

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



OBSERVER
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

IDEAS | FORUM | LEADERSHIP | IMPACT



ORF seeks to lead and aid policy thinking towards building a strong and prosperous India in a fair and equitable world. It sees India as a country poised to play a leading role in the knowledge age—a role in which it shall be increasingly called upon to proactively ideate in order to shape global conversations, even as it sets its own course along a trajectory of long-term sustainable growth.

ORF helps discover and inform India's choices. It carries Indian voices and ideas to global forums; and provides non-partisan, independent, well-researched analyses and inputs to diverse decision-makers in governments, business communities, and academia as well as civil society around the world.

Our mandate is to conduct in-depth research, provide inclusive platforms and invest in tomorrow's thought leaders today.





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Sunjoy Joshi

Chairperson, Observer Research Foundation

Our contemporary world tends to remember the last century for two Great Wars. It brings to mind the curse of Nuclear Armageddon, followed by the paranoia of the Cold War. Yet when the dust settles, history may well remember the 20th century differently. It will probably see it as the only time when deeply divided nations—split menacingly by ideology, demographics, wealth and political power—came together to create an array of multilateral institutions and arrangements to manage their conflicting but common concerns. These concerns spread from trade and finance to security and even the management of the global commons. It is the current century, the 21st, that risks being documented by posterity as the one in which successors of the progenitors of these same institutions and arrangements set about to undermine them with a single-mindedness that the future could well term as barbaric.

Each passing year turns another page of the New World Disorder. The year 2019 saw a world in deeper disarray; a world which ORF found itself attempting to come to grips with. It showed up in our policy research; it strutted about on our platforms. The fifth edition of the Raisina Dialogue found itself examining the current times as the ‘Alpha-Century’, marked by the strident politics of populist leaders confronting and wooing their even more clamorous constituents. The Dialogue gathered 1,500 practitioners and experts from 103 countries in New Delhi to discuss history’s ‘alpha’ moment.

In a political climate set to reduce the post-World War II order to shambles, the only countries that seemed to have a stake in returning to old consensual frameworks of global governance were the emerging economies. The Kigali Global Dialogue and the Dhaka Global Dialogue strove to reach out and engage communities in emerging geographies. We tried to create new forums that placed these

geographies at the centre of development and security conversations. With discussions on how to grapple with climate change to technological disruptions, these platforms emerged as incubators of new knowledge systems reversing the direction of the flow of ideas and innovation from the developing to the developed world. While 186 international global experts contributed to enrich our knowledge products in 2019, 150 came from these new geographies.

And yet at a time of disarray, the big global threat lurking round the corner escaped us all. The end of 2019 saw COVID-19 upend every aspect of life across the globe. Lockdowns swept over all like the wings of a big black swan eclipsing the world.

Like all others, we were indeed caught by surprise, but we were determined to adapt. Over the last few years, the institution had steadfastly set along the course of transforming and attaining the status of a ‘Digital First’ organisation. Having established CyFy as an annual platform in 2012, we brought debates focused on technology and society into mainstream policy and governance talk. Since then, we have invested to build our little virtual wormholes to transport ideas and voices to places beyond our immediate physical reach. Consequently, as digital natives, we took to work-from-home as a fish takes to water. The digital ecosystems we built allowed us to maintain our pace of growth whilst simultaneously ensuring our faculty had the tools they needed to make this unprecedented transition. Our digital audience has grown by leaps and bounds making www.orfonline.org and our social media pages not just India’s most-visited but amongst the world’s most visited think tank pages. In the months ahead, ORF will strengthen these capacities and innovate to teleport more of its platforms to this exciting new dimension.

The last 30 years have seen our organisation grow as an institute of excellence. We promise to continue engaging and leading the debates that will determine the course of the current century.

“ORF has grown into an institute of excellence. We will continue leading the debates that will determine the course of the current century.”



The #COVID19 pandemic marks the coming-of-age of the 21st century. It has forced the international community to confront festering issues of inequality and exclusion, accommodate new realities shaped by digitisation, respond to environmental degradation, work with flailing multilateralism, and repair the increasingly dystopian international order. How we, as societies and individuals, respond to this moment will define the tone, tenor and texture of the new decade that is upon us and, perhaps, of this century as well.

As an institution that has engaged with many of these debates since its inception, ORF dedicates itself to doing more now with greater research vigour and in stronger partnership with the communities that we serve. We have identified five distinct but interrelated pathways for our efforts in the year ahead.

The first is to interrogate the dramatic migration of our lives, livelihoods, communities and politics into the virtual sphere. ORF will

“ORF will offer a venue for building a consensus amongst the expectations and assessments that define our #ViralWorld”

strive to understand and explain how societies of the future will interact with and be shaped by codes, algorithms and digital infrastructure. The interplay of technology, ethics, rights, and governance will alter power dynamics within and between nations, creating new wealth and winners while also sharpening inequities and exclusionary tendencies. Our effort will be to seek #InclusiveTech pathways for a new era of shared prosperity.

An equally important task for us will be to assess how this change will implicate the rusty social contracts that undergird modern life. To be sure, individual and societal insecurity have come to define the second decade of this century, and policymakers urgently need to help fashion a new and inclusive compact. The trend of work migrating away from factory floors and office spaces to homes has been accelerated by the ongoing #Pandemic. This demands a new rights and social protections framework for individuals and communities. ORF will support this by studying the emergence of digital public

goods, new skills and education frameworks, and by identifying means for economic and social mobility.

Our third priority will be to discover a new entente between people and the planet. As nations rebuild and restart their economies in the aftermath of the pandemic, it is essential that this be done in a climate-responsible fashion. ORF will work with others to facilitate the rapid deployment of renewable energy, call on the international financial community to align their priorities with the Paris Agreement, identify the interplay of emerging technologies with green growth and the SDGs, and support a political consensus for a sensible ‘New Green Deal’.

Fourth, ORF will study the weaponisation of trade, economics and value chains. With the WTO-led multilateral system becoming ineffective, we will focus on understanding the shape and contours of globalisation 2.0 and the plethora of rules, norms and arrangements that will need reconciliation. Navigating this moment will need new champions for multilateralism and a new “grand idea” that supports resilient, secure and equitable global flows of goods, finance, technology and labour.

Finally, ORF will explore how these processes are straining the extant liberal international order and global politics and what comes next. ORF will attempt to ideate a role for India in a world defined by the rise of new geographies, actors, interests and domains. We will study the intermingling of contests, trade and technology, and the inevitable return of Great Power competition. We will ask how India can anchor a new ethic for multilateralism and global governance, and what coalitions and partnerships it can work with, incubate and lead in this endeavour.

ORF will place a premium not only on the subject of engagement but also its method. We remain a non-partisan, inclusive and an ideas-led organisation. ORF is committed to offering its platforms to new voices and actors while expanding and deepening its older partnerships, networks and communities. In the year ahead, ORF will strive to be an inclusive and safe space offering a venue for building consensus amongst the multiple assessments and expectations that define our #ViralWorld.



Samir Saran

President, Observer Research Foundation



Directors



Harsh V. Pant

*Director, Studies and Head,
Strategic Studies Programme*

Professor Harsh V. Pant is Director, Studies and Head of the Strategic Studies Programme at ORF, New Delhi. He holds a joint appointment with the Department of Defence Studies and King's India Institute as Professor of International Relations at King's College London.

Nilanjan Ghosh

Director, ORF Kolkata

Nilanjan Ghosh heads operations at ORF Kolkata. A natural resource economist by training with two decades of experience, Nilanjan was the Senior Vice President and Chief Economist at MCX (I) Limited in Mumbai, and Professor of Econometrics at the TERI School of Advanced Studies in New Delhi. He was a Visiting Fellow at the Linnaeus University, Sweden, between 2008 and 2015. His research interests lie in international trade, ecological economics, water governance, and financial markets.





Navdeep Suri

*Distinguished Fellow and Director, Centre for
New Economic Diplomacy*

Navdeep Suri is Distinguished Fellow and Director of the Centre for New Economic Diplomacy (CNED). He leads existing CNED programmes in Morocco, Kigali and Dhaka, and is also working to create new areas of focus in Africa, Southeast Asia and the Gulf.

Dhruva Jaishankar

Director, ORF US Initiative

Dhruva Jaishankar's research has spanned issues such as India-US relations, India's relations in Asia and the Indo-Pacific, the interaction of technology with politics, and defence and national security. From 2012 to 2016, at the German Marshall Fund in Washington D.C., he managed the India Trilateral Forum—a policy dialogue involving participants from India, Europe and the United States. Dhruva has been a David Rockefeller Fellow with the Trilateral Commission and an IISS-SAIS Merrill Center Young Strategist.





Global Go to

7

Highest ranked Indian think tank in the category 'Best Think Tank Conference' (up by 5 positions) from 2018

9

Highest ranked Indian think tank in the category 'Think Tank to Watch'

3

Highest ranked Indian think tank in 'Top Think Tanks in China, India, Japan, and the Republic of Korea'

1

Highest ranked think tank in the category 'Best New Idea or Paradigm Developed by a Think Tank'

7

Highest ranked think tank in the category 'Think Tanks with the Most Innovative Policy Ideas/Proposals' (up by one position from 2018)

15

Highest ranked Indian think tank in the category 'Think Tank with the Best Use of the Internet'

24

Highest ranked Indian think tank in the category, 'Best Use of Media'

24

Highest ranked Indian think tank in the category 'Think Tanks with the Best External Relations/ Public Engagement Program'

Think Tank Index Report

As an institution, ORF has always strived for excellence, and our continuous climb up the Global Go To Think Tank Index is a testament to that effort. In 2019, ORF remained the most-recognised Indian think tank in rankings, the first Indian think tank to have achieved the honour. These rankings encapsulate ORF's multi-faceted approach as well commitment to sustained pre-eminence in public policy. This year's rankings place ORF as a leading think tank in the following categories:

Ranking by Area of Research in the category 'Top Domestic Economic Policy Think Tanks' (up by one place from 2018)

47

29

Highest ranked Indian think tank in the category 'Best Managed Think Tanks' (up from 30th position in 2018)

15

Highest ranked Indian Think Tank in the category 'Top Think Tanks Worldwide (Non-US)' (up from 24th position in 2018)

31

Ranking by Area of Research in the category 'Top Defence and National Security Think Tanks' (up by one rank from 2018)

28

Highest ranked Indian think tank in the category 'Top Foreign Policy and International Affairs Think Tanks' (up from 33rd position in 2018)

35

Highest ranked Indian think tank in the category 'Best Institutional Collaboration Involving Two or More Think Tanks'

Highest ranked Indian think tank in the category 'Best Use of Social Media and Networks'

33

Board of Trustees



Sunjoy Joshi



Baljit Kapoor



Bharat Goenka



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The Board of Trustees at the Observer Research Foundation oversees the think tank's programmes and strategy, budgets, expenditures, and performances. The board meets regularly to discuss, in-depth, the key issues facing the organisation.

Global Advisory Board

The Global Advisory Board at the Observer Research Foundation brings a wide array of perspectives drawn from the experiences of representatives from the highest levels of government, business and philanthropic institutions. They provide advice to the Foundation on the development of its programmes and agenda.



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Harper



Dr. Ebtessam
Al-Ketbi



Carl Bildt



Jane Holl Lute



Kate Hampton



Jayant Sinha



Rajesh Shah



Marietje
Schaake



Research

ORF Research Programmes and Initiatives

*Finding solutions for some of the key social, economic, political,
and environmental challenges of today*

The Observer Research Foundation is committed to research that strives to find creative policy solutions for some of the key social, economic, political, environmental and cultural challenges the world is facing today. We bring together a number of interdisciplinary programmes and initiatives that transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries and have set pioneering research agendas. These also provide an unrivalled and dynamic context for the study of the contemporary world while encouraging the exchange of ideas through a steady stream of forums and events amongst our community of policy practitioners, researcher and scholars.

As part of our commitment to policy research of a high quality, we also collaborate with various strategic partners in governmental institutions, non-governmental bodies, the private sector, and the media. If you wish to learn more about our research, please do turn the page for a selection of ongoing and recently completed research projects.





Centre for New Economic Diplomacy (CNED)

Mission Statement

CNED is a policy research institution under the aegis of the Observer Research Foundation. It is committed to discovering solutions, helping build transnational partnerships and strengthening multi-stakeholder response to the important challenges and opportunities that confront the global community. In its initial years, the Centre has focused on South and South-east Asia and the African continent, recognising that these geographies are addressing the most important development challenges and are designing a new growth paradigm that is cognizant of a world constrained by climate, of people enabled by technology and a future whose prosperity is, indeed, human capital.

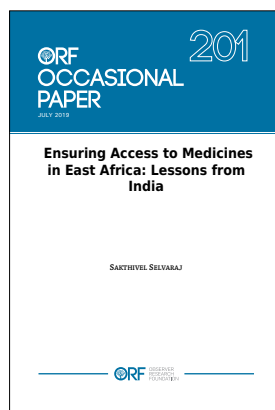
Research Direction

CNED aims to create a community that emphasises experts’ influence over decision-maker learning as a potentially central mechanism affecting policy development and change. The Centre’s research directions for 2020 shall focus on two key themes—the pandemic’s effect on world economies and global governance, with a special emphasis on the CNED research verticals and focus regions; and how to re-conceptualise, build and drive innovative engagements for India’s developmental cooperation in the developing world.

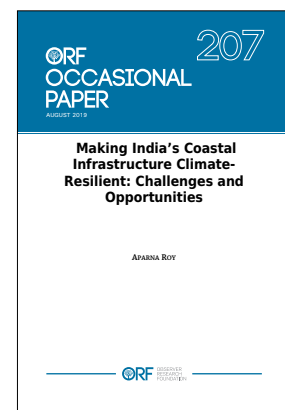
Prominent Publications



Blockchain Technology: Agriculture’s Next Revolution? | Sarah C. Schoeffel | September 2019



Ensuring Access to Medicines in East Africa: Lessons from India | Occasional Paper | Sakthivel Selvaraj | July 2019



Making India’s Coastal Infrastructure Climate-Resilient: Challenges and Opportunities | Occasional Paper | Aparna Roy | August 2019



Prominent Events

The inaugural Global Programme for Women’s Leadership (GPWL) was organised by The Vedica Scholars Programme for Women in partnership with ORF, supported by the UK’s Department of International Development (DFID). The week-long programme (April 7-14, 2019) hosted 100 young women leaders, 60 from India and 40 from across the world, curating ideas on health, climate, and technology, with gender as a cross-cutting theme.



