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## 2019 India Think Tank Forum

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*University of Pennsylvania*

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## 2019 India Think Tank Forum

### Abstract

Observer Research Foundation, in collaboration with Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania, organized the third India Think Tank Forum on 7 January 2019, at the Taj Mahal Hotel in Delhi. The forum brought together a diverse representation both of regional, national and international think tanks, for an informative and productive exchange on key policy issues. The role of think tanks in civil society and the challenges faced by them, formed a key part of the conversations that took place at the conference. Some of the broad themes in discussion were 'India and the World', 'Economy and Growth in India through a Gendered Lens', 'Strategies and Operations Challenges faced by Think Tanks', 'Think Tanks and SDGs', 'Think Tanks in the Digital Era', among others.

### Keywords

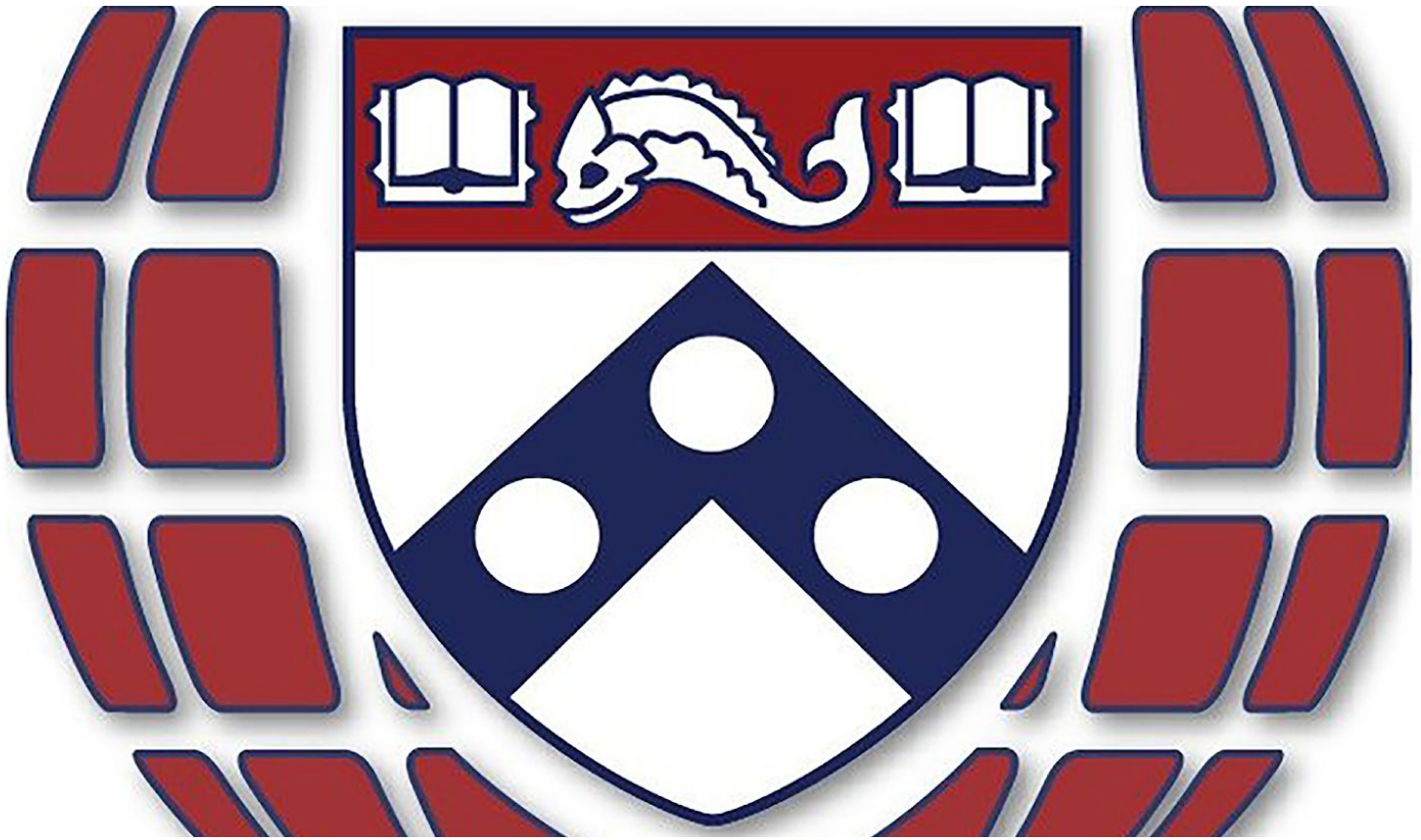
Think Tank, Civil Society, NGO, India Think Tank Summit, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania

### Disciplines

International Relations

### Comments

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# India Think Tank Forum, 2019

National Capital Territory of Delhi, Republic of India

*James G McGann*  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

*January 2019*





## ABOUT THE THINK TANKS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES PROGRAM (TTCSP)

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania conducts research on the role policy institutes play in governments and civil societies around the world. Often referred to as the “think tanks’ think tank,” TTCSP examines the evolving role and character of public policy research organizations. Over the last 30 years, the TTCSP has developed and led a series of global initiatives that have helped bridge the gap between knowledge and policy in critical policy areas such as international peace and security, globalization and governance, international economics, environmental issues, information and society, poverty alleviation, and healthcare and global health. These international collaborative efforts are designed to establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities that improve policy making while strengthening democratic institutions and civil societies around the world.

