

SYMPOSIUM ON “THE UKRAINE CRISIS: CHALLENGES TO INDIA’S FOREIGN POLICY”

Bio-Briefs of Distinguished Speakers

Dr. Raghunath A. Mashelkar, President, Pune International Centre



Dr. Raghunath A. Mashelkar is the President, Pune International Centre and formerly, the National Research Professor. He has served as the Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for over 11 years. He was also the President of Indian National Science Academy and President of the Institution of Chemical Engineers (UK). He is on the Board of Directors of several reputed companies such as Reliance Industries Ltd., Tata Motors Ltd., Hindustan Unilever Ltd., GeneMedix Life Sciences Ltd., Indigene Pharmaceuticals Ltd., ICICI Knowledge Park, Thermax Ltd., Piramal Life Sciences Ltd., and KPIT Cummins Infosystems Ltd. He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of Microsoft. In 1998, Dr Mashelkar was awarded the JRD Tata Corporate Leadership Award, the first scientist to receive this honour. Thirty universities have honoured him with honorary doctorates, which include Universities of London, Salford, Pretoria, Wisconsin and Delhi. The President of India honoured Dr Mashelkar with Padmashri (1991), Padma Bhushan (2000) and Padma Vibhushan (2014). In the post-liberalized India, Dr Mashelkar has played a critical role in shaping India's Science and Technology (S&T) policies. He was a member of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and also of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet set up by successive governments.

Amb. Gautam Bambawale



Ambassador Gautam Bambawale joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1984. He was first the Desk Officer for China in the Ministry of External Affairs, later serving as Director in the Americas Division of the Ministry. Ambassador Bambawale was then appointed as the Director of the Indian Cultural Centre in Berlin, Germany. Returning to Beijing, China, he functioned as the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Indian Embassy there. Amb. Bambawale also served in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi as the Staff Officer to the Foreign Secretary of India [the highest ranking civil servant in the Indian Foreign Ministry]. Furthermore, he joined the Prime Minister's Office as Deputy Chief for the Division of National Security Affairs, Defence and International Policy. He was Minister (Political) and Head of the Political Wing at the Embassy of India in Washington D.C, where he was a participant in the transformation of India-U.S. relations. Furthermore, he functioned as the first Consul General of India in Guangzhou, China. Thereafter, he held charge of the position of Joint Secretary (East Asia) in the Ministry of External Affairs. In this position, he was responsible for relations with Japan, China and South Korea amongst other countries. Amb. Bambawale has been Ambassador of India to Bhutan and High Commissioner of India to Pakistan.

Mr. Nitin Pai



Mr. Nitin Pai is co-founder and director of the Takshashila Institution, an independent centre for research and education in public policy. His current research includes information warfare, the geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific. He teaches international relations, public policy and ethical reasoning at Takshashila's graduate programmes. He is currently a columnist with Mint and ThePrint. His book "Nitopadesha - Moral Tales for Good Citizens" is currently under publication. He is the co-editor of "India's Marathon: Reshaping the Post-Pandemic World Order" published in 2020. He worked on satellite design, undersea cable projects and RF communications before joining the Singapore government, where he spent more than a decade as a policymaker in the technology sector. He is currently a member of the Chief Minister of Karnataka's Vision Group on Higher Education. He was a gold medalist from the National University of Singapore's LKY School of Public Policy, an undergraduate scholar at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), and an alum of National College, Bangalore.

Prof. Ajay Shah



Prof. (Dr.) Ajay Shah studied at IIT, Bombay and USC, Los Angeles. He has held positions at Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research (IGIDR), Department of Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Finance and National Institute for Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP). He does academic and policy-oriented research on India, at the intersection of economics, law and public administration. His second book, co-authored with Dr. Vijay Kelkar, is “In Service of the Republic: The Art and Science of Economic Policy”, featured in Bloomberg’s Global “2020 Best Books on Business and Leadership”. His areas of focus are macroeconomics, finance, health, and technology policy. His work can be accessed on his home page (<http://www.mayin.org/ajayshah>). He is the founder and chief editor of The Leap Blog (<http://blog.theleapjournal.org>).

