

Conference Booklet

5th India-Africa Strategic Dialogue

**INDIA AND AFRICA: PARTNERSHIP
IN THE NEXT DECADE**

(25-26 March 2025)





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Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence
Studies and Analyses
New Delhi

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ABOUT MP-IDSА

The Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSА) is a nonpartisan, autonomous body dedicated to objective research and policy-relevant studies on all aspects of defence, security and international relations. Since its inception, MP-IDSА has served as a forum to debate important aspects of national and international security. Its mission is to generate and disseminate knowledge on defence and security-related issues.

MP-IDSА was established as a registered society in New Delhi on November 11, 1965. Over the last fifty-plus years, MP-IDSА has played a crucial role in shaping India's foreign and security policies, including with respect to nuclear weapons, military expenditure, and conventional and non-conventional threats to India.

MP-IDSА has a well-qualified multi-disciplinary research faculty drawn from academia, defence forces and the civil services, and which represent a diversity of views. Research at the Institute is driven by a comprehensive agenda and by the need to provide impartial analyses and policy recommendations. MP-IDSА journals, monographs, briefs and books are the principal mediums through which the analyses and policy recommendations are disseminated.

Research Centres

- Africa, Latin America, Caribbean & UN
- Counter Terrorism
- Defence Economics and Industry
- East Asia
- Europe and Eurasia

- Internal Security
- Military Affairs
- Non-Traditional Security
- North America & Strategic Technologies
- Nuclear and Arms Control
- South Asia
- Southeast Asia and Oceania
- West Asia

ABOUT INDIA-AFRICA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

The India-Africa Strategic Dialogue (IASD) serves as a premier platform for scholars, policymakers, and experts to discuss issues of mutual importance for India and African nations. Hosted by the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP- IDSA), the fifth edition of IASD is scheduled to take place in New Delhi on 25-26 March 2025. Since its inception in 2015, the dialogue has facilitated meaningful exchanges to enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation, reinforcing the deep-rooted historical ties between India and Africa.

The theme for this year, "India and Africa: Partnership for the Next Decade," seeks to build upon existing collaborations while exploring new opportunities for engagement. India and Africa share a long-standing relationship that has evolved from their joint struggle against colonialism to a multifaceted partnership under South-South Cooperation. The India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS), established in 2008, provided a structured framework for cooperation, while India's advocacy for Africa's inclusion in global governance, particularly in the G20, underscores its commitment to strengthening this partnership. India's growing engagement with Africa is reflected in bilateral trade reaching nearly US\$100 billion and investments of over US\$12 billion, alongside its contributions to infrastructure, capacity-building, and peacekeeping efforts.

The 5th IASD will convene distinguished policymakers and experts from India and the African continent to deliberate on key areas such as trade and investment, defence and maritime security, multilateral partnerships,

and energy security. Special emphasis will be placed on India's role in supporting Africa's economic integration within the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and fostering cooperation in critical minerals and green energy transitions. The discussions will focus on strengthening supply chains and advancing sustainable development, reflecting India and Africa's shared aspirations for economic resilience and growth. As India deepens its strategic partnership with Africa, the IASD will provide a roadmap for future cooperation, ensuring shared prosperity, security, and long-term collaboration in an evolving global landscape.

CONCEPT NOTE

The India and Africa partnership has come a long way from the days of common struggle against colonialism to an evolving and multifaceted 21st-century partnership under the framework of South-South Cooperation. The establishment of the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) platform in 2008 marked a significant milestone as it provided a platform for India to engage constructively, and deliberate on issues of mutual interests with African nations. Changes in the global profiles of India and African countries have given a new sense of direction and purpose to the interaction between both parties. One of the primary indicators of this shift was PM Modi's enunciation of the 'Ten Guiding Principles for India-Africa Engagement', commonly known as the Kampala Principles, during his address at the Ugandan Parliament in 2018. These 10 principles form the bedrock of India's approach towards development partnership with African countries. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, India stood in solidarity with Africa. India's blend of developmental packages, technology transfer and skill and infrastructure development programmes directed towards African countries is in accordance with Africa's needs and has been widely appreciated by African governments and people.

The inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member of the G20 during the Indian presidency of G20 Summit in 2023 is a testament to the importance India attaches to developing a strong partnership with the African continent. It also marked a milestone for the continent in terms of becoming an integral part of global discourse and the fostering of new and stronger partnerships with the world as well as with India in particular. Indeed, a rising India and a resilient Africa

are coming closer to seize new opportunities to deepen and expand a mutually beneficial relationship.

