



# NIICE GLOBAL CONCLAVE REPORT

# 2021

A Summary Report of NIICE Global Conclave held from 25 June to 27 June 2021.



**NIICE**  
NEPAL INSTITUTE FOR  
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ENGAGEMENT



# NIICE GLOBAL CONCLAVE 2021

The NIICE Global Conclave 2021 was the latest milestone in a series of conferences held by the Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE). The theme of this years' NIICE Global Conclave was "Connecting Nepal to the World". With the vision to introduce Nepal to the world and simultaneously update the Nepali policymakers and experts about the fast-changing geopolitics, the conclave aimed at contributing to the process of reshaping Nepal's foreign policy to achieve its national goal.

The Conclave was supported by the 17 reputed institutions across the world.



## PARTNERS:

		Elliott School of International Affairs THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL of PUBLIC AFFAIRS		UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA INSTITUTE OF CHINA STUDIES 马来西亚大学中国研究所
Media Partners		

# SPEAKERS

220

Ministers, Political leaders, Member of Parliament (MP), Foreign Secretaries, Diplomats, Security Experts, Cinema Artists, Professors, Research scholars, and authors, as part of its expert panelists

More than 200 distinguished speakers and chairs from 41 different countries contributed to the conclave through their presentations and discussions. The conclave brought together Ministers, Political leaders, Member of Parliament (MP), Foreign Secretaries, Diplomats, Security Experts, Cinema Artists, Professors, Research scholars, and authors, as part of its expert panelists. Approximately 22000 people participated in the conference virtually.

70 Universities

48 Think Tanks

41

Countries

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## INAUGURAL

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The conclave was inaugurated by the exquisite lineup of scintillating enumerators; Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena (Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka), Mr Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu (Former Minister and Indian Emissary to the G20 & G7), Dr Abdulla Rasheed Ahmed (Minister of State for Education, Maldives), and Prof. Dr Taniguchi Tomohiko (Professor, Keio University and the former Special Adviser to PM Shinzo Abe).

Dr. Pramod Jaiswal, Director of NIICE, and the representatives from partner organizations delivered welcome remarks on behalf of the organizing team and launched the inaugural session of the NIICE Global Conclave on 25th June 2021. The objective and the purpose behind the conclave were highlighted to set the tone of the conference.

“*The Sri Lankan government is further willing to increase its ties with Nepal and all the nations around the world with constructive dialogue to further the interest of Sri Lanka on sustainable environment, development of human resources and prosperity*”

- **Hon. Minister Gunawardena, MP, Foreign Minister, Sri Lanka.**

“*All countries should take necessary imperatives to combat climate change.*”

- **Dr. Abdulla Rasheed Ahmed, Minister of State of Education, Maldives.**

The concluding address was by Mr Suresh Prabhu, Indian Emissary to the G20 & G7, referring to the current pandemic, he highlighted how the world is facing an economic issue, issue of climate change, and a major public health crisis simultaneously. He focused on the interconnectedness of the world and said that India and Nepal were twin brothers that should work collaboratively through regional cooperation.

“*It is imperative for countries of the region to maintain a fine balance between their economic and strategic interests vis a vis China.*”

- **Prof. Dr. Taniguchi Tomohiko, Former Special Adviser to PM Shinzo Abe (retd.)**

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## RISE OF ASIA

‘Rise of Asia’ was one of the highlights of the conclave that featured a diverse and eminent lineup of panellists composed of professors, authors, analysts, diplomats from top-notch think tanks and universities around the world. The session at an onset focused on the role and position of Asia in the rapidly changing current world order. The topics covered during the sessions included India-China relations and regional tensions, green economy, the role of ASEAN, industrialization, good governance, the impact of climate change and cooperative neighborhood in Asia.

