



# TENTH YOUNG SCHOLARS' CONFERENCE

## *WEST ASIA AND NORTH AFRICA IN THE GLOBAL CROSSCURRENTS*

02-03 May 2024 | Room No. 344, SIS-II, JNU

Inaugural Address



**Prof. Amitabh Mattoo**  
Dean, SIS, JNU

Valedictory Address



**Prof. Santishree  
Dhulipudi Pandit**  
Vice-Chancellor, JNU

Keynote Speaker



**Dr. Md. Zubeer Ahmed**  
Janki Devi Memorial College, DU

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## **Tenth Young Scholars' Conference**

### ***West Asia and North Africa in the Global Crosscurrents***

02-03 May 2024

#### **PROGRAMME SCHEDULE**

##### **Day 1: Thursday, 02 May 2024**

**Registration (9:30 AM – 10:00 AM)**

**Inaugural Session (10:00 AM – 11:00 AM)**

Welcome Address **Rajat Biswakarma**  
SFC Member & PhD Candidate, CWAS, JNU

Introduction of the Theme **Jappandeep Kour**  
SFC Member & PhD Candidate, CWAS, JNU

Inaugural Address **Prof. Amitabh Mattoo**  
Dean, SIS, JNU

Keynote Address **Dr. Md. Zubeer Ahmed**  
Associate Professor, Janki Devi Memorial College,  
University of Delhi & Alumnus, CWAS

Vote of Thanks **Monalisa Dash**  
PhD Candidate, CWAS, JNU

**Tea Break (11:00 AM – 11:30 AM)**

**Panel I: History, State and Society (11:30 AM – 1:00 AM)**

Chair: **Sweta Basak**, PhD Candidate, Jawaharlal Nehru University

- 1 Ancient Israel: Rediscovering the Remnants of a Forgotten State  
**David N John**, MA Student, MG University, Kottayam
- 2 Strategic Chokepoint, Commercial Epicentre: The Role of Hormuz in Indian Ocean Trade (16th-17th Century)  
**Sakshi Sharma**, PhD Candidate, Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia
- 3 Turkey: The Making of a Cross Cultural Society  
**Junayed Mahin**, MA Student, Sikkim University

- 4 In Search of Muslim Democracy? Al-Nahda in the Post-Arab Spring Era  
**Arslan Wali Khan**, PhD Candidate, School of Social Sciences National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru & **Muhammed Salshabeel**, PhD Candidate, Centre for Political Studies, JNU
- 5 Labour Migration and National Identity Construction in the GCC Countries  
**Irfan Ahmed Nazir**, PhD Candidate, CWAS, JNU

**Lunch Break (1:00 PM – 2:00 PM)**

**Panel II: Economy, Resources and Technology (2:00 PM – 3:30 PM)**

Chair: **Vishwajeet Singh Akhawat**, PhD Candidate, CWAS, JNU

- 1 From Ports to Plantations: An Investigation into Mediterranean and Red Sea Trade in Spices and Slaves  
**Jayendra Narain**, Department of African Studies, University of Delhi
- 2 Syrian Refugee Resilience: Catalysing Economic Growth in Saudi Arabia  
**Jothika A**, MA Student, University of Kerala & **Abdul Rahman A**, MA Student, University of Kerala
- 3 The ‘Encrypt’ of Crypto: Embracing WANA and the Future of Geopolitics in the Region  
**Srishti Gupta**, MA Student, SIS, JNU
- 4 Towards Geopolitics of Energy: Role of the East Mediterranean Gas Forum  
**Rahul Kundu**, PhD Candidate, Centre for European Studies, JNU
- 5 Space Exploration Partnerships in West Asia: Collaborations and Competitions  
**Arshpreet Kaur**, MA Student, Jamia Millia Islamia

**Tea Break (3:30 PM – 4:00 PM)**

**Panel III: Arts, Aesthetics and Culture (4:00 PM – 5:30 PM)**

Chair: **Abdul Shafwan T H**, PhD Candidate, CWAS, JNU

- 1 Marjane Satrapi Graphic Novels: Exploring Identity, Trauma, and Resilience in Iran  
**Kaushal Kumar**, MA Student, Central University of Gujarat
- 2 Re-imagining Islam between the Tradition and Modernity: An Appraisal of Ali Shariati  
**Irfan Ali Najjar**, Independent Researcher
- 3 Preserving Heritage: Challenges and Imperatives in the WANA Region  
**Jishma. T. S**, MA Student, University of Kerala
- 4 The Power of Creative Dissent: Exploring Artistic Expression in Politics in Morocco  
**Rashi Manhas**, MA Student, SIS, JNU
- 5 Unveiling the Power of Sports in Saudi Arabia’s Diplomatic Strategies  
**Abdulsami Haidari**, PhD Candidate, MG University, Kottayam

