

# ***International Conference on***

## **100 Years of International Relations**

**The conference will be organised by the Bengal Institute of Political Studies (BIPS)  
Kolkata in collaboration with the SIRSS,  
Jadavpur University  
[Conference Date: September 7, 2019]  
[Venue: Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India]**

### **Concept Note**

Though International Relations (IR) as a discrete academic field originated in the early part of twentieth century, the history of IR based on sovereign states could be traced back to the Treaty of Westphalia of 1648, a stepping stone in the growth of contemporary state system. This is due to the fact that although actual relations between states had taken place since the ancient civilizations such as Egypt, Greece, and Rome – they were incidental, sporadic and limited in nature. Even the European medieval system of political power was premised on a vague hierarchical religious order.

From the academic point of view, the inquisition of political philosophers and theorists to comprehend and explain the actions of states, territories and empires as the primary actors on the international scene (depending on the era), had existed before the formal development of an independent academic discipline of international relations. The historical writings of Thucydides (460-c. 390) that focused on the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta are an example of literature on an international level. Barry Buzan and Richard Little pointed at the interaction of ancient Sumerian municipality-states, starting in 3,500 BC, as the first full-fledged international system. Ample evidence also exists in the works of Immanuel Kant's *Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch* (1795), Thomas Hobbes' *Leviathan* (1651) and that of John Locke's *Two Treatises of Government* (1689), each having its influence on the development of theories of international relations.

International Relations (IR) emerged as a formal academic discipline in 1919 with the founding of the first IR professorship: the Woodrow Wilson Chair at Aberystwyth, University of Wales held by Alfred Zimmermann endowed by David Davies. Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service is the oldest international relations faculty in the United States, founded in 1919. In the early 1920s, the London School of Economics and the Department of International Relations was founded at the behest of Nobel Peace Prize winner Philip Noel-Baker. Incidentally this was the first institute to offer a wide range of degrees in the field, which was rapidly followed by establishment of IR departments at universities in the United States and in Geneva, Switzerland. In the developing world however the study of IR as an academic discipline started taking shape in the post-colonial years.

Since its origin in the wake of the First World War, IR has developed several theoretical perspectives in order to identify and explain the recurring patterns of international relations – most importantly the causes of war and the preconditions for peace. A major breakthrough in the field, however, took place with the rise of positivist methodology in the 1960s and 1970s while and post-positivist IR became visible from the 1990s. However, the highly complex nature and vast scope of international relations has kept limited the progress towards the

development of universally acceptable theories and approaches. In fact, the field has been characterised by the principles of diversity.

Realism and liberalism remain the principal theoretical approaches in the discipline. Constructivism has added to the menu since the 1980s, particularly coming to the fore with the end of the Cold War and the rise of identity politics all over the world. The liberal-realist contest still dominates the mainstream discourses, with both approaches becoming surprisingly variegated over the years. The variety is such today that many analysts doubt the survival of the core of each of these paradigms. But the real change has been in the fashioning of a whole range of alternative perspectives within IR theory, including critical, post-modern and post-structuralist theories, feminisms of different shades, historical sociology, and post-colonial and environmental perspectives. The result of this proliferation has been positive. It has liberated IR from the clutches of the mainstream as never before.

Now that the world has entered into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there has been renewed emphasis on the need for comprehensive security, particularly securing an end to international terrorism, movement for the protection of human rights, protections of environment, and attempts at the securing of sustainable development through increasing cooperation for development in all spheres of international relations. Together these developments have given a new thrust to IR as an academic discipline.

In this backdrop, the proposed international conference - jointly organised by the Bengal Institute of Political Studies (BIPS) and the School of International Relations and Strategic Studies (SIRS), Jadavpur University, Kolkata - aims to focus on the following sub-themes: nature of IR theory, international security; and political economy. In addition, the seminar would also wish to discuss major issues such as human rights, refugees and migration, international organizations, global civil society, gender, environment, media, and technologies of communication.

Abstracts are invited on various aspects, debates, concepts and Issues of International Relations. The Academicians, Research Scholars and Students of various fields of Social Science are requested to send 250 words abstract to the following e-mail address:

**[bipoliticalstudies@gmail.com](mailto:bipoliticalstudies@gmail.com)**

**Joint Convenor of the Conference:**

Professor Raj Kumar Kothari, Department of Political Science with Rural Administration, Vidyasagar University, West Bengal

&

Professor Shibasis Chatterjee, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

**Joint Secretary of the Conference:**

Professor Partha Pratim Basu, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

&

Professor, Biswanath Chakraborty, Department of International Relations, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata

**Last date of abstract submission: 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2019**

**Date of acceptance: 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2019**

**Last date of early bird registration: 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2019**

**Registration Fee: INR 700.00 (for SAARC countries)**

**Registration Fee: INR 1500.00 (for Non-SAARC countries)**

Registration after the deadline: INR 900.00(for SAARC countries)

Registration after the deadline: INR 2000.00 (for Non-SAARC countries)

**Payment Procedure:**

Kindly pay your registration fees to the State Bank of India,

Name of the Account Holder: Bengal Institute of Political Studies

Branch Code: 10417; IFSC Code: SBIN0010417; Account No. 37542485870

[Note: All our executive/life members of BIPS requested to note the following:

Early bird registration: Rs. 700/- Deadline: July 31, 2019]

*All the faculty members, research scholars and students are requested to pay conference registration fees with in the due date and avail early bird registration benefits. Please WhatsAp your payment receipt to BIPS.*

**Eminent Academicians and Diplomats of the conference:**

You will be happy to note that Ambassador Sri Ashok Sajjanhar has kindly agreed to deliver the key note address. Two other renowned faculties – Prof. Rajagopalan from JNU and Prof. Imtiaz Ahamed from Dhaka – will be the key panellists.

**[The final programme schedule will be announced on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2019]**

Contact Number: 9330983624 /9830318683 / 9007760656

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