



## 3RD SOUTH ASIAN BORDER STUDIES CONFERENCE

### Inter and Intra Regional Connectivity: South Asia, Southeast Asia and Central Asia

17-18TH APRIL 2023

In collaboration with

MAHILA MAHAVIDYALAYA (MMV)

Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi

&

SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY (SAU)

New Delhi

Conference Coordinators:

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Organized by:

Mahila Mahavidyalaya (MMV)  
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### Conference Note:

South Asia is a home of 2 billion people, the region has shown enormous growth potential yet they struggled on different human development fronts. It is a region that is still divided into several political issues and practically adverse to the concept of regionalism. The borders of South Asia are stringent and it deters both the movement of people and goods. The intra regional trade in South Asia is abysmally low, somewhat around 5 percent. The nominal regional trade stands opposed to the fact that South Asia is a developing region and needs to collaborate for betterment of people. There are political competitors like India and Pakistan. The duo desists from economic cooperation for political and strategic reasons. Likewise, there are issues of lack of physical connectivity in South Asia that only adds to other barriers in the region. While in the past, a few initiatives were taken like the Bhutan, Bangladesh, India and Nepal Motor Vehicle agreement (BBIN-MVA) signed in 2015 that is still not fully implemented. BBIN-MVA has a huge potential particularly in terms of making movement of transport vehicles in the member countries. This could likely boost the economic transaction in South Asia. The region requires many such connections, more so in the light of economic stagnation that was witnessed during the lockdown to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

There are other difficult issues like joining South Asia with South East Asian countries and it also requires operationalisations of several connectivity projects. India has to play a role in this. Still there are critical unresolved questions that raised doubts on early realisation of India's ambitious Act East policy. Similarly, India - Pakistan bitterness stands in the way of South -Central Asia connection. Pakistan remains adamant and unwilling to allow a direct road link between India and Afghanistan, which if extended can join South Asia with central Asia. Developing South Asia will benefit tremendously by getting access to energy rich Central Asia and economically dynamic regions like Southeast Asia. Going by the economic rationale, such a connection is imperative as it will create a synergy between three different regions of Asia. Needless to say, it will also accelerate the growth in these three regions.

While economic sense is important to overcome borders, there are other impending concerns that requires South Asians to rethink border policy. One of the most critical topics