

The dancing elephant: Perspectives on Indian foreign policy | The ORF-Hindu foreign policy conclave

9 February to 10 February | Hindu College Auditorium

DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1 – February 9th (Friday) 2018 @ 10.00 Hrs, Hindu College Auditorium

Inaugural Address by *Dr. Anirban Ganguly*, Director, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation – 10.00 Hrs

Session 1: *Harsh V Pant*, Distinguished Fellow, ORF: *Changing Contours of Indian Foreign Policy: Theoretical and Policy Implications* – 10.45 Hrs

Session 2: Panel Discussion – 11.30-12.30 Hrs

Can India ignore Pakistan?

How India manages its relationship with Pakistan has often been the litmus test of Indian Foreign Policy. The twin threats of nuclear warfare and terrorism emanating from across the border needs politico-military resolve and diplomatic maneuvering. Yet, the investments India has made in improving its relationship with Pakistan and addressing the aforementioned threats have had no positive returns. Meanwhile, India's efforts to establish South Asia as a cohesive and cooperative region have suffered because of Pakistan.

Leading Questions: Is there a solution to India's Pakistan conundrum? What is the future of SAARC? What does BIMSTEC reflect as India's regional policy? Would isolating Pakistan be in India's interest?

Panelists – Sushant Sareen, Senior Fellow, ORF

TCA Raghavan, Former Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan

Moderator – Maya Mirchandani, Senior Fellow, ORF

Session 3: Panel Discussion – 12.30-13.30 Hrs

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Economic growth or equitable sustainable development?

In a global order where the developing economies are facing increasing environmental regulations and socio-economic problems, transforming economies sustainably is a big challenge for India. There is need for inclusive and sustainable growth across all segments, especially including women in the work force. How India manages its workforce disparity, energy security, natural resources and sustainable development will formulate the development model for a world threatened by climate change.

Leading Questions: In a globalized world where economic development has faced few barriers, how will India reconcile its shift to manufacturing with its carbon regulations? Can India lead the developing world in laying a model for an environmentally positive industrial transformation? How does equitable economics translate into sustainable economics?

Panelists – Jill Steans, Senior Lecturer, IR Theory, University of Birmingham

Mihir Sharma, Senior Fellow, ORF

Moderator – Tanoubi Ngangom, Associate Fellow, ORF

Lunch Break – Library Lawns (13.30-14.30 Hrs)

Session 4: Panel Discussion – 14.30-15.30 Hrs

Is Non-Alignment dead?

In a world that is shifting from unipolarity to multi polarity, the choice ahead of Indian foreign policy makers is whether to stick to an independent foreign policy platform or make India a part of alliance(s) in the region, and seek greater support from allies to achieve its foreign policy goals.

Leading Questions: Where does India place itself in this multi-polar world? Are the concepts of non-alignment and Nehruvian idealism caught in a different time? Would formally joining or forming alliances help India meet its foreign policy goals?

Panelists – Swapan Dasgupta, Member of Parliament, India

Suhasini Haidar, Diplomatic Editor, The Hindu

Moderator – Abhijnan Rej, Fellow, ORF

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Day 2 – February 10th (Saturday) 2018 @ 10.00 Hrs, Hindu College Auditorium

Session 5: Panel Discussion – 10.00-11.00 Hrs

Pax Asiana: Cooperation or Competition

Can India and China cooperate in shaping a 21st century inclusive Asian order or will the inherent competition among the two result in divided power structures. Discussing India's challenges in a global order in transition, challenges posed by US retrenchment from global security, threats from terrorism in the region, changes to mental maps (Asia-Pacific became Indo-Pacific). The road ahead for India in a continent connected by technology but divided by identity.

Leading Questions: Connectivity Projects and its role in Asia's geopolitics, Managing Security challenges and Public Goods – Cybersecurity, Environment Regulation, Piracy.

Panelists – Manoj Joshi, Distinguished Fellow, ORF

Dhruva Jaishankar, Fellow, Brookings India

Moderator – Kabir Taneja, Associate Fellow, ORF

Session 6: Panel Discussion – 11.15-12.30 Hrs

Making of India's Foreign Policy: Prime Minister, the MEA and other actors

India's foreign policy has traditionally been a centralized entity. The actors, institutions and processes behind India's foreign policy planning are in need of some radical innovation. The para diplomacy practiced by individual states adds more complexity to this concoction.

Leading Questions: Has Indian foreign policy been hijacked by the Prime Minister's Office? Does statesmanship triumph diplomatic expertise? Is the Ministry of External Affairs in need of a revamp? What space do non-governmental entities like think-tanks have in shaping and informing India's foreign policy?

Panelists – Navnita Behera, Reader, Dept. of Political Science, University of Delhi

Constantino Xavier, Fellow, Carnegie India

Moderator – Ritika Passi, Associate Fellow, ORF

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Session 7: Panel Discussion – 14.00-15.00 Hrs

India's rise: From regional to a global power

India's global profile has risen dramatically in the last decade. From being an outlier, India has now become an active stakeholder in the global nuclear order. India is now member to the three export control regimes – Missile Technology Control Regime, Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement – and it seeks to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group. It has played an important role in the global efforts to address the challenge of climate change and remains key to defining norms governing global trade. Backed by growing soft and hard power, India also seeks a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council. Is India prepared to take up the mantle of a global power?

Leading Question: Is India and its foreign policy machinery ready to take up the responsibilities of a global power? What are the internal and external challenges to India truly becoming a global power?

Panelists – Shakti Sinha, Director, Nehru Memorial Library

Sreeram Chaulia, Dean, Jindal School of International Affairs

Moderator – Arka Biswas, Associate Fellow, ORF

Concluding Address by *Ambassador Rakesh Sood*, Distinguished Fellow, ORF:
Demystifying the Indian Foreign Service 15.00 Hrs