

Programme at a Glance

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DAY 01

Beyond War and Peace: Grey-Zone Warfare and India's National Resilience

Grey-zone competition operates below the threshold of declared war. It combines coercion, ambiguity and deniability to weaken a state's institutions, economy and social cohesion without inviting an immediate conventional response.

Key dimensions for discussion

- Concept, spectrum and instruments of grey-zone warfare, including proxies, lawfare and incremental coercion.
- Cyberattacks, espionage, intellectual-property theft and disruption of operational technology.
- Disinformation, deepfakes, influence operations and manipulation of public confidence.
- Weaponisation of trade, finance, technology standards, data and strategic dependencies.
- Exposure of banks, stock exchanges, manufacturers, logistics networks and critical-infrastructure operators.
- Corporate early-warning systems, public-private information sharing and whole-of-society resilience.
- Civil-defence preparedness, crisis communication and continuity of essential services.

DAY 02

The Long Game: China's Grand Strategy and the Multidomain Challenge to India

China's approach towards India combines boundary pressure with maritime expansion, economic leverage, technological competition, diplomatic influence and information operations. The challenge therefore extends well beyond the Line of Actual Control.

Key dimensions for discussion

- China's political objectives and long-term strategic calculus concerning India.
- Military posture, border infrastructure and escalation dynamics along the LAC.
- Expanding Chinese maritime presence, dual-use facilities and influence across the Indian Ocean Region.
- Trade dependence and vulnerabilities in electronics, pharmaceuticals, solar equipment, telecom and rare earths.
- Cyber espionage, data security and risks to India's digital and industrial infrastructure.
- Competition in artificial intelligence, semiconductors, telecommunications and technical standards.
- De-risking, supply-chain diversification, domestic manufacturing and calibrated economic security.

DAY 03

Waters of Contestation: The Indus Waters Treaty and India's Emerging Water-Security Dilemma

The Indus Waters Treaty has endured war and political tension, but terrorism, rising demand, climate stress and technological change are testing its assumptions. Water governance is now inseparable from food, energy, economic and national security.

Key dimensions for discussion

- Strategic history, legal architecture, rights and obligations under the treaty.
- Cross-border terrorism and the political sustainability of treaty-based cooperation.
- Hydropower development and optimal utilisation of India's treaty entitlements.
- Glacial retreat, altered river flows, floods, droughts and climate uncertainty.
- Consequences for agriculture, food prices, electricity generation and water-intensive industry.
- Legal and diplomatic options: implementation, review, modification and dispute resolution.
- Integrated basin management, data systems and contingency planning for water stress.

DAY 04

The Brahmaputra at Risk: China's Medog Dam and India's Water–Energy–Ecological Security

China's proposed hydropower development at Medog on the lower Yarlung Tsangpo raises downstream concerns involving water flows, ecology, seismic safety, livelihoods and strategic leverage for India and Bangladesh.

Key dimensions for discussion

- Strategic geography of the Yarlung Tsangpo–Siang–Brahmaputra river system.
- Scale and strategic rationale of the Medog hydropower project.
- Possible downstream risks: flow alteration, sediment disruption, sudden releases and data asymmetry.
- Seismic, geological and cascading-disaster risks in the eastern Himalayas.
- Impact on agriculture, fisheries, biodiversity, riverine communities and urban water systems.
- Implications for hydropower, industry, insurance, infrastructure investment and Northeast India's economy.
- Satellite monitoring, hydrological data-sharing, storage capacity and diplomatic options involving Bangladesh.

DAY 05

When Sea Lanes Close: Maritime Trade, Chokepoint Disruptions and Corporate Risk

India's growth depends on uninterrupted maritime movement of energy, raw materials and manufactured goods. Conflict or closure at a distant chokepoint can rapidly become an inflation, production, fiscal and market crisis at home.

Key dimensions for discussion

- Strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz, Bab-el-Mandeb, Suez Canal and Strait of Malacca.
- Conflict, piracy, blockade, accidents, mining and attacks on commercial shipping.
- Exposure of oil, gas, fertiliser, coal, food and containerised trade.
- Effects on freight rates, marine insurance, delivery schedules, commodity prices and inflation.
- Transmission of maritime shocks to stock markets, currency, interest rates and business confidence.
- Supply-chain mapping, alternate routes, supplier diversification and strategic inventories for manufacturers.
- Roles of the Navy, Coast Guard, ports, shipping companies and crisis-coordination mechanisms.

