

ArthaShastra

u n b i a s e d *Insights*



January 2025 | Volume 1 | Issue 1

Foreword

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of ARTHASHASTRA, where we at The Global South Convergence Forum (GSFC) will share our on-ground learnings and research insights on the growth and developmental trajectory of the Global South nations.

Encompassing readers from all spectrums of society, we believe that our sharings will empower the reader with unique information and knowledge, triggering unthought of directions and solutions to complex everyday scenarios. We envision providing a path where high-quality development meets the aspirational growth story of the Global South nations.

Bringing grassroots perceptions to the fore, you can look forward to exclusive interviews with industry participants, researched articles from the global community, and meetings and events attended by the GSFC team. All hinting at future trends.

We encourage you to send us your feedback, views, criticisms, suggestions, ideas and notions. Be rest assured it will all be an integral part of this newsletter in some form or the other. Your unstinted support will enable us to impart unbiased thought-provoking concepts and data-analysis.

Thank you once again for being a part of our journey. We hope you enjoy this issue as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

Warmly,



Dr. Natasha Agarwal

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We at The Global South Convergence Forum in India, are open to collaborations on commissioned projects, data-driven research & analytics, and more based on your requirements. Knowing the ecosystem in India, we are in a unique position to help you navigate your Indian journey.

We look forward to hearing from you at :
globalsouth@gscforum.org



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Meetings...

...with Mr. Sudheendra Kulkarni

Director of Operations of the Prime Minister's Office of India (1999-2004)

On a calm and serene September morning, we found ourselves embracing the warm hospitality of Mr. Sudheendra Kulkarni's home. Sporting a purple shirt and an effusive smile, he made us feel completely at ease. We had reached out to him to delve into the intricacies of collaborating with neighbouring emerging economies and the role of India-China in the region. Our purpose was clear, to glean wisdom from his vast experience and understand India's role in the Global South. We received far more than insights - it was a masterclass in perspective. Mr. Kulkarni opened our minds to unthought of directions, dimensions, guiding and prompting us to forge ahead.



From left to right: Paresh Batra, Sudheendra Kulkarni, Natasha Agarwal.

From challenges facing modern India to the way forward globally, he mentored us with his invaluable suggestions and advice. And yes, not to forget the heady aroma of a South Indian breakfast which was the icing on the cake.

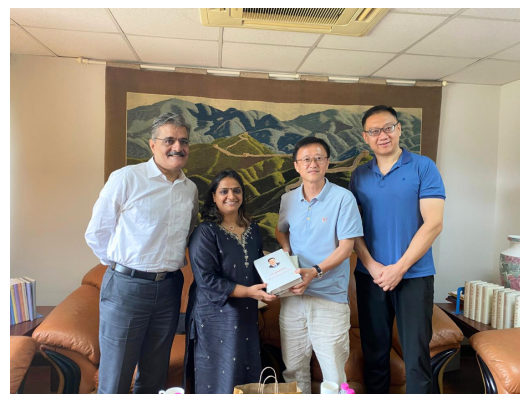
The meeting ended with a promise to meet again. Thus, the 17th of September 2024

wasn't just a date, but it marked the beginning of an ingenious relationship as we embarked on the exciting path of The Global South Convergence Forum.

...with His Excellency Mr. Kong Xianhua

Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Mumbai, India

On the 20th of September 2024, we met His Excellency Mr. Kong Xianhua, Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Mumbai, India. We were ushered to a comfortable non-formal meeting room. Almost immediately, His Excellency walked in and joined us with his team members. Equipped with an-easy demeanor and dressed informally, he exuded warmth and Chinese hospitality.



From left to right: Paresh Batra, Dr. Natasha Agarwal, His Excellency Mr. Kong Xinhua, Mr. Zhang Hongyu.

Amongst other issues discussed, he stressed on China's firm belief of working in tandem with the environment. And that sustainable development is key for the future progress of mankind.

Moving relationships to contemporary times could benefit both countries, His Excellency concurred that mutual trust and mutual understanding are crucial for normalising bilateral relationships between India and China.

We had a productive meeting where we discussed ways in which bilateral ties between India and China can be advanced. His invaluable insights are undoubtedly going to positively

steer the ties between the two Asian giants.

The meeting ended with an invite to China's 75th National Day Celebrations at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Mumbai.

