between the two armies. The praiseworthy role played by the India Air Force, which helped turn the tide of war in India's favour, was succinctly brought out by AVM Arjun Subramaniam, Senior Directing Staff at the National Defence College (NDC). The symposium was made even livelier with the personal accounts of war, shared by three eminent veterans - Lt Gen RK Sawhney, Maj Gen Kirpal Singh and Group Captain Dilip Parulkar. Parulkar, a daredevil pilot, survived a Pakistani bullet, made a miraculous landing, and was ready for his sortie the next day.



Symposium on Golden Jubilee of Indo-Pak Conflict

Workshop on Public-Private Partnership in Countering Online Radicalization and Recruitment to Violence: 17-18 November 2015

VIF in collaboration with the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) of the University of Maryland, US Embassy and Facebook organised on November 17 and 18, 2015, a two-day workshop on Opportunities for Public-Private Partnership in Countering Online Extremism and Recruitment. The main objective of this workshop was to discuss various means to combat the phenomenon of online recruitment into terror organisation such as Islamic State of Syria and Levant (ISIL). Opening the workshop, Gen. NC Vij, Director, VIF, highlighted the genesis of the start of the terrorist activities and also underscored the need for robust cooperation between private and public entities in combating terrorism. The US Ambassador to India, Richard R. Verma emphasised the importance of shared values between India and the United States in fighting the perpetrators of terrorism. According to him, democratic societies of both the countries should take up steps to prevent religious extremism by involving influential religious clerics. The keynote address was delivered by MJ Akbar, MP, an



Director VIF, Gen N C Vij & MOS (Home) Mr Kirren Rijiju



M J Akbar & Amb Prabhat Shukla interacting with Amb Richard Verma at the Workshop on Countering Online Radicalisation



internationally acknowledged political analyst. He questioned the approach of Western countries in fighting terrorism and pointed to the lack of clarity in the West about the “fourth world war”. Mr Akbar said that ISIL is the fourth Islamic State, the first three being Pakistan, the second being the Taliban and, third Boko Haram, and called for effective counter-narratives to combat the menace of ISIL style terrorism.

Interaction with Dr. Sudhir S. Bloeria on Jammu & Kashmir: 22 December 2015

The VIF hosted Dr. Sudhir S. Bloeria, former Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir and Vice Chancellor Central University of Jammu and Kashmir for a round table discussion on the situation in J&K and the way forward on 22 December 2015. Dr. Bloeria made an incisive presentation on the overall situation in J&K starting from the onset of insurgency in 1989. Dwelling at length on the important lessons learnt from one of the worst phases of insurgency in the state as well as the political process that began in 1996, Dr. Bloeria made a number of significant observations as well as recommendation necessary to take the peace momentum in J&K forward, especially in light of an improved ground situation in the state. While peace may have returned to the state, the seeds of discontent that gave rise to the insurgency remain very much present there. While remaining wary of the fragile nature of peace in J&K, the discussants underlined the need to talk to Islamabad in order to bring about a lasting solution to the vexed border problem with Pakistan. While there was a substantive discussion on Musharraf's four point formula on Kashmir, the recently concluded NSA level talks between India and Pakistan also figured prominently during the discussion, with a section of the panel interpreting the prior appointment of Naseer Janjua, a former Army Commander, as Pakistan's National Security Advisor as Pakistan Army backing the talks. While one section of the panel was of the view that resolving Kashmir tangle is the key to improving relations with Pakistan, there were others who said Pakistan's problem with India, defined often as existential, extends far beyond Kashmir. Experts however converged on the view that Kashmir is an issue that needs urgent attention. With the external dynamics on Kashmir discussed comprehensively as part of the interaction, Dr. Bloeria went on to suggest a broad range of political and administrative measures in so far as the internal handling of Kashmir is concerned.



Dr Sudhir S Bloeria speaking on Situation in J&K



Dr Sudhir S Bloeria & Amb Satish Chandra



Glimpses



Glimpses





Glimpses



Glimpses





Glimpses





Joint VIF-RUSI-CICIR Conference on Afghanistan: 2-5 March 2015

A trilateral conference on the theme of “China, India, UK and Afghanistan: A partnership for Stability” was organized at the VIF premises between 2nd and 5th March 2015. The main objective of the deliberations was to find ways and means of cooperation amongst the regional powers in order to bring peace, stability and prosperity to Afghanistan. The Royal United Services Institute, UK delegation was led by Prof. Malcolm Chalmers and included Mr. Raffaello Pantucci and Edward Schwark and Ms Emily Winterbotham. The Chinese delegation was represented by Senior Colonel (Retd) Bai Zonglin, Dr. Jenny Jiang and Mr. Hebotao. Dr. Amrullah Saleh and Amb. Sultan Ahmed Baheen formed part of the Afghan delegation. The Indian side was represented by Gen. NC Vij, Lt. Gen RK Sawhney, Amb. TCA Rangachari, Amb. Jayant Prasad and Brig. Vinod Anand as the main speakers along with a large number of Indian strategic community including Amb. Kanwal Sibal, Mr. CD Sahay and Mr. Jayadeva Ranade. The seminar was divided into eight sessions over two days. On the first day, the participants discussed the emerging security situation in Afghanistan where problems of equipping and funding the Afghan National Security Forces were highlighted. On the second day, the Deputy National Security Advisor, Dr. Arvind Gupta gave out his perspective on various aspects of the evolving situation in Afghanistan and India’s approach to the same. This was followed by a session on how Indian investors assess the environment in Afghanistan for investing their funds. Mr. Manish Mohan, Regional Director South and Central Asia, Confederation of Indian Industry explained at length the nature of



VIF-RUSI-CICIR Conference on Afghanistan



L to R : Lt Gen Ravi Sawhney, Amb Rangachari & Mr Raffaello



L to R : Gen N C Vij, Dr Arvind Gupta & Prof Malcolm Chalmers



presence of Indian companies in Afghanistan. The last day involved an interactive session with local and international media where the participants interacted with print and electronic media on the evolving scenario in Afghanistan, different perspectives of the regional powers and possibilities of cooperation in Afghanistan.

Interaction with Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, CEO of Afghanistan: 14 March 2015

Amidst growing uncertainties about Afghanistan's future, the VIF hosted the Chief Executive Officer of the national unity government in Afghanistan His Excellency Dr. Abdullah Abdullah to deliberate upon a wide spectrum of issues, including, among others, the post drawdown scenarios in Afghanistan, the ongoing efforts towards peace and reconciliation among various warring factions, the need for capacity-building by Afghanistan's national army, the Taliban's potential resurrection, the role of regional actors in Afghanistan, and India's continued relevance in Afghanistan. Ambassadors of the two respective countries, Shaida Mohammad Abdali and Amar Sinha were among the strategic experts who participated in the interaction. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, a seasoned diplomat and a military professional of high eminence, not only elaborated upon the situation that led to formation of the Unity Government but also shed significant light on the political road ahead, especially dwelling upon the prevailing politico-security situation in Afghanistan. The Chief Executive said Indian activities in Afghanistan are perfectly aligned with Afghanistan's national interests. Admitting Afghanistan has serious issues with Pakistan, Dr. Abdullah said both countries need to sort out their differences. Pakistan however will be tested against its actions and not words, he said. In so far the capacities of the ANA to deal with insurgent threats are concerned, Dr. Abdullah admitted there are some weaknesses, but he also reposed faith in his troops who are courageously taking on Taliban in areas where it was difficult for the foreign troops to operate earlier.



Dr Abdullah Abdullah, CEO of Afghanistan



Gen N C Vij & Dr Abdullah Abdullah



Interaction on Afghanistan Post Drawdown



Discussion on South Asia Regional Cooperation: 5 August 2015

Thirty years after it was established, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), integration of south Asian nations remains a half done job at best. Vivekananda International Foundation, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Neighbourhood First' policy, held a day-long conference 'South Asia Regional Cooperation: Taking Stock and the Way Forward' on 5 August 2015, aimed at examining the broader dimensions of regional integration against the backdrop of SAARC's hitherto dismal performance. Participants to the conference, some of India's best known practitioners of diplomacy, Prof Muckund Dubey, Amb Kanwal Sibal, Amb Leela Ponappa, and Amb Satish Chandra, among others, and Bangladesh's former Ambassador to India, Mr. Tariq Karim, who conceived the idea of the conference, and representative from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), mulled extensively over three grueling sessions a broad range of regional issues: the continued relevance of SAARC, sub-regional options, developmental imperatives - network of roads, railways, power grids, fiber optics etc., joint management of transnational rivers, development-security nexus, among others. An assessment of the current situation of SAARC was carried out in the first session. Amb Rajiv Sikri and Amb Jayant Prasad identified areas of success, areas of little or no progress, and analysed causes of its failure. Noted diplomat and India's former Foreign Secretary Prof. Muchkund Dubey moderated the discussions. With Amb Veena Sikri, Mr. H K Rajora and Dr R Mandal on board in the second session, issues related to trade, connectivity and infrastructure were comprehensively discussed. The session, chaired by former Foreign Secretary Amb Kanwal Sibal discussed a range of



L to R : Mr Prabir De, Amb Kanwal Sibal & Amb Veena Sikri



L to R : Amb Leela Ponappa, Amb Tariq Karim, Amb P R Chakraborty & Mr Hiranmay Karlekar



Discussion on South Asia Regional Cooperation



infrastructure projects which could be undertaken bypassing SAARC. There was broad consensus around the table that Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN), signing a pathbreaking Motor Vehicles Agreement allowing seamless movement of people and cargo across four nations, have set a model which can be emulated for undertaking other similar infrastructure projects. What is however important is that sub-regional arrangements such as BBIN need an institutional make over to sustain. Even more importantly, mega projects which can withstand internal political vicissitudes need to be undertaken. The smaller nations are looking up to India for taking a lead in South Asia's regional integration.

Interaction with H.E. Le Yucheng, China's Ambassador to India: 6 August 2015

On August 6, 2015 VIF invited H.E. Le Yucheng, China's Ambassador to India, for an interaction on India-China relationship. Amb Satish Chandra, Lt Gen Ravi Sawhney, Amb Rajagopalan, Lt Gen JS Bajwa, among others, interacted with him on a broad range of bilateral issues, while General NC Vij, Director, VIF, moderated the discussions. In his opening remarks, General Vij underlined that while it is imperative for both China and India to keep their bilateral ties on a warm footing, India expects Beijing to be more transparent not only about its stand on the boundary dispute with India, but also on some of the economic initiatives China launched recently. In his opening remarks, H.E. Le Yucheng gave a Chinese perspective of the bilateral relationship. He expressed satisfaction over the upward trajectory in bilateral relationship, especially since the elevation of Mr. Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister of India. The establishment of local leaders' forum, the opening of Nathu-la passes for the Indian pilgrims to Mansarovar, and the creation two China-led industrial parks in India, are among new measures indicating the surge in bilateral relationship. Responding to the criticism over China's alleged reluctance for an early settlement of the boundary dispute with India, Amb Le Yucheng said both countries need to build 'a reservoir of trust' before they embark on resolving the boundary dispute, a point hotly contested by the Indian interlocutors. H.E. Le Yucheng further said India needs to take a benign long



Gen N C Vij & Mr Le Yucheng

term view of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, adding it will help Pakistan fight the scourge of militancy. Continuing in the same vein, he remarked that by facilitating talks with the Taliban, China is attempting to secure the region. The Ambassador also sought to defend China's increasing naval presence in the Indian Ocean on the grounds that it is part of an international assistance to help keep the sea lanes safer for maritime transport. He further said Beijing would



VIF Delegation interacting
with the Chinese Ambassador



welcome Indian naval ships making port calls to China. The interaction ranged across a set of complex challenges plaguing the bilateral relationship. Both sides expressed satisfaction that despite such serious differences, especially the bilateral relations wading through difficult negotiations, peace and tranquility has prevailed on the borders for more than three decades, a feat unmatched anywhere else. China and India cooperating with each other on international trade and climate change negotiations was hailed as another display of maturity between the two nations.



Amb Rajagopalan making a point

VIF Delegation visits China: 15-22 September 2015

A five member delegation led by the VIF Director Gen N C Vij visited China from 15 to 22 Sep, 2015 at the invitation of the China Institute for International Studies (CIIS). The delegation comprised Gen NC Vij, Lt Gen Ravi Sawhney, Amb TCA Rangachari, Vice Adm Anup Singh & Mr. Madhav Sharma, CII representative from Shanghai. The delegation held discussions with the Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies (CSAS), Peking University, Beijing; China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), Beijing; Development Research Centre (DRC), Beijing; Shanghai Institute of International Studies (SIIS), Shanghai; Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences (YASS), Kunming. The following points emerged:

- There is extensive and intensive study in a number of Indian languages in Beijing and in some other Universities. There are 11 Universities with Hindi departments with about 500 students. There was considerable scholarship on India and Indian literature in Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Gujarati, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Awadhi, Pali, and Brij Bhasha.
- In comparison, the Indian side noted that the study of China in India lags behind.



