

**DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS AND POLITICS, UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI ORGANISES
A NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

ON

**INDIA IN THE 21ST CENTURY: GOVERNANCE AND FOREIGN
POLICY IMPERATIVES**

In collaboration with:

JADAVPUR ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (JAIR)

Supported by:

INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS (ICWA), NEW DELHI

To be held at:

UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI, INDIA

19TH AND 20TH DECEMBER, 2016

Venue and Dates are subject to Change

India is considered as one of the rising powers in the 21st Century. Therefore, the issue of good governance remains one of the most significant elements in the growth of the nation. The 21st century has witnessed a number of changes in the global arena. Consequently, the concept of governance has shifted itself to combat with the external forces and address the international events. In other words, while the core aims of governance remain the same, the forces of globalization have made the subject of governance more complex. Governance today is a multi-faceted concept. For a growing nation like India governance occupies one of pivotal places in eradicating the socioeconomic problems and to frame a successful foreign policy. A well governed state is a vital precondition of a state's growing international stature. Thus, today, aside from political and social sectors, governance also includes foreign policy in order to bring about comprehensive development in the country.

In the present century, globalization has resulted in a greater level of interdependence between states that are split geographically and politically. Today, states across the world no longer operate as a single secluded unit; they are an integral part of the global village and the policies that they undertake have wide ranging ramifications for people living across the world. Therefore, the concept of governance has broadened itself to cater to the demands of citizens consistent with the full spectrum of international norms and regulations.

Thus, today, India's strategic goals are basically to enable the domestic transformation of India by accelerating growth and strategic engagements that safeguards the national interest at all times in this overall global context. These goals are not likely to change for a long time to come. Global engagement and India's domestic development are structurally entwined. India has gained from

its integration into the global economy since the 1990s. And this process would only speed up as India actively pursues its interests in the world and remains ready to contribute positively to the ongoing global dialogue on peace and development with autonomy. India remains committed to an open global society and its vision of a pluralistic and tolerant society, encompassing a multiplicity and variety of opinions and outlook, is sought to be enunciated in India's relations with the world.

India firmly believes that its success, and indeed that of the larger international community, depends on the collective ability to form an inclusive architecture of economic consolidation and security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, or the Indo-Pacific as it is increasingly being termed, to create a foundation for a stable and prosperous Asia. Maritime protection is increasingly significant for India and guaranteeing the protection of sea lines of communication has become critical to the continued economic well being of the area. Energy remains vital to India's developmental needs. Hence, deepening ties with Central Asian and West Asian states remains one of India's top foreign policy priorities in Asia.

Looking beyond Asia, India has tried to establish mutually beneficial links with all the major powers, foremost among which is the United States. India's relationship with the United States is in fact built on shared values and converging interests. It is established on the fundamental belief in beneficial stakes in each other's success. In the last decade, India set up a comprehensive architecture of participation based on broad based political support. These include ensuring energy security and sustainable development, food security, and dealing with issues vital to peace and security such as terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. While a few areas of divergence remain, India and US are working for advancing global peace, stability and progress as well as in the pursuit of India's national development goals.

Today, terrorism continues to pose a threat to international peace and stability. India having been a victim of terrorism for many decades, continues to work with the international community to strengthen the international framework to deal with this threat. In the UN, for instance, India has taken the initiative to pilot the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism or the CCIT. This threat is compounded today given the possibility of intersection between terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Since India's immediate neighbourhood remains a hot bed of terrorist activities, the threat to its national security is immediate and direct. The frightening prospect of leakage of weapons of mass destruction to terrorists adds further vulnerability in this regard. These issues will also be discussed in the Conference.

More India increases stakes at the international level, more the interface between the international and domestic becomes important. For India to project its power effectively, a more efficient and accountable domestic political set up seems indispensable. Aspiration and assertion at the international level demand a broad domestic political consensus around equitable development that would reduce foreign policy inconsistency stemming from domestic political changes. It is also to be noted in this context that this interface is fluid. In fact, this interface *is activity in itself*. What is wrong to conclude that international ambitions build solely on domestic aspirations. Rather there is a need to understand that international aspiration requires building international stake within the country. Such stakes develop through the economic route and upon robust law and order within the state. For India to emerge as an integrated, liberal and open market, bureaucratic red tapism has to end and financial regimes contrary to liberalizing markets need to wound up. Genuine liberalization would mean all private and public players are given equal opportunities to succeed and deepen economic transactions. Making individuals autonomous and incentive prone would open up the country to newer areas of international engagements. So there

is a dire need to give the domestic scenario a new shape and bring it line with India's international aspirations.

