



# The Quad in the Indo-Pacific

Consolidating Peace and Prosperity

on March 03, 2025 (Monday)

World Trade Centre (Interim Office), 2nd Floor Kapil Kavuri  
Hub, Nanakramguda, Rangareddy, Telangana

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## Message from ONO Keiichi, Japan's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to India and the Kingdom of Bhutan



I am pleased to see that the round table session on QUAD is being held in a timely and meaningful manner, under the leadership of Na Ra Japan Hub, who has been actively working to further develop the Japan-India partnership. We affirm our strong commitment to realizing a Free and Open Indo-Pacific through QUAD, which is a transparent, pragmatic and inclusive vehicle for the whole region.

## The Quad and the Indo-Pacific: A Brief Backgrounder

The term Indo-Pacific has a long history, which can be traced to articulations of European and Indian historians in the early 1900s. The Indian and Pacific oceans have always witnessed significant people-to-people, cultural and economic interactions. During the Second World War, the security interdependence between the Indian and Pacific oceans and the consequences of such interactions became more pronounced. However, the idea of the Indo-Pacific struggled to find traction during the Cold War.

In the new millennium, the changing geopolitical and geoeconomic dynamics prompted a need for new thinking in conceptualising regions. Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's speech in the Indian parliament on the "Confluence of the Two Seas" captured the growing importance of the Indo-Pacific. The increasing traction of the Indo-Pacific regional imagination indicated the global economic power shift from the West to the East, which mandated security and economic arrangements to foster peace and prosperity in the region. The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami caused considerable destruction in many countries in the region. Along with others, Australia, India, Japan, and the United States launched massive humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) activities, which generated considerable discussion on the prospect of a 'Democratic Security Diamond'. The HADR activities and subsequent conversations laid the foundation for the emergence of the Quad in the subsequent years.

In 2017, a joint meeting of senior officials from Australia, India, Japan, and the United States was held on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit, which was both symbolic and substantive. The Quad countries often reiterate that ASEAN's centrality is critical to maintaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. In 2019, the Quad foreign ministers' meeting was held in New York on the sidelines of UN General Assembly meetings. Since then, the Quad has rapidly emerged as an important framework, critical for maintaining peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the first Quad Leaders' meeting was organised in a virtual mode in 2021. Since then, there have been regular exchange of views between the leaders, and in 2025, India will be hosting the Quad Leaders' Summit.



Global politics is increasingly being defined by growing territorial assertions and contestations in the economic realm. The Indo-Pacific, accounting for over 62 per cent of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), has emerged as a vital fulcrum of global prosperity.

The US (GDP:\$27.36 trillion in 2023), Japan (GDP:\$4.21 trillion in 2023), and India (GDP:\$3.5 trillion in 2023) are among the world's top five economies. Japan is well known for technological innovation and has robust economic partnerships with various countries in the Indo-Pacific region. Australia has significant natural resources and constitutes an important strategic partner in the domain of maritime security. India has experienced sustained economic growth, positioning itself as one of the world's leading economies. As a result, it is rapidly strengthening its economic partnerships with fellow Quad nations, fostering greater collaboration in trade, technology and regional stability

The Quad countries — Australia, India, Japan, and the United States (US) — have a critical role to play in maintaining peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific. India-US and Japan-Australia constitute bookends of the Indo-Pacific region. There are significant convergences in the regional visions of the Quad countries. Consolidating peace and prosperity in the region mandates enhanced defence cooperation between the Quad countries, and significant strides have been made in this direction. The member countries are involved in wide-ranging defence exercises such as the Malabar Exercises and working to ensure that sea lines of communications (SLOCs) remain free and open. The Quad countries have been at the forefront of providing Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR). In fact, the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami and the consequent HADR cooperation laid the foundation for the emergence of the Quad. There is also considerable knowledge sharing on security dynamics in the region through various institutional channels such as the information fusion centres. The cooperation in defence manufacturing has resulted in improved capabilities through the transfer of technologies. The cooperation in defence manufacturing has also resulted in employment opportunities in India. With growing security threats in cyber and related domains, there is a need for scaling up programmes such as the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET).