“*China’s assertion and aggression have been major factors for its rise in Asia. China needs to resolve its conflicts with its neighbours and its economic engagement with other Asian countries to be mutually beneficial.*”

- **Prof. SD Muni, Indian Diplomat.**

“*World’s center of gravity is back in Asia in terms of international economy and politics*”

- **Amb. Shivshankar Menon, Former National Security Advisor of India.**

“*The actual definition of the rise of Asia meant the rise of East Asia*”

- **Prof. C. Raja Mohan, National University of Singapore.**

“*The EU from past decades has changed its attitude towards rising Asia, especially towards its policy on education and facilitation of people’s integration*”

- **Amb. Tomasz Lukaszuk, University of Warsaw**

*“Asia has four emerging powerful militaries, yet the fact is, Asia is also home to the highest number of border issues”.*

**- Dr. Rajeswari (Raji) Pillai Rajagopalan,  
Observer Research Foundation.**

## CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY

The conclave had different sessions on China such as Rise of China, China's Foreign Policy, China's Belt and Road Initiative, and China Caught into Geopolitical Rivalry. The speakers of these sessions walked the participants and audience through the various dimensions of China's engagement in the current world order.

*“China's change is unique. Its position is equal with the rest of the world. China is central to emerging economies”*

**- Prof. Zhang Jiadong, Fudan University.**

*“China's peaceful rise is an antidote to cold war, hegemony and revisionist power while stating that China is rejuvenating itself via the Chinese Belt and Road initiative and other infrastructure projects.”*

**-Prof. BR Deepak,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University.**

*“China's rapid economic growth has been accompanied by its reform in increasing literacy rate and poverty alleviation, while also highlighting the issues of economic globalization and how the global economic landscape interacts with China's rise.”*

**- Dr. Lou Chunhao, China Institutes of  
Contemporary International Relations.**

*“Small countries like us do not want to be caught in the containment strategies and choose sides.”*

**- Dr. Peter T.C. Chang, Malaya University.**

*“Countries around the world are wondering about the question ‘Why is there aggressiveness in China's Foreign Policy?’ Not only with neighboring countries and countries of the region but also within its territory”*

**- Amb. Gautam Bambawale, Indian Diplomat.**

*“The narrative of the debt trap in BRI is certainly misrepresented. There's no ‘debt trap’ in BRI, but it certainly has a debt problem. That's why 140+ countries, including 32+ Multinational Corporations, have signed MOU with BRI”*

**- Prof. Wang Yiwei, Renmin University.**

*“South Asia, especially the Himalayan region, will be the geopolitical and strategic concern for China for many centuries.”*

**- Amb. Nalin Surie, Former Indian Diplomat.**

*“The rising tension in China's neighborhood and the rising concern in the Himalayas are not just about geopolitical control but also trying to expand its sphere of influence”*

**- Dr. Thanh Hai Do,  
DCM, Vietnam Embassy in New Delhi.**

*“China has been extremely successful in salami slicing the international community.”*

**- Dr. Niklas Swanstrom,  
Institute of Security and Development Policy.**

*“The session was also enlightened by Dr. Ngew Chow Bing, Director at Institute of China Studies, Malaya University. He talked about the emerging International Liberal Order, BRI, and China's vision of the world.”*

**- Prof. Goran Ilik, University in Bitola.**

## INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

The session on “India’s Foreign Policy” focused on the ways the country’s foreign policy has been curated in recent years, under the current regime, and how India as a country has been more vocal and participative in the international arena.

*“China was not of much importance earlier for the South Asian security balance, but now there is a dramatic shift in China’s power which changes the entire balance of power that needs a change in India’s foreign policy.”*

**- Prof. Rajesh Rajagopalan,  
School of International Studies, JNU.**

Contributing to the discussion, Dr. Nicolas Blarel, Associate Professor and Director of Studies at the Institute of Political Science, Leiden University said, “Modis Foreign policy has drastically changed towards west Asia and Middle East. We all talked about his travels to all these nations but the foreign policy needs a long-term strategy”. There is a look east policy and look west policy, there are more engagements with GCC in case of maritime and security but they still have a lot of challenges.”

Dr. Sreeradha Datta, a Senior Fellow at Vivekananda International Foundation, addressing the panel and audiences laid emphasis on the Chinese presence and how it poses both as an opportunity and a threat to India’s international movement. Furthermore, Dr. Happymoon Jacob elaborated on soft power diplomacy and how it cannot be ignorant of Chinese methods.

Chaired by Prof. SD Muni, the session on “India’s Neighbourhood First Policy” sought to break down the nuances of India’s engagement priorities with its immediate neighbors and its efforts for consistent progression of cooperation in the subcontinent.

