

TWO-DAY NATIONAL *Conference*

In honour of Prof. P.R. Kumaraswamy

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Resilience amidst Rupture in WANA *Policy Implications for India*

16–17 September 2026 | Room No. 344, SIS II, JNU

Centre for West Asian Studies, SIS, JNU
in collaboration with
Indian Council of World Affairs

Day 1: Wednesday, 16 September 2026

Registration (9:30 – 10:00 AM)

Inaugural Session (10:00 – 11:00 AM)

Welcome Address	Prof. Jajati K. Pattnaik, Chairperson, CWAS, SIS, JNU
Inaugural Address	Prof. Amitabh Mattoo, Dean, SIS, JNU
Keynote Address	Prof. C. Raja Mohan, Distinguished Professor, MJIAS, O.P. Jindal Global University
Address by ICWA Representative	Dr. Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui, Senior Research Fellow, ICWA
Vote of Thanks	Prof. Sameena Hameed, CWAS, SIS, JNU

Tea Break (11:00 – 11:30 AM)

Session I: Geopolitical Turmoil (11:30 AM – 1:00 PM)

Chair: Amb. Sanjay Singh, Former Secretary (East), MEA

Dr. Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui, ICWA

A Geopolitical Reading of the Mecca Defence Agreement: Its Aspects and Prospects

Dr. Ajish P. Joy, *The Week*

Ukraine's Caspian Strike against Iran: The Fusion of Europe's War with the West Asia Conflict

Dr. Alvite Singh Ningthoujam, Symbiosis University

From Normalisation to Confrontation: The Reconfiguration of West Asia's Security Order

Dr. Manjari Singh, Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies

US-Iran War: Regional Agency and the Reconfiguration of West Asian Security

Prof. Khinvraj Jangid, O.P. Jindal Global University

Resilience Without Stability: Geopolitical Rupture in West Asia and the Limits of India's Multi-Alignment

Lunch Break (1:00 – 2:00 PM)

Session II: Economic Diversification & Energy Transition (2:00 – 3:30 PM)

Chair: Prof. Gulshan Dietl, Former Professor, CWAS, JNU

Prof. Sameena Hameed, CWAS, JNU

Impact of Military Conflicts on Israel's Energy Strategies

Dr. Vrushal T. Ghoble, CWAS, JNU

West Asia in Flux: Regional Geopolitics and Its Repercussions

Dr. Vandana Kumari, Independent Scholar

Persian Gulf in Turmoil: Challenges and Resilience for India's Energy Security

Dr. Priyanka Mittal, IIMC

Women, Energy Transition and Sustainable Competitiveness in the GCC Economies

Tea Break (3:30 – 4:00 PM)

Session III: Role of Regional & External Actors (4:00 – 5:30 PM)

Chair: Amb. Anil Trigunayat, Distinguished Fellow, VIF

Dr. Md. Muddassir Quamar, CWAS, JNU

"The more the things change, the more they stay the same": Middle East Geopolitics amidst the US-Israel-Iran War

Dr. Stuti Banerjee, ICWA

The United States and Middle East Region: Re-alignment of Interest

Dr. Atul Kumar, ORF

China and the Changing Strategic Order in the MENA Region

Dr. Aleksei Zakharov, ORF

Russia in the Middle East: Balancing Ties, Navigating Flashpoints

High Tea (5:30 – 6:00 PM)

Day 2: Thursday, 17 September 2026

Session IV: Defence & Security (9:30 – 11:00 AM)

Chair: Prof. Mohammed Badrul Alam, Former Professor, JMI

Dr. Dipanwita Chakravorty, Independent Scholar

Post-October 7 Security Architecture and the "Board of Peace": Durability, Legitimacy and India's Stake in Gaza's Stabilization Order

Dr. Prabhat Jawla, CPS, JNU

An "Axis" Without "Resistance": Iran and Its Proxies in the Region

Dr. Rohit Kumar Sharma, MP-IDSA

Non-Contact Warfare Comes of Age: Lessons from the 2026 Middle East War

Dr. Ahmad Tashfeen, Independent Scholar

Security Amid Rupture: How the 2026 US-IRAN War Reshaped the GCC Strategic Calculus

Tea Break (11:00 – 11:30 AM)

Session V: Non-Traditional Security (11:30 AM – 1:00 PM)

Chair: Prof. A. K. Ramakrishnan, Former Professor, CWAS, JNU

Prof. M. H. Ilias, MG University

Non-Traditional Security and the Question of Legitimacy in the Post-Rentier Gulf States

Dr. Prakash Desai, Goa University

In Pursuit of an Ideal Polity: Interface between Political life and Pluralism in South Asia and the Middle East

Dr. Jatin Kumar, Ram Lal Anand College

The Food Security Crisis in Lebanon: Drivers, Impacts, and Future Prospects

Dr. Deepika Matange, Independent Scholar

Manufactured Abundance and Incipient Vulnerabilities of Desalination in the Gulf

Lunch Break (1:00 – 2:00 PM)

Session VI: Demography & Youth Issues (2:00 – 3:30 PM)

Chair: Dr. Meena Singh Roy, Distinguished Fellow, MEI@ND and Former Head, West Asia Centre, MP-IDSA

Dr. Irfan Ahmed Nazir, BITS Pilani Dubai

Caught in the Cross-Fire: The 2026 US-Israel-Iran War and Non-Nationals in the GCC States

Dr. Divya Malhotra, Independent Scholar

Beyond Reconstruction: Rethinking Healing and Security Through Indian Migrant Labour in Post-October 7 Israel

Dr. Ankita Sanyal, ICPS, New Delhi

Whose Iran? Youth, State and Nationalism

Dr. Anuradha Jangra, Non-Resident Researcher, MEI@ND

The “Missing” Generation: Youth as Iraq’s Political Bellwether

Tea Break (3:30 – 3:45 PM)

Session VII: Policy Implications (3:45 – 5:00 PM)

Chair: Prof. Sreeradha Datta, O.P. Jindal Global University

Prof. Jajati K. Pattnaik, CWAS, JNU

Geopolitical Turbulence in West Asia: Policy Implications for India

Dr. Uma Purushothaman, CSA, JNU

External Factors in India's Engagement with West Asia

Dr. Lakshmi Priya, CWAS, JNU

GCC's Evolving Behaviour and Implications for India

Dr. Vishwajeet Singh Akhawat, VIF

From Strategic Balancing to Strategic Prioritization: India's Evolving Middle East Policy

Valedictory Session (5:00 – 5:30 PM)

Chair

Prof. Sharad K. Soni, Associate Dean, SIS, JNU

Valedictory Address

Prof. Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, JNU

Vote of Thanks

Dr. Lakshmi Priya, CWAS, SIS, JNU

High Tea (5:30 – 6:00 PM)