

University of Mysore
Department of Studies in Geography
Manasagangotri, Mysuru - 570006



RUSA Sponsored Two Day Conference under Faculty Development Programme on

“Geographical Perspectives of Indian Geo-Politics”

(11th - 12th December 2025)

Conference Report

Conference Schedule

Date and Day	10:00 AM to 11:30 AM	11:45 AM to 1:15 PM	1:15 to 2:00	2:00 PM to 3:30 PM	3:45 PM to 5:15 PM
11/12/25	Inauguration Smt. M. K. Savitha KAS Registrar, University of Mysore, Mysore Keynote Mr. K. Arkesh (IPS) DGP (Retd.) CRPF	Geographical location of India: geopolitical threats and challenges. Prof. Arun Das. S Professor, Department of Geography, UOM, MGM	LUNCH BREAK	Climate change and geopolitics Dr. Hemachandra P N Professor, Government First Grade College, Hunsur	Himalayan frontier: Topography & tensions Dr. Sowmya shree. K L Guest Faculty, DOS in Geography, University of Mysore.
12/12/25	Geo-political compulsions of India's foreign policy: Prof. Krishna Hombale Professor & head Department of Political Science, University of Mysore, Manasagangothri, Mysuru	The Geopolitics of India's Northeast and the Siliguri Corridor, Dr. Chandrashekara B Senior Professor & Chairman, Department of Geography, UOM, MGM		Island Geopolitics and the Indo-Pacific, Dr. Minutha Guest Faculty, DOS in Geography, University of Mysore.	Indian ocean as geo-political pivot. Dr. Vishwanatha S Guest Faculty, DOS in Geography, University of Mysore.

For Registration:

Contact:
Prof. CHANDRASHEKARA B
Convener of the programme
Chairman, DOS in Geography,
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UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE

DEPARTMENT OF STUDIES IN GEOGRAPHY,
MANASAGANGOETHRI, MYSURU

Two Day RUSA Sponsored Conference under Faculty Development Programme
On

"Geographical Perspectives of Indian Geo-Politics"

Presided by

Smt. M.K. Savitha, Senior KAS
Registrar,
University of Mysore

Chief Guest & Key Note

Mr. Arkesh. IPS
Inspector General of Police (Rtd)
Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

Chaired by

Prof. Chandrashekara B
Senior Professor and Chairman
DOS in Geography, Manasagangothri

Venue: Geo-Manasa Auditorium, DOS in Geography, MGM, UOM

Date: 11 and 12 December 2025, Time: 10:00 AM

ALL ARE WELCOME

Organizing Committee:

Prof. Chandrashekara B
Convener of the programme
Senior Professor and Chairman,
DOS in Geography,
University of Mysore,
Manasagangothri, Mysuru

Prof. P. Jayashree
Senior Professor, DOS in Geography,
University of Mysore,
Manasagangothri, Mysuru

Prof. Arun Das
Professor,
DOS in Geography,
University of Mysore,
Manasagangothri, Mysuru

Dr. Rajesh Y.P.
Draftsman, DOS in Geography,
University of Mysore,

Dr. Sowmya shree K.L.
Guest Lecturer, DOS in Geography, Manasagangothri, Mysuru

Dr. Vishwanatha S.
Guest Lecturer, DOS in Geography, Manasagangothri, Mysuru

Dr. Minutha V.
Guest Lecturer, DOS in Geography, Manasagangothri, Mysuru

Research Scholars and Non teaching Staffs

About the Conference

The conference on "Geographical Perspectives of Indian Geo-Politics" seeks to examine how India's physical environment and spatial attributes have historically shaped—and continue to shape—its political and strategic priorities. India's diverse physiography, including the Himalayan barrier, river systems, fertile plains, plateaus, deserts, and an extensive coastline, plays a central role in its socio-economic development, cultural diversity, and settlement patterns. These physical settings influence everything from resource availability and agricultural productivity to connectivity, climate, and demographic distribution, forming a strong foundation for understanding India's geopolitical behaviour.

In the contemporary global landscape, India's geographical position makes it a pivotal player in regional and international affairs. Its shared borders with neighbouring countries, participation in international boundary negotiations, and engagement with regional groupings like SAARC, BIMSTEC, and ASEAN reflect geography-driven political realities. India's strategic presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), its involvement in maritime security, and the importance of sea lanes for global trade further highlight the need to study geopolitics through a spatial lens. Emerging issues such as climate change, energy security, transboundary water sharing, migration, and infrastructure corridors like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) add new dimensions to India's geopolitical considerations.

