



A Two-day National Seminar-cum-Workshop

## **Understanding National Security Challenges for Defence Journalism Practice**

*on*

**January 29 & 30, 2020**

**College of Journalism and Mass Communication  
Dayananda Sagar University**

Shavige Malleshwara Hills, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore 560 111, Karnataka, India.



### **DAYANANDA SAGAR UNIVERSITY**

Dayananda Sagar University is a premier university under the Dayananda Sagar Group of Institutions founded by Late Sri. Dayananda Sagar, established in the year 2014 at Bengaluru, Karnataka. This University has been established with a broad vision of renowned educationists, Dr. Hemachandra Sagar and Dr. Premachandra Sagar, who have transformed every dream into reality.

It is a multi-faculty and multi-disciplinary university offering rich and diverse programs in Health Sciences, Engineering, Computer Applications, Basic & Applied Sciences, Arts and Management at the Bachelors, Masters and PhD levels. It is paving newer ways in emerging areas of science and technology by providing sophisticated innovation labs and incubation centres in the domains such as health care, energy, life science and other developing fields. The University's strategic planning, teaching and learning policies and research activities have always earned respect for its concerns for the society.

### **COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION**

CJMC is producing a vibrant group of young professionals. Responsive to the growing intellectual needs of the society. Ethical and mindful of universal human values. And skilful with digital media that enables them to pursue opportunities in the convergence era.

Our three-year Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Journalism degree programme places an accent, not only on journalism across all media, but backs it up with modules on design, advertising, writing skills, video production, photography and corporate communication, opening all career pathways to the students.

Besides, CJMC's convergence-ready lab lays the bedrock for offering online media skills, so critical to a student's future.

These modules on media rest on a strong foundation of contemporary history, polity, social sciences, environment, public health and research.

## PREAMBLE

The state of national security defines the conditions that contribute to the nation's political, social and economic consolidation in a volatile security environment. Therefore, while it is linked to economic independence and preservation of freedom and happiness, the security of the State, the integrity of its boundaries, and, the role of the defence and the security forces are prioritized as necessary preconditions for freedoms to prevail. Without a secure state, constitutional governance and protection of guaranteed rights and freedoms of citizens would indeed become impossible.

Ever since its birth, there has been enough interest and concern about the security situation of our country. In particular, information regarding the strengths, weaknesses and activities of our neighbours, have had a major impact on the public opinion and the level of support for specific steps of the establishment in the field of security and defence policy. There seems to be not only a growing public concern on national security, but also the increasing support for commensurate defence spending due to external threats and challenges.

But what are India's national security challenges? And in a democracy, how do people understand them other than in ways that media reports about them?

### *India's Security Challenges*

India's security environment is influenced by its 3310 kilometres of borders with Pakistan and 3917 kilometres with China, with whom India has major territorial disputes; 5422 kilometres of main coast line, and approximately two million square kilometres of exclusive economic zone (EEZ). The defence perimeter encompasses some of the most difficult and treacherous terrain, which includes the glacial regions and the high mountain ranges of Himalayas in the north and North East, high and low mountains and jungles in the east and sandy deserts and Rann swamps in the west.

India also has more than 650 islands in the Indian Ocean region (Andaman and Nicobar group and the Lakhshadweep Islands) where lie our sea lanes of communications. 95 per cent of India's overseas trade moves through the medium of sea.

Another example of the importance of the sea (Indian Ocean Region) is our current oil consumption that is 80 million tons per year and by the year 2020 that is likely to rise to 150 million tons per year. With problems of terrorism and need for effective counter-insurgency, India has its hands full.

### *Objective*

This seminar cum workshop therefore seeks to increase the understanding among young journalists on the current and emerging national security challenges so that they report about the issues with a deeper, wider and critical understanding of the events pertaining to national security that emerge from time to time.

## PROGRAMME

The proposed two-day seminar-cum-workshop will feature the most decorated army, navy and air force officers who will provide an overview of India's national security challenges from the perspective of each of the Indian defence wings and the preparedness of its forces on land, air and the sea.

### **Air Force**

*Speaker: Group Captain Harsh Vardhan Thakur*

The ability to target with precision by air force has redefined war in our times. The IAF has demonstrated its capabilities drawing attention of the world. IAF thus provides new options for peace and stability.

