



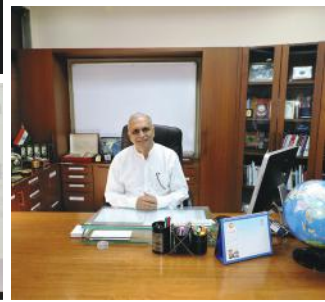
***Seeking Harmony
In Diversity***

Vivekananda International Foundation



Annual Report 2017-18





Vivekananda International Foundation



*Seeking Harmony
In Diversity*

Annual Report 2017-18

ॐ सहनाववतु ।
सह नौ भुनक्तु ।
सह वीर्यं करवावहै ।
तेजस्विनावधीतमस्तु ।
मा विद्विषावहै ।
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

O Lord! Protect us together,
nurture us together.
May we work together.
May our studies be illuminated.
May we not have discord.
May there be peace, peace and peace.

(Katha Upanishad | Shanti Mantra)

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Message from the Chairman



The past year has witnessed significant transformation globally and nationally; and especially at the VIF we were subjected to a tectonic change! Our distinguished Director for over four years, General NC Vij, handed over the baton to an equally distinguished Dr Arvind Gupta, till recently the Deputy NSA of India. On behalf of the VIF fraternity, I would like to place on record our gratitude to Gen Vij for his sterling leadership during his tenure, which encouraged both energy and harmony at the VIF. We wish him well as he moves on to other vistas, and I have no doubt whatsoever that he shall continue to contribute to the VIF and its efforts. We also welcome Dr Gupta, and I am confident that his vast experience and knowledge will take VIF to greater heights and accomplishments.

Another major change that was effected at VIF during the course of the year was the clear-cut enunciation of our objective of prioritising research over all other activities. The reputation of any think tank is to a very large degree, a reflection of the quality of research conducted within it, which is visibly discernible through the various publications and web articles which emanate from it. I am confident that our emphasis on this aspect will bear fruit in the years to come.

The pioneering work undertaken at the Foundation becomes apparent when one scrolls through the list of intellectually stimulating discussions, seminars, brainstorming exercises, visits by think tanks, talks by state heads and the Vimarsha interactions. That these events saw participation by luminaries in various fields of the nation's strategic discourse, adds to the salience of the Foundation's contribution – objective and impartial as these invariably are – to analyse the issues which the nation stands concerned with.

In a similar vein, the past year has seen various publications, in print and website uploads, of considerable volumes of commentaries, articles, VIF Briefs, VIF Papers, monographs and books of high cognitive content. These have been much appreciated by a large readership and would continue to be in relevance for the times to come.

An important event of the year was a talk by Gen Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff, on the 'Role of Indian Army in the Changing Security Environment'. He covered a wide spectrum of security issues in his talk, including the evolving nature of threats to India's security, complexities of modern warfare, hybrid wars, implications of China's rise, Pakistan's proxy war against India, India's military preparedness and the role of military diplomacy.

Another important event at the VIF was the talk delivered by the Hon'ble President of Afghanistan, Md. Ashraf Ghani, which highlighted the special bonds that exist between the two friendly nations, and its future relevance. We also had the privilege of hosting the Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Russia, Mr Sergey Lavrov, who very candidly delved into the new equation of India-Russia bilateral relations.

We were also delighted to host the Foreign Minister of Arab Republic of Egypt, Mr Sameh Shoukry who spoke about 'Regional Developments and Prospects of India-Egypt Relations'.

The policies and unpredictability emanating from the first year of the Trump administration has brought its share of fresh developments and perspectives to a host of global issues. Primary among these was the re-emergence of great power rivalry, which had been subdued ever since the end of the Cold War. Thus, there was a marked departure of US posture from the strategic caution of Obama's second-term.

The US exiting from the Nuclear deal with Iran promises to further alter the dynamics in West Asia.

Whilst the world has seemingly recovered from the scourge of the ISIS with the fall of Mosul, the Syrian conundrum remains a flash-point with potential for great power confrontation. The situation in Afghanistan continues to be unsettled, though the US appears to be more committed to staying the course. To our East, however, another major concern in the shape of the Rohingya crisis unfolded, with direct repercussions for India. Additionally, down South, the Maldives have significantly added to our threat perception through Male's clear alignment with Beijing.

Global kinetics were also impacted from the uncertainty injected into multilateral trade arrangements, and the rapidly changing contours of the global energy situation, including the pricing of oil. The future of globalisation in general, and the WTO in particular, appears to be less assured than before. The trajectory of the Chinese economy is uppermost in the minds of analysts, as this factor will affect global geopolitical equations the most.

Nationally, we can take heart from the political and economic developments within the country. Many elections have been successfully held and the increasing percentage of the voters indicate that democratic values are deeply embedded in the minds of the people. Similarly, we can confidently look forward to a resurgent economy growing at the fastest rate in the world.

I am sanguine that in the coming days, the Foundation will engage all of its intellectual expertise and vision to delve, dissect and analyse the challenges that an emerging India must contend with, and offer to the nation's opinion makers various plausible options to deal with these. Similarly, I expect the papers produced by the Foundation to be a repository of contemporary strategic knowledge and nationalist discourse.

Jai Hind.

New Delhi
May 2018



Vice Admiral KK Nayyar, PVSM, AVSM
Chairman, VIF
(Former Vice Chief of Indian Navy)

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*On Long Leave

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- **S Gurumurthy** (Author and Financial Expert, Editor – Tughlak), **Vice Chairman, VIF**
- **Amb Satish Chandra** (Former Deputy National Security Advisor)
- **Gen NC Vij, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM** (Former Chief of the Army Staff and Founder Vice Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority), **Former Director VIF**
- **Dr Arvind Gupta** (Former Deputy National Security Advisor and Director General IDSA), **Director VIF**

Research

Director

Dr Arvind Gupta (IFS Retd)

(Former Deputy National
Security Advisor)



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Centre Head & Senior
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- **CD Sahay**
Centre Head & Senior Fellow,
Neighbourhood Studies and
Internal Security Studies (Former
Secretary, Research and Analysis
Wing, Cabinet Secretariat)



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(Former Ambassador to Italy,
Poland, Oman and Thailand)
- **Prof Sujit Dutta**
(Professor, Nelson Mandela
Centre for Peace and Conflict
Resolution, Jamia Millia
Islamia, New Delhi)



* **Director VIF is currently the Head of all
the other Centres**

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(Former Chief of Staff, Central
Command)



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(Myanmar)
- **RNP Singh**
(Bhutan, Nepal & Political
Thought)
- **Dr Harinder Sekhon**
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(Former Indian Ambassador
to Iran)



- **Somen Banerjee**
(Indian Ocean & Asia Pacific
Region)



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(Sister Nivedita, Aspects of Indian History and Culture)
- **Dr Teshu Singh**
(China & Taiwan)
- **Ramanand Garge**
(Terrorism)
- **Kapil Patil**
(Nuclear Energy, WMD-proliferation, Science, Technology & National Security)
- **Gunjan Singh**
(China)



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- **Maj Gen PK Mallick, vsm**
(Library & Data Bases)
- **Jyothy J Nair**
(GI Maps)



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(Indonesia, J & K)
- **Asha Sundaramurthy**
(Indo-Pacific)
- **Akash Sahu**
(Sri Lanka & Maldives)



Distinguished Fellows

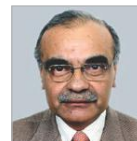
- **Dr VK Saraswat**
(Member NITI Aayog, Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Former DG, DRDO & Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister)



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(Editor, VIF History Volumes & Professor Emeritus, Department of Archaeology, Cambridge University)
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- **Amb Ashok K Kantha**
(Former Ambassador to China)
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(Former GOC 15 Corps & Military Secretary)
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(Member, National Security Advisory Board, Former C&C Western & Eastern Naval Command)
- **G. Mohan Kumar**
(Former Defence Secretary)



- **Amit Cowshish**
(Former Additional Controller General of Defence Accounts)
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(Former Ambassador to Jordan, Libya & Malta)
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(Former SO-in-C)
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(Former DG, Air Defence, Indian Army)
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(Former Deputy Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff)
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(Legal Expert)
- **Dr V Anantha Nageswaran**
(Economist)



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Anuttama Ganguly

Joint Secretary

(Administration & Finances)



Manash Bhattacharjee

Assistant Secretary



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Personal Assistant



- **Kamal Singh**

Executive & Reception
Assistant



- **Abhinandan Rai**

Administrative Assistant



- **Naresh Kumar**

Office Assistant



- **Alka Sahasrabudhe**

Front Office Incharge



- **Naresh Singh**

Office Assistant



- **Krishan Redhu**

IT Assistant



- **Christopher Francis**

Office Assistant



Resource Research Centre & Library

- **Sanjay Kumar**

Librarian



- **Manisha Bhadula**

Library and Reception
Assistant



- **Abhijit Biswas**

IT & Library Assistant



Director's Preface



The Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) has come to occupy a prominent and distinctive place in the league of Indian think tanks dealing with strategic affairs. Known for its India first viewpoint, it seeks to construct an Indian narrative on key issues. Building on the experience gained in the previous years, the VIF expanded and accelerated the tempo of its activities during 2017-18. Efforts were made to make its research more focused, policy-oriented and relevant to the needs of the nation.

Strategic Overview

It is becoming increasingly clear that India will have to adjust to the rapid changes in the global environment. A multipolar world is in the making. President Trump's 'America First' policy is creating uncertainty around the world. At the 19th Party Congress President Xi articulated his dream of making China the world's strongest country in the next few decades. The National People's Congress made Xi Jinping President for life. President Putin was re-elected for six years even as Russia's tensions deepened further with the US and the West. The geo-political construct of Indo-Pacific saw a revival of sorts during the year. While the ISIS was dislodged from Syria and Iraq, there was no let up in the bloody war in Syria. The threat of radicalisation remains unabated. The civil war in Yemen continued to take a heavy toll on civilians. In the South China Sea, China continued to build military infrastructure in the disputed island that it has already occupied. There were tentative signs of a thaw in the North Korean peninsula. Beginning a new chapter in its engagement with Eurasia, India joined the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation as a full member.

India's neighbourhood remained as volatile as ever with political crises in Maldives and Pakistan creating considerable uncertainty. Civil-military tensions vitiated Pakistan's politics. Violence continued unabated in Afghanistan with little hope of a political resolution. The Rohingya refugee crisis created stress points between Myanmar and Bangladesh as nearly 700,000 Rohingyas fled Myanmar into Bangladesh to escape the military crackdown. To make matters worse, extremist jihadi elements have made inroads into the Rohingyas. A new constitution was promulgated in Nepal and a coalition of left parties, CPN-UML and CPN-MC won a two-thirds majority. In Sri Lanka the relationship between the partners of the ruling alliance worsened sharply.

Prime Minister Modi continued with his world outreach efforts. He made several visits abroad and received a large number of political leaders at home. His visit to the US in the summer of 2017 helped establish a close personal chemistry with President Trump and provided direction to the India-US Strategic Partnership. India's status rose globally when Prime Minister Modi helped launch the International Solar

Alliance of 120 countries thereby reconfirming India's strong commitment to an emission-free world. His landmark visits to countries in West Asia, the Gulf, Europe etc., hold the promise of a major transformation in India's foreign policy. India's economic and security cooperation and fight against terrorism remained the main themes of his engagement.

The year 2017 saw some head winds in India-China relations when the Indian Army and the PLA had a 72-day standoff in the disputed region of Doklam Plateau in Bhutan. Fortunately, there was no military incident and the standoff was resolved diplomatically. The two countries took steps to defuse the tension and resume the positive trends in their relationship. Unfortunately there was no progress in India-Pakistan relations. Pakistan took no tangible action. The Line of Control remained active and there was no let up in Pakistan support for cross-border terrorism in Kashmir.

There were momentous developments within the country during the year. GST, India's biggest tax reform since independence, was made applicable from 01st Aug 2017. The ruling party won a series of elections including in the North East. Regrettably, the political parties were locked in political grandstanding which led to frequent disruptions in the parliament. The use and misuse of social media was a matter of intense debate and discussion in the country as was the question of education opportunity and jobs. The Prime Minister, in his speeches and interactions, outlined the achievements of the Government since 2014 through various socio-economic schemes aimed at women, youth and the deprived sections of society. On the internal security front, the Kashmir Valley remained restive. The Government appointed Mr Dineshwar Sharma as the interlocutor for dialogue with the Kashmiris. However, not much progress was witnessed. The situation in the North East and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) areas was under stress on account of the incidents of violence against Dalits. These incidents were politicised. Due to the elections in various states, the country witnessed a politically surcharged atmosphere.

Focus at the VIF

It is in the above backdrop of external and internal developments that the VIF has been conducting its activities. As in the previous year, a large number of seminars, round tables, conferences and outreach activities were held to analyse and understand the ongoing developments. The VIF received a number of visitors from abroad. Eminent persons were invited to the Foundation to deliver lectures under the Vimarsha series. The interaction with students was enhanced. VIF scholars published a large number of articles, commentaries, briefs, papers, and monographs for the VIF website, besides contributing to various newspapers and journals. In order to enhance the VIF's outreach to the media, the Director and Senior VIF scholars met representatives of the Indian media regularly. The VIF has also used social media to enhance its outreach. Short videos have been prepared on a range of national security issues and uploaded on the VIF's YouTube channel. Media has also been used by VIF experts to explain the nuance of national security issues with clarity to the general public.

Objectives of Concurrent Research and Analyses

Objective research and analysis is the foundation of a think tank. The focus of VIF activities has always been to carry out an objective analysis of India's security concerns and generate policy oriented suggestions. Where considered appropriate, the Director conveyed VIF analysis and suggestions to the Government on

important issues from time to time. The themes on which VIF sent its analytical inputs to the Government included the India-China standoff, Indo-US relations, Indo-Russian relations, India-Bangladesh relations, Iran, Afghanistan, connectivity issues, cyber-security, the Rohingya crisis, the Quad grouping, India-Bhutan relations, relations with Vietnam, defence preparedness, indigenisation of defence production, doubling of farmers' income, Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC), developments in Maldives, relations with Central Asia, India-EU maritime cooperation and a host of other issues of strategic focus.

Several new initiatives were taken to strengthen the research component of VIF's work. A system of peer review of research papers has been introduced and a process of editorial evaluation for research articles submitted for publication has been set up. Publication of a research journal is at hand. Issue based Round Table Discussions are being held amongst selected experts and serving officials to seek answers to specific questions of national importance. Besides, a number of task forces of experts have been set up to deliberate over issues of national security in a detailed manner. The task force reports are published and sent to the Government for their consideration. Finally to enhance the quality of all such research and analytical activities, the VIF has strengthened its research team, created an ever-expanding database on internal security, and set up a functional Geographical Information System (GIS) Cell. Meanwhile, expansion of the library has been given a fresh impetus. The Library presently has a collection of 2,589 printed books and 11,958 e-resources including around 1,220 e-books. Besides, the Library also subscribes to a number of reputed journals and newspapers.

In similar vein, VIF's interactions with foreign think tanks have continued. Besides participating in discussions amongst five think tanks on QUAD, held in Tokyo in March 2018, the VIF has hosted a number of foreign delegations, including from China, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and Israel. The effort has been to keep these engagements focused on influential institutions.

To celebrate India's cultural and religious linkages, the VIF organised the third round of India-Japan series of conferences titled Samvad II: Global Initiative for Conflict Avoidance & Environment Consciousness, in Yangon on 05-06 August 2017 in collaboration with Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, Myanmar Institute of Strategic Studies and The Japan Foundation. Almost 100 international scholars, spiritual masters, and representatives from the Governments of India, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, etc., actively participated in the deliberations. The proceedings of the first Samvad held at the VIF, in the form of a published book, was formally released at Yangon during Samvad II.

The Vimarsha series of lectures have proved to be very popular. Serving chiefs of the armed forces, senior officials and leading public figures were invited to deliver talks on issues of national concern. The VIF has also made a beginning with its in-depth discussions on issues of vital importance for India's national security and development, such as public health, food security, ecology and integrated river basin management.

Notably, in the historical and cultural domain, spiritual values and character-building messages of Swami Vivekananda, Sister Nivedita and other national leaders were propagated through tweets and other social media channels. Similarly, Round Table Discussions have been held on various facets of history and culture of India. A researcher with Ph.D in Indian history has been appointed to attend to this discipline.

Key highlights of the contributions made by the various centres of VIF during 2017-2018:

- A VIF task force report prepared under the chairmanship of General NC Viji argued for reform of the organisational structure and enforcement of jointness between MoD, MEA and MHA.
- A strategic decision-making game named 'Exercise Indraprastha' was conceptualised to analyse the Sino-Indian military dynamic and its impact on the regional and international security matrix.
- VIF-RIAC Joint Report titled the '70th Anniversary of Russia-India Diplomatic Relations: New Horizons of Privileged Partnership' was released in Delhi and Moscow. The report argued for a fresh impetus to Indo-Russian relations and made a number of suggestions including additional consultation between the foreign offices on emerging issues.
- Another major highpoint was the 2018 edition of the 'Quad Plus' Dialogue in Tokyo, an annual dialogue between think tanks from the US, India, Japan and Australia. The Indian delegation presented a roadmap for further development of Quad and also circulated a draft declaration which could be used by the Governments to outline Quad's vision.
- The VIF report on 'Doubling the Farmers' Income' provided a number of recommendations. Based on the recommendations, some pilot projects have been set up by the Government in some blocks of Bundelkhand Marathwada region.
- Experts who participated in the joint VIF – International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) seminar on integrated river basin development came out with a number of suggestions to improve irrigation potential in the country. It was suggested that the Government should set up an integrated river basin development authority to promote better and effective utilisation of water resources.
- Dr Devi Shetty, an eminent cardiologist, in his Vimarsha talk at VIF, presented a roadmap as to how the public health system can be improved in India. He suggested that each district primary health centre could be converted into a hospital and medical college.
- The Army Chief, the Air Chief and the Navy Chief gave Vimarsha talks at the VIF. They explained the role of the armed forces in national security. The importance of jointness and indigenous defence production was highlighted by all. It was also mentioned that the armed forces should be strengthened to maintain conventional deterrence against the adversaries. The complexities of security environment were explained to the public in an authoritative manner.
- In the context of defence, the VIF held several discussions in which the need for more resources for armed forces was emphasised. At the same time, it was reiterated that efforts should be made to strengthen indigenisation. Several recommendations were generated in this regard.
- A number of round table discussions held on China, Pakistan and the neighbourhood brought out many issues which require urgent attention. For instance, it was mentioned that relations with Bhutan requires sensitive handling in the aftermath of Doklam. India needs to watch out for developments in Pakistan, particularly the unprecedented rise of the indigenous Pashtun movement.
- The VIF focused on issues like terrorism, radicalisation and cyber security. It was mentioned that India's counter-terrorism efforts have been successful but need to be further strengthened. Financing of terrorism needs to be tackled. The threat of radicalisation of young minds cannot be ignored. Likewise,

cyber security requires far greater attention. The institutions dealing with cyber security need to be strengthened.