Glimpses from VIF Delegation's visit to China



Glimpses from VIF Delegation's visit to China



- It was also agreed that there were prospects of cooperation in counter terrorism and de-radicalization.

On Afghanistan, it was felt that the Government in Kabul was fragile. There was a split between ideological and military wings of the Taliban. Even if an agreement was reached between the Afghan government and the Taliban, it would be difficult to implement or enforce it and so it will be ineffective.

- The VIF team noted the CPEC, passing as it does through PoK, poses a threat to India's sovereignty and made it difficult for India to become a partner in the OBOR endeavour.

The Chinese side acknowledged that the OBOR is still only a thought process officially no route had yet been chalked out – either on land or at sea. They were waiting for various Governments and Think Tanks around the world to throw up ideas, routes, and infrastructure proposals after which a firm project will emerge.

- On people to people contact, there was consensus that relations would improve with greater contact through cultural exchanges, arts and encouragement for tourism.



Glimpses from VIF Delegation's visit to China



Glimpses from VIF Delegation's visit to China

Sixth Xiangshan Forum: 16-18 October 2015

The Xiangshan, or Fragrant Hills, conference was held from 16 to 18 October 2015 at China National Convention Center in Beijing. Lt Gen Ravi Sawhney was invited from the Vivekananda International Foundation to attend this conference. The Sixth Xiangshan Forum was co-sponsored by China Military Science Society (CMSS) and China Institute for International Strategic Studies (CIISS). Around 500 representatives from China and abroad attended the Forum. These representatives included official



Lt Gen Sawhney making his presentation at Sixth Xiangshan Forum



representatives from 49 countries and 4 international organizations as well as experts and scholars from 39 countries. While the Cambodian Prime Minister, Hun Sen was the guest speaker at the reception banquet held on the evening of 16 October 2015, Fan Changlong, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission (CMC), gave the keynote speech on 17 October 2015. The Sixth Xiangshan Forum had two distinctive characteristics when compared to the previous forums. Firstly, the forum had

a wider range of participants. In addition to defence ministers, the forum also invited the commanders and chiefs of staff from participating countries. Fourteen countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan and Indonesia which did not send official delegations last year, did so this year. Secondly, the level of representation this year was higher compared with that of previous years.

The topics of the sixth forum focused on security cooperation in Asia and the Asia-Pacific and other major national security issues. Against this backdrop, speaking at the forum, General Fan Changlong, pledged that China would "Never recklessly resort to the use of force, even on issues bearing on sovereignty and have done our utmost to avoid unexpected conflicts". Concerns about Chinese activity in the South China Sea were also reinforced by the Malaysia Armed Forces chief Gen Tan Sri Zulkefli Mohd Zin,

when he told the Xiangshan Forum that "I would like to address the issue of the unwarranted provocation by the Chinese over the construction on the garrisoned islands of the South China Sea". In addition to the South China Sea, senior military officials from a dozen or so countries agreed that the Asia-Pacific region faces threats ranging from piracy and smuggling to natural disasters and terrorism, and that a cooperative community is required to deal with these threats.

Interaction with Afghanistan's Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Karzai: 19 November 2015

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Afghanistan H.E. Hekmat Karzai, as part of his recent visit to India, held a broad ranging interaction with members of the VIF faculty on 19 November 2015. The interaction spanned across a range of complex bilateral and regional issues, inter alia, the evolving situation in the war-torn Afghanistan, the dynamics of regional security, especially the



Sixth Xiangshan Forum



Sixth Xiangshan Forum





post-drawdown scenario and the extent of external influences in the power dynamics of Afghanistan, the emerging global menace called the ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria), and the scope for enhanced bilateral economic and security cooperation between India and Afghanistan. Hekmat Karzai, who led the first phase of talks with the Taliban on behalf of his government, outlined a regional approach to untying the knots in Afghanistan, especially involving countries such as Pakistan, China, Saudi Arabia and the U.A.E. The role of Russia and Iran were also comprehensively discussed in this context. He

assuaged the concerns of the Indian interlocutors that while Pakistan's involvement is crucial for the talks to fructify, clear benchmarks were being set in negotiations with Islamabad, with eye especially on the deliverables. It was also highlighted during the discussions that China needs to leverage its influences with Pakistan to bring about moderating influences over the Taliban. It was further pointed out by one of the Indian interlocutors that Afghanistan could be the bulwark against the Daesh (another acronym for the ISIS) seeking to expand its influence in Central Asia.

Interaction with Prof Hari Bansh Jha on the Madhesi Uprising in Nepal: 4 December 2015

On 4 December 2015, VIF invited Hari Bansh Jha, Professor of Economics, in Nepal's Tribhuvan's University for an interaction on the current political uprising in Nepal and its implications, especially for India. Prof. Jha presented an insightful analysis of how systemically over the years the government of Nepal through a series of discriminatory measures has marginalised the Madhesi population (people settled in the Terai region of Nepal), a problem of growing magnitude that has also strained India-Nepal bilateral relations to some extent in recent months. A rice basket with large industrial base, the Madhesh region contributes significantly to Nepal's economy, but it receives only 20 percent of the total budgetary support. Facing a serious identity crisis due to state encouraged migration taking place from north to south, the Madhesi are perceivably reduced to a second class citizen status. A few of the contentious provisions of Nepal's new Constitution - provincial boundaries, delimitation of the



L to R : Gen N C Vij, Mr Hekmat Karzai & Mr Shaida Abdali



Interaction on Madhesi Uprising in Nepal



Interaction on Madhesi Uprising in Nepal



constituencies, and proportionate representations, among others, were prominently discussed during the interactive session. The discussion was chaired by General NC Vij, Director, VIF. Lt Gen Ravi Sawhney, CD Sahay, Amb TCA Rangachari, Amb Tariq Karim, Dr. Dilip Chakrabarti, Mr. RNP Singh and Dr. Anirban Ganguly among others, interacted with Prof Hari Bansh Jha.

Visit of VIF Delegation to Sri Lanka: 7-10 December 2015

A VIF-CII delegation headed by Gen. NC Vij and comprising of Lt. Gen Ravi Sawhney, Mr. CD Sahay, Ambassador Alok Prasad, Mr. Manish Mohan, Regional Director International for South and Central Asia of CII & Mr. Pankaj Mohan, Vice president KEC Ltd. visited Sri Lanka from 7 to 10 December 2015. During the visit the delegation met a large number of experts, political and economic analysts invited by the Pathfinder Foundation, representatives of the Tamil community, and senior members of the Buddhist mahasangha. There was a structured interaction with Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, as well as meetings with Defence Secretary and the Foreign Secretary.

Indo-Sri Lankan Bilateral Relations

On Indo-Sri Lankan bilateral relations, while there is a general optimism but there are also concerns about the shadow some issues may cast, particularly on fishing and the general sense of continuing hostility from Tamil Nadu. The discussions with the Pathfinder Foundation focused on three clusters of economic, political and security and strategic issues:-

- a. On the economic side there was considerable discussion on business and trade related problems faced by both sides. It was generally agreed that an enhanced trade technology and economic cooperation agreement would be positive, but that it is important to address some of the existing constraints both in the course of the negotiations as well as the early harvest discussions particularly on non-tariff barriers.



VIF Delegation in Sri Lanka



VIF Delegation in Sri Lanka



India-Sri Lanka Bilateral Relations



b. There was a broader discussion on connectivity issues and a general agreement emerged that both VIF and Pathfinder would try and promote different initiatives. On the political side, it was noted that there has been historical goodwill between people of the two countries which is amply reflected by the bi-partisan support from political parties and close ties amongst the leadership in both countries. However, this cannot be taken for granted and has to be consciously nurtured by both sides. A pre requisite of this was clear transparent communication between both sides with absolutely no room for surprises.



VIF Delegation in Sri Lanka

Security Issues

On the security side there was a general consensus that the security of both countries must be treated as indivisible. Both sides must take each other's concerns into account and act accordingly, without trying to second guess or rationalize the others concerns. There was a brief discussion of larger strategic issues like the Indo-Pacific and the rise of Chinese power.

Release of the Chinese translation of Surdas' Sursagar: 8 January 2016

A Chinese translation of Sursagar (the ocean of poems, originally composed by Surdas, a late 15th century blind saint, poet and musician) was released by Mr. Tarun Vijay, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, at the Vivekananda International Foundation on January 08, 2016 in the presence of Mr. Sun Shoushan, Vice Minister, State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, and Film & Television of the Republic of China, Prof. Jiang Jingkui, Head of the Department of Hindi and Director, Centre for South Asian Studies Peking University, who translated the famous Indian classic, and other distinguished invitees. The release of Chinese translation of Sursagar marks the beginning of a planned series of translations of both the Chinese and the Indian classics and contemporary works on a reciprocal basis, an initiative that finds its mention in the joint communiqué agreed between China's Premier Mr. Le Keqiang and then India's Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on 20 May 2013.



Release of Chinese translation of Surdas' Sursagar



Interaction with Prof. Yu Longyu, Director, Centre for Indian Studies, Shenzhen University, China: 12 January 2016

On 12 January 2016, the VIF held an informal interaction with Prof. Yu Longyu, Director of Centre for Indian Studies, Shenzhen University, China, focusing on the role of intellectuals, especially writers and teachers, potentially can play in improving ties between China and India. While the interaction centered around literary communications between China and India, invariably it got intermingled with issues of conflict and cooperation. The interaction highlighted, among other things, while there exists a scope for far greater bilateral cooperation between China and India at many levels, the relationship largely has remained hostage to an unresolved border dispute, leading both countries to view one another's actions and motives with suspicion. Also, the bilateral relationship to some extent has been a victim of misperceptions, arising mainly from a general lack of understanding and ignorance about one another. To that extent, the role of intellectuals, especially writers and teachers, as also media, was underlined in so far as managing people's perceptions about each other is concerned.



Prof Yu Longyu



VIF Members with Prof Yu Longyu

Interaction with Prof Alexander Lukin, Director of the Center for East Asian and Shanghai Cooperation Organization Studies: 18 January 2016

Members of the VIF faculty, on 18 January 2016, interacted with Prof Alexander Lukin, Head, Department of International Relations, National Research University Higher School of Economics and Director, Center for East Asian and Shanghai Cooperation Organization Studies, Moscow State Institute of International Relations (University), MFA of Russia. The interaction cut across a wide range of global and regional security issues, including Russia's Asia pivot policy, a corollary to Moscow's worsening of relations with the west in recent years,



Prof Alexander Lukin interacting with VIF Members



especially since the onset of Ukrainian crisis in 2014. Prof Lukin gave a detailed expose of what Russia's Asia pivot policy actually entails, driven by economic imperatives and fuelled by geo-political considerations. He, however, said substituting China as a development partner for the west has met with mixed reactions even as sections of the policy establishment, including parts of the bureaucracy, remain deeply entrenched to the concept of cooperation with the west. The ensuing interaction however underlined that Asia's emerging challenges are providing a leeway to Moscow's ambition to reassert itself on the global stage.



Prof Alexander Lukin

Interaction with a Nepalese Civil Society Delegation: 27 January 2016

Leading a six-member Nepalese Civil society delegation, Mr. Daman Nath Dhungana, a legal luminary in Nepal and former Speaker of the House of Representative, visited the Vivekananda International Foundation on 27 January 2016 for an interaction, focusing on the ongoing Madhesi uprising in Nepal. Mr Padma Ratna Tuladhar, Mr Vijay K Karna, Mr Tula Narayan Shah, Mr Dipendra Jha, and Mr Krishna Chaudhary were other members of the delegation. A representative body of experts from diverse backgrounds - academic, legal, NGOs, minority representatives, among others, the delegation briefed members of the VIF faculty about the broader dimension of the uprising in Nepal which is being carried on by the Madhesi (an indigenous group, predominantly Hindus with some Muslims, Buddhists and Christians, who are settled in the Terai region of Nepal) against what they see as an attempt by the government to systemically destroy their identity and bring them to the margins of national life. According to 2011 census, the Madhesi constitute over 50 percent of the population, yet their presence is limited to around 20 odd districts out of a total count of 75 districts in Nepal. While the Madhesi feel



Interaction with a Nepalese Civil Society Delegation



Interaction with a Nepalese Civil Society Delegation



their identity is at serious risks due to unchecked and often government sponsored migration taking place from south to north, the promulgation of a new constitution – their last straw – left them totally disillusioned as it sought to further curtail their political and economic rights, reducing them to the status of second class citizens in their own country.

Interacting with a visiting Nepalese Business and Trade delegation: 22 February 2016

Leading a 12-member business and trade delegation from Nepal, Mr. Bhanu Bhakta Dhakal, the Chief Whip of CPN-UML (the second largest political party in Nepal's consensus government) visited the Vivekananda International Foundation on 22 Feb 2016 for an interaction on the broader dynamics of Indo-Nepal relations against the backdrop of Nepal's recent political crisis. The delegation, part of the visiting Nepalese Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's entourage, comprised, among other elected representatives, Chief whips of other political parties and Mr. Sushil Gyawali and Mr. Radesh Pant, both Chief Executive Officers of Nepal's Reconstruction Authority and Investment Board respectively. The Nepalese delegation gave a long overview of the constitution making process. They further underlined that while the present Constitution of Nepal may still have lacunae, it was the best they could have arrived at under the present circumstances.



