



VOICE

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE,
MATA SUNDRI COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

PRESENTS

E-JOURNAL

VOICE

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Celebrating the discipline of International Relations

Cover page: The hemispherical representation of the world by Henricus Hondius, 1633,
courtesy, THE LOC.GOV WISE GUIDE

Message from the Principal

The Political Science Department of Mata Sundri College remains active throughout the year and conducts varied activities to bring out the latent talent of our students. The yearly e-journal, *Voice* is amongst an array of endeavors that deserves a special appreciation.

The current issue of *Voice* is a repository of valuable essays on contemporary global issues of socio-political and economic significance, thereby celebrating the discipline of international relations.

The posters that are reproduced in the issue showcase vivid colours and are not only, a visual treat but also, depict the core theme disseminating the message contained in it in a very potent way.

The events conducted throughout the year are presented in a sequential manner. The editorial members deserve praise for the present issue exhibits their hard work, unflinching efforts, exuberance and focus and the faculty of the Political Science Department is appreciated for motivating the students to come up with penetrating ideas and persuasive viewpoints.

Dr. Harpreet Kaur
Principal
Mata Sundri College For Women

From the Editors' Desk

In the contemporary era of globalization, as interaction between states, economies and markets intensify, the significance of a discipline like International Relations increases manifold. Its academic value in understanding global transformations cannot be stressed enough. More so, is its contribution to the field of policy formulation at the level of the nation-states in their interaction with the international system.

International relations of a country impact all the aspects such as the PESTEL (Political, Economic, social, Technical, Environmental and Legal). The significance of international relations as an academic discipline has increased over the years thus. The discipline has evolved and also reoriented itself with changing times stressing on interdisciplinarity and exchange of ideas with other social science disciplines.

With a focus on the discipline of international relations, the current issue of the 'Voice' includes a set of essays ranging on relevant international issues such as the humanitarian crisis in Iraq, the deteriorating relations between the US and Iran, the Yellow Vest movement in France, the Hong-Kong crisis, global terrorism, and world climate change.



Manisha 3rd Yr Sec B
Shraddha 3rd Yr Sec A
Sangam 3rd Yr Sec B
Sakshi 3rd Yr Sec A
Anu 3rd Yr Sec B
Tooba 3rd Yr Sec B



Stories from around the World

ESSAYS

USA'S WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA

On September 2001, attacks in America killed nearly 3,000 people. Osama Bin Laden, the head of Islamist terror group Al-Qaeda, was quickly identified as the man behind. The Taliban which is a radical Islamist group in Afghanistan protected Bin Laden and refused to hand him over. The then President of the United States (US) George W. Bush said "*we did not ask for a mission, but we will fulfill it*", after which, he announced the first air strikes against Afghanistan as a terrorist base of operations and to attack the military capability of the Taliban regime. This war, code-named as "*Operation Enduring Freedom (2001-2014)*" and "*Operation Freedom Sentinel (2015-present)*", was favored by as many as 40 countries including NATO allies. The war in Afghanistan is the second largest war in the US history after Vietnam war. The war mostly involves the US and the allied Afghan government troops battling the Taliban insurgents to bring long term stabilization in Afghanistan.

Timeline of the American Troops' Presence in Afghanistan

- November 2001- 1300 US troops arrive in Afghanistan.
- December 2001 – The US force grows to 2500 and the Taliban in power since 1996, is toppled. An interim administration is established and Pashtun leader Hamid Karzai becomes its chairman.
- April 2004- the number swells to 20,300 as the US builds up force along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border and provide security for fledgling reconstruction programs.
- December 2009- Troops numbered more than 67,000 and the situation was deteriorating. Then US president Barak Obama orders another 30,000 troops to fight Taliban and AL-Qaeda.
- May 2011- Al-Qaeda leader Osama is found hidden in neighboring Pakistan and was killed by the US special operations raid. But still 1,00,000 troops were present in Afghanistan.
- March 2014 – With nearly 34,000 troops in Afghanistan, Obama orders the Pentagon to develop options for a complete military withdrawal because Karzai refuses to sign security agreement with the US.

- May 2014- Obama announces plan to pull out all the troops by the end of 2016.
- June 2016- Claiming that the security situation in Afghanistan is precarious, troops were maintained at 8,400.
- August 2017- Trump warns against 'hastily withdrawal' saying 'conditions on the ground, not arbitrary timetables, will guide our strategy by now'. Troops increased to 14,000.
- September 2019- Khalilzad the US envoy maintained that under the deal reached 'in principle' with the group' the first 5,000 troops would withdraw within 135 days of the agreement becoming final.
- September 2019- Very recently, Trump called of peace negotiations with Taliban after Taliban attacks.

Donald Trump's announcement has raised speculations that it could be linked to his pre-election promise to pull out from external wars to save money to consolidate internally. It also signals that USA has perhaps admitted being defeated in Afghanistan and that it



had agreed to Taliban's demands. This decision is strengthened by the recent Doha talks between USA and Taliban focused on ending 18 years' conflict in Afghanistan. Recently released figures show that American casualties in Afghanistan from 2003-2018 were 372 army personnel killed and 20,320 wounded in action. An estimated 110,000 Afghan civilians and soldiers paid their lives during this conflict.

However, the decision to withdraw the troops once again shows Trump's unmatched tendency to shock his own administration for perusing an isolationist and anti-interventionist foreign policy to appease its own political base. Such actions are not an exception, but quite recurrent. The long-drawn-out Vietnam conflict 1964-1974 ended with an ignominious American withdrawal from South Vietnam. The casualties in this

conflict were massive, with an estimated 1.8 million Vietnamese losing their lives in North and South Vietnam. One can also look back at the Iraq conflict with similar sentiments. President Saddam Hussein was backed by the US in the Iraq-Iran war. The US thereafter forced Iraq to withdraw after the latter invaded Kuwait, in the first Gulf War in 1990-1991 where Iraqis reportedly lost an estimated 1,00,000 soldiers.