- Maritime security was a major focus for VIF's research. The significance of different segments of Indian Ocean for India was analysed. It emerged that India should take maritime security in a wider context which includes the Navy, order on the sea, UNCLOS, Blue Economy, etc. Maritime security dialogues should be institutionalised and backed up with resources.
- A VIF roundtable on nuclear environment concluded that Pakistan's development of tactical nuclear weapons (TNWs) and missiles is a matter of great significance which needs to be noted. India should strengthen its credible minimum nuclear deterrence. It should also step up nuclear diplomacy with a focus on NSG membership. India has a unique opportunity to develop its nuclear power industry as well as the potential to export nuclear reactors.
- The VIF analysed India-Africa relations at length and concluded that the idea of Africa-Asia Economic Corridor is at present nascent and needs to be developed further. In particular, India should focus on shipbuilding, shipping lines, and strengthening of EXIM bank and Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) for project exports.

All these activities and more are listed in the pages following. More detailed reading is available at the VIF website, www.vifindia.org.

Mission for the Coming Days

The effort in the coming days will be to make VIF a distinctive think tank which seeks to develop an Indian narrative on national and international issues. This is sought to be done by delving into India's civilisational and cultural values and interpreting them in the modern context. More efforts are also being made to look deeper into multi-lateral issues. The VIF will approach issues of national salience in a constructive spirit to offer suggestions and roadmaps where possible. It will be our continuous endeavor to strengthen the research component of VIF and also bring together leading thinkers to deliberate over India's future.

I am grateful to Vice Adm KK Nayyar, PVSM, AVSM, Chairman, and Shri S Gurumurthy, Vice Chairman, and other members of the VIF Trust, members of the Advisory Council and Executive Committee for their unstinted support and guidance. I would also like to put on record my appreciations of the contribution of the VIF team towards building a profile for the Foundation.

Cognisant of the strategic challenges that loom ahead for India, VIF is committed to being alert to the same and leave no stone unturned in seeking multifaceted and dynamic policy options for the preservation of our supreme national interests.



Dr Arvind Gupta, IFS (Retd)
Director, VIF
(Former Deputy National Security Advisor
and Former Director General, IDSA)

New Delhi
May 2018

About the VIF

The Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), New Delhi, is an independent strategic think tank that is singularly committed to the purpose of providing in-depth analyses of the challenges facing the nation. The Foundation functions under the aegis of a Trust consisting of eminent thinkers and visionaries who share Swami Vivekananda's dream of India.

The VIF's faculty members are highly regarded professionals from various fields that are connected to nationally important activities. Having served the nation in distinguished positions, they direct their vast experience and deep insight towards analysing complex national issues – both past and present – to provide solutions for the nation's emerging strategic concerns.

Studies and analyses at the VIF are devoted to a wide range of subjects, the prominent ones being:

- International and neighbourhood relations
- National security
- Defence
- Governance
- Economics
- Civilisational heritage, and
- Global developments

Having established itself as a prejudice-free, apolitical, honest and noble intentioned think tank, the VIF is a much sought-after partner for strategic confabulations in the global strategic community. The conclusions culled from all such cognitive exercises are summarised into policy recommendations to provide assistance and support to the state. These

recommendations are then disseminated to the concerned government departments and other stakeholders. The VIF also has a widely subscribed to website that enables interested parties to access the Foundation's voluminous intellectual output of articles, analytical papers and books. We also publish VIF Perspectives which showcases the organisation's intellectual pursuits.

VIF has an Advisory Council and an Executive Committee comprising of distinguished persons from diverse fields with high professional accomplishments. They all guide the Foundation's efforts at raising nationalistic awareness among the citizenry, civil society and governing establishment with regard to the issues confronting India. The Director is a prominent exponent of national strategy, and is the Chief Executive of the Foundation. He is nominated by the Trust.

The Foundation resolves to carry on its mission in the coming years with renewed dedication.

Objectives

- Analyse India's external and internal security environment to offer effective 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 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.



The Year at a Glance

244 | Commentaries and articles published on the website

65 | VIF Scholars in Media (Print and Television)

24 | Major publications (Briefs, Papers, Monographs and Books)

92 | Major events (Seminars, Conferences, Discussions, Talks, Vimarshas)



318455 | Visitors on our new website

580848 | Views and downloads



4709000 | Impressions on twitter

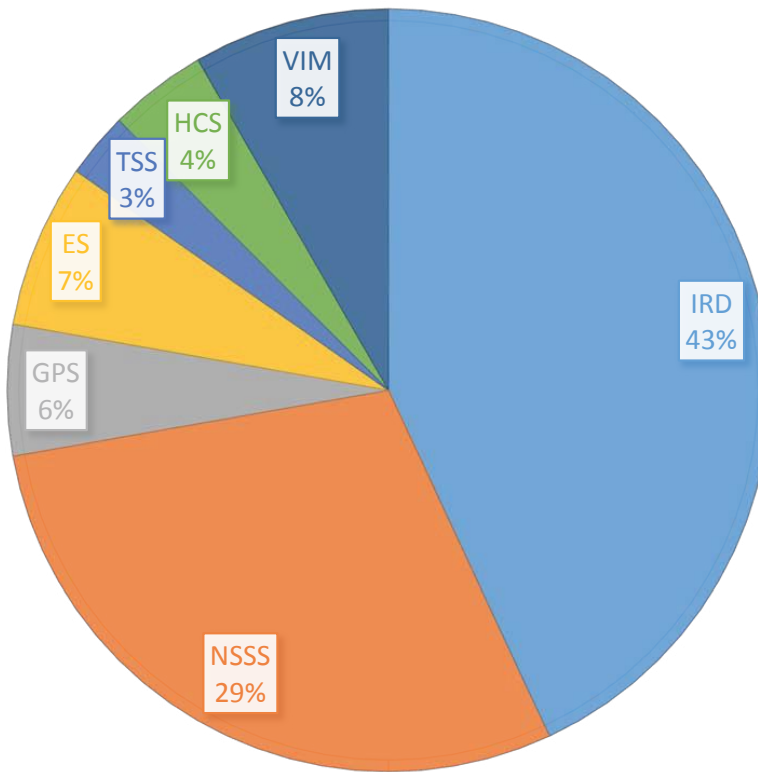


2007504 | Impressions on Facebook



479886 | Minutes watched on VIF's
YouTube Channel

Events Held as per Centres of Studies



- IRD** - Centre for International Relations and Diplomacy
- NSSS** - Centre for National Security and Strategic Studies
- GPS** - Centre for Governance and Political Studies
- ES** - Centre for Economic Studies
- TSS** - Centre for Scientific and Technological Studies
- HCS** - Centre for Historical and Civilisational Studies
- VIM** - Vimarsha

Activities

The year 2017-18 saw the VIF steadfastly pursuing its mission as the nation's flagship strategic think tank. The VIF faculty, consisting of academic, civil service, diplomatic, military, economic, history and scientific luminaries, ably assisted by highly motivated young scholars with intellectual potential, has been eminently successful in propagating the Foundation's objectives. A glance through this Annual Report would highlight that fact.

Strategic studies, expert group confabulations and analyses undertaken by the VIF during the year, covered the entire spectrum of national concerns and goals. Subjects for intellectual research included: national security; international and neighbourhood relations; defence; governance; economics; history and civilisation; and social communication including media. Accordingly, the Foundation organised regular Round Table Conferences, Seminars, Briefings and Brainstorming Sessions in which expert analysts, scholars and informed stakeholders

participated. Eminent speakers were invited to speak at Vimarsha which is an open monthly event.

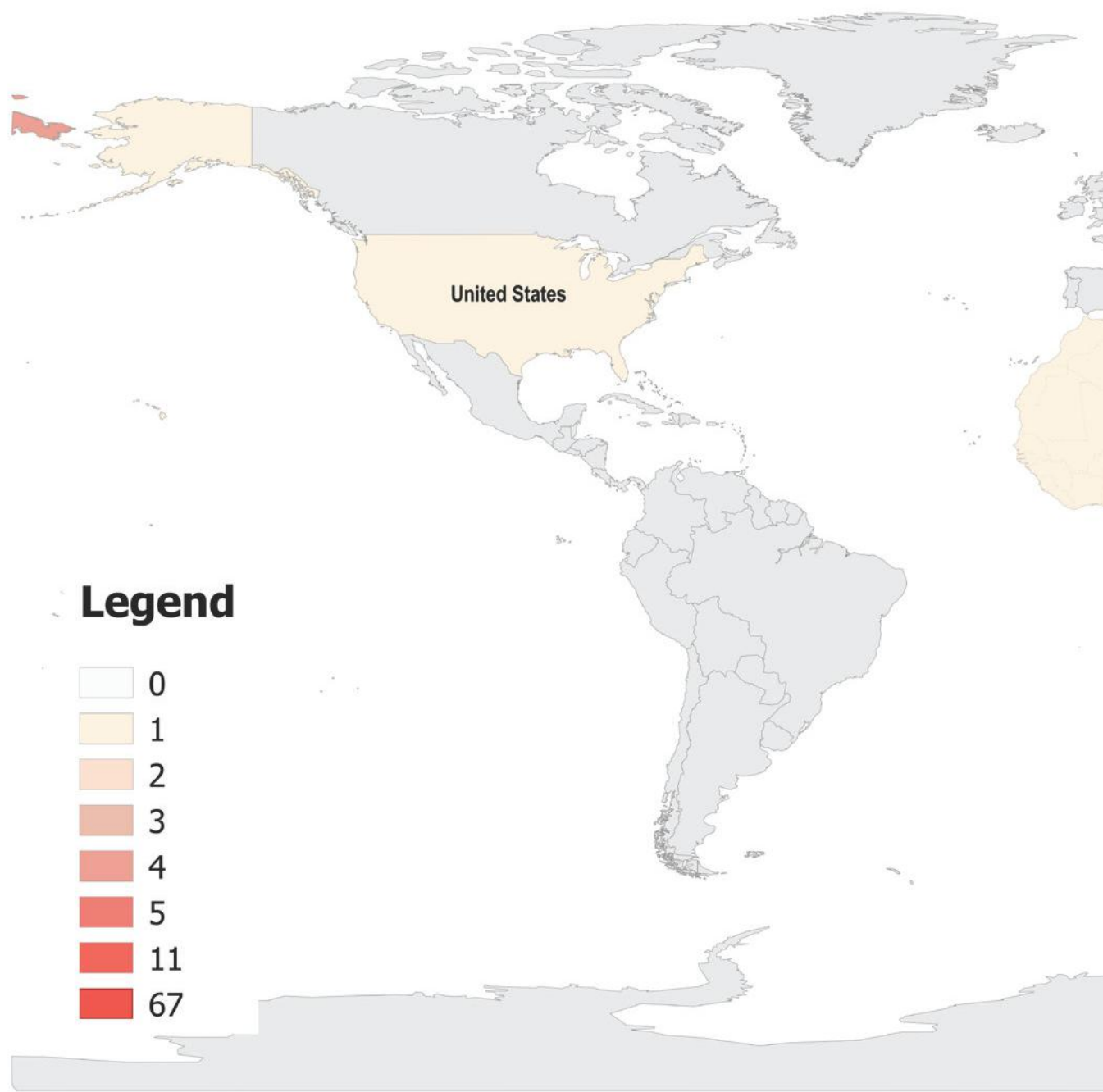
Well-regarded for its integrity and independent thinking, the VIF has been a much sought after host for strategic confabulations with a large number of global strategic think tanks, opinion shapers and decision makers. Thus, many top global think tanks, including those from the US, UK, Russia and China, have established partnerships with the VIF for regular exchanges of strategic views and concerns. Similarly, VIF faculty members have been much in demand at global and national level interactions, various seminars, and group events. The VIF website which carries commentaries, articles, VIF Briefs, VIF Papers, monographs, books, and VIF News Digests is widely subscribed and highly regarded.

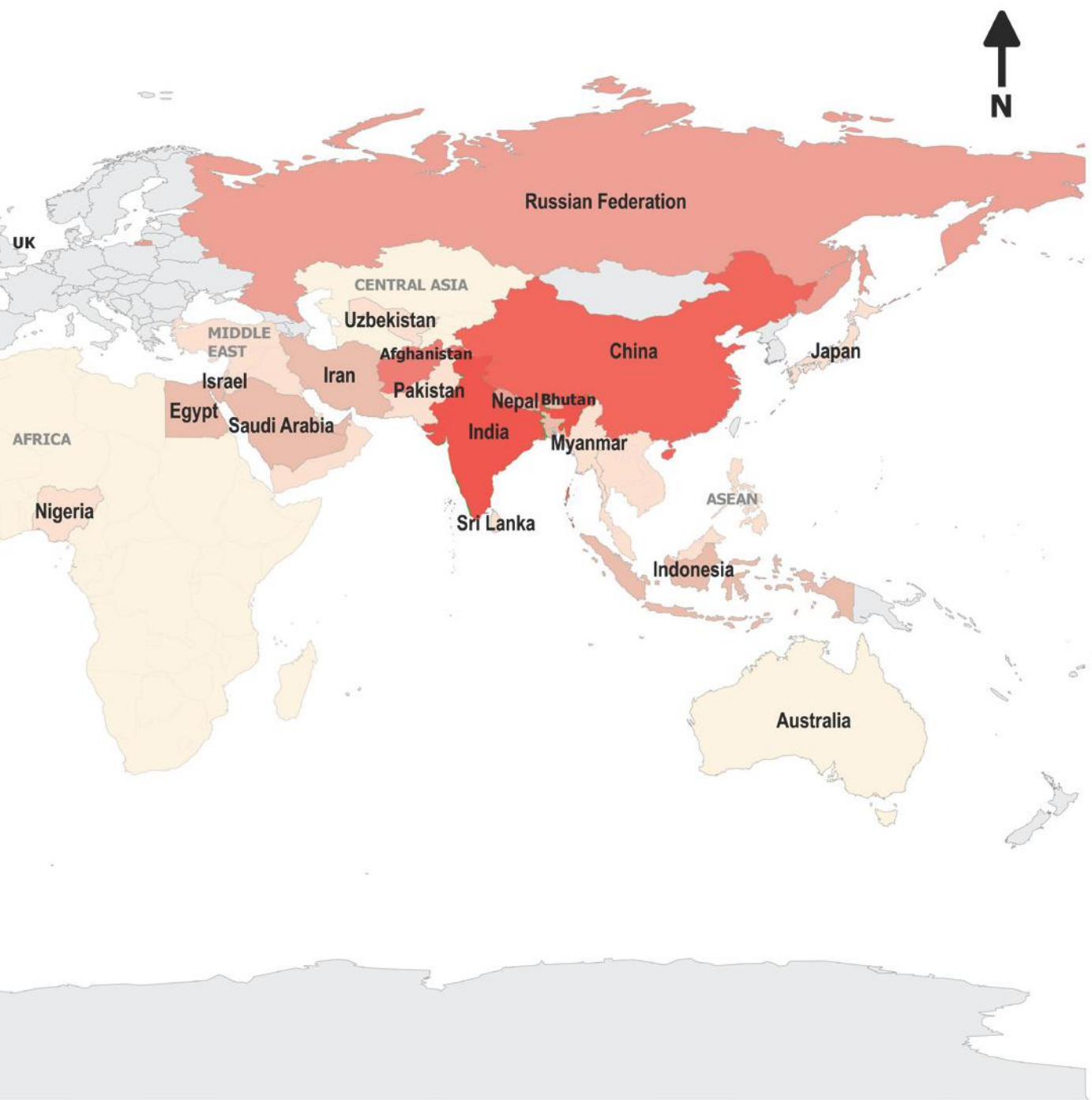
As the following pages of this Annual Report will show, the VIF has been relentless in its pursuit of intellectual and research excellence in the service of the nation. Needless to emphasise, this commitment and dedication will only get stronger in the coming years.





Heat Map of Events: Graphical Representation





Maps are thematic, they do not represent exact boundaries. Copyright © 2018 : Vivekananda International Foundation/Dt 10-05-18

Seminars and Interactions

Centre for International Relations and Diplomacy

Cluster for Indo-Pacific Studies

Being the largest cluster under the Centre for International Relations & Diplomacy, the Indo-Pacific cluster dealing with the United States, Europe, Russia and East Asia (Minus China) saw a busy research year. With concurrent international developments, the cluster brought forth many research papers and articles, and hosted interactions with strategic experts and policy makers from both India and abroad. The highlight of the research year was the release of a VIF-RIAC Joint Report titled the '70th Anniversary of Russia-India Diplomatic Relations: New Horizons of Privileged Partnership'. The report was released both in Moscow and New Delhi with the attendance of the serving ambassadors and drew positive media attention. Another major highpoint was the 2018 edition of the 'Quad Plus' Dialogue in Tokyo, Japan, an annual dialogue between think tanks from the US, India, Japan and Australia. The 2018 edition was even more prominent, as for the first time the dialogue saw elevation from being one between think tanks, to between state-leaders during the 31st ASEAN Summit in Manila, Philippines in November 2017. Other key interactions were with H.E. Tomasz Kozowski, EU Ambassador to India, Friendship Economic Council delegation from Japan, Sejong Institute delegation from South Korea, an Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs delegation, a delegation from Policy Planning Bureau from South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prospect Foundation from Taiwan and a group of senior ASEAN journalists.

