

Exchanges, Engagements and Encounters: Connecting India and Eurasia Booklet



Venue: University of Calcutta, Alipore Campus
2014

Date: 8th - 9th January,

<i>Contents</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
Concept note	3
Programme of the Conference	5
Abstracts and Bio-profiles of the speakers	8

Concept Note
Exchanges, Engagements and Encounters
Connecting India and Eurasia

2012 was a landmark year for India's relations with Eurasia as it marks the twentieth year of the establishment of diplomatic relations with the post-Soviet states. It is also a suitable time to critique the past and make projections for the next decade. Every analyst in India repeatedly emphasizes the strategic significance of Central Asia for India. Yet, despite this emphasis and the

fact that India enjoys enormous soft power in the region, her engagement has been limited in both economic and strategic terms. Most discussions on India's relations with the Central Asian Republics stress on the enormous soft power that India enjoys in the region. Unfortunately, and contrary to the entire dialogue on the significance of 'soft power', this winning of 'hearts and minds' in the words of Joseph Nye has not really translated to advantage for India the last twenty years. Attention now has to be focused on how to reconnect with the region not just through the evocation of a common cultural space but also through strategic designs that focus on linkages in a number of areas.

This brings to the forefront the fact that while there are a number of issues where India has found common ground with the region, there also remain certain challenges that would have to be overcome. The most important is perhaps the fact that the trade level between India and the Central Asian states is below potential. This is aggravated by the fact that connectivity, both air and land needs to be developed. There also remains the need for smart use of limited resources through capacity building programmes in IT, e-network, telemedicine and education. Over the next decade the need to step up economic linkages through support to the north-south corridor, encouragement to the private sector to engage with the region, stepping up energy linkages and developing newer areas of co-operation would have to be taken note of. There is also the need to emphasize common security concerns in Afghanistan and engage in dialogues through multilateral forums like the SCO which are in the process of reinventing themselves. The necessity to explore the growing economic space in Eurasia that is likely to be revitalized with the beginning of the Presidential term of Putin also needs to be emphasized. Increasing people to people contact through the cultural centers in three of the Central Asian states remains a priority. Along with this, sharing her experience of building civic institutions and extending support for the large numbers of medical tourists, who visit India, are some of the other areas where India could benefit the region.

Among policy prescriptions for the coming decade implementation of agreements is important along with an emphasis on a viable land route. A meaningful economic presence along with the development of the aviation sector would also go a long way towards furthering the relation. As far as the region is concerned India should emphasize extension of non-reciprocal benefits, a policy pursued by India towards small states in its immediate neighborhood. Given the geostrategic location of the states this would extend India's strategic depth. In any case it is critical to carefully look at China's neighborhood, which extends into the Central Asian region. The projection of India as a serious geopolitical player in the region is the requirement of the day. What is required is the beginning of a debate to change priorities and expand ties. In this context availability of gas and its import to India has been one of the most important issues defining Eurasia's strategic importance to India. However, it is possibly time for India to look for other factors to shape its policy. Trade has always been an option and India is now moving

towards underling its significance by focusing on the North South Transport Corridor. There is today need to underline that stability and security go hand in hand with long term economic opportunity and this brings into focus the need to develop strategies for integration with the region. It is in this background that this conference seeks to examine political, economic and cultural exchanges, engagements and encounters between India and Eurasia from a comparative perspective. The specific issues that are proposed to be debated at length are:

- *Cultural encounters*
- *Diffusion of ideas*
- *Mercantile activity and diasporic communities*
- *Agendas for regional economic cooperation*
- *Extending strategic neighbourhoods*
- *Connect Central Asia and strategies for engagement*

The conference is proposed to be a two day event to deliberate on the above mentioned themes. Scholars from all over the country and representatives of Eurasian countries from their embassies in New Delhi will participate in the conference. Apart from resulting in an academic publication relevant to both academics and policy stake holders the conference aims to discover potential areas that require intensive research either at CSIRD alone or in collaboration with various other national and international research institutes.

SCHEDULE

Exchanges, Engagements and Encounter: Connecting India and Eurasia

Date: January 8-9, 2014

Venue: University of Calcutta, Alipore Campus, 10th Floor, 1, Reformatory Street, Alipore,
Kolkata - 700027

Date: 08/01/2014

Registration

09:30

Inaugural

10:00 – 11:00

Chair: Shri K. Shrinivasan

Former Foreign Secretary of India

Welcome Address: Dr. Binoda Mishra

Director, CSIRD

Inaugural Address: Shri Ajay Bisaria

Joint Secretary, Eurasia Division, MEA, Govt. of India

Key Note Address:
Shri Paramjit Singh Sahai

Former Ambassador of India in Malaysia & Sweden and presently Principal Advisor of Centre for Caucasian & Central Asian Studies of CRRID, Chandigarh

Tea Break

11:00 – 11:30

Session I

Agenda for Regional Economic Cooperation

11:30 – 13:00

Chair: Ajay Patnaik
Speaker:

1. Sanjay Deshpande, Director, Centre for Eurasian Studies, University of Mumbai
Kazakhstan's oil and gas sector and prospects for India
2. Sitaram Sharma, Honorary Consul, Belarus
A perspective on Belarus approach to global affairs
3. T. P. Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
Trade and the Eurasia, South Asia area

