

SSIS Dialogue: UNRAVELING CHINA'S STRATEGY

CHINA-TIBET SYMPOSIUM

Hosted by SYMBIOSIS SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

12-13 JANUARY 2018, Symbiosis Viman Nagar New Campus,

PUNE (MAHARASHTRA)

OBJECTIVES

The theme of this symposium is: 'Understanding different aspects of China and Tibet; and their engagement with the world'. The objective of the event is to introduce the audience to China's internal political framework, implications of China's activities related to economic and security angle for the region, engagements with regard to Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and the Tibet angle. It also seeks to impart knowledge about the region and its internal and external dynamics. The event attempts to include political, economic, social and security perspectives to give an overall exposure to the audience. The symposium includes lectures with interactive discussions, creating a thought-provoking atmosphere.

BACKGROUND

China, India and Tibet Autonomous Region constitute a large and populous part of the Asian Region, with each having a long history and rich civilizational heritage. There was rich trade and cultural interflow within the region. But today, we have very little understanding about China, Tibet and the motive behind its engagement with other countries. The discourse on China and Tibet is limited on which there are divergent views. China is rising on the world stage and so is the need to understand China's internal and external dynamics. Thus, it is of vital importance to develop a deeper and broader multi-dimensional understanding of China, Tibet and their regional and world engagements, particularly amongst the younger generation.

Session Plan:

Session One of the event aims to unveil China's ideology to understand its strategies in the modern context. The track traces the political framework of the party, followed by deciphering China's quest for regional and global leadership by taking into account the 19th Party Congress and Post-Doklam India-China relations from security and economic perspective. Finally, the track aims to lay down prospects and opportunities for economic cooperation between India and China.

Session Two covers Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR). The region of Tibet occupies environmental and geopolitical significance. It stands as a major source of water in Asia, popularly known as the 'Water Tower of Asia'. It has been noticed over the years, that China's sudden development in the economic sphere interestingly coincides with the occupation of Tibet which remained an untapped source of water, minerals and energy. The session traces through China's victory in the Tibetan Rebellion in 1959, followed by the Sino-Indian war in 1962, which further strengthened China's belief regarding the strategic position of Tibet. It aims to explore the link between Central Asia, Southern Asia and China which is established through the Tibetan Autonomous Region. This region remains of complete strategic and economic importance to China. Tibet has secured an important status in President Xi Jinping's economic policy in relation to its silk road referred to as the 'Belt and Road Initiative' project. Tibet is a major point of interaction with countries like Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, India and a few others and thus this track introduces its geostrategic importance and deals with challenges and opportunities related to China-Tibet-India angle.

Session Three shall cover Belt & Road Initiative which is a gigantic project proposed by Xi Jinping that comprises of Silk Road Economic Belt and Maritime Silk Road (MSR) connecting Eurasia, Middle East, Southeast Asia, South Africa for trade opportunities, economic development and investments. Infrastructure plays a key role in bridging gaps and China's policy would not only enhance the trade but provide it the geopolitical significance and grip majorly in Asian region. The initiative has 6 corridors which would enhance its land based trade and sea-based trade. The historically influenced MSR will connect numbers of seas and oceans including South China Sea, Strait of Malacca, Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal, Arabian

Sea, Persian Gulf and the Red Sea giving China grip over some major regions & ocean-based resources. Chinese attempt to exert more influence on the seas, has been reacted upon diversely by different parties. While European countries have welcomed the Chinese move for enhanced connectivity, there are also major powers that see it as a threat. The port diplomacy of China has become very significant in present state of international affairs and there shall be an exclusive talk on the matter by Mr. Darbey.

‘The China-Tibet Symposium’ is developed by Symbiosis School of International Studies, as part of the SSIS Dialogues, aiming to develop deeper understanding of China and Tibet in the context of recent developments in political, social, economic and security spheres. The event consists of three sessions spread over a period of two days. Each session would comprise of a lecture by an expert and a question and answer session to make it interactive, so that the audience leaves with an in-depth knowledge and new insights exploring the dynamic regional and global context of China and Tibet.

DRAFT PROGRAMME PLAN

12TH JANUARY 2018

10 am to 10:15 am – Welcome session

SESSION 1: UNVEILING CHINA: UNDERSTANDING THE IDEOLOGY THAT DRIVES ITS STRATEGIES

Duration: 10:15 am to 12:15 pm

Expert: Mr. Jayadeva Ranade

SESSION 2: TAR: TIBET AS A STRATEGIC LOCATION

Duration: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Expert: Mr. Jayadeva Ranade

3:30 pm to 3:45 pm – Wrap-up/End of Session

13TH JANUARY 2018

SESSION 3: BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE: VISION AND ENGAGEMENT FOR THE WORLD

PART 1:

Duration: 10 am to 12 pm

Expert: Dr. Namrata Hasija

PART 2:

Duration: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Expert: Mr. Abhishek Darbey

3:30 pm to 3:45 pm – Wrap-up/ End of session

3:45 pm to 5:00 pm – Interactive Session for SSIS