




**A N N U A L  
R E P O R T  
2021**

A solid red horizontal bar is located at the bottom right of the page, partially overlapping the year '2021'.



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, particularly post the COVID-19 pandemic.

ORF 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.

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# Message

The Chairman and President of ORF give an insight into the highlights of the past year—key research, analyses, and forums that have ignited debate and informed discussion. They also delve into the future, and the domains that will be of focus for the institution and its scholars for the next year.

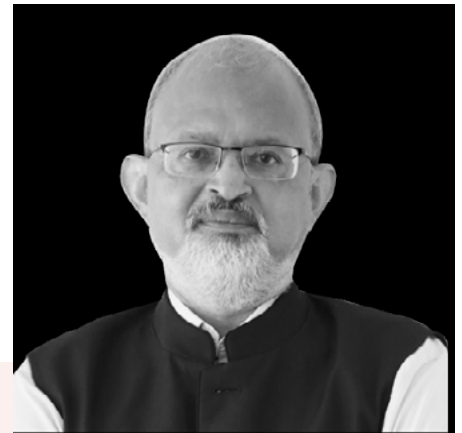
# SUNJOY JOSHI,

Chairman, Observer Research Foundation

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ORF staff and stakeholders not only overcame but embraced the challenges brought about by the pandemic. We will continue to create new means and spaces to make our hybrid world more conducive for the ORF community.



The 2020s were supposed to be the “Decade for Action”. The now or never moment for a world running out of time to find solutions to vexing problems of—development with sustainability, growth with equity, trade without distortions. But, then, the world lurched into 2020 stumbling on a hidden tripwire.

Desperate national lockdowns swept lives and livelihoods online. Wave after devastating wave of COVID-19 saw modern medical infrastructure wobble on the verge of collapse. Today, as a badly shaken world struggles to cope, we realise with humility that we are yet not out of the woods. Families are still trying to come to terms with the helpless sorrow of unwonted loss. Nations struggle to stem the tide of the economic reversal that came in the wake of the pandemic.

The ORF family, too, lost three of its admired and loved colleagues—Prof Hari Vasudevan, Prof KV Kesavan and Dr Joyeeta Bhattacharjee. Our grief over the loss of these scholars who enriched the field of International Studies brings us closer.

Our colleagues surmounted the stress of nursing and caring for family members, and learnt to combine it with the pressures of work, schooling, shopping—all from the confines

# SUNJOY JOSHI,

Chairman, Observer Research Foundation

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of their homes. As our systems migrated online, our staff showed agility in adapting and were soon doing what they did best — analysis with objectivity.

Our teams meticulously tracked the pandemic and all related developments — day by day, week by week, region by region. ORF’s COVID and Vaccine trackers are still among the most popular and most granular. Of the 1727 publications ORF produced, 1502 were related to COVID-19, and have become part of our much-referenced COVID-19 Knowledge Centre.

The scourge of this pandemic brought home to us the importance of governance at the para-national level in tackling extraordinary situations where the best technology notwithstanding, centralised structures remain too far removed from the maelstrom. We, thus, convened the first edition of the Colaba Conversation — ORF Mumbai’s flagship conference on the future of globalised cities and states, which must be the driving force of any post-pandemic recovery.

The COVID-19 pandemic also exposed the fragility of the faltering multilateral system. The weakening security arrangements of the post-World War II era, under challenge from the Chinese model of state-led capitalism, has forced countries to explore multiple other security and economic alliances. These minilateral and plurilateral initiatives have become the new defenders of the rules-based international order. The 2021 edition of the Raisina Dialogue, “#ViralWorld: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control”, perhaps, delved into the most critical question of all — who and what will define the post-pandemic world order? And true to the spirit of the times, Raisina 2021 was a fully digital forum. Yet, it gathered over 4000 practitioners and experts from more than 100 countries virtually to discuss all of this and more.

As we now struggle to define the “new normal” that involves tracing apps, vaccine passports and hybrid forms of work, the centrality of technology and its application looms larger in our lives. How far will the 4IR really empower us to predict or control future outbreaks? How will technology assist our ongoing battle against COVID-19?

# SUNJOY JOSHI,

Chairman, Observer Research Foundation

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Technology collaboration allowed for the rapid development and deployment of multiple vaccines in such a short span of time—a feat, indeed, never been accomplished before. Yet, access to the commercial product remained cruelly and inhumanly tied to the hegemony of corporate patents, and the power and economic structures supporting them. The new normal will need to discover ways to challenge these constructs of power that privilege one over another, and ORF will continue to agitate this and proffer solutions in this ongoing debate.

But tied to technology-driven innovation and all its promises are contested frontiers, particularly across privacy and the laws surrounding data governance, the widening divide between the digital ‘haves’ and ‘have nots’, and the individual battling the power of both the sovereign state and Big Tech. Our tech platform, CyFy, examined these highs and lows of technology over a week in October 2020, to lead a conversation on how technology could be a force multiplier for both enabling a just and equal society, and also ensuring a sustainable and green transition from the pandemic.

Over the past year, ORF, its staff and stakeholders, did not only overcome but embraced the challenges brought about by the pandemic. We continue to care and will create new means and spaces to make our hybrid world more conducive for our researchers and the ORF community. I want to convey my best wishes to all on this foundation day and remember those who are now with us on this occasion.

# SAMIR SARAN,

President, Observer Research Foundation

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Our research will focus on creating inclusive community spaces, accessible public goods, and building green and sustainable mobility systems. Gender-first and gender-led green transitions will be a priority area for ORF.



Institutions have never been about a pin code, an impressive building, or a sprawling campus. They always were, and are, about people who shape them with their energy, creativity and aspirations; temper them with their grit and determination; and nourish them by undertaking every-day and essential tasks. Naturally, the progress made by organisations has to be a function of the journeys of these individuals, their wellbeing and their growth. The #WFH era has announced this stark truth loudly.

The past year was devastating for ORF. We lost Prof Hari Vasudevan, Prof KV Kesavan and Dr Joyeeta Bhattacharjee, three established leaders in their fields of research. But beyond their professional prowess, they were also wonderful colleagues, warm friends, and, above all, caring and kind people. As an institution, we have had to traverse this period of pain and profound loss, and have done so together.

Indeed, all is not well in these turbulent '20s. Be it the COVID-19 pandemic, the developing situation in Afghanistan, polarisation and strife within many democracies, or the increasing frequency of natural disasters, we are being tested as societies and countries; and the ideal of the global village seems more distant than ever. As governments, corporations and individuals cope with these challenges and many others, institutions such as ORF must renew themselves and double down on ensuring that we comprehensively



# SAMIR SARAN,

President, Observer Research Foundation

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assess, analyse and identify solutions and pathways to respond to these extraordinary circumstances. As we look towards the future, five priorities must form part of our efforts.

The first is to decipher and debate the evolving role of the state and its engagement with its own citizens and with the wider world. With the onset of the pandemic, we saw an accelerated crumbling of the multilateral order and an exaggerated premium being placed on self-reliance. Yet, the events in Afghanistan, climate-induced and other catastrophes, the rise of belligerent actors in the international system, and the weaponisation of trade, technology and currency, all point to an urgent imperative—the need to strengthen multilateralism. We must invest in institutions and frameworks for the future. Be it the rejuvenation of the UN or smart plurilateralism, ORF must explore and identify emerging avenues of collaboration that are needed now.

Our second priority must be to assess the insertions and implications of technology in the conduct of our daily lives. Education, work, and recreation have all gone digital, erasing boundaries and distances and diminishing the role of space and time in society and politics. As we create a new ecosystem, we must engage with its governance, secure its plural character, seek higher standards of digital rights for individuals, and ensure that this ecosystem is accessible to all. Community-led digital societies are essential for the data economy to benefit all; and communities—many excluded until now—must be heard.

Third, the pandemic is teaching us the importance of investing in social and public infrastructure. Health facilities, health workers and professionals, and health laws and regulations all struggled to keep pace with the virulence of COVID-19. It is time to rethink how we need to serve a country of India's size and diversity, and to determine if and how we could cater to others around the world. As we spiral into a climate crisis, we must also rethink habitats and their design. Our research will focus on creating inclusive community spaces, accessible public goods, and building green and sustainable mobility systems. Gender-first and gender-led green transitions will be a priority area for ORF.

# SAMIR SARAN,

President, Observer Research Foundation

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Our fourth priority is strengthening our engagement with the youth, who will either be the beneficiaries or will be burdened by the policies that we create today. As India turns 75, ORF aims to increase its products, programmes and platforms that will engage with the youth, to track how young India comprehends the country's domestic and foreign policy agenda. We will work towards infusing public policy debates and discussions with ideas from a generation that must shape this country's role and decide its place in world affairs.

Finally, the pandemic also had a crucial message for India: It has to lead the next iteration of globalisation. Our global partnerships and linkages served us well and allowed us to respond to and recover from the devastating viral spread. Supply chains and trade links; they were our proverbial lifelines. We must examine how global supply chains can be made more resilient and present ideas to strengthen India's integration with global value chains.

ORF is committed to engaging with these issues and many more as a non-partisan, idea-led and an inclusive organisation. As we look ahead, and look afresh, I would like to thank the ORF board members, our talented faculty, and our partners and stakeholders for their efforts, commitments and support through these trying times. Communities Matter!

# 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 2020, ORF remained the most-recognised Indian think tank in rankings and the first Indian think tank to be ranked among the global top-20 institutions. 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:

- 1 Highest ranked Think Tank in the category 'Best New Idea or Paradigm Developed by a Think Tank'
- 2 Highest ranked Indian Think Tank in the category 'Top Think Tanks in China, India, Japan, and the Republic of Korea'
- 4 Highest ranked Indian Think Tank in the category 'Best Think Tank Conference (Raisina Dialogue)'
- 5 Highest ranked Indian Think Tank in the category 'Think Tank to Watch'
- 7 Highest ranked Indian Think Tank in the category 'Think Tanks with the Most Innovative Policy Ideas/Proposals'
- 8 Highest ranked Indian Think Tank in the category 'Top Think Tanks Worldwide (non-U.S.)'
- 20 Highest ranked Indian Think Tank in the category 'Top Think Tanks Worldwide (U.S. and non-U.S.)'

# Think Tank Index Report

**15** Highest ranked Indian Think Tank in the category 'Think Tanks with Best Use of the Internet'

**17** Highest ranked Indian Think Tank in the category 'Best Institutional Collaboration Involving Two or More Think Tanks'

**18** Highest ranked Indian Think Tank in the category 'Think Tanks with Best External Relations/Public Engagement Program'

**19** Highest ranked Indian Think Tank in the category 'Best Managed Think Tanks'

**19** Highest ranked Indian Think Tank in the category 'Top Foreign Policy and International Affairs Think Tanks'

**22** Ranking by Area of Research in the category 'Top International Economics Think Tanks'

**27** Highest ranked Indian Think Tank in the category 'Top Defense and National Security'

Named as one of the select Think Tanks in the category '2020 Best Policy and Institutional Response to COVID-19'

# Board of Trustees



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# In Memoriam

This year, ORF lost three eminent scholars—Professor Hari Vasudevan, Professor K.V. Kesavan, and Dr. Joyeeta Bhattacharjee. As an institution, ORF would like to pay its condolences to their families, friends and loved ones. Their work has enriched their respective fields of research and will continue to be passed down the generations as excellent pieces of scholarship. They will be deeply missed by all at ORF.



ORF MOURNS THE DEMISE OF

**DR. JOYEETA BHATTACHARJEE**  
SENIOR FELLOW

WHO PASSED AWAY  
ON  
20/04/2021

A scholar of South Asia, Joyeeta was a champion of the India-Bangladesh relationship. Research and engagements on the bilateral relationship were made richer by her contributions.

Joyeeta was a vital member of ORF for 15 years. Our thoughts are with her family and friends at this difficult time. She will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.



ORF MOURNS THE DEMISE OF

**PROF. K.V. KESAVAN**  
VISITING DISTINGUISHED FELLOW

WHO PASSED AWAY  
ON  
19/04/2021

Prof Kesavan was one of India's foremost scholars on East Asian Studies. He was a recipient of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan's Order of the Rising Sun for his exceptional contributions to the India-Japan scholarship.

He was with ORF for 11 years, and we will miss him greatly. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. We grieve with them at this time.



ORF mourns the demise of

**PROF HARI VASUDEVAN,**  
Distinguished Fellow at the Kolkata Centre,

who passed away on May 10, 2020.

Hari was a fine scholar with a distinguished career spanning more than 4 decades. He was President, IDS, Kolkata & Professor at Dept of History, Calcutta University.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.



# Research

Programmes at ORF are 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.



# The Centre for New Economic Diplomacy

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Centre for New Economic Diplomacy (CNED) is committed to discovering solutions, building transnational partnerships, and strengthening multi-stakeholder responses to the challenges that confront the global community. The Centre focuses on South and South-East Asia, the African continent and the Indo-Pacific region; recognising that these geographies are witnessing the most important development challenges and are designing a new growth paradigm that is cognizant of a world constrained by the pandemic, climate change, people enabled by technology and an uncertain future.