Lunch Break

13:00 – 14:00

Session II**Borders, Enclaves and Communities****14:00 – 15:30**

Chair: Amb. Paramjit Singh Sahai

Speakers:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Anita Sengupta, Senior Fellow,
MAKAIAS | Enclaves in the Ferghana |
| 2. Suchandana Chatterjee, Senior Fellow,
MAKAIAS | Between Central Asia and China the Uyghurs of
Almaty |
| 3. Saroj Rani, Prof. Dept of Economics,
University of Delhi | Revival of Silk Route: Growing Role of Asia |

Tea Break**15:30 – 16:00****Session III****Connect Central Asia****16:00 – 17:30**

Chair: Ajay Bisaria

Speaker:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Ajay Patnaik, Professor, Center for
Russian & Central Asian Studies, SIS/JNU | Connect Central Asia Policy and Strategies of
Engagement |
| 2. Kuldip Singh, Deptt. of Political Science,
Gurunanak Dev University, Amritsar | Locating Kazakhstan in India's Economic
Interests in Central Asia |
| 3. Herkan Neadan Toppo, Deptt. of
International Relations, Jadavpur
University | India's Engagement in Trans-Caucasus Region:
Issues and Perspectives |

Date: 09/01/2014**Session IV****Cultural Encounters****10:00 – 11:30**

Chair: Hari S. Vasudevan

Speakers:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Purnima Anand, General Secretary,
International Federation of Indo-Russian
Youth Clubs, Russian Embassy, New
Delhi & Director – Foreign Policy
Research Institute, New Delhi | Exchanges, Engagements and Encounters
Connecting India and Eurasia |
| 2. Rashmi Doraiswamy, Professor, Academy
of international Studies, JMI, New Delhi | The Dancer from Khiva and Documentary Prose |
| 3. Preeti Das, Asst. Prof. RCAS, SIS/JNU | Understanding East and West divide:
assimilation and encounters |
| 4. Dilorom Karamat, Fellow, MAKAIAS | Image of India in musical compositions of
TolibkhonShahidi (Tajikistan). |

Tea Break**11:30 – 11:45**

Session V

Extending Strategic Neighbourhood

11:45 – 13:15

Chair: Kuldip Singh

Speakers:

1. Gen. Shankar Roy Chowdhury (Retd.)
2. Sharad Soni, Centre for Inner Asian Studies, SIS/JNU

New Dimensions of Mongolia's Foreign Policy: Implications for India

3. Arpita Basu Roy, MAKAIAS

Perspectives on Regional Security Involving Afghanistan

4. Bijaya Kumar Das, JU

Emerging Geopolitics of Eurasia: enhancing India's engagement with Central Asia

Valedictory Session

13:15 – 14:00

Chair:

Prof. Jayanta K. Ray

Address:

Prof. Hari Sankar Vasudevan

Vote of Thanks:

Dr. Binoda Kumar Mishra

Lunch

14:00 – 14:45

Exchanges, Engagements and Encounters Connecting India and Eurasia

The paper notes that India still holds importance to those around it and beyond — compelling everyone to overview that who will lead the Eurasia region next. The paper says that there are already signs of geopolitical actions being applied in this direction, though the stage is not yet getting set for a clash of major power interests. In this context, the paper deals with the current debate on East Europe and Central Asia, which involves complex issues and the answers are uncertain, often linked to events in Russia and elsewhere. The dynamisms evolving in the region would inevitably have implications far beyond what one might have imagined a decade ago. The paper attempts to analyse the issues of cultural exchanges, interactions, engagements and encounters between India and Eurasia from a comparative perspective. The paper poses a question as “what Eurasia means for India today”. The author argues that international attention is being focused on redefining the importance of East European and Central Asian countries in the changing regional and international context. Since its reappearance, many suitors have been seeking affinity, proximity and legitimacy with the region on political, strategic, cultural and economic grounds. The author emphasises that this Eurasian region, in its reordered geopolitical form, has emerged as a field of continuing interest and concern in India, particularly in the context of its strategic relevance to India’s cultural and economic growth. Not only does the paper analyse the issues in a historical perspective, it also evaluates the current trends and interests that are at stake for India. The conclusion offers some suggestions for India’s policy options with regard to Eurasia. Paper poses a model of soft power, expansion in which India is rich, but could not succeed for getting the appropriate results. Paper is presenting a model of Russia’s soft power *Rossotrudnichestvo* with great emphasis on the development of principle on public diplomacy. The appreciation for cultural diversity is a fundamental objective of the bi-regional dialogue between Asia and Europe, and calls for different forms of exposure, exchange and creativity. Article focused on fortifying an objective perception of modern India, its material and spiritual potential, preserving and expanding both the language and cultural presence of India throughout the Europe and Asia, while carrying out the principles of “public diplomacy” in order to develop and reinforce friendship, cooperation, and mutual understanding between nations.

Mrs. Purnima Anand born in Delhi in the year of 1968 in a patriotic family. Post graduated from Delhi University in 1991. Her husband, Anand Goel is an advocate and social activist. She has wide experience of working with government and non government sector by organizing and developing projects for social and economic issues. She has also worked extensively with World Bank as socio-economic development consultant with states representatives of India and Sri Lanka, project directors, groups facilitators, head of NGOs, government officers, designers, corporate sector (FICCI, PHD Chamber of Commerce etc.), social workers, case managers, B2B marketing network groups, media & press, direct-care staff and artisans. Being a WB consultant for international agencies and the government, she develops and maintains strong community alliances with country/state agencies, security department and NGOs. She can be contacted at purnimaaneath@yahoo.co.in.