India-China Ties Need Not Be Frosty

By Natasha Agarwal and Paresh Batra

Last month offered a rare glimpse of progress in the strained relationship between India and China. The two nations agreed on [new patrolling arrangements](#) along their disputed Himalayan border, and their leaders – Xi Jinping and Narendra Modi – [held talks](#) at the 16th BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia.

Yet, this modest diplomatic thaw has yet to ease tensions in their economic relations. With national security concerns increasingly intersecting with economic interests, India remains cautious about welcoming Chinese capital and labor. This stance, however, has been marked by mixed messages.

For example, although the India Economic Survey 2023-2024 advocated for more Chinese investment, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal quickly clarified that India's position on Chinese investments remains unchanged. Similarly, External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, while noting there's no formal policy against Chinese FDI, emphasized the "common sense" need for careful scrutiny. Indian leaders continue to perceive China as a "special China problem" in a broader global context.

For businesses, this dichotomy hinders the development of cross-border commercial relationships. Further dampening the confidence and willingness of Chinese entrepreneurs to invest in India are New Delhi's restrictive visa policies, investment regulations, and a business environment that appears unfavorable toward China.

As The Global Times, a Chinese state me-

dia outlet, states: "Without enhancing mutual trust, India will struggle to boost Chinese investments." Mutual trust is the foundation of any stable, long-term relationship. Therefore, rebuilding this trust requires both nations to adopt a neutral approach, focusing on shifting perceptions toward each other across all levels of society.

To this end, India could focus on fostering more people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. The Indian government could reciprocate China's outreach to Indian passport holders by reinstating visa issuance across all categories for Chinese passport holders, including reestablishing its e-visa policy for China. Functionalizing a visa portal to facilitate short-term business visas for Chinese passport holders required under the government's Production Linked Scheme (PLI) is in itself inadequate to facilitate the humongous people-to-people exchange that is required for perceptual changes between the two "population giants."

Moreover, New Delhi and Beijing should expedite the resumption of direct flights between the two countries. This would not only facilitate bilateral economic exchange but also support multilateral economic ties. For instance, non-Chinese foreign businesses with supply chains in China may find India a more attractive investment destination if doing business with China from India were made easier.

India and China could adopt a multi-pronged, interdisciplinary approach to promote people-to-people exchanges across various lev-

els. For instance, both nations might benefit from mutual learning about each other’s governance structures.

To support this exchange, a program involving government officials, academia, businesses, and other stakeholders should be considered. This could include both theoretical and practical components. The theoretical aspect might involve courses led by experts on each country’s governance models, while the practical aspect could consist of field trips and interactions with civic officials. Such exchanges would not only foster public-private knowledge partnerships but also offer insights on adapting and integrating newly acquired knowledge into each country’s domestic context.

India has signed Cultural Exchange Programs with 78 countries, including one with China that could be a valuable step toward rebuilding mutual trust. Such a program might enable cross-campus collaborations in language, music, dance, culinary arts, and more, fostering deeper empathy and understanding between the

people of both nations.

Exchanges such as these could be piloted through existing India-China sister-city partnerships, revitalizing and breathing new life into these connections.

It is imperative to be cognizant of the fact that rebuilding mutual trust is going to be an iterative process. Perception management alone toward normalization of bilateral ties will take both nations only that far. Taking a leaf out of the learnings from Da Wei, a Chinese scholar at Tsinghua University: ”Diplomacy starts with education.” Educating each other about one another’s cultures and histories could be a meaningful first step in rebuilding mutual trust.

Ultimately, mutual learning fosters mutual understanding, paving the way for mutual trust and shared benefits for all.

This commentary was originally published in Nikkei Asia on November 2, 2024. Source: <https://asia.nikkei.com/>

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Events...

...China's 75th National Day Celebrations

A reception to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the **People's Republic of China** was held on September 26th, 2024 at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Mumbai.



His Excellency Mr. Kong Xianhua addressing the august audience.

Momentous to see the flags of the two nations next to each other. And it was joyous to experience the people of the two Asian giants dining and sharing a moment of togetherness.



...Urban Sororities Conclave : Strengthening Mumbai - Shanghai Ties

Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Mumbai-Shanghai sister-city partnership, October 9, 2024 witnessed the coming together of diverse groups of intellectuals, online and offline - in India and China.

The conclave was hosted by Yashwant Rao Chavan Centre in collaboration with the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Mumbai.

