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Veritas et Aequitas

PROJECT STATECRAFT

# UNNITI

April 2022

YOUTH IN POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

Vol 1 Issue 2

## COVER STORY



## FOUNDER'S COLUMN: A JUNIOR ON DEVELOPMENT STREET

by Abhishek Sudke

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LEBANESE CRISIS:  
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## EDITOR'S COLUMN



Dear Reader,

Welcome to another edition of our newsletter, Unniti. We are delighted to share our progress over this period with you and have a collection of fantastic perspectives on the youth and policy forums from our researchers that are sure to intrigue you.

Stepping into war and grime, the repercussions are felt with jolts across borders, classes, genders, and societies. It is not enough to express sympathies but to also understand the nature of the strife and participate in ending suffering. The voice of the youth is dynamic and growing into a consortium of opinions that can lead the way to a future that we hope to build for posterity. It is not only a war between nations that we must live through but also a clash of ideologies and conflicts in fighting for a world that nurtures all creatures beyond humans.

Although this is a grim reality to face, the future is open to possibilities and lies in our grasp. The media, the voices, and the actions, all impact our perceptions and lead us to step into the light of transformation so that we may lead ourselves into a brighter tomorrow. Compassion and communication have never been as vital as they are now. The education of the youth in matters of policy, governance, sustainability, and international relations, has become vital to understanding the consequences of the leaders today so that although we may have different voices, be able to stand together to build a unified tomorrow.

In this regard, for this newsletter, we have an important contribution by Abhishek Sudke, our founder, on the importance of focusing on global health and safety and understanding the roles and contributions of the youth.

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## EDITOR'S COLUMN



Next, Jaya Narayan has compiled a line-up of invigorating book and article recommendations for your weekend reading list, followed by Nupur Burman's round-up of the key dates that occurred in April and their significance.

Following this, we have a Know Your Policy brief and its breakdown by Dhruv Nilkanth and Ashish Bhaiyya. This month, they highlight the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment, 2020.

Some notable mentions that you may peruse on our website by following the given links are: "An explainer on the Russo-Ukraine war from the Gendered and Youth Perspectives" by Zeeshan, "[The Lebanese Crisis](#)" by our guest publishers Aishwarya Singh and Arjun Kumar Singh, and, "The Unabating Repercussions of Heteronormativity on the Transgender Community in India—Covid-19" by Nanao Rajkumari.

With the return to a semblance of normalcy after COVID-19, we are happy to be functioning as a hybrid organization, with our base in New Delhi. We invite our readers to reach out to us and hope that through our research and educational output, we can forge bonds of knowledge and understanding to guide us through the paths toward a brighter and more compassionate future.

Happy Reading!



Sakshi Agarwal  
Managing Editor, Project Statecraft



## KNOW YOUR POLICY

Dhruv Nilkanth



### CRITICAL POLICY ANALYSIS- FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) AMENDMENT 2020

The Foreign Contributions (Regulation) Amendment Act came into effect on September 28, 2020. The act regulates the acceptance and use of foreign contributions by persons (individuals, associations, and companies).

The amendment made some key changes in the Foreign Contributions (Regulation) Act of 2010.

The act added 'public servants' to the list of persons prohibited from accepting any foreign contributions. The amendment also prohibits those who are authorised to receive foreign contributions from transferring them to other unregistered persons, which was earlier allowed.

The modification in the act also integrated it into the Aadhar system, as every organisation applying for registration or renewal of its authorisation needs to provide the Aadhar number of all its office bearers as identification proof.

Foreign funds can only be received through a designated "FCRA Account" in the State Bank of India's specified branch in New Delhi.



The upper limit of foreign contributions that can be used for an organisation's administration has been reduced from 50% to 20% in order to ensure that a majority of the funds are used for their intended purpose.

The previous provisions allowed the government to suspend any registration for a period of up to 180 days. Under the amendment, this can be extended to a further 180 days.

FCRA 2020 aims to strengthen the compliance mechanism, enhance transparency and accountability of foreign contributions, and facilitate NGOs working for the welfare of society.

*For a critical review of the scheme covered by Ashish Bayya click on 'Know Your Policy'.*

## FOUNDER'S COLUMN

Abhishek Sudke



### A Junior on the Development Street.

April is one of the most crucial months in terms of recognizing and addressing two issues that affect humanity and the globe—Health and the Environment. While these should not be limited to this month, we all acknowledge their importance on World Health Day and Earth Day. Ironically, as we celebrate these days in our own ways across our communities, governments, and development sector, the situation constantly worsens. 2021 was one of the seven warmest years on record as per World Meteorological Organization and the World Health Organization's pulse survey of 135 countries had 90% of countries reporting one or more disruptions to essential health services.



COVID-19, which keeps making inroads into our lives from time to time, is a reminder of our irresponsibility to health and the environment. Generations of decision-makers before us, have put minimal focus on pertinent aspects of health, such as non-communicable diseases, epidemic detection, primary healthcare and wellness, mental health, and the social determinants of health. While the minimal focus in terms of political will and budget was directed towards health, the environment suffered the worst fate of non-acknowledgment by decision-makers for decades.