This conference aims to provide a comprehensive academic platform for researchers, faculty members, policymakers, and students to discuss these interconnected themes. By bringing together diverse scholarly viewpoints, the event encourages critical reflection on how geographical factors shape India's foreign policy, defence strategies, regional cooperation, and global aspirations. The deliberations will strengthen participants' understanding of India's evolving role in world politics and promote new research possibilities that bridge geography and geopolitical studies. The conference aspires to contribute to informed academic discourse and foster meaningful dialogue on India's global trajectory.

RUSA Sponsored Conference under Faculty Development
Programme on
Geographical Perspectives of Indian Geo-Politics

Venue: Geo-Manasa Auditorium, DOS in Geography, MGM, UOM

Date: 11 and 12 December 2025,

The Department of Studies in Geography, University of Mysore, organized a two-day RUSA-sponsored national conference titled “Geographical Perspectives of Indian Geo-Politics” on December 11–12. The conference aimed to highlight the growing significance of geographical factors in shaping India’s geopolitical strategies, internal security, and foreign policy.

The Inaugural session was held on December 11 and was presided over and inaugurated by Smt. M. K. Savitha, Registrar, University of Mysore (Senior KAS). Mr. Arkesh, IPS (Retd.), Inspector General of Police (CRPF), served as the Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker, while the session was chaired by Prof. Chandrashekara B, Chairman, Department of Studies in Geography. Several senior faculty members, including Prof. Arundas, Prof. P. Jayashree, and Prof. Ramu, along with postgraduate students and research scholars, were present in large numbers.





Welcoming the gathering, Prof. Chandrashekara B emphasized the relevance of the conference theme in the contemporary geopolitical context. He highlighted how geography plays a crucial role in understanding power relations, strategic planning, and regional development in India.



In her inaugural address, Registrar Smt. M. K. Savitha underlined the importance of political geography as an evolving applied discipline rooted in the ideas of Friedrich Ratzel. She explained how geographical knowledge contributes significantly to policy-making in areas such as external affairs, defence, migration, diplomacy, and national security. Addressing the students, she stressed that consistent hard work, strong academic foundations, and analytical thinking are essential for achieving professional success. She also announced a cash prize of ₹2 lakh for the girl student securing the highest marks in the Master's Degree in Geography, thereby encouraging women's participation and excellence in higher education. In addition, she

assured the department of efforts towards providing a permanent solution for drinking water facilities.



Delivering the keynote address, Mr. Arkesh, IPS (Retd.), shared valuable insights drawn from his extensive professional experience, including his involvement in the Calcutta airport hijacking case, operations against Naxalites, and efforts to apprehend the forest brigand Veerappan. He elaborated on how India's diverse physical geography—ranging from deserts and mountains to dense forests—poses unique internal security challenges.

Focusing on the Northeast and Northwest regions of India, he traced the historical roots of insurgency by examining factors such as difficult terrain, tribal social structures, linguistic diversity, colonial administrative policies, and economic marginalization. He discussed

significant events like the 1962 Mizo famine, bamboo flowering cycles, and Jhum cultivation, illustrating the close relationship between environmental change and political movements.



Mr. Arkesh clearly differentiated between insurgency and terrorism, emphasizing that constitutional integration, inclusive development, and cultural assimilation have significantly reduced insurgent movements in the Northeast. He asserted that India's unity lies in its diversity and urged scholars and students to understand internal security issues through field-based geographical perspectives rather than relying solely on media narratives.

The programme witnessed active participation from faculty members including Dr. Rajesh Y. P., Dr. Sowmyashree, Dr. Vishwanath, Dr. Minutha, Dr. Manjunath, Dr. Srikanta Prasad, and Dr. Saritha, along with postgraduate students and research scholars. The inaugural session set a strong academic tone for the subsequent technical sessions of the conference.



Session 2: Geographical Location of India – Security, Threats and Challenges

Resource Person: Prof. Arun Das

The second technical session of the conference was delivered by Prof. Arun Das, who spoke on the theme “Geographical Location of India: Security, Threats and Challenges.” The lecture provided a comprehensive geographical and conceptual framework to understand India’s internal security issues through historical, cultural, and spatial perspectives.



