

2nd

# AICEAS

ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES



## EAST ASIA

**In the Post-Pandemic Era:  
Internal and External Dynamics**

05 - 06 APRIL 2024



GOVIND PURUSHOTTAM  
DESHPANDE  
Best Paper Award



# Conference Schedule

## 02 **CONCEPT NOTE**

**DAY 1: FRIDAY, 5 APRIL 2024**

### 03-05 **INAUGURAL SESSION**

**0900 – 0945 Hours**

### 06-13 **THEMATIC PANEL I**

Democratisation Issues:  
Challenges and Responses

**1000 – 1130 Hours**

### 13-21 **THEMATIC PANEL II**

Getting the Economy Back on Track

**1130 – 1300 Hours**

### 21-27 **THEMATIC PANEL III**

Interregional and Intraregional Issues/  
Disputes: Territory and Resources

**1345 – 1515 Hours**

### 28-32 **THEMATIC PANEL IV**

Refugees and Migration

**1515 – 1645 Hours**

**DAY 2: SATURDAY, 6 APRIL 2024**

### 32-39 **THEMATIC PANEL V**

Multilateralism in East Asia:  
Emerging Contours

**0900 – 1030 Hours**

### 40-41 **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

East Asian Studies: New Directions and  
Opportunities

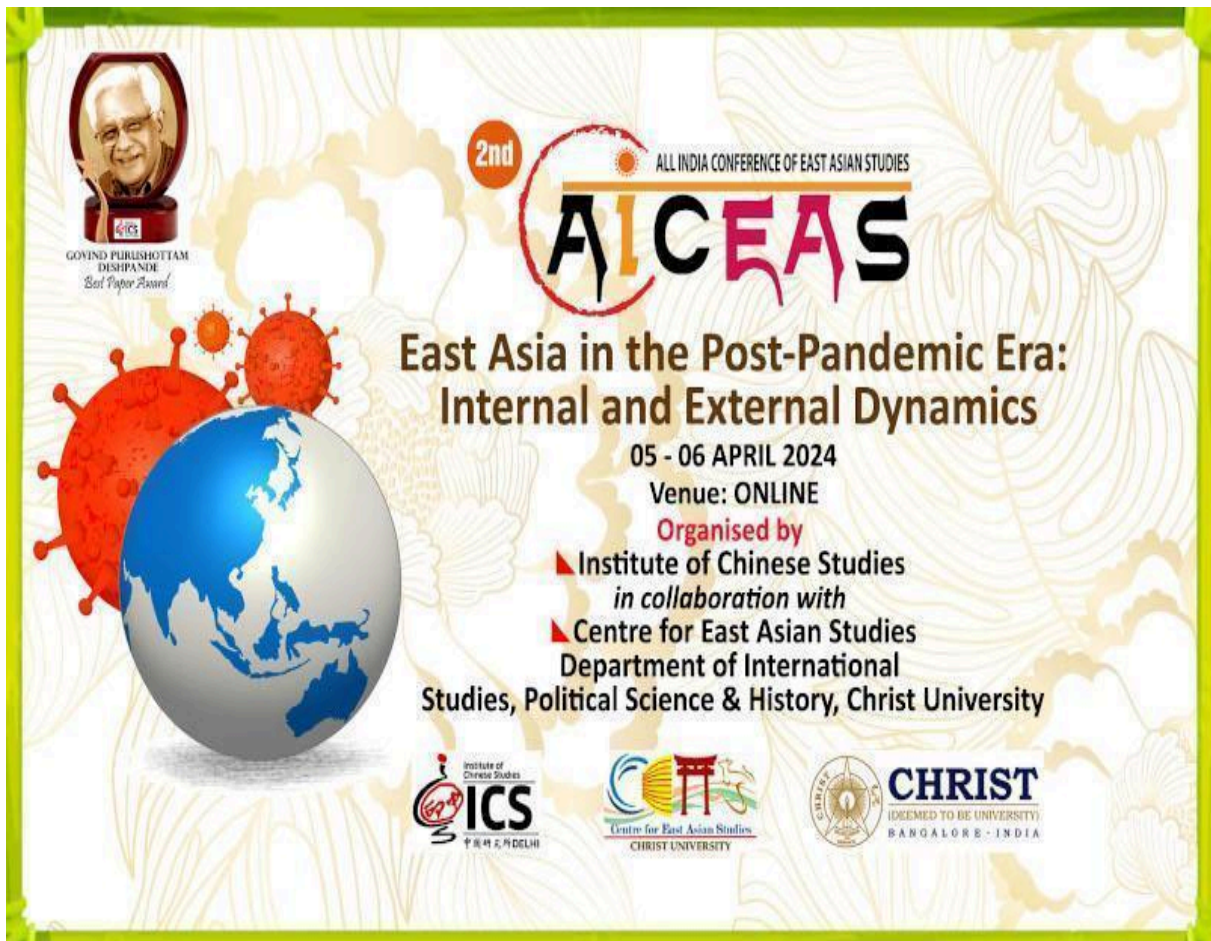
**1045 – 1215 Hours**

### 42-43 **VALEDICTORY SESSION**

**1215-1300**

### 44 **ABOUT THE ORGANISERS**





2<sup>nd</sup> ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES

Organised by the

Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi

in collaboration with

Centre for East Asian Studies  
Department of International Studies, Political Science & History,  
CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru

Mode: Hybrid

Venue: ZOOM (Online) & Council Room, Ground Floor, Christ University Central Campus,  
Bengaluru-560029 (In-person)

## CONCEPT NOTE

East Asia, as seen in recent times, is becoming the focal point of growth. As a result of this, it is likely to become a region that influences world events. The global order that the West had been dominating until now is beginning to look eastwards. Over the next two decades the Indo-Pacific region, including both Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia is likely to emerge as the pivot of Asia. This is because the countries in this region, although geographically and demographically small, are economically extremely dynamic.

However, these countries are still trying to cope with the far-reaching and deleterious impact of Covid-19 on the economic, social and political situation in their domestic conditions. With the focus of world attention on the devastating wars in Ukraine and Gaza, the internal dynamics within these smaller nation-states, such as increasing nationalism, demographic changes, supply chain problems, unemployment issues, women's rights, human rights to name but a few, tend to get short shrift. The domestic arena can in fact throw a great deal of light on how the foreign and strategic policies of these countries are being shaped in the context of an uncertain and unstable global situation.

The All India Conference of East Asian Studies (AICEAS) to be held in April 2024 will focus on the countries of East Asia from the Indian perspective and will therefore include the entire region east of India. It will review the challenges they face on all fronts and their responses vis-a-vis these. It will discuss the evolving landscape of foreign relations of these countries and the impact, if any, of the ongoing conflicts around the world.

— PROGRAMME —

All timings are in IST  
DAY 1: FRIDAY, 5 APRIL 2024

0830-0900 Hours: Registration for Conference Attendees

INAUGURAL SESSION  
0900 – 0945 Hours

WELCOME REMARKS



**Alka Acharya** is the Honorary Director of the Institute of Chinese Studies and Chairperson at the Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has been teaching courses on Chinese Foreign Policy and Political Economy to Masters and MPhil students and guiding doctoral research since 1993. She is the joint editor of the book, *Crossing a Bridge of Dreams: 50 Years of India-China* and has contributed chapters to many books and journals. She has authored a book *China and India: Politics of Incremental Engagement*, published in 2008, and most recently edited a volume titled, *Boundaries and Borderlands: A Century after the 1914 Simla Convention* (Routledge, New York, 2023). She was nominated by the Indian government as a member of the India-China Eminent Persons Group (2006-2008) and a member of the National Security Advisory Board of the Government of India for two terms (2006-2008) and (2011-2012).

CONVENER'S REMARKS



**Vyjayanti Raghavan** was a Professor of Korean Language and Culture at the Centre for Korean Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has also been the Chairperson of the Centre from 2013-15 and 2017-19. She has done her Masters in Korean History from Seoul National University and her PhD in International Relations from JNU. Her association with Korea dates back to 1976. She has been teaching at JNU, first as an ad hoc lecturer from 1981-83 and then as a permanent faculty member since 2000. She has played a major role in setting up the Centre for Korean Studies at JNU, and in recognition of her efforts in promoting Korean in India, she was awarded by the Prime Minister of the

Republic of Korea in 2015. The Andaman and Nicobar Police in 2008 also recognised her services towards the country's national security. She has several publications to her credit, pertaining to all aspects of Korea. Some of her recent publications are *Colonisation: A Comparative Study of India and Korea* (co-edited); *Sino-Indian and Sino-South Korean Relations: Compulsions, Comparisons, and Contrasts* (co-authored); *Comparative Security Dynamics in North East Asia and South Asia* (co-authored). She has also co-authored books on Korean culture and contributed articles to journals and newspapers. Prof. Raghavan is a member of various academic boards and is on the advisory board of the Kim Dae Jung Foundation. She is a trustee of The Book Review Literary Trust and an adjunct fellow at the Institute of Chinese Studies. After having completed an illustrious stint at JNU, Professor Raghavan officially retired in 2022.

## SPECIAL REMARKS



**Dr. Fr. Joseph C.C.** is the Vice Chancellor of Christ (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru. His journey with CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, began in 1996. Since then, he has served in various leadership roles, such as Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Director of Student Services. He has also directed the Centre for Counseling and Health Services, the Department of Sociology, the Department of Social Work and the Department of International Studies, Political Science and History. From its inception, he was pivotal in establishing the Pune Lavasa campus of CHRIST and overseeing the Delhi NCR campus. He is also the Chief Editor of the international book project,

"Encyclopedia of New Populism and its Responses in the 21st Century," published by Springer.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

### *The Turbulent Indo-Pacific*



**S.D. Muni**, a distinguished academic and diplomat, has left an indelible mark in the fields of International Relations and South Asian Studies. With a career spanning nearly forty years, he has taught and conducted research at prestigious institutions such as Jawaharlal Nehru University, the National University of Singapore, Banaras Hindu University, and the University of Rajasthan. Notable roles include serving as India's Special Envoy to SE Asian countries on UNSC reforms, Ambassador to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and member of India's National

Security Advisory Board. Recognised for his contributions, he has received honours such as the 'Sri Lanka Ratna' and a Lifetime Achievement Award from Shri Venkateshwara University. Prof. Muni's scholarly output includes numerous books, monographs, and research papers, and he has played key roles in academic journals and selection committees for universities. He has also addressed significant international forums, such as the UN Special Committee on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. Professor Muni's impact extends globally through his extensive travels and affiliations with prestigious institutions like the Institute of National Security Studies in Sri Lanka.

### VOTE OF THANKS



**N. Manoharan** is Director, Centre for East Asian Studies, Christ University, Bengaluru. He earlier served at the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), PMO and Ministry of Defence, Government of India. He was South Asia Fellow at the East-West Center Washington and is a recipient of Mahbub-ul Haq international award for research. His areas of interest include internal security, terrorism, Sri Lanka, Maldives, human rights, ethnic conflicts, multiculturalism, security sector reforms, Indo-Pacific and conflict resolution. His main books include: *Developing Democracies, Counter-terror Laws and Security: Lessons from India and Sri Lanka*; *'Security*

*Deficit': A Comprehensive Internal Security Strategy for India; India's War on Terror; SAARC: Towards Greater Connectivity; Ethnic Violence and Human Rights in Sri Lanka; and Counterterrorism Legislation in Sri Lanka: Evaluating Efficacy*. His forthcoming book is on *Federal Aspects of Foreign Policy: The Role of Tamil Nadu Fishermen Issue in India-Sri Lanka Relations* (Routledge). He writes regularly for leading newspapers, websites and reputed peer-reviewed international journals.