With a view to suggesting ways to enhance this partnership, the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses is organising the 5th India-Africa Strategic Dialogue (IASD) on the theme, "India and Africa: Partnership for the Next Decade" on 25-26 March 2025 in New Delhi. The objective of the India-Africa Strategic Dialogue is to build on existing partnerships between African countries and India, and to explore new areas of convergence for mutual engagement.

The upcoming dialogue will focus on the following themes:

- Session I:** Framework for Cooperation
- Session II:** Partnership for Deepening Trade and Investment Ties
- Session III:** Partnership in Multilateral Forums and Global Governance Reforms
- Session IV:** Defence Cooperation and Maritime Security
- Session V:** Partnership in Critical Minerals and Energy Security

Session I: Framework for Cooperation

India and Africa share a long history of interactions in political, economic and cultural realm. India has partnered with Africa in the anti-colonial and anti-apartheid struggles in the last century. In the past decade, India entered into a structured relationship and has emerged as an important development partner for African countries. More recently in 2018, during an address to the Ugandan parliament Prime Minister Narendra Modi enunciated his vision of India-Africa

partnership through the "Ten guiding principles for India-Africa engagement". This session will focus on understanding the current framework of India-Africa partnership and will deliberate on the following issues:

- What are main priorities that shape India's partnership with African countries?
- What are priorities and challenges that impact on African countries' partnership with India?

Session II: Partnership for Deepening Trade and Investment Ties

India's strategy to enhance its trade and investment relations with African countries largely entails an integrated approach, comprising, inter alia, integrating the continent to the Global Value Chain (GVC), strengthening Africa's infrastructure and connectivity, and facilitating trade finance in Africa. Trade between India and Africa has grown from \$68.5 billion in 2011-12 to \$83.34 billion in 2023-24, making India Africa's third-largest trading partner. India's cumulative investments in Africa amount to \$ 75 billion. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is operational, and can provide an opportunity for Indian investors to tap into a unified African market and assist in value addition of African products which would integrate the continent into GVC and give the continent an added advantage.

- What are the opportunities for increasing two-way trade and investment ties between India and Africa?
- What are the challenges faced by Indian businesses operating in African countries?
- What are the opportunities for India in Africa's economic integration in the context of the AfCFTA?

Session III: Partnership in Multilateral Forums and Global Governance Reforms

India and Africa's partnership strives to achieve greater autonomy and ensure that the agenda of the global South is prioritised. India has always been a vocal proponent of supporting greater African representation in global multilateral organisations. Democratic reforms in institutions of global governance are quintessential. That is why India and Africa have voiced their support for expanding both permanent and non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council.

- How can India support African Union's Common African Position in global institutions?
- What role do African countries have in India's advocacy for Reformed Multilateralism?
- How can India and African Union work within the G20 as active contributors towards global financial and economic policy-making?

Session IV: Defence Cooperation and Maritime Security

In recent years, African countries have made greater efforts towards evolving a common vision for dealing with the continent's maritime challenges for sustainable development. These include illegal fishing, drug smuggling, arms trafficking, piracy, natural disasters, sustainable utilisation of ocean resources and blue economy. India and Africa share the waters of the Indo- Pacific region. Cooperation may be enhanced in securing the sea lanes, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA). This session will explore the following issues:

- What are the maritime security challenges faced by India and African countries?
- What is the scope of enhancing maritime cooperation with African countries?

Session V: Partnership in Critical Minerals and Energy Security

Globally, the transition to clean energy sources has intensified the need for critical minerals such as cobalt, copper, graphite, lithium and nickel. These minerals play a central role in manufacturing clean technology equipment, such as solar panels, wind turbines, electric vehicles and batteries. They are also vital for manufacturing defence and electric equipment. India remains largely dependent on import for energy transition minerals and their compounds. It is crucial for African nations to leverage the global demand for minerals to pursue their own developmental agenda. In order to create resilient supply chains and reduce dependence on dominant global players, it is crucial to identify synergies between India's Critical Mineral Mission and the African Green Mineral Strategy.

- What are the prospects for India and African countries cooperating in the field of strategic minerals?
- How can India enhance its renewable energy footprint while supporting Africa's energy transition and provide clean, affordable and accessible energy?