## ABOUT THE LAUDER INSTITUTE

The Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies offers an M.A. in international studies and conducts fundamental and policy-oriented research on current economic, political, and business issues. It organizes an annual conference that brings academics, practitioners, and policy makers together to examine global challenges such as financial risks, sustainability, inequality, and the future of the state.

## ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The University of Pennsylvania (Penn) is an Ivy League school with highly selective admissions and a history of innovation in interdisciplinary education and scholarship. A world-class research institution, Penn boasts a picturesque campus in the middle of Philadelphia, a dynamic city that is conveniently located between Washington, D.C. and New York, New York the University of Pennsylvania was founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1740 to push the frontiers of knowledge and benefit society by integrating study in the liberal arts and sciences with opportunities for research and practical, pre-professional training at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Penn is committed to meeting the full demonstrated need of all undergraduates with grant-based financial aid, making this intellectually compelling integration of liberal and professional education accessible to talented students of all backgrounds and empowering them to make an impact on the world.

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# Acknowledgments

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The views expressed are those of James G McGann and should not be attributed to the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, or its funders. Funders do not determine research findings or the insights and recommendations of Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program.

# Summit Concept Note

Observer Research Foundation, in collaboration with Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania, organised the third India Think Tank Forum on 7 January 2019, at the Taj Mahal Hotel in Delhi. The forum brought together a diverse representation both of regional, national and international think tanks, for an informative and productive exchange on key policy issues. The role of think tanks in civil society and the challenges faced by them, formed a key part of the conversations that took place at the conference. Some of the broad themes in discussion were ‘India and the World’, ‘Economy and Growth in India through a Gendered Lens’, ‘Strategies and Operations Challenges faced by Think Tanks’, ‘Think Tanks and SDGs’, ‘Think Tanks in the Digital Era’, among others.

Delivering the keynote address, Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, flagged off the Forum, highlighting that the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is marked by “tectonic shifts” — not unlike those of the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In order to address the challenges presented by these changes, there is a need for countries to come together and formulate shared solutions. The new developments comprising of these tectonic shifts, include technology and automation, communications, threat to the environment, population ageing and healthcare. The prospective solutions must aim to operate at a “glocal” level, which is a combination of both “global” as well as “local”, and preserve the benefits of globalisation with local culture, identity and markets. Countries need to agree to operate on the basis of “rule of law”, where nations small and large prosper, with each country being responsible towards securing a peaceful global order. Dr. Kumar presented a future plan based on 6Cs, comprising of coalitions, coexistence, convergence, common public goods, communications & connectivity, and cooperation & collaboration to provide an integrated, holistic solution to these tectonic shifts.

As the world enters into an era of flux, where old assumptions of the international system are being called into question, the time is ripe to debate what the coming era will look like, and how these new dynamics will shape India’s place on the global stage. First, economic productivity is no longer concentrated predominantly within the traditional economic powers as states in the emerging world are increasingly taking center stage as engines of global economic growth. Second, the United States’ overwhelming military edge is under challenge by China and Russia’s modernisation efforts, including in the nuclear realm. Third, American experiences in Afghanistan and Iraq have shown that traditional military power is no longer legitimate or sufficient in the types of conflict that dominate the world today. Fourth, the rise of populist leaders around the world is a symptom of dissatisfaction with the performance of existing economic and political structures. This dissatisfaction manifests at the international stage as well, with powers contesting the status quo. These four factors are also at play in the Indo-Pacific, which has emerged as the principal arena strategic competition between two great

powers: China and the United States. For China, the presence of foreign powers within what it sees as its own backyard is a threat to its sovereignty and security. While China sees an opportunity in the apparent decline of US influence to seize control of the region, the United States is bracing itself to protect the status quo with policies of competition and containment.

India, particularly, has a unique responsibility, as it shows a microcosm of what needs to happen in the world; that is, a society that is plural, diverse, with both demographic and democratic dividend, and a strong cooperative and competitive federalism framework. Going forward, countries must understand that “business as usual” will not work and that governments, in collaboration with think tanks need to come up with fresh ideas to address these myriad challenges.

As for the sustainable development goals (SDGs), which encompass a broad set of targets ranging from poverty eradication, human health and sanitation to sustainable safeguarding of the global ecosystems, it is important to question the role of think tanks in measuring the progress made so far, and brainstorm ways of achieving the targets by 2030. Despite having capital constraints, think tanks must combine efforts to create knowledge, lead action and aid financial viabilities. It is critical to have a balance between rational intervention and irrational political choice when it comes to achieving the SDGs. Think tanks thus play an important role in bringing in disparate stakeholders together establishing a narrative, prioritising SDGs to each government agenda, and disseminating information without any political bias. Interconnectedness between stakeholders and the targets of the SDGs is a requirement essential to achieving the SDGs but the implications are not clear to many governments. Thus, think tanks need to create a roadmap that interconnects and creates a consensus on how India should achieve the SDGs.

One of the most serious challenges the think tank community is facing today is the difficulty in working ‘with’ the government, instead of ‘for’ the government. Moreover, the major problems plaguing the world today, such as in the field of healthcare, sustainability and disaster resilience, are not only complex problems, but are also moving targets that do not have fixed answers. Think tanks, therefore, must constantly strive to innovate the ways and means in which they engage with the outside world, the domain of industry, media *et cetera*, to cultivate novel ideas and policy prescriptions around problems that are global and all-encompassing in nature.

