



DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS & POLITICS

TWO DAYS NATIONAL SEMINAR ON 'IMAGINING SOUTH ASIA IN NEW PERSPECTIVES: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES' FEBRUARY 17TH-18TH, 2016

Concept Note

South Asia is a well-defined sub-region of the Asian continent, the huge mountain ranges and the oceans serving as natural boundaries separate it from rest of the Asia. The very idea of the Indian subcontinent represented one region and has the legacy of shared cultural and historical experiences. The process of decolonisation resulted into the formation of independent sovereign states; however, the partition of India, the formation of Bangladesh caused a tense relationship between the newly independent states. Thus, South Asia as a region is still struggling to accommodate its fragmented identity as a region despite its well defined geography with a unique legacy of shared cultural and historical identity. Due to the complex nature of political relations among states, different forms and weak democracies in some of the countries, the region remained politically fragile. It is because of this tense relationship among states, regional integration has become more difficult and cooperative initiative like South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) remained stagnant to achieve the desired goals. Therefore South Asia couldn't emerge as what Deutsch calls regional security community. South Asian security architecture is shaped by the interplay of geographical and political forces that determine the behaviour of the regional as well as extra- regional actors along with non-state actors. South Asia has been described as an 'Indo-centric' region. Although Indo-Centric South Asia is not a unipolar region and one of the most important reasons is the presence of nuclear element in the region. Thus the 'nuclear element' plays a critical role in defining the strategic balance of power in the region. However, it does not guarantee peace and stability, partly because of the 'crisis-proneness of the Indo-Pakistan strategic relationship' and partly because of the involvement of extra-regional actors in the wider security architecture of the region. Kenneth Waltz argues that in

post-World War II period at system level, bipolarity and nuclear weapons brought about more peace in the world. The question is whether the same analytical framework can be applied to South Asia, or a new alternative framework of analysis needs use to understand the regional security dynamics that define peace and stability in the region. Twenty first century is apparently witnessing a tussle between two seemingly contradictory trends of multilateralism and plurilateralism. The end of the Cold War and the eclipse of the 'American unipolar moment' is leading the world towards a new world order dominated predominantly by the economic considerations as a sheer consequence of the strengthening forces of globalisation and neoliberal economics. South Asian regionalism is ensnared in between the existing geopolitical complexities of the region combined with the aspirations of the major regional powers and the concerns of the smaller powers in the given geopolitical structure of South Asia.

In this backdrop there is a need to rethink the future of South Asia as a potential emerging region, however, the growth of the region is not measured only in terms of the growth of few states but a region as a whole. Hence there is a need to understand the changing socio-political, economic and security dynamics of the region in the context of the current world order which is seen to be in favour of Asia and is being dubbed as the Asian order by many scholars.

The National Seminar therefore attempts to address various aspects including social, political, economic, security and geostrategic to explore the possibilities of cooperation and potential growth of the region. It also attempts to highlight the major obstacles in the process of peace and stability in the region as well as possible solutions to work to do away with the 'trust deficit' in the region which has been a major cause of the limited regional growth of the region.

Focus of the National Seminar:

The National Seminar is an academic exercise in discussing the emerging dynamics in South Asia. The Seminar aims at discussing the various issues linking up to the resolution of making peace and security in the region that could eventually lead to the economic growth of the region.

It is in the above context that the National Seminar would like to discuss the following sub-themes:

1. South Asian States and struggle for identity
2. South Asian Security and Geopolitics
3. Inter-state conflicts in South Asia
4. Regional Cooperation in South Asia
5. Cross border energy trade
6. Climate change and its impact on South Asian region
7. Human security and human rights in South Asia

Objective of the National Seminar:

The Department of Civics and Politics initiates to provide a platform for the deliberations on the above themes. The chosen themes have gained importance as South Asian region is becoming more and more vibrant in Asian politics as well as world economy. The ultimate

objective is to generate an in-depth understanding of the changing dynamics of the region and possibilities of growth and challenges that can be identified to overcome.

Important Dates:

Sr. No.	Items	Deadline
1	Abstract Submission (300 words)	20 st December, 2015
2	Notification of Acceptance (Email)	31 st December, 2015
3	Submission of full paper (4000-5000 words)	05 th February, 2016

Submissions

Abstract of no more than 300 words including key words should be submitted on or before 31st December 2015

The following information is required in the following order

- Title of the Paper- Bold –faced and centred in upper/Lower case
- Name (s) of the author(s)-
- Affiliation(s) of the author(s)
- Address(es) of the author(s)
- Abstract of the paper
- Full paper

For more information please feel free to contact-

Mr.Sachin Pardhe, Assistant Professor, Coordinator of the Seminar

Mobile No. 09822836328

Email: sachinnpardhe@gmail.com

Mr. Rohidas Mundhe, Assistant Professor, Co-coordinator of the Seminar

Mobile No. 09869692863

Email: mundejnu@gmail.com