



# INFORMATION BROCHURE



**UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institute of South Asia  
Regional Cooperation (UMISARC)  
Pondicherry University, India**

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# Pondicherry

**P**ondicherry, now Puducherry about 160 km down south of Chennai on the Coromandel Coast of Bay of Bengal 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 climate is tropical (between 18 and 38 degree Celsius) with two monsoons, having fairly heavy rainfall in November and very moderate rainfall in July. It is well connected with the rest of India by road, rail and air upto Chennai. There are frequent flights from Chennai to many national capitals and other important destinations across the world. Pondicherry University was established in October 1985 by the Government of India through an Act of Parliament is located in the serene surroundings of 780 acres of lush green tropical vegetation. It is the fastest growing central university in India. About 450 dedicated faculty, 5000 students, and scholars make this University highly vibrant in academic pursuits. The University offers more than 153 post-graduate programmes leading to M.Sc. M. A., M.B.A., M. Phil., and PhD degrees. Besides having on-campus teaching and research at Post Graduate level, it is also an affiliating University with 88 colleges. The University is a member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities and has signed Memorandum of Understanding with over 25 foreign universities / institutes. The University is the pioneering one to adopt a unique Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS) with modular/ unitised courses, which provides a menu of courses for students to choose depending upon a student's ambition, ability and career plan; moreover it also permits accumulating credits faster and obtaining PG degree in less than 2 years.

## Southern Asia Studies Programme

The University Grants Commission (UGC) sanctioned the Southern Asia Studies Programme (SASP) under its Area Studies Programme to Pondicherry University in the year 2005. Since then several academic meets of national and international levels have been organized under the auspices of this programme. Hence, the UGC has extended the programme during the XI<sup>th</sup> plan period. A new Ph.D. programme in Southern Asia Studies has been introduced since the academic year 2011-12. Academically Southern Asia is a wider term than South Asia, as the former includes not only SAARC countries, but also China, Myanmar, ASEAN countries as well as countries of the South West Pacific region.

## UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institute of South Asia Regional Cooperation (UMISARC)

**T**he Pondicherry University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with South Asia Foundation (SAF) on June 20, 2009 for establishment of the Madanjeet Singh Institute of South Asia Regional Cooperation (MISARC), with financial support from South Asia Foundation. The Institute became functional with the appointment of its first Director with the concurrence of the founder of SAF, Ambassador Madanjeet Singh. In the year 2010, the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) agreed to associate with all institutions of excellence established by SAF including MISARC of Pondicherry University. Hence, it has been now renamed as UMISARC (U standing for UNESCO). The institute has thus now become truly global.



Signing of the Appendix to the MoU of MISARC,  
L to R, Prof. J.A.K. Tareen,  
Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, Ambassador Madanjeet Singh

The Institute is currently offering M A programme in South Asia Studies. Though this is the first and the only institution in the country, which is offering this highly innovative course, it has bright career prospects in diverse fields such as governmental and non-governmental organizations, media, think tanks, international organizations and corporate sector. The course is uniquely designed to provide cutting edge knowledge of South Asian history, society, culture, economy, governance and politics, etc., from an interdisciplinary perspective. Students are expected not only to develop broad knowledge base to critically understand contentious issues concerning South Asia, but also offer a holistic perspective to address them and contribute towards promoting peace and cooperation in the region.

## Publications

The Institute publishes an *International Journal of South Asian Studies* to provide a forum for academic research in areas relating to political, social, economic, cultural cooperation and development in South Asia. Besides, the Institute is in the process of publishing books, monographs and papers in journals and edited volumes.

Together with the publication of the Journal, the Institute offers a broad research platform for refined academic debates with regular guest lectures by eminent scholars and diverse academic activities. At the same time, the Institute organises cultural meets and exchanges for promotion of cooperation and harmony in South Asia.

