

# Department of International Relations

## Doctoral Candidates

Anil Kumar is a doctoral candidate. His doctoral thesis is on “*Theorizing Challenges and Opportunities in Cooperation: A Case Study of SAARC*”.



Anil is interested in political theory, the theory of international politics and foreign policies of the South Asian states. Anil has previously worked with, *Srimat Vivekananda Forum* which worked for education and social development of the people in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir, India.

Anil can be reached at ANILSAGOTRA001@gmail.com.

Ankur Sharma is a doctoral candidate. His dissertation title is “*South Asian Border Towns: Interaction & Trajectories*”.

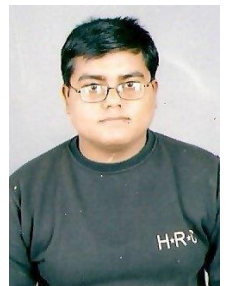


He has qualified UGC-NET for Junior Research Fellow in International & Area Studies and has also qualified UGC-NET in Political Science. His interest areas are Border Studies, South Asian regionalism and Indian foreign policy. With respect to his Ph.D. project, Ankur presented his papers 'Analysis of an Informal Exchange Rate System in Indo-Bhutanese Border Towns' and 'Border Studies in India: Impact of the International Studies Programme' respectively at an international conference on *Borders and Border Studies: The South Asian Perspective* and a workshop on *Borders and Regionalism in South Asia*, both held at South Asian University, New Delhi.

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Anurag Anil is a Research Scholar.

Anurag’s area of interest includes looking at issues which lie at the intersection of history, science, politics, culture (sports, photography, and films), economics, health, everyday security, strategy, regional integration, and pedagogy. As a future research project he intends to work on sub-regional integration in South Asia by examining the role of China and India and opportunities and challenges it opens for small states like Nepal and Bhutan. A key question which engages him is understanding structures and processes which drive the concept order. He completed his MA from the SAU, and was a recipient of the prestigious SAU President’s Gold Medal for securing first position in Masters.



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Bipin Ghimire is a doctoral candidate. His doctoral thesis is on “*Geopolitics and Its Impact on the Foreign Policy of Landlocked Nepal (1955- 2017)*”.

Bipin is interested in different research issues that include Peacebuilding, Conflict Resolution, Human Trafficking, Open Borders between Nepal and India. He holds two Master degrees - Master of Arts in Conflict, Peace and Development Studies from Tribhuvan University Nepal, and Master of Arts in International Relations from University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. He has worked with United Nations High Commission for Refugee, where he focused on the issue of Bhutanese Refugees in Nepal. Bipin has also taught in Siddhartha Multiple College, and was a Consultant for Saferworld. He also worked as a Project Coordinator in Sri Lanka-United Nations Friendship Organisation based in Colombo.

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Dipyaman Chakrabarti is a Research Scholar

Dipyaman completed Bachelor of Arts from Presidency University, Kolkata in History and went on to complete my Masters in Conflict Analysis and Peace Building from Nelson Mandela Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution at the Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi. He is particularly interested in the politics of the South Asian region with a particular focus on how states formulate their strategic thought and in turn how that affects their foreign policy.

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Divisha Srivastava is a Research Scholar.

Divisha did her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Delhi University and her Master of Arts in Politics with specialisation in International Studies, from Jawaharlal Nehru University. She was a Research Intern at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis-IDS, where she assisted in collating data and editing the newsletter *Insight South East Asia*. She also conducted extensive research on the defence outlook and military modernisation of the Indo-Pacific region. Her research interests include traditional and non-traditional security issues and their impact on the ‘nation-state’.

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Johny Arokiaraj P is a doctoral candidate. His doctoral thesis is on “*Populism and the Liberal International Order*”.

Johny is a UGC Junior Research Fellow in International and Area Studies. He has presented his research in International Feminist Journal of Politics Annual Conference in New Delhi (2017), IPSA-NUS Methods School at National University of Singapore (2018) and Workshop on Populism and IR organized by Review of International Studies Journal at Stellenbosch University, South Africa (2018). He has been awarded travel grants from The International Political Science Association and Review of International Studies (Journal published by Cambridge Core). Johny is also interested in Comparative Politics, Domestic Politics in International Relations and Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods.

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MasihUllah Khan is a doctoral candidate. His Doctoral thesis is on “*The Surprising Endurance of Unipolarity: A Theoretical Explanation*”.

Masih has special interest in modern European history and various Realist theories of International Politics. He has published in international journals like the *World Affairs*, national dailies like *The Statesman*. Before enrolling for the PhD programme, he taught French at the Amity University (Noida, NCR). Masih has done his Master’s in European Studies with mention ‘Very Good’ from the University of Geneva. He was awarded the Excellence Scholarship by the Swiss Government for his Master’s degree.

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Monica Verma is a doctoral candidate. Her doctoral thesis is on “*Understanding the Political Economy of South Asian Regional Integration*”.