The regional and global defence theatre is said to be changing rapidly. While older issues continue to dog our country, there are emerging issues that are going to need India's attention and spending. Aerospace power is futuristic and will continue to dominate any discourse on defence. By June 30, 2020 a new roadmap will be drawn up to create an Air Defence Command to enhance security of India's skies. It is widely believed that an air defence command could be tasked with integrating the air defence and assets of the army, IAF and the Navy and jointly provide air defence to the nation. This seminar address will answer critical questions on the present and future challenges of the IAF with regards to India's neighbours.

### **Navy**

*Speaker: Commodore BR Prakash*

A number of developments have taken place since the publication of the Indian Maritime Doctrine in 2009.

China's naval modernization and the emergence of a coalition in maritime countries like Japan, Australia, the United States of America and India under the umbrella of the Indo-Pacific show that conflict and competition in Asia are turning towards the sea. How India responds to these shifts and challenges will be significant not only for the Indian navy but also for India as it claims to be a stakeholder in Asia.

Enhancing maritime consciousness is an important challenge in this respect. How have China's naval modernization in the Indian Ocean, the US's 'pivot to Asia', along with India's 'Look East' and 'Act East' policies stoked maritime consciousness in India's strategic thought is the subject of this seminar presentation.



## Army

*Speaker: Col Manjit Singh*

Military planning is now constrained by a nuclearized neighbourhood interested in prolonged low-intensity conflict through insurgency, which means that if we go to war our political aims and military objectives will have to be carefully calibrated, and our methodology of war-fighting adapted to the prevailing conditions of the conflict with a nuclear backdrop. At the same time, the political establishment has to respond to this challenge.



## SPEAKERS

### Group Captain Harsh Vardhan Thakur

A recipient of the President's Vayu Sena Medal, Group Captain Harsh Vardhan Thakur is an alumni of National Defence Academy, Commandant's medal and the Golden Wings at NDA. Commissioned in IAF with top honours in 1992, he was awarded the Sword of Honour and President's Gold Medal by Marshal of the Air Arjan Singh DFC.

His distinguished service in IAF earned him the Presidential Vayu Sena Medal, Chief of the Air Staff's Commendation Medal, Vice Chief of Air Staff's Commendation Medal and Air-Officer Commanding in Chief's Commendation Medal. He amassed 5000+ hours of fighter jet flying in IAF and with 3000+ hours of flying on Jaguar alone. He is indeed the most experienced pilot of the deep penetration strike fighter in the country. An incredible aviator, his skills truly emerged when he graduated as an experimental test pilot at IAF's Aircraft & Systems Testing Establishment.

He was the Commanding Officer of the newest and one of the biggest fighter squadrons of IAF, 224 Squadron Warlords. He was called Warlord-One by those under his command.

He changed the colour of his uniform when he transitioned to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in 2016. Under his wings, several state-of-the-art research and experimental projects are flourishing, including variants of India's Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas.

### Commodore BR Prakash

Commodore BR Prakash, Vishisht Seva Medal, was commissioned in the Indian Navy in Jul 1986. In his career spanning more than three decades, he has held a number of key appointments, both onboard Indian naval ships and ashore. He is a specialist in Missile and Gunnery warfare. His

important appointments at sea include the command of the frigate INS Ganga & Missile Boat INS Vidyut, Executive officer and Principle Warfare officer of INS Gomati and Kirpan. The important tenures ashore include serving as Joint Director in the Directorate of Staff Requirements at Naval Headquarters and Indian Naval Tactical Evaluation Group Mumbai.

He was the leader of an Indian Navy team to Israel for the joint development of a new Long Range Surface to Air Missile System in collaboration with Israeli Aerospace Industries for Indian Naval ships.

He was the Programme Coordinator/ Project Management (five year experience) for defence projects worth over 2500 Cr. Programme Coordinator for DRDO projects. He liaised with Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Finance for high value projects.

The officer was awarded two commendations by the Chief of Naval Staff. In 2015, Commodore Prakash was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal for distinguished service.

### Col Manjit Singh

Col Manjit Singh, (retd) is product of Bishop Cottons, Bangalore and Frank Anthony, Delhi. He was commissioned into the Parachute Regiment of Indian Army in 1992.

Singh has served in Jammu & Kashmir for over 8 years where he has operated in intense counter-insurgency operations, along the Line of Control as well in extreme high altitude operations. During the Kargil War of 1999 he served with his battalion in the Mushkoh Valley of the Drass Sector and was part of the most critical phases of the war. He later commanded his battalion on Bandipur, one of the most challenging districts to operate in. He has also served in counterinsurgency operations in Manipur.

