

**REPORT OF THE NATIONAL SEMINAR ON “INDIA IN THE EMERGING
INTERNATIONAL WORLD ORDER: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES”**

2ND NOVEMBER, 2015-4TH NOVEMBER, 2015

Held at:

St. Joseph’s College, Darjeeling, West Bengal, India

Organised by



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The National Seminar on “**INDIA IN THE EMERGING INTERNATIONAL WORLD ORDER: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**” was organized by The Jadavpur Association of International Relations (JAIR) in collaboration with St. Josephs’ College, Darjeeling supported by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS) was a grand success where nearly 200 participants from all over India actively participated in the cademic deliberations. Held in the incredibly beautiful campus of St. Josephs’ College, Darjeeling the proceedings of the Seminar witnessed an interesting academic interactions where the young scholars met the eminent academicians from across the country. The participants of the conference came from different parts of India and their vibrant presence made the seminar another successful academic event of The Jadavpur Association of International Relations (JAIR).

The major part of the Conference was covered during the first two days followed by a debriefing session on the last day of the Conference. Altogether, the Conference was broadly divided into five technical sessions where papers were presented by the scholars on various aspects of India's Foreign Policy. It is interesting to note that both the young scholars and eminent academicians in the field of International Relations participated in the deliberations.



Felicitation of Professor Amar Singh Rai, Chairman, Darjeeling Municipality at the Inaugural Ceremony of the Seminar on 2nd November, 2015.

The Inaugural session witnessed the gracious presence of the convener of the Seminar Dr. Padam Nepal, Fr. Dr. Donatus kujur, Principal of St, Josephs' College , Professor Radharaman Chakrabarti, All India President of JAIR and renowned scholar in the field of International Relations. The key-note address was delivered by Professor. Amar Singh Rai , Hon'ble Chairman, Darjeeling Municipality. Dr. Imankalyan Lahiri, General Secretary, JAIR was also present during the Inaugural Ceremony.

The inaugural session started with the introductory remarks delivered by Dr. Padam Nepal by thanking JAIR for organizing the seminar in the college and he thanked Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS) for financially supporting the Seminar. The introductory remarks were followed by General Secretary's speech where he thanked ICSSR and MAKAIAS for supporting the seminar.

The Inaugural Lecture was delivered by Professor Radharaman Chakrabarti. He started his lecture by thanking the college once again and the two funding associations. He said that JAIR believes in inclusiveness and that is why it is organizing the conferences every year in different places of the country. One of the mission of JAIR is to reach the unreached. The purpose behind choosing the Darjeeling region is to highlight the recent Act East Policy of the Government of India and the association is also ready to include other remotest parts of India in its coming ventures. Professor Chakrabarti said International Relations is hospitable to many disciplines and all disciplines aspire to become science just in order to be practical. JAIR is trying to make International Relations a practice and not a theory merely bound in books. He urged an importance of the involvement of soft powers into the study of the discipline and stressed on the vital interests of India as well as the region of northeast India and the trans-himalayan states of India in organizing such events. Fr. Kujur, the Principal of St. Joseph's College thanked the entire team of JAIR for being present in the college and organizing such an event in spite of a whole lot of difficulties. Dr. Amar Singh Rai, Chairperson, Darjeeling Municipality, Darjeeling delivered a very interesting speech and said that the titles of all the papers to be presented are really interesting and thought provoking. He stated that India is neglecting its domestic policies and it should now focus more on it. He threw a question to the house as to whether India should again consider joining the Non Aligned groups or not. Professor Rai further stated that there is a plethora of unresolved issues which are very relevant for India till date and thus are directly and indirectly related to the question of security. The issues include border disputes with Pakistan and China in particular and also such issues are there with Bangladesh though of a different nature. The Pakistan phenomenon, though goes beyond the border problem and poses a constant security problem for India of various kinds including terrorism. The question of China is a pretty complex one for India. Sino-Indian border dispute is still a haunting issue that escalates tensions at the military level. Sino-Pakistan strategic alliance is the immediate security challenge that India faces. China is already a global player and India has to enter competitive scenarios with China. China also poses problems related to influence building in the South East Asian region where India's policy priorities had been set through Look East Policy during the past decades and has been turned into Act East Policy recently. He stated that India must immediately have a Nepal policy too. Professor Rai's lecture was followed up by a book release programme. A book

titled “Identity crises of Northeast” by Dr. Anup Sekhar Chakroborty was released during the Inaugural ceremony.

