



## THE SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE

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# Table of Contents

1	<b>Editor's Desk</b>	3
	<b>The World Perspective</b>	
2	India's G20 Ascendency: What it Means for Our Higher Education? The Fractured Friendship: India-Canada Strained Ties	4
3	<b>India Matters</b>	10
	Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinayam: Celebration or Caution	
	<b>The Gender Perspective</b>	
4	Political Participation in India: Assessing Women's Participation in Panchayati Raj	12
5	<b>Approaching Research</b>	15
	My Journey as a Ph.D. Scholar	
6	<b>Book Review</b>	17
	Social Movements and Systemic Alternatives	
	<b>Event Reports</b>	
7	35-Hour Online Certificate Course on Fundamentals of International Politics Deeksharambh: Student Induction Programme	19
8	<b>Students' Corner</b>	25
9	<b>Faculty Achievements</b>	30

## EDITORS' DESK

*Just as we have two eyes and two feet, duality is a part of life.*

—Carlos Santana



Duality has been an integral part of the post-globalised world highlighting the inequalities of high and low among different strata of the society. The contrasting comparison can be witnessed in every continent of the globe, be it in the European region or the Asian or African region. While the Western definition of inequality is defined in terms of economic aspects, inequality and exclusion have been the order of the day in the European region with NATO struggling to show its relevance amidst the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war and the gasoline politics dividing the member states every day. The exclusion and shades of duality can be witnessed for the past eight years with illegal migrants and asylum seekers trying to find a home for themselves in Europe.

The much-revered style of governance with rules-based order is facing a challenge as the world is increasingly becoming polarised in antagonistic blocs, with experts viewing the resurgence of the Cold War. The current trend reflects the traditional order with states playing a dominant role once again with geopolitical competition resulting in several alliances.

Closer home, the narratives of duality are much stronger with the inequality between different identities and sections of society. India scripted history with the launch of Chandrayaan-3 and the successful event of G20 in the past few days but the same society still tries to address the issue of exclusion as Dalits are killed in the name of being "the other". The same narrative can be seen in the Indian response to the asylum seekers coming from Myanmar in the states of Manipur and Mizoram which again paints a contrasting picture of response between the two states.

The much-revered event of G20 resulted in the joining of the African Union to the G20 organisation but the question remains whether it will help address the global challenges such as

human rights, climate change and human security.

The CeRSSE, however, is committed to the principles of social inclusion and it is with this responsibility, that we are presenting our eleventh edition of TSSP covering the period between July 2023 and September 2023. The introductory piece of the World Perspective looks at the success of G20 followed by the Indian perspective which looks at the Indian stance in the recent Indo-Canadian feud. The other original articles cover the experience of a PhD scholar and a Book Review that attempts to explore the debates and narratives around systemic alternatives around social movements in India. Apart from that, the newsletter also includes Event Reports that showcase the ethos and best practices of the centre. The newsletter further incorporates the section called "Students' Corner" reflecting the best ideas and writings delivered by the students. It also includes the understanding that students have experienced that has specifically resulted in growth in their careers. The newsletter ends with Faculty Achievements to highlight the work that the faculty has been involved in during this period. We hope that you would enjoy reading this edition like you did the previous ones!

**- Priyanca, Rubina and Amrita**  
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# THE WORLD PERSPECTIVE

India's G20 Ascendancy: What it Means for Our Higher Education?



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## Introduction

Amidst the geo-political uncertainties and instabilities plaguing the global economy, the rise of the Group of Twenty (G20) marks a momentous occasion on the global economic horizon. G20 stands as a premier forum, one that connects the world's leading developed countries with the emerging economies on an equal footing in terms of voice and representation. Guided by the spirit of universal oneness (unity of voice and unity of purpose), the esteemed grouping aspires to foster international economic co-operation among its member States in the joint battle against international financial challenges. Soon after its formation in 1999 as an informal, self-styled consultative forum in the backdrop of the Asian financial crisis (1997-98), G20 was upgraded to the level of Heads of State/Government in the wake of the global economic crisis of 2007. The broad-based inclusive body currently comprises 19 member states along with the European Union representing nearly 90 percent of global GDP, 80 percent of global trade and 2/3rds of global population. The G20 Summit is held annually with a rotating presidency. The group for want of a permanent secretariat is supported by the previous, current, and future holders of the presidency, known as the troika. Beneath the rather loose and flexible style of governance G20 articulates a steady commitment to the principles of advancing "strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth". Its growth and resilience reflect in its evolving functional scope and agenda which embraces myriad socio-economic issues concerning financial markets, trade, climate

change, sustainable development, health care, agriculture, education, energy, environment, anti-corruption, women's development, skill building and youth promotion in addition to its original purpose of addressing economic predicaments.

## India at G20

At the very heart of India's engagement with G20 has been her proactive involvement in reshaping global economic governance and the global world order from the very beginning. India's positions in every G20 meeting have reiterated her deep devotion to the cause of multilateralism, UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The assumption of G20 Presidency (December 1, 2022-November 30, 2023) has brought India to the global center stage especially with respect to consensus-building efforts among the developed and developing countries on critical issues of global importance. The new role has seen India on a mission mode in shaping up a shared global future for all through the Amrit Kaal initiative and the LiFE movement seeking to promote environmentally-conscious practices and a sustainable way of living (Ministry of Earth Sciences, GoI). India's new G20 chair may also be viewed as a unique development for the country to rethink global governance processes and establish parity in international negotiations thereby firmly articulating its narratives on development and, as the fastest growing major economy, bringing forth its strengths to bear on the G20 agenda. However, the constraining realities of

the pandemic-retreating and deeply disrupted multipolar world have posed India a tough challenge to make her G20 presidency truly inclusive, ambitious, decisive and action-oriented as also to accelerate the pace of SDGs' attainment.

## India's Contribution to Advancing G20 Education Agenda

As part of the G20 decision-making process specialized working groups comprising experts and officials from relevant ministries have been formed to deliberate and discuss on a range of internationally-relevant issues. During Argentina's G20 Presidency (2018) the Education Working Group (EdWG) was established to strengthen learning outcomes and equitable access through digitalization, universal quality education, financing, educational partnerships, and international cooperation. EdWG also collaborates with Employment Working Groups and other relevant bodies to address several intersecting issues relating to skill development and school-to-work transition.

G20 EdWG has since emerged as an important multilateral platform to enhance and deepen cooperation among the G20 members on education-related issues which are critical to achieving the UN 2030 agenda. The prioritisation of educational technology for global growth immediately aligns with SDG 4 emphasizing ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting life-long learning opportunities for all. While under the past presidencies G20 EdWGs have focused on strengthening educational systems by making them more inclusive, equitable, accessible and innovative, the G20 Educational Ministerial under India's Presidency has boldly affirmed its cognizance of education as a fundamental human right and a transformative pathway with a vow to achieving the Presidency's goal of celebrating the universal sense of oneness- "One earth, One family, One future" (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam). Drawing upon the Upanishadic ideal of cosmic interconnectedness of diverse lifeforms, the chosen theme exemplifies LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment), thereby highlighting the importance of environmentally sustainable and responsible lifestyle choices, both at the individual and national level, for creating a cleaner, greener, and bluer planetary future. Throughout the G20 presidency a series of meetings and consultations were held across the length and breadth of the country to focus on ensuring inclusive, equitable, relevant and quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all particularly for girls, women, and vulnerable groups. In the quest for widening the horizons of knowledge and using it for the good of humankind, collaboration was encouraged between

people, industries and societies. In a big way, the discussions have centered around the use of ed tech solutions for ensuring learning continuity, universal access, addressing the digital divide, and issues concerning data privacy, cyber security and responsible use of technology. By way of addressing the educational divides and discontinuities, special emphasis was laid on digital technology enablement initiatives which resonated with India's active pursuit of National Education Policy (NEP 2020). Accordingly, all G20 members recognized the value of improved distance/blended teaching-learning, professional development of educators, upgraded digital infrastructure and content, cyber security awareness, appropriate teaching methodologies and active learning to complement face-to-face learning.