The Afghan army is meanwhile suffering huge casualties in recent Taliban attacks. Pakistan has moved deftly to persuade countries like China, Russia, Turkey, Iran, Qatar to follow American example of placing the Taliban and Ghani government virtually on the same pedestal. The Taliban should not be regarded as omnipotent. It is an exclusively Pashtun organization and Pashtun contribute about 40% of Afghanistan's population. The Taliban is strong willed and tenacious, but survive predominately with Pakistan's prolonged support.

IMPLICATIONS OF WITHDRAWAL ON INDIA

India has broadly two main interests in Afghanistan, which are, preventing any extremist group from taking over Afghanistan and maintaining economic cooperation with the Afghan government. The reason for Taliban's resilience is the support and succor it receives from Rawalpindi. Pakistan's leverage in Afghanistan is set to grow. India's Afghan policy has a major objective to curtail Islamabad's influence in Kabul and to deny Pakistan's state and non-state agents, any leverage to plot against India's interests. The US withdrawing troops from Afghanistan could affect the Kashmir valley as terrorist outfits may feel empowered. India's problems are exacerbated because American withdrawal comes at a point when its views on Afghanistan are at significant variance with other traditional regional partners like Russia and Iran. Another objective of India's Afghanistan policy is to gain access to vast energy markets in the central Asia, which is also at stake. The recently initiated trade initiative between India and Afghanistan will be wiped out. India has invested a lot in infrastructural development in Afghanistan in which it has built schools, primary health centers, roads, dams et cetera. Above all what is at stake is the faith of Afghani people in India as a good partner. It will pose a direct threat to India's security as one can remember the hijacking of IC-814 Indian Airlines to Kandahar, and other attacks like Pathankot attack.

This withdrawal, as one can see, can have dangerous consequences. We need to have serious dialogue with China and Russia and also attempt to convince the Americans about the negatives of withdrawal. Russia, China, Iran and India should coordinate with one

another to deal with the problem. We should be assertive and become a partner to resolve the issue rather than being a spectator on the side.

Manisha
3rd Yr Sec B

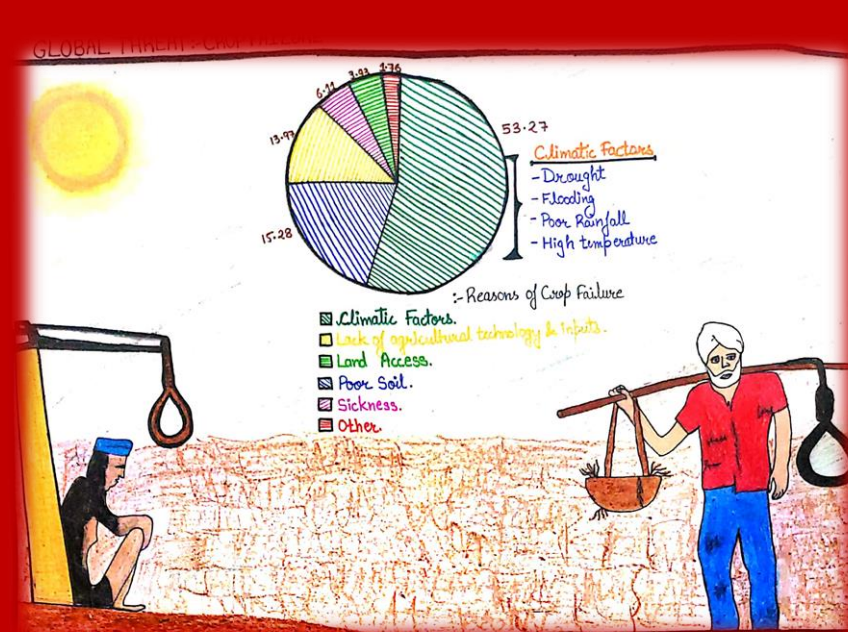
YOUTH STRIKE FOR CLIMATE

The School Strike for Climate is an international movement of students, drawing attention to the lack of action from politicians on the issue of climate change, by refusing to attend classes.

Young people from more than 100 countries took part in the recent GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE FOR FUTURE that took place on 15 March 2019, though the movement can be traced back to 2015.

Greta Thunberg, a Swedish climate activist has inspired many to join the movement. She was in the night grade when she went on strike in the lead up to 2018 Swedish general elections. She chose to sit outside her school with a sign that read "School Strike for Climate".

From Bangkok to Berlin, thousands of school students from 123 countries and over 2000 cities all over the world went on strike against the government inaction on climate change.



The movement focused on 3 demands- 100% clean energy, keeping fossil fuels in the ground and helping climate refugees.

The movement is growing day by day. In Australia, thousands of students began to strike on Friday, ignoring PM Scott Morrison's call

for more learning in school and less activism. Mass strike took place in Germany against insufficient policies on global warming. On March 1, 2019, 150 students from the Global Co-ordination Group of youth-lead climate strike, including Thunberg issued an open letter in *The Guardian* newspaper. The day of Global Climate Strike for the future was to be the most widespread of the strikes, the website *Fridays for Future.org* listed 1659 events planned in 106 countries. International Climate Strike in Aachen on 21 June 2019

Friday for Future, Deutsch called for a major climate strike under the motto 'Climate Justice Without Borders United for a Future'. Many impacts of climate change have been observed, including extreme weather events, glacier retreat, changes in the timing of seasonal events, sea level rise, and declines in Arctic Sea ice. The physical effects of future climate change depend on the extent of prevention efforts.