Mr Ajay Bisaria (IAS Batch 1987) is Joint-Secretary, Eurasia Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. He has actively delivered talks on various international issues.

‘The Rising East’ and The Post-Soviet Space

Since 2007, there has been growing attention to ‘a rising east’—a phrase that symbolises the realignment of alliances in Asia initiated and conducted by the rising giants of East Asia, Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia, i.e. China, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam and Malaysia. The idea of ‘a vertical Asia’ in which maritime security alliances like the ASEAN and the East Asian Summits have flourished has been discussed at length by experts. But what is more interesting is the shift to a new regional axis—i.e. ‘a horizontal Asia’ centred round a Northeast Asia energy grid that has attracted a new set of partners in the post-Soviet space, like East Siberia, the Far East and Mongolia. While Siberia has positioned itself as a Pacific gateway, a landlocked ex-Soviet buffer like Mongolia has gained visibility as a repository of coal, gold and copper mines which is the source of competition between Chinese and western companies. A new entrant in the domain of eastern alliances is Kazakhstan. The Kazakh President’s Vision 2030 and Vision 2050 speeches depict maturity of visions for development. His receptiveness to the Malaysian economic model or his recently announced Eurasian-African agenda tend to give a new boost to the Central Asian rationale for development based on the eastern alliance framework. Most of these new options are related to trade and economic cooperation, energy and infrastructure which regions like the Russian Far East and Eastern Siberia or the western Kazakh resource belts are able to offer. Some of these opportunities are also being tapped by Indian business communities based in Atyrau and Aktobe. As a Soviet ally, India already has the advantage of maneuvering her Central Asian policy, which has so far been analysed through the prism of her security and geopolitical interests in the northern and north-western sectors.

The Indian involvement in the eastern alliance framework is visible, but not very specific. She has been trying to make a mark by getting an entry into the economic space of East Asia. Since the Fourth BRICS summit in New Delhi in March 2012, India has galvanised into action by showing its preference for unconventional allies like South Africa and also showing faith in the ‘rising east’. The host communities’ receptiveness to an Indian presence has been recognized recently. Here, India has an added advantage because of memories of belonging to a transnational Buddhist space. The identification of the Buddhist space beyond Buddha’s birthplace in Nepal is an attractive option for India and its neighbourhood. The idea of a transnational Buddhist space with variants (Theravada, Mahayana, Hinayana, Vajrayana) in India (Ladakh, Sikkim and the Northeastern hill states) as well as in China, Tibet, Buryatia, Mongolia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Korea and Japan has received wide media coverage in terms of India’s partnership with the APEC community. The purpose here is to indicate that the Asian gaze has widened. As far as the post-Soviet space is concerned, there are more regional actors than imagined.

Dr Suchandana Chatterjee is Fellow, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata, India. Her research interests include shared spaces and connected histories of Eurasia, marginalized identities of Central Asia, images of Eurasia’s transition, etc. Her ongoing project in the Institute is on *Post-Soviet images of Kazakhstan: a cosmopolitan space with borderland anxieties*. Her forthcoming book *Reconsidering Inner Asia: shared spaces, shifting identities*. (Delhi: Manohar Publishers) is based on her recently completed project that focuses on Inner Asia’s spatiality and resurgent identities. Her publications include *The Steppe in History-Essays on a Eurasian Fringe* (New Delhi: Manohar, 2010), *Politics and Society in Tajikistan*

in the aftermath of the Civil War (Greenwood Press and Hope India Publications, 2002), *Mind and Vision: Perceptions of reform in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan* (Bookwell, 2006) and several research papers on Central Asia and Asiatic Russia, India and Central Asia in research journals and edited books. She can be contacted at suchandanachatterjee@hotmail.com.

Understanding East and West Divide: Assimilation and Encounters

A number of debates move around ethnic unrest in present Ukraine which has divided it into “West” and “East” creating major cultural barriers among people residing in the country. The group belonging to West associate themselves more with Europeans and vice-versa. This divide does not only refer to national identities but also correspond to distinctive cultural historical and economic regional differences. The fact that central Ukraine became part of Russian State by 1793 – 1796 and five oblast of western Ukraine by 1939 – 1940 does obstruct the formation of idea of unified Ukrainian national identity. Studies also point out that use of religion and Churches for vested political interests makes the task difficult to identify the potential conflict zones. There are no dearth of studies indicating that it is not always the ethnicity and identity are the source of conflict, but the differences exist due to the political struggle for achieving and materializing the political goal. Though the chance of Ukraine joining Europe is still undecided, Ukraine has finally become a strategic ally of the West is widely acknowledged by scholars. However, the internal divide is significantly causing tension in the region it is not a threat to its territorial integrity. The proposed paper is an attempt to look into how precise and deep is the cultural divide between east and west in Ukraine. Attempt would also be made to examine the role of education policy of 1989 in understanding this divide.

Dr. Preeti D. Das is an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has completed her Masters from Simferopol State University, Simferopol now known as Taurida State University and Ph. D. from School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Dr. Das’s expertises are in, History and Literature of Russian Society and Cultural History with special interest on Folklore and Folklore of different ethnic groups. Her research interests involve ethno-cultural studies of CIS region. She has contributed a number of articles in reputed national and international journals. She can be reached at ketyusha@gmail.com.