## The Journey So Far

The recently concluded G20 Presidency summit has woven a tale of defining success by showcasing India's burgeoning economic and geopolitical clout. The progress made on building digital momentum is also commendable. The window of opportunity has enabled India to leave a lasting imprint on the global education agenda by pivotally drawing up a global roadmap and driving the pursuit of SDGs in a fragmented world order. Certainly, showcasing the country's strengths and potential has mirrored the nation's glowing face of resurgence amidst our rapidly expanding HE ecosystem (both in terms of the growing numbers of institutions and enrolments). However, the laudable G20 presidency promise of promoting inclusive education is still beset with a number of potent challenges hovering around the critical questions of 'quality' and 'access. Considering the degree of disparities in educational opportunities among the hitherto marginalized categories, bridging the digital divide and leveraging technology to ensure learning continuity for all remains a teething concern, particularly in the highly disruptive post-pandemic milieu. This apart, the yawning skills gap immediately calls for boosting skill development and vocational training for the purpose of creating a pool of future-ready workforce. Overcoming the aforementioned challenges necessitates a blend of comprehensive policies, investments and collaborations to revamp the higher education system in India. While NEP 2020 as an essential first step offers a conducive macro-level policy environment to begin with, the aspirational initiative needs to be backed by effective policy coordination efforts across various government departments and stakeholders to ensure a holistic approach to inclusive education. Besides allocating adequate fund support in favour of accessible infrastructure and inclusive education initiatives, robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms need to be

erected for the purpose of tracking progress and identifying areas of improvement at every stage. Macro-level reforms need to be complemented by targeted micro interventions. Transcending the passive culture of compliance, the institutions of higher learning must make proactive interventions with respect to improving their educational infrastructures, ensuring curriculum diversity/relevance, encouraging innovative teaching-learning practices, implanting a vibrant culture of research and innovation, strengthening faculty professional development programmes, attracting/retaining skilled educators and the like.

### The Sustainable Way Forward

The Delhi Declaration document, by upholding SDGs as a central theme in India's G20 presidency, has successfully propagated their importance for global stability and development. Adoption of the revolutionary Declaration is a diplomatic success, especially in terms of revitalising quality education delivery and international cooperation. However, as a key G20 member, India continues to encounter a plethora of challenges towards the advancement of SDGs. While the country's elevation as the second largest education ecosystem in the world reflects stirring progress in numeric expansion of access, the clarion call for quality improvement still goes largely unanswered. The concerns, being complex and interconnected, international cooperation coupled with domestic policy reforms may substantially contribute to global pursuits in this direction. While these have been prioritised and reinforced adequately during its presidency, meaningful progress on the pressing global issues calls for a multi-pronged approach involving close collaboration and consensus-building efforts with other member nations. In this context, the ambitious announcement by the presiding nation at the 18th G20 Delhi annual summit (2023) to create the New Economic Corridor connecting India-Middle East-Europe may be perceived as a silver lining- a strategic roadmap for a sustainable future. Also, the inclusion of the African Union as a member of the grouping is praiseworthy. Education diplomacy may be favourably used to position the country's education ecosystem to the forefront of the global arena. India's influence worldwide may be used to steer a G20-led global initiative by initiating policy dialogues and discussions among G20 member countries fostering the sharing of research, expertise, best practices and resources towards quality enrichment. Knowledge exchange endeavours could be facilitated through hosting conferences, workshops and forums to further the cause of inclusivity. This apart, India can also take the lead in advocating for transformative faculty empowerment programmes aimed at supporting educators with diverse

pedagogic innovations and the latest technology tools. The need of the hour is for the member nations to come together and collectively work on drawing up a globally relevant curricular framework incorporating new-age skills and competencies to promote holistic learning. Joint efforts towards developing appropriate quality assurance mechanisms and standards for educational institutions, promoting tech-driven educational transformation, mobilizing resources for infrastructure development, etc. can go a long way in fulfilling the cherished dream of inclusive and equitable education for all besides smoothening the pathway to achieving multiple SDGs. In sum, India's G20 ascendancy exudes a renewed vision of hope, paving the way for a brighter educational future marked by equity, adaptability and collaboration on a global scale.

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# The Fractured Friendship: India-Canada Strained Ties



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## Introduction

The bilateral relationship between India and Canada stands as a complex interplay of diplomatic, economic, and cultural affinities. These two distinct nations, geographically separated by vast distances and divergent histories, have cultivated a robust and enduring association over time, firmly grounded in their mutual commitment to democratic principles, pluralistic societies, and active participation in multilateral forums. But recent India-Canada relations have touched an altogether new low point.

## Historical Background

Diplomatic relations between India and Canada were established shortly after India gained independence in 1947 from British colonial rule. Canada acknowledged India as a sovereign nation and established diplomatic relations, laying the groundwork for a fruitful collaboration. This relationship has been strengthened further by shared values such as democracy, multiculturalism, and a commitment to human rights. Both countries have shown a strong interest in a variety of fields, including agriculture, education, technology, and energy. Canada's plentiful natural resources, such as oil and uranium, have taken on special significance in assisting India's expanding economy. A number of agreements have been signed to encourage investment and trade, with ongoing negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

reflecting the commitment to further strengthen economic ties.

## Strained Ties

Despite such shared efforts, recent developments have injected an unexpected and contentious dimension into India and Canada's bilateral interactions, against the backdrop of a historically nurtured relationship marked by diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties. These fractures occurred shortly after India successfully hosted the G20 Summit, a watershed moment in the country's diplomatic calendar. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's accusation of Indian government involvement in the assassination of Sikh Canadian leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in 2023 has shocked both administrations.

Trudeau's statement in the Parliament that "any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil is an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty" has cast a cloud over the previously cordial relations. This statement has not only alarmed the Indian government but has also prompted a rethinking of their bilateral strategies. Furthermore, the recent G20 Summit, which was critical to India's global standing, unintentionally revealed Canada's increasingly controversial stance on India's domestic affairs. Following Trudeau's remarks, the Canadian government expelled a senior Indian diplomat, escalating the diplomatic standoff. India

reacted quickly, issuing a statement emphatically denying any involvement in Nijjar's tragic death and expelling an unidentified senior Canadian diplomat. These unfolding events highlight the intricate challenges and nuanced dynamics that underpin India and Canada's evolving relationship, while also shining a light on the international ramifications of this diplomatic squabble.

## India's Stance

The government of India has strongly opposed such claims and allegations put forth by the Canadian government. India adopts a 'Tit for Tat' diplomacy to posit its strong and sovereign claim on the matter. On 19 September 2023, India expelled a senior Canadian diplomat, slamming "absurd and motivated" claims that New Delhi was involved in the extrajudicial killing of a Sikh activist in Canada and even strongly pointed towards Canadian counterparts for interfering in India's Domestic affairs. India has unequivocally responded to all allegations levelled by the Canadian government, manifesting a robust stance in the face of recent statements originating from the Canadian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister within their parliamentary discourse. The Ministry of External Affairs in India on 19 September 2023 released a statement that speaks aloud of its response.

*"The allegations made about the Government of India's involvement in any acts of violence in Canada are both unfounded and motivated by ulterior motives. Similar allegations were previously levelled by the Canadian Prime Minister against our own Prime Minister, which we categorically denied. It is critical to emphasize that we are a democratic nation that is deeply committed to the rule of law. These baseless accusations appear to be diverting attention away from a more pressing issue: the presence of Khalistani terrorists and extremists who have sought refuge in Canada, posing a continuing threat to India's sovereignty and security" .... (Ministry of external affairs, Government of India).*

The statement released by the Ministry of External Affairs is a crisp yet loud response to the allegations put forth by the Canadian government. The issue has gathered responses from across the nation. National Security Council adviser Brahma Chellaney said " The allegation has dealt a major blow to the relationship; the damage to the relationship will not be easily repaired;" further India "suspended till further notice" its visa services in Canada citing "operational reasons". Clearly, such statements indicate the relationship has reached an extremely low point in the history of India-Canada relations.

## Challenges

The Canadian government's stance on Sikh extremism has always been a major source of contention. Apart from Sikh extremism, there have been various other challenges such as the Situation in Jammu and Kashmir, contentions intensified by India's Article 370 revocation in August 2019. Canada's expression of concern regarding human rights and the repercussions of Indian government actions in the region has generated discord. India views this issue as an internal matter, emphasizing its commitment to addressing it within its constitutional framework, thus resulting in diplomatic tensions. Additionally, Disparities in Human Rights and Immigration Policies, including concerns about religious freedom and minority rights raised by Canada, have contributed to strains in the bilateral relationship. Disagreements over immigration policies and the delicate balance between national interests and humanitarian commitments have further compounded these challenges. Trade and Economic Issues between India and Canada have been difficult, and neither country has reached a comprehensive trade agreement that could significantly strengthen economic ties. While trade talks have progressed, issues such as market access, tariffs, and non-tariff barriers have hampered the realization of a more robust economic partnership. All these challenges have intensified the India-Canada relationship to a fragile point.

## Conclusion

While India and Canada have a long history of diplomatic relations and many areas of cooperation, recent developments and challenges have strained their bonds. As these ties deteriorate, the economic interests of Sikh families in Punjab, who rely on remittances from relatives in Canada, are jeopardized. Simultaneously, the remarkable growth of the Sikh population in Canada highlights the community's deepening transnational connections. The ramifications go beyond diplomatic squabbles, into the personal and financial lives of people on both sides of the globe. As a result, the evolving India-Canada relationship serves as a poignant example of how global geopolitics can reverberate into the everyday experiences of individuals and communities, emphasizing our modern world's interconnectedness.