The Quad Leaders' Joint Statement issued on May 20, 2023, in Hiroshima, Japan, reiterated a “steadfast commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific that is inclusive and resilient”. The Joint Statement also calls for resilient infrastructure and projects that “do not impose unsustainable debt burdens”. Under the rubric of the 'Partnership for Quality Infrastructure (PQI)', Japan has been at the forefront of building connectivity networks in the Indo-Pacific region. Similarly, India has scaled up connectivity projects in its immediate and extended neighbourhood. India, through its Neighbourhood First policy, is building robust connectivity projects defined by the principles of transparency and equitable outcomes. The International Development Finance Corp of the US is involved in financing projects in South Asia and the larger Indo-Pacific region. Australia provides significant Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) for economic infrastructure projects and related domains. The Australia-Japan-United States Trilateral Infrastructure Partnership (TIP) also aims to catalyse investments aimed at creating sustainable infrastructure

The growing strategic partnership between the Quad countries has given impetus to the idea of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF). The IPEF is open to the participation of other Indo-Pacific partners and seeks to work towards genuine, transparent, and fair trade partnerships. Some of the core concerns of the IPEF are clean energy, infrastructure, tax and anti-corruption, trade and supply chains.

For the Quad countries, a key concern related to the IPEF was the overconcentration of supply chains in a few countries. The pandemic hastened the conversations on the urgent need to re-evaluate the workings of global supply chains. Responding to the economic challenges of the pandemic, in 2020, the Economic Ministers of Australia-India-Japan “underscored the necessity and potential to enhance the resiliency of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific region”. A year later, India, Japan and Australia launched the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI). The US, in 2021, also convened a Summit on Strengthening Global Supply Chains.



Recently, the Quad countries have launched a “Clean Energy Supply Chains initiative designed to accelerate the Indo-Pacific's clean energy transition.” Additionally, the Quad countries have scaled up cooperation in health care, vaccines, cyberspace security, artificial intelligence, and fostering an international digital economy that works for everyone. There has been a significant uptick in people-to-people interactions and migration, and there is a need to reflect on consolidating the gains made in such interactions. The Wilmington Declaration Joint Statement from the Leaders of Australia, India, Japan, and the United States (2024) refers to a host of initiatives to promote people-to-people interactions such as the Quad Fellowship, 'the Japan government's program to enable the Quad Fellows to study in Japan, and the Indian government's Quad scholarships to students from the Indo-Pacific to pursue undergraduate education in Indian technical institutions.'

The Joint Statement of the Quad Foreign Ministers meeting on January 21, 2025, reaffirmed "commitment to strengthening a Free and Open Indo-Pacific where the rule of law, democratic values, sovereignty, and territorial integrity are upheld and defended". The joint statement listed a few important areas of collaboration, such as "regional maritime, economic, and technology security in the face of increasing threats, as well as promoting reliable and resilient supply chains." Given the rapid shifts in the balance of power in global politics, the Quad framework will gain greater traction.

India's robust partnership with other countries becomes critical to achieving the ambitious target of becoming a developed nation by 2047. With multilateralism experiencing severe stress, minilaterals such as the Quad will play an important role in maintaining peace in the Indo-Pacific region by deterring aggressive behaviour, promoting trust through enhanced communication, ensuring freedom of navigation, fostering growth, building robust connectivity infrastructure, engendering resilient supply chains and increasing the cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The Roundtable will facilitate discussions on the above issues to promote friendship among the Quad countries in the Indo-Pacific region. The Roundtable will also make an effort to encourage synergies between academia and industry in Hyderabad with reference to the Quad-related activities.

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## Programme March 03, 2025 *Closed-Door Event*