## **A QUICK VIEW OF THE PAST**

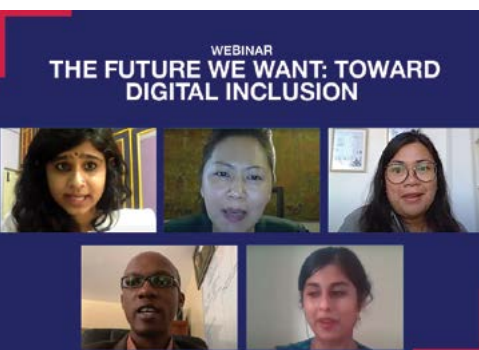
CNED produced a series of research papers on the challenges that countries like India faced and the possible solutions that can be achieved through international cooperation. The Centre also launched a video series titled, 'CNED Development Dialogues', in which the faculty conducted interviews with leading experts in the areas of health, gender, climate change, and technology policy to present complex policy issues to the public in an easily accessible manner. Gender was a cross-cutting issue in all the research streams. Research was organised around four pillars, viz., health, climate change, technology, and development cooperation.

## **VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

The devastation brought about by COVID-19, along with the climate crisis, has brought the world to the cusp of transformative changes. The pandemic has not only set back efforts to realise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); there is little clarity on the kind of global order that will emerge post pandemic. In an altered political and economic landscape, a 'business as usual' approach to engaging with the world is not desirable. Therefore, the Centre's research in the coming year will focus on how to address the grave challenges of health, extreme climate events, poverty, economic recession, and hunger through regional and international cooperation. The coming year's research is organised around the following pillars: Human capital, climate change, technology, gender, and development cooperation.

# The Centre for New Economic Diplomacy

## EVENTS



**Date:** August 12, 2020

**Name:** The Future We Want: Toward Digital Inclusion

**Description:** As digital tools and services have become the lifeblood of societies and economies, there is a need to expand the scope of what it means to build an inclusive future economy, including bridging divides based on geography, identity, gender and literacy. The webinar focused on how to truly achieve inclusive digital growth.

**Speakers:**

- Ephraim Kenyanito, Lawyer, Public Policy Analyst, ARTICLE19
- Keyzom Ngodup Massally, Asia Pacific Regional Lead, The Better than Cash Alliance
- Lourdes Montenegro, Lead, Digital Sector Transformation, World Benchmarking Alliance
- Radhika Radhakrishnan, Researcher, Internet Democracy Project

**Moderator:** Trisha Ray, Associate Fellow, ORF

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**Date:** October 21, 2020

**Name:** COVID-19's Impact on India-Africa Climate Action Plans

**Description:** This discussion is the eighth episode of the CNED Development Dialogues. It discusses the impact of COVID-19 on meeting the climate agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. It explores the kind of partnership required between India and Africa to push for a clean energy transition in a post-COVID era.

**Speakers:**

- Aparna Roy, Associate Fellow and Lead, Climate Change and Energy, at the Centre for New Economic Diplomacy (CNED), ORF
- Youba Sokona, Vice-Chair, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

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# The Centre for New Economic Diplomacy

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# Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology

**MISSION STATEMENT** Critical and emerging technologies are growing ever more enmeshed with geopolitics and international relations. With the future of economies, societies and security at the forefront, nations are racing to shape—rather than be shaped by—the global trajectory of these technologies.

The mission of the Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology (CSST) is to lead global conversations and foster new ideas on the impact of technology on national and international security and its implications for India, the Indo-Pacific and the global order; to inform and amplify Indian perspectives through dialogue with established and emerging voices; to invest in robust, multi-disciplinary research and scholarship in these domains; and to partner with governments, academia, the think tank and policy community in order to create a multi-stakeholder base that is invested in our common tech futures.

**A QUICK VIEW OF THE PAST** Over the past year, CSST has worked to expand India's tech partnerships with the Indo-Pacific (including Quad) with projects under the Quad Tech Network in areas such as 5G resilience. The Centre is also working on an AICCTP grants (2021-23) project on quantum meta-ethics with the University of Sydney. In another study with Australia, the Centre is working with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) on a project studying the effects of COVID-19 on the digital economies of Southeast Asia, suggesting how and where digital and emerging technologies may be able to help with its post-pandemic recovery, and identifying opportunities for India and Australia to engage with.



# Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology

CSST additionally explored new arenas of geopolitics and technologies, including intersections with space, nuclear, climate change and supply chains. The Centre has worked to expand its outreach within the Indian nuclear community as well as space community through its research publications, workshops and webinars on areas such as frameworks for nuclear safety and security, assessing the weaponisation of space, and the need for an open Indian space policy.

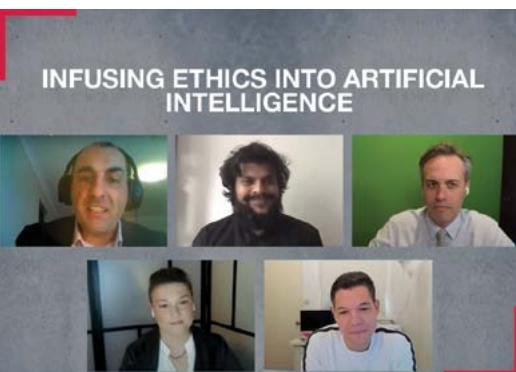
## **VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

CSST aims to expand its outreach and move from vision documents to concrete areas of cooperation in the areas of tech, nuclear, space, cyber, and other critical and emerging technologies. Key themes for the Centre in the future include: Surveillance, encryption and privacy; tech cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, the intersection of cyber and nuclear security, frontier technologies and the geopolitical implications of uneven access to tech (Quantum, AI etc); and propelling innovation in India's space capabilities and global nuclear security governance.

The Centre—through research, collaboration, public events and workshops—intends to amplify discussions at a national and international level on nuclear, space and emerging technologies. Further, it aims to be the leading space for national and global conversations and research in these domains through partnerships with governments, academia, and the think tank and policy community.

# Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology

## EVENTS



**Date:** November 8, 2020

**Name:** Infusing Ethics Into Artificial Intelligence

**Description:** This webinar brought together experts from the tech industry, particularly the Artificial Intelligence (AI) sector, to discuss the importance of ethics in the building of AI. What happens if there are unintended consequences of AI? For example, when AI incorrectly identifies someone in a criminal investigation due to inaccuracies in AI-based facial recognition technology. The discussion focused on why ethics is foundational to AI and why companies and organisations are increasingly offering programmes to help employees put ethics at the core of their respective workflows.

**Speakers:**

- David Hardoon, Senior Advisor on Data & AI, Union Bank of the Philippines
- Edward Santow, Human Rights Commissioner, Australia
- Kathy Baxter, Architect, Ethical AI Practice, Salesforce, USA
- Rahul Panicker, Chief Innovation Officer, Wadhvani AI, India

**Moderator:** Sassoon Grigorian, Senior Director, Government Affairs, Salesforce

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# Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology



**Date:** May 10, 2020

**Name:** Are India's ICBMs and Nuclear Submarines an Expensive Mistake?

Following the 2017 Doklam standoff, most Indian analysis has concluded that China holds a conventional and nuclear edge over India. However, a report by Frank O'Donnell and Alexander Bollfrass suggests that this pessimistic Indian assessment of the balance of forces may be mistaken and a poor guide for Indian security policy. This conversation with O'Donnell, author of the report, explores the India-China relationship with regard to border security issues and military forces and discusses potentially more efficient usage of the Indian defense budget.

**Speakers:**

- Angad Singh, Project Coordinator, Strategic Studies Programme, ORF
- Frank O'Donnell, Postdoctoral Scholar in the Rising Power Alliances Project, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and Nonresident Fellow, South Asia Program, Stimson Center
- Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan, Director of the Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology (CSST), ORF

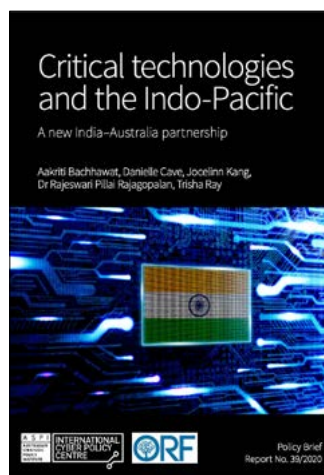
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# Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology

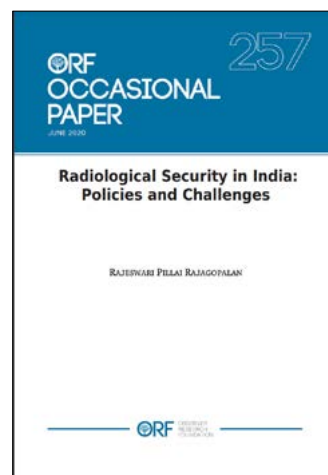
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# Centre for the Economy and Growth

**MISSION STATEMENT** Three major shifts will play out rapidly during the 2020s: The transition from villages to cities, the transition to low-carbon modes of production and consumption, and the transition to an increasingly digital world. The effects of these will be felt by all economic actors: Business, markets and finance, as well as workers, consumers and communities. To attain India's goal of becoming a US \$10 trillion economy by the end of the decade, these shifts will have to be harnessed effectively. The Centre for the Economy & Growth conducts research, produces commentary, and provides platforms along five major verticals—Urban Futures, the Green Transition, the New Social Contract, Energy and Resource Security, and Political Economy and Reform. The Centre produces, deliberates on, and promotes policies to reconcile India's political and development aspirations with the imperative of sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

**A QUICK VIEW OF THE PAST** Over the past year, the Centre for the Economy and Growth has focused its efforts on analysing the effects of the pandemic on the macro-economy and welfare, and on how to ensure that the post-pandemic recovery for India and other emerging economies is sustainable, inclusive, and timely. Shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic hit, we produced research and commentary that examined the pandemic's effect on commodity and oil-exporting nations, and also published a significant body of work on how migrants and vulnerable workers were affected, including care workers and women. The Centre contributed effectively to analysis of the government's relief and recovery packages. It also worked on designing mechanisms and institutions that would ensure the free flow of investible funds in order to speed India's emergence from the pandemic-related recession. The Centre also continued its broader work on institutional design for a more inclusive and greener financial system.



# Centre for the Economy and Growth

## VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Going forward, the Centre for the Economy and Growth intends to sharpen its focus on the design of a sustainable recovery. We take the optimistic view that the emergence from the pandemic provides a unique opportunity for a sustainable and inclusive redesign of multiple economic and geo-economic systems—from the flows of international finance, to energy sources, to urban mobility, to resilient supply chains. These are all in flux thanks to the pandemic, and the Centre's research will focus on the institutional and other changes necessary in order to ensure that the new post-pandemic order is supportive of the aspirations of India and other liberal democracies in the emerging world. We also intend to examine India's position as a global leader going into COP26 and COP27. Our work on infrastructure finance and modelling of the green transition will continue, as well as the Centre's scrutiny of the Indian recovery and government packages for green and long-term elements. We will also intensify our efforts on the analysis of urban recovery and redesign and on the future of work globally post the pandemic.

# Centre for the Economy and Growth

## EVENTS



**Date:** February 2, 2021

**Name:** Towards Resilient Cities: Lessons from the Pandemic (Colaba Conversation 2021)

**Description:** This session was hosted as part of the Colaba Conversation 2021, ORF Mumbai's flagship conference on the future of globalised cities and states. It looked at how city governance, city planning, and the allocation of resources, investments and financing must be integrated with community engagement to build back better and build back together post the pandemic.

**Speakers:**

- Ashwini Bhide, Additional Municipal Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, India
- Nicholas Brooke, Chairman, Urban Land Institute Asia Pacific, Hong Kong
- Regina Ramos, Deputy Director, Pilots and Innovation, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, United States
- Shruti Narayan, Regional Director, South and West Asia Regions, C40 Cities, India

**Moderator:** Aditi Ratho, Associate Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, India

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**Date:** July 23, 2020

**Name:** The Case for a Green Frontier Superfund

**Description:** The discussion provided an overview of green finance, the differing priorities and needs across sectors, and the institutional and regulatory structures that will need to be put in place to achieve a green transition in India.

**Speakers:**

- Jayant Sinha, Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, India
- Kate Hampton, CEO, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, United Kingdom

**Moderator:** Mitali Mukherjee, Fellow, ORF, India

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# Centre for the Economy and Growth

## BOOK LAUNCH FOSSIL FREE: REIMAGINING CLEAN ENERGY IN A CARBON-CONSTRAINED WORLD



**Date:** December 13, 2020

**Name:** Book Launch—Fossil Free: Reimagining Clean Energy in a Carbon-Constrained World

**Description:** The current global energy use, with its overwhelming dependence on fossil fuels, has taken global warming to dangerous levels. In the last decade, a major transformation—the transition to clean, affordable and sustainable energy from the sun and the wind—is beginning to address these challenges. Fossil Free: Reimagining Clean Energy in a Carbon-Constrained World provides a concise introduction to the challenges, realities and complexities of the global and local energy industry, as well as the trends and

forces driving the energy transition.

### Speakers:

- Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, India
- Kate Hampton, CEO, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, UK
- Sumant Sinha, Chairman and Managing Director, ReNew Power and author of Fossil Free

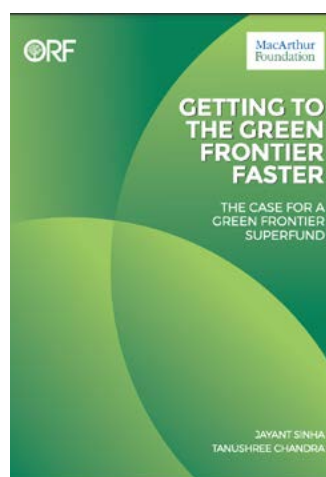
**Moderator:** Samir Saran, President, ORF, India

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# Strategic Studies Programme

**MISSION STATEMENT** The Strategic Studies Programme seeks to shape India's foreign policy and national security choices by deepening understanding and identifying policy interventions on contemporary Indian and global debates. The programme offers original analysis—a mix of theoretical, historical, and practical perspectives—through extensive academic research, interdisciplinary studies, data-driven analysis, and engagement with experts and policymakers. The programme's outreach activities, in the form of seminars and roundtables as well as collaborations with ORF's growing network of global partners, serve to enhance and frame growing public debate, domestically and around the world, on India's power and its purpose.