Emerging Geopolitics of Eurasia: Enhancing India's Engagement With Central Asia

India's aspiration to emerge as a global player in world politics renders it imperative for her to cultivate all possible avenues of geostrategic and economic interest. As opportunities abound for India across regions, positioned as her Near Abroad, Eurasia qualifies as an area of vital significance. In the past, India's approaches to Eurasian countries have been based on symbolic interpretation and representation of engagement. As Central Asia gains ground as the theatre of the New Great Game and India's economic interest steadily raise, the traditional tenor of India's Eurasia policy has replaced with a more pro- active approach based on realist appreciation of national interest. The most significant shift in India's engagement of Eurasia moved beyond historical ties, emphasizing the establishment of tangible process of economic engagement and facilitation of the process of democratic development. India has considerable economic and strategic interest, as well as geopolitical consideration which tempt her for an increased engagement with Central Asian countries. In this direction, India put forward Connect Central Asia Policy in order to develop cooperation with the region .The paper access the strategic environment in Eurasia and the nature and extent of India – Central Asia engagement within this arena. It would highlight major issues which led to both cooperation and competition among major regional and extra –regional power under the auspices of the New Great Game and energy diplomacy.

Dr Bijaya Kumar Das is a PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Dr Das is currently Assistant Professor in the Department of International Relations Jadavpur University. He has a wide area of interest in various international issues and has attended many seminars and conferences of national as well as international importance. He can be reached at bijaydasju@gmail.com.

The Dancer From Khiva And Documentary Prose

One of the important genres of prose in the XX century has been that of documentary prose. In Russia and the Soviet Union, the traditions of realism – critical, socialist – were well-embedded as literary canons. The ‘literature of fact’ was also one of the trends in literature in the first half of the XX century. Documentary fiction, closely related to testimonial literature, emerged in the forefront after the break-up of the Soviet Union. It was one of the many forms of realism that took the space vacated by socialist realism after the collapse. *The Dancer from Khiva* is written by Hadjibibi. It narrates the story of a girl who wanted to be a dancer, but could not due to the stigma attached to the art in a traditional Muslim society. The narration covers the years of perestroika and the years after the fall of USSR. The story is told in first person and is the tale of a woman who is independent in her thinking, brave and forward-looking. It covers the traumatic events of childhood, youth and adult life and problems of conservatism, migration, etc. As such, it falls within the ambit of documentary prose, as a ‘memoir of a subaltern’, that charts the new terrain of post-Soviet space from a woman’s point of view.

Dr Rashmi Doraiswamy is Professor at the Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. She is author of *The Post-Soviet Condition: Chingiz Aitmatov in the '90s* (Aakar, 2005) and *Guru Dutt: Through Light and Shade* (Wisdom Tree, 2008). She is editor of *Cultural Histories of Central Asia* (Aakar, 2009), *Energy Security: India, Central Asia and the Neighbourhood* (Manak, 2013) and *Perspectives on Multiculturalism: Pre-Soviet, Soviet and Post-Soviet Central Asia* (Manak, 2013). She is co-editor of *Being and Becoming: The Cinemas of Asia* (Macmillan, 2002), *Globalisation and the Third World* (Manak, 2009) and *Asian Film Journeys: Selections from Cinemaya* (Wisdom Tree, 2010). Her writings on literature and cinema have been published in prestigious Indian and foreign publications. She was the recipient of the National Award for the Best Film Critic in 1994. She has participated in national and international seminars on cultural issues and has served on several statutory and non-statutory film festival and critics juries in India and abroad. She can be reached at rashmidoe@yahoo.com.

Dr. Triptendu Prakash Ghosh holds M.A from Jawaharlal Nehru University and Ph.D from Jadavpur University He has worked in banks and financial institutions for about six years, handling areas like asset-liability management, risk management, infrastructure financing, and policy analysis. He is currently assistant professor at Indian Institute of Foreign India. His areas of interest includes subjects (for teaching) and/or areas (for research) like Financial Management, Derivatives and Risk Management, Fixed Income Securities, Infrastructure Financing, Securities Analysis & Portfolio Management, Excel Spreadsheet Modeling in Finance, Performance and Corporate Governance of Family Firms, Financial Markets and Institutions. He may be contacted at tpghosh@iift.ac.in.

Image of India in Musical Compositions of Tolibkhon Shahidi (Tajikistan).

For centuries Central Asian region had been at crossroad of civilizations, a land ‘in between’ West and East. Music had the first role in cultural exchanges, because it does not have the limitations that other forms of communication (like language) have. This article will deal with the musical compositions of two modern composers of Central Asia. Image of India was not so much exotic for Central Asian people as it was for Europeans or Russians. But exotic image of India were adopted by Central Asian composers by following the European ideals in 20th century. Disintegration of Soviet Union, new geopolitical orientations and activities of organizations like UNESCO etc., ICCR and Indian Cultural Centers in Republics had start a new stage in Indo - Central Asian relations. Composers of Tajikistan had composed the dozen of musical pieces. Tajik composer Tolibkhon Shahidi, who continued his father’s tradition, composed *Silk Road Dream dancing*. He is also the author of several compositions like *TajMahal*, concert no.3 for f-no and orchestra, *Sufi and Buddha*, **2011 Quartet for 4 cello - from Indian Raga** etc. The Image of India in creative works of Central Asian composers are wide and not only enrich the musical heritage of these countries, but also became a part of the world music.

