



Indian Council of
Social Science Research



ICSSR SPONSORED NATIONAL SEMINAR ON
PRESENT FOREIGN POLICY: FROM THE PRISM OF SOUTH ASIA
Organised by : Department of Political Science, Mahishadal Girls' College
P.O. : Mahishadal , Dist : Purba Medinipur , Pin : 721628 ,West Bengal.
Venue : Vivekananda Hall
Date : 21 – 22 November 2017

It is our immense pleasure to announce that the Department of Political Science , Mahishadal Girls' College is going to organize a Two Day **Indian council of social science Research (ICSSR)** Sponsored National Seminar on "**Present Foreign Policy: From the Prism of South Asia**" to be held on and from 21st – 22nd November,2017 in our college premises.

Abstract are invited (not more then 500 words) from academicians , research scholars and students on the following areas and themes. The abstract should be reached by email within 10th November,2017. The full papers within 5000 words are also expected from the paper presenters before 17th November, 2017. Some selected papers may be published with ISBN in edited volume. Must be mention details of authorship and institutional affiliations. Abstracts and full papers are to be sent in MS word and PDF format to the following e-mail address.....

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Contract No.

Dr. Debasis Mahapatra, Convenar & Secretary, ICSSR sponsored National Seminar.

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Registration Fee :

Faculty/Professionals/ Paper Presenters : Rs-500/-

Research scholars: Rs-300/-

Students: Rs-200/-

Note: no TA/DA will be admissible.

Access the Venue : Mahishadal Girls' College is located at a 34 km distance from Mecheda Railway Station. The college is well connected by Bus . The college is 01 km away from Mahishadal Cinema More towards Geonkhali River near Satis Samanta Halt Railway Station. Reach from Howrah Station at Howrah – Haldia Local -06:00 am and 09:30 am.

Concept Note :

Present Foreign Policy: From the Prism of South Asia

Even before becoming the Prime Minister Narendra Modi hinted that his foreign policy will actively focus on improving ties with India's immediate neighbors. Which is being termed as 'neighborhood first policy' in the media and he started well by inviting all heads of state / heads of government of south Asian countries in his inauguration and on the second day on office he held bilateral talks with all of them individually which was dubbed as a mini SARRC summit by the media. Later during a lunch event at ISRO he has asked Indian Scientists to take the Endeavour to develop a dedicated SAARC satellite to Share the fruit of the technology like telemedicine, e-medicine, e-learning etc with the people across south Asia to competent the currently operating Indian Technical Economic Cooperation Programme in the region. In this connection the 'act-east' policy under the leadership of Narendra Modi the new government of India has made its relations with East Asian countries a foreign policy priority at a time when United States has engaged in a "pivot to Asia".

Perceptions play a very significant role in South Asian politics. They have largely shaped and influenced state policies and politics among the South Asian Countries, especially in relation to India, over the years. State policies have at times been hostage to negative and adversarial perceptions, Well-entrenched in the popular psyche. The perception formation in South Asia is an extremely dynamic process and has evolved differently in different Countries. Perceptions are not static and often change with the shift in domestic as well as regional and Global Politics. There are myriad stakeholders with diverse sectional interests –explicitly or implicitly shaping and influencing perceptions among countries in South Asia. In this connection we focus on the India's present foreign policy about South Asia. Modi initially showed much determination about the integration and stability of the region. Practically this National Seminar framing and narrating with the three distinctive approaches like 'Conflict and Cooperation', 'Cooperation', and the interplay of identities of cultural and political' for the develop a critical ability of the scholars. They will develop a comparative perspective from which to understand inter-regional dynamics and the role of regional power, an empirical foundation with which to narrate key moments in the bilateral and multilateral interactions between states in the region , and a sense of South Asia's place and significance in broader international arena. . This seminar also search for an alternative paradigm, discusses how constructivism, critical theory, post-colonial traditions of thought and feminist approaches offer alternative ways to understand international politics in South Asia.

In this connection India's present foreign policy much of this criticism is perplexing. Ambiguity and deniability have value in foreign affairs. As consequence, neither this Indian Government nor any of its predecessors have ever explicitly spelled out their strategic intensions in a single documents, although there are plenty of public statements that offer a good indication of the Government's outlook. These

public articulations , combined with the nature , outcomes, and timing of Modi's diplomatic activities, offer a clear picture of India's priorities and strategic objectives. They essentially five fold :

- I. Prioritizing an integrated " neighborhood first"
- II. Leveraging international partnership to promote India's domestic development.
- III. Ensuring a stable and multipolar balance of power in the indo-pacific, "Act East".
- IV. Dissuading Pakistan from terrorism.
- V. Advancing Indian representation and leadership on matter of global governance.