**A QUICK VIEW OF THE PAST** The year gone by saw the programme adjusting to the 'new normal' ushered in by the COVID-19 pandemic. It allowed the researchers to engage with a range of national and global stakeholders in a virtual setup on key themes: The state of global (dis)order post-COVID-19; institutional infirmities and normative shifts; increasing great power contestation; emergence of middle powers; evolving strategic contours in the Indo-Pacific, Eurasia and Africa; maritime challenges and opportunities in and around South Asia; trends in India's neighbourhood; Indian foreign and national security policies; and the changing nature of extremism in India. The programme made important interventions in all the above mentioned areas by producing academic research, policy studies as well as through extensive outreach engagements.

# Strategic Studies Programme

## VISION FOR THE FUTURE

India is today unmistakably global as it anchors itself as a regional and global stakeholder. A disordered world and the advent of new challenges call for a contemporary understanding of power transitions, key geographies, global institutions, and security threats, critical to inform choices for an evolving and emergent India.

In 2021–22, the Strategic Studies Programme will continue to track regional and global developments and trends that implicate India's capacities and options, now and in the future.

A continuing power transition mandates more scrutiny into Chinese history, politics, and society, and how these are shaping Beijing's foreign policy choices. Rediscovered geographies will likewise continue to be a key and expanding focus area, whether the broad Indo-Pacific and Eurasian spaces, or sub-regions in India's immediate and extended neighbourhood. The programme will increasingly look to offer a comprehensive situation analysis of evolving traditional and non-traditional threats to India's national security. It will also increasingly deliberate on the contours of the geopolitics of technology and what they mean for the changing nature of competition and warfare.

One of the key projects this year would entail a survey of Indian youth and their foreign policy worldview.

The future research agenda aims to be forward-looking.

# Strategic Studies Programme

## EVENTS



**Date:** June 28, 2021

**Name:** The Future of India and EU Relations

**Description:** ORF, in collaboration with the Embassy of Portugal in India, hosted a series of virtual discussions as part of the Portugal-India Series. As Portugal took over the European Union Presidency from January 2021 to July 2021, this series explored ways to strengthen relations and foster greater cooperation between India and the EU. This series saw participation by the Portuguese and Indian Foreign Ministers.

**Speakers:**

- S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, India
- Augusto Santos Silva, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Portugal

**Moderator:** Samir Saran, President, ORF, India

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# Strategic Studies Programme



**Date:** March 5–6, 2021

**Name:** Exploring Connectivity in the Bay of Bengal Region: Importance of India's Northeast

**Description:** This Conference, organised by ORF Kolkata in collaboration with the Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata, brought together academics, policy makers and other stakeholders, for an engaging exchange of ideas on the importance of India's Northeast against the backdrop of the Bay of Bengal and wider Indo-Pacific. Featuring renowned experts, the three business sessions were devoted to the themes of trade and development; maritime connectivity; and significance of BIMSTEC, with respect to the

Northeast.

**Inaugural Address:** Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

**Address:** Nakamura Yutaka, Consul General, Consulate General of Japan, Kolkata

**Special Address:**

- Tariq Karim, Former Bangladesh Ambassador to India
- Lt. Gen. Subrata Saha (Retd.), PVSM, UYSM, VSM, Director — School of Military Affairs, Strategy and Logistics, Rashtriya Raksha University; Member, National Security Advisory Board

**Valedictory Remarks:** Matsumoto Katsuo, Head of JICA in India

**Chairs:**

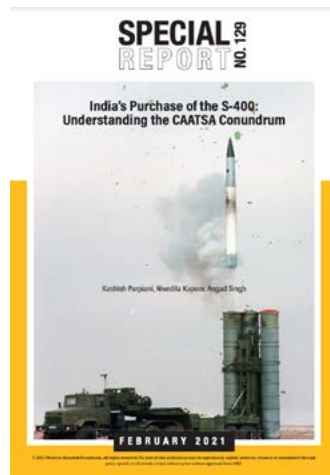
- Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, Senior Fellow, ORF, India
- Harsh V. Pant, Director of Studies; Head—Strategic Studies Programme, ORF, India
- Nilanjan Ghosh, Director, ORF Kolkata, ORF, India

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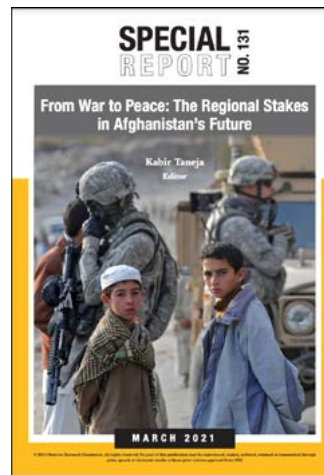


# Strategic Studies Programme

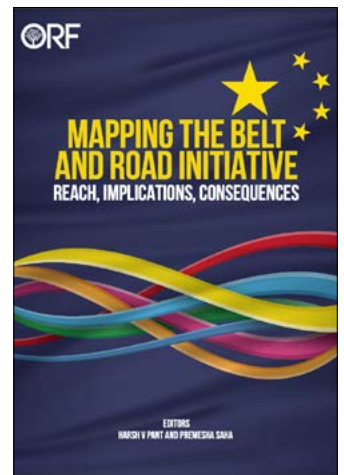
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# Inclusive Growth & SDGs

**MISSION STATEMENT** The Inclusive Growth and SDGs programme is driven by the question, “Can we emerge as the generation to end extreme poverty, combat the climate challenge, bring about distributive justice, and create a more egalitarian and equal world than what exists today?” The programme is aimed at creating a transdisciplinary framework to recast the development paradigm, thereby, challenging the present reductionist development thinking that is solely focused on economic growth without any consideration of the concomitant spatial and temporal distributional issues and the environmental externalities.

The mission of the programme is to conduct rigorous research and inform policy- and decision-makers about the complex problems at the interface of environment, development, society, economy, culture, health, education, amongst others, and their possible resolution mechanisms. For addressing the concern of inclusive growth, the programme attempts to take up the various challenges entailing the four fundamental forms of capital that enable development: Human, natural, manufactured, and social.

**A QUICK VIEW OF THE PAST** The programme has so far intervened in the domains of environment and development; blue economy, water governance and hydro-politics; food and nutritional security; development cooperation; energy security; and gender. A large part of FY20-21’s research and events have also gone towards understanding the impact of the pandemic on the various SDGs and other development parameters. This is more so as a fundamental form of capital, namely, human capital, was worst hit by the pandemic.

On the other hand, ORF has developed partnerships with the Water Diplomacy programme of MIT-Tufts-Harvard University, and hosted the Ganga-Padma Dialogue

# Inclusive Growth & SDGs

in 2017. This collaboration has also resulted in important research on floods and droughts in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna basin. It has also partnered with the World Bank, and later with the British FCDO, on Bangladesh-India cooperation in the Sundarbans. ORF also collaborated with the Japanese government through the Consulate office for events and a series of paper publications on the development of India's Northeast.

## **VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

The future research direction will entail aspects on understanding the institutional issues related to food crisis and famine under various governance regimes (e.g., Africa and the North Korea); assessing the relationship between SDG achievement, forms of governance and business environment across nations; the policy regimes, regulatory instruments and public perceptions on adoption of electric vehicles in India; creation of green taxonomies for India and the developing world; delineating the Blue Economy challenges in the Indo-Pacific; understanding and addressing the governance challenges of the Himalayan river systems; climate change and adaptation in the BIMSTEC region; understanding the linkages between natural resource security and nutritional security; using ecological economic instruments for natural resource governance; understanding pandemic preparedness for the future; and understanding the post-pandemic development priorities. The highlight of the programme will also be the use of various state-of-the-art and innovative methodological and theoretical frameworks to create a trans-disciplinary approach to address the areas of interest listed above.

# Inclusive Growth & SDGs

## EVENTS



**Date:** May 8, 2020

**Name:** Kolkata Friday Afternoon Talk Series #9 on The Appearance of the Invisible: Migrant Workers During COVID-19 in India

**Description:** This panel discussed the impact of nation-wide lockdowns on migrant workers who worked daily wage jobs and were menial labourers in big cities while hailing from rural and semi-urban areas themselves. Lockdown triggered an exodus of such workers from their places of employment, bringing to the fore the questions of social security and safety nets and workers' rights.

**Speakers:**

- Baijayant Panda, National Vice President and Spokesperson, Bharatiya Janata Party
- Subir Bhaumik, Veteran BBC Correspondent, Author and presently Editorial Director of the Asian news website, The Eastern Link
- Manish K. Jha, Professor, School of Social Work, TISS, Mumbai

**Moderator:** Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, Senior Fellow, ORF

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# Inclusive Growth & SDGs

WEBINAR  
STRATEGIC AND MANAGED RETREAT  
ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE



**Date:** June 29, 2020

**Name:** Strategic and Managed Retreat: Adaptation to Climate Change

**Description:** The webinar looked at the rising number of climate change-induced storms in the ecologically fragile but important Sundarban region. The panellists discussed how a 'business-as-usual' outlook post a natural calamity only results in mounting risks. Strategic and managed retreat, on the other hand, from at-risk locations, can deliver on the development and conservation goals. It can help build on climate resilience as well.

**Opening Remarks** - Nilanjan Ghosh, Director, ORF Kolkata, ORF

**Speaker:** A.R. Siders, Faculty, Disaster Research Center, Biden School of Public Policy, University of Delaware, USA

**Moderator:** Anamitra Anurag Danda, Senior Visiting Fellow, ORF

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# Inclusive Growth & SDGs

KOLKATA FRIDAY AFTERNOON TALK SERIES # 13  
THE FLUID MOSAIC: VARIOUS SHADES OF  
INTERSTATE WATER CONFLICTS IN INDIA



**Date:** September 18, 2020

**Name:** Kolkata Friday Afternoon Talk Series #3 on The Fluid Moscaic: Various Shades Of Interstate Water Conflicts In India.

**Description:** Interstate water conflicts are a recurring phenomenon in India. Despite water use falling in the purview of the States, it is subject to the provisions of Entry 56 of List I of the Indian Constitution that allows the Union to intervene in interstate water disputes. Also, ‘interstate water’ has been explicitly mentioned in the Union List, but not in the State List. The discussion deliberated on laws such as statutory provisions that seek to resolve problems against the backdrop of complex social-political-cultural realities, the economics of the interstate waters and the role of economic instruments, and the challenges and opportunities of governing the interstate waters from a policy perspective.

**Speakers:**

- Purnamita Dasgupta, Chair Professor in Environmental Economics and Head, Environmental and Resource Economics Unit, Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi Enclave; Coordinating Lead Author, IPCC AR5
- Shashi Shekar, Former Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation; Member, Drafting Committee, National Water Policy
- Srinivas Chokkakula, MoJS (Ministry of Jal Shakti) Research Chair—Water Conflicts and Governance; Member, Drafting Committee, National Water Policy

**Moderator** - Nilanjan Ghosh, Director, ORF Kolkata, ORF

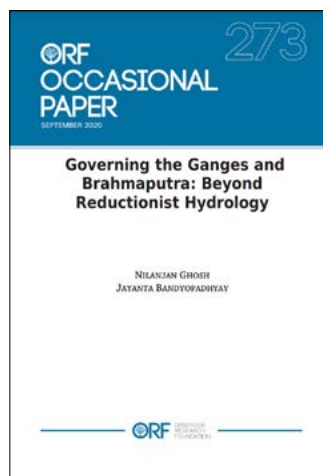
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# Inclusive Growth & SDGs

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# Geoeconomics Programme

**MISSION STATEMENT** The Geoeconomics programme focuses on the study of India's economic, business, financial and trading relationship with the world. In particular, the programme focuses on four themes: Economic multilateralism, business and geopolitics, global trading systems and international financial architecture. The Programme focused on India's role at the G20 and BRICS, the changing narratives on trade and globalisation, implications for India in the emerging geoeconomics of the Indo-Pacific, strengthening bilateral economic relations, and the role of cities as emerging geoeconomic centres in the world.

**A QUICK VIEW OF THE PAST** The programme's work on the G20 was underlined by a conference organised between mid-december 2020 and early January 2021 exploring how India can contribute towards developing a 'long view' for global governance at the G20. The experts were also invited by the UN and the G20 for their research and expertise, particularly on issues related to financial transparency.

For BRICS, an essay compendium was published called the Future of BRICS, with contributions from authors from all BRICS nations on multilateralism, digitalisation, international security, and climate change and SDGs. They organised a series of dialogues with experts from BRICS nations on issues of global health, international security, women-led growth, multilateralism, and climate change. The summary and takeaways were then published in the *Road to BRICS Academic Forum* report.



# Geoeconomics Programme

Other issues such as globalisation, international trade, role of business in India's foreign policy, and role of India in the geoeconomics of the Indo-Pacific were covered during ORF's signature forums such as the Colaba Conversation and closed-door roundtables.

## VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Economic multilateralism will continue to remain an important focus area as India completes its presidency of the BRICS in 2021 and enters the troika for chairing the G20 in 2023. Multilateralism will be a key focus area for all our Forums including the Colaba Conversation in December 2021.

Similarly, a continuing focus will be on international financial architecture, particularly emerging global rules and regulations under design and negotiation at the G20, WTO, IMF and FSB, which are likely to have implications for India.