Dr. Dilorom Karomat (Uzbekistan) is a Musicologist and musical critic, Dilorom got her Ph.D. from Bhatkhande Music Institute in Lucknow, India, with a thesis on the *Interrelations between the Indian and Central Asian Music*. At present, she is a Fellow in Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies in Kolkata (India) and working on a research project named “Afghanistan: music, multiculturalism and Play of Power (the 20th and beginning of the 21st centuries)”. Her research interests are varied and include the Persian texts (manuscripts) on Indian, Persian music and Sufism, the Persian and Turkic lexicography written in India and ethnomusicology of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan. She attended many national and international seminars and conferences and wrote dozens of articles published in English, German, Urdu, Russian and Uzbek languages. She can be reached at dilkaramat@gmail.com.

Dr. Binoda Kumar Mishra is the Director of Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development (CSIRD). He is a Ph.D. from the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Prior to his present position, he worked as a Fellow at Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata and taught Political Science under Burdwan University, West Bengal. He is also the Secretary General of a civilian initiative between India and China namely the Kolkata to Kunming (K2K) Forum. His current research focus is India-China relationship in the larger regional context. His research areas include traditional and non-traditional security issues, Indian Foreign Policy, Development Issues and Diaspora Studies. He can be reached at bkmishra27@gmail.com.

Connect Central Asia Policy and Strategies of Engagement

The paper would discuss various connect Central Asia-South Asia policies of major powers, like the Silk Road revival strategies of America and China and Russia's north-south integration strategy. India has been looking at these options, which includes TAPI, as well as INSTC. With Indian investment in Afghan infrastructure and mining sector, the connectivity through two ports in Iran has become important. Even the move to arrive at some arrangement with the Custom Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan are part of this policy. Though articulated formally in 2012, India has been moving with a strategic vision of its own since it signed the INSTC project with Russia and Iran, followed by proactive energy diplomacy. The prospect of NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan and the resultant uncertainty, as well as India's growing energy needs, seems to have propelled it into launching the Connect Central Asia policy (CCAP). Initiated by Minister of State for External Affairs, E. Ahmed, in a key note address at the 1st meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue in June 2012 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, it aims to provide a new focus and direction to India's relations with the Central Asian States. This paper will discuss the geopolitical context, India's development strategy for Afghanistan and its own economic interests in Central Asia, all of which are part of the Connect Central Asia policy.

Dr. Ajay Kumar Patnaik is Professor and twice Chairperson in the Centre for Russian & Central Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. A Ph. D from JNU, Prof. Patnaik was Visiting Scholar in the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Cambridge, U. K. (1992-93), ICSSR Exchange Scholar at the Institute of Ethnography, Moscow (1999), and at the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow (2010), Visiting Solanki Professor and Scholar in Residence at Yadunandan Centre for Indian Studies, California State University, USA (2006). Prof. Patnaik has authored three books – *Nations, Minorities and States in Central Asia* (2003), *Central Asia: Between Modernity and Tradition* (1995) and *Perestroika and Women Labour Force in Soviet Central Asia* (1989). He may be contacted at patnaik.ajay@gmail.com

Revival of Silk Route: Growing Role of Asia

The silk route, the first trade route of human civilisation that crossed Eurasia from first millennium BC and linked the people and traditions of Asia and Europe connected two very contrasting worlds East and West the two distinguished culture of Asia and Europe. The ancient Silk Route of Asia was the world's most important economic centre¹ of trade of the world until 13th century. Trade routes across the Asian continent connecting Eastern, Southern, Central, and Western Asia with the Mediterranean, including North Africa and Europe was interconnected. However, Asia's huge economic potential remains largely untapped due to lack of region-wise connectivity. In This globalisation Era, Many Asian economies have become an integral part of international production networks and have benefited from increased growth, trade, and investment. Asia must strengthen its physical connectivity to make it a conduit for international trade though restoring Asian Silk Route. Good ideas and innovation travel easily-from one place to another. Historically, these ideas spread along trade routes. This Paper is trying to look at the aspects of great Silk Roads as a transmitter of people, goods, ideas, beliefs and inventions to utilise the untapped potential of Asia and the growing role of Asia is quiet appreciating .This paper also argues that lack of regional connectivity is one of the major constraints hindering regional growth and integration in Asia, as well as with the rest of the world. This paper deals with current trade and transport integration issues among the countries in Asia as well as challenges that need to be addressed in order to achieve regional connectivity through an Asia-wide transport infrastructure.

Key word: Silk route, trade, growth, investment, globalization and region etc.

Dr Saroj Rani is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Maitreyi college , University of Delhi where she teaches micro economics, macro economics , economy, state and society and globalisation. She has contributed her expertise in academic field and published 2 books, Chapters in edited books and couple of articles in refereed journals . She is also a Project Director, Indian Council for Social Sciences Research (ICSSR), New Delhi. She has been awarded a project “**Opportunities and challenges of labour migration: A case study of Indian Diaspora**”. She specializes in international trade. Her research interest covers international trade, foreign direct investment, e-commerce, Globalization, regional economic integration in south Asia and Central Asia, management leadership and corporate responsibilities. She has presented several academic papers at national and international forum. She has contributed articles on social issues/ gender issues also. She can be reached at sarajnu119@hotmail.com

