

National Seminar on “Geopolitics in SAARC: Challenges, Rivalries and Prospects for Regional Cooperation”

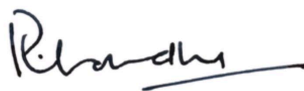
8th December 2025
Venue: V.V. (PG) College, Shamli

Organised by:
Department of Political Science, Janta Vedic College, Baraut
And
Department of Political Science, V.V. PG College, Shamli
In Collaboration with
Indian Political Science Association (IPSA)

REPORT



Prof. Virendra Pratap Singh
Principal
Janta Vedic College, Baraut



Prof. Pratap Chaudhary
Organising Chairperson
Head, Department of Political Science,
Janta Vedic College, Baraut



Divya
Organising Secretary
Research Scholar,
Department of Political Science,
Janta Vedic College, Baraut

Acknowledgement

The Organising Committee of the National Seminar on “**Geopolitics in SAARC: Challenges, Rivalries and Prospects for Regional Cooperation,**” held on **8 December 2025** at V.V. (PG) College, Shamli, expresses its profound gratitude to all dignitaries, scholars, contributors, and participants who made this seminar a distinguished academic achievement.

We are honoured to acknowledge our Keynote Speaker, **Prof. R. S. Yadav**, Former Vice-Chancellor, Baba Mastnath University, Rohtak, and Sampadak, IPSA, whose scholarly insights laid a firm intellectual foundation for the seminar.

We extend our sincere appreciation to:

- Chief Patron: **Dr. Rajeev Kumar**, Controller of Examination, Maa Shakumbhari University, Saharanpur
- Distinguished Guest: **Prof. Virendra Pratap Singh**, Principal, Janta Vedic College, Baraut
- Presiding Dignitary: **Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma**, Head, Department of Political Science, CCS University, Meerut, and General Secretary, IPSA
- Patron & Venue Facilitator: **Prof. Sudhir Kumar**, Principal, V.V. PG College, Shamli, for providing the venue and support

We also acknowledge with pride the enthusiastic participation of more than 45 **students from Janta Vedic College, Baraut, whose active engagement added energy to the seminar.**

Our heartfelt gratitude is extended collectively to **Neena Ma'am** (wife of Prof. Pratap Chaudhary), whose unwavering support, encouragement, and quiet guidance were a pillar behind the seminar's success, and **Anuj Bhaiya**, whose tireless efforts, dedication, and seamless coordination ensured that every aspect of the seminar ran smoothly. We also thank **Anil Arora Ji, Rajeshwar Bansal Ji, Prof. Shashi Vashisth, Prof. Prateet Kumar, Prof. JK Saroha, Suryaveer Singh ji, Dharmendra Tomar ji and Dr. Vineet** and the dedicated staff of V.V. PG College, Shamli, especially **Dr. Pratap Kumar, Dr. Babli, and Dr. Nirbhaya Kumar**, for their steadfast support and cooperation.

We also express appreciation for the contributions of all faculty members, scholars, research participants, and volunteers, including **Chhavi Malik, Sanjay, Satya, Ruby Dabas, Kapil Pundir, Ragini Jhariya, Nimesh Shukla, Rachna Singh, Nikhil Tomar,** and **Kashish**, whose dedication and teamwork were vital to the success of this event.

Finally, we extend our gratitude to the **Indian Political Science Association (IPSA)** for their collaboration and support for future initiatives, including the **South Asia Edition** of the IPSA Journal, whose partnership and encouragement continue to inspire collective academic pursuit, regional engagement, and the spirit of scholarly excellence.

Introduction: A brief about SAARC

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) appeared on **8th December 1985** with a bold vision: **to unite South Asian nations in a spirit of cooperation, dialogue, and shared progress.** Its **eight member states**—Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka—have long faced intertwined challenges, from economic disparities and environmental crises to political tensions and strategic rivalries. SAARC was conceived not merely as a forum, but as a proactive platform to address these challenges together and chart a common path toward prosperity.

The SAARC Charter declares its mission to "**promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life through accelerated economic growth, social progress, and cultural development in the region.**" These words underscore a vision that is as aspirational as it is urgent—a call for nations to move beyond differences and embrace collaboration for the collective good.

Over the decades, SAARC has striven to strengthen economic integration, social cooperation, and regional stability, while tackling emerging issues like climate change, migration, health security, and technological advancement. Yet, the journey has not been without hurdles. Political rivalries, historical tensions, and varying national priorities have at times slowed progress. Trade barriers, policy disagreements, and institutional limitations remind us that the path to regional harmony requires persistent effort and creative solutions.