09.30 – 10.00 10.00 – 10.10 10.10 – 10.25	Registration (Coffee/Tea) Welcome Remarks by <b>Dr. B. Rama Bhadra</b> , Na Ra Japan Hub Inauguration and Remarks by Amb <b>Dr. BM. Vinod Kumar</b>
10.25 – 11.25	National perspectives by the Representative of the Ministry of External Affairs, India, and <b>Mr. Takahashi Muneo</b> , Consul-General of Japan in Chennai.  Remarks by <b>Dr. J A Chowdary</b> , Entrepreneur, Innovator, Angel Investor, Industry Leader <i>–Nurturing Technology Ecosystems: Emerging Trends in AI.</i>  Remarks by <b>Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka</b> , Chairperson, Politeia Research Foundation, India <i>–The Quad in the Indo-Pacific: Consolidating Peace and Prosperity</i>
11.25 – 11.30	<b>Vote of Thanks</b>
11.30 – 11.45	Coffee/Tea Break
11.45 – 12:45	<b>Session I: The Quad Cooperation for Building an Interconnected Indo-Pacific</b> <b><u>Chair: Air Marshal M Baladitya AVSM VSM (Retd)</u></b> <i>India stands between Idealism and Realism</i> – <b>Prof. Hiromi Hirose</b> , Professor in Global Studies, Kindai University, Japan <i>The Quad and the Security Architecture in the Indo-Pacific</i> – <b>Prof. J. L. N. Rao</b> , Director, Institute of Indo-Pacific Studies Osmania University, India <i>FOIP, Quad and Japan-India Engagement</i> – <b>Dr. Izuyama Marie</b> , Senior Fellow, Asia and Africa Division, Regional Studies Department, NIDS, Japan
12:45 -13:05	<b>Discussion</b>
13.05 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.15	<b>Session II: The Quad Cooperation for Political and Economic Convergences</b> <b><u>Chair: Amb. C. Rajasekhar</u></b> <i>India, Small States in the IOR and the Quad</i> – <b>Dr. Sinjini Bhattacharya</b> , Assistant Professor in Political Science, St. Francis College for Women  <i>QUAD in the Trump Era and India's Delicate Geopolitical-Economic Position</i> – <b>Prof. Dr. R V Ramana Murthy</b> , University of Hyderabad  <i>Carbon Price-Driven Approach to Net Zero in the Construction Industry</i> – <b>Mr. Sriram Kuchimanchi</b> , Founder and CEO, Smarter Dharma  <i>Human Security in the Indo-Pacific</i> – <b>Dr. Kanneganti Ramesh Babu</b> , Founder and Executive Director of Centre for Human Security Studies
15.15 – 15.35	<b>Discussion</b>
15.35 – 15.50	Coffee/Tea Break
15.50 – 17.05	<b>Session III: The Quad Cooperation in Technology Driven Sectors</b> <b><u>Chair: Dr J A Chowdary</u></b> <i>The Quad's New Frontier: STEM Research and Technology Transfer</i> – <b>Dr. Kanica Rakhra</b> , Assistant Professor, Kautilya School of Public Policy  <i>Fostering QUAD Cooperation in Air and Space</i> <b>Group Captain, TH Anand Rao (Retd)</b> , Director, Indian Space Association (ISpA). <i>QUAD – Chemistry &amp; Pharmaceutical Innovation for Sustainable Future</i> – <b>Dr. Srinivas Oruganti</b> , Head, CPRI, Dr. Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences  <i>Cybersecurity in QUAD – Key Areas, Security Measures &amp; Policies</i> – <b>Mr. Karthikeya Kumar</b> , HR Professional and SOC Analyst
17.05 – 17.20	<b>Discussion</b>
17.20 – 17.55	<b><u>Valedictory Session</u></b> <b>Remarks by Amb. C. Rajasekhar</b>

## Brief Bios



**Boddupalli Rama Bhadra** is a distinguished electrical engineer from Andhra University and an entrepreneur from Hyderabad. He received a Government of Japan AOTS Scholarship (1978-1980) for technical training at Mitsubishi Electric and is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers (India). He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from American University in 2024.

Rama Bhadra is a passionate advocate for Indo-Japanese relations, recognized with several awards, including the awards from Japanese Cities of Miyoshi, Kumagaya, and Warabi, the Japanese Consulate General's Award (2015), Japan Foreign Minister's Award (2018), and Japan Emperor's Award (Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette in 2023). He facilitated Hyderabad - Miyoshi sister city relations in 2006.

In 2023, Rama Bhadra founded Na Ra JAPAN HUB, an NGO/NPO, a unique Knowledge, and Cultural Hub promoting exchange and imparting training in the Japanese language, quality management, and work ethics. The hub showcases a collection of Japanese dolls and artifacts. He worked in Japan at Mitsubishi Electric Corp. (1978-1995) and founded the Asa Bhanu group in 1995, receiving the "Entrepreneur of the Year" Award (2017) and the NEDO Excellence Award from Japan (2017).