The cluster looks to bring out two monographs (on India-US Relations and Economic Dimension of India's Act East Policy) in the current year with a host of other shorter research briefs and papers. Some of

the avenues that will be explored are: future direction of India's Act East and BIMSTEC, the emerging contours of Quad and Indo-Pacific, the nature of China-Japan détente, the settlement of the Korean peninsula, India's engagement with the Pacific Island States, India-Indonesia maritime border delimitation, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership etc.

China Cluster

The China Cluster at the VIF analyses and conducts research on the internal and external developments in India's largest neighbour, China. The cluster organises regular round table discussions, seminars and conferences. The major focus of the cluster is on India-China relations, US-China relations, China's role in the Indo-Pacific region, foreign policy, the Chinese Communist Party, developments in Chinese society, role of the media, Chinese economy, trade and investments, Military modernisation, security policies and developments in Taiwan, among others.

In 2017-2018, the China cluster organised interactions with the Shanghai Institute of International Studies, Sichuan University, Fudan University, Yunnan Minzu University from China and the Prospect Foundation of Taiwan, among others.

The cluster has already held three round table discussions and organised interactions with the visiting Chinese press delegation and the delegation from the China Institute of International Studies, till April this year. Besides topical commentaries, the cluster intends to publish several issue briefs, occasional papers and monographs. The cluster is also working on an edited book - 'Assessing China's Belt and Road Initiative'.

Central Asia Cluster

While this is a new area of study undertaken at the VIF, the region has historical importance for India – this is where the Great Game was played out in the 19th century – and in the contemporary period, this is witnessing a complex interplay of Russian and Chinese influence.

A VIF delegation, consisting of Amb DP Srivastava and Dr Rashmini Koparkar, visited Uzbekistan in August 2017. During the visit, MoUs for academic and research collaboration were signed with four institutions in Tashkent. The delegation also participated in the International Conference on 'Central Asian Renaissance in the History of World Civilizations' in Samarkand between 27-29 August 2017. Dr Koparkar also participated in the Conference on 'Foreign Policy of Uzbekistan within the Strategy of Actions' at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Tashkent on 22-23 September 2017. VIF sponsored her to undertake a field study of Fergana Valley.

A discussion on 'Taking India and Central Asia at the Next Level' was organised in December, 2017. In May 2018, VIF will organise an interaction with an Uzbek delegation, led by H.E. Vladimir Norov, former foreign minister of Uzbekistan. VIF shall continue to expand its academic engagements with Central Asian Republics.

Africa

This is also new area of study being undertaken by the VIF. The Cluster worked on India-Africa Relations, including Asia Africa Growth Corridor. Two Round Table Discussions were organised and the report is under process.

A Round Table Discussion was also organised on 'Strengthening and Upgrading India-Nigeria Relations – A Way Forward' which saw the participation of Nigerian Missions in Delhi and was aimed at bringing out both Indian and Nigerian perspectives on bilateral relations.

Major events held during the year:

03 April 2017 – Interaction with Delegation from Shanghai Institute of International Studies

Mr Chen Dongxiao, President of the Shanghai Institute of International Studies (SIIS), accompanied by Dr Liu Zongyi, Senior Fellow, SIIS, visited the VIF for an interaction on issues of mutual strategic interest to both China and India. The interaction focused on geo-political issues, the desire for increased convergence, while simultaneously minimising points of divergence between the two neighbours. This was followed by a brainstorming session.

12-13 April 2017 – VIF-Sichuan University Dialogue on Sino-Indian Relations

A delegation from Sichuan University (China), led by Mr Yang Wenwu, Senior Professor and Deputy Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, visited the VIF for the annual dialogue. The dialogue focused on the various dimensions of Sino-Indian relations; the future of Afghanistan and Pakistan; economic reforms in view of the US under President Trump; public diplomacy; and maritime issues. India's objections to China building an economic corridor through Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK), the rise of the Islamic State and the need for confidence-building measures, especially in the maritime domain, were also discussed.

20 April 2017 – Visit of a South Korean Delegation

The VIF hosted a six-member delegation led by Mr Ma Sang Yoon from the Policy Planning Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of South Korea (ROK), for an interaction encompassing economic and defence cooperation; bilateral relations; developments in the Korean Peninsula; and assessment of US foreign policy towards the region. The 'Special Strategic Partnership' in terms of research and co-producing defence equipment

in India; need for a second wave of Korean investments; and the 'Make in India' initiative were also discussed.

03 May 2017 – Interaction with a visiting Delegation from Fudan University, China

A delegation from Fudan University, led by Prof Zhang Yi, Executive Vice Director, visited VIF to discuss bilateral and multi-lateral issues. While the VIF panel evinced interest in China's political and economic reforms post the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the visiting delegation sought the VIF's perspective on US-China relations and the government's economic initiatives i.e., de-monetisation and GST, the unified tax regime. Explaining China's imperatives for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under the OBOR, the Chinese delegation stressed that Beijing had limited capacity to influence other countries' behaviour towards India, an oblique reference to Pakistan's support for cross-border terrorism. With the bilateral relationship mired in mutual distrust, experts on both sides stressed the importance of holding regular dialogues for improving bilateral relations between two rising economies and neighbours.

03 May 2017 – Interaction with H.E. Dr Sau Mohammad Al-Sati, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to India

The VIF hosted the ambassador of Saudi Arabia for a discussion on 'Strategic Partnership' and cooperation in intelligence-sharing for dealing with terrorism, cyber, and maritime security. The ambassador dwelt on his country's long-term developmental plans and strategies, especially on Saudi Arabia's 'Vision 2030' to assert Saudi Arabia's status as the heart of the Arab world; to establish Saudi Arabia as a powerhouse for global investment; and to make Saudi Arabia the epicentre of trade and a gateway to the world. He also elaborated on Saudi Arabia's plans for creating a transparent, accountable and responsive government, its foreign policy objectives, facilities for Haj pilgrims, counter-

terrorism measures adopted, and bilateral initiatives taken by India and Saudi Arabia.

08 May 2017 – India-Taiwan Strategic Dialogue

Leading a seven-member delegation of Taiwan's Prospect Foundation, Dr I-Chung Lai visited the VIF for a joint strategic dialogue on India-Taiwan relations. Three important issues were picked up for special attention: (1) Geo-political developments pre-dating the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China; (2) geo-political developments in the East Asian region; and (3) the potential trajectory of US-Taiwan relations under President Trump. India-Taiwan relations and China's military modernisation under President Xi Jinping were also comprehensively discussed.

18 May 2017 – Interaction with H.E. Mr Daniel Carmon, Ambassador of Israel to India

In the run up to the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Israel, the VIF hosted the Israeli Ambassador for a discussion. In his opening remarks, General NC Vij, Director, VIF, while highlighting the growing trajectory of relations between India and Israel in the recent years, pointed out that India is no longer constrained to play hide and seek in so far as its relationship with Israel is concerned. Growing synergy in defence cooperation, 'Make in India', counter-terrorism, the environment, dry-land farming, water management, information technology, and tourism were the key areas of focus during this interaction. The meeting endorsed the fact that PM Modi's visit to Israel would open up an altogether new chapter of bilateral cooperation between India and Israel.

30 May 2017 – Visit of Delegation from the Royal College of Defence Studies, UK

Leading an 18-member delegation of both military and civilian officers from over 11 countries, Major General Simon Leslie Porter visited the VIF for

an interaction. The VIF arranged four talks for the visiting delegation. These included: The potential trajectory of US foreign policy under President Trump and its implications; the implications of China's muscular foreign policies; the unending quagmire in Afghanistan; and the internal dynamics of Pakistan. These were followed by a Q&A session.

15 June 2017 – Interaction with H.E. Queen Imaria Worlu, the High Commissioner of Nigeria to India

The Nigerian High Commissioner was invited for a discussion on 'Strengthening and upgrading India-Nigeria relations: The Way forward'. Air connectivity, training of Nigerian professionals by India, issues relating to Nigerian students in India, multiple entry visas, hostel facilities, and cooperation in the sectors of defence and energy, figured prominently during the event.

29 June 2017 – Round Table Discussion (RTD) on 25 Years of India-Israel Relations

As a curtain-raiser to the Prime Minister's visit to Israel, the VIF in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), organised an RTD on the theme: 'Twenty-Five Years of India-Israel Relations: Achievements and Prospects'. The RTD highlighted the de-coupling of India's Israel policy from that of the larger Arab world, especially Palestine. The scope of discussion encompassed the emerging opportunities for bilateral trade, and cooperation in water management, solar energy, space research, and cyber technologies. Israel's support for India and the mutual admiration between the two nations, were also highlighted.

14 July 2017 – Discussion on 'India and the North West Indian Ocean Region: Bridging the Gulf'

An RTD with a panel of eminent maritime security and foreign policy experts was held to examine some of the recent geo-strategic and geo-

political developments taking place in the North West Indian Ocean Region (NW IOR) and their implications from India's perspective. The discussion, besides examining some of these developments through the prism of India's security and national interests, also discussed the way forward to enhance India's image by contributing to the stability in the region through military-diplomatic efforts.

02 August 2017 – Discussion on the book, From Chanakya to Modi: The Evolution of India's Foreign Policy

Dr Aparna Pandey, Director of the Future of India and South Asia Initiative at the Hudson Institute, Washington DC, author of *From Chanakya to Modi: The Evolution of India's Foreign Policy* took part in a discussion on her book. The author explained the various facets of India's foreign policy, including the role played by individuals and institutions in the framing of India's foreign policies and identified the key drivers of India's foreign policy, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The discussion was followed by a Q&A session.

24 August 2017 – Discussion on China's Emerging Global and Regional Strategy

An RTD on 'China's Emerging Global and Regional Strategy' was organised to discuss the growing uncertainties in the present world order, defined by the changing behaviour of major world powers, especially the US and China. Whereas China, buoyed by its economic success and military prowess is seeking a greater share of world power, the US, on the other hand is increasingly constrained by an inward-looking approach. The discussion led to an assessment of China's grand strategy, its rise, and emerging regional and global posture, the China factor in India's neighbourhood, the Doklam stand-off and issues arising from the Belt and Road project. The need for India to remain vigilant and militarily prepared to face any potential flare-up on the border in the future was highlighted.

24-31 August 2017 – VIF signs MOUs with Uzbek Think Tanks

Following a visit by the Uzbek Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Abdulaziz Kamilov and the Minister for Foreign Trade H.E. Elyor Ganiev, a delegation from VIF visited Uzbekistan for discussions with Uzbek Think Tanks. The two sides discussed bilateral relations, the International North-South Transit Corridor, Chabahar Port, the Ashgabad Agreement, trade, and cultural relations. The Uzbek side warmly recalled PM Modi's two visits to Uzbekistan. MOUs were also signed with the following Think Tanks – the Information and Analytical Centre for International Relations, the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies, the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, and Tashkent State Institute for Oriental Studies.

26 October 2017 – Round Table Discussion on Bay of Bengal

The RTD on the Bay of Bengal was organised to discuss macro issues such as the economy, conflicts, major ports, intra-regional trade, infrastructure development, and connectivity and significance of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A series of recommendations were made to the Bay of Bengal community for keeping conflicts at bay.

01 November 2017 – Visit of delegation from Prospect Foundation, Taiwan

The VIF, along with the Prospect Foundation from Taiwan, led by its Chairman, Dr Tan-Sun Chen, organised a seminar on: (1) 'Evaluation of 19th Party Congress; (2) 'China's Rising Cyber Power'; and (3) 'A Case for India-Taiwan Strategic Cooperation'.

06 November 2017 – Seminar on 'India-China Relations and the Way Forward

The VIF and a delegation from the Institute of Chinese Studies organised a joint seminar where the Chinese Ambassador, Mr Luo Zhaohui, delivered the

keynote address. 'India-China Relations and Cultural Ties' and 'Economy in India-China Relations', along with some other contentious issues were discussed in the seminar, which was attended by members of the strategic community, scholars from other think tanks, students and members of the Chinese Embassy in India.

07 November 2017 – Release of the report '70th Anniversary of Russia-India Diplomatic Relations: New Horizons of Privileged Partnership'

The report, jointly prepared by the VIF and the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC), was released at the VIF where the current state and prospects for India-Russia ties were also reviewed. It was suggested that Russia should actively participate in India's 'Make in India' programme in defence manufacturing with more technology transfers as that would consolidate Russia's position as India's economic partner as was the case during the Soviet times. H.E. Nikolay R Kudashev, Ambassador of Russia, representatives from Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the National Security Council Secretariat, senior members of Delhi's strategic community, and select representatives from the media were present on the occasion.

16-17 November 2017 – The Joint India-China-US Trilateral on Cyber-space Cooperation

The China Institute for International Strategic Studies (CISS), the VIF and the East West Institute (EWI) co-hosted the first 'Joint China-India-US Trilateral on Cyberspace Cooperation' at the VIF, New Delhi. The two-day, Track-2 dialogue brought together cyber experts, former government officials and business leaders to discuss some of the most pressing cyberspace issues in trilateral relations. Multilateral cooperation to tackle cyber-crimes and norms of behaviour in cyber-space were discussed.

01 December 2017– RTD on ‘Taking India and Central Asia to the Next Level’

The RTD, followed by a presentation on ‘International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC)’ was organised at the VIF. This was followed by a series of discussions on the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), connectivity, China, Russia, Energy, and India-Central Asia relationships. Special remarks were made by the Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

04 December 2017 – Second Meeting of Heads of Think-Tanks of India and Russia at New Delhi

A session on ‘Strategic Partnership between India and Russia in the Backdrop of the Changing Landscape of World Order’ was held with a view to further strengthen the India-Russia relationship and bring it in line with contemporary requirements. Some interesting suggestions included a joint Indo-Russian initiative on Africa and greater cooperation between Indian and Russian scientists.

11 December 2017 – H.E. Sergey V Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Russian Federation, delivers the First Kadakin Memorial Lecture

A special lecture on ‘Global Affairs and New Vistas of Russian-Indian Cooperation’, in memory of the former Russian Ambassador to India, Alexander Kadakin, was organised at the VIF. His Excellency Sergey V Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, delivered the Lecture to a select gathering that comprised India’s National Security Advisor, Foreign Secretary, members of the diplomatic corps, members of the strategic community, and media. The address was devoted to India-Russia relations both at the bilateral and multi-lateral level including the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), One Belt One Road (OBOR), Afghanistan, Asia-Pacific, and Terrorism. The minister concluded his address by mentioning that India and

Russia have a convergence of priorities and therefore, both governments should encourage their respective communities to engage with one another through greater economic engagement, people to people contacts and educational and cultural exchanges.

18 December 2017 – Interaction with Visiting South Korean Delegation from Sejong Institute

The interaction explored various facets of current global, regional and bilateral dynamics between India and South Korea. The issues covered were: India-South Korea partnership and the ‘Korea Plus’ initiative, Korean concerns after the POSCO fiasco in Orissa, reckless testing of nuclear weapons and missiles by the North Korean regime, the notion of ‘Indo-Pacific’, freedom of navigation and China’s ambitions, China’s use of economic sanctions, and Xi Jinping’s proposal to the Party about the ‘Great Power Diplomacy with Chinese Characteristics’. The interaction was appraised by both think tanks as highly useful with the resolution to make efforts to increase similar interactions in the future.

10 January 2018 – Seminar on Asia-Africa Growth Corridor

The VIF organised an RTD on the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) initiative that emerged from the Indian Prime Minister’s visit to Japan in 2016, with the objective of enhancing growth and connectivity between Asia and Africa. India’s current engagement with Africa, points of convergence with Japan, shipping connectivity, and fiscal management issues were discussed at the event.

11 January 2018 – Imbalance in Sino-Indian Trade: What to do About It?

The VIF organised a brainstorming session on the topic of ‘Imbalance in Sino-Indian Trade: What to do about it?’ The session was attended by members of the strategic community, eminent diplomats, and policymakers dealing with China. Various challenges

such as China's use of trade as a tool to pressurise India and the strategic dimension of the rising trade deficits were also discussed.

16 January 2018 – Interaction with Prof Syyed Mohd Kazem Sajjadpour, President of Iranian Institute for Political and International Studies

An interaction with Prof Syyed Mohd Kazem Sajjadpour, President of the Iranian Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS), was organised at the VIF. Ambassador Gholamreza Ansari (Ambassador of Iran to India) and Prof Sheikh-ul-Islam (Dean of School of International Studies, Tehran) were also present on the occasion. The 'Global Scenario' and 'India-Iran Bilateral Relations' were discussed.

23 January 2018 – Interaction with ASEAN Journalists

VIF hosted an interaction with visiting senior journalists from 10 countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) – Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Brunei. The interaction revolved around current issues facing the Indo-Pacific region and India's engagement with ASEAN. The interaction relating to over 30 ongoing dialogues with ASEAN was appraised as 'highly useful' by all attendees who suggested that more such interactions should be held in the future.

22-23 February 2018 – Conference on Security in the Indian Ocean Region at Sasakawa Peace Foundation Tokyo

A conference was organised by Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) on February 22-23, 2018, in Tokyo. The conference concluded a two-year project that explored the possibilities for the major democracies, namely Australia, India, Japan and the United States to cooperate for maintenance of peace and stability in the Indian Ocean. The countries were

represented by the think tanks VIF India, SPF Japan, Australian National University (ANU) and SPF USA. Representatives of VIF were Amb Kanwal Sibal, Dr Vijay Sakhuja and Somen Banerjee.

Four papers were presented during the conference. RAdm Michael McDevitt (Retd) of SPF US presented a paper on *Chinese Capabilities in the Indian Ocean*. Dr David Brewster of ANU made a presentation on *Understanding China's Naval Strategy in the Indian Ocean*. SPF Japan's presentation pertaining to *Enhancing Maritime Connectivity in the Indo-Pacific Region* was presented by Dr Takuya Shimodaria. Dr Vijay Sakhuja was coopted by VIF to present a paper titled *Cooperation Framework in the Indian Ocean for Regional Powers to meet the Challenges*.