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# INDIA MATTERS

## Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinayam: Celebration or Caution



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In India, the recent passing of The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, which ensures a 33 per cent quota for women in the National Parliament (Lok Sabha) and State Legislative Assemblies, must not be celebrated without a hard look through a long-term critical lens. The country currently has 15.24 percent of its Members of Lok Sabha as women and with that stands at a ranking of 142, according to the Inter Parliamentary Union's data (as of August 2023). Out of the 187 countries in this list only Yemen stands right at the bottom with no women in parliament while Rwanda and Cuba rank first and second with 61.3 and 55.7 per cent. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk welcomed the passage of this Bill, and urged parliaments around the world to follow India's example of adopting legislative gender quotas to centre women's voices in politics. He urged for the implementation to be done alongside the existing reservation for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes. The passing of this legislation undoubtedly is an important step towards implementation of the UNSDGs and India's obligations under the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

The Special Session of the Lok Sabha, convened amidst speculation of its agenda, witnessed a two hour long manual voting on paper slips for this Bill, wherein only two votes were

cast against it. The overwhelming majority of 454 members of the Lok Sabha voting in its favour can simply be interpreted as any political person's view in support of women's right to representation in political decision-making. The issue is not one on which any political party or figure would like to be caught on the wrong foot. Yet it took nearly three decades of our country's political representatives to rise above ideology and political affiliation to recognise that 50 per cent of the planet's population cannot be left wanting for their legitimate political right to participation – quotas are merely a tool to fast-track that process. The opposition, while voting for the Bill, rightly pointed out that the Bill had been presented too late in the day. Thus any further delay in its intent of enabling more women to become decision-makers in the higher echelons of power will only dilute its purpose.

What cannot be taken away is the fact that barring two dissenting votes, the floor of the house came together to vote in favour. In 1996 when, following the 1992 73rd and 74th Amendment Bill which had given women's reservation at the local government level, the idea of a similar quota at the state and national level had been proposed, there were few takers. Besides, on the grounds that a blanket reservation for women would disproportionately favour upper-caste women, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Samajwadi Party (SP) had

both demanded a sub-quota for women from Other Backward Classes (OBC), which did not find many takers even when the Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha in 2010. The 1996 Women's Reservation Bill Report advocated reservation for OBC women, (also in Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils), but this Bill has ignored that. Two very different (even opposed) sets of concerns - feminist and upper caste - have tied in at this particular conjuncture to produce the sudden general acceptability of women's reservations. Further, the debates around the Bill reveal a more fundamental set of questions about the issues of citizenship, representation, and the subject of feminist politics (Menon, 2000).

Despite reservation at the local government level, given to Indian women, since the watershed passing of the 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts, 1992, women at the grassroots still face social stigma for using the quota as an entry point into politics. There is social reluctance in accepting women stepping out of the private domain of nurturing and housekeeping into the rough world of politics. While figures tell us that countries like France, UK, Germany, China and Japan stand behind India, which boasts of women occupying 44 per cent seats in local bodies, let us not forget that we have been able to get to this figure after three decades. Hence in the delay in implementation of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinayam (Statute Revering Women), as this Bill is being also referred to as, because of it being linked to a delimitation exercise that is frozen till 2026, becomes a big hurdle. The decision to implement reservation after delimitation means to ensure that a quasi-judicial body like the Delimitation Commission, can decide, after public consultation, which seats to reserve. Such provisions will clearly not be ready before the

2024 general elections and there is speculation that it may even not be ready before 2029. So valid questions are being raised about this Bill and the uncertain state it has put the struggle for women's reservation in India into. While the Law Minister claimed that it was against the provisions of the Constitution, to provide reservation immediately, noting that someone may challenge it in a court of law, it stays embroiled in the demand for reservation for OBC women too along with SC and STs. What cannot be denied is that women's reservation, without taking into account caste diversity, may not address social inclusion holistically because also the mere presence of women in politics does not translate into their equality and freedom.

With the passage of this Bill in the Rajya Sabha, it has now become a Law. It requires ratification by at least 50 per cent of the states. However, the sunset clause that states that seats designated for women will be eliminated 15 years from the amendment act's start date is problematic. Besides, while the Legislature may create laws, but its real implementation lies in societal acceptance. What we really need first is an end to misogyny, for every household and family to treat their female members as equals else as Mary E. John, rightly says, "We must be vigilant against this mood of self-congratulation."

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# THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE

## POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN INDIA: ASSESSING WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN PANCHAYATI RAJ



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### Introduction

Since India's independence, it has maintained a federal setup while centralizing major domains until the 1980s. 1991 economic reforms opened doors for state autonomy, allowing tailored policies. This shift placed India on the global stage but necessitated decentralization due to its vast diversity and population. Decentralization empowers local governance, promoting democracy, development, and effective governance. In 1992, the Three Tier System was constitutionally recognized, materializing Panchayati Raj Institutions and enabling women's active participation in politics and decision-making at the grassroots level. Despite these strides, women still face barriers due to India's patriarchal society and social divisions. While reservations and many other constitutional provisions were introduced to empower women, their involvement often results from obligation rather than genuine desire. Therefore, mechanisms are needed to encourage women's active and voluntary participation in local governance, establishing their role as stakeholders in a patriarchal society.

### Constitutional Provisions

The Indian Constitution not only guarantees women's equality but also empowers the state to implement affirmative action measures to address their accumulated socio-economic, educational, and political disadvantages. Fundamental Rights

ensure equality before the law, prohibiting discrimination based on religion, race, caste, gender, or place of birth. Articles 14, 15, 15(3), 16, 39(a), 39(b), 39(c), and 42 are particularly relevant in this context. Article 14 enforces equality before the law, Article 15 prevents discrimination, and Article 15(3) mandates specific provisions for women and children. Article 16 ensures equal opportunity in employment, while Article 39(a) emphasizes equal means of subsistence for both genders, and Article 39(d) demands equal pay for equal work. To promote justice through equal opportunity and provide free legal aid, Article 39A is enacted. Article 51(A)(e) urges the promotion of harmony and the protection of women's dignity. Additionally, the Constitution mandates the reservation of seats for women in Panchayats and Municipalities, including rotational representation and reserved chairmanships, to empower women in local governance (Articles 243D (3), 243D (4), 243T (3), 243T(4)). These constitutional provisions reflect India's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment.

### Issues Faced by Women in Panchayats

Women have always faced the wrath of gender-biased discrimination by society, sensed marginalized in different phases of their lives, and have been victims of male domination, amongst many other problems that they experience. The intensity of these issues faced by women is much higher in

rural areas (Singh, 2021), which undoubtedly stops them from participating in political affairs at the local level in a full-fledged manner.

### ***Lack of Political Literacy***

In rural India, while research consistently highlights the positive link between education and political engagement, a stark contradiction exists. Despite constituting 81.29% of the rural workforce, 56% of rural women are illiterate (Gunjan, 2018), impeding their participation in local politics. Many are unaware of constitutional provisions meant to empower them. Basic education is crucial to impart knowledge of their rights, foster political awareness, and promote personal growth. Education can transform women into informed, active citizens, improving governance and benefiting the nation. However, deep-seated patriarchy, limited educational access, poor-quality schools, and poverty act as formidable barriers, leaving illiterate women vulnerable to manipulation and unaware of their official roles and responsibilities.

### ***Women as 'Rubber Stamps'***

Pervasive patriarchy in society hinders women's empowerment, even in local government. Reservations for women in politics often lead to men exploiting their positions, leaving women relegated to ceremonial roles. Female leaders elected to Panchayats often succumb to family pressures, primarily from male relatives (Saurabh, 2023). While women secure electoral victories, real responsibilities usually rest with male family members. These men handle public inquiries, relegating women to domestic duties. This reinforces the concept of 'Sarpanch Pati' where husbands manipulate their wives into running for office, knowing they will retain control over village governance. Women are left as figureheads, while men continue to wield power de facto.

### ***Impact of Caste in Panchayats***

Caste has always been a dominant factor in the Indian political scenario. In due course of time, efforts have made caste somewhat less visible but it still persists in current times. Societal barriers persist, impeding Dalits from uplifting themselves, particularly affecting Dalit women who face dual marginalization due to their lower caste and gender. Despite the emergence of Dalit women leaders, discrimination persists in voting rights and during their tenure in positions of power (Malik and Srivastava, 2011). Instances include segregation from higher-caste individuals, denial of access to public resources,

disregard for their decisions, and enduring a patriarchal, caste-biased society. While there has been progress in the numerical representation of Dalit women in panchayats, these entrenched biases continue to hinder their full enjoyment of constitutional freedoms and opportunities.

While these issues remain prominent, many other issues such as party politics in the grassroots level, the increasing digital divide, women's safety in Panchayats etc pose concrete challenges for women to exercise their powers and overall hampers the functioning of local governance in the country.

