About the Political Science department, BHU

The department of Political Science is one of the oldest departments of Banaras Hindu University. Established as a combined department along with Economics, it got an independent existence in 1929. The department has established itself academically with a galaxy of eminent political scientists who once adorned the department; it includes, inter alia, Professor Gurmukh Nihal Singh (who later became Governor of Rajasthan), Professor Bool Chand (later Vice-Chancellor, Vikram University), Professor Mukut Bihari Lal (later PSP leader in Rajya Sabha) and Professor K.V. Rao, an acclaimed authority on India’s parliamentary democracy. Moreover, the department had been decorated by distinguished alumni that include Chandra Shekhar, ex-Prime Minister of India, Sucheta Kripalani, Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, Rajeshwar Rao, J.B. Patnayaik, Dr. Bhupen Hazarika and also by a good number of Parliament and Legislative Assembly members and public figures from other South Asian countries. A number of alumni have made their mark in various capacities in Indian government and other centres of higher learning. The Department currently has 15 permanent faculties (teaching) and 03 faculties (non-teaching). The teaching faculty comprise of 12 Professors, 02 Associate Professors and 01 Assistant Professor. Currently department is led by Professor K.K. Mishra, a noted scholar of Ancient Indian political thought. The Department is also blessed with a galaxy of renowned scholars such as: Prof. R.R. Jha, Prof. Anjoo S. Upadhyaya, Prof. C. Padia, Prof. R.P. Pathak, Prof. D.G.A. Khan and Prof. R.P. Singh. The department has more than 100 Ph.D. scholars, 200 Postgraduate’s students and about 250 undergraduate students. It also runs a special course (self-financing) of Masters in Public Administration. It is housed in the faculty of Social Sciences, Old P.G. Building which lies at the very heart of Banaras Hindu University.
About the Colloquium

Continuity and change are always reflected in the foreign policy of the nations and Indian foreign policy is no exception to it. Recently a few discernible dimensions have emerged in Indian foreign policy, such as-economic and technical developments having precedence now and both domestic and foreign policy have been oriented to achieve these aims. Campaigns such as- Make in India, India First, Digital India and Clean India are pertinent initiatives recently taken by the present government. The trends like strengthening defence capability and using it as deterrence vis-a-vis hostile neighbours, realising the significance of soft power and public diplomacy including digital diplomacy and nation branding have been noticed. Relations with South East Asian nations have been made more vibrant by replacing the Look East policy with the Act East policy.

Since the day zero, present government has been active on the issues of neighbourhood. Invitation to the leaders of SAARC nations and Mauritius to the Prime Minister’s swearing in ceremony and PM’s visits to Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar are its explications. This unprecedented move creates positive vibes, which experts considered to be a ‘masterstroke’.

India has strongly dealt with Chinese incursions and Pakistan’s misadventures on borders. Taking a dissenting note on the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) in the WTO also shows the strong will to protect the national interest. Evacuation and assistance to Indians living in conflict zone of Iraq, Libya and Ukraine were no less a gigantic diplomatic endeavour. Prime Minister’s visit to USA and Fiji were the attempts to connect with the India Diaspora there. India is now looking forward to welcome the US President on its Republic Day ceremony. India put forth a constructive approach at the forums of BRICS, SAARC and ASEAN.

In order to understand subtleties of the emerging dimensions of Indian foreign policy, BHU and Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi are jointly organising this colloquium.

Details of the program are as follows:

I. Panel Discussion led by our distinguished speakers- Prof. Pushpesh Pant (JNU) and Dr. Uttam Sinha (IDSA), on:
   i- New initiatives in India’s Foreign Policy
   ii- India’s Neighbourhood Policy

II. Paper Presentations
   (For UG, PG and Research Students)
   i- Under ICWA Best Research Paper Award
      (either in Hindi or English)

Theme: Indian Foreign Policy under Prime Minister Modi
(Within this broad theme, participants can contextualise their papers as per their interests)

ii- Paper Presentation (either in Hindi or English)

Theme: Emerging Dimensions of Indian Foreign Policy

Sub themes:
- Foreign Policy Initiatives towards Economic and Technical Development
- India’s Soft Power
- India and her Neighbourhood
- India in UN and WTO
- India and Regional Organisations such as BRICS and SAARC
- Indian Diaspora
- Any other related theme

Note: Participants are requested to submit their abstract in 300 words and full paper in case of ICWA Best Research Paper Award by January 27, 2015. Kindly send abstract and papers in Times New Roman (Font size 12) and for Hindi Kruti Dev (Font size 14) at bhuicwa2015@gmail.com

III. Essay Writing Competition
   (Either in Hindi or English, for UG, PG and Research Students)

Topic: India-Pakistan Relations: How can they be improved?
(Allotted time for essay writing is 40 minutes; sheets for writing essay will be given)

Registration till January 27, 2015:
- `500 (For Research Students), `300 (For P.G. and U.G. students), `1000 on spot

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