After two days of deliberations, including an open session, the conference arrived at recommendations for policy formulation.

04-06 March 2018 – Quad Plus Dialogue, Tokyo

A four-member team from the VIF comprising Director, Dr Arvind Gupta, Lt Gen Ravi Sawhney, Ambassador Anil Wadhwa and Dr Harinder Sekhon participated in the fifth series of track-two Quad Plus Dialogue in Tokyo. The dialogue focused on the common strategic interests of the Quad countries, US, Japan, India, and Australia in the South China Sea, Afghanistan-Pakistan, the challenge of maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific, Chinese foreign policy under Xi Jinping, and maintaining autonomy of action in managing relations amongst the Quad countries as they balance their interests with China, which is the largest economic partner for each.

12 March 2018 – Interaction with Mr James Dorsey on 'A Review of Major Conflicts in West Asia/Middle East and the Way Forward'

Members of the VIF faculty had an interactive session with Dr James M Dorsey, Senior Fellow, S

Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), to discuss major conflicts in West Asia/Middle East and the way forward. The session was useful for understanding the dynamics of the conflicts in a region of great strategic significance for the whole world. Dr Dorsey foretold that the Middle East and North Africa region is poised for another decade of volatility, uncertainty and bloodshed.

16 March 2018 – Talk on Chinese Economy by Dr Ananth Nageshwaran

Singapore-based Dr Ananth Nageshwaran, a Distinguished Fellow at VIF gave a presentation on the current state of the Chinese economy titled, 'The Wile E Coyote Moment for China'. He highlighted the looming debt crisis in China because of the loans taken by Chinese State Owned Enterprises (SOE), and also by Chinese households. He also pointed out that although the Chinese economy is 'too big to fail', it is stagnating because of over-capacity, falling exports and reduced inflow of foreign direct investments into China. The presentation also highlighted the 'shadow-banking' system and how difficult it is to understand the system.

21 March 2018 – Interaction with Friendship Exchange Council (FEC) delegation from Tokyo, Japan

A distinguished delegation from India-Japan Friendship Exchange Council (FEC) from Tokyo, led by Mr Kenichi Watanabe, Vice Chairman of FEC, Senior Advisor to the Board and Former Group CEO of Nomura Holdings, Inc was hosted at the VIF during their 11th visit to India. The interaction explored various facets of current global, regional and bilateral dynamics between India and Japan. Some of the salient points discussed were: a possible Japan-China Détente, US's security commitment to Asia-Pacific; North Korea; Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP); working together in Africa; and India-Japan bilateral economic engagement.

22 March 2018 – Address by the Foreign Minister, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 'Regional Developments and Prospects of India-Egypt Relations'

H.E. Sameh Shoukry, Foreign Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, addressed a galaxy of foreign and security policy experts at the VIF, including representatives from government agencies, diplomatic missions, academia and media, on 'Regional Developments and Prospects of India-Egypt Relations. ' The address was followed by an interactive session. The upward trajectory in India-Egypt cooperation for reforming the existing international order, meeting the challenges of climate change and the Middle East's overall political and security environment were the topics touched upon. Significantly, the minister highlighted that India can play an active role in resolving the long outstanding conflict between Israel and Palestine.

Glimpses





Centre for National Security and Strategic Studies

During the year the centre focused on Nuclear Deterrence, Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI), Effectiveness of India's Armed Forces, among other things.

A study group consisting of senior armed forces officers, diplomats and IAS officers carried out a study of the different facets of nuclear deterrence as applicable to India in the current strategic environment. It outlined the various options available to the nation. A detailed paper on the subject was published in the VIF Perspective: Issues and Trends 2017.

VIF was involved in an effort for formalising cooperation with the US in the area of defence. Both India and the US are committed in pushing this unique initiative that aims at moving the bilateral relationship to a higher strategic trajectory. With this aim in view, the VIF team interacted with US counterparts in a series of meetings in India as well as in Washington DC. Our recommendations and suggestions for strengthening this process were forwarded to the government.

These are as under:

- (a) There is a necessity for strengthening regional forces allied to the concept of democracy and free markets.
- (b) In line with this thought, India should emerge as a net security provider in South East Asia and Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- (c) The above can be achieved by helping India build a Qualitative Military Edge (QME) to deal with both security threats and a broad range of other challenges.
- (d) To facilitate this, there is a need for an India-specific export license exemption for military sales, co-production and development.

- (e) India on its part will need to revamp its defence industrial ecosystem to facilitate technology transfers and absorption.

The VIF conducted an in-house exercise to review the current security environment, its threats and challenges, in order to identify defence-related issues on priority. The deduced remedial measures and recommendations have been sent in the form of a paper, to the Indian Defence Minister and the NSA.

Exercise Indraprastha

Exercise Indraprastha was conceptualised in January 2018 and has been conducted in April 2018 as a 'Strategic Gaming Exercise' at VIF. The aim of the exercise was to analyse the dynamics of a possible Sino-Indian standoff, its impact on the regional and international security matrix and possible response strategies.

Major events held during the year:

24-25 May 2017 – Homeland Security Conference 2017 – Modernisation of India's Internal Security Mechanism

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), and the VIF, organised a two-day conference at FICCI House, New Delhi on the theme, 'Homeland Security 2017 – Modernisation of India's Internal Security Mechanism'. The objective was to bring together policy experts and senior officers belonging to the central armed police forces, state police departments, intelligence community, industry, and scholars from academia and think tanks to discuss the various challenges facing them. The gathering also discussed issues relating to the right equipment and its procurement by India's internal security forces.

27 July 2017 – Release of VIF Perspective: Issues & Trends, 2017

Hon'ble Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister for Railways, Government of India, released the publication *VIF Perspective: Issues & Trends, 2017 – Securing India*, at a public event organised by the VIF. The book contains 15 essays on topical themes, all of which were very carefully chosen by a panel of distinguished policy experts. They are written from the perspective of India's national interests and security by some of India's best known thinkers and security experts.

31 July 2017 – Discussion on 'Socio-Economic Solutions to the Maoist Problem'

An RTD on the socio-economic dynamics of the Maoist problem in India was organised at the VIF. Taking part in the deliberations were security policy experts, members of civil society, NGOs and academics. The presentations zeroed in on isolating the support base and winning the people over with developmental programmes and by effective perception management. The RTD recommendations included: social inclusiveness; education; equitable distribution of resources; grievance redressal; organic farm exports; skill development; entrepreneurship; and learning the local language for better communication.

30 October 2017 – Discussion on the Rohingya Crisis

A brainstorming session was organised at the VIF to discuss the implications of the Rohingya crisis. The panellists agreed that the crisis was a combination of a humanitarian tragedy, illegal immigration, economic deprivation, human rights violations, identity issues, religious factors and security issues. It was also agreed that responsibility for ensuring an early and workable resolution lay primarily with Myanmar and Bangladesh along with the involvement of UN bodies for providing relief and

rehabilitation. It was also recommended that India should formulate an effective refugee policy and help Bangladesh in mitigating the humanitarian impact of the refugee crisis.

24 November 2017 – Book Discussion: Securing India, the Modi Way, by Nitin Gokhale

A discussion on the book, *Securing India, the Modi Way*, authored by Nitin Gokhale, senior journalist and member of the VIF faculty was organised at the VIF. The book, besides presenting insights into how crucial decisions are taken in the present NDA-led government, brings into focus key events that have helped in shaping Prime Minister Modi's policies on the external front. The author described Mr Modi's policies as 'firm on ground and reasonable in diplomacy', as exemplified by the way the military stand-off with China on the Doklam plateau was resolved. Nitin Gokhale also dwelt on the various attributes of Prime Minister Modi that resonate with his policies.

20 December 2017 – Discussion on Emerging Challenges before India in Nuclear Diplomacy

The VIF organised an RTD on 'India's Nuclear Diplomacy' to discuss the various challenges facing India's nuclear diplomacy in the wake of wide-ranging regional and international security developments. A number of issues such as North Korea's nuclear and missile provocations, lack of progress on US-Russia strategic arms reduction, Pakistan's continuous stockpiling of fissile materials and development of new long-range missiles were discussed. The RTD noted that in the wake of the recent UN treaty for banning nuclear weapons, India should undertake an outreach with both nuclear weapon states and the non-aligned countries on issues of mutual significance such as universal 'no first use' nuclear weapons convention and global nuclear disarmament.

27 December 2017 – Fellows Seminar on ‘Maritime Power of India – Linkages to Blue Economy’

A Fellows seminar on India’s maritime power and blue economic prospects was organised to validate an upcoming Monograph by Somen Banerjee, a maritime expert with VIF.

8 January 2018 – Book Discussion: Sharpening the Arsenal: India’s Evolving Nuclear Deterrence Policy

A panel discussion on the recently published book, *Sharpening the Arsenal: India’s Evolving Nuclear Doctrine* (Harper Collins, 2017), by Brig Gurmeet Kanwal, an eminent defence expert, was held at the VIF. The book, besides focusing on India’s entire nuclear spectrum, seeks to initiate a debate on whether India’s Nuclear Doctrine, entailing a ‘No First Use’ policy, has outlived its utility. The panellists, were generally of the view, that India’s present Nuclear Doctrine remains a credible deterrent against any possible nuclear adventurism by Pakistan, including the use of tactical nuclear weapons.

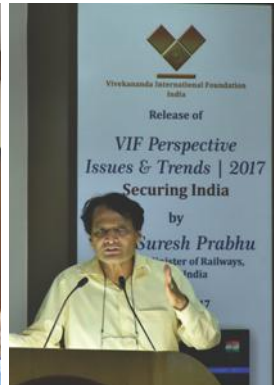
11 January 2018 – A talk by Dr RB Grover on Nuclear Industry in India

Dr Ravi Grover, Member, Atomic Energy Commission and Former Director, Homi Bhabha National Institute, addressed various experts from the industry, and the nuclear power sector along with journalists and VIF scholars. Dr Grover began by forecasting India’s needs by the middle of the century. He argued that nuclear power is one option that needs to be pursued vigorously. He suggested pursuing an aggressive programme to locate more uranium resources in the country and setting up more Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) based on indigenous technology; or importing uranium for setting up Light Water Reactors (LWR) in technical collaboration with other countries, and recycling the spent fuel in fast breeder reactors.

12 February 2018 – RTD on the ‘Role of CRPF in Counter-Insurgency Operations’

The Foundation invited Mr RR Bhatnagar, Director General, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) – the lead force deployed for counter-insurgency (CI) operations across India – for an RTD with a select group of policy analysts and security experts. The purpose was to help the Internal Security Task Force prepare a blueprint for reform in critical areas, viz., organisational structures, weaponry upgrade, acquisition processes, training and morale, improved living conditions for personnel, etc. The DG CRPF highlighted the nuances of fighting a protracted conflict against committed anti-nationals in Jammu and Kashmir, the left wing extremism-affected areas and the Northeast. He underlined that despite periodic setbacks, the force has done commendably well to contain insurgency.

Glimpses



Centre for Neighbourhood and Internal Security Studies

Activities of this centre during the first half of the year remained focused on following-up the fast moving political and other developments in virtually all the neighbouring countries (minus Pakistan and Afghanistan). This was done through regular production of Assessment Reports and Fortnightly Reviews. The Centre also produced Assessment Reports on International and Domestic Terrorism, covering the war against ISIS in Iraq and Syria, the ongoing militancy in J&K, and Left Wing Extremism. In addition the centre had a busy calendar of events; seminars and RTDs on topical issues like the Maoist movement, and developments in Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh.

In the second half of the year, these efforts were further fine-tuned to bring into sharper focus emerging new developments in the neighbourhood like those in the Maldives, the Rohingya Crisis, India-Bhutan relations in the wake of the Doklam stand-off, elections in Nepal etc. Special attention was paid towards coverage of national/internal security issues, counter-insurgency, financing, radicalisation, and international and domestic terrorism. An improvement in the reporting mechanism was introduction in the form of Daily Briefs on Developments in the Neighbourhood. Besides, the quality and content of the Fortnightly Report on National Security, Defence and Terrorism was also raised to a higher level.

During 2018-19, the centre proposes to maintain the tempo by enlarging its research-based reporting through issue of commentaries on spot developments, issue briefs, detailed incisive articles and monographs. These will include internal and international terrorism, political developments in all the countries, Bangladesh elections, Nepal's march towards democracy, terror financing, implications of

Islamic radicalisation, insurgency in the North East, LWE and facets of strengthening the internal security architecture, etc.

Major events held during the year:

07 April 2017 – Interaction with H.E. Deep Kumar Upadhyay, Nepal's Ambassador to India

Ahead of Nepalese President Ms Bidya Devi Bhandari's scheduled visit to India, the VIF hosted Nepal's ambassador for an interaction on 'India-Nepal Relations: The Way forward'. The interaction covered a broad range of bilateral issues such as economic cooperation, cooperation in hydro energy, river management, disaster management, improving physical connectivity and managing people's perceptions about each other. H.E. Upadhyay reiterated Nepal's commitment to a strong and peaceful relationship with India and stressed the need for regular exchanges at the highest level to resolve key differences.

04 May 2017 – Discussion on 'Afghanistan: Emerging Strategic Re-Alignment'

The VIF hosted an internal discussion on 'Afghanistan: Emerging Strategic Realignment', to consider Afghanistan's security environment and imperatives for India in the face of a resurgent Taliban while the new US administration is yet to firm up its Afghanistan strategy. A possible China-Russia-Pakistan nexus that could put India's strategic investments in Afghanistan in jeopardy was also discussed. The consensus was to continue the constructive engagement with the government in power in Afghanistan. Here, the options ranged from supporting the factions opposed to the Taliban and

equipping the Afghan armed forces with more lethal fire power.

16-17 May 2017 – VIF-Pathfinder Foundation: Discussion on ‘India-Sri Lanka Bilateral Cooperation for Promoting Blue Economy’

The VIF and Pathfinder Foundation, Sri Lanka, held an RTD on India-Sri Lanka bilateral cooperation. With key functionaries of both countries attending, the focus was on promoting the ‘blue economy’, a relatively new concept that focuses on the sustainable exploitation of marine resources for the benefit of the world in general, and the coastal states in particular.

26 May 2017 – Interaction with a delegation of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dr Arifi Saiman, Director, Centre for Policy Development and Analysis on Asia-Pacific and African Region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, visited the VIF with a three-member delegation. The delegation held talks with senior faculty members of the VIF relating to the establishment of the Indian Ocean Rim Association – Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IORA-CEPA) – its possibilities, challenges and future.

06 June 2017 – RTD on India-Bangladesh Relations

Following up on Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s ‘historic’ visit in April, the VIF organised an RTD on international relations, with Dr Gowher Rizvi, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. The RTD discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh in the post-visit scenario and proposed that fresh impetus be given to some of the stalled joint projects, especially those linked to infrastructure development. Water-related issues, especially the

Farakka Barrage, river-basins and water transport were also discussed in detail.

12 September 2017 – A Talk on ‘India-Afghanistan Relations: Recent Developments and Implications’, by H.E. Salahuddin Rabbani, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan concluded his visit to India with a talk on ‘India-Afghanistan Relations: Recent Developments and Implications’, at the VIF. H.E. Rabbani dealt with a wide range of bilateral and regional issues besides spelling out foreign policy priorities for his government. The minister then interacted with an audience of policy analysts, strategic thinkers, opinion makers, media personnel, and Indian and foreign diplomats. A high-level delegation from Afghanistan was also present. The minister was sanguine about the progress that India and Afghanistan are jointly making in key areas of bilateral cooperation. Pitching for tri-lateral cooperation between the United States, India and Afghanistan, he identified three key elements of the new Afghan strategy. These were: fighting terrorism and violent extremism; increased regional cooperation; and targeting terrorist sanctuaries.

18 September 2017 – RTD on ‘India-Bhutan Relations: Recent Developments and Implications’

After the Doklam crisis had blown over, the VIF invited some strategic thinkers and security experts to deliberate upon the security implications of the recent developments in Western Bhutan, the India-Bhutan relationship in consonance with Bhutan’s desire for economic independence, and the likelihood of its establishing a diplomatic relations with China. Maj Gen AK Bardalai, former Head of the Indian Military Training Team (IMTRAT) in Bhutan, and Ambassador VP Haran, India’s former Ambassador to Bhutan were the lead speakers.

24 October 2017 – President of Afghanistan, H.E. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani’s Speech at the VIF

President Ghani delivered a speech at the VIF in which he spoke about global uncertainty, the regional security trends, Afghanistan’s four recent transitions, its foreign policy, the military capabilities of the Afghan National Security Forces, relations with Pakistan and his optimism about the future. Later he answered questions from the audience regarding the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, Indo-Afghan relations, and the QUAD. President Ghani envisioned Afghanistan as a ‘roundabout’ of regional connectivity and was optimistic about its future prospects.

15 November 2017– RTD on Afghanistan

A panel of security and foreign policy experts participated in an RTD on Afghanistan’s current situation and the way forward, at the VIF. The issues discussed included the potential for peace talks, regional influences, internal power dynamics, the resurgence of the Taliban, the Islamic State as a new factor, connectivity, and other development and security related issues. The main issues discussed at the interactive session dealt with: Taking the strong and thriving India-Afghanistan relations to the next level; Pakistan’s ability to play mischief; the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor; and Afghanistan’s upcoming elections.

22 December 2017 – Round Table on Nepal

An informal round table meeting was held at the VIF to evaluate Nepal elections and its political road map.

19 March 2018 – Brainstorming Session on ‘India-Bhutan Relations and the Chinese Factor’

A brainstorming session on ‘India-Bhutan Relations and the Chinese Factor’ was held in

the context of China’s road building and military activity in the disputed Doklam region of Bhutan, which led to the India-China stand-off last year. The salient points included hydro-electric cooperation, infrastructure on the Indian side of the international border, the Doklam crisis, Bhutan-China border talks, economic and logistical networking, the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) Grouping, and the role of social media among the youth in Bhutan. It was agreed that India should set up top-class educational institutions and hospitals in Bhutan and the Indian developmental assistance programme should be enhanced. Bhutan will always remain important for India’s security just as a strong Indo-Bhutan relationship is crucial for Bhutan’s security and well-being.

