

EVENT REPORT

DAIC–WIF Round Table Conference

on

“India and the Emerging Global Order: From Strategic Autonomy to Global Responsibility”

The Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), in collaboration with the World Intellectual Foundation (WIF), organised a round table conference on **“India and the Emerging Global Order: From Strategic Autonomy to Global Responsibility”** on **28 September 2026 at Conference 2, DAIC, New Delhi**. The conference brought together distinguished representatives from diplomacy, defence, the judiciary, economics, academia and strategic affairs to examine India’s choices in a rapidly changing international environment.

The deliberations examined shifts in the global balance of power and their implications for India’s strategic interests, including its engagement with major powers such as the United States and China within the broader Indo-Pacific and South Asian context. Discussions focused on emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, semiconductors, data and cyber security, alongside the interlinkages between economic resilience, trade, monetary policy, research and development, education and national preparedness. The deliberations explored India’s role in the Global South, its sources of soft power, and the responsibilities associated with its growing global influence.

The conference witnessed the participation of distinguished dignitaries and experts, including Justice (Retd.) Arun Kumar Mishra, Amb. Veena Sikri, Lt. Gen. Raj Shukla (Retd.), Lt. Gen. D. P. Pandey (Retd.), Amb. Dammu Ravi, Prof. Prachi Mishra, Prof. Purnamita Dasgupta, Dr. Ravi P. Singh, Ms. Hemangi Sinha, Curator of the Conference, and Col. Akash Patil, Director, DAIC, among others. The session was moderated by Lt. Gen. Sanjay Kulkarni (Retd.).

The deliberations highlighted the changing international order, intensifying US-China competition and shifting regional dynamics, underscoring the need for India to safeguard its strategic autonomy, strengthen deterrence and anticipate geopolitical developments. Speakers emphasised the importance of forward planning, institutional adaptation and enhanced capabilities across conventional and emerging security domains, including cyber, space and technology.

The discussion identified technological advancement and economic resilience as key pillars of India’s global aspirations. Emphasis was placed on artificial intelligence, semiconductors, biotechnology, renewable energy, indigenous innovation and greater investment in research and development. Speakers also highlighted the need to strengthen economic competitiveness, adapt to changing global trade and financial policies, and promote fair representation in international institutions. India was encouraged to leverage its diplomacy, digital public infrastructure, diaspora and cultural assets to strengthen its engagement with the Global South and Global North.

The deliberations further underscored the importance of harnessing India’s demographic dividend through relevant education, skill development, employment opportunities and stronger institutions. Speakers highlighted the need to bridge the gap between youth aspirations and available opportunities while promoting critical thinking, creativity and leadership. Sustainable, people-centred development addressing climate change, food and energy security, water, migration, livelihoods and rural development was identified as essential to inclusive growth and India’s long-term national resilience.

The key takeaways emphasised the need to strengthen India's strategic autonomy through economic resilience, indigenous technological capabilities, defence preparedness and institutional reforms. The discussions highlighted the importance of research and innovation, global partnerships, neighbourhood engagement and India's contribution to the Global South. Quality education, skill development, employment generation and integrated planning for climate, food, energy and water security were identified as essential priorities. The deliberations underscored that effective implementation and a people-centered approach are crucial to translating national aspirations into tangible outcomes.

The conference provided a multidisciplinary platform for examining the relationship between international developments, national institutions, technology, human development and responsible governance. These discussions are relevant to DAIC's role in facilitating intellectual and policy dialogue on socio-economic transformation, inclusive development and public policy. The emphasis on human capital, institutional capacity, equitable access to opportunity and people-centred development also offers themes for future research and dialogue.

The DAIC-WIF Round Table Conference brought together perspectives from diplomacy, defence, economics, academia and strategic affairs to consider India's position in the emerging global order. The deliberations highlighted that India's future influence will depend on more than conventional economic or military strength: technology, research, human capital, institutional adaptability, economic resilience and constructive international engagement will also be decisive. The overarching takeaway was that strategic autonomy requires capability, while greater capability brings with it wider responsibility.

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