Amazon rainforest, holding a massive amount of the world's oxygen, is regarded as vital in the fight against global warming due to its ability to absorb carbon from air. It is referred to as 'the lungs of earth'. Amazon fire these days can have huge impacts on global climate. Brazil's president has long been accused of neglecting the global climate fight. The relevance of 'Youth Strike for Climate Change' can be seen by the social, economic effects on society. Greenpeace called the Brazilian government a 'threat to the climate equilibrium' and warned that Brazil would shoulder a 'heavy cost' to its economy under his policies. As climate change has gradually become a more recognized and apparent threat, the issue has also gained prominence on the political agenda, where responsibilities and strategies to handle the challenge are debated.

It is widely noted that the emission of greenhouse gases triggering global warming to a large extent originates in unsustainable lifestyle among the world's more affluent minorities, mainly in the so-called developed region. At the same time, those most exposed and vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change are poor and marginalized people living particularly in low-income areas. The existence of climate-related injustice between different countries and areas is recognized by scholars. The situation is complex with great inequality regarding the causes and efforts of climate, there is also a debate of North and South countries. North countries do not accept their responsibility towards environment. For instance, if we look at individual emission of greenhouse gases, income is the main determining category of lifestyle and thereby level of emission is high for high-category lifestyle. High emission is the result of class-based difference in capitalist economic relations.

Scientists have come out in support of Youth Climate strike saying that the developed countries are not doing enough to keep global warming in check. Like scientists, the work of many museums touches on educating people about climate science. So, one could have a duty to spread the message of this movement and educate their communities about the urgent need for action on climate change.

I believe we are in the midst of a paradigm shift in environmental politics. The idea that we must choose between economic-wellbeing and environmental protection is being challenged by urban sustainability plans and programs and by the formulation of a Green New Deal. We need to decarbonize our economy as rapidly as possible. No one is going to unplug their smartphones or abandon their cars, but with investment in technological research, infrastructure and energy efficiency, we can move to a sustainable and renewable energy system that will protect our planet while providing for our needs. Young people know that it can be done, and will need to be the catalytic force to finally bring about de-carbonization.

Youth Strike for Climate Change have been both praised and criticized by adults in positions of authority. As far as environment is concerned, the movement enjoyed significant support by the pan-European parties. In my view this movement is the need of the hour and should be taken forward with full support.

Sangam
3rd Yr Sec B

A NOTE ON TERROR-FINANCING

Terrorism is no more a national problem. With the way colossal terrorist organizations are spreading their external operational networks throughout different parts of the world, it is getting extremely difficult for the world community to curb it.

Terrorists require money to operate. Without funding, they cannot purchase weapons, equipment, supplies, or services. The source of terrorist funds may be licit or illicit, and funding often takes the form of multiple small donations, rather than one large sum of money. Terrorist groups may be directly or indirectly linked to organized criminal groups and may engage in criminal activities, including drugs or arms trafficking, extortion, and kidnapping for ransom. Terrorism financing is a global phenomenon that not only threatens states' security, but can also undermine economic development and financial market stability. It is therefore of paramount importance to block the flow of funds to terrorists.

COUNTER TERRORISM FUNDING (CTF)

For more than a decade, terrorist financing has been a prevalent financial crime, which authorities are desperate to crack down. It became a major political issue after the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, and it has weighed heavily on the minds of those involved in the financial sector ever since. A multitude of laws and regulations have been enacted to reign in the financing of terrorist activity, and are collectively known as counter-terrorist financing policy. Under these policies, most financial institutions are required to fulfil many strict requirements regarding monitoring customers' transactions and behaviour, conducting proper diligence, and maintaining appropriate records.

INTERNATIONAL STANCE ON TERROR FINANCING

The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999), Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) calls upon the States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism, inter alia, by criminalizing the collection and provision of funds for terrorist purposes, and urges them to set up effective mechanisms to freeze funds and other financial assets of persons involved in or associated with terrorism, as well as to prevent those funds from being made available to terrorists.

FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE (FATF)

The Financial Action Task Force is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money laundering. In 2001 its mandate was expanded to include terrorism financing. The FATF has developed a series

of Recommendations that are recognized as the international standards for combating of money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

TERRORIST FINANCE TRACKING PROGRAM (TFTP)

After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the United States Department of Treasury initiated the Terrorist Finance Tracking Program (TFTP) to identify, track, and pursue terrorists—such as the Al-Qaeda—and their networks. The U.S. Treasury Department is uniquely positioned to track terrorist money flows and assist in broader U.S. Government efforts to uncover terrorist cells and map terrorist networks at home and around the world.

Despite of establishing and acceding to the above international conventions and counter terrorism bodies, the problem of terrorism and its heavy financing still remains grave owing to some of the most influential terrorist organizations like the ISIS and Al Qaeda.

STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM- A MAJOR CHALLENGE

State-sponsored terrorism is a state's deliberate use of terrorism or assistance to terrorist organizations as a foreign policy tool against other countries or groups. It can refer to either direct attacks by the state or support of terrorist organizations through the provision of weapons, funds, training, and sanctuary. The most common example known to us is that of Pakistan. From time to time the news of Pakistan harbouring terrorists on its soil for its own propaganda has reached us. However, it is important to note that it is not just Pakistan but many other countries (mainly Islamic) who have from time to time resorted to sponsoring terrorist organizations. Now the problem with state-sponsored terrorism is that when the governments themselves are engaged in financing the attacks it gets almost impossible to find the source of funding (since it becomes legit) and to block it since the tracks are easily covered. For instance- Saudi Arabia is said to be the world's largest source of funds and promoter of Salafist Jihadism, which forms the ideological basis of terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda, Taliban, Islamic state in Iraq and the Levant and others. Terrorism will always find its way back to the civilized world till the state actors keep supporting it (though they will never officially accept it)

CONCLUSION

Even though there are many bodies, laws, international agglomerations, and conventions to curb the global issue of terrorism, yet the problem is so grave that complete eradication is out of question in the foreseeable future. We are so blinded by perceiving the issue in

global terms that we forget to see the internal radicalization by extremists of a particular majority community or religion within a nation. The internal radicalization is as grave as terrorism. Though it does not pose a global threat but somehow contributes to moulding the mindsets of potential terrorists. Hence, it should be of utmost importance for any state to sophisticatedly deal with the internal, extremist elements before thinking of solutions to the problem of global terrorism.