As the Quad strengthens and the Indo-Pacific becomes an important theatre for geoeconomics, we will examine the inter-linkages, especially for Indian and Quad-based multinationals for critical supply chains. A special focus on the influence of business on geopolitics and the role of business in India's foreign policy will be initiated. The Colaba Conversation in December 2021 will explore this issue in greater detail.

COP26 in November 2021 is an opportunity for enhanced debate on climate finance. The main global financial regulations, standards and instruments that India needs to meet its climate goals will be examined.

# Geoeconomics Programme

## EVENTS



**Date:** November 26, 2021

**Name:** BRICS Academic Forum 2021

**Description:** ORF in partnership with Research and Information System For Developing Countries (RIS) hosted the BRICS Academic Forum 2021. The Forum is a Track II, peer-to-peer platform where experts, academics and policymakers get together to discuss contemporary issues. This dialogue explored how BRICS can design and propagate a new, inclusive model of global economic recovery, one that respects and accounts for the characteristics of developing nations.

**Inaugural Address:** Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, India

**Valedictory Address:** Ambassador Sanjay Bhattacharyya, India's BRICS Sherpa and Secretary (CPV&OIA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

**Opening and Concluding Remarks:** Samir Saran, President, ORF, India

**Vote of Thanks and Closing Remarks:** Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India

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# Geoeconomics Programme



**Date:** June 8, 2021

**Name:** Addressing risk and transparency in international capital flows (roundtable) and International Finance: Still fit for purpose? (Panel)

**Description:** ORF, in partnership with ISPI (T20 Italy Chair under Italy's G20 presidency) and with the support of BSE organised a roundtable and a panel discussion on the international financial system.

**Special address:** K. Rajaraman, Additional Secretary, International Economic Relations, Ministry of Finance, India

**Speakers:**

- Ashish Kumar Chauhan, MD and CEO, BSE, India
- Franco Bruni, Vice President, Italian Institute for International Political Studies; Lead Co-Chair, T20 Taskforce International Finance 2021; Member, European Shadow Financial Regulatory Committee, Italy
- Tom Cardamone, President and CEO, Global Financial Integrity, USA
- Shilpa Kumar, Partner, Omidyar Network, India
- Alicia García-Herrero, Senior Fellow, Bruegel; Chief Economist, Asia Pacific, Natixis

**Moderator:** Akshay Mathur, Director, ORF Mumbai and Head of ORF Geoeconomics Studies Programme; Co-Chair, T20 2021 Taskforce on International Finance, India

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# Geoeconomics Programme

## BRICS ACADEMIC DIALOGUE ON FUTURE OF WORK: TOWARDS A WOMEN-LED GROWTH FRAMEWORK



**Date:** June 2, 2021

**Name:** BRICS Academic Dialogues On Future Of Work: Towards A Women-led Growth Framework

**Description:** This dialogue explored case studies from BRICS nations that can help seed ideas for women-led growth and examine the idea of having BRICS create a common framework for women-led growth, particularly in light of the fact that the gains made in gender equality over the past few decades were reversed during the pandemic, with many women leaving their jobs and having to take on the lion's share of home and care work in the midst of national lockdowns.

**Keynote address:** Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, India

**Welcome remarks:** Akshay Mathur, Director, Mumbai Centre; Head, Geoeconomics Studies Programme, India

**Speakers:**

- Sarah Mosoetsa, Chief Executive Officer, National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, South Africa
- Victoria Panova, Managing Director, Russian National Committee on BRICS Research, Russian W20 Representative, Russia
- Joana Mostafa, Senior Researcher, Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA), Brazil
- Rituparna Chakraborty, Co-Founder and Executive VP, Teamlease, India
- Yang Yujing, Associate Researcher, Women's Studies Institute of China, China

**Moderator:** Aditi Ratho, Associate Fellow, ORF

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# Geoeconomics Programme

## PROMINENT PUBLICATIONS

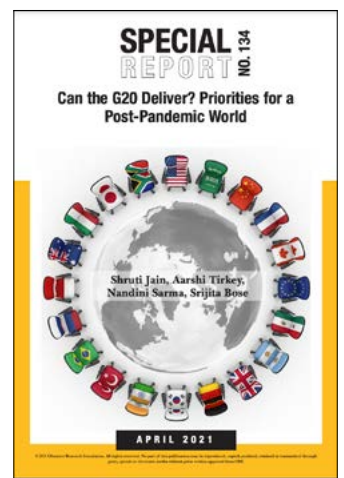
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# Health Initiative

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Health Initiative endeavours to take health, nutrition and their social determinants to the policy high table, and to establish health and nutrition security as important components within the broader national security discourse. This aspect has come to the forefront with the disruption that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused in the economy and society over the last year and a half. The initiative has tracked the national and global pandemic response closely by conducting analyses of up-to-date and relevant datasets, and elevating media discourse through regular publications of evidence-based knowledge products facilitating flow of ideas across borders, and hosting platforms that catalyse cross-learning within the country and across countries. Through its popular COVID-19 Tracker and COVID-19 Vaccine Watch, the initiative provides a real-time picture of developments and relevant analyses of India's pandemic response for a diverse policy audience.

## **A QUICK VIEW OF THE PAST**

The past year was dominated by the daily tracking of different aspects of the pandemic including morbidity levels, mortality rates, testing adequacy and vaccination coverage. In addition to curating digital conversations that added value to the public discourse around the pandemic, the ORF Health Initiative has been prolific in publishing a range of knowledge products, both in-house and commissioned from across the world, giving valuable analysis of the global pandemic response, and pointing to possibilities of cross-learning. As India continues to expand the reach of COVID-19 vaccination to its vast population, the initiative has been closely studying the technical, economic as well as social implications of the pandemic as well as the mammoth response the country has mounted.



# Health Initiative

## VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of investment in health infrastructure and has put health at the top of the policy high table. ORF's Health Initiative will continue to make meaningful interventions in the public discourse around health and nutrition, inform the media narrative, and establish health security as an important component within the broader national security discourse. It aims to continue its analysis of policies impacting the social determinants of health in India, with an emphasis on India's human capital development. Furthermore, it will track the development of the country's nascent social protection system, a process that will possibly be accelerated by the new challenges posed by the pandemic. The initiative will inform this process 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.

# Health Initiative

## EVENTS



**Date:** June 25, 2020

**Name:** Technology, Governance Innovation and the Pandemic: Discussing Responses from South Asia and Africa.

**Description:** This inaugural webinar was the first step towards realising the vision of the ORF Lighthouse Project, which focuses on building transnational partnerships between African, South and Southeast Asian countries, aimed at strengthening multi-stakeholder responses, which could help in the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Speakers:**

- Amitabh Kant, Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog, India
- Ashok Malik, Policy Advisor, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
- Patricia Appiagyei, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana
- Kate Hampton, Chief Executive Officer, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, UK
- Samir Saran, President, ORF, India
- Peter C. Ekweozoh, Director, Environmental Sciences and Technology, Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, Nigeria
- Anir Chowdhury, Policy Advisor, a2i, Bangladesh
- Amandeep Gill, Director, Global Health Centre project, International Digital Health & AI Research Collaborative (I-DAIR)
- Nisha Holla, Technology Fellow, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP)

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# Health Initiative



**Date:** July 19, 2020

**Name:** Digital Launch of the GP-ORF Series—The Viral World

**Description:** The GP-ORF Series titled, *A Viral World*, a collection of articles and essays, was launched digitally in the midst of the pandemic. The essays in the volume paint a wide, anthropological canvas of the impact of the Novel Coronavirus on geopolitics and world trade, public health and policy, socio-economic interactions; in fact, on human behaviour, lives and

livelihoods, in broad strokes. *The Viral World* is the first of a five-part series of policy essays focused on the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Speakers:

- Nirupama Rao, former Foreign Secretary, Government of India
- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairperson and Managing Director, Biocon Limited
- Keshav Desiraju, former Health Secretary, Government of India

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# Urban Policy Initiative

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Urban Policy Research Initiative builds its foundation on SDG-11, which is ‘Sustainable Cities and Communities.’ It is under this theme that it aims to contribute to urban policy formulation at the national and state level, which would provide direction to getting urbanisation “right” and in increasing the quality of urban living. The initiative undertakes research, documentation, and quality writing with a view towards proper understanding of urban issues, processes, and challenges. It aims to promote meaningful debate on urban matters with a view to crystallising opinion and direction. It seeks to craft innovative solutions to expand, and, over a period, encompass other global cities in learning and exchange processes.

## **A QUICK VIEW OF THE PAST**

In 2020-21, the programme objectives were realigned. The programme concentrated on the pandemic and the response of Indian and global cities; on how they have been tackling the immediate concerns arising out of this crisis. The research, writings, and events concentrated on capturing the reactions, highlighting the challenges, and crowdsourcing solutions for an inclusive recovery of cities.

And while we documented these new emerging challenges, we did not lose sight of the fallouts including the vulnerable communities that were impacted by COVID-19. Migrants, slum dwellers and other vulnerable sections of society were hit both socially and financially, and our team of researchers sought to capture these varied issues through research on affordable housing and slum redevelopment.



# Urban Policy Initiative

Cities around the world are moving at different paces, and with a change in work and mobility patterns, there was a renewed thrust on the green recovery of cities. Ideas of walking, cycling, and green mobility found resonance in our programme. Overall, the pandemic shaped our work, but it stayed connected with working on the core philosophy of sustainable cities and communities.

## **VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

In the light of the mission statement of the initiative and the research focus of the staff, we have drawn up a programme where the events/platforms hosted by the initiative are in sync with the projected research output of each researcher. The work will also remain connected with the two themes of COVID-19 response and recovery from the global cities' perspective.

The programme will be undertaking events/projects for the Sustainable Cities programme under four larger themes which coincide with the work/specialisations of the research staff, namely, mobility performance, gender performance, governance and cities, and sustainable, climate-friendly cities.

# Urban Policy Initiative

## EVENTS



**Date:** July 30, 2020

**Name:** Digital Launch of Rethinking Cities in a Post-COVID-19 World

**Description:** This conversation launched the compendium, *Rethinking Cities in a Post-COVID-19 World*. This journal of essays explore the fissures that COVID-19 has exposed in city-planning today, and how urban planning systems can equip themselves better for future pandemic management. The webinar touched upon the relationship between the pandemic and factors like urban health infrastructure, climate resilience, informal settlements, work and social infrastructure.

**Speakers:**

- Arvind Varshney, Advisor, Urban, and Chief Projects Officer, National Institute of Urban Affairs
- Maitreyi Bordia Das, Manager, Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice, World Bank
- Ramanath Jha, Distinguished Fellow, ORF
- Sheetal Ranganathan, VP & Global Head, Life Sciences and Healthcare Operations, EvaluateServe

**Moderator:** Aditi Ratho, Junior Fellow, ORF; Co-editor, Rethinking Cities in a Post-COVID-19 World

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# Urban Policy Initiative



**Date:** July 15, 2020

**Name:** Re-imagining Slums Post COVID-19

**Description:** This webinar discussed the vulnerability of cities, particularly slums. Slums must be comprehensively and inclusively dealt with from the planning, livelihoods, financial and climate aspects. The panelists deliberated upon exploring the priority tasks within these pillars for reimagining slums.

**Speakers:**

- Amita Bhide, Dean, School of Habitat Studies, TISS, India
- Pedro Ortiz, Urban/Metropolitan Planner; Consultant; Senior Fellow, Marron Institute, New York University, USA
- Priya Deshingkar, Professor of Migration and Development, School of Global Studies, University of Sussex, UK
- Ramanath, Jha, Distinguished Fellow, ORF

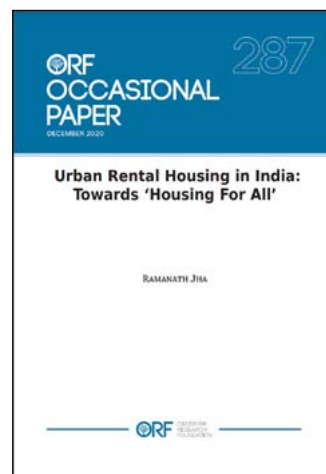
**Moderator:** Sayli Udas-Mankikar, Senior Fellow, ORF, India

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# Eurasian Studies

**MISSION STATEMENT** Eurasian Studies aims to promote a better understanding in India about Russia, Central Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and vice versa. The programme seeks to track emerging regional trends, foster closer cooperation with key stakeholders, and provide fresh inputs on leading policy issues in these geographies. Towards this end, stronger engagement with various organisations from Russia, Central Asia, Eastern and Central Europe, the US, Japan, and Iran was pursued. The endeavour is to build on these collaborative efforts, and further expand closer engagement with research and policy making communities in Eurasia.

**A QUICK VIEW OF THE PAST** The programme's research for the year was, to a large extent, determined by the impact of the pandemic on the international system. This was reflected in works produced on issues related to great power competition, multilateralism, and ideology—from the perspective of better understanding Russian policy. The key issues explored under these themes related to Russia's relations with the US, China, India, the EU, Central Asia and Afghanistan. The programme also looked at domestic political developments, security policies, and theoretical dimensions of Russia's policy of Greater Eurasia. This helps better understand the long-term trajectory, ambitions, and challenges of future India-Russia relations, as well as the kind of power Russia will emerge to be. The events organised on these themes led to sharing of ideas with international partners and helped build a better understanding of India-Russia relations in the broader discourse.

Despite the pandemic, strong interactions developed with the Moscow-based Valdai Club and the IMEMO, the Washington-based Wilson Center, Tehran-based IPIS, Tashkent-based ISRS and the Tokyo-based Sasakawa Foundation.