Prof. Jayanta Kumar Ray is Research Coordinator, Institute of Foreign Policy Studies, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, and Fellow, MAKAIS (Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies), Kolkata. Some of his previous assignments were: Chairman/Director, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Kolkata; National Fellow, Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi; Centenary Professor of International Relations, and Founder-Director, Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Calcutta, Kolkata; Professor of Behavioural Sciences, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi; Senior Research Associate, Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses, New Delhi; Senior Fellow, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla; and Reader, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. He may be contacted at: jkr.makaias@gmail.com

Perspectives on Regional Security Involving Afghanistan

A volatile Afghanistan confronting the uncertainties of an international troop withdrawal and apprehensions of internal power struggle pose risks to various regional and extra-regional actors. By 2014, the US and NATO expect to put in place Afghan security forces numbering 352,000 men and donor pledges to cover their annual expense of \$5–7 billion. However there are other fundamental questions beyond this rudimentary arrangement. Crucial questions on whether the Afghan forces would prove effective in the face of withdrawal or whether the US will continue maintaining its bases in Afghan territory or what would happen to a “rentier” economy that depends on aid for 70–90% of its GDP are intriguing. The question of the survival of the political system in Afghanistan or the possibilities of the return of the Taliban leading to another round of ethnic mobilization and proxy war fuelled by Afghanistan’s neighbours are other major concerns. These issues amidst apprehensions have added a new dimension to inter-state relations in Afghanistan’s neighbourhood and calls for some joint evaluation of the contingencies and preparing beyond. The security of all five Central Asian Republics is being compromised by the drug trade coming from Afghanistan’s opium production, which has fostered organized criminality throughout the region as well as contributed to the growing problem of drug addiction, higher incidences of HIV/AIDS, and human trafficking. Indian concerns stem from radicalism and extremism emanating from Afghan territory and across the border in Pakistan. The other threat emanates from cross-border terrorism. As NATO troops prepare to leave Afghanistan, the political and security alliance, SCO is attempting to prevent militancy from bleeding into its members’ territory, the challenge being the fact that SCO’s charter requires “common consent and agreement” on all its actions. Whether SCO can be a useful regional forum to address issues relating to Afghanistan and regional security is a matter of debate at the moment. While focusing on the current situation in Afghanistan the paper would discuss the impending threats to region, the role of regional and extra-regional actors including Iran, China and Russia.

Arpita Basu Roy is a Fellow at the MaulanaAbulKalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata. She has done her Ph.D. at the Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata on the theme: “*Consequences and Challenges of the Afghan Conflict: Situating Workable Response*”. She is also the recipient of the 10th Wrangler Pavate Fellowship for International Studies (2010) awarded by the Pavate Foundation to the Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Cambridge. She has been working on Central and South Asia, with Afghanistan being the area of her specific interest since 1998. She has contributed articles on population movement, gender issues, problems of transitional politics and regional cooperation to several research journals, edited books and encyclopaedia. She has also been the country expert (Afghanistan) for the prestigious international project V- Dem (Varieties of Democracy) conducted by University of Gothenburg, University of Notre Dam and the HellenKellog Institute of International Studies. She can be reached at basuoyarpita@gmail.com.

General Shankar Roychowdhury assumed charge of the Indian Army, as the 18th Chief of Army Staff, on 22 November 1994. Born in Calcutta on 06 September 1937, he was educated at St. Xavier's School, Calcutta, Allen Memorial School and St. George's College, Mussoorie. He entered the Joint Services Wing of the Armed Services in 1953 as a Cadet. He was commissioned into the 20th Lancers of the Armoured Corps from the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehra Dun on 09 June 1957. He saw action at the Chamb-Jaurian sector in the 1965 Indo-Pak War and in the Jessore and Khulna during the 1971 Liberation War. He commanded 20 Lancers from 1974-76, an Independent Armoured Brigade from December 1980 to July 1983 and an Armoured Division from May 1988 to May 1990. He subsequently commanded 16 Corps in Jammu and Kashmir from 1991-92. He is a graduate of the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) and held several staff and instructional appointments, including that of Director General Combat Vehicles dealing with the Arjun MBT. He can be contacted at shankarkrishna20@yahoo.com.

Amb Paramjit Singh Sahai Graduated in English (Hons) and Post-Graduated in Political Science, from Punjab University, Chandigarh, India. He Had worked as Research Fellow and Lecturer at the Punjab University for a period of one year, prior to joining the Indian Foreign Service in 1963. During 37 years of service, he was posted to different countries, such as USSR/Russia, USA, Singapore, Zambia, Malawi, Yemen, Sweden and Malaysia. Had been posted as India's Ambassador/High Commissioner: to Malawi and Lesotho (1978-81); People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Aden, PDRY (1988-90); Sweden and Latvia, Embassy of India, Stockholm (1992-96); and Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur (1996-2000). Had also served as Minister of Commerce and Director General of Supply, Embassy of India, Washington DC, USA (1984-87), and Deputy Chief of Mission, with the personal rank of Ambassador, Embassy of India, Moscow (1991-92). Was involved with Trade Policy, Trade Promotion, and Investments including Diaspora.

Enclaves In The Ferghana

Three million people live in enclaves throughout the world. They often experience severe problems exactly because of the enclaviness of their native land. These problems range from political ones—the lack of governance and police protection—to economic problems caused by the inherent vulnerability of an enclave and its isolation from the mainland. This presentation will be an attempt to examine enclaves in the Ferghana Valley with a focus on the following issues:

1. Are there specific political and economic patterns conditioned by the notions of enclaviness?
2. How do enclaves emerge?
3. Are enclaves generally incapable of being economically sustainable on their own?
4. How do national, religious, and linguistic composition patterns contribute to the quality of relations with the surrounding state and the mainland state?
5. Does enclave existence lead to different notions of identity?
6. What is the place of enclaves in the bilateral relations between the surrounding and the mainland state?

