

Purvaja Modak

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- Researcher, analyst and manager with six years of work experience
- Areas of Research: Geoeconomics and global governance, economic multilateralism, international trade, finance, international financial regulations

Research Fellow, International Relations – Geoeconomics

Centre for Public Policy Research, Kochi

April 2021 to date

Author profile: <https://www.cppr.in/author/purvaja-modak>

- Authors research articles, issue briefs and research papers for CPPR on issues of international financial architecture, global economy, global trading system, business diplomacy, and international monetary system.
- Represents CPPR at domestic and international meetings, roundtables, forums and conferences on issues of India's foreign economic policy and global economic-policy making
- Serves as the research and content lead for several events – webinars, podcasts and conferences organised by CPPR
- Engaging CPPR senior scholars on their areas of research through podcasts, articles and webinars.

Independent Researcher

March 2020 to March 2021

Researcher - Paper on 'Digital governance in India: A documentation of India's domestic priorities and regulations', authored by Akshay Mathur for the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Canada

Researcher, Geoeconomic Studies

Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations, Mumbai

December 2015 to March 2020

(Previously: Research Intern – September 2015 to November 2015)

Author profile: <https://www.gatewayhouse.in/author/purvaja-modak/>

- Authored and co-authored research articles for Gateway House website on issues of international financial architecture, global economy, global trading system, business diplomacy, and international monetary system.
- Presented research at domestic and international meetings, roundtables, forums and conferences and to corporates on issues of India's foreign economic policy and global economic-policy making.
- Developed and submitted policy inputs into the official process of the G20 and BRICS, and to India's Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Finance.
- Contributed to the development of the G20 and Geoeconomics Study programme at Gateway House
- Assisted senior scholars with research inputs for their articles, research papers and presentations to government officials and business leaders.

Manager, Research Office

Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations

April 2019 to March 2020

(Previously: Assistant Manager, Research Office – January 2017 to March 2019)

- Launched and led the Research Office – division for managing research projects
 - Planned, designed and implemented research projects, including drafting proposals with budgets
 - Managed the editing and publishing process
 - Created short-term and long-term budget, staffing and administrative plans for the research team
 - Presented the quarterly outlook of the research team to the senior management
 - Conceptualised and conducted the Weekly research team meeting and the Annual Research Offsite

- Curated, co-designed, planned and managed conferences, roundtables and seminars
- Managed talent acquisition and human resources, including preparing job descriptions, screening, reference checks, onboarding and performance management

Research Associate

with Prof. Dr. Mala Lalvani, RBI Chair Professor in Political Economy, Mumbai School of Economics and Public Policy, University of Mumbai

April 2015 to May 2015

Role: Data cleaning and organisation, data analysis, econometric analysis using STATA

Research Assistant

with Prof. Dr. Anuradha Kalhan Siddiqui on her post-doctoral research on informal sector employment in Mumbai – A study of the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojna (SJSRY) and bachat gats (self-help groups)

July 2010 to April 2011

Role: Field work in Dharavi, Worli and Santacruz areas; analysis and dissemination of the findings

Intern

Reliable Investments, an exclusive franchisee of Motilal Oswal Securities Pvt Ltd

May 2010 to June 2010

Role: Assisted in all the departments i.e. mutual funds, portfolio management, DEMAT account operations, IPOs, online trading in the selection of appropriate investment schemes for clients

Published research

For the G20

- *“A decentralized, consumer driven model for the solar ecosystem”*, G20 Germany (G20 Insights Platform), April 7, 2017 (Co-authored with Amit Bhandari and Akshay Mathur)
- *“Measuring cross-border trade in services by partner country and company”*, (G20 Insights Platform), April 7, 2017 (Co-authored with Akshay Mathur)
- *“A global framework for tracing beneficial ownership”*, G20 Argentina, July 2, 2018 (Co-authored with K.N. Vaidyanathan and Akshay Mathur)
- *“Mainstreaming Natural Capital Valuation”*, G20 Japan, April 9, 2019, (Co-authored with K.N. Vaidyanathan and Akshay Mathur)
- *“G20: The Economic Steering Committee for the World”*, April 29, 2021
- *“G20’s leadership for global health security and pandemic preparedness”*, September 29, 2021
- *“A call for WTO reform: what can G20 and BRICS do?”*, October 1, 2021
- *“Three ‘I’s influence G20’s discourse”*, December 17, 2021