Despite these challenges, SAARC continues to serve as an indispensable platform for dialogue, action, and collaboration, inspiring member states to confront shared problems, seize opportunities, and enhance South Asia's collective presence on the global stage. In a region where destinies are intertwined, cooperation is not optional—it is the only way forward.

About the Seminar

The National Seminar on “**Geopolitics in SAARC: Challenges, Rivalries and Prospects for Regional Cooperation**” was solemnly held on **8 December 2025** at **V.V. (PG) College, Shamli**, under the joint aegis of the **Department of Political Science, Janta Vedic College, Baraut, and the Department of Political Science, V.V. PG College, Shamli, in collaboration with the Indian Political Science Association (IPSA)**. The seminar coincided with the **41st Anniversary of SAARC**, providing a prompt platform to reflect on the region’s achievements, contemporary challenges, and prospects.

This multidisciplinary seminar met scholars, faculty, researchers, and students from diverse fields including political science, international relations, economics, environmental studies, migration studies, and cultural studies, fostering vibrant discussions and collaborative insights.

Aims and Objectives: The seminar sought to:

- Examine geopolitical challenges and rivalries in South Asia.
- Explore the costs of non-cooperation and possibilities for collaboration.
- Assess the role of regional frameworks, external powers, and connectivity initiatives.
- Promote academic dialogue, cross-disciplinary research, and policy-oriented perspectives.
- Engage students and scholars in knowledge creation and regional cooperation.

Sub-Themes of the Seminar:

1. Power Rivalries in South Asia
 - India–Pakistan conflict
 - China’s strategic role in the region
 - Instability in Afghanistan and its regional implications
2. Geopolitics of Regionalism

- SAARC and BIMSTEC: Comparative regional frameworks
 - South Asia's position in the Indo-Pacific order
 - Influence and role of external powers
3. Geo-economics and Connectivity
- The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and India's strategic alternatives
 - Regional trade, transit, and digital connectivity
 - Economic integration and infrastructure linkages
4. Security Challenges
- Traditional security threats
 - Non-traditional threats: climate change, disaster management, health security
5. Non-Traditional Geopolitical Issues
- Politics of displacement, migration, refugees, and demographic shifts
 - Environmental vulnerability and regional sustainability
6. Prospects for Regional Cooperation
- Revitalising SAARC as a platform for collaboration
 - Strengthening people-to-people and cultural diplomacy
 - Academic exchange and policy dialogue for regional stability

Organising Committee:

The organising committee consists of the following members who not only made the seminar a successful event but an example for everyone.

- **Organising Chairperson: Prof. Pratap Chaudhary**, Head, Department of Political Science, Janta Vedic College, Baraut
- **Organising Secretary: Divya**, Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, Janta Vedic College, Baraut
- **Committee Members:** Dr. Pratap Kumar, Prof. Mamta Sharma, Prof. J.K. Saroha, Prof. Neena Chokra, Prof. Prateet Kumar, Dr. Jaswinder Singh, Dr. Uttam Kumar, Dr.

Jaivendra Tomar, Dr. Babli Rani, Dr. Bhupendra Kumar, Dr. Rohtash, Dr. Nirbhay Kumar, Raveena Tagore, Chhavi Malik, Sanjay, Satya, Ruby Dabas, Kapil Pundir, Ragini Jhariya, Rachna Singh, Nikhil Tomar, Kashish

Distinguished Guests:

The distinguished guests of the seminar were as follows:

- **Keynote Speaker: Prof. R.S. Yadav**, Former VC, Baba Mastnath University, Rohtak, and Sampadak, IPSA
- **Chief Patron: Dr. Rajeev Kumar**, Controller of Examination, Maa Shakumbhari University, Saharanpur
- **Distinguished Guest: Prof. Virendra Pratap Singh**, Principal, Janta Vedic College, Baraut
- **Presiding Dignitary: Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma**, Head, Department of Political Science, CCSU, Meerut, and General Secretary, IPSA
- **Patron: Prof. Sudhir Kumar**, Principal, V.V. PG College, Shamli
- **Support: Dr. Deepak Jain**, Secretary, Managing Committee, V.V. PG College, Shamli

MOUs Signed: During the seminar, the following institutional collaborations were formalised:

1. **Between department of Political Science, Janta Vedic College, Baraut and Department of Political Science, V.V. PG College, Shamli**

Scope: Academic exchange, joint research, and collaborative seminars/workshops.

2. **Between department of Political Science, Janta Vedic College, Baraut and Indian Political Science Association (IPSA)**

Scope: Research publications, student engagement in IPSA activities, and the forthcoming South Asia Edition of IPSA Journal.

These agreements are expected to strengthen research collaboration, academic dialogue, and institutional partnerships in the region.

