



AJEENKYA
D Y PATIL UNIVERSITY
THE INNOVATION UNIVERSITY

School of
Liberal Arts



भारतीय वैश्विक परिषद्
Indian Council of World Affairs

FOREIGN POLICY AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Compendium

INDIA AND THE INDO-PACIFIC: YOUNG VOICES, NEW PERSPECTIVES

1st April 2026

Organized by

School of Liberal Arts
Ajeenkya DY Patil University

In Collaboration With

Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi

Convenor, Foreign Policy Awareness Programme

Prof. Sukhvinder Kaur Multani
Deputy Dean, Research & Publications



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Content

1. Acknowledgement

2. Editorial Note

3. Message from the Vice Chancellor

4. Message from the Dean, School of Liberal Arts

5. Program Snapshot

6. Key Highlights

7. Setting the Context

8. Dialogue and Deliberation (Round Table)

9. Simulation and Practice (MUN)

10. Voices and Reflections (Essays)

11. Key Takeaways

12. Awardees

13. Looking Ahead

Acknowledgement

The School of Liberal Arts, Ajeenkya D Y Patil University, extends its sincere gratitude to the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi, for their collaboration and support in organizing the Foreign Policy Awareness Programme.

We also express our appreciation to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and the Dean, School of Liberal Arts, for their guidance and encouragement in making this initiative possible.

We acknowledge the efforts of faculty members, organizing team, and student coordinators whose dedication and commitment ensured the successful conduct of the programme.

Finally, we thank all participants for their enthusiastic engagement and meaningful contributions, which added depth and value to the discussions and activities.



The team behind the successful Foreign Policy Awareness Programme .



Editorial Note

The idea of initiating the Foreign Policy Awareness Programme emerged from a sustained engagement with international relations and a belief that meaningful understanding of foreign policy must extend beyond the classroom.

Having once observed such platforms with curiosity, it is particularly significant to now create spaces where students can actively engage with diplomacy, negotiation, and policy discourse. This programme was therefore designed not as a standalone event, but as an integrated academic experience bringing together dialogue, simulation, and reflection.

The Model United Nations, roundtable discussions, and essay competition collectively enabled students to move from theoretical understanding to practical engagement. What stood out throughout was the depth of participation—students demonstrated the ability to critically engage, articulate perspectives, and respond to complex global issues with maturity and clarity.

This compendium captures not just the proceedings, but the ideas, conversations, and learning that emerged through the programme. It reflects an ongoing effort to cultivate informed, aware, and globally engaged individuals.

As we move forward, such initiatives will continue to strengthen the academic environment by bridging knowledge with practice and encouraging meaningful intellectual engagement. This initiative also marks the beginning of a sustained academic engagement between ADYPU and ICWA, opening new avenues for collaboration in foreign policy and international relations.

Convenor & Editor

Foreign Policy Awareness Programme





MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

I am pleased to note the successful conduct of the Foreign Policy Awareness Programme, which reflects the university's commitment to fostering informed and globally aware students.

Initiatives such as the Model United Nations, roundtable discussions and academic competitions provide valuable platforms for students to engage with contemporary global issues and develop critical thinking.

I commend the efforts of the organizing team and encourage continued initiatives that promote academic dialogue and experiential learning.

I look forward to expanding such initiatives through meaningful collaborations that contribute to academic excellence and global awareness.

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Jain





MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN - SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

The Foreign Policy Awareness Programme represents an important academic initiative that brings together theory and practice in the field of international relations.

Through a combination of dialogue, simulation, and reflective writing, the programme has created meaningful opportunities for students to engage with foreign policy in a structured and analytical manner. The Model United Nations and roundtable discussions, in particular, have enabled participants to develop skills in negotiation, articulation, and policy analysis.

Such initiatives contribute significantly to building an intellectually vibrant academic environment, and I appreciate the efforts of the convenor and the team in successfully executing this programme.

Dr. Sunny Thomas



Programme Snapshot

Programme Title: **Foreign Policy Awareness Programme**

Theme: **India and the Indo-Pacific: Young Voices, New Perspectives**

Date: **1st April 2026**

Venue: **Mini Auditorium, ULC 1, Ajeenkya DY Patil University, Pune**

Organised by: **School of Liberal Arts, ADYPU**

In Collaboration with: **Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi**

Programme Components:

- **Youth Roundtable Discussion**
- **Mini Model United Nations Simulation**
- **National Essay Writing Competition**

Participation:

- **Total Participants: 150**
- **Essay Entries Received: 31**

This programme marks the beginning of a sustained academic engagement between ADYPU and ICWA, a premier national think tank.