Prof. Arun Das began by addressing the fundamental question of why internal security disturbances arise in India. He explained that India, unlike many Western countries, did not emerge as a classical nation-state. Instead, it represents a complex civilizational entity with deep historical roots and immense cultural diversity.

He clearly differentiated between the concepts of nation and state. A nation, he explained, is a cultural group sharing a common language, history, traditions, and identity, whereas a state is a political entity characterized by sovereignty, defined territorial boundaries, a government, and a population. In the Indian context, the coexistence of multiple nations within a single state has often resulted in internal tensions and security challenges.

Prof. Arun Das highlighted the threat posed by strong cultural and regional identities, which sometimes seek political recognition or autonomy. He cited examples related to the reorganization of states on linguistic and cultural lines, including Tamil Nadu, Belagavi (Belgaum), and Kasaragod, to illustrate how cultural identity has influenced administrative boundaries and political demands.

He further discussed the impact of external cultural influences, referring to Persian culture and the historical interactions with Iran. Using the example of Iranian students and cultural exchanges, he demonstrated how cultural diffusion has shaped Indian society over centuries. He also emphasized the lasting British imprint on India's political and administrative systems, which continues to influence governance, territorial organization, and internal security mechanisms.

In conclusion, Prof. Arun Das elaborated on the geo-historical extension of India, stressing that India's present territorial boundaries cannot be understood without considering its historical expansion, cultural interactions, and civilizational continuity. He asserted that many contemporary security challenges stem from this complex geographical and historical evolution.

The session enabled participants to gain deeper insights into India's internal security concerns from a geographical perspective, thereby reinforcing the importance of spatial thinking in geopolitical and security studies. The session also witnessed active interaction, during which students Mr. Swaroop, Ms. Sanjivini, and other participants raised pertinent questions and sought clarifications. In recognition of their meaningful academic engagement, they were felicitated with tokens of appreciation by the resource person.

Session 3 Theme: Climate Change and Geopolitics

Resource Person: Prof. Hemachandra P.N

Technical Session III of the conference focused on the theme "Climate Change and Geopolitics", highlighting the interconnectedness between environmental changes and global political dynamics. The session emphasized that climate change has emerged as a critical geopolitical factor, influencing national security, resource availability, migration, and international relations.



The speakers explained that human-induced factors—including industrial emissions, large-scale deforestation, unsustainable land use, and rapid urban expansion—are the primary drivers of long-term climatic changes. The session highlighted the growing significance of satellite technology, thermal imaging, and remote sensing methods in monitoring climate patterns and supporting evidence-based policymaking. The role of both natural and human systems was discussed, including declining mangrove ecosystems, the expansion of palm plantations in Southeast Asia, and the importance of mangroves as natural bio-walls protecting coastal regions.

The Impacts of climate change were discussed in detail, covering sea level rise, warming oceans, melting ice caps, intense droughts, forest fires, floods, storms, and biodiversity loss. Special attention was given to the vulnerability of coastal communities, who face increasing risks due to erosion, saline intrusion, and changes in fisheries. The session also highlighted the ecological significance of coral reefs as indicators of ocean health and the consequences of coral bleaching.

The geopolitical implications of climate change were explored through examples such as resource competition, shifting power dynamics, and new alliances. Themes such as India's dependence on energy imports, its strategic partnerships, and initiatives like the International Solar Alliance were examined. The session also discussed transboundary water issues, including the implications of dam construction on the Brahmaputra River, glacial melt in the Himalayas, and the downstream effects on sediment flow and seismic vulnerability. Case studies such as the

Indus Water Treaty, the situation in Maldives, and the Aral Sea environmental crisis were referenced to illustrate broader regional impacts.



The session also addressed development versus environment debates, including the example of MedhaPatkar's Narmada BachaoAndolan, which reflects the ongoing challenge of balancing large-scale development projects with ecological sustainability. Issues of displacement, relocation, and climate refugees were discussed as emerging humanitarian concerns. Domestic strategies such as railway electrification (97% of broad gauge), promotion of clean and green energy, improvement of public transportation, use of solar films, reduction of plastic and paper consumption, and sustainable livestock practices were identified as potential solutions to mitigate climate impacts.

In conclusion, the session emphasised that climate change is not merely an environmental challenge but a major geopolitical issue shaping India's national priorities, regional engagement, and international diplomacy. It underscored the need for coordinated efforts at local, national, and global levels to strengthen climate security, protect biodiversity, and enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities.