In a sense, then, following are the three broad trends think tanks are trying to respond today. First, old assumptions, institutions and frameworks are increasingly losing relevance, a gradual development that has tasked think tanks with the responsibility of shaping contemporary narratives around economics, security, politics, nuclear arrangements, etc. Second, technology — largely understood as the utopian tool meant to deliver mankind from misery, in the past — has its own agenda. Technology now functions as an actor, not an instrument, and possesses the ability to shape society, politics, act as a tool of propaganda and misinformation, and at the same time, continues to deliver millions from poverty and other serious inadequacies. It is this dual face of technology that think tanks need to contend with. Third, is the arrival of truly global politics, which is global not only in terms of the voices it represents, but also the rise of communities that are able to aggregate and create impact, which is far greater than what think



tanks can achieve.

Therefore, the time is ripe for think tanks to reinvent the ways and means of producing and disseminating information, take it to communities that are more vocal than institutions can be, and ensure that the discourse is embedded with information and knowledge, and is far more dispersed and democratised than ever before.

- *Shubhangi Pandey, Junior Fellow, ORF.*

# Agenda

New Delhi, India  
January 7, 2019

## Agenda

08:30-09:00 Participant registration

09:00-09:20 Welcome Remarks by Hosts and Organizers

*Dr. James McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies*

*Program,*

*Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania*

*Dr. Samir Saran, President, Observer Research Foundation*

09:20-10:00 Opening Keynote Address

10:00-11:30 New Faces and New Ideas: The Future of Think Tanks  
and Policy Advice in India

The Panel will feature women, young scholars and executives from think tanks from across the globe. They have been asked to address the following questions: why did you choose to work at a think tank?; what obstacles did you encounter in the hiring process and advancing your career at a think tank?; what perspective on policy and organization innovation do you bring to your think tank and the issues facing your country; and what specific recommendations you would suggest to improve the role and impact of think tanks? Finally, and most importantly what recommendations would you make to improve the careers of women, young scholars and executives?

11:30-11:45 Tea/Coffee Break

11:45-13:00 New Sources and Strategies for Raising Funds for Think Tanks

The Panel will discuss new and innovative strategies and trajectories for fund raising. What financial paths must think tanks embark upon to ensure their future sustainability? How think tanks can go beyond the conservative horizon of conventional institution funders?

13:00-14:30 Lunch Session

Think Tanks and SDG's: Catalysts for Ideas, Analysis and Implementation

14:30-16:00 Think Tanks in the Digital Era: Incubating Policy conversations in 280 characters

The Panel will reimagine the role of think tanks in the new attention economy as interlocutors of policy conversations. How must think tanks evolve to communicate complex policy challenges to younger demographics? With an increasing number of policymakers adopting new media technologies, must think tanks modernize or be left behind?

16:00-16:15 Tea/Coffee Break

16:15-17:45 Looking Back, Looking Ahead: India's 2019 General Election

17:45-18:00 Group photo

18:00-19:00 Closing Session: Discussion, Conclusions and Action Agenda for 2019

The Round Table discussion will formulate a series of conclusions that might be drawn from the Forum and a set of actions that the participants might work on in the months following the Forum.

19:00-22:00 Dinner and Networking

# Participant Biographies



## **Seshadri VASAN**

*Regional Director Chennai Chapter, National Maritime Foundation  
Chennai*

An alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, the Naval War College and the International Visitor Leadership Programme, USA, Commodore (Retd.) Seshadri Vasan has had a distinguished career spanning over 34 years. His wide-ranging appointments both at sea and ashore include command of warships, appointment in the INS Vikrant, command of the long-range Maritime Reconnaissance/ASW squadron, member examiner of the Aircrew Categorisation and Standardisation Board (AIRCATS), and Chief Staff Officer (Operations) at Southern Naval Command the premier training command of the Indian Navy. He is presently the Director of the Chennai Centre for China Studies and Head Strategy and Security Studies at the Center for Asia Studies.



## **Roasaheb BAWASKAR**

*CEO & Founder, Mumbai School of Thoughts (MST)  
Mumbai*

Mr. Raosaheb Bawaskar is CEO & Founder General Secretary at Mumbai School of Thoughts (MST): a Mumbai based Foreign Affairs and Public Policy Think Tank. He coordinates 'China's Global Strategy Program' at the MST. Mr. Bawaskar has been a visiting Professor for more than 07 years in various prestigious colleges of the city. Apart from this Mr. Bawaskar is a Visiting Fellow at the VGF's Center for Water and Development Policy where he mobilizes masses and resources on water issues. Besides, he teaches Political Science at NES Ratnam College, Mumbai. He has written and presented several articles and research papers in journals and international conferences on the subject of his interest.

## **Nil RATAN**



*Professor of Social Sciences, A N Sinha Institute of Social Studies  
Patna, Bihar*

Professor Ratan has been working on Child Protection and Child Labour issues since the 1990s. He was Project Director of the child labour cell at Ansiss, which was supported by UNICEF for almost ten years. He trained at the VV Giri Institute of Social Studies, Noida, NIRD, Hyderabad, NIPCCID, Delhi & Lucknow and at ILO World Training Centre Turin, Italy. He has given lectures on child labour issues and conducted courses on child protection in collaboration with TISS (Mumbai), UNICEF and Save the Children. He has worked closely with the Bihar State Department of Labour & Welfare to successfully implement the “Happy Hisua” campaign in Nawada district - where the Hisua block was declared a ‘child labour free block’, the first of its kind in India.