PROGRAMME

Day One: Tuesday, 25 March 2025

0930-1000: Registration

1000-1100: Inaugural Session

Opening Remarks by Amb Sujan R. Chinoy,
Director General, MP-IDSA, New Delhi, India

Special Address by H E Amb Anil Sooklal,
High Commissioner of Republic of South
Africa to India

Keynote Address by Shri Dammu Ravi,
Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of
External Affairs, Government of India, New
Delhi, India

1100-1115: Tea

1115-1245: Session - I : Framework for Cooperation

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

Speakers: **Prof David Monyae**, Associate Professor of
Political Science and IR, Co-Director
University of Johannesburg Confucius
Institute and Centre for Africa China
Studies, South Africa on *Africa-India
Relations in Changing Geopolitics*

Dr Sharkdam Wapmuk, Associate
Professor and Head, Dept of Defence and
Security Studies, Nigerian Defence
Academy, Nigeria on *Nigeria and India as
Strategic Partners in Africa: A Springboard for
Deepening Indo-Africa Relations*

Dr Folashadé Soulé, Senior Research Associate, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, UK on *India-Africa Relations: Towards a Strategic Alignment of Interests?*

Ms Ruchita Beri, Senior Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi, India on *India-Africa Partnership: Priorities and Prospects*

1245-1400: Lunch

1400-1530: Session - II : Partnership for Deepening Trade and Investment Ties

Chair: **Amb Gurjit Singh**, Former Indian Ambassador to Germany, Indonesia, Ethiopia, ASEAN and the African Union, Hon. Professor, IIT Indore, New Delhi, India

Speakers: **Prof Stephen Onyeiwu**, Professor of Economics and former Chair of Dept, Allegheny College, US on *Strengthening India-Africa Strategic Trade and Investment Partnerships in Frontier Industries*

Mr Kwame Owino, Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Economic Affairs, Kenya on *India and Africa: Exploring the Path Towards a Free Trade Area*

Prof Hebatallah Adam, Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Jindal School of International Affairs, India on *Enhancing India-Africa Trade and Investment: Leveraging AfCFTA and DFTP Programs for Mutual Growth and Economic Integration*

1530-1545: Tea

1545-1715: Session - III : Partnership in Multilateral Forum and Global Governance Reforms

Chair: Prof Ajay Dubey, Professor, School of International Studies, JNU, India

Speakers: **Amb Ruchira Kamboj**, Former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in New York and former Indian High Commissioner to South Africa, on *India's Advocacy for the Inclusion of the African Union in the G20*

Mr Aly Verjee, Senior Associate, Amani Africa and Researcher at University of Gothenburg, Sweden on *Approaching Multilateral Forums and Global Governance Reforms During the Decline of Multilateralism and Global Governance*

Dr Kwaku Danso, Dean, Faculty of Academic Affairs, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center, Ghana on *From Objects to Subjects of Global Governance: Partnering to Center Africa and India in a Changing World Order*

Day Two: Wednesday, 26 March 2025

0930-1100: Session - IV : Defence Cooperation and Maritime Security

Chair: **VAdm Shekhar Sinha (Retd)**, Chairman, Board of Trustees, India Foundation, New Delhi

Speakers: **Mr Raj Mohabeer**, Officer in Charge, Indian Ocean Commission, Mauritius on *Scope for Enhancing India-Africa Cooperation to Address Maritime Security Challenges in the Western Indian Ocean*

Capt Sarabjeet S Parmar (Retd), Distinguished Fellow, Council for Defence and Strategic Research, New Delhi, India on *India and Africa: Enhancing Defence Cooperation and Maritime Security*

Dr Nicodemus M Minde, Researcher, Institute for Security Studies, Nairobi, Kenya on *India-Africa Defence Cooperation and Maritime Security: The Case of Kenya*

1100-1115: Tea

1115-1245: Session - V : Partnership in Critical Minerals and Energy Security

Chair: **Dr Shailly Kedia**, Senior Fellow and Associate Director, The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi, India

Speakers: **Dr Annika Bose Styczynski**, Associate Professor and Associate Dean, Research & International Collaboration, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O.P. Jindal Global University, Haryana, India on *Getting Real About Low-Carbon Energy Technologies: Partnerships in Critical Minerals for Energy Security*

Dr Sanjay Kumar Pradhan, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of International Relations, Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Gujarat, India on *India, Africa and Energy Transition: Partnership for Critical Minerals*

Dr Sandipani Dash, Assistant Professor, Department of African Studies, University of Delhi, India on *Bharat-Africa Partnership: Progress and Possibility in Sub-Soil Resource Sector*

Vote of Thanks: **Dr Abhishek Mishra**, Associate Fellow, MP-IDSA, New Delhi, India

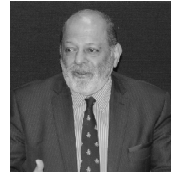
1300: Lunch

Profiles of Participants

Opening Remarks and Chair

AMB SUJAN R. CHINYOY

Director General,
MP-IDSA,
New Delhi, India



Ambassador Sujan R. Chinoy is the Director General of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi. A career diplomat from 1981-2018, he was Ambassador to Japan and Mexico and the Consul General of India in Shanghai and Sydney. A specialist on China and politico-security-military issues, he headed the Expert Group of Diplomatic and Military Officials negotiating the confidence-building measures (CBMs) dialogue with China on the boundary dispute from 1996-2000. At the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) from 2008-2012, he handled external and internal security policy issues.