The inaugural ceremony was followed by a special lecture session. The first speaker was Father K.J. Joseph, Vice-Principal of St. Joseph’s college, Darjeeling. He gave a detailed presentation on India’s foreign policy in the post cold war era. He also gave a contemporary outline of India’s Foreign Policy during the contemporary years with an historical perspective. The presentation was quite detailed and covered many details of the contemporary India’s Foreign Policy. The second presentation was given by Professor Shibashis Chatterjee who delivered a paper titled *Territoriality and Identity: India’s imagination of Southeast Asia*. This paper proposed that India’s understanding of South Asia cannot be convincingly explained by the mainstream approaches of International Relations. Instead, Dr. Chatterjee argued that India’s understanding of South Asia is identity driven. To understand the role of identity, we need to look closely at the contestations of India’s self-identity as a nation-state and the identity selected by the dominant official elite to condition the state’s foreign policy preferences in the neighborhood. This explains why India holds certain interests as vital by arguing that this is a deliberate process of selection by the dominant elite that renders alternative definition/s of interests invalid; draws attention to the justificatory discourses that are invariably deployed to achieve legitimacy; and shows why alternative spatial imaginations are emasculated in the process. To understand the contemporary complexities of South Asia as a socio-political formation and India’s imagination of and place in it, it is necessary to turn to the historical formation of the sub-continent. Historically, the identity of the sub-continent was laid along a community-meta-state continuum, the definite forms varying from one period to the other. The advent of the Europeans and the dual conceits of territoriality and modernity upset this rhythm fundamentally. Territoriality forged a strong sense of difference as indispensable to the new statist projects in the sub-continent and in the process decimated the community-state character of the sub-continent. Modernity exaggerated the taxonomical impulses of the colonial state and hastened the making of a subject-citizenry who had to be divided and united at the same time. When the sub-continent was divided along the lines of faith in an orgy of brutality and violence, the divide between community and territoriality was complete. This was the new South Asia that was wholly anomalous to its past and destined to remain divided by the very logic of its constitution. India’s foreign policy of post-colonial difference evolved as a natural corollary to such vicissitudes. The

resultant paradigm of ethical modernism that at once championed modernity and recoiled from its violent moorings created two registers of India's foreign policy - one universal, espousing its fierce anti-colonial self-hood and the other regional, mired in nationalism and territorial difference. Despite the qualitative shifts in Indian foreign policy over the years, that enormously problematized the Universalist register, following massive changes in the meanings of borders, spatiality and global transactions, its imagination of South Asia remains remarkably consistent. The paper delivered by Dr. Chatterjee was an attempt to come to terms with this apparent paradox of sorts, which it locates in its many tensions of the national imagination and its aspiration to leadership based upon the dualities of materiality and post-colonial difference. The last presentation was given Rubaul Patgiri, Professor of Dibrugarh University on India's neighborhood policy..

The second technical session was chaired by Professor Radharaman Chakrabarti. The first speaker in line was Obja Borah Hazarika from Dibrugarh University. The other presentations were by Dr. Priyanka Chettri on Indian defense and security enhancement and the global politics, Dr. Neelu Khosla from Vivek College of Commerce, Mumbai speaking on India- Kazakhstan Relationships, Dr. Ambika Thami, Dr. Samten Doma Bhutia of Sikkim University and others. All the presentations were interesting and contemporary in their orientations.

The last session of the day was chaired by Dr. Surojit C. Mukherjee, Register of National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata. The speakers of the session were Sampurna Goswami of Jadavpur University. Abhishek Jha of Jadavpur University, Rewaz Gurung of North Bengal University, Swati Bhattacharya of Calcutta University, Anindita Patra of Jadavpur University and Dr. Amit Kr. Gupta. A range of topics were covered during this session.

On the second day there were two technical sessions. The first session of the day was chaired by Professor Shibashis Chatterjee, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University. The second day of the Conference saw a number of presentations on topics ranging from Global Education and Migration, Racism and the Indian State, Domestic Imperatives of contemporary Indian Foreign Policy, Role of Leaders of Political Parties at National and Regional Level and the Media, Fortitude of Indian Civilization (Emergence of Indian Leadership In Conflict Resolution with Cultural Diplomacy as a dormant yet Vigorous Tool), India's Position in the Emerging World Order : a theoretical perspective etc. The second and last session of the day consisted papers regarding Illegal Cross-Border Trade in India with Special Reference to the

Asia Pacific Region, Changes in the Post- Cold War US-Cuba relations and the Indian Experience, India's Perspective on Chinese Influence in South Asia, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Indonesia in India's Foreign Policy Agenda, India in the emerging World Order and Insurgency as a Factor in Indo-Myanmar Relations. This session was chaired by Prof. Anup Shekhar Chakraborty, St. Joseph's College. Scholars from different universities, colleges and think tanks from all over India presented their paper on the day.

The last day was followed up by a debriefing session and it was decided that a publication will be brought out with the select papers of the conference.

The Conference was concluded by a Valedictory Session which was followed by the distribution of certificates. Nearly forty eight papers were presented and three special lectures were delivered during the Seminar. Teachers and scholars from Major Universities, Think Tanks and Research Institutes across the country took part in the conference.

A note on the Contribution of the Seminar to the existing Body of Research

The Seminar has created a great impact in the Northeastern Region of India and the Trans Himalayan States of India in particular and the whole of India in general. JAIR is organizing several conferences in the Northeastern Region and other remotest regions of India and this is the eighth Seminar of its kind. This seminar is successful in involving the stakeholders of the region, the academicians and the Policy makers together under one platform. The Seminar will contribute in the understanding of the region for the researchers working in the region. This conference will also give JAIR new dimensions and ideas to frame its research orientations in the line of research activities JAIR is conducting now.

The Plan for Publication:

JAIR is planning to bring out the publication as soon as possible. The paper presenters are in the process of submitting their research papers for publication in the Seminar Proceedings.