In the presence of Mr. Sudheendra Kulkarni and His Excellency Mr. Kong Xianhua, the group discussed potential innovative ways through which Mumbai-Shanghai city sisterhood can revitalize India-China bilateral relationships.

To drive perceptual changes, the GSCF team proposed the need for greater people-to-people exchanges. Ultimately, mutual learning nurtures mutual understanding paving the way for mutual trust and shared benefits for all.



Forward thinking discussions at work.

Education: Exploring East

An Interview with Mr. Rajeev Balakrishnan

India's Ministry of External Affairs reports that as of 1st January 2024, a total of 13,35,030 Indian students are pursuing higher education in foreign countries. This figure astounds when we understand that approximately 83% of the Indian students are traveling to one of the following top five countries namely Canada (31.98%), USA (25.29%), UK (13.86%), Australia (9.15%) and Germany (3.22%) respectively. Interestingly, with a neighbouring country in China offering equal, if not better opportunities, less than 1% of Indian students chose China as their preferred destination to pursue higher education.

Was language a barrier or general unawareness of educational opportunities in China, the deterrent...? Maybe both... **Rajeev Balakrishnan (RB)**, a fully-funded PhD scholar from Chinese Agricultural University, answers these questions and more

Team GSCF : *Please introduce yourself to our audience.*

RB : My name is Rajeev Balakrishnan. I reside at Alappuzha, Kerala, India.

Team GSCF : *What do you do now?*

RB : I am a Research Consultant and into farming too. My family has been into farming for many years now.

Team GSCF : *Could you tell us about your educational background?*

RB : My highest qualification is a PhD in Development Studies (unfinished) from the College of Humanities and Development Studies (CoHD), China Agriculture University, Beijing.

Team GSCF : *Most Indians go to the West to pursue their higher education. Is there any specific reason you chose China?*

RB : Like others, I also preferred western universities, but I found it difficult to secure fund-

ing and scholarships in them. The only fully funded scholarship I had been offered was from China.

Team GSCF : *A fully-funded Chinese scholarship? Very interesting. Are Indian students even aware of these scholarships?*

RB : The problem of Indian students is that they are unaware of existing scholarship opportunities in China... one of the reasons could be that we Indians prefer to go to the West.



China Agricultural University, Beijing

Team GSCF : *How does one go about getting a scholarship in China?*

RB : The China admission portal will help you to find the programs, universities and scholarship opportunities. Allow me to share the link with you here <https://apply.china-admissions.com/>

Team GSCF : *How did you learn about your scholarship? Tell us more..*

RB : I learnt about my scholarship from multiple and long searches on the internet. I googled, googled and googled more..hahahaha.. It was a Forbidden City Scholarship provided by the Beijing Municipal Government. The scholarship comprehensively covered my travel to and fro flight fares, tuition fees, medical insurance, lodging expenses, and provided me with a monthly living allowance.

Team GSCF : *Were you provided extra*

funding to present your research findings at conferences within China?

RB : Yes, in most cases conferences within China will get funds for travel and accommodation. I got an opportunity to attend a conference in another province in China. It was fully sponsored by my University.

Team GSCF : *Talk to us about your PhD research...*

RB : My PhD was researching the impact on natural resource governance and environmental justice in the context of the Forest Rights Act. The research was a case study from the Kadar region in Kerala, India. I used a socio-ecological approach to undertake my research.



Rajeev with his PhD advisor Prof. Li Xiaoyun, Honorary Dean of College of International Development and Global Agriculture (CIDGA) at China Agricultural University.

Team GSCF : *How many months were you in China?*

RB : I was stationed in Beijing for more than 7 months.

Team GSCF : *How do Chinese universities differ from Western universities?*

RB : Apart from treating scholarship students with high esteem, the Chinese Universities also offer five star library facilities to all their scholars. In my travels to Europe and other places I neither received a warm welcome nor did I find a space to engage in academically or otherwise. Whereas, the Chinese take good care of their international scholars.

Also, with the research and teaching experience, the scholars in China enjoy a high academic reputation. Besides, colleges in

China are regularly visited by internationally renowned academic and non-academic guests.



A glimpse of the library at the China Agricultural University campus.