Souvenir and Book Launch:

The seminar featured the release of its souvenir, with **Prof. Pratap Chaudhary as editor and Divya as executive editor**. The editorial committee included **Chhavi Malik, Ragini Jhariya, and Kapil Pundir**. Furthermore, the seminar marked the launch of **Prof. Pratap Chaudhary's book "Western Political Thought,"** celebrated as a major highlight of the event.

Sessions of the Seminar:

1. **Inaugural Session:** The seminar started with a warm welcome of dignitaries and participants and a lamp lighting ceremony. Prof. Pratap Chaudhary outlined the seminar aims, while the Keynote Address by Prof. R.S. Yadav illuminated SAARC's contemporary relevance. The souvenir release and book launch were conducted, followed by felicitations for distinguished guests.
2. **Technical Session:** One technical session covered all six sub-themes, featuring presentations, panel discussions, and debates by scholars, researchers, and students. Prof. Prateet Kumar and Dr. Munesh Kumar chaired the sessions, with Ragini Jhariya and Rachna Singh as rapporteurs. Discussions spanned power rivalries, regionalism, geo-economics, security, non-traditional issues, and cooperation prospects.
3. **Valedictory Session:** The seminar concluded with a summary of key insights and discussions, distribution of mementos and certificates, and acknowledgment of all speakers, participants, and organising members, reaffirming the seminar's commitment to regional academic dialogue and collaboration.

Inaugural Session – overview

The Inaugural Session started with grace, solemnity, and scholarly warmth. The dignitaries were welcomed with due honour, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolising wisdom, knowledge, and the illumination of collective understanding. Our main guests, **Prof. Sanjeev Sharma, Prof. RS Yadav, Dr. Deepak Jain and Dr. Rajeev Kumar**, were felicitated with green plants and patkas in honor of their esteemed presence.

Other distinguished guests, including **Prof. Shashi Vashisth, Prof. Prateet Kumar, Prof. JK Saroha, Suryaveer Singh ji, Dharmendra Tomar ji and Dr. Vineet** were also graciously felicitated, reflecting academic respect and cultural reverence.

The session formally opened with the Address by **Dr. Pratap Kumar**, Head, Department of Political Science, V. V. PG College, Shamli. He extended heartfelt greetings to all participants and reaffirmed the significance of meeting academic dialogues that nurture intellectual growth and regional understanding.

This was followed by an illuminating address by **Prof. Pratap Chaudhary, Organising Chairperson and Head, Department of Political Science, Janta Vedic College, Baraut**. In his address, he emphasised the institutional commitment toward academic exchange, highlighting upcoming MoUs, the expanding role of educational seminars, and the contributions of the Indian Political Science Association. He navigated thoughtfully through **the evolution and challenges of SAARC**, advocating for its revival through **comparative political understanding**. Drawing upon comparative theory, **David Easton's systems analysis, and the idea of allocation of values**, he argued that South Asian nations own unique comparative advantages that must be harnessed collectively. He underscored **India's role as the pivotal balancing force** in the region and addressed pressing challenges **posed by China, Western tariff politics, and the need for multilateral engagements**. He stressed that national interest must be viewed in consonance with neighbourhood interest, and he announced the forthcoming launch of the **South Asia Edition**, curated in collaboration with the Indian Political Science Association.

A dignified round of felicitations followed the address by Prof. Pratap Chaudhary. **Dr. Rajeev Kumar was honoured with a shawl by Prof. Sudhir Kumar while Prof. Pratap Chaudhary felicitated Prof. Sanjeev Sharma, Prof. R. S. Yadav, and Shri Anil Arora. The research scholars, working under the supervision of Prof. Pratap Chaudhary, expressed their respect by felicitating him with a shawl.** This was also accompanied by the presentation of a special Madhubani painting gifted by Divya.

The stage was then graced by the address of **Ms. Divya, Organising Secretary**, who spoke with clarity and emotion. She elaborated on the **aims and objectives of the seminar**, beautifully **drawing parallels between the South Asian family of nations and the resilience of familial bonds, where unity persists despite conflict**. Using the timeless parable of the **blind men and the elephant**, she reminded the audience that understanding appears only through shared perspectives. She described the seminar as a **collective step** toward transforming SAARC from a space of suspicion to possibility and urged participants to recognise both the **cost of non-cooperation and the power of collaboration in building a peaceful regional future**.