Session 4: Himalayan Frontier – Topography, Frontiers and Security Challenges

Resource Person: Dr. Sowmyashree K.L

The session focused on a comprehensive geographical analysis of India's frontier regions and their strategic significance in the context of national security. The resource person began by explaining the concept of frontiers and emphasized their importance in political and strategic geography. Frontiers were described not merely as fixed boundary lines, but as dynamic geographical zones that play a crucial role in defence planning, territorial control, and geopolitical stability. The session highlighted how the strategic location, terrain, and accessibility of frontier regions significantly influence security policies and military strategies.

The discussion then moved to the Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan. The resource person explained the historical evolution of the LoC, tracing its origin to the 1947–48 conflict and its formalization under the Shimla Agreement of 1972. It was clearly emphasized that the LoC is not an international boundary, but a military control line separating Indian- and Pakistan-administered territories in Jammu and Kashmir. The session elaborated on the security threats emanating from Pakistan, including cross-border infiltration, terrorism, drug trafficking, and the circulation of counterfeit currency. Incidents such as the Uri attack and the Pahalgam attack were cited to illustrate the continuing challenges along the LoC and their impact on India's internal security.

In this context, the resource person discussed India's strategic and diplomatic responses, particularly the role of the Indus Waters Treaty. After the Pahalgam attack, India explored water regulation as a non-military pressure mechanism by restricting the flow of water from the Chenab River through the Baglihar Dam, highlighting the growing importance of water diplomacy in countering hostile actions and terrorism.

The session then shifted focus to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China. The formation and nature of the LAC were explained in relation to the Indo-China War of 1962, with special emphasis on China's construction of the G-219 road through Aksai Chin, which connected Xinjiang and Tibet and played a decisive role in the conflict. The resource person highlighted the ambiguous and undefined nature of the LAC, which continues to create friction between the two countries. The session discussed the strategic threats from China,

including infrastructure expansion, aggressive patrols, strategic connectivity projects, and periodic military standoffs along the LAC.

Further, the session examined broader geopolitical strategies, including China's "String of Pearls" strategy, aimed at expanding its strategic influence through a network of ports and infrastructure across the Indian Ocean Region. In response, India's counter-strategy, known as the "Necklace of Diamonds," was explained, focusing on strengthening strategic partnerships, enhancing border and maritime infrastructure, improving surveillance capabilities, and advancing connectivity projects. Strategic initiatives such as the Atal Tunnel were highlighted as key developments that enhance mobility, logistics, and defence preparedness in high-altitude frontier regions.



Overall, the session provided a clear and structured geographical understanding of frontiers, the LoC, and the LAC, emphasizing their distinct characteristics and collective impact on India's

national security and geopolitical strategy. The session effectively demonstrated the relevance of geographical perspectives in understanding contemporary security challenges and policy responses.

Session 5: Geopolitical Compulsions of India's Foreign Policy

Resource Person: Prof. Krishna Hombale

The session on “Geopolitical Compulsions of India's Foreign Policy” provided a comprehensive and analytical understanding of how geographical, political, economic, and demographic factors shape India's external relations and strategic behaviour. Prof. Krishna Hombal began by outlining the core elements of a state, namely territory, population, governance, sovereignty, and international relations, emphasizing that these elements form the foundation of foreign policy formulation.

He highlighted the importance of inclusivity, referring to initiatives such as Braille as essential for equitable governance, and introduced the concept of “Sutra” to explain how geographical aspects act as connecting threads in shaping political and strategic outcomes. Tracing the intellectual origins of geopolitics, Prof. Hombal referred to Rudolf Kjellén, who coined geopolitics as a scientific discipline and emphasized that the state must be analyzed through demographic, economic, geographical, and political dimensions.

The lecture examined classical geopolitical theories, beginning with Halford Mackinder's Heartland Theory, which stressed control over land power, followed by discussions on sea power and naval dominance as critical components of foreign policy. Nicholas Spykman's Rimland Theory, focusing on the coastal fringes of Eurasia, was explained in the context of contemporary strategic competition. The ideas of George Kennan, particularly his influence on American foreign policy during the Cold War, were also discussed, highlighting concepts of state power, national interest, and territorial control.

Prof. Hombal emphasized the growing role of non-state actors and local dynamics in international relations, alongside traditional state-centric approaches. He explained that foreign policy is an extension of domestic policy, shaped by geography, natural resources, demographic composition, and power rivalries. The concept of national security was defined as the protection and preservation of national unity, territorial integrity, and sovereignty.