Reet
Mansharamani
2nd Yr Sec B

THE IRAN-US CRISIS and ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA

The US and Iran are at loggerheads since the 1979 Islamic Revolution which witnessed the overthrow of the Shah, an American ally in the Middle East, and brought Iran under a clerical regime antagonistic to the US and its involvement in regional politics. As Iran advances its nuclear program and trains proxy forces throughout the Middle East, the potential for conflict seems to increase. By the late 1980s, during a brutal war with Iraq, Iran decided to develop nuclear weapons to ensure security and consequently, it pursued nuclear agreements with China and Russia throughout the 1990s to support its ongoing research into development of nuclear weapons. Under growing scrutiny and international pressure, in 2003-04, Iran agreed to terminate its nuclear weapons program, insisting only that it maintains its nuclear centrifuges for nuclear energy. However, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) discovered and exposed that Iran had continued to pursue nuclear weapons later in 2005 and the coalition of countries known as P5+1 (US, China, France, Russia, United Kingdom And Germany) began a series of negotiations in an effort to constrain Iran's nuclear weapons. To encourage Iran to cease uranium enrichment and to come onto negotiating, the UNSC imposed economic sanctions on Iran in 2006. These sanctions resulted in 20% domestic unemployment and severe destruction of Iran's GDP.

The election of a moderate to the Iranian Presidency in 2013 led to the opening of direct channels of communication and a breakthrough came on September 7, 2013, when President Obama held a telephonic conversation with newly sworn President Hassan Rouhani. Reportedly, the two discussed the possibilities of a 'comprehensive resolution'. On July 14, 2015, the P5+1 and Iran signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to restrict Iran's nuclear environment activities and prevent Tehran acquiring nuclear weapons capability in immediate future. Subsequently, the UNSC Resolution 2231 was adopted, endorsing the JCPOA and affirming that full implementation will lead to the lifting of economic sanctions imposed on Iran.

US WITHDRAWAL FROM JCPOA

The victory of Donald Trump, a fierce critic of the Nuclear Deal, in 2016 Presidential elections created serious doubts about the possibility of the US continuing with JCPOA. These fears were proved right when on May 8, 2018, President Trump announced the decision to withdraw from the deal, accusing the Iranian regime of pursuing

regional agenda of harming US interests in the Middle East. Iran on the other hand continued to abide by the JCPOA but on the first anniversary of the US withdrawal from the deal on May 8, 2019, it warned other signatories (UK, Russia, China, Germany, France) to take concrete measures to reduce the impact of the US sanctions on the Iranian economy in 60 days failing which it might be forced to retreat from the agreement.

ECONOMIC CRISIS

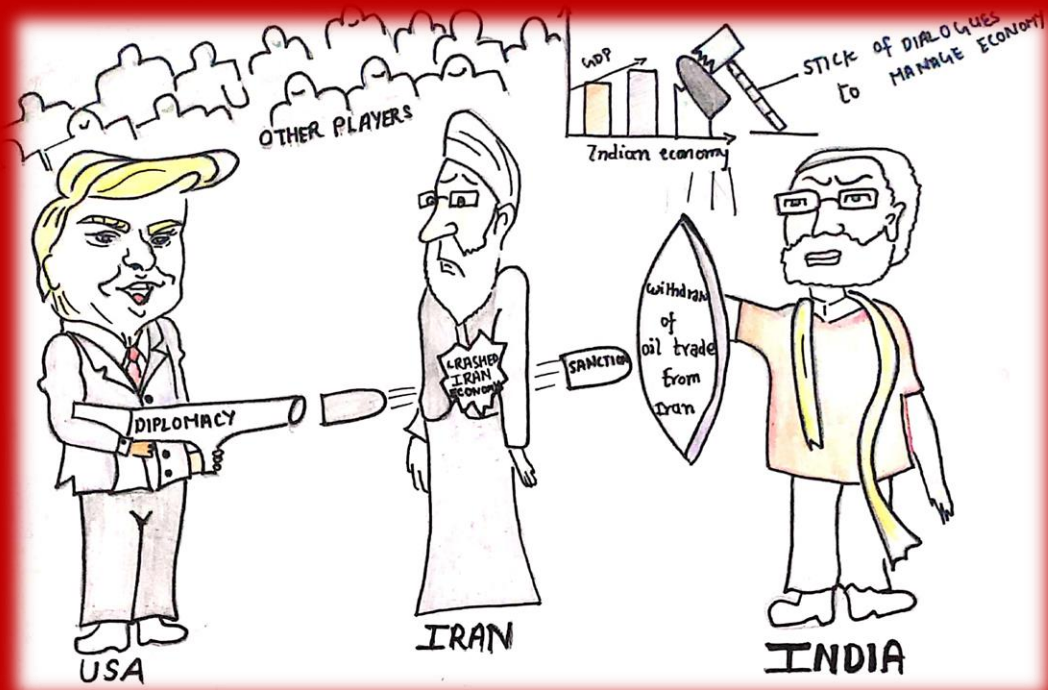
After withdrawing from the JCPOA, the Trump administration re-imposed economic sanctions on Iran including on its exports of crude oil which came into full effect on November 5, 2018. However, a waiver was offered to 8 countries on importing Iranian oil for 180 days which came into full effect on May 2019.

In April 2019, the US decided not to renew the waivers and designated the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) including its elite Qods Force as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO). To further tighten the noose on Iran's sources of revenue, Trump signed an executive order on May 8 "to impose sanctions with respect to Iran's iron, steel, aluminium and copper sectors" considered to be the "largest non-petroleum related sources of export revenue."