These are the yardstick against which the international activities of this government-or , for that matter , any Indian government should be measured . In each case it is important to access the progress made , the setback experienced, and the long term or structural challenges that will continue to confront India.

Purpose of the seminar is to highlight India's present south Asia policy under the prism of 'act-east' policy. This seminar is also emphasize how far this present south Asia policy different from the UPA government. This seminar will also highlight India's overall south Asia policy taking off course each country as a separate component. This seminar further highlights the role of SAARC, BBIM and other sub-regional organizations. It will try to find out whether the sub-regional organizations are playing an effective role in formulating India's present south Asia policy. The theme of the seminar will try to find out how far the north-eastern states are playing important role in augmenting present south Asia policy and where Myanmar remain a major component . In order to make this seminar grant success important scholars at least one outside of west Bengal will be invited. Others scholars are invited mainly from various colleges and Universities who have an expertise on the proposed area.

Theme of the seminar:

- a. Recent trends of India's foreign policy special reference to south- Asia.
- b. Present south Asia policy spl. Reference to Bangladesh.
- c. India and small neighbours (Nepal, Bhutan, Maldwip, Srilanka ,Afganistan)
- d. India's present Pakistan policy.
- e. Sub-regional organizations in south –Asia.

Tentative Sessions

TECHNICAL SESSION: 1

INAUGURATION OF THE SEMINAR

21-11-2017 : Tuesday

10:00 – Registration

10:30 - Felicitation of guests

11:00 – Welcome address

Dr. Utpal kumar Utthasani , Principal, Mahishadal Girls' College

11:15 – Inaugural address by the Chief Guest

Mr. Jamal Hossain , Counsellor, Deputy High commission of Bangladesh.

11:30 – Keynote address

Prof. Rajagopal Dhar Chaktaborty , Registrar and Former Professor, Dept. of South and South East Asian Studies, Calcutta University.

12:30 – Vote of Thanks

Prof. Krishna Saha , Head, Dept. Political Science, , Mahishadal Girls' College

TECHNICAL SESSION :2

12:30 – 1:30 **Present south Asia policy spl. Reference to Bangladesh**

Chair : Prof. Rajagopal Dhar Chakraborty , Registrar and Former Professor, Dept. of South and South East Asian Studies, Calcutta University.

Speaker: 1. Prof. Joyati Bhattacharrya, Dept. of Political Science, Assam University

2. Prof. Parikhith Thakur , Dept. of Political Science, D.L.Roy College

1:30 – 2:00 –Lunch Break

TECHNICAL SESSION :3

2:00 – 3:00 **India and small neighbours (Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka)**

Chair: Prof. Jayati Bhattacharya, Dept. of Political Science, Assam University

Speaker: 1 . Prof. Biswanath Chakraborty, Dept. of political Science, Rabindra Bharati University

2. Prof. Debasis Nandi , Dept. of political Science, Kancharapara College.

22-11-2017 : Wednesday

TECHNICAL SESSION :4

10:30- 11:30 **India and small neighbours (Bhutan, Afghanistan)**

Chair: Prof. Prosenjit Pal , Dept. of Political Science, Burdwan University

Speaker: 1. Prof. Anik Chottopadhyay, Dept. Political Science, Hooghly Mohosin College.

2. . Prof. Eyasin Khan , Dept. of political Science, Vidyasagar University .

3. Mr. Sarthak Choudhury, Advocate , Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.

TECHNICAL SESSION :5

11: 30 – 12:30 **India's Pakistan policy.**

Chair: . Prof. Eyasin Khan , Dept. of political Science, Vidyasagar University

Speaker 1. : Prof. Prosenjit Pal , Dept. of Political Science, Burdwan University

2. Tapas Sinha, Social Activists.

12:30 -12:40 : Tea Break

TECHNICAL SESSION :6

12:40 – 01: 40 Sub-regional Organisations in South Asia

Chair: Prof. Anik Chottopadhyay, Dept. Political Science, Hooghly Mohosin College

Speaker : 1. Prof. Debasis Mahapatra, Dept. of political Science, Mahishadal Girls' College.

2. Paper Presented by Faculty members.

3. Papers Presented by M.phil and Ph.D. Scholars.

01:40 – 02:10 – Lunch Break. Session to be continued.

02:10 – 02:30 – Valedictory address by Convener and Secretary of the National Seminar

02:30 – 03:00 – Distribution of Certificates.

Dr. Utpal Kumar Utthasani : Principal & Chairman, ICSSR Sponsored National Seminar. Mahishadal Girls' College.

Dr. Debasis Mahapatra : Convener & Secretary, ICSSR Sponsored National Seminar. Mahishadal Girls' College.

Prof. Krishna Saha : Head, Department Of Political Science. Mahishadal Girls' College.