0945–1000 Hours: **REFRESHMENT BREAK**

**THEMATIC PANEL I**  
**Democratisation Issues: Challenges and Responses**  
**1000 – 1130 Hours**

**CHAIR**



**MJ Vinod** is Professor in the Department of International Studies, Politics and History in CHRIST (Deemed-to-be) University, Bengaluru. He is a retired Professor of Political Science and also former Dean of Bangalore University. He received his MA, MPhil and PhD degrees from Bangalore University. His more recent books include: *Cooperative Federalism in South Asia and Europe*, eds., 2024 (Routledge:) London); *'Contemporary Political Theory' 2023* (Prentice Hall of India: New Delhi) *Empowering Marginalised Communities in India: The Impact of Higher Education*, 2022 (Sage). He was awarded the Fulbright Fellowship, where he taught as a

Scholar-in-residence at Morgan State University, Baltimore, from August 2015 to May 2016. Some of the other fellowships conferred include the Salzburg Fellowship, Austria; the Ford Foundation Fellow, University of Maryland; the Swiss Foreign Ministry Fellow at the Graduate School of International Studies, Geneva; Visiting Fellow at the Henry L. Stimson Center, Washington DC., and an International Visitor Fellow of the US State Department. He has published nationally and internationally. He writes in various national and international journals, a monthly column for the Deccan Herald, and other forums.

**SPEAKERS**



**Cherry Hitkari** is a Doctoral Scholar in Chinese Studies at the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi. She is a Non-resident Vasey Fellow and Young Leader at Pacific Forum International, USA and a Research Fellow at the Indo-Pacific Studies Center, Australia. She publishes an online, student-led gender research journal called Parwaaz.

*Performing “Taiwaneseness”: Identity Construction, Democratic Consolidation and Political Cartoons in the Post-Pandemic Era*



## ABSTRACT

Whether by exposing China's "virus conspiracy", being dangerously close to becoming Asia's flashpoint for a US-China confrontation, translating a devastating pandemic into a "success story" or prepping up for the upcoming Presidential elections— Taiwan has indisputably been the highlight of the post-pandemic era. Most interestingly, the Covid outbreak has spurred up processes of identity construction in Taiwan with emerging discourses deliberating what Taiwaneseeness means. The new passport design unveiled in September 2020, for instance, aimed at enhancing "Taiwan's visibility" vis à vis China. While greater emphasis on a cultural identity independent of China is nothing unheard of, this event is part of a larger trend of renegotiating, what Étienne Balibar calls, the "internal border" in post-pandemic Taiwan.

Since the start of the pandemic, political cartoons in Taiwanese newspapers have actively contributed to the construction of an "us vs them" discourse. To borrow Michael Shapiro's terminologies, they act as "methods" through which "Taiwaneseeness" is "performed" i.e. through which not only does "Taiwaneseeness" attain its standing as an independent nation but through which the Taiwanese State "overcodes" entities (both domestic and foreign) into "good" and "bad" actors. While the democratisation process has turned media landscape in Taiwan into one of the "freest" spaces in Asia, it is no secret that media houses and their newspapers are effectively controlled by the two major political parties— Kuomintang and the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)— by various means; bringing into question the direction of democratic consolidation in Taiwan. By employing Charles Pierce's hypoiconicity, this paper will study the processes of identity construction and democratisation in Taiwan through a thematic analysis of over 100 political cartoons published between 2020 to 2023 in the island's mainstream newspapers namely, *Taipei Times*, *Taiwan News*, *Ziyou Shibao* and *Lianhe Shibao*.



**Ishan Fouzdar** is a master's degree student of International Relations and Area Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University. Having pursued a bachelor's degree in Journalism, Psychology, and English literature, Ishan has worked on decolonizing harm in International Relations theory against the backdrop of the Anthropocene. His research interests include social psychology, critical theory and epistemologies from the Global South. Ishan is keenly interested in the works of Benedict Anderson and Partha Chatterjee on nationalism, as well as Walter Mignolo's and Boaventura De Sousa Santos' work on decoloniality and epistemologies of the South. Besides academic interests, Ishan

shares a passion for literature and is an avid reader of Fernando Pessoa, Fyodor Dostoevsky, and Marcel Proust.

## *One Democracy or Many Democracies? Rethinking Democratic Deconsolidation through the Lens of Multiple Modernities in Post-war Japan*

### **ABSTRACT**

Democracy in post-war Japan is accepted as a foreign export, which has been sarcastically defined as a 'gift from the Santa Clause' disguised as the United States of America. Therefore, it has been argued that Japan closely copied the democratic blueprint of the West, which led to its rise as a civilian power. However, since the turn of the century, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, literature has sprung around democratic backsliding or deconsolidation in East Asia. A public opinion survey in 2021 recorded that 47% of Japanese citizens prefer non-democratic hybrids of closed autocracy, electoral autocracy, and electoral democracy (Chull Shin, 2020). Hence, it is being argued that Japan may be losing its democratic vigour and sliding back to imperial and autocratic tendencies. In this context, this study asks: *Can Japan be accused of democratic deconsolidation for trying to root its democracy in values that do not share Western liberal sentiments?* In essence, is the European blueprint of modernity, which observes democracy, embedded in a constellation of liberalism, rationalism, and individualism, sacrosanct? This study argues that since the Meiji Restoration, modernity in Japan has been shaped by its traditional social structures, leading to the coexistence of the Enlightenment and Confucian values. Building on this foundation, this study demonstrates that the development of democracy (one of the processes of modernity) in Japan was guided by the community association (*jichikai*), which informed the notion of the sacral national community (*kokutai*). Drawing on the sequential outline of modernity proposed by Sudipta Kaviraj, this paper argues that the development of democracy in Japan is justified in following its own path, which then demands a reformulation of the concept of democratic deconsolidation. Therefore, finally, this paper takes up this task and differentiates between democratic deconsolidation and democratic multiplication.



**Torunika Roy** is a Research Assistant at the Institute of Chinese Studies. She is also pursuing a PhD in Korean Studies at the Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She holds a BA degree in International Studies, specialising in East Asian Studies and International Law and Diplomacy, which she obtained from Ewha Womans University in Seoul, South Korea. Furthermore, she received an MA degree in International Relations and Area Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Besides being proficient in Hindi, English, and Bangla, she has a working knowledge of Korean. Her research pursuits

encompass a diverse range of interests, with a particular emphasis on examining gender dynamics, feminist movements in East Asia, the phenomenon of low fertility rates in South Korea, Korea-China relations, denuclearization efforts, and related areas.

## *Exploring The #MeToo Movement's Role in Shaping Democratisation in South Korea*

### **ABSTRACT**

In 2018, a public prosecutor, Seo-Ji-hyeon publicly called out a former South Korean Ministry of Justice official for sexually harassing her. Her brave steps initiated the #MeToo movement, which highlighted the widespread workplace sexual harassment and gender inequality in South Korean society. After Seo's revelation, women from different fields such as arts, science, and humanities, openly shared their horrifying experiences, which compelled the decision-makers to ponder upon the conservative laws and policies of South Korea. This paper argues that the #MeToo movement in South Korea significantly impacted the country's democratisation and social transformation by addressing gender inequality and women's rights. The #MeToo movement led to the political awakening of women, who questioned the lack of democracy in their everyday lives. Women from different age groups and socio-economic backgrounds showed solidarity in discussing everyday discrimination, challenging the patriarchal power structures, increasing public discourse and awareness, pushing for legal reforms and policy changes, etc. For example, the momentum of the #MeToo movement obliged lawmakers to pass new laws to combat gender violence. Many workplace norms are changing due to the implementation of anti-harassment rules. In 2019, a new law also came into effect that makes it illegal for a boss to force an employee to attend company parties. The paper also explores various subsets of the #MeToo movement such as #SchoolMeToo, #IncestMeToo, etc. that shed light on different forms of violence against women in South Korea. Furthermore, the paper intends to discuss challenges faced by women and feminist activists for coming forward to share their stories.



**Bidisha Seth** is currently pursuing an Advanced Chinese Language Course from the Department of International Education of Chinese Language, Beijing Language and Culture University. She completed her Post Graduation and Graduation from the Department of Chinese Language and Culture, Visva Bharati. Visited China for a Summer Camp in 2019 organised by the Beijing International Chinese College and received first prize in the International Speech Contest organised by the Institute. She also received third prize in the Xuanzang Speech Contest, 2019 and also received Individual Speech Award in 20th Chinese Bridge, 2021. Seth presented a paper on "Feminist Activism and the Communist Party of China" at the National Conference conducted by the Department of Chinese Language and Culture, Visva Bharati on "India-China Relations and the Way Forward".

*The Resurgence of #MeToo movement in Taiwan - "Let's not just let this go this time."*

## ABSTRACT

Six years after the MeToo movement rose to global prominence, Taiwan is on the run to make amendments and pass gender equality laws. Despite being a progressive nation, holding the first place in Asia to legalize Same-Sex Marriage, it took the Netflix show 'Wave Makers' to belatedly trigger the #MeToo wave in Taiwan. A female staff of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) launched the first wave of sexual harassment allegations. What followed is a series of such allegations plaguing Taiwan's ruling party just before the upcoming elections that is to be held next year in Taiwan. So what took so long for the MeToo movement to emerge in Taiwan which already has progressive gender equality and same sex marriage laws? In this paper, I will talk about this huge resurgence of the MeToo movement in Taiwan. How and what triggered the movement, what took so long for Taiwan to talk about an issue that the world has been talking since a few years now and what actions and measures did the DPP take post several legal accusations. I will also look at the possible effects of the same on the upcoming elections in Taiwan. For this I will try to refer to various data and information on social media, articles, news reports and related research papers.



**Kaustav Padmapati** is currently working as an Assistant Professor (Senior Scale) at the School of Modern Media, UPES, Dehradun. Kaustav is also a Cross-Cultural Fellow 2023 at Gender and Media Studies for the South Asian Region, Institute for Asian and African Studies, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany. He has nearly 12 years of experience in the areas of teaching and research, international relations projects, media, public policy, content writing, and project coordination. He is also a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowship and worked from August '11 to May '12 at

Centre for Asian Studies, School of International Service, American University, Washington DC, USA as Visiting Fulbright Research Scholar and Adjunct Faculty. He completed his Ph.D. from the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, in 2021. He has published widely on international relations, specifically on India-US relations, Taiwan, Look East Policy, etc, and gender and queer identities. His research areas include China, the United States, Taiwan, East Asia, and Southeast Asia, ASEAN, International Relations, gender, and queer sexuality. His edited volume "Queer Voices from the Periphery: A Collection of Perspectives from Northeast India" is a humble attempt to bring the voices from academia and members of the queer community from the Northeast part of India and to focus on the challenges and struggles faced by the members of the community.