Team GSCF : *Did you not experience a language barrier though?*

RB : Language... You know even if you go to Europe or any other country we have to learn their language. This is not a big problem. For a three month course/semester, we only have to spend a fraction of our scholarly time in learning the local language. With advancement in technology where we can use AI effectively on our mobile phones, I do not think language is a big barrier.

Team GSCF : *Is language, culture, food, etc a barrier for communication/day-to-day activities for Indian students in China?*

RB : Initially it was difficult to cope but this would have been the situation elsewhere also. But then, after a short period of time, you can cope easily in China.



Rajeev attending a lecture whilst pursuing his PhD studies.

Team GSCF : *Are there opportunities for Indian students to work in China - while studying and post-studying.*

RB : If we go on a student visa, my experience

says that we are permitted only to study. We cannot undertake any part-time jobs. But, there are opportunities for Indians to work in China post their studies. This is for social sciences.

Team GSCF : *What made it easy and/or difficult to study in China?*

RB : We have to understand that we have to change our attitudes, our existing prejudices of people from China.

Team GSCF : *With your rich experiences as an international student in China, what would your advice be for Indian students wanting to study internationally?*

RB : For those interested in pursuing an international degree, some of the top ranking universities such as Chinese Academy of Sciences, Tsinghua university, Peking university, to name a few, offer world-class high quality education with numerous scholarship opportunities for international students.

Global South Voices - heard and unheard

By Natasha Agarwal and Paresh Batra

The blurring of the socio-economic and political imperatives of the global south in the international development discourse has led to the reemergence of a global south reflective of supposedly being geopolitically non-aligned. This was evident in the participation of 123 global south nations including India on the 17th August 2024 at the third virtual “voice of the global south” summit hosted by the Indian government.

Arguably, the reimagining of a powerful Global South has uniquely placed India in a sweet spot. With its rising economic status and changed international reach, India today is able to fill a perceived void with a vision unclear earlier. With the formation of the Global Development Compact, India hopes to lend a voice to global south nations as the way ahead. And, as an alternative to the rising power - China.

One, with the exclusion of a global powerhouse in India’s immediate neighbourhood itself, the “Voice” of the Global South summit, paradoxically, had an important tone missing - the voice of China. But, shouldn’t the voices of the global south include ALL the voices? Be it the meek, the aggressive, passive or the aspiring needy, without bias or reservations from any and/or all quarters. More so, given that in a self-hosted forum where postulating global

south leadership evidently, albeit subtly, is high on India’s global south strategy.

This then begs the question of whether the global south, India’s or as the world knows it, has been on the lookout for a leader, let alone an alternative one. Global south nations are actively dealing with the complexity of integrating evolving domestic demands in an interdependent global economic system, and at the same time having to address global common issues such as a changing climate. Accordingly, their economic partnership would encapsulate the very essence of coming together as a global south. That is, to bring forth the collective agency of the global south nations on the international arena championing the need to realign the global order to a level playing field wherein economic resources are pooled towards a fair, equal and just opportunity to economic growth and development. In this spirit, a north (India) in the global south itself would be counterproductive to the very essence of being equal partners in the global south.

It can be argued that for 123 nations partaking in a summit hosted by India in the known of China’s absence, suggest that countries are looking for a global south leader in India. Offering an alternative to China, India in one masterstroke has potentially elevated her diplomatic

stature. However, participation could be strategic, that is to hedge geopolitical risks emanating from a rising US-China rivalry, and India's portrayal of being a friend of the West thus extending benefits to the rest. Even though it is yet to be seen if India is able to build on this strategic momentum and convince the West to lend them a listening ear. Alternatively, participation could be to economically benefit all countries, be it India, China, or any other global south nation. What should India's global south strategy be then?

Currently, India's positioning in the global and regional geopolitics gives the impression of India being strategically autonomous. India's all-weather friend in Russia has a no-limit friendship with China, a perceived arch rival by the Global North (US and the rest of the west). In recent years, India has been treading the path to etch out deeper comprehensive and strategic economic and military partnerships with the Global North. All along playing catch-up on her own diplomatic relationships in the global south, bilaterally and multilaterally. For example, through multilateral vehicles such as BRICS+, predominantly a global south nation grouping, or G20, a collective of global north and south nations. In the global south, India's relationship with China has been volatile. And China's economic, and thus political clout in the global south, including India's neighbourhood, cannot be wished away.

The binder and the unbinder in this global

geopolitical puzzle remains to be China and its rising superpower status and how nations perceive China's rise to this status - either a threat or a boon to them.