Drawing upon the ideas of J. D. Dixit, the lecture broadened the understanding of security to include food, nutrition, health, knowledge, and psychological well-being, highlighting the interaction between domestic and international milieus. Prof. Hombal emphasized that India's foreign policy is deeply influenced by natural security imperatives, given the country's extensive borders and coastline—approximately 15,106 km of land borders and 11,098 km of coastline—which pose both strategic opportunities and vulnerabilities.

The session further discussed India's engagement with multilateral institutions such as BRICS and QUAD, and the continuing relevance of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). The geographical pragmatism of Jawaharlal Nehru was highlighted, particularly in the context of India and China as ancient Asian civilizations and India's initial difficulty in aligning strictly with either capitalism or communism. The post-1991 global changes, including the Balkanization of Eastern Europe, were identified as factors that compelled India to reorient its foreign policy, leading to the adoption of Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization (LPG).





Prof. Hombale examined India's border-related tensions, noting the strategic challenges posed by Pakistan (3,323 km), China (3,488 km), and Bangladesh (4,096 km). The McMahon Line and India–China boundary disputes were discussed, along with the growing importance of maritime security, which includes safeguarding communication networks, ensuring energy and resource security, and responding to initiatives such as China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the issue of trade deficits.

The lecture also addressed how early diplomatic principles such as the Panchsheel Agreement eventually gave way to conflict, underscoring the limits of idealism in international relations. Prof. Hombale emphasized that no nation is self-sufficient, making interdependence inevitable, and explained this through the theory of dependency. Examples such as India's import of Russian oil were used to illustrate how sovereignty and national interest operate in a complex global economy. He also highlighted the importance of indigenization of critical technologies, such as cryogenic technology, to safeguard strategic autonomy.

In the concluding part of the session, Prof. Hombale warned against overdependence on emerging technologies, noting the risk of transitioning from "sovereign masters to sovereign slaves" in the context of artificial intelligence and technological dependence. He emphasized the importance of peace in Southeast Asia, and discussed non-traditional security threats such as cybersecurity, surveillance, illegal migration, and tariff wars. Referring to the "butterfly effect," he explained how small events in one part of the world can have cascading global impacts. Quoting Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, he concluded by stating that "strength recognizes strength," underscoring the need for comprehensive national power to ensure security and strategic stability.

Session-6: The Geopolitics of India's Northeast and the Siliguri Corridor

Resource Person: Prof. Chandrashekara B

The session on “The Geopolitics of India's Northeast and the Siliguri Corridor” focused on the strategic, geographical, and geopolitical importance of India's northeastern region and its connectivity with the mainland. The resource person began by highlighting the vulnerabilities of the Northeast, noting that although the region comprises eight states, it accounts for only about 4% of India's population. Despite its demographic size, the region holds immense strategic importance due to its sensitive location and security challenges.

Special emphasis was placed on the Siliguri Corridor, often referred to as the “Chicken's Neck,” which is barely 22 km wide at its narrowest point and serves as the only land link connecting the Northeast to mainland India. The session explained that the Northeast shares international borders with five countries—China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal, making it highly vulnerable to both traditional and non-traditional security threats. This geographical reality significantly influences India's geopolitical and strategic planning.

The session examined how geographical factors, human culture, and landscape shape both national and foreign policies. The ethnic, linguistic, and cultural distinctiveness of the Northeast—often influenced by Mongoloid racial features and trans-border cultural linkages—was discussed as a factor that affects integration, security, and diplomacy. In this context, the Act East Policy was highlighted as a major geopolitical opportunity, aimed at transforming the Northeast from a peripheral borderland into a gateway connecting India with Southeast Asia.



China's strategic behaviour in the region was discussed in detail, particularly its use of debt-trap diplomacy and control over choke points as instruments of influence. The session explained how China's activities in the Chumbi Valley, a low-lying strategic area near the India–Bhutan–

China tri-junction, pose serious security concerns due to surrounding ridges and high-altitude terrain. It was noted that tensions in the Northeast often serve as diversionary tactics to shift India's attention away from China's larger strategic objectives in the Indian Ocean Region.