27 March 2018 – Interaction with Prof Vijay Kant Karna of Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu on ‘Indo-Nepal Relations after the new Government in Nepal’

An exchange of thoughts and views on Indo-Nepal engagement took place at the VIF. The necessity of maintaining the age-old bonds was underscored by all who participated in the interactive session with Prof Karna.

Glimpses



Centre for Governance and Political Studies

The centre focused on a wide range of issues during the year. It tied up with other leading organisations like Prasar Bharti, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, International Commission for Irrigation and Drainage, etc. Some of the themes taken up were 'Communicating India', 'River Basin Management' and 'Use of Technology in Governance'. Academic papers on India's economy, skills and jobs, and agriculture were also written and included in the VIF Perspectives series.

Some of the major events held during the year:

05 April 2017 – Conference on 'Communicating India'

The VIF, in collaboration with Prasar Bharati, the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, and the University of Westminster (UK), organised a conference on 'Communicating India'. A galaxy of prominent thinkers, writers and speakers, including Shri Venkaiah Naidu, the then Minister for Information and Broadcasting, and Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Prime Minister's Office, attended the deliberations. The conference concluded that India's positives, starting from India being a syncretic culture to a rapidly developing economy, a thriving democracy, pluralistic culture, financial and digital inclusion, demographic dividends, information technology, and space exploration etc., need to be effectively communicated to the international community.

06 Oct 2017 – Discussion by Swedish Author, Bertil Falk about his Book *Feroze: The Forgotten Gandhi*

Mr Bertil Falk spoke on his book *Feroze: The Forgotten Gandhi* at the VIF. Dr A Suryaprakash, Chairman of Prasar Bharti and a Distinguished Fellow at the VIF introduced the topic, while the author talked about Feroze Gandhi the democrat, investigative parliamentarian and whistle blower.

29-30 November 2017 – Conclave on River Basin Management

Following the interventions for 'Doubling the Farmers' Incomes', a second Conclave on River Basin Management was organised at the VIF in partnership with International Commission on Drainage (ICID). The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Mr Trivendra Singh Rawat, Secretary for Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmer Welfare, Shri Dhirendra Singh, former Secretary, Dr Wani, Director, Research Program Asia International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) Development Centre, and Dr AC Tyagi, Secretary General, ICID, participated in the discussion. Various far-sighted initiatives of the government were also discussed.

23 January 2017 – Aadhaar 2.0: Leveraging Blockchain

Mr Vinayak Dalmia, Co-founder, Amber Health, and Ms Shikha Mehra, Senior Research Associate, Jindal Global Law School, and Member, Digital Asset and Blockchain Foundation of India made a presentation on 'Aadhaar 2.0: Leveraging Blockchain' at the VIF. The centrality of Aadhaar for governance of welfare expenditure and targeting of beneficiaries was highlighted along with certain structural flaws.

Glimpses



Centre for Economic Studies

Implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) is the greatest taxation reform in the history of India. The VIF organised a meeting of experts to discuss the ramifications of GST. The centre also took an initiative to explore the concept of Gross Domestic Knowledge Product (GDKP) for India.

Major events held during the year were as follows:

23 August 2017 – RTD on ‘GST – Making India a Single Market’

An assembly of eminent former bureaucrats and economic policy experts assessed the Goods and Services Tax (GST), India’s most ambitious tax reform initiated by the present government. Presentations highlighted the teething problems, confusion amongst the business community as well as the consumers, and the lack of robust preparedness. The consensus was that GST will lead to a more efficient tax structure.

03 November 2017 – Book Release: Black Money and Tax Havens, by Prof R Vaidyanathan

The VIF hosted the launch of Prof R Vaidyanathan’s latest book titled *Black Money and Tax Havens*. The event witnessed intense discussion among learned panellists including Mr Swaminathan Gurumurthy, Dr Bibek Debroy and Mr Mahesh Jethmalani. Issues relating to political and economic effects of black money, money laundering, and corruption were dissected.

18 December 2017 – Talk by Prof Umberto Sulpasso, Senior Fellow, Centre for Digital Future at the University of Southern California

A talk on Gross Domestic Knowledge Product (GDKP) and its significance for India by Prof Umberto

Sulpasso, was organised at the VIF. The panellists were: Dr Rajiv Kumar (Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog), Mr Tanmoy Chakraborty, and Ambassador KP Fabian. It was argued that the GDKP concept identifies India’s specific knowledge assets including its cultural and religious teachings (yoga, vedas, and dance traditions etc.). Prof Sulpasso is of the opinion that the creation of a National Knowledge Education Platform could enhance GDP and give a boost to investment, software, publishing etc.

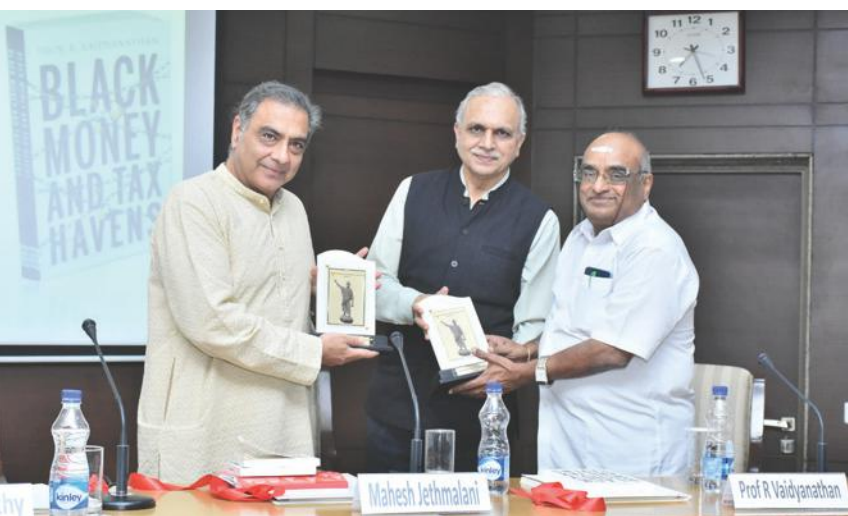
12 February 2018 – RTD on India's Budget 2018-19

VIF organised an RTD to discuss the *Economic Survey 2017-18*, and the Union Budget 2018-19. The panel comprised of members of Prime Minister’s Economic Advisory Council, Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, and Vice Chairperson, Niti Aayog. Pre-election fiscal prudence, revenue deficit, agriculture, employment, state budgets, contribution in social infrastructure, India’s international commitments and national security matters were discussed threadbare.

01 March 2018 – Interaction with Dr Sushmit Kumar on India’s Potential to become a Super Power

Dr Sushmit Kumar, author of *The Modernisation of Islam and the Creation of a Multipolar World Order* (Booksurge, January 2008) was invited for a discussion on key events of global politics and its implications for countries like India that are seeking global power status. The key imperatives for this were identified as: manufacturing; skill development; education; science and technology; research, development and innovation; private cooperative industry’ generation of trade surplus; and reduction of external dependency for energy resources.

Glimpses



Centre for Scientific and Technological Studies

Technology is a critical component of India's comprehensive national power. The centre explored several technological issues including cyber security, the implication of emerging technologies, prospects of nuclear power, etc.

Task Force on Nuclear Industry in India

VIF has set-up a Task Force on 'Nuclear Industry in India' under the former Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission, Dr Kakodkar. The Task Force has held discussions on: (i) Nuclear Industry Eco System; (ii) Export Opportunities and India emerging as Global Hub; (iii) Balancing the Supply Chain; and (iv) Finance. The report is under preparation.

Task Force on STEM

A task force has been set up under the chairmanship of Prof KK Aggarwal, former vice chancellor of Indraprastha University, to review the status of science technology, engineering, and mathematics education in India and to make recommendations for further improvement.

We propose to come out with policy recommendations based on the inputs from the deliberations taking place in the task force meetings.

On behalf of the VIF, Lt Gen Davinder Kumar, Distinguished Fellow collaborated with TCS and the Indian Air Force to conduct cyber security workshops.

Some of the major events held during the year:

25-26 Apr 2017 – Conference on Internet Governance

Mr Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister for Electronics & Information Technology (MEIT), and Law & Justice, Government of India, Ms Aruna Sundararajan, Secretary, MEIT, Dr Gulshan Rai, National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC) in the Prime Minister's Office, Dr VK Saraswat, Member NITI Aayog, members of the academia, think tanks, and civil society participated in a National Conference on 'Internet Governance', at the VIF. Held in the wake of the first global Internet summit 'ICANN 57' (Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers), the issues discussed included: vision for a digital India, smart cities, Bharat Net, services at the village level, job creation and the Aadhaar card. These issues were discussed to highlight the importance of Internet governance. The Hon'ble Minister also dwelt on 'Multi-Stakeholderism in Action' and the political will for digital transformation.

27 November 2017 – Joint Training on Cyber Security by VIF and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS): 'Train the Trainers' Workshop for Teachers of Indian Air Force Schools

In pursuit of its goal of fostering Information Security, the VIF and TCS entered into an agreement to provide special training to students of the Army, Navy and Air Force Schools on a 'no cost' basis. The first workshop was conducted at the Air Force School, Hebbal, Bangalore, from 27 November to 01 December, 2017.

Glimpses



Centre for Historical and Civilisational Studies

The Centre proposes to bring out volumes 6, 7, 8 of the History of Ancient India Series ed. by Prof. Dilip K Chakrabarti during this year. Volumes 9, 10, 11 are planned for next year. A project on the history of India's land and maritime borders - in collaboration with the National Archives of India is also currently underway. A conference on 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', a handbook on India's strategic thought, and documentaries on India's contact with the world are planned for 2018-19.

The centre also proposes to take up the following during 2018-19:

- Translation of key ancient Indian texts on science, politics, strategic thought etc., in collaboration with Swami Narasimhananda of Advaita Ashrama - proposed text Lilavati of Bhaskaracharya.
- Monograph on India's historical contacts with other Asian countries.
- VIF Paper on Sister Nivedita's ideas on Indian nationhood; on Hieun Tsang; on the concept of Bharatvarsha;
- Field survey of state of tangible heritage (Case study – some major and minor Harappan sites) and dissemination of knowledge regarding the same (museums, textbooks etc.)

The major events held during the year:

05-06 August 2017 – SAMVAD-II: Dialogue for Peace, Harmony and Security – Global Initiative for Conflict Avoidance and Environmental Consciousness

'SAMVAD', an initiative of the VIF, was borne out of the dialogue between the Hon'ble Indian Prime

Minister Mr Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe. The purpose was to apply the principles of Asia's age-old spiritual teachings of Hinduism and Buddhism – to modern-day issues threatening human civilisation – in the spirit of understanding, acceptance, ethical behaviour and universal responsibility. SAMVAD-II, was held in Yangon, Myanmar in partnership with the Sitagu International Buddhist Academy (SIBA), Yangon, the Myanmar Institute of International and Strategic Studies (MISIS), in the presence of distinguished spiritual leaders of different faiths. Participants in the Dialogue included keynote speakers, eminent scholars, and panellists from 30 countries. The Yangon Declaration concluded that Buddhists and Hindus must lead the initiative, by virtue of the philosophical commonalities in their spiritual teachings to create a tolerant, liberal, accommodative, and harmonious world.

07 February 2018 – A talk on 'Netaji's Contribution to the Freedom Moment', by Dr Kalyan De

Dr Kalyan De, a US-based engineer by profession and a Netaji admirer, delivered an insightful talk on Netaji Subash Chandra Bose's unmatched contribution to India's freedom struggle. Quoting extensively from the British official archives, Dr De argued that the 'Quit India' movement was never entirely a Congress or Gandhi show and that Netaji played a significant role in it even while in Germany. Quoting from British documents from the INA Trials, Dr De opined that Subash Chandra Bose was truly instrumental in forcing the British to quit India but this fact did not find due recognition.

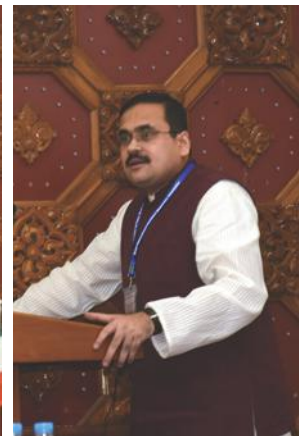
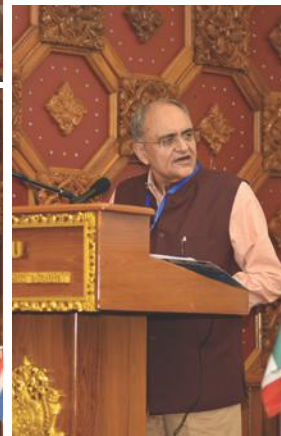
28 February 2018 – Discussion on VIF Publication, History of Ancient India Series

In 2013, the VIF published the first five volumes of its multi-volume *History of Ancient India Series*. Three of the remaining six volumes are to be published shortly, while the remaining volumes are scheduled to be published next year. A discussion on the Series was organised at the VIF with the participation of nearly 20 eminent scholars and

historians led by Prof Dilip Chakrabarti, Emeritus Professor of South Asian Archaeology at Cambridge University and the Editor of the Series. It was pointed out that since the 1950s there has been a lot of research done on ancient India, especially in the field of archaeology which has led to the discovery of new data and new frames of interpretation, many of which are yet to be incorporated in the university-level ancient history books.



Glimpses



Vimarsha

14 June 2017 – ‘China’s Belt Road and India’

As part of the *Vimarsha* series of talks, which are delivered by persons of eminence, Mr RN Ravi, Chairman, Joint Intelligence Committee, Government of India, delivered an illuminating talk on ‘China’s Belt Road and India’, which was attended by a distinguished gathering of former military officers, members of the academia, think tanks and civil services. In an insightful analysis of China’s Belt-Road Initiative (BRI), the speaker described the BRI as China’s economic compulsion and said that projects being funded with credit from China made no great commercial sense, since the invested countries run the risk of ending up as client-states of China. While pitching for a case-by-case examination of projects being undertaken under BRI, Mr Ravi stressed that India’s wariness of BRI stems from its strategic dimensions. Mr Ravi also analysed other connectivity plans as counterweights to China’s Belt and Road initiative. The talk was followed by a lively Q&A session.

19 December 2017 – ‘Making Healthcare Affordable’

The VIF invited the noted cardiac surgeon, Dr Devi Shetty, Founder and Chairman of the Narayana Group of Hospitals, for a talk on affordable healthcare which was followed by an interactive session. A recipient of the Padma Bhushan award for his contributions to affordable healthcare, Dr Shetty enthralled the audience with his vision for a universal healthcare scheme that would bring down the costs of high-end medical procedures substantially, simply by relying on economies of scale and the setting up of medical centres in far-flung areas.

Dr Shetty’s insightful talk underlined the fact that India was short of two million doctors and five million nurses. These shortages are expected to multiply further given the exponential growth in population and the elitist ‘licence’ system which stifles higher medical education and training. On the economics of the medical industry and employment generation, Dr Shetty made a strong case for the mass-training of paramedical professionals and sending them abroad to fill the huge vacancies, an endeavour which possibly could bring in approximately \$ 100 billion in remittances.

12 January 2018 – Panel Discussion to Commemorate the 155th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda

The VIF organised a panel discussion to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. Eminent participants in the panel included Dr Swapan Dasgupta, Member of Rajya Sabha, Dr K Subrahmanyam, Pro-Chancellor, S-VYASA (Yoga University) and Dr Anirban Ganguly, Director, Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation (SPMRF).

Dr Gupta, Director VIF, pointed out that India, whose greatness stems from its great civilisational achievements, is set to regain its place in the comity of nations. Dr Swapan Dasgupta spoke on ‘Swami Vivekananda and the New Narrative of India’ and highlighted the fact that Swamiji gave the nation a sense of sovereignty and pride – a realisation of the fact that we are the proud inheritors of the oldest civilisation of the world and that we have no reason to be on the defensive. Dr K Subrahmanyam spoke on ‘Swami Vivekananda and Yoga Education’. He said that our modern education system is materialistic, self-centred, focussed on professional training and money-making. But mere professional

efficiency is not sufficient to solve the problems of life, which can only be resolved by knowledge that is based on the Bhagavad Gita, as elaborated by Swamiji in his writings on the Jnana, Bhakti, Karma and Raja Yogas. Dr Anirban Ganguly spoke on 'Swami Vivekananda and India's Soft Power'. According to him, central to Swamiji's contribution was the creation of a civilisational grand-narrative for India at a time when we were colonised – a narrative of India as a civilisational power, distinct from that of other hegemonic powers – a narrative of Indian exceptionalism. He argued that Swamiji facilitated the process of our interpretation and articulation of ourselves – that is, a narrative of India by Indians. The panel discussion was followed by a lively Q&A session.

24 January 2018 – Talk by Pravrajika Divyanandaprana, Monastic Member of Ramakrishna Sarada Mission and Principal, Nivedita Vidyamandir, New Delhi

Dr Arvind Gupta, Director, VIF, initiated the proceedings by highlighting that there is still much conflict in today's world, no matter how much we possess. The reason for this is that we can no longer connect with our values. Swami Vivekananda's great breakthrough, at a time when India was a subject nation, was his proclamation that India was the teacher of the world in matters of spirituality. Sister Nivedita took forward Swamiji's vision and made important contributions to education, art, politics and Indian nationalism.

Pravarajika Divyanandaprana began by pointing out that Sister Nivedita was Irish by birth and English by education, yet there were few who loved and understood India as much as her. She could comprehend the essence of India because of her association with Swami Vivekananda and his unique message of *Yoga* and *Vedanta* which guided her spiritual vision. Divyanandaprana ji underscored that Swami Vivekananda's vision was that of *enlightened nationalism* that realised the ideal of spiritual unity in the Indian civilisation. She went on to say that

Nivedita wanted Indian history to be written by Indians and also elaborated how Nivedita directly influenced the Indian national movement, helped Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose overcome British machinations, and supported the setting up of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). Above all, she never wanted any acknowledgement or publicity for what she did for India. She also spoke about Sister Nivedita's pioneering efforts for women's education, her designing of a national flag for India, and her emphasis on civic sense and service to the nation.