During his public service spanning four and a half decades, he has dealt with political, security, defence, trade and economic issues. His Foreign Service career included postings at the UN in New York and Saudi Arabia. He was the Chair of the Think20 engagement group for India's G20 Presidency. He is a member of the Society of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library (PMML) and Member, Governing Council, Indian Council of World Affairs. He speaks fluent Mandarin and is conversant in Japanese, German, French and Spanish. He is the author of "World Upside Down: India Recalibrates Its Geopolitics" (Harper Collins) and "Global Tumult: India as a Pole Star", (RUPA Publications) and has edited several books on defence security, and IR issues.

Special Remarks

H E AMB ANIL SOOKLAL

High Commissioner,
Republic of South Africa,
New Delhi, India



Professor Anil Sooklal is the High Commissioner of Republic of South Africa to India. Prof Sooklal is a diplomat and academic holding a PhD in Oriental History and a Phil D in Religious Studies from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). Before joining the South African government in 1995, he lectured at UKZN and the University of South Africa, publishing over 30 research articles and participating in numerous academic conferences. In his diplomatic career, he has held key roles, including Chief Director for North Africa, Director for United Nations Political and Global Security Affairs and Head of the Department's Parliamentary Office in Cape Town, Ambassador-at-Large for Asia and BRICS, and Republic of South Africa's BRICS Sherpa (2016-2024). He also served as Ambassador to the EU, Belgium, and Luxembourg (2006-2012) and played a vital role in FOCAC, G20, IBSA, and IORA. Prof Sooklal has received numerous accolades, including the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (India), Order of Friendship (Russia), and an Honorary Doctorate from UIBE, Beijing. A leading voice of South-South cooperation, he continues to shape international policy through his work.

Keynote Address

SHRI DAMMU RAVI

Secretary (Economic Relations),
Ministry of External Affairs,
Government of India, New Delhi



Shri Dammu Ravi joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1989 and did postings in Indian Missions in Mexico, Cuba and Brussels in the 90s. At Headquarters, in his capacity as Director, he handled India's relations with West European countries and UN multilateral issues such as Development, Environment and Climate Change. As Joint Secretary for Latin America and Caribbean countries, he worked to deepen India's engagement with the region. During his deputation to the Department of Commerce, he handled India's trade policy, World Trade Organisation (WTO) issues and was a lead negotiator for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). As Chief Coordinator for Covid during lockdown, he coordinated the disbursement of medicines and equipment and evacuation of Indians abroad through Vande Bharat flights. In his current capacity as Secretary (Economic Relations) in MEA, Shri Ravi handles mostly geo-economics issues for leveraging India's strategic objectives through India's Development Assistance to countries in the Global South; partnership with Africa; Multilateral Economic relations; and New and Emerging Strategic Technologies. He is India's Sherpa for BRICS, IBSA, I2U2 and G7. Shri Ravi published several research papers on trade, investment, economic cooperation and integration. He reviewed more than 50 books for important dailies/magazines. Shri Ravi holds a Master's degree in Political Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.

PROF DAVID MONYAE

Associate Professor of Political Science and IR and Co-Director, University of Johannesburg Confucius Institute and Centre for Africa China Studies, South Africa



Prof David Monyae is an esteemed scholar, policy analyst, and academic holding a PhD in International Relations and has dedicated his career to researching Africa-China relations, South African foreign policy, international financial institutions, and the political economies of the Global South. Currently, Prof Monyae serves as the Co-Director of the University of Johannesburg Confucius Institute and the Centre for Africa-China Studies. He is also a member of the University of Johannesburg Senate. His extensive experience includes serving as a Lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand and holding key policy advisory roles in South Africa's Parliament and the Development Bank of Southern Africa. With expertise in international relations, policy development, strategic management, and conflict resolution, Prof Monyae has contributed significantly to academia and policymaking. He has published extensively on Africa's role in global politics, regional integration, and China's influence in Africa. His works appear in leading academic journals and policy briefs.

DR SHARKDAM WAPMUK

Associate Professor and Head,
Department of Defence & Security Studies,
Nigerian Defence Academy,
Nigeria



Dr Sharkdam Wapmuk is an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Defence and Security Studies at the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA). He previously held roles such as Acting Director of Research and Studies and Head of the Division of African Politics and Integration at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA) in Lagos. He earned his PhD in International Relations and Strategic Studies from the University of Jos. Dr Wapmuk has authored academic publications, including journal articles, book chapters and books. He holds editorial roles as the Editor of Arts and Social Science Research (ASSR) at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and as Chief Editor of the Journal of Defence and Security Studies at the Department of Defence and Security Studies, NDA Kaduna. He has served as a Research Consultant for various organisations such as Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) - UNDP in 2015, Samuel Hall FZE (Think Tank) in 2017, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 2018. He is a member of professional associations and institutions, including the Nigerian Political Science Association (NPSA), the Nigerian Society of International Affairs (NSIA), and the Society for Peace Studies and Practice (SPSP).