The Keynote Address was then delivered by **Prof. R. S. Yadav**, who offered a masterful overview of the **historical foundations and raison d'être of SAARC**. Expanding on its origins, he traced its aspirations and early promise. He addressed **geopolitical challenges**, referencing the Nepal crisis, recent political shifts in Bangladesh, and regional pressures. Prof. Yadav highlighted the steep decline in **intra-regional trade**—from **16% to barely 1%**, and the **stagnation of SAARC summits** post-2014. He underscored the rise of geoeconomic dependencies, cultural diplomacy as a path of hope, and cautioned against external dominance that may push nations toward the **Chinese strategic orbit**. Stressing the **decline of democratic values** and the erosion of trust, he concluded that South Asia is still a **hostage to political differences**, and only **renewed multilateral focus** can secure its future.

Further scholarly insights came from **Dr. Rajeev Kumar and Prof. Virendra Pratap Singh**, who emphasised the importance of academic collaboration and the indispensable role of such seminars in fostering critical thought and cooperative research.

The session marked a proud moment with the launch of the **book Western Political Thought authored by Prof. Pratap Chaudhary**, followed by the unveiling of the seminar Souvenir consisting of more than **60 abstracts**.

Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma then addressed the gathering, expressing his **support for the publication of the South Asia Edition in alignment with IPSA standards**. In his thoughtful remarks, he underlined the often-forgotten **art of listening**—an art as essential among individuals as it is among nations. Relating this to SAARC, he saw that meaningful cooperation begins when **nations learn to listen** to one another. He acknowledged the enduring **positives and negatives in regional relations** but stressed that **collaboration** remains the only workable pathway. His remarks touched upon key regional concerns including the **“Pakistan factor,” rising Chinese influence, the Bhutan crisis, and the expanding refugee challenges** across South Asia. He also pointed out the need for working in favour of both national interest and international cooperation.

With these profound exchanges of ideas, reflections, and shared aspirations, the inaugural Session concluded with dignity and purpose, setting a thoughtful, scholarly, and collaborative tone for the sessions that followed. It marked not just the beginning of a seminar, but a reaffirmation of collective commitment toward understanding, cooperation, and the future of South Asia.

Technical Session overview

The Technical Session was chaired by **Prof. J. K. Saroha, Prof. Prateet Kumar, and Dr. Munesh Kumar**, whose scholarly oversight provided depth and direction to the academic discussions. The session proceedings were carefully documented by the **Rapporteurs, Ms. Ragini Jhariya and Ms. Rachna Singh**, ensuring a right and comprehensive record of the deliberations. The session revolved around diverse yet interconnected themes shaping contemporary South Asian politics and regional cooperation. Issues of diplomacy, identity, security, health, geopolitical influence, cultural engagement, multilateralism, and regional stability formed the core of the discussions. Speakers explored the shifting relevance of SAARC, India's role and strategic compulsions, the rise of China, the politics of displacement, and the persistent tensions between moral responsibility and national security.

Ms. Sapna started the thematic discussions by examining **India's nuclear policy**, especially the delicate balance India continues to negotiate between moral commitments and security imperatives. **Ms. Teena** followed with insights into **historical and political challenges**, emphasising how geography remains an unchangeable determining factor in regional relations. **Ms. Rachna Singh** highlighted concerns related to **trilateral cooperation**, the ongoing **democracy crisis**, patterns of **regional hegemony**, instability, **rising Western influence**, and the increasing need for strong **disaster-management** frameworks. **Mr. Amit Kumar Chaudhary** expanded the dialogue by discussing **cultural diplomacy**, invoking models such as **ping-pong diplomacy**, and underscoring the importance of **people-to-people linkages** and **human resource exchange** in strengthening regional trust. In the domain of human security, **Dr. Abha Saini** addressed **health security**, situating it within the larger debate on India's Big Brother Syndrome in South Asia. **Ms. Akansha Sharma** shed light on the rising "**China factor**," outlining why India must strengthen its strategic presence to support regional equilibrium. **Ms. Chhavi Malik** elaborated on the role of **deep-state influences** in shaping regional politics, while **Mr. Nikhil Kumar** examined how **international corporations and the politics of displacement** are increasingly redefining power structures. **Mr. Saurabh Yadav** spoke on **regime legitimacy** and its implications for **South Asian stability**, while **Mr. Adarsh Singh** concluded the speaker presentations by analysing **fragmentation in South Asia** and the comparative prospects offered by **BIMSTEC**.

In the concluding remarks, **Prof. J. K. Saroha** offered a comprehensive appraisal of how **SAARC's relevance** is slowly slipping into irrelevance, tracing this trajectory through issues such as **neighbourhood mistrust, foreign policy recalibrations, the Big Brother perception, the "Pakistan factor," the Bangladesh crisis, China's rising influence in Nepal, and the Maldives' "India Out" campaign**. He reiterated the urgent need for genuine **collaboration** in the region. **Prof. Prateet Kumar** enriched the concluding assessment by drawing upon references to **Ashoka the Great, the Great Game theory,**

and the works of R. C. Majumdar, situating contemporary geopolitics within historical continuities. **Dr. Munesh Kumar** closed the session with reflections on the origins of SAARC, India's perceived **Big Brother role**, and the consequent factors contributing to **SAARC's stagnation and failure**.