**Amb Dr BM Vinod Kumar** Born in 1955 in Lingampally village in Nalgonda District. Studied up to S.S.C in Suryapet. Studied M.B.B.S (1972-77) & M.S(Gen.Surgery) in Osmania Medical College. Studied L.L.B (1982-85) at Osmania University while running a clinic in Dhoolipet. Received Merit Scholarship during school and college education. Joined the Indian Foreign Service (I.F.S) in 1986 after successfully clearing the Civil Services Exams (1985). Served in Indian Embassies in Germany, Algeria, Malaysia, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan, holding various positions such as First Secretary, Counsellor, Deputy High Commissioner, Acting High Commissioner, Minister, Charge De' Affairs, Consul General of India and Ambassador of India. While in Germany, studied a Post Graduate Diploma in International Relations (Berlin) and Diploma in German Language (Bonn). Represented India in bilateral meetings with other countries and also in international conferences. Handled 14 foreign visits of the President and Prime Minister of India to various countries.

In India, held positions like Regional Passport Officer (R.P.O) in Hyderabad (1995-97) and opened a Passport Office in Visakhapatnam administering both Passport Offices at the same time; Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi (2010-2012) and Head of Departments: Parliament, Coordination, VIP, NIR affairs. Retired from IFS in 2015 as Ambassador of India to Azerbaijan.



**Mr. Takahashi Muneo** Consul-General of Japan in Chennai

Mr. Takahashi Muneo, Consul-General of Japan in Chennai, has Consular Jurisdiction over Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

Mr. Takahashi joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1984. He has extensive overseas experience, having served in Tunisia, the Philippines, New York, Houston, Australia, and Iraq in various capacities. He had previously worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Assistant Director, Foreign Visit, Protocol Office; Director, Overseas Voting Division; and Senior Coordinator, Consular Policy Division. Mr. Takahashi Muneo is accompanied by his spouse, Mrs. Takahashi Mitsuyo.



**Dr J A Chowdary** Entrepreneur, Innovator, Angel Investor, Industry Leader  
Jakkampudi Adisheshaiah Chowdary, also known as JA, is an entrepreneur, technology leader and innovator with an illustrious career spanning across private and public sector. He is passionate about improving the lives of Indian youth through technology, education and employment opportunities. Over the last 40 years, Sri JA Chowdary has helped grow and developing the Indian IT industry in the capacity of IT advisor and Policy advocate for several Indian State Governments; Special Chief Secretary (Rank of Cabinet Minister) to the Andhra Pradesh Government during 2014-19. Advised and assisted the Government in bringing investments, generating employment, and encouraging innovation and start-up activities in Andhra Pradesh; Head of several Indian and Global Industry forums such as FICCI, AMCHAM, TIE, HYSEA, IEEE; Director for STPI (Software Technology Parks of India), Hyderabad, Chennai and Bangalore; Founder and Managing Director of Global Technology Companies in India; Advisor to Universities and Technology Institutions; Co-founded TalentSprint, a leading Edu-tech company in India; Co-Founded Portal Player (Acquired by Nvidia Corporation) - A company that designed the Core Chip & Software that powered Apple iPods; Angel investor; Mentor to entrepreneurs and students.

During the early days of his career, he was awarded with NRDC Independence Day Invention Award by Government of India. JA Chowdary received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Hyderabad Software Exporters Association (HYSEA) in 2021. Received Amulya Ratna Award and other life time achievement awards from the various Institutions. He is also proud of the fact that he has worked at ISRO Satellite Center in developing Telemetry subsystems for Rohini and Bhaskara Satellites. JA Chowdary received his M.Tech from IIT Madras and M.Sc. from Sri Venkateswara University. He received Honorary Doctorate for his outstanding services to the Industry from Chitkara University, Punjab.



### **Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka**

Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka is currently the Chairperson of the Politeia Research Foundation. He was previously a Senior Fellow for Research Programmes and Strategic Neighbourhood at the Delhi Policy Group, a Senior Fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum Library, and a Senior Consultant at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations. Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka was a Pavate Visiting Fellow at the University of Cambridge, UK, and a former Fulbright Fellow in the Conflict Transformation Programme in the United States. Sanjay also has extensive work experience with think-tanks and civil society organisations in India. He has considerable work experience in strengthening participatory political processes, governance frame works and platforms for wider consultation. He has a substantive publication record with three co-edited volumes, policy reports, numerous research papers and Op-Ed essays.