DR FOLASHADÉ SOULÉ

Senior Research Associate,
Blavatnik School of Government,
University of Oxford,
UK



Dr Folashade Soule is a Senior Research Associate at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, where she is the principal investigator of the 'Negotiating Africa's digital partnerships' policy research project supported by CIGI. She is currently a visiting scholar at the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy, University of Ghana. Her research areas focus on the study of agency in Africa's international relations, the politics of South-South cooperation and Africa-China relations. She was a postdoctoral fellow at the London School of Economics and a former Oxford-Princeton Global Leaders Fellow. Her research has been published in several high-impact peer-reviewed journals and cited in various national and international outlets. As a policy-facing academic connecting policy and research, she is the initiator of the Africa-China negotiation workshop series, bringing together African negotiators and senior policymakers to exchange and build better negotiation practices when dealing with China. She has also acted as a policy analyst and consultant for several institutions and has acted as the Africa advisor to the Commission on Global Economic Transformation (CGET) led by Nobel Laureates Joseph Stiglitz and Michael Spence and hosted by the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET).

Ms RUCHITA BERI

Senior Fellow,
Vivekananda International Foundation,
New Delhi,
India



Ms Ruchita Beri is a Senior Fellow at the Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi. Earlier, she served as Senior Research Associate and Centre Coordinator, Africa, Latin America, Caribbean and United Nations Centre at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDS), New Delhi. She has over three decades of experience in research on international relations, political economy and security of Sub-Saharan Africa, India-Africa relations and Emerging Powers in Africa and the Indian Ocean region. She is a member of the Africa Committee of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). She serves on the Executive Board of the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC). She is the former President of the African Studies Association of India (ASA). Ms. Beri has participated in many international conferences and regularly lectures at several institutions in India. She was the editor of *Africa Trends* magazine, published by MP-IDS, from 2012- 2023. She is a member of the Editorial Committee of some of the reputed journals. She has authored, edited and co-edited several volumes. She has also published over 100 articles and book chapters and is a regular contributor to broadcast media.

Chair

AMB GURJIT SINGH

Former Ambassador to Germany, Indonesia, Ethiopia, ASEAN and the African Union, Hon. Professor, IIT Indore, New Delhi, India



Ambassador Gurjit Singh was an Indian diplomat for 37 years. He was Ambassador to Germany, Indonesia, Timor Leste & ASEAN and Ethiopia, Djibouti & the African Union besides being in Japan, Sri Lanka, Kenya, and Italy on assignment. Passionate about Africa, he was the Sherpa for the 2nd India-Africa Summit. His book *The Injera and the Parantha* on India and Ethiopia was well received. He headed the MEAs Africa Division twice, in 2000-2002 and 2009-2012. His fifth book *The Harambee Factor: India Africa Economic & Development Partnership* is well received and discussed in India and Africa. He is an Honorary Professor of Humanities at the Indian Institute of Technology, Indore. He Chaired the CII Task Force on Trilateral Cooperation in Africa. He comments on current events. He is associated with the social impact investment movement and is working on expanding it in Africa along with other trilateral initiatives. He chairs organising group of the Sankalp Africa Summit which is held annually in Nairobi.

PROF STEPHEN ONYEIWU

Professor of Economics and
former Chair of Department,
Allegheny College,
USA



Professor Stephen Onyeiwu is a distinguished economist, researcher, and academic leader. He is a tenured full Professor of Economics and former Chair of the Department at Allegheny College, Pennsylvania. He earned his PhD in Economics from the University of Connecticut, USA, after postgraduate studies at Sussex University, UK. With extensive teaching experience, Prof Onyeiwu has lectured at universities in Nigeria and the USA, including Wesleyan University, Trinity College, and the State University of New York at Albany. He was a Visiting Professor at O.P. Jindal Global University, India, and a Visiting Scholar at the Swami Vivekananda Institute of Indian Studies, Mysore, India. Prof Onyeiwu is a recipient of a number of international prestigious fellowships. He has undertaken research and presented scholarly papers in 34 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and North America. He has published two books and several scholarly articles in academic journals and edited books. His book, *Emerging Issues in Contemporary African Economies* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2024) is widely used in many undergraduate and graduate economic development classes. A recipient of numerous prestigious fellowships, Professor Onyeiwu has served as a consultant to international organisations such as the UNECA, UNCTAD and CODESRIA.