**Bharath M. PALAVALLI**

*Co-Founder, Fields of View  
Bangalore*

Bharath M. Palavalli researches and designs tools such as games and simulations to help make better public policy. He works in the areas of poverty, transport, energy, disaster management and urban planning. Previously, he designed agent-based simulation frameworks, games for safety and learning, and he also has worked in the areas of infrastructure policy, disaster management and poverty. His current work focuses on policy design and planning in the context of developing countries. Bharath was elected as an Ashoka Fellow in 2018 for his work in designing tools and methods to allow different stakeholders to collaborate on creating relevant public policy.



**Dr. V.S. SAMBANDAN**

*Chief Administrative Officers, The Hindu Center for Politics and Public Policy  
Chennai*

V.S. Sambandan is Chief Administrative Officer, The Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy. He holds a PhD degree in Economics from the University of Madras, India, and an MBA degree from Bournemouth University, UK. During his journalism career he has reported and written extensively on economics and social issues and served as The Hindu's foreign correspondent in

Sri Lanka for six years during the Sri Lankan separatist conflict. His areas of interests include economic and social policy, politics and political communication, and political economy. He is a member of the Board of Studies for Economics, University of Madras, and Co-chair of ASSOCHAM's Tamil Nadu Economic Affairs Committee.



**Anu MADGAVKAR**

*Partner, McKinsey Global Institute (MGI)  
Mumbai*

Anu Madgavkar is a partner with the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI), McKinsey's business and economics research arm. She leads teams based in India, working on global as well as India-focused research. Anu's recent research has focused on global labor markets and skills; gender economics; migration; economic development and poverty alleviation, and applying technology to solving development challenges. She has coauthored several MGI reports, including *Poorer than their parents*, *The power of parity*; *People on the move: Global migration's impact and opportunity*; *India's path from poverty to empowerment*, *India's tech opportunity: transforming work, empowering people*, and *India's economic geography: states, cities and clusters*. Previously, Anu was a partner of McKinsey based in Mumbai, where she co-led McKinsey's Financial Institutions practice in India. She has authored several reports and white papers on India's economic growth and financial sector development. Currently she serves on the National Economic Growth and Investments Council of the Confederation of Industry in India.



**Dr. Liyaqat KHAN**

*Associate Professor, Department of Civics and Politics  
University of Mumbai  
Mumbai*

Dr. Liyaqat Khan, PhD, is a Professor in the Department of Civics and Politics at the University of Mumbai. He specializes in Defence and Strategic studies, Eurasian Studies and International relations. He serves as Coordinator for Post Graduate Diploma in International studies Program at the Department and has published numerous articles and Research Papers at National and International journals, coordinated various National and International Seminars and Conferences for the Department. Apart from this, he is a Founder President and Fellow at the Mumbai School of Thoughts (MST): a Mumbai based Foreign Affairs and

Public Policy Think Tank. He coordinates 'Global Strategy Program', and 'Maharashtra in India's Foreign Policy Program' at the MST.



**Ram Kumar MISHRA**

*Director, Institute of Public Enterprise  
Hyderabad*

Dr R K Mishra, is ONGC Subir Raha Chair Professor on Corporate Governance and Senior Professor and Director, Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad, India, a Ph.D from the University of Rajasthan and a visiting fellow at London Business School, studied for International Teachers programme at SDA Bocconi, Milan. Dr Mishra taught at the University of Bradford, and was a visiting Professor at Maison Des Sciences De L' Hommes, Paris, Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana and Accountancy Research Institute (ARI), Universiti of Teknologi Mara, Malaysia. He has conducted research for Finance Commission, Planning Commission and Indian Council of Social Science Research. He is special invite on OECD Working Group on Privatization and Corporate Governance of SOEs and Asian Network of Corporate Governance. He is also a Member 'Panel of Experts on Reforms in Central Public Sector Enterprises' set up by the Planning Commission, Govt of India, Member, Adhoc Taskforce set up by the Cabinet Secretariat, to review the Results Framework Documents of the various ministries of the Govt of India, Ad hoc Task Force on Memorandum of Understanding, Government of India. His areas of interest include Urbanization, Corporate Governance, Corporate Social Responsibility, Sustainable Development, Public Enterprise Management, Corporate and International Finance.



**Ambassador Neelam DEO**

*Co-Founder & Director  
Gateway House  
Mumbai*

Neelam Deo has served as the Indian Ambassador to Denmark and Ivory Coast with concurrent accreditation to Niger, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. She has also served in the Indian embassies in Rome, Bangkok and Washington D.C., where she liaised with the U.S. Congress, the State Department, and the National Security Council on strategic issues. Her last assignment was as Consul General in New York from 2005 to 2008. In 2009 she co-founded Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations, a foreign policy

think-tank to engage India's leading corporations and individuals in debate and scholarship on India's foreign policy and its role in global affairs. She is also a distinguished fellow with the Centre for Air Power Studies, an advisor to The Climate Group – a consultancy for sustainable development – and sits on the board of Breakthrough, a human rights organization.



**Subodh KANDAMUTHAN**

*Associate Professor and Director, Centre for Health Care Management at Administrative Staff College of India Hyderabad*

Subodh Kandamuthan is currently an Associate Professor and Director of the Centre for Health Care Management at Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad. He holds a Masters Degree in Development Economics, M Phil Degree in Applied Economics and Ph.D in Health Economics. His areas of expertise include Health Economics, Health Financing, Health Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation, Trade in Health Services and Public Private Partnerships in Social Sector. He is also currently a member of the World Health Organization Technical Advisory Group on Mobile Health and a recipient of the first Australia India Council Research fellowship.



