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**International Webinar on**

**INDIA IN THE INDO-PACIFIC: INTERESTS, CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS**

**ORGANISED BY  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Central University of Jharkhand, Brambe, Ranchi, Jharkhand, India**

**14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

**EMINENT SPEAKERS**



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**Prof. Ratan Kumar Dey**  
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor



**Patron**

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**Dr. Pranav Kumar**

## Theme of the Webinar

### INDIA IN THE INDO-PACIFIC: INTERESTS, CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

Since the end of the Cold War, the US has remained the sole superpower in Asia. However, at the turn of the twenty-first century, the rise of China as a major economic and military power, along with its assertive postures and other factors, has led a profound impact on the decades-long power structure in the region. Realising serious repercussions, successive American administrations have taken calibrated efforts to ensure the US' dominance in maintaining security and stability in this region. Coming to power in 2017, the Trump administration rolled out his new "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy" (FOPI) to protect America's supremacy in the fast-changing geostrategic, economic and political realities in Asia. Subsequently, the Trump administration announced to invest \$113 billion to promote digital, connectivity, energy and infrastructure in the region. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) among the US, India, Australia and Japan was revived as a regional security provider and the US also changed the name of its Pacific Command to the Indo-Pacific Command in 2018, largely in recognition of India's growing importance in the US' Asia policy, apart from other initiatives.

India too has responded positively to the idea of the Indo-Pacific as a new geo-strategic construct. Thus, while the Indian Ministry of External Affairs has established a desk for the Indo-Pacific, the Modi government has taken steps to reinvent India's ties with the countries of the region under the framework of Act East Policy. This can be gauged from the fact that while India has intensified security ties with the US, it has also scaled up military engagement with Vietnam, Japan, Australia and other countries. At the same time, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi having inaugurated a 2,312 km long submarine optic fiber cable linking Chennai and Andaman and Nicobar Islands in August this year, New Delhi has major push towards restructuring its Indian Ocean Policy, which is equally for securing India's security and other interests in the larger region of Indo-Pacific. Moreover, under the Act-East policy, the strategic location of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has assumed huge significance in India's strong relations with East Asian countries and other countries connected by the sea. Besides, government's announcement of further development of several airports and other infrastructures in the Islands for security purpose is a clear indication of strategic move and its seriousness.

In this context, it is very important to understand India's interests, challenges and prospects in the Indo-Pacific. As the Coronavirus pandemic has significantly unsettled the international order, it is very timely to organize an International Webinar to discuss the concept of the Indo-Pacific and its relevance for India.

In particular, this International Webinar intends to debate and discuss the following issues:

1. The Conceptual Understanding of the Indo-Pacific Region
2. The US' Motive towards Launching the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy
3. India's Interests in the Indo-Pacific Regions
4. India-US Security Relations
5. India's Changing Idea of Maritime Security
6. Situation in the Korean Peninsula and Emerging Challenges
7. Economic, Security and Maritime Dimensions
8. Act-East Policy
9. ASEAN in Indo-Pacific
10. New Order in Indo-Pacific

**Note:** The above themes are only indicative. Authors may opt other topics also relevant to the main theme of the Webinar

**Last date of Submission of Abstract: 06<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Full paper Submission: 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 (Full paper may be sent on [bibhuti.biswas@cuja.ac.in](mailto:bibhuti.biswas@cuja.ac.in))**

#### Organising Members

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- **Dr. Aparna, Assistant Professor, DPIR, CUJ**
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- **Ms. Arpana Raj, Assistant Professor, DFEL, CUJ**
- **Dr. Neha Kumari Murai**

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