## **Recommendations**

- **Promote Education:** Encourage education among women, both leaders and voters, through awareness campaigns, improved access to quality schooling, and skill development opportunities.
- **Establish Monitoring Teams:** Create vigilant monitoring teams comprising women's organizations, community leaders, government officials, and gender equality experts to oversee women's participation in local bodies and ensure gender-sensitive policies are implemented.
- **Engage Civil Society:** Civil society organizations can provide capacity-building courses, leadership development programs, and technical skill development, as well as organize gender sensitization workshops and advocate for gender-responsive policies.
- **Uniform Women's Reservation:** Implement a uniform and mandated increase in women's reservation in Panchayati Raj institutions nationwide, accompanied by awareness campaigns and capacity-building for female candidates.
- **Mentorship Programs:** Engage experienced women leaders within Panchayati Raj to mentor and share their experiences with aspiring and current female leaders.
- **Bridge the Gender Digital Divide:** Prioritize reducing the gender digital divide by providing reliable internet connectivity, affordable digital devices, and tailored digital literacy programs for rural women.
- **Seat Rotation with Extended Tenures:** Introduce seat rotation with extended tenures of over 5 years to ensure deeper understanding and sustained focus on women's needs within Panchayati Raj institutions.

## **Conclusion**

The position of women in Indian panchayats reveals a complex struggle for gender equity in governance, entangled with

historical biases and contemporary challenges. This multifaceted issue demands a comprehensive strategy encompassing education and awareness. Affordable, quality education in rural areas is crucial, fostering informed decision-making. Simultaneously, dismantling the patriarchal structure is vital, moving beyond symbolic representation to empower women as effective change-makers. Transformative legislation, policy shifts, and attitudinal changes are essential. Balancing gender dynamics in politics is emphasized, requiring open dialogue alongside party-free elections. Women's engagement drives holistic growth, shaping comprehensive, compassionate, and equitable legislation. India's path forward lies in building an inclusive polity that empowers women as transformative forces in governance, uniting the nation's aspirations.

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# APPROACHING RESEARCH

My Journey as a Ph.D. Scholar



**Shukla Bose**  
Founder and CEO  
Parikrma Humanity Foundation

Many people thought I was unnecessarily inviting more stress and tension by attempting to do my Ph.D. at my advanced age. I was constantly reminded that I did not need to get a doctorate degree for any enhancement in my career or even recognition in my field, so why bother? Very few understood the reason I wanted to do my Ph.D. was to really become a student again. I promised myself that I would not allow this new responsibility to impinge on my work schedule or even commitment. In fact, no one in my workplace knew that I was doing my Ph.D. till the last two months before submission of my thesis. This journey of learning was therefore rather lonely but surprisingly an enjoyable one. Being a student after so many years and learning for pure learning's sake was a liberating experience. I wish that our students would get this experience of freedom and independence where they choose to study rather than being compelled to study.

I attended all the research methodology classes, sat for the term exams and began reading all the reference material that I could get my hands on. Since I have been working with children from the slums, I wanted to do my research on them. I wanted to put my 23 years of working in the field to some conclusions that I hope would help in policy making in the future. This journey was not as easy as I thought it would be. First, three guides chosen for me left the university and with that some of my options. I was first assigned a guide from Management, then Economics and

finally Public Policy. What seemed at that time an inconvenience, actually helped me to increase the depth and breadth of my learning and I am grateful for that. I was very fortunate that I eventually found Dr. Priyanka Mathur, Head and Associate Professor of CeRSSE, to guide me and that has been a joyful and invigorating learning experience.

The biggest roadblock that emerged was Covid-19. For several months I had to shift my gear into distribution of food in the slums and arrange for about 3000 people from the slums to get vaccinated. I am proud that because of all our efforts, there was no death in the slums that I have been working with and none of the 2000 children from my schools starved. When there was panic all around and the smell of death in the atmosphere, sitting and doing reference work was the last thing on my mind. But Covid-19 too, was a huge learning exercise. The theme of my research is the gap between policy and implementation and the pandemic flushed out into the open all the policies that seem so far removed from ground reality. Although I was derailed from my timelines of research by several months, and many a time even questioned whether I would ever be able to complete it with having contracted Covid three times, my realisation that I was on the right track of research got even further fortified.

Without wasting any time as soon as the lockdown was lifted, I started my fieldwork. It was not easy as all the schools were closed indefinitely. While it was easy for me to get the Parikrama schools opened and children of the age segment to come to school for the survey, it was not so easy with the other schools. Comparisons of learning outcomes of children from the slums with privileged children were the crux of my research. I had to therefore request government officials to open the government schools just for my research. Getting the children of high-end schools to come and answer the questionnaires physically and participate in the group discussions was even more difficult. I had to give written guarantees, have health officials over to supervise, take permission from the parents and a whole protocol had to be adhered to. The parents of privileged schools wanted their children to participate in an online session but that is not what I wanted and I had to stick to my ground. This difference of attitude of the parents of poor children as compared to privileged children was heart-breaking but a learning as well. It became even more obvious how uncared for, and neglected the children going to government schools are. And that is all that my research is all about.

Once the fieldwork was done, then began the grind of decoding the information and getting into analysis. This is a very tedious job and for someone who is far removed from sitting in front of the computer and rolling out numbers, it was sometimes back-

breaking. But my guide Priyanca Ma'am kept reminding me that this was the core of my research and all the reference study I had done was of no use if I could not arrive at a hypothesis of my own and did not substantiate it with data. I have to confess that there were times when I felt like seeking help to crunch the data. But then I told myself that if I had started doing my Ph.D. to learn new things then this was also something that I had to plod through. I am so happy that I could reach the finishing line of this task and the results were satisfying and aligned with my hypothesis. Then of course began the edits, numbering and paging of the written text. That was not a happy task either but a very important one. I began to realise the importance of commas, full stops and capital letters all the time. I even dreamt of it for several nights!

I submitted my thesis last month, just one day before my last date! This was especially significant for me because on the day of my submission, I celebrated my mother's 96th birthday and I could present my thesis as a birthday gift to her. I am so grateful that Priyanca Ma'am travelled with me through the process and kept me from falling off. Now I await to defend my thesis with baited breath. Taking the Slum out of the Child is the title of my thesis.



## BOOK REVIEW

### Social Movements and Systemic Alternatives



#### Social Movements and Radical Alternatives

Compiled and edited by Shrishtee Bajpai, Martin Aplaneta, Franco Augusto and Urvi Shah.

Published by Global Tapestry of Alternatives 2022

[globaltapestryofalternatives@riseup.net](mailto:globaltapestryofalternatives@riseup.net)



**D. Jeevan Kumar**

Hon. Professor

Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University  
Gadag, Karnataka, India

This is the 9th e-publication of the Global Tapestry of Alternatives (GTA) which attempts to explore narratives, reflections, debates and ruminations around systemic alternatives in the Social Movement spaces. What is the justification for this e-book? In the words of its Editors:

“We are today living in a world of profound crisis but also a world in profound flux, with major and sometimes dramatic movements erupting all over the world responding to the crises, and sometimes seeming to sweep history aside. With historical factors deeply embedded in these movements and processes across the world, they are trying to challenge the dominant systems of oppression and offer new politics ... or even sustain old but still relevant politics in a new context. These movements at some points are linear (emerging through a specific crisis), at others non-linear, spontaneous, often 'local' or regional but globally situated and impactful, manifested both in form of resistance and constructive alternatives at ground...”

GTA's attempt at putting this issue together emerges from its continued engagement in dialogues with other Social Movements and global mobilisation attempting systemic, fundamental transformations towards justice. In its experience, it is crucial to be in constant dialogue to find crucial paths in the long term, outside of the colonial mindset, towards systemic

alternatives. Its theme has a specific focus on alternatives, because for GTA, the role of Social Movements is as important in constructing alternatives as in resistance against systemic oppression.

Rather than offering 'a theory of change' to capitalism, anthropocentrism, patriarchy, statism, racism, among others, Social Movements need to offer a 'pluriverse' of alternatives to these crises. This could only be possible if Social Movements are self-reflecting in their process of emergence, change, internal democracy, and what new (or renewed) forms of politics they can offer by being grounded in everyday struggles. The contributions from Colombia, Argentina, India, Kurdistan, Thailand, Indonesia, and Timor Leste explore several questions relevant to the above.

The contributors explore the limitations of theoretical frameworks for Protest and Social Movements to deeply understand the emergent horizontal practices that are emerging from communities organising from below. They bring out the learnings emerging from the grassroots experiences of movements challenging the concentration of state power (or the notion of the state itself), patriarchy, colonialism, and capitalism.

The publication highlights key insights emerging from the movement spaces engaging with state power such as Left governments in Latin America, and the need for Social Movements to strengthen their autonomous capacity to construct grassroots transformative processes. Its contributors explore the role of grounded movements on regionalism and transnationalism from below that can challenge the dominant elite-centered and oligarchic regionalism.

By highlighting the issues of old Socialist and Leftist theories that very often are dogmatic and see only one way while rejecting others, the contributors speak to the idea of being grounded in creating real alternatives. They raise deep questions like the following:

- What could be the process of common envisioning among these radical processes and transitional movements that can transform the systems from local to global level?
- How do we combine resistances and alternatives in Social Movement spaces to effectively challenge growing Fascism, and move towards emancipatory/radical democracy?
- What special role are women, youth, indigenous peoples, and other marginalised sections playing in such movements?