At the end of her talk, Mataji observed that the contemporary relevance of Sister Nivedita's life lies in her ideal of enlightened nationalism, based on the spiritual concept of the unity of all existence and the spirit of *sanatana dharma* or Vedic spiritual culture. If we wish to pay tribute to Nivedita, we can do so by inculcating the spirit of enlightened nationalism within us.

15 February 2018 – Ensuring Food Security for India

The February *Vimarsha* talk was delivered by Mr SK Pattanayak, Secretary to the Government of India. He highlighted issues pertaining to the availability, accessibility, utility and stability of food resources along with some other facets of India's food security. Explaining that policies on food security are made in accordance with emergent priorities across various segments, he pointed out that India, in recent years, has become cereal-centric. It exports 10 million tons of rice annually and is the world leader in the production of milk, cotton, jute and spices. He added that nutrition is an integral component of food security.

According to the speaker the challenges facing the food ministry included the cultivation of pulses, raising of farmers' incomes and ensuring availability of food. He further added that access to smart crops and management of dietary habits would lead to growth and prosperity. Mr Pattanayak assured the audience that in the coming years, India would

not only produce enough for itself but also for countries across the globe. Many Gulf countries were already looking towards India to provide them with food security, and that this would open up a new window of opportunity for the Indian farmers. With the government intent on combining pro-active policies with youth and skills in agriculture, the future of Indian farmers appears bright. The Secretary concluded that food security for all in India will be ensured.

13 March 2018 – ‘Changing Security Environment: The Role of Indian Army’, talk by General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff

At a public event organised by the VIF under the *Vimarsha* lecture series, General Bipin Rawat, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), spoke about India's changing security environment and the role of the Indian Army. The talk was followed by an equally exhaustive Q&A session.

The Army Chief covered a wide spectrum of security issues in his talk, including the evolving nature of threats to India's security, complexities of modern warfare, hybrid wars, implications of China's rise, Pakistan's proxy war against India, India's military preparedness and the role of military diplomacy. Highlighting China's rise as an economic

and military power, he pointed out that its influence now extended into the Asia-Pacific region. With China turning increasingly assertive and regional countries looking at India as a security provider, the role of the Indian military had considerably expanded in recent years. He also said that military diplomacy has an important role to play in India's bilateral relations with China. The General said that the annual exercise undertaken by the two armies was also back on the cards. Speaking of Pakistan's unrelenting proxy war against India, General Rawat said, 'It is here to stay'. The General warned that if Pakistan escalates its violations along the line of control, India would retaliate. He said that the Pakistanis were suffering severe damage from cross-border firing and if they come around, we will talk about a ceasefire on our terms.

General Rawat dispelled the notion that defence spending was a burden on the country when as much as 35 per cent of the defence budget was spent on building national infrastructure, given that the Army also significantly contributes to national integration. General Rawat also dwelt briefly on the Army's modernisation programmes, especially the integration of three services in the cyber, space, and special forces domains at the operational level. The talk was followed by an extensive Q&A session.

Glimpses



Dr Arvind Gupta, Director, VIF

Articles/OPEDS in Indian mainstream Media/Journals

1. 'The Trifecta of Global Power', published in DNA, 05 December 2017.
2. 'Deeper defence & security cooperation with Russia enhances India's strategic choices', published in The Economics Times, 22 December 2017.
3. 'India should take up challenge of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems', published in The Economics Times, 15 February 2017.
4. 'Hassan Rouhani's visit underlines connectivity is central to India-Iran's future ties', published in The Economics Times, 23 February 2017.
5. 'The Leopard Will Not Change Its Spots', published in Defence and Security Alert, March 2018.

Participation in Conferences

1. Special address at IDSA on 'Exploring roots of Indian Strategic Culture', 05 October 2017.
2. Participated in meeting regarding visit of ICWA delegation to Vietnam, 26 October 2017.
3. Delivered lecture on 'Non-Traditional Security Issues' at the inaugural ICWA-VASS Dialogue at Hanoi, Vietnam, 10 November 2017.
4. Attended 5th Global Conference on Cyberspace at New Delhi, 23 November 2017.
5. Addressed EU Member States Ambassadors to India on 'India's Maritime Policy' at the Embassy of Poland, New Delhi, 24 November 2017.

6. Chaired session on 'Strategic partnership between India-Russia in the backdrop of the changing landscape of world order' at the Second India-Russia Heads of Think Tanks Forum, Sapru House, New Delhi, 04 December 2017.
7. Presentation on 'Technology Challenges before India', at the Global Tech Summit, Bangalore, 07 December 2017.
8. Chaired session on Policy Changes for India at Seminar on 'Indo-Pacific Security and India – In an Era of Transition' at Manekshaw Convention Centre, Delhi Cantt., New Delhi, 11 December 2017.
9. Presentation on 'China's Cyber Capabilities and its Impact on Regional Security', at the 1st India Forum on China, Goa University, 14-16 December 2017.
10. Participated in a private round table on 'The Foundations of Indian Grand Strategy' with Dr Rahul Sagar, Carnegie India, 21 December 2017.
11. Guest of Honour at book release function 'Bio-Detectors in Defence-Equipment and Accessories' authored by Mr BM Gandhi, IIC New Delhi, 28 December 2017.
12. Attended address by H.E Mr Kenichiro Sasae, Amb of Japan to US on 'Japan, India and US: Partners for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific', India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 06 January 2018.
13. Keynote address on 'International Conference on India-Vietnam Relations in the Changing Geo-Politics of the Indo-Pacific', at the India International Centre, New Delhi, 09 January 2018.

14. Delivered speech on 'Young India – Know thyself' organised by Vivekananda Kendra at VIF New Delhi, 13 January 2018.
15. Delivered talk on 'Changing World Order, India's Aspirations and World View', College of Defence Management, Secundrabad, Annual Seminar 2017-18: Military Effectiveness in India, 18 January 2018.
16. Keynote address on 'National Seminar: South Asia Studies Centre', delivered at University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, 22 January 2018.
17. Delivered talk on 'Exploring Emerging Opportunities for India in South East Asia' at VKIC, Guwahati, 31 January 2018.
18. Attended talk by Prof CR Babu at Neela Hauz, Near JNU, 03 February 2018.
19. Discussion on Doordarshan about the Indian Prime Minister's upcoming visit to Palestine, UAE and Oman, 09 February 2018.
20. Delivered keynote address at seminar 'Protecting National Security in the Midst of Global Challenges: Legal Dimensions', at Gujarat National Law University, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat, 14 February 2018.
21. Attended inaugural address at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi on India's North-East Region with special emphasis on India's Act East Policy, Border Management with Myanmar, Bangladesh & Security of Siliguri Corridor, 21 February 2018.
22. Chaired session at seminar on National Security and Defence, organised by Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation, New Delhi, 22 Feb 2018.
23. Attended inaugural book reading session at National Archives of India, New Delhi, 23 February 2018.
24. Delivered keynote address as chief guest at a seminar on 'Pakistan's Challenge to India' at Punjab University, Chandigarh, 27 February 2018.
25. Quad Plus Dialogue – delivered opening remarks as moderator in session 2 (China's Belt and Road Initiative) and session 3 (Quad co-operation on AF-Pak), Tokyo, Japan', 04-08 March 2018.
26. Attended 'Enhancing Indo-US defence cooperation', DPG and UPISPF joint session, Taj Mansingh Villa, 21 March 2018.
27. Delivered keynote address on 'Youth, peace building and nonviolent communication' at Malviya Centre for Peace Research, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, 31 March 2018.

**Lt Gen Ravi Kumar Sawhney,
PVSM, AVSM, Centre Head and Senior
Fellow, National Security & Strategic
Studies, VIF**

Participation in Conferences

1. Participated in Second India-Russia Heads of Think-Tanks meeting, Sapru House, New Delhi, 04 December 2017.
2. Participated in Australia India Leadership Dialogue 2018, 21- 23 January 2018.
3. Spoke on Contribution of the Army towards Nation Building, Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt, 01 March 2018.

**CD Sahay, Centre Head & Senior
Fellow, Neighbourhood Studies and
Internal Security Studies, VIF**

Participation in Conferences

1. Participated in discussion on 'Solar Energy – As Viable Alternative' at HIPA Gurugram, 26 January 2017.

2. Participated in discussion on 'Best Practices in Policing', India Police Foundation, IIC, 22 September 2017.
3. Participated in discussion on 'Indo-Pak Int. Meet' at Bangkok/Ottawa University, 27-28 October 2017.
4. Made presentation on 'Situation in Bangladesh and Security Implications for India' at a seminar on Rohingyas at PPF, New Delhi, 20 December 2017.
5. Chaired two sessions and made lead presentation on Criticality of Internal Security at a discussion on 'Internal Security – Essential for National Security', at DSSC Wellington, 24-25 January 2018.
6. Spoke on security situation in Afghanistan during discussion on 'Track II IPA Dialogue' at Bangkok/Ottawa University, 09-10 February 2018.
7. Spoke on various de-radicalisation modules during discussion on 'Radicalism in India' at PPF, New Delhi, 07 March 2018.
8. Lead discussant at group meeting for briefing members of Office of National Assessment. Spoke on India's Security/Strategic Perceptions, Australian High Commission, New Delhi, 09 March 2018.

Dr A Surya Prakash, Member, VIF Advisory Council

Articles/OPEDS in Indian mainstream Media/Journals

1. *The Indian Parliament and Democratic Transformation*, Edited by Ajay K. Mehra, *Indian Parliament: changing institutional moorings* by A. Surya Prakash, Routledge, New York, NY 10017, 2018.

Participation in Conferences

1. Lecture on 'Parliament in India: Time for Reform', Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, 07 April 2017.
2. Lecture on 'Media & Freedom of Expression', Vishwa Samvad Kendra, Bangalore, 02 July 2017.
3. Lecture on 'Role of Public Broadcaster', Orientation Programme, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, 02 August 2017.
4. Lecture on 'Integral Humanism – Direction to the World', Chethana & Samachara Bharati, Hyderabad, 26 August 2017.
5. Lecture on 'Media and Ethics', MV Kamath Endowment Lecture, Manipal University, 28 September 2017.
6. Dr KR Narayanan Memorial Lecture on 'Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya's Integral Humanism', Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, 12 October 2017.
7. Lecture on 'Challenges of Media in Present Circumstances', Media Manthan 2018, Centre for Media Research and Analysis, New Delhi, 04 Feb 2018.
8. Lecture on 'Aurangzeb and Dara Shikoh: A Tale of two Brothers', Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, Delhi, 11 February 2018.
9. Lecture on 'Media and Literature', Sahitya Akademi, Delhi, 14 Feb 2018.

Lt Gen Gautam Banerjee, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, Editor, VIF

Articles/OPEDS in Indian mainstream Media/Journals

1. 'A New Equation of Pakistan's Nuclear Weaponisation', published in Manekshaw Papers, Centre for Land Warfare Studies. May 2017.

2. 'Invocation of the Eternal Wisdom of China', published in Indian Defence Review. July – September 2017.
3. 'Tenets of Information Warfare in Indian Context', published in South Asia Defence & Strategic Review. November – December 2017.

Participation in Conferences

1. Talk on 'National Defence' to the faculty and students of SRM University, Lucknow, 14 August 2017.
2. Mentoring session on 'Defence Technology' to the faculty of Roorkee College of Engineering & Management, 12 September 2017.
3. Chairperson and speaker at 'National Seminar on Information Warfare' at the College of Military Engineering, Pune, 14 October 2017.
4. Talk on 'Military Skill Development' at the Maulana Azad National University, Hyderabad, 25 October 2017.
5. Talk on the 'Salience of Morale' at the 10th Anniversary Function of BN Shrivastava Foundation, Pune, 02 November 2017.
6. Mentoring session for scholars of the National Institute for Advance Studies Programme, Bengaluru, 28 November to 05 December 2017.

Television Appearances

1. Panel discussion on Cyber Security on Rajya Sabha TV, 15 March 2018.

Amb DP Srivastava, Senior Fellow & Cluster Leader, VIF

Articles/OPEDS in Indian mainstream Media/Journals

1. 'Amid the Deepening Gulf Crisis, Where Does Iran Stand?' Published in Wire, 12 June 2017.

2. Interview in Times of India on 'Saudi Arabia-Qatar Dispute', 23 June 2017.
3. 'PM Modi's visit to Israel', published in Hindustan Times, 13 October 2017.
4. 'Rouhani's visit reflects the many dimensions to India-Iran ties', published in Hindustan Times, 21 February 2018.

Participation in Conferences

1. Participated in seminar on Chabahar, Centre for Air Power Studies, 14 June 2017.
2. Delivered lecture at 2nd Strike Corps Headquarter, Subathu on 'Turmoil in West Asia: Genesis, Consequences and Implications for India', 23 June 2017.
3. Participated in webinar hosted by MEA along with 'Missions in Central Asian countries on regional connectivity in Central Asia', 04 August 2017.
4. Took part in Samarkand Conference in Uzbekistan, 24-31 August 2017.
5. Addressed seminar on 'International North South Transit Corridor' hosted by Freight Forwarders Association of India in Mumbai, 21 September 2017.
6. Addressed seminar on 'Iran at Federation of Indian Export Organisation', 27 September 2017.
7. Participated in Strategic Gaming Exercise II, organised by USI at National Defence College, where I was mentor for two exercises on Kurdistan and Iran-Saudi tensions. Was also participant in exercise on Hostage Crisis in Afghanistan, 11-13 October 2017.
8. Delivered lecture on 'United Nations' to Hillwoods Academy, Delhi, 30 December 2017.

9. Participated in conference on setting up 'Think Tank on Health and Law', organised by National Law School of India, and Association of Health Providers (India), 09 December 2017.
10. Participated in seminar on 'India-West Asia Relations Two Years after the Modi Engagement: What Next?' hosted by USI and Ananta Aspen Centre, 12 December 2017.
11. Participated in conference on 'Counter-Terrorism' organised by India Foundation, 15 March 2018.
12. Participated in seminar on 'Asia-Africa Growth Corridor' at Centre for Africa Studies, JNU, 15 March 2018.
13. Participated in CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on 'Asia-Africa Growth Corridor', 25-27 March 2018.

Television Appearances

1. Lok Sabha TV: Iran warns Pakistan on safeguarding terrorist havens, 09 May 2017.
2. Lok Sabha TV: Modi's visits to US, Portugal and The Netherlands, 28 Jun 2017.
3. Lok Sabha TV: China's intrusion in Sikkim, 03 July 2017.
4. Rajya Sabha TV: Interview on India's World Programme, 15 January 2018.
5. DD News: Interview on PM Modi's visit to Davos, 22 January 2018.
6. Lok Sabha TV: Discussion on President Rouhani's visit to India, 16 February 2018.
7. DD: Interview on President Rouhani's visit to India, 17 February 2018.

Amb Anil Wadhwa, Senior Fellow & Cluster Leader, VIF

Articles/OPEDS in Indian mainstream Media/Journals

1. 'India rolls out the red carpet for ASEAN', published in The Indian Express, 26 January 2018.
2. 'Look West policy: Modi's three-nation West Asia tour was significant, historic', published in Hindustan Times, 13th February 2018.
3. 'The North East is key for India's ties with ASEAN', published in Livemint, 09 March 2018.

Participation in Conferences

1. Spoke on 'India's Act East policy in the context of development of the North East' at the Purbasa Conference organised by Kalinga Foundation, Odisha, 16-18 March 2018.

Prof Sujit Dutta, Senior Fellow & China Cluster Leader, VIF

Articles/OPEDS in Indian mainstream Media/Journals

1. Article titled 'The New Chinese Emperor' published in DNA, 06 March 2018.

Participation in Conferences

1. Panelist for Book Discussion, 'China's India War: Collision Course on the Roof of the World' by Bertil Lintner, Oxford University Press, 09 January 2018.
2. Presentation on 'BRI and CPEC: Fall Out and Counter-Stroke' at the conference on 'Indian Resurgence: Aspirations, Approaches, Achievements', organised by Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation and Nehru

Memorial Museum & Library, New Delhi, 22 February 2018.

3. Presentation on 'Dealing with Rising China: India's Options' at a conference on China, Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, March 2018.
4. Discussant for Paper titled 'China's Assertive Policy: Can it be Sustained?' by Prof Yusuke Anami, Delhi Policy Group, 06 March 2018.

Brig Vinod Anand, Senior Fellow, VIF

Articles/OPEDS in Indian mainstream Media/Journals

1. 'In Nepal polls, the Communist alliance has a clear edge', published in DNA, 03 December 2017.
2. 'India's Act-East policy can deter Chinese aggression', published in DNA, 22 December 2017.
3. 'China bounces back in Myanmar as West retreats', published in The Economics Times, 20 January 2018.
4. 'Why India needs to strengthen its nuclear deterrent', published in The Economics Times, 22 February 2018.

Participation in Conferences

1. Presented paper on 'A Perspective on BRICS Development Strategies: Prospects and Issues' during BRICS Think Tanks Forum on 'The Coordination of BRICS Development Strategies: Way to Shared Prosperity' held at Beijing, 08-09 June 2017.
2. Presented paper on 'Impact of "One Belt and One Road" Strategy on Political, Military and Economic Situation in Asia Pacific Region' during Defence and Regional Security Forum held at Taipei, Taiwan, 08 August 2017.

3. Delivered inaugural address at Tibet Policy Institute during the 3rd Young Tibet Research Scholars Conference on 'Tibet and Tibetans: Prospects and Challenges' at Dharamsala, 16 August 2017.
4. Presented paper on 'India's Strategy in South Asia and Indian Ocean Region' during a conference on 'The Indian Ocean Great Game Unfolding: Interests, Determinants and Perspectives' at the University of Madras, 28 October 2017.
5. Participated in RTD of FICCI's Core Group of Experts for formulation of knowledge Paper on BIMSTEC titled 'Reinvigorating BIMSTEC: An Industry Vision for Next Decade', 11 December 2017.
6. Participated in panel discussion on 'The Rohingya Issue: What it Means for India?' at American Centre, New Delhi, 20 March 2018.