**Amar Deep SINGH**

*Senior Programme Officer CUTS International Jaipur*

Amar Deep Singh has more than 13 years of experience in the governance, consumer protection and sustainable development sectors. He is currently a Senior Programme Officer at CUTS International, where he leads the organization's urban governance interventions. He initiated the 'Rajasthan City Mayors' Learning Platform (RCMLP), which is first of its kind to provide a platform to Mayors of Rajasthan for sharing experience. In 2016, he was awarded for his outstanding contributions in improving governance of Rajasthan. Mr. Singh has worked to implement research and advocacy based projects in Affiliated Network for Social Accountability, in the South Asia Region. He is also associated with International organisations such as the Indian Red Cross Society, All India National Journalist Committee, Rajasthan Coalition for Tobacco Control. He holds Master's degrees in English Literature and Management.





**Dr. Annapoorna RAVICHANDER**

*Head, Communication and Policy Engagement Team  
Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy Bangalore*

Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander is a media and communications expert, with experience of working in Indian think tanks. She oversees the policy engagement and communications activities at CSTEP where she develops and implements overall organisational communications strategies. She also provides training and advice on media and communications to think tanks and other organisations. She holds a Ph.D. in History and has been a recipient of a Rotary Award for Exemplary Services (1999), the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Portugal from 1985-86 and a University Grants Commission Fellowship from 1984-1988.



**Françoise NICOLAS**

*Senior Research Fellow and Director  
Center for Asian Studies, Ifri  
Paris*

Françoise Nicolas is a senior Researcher and Director of the Center for Asian Studies at (IFRI), Paris. Her research focuses on Emerging economies, with a focus on East Asia, East Asian regional economic integration, Foreign direct investment and growth, and Globalization and its impacts on global governance. She teaches at the National Institute of Oriental Studies (Langues' O), at Sciences Po, Paris (Europe-Asia programme, Le Havre campus) and Sciences Po (Lyon). She is also a consultant to the Directorate for Financial, Fiscal and Enterprise Affairs (DAF) of the OECD, with a focus on Southeast Asian non-member economies. She holds a Ph.D in international economics (1991) and an MA in political science (1985) from the Graduate Institute of International Studies (Geneva, Switzerland). Her latest publications and “Catching Up or Staying Ahead: Japanese Investment in the Mekong Region and the China Factor”, *Asie Visions*, No 99, Ifri, May 2018.



**Nicola MISSAGLIA**

*Research Fellow  
ISPI Asia Centre*

Nicola Missaglia is a Research Fellow at ISPI's Asia Centre, in charge of the India Desk and of the Institute's Digital Publications. Before joining ISPI, he served for several years as the Scientific Coordinator and Managing Editor for the international think tank Reset-Dialogues on Civilizations. He

holds a B.A. in Philosophy and a Research Master's degree in Political Theory and Contemporary History from Sciences Po Paris' Doctoral School (France) and has extensive experience in managing projects in the MENA region and India. As a member of the International Association of Journalists (Brussels), he contributes to Italian and international magazines and edits the annual issue of ISPI/Treccani's Geopolitical Atlas. He also takes part in research projects commissioned by the Italian Parliament and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and organizes ISPI's "International Lectures," a closed-door workshop series on global issues addressing experts and academics. His research interests focus on nation-building processes, conflict and political transitions, identity politics, minorities and religious divides in the MENA region and South Asia.



**Nishchal PANDEY**

*Director, Kathmandu based Centre for South Asian Studies (CSAS)  
Nepal*

Dr. Nishchal N. Pandey is the Director of the Kathmandu based Centre for South Asian Studies (CSAS), an independent think-tank. Dr. Pandey was previously Executive Director of the Institute of Foreign Affairs under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal. He is also convener of the Consortium of South Asian Think-Tanks (COSATT), a consortium of some prominent South Asian Think-tanks. He has a Ph.D in political science from Tribhuvan University and was visiting fellow at the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), National University of Singapore (2006-07) and visiting fellow at the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), Berlin (2013). Dr. Pandey was recently member of the high-level task force on Nepal's foreign policy under the Minister of Foreign Affairs. He also teaches at the Armed Police Force Command and Staff College. Dr. Pandey is currently member of the international research committee of the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Colombo.



**Dr. Arunabha GHOSH**

*Chief Executive Officer*

*Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)  
New Delhi*

Dr. Arunabha Ghosh a public policy professional, adviser, author, columnist, and institution builder. As the founder-CEO of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, since 2010, he has led CEEW to the top ranks as one of South Asia's leading policy research institution (five years in a row); and among the world's 20 best climate think-tanks in 2016. He has been actively involved in the design of the International Solar Alliance since inception. He conceptualised and is a founding board member of the Clean Energy Access Network (CLEAN). With experience in 43 countries, he previously worked at Princeton, Oxford, UNDP (New York), and WTO (Geneva). In 2018, the UN Secretary-General nominated him to the UN's Committee for Development Policy. In 2018, the Government of India appointed him as a member of the Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority for the National Capital Region.



