



ASSOCIATION OF ASIA SCHOLARS

GLOBALISING ASIA

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From the Editors' Desk...

Remembering Year 2020

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The Year 2020 will be remembered for a long time to come. The unprecedented spread of Covid-19 to over 216 nations and regions across the globe -- triggering not just a severe health crisis but also a whole range of economic, social and political challenges -- demonstrates the need to internalise the Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (world is family) wisdom of our ancestors. This pandemic shows how the entire humanity will remain unsafe until the last person on earth develops immunity to this virus.

Likewise, the scale and speed of its spread, its intensity and resultant paranoia among nations has been unprecedented. Connectivity is also seeing how this pandemic has been accompanied by an 'infodemic' of misinformation. None of the earlier episodes -- such as the historic Spanish flu of 1918-20, the two world wars and the Great Depression of the 1930s -- were as 'global' in nature. The impact of climate change remains equally 'global' yet it is relatively milder and imperceptible; especially so, in terms of human angst and awareness about its consequences.

Year 2020, therefore, has cast a rethink on all our present templates of human life: from our daily routines to the unbridled hyper globalisation being pursued by advanced nations. All of these will need to be rewired and replaced by a more sustainable and healthier alternate model. On the positive side, the pandemic has also demonstrated the invincibility of the human spirit. This was reflected in the commitment of millions of corona warriors; by those working in sectors as science and medicine who are helping mankind to surmount this existential challenge.

Never before redressal of such a colossal crisis witnessed such alacrity as in case of super-fast discovery, manufacturing and distribution of the vaccines that are already being widely administered before the closure of this year. This portends hope for 2021.

For its longer-term impact, Covid-19 is already casting a reset in multiple sectors and styles of human living. Lockdowns and social distancing saw humanity staying connecting online. Forced home stays shifted focus from mundane to think sublime. This has triggered rethinking on conventional wisdom in several disciplines; raised questions about the efficacy of agreed existing systems of medicine, development, even nation-states or on the most effective models of welfare, governance and leadership.

While it may still take some part of 2021, the beginning of the end of Covid-19 is already in sight. Like always in human evolution, this feeling of having overcome such existential crisis should again inspire humankind to rededicate itself to launching new novel initiatives in pursuing peace and happiness. It should also motivate nations to overcome differences in addressing larger issues of other shared challenges.

The United Nations -- the largest forum of humankind -- has already pledged to the realisation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development where all nations have committed themselves to 'leave no one behind' and where the endeavour is to first reach out to those standing furthest behind. The Year 2021, that begins the third decade of third millennium, should see humankind standing together to pursue some of these exalted initiatives.

*Prof Swaran Singh
Dr. Reena Marwah
Editors*

Gender and Pandemic: Women leaders addressing Covid-19

The continuing spread of Covid-19 pandemic has once again triggered debates about the role of leadership and how leaders can perform better. Different countries have seen their leaders initiating different strategies in



by Dr Jaya Keral

So does this episode of Covid-19 reinforce their belief that gender of the national leader has direct influence on the success or failure of various countries in their fight against this pandemic?

responding to the crises with varying results, where some are seen doing better than others. The pertinent question to explore is how have different leaders steered their country through this period to minimise the impact, recognised risks of the virus in its early stages, assessed the economic impact of lockdowns, and most importantly helped save more lives? Amongst others, the variation in performance has also been explained in terms of difference in policy measures adopted by male and female leaders.

Women Leaders response

There has been a major debate around the role of women leaders that has emerged as centre point. Women leadership in countries like Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Taiwan and New Zealand are hailed for having dealt with the pandemic better than their male counterparts in other countries. The policy measures adopted by women leaders have helped in saving lives. There are researches done to substantiate this hypothesis. Even if this may be a bit too early to evolve any firm hypothesis about the overall impact of women leaders in handling of this pandemic, these tentative trends in their varying strategies and outcomes surely underline the importance of gender being a critical variable in designing future policies.

The performance of women leaders during the pandemic gives a glimpse of how female leaders operate during a crisis. This has been widely studied by feminist scholars emphasising on gender as a critical variable in decision making.

Strong, yet sensitive

In New Zealand, prime minister Jacinda Arden has not only controlled the spread of coronavirus but made New Zealand one of the few countries in the world to have almost eliminated the spread of the virus. The decision of timely lockdown, maximum level of alertness, self-isolation of people entering the Island, and banning of entry of foreigners were enforced when there were only 6 cases in the whole country. Arden reached out to her people directly through Facebook and was empathetic towards citizens' anxieties and even offered apologies to them for the emergency lockdown.