Research Themes

1. Climate and Energy
2. Health and Human Capital
3. Technology and Development
4. Reimagining Development Cooperation
5. Gender and the SDGs



Aparna Roy
Associate Fellow

Aparna is an Associate Fellow and Lead, Climate Change and Energy, at CNED. Aparna’s primary research focus is on the politics of climate change, resilience building and environmental governance.



Shoba Suri
Senior Fellow

Shoba is a nutritionist with experience in community and clinical research. She has worked on nutrition, healthcare, infant and young child feeding, policy advocacy and assessment. Shoba is a trained Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling specialist, with more than 40 research publications in scientific journals and books.



Climate, Energy and Natural Resources

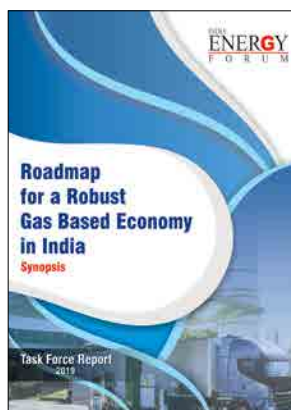
Mission Statement

India's per person energy consumption is below the world average and below the bare minimum consumption required to achieve a decent score on global human development indices. Increasing energy consumption by making energy accessible and affordable through urbanisation, modernisation and industrialisation is amongst the fundamental goals of India. The energy programme aims to provide an informed critique on government policies as well as insightful alternative policy pathways to achieve the stated 'mission'.

Research Direction

The programme will undertake research on the various aspects of enabling a green transition and to determine whether the disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic can be used as an opportunity to redirect economic activity towards a more sustainable direction. Research will focus on how the oil, gas, coal and power sectors have coped with the dramatic decline in energy demand during the shutdown and whether the decline in demand for fossil fuels and the consequent fall in price of fossil fuels will have a negative influence on investment in renewable energy.

Prominent Publications



Road-map for a Robust Gas-Based Economy in India (Task Force Report)



India and South Korea: Exploring New Avenues, Outlining Goals | ORF Special Report No. 101 | February 2020 | K.V. Kesavan, A. Singh, L. Powell, M. Joshi, A. Mukhopadhyay, N. Sahoo



Prominent Events

Discussion on “Oil Market Outlook Under the Impression of Rising Tensions in the Middle East,” 18 October, 2019: In light of the attack on Saudi Aramco’s oil-processing facilities affecting crude supply, the discussion examined the West Asian situation and its impact on global crude oil supply and pricing, particularly for India.



Research Themes

1. Financing Green Transitions
2. A Green Stimulus for the Post-COVID Era
3. Oil Markets after COVID-19
4. Volatility in Power Demand and Grid Management
5. Underground Coal Gasification—Leveraging Technology for Green Growth



Nandini Sarma
Junior Fellow

Nandini is a Junior Fellow with the Green Transitions Initiative. Her research focuses on growth, trade and climate. She also writes on various contemporary economic issues.

Spotlight Faculty



Lydia Powell

Senior Fellow and Head, Energy and Resources
Lydia has spent over eight years at ORF working on policy issues in Energy and Climate Change. Her interests include Energy Poverty, Energy Security, Energy Security Index for India, and Resource-based Conflict.



Programmes

Political Reforms and Governance

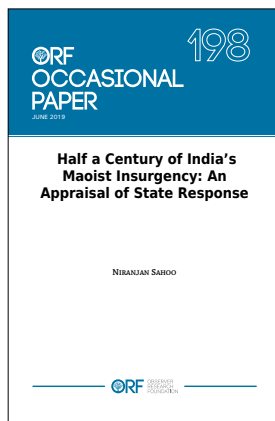
Mission Statement

The Political Reforms and Governance Programme at ORF intends to foster a debate on the diverse contours of India's democratic journey. Key thematic areas studied are political and electoral reforms, particularly political funding reforms, criminalisation of politics, insurgencies and democracy, populism and polarisation in democracies, authoritarian challenge to the liberal democratic order, and democratic values and norms in India's foreign policy. In responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, initiatives are being proposed to study its impact on democratic governance, particularly the federal system, parliament, and elections, amongst others.

Research Direction

Most of the programme's research initiatives centre around the broad theme of democracy. In particular, the focus has been on the crisis facing liberal democracy (situating internal and external challenges, especially the rise of China), which links multiple drivers such as polarisation, majoritarian populism, illiberal threats, and electoral reforms. The programme will devote considerable space to study and explore the impact of the pandemic on the functioning of democracy.

Prominent Publications



Half a Century of India's Maoist Insurgency: An Appraisal of State Response | Occasional Paper | June 2019 | Niranjana Sahoo



India's Governance Challenges: Setting an Agenda for the New Government | Special Report | August 2019 | Ed. Niranjana Sahoo



Prominent Events

One of the programme’s major forums was a series of Democracy Roadshows on the broad theme, “Asserting Democracy in India’s Foreign Policy” in the four regional capitals of Kolkata, Mumbai, Bangalore and Chennai, between May 10 and July 12, 2019. The programme, funded by Asia Democracy Network, Seoul, debated on whether India should make democracy promotion an official policy.



Research Themes

1. Asserting Democracy in India’s Foreign Policy
2. China’s Threat to Liberal Democracies
3. Polarisation and Democracies
4. Funding India’s Democracy
5. COVID-19 and Democratic Governance



Spotlight Faculty

Niranjan Sahoo
Senior Fellow

Niranjan’s expertise lies in governance and public policy. He anchors studies and programmes on democracy, human rights, federalism, electoral reforms (particularly issues related to political funding), and cross-cutting issues of exclusion, insurgencies, affirmative action and inclusion.



Pratinashree Basu
Associate Fellow

Pratinashree is an Associate Fellow at ORF, Kolkata. She has also been a Guest Lecturer at Gurudas College (University of Calcutta) and the American Library, Kolkata.



Programmes

Tech and Media

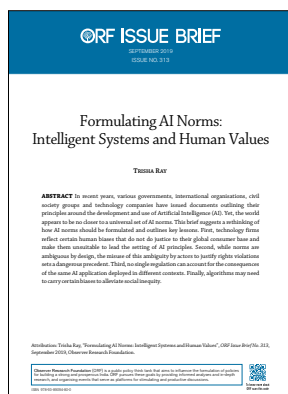
Mission Statement

With emerging technologies redefining social relations, patterns of commerce and economic growth, and international security, ORF's Technology and Media Programme studies the development of digital societies. The Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) programme under Tech and Media intersects with security studies to evolve ways of enhancing national security policies through 'whole of society' approaches. Through non-partisan research, multi-stakeholder engagements, and flagship platforms, the initiative focuses on the "impossible triangle" that confronts digital societies: guaranteeing access and civil liberties; bolstering economic growth and productivity; and securing devices, infrastructure and ecosystems.

Research Direction

Over the next year, the Technology and Media Programme will study how the coronavirus pandemic has accelerated the digitisation of our societies, and how it has altered the relationship between communities and technologies. It will also explore how digital technologies are altering the global balance of power in the international system. In addition, the team plans to embark on an ambitious mission to gather quantitative data and do detailed qualitative analysis on how online narratives around the COVID-19 pandemic have played into xenophobia, racism and communal polarisation, and will pose serious dangers to any efforts at peace-building.

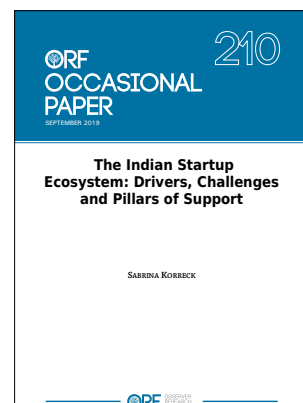
Prominent Publications



Formulating AI Norms: Intelligent Systems and Human Values | Trisha Ray | September 2019



Digital Crossroads: Unlocking the Potential of India-US Cooperation in Cyberspace | Richard Verma and Samir Saran | October 2019



The Indian Start-up Ecosystem: Drivers, Challenges and Pillars of Support | Sabrina Korreck | September 2019



Prominent Events

In February 2020, ORF convened a non-partisan multi-stakeholder roundtable to solicit views on the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 (PDP Bill). The roundtable focused on Sections 35 and 91 of the Bill, tackling two key questions that concern industry and civil society organisations: (a) the Central Government’s power to exempt agencies from the Bill’s provisions; and (b) the government’s access to anonymised and/or non-personal data gathered by data fiduciaries and processors.



Research Themes

1. Online Radicalisation in India and the South Asian Region
2. The Polarisation and Xenophobia around COVID-19 and Narratives of #CoronaJihad.
3. Technology Supply Chains
4. India’s Technology Foreign Policy
5. Misinformation and Disinformation in the Digital Public Sphere



Spotlight Faculty

Trisha Ray
Junior Fellow

Trisha is a Junior Fellow at ORF. Her research focuses on the security implications of emerging technologies as well as AI norms.



Maya Mirchandani

Senior Fellow & Head, Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), Tech and Media Programme

Maya is a Senior Fellow at ORF and Assistant Professor of Broadcast Journalism and Media Studies at Ashoka University. Maya has been involved in research on CVE through dialogue and community intervention.

Economy and Growth

Mission Statement

The Economy and Growth Programme works on the ideas and initiatives that will underpin India's rise to a \$10-trillion economy in the 2030s, in a world economy that is balanced, open and sustainable. Through primary research and interventions, we seek to understand the economy of the future and answer questions like: How will jobs be created? Where will the skills come from? How will it manage the shocks to globalisation caused by events like the pandemic? Through our platforms and advocacy, we aim, in particular, to energise foreign investment into the developing world, particularly in green infrastructure.

Research Direction

Over the next year, the programme will undertake research on whether the disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic is an opportunity to redirect economic activity in a more sustainable direction. We will focus on (i) leveraging finance and technology to increase the pace of change, (ii) using the transition to spur economic growth, create new forms of employment and raise the incomes and living standards of people, (iii) the new institutions and regulatory architecture, both domestic and international, to support this transition, (iv) new indicators of economic activity, and (v) the new global geo-economic balance.

Prominent Publications



Moving from Growth to Development: Financing Green Investment in India | Neha Kumar, Prashant Vaze and Sean Kidney | April 2019



Rating Resilience: Factoring Climate Resilience into Infrastructure Risk Metrics | Aled Jones | May 2019

Prominent Events

“Advancing India’s Green Economy: Renewable Energy, Clean Water, and Climate Mitigation,” October 2019, New Delhi: This event was a high-level roundtable, bringing together experts from India and the US to discuss avenues to enhance Indo-US cooperation in renewable energy, climate finance and sustainable growth.



Research Themes

1. Geo-Economics in a Post-COVID World
2. Financing Green Infrastructure
3. Sustainable Supply Chains in Asia and Beyond
4. Welfare and Urbanisation in a Post-Pandemic India
5. India’s Economic Relations with the World



Gautam Chikermane
Vice President

Gautam is Vice-President at ORF and a researcher whose work focuses on Indian economic and strategic policy.

Spotlight Faculty



Tanushree Chandra
Junior Fellow

Tanushree is a Junior Fellow with the Economy and Growth Programme. She tracks national and global efforts aimed at bridging the human capital gap in developing countries and investment policies relating to the green transition.



Programmes

Strategic Studies

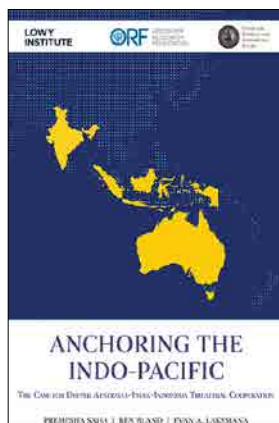
Mission Statement

As India sheds its role as a balancing power and moves towards becoming a leading power in its own right, ORF's Strategic Studies Programme contributes to the growing public debate around the purpose of India's power. Through a mix of deep-dive publications, incisive interventions and flagship events, the programme focuses on core national security and foreign policy issues of our times. Programme scholars blend strategic theory and penetrating case studies to craft policy interventions that seek to shape India's engagement with a world in flux.

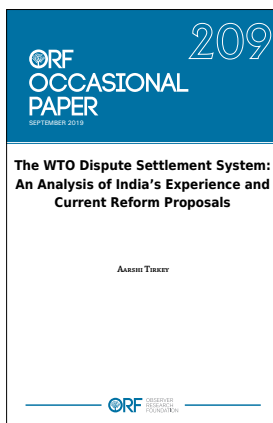
Research Direction

The Strategic Studies Programme will be continuing with some of the salient research themes of the past years, and will also be mapping out new terrain in 2020-21. The rise of China impacts Indian foreign and security policies, which is an increasingly apparent event in the short-term policy shifts in India now. Along with the changing landscape of the Indo-Pacific, these will remain the key focus areas. However, the programme will also be investing substantially in examining the causes and consequences of "geo-tech" as emerging strategic technologies shape the world around us in ways few could have predicted even a few years ago. This is also the year of the US Presidential elections and the programme will be examining the election's underlying trends and its impact on India and the wider world.

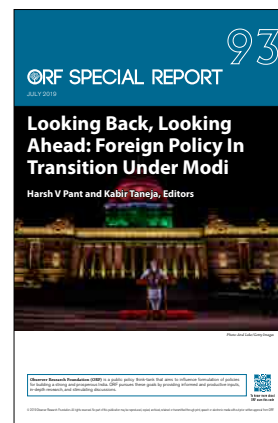
Prominent Publications



Anchoring the Indo-Pacific | Premeha Saha, Ben Bland and Evan A. Laksmiana | January 2020



The WTO Dispute Settlement System: An Analysis of India's Experience and Current Reform Proposals | Aarshi Tirkey | September 2019



Looking Back, Looking Ahead: Foreign Policy in Transition under Modi | Harsh V. Pant and Kabir Taneja | July 2019



Prominent Events

“US-India-Russia Trilateral Forum,” February 2020, New Delhi: The US-India-Russia Trilateral Dialogue is part of a collaboration between ORF, the Wilson Center and the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations. The day-long deliberations focused on discussing the issues surrounding the future of Afghanistan, Indo-Pacific, Eurasian geopolitics and the future challenges in Arms Control.