MR KWAME OWINO

Chief Executive Officer,
Institute of Economic Affairs,
Kenya



Mr Kwame Owino is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Institute of Economic Affairs, a think tank on public policy that is based in Kenya. He undertakes and oversees research in IEA-Kenya's key policy areas on public expenditure and revenue analysis, international trade, economic regulation, devolution and the use of futures methodologies to inform public affairs in Kenya. He has been instrumental in leading IEA Kenya's strategic intervention into the go-to think tank for Sub-Saharan Africa and the region.

PROF HEBATALLAH ADAM

Professor and Associate Dean for
Academic Affairs,
Jindal School of International Affairs,
Haryana, India



Dr Hebatallah Adam is a Professor of Economics and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA), O.P. Jindal Global University, India. She is the visionary behind establishing the Jindal Centre for the Global South. Before joining JSIA, Dr Adam has worked in prestigious institutions in Egypt. She has also founded the Africa Dialogue Forum (ADF), an initiative to bring together a coalition of organisations and thought-leaders dedicated to the advancement of the "Better Africa Cause". Her research interests encompass International Development Economics, Green Economics, International Trade, Political Economy of Development, and Global South Studies. Her scholarly contributions are widely acknowledged in journals and books, with notable publications in renowned journals and significant books and book chapters published by international publishers. She is a full member of the Organisation for Women in Science for the Developing World and an associate member of the African Studies Centre at Leiden. Furthermore, she is a member of the International Editorial Committee of the Journal of Liberty and International Affairs. Dr Adam is a peer reviewer for numerous reputable journals. Her work continues to be at the forefront of addressing critical issues and advancing economic development in the Global South.

Chair

PROF AJAY KUMAR DUBEY

Professor, School of International Studies, Former Rector (Pro- Vice Chancellor), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India



Dr Ajay Kumar Dubey is a Professor at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), specialising in International Relations, African Affairs, Diaspora Studies, and Indo-African Relations. He earned his PhD in International Studies from JNU in 1992 and has since contributed significantly to research and teaching in his field. He has held several key academic administrative positions, including Chairperson of the Centre for African Studies, JNU; Chairperson of the Special Centre for National Security Studies, JNU; and Director of the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Study, JNU. A prolific researcher, Prof Dubey has authored and edited numerous books, his latest being *India and Africa's Partnership: A Vision for a New Future and Trends in Indo-African Relations*. He has been invited to a number of universities globally as a visiting faculty. He has vast experience working as an Editor-in-Chief of notable refereed journals. Professor Dubey continues to shape global discourse on African studies and diaspora issues. He is President of the African Studies Association (ASA) of India. His academic and policy contributions remain instrumental in strengthening Indo-African ties and global diaspora engagement.

AMB RUCHIRA KAMBOJ

Former Permanent Representative of India to United Nations & Fmr Indian High Commissioner to South Africa, New Delhi, India



Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj has had a distinguished career marked by numerous pioneering achievements. As the top performer in the 1987 batch of the IFS and the all-India women's topper of the 1987 Civil Services batch, she has demonstrated leadership and diplomatic acumen. Amb Kamboj served as the first female Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in New York until May 2024, leading initiatives and representing India's interests. Her tenure was highlighted by a historic milestone: becoming the first woman from India to preside over the UNSC in December 2022. Throughout her career, Amb Kamboj has broken new ground, serving as the first female Ambassador of India to Bhutan. As High Commissioner to South Africa, she significantly strengthened relations with the African continent. Her tenure as Ambassador/Permanent Representative to UNESCO in Paris was marked by landmark achievements aligned with the agency's mandate. Between 2011 and 2014, Amb Kamboj made history again as India's first female Chief of Protocol. Her early career included postings in Paris, Mauritius, New York, and Cape Town. Additionally, she was seconded to the Commonwealth Secretariat in London from 2009 to 2011 as an international civil servant, serving as a staff officer to the Commonwealth Secretary-General.

MR ALY VERJEE

Senior Associate,
Amani Africa and Researcher,
University of Gothenburg,
Sweden



Aly Verjee received the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue Oslo Forum Peace-writer Prize in 2019. Previously, he was deputy and then acting chief of staff to and speechwriter for the former president of Botswana, Festus Mogae, the chair of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission overseeing the 2015 peace agreement in South Sudan. In 2014-2015, he was senior advisor to and speechwriter for the chief mediator of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)-led peace process for South Sudan. He has advised on the major peace processes in Darfur. Mr Verjee was the chief political analyst for the EU election observation missions to Zambia (2016) and Tanzania (2015) and for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Georgia (2020). He has administered, observed or analysed more than thirty elections in more than a dozen countries and supported refugee repatriation operations to South Sudan from the Central African Republic, the DR Congo, Uganda and Kenya. An academic par excellence, he has provided his expertise in various parliaments of numerous countries for conflict, stabilisation and mitigation. A fellow of the Rift Valley Institute and a senior associate at Amani Africa, he also chaired the governing board of a London secondary school.

