



॥वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्॥  
SYMBIOSIS SCHOOL  
OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

VOLUME 1

# NEWSLETTER

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*Young voices,  
global insights*



# From the Director's Desk



PROF. SHIVALI LAWALE

***At SSIS, ideas don't just stay in the classroom—they evolve into voices shaping tomorrow's global conversations.***

The Symbiosis School of International Studies (SSIS) is a premier academic institution offering a two-year Master's programme in International Studies. Its eclectic curriculum blends courses from geopolitical and geoeconomic realms, equipping students with the analytical and critical skills to engage with complex global issues. With a strong emphasis on research, SSIS encourages students and faculty to explore diverse perspectives and contribute original insights.

To this end, it offers students the opportunity to publish their work through its student-led research platform, the Indian Review of Global Affairs (IRGA), fostering a culture of scholarship, debate, and policy

relevance. IRGA seeks to bridge academic insight with global realities, shaping informed voices for the future of international affairs. The platform engages with pressing issues in geopolitics and geoeconomics and aims to provide insightful analysis, critical perspectives, and informed commentary on global developments, while fostering academic discourse among students, scholars, and practitioners.

By curating interesting and relevant content, the newsletter seeks to highlight and celebrate the achievements of our students- past and present- and faculty. I wish our team success in this exciting endeavour.

# 2024-2025 STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS



Dinah Thomas (right) & Smiti Iyer (left), 2nd year Master's students of batch 2023-2025, won the Best Paper Award for their paper titled "*The Power of Displacement Narratives of Women affected by the Israel-Palestine Border Conflict*" at the International Conference Vijigishu 2024 conducted by the Amity University, Noida.

Bhadra Ashok Kumar, 2nd year Master's student of batch 2023-2025, won the Best Paper Award-Young Diplomat for the paper titled "*Silenced in Exile: The Invisible struggle of Queer Uyghurs*" at the National Level Paper Presentation Competition conducted by LYCEUM, Christ University, Bengaluru.



## ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS



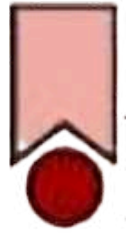
**Sneha Sengupta** and **Shourya Gori**, received the **Best Paper Award** for the **Network for Advanced Study of Pakistan (NASP) Fellowship** by the Takshashila Institution.



(From the left)

**Netrika Mudgal**, **Anakha Thampy** and **Shubham Sharma** had actively participated in the **Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Summer School on Climate Change and Disaster Management in South Asia** in Colombo.

# FACULTY PUBLICATIONS



## Prof. Shivali Lawale

- **"The Rafale Forum: Operationalizing the India-France-UAE Trilateral"** a blog post for Swedish Institute for Security and Development Policy (ISDP), July 2025
- **"Can China and Russia as 'Civilisation States' Emerge as Security Providers in West Asia?"** a Research article co-authored with Amb. Talmiz Ahmad in Asian Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies in 2024



## Dr. Alvite Ningthoujam

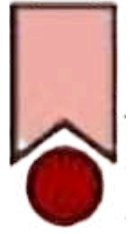
- **"Israel: A Growing Key Economic Partner for India"**, Vivekananda International Foundation, 16 June 2025
- **"As Israel strikes Yemen, it will need to look back at its security architecture after conflict with Iran"**, The Indian Express, 8 July 2025



## Dr. Anamika Asthana

- Published a book review on 24 October 2024 : Asthana, A. (2024). **Book review: Christopher Clary, The Difficult Politics of Peace: Rivalry in Modern South Asia.** Studies in Indian Politics, 12(2), 355- 357

# FACULTY PUBLICATIONS



## Dr. Mohd Tahir

- Joined as **Co-editor for Special Collection, 'Politics and the people in India: modern and historical perspectives'** at Humanities and Social Sciences Communications (Springer Nature; Q1 journal), in August 2024



## Dr. Shafat Yousuf

- Yousuf, Shafat. "**The Question of People's Representation in Iran: Negotiating Democracy with 'Divinity'.**" In Electoral Politics and the Quest for Representation in West Asia and North Africa, edited by Sujata Ashwarya, Chuchu Zhang, and Mujib Alam. Forthcoming. London: Palgrave Macmillan.



## Dr. Shreya Upadhyay

- "**The Triangular Cooperation Factor in India-US Relations**", a research essay co-authored with Dr. Vivek Mishra in the Journal, Triangular Partnerships: A Preferred Modality for a world in crisis in 2025.



20  
24



# The Tones of Turning Tides

HOW VOTERS WORLDWIDE ARE REDRAWING THE  
POLITICAL MAP.