**Karthik GANESAN**

*Research Fellow*

*Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)  
New Delhi*

Karthik Ganesan is a Research Fellow at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). An engineer by training, he leads The Council's work on the Power Sector, and Industrial Sustainability and Competitiveness. His research focus includes the operational reform of DISCOMs in India and the competitiveness of various power generation sources. In recent years, Karthik has led an independent effort to assess GHG emissions from the industrial sector and improve transparency in reporting and has had an integral role in the establishment of the GHG Platform India. He has also led a first-of-its-kind evaluation of the impact of industrial policies on the renewable energy sector in India. He supports ongoing work on the drivers of energy efficiency uptake in industry and the evaluation of energy access indicators for rural Indian households. His published works include 'Resurgence of Nuclear Power – Challenges and Opportunities for Asia' (Springer, Book Chapter), and 'Factors Affecting household satisfaction with electricity supply in India' (*Nature Energy*). He has a Masters degree in Public Policy from the National University of Singapore and an undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering and an M.Tech in

Infrastructure Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.



### **Abhishek JAIN**

*Senior Programme Lead*

*Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)*

*New Delhi*

Abhishek Jain leads the Energy Access focus area, where, along with his team, he focuses on provision of modern forms of energy for all, especially the deprived. His research (and action) spans energy access for households, communities, and livelihoods. He co-conceptualised and leads CEEW's flagship research efforts on ACCESS – Access to Clean Cooking energy and Electricity – Survey of States, the largest survey of its kind on energy access. Over the years, Abhishek has focused on various issues including renewable energy, decentralised energy access, clean cooking energy, LPG for cooking, fossil fuel subsidies, electricity sector reforms, solar-powered irrigation, and circular economy. He is currently focusing on supporting innovations and entrepreneurship in clean energy for income generation, guiding national and state strategies on electricity access, designing a roadmap for clean cooking energy access in India, and supporting states on their solar pump programme design. He holds an MPhil in Sustainable Development from the University of Cambridge and a BTech in mechanical engineering from IIT Roorkee.



### **Johann IVANOV**

*Deputy Representative & Program Director*

*Social Justice, FES*

*India*

Johann Ivanov is Deputy Country Director with FES India Office and in charge of the energy, urbanisation, labour and Social Democracy portfolios. His main focus lies in stimulating the modernization process of Indian trade unions. Before joining the India project in October 2017, he worked as Desk Officer for the FES Asia and Pacific Department in Berlin. In his assignment as Desk Officer, he has acted as a focal point for the FES Offices in the Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand and supported the Social Democracy in Asia (SocDem) and Economy of Tomorrow (EoT) regional projects from FES HQ. Johann Ivanov holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the Free University of Berlin and a Master's degree in International Political Theory from the

University of Edinburgh. He has also studied Russian history and foreign policy at the Kazan Federal University in Tatarstan.



**Dr. Amrita JASH**

*Associate Fellow  
Centre for Land Warfare Studies  
New Delhi*

Amrita Jash is an Associate Fellow at Centre for land Warfare Studies. She holds a Ph.D in Chinese Studies from Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has been a recipient of graduate fellowship by the University Grants Commission (2011-2016) as well as received a field trip grant to China for doctoral research by the School of international Studies, J.N.U. She was selected under the ""US-INDIA-CHINA Initiative"" (2013), School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, a study trip to China (2014) under the Ministry of Commerce, P.R.C., and a Harvard-Yenching-Nanching research fellowship (2015). Her research has appeared in seven edited books, International Journals such as the East Asian Policy, Review of Global Politics, Strategic Analysis, Yonsei Journal, Maritime Affairs, China Report and Strategic Vision. She has also published in forums such as CSIS, RSIS, Huffington Post, E-IR, Asia Times, Munk School of Global Affairs, Crawford School, ISDP, China-India Brief, IPP Review, SADF, I-A Forum, Gateway House, China Focus and others. Her research interests are China's foreign policy, strategic, security and military issues.



**Rohit MAGOTRA**

*Deputy Director  
IRADe (Integrated Research and Action for Development)  
New Delhi*

Rohit Magotra has a Masters in Environmental Science with advanced degree in management from IIFM, Bhopal. His international experience includes working on Disaster Risk Reduction, Disaster management and mitigation strategies, vulnerability assessment, environment & climate change, climate resilience, natural resource management & sustainable development, assessment & monitoring, strategies formulation, methodology development, policy research & advocacy and ICT4 Development in South Asia. He has expertise in developing and

conducting national training courses, managing and coordinating regional projects to central, state and local level governments and International organizations and Non-Government Agencies in strategic and programme planning and capacity development. He has engaged in past with multi-donor projects and programmes of USAID, Oxfam GB, World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (India), Ministry of Environment & Forests, India, Ministry of Urban Development, India, GTZ, International Development Research Centre, Canada, Food & Agriculture Organisation, etc. He has authored/co-authored/contributed several papers and publications.

### **Ambassador Hemant Krishnan SINGH**

*Director General  
Delhi Policy Group  
New Delhi*



Ambassador Hemant Krishnan Singh is a former career diplomat with extensive experience of geo-strategic and geo-economic issues as well as multilateral institutions which underpin international law and commerce. During his diplomatic career (1974-2010), he has served as India's Ambassador to several countries including Japan and Indonesia, and as India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva. He has held several significant assignments during his career, dealing with the United States, West Europe and the European Union and India's immediate neighbours. From 2011-2016, Ambassador Singh was Professor for Strategic Studies at ICRIER, New Delhi. Since June 2016, Ambassador Singh has been the Director General of the Delhi Policy Group, which is among India's oldest independent think tanks focused on strategic issues of critical national interest. He has been associated with several Track II/Track 1.5 dialogues involving major think tanks of India, US, Russia, Japan and Asia.