Interaction with Nepalese Business and Trade Delegation



Interaction with Nepalese Business and Trade Delegation

Interaction with H.E. Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, Japan's Ambassador to India: 17 March 2016

On March 17, 2016, a broad panel of eminent foreign policy experts representing the Vivekananda International Foundation engaged Japan's present Ambassador to India H.E. Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu in an interaction going over the entire gamut of India-Japan bilateral relations. While reviewing progress in bilateral developments over the past few years, more precisely since the Modi-led government came to power in India in May 2014, the discussants during the interactive



Mr Kenji Hiramatsu



session also mulled strategies to put the bilateral ties between India and Japan on a fast forward mode, especially keeping in view the momentum generated by the back to back visits of the two prime ministers to one another's countries as also the rapidly changing geo-political environment in the region encompassing India and Japan. While General NC Vij, Director, VIF, as part of his opening remarks, presented a fascinating account of important milestones covered by both countries in their bilateral relationship, H.E. Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, widely regarded as the architect of Japan's new defence policy, stressed India as one of the top strategic priorities for Japan. Among other things, the interaction focused on developing synergies between the two nations, more precisely, strategies for inter-locking the partnership through deeper economic engagements, with shared values and culture providing the base for it. One of the key takeaways from the interaction lay in the fact that with Japan on board, sharing manufacturing technologies in key sectors, India can emerge as a force of stability in the region. The impression one got from the interaction was that deeper economic engagements between India and Japan will lay the foundation for a vibrant defence and security cooperation between the two countries in the years ahead. To that extent, the interaction focused on exploring newer areas of cooperation between the two countries, with cooperation in disaster mitigation technologies, especially in earthquake, carbon-efficient technologies, power generation and tourism, among others, emerging as areas where both Japan and India can potentially collaborate more vigorously as compared to technology-sharing in sectors which could lead some people to raise their eyebrows in a few circles.



Interaction on India-Japan Bilateral Relations



Interaction on India-Japan Bilateral Relations



Interaction on India-Japan Bilateral Relations



Workshop on Silk Road Trade and Connectivity in Central and South Asia: 29-30 March 2016

The Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), in collaboration with the Royal United Service Institute (RUSI) and the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), organised a two-day workshop on 'Silk Road Trade and Connectivity in Central and South Asia' on 29th & 30th March 2016. The workshop, among other things, focused on infrastructure and connectivity related issues in Central and South Asia against the backdrop of China's recently rolled out 'Silk Road Economic Belt' (SREB) initiative, an initiative that seeks to link China to Central Asia and further up to Europe through energy pipelines and transport corridors. Participants to the workshop included representatives from China, the UK, India and Afghanistan. The workshop, while analyzing the various underlying dynamics of SREB project – feasibility, cost, benefits, and security, among other related issues, also discussed a few alternative proposals which might be helpful in connecting the Eurasian landmass. General NC Vij, Director, VIF, in his opening remarks laid out the roadmap for the workshop. While advancing India's vision of connectivity through the region he underlined the SREB has always remained a subject of intense study for the VIF, corroborated by the fact that four publications have come out of the foundation till date. Even though the SREB does not benefit India in any significant way, it has implications for the country. To that extent, policy experts in India as also in countries impacted by the SREB need to have a deeper understanding of the subject than what has been the case so far. Day one of the workshop focused on ways in which SREB-related infrastructure and transport projects can help break connectivity bottlenecks in Eurasia. Deliberations across the table in



Workshop on Silk Road Trade and
Connectivity in Central and South Asia



Workshop on Silk Road Trade and
Connectivity in Central and South Asia



Workshop on Silk Road Trade and
Connectivity in Central and South Asia



parts also focused on how China and India can enhance bilateral cooperation through connectivity. As a corollary to this, discussions were held on the need to protect the newly-built infrastructure, energy and transport corridors across Central and South Asia through cooperative security solutions. Day two of the workshop focused squarely on the prevailing security environment in the region, especially on Afghanistan, and its larger implications for the SREB and vice versa. Discussants were largely of the view that a deteriorating Afghanistan would seriously undermine the SREB. To that extent, Sino-Indian security cooperation in Afghanistan, especially both countries contributing to strengthening Afghanistan's national security architecture, especially its Army, is not only imperative for stabilizing Afghanistan, and thereby securing the region, but it is also in their own economic and security interests.

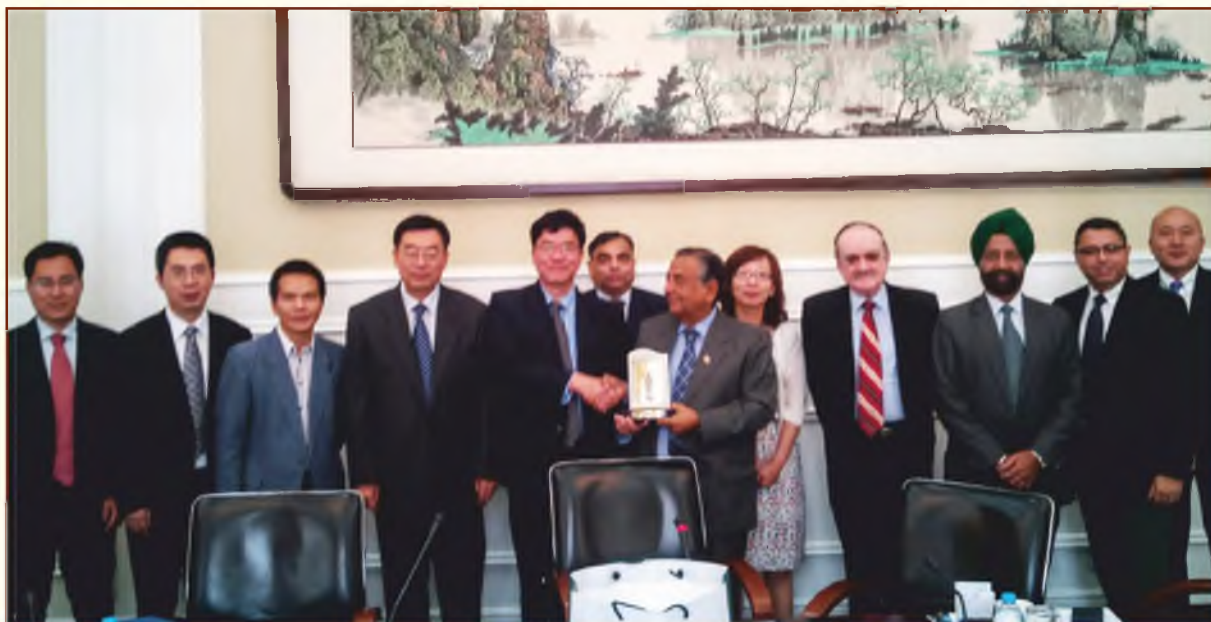


Workshop on Silk Road Trade and Connectivity in Central and South Asia

The workshop, on the first day, was organised into three sessions, with a session each devoted to studying aspects of road connectivity, securing the Silk Road, and stabilisation and economic development through connectivity. With Ambassador Ashok Kantha, Lt Gen RK Sawhney and Director International Security Studies, RUSI, Raffaello Pantucci moderating discussions in the respective sessions, the panel of speakers included Brig Vinod Anand (VIF), Dr Lin Minwang (Associate Professor, Institute of International Relations, China Foreign Affairs University), Sarah Lain (RUSI), Lt Gen Gautam Banerjee (VIF), Tamim Asey (Director General of Policy Office, National Security Council, Government of Afghanistan), Dr Wang Shida (CICIR), and Prof Nirmala Joshi (Director, India-Central Asia Foundation).



Glimpses





Glimpses





RTD on Energy Security for India: 14-15 May 2015

The VIF held a Round Table Discussion on 'Energy Security for India,' on 14 & 15 May 2015. An expert panel of policy makers and stakeholders, comprising, among others, GB Pradhan, Chairman, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, B.K. Chaturvedi, former Cabinet Secretary and Member Planning Commission, R.V. Shahi, former Secretary (Power), and Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), along with a select group of officials representing the Ministry of Power, discussed a broad range of policy options and strategies to ramp up India's energy security. The discussions were held largely against the backdrop of the ambitious target set by the Ministry of Power to generate 1,75,000 MW green power by 2022 and bring last mile connectivity across India within the stipulated timeframe. As energy deficient country India faces the twin challenge of maintaining a moderate to high growth rate while reducing its over dependence on imports to meet its energy requirements. However, it is imperative that India not only gets uninterrupted access to energy resources and relevant technologies at affordable prices, but it also has access to cleaner sources of energy. Underlining the growing need, the world over, of homogenizing energy with environment, Piyush Goyal, MoS (Independent Charge), Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy said in his keynote address, 'India needs to dovetail its energy security with our consciousness for the environment'. The deliberations by experts over four sessions



RTD on Energy Security for India



RTD on Energy Security for India



RTD on Energy Security for India



helped to a large extent identify gaps and bring out a number of workable solutions towards India's energy security.

Interaction with Dr. Anantha Nageswaran on Chinese and Indian Economies: 21 August 2015

Amid growing international concern over China's unrelenting economic slump, the Vivekananda International Foundation on Aug 21, 2015 invited Dr. Anantha Nageswaran, a well-known economist and investment strategist, for a talk on 'Chinese and Indian Economies' followed by an interaction with the in-house scholars. Quoting data from a plethora of global financial institutions, Standard & Poor's, Goldman Sachs, and Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, Dr. Nageswaran remarked China's economic woes are far worse than what meets the eye, evidenced by a growing number of indicators.

While China's fiscal deficit keeps growing, the growth figures put out by the Chinese are hard to believe. All major sectors of the Chinese economy – industrial production, reality sector, labour market, capital investment, and household savings, among others – have witnessed sharp decline over the years. With capital flows outbound being increasingly the trend in China, the share market is almost in a state of free fall. While the crash of share market is phenomenal, the measures to stymie its fall, especially the recent devaluation of the Yuan (Chinese currency) by almost 2 percent against the dollar, appear to have had no effect. The interaction ranged across a wide spectrum of economic issues, including China's 'One road, One belt' economic initiative and India's demographic dividend, among others.



Dr Anantha Nageswaran



Interaction on Chinese and Indian Economies



Interaction on Chinese and Indian Economies



Interaction with TN Ninan, author of 'Turn of the Tortoise': 2 December 2015

While the jury may still be out debating whether India's economy has really taken off under the new political dispensation in New Delhi, members of the VIF faculty, General NC Vij, Director VIF, Amb PP Shukla, Vice Adm KK Nayyar, among others, engaged TN Ninan, the distinguished journalist and author of *Turn of the Tortoise: The Challenge and Promise of India's Future* on December 2, 2015 in a fascinating interaction, focusing on the state of economy and what the future potentially holds for India, especially in terms of developmental aspirations. The interaction, a spin off from the book, threw some new light on India's economy while propping up fresh ideas to catalyse it in tune with our growth objectives. TN Ninan, a specialist in economic affairs who is currently on the board of governors of the Business Standard, discussed India's current economic scenario broadly in light of the thesis his book advances. Outlining a fresh insight into how an economy should be judged, the journalist cum economist said the Indian economy is distinct from many other faster growing smaller economies in Asia in that she combines both speed and size. Notably, India not only has been averaging a 6.5 growth rate despite an all pervasive slowdown, she is also accredited as the seventh largest economy globally.

The author further underlined the absence of a unilateral approach while setting out our economic goals, a natural corollary to having multiple interest groups and divergent stakeholders. While he said having multiple objectives do prevent us from maximizing our returns, there is little that can be done to rectify this. However, we have to be selective and restrict ourselves in a few specific areas since in a democracy you need to cater for all sections of the society and have same objectives. Coming back to India's growth prospects in the near term, Ninan reiterated that the slow and incremental recovery of India's economy is conjoined with a whole series of factors – the impact of a global recession, the rise in debt to GDP ratio, and the inability of the big players to invest in the market, among others. He further said while there is positive movement in some sectors (roadways, wind and solar energy etc), there is still more that needs to be done, especially in terms of de-clogging monetary transmission mechanism. The silver lining amid all of this is the gradual acceptance by the public at large of the need for fiscal discipline, providing the necessary fillip to the government to take up the required corrective measures.