ON TRADE



I have decided, for purposes of Fairness, that I will charge a **RECIPROCAL Tariff** meaning, whatever **Countries charge the United States of America, we will charge them – No more, no less!**

@realDonaldTrump

## Global Elections 2024 – An Electoral Odyssey

Vignayaa R R

# YOUR VOTE MATTERS

In 2024, voters cast their ballots in more than 60 countries, making it a significant year for democracy worldwide. This election cycle proved high-stakes for political parties and voters alike. Against a backdrop of deep-seated voter resentment, widespread anti-incumbent sentiment, growing polarization, and significant geopolitical challenges characterized these elections. The world witnessed a pivotal period in global politics through a series of contests that not only altered national political landscapes but rippled across continents... [Read More](#)



## PODCAST

"The security implications of climate change are real, and they are already happening. Climate change exacerbates the risks of instability and conflict, particularly in countries with ..."

*United Nations Security Council in 2011,  
Ban Ki-moon*

Scan Here to listen to the podcast





## THE RETURN OF 'AMERICA FIRST': HOW THE 2024 ELECTION REDEFINES THE UNITED STATES

*Vidisha Sharma*

The 'Year of Global Elections', 2024, saw significant power dynamic shifts worldwide. Among these shifts, Donald Trump's campaign rhetoric captured a growing sentiment in American politics. "We have been treated so badly, mostly by allies ... our allies treat us actually worse than our so-called enemies In the military, we protect them, and then they screw us on trade. We're not going to let it happen anymore," Trump declared in Wisconsin during his 2024 campaign (Ioanes, 2024). Throughout his bid for office... [Read More](#)

## MOLDOVA'S 2024 ELECTIONS: NAVIGATING A DIVIDED FUTURE

*Arushi Jain*

Moldova underwent a significant political transition with the 2024 presidential election, producing major consequences for both domestic and international politics. Against a backdrop of heightened geopolitical tensions and increasing political polarisation, this election reflected deep-seated divisions in Moldova's electorate. The split was shaped by a range of factors: geopolitical pressures, domestic divides, media influence and the democratic system itself. These tensions highlighted entrenched divides throughout the election that captured... [Read More](#)



***Moldova's 2024  
vote became a  
referendum on its  
future-torn  
between reform,  
identity, and  
geopolitics.***



## Elections in Asia versus Europe: Stricter Regimes and Stricter Stances

*Shaurya Vats and Sreyoshi Guharoy*

2024 was marked by global disruption, with rising geopolitical tensions and conflicts intensifying across regions including West Asia, Ukraine, and Sudan. Against this turbulent backdrop, 50 countries held elections, with power transfers profoundly influenced by these global factors. This article examines these common influences on national elections worldwide, analyzing how their effects varied across diverse regions like Europe and Asia. Through this analysis, we aim to demonstrate the growing intersection of global political forces and how the shifting international order impacts domestic politics. In October 2023, Japanese voters delivered a decisive mandate that resulted in significant losses for the ruling... [Read More](#)

## The Buzzer Effect: Rebranding Prabowo Subianto in Indonesia's 2024 Election

*Akshat Dwivedi*

The year 2024 has been touted as a 'super year' for elections by UNDP, with an eligible global electorate of 3.5 billion voters. In this context, Indonesia's hard-fought 2024 elections witnessed a significant shift in political communication strategies among the three main candidates: Prabowo Subianto, Anies Baswedan, and Ganjar Pranowo. Digital outreach became central to securing a wider voter base, bringing political buzzers to the forefront of Indonesian electoral politics. Prabowo emerged... [Read More](#)



# Celebrations at SSIS

## GANESH CHATURTHI

Ganesh Chaturthi at SSIS was a spiritual celebration featuring a grand aarti, lively performances, and sweet treats like modaks, uniting the entire campus.



## ONAM

SSIS celebrated Onam with traditional Kerala dances, games, and a delightful feast, beautifully capturing the festival's cultural essence.



## DANDIYA NIGHT

The Dandiya night at SSIS was vibrant with energetic dance, lively Garba beats, and swirling dandiya sticks, creating an electrifying atmosphere.



## DIWALI

SSIS celebrated Diwali with lamp lighting, cultural performances, and delicious festive treats, fostering joy, unity, and togetherness.



## CHRISTMAS

Christmas at SSIS was a heartwarming celebration filled with carols, Secret Santa, and a festive feast. The joyful participation of students and faculty made it a memorable event.

