

## Newspaper Clippings

City Highlights March 12, 2025

### International conference on gender mainstreaming and feminist foreign policy

"May we remain steadfast in our commitment to feminist principles and mainstreaming gender perspectives to work towards a world where all people, regardless of gender, can thrive," said Ms. Avni Sablok, Research Associate and Social Media Coordinator at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), while inaugurating the 11th International Conference on Gender Mainstreaming - Feminist Foreign Policy Approaches in the Context of South Asia at Kristu Jayanti College, Autonomous on Tuesday.

Ms. Sablok described ICWA's role as shaping an Indian viewpoint on international relations and serving as a knowledge repository in foreign policy debates. She discussed how feminist foreign policy has gained ground in academia and politics, challenging traditional power dynamics, diplomacy, and government. She cited Sweden



as the pioneer of feminist foreign policy with its 2014 declaration, and added that Canada, France, Spain, and others have now followed suit. She also cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on financial inclusion, social security, education, and entrepreneurship as critical components of India's development strategy.

In his Presidential Address, Fr. Dr. Lijo P. Thomas, Vice Principal, Kristu Jayanti College and CFO underlined the necessity of promoting gender equality in foreign politics and diplomacy.

"This gathering is a testament to our collective commitment to advancing gender equality and reimagining global policies in a way that prioritizes justice, inclusivity, and human dignity," the speaker said.

Later sessions featured keynote speeches from prominent specialists such as Dr. Esther Fitzpatrick from the University of Auckland, Dr. Simi Mehta, CEO of the IMPRI Impact and Policy Research Institute, Dr. Anuradha Chenoy from JNU, and Ms. Ambika Vishwanath, Co-founder of Maitri.