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Editor's Introduction

India has witnessed a steady intensification of its geo-political, geo-economic and socio-cultural inter-linkages with the world. Actors drawn from the country's overwhelmingly young demographic profile would in considerable measure shape the contours of these complex webs of inter-linkages. Recognizing and responding to this metamorphosis the Youth Forum on Foreign Policy (YFFP) in collaboration with the Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA) initiated the YFFP-Jindal Foreign Policy Fellowship. This pioneering fellowship program aims to position itself as a dynamic platform bringing together students of international relations as well as eminent scholars, practitioners and government officials for a sustained and informed dialogue on contemporary global affairs.

The fourth issue of the Jindal Journal of International Affairs embodies the spirit of this initiative. It brings together the work of young scholars hosted by JSIA for the first YFFP-Jindal Foreign Policy Fellowship. The contributions to this edition of the JJIA explore a range of pressing foreign policy challenges from issues of climate change, regional economic cooperation, energy and cyber security to South Asian affairs.

The volume opens with Joy Mitra's paper wherein he argues that neither rational choice, structural factors, nor the territorial issues of Kashmir can explain why the peace process between India and Pakistan have not been able to sustain well. Since Pakistan has been in the "state of loss" defined by the Prospect theory, it keeps recognizing itself suffered from cumulative losses, thus the negotiation prospect is inevitably limited. And that the "mutually hurting stalemate" between India and Pakistan that should have been able to lead to dialogue in structural realism can also be explained in the lens of Prospect theory.

Amongst the first initiatives of the Narendra Modi led government on the eve of its swearing in was its recognition of "neighbourhood first" policy. Das' paper contextualizes policy of renewed emphasis on the immediate neighbourhood and the teases out limitations to India's efforts to this end in light of complex regional dynamics that belie relations, particularly with Pakistan and Nepal. Recognizing benefits accruing from a friendly

and stable neighbourhood Das builds a case for India to work to this end through sub-regional initiatives, effective deployment of its soft power through education and culture. These initiatives the author argues would facilitate New Delhi in unshackling its relationship with neighbours from weight of past historical baggage.

Using the action on climate change as an example, Farhan shows how active the role that states in India can play in environmental issues. Drawing examples from other federalist countries of their practice on “subnational diplomacy,” Farhan finds the possibility for states with stakes on climate change to deal with the issues through the submission of their own SAPCCs, or State Action Plans on Climate Change. By engaging in subnational diplomacy, it would be more flexible and effective for states to solve trans-border issues by having better communications with all parties involved. The new practice in India, argues Farhan, may also enhance the knowledge on the research of international environmental regime.

Environmental and safety concerns have echoed loudly in public debate on India's expanding nuclear energy program. These concerns were accentuated following the Fukushima nuclear accident in March 2011. In this light Moses' paper examines the implications of the adoption of the Additional Protocol as an international safeguard for India's civilian nuclear energy program. Using the case of Indo-US nuclear deal the paper concludes that an expansion of Nuclear power sector embracing international safeguards and inspections provides a window of opportunity for countries engaged in nuclear trade to leverage their position for strengthening existing nuclear safeguards and the international non-proliferation regime.

Shaunik places the concept of “security” in the context of international trade and regional economic cooperation of the Indo-Pacific region. She argues that the contemplation on security interests by states within the Indo-Pacific area has influenced the perception and definition of regionalism and cooperation. In this context, India can and should make the best use of its “soft power,” i.e. democratic politics and the growing economic power as the tool to accumulate more security in the region.

Sharma's paper looks at the advent of social media as a powerful and effective medium of shaping perceptions and discourses has not been lost on governments. Sharma reflects on the “ontological and methodological” alterations induced in the field of diplomacy by the advent of social media. Closely engaging with the use of Twitter as a medium of ‘digital diplomacy’, with a particular focus on tenure of the incumbent Prime Minister, Sharma acknowledges the profound impact of this medium in

shaping public discourse on diplomacy but asserts this new medium does not represent a new form of diplomacy itself.

The volume also carries a special article on the geo-political implications of the tripartite development of the Chahbahar port by India, Iran and Afghanistan. Salem frames the development in the larger geo-political frame of deepening Chinese footprint in Arabian sea through Gwadar port project and the implications of alternative sea access for Afghanistan and the landlocked Central Asian Republics. He however also maps out some of the key challenges that need to be overcome “if this deal and the hopes of the region are to bear fruit.”

The volume also features reviews of books done by the graduate students of JSIA, and this is the first attempt including MA DLB students’ works in an issue of JJIA. By doing so we would like to encourage students in this programme to participate more in publishing and academic writing. Some MA DLB students actively participated in the editing process and worked closely with the faculty members of JSIA. We would like to thank Ms. Aishita Shukla, Mr. Achyut Mishra and Mr. Rajesh Ghosh especially for their efforts in proofreading for the manuscripts.

Unlike previous issues featuring research pieces by faculty members or senior researchers, this special issue of JJIA shows the perspective, potential and passion for academic research of the young generation of India by bringing different topics and formats of articles together. By doing so, we wish to provide a stage for our young scholars-in-the-making and furthermore, we hope to create a positive and encouraging academic atmosphere among the BA GA, MA DLB and Ph.D. students in JSIA so that we can see more and more students publish their works in academic journals or conferences in the future.