DAY 06

West Asia in Transition: Emerging Power Alignments and India's Energy-Security Future

West Asia is being reshaped by regional conflict, strategic realignments, great-power competition and the energy transition. These shifts directly affect India's energy imports, diaspora, trade, connectivity and financial stability.

Key dimensions for discussion

- Changing regional order and the evolving strategies of Gulf states, Iran, Israel and Türkiye.
- Iran–Israel tensions, proxy networks and escalation risks across multiple theatres.
- Changing American engagement and the expanding roles of China and Russia.
- Security of the Strait of Hormuz, Bab-el-Mandeb and Red Sea shipping.
- Effects of supply shocks on crude oil, LNG, inflation, currency and equity markets.
- Safety of the Indian diaspora, remittance flows and evacuation preparedness.
- Energy diversification, strategic reserves, renewable alternatives and resilient connectivity corridors.

DAY 07

Securing India's Eastern Gateway: Northeast India's Security Challenges and National Options

Northeast India is both a sensitive frontier and India's principal land bridge to Southeast Asia. Its security is shaped by Myanmar's conflict, insurgency, ethnic tension, illicit networks, migration and uneven connectivity.

Key dimensions for discussion

- Spillover from Myanmar's conflict and the movement of armed groups, weapons and displaced populations.
- Insurgency, ethnic polarisation, radicalisation and inter-community tensions.
- Drug trafficking, arms smuggling, organised crime and illicit financial networks.
- Border management, terrain, connectivity deficits and vulnerabilities of the Siliguri Corridor.
- Risks to transport, telecommunications, energy assets and major connectivity projects.
- Implications for investment, manufacturing, tourism, logistics and the Act East Policy.
- Integrated military, diplomatic, developmental and governance options, including community participation.

DAY 08

Guardians of the Ocean: Defending India's Islands and Shaping Security in the IOR

India's island territories provide reach over major sea lanes and approaches to vital chokepoints. Their defence supports deterrence, maritime-domain awareness, trade security, disaster response and India's credibility as an Indian Ocean security provider.

Key dimensions for discussion

- Strategic value of the Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep island groups.
- Proximity to the Strait of Malacca and surveillance of critical sea lines of communication.
- Military defence of dispersed islands against submarines, missiles, drones and cyber-enabled attacks.
- Protection of airfields, ports, fuel facilities, offshore assets and undersea cables.
- Joint force logistics, maritime-domain awareness and undersea surveillance.
- HADR, evacuation and assistance to friendly Indian Ocean states.
- Balancing military infrastructure with ecology, local livelihoods and sustainable development.

DAY 09

Striking the Nerve Centres: Pakistan-Sponsored Threats to India's Critical Infrastructure

Critical infrastructure may be targeted through terrorism, sabotage, cyber intrusion, drones or proxy actors to impose economic and psychological costs while managing escalation below the threshold of conventional conflict.

Key dimensions for discussion

- Pakistan's use of terrorism, proxies and covert action as instruments of state policy.
- Threats to power plants, dams, ports, airports, railways and energy networks.
- Risks to defence installations, industrial clusters and defence-manufacturing facilities.
- Cyberattacks on banking, telecom, power and industrial control systems.
- Drones for reconnaissance, smuggling, sabotage and precision attack.
- Insider threats, contractor exposure and vulnerabilities in outsourced operations.
- Security audits, business-continuity plans, inter-agency intelligence sharing, civil defence and rapid service restoration.

DAY 10

A World Without Referees? The Crisis of Global Governance and the Search for Alternatives

Great-power rivalry, selective enforcement and outdated decision structures are eroding confidence in international institutions. Their weakening produces regulatory, commercial and strategic uncertainty for states and businesses alike.

Key dimensions for discussion

- Effectiveness and legitimacy challenges confronting the UN and UN Security Council.
- Weaknesses of global trade, financial, public-health and arms-control institutions.
- Selective application of international law, sanctions and humanitarian norms.
- Institutional limits in addressing terrorism, cyber conflict, technology governance and climate insecurity.
- Fragmentation of trade, payments, technology standards and global supply chains.
- Prospects for the G20, BRICS, Quad, SCO and flexible issue-based coalitions.
- India's role in institutional reform, Global South representation and development of practical alternatives.