Resultantly, Iran has been facing extreme economic troubles as many international companies that had started doing business in Iran in the aftermath of signing of the JCPOA in 2015 have left or are contemplating leaving the country to avoid being penalized by the US. Iran's exports have been curbed causing a decline in the state revenues and the Iranian Rial has devalued leading to a sharp rise in inflation estimated at 40- 50% in March, 2019. Curbs on the iron and steel manufacturing sectors have led to a significant drop in economic growth and loss of jobs.

RECENT SPARKS OF TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES

Tensions peaked in late June, 2019 after Iran drowned a US Global Hawk drone in the Strait of Hormuz. In response, President Trump approved a retaliatory strike order of a cyberattack in IRGC and Iran's Missile System and imposing new sanctions on Supreme Iranian leader Ali Khamenei and top Iranian military commanders. On July 1, 2019, Iran exceeded the JCPOA's cap on uranium stockpiles. Later in July, the US drowned an Iranian drone in the Strait of Hormuz after the drone approached a US navy ship.



INDIA-IRAN RELATIONS

India has strong bilateral relations with Iran. In addition to culture and historical links, the two countries look at each other as important regional actors who have contributed to stability in their respective regions. New Delhi and Tehran have maintained robust political engagements since the 1990s. During this visit to Iran in May 2016, PM Modi and President Rouhani had agreed to strengthen the relationship drawing upon historical and geographical proximity. The same sentiments were reflected when President Rouhani visited New Delhi in February 2018. At the moment the core of the relationship lies in strong bilateral trade, crude oil imports from Iran and cooperation in the development and operationalization of the Chabahar Port.

IMPACT ON INDIA AFTERMATH US-IRAN CRISIS

The US has refused to renew SREs issued for 8 countries including India. This means that Indian companies will either have to stop buying oil from Iran or re-sort to a Rupee payment mechanism as was done in the past. However, during the pre-JCPOA sanction period, the Obama administration had given exemptions to India on importing oil from Iran, whereas, now under Trump administration, the likelihood is bleak for forging any informal arrangement to allow continued import of Iranian Oil.

According to media reports, as of May 2019, Indian oil companies have decided not to place further orders for oil imports from Iran due to oil sanctions. Other than oil sector, India is not directly affected by US sanctions on Iran through Indian companies involved in the Iranian automobile, iron and steel and mining sectors. The Chabahar Port also does not come under US sanctions and hence Indian investments and involvement in it will not be affected.

Aamiya Dhand
2nd Yr Sec A

The Pro-Democracy Movement in Hong-Kong

The 2019 Hong Kong crisis is an ongoing series of demonstrations in Hong Kong and solidarity protests in other cities which began with the aim to withdraw an extradition bill proposed by the Hong Kong government.

THE “ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS” FRAMEWORK

Hong Kong, a special administrative region of the People's Republic of China (PRC), was governed by Great Britain from 1851 until oversight was returned to China on July 1, 1997. Before the handover, due to concerns about China's poor governance and human rights record, the British and Chinese worked out specific terms by which Hong Kong would be governed. These are laid out in the 1984 Sino-British joint declaration and expanded upon in the basic law, which serves as Hong Kong's constitution.

These documents outline what has come to be known as the “one country, two system” framework, under which Hong Kong is supposed to retain “a high degree of autonomy, except in foreign and defence affairs”; a separate financial centre; executive, legislative, and independent judicial power; unchanged social and economic system encompassing “rights and freedoms, including those of the person, of speech, of the press, of assembly, of association, of travel, of movement, of strike, of academic research and of religious belief.”

The terms laid out in both the joint declaration and basic law were to remain unchanged in text and interpretation for 50 years, until July 1, 2047. Article 5 of the basic law states, “the socialist system and policies shall not be practiced in the Hong Kong special administrative region, and the previous capitalist system and way of life shall remain unchanged for 50 years.”

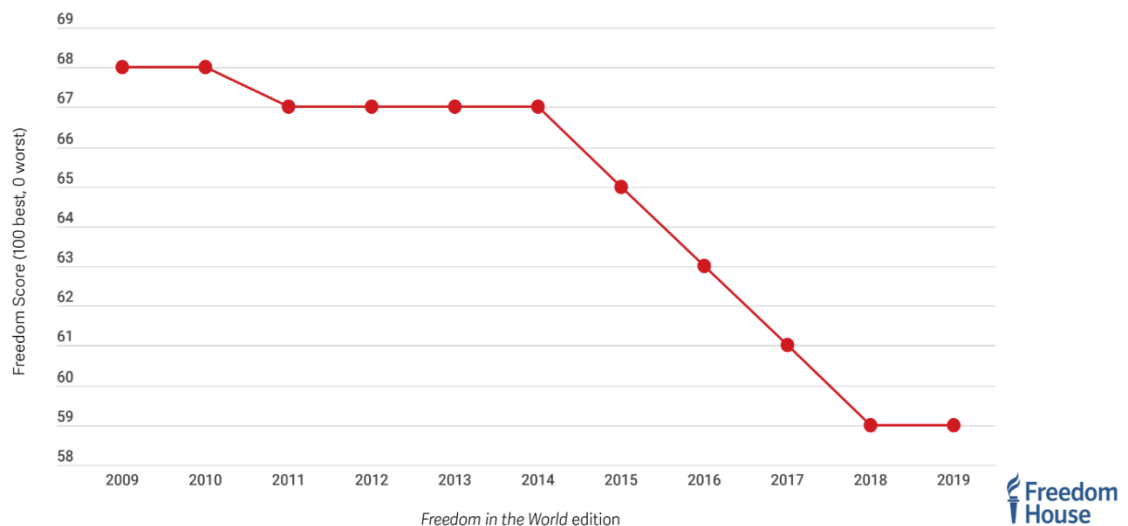
DETERIORATING CONDITION OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

There is a decline in the condition of democracy and human rights in Hong Kong over the last decades, alongside increasing interference by the Chinese government in local affairs. Recent incidents reflecting breakdown of democratic processes include failure of the police to protect 2014 ‘Umbrella Movement’ pro-democracy protesters from violent counter protesters, violence perpetrated by the police against the protestors, and the imprisonment of movement's leaders; the expulsion of LegCo members following the Chinese government's decision to re-evaluate Hong Kong's oath-taking rules for the

lawmakers; the detention by Chinese authorities of Hong Kong residents; the apparent imposition of the Chinese government's interpretation of basic laws on Hong Kong courts and sustained attacks on the media.

