



## 6<sup>th</sup> INDIA FORUM ON CHINA @ MUMBAI

4-6 December 2023

*Concept Note*

### ***The BRI Transformed? China's New Global Initiatives on 'Development', 'Security' and 'Civilization'***

Over the course of the past three years, China has unveiled a set of three key propositions that experts believe would shape its foreign policy in the coming years: the *Global Development Initiative* (2021), *Global Security Initiative* (2022) and *Global Civilisation Initiative* (2023). Together, the three initiatives encapsulate China's approaches to the world economy, international security and its preferred political values. Beijing seems to be articulating a world with Chinese characteristics even as it contends with myriad domestic economic and social problems as well as remains a distance from the US in terms of global military might or economic influence. These three initiatives, are, however, important precisely because of China's willingness to promote them despite such shortcomings or weaknesses; it is important for scholars and analysts to understand these initiatives and how they scale up from the Belt and Road Initiative instead of simply dismissing them as more of the same.

Like previous IFCs, the 6<sup>th</sup> IFC will take a multi-layered and policy-oriented approach to analysing and debating a wide array of themes related to China's approach to international politics and global governance. Under the rubric of the GDI, GSI and GCI, the conference will revisit China's projects as well as narratives on connectivity, the environment, science & technology, history, political systems and global values, among other things. Bringing together some of the finest minds in China Studies from within India and across the world, the various sessions of the Forum will offer a nuanced and in-depth discussion of China's three global initiatives. How does one understand the GDI amidst the backlash against the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)? What implications does China's alternative security architecture have on existing regional and global security architecture? How does Chinese political culture condition its approach to global values and norms? Can these initiatives be merely understood as China seeking leadership of Global South efforts to "decenter" the global governance framework? Or are they more properly understood as part of China's structural rivalry with the US, India, EU and other democracies? These are some of the several questions that the Forum intends to deliberate on.

## PROGRAMME

Venue: Nehru Centre, Mumbai

### DAY ONE - Monday, 4 DECEMBER 2023

12 Noon onwards: Arrival/Check-in and Registration

### 1730 - 1900 Hours: INAUGURAL SESSION

**Chair & Welcome Remarks:** Prof. Alka Acharya, Honorary Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; and Chairperson, Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

**Keynote Address:** Prof. Ajit Ranade, Vice-Chancellor, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune.

*Engaging With China: Options and Strategies*

**Congratulatory Remarks:** Shri Sharad Pawar, former Minister of Defence, Government of India.

**Vote of Thanks:** Dr. Aravind Yelery, Convener, 6<sup>th</sup> IFC; and, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

1900 - 2030 Hours: *Welcome Dinner*

### DAY TWO - Tuesday, 5 DECEMBER 2023

### 1000 - 1100 Hours: SESSION 1

### The Global Development Initiative - 1

**Chair:** Prof. Rajat Kathuria, Professor & Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi-NCR.

#### Speakers:

**Dr. Rajiv Ranjan**, Assistant Professor, University of Delhi; and Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi.

*Global Development Initiative and Sustainable Development Goals: Casting 'Chinese Ideology' in Developmental Leadership*

**Dr. Dilini Pathirana**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Commercial Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

*The Legal Implications of Chinese Investments in Sri Lanka: A Critical Discussion on the Colombo Port City Project*

**Dr. Sadia Rahman**, Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, Atatürk University, Türkiye

*China's Global Development Initiative in its Peripheries – Why is Central Asia Left Out?*

1100 - 1130 Hours: Tea/ Coffee Break

**1130 - 1300 Hours: SESSION 2**  
**The Global Development Initiative - 2**

**Chair:** Prof. Mrudul Nile, Department of Civics and Politics, University of Mumbai.

**Speakers:**

**Dr. Priyanka Pandit**, Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations and Governance Studies, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR.

*The Internationalisation Paradox: China's State-Owned Enterprises and Global Development Initiative*

**Dr. Lin Ya-ling**, Associate Research Fellow, Division of National Security Research, Institute for National Defense and Security Research, Taipei.

*Multilateralism with Chinese Characteristics: Comparing BRI and GDI*

**Mr. Amit Bhandari**, Senior Fellow, Gateway House, Mumbai.

*BRI in South Asia: Sri Lanka and Pakistan*

1300 - 1400 Hours: Lunch

**1400 - 1530 Hours: SESSION 3**  
**The Global Security Initiative - 1**

**Chair:** Dr. Jabin T. Jacob, Associate Professor, Department of International Relations and Governance Studies; and, Director, Centre for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi-NCR.

**Speakers:**

**Dr. Shen Ming-shih**, Research Fellow and Director, Division of National Security Research, and Acting Deputy CEO, Institute for National Defense and Security Research, Taipei.

*Military-Civil Fusion in the GSI*

**Lt. Gen. S.L. Narasimhan (Retd.)**, former Director General, Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies, New Delhi.

*The GSI and its Implications for South Asia*

**Dr. Ümit Alperen**, Assistant Professor at Süleyman Demirel Üniversitesi; MOFA Fellow, National Chengchi University, Taipei; and, Member, Ankara Policy Center, Ankara.

*China's Global Security Initiative and Evolving Regional Dynamics in Central Asia*

1530 - 1600 Hours: Tea/Coffee Break

1600 - 1730 Hours: SESSION 4  
The Global Security Initiative - 2

**Chair:** Prof. Amitabh Mattoo, Professor, Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

**Speakers:**

**Dr. David Shullman**, Senior Director, Global China Hub, Atlantic Council; and Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

*China's Global Security Initiative: The Blueprint for a Transformed Global Order*

**Dr. Wu Tsung-han**, Assistant Research Fellow, Division of Cyber Security and Decision-Making Simulation, Institute for National Defense and Security Research, Taipei.

*The Digital Silk Road under the GSI*

**Dr. Anand P. Krishnan**, Fellow, Centre for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi-NCR.

*Private Military Contractors and China's GSI*

1730 - 1800 Hours: Tea/ Coffee Break

DAY THREE - Wednesday, 6 DECEMBER 2023

0930 - 1130 Hours: SESSION 5  
The Global Civilization Initiative

**Chair:** Mr. Manoj Kewalramani, Chairperson, Indo-Pacific Research Programme; and China Studies Fellow, Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru.

**Speakers:**

**Dr. Shih Chien-yu**, Associate Research Fellow, Division of National Security Research, Institute for National Defense and Security Research, Taipei.

*The Place of Ethnic Minorities in the GCI*

**Dr. Abbos Bobokhonov**, Head, China Studies Program, Institute for Advanced International Studies, University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Tashkent.

*The GCI and Central Asia*

**Dr. Parimal Maya Sudhakar**, Associate Dean External Relations, School of Government, MIT World Peace University, Pune.

*The GCI and South Asia*

1130 - 1200 Hours: Tea/Coffee Break

**1200 - 1300 Hours: VALEDICTORY SESSION**

**Chair:** Prof. Ravindra D. Kulkarni, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mumbai.

**Valedictory Address:** Adm. Arun Prakash, former Chief of Naval Staff, Indian Navy.

**Conference Report:** Dr. Aravind Yelery, Convener, 6<sup>th</sup> IFC; and, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

**Closing Remarks:** Prof. Mrudul Nile, Department of Civics and Politics, University of Mumbai

*1300 -1430 Hours: Farewell Lunch*