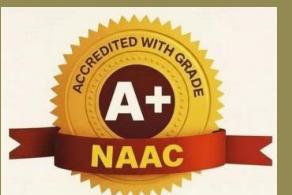




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CALL FOR PAPERS

Two-Day National Seminar on Socio-political Flux in South Asia: Regime Change, Recalibrating Geopolitical Dynamics and Resetting Balance of Power

19th – 20th March 2026



Organised by
Department of International Relations
School of Social Sciences
Central University of Jharkhand,
Cheri-Manatu, Ranchi, Jharkhand,
India

Convenor of the Seminar
Dr. Bibhuti Bhusan Biswas

THEME WISE BEST PAPER PRESENTATION AWARD

CHIEF PATRON

Professor SARANG MEDHEKAR

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor
Central University of Jharkhand,
Cheri-Manatu, Ranchi, Jharkhand, India



This department is dedicated to promote teaching skills and research development in the emerging areas of South Asia, Central Asia, South East Asia, West Asia, Indo-Pacific, Environment, Human Rights, International laws and Organizations, Indian Politics and Government, Political Thought, Good Governance, Comparative Politics, and so on. While the Department organize the National and International seminar/conferences, special lectures, annual activities and discussion among the students with faculty. Since its inception, the department has been concentrating on maintain at the global standard in the class, teaching and research programmes. The Department is committed to provide a new vision, new directions, new ways and devoted to the academic activities, which remain the unique opportunities in the discipline of Politics and International Relations. In papers like India's Strategic Thinkers and Indian Political Thought the department curiously endeavours to the proud indigenous knowledge system of India and its diversity.

Master's Course curriculum has been very carefully designed which caters to the needs of the students in the present context. Both the core areas of International Relations and Political Science have been incorporated in the curriculum. This Department has endeavoured to include sufficient amount of literature and modules from different regions of the globe. The faculty has represented the Department at both international and national level. The Department is also offering teaching and learning medium in both languages English and Hindi.

CONCEPT NOTE OF THE SEMINAR

South Asia is one of the many regions on the globe defined variably by different scholars. Nomenclature ranges from southern Asia, to Indian Subcontinent to South Asia for different reasons. It is a cultural region possessing vital geopolitical significance and home to nearly 2.08 billion of world's population in 2025. This makes it one of the world's most populous and densely populated regions. Despite political divisions most countries of the region share civilization, ecological connections and rich cultural linkages, which continue to be cause of conflict and cooperation. Region is unique in the sense of diversity on account of religious faiths and practices which include Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Sikhism, Christianity, and Jainism along with people belonging to other faiths.

Countries of the region have experienced intensifying socio-political modernization over the last few decades owing to development in the field of science and technology. Social, political, economic and cultural modernization has brought many significant changes within these polities causing dynamism in the geopolitics of the region and changing geostrategic significance of the countries locally as well as globally. Ralf Dahrendorf, the

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

The Central University of Jharkhand was established through the Central University Act, 2009. The University started with a vision to be a flagship university firmly rooted in bharatiya culture and its rich spiritual legacy; fostering an open, rational and scientific temperament for a better world. The mission of the University are accessible, affordable and quality education for all; holistic growth of sensitive and responsive citizens in bhartiya spiritual ethos; cutting edge, impactful research coupled with entrepreneurial excellence to create future ready citizens. It offers Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Ph.D. programmes as per National Education Policy 2020. The University is open to new ideas in course curricula and research proposals, collaboration, interaction and capacity building programmes.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of International Relations was established in the year 2012. Initially it was offering 5-year Integrated M.A. course till 2016-2017 and at present, Department is offering M.A. in Political Science with Specialization in International Relations and Ph. D Research Programme in International Relations since 2015.



eminent sociologist argued that three things ‘Peace, Prosperity and Freedom’ are necessary to make a society perfect. South Asia has experienced a bit of prosperity and that itself seems to have made peace and freedom casualty. Consequently, over the last four years countries of the region have been facing regime transition, democratic regression, governance challenges, and crises of legitimacy for the existing regimes. Accordingly, these changes are injecting geopolitical shift within the region making the region quite volatile and complex.