## Faculty

### Professor & Director

\*N. K. Jha, M. Phil., Ph. D. (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)  
Specialization: India's Foreign Policy and Politics, South Asia in International Politics, International Relations Theory.  
Email: jhank59@gmail.com

### Reader

\*A. Subramanyam Raju, Ph. D. (University of Hyderabad)  
Specialization: South Asian Politics and Security Issues, Maritime and Energy Security Issues, India-US Relations

### Assistant Professors

S. I. Humayun, Ph.D. (University of Madras)  
Specialization: Non-Traditional Security Issues in South Asia, Maritime Security Affairs

\*D. Purushothaman, M.Phil, Ph. D (Pondicherry University)  
Specialization: Indo-US Relations, Security Issues in South Asia

V. Santhosh Mathew, M. Phil., (Mahathma Gandhi University, Kottayam)  
Specialization: International Organizations, Political Economy, Comparative Politics.  
\* Recognised supervisors for guiding doctoral research

## Thrust Areas of the Institute

1. Foreign policy of South Asian countries
2. South Asian regional cooperation
3. Peace, security and development in South Asia
4. South Asia in world affairs
5. Society, culture, history, economy and politics in South Asian states
6. Contemporary challenges in South Asia including nation and state building, poverty eradication, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, refugees, energy and water security, environmental degradation, etc.
7. India's foreign policy in general and its relations with the neighbours in particular.

# Academic Programmes

- M.A. South Asian Studies
- Ph.D South Asian Studies
- Ph.D Southern Asia Studies

The course of study for the Master's programme shall be for a duration of two academic years with four semesters. The total number of days will be 200 working days inclusive of study tour and material / data collection in connection with dissertation work and exclusive of admission and examination works.

The duration of the Ph.D. programme shall be a minimum period of three years from the date of registration and two years for those with M. Phil or equivalent degree. In exceptional cases, the minimum period could be reduced up to one year by the Academic Council on recommendation of the Doctoral Committee. Those Indian students admitted to the Ph.D full-time programme will get a monthly stipend of ₹ 5,000/- for a period of 3 years extendable for 4<sup>th</sup> year. All Ph.D students joining through nomination by SAF Chapters shall be paid the travel and maintenance allowance out of the SAF funds, till the support is received from SAF. Tour fellowships are offered for year 2011-12.

The following is the revised syllabus for M.A. South Asian Studies

## Course Structure

### Semester-I

1. Introduction to Political Ideas (4-HC)
2. Theories of International Relations (4-HC)
3. Colonialism and Nationalism in South Asia (4-HC)
4. Understanding India (3-SC)
5. Peace and Conflict Resolution in South Asia (3-SC)
6. Developmental Challenges in South Asia (3-SC)

### Semester-II

1. Contemporary International Relations (4-HC)
2. Introduction to Society, Culture and Economy of South Asia (4-HC)
3. Research Methodology (4-HC)
4. Understanding Pakistan and Afghanistan (3-SC)
5. Energy Security in South Asia (3-SC)
6. Environmental Issues in South Asia (3-SC)

### Semester-III

1. Government and Politics in South Asia (4-HC)
2. Contemporary Issues in South Asia (4-HC)
3. South Asia in World Affairs (4-HC)
4. Understanding Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh (3-SC)
5. Maritime Security in South Asia (3-SC)
6. Civil Society and Human Rights in South Asia (3-SC)

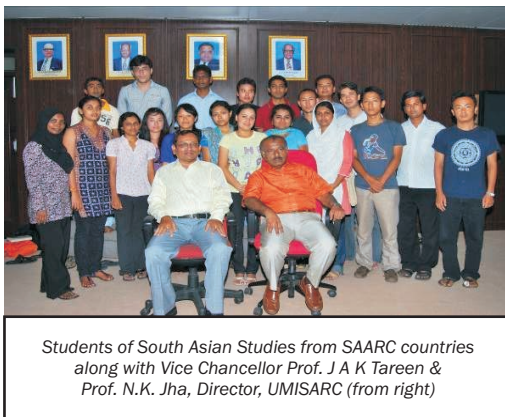
### Semester-IV

1. Regional Cooperation in South Asia (4-HC)
2. Foreign Policy of South Asian Countries (4-HC)
3. Dissertation (4-HC)
4. Understanding Sri Lanka and Maldives (3-SC)
5. Major Domestic Challenges in South Asia (3-SC)
6. South Asia and International Institutions (3-SC)

Compulsory Papers (HC)	= 48
Soft Core (SC)	= 12
Soft Core	= 12 (from other departments)