Amb. Latha Reddy



Ambassador Latha Reddy is the former Deputy National Security Adviser of India where she was responsible for cybersecurity and other critical internal and external security issues. She also served as a Commissioner on the Global Commission on Internet Governance. Amb. Reddy served in the Indian Foreign Service from 1975-2011. During her diplomatic career she served in Lisbon, Washington D.C., Kathmandu, Brasilia, Durban, Vienna and Bangkok. She served as Ambassador of India to Portugal (2004-2006) and to Thailand (2007-2009). She was Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi (2010-2011) with overall charge of India's bilateral and regional relations with Asia. She was then appointed as India's Deputy National Security Advisor in the Prime Minister's Office from 2011-2013. Amb. Reddy has extensive experience in foreign policy, and in bilateral, regional and multilateral negotiations. In addition, she has expertise on security and strategic issues and has worked on strategic technology policies, particularly on cyber issues relating to cyber security policy, international cyber cooperation and Internet governance.

Amb. Sudhir Devare



Ambassador Sudhir Devare joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1964. He has worked in several Indian embassies abroad such as Moscow, Washington, Geneva and Myanmar. He was Ambassador to South Korea and Indonesia. He was the first Indian Ambassador to Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia. As Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, he was closely associated with the evolution of India's Look East policy. Amb. Devare was a member of the National Security Advisory Board in 2002-03. He was also a Visiting Professor at the Centre of East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. He was Vice-Chairman of Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. It was during his association with the RIS that proposals of Free Trade Agreements with some of the countries of Southeast and East Asia were initiated and the concept of an Asian Economic Community was articulated. Amb. Devare was Director-General, Indian Council of World Affairs (Sapru House), one of India's oldest think-tanks from 2009-12. He was also a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore where he wrote and edited the books, 'India and Southeast Asia: towards Security Convergence' and 'A New Energy Frontier: the Bay of Bengal region'. He was with the Weatherhead Centre of Harvard University, Cambridge, U.S.A in 2007-08 and continues to be associated with it as a Fellow. He is also a Member of the Eminent Persons' and Experts' Group of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and is on the Advisory Boards of the Society for Indian Ocean Studies and the India International Centre.

Prof. C. Raja Mohan



Prof. C. Raja Mohan is a Senior Fellow with the Asia Society Policy Institute in New Delhi. He was the Director of ISAS, from May 2018 to December 2021. He was Professor of South Asian Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Professor Mohan is one of India's leading commentators on India's foreign policy. He has been associated with think tanks such as the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, the Centre for Policy Research and the Observer Research Foundation. Prof. Mohan was also the founding director of Carnegie India, New Delhi. He was the Henry Alfred Kissinger Chair in International Affairs at the United States Library of Congress, Washington DC, from 2009 to 2010. He served on India's National Security Advisory Board. He led the Indian Chapter of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs from 1999 to 2006. Prof. Mohan writes a regular column for the Indian Express and was earlier the Strategic Affairs Editor for The Hindu newspaper, Chennai. Among his recent books is *Samudra Manthan: Sino-Indian Rivalry in the Indo-Pacific* (2013) and *Modi's World: Expanding India's Sphere of Influence* (2015).

Amb. D.B. Venkatesh Varma



Ambassador D.B. Venkatesh Varma was a Member of the Indian Foreign Service from 1988 to 2021. During his diplomatic career, he has worked in the Ministry of External Affairs, in the Office of External Affairs Minister and in the Prime Minister's Office. He served as India's Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, to the Kingdom of Spain and to the Russian Federation, until October 2021. With three separate postings in Moscow, spanning three decades, Amb. Varma has vast experience in India's strategic relations with Russia. As Ambassador, he was closely involved with developing India's relations with Russia including Prime Minister Modi's Act Far East Initiative, deepening of India's Defence, Nuclear, Space, Energy, Commercial, Science & Technology and Cultural relations with Russia. He has spoken at the St. Petersburg Economic Forum and the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok. He has also lectured at the Russian Diplomatic Academy and the Russian General Staff Academy in Moscow. Amb. Varma was the first Recipient of the S.K.Singh Award for Excellence in the Indian Foreign Service in 2011 for his contribution to the negotiations of the Civil Nuclear Initiative.