### **Dr. Jyoti Parikh**

*Executive Director, Integrated Research and Action for Development  
(IRADe)  
New Delhi*



Dr. Jyoti Parikh has been appointed as the advisor for Global commission on adaptation set up by UN Secretary General and Gates foundation managed by World Resources Institute. She was also a member of World Economic Forum's Global Agenda on

Decarbonization of Energy Sector. She has served as energy consultant to the World Bank, the U.S. Department of Energy, EEC, Brussels and UN agencies such as UNIDO, FAO, UNU, and UNESCO, Environment Consultant to UNDP, World Bank and so on. She worked as an advisor to various ministries for Gov. of India. Previously she was a Member of the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change –India and is a recipient of Nobel Peace Prize awarded to IPCC authors in 2007. She was a member of science and technical advisory panel (STAP) for Global Environment Facility (GEF) and a member of “Decarbonizing Energy” for World Economic Forum.



**Kazim RIZVI**

*Founder, The Dialogue  
New Delhi*

Kazim Rizvi is a public policy professional based out of New Delhi. He founded The Dialogue to drive a positive, dedicated narrative on policy and development in India. Kazim is also the Co-Chair of the public policy division at The Indian National Bar Association. He focuses on issues related to government mechanisms, social science policy research and advocacy with the objective of making a strong impact to take India forward. Kazim was selected as a Fellow for the Swaniti Initiative to support members of parliament develop solutions to constituents in the areas of health, education, gender and livelihood. He graduated in Law from Christ College of Law, Bangalore in 2012.



**Portia CONRAD**

*Programme Officer  
India International Centre  
New Delhi*

Portia B. Conrad is presently working with Ambassador Shyam Saran at the India International Centre, New Delhi. She was formerly associated with the Ministry of External Affairs and National Security Council Secretariat, Government of India. Her key interests lie in security-related issues in Afghanistan and Pakistan. She holds a Masters in Political Science from St. Joseph's College.



**Dr. Gobinda C. PAL**

*Director  
Indian Institute of Dalit Studies  
New Delhi*

Dr. Pal's academic and research interests focus on understanding developmental issues from socio-psychological frameworks, with a focus on marginalised groups. Dr. Pal is engaged in interdisciplinary research which includes psychology of unemployment; human cognition and learning; identity-based social exclusion, discrimination and violence; disability; intersectionality and deprivation; impact evaluation and inclusive policies. He has an M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Social Psychology of Education from Jawaharlal Nehru University. He also was a Post-doctoral Visiting Fellow for three years at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.



**Brig. Arun SAHGAL**

*Senior Fellow  
Delhi Policy Group*

Arun Sahgal, a retired Brigadier of the Indian Army is the Executive Director of the Forum for Strategic Initiative, a policy think tank focusing on national security, diplomacy and Track II Dialogues. He was previously the founding Director of the Office of Net Assessment, Indian Integrated Defense Staff (IDS), Head of the Center for Strategic Studies and Simulation, United Services Institute of India, and Senior Fellow at the Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. His research comprises scenario planning workshops, geopolitical and strategic assessments related to Asian security, and issues concerning nuclear doctrine and strategic stability in South Asia. His publications include co-authored books and net assessments for the IDS, Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), and the Indian National Security Council. He recently finished a monograph on Strategic Stability in South Asia for Sandia Laboratories, USA. He conducts simulation and strategic games at IDS, the Ministry of Defense, National Defense College, College of Defense Management, and other international clients.





### **Jitendra GC**

Dr. Jitendra GC is the founder and executive chairperson of Sajha Foundation-Nepal, a think tank and policy research institute based in Kathmandu Nepal. He holds a PHD in governance. A team of scholars formed the Sajha Foundation to work and serve Nepal in inclusive economic growth, global governance, climate change, urbanization and democracy. Globally he served in many Think Tank forums with policy articles and research reports and books.

# Summit Partner

## Observer Research Foundation



ORF began its journey in 1990 at the juncture of ideation tempered by pragmatism. During the period of India's transition to a new engagement with the international economic order, several challenges emerged, evoking a need for an independent forum that could critically examine the problems facing the country and help develop coherent policy responses. ORF was thus formed, and brought together, for the first time, leading Indian economists and policymakers to present the agenda for India's economic reforms.

Propelled by the process of reforms initiated in the 1990s, ORF, over the past 30 years of its existence, has effectively narrated and participated in India's story as the country has acquired an unmistakable global footprint. From primarily looking inward and engaging with domestic reforms, to gradually forging global partnerships, ORF today plays a seminal role in building political and policy consensus that enables India to interact with the world.

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 course along its own trajectory of long-term sustainable growth.