### **Air Marshal M Baladitya AVSM VSM (Retd)**

Air Marshal M Baladitya AVSM VSM, was commissioned in 1983 in the Logistics branch of Indian Air Force and retired on 31 Jan 2022. He possesses a Masters degree in Defence Studies and is an alumnus of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and National Defence College, New Delhi.

The Air Marshal is a keen sportsman and represented Services in Nationals in Squash. He was the Air Force Squash champion on five occasions. He was Manager of the Indian Cricket team for the tours of Pakistan, Sri Lanka and South Africa. He has been to Athens Olympics in 2004, and London Olympics as an official delegate.

The Air Marshal has tenated important field and staff appointments in his 40 year long career in IAF. He was Chairman and General Manager of Canteen Stores Department at Mumbai. The Air officer was conferred with Presidential award of Vishisht Seva Medal in 2009 and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2019. He is married to Mrs Gouri Usha who is an educator.



**Prof. Hiromi Hirose** Prof. Hiromi Hirose is currently with the Faculty of International Studies Kindai University. Former NHK New Delhi bureau chief (1998-2002) and news commentator (2012-). He has reported on news events such as the Iraq War, the September 11 attacks, and Indian Ocean Tsunami. In 2012, he interviewed Narendra Modi exclusively during his visit to Japan. As a producer he made series of TV documentaries "Impact of India". His books include "India's Unfathomable Strength: Exploring the Strongest Nation's True Strength" (2024), "India's Changing World Map: Modi's Impact" (2019), and "Suicide Attacks: 32 Shells that Hit Me". "Indian Ocean Tsunami Survivors' Testimonies" was written while he was stationed in Malaysia. Bachelor (Liberal Arts 1987) The University of Tokyo and M.A. (Political Science 2020) Aoyama Gakuin University. He is a member of the Japan Association for South Asian Studies (JASAS) and the Japan-India Association. Vice president of the Kansai Japan-India Cultural Association and special visiting professor at CSAS. He is also the founder of the India-Japan civic learning and communicating internet project "India's Impact." Born in Osaka, he is a Buddhist, and his high school is based at Todaiji Temple, whose opening-eye ceremony was held in the 8th century by an Indian monk.



#### **Prof. J. L.N. Rao**

J.L.N. Rao is Professor of Political Science at Osmania University and having a little more than three decades of experience in teaching and research. His specialisation is International Relations, and Foreign Policy. He worked on 'India's Foreign Policy towards South-East Asia' to obtain Doctoral Degree. Published more than two dozen research papers in various eriodicals and edited volumes, co-edited two volumes and co-authored one book and submitted more than 50 academic papers in seminars and conferences. Rao is a resource person to College of Air-Warfare, College of Defense Management, Ministry of Defense, Government of India and to Human Resource Development Colleges of Universities and also associated with Centre for Human Security Studies, Hyderabad and Associate Editor, OUCIP Journal of International Studies for two years. Administrative experience includes the position of Additional Controller Of Examinations (Confidential) and Director, University Foreign Relations Office (UFRO), to look after internationalization of higher education at Osmania University. He was Senior Fellow, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and Director, Institute of Indo-Pacific Studies at Osmania University



#### **Dr. Izuyama Marie**

Izuyama Marie is Senior Research Fellow, Regional Studies Department at the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS). She joined NIDS in 1994 and was Director of Security Studies (April 2000 to March 2023). She received her MA from University of Tokyo. Working on foreign and security policy of India, her recent research interests are India-China relations, and Indias engagement in multilateral institution. Her publications include India, China, and Japans Policy of Asian Regionalism, in Kanti Bajpai, et. al., eds., Routledge Handbook of China-India Relations, (Routledge, 2020), Border and Connectivity in Indias North Eastern Region, in Mayumi Murayama., et. al., eds., Northeast India and Japan: Engagement through Connectivity, (Routledge, 2022); India and the War in Ukraine, NIDS Commentary, 212, March 2022; Indias Diplomacy under Major Power Competition, Asia-Pacific Review, 31:1, July 2024.