Hong Kong's Democratic Decline

In the last decade, Hong Kong's score in *Freedom in the World*, Freedom House's annual study of global political rights and civil liberties, declined from 68 to 59 (100 best, 0 worst), reflecting persistent attacks on free expression, assembly, and the rule of law. Much of Hong Kong's democratic erosion is the result of growing encroachment from the mainland Chinese government, which seeks to curtail Hong Kong's autonomy. Hong Kong is among only 30 countries and territories of the 209 examined by *Freedom in the World* to see such a drastic decline since 2009.



THE PROPOSED EXTRADITION AMENDMENTS

The proposed amendment that sparked the protests would allow Hong Kong residents, foreign residents, and visitors to be extradited to mainland China, where it was uncertain whether they would be guaranteed a fair trial and may be subjected to torture and human right abuses.

The amendments to the relevant laws- the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance- were announced in February 2019, and formally introduced in the LegCO on April 3, 2019.

Facing sustained protests against the proposals, their suspension was announced soon after by June, but they have not been fully withdrawn. Demonstrations have since continued, and the protestors' demands now include an independent investigation into police violence against the pro-democracy activists and the release of jailed demonstrators.

Though protesters have remained largely peaceful, Hong Kong's police force has responded with increasing violence- attacking journalists, firing tear gas and rubber bullets

at protestors at dangerously close range, beating some with batons and shields. Protesters have also faced violence at the hands of mafia-like triad groups, constituting groups of counter-protestors.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said that she hoped that her decision to withdraw a controversial extradition bill that triggered three months of volatile mass protests would bring an end to the political crisis in the Chinese self-governing territory.

Bhumika
2nd yr Sec B

USA-China Trade Complications and its Impact on India

Since 1949, the US-China relations have evolved from tense stand-offs to a complex mix of intensifying diplomacy, growing international rivalry between increasingly intertwined economies.

The US and China, both are facing rising trade tensions, stuck as they are between a sort of a trade war. It is a situation in which both countries tried to damage each other's trade, typically by imposing tariffs or quota restriction or custom duty.

In year 2010, the US' trade deficit with China rose from 273 billion dollars to 295 billion dollars in 2011. In March 2012, the US, along with the EU and Japan filed a 'request for consultation' with China at the WTO over its restrictions on exporting rare earth metals. China called the move 'rash and unfair' while vowing to defend its right in trade disputes.

On February 9, 2017 the US president Donald J. Trump said he will honour 'One China Policy'. Under this policy, USA has maintained formal ties with the Peoples Republic of China but also maintains unofficial ties with Taiwan including the provisions of defence aid.

On March 22, 2018 the Trump administration announced sweeping tariffs on Chinese import worth at least 50 billion dollars, in response to what the White House alleged as Chinese theft of the US technology and IPR. Coming on the heels of tariffs on steel and aluminium imports, the measure targeted goods included clothing, shoes and electronics and restricted Chinese investment in the USA. China imposed retaliatory restrictions in early April the same year, on a range of US products, stoking concerns of a trade war between the world's largest economies.

On July 6, 2018 the Trump administration imposed fresh tariffs totalling 34 billion dollars' worth on Chinese goods. More than 800 Chinese products in the industrial and transport sectors as well as goods such as television and medical devices faced a 25% import tax. China retaliated with its own tariffs on more than 500 US products. The retaliation also valued around 34 billion dollars and targeted commodities including beef, dairy, sea food and soya beans. President Trump and members of his administration believe that China is ripping of the US, taking advantage of free trade rules to the detriment of the US firms

operative in China. Beijing criticised the Trump administration move as 'trade bullying' and claimed that tariffs could trigger global market unrest.

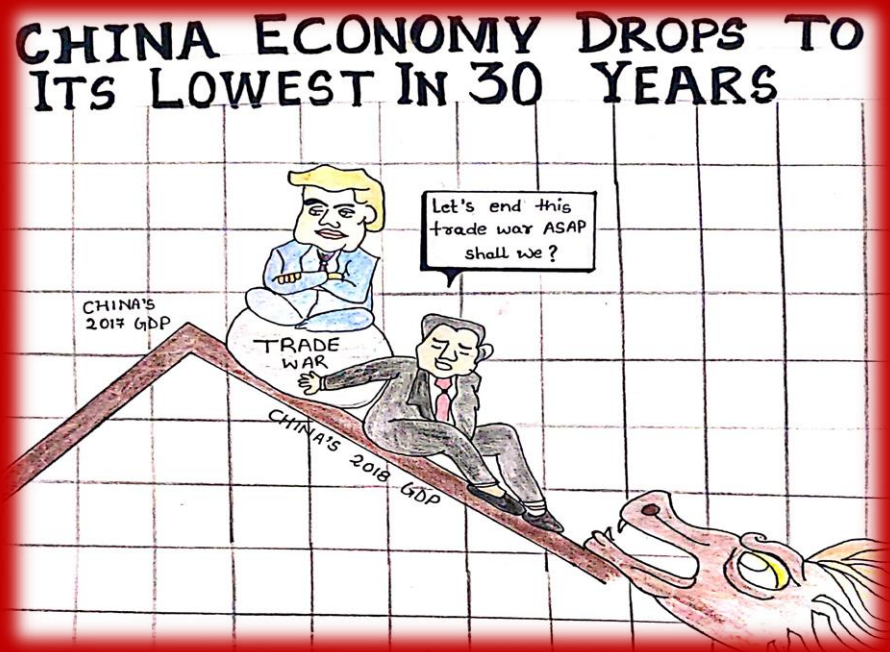
On an average, the US has applied tariffs exclusively to Chinese goods

worth 250 billion dollars. In response, China has also applied tariffs to the US goods worth 110 billion dollars.