Bangladesh ranks the eighth-most populous country in the world, so to curtail the spread of Covid19, they had to adopt aggressive measures. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took charge of reaching out to citizens personally through regular national live casts trying to diffuse the panic. She gave directives publicly and adopted measures to stabilise commodity markets. She delivered on food security making sure the poor get some cash in hand as part of economic stimulus to revive the economy.

Tsai Ing-wen, President of Taiwan since 2016, has so far introduced more than a hundred measures to hinder the spread of Covid-19. After declaring Taiwan Covid-free, Tsai Ing-wen volunteered to assist other countries facing this crisis. Millions of face masks have been exported to USA and Europe. Taiwan has succeeded in keeping the epidemic in control and is now referred as among the world's best example in

dealing with this crisis. These responses of women leaders stand in contrast to male leaders like Donald Trump who portrayed risk aversion to anticipated losses from locking down the economy.

Do male and female leaders differ?

One way to understand gender differences in response to the pandemic is to examine their leadership styles. It is established beyond doubt that women leaders reacted quickly and decisively in face of potential fatalities than their male counterparts. Experts also allude to the difference in attitude between male and female leaders to the value of human life versus economic costs/benefits.

It is observed that in countries with relatively late lockdown decisions by male leaders, it reflected male risk aversion to probable losses from locking down the economy.

During this unprecedented health crises, this precarious behaviour of male leaders was not even properly reported. For example Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro had dismissed Covid-19 as "a little flu or a bit of a cold". Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he shook hands with coronavirus patients. Donald Trump dismissed the severity of Coronavirus and even claimed that virus will disappear like a "miracle," and accused the media for creating a hype around it. The incompetent Covid policy of British prime minister severely affected his public image, and Trump lost presidential elections reflecting public imaginations of their leadership.

Conversely, the consistency in leadership of women and their aversion to risk taking led to some simplistic but positive conclusions. During this crisis women leaders adopted far more empathetic, decisive and clear communication styles making a significant difference to the outcomes in the women-led countries.

Today women are heads of state and government in only 21 countries of the 216 worldwide. Nevertheless, the success of women officials in managing the pandemic is worth recognising. When institutions are more inclusive, it brings varying viewpoints, experiences and perceptions of potential policy impacts. The presence of women in legislature reflects the overall gender equality in society. This clearly reinforced the need for gender mainstreaming at all levels of governance and decision making or to trust in women providing leadership in delivering welfare and security to masses. Covid-19 can be a case to learn from and rectify this persistent imbalance in our institutional and national leadership.

Demystifying Taiwan's positive growth rate amidst COVID-19

Taiwan has come to be another important example of controlling Covid-19 pandemic and resuming its economic upturn. It has been one of Asia's most dynamic example of industrial development; especially as a major



by Sheetal Kakkar

exporter of machinery, electronics, and petrochemicals. Its pre-pandemic GDP for 2019 was \$635 billion making it whopping \$26,910 per capita per annum. Also, like any advanced economy, Taiwan's services sector generates the highest share of its GDP at 63.1 per cent while manufacturing sector contributes about 35.3 per cent. This has resulted in Taiwan having had a trade surplus for over a decade with its trade balance for 2018 accounting \$49.6 billion surplus underlining its global competitiveness.

As the onset of Covid-19 pandemic triggered a globe economic slide; the swelling demand for information and communication technology instead brought a clear surge in Taiwan's exports. Advanced technology for 5G servers, Artificial Intelligence, work-from-home and home-schooling boom provided an impetus to this world's 4th largest producer of electronics and even conservative estimates expect Taiwan's GDP to grow at 1 per cent for this year. Developed economies like the US and Germany are by comparison forecast to shrink by more than 4 per cent, and those of France and the UK more than 8 per cent.

Taiwan's experience with the 2003 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or SARS surely provided lessons for swift implementation of safety measures that perhaps partly explain Taiwan's containment of the deadly coronavirus. As early as from 31st December 2019, when the world was still grappling with the outbreak, Taiwan had sealed its borders and ordered strict quarantine rules for the flights returning from Wuhan.