India's global south strategy, thus, needs to be recalibrated to reflect a few questions: 1. How does India perceive the role of the global south nations in shaping global and regional geopolitics; 2. How does India perceive the interaction of the global south nations with a rising superpower in China?; and 3. Whose interest is India's global south strategy representing? What appears, is not and what is not, appears. Strategically, India's global south initiative does not necessarily have to be reflective of geopolitical differences. To facilitate a global south-south win-win cooperation, India has to show an unbiased approach. It is better for India to hear a voice, opposing or dissenting, than to suppress it. Accordingly, it may augur well for India to include China in her global south initiative, and choose a nuanced collaborative path. It does not necessarily always have to be us OR them, it could be us AND them. There is room for everyone to fuel the global south's growth and development trajectory.

The English commentary was published in Chinese by The Global Times on October 15, 2024. For the Chinese published version: <https://opinion.huanqiu.com/article/4JqJrOtE4gW>

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沈逸

继4月15日和7月8日之后，国家计算机病毒应急处理中心和计算机病毒防治技术国家工程实验室10月14日再度发布“伏特台风”调查报告。这份最新调查报告不仅提供了更多的关键信息碎片，而且更为明确地对关注全球网络空间安全与治理问题的负责任相关方提出了一个建议：必须重视一种此前没有得到足够关注的威胁，即掌握优势技术能力的美国情报机构与安全机关，为了自身的利益诉求，与高科技企业公开或者基于默契地开展合作，在网络空间中搞“假旗行动”（一种误导溯源并栽赃陷害的行为——编者注）。

此次调查报告提及的“大理石”软件框架，最初曝光是2017年，“维基揭秘”宣称获得了来自美国中央情报局（CIA）网络情报中心的内部消息来源。它披露了被称为“穹顶7”（Vault7）的一系列机密文件、网络工具，以及被称为各种框架的软件，其中就包括“大理石”软件。作为中央情报局开发的一款反取证软件，“大理石”软件的主要功能是通过混淆和掩盖网络攻击的真正源头，使这些攻击难以被追溯到真实的实施者。在技术路径上，“大理石”软件使用字符串混淆技术，隐藏恶意软件中的文本信息，因为这些文本通常会为网络取证专家提供线索，用以识别恶意软件的开发或所属国家。

实验显示，“大理石”软件能够模拟多种语言特征，包括中文、俄文、阿拉伯文等，从而故意制造误导性信息，给安全分析师造成攻击来源于其他国家的错觉。这种伪装手段不

仅增加了对网络攻击溯源调查的难度，还可能通过语言设置导致目标国家的误判，以为攻击来自他们的对手而非来自美国的CIA等机构以及关联企业。分析显示，“大理石”软件具有跨平台的兼容性，能够集成到不同类型的黑客工具中，而不仅仅是单独运行的程序，这使得它可以为多个美国情报机构以及关联企业发起的网络攻击工具提供隐身保护。

结合具体的场景，以及美国情报机构如CIA的行动偏好，比如“撒谎、欺骗与偷窃”等，我们有理由相信，“大理石”软件至少可以在三类具体场景中开展经典的“假旗行动”。第一，当美国情报机构对被其公开标定为竞争对手或者敌对国家实施网络窃密或者攻击行动时，用来对抗溯源，保护攻击来源。第二，当美国情报机构对其盟国和亲密伙伴实施与盟友身份不相符，且可能在被有效溯源后成盟友关系的网络窃密或者攻击行动时，用来掩护身份，混淆视听，将盟友的注意力与视线引向错误的方向，甚至方便美国以“受托受害者”的形象出现，确保盟友继续将美国这个加害者当成保护者，给予错误的信任。第三，用于在美国国内误导立法机构、新闻媒体与公众，甚至是情报和国家安全机关的上级机构，为“深层政府”的胡作非为与部门利益，提供混淆视听的虚假信息。

“伏特台风”事件中，美方情报机构威胁安全企业篡改公开发布信息的举动与“大理石”软件框架的组合，展现了美国情报机构在网络安全

治理与国家安全重大议题上胡作非为的经典模式：以部门预算和获取凌驾于法律之上的行动自由为目标，人为虚构事实，在没有直接关联的情况下，用虚假信息和不实信息直接构造关联，使用特定类型工具制造虚假证据，凭空捏造所谓来自他国的网络攻击，渲染安全威胁，制造安全焦虑，强化狂热的麦卡锡主义情绪，以确保中情局的网络监控与网络攻击行动能够获得额外的法律豁免、更多的经费支持，以及在美国内政中更大的影响力。

