

**A Two-day International Conference  
on  
*Re-imagining BIMSTEC***

**Venue: The LaLiT Great Eastern Hotel, Kolkata  
28-29 November, Tentative Schedule**

<b>28 November 2019: Day 1</b>	
<b>0930 - 1000</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>1000 - 1005</b>	Welcome Address by Nilanjan Ghosh, Director, Observer Research Foundation, Kolkata
<b>1005-1030</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Inaugural Session</b></p> <p>Inaugural Keynote by M. Shahidul Islam Secretary General of BIMSTEC, Dhaka, Bangladesh</p> <p>Special Address by Peter Rimmel, Resident Representative India, Konrad Adenauer- Stiftung</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chair: Sunjoy Joshi, Chairman, Observer Research Foundation</b></p>
<b>1030-1145</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opening Panel</b> <b>Theme: Connecting nations within BIMSTEC</b></p> <p>Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, Visiting Fellow, ORF, New Delhi, India</p> <p>Nisha Taneja, Professor, ICRIER, New Delhi, India</p> <p>Daw Than Than Htay, Member, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), Yangon, Myanmar</p> <p>C. Raja Mohan, Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and</p> <p>Suhasini Haidar, Diplomatic Editor, The Hindu, New Delhi, India</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chair: Sunjoy Joshi, Chairman, Observer Research Foundation</b></p>
<b>1145 - 1200</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>

<p><b>1200 - 1300</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Business Session I</b></p> <p><b>Theme: Maritime connectivity and significance of the Bay of Bengal</b></p> <p>Rohan Masakorala, CEO, Shipper’s Academy, Colombo, Sri Lanka</p> <p>Captain Baderul, Director, Contemporary Security, MiDAS, Malaysia</p> <p>Nazneen Ahmad, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Bangladesh</p> <p>Sanjay Chaturvedi, Professor and Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of International Relations, South Asian University, New Delhi, India</p> <p><b>Chair: Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, Senior Fellow, ORF, Kolkata</b></p>
<p><b>1300 - 1430</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Lunch</b></p>
<p><b>1430 - 1500</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>In-Conversation</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Bertil Lintner, Correspondent, Asia Times, Hong Kong</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Suhasini Haidar, Diplomatic Editor, The Hindu, New Delhi, India</b></p>
<p><b>1500 - 1630</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Media Workshop</b></p> <p align="center"><b>BIMSTEC: Media’s Assessment</b></p> <p>Reaz Ahmad, Executive Editor, Dhaka Tribune, Dhaka, Bangladesh</p> <p>Charitha Fernando, Senior Journalist, Colombo, Sri Lanka and</p> <p>Haroon Habib, Senior Journalist, Dhaka, Bangladesh</p> <p>Tshering Dorji, Journalist, Kuensel, Bhutan</p> <p><b>Chair: Bertil Lintner, Correspondent, Asia Times, Hong Kong</b></p>
<p><b>1630 - 1645</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Tea/Coffee Break</b></p>
<p><b>1645 - 1800</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Theme: Special Panel discussion</b></p> <p align="center"><b>“RCEP and BIMSTEC: Can the two tango?”</b></p> <p>Heribert Dieter, Senior Associate, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin, Germany</p> <p>Prabir De, Professor, RIS, New Delhi, India</p> <p>Nilanjan Ghosh, Director, ORF, Kolkata, India</p>

