

India-US Ties in the Contemporary World Order - Fireside Chat

Report

On September 26, 2024, Symbiosis School of International Studies (SSIS) hosted a fireside chat featuring Mr. Mike Hankey, U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai and Shri Vijay Gokhale, Distinguished Professor and former Foreign Secretary of India. The event provided a platform for an in-depth discussion on U.S.-India relations and emerging global dynamics. The session opened with remarks by Professor Alvite Singh Ningthoujam, followed by Professor Shivali Lawale, Director of SSIS, who emphasized the importance of such engagements in understanding the evolving nature of international relations.

Mr Hankey initiated the conversation by reflecting on his personal experience in India and addressed the outcomes of Prime Minister Modi's recent visit, emphasizing the progress made in technology-sharing and defence cooperation. The Consul General discussed the pivotal role of leadership and institutions like the QUAD in strengthening security and defence ties. He observed that US-India relations have been on an upward trajectory, driven by shared strategic goals and democratic values. Mr. Hankey cited the influence of the Indian diaspora in the U.S., particularly in sectors like healthcare and technology, which have become critical bridges in bilateral relations. Mr Hankey noted significant progress in technology-sharing and counter-terrorism collaboration along with the significant economic and development ties between the two countries.

Mr Hankey also elaborated on the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (ICET) as a cornerstone for future cooperation in Artificial Intelligence (AI), biotechnology, and next-generation defense technologies. He highlighted India's shifting defense partnerships, indicating a preference for innovation-driven collaborations with countries like the U.S., South Korea, and France. Addressing the Ukraine-Russia conflict, Mr Hankey stressed the importance of diplomatic solutions and capacity-building exercises to navigate global instability. He concluded by affirming the value of continued U.S.-India collaboration in addressing shared global challenges.

The general discussion was followed by questions from the students. The Consul General addressed questions on various topics like supply chain resilience in semiconductors and rare earth elements, climate change and the Quad. The questions provided insights into the role of tariffs in semiconductor trade, the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and the varied aspects of the Quad.

Students from both the batches of Symbiosis School of International Studies and some participants from the Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts attended the fireside chat which garnered valuable information on various Indo-US dynamics from two eminent diplomats.



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Panelists:
Mr. Mike Hockey
#GlobalBoardMember
Prof. Vijay Gokhale
#SIBS
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SIBS, Symbiosis Institute of Business Studies, Pune
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