The Northeast was described as a logistical lifeline, crucial for both economic development and military deployment. Ensuring security in the region was emphasized as essential for maintaining territorial integrity. In this regard, the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project was discussed as a vital initiative to strengthen supply chains, reduce dependence on the Siliguri Corridor, and improve connectivity with Myanmar and Southeast Asia.

The session also addressed the geopolitical roles of neighbouring countries. Bhutan and Nepal were discussed as traditional buffer states, while concerns were raised about increasing Chinese influence in Nepal's political landscape. India's diplomatic approach, including vaccine diplomacy and efforts to maintain cordial relations with neighbours, was highlighted as a soft-power strategy to counter external influence.

China's disputed territorial claims were examined, particularly its assertion that Arunachal Pradesh is "South Tibet." The session further discussed China's strategic interest in the Brahmaputra River, raising concerns about potential future conflicts over water security, river flow control, and flooding, often described as a potential "war for water."

The broader maritime dimension was also discussed, linking Northeast security with India's Indian Ocean strategy. China's "String of Pearls" strategy, involving the establishment of naval bases to reduce India's maritime dominance, was explained alongside India's counter-measures such as the "Necklace of Diamonds" strategy and participation in the QUAD framework.

The session highlighted challenges arising from porous borders, including illegal migration, arms trafficking, and refugee movements, particularly the influx of Rohingya refugees due to regional conflicts. The role of laws such as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) was discussed in the context of maintaining security, alongside the evolving shift from a “security-first” to a “development-first” approach in the Northeast.

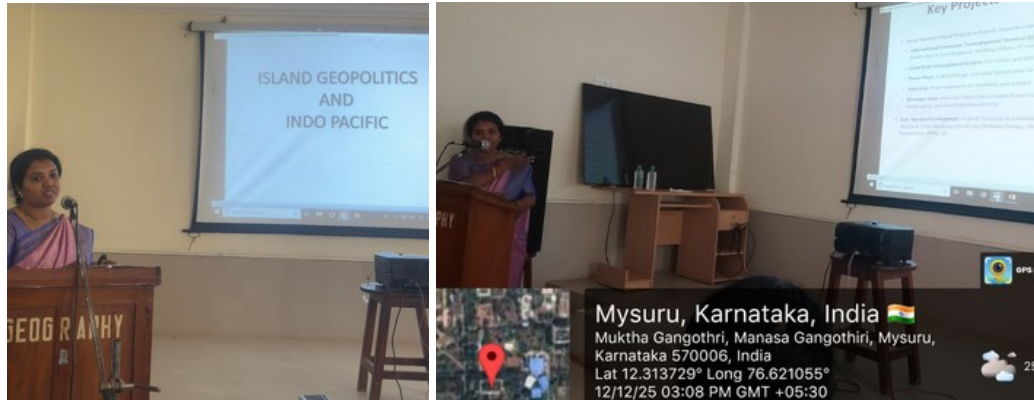
Finally, the session emphasized regional and international cooperation through platforms such as SAARC and ASEAN, and connectivity initiatives like the India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway. The lecture concluded by stressing the need to transform the Northeast from a buffer zone into an engine of growth, integrating security, development, and diplomacy to realize its full geopolitical potential.

Session 7: Island Geopolitics and the Indo-Pacific

Resource Person: Dr. Minutha V

The session on “Island Geopolitics and the Indo-Pacific” examined the growing strategic importance of islands in shaping contemporary economic, security, and power relations at both regional and global levels. The resource person began by explaining how islands occupy strategic locations that enable control over sea lanes, maritime trade routes, and naval mobility, making them critical assets in geopolitical competition.

The session highlighted that islands represent both vulnerability and opportunity. While their geographic isolation makes them susceptible to environmental risks, military threats, and supply disruptions, their location also provides opportunities for maritime dominance, economic development, and strategic surveillance. Special attention was given to archipelagic states, whose territorial integrity and maritime rights are protected under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The role of UNCLOS in defining territorial waters, exclusive economic zones (EEZs), and archipelagic sea lanes was clearly explained.



From a defence perspective, islands were discussed as forward bases that enhance maritime security and naval power projection. The session examined the strategic importance of maritime chokepoints, such as the Suez Canal and Panama Canal, noting that any disruption in these narrow passages can cause severe economic dislocation and global supply chain interruptions. Control over such chokepoints was identified as a key factor influencing global trade and strategic stability.