	<p>Nahim Razzaq, Member, Bangladeshi Jatiya Sangsad, Bangladesh</p> <p><b>Chair: Nick Low, British Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata</b></p>
<b>18.00-1930</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dinner Discussion</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Theme: Future of BIMSTEC within the geostrategic narrative of the 'Indo-Pacific'</b></p> <p>Smruti S. Pattanaik, Research Fellow, IDSA, New Delhi, India</p> <p>Robin Ramcharan, Executive Director, Asia Centre, Thailand</p> <p>Gareth Price, Senior Research Fellow, Asia-Pacific Programme, Chatham House, London, United Kingdom</p> <p>Christian Wagner, Senior Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin, Germany</p> <p><b>Chair: Krishnan Srinivasan, Former Indian Foreign Secretary and Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth of Nations</b></p>
<b>19.30 - 2200</b>	<b>Welcome Dinner (Invite only)</b>
<b>29 November 2019: Day 2</b>	
<b>0930 - 1000</b>	<b>Registrations</b>
<b>1000- 1030</b>	<p><b>Interactive session with Jayanta Bandopadhyay, Visiting Distinguished Fellow, ORF, Kolkata, India and Sugata Hazra, Director, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India</b></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Business Session II</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Theme: Climate change, disaster management and BIMSTEC</b></p> <p>K M Parivelan, Associate Professor, TISS Mumbai, India</p>

<p><b>1030 - 1145</b></p>	<p>Cleo Paskal, Associate Fellow, Energy, Environment and Resources Department and Asia-Pacific Programme, Chatham House, London, United Kingdom  Aditi Mukherji, Principal Researcher, The International Water Management Institute, New Delhi, India  Runa Sarkar, Professor, IIM Calcutta, Kolkata, India  <b>Chair: Anamitra Anurag Danda, Visiting Senior Fellow, ORF, Kolkata</b></p>
<p><b>1145 - 1200</b></p>	<p><b>Tea/Coffee Break</b></p>
<p><b>1200 – 1345</b></p>	<p><b>Business Session III</b>  <b>Theme: Enhancing trade: Engaging members in BIMSTEC</b></p> <p>Damaru Ballabha Paudel, Director, BIMSTEC Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh  Sujeev Shakya, CEO, BEED Management, Nepal  Suparna Karmakar, Independent researcher, Kolkata  Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Research Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka Bangladesh  Suthiphand Chirathivat, Professor Emeritus, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand  <b>Chair: Nilanjan Ghosh, Director, ORF, Kolkata, India</b></p>
<p><b>1345 - 1445</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>
<p><b>1445 - 1545</b></p>	<p><b>Business Session IV</b>  <b>Theme: Historical and Cultural Linkages within BIMSTEC</b></p> <p>Joshua Thomas, Deputy Director, ICSSR, Shillong, India  Ronojoy Sen, Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, NUS, Singapore  Lipi Ghosh, Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India</p>

	<p>Hari Vasudevan, Visiting Distinguished Fellow, ORF, Kolkata and President, IDSK, Kolkata</p> <p><b>Chair: Rakhahari Chatterji, Advisor, ORF, Kolkata</b></p>
<b>1545-1730</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Panel Discussion on Media</b> <b>Assessing the Media: BIMSTEC in Perspective</b></p> <p>Saumya Bandopadhyay, Consulting Editor, Prothom Aloo (Newspaper of Bangladesh), New Delhi, India</p> <p>Anchalee Kongrut, Assistant News Editor, Bangkok Post, Bangkok, Thailand</p> <p>Joydeep Gupta, Executive Director, The Third Pole, India</p> <p>Ye Myo Hein, Executive Director, Tagaung Institute of Political Studies, Myanmar</p> <p><b>Chair: Sajjadur Rahman, Business Editor, Daily Star, Bangladesh</b></p>
<b>1730 - 1745</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>
<b>1745 -1830</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Interactive Session on Media</b></p> <p>Soe Myint, Editor-in-Chief and Managing Director, Mizzima Media Company, Myanmar</p> <p>Chandni Jayatilleke, Group Editor Business, Lake House, Colombo, Sri Lanka</p> <p><b>Chair: Subir Bhaumik, Veteran BBC Correspondent, Kolkata, India</b></p>
<b>18.30- 19.30</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Valedictory and Summing up session</b></p> <p><b>C. Raja Mohan, Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Rakhahari Chatterji, Advisor, ORF, Kolkata</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Vote of Thanks</b></p>

*This schedule is subject to last minute change.*