This periodical is put together with the collaborative efforts of Shrishtee Bajpai, Martin Aplaneta, Franco Augusto and Urvi Shah. The publishers invite readers to engage, reflect and dialogue on the ideas in the e-book. They see it as a start to a long-term process of engaging with ideas, facilitating collaborations and initiating co-writing, co-learning and dialogical processes, all of this helping in the mobilisation needed to transform our societies.

The editors acknowledge that Social Movements is a vast subject, and that they have not been able to cover all the relevant aspects, but they do hope that the contributions in this issue will serve as a starting point to dive deeper.



introducing interdisciplinarity in higher education.

The course ended successfully with the online certificate distribution ceremony held on 30th September 2023. The centre had the honour to host Ambassador Dr. Deepak Vohra to preside over the ceremony. He addressed the participants with great enthusiasm highlighting the global megatrends and India's

rising status in the world. He responded to multiple questions raised by the participants during the session as well as shared some of his experience as a diplomat. The event ended by announcing the names of the participants who were eligible for certification. Below are the names of the participants who were certified.

Name	Designation	Institution
Aditya Raj Kanaujia	Student	Sonada College, Darjeeling
Adlin Pertishya J	Student	MCom, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Angel Roshni	Student	CeRSSE, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Ankur Baruah	Student	CeRSSE, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Anubhav Ghosh	Student	CMS, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Anusha P R	Student	Psychology, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Anushreya Megha Shyam	Student	JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Aseema Dhola	Student	CMS, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Ashika Rai	Student	Sonada College, Darjeeling
Ashvini Ghtikar	Student	Ramaiah College of Applied Sciences
Dr. Bhargavi D Hemmige	Professor	CMS, JAIN
Bukya Bavitha	Student	CeRSSE, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Dr Poulami Paul	Assistant Professor	Mount Carmel College
Harsh Philip Satish	Student	JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Harshita Singh	Student	JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Imtinaro Jamir	Student	CeRSSE, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
K Sai Akshay	Student	JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Kamakshi P	Student	Ramaiah College of Applied Sciences
Kanchan mn	Student	CeRSSE, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Kashmira Paul	Student	CMS, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Kaustubha S	Student	CMS, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
krutika s byahatti	Student	CMS, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
M N Mansi Kaveramma	Student	CMR School of Legal Studies
Mary Diana Kurbah	Student	CeRSSE, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Mayureena Sarmah	Student	Mount Carmel College
Najuma Naurin	Student	CeRSSE, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Nandini Vinod	Student	St. Joseph's University (ex), University of Bath
Nimna Aysa	Student	CeRSSE, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Poojari Ram Nagesh	Student	Ramaiah College of Applied Sciences
Prasurjya Pratim Kashyap	Student	CeRSSE, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Prateek Sah	Student	CMS, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Purnima Vivek	Student	CMS, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Raseen Mohsina Shah	Student	Mount Carmel College
Rittik Kashyap	Student	CeRSSE, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Riya Ahuja	Student	CMS, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Rizwana K R	Student	CMS, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
S B Thanigaivelan	Student	SRM University
Sameera M	Student	Ramaiah College of Applied Sciences
Samir Gautam	Student	CMS, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)

Sanchana S Pardikar	Student	Ramaiah College of Applied Sciences
Sanju Xavier	Faculty	CMS, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Shivani Manoj	Student	Economics, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Shreya Topno	Student	CeRSSE, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Silla Sadhvi	Student	CMS, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Smitha G L	Faculty	Sivananda Sarma Memorial RV College
Sowmyashree Guruprasaad	Student	CeRSSE, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Sri Basalingappa Y Aravalad	Faculty	JSS Banashankari Arts Commerce & SK Gubbi Science College
Trishala I. S	Student	Student
Vidushi Sinha	Student	Lady Shri Ram College
Vishnygayathre S	Student	Kumaraguru College of Liberal Arts and Science

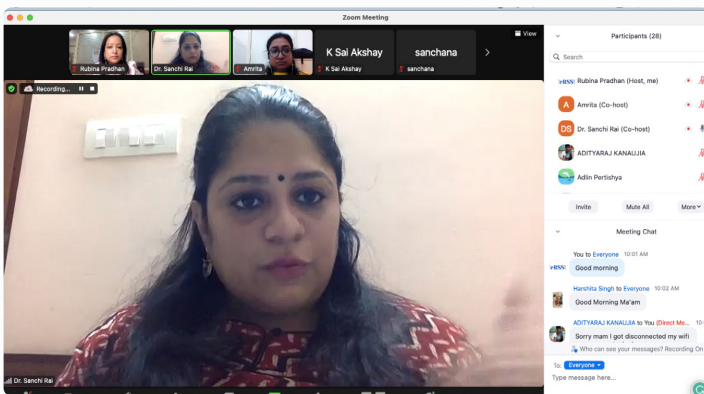
PHOTOGRAPHS



Session 1(b) with Prof. Rajesh Rajagopalan as the resource person



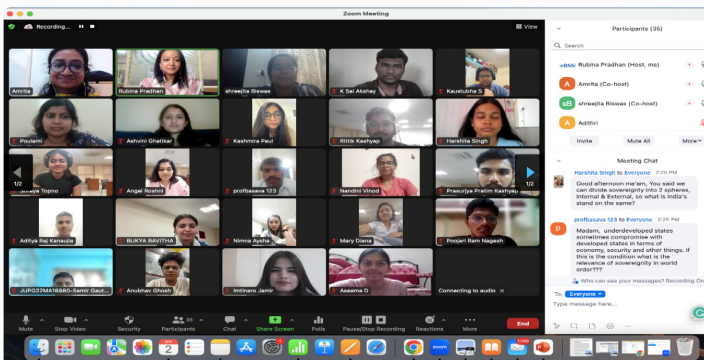
Session 3 with Dr. Debangana Chatterjee as the resource person



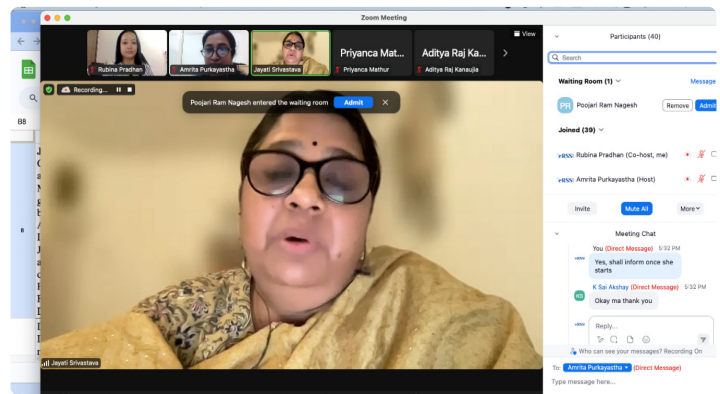
Session 2(a) with Dr. Sanchi Rai as the resource person



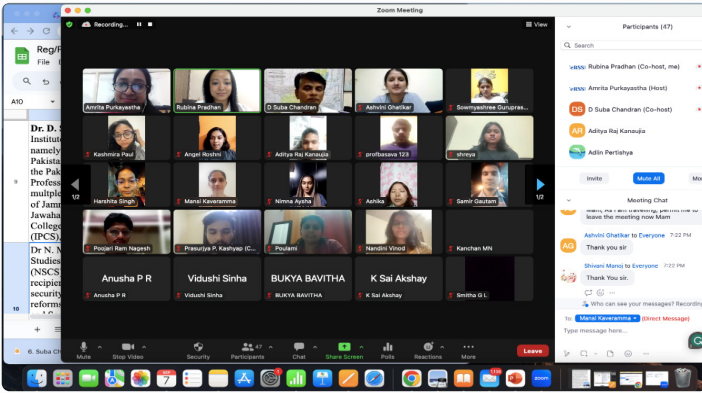
Session 4 with Dr. Nanda Kishore as the resource person



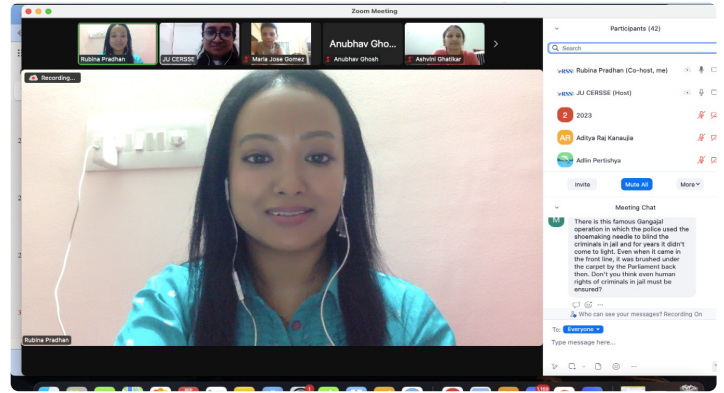
Session 2(b) with Dr. Shreejita Biswas as the resource person



