



ORF HINDU CONCLAVE 2020
2 March 2020



09:30 - 10:00 *Registration*

10:00 -10:15 *Welcome Remarks*

Dr Harsh Pant, Director of Research and Head, Strategic Studies, Observer Research Foundation

Dr Chandrachur Singh, Assistant Professor, Political Science Department, Hindu College

10:15-10:45 *Inaugural*

Prof Yogesh Tyagi, Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi

11:00-12:30 *India's security: China vs Pakistan*

India has for long shared a tumultuous relation with neighbours China and Pakistan and understanding of this dynamic is vital for formulation of an adequate security policy for India. India has to deal with both the countries as standalone threats as well as develop mechanisms to counterbalance the China-Pakistan nexus which has strengthened significantly in the recent past. Additionally, in light of India's aspiration of assuming a greater role in South Asia, there is a need to rethink and reconceptualize the manner in which Indo-Pak and Indo-China engagement takes place to better accommodate issues that go beyond hard politics.

This panel aims to deal with many such concerns.

Questions to address:

- India China security dilemma: is increased militarization a way towards security or insecurity and should India prioritize economic security vis-à-vis China above military.
- Managing Pakistan: engagement or offense?
- Breaking the China-Pak nexus: CPEC versus INSTC

Speakers

Sushant Sareen, Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation

Suhasini Haider, Diplomatic Editor, The Hindu

Kartik Bommakanti, Associate Fellow with Strategic Studies Programme, ORF

Moderator: **Kadambini Sharma**, News Anchor, Senior Journalist

12:30-14:00 *India's Energy Security*

India's economic and developmental ambitions and aspirations have significantly emboldened in this millennium and with that so has the demand for energy resources. As the second most populous country of the world, India also needs sufficient energy supply in a per capita capacity. In light of these realities the question of energy security has understandably assumed significance in policy and academic circles. Understood as uninterrupted availability of energy resources, the achievement of energy security poses various challenges in the Indian context including whether achieving said security will remain a pipe dream in the foreseeable future. Presently, India's energy sector is extremely oil dependent and often finds itself severely affected by the volatility in the international order. As we aim to develop alternative supply beds for energy, we see the emergence of a healthier environment friendly resource policy but whether these steps will yield sustainable results remains up for debate much like our capabilities to fulfil our international obligations in this sector.

This panel aims to highlight the multiple concerns that fall under this broader theme of energy security.

Questions to address:

- India's commitment to Paris agreement: the demand and supply gap and the dilemma of resource diversion.
- The nuclear question: Does nuclear energy open new doors for India's future?
- Hydrocarbons: India's dependence on the conventional - economic and environmental costs
- Green Technology: is it a way out?
- The Iran question

Speakers

Kabir Taneja, Fellow, Strategic Studies, ORF

Shyam Bohra, Executive Director, Indian Oil Corporation

RC Nakul, Director S&S Water and Power Projects Ltd. & Former Chief Engineer, Central Electricity Authority

Moderator: **Aparna Roy**, Associate Fellow and Lead, Climate Change and Energy, Centre for New Economic Diplomacy (CNED), ORF

14:00-15:00 *Lunch*

15:00-16:30 *India's Internal Security*

Security – internal as well as external is a foundational pillar and a primary concern of nation-states everywhere. As an independent nation, India has often struggled with the question of internal security and in light of recent events this question has not only assumed unparalleled significance in policy circles but also generated a rigorous debate among the general public. As such, it has become imperative to identify the various dimensions of and perceptible threats to India's internal security. There is an urgent need to understand how various stakeholders across regions, religions and ethnicities are affected by and influence the decisions of the government and whether internal security matters are affected by the larger

sub-continental environment. In addition, as India aims to build a stable social order it also needs to reflect upon the possibility of going beyond the conventional understanding of security to include the parameters of HDI and Happiness Index to arrive at a more comprehensive and inclusive framework.

This panel aims to deliberate upon such concerns.

Questions to address:

- What are the perceptible threats to India's internal security?
- When does use of legitimate force become excessive?
- Ethnic overlap - the subcontinent and India's security
- Democracy and Demagogy - exploiting the religious sensibilities of the masses and its ramifications
- Security vis-a-vis the Happiness Index
- The media tangle: security stretched to insecurity

Speakers

Khalid Shah, Associate Fellow, ORF

K Yhome, Senior Fellow, Neighborhood Regional Studies, ORF

Niranjan Sahoo, Senior Fellow, Governance and Politics Initiative, ORFF

Yashovardhan Azad, IPS, Served as Special Director, Intelligence Bureau, Secretary, Security, Cabinet Secretariat and Central Information Commissioner

Moderator: Naghma Sahar, Senior Fellow, ORF

16:20- 16:40: Valedictory Address

Ashok Lavassa, Rtd. IAS, Election Commissioner

Venue: Principal Lawns, Hindu College