



EDITORIAL NOTE/NOTA EDITORIAL

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This special issue, dedicated to India and focusing on its rise on the international stage, foreign relations and global implications, attempts to explain and understand the changes and transformations in its role in the emerging new international order.

Coordinated by Professor Shantanu Chakrabarti of the University of Calcutta, the special issue brings together a group of professors and researchers to provide a comprehensive overview of India's relations with various countries. Beginning with the United States, China, and Russia, the issue highlights India's complex management of diversification and its interactions with key partners, particularly the major nuclear powers. These interactions have evolved from "conventional compartmentalised bilateralism" to an "increasingly interconnected strategic ecosystem shaped by defense-industrial linkages, geo-economic networks, and the diplomatic logic of rivalrous multipolarity". Its policies towards developing countries and its non-alignment are also highlighted in various articles. The important role of soft power in its foreign policy approaches is also pointed out, as are the illusions created outside military and traditional systems of power. These illusions, as in the case of the European Union and its proverbial lack of vision, have collapsed with the decline of the order created by the United States after World War II and the end of the Cold War.

Other aspects highlighted include the role of its multiple diasporas and the potential influence of the Indian culture.

This issue also covers specific articles on relations with the United States in the Indo-Pacific, as well as different assessments of regional security, and the balance and priorities of the Indian Ocean versus the Pacific. The different priorities and limitations in interaction with the European Union are clearly explained, as are India's cautious approaches to Israel and the Middle East. Finally, several articles attempt to unravel the changing contours of relations with South Asia, examining the recent challenges posed by Taliban-ruled Afghanistan and Bangladesh following the overthrow of Sheikh Hasina.

However, it does not cover India's relations with Pakistan or other important Asia-Pacific countries such as Japan, Australia and South Korea. The rivalry between India and Pakistan, as well as India's relations with Japan and the QUAD, will be discussed in detail in future issues of the journal.

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