



ICG LECTURE SERIES

BY

EMINENT PERSONS

Goa University Vice Chancellor Professor Varun Sahni to deliver lecture on BRICS and its prospects at ICG on Thursday 29th September

The International Centre Goa in association with Goa Study Group is organising a Lecture on “BRICS : Yesterday’s story or a sign of the coming times?” by Professor Varun Sahni, Vice Chancellor of Goa University. The lecture will be chaired by Shri Eduardo Faleiro, President, Goa Study Group; Chairman, World Council for Peace – India and former Union Minister of State for External Affairs. This programme is part of ICG Lecture Series by Eminent Persons and will be held at 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm on Thursday, 29th September 2016 at The International Centre Goa, Dona Paula. Entry to the programme is free and open to general public. Those interested in attending may kindly email their RSVP to pro@incentgoa.com

Professor Varun Sahni is Vice-Chancellor, Goa University. He is also Professor in International Politics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (currently on deputation leave). Since 2006, he speaks annually at National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi. He researches and writes on nuclear deterrence issues, regional security, emerging balances in the Asia-Pacific, evolving security concepts, emerging powers, international relations theory and Latin American issues. He was conferred the prestigious VKRV Rao Prize in Social Sciences for 2006, and served (2008-12) as the 10th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jammu.

The BRICS were an analytical concept, a futuristic projection, an investment strategy and a slick acronym well before they became a group of states. Since the first formal summit of the then-BRIC grouping in June 2009 in Yekaterinburg, Russia, there have always been voices that have expressed deep scepticism about the rationale, role and prospects of the BRICS grouping. The current downturn in the domestic situation of some BRICS member countries have strengthened the BRICS sceptics, many of whom now regard the BRICS as yesterday’s story. The US multinational investment banking firm Goldman Sachs, which first coined the term BRICS as part of its strategy to predict the future path of global capitalism, has now wound up its BRICS desk. On the other hand, it is also clear that the BRICS could have a distinct and much-needed impact on core issues of global governance. For instance, the decision taken at the Sixth BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil in July 2014 to establish the New Development Bank in Shanghai fundamentally challenges the structure and legitimacy of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Thus, despite significant grounds for scepticism, it is nevertheless important to speculate upon the future directions that the BRICS will take, especially in terms of organisational evolution. The BRICS grouping can become a genuinely revisionist force in global governance – and world politics more broadly – only if it is able to transform itself from a conglomeration of five states into an organization that can strategically add new members should the need arise. By creating a permanent secretariat, the BRICS in plural (‘os BRICS’) could evolve into the BRICS in singular (‘o BRICS’).

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