Political upheavals have been witnessed first in Sri Lanka, followed by Bangladesh and then in Nepal. Afghanistan has been politically unstable since the days of Taliban-I, with brief interlude of democratic experience before Taliban-II (current iteration of the Taliban Government in Afghanistan) in August 2021. Pakistan’s polity has continued to be economically unstable thereby making it vulnerable to its own military. Maldives too has never been politically stable and the political leadership has won or lost the election on the grounds of being pro-India or pro-China. Constitutions within the region continued but constitutionalism failed. Hence, the balance of power in the region has been ever-shifting. Countries of the region have understood quite well the imperatives of China and India, and the fact that they are sandwiched between these two giants which are competitive and rival powers in the region. Both these countries have proved to be major stakeholder in the region stability and prosperity. Thus, the countries of South Asia have learned the art of pitting one against the other and bargain for their development within.

South Asia has also been an inviting turf for major powers of the world. UK was the dominant colonial power widely prevalent in the region. USA has been instrumental towards bringing cold war to the region through its bilateral hobnobbing with Pakistan and military interventions in Afghanistan which continued from post-world war II era to the present in the articulations of QUAD, IPEC and number of other groupings. USA had its ‘pivot to Asia’ foreign policy mainly to contain China’s expanding outreach within the region and beyond. Once again USA is re-setting the Indo-Pacific priorities as it is wishing to enter into alliance with Pakistan for Pasni port and pressurizing Afghanistan for Bagram airport. Such moves have disturbed the peace process within the region including destabilization of the polity as a whole. All such developments make South Asia one of the most vulnerable regions on the globe and complex enough to comprehend its ever-changing dynamics and geopolitics.

It is in this backdrop that Department of International Relations proposed to organise a National Seminar with following objectives:

1. To explore the factors and consequences of regime change and political instability across South Asia.
2. To analyse the implications of these transformations for India’s foreign policy and imperatives for India at the regional and global levels.



3. To explore the evolving nature of democracy, governance, and legitimacy in the region.
4. To assess the impact of external powers on the geopolitical restructuring of South Asia.
5. Identify potential pathways for political resilience, cooperative security, and regional integration.

Thematic Context

One can see South Asian political scenario is undergoing structural realignment. Re-emerging of symptom of erosion in democracy and sovereignty of nations is weakening democratic institutions and imposing threats to the survival of governments and growing crises of legitimacy in different countries. In most of the South Asian countries one can see weak democratic institutions, politicization of ethnicity and religion, populist leaderships, and the erosion of accountability have converged to challenge the democratic project across the region. The persistence of “hybrid regimes” and “illiberal democracies” reflects the ‘crisis of legitimacy’ and governance that many states face.

The post-2021 era has consistently deepened political failure to understand the emergence of hybrid regimes and illiberal democracies. Tussle between the governments and oppositions were further deepened which leads to economic distress, unemployment, and global disruptions and those have further exposed governance deficits. Similarly, emergence of new communication technologies and digital media are heavily influencing behaviour of the government, political mobilization, and the manipulation of narratives. On the other hand, the South Asia’s geopolitics has entered a new phase with the intervention of external powers. India is trying to maintain the sort of equilibrium policy through a grid of equal distance from the major power politics to better understand the dynamics. Nevertheless, China’s economic diplomacy, Indo-Pacific coalition and Russia’s evolving posture have collectively redefined regional dynamics and its geopolitics.

Significance of the Seminar

Global shifts of power and ideology impact any region in the world and South Asia is not the exception to such changes. Hence, political instability and emergence of new regimes in South Asia cannot be viewed by excluding global power shifts. The interplay between internal governance challenges and external strategic pressures have redefined the meaning of sovereignty, democracy, and regional cooperation.

Any changes or political instability in the neighbourhood of India poses serious traditional and non-traditional security challenges from non-state actors, like: terrorism, influx of refugee, economic disruption to environmental vulnerabilities. Whereas India believes in non-violence and democratic ethos, a stable and democratic



South Asia not only provides surety of collective economic growth of the region as well as it is essential for India’s growth, security, and its vision of a multipolar Indo-Pacific order.

It is in the given context of volatility and instability in the region that the Department of International Relations proposes to organize the national seminar to facilitate debate over a multidisciplinary dialogue that bridges academia and policy, exploring the way the region can transition from turbulence to transformation. The said seminar would emphasize the need for renewed regional frameworks, technology driven governance reforms, and the strengthening of democratic resilience.