### **Dr. Sinjini Bhattacharya**

Sinjini Bhattacharya (Ph.D) completed her doctoral studies from the University of Hyderabad. Her doctoral thesis studied the role of civil society organizations in peacebuilding in India. Since 2018, she has been teaching Political Science at St. Francis College for Women, Begumpet, Hyderabad. Her areas of interest include social media and politics, India's foreign policy, BRICS and Non-Traditional Security. She has served as resource person for the American Corner Hyderabad, for programs addressing democracy and youth, Martin Luther King Jr., conflict resolution and peace building to name a few. Dr. Sinjini is a subject matter expert for IGNOU and BRAOU for whom she has written chapters pertaining to social media and international relations. She has recently served as a subject matter expert for Oxford University Press, providing her inputs for the adaptation of a UK published book on international relations for Indian students. In 2023, she was selected as a Study of US Institutions for Scholars Fellow (A program run by the US State Department, Bureau of Education and Culture). As part of the program she participated in the school on American Political Development at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She has presented her work in several national and international seminars and conferences as well as published her work in national journals and as book chapters.



### **Prof. Dr R V Ramana Murthy**

Prof Ramana Murthy is a senior professor and former Dean of School of Economics, University of Hyderabad. He had widely published in the areas of Political Economy and Globalisation. He received Distinguished Contribution Award in Field of Political Economy in 2017 from World Association of Political Economy in Moscow.



### **Mr. Sriram Kuchimanchi**

Sriram Kuchimanchi is the founder & CEO of Smarter Dharma (<https://smarterdharma.com/>), an India based sustainability enterprise dedicated to promoting adoption of sustainability across various business sectors, including real estate, hospitality and others. He has a Bachelors (in India) and Masters (from the United States) in Computer Science. He also studied Sustainability as a Leadership program from Presidio Graduate School in San Francisco. For his approach and vision, he was awarded Ashoka Fellowship in 2016, initiated by the Honourable President of India, late Mr Pranab Mukherjee. He envisions a world where sustainability is the default choice for all. Before founding Smarter Dharma in 2012, he worked in the high-tech industry for a decade, mostly in the Silicon Valley of California, USA. During that time, he was also an active volunteer and Head of Fund-raising at Association for India's Development in the USA. Under his leadership, Smarter Dharma is building Asia's 1st data-driven advanced decision making platform for urban challenges. He has set a bold goal of mitigating 1 billion tons of Carbon by 2030. And as a TEDx speaker & thinker he is an active evangelist of climate action in India.



### **Dr. Kanneganti Ramesh Babu**

Dr. Ramesh Kanneganti is the Founder & Executive Director of Center for Human Security Studies (CHSS) at Hyderabad (a think-tank on security studies). He holds an M.Phil and also a Ph.D in American Studies from School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)-New Delhi & a Post-Doctorate in Security Studies from BESA Center for Strategic Studies –Israel. Dr. Ramesh was a Fellow at the Certificate Program on Human Centred AI Strategy (Social Sector Cohort) at Stanford University in October 2024. He was also a recipient of prestigious US State Dept International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) in 2011 to develop American Studies curriculum for Indian Universities, part of this he has visited many Universities/MNCs in the US. He was a Visiting Graduate student at Rothberg International School, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel (2002-2003), and a Post-Doctoral fellow at Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies –Bar-Ilan University in Israel (2007) worked on US-Israel-India Strategic Triangle. He had received an Austrian Scholarship to study in Vienna in 2003. Dr. Ramesh has been on Electronic Media quite often known for his in-depth analysis on Internal Security & external affairs of India.

He is associated with the National Investigation Agency, National Industrial Security Academy (NISA), Central Detective Training School (CDTS), Hyderabad, as well as Octopus, Counter-Terrorism Centre of Andhra Pradesh Government. Dr. Ramesh was the Course Co-coordinator for the General Studies subject at Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies, Hyderabad. He worked with Vivekananda International Foundation as a Research Associate on Counter-Terrorism Policies of India under the guidance of the Present National Security Advisor of India, Shri Ajit Kumar Doval.



### **Dr. Kanica Rakhra**

Dr. Kanica Rakhra is currently an Assistant Professor (Kautilya School of Public Policy) where she teaches International Relations and Global Affairs. Prior to this, Dr. Rakhra was working with the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) where she was with the Policy Planning and Research Division, the Disarmament and International Security Affairs (D&ISA) Division and in India's G20 Secretariat.

A former Fellow at Middlebury Institute for International Studies, the Swedish South Asian Studies Network, the Harvard led-Arms Control Negotiation Academy (ACONA), and the Asia Global Institute, she holds a PhD from the Center for International Politics, Organization, and Disarmament (CIPOD) in Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has also participated in a number of Track 1.5 and Track 2 dialogues, written chapters for books, and published articles in various journals and media outlets.