*A Critical Study of Taiwan's Queer Rights Movement and Marriage Equality Campaign in the background of Liberal Democratic Development*

## ABSTRACT

Currently, Taiwan has emerged as the most queer-friendly country in Asia. Taiwan is also counted among the most progressive liberal democracies of the world in terms of protecting human rights and recognising LGBTQIA+ rights. In the last 30 to 35 years, the island nation has also achieved major milestones of protecting and endorsing queer rights. Taiwan is still the only country in Asia that legally recognised same sex marriage. Such a major achievement from achieved on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019 was possible due to three decades of political and social struggle, emergence of new *tongzhi* (individuals who are attracted to same sex) identity, strong feminist and queer activism and liberal democracy that is Taiwan today. In fact, the marriage equality campaign is one of the unique social movements in recent years that received the highest attention in Taiwan. The People's Republic of China (PRC) claims Taiwan as a part of its own territory. However, it has no sovereign control over it. In spite of facing extreme pressure and international isolation from China; Taiwan has developed a strong democratic tradition. Over the past several years, recognition and support for the LGBTQIA+ community in Taiwan have been growing steadily. In terms of protecting the rights of sexual minorities, Taiwan's achievements are praiseworthy. Taiwan has been hosting the largest Gay Pride Parade in Asia in Taipei city since 2003. What are the factors which are responsible for a successful queer rights movement? What is the role of the liberal democracy in Taiwan's transition to a tolerant society? What role did the new *tongzhi* identity play in creating space for feminist and queer activism? On its journey of promoting marriage equality, the Taiwanese society has witnessed many developments regarding the queer rights. Based on the liberal democratic theory and queer theory, this article attempts to argue that Taiwan's queer movement is built off egalitarian rhetoric and democratic reforms. The emergence of new identity, prominent women's movements and rapid expansion of LGBTQI A+ rights have made Taiwan's democracy vibrant and fuelled the global aspiration of achieving the international standard of a liberal democratic state. This paper aims at a comprehensive and critical understanding of liberal democratic principles and its contributions to the queer movement and marriage equality in Taiwan.



**Isika Roy** is a Master's student at the Department of Chinese Language and Culture at Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan, West Bengal. With a keen interest in Modern Chinese literature, Chinese history, India-China cultural exchanges, and the intersection of dance and culture in modern-day China. Isika is dedicated to exploring and contributing to the rich tapestry of Sino-Indian cultural dialogue. She is currently pursuing advanced studies in these areas. Isika aspires to deepen her understanding of cross-cultural dynamics and foster greater mutual understanding between the two nations. Passionate about academic inquiry and cultural exchange, Isika is

committed to scholarly excellence and interdisciplinary exploration within the field of Chinese studies.

### *Comparison of Educational Transformation in Japan: Pre and Post-COVID Era*

#### **ABSTRACT**

Japan, renowned for its education system's dedication to nurturing the nation's future, faced significant disruptions due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, compelling adaptations within its educational framework. This study delves into the fundamental shift in Japan's education system, discerning a stark contrast between its pre-pandemic and post-pandemic structures. In the pre-COVID era, Japan's emphasis predominantly revolved around rote learning and standardised testing, where students were rigorously trained in memorization, prioritising facts and figures over cultivating critical thinking and creativity. However, the onset of the pandemic necessitated unprecedented changes, prompting a re-evaluation of traditional educational paradigms. The research elucidates the strategic policies implemented by the Japanese government in response to the pandemic crisis. Notably, initiatives like the GIGA education program gained prominence, accentuating the significance of online learning modalities. The incorporation of digital tools and platforms became imperative, reshaping the educational landscape and offering novel avenues for learning, particularly emphasising remote accessibility and adaptability.

Furthermore, this study will meticulously explore the profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Japan's education sector, with a specific focus on elementary schools. It scrutinises the multifaceted challenges faced by educators, students, and parents alike, ranging from technological hurdles to the socio-psychological implications of prolonged distance learning. This work will try to underscore Japan's dynamic educational evolution, transitioning from traditional pedagogical methods to a more diversified, technology-integrated educational approach. This research aims to provide insights into the transformative measures initiated by the Japanese government to mitigate the pandemic's adverse effects on education while emphasising on the resultant shifts in pedagogy and learning methodologies.

#### **DISCUSSANT:**



**Sandip Mishra** is an Associate Professor of Korean Studies at the University of Delhi. He worked as a Lecturer of Political Science and International Relations at the J.V. College, Baraut for around one year before joining University of Delhi. He completed his Master degree in International Politics from Jawaharlal Nehru University and obtained his M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees from the same university. He studied Korean in 2006 and 2010 at Yonsei University and Sogang University. He has

been Visiting Fellow and Visiting Scholar at Kim Dae-jung Presidential Library and Museum, Institute for Far East Studies, Kyungnam University, Sejong Institute, Northeast Asia History Foundation, and Korean Institute for International Economic Policy. He has published several articles in Indian and Korean academic journals, along with book chapters and contributed opinion articles to Indian and Korean newspapers such as the Korea Times, Indian Express, Financial Express, Pioneer, and The Statesman. He has presented his research papers in India, China, South Korea, North Korea, and the United Kingdom.

**THEMATIC PANEL II**  
**GETTING THE ECONOMY BACK ON TRACK**  
**1130 – 1300 Hour**

**CHAIR**



**Biswajit Dhar** is a Distinguished Professor, at the Council for Social Development, New Delhi. He was a professor at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and has served as the Director General of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a think-tank of the Ministry of External Affairs. Professor Dhar was instrumental in the establishment of the Centre for WTO Studies of the Government of India and was the Head of the Centre for several years. He had also served as a Senior Consultant in the Planning Commission. Professor Dhar has served as a member of the Indian delegation in multilateral treaty negotiations, including the World Trade Organisation, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the World Intellectual Property Organization, and the Convention on Biological Diversity. He has been nominated in expert groups for several inter-governmental organisations. Professor Dhar has been interacting closely with several inter-governmental organisations. He has been a consultant to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, and the South Centre, among others. He has presented research papers in several international and national conferences and has publications in reputed national and international journals. He is a regular columnist in several national dailies. Professor Dhar has served on the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of India and was a Member of the Board of Trade, Government of India. He serves as an Adviser to the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and is on the Board of the Inter-University Centre for IPR Studies of the Government of Kerala.

## SPEAKERS



**Bhumika Sevkani** is a Research Assistant at Pandit Deendayal Energy University. She holds a Master's Degree in Politics and International Relations. Her research interests include Development Assistance, Geoeconomic dimensions of Southeast Asia and International Political Economy.

### *Economic Security Concerns of Southeast Asian Nations: Role of ASEAN in the Post-pandemic Era*

#### ABSTRACT

The state of the global economy since 2019 can most aptly be described as 'tumultuous'. The pandemic that brought a sudden halt in economic activities was followed by uncertain conditions for economic recovery. The challenges to post-pandemic recovery including supply chain disruptions due to geo-political tensions in different geographies, reduced consumer demands amongst others culminated into sticky inflation across major economies. Policymakers, therefore, have had a hard time bringing their economies back on track. The economic turbulence often transcends into socio-political realms. This uncontrollable spiral of economic uncertainty has led to states becoming more conscious of their economic security. Economic security is immediately associated with protectionism but is a wide-ranging concept instead. States tend to adopt various approaches to achieve long term economic security, with one of them in stark contrast to protectionism: multilateral cooperation. Formation of regional organisations or multilateral institutions is aimed at economic development and addressing member states' concerns of vulnerability by collective responses. Regional organisations like the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) work towards increasing economic integration of the region to generate a form of collective security against the harmful effects of global economy while reaping the benefits of integration.

This paper focuses on the approach adopted by the Southeast Asian Nations in forming ASEAN to address their economic security concerns. The idea is to explain the region's most prominent challenges of the day, post-pandemic recovery, and rising tensions between the US and China. The two phenomena pose a threat to sustaining economic growth of smaller Southeast Asian economies. The paper tries to analyse the role of ASEAN in countering these challenges. It will help in understanding the continuing relevance of ASEAN, tied to its ability in successfully navigating the arising uncertainties.



The paper therefore, covers policies and actions of ASEAN focused on dealing with the aforementioned challenges.



**Megha Shrivastava** is a Dr TMA Pai Fellow and a Doctoral Scholar at the Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India. Her research focuses on China's ICT industry and the Private tech sector. She obtained her Master's in Politics with a specialisation in International Relations from the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and her bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Delhi. Her research interests include China's technology development, great power rivalry over technology, and State-tech business relations in China.

### *Global Supply Chains, Export Controls, and Geopolitics: East Asia's Semiconductor Industry in the Post-Pandemic World*

#### **ABSTRACT**

East Asia forms the focal point in the global semiconductor supply chain. While Taiwan's TSMC remains the world's top manufacturer of advanced chips, South Korea's SK Hynix and Samsung emerge as suitable Integrated Device Manufacturer (IDM) models. Other countries like Singapore, Malaysia, etc. also play a significant role in the global semiconductor supply chain. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the industry suffered serious supply chain disruptions. While the causes and factors responsible for such disruptions have wider managerial and logistical dimensions, a crucial geopolitical dimension has emerged in the wake of the US's tech war against the Chinese semiconductor industry. Two major allies of the US, Taiwan and South Korea have been mired in the game of export sanctions against China, having significant implications for business and supply chain in East Asia. While several news articles and industry experts have highlighted the supply chain disruptions and potential impact on US's East Asian allies, there has been a lack of deeper understanding on this topic. This paper understands and analyses the impact of US export control measures on the semiconductor industry in the East Asian countries. This paper is divided into four sections: (a) understanding the industry matrix (b) global chip supply chain and the position of East Asian countries (c) understanding the nature and evolution of US export control measures, and (d) assessing the impact of US offences on the global supply chain with an emphasis on the wider geopolitical and geoeconomic implications for East Asian countries mainly including China, Taiwan, and South Korea.



**Niranjan Marjani** is an Independent Political Analyst and Researcher based in Vadodara, India specialising in International Relations and geopolitics. He collaborates with Indian and international publications and think tanks. He has written over 250 opinion/analytical articles. He has also written research papers and book chapters and has presented papers at national and international conferences. Currently he is doing Ph.D from the M.S. University in Vadodara on 'India-Spain Relations in the 21st Century: Dynamics and Prospects'. He is associated with New Delhi-based magazine The Kootneeti Español as a Consulting Editor and

with Punebased think tank Tatvita-Analysts as a Country Columnist focusing on Spain. He also offers consultation as a political risk analyst to Indian and foreign corporate entities.

### *India-Mongolia Economic Cooperation: Prospects and Challenges*

#### **ABSTRACT**

India's relations with Mongolia is gaining traction with economic cooperation playing the leading role in strengthening the bilateral ties. While cultural exchanges between these two civilizational states have spanned 4,500 years, engagements in the contemporary era have remained at a sub-optimal level. However, with regular high-level bilateral visits and with ties upgraded to the level of strategic partnership in 2015, Mongolia has become an important entity in India's Act East Policy. At present, energy cooperation is driving economic ties. For India, Mongolia is an important source to secure coking coal for steel plants. Mongolia has also invited India to invest in the mining of precious and non-precious metal reserves. India is funding construction of Mongolia's first oil refinery. To further diversify ties, Mongolia's turn to the digital economy is an opportunity for India to deepen its cooperation through sharing its own expertise and assisting in capacity-building in this area. However, there are two principal challenges to the India-Mongolia relations. First, the volume of bilateral trade remains low. The two countries signed an Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation in 1996 which provides for Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to each other. However, the trade between India and Mongolia is yet to benefit from the full potential of this agreement. Second, owing to its geographic location, Mongolia is subject to geopolitical rivalry between competing powers such as the United States, China and Russia. India would need to navigate around this rivalry to focus on strengthening ties with Mongolia.