Dr. Rakesh Mohan



Dr. Rakesh Mohan is President and Distinguished Fellow at Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP). Dr. Mohan was most recently Senior Fellow in the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, Yale University and was also Professor in the Practice of International Economics and Finance at the School of Management at Yale University, 2010-12. He has also served as Distinguished Consulting Professor at Stanford University in 2009. Dr. Mohan was also a Distinguished Fellow with Brookings India. He has been closely associated with the Indian economic reforms process from the late 1980s. He was Executive Director on the Board of the International Monetary Fund, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Secretary, Economic Affairs, and Chief Economic Adviser of the Indian Ministry of Finance, and Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Industry. In October 2021, Dr. Mohan was appointed to the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM). His most recent book (edited) is "India Transformed: 25 Years of Economic Reforms".

Dr. Ila Patnaik



Dr. Ila Patnaik is the Group Chief Economist at the Aditya Birla Group. Prior to this she was a professor at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) for 16 years. She was the Principal Economic Advisor to the Government of India where she conceptualized the Economic Survey of India 2013-2014. She has been an associate for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and a visiting scholar to IMF, Washington. Dr. Patnaik has served on several Government advisory committees and working groups on financial policy and regulation. Earlier in her career, she has worked as a senior economist at National Council for Applied Economic Research and as a senior fellow at the Indian Council for Research in International Economic Relations. She is an avid researcher on open economy macroeconomics and has numerous research papers to her name. Dr. Patnaik has written extensively for various publications such as Indian Express, Financial Express and Business Standard. Dr. Patnaik has a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Surrey, United Kingdom and a Master's from the Centre of Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.

Mr. Nandkumar Saravade



Mr. Nandkumar Saravade was the founding CEO of Reserve Bank Information Technology Pvt Ltd (ReBIT), a fully-owned subsidiary of RBI for technology management and cyber security. He also contributed as a member of the Malegam Committee on divergences in non-performing assets (NPAs) and bank frauds, and shaped the IT Vision 2021-24 document for RBI. Earlier, he worked as CEO, Data Security Council of India (DSCI). During 2013-15, he advised Ernst & Young and ICICI Bank on fraud risk management. Previously, Mr. Saravade worked as Director, Citibank India, heading Security, Investigation and Vigilance. During 2008-2011, he worked as General Manager, Financial Crime Prevention Group, ICICI Bank. He also served as Director, Cyber Security and Compliance, NASSCOM. Prior to joining the private sector, Mr. Saravade served in the 1987 batch of the Indian Police Service. He was posted in the states of Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal. He joined the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on deputation in 1996 and worked in Mumbai and Jaipur specialising in the enforcement of the Prevention of Corruption Act, investigation of bank frauds and economic offences. Mr Saravade was awarded the Prime Minister's Baton and Revolver for being the Best All-round Probationer of the 1987 batch of the IPS, and also the Indian Police Medal for Distinguished Services. He has served on several technical advisory bodies set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Government of India and Government of Maharashtra.

Mr. Pranay Kotasthane



Mr. Pranay Kotasthane is deputy director of the Takshashila Institution. His current research includes high tech geopolitics and the politics of radically networked societies. Mr. Kotasthane teaches public policy, international relations, and public finance at Takshashila's graduate and postgraduate programmes. He co-writes "Anticipating the Unintended", a newsletter on public policy ideas and frameworks and co-hosts Puliyaabaazi, a popular Hindi-Urdu podcast on politics and policy and technology. He has co-edited India's Marathon: Reshaping the Post-Pandemic World Order. Mr. Kotasthane started his public policy career at the Takshashila Institution in March 2014. He is an alumnus of the fifth cohort of Takshashila's Graduate Course in Public Policy (GCPP). He was conferred with the Gontibai Govindji Award for the best student of his batch. Mr. Kotasthane graduated from the National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal, with a B.Tech degree in Electronics and Communication. He had stints with two Fortune 500 companies working on integrated circuit design for mobile processors after that.