Research Themes

1. The Rise of China and Its Implications for Indian Foreign and Security Policies
2. Evolving Conceptions of the Indo-Pacific in the Region
3. Emerging Strategic Technologies and Their Impact on Geopolitics
4. The 2020 US Presidential Elections and their Global Impact
5. Indian Defence Reforms



Premesha Saha
Associate Fellow

Premesha is an Associate Fellow whose research focuses on Southeast Asia, East Asia and the South Pacific—spanning the Eastern Indian Ocean.

Spotlight Faculty



Kashish Parpiani
Fellow

Kashish is a Fellow based in ORF’s Mumbai Centre. His research interests include US grand strategy, US civil and military relations, and US foreign policy in the Asia-Pacific.



Initiatives

Neighbourhood Studies

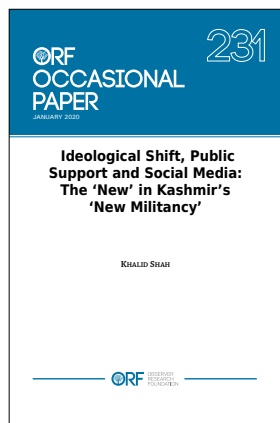
Mission Statement

The 'Neighbourhood First' policy of India has accorded greater salience to the economic, diplomatic, political and security engagements in the region. India's neighbourhood is both benign and malign, and poses challenges and threats, but also offers opportunities and holds promise. The Neighbourhood Studies initiative endeavours to analyse emerging trends in India's immediate neighbourhood and offer policy prescriptions that advance India's interests.

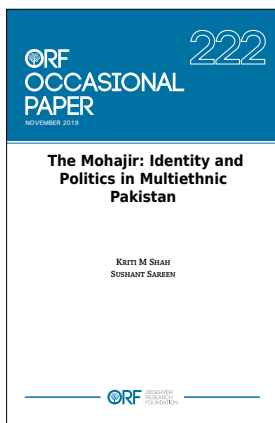
Research Direction

The next year is likely to see enormous flux in the strategic environment of India. Afghanistan is in the throes of transition, Pakistan will be aggressively hostile, China's shadow will loom larger with its deepening engagement with India's smaller neighbours. Our effort will be to anticipate and analyse the emerging threats and explore the opportunities that India could exploit both to defend itself and to engage the region in a mutually beneficial way.

Prominent Publications



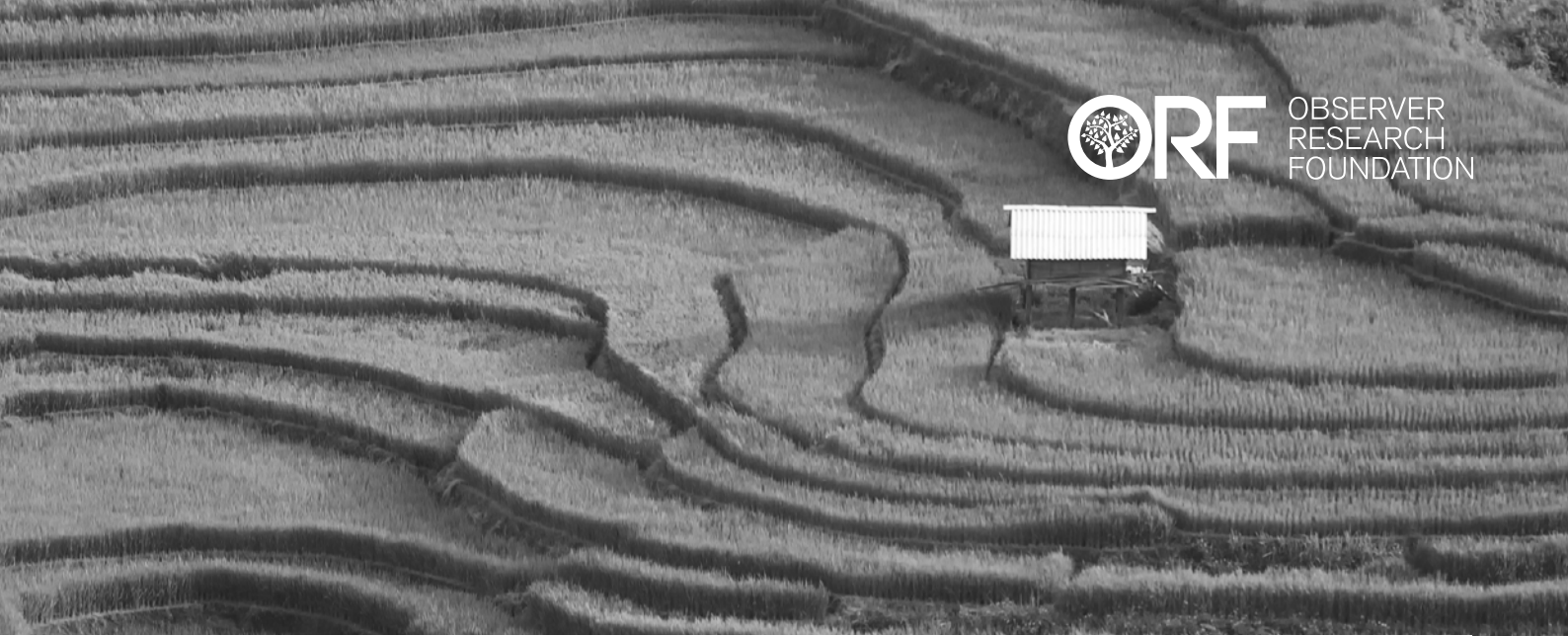
Ideological Shift, Public Support and Social Media: The 'New' in Kashmir's 'New Militancy' | Khalid Shah | January 2020



The Mohajir: Identity and Politics in Multiethnic Pakistan | Kritt M. Shah and Sushant Sareen | November 2019



Understanding China's Afghanistan Policy: From Calculated Indifference to Strategic Engagement | Shubhangi Pandey | August 2019



Prominent Events

“Kashmir After Article 370,” November 2019, New Delhi: This event was a day-long conference to discuss the political and security situation as well as the way forward for the newly created Union Territories of Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir.



Research Themes

1. Geo-Political Contestation in Afghanistan
2. Political and Economic Developments in Pakistan and Their Impact on India
3. Emerging Security Challenges in Kashmir
4. China’s Expanding Footprint in the Region
5. Global Strategic Realignments and Impact on India’s Neighbourhood



Khalid Shah
Associate Fellow

Khalid is an Associate Fellow at ORF. His research focuses on the Kashmir conflict, Pakistan and terrorism.

Spotlight Faculty



Kriti M. Shah
Junior Fellow

Kriti’s research focuses on Afghanistan and Pakistan’s foreign and domestic policy and their relationship with each other, the United States and the Taliban.

Nuclear and Space Policy

Mission Statement

The changes and challenges in the nuclear world order have raised concerns about current policies and have had a deep impact on India's nuclear security and deterrence dynamics. Additionally, easier access to space technology has increased the responsibility and challenges faced by the space community. ORF's Nuclear and Space Policy Initiative seeks to strengthen the public debate and discourse on Indian and global nuclear and space policy. The initiative publishes a range of issue briefs, special reports and commentaries within India and across the world to shape and promote informed discussions on these issues.

Research Direction

The Nuclear and Space Policy Initiative intends to expand its outreach within the nuclear and space community, at a domestic and international level, through a number of research publications as well as conferences and workshops.

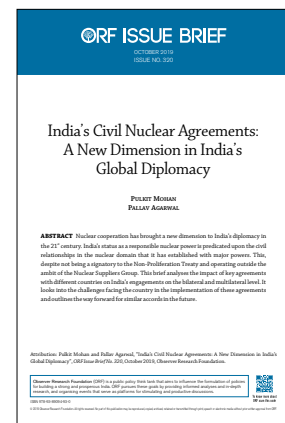
Prominent Publications



India in the Final Frontier: Strategy, Policy and Industry | Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan, Pulkit Mohan and Rahul Krishna | January 2020



'Soft Kill' or 'Hard Kill'? The Requirements for India's Space and Counter-space Capabilities | Kartik Bommakanti | November 2019



India's Civil Nuclear Agreements: A New Dimension in India's Global Diplomacy | Pulkit Mohan and Pallav Agarwal | October 2019



Prominent Events

“ORF–Australian War College Roundtable Interaction,” September 2019, New Delhi: The objective of the Australian War College delegation’s visit to India was to build on the course curriculum by extending delegates’ awareness of major social, economic, political, and security issues in India, and how these may influence decision-makers in the Australian Defence and wider security community.



Research Themes

1. Nuclear Safety and Security in the Indian Context
2. The Future of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime
3. Assessing the Weaponisation of Space
4. India’s Space Programme
5. Global Nuclear Security Governance



Spotlight Faculty



Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan

Distinguished Fellow & Head, Nuclear & Space Policy Initiative
Rajeswari is senior Asia defence writer for *The Diplomat*.

She was formerly Assistant Director at the National Security Council Secretariat. In 2012, she was Visiting Professor at the Graduate Institute of International Politics, National Chung Hsing University, Taichung, Taiwan.

Pulkit Mohan

Junior Fellow

Pulkit’s research focuses on India’s nuclear programme and utilisation of nuclear energy. She is also interested in the politics of nuclear non-proliferation and the international regimes involved in maintaining the nuclear world order.



Initiatives

Eurasian Studies

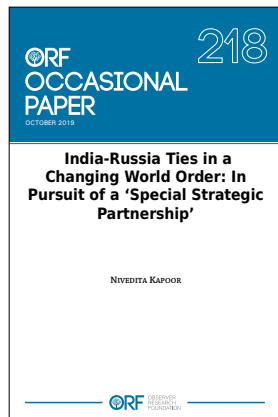
Mission Statement

The emerging new world order has thrust Eurasia (Europe and Asia) into the arena of contest between the Great Powers, i.e., the US, China, and Russia. India's ambition to be amongst those Great Powers requires a broad and deep understanding of this supercontinent. The Eurasian Studies programme attempts to provide an insight into a smaller part of this landmass—the former Warsaw Pact countries—and the interplay of Great Powers in this area.

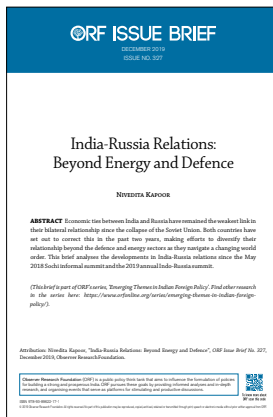
Research Direction

The Eurasian division focuses on the changes and continuities in Russian foreign policy as well as the impact of the changing global world order on its conduct. A critical examination of Russian ambitions and plans is also carried out to understand the challenges and opportunities it presents for Eurasia in general and for India in particular. The relevance and impact of Russian foreign policy on India forms a central part of the division's research activities. Other focus areas include a study of domestic developments in Russia to deduce their potential impact on foreign-policy operations.

Prominent Publications



India-Russia Ties in a Changing World Order: In Pursuit of a 'Special Strategic Partnership' | Nivedita Kapoor | October 2019



India-Russia Relations: Beyond Energy and Defence | Nivedita Kapoor | December 2019



Prominent Events

“The India-Iran-Russia Trilateral Dialogue,” January 2020: The Trilateral Dialogue aimed to deepen the understanding of Indo-Russian relations and its relevance in international affairs. Currently, the collaboration has been taken online and comprises an exchange of commentaries, articles, and longer academic pieces, along with webinars and video interactions.



Research Themes

1. Russia-China Relations in an Evolving World Order
2. Russia’s Vision of Greater Eurasia
3. Russia and the West
4. Russia in the Middle East
5. Indo-Russia Relations



Nandan Unnikrishnan
Distinguished Fellow & Head, Eurasian Studies
 Nandan heads the Eurasia Programme of Studies and specialises in International Relations, focusing on in Russia, Central Asia and other former Soviet territories.

Spotlight Faculty



Nivedita Kapoor
Junior Fellow
 Nivedita looks at the evolution of Russia’s domestic and foreign policy. She also analyses the Indo-Russian relationship and how it is impacted by international developments.



Urban Policy

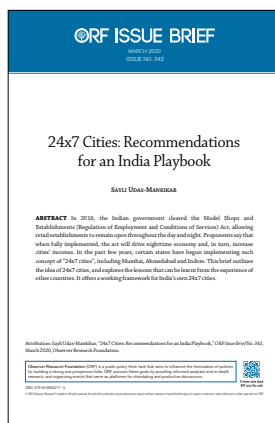
Mission Statement

ORF's Urban Policy Research Initiative was launched in September 2007, with the aim of generating new knowledge on evolving urbanisation patterns, particularly in India, and the most effective ways of managing the phenomenon. India's urbanisation is set to rise. Higher rates of economic growth are most likely to propel it further and faster. Past urbanisation appears to have faltered in delivering an acceptable quality of life to all of India's urban dwellers. It is time, therefore, to look at the processes and challenges of urbanisation closely, apply correctives and set urbanisation on the path of higher productivity, equity and an enhanced quality of life for its citizens. The urban policy programme will try to capture these changes, identify challenges and initiate deliberations and conversations for innovative and disruptive solutions for resilient urban futures.

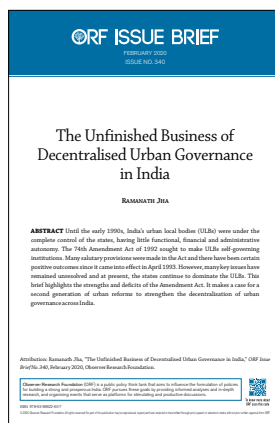
Research Direction

In the changed circumstances due to the occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic, urban research at ORF will focus on developing ideas for creating more resilient cities that function well for its citizens. This will include contributing to policy formulation at the national and state level; undertaking research with a view of understanding urban issues and challenges; crafting of innovative solutions; and expanding to other South Asian, Asian and BRICS countries in learning and exchange processes.

