



**Department of Civics and Politics and Department of Commerce
University of Mumbai in Association with Mumbai School of Thought
organizes
International Seminar
On
Connect Gulf: Culture, Commerce and Polity
February 25-26, 2019**

For India's historical connection with the Gulf dates back more than thousand years to trading between the ancient civilization of the Indus Valley and the Dilmun connected with present day Bahrain. British India's imperial interest in the Gulf were determined, pursued and administered from the Bombay presidency. The Indian rupee was legal tender in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Trucial states now the United Arab Emirates until the early 1960s. Today, the Gulf is an integral part of India's extended neighborhood, both by way of geographical proximity and as an area of expanded interests and growing Indian influence. Historic maritime and cultural links have developed into strong relationships of energy, expatriates and economy. While India and UAE has emerged as each other's preferred economic partner, with a trade volume that is expected to grow after a respite, the significant element of bilateral ties is the growing security and defense partnership unimaginable even a decade back. For over three decades, the question of who controls the Persian Gulf has formed the basis for contemporary politics in the region. At the heart of the region's culture, commerce and security dilemma is a clash of visions: Iran seeks the departure of U.S. forces so it can exert what it sees as its rightful authority over the region, while the Gulf Arab states want the United States to balance Iranian power. The successful conclusion of the Iranian nuclear agreement is an occasion for the rethinking the regional order that has characterized the Gulf since the 1980s, based on the heavy presence of the US navy and troops in the area to guarantee energy supplies and secure the GCC allies of Washington. This Seminar proposes to debate and discuss on regional forum that includes connecting Gulf. Arab Gulf rulers face incentives to develop non-economic sources of legitimacy to maintain popular support while maximizing scarce resource revenues. By sowing communal distrust, highlighting threats, and emphasizing their ability to guarantee security, regimes can reinforce domestic backing and dampen pressure for reform more cheaply than by distributing welfare benefits. From four Gulf States i.e. Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar demonstrate that governments can effectively cow populations into political inaction even as the economic benefits citizens receive are dwindling. Look at the present gulf crisis, whereby Qatar has been excluded by the regional powers i.e. Saudi Arabia and other GCC countries, Gulf regimes establish electoral and legislative rules that institutionalize cleavages based on identity politics. Some Gulf Cooperation Council states have conducted an assertive, adventurist foreign policy that has contributed to regional instability and promoted a

militaristic nationalism. Feelings of insecurity are heightened by government promises of radical economic reorganization in the face of dwindling oil and gas revenues. Analysis of survey data from the region reveals that more security-minded Gulf citizens are willing to accept lower levels of economic performance by a government in return for stability. India has been moving in the Gulf region in order to establish strong relations. For them, the state's provision of security represents a substitute for the financial benefits expected by citizens in oil-rich states. In this way, Gulf governments and India can capitalize on the security concerns of citizens to purchase popular political support more cheaply than through the standard distribution of material benefits. Gulf regimes thus have economic and political incentives to embellish or manufacture domestic and external threats, in order to heighten popular concerns over security and so lower the cost of accruing political support. Gulf rulers are often unable to manage social tensions once unleashed, and some have ended up stoking the very dissent they wished to suppress. This is a precarious strategy that carries serious risks to citizen welfare and the long-term survival of regimes. Resolving this impasse will not be easy. But the Iranian nuclear agreement presents an opportunity to take a first step toward creating a new security order in the Gulf, one that could improve relations between Iran and the Gulf Arab states and facilitate a lessening of the U.S. military commitment. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a key pillar of the existing order, excludes Iran, Iraq, and external powers with a significant role in the region. Moreover, it does not provide a platform for dialogue on many security challenges or for reducing tensions, managing crises, preventing conflict, and improving predictability. A new and inclusive regional security dialogue would complement a U.S. regional strategy for balancing Iran. Iranian integration with regional structures could create opportunities to lower Arab-Iranian tensions in the Gulf while still allowing the United States to impose costs if Tehran continues behavior that threatens core American interests. A more stable security regime would lessen Gulf state dependence on U.S. military presence and create a balance of power in the region more favorable to U.S. interests.

Focus of the International Seminar: - International Seminar is an academic exercise in discussing the emerging dynamics in Persian Gulf. The National Seminar aims at discussing the various issues linking up to the role of major powers in Gulf region. US relation with GCC countries also suggests that it thinks it has a dominant power position. India should continue to actively engage with and connect GCC countries in all areas, while continuing to be watchful about Major Powers actions and intentions.

Contribution on any of the following themes can be deliberated-

1. GCC countries and Its Ramifications
2. India's Gulf policy
3. Order in the Gulf countries
4. Gulf crisis
5. Role of Iran in Persian Gulf
6. Role of Qatar in the Gulf countries
7. Yemen Crisis
8. India's Quest for Energy
9. GCC and terrorism.
10. India's Role in Yemen
11. Pakistan in Gulf
12. India's Chabahar policy
13. Major power role in Persian Gulf
14. India Saudi Relations
15. Oil Geopolitics in GCC
16. India UAE Relations
17. Maritime disputes in the Gulf
18. Regional conflicts in Gulf.

Objectives of the International 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 India's connect in Persian Gulf and it has been undergoing a tremendous changing process in International relations in the Post-Cold war scenario. The Two days exercise should be academic in context and professional in attitude, should be academically rewarding and personally gainful to the participants.

Important Dates for the International Seminar

Abstracts Submission dates	January 25, 2019
Notification of Acceptance (Email)	January 31, 2019
Registration complete forms	January 31, 2019
Final paper for the Conference Proceeding	February 15, 2019
2019 Executive committee Meeting for Papers and organizing Committee	February 20, 2019
2019 International conference	February 25 to 26, 2019

Submissions

Abstract of no more than 300 words including key words should be submitted to khanliyaqat6@gmail.com on or before January 31, 2019

The following information is required in the following order

- Title of the Paper- Bold –faced and centered 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

Registration Fees	Attending Seminar	Presenting paper
<u>Students</u>	<u>500/-</u>	<u>750/-</u>
<u>Faculty/Teacher</u>	<u>1000/-</u>	<u>1500/-</u>
<u>Others</u>	<u>2000/-</u>	<u>3000/-</u>

- **Registration fees includes Seminar kit, certificate of participation and paper presentation, breakfast lunch High-tea and dinner**

➤ For registration contact email:- Phone
number:

Connect Gulf