China is no longer the top trading partner of USA. According to the Commerce Department Report of the US, the total value of bilateral goods exchange with china fell 14% in the first half of the year to 271 billion dollars. China, in the trading business with the US is replaced by America's neighbours Mexico and Canada.

In August 2010, China became the second largest economy and it is estimated that by 2027 it will overtake the US and become world's largest economy. For now, the US' compulsion to maintain relations with China as China was its number one trading partner, is now removed.

China imports fewer number of items as compared to its exports in the US. As a result, China has less number of US items to impose tariffs on and has already applied it on 110 billion dollars' worth of goods. The Chinese government cleverly responded to this situation by allowing its currency, the yuan, to fall to more than seven as against the dollar- the lowest in a decade. The US government labelled china as the 'currency manipulator' which carries no formal penalty but sets in motion a process that might leads to sanction by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In simple words, China devalued its currency, whereby its imports become more expensive, leading to monetary losses to the exporters. The developing trends between the US and China are going to benefit India. The more the difference between the US and China, the more profitable it would be for India from



geopolitical and economic perspectives. Many Indian scholars postulated that “letting the rupee fall is the best option.” On the other hand, many scholars show their concern towards oil imports, but the problem is not so big as th

e export will surpass the burden of imports. Statistically speaking, India’s goods and services are about to touch 540 billion dollars. India’s major import is of crude oil of about 125 billion dollars, said the oil ministry. It is expected that if Indian rupee is devalued further then Indian exports will increase to 750 billion dollars, which will handle the burden of imports.

Mansi Jain
3rd Yr Sec B

The ‘Yellow-Vest’ Movement in France

The ‘Yellow-Vest’ movement or the ‘Yellow-Jackets’ movement is a populist, grassroots revolutionary political movement for economic justice that began in France in October 2018. The movement was ignited due to the rising fuel prices and increasing costs of living. The movement claimed that a disproportionate burden of government’s tax reforms was falling on the working classes and the middle classes, especially in the rural and the peri-urban areas. The protesters called for lowering of fuel taxes, a reintroduction of the solidarity tax on wealth, increase in minimum-wage, the implementation of Citizens’ initiative referendums, as well as the resignation of President Emmanuel Macron.

The Yellow ‘high visibility’ vests, which the French law requires all drivers to have in their vehicles and to wear during emergencies, were chosen as “a unifying thread and call to arms” because of their convenience, visibility, ubiquity, and association with working-class industries. The movement has received international attention, and protesters in many places around the world- some with similar grievances; others unrelated, have used the yellow vest as a symbol for protests.

The major demands of the movement included resignation of the newly elected French president and his government, increase in the French minimum wage, improved standards of living, government transparency and accountability.

The government and its administrations complained that the protests were affecting the socio-economic fabric of the society, the individual and the country as well. In addition, the tourist industry in France also suffered because of safety and security concerns of the tourists. Economy plays an important role in any country’s progress and prosperity but due to protests, the economy was severely hit. As the Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire told the reporters that the three weeks of protests have hit the French economy hard, with trade in shops, hotels and restaurants falling significantly.

The government’s response so far has been to suspend the planned increase in fuel taxes for at least six months, saying no tax was “worth jeopardizing” the country’s unity. However, the leaders of the protests said “It’s a first step, but we will not settle for a crumb.”

Kousar
3rd Yr Sec B

POETRY





आतंकवाद

जहां भी देखूं
वीरान दिखता है
खून से रंगी जमीन
लाल आसमान दिखता है
येह कैसी हिंसा है विश्व में समाई
नहीं इंसान को इंसान दिखता है

मजहब को हथियार बनाया
युवायों को शिकार बनाया
जिहाद के भूखे प्यासों ने
आतंकवाद को औजार बनाया

धर्म हमारा चारा उनका
देश हमारा नारा उनका
कलम हमारी खबरें उनकी
भारत पर अब नजरें उनकी

समस्या पूरे विश्व की
न सिर्फ हमारी है
आतंकवाद को खतम करना
हम सबकी जिम्मेदारी

अब आज समय की मांग पर
आगाज एक नया होगा
पूरे विश्व के एकजुट होने से
आतंकवाद खतम होगा

Saloni Khandelwal
1st Yr Sec A

Evolution of Man

In some pre-historic times
Of which we do not have records
A creature sprang to life
Who made
By his very own hands
And given the name 'man'.

Man was brought to life
And put to boundless earth
To enjoy her beauty and bounty
In full measures.

Man was given the value
Of love, honesty and truth
And was asked to uphold them
Till his last breath.

Gradually as the civilizations grew
And men became men,
They started fortifying themselves
By creating boundaries
And divided themselves
From their terrestrial brethren.



The boundaries were abstract



As they were never physically seen
By anyone's eyes
Until men tried to communicate.

Fast forwarded to today
Where the civilizations have grown
By leaps and bounds
With apparently no regrets.

The world had changed
And so did the values
Hate, dishonesty and falsity
Had now taken the place
Of man's previous virtues.

HATE, a four-letter word
And the opposite of love
Had now become
Man's greatest tool
To relate himself



With his own brothers.
It is now a world
Governed and manipulated by
hate
In the forms of
Genocides, massacres and riots.
A world where the boundaries
Are still not walled
But are instead lined with
Tanks, guns, and missiles.

A world where
The families are forced
To move out of
Not just their homes
But out of their boundaries.

