

PANEL DISCUSSION

SCO's Rising Stature: Impact on the Emerging Multipolar World

10 October (Monday), 2022 - 11 AM IST





Concept Note

The SCO summit comes at a time when the world is in a geopolitical churn with multiple sanctions against large economies, trade issues and war. Situations such as the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border crisis, the Azerbaijan-Armenia border conflict, the war in Ukraine and its impact on global energy and food security, Taiwan strait crisis, devastating climate induced catastrophes such as the floods in Pakistan, all highlight the importance of cooperation and mutual assistance among the nations of the world.

The SCO summit 2022 was hosted by Uzbekistan where they signed the Samarkand Declaration emphasising cooperation, focusing on issues such as terrorism, technological disruptions, supply chain resilience, food security, and tourism. The summit welcomed Iran as a permanent member from 2023. The SCO has become a formidable multilateral organisation, strategically important to Asia. The member countries alone comprise 40 percent of global population, 20 percent of global GDP and 22 percent of the world's landmass. SCO ensures political stability by respecting the policy of non-interference on issues of sovereignty and promotes international cooperation on the basis of the principle of Panchsheel. It strictly avoids strictly bilateral issues and moves towards essential anti-terrorism excercises and energy cooperation.

Uzbekistan handed over the rotating presidency to India. It is an incredible opportunity for India, which will also assume the one-year presidency of the G20 and one-month presidency



Concept Note

of the UNSC from this December. Hosting the SCO summit will be diplomatically crucial for India as it provides an opportunity to lead, reform and negotiate for a more equitable and rational world. India's history of non-alignment and its adherence to principles of Panchsheel declared at the Bandung conference. It will give India the impetus to raise the international stature of SCO under its chairmanship.

As the world converges into a state of recession and conflicts, economies are focusing on the domestic demands and problems, eventually becoming more dependent on neighbouring countries or regional organisations. The UN-led efforts to engage in multilateralism have consistently failed to prevent wars. There has been a greater sense of animosity between countries, leading to failure of global systems. With this, deeper regional cooperation with higher representation, organisations such as SCO, BRICS and NDB have promoted a viable way to sustain and grow in a multipolar world order. Such organisations gain prominence at a time when the world is increasingly looking at the 21st century as the Asian century.

The Peninsula Foundation, along with the Russian Cultural Centre in Chennai, aims to discuss the rising importance of SCO and its ability to bring back the centrality of the United Nations in global governance.



Concept Note

Points of discussion:

1. Introduction

- a. Rising importance of regional organisations such as the SCO***
- b. Importance and impact of SCO on the member countries***

2. Revitalised multilateralism

- a. Shift in the power dynamics: regional and multilateral organisations replacing the UN***
- b. Member states perspective on SCO taking the centre stage***
- c. Proactive role of SCO in global governance***

3. India presiding over SCO Summit 2023

- a. Future of SCO under India's presidency***
- b. Opportunities to aid and develop SCO member countries and international cooperation***
- c. Challenges and way forward***



Program Schedule

11: 00 AM - 11:05 AM IST

Welcome Address

Director, Russian Cultural Centre

11:05 AM - 11:20 AM IST

Special Address

Mr. Oleg Avdeev, Consul General, Russian Federation in South India

11:20 AM - 11:30 AM IST

Opening Remarks by the Chair

Air Marshal M Matheswaran AVSM VM PhD (Retd), President, TPF

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM IST

Panel Discussion

Moderated by Air Marshal M Matheswaran AVSM VM PhD (Retd), President, TPF

12:30 PM - 12:45 PM IST

Q & A Session

12:45 PM - 12:55 PM IST

Concluding Remarks

12:55 PM - 01:00 PM IST

Vote of Thanks



About the Consul General



***Mr. Oleg Avdeev
Consul General, Russian Federation in South India***

Mr. Oleg was born on June 12, 1959. He graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations in 1983. He is fluent in Hindi and English. Mr. Oleg has been in diplomatic service since 1983. He worked in various positions in the central office of the Russian Foreign Ministry and abroad. He served as the Consul General of Russia in Chittagong, Bangladesh from 2005 - 2009. He then served as the Head of the Department in the Second Department of Asia of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia from 2010 - 2011. He was the Deputy Director of the Second Department of Asia of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia from 2011 - 2013. Mr. Oleg then served as the Consul General of Russia in Karachi, Islamic Republic of Pakistan from 2013 - 2017. He is the Consul General of Russia in Chennai, India since September 12, 2018.



About the Panelists

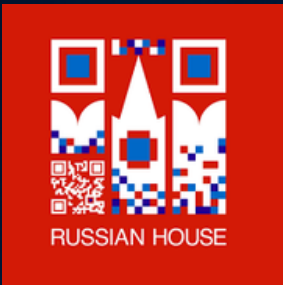


Dr. Ramu Manivannan
Vice President, Center for Democracy and Governance, TPF

Dr. Ramu Manivannan is the Vice President incharge of Publications & Institutional Partnerships and the Director for the Centre for Democracy & Governance in The Peninsula Foundation. He is a former Professor and Head of the Department of Politics & Public Administration, University of Madras. He was also the Chairperson for the School of Politics & International Studies, University of Madras. He had earlier taught in Hindu College, Delhi University before joining the University of Madras. He was a Fellow of the United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan. He was also the Director of the Centre for Dravidian Studies and Research, University of Madras.