**Palutla Vasudha Parimala**, a driven academic and advocate, hails from Hyderabad, India. She obtained her Bachelor's degree with distinction from Lady Shri Ram College, where she majored in Philosophy and Political Science, demonstrating a keen intellect

and passion for societal issues. Currently, she is immersed in her pursuit of a Master's degree in International Studies at Christ University, Bangalore, delving deeper into global affairs and diplomacy. Palutla's academic journey is underscored by her commitment to research and analysis. Her insightful research papers, such as "State of Cambodian Economy " and "Fisheries Sector in India," showcase her analytical prowess and dedication to understanding complex economic and social dynamics. Beyond academia, Palutla is deeply involved in community service and activism. During her undergraduate years, she dedicated her time to volunteering with organisations like Aarohan and the Indian Cancer Society, where she collaborated with medical professionals at AIIMS, illustrating her compassionate nature and willingness to make a tangible difference in people's lives. Palutla's interests span across political economy and foreign policy studies, reflecting her desire to explore the intersection of politics, economics, and global relations. With her diverse educational background and practical experiences, she aspires to contribute meaningfully to the discourse surrounding international affairs and to effect positive change on a global scale.

### ***Recent Chinese Economic Slowdown- An Impact on South East Asian Nations: A Political Economic Analysis***

#### **ABSTRACT**

The recent economic slowdown in China is very different from the one predicted before (during the 2008 global financial crisis and the 2015 period) as it is marked by a structural imbalance between household consumption and investment and can lead to a long-term impact. An in-depth analysis of this is required as it has an economy generating growth of 8 to 9% of GDP a year till now and contributing to 41% of the world's growth in the past decade is currently having a growth rate of nearly half of that and thereby, also impacting world's growth by contributing less than before. Hence, this paper aims to analyse a very limitedly explored political-economic perspective of the recent economic slowdown and its impact on the growth of Southeast Asian nations. In the first part of the paper, the political-economic perspective of the crisis will be explored in terms of causes while looking at state intervention, wages, unemployment, protests, etc. The recent debate regarding the slowdown in China- whether it was on the lines of a slowdown in the 1990s after a great economic miracle in Japan will also be explored in detail. The second part of the paper analyses the impact of the recent economic slowdown on the growth of Southeast Asian nations from trade and investment standpoints. The paper concludes by looking at the possible solutions to reemerge from the present slowdown by shedding light on the "Great Reset" (reconstruction after Covid 19 pandemic) initiative by the World Economic Forum. The methodology used in this paper will be Quantitative analysis.



**Timhna S.** is a Doctoral Scholar at Christ University, Bangalore, researching Maoist movements in South Asia. She holds a Master's degree in International Studies and is a Senior Research Affiliate at the Centre for East Asian Studies, Christ University. Her research interests encompass various facets of international relations, with a geographic focus on Indo-Pacific, East Asia, and South Asia and a thematic focus on regional security dynamics, governance systems, and socio-economic and structural development. She has experience in teaching political science, working as a research assistant at L.N Gumilyov Eurasian National

University, Nursultan, Kazakhstan, and currently as a project assistant at the Centre for East Asian Studies, Christ University, in collaboration with George Washington University, supported by the U.S. State Department. She has co-authored articles in Scopus-indexed journals and is in the process of publishing findings from other ongoing research interests.



**Dharish David** is Associate Faculty, Singapore Institute of Management, University of London. He is also an associate faculty for the University of London at the Singapore Institute of Management – Global Education (SIM-GE), and teaches courses relating to political economy. He is a research manager for a Japanese consulting startup in Singapore, working across government and private sector projects with global reach. He has also worked in the private sector, handling analyst teams focusing on India, ASEAN, and China across 16 main industry verticals. His other stints include working in international organisations like the United Nations Global Compact (GCNS)

in Singapore, the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) in Tokyo, and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) in Jakarta, focusing on Sustainability, Green Growth and Infrastructure Development in Asia. He received his doctorate from Waseda University (Tokyo, Japan) specialising in infrastructure development and financing. He has written, taught, and consulted widely across various themes, including democracy, technology policy, Asian political economy, economic development, infrastructure development, startup market, and international relations. He has written several book chapters, academic articles, industry white papers, business insight, and thematic reports, apart from regularly writing short insight pieces and op-eds in renowned platforms such as SCMP, East Asia Forum, and Global Policy.



**Syeda Tahiya Husain** is a graduate student in Economics and Politics at the University Of London, Singapore Institute of Management - Global Education (SIM-GE), under academic direction from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). She has gained experience in editorial and journalism and is currently pursuing writing for academic research. Her interests lie in international relations, democracy, policy research, and humanitarian and social affairs, and she hopes to gain more ground in research and non-profit work.

### *Resulting Polity Changes from BRI Investments: With Special Reference to East Asia*

#### **ABSTRACT**

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a sprawling web of infrastructure investments across Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America, raises critical questions regarding its impact on the democratic performance of its recipient countries. This study delves into this complex intersection, analysing whether BRI fosters "lock-in" effects, potentially undermining democracy and solidifying China's influence. Focusing on infrastructure projects, the study examines how BRI investments, irrespective of a country's democratic standing, might create economic and political dependence on China. Rising indebtedness among recipients raises concerns about potential defaults and economic downturns, which could exacerbate political turmoil, particularly in autocratically governed nations. The research empirically investigates whether BRI disproportionately favours more autocratic yet stable countries, potentially intensifying their dependence on China while eroding democratic and governance institutions over time. However, the study acknowledges the need for historical context. By analysing past donor-driven infrastructure projects and their influence on democratisation, the research aims to determine whether BRI's impact is unique or part of a broader pattern. Global trends in BRI investments, analysed in conjunction with data on democracy from Freedom House and Economic Intelligence Unit, will shed light on China's strategic investment choices and potential impact on the democratic landscape of the recipient countries. Beyond economic considerations, the study recognises BRI's geopolitical implications. With China potentially supplanting American soft power in Asia, the research investigates how BRI investments alter domestic politics in host countries. Does BRI, through projects benefiting certain elites, contribute to democratic backsliding manifested through deteriorating rights and increased government repression? The study seeks explicitly to comprehensively understand BRI's multifaceted consequences for regional power dynamics and democratic governance, contributing to a nuanced analysis of the evolving geopolitical landscape shaped by China's ambitious initiative in the East Asian context.



**Kalpana Pandey** is currently pursuing a fellowship at Chanakya University in Bangalore. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Mumbai University and completed her post-graduation in International Studies at Christ University, Bangalore where she got an opportunity to go for a student exchange programme to France. With a profound interest in foreign policies, diplomacy, and national security, Kalpana is deeply engaged in researching India-EU relations and the evolving role of China. She is also researching the role of cybersecurity and AI in the international domain. Her academic journey has been fueled

by her dedication to exploring these dynamic domains. Her tenure as a research intern at the Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS) ignited her passion for in-depth research in her field. Under the guidance of Prof. H.V. Pant, she authored and presented a paper titled '*India- France Air Force Defence Relation: Complex Interdependence and Way Ahead for Atma Nirbharta*,' further inspiring her commitment to insightful research in international relations."

### ***Southeast Asia's Digital Economy and Trade Security: The Critical Role of Cybersecurity***

#### **ABSTRACT**

Cybersecurity has emerged as one of the most critical concerns in the international community in this rapidly digitising world. The rising use of the internet by economic giants has also made cybersecurity a requirement rather than a choice. The ASEAN region accounts for almost \$3.63 trillion USD in global trade. The region's economy supports its development, innovation, and connectivity, and plays a significant role in digital economic development. Due to the rapid advancement of technology and the economically growing economies of Southeast Asia, cyber security has become increasingly important in the region's digital economy and trade security landscape. As countries move towards a digital economy, it becomes crucial to strengthen cyber security mechanisms. The region's growing digital trade demands secure digital infrastructure and a standardised framework. Threats to cybersecurity include the possibility of illicit financial activities, cross-border trade, and challenges regarding intellectual property rights. This paper goes deeper to examine the possible cyber security risks to the digital economy of Southeast Asia and how it affects the nation's trade security. The paper also provides potential policy ideas and suggestions to strengthen the cyber security threat to the region's economic growth via multilateral cooperation and secure regional trade. The interplay of cybersecurity, digital economy, and trade security in the Southeast Asian region highlights the need for a collaborative approach to address the growing cyber security threat.

## DISCUSSANT



**Srabani Roy Choudhury** is Professor in Japanese Studies, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She received her Ph.D from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Prior to joining Jawaharlal Nehru University in 2007, she was a faculty in International Management Institute. She was the recipient of Japan Foundation Fellowship, visiting scholar programme to Keizai Koho Centre, Ministry of Economics and Industry, Japan; Policy Research Institute, Ministry of Finance, Japan; visiting fellow at Research Institute for Economic & Business Administration, Kobe University and Graduate School of Development Studies, Nagoya University. Her research interest lies in the area of Japanese investment in India and enjoys micro –level firm studies. Her recent publications are centred on Japan- India economic relations and Japanese Multinational’s experiences in India, their entry strategies and their survival techniques.

Her academic outing began in 1998 with NIILM, a business school. In 2004, she moved to the International Management Institute. During her tenure in these institutes she worked closely with many industrial forums like SCOPE, as academic collaborator and evaluator. She has also engaged in international collaboration with University of Melbourne and University of Warwick for providing micro level data on Indian consumers and other sections of the society. She associates with business schools like Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and Management Development Institute to give insight into eastern management practices.

**1300-1345 hrs: LUNCH BREAK**

### THEMATIC PANEL III

**Interregional and Intraregional Issues/Disputes: Territory and Resources**

**1345 – 1515 Hours**

## CHAIR



**Madhumati Deshpande** is the Department Coordinator and Associate Professor in the Department of International Studies, Political Science and History, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore. She completed her MPhil and PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She has been a graduate assistant and election observer at the Carter Center in Atlanta, USA and observed elections in East Timor and Guyana. She also worked as Editor for Springer Reference works. She

has several articles published in various peer reviewed journals and many book chapters. Her areas of research interest are, Political theory, International Relations and Foreign policy analysis, Asian Studies, Indian Foreign Policy and US foreign Policy.

## **SPEAKERS**



**Gagan Hitkari** is a Doctoral Scholar in Korean studies at the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi. He holds a master's degree in Conflict Analysis and Peacebuilding from the Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. During his masters programme he wrote a dissertation titled '*The Nuclear Question in the Korean Reunification.*' He is also a Non-resident James A. Kelly Korea fellow at Pacific Forum, Hawaii, U.S. His research interests include Disarmament, Nuclear diplomacy, India's foreign policy, inter-Korean relations, North Korea's nuclear policy, US policy toward the Korean Peninsula, Gender studies and Peacebuilding.