*“Indian policymakers are conscious of delivering good policies to neighbourhood countries but it will depend on whether India will be capable or not”.*

**- Dr. Arvind Gupta,  
Vivekananda International Foundation.**

*“We live in an era of hardcore nationalism and this factor cannot be ignored in any countries context. Upswings and downswings are inevitable in India-Pakistan relations. The challenge for diplomacy is how to tamper the ups and downs”.*

**-Dr. TCA Raghavan,  
Indian Council of World Affairs.**

*“South Asia as a whole will become a very essential element in terms of GDP and numbers” and stressed the concept of Ekla Chalo in the context of the policy.”*

**- Amb. Manjeev Singh Puri,  
India’s former Ambassador to Nepal.**

The Session titled “India’s Nepal Policy” focused on changing the nature of India’s Policy toward the neighboring country. Speaking on the occasion, Amb. Rakesh Sood pointed out some myths that tend to create narratives on both sides of the Nepal-India border. One of the major focuses of his discussion was based on the 1950 treaty which consists of “common misperception” that the 1950 treaty was pushed by India.

We need new perspectives, new research, new efforts to understand India Nepal relations, emphasized Constantino Xavier, Fellow Centre for Social and Economic Progress during his address. Strong observation was made as he added that years of neglect have deeply affected India-Nepal ties on multiple fronts, which was further deteriorated by the recent Kalapni dispute. He concluded by prescribing ways to fill the gap and trust deficit between the countries as he asserts both hard and soft connectivity should be rebuilt along with the physical bridges, and people-to-people connections between the two countries should be prioritized.

Speaking at the session ‘Emergence of India as a Global Power’ Baijayant ‘Jay’ Panda, National Vice

President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, accentuated the importance of Indian power in the current international system explaining the changes and developments in the Indian economy.

*“The 5 trillion economies may get delayed because of the pandemic. But the growth will be much more. India’s telecommunications is the 2nd largest in the world. India’s solar power and green technology industry is rising rapidly as well. India has entered the QUAD, a geopolitical arrangement. It matters a lot because it is the coming together of democratic nations. Democracies have shared underlined values”*

**- Baijayant ‘Jay’ Panda,**

**National Vice President, Bharatiya Janata Party.**

## NEPAL’S FOREIGN POLICY

There were a number of sessions looking at Nepal’s Foreign Policy, Foreign Direct Investment, and Foreign Aid in Nepal.

*“Nepal should emphasize diverse, multidimensional, ‘non-zero sum’ rather than zero-sum engagement, not only with its immediate neighbor, but also beyond the neighborhood to ensure Nepal’s security, interests, and prosperity”*

**-Amb. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Former Foreign Secretary of Nepal and UN Under Secretary General and High Representative for LDC.**

Taking his turn, Amb. Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai, Former Foreign Policy Advisor to Prime Minister and Former Nepal’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, mainly covered Nepal’s foreign policy with the US and western countries, where he extensively focused on Nepal’s initial diplomatic relations with the United Kingdom, United States, and its neighbors.

Expanding further on the notion, Amb. Madan Kumar Bhattarai, President’s Foreign Policy Adviser, Ambassador to Germany and Japan, and Former Foreign Secretary of Nepal elucidated on Nepal’s foreign policy engagement with Japan, where he mainly emphasized cultural, religious,

and developmental cooperation between Japan and Nepal since their formal relation until today and possible deeper relations in coming days.

Dr. Anjoo Sharan Upadhyaya, Professor, Banaras Hindu University India, acknowledged the role of Nepali leaders in the Indian liberation movement, and later India’s support in Nepal’s struggle for democracy, which contributed in establishing Nepal’s relations with other foreign powers.

*“FDI is necessary to expedite financial constraints and in leveraging the economy to invest in infrastructure and more.”*

**-Sushil Bhatt,**

**CEO, Nepal Investment Board.**

*“FDI projects in Nepal are enablers to increase the balance of payments and generate profits.*

**- Amb. Prof. Bishwambher Pyakuryal,  
Former Nepali Diplomat.**

Chief Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Yumiko Asakuma, in her address accentuated the role of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency in Nepal with four pillars of aid –construction, economic and infrastructure, poverty alleviation, and social reforms, democratization, and inclusive governance

*“Nepal has done tremendously well in setting up a legal environment and has liberalized marketing for fast-tracking foreign aid”*

**-Ram Prasad Subedi,**

**DCM, Embassy of Nepal in India.**

In addition, he urged for the actualization of markets from either side of the border and the need of Indian investors to invest more in Nepal.

