



Concept note

International Conference on “India’s Extended neighbourhood policy: New perspectives and Future directions” A Proposal for a Two Day International Conference in 6th to 7th January 2017 Submitted by **Dr. S M Wagh, Department of Political Science, Janseva Shikshan Mandal’s **Shantarambhou** Gholap college of Arts, Science and Gotirambhou Pawar college of Commerce, Shivle, At post Shivle, Tal Murbad, Dist. Thane 421401 (Affiliated to University of Mumbai)**

It is an oxymoron: Keep the neighbours far away’. Enquire any big nation and its foreign secretary will say, on, I can easily deal with the great powers including the United States of America or Russia or China. It is the smaller ones which give us all the trouble, creating an endless process

of pin pricks”. Yes, size does matter and the bigger nations always accused of being bullies have to tread cautiously to avoid being labelled as such. India suffers from such a problem, surrounded on all sides by tiny nations like Srilanka, Bhutan Nepal and Maldives and so on. This is a major issue for the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his NDA government which, as such is handling the foreign relations in the extended Neighbourhood.

In the post-cold war epoch, there was a classic shift in India’s foreign policy priorities as, it moved from ideological consideration to pragmatic thinking in consonance with the massive Vagaries in the world politics and order. Shunning the strategies of ‘non-alignment’ and third world solidarity, though not openly, it swiftly moved towards building partnerships with all the major powers like the US, Russia and China and also energising its relations with the countries not only in the immediate neighbourhood but extended neighbourhood based on mutual interests. As India aspired to become a major power playing proactive role in world politics, ‘extended neighbourhood’ emerged as the focus area of its foreign policy engagements. During Vajpayee’s government of 1998-2004, this perception was pursued vigorously emphasizing better relations with countries in West Asia, the Gulf, and Central Asia, South East Asia, the Asia, the Asia Pacific and the India Ocean region. The successive government under former Prime Minister Manmohan Sing

reiterated the importance of extended neighbourhood within Indian security and foreign policy formulations. India looked beyond the narrow confines of South Asia to expand its diplomatic influence and intensify its economic and strategic engagement in the larger ambient region.

By practicing a pragmatic policy of strategic cooperation and understand and setting aside political difference, India has been able to establish itself as one of the most important players in Asia, galvanizing its relations with all the major countries and finding common ground on various issues such as terrorism, human rights, environmental sustainability, drug trafficking and trade facilitation. It now looks forward to enter into a new phase of strategic engagement in the region and build up strong network with all the important stakeholders.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, heading the new regime, emphasised the importance of India's relations with 'extended neighbourhood' as he tried to reach out to most of them through bilateral visits and meetings. During the first months of his regime, Narendra Modi and Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj have visited countries like Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Japan, South Korea, Myanmar, Maldives, Mauritius, Singapore, Fiji, Vietnam, Bahrain, Afghanistan, and UAE signalling a more proactive and action-oriented policy towards the whole of Asia.

Objectives of the conference

In this framework, it is imperative to observe the various aspects of the new alignments in Asia and the countries of India's engagement with 'extended neighbourhood'. The Conference would reconnoitre the new government's foreign policy from various angles with the aim to provide inputs for its subsequent evolution. The conference seeks to fulfil the following objectives:

- To analyse the impact of the policy towards India's growth and for gaining international and regional competitiveness.
- To study its impact on evolving geopolitical alignments in the region and worldwide.
- To explore its potential for economic growth and development of the Eastern regions of India.
- To further India's quest to play a greater role in Asia by bringing the countries closer on a common platform and making the dream of "Asian Century" a reality.

The discourse on foreign policy should no more be confined to the government high office and renowned national institutes only. The dept. of pol. Sci. Janseva Shikshan Mandal's **Shantarambhou** Gholap college of Arts, Science and Gotirambhou Pawar college of Commerce, Shivle, At post Shivle, Tal Murbad, Dist. Thane 421401 (Affiliated to University of Mumbai) has made an attempt to gather prominent scholars, academicians and area experts from across the

country and deliberate upon the dynamics of the significant changes India's foreign policy orientations towards neighbours, major powers and the international political system. Hope, this is just a beginning.

Rationale for organising the International conference:-

India, a country of peace and tranquillity has witnessed a number of threats at different occasions during the last 6 decades. Security is most commonly associated with the alleviation of threats to cherished values, especially those which, if left unchecked, threaten the survival of a particular referent object in future. The countries in extended neighbourhood has been unfolding strategic partnerships and bilateral engagements undoubtedly lead to radical changes. The changed nature of Trade and commerce will undergo changes leading to new tactical conceptions and organisational changes. What is the aspect of India's engagement in the region? Will competition between India and extended neighbourhood create another Flash point in the region? Can India's relations reach to Strategic partnerships? But the very purpose of relations has never changed any more than the freedom of economic engagement to which the state considers to be important for the achievement of the foreign policy. The new ideas and notions are to be discussed and disseminated into the society by raising the agenda for Engagement. There is a strong need to discuss in the conference on various aspects of Engagement and Relations of the countries in India's Extended Neighbourhood.

Contribution on any of the following themes can be deliberated-

- 1) Interconnection of Foreign and economic policy
- 2) India's engagement with neighbourhood countries in the Region
- 3) India Mausam policy
- 4) India's relation with ASEAN
- 5) Terrorism in South East Asia
- 6) Law of Sea and navigational issues
- 7) Cultural diplomacy in the extended neighbourhood
- 8) Climate change and Environmental security
- 9) Cyber issues/ space in South East Asia
- 10) Energy issues in West Asia
- 11) Human security in Central Asia
- 12) Trade and commerce in the region (Trans Pacific Partnerships)
- 13) National interest, Diplomacy and Development
- 14) Nuclear doctrine, No First use, Nuclear capabilities
- 15) Maritime security
- 16) India's role in Indian Ocean rim
- 17) US role in East Asia region
- 18) Role of Diaspora in the Neighbourhood countries
- 19) Connect Central Asia
- 20) Act East Policy and Look East Policy
- 21) Afpak Policy

22) Sanghai Cooperation Organisations

23) Gulf Cooperation Council

24) India's West Asia Policy

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

<u>ABSTRACTS SUBMISSION DATES</u>	<u>AUGUST 15, 2016</u>
<u>NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE (EMAIL)</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER,25, 2016</u>
<u>REGISTRATION COMPLETE FORMS</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 1, 2016</u>
<u>FINAL PAPER FOR THE CONFERENCE PROCEEDING</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 5, 2016</u>
<u>2016 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING FOR PAPERS AND ORGANIZING COMMITTEE</u>	<u>DECEMBER 24, 2016</u>
<u>2017 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE</u>	<u>JANUARY 6&7, 2017</u>

Submissions

Abstract of no more than 300 words including key words should be submitted to Dr. Sanjay Mohan Wagh, email:- jsmpolitics.intconference17@gmail.com mobile number 9221884384 on or before 15 August 2016

The following information is required in the following order

- Title of the Paper- Bold –faced and centered in upper/Lower case
- Times Roman and 12 Fonts.
- Name (s) of the author(s)-
- Affiliation(s) of the author(s)
- Address(es) of the author(s)
- Abstract of the paper
- Full paper