### ***Navigating North Korea's "New Era": Assessing Security Perceptions and Prospects for Peace in the Post-Pandemic World***

#### **ABSTRACT**

The post-pandemic era has seen a fragile security situation in East Asia due to North Korea's growing belligerence. Since the onset of the pandemic, North Korea has carried out "unprecedented" missile tests, including the launch of the Malligyong-I reconnaissance satellite. While the motives have been squarely related to a devastating economic crisis and Kim Jong-un's "mad obsession" with weapons proliferation, a closer look into political developments in the DPRK tells a different story. After claiming a "decisive victory" over COVID-19 in August 2022, the DPRK announced its entry into a "New Era" at the 6th Plenum of the 8th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) held in December 2022. The "New Era" is defined by the need to raise national prestige, defend national rights, and safeguard national interests in a "New Cold War system" where cooperation with "anti-imperialist and independent nations" such as Russia and China is sought against the "anti-Communist conflict" led by the trilateral alliance of the United States, Japan and South Korea, which is blamed for pushing the Peninsula on the "verge of a nuclear war". With "war" being regarded as a "reality and not an abstract concept anymore", both the recent instances of belligerence and Pyongyang's growing proximity to Russia and China stand as testaments to a newfound understanding of the security situation, thus reflecting political realism in foreign policy assessments. This study seeks to understand the DPRK's perceptions of the security situation on the Korean Peninsula in the post-pandemic era through the application of



the Rational Actor model and theories of Deterrence and Signalling. Based on the findings, the study will speculate the prospects and possibilities of peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. The study advocates for moving out of the stalemate and looking at diplomatic means as the way forward.



**Guillermo Moya Barba** is a Spanish Doctoral Law Student at Rey Juan Carlos University of Madrid. He has coursed two degrees (International Relations and Law) and two master's degrees: a Master in International Relations and African Studies (Autonomous University of Madrid), and a Master in International Relations and Diplomacy at the Diplomatic School of Madrid. The latter enabled him to be currently at the Spanish Embassy in the Netherlands in The Hague working as Advisor of the Embassy. Although his doctoral thesis is based on international environmental law and geopolitics, he is author of diverse articles about Myanmar.

His first article is titled "*The Rohingya Crisis: the invisible genocide*", where he talks about the origin and evolution of the current situation of the Rohingyas in Myanmar. Other articles are related to drug- trafficking and the current violent scenario after the coup d'état. His interest in Myanmar is based on the belief that the situation inside this territory and the suffering of the civilian population is such that it deserves to be studied in all parts of the world, especially in Europe, where conflicts like the ones in Ukraine and Israel are monopolising all means of communication. Guillermo also collaborates with other entities such as the Environmental Law and Sustainability Research Group (ELSRG) of the UWE Bristol, led by Professor Jona Razzaque, and the Centre for East Asian Studies of Christ University, led by Dr. N. Manoharan.

### *The End of the Civil War in Myanmar? The Operation 1027*

#### **ABSTRACT**

We are witnessing a real shift in what we could call "the longest-running civil war" in the world: the armed civil war in Myanmar. Since its beginning in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this civil war has provoked several human casualties and movement of people towards other countries, in order to escape from this scenario. Myanmar, one of the greatest multiethnic countries in the world, has been dominated by the Buddhist-nationalist ideology of the military branch: the so-called *Tatmadaw* or Myanmar Armed Forces. Not even the relatively "democratic" government of the Nobel prize Aung San Suu Kyi could stop this history of conflict and discrimination (for instance, the discriminatory situation of the Rohingya ethnic group did not change since Kyi reached power). Since the independence of Myanmar (then Burma), several conflicts based on independence movements started throughout the country. However, today those separatist groups (such as the Arakan Independence Army, the Kachin Defense

Army or the Shan United Army) have decided to unite and fight together with the military junta in a great “backlash”. This resistance movement is heavily challenging the power of the junta, adding also to the discontent from the civil society since the coup d’état of February 2021.

This paper aims to develop how this backlash has emerged and how it has been executed by this coalition of armed groups. Additionally, it aims to explain what to expect from the hypothetical result and the effects that it might have on geopolitical grounds, especially in the ASEAN region.



**Indu Krothwal** is a Doctoral Scholar and Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Political Science, Lovely Professional University, Punjab, India. Her doctoral research titled, “China’s Strategic Containment of India and Emerging Regional Imperatives: A Maritime Security Analysis” focuses on China’s increasing influence in South Asian countries and emerging regional security challenges for South Asian countries as well as India and maritime issues in the South Asia-Indian Ocean Region. She has submitted her final thesis and is now waiting for the final viva. She has written for various journals and contributed chapters in books. She has

recently made significant contributions to the academic community with the publication of research articles in the esteemed Comparative Strategy Journal. She has been a frequent participant and presenter at various international conferences including “Ocean Security: South Asia and the Indian Ocean” organised by Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Sri Lanka, where her insights and expertise have been widely recognized and appreciated. She has also been awarded with a copyright from the Government of India. Her research interests include Geopolitics of the Indian Ocean, India-China relations, China’s foreign policy in South Asia, Maritime Policies of China.

### *Navigating New Horizons: The Analysis of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Southeast Asian Countries*

#### **ABSTRACT**

A decade since its inception in 2013, China’s ambitious project-the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), spanning from Africa to Asia have yielded both opportunities and challenges. This research paper analyses the impact of BRI a decade down the line. This paper makes the case for Southeast Asian countries and reveals the opportunities, pitfalls, and challenges of BRI in these countries. A decade of BRI projects in Southeast Asian countries has brought both positive and negative impacts. These projects have helped enhance economic growth, upgrading of economy, tourism growth, and regional connectivity. The project also comes under heavy criticism on the sustainability of the loans provided for infrastructure development and their potential to fall under

debt-trap. There have been persistent environmental concerns too. The future trajectory of this project comes under shadow since the pandemic as China faces an economic downturn. The BRI has been progressive in its development approach but there are certain areas that require improvement including transparency, accountability, and risk management.



**Saira Grace Saju** is currently working as a Research Intern at Centre for Chinese Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam in Kerala. She also worked as a Research Assistant at the Center for Human Security Studies, Hyderabad. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science and International Relations from Central university of Kerala. She did her Bachelor's in History from St Stephen's College, Delhi University. Her area of interest includes Geopolitics, History and Security Studies . She has presented papers at various forums like National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) Bangalore, International Institute of Human Security Governance (IIHSG) JNU, Mahatma Gandhi

University- Kottayam, Kerala and has authored two published research articles. She has been associated with think tanks like Center for Human Security Studies- Hyderabad, Foreign Policy Research Centre- Delhi, NIICE- Nepal, Centre for West Asia -India Studies ( CIWAD)- New Delhi ..

### *Maritime Territorial Disputes: Resource Geopolitics, Environmental Implications and Climate Change*

#### **ABSTRACT**

The regional stability, peace and security of East Asian regions are mostly threatened by maritime territorial disputes for the commodification of rich natural resources. Currently, the most consequential disputes are found in three areas mainly in the Sea of Japan, South China sea and East China sea. The root cause of this issue can be over the access for fisheries and fishing as it's a major source of livelihood for many oil and natural gas deposits including hydrocarbons, International laws related to Sea and its judicial interpretation, evolving concern and question over resource geopolitics and territorial sovereignty. The extraction of these resources would have environmental implications, regional security issues, and poses a threat to climate . When affected with climate change, it leads to destabilisation of the Blue Economy affecting the marine ecosystem, mass migration of people and displacement causing transboundary issues and so on. Increasing imbalance in demand – supply in the market economy has been a root cause of resource commodification. Issues related to tackling the issue of climate change, resource extraction, regional stability, environmental security and so on are to be looked upon seriously in the upcoming future to avoid armed conflicts and warfare and for better cooperation between nations.



**Tanvi Kashyap** is a Research Affiliate at the Centre for East Asian Studies, Christ University, Bangalore. She is pursuing her Post-graduate degree in International Studies at Christ University, Bangalore. Tanvi has a graduate degree in Political science from Patna Women's College, Bihar. She is currently exploring East Asia and investigating the Indo-Pacific strategies of a few countries and regions as part of the Centre.

### *Comparing Japan and South Korea's Indo-Pacific Strategies in the Post-pandemic Era*

#### **ABSTRACT**

The paper will discuss the evolution of Japan and South Korea's Indo-Pacific strategies in the post-pandemic era. The study would provide insights into the changes the Indo-Pacific strategies of the two countries have undergone. Due to their geographic proximity, both countries have similarities and differences in their Indo-Pacific strategies. Japan introduced the Free and Open Indo-Pacific under the administration of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and shaped its strategy in 2016, while on the other hand, South Korea embraced the Indo-Pacific strategy in 2017 under President Moon Jae-In's administration and finally formulated its strategy under the current president Yoon Suk Yeol's administration in 2023. South Korea showed less interest in the Indo-Pacific before the pandemic. However, the change in administration, the rise of the Korean wave, and other significant factors have driven its interest in reinvigorating its Indo-Pacific strategy. Furthermore, the paper will discuss the following sub-themes:

- Indo-Pacific strategy of Japan, its evolution, and recent trends
- Indo-pacific strategy of South Korea, its evolution, and recent trends
- Convergences in the strategies of both countries
- Divergence in the strategies of both countries
- Inferences and conclusion



**Archan Saha** completed his B.A. in Chinese Language and Culture from Cheena Bhavana, Visva-Bharati University in 2022. He is in his final year of Master's degree in the same field at the same institution. He has been learning Chinese for almost 5- years, and has achieved several accolades, including 2nd position in the Chinese Bridge Competition 2023 in the Indian Zone and the 1st position in the Xuanzang Speech Competition 2023.

## ABSTRACT

### *India and Japan: A Digital Silk Road?-Exploring the Impact of Platforms on Bilateral Relations*

In the age of ubiquitous connectivity, digital platforms are not just reshaping commerce and communication, but also the very fabric of international relations. For India and Japan, with their long-standing ties and shared strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific, these platforms present a novel avenue for cooperation. This paper delves into the multidimensional impact of digital platforms on their bilateral relations, navigating opportunities and challenges across trade, cultural exchange, and diplomacy. This paper first focuses on dissecting the evolution and landscape of digital platforms in both countries. Analysing their distinct features and strengths, the work tries to identify areas for mutually beneficial collaboration. On the economic front, it explores how platforms can ease cross-border trade, optimise supply chains, and fuel the burgeoning e-commerce sector. Culturally, this paper examines their potential to bridge geographical distances, promote people-to-people interactions, and share the rich tapestry of Indian and Japanese heritage. Beyond economic and cultural exchange, digital platforms can also revolutionise diplomatic engagement. I delve into their role in facilitating official communication, fostering crisis management and conflict resolution, and bolstering cyber-security cooperation. However, amidst this digital surge, the spectre of data privacy concerns and inadequate regulatory frameworks looms large. This paper advocates for a collaborative approach to address these challenges while leveraging emerging technologies like AI, IoT, and blockchain. In conclusion, this paper argues that digital platforms offer India and Japan a unique opportunity to strengthen their partnership and build a robust "Digital Silk Road". By embracing strategic collaboration, actively addressing regulatory hurdles, and harnessing the potential of innovative technologies, both India and Japan can leverage this digital bridge to usher in a new era of bilateral cooperation and shared prosperity.

## DISCUSSANT



**Shankari Sundararaman**, is Professor at the Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies. Her areas of research relate to Southeast Asia with a particular focus on Indonesia, Cambodia and Myanmar. She has been a former Visiting Fellow to the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy at the Australian National University, Canberra and a Visiting Fellow (Ford Foundation scholar) with the Asian Scholarship Foundation at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) at Jakarta, Indonesia. She has published several articles and book chapters related to her areas of research on Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific.