Hon. speaker Dr. Vijay Chauthaiwale, In-Charge, Foreign Affairs Department, Bharatiya Janata Party, made his remarks on Nepal-India Relations. The significance of India Nepal relations and the impacts of the BJP government policy shift over India Nepal relations were thoroughly discussed in the session.

*“India and Nepal are tied up with each other in many ways. There’s a long-lasting and complex relationship between the two countries and the two countries have an equitable partnership and share mutual respect. India would like to work with Nepal on three levels: government, people, and cultural relations”.*

**-Dr. Vijay Chauthaiwale,  
Bharatiya Janata Party.**

The session on “Nepal China Relations” was chaired and moderated by Amb. Dr. Mahesh Maskey, Former Nepalese Ambassador to China with a stellar lineup of panelists composed of former ambassadors and professors from a similar area of interest.

*“BRI opens avenues for coping with financial vulnerabilities and Nepal expects to develop infrastructure, air connectivity, telecom/digital technology, agriculture, value-chain connectivity, etc. from the BRI policy framework.”*

**- Amb. Leela Mani Poudyal,  
Former Nepali Ambassador to China.**

*“The impact of the pandemic in the form of long-term economic dilemmas exacerbated poverty and inequality and intensified deep-seated social conflicts.”*

**- Prof. Li Tao, Sichuan University.**

*“When undertaking BRI projects the population size and the views of common people should be taken into consideration when implementing the project.*

**-Prof. Dai Yonghong, Shenzhen University.**

## **QUAD, INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY AND MARITIME SECURITY**

The session on “Future of QUAD and Maritime Cooperation in Indo-Pacific” presented diverse takes by the panels of experts.

*“Middle powers are coming together on the topic of national interest in the region. America’s place in world politics hinges on whether it can get the Indo Pacific right.”*

**- Maj. Gen. RPS Bhadauria,  
United Service Institution of India.**

*“QUAD did not single out China, but it was a common concern as a serious security threat for the group.”*

**- Admiral Koda Yoji,  
Japan Maritime Self Defense Force.**

Captain Sarabjeet Parmar, Executive Director, National Maritime Foundation addressing the topic prescribed that to make Quad a success, we need to look at other security issues let it be economics, climate change, the effects of climate change, let’s look at making the Indo- Pacific favorable and positive maritime environment or continental environment for all nation to prosper together.

On a similar note, the session on “Future of Indo-Pacific Strategy” was convened with Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan (Retd), Director General, National Maritime, chairing the session. Addressing the topic, speaker Dr. Satu Limaye, Vice President and Director, East-West Center in Washington, explained the nature of the shifting attitude of the US towards Asia especially in the case of resources. He underlined the presence of other power contexts in the region like Sino-India and Sino-Japanese balance of power contests.

Dr. Deepa M. Ollapally, Research Professor and Associate Director, Sigur Center for Asian Studies, George Washington University, remarked on the “nimbleness and flexibility of Indian policy towards QUAD” while criticizing India’s domestic shortcomings during the pandemic. Speaker Abhijit Singh, Head, Maritime Policy Initiative, Observer Research Foundation, explained three salient aspects of India’s approach towards QUAD and stated “It is not about countering China but about competing with China”.



Dr. Amit Gupta presented the six relations between the US and India and further emphasized the significance of understanding nontraditional security as the most important part of current world security.

Dr. Aparna Pande, Director, Initiative on the Future of India and South Asia, Hudson, explained the Indian foreign policy and attitude towards world relations commenting “India has and still prefers a multipolar world”. Prof. Jeffrey S Payne, Manager of Academic Affairs, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies said the US approach towards Indo-Pacific is more complicated than we think and elaborated on the two-sided understanding on QUAD.

*“US influence has not gone away but has been eclipsed by the influence of rising China and elucidated on the Australian outlook to the Indo-Pacific.”*

**- Prof. John Blaxland,  
Australian National University**

Dr. Ernest Gunasekara-Rockwell, Editor in Chief of Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs and Director of Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers speaking on the session expanded on the institutionalization process of QUAD and QUAD plus and stressed the DIME construct (Diplomatic, Informational, Military, and Economic) to look at what goes on in the region and the Quad.

Cleo Paskal, Associate Fellow, Chatham House during the session particularly shared her extensive field research on “Indo - Pacific strategic, perceptions and partnership-the view from seven countries” conducted in - the US, the UK, France, India, Tonga, Japan, and China.