L to R : Amb Prabhat Shukla, Gen N C Vij & Mr T N Ninan



Interaction on Indian Economy



Glimpses





Conference on the Plight of Kashmiri Pandits: 13 February 2015

VIF, together with All India Kashmiri Samaj (AIKS), organised a day-long conference 'Revisiting the displaced Kashmiri Pandits issue' on 13 February 2015. 'J&K: the fractured electorate mandate and its implications,' and 'Creation of a legitimate political space for displaced Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir' were the two prominent themes. The conference was attended and addressed by a large panel of eminent Kashmir observers and security experts, many among them owing their ancestry to Kashmir. With Lt Gen Ata Hasnain, former

Corps Commander in Kashmir, chairing the first session, presentations were made by Prof Amitabh Mattoo, Prof Susheela Bhan, and Vijay Aima. The second session was chaired by CD Sahay, former secretary R&AW, and it had four speakers on the panel: AVM Kapil Kak, Brig Upender Singh, Vivek Katju, a former diplomat, and KM Singh, a former member National Disaster Management Authority, India. General NC Vij, Director VIF, who presided over the event, laid down the framework of discussions in his opening remarks. Sharing the dais with General Vij in the preliminary session, Dr Romesh Raina, General Secretary AIKS, highlighted the prominent challenges facing the displaced Kashmiri fraternity across India. While the conference remained predominately focused on the post-election scenario in Jammu & Kashmir and the Kashmiri Pandits issues, other issues germane to the prolonged conflict in Kashmir such as Pakistan's continued provocation and interference in India's internal affairs, Article 370 of the Indian Constitution granting special status to the state of J&K, and the continued relevance of Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) also came up for pointed discussions during the conference.



Conference on the Plight of Kashmiri Pandits



Conference on the Plight of Kashmiri Pandits

Seminar on Indian Civilization (2000-500 B.C.): 17-18 June 2015

The Vivekananda International Foundation, in association with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), held a two-day national seminar on 'Indian Civilization (2000-500 B.C.)' on 17 & 18 June 2015. The seminar was essentially aimed at underlining the need to start a course



correction in the study of India's ancient history, especially in light of the new historical research and evidences which have surfaced over the past 70-80 years. Till about the beginning of the 20th century the antiquity of Indian civilization was thought to be about 600 B.C i.e. from the time of Buddha. While the discovery of the Harappan civilization in 1922 took the antiquity of the Indian Civilization to 3000 B.C, the emergence of new archaeological evidences since then in many parts of India, especially in northern, central and southern India, take the antiquity of the Indian civilization as far back as 7000 B.C. Dr. Rakesh Tewari, Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, Dr. B.R. Mani, Addl. Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, Prof. Vibha Tripathi, Department of AIHC Archaeology, Banaras Hindu University, and Prof. Makkhan Lal, Distinguished Fellow, VIF, among others, participated in the seminar.



Seminar on Indian Civilization (2000-500 B.C.)



Seminar on Indian Civilization (2000-500 B.C.)

Release of 'Nehru-A Troubled Legacy' : 18 August 2015

A book, *Nehru: A Troubled Legacy*, authored by R.N.P. Singh, Senior Fellow, VIF, was formally released by Vijai Kapoor, former Lieutenant Governor Delhi, at a simple ceremony held in the auditorium of Vivekananda International Foundation on 18 August 2015. Following the release, a discussion was held on Nehru and his political legacy. Underlining the fact that a critical appraisal of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, was long overdue, General NC Vij, Director, VIF, remarked that most of the books written about Nehru have tended to be overly one sided so far. While the foreign writers have written superficially about him, the Indian writers, by and large, have hero-worshipped him, overlooking aspects of Nehru that need a critical appraisal. He pointed out that Nehru, swayed by a pacifist world view, made monumental blunders in defence and security affairs of India. Nehru's benign neglect of India's defence and lack of strategic foresight formed a special part of the discussion, succinctly brought out by Lt Gen R.K. Sawhney, Dean, Centre for Defence Studies, VIF. Introducing the book, the author, R.N.P. Singh, shed significant light on what spurred him to



Release of *Nehru-A Troubled Legacy*



write a book on one of India's most adored, yet probably the most discussed political figures since independence. He gave a detailed account of what each of the eight chapters of the book entails – Gandhi's protégé, unchallenged supremacy, seeds of dynastic politics, President-Prime Minister relationship, and betrayal of democratic values, among others. The twenty eight letters reproduced by the author in support of his arguments are quite revealing in themselves. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest Mr Vijai Kapoor said history warrants that a proper and dispassionate evaluation of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is undertaken especially in light of the fact that the country has travelled a long distance since Nehru's death.



Mr Vijai Kapoor with the author Mr RNP Singh





Global Conclave on 'Hindu-Buddhist Initiative on Conflict Avoidance and Environment Consciousness': 3-5 September 2015

The Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) in collaboration with the Tokyo Foundation and International Buddhist Confederation jointly organised a three-day global conclave 'Samvad: Hindu-Buddhist Initiative on Conflict Avoidance and Environment Consciousness,' from 3 to 5 September 2015. Proceedings of the conclave were conducted in the first two days at VIF in New Delhi, while the venue shifted to Bodh Gaya in Bihar on the third day. The conclave was inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of highlighting India's civilisational links with world. Not only did the Prime Minister inaugurate the conclave in Delhi but he also went to Bodh Gaya along with the delegates to offer a special prayer for global peace and harmony at Mahabodhi temple, Buddhism's holiest shrine. A pre-recorded video message from Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was also played during the inaugural session of the conference at the VIF. While PM Shinzo Abe in his message said Japan owed it's 'rule of law' to Buddhism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized that teachings of Hinduism and Buddhism can provide answers to many of problems the world faces, especially the ones related to conflicts and environmental degradation. The Prime Minister's resounding speech underlined the emerging dangers, both to the world and the environment. Expressing his deep anguish over the rising level of conflicts across societies, the Prime Minister stressed that the theme of dialogue on conflicts needs to shift from an ideological approach to a philosophical one. It was evident from his speech that the world needs a fresh approach to deal with the twin threats of rising conflicts and environmental degradation. Delegates from over 15 countries, including Sri Lanka, Nepal,



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi delivering his Inaugural Speech at the Global Conclave on 'Hindu-Buddhist Initiative on Conflict Avoidance and Environment Consciousness'



L to R : Director VIF, Gen N C Vij, Prime Minister Modi & Former President of Sri Lanka Mrs Chandrika Kumaratunga



Dignitaries at the Inauguration of the Exhibition on Indo-Japan Cultural Relations



Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Japan, Mongolia, Taiwan, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Russia among other countries, participated in the conference. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Mr. Kiren Rijiju and Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture, Tourism and MoS for Ministry of Civil Aviation Dr. Mahesh Sharma, were among other distinguished invitees to the conference.

The conclave on the first day focused squarely on the issue of conflict avoidance. From the discussions held amongst the scholars, it came out loud and clear that the teachings of Gautama Buddha, Swami Vivekananda and other spiritual leaders of Hinduism and Buddhism, especially on inter-religious tolerance and peaceful co-existence, are more relevant today than ever before. Sri Lanka's former President Mrs Chandrika Kumartunga, Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Minoru Kiuchi, Founder of the Art of Living Foundation Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Secretary General of the International Buddhist Confederation Ven. Lama Lobzang, Ven. Thich Nhat Tu from Vietnam, Founder of Dharmashree Gita Parivar & Mahirshi Ved Vyas Pratishthan Swami Govind Dev Giri, Distinguished Research Professor, Sastra University Mr Swaminathan Gurumurthy, President of the ICCR, Dr. Lokesh Chandra, Vice President Vivekananda Kendra Ku Nivedita Bhide, Advisor on Religious Affairs to the President of Mongolia Dr. M. Bataa, Prof. Karsten Schmidt from University of Frankfurt, Dr. S. N. Balagangadhara from Ghent University, Belgium, Dr. Jean Pierre-Lehman, Emeritus Professor from Switzerland among others, discussed ways and means of avoiding conflicts in a world torn apart by religious fanaticism and ideological bigotry. The second day witnessed a spirited and composite dialogue among the participants on environmental consciousness being the prime paradigm of



Mr S Gurumurthy delivering his Keynote Address at the Global Conclave



Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs Mrs Sushma Swaraj speaking at the Valedictory Function of the Global Conclave



Eminent Audience at the Global Conclave



socio-cultural cooperation and creative global action. The philosophical underpinnings of Buddhist dharma were touched upon in a reference to the protection of natural heritage and the pursuit of sustainable growth. With Param Pujya Swami Paramatmananda, Secretary General & Coordinator of Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha, India, and Ven. Telo Tulku Rinpoche, Shadjin Lama of the Republic of Kalmyk (Russian Federation) chairing the session on the second day, Ven. Geshe Jangchup Choeden, Abbot, Ganden Shartse Monastery, Karnataka, India, H.E Lyonpo Namgay Dorji, Minister for Finance, Kingdom of Bhutan, H.E Chuch Phoeurn, Secretary of State, Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, Cambodia, Sri Sri Sri Nirmalanandanatha, Sri Kshetra Adichuchanagiri Ashram, Karnataka, India, Dr. Barbara Mass from NABU International, Germany, Prof. Naresh Man Bajracharya, Vice Chancellor, Lumbini Buddhist University, Nepal, Dr. Sudha Murty, Chairperson Infosys Foundation, Acharya Dr. Shrivatsa Goswami-Sri Chaitanya Prema Sansthana, India, Ven. Thich Thien Tam, Vice President of National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha, Vietnam, Prof. Yo from Taiwan, Dr. M.D. Srinivas, Chairman, Centre for Policy Studies, India among other distinguished speakers, discussed extensively on how to protect the environment and the Mother Earth from further onslaught. In her valedictory address, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs, Government of India, underlined the linkages between conflict and environment. She also pointed out that while, on one hand, a totalitarian approach where man is at the center was propagated by a large number of western philosophers, the Hindu and the Buddhist philosophers, on the other hand, remained deeply conscious of the need to preserve nature. In his concluding remarks, General NC Vij, Director, VIF, stated that the conclave not only met all the objectives it had set out to achieve but even went beyond that. The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Ven. Lama Lobzang, Secretary General, IBC.

On 5th September 2015 Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi joined the delegates in offering special prayers for Global peace and harmony under the Holy Bo Tree at the Sacred Mahabodhi Temple in Bodhgaya. Prime Minister Modi in his address summed up the two days initiative held at the VIF in New Delhi. The initiative concluded with reading out of the Bodhgaya Declaration.

Release of Shanti Samsara : 30th November 2015

The environmental theme of the Global Hindu-Buddhist initiative was taken to Climate Convention in Paris where a music video (a VIF initiative) titled 'Shanti Samsara-World Music for



L to R : Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs Mrs Sushma Swaraj, Director VIF, Gen N C Vij & President Tokyo Foundation Mr Akiyama



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi at the Sacred Mahabodhi Temple in Bodhgaya



Environmental Consciousness' was released on 30th November 2015 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Mr Narendra Modi and Hon'ble President of France Mr Francois Hollande. The album has been composed and arranged by the Grammy winner Mr. Ricky Kej in which 300 musicians from around the world got together and created music with civilisational hymns for Environment Consciousness.



Release of Shanti Samsara by
the Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Mr Modi &
Hon'ble French President Mr Francois Hollande

Second leg of Global Hindu-Buddhist Conclave held in Tokyo

Shared Values & Democracy in Asia: 19 January 2016

Tokyo Foundation, Japan Foundation, Nikkei Inc, & the Vivekananda International Foundation in association with International Buddhist Confederation organised the second leg of Global Hindu-Buddhist Conclave in Tokyo on January 19, 2016. The initiative was supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan. The symposium examined the values commonly shared by the Asian States and how they have sustained the evolution of those countries into modern democracies. The symposium saw participation from political & religious leaders, researchers and other eminent personalities from around the world. VIF was represented by the Director, Gen N C Vij. Mr Gurumurthy Swaminathan, Distinguished Research Professor, Sastra University & Prof R Vaidyanathan, Professor of Finance, IIM Bangalore were the other Indian speakers. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Mr Modi gave a Video message for the symposium. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Japan Mr Shinzo Abe delivered the Valedictory Address.



The speakers of 'Shared Values & Democracy in Asia' with Prime Minister of Japan Mr Shizo Abe



Glimpses from the Global Conclave on Hindu-Buddhist Initiative on Conflict Avoidance and Environment Consciousness



Glimpses from the Global Conclave on Hindu-Buddhist Initiative on Conflict Avoidance and Environment Consciousness





Glimpses from the Global Conclave on Hindu-Buddhist Initiative on Conflict Avoidance and Environment Consciousness



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Glimpses from the Global Conclave on Hindu-Buddhist Initiative on Conflict Avoidance and Environment Consciousness





Naxalite Movement in Chhattisgarh: 21 January 2015

Mr Shekhar Dutt, former Governor of Chhattisgarh, delivered a talk on 'Naxalite Movement in Chhattisgarh & the Challenges of Governance' under the Vimarsha lecture series, held on 21 January 2015 at the VIF. Ahead of his talk, Mr Dutt also released a book 'The India Pakistan War of 1971: A History', edited by Mr S N Prasad & Mr U P Thapliyal. A project of the Ministry of Defence (GoI), the book provides a detailed account of the 1971 war and is based on official records, personal interviews and reminiscences of the veterans etc. Drawing on his hands-on experience in dealing with Naxalism, first as Deputy NSA, and subsequently, as Governor of Chhattisgarh, one of India's worst Naxal-infested states, Mr Shekhar Dutt gave a detailed account of the problem which has plagued India for over four decades. The Maoists are fighting a protracted people's war with the ultimate objective of seizing political power. The movement is felt in 145 districts out of 600 including all major cities in the country. Chhattisgarh, by far, remains the nerve centre of the movement with large swathe of the state operating almost in security vacuum.