Prominent Publications



24x7 Cities: Recommendations for an India Playbook | Issue Brief No. 342, March 2020 | Sayli Udas-Mankikar



The Unfinished Business of Decentralised Urban Governance in India | Issue Brief No. 340, February 2020 | Ramanath Jha



The Smart Cities Mission in Delhi, 2015-2019: An Evaluation | Special Report No. 98, January 2020 | Rumi Aijaz



Prominent Events

“Student’s Competition for Station Area Planning Management for Mumbai Metro Line 3,” June 2019 to November 2019: Fifty two teams comprising 238 students worked together for six months, designing 27 stations on one of the single largest-infrastructure projects in Asia.
 “Urban Policy ORF-IDC Herzliya Seminar;” October 2019: Young scholars from Israel and India participated in a programme intending to inform perspectives on urban planning and renewal.



Research Themes

1. Financial Performance and Resilience of Cities
2. Urban Mobility
3. Water Supply and Disposal
4. Gender Budgeting
5. Sustainable Urbanisation and Planning Reforms



Spotlight Faculty

Sayli Udas-Mankikar
Senior Fellow

Sayli works on governance and urban policy, with a focus on the politics of infrastructure provisioning and the interplay of politics and the urban landscape. Sayli has received a Master’s degrees in the fields of Journalism and Political Science.



Aditi Ratho
Junior Fellow

Aditi works on the broad themes of inclusive development, gender issues and urbanisation. Her areas of interest include factors affecting labour-force participation in urban areas, such as sanitation, skilling, and transport.



Initiatives

Public Health

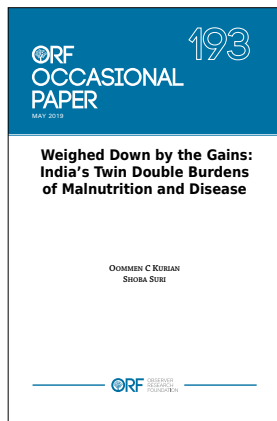
Mission Statement

ORF's Health Initiative endeavours to take health, nutrition and their social determinants to the policy high table, and establish health and nutrition security as important components within the broader national security discourse. The initiative achieves this by conducting analyses of up-to-date and relevant datasets, and elevating media discourse through regular publications of evidence-based knowledge products.

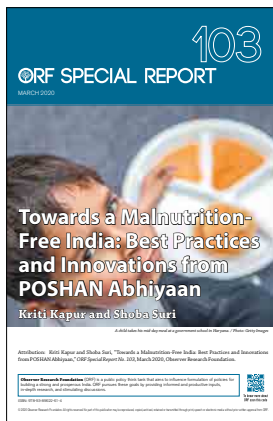
Research Direction

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of investment in health infrastructure and put health at the top of the policy high table. ORF's Health Initiative endeavours to elevate the issues pertaining to health and nutrition in the media narrative, and establish health security as an important component within the broader national security discourse. It aims to analyse policies impacting the social determinants of health in India, with an emphasis on India's human capital development. Furthermore, it tracks the development of the country's nascent social protection system. The initiative accomplishes this by curating national and international platforms for cross-learning, analysing up-to-date and relevant datasets, and intervening in media discourse through regular publications of evidence-based knowledge products.

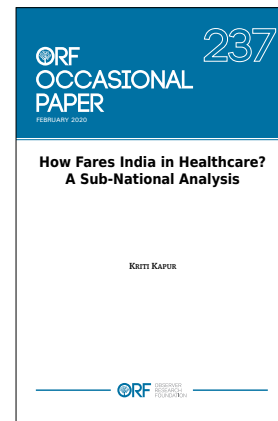
Prominent Publications



Weighed Down by the Gains: India's Twin Double Burdens of Malnutrition and Disease | Oommen C. Kurian and Shoba Suri | May 2019



Towards a Malnutrition-Free India: Best Practices and Innovations from POSHAN Abhiyaan | Kriti Kapur and Shoba Suri | March 2020



How Fares India in Healthcare? A Sub-National Analysis | Kriti Kapur | February 2020



Prominent Events

“Investing in Adolescent Health: Harnessing the Demographic Dividend,” December 2019, New Delhi: A joint event with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the workshop deliberated the importance of adolescent health and development in achieving many Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to health. Additionally, the discussion presented state experiences—best practices and unique initiatives for other states to learn and replicate.



Research Themes

1. Tracking India’s Human Capital Accumulation
2. Role of Technology in Healthcare and Policy Challenges
3. Health and Nutrition Policy Analysis at the National and State Levels
4. Transformation of Urban Health Governance in India
5. Scope for Cross-Learning between South Asia and Africa in Health



Spotlight Faculty

Oommen C. Kurian

Senior Fellow & Head, Health Initiative

Oommen is a researcher trained in economics and community health from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has worked on issues of healthcare, nutrition, gender and poverty with various organisations.



Kriti Kapur

Junior Fellow

Kriti Kapur is a Junior Fellow with ORF’s Health Initiative in the Sustainable Development Programme. Her research focuses on issues pertaining to sustainable development, with a special emphasis on health and education.



Forums

ORF Forums and Events

Building platforms to facilitate non-partisan, inclusive and ideas-led discussions

Each year, the Observer Research Foundation organises hundreds of public events including some of the world's most prestigious dialogues, apart from a number of conferences and workshops through the year. Some of our flagship events like the Raisina Dialogue, CyFy, the Kigali Global Dialogue and the Dhaka Global Dialogue intentionally cover a wide-ranging agenda enveloping the many development, governance and security challenges facing the world.

These convenings have in attendance some of the most powerful policymakers from across the world, who come together to debate and discover the ideas that will serve the emergence of a new world order and address the most pressing global governance challenges.





Forums

(L to R) Rajeswari Rajagopalan; Jessica West; Susmita Mohanty; Neelu Khatri; Ashok G.V. and Surbhi Baghotia



Lt. Gen. Taranjit Singh speaking on “Changing Space Narrative: A Way Ahead for India”



(L to R) Rakesh Sood; Victoria Samson; Jessica West; Daniel Porras; and Sophie Gauthier



Below (L to R) Chaitanya Gopal; Neevy Van Laningham; Nishant Kumar; Rogel Mari Sese; Pedro Ivo and Ferraz Da Silva



Below (L to R) Rajeswari Rajagopalan; Jean-Jacques Tortora; Tomasz Kozlowski; and Narayan Prasad



Kalpana Chawla Annual Space Policy Dialogue

The Dialogue is an important platform to debate, discuss and deliver policy solutions to contemporary outer-space developments. The space community has seen ground-breaking innovations with the entry of a large number of commercial actors, but challenges—in terms of ensuring safe, secure and sustainable use of outer space—are becoming more potent. Framing a global outer-space regime that is in tune with contemporary challenges has remained an uphill task. Great Power conversations on future rules of the road, including both soft law and hard law, have hit serious disruptions.

(L to R) Siddhesh Naik; Kriti Trehan; Saurabh Patle; Ashhar Farhan; Awais Ahmed and Tom Segert



Spotlight Speech by T.K. Anuradha



Below (L to R) Susmita Mohanty; Alok M. Anil; Ajeeth Ibrahim; Laxmesh B.H. and Siddharth Kumar



(Left) Inaugural Address by Sunjoy Joshi and Alexandre Ziegler



Above (L to R) Archana Negi; Ajey Lele; Rakesh Sood; Harjit Singh; Prateep Basu and Narayan Prasad

Spotlight Faculty



Asad Abdul Samad
Manager – Administration

As a manager with the administration department, Asad's work includes managing administrative budgets, negotiating contracts and agreements with vendors, and maintaining corporate relationships.

Forums

(L to R) Kasia Odrozek; Rohit Bansal and Arun Sukumar



(L to R) Ali Aslan; Olga Stern; Aicha Akalay and Chitra Subramaniam



(L to R) Mohsine Bouya; Hanae Bezad; Susan Bakesha; Prerna Mukharya and Laura Sallstrom



(L to R) Gulshan Rai; John Mallery; John Alhassan; Lydia Kostopoulous and Ghita Mezzour



Jairus Khan presenting the Mozilla Internet Health Report

CyFy Africa

CyFy Africa 2019 brought together ministers, journalists, ethicists, civil society, as well as technology leaders and entrepreneurs to curate Africa-centred conversations around data, innovation, gender, norms and new media. CyFy was informed by African experiences and contexts—capturing the continent's success with emerging technologies and charting a course for the region's digital future.

Ministers and former heads of state from Morocco, Spain, and East Africa



Below right: Vote of thanks by Bouchra Amari and Samir Saran



Below left: Inaugural session and welcome remarks



Above left: Keynote address by Abdelmounaim Dinia



(L to R) Sameer Patil; Małgorzata Krusiewicz; Chrissy Simukonda; Emily Paragamian and Deborah James

Spotlight Faculty



Shashidhar K.J.
Associate Fellow

Sashidhar's research looks at the intersection of telecommunications, technology and media, evolution of financial technology, digital payment systems and net neutrality.

Forums

(L to R) Ritu Lal; Samson Samuel Ogallah; Joyce Msuya; Eng Coletha Ruhamyia; Emily Sheldon and Hisham Mundol



Lunch Panel at the Kigali Global Dialogue, 2019



Dinner Reception for Delegates at the Kigali Global Dialogue

(L to R) Terri Chapman; Nelly Mukazayire; Sunjoy Joshi; Richard Sezibera; Mohamed Nasheed; Patrick Ndimubanzi; Boris Tadic and Samir Saran



Jane Holl Lute speaking on the “She Leads: Scripting a Women-led Approach to the SDGs” panel

Kigali Global Dialogue

The Kigali Global Dialogue is an annual Rwanda-based platform where established and emerging nations along with their leaders and people convene for a global conversation on critical issues of development and growth. Organised in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Rwanda Convention Bureau, the dialogue is designed around three themes: Climate change and sustainable growth; livelihood and human capital; and technology and the 4th Industrial Revolution. In the 2019 edition, over 30 conversations were curated on these subjects, bringing together 300 voices from over 55 countries from Africa and the rest of the world, while situating gender equality and women leadership at the core of the discussions.

Panel Discussion at the Kigali Global Dialogue



Below Left (L to R): Suvir Saran; Shoba Suri; Katherine McManus and Rohit Bansal

Women Delegates at the Kigali Global Dialogue



Above (L to R) Stephan Klingebiel; Rathin Roy; Philani Mthembu; Ebtesam Al-Ketbi; Boris Tadic' and Maitreyi Bordia Das



Above (L to R): Jane Holl Lute; Neena Malhotra; Mohamed Nasheed; Philip Parham and Rathin Roy

Spotlight Faculty



Terri B. Chapman
Visiting Fellow
 Terri tracks the future of work in India, including the changing nature of employment, structural changes to India's economy, job creation, education and skills.



Meghna Chadha
Research Assistant
 Meghna's research interests include behavioural economics, the future of work, AI and technology for development, sustainable development and the SDGs.

(L to R) Ian James Bowden; Lt. Gen. Rajesh Pant; Ankhi Das; Maya Mirchandani; Erez Kreiner and Samir Saran



(L to R) Matteo Pugliese; Dina Hussein and David Wells



(L to R) Saad Mohseni; Ramiro Martinez; Matteo Pugliese; Dina Hussein; David Wells and Maya Mirchandani



Below (L to R) Nooshin Waheed; Raffaello Pantucci; Sajid Shapoo; Shandon Harris-Hogan and Kabir Taneja



Above (L to R) S.M. Sahai; Nidhi Razdan; Katy Donnelly; Maj. Gen. Dharshana Hettiarrachchi and Mariam Wardak



Tackling Insurgent Ideologies 2.0

The second iteration of Tackling Insurgent Ideologies focused on The Christchurch Call to Action. In the wake of the ghastly terror attack in New Zealand that was live-streamed on Facebook, governments around the world have declared that security and intelligence apparatuses will try and work closely with technology companies to evolve and develop strategies to intercept and avert terror plots and actors, while maintaining safeguards and users' rights.

(L to R) Ramiro Martinez; Matteo Pugliese; Dina Hussein; David Wells and Maya Mirchandani



Below (L to R) Rema Rajeshwari; Jency Jacob; Mercy Abang and Abhinandan Sekhri



Panel Discussion on “Deciphering the Manichean Binary: Alpha Politics, Extreme Violence”



Upper Left (L to R) Haroro Ingram; Lorena Pacheco; Salim Cevik; Vaiju Naravane and Dhruva Jaishankar



Above (L to R) Kanchan Gupta; Zarni; Maya Mirchandani; K. Yhome and Meenakshi Ganguly

Spotlight Faculty



Priyal Pandey
Junior Fellow

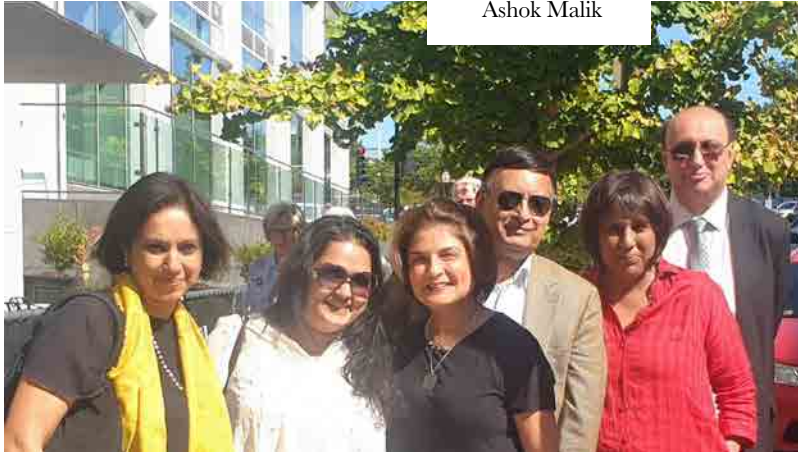
Priyal Pandey is Junior Fellow with the Tech and Media Programme. Her research focuses on the portrayal and representation of violence and violent extremism in cinema.