Existence of an efficient anti-pandemic infrastructure enabled it to accurately access and address the gravity of the situation. Taiwan was able to sustain an average growth rate of 1.5 per cent in the first five months of 2020 and for first

quarter of 2020 its external trade grew by 4 per cent. When several Chinese cities were in lockdown, Taiwanese producers filled global orders that were supposed to be manufactured in China. Taiwan never locked down any city and the government dealt with panic-buying by encouraging people to buy as much as possible in an attempt to boost private consumption. The economic cost of a one-month lockdown is a 3 per cent contraction of full-year GDP and Taiwan avoided some of the worst economic pain by executing timely measures that didn't force it to shut down completely.

Another major factor contributing to Taiwan's growth is Tsai administration's New Southbound Policy (NSP) initiated since 2016. NSP was implemented as a strategic guideline for diversifying Taiwan's overseas investments and deal with uncertainties in a world of trade wars. It paced up Taiwan's growth while strengthening regional and global connections over the recent years. The NSP has been successful in incentivising Taiwanese businesses in areas of tourism, education, medical and health training, as well as natural disaster and disease prevention cooperation, encouraging Taiwanese businesses to return home for reinvestment. The accumulated investment repatriation has amounted to \$33 billion as of April 2020, from \$28 billion in December in 2019. The US-China trade war as well as competition for future technology supremacy has pushed the trend in favour of Taiwanese companies. Trade friction between the U.S. and China has sped up the realignment of the Cross-Strait supply chain and

Taiwan's exports to China decreased by nearly 8 per cent in 2019, while Taiwan's export to the U.S. grew 18 per cent. In order to sustain the economy, the Tsai administration announced a \$35 billion stimulus package comprising of low-interest rate financial loans, subsidies, and utility discounts to assist the citizens and sectors suffering from COVID-19

Taiwan's low government debt to GDP ratio (35 per cent in 2018) allows it to expand its stimulus package. In addition, Taiwan's current stimulus packages account for 5.4 per cent of its GDP, which is lower than Japan's 20 per cent, Malaysia's 17 per cent, Hong Kong's 13 per cent, Singapore's 12 per cent and US' 11 per cent

As the pandemic quickens the demand of technology-driven devices, Taiwan's investment in ICT along with investment in biotechnology, medical equipment and the pharmaceutical industry is likely to thrive. COVID-19 presents an excellent opportunity for Taiwan to realign its industrial investment towards a more balanced economy while promoting investment in diverse industries. However, sustained economy in the first quarter of 2020 does not guarantee or immune Taiwan completely from the crisis. Exports are strongly linked with the consumption demand in western countries and debilitated economies of US and Europe might shrink prospect demand in the long run. Taiwan's non-inclusion in RCEP, the world's largest free trade agreement, along with political differences with China continue to remain a challenge for the island nation.

The current fiscal stimulus policy of Tsai administration is no doubt expected to help Taiwan economy to sail in the short-term but they will have to continue to prepare their companies to adapt to new business models, work in other emerging industries, develop strong ties within South Asia and USA in particular, in the long run. The growing investment at home will likely buffer the potential impact of weak external demand while investment diversification is expected to increase Taiwan's economic resiliency. There is a chance, therefore, that Covid-19 could turn out to be a window of opportunity, one that is so far seen driving its economic growth while synergising the effect of other growth factors. Taiwan's future will depend on how it can perceive and respond appropriately in advance to rapidly changing new global trends as also rising protectionism and much anticipated Chinese predominance in the post-Covid-19 world.

Author is currently pursuing her Masters in Commerce from University of Delhi, Delhi

Webinar Session 28: November 25, 2020

Dr. Greg Mills; Drivers for African Growth and Transformation



AAS Webinar Series: Session 28
18 November 2020 (Wednesday), 11:30 AM- 01:00 PM (IST)

DRIVERS FOR AFRICAN GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION

Speaker:
Dr Greg Mills
Director, Brenthurst Foundation and former National Director, South African Institute of International Affairs (Johannesburg)

Chair:
Prof Swaran Singh
President, AAS

Webinar Host: Dr. Reena Marwah, Secretary-General AAS

Registration **FREE**

Register in advance for this meeting @ <https://rb.gy/nztzvx>

[Link to webinar here.](#)

The twenty-eighth webinar session of Association of Asia Scholars Webinar Series was held on 18 November 2020 from 11:30 AM to 01:00 PM (IST) on 'Drivers for African Growth and Transformation'. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Greg Mills, who is currently the Director of Brenthurst Foundation and was former National Director of South African Institute of International Affairs (Johannesburg). This webinar was chaired by Prof Swaran Singh, President, AAS and was hosted by Dr Reena Marwah, Secretary-General, AAS. The webinar commenced with Dr. Reena Marwah's welcome address, followed by speaker's introduction by Prof. Swaran Singh.