The hope still exists
The hope humanity would not
divide
Black and whites,
Brown and yellows,
And neither a personal religious
identity
Determine if they can stay on
Their territorial ground.

A world where
If a man talks about erecting a wall
Or tried to make a divide between
brothers

The world should unite together
And make him answerable for his misdeeds
In UNISON.

Kaveri
2nd Yr Sec A

विकास का अर्थ

कम तो नहीं लगते आजादी के बहत्तर साल
लेकिन आज भी सबसे उपर है विकास का सवाल
हां, हो गये पांचवीं महान अर्थव्यस्था में शुमार
फिर भी क्यों हैं कई कंधों पर गरीबी का भार?

मजबूत लोकतंत्र के नाम पर
नित भ्रष्टाचार के बीज पनपते हैं
नेताओं की इन आदर्श वर्दी के पीछे
राक्षस ही देश को ठगते हैं

निष्पक्ष चुनाव की झूठी दुनिया में
क्यों जनता गुमराह सी दिखती है?
हैं हजारों पार्टियां फिर भी ये
नोटा को ही अपना समझती हैं

सुरक्षा के नाम पर यहा
पुलिस ही आंखें दिखाती हैं
जो गया सच्चाई की राह पर
वो हस्ती रास्ते में ही मिट जाती हैं

मिशन शक्ति की सफलता में
नोटबंदी की असफलता फीकी नहीं लगती
शिक्षा के अधिकार की सच्चाई
जेब भरने तक ही सिमटती



स्वास्थ्य की सुविधा में हडतालें ही बिमारी बढ़ाती हैं
न जाने कितनी सांसे दरवाजे पर ही रुक जाती हैं
आरक्षण की इस धुन में कई मतवालों नाच उठे हैं
राजनीति के इस दलदल को कोई न भान्य सके

धर्म निरपेक्षता के नाम पर मंदिर मस्जिद का
दिखता कोई समाधान नहीं
भाई भतीजावाद के आगे शिक्षा, प्रशिक्षण
सामर्थ्यता का कोई सम्मान नहीं

कम नहीं थे आजादी के बहत्तर साल
लेकिन आज भी सबसे उपर है विकास का सवाल

Shraddha
3rd Yr Sec B

Department at a Glance January – November 2019

'Know your rights' - *Ab Samjhauta Nahin* – 10th January 2019

The Department of Political Science in association with Josh Talks organized a workshop aiming at enlightening the students about the different issues related to women in society, and also to equip them with the knowledge about the rights women have pertaining to these issues. The highlights of the workshop included discussion of important issues of fundamental rights and gender equality, sexual harassment, domestic violence, cyberstalking and bullying.



Workshop on Urban Local Governance by Praja Foundation.



In association with the Praja Foundation, a non-governmental organization working in the field of civic issues, the department organized a workshop on urban local governance. The workshop aimed to help students develop a perspective on

issues of local governance, and gain knowledge about the functioning of the government and its institutions in their immediate context. The workshop gave the students the much-needed exposure in the sphere of interacting with the local politicians, and mobilizing demands for local development.

Visit to Parliament– 27th February 2019

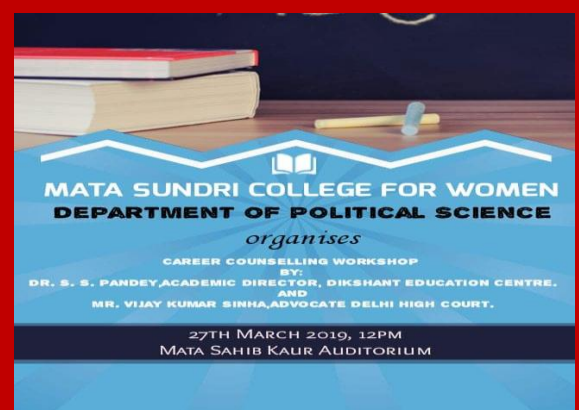
The Department organized a visit to the Parliament for its final year students in order to give them a first-hand experience of our esteemed law-making and law-enforcing agency. Parliament is the supreme law-making institution of our country.



For the students of Political Science, it is imperative to understand the various nuances associated with the working of the Parliament. The trip was intended to expose the students to the institutional part of our democratic set-up, giving them a glimpse of the functioning of both houses of the Parliament.

Workshop on Career Counselling- 27th March, 2019

The Department organized a career counselling workshop to provide the students with the much-needed guidance for their future careers. As the students step out of the college, they will be faced with multiple choices before them



as far as their careers are concerned, and the workshop was intended to help students make crucial, informed decisions.

Manushi, Chronicles from HERstory- 29th September, 2019

A talk on “Understanding Women’s Rights in India: Laws and Institutions by Ms. Swati Maliwal had organized an workshop – (Chairperson Delhi Commission for Women) and



Mr. Sandeep Banga (Advocate, Delhi High Court). The Department interactive session with above esteemed speakers on the issue of women’s rights and safety.

Ms. Swati Maliwal during her session highlighted the various initiatives the DWC has undertaken with regard to the myriads of challenges faced by women every day. Mr. Sandeep Banga shared valuable information regarding various legal recourse available to women. He focused on the practical aspect of the laws enacted to help and empower women.



Meet Our Editors



Sangam, 3rd Yr Sec B



Sakshi, 3rd Yr Sec A



Manisha, 3rd Yr Sec B



Anu, 3rd Yr Sec B



Shraddha, 3rd Yr Sec A



Tooba, 3rd Yr Sec B

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

We invite submissions for the next edition of the VOICE.

The length of the articles should be a minimum of 500 words and should not exceed 1000 words.

You can e-mail your submissions at the following:

voicemsc2016@gmail.com

For direct submission and any other queries, please contact,

Ms. Shashwati
Dept. of Political Science

Ms. Paromita Dutta
Dept. of Political Science