**THEMATIC PANEL IV**  
**Refugees and Migration**  
**1515 - 1645 Hours**

**CHAIR**



**Sreemati Chakrabarti** is the editor of China Report and Chairperson of the Institute of Chinese Studies. She is a former Professor of Chinese Studies at the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi. She has also been the Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Delhi; Head of the Department of East Asian Studies for three terms and the Director of the Institute of Chinese Studies (2009-2012). Currently, she is also an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi. She was a Visiting Faculty at Central China Normal University, Wuhan, China in 2018. She has a Master's degree in Regional Studies- East

Asia from Harvard University and holds a Doctorate in Political Science from Columbia University. She has authored three books: *China and the Naxalites*, *Mao, China's Intellectuals and the Cultural Revolution* and a National Book Trust volume titled *China*. She has also edited *Higher Education in China: Select Perspectives* and co-edited *Taiwan Today*. In addition, she has published several articles in journals, magazines and newspapers and contributed chapters to books. Several television channels have invited her to speak on China and East Asia related issues. In 2010 she was conferred the "China-India Friendship Award" by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

**SPEAKERS**



**Jhilik Singha** is a security manager currently working at Deutsche Bank, Mumbai on the CBRE account. Her primary responsibilities include managing operations in the Security control room on a 24\*7 basis for India and Sri Lanka, to organise for corrective action while at the same time mitigating any risk to the bank. Prior to this, worked as an intern with Observer Research Foundation and Mitkat. Jhilik received her Master in Arts in Defense & Security Laws from NALSAR University in 2022 and Master in Arts in International Studies from Christ deemed to be University in 2020. Her research focuses mainly on West Asia, South Asia and Europe.

Previously, she co-authored a research paper on '*Validity of Aadhar*' for the Law National Conference (January 2019) and also authored a paper on '*Social media and fake news*' for a conference at Christ University, Bangalore.

## *Rohingyas: A Challenge to Region's Stabilisation*

### **ABSTRACT**

Often reflected as a Europe centric issue, the refugee crisis in the Asian countries had reached a staggering high of 11.3 million. The displacement ranks from political instability, economic disparity, and climatic challenges. The paper divulges the Rohingya crisis that has caught the region's attention with superpower China's growing intervention of underscoring it as a domestic issue of Myanmar, deterring any international intervention. China's strategic interest in stabilising Myanmar is due to the proposed China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), granting it access to South, East and Southeast Asia. As the crisis enters its seventh year, the situation continues to deteriorate with Bangladesh instating barriers to prohibit the Rohingyas from penetrating further into their homeland. Even though China's 'three phase solution' went for a toss, the repartition of these refugees to Myanmar forms their modern narrative. As parties in Myanmar continue to remain engaged in the turf war in the post-COVID world, it imposes significant obstacles in maintaining the status quo in the country. Furthermore, the return of Rohingyas has become highly contested with no concrete proposal by the domestic government in offering citizenship and security to them. The paper would thus focus on certain key areas of the issue like the crisis deepening into a border issue between China - Myanmar, Bangladesh's upping restrictions as the numbers swell to approx. one million in the country, ever growing reluctance among various players in finding a resolution and extending it to become a regional catastrophe.



**Jose Deepak T T** is currently pursuing post graduation in Public Policy, Design and Management from the Indian School of Public Policy, New Delhi. He also holds a Master's in International Relations and Politics from Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam. His interests span from understanding power and knowledge, governance and public policy. Additionally, Jose also has a strong interest in research and also explores the domains of urbanisation, technology and education. He enhances his research capabilities through his role as a student associate at the Center for Urban Studies, M G University, Kottayam.



**Snehal A. Thakre** is a passionate advocate for social impact, recently pursuing a PGP in Public Policy Design & Management at the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP). Prior to ISPP, Snehal leveraged her engineering background (BE and ME in Electronics & Telecommunications) as a teacher, mentoring students and igniting their academic

potential. Snehal's journey towards policy began with a Lokneeti Programme in Policy, Data and Behaviour Change, where she developed policy to tackle the drinking water crisis in rural Maharashtra. This experience, coupled with a Certificate Course in International Relations, solidified Snehal's desire to bridge the technology and policy divide. At ISPP, Snehal's leadership extends beyond academics. As a Speaker of Cohort 2024, she advocates for scholars' needs and facilitates communication within the program. This dedication to social impact continues through volunteer work with the Beti Foundation and Pehchaan:The Street School, where she strengthens basic literacy and numeracy for underprivileged children. Her diverse skill set encompasses not only technical expertise but also strong communication and interpersonal skills, honed during her teaching experience and at post graduate program.

### *In the Midst of Conflicts and Uncertainty - The State of Refugees in Taiwan*

#### **ABSTRACT**

This paper specifically focuses on how Taiwan is dealing with refugees despite having no law for refugees. Due to its unique political position, Taiwan is not a member of the International Convention on Refugees and other international agreements. However, Taiwan has accepted five international treaties on human rights, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). It makes Taiwan bound to protect the right to life, the freedom of expression and speech, and the freedom of religion of refugees and asylum seekers. The recent influx of refugees from Hong Kong has led to the question of the state of refugees in Taiwan, which is very opaque. Though Taiwan has a tradition of accepting refugees from mainland China, this is not enough, especially considering the refugees from Macau island and the influx of Rohingya refugees to the country. Currently, the refugees are staying in the country on the goodwill of civil society groups such as the Taiwan Association of Human Rights. The state of exception that the refugees in Taiwan face and the role of civil society in addressing these concerns are also conceptually discussed in the paper. Nevertheless, this remains questionable and temporary in the absence of national legislation.



**Anmol Mukhia** is a Distinguished Fellow (Honorary) at the Forum for Global Studies, New Delhi. He is also an Assistant Professor and head of the Department of Political Science at the CDOE, Sikkim Manipal University, Sikkim, India. He was a Postdoctoral fellow at the Higher School of Economics National Research University, Moscow, Russian Federation (2020-2022), and completed his PhD at Jilin University, China, under a Ministry of Human Resource Development and China Scholarship Council (2015-2019) combined scholarship. He has worked at Sikkim University (2020) and Rashtriya Raksha University (2022-2023) as an assistant professor. He was a



Visiting Fellow at Sichuan University (2019). He was in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs delegation to visit Taiwan in 2013. He is also a recipient of the “Bharat Nepali Gorkha Samman Award,” (2023) organised by Social Engineering and felicitated by the honourable Governor of Sikkim. His publications are found in prominent journals such as: *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*; *Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs*; *SN Social Sciences*; *Contemporary South Asia*; *Politics, Groups, and Identities*; *Russia in Global Affairs*; *Natural Resources Forum*, etc. He is also the author of *Chasing A Blazing Fire in the Himalayas* published by White Falcon Publication. He has been invited to speakers for ITBP Academy, Centre for Public Policy Research, NTHU Taiwan etc.

### ***Northeast China in making a “Unitary Multinational State” for Korean Identity***

#### **ABSTRACT**

This paper examines the identity issue of the Korean ethnicity in the Northeastern part of China. The Korean ethnicity in China has found itself as “Chinese citizens with a Korean nation,” and many North Koreans living in hiding in China, mainly in the province of Jilin, along the border region with North Korea, are mixed among Chinese citizens of Korean ethnicity. This is since the People’s Republic of China (PRC) is, in its constitution, defined as a “unitary multinational state,” consisting of people from many nationalities. Ethnicity as a key element of human identities is complex, both regarded as makers of social advantage and disadvantage. The river boundaries such as Yalu and Tumen in the North Korea and China border are often implicated for ethnic Koreans in the process of exclusion and privilege. Thus, this paper examines the advantages of Korean ethnicity in Northeast China in three important ways: 1) The population (Korean) is considered a territorial periphery, which has played an important role in securing the state’s interest; 2) the Chinese tourism industry is the pillar of China’s national economy, where Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture firmly grasp the opportunity of creating a developmental model of borderland tourism; and 3) this research at last highlights that the Korean ethnicity in China as success and failure of ‘para-diplomacy’ in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### **DISCUSSANT**



**Priyanca Mathur**, is currently Head and Associate Professor at the Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CERSSE) JAIN (Deemed-to-be-University) in Bangalore. Previously, she was Assistant Professor and P.G. Coordinator at the Master’s Department of Political Science, St. Joseph’s College (Autonomous), Bengaluru. A gold-medallist in Political Science from Jadavpur University, Calcutta, she gained her Master’s, M.Phil and Ph.D degrees at the Centre for Political Studies and the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance,

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. A Commonwealth Scholarship also additionally enabled her to study for an M.Sc in Forced Migration Studies at the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford, U.K. She is a founding Member of the Asia-Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), a member of Editorial Board of Refugee Law Reader, Hungary, and of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM). An international trainer with UN Women and the Forum of Federations (FoF), Canada, she has devised modules for FoF on Gender and Decentralisation and conducted Gender and Federalism workshops, as well as 'Training of Trainers' (ToT) Workshops on Gender for parliamentarians and civil society actors in Myanmar and Thailand. She has published numerous book chapters and articles in journals, op-ed articles in the Deccan Herald, and conducted Gender Sensitisation Workshops for Universities. Being a recipient of the Schomburg Fellowship, Dr. Mathur has also taught at Ramapo College, Mahwah, New Jersey, U.S.A. She has recently co-authored an edited volume with Dr A Ravindra titled *Discovering New India: Multiculturalism, Pluralism, Harmony* (JAIN (Deemed-to-be-University) Press, 2022). Her areas of research and publications are international politics, refugee and forced migration studies, gender studies, public policy and governance. She is also guiding Ph.D Scholars in the same.

#### **DAY 2: SATURDAY, 6 APRIL 2024**

#### **THEMATIC PANEL V**

#### **Multilateralism in East Asia: Emerging Contours**

**0900 – 1030 Hours**

#### **CHAIR**



**D. Suba Chandran** is the Dean of the School of Conflict and Security Studies at NIAS. Within the School, he heads two Programmes - Conflict Resolution & Peace Research; and Science, Technology and International Relations. Pakistan is his primary area of research interest; currently, he is working on a manuscript looking at 75 years of Pakistan. He teaches a course on contemporary Pakistan. He has been a regular visitor to Pakistan, and has been part of numerous track-II dialogues with Pakistan; he has also worked and published with scholars from Pakistan. Besides Pakistan, he works on issues relating to peace and conflict; he is currently researching on two primary areas - "Conflict Peripheries" trying to find why most of the conflict regions are situated in geographic corners, and on "Peace Gap" trying to find why peace does not prevail, despite the end of violence and conflict. He leads the International Peace Research Initiative (IPRI) at NIAS. He is also the regional representative of the Global Partnership to Prevent Armed Conflict (GPPAC). He teaches an online course on peace research. He coordinates the NIAS Global Politics initiative, which looks at the contemporary world order, and four area studies - Pakistan, Europe, Africa and Maritime. In the long run, the

area studies are expected to branch out into independent disciplines. He also teaches an online course on “Contemporary World Affairs.” He works with a young, colourful and an extremely dedicated team who leads the research on area studies relating to Pakistan, Africa, Europe, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, and issues relating to Peace & Conflict, Arctic, Space, and the Himalayas. His team coordinates “Global Politics Young Voices (GPYV)” an exclusive network of young scholars, and take the lead in publishing the following at NIAS: *Pakistan Reader Evening Brief (Daily)*, *Pakistan Weekly*, *Europe Daily Brief*, *Europe Monitor (Monthly)*, *Africa Weekly*, *Conflict Weekly*, and *The World this Week*. Together, they coordinate the “Young-IPRI” network, aimed at bringing young scholars working on issues relating to peace and conflict on a common platform. He coordinates three academic networks – the International Studies Network Bangalore (ISBN), International Peace Research Initiative (IPRI), and Maritime Studies. Academic institutions from Goa, Bangalore, Chennai and Pondicherry are a part of the above networks. He also leads the “Science Diplomacy” initiative within the institute, aimed at bringing S&T and International Relations together. He coordinates the BRICS-Young Scientists’ Forum. He is an Associate at the Pakistan Study Research Unit (PSRU), University of Durham, UK. Earlier, he was a Visiting Fellow at the following places: the Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford, UK; ACDIS, University of Urbana-Champaign; and the University of Jammu, J&K.