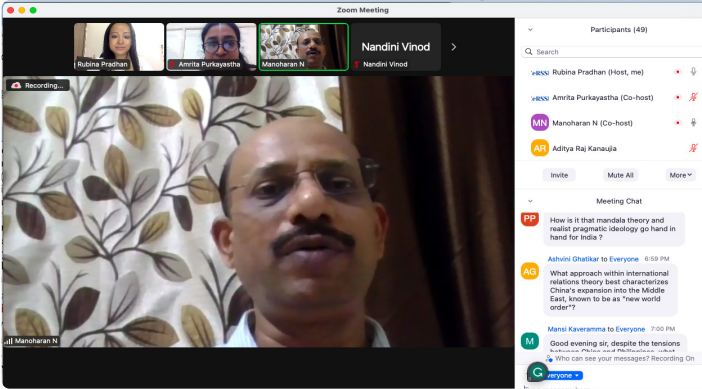
Session 5 with Prof. Jayati Srivastava as the resource person



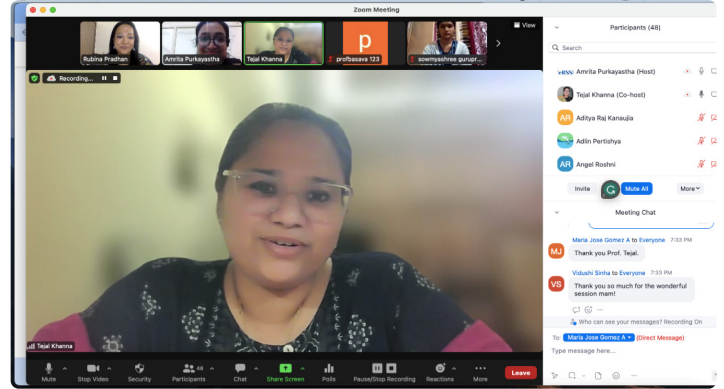
Session 6 with Dr. Suba Chandran as the resource person



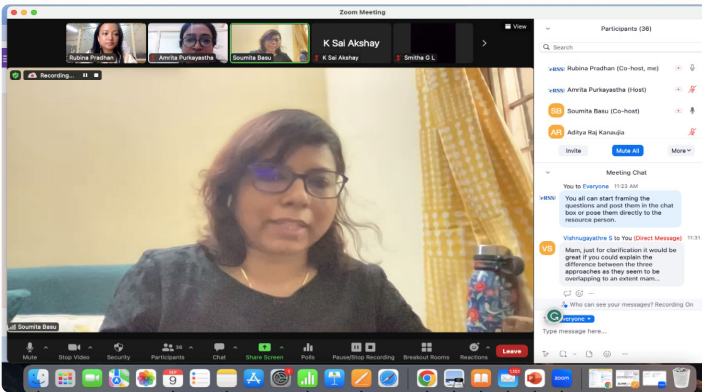
Session 9 with Dr. Rubina Pradhan as the resource person



Session 7 with Dr. Manoharan N. as the resource person



Session 10 with Dr. Tejal Khanna as the resource person



Session 8(a) with Dr. Soumita Basu as the resource person



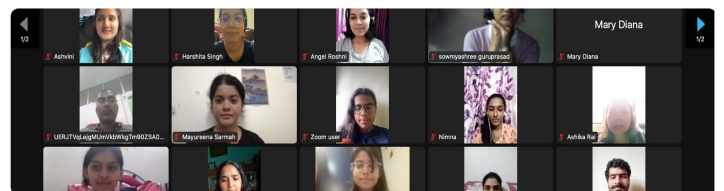
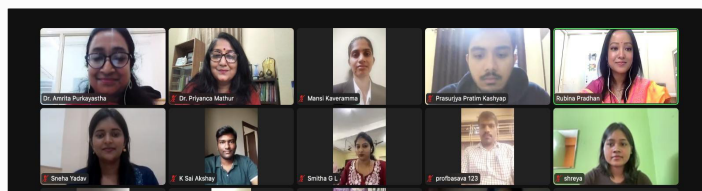
Session 11 with Prof. Shibashish Chatterjee



Session 8(b) with Prof. M. J. Vinod as the resource person



Amb. (Dr.) Deepak Vohra presiding over the online certificate distribution ceremony



Participants during the certificate distribution ceremony

## DEEKSHARAMBH- STUDENT INDUCTION PROGRAMME

Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CeRSSE), JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) has successfully conducted the "Deeksharambh- Student Induction programme" between 21st August and 2nd September 2023. The purpose of 'Deeksharambh - Student Induction Programme' was to help new students adjust and feel comfortable in the new environment, inculcate in them the ethos and culture of the institution, help them build bonds with other students and faculty members, and expose them to a sense of larger purpose and self-exploration. The term induction is generally used to describe the whole process whereby the incumbents adjust to or acclimatize to their new roles and environment. In other words, it was a well-planned event to educate the new entrants about the environment in a particular institution and connect them with the people in it.

The Student Induction Programme engaged with the new students as soon as they came into the institution before regular classes started. At the start of the induction, the incumbents learned about the institutional policies, processes, practices, culture and values, and their mentor groups were formed.

Student induction tried to cover a number of different aspects (SAGE):

**Socializing:** meeting other new students, senior students, students' union, lectures by Eminent People;

**Associating:** visits to university/college, visits to Dept./Branch/ Programme of study and important places in campus, local area, city and so on;

**Governing:** rules and regulations, student support etc.;

**Experiencing:** Subject lectures, study skills, small-group activities, physical activity, creative and performing arts, literary activities, universal human values, etc.

The 11-day program included different sessions that had guest lectures delivered by eminent academic personalities, soft-skill-building, mind management, creative art sessions, and book-reading sessions among others. Throughout the program, the students were not only welcomed by their peers but they were also introduced to the programmes and ethos of the department.



Book Discussion session at Bishop Cotton Women's College (22nd August 2023)



Dr. Srikant Swami addressed the students regarding the importance of research



Yoga session with Mr. Dharmendra Soni (23rd August 2023)



Students displayed their creativity through poster-making addressing the social issues amidst Chandrayaan



Students during the book reading session (26th August 2023)



Students in the mind management session



Prof R. S. Deshpande addressed the students regarding policies and practices in India



Students were introduced to counselling and mental health on the last day (02nd September 2023)



# STUDENTS' CORNER

## Compiled by

**Ankur Boruah, Shreya Topno, Angel Roshni and Kanchan M.N**  
 Sem 1 MA in Political Science and International Relations Students  
 CeRSSE, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)

### “DEEKSHARAMBH”

The Program overall was amazing, fun, enjoyable and most importantly we all have gained knowledge and one or the other. It was a great experience as I have never done anything as such in my previous academic years and it was a very good start before for our regular classes

MARY DIANA(MAPSIR-1)

The orientation programme played a very crucial role It introduced us to the campus facilities, academic resources, and other services. The social events and ice-breaking activities helped us connect

with each other and build the confidence needed for the start. The whole program was very interesting and made us excited for future classes at the university

NIMNA AYSHA (MAPSIR -1)

My adjustment into university life was definitely aided by this interesting and enjoyable experience. The programme gave useful details on campus amenities, university policies, and academic resources. Engaging sessions, group exercises, Cubbon Reads, and campus tours, was really refreshing. We could effectively cover all the crucial issues without feeling hurried because the agenda was well-organised and kept to the timing. I'm excited and confident to begin my academic career at JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) because of the insightful knowledge I got during the orientation.



Fresher's Day



Visit to JAIN Global Campus



Cubbon Reads



Yoga Day

## ONAM EXTRAVAGANZA



"The spirit of Onam penetrated Jain University as the colourful petals of marigold adorned our campus. The Onam festival this year, which took place on August 29, 2023, was nothing short of spectacular bringing together our diverse community in an exuberant display of culture and love. The day began with traditional Athapookalam done by students and teachers. Our students also participated in the celebrations by wearing Kerala sarees which just added to the festive atmosphere. The celebrations continued with an enthralling cultural performance that included vibrant dances. It was heartwarming to see the students embracing Kerala's rich customs. I thank the department of CeRSSE for giving us this opportunity where we can reflect on the importance of embracing diversity and coming together as a community"

Najuma Naurin (MAPSIR-1)



Riya Itisha Ekka and Yashaswini Sedde ( MAPPA Sem 3)  
at G20 Ministerial Conference

## G20 Experience

### Riya Itisha Ekka

Student, Masters in Public Policy and Administration (SEM 3),  
Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CeRSSE)  
Jain (Deemed-to-be) University, Bangalore

As I reminisce on the G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment, which took place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, from August 2 to August 4, 2023, I am overwhelmed with emotions. The theme, "Women Led Inclusive Development on the Cusp of Intergenerational Transformation," grasped a profound nerve within me, invoking a mix of inspiration, hope and trepidation. It was an extraordinary experience to be present at an event of this scale and significance. The sheer number

of delegates, 139 in all, from all over the world, attested to the significance of the cause. As I entered the conference location, I couldn't help but be struck by the meeting of so many determined individuals working for women's empowerment. The opening session was a powerful beginning, and statements by eminent people such as Shri. Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Shri. Narendra Modi, and Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai set the tone for what was to come. Their speeches were uplifting, and it was clear that this conference was more than just a gathering; it was a call to action, a push to accelerate women's empowerment. Throughout the conference, I was involved in passionate discussions with fellow attendees. The subjects covered everything from the value of education to the role of women in developing technologies and climate resilience. The urgency of these discussions was evident, and grappling with the complicated difficulties that women confront around the world was both energizing and overwhelming at times. One constant issue that resonated with me was the necessity of education. The discussions on education as a game-changing avenue to women's empowerment and the importance of digital skilling struck an important connection. Witnessing the united commitment to offer women access to STEM education and digital literacy was inspiring, but it also reminded me of the enormous obstacles that still need to be addressed.