On multilateral issues

- *“Evaluating BRICS @ 11: views from Shanghai”*, June 8, 2017
- *“Reflections from T20 Tokyo”*, December 20, 2018
- *“Goodbye, RCEP”*, November 7, 2019 (Co-authored with Akshay Mathur)
- *“Regulating services trade in India”*, January 2, 2020 (Co-authored with Akshay Mathur)
- *“India: a (responsible) global covid19 response leader”*, June 3, 2021
- *“China’s vaccine diplomacy, the Health Silk Road and a global pledge”*, June 22, 2021
- *“The New Development Bank Turns Six: Evaluating Successes, Failures and Challenges”*, July 26, 2021

On bilateral issues

- *“Moving Forward the EU-India Security Dialogue: Traditional and Emerging Issues”* - EU-India Think Tank Twinning Initiative 2016 (series of research papers with scholars from Istituto Affari Internazionali, Italy and Gateway House), May 31, 2017 (ISBN/ISSN/DOI: 978-88-6812-853-1)

(Researcher and Project Manager for papers on ‘*Maritime Security and Freedom of Navigation from the South China Sea and Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean*’; ‘*India-EU Cooperation on Cyber Security and Data Protection*’; ‘*Potential and Challenges of India-EU Space Cooperation*’; ‘*India-EU Defence Cooperation: The Role of Industry*’)

- “Filling two vacancies in Iran,” April 26, 2017 (Co-authored with Amit Bhandari and Aditya Phatak)
- “*China: four-city eye opener*”, March 23, 2017
- “*Argentina: In the ascendant*”, August 10, 2017
- “*Can India sanction Pakistan post Pulwama?*”, March 28, 2019 (Research inputs)
- “*The DMZ, between peace and hostility*”, August 14, 2019
- *Cooperation in trade in services (for the India Canada Track 1.5 Dialogue 2019)* – (Co-authored with Akshay Mathur)

On international finance

- Summaries of sessions on ‘*Financialisation*’, ‘*The G20*’ and ‘*Trade in Services*’ for the Conference report of the Gateway of India Geoeconomic Dialogue 2018, July 5, 2018
- “*LEI, a gold standard for financial transparency*”, September 14, 2018
- “*FATF: a global financing watchdog*”, February 28, 2019
- “*Pricing Nature: India’s Opportunity*”, May 24, 2019
- “*Pakistan under FATF’s critical review*”, February 13, 2020
- ‘*Pakistan’s long tryst with the FATF*’, July 1, 2021
- “*FATF’s scrutiny and what non-compliance means*”, November 19, 2021

Research inputs, briefs and presentations

For the Ministry of Finance and United Nations Development Programme, India

Research inputs for papers on:

- *Designing procurement policies for the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the BRICS New Development Bank*
- *Assessing India as the G20 President*

For the Ministry of External Affairs:

Research inputs on:

- *India’s agenda for BRICS presidency in 2021*
- *India’s agenda for G20 presidency in 2022*

For the Ministry of Finance, Japan

Research inputs on:

- *Infrastructure and connectivity challenges in India’s North East*

High-level government, diplomatic briefs

Research inputs on:

- *India’s multilateral engagements*
- *BIMSTEC*
- *India China economic and cultural exchanges*
- *Multilateral financial institutions*
- *Multilateral development banks and their financing activities*
- *India Stack as a foreign policy tool*
- *Climate finance*
- *The Belt and Road Initiative*
- *Trade in services*

Corporate briefs

Research inputs on:

- *Iran – Geopolitical and Geoeconomic Country Risk report* for the Mahindra group
- *Economy, culture and social conditions in Lhasa, Kathmandu and Beijing* for a high-level business delegation from Gateway House visiting these cities.

Conference curation, budgeting, management and background research

- Official G20 meeting in 2015, under the official process of the Turkish G20 presidency in collaboration with the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV)
- Official G20 meeting in 2016, under the official process of the Chinese G20 presidency in collaboration with Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University (RDCY), Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) and Institute of World Economics and Politics (IWEP), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)
- Official G20 meeting in 2017, under the official process of the German G20 presidency in collaboration with Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW) and the German Development Institute (DIE) (2017)
- Official G20 meeting in 2018, under the official process of the Argentine G20 presidency in collaboration with the Argentine Council on Foreign Relations (CARI) and Centre for the Implementation of Public Policies Promoting Equity and Growth (CIPPEC)
- Official G20 meeting in 2019, under the official process of the Japanese G20 presidency in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) and Institute for International Monetary Affairs (IIMA)
- Gateway of India Geoeconomic Dialogue, India's signature geoeconomics conference, co-hosted with India's Ministry of External Affairs in 2016, 2017 and 2018
- BRICS Economic Forum 2016
- EU- India Think Tank Twinning initiative 2016
- India-China Think Tank Forum 2016, co-hosted with Institute of World Economics and Politics (IWEP), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)
- Roundtable on 'Trade in Services' 2017, with International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), Geneva, Switzerland
- India Canada Track 1.5 Dialogue 2018, with the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Waterloo, Canada
- India-Japan Dialogue 2019, with Japan Institute for International Affairs (JIIA) and Delhi Policy Group (DPG)
- India Canada Track 1.5 Dialogue 2019, with the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Waterloo, Canada
- A webinar series on India-US Relations: Taking it to the next level, with the US Consulate General, Chennai – curating and hosting the webinar, writing issue briefs based on the discussions
 - Issue Brief on US and India as Partners in Climate Action - A Clean Energy Agenda: <https://www.cppr.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/US-INDIA-PARTNERS-FOR-CHANGE.pdf>
 - Issue Brief on US and India's Indo Pacific Strategy: Reimagining the Maritime Outlook: <https://www.cppr.in/policy-briefs/us-india-indo-pacific-strategy-reimagining-the-maritime-outlook>
 - Issue Brief on US India Trade Relations: to be published

