



**Indian - Jewish Association UK**

Uniting the Indian and Jewish  
Communities in Britain

**PRESS RELEASE  
01 May 2015**

**IJA Reception with Shashank Joshi,  
30 April 2015**

The Indian Jewish Association hosted their 2015 spring reception on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Guest speaker, Shashank Joshi, Senior Research Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute, gave his address.

Joshi still in his early 30's is a Cambridge graduate, and a former Kennedy Scholar at Harvard. He studies the international political significance and strategic trends in the Middle East and South Asia.

He looked at the breakdown of states in the ME, the emergence of new non-State actors especially IS and the Shia militias, Assad's faltering position in Syria, Saudi Arabia's new assertiveness, reconciliation between various feuding Sunni states, and Pakistan and India's actions over the conflict in the Yemen.

He also focused on India and Pakistan's national priorities, where neither give the highest importance to the ME, even though there are significant numbers of their nationals working in the Gulf, and the volume of trade far surpasses trade links with Europe.

Questioners pressed him on all these issues and the dangers of "blow-back" from the Syrian crisis, US Foreign Policy and the Iran Nuclear talks.

Joshi is articulate and well-informed and led a most incisive and scintillating discussion on these complex issues.



*Shashank Joshi, Senior Research Fellow at Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies*



**Left to right:**  
*Mike Whine MBE, IJA Founding Trustee; Jo Wagerman OBE, IJA Executive Member; Shashank Joshi, Senior Research Fellow at RUSI; Peter Chadha, IJA Executive member; John Levy, IJA Co-Chairman; Ajay Aggarwal, IJA Executive member*

For further information contact Anna Levene or Michael Whine on 020 8457 1485 or [info@indianjewishassociation.co.uk](mailto:info@indianjewishassociation.co.uk)

## **Notes to editors**

### **About The Indian-Jewish Association UK:**

The Indian Jewish Association aims to draw together the most creative personalities in our two immigrant communities, to share thoughts and ideas on our contrasting cultural and historic experiences, and jointly forge new prescriptions for helping our communities maintain their vibrancy, whilst contributing positively to mainstream life in the UK.

Since 1980 members of the Indian and Jewish communities in Britain have developed close relations and an interest in each other's cultural heritage. Subsequently the two communities realised that both can benefit from sharing their experiences as important minorities permanently settled in this country.

By 1995 it was felt that the links between the Indians and Jews should be put on a more permanent basis. On 28 April 1996, at a meeting at the Hillel House Jewish Centre, attended by over fifty representatives from both communities, the Indian Jewish Association UK was established, and since then we have held a variety of events involving distinguished and renowned speakers.