As the meeting headed, I couldn't help but feel an increasing feeling of duty. Stories of women breaking barriers and contributing to cutting-edge fields in quantum physics and hydrogen energy were both inspirational and humbling. It caused me to consider my own role and how I could contribute to such revolutionary change. The closing ceremony was a poignant moment, marked by the passing of the baton to Brazil, symbolizing the continuation of the journey towards gender equality. Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani's final speech resonated deeply, emphasizing the importance of international cooperation. It made me acutely aware of the interconnectedness of our world and the shared responsibility we all bear in advancing the cause of women's empowerment. As I left the conference venue on the last day, I felt a whirlwind of emotions. The cultural program that showcased Gujarat's rich heritage was a beautiful reminder of the importance of preserving and celebrating diverse cultures. It left me with a profound appreciation for the cultural tapestry of our world.

In retrospect, I can't help but feel both optimistic and impatient. The optimism stems from the conference's demonstration that change is achievable and that there is a global community committed to this great goal. The challenges are enormous, and there is a lot of work to be done. The conference's symphony of voices, ideas, and projects serves as a striking reminder of the country's enduring dedication to gender equality. As I return to my own community, I bring the lessons learned and inspiration received from the G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment with me.

Every small step counts, and collectively, we can promote sustainable development, innovation, and long-term societal change. My hope is that the conference's momentum will continue to spread, impacting lives and making a difference for women all around the world.



*Riya Itisha Ekka and Shatabdi Kalita  
(MAPPA SEM 3)*

### **Shatabdee Kalita**

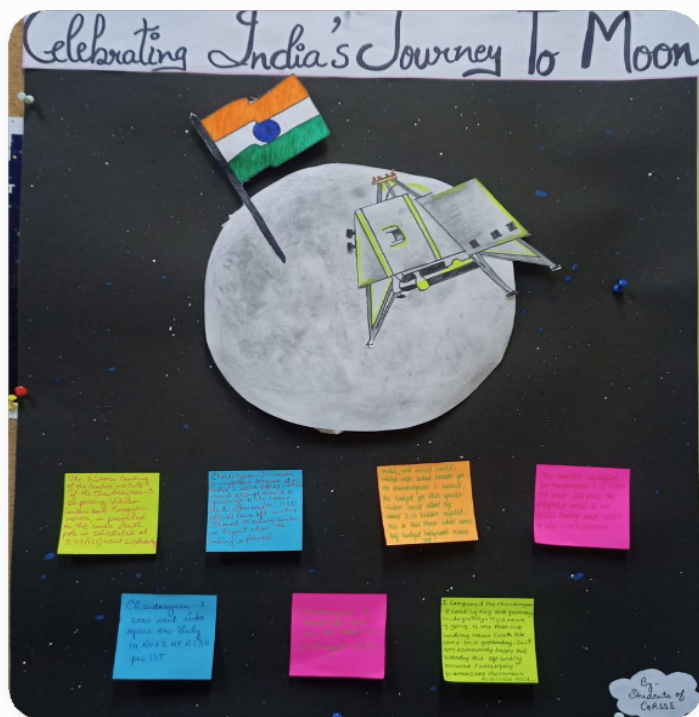
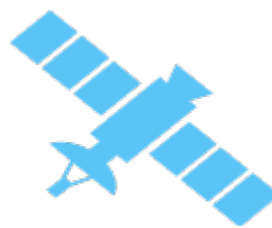
Student, Masters in Public Policy and Administration (SEM3) Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CeRSSE), JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), Bangalore

Decentralisation has been a part of the Indian state even before the British time, dating back to the Vedic era. However, the process of decentralization, after the independence of the country, got a concrete foundation through the constitutional provisions given by the 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts in 1992. Since then, there have been major reforms brought into the grassroots administration in the rural and urban areas of India. Hence, in order to celebrate three decades of the 73rd Amendment to the Indian Constitution, a two-day national seminar was held in Gadag, Karnataka with the theme of Gram Swaraj and Panchayati Raj: A Journey in the State of Karnataka. It was held from 1st September to 2nd September 2023 in Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayati Raj University, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Public Administration and the Government of Karnataka.

I feel grateful to be a part of this national seminar and to be able to represent my institute there. The seminar was filled with great resource persons from all over the country. With several Panel discussions, the seminar also included technical sessions based on sub-themes, where people from various locations presented their papers. Me and my teammate Riya Itisha Ekka were presenters in the seminar, with our paper titled Political Participation in India: Assessing Women's Representation in Panchayati Raj. We were reciprocated with appreciation and feedback that we have held near to us so as to move forward in our academic careers and personal lives. Besides the academic domain, lectures, and discussions, we were also welcomed by some beautiful cultural programs like dance performances, singing, mime shows, yoga, and so on. In the course of our stay, we could also explore bits and parts of places in Gadag, which is undoubtedly filled with mesmerizing scenic beauty and pleasant weather. In addition, we got an opportunity to try out their cuisine and dishes, which were lip-smacking.

While these were the best parts of the seminar, the only barrier that we faced was that of majority of the speakers delivered their lectures in Kannada which is unknown to us, given we belong to North India and are more acquainted with Hindi. However, we were able to overcome this by making new connections with Kannada people who were also attending the seminar and helped us with the translation and understanding. Altogether, it has been an experience worth remembering in my life along with the many lessons, academic or otherwise which will help me become a better student, a learner, and above all, a better human being in the fast-paced world.

CHANDRAYAAN UTSAV



August 23,2023, a day to remember for all Indians as Chandrayaan 3 made history by touching down on the moon's surface. Being the only nation to achieve a gentle landing at the south pole of the moon, India's achievement was cause for celebration. Our ISRO scientists worked long hours and through the night to make this mission a success. To share this delight and success students of CeRSSE sang Songs and created a poster honouring Chandrayaan 3. The students had the chance to demonstrate their admiration for the scientific advances that have transformed our country.  
-Angel Roshni (MAPSIR SEM1)

In the classroom's gentle embrace, we find,  
A bond between hearts, one of a kind.  
Teacher and student, hand in hand,  
Together we journey, understand.

With wisdom's torch, you light the way,  
Guiding through night into the day.  
In your words, a world unfurls,  
For eager minds, the endless pearls.

You nurture dreams, you fan the flame,  
In your care, we find our aim.  
Through struggles, triumphs, highs, and lows,  
Your patient spirit always glows.

You're more than lessons, facts, and rules,  
You're mentors, shaping future jewels.  
In your lessons, life's truths we glean,  
In your presence, we find a dream.

Ankur Boruah (MAPSIR SEM1)

**A BEAUTIFUL BLESSING!**

God has given us a beautiful blessing  
A blessing that teaches us sharing and caring  
He gave her qualities without measure  
She shares wisdom from God's treasure

She is a beacon in the dark  
Lighting our path at every mark  
She encourages in every way  
Motivates to do better every day

Her every word leaves a mark  
Lifelong lesson for every journey to embark  
She inspires with her grace  
On how to win life's race

God wrapped this gift with tender care  
A gift no one can compare  
To every class she gives her best  
Remind us we are so blessed

A tribute I wish to write  
To those helping us shine bright  
Always giving us a part of their light  
To make us strong for life's long fight

Yashaswini Sedde (MAPPA SEM3)

# FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

All students and Faculties of CeRSSE attended the Prelude Conference of Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) Karnataka Regional Branch on 'New Paradigms of Governance' held at Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bengaluru on 22nd September, 2023 from 10.00am onwards.



