

SUB THEMES:

- ◆ Locating Act East Policy in Indo- Pacific Strategy.
- ◆ India and Regional Powers.
- ◆ The Chinese Challenge to Act East Policy.
- ◆ ASEAN Outlook and IPOI.
- ◆ India's Emerging Role in Defence and Security of East and South East Asia.
- ◆ Act East Policy & Regional Organisations/ Forums
- ◆ North East & India's Act East Policy
- ◆ Any other topic related to main theme

ACCOMMODATION:

Accommodation will be provided to all invited speakers by the University.

HOW TO REACH:

The University is located in Nalbari with a distance of 60 km from the capital city of Assam i.e Guwahati which is well-connected by airways, roadways and railways with the other parts India.

WEATHER:

Maximum temperature of Nalbari in September is 30 degree (maximum) and 23 degree (minimum)

RE-IMBURSEMENT OF TRAVELLING EXPENSES:

Three tier AC fares will be re-imbursed subject to production of original tickets.

PUBLICATION:

Abstracts of all the invited speakers will be published in the form of a booklet. Peer reviewed full papers will be published with ISBN from a reputed National Publication House

REGISTRATION:

Certificate of participation (without paper) will be provided to those participants, who will register for the National Conference on 14th September, 2023.

Organizing Committee

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ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

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कुमारभास्करवर्मसंस्कृत-पुरातनाध्ययनविश्वविद्यालय:
KUMAR BHASKAR VARMA SANSKRIT AND ANCIENT STUDIES UNIVERSITY
NALBARI, ASSAM

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

“ASSESSING INDIA'S ACT EAST POLICY IN STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK OF INDO-PACIFIC”

Sponsored by



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&



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Organized by

Department of Political Science

Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University



Dates: 14th and 15th September, 2023

Venue: Seminar Hall, Administrative Building

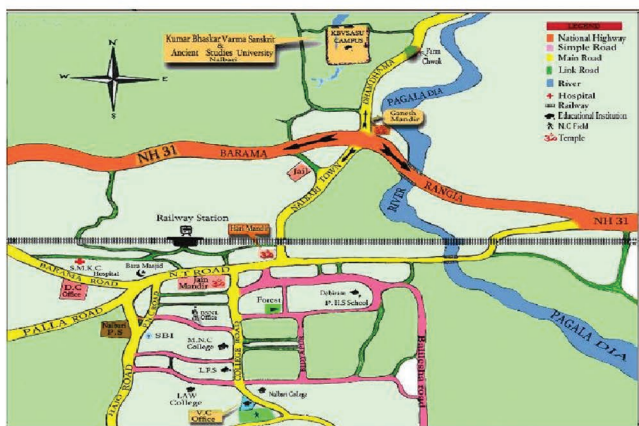
About the University:

The Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University stands for imparting education leading to graduate, post graduate degrees as well as research degrees. The University was set up with a notification by the Government of Assam dated May 24th, 2011, of the Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University Act, 2011. The preamble of the Act states that by this Act, "the Government of Assam goes to establish and constitute a teaching, affiliating, research and residential University at Nalbari," the Headquarters of the district of Nalbari, Assam. The University has been awarded UGC 12B status recently.

Kumar Bhaskar Varma, a great monarch of Assam (7th century A.D) was a patron of Sanskrit studies and during his rule Vedic culture and Sanskrit knowledge came to flourish in Assam. The campus of the University is developed at Namati Village of Batahgila Mouza under Nalbari Revenue Circle of the district of Nalbari, Assam - 781337. It has an area of 100 bighas of land allotted by the Government of Assam. It is easily accessible by public and private transport facilities.

Location:

The University is situated at a distance of 3.3 KM from the 31 National Highway and 4.5 KM from Nalbari Town. The nearest railway station is Nalbari Railway Station under N.F. railway and nearest airport is Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati which is at a distance of 75 KM.



About the Department of Political Science:

The Department of Political Science was established in the year 2015 offering M.A. Programme with an intake capacity of 75. From the academic session 2023-24, the department is also FYUGP with a intake capacity of 30 seats as per the spirit of NEP 2020. Besides, the Department has also started research Programme in Political Science and one year Post Graduation Diploma in Gandhian Studies (PGDGS). As per an order of Assam Government, the Department has recently started a Centre for South East Asian Studies.

The department endeavours to engage with the study of politics both at normative and empirical level with an understanding of ancient Indian political values as well as the political developments in modern India and the contemporary world. The Department regularly organizes academic seminars, lecture programmes, public talks and group discussions on contemporary issues inter alia invited lectures, interactive programmes and other academic extension activities.

About the Seminar:

Sporadic layers of connection amid contested dilemmas among the South Asian Countries and the changing paradigms of India's foreign policy in the post-Cold War phenomena arguably implied its policy towards East. The Look East Policy which was launched during P.V Narasimha Rao's government at the centre in 1991 became Act East Policy during the political dispensation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014. The transformation of Looking East vis-à-vis Acting East is thought to be one of India's successful foreign policy initiatives. Locating North East in India's Act East Policy could have been the plausible solution and foundation for India's growing relations with Southeast Asia. While analysing the relationship between India and ASEAN, deeper economic integration of this region needs to be reconfigured through bilateral and multilateral agreements. For instance, we can refer the multilateral outcomes like Mekong-Ganga Sub region, Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) comprising of Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand, and Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Regional Economic Forum (BCIM) etc.

Since 1990s, India has sought to connect with South and South East Asian Countries as it considered this region as an important trading destination. In the age of globalization, the prospect of inter-state trade and economic cooperation increased and subsequently economic globalization surpassed the idea of territoriality. The concept of globalization and the borderless world as explained by Kenichi Ohmae became more significant while analyzing India's neighbourhood policy amid creation of an economic corridor. In the strategic framework of Indo Pacific, India's effort towards IPOI is said to be crucial in terms of boosting its maritime security arrangement.

After becoming a sectoral dialogue partner with ASEAN in 1992, member of the ASEAN regional forum (ARF) in 1996 and also summit level partner of ASEAN in 2002, India shifted its interest towards eastward direction thereby engaging more in the Indo-Pacific region for wider global connectivity. China's growing economic and strategic dominance in the region intensified India's neighbourhood policy subsequently paving the way for sustained engagement with the South and South East Asian region.

The changing spatiality of India's foreign policy could determine the mobilizing dynamic of India's political economy. The remarkable economic dynamism showcased by the East Asian region magnetizes India to shift its interest towards South East Asia. ASEAN also showed their interest towards India for its potential to contribute to economic development and regional security. Geo-strategic and economic significance of the Indian Ocean region amid huge resources signaled the growth and development of the East Asian region in the post-cold war period. Arguably India wanted to maximize their economic opportunities through economic corridors thereby establishing itself as an economic powerhouse like Japan and China.

It is worth mentioning that the present Modi government's policy is distinct from the earlier government's policy in terms of assumption, resilience and accuracy. Along with engaging the extended neighbourhood policy with the South East Asian region, focus is also made by the present government with major global powers for strengthening and resolving the national security challenges. Therefore, the proposed conference invites papers from academic, thinktanks etc. on various aspects of Act East Policy, Indo-Pacific strategy, Chinese challenges, India's defense and security, North East in India's Act East Policy for intellectual dialogue. The conference is also aiming to retrospect the State's role in terms of policy implementation and to critically examine its impact on Northeast India.