



## 5<sup>TH</sup> WEST ASIA CONFERENCE

### India's Approach to West Asia: Trends, Challenges and Possibilities

March 29-30, 2022

#### PROGRAMME

#### Day One: March 29, 2022

#### Welcome Remarks: 11:30 AM –11:40 AM (IST)

Amb. Sujan R. Chinoy, *Director General, MP-IDSA, New Delhi*

#### SESSION ONE: 11:40 AM – 01:40 PM (IST)

#### India and West Asia: Adapting to Changing Realities

**Chair:** Amb. Sujan R. Chinoy, *Director General, MP-IDSA*

Speakers: 15 minutes each

1. Amb. Dr. Ezzat Saad El Sayed, Director, Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, Cairo  
*Egyptian perspective of India- Egypt bilateral relations*
2. Dr. Ali Al Qarni, Director, Asian Studies, Prince Saud Al Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies, Riyadh  
*Saudi-India bilateral relations: Opportunities and challenges*
3. Amb. Talmiz Ahmad, Former Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia, UAE and Oman  
*West Asia: New challenges and fresh alignments in a turbulent regional scenario*
4. Amb. Dore Gold, President, Jerusalem Centre for Public Affairs, Jerusalem  
*Why the Quad?*

#### *Q&A Session*

**SESSION TWO: 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM (IST)**

**Regional geopolitics and security in West Asia**

**Chair:** Prof. Gulshan Dietl (Retd.), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

**Speakers:** 15 minutes each

1. Dr. Andrey Kortunov, Director General, Russian International Affairs Council, Moscow
2. Prof. Mehmet Seyfettin Erol, President, Ankara Centre for Crisis and Policy Studies, Ankara  
*Central-South Asia in the changing geopolitics of Western Asia: The New Spice Route*
3. Mr. Goor Tsalalyachin, Executive Director, The Abba Eban Institute for International Diplomacy, Reichman University, Herziliya, Israel
4. Dr. Muddassir Quamar, Associate Fellow, MP-IDSA, New Delhi  
*Non-State actors and regional stability in West Asia*

***Q&A Session***

**Day Two: March 30, 2022**

**SESSION THREE: 11:00 AM – 01:00 PM (IST)**

**Energy and Diaspora**

**Chair:** Dr. Meena Singh Roy, Senior Fellow and Head, West Asia and Eurasia, Tillotoma Foundation, and Distinguished Fellow, Middle East Institute, New Delhi

**Speakers:** 15 minutes each

1. Prof. S. Irudaya Rajan, Chairman, International Institute of Migration and Development, Thiruvananthapuram and Dr. H. Arokkiaraj, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Youth and Development, Chennai  
*Challenges facing Indian migrant workers in the Gulf during the Covid-19 pandemic*
2. Dr. N. Janardhan, Senior Research Fellow, Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy, Abu Dhabi  
*COVID Tests Resilience of 'Common' Gulf Indians*
3. Dr. P K Pradhan, Associate Fellow and Coordinator, West Asia centre, MP-IDSA  
*Indians in the Gulf during the pandemic: Analysing response from India and the regional countries*
4. Dr. Abdulla Al Abbasi, Research Fellow, Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat), Manama  
*Exploring the future of India-Gulf ties in the power sector*
5. Dr. Vrushal Ghoble, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

***Geopolitical shifts and West Asia's energy equation with India: Analysing economic and strategic gains and losses***

***Q&A Session***

**SESSION FOUR: 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM (IST)**

**Strategic and security cooperation**

**Chair: Prof. Shamir Hasan (Retd.), Aligarh Muslim University**

Speakers: 15 minutes each

1. Dr. Joseph Kechichian, Senior Fellow, King Faisal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
***The security of the Arab Gulf States and India's growing security ties with GCC member states***
2. Dr. Hasan Al Hasan, Research Fellow for Middle East Policy, The International Institute for Strategic Studies, London
3. Dr. Mandana Tisheyar, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran  
***Indo-Iran Relations: From strategic partnership to paled friendship***
4. Prof. P. R. Kumaraswamy, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi  
***India and WANA: Emerging Dynamics, Challenges and Opportunities***

***Q&A Session***

**Vote of Thanks:**

**Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Bipin Bakshi, AVSM, VSM, (Retd.), Deputy Director General, MP-IDSA**