Valedictory Session overview

The Valedictory Session unfolded with an air of grace and reverence, marking a dignified close to a day enriched with scholarly dialogue and collective reflection. The session started with the honouring of distinguished guests through the presentation of mementos of appreciation to **Prof. Prateet Kumar, Prof. J.K. Saroha, Dr. Munesh Kumar, Dr. Uttam Kumar, Dr. Abha Saini, Dr. Sushma Saini, Dr. Jaswinder, Dr. Suryaveer Singh, and Dr. Vineet**. Each felicitation symbolised gratitude for their wisdom, presence, and invaluable contribution to the seminar.

Adding a touch of patriotic emotion to the evening, **Tanushree** rendered a soulful desh-bhakti song, filling the hall with a sense of unity, pride, and national spirit. Her performance beautifully captured the essence of togetherness that the seminar aimed to foster. This spirit of reverence culminated later with the collective singing of the National Anthem, offering a solemn and heartfelt conclusion to the event.

The formal thank-you addresses began with **Divya**, Organising Secretary, who expressed profound gratitude to all guests, speakers, faculty members, collaborators, and participants. She reflected on how the seminar had been more than an academic exchange—it had become a shared journey of ideas, understanding, and hope for a more cooperative South Asian future.

Prof. Pratap Chaudhary, Organising Chairperson, extended his warm appreciation to every individual who contributed to the success of the seminar. He acknowledged the depth of discussions, the support of colleagues, and the dedication of the organising team. His words highlighted that such seminars are stepping-stones towards informed regional engagement and stronger academic networks.

This was followed by **Prof. Sudhir Kumar**, Principal, V.V. PG College, Shamli, who conveyed his heartfelt thanks to the dignitaries, resource persons, scholars, and organisers. He praised the seminar for its intellectual richness and reaffirmed the college's commitment to fostering academic excellence and meaningful dialogues.

With expressions of gratitude echoing from all sides, the seminar gracefully concluded. The valedictory session stood as a testament to collaboration, scholarship, and shared commitment. The audience left with a collective sense of fulfillment, thanking each other for a memorable, inspiring, and beautifully concluded academic gathering.

Outcome of the seminar

The National Seminar concluded with outcomes that resonated far beyond the walls of the auditorium, marking it as an intellectually transformative and institutionally significant event. With the presence of **more than 300 distinguished participants**—including eminent academicians, research scholars, policy thinkers, and students—the seminar became a powerful confluence of ideas, perspectives, and visionary thought.

One of the most prestigious achievements of the event was the formal announcement of the **South Asia Edition Book, to be brought forth in collaboration with the Indian Political Science Association (IPSA)**. This landmark initiative stands as a testament to the seminar's academic depth and its commitment to producing regionally relevant scholarship that will contribute to national and international discourse.

Across the sessions, the seminar saw rich, layered, and multidimensional deliberations. Scholars explored a wide spectrum of themes including geopolitical rivalries, regional integration, nuclear doctrines, geoeconomic transformations, health security, disaster diplomacy, regime legitimacy, cultural diplomacy, and the shifting balance of power in South Asia. These dialogues illuminated both the complexities and the latent potential of the region, encouraging fresh analytical frameworks and bold intellectual interpretations.

The event led to strengthened academic networks, fostering new pathways for collaborative research, joint publications, policy discussions, and institutional partnerships. Participants reported a significant enhancement in their conceptual understanding, exposure to nuanced theoretical approaches, and a broader grasp of comparative political structures and regional dynamics.

Furthermore, the seminar inspired renewed commitment among scholars to contribute to peacebuilding, cooperative strategies, and evidence-based policymaking within the South Asian context. The exchange of ideas not only broadened academic horizons but also sowed the seeds for future initiatives that may shape the intellectual landscape of the region.

The seminar appeared as a landmark academic endeavour—one that ignited conversations, built bridges of collaboration, and reaffirmed the enduring value of dialogue in shaping a more stable, cooperative, and visionary South Asian future.

Recommendations

The seminar's deliberations naturally converged into a comprehensive set of recommendations aimed at restoring the vitality of SAARC and strengthening South Asia's regional fabric. Throughout the discussions, scholars emphasised that the revival of SAARC is not merely an administrative reform but a regional necessity—one that decides the shared future of stability, peace, and development across the subcontinent.