The conference hosted representatives from over 20 countries hailing from diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise, including government officials, academics, civil society organisations, the media and attendees from the private sector.

The two days of deliberation focused on varied themes like the role of technology companies in formulating and enforcing effective community standards; the government’s ability to create enforcement capacity, to raise media literacy and to use cyberspace to deploy narratives that build resilient and inclusive societies; effective and real time cooperation between the tech sector and law enforcement agencies; the role of community and religious leaders in countering violent extremism; and countering terrorism online without adversely affecting the infrastructure of cyberspace or the human rights it affords.

Forums

(L to R) Suhasini Haider; Ankhi Das; Farahnaz Ispahani; Hussain Haqqani; Barkha Dutt and Ashok Malik



(L to R) Nisha Biswal; Manish Tewari and Ami Bera



Private Dinner Reception Hosted by the Asia Group for the India on the Hill Delegates

Below (L to R) Representative Ted Yoho and Jeff M. Smith



(L to R) Kara Fredrick; Sean Kanuck; Samir Saran; Klion Kitchen and Vivek Lall



India on the Hill

The Observer Research Foundation and the Heritage Foundation, USA, advanced their partnership in exploring critical topics impacting US-India relations. As a part of this initiative, the two institutions hosted a high-level conference titled, "India on the Hill". The conference took place at the Heritage

Foundation in Washington D.C. on September 18-19, 2019.

India and the US already share a preference for a free, open and liberal international system—values that underpin cooperation on a wide range of issues—ranging from Indo-Pacific security to counterterrorism and defence collaboration. Nevertheless, there is visible friction in the bilateral on debates relating to trade, technology, and India's extant energy and security relationships. "India on the Hill" attempts to support this rapidly maturing bilateral by untangling existing differences and identifying shared strategic interests.

Our Tech Futures

“Our Tech Futures,” a collaborative initiative by the Observer Research Foundation, Facebook and Newslaundry in association with the South Asia Association, SIPA (Columbia University), explored the current state of affairs in EmTech; highlighted political, legal and technological solutions; and debated the future of digital democracies. The event was held at Columbia University in New York City.



Left (L to R) Netta Ahituv; Barkha Dutt; Jaiveer Shergill and Samir Saran

Below: Discussion on, “Whose Data Is It Anyway?”



Left: Anupam Kher and Samir Saran



Above: The organising teams from ORF and Columbia University with Ankhi Das, Anupam Kher and Samir Saran



(L to R) Mariam Wardak; Michele Coninsx; Ankhi Das and Abhinandan Sekhri

Forums

(L to R) Vanessa Sindenm; Arjun Mathur; Vani Tripathi; Shrishu Arya and Samir Saran



(L to R) Jagan Shah; Baratang Miya; Gordon Thompson; Karuna Gopal; Sheryl Foo and Andre Kwok



Sean Kanuck; Hanan Salam; Eileen Fuchs; Trisha Ray; Meghna Arora and Abeba Birhane



Inaugural Address by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad



(L to R) Gautam Shroff; Koketso Tlhabanelo; Silvana Lopez and Mihir Sharma



CyFy India

The Observer Research Foundation hosted the ninth edition of *CyFy: The Conference on Technology, Security and Society* in New Delhi, India from October 14-16, 2019.

CyFy is ORF's flagship annual platform on technology, society and security. It convenes over 150 experts from government, business, academia and media to debate and discuss how digital and emerging technologies are reshaping social relations, economic growth and national security.

(L to R) Kerstin Vignard; Johanna Weaver; Iddo Moed; William Carter; Guilherme Patriota and Sean Kanuck

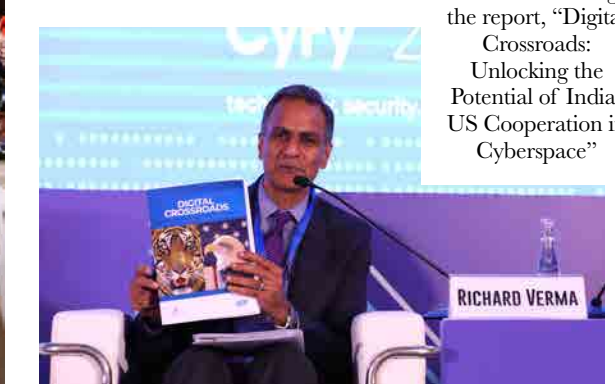


(L to R) Samir Saran; Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad and Ashok Malik



(L to R) Shinjini Kundu; Sujay Santra; Anjali Nayyar; Alex Emms and Sheetal Ranganathan

Below: Richard Verma launching the report, "Digital Crossroads: Unlocking the Potential of India-US Cooperation in Cyberspace"



Women in Tech: Networking Breakfast.

Spotlight Faculty



Akhil Deo
Junior Fellow

Akhil's interests include urban governance, sustainable development, civil liberties, cyber governance and the impact of future technologies on society.

The 2019 edition of the conference was broadly based on five pillars: Big Politics, Technology and Society, New Voices, Digital Economy, and the Machine Age. Besides engaging on crucial global questions around managing cyberspace regimes, Cyfy also drives dialogue on issues affecting emerging economies, such as affordable access to the internet, technology-driven public services, and digital identity initiatives.

Inaugural session of the Dhaka Dialogue. (L to R) Rashi Sharma; Samir Saran; Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina; Maj Gen A.K.M. Abdur Rahman and Minister A.K. Abdul Momen.



(L to R) Eshrat Waris; Neha Kumar and Beatrice Mosello



Delegates of the Dhaka Global Dialogue with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina



J.M. Mauskar speaking on the panel, "The Coast and Communities: A New Framework for Prosperity and Resilience"



(L to R) Divya Maderna; Shah Ali Farhad; and Shameem Haider Patwary



Dhaka Global Dialogue

The Dhaka Global Dialogue seeks to catalyse conversations on what is fast emerging as one of the most important and dynamic political and growth geographies of the world. The Indo-Pacific region is already at the forefront of the global response to two important processes. The first process necessitates a dramatic shift in our collective approach towards human development, environmental protection and prosperity. The Indo-Pacific may, indeed, be where the new alignment between nature and humans will be discovered, and pathways for mainstreaming billions into the economic processes will be fashioned. The second process, though less agitated, has far-reaching consequences for the world order. Existing governance structures are failing, and new institutions and arrangements that can help manage the Asian Century and the Indo-Pacific are yet to be discovered. The dialogue brought together over 140 international speakers from 45 countries to join the brightest minds in Bangladesh to discuss, ideate, debate and discover sustainable pathways to our common and prosperous future.

(L to R) Md. Shahriar Alam; Manish Tewari; Riva Ganguly Das; Minwang Lin and Mohamed El Dashan



Welcoming of Hon. Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP, by H.E. Ms. Riva Ganguly Das and Md. Shahriar Alam



Keynote Address by Hossain Toufique Imam



Above: Delegates and Speakers at the Dinner hosted by the Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh at the Indian High Commission



(L to R) Bibi Russell and Samir Saran

Spotlight Faculty



Rashi Sharma
Research Assistant
 Rashi's research interests include comparative policy analysis, with cross-cutting issues of trade, gender, and natural resources.



Vijay Kumar Seth
Manager – Events
 As the manager of events at ORF, Vijay oversees all events and conference/seminar arrangements that are held by the Foundation.

Forums

(L to R) Prabir Dey;
Heribert Dieter;
Nick Low; Nilanjan
Ghosh and Nahim
Razzaq



(L to R) Robin
Ramcharan;
Smruti S. Pattanaik;
Krishnan
Srinivasan;
Christian Wagner
and Gareth Price



The organising
team of
the Kolkata
Colloquium



(L to R) Chandni
Jayatilleke; Subir
Bhaumik and
Soe Myint

Spotlight Faculty



**Anasua Basu Ray
Chaudhury**
Senior Fellow

Anasua's work specialises in South Asia, energy politics, forced migration and women in conflict zones.

Kolkata Colloquium

Organised by the Observer Research Foundation in collaboration with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Centre for New Economic Diplomacy and Department for International Development, UK, the Kolkata Colloquium was a two-day international conference held on 28 and 29 November 2019 at The LaLiT Great Eastern Hotel, Kolkata, India. As the first edition of ORF Kolkata's flagship annual event, it hosted 51 participants from BIMSTEC member countries and beyond ranging from academics, thinkers, policy makers, journalists to other important stakeholders. Accordingly, the Colloquium hosted four business sessions on 'Maritime connectivity and significance of the Bay of Bengal', 'Climate change, disaster management and BIMSTEC', 'Enhancing trade: Engaging members in BIMSTEC' and 'Historical and Cultural Linkages within BIMSTEC'.

India Think Tank Forum

The Observer Research Foundation in collaboration with the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania, hosted the fourth edition of the India Think Tank Forum,

which took place from 12-13 January, 2020 at the Claridge's Hotel, New Delhi.

The forum aimed at bringing together a diverse representation of national, regional and international think tanks for a productive exchange of ideas and perspectives on key policy issues. The discussions endeavoured to highlight the role of think tanks in civil society and the challenges they face in contemporary times.

More specifically, the 2020 edition of the Forum initiated conversations on the themes of strengthening women leadership in policy and politics, countering violent extremism online, the future of think tanks, rethinking economic stimulus and globalisation, sustainability for sustained growth, navigating the rise of the Indo-Pacific region and managing South Asian think tanks in the age of global turbulence.



(L to R) Shanthie M. D'Souza; Shruti Pandalai; Poonam Dabas and Kabir Taneja



Above (L to R) Syed M. Kamal; Jyoti Parikh; Ashok Khosla; Shibani Ghosh and James McGann



Asanga Abeyagoonasekera speaking on "Globalisation 2.0: Asian and the New World Order"



Above (L to R) Rudrani Bhattacharya; Harsh V. Pant; James McGann; and Manoj Panda



Delegates at the India Think Tank Forum

AFGG Young Fellows Dinner at Haveli Dharampura



Beth Goldberg (left) with a volunteer from the Self Employed Women's Association (right)



AFGG Young Fellows devising strategies for the "Balance of Terror" simulation exercise



Above: Young Leaders of the 10th edition of the Asian Forum on Global Governance



(L to R) Urmas Reinsalu; Grace Naledi Pandor and Shashi Tharoor

The Asian Forum on Global Governance 2020

The Asian Forum on Global Governance (AFGG) is an annual 10-day policy workshop, jointly organised by ORF and ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius, Germany. The Forum brings together young leaders from diverse backgrounds, geographies, and sectors. Through dialogues, deliberations and debates with prominent figures from the world of politics, business and academia, fellows of the Forum assess and challenge conventional interpretations of complex contemporary realities.

This edition of the AFGG brought together 25 young women and 23 young men from 27 countries. As part of the programme, the participants were also inducted as Raisina Young Fellows at the Raisina Dialogue 2020, which takes place simultaneously. 2020 marked 10 years of the AFGG and 20 years of its sister programme, the Bucerius Summer School (BSS). Over 150 alumni from both programmes gathered together to celebrate decades of excellence.



AFGG Young Fellows with Shashi Tharoor and Stephen Harper



Above (L to R) Michael Göring; Aditi Kumar; Christopher Painter; Nikhil Pahwa; Paula Kift and Samir Saran



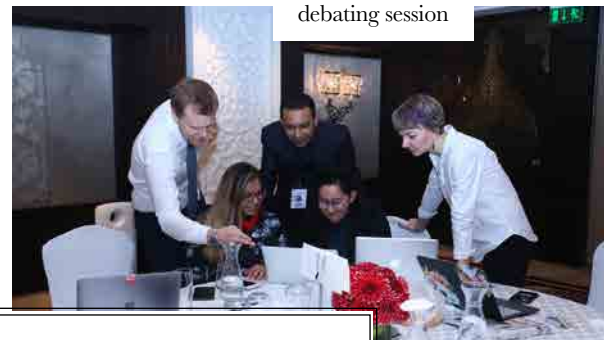
(Left) Commodore Melissa Ross with Lars Stöffgen.
(Right) AFGG Young Fellows at the Closing Dinner



(Below) AFGG Young Fellows preparing for the debating session



AFGG Young Fellows at a Forum



Spotlight Faculty



Sonali Sharma
Deputy Manager, Administration
Sonali's work focuses on Event Management, particularly Reservations and Logistics of participants of ORF conferences.



Tanoubi Ngangom
Chief of Staff & Programmes
Tanoubi's research focuses on India's role as a provider of global public goods; India's foreign policy on development; and the effect of innovation policies on development challenges of the global South.

Below: Harsh Pant and Pallavi Raghavan at the Raisina Authors Corner



(L to R) Samir Saran; Carl Bildt; Tshering Tobgay; Han Seung-Soo; Stephen Harper; Helen Clarke; Hamid Karzai and Andreas Fogh Rasmussen



(L to R) Alica Kizekova; Tara Varma; Chunhao Lou; Solomon Passy; Ummu Salva Bava and Francoise Nicolas



Hamid Karzai in conversation with Robin Niblett



(L to R) Marise Payne; Jukka Juusti; Matthew Pottinger; Vijay Gokhale and Samir Saran

Raisina Dialogue

The fifth edition of the Raisina Dialogue, India's flagship conference on geo-economics and geopolitics hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Observer Research Foundation, was held between 14-16 January 2020. The theme of the conference was "21@20: Navigating the Alpha Century," highlighting the emergence of an 'Alpha' moment where popular leaders across communities, business and states are defining the new century. It also explored India's role in the emerging world order and key challenges of the current age. The Raisina Dialogue 2020 brought together over 600 speakers and delegates from 103 countries, representing heads of state, cabinet ministers, diplomats, CEOs, and leaders from academia, civil society and media. Over 1,500 participants joined from India and abroad who discussed and debated ideas that will serve the emergence of this new world order.

