



*Call for Papers*

*Seminar*

*on*

***Federal Imperatives in India's Foreign Policy***

**UGC Southern Asia Studies Programme (SASP)**

School of Social Sciences & International Studies

Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India

***March 11-12, 2014***

**Venue: Convention cum Cultural Complex,  
Pondicherry University,  
Puducherry- 605014**

**Prof. N.K. Jha  
Convener & Director**

## **Pondicherry University**

Pondicherry, now Puducherry, is a Union Territory with one of the highest levels of quality of life in the country with excellent physical infrastructure and almost a hundred per cent literacy level. The Pondicherry University was established at this beautiful town in 1985 by the Government of India through an Act of Parliament. The University is located in the serene surroundings on Coromandal coast and 10 km north of Puducherry. The campus is spread over 780 acres of land some of which is rolling down to the sea beach. The University is a member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities and has signed Memorandum of Understanding with several foreign universities / institutes. A recent survey reported by the UGC (University Grants Commission) and the NAAC (National Accreditation and Assessment Council) ranked this university as one of the best in the country.

## **Southern Asia Studies Programme**

The UGC sanctioned this programme to the University during the 10<sup>th</sup> plan in June 2005. The chief objective of this programme is to promote policy-oriented as well as theoretical research and publication in the field of Southern Asia Studies. The programme is also intended to promote cultural understanding in the region and build up library on the subject. The area of teaching and research of this Center is wider than that of South Asian Studies and UMISARC, as the Southern Asian region covers not only SAARC counties, but also a part of West, East and South-East Asia. To be more precise this region covers the area between the Gulf of Hormuz and the Strait of Malacca.

## **The Conference Theme**

Federal structure of a country is one of the most important factors that conditions its foreign policy. Federalism being form of democratic political system, any federal government can hardly ignore the special interests of the constituent units while formulating foreign policy. This is despite the fact that usually federal constitutions (such 'as Austria, Brazil, Burma, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Venezuela and former Yugoslavia, etc.) preclude their constituent parts from the foreign policy making field by assigning these powers to the Union Governments. Accordingly, while a federal state is supposed to behave as a unitary actor in the international community, the realities of the domestic political structure provide constituent parts of a federal state with significant competence of their own to influence foreign policy in specified areas. Not surprisingly, the literature on comparative foreign policy since more than three decades has increasingly emphasized the international activities of provincial governments especially in federal political set ups. This literature has helped to replace the perception that nation states are only significant global actors.

India is no exception to this emerging trend in federal states. While the Constitution of India exclusively authorises the Union Government to frame and implement foreign policy, India being a democratic polity, can hardly afford to ignore the special interests of the constituent units. In fact, several Indian states because of their special interests, have taken keen interest in foreign affairs and the Union Government has taken into account their concerns. For, whatever be the provisions of the Constitution regarding the powers of the federal Government in regard to foreign affairs, the efficient implementation of foreign policy requires the willing cooperation of the units.

The role of provinces in the making of India's foreign policy has assumed all the more salience with the dawn of coalition politics in India, when the federal Government has to depend on several regional leaders for its survival. Besides, the economic liberalisation since the early 1990s has given the Indian states unforeseen opportunities to sprout an external wing. The quest for trade and investment has made them externally oriented. This has enhanced role for the states and transformed the power equation between the Union and the states as the latter has become more assertive. The Union may still be "constitutionally strong, but it has become politically weak.

To cite only a few examples, the recent stand of West Bengal over River Teesta has caused a major embarrassment to the Manmohan Singh Government. The Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously passed a resolution seeking imposition of economic sanctions on Sri Lanka. Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab have been asking the Union to take them on board while discussing water issues with Pakistan. In the ongoing negotiations in the WTO on agriculture related issue, the views of states have been incorporated in India's stand. Several Chief Ministers opposed Foreign Direct Investment in retail on the ground that the move would hurt the interests of farmers and retailers in their states, forcing the Union Government to delay and dilute the move. Similarly, the proposal of the Union Home Ministry to set up National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) was opposed by several Chief Ministers with strong argument around the interpretation of federalism in the Indian Constitution. A paradigm shift is thus taking place in the debates on what should be the role of the constituent units in the making of India's foreign policy. This raises the question as to whether constituent units acting as sub-national governments provide a better option in negotiation with India's neighbour.

It is, therefore, a high time to have an in-depth discussion on the above mentioned issues to critically analyse the role of constituent units in foreign policy making and suggest possible paths for the future. Accordingly, the Seminar is intended to bring together leading academic experts, policy analysts, diplomats, members of think tanks and media from different parts of India.

The Seminar will mainly focus on (but not limited to) the following sub-themes

1. Federal Imperatives in Foreign Policy: Conceptual Aspects
2. Dealing with West Bengal's Concerns
3. Managing Tamil Nadu's Concerns
4. Taking Care of Kashmiri and Punjabi interests
5. UP and Behari Inputs
6. The Role of Ethnic Diasporas
7. Foreign Trade and Investment

The above-mentioned topics are only tentative. Paper writers may opt other topics relevant to the seminar theme.

## Paper Submission

Participants willing to present paper are requested to follow the schedule and guidelines given below:

- Abstract (not exceeding 250 words) should be submitted on or before **February 05, 2014**.
- Abstract should include the name of the author(s), their affiliation and address (postal and e-mail)
- One complete paper (soft copy) not exceeding 20 pages should be sent through email on [ugcsasp.pu@gmail.com](mailto:ugcsasp.pu@gmail.com), on or before **February 28, 2014**.
- Paper must not be previously published or currently under review for publication elsewhere.
- The following style sheet may kindly be used.

## Style Sheet

1. The paper may be composed in MS-Words format, Times New Roman font with heading in Font Size 14 and the remaining text in the font size 12 with 1.5 spacing.
2. Notes should be numbered consecutively, superscripted in the text and attached to the end of the article.
3. Spelling should follow the British pattern: e.g. 'colour', NOT 'color'.
4. Quotations should be placed in double quotation marks. Long quotes of above 4 (four) lines should be indented in single space.
5. Use italics for title of the books, newspaper, journals and magazines in text and end notes.
6. In the text, number below 100 should be mentioned in words (e.g. twenty eight). Use "per cent", but in tables the symbol % should be typed.

## Citing References

### Book

Leo E. Rose and Richard Sission, *War and Succession: India, Pakistan and Creation of Bangladesh* (New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1990), pp. 102-5.

### Citing an article from an edited book

A. Appadorai, "On Understanding Indian Foreign Policy," in K. P. Misra, ed., *Studies in Indian Foreign Policy* (New Delhi: Thompson Press, 1969), pp. 113-17.

### Citing an Article from a journal

Nalni Kant Jha, "Implications for India of an Unstable Nepal," *Nepali Journal of Contemporary Studies* (Kathmandu), vol.6, no.1, March, 2006, p.36.

### Citing an article from a Newspaper

Shekhar Gupta, "Pakistan's Civilian Deal," *Indian Express* (New Delhi), August 30, 2008.