

**USI-MGIMO UNIVERSITY SEMINAR ON 'INDIA AND RUSSIA IN COMMON
STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD'**

28 MARCH 2024

<u>Time</u>	<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Events</u>
0930-1000 h	30	Welcome Tea & Registration
1000-1005 h	05	Welcome Remarks - Maj Gen RS Yadav, VSM (Retd) Director, CS3, USI
<u>Session I: Shifting Towards Multilateral World Order: Russia's and India's Approaches to Common Strategic Neighbourhood</u>		
1005-1015 h	10	Introductory Remarks - Maj Gen BK Sharma, AVSM, SM** (Retd), Director General, USI (Moderator)
1015-1030 h	15	'Shifting Towards Multilateral World Order: Russia's and India's Approaches to Common Strategic Neighbourhood' - Russian Vision by Prof Alexander I. Nikitin
1030-1045 h	15	'Shifting Towards Multilateral World Order: Russia's and India's Approaches to Common Strategic Neighbourhood' - Indian Vision by Ambassador Pankaj Saran, IFS (Retd)
1045-1125 h	40	Open House (including Concluding Remarks by the Moderator)
1125-1145 h	20	Tea Break
<u>Session 2: Geostrategic Implications of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) and BRICS Expansion. Russia's and India's Alliances</u>		
1145-1155 h	10	Introductory Remarks - Maj Gen RS Yadav, VSM (Retd), Director, CS3, USI (Moderator)
1155-1210 h	15	Geostrategic Implications of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) and BRICS Expansion - Russia's Alliances by Ambassador Kirill M. Barskiy
1210-1225 h	15	Geostrategic Implications of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) and BRICS Expansion - India's Alliances by Ambassador Asoke Mukerji, IFS (Retd)
1225-1300 h	35	Open House (including Concluding Remarks by the Moderator)
1300-1340 h	40	Lunch
<u>Session 3: Changes in the Role of International Law and of Military Power in the Current World Order</u>		
1340-1350 h	10	Introductory Remarks - Lt Gen Harsha Gupta, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, VSM (Retd) (Moderator)
1350-1405 h	15	Changes in the Role of International Law and of Military Power in the Current World Order by Ambassador Mark. L. Entin
1405-1420 h	15	Changes in the Role of International Law and of Military Power in the Current World Order by Wg Cdr UC Jha (Retd)
1420-1500 h	40	Open House (including Concluding Remarks by the Moderator)
1500-1515 h	15	Exchange of Mementos & Group Photograph



Welcome Remarks by Maj Gen BK Sharma AVSM, SM (Retd), Director General, USI**



Panel 1

Session 1 – Shifting Towards Multilateral World Order: Russia’s and India’s Approaches to Common Strategic Neighbourhood

- India's strategic stance is characterised by a deliberate emphasis on balanced development, self-reliance, and inclusive growth. India has been actively participating in a myriad of global forums and initiatives, including the MTCR, BRICS, International Solar Alliance, and the disaster-resilient infrastructure coalition, thus, fostering collaborative solutions on a multifaceted international stage.
- The relationship between India and Russia has been historically shaped by various factors, including the ascent of China. Additionally, the prevalence of terrorism and Islamic radicalisation in India's vicinity poses significant hurdles for fostering cooperation between India and Russia. However, the absence of a shared border between the two countries confers diplomatic advantages and security considerations, particularly in the context of security challenges emanating from China, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

- The ongoing global order transition signifies a shift towards multipolarity and a reconfiguration of geopolitics, influenced by pivotal events such as US withdrawal from Afghanistan, Gaza Crisis, and tensions in the Indo-Pacific region. This transformation underscores the need for sustained dialogue and adaptation to novel security concepts. Collaboration and alignment of both countries interests in addressing security challenges, including the prospect of a China-Pakistan-Russia military alliance, necessitates in-depth exploration.
- The evolving dynamics among Russia, India, China, and the United States underscore the complexity of global interactions and the need for a nuanced understanding of the strategic landscape. India's ties with the United States are influenced by its strategic neighbourhood. However, Russia's ties to the US are influenced by the Euro-American relations and the policies of European powers towards the Eurasian landmass. These contrasting interests are guiding the policies of both Russia and India in their strategic neighbourhood.
- The rise of China is altering power dynamics in Central Asia as well. Central Asian republics view India as a viable third option, offering prospects for fostering goodwill and stability. Addressing connectivity challenges and implementing initiatives such as the North-South Transport Corridor are a deemed imperative.



Panel 2

Session 2 - Geostrategic Implications of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) and BRICS Expansion. Russia's and India's Alliances

- The Global West is already in decline and a multipolar world order is taking shape. However, this will take time to come to fruition. It will be hard to streamline relationships in multi-polar world order. Fostering alignments in the such conditions would be a challenge but critical for nations to thrive.
- Countries in the global South including India, China, and Russia, are asserting themselves on the global stag. They offer alternative models to traditional Western frameworks. This shift in power dynamics reflects a broader trend of decentralization in international relations.
- India' s aspiration to become a developed nation by 2047 relies on international cooperation. International trade contributes a significant share to India's GDP. India must actively work on co-operation in trade and economy to achieve the status of a 'developed' country. By actively engaging with multilateral platforms like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS, India aims to harness collective efforts towards achieving its developmental goals and enhance its global standing.
- The SCO, now consisting of 26 countries, aims to drive towards a new world order by addressing security and encouraging regional cooperation, particularly in trade and economy. India's participation in SCO is motivated by countering terrorism and expanding regional influence.
- BRICS operates as an informal group, offering flexibility but also unpredictability in its actions. Expansion of BRICS contributes to strengthening multilateralism and cooperation between the countries in digital and energy security, as well as land connectivity.



Panel 3

Session 3 – Changes in the Role of International Law and Law of Military Power in the Current World Order

- An inclusive global governance framework respecting all nations' sovereignty and territorial integrity is required. Collaborative efforts to address challenges and resolve conflicts were promoted as a replacement for the previous unipolar dominance of a single superpower. The focus was placed on adherence to international legal norms rather than unilateral actions by major powers.
- There is a need to update and evolve international laws to govern the complexities of modern warfare, such as the involvement of non-state actors, rapid technological advancements impacting military capabilities. Existing frameworks require reassessment to address issues such as the use of autonomous weapons, cyber warfare, militarization of space.
- There are major concerns about actions by powerful nations that violate the tenets of international law and the principles of the UN Charter. These concerns include infringement of intellectual property rights, imposition of unilateral economic sanctions, and conducting military interventions that disregard national sovereignty.
- The constructive contributions of smaller nations, particularly EU members, in facilitating dialogue, mediating conflicts through diplomacy, and upholding international law should be given importance over unilateral interventions. The need for respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity alongside collaborative conflict resolution based on UN principles is deemed crucial.
- Comprehensive reforms should be proposed to restructure the UNSC composition, decision-making mechanisms, and enforcement capabilities to reflect modern geopolitical realities.



Group Photograph



Exchange of Mementos

Report by Research Interns CS3, USI