



## **‘Regional Security in the Era of Digital Media’**

*Workshop for journalists and media professionals from the U.S., Kolkata, Northeast India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka*

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

**Venue:** Lincoln Room, American Center,

38A, J L Nehru Road, Kolkata 700071, India

### **Objective:**

Understanding the trends, 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 in the Indo-Pacific region. 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.

## **Agenda: Day 1**

<b>9:00 am-9:30 am</b>	<b>Registration &amp; Networking with Tea/Coffee – Lincoln Room, American Center</b>
<b>9:30 am-10:30 am</b>	<p><b>Opening Session- Setting the tone of the workshop</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Monica Shie, Director of the American Center, and Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Consulate General Kolkata</p> <p><b>Remarks:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Patti Hoffman, Consul General, U.S. Consulate General Kolkata</li> <li>2. Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International</li> <li>3. Satu Limaye, Director, East-West Center, Washington D.C.</li> <li>4. Dilrukshi Handunnetti, Executive Director, Center for Investigative Reporting in Sri Lanka</li> <li>5. Snehasis Sur, President, Calcutta Press Club and Senior Editor, Doordarshan</li> </ol> <p><i>Self introductions of participants – Ice breaker</i></p> <p><i>Session open to press</i></p>
<b>10:30 am-11:45 am</b>	<p><b>Session II: Regional Security in the Era of Digital Media: What has changed?</b></p> <p><b>Questions for discussions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Does digital media pose a threat to accurate coverage of cross border security issues?</i></li> <li>2. <i>Is digital media changing the nature of regional security threats?</i></li> <li>3. <i>How are security issues are covered by digital media versus traditional media?</i></li> <li>4. <i>How might digital media assist management of security threats including counter-terrorism?</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Satu Limaye, Director, East-West Center, Washington D.C.</p> <p><b>In Conversation With:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sougato Mukhopadhyay, Bureau Chief, CNN News 18 TV</li> <li>2. Rajeev Bhattacharya, Senior Journalist and Author, Guwahati</li> <li>3. Bidhayak Das, Writer and Contributing Editor, Irrawaddy Magazine</li> <li>4. Shagufta Gupta, Director, CUTS International</li> <li>5. Halima Begum Jhumur, Senior Reporter, Ekattor TV, Dhaka, Bangladesh</li> </ol> <p><i>Moderator and speakers in conversatation. Moderator to ask questions and lead session. Questions will be entertained from audience/participants.</i></p> <p><i>Session open to press.</i></p>
<b>11:45 am – 12:15 pm</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee – Lincoln Room, American Center</b>

**Following Sessions are all closed to press, off-the record.**

<p>12:15 pm- 1:30 pm</p>	<p><b>Session III: 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> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Monideepa Banerjee, Bureau Chief-East, NDTV India</p> <p><b>In Conversation With:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sudeep Chakravarti, Author and Columnist</li> <li>2. Dwaipayan Ghosh , Assistant Editor, Times of India</li> <li>3. Md. Mahbubur Rahman, Staff Reporter, The Daily Ittefaq</li> <li>4. Ms. Sewa Bhattarai, Reporter, Nepali Times</li> <li>5. Rajesh Rai, Senior Reporter, Kuensel, Bhutan</li> </ol> <p><i>Moderator and speakers in conversatation. Moderator to ask questions and lead session. Questions will be entertained from audience/participants.</i></p> <p>Floor Discussion, Q &amp; A</p>
<p>1:30 pm- 2:30 pm</p>	<p><b>Lunch- Mary Todd Room, American Center</b></p>
<p>2:30 pm- 3:45pm</p>	<p><b>Session IV: Voices from India's North East: Trafficking, Migration, Environment Degradation &amp; Illegal Mining, Sub Optimal use of Waterways Connectivity and Cross Border Trade</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Suparna Pathak, Communications entrepreneur and journalist</p> <p><b>In Conversation With:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sujit Chakraborty, Bureau Chief, Indo-Asian News Service, Tripura</li> <li>2. Anirban Roy, Editor-in-Chief, Northeast Now, Asaam</li> <li>3. Amar Sangno, President of Journalist Association, Sub-Editor, The Arunachal Times</li> <li>4. Isabella Nawodita Gurung, Sub-Editor / Reporter, Sikkim Express, Sikkim</li> <li>5. Pradip Phanjoubam, Editor, Imphal Free Press</li> <li>6. Ratul Baruah, News Editor, The Meghalaya Guardian</li> <li>7. Sanjoy Ray, Senior Staff, Reporter Assam Tribune</li> </ol> <p><i>Moderator and speakers in conversatation. Moderator to ask questions and lead session. Questions will be entertained from audience/participants.</i></p> <p>Floor Discussion, Q &amp; A</p>

<p><b>3:45 pm – 5:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Session V- Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp - How to counter fake news, misinformation, propaganda and trolling on digital media platforms</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Priyadarshini Sen, Freelance Journalist, New Delhi</p> <p><b>In Conversation With:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trushar Barot, Facebook India, New Delhi</li> <li>2. Jency Jacob, Managing Editor, Boomlive, Mumbai</li> <li>3. Qadaruddin Shishir, Editor in-Chief and Co-founder of BD Fact Check, Bangladesh</li> </ol> <p><i>Moderator and speakers in conversation. Moderator to ask questions and lead session. Questions will be entertained from audience/participants.</i></p> <p>Floor Discussion, Q &amp; A</p>
<p><b>5:00 pm - 5:30 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Tea/Coffee- Lincoln Room, American Center</b></p>
<p><b>5:30 pm – 6:30 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Closing Session – Zoom</b></p> <p><b>Cross-border Journalism: Methodology</b></p> <p><b>Resource Person:</b> Christina Lee, Head of Ambassador Network, Hostwriter</p>

**Dinner at Mary Todd Room, American Center from 6:30 p.m.- 8:00 pm**

## **Agenda: Day 2**

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 1 – Zoom session</b>  <b>Challenges in network building and information sharing among journalists across border</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Swati Bhattacharjee, Senior Assistant Editor, Anandabazar Patrika  <b>Resource Person:</b> Susan Kreifels, Media Program Manager, East-West Center
11:00 pm – 11:30 pm	Tea/Coffee Break- Lincoln Room, American Center
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	<b>Training Session and Group Activity 2</b>  <b>U.S. Government’s Indo-Pacific Strategy and security issues across borders: role of media professionals</b>  <b>Resource Person:</b> Satu Limaye, Director, East West Center, Washington D.C.
1:00 pm-2:00 pm	Lunch- Mary Todd Room, American Center
2:00 pm- 3:30 pm	<b>Interactive Session and Group Activity 3</b>  <b>Global trends in cross-border investigative journalism and how the media is reacting</b>  <b>Resource Person:</b> Dilrukshi Handunnetti, Executive Director of the Center for Investigative Reporting in Sri Lanka
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Tea/Coffee- Lincoln Room, American Center
4:00 pm-5:00 pm	<b>Follow up plans and next steps/tasks</b>  <b>Moderator – Monica Shie</b>  Delegating upcoming tasks, set deadlines  1. Satu Limaye 2. Susan Kreifels 3. Dilrukshi Handunnetti 4. Bipul Chatterjee  <b>Feedback session</b>
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Closing High Tea- Mary Todd Room, American Center