## **VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

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The geography of Eurasia has steadily gained in importance in recent years, in light of the world system undergoing a churn.

A region populated by several leading powers, possessing immense resources and potential, Eurasia has emerged as an area for great power competition. As India's aspirations in this region also expand, the effort will focus on producing research and building relationships that better inform policy making in this domain. This will be buttressed through fostering closer links with relevant organisations across Central Asia, Russia, Central and Eastern Europe, as well as others like the United States, Japan, and Iran. This includes increased long-term collaborations with academic, policymaking, intellectual, business, and research communities across this geography through regular bilateral dialogues, webinars, and exchange of ideas and research.

## EVENTS



**Date:** May 15, 2020

**Name:** The India-Russia Bilateral Relationship

**Description:** The Valdai Discussion Club, in partnership with ORF, brought together experts from Russia and India to discuss the future of the India-Russia relationship. The speakers delved into how current events have affected relations between Moscow and Delhi and how other major powers will influence relations between Russia and India. The panel also discussed whether the post-pandemic world would bring new problems or new opportunities in the bilateral relationship.

**Speakers:**

- Timofei Borisov, Research Fellow, Center for Analysis of Strategies and Technologies (CAST), Russia
- Anuradha Chenoy, former Dean at School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India
- Sanjay Despande, Director, Centre for Central Eurasian Studies, University of Mumbai
- Nivedita Kapoor, Junior Fellow, ORF, India
- Vasily Kashin, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Comprehensive European and International Studies, HSE University, Russia
- Alexey Kupriyanov, Senior Research Fellow, Sector of International Organisations and Global Political Regulation, Department of International Political Problems, IMEMO, RAS, Russia
- Fyodor Lukyanov, Research Director, Valdai Discussion Club, Russia
- Nandan Unnikrishnan, Distinguished Fellow, ORF, India

**Moderator:** Timofei Bordachev, Programme Director, Valdai Discussion Club, Russia

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## THE FUTURE OF SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION

Valdai Discussion Club



**Date:** November 26, 2021

**Name:** The Future of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

**Description:** The Valdai Discussion Club in partnership with the Observer Research Foundation hosted a webinar to discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic has reopened the debate over the ineffectiveness of multilateral institutions, which has been fuelled not only by the current crisis, but also by the prospect of the US-China confrontation escalating. The experts in the panel discussed the SCO's ability to become a leading organisation in the new world order and India and Russia's perception of the rise of China.

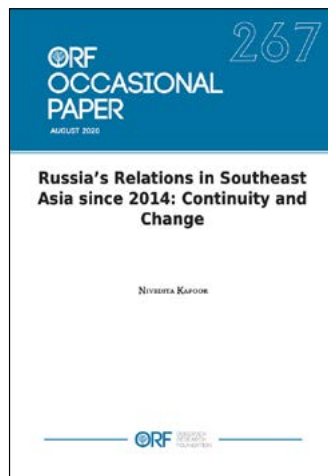
### Speakers:

- Timofei Bordachev, Programme Director, Valdai Discussion Club, Russia
- Vasily Kashin, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Comprehensive European and International Studies, National Research University, Higher School of Economics, Russia
- Alexey Kupriyanov, Senior Research Fellow, Sector of International Organisations and Global Political Regulation, Department of International Political Problems, IMEMO, RAS, Russia
- Ambassador Asoke Kumar Mukerji, Permanent Representative of India to the UN (2013–2015)
- Sriparna Pathak, Deputy Dean, Jindal School of International Affairs, OP Jindal Global University, India

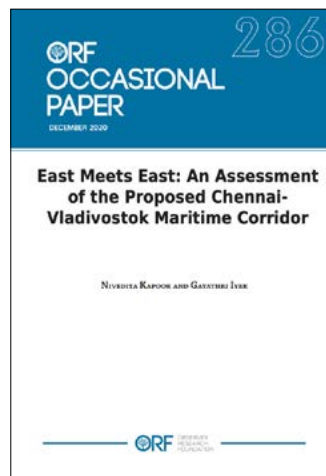
**Moderator:** Nandan Unnikrishnan, Distinguished Fellow, ORF, India

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## PROMINENT PUBLICATIONS



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# Neighbourhood Studies Initiative

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Neighbourhood First Policy is an important component of India's foreign policy affecting the economic, diplomatic, political and security engagement in the region. A nation's destiny is linked to its neighbourhood; it 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.

## **A QUICK VIEW OF THE PAST**

Over the past year, the Neighbourhood Studies programme held a number of events to discuss the situation in Afghanistan and in Kashmir. Apart from a few long-form papers, the scholars were regularly commenting on developments in the region. Members of the programme were also active in the media through their writings and commentary on television. They also participated in interactions organised by other ORF centres with scholars from across the world. The programme also participated and intervened in the discussions held during the Counter-Terrorism week organised by the United Nations Counter Terrorism Centre.

## **VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

The main focus of the Neighbourhood Studies Programme will be on the extremely serious security challenges that are likely to emanate from Afghanistan and Pakistan to the West of India, as also on the developments in these countries and their repercussions on India. At the same time, the programme will explore possibilities of collaborative projects with other neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal to build upon convergences and also discuss some dissonance in India's relationship with these countries. The strategic and security aspects will, of course, dominate, but focus will not shift from the increasing importance of economics and connectivity in the region.

# Neighbourhood Studies Initiative

## EVENTS



**Date:** June 9, 18 and 30, 2020

**Name:** The Future of Afghanistan—Great Power Perspective

**Description:** This event was a three part series of discussions on the future of Afghanistan with scholars, analysts and policymakers from Afghanistan, Pakistan, US, Russia, the Central Asian states and India,

**SPEAKERS:**

- Luke Coffey, Director, Douglas & Sarah Allison Centre for Foreign Policy, Heritage Foundation, USA
- Ivan Safranchuk, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of International Research, MGIMO University, Russia
- Rakesh Sood, Distinguished Fellow, ORF and Former Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan
- Mariam Wardak, Founder, Her Afghanistan

**MODERATOR -**

Nandan Unnikrishnan, Distinguished Fellow, ORF, India

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# Neighbourhood Studies Initiative



**Date:** May 27, 2020

**Name:** ORF Kashmir Dialogue

**Description:** The ORF Kashmir Dialogue consisted of discussions focused on the security, political and social conditions in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the likely challenges that could emerge in the future. The Dialogue brought together expert voices to discuss the current situation in the Union Territory and to deliberate on how the security situation is likely to evolve as well as the roadmap for restoring the political process in the region.

**Speakers:**

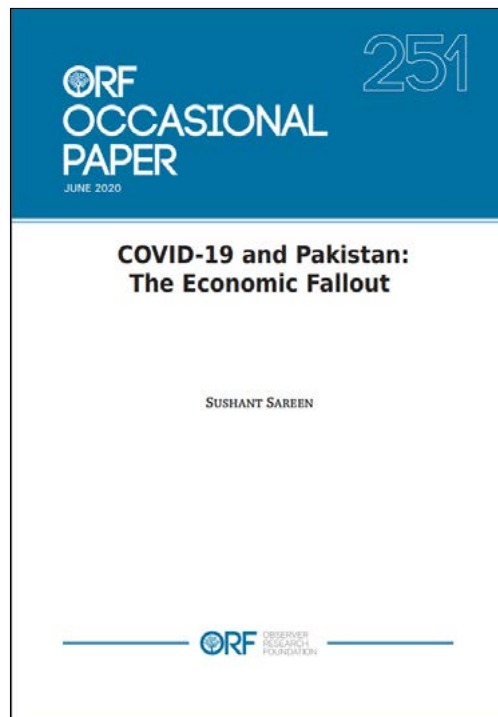
- S.P Vaid, Former Director General, Jammu and Kashmir Police
- Imran Ansari, Former J&K minister and prominent religious leader
- Praveen Swami, Security Analyst and Consulting Editor, Network18
- Navnita Chadha Behera, Academic and author of multiple books on Kashmir

**Moderator:** Sushant Sareen, Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation

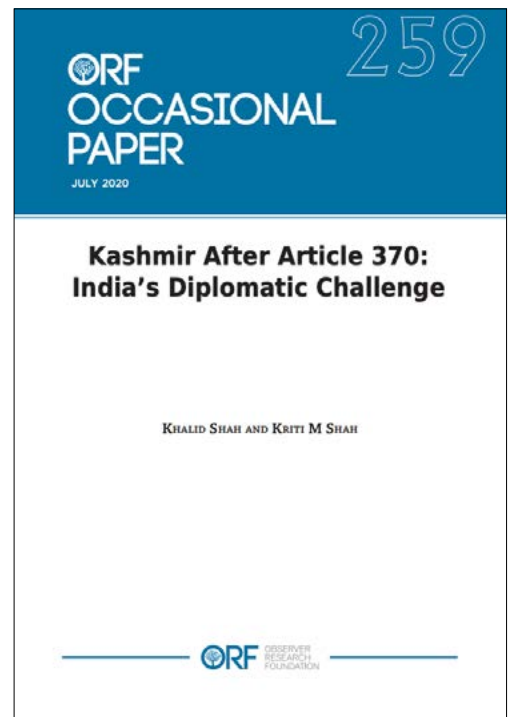
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# Neighbourhood Studies Initiative

## PROMINENT PUBLICATIONS



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# Forums

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. In light of the pandemic, this year, ORF has hosted flagship events like the Raisina Dialogue, CyFy, and Colaba Conversation in a fully digital format. 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.

# Raisina Dialogue 2021



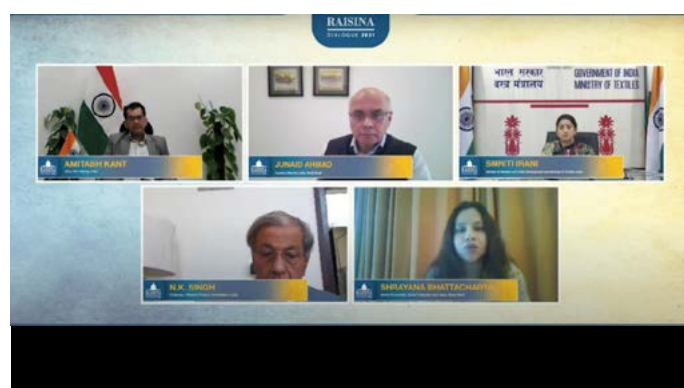
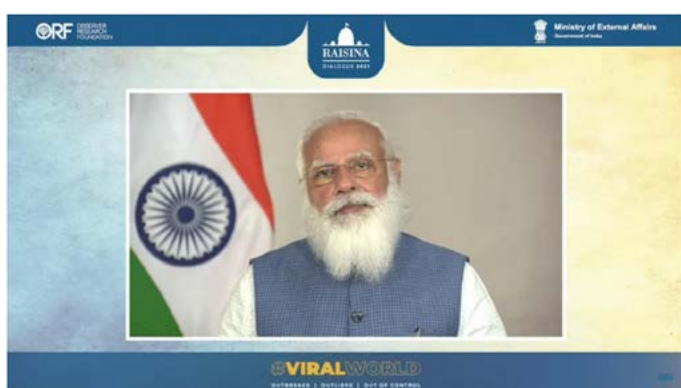
The Raisina Dialogue is India's premier conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community. The Dialogue is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussion, involving heads of state, cabinet ministers and local government officials, who are joined by thought leaders from the private sector, media and academia.

The sixth edition of the Raisina Dialogue, held on April 13–16, 2021, was themed, “#ViralWorld: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control”. It delved into how the COVID-19 pandemic has held a mirror up to our societies—calling for urgent resolution to global questions around inequality, polarised politics, economic interdependence, and great power competition.

The panels and high-level discussions at the dialogue were centred around five pillars: WHOse Multilateralism? Reconstructing the UN and Beyond; Securing and Diversifying Supply Chains; Global ‘Public Bads’: Holding Actors and Nations to Account; Infodemic: Navigating a ‘No-Truth’ World in the Age of Big Brother; and The Green Stimulus: Investing in Gender, Growth and Development.

Raisina Dialogue 2021 was hosted in a fully digital format on ORF's bespoke web platform and saw the virtual participation of over 4,000 experts and practitioners from more than 100 countries.

The conference is hosted by the Observer Research Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.



**Left:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi making the Inaugural Address at the Raisina Dialogue 2021.

**Right** (clockwise from top left): Panel on “Insecure Jobs: Towards Social Safety for All” with Amitabh Kant, Junaid Ahmad, Minister Smriti Irani, Shrayana Bhattacharya, and NK Singh.



# Raisina Dialogue 2021



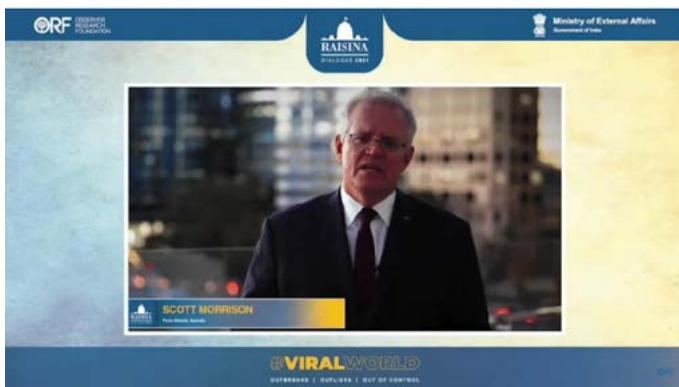
**(Clockwise from top left):** Panel on “Junction Kabul: The Road to Peace” with Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, Minister S. Jaishankar, Hamdullah Mohib and Palki Sharma Upadhyay; Conversation with Jens Stoltenberg and Samir Saran on “Protecting the Rules-Based International Order”; Address by Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, Denmark; Panel on “Vaccine Diplomacy: How India is Helping the World Fight COVID-19” with Minister S. Jaishankar, Mark Suzman and K. VijayRaghavan; Address by President Paul Kagame, Rwanda; Panel on “Reclaiming Europe: Navigating the Political Compass” with Minister Bogdan Aurescu, Garima Mohan, Minister Augusto Santos Silva, Milena Lazarevic, and Minister Anže Logar.