Monica is interested in issues related to International Political Economy, Political Economy of South Asia, theories of International Relations and power transitions in International System. She has number of publications that includes contribution to the edited volume *Revisiting Nepal’s Foreign Policy in Contemporary Global Power* and a book review in *Journal of Borderlands Studies*. Monica has also contributed in the forthcoming publication titled “*Emerging Conflicts and Regional Security in South Asia*”. She has also presented papers in national conference at Indraprastha University, New Delhi, BBAU, Lucknow. Recently, Monica presented her work at the workshop on borders and regionalism in South Asian organised by the South Asian University.

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Md Ziaul Haque Sheikh is a doctoral candidate. His doctoral thesis is on, “*Assessing the Impact of Religious and Secular Constitutional Identities on Foreign Policy: Comparative Perspectives from South Asia.*”



Ziaul is interested in the areas of comparative religion and politics of South and West Asia, religion and foreign policy and identity politics and societal security issues of South and West Asia. He also has been working as an Assistant Professor of Jagannath University, Dhaka since 2011 and is currently under study leave. Earlier, Ziaul worked with Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and WAVE Foundation’s Local Governance project funded by DANIDA. Mr Sheikh has presented several papers such as “Thinking About the Role of Constitutional Identity on Foreign Policy: A Framework for Analysis at the 25<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Political Science 2018 held in Brisbane, Australia, “Reviewing the Great Power Attributes and the Status of the Ottoman Empire and Mughal India as Great power” at the 7<sup>th</sup> Uludag Conference on International Relations 2015 held at the Uludag University, Turkey.

Ziaul has published one book titled ‘*BitarkaRiti*’ (*Debate Rules*) in 2009 and multiple research articles in *European Journal of Economic and Political Studies* and *Bangladesh International Institute of Strategic Studies’ Journal* amongst others.

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Md. Shariful Islam is Research Scholar.

Shariful’s interest areas are Disciplinary history of IR, IR Theories, foreign policy of Bangladesh, and foreign policy of India amongst others. Shariful has contributed articles to *Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies*, *Journal of Bangladesh Studies*, *Journal of South Asian Studies*, *Asian Politics and Policy*, *IBS Journal*, *Social Science Journal*, *India Quarterly* and *Journal of International Affairs*. He is one of the founding faculty members in International Relations at the University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh.



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P. S Ramya is a doctoral candidate. She is working on “*From Military Organizations to Military Institutions? A Study of Myanmar's Tatmadaw*”.

Ramya is interested in South Asia with specific focus on Myanmar and Pakistan, civil-military relations and theoretical & conceptual frameworks of International Relations. She was also a Research Fellow in the International Strategic and Security Studies Programme (ISSSP), National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore. Ramya has published articles, commentaries and analytical papers in various journals and web-based platforms.



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Prakash Bhandari is a Research Scholar.

Prakash's research interests include cross-border connectivity, political economy of Belt and Road Initiative, Chinese and Indian foreign policies, and China-South Asia relations. He presented his paper ‘Chinese philosophy and cultural linkage between China and South Asia’ at *BNU Philosophy Summer School 2018* and ‘Why Connectivity is vital for the development and integration of South Asia?’ at the workshop themed on *Borders and Regionalism in South Asia* at South Asian University in 2018. He was a Research Intern at Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), New Delhi.



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Rustam Ali Seerat is a doctoral candidate. His doctoral thesis is on “*External Intervention and Ethnic Politics in Post-2001 Afghanistan*”.

Rustam is interested in identity politics and ethnic political representations. Rustam has contributed opinion pieces to the Diplomat Magazine, Foreign Policy, London School of Economics (LSE) Blog, South Asia Monitor, Geopolitics, Global Voices and Institute of Chinese Studies (New Delhi) Blog.



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Sankalp Gurjar is a doctoral candidate. His doctoral thesis is on, “*India’s Quest for Energy Security in Nigeria and Sudan (1991-2015)*”.

Sankalp is interested in India’s Foreign and Security Policies, Energy Politics, African Affairs, Geopolitics of Indian Ocean Region. Sankalp has contributed articles to, *India Quarterly, African Affairs, Seminar, The Diplomat* and *South Asian Voices*. He was a Commissioning Editor with E-IR (2017-18). His paper on ‘Chinese Maritime Activities in the Indian Ocean Maritime Africa’ won Mira Sinha Bhattacharjea Award for the Best Paper at the 10th All India Conference of China Studies held at the University of Goa, December 2017.

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Sariful Islam is a Research Scholar.

Sariful has worked as a Sub-Editor/Newsroom Editor for more than five years with multiple media houses in Bangladesh, namely, Bhorer Dhaka, Daily Sangbad, Banglanews24.com, and Somoy TV. Sariful regularly writes opinion articles on issues pertinent to domestic and international politics in national dailies in Bangladesh both in Bangla and English. His research interests include refugee and migration studies, ethnic and minority conflict, non-traditional security, South Asian regionalism, media and international politics, amongst others.