## FOUNDER'S COLUMN



The development sector, through innovative implementation and funding, has been branching out into multiple directions attempting to address and solve these for years. As the youth and harbingers of change, it becomes our primal responsibility to facilitate the implementation of programs, initiatives, and tools, in our own small way.



I had the opportunity to speak at the annual summit of Global Youth last week and the discussion with the juniors in the development and policy sector led me to believe in the immense potential we hold as the youth demographic. Activism, entrepreneurship, and work in the social sector would need a pivot from the youth to focus on constructive debate and high-impact product and process development. As the juniors in the development sector, let's write more, read more, adapt more, and help build sustainable solutions which improve our chances of a secure and safe future.

*Stay tuned for the monthly column of the development sector from Abhishek Sudke.*



## RECOMMENDATIONS

Jaya



## BOOKS

### *Higher Education and Sustainability Opportunities and Challenges for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals*

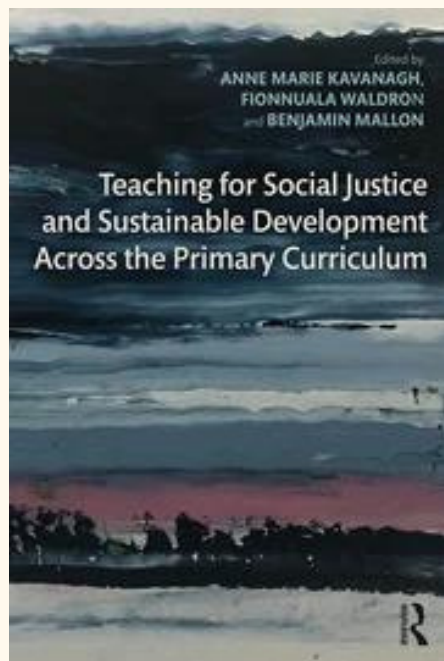
By: Ulisses Manuel de Miranda Azeiteiro, J. Paulo Davim

The book focuses on the role that Higher Education Institutions have in working toward Sustainable Development Goals. It presents the role of technology, educational research and international cooperation through case studies. The book discusses local and international contributions to a variety of initiatives showing how SDGs are being implemented. It is a must-read for development practitioners, educationalists as well as local and international SDG groups.



### *Teaching for Social Justice and Sustainable Development Across the Primary Curriculum*

By: Anne Marie Kavanagh, Fionnuala Waldron, Benjamin Mallon



The book provides practical frameworks for educators to inculcate concepts of social justice and sustainability into primary education. It presents pedagogies to keep students interested and ensure better learning outcomes. Techniques to develop critical thinking, ethical understanding and inquiry skills with respect to issues ranging from racism to climate change are mentioned. It is read-worthy for educators, associates of advocacy groups working with children and SDGs, social justice initiatives.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

Dhruv Nilkanth



## ARTICLES

### *The 2022 IPCC Climate Mitigation Report: Our final chance to reach 1.5 degrees*

RENITA D'SOUZA  
Observer Research Foundation

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/the-2022-ipcc-climate-mitigation-report/#ftnref1>

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2022 report has highlighted the still urgent need for climate action to prevent a 1.5 °C rise in global temperatures. D'Souza breaks down the technicalities of the report, further examining the contributing factors to the current state of the climate crisis.

### *Can local innovations solve India's justice problem?*

RASHIKA NARAIN, SACHIN MALHAN  
Indian Development Review Online

<https://idronline.org/article/social-justice/can-local-innovations-solve-indias-justice-problem/>

The overload on the formal pathways to justice is no new news in India. In this piece, the authors explore alternative platforms and dispute resolution mechanisms through four success story examples. A further examination of the suitability of similar models is also presented for a comprehensive perspective.



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## RECOMMENDATIONS

Dhruv Nilkanth



## ARTICLES

### *Cultural Diplomacy in International Relations – A Case Study of Vietnam-India Diplomatic Relation Since Their Strategic Partnership*

TRIEU HUY HA

The Journal of Indian and Asian Studies Vol. 3, No. 1

<https://www.worldscientific.com/doi/pdf/10.1142/S271754132250005X>

India-Vietnam relations and India's exertion of interventionist and soft power in Southeast Asia have often been overlooked in thematic discourses. Trieu presents an in-depth analysis of a cultural aspect of bilateral ties between two similar geopolitical giants.

### *What Could European Militaries Contribute to the Defense of Taiwan?*

Franz-Stefan Gady and Oskar Glaese  
The Diplomat<https://thediplomat.com/2022/04/what-could-european-militaries-contribute-to-the-defense-of-taiwan/>

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has permanently altered modern understandings of what is geo-politically “unthinkable”. Recent reports have also declared Taiwan's close observation of Ukrainian war strategies, in preparation for any probable invasion from China. Presented with this, the authors examine what exactly is it that Taiwan could gain from the current European scenario.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

Dhruv Nilkanth



## VIDEO INTERVIEWS

### *Hindsight Up Front: Afghanistan | Ambassador Mark Green in Conversation with H.R. McMaster*

[https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=SSqp\\_UGRM84&feature=emb\\_logo](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=SSqp_UGRM84&feature=emb_logo)

Former US national security advisor in the Trump Administration talks about the last two decades of war in Afghanistan. Focused on the US withdrawal from the country, he assessed its implications and future policy options for the US. The conversation also includes immediate foreign policy recommendations for the Biden administration to ensure US interests in Afghanistan. It is recommended for enthusiasts of American foreign policy, international relations, national security and military studies.