Mr Shekhar Dutt speaking on 'Naxalite Movement in Chhattisgarh'



Vimarsh on Naxalite Movement in Chhattisgarh

Rise of Islamism: A Direct Consequence of the Creation of Pakistan: A Talk by Tarek Fatah: 25 March 2015

Noted columnist and author of 'Chasing the Mirage: The Tragic Illusion of an Islamic State', Tarek Fatah, delivered an insightful talk on 'The Rise of Islamism: A Direct Consequence of the Creation of Pakistan', on March 25, 2015 under the Vimarsha lecture series at VIF. A gusty speaker, known widely across the Muslim world for his secular, progressive and liberal views, Tarek Fatah, gave a brilliant exposition on the evolution of political Islam in the sub-continent, attributing much of the radicalisation going



Gen N C Vij & Mr Tarek Fatah



on across the world to the creation of Pakistan. According to Fatah, Britain and the United States helped create and sustain Pakistan largely to obfuscate the communists after the Second World War. Pakistan, however, owes its existence to the hatred against India, a sworn enemy. Pakistan has a huge stockpile of nuclear weapons and its nuclear arsenal consists of low-yield short-range tactical weapons which could be used against India. India needs to remain wary of Pakistan's nefarious designs and must give up any hope of reconciliation with her. The Pakistan-born author also had a set of policy recommendation for India: 'Aman ki Aasha' should be scrapped as it is nothing but a shameful exercise and a one way traffic of ISI 'aunties' coming to India and doing the rounds in India; the beating retreat at Wagah, or 'the march of roosters' as the speaker indignantly called it, must cease without any further delay, because it gives Pakistan a sense of parity with India. Tarak Fatah further underlined the need for India to support the Baloch insurgents in its own interests.



Vimarsh on 'Rise of Islamism'

Make in India in Defence Sector: 23 April 2015

With the 'Make in India' drive of the government promising to change the entire industrial landscape in the country, the VIF organised its monthly talk 'Vimarsha' on the 'Role of Technology in the Manufacture of Defence Equipment' on 23 April 2015, delivered by Vice Admiral Raman Puri, former Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, who is presently associated with the Foundation as a Distinguished Fellow. Spelling out the imperatives of 'Make in India' in defence, General NC Vij, Director, VIF, said in his opening remarks that India's excessive dependence on foreign suppliers to meet the critical requirements of the country's armed forces is an unviable proposition in the long run. Vice Admiral Raman Puri, who long has been associated with India's premier Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in steering the course of indigenization in defence production, stressed that evolving nature of modern warfare has put the additional onus on the armed forces to continuously upgrade its weaponry. He expressed optimism that DRDO has the



Vice Adm Raman Puri speaking on Make in India in Defence Sector



Vimarsh on Make in India in Defence Sector



necessary technological edge to move in the right direction. Citing 'Tejas' (multi-role combat fighter) and 'Arjun' (main battle tank) as the shining examples of success of the DRDO, Vice Adm Puri said experiences gained in research over the past few decades should not be frittered away. The DRDO has often been blamed wrongly for running into cost and time overruns. He, however, said many of the problems associated with the DRDO could be set right by proper planning, but even more importantly, by staying the course. A great advocate of self-reliance in defence production, Vice Adm Puri also opined that joint research with private players would result in spinning off technologies which would be beneficial to both. The views expressed by the speaker found great resonance with the audience who had turned up in sizable strength to hear Vice Adm Raman Puri on a very scintillating subject.

Northeast as the Backbone of India's Act East Policy: 13 May 2015

On 13 May 2015 the then Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt Gen Nirbhay Sharma shared his perspective on the development of the Northeast in the light of India's 'Act East' policy. Lt Gen S K Sinha, former Governor Assam and J&K, chaired the session, while several prominent experts among the audience interacted with the speaker. H.E. Lt Gen Nirbhay Sharma's incisive presentation sought to address a broad gamut of issues including, the reasons for over six decades of developmental lag of the northeast, the imperatives of development of the Northeast and the adjoining region, challenges in developing connectivity, issues related to governance, ecological issues, and India's China policy, among others. Combining the perspectives of both a strategist and an administrator, Governor Lt Gen Nirbhay Sharma said the Northeast is an important land bridge to India's immediate and extended neighbourhood – a natural partner. It therefore holds the potential to become an engine of growth for the entire region. Differentiating between India's old 'Look East' policy and the present 'Act East' policy, the Governor said whereas the 'Look East' policy sought to engage only the ASEAN countries, the 'Act East' policy is much wider in scope especially as it encompasses the entire Asia-Pacific region. Also, while the 'Look East' policy focused on India's economic integration with the Southeast Asian countries, under the 'Act East' policy India is seeking deeper political and strategic engagements with countries in the region. Relying more on soft power – socio-cultural dialogues, diasporas, food security, space security etc, the 'Act East' policy is more action-driven and result-oriented as compared to the policy in its earlier avatar.



Hon'ble Governor of Mizoram Lt Gen Nirbhay Sharma



L to R : Gen N C Vij, Lt Gen Nirbhay Sharma
& Lt Gen SK Sinha



Indian Economy-Myth and Reality: 30 June 2015

Dr. R Vaidyanathan, Professor of Finance, IIM-Bangalore and Dean, Centre of Economic Studies, VIF, delivered a perceptive talk, titled 'Indian Economy: myth and reality' on 30 June 2015, under the aegis of VIF's monthly Vimarsha series of lectures. Prof Vaidyantan, an expert on the Indian model of economics, started off by giving his impression of the impending crisis in the Euro zone, triggered especially by the Greece debt crisis, and its implications for India. He said while all global crises emanated from Europe over the last 1500 years, the present sovereign debt crisis facing the Euro zone is largely on account of declining household savings. He also forecast the end of economic dominance of G-20 countries by 2020. Prof Vaidyanathan's incisive talk on India's economy covered a broad range of issues - the nature of India's economy, the role of FDI/FII, the structure of our savings, the role of gold, the need to fund Uninc, market access and political linkages, among other complex issues, were explained in a very simple and lucid manner.



Prof R Vaidyanathan speaking on 'Indian Economy-Myth and Reality'



Gen N C Vij & Prof R Vaidyanathan

National Security Challenges of the Next Decade: 30 July 2015

On 30 July 2015, General Bikram Singh, former Chief of Indian Army & Chairman Chiefs of Staff, delivered an incisive talk, titled as 'National Security Challenges of the Next Decade', to a large audience, comprising academia, intelligentsia, soldiers, statesmen and students, among others, who had gathered for VIF's monthly Vimarsha, series of talks by eminent persons on issues of contemporary national importance. He was welcomed and presented to the audience by General NC Vij, former Chief of Indian Army and VIF's Director. His opening remarks broadly encapsulated the contours of India's regional security environment, influenced increasingly by shifting geo-political trends,



Gen Bikram Singh speaking on 'National Security Challenges of the Next Decade'



especially the rise of China. The Director stressed that India has a strategic window of roughly about ten years to rise to the challenge of China. General Bikram Singh, who retired as Army Chief exactly a year ago on 31 July 2014, painted a broad canvas of India's security challenges including threats on the northern and western borders, situations in J&K and the northeast, and coastal security, among others. Kicking off his talk with a perceptive analysis of the terrorist incident at Gurdaspur in Punjab, he said, it bore the frustration of terrorist groups in Pakistan who are apparently against any rapprochement between India and Pakistan. Alluding to a potential Pakistan's ISI (Inter Services Intelligence) involvement in the Gurdaspur attack, he said such incidents usually usher in a fortress mentality, resulting into cascading effects with increased costs to security and grave ramifications for maintaining law and order, a cusp between public order and security. He further underlined Pakistan's strategic behaviour vis-à-vis India is unlikely to change unless it gets over its obsession with Kashmir. He assured India's Armed Forces are adequately prepared and on a high morale to meet all kinds of threat challenging India's territorial integrity.



Vimarsh on 'National Security Challenges of the Next Decade'

J&K: Failures/ Lapses and the Opportunities

On 23 December 2015, Dr. Sudhir S. Bloeria, former Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir and Vice Chancellor of Jammu and Kashmir University, shared his perspective on the perceived lapses / failures and the present opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir, with an august gathering which comprised of several former bureaucrats, intellectuals, policy experts, and academicians, among others. The talk was preceded by an introductory speech made by General NC Vij, Director VIF, underscoring radicalisation as the next big challenge in Kashmir after insurgency. He said, Maulvis (experts in Islamic law) from U.P. and Bihar, to a large extent, are spreading Wahabi teachings in the Madrassas in Kashmir, thereby putting Kashmir's great Sufi traditions to grave risks. Besides, the Director also briefly touched on the current security and political trends in J&K in his opening remarks. Dr. Bloeria's talk was divided into five parts: the genesis of the problem in Kashmir, a detailed account of the militancy years in the valley, including



Dr Sudhir S Bloeria on
'J&K Failures Lapses and the Opportunities'



Lt Gen Ajai Singh & Lt Gen NS Malik



lessons learnt and a revival of the political processes beginning with the first state elections in 1996 after the worst phase of insurgency was over, the perceived political and administrative lapses, the current situation, and a general sense of direction to which Kashmir should be heading, given especially the current political and security situations in the state. He underscored the gains accrued as a result of four successive successful elections need to be further consolidated with a string of administrative and political measures, inter alia, an improvement in the overall physical as well as psychological connectivity with the rest of India in order to bring Kashmir back into the national mainstream.

'Jihadist Threat to India – The Case for Islamic Reformation by an Indian Muslim' : 30 March 2016

As part of its Vimarsha series of public discourses on issues of contemporary national relevance, the VIF on 31 March 2016 organised the release of 'Jihadist Threat to India – The Case for Islamic Reformation by an Indian Muslim' a book by Tufail Ahmad, followed by a panel discussion. Mr. Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, released the book to a large audience which comprised of several prominent former bureaucrats, diplomats, military veterans, among other intellectuals.



Release of 'Jihadist Threat to India - The Case for Islamic Reformation by an Indian Muslim'

Following the VIF Director's Gen NC Vij's opening remarks, Tufail Ahmad, the author, gave a broad understanding of the nature of Jihadist threat India faces. According to him, India faces the twin threat of Pakistan-exported terrorism and the increasing radicalization of local Muslims. While the former can be tackled militarily, it is the later which is really the problematic. He however stressed that liberal Islamist views need to be given proper institutionalized support in India. Among other speakers, while Sushant Sareen dwelt on the role of the state in so far as de-radicalization of Muslims is concerned, Lt Gen S. Ata Hasnain's talk focused on Islam's reformation. The latter described the current turmoil being witnessed around the Muslim world as some kind of churning, an essential pre-condition to actual reformation which may come about a hundred years later. Vikram Sood, former Chief R&AW, who has written a forward to the book, led the panelists through an interesting Q&A session with the audience. The evening's proceedings concluded with an impressive speech, delivered by Hon'ble Minister Kiren Rijiju. He stressed that while ideological differences in the past remained largely contained, it is the growing inter-connectedness of the world, especially the expanse of technologies, exacerbating the process of radicalization across the world.



Mr Tufail Ahmad

Glimpses





Glimpses





- 08 January: Dr. Surya Prakash, Distinguished Fellow VIF & Chairman Prasar Bharati delivered Inaugural Address on "Changing Media Landscape" at 9th India Conference - The Global Communication Association, Bangalore.
- 13 January: Gen NC Vij, Director, VIF participated with HE Shivraj V Patil, Hon'ble Governor of Punjab in a seminar on 'Reducing poverty through mainstreaming of Disaster management into the Governance' in Chandigarh.
- 19 January: RNP Singh, Senior Fellow, VIF made a presentation on 'Democracy and Development in India and China' organised by Council for Social Development at India International Centre, New Delhi.
- 19th January: Dr. Surya Prakash delivered a commemorative lecture to students of the Department of Media Studies, M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women on "Indian Media and its Responsibilities".
- 28 January: Sushant Sareen, Senior Fellow VIF, participated in a panel discussion/RTD on 'Pakistan in 2015' at IPCS, New Delhi.
- 30 January: Sushant Sareen participated in a panel discussion/RTD of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) on 'Situation in Afghanistan', New Delhi.
- 02 February: Dr. Surya Prakash spoke on 'Media Communication in Changing Scenario', at National Media Centre, New Delhi.
- 03 February: Sushant Sareen gave a talk on foreign policy 'Changing Paradigm under new regime' organised by India First & SPMRF at JNU, New Delhi.
- 05 March: Dr. Surya Prakash delivered Convocation Address at Karnataka Open University, Mysore.
- 14 March: Dr. Surya Prakash participated in PRCI 9th Global Conference and spoke on 'Indian Broadcasting and Media: Challenges and Opportunities', at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
- 24 March: PK Mishra, Senior Fellow, VIF delivered a presentation on LWE during National Defence College exercise from 24 to 26 March 2015 and was also a mentor for the exercise.
- 24 March: Sushant Sareen presented a paper on 'Emerging challenges and opportunities in Af-Pak region' at International Conference on 'India and its neighbours', JNU, New Delhi.
- 03 April: Lt. Gen Gautam Banerjee, Visiting Fellow, VIF delivered talk on 'China's Territorial Claims and Border Policies' at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, Tamil Nadu and also conducted a discussion on 'People's Liberation Army'.
- 07 April: Lt Gen Gautam Banerjee mentored Course Members on Strategic Game on 'Left Wing Extremism and Maoist Insurgency' at the National Defence College, New Delhi. (7 to 10 April 2015).
- 07 April: RNP Singh presented a paper on 'ISIS: Emerging Threat for Modern World' at Constitution Club, New Delhi organised by India Policy Foundation.