Television Appearances

1. Rajya Sabha TV: Participated in Panel Discussion on India-Vietnam Relations, 05 March 2018.

Dr Harinder Sekhon, Senior Fellow, VIF

Articles/OPEDS in Indian mainstream Media/Journals

1. 'RIC meet: India and Russia must close all gaps in ties', published in The Economic Times, 11 December 2017.
2. 'NSS is a statement of US interests that restricts India to specific region & role', published in The Economics Times, 24 December 2017.
3. 'India needs to play its cards right with China and the US', published in DNA, 13 February 2018.

4. 'The Trudeau visit can help energise India-Canada Relations', published in DNA, 21 February 2018.
5. 'India and Japan: the New Strategic Dimensions' a chapter in the book *Japan's Search for Strategic Security Partnerships*, edited by Gauri Khandekar and Bart Gaens, Routledge Security in Asia Pacific Series, 2018.

Participation in Conferences

1. Participated in Eleventh Lennart Meri Conference, 'Darkest before Dawn: the War on Trust and how to win it', held in Tallinn, Estonia. Presented paper entitled 'US-China Security and Economic Relations in the Age of Trump – a View from India', 12-14 May 2017.
2. Presented paper 'India and the Great Powers in the Emerging Global Order', at conference organised by Association of Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe, Moscow, held in Segovia, Spain. Theme of conference was 'Global Order and Beyond', 22-26 May 17.
3. Was part of ICWA-MEA Delegation to Moscow and presented paper 'Changing Geopolitical Landscape: Common Interests, Threats and Long-Term Trends in East Asia' at bilateral conference with RIAC, Strategic Visions of Russia India Relations and Changes in the World Order, 11-13 October 2017.

Television Appearances

1. Lok Sabha TV: Panel discussion on Trump's Asia Visit, 10 November 2017.
2. Rajya Sabha TV: Interview for special programme on the Quad and developments in the Indo-Pacific, 27 November 2017.
3. Rajya Sabha TV: Vishesh – Donald Trump's National Security Strategy, 19 December 2017.

4. Rajya Sabha TV: Security Scan – Trump's National Security Strategy, 21 December 2017.
5. Rajya Sabha TV: Special Report – Quad: Towards a New Indo-Pacific, 25 December 2017.

Somen Banerjee, Senior Fellow, VIF

Participation in Conferences

1. Spoke at QUAD discussion organised by Sasakawa Foundation, Tokyo, 21-23 February 2018.
2. Presented paper on 'Maritime Power through Blue Economy', GNLU, Gandhinagar, 23 March 2018.
3. Made presentation on 'Maritime Security of Bay of Bengal', Trincomalee Consultation 2018, Colombo, 27 March 2018.

Maj Gen PK Mallick, VSM, Consultant, VIF

Articles/OPEDS in Indian mainstream Media/Journals

1. National Defence Strategy of USA: Where is India's National Defence Strategy, published in Claws - Issue Brief No 1, 31 March 2018.

Participation in Conferences

1. Delivered talk to pioneer cohort of the Graduate Certificate in Strategic Studies on Strategic Communications: Opportunities and Challenges, organised by Takshashila Institution, Bangalore at IIC, New Delhi, 18 March 2018.

Dr. Arpita Mitra, Associate Fellow, VIF

Articles/OPEDS in Indian mainstream Media/Journals

1. The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna – A Survey, published in special issue of Prabuddha Bharata, monthly journal started by Swami Vivekananda in 1896, January 2018 – Vol. 123, No. 1.

Participation in Conferences

1. Talk on 'Re-visiting Swami Vivekananda's Vedanta' at IDSA, New Delhi, at their Strategic Culture Cluster Meeting, 05 January 2018.
2. Talk on 'Man-making in the light of Swami Vivekananda' at Sri Venkateswara College, New Delhi, on the occasion of Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary/National Youth Day, 12 January 2018.
3. Presented paper titled 'Debates on Sri Ramakrishna's Vedanta' at National Seminar on Sri Sri Ramakrishna Kathamrita, organised by the Indian Council of Philosophical Research at India International Centre, New Delhi, 19-21 February 2018.
4. Presented paper titled 'The Changing Landscape of Hinduism Studies: A Few Remarks' at National Conference on Archaeology, Heritage and Religion in South Asia, organised by Presidency University, Kolkata, 14 March 2018.

Dr Teshu Singh, Associate Fellow, VIF

Articles/OPEDS in Indian mainstream Media/Journals

1. 'Drawing the line with China', published in DNA, 16 December 2017.

Television Appearances

1. Lok Sabha TV: Participated in panel discussion on Insight programme 'Pushing against China', 19 May 2017.
2. Lok Sabha TV: Participated in panel discussion on Insight programme 'BRICS after Doklam' 04 September 2017.

Ramanand Garge, Associate Fellow, VIF

Articles/OPEDS in Indian mainstream Media/Journals

1. Research article 'Maritime Outreach as part of India's "Act East" Policy', published in Australian Journal of Maritime and Ocean Affairs [Volume 9, Issue – 3, Pp.150-167], April 2017.
2. Authored a chapter entitled 'National Security and Terrorism in Perspective', for the book 'Demonetisation – For a better Tomorrow' edited by Dr Sharad Khare, Former Research Officer, Vaikunthm, Nov 2017.

Participation in Conferences

1. Invited in capacity of resource person to attend trilateral Winter Law School: National Security, Defence Laws and Practices organised by Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar in association with Paris Nanterre University, University of Potsdam, and National Security Council, Government of India, 13-16 February 2018.

Television Appearances

1. Loksabha TV: Participated in debate – 'Insight' on India Israel cooperation on the sidelines of Israeli PM Netanyahu's visit to India, 14-18 January 2018.

2. Loksabha TV and Rajyasabha TV: Deliberated on issues of importance for national security of India, 15 January 2018.

Gunjan Singh, Associate Fellow, VIF

Articles/OPEDS in Indian mainstream Media/Journals

1. Book Review of Thomas Fingar (ed). Uneasy Partnerships: China's Engagement with Japan, The Koreas and Russia in the Era of Reform, published in Asian Affairs, Volume 49, 2018 - Issue 1, 15th February 2018.
2. किम-शी मुलाकात के निहितार्थ, published in Prabhat Khabar, Hindi Newspaper, 30 March 2018.

Prerna Gandhi, Research Associate, VIF

Lectures Delivered

1. Guest lecture on 'Gender Discrimination in the Japanese Management System' for 3rd Semester MA students at Dept. of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi, 08 August 2017.
2. Guest lecture on 'Transferring and Adapting Management Practices to Overseas Enterprises' for 3rd Semester MA students at Dept. of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi, 23 August 2017.
3. Guest lecture on 'Recession in the Japanese economy and its impact on industrial relations in Japan' for 3rd Semester MA students at Dept. of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi, 12 September 2017.
4. Working as Senior Editor for 'Namaste East', a soon to be released journal by students of Dept. of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi. (January-March 2018).

Television Appearances

1. Rajya Sabha TV: Guest panelist on programme Security Scan on ASEAN Redflags Chinese Ambitions, 11 August 2017.

Neha Sinha, Research Associate, VIF

Articles/OPEDS in Indian mainstream Media/Journals

1. 'AAGC Mein Japan Ka Yogdan', published in Hindi newspaper Khabar Mantra, 09 September 2017.
2. 'Haar Ka Pehla Moti Djibouti', published in Hindi newspaper Prabhat Khabar, 11 September 2017.

Participation in Conferences

1. Participated in symposium on 'Removal of Mugabe: Significance for Africa and India', 04 December 2017.
2. Participated in symposium 'Asia Africa Growth Corridor', held at Jawaharlal Nehru University, 15 March 2018.
3. Presented Rapporteurs Report of the International Conference held on 'A Century of Abolition of Indentureship of Indian Diasporas: Historic Struggles of Girmityas and Contemporary Engagement Options for India', and did official reporting for the same event, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 20-21 March 2018.
4. Presented paper 'Historic Struggle of Indian Girmitya Diaspora in Seychelles', and participated in two-day conference on 'A Century of Abolition of Indentureship of Indian Diasporas: Historic Struggles of Girmityas and Contemporary Engagement Options for India', held in Jawaharlal Nehru University, 22-23 March 2018.

Dr Rashmini Koparkar, Research Associate, VIF

Articles/OPEDS in Indian mainstream Media/Journals

1. Contributed article on 'Shanghai Cooperation Organization: New Delhi's March into Eurasia', in Swarajya online magazine, 14 June 2017.

Participation in Conferences

1. Delivered special lecture on 'Emergence of Cultural Identity in the Central Asian Republics of the former Soviet Union', at Sathaye College, University of Mumbai, 16 August 2017.
2. Participated in Conference 'Central Asian Renaissance in the History of World Civilizations', in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, organised by Uzbek Ministry of Culture, under the auspices of UNESCO, 27-28 August 2017.
3. Participated in conference on 'Foreign Policy of Uzbekistan within the Strategy of Actions', organised by University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Tashkent, 22-23 September 2017.

Prateek Joshi, Research Associate, VIF

Articles/OPEDS in Indian mainstream Media/Journals

1. 'India-Pakistan relations: New Delhi signals strategic shift across LoC, but escalating costs won't deter Rawalpindi', published in FIRSTPOST, 22 January 2018.
2. 'India, Indonesia bolster defense relationship', interview with Indo Pacific Defense Forum (a quarterly military magazine published by the Commander of the United States Pacific Command), 14 February 2018.

3. 'The Long Road to FATA Reforms', published in Hudson Institute's South Asia Program, 08 March 2018.
4. 'The Leopard Will Not Change Its Spots', published in Defence and Security Alert, March 2018.
5. 'India should quickly adjust to Af-Pak geostrategic alignment; revival of Pakistani realpolitik is for real', published in FIRSTPOST, 15 March 2018.
6. 'Why India is walking away from its tit-for-tat China policy', published in South China Morning Post, 30 March 2018.

Amb Asoke Mukerji, Distinguished Fellow, VIF

1. *WTO rules on food security, free movement of labour far too important, says India*, Published in The Indian Express, 21 March 2018.

Amb Anil Trigunayat, Distinguished Fellow, VIF

1. *Jordan: Indian Investors' Gateway To 1.5 Billion Consumers*, Published in Outlook India, 1 March 2018.

Resource Research Centre and Library

The VIF's Resource Research Centre & Library has evolved over time into a vibrant knowledge hub buzzing with innovative ideas in knowledge retrieval and dissemination. The Centre provides its patrons with comprehensive access to books, journals, reports, white papers, monographs, occasional papers etc., over a wide range of disciplines. One of the primary objectives of the Resource Research Centre & Library since its inception has been to build up a comprehensive digital archive of primary and secondary source data, accessible from any of the computer terminals inside the VIF's building. The digital archive, developed in-house using an open source software, provides just the right platform to access catalogues of physically-held books as well as e-resources, obtained from myriad sources. The Library presently has a collection of 2,589 physical books and 11,958 e-resources including around 1,220 e-books. Besides, the Library also subscribes to a number of reputed journals and newspapers.

Selective Disseminations of Information

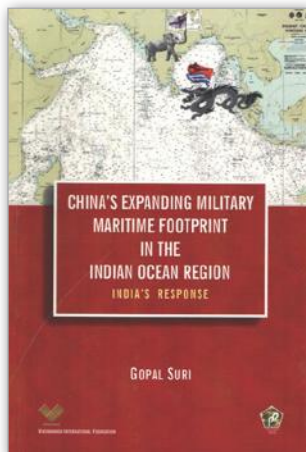
Of late, the Resource Research Centre & Library has been sending out 'Neighbourhood News Digest' and 'Information Alerts' on a daily basis, as part of an effort to reach out to its patrons, as also the wider intelligentsia in the public domain. These daily alerts are meant to keep the research faculty informed about evolving trends, latest developments etc., from national, regional and global perspectives. Both 'Neighbourhood News Digest' and 'Information Alerts' form part of VIF's Daily Update on its website.

Creation of Research Database

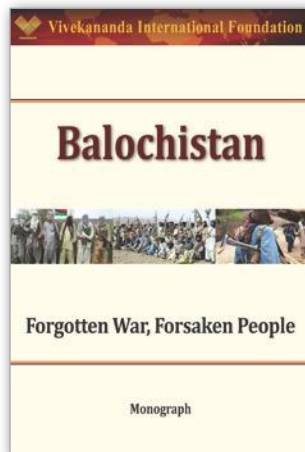
Another new initiative, undertaken by the Resource Research Centre in recent months, has been the creation of a comprehensive databank comprising primary source materials such as PIB releases, answers to starred questions in both houses of the parliament, acts of legislative bodies, treaties, and policy guidelines, among other things. A total of six such databases have been planned for operationalisation over a period of the next two to three years, of which the first database on Internal Security is expected to be rolled out in the near future. The databank once operationalised will be hosted on the VIF's main website for use by other think tanks and the general public as well.



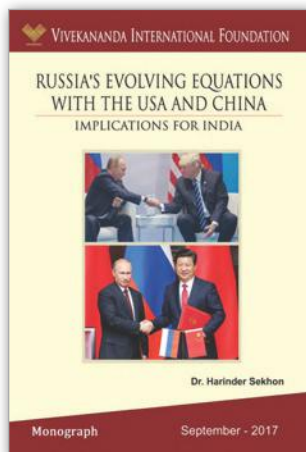
Publications



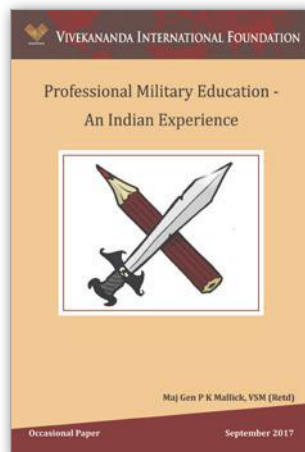
This monograph is a factual description of the PRC's strategy to displace India from its natural advantages – geographic as well as cultural – in the IOR, and so marginalise it in the neighbourhood. The paper offers certain recommendations that would protect Indian as well as the sub-continental interests against China's irascible over-bearance.



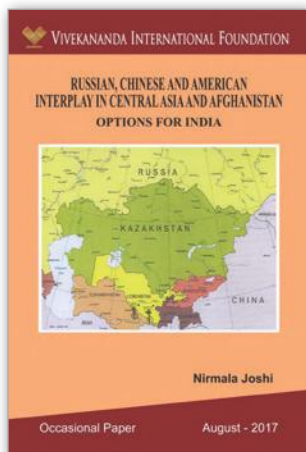
This monograph is a timely analysis of the situation in Balochistan. Besides recording the history of the rebellion, it argues for forging a combined front among the Baloch nationalists and their sympathisers to free this region from the grasp of a rogue state.



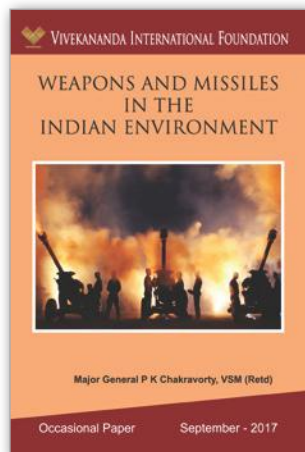
Examining the American, Chinese and Russian power-play in East Asia and its consequent implications and policy options for India, the work focuses on drivers of this relationship and points of friction and cooperation in US-Russia relations. It then examines Chinese-Russian interactions in the realms of economics, security, and East Asia and considers implications of the Chinese-Russian partnership for US and India.



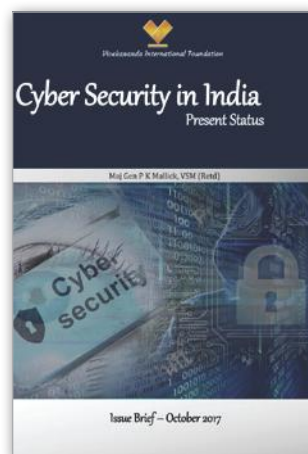
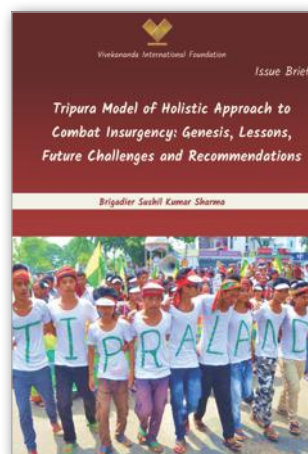
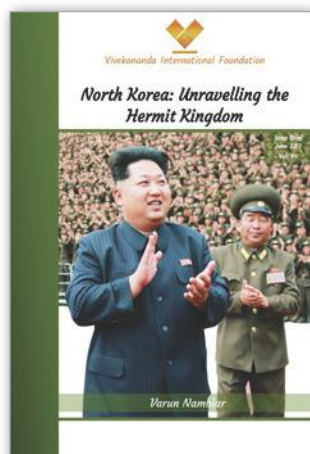
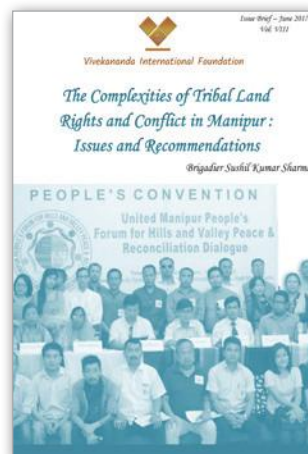
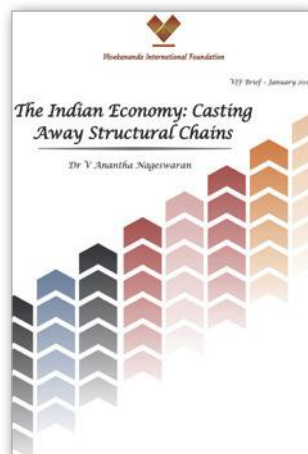
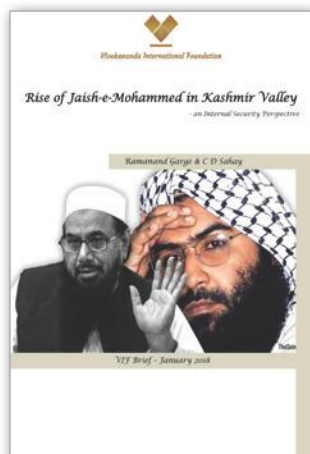
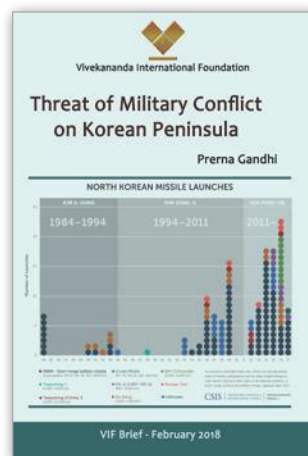
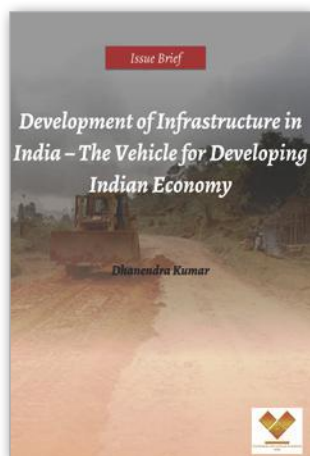
In this paper, the author has carried out a detailed study on the existing scope as well as methods of PME in the Indian military establishment, and has suggested measures to upgrade it according to contemporary needs in the Indian context.