## **SPEAKERS**



**Amey Velangi** is an aspiring international relations researcher with a passion for understanding global dynamics between countries and their managerial aspects of relationships. With a background in public policy and diplomacy, he delves into the intricate web of international affairs and its underpinnings in the academic world. He has a Master’s in Public Administration and Public Policy. He has a Post Graduate Diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy. He is currently associated with Chanakya University as a F Policy Fellow. His research majorly focuses on India’s Foreign policy, strategic and security studies, nuclear security, and neighbourhood studies. He has published his work on many important platforms like Raisina House, *Phadke Journal of Strategic Studies*, *The Viyug*, and other foreign affairs related magazines and periodicals. His work highlights the growing importance of India’s stature in the world of power politics and its impact on the balance of power. Topics like nuclear security intrigue him due to its complexity and its position in international politics. As a student of social sciences, he has developed a rational outlook towards various current issues in society and the world. He is open to different points of view and open to discussion with a scientific temper and a value-neutral approach. He has sufficiently good communication skills, adaptability, teamwork, critical thinking and problem-solving approach, and a bird’s eye view for a comprehensive outlook. He is an

enthusiastic learner and works with utmost sincerity and to the best of his knowledge and ability.

### *The Rift in ASEAN to deal with China in Indo-Pacific: Its Strategic Implications*

#### **ABSTRACT**

Considering ASEAN's organisational cohesiveness and its economic mightiness, it is supposed to be a strong unified entity, not just against external threats, but also to resolve its internal differences. The most prominent and obvious threat to these regional countries is Chinese aggression and its assertive claims on the periphery of these East Asian nations. This puts these countries on a defensive stance, failing which they may lose their strategically advantageous posture vis-à-vis China. But the region has been divided when it comes to dealing with China, giving them an unequivocal response. Such a position has an inherent weakness that needs to be delved into and understand its structural nuances. This paper attempts to analyse the fault line positions of the ASEAN nations when it comes to dealing with China in the Indo-Pacific. It also tries to explain the strategic difficulties of such a division in the region and its implications for the balance of power in the region. Using various sources and secondary analysis of the issue the paper will dig into the geoeconomic structures that are playing into the space and are one of the major reasons for such a regional divide. The big powerplay, its regional intervention, and its implications on the nations at play are also considered while analysing this topic. The natural resources that are at stake are also a major factor that comes in this regional geopolitical play as a driving factor. The paper would give a realistic perspective on the issue which would give us a different perspective on looking at the region and its geopolitical dynamics.



**Anushka Gupta** is an avid learner and researcher currently in the final year of her post-graduation programme of Politics: International and Area Studies, from Jamia Millia Islamia. She completed her undergraduation from Delhi University in Political Science. Her language proficiency is in Hindi, English and Russian. Previously she has worked with Delhi based think tank- Centre for Joint Warfare and Studies (CENJOWS) and South Asia Defence and Strategic Review (DEFSTRAT) where her articles have been published on East Asia, security and strategic concerns of India. In 2021, she presented a paper on Cyber Terrorism. For a period of 2 years, she was the founder

and served as a Managing Director of a web portal, India Research for Peace, where students and experts of international relations, area studies, security studies conducted in-depth research. She is now actively researching China which is one of her major research interests, while equipping herself with OSINT skills.

## *India-Mongolia-East Asia: Third Neighbour Policy to Revise Diplomacy and Geopolitics*

### **ABSTRACT**

Mongolia, a landlocked nation sandwiched between China and Russia is over-dependent on these two nations, China is the biggest trade partner of Mongolia, former imports 90% of Mongolian exports, majority includes mined products. Mongolia was severely impacted by Xi's Zero Covid Policy, as no bilateral trade was made in 2021. Sanctions on Russia for the Ukraine invasion have produced a double effect on Ulaanbaatar's economy. The China-Mongolia-Russia route devised under BRI seeks to strengthen Chinese control over Mongolia's transit, making the latter more dependent. Mongolia intends to come out of this dependency cycle through its Third Pillar Foreign policy which seeks to establish deeper relations with other neighbours, Ulaanbaatar has connected with India along with others under this Policy. India's Act East Policy views Mongolia as an essential component, in 2015 strategic partnership was established between two nations inspired by strong historical cultural links and regular military exercises. However, there is a need to further the relationship as New Delhi can tilt the relationship paradigm in East Asia. Mongolia's hesitancy to join SCO as a full member reflects its inclination towards diplomacy and multilateralism, showing less enthusiasm for joining defence alliances. Citigroup, 2011 released a list of 3G (Global Growth Generating) countries whose economies will boom in 2050, Ulaanbaatar is one of them. India should take leverage from its historical link to the democratic state model through public diplomacy, infrastructure development, first responder, and institutional capacity building. This paper seeks to explore the plausible factors that call for greater interaction and cooperation and the possible ways to do so while examining the potential result it can produce. Focus will go beyond bilateral relationships and a greater emphasis will be on Mongolia's expanded engagement in East Asia with the assistance of India at an international and regional level, in all domains.



**Prateek Singh Jha** is a final year Master's student, specialising in International Relations and Area Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University. He has completed his bachelor's in Political Science from University of Delhi. With his interest in post-structural school and its subsequent critiques, Prateek's research pursuit generally tends to be based on power-knowledge dynamics and discursive analyses. Simultaneously, intrigue in critical International Relations complements those research topics. Previously, his topics of inquiry have included critical geopolitics, feminist critique of security, refugees and modern state discourses, and indigenous knowledge systems. He had used the mentioned theoretical underpinnings in both understanding as well as comparing regional constructs such as South Asia,

Europe, South Pacific, and East Asia. He is also the recipient of the best paper award at the Young Scholars' Conference 2024 on 'The EU and Migration'.

### *Geopolitics in South China Sea: A Critical Examination of West/East Dichotomy*

#### **ABSTRACT**

The South China Sea is a crucial geopolitical location in terms of maritime trade and regional 'security' which often leads to power projections in the region. The display of power by major stakeholders has been termed as an epistemological conflict of 'West v. East' international relations because the major stakeholders, namely, the USA and PRC, are viewed as representing different world orders. Reaffirmation of the tenth dashed line by PRC under its 'new standard' map in August 2023 has generated sharp reactions, many fearing the assertion of a new regional order under Sinocentric Confucian discourse. Terms such as 'challenge to rules-based order', 'Confucian Democracy', and 'East Asian order' have helped in the creation of the West/East duality. However, this is misconceived as being against the Westphalian international order. The paper analyses the construction and reproduction of the 'West v. East' discourses by using critical geopolitical lens. As a case study, construction of such discourse amid the disputes in the South China Sea is examined. The paper concludes that the dichotomy is a political construction and not an epistemological one. East Asia itself functions under the Westphalian paradigm. East Asian states today follow the Westphalian structural rituals such as equal sovereignty, multilateralism, and nationhood. Any challenge thereof to the status quo is not a challenge to these rituals. The change in the political landscape in the South China Sea is misinterpreted as a change in regional discourse.



**Rucha Shrikant Mapari** is currently pursuing her post-graduation in Geopolitics and International Relations from Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Karnataka. She completed her Bachelor's degree in Economics from Savitribai Phule, Pune University. Her areas of interest include East Asia - Japan and the Korean Peninsula, India's strategic culture and foreign policy, climate change, and environmental security. She has proficiency in the Japanese Language of the N1 level and is currently pursuing a special advanced diploma in the Japanese language from Pune University.

### *The Camp David Summit 2023: Reimagining the East Asian Geopolitics*

#### **ABSTRACT**

Japan and South Korea, two independent nations in geographical proximity, with strong economies, play a vital role in shaping regional politics and act as one of the significant poles of the emerging multipolar international order. Yet, the world hasn't witnessed fully blossomed relations between these two states. While carrying for a long time the baggage of the mutually shared hostile history of colonialism and world wars, followed by the immediate take-over by the Cold War world order, the friction points remained unsettled and formed one of the main root causes of not coming closer politically. As the post-Cold War international politics gravitates toward the Indo-Pacific, the regional dynamics have started changing too. Not just the rise of China and its aggressive expansion in the region, but also the China-North Korea-Russia axis has emerged as a major strategic concern for the regional states. Japan and South Korea share the same concern that is equally important to them from an individual security perspective as well as collective regional stability. Unlike the Western approach, the shared threat and issue-based multilateralism of East Asia is informal with a high degree of discreteness. It functions on the relative powers shared by small and medium states. However, the manipulative invisible hands are evident too. Hence, the Camp David trilateral summit between Japan-US-South Korea, held in August 2023 was a remarkable turning point in the present times. The paper sheds light on the history, significance, and effectiveness of this trilateral arrangement in the East Asian region. It critically discusses the opportunities and challenges in its functioning. It attempts to understand how leaving behind the past dogmas is a need of the hour and evaluates the impact of this emerging contour of multilateralism.



**Simran Walia** is an Associate fellow at the Centre for Air Power Studies, pursuing a PhD in Japanese studies under the Centre for East Asian Studies, at Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has completed an MPhil in Japanese studies from JNU. Her research interests include Japanese politics and foreign policy, Indo-Pacific and East Asian foreign policy. She has published articles and papers in *The Diplomat*, *Indian Defence Review*, *Asia Times*, *National Interest* and elsewhere. She has presented papers at national as well as International Conferences.

### *Evolving Security Policy: Emphasising Japan's Role in the Quad*

#### **ABSTRACT**

Japan is dealing with threats to its national security and the nation currently feels that its close neighbours in Northeast Asia are putting increased military pressure on it. With growing nuclear and ballistic missile power and proliferation, North Korea continues to send dangerous signals to Tokyo. Meanwhile, Russia has increased its military presence in the disputed Northern Territories and frequently dispatches warplanes to fly over the

Japanese archipelago. The People's Republic of China, which is becoming more powerful and assertive and is testing Japanese sovereignty over the disputed Senkaku Islands and undermining the rules-based regional order that Japan is committed to, particularly in the maritime domain, is what threatens Japan the most. As a result, Japan believes it is in a risky neighbourhood's "front line." In Japan's revision of its National Security Strategy document, it came up with decisions such as the acquisition of counter-strike capabilities through which Tokyo seeks to respond to this deteriorating security environment. These steps can therefore be seen as part of the evolution of Japanese security policy. Furthermore, Tokyo has started the process of rebalancing power in the Indo-Pacific and given the QUAD effort more clout by outlining China and Russia as major threats to Japanese security and the global rule-based order. The Quad can be interpreted as a sign that the US is no longer able to fulfil its stated strategic objective of retaining independent dominance in the region. Even the long-standing structure of bilateral military alliances appears to be unable to stabilise the area since the United States is clearly losing relative power to China. This paper will therefore analyse the evolution of Japan's Security Policy under Former Prime Minister Abe to PM Kishida and how Quad is coming into play in the current geopolitical dynamics.