- 11 April: KM Singh, Member Executive Council, VIF delivered Keynote Address at Trainers' course in Disaster Management, North East Police Academy, Shillong.
- 23 April: Dr. Harinder Sekhon, Senior Fellow, VIF delivered a talk at the Tallinn University, Estonia on 'India's Act East Policy and New Dynamics in India-Japan Relations'.
- 23 April: Dr. Harinder Sekhon, Senior Fellow made a presentation on 'Russia's Assertiveness: A View from India' at the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tallinn.
- 24 April: Dr. Harinder Sekhon made a presentation on 'East Asian Security Architecture and the US Rebalance' at the 9th Lennart Meri Conference in Tallinn, Estonia organised by the International Centre for Defence and Security.
- 25 April: RNP Singh made a presentation on 'Law and Land Acquisition: Then and Now' at India Policy Foundation, New Delhi.
- 26 April: Lt Gen. Ravi Sawhney, Distinguished Fellow, VIF participated in IVth Moscow Conference on 'International Security' organised by the Russian Ministry of Defence.
- 03 May: KM Singh inaugurated the School Safety Programme at DPS, Ludhiana and addressed school children & staff.
- 05 May: Lt Gen Gautam Banerjee participated in workshop and confabulations on '4th Generation Warfare' with the Philadelphia Group - Insight and Fabius Maximus Group (5 to 15 May 2015).
- 08 May: Sushant Sareen made a presentation on Balochistan at NSCS, New Delhi.
- 13 May: KM Singh participated as special invitee in Bihar Chapter of Disaster Risk Reduction Session Inaugurated by CM, Bihar and chaired a session on 'Preparedness for Effective Response'.
- 25 May: KM Singh delivered key note address in TOT Progress for NDRF in Management of Animals.
- May 29: Dr. Harinder Sekhon participated in the India-EU Think Tanks Initiative opening session at the EU Mission in New Delhi. Spoke on 'The Role of Think Tanks in Addressing Common Security Challenges'.
- 02 June: Lt Gen Gautam Banerjee participated in preliminary meeting of North-East Council at Calcutta and Guwahati on 'Infrastructural Development in the North East'.
- 04 June: Brig. Vinod Anand, Senior Fellow, VIF headed an Indian Delegation comprising strategic and media experts visited MOFA, Beijing for interaction and co-chaired the proceedings of a meeting with MOFA officials on 'Sino-Indian relations'.
- 04 June: Brig. Vinod Anand presented a paper on 'China and India working together to uphold regional peace and stability' at a seminar organized by China Public Diplomacy Association at Beijing on 'China-India Relations in the New Era'.
- 05 June: Brig. Vinod Anand visited National Development Reforms Commission of China; briefing and discussions on OBOR; visit and meeting with China Railway and China Radio International; gave an interview to China Radio on status of India-China Relations.



- 06 June: Lt Gen Gautam Banerjee performed the duties of Chairman, Study Group on 'Sustainable Development in The Andaman & Nicobar Islands' from 06 June 2015 to 06 January 2016 and submitted the Study Report to the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- 07 June: Brig. Vinod Anand co-chaired interaction with faculty of Shenzhen University and Centre for Indian Studies on 'China-India Cultural Relations and Silk Road'.
- 09 June: Brig. Vinod Anand held discussions with principal officials of Guangdong Provincial government on economic, administrative, governance and tourism aspects.
- 10 June: Brig. Vinod Anand visited China's National Computing Centre in Guangzhou and interacted on possibilities of cooperation between China and India on supercomputers.
- 12 June: Lt. Gen Gautam Banerjee presented a paper on 'GIS Applications for Internal Security' at Geo-Intelligence International Conference, New Delhi.
- 13 June: Dr. Surya Prakash spoke at the National Convention of the International Goodwill Society of India on 'Media in India - An Overview', at India International Centre, New Delhi.
- 24 June: Lt Gen. Ravi Sawhney spoke on Indian perspective on 'One Belt One Road' organized by Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, Shanghai and Royal United Services Institute at Shanghai.
- 11 July: RNP Singh presented a paper on 'Uniform Civil Code' at India Policy Foundation, New Delhi.
- 23-24 July: Nitin Gokhale, Senior Fellow, VIF conducted a two-day Media workshop for officers of Indian Army at Dimapur.
- 29 July: Nitin Gokhale spoke on the Indian Army's 1965 campaign at a Seminar organized by the Western Command at Mamun Cantonment.
- 08 August: Sushant Sareen gave a talk on 'Idea of Pakistan' at India Policy Foundation, New Delhi.
- 08 August: RNP Singh presented his views on 'Idea of Pakistan' at Deen Dayal Research Institute, New Delhi.
- 10 August: Lt. Gen Gautam Banerjee acted as a mentor on 'Principles of National Defence' at The International Strategy and Security Studies Programme, National Institute for Advance Studies, Bangalore.
- 14 August: Brig. Vinod Anand participated in International Symposium on the 'Role of Dunhuang in China's Interaction with Outside World' at China Institute of Dunhuang and Turfan Studies, Dunhuang Academy.
- 01 September: KM Singh participated in Indo-Pak Track II Dialogue in Istanbul.
- 01 September: CD Sahay, Distinguished Fellow, VIF participated in India-Pakistan Track II Dialogue in Istanbul.
- 01 September: Nitin Gokhale's book '1965: Turning the Tide: How India won the war' was launched at Manekshaw Centre by Raksha Mantri Manohar Parrikar and the three service chiefs at New Delhi.



- 02 September: CD Sahay participated in India-Pakistan-Afghanistan Dialogue by Ottawa University at Istanbul.
- 07 September: Dr. Harinder Sekhon participated at a Conference organized by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program at the University of Pennsylvania and ORF. Spoke on the 'Relevance of Think Tanks in Policy Making in India'.
- 09 September: Sushant Sareen made a presentation on 'Radicalisation and Deradicalisation' at SVP National Police Academy, Hyderabad.
- 11 September: KM Singh addressed participants of IT in Disaster Management Research Academy, CDoT Campus, New Delhi.
- 12 September: Lt. Gen Gautam Banerjee mentored scholars on 'National Defence' at The Gateway House, Mumbai.
- 13 September: Nitin Gokhale conducted a week-long workshop on setting up Integrated Newsroom at a Media Group in Nairobi, Kenya on behalf of NDTV Worldwide.
- 18 September: Dr. Surya Prakash delivered Convocation Address at NITTE Meenakshi Institute of Technology, a Deemed University, Yelahanka, Bangalore.
- 22 September: Sushant Sareen delivered a lecture on 'Imperatives of an Indian strategy for future of Pakistan', College of Defence Management, Hyderabad.
- 23 September: Nitin Gokhale attended a 40 day Advance Security Cooperation course at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies in Honolulu (23 September to 31 October 2015).
- 24 September: Lt. Gen Gautam Banerjee delivered a talk on 'Management of Societal Balance' at the Third Global Foundation Leaders Forum at Nanjing, China and thereafter chaired one of the Sessions on 'International Cooperation in Promoting Human Rights'.
- 29 September: Lt. Gen Gautam Banerjee Presented a paper on 'Vietnam, ASEAN-Indian Cooperation in Diplomacy, Public Security and National Defence' as part of an international conference on 'Vietnam-ASEAN-India Development Cooperation: Reality and Prospect' organized by Ho Chi Minh Academy of Political Science, Hanoi.
- 06 October: Brig. Vinod Anand participated in Spain-India Think Tank Meetings 2015: A New Collaborative Relationship at Diplomatic School of Spain, Madrid and made a presentation on VIF's Objectives and possibilities of cooperation with Spanish Think Tanks.
- 07 October: Brig. Vinod Anand participated in a symposium on 'Spain-India Think Tanks' Dialogue on Global, Geo-economics and Defence & Security Challenges' and made a presentation on 'Defence Security and Common Challenges and Shared Perspectives'.
- 08 October: RNP Singh spoke on 'Housing for All' at India International Centre, New Delhi organised by Lokashraya Foundation, New Delhi.
- 12 October: KM Singh organized and participated in a seminar titled 'A sustainable and affordable power sector' in Hyderabad.
- 15 October: Gen NC Vij delivered introductory remarks during a seminar on 'India-China



Military Balance and Equation in the Eastern Frontiers: A Comparative Framework between 1962 and Today' organized by CLAWS, New Delhi.

- 16 October: Lt Gen Ravi Sawhney spoke at Sixth Xiangshan Forum on 'Regional security' organized by China Military Science Society (CMSS) and China Institute for International Strategic Studies (CIISS) at Beijing.
- 26 October: KM Singh delivered keynote address and inaugurated 'Management of Animals in Emergencies' symposium at TOT Course, Palampur Agriculture University (HP).
- 28 October: Vice Admiral Anup Singh, Visiting Fellow, VIF spoke at "SiLKS" Think Tanks Networking Conference for OBOR, at Madrid, Spain.
- 29 October: Brig. Vinod Anand presented a paper on "China's Military Modernization and its Implications for the Region" during the seminar organized by Stratcore Group and CASS-India at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 31 October: KM Singh addressed the 'Pune Dialogue on National Security' organized at Pune International Centre.
- 02 November: Brig. Vinod Anand made a presentation on 'India's Defence and Security Policies' as a part of a session titled 'Foreign Policy and International Security in a changing Geopolitical Environment' during EU-India Think Tank Conference with the theme of EU-India: Closer Partners in Global Governance' held at New Delhi.
- 04 November: RNP Singh presided over the Seminar on 'New Constitution of Nepal' organized at Constitution Club, New Delhi.
- 04 November: Lt. Gen Gautam Banerjee delivered a talk on 'Technology Utilisation by Indian Army as a Smart Military Power' at the National Seminar on 'Indian Army Doctrine' at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies, New Delhi.
- 08 November: KM Singh participated in an Indo-Pak Track II Dialogue in Dubai.
- 10 November: KM Singh addressed the International Conference on Railway Security organised by Railway Protection Force at New Delhi.
- 19 November: Dr. Harinder Sekhon delivered a Guest lecture at the Jamia Milia Islamia University, New Delhi on 'The 2016 US Presidential Election: An Early Preview'.
- 19 November: Nitin Gokhale spoke on 'Security Implications for India in the 21st Century' at a Seminar at the College of Defence Management, Secunderabad.
- 23 November: Nitin Gokhale spoke on 'Role of Media in Mega City Security' at the Mega City Security Conference organised by the India Foundation in Mumbai.
- 30 November: Brig. Vinod Anand presented a paper on 'A Perspective on One Belt One Road Initiative' during an international symposium on 'One Belt One Road: Vision and Roadmap of China India Cooperation' organized by the Faculty of Social Development and Western China Development Studies, Sichuan University, Chengdu.
- 03 December: Gen NC Vij was the Chief Guest at 'Annual Sports Meet' at NC Jindal Public School, New Delhi.
- 09 December: Alvite Ningthoujam, Research Associate, VIF presented a paper titled 'India and the ISIS: Current Scenarios and the Counter-Narratives' at the RTD organised by