Dr. Greg Mills began by explaining commonalities between India and Africa and the role of Indian diaspora in South Africa's economy, polity and society. He explained the vastness of African continent with huge resources with special focus on tapping the potential of demography. He elaborated on Drivers of African change. He focussed mainly on the Six Global Covid-19 trends and its impact on the African interests. First one is Globalisation, and there is a downturn in Globalisation and an increase in protectionism. Second trend is Technology and data which is constantly rising with increasing speed and falling costs, Data is also an invaluable developmental resource and getting more data is

largely about deregulation, greater competition and infrastructure investment and Africa is continuously lagging behind the world in this domain. This is leading to inequality as those who are equipped with Bandwidth technology are unable to regularly update about the virus and get educated about healthcare and all the measures that have to be taken. The third trend is about the relationship of governments with their citizens. This takes to the way in which democracy has progressed in Africa, but due to Covid-19 Governments have become more authoritarian and invasive in the name of safety of society. The fourth trend is human security in Covid-19 pandemic, given that food insecurity could lead to high migration, trade disputes and economic nationalism can exacerbate the problem. The consequential mass migration to Europe can also have political impacts. Fifth trend is the extent to which health, including climate change are being focused on. People are now more appreciative of health as an economic resource. The last point pertained to the nature of supply and demand in the future. He elaborated on details of these six questions for Africa, such as economic growth, demographic change, urbanisation, technology, democracy and influence of outsiders.

by Dr. Silky Kaur

Webinar Session 29, 25 November 2020

Mr. Sanjoy Hazarika; The North East of India: A Bridgehead to Southeast Asia?



Association of ASIA SCHOLARS
MILLENNIAL ASIA
An International Journal of Asian Studies

*Participants will be given E- Certificate on request, who either made comments or asked questions during webinar

AAS Webinar Series: Session 29
25 November 2020 (Wednesday), 11:30 AM- 01:00 PM (IST)

**THE NORTH EAST OF INDIA:
A BRIDGEHEAD TO SOUTHEAST ASIA?**

STRANGERS NO MORE
Sanjoy Hazarika

Speaker:
Mr Sanjoy Hazarika
Founder Director, Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research, Jamia Millia Islamia and Director of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (New Delhi)

Chair:
Prof Swaran Singh
President, AAS

Registration FREE

Webinar Host: Dr. Reena Marwah, Secretary-General AAS
Register In advance for this meeting @ <https://rb.gy/xmptfi>

[Link to webinar here.](#)

The twenty-ninth webinar session was held on 25 November from 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. on ‘The North East of India: A Bridgehead to South East Asia?’. The lecture was delivered by Mr. Sanjoy Hazarika, Founder Director, Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research, Jamia Millia Islamia and Director of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (New Delhi). The webinar commenced with Prof. Swaran Singh’s welcome address, followed by the speaker’s introduction by Dr. Reena Marwah. Mr. Sanjoy Hazarika initiated the talk by indicating the geo-strategic significance of the location of North East which is on the cusp of India and four other Nations namely, China, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar. Given the fact that ninety-six percent of North East are surrounded with other countries he describes North East as Asia in miniature- where India ends and South East Asia begins. The speaker believes that the landlocked North East region is not a bridge but a bridgehead between the two sub-areas of Asia – South Asia and South East Asia. The speaker further elaborated the growth trajectory of North East states stretching from the turbulent decades of the 1950s to 1990s which was characterized by insurgencies against India by several ethnic non-state groups thereby posing a threat to national integrity and sovereignty to the new perspectives witnessed in the developmental patterns of North East mainly after the announcement of the Act East policy. Whilst drawing comparisons between the