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

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

# 2019-2020 TTCSP Think Tank Summit and Fora Schedule\*

## September 23-25 2019

*Latin America Think Tank Summit*, Bogota, Colombia TTCSP Partner: Fedesarrollo & Fundación Ideas de La Paz

## October 29-30, 2019

*MENA Think Tank Summit*, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates TTCSP Partner: Emirates Policy Center

## November 10-12, 2019

*Asia Think Tank Summit*, Bangkok, Thailand, Partner: Trade, Investment and Innovation Division UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

## December 5, 2019

*Euro-Med Think Tank Forum*, Rome, Italy TTCSP Partner: Institute for International Political Studies ISPI

## December 12-13, 2019

*Global Think Tank Summit*, Rio de Janeiro, TTCSP Partner: Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV)

## January 30, 2020

*Think Tank and Civil Societies: Catalyst for Ideas, Innovation and Action 2020 Why Think Tanks Matter in Washington, DC and 150 cities around the world.*

## February 2020

*AI Think Tank Forum*, Palo Alto, California or another venue

## February 2020

*Africa Think Tank Summit*, Cape town, South Africa

## March 2020

*North America Think Tank Summit*, Washington, DC

## April 2020

*Europe Think Tank Summit*, Marseilles, France

## Date and location to be determined

*Global Food and Water Security Summit*

## Date to be determined

*Bahrain Think Tank Regional/Global Summit*

\* Summits and fora dates are subject to change but are confirmed unless otherwise indicated

# About TTCSP

## Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania conducts research on the role policy institutes play in governments and civil societies around the world. Often referred to as the “think tanks’ think tank,” TTCSP examines the evolving role and character of public policy research organizations. Over the last 30 years, the TTCSP has developed and led a series of global initiatives that have helped bridge the gap between knowledge and policy in critical policy areas such as international peace and security, globalization and governance, international economics, environmental issues, information and society, poverty alleviation, and healthcare and global health. These international collaborative efforts are designed to establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities that improve policy making while strengthening democratic institutions and civil societies around the world.

The TTCSP works with leading scholars and practitioners from think tanks and universities in a variety of collaborative efforts and programs and produces the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index that ranks the world’s leading think tanks in a variety of categories. This is achieved with the help of a panel of over 1,900 peer institutions and experts from the print and electronic media, academia, public and private donor institutions, and governments around the world. We have strong relationships with leading think tanks around the world, and our annual Think Tank Index is used by academics, journalists, donors and the public to locate and connect with the leading centers of public policy research around the world. Our goal is to increase the profile and performance of think tanks and raise the public awareness of the important role think tanks play in governments and civil societies around the globe.

Since its inception in 1989, the TTCSP has focused on collecting data and conducting research on think tank trends and the role think tanks play as civil society actors in the policy-making process. To date TTCSP has provided technical assistance and capacity building programs in 81 countries. We are now working to create regional and global networks of think tanks in an effort to facilitate collaboration and the production of a modest yet achievable set of global public goods. Our goal is to create lasting institutional and state-level partnerships by engaging and mobilizing think tanks that have demonstrated their ability to produce high quality policy research and shape popular and elite opinion and actions for public good.

## The Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies

The Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies offers an M.A. in international studies and conducts fundamental and policy-oriented research on current economic, political, and business issues. It organizes an annual conference that brings academics, practitioners, and policy

makers together to examine global challenges such as financial risks, sustainability, inequality, and the future of the state.

## University of Pennsylvania

The University of Pennsylvania (Penn) is an Ivy League school with highly selective admissions and a history of innovation in interdisciplinary education and scholarship. Its peer institutions are Harvard, Stanford, Columbia, Brown, Dartmouth, and the University of Chicago in the US and Oxford and Cambridge in the UK. A world-class research institution, Penn boasts a picturesque campus in the middle of Philadelphia, a dynamic city that is conveniently located between Washington, D.C. and New York, New York the University of Pennsylvania was founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1740 to push the frontiers of knowledge and benefit society by integrating study in the liberal arts and sciences with opportunities for research and practical, pre-professional training at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Penn is committed to meeting the full demonstrated need of all undergraduates with grant-based financial aid, making this intellectually compelling integration of liberal and professional education accessible to talented students of all backgrounds and empowering them to make an impact on the world.

## TTCSP Recent and Forthcoming Publications:

*Think Tanks: The New Knowledge and Policy Brokers in Asia* (Brookings Press and Asian Development Bank Institute, 2019) <https://www.brookings.edu/book/think-tanks/>

*Trends and Transitions in Security Expertise from Deterrence to Climate Change and Back Again* (Routledge, 2017)  
<https://www.routledge.com/Global-Trends-and-Transitions-in-Security-Expertise-From-Nuclear-Deterrence/McGann/p/book/9781138304000>

*Think Tanks, Foreign Policy and the Emerging Power Policy Networks* (MacMillan, 2017)  
<https://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9783319603117>

*Think Tanks and Emerging Power Policy Networks* (MacMillan, 2017)  
<https://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9783319719542>

*The Fifth Estate: Think Tanks Public Policy and Governance* (Brookings, 2016)  
[https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/chapter-one\\_the-fifth-estate.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/chapter-one_the-fifth-estate.pdf)

*Think Tanks and SDGs: Catalysts for Analysis, Innovation and Implementation* (TTCSP 2015)  
<http://www.lulu.com/shop/james-mcgann/think-tanks-and-sdgs-catalysts-foranalysis-innovation-and-implementation/paperback/product-22563604.html>

*How Think Tanks Shape Development Policies* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014)  
<http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/15244.html>

*Security Expertise Practice, Power, Responsibility* (Chapter 6) (2014 Routledge)  
<https://www.routledge.com/Security-Expertise-Practice-Power-Responsibility/Berling-Bueger/p/book/9781138819115>

*Think Tanks and Global Policy Networks, Chapter in an edited volume* (Routledge, 2013)  
<https://www.routledge.com/International-Organization-and-Global-Governance/Weiss-Wilkinson/p/book/9781138236585>

*Global Think Tanks, Policy Networks and Governance* (Routledge, 2010)  
<https://www.routledge.com/Global-Think-Tanks-Policy-Networks-and-Governance/McGann-Sabatini/p/book/9780415779791>