一些合理怀疑是，除了“伏特台风”之外，美国国家安全机构和情报机关还实施了多少次类似的“假旗行动”，用“大理石”软件等实施了多少次栽赃陷害。美国的盟友，尤其是欧洲盟友，有多少次所谓来自敌对国家的网络攻击行动，其实是被“大理石”软件修改过的、来自美国国家安全机构或者关联企业的攻击。如果是这样，很多时候欧洲相关受害方其实扮演的是“被卖了还帮着数钱”的悲剧角色。

从全球网络空间安全与战略稳定的角度出发，根据中方发布的相关最新报告，我们有必要构建一种更加有效的、能够绕开美国的网络安全信息共享与交流机制。只有这样，才能确保网络攻击事件发生后，人们能够有一个不被美国国家安全和情报机构污染的平台，或者可信的机制，进行准确而可靠的信息核查与交流，从而找到真正的攻击者，识别真实的威胁来源，为全球网络空间安全与战略稳定奠定更加扎实的基础。▲（作者是复旦大学网络空间国际治理研究基地主任）



近日，“跟着团长打县城”沉浸式影视体验项目火了。该项目是山东临沂沂南县红嫂家乡旅游区推出的，在今年国庆节期间爆发，热度持续到了现在。据景区工作人员介绍，景区整体能容纳几万人，但是“跟着团长打县城”这个项目最多只能承受3000人参与。上周末由于预约游客人数实在太多，出于安全和游玩体验的考虑，他们进行了限流。

红色沉浸式影视体验项目火爆出圈并不是偶然，它融文化、科技、时尚、深度参与等多种元素为一体，通过适度多元化与高品质产品创造了旅游消费新需求。这种旅游新形态，既反映了人们对高质量红色旅游产品的期待，也是沉浸式旅游产品发展的必然。

近年来，游客的需求发生了明显变化，越来越多地由过去的“打卡观光”变成现在的“深度体验”，在此背景下，沉浸式旅游项目越来越多地得到了游客的喜爱和认同。沉浸式旅游项目融合了新理念、新技术、新要素和新模式，将游客以主体身份投射于特定的历史文化场景中，游客有更多也更深度地身心参与，有着更丰富的交互体验，也有了更多的掌控力。游客不仅有身临其境的“在场感”，更有投身其中的参与感和获得感。如

“跟着团长打县城”火出圈的启示

杨劲松

此赋予了文化和旅游资源以更多的可能性，创造出可参与、可触摸和互动的新旅游模式。

中国革命历史是最好的营养剂，无数革命先烈留下的优良传统永远是激励我们前进的宝贵财富。对于红色文化资源，既要注重有形遗产的保护，又要注重无形遗产的传承，大力弘扬红色传统。如何从呆板机械的说教中摆脱出来，用游客容易接受、易于共情的方式展现红色传统，一直是红色景区景点努力的方向。向游客最大限度地还原当年的峥嵘岁月，引导游客深度代入到那些“激情燃烧”的年代，将知识、感情、行动和场景有机融为一体，激发游客产生深沉持久的情感共鸣，对这些问题回答和回应都殊为不易。

在这个过程中，引入沉浸式影视体验项目，可以帮助游客从单纯的旁观者成为参与者，从事外人转化为事中人，从被动接受转变为主动作为。此时，过往的文字图片等资料不再有曾经的隔膜和疏离，它们就是游客正在经历的、活生生的现实。

显然，包括沉浸式影视体验在内的创新，有利于把红色基因利用好，把红色传统发扬好、把红色基因传承好，将每一个红色旅游景点都变成常学常新的生动课堂，这些无疑是值得尝试，也值得鼓励的。

当然，这种尝试需要勇气，也需要有精益求精的耐心，以出精品为目标，将好事办好。首要就是尊重历史，保持历史的真实感和原貌，在历史真实和参与体验上找好平衡，在历史素材的应用和遴选上一定要慎重再慎重。只有这样，才能做到既让游客有好的体验，又没有迎合低俗需求，搞出“抗日神剧”类似的内容。

