

## **ABSTRACT FOR ISMS CONFERENCE 2023**

**(Pref. Working Group - Security and Defence Policy Strategy)**

### **Title of Abstract:**

**India's Security and Defence Strategy in the Indo-Pacific:  
Navigating Contours of Alliances and Defence Partnerships**

**Name:** Dr. Mohor Chakraborty

**Designation:** Assistant Professor in Political Science

**Affiliation:** South Calcutta Girls' College (aff. To University of Calcutta)

Kolkata, India

**Email:** mohor\_5@yahoo.co.in

The evolution of the concept of hybrid warfare and sophistication of war techniques has transformed the security and defence policy strategies of states and alliances. Among the strategically significant landscapes, the Indo-Pacific region has emerged as a volatile space, vitiated by China's revanchist policies and assertive practices, particularly in the South China Sea. India's geo-strategic location and emergence as a responsible stakeholder in the Indo-Pacific region substantiates its benign role of maintaining and promoting the values of peace, stability, security, freedom of navigation and over-flight, in keeping with the universally recognised principles of international law. The espousal of India's security policy and doctrine towards defence of national territory, air, maritime space and other relevant domains serves as the pivot for realising its Indo-Pacific policy, viewed through the defensive realist logic of security maximisation. The policy seeks to maintain the 'status quo' through strategies of deterring regional hegemony and guaranteeing balance of power, as well as enhancing cooperation with its regional counterparts, premised on the principles of internal and external balancing. The complexities, sophistication of hybrid warfare techniques, coupled with the ever-changing nature of traditional and non-traditional threats to security impinge on the Indian policy-makers and defence forces to formulate adequate strategy and foster alliance relationships with like-minded compatriots.

In this context, the abstract proposes to situate the theoretical premise and rationale of India's enunciation of an integrated national defence strategy; analyse the significance of alliance formation, with particular reference to QUAD and EU-India cooperation in the Indo-Pacific; chart the prospects for boosting private-public partnership in the defence-industrial complex, both at the national and international levels; and identify the challenges and opportunities in the trajectory.