Key Highlights

The programme brought together diverse academic activities and strong participation. The key highlights below reflect its scope, engagement, and overall impact.

- Participation of over 150 students and faculty from multiple institutions, reflecting strong academic engagement
- Organized in collaboration with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi, a premier national think tank
- Included three core academic components: Youth Roundtable, Mini Model United Nations (MUN), and National Essay Writing Competition
- Received 30 plus essay submissions from across the country showcasing diverse perspectives on global issues
- Focused on the theme “India and the Indo-Pacific: Young Voices, New Perspectives”, encouraging policy-oriented thinking
- Enabled student-led discussions and simulations, promoting critical thinking, negotiation, and analytical skills
- Facilitated meaningful dialogue on key global issues such as Indo-Pacific strategy, India–China dynamics, and global governance
- Marked the beginning of academic engagement between ADYPU and ICWA, opening avenues for future collaboration
- Marks the beginning of a sustained academic engagement between ADYPU and ICWA, a premier national think tank





Setting the Context

The changing global environment necessitates a deeper engagement with foreign policy beyond conventional classroom learning. Recognizing this need, the Foreign Policy Awareness Programme was conceptualized as an academic initiative to create meaningful platforms for dialogue, simulation, and critical reflection.

The programme was designed to bring together multiple dimensions of learning such as structured deliberations through roundtable discussions, experiential engagement through the Model United Nations, and analytical reflection through an essay writing competition. This integrated approach ensured that participants were not only exposed to key foreign policy issues but were also encouraged to engage with them actively and thoughtfully.

A key strength of the initiative lay in its collaborative and participatory nature. Students were provided opportunities to interact with experts, articulate their perspectives, and navigate complex global issues in dynamic settings. The programme thus moved beyond passive learning, fostering skills such as critical thinking, negotiation, and policy analysis.

In bringing together academic rigour and practical exposure, the Foreign Policy Awareness Programme reflects an ongoing commitment to nurturing globally aware and intellectually engaged learners. This compendium captures the essence of these engagements, presenting a synthesis of discussions, simulations, and reflections that emerged through the initiative.



Youth Roundtable Discussion

Dialogues & Deliberations: Youth Perspectives on Global Affairs

The Youth Roundtable Discussion served as a platform for student-led, moderated conversations on key dimensions of contemporary foreign policy. Structured to encourage analytical engagement, the discussion brought together diverse perspectives on issues shaping the Indo-Pacific and global order.

The deliberations were anchored around critical themes such as the strategic relevance of QUAD and ASEAN, evolving India-China dynamics, and the growing importance of maritime security and the blue economy. Participants also reflected on India's role in multilateral institutions and the broader challenges of global governance in an increasingly interconnected world.

What distinguished the roundtable was the quality of student engagement—participants demonstrated the ability to critically assess geopolitical developments, articulate informed viewpoints, and engage in meaningful dialogue.

Key Themes Explored

- QUAD & ASEAN
- India-China Dynamics
- Maritime Security & Blue Economy
- Multilateral Institutions
- Global Governance in the Indo-Pacific





Mini-MUN Simulation

Simulation & Practice: India in a Multipolar World

The Mini Model United Nations simulation was conducted around the theme “India’s Strategic Position in a Multipolar Global Order.” Designed as a student-led exercise, the simulation enabled participants to engage with the complexities of diplomacy through role-play and negotiation.

Committees such as the United Nations Security Council, ASEAN Regional Forum, G20 Sherpa Track, and the Indian Ocean Rim Association provided diverse institutional settings for deliberation. Each committee addressed distinct dimensions of global governance, requiring participants to align national interests with multilateral cooperation.

The simulation encouraged students to navigate competing priorities, build consensus, and respond to evolving geopolitical challenges mirroring real-world diplomatic processes.

Committees Simulated

- United Nations Security Council
- ASEAN Regional Forum
- G20 Sherpa Track
- Indian Ocean Rim Association





National Essay Writing Competition

Voices of Reflection: India and the Global South

The Essay Writing Competition invited participants to engage with the theme “India’s Rising Role in the Global South,” encouraging critical reflection on India’s evolving position in international affairs.

The competition witnessed participation from students across different parts of India, reflecting the wide reach and relevance of the theme.

The submissions reflected a wide range of perspectives, addressing themes such as leadership in multilateral forums, development partnerships, South–South cooperation, and India’s role as a voice for emerging economies.

The competition provided a platform for students to articulate nuanced arguments, supported by research and analysis. The quality of submissions highlighted both intellectual depth and a growing awareness of global issues among participants.