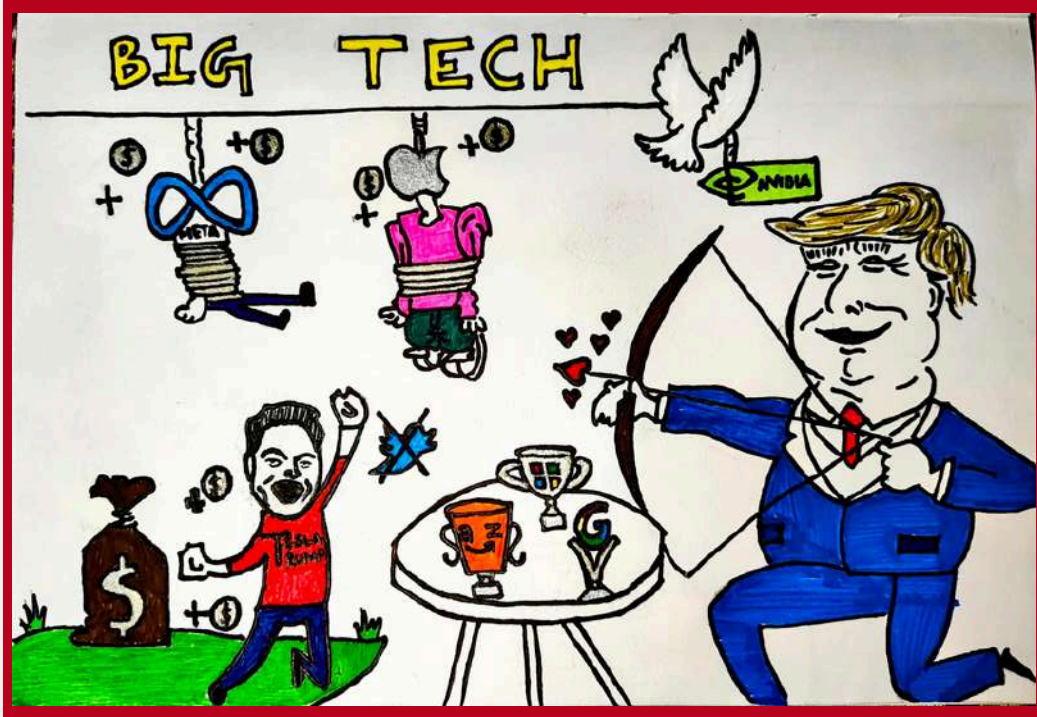


## REPUBLIC DAY

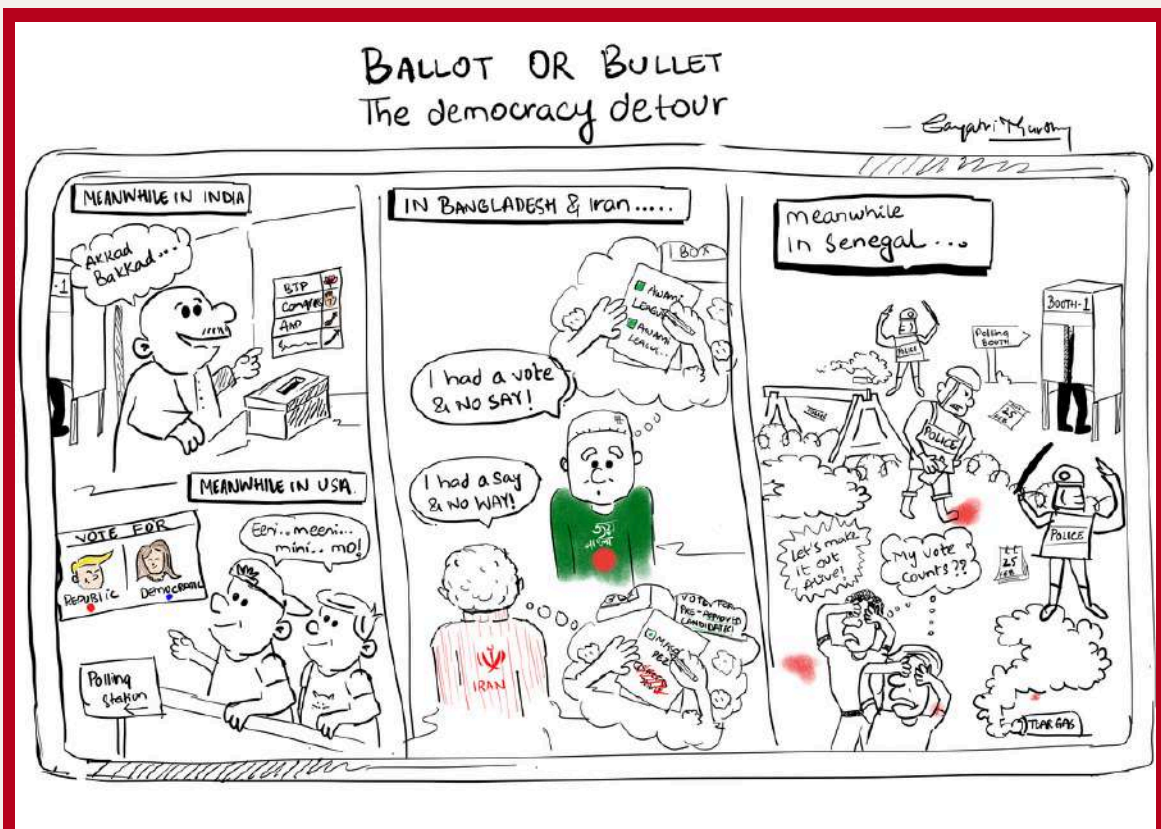
Republic Day at SSIS, held with the Law Department, featured patriotic performances, inspiring speeches, and a skit on democracy, fostering pride and unity.