Mr. Madhukar Kotwal



Mr. Madhukar Vinayak Kotwal is on the board of Sanghvi Movers Ltd., L&T Special Steels & Heavy Forgings Pvt Ltd. and L&T Technologies Ltd. In his past career he was Executive Director & President - Heavy Engineering at Larsen & Toubro Ltd. and President for Larsen & Toubro Heavy Engineering LLC (a subsidiary of Larsen & Toubro Ltd.) and Chairman of Process Plant & Machinery Association of India. Mr. Kotwal was responsible for two divisions of the L&T group: Heavy Engineering & Shipbuilding. He played a vital role in setting up several unique world-class manufacturing facilities across India. Furthermore, he played a key role in establishing modern Marine Design & Engineering Centres for Submarines & Ships in Mumbai and Chennai. Further, he established a Strategic Electronics Center at Bengaluru. Mr. Kotwal was a member of the Governing Council of Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) & Chairman of its Pune Chapter. He is a member of Pune International Centre. Mr. Kotwal is a Member of the DAE Board for Research in Nuclear Sciences, an Independent Director on the Boards of Sanghvi Movers Limited & Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Limited and Founder Director of Nootantra (OPC) Private Limited.

Mr. Saikat Datta



Mr. Saikat Datta is a Founding Partner of DeepStrat. He has been a journalist for over 19 years as an editor and an investigative reporter. He has been a defence correspondent with The Indian Express, an assistant editor with the Outlook magazine, Resident Editor with DNA, member of the Editorial Board with Zee News and Editor (National Security) with Hindustan Times. Mr. Datta's investigative reporting has been awarded the International Press Institute award (2007), the Jagan Phadnis Memorial award (2008) and the National RTI award for investigative journalism (2010). He is also the author of India's Special Forces (2013), a seminal book on the history and the future of India's special operations capabilities. Mr. Datta writes regularly in various publications and his research papers have been published by the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS) and the National Security Guards (NSG), among others. He regularly conducts training sessions on hostage rescue operations for Mumbai Police's crack anti-terrorism outfit, Force One. His core areas of research are around counter-terrorism, intelligence, cybersecurity and the use of special forces in strategic roles. Mr. Datta is also a senior fellow with the Internet Democracy Project.

Air Marshal Bhushan Gokhale (Retd.)



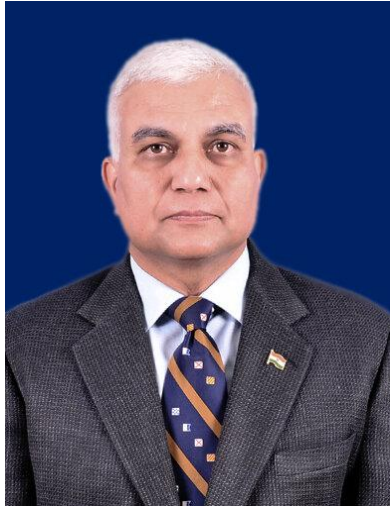
Air Marshal Bhushan Gokhale was commissioned into the Indian Air Force in June 1968 in fighter stream and has seen active operations during the 1971 Indo-Pak hostilities on both Eastern and Western fronts. He has served as Flying Instructor in Iraq from 1977 to 1979 and as the Defence Adviser at Indian Embassy in Egypt from 1994 to 1998. He is a graduate of the Defence Services Staff College and is M.Sc, M. Phil from Madras University. He is also an alumnus of the Air War College, USA and a Fellow of Aeronautical Society of India. Air Marshal Gokhale was the Vice Chief of Air Staff at Air Headquarters prior to his retirement on 31st December 2007. On retirement, he was appointed Consultant to the Principle Scientific Advisor to the Government of India and also to Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). For his post retirement contribution in the Indigenous development of Strategic systems he was awarded the prestigious Agni award on the National Technology Day 2013. In May 2010, he was detailed as the Chairman with full judicial powers, to investigate the tragic Air India Express Flight 812 accident at Mangalore. Air Marshal Gokhale is on the Governing Councils of the Deccan College and Symbiosis Institute of Management Studies, Pune. He is the Chairman of Maharashtra Education Society and of Maharashtraiya Mandal Education Society.

Dr. Tara Kartha



Dr. Tara Kartha has spent more than 17 years at the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), which sits at the apex of India's national security architecture. At the NSCS, she worked on terrorism and other security issues relating to the neighborhood, and held special charge of the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB). During her tenure, she worked with the Kargil Review Committee, the Group of Ministers Reports, and thereby the setting up of the present National Security Architecture. Dr. Kartha was also involved in the putting together of the country's first National Defence Review. Earlier, she was at the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), and a consultant for the UN Non-Governmental Expert Group on Small Arms and Light Weapons, a resource person for the National Defence College (Delhi) and College of Combat (Mhow).