The Raisina Edit

The Raisina Edit offers a selection of commentaries that unpack, interpret, and problematise contemporary global developments corresponding to the Raisina Dialogue thematic pillars: Geopolitics; geo-economics; geo-technology; growth and development; citizen



Ministerial Address
by S. Jaishankar,
Minister of
External Affairs,
India



Jayant Sinha,
moderating the
panel on, “Right to
Breathe: The Battle
for Clean Air”



Tshering Tobgay,
former Prime
Minister of Bhutan



Panellists at
the Raisina
Dialogue



Patricia Scotland;
Eleni Kounalakis;
Esther Brimmer;
Helen Clarke;
Smriti Irani and
Joanna Roper



Tomas Petricek,
Minister of
Foreign Affairs,
Czech Republic

and state. This inaugural issue provided an issue-specific prompt to each contributor. These resulting ‘conversation starters’ advance narratives and evaluations that reflect worldviews at this point in history.

Getting to the Green Frontier

by Jayant Sinha, Samir Saran, Mihir Sharma, Tanushree Chandra and Aparajit Pandey

The Indian economy needs to achieve sustained economic growth over the next decade in order to provide better living standards for its people while simultaneously working on a low-carbon transformation. This publication draws upon experiences from three jurisdictions which have been leaders in climate policy—the United Kingdom, Germany and California—to identify global best practices which can inform the Indian government’s policy decisions. The study reveals five key insights that should inform India’s green transformation. These include—deepening public support for pursuing a green transformation, defining specific and stable policy goals, developing an appropriate institutional architecture, unleashing market forces and creating adequate financing capacity.

Forums

Baijayant Panda speaks to Marya Shakil



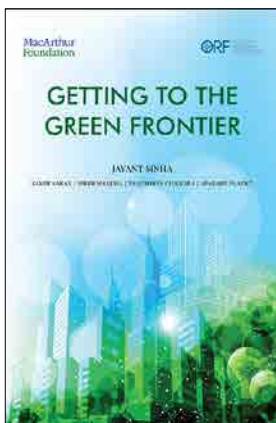
Shashi Tharoor, in conversation with Stephen Harper



Prime Minister Modi and the seven heads of state at the inaugural panel



(Left) Conversation on “Air Pollution and Urban Governance: Defusing a Crisis” (Right) Speakers from the panel, “In Conversation: COP26: Everybody’s In”



Getting to the Green Frontier | Jayant Sinha, Mihir Swarup Sharma, Samir Saran, Tanushree Chandra and Aparajit Pandey | January 2020



Raisina Edit 2020 | Curated by Ritika Passi | January 2020



Ministerial Address by Abdulaziz Khafizovich Kamilov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Uzbekistan



(L to R) Yalda Hakim; Saad Mohseni and Seyed Kazem Sajjadpour



(L to R) Erin Marie Saltman; Raffaello Pantucci and Marija Risteska



(L to R) Shelley Thackral; Akanksha Sharma and Marina Paula Benítez Dentschenko



Left: Kabir Taneja in conversation with Emerson T. Brooking



Panel Discussion on, “Plural Waters: Strengthening Democracy in the Indo-Pacific”

Spotlight Faculty



Anushka Shah
Sub-Editor

Anushka’s research interests include climate finance, urban environmental policy, and use of technology for socioeconomic development.



Aastha Kaul
Assistant Manager (Projects)

Aastha’s work focuses on gender and human rights, particularly in areas of conflict. She also works on outreach activities of the Foundation.



Annexure





2019

April 9: Global Programme for Women's Leadership (GPWL); organised by the Sustainable Development Programme

April 21: Beyond Politics: Debating a New Security Manifesto; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

April 29 to May 1: The 5th ORF Kalpana Chawla Annual Space Policy Dialogue; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

July 3 to 5: Kigali Global Dialogue 2019; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

July 26: Convergence in Urban Healthcare Governance: India's Path Towards UHC; organised by the Sustainable Development Programme

July 29: Towards Building a More Robust India-Korea Partnership; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

August 8 & 9: Tackling Insurgent Ideologies; organised by the Tech and Media Programme

September 10 & 11: Climate Change and Technology; organised by the Climate, Energy and Natural Resources Programme

October 14 to 16: India-ASEAN Track 1.5 Dialogue on Cyber; organised by the Tech and Media Programme

October 21 & 22: India Trilateral Forum 17 & India's Economy and Relations with the U.S.A.; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

November 25 & 26: Towards A Malnutrition Free India; organised by the Sustainable Development Programme

December 14: Investing in Adolescent Health: Harnessing the Demographic Dividend; organised by the Sustainable Development Programme

and India as Major Defence Partners; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

April 15: Observer Research Foundation-Astana International Finance Centre Roundtable; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

April 16: Role of JICA in India's Economic Development; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

May 3: Towards Frictionless Digital Payments in India; organised by the Tech and Media Programme

May 30: A Second-Class Funeral: Political Dynamics of the Eurozone Reforms; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

June 11: Decarbonising Heavy Industry: Perspectives from the US; organised by the Climate, Energy and Natural Resources Programme

June 12: Discussion with Defence Attache Air Commodore Ian Mower, New Zealand High Commission; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

June 13: Current Situation and Future Prospects of the Korean Peninsula; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

June 28: Half a century of India's Maoist Insurgency: An Appraisal of State Response; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

July 1: Affordable Airpower in an Era of Guns vs Butter; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

July 9: The Convergences and Divergences of the US and India's Free and Indo-Pacific Strategies; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

July 10: India at the Crossroads: Unlocking the Nation's Digital Potential; organised by the Tech and Media Programme

July 19: The Ten Guiding Principles for India-Africa Engagement: Finding Coherence in India's Africa Policy; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

August 2: Electric Vehicles; organised by the Sustainable Development Programme

August 3: Rethinking Business: Leadership in the 21st Century; organised by the Sustainable Development Programme

August 5: China, 5G, and National Security; organised by the Sustainable Development Programme

August 13: Electronic and Cyber Warfare: A Comparative Analysis of the PLA and the Indian Army; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

August 13: China's Foreign Policy under Xi Jinping; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

August 22: The Relevance of Mahabharata for Our Times; organised by the Political Reform and Governance Initiative

August 22: Controlling Election Spending: What India Can Learn from International Experience; organised by the Political Reform and Governance Initiative

September 6: India-Israel Relations: Steady Partners in an Unsteady World; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

September 10: 5G and India's National Security; organised by the Political Reform and Governance Initiative

September 10: Implementing the Indo-Pacific: APEC and other steps for Integrating the Region; organised by the Political Reform and Governance Initiative

September 11: Kashmir After Article 370; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

September 13: Growth of the PLA Navy; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

2020

January 9 to 18: Asian Forum on Global Governance 2020; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

January 12 & 13: The 4th India Think Tank Forum; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

January 14 to 16: Raisina Dialogue 2020; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

January 17: India-Iran-Russia Trilateral; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

February 4: India-US-Russia Trilateral; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

February 5 & 6: US-India Strategic Dialogue 2020; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

February 7: Nuclear Security and Safety; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

February 17 & 18: AI Congress: Pre-Planning Workshop; organised by the Tech and Media Programme

Roundtable Discussions

2019

April 1: India's Military-to-Military Relations with Major Powers in Indo-Pacific; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

April 3: Strategic and Operational Perspectives of the Balakot Air Strikes; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

April 10: Strategic Convergence: The United States

September 17: China's New Defence White Paper; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

September 24: Afghanistan: At Yet Another Roundabout; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

October 4: India, Identity Politics, Elections and Outcomes; organised by the Political Reform and Governance Initiative

October 16: India-US Mutual Defence Partnership; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

October 18: Beyond Paris: US-India Climate and Clean Energy Cooperation; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

October 18: Oil Market Outlook under the Impression of Rising Tensions in the Middle East; organised by the Climate, Energy and Natural Resources Programme

November 14: Changing World, Unchanged Protections: 70 Years of the Geneva Convention; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

November 15: Sino-India Relations; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

November 19: Kashmir After Article 370; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

November 20: The Islamic State in India's Kerala: A Primer; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

November 22: Charles University and Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia: Why Freedom Matters; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

December 9: Perspectives on Russia-China Relations; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

2020

January 3: The Century @ 20—Reimagining Indian Foreign Policy and Its Choices; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

January 24: The Indian Startup Ecosystem: Drivers, Challenges and Pillars of Support; and 'Women Entrepreneurs in India: What is Holding Them Back?'; organised by the Tech and Media Programme

January 31: Discussions on the Economic Survey; organised by the Political Reform and Governance Initiative

February 1: Discussions on the Budget 2020-21; organised by the Political Reform and Governance Initiative

February 3: Narratives of Power: Indo-Pacific vs Asia-Pacific; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

February 6: India's Private Sector in its South-South Relations with Africa; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

February 7: Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019; organised by the Tech and Media Programme

February 14: US Trade 'Realignment': The Impact of GSP Withdrawal on India's Top Exports to the United States; organised by the Economy and Growth Programme

February 20: India at \$5 Trillion: Strengthening Opportunities, Removing Hurdles; organised by the Economy and Growth Programme

February 28: Invest, Acquire, Dominate: The Rise and Rise of China Tech; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

March 4: Discussion on India's Lines of Credit under the Ministry of External Affairs Development Partnership Administration; organised by the Sustainable Development Programme

March 5: AISS Report Launch—Examining the Presence of ISIS in Afghanistan; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

Book Releases and Book Discussions

2019

April 10: The Lost Rebellion: Kashmir in the Nineties and The Story of Kashmir; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

April 11: India's Economic Footprint in CLMV Countries: Expanding Slowly and a Long Way to Go; organised by the Sustainable Development Programme

April 12: Game India: Seven Strategic Advantages That Can Steer India to Wealth; organised by the Economy and Growth Programme

April 24: India Foreign Policy: The Modi Era; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

May 2: India's Eastward Engagement: From Antiquity to Act East Policy; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

May 21: Blood Island: An Oral History of the Marichjhapi Massacre; organised by the Political Reform and Governance Initiative

June 4: Kashmir As I See it: From Within and Afar; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

July 16: Containing the China Onslaught: Role of the US, Japan, India and other Democracies; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

July 30: Naval Development and Maritime Strategy; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

September 18: India's Lost Frontier; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

December 17: The Lost Decade (2008-18): How India's Growth Story Devolved into Growth Without a Story; organised by the Economy and Growth Programme

December 18: Trumped: Emerging Powers in a Post-American World by Dr. Sreeram Chaulia; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

December 20: The Diamond Trail: How India Rose to Global Domination; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

2020

January 6: Room for Two? India China and the World Order; organised by the Media and Tech Programme

January 6: Africa in World Affairs: Politics of Imperialism, The Cold War and Globalisation; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

January 21: A Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of VK Krishna Menon; organised by the Economy and Growth Programme

February 12: The Indian Conservative; organised by the Political Reform and Governance Initiative

February 26: V.P. Menon: The Unsung Architect of Modern India; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

Talks

2019

August 21: Looking Back, Looking Ahead: Foreign Policy in Transition Under Modi by Professor Harsh V. Pant; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

October 3: Why the West Fears China by Dr. Pradeep Taneja; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

November 6: Africa and Great Power Politics: Views from Europe and India by His Excellency Pekka Haavisto, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Finland; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

November 18: Satellite Communications for a Connected India: Challenges and Way Ahead by Admiral Christophe Prazuck, Chief of the French Navy; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

December 10: France's Defence Strategy in the Indo-Pacific by Mrs. Alice Guitton; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

December 20: India's Great Slowdown: What Happened? What's the Way Out? By Dr. Arvind Subramanian; organised by the Economy and Growth Programme

June 27: Interaction with South Korean Delegation; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

June 27: Interaction with Central Party School of the Communist Party of China; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

July 1: Interaction with His Excellency Yang Yani, Former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary; organised by the Sustainable Development Programme

July 4: Interaction with Mr Alexander Kulitz, Member of the German Bundestag; organised by the Sustainable Development Programme

August 8: Interaction with the United States on Nuclear Policy; organised by the Climate, Energy and Natural Resources Programme

September 10: Interaction with delegation from Australia; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

September 16: Interaction with delegations from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the Netherlands; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

September 24: Interaction with delegation from the Australian War College; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

October 23: Interaction with delegation from the United States Institute of Peace; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

October 24: Interaction with Mr. Jeff Smith, the Heritage Foundation, USA; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

November 6: Interaction with Mr. Daniel Castro, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, Mexico; organised by the Tech & Media Programme

December 5: Interaction with Adam Eberhardt and Mateusz Gniazdowski on India and Poland/EU vs. the Growing Role of China and the US-China Rivalry; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

December 10: Visit of Ambassador Veronica Cody, EU Ambassador to Nepal; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

Notable Visits

2019

April 4: Interaction with Ambassador Carlos Morales, Spain; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

April 11: Interaction with Counsellor (Politics), Embassy of France to India; organised by the Climate, Energy and Natural Resources Programme

April 17: Interaction with His Excellency Mr. João Gomes Cravinho, Minister of National Defence, Portugal; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

April 26: Interaction with Ibrahim Kalm, Senior Advisor to the President of Turkey; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

May 7: Interaction with Gowhar Rizvi, Adviser (Foreign Affairs) to the Prime Minister, Bangladesh; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

May 13: Interaction with Journalists from Nepal; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

May 30: Interaction with the Chinese Academy of Social Science; organised by the Sustainable Development Programme

June 6: Interaction with Iranian Delegation from IPIS; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

June 6: Interaction with Taiwanese Delegation; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

2020

January 27: Visit of Bangladeshi Delegation; organised by the Political Reform and Governance Initiative

February 3: Visit of Media Delegation from the United Kingdom; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

February 13: Visit of Professor Sato Yoiuichiro; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

February 27th: Interaction with Media Delegation from Mauritius and Seychelles; organised by the Strategic Studies Programme

Monday Morning Meetings

2019

April 1: Indonesia's Elections and the Future of Indonesian Foreign Policy, presented by Premesha Saha

April 8: India's Nuclear Force Debate, presented by Sanjan Gogna

April 15: Comparing the Baloch and Pashtun National Movements in Pakistan, presented by Kriti Shah

April 22: Decoding the Ten Guiding Principles for India-Africa Engagement, presented by H.H.S. Viswanathan and Abhishek Mishra