Anita Sengupta is Fellow at the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata. She is an area studies specialist and her work at the Institute has been focused on the Eurasian region with Uzbekistan being her area of special interest. She has also worked extensively on Turkish politics. She is the author of *Heartlands of Eurasia: The geopolitics of political space*, (Lanham, Boulder, New York, Toronto, Oxford: Lexington Books July 2009); *Russia, China and Multilateralism in Central Asia*, (New Delhi: Shipra Publications, 2005); *The Formation of the Uzbek Nation-State: A Study in Transition*, (Lanham, Boulder, New York, Toronto, Oxford: Lexington Books, 2003) and *Frontiers into Borders: The Transformation of Identities in Central Asia*, (Delhi and London: Hope India Publications and Greenwich Millennium Press Ltd, 2002). Her book on the *Myth and Rhetoric of the Turkish Model* is due to be published by Springer in February 2013. She can be reached at anitasengupta@hotmail.com.

Dr. Gautam Sengupta (b 1954) obtained his Masters and Ph.D in Ancient Indian History & Culture from the University of Calcutta. He worked with a number of institutions including Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong. Directorate of Archaeology & MUseums, Govt. of West Bengal and Archaeological Survey of India where he served as Director General, A.S.I. between 2010 and 2012. Dr. Sengupta has traveled abroad extensively and lectured in a number of universities and institutions in India and abroad. He also led Indian delegation to UNESCO World Heritage Committee Meeting in 2010 and 2011. Dr. Sengupta has published extensively on different aspects of art and archaeology of Eastern and North East India. He can be reached at dam_wb@yahoo.in.

Mr Sitaram Sharma is Honorary consul of Belarus. He also holds other positions such as Vice President, Indian Federation of United Nations Associations, New Delhi, Deputy Secretary General Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific World Federation of UN Associations, Geneva (1986 to 2004) Chairman, West Bengal Federation of United Nations Associations, Kolkata.

Email: srs@mirondagroup.com

Locating Kazakhstan in India's Economic Interests in Central Asia

The current scale of economic linkages between the two countries is not at all big. However, there exists vast scope to expand the volume of trade as well as quantum of investment, a view shared by both India and Kazakhstan. The volume of bilateral trade between India and Kazakhstan is at the moment insignificant. It is characterized by two factors. First, Kazakhstan is the largest trading partner of India among the Central Asian countries, approximately accounting near 60% of the total trade between India and the Central Asian Republics. Second, trade has recently registered a faster growth. In the field of investment Kazakhstan offers huge scope. Currently, there are 280 companies, including the oil and gas sector, which are doing business in India and Kazakhstan. Furthermore, Information Technology (IT) and pharmaceuticals provides rich ground for Indian companies in Kazakhstan. The pharmaceuticals industry in Kazakhstan provides a huge market. As an emerging power, India ought to be taking note of Kazakhstan's potential more seriously. This would pave the way for India keeping pace with the new geopolitical reality evolving in Eurasian region. Kazakhstan has been supportive of India in all the interactions in the United Nations and other international fora. Kazakhstan backs India's candidacy for the UN Security Council permanent membership. Astana has also facilitated India's entry into the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as observer. For India, Kazakhstan offers the best possible opportunity as a gateway to the Central Asian region. Economic diplomacy with Kazakhstan must take into account the larger goal of increasing trade and investment ties with the CIS region. Increased bilateral ties would help to leverage the larger market potential of Belarus-Russia-Kazakhstan customs union as well as the combined market potential of CIS countries.

Dr Kuldip Singh is Professor and Head and Coordinator, UGC Special Assistance Program (SAP). He is also the editor of *Punjab Journal of Politics*. His area of interest is *International Politics with Focus on post- Soviet Central Asia*. Ph. D. on 'Politics of Soviet Aid to India' he has written on political economy of Soviet and post Soviet space. His areas of interest include Central Asia, globalization, India's foreign policy and climate change. There is one book and 42 articles to his credit. Among others his articles have been published by Allied and Oxford and have appeared in OIDA Journal of Sustainable Development, India Quarterly, Contemporary Central Asia, Man and Development, World Focus and Punjab Journal of Politics. In 2012 was ICCR India Chair Visiting Professor of Indian Studies at Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He can be reached at kuldipsingh2004@yahoo.co.in.