# Raisina Dialogue 2021



**(Clockwise from top left):** Vote of thanks by Minister of State V. Muraleedharan; Panel on “Crimson Tide, Blue Geometries: New Partnerships for the Indo-Pacific”; Panel on “Pandemic Poser: Health and the 4IR”; Panel on “On the Trail of the Bear: Russia in a Multipolar World”; Panel on “Left, Right and Woke: Rethinking Democracy and Technology”; and Panel on “Samundra Manthan: The Indo-Pacific in Churn.”

# Raisina Dialogue 2021



**(Clockwise from top left):** Address by Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Australia; Conversation on “Beyond Mobility: Jobs and Infrastructure in the Green Transitions”; Intervention by Former Senator John Kerry; Panel on “Recoding Our Future: Looking Beyond the Digital Wars”; Panel on “The Architecture of the Future: Building a New Indo-Pacific”; and Panel on “Future of Conflict: How Will Democracies Respond?”.

# Raisina Dialogue 2021



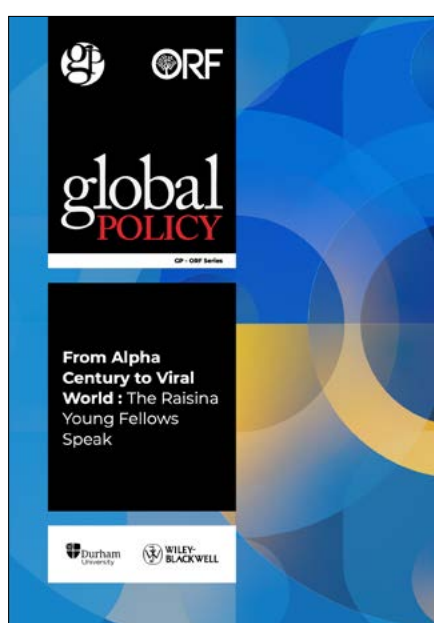
**(Clockwise from top left):** Sunjoy Joshi in conversation with Margrethe Vestager; Amrita Narlikar in conversation with Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer; and Panel on “South Rising: The Decade for New America” with Minister Andrés Allamand Zavala, Vice Minister Raul Cano-Ricciardi, former Deputy Minister Julián Ventura, Riva Ganguly Das, and Sunjoy Joshi.

# Raisina Dialogue 2021

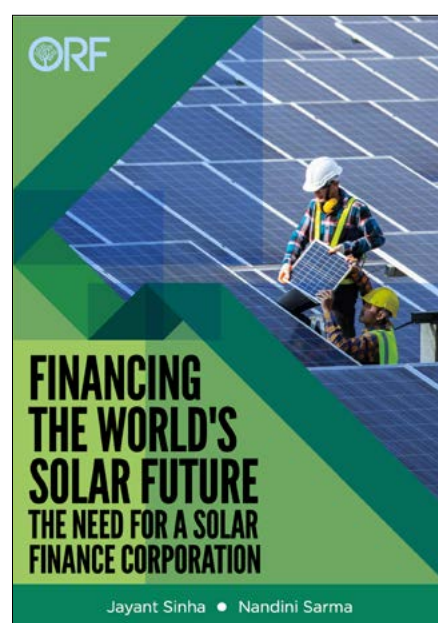
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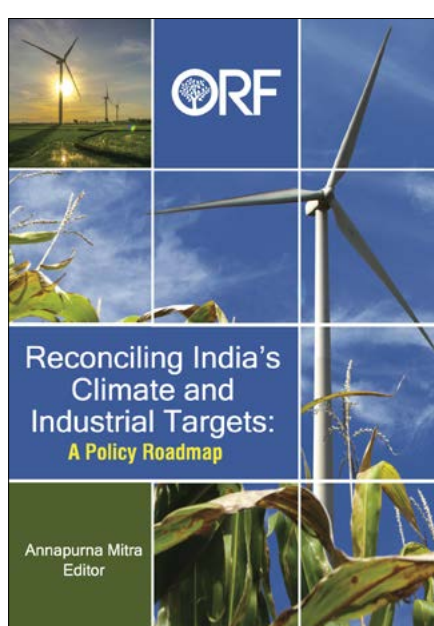
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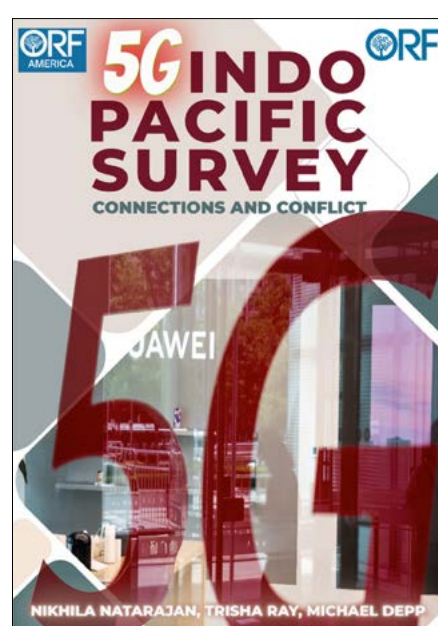
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# BRICS Academic Forum 2021

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The Observer Research Foundation and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) co-hosted the BRICS Academic Forum 2021 from 3-6 August, under India's presidency of the BRICS in 2021. This year's BRICS Academic Forum convened academics, experts, researchers, and analysts on a range of international policy issues affecting the five BRICS nations and the world in the run up to the BRICS Summit 2021.



(Clockwise from top left): Inaugural Address by Minister S. Jaishankar; Opening Plenary on “Post-Pandemic World Order: Challenges and Opportunities for BRICS”; Panel on “Road to COP26: BRICS Climate Agenda”; Panel on “BRICS and the Global Health Agenda”; Panel on “Building a BRICS Consensus on Counter-Terrorism”; and Panel on Sustainable Lifestyles: Rethinking Consumption—The Forgotten SDG.

# BRICS Academic Forum 2021

The forum was privileged to have the inaugural address by India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar; valedictory address by Sanjay Bhattacharyya, India's Sherpa for BRICS; and a conversation with P. Harish, India's Sous-Sherpa for BRICS. The policy discussions between experts were guided by the four primary themes of the BRICS academic process for 2021—multilateralism, digitalisation, international security, and climate change and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Specifically, the sessions included topics such as the post-pandemic world order, green energy, sustainable consumption, global health, counterterrorism, trade and resilient supply chains, SDGs, digital public goods, globalisation, skilling and workforce development, and women's leadership. Over the course of four days, the BRICS Academic Forum saw participation from nearly 80 experts and academics.



**(Clockwise from top left):** Panel on “BRICS Agenda for Trade and Resilient Supply Chains”; Panel on “Mobilising the NDB and Financing SDGs”; Panel on “BRICS and Global Economic Recovery”; and Panel on “BRICS Framework on Digital Public Goods: Health, Education and Financial Inclusion”.

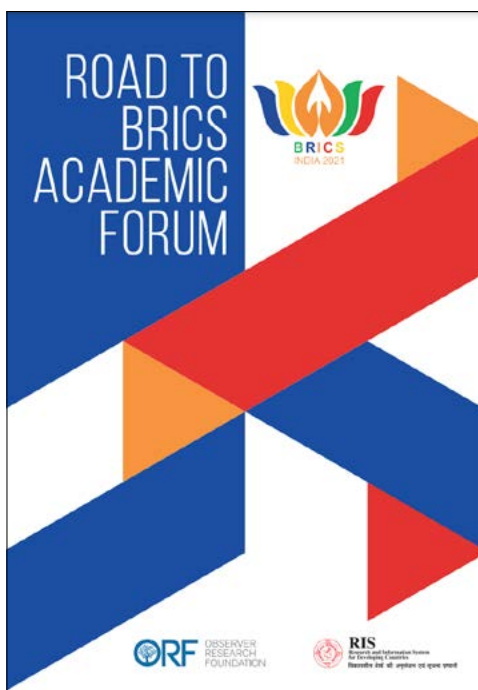
# BRICS Academic Forum 2021



**Left:** Valedictory Address by Sanjay Bhattacharyya.

**Right:** Panel on “BRICS Agenda for Women’s Leadership and Women-led Economic Growth.”

## PROMINENT PUBLICATIONS



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# Colaba Conversation 2021

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ORF Mumbai was delighted to launch Colaba Conversation 2021—Mumbai’s signature forum for dialogue on global, national and local policy issues. The dialogue is named after ‘Kulaba’, one of the seven islands that created Mumbai. This is a joint initiative between the Observer Research Foundation and the Government of Maharashtra. The inaugural address was given by Honourable Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Uddhav Thackeray, which was followed by keynotes from five world leaders from the United States, Germany, Australia and New Zealand on the role of cities in global, national and regional policymaking.



**(Clockwise from top left):** Inaugural Address by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray; Intervention by Regina Ramos; Intervention by Nadia Schadow; Keynote Address by Sumant Sinha; Panel on “Chairing the G20: Economic Steering Committee for the World”; and Panel on “Cities 20: Establishing a Global Policymaking Forum for Cities.”

# Colaba Conversation 2021

The dialogue saw participation from policymakers, business leaders, experts, and community leaders. The theme for 2021 is “Reset, Resilience and Recovery.” There were 20 sessions spread across two days—a mix of panels, conversations and keynotes—with participation from 70 speakers from over 20 countries. The sessions were designed to focus on globalised cities, green finance, digital governance and para-diplomacy, with a special cross-cutting focus on geoeconomics.



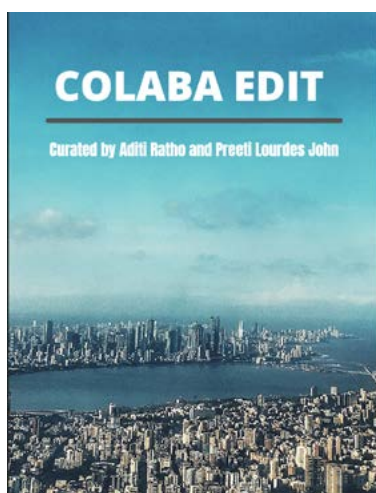
**(Clockwise from top left):** Panel on “Developing an Arabian Sea Consensus on Growth and Prosperity”; Panel on “Regulations and Responsibilities in the Digital Era”; Intervention by Claudia Warning; Intervention by Oluwatosin Durotoy; Intervention by Aadiya Thackeray; and Panel on “Recovery Towards the Indian New Green Deal.”

# Colaba Conversation 2021



(Clockwise from top left): Intervention by Kurihara Toshihiko; Intervention by Shaina NC; and Intervention by Priyanka Chaturvedi.

## PROMINENT PUBLICATIONS



**Colaba Edit** Curated by Aditi Ratho and Preeti Lourdes John

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# CyFy 2020

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The global response to the novel coronavirus not only accelerated the process of digitalisation, but also fundamentally altered its trajectory. As a result, a new wave of technologies, norms, government policies and social behaviours will emerge, wither or evolve, compelling rapid resolutions to long festering fault-lines, or, for better or worse, entrenching them.



**(Clockwise from top left):** Inaugural address by Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad; Address by Minister Moulay Hafid Elalamy; Address by Minister of State The Rt Hon John Whittingdale; Panel on “The Return of the Sovereign: Drawing Boundaries in Cyberspace?”; Panel on “Missed Connections: The Conflict Over 5G”; and Address by Minister Timo Harakka.

# CyFy 2020

CyFy 2020 gathered an international community of experts—for the first time in a virtual setting—to identify, interrogate and interpret the new normal that is emerging in our global digital society. Over the course of a week, five themes undergirded CyFy’s virtual discussions:

1. In Politics We Trust: Decoupling and Digital Interdependence
2. Pandemic Promethean: Innovating Through Crisis
3. iWork: Equity, Employment and Identity in the Digital Economy
4. Democracy Bytes: By the People, Of the People, Against the People?
5. Techreation: The Future of Content Creation and Consumption

CyFy 2020 took the conference into cyberspace for the first time, with a viewership of over 6 million. The conference hosted 150 speakers from 43 countries.



**(Clockwise from top left):** Address by Minister S. Iswaran; Panel on “Supply Chain Reactions: Vulnerabilities at Scale?”; Panel on “In Search of Panacea: Tech in Times of Crisis”; and Panel on “A Tale of Two Cities: Competing Visions for Data Governance.”

# CyFy 2020



**(Clockwise from top left):** Panel on “Trust in Transactions: Resolving Bottlenecks in the Adoption of Digital Payments”; Address by Minister Tomáš Petříček; Panel on “The Ballot Box and the Beast: Securing Our Elections”; Intervention by Nivruti Rai; Panel on “Running Blind: Overtrust in Tech”; and Panel on “The Future of Digital Europe.”