### *Live from #COP26: Interview with Archana Soreng*

[https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=A\\_DI1LzuSMg](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=A_DI1LzuSMg)



This interview was recorded at COP26 in Glasgow on the theme of Youth and Public Empowerment for Climate Action. A member of the UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, the interviewee talks about the role of the youth and indigenous movements in understanding climate crises, tackling problems and bringing about global climate change. This is a top recommendation for the general public. It will, especially interest enthusiasts of climate change and NGOs, advocacy groups working with the youth for climate action and SDGs.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Nupur



### ROUND-UP OF IMPORTANT DAYS IN APRIL

4th April	<p><b>International Day for Mine Awareness</b></p> <p>Every Year on 4 April International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed to spread awareness about the threat caused by landmines to the safety, health, and lives of civilian populations and encourages state Governments to develop mine-clearing programmes. In 2022 the United Nations Mine Action Service marks the Day under the theme “Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home.”</p>
7th April	<p><b>World Health Day</b></p> <p>World Health Day is celebrated worldwide every year on the 7th of April. Various programs and arrangements are managed by the World Health Organisation. It was the first time celebrated in 1950 to mark the founding of WHO in 1948. This year, WHO focused on climate crisis.</p>
13th April	<p><b>Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Day</b></p> <p>It took place on 13 April 1919 at Amritsar and is also known as the Amritsar massacre. On this day, British troops under the Command of Gen Dyer fired on a large crowd of unarmed Indians in Amritsar in Punjab of India. Several hundred people were killed and many hundreds were wounded. The day is celebrated to tribute the courage, heroism, and sacrifice of the martyrs.</p>
14th April	<p><b>B.R. Ambedkar Remembrance Day</b></p> <p>B.R. Ambedkar Remembrance Day is also known as Ambedkar Jayanti or Bhim Jayanti which is observed on 14 April to commemorate the memory of B.R Ambedkar. This day celebrates the birthday of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, an Indian politician, and social rights activist.</p>





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## IMPORTANT DATES

NUPUR



### ROUND-UP OF IMPORTANT DAYS IN APRIL

17th April	<p><b>World Haemophilia Day</b></p> <p>World Haemophilia Day is observed on 17 April every year to increase awareness about haemophilia disease and other inherited bleeding disorders. In 1989, World Haemophilia Day was started by the World Federation of Haemophilia (WFH) in honour of WFH founder Frank Schnavel's birthday.</p>
18th April	<p><b>World Heritage Day</b></p> <p>This day is observed every year on 18 April to preserve the human heritage and recognise the efforts of all the relevant organisations in the field. This day was announced by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in 1982 and was approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983.</p>
22nd April	<p><b>World Earth Day</b></p> <p>This day is observed every year on 22 April to mark the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. In the Universe Earth is the only planet where life is possible and so it is necessary to maintain this natural asset. World Earth Day is celebrated to increase awareness about the importance of the planet.</p>
24th April	<p><b>"National Panchayati Raj Day"</b></p> <p>National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated every year on 24 April in India. On this day Constitution came into force with effect on 24 April 1993. In 2010 the first National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated. A new part in the Constitution Part IX was added bypassing 73rd Amendment Act from Article 243 to 243 (O) titled "The Panchayats" and a new Eleventh Schedule consisting of 29 subjects within the functions of Panchayats were also added."</p>

## IMPORTANT DATES

NUPUR



### ROUND-UP OF IMPORTANT DAYS IN APRIL

25th April	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>World Malaria Day</b></p> <p>World Malaria Day is celebrated every year on 25 April to raise awareness about the disease malaria, how to control it and how to eradicate it completely. In 2008, the first Malaria Day was celebrated, which was developed from Africa Malaria Day, which was an event observed since 2001 by the African governments. At the 60th session of the World Health Assembly in 2007, it was proposed that Africa Malaria Day be changed to World Malaria Day.</p>
26th April	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>World Intellectual Property Day</b></p> <p>This day is celebrated every year on 26 April and was established by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in 2000 to raise awareness of how patents, copyright, trademarks, and designs impact daily life. And also it plays an important role that intellectual property rights play in encouraging innovation and creativity.</p>
28th April	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>World Day for Safety and Health at Work</b></p> <p>This day is observed on 28 April every year by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) since 2003. This day marks how to improve occupational safety, health and looks for continuing these efforts through several changes like technology, demographics, climate change, etc.</p>

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Jaya Narayan- Editorial Intern  
Nupur Barman- Editorial Intern

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**GUEST PUBLISHER OF THE MONTH**

- Nanao Rajkumari
- Arjun Kumar Singh and Aishwary Singh

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