*“America’s growing strategic interest in the region emphasizes the fact that America has a long-term plan to defeat China in the region.”*

**- Dr. Satoru Nagao, Hudson Institute**

Similarly, the session on ‘The Indian Ocean and

Maritime Security’ featuring Admiral Prof. Dr. Jayanath Colombage, Foreign Secretary, Sri Lanka stressed the number of critical requirements needed to come out with Indian ocean region maritime strategies. Nevertheless, there was a strong call for Indian ocean security architecture to deal with the regional issues.

*“Most of the strategies existing on Indian ocean are from out of littoral states, so we should have more strategists from Indian Ocean region. Therefore, Indian Ocean should be open for any state, for global, rather than confined to any specific states.”*

**- Admiral Dr. Jayanath Colombage,  
Foreign Secretary, Sri Lanka.**

## **DIPLOMAT’S CONCLAVE**

Diplomat’s Conclave was another headliner of the event. The conference featured two sessions on this particular theme, bringing together a stellar lineup of national and international Diplomats and current Ambassadors. Both sessions briefly touched upon the bilateral engagements of Nepal, the present state of relations, and future prospects. The need to explore more areas of commonalities for enhanced cooperation among Nepal and the partner countries was largely shared among discussants in both sessions.

*“Since Nepal and Bangladesh are graduating from LDC to developing countries they will lose benefits like international market access for which both countries should work with each other on various International Platforms.”*

**-Amb. Salahuddin Noman Chowdhury,  
Ambassador of Bangladesh to Nepal.**

Amb. Banshidhar Mishra spoke about the Nepal-Bangladesh relationship as being close and cordial ever since the Liberation War. The diplomatic relationship however has been low, according to the Ambassador and is yet to be exploited in terms of trade and commerce. He mentioned five primary aspects to focus on, that is, connectivity (by air – only flight from Dhaka to Biratnagar) and land, trade,

tourism, and presidential visits. He highlighted the importance of collaboration in education and agriculture, which is also imperative.

*“In a dynamic relation between India and Nepal, there can be some problems and disputes, however, such disputes do not define the relationship between the two nations”*

**- Amb. Nilamber Acharya,  
Nepalese Ambassador to India**

Exploring the Future Prospect for Nepal - Thailand relations, Amb. Ganesh Prasad Dhakal, Nepalese Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand stated that the teaching of Gautam Buddha and his philosophy are binding traits between Nepal and Thailand. Both countries have close religious, cultural, and economic linkages. He highlighted that the number of Nepali nationals visiting Thailand outnumber those from Thailand visiting Nepal. He further stated that apart from the area of tourism, another interesting area of the bilateral relationship is an investment in technology trade and labor migration.

*“European Union exported half of the production of vaccines to 90 countries in the world and 9 billion Nepali rupees to Nepal to support the state budget directly for helping with covid recovery.”*

**- Ambassador Nona Deprez,  
Head of Delegation of European Union to Nepal.**

Amb. Dr. Narad Nath Bharadwaj, Nepalese Ambassador to Qatar shared that “Qatar is a rising powerhouse of Asia and Nepal has a diplomatic relationship with Qatar. They have been expanding and promoting their interests in areas ranging from Diplomacy, climate change, economy and to combat terrorism.”

*“The business-friendly environment will pave the way for enhancing confidence and fostering a better relationship between Nepal and UAE.”*

**- Amb Krishna Prasad Dhakal  
Nepalese Ambassador to UAE.**

Amb Mani Prasad Bhattarai spoke about the

Nepal-Swiss relations which are growing rapidly. At the onset, he established that Switzerland is a reliable development partner for Nepal. The Swiss government’s focus area covers; poverty alleviation and agriculture, peace and conflict, migration, economic development.

## **REGION AND BEYOND**

The Session on “Enhancing cooperation between BBIN countries” was chaired and moderated by Lt. Gen. GS Katoch, United Service Institution of India. What came out clearly from the session, particularly from the presenters’ point of view, were the dissatisfaction regarding the extent of progress made under the BBIN framework and the need to boost cooperation in various sectors in coming days. Maj. Gen AKM Abdur Rahman (Retd), Former Director General, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies, emphasized cooperation at least in the energy sector, where minimum traditional, as well as a nontraditional security threat, exist among countries.