# CyFy 2020



**Left:** Intervention by Kiran Mazumdar Shaw.

**Right:** Intervention by Barry O'Farrell

## PROMINENT PUBLICATIONS



### Digital Debates – CyFy Journal 2020

edited by Trisha Ray, Laetitia Bruce Warjri, Arjun Jayakumar and Samir Saran | October 2020

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# Tackling Insurgent Ideologies 2020

 WATCH HERE

The third edition of Tackling Insurgent Ideologies focused on the pandemic world. Held digitally on August 4 and 5, 2020, the conference hosted 9 panels, with 40 panellists from across government, academia, civil society, the media, and tech and social media companies. Centred in, and designed for the global pandemic, TII 2020 discussed the spread of extremist violence, terrorism, and xenophobia.



**(Clockwise from top left):** Panel on “Terror in Times of COVID: Experiences and Trends”; Panel on “Tackling the Corona Infodemic: Tackling Insurgent Ideologies in a Pandemic World”; Panel on “Kashmir: Caught Between the Extremes”; Panel on “China’s Han Project and Manufactured Consent”; In Conversation with Ram Madhav and Samir Saran on “India’s Extremism Challenge”; and Panel on “Countering Extremism Through Entertainment: The New Narratives”.



# Tackling Insurgent Ideologies 2020

In expanding the conversation around Countering Violent Extremism, TII 2020 focused especially on the phenomena of the ‘infodemic’. Was the infodemic, fed by a nature of fake news, religious and radical polarisation, and nurtured in a climate already vitiated by radical ideological violence, a consequence of the pandemic? Through stimulating conversation and engagement on themes such as manufactured consent, populism, radicalism, and privacy—TII 2020 served as a platform to identify and solve existing problems, as well as to tackle emerging problems around hate speech and misinformation.



**(Clockwise from top left):** Panel on “Populism and its Offshoots: The Rising Threat of Right-Wing Terrorism”; Panel on “Privacy Quarantined: Tackling Insurgent Ideologies”; and Panel on “Deradicalisation: Overlapping Mandates and Conceptual Confusion.”





# Annexure

ORF Events, Publications, Faculty  
and Organisational Structure

# Events

## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES 2020** **June 25:** Technology, Governance Innovation and the Pandemic :

Discussing Responses from South Asia and Africa; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**June 30:** Between a Republic and an Emirate – The Future of Afghanistan: The South Asian Perspective”; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**July 23:** Russia-India Relations and the Pandemic Test of Global Governance; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**August 3:** Tech Wars, the Liberal Order and the Rise of China; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**August 25:** Stability in the Korean Peninsula: How has China’s Interests Evolved? organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**October 12-16:** CYFY 2020 : India-ASEAN Track 1.5 Dialogue; organised by Tech and Media Programme

**November 4:** US Polls 2020: Which Way 2021 for India and the World? Organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**November 5:** Infusing Ethics into Artificial Intelligence; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**December 1:** 2020 ROK-India-Japan Trilateral Dialogue organised by Sustainable Development Programme

**December 8-9:** Moving Forward the France-India Partnership; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**December 9:** India And Central Europe: Together Towards a Sustainable Recovery, ORF-CEIF Dialogue; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**December 15:** Can the G20 deliver? Priorities for a Post-Pandemic World; organised by Media and Publication Programme

**2021** **January 5:** Farewell Policy Address by Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster on Ambition and Achievement in the U.S.-India Partnership; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**January 19:** India-Japan-France Workshop on the Indo-Pacific; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

# Events

**February 16:** Green transitions: Catalysing India-EU Relations for a Green Future; organised by Energy and Climate Change Programme

**February 24:** BIMSTEC in 2021; organised by CNED

**March 5-6:** Exploring Connectivity in the Bay of Bengal Region: Importance of India's Northeast; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**March 31:** Future Visionaries: India-EU cooperation for Digital Transitions; organised by Tech and Media Programme

## ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS 2020

**April 8:** 5G Infrastructure, Huawei's Techno Economic Advantages and India's National

Security Concerns: An Analysis; organised by Media and Publications Programme

**April 17:** PLA Joint Exercises in Tibet: Implications for India; organised by Media and Publications Programme

**April 22:** Debating the Contours of a Fiscal Stimulus: Economic Policy in the Age of Corona; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**April 29:** Geopolitical and Geo-economic Consequences of COVID-19; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**May 7:** Environmental Security in the Sundarban in the Current Climate Change Era: Strengthening India-Bangladesh Cooperation; organised by Media and Publications Programme

**May 11:** Will China Really Conquer the World? | चीन खरंच जग जिंकल?; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**May 13:** The Explosion of Online Education in India during the COVID-19 Pandemic: What Have We Learnt? Organised by Political Economy Programme

**May 15:** Australia-India Relations and the Indo-Pacific Post-COVID-19; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**May 18:** AI in Public Health: Resilience, Privacy and Regulatory Challenges; organised by Tech and Media Programme

**May 20:** Weighed Down by the Gains: India's Twin Burdens of Malnutrition and Disease" and "How Fares India in Healthcare? A Sub-National Analysis."; organised by Media and Publications Programme

**May 22:** Indian Migrant Workers during the Pandemic: The Challenges of Governance; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

# Events

**May 25:** Evolution of China's Influence Operations; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**May 26:** ORF Kashmir Dialogue; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**May 27:** Online School education in India During Covid 19; organised by Political Economy Programme

**June 1:** "India and Australia in the Indo-Pacific"; organised by Sustainable Development Programme

**June 9:** Isn't it High Time for Mankind to Change? | माणसाने (आता तरी) कसे वागाव?; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**June 11:** The Post-COVID-19 Digital Order; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**June 17:** Resolving Bottlenecks in the Adoption of Digital Payments; organised by Media and Publications Programme

**June 18:** Promoting a 'GDP of the Poor': The Imperative of Integrating Ecosystems Valuation in Development Policy."; organised by Media and Publications Programme

**June 24:** The Changing Contours of Video Entertainment in the Times of COVID-19; organised by Tech and Media Programme

**June 26:** UN @ 75: Reform and Revival; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**June 29:** Strategic and Managed Retreat: Adaptation to Climate Change; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**July 1:** Towards an India-US Consensus on Counter Terrorism Cooperation; organised by Media and Publications Programme

**July 9:** Between a Republic and an Emirate - The Future of Afghanistan: Perspectives from Central Asia & Iran; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**July 13:** African Development: Looking Back, Taking Stock, and Moving Ahead; organised by Energy and Climate Change Programme

**July 15:** Re-imagining Slums Post COVID-19; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**July 16:** COVID-19: Securing Healthcare Online; organised by Sustainable Development Programme

**July 17:** The Future of Work and Workspaces; organised by Economy and Growth Programme

# Events

**July 21:** The 2020 Lowy Institute Poll Release; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**July 23:** भारताची सॉफ्टपॉवर समजून घेताना; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**July 24:** U.S. and China: Decoupling in the Era of COVID-19; organised by Media and Publications Programme

**July 27:** “Is the US Ready for an Indo-US Partnership?”; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**August 5:** The World Economy after the COVID-19 Pandemic; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**August 12:** The Future We Want: Toward an All-Sector Approach to Digital Inclusion; organised by Tech and Media Programme

**August 18:** Arabian Sea Dialogues: Culture, Cricket, Films and More; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**August 20:** कोरोनाची लस व तुम्ही-आम्ही; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**August 21:** Kashmir After Article 370: India’s Diplomatic Challenge; organised by Media and Publications Programme

**August 26:** Sri Lanka: The Way Forward; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**August 31:** Mind it: Mental Health and the Pandemic; organised by Media and Publications Programme

**September 2:** The Allied Forces in World War II: History and its Consequences & The 21st Century World Order; organised by Forums

**September 4:** Environmental Regulation in India: EIA and Beyond; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**September 7:** Making India Great: The Promise of a Reluctant Global Power; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**September 17:** Arabian Sea Dialogues’ on “4th IR and the Future of Work”; organised by Forums

**September 18:** Gender-responsive Budgeting in India, Bangladesh and Rwanda: A comparison; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**September 23:** The Global Race for COVID-19 Vaccine; organised by Forums

**October 2:** Himalaya Samvad; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**October 23:** Subregional Security Cooperation: An Exploratory Study of India’s Approach; organised by Media and Publications Programme

# Events

**October 28:** The 2020 Lowy Institute Asia Power Index; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**November 26:** The Future of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation; organised by Energy and Climate Change Programme

**November 27:** Hong Kong's National Security Law: Implications for India; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**December 21:** National League for Democracy's Second Term in Myanmar; organised by Political Economy Programme

**December 21:** Elements of the China Challenge—A Discussion with Peter Berkowitz; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**December 23:** Impact Investments in India: Towards Sustainable Development; organised by Tech and Media Programme

## 2021

**February 10:** Post-Pandemic Economic Recovery: Seven Priorities for India; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**March 10:** Finding Solutions to Water Scarcity: The Potential of Virtual Water Trade in Agricultural Products; organised by CNED Programme

**March 16:** Securing Digital India Through Adoption of Standards, organised by Economy and Growth Programme

**March 18:** The Prospects of a Deeper India-Taiwan Cooperation in the Evolving Dynamics of the Indo-Pacific; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**March 18:** Inflation Targeting: Much Ado about Nothing?; organised by Tech and Media Programme

**March 18:** Africa: Towards a Digital, Sustainable, Equal Society; organised by CNED Programme

**March 19:** Mapping the Belt and Road Initiative: Reach, Consequences, Implications; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**March 25:** Exploring Successful Gender-friendly Workspaces; organised by Tech and Media Programme



# Events

## **BOOK RELEASES AND BOOK DISCUSSIONS 2020**

**April 14:** Contest for the Indo-Pacific by Prof. Rory Medcalf; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**June 15:** China's Western Horizon : Beijing and the New Geopolitics of Eurasia; organised by Strategic Studies

Programme

**June 19:** GP ORF Series–The Viral World Looking to the Future: Lessons Learnt from 2020; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**July 7:** Asia's New Geopolitics: Essay on Reshaping the Indo-Pacific by Mr. Micheal R. Auslin; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**July 13:** GP ORF Series–Uncharted Territory: Emerging World Order post COVID-19; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**July 30:** Rethinking Cities in a Post-COVID-19 World; organised by Political Economy Initiative

**September 3:** The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World.” by H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, India; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**September 24:** China's Strategic Ambitions in the Age of COVID-19; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**October 8:** The Routledge Handbook of China-India Relations; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**October 19:** Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside; organised by Forums

**October 20:** Full Spectrum: India's Wars, 1972-2020; organised by Forums

**October 22:** Kautilya's Arthashastra: Philosophy of Strategy; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**October 28:** Isolationism: A History of America's Efforts to Shield Itself from the World; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**October 29:** The Ultimate Goal: A Former R&AW Chief Deconstructs How Nations Construct Narratives; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**November 20:** A New Idea of India—Individual Rights in A Civilisational State; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

# Events

**November 24:** The Wellington Experience: A Study of Attitudes and Values Within the Indian Army; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**December 9:** Fossil Free: Reimagining Clean Energy in a Carbon-Constrained World; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**December 17:** Poverty Narratives and Power Paradoxes in International Trade Negotiations and Beyond; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**December 19:** Jugalbandi: The BJP Before Modi; organised by Political Economy Programme

**2021** **January 11:** China's Search for 'National Rejuvenation': Domestic and Foreign Policies under Xi Jinping; organised by Tech and Media Programme

**January 20:** Vajpayee: The Years that Changed India; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**January 29:** Princetian: How Nehru, Patel and Mountbatten Made India; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**February 26:** The Brussels Effect: How The EU Rules The World; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**March 2:** The Art of Political Control in China; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**March 19:** The Narrow Corridor: States, Society and the Fate of Liberty; organised by Tech and Media Programme

**March 23:** A World Safe for Democracy: Liberal Internationalism and the Crises of the Global Order; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**TALKS 2020** **April 10:** Kolkata Talk :The New World Disorder And The Indian Imperative by Shashi Tharoor; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**April 15:** The New World Disorder And The Indian Imperative by Shashi Tharoor; organised by Political Economy

**April 24:** Fateful Triangle: How China Shaped US India Relations During the Cold War by Tanvi Madan; organised by Economy and Growth Programme

**April 29:** The ISIS Peril: The World's Most Feared Terror Group and its Shadow on South Asia by Kabir Taneja; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

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**May 8:** The Appearance of the Invisible: Migrant Workers During COVID-19 in India by Baijayant Panda; organised by Economy and Growth Programme

**June 5:** Postcards from Paris: Indo-French Cooperation and the New World Order by Amb. Emmanuel Lenain, Ambassador of France to India; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**July 17:** Re-envisioning Regionalism in South Asia in the Post-COVID Era by C. Raja Mohan; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**July 23:** Afghanistan's peace process and India's role by H.E. Mohammad Haneef Atmar, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**August 14:** Political barriers to retreat as an adaptive strategy to climate change by Mark T. Gibbs, Australian Institute of Marine Science; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**September 18:** The Fluid Mosaic: Various Shades of Interstate Water Conflicts in India by Purnamita Dasgupta; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**October 30:** The Purity Ruse: Consciousness, Empowerment and Feminine Identity by Koral Dasgupta; organised by Strategic Studies Programme

**December 4:** India's Northeast: A Gateway to Wider Cooperative Architecture in East and Southeast Asia by Pahi Saikia; organised by Economy and Growth Programme

## MONDAY MORNING MEETINGS 2020

**April 6:** Green Urban Mobility in India— Opportunities and Challenges;

presented by Amruta Ponkshe

**April 13:** The Governance of Floodplains from an Ecological Perspective; presented by Sayanangshu Modak

**April 20:** Rules Based' Maritime Security: A View from New Delhi; presented by Abhijit Singh

**April 27:** Russia's Relations in South East Asia since 2014: Continuity or Change? presented by Nivedita Kapoor

**May 4:** Mapping the Regional-Federal Interaction in the Indian Political Discourse: A Conceptual Interrogation; presented by Ambar Kumar Ghosh

