



Introduction

South Asia's eastern strategic landscape is undergoing a structural transformation mainly driven by "intermestic" (international + domestic) shifts in Bangladesh and the systemic fragmentation of the Myanmar state. For India, these developments signify a dual challenge to its policies be it "Neighborhood First" or "Act East." This international seminar examines these shifts primarily through the lenses of territorial integrity, sub-regional connectivity, and the transition from reactive deterrence to proactive dominance.

Bangladesh: Electoral & Frontier Security

The February 12, 2026, elections under the Yunus-led interim government represent a major security pivot for India. With the Awami League barred, the BNP leads polls, but a resurgent Jamaat-e-Islami—driven by its "July Charter"—introduces ideological volatility that may shift Dhaka's foreign policy.

- **Siliguri Corridor:** Chinese modernization of the nearby Lalmonirhat Airbase threatens the 22km "Chicken's Neck."
- **Proactive Defense:** To counter revived militancy and ISI operations, India has established a "Military Arc" (garrisons at Chopra, Dhubri, and Kishanganj) for rapid mobilization and surveillance.

Myanmar: Fragmentation & Connectivity

By 2026, Myanmar's junta has lost 40% of its territory to Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs), placing India's connectivity goals at risk.

- **The Kaladan Paradox:** The Arakan Army's capture of Paletwa has stalled the \$2 billion Kaladan project, leaving the finished Sittwe port without its vital 110km road link to Mizoram.
- **Twin-Track Policy:** India maintains formal diplomatic ties with the junta while initiating "Track-1.5" outreach with EAOs to secure its infrastructure.
- **Border Hardening:** To prevent insurgent spillover, India is fencing the 1,643 km border and terminating the Free Movement Regime (FMR).

Objectives of the Seminar

- **Assessing Resilience:** Evaluating the ability of sub-regional corridors (Siliguri and Kaladan) to withstand external power penetration.
- **Pragmatic Realism:** Analysing the shift from idealism to “Forward Defense” in India's engagement with fragmented regimes.
- **Non-State Actors:** Understanding the impact of EAOs on sovereign connectivity and trans-border trade.

Key Speakers

- **Gen. VP Malik, PVSM, AVSM**
Former COAS, Member Board of Advisors, IIMUN President CCF.
- **Lt Gen Arun Sahni PVSM, SM, VSM**
Former Army Commander, Corps Commander in NE, Distinguished Fellow- India Foundation, Observer in recent elections in Myanmar.
- **Ms. Jyoti Malhotra**
Editor-in-Chief Tribune, veteran journalist, former Diplomatic Editor Indian Express.
- **Lt. Gen. KJ Singh PVSM, AVSM & Bar**
Former Army Commander Western Command, Sikkim Corps Commander including Siliguri Corridor
- **Lt Gen SK Saini, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, VSM**
Former Vice Chief, attended prestigious NDC Course in Bangladesh.
- **Lt Gen Pradeep Nair PVSM, AVSM, YSM**
Engaged in Track-2 in Myanmar, Former DGAR, commanded AR Sector and IG HQ.
- **Maj Gen JS Nanda, SM**
Former Head of Special Operations Division, had three years tenure as DA in Bangladesh.
- **Ms Rami Desai**
Reputed Anthropologist, Distinguished Fellow at India Foundation, currently leading interlocutor with Myanmar.
- **Ms. Tania Amir**
Eminent Barrister of Bangladesh descent, based in London.
- **Mr. Vikramdeep Johal**
Dy. Editor Tribune, recently attended international seminar in Bangladesh



Programme

TIME	EVENT
9:30 am - 10:00 am	Registration
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Inaugural Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome Address - Principal, PGGC• Theme Setting - Lt. Gen. KJ Singh• Keynote Address - Lt. Gen. Arun Sahni• Special Address - Ms. Jyoti Malhotra• Presidential remarks - Gen. VP Malik
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Myanmar Crisis - Fire side chat <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lt. Gen. KJ Singh• Lt. Gen. Pradeep Nair• Ms. Rami Desai
12:00 pm - 12:30 pm	Tea & Networking
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Bangladesh Imbroglia <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lt. Gen. SK Saini• Maj. Gen. JS Nanda• Ms. Tania Amir• Mr. Vikramdeep Johal
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Valedictory Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key Takeaways• Vote of Thanks
2:00 pm	Lunch

RSVP

Register online at <https://forms.gle/9u9QBY58i5KH4zbi7>

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