A central recommendation was the **re-establishment of uninterrupted political dialogue**. Participants highlighted that the SAARC platform must remain functional irrespective of bilateral tensions, ensuring that cooperation continues in areas that affect millions of lives. Parallel to this, the need to strengthen and revitalise SAARC's institutional mechanisms—its specialised centres, technical committees, and secretariat functions—was strongly underscored to enhance the organisation's operational efficiency.

The seminar also advocated advancing **functional and sectoral cooperation**, particularly in trade, energy connectivity, public health, agriculture, climate resilience, and technology-sharing. These areas provide practical and politically neutral opportunities to rebuild trust and deepen interdependence. Participants further stressed the urgency of regional economic integration through reduced tariff barriers, harmonised regulations, and modernised transport corridors.

Another significant outcome of the seminar was the **recognition of shared regional vulnerabilities**—public health crises, terrorism, cyber threats, migration, and geopolitical shifts—which demand collective, coordinated responses rather than isolated national strategies.

Across discussions, a powerful and recurring insight appeared: **the revival of SAARC cannot rest on governments alone**. It must be supported by scholars, civil society organisations, youth forums, and cultural institutions. This seamlessly led to the acknowledgment of academia as an indispensable pillar of regional cooperation.

Academic collaborations and seminars were celebrated as essential spaces where dialogue continues even when diplomacy falters. Through research exchanges, publications, regional studies, and intellectual partnerships, academia nurtures perspectives free from political rigidity. The forthcoming South Asia Edition in collaboration with IPSA was highlighted as a landmark example of how scholarship shapes regional narratives and policy imagination.

These academic exchanges empower young researchers, strengthen institutional linkages, and create a culture of informed, evidence-based regional thinking. They act not merely as educational gatherings but as platforms that preserve the spirit of SAARC itself—dialogue, understanding, and collective progress.

In alignment with this spirit, all recommendations appearing from the seminar will be formally compiled and sent to the **South Asia Desk, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India**, for constructive consideration in future regional policy deliberations.

Conclusion

The seminar on Geopolitics in SAARC: Challenges, Rivalries and Prospects for Regional Cooperation concluded on a note of intellectual fulfilment and collective optimism. With the participation of over three hundred scholars, academicians, and students, the event became a vibrant platform for understanding South Asia's evolving geopolitical landscape and reimagining the possibilities of regional cooperation.

The discussions across all sessions highlighted not only the complexities that challenge SAARC but also the immense potential that rests in dialogue, shared values, and informed policy thinking. The seminar beautifully reflected the spirit of the timeless Sanskrit verse:

“संगच्छध्वं संवदध्वं सं वो मनांसि जानताम्।”

“Move together, speak together, let your minds be in harmony.”

This guiding principle encapsulated the essence of the deliberations—unity in thought, purpose, and vision for a more cooperative South Asia.

The insights and recommendations appearing from the seminar extend beyond academic discourse. They offer meaningful contributions to ongoing regional conversations and reaffirm the vital role of scholarship in shaping policy, nurturing collaboration, and sustaining the spirit of SAARC.

As the seminar draws to a close, it leaves behind strengthened academic networks, renewed commitment to regional understanding, and a collective resolve to continue engaging with the challenges and opportunities of South Asian cooperation.







NATIONAL SEMINAR
on
GEOPOLITICS IN SAARC
CHALLENGES, RIVALRIES AND PROSPECTS FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION

8th DECEMBER, 2025

Organised By
**Department of Political Science of
JANTA VEDIC COLLEGE, BARAUT (Affiliated to CCSU, Meerut) &
V. V. PG COLLEGE, SHAMLI (Affiliated to MSU, Saharanpur)**
in collaboration with
INDIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (IPSA)



CHIEF GUEST
PROF. MANOJ DIXIT
President IPSA
Vice Chancellor
Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Bikaner



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
PROF. R. S. YADAV
Sampadak IPSA
Former Vice Chancellor
Baba Mastnath University, Rohtak



PRESIDING DIGNITARY
PROF. SANJEEV KUMAR SHARMA
Head Dept. of
Political Science, CCSU
General Secretary, IPSA



ORGANISING CHAIRPERSON
PROF. PRATAP CHAUDHARY
Head, Dept. of Political Science
Janta Vedic College, Baraut



