

The U.S. Consulate General in Kolkata

in association with

CUTS International and East West Center, Washington D.C.

present

## 'Regional Security in the Era of Digital Media'

Workshop for 25-30 mid-career journalists and media professionals from East and Northeast India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar

**Date:** August 29-30, 2019

**Venue:** Lincoln Room, American Center,  
38A, J L Nehru Road, Kolkata 700071, India

### Objective:

**Understanding the trend, countering fake messages, reinforcing positive counter-narratives, promoting media literacy, strengthening investigative journalism across border in the era of digital media, to address regional security issues in the region for promoting an open and stable Indo-Pacific Region and create a strong network of informed media professionals.**

### Brief note:

**This workshop will cover trends and technologies to discern and respond to deceptive, biased or false news and to combat disinformation across borders. Media practitioners and journalists will be able to share insights, learn from experts and educate the public to counter all forms misinformation across borders and encourage professional and responsible journalism and promote freedom of press. The workshop will highlight the serious threat that mis and disinformation poses to democracies and domestic publics, across borders in the era of digital and social media and focus on the importance of fact-checking and myth-busting, as well as assess the response from government, law enforcement and security officials, nonprofits, and other relevant sources and media.**

## Draft Agenda

### DAY 1

9:00 am-9:30 am	Registration & Networking with Tea/Coffee – Lincoln Room, American Center
9:30 am-10:30 am	<b>Opening Session- Setting the tone of the workshop</b> <b>Moderator:</b> Jamie Dragon, Public Affairs Officer and Director of American Center, U.S. Consulate General Kolkata <b>Opening Remarks:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Patti Hoffman, Consul General, U.S. Consulate Kolkata **</li><li>2. Satu Limaye, Director, East-West Center, Washington D.C.</li><li>3. Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International</li><li>4. Dilrukshi Handunnetti, Senior Associate Editor at Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd,</li></ol> <b>Self introductions of participants – Ice breaker – 15 minutes</b> <i>Session open to press</i>
10:30 am-11:30 am	<b>Plenary 1: Regional Security in the Era of Digital Media: What has changed?</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Does digital media pose a threat to accurate coverage of cross border security issues?</li><li>2. Is digital media changing the nature of regional security threats?</li><li>3. How are security issues are covered by digital media versus traditional media?</li><li>4. How might digital media assist management of security threats including counter-terrorism?</li></ol>

	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Satu Limaye, Director, East-West Center, Washington D.C.</p> <p><i>Moderator and speakers in conversation. Moderator to ask questions and lead session. Questions will be entertained from audience/participants.</i></p> <p><i>Session open to press</i></p>
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Tea/Coffee – Lincoln Room, American Center
	<i>Next sessions are all closed to press, off-the record</i>
12:00 pm-1:00 pm	<p><b>Whatsapp - how we can fight misinformation, rumors and propaganda</b></p> <p>The session would underline various strategies followed by Whatsapp to restrict spreading of misinformation, rumours and propaganda through its platform. In addition, the session would also highlight how Whatspp is engaging with journalists across diverse digital media platforms to address the issue.</p>
1:00 pm-2:00 pm	Lunch- Mary Todd Room, American Center
2:00 pm-3:00pm	<p><b>Fake news and counter mechanisms -- Facebook policies</b></p> <p>The session would underline various strategies followed by Facebook to counter spreading of fake news through its platform. The session would also highlight the various initiatives undertaken by Facebook to engage with multiple stakeholder groups to help in curbing the spread of misinformation and false news.</p>
3:00 pm-4:00 pm	<p><b>Twitter - the hub of breaking news and how to counter trolling</b></p> <p>The session would underline various strategies followed by Twitter to identify and conter misinformation through its platform. The session would also highlight the various initiatives undertaken by Twitter to engage with multiple stakeholder groups to help in curbing the spread of misinformation and false news.</p>
4:00 pm - 4:15 pm	Tea/Coffee- Lincoln Room, American Center
4:15 pm - 5:15 pm	<p><b>Cross border issues in the Indo-Pacific: Conflict and Cooperation in Trade and other strategic issues and role of digital media</b></p> <p>The session would highlight some of the past and recent developments in the Indo-Pacific region on trade, security and geo-politics. It will also underline the role of digital media in strengthening regional ties among countries in the Indo-Pacific region by curbing the spread of misinformation and false news.</p>
5:15 pm - 6:15 pm	<p><b>Google - Tools to Help Journalists Fight Fake News</b></p> <p>The session would underline various strategies followed by Google to identify and conter misinformation through its platform. The session would also highlight the various initiatives undertaken by Google to engage with multiple stakeholder groups to help in curbing the spread of misinformation.</p>
6:15 pm – 6:30 pm	<p><b>Wrap-Up for Day 1</b></p> <p>Arnab Ganguly</p> <p>Instructions for Day 2 by Mentors</p> <p>Filling up of M&amp;E Forms</p>
6:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Screening of a short film on media by the U.S. Consulate

***Dinner at Mary Todd Room, American Center from 7:00 p.m.- 8:15 pm***

## DAY 2

*(The setting of the venue to be changed to that of a newsroom)*

9:00 am-9:30 am	Networking with Tea/Coffee- Lincoln Room, American Center
9:30 am-11:00 am	<b>Interactive Session and Group Activity</b> <b>Cross-border Security in the era of Digital Media: Challenges in network building and information sharing among journalists across border</b> <b>Resource Person:</b> Susan Kreifels, Media Program Manager, East-West Centre
11:00 pm – 11:30 pm	Tea/Coffee Break- Lincoln Room, American Center
1130: noon – 1:30 pm	<b>Training Session and Group Activity</b> <b>Indo-Pacific security issues across borders and role of media professionals</b> <b>Resource Person:</b> Satu Limaye, Director, East West Center
1:30 pm-2:30 pm	Lunch- Mary Todd Room, American Center
2:30 pm- 4:30 pm	<b>Interactive Session and Group Activity</b> <b>Cross-border investigative journalism and how the social/digital media is changing the global trends of investigative journalism</b> <b>Resource Person:</b> Dilrukshi Handunnetti, Senior Associate Editor at Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd,
4:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Tea/Coffee- Lincoln Room, American Center
4:30 pm-5:15 pm	<b>Follow up plans and next steps/tasks</b> <b>Moderator – Jamie Dragon</b> Delegating upcoming tasks, set deadlines Feedback session from participants <b>Satu Limaye</b> <b>Susan Kreifels</b> <b>Dilrukshi Handunnetti</b>
5:15 pm-5:30 pm	<b>Road Ahead – closing remarks</b> Arnab Ganguly
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Closing High Tea- Mary Todd Room, American Center

End.

\*\* Not yet cofirmed