

19th Subroto Mukerjee Seminar Programme

22 December 2022 (Thursday)

0915 – 0945 h Registration & Tea

0945 – 1015 h **Inaugural Session**

Welcome Remarks

Air Marshal **Anil Chopra**
PVSM AVSM VM VSM (Retd)
Director General, CAPS

Inaugural Address

Air Chief Marshal **VR Chaudhari**
PVSM AVSM VM ADC
Chief of the Air Staff

1015 – 1020 h **Book Release**

*“The China Factor: Beijing’s Expanding
Engagement in Sri Lanka, Maldives,
Bangladesh, and Myanmar”*

Author: **Mr Shantanu Roy Chaudhary**
Former Research Associate, CAPS

1020 – 1045 h **High Tea**

1045 – 1200 h **Session I: India’s Strategic Autonomy Vs
Regional Alignments**

Chair: Smt. Meera Shankar
Former Ambassador to USA

SCO: India’s Presidency – Challenges & Opportunities

Dr Srikanth Kondapalli
Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies,
School of International Studies, JNU

**Relevance of Regional Groupings – QUAD, BIMSTEC,
BRICS, I2U2**

Prof Brahma Chellaney
Professor of Strategic Studies
Centre for Policy Research

1200 – 1315 h **Session II: The World in a Flux: India’s
Challenges**

Chair: Air Vice Marshal **Anil Golani** (Retd)
Additional Director General, CAPS

**Russia Ukraine conflict – Lessons learnt from the
Conflict & Challenges for the Future: An Indian
Perspective**

Air Marshal **Anil Khosla** PVSM AVSM VM
Former Vice Chief of the Air Staff, IAF

China’s Rise and the Challenges for India

Ms Eerishika Pankaj
Head of Research and Operations Director at
Organisation for Research on China and Asia
(ORCA)

1315 – 1330 h **Closing Session**

Closing Remarks

Air Marshal **Anil Chopra**
PVSM AVSM VM VSM (Retd)
Director General, CAPS

Vote of Thanks

Air Vice Marshal **Anil Golani** (Retd)
Additional Director General, CAPS

1330 h Lunch

THE CHINA FACTOR

Beijing’s Expanding Engagement
in Sri Lanka, Maldives,
Bangladesh, and Myanmar



SHANTANU ROY-CHAUDHURY

Introduction by
Air Marshal Anil Chopra PVSM AVSM VM VSM (Retd)

KWW

Book Release

*“The China Factor: Beijing’s
Expanding Engagement in Sri
Lanka, Maldives, Bangladesh, and
Myanmar”*



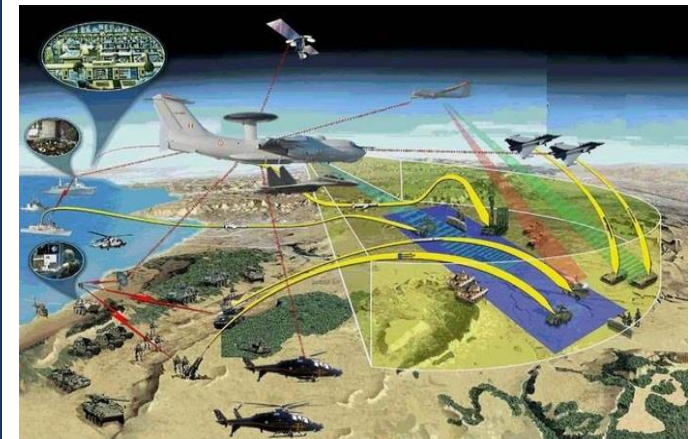
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Centre for Air Power Studies



19th Subroto Mukerjee Seminar



INDIA’S EMINENCE IN THE EMERGING WORLD ORDER

Thursday, 22 December 2022

Air Force Auditorium
Subroto Park, New Delhi

Subroto Mukerjee was among the six personnel selected for training at RAF Cranwell, when the decision to give commissions in the RAF to Indians was taken. After training at Cranwell, he and four other officers were inducted as pilots when the first Indian Air Force Squadron was formed on 01 April 1933, where he served as a Pilot Officer for sometime.

In July 1938, Subroto Mukerjee was put in command of 'B' Flight of No.1 IAF Squadron in the rank of Flying Officer. He was the first Indian ever to command a flight and later a squadron when he took over the command of No.1 Squadron on 16 March 1939. After converting to the Hawker Hart, the squadron moved to Miranshah in the NWFP. It was here that Subroto Mukerjee led the squadron into action against the tribals of the NWFP. Later, during World War II, he served in various staff assignments and for his services was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1944.

On 15 August 1947, when India attained Independence, Subroto Mukerjee was the senior most Air Commodore serving with the IAF and was promoted to Air Vice Marshal and posted as the Deputy Chief of Air Staff at Air HQ. Later he served as the Vice Chief for over 6½ years.

On 01 April 1954, at the age of forty three, Air Marshal Subroto Mukerjee took over from Air Marshal Gerald Gibbs as the Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force. Under his tenure, the Air Force inducted a variety of state-of-art aircraft. Prominent among them were the Dassault Mystere, Hawker Hunter, Bae Canberra and Folland Gnat. He instituted number of measures for human resource planning and took forward the process of operational development of the fledgling Air Force.

Air Marshal Subroto Mukerjee, one of the pioneers of Indian aviation, has a very special place in the heart of every air warrior.

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Concept Note

The years 2020 and 2021 experienced globally transformational events, which have not only affected the current world order but created a paradigm shift in the thought process of the leaders.

The globalization era led us to the belief that a superpower had to be an economic power, backed by advanced technology, purposeful diplomacy, and a strong government.

The United States has been the sole superpower since the last three decades. It is well endowed with natural resources and is probably the most self-sufficient and unassailable nation on earth presently. It has been a society that thrives on blending its inherent capabilities with immigrant genius as a result of which it is constantly adapting itself to becoming a society that continues to be at variance within.

Russia is the other self-sufficient resource-rich nation with the largest landmass on earth. Technological parity with any developed nation, a stable economy, and a long-standing stable government have propelled it to be a player that cannot be ignored. In its transformation from being a superpower to a nation that finds it difficult to exert its influence to exert its influence in the region, it finds its

its military wanting in the present limited military operations with Ukraine.

Chinese ambitions on the other hand have to be critically viewed through a lens of China's chronic resource deficiency, food insecurity, an untested and inexperienced military, struggling BRI, a slowing economy, a threatening virus, certain and most importantly an aging population. India would need to strengthen its military posture, both as a means to deter China as also to convince India's neighbours that it can stand up to China.

Having successfully battled the virus it has emerged as the fastest-growing economy. India's multilateralism makes it a central and 'swing' power in the world order. This has been on view in the recent developments resulting in Russia-Ukraine conflict, wherein PM Modi stated that "Today's era must not be of war". Its vibrant democracy, its stable government, seasoned military, and diplomacy coming of age have all come together to present it with a window of opportunity that it can ill afford to ignore.

India's role in shaping the global narrative and global ideas has become increasingly crucial in past few years, and the country getting the presidency of UN Security Council, and influential world groups like G20 and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation(SCO) is an indication of the role India will assume in the future.

The key aim of the seminar is to Identify India's role in the emerging world order in terms of Global and regional player. The seminar will also identify India's participatory and leadership role in various groupings and forums established for creating a secure and sustainable world.