CHIEF PATRON
DR. RAJEEV KUMAR
Controller of Examination
MSU, Saharanpur



PATRON
PROF. SUDHIR KUMAR
Principal
V. V. PG College, Shamli



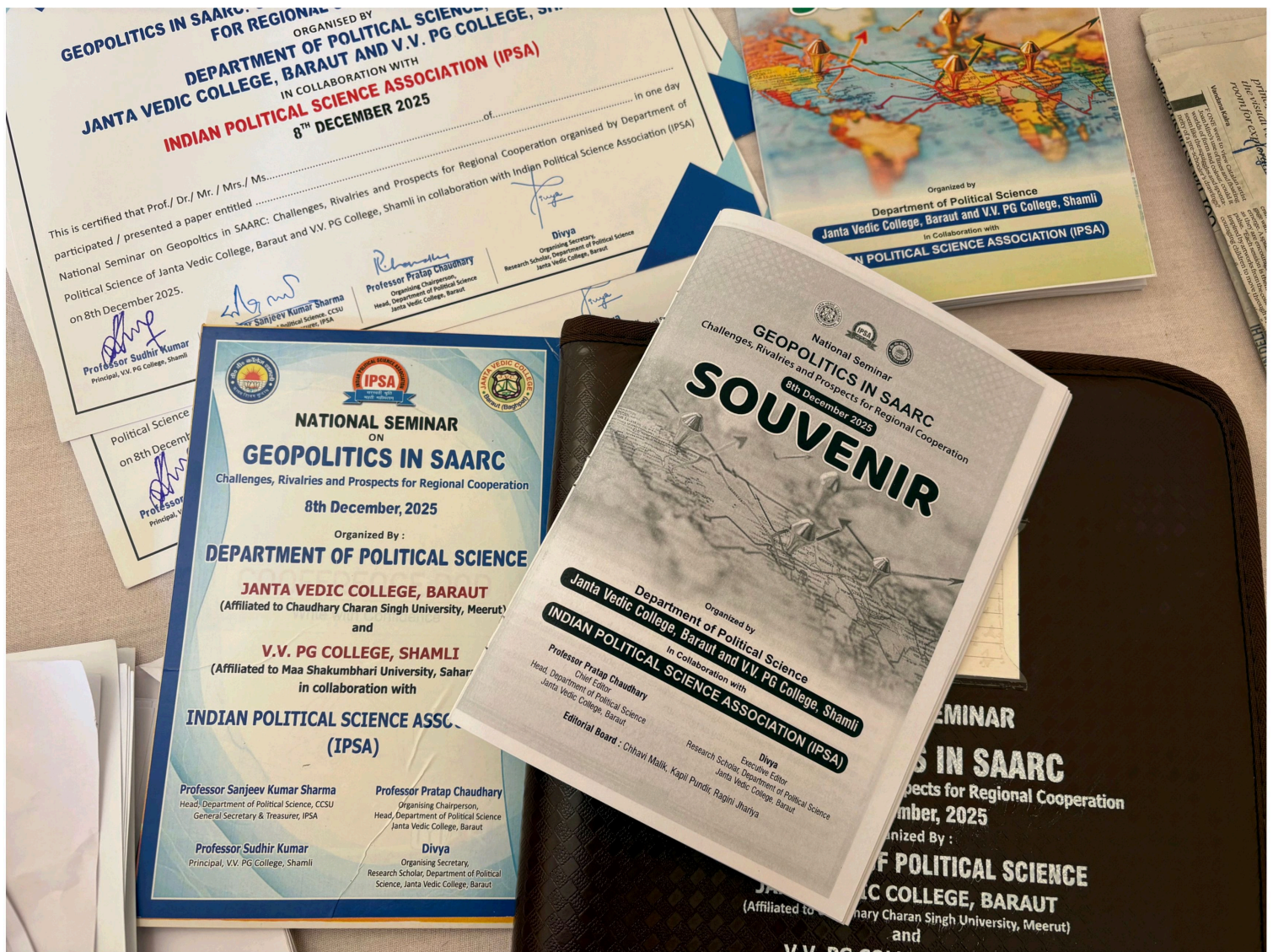
DISTINGUISHED GUEST
PROF. VIRENDRA PRATAP SINGH
Principal
Janta Vedic College, Baraut



CO-CHAIR
DR. PRATAP KUMAR
Associate Prof., Head Dept. of Political Science
V. V. PG College, Shamli



ORGANISING SECRETARY
DIVYA
Research Scholar, Dept. of Political Science
Janta Vedic College, Baraut





MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

Between



Department of Political Science, Janta Vedic College, Baraut

(affiliated to C.C.S. University, Meerut)

and

Indian Political Science Association (IPSA)



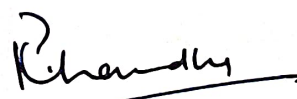
This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made and entered into on this 28th day of October 2025, between the Department of Political Science, Janta Vedic College, Baraut (U.P.) (hereinafter referred to as "Party A") and Indian Political Science Association (IPSA) (hereinafter referred to as "Party B"). Both institutions, recognizing their shared commitment to promoting quality higher education and academic excellence, desire to collaborate in areas of mutual interest, particularly in academic seminars, conferences, research activities, and publication initiatives.