### **Group Captain, TH Anand Rao (Retd)**

Group Captain TH Anand Rao (Retd) is the Director of the Indian Space Association (ISpA) and a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Air Power Studies in New Delhi. He is a former fighter pilot of the Indian Air Force (IAF), a flying instructor, and a veteran of the Kargil War. During his 33 years of service with the IAF, he flew various combat aircraft and held several operational and staff appointments. He has served as a Chief Operations Officer and a Flight Safety and Inspection Officer at frontline IAF airbases. In 2011, he was awarded the Chief of Air Staff Commendation.

He is a keen observer of the space domain and writes on issues related to space security, strategy and policy. He has authored a book titled 'India's Space Security Dilemma' and has co-edited a book titled 'Beyond the Blue Yonder'. Anand Rao has participated as a panellist in national and international seminars.



### **Dr. Srinivas Oruganti**

Dr. Srinivas Oruganti is the whole-time Director of Dr. Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences (DRILS) since 2018. He also heads the Center for Process Research & Innovation, an industry-oriented chemistry research department of Dr. Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences. Dr. Oruganti received his Ph.D. in 2004 from the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, in the area of photo switchable cluster glycosides, and did his postdoctoral research at the Centre de Biophysique Moléculaire, CNRS in the design and synthesis of glycocluster-tumor antigenic peptide conjugates for glycotargeting of dendritic cells. He has contributed significantly to various aspects of early stage process development of active pharmaceutical ingredients ranging from therapeutic areas like diabetes, cardio-vascular, multiple sclerosis and cancer. His pivotal contributions pertain to bringing an active pharmaceutical ingredient to market as a generic drug through innovation in chemical process development and offering a strategic vantage point to any pharmaceutical company in its efforts to carve out a niche for itself in ever challenging generic drug market. With support from Government of Telangana – Dr. Reddy's Laboratories – Laurus Labs, Dr. Oruganti spearheaded the setting up of a multi-industry centric 'Flow Chemistry Technology Hub (FCT-Hub)' at DRILS to reiterate the commitment to chemical process development with guiding elements of sustainability and circular economy. Under his leadership, a CoE – Center for Rare Disease Models was set-up at DRILS to amplify efforts for rare disease research and clinician collaborations. Dr. Oruganti serves on the Advisory Committees of incubators - DST-TBI (Univ of Hyderabad), BioNest – MAHE (Manipal), SBTIC & B-Hub (Govt of Telangana), Apollo Health & Education Research Foundation (AHERF) and Monitoring Committees of CSIR's API-AHC (Affordable Healthcare Mission) . and DST's API-KSM initiative. He is an inventor in more than 100 patents and has published over 40 research papers in leading international journals.



### **Mr. Karthikeya Kumar**

Karthikeya Kumar Kadainti is a seasoned professional with over 20 years of experience in training and human resources. He holds degree in Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech), Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) from Madurai Kamaraj University, and a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) from Sri Venkateswara University. Throughout his career, Karthikeya has taken on various roles, including: HR Analyst & Consultant: Specializing in talent acquisition, performance management, and consulting ; Leadership Coach & Life Skills Trainer: Providing training in communication skills, event management, modeling, photography, and soft skills; Cyber Security Advisor: Offering mentorship in cyber security and serving as a Security Operations Center (SOC) Analyst.



### **Amb. Rajasekhar**

Ambassador Rajasekhar is a career diplomat, represented India around the world. Served both at home including as Director East Asia and DG ICCR and abroad including in Tokyo, London and Seoul and negotiated several trade/investment agreements.

## The Quad Minar in the Indo-Pacific

The Charminar, built in the 16th century, is an iconic structure in the historic city of Hyderabad.

The Quad (comprising Australia, India, Japan and the United States) in the Indo-Pacific can be seen as a metaphor for Charminar. The arches in the Charminar symbolise grand bridges. Just as the four minarets provide stability, the four countries of the Quad aspire to work to establish "a free and open Indo-Pacific that is inclusive and resilient," where principles such as "the rule of law, democratic values, sovereignty, and territorial integrity are upheld and defended." The Quad represent a harmonious union of four entities working together towards common goals.