- the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) and the Oval Observer Foundation, New Delhi.
- 10 December: Sushant Sareen participated in HQ IDS RTD on 'Sino-Pak nexus – 2025' at CENJOWS, New Delhi.
- 13 December: Brig Vinod Anand co-chaired a RTD on Situation in Asia-Pacific, OBOR and Sino-Indian Relations at National Institute of International Strategy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing and thereafter visited MOFA and held discussions with Mr. He Wei, Deputy Director General, Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs.
- 13 December: Ramanand Grage, Senior Research Associate, VIF took part in RTD organized at National Institute of International Strategy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing.
- 15 December: Brig Vinod led a delegation of Indian Think Tanks for a week-long visit to Chinese Think Tanks and Universities and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Topics discussed included Asia-Pacific situation, India-China Relations, Terrorism, OBOR & Connectivity.
- 15 December: Dr. Harinder Sekhon spoke on 'Situation in the Asia-Pacific and Regional Integration at the Chinese Institute of International Studies', Beijing.
- 15 December: Nitin Gokhale participated in a roundtable discussion on 'Geopolitics in the 21st Century' at Brookings India, New Delhi.
- 18 December: Nitin Gokhale spoke on 'Media role in preserving Human Rights' at a Seminar organised by the Indian Army at Akhnoor.
- 21 December: Dr. Harinder Sekhon made a presentation on 'Regional Architecture in the Asia-Pacific and China, US, India Trilateral Relations' at the School of International Studies, Fudan University, Shanghai.
- 26 December: CD Sahay delivered a lecture at Haryana Institute of Administration, Gurgaon on 'Role of Police in dealing with terrorism'.
- 27 December: Dr. Surya Prakash delivered convocation address at National Institute of Mass Communication and Journalism, Ahmedabad.
- 28 December: Dr. Surya Prakash gave a lecture on 'The Relevance of Vivekananda to Contemporary Life', 18th Rashtra Katha Shibir organised by Shri Vedic Mission Trust, Rajkot, Gujarat.
- 08 January 2016: Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain, Visiting Fellow, VIF spoke on 'The Relevance of Sharda Peeth in Kashmiri History' at Press Club of India during the event organized by All India J&K Samaj.
- 08 January: KM Singh chaired a session on 'Resilient Livelihood' during Bihar Chapter of Disaster Risk Reduction, Validation Program at Patna.
- 10 January: Gp. Capt. Lalit Joshi, Senior Fellow, VIF attended the 'National Development Course' organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan from 10 to 30 January 2016 at the National Defence University, Taipei and participated in a number of lectures cum discussions on strategic and security issues.
- 13-14 January: Nitin Gokhale conducted a Media capsule for two days for Officers of the Higher



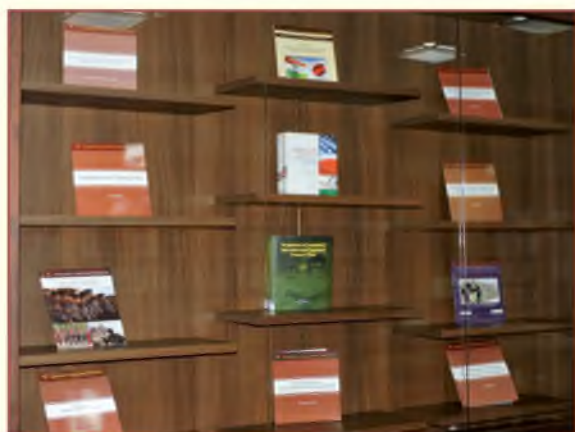
- Defence Management Course at the College of Defence Management (CDM), Secundarabad.
- 15 January: Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain delivered Keynote Address on 'Peace Education in Faith Diversity' at the Conclave of International Public Schools, Daly College, Indore.
- 16 January: CD Sahay participated in Dialogue Indo- Pak Track II Dubai.
- 16 January: KM Singh participated in Indo-Pak Track II Dialogue at Dubai.
- 17 January: Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain delivered Keynote Address on 'Making Mission Impossible, Mission Possible' at Larsen & Toubro Engg, Bangalore.
- 19 January: KM Singh participated in a discussion on 'Urban Flood Management' at Trivandrum.
- 19 January: Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain took part in panel discussion of Society for Policy Studies (SPS), New Delhi, 'From Lahore to Pathankot : Turbulent Trajectory'.
- 23 January: Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain was panelist in Shiv Nader School, Gurgaon, panel discussion on 'Is this India's Century'.
- 23 January: Nitin Gokhale attended the Bahrain Air Show.
- 29 January: CD Sahay spoke on 'Situation in Turkey and Middle East' during a programme organized by PPF, New Delhi.
- 2 February: Nitin Gokhale attended the Counter-Terrorism Conference in Jaipur organized by the India Foundation.
- 05 February: Sushant Sareen made a presentation as discussant on book 'The Longest August' at ICWA, New Delhi.
- 9 February: Nitin Gokhale spoke on India's Defence Sector at a closed-door workshop for senior Management of BAE Systems organised in New Delhi by the International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS), London.
- 10 February: Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain spoke on 'Counter Radicalization and Deradicalization' during lecture cum discussions with Association of Retired IPS Officers at IIC, New Delhi.
- 11 February: Lt. Gen Gautam Banerjee chaired the session on 'Intelligence and Technology' at the 16th National Security Guard International Seminar at Maneckshaw Centre, New Delhi.
- 13 February: RNP Singh delivered a talk on 'Ideological Untouchability in Indian Politics' at India Policy Foundation, New Delhi.
- 15 February: Dr. Surya Prakash gave a Special Lecture on 'Parliament in India' at Saraswathi Law College, Chitradurga, Karnataka.
- 15 February: CD Sahay participated in 'India -Pak Intelligence Dialogue' organized by Ottawa University at Abu Dhabi.
- 15 February: Ramanand Garge presented a paper on 'Island Security – the review of Indian Islands' at a conference on 'Maritime Security and Aspects of Blue Economy of India in Oceanic Theatre' organized by CHME Society, Mumbai.
- 16 February: Nitin Gokhale spoke as a panelist on 'Media's role in formulating a National Security Strategy' at a Conclave organised by the Delhi Policy Group in New Delhi.



- 21 February: Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain delivered a talk on 'Challenges of Being a Siachen Warrior' at Mayo College, Ajmer.
- 24 February: Nitin Gokhale addressed a group of 20 Indian Members of Parliament on the new defence procurement policy for self-reliance.
- 25 February: Nitin Gokhale moderated a Q&A session with Raksha Mantri Manohar Parrikar at a conference on the new Defence Procurement Procedure organized by the Defence Innovators Industry Association (DIIA) in New Delhi.
- 26 February: Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain delivered Keynote Address during an international seminar on Sub Conventional Operations organized by CLAWS, New Delhi.
- 26 February: Lt Gen Ravi Sawhney participated in a workshop seminar organized by Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and the University of Turin on 'One Belt One Road, Connecting Europe and China: The New Silk'.
- 28 February: KM Singh participated in Indo-Pak Track II Dialogue at Istanbul.
- 28 February: CD Sahay participated in India-Pak Intelligence Dialogue organized by Ottawa University at Istanbul.
- 03 March: Amb Tariq Karim, Distinguished Fellow VIF participated in Raisina Dialogue, New Delhi and presented his views during Plenary Session on 'Challenges & Opportunities for Regional Cooperation on Border management'.
- 03 March: KM Singh delivered keynote on 'Management of Animals in Emergencies' organized at National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi.
- 04 March: PK Mishra, Senior Fellow, VIF made a presentation on 'Indian perspective on BBIN security environment' during 'Smart Borders Conference at the ORF, New Delhi.
- 07 March: Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain delivered a talk on 'Leadership' at Officers Training Academy, Gaya.
- 07 March: KM Singh chaired a session on 'Strengthening Disaster Response Mechanism' organized by NDRF on its Raising Day at New Delhi.
- 15 March: Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain gave a talk on 'Afghanistan, Pakistan and New Great Game' at Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.
- 17 March: Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain took part in Chaophraya Dialogue (Track 2) on India – Pakistan at Bangkok.
- 19 March: RNP Singh delivered a talk on 'Housing and Land Rights in India' at Gauri Sadan, Hailey Road, New Delhi organised by Lokashraya Foundation, New Delhi.
- 21 March: KM Singh attended a week long 'Disaster Response Drill' exercise organized by Taiwan Government at Taipei and gave his expert views as an observer.
- 28 March: Dr. Surya Prakash delivered a Special lecture at Himanchal Pradesh University on 'Media in India and Challenges Ahead', Shimla.
- 31 March: Lt. Gen. Ravi Sawhney participated in a four day workshop sponsored by the United States NDU (Near East-South Asia) on the theme of 'NESA Region in 2020'.

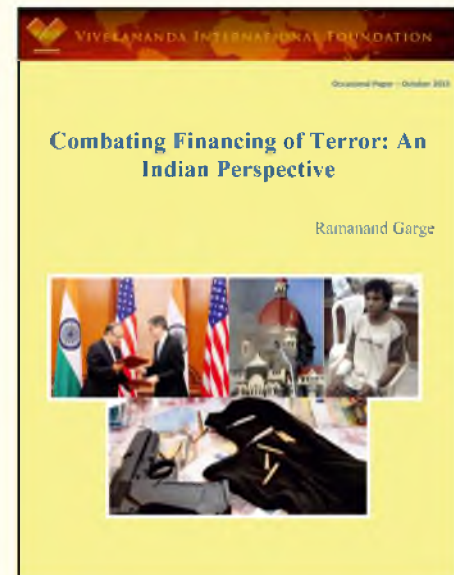
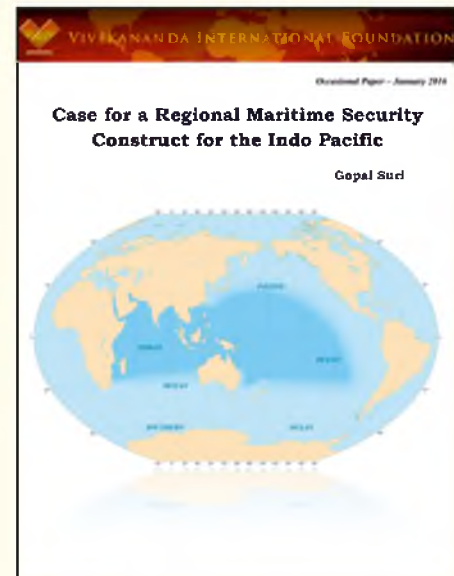
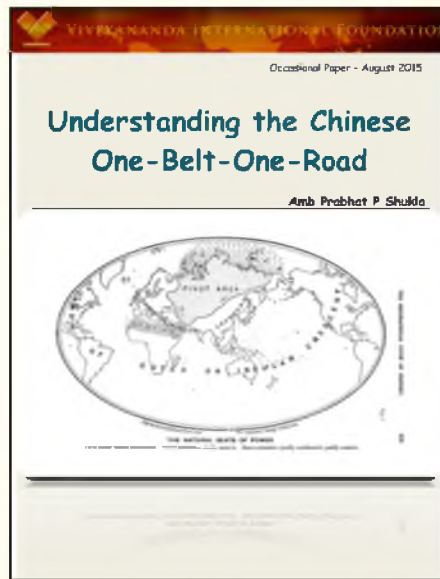


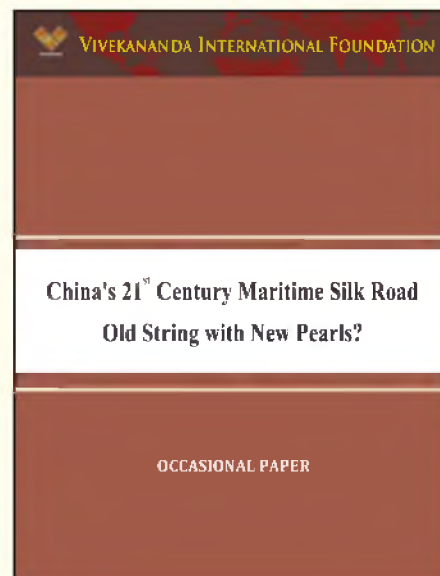
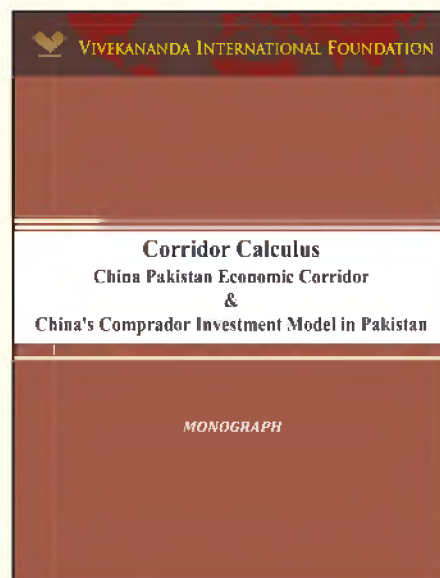
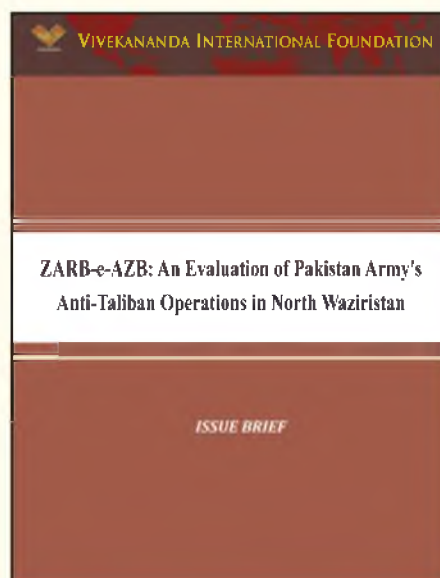
The VIF's Resource Research Centre & Library forms a hub of various research activities undertaken by the resident scholars. It provides necessary inputs on key subjects to the research community, both as routine and on receiving specific requests from them. The library has a growing collection of peer-reviewed books and articles, both in print and electronic form, primarily in the pre-designated areas of research, but also in general categories to cater to the demands of every reader. Resources are being stored in the database under three categories – Books, Journals and E-Resources. The database presently has 641 E-books and over 8,072 E-resources which include reports, monographs, journals, articles etc. About 1,750 quality books in print form, relevant to the subjects of studies, have been added to the Library since its inception. Besides, the Library also has a huge collection of Public Opinion Trends (POT) on SAARC countries. Over the years, our valued mentors have generously donated a number of useful books and other publications from their private collections for which we remain ever thankful to them.





