

A two-day Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) sponsored International Conference, organised by the Department of Political Science, Tetso College, and ICWA, New Delhi

INDIA AND THE CHANGING SOUTHEAST ASIAN STRATEGIC LANDSCAPE IN AN ERA OF GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY



CALL FOR PAPERS

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION
21ST SEPTEMBER, 2026

ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATION
30TH SEPTEMBER, 2026

FULL PAPER SUBMISSION
16TH NOVEMBER, 2026

DATE OF THE CONFERENCE
3RD & 4TH DECEMBER 2026

CONCEPT NOTE

Southeast Asia, especially in the context of the current US-Israel and Iran conflict, has emerged as a central arena of contemporary geopolitics, shaped by intensifying major-power competition, evolving regional institutions, and complex security challenges. The continued centrality of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in regional diplomacy is increasingly challenged by the expanding rivalry between the United States and China, tensions over the South China Sea, and changes in global supply lines have all changed how nations in the region see security and collaboration. As we know, regional order frequently shifts when great nations compete. Thus, Southeast Asia is a crucial site to research how power politics affects regional stability and smaller states.

India's engagement with Southeast Asia must be understood within the context of an evolving regional strategic order. Since the early 1990s, New Delhi has pursued deeper ties with the region through its "Look East" policy—later rearticulated as the "Act East" policy—aimed at expanding economic integration, diplomatic engagement, and security cooperation with member states of ASEAN. However, the ongoing transition from a predominantly unipolar international system to a more diffuse multipolar order raises critical questions about the effectiveness and adaptability of India's regional strategy. The growing prominence of the Indo-Pacific as a strategic framework in India's foreign policy highlights priorities such as maritime security, freedom of navigation, and regional connectivity. Yet, the practical implications of this framework for Southeast Asia—and its reception among regional actors—remain subjects of scholarly debate and policy uncertainty.

A series of recent political and security challenges has significantly altered threat perceptions across Southeast Asia. Escalating maritime frictions in the South China Sea, the ongoing political instability in Myanmar following the 2021 military takeover, the emergence of new security partnerships such as AUKUS, and anxieties about economic pressure tactics have created an increasingly uncertain regional environment.

These developments have placed strain on ASEAN and its long-standing claim to regional "centrality," as member states confront competing strategic visions advanced by major powers. Smaller countries, in particular, are adopting cautious and flexible foreign policies to avoid overdependence on any single actor. Within this shifting landscape, India's strategic profile is being reassessed: observers debate whether it functions primarily as a counterbalancing force, a cooperative development partner, or a secondary actor limited by resources and reach. Moreover, questions persist regarding how Southeast Asian governments perceive India's long-term intentions and whether historical-cultural ties and expanding economic engagement can be converted into durable political and strategic influence.

This conference aims to create a vital forum to critically examine the evolving relationship between India and ASEAN. It invites scholarly contributions that analyse India-ASEAN relations from theoretical, empirical, and policy perspectives. Key areas of interest include maritime security and naval cooperation, regional trade and connectivity initiatives, questions of strategic autonomy and hedging behaviour, and India's participation in regional institutions such as BIMSTEC and the East Asia Summit. The conference also encourages research on the regional consequences of emerging security partnerships and alignments. Overall, the objective is to promote evidence-based discussion that deepens academic and policy understanding of contemporary India-Southeast Asia relations.

By placing India's engagement with Southeast Asia within wider academic debates on power shifts, regional order, and strategic culture, the conference seeks to strengthen scholarly understanding of the region's changing dynamics and India's role in them. A careful and evidence-based reassessment of India's regional approach is therefore essential to maintain its long-term strategic relevance. Such reflection is particularly important at a time of growing uncertainty in the evolving Indo-Pacific order.

THEMES AND SUB-THEMES

The conference invites scholars, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to submit their original and unpublished papers for consideration on any one of, but not limited to, the following thematic areas:

- India's Act East Policy: Achievements, challenges, and future directions
- India-ASEAN relations in a changing geopolitical order
- Maritime security, naval cooperation, and freedom of navigation
- Strategic competition and balance of power in Southeast Asia
- The Indo-Pacific concept and its regional implications
- Regional connectivity, trade corridors, and supply chain resilience
- Role of emerging minilateral groupings (Quad, AUKUS, etc.)
- ASEAN centrality and regional institutional architecture
- Political developments and security challenges in Myanmar
- Strategic autonomy, hedging behaviour, and small-state diplomacy
- India's engagement with regional forums such as BIMSTEC and the East Asia Summit
- Non-traditional security issues: climate change, disaster relief, cyber security, and energy security
- Cultural, historical, and people-to-people linkages in India-Southeast Asia relations

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Abstract: **150-300 words (must include five keywords)**