DR KWAKU DANSO

Dean, Faculty of Academic Affairs,
Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping
Training Centre,
Ghana



Dr Kwaku Danso is a Senior Lecturer and Dean of the Faculty of Academic Affairs at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC). Kwaku holds a PhD in International Conflict Management from Kennesaw State University and an MSc in African Studies the University of Edinburgh. He is a Visiting Lecturer at Rhodes University, the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College, and the National College of Defence Studies. Dr Kwaku has recently served on several committees, including the Planning Committee of the 2023 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial. In 2023, he served as the Chair of the Ghana War College Curriculum Development Committee. In the last 15 years, Dr Kwaku has consulted for national and international organisations and delivered policy support and capacity-building on regional security in West Africa, peacebuilding, maritime security, violent extremism and radicalisation, and ex-combatant reintegration in non-permissive contexts. Dr Kwaku is a co-winner of the 2023 International Affairs Centenary Prize, for a paper he co-authored, titled *African Experiences and Alternativity in International Relations Theorising about Security*. His research interests revolve around security knowledge generation in African locales, global governance, political violence, and maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea.

Chair

**VADM SHEKHAR SINHA (RETD),
PVSM, AVSM, NM**



Chairman, Board of Trustees, India Foundation, Co-Founder, DeepStrat and Former FOC-in-C, Western Naval Command and Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, New Delhi, India

Commissioned on June 1, 1974, as a combat pilot in the Indian Navy, Vice Admiral Sinha retired from service as the head of India's Western Naval Command. He also served as the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CIDS), a key tri-service appointment. As a frontline Naval aviator, Adm Sinha was part of the two-man team that travelled to the UK to induct the Sea Harrier combat jets, the first vertical take-off and landing capable jets in the Indian military. He commanded a ship during operations against the LTTE as a part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force, an operational fighter squadron, the Navy's key air base INS Hansa, and a series of frontline ships - INS Saryu, Shakti and captained INS Delhi, a guided missile destroyer. He also served as a Joint Director (Naval Air Staff) at Naval Headquarters. He served as a fleet operations officer of the Western fleet during Operation Parakram. He also held assignments of Flag Officer Naval Aviation/ Goa Area, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Air), Controller of Personnel Services, Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Operations and later Perspective Planning & Force Development. VAdm Sinha has been decorated with the Param Vishist Seva Medal (PVSM), Ati Vishist Seva Medal (AVSM), Nao Sena Medal (NM) and Bar and an Honorary ADCs of the Supreme Commander.

MR RAJ MOHABEER

Officer in Charge,
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An economist by profession, Mr Raj Mohabeer has held, since 2000, the post of Officer in Charge at the General Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) - an inter-governmental organisation of the South-West Indian Ocean Island States. Prior to this, he was working as an Economist at the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development of the Republic of Mauritius. His current portfolio includes economic cooperation, trade, regional integration, connectivity and infrastructure development, maritime security, circular and blue economy-areas of interventions which span countries beyond IOC Member States and regions. He also deals with Small Islands Developing States issues. Mr Mohabeer has gained extensive and deep knowledge of the region. Among the various dossiers under his responsibility, he has been promoting the Blue Economy and has spearheaded the development and establishment of a Regional Maritime Security Architecture for the Western Indian Ocean, actively advocating for the participation of the international community to join in. He has also been the head of the Secretariat for the former Contact Group Against Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia, now the Contact Group against Illicit Maritime Activities.

CAPT SARABJEET S PARMAR (RETD)

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Captain Sarabjeet S Parmar is a retired Indian Naval Officer whose main areas of research include national and maritime strategy and security-related aspects in the Indo-Pacific, piracy, HADR, and international maritime law with a focus on lawfare. He has written and spoken extensively at various national and international conferences in these areas. He has been a Research Fellow at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses and worked in the Indian Navy's strategic apex-level offices where, as Director Strategy was part of the core team that published the Indian Navy's 2015 unclassified maritime security strategy document titled *Ensuring Secure Seas: Indian Maritime Security Strategy*, carried out regional maritime assessments and completed the doctrine development plan. He was the Executive Director and Senior Fellow at the National Maritime Foundation prior to retirement. He is presently a Distinguished Fellow at the Council of Strategic and Defence Research, New Delhi and a Distinguished Fellow at the Centre of Military History and Conflict Studies at the United Service Institution of India, New Delhi.