Look East policy and the Act East policy of India he expressed that the LEP was aimed essentially at benefiting the sea ports of Chennai, Vishakhapatnam, Calcutta with their South East Asian counterparts thereby promoting international trade. However the Act East policy, in his opinion, promises to bring a paradigm shift in the growth equations of North East thereby opening a vast array of opportunities for governments to connect a poor, backward but resource rich located region to one of the fastest growing regions of the world i.e South East Asia through multiple projects such as the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Project. The academically enriching talk by Mr. Hazarika was followed by a question answer round. The questions pertained to the engagement of North East with Indo Pacific region, the gap between aspirations of the ethnic groups and the developmental patterns implemented by government of India, nontraditional security threats of non-military security issues in Manipur, the role of leadership patterns, engagement with local communities and the role of women in peace negotiations. He concluded by remarking that there is a dire need to support connectivity projects and build engagement among many stakeholders including elite groups which would create possibilities for regional integration and strengthen the role of North East as a bridgehead not just for South East Asia but also South Asia.

by Barkha Dubey

Webinar Session 30, 02 December 2020

Dr. Moonis Ahmar; “What the Biden Presidency holds for the future of South Asia?”



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AAS Webinar Series: Session 30
02 December 2020 (Wednesday), 05:30 PM- 07:00 PM (IST)

WHAT THE BIDEN PRESIDENCY HOLDS FOR THE FUTURE OF SOUTH ASIA?

MOONIS AHMAR
CONFLICT MANAGEMENT & VISION FOR A SECULAR PAKISTAN
A COMPARATIVE STUDY
OXFORD

Speaker:
Dr Moonis Ahmar
Former Prof & Chair,
Dept of Int'l Relation,
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences,
University of Karachi, Pakistan

Chair:
Dr. Reena Marwah
Secretary-General, AAS

Registration FREE

Webinar Host: Prof. Swaran Singh, President AAS

Register in advance for this meeting @ <https://rb.gy/mvzwrw>

[Link to webinar here.](https://rb.gy/mvzwrw)

On 2nd December 2020, Dr. Moonis Ahmar (Former Prof & Chair, Department of International Relation; Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Karachi, Pakistan) addressed Association of Asia Scholars (AAS) webinar on the theme, “What the Biden Presidency holds for the future of South Asia?” As a result of the recent elections held in the United States, Joe Biden won to become the 46th president of the country, and presented himself as a leader who “seeks not to divide, but to unify”.

Biden in comparison to Trump has been observed as a more experienced person in politics. He, with his positive diplomacy, is expected to regain confidence in American leadership and mobilize the country’s allies to meet their challenges.

In reference to the Doha talks, it is expected that Biden will not easily agree for complete withdrawal of U.S troops in Afghanistan as if he does so, it may create a leadership vacuum which may further result in a civil war. Dr. Ahmar defines the ongoing standoff between India and Pakistan as the darkest era of their relations. He believes that at present, there is no element of diplomacy between the two countries. The Biden administration would try to encourage communication between them which may further result in increased effectiveness of SAARC (South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation).

Considering the take of Biden on the issues related to the protection of human rights, democracy and minority groups, he would find ways to deal with these issues without interfering in the sovereignty and national interest of a country.

In response to a question, about the role of China in the current scenario of South Asia, Dr. Ahmar said that although China has made huge investments in this region but as compared to the US, it does not yet hold much power in South Asia. However, challenges for the Biden administration may arise if China becomes a member of SAARC.

Dr. Ahmar emphasized on the need for a strong South Asia. South Asia has not been able to play a pivotal role in terms of global technology, global economy, regional cooperation and global warming. The way the Biden administration will deal with South Asia depends on how the South Asian countries deal with each other.

by Komal Bhadana
Runjhun Goel

Webinar Session 31, 9 December 2020

Mr. Henry Tillman; 2020: China's BRI during the Pandemic





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AAS Webinar Series: Session 31
09 December 2020 (Wednesday), 11:30 AM- 01:00 PM (IST)

2020: CHINA'S BRI DURING THE PANDEMIC



Speaker:
Mr Henry Tillman
Founder, China Investment
Research, London



Chair:
Prof Swaran Singh
President, AAS

Registration FREE **Webinar Host: Dr. Reena Marwah, Secretary-General AAS**
Register in advance for this meeting @<https://rb.gy/urwj1g>

[Link to webinar here.](#)