## Dr. Priyanca Mathur and Dr. Rubina Pradhan attended the following event

IIPA-KRB, IAS Officers' Association-Karnataka and KAS Officers' Association-Karnataka

Date: 5th July, 2023

Time: 4:00 pm

Venue: Multipurpose Hall, IAS Officers' Association Building, No.1, Infantry Road,  
Bengaluru-560001

Topic - Building State Capacity

By

Dr. Ramaswami Balasubramaniam

Member (HR)

Capacity Building Commission

Government of India, New Delhi



Dr. Priyanca Mathur, Dr. Rubina Pradhan and Dr. Amrita Purkayastha attended IQAC Sponsored Lecture titled 'Experiential Learning How to Facilitate Teaching and Evaluation' delivered by Dr. Srikanta Swamy, Director, Centre for Researcher Training and Administration, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), on 2nd August 2023, 14:30-16:30

**Dr. PRIYANCA MATHUR**

Attended a conference on centenary celebration of Karnataka Administrative Services

Date: 9/8/23, Time: 12:00- 16:00

Place: Vidhan Soudha, Bangalore

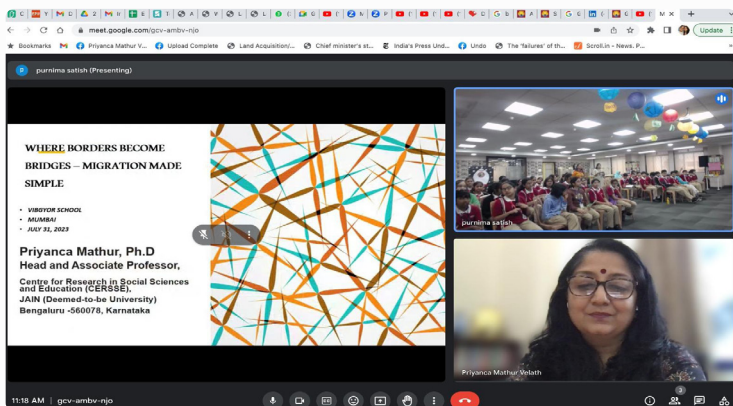





## Lectures Delivered

Online Lecture delivered at Vibgyor School, Mumbai on 'Where Borders Become Bridges - Migration Made Simple'

Date: 31/07/23



Lecture delivered on Instagram about Education & Young People organised by DreamadreamIndia.

Date: 6/7/23


CATCH US  
**LIVE ON INSTAGRAM**  
TODAY AT 5 PM

AS WE DISCUSS

**Education and Young People**



**DR. PRIYANKA MATHUR**  
Head and Associate Professor,  
Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CRSSE), Jain University



**SUCHITHA B**  
Manager, Narrative Building

**@dreamadream\_india**

Join me at Instalive at 5pm today on the Dreamadream India handle chatting with Suchitha.

Online Lecture delivered on Gender Perspective on Refugees, Human Rights & Peace at Sansristi and Prajnaya

Date: 21/09/23

Sansristi and Prajnaya  
present

# Peace and Gender

A Lunchtime Lecture Series  
September 18-22 2023  
1-2 p.m.  
Sessions will be held on Zoom.

Lectures are free.  
To register, please enrol at:  
<https://cutt.ly/PGLL923>

Attendance certificates  
available upon request,  
to those who attend all five lectures.

For queries, email:  
[peace.prajnya@gmail.com](mailto:peace.prajnya@gmail.com)




Monday, September 18, 2023  
Session 1:  
**Gender, Peace, Security**  
Rita Manchanda  
Researcher, writer and activist

Tuesday, September 19, 2023  
Session 2:  
**The Women, Peace and Security  
Agenda: 1325 and Beyond**  
Dr. Anuradha Chenoy  
Former Dean (Retd.), SIS,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University

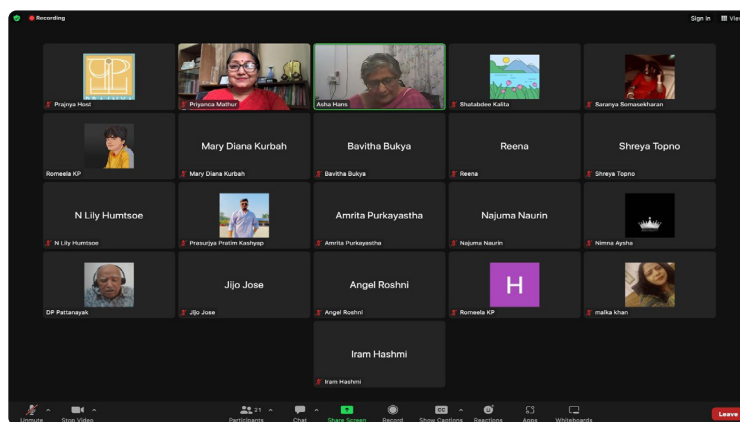
Wednesday, September 20, 2023  
Session 3:  
**Gender and Disarmament**  
United Nations Regional Centre  
for Peace and Disarmament  
in Asia and the Pacific Team

Thursday, September 21, 2023  
Session 4:  
**Gender Perspectives on  
Refugees, Human Rights and  
Peace**  
Dr. Priyanka Mathur  
JAIN (Deemed) University

Friday, September 22, 2023  
Session 5:  
**Paigham-e-Aman:  
Enter the Women**  
Syeda S. Hameed  
Writer and peace activist

## Publications:

Mathur, P. (2023). Caught in the Crossfire: Myanmarese Refugees in India. Journal of Contemporary Politics. 2(1). 31-36. <https://jcp.bujournals.com/articles/caught-in-the-crossfire-myanmarrese-refugees-in-india>



Book Discussion

Discussion on "Discovering New India"

Date: 22/07/23, Time: 11 AM

Place: Bishop Cotton Women's College, Bengaluru

**Bishop Cotton Women's Christian College**  
Department of English Studies  
*Enheduanna*

In association with the  
**EKAM SAT TRUST**  
cordially invite you to

**Book Discussion on**  
**Discovering New India**  
Multiculturalism | Pluralism | Harmony

A Ravindra  
Priyanca Mathur

Initiated by the book editor Dr. Priyanca Mathur and chapter author Dr. Jeevan Kumar

Dr. Amitha Santiago,  
Dean and Head  
Post Graduate Studies  
Department of English Studies  
Bishop Cotton Women's Christian College

Diana Sushmitha  
Faculty coordinator

TIME: 11:00 am  
DATE: 22nd August, 2023  
VENUE: HRD Hall, PG campus,  
Bishop Cotton Women's Christian College.

Paper Presentation

Title: New Public Administration

Date: 22/10/23

Place: Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences



Dr. RUBINA PRADHAN

Participated in A Two-Day Immersive Online Discussion Workshop on "Feminist Foreign Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region", An Online International Workshop Program September 19-20, 2023

#WebPolicyLearning

An Online International Workshop Program

**FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

Program Themes- Day 1: Climate Change | Day 2: Transnational Solidarity for Peace

Chair	Panelists	Host	Convener
Prof Vibhuti Patel	Ms Farida Akhter, Ms Priti Darooka, Dr Lavanya Shanbhogue Arvind	Ms Irene Santiago	Dr Athiqah Nur Alami, Dr Vahida Nainar, Ms Harshaa Kawatra, Dr Simi Mehta

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[www.impriindia.com/event/feminist-foreign-policy-in-asia-pacific/](http://www.impriindia.com/event/feminist-foreign-policy-in-asia-pacific/)

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IMPRI Impact and Policy Research Institute, New Delhi

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION**

An Online International Workshop Program  
A Two-Day Immersive Online Discussion Workshop

**FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

September 19 & 20, 2023

We proudly present this Certificate to

*Dr. Rubina Pradhan*

Certificate Number: IMPRI23FFP0230 | Date: September 30, 2023

Prof Vibhuti Patel, Chair | Dr Simi Mehta, Convener

Dr Arjun Kumar, Director, IMPRI

#WebPolicyLearning | [www.impriindia.com](http://www.impriindia.com)

Delivered a lecture on **Human Rights and World Politics** as a part of the online certificate course on **International Politics** organised by CeRSSE, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University).



#### Publications:

Pradhan, Rubina. (2023). Evaluating Public Policy Approaches to Women's Empowerment During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Perspective from the Global South. In: Adam, H., Rena, R. (eds) Political Economy of Development in the Global South Post-COVID-19 Pandemic. Springer, Singapore. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-4074-5\\_6](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-4074-5_6)

Link: [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-99-4074-5\\_6](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-99-4074-5_6)

Pradhan, Rubina (2023). "European Union Emissions Trading Scheme: A Prototype for Global Emissions Reduction Mechanism" , NIAS Europe Studies Brief, NIAS/CSS/CRPR/U/IB/14/2023. NIAS Area Studies Brief No. 60, NIAS Europe Studies 26 July 2023.

Link: [https://globalpolitics.in/view\\_cir\\_articles.php?ArticleNo=1017&url=NIAS%20Europe%20Studies%20Brief&recordNo=1110](https://globalpolitics.in/view_cir_articles.php?ArticleNo=1017&url=NIAS%20Europe%20Studies%20Brief&recordNo=1110)

## SNEHA YADAV

#### Publication:

Article in Eurasia Review Title: Diplomatic Dissonance: Strained Relations Between India And Canada – OpEd <https://www.eurasiareview.com/26092023-diplomatic-dissonance-strained-relations-between-india-and-canada-oped/> (ISSN 2330-717X)

Date: 26 September 2023

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