

**CHRIST**(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
BANGALORE | DELHI NCR | PUNE

Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Mr Jofin Joy, Registration Number: 2190109, PhD Scholar at the Department of International Studies, Political Science and History, School of Social Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) will defend his PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Thursday, 11 June 2026 at 11.00 am in Room No. 628, 6th Floor, R&D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka, India.

- Title of the Thesis** : **China's Economic and Strategic Interests in the Indian Ocean Region since 2008: Study of Its Impact on India**
- Discipline** : **Political Science**
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- Supervisor** : **Dr Anurag Tripathi**
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The members of the Research Advisory Committee of the Scholar, the faculty members of the Department and the School, interested experts and research scholars of all the branches of research are cordially invited to attend this open viva-voce examination.

Registrar (Academics)

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 08 June 2026

ABSTRACT

The Indian Ocean Region is pivotal in facilitating connectivity and fostering relationships between South Asia, the Middle East, the Eastern coast of Africa, and various islands across different regions. The dominance of petroleum in commerce stems from the Indian Ocean becoming a crucial route for transporting crude oil to Europe, North America, and East Asia. India's foreign policy primarily focuses on prioritising its neighbouring countries. The Indian Ocean region is dominated by major players, including the United States of America, China, the UK, India, Japan, Australia, and France. These countries have unique strategic priorities and policies they pursue in the region. China is more concerned about the IOR because it is increasingly becoming a hub for the transport of goods, energy resources, and petroleum products. More than 80 per cent of global seaborne oil trade passes through the IOR. The role and importance of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for regional cooperation (IORA) are also prominent in this region. Furthermore, China is utilizing its economic ties with the region to boost its naval power and strengthen its position in the global economy. China intends to safeguard its sea lanes and limit India's influence in these regions. Based on recent studies, China's increasing involvement in the IOR can be attributed to its attempt to counterbalance the influence of Japan and the U.S. This study simultaneously seeks to establish China's dominance and to assess the region through alternative means. China's strategic plans in the IOR include the Belt and Road Initiative, debt trap policies, the string of pearls theory, and the revival of trade routes, all aimed at consolidating its regional power. This study tries to analyse Chinese strategic interests in the IOR and their impact on India's interests.

Keywords: *IOR, IORA, Belt Road Initiative, String of Pearls, Debt Trap Policy, Trade Routes*

Publications:

1. **Joy, Jofin;** Karlekar, Lakshmi and Tripathi, Anurag (2025). Maritime Big Play Strategy: Solidifying the role of AUKUS in the Indo-Pacific. *Multidisciplinary Science Journal* by Malque Publishers. 7(8), 2025472. DOI:10.31893/multiscience.2025372
2. **Joy, Jofin;** (2025). Maritime Geopolitics and Mental Health: Socio-Psychological Impacts on Strategic Tension in the Indian Ocean Coastal Communities. *Mental Health and Social Inclusion*, Emerald Publications. <https://doi.org/10.1108/MHSI-08-2025-0234>
3. **Joy, Jofin;** Karlekar, Lakshmi and Tripathi, Anurag (2025). Free and Open Indo-Pacific Vision: Integrating QUAD for India's Ambition. <https://www.routledge.com/Green-Power-Politics-and-Climate-Change-The-Future-of-Environmental-Politics-in-the-Indo-Pacific/Mukhia-SinghManhas-Pathak/p/book/9781041281467>
4. **Joy, Jofin** (2021). Maritime Security of India: Capabilities and Challenges. *Electronic Journal of Social and Strategic Studies (EJSS)*. 2 (3), 397-405. <https://doi.org/10.47362/EJSS.2021.2308>