New Dimensions of Mongolia's Foreign Policy: Implications for India

Of late, the foreign policy of a landlocked Eurasian State of Mongolia has witnessed a marked shift in terms of priorities from what it used to be during the two decades after the Soviet collapse. This policy shift gave way to the emergence of new dimensions in the existing “multi-pillared” foreign policy that came into force in 1994. Since then Mongolia has been maintaining friendly and balanced relations with direct neighbours—Russia and China while at the same time fostering its ties with the “third neighbours” on the basis of mutually beneficial cooperation. However, in February 2011, the Mongolian Parliament passed a revised Foreign Policy Concept which redefined Mongolia’s main foreign policy strategy as ensuring security, be it strategic or economic. In that sense China has become more central in the foreign policy outlines as it is not only a territorial security but also the economic security concerns in the minds of the Mongolians. No wonder then as to why the 2011 Foreign Policy Concept has focused more on adding a complex balance of influence element to its already existing strategy of “omni-enmeshment”, a term coined by Evelyn Goh (2005) in the context of Southeast Asia’s diversification of dependence. This balance of influence behavior in Mongolia’s foreign policy strategypoints to the following new dimensions: Firstly, elevation of its third neighbour relations to the same level as relations with China suggest that Mongolia is interested in forging bilateral relations that can be used as leverage against China; secondly, the specific mention of the U.S. as an important partner suggests that Mongolia wants to limit China strategically; and thirdly, the focus of the foreign policy on economic security suggests that Mongolia realizes the need to diversify the foreign actors, especially China, involved in its domestic economic sector. In sum, the redefined foreign policy suggests that the need to manage its relations with China has become crucial to Mongolian strategic thinking, and hence the balance of influence approach will provide the bulwark to ensure the country’s overall security. So far as the implications of such new dimensions of Mongolia’s foreign policy for India are concerned, New Delhi figures prominently in the precise list of Mongolia’s “third neighbours”. The relationship between the two sides has now witnessed a sea change, i.e., the bilateral relations have turned into a comprehensive partnership. The Mongolians admit India’s positive influence on them and desire that the strong cultural relationship between the two should be translated into a strategic partnership. It is in this context that the paper not only examines the new dimensions of Mongolia’s foreign policy but also their implications for relations with India. It argues that Mongolia factors importantly into India’s Eurasia policy while India remains an important country for Mongolia in both regional and international contexts, and that as a third neighbour it may well fit into balance of influence approach of Mongolia’s foreign policy.

Dr Sharad K Soni is Assistant Professor at Centre for Inner Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His teaching, research and publications focus on issues concerning history, society, culture, ethnicity, politics and international relations of Mongolia, Central Asia, Tibet and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Regions of China. A recipient of ASIA Fellows Award (2005), he has authored five books, three monographs and over 60 articles/research papers/chapters on his area study published in scholarly journals and edited volumes. He is also Asia-wide Joint Secretary of Association of Asia Scholars (a network of ASF Alumni Fellows) and a Book Review Editor for South Asia, *Asian Ethnicity* (Routledge, UK). He can be reached at sharadkseni@gmail.com.

Shri. Krisnan Srinivasan, (*Head of Delegation*) former [Foreign Secretary](#) of the Republic of India was Indian Ambassador to several countries. He has been Commonwealth Deputy Secretary General, and a Fellow at Cambridge and London Universities, the Dutch Institute of Advanced Studies, and the Swedish Collegiums at Uppsala. He is currently a fellow of Maulana Azad Institute of Asian Studies at Kolkata. He is also the Chairman of K2K Forum, Kolkata. He can be reached at ksrinivasanuk@yahoo.co.uk

India's Engagement in Trans-Caucasus Region: Issues and Perspectives

In the recent geo-political developments in the Eurasian Trans-Caucasus region are commonly found within celebrating twenty years of their sovereignty since the disintegration of Soviet Union and India's engagement is being negotiated through historical shifts in drifting geopolitics to neo-geo-politics. India's relations with Trans-Caucasian countries are moreover to reviving the geopolitics of historical linkages, language and culture, and create a new era of cooperation. The littoral states in the region -Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia share some of the common traits of historical linkages with India. India's flexible and pragmatic approach broadens its options of connectivity and trade route especially oil-pipelines. India's Gas Pipeline Options is the most controversial gas pipeline in the region, Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI), known also as "Peace Pipeline" would run for 1,100 km. India's involvement in energy deals in the Caspian region is from Iran, from the Southern energy fields. In 2005, India signed a US\$40 billion deal with Iran to import 7.5 million tons of liquefied natural gas annually over a 25-year period. This is going to bring new phenomenal change in Eurasian stimulation in international relations where many of the authoritarian powers including China, Russia and Iran are actively attempting to expand their influence and power for resources especially energy-oil and natural gas. This paper focuses on the changing security dynamics in the periphery of the post-Soviet space in Eurasia. Also, it provides a theoretical background to understand the contemporary strategic situation and examines how the enduring security strategies can influence the future international relations in the region. The aim of this study is to point out main changes in the region that question its *raison d'être* in a world of turmoil, ongoing change and insecurity and the rationale for India's position towards the region in the present circumstances in the regional geopolitics in Eurasia for direct exchange of views on issues of mutual interest.

Dr. Herkan Neadan Toppo, presently is an Assistant Professor of international relations at the Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University. He holds an M. Phil and Ph. D in international politics from School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His areas of research interests includes foreign policies, issues of conventional and Non-conventional Security, Security Organisations-NATO, SCO, CSTO, Eurasia, Russia and Central Asia, Peace and Conflict studies. In his initial phase he has worked with Association of Indian Universities and published report in 2009 on "Foreign Education Providers in India". Other publications include books and articles on different issues including on India – Mongolia Relations. He can be reached at hntoppo2007@gmail.com.

Prof Hari Sankar Vasudevan is Professor in the Department Of History of University of Calcutta. He is also the Director of China Centre, University of Calcutta. His areas of interest include Russian politics, European history and Indo-Russian relations. His most recent book is Shadows of Substance: Indo-Russin Trade and Military Technical Cooperation since 1991. He can be reached at hsv123@gmail.com