# LAUGH LINES OF 2024

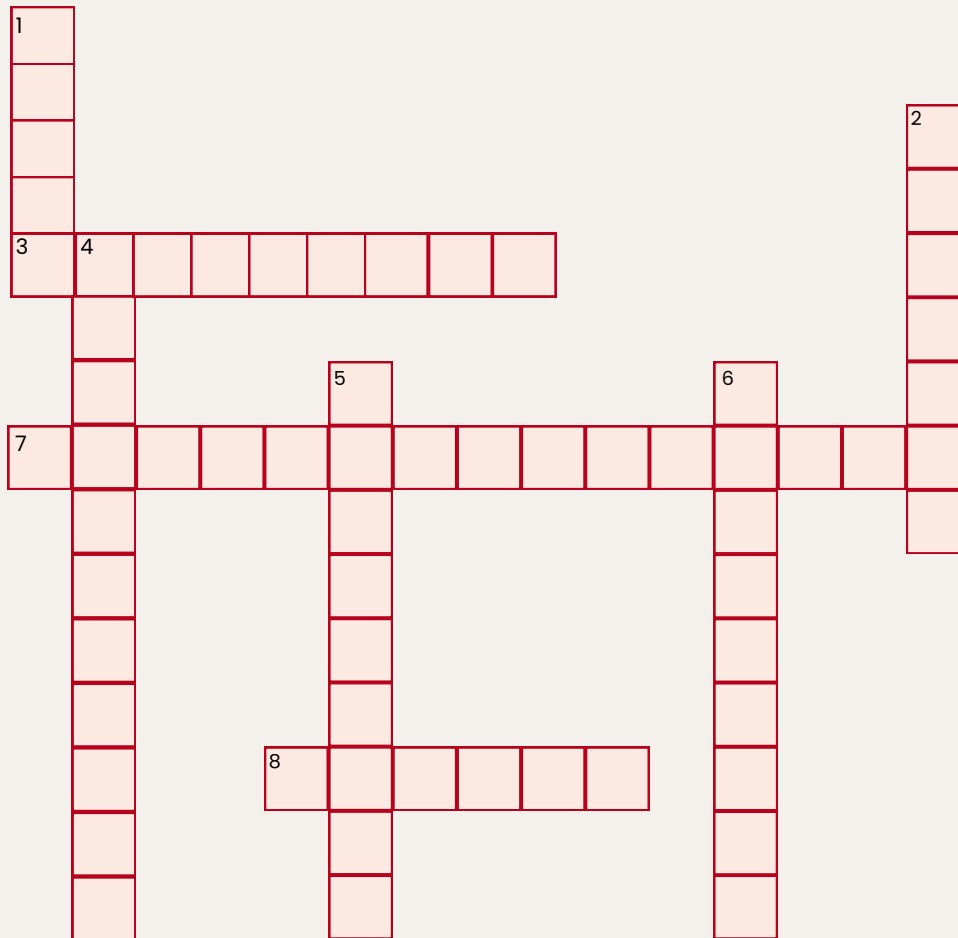


Gayatri KK



PVS Gayatri

# GLOBAL GRIDLOCK

**Arushi Jain**

## Across

- 3. The act of finding out another country's secrets.
- 7. An action taken by the state to increase its own security which causes reactions from other states.
- 8. Community of people that share a common sense of identity.

## Down

- 1. Legal territory entity, which is composed by a stable population.
- 2. Also known as the flexible law.
- 4. Ultimate authority in the decision making process of the state and maintenance of order.
- 5. The ability to influence through dialogue and negotiation.
- 6. The calculated use of violence to create a general climate of fear in a population.

**Answers:**  
 1.State 2.soft law 3.espionage  
 4.Sovereignty 5. Diplomacy  
 6.Terrorism 7.Security Dilemma  
 8.Nation

# MEET THE TEAM



***Dr. Shafat Yousuf***  
*Faculty In-charge*



***Vidisha Sharma***  
*Editorial Team*



***Arushi Jain***  
*Editorial Team*



***Mantha Vansundhara***  
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***PVS Gayatri***  
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*Global Affairs Podcast  
Team*



***Sangeeth Sylesh***  
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