April 29: Practical Cooperation in the Indian Ocean to Evaluate Size-Limiting Measures for Megaships, presented by Gayatri Iyer

May 6: Securing the Borders: A Review of Infrastructure of the Check Points between India-Bangladesh, presented by Joyeeta Bhattacharjee

May 13: The Rise of New Militancy in Kashmir and India's Counterinsurgency Strategy, presented by Khalid Shah

May 20: Hybrid Warfare in Asia: Analysis of the Surrounding Literature, presented by Ameya Kelkar

May 20: Japan Policies towards Counter-Terrorism: A Case of Securing Peace in Afghanistan, presented by Siman Walia

May 27: Transitioning to Sustainable Development Goals for Sanitation, presented by Chetan Khanna

June 3: Transgender Rights in India: A Socio-Legal Analysis, presented by Aastha Kaul

June 10: Understanding China's Afghan Policy: From Calculated Indifference to Active Engagement, presented by Shubhangi Pandey

June 10: India's Civil Nuclear Agreements: A New Dimension in India's Global Diplomacy, presented by Pulkit Mohan

June 17: The WTO Dispute Settlement System: Analysing India's Experience, presented by Aarshi Tirkey

June 24: India-Canada Relations, presented by Ketan Mehta

July 1: Christchurch Revelation: Social Media Companies Cannot Control Their (Brain) Child, presented by Swati Pant

July 8: Making India's Coastal Infrastructure Climate-Resilient: Challenges and Opportunities, presented by Aparna Roy

July 15: ISIS in Kerala: A Primer, presented by Kabir Taneja

July 15: Twiplomacy, The New Normal: A Brief Analysis, presented Radhika Chhabra

July 22: Increasing Overtures of China in the Indian Ocean Region: Concerns for India, presented by Sanjeev Kumar

July 22: Evolving Indo-Russia Ties In A Changing World Order: 2014-19, presented by Nivedita Kapoor

July 29: Natural Gas Trading Hub: A Game Changer For The Indian Market, presented by Vishal Aryan Kaboo

August 5: The Indian Startup Ecosystem: An Evaluation of Growth Drivers, Challenges and Available Support, presented by Sabrina Korreck

August 5: How Not to Formulate AI Norms, presented by Trisha Ray

August 12: Western Indian Ocean Region As

An Emerging Theatre For India-Africa Maritime Cooperation presented by Abhishek Mishra

August 19: Cyberspace and Space—Capabilities and Costs: What India Will Need for Credible Deterrence, presented by Kartik Boomakanti

September 16: Securing The Borders: A Review Of Infrastructure Of The Check Points Between India-Bangladesh, presented by Abhijit Mukhopadhyay and Nandini Sarma

September 23: India's Trade with Africa: Trends and Challenges, presented by Malancha Chakrabarty

September 30: Creation of a Connected Megacity: Status of Smart Cities Mission in Delhi, presented by Rumi Ajjaz

October 7: Urban Health Governance in India: Situation Analysis and Way Forward, presented by Vasundhara Singh

October 14: Monitoring IUU in India Space Technology: Prospects and Challenges, presented by Gayathri Iyer

October 21: Triangular Cooperation: A Comparative Analysis, presented by Prachi Mittal

November 4: Open Systems: A Way Forward to Build Trust in Election Technology, presented by Sailesh Sriram

November 11: PLA Joint Exercises in Tibet: Implications for India, presented by Rajeswari Rajagopalan and Pulkit Mohan

November 11: Satellite Communications for a Connected India: Challenges and Way Ahead, presented by Rahul Krishna and Rajeswari Rajagopalan

November 18: From Sochi to Vladivostok: Indo-Russia Relations Since 2018, presented by Nivedita Kapoor

December 9: Analysis of India's Decision to Not Join the RCEP, presented by Nandini Sarma

December 16: From Look East to Act East: Continuity and Change, presented by Khalid Shah, Premesha Saha and Kriti Shah

December 23rd: Diplomacy on Kashmir Post the Removal of Article 370, presented by Khalid Shah and Kriti Shah

2020

January 6: How is Polarisation Threatening India's Democracy and Federal Polity? Presented by Niranjana Sahoo

January 13: Russia in the Middle East, presented by Nandan Unnikrishnan

January 20: The 5G Dilemma: Mapping Responses Across The World, presented by Aarshi Tirkey

January 27: India-Africa Partnership For Food Security And Capacity Building: The African Challenge Is Key To Mitigating Food Security In The World, presented by HHS Viswanathan and Abhishek Mishra

February 3: Small Satellites and the Indian Air Force, presented by Kartik Boomakanti

February 17: India's Subregional Approach to Security Cooperation, presented by K Yhome

February 24: Nutrition Gardens: A Sustainable Model to Improve Food Security and Diversity, presented by Shoba Suri

March 2: The State of Democracy in Southeast Asia: A Critical Appraisal, presented by Niranjana Sahoo

March 9: How Green is India's Forest Cover? A Critical Analysis of India's Efforts in Forest Regeneration, presented by Aparna Roy

April 2019 - March 2020

GP-ORF Series

Cyber Debates: CyFy Journal 2019 | Edited by Samir Saran and Arun Sukumar, October 2019

Regional Planning for Sustainable Land Use in India | Edited by Rumi Aijaz and Felix Knoff, November 2019

Books and Monographs

India and China in Multilateral Economic Governance: Worldviews, Approaches and IFIs | Ritika Passi, September 2019

Exploring India's Maritime Connectivity in the Extended Bay of Bengal | Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, Pratinashre Basu and Sohini Bose, November 2019

India at \$1 Trillion: Strengthening Opportunities, Removing Hurdles | Gautam Chikermane, Ruchbah Rai, Rakesh Kumar Sinha and Tanushree Chandra, February 2020

Tackling Insurgent Ideologies: Rapporteurs Report | Maya Mirchandani, February 2020

Issue Briefs

Russia Tilts Towards Asia and Its Implications for India | Parthamesh Karle, April 2019

Examining the Potential of India-Australia Partnerships in Mining | Natasha Jha Bhaskar, April 2019

In the Eye of the Tempestuous Bay of Bengal: Measuring the Disaster Resilience of Major Ports on India's East Coast | Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury and Sohini Bose, April 2019

From Theory to Practice: Perspectives on Climate smart Agriculture in India and Africa | Chadwin Reno, April 2019

India and Global Geoeconomics of Climate Change: Gains from Cooperation ? | Emma Hakala, May 2019

A Decade of Aadhaar: Lessons in Implementing a Foundational ID system | Srijoni Sen, May 2019

Protecting India's Built Heritage Against Natural Disasters | Ramanath Jha, May 2019

The Indian Air Force, Sub-Conventional Operations and Balakot: A Practitioner's Perspective | Arjun Subramaniam, May 2019

Chagos or Diego Garcia: What is the Best Interest of Mauritius (Hindi) | Sukrit Kumar, May 2019

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana: An Assessment

of India's Crop Insurance Scheme | Ruchbah Rai, May 2019

Food Sovereignty and Local Agency: Pathways to Urban Sustainability | Swaminathan Ramanathan, May 2019

Leveraging Disruptive Technology Innovations for Healthcare Delivery in Sub-Saharan Africa | Sujay Santra, Tirumala Santra Mandal and Parswati Das, June 2019

BIMSTEC Countries and Climate Change: Imperatives for Action | Fahmida Khatun, June 2019

Climate Change and Healthcare in the BIMSTEC Countries: Potential for Cooperation | MD Kamruzzaman, July 2019

Harnessing Technology for Agricultural Development in Africa: Lessons for Tanzania | Heric Thomas and Innocent P Wawa, July 2019

Developing a Policy Framework for Emerging Crowdfunding Ecosystems | Karsten Wenzlaff, July 2019

National Digital Economy Strategies: A Survey of Africa | Vladimir V Korovkin, July 2019

Ten Years of RTE Act: Revisiting Achievements and Examining Gaps | Sanchayan Bhattacharjee, August 2019

Understanding China's Afghanistan Policy: From Calculated Indifference to Strategic Engagement | Shubhangi Pandey, August 2019

Education, Skills, Gender Parity: An Agenda for Employment Generation in India | Aditi Ratho August 2019

The Bay of Bengal Association for Sustainable Development: A Speculative Framework for Governance | Ipshita Chaturvedi, August 2019

Towards a Synergy-based Approach to River Basin Governance | Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, August 2019

An Indian Space Law: Long Overdue | Rakesh Sood, August 2019

Conventional Submarines Move to Centrestage | Monty Khanna, September 2019

Israel's Arms Sales to India: Bedrock of a Strategic Partnership | Harsh V Pant and Ambuj Sahu, September 2019

Artificial intelligence in Africa's Healthcare: Ethical Considerations | Laura Sallstrom, Olive Morris, and Halak Mehta,

September 2019

Formulating AI Norms: Intelligent Systems and Human Values|Trisha Ray, September 2019

Blockchain Technology: Agriculture's Next Revolution|Sarah C Schoeffel, September 2019
Regulating the Over the Top Industry: A Case Study of Thailand |Suthikorn Kingkaew, September 2019

Locating the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement in India-Australia Strategic Relations|Harsh V Pant and Niranjana Chandrashekhar, September 2019

Women Entrepreneurs in India: What is Holding them Back|Sabrina Korreck, September 2019

The Economic Mind of Narendra Modi|Hindol Sengupta, October 2019

Reintegrating Kashmir's Ex-militants: An Examination of India's Surrender Rehabilitation Policy|Arshiya Bhayana, October 2019

India's Civil Nuclear Agreements: A New Dimension in India's Global Diplomacy|Pulkit Mohan and Pallav Agarwal, October 2019

Green Bonds: Key to Fighting Climate Change?|Asi Guha, October 2019

Literacy in India: The Gender and Age Dimension|Tanushree Chandra, October 2019
Breakout Nation: The Nutrition Transformation of Bangladesh|Shoba Suri, November 2019

Making Air Pollution an Issue of Governance|Chetan Bhattacharji, November 2019

High Tide in the South China Sea: Why the Maritime Rules-based Order is Consequential|Pratnashree Basu, November 2019

Revisiting China's Kashmir Policy|Parjanya Bhatt, November 2019

India Russia Relations: Beyond Energy and Defence|Nivedita Kapoor, December 2019

China-India Data Sharing for Early Flood Warning in the Brahmaputra: A Critique|Nilanjan Ghosh, Jayanta Bandyopadhyay and Sayanangshu Modak, December 2019

Sankhya Philosophy and Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya|Pradeep Kumar Gautam, December 2019

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Financial Report 2019-2020

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Balance Sheet (As on 31st March, 2020)

Particulars	Schedule	As at 31.03.2020	As at 31.03.2019
Sources of funds:			
Corpus	I	22,31,07,024.50	21,18,07,751.99
Payables	II	1,75,16,515.79	5,50,337.00
Statutory Liabilities	III	33,87,195.00	5,36,537.76
Provisions	IV	3,28,75,466.00	2,66,16,468.00
Unspent Contributions	V	2,99,39,688.76	4,75,48,572.69
Unspent Interest FCRA		18,66,682.51	9,73,326.25
		30,86,92,572.56	30,86,92,572.56
Application of Funds			
Fixed Assets	VI	5,95,56,776.80	5,50,58,924.80
Investments:			
	VII		
Fixed Deposits		15,12,67,312.86	14,05,45,943.39
GOI Saving Bonds		1,00,00,000.00	1,00,00,000.00
		16,12,67,312.86	15,05,45,943.39
Current Assets,			
	VIII		
Cash & Bank Balances		5,71,71,904.87	4,43,20,111.75
Security Deposits		1,85,816.30	1,46,003.00
Advances		1,76,834.00	3,22,833.00
Other Receivables		2,04,84,577.93	2,77,63,464.85
Prepaid Expenses		20,62,456.00	17,80,635.00
Income Tax		77,86,893.80	80,95,077.90
Refundable (TDS Receivable)			
		8,78,68,482.90	8,24,28,125.50
TOTAL		30,86,92,572.56	28,80,32,993.69

Income and Expenditure Account

(for the year ended 31st March, 2020)

Particulars	For the year ended 31st March 2020	For the year ended 31st March 2019
Income:		
Foreign Contributions for designated Projects	23,01,48,126.92	8,19,50,311.24
Voluntary Contributions (Projects)	2,63,71,121.93	2,99,70,324.36
Voluntary Contributions (General)	17,22,00,000.00	48,75,000.00
Interest	1,68,14,173.20	1,35,71,456.42
Other Income	4,55,622.20	3,08,035.00
Prior Period Income - Foreign Projects		26,42,028.39
Prior Period Adjustment(NET)		7,57,764.00
Total Income	44,59,89,044.25	13,40,74,919.41
Expenditure :		
Expenditure on Projects:		
Expenditure on Designated FCRA Projects	23,14,91,067.66	8,63,56,492.48
CRM Initiative Project		43,12,361.00
International Initiative Project		6,66,24,994.04
ISS Project		92,66,356.00
National Initiative Project		1,59,27,638.37
Outreach & Development Initiative Project		2,27,28,621.45
India China Centre	2,12,45,547.40	1,72,61,166.04
Mumbai Initiative	3,55,49,996.64	5,45,60,185.06
CyFy Expenses	9,38,413.04	
Economy & Growth Programme	16,29,348.00	
Energy & Climate Change Programme	39,96,155.00	
Media and Publications	1,62,94,535.92	
Political Economy Programme	79,07,061.00	
Programme Appraisal Management	45,67,487.00	
Raisina Dialogue Expenses	1,66,74,452.26	
Strategic Studies Programme	3,47,03,571.35	
Sustainable Development Programme	1,09,60,411.47	
Tech & Media Programme	28,96,219.32	
Other Expenses :		
Employee Benefit Expenses	1,91,95,489.00	2,38,94,849.32
Printing & Stationery	2,08,769.00	3,08,871.00
Travelling	14,03,089.70	29,55,757.11
Conveyance	8,16,389.00	9,83,070.92
Office Expenses	13,49,302.20	15,12,729.87
Communications	11,27,945.90	13,74,431.46
Utilities	50,56,164.00	52,28,490.00
Repair & Maintenance	57,79,076.90	53,43,637.04