**Day 2: Friday, 28 April 2023**

**Panel IV: Conflicts, Interventions and Security (9:30 AM – 11:00 AM)**

Chair: **Arvind Kumar**, SFC Member & PhD Candidate, CWAS, JNU

- 1 Power Dynamics in Transition: Analysing the Contemporary Contours of Iran-China Relations and its Implications for the Region  
**Souryajyoti Roy Chodhury**, PhD Candidate, CWAS, JNU
- 2 A Drone Apart; Navigating the 'Non-Traditional' Turkish Military Diplomacy  
**Amith Binesh**, MA Student, MG University, Kottayam
- 3 An Assessment of the Red Sea Crisis and the Key Actors Involved  
**Sandra Sajeew D Costa**, MA Student, Loyola College, Chennai
- 4 Iran's Strategic Calculations in North Africa: Power Rivalries and Regional Influence  
**Rahana Sherin K V**, PhD Candidate, MMAJ Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia
- 5 The Quest for Influence in the Red Sea: An Examination of West Asian Interventions in Context of the Ethiopia-Somaliland Deal  
**Samir Bhattacharya**, PhD Candidate, Centre for African Studies, JNU

**Tea Break (11:00 AM – 11:30 AM)**

**Panel V: Gender, Minorities and Identity (11:30 AM – 1:00 PM)**

Chair: **Yashi Baranwal**, PhD Candidate, CWAS, JNU

- 1 Headscarves and High Heels: Navigating Female Agency between Iranian Restrictions and Saudi Arabia's Evolving Gender Landscape  
**Vaibhavi**, MA Student, SIS, JNU
- 2 Unveiling Pinkwashing: Homonationalism and Israel's Strategic Deployment of LGBTQ+ Rights in Palestine  
**Appandai Raj**, MA Student, SIS, JNU
- 3 Bedouins Across Borders: Identity at Times of Conflict  
**Sukhmanjit Singh**, MA Student, Jamia Millia Islamia
- 4 The Azeri Ethnonationalism as a Challenge to the Dominant State Ideology in Iran  
**Liyaqat Nazir**, PhD Candidate, CWAS, JNU
- 5 Bangladeshi Diaspora in West Asia: Religious Identity and Transnational Connections  
**Madhurima Pramanik**, PhD Candidate, MMAJ Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia

**Lunch Break (1:00 PM – 2:00 PM)**

## **Panel VI: Climate, Sustainability and Energy Transitions (2:00 PM – 3:30 PM)**

Chair: **Abul Kalam**, PhD Candidate, CWAS, JNU

- 1      Flowing Forward: A Critical Analysis of Water Security Strategies in Saudi Arabia  
**Stuti Gogoi**, PhD Candidate, CWAS, JNU
- 2      Assessment of Decarbonisation Pathways in West Asian Oil Economies: A Critical Study of Energy Transition Policies of UAE and Saudi Arabia  
**Pawan Ashok Singh**, PhD Candidate, University of Allahabad
- 3      Building Climate Resilience: Egypt's Nexus of Water, Food and Energy (NWFE) Program  
**Pratibha Poonia**, PhD Candidate, Centre for African Studies, JNU
- 4      Sustainable Tourism in GCC: Stabilising Growth and Environmental Preservation  
**Thwaha Hamdan**, MA Student, Jamia Millia Islamia & **Farhan Muhammed**, MA Student, Jamia Millia Islamia
- 5      Economic Diversification in Oil Rich Countries: A Study of Saudi Arabia  
**Sippy Gupta**, PhD Candidate, CWAS, JNU & **Mohd Aslam**, PhD Candidate, CWAS, JNU

## **Valedictory Session (4:00 PM – 5:00 PM)**

Chair: **Kelvin Benny**, SFC Member & PhD Candidate, CWAS, JNU

Rapporteur's Report	Students, CWAS
Valedictory Address	<b>Prof. Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit</b> Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University
Vote of Thanks	<b>Rajat Biswakarma</b> SFC Member & PhD Candidate, CWAS, JNU

## **High Tea (5:00 PM – 5:30 PM)**