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PHOTO ESSAY AND COVER DESIGN

NEHA

The India International Centre is a society promoting understanding and amity between the different communities of the world by undertaking or supporting the study of their past and present cultures, by disseminating or exchanging knowledge thereof and by providing such other facilities as would lead to their universal appreciation

COVER VISUAL

Vijay S. Jodha

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EDITORIAL

The long, hot summer—both in India and across many parts of the world—has confronted people with the challenges of global warming and the undeniable effects of climate change. Reflecting current concerns while also providing a lens into events from the past, this general issue of the *IIC Quarterly* features articles that engage with a range of subjects, from international relations to literature and culture to recent history.

This issue begins with the text of the 43rd C. D. Deshmukh Lecture, ‘India in a New Asia’, by George Yong-Boon Yeo, in which he suggests that an updated Panchsheel 2.0 be proposed by India, China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to the world. Continuing with a series on the Group of 20, Rajiv Bhatia analyses South Africa’s G20 presidency and its impact on the international arena. In his study of how countries are negotiating their individual diplomatic paths in present times, Luv Puri explores non-alignment’s evolution into multi-alignment in a multipolar world.

Three literary essays delve into the life, work and impact of a trio of distinctive *littérateurs*. Sachidananda Mohanty traces the legacy of Manoj Das, an eminent writer from Odisha; Uditha Devapriya explores Martin Wickramasinghe’s influence on modernism in Sri Lanka and Jaithirth ‘Jerry’ Rao recalls the impact T. S. Eliot has had on his life, as well as the poet’s Indic connections.

Kishore Singh discusses how spirituality is an essential aspect of culture and how its presence creates inner peace and psychological well-being in a world increasingly driven by materialistic ideas. V. Kalyan Shankar and Rohini Sahni analyse a consumerist phenomenon in their study of advertisements spanning 50 years in a Marathi newspaper.

In another continuing series—on the development of the railway network in India—Manoj Pande brings forth historical nuggets about the introduction of railways in Saurashtra in the 19th century by enlightened young rulers of the princely states in the region. Tracing the enduring legacy of ancient trade routes and maritime connectivity, Sanjeev Ranjan describes how festivals and fairs in nearby nations observed on the full moon day of the lunar month that spans October and November, preserve the memory of monsoon-linked trading networks that connected the subcontinent to countries in the Indian Ocean Region.

The book reviews span aspects of India's recent history, diplomacy, nature and women's achievements, reflecting the diversity of contemporary publications. The vibrant photo essay showcases the rituals and performative aspects of the *Gavri*, a votive dance-drama of the Mewar Bhils of Rajasthan. The cover visual depicts the Indian Laburnum (*Cassia fistula*), also called the golden shower tree, which blooms in summer and lights up the city of Delhi with its floral display.

As one looks forward to cooler weather and a more peaceful world, one also hopes readers will find this collection engaging and thought-provoking reading.



K. E. PRIYAMVADA