Rates & Taxes		26,48,434.00
Honorarium & Retainership Fee	24,05,870.72	21,30,770.00
Meeting & Conferences	11,01,099.00	12,59,313.96
Office Lease Rent	64,680.00	76,324.00
Computers & Maintenance	16,63,394.94	19,30,180.28
Books & Periodicals	4,19,488.00	12,59,649.74
Provision for doubtful debt (Bhopal Land)		4,03,330.00
Other Expenses	25,20,583.58	13,99,871.42
Amortization of Land	27,198.00	27,198.00
Depreciation	26,96,966.74	24,03,049.00
Total	43,46,89,772.74	33,21,77,771.56
Deficit)/Surplus for the year (A) - (B)	1,12,99,271.51	(19,81,02,852.15)
(Deficit)/Surplus transferred to Corpus	1,12,99,271.51	(19,81,02,852.15)

Schedule to Balance Sheet as on 31st March, 2020 Schedule I

Corpus Founds	As on 31st March 2020	As on 31st March 2019
Opening Balance	21,18,07,751.99	19,99,10,604.14
Addition during the year	1.00	21,00,00,000.00
Add: (Deficit)/Surplus for the Year	1,12,99,271.51	(19,81,02,852.15)
Total	22,31,07,024.50	21,18,07,751.99

Schedule II

Payables	As on 31st March 2020	As on 31st March 2019
Expenses Payable 2019-20	34,19,711.29	4,02,853.00
Foreign Contribution to be refunded	1,21,53,296.50	
AB Consultants	29,700.00	
Anwar Car Service	70,224.00	
BAHDL Hospitality Pvt Ltd	2,40,084.80	
Bharti Airtel Ltd	11,691.00	
Family Book Shop	13,203.00	
Jayanta Bandopadhyay	1,62,000.00	
Lokenath Nursery	21,780.00	

Modern Engineering	3,23,350.00	1,10,386.00
Orange Securitas Pvt Ltd	1,67,718.00	
Pioneer Cleaners & Services	59,856.00	
Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd	1,59,499.00	
S.K. Enterprise	1,10,386.00	
Somnath Naskar	6,000.00	
ST. Xavier College	99,873.20	36,000.00
TNS Travel	59,847.00	1,098.00
Uddalak Sardar	5,100.00	-
Ali Aslan	2,95,040.00	5,50,337.00
Joy Dalia & Company	48,600.00	
Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd	2,196.00	
Terri Chapman	57,360.00	
Total	1,75,16,515.79	

Schedule III

Statutory Liabilities	As on 31st March 2020	As on 31st March 2019
TDS Payable	31,95,917.00	3,16,637.00
Goods & Services tax	1,87,478.00	2,19,900.76
Professional Tax Mumbai	3,800.00	
Total	33,87,195.00	5,36,537.76

Schedule IV

Provisions	As on 31st March 2020	As on 31st March 2019
Provision for Gratuity	2,40,55,405.00	1,99,22,383.00
Provision for Leave Encashment	88,20,061.00	66,94,085.00
Total	3,28,75,466.00	2,66,16,468.00

Schedule V

Unspent Contribution	As on 31st March 2020	As on 31st March 2019
Related to FCRA Project	2,99,39,688.76	4,18,52,485.76
Related to Domestic Project		56,96,086.93
Total	2,99,39,688.76	4,75,48,572.69

Schedule VI

Type of Fixed Asset	Dep Rate	WDV as on 1st April 2019	Additional/ (deletions) before 30.9.19	Additions after 30.9.2019	Depreciation/ Amortization for the year	WDV as on 31st March 2020
Leasehold Land at Delhi*		21,87,135.00			27,198.00	21,59,937.00
Land at Kolkata		3,52,25,670.80				3,52,25,670.80
Building at Delhi			1.00			1.00
Building at Kolkata	0.10	1,56,37,973.00			15,63,797.00	1,40,74,176.00
Books	0.40	2,85,874.00	(2,85,874.00)			
Computer Equipments	0.40	6,25,016.00		19,15,106.62	6,33,027.62	19,07,095.00
Computer Equipments Kolkata	0.40			25,36,385.38	5,07,277.38	20,29,108.00
Computer Equipments Mumbai	0.40			8,58,323.00		8,58,323.00
Furniture & Fixtures	0.10	2,49,155.00	1,60,834.00		40,999.00	3,68,990.00
Office Equipment	0.15	3,68,577.00	24,34,740.12	5,15,274.00	4,59,143.12	28,59,448.00
Office Equipment Kolkata	0.15			80,030.00	6,002.00	74,028.00
Plant & Machinery	0.15	4,79,524.00	(4,79,524.00)			
Total		5,50,58,924.80	18,30,177.12	59,05,119.00	32,37,444.12	5,95,56,776.80

Schedule VII

Investments	As on 31st March 2020	As on 31st March 2019
Fixed Deposits	15,12,67,312.86	14,05,45,943.39
GOI Saving Bonds	1,00,00,000.00	1,00,00,000.00
Total	16,12,67,312.86	15,05,45,943.39

Schedule VIII – Current Assets

Cash & Bank Balance	As on 31st March 2020	As on 31st March 2019
Cash in hand		
Cash in Delhi	68,819.01	39,574.01
Cash in Kolkata	63,718.00	53,801.00
Cash in Mumbai	9,247.00	8,296.00
FCRA Cash	30,581.00	2,829.00
Total (a)	1,72,365.01	1,04,500.01

Bank Balance		
Canara Bank	1,35,289.91	14,17,459.41
HDFC Delhi	1,33,55,901.91	2,20,70,925.94
HDFC Kolkata	18,90,117.24	1,10,855.64
HDFC Mumbai	44,02,191.19	15,17,846.41
Syndicate Bank	7,64,281.74	16,54,024.33
Vijaya Bank	3,64,51,757.87	1,74,44,500.01
Total (b)	5,69,99,539.86	4,42,15,611.74

Security Deposits	As on 31st March 2020	As on 31st March 2019
Security Deposit - Telephone	8,803.00	11,657.00
Security Deposit- WBSEDCL	1,77,013.30	1,34,346.00
Total	1,85,816.30	1,46,003.00

Advances	As on 31st March 2020	As on 31st March 2019
Considered Good		
Staff Advance : Anasua Basu		72,630.00
Bhasin & Co.		80,000.00
New India Insurance Co. Ltd	1,76,834.00	1,70,203.00
Considered Doubtful		
Advance : Bhopal Land	4,03,330.00	4,03,330.00
Subtotal	5,80,164.00	7,26,163.00
Less -Provision made for advance against Bhopal land	4,03,330.00	4,03,330.00
Total	1,76,834.00	3,22,833.00

Other Receivables	As on 31st March 2020	As on 31st March 2019
FCRA Receivables	23,03,465.00	2,55,42,452.00
GST Input Credit	28,73,616.56	22,19,278.85
Interest Accrued	24,93,673.47	
Military Intelligence Training school		1,734.00
Reliance Jio Infratel Pvt Ltd	11,880.00	
Unbilled Revenue	1,28,01,942.90	
Total	2,04,84,577.93	2,77,63,464.85

Prepaid Expenses	As on 31st March 2020	As on 31st March 2019
Prepaid Expenses	20,62,456.00	17,80,635.00
Total	20,62,456.00	17,80,635.00

TDS Receivable	As on 31st March 2020	As on 31st March 2019
TDS Deducted AY 2016-17		14,62,505.80
TDS Deducted AY 2017-18		15,25,021.10
TDS Deducted AY 2018-19	19,56,414.20	19,56,414.20
TDS Deducted AY 2019-20	31,51,136.80	31,51,136.80
TDS Deducted AY 2020-21	26,79,342.80	
Total	77,86,893.80	80,95,077.90

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND NOTES FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

A) SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. Basis of preparation of Financial statements

The financial statements comprising the Balance sheet, the Income and Expenditure and Receipt & Payment account are prepared under the historical cost convention,

on the accrual basis of accounting. In the absence of any authoritatively established accounting principles for the specialized aspects related to charitable trust which do not carry out any commercial activity, these statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies as described below.

2. Use of Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements is in conformity with the generally accepted accounting

principles requires that the Member of the society make estimates and assumption that affect the reported amounts of income and expenditure for the year and reported assets and liabilities. Any revision to accounting estimates is recognized prospectively in current and future periods. All amounts are stated in Indian Rupees, except as otherwise stated.

3. Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets are stated at cost of acquisition, including any attributable cost for bringing the assets to its working condition for its intended use, less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is charged on Fixed assets' written down value at the rates specified in the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Intangible assets are stated at cost net of tax/duty credits availed, if any less accumulated amortization. Intangible assets (Leasehold land at Delhi) are amortized over the estimated period of benefit or contractual terms as applicable.

4. Investments:

Investments are either classified as current or long term based on management's intention at the time of purchase. Current investments are carried at the lower of cost and fair value determined separately for each individual investment. Long term investment are carried at cost less diminution, other than temporary, in value, determined separately for each individual investment. The fixed deposits with the banks are inclusive of interest accrued till the year end.

5. Donation and Grants

Donation & Grant are received in cash or in kind (from Foreign & domestic) is recognized as income on accrual basis. Such donation are recognized relatable over the period of usage and unspent amount recorded as unspent contribution (includes FCRA and domestic grants) under the head current liabilities.

Donation made with a specific direction that they shall form part of the corpus of the Trust is classified as corpus donation, and are directly reflected as trust fund receipt in the balance sheet.

Non-refundable / recoverable payments like subscription for periodicals are recognized in the year of payment.

6. Income tax

The Society's is registered under section 12A of the income tax Act, 1961 ('the Act'). Under the provision of

the Act, the income of the society's is exempted from tax, subject to the compliance of specific terms and condition specified in the said Act.

7. Provisions and contingencies

The provision is recognized when, as a result of obligation events, there is a present obligation that probably required an outflow of resources and reliable estimate can be made of the amount of obligation. The disclosure of contingent liability is made when, as a result of obligating events, there is possible obligation or a present obligation that may, but probably will not, require an outflow of resources. No provision or disclosure is made when, as a result of obligating events, there is a possible obligation or a present obligation where the likelihood of an outflow of resources is remote.

8. Foreign Currency Transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are accounted at the exchange rate prevailing on the date of the transaction. Gain and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translations of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognized in the income and expenditure Account.

9. Other Policies to Financial Statements:

- (a) Sums received after deduction of tax at source are treated as contributions.
- (b) Expenditure on projects as appearing in the Income & Expenditure A/c comprises of Direct Expenses only.

(B) NOTES FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

1. Interest includes Rs. 22,36,297 received in FCRA Saving Bank Account

2. Note on AS-15 disclosure:

Defined benefit plan:

The principal assumptions as at balance sheet date used in determining provision for gratuity and leave encashment are as follows:

Economic assumptions:

The discount rate is based upon prevailing market yields of Indian Government Bonds at the valuation date for the expected term of the obligation. The estimate of future salary increase considered takes into account inflation, seniority, promotion and other relevant factors on long term basis

Particulars	As at 31st March 2020	As at 31st March 2019
Discount rate	6.80%	7.70%
Salary escalation rate	0% for this year and 10% thereafter	10.00%

Demographic Assumptions:

Particulars	As on 31st March 2020	As on 31st March 2019
Retirement age	60 Years	60 Years
Mortality rate	IALM (2006-08)	IALM (2006-08)
Withdrawal rate	2%	2%

Defined contributions plans:

The Company's contribution to Gratuity & Sick Leave is a defined contribution plan. An amount of Rs.51,27,120/- (previous year Rs. 1,99,22,383) pertaining to Gratuity and Rs. 21,25,976 (previous year Rs. 66,94,085) pertaining to Sick Leave have been recognized as an expense and shown under "Employee benefits" in the Income & Expenditure Account.

3. The Organization's foreign currency exposure not hedged is as follows:

Particulars	As on 31st March 2020	
	Foreign Currency	Rupees
Trade receivables (Euro)	1,500	1,22,985
Trade receivables (USD)	2,000	1,50,480

4. Related Party disclosures as per Accounting Standard 18.

A. Related parties details

Nature of relationship	Nature of person
Trustee	Sunjoy Joshi
Trustee	Baljit Kapoor
Member	Arun Mehra
Member	P G Darji

A. Transactions with Related Parties:

Particulars	Members	Trustee
Salary	36,42,300	39,39,000
Other Expenses	2,020	14,68,331

5. Leases as per Accounting Standard -19

Lessor:

There is a lease agreement with Reliance Jio Infratel Pvt Ltd (Minimum lease payment of Rs 22000 with escalation of 10% from September 2018) which is cancellable operating lease.

6. Movement in Provision

Particulars	Opening Balance 01/04/2019	Addition	Utilisation	Closing balance 31/03/2020
Gratuity (Refer Schedule IV)	1,99,22,383	51,27,120	9,94,098	2,40,55,405
Leave Encashment- (Refer Schedule IV)	66,94,085	21,25,976	-	88,20,061

7. Estimation of uncertainties relating to Covid-19:

Post declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic by the World Health Organization, the Government in India and across the world have taken significant measures to curtail the wide spread of virus, including country wide lockdown and restriction in economic activities.

In view of such lockdowns, operations at ORF in India were scaled down from the end week of March 2020 and the immediate steps were taken to counter the issues.

In view of the impact of COVID-19, the ORF has assessed the carrying amounts of its assets. In assessing the recoverable value of such assets, the ORF has considered

various internal and external information such as existing long-term arrangements with various donors and other organisations for conducting its projects. As per the ORF's current assessment no significant impact on carrying amounts of these assets are expected.

However, the eventual outcome of the impact of the global health pandemic may be different from those estimated as on the date of approval of these financial statements and ORF continues to closely monitor the situation including any material changes to future economic conditions and consequential impact on its financial statements.

Signed By:

Tanuj Chugh (Partner, GSA & Associates LLP – Chartered Accountant)

Sunjoy Joshi (Chairman, Observer Research Foundation)

Baljit Kapoor (Hon. Secretary, Observer Research Foundation)

Jagannatha Kumar (Hon. Treasurer, Observer Research Foundation)