1. Objectives

- To organize joint academic seminars, workshops, and conferences on themes related to Political Science and allied disciplines.
- To encourage collaborative research projects and promote joint authorship of academic papers.
- To facilitate the publication of research articles, monographs, and study material in reputed journals or institutional publications.
- To promote faculty and student interaction for knowledge exchange and academic enrichment.
- To explore opportunities for capacity building, curriculum development, and academic consultancy in mutually agreed areas.

2. Areas of Collaboration

- Conducting seminars, symposiums, and conferences on national and regional issues of political and social relevance.



- Undertaking joint research projects and case studies.
- Publishing joint research papers, edited volumes, and academic journals.
- Developing and sharing teaching-learning materials, study resources, and research data.
- Organizing faculty development and student enrichment programs.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Party A (Department of Political Science, Janta Vedic College, Baraut):

- Will coordinate with Party B for planning and executing the agreed academic activities.
- Will provide faculty expertise, research guidance, and infrastructural support as required.

Party B (Indian Political Science Association):

- Will collaborate in organizing events, providing venue or logistical assistance where applicable.
- Will contribute through faculty participation, paper presentations, and publication initiatives.

Both parties agree to jointly determine the financial and administrative responsibilities for each activity on a case-by-case basis.

R. Chandra

4. Duration and Renewal

This MoU shall remain in effect for a period of one year from the date of signing. It may be renewed or extended upon mutual consent of both parties, subject to review of performance and continued mutual interest.

5. Amendment and Termination

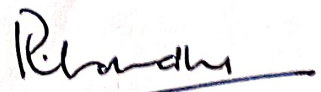
Any modification to this MoU shall be made in writing with the consent of both parties. Either party may terminate this MoU by giving one month's written notice to the other, citing valid reasons.


6. Miscellaneous

- This MoU is a statement of intent and does not create any legally binding obligations.
- Both parties agree to maintain academic integrity and transparency in all joint undertakings.
- Any intellectual property generated through this collaboration shall be shared equitably, with due acknowledgment to both institutions.

7. Signatories

In witness whereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized representatives of the respective institutions, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding on the date and year first above written.

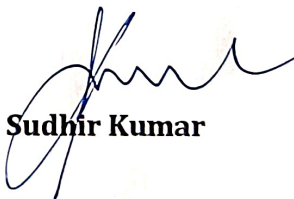


For Department of Political Science, Janta Vedic College, Baraut (U.P.)	For Indian Political Science Association (IPSA)
Signature: _____ डा० प्रताप चौधरी आचार्य एवं विभागाध्यक्ष यज्ञनीति विज्ञान विभाग जनता वैदिक कॉलेज, बड़ौत	Signature: _____ 
Name: Prof. Pratap Chaudhary	Name: Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma
Designation: Head, Department of Political Science, Janta Vedic College, Baraut (U.P.) Date: 28.10.2025 Seal:	Designation: General Secretary and Treasurer, Indian Political Science Association Date: Date 28.10.2025 Seal:

Witnesses:


1. Ms Ravina Tagor

Chief Office Executive, IPSA


2. Prof. Sudhir Kumar

Principal, V.V. College, Shamli (U.P.)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

Between

Department of Political Science, Janta Vedic College, Baraut (affiliated to C.C.S. University, Meerut)

and

Department of Political Science, V.V. College, Shamli (affiliated to Maa Shakumbhari University, Saharanpur)

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made and entered into on this 9th day of October 2025, between the Department of Political Science, Janta Vedic College, Baraut (U.P.) (hereinafter referred to as "Party A") and Department of Political Science, V.V. College, Shamli (U.P.) (hereinafter referred to as "Party B"). Both institutions, recognizing their shared commitment to promoting quality higher education and academic excellence, desire to collaborate in areas of mutual interest, particularly in academic seminars, conferences, research activities, and publication initiatives.

1. Objectives

- To organize joint academic seminars, workshops, and conferences on themes related to Political Science and allied disciplines.
- To encourage collaborative research projects and promote joint authorship of academic papers.
- To facilitate the publication of research articles, monographs, and study material in reputed journals or institutional publications.
- To promote faculty and student interaction for knowledge exchange and academic enrichment.
- To explore opportunities for capacity building, curriculum development, and academic consultancy in mutually agreed areas.

2. Areas of Collaboration

- Conducting seminars, symposiums, and conferences on national and regional issues of political and social relevance.
- Undertaking joint research projects and case studies.
- Publishing joint research papers, edited volumes, and academic journals.
- Developing and sharing teaching-learning materials, study resources, and research data.
- Organizing faculty development and student enrichment programs.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Party A (Department of Political Science, Janta Vedic College, Baraut):