# Application Process

(1) To be considered for the Ph.D. programmes, a candidate must possess a master's degree in Political Science / International Relations / South Asian Studies / History / Defence Studies / Public Administration / Economics / Sociology or related disciplines with marks prescribed by Pondicherry University. For the M.A. programme, a candidate must be a graduate in any subject with marks prescribed by the Pondicherry University; (2) Successfully clear the entrance examination conducted by Pondicherry University. Relaxation in marks and reservation norms will be followed as per rules of the university (this does not apply to applicants from SAARC countries other than India). Application form can be downloaded at [www.pondiuni.edu.in](http://www.pondiuni.edu.in) Regular application will be available for sale at the University from early March 2011. It can be obtained by post from: the Deputy Registrar (Academic II), Pondicherry University, R. V. Nagar, Puducherry- 605014 by sending a crossed DD in favour of the Finance Officer, Pondicherry University, payable at Puducherry. The last date for submitting the filled in application forms will be April 28, 2011. Also refer University admission notification issued in newspapers and the university website.



*Students of South Asian Studies from SAARC countries along with Vice Chancellor Prof. J A K Tareen & Prof. N.K. Jha, Director, UMISARC (from right)*

## South Asia Foundation (SAF)— Madanjeet Singh Group Scholarship

SAF—Madanjeet Singh Group Scholarship is a unique feature of South Asian Studies programme at Pondicherry University. Sixteen scholarships are awarded to Master's students from South Asian countries (eight boys and eight girls). The scholarship award covers the entire tuition fees, travel (round trip economy airfare only for international students) boarding and lodging at Pondicherry University for two years. The scholarship will not cover expenses on dependent, if any, of a scholarship holder. They will have to fully support their dependents. The South Asia Foundation Chapter from each SAARC county (i.e) Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will select two candidates and inform its selection to the university. While selecting candidates, the SAF chapters may give preference to candidates having graduate degree in Political Science, International Relations, Economic, Defence Studies, History and Sociology, etc. The MSG Scholarship holders will be subject to same rules and regulations regarding attendance and discipline, etc, as applicable to other students of the University. Candidates interested in this scholarship will have to directly apply to the SAF Chapter in their respective countries. Visit [www.southasiafoundation.org](http://www.southasiafoundation.org) for more details. For further information mail Mr. P.K. Prabhakaran, Director of Operations, South Asia Foundation ([prabhakaran@safmail.org](mailto:prabhakaran@safmail.org)).

<p><b>SAF-AFGHANISTAN CHAPTER</b>  Chairperson: H.E. Dr. Sayed Makhdoom Raheen,  Minister, Information and Culture, Afghanistan  Contact email: <a href="mailto:afghanistan@safmail.org">afghanistan@safmail.org</a>  <a href="mailto:obaidullah@safmail.org">obaidullah@safmail.org</a></p>	<p><b>SAF BANGLADESH CHAPTER</b>  Chairperson: Dr. Kamal Hossain  Former Minister of Foreign Affairs (1973 - 1975).  Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.  Contact email: <a href="mailto:bangladesh@safmail.org">bangladesh@safmail.org</a>  <a href="mailto:khossain@citechco.net">khossain@citechco.net</a></p>
<p><b>SAF INDIA CHAPTER</b>  Chairperson: Hon. Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar  Former Minister for Panchayati Raj &amp;  Development of North Eastern Region.  Contact email: <a href="mailto:india@safmail.org">india@safmail.org</a>  <a href="mailto:prabhakaran@safmail.org">prabhakaran@safmail.org</a></p>	<p><b>SAF-MALDIVES CHAPTER</b>  Chairperson: Mr. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki  Special Envoy of the President.  Contact email: <a href="mailto:maldives@safmail.org">maldives@safmail.org</a>  <a href="mailto:eman@safmail.org">eman@safmail.org</a></p>
<p><b>SAF NEPAL CHAPTER</b>  Chairperson: Dr. Rita Thapa  Senior Health Policy Adviser in Nepal's Ministry of Health.  Contact email: <a href="mailto:nepal@safmail.org">nepal@safmail.org</a>  <a href="mailto:bheribas@gmail.com">bheribas@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>SAF PAKISTAN CHAPTER</b>  Chairperson: Prof. Salima Hashmi  Dean, School of Visual Arts, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore.  Contact email: <a href="mailto:pakistan@safmail.org">pakistan@safmail.org</a>  <a href="mailto:sabeen@safmail.org">sabeen@safmail.org</a></p>
<p><b>SAF SRI LANKA CHAPTER</b>  Chairperson: Hon. Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga  Former President of Sri Lanka, Colombo  Contract email: <a href="mailto:srilanka@safmail.org">srilanka@safmail.org</a>  <a href="mailto:swinitha@safmail.org">swinitha@safmail.org</a></p>	<p><b>SAF BHUTAN CHAPTER</b>  Chairperson: Hon. Mr. Lyonpo Sangay Ngedup  Former Minister for Agriculture of the Royal Government of Bhutan.  Contract email: <a href="mailto:bhutan@safmail.org">bhutan@safmail.org</a>  <a href="mailto:nim@safmail.org">nim@safmail.org</a></p>