Key Takeaways

The Foreign Policy Awareness Programme brought together discussion, simulation, and reflection, allowing students to engage with global issues in a meaningful way. The following key insights emerged from the programme:

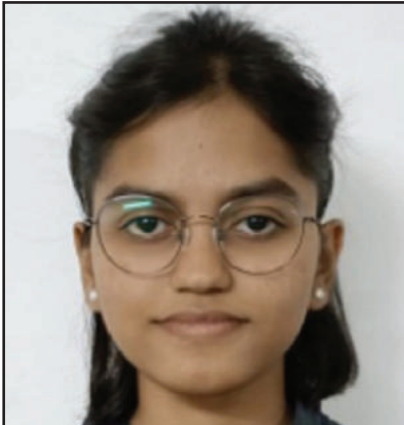
- Students demonstrated a strong ability to engage with complex global issues, moving beyond textbook understanding to informed discussion and debate.
- The roundtable discussions highlighted the importance of dialogue and diverse perspectives in understanding foreign policy challenges, especially in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The Model United Nations simulation showed that experiential learning plays a crucial role in developing skills such as negotiation, critical thinking, and decision-making.
- Participants developed a deeper awareness of India’s evolving role in global and regional platforms, particularly in areas such as multilateral cooperation and maritime security.
- The essay competition reflected analytical depth and originality, with students presenting well-reasoned perspectives on India’s position in the Global South.
- The programme as a whole reinforced the value of student-led initiatives, where active participation leads to stronger learning outcomes.
- Engagement from participants across different institutions highlighted the need for continued platforms that encourage academic exchange and collaboration.

Awardees

The Foreign Policy Awareness Programme recognized outstanding student participation across its key components, including the Essay Writing Competition, Model United Nations Simulation, and Roundtable Discussion.

Essay Writing Competition

1st Place



Marilyn Anand

Rashtriya Raksha University
Course: B.A. Defence and Strategic Studies
Theme: "India's Rising Role in the Global South: Leadership, Development and Diplomacy"

2nd Place



Shrusti Shankar Sabale

Ajeenkya DY Patil Pune University
Course: BA Psychology
Theme: "India's Rising Role in the Global South: Leadership, Development and Diplomacy"

3rd Place



Sanskruti Mali

Indira University (School of Business)
Course: BBA in Innovation and entrepreneurship
Theme: "Technology, Artificial Intelligence, and the Race for Global Power: Can India Become a Digital Superpower?"

Mini Model United Nations (MUN) Track 1: UNSC

Best Delegate



Parveen Kaur Kharoud
Ajeenkya D Y Patil University

High Commendation



Meghan Satish Kadam
Christ University Bangalore



Mini Model United Nations (MUN) Track 2: IORA

Best Delegate



Pranav Jagtap
Balaji Law College Pune

High Commendation



Grishma Surana
Surya Dutta Law College, Pune

Youth Roundtable Discussion

Best Speaker



Parth Ambre
BA - International Relations
(Major)



Yashi Goswami
MA - International Relations



Looking Ahead

The Foreign Policy Awareness Programme marks the beginning of a sustained effort to create meaningful academic platforms for engagement with global issues. Building on the insights and participation witnessed in this initiative, there is a clear need to continue such programmes in a more structured and regular manner.

Future editions can further expand the scope of discussions, including wider institutional participation, and deepen engagement with policy practitioners and experts.

Strengthening collaborations and creating opportunities for interdisciplinary dialogue will be key to enhancing the learning experience.

There is also significant potential to connect these initiatives with academic conferences, student research opportunities, and internships, enabling participants to gain practical exposure and build pathways into the field of international relations and policy.

In addition, these engagements can evolve into more formal academic outputs, including publications, policy briefs, and student-led research contributions.

As global challenges continue to evolve, it becomes increasingly important to equip students with the ability to think critically, engage constructively, and respond thoughtfully. Initiatives such as this will continue to play an important role in shaping informed and globally aware individuals.

The journey initiated through this programme will continue to grow, fostering dialogue, learning, and meaningful engagement with the world beyond the classroom.

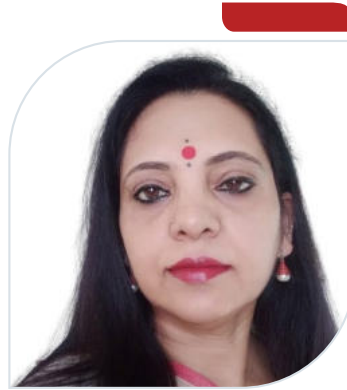


Organizing Team – School of Liberal Arts

The successful execution of the programme was made possible through the dedicated efforts of the School of Liberal Arts organizing team.



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