Amb. Farooq Sobhan, Former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh reflected on the main reasons behind formulating BBIN and added on the increasing relevance for effective cooperation among the states due to the pandemic, rising geopolitical complexities in the region, and ambitious plans such as Bangladesh 2041.

*“BBIN as an artificial construct for cooperation, and highlighted the possible prosperity of the subregion such as to make education and health care hubs, medical tourism, and developmental zones under BBIN.”*

**- Lt. Gen. KJ Singh (Retd),  
Former Indian Army Commander.**

Maj Gen Binoj Basnyat (Retd), Strategic Analyst, South Asian Affairs concluded his remarks by emphasizing on the fact that soft, hard and smart border management mechanisms which can be helpful to manage borders to enhance cooperation under BBIN.

Hon. Member of Parliament of Nepal, Dr. Deepak Prakash Bhatt, chaired the Session on “Connectivity and Regional Integration in Asia”. The session consisted of valued panelists and focused on how the Asian nations need to realize their shared history and common civilizational space and connect on deeper roots.

The panelists were of the common notion that connectivity is important because it provides the basis for broader integrity but is not the only way for integration so we need to explore more options. Speaking on the occasion Executive Chairperson of Policy Research Institute Dr. Bishnu Raj Upreti emphasized the urgent need to identify and implement other methods of integrating the Asian nations under one umbrella.

*“India can and needs to play for democratic transitions in South Asia because of its distinguished place and history in the region”*

**- Prof. Agnieszka Kuszewska,  
Jagiellonian University.**

*“It becomes important for other actors to be involved with Asia to not only provide for their own development but also overall peace development”.*

**- Dr. Victoria V. Panova,  
Far Eastern Federal University.**

*“Arabs are destined for greatness, and they have had a past of greatness but they recognize that at the moment that they are not only in very deep crises but probably may not be much better. “The radicals coerce the non-radicals to implement their rules out of fear.”*

**- Dr. Dan Schueftan,  
National Security Studies Center, Israel.**

## US FOREIGN POLICY

During the session on ‘US Foreign Policy Under the Biden Administration,’ strong observations were made by the expert panel of Professors, Diplomats, Distinguished researchers on the priorities, policies and challenges of current US Foreign Policy under the Biden Administration.

*“Biden’s administration lost some time to repair America in terms of humanitarian and democratic rights. Biden has declared that he is not going to pursue a foreign policy that is going to cost many.”*

**- Prof. Peter Trubowitz, LSE.**

*“Most countries are willing to follow America’s lead if America is willing to lead.” However, Biden’s presidency states that they will work with Beijing when it is in their interest to do so. Something doesn’t smell right. Therefore certain things in Biden’s presidency require an answer.”*

**- Amb. Vishnu Prakash,  
Former Indian Diplomat.**

*“There was a symbolic achievement between US-China relations during Obama’s administration, but Biden is careful on compromise and alliance management.”*

**- Dr. Asuka Matsumoto, Doshisha University.**

*“The first priority for Biden should be to solve domestic problems. Second should be foreign policy to resolve the issue of the middle class settled in the states which will further lead to the overall growth of the economy, especially post-pandemic.”*

**- Dr. Andrés Serbin, CRIES**

Another session on the “Future of American World Order” touched briefly upon the future of the American world order, the factors shaping it, the indo-pacific state’s issues,

*“If there is a rise of Republicans once again, then the world order led by America could face disengagement”*

**- Prof. Sumit Ganguly,  
University Bloomington.**

*“Trump’s policy on China is more effective than the rest, Trump’s Shock was needed by the world in the present era”*

**-Prof. Tashihiro Nakayama, Keio University.**

*“The US future order will become multi-planetary gaining significance not only on the military but also trade and political domains”.*

**- Dr. Namrata Goswami, Futures Lab**

## **POST-COVID-19 WORLD ORDER**

The session on “Post COVID-19 World Order” was chaired by Prof. Dr. Rajesh Rajagopalan, Centre for International Politics, Organisation & Disarmament, School of International Studies, JNU.