Abstract submission: **21st September, 2026**

Acceptance Notification: **30th September, 2026**

Full paper: **5000 - 7000 word**

Email ID for submission: **polscienceseminar@tetsocollege.edu.in**

Dates of the Conference: **3rd and 4th December, 2026**

DETAILS TO BE SUBMITTED ALONG WITH THE ABSTRACT

Name, Designation: (Ph.D. Scholars, Assistant/Associate Professor, Independent Scholar)

Institutions/Organization of Affiliation (with address), Email, Contact number



FULL PAPER SUBMISSION

- Authors must ensure that the papers are original works, have not been published and are not currently under consideration of any other publication. They must warrant that their contribution does not infringe on any copyright or trademark right of other authors.
- Authors must follow the APA style guide.
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and all papers will be scanned using plagiarism detection software.
- Selected papers will be published in a book with an ISBN, to be published by the Department of Political Science, Tetso College, in partnership with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA). The article processing fee for the papers selected for publication will be intimated later.
- Certificates will be awarded only to those presenters who submit their full paper.
- Deadline for full paper submission: **16th November, 2026**
- Online paper presentations will be permitted for participants from outside Nagaland

IMPORTANT DATES

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION	ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATION	FULL PAPER SUBMISSION	DATES OF THE CONFERENCE
21st September 2026	30th September 2026	16th November, 2026	3rd and 4th December 2026





REGISTRATION FEES & LINK

Paper presenters (India)	Faculties/Working Professionals	₹1,500
	Researchers/Independent Scholars	₹1,000
Paper presenters (International)	Faculties/Working Professionals	\$ 75 (USD) - ₹6500
	Researchers/Independent Scholars	\$ 50 (USD) - ₹4500
Seminar attendees	₹500 (Attendees will receive conference kit, e-certificate, lunch, & refreshment)	
Registration Link	bit.ly/ICWAReg	

- The registration fee covers stationery, lunch, refreshment, and certificates.
- Registration fee is to be paid **only after the confirmation of selection of the abstract.**

PAYMENT LINK

bit.ly/ICWApay	
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ABOUT THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Dhananjay Tripathi

*Associate Professor (Senior Grade) & Associate
Dean of Faculty of International Studies, Institute
of South Asian Studies, & Director, SAU*

Dr. Dhananjay Tripathi is an Associate Professor (Senior Grade) and Associate Dean of Faculty of International Studies. He is also the Director of Institute of South Asian Studies, SAU. He is a former chairperson of the Department of International Relations of the South Asian University (SAU) New Delhi. He completed his PhD from the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in 2010. His research interests include Border Studies, Regional Integration Processes, South Asian Politics, and International Political Economy.

Dr. Tripathi's recent publications include *Re-imagining Border Studies in South Asia* (ed) (2020—Routledge Publication), Co-edited- *Afghanistan in Transition: From Taliban to Taliban* (2025—Routledge Publication), and *South Asia: Boundaries Borders and Beyond* (2022—Routledge Publication). Dr. Tripathi is also the editorial board member of international journals—*Journal of Borderlands Studies* (Taylor and Francis), *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political* (Sage Publication), *Estudios Fronterizos* (REF) (open access), and *BIG Review* (University of Victoria).

Dr. Tripathi has delivered lectures at prestigious institutions like the National Defence College (NDC), the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Services (SSIFS), and the National Academy of Direct Taxes (NADT).

VALEDICTORY SPEAKER



Dr. Keshab Giri

*Senior Lecturer in International
Relations, University of St Andrews,
UK*

Dr. Keshab Giri is a Lecturer in International Relations at The University of St Andrews. He was also a research fellow at the Women and Public Policy Program, Harvard Kennedy School (2023-24). Dr Giri's research has been published in journals like International Studies Quarterly, International Studies Review, Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, and Global Studies Quarterly. His PhD thesis titled, 'Experiences of Female Ex-Combatants in the Maoist Insurgency in Nepal: Endless Battles and Resistance.' received the 2022 Thelma Hunter Gender and Politics PhD Prize from the Australian Political Science Studies Association (APSA).

His research interests include women combatants, intersectionality, gender and war, violent extremism, leftist insurgencies, feminist International Relations, feminist research methodology, rebel governance, and governance of intimacy in rebel groups. His book, 'War through an Intersectional Lens: Female Combatants and the Maoist Insurgency in Nepal' was published by Oxford University Press.

SPEAKER

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND SECURITY CHALLENGES IN MYANMAR AND HOW IT AFFECTS INDIAN STATES AND SOCIETY



Mr. Ushinor Mazumdar

Freelancer and Consultant

Shri Majumdar has worked with major news outlets, including Outlook magazine (where he served as Assistant Editor), Tehelka, Hindustan Times, and Confluence Media. As a freelancer and consultant, his work has been published by national and international media platforms such as the Caravan, The Wire, Scroll.in, OCCRP, and the BBC. His reporting primarily focuses on economic offenses & crime, Investigations into high-profile scams, white-collar crimes, and legal trials. He also looks at National Security & Conflicts and has provided in-depth coverage from conflict zones in central India, governance issues, and cross-border security operations.