As a paratrooper he has extensive experience in parachute jumps and has commanded a Parachute Training School that trained Special Forces in operations behind enemy lines, in combat freefall and skydiving. He has had the privilege of having para-jumped in altitudes above 11,000 ft in Ladakh, at Andaman Islands, in the deserts of Rajasthan and the flood plains of the Brahmaputra.

He was selected to represent the country in USA when he studied at the US Marine Corps Staff College, Quantico. Along with officers of 26 other countries he trained with the American army, air force, navy and Marine Corps officers. He also obtained his Master's Degree in Defense and Strategic Studies at the US Marine Corps University.



## **Dr Bidanda Chengappa, Senior Journalist, Defence and Strategic Affairs**

Dr B.M. Chengappa holds a PhD in India's relations with China and a master's degree in Strategic Studies. He is also the author of two book-length studies and two research monographs on *Conflict among Religions in Karnataka*. He has served as a Senior Editor at Deccan Herald newspaper where he dealt with international affairs and national security for six and half years.

He was a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, where he headed the Pakistan Desk for four years. He was also a consultant to the Ministry of Defence for two years on a Pakistan-related project.

Earlier, Dr Chengappa was a military correspondent at The Indian Express. Prior to that, he reported on defence industry for Business Line. As a journalist, he has reported on the army, the air force and the navy along with DRDO and the Ministry of Defence.

Since 2010 he is member-secretary of the Institute of Contemporary Studies Bengaluru which is a security studies think tank comprising of former military and intelligence officers and academics.

## **Aksheev Thakur, Journalist, Defence and Strategy**

Aksheev Thakur is a defence and environment correspondent with a newspaper based out of Bangalore. He is the only reporter from Karnataka to have undergone Defence Correspondents Course 2019 conducted by the Ministry of Defence.

His expose on mining mafia operating in the eco-sensitive zone of the Bannerghatta National Park (BNP) led to the suspension of 15 mining licenses and his interviews of 1965, 1971 and 1999 war veterans led to his selection for the DCC 2019 course.

He is an alumnus of Dayananda Sagar Institutions, and a post graduate in journalism from Xavier Institute of Communications, Mumbai.

### **Chief Patrons**

Dr. D. Hemachandra Sagar  
Hon'ble Chancellor, DSU & Chairman, DSI  
Dr. D. Premachandra Sagar Hon'ble Pro-Chancellor, DSU  
Sri. Galiswamy, Secretary, DSI

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### **Organising Secretaries**

Renuka Phadnis, Meghana H R, Rashmi Gaur

[www.dsu.edu.in](http://www.dsu.edu.in)

## **PROGRAMME SCHEDULE**

### **Jan 29, 2020**

10.00 AM	<b>Inaugural Session:</b> Invocation and welcome Opening remarks by Chief Guest, Dr Bidanda Chengappa Address by Dr A. N. N. Murthy, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DSU
11.00 AM	Tea Break
11.30 AM	Plenary Address by Dr Bidanda Chengappa, Senior Journalist and Commentator on Defence and Strategic Studies
12.00 Noon	Seminar Session by Commodore BR Prakash
1.00 PM	Q & A Session
1.30 PM	Lunch
2.30 PM	Seminar Session by Col. Manjit Singh
3.30 PM	Q & A Session
4.00 PM	Session Concludes

### **Jan 30, 2020**

10.00 AM	Seminar Session by Group Captain Harsh Vardhan Thakur
11.00 AM	Q & A Session
11.30 AM	Tea Break
12.00 Noon	Workshop Session 1 by Aksheev Thakur, Journalist
1.00 PM	Lunch
2.00 PM	Workshop Session 2
3.00 PM	Workshop Exercise
4.00 PM	Vote of Thanks

## **REGISTRATION**

### **Fee:**

₹1000 for faculty and others  
₹300 for students  
₹250 for DSI/DSU students

There is no registration fee for students from outside Karnataka.  
*All participants are required to carry their proof of payment and College ID proof.*

### **Bank Details:**

Bank - ICICI Ltd  
Branch - JP Nagar  
IFSC - ICIC 0000401  
DAYANANDA SAGAR UNIVERSITY  
A/C NO. 040101004737

Slots are limited. Registrations will be done on a FIRST COME FIRST SERVE basis. To register, click on the link below.

<https://forms.gle/ZwcbDkjRFPqpAdCT9>

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