The theme, “Socio-political Flux in South Asia: Regime Change, Recalibrating Geopolitical Dynamics and Resetting Balance of Power,” captures the essence of an era defined by transformation and uncertainty. As regimes shift and alliances evolve, the region faces a defining moment, one that demands critical reflection, collaborative scholarship, and strategic foresight. The Department of International Relations of Central University of Jharkhand propose to bring together top most academicians, diplomats, policy analysts and defence personnel for deliberating upon the way South Asia can navigate its complex political realities and shape a more stable, cooperative, and balanced regional order.

Expected Outcomes

The Seminar intends to generate an informed understanding of the drivers of socio-political flux in South Asia; Offer analytical insights into India’s strategic choices amid regional instability; Assess the role of democracy, governance, and legitimacy as stabilizing or destabilizing factors; Produce policy recommendations for enhancing regional stability, connectivity, and cooperation; Encourage interdisciplinary dialogue among scholars, diplomats, and policymakers on the future of South Asian geopolitics.

Tentative Themes

The proposed seminar shall tentatively include following themes pertaining to issues in South Asia identified above:

1. Causes and Consequences of Political Upheavals in South Asian Countries
2. Political Turmoil in India’s Neighbourhood: Implications and Imperatives for India
3. Unstable Neighbourhood amidst Regime Change through Undemocratic Processes
4. Changing Geopolitical Dynamics in South Asia
5. Changing Nature of Technology Necessitating Regime Change or Updation
6. Political Resilience and Democratic Processes in South Asia



7. Changing Strategic Concerns and Security Dynamics of South Asia
8. Role and Relevance of Regional Organizations in South Asia
9. Power Asymmetry in South Asia: Myth or Reality?
10. Role of Major Powers in South Asian Regime Resetting
11. Bilateralism and the Future of Regionalism in South Asia
12. From Non-Alignment to Multi-Alignment
13. Sub-Regional Cooperation and Connectivity in South Asia
14. Smaller States in South Asia: Crisis of Governance or Crisis of Legitimacy?
15. Great Power Competition and Strategic Realignments: India, China, and the West in South Asia–Africa Relations
16. Geopolitics of the Indian Ocean: Maritime Security, Trade Routes, and Balance of Power
17. South–South Cooperation and the Reimagining of Political and Economic Partnerships

Note: The above sub-themes are only indicative. Authors may opt other topics also relevant to the main theme of the Seminar.

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission of Abstract	06th March , 2026
Confirmation of Abstract	March 08, 2026
Last date of Registration	March 10, 2026
Submission of Full Paper	March 15, 2026

1. The paper may be composed in MS-Word format, Times New Roman font with heading in Font Size 14 and the remaining text in the font size 12 with 1.5 spacing. Full paper length 6000 words.
 2. Notes should be numbered consecutively, superscripted in the text and attached to the end of the article.

Registration Fee

Students & Research Scholars	₹700 INR*
Faculty/Professional/Diplomat	₹1500 INR#
Foreign Delegate	\$100 USD#
SAARC-ASEAN	\$50 USD#

Note: No TA/DA will be provided to participants or paper presenters.

*Accommodation in Hostel, Conference kit, Lunch and one dinner.

#Accommodation in a modest hotel in sharing basis, Conference kit, Lunch and one dinner

For More details Contact us @ bibhuti.biswas@cuj.ac.in

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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Academics, scholars, policy experts, and other interested participants are invited to submit an abstract of approximately 250 words. The abstract should clearly outline the problem being addressed, specify the principal research questions guiding the study, state the research objectives, and provide a concise summary of the key findings. # Name of the Author(s), Affiliation, Email ID and Contact Number shall be written on the abstract.

Submission Link: <https://forms.gle/czVTmnFwFCieTQvn6>

The registration fee may be remitted only after the abstract has been duly reviewed and formally accepted by the Peer Review Committee. Notification of acceptance will be communicated to the author via the email address provided at the time of submission.

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HOW TO REACH TO VENUE

Ranchi is well connected by air, rail, and road, making travel to the city convenient from across India. Birsa Munda Airport, located about 27 km away, operates regular flights to major Indian cities. The city is also served by two प्राप्ति railway stations—Ranchi Junction (approximately 20 km) and Hatia Junction (around 25 km)—which provide strong rail links to key destinations nationwide. Road connectivity is equally reliable, with national highways and regular bus services ensuring smooth access. The Central University of Jharkhand (CUJ), situated in Cheri Manatu about 25 km from Ranchi, can be easily reached by hiring a cab or taking a local auto-rickshaw from the airport or either of the railway stations.