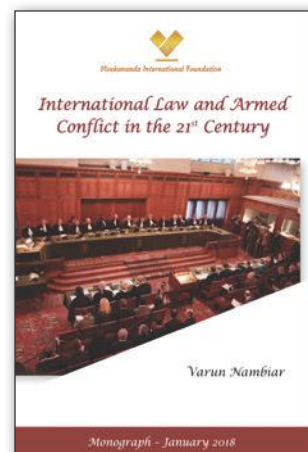
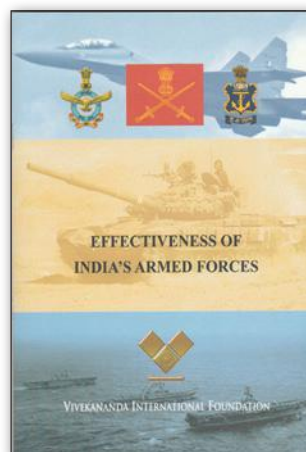
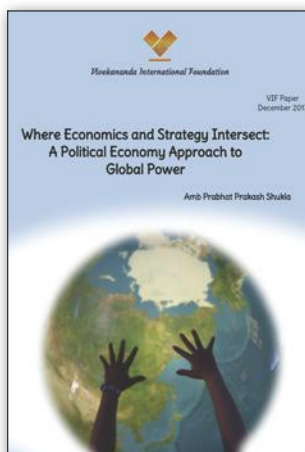
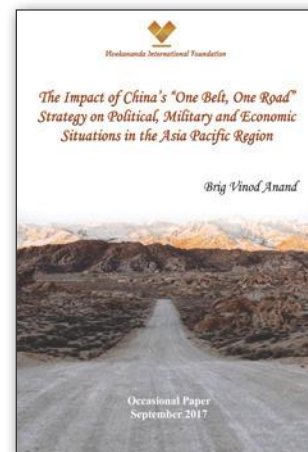
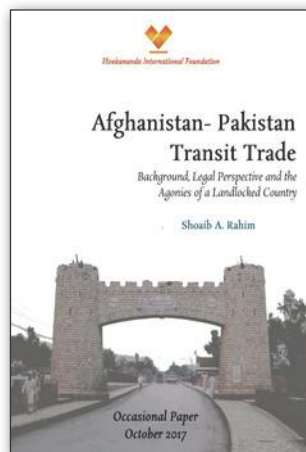
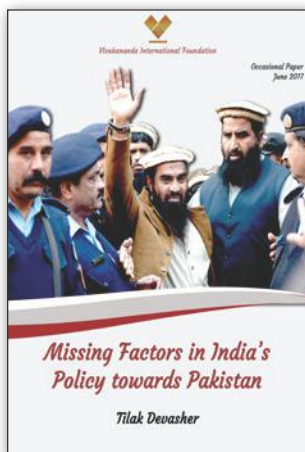
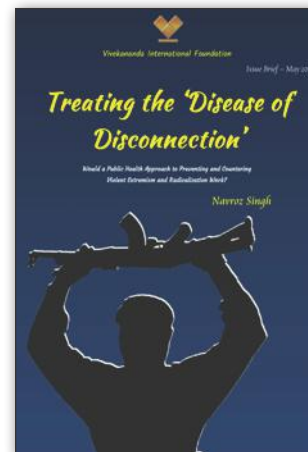
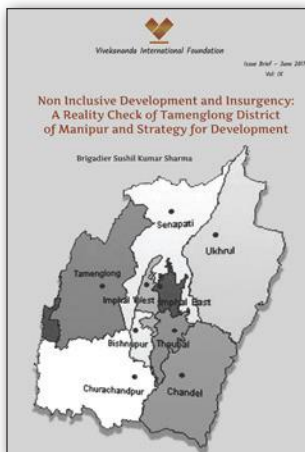


In this paper, the author has examined the political, economic and aspirational interest of the powers and the possible intents to achieve their objective. India's possible options in finding fruitful engagement with the contending powers and strengthening of good neighbourhood relationships have also been discussed.



This paper is a scholastic step aimed at delving into the background, development and current status of various weapons and missiles in the Indian context.





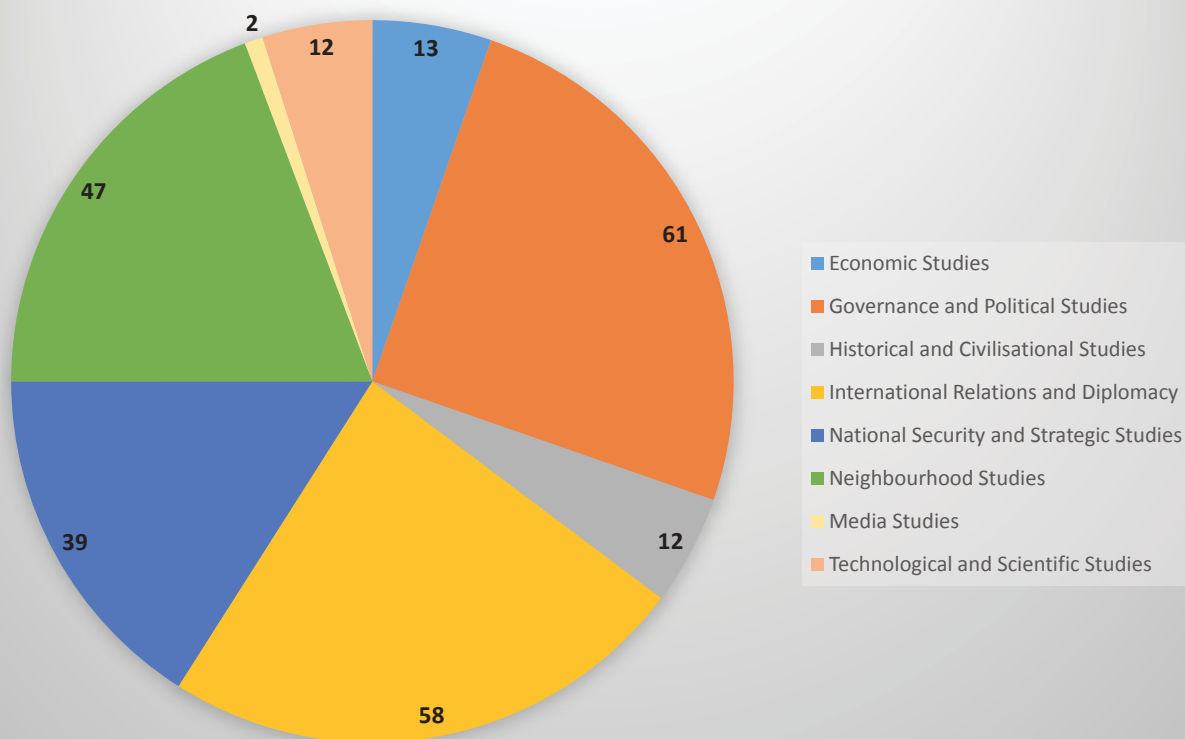
VIF's website, acts as a reference point for policy makers, strategic experts, scholars, and students. Over the years, it has been our endeavour to make the website more informative and interactive, with easy and quick navigational facilities.

The website continues to host commentaries, peer-reviewed articles, briefs, papers, and monographs on a wide range of national and international issues written by in-house researchers and other eminent experts. Event reports of the

various activities and programmes are uploaded regularly through the year. Neighbourhood News Digest and VIF Information Alerts are two new features that have been introduced during the last quarter.

We are in the process of revamping our website. We are adding several new and interesting features to make it more vibrant and interactive. During 2017-18, on an average the website received approximately 60,000 hits per month (as per Google Analytics).

Articles and Commentaries uploaded in 2017-18 under the various VIF Centre of Studies



Top Five Articles/Commentaries of 2017-18 (based on Views and Downloads)

S. No.	Author	Title	Views/Downloads
1	Neha Sinha	Asia-Africa Growth Corridor: Can It Be a Game Changer?	12,465
2	Lt Gen Kamal Davar	India: Confronting Internal Security Challenges	9,300
3	Ramanand Garge	Left Wing Extremism – A Brief Security Review	7,378
4	Amb Kanwal Sibal	Doklam – Chinese Lies and Misinformation	7,028
5	Maj Gen (Retd.) PK Chakravorty	Modernisation of Artillery – A Quantum Jump	4,978

Top Five Videos watched in 2017-18

S. No.	Title	Views
1	Release cum discussion on 'Black Money and Tax Havens' authored by Prof R Vaidyanathan	4,205
2	Samvad II: Plenary Session by Prof S Gurumurthy (Day 1)	3,586
3	Address by H.E. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani (Hon'ble President of the I. R. of Afghanistan) at the VIF	3,292
4	Changing Security Environment: The Role of Indian Army – General Bipin Rawat, COAS	2,520
5	Samvad II: Chair Session – H H Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji (Day 2)	2,071

Our Relationships Worldwide

Think Tanks/Institutions/Universities with whom VIF had Exchanges during 2017-18

Australia

- Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), Canberra
- National Security College, Australian National University (ANU), Canberra

Bangladesh

- Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI), Dhaka

China

- China Institute of International Strategic Studies (CIISS), Beijing
- China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), Beijing
- Centre for South Asian Studies, Peking University, Beijing
- Research Institute for Indian Ocean Economies (RIIOE), Yunnan University of Finance and Economics, Kunming
- National Institute of International Strategy (NIIS) of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), Beijing
- Center for South Asia & West China Cooperation & Development (SAWCCAD), Sichuan University, Chengdu
- Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), Sichuan University, Chengdu
- Centre for Indian Studies (CIS), Shenzhen University, Shenzhen

- Fudan University, Shanghai

Germany

- The Institute for Transnational Studies (ITS), Munich

Iran

- Institute for Political and International Studies, Tehran

Israel

- The Jerusalem Centre for Public Affairs (JCPA), Jerusalem

Japan

- Japan Institute for National Fundamentals (JINF), Tokyo
- The Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA), Tokyo
- The Japan Foundation, Tokyo
- Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), Tokyo

Myanmar

- Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), Yangon
- Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, Yangon

Sri Lanka

- Pathfinder Foundation, Colombo

Russia

- Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC), Moscow

Taiwan

- Prospect Foundation
- Institute for National Policy Research

Vietnam

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

UK

- Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), London

USA

- The Atlantic Council, Washington DC
- The Heritage Foundation, Washington DC (QUAD)
- US-India Security Council Inc. (USISC), Washington DC
- Hudson Institute, Washington DC
- Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, Washington DC

Uzbekistan

- Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS) under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent
- Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies, Tashkent
- Center for International Relations Studies (CIRS), Tashkent
- The University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED), Tashkent
- Development Strategy Center (DSC), Tashkent

Indian Universities

- Gorakhpur University

Other Institutions

- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad
- International Commission for Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), New Delhi
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi
- The Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), New Delhi

Finances

Vivekananda International Foundation, created under the aegis of Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, was registered as a Trust on 25 March 2010 at New Delhi.

The trust holds its meetings periodically.

The Annual Audited Accounts for the financial year 2017-18 is presented here.

Statutory Auditors: M/S Purohit & Purohit, Chartered Accountants, New Delhi

VIVEKANANDA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION
3, Institutional Area, San Martin Marg,
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi - 110 021

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2018.

PARTICULARS	SCHEDULE	CURRENT YEAR'S FIGURES: INR '000	PREVIOUS YEAR'S FIGURES: INR '000
SOURCES OF FUNDS			
Capital Fund	"A"	18,563	15,097
TOTAL ::		₹ 18,563	₹ 15,097
APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
Fixed Assets	"B"	9,471	5,933
Investment	"C"	2,000	2,000
Current Assets	"D"		
- Advances, Deposits & Receivables		279	111
- Cash & Bank Balances		9,692	10,060
		<u>9,971</u>	<u>10,171</u>
Less: Current Liabilities	"E"		
- Sundry Creditors		-	22
- Other Liabilities		2,879	2,985
		<u>2,879</u>	<u>3,007</u>
		7,092	7,164
TOTAL ::		₹ 18,563	₹ 15,097
Notes on Accounts and Significant Accounting Policies	"F"		

Signed in terms of our Report of even date.

For PUROHIT & PUROHIT (FRN:003282N)

Chartered Accountants

sd/-

CA. K.K. Purohit, B.Com(Hons), LL.B, FCA, MBF, ISA

Partner

Membership No.054763

For VIVEKANANDA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

sd/-

Dr. Arvind Gupta

Director

sd/-

A. Balakrishnan

Trustee

sd/-
(Kishor Tokekar)
Secretary

New Delhi, Monday, The 28th day of May, 2018

VIVEKANANDA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2018

PARTICULARS	CURRENT YEAR'S FIGURES : INR'000	PREVIOUS YEAR'S FIGURES: INR'000
{A} INCOME		
Donations	46,000	35,015
Bank Interest	726	560
Other Receipts - History Project	54	72
TOTAL ::	₹ 46,780	₹ 35,647
{B} EXPENDITURE		
Advertisement for Recruitment	-	32
Audit Fees	59	42
Bank Commission & Charges	11	11
Books, Journals, Papers & Periodicals	15	15
Conferences, Seminars, Vimarsha & Other Activities	3,473	5,125
Depreciation	1,459	1,138
Gardening Expenses	584	490
General up-keep and Cleaning Expenses	2,176	1,501
History Project Expenses	519	637
Honorarium, Salaries, Fees & Stipend	19,747	15,688
Hospitality Expenses	31	23
Initiative on Conflict Avoidance & Environment Conciousness-HBC	5,505	689
Insurance Charges	2	1
Legal & Professional Fees	53	53
Library Expenses	1,138	855
Office Expenses	549	464
Postage & Courier Charges	171	59
Power, Fuel Charges & Expenses	1,657	1,972
Printing & Stationery	331	308
Publication Expenses	2,180	686
Outreach to Universities	-	25
Repairing & Maintenance Expenses	1,544	1,182
Security Services Expenses	887	607
Telephone, Mobile & Internet Expenses	183	188
Travelling & Conveyance Exp.	586	372
Water Charges	158	176
Website Renewal & Registration Charges	296	223
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	3,466	3,085
TOTAL ::	₹ 46,780	₹ 35,647
Notes on Accounts and Significant Accounting Policies	"E"	

Signed in terms of our Report of even date.
For PUROHIT & PUROHIT (FRN:003282N)

Chartered Accountants

sd/-

CA. K.K. Purohit, B.Com(Hons), LL.B, FCA, MBF, ISA
Partner
Membership No.054763

For VIVEKANANDA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

sd/-

Dr. Arvind Gupta
Director

sd/-

A. Balakrishnan
Trustee

sd/-
(Kishor Tokekar)
Secretary

New Delhi, Monday, The 28th day of May, 2018

ॐ भद्रं कर्णेभिः शृणुयाम देवाः
भद्रं पश्येमाक्षभिर्लयजत्राः ।
स्थिरैरङ्गैस्तुष्टुवाँसस्तनूभिः
व्यशेम देवहितं यदायुः ॥

O Lord!

May we listen to what is good.

May we behold what is good.

May we – of strong organs
and bodies – praise You, and attain
longevity suitable for humans.

(Prashna Upanishad | Shanti Mantra)



ॐ ईशा वास्यमिदं सर्वं
यत्किञ्च जगत्यां जगत्।
तेन त्यक्तेन भुञ्जीथा
मा गृधः कस्यस्विद्धनम् ॥१॥

All this, whatsoever exists in the
universe is covered by the Lord,

in other words perceive
the Divine Presence everywhere.

Having renounced (the unreal),
enjoy (the Real).

Do not covet the wealth of any man.

(Isha Upanishad 1)

In Swami Vivekananda's words

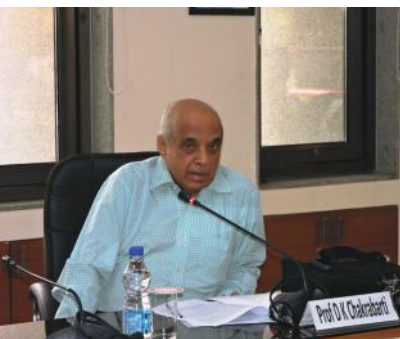
“To succeed, you must have tremendous perseverance, tremendous will. “I will drink the ocean,” says the persevering soul, “at my will mountains will crumble up.” Have that sort of energy, that sort of will, work hard, and you will reach the goal.”

“The whole secret of existence is to have no fear. Never fear what will become of you, depend on no one. Only the moment you reject all help are you free.”

“For our national welfare, India must gather up of its scattered spiritual forces. India must be a union of those whose hearts beat to the same spiritual tune.”

“Let the mind be cheerful but calm. Never let it run into excesses, because every excess will be followed by a reaction.”

Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda





Vivekananda International Foundation

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Fax No: +91-(0)11-43115450

E-mail: info@vifindia.org

www.vifindia.org

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