**May 11:** Competitive Federalism and FDI Inflow: Disparities within Indian States; presented by Roshan Saha

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**May 18:** Competitive Federalism and FDI Inflow: Disparities within Indian States; presented by Sohini Bose

**May 25:** How the Xinjiang Policy Looms Large in China's BRI Plans for South and Central Asia; presented by Ayjaz Wani

**June 1:** A Technology Foreign Policy for India: Initial Priorities for the NEST Division; presented by Trisha Ray

**June 8:** De-radicalisation Programs and the Indian States; presented by Kabir Taneja

**June 15:** Can Communal Violence Fuel an ISIS threat in India? Presented by Maya Mirchandani

**June 22:** Deciphering National Strategic Impulses in Indo-Pacific Region as COVID-19 Unfolds; presented by Abhijit Mukhopadhyay

**June 29:** Chinese Cruise Missiles Capabilities: Implications for Indian Army and Air Force; presented by Kartik Bommakanti

**July 6:** Sea-based Nuclear Deterrence in the Indo Pacific: Assessing the Indian and Chinese Stance; presented by Sohini Nayak

**July 13:** Africa and COVID-19: Impact, Response and Post-recovery Challenges; presented by Abhishek Mishra

**July 20:** Assessment of ICPs in the India-Nepal Border-Crossings; presented by Joyeeta Bhattacharjee

**July 27:** Cyber-Nuclear Security Interface: the Indian Context; presented by Pulkit Mohan

**August 3:** Spatially Examining Mumbai's Health Infrastructure; presented by Siyali Mankikar

**August 10:** COVID-19: Where is the Money? A Case for Financing a Demand Inducing Stimulus via Debt Monetisation; presented by Ria Kasliwal

**August 17:** Understanding the US Congress and EU Parliament's Response to India's Abrogation of Article 370; presented by Kashish Parpiani

**August 24:** Sustainable Development Goals: Opportunities for Post-Pandemic World Economy; presented by Soumya Bhowmick

**August 31:** China's Suppression of Minorities; presented by Khalid Shah

**September 7:** Chennai-Vladivostok Maritime Link; presented by Gayatri Iyer

**September 14:** Building Partnerships under India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative: Challenges and Policy Recommendations; presented by Premesha Saha

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**September 21:** Federalism in the Time of Coronavirus: A Comparative Study of Major Federal Systems; presented by Niranjana Sahoo

**September 28:** The US-China Tech Rivalry and its implications for Europe; presented by Sabrina Korreck

**October 5:** Opportunities for Indian EdTech in East Africa; presented by Anurag Reddy

**October 12:** Federalism and Inter-state River Water Governance in India; presented by Sayanangshu Modak & Ambar Kumar Ghosh

**October 19:** Building African Capacity—Successes, Limitations and Lessons for India; presented by Malancha Chakrabarty

**October 26:** India's Economy: From Phenomenal Slump to a Possible Recovery; presented by Abhijit Mukhopadhyay

**November 2:** India Defence Procurement: Righting the Ship; presented by Angad Singh

**November 9:** The 2020 U.S. Elections and Implications for India; presented by Dhruva Jaishankar

**November 23:** Democratic Deliberation and Social Media; presented by Saumya Arora

**December 7:** India's COVID-19 Vaccine Challenges: An Assessment; presented by Kriti Kapur & Oommen Kurian

**December 14:** Capturing the Moment: China, Global Infrastructure Finance, and Competition; presented by Ritika Passi

**December 21:** Master Plan for Delhi—2041: Another Opportunity for Planned Development; presented by Rumi Aijaz

**December 28:** Journey of ORF Mumbai and the New Roadmap; presented by Akshay Mathur

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**2021** **January 4:** The Next 10 years are India's Decade; presented by Akshay Mathur

**January 11:** India's Approach Towards the South China Sea Dispute: Is a Shift in the offing? Presented by Premesha Shah

**January 18:** Russia-EU Relations—The End of Strategic Partnership; presented by Nivedita Kapoor

**January 25:** Assessing Educational Opportunities of Rohingya Children in Bangladesh; presented by Sreeparna Banerjee

**February 1:** Emotions and Vote Choice; presented by Prithvi Iyer

**February 15:** The 2020 U.S. Elections and Implications for India; presented by Dhruva Jaishankar

**February 22:** An Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Along the Bengal Coast; presented by Sayanangshu Modak

**March 1:** Women on the Move: Assessing the Impact of Safety Concerns on Women's Mobility Choices; presented by Aditi Ratho

**March 8:** A Legal Toolkit for a Strong Digital Indian Economy; presented by Vikas Kathuria

**March 15:** Teething Competition Troubles in India's Digital Payments Space; presented by Shashidhar K.J.

**March 22:** Democracy and Political Violence: The Bengal Exceptionalism; presented by Niranjana Sahoo

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- Understanding China: Voices from India's Northeast | Rakhahari Chatterji, Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, Ambar Kumar Ghosh, May 2020
- A Green Investment Architecture for India: Building a Bridge for Global Capital | Annapurna Mitra, Tanushree Chandra, Nandini Sarma, Ria Kasliwal, June 2020
- A Fountain Pen Story | Bibek Debroy, June 2020
- Life in Lockdown: A survey of India's Urban youth | Aastha Kaul and Terri Chapman, July 2020
- Getting to the Green Frontier Faster: The Case for a Green Frontier SuperFund | Jayant Sinha and Tanushree Chandra, July 2020
- 4 • th India Think Tank Forum: Conference Report | July 2020
- Regional Challenges to Multilateralism: Shedding Light on the Changing International Order | Élise Féron, Marko Juutinen, Jyrki Käkönen and Karim Maïche, July 2020
- The day after tomorrow: Africa's battle with Covid19 and the road ahead | Sangeet Jain, Meghna Chadha, Kwame Owino and John Mutua, July 2020
- Foreign Direct Investments in Indian States: The SDG Cornerstones | Roshan Saha and Soumya Bhowmick, September 2020
- Rebooting the World: Six Months of COVID-19 | Shoba Suri, Ed., September 2020
- US Elections 2020: A Primer | Soumya Bhowmick and Sangeet Jain, October 2020
- Reimagining Work, Education and Skills in India's Digital Century | Meghna Chadha and Terri Chapman, November 2020
- The Digital Indo-Pacific: Regional Connectivity and Resilience | Trisha Ray, Sangeet Jain, Arjun Jayakumar, Anurag Reddy, February 2021
- Reimagining BIMSTEC: Strengthening Regional Solidarity Across the Bay of Bengal | Rakhahari Chatterji and Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury (Editors), February 2021
- Mapping the Belt and Road Initiative: Reach, Implications, Consequences | Harsh V Pant and Premesha Saha (Editors), February 2021
- Creating Urban Water Resilience in India: A Water Balance Study of Chennai, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, and Delhi | Biplob Chatterjee and Aparna Roy, March 2021
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- Rethinking Cities in a Post-COVID-19 World | Aditi Ratho and Preeti Lourdes John, eds, June 2020
- Tackling Insurgent Ideologies in a Pandemic World | Maya Mirchandani ed., August 2020
- China's Strategic Ambitions in the Age of COVID-19 | Kartik Bommakanti ed, September 2020
- Digital Debates: CyFy Journal 2020 | Trisha Ray, Laetitia Bruce Warjri, Arjun Jayakumar and Samir Saran, October 2020
- Pushing the Boundaries of Indian Tech: Women on the Frontlines | Nisha Holla and Annapurna Mitra ed, October, 2020
- The Future of War in South Asia: Innovation, Technology and Organisation | Manoj Joshi and Pushan Das, eds, March 2021

### **OCCASIONAL PAPERS** • Towards an India–US Consensus on Counterterrorism Cooperation | Kashish Parpiani and Prithvi Iyer, April 2020

- Conceptualising a New Multidimensional Poverty Index for India | Renita D'Souza, April 2020
- Formulating Open-Space Policies for India's Cities: The Case of Mumbai | Sayli Udas-Mankikar, April 2020
- India-Africa Partnership for Food Security: Beyond Strategic Concerns | HHS Viswanathan and Abhishek Mishra, April 2020
- Breathing new life into BIMSTEC: Challenges and Imperatives | Pratinashree Basu and Nilanjan Ghosh, April 2020
- Urban Densities and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Upending the Sustainability Myth of Global Megacities | Dhaval D Desai, May 2020
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- Mainstreaming Sustainability Outcomes in Big Infrastructure Projects | Amruta Ponshe, May 2020; Sabrina Korreck, March 2021



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- Towards a Deliberative BIMSTEC | Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury and Rohit Ranjan Rai, August 2020
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- Sino-Indian Border Deadlock: Time to Rewrite India Playbook | Manoj Joshi, August 2020
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- The West Wanes, China Grows: What’s at Stake for the Liberal Order? | Niranjan Sahoo, March 2021

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- Towards a Holistic Digital Health Ecosystem in India | Sheetal Ranganathan, April 2020
- How the COVID-19 Pandemic Exposes the Frailty of Social Protection in the US | Terri Chapman, April 2020
- Dr WHO and Mr Hyde | Kriti Kapur, April, 2020
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- Bridging the Healthcare Gap in Afghanistan: A Primer on India’s Role | Sohini Bose, April 2020
- The Pandemic in the Gulf: What it Portends for NRIs in the Region | Issac John, April 2020

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- From Cox's Bazar to Bhasan Char: An Assessment of Bangladesh's Relocation Plan for Rohingya Refugees | Sreeparna Banerjee, May 2020
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- 50 Days of Lockdown: Measuring India's Success in Arresting COVID-19 | Sanjana Krishnan, Sahil Deo, Shardul Manurkar, May 2020
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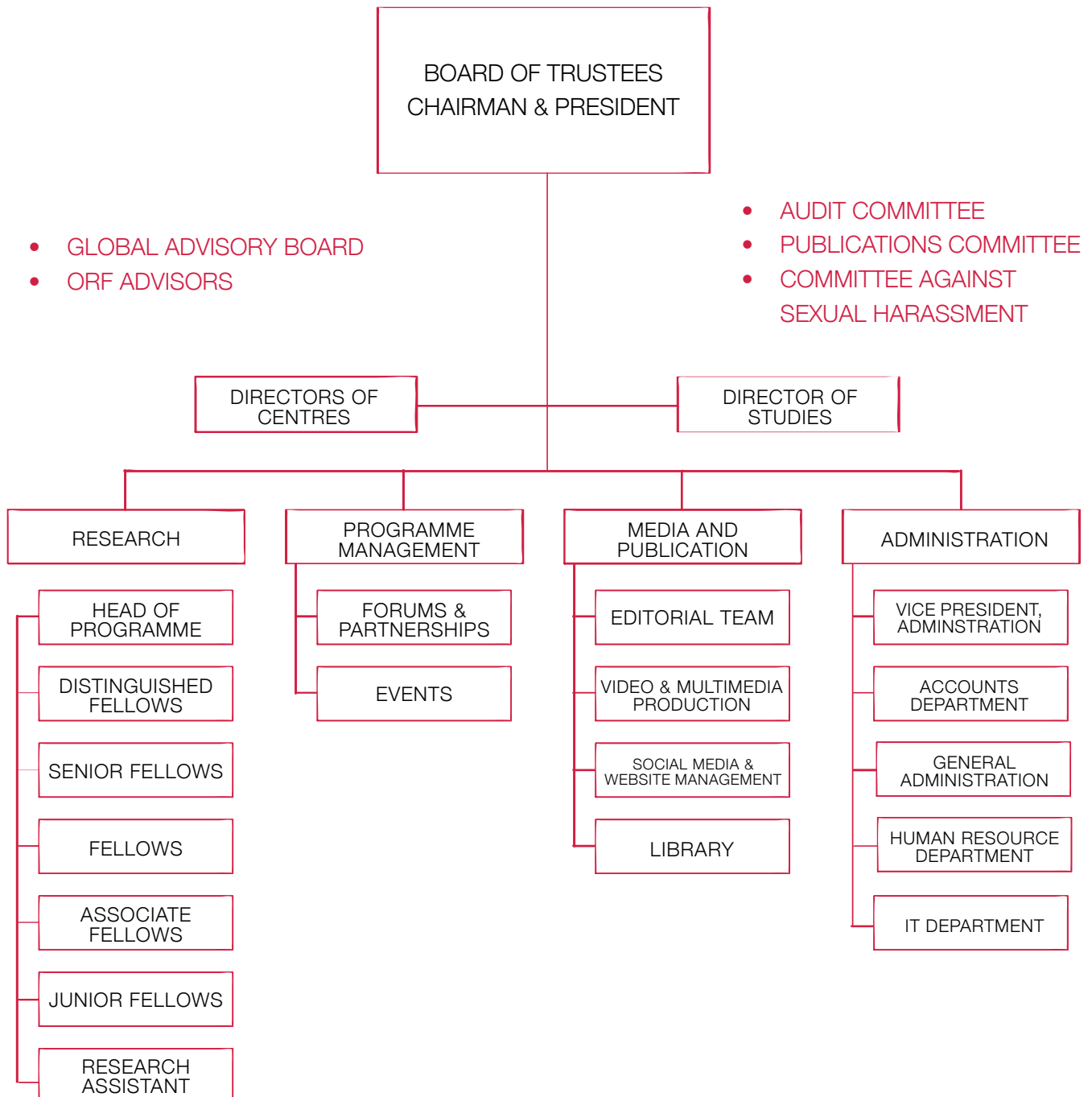
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