其次，要注意沉浸的故事讲述，重点在精细化上。沉浸的效果，只有在优质内容的加持下才能充分展现出来。比如，深度挖掘本地独有的文脉脉络，将时空和场景精心地串联起来，充分利用原景重现、舞台剧、情景体验、主题教育等模式，配以精细的活动组织和专属服道化，构建起生动活泼、易于参与和体验、充满故事性的产品和服务体系。这样，才能更好地兼顾经济效益和社会效益。

第三，还要有持续创新的充分准备。设施设备也好，内容设计也罢，都需要常变常新，从不同的角度、不同的路径来创新沉浸式体验，不断解锁新的沉浸式旅游场景。这样的准备也表现在体验和服道化上，不同的群体有不同的需求，沉浸的表现也应该不一样。比如，如何满足年轻人和亲子群体的沉浸需求，为他们打造多元的社交空间，让游客在体验参与中建立更牢固的情感共鸣。再如，面对迅猛增加的游客需求，还要解决好住宿、餐饮、交通等问题。▲（作者是中国旅游研究院学者）

印度需重新审视其“全球南方”战略

【印】娜塔莎·阿加瓦尔 帕雷什·巴特拉

通过连续3年举办“全球南方之声”线上峰会，印度希望为“全球南方”国家发声，指明其前行道路。同时，印度也在寻求成为崛起中的大国——中国的替代者。不过，印度的这一想法能否实现被打上了问号。

其一，“全球南方之声”线上峰会发出的“声音”还缺少了一个重要的声音——中国，这一现象颇具讽刺意味。“全球南方之声”难道不应该包括所有“全球南方”国家的声音吗？无论是温和的或是强势的、被动的或是主动的，是给予他国帮助的或是渴望得到帮助的，任何声音都应得到平等对待，不应存在任何偏见和保留。

在今年举办的“全球南方之声”线上峰会上，印度向外界透露，将建立“全球南方”国家如今正积极“全球南方”战略的重点，虽表达得有些隐晦，但意图还是清晰的。这让人不禁想问：“全球南方”，包括印度在内，或者说人们所熟悉的“全球南方”，真的在期盼一个领导者吗？更遑论一个替代的领导者了。“全球南方”国家如今正积极应对着一个复杂局面：如何将不断变化的国内需求融入相互依存的全世界经济体系中，以及应对气候变化等共同性问题。因此，他们之间的经济合作将体现出“全球南方”国家团结一致的本质。

也就是说，“全球南方”国家需

要在国际舞台上展现集体行动力，倡导重塑全球秩序，建立一个公平、公正的竞争环境，确保经济资源共享，让每一个国家都能拥有平等的机会以实现经济增长和发展。在此背景下，印度在“全球南方”中以“北方国家”自居，无疑会损害“全球南方”国家作为平等伙伴的本质。

有人说，123个国家在中国缺席的情况下参加印度主办的“全球南方之声”线上峰会，这表明他们正在期待印度成为“全球南方”的领导者。不过，更大的可能是，参与此次峰会的这些国家，是出于战略考虑，意在规避中美博弈加剧带来的地缘政治风险，他们还认为，印度扮演“西方朋友”的角色，与印度受益。对印度来说，这是一次战略机遇吗？如果是的话，新德里会抓住这次机遇吗？这就涉及印度的“全球南方”战略如何规划的问题。

近年来，印度一直在努力与“全球南方”国家深化全面战略经济和军事伙伴关系。同时，在“全球南方”的外交关系上，无论是双边还是多边，印度都处于追赶的状态。比如，通过“金砖+”（BRICS+），主要是“全球南方”国家或二十国集团（G20），包括“全球南方”国家和“全球北方”国家等多边机制。同为“全球南方”国家，印度与中国的关系一直比较微妙。而中国在“全球南方”，尤其是在印度周边地区具有一定的经济及政治影响力。在当今的全球地缘政治格局中，连接和解开各方关系的关隘，依然是中国及其正在崛起为大国地位，以及其他国家对这一崛起的不同认知：有的视为威胁，有的则视为机遇。

因此，印度的“全球南方”战略需要被重新审视，以下几个问题值得关注：印度如何看待“全球南方”国家在塑造全球和地区地缘政治中的作用，印度如何看待“全球南方”国家与正在崛起的中国之间的互动，印度的“全球南方”战略到底代表着谁的利益？