India's contemporary standing can be identified in three orbits. The first orbit consists of the neighboring states, including the extended neighbourhood in South Asia. There is a need to understand that many engagements pertaining to connectivity arguments over investments, infrastructures and development cannot be implemented if the South Asian neighbors are not conjugated with South East Asian nations. While India's engagements have deepened and widened in this area, but it faces stiff competition from China in matters of economic as well as political influence. Apart from competition from China, India also needs to build financial credibility and decisiveness to push through this region.

The second orbit relates to India's power play with extant major powers of the world. This orbit contains developed states, economically and militarily powerful nations and covers issues of international importance that require constant positioning and posturing. It is also important on the other side to situate foreign policy in the contemporary concerns. It would be important for India to place itself tactically within this orbit. India has to discriminate wisely in this game of big power politics in line with its national interests.. The main challenge here is to set fundamental parameters and ideas of engagement or disengagement. One thing is for sure that some of these parameters have to be new as the past has ceased to be a helpful guide in these areas.

The third orbit is about India's standing in the international institutions. International institutions would mean United Nations, regional organizations, sub-regional platforms and international economic organizations. India seeks permanent seat at the Security Council, along with certain other developing nations. It is to be decided as far as India what is the nature of the claim: whether demanding the permanent seat at the Council is a claim of status for a rising power or a for representing the developing world. As far as regional and sub-regional organizations are concerned, they represent the most active form of diplomatic missions currently. The importance of regional and sub-regional organizations are augmenting; thus the active and judicious participation of India in these platforms has become more important than ever. The most important international institutional platforms are the economic ones. World Bank, International Monetary fund, Doha Rounds and the like are the platforms where things concern both international and domestic as economic policy decisions do not really hold along the geographical boundaries. All international fora are bitterly contested over issues of equity and growth, participation and domination, representation and power. Especially, given the uncompromising positions of the northern nations vis-à-vis agricultural subsidy, environment and sensitive issues related to development, these platforms are not only battle grounds for India but also for the developing world against the continued domination of the developed in conditions of global enmeshing of an unprecedented kind.

Thus India's contemporary standing is more multifaceted and requires a bold vision to take it forward in the comity of nations. In order to face the challenge, the idea of governance is pivotal. It is governance that bridge the internal and the external and drive home the salience of the domestic for India's overall power projection and receptivity in the world.

Themes

The seminar aims to understand the issue of governance in India in the 21st century and explore its internal and external imperatives. Consequently, papers are invited in the following themes-

1. Changing role of governance in India in the 21st century
2. Governance and Foreign Policy Imperatives: A theoretical Framework
3. India's Neighbourhood Policy
4. India's Act East Policy: Leveraging the potential for the development of North Eastern Region of India
5. India and the World: Issues and Opportunities
6. Foreign Policy Challenges for National Development
7. India's Maritime Challenges
8. Ecological imprint of good governance in India in the 21st century
9. Governance and the question of migration and Refugee
10. Global trading regime: It's evolution and India's challenges
11. Role of Civil society in the making of India's Foreign Policy

Venue of the Conference: Department of Civics and Politics, University of Mumbai, Mumbai

Dates of the Conference: 19th and 20th December, 2016

Deadline for Title Submission:

30th May, 2016

Deadline for abstract submission:

August 25, 2016

Announcement of selected abstracts:

September 5, 2016

Last date for the submission of full length papers or summary of papers (max word limit: 5000 - 8000):

October 5, 2016

Information for presenters:

Abstracts of the papers may be submitted on or before 25th August, 2016. Abstracts must include the introduction of the topic that includes its importance, focus and timeliness; short biography of the expert/speakers, tentative titles, the organizations they represent and the potential for informative and controversial discussion (max word limit 150-200).

Presentation Time: 10-15 minutes.

Matter sent in soft copy will be greatly appreciated.

Address for Sending the Title, Abstracts and Full Paper: conference@jair.net.in AND ALSO SEND A COPY TO: sachinnpardhe@gmail.com

Full papers/abstracts, with title or topic (as applicable), should include presenter's name, residence and university/agency address and email information.

For Registration Details/Accommodation etc write us at: **info@jair.net.in**

Conference Registration Fees:

Rs. 1000 (For National Participants)

\$ 150(For International Participants)

Rs. 1000 (For JAIR Members)

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACCOMMODATION HAVE TO BE MADE BY THE PARTICIPANTS. ORGANISERS WILL NOT TAKE ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORT.

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CO-CONVENER: Prof. Rohidas Mundhe

NO TA/DA will be paid to the Participants