Publications







www.vifindia.org, the website of the Vivekananda International Foundation has over the years become reference point for policy makers, strategists, opinion builders, scholars, students and people at large across the world to get an Indian perspective of international relations, military affairs, internal security, governance, historical and civilisational studies, economy and media. The website received more than a million hits on an average over the last 15 months, with the gross figure for the said period touching 1,63,03,714.

Apart from highlighting the activities and programmes at the VIF, the website offers in depth perspectives through peer reviewed articles, occasional papers & monographs on a wide range of national and international issues written by eminent experts. Over the past one year, we at the VIF, have launched several new initiatives to enhance our outreach and expand our base. One of the main decisions was to post articles and analysis in Hindi on our website since it was felt that we could reach more non-English speaking people and readers. The Hindi articles have already evoked a positive response.

Our newsletter and a new initiative called Director's Pick now reaches top think tanks and eminent personalities across the world.



**Gen NC Vij, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, Director**

(Former Chief of the Army Staff

&

Founder Vice Chairman,

National Disaster Management Authority)

DEANS

- **Amb Satish Chandra, Dean**, Centre for National Security and Strategic Studies (Former Deputy National Security Advisor)
- **C D Sahay, Dean**, Centre for Neighbourhood Studies and Internal Security Studies (Former Secretary Research and Analysis Wing, Cabinet Secretariat)
- **Lt Gen RK Sawhney, PVSM, AVSM, Dean**, Centre for Defence Studies (Former Deputy Chief of the Army Staff & Former DGMI)
- **Amb Kanwal Sibal, Dean**, Centre for International Relations and Diplomacy (Former Foreign Secretary)
- **Dr V K Saraswat, Dean**, Centre for Scientific & Technological Studies (Member NITI Aayog & Former DG, DRDO & Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister)
- **Dr Dilip K. Chakrabarti, Dean**, Centre for Historical and Civilisational Studies (Professor Emeritus, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge)
- **Prof R Vaidyanathan, Dean**, Centre for Economic Studies, VIF (Professor of Finance, IIM Bangalore)

DISTINGUISHED FELLOWS

- **Amb Prabhat P. Shukla** (Former Ambassador to Russia)
- **Amb TCA Rangachari** (Former Ambassador to France & Germany)
- **Amb Rajiv Sikri** (Former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs)
- **Vice Adm Raman Puri, PVSM, AVSM, VSM** (Former C-in-C, Eastern Naval Command & Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to Chairman COSC)
- **Dr A Surya Prakash** (Chairman Prasara Bharti & Author and Scholar of Contemporary Studies)
- **Amb Tariq Karim** (Former High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India)
- **Dr Makhan Lal** (Professor & Founder Director of Delhi Institute of Heritage Research and Management)



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- **Sushant Sareen** (Afghanistan & Pakistan)
- **RNP Singh** (Bhutan, Nepal & Bangladesh)
- **Dr Harinder Sekhon** (USA & Europe)
- **Col Ashish Sirsikar** (China)
- **Commodore Gopal Suri** (Indian Ocean & Asia Pacific Region)
- **Gp Captain Lalit M Joshi** (Japan)
- **P K Mishra** (Former Additional DG BSF)
- **K G Suresh** (Director General, Indian Institute of Mass Communications)
- **Nitin A Gokhale** (Editor VIF)

VISITING FELLOWS

- **Ravi Venketesan** (Former Chairman of Microsoft India and on the boards of Rockefeller Foundation, Infosys and Strand Life sciences)
- **Dr Sudhir S. Bloeria** (Former Chief Secretary Jammu and Kashmir & Vice Chancellor Central University of Jammu & Kashmir)
- **Lt Gen JP Singh**, PVSM, AVSM (Former Deputy Chief of Army Staff & Advisor to DRDO)
- **Vice Admiral Anup Singh** (Former C-in-C Eastern Naval Command)
- **Lt Gen S A Hasnain**, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM (Bar), VSM (Bar) (Former GOC 15 Corps & Military Secretary)
- **Lt Gen Gautam Banerjee**, PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Former Chief of Staff, Central Command)
- **Brig Gurmeet Kanwal** (Adjunct Fellow, Wadhwani Chair in US India Policy Studies, CSIS)
- **Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran** (Economist)
- **Radhakrishna Rao** (Science and Technology)
- **Deven Verma** (Industrialist- Technology)
- **Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari** (China Expert)



Senior Research Associate

- **Dr Madhumita Shrivastava** (Bangladesh)
- **Dr Teshu Singh** (China & Taiwan)
- **Ramanand Garge** (Asia Pacific)

Research Associate

- **Alvite Singh Ningthoujam** (Middle East)
- **Anushree Ghisad** (Sri Lanka & Maldives)

Research Intern

- **Mayank Anand Purohit** (Iran)
- **Mrigank Ranjan** (Economy)
- **Navroz Singh** (Pakistan /Afghanistan)





Administration

Manash Bhattacharya
Assistant Secretary

Anuttama Ganguly
Head of Administration & Finances

Resource Research Centre & Library

- Sanjay Kumar, Librarian
- Abhijit Biswas, Library Assistant
- Manisha Bhadula, Library Assistant

Administration Team

- Ramphal Vashisth, Personal Assistant
- Alka Sahasrabudhey, Front Office Assistant
- Krishan Redhu, IT Assistant
- Abhinandan Rai, Administrative Assistant
- Kamal Singh, Executive Assistant
- Dinesh Singh, Maintenance Assistant
- Vijay Kumar, Maintenance Assistant
- Christopher Frances, Assistant
- Naresh Kumar, Office Assistant
- Naresh Singh, Office Assistant



- **Gen V N Sharma**, PVSM, AVSM (Former Chief of the Army Staff)
- **A K Verma** (Former Secretary R&AW)
- **Gen Shankar Roychowdhury**, PVSM, AVSM (Former Chief of the Army Staff)
- **Prakash Singh** (Former Director General, Border Security Force)
- **Air Chief Marshal S Krishnaswamy**, PVSM, AVSM, VM & Bar (Former Chief of the Air Staff)
- **Amb Kanwal Sibal** (Former Foreign Secretary)
- **S Gurumurthy** (Author and Financial Expert)
- **Dr R Vaidyanathan** (Professor of Finance, IIM Bangalore)
- **Arif Mohammad Khan** (Former Union Minister)
- **Prabhat Kumar**, IAS (Former Cabinet Secretary)
- **Lt Gen SK Sinha**, PVSM (Former Governor of Jammu & Kashmir and Assam)
- **BP Singh** (Former Governor of Sikkim & Home Secretary)



Executive Council

- **Gen NC Vij, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM** (Former Chief of the Army Staff and Founder Vice Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority)
- **Amb Satish Chandra** (Former Deputy National Security Advisor)
- **CD Sahay** (Former Secretary, R&AW)
- **Lt Gen Ravi Sawhney, PVSM, AVSM** (Former DGMI & Former Deputy Chief of Army Staff)
- **Amb Prabhat P Shukla** (Former Ambassador to Russia)
- **Amb TCA Rangachari** (Former Ambassador to France & Germany)
- **Amb Rajiv Sikri** (Former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs)
- **Dhirendra Singh** (Former Home Secretary)
- **Anil Baijal** (Former Home Secretary)
- **Dr A Surya Prakash** (Chairman Prasar Bharti & Author and Scholar of Contemporary Studies)
- **Lt Gen Gautam Banerjee, PVSM, AVSM, YSM** (Former Chief of Staff, Central Command)
- **Air Marshal SG Inamdar, PVSM, VSM** (Former Vice Chief of Air Staff)
- **KM Singh** (Former Member, NDMA and DG, CISF)
- **Rajiv Mathur** (Former Director Intelligence Bureau and former Chief Information Commissioner)
- **Ravi Venketesan**, (Former Chairman of Microsoft India and on the boards of Rockefeller Foundation, Infosys and Strand Life Sciences)
- **Prof Kapil Kapoor** (Former Pro Vice Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University)
- **Dhanendra Kumar** (Former Secretary, Govt of India)



Vivekananda International Foundation, created under the aegis of Vivekananda Kenda, Kanayakumari, was registered as an autonomous trust on March 25, 2010 at New Delhi.

The Trust meets periodically.

The Annual Audited Accounts for the year 2015-2016 is presented here as Annexure I & II

Statutory Auditors :

M/s Purohit & Purohit
Chartered Accountant
New Delhi

Annexure-I

VIVEKANANDA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION 3, Institutional Area, San Martin Marg, Chanakyaenuri, New Delhi - 110 021			
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2016.			
PARTICULARS	SCHEDULE	CURRENT YEAR'S FIGURES (INR'000)	PREVIOUS YEAR'S FIGURES (INR'000)
SOURCES OF FUNDS			
Capital Fund	"A"		
- VIF Corpus Fund		10,012	5,430
TOTAL ::		₹ 10,012	₹ 5,430
APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
Fixed Assets	"B"	2,675	1,925
Current Assets	"C"		
- Advances, Deposits & Receivables		302.00	170
- Cash & Bank Balances		8,842.00	4,693
		9,144.00	4,863
Less: Current Liabilities	"D"		
- Advances & Deposits		126.00	-
- Sundry Creditors		166.00	-
- Other Liabilities		1,515.00	1,358
		1,807.00	3,505
TOTAL ::		₹ 10,012	₹ 5,430
Notes on Accounts and Significant Accounting Policies	"E"		
Signed in terms of our Report of even date. For PUROHIT & PUROHIT (FRN-003282N) Chartered Accountants			
For VIVEKANANDA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION			
Sd/-	Sd/-	Sd/-	
CA. K.K. Purohit, B.Com(Hons), L.L.B, FCA, MBF, ISA Partner Membership No.054763	General (Retd.) N C Vij, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM Director	A. Balakrishnan Trustee	
	Sd/- (Kishor Tokekar) Secretary		
New Delhi, Monday, The 23rd day of May, 2016			



Annexure-II

VIVEKANANDA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION 3, Institutional Area, San Martin Marg, Chanakya Purj, New Delhi - 110 021		
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2016		
PARTICULARS	CURRENT YEAR'S FIGURES (INR'000)	PREVIOUS YEAR'S FIGURES (INR'000)
(A) INCOME		
Donations	52,945	15,010
Bank Interest	1,001	401
Other Interest	-	3
Other Receipts - History Project	210	96
Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	-	3,535
TOTAL ::	₹ 54,156	₹ 19,045
(B) EXPENDITURE		
Audit Fees	38	34
Bank Commission & Charges	8	7
Books, Journals, Papers & Periodicals	14	12
Conferences, Seminars, Vimarsha & Other Activities	2,183	1,644
Depreciation	542	247
Gardening Expenses	332	219
General up-keep and Cleaning Expenses	908	784
History Project Expenses	456	2,018
Honorarium, Salaries, Fees & Stipend	11,290	8,360
Hospitality Expenses	16	15
Initiative on Conflict Avoidance & Environment Consciousness-HBC	18,459	-
Insurance Charges	2	1
Interest - TDS	-	-
Legal & Professional Fees	80	83
Library Expenses	886	693
Office Expenses	433	370
Postage & Courier Charges	10	8
Power, Fuel Charges & Expenses	2,714	2,305
Printing & Stationery	185	142
Publication Expenses	382	49
Outreach to Universities	25	25
Repairing & Maintenance Expenses	2,908	1,162
Security Services Expenses	357	305
Telephone, Mobile & Internet Expenses	159	143
Travelling & Conveyance Exp.	220	257
Water Charges	110	148
Website Renewal & Registration Charges	17	14
World Climate Change Summit - Musical Album	6,840	-
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	4,582	-
TOTAL ::	₹ 54,156	₹ 19,045
Notes on Accounts and Significant Accounting Policies "E"		
Signed in terms of our Report of even date: For PUROHIT & PUROHIT (FRN:003282N) Chartered Accountants		
For VIVEKANANDA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION		
Sd/-	Sd/-	Sd/-
CA. K.K. Purohit, B.Com(Cons), LL.B, FCA, MBE, ISA Partner Membership No.054763	General(Retd.) N C Vij, FVSM, UYSM, AVSM Director	A. Balakrishnan Trustee
	Sd/- (Kishor Tokekar) Secretary	
New Delhi, Monday, The 23rd day of May, 2016		





Vivekananda International Foundation

3, San Martin Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi - 110 021

Phone : +91-11-24121764, Fax : +91-11-24106698

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