在战略层面上，印度加强支持“全球南方”国家的倡议并不一定要反映“全球南方”国家在地缘政治上的差异。为了推动全球南南合作的双赢、多赢局面，印度需要展现出一种公正的态度。

对印度来说，与其压制或反对持不同观点的声音，不如选择倾听。因此，印度应考虑将中国纳入其支持“全球南方”国家的倡议，并选择一种更灵活的对华合作方式，或许可以打开更广阔的前景。我们与他们之间不一定总是非此即彼的关系，实际上，双方可以选择合作。因为每个国家都可以为“全球南方”的发展贡献力量。▲（作者分别是印度对外贸易研究所顾问、独立概念研究员）



Media Quotes...

South China Morning Post on two separate occasions quotes **Dr. Natasha Agarwal**:

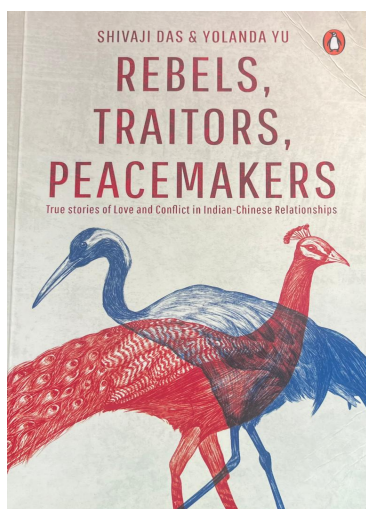
With ousting of Bangladesh's Sheikh Hasina, is India losing its South Asia allies to China dated August 16, 2024:

"Given the economic influence of India and China, independently and collectively, maybe it is time for India to redefine its Neighbourhood First policy".

'Keen to move forward': India, China signal thaw in ties with diplomatic, border efforts dated September 18, 2024:

"The bargaining chip here is a robust and resilient domestic ecosystem, which also helps multinationals in managing their international risk exposure," she said, adding that "essential reforms" such as streamlining visa processes, can help alleviate labor shortages and "encourage FDI spillovers"

Recommended Reads



Rebels, Traitors, Peacemakers is a rare and uncommon read with moving real-life stories, enlightening more than entertaining. **Shivaji Das and Yolanda Yu** explore the multifaceted

nuances of Indian-Chinese couples and the challenges they face in their everyday lives. From societal biases, familial drama, and tensions to deftly navigating visa-hurdles, these multiple short-stories serve as a unique and powerful reminder of love - transcending borders and boundaries.

Yes, some stories have sad endings, but then there are learnings, morals and takeaways. The book reflects a universal theme - of intercultural and interracial bonds through the prism of Indian-Chinese couples. A strong reminder that even in a divided world, love thus serves as a potent force for reconciliation and peace.

Overall, a good read! The GSCF team recommends!

Meet the Team



Dr. Natasha Agarwal holds a PhD in Economics from the *University of Nottingham*, UK. She has worked at various renowned public and private institutions globally including *Oxford University*

(UK), *The Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning* (Reserve Bank of India), and *Indian Institute of Foreign Trade* (Department of Commerce, Government of India). Her work has been widely published across journals, media platforms, and think tanks. As a co-founder, she now spearheads The Global South Convergence Forum.



Equipped with a Post Graduate Diploma in *Foreign Trade* from *The World Trade Institute*, Mumbai (India), **Paresh Batra** is a seasoned concept writer and a serial entrepreneur. He brings on board years of industry ex-

perience and expertise. He is the co-founder of The Global South Convergence Forum



Mr. Sudershan Singal has pioneered many firsts in India's transport and logistics industry. Armed with over four decades of experience, he brings substance to new and evolving thought processes as a consultant

to The Global South Convergence Forum.



Rushali Bansal holds a Bachelors in Architecture from *IP University*, Delhi (India). She seamlessly blends technical expertise with an artistic flair. Her designs are both aesthetically pleasing and functional. She

manages the creatives for the The Global South Convergence Forum



Renisha Rana holds an MSc in Economics from *The University of Warwick*, UK. She has worked as a Teaching and Research Assistant at the University of Warwick. As a researcher on various high-profile

merger cases/reports such as the labour market power report, Renisha has also worked with the *Competition and Markets Authority* (UK). Renisha aids economic research and allied processes at the The Global South Convergence Forum.



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