Rear Admiral Sudarshan Shrikhande (Retd.)



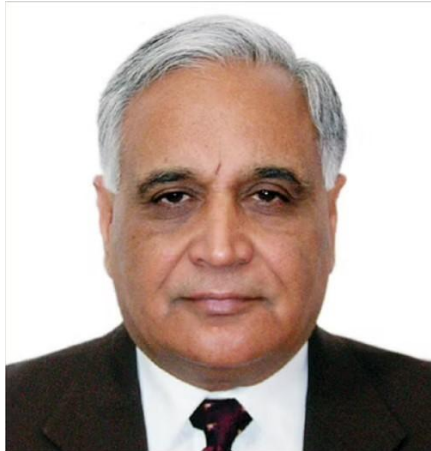
Rear Admiral Sudarshan Shrikhande graduated from the National Defence Academy (NDA). He has served long years at sea, commanded three ships and been defense attaché in Australia and to other South Pacific nations. Ashore he has been commander War Room at NHQ, headed the IN's Tactical Evaluation Group and was a founding member as a captain of the IN's Strategy and Operations Council. In flag rank he has been head of Naval Intelligence; Chief of Staff of SNC; Joint HQ staff duties and in the nuclear forces command and Flag Officer Doctrines and Concepts before requesting early retirement in July 2016. As a veteran, ADM Shrikhande continues teaching at several institutions including the NDC, all War colleges and the CDM as well as the NDA and INA spanning strategy, operational art, RMA, Peloponnesian War, Indo-Pacific geopolitics, leadership and ethics. He has participated in Track 1.5 discussions with China and the US and is associated with the Vivekananda International, Observer Research and the National Maritime Foundations, National Security Council Secretariat as well as other institutions. ADM Shrikhande is pursuing his PhD at Mumbai University in sea-based nuclear deterrence. He lives in Goa where he is associated (in honorary capacities) with the State Ex-servicemen's welfare committees and the Navy Foundation.

Lt. Gen. Shokin Chauhan (Retd.)



Lt. Gen. Shokin Chauhan, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, SM and VSM, was the Chairman of the Cease Fire Monitoring Group in August 2018. He was the Director General of Assam Rifles, India's oldest and largest Para Military Force. He has held several key appointments during his long career in the Army. He has served at the Apex level in the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Home Counter Insurgency, Counter Terrorism, Border Guarding and Human Resource Management. Lt. Gen. Chauhan also has vast experience in military diplomacy since he was the Defence Attaché in the Indian Embassy in Nepal for three and half years (2004 - 07). He regularly contributes articles in various scholarly magazines and is an invitee and speaker at Seminars and leadership forums including the IDSA, the Defence Services Staff College, the Army War College, the Officers Training Academy, the Armoured Corps Centre and School, the United Service Institute, the FICCI, the India Foundation and the National Security Guard.

Lt. Gen. Shamsher Singh Mehta (Retd.)



Commissioned into the Indian Army in 1962 in 63 Cavalry, Lt. Gen. Shamsher Singh Mehta led the only tank column to reach Dacca on 16 Dec during the 1971 War for the Liberation of Bangladesh. During his 41 years of service he served as the Military Assistant to General K Sundarji, Assistant Director General Military Operations, Deputy Chief of the Army Staff, and Army Commander, Army Training Command. Before retiring in Jan 2004, during Operation Parakram, he held the prestigious appointment of General Officer Commanding in Chief, Western Command. During his service he attended the Nuclear Chemical and Biological Course at the Tamishenko Academy in the former USSR and the US Army College Course in Pennsylvania, USA. Lt. Gen. Mehta was Principal Adviser to the Confederation of Indian Industry from 2004, and was its Director General from May 2006 to April, 2008. He conceptualised and launched the 'SKILL INDIA' initiative in CII which facilitated India's entry to 'WORLDSKILLS' International. He was a Member of the National Security Advisory Board from 2004 to 2006. Lt. Gen. Mehta is on the board of the Indian Council of World Affairs, and a Trustee of the Tribune Trust. The General Officer was the Service Member of the National Task Force on Information Technology. He was also a member of the Group of Ministers' Task Force on the Review of Defence Management.