Speaking engagements: Conferences and study delegations

- Member of a think tank study delegation to China to study the India China bilateral relationship – represented India at Track 1.5 and track 2 meetings with Chinese think tank scholars, Indian diplomats, Chinese businesses – December 12-24, 2016
- Presentation on '*BRICS banking sector cooperation*' at the '1st BRICS Think tank forum on pragmatic cooperation', Centre for BRICS Studies, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, May 25-26, 2017
- Participation in the T20 Inception Conference under Japan's G20 Presidency of 2019 and in a working session of the T20 taskforce on 'International Financial Architecture for Stability and Development' in Tokyo, Japan - December 4-5, 2018,

- Presentation on 'India's priorities for its G20 presidency of 2022 and BRICS presidency of 2021' at a conference on Globalisation 4.0, Centre for International Institutions Research (CIIR), RANEPa University, Moscow, Russia, – October 3-4, 2019
- Hosted a Virtual Conference on Strategic Futures: Regional Maritime Security Complexes (Western Pacific Rim; Indian Ocean – Southern Ocean; and the Arabian Sea Littoral), organised by the Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR) and the Indian Council on World Affairs (ICWA)
- Hosted a three-webinar series on the Political crisis in Afghanistan, for the Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR)
- Presentation at a session on Post Covid 3Rs: Renaissance, Resilience, Recovery at the 5th India Think Tank Forum, hosted by Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi and the Think Tanks and Civil Society Programme of University of Pennsylvania - September 29, 2021
- Hosted a book discussion for the Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR) on a book called, 'Blinkers Off: How can the world counter China?' authored by Gaurie Dwivedi - October 21, 2021
- Moderated a session on India Nepal Relations at a conference on 'Understanding Nepal's foreign policy', on November 27, 2021, hosted by the Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE), Kathmandu

Podcasts

- How will The 'New Pandemic Treaty' shape the post- Covid world?, June 3, 2021
- Future of Climate Change and Corporate Responsibility, June 15, 2021
- Strategic vaccine diplomacy and the changing global order, July 30, 2021
- Role of Private Sector in Chinese Economy- Part 1, August 7, 2021
- United States and India as Partners in Climate Action, August 13, 2021
- Role of Private Sector in Chinese Economy – Part II, August 20, 2021

Leadership training (by nomination and selection)

- Fellow, 2nd G20 Global Leadership Programme 2019, organized by the Korean Development Institute's School of Public Policy and the Korean Ministry of Strategy and Finance, in Seoul, South Korea (July – August 2019) - Made a presentation on 'Infrastructure Development and the G20'
- Participant and cohort member at the Asia Liberty Forum 2021, sponsored by the Atlas Network

Educational qualifications

Master of Arts (MA) Economics

Mumbai School of Economics and Public Policy, University of Mumbai, 2014

Percentage/GPA: CGPA - 6.3; Semester 1 – 5.8; Semester 2 – 5.8; Semester 3 – 5.9; Semester 4 – 7.4

Bachelor of Arts (BA) Economics

Jai Hind College, University of Mumbai, 2012

Percentage/GPA: 70.67%

Extracurricular Activities

- College Activities: Treasurer, Economics Association and Joint Secretary, History Association, Jai Hind College, Organised exhibitions for women entrepreneurs of self-help groups under the Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rojgar Yojna (SJSRY) at Jai Hind College and the University of Mumbai.
- Self: Volunteer at Pragati Kendra, an NGO for the mentally challenged, assisting teachers by providing personal attention to select students, Portrait and Landscape Photography, Strength training, Zumba

Language proficiency

English (Fluent); Hindi (Fluent); Marathi (mother tongue); French (Basic proficiency) – cleared the A1 and A2 levels at Alliance Francaise de Bombay and cleared the DELF examination for both levels.