**Shradha Nidhi Toppo** is currently pursuing PhD under Professor Ranjana Mukhopadhyaya from Department of East Asian Studies, Faculty of Social sciences, University of Delhi. The topic of her PhD thesis is "Clerical Marriage and Temple wives: Changing Status of Women in Japanese Buddhist Temples". Her research work focuses on temple wives in Japan and how their position in the society has changed from the Meiji Period to the present day and how the culture and society had played a major role in it. Born and brought up in a small town in India, she did her schooling from Loreto Convent, Ranchi and high schooling from Kendriya Vidyalaya,

Ranchi. She has completed her BA (Honours) in English from Kamla Nehru College, University of Delhi and MA in Buddhist Studies from Department of Buddhist Studies, University of Delhi. She also did a basic level Japanese Language course from Japan Foundation, New Delhi. Her research interests include Indian Buddhism, Japanese Buddhism, Japanese Buddhist Society, Japanese society and culture, History, Buddhist philosophy and ethics.

### *Balancing Tradition and Modernity: Post-Pandemic Changes in the Temple Buddhism*

#### **ABSTRACT**

Japan happens to be one of the few countries where Buddhist priests are legally allowed to get married and have a family. In most cases, it is the Buddhist priest and his family



who look after the temple. The temple property is hereditary and is often passed down from father to the son. The head priests conducts the rituals and prayers but it is the Priest's wife commonly known as "bomori" ぼもり, "Jizoku" じぞく or the temple wives who looks after the temple household. The temple used to run mainly on donations and money received from funeral rituals. But things all of a sudden changed Post-Pandemic. Pandemic was a tough phase for the temple household as well. With covid-19 restrictions coming in, all the social gatherings were put on hold. This also affected the temple household in the worst possible way. Once upon a time there used to be a huge ceremony following the funeral, and the money flowed in abundance, all of which was cut off during the pandemic. People stopped visiting temples and avoided crowds in particular. Most of the services were conducted online. Things have changed a lot post-pandemic. Temple visitors have decreased and so has the flow of money. Youth in Japan are not as religious as their forefathers and this might pose a threat to the survival and long running of the temple. Through this paper she tries to show how temples are introducing new practices to attract the youth and pose a balance between tradition and modernity post-pandemic.

## DISCUSSANT



**Ramnath Reghunadhan** is Assistant Professor of Politics at the Department of International Studies, Political Science and History, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), India. The author was selected for the IIT Madras Institute Research Award 2022 by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (India) for his PhD work. He was also selected for the prestigious "Mira Sinha-Bhattacharjea Award 2019" by the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi (India), and the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship program by the Ministry of Education (Taiwan). In 2022, he published the book *Cyber Technological Paradigms and Threat Landscape in India* with Palgrave Macmillan

(Springer Singapore). His contribution to the Government of India was selected amongst the "Top 50" ideas for the upcoming Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) by the STIP Secretariat (India) and Science Policy Forum.

## 1030 – 1045 Hours: REFRESHMENT BREAK

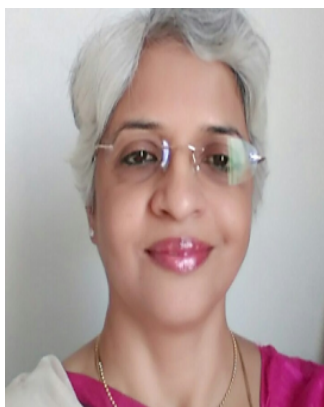
**ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**  
**East Asian Studies: New Directions and Opportunities**  
**1045 – 1215 Hours**

**MODERATOR**



**Alka Acharya**, Honorary Director, Institute of Chinese Studies; Chairperson and Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

**SPEAKERS**



**Vyjayanti Raghavan**, Former Professor of Korean Language and Culture, Centre for Korean Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University.



**Titli Basu** is an Associate Professor at the School of International Studies (SIS) in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India. Earlier she worked as a Fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), Delhi. She has actively contributed to various Track 2 institutional dialogues with Japan and South Korea. She was also a Visiting Fellow at the National Institute for Defence Studies (Ministry of Defence, Japan) and a Japan Foundation Fellow at Institute for Social Science, University of Tokyo. Dr. Basu was also a US State Department IVLP Fellow on ‘Enhancing Regional Maritime Governance and Cooperation in the Quad’. She has widely published on Japanese security debates and domestic politics.



**Rahul Mishra** is an Associate Professor at the Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and a Senior Research Fellow at the Thammasat University, Thailand. Before this, he was Director of the Centre for ASEAN Regionalism Universiti Malaya (CARUM), and the Coordinator of the European Studies Programme at the Asia-Europe Institute, Universiti Malaya, Malaysia. His previous stints include Foreign Service Institute, East-West Centre in Washington D.C., IDSA, ICWA, National University of Singapore and the Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore. Dr Mishra specialises in

politico-security affairs of the Indo-Pacific region, the role of major and middle powers in the Southeast Asian region especially in the context of China's rise, politico-security dynamics of Southeast Asia, ASEAN and European regionalism, and India's Act East policy. His latest publications include *Asia and Europe in the 21st Century: New Anxieties, New Opportunities*, and *India's Eastward Engagement from Antiquity to Act East Policy*.



**Aravind Yelery** is an Associate Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He is also an Honorary Fellow at the Institute of Chinese Studies. Before that, he was a Senior Research Fellow (Associate Professor Grade) at Peking University, Beijing/Shenzhen. He taught and curated courses for PKU and selected universities globally, and at a few Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) in India. In 2019, he won the Best Courseware Project Funds Award at Peking University. Yelery is also a Visiting Faculty at the Fudan School of Management, Shanghai. Before joining PKU, he was an Associate Fellow and Assistant Director at the Institute of

Chinese Studies, Delhi, India. Yelery holds a PhD in Chinese Studies with a particular interest in Political Economy. He has co-edited *Tailspin: The Politics of India-China Economic Relations* (London: Routledge, 2021) and authored *China Inc.: Between State Capitalism and Economic Statecraft* (New Delhi: Pentagon Press, 2021).

**VALEDICTORY SESSION**  
**1215-1300**

**CHAIR**



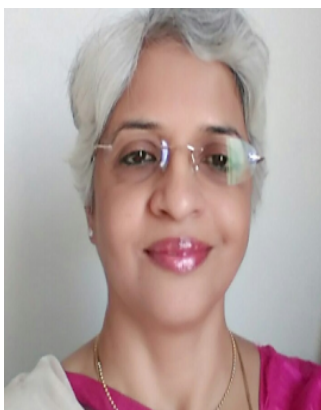
**N. Manoharan**, Director and Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru.

**VALEDICTORY ADDRESS**



**Ambassador Eric Gonsalves** has been the Former Secretary (East) of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. He was India's former Ambassador to the European Union and Japan. He was also the former Editor-in-Chief of the *South Asian Survey*, a journal by the Indian Council for South Asian Cooperation. Ambassador Gonsalves is also a Life Trustee of The International Centre, Goa.

**REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE**



**Vyjayanti Raghavan**, Former Professor of Korean Language and Culture, Centre for Korean Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi.

## VOTE OF THANKS



**Snigdha Konar** is Research Associate and Assistant Director at the Institute of Chinese Studies. She holds a PhD from the Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies at the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies in Jawaharlal Nehru University. She was a recipient of the Chinese Government Scholarship 2015-2016 (MHRD, Govt of India). She completed a Certificate Course in Chinese Studies Research and a Certificate Course in Advanced Chinese from the Beijing Language and Culture University. Her research interests include Chinese language and literature, gender and social issues.

**NOTE:** Speakers in all the thematic sessions will have 10 minutes to make their presentations, while Discussants will be allotted 10 minutes to discuss. The Chair will take up to 5 minutes to make the opening and concluding remarks. The remaining time will be for Q&A. In Round Table Discussion, each speaker will confine their presentations to 10-12 minutes.

---

## **ABOUT THE ORGANISERS**

### **Institute of Chinese Studies**

The Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), New Delhi is engaged in and committed to interdisciplinary research on China. Apart from the annual All India Conference of China Studies (AICCS), the Institute undertakes various collaborative research programs and multilateral initiatives with prominent institutions in India and abroad, and brings together leading and upcoming scholars through multiple fora. Among its many legacies, it has been conducting the iconic Wednesday Seminar for over 50 years and publishes the China Report, a peer-reviewed quarterly journal on China and East Asia, currently in its 59th year of publication.

### **Centre for East Asian Studies (CEAS)**

The 'Centre for East Asian Studies' is dedicated to the study of, and research on, the entire continental and maritime geographical region, east of India. The Centre's pursuit of excellence in this endeavour is in consonance with India's 'Look/Act East Policy'. The forte of the Centre lies in looking at the East Asian region from an Indian perspective, with a special emphasis on the southern states of India, given the historical socio-cultural as well as politico-economic connections and linkages.

---



INSTITUTE OF  
**Chinese**  
STUDIES, DELHI  
ESTABLISHED IN 1969  
中国研究院  
德里  
成立于 1969 年

*The Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS) is a pioneering research institute in India. It evolved from the China Study Group (CSG) established in Delhi in 1969, by academics and researchers from the University of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University and the then Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, along with some diplomats and journalists.*

*Now more than fifty years old and with a nation-wide fellowship and network, the ICS has emerged as an internationally-acclaimed research institute, and a credible non-partisan policy institute, focused on studying and analyzing historical and contemporary issues related to China and the East Asian countries.*

#### ICS ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

- ◆ WEDNESDAY SEMINAR
- ◆ ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF CHINA STUDIES
- ◆ INDIA FORUM ON CHINA
- ◆ ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES
- ◆ CONFERENCE ON DOMESTIC GOVERNANCE IN CHINA
- ◆ CS-CSMCH PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH PORTAL

#### ICS RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAMMES

- ◆ CHINESE ECONOMY RESEARCH PROGRAMME
- ◆ BORDER STUDIES PROGRAMME
- ◆ EAST ASIA PROGRAMME
- ◆ INDIA-CHINA COMPARATIVE STUDIES
- ◆ CHINA IN THE WORLD
- ◆ INDIA & CHINA: PERCEPTIONS AND ENGAGEMENTS
- ◆ SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMME
- ◆ RESEARCH PROJECTS

#### ICS LECTURE SERIES

- ◆ GIRI DESHINGKAR MEMORIAL LECTURE
- ◆ GARGI & V P DUTT MEMORIAL LECTURE

#### ICS PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ CHINA REPORT
- ◆ ICS ANALYSIS
- ◆ ICS OCCASIONAL PAPERS
- ◆ ICS MONOGRAPHS
- ◆ ICS WORKING PAPERS
- ◆ ICS TRANSLATIONS
- ◆ ICS RESEARCH BLOGS

#### ICS SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

- ◆ ICS-HARVARD-YENCHING INSTITUTE MULTI-YEAR DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP
- ◆ MIRA SINHA-BHATTACHARJEA AWARD
- ◆ GOVIND PURUSHOTTAM DESHPANDE AWARD

Website : <https://www.icsin.org>  
E-Mail: [info@icsin.org](mailto:info@icsin.org)



The Bayon temple towers depicting *Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara* located in *Angkor Thom* (Khmer: "Great City"), Cambodia. The Temple served as the state temple of the Emperor Jayavarman VII (reigned 1181–1219). The temple is built on a mountain to represent *Mount Meru* – the center of the universe in both Hindu and Buddhist mythology.

CONCEPTUALISED, DESIGNED AND PRODUCED BY **TEAM ICS**