The thirty-first webinar session was held on 9 December from 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. on '2020: China's BRI During The Pandemic'. The lecture was delivered by Mr. Henry Tillman, Founder, China Investment Research, London. The webinar commenced with Dr. Reena Marwah's welcome address, followed by the speaker's introduction by Prof. Swaran Singh. In the webinar session Mr. Henry Tillman delivered a detailed presentation supported by relevant data focusing primarily on the aftermaths of the pandemic on BRI and underlined both challenges and opportunities associated with BRI post 2020. He also spotlighted the health care investments done by China in various countries before and during the pandemic to improve drug discoveries, medical partnerships and medical infrastructural development. He initially focused on how China responded to COVID. The speaker further elaborated that the China-Europe railways developed in an unprecedented manner in 2020 as COVID had impaired the air and sea traffic. The speaker further mentioned that there were only 11 trains which operated in this route in 2011 but the figures have risen significantly to over more than 10,000 trains in 2020. The speaker also elucidated on China's eagerness to develop the Pan Asia Railway networks, the China-Laos Railway, Bangkok-Nong Khai HSR, Malaysia- East Coast Rail Line, among others.

In Tillman's opinion, China is also looking forward to procure huge revivals in the CPEC to strengthen its reach within South Asia alongside investing enormously in West Asian Countries like Iran, Uzbekistan, Nepal, Armenia, Tibet, among others. Mr. Tillman emphasized on China's strategy of expanding a selected number of ports globally at important geo-strategic locations to deal with the shortage in supply of minerals such as iron ore. For instance, it is securing a few West African ports to deal with a shortage of iron ore that was shipped from Australia. The speaker aptly underlined the growing strategic links between International Land Sea Trade Corridor (ILSTC) and Belt and Road initiative covering four broad sectors of collaboration namely, the transport and logistics, Aviation, ICT and Finance. The informative talk by Mr. Tillman was followed by a question answer round which touched upon questions related to the difference in infrastructural investments by China in South East Asia and South Asia, the emergence of infrastructural diplomacy, the potential of strategic implications of Act East Policy as a deterrent to BRI, the changing relations between Vietnam and China due to BRI, the effects of pandemic on the growth trajectory of BRI and the extent of compromise of political sovereignty of the countries engaged in the BRI project.

by Dr. Gazala Fareedi

News in Pictures



USA: Opposing groups clash after pro-Trump protests decry president's election loss. credits-Reuters



JAPAN: Japan launches first ship of new frigate class. credits- Japan Times



SOUTH KOREA: South Korea accelerates deployment of unmanned systems. credits-Defensenews



THAILAND: A new generation of activists in Thailand, is moving away from coded criticism of the military and the monarchy. credits- The New York Times



UK: UK set for talks with France's EDF over nuclear plant. credits -Deccan Herald



ASEAN: ASEAN defense chiefs and partners agree to promote peace in Asia. credits- Japan Times



BANGKOK: Chinese dams under U.S. scrutiny in Mekong rivalry. credits- Japan Times



USA: Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine gets emergency approval in US; Trump terms it 'medical miracle'. credits- Business Today



Gen. Naravane's visit comes in the midst of fast-paced developments in the Gulf region including normalisation of Israel's relations with several Arab countries. credits- The New Indian Express



Myanmar:Aung San, Suu Kyi's party confirmed winner in Myanmar election. credits- Reuters

Feedback

"Based on Professor Singh's reputation on China, I attended a number of AAS webinars which offered views of thought leaders on both historical country linkages and recent political developments. I was also struck by the open environment where the scholars actively challenge the speakers far beyond materials presented. I had a similar experience last week at AAS, in a Q&A which lasted 1+ hours, and could have gone much longer."

*Mr Henry Tillman
Founder President, China Investment Research, London*

"I really appreciate all AAS seminar speakers' in-depth analysis, which are very informative for young scholars like me. The insights I have gained from these seminars not only offered valuable addition to my existing understanding, but also revived fresh ideas. A very special thanks to both the organizers of AAS and great speakers."

*Ms Zhong Ai,
Doctoral fellow at JNU and Research Associate, RIIOE, Yunnan, China,*

"Association of Asia Scholars organised discussions on several topics within Asian affairs that are extremely topical and relevant. Especially their weekly webinars this year have been very interesting, and have raised issues in a timely manner. One learns so much from the experts coming from different fields to speak at the AAS platform."

Dr. Sasithara Sethanandha-Moreno, HR & OD Specialist, Aliaga Rice Corp, Philippines

Forthcoming...

**Millennial Asia – Volume 11, Issue 2,
August 2020**

This issue is comprised of theoretically well-grounded and evidence-driven research papers on comparative issues of Asian countries.



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