

JAMIA CENTENARY CELEBERATIONS 2020

TWO DAY INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

On

**India's Emerging Relations with West Asian Countries:
A Global Perspective**

(January 27- 28, 2020 at Jamia Millia Islamia)

Organised by

**UGC-HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE [UGC-HRDC]
JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA [JMI]
NEW DELHI-110025**

INDIA'S EMERGING RELATIONS WITH WEST ASIAN COUNTRIES: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

CONCEPT NOTE

India as an ancient civilisation always believed in universal brotherhood, peaceful existence and harmony. It always aspired to keep its heart open for the people across the globe. The philosophy of mutual respect, tolerance and peaceful coexistence of all race, religions, faiths and community has been its primal policy of foreign relations. It has always contributed to world civilization and has also been enriched by global cultures and civilizations. From the time immemorial, India and the countries of West Asia have been in constantly connected in terms of exchange of knowledge, goods, ideas, resources and cultures.

Indo-West Asian relations have been on a distinctive trajectory with the massive movement of people from India to the West Asian Countries and vice-versa in the form of pilgrimage or labor migration. A large number of Indian expatriates in different parts of the region are the best example of a sound relationship between the two regions.

In the backdrop of popular uprisings in the Arab world, the region has witnessed great socio-political unrest. Historically, this region has remained a volatile one because of internal, regional and global issues. It has remained the most happening place in many contexts. It has the privilege to be the cradle of civilisation and the birthplace of the most influential religions namely Islam, Christianity and Judaism. The geostrategic importance, enormous energy reservoirs and historical background of West Asia have made it the central point of discussion today arena of academia.

This two-day International Seminar is an attempt to understand different aspects of Indo-West Asian relations and to analyse interconnections as well as prospects in strengthening socio-economic ties with India. There is a need for exchange of ideas and approaches at the global level to understand the changing global order and Indo-West Asian Relations. The Seminar would also put the focus on India's role in Socio-political affairs of West Asia in view to protect its needs and the aspirations of a large number of Indian diaspora living in the region.

The West Asia region plays a vital role in India's economy as it supplies nearly two-thirds of India's total oil import; bilateral trade is also flourishing in recent years particularly with UAE and other West Asian Countries. Over the years millions of Indian mostly working-class have

Migrated to West Asia looking for jobs those account for a sizeable share in the total remittances received from abroad that has changed the living standards and economic status of many families here in India. In recent years, we see a sudden decline in the flow of migrant labourers and bilateral trade to the region hitherto it is the matter of study to find the reason behind it. However, the present Indian government under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi is very serious to bridge the gap and recreate the atmosphere in which both the ancient civilisations could come closer and be benefited from each other's resources. Prime Minister Modi's 2015 visit to West Asian

Countries including Israel and subsequent events have seen India's view of the region undergo a fundamental shift. Recent development has been seen in India's interest more on the strategic relationship and foreign investment. Therefore, it would be interesting to explore how far India succeeded to achieve its interest concerning West Asia.

Major Objectives:

- To explore avenues for new research in India's West Asia relations
- To invigorate fresh insights of India's geostrategic bonds with West Asian countries
- To bring together seminar participants from different disciplines such as Sociology, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Human Geography, Media Studies as well as Education and Cultural Studies.
- To actively engage scholars, academicians, and individuals all over the world on a platform for in-depth inquiry
- To draw interferences from the scheduled discussion for future policy implications
- To develop and encourage links between academics and various stakeholders between India and West Asia
- To provide a suitable place for discussion on a range of issue- from conflict to co-operation

The following themes, sub-themes and related themes would be taken into consideration during the discussion:

➤ **Indo-Arab Socio-Cultural Relations**

1. Culture and Society in West Asia
2. Religion and Culture in the Arab world
3. Ethnic Groups: Kurds of Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria
4. Transformation of Society: Bedouins to Well Versed
5. India and the Arab Culture: Language, Art, Science, Music, and Popular Culture
6. Desert Communities-Life and Hospitality: Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Oman

➤ **Shaping and Reshaping the Boundaries in West Asia**

1. Genealogy, Historical Discourse, Theories of Nation and Nationalism
2. Impact of Colonial Masters in Nation Building in West Asia
3. Contribution of Migrant Workers and Indian Diaspora in Nation Building

➤ **Indian Diaspora in West Asia**

1. Meaning, Definitions, Scope of Diaspora
2. Historical Evidence of Migration from India to West Asian Countries
3. Reasons for Indian Migration to the Gulf Countries
4. Indian Migration, Remittances and their Contribution to Socio-Economic Development

➤ **Economic Cooperations in West Asia**

1. India's Economic Synergies with GCC countries
2. China's Growing Interests in oil-rich countries of West Asia
3. Quest for Energy: India and China
4. OPEC and Qatar Exit
5. GCC: Monetary Union
6. Chinese Goods in West Asian Markets

➤ **Politics and Sustainable Development**

1. Water Security in West Asian Region
2. Sustainability and Development in West Asia: Environmental Approach
3. Precipitations, Floods, Desert: Natural order
4. Water Plants: New Technologies
5. Expansion in the Sea (Zumarina Plam Beach): Impact
6. Environmental Policies: Saudi Arabia, UAE and Oman

➤ **Strategic and Defence**

1. Islamic Cooperation Organisation (OIC) and India
2. India-West Asia: Pakistan as a factor
3. Saudi- India Strategic bond
4. UAE-India Defense Ties
5. Indian Arms Industry: Does India attracts GCC Countries
6. Strait of Hormuz: A flashpoint
7. Syrian Crisis
8. Emergence of Russia
9. USA West Asia Policy
10. Saudi-Turkey
11. Iranian Sanctions
12. Protests in Tunisia, Egypt, Algeria

➤ **West Asian Philosophy, Literature and Culture**

1. Place of Folk Tale in Arab Society
2. Literary and Philosophical of Khalil Gibran
3. Palestinian Writers: Their Voices
4. Nobel Prize: Life of Naguib Mahfuz
5. Great Philosophers of West Asia: Contribution
6. Modern Literary Text, Writers' and the society
7. Lebanese and Egyptian Literature
8. Debates on Orientalism Vs Occidentalism
9. Modern Arab Thinkers and their Pioneer Works

➤ **Monuments and Architecture**

1. Ancient and Modern Middle East: Architect
2. Great Egyptian Architecture
3. Monuments, Mosques, and Religious sites: Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia
4. Mega Infrastructures: Design and Utility
5. Influence of Arab Architecture on India

OR

Any other topic concerning the main theme of the seminar especially related to the Gulf Migration.

Taking the above issues into mind, the UGC-human Resource Development Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi proposes to organize an international seminar entitled **India's Emerging Relations With West Asian Countries: A Global Perspective** on January 27- 28, 2020.

Important Dates

- Last date of submission of abstract **10th December 2019 (Extended till 15th Dec , 2019)**
- Notification for acceptance of abstract **20th December 2019**
- Last date of final paper submission **15th January 2020**
- Date of International Seminar **27th – 28th January 2020**

Abstract submission Guidelines

All participants are required to submit the abstract of about 300 words including a bio of 100 words to ascseminar@gmail.com

Note: Accommodation and local hospitality during the seminar will be provided to paper presenting participants.

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