The discussion then shifted to the Indo-Pacific region, which has emerged as a central focus of India's foreign policy due to its role in global commerce, energy flows, and security dynamics. The session emphasized that a significant share of world trade is conducted through oceanic routes, making trade in the oceans a vital component of economic and strategic planning. The Indo-Pacific was presented as a space where economic interests, security concerns, and power rivalries converge.

The resource person also addressed the economic potential of the oceans, particularly in relation to marine resource extraction and deep-sea mining, as permitted under UNCLOS. China's approach to island development and maritime expansion, influenced by its communist political framework and centralized policy-making, was discussed as a major strategic challenge in the region.



Attention was given to the role of islands in tourism and regional development, alongside strategic projects such as the Great Nicobar Island Development Project, which aims to enhance connectivity, defence preparedness, and economic activity. However, the session stressed that such projects must balance strategic objectives with environmental protection, ecological sustainability, and the rights of indigenous communities.

Finally, the session highlighted the importance of surveillance and monitoring systems in island territories to ensure maritime security and early threat detection. The lecture concluded by emphasizing that island geopolitics will continue to play a decisive role in shaping the Indo-Pacific order, requiring integrated approaches that combine security, economic development, environmental conservation, and respect for indigenous populations.

Session 8: Indian Ocean as Geo-Political Pivot

Resource Person: Dr. Vishwanatha S

The session on “The Indian Ocean as Geo-Political Pivot” focused on the growing strategic importance of the Indian Ocean in shaping global and regional geopolitics. The resource person explained that the Indian Ocean occupies a central position in the world’s maritime geography, linking Asia, Africa, Europe, and Australia, and therefore functions as a crucial pivot for economic, political, and strategic interactions.

The session highlighted the Indian Ocean's role in fostering economic partnerships, as a significant proportion of global trade, energy supplies, and commercial shipping passes through its sea lanes. The region was described as vital for ensuring energy security, facilitating international commerce, and supporting regional economic integration. Control and stability of these maritime routes were emphasized as essential for sustained global economic growth.

Special attention was given to India's SAGAR Initiative (Security and Growth for All in the Region), which reflects India's maritime vision for the Indian Ocean. The initiative aims to promote maritime security, economic cooperation, capacity building, and collective regional development while ensuring a free, open, and inclusive maritime order.

The session further discussed the maritime dimension of geopolitics, emphasizing the interconnected roles of the Indian Ocean in security, economic development, and international relations. Maritime cooperation, naval diplomacy, and multilateral engagement were highlighted as key tools for maintaining stability and addressing emerging challenges such as piracy, maritime terrorism, and competition among major powers.





Overall, the session underlined that the Indian Ocean is not merely a geographic space but a geo-political pivot, whose stability and cooperation are essential for regional security, economic prosperity, and balanced international relations.

Quiz Competition

Before the valedictory session, at 4:35 PM, the organizing committee conducted a quiz competition for the participants. Six groups, each consisting of eight members, took part in the competition, answering around 25 to 30 questions. Each team creatively named themselves for the event.



The team Jambudvipa secured the first prize, while Ternado was awarded the runner-up prize. The prizes were presented by Professor Chandrasekhar, Professor Arundas, and Sri Srikantaprasad, who appreciated the efforts and enthusiasm of the participants.



Winners



Runners

Valedictory Session

The valedictory session of the RUSA-sponsored two-day Faculty Development Program was held following the quiz. The session was graced by Prof. Arundas, Prof. Chandrasekhar, and Prof. Srikantaprasad, Government First Grade College, Bannur.



The session commenced with a warm welcome by Sowmyashree K.L and Minutha, followed by an address from Prof. Arundas, who highlighted the academic significance of the conference. Sri Srikantaprasad, as the chief guest, expressed his gratitude to the organizing committee and chairperson, emphasizing the relevance of geopolitics in the current context.

Feedback was provided by participants, including Anouk, Swaroop, Purvika, research scholars Sudhakar. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many students requesting the continuation of such quizzes and conferences in the future. Participants expressed their gratitude to the chairperson, noting the valuable knowledge and insights they gained from the event.



Before the Vote of Thanks, certificates were handed over by the resource persons to the participants, and everyone felt delighted to receive their certificates during the programme itself. The session concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Prof. Chandrashekara B, Chairman, Department of Studies in Geography, Manasagangothri, Mysore. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all the participants, resource persons, committee members, and the teaching and non-teaching staff of the department for their support and contribution to the success of the programme. In his closing remarks, he emphasized the collaborative spirit and collective effort that made the event both impactful and memorable.





ಭೂಗೋಳಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಯರಿಗೆ ದತ್ತಿನಿಧಿ

■ ವಿಶ್ವ ಸುದ್ದಿಲೋಕ ಮೈಸೂರು

ಎಂಎಸ್ಸಿ ಭೂಗೋಳಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅಂಕ ಪಡೆಯುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಗೆ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹವನ್ನು ಎರಡು ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ. ದತ್ತಿ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಈ ಸಾಲಿನಿಂದಲೇ ಬಹುಮಾನ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿವಿ ಕುಲಸಚಿವೆ ಎಂ.ಕೆ.ಸವಿತಾ ಘೋಷಿಸಿದರು.

ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಭೂಗೋಳಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಸಭಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ "ಭಾರತೀಯ ಭೂ-ರಾಜಕೀಯದ ಭೌಗೋಳಿಕ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಕೋನಗಳು" ಕುರಿತು ಆಯೋಜಿಸಿದ್ದ ಎರಡು ದಿನಗಳ ಆರ್‌ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಎ ಪ್ರಾಯೋಜಿತ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನವನ್ನು ಉದ್ಘಾಟಿಸಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದರು.

"ನಾನು ಭೂಗೋಳಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿ ಆಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ನಮ್ಮ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಅಧ್ಯಯನಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ ನೀಡುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ಎರಡು ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ.ಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಪಸ್ ಫಂಡ್ ಅನ್ನು ವಿವಿಗೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕವಾಗಿ ದೊರೆಯುವ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಎಂ.ಕೆ. ಸವಿತಾ ದತ್ತಿ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿಯಾಗಿ ಈ ಸಾಲಿನಿಂದಲೇ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು



ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿವಿ ಕುಲಸಚಿವೆ ಎಂ.ಕೆ. ಸವಿತಾ ಅವರು ಎಂಎಸ್ಸಿ ಭೂಗೋಳಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅಂಕ ಪಡೆಯುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಗೆ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹವನ್ನು ಎರಡು ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ. ದತ್ತಿ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿದರು.

ಅಂಕ ಪಡೆಯುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಗೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು," ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

"ಭೂಗೋಳಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕೊರತೆ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಘಟಕ ಕೆಟ್ಟು ನಿಂತಿದೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ವಿಭಾಗದವರಿಗೆ ಶಾಶ್ವತ ಕುದ್ಧ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಒದಗಿಸುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ಶೀಘ್ರದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 5 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ. ಬೆಲೆ ಬಾಳುವ ಆರ್‌ಒ ಘಟಕವನ್ನು ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊಡುಗೆಯಾಗಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು," ಎಂದರು.

ಸಿಆರ್‌ಪಿಎಫ್‌ನ ನಿವೃತ್ತ ಐಜಿಪಿ ಕೆ.ಆರ್‌ಕೆಎಸ್ ಮಾತನಾಡಿ, ಭಾರತದ ಭೌಗೋಳಿಕ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯತೆ, ಮರುಭೂಮಿ

ಯಿಂದ ಹಿಡಿದು ದಟ್ಟ ಕಾಡುಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಅಂತರಿಕ ಭದ್ರತಾ ಸಮಾಲುಗಳು ಹೇಗೆ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಯಾಗುತ್ತವೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಅವರು ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು. ಅಲ್ಲದೇ ವಾಯುವ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಈಶಾನ್ಯ ಭಾಗಗಳ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಕರಿಸಿ, ದಂಗೆ- ಹಿಂಸೆಯ ಐತಿಹಾಸಿಕ ಬುನಾದಿ, ಭೂಮಿ ರೂಪ, ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ, ಭಾಷಿಕ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾಹತುಕಾಹಿ ನೀತಿಗಳು ಪ್ರದೇಶೀಯ ಆಶಾಂತಿಗೆ ಹೇಗೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗುತ್ತವೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸಿದರು.

ಭೂಗೋಳಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಡಾ.ಬಿ.ಬಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ್, ಪ್ರೊ.ಪಿ. ಜಯಶ್ರೀ, ಪ್ರೊ.ಅರುಣ್‌ದಾಸ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ಬೋಧಕ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಇದ್ದರು.

List of participants attended the conference

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