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Shubham Dwivedi is a Research scholar.

Shubham is interested in the intersection of politics, economy, and technology. His area of focus is the political economy of the Cyberspace. He is co-founder and editor of the web-based newsletter [Koinalert.com](http://Koinalert.com), where he writes frequently on cryptocurrencies, Blockchain and ICOs. Recently, he presented a paper on the ‘conceptualization of cyberspace in the 21st century’ at the workshop on Borders and Regionalism in South Asia organized by South Asian University. He previously worked on theoretical precepts of Grand Strategy. He has assisted in a book project in the last stages of publication.

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Shubham Sharma completed his M.Phil on, “*Anarchy and Structural Realism- A Dialectical Reconsideration of Concept and Epistemology*”.

Shubham’s areas of interests are Marxism, Political Theory, International Theory and Nuclear Weapons. He has contributed opinion pieces to *The Statesman*.

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Sreedhar Krishnan is a Research Scholar.

Sreedhar's areas of interest include the interplay of history, culture and politics. Specifically, he is interested in Culture and IR, Postcolonial approaches to IR, Histories of IR, Politics of memory and memory making. He intends to explore culturally and historically nuanced understanding of IR situated in South Asia. He has presented a paper titled 'An Inquiry into the Condition of Postcoloniality in Nepal' at the Annual Academic Conference organised by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras in 2018. He also participated in a Workshop on Shared Waterscapes of South Asia organised by the South Asian University.



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Syed Eesar Mehdi is a doctoral candidate. His doctoral thesis is on, "*Narrating Quotidian Kashmir: Beyond India-Pakistan Nationalist Discourses*".

Eesar is interested in the Philosophy of Science, International Relations Theory, particularly Non-Western epistemologies. Eesar has contributed articles, op-eds *Afghan Zariza*, *Greater Kashmir*, *Kashmir Images* and others.



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Syed Murtaza Mushtaq is a doctoral candidate. His doctoral thesis is on "*Political Islam and the ideas of State, War and Inter-state Relations: An Analysis through the Writings of Maulana Maududi, Tahirul Qadri, Javed Ahmad Ghamidi and Murtadha Muttahari*".

Murtaza takes keen interest in Political Islam and is able to read original texts from Urdu and Arabic. His research interests include Islam and International Relations, Political Theory and Philosophy of Religion, Non-Western IR Theory, Terrorism and West Asian Politics.



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S. Chaminda Padmakumara is a doctoral candidate. His doctoral thesis is on “*Southeast Asia as a Region: a Conceptual Study on ‘Mandala’ and ASEAN*”.

Chaminda’s research interests include Regional Integration, Regional Organizations and Environmental Governance. Chaminda has served as a resource person in various Sri Lankan academic institutions which consist of Faculty of Graduate Studies of University of Colombo, Bandaranaike Center for International Studies (BCIS), Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI) and The Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC). He has presented research papers by particularly focusing on the concept of region and the Southeast Asian regionalism at various international conferences held in Japan (2015), India (2015), Bangladesh (2016), Singapore (2017) and Malaysia (2017). Chaminda has authored a number of articles and book chapters on the themes of Regional Cooperation, Environmental Governance, Disciplinary Identity of International Relations and International System. He has recently contributed two Chapters on *Modern South Asian Thinkers*, a forthcoming to be published by SAGE, 2018.

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Uddipta Ranjan Boruah is a doctoral candidate.

Uddipta is a post graduate in IR from the South Asian University and a Commerce (Honours) graduate from the University of Delhi. His M.A. Dissertation focused on the role of domestic politics in the regional integration approaches of India. His areas of study and interest are Borders and Border Regions, Borderlands with special reference to the northeastern borderlands of India, and regional integration processes. He operates a blog by the name [urbscribbles.blogspot.in](http://urbscribbles.blogspot.in) and tweets through the handle @RanjanUddipta.



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Vaishali Raghuvanshi is a doctoral candidate. Her doctoral thesis is on, “*Images of the other: Pakistan in the Narratives of India's Popular Culture*”.

Vaishali’s research interests are India-Pakistan Relations and Cinema, South Asian Politics and Popular Culture, Using Creative space in International Relations and Mental Borders. Vaishali is a recipient of Doctoral fellowship from Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). She has also received International Travel Grant from ICSSR to attend 58th Annual International Studies Association Convention. Vaishali has participated in several International and National conferences including International Studies Association Annual Convention from 2015-2018. She has authored various journal articles and book chapters for national and international publications. She is also a member of editorial board of an International journal, *World Research of Political Science Journal*. Presently, Vaishali is working as an Assistant Professor at School of Business studies and Social Sciences, Christ University, Bangalore.



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