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Dr Nicodemus M Minde is a distinguished academic and researcher specialising in international relations, regional politics, and democracy. He earned his PhD in International Relations from the United States International University - Africa, Kenya, focusing on International Development, Security, and Foreign Policy. Dr Minde has held key academic positions, including Senior Lecturer at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa and Lecturer at Pioneer International University. His research expertise spans political party systems, democratisation, African foreign policy, and comparative political systems, with a regional focus on East Africa and the Great Lakes region. Dr Minde is also a researcher at the Institute for Security Studies, working on the East Africa Peace and Security Governance (EAPSG) Project. With a strong publication record in leading academic journals and contributions to book chapters, he bridges academic scholarship with policy-relevant research. His work is widely recognized for its depth and contribution to the study of African politics, security, and governance.

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Dr Shailly Kedia is a policy researcher and Senior Fellow and Associate Director at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). She has been with TERI since 2009 and has 19 years of experience in policy research, outreach, and capacity building. She works on sustainable development, climate policy, green economy and non-traditional security. Since 2021, she has curated TERI's World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS). She is a Board Member of the World Sustainable Development Forum and ESG Risk Assessments and Insights. She has served as an Expert Reviewer for the Seventh Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) of UNEP and Co-chair of the Think 20 Taskforce on Sustainable Lifestyles under G20. She was also part of the Indo-German Expert Group on Green and Inclusive Economy and the Ministry of Rural Development's Taskforce on Greening Rural Development. Previously, Dr Kedia worked with the World Bank's Sustainable Development Network and Columbia University's Center for Climate Systems Research. She holds a PhD in International Organization (JNU), an MBA in Finance (University of Stirling), and a Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering (NIT Surat). She also completed a Post-baccalaureate Programme in International Development (Columbia University) and an Executive Leadership Programme (Harvard Business School).

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Dr Annika is an Associate Professor at the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, working on climate-related policy issues for more than 15 years. She has studied at Free University Berlin, Nagoya Daigaku, UC Berkeley, and European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (O.). Her research revolves around the governance of socio-technical transitions toward digital, cleaner and more efficient energy technologies, climate adaptation and sustainable development in both advanced industrial and emerging economies. Research fellowships took her to CERI Science-Po in Paris, TERI in New Delhi, CICERO in Oslo, the Economic Research Centre at Nagoya University and RIFS in Potsdam. Dr Annika is trained in public transport systems through the World Bank in Singapore and worked as a consultant for Agora Energiewende, Adelphi and ANU. For more than a decade, she has been teaching an international cohort of students and executives on the governance of socio-technical transitions.

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Dr Sanjay Kumar Pradhan is an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of International Relations, School of Liberal Studies, Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India. He has a keen interest and deep inclination in the areas of geopolitics of energy security and energy transition and the issues pertaining to Africa. His book 'India's Quest for Energy through Oil and Natural Gas: Trade and Investment, Geopolitics and Security', published by Springer, enumerates India's comprehensive overseas approach to oil and natural gas resources to meet its domestic requirements and international aspirations. Moreover, the author has two books and 47 research papers to his research merits. Currently, he is working on a Major Research Project, which is funded by ICSSR-Government of India on International Solar Alliance. In the past, he was invited to TER-KAS Resource Dialogue, National Defence College and the Indian Council of World Affairs to speak on India's quest for energy security. His research papers in Economic and Political Weekly, such as 'Indo-Russian Energy Cooperation: Geopolitics in a Fluid Matrix', and 'G20, AU and Energy Transition: Leveraging the Renewables for Climate Change Mitigation', have largely focused on the vitality of energy security and the quest for renewables.

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Dr Abhishek Mishra is an Associate Fellow with the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. His research focuses on India and China's engagement in Africa, aimed at developing partnerships under the framework of South-South cooperation, including a specific focus on maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region. Abhishek holds a PhD in African Studies from the Department of African Studies, University of Delhi. His PhD thesis is titled "India's Maritime Cooperation with African Countries in Western Indian Ocean Region." Abhishek has given a lecture at Naval War College, Goa for the Naval Higher Commander Course on the theme "West IOR Island Nations and East Africa: Politico-Economic Perspective." He has also participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), sponsored by the United States Department of State on the theme "Enhancing Regional Maritime Governance and Cooperation in the QUAD" in October, 2022. He also participated in the Paris Defence Young Leaders programme from 12-16 June 2023, hosted by the Institute for Strategic Research (IRSEM), a research institute of the French Ministry of Armed Forces. He is also the Associate Editor of 'Africa Trends', MP-IDSA's biannual magazine and compiles the monthly news digest 'Africa Digest'. Before joining MP-IDSA, Abhishek was working on African issues at the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi.

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