## Visiting Professor

Outstanding senior to middle level Professor / Associate Professor can also apply for grant to spend upto 6 months for teaching & research and their travel & maintenance shall be appropriately support by SAF grant.

## Facilities Available at the Institute

Though newly established, the Institute has excellent infra-structure facilities including computers with internet connection, over head projector and LCD projectors, fax and Xerox machine, etc., to support teachers and students in their pursuit of academic excellence and relevance. The grand UMISARC building has a state of art auditorium and seminar hall well-equipped with latest audio-visual facilities, reading room, class and faculty rooms, computer labs, as well as space for research scholars and visiting faculty.

The Institute is imparting education through new and innovative methods and techniques. Frequent guest lectures by eminent scholars, diplomats, defence officers and members of think tanks from different parts of India and abroad are arranged to enable students to have a wider perspective on their area of study. The Institute is organising conferences, seminars and panel discussions on issues of contemporary relevance at frequent intervals. Within a short span of 1 year (February 2010-March 2011), the Institute in collaboration with SASP has organized three international and two national seminars. The Institute is developing its own specialized library to supplement resources available at central and school libraries.

## Hostel Accommodation

The University has 19 hostels of which five hostels are for girls. Accommodation in hostel for girls and differently-abled students is free. The hostels can accommodate 1500 students.

## Governing Council

### Chairman

Prof J A K Tareen,

Vice Chancellor, Pondicherry University

### Co-Chairman

Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar

Former Union Minister of Panchayati Raj,  
Government of India

### Members

Mr N Ram

Editor-in-Chief, *The Hindu* (Chennai)

Mr. S Loganathan,

Registrar, Pondicherry University

### Member Secretary

Prof. N.K. Jha

Director of the Institute

## Advisory Council

### Chairman

Prof J A K Tareen

Vice-Chancellor, Pondicherry University

### Members

Dr. Syeda Hameed

Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury

Member, Planning Commission, New Delhi.

Vice-Chancellor, BRAC University,

66, Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Prof. Sartaj Aziz

Vice-Chancellor, Beaconhouse National

University, Gulberg 5, Lahore 54400, Pakistan.

Prof. Mahendra P. Lama

Vice Chancellor, Central University of Sikkim.

Prof. Priyankar Upadhyaya

Director, Malviya Center for Peace

Research, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

Prof M Ramadass

Director, Studies, Educational Innovation and

Rural Reconstruction, Pondicherry University.

Prof. D. Sambandhan

Dean, School of Social Sciences & International

Studies, Pondicherry University.

Shri S Loganathan

Registrar, Pondicherry University

Shri S Raghavan

Finance Officer, Pondicherry University

### Member Secretary

Prof N K Jha

Director of the Institute



Ambassador Madan K. Bhattarai, Foreign Secretary of Nepal, Ambassador Laxhan Lal Mehrotra, IFS (Retd.), former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India & United Nations' Envoy in Cambodia and Indonesia, Prof. J.A.K Tareen, (sitting from left), Mr Ibrahim Zuhuree, Head SAARC Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives (standing second from left) on the occasion of an International Conference on "South Asia in 2020: Towards a Greater Unity and Interdependence" organized by UMISARC during November 22-14, 2010



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[www.pondiuni.edu.in](http://www.pondiuni.edu.in)