

**12th South Asia Conference on
India's "Neighbourhood First" Policy: Regional Perceptions
Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA)**

Venue: Auditorium, IDSA

28-29 January 2020

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

DAY 1: Tuesday, 28 January 2020	
09.15 AM-9.45 AM	REGISTRATION
09.45 AM-10.15 AM	INAUGURAL SESSION
Welcome Address:	Ambassador Sujan R. Chinoy, Director General, IDSA
Inaugural Address:	Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, Government of India & President, IDSA
Vote of Thanks:	Vice Admiral Shekhar Sinha (Retd.), Member, Executive Council, IDSA
10.15 AM-10.45 AM	Tea/Coffee Break
10.45 AM-01.00 PM	SESSION I: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF INDIA'S "NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST" POLICY
Chairperson:	Ambassador Sujan R. Chinoy (Director General, IDSA)
Speakers:	Ambassador Kanwal Sibal (Former Foreign Secretary, Government of India): <i>Conceptual Framework of India's "Neighbourhood First" Policy</i>
	Ambassador Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed (Foreign Secretary, Government of the Maldives): <i>Maldivian Perspective on India's "Neighbourhood First" Policy</i>
	Major General Vetsop Namgyel (Ambassador of Bhutan to India): <i>Bhutan's Perception on India's "Neighbourhood First" Policy</i>
	Ambassador Munshi Faiz Ahmad (Former Chairman, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies, Dhaka): <i>India's "Neighbourhood First" Policy: Perspective from Bangladesh</i>
	Dr. Shaida Mohammad Abdali (Former Afghan Ambassador to India): <i>Afghanistan's Perspective on India's "Neighbourhood First" Policy</i>

01.00 PM-02.00 PM	Lunch
02.00 PM-04.00 PM	<p>SESSION II: ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION</p> <p>Chairperson: Dr. Sanjaya Baru (Former Media Advisor to Prime Minister, Currently, Distinguished Fellow, IDSA)</p> <p>Speakers: Professor Sachin Chaturvedi (Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries, New Delhi): <i>India's Development Cooperation with its Neighbouring Countries</i></p> <p>Professor Bishwambher Pyakuryal (Chairman, Institute for Strategic and Socio-Economic Research, Kathmandu): <i>Emerging Trends in India-Nepal Development Cooperation</i></p> <p>Ambassador Sudhir Vyas (Former Secretary, Government of India, Former Ambassador to Bhutan): <i>"Neighbourhood First": Economic and Development Cooperation with Bhutan</i></p> <p>Dr. Ganeshan Wignaraja (Executive Director, Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies, Colombo): <i>India's "Neighbourhood First" Policy and Sri Lanka: Towards 'Win-Win' in a Region of Great Power Competition</i></p> <p>Mr. Nazir Kabiri (Executive Director, Biruni Institute, Kabul): <i>India's Model of Development Cooperation based on the Principles of South-South Cooperation and Afghanistan's Perception as a Recipient/Partner Country</i></p>
04.00 PM-04.15 PM	Tea/Coffee Break
04.15 PM-06.00 PM	<p>SESSION III: CONNECTIVITY INITIATIVES AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Chairperson: Ambassador Leela K. Ponappa (Former Deputy National Security Advisor, Government of India)</p> <p>Speakers: Professor Prabir De (Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre, Research and Information System for Developing Countries, New Delhi): <i>What Role Should Connectivity Play in Reenergising South Asia?</i></p> <p>Professor Delwar Hossain (Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka): <i>Bangladesh-India Relations and the Politics of Connectivity: A New Bilateralism?</i></p> <p>Mr. U. Khin Maung Lynn (Joint Secretary-1, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Yangon): <i>Myanmar's Perspective on India's "Neighbourhood First" Policy</i></p> <p>Ambassador Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty (Former High Commissioner to Bangladesh & Visiting Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi): <i>Connectivity Initiatives between India and Bangladesh</i></p> <p>Dr. Nihar Ranjan Nayak (Research Fellow, IDSA): <i>Re-linking the Landlocked Countries: India's Connectivity Initiatives and Options before Nepal and Bhutan</i></p>

DAY 2: Wednesday, 29 January 2020

10.00 AM-10.40 AM KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Chairperson: Ambassador Sujan R. Chinoy, Director General, IDSA

Keynote Address: Shri V. Muraleedharan, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India

Vote of Thanks: Professor S.D. Muni, Member, Executive Council, IDSA

10.40 AM- 11.00 AM Tea/Coffee Break

11.00 AM- 01.00 PM SESSION IV: ENERGY COOPERATION

Chairperson: Professor Nitya Nanda (Director, Council for Social Development, New Delhi)

Speakers: Mr. Dinesh Kumar Ghimire (Secretary (Energy), Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Government of Nepal): *Nepal-India Energy Cooperation*

Dasho Sonam Tshering (Former Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bhutan): *Bhutan-India Cooperation in the Hydropower Sector*

Ms. Shebonti Ray Dadwal (Consultant, IDSA): *Energy Cooperation between India and Bangladesh*

Shri Ajit Pai (OSD to Vice Chairman NITI Aayog, New Delhi): *Strategic Synergies in Financing Cross-Border Energy Projects*

Dr. Bhupendra Kumar Singh (Director and Head, Energy Security, Confederation of Indian Industry, New Delhi): *Enhancing Cross-Border Power Trade in South Asia: Key Impediments and Policy Interventions*

01.00 PM-02.00 PM Lunch

02.00 PM-04.00 PM SESSION V: DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION

Chairperson: Mr. Maroof Raza (Consultant & Strategic Affairs Expert, Times Now, Mumbai)

Speakers: Admiral Ravindra C. Wijegunaratne (Retd.) (Former Chief of Defence Staff of Sri Lanka Armed Forces): *India-Sri Lanka Defence and Security Nexus: Challenges and Opportunities*

Brigadier General Ibrahim Mohamed Didi (Retd.) (Former Member of Parliament, the Maldives): *Durable India-Maldives Defense and Security Relations Fortify Indian Ocean Security Environment*

Dr. Naing Swe Oo (Executive Director, Thayninga Institute for Strategic Studies, Yangon): *Myanmar as India's Important Neighbour: The Security Perspectives*

Shri Rajiv Jain (Former Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India):
India's Policy with Regard to Cooperation in Counterterrorism in South Asia

Shri Jayant Misra (Former Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Government of India & Consultant, UNODC): *India's Cooperation with South Asian Countries in Curbing Drug Trafficking*

04.00 PM-04.15 PM Tea

04.15 PM-05.30 PM SESSION VI: PANEL DISCUSSION-THE WAY FORWARD

Chairperson: Professor S.D. Muni (Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi & Member, Executive Council, IDSA)

Speakers: Dr. Ashok Behuria (Senior Fellow, IDSA)
Dr. Shaida Mohammad Abdali
Ambassador Munshi Faiz Ahmad
Dasho Sonam Tshering
Brigadier General Ibrahim Mohamed Didi (Retd.)
Mr. U. Khin Maung Lynn
Professor Bishwambher Pyakuryal
Admiral Ravindra C. Wijegunaratne (Retd.)

05.30 PM-05.35 PM Vote of Thanks

Ms. Sumita Kumar (Senior Research Associate, IDSA & Conference Coordinator)