*“China, Russia, and even middle powers such as India, Brazil, South Africa will seek the multi-polar world order to increase their strategic leverage in the post-pandemic and the middle east and African resources countries will still be a contestation site for world power”.*

**- Prof. Anuradha Chenoy,  
Former Dean, SIS Studies, JNU.**

*“China is not in a new cold war with the US which is a poor mentality and China is ready for cooperation with any power in the world.”*

**- Prof. Shen Dingli, Fudan University.**

## **SPECIAL SESSION WITH PROF. BARRY BUZAN AND PROF. GJ IKENBERRY**

The centrepiece of the three-day event was the session by Professor Barry Buzan, well known for his major contribution to the Copenhagen School of political thought and the Regional Security Complex Theory, as he spoke on the ‘Structure of Global International Society in the Coming Decade’.

*“If we are slow to respond to the ongoing climate change, as the climate deteriorates and the places become inhabitable, people move. Therefore, the new challenge is going to be mass migration”*

**-Prof. Barry Buzan, LSE.**

A theorist of international relations and United States foreign policy, Prof. Dr. G. John Ikenberry’s session on ‘The US, China and the Future of Liberal International Order’ was among the prominent parts of the Conclave. Currently, the Albert G. Milbank Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, Prof. Dr. Ikenberry during the session deliberated on issues ranging from the American view on the world order, “Triple power transition i.e. from the US to China, Liberal to Authoritarian and from West to East” and the crisis of liberal democracy.

*“Some agendas that can bring Beijing and Washington together; first, global warming and climate change, second, arms control, and third, reformation of the United Nations.”*

**- Prof. G. John Ikenberry, Princeton School of  
Public and International Affairs**

## **GENDER AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

The conclave featured two sessions on Gender; ‘Gender, Peace and Development’ and ‘Gender and International Relations’.

Professor Laura J Shepherd joined the panel by sharing her insights on the WPS initiative and its implications on South Asia, particularly Nepal. Stressing on a number of critical requirements, Prof Shepherd on the WPS agenda and initiatives stated “Rules matter, Culture matters, Funding matters”

*“Feminist IR scholars are not just looking for women in state governments anymore but also in diverse places like peacekeeping missions and terrorist organizations.”*

**- Prof. J. Ann Tickner,  
University of Southern California**

*“Feminist approach to IR is all about power. How power is shaped and applied. We underestimate how much power impacts militarism. Governments exert extreme pressure and control on the women through their military actions.”*

**- Prof. Cynthia Enloe, Clark University.**

*“Three important ways to look at security studies in terms of gender are - conceptualizing the problem, understanding the causes of the problem, and keeping gender as a key part of the solution to the problem.”*

**- Prof. Laura Sjoberg, University of Florida.**

## **NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, ARMS CONTROL AND NON-PROLIFERATION**

‘Nuclear Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation’ was another major theme of the conclave. Much of the discussion during the session was dominated by the shared risk posed by Nuclear weapons, the need to be for both nuclear states/ non-nuclear states to understand its implications and the daunting challenges confronting Non- Proliferation. regime.

A note of caution was drawn by discussants regarding how the arms control architecture was crumbling and the non-existence of any disarmament structure in most states.

*“Strategic stability talks should be undertaken to deal with the regional crisis. He informed the participants of the potential for escalation in the Middle East and the need for risk reduction measures in South Asia. Conflict prevention and confidence and transparency measures need to reduce the risk of escalation in South Asia.”*

**-Amb. Marc Finaud,  
Geneva Center for Security Policy.**

## **PREVENTING EXTREMISM**

The session on ‘Preventing Extremism and Building Resilient Society’ discussed the identification of South Asian Extremism, its method of dealing without compromising its civil and human rights,

and preventive measures to be abided by.

*“The three pathways of authoritarianism are; drift, layering and election funding.”*

**- Prof. Rahul Mukherji, Heidelberg University.**

*“We must solicit a multilayer multiverse of a person by building a resilient society nationally, regionally and globally.”*

**-Prof. Imtiaz Ahmed, University of Dhaka.**

*“The lack of rational thinking, poor governance, states encouraging religious ideology themselves, and lack of relocating where religious extremism to be some of the reasons for extremism.”*

**Prof. Ayesha Siddiqa, London University.**

*“The problems of Radicalism in South Asia have their solutions in South Asia itself.”*

**-Captain Alok Bansal, India Foundation.**

*“We must solicit a multilayer multiverse of a person by building resilient societies nationally, regionally and globally.”*

**-Dr. Hassan Abbas,  
Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies.**

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