He is a teacher-social activist engaged at the grassroots with human rights and other social movements in India/South and Southeast Asia. He has been working with the refugees from Tibet, Burma and Sri Lanka for over two decades in the areas of peace, education and development. He has been part of the development and implementation of the Basic Education Policy (BEP) of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile for over a decade. He is a Member of the Governing Board of the Sambhota Tibetan Schools Society of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile.

He founded fifteen non-formal schools for the children from tribal areas, stone quarry areas and the weavers' community and also a school for poor children called "Garden of Peace" in the Vellore district of Tamil Nadu. Ramu Manivannan has also been the Visiting Professor at the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, University of Passau, Germany(2014), Department of Political Science, University of Paris, France(2016) and the Centre for International Studies, National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan(2018). The Prof. is also the author of "Sri Lanka: Hiding the Elephant – Documenting Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity", Asia Future: Dialogue for Change (co-edited with Pracha Hutuanuwatr).



About the Panelists



Maj. Gen. Rajiv Narayanan AVSM VSM (Retd) The Peninsula Foundation

Maj. Gen. Rajiv was commissioned in Dec 1978 in the Poona Horse. He retired after 37 years of distinguished service. He is an alumni of DSSC Wellington and DSCSC Mirpur, Dhaka. During his service, he commanded 16th Light Cavalry (one of the oldest Cavalry unit of India), 1st Armoured Brigade and 2 Mountain Division. Maj. Gen Rajiv is an expert in mechanized and mountain warfare and has seen service along India's both Western and Northern Borders. Known within the Army fraternity as a cerebral General, he is an avid follower of International Relations & Geo-Politics for over two decades and has also been an avid China watcher since 1999.

He has had the opportunity to serve as the Defence Attaché in the Embassy of India Dushanbe, Tajikistan during the turbulent period post 9/11 from Oct 2003 to Mar 2007 and as the Additional Director General of Military Operations (B) for the last three years of his service.

His areas of interest areas include China, South and Central Asia, Indo -Pacific Region, and Future World Order & Regional Multilateralism. He has a large number of articles and papers published in Indian Journals and magazines (including web editions).

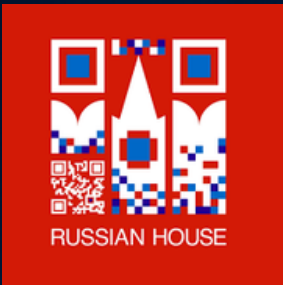


About the Panelists



***Dr. Utham Kumar Jamadhagni
Professor & Head, DODASS, University of Madras***

Dr. Jamadhagni is the Head in chair of the Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, University of Madras. After earning a doctorate from the University of Madras, Dr Jamadhagni received the Advanced International Diploma from the Dept. of Peace and Conflict Research at the University of Uppsala in Sweden. He has addressed and continues to address in Armed Forces Institutions like Defence Services Staff College, Wellington; National Defence College, New Delhi and Officers Training Academy, Chennai. His area of interest includes International Relations, Maritime Security, Conflict Analysis and Non-Traditional Security.



About the Panelists



Dr. Nansi Paulraj
Asst. Professor & Coordinator, Dept. of IR, Loyola College

Dr. Nansi P. is an Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of International Relations, Loyola College, Chennai. She holds a PhD from the Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She has published several research articles and book reviews, on India-Russia ties, Russian foreign policy, and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. She was a scholar in residence at the Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia. She was also a scholar in residence at the Tehran University, Tehran, Iran. She has also been the recipient of the Indian Council for Social Science Research Fellowship for area study in Moscow.

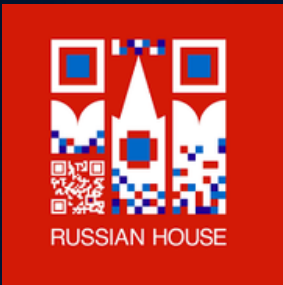


About the Chair

Air Marshal M Matheswaran AVSM VM PhD (Retd) President, The Peninsula Foundation

Air Marshal M Matheswaran is an Indian Air Force veteran with 39 years of active service. He is the Founder-President of The Peninsula Foundation, a policy research think-tank based in Chennai. He is a fighter pilot, an Experimental Test Pilot, and a Fighter Combat Leader, and has flown over 40 types of aircraft. He is an alumnus of IAF's prestigious institutions, ASTE and TACDE where he was Commandant and Deputy Commandant respectively. The Air Marshal is also a graduate of the Defence Services College, Wellington and the National Defence College, New Delhi. He has held various operational and command appointments that include Senior Air Staff Officer of Eastern Air Command, Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Space), Air Officer Commanding (Maritime Air Operations), Principal Director (Air Staff Acquisition) and Director of Ops at the Strategic Forces Command.

The Air Marshal has a master's in military science, M Phil, and a PhD in Defence and Strategic Studies from the University of Madras. He has a post-graduate diploma in financial management. He has done a Senior Fellowship in National and International Security from the Harvard Kennedy School of Governance, Harvard University. He has been an advisor to HAL, Cyient, and also as President, Aerospace Business in Reliance Defence. He continues to be involved in strategic consultancy in Defence and Aerospace.



About TPF

The Peninsula Foundation (TPF) is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan, public policy research think tank, established to promote innovative thinking and stimulate critical debate on issues of governance, international affairs, and economic and technological sovereignty. TPF aims to pursue its mission by performing timely, accurate research on key policy issues and effectively marketing these findings to our primary audiences; members of parliament and legislative assemblies, policy makers in the government, media, and the academic and policy communities.

Venue

***Venue: Russian House, No. 74, Kasturi Rangan Road,
Alwarpet, Chennai - 18.***

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