Majumdar is the author of two widely acclaimed non-fiction books published by Penguin Random House India: *God of Sin: The Cult, Clout, and Downfall of Asaram Bapu* (2018)—a non-fiction investigation chronicling the rise of spiritual guru Asaram Bapu, his network, and the legal battle that led to his conviction. *India's Secret War: BSF and Nine Months to the Birth of Bangladesh* (2023) – An account of the Border Security Force's covert operations during the nine months leading up to the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. In addition to writing, Majumdar works as a writing coach, screen researcher, and advocate for press freedom.



The seven tribes of Brunei:
the Melayu Brunei, the Kedayan, the Tutong, the Dusun, the Murut, the Bisaya, and the Belait.

SEMINAR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Principal, Tetso College

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IQAC Coordinator, &
Associate Professor (English), Tetso College

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Tetso College

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Asst. Professor, Political Science,
Tetso College
- * Tovika K Sumi
Asst. Professor, Political Science,
Tetso College



Thailand's Maeklong Railway Market: a tourism hub

ABOUT TETSO COLLEGE



Established in 1994, Tetso College is a premier multidisciplinary institution in the vibrant commercial hub of Dimapur-Chumoukedima, the gateway between Northeast India and Southeast Asia. Affiliated with Nagaland University, registered with AICTE, NAAC-accredited, and recognised under Sections 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956, the college delivers holistic, career-oriented education spanning undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Its comprehensive academic portfolio spans professional streams—including BBA, BCom, BCA, BSW, BPA, and MBA—alongside robust offerings in the humanities and social sciences. Demonstrating national excellence, Tetso College achieved All India Rank #198 among top Bachelor of Arts institutions in the India Today-MDRA Best Colleges Survey 2026, marking its maiden entry into India's top 200 rankings.

The institution integrates academic rigour with modern digital learning, industry internships, and community engagement. Driven by a global perspective, it nurtures extensive partnerships across domestic and international universities, government agencies, corporate organisations, media, and NGOs. Tetso College maintains an inclusive, cross-cultural environment, enrolling diverse students and faculty from across India. To support talent, it provides merit- and need-based financial aid to its students. Its vibrant alumni network actively contributes to academia, public administration, corporate sectors, and social enterprises globally.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Department of Political Science offers comprehensive undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. It provides a rigorous foundation in political theory, governance, international relations, and comparative politics. The department emphasizes critical thinking, analytical skills, and understanding contemporary global and local dynamics. Committed faculty incubates intellectual curiosity through debates, research, and discussions. The curriculum blends theory with practice, preparing graduates for diverse careers in civil services, law, research, journalism, NGOs, and academia, equipping them for active and conscious citizenship and professional achievement.

ABOUT ICWA

The Indian Council of World Affairs was established in 1943 by a group of Indian intellectuals as a think tank. It was registered as a non-official, non-political and non-profit organisation under the Registration of Societies Act 1860. By an Act of Parliament in 2001, the Indian Council of World Affairs has been declared an institution of national importance. The Vice President of India is the ex-officio President of ICWA.

It is devoted exclusively for the study of international relations and foreign affairs. Historic international conferences like 'Asian Relations Conference' in 1947 under the leadership of freedom fighter Sarojini Naidu and 'United Nations and the New World Order' in 1994 have been held by this think tank in which world renowned dignitaries addressed huge gatherings of intellectuals. Scores of conferences, meetings and panel discussions have been organised by the Council in its elegant building called "Sapru House".

Vision of ICWA

The Indian Council of World Affairs Act, 2001 lays down the objectives of the ICWA. Section 13 of the Act lists the objectives as:

- 1.To promote the study of Indian and international affairs so as to develop a body of informed opinion on international matters.
- 2.To promote India's relations with other countries through study, research, discussions, lectures, exchange of ideas and information with other organisations within and outside India engaged in similar activities.
- 3.To serve as a clearing house of information and knowledge regarding world affairs.
- 4.To publish books, periodicals, journals, reviews, papers, pamphlets and other literature on subjects covered under clauses (a) & (b).
- 5.To establish contacts with organisations promoting objects mentioned in this section.
- 6.To arrange conferences and seminars to discuss and study the Indian policy towards international affairs.
- 7.To undertake such other activities for the promotion of ideas and attainment of the above mentioned objects.



Mahatma Gandhi in Asian Relations Conference-1947



Plenary Session Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru
Asian Relations Conference 1947, New Delhi

CONTACT US

Website

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