

CONCEPT NOTE

The geopolitical dynamics of the Sino-Indian contestation dates back to the 1962 War between the two, catalysed by unsettled boundary dispute, the Tibet issue, Sino-Pakistan growing collusion and persistent Chinese attempts at encroaching into Indian territory in the volatile North Eastern sector, disputed areas of POK. Coupled with these, China's India policy has been quite aggressive, including attempts at meddling with India's South Asian neighbours. The 'rising' Dragon has instituted a policy of containing India in order to reach a hegemonic position in Asia, which would be a 'gateway' in its attempt to achieve the status of a global hegemonic superpower.

The Grand Chinese BRI initiative, covering large parts of the Indian Ocean, has been only an attempt in increasing Chinese foothold over the Asia-Pacific region. As part of these grand design, The CPEC (covering disputed areas of POK in Gilgit-Baluchistan areas and building infrastructure at the strategically located Gwadar port in order to get a Chinese leeway to the oil-rich West Asian region), and the String Of Pearls strategy of strategic encirclement of India by infrastructure boosting in ports across India's neighbours, has been China's planned strategic designs in containing India while engaging her on the trade and business front, taking advantage of huge opportunities latent in expanding Indian markets (both formal and the informal/grey sectors).

On the other hand, India's China policy has been somewhat of an ad hoc type, lacking any planned pre-emptive strategic design in 'taming' the 'Rising Dragon'. Despite the signing of The Peace And Tranquility Agreement in 1993, setting up of JWG s in 1988 and initiating formal diplomatic channels in resolving the dispute areas, India has virtually failed in mitigating Chinese aggression in the LAC region. China's all-weather strategic ally Pakistan has been a constant pain the neck for India. India-Pakistan disputes in the South Asian subcontinent has been catalysed by China, from Chinese backing of Pakistan in The Kashmir dispute, to funding Pakistan's Nuclear Programme to blocking India's attempt at entry into the NSG. India's Himalayan neighbourhood has also witnessed the footsteps of the Dragon. Border skirmishes have been things in common with occasional step-up in flare ups (Sumdorong Chu in 1987, Depsang in 2013, Doklam in 2017), as China attempts to gain strategic control over the Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh region, which could provide a strategic connect between Chinese Xinziang Province with Tibet (an area which China claims as her own sovereign area).

In the backdrop of the above and the contemporary COVID-19 Pandemic , the seminar strives to analyze the recent Sino-Indian border skirmishes across the LAC in Ladakh(Galwan Valley).A debate is raging on as to the tectonic shift in the global geopolitical plates, especially the equations among the major powers across the globe. Will there be a new cold war between the two top powers in the globe-USA and China? Will China supercede the USA in the post-covid global order as a new hegemonic power. China has grabbed the headlines as the virus-deissemination centre and is alleged to have instituted a global biological warfare in its attempt to stamp her hegemonic designs across the global order. Are we standing at the threshold of a new global order spearheaded by China?

China's recent overtures in Galwan valley against India, is ample pointer the fact that China's "Peaceful rise/ development" idea may be over . The Dragon seems to have 'arrived' at the International theatre. China's readiness to use force in addressing challenge , marks a departure from her stance in earlier stand-offs, which may be apart of China's strategic attempt to ward of international criticisms concerning the COVID crisis, including pressures from the USA which has threatened to form a global consortium of states against China.

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE-13-03-2020

10.45 am to 11.00 am Registration

11.00 am to 12.00 am

Inaugural Session

11.05 am to 11.10 am

Inaugural Address by Prof. Anuradha Mukhopadhyay,
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DHWU.

11.10 am to 11.15 am

Welcome Address by Dr. Sayeedur Rahman,
Registrar, DHWU

11.15 am to 12.00 pm

Key Note Address by Prof. Swaran Singh

12.00 pm to 01.00 pm

Technical Session

Chair: Prof Swaran Singh, Chairperson and Professor,
Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament (CIPOD), SIS, Jawaharlal
Nehru University, New Delhi, India

Speaker 1: Prof. Ganga Thapa, Professor
Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Speaker 2: Prof Raj Kumar Kothari, Professor,
Vidyasagar University, West Bengal, India

12.50 pm to 01.00 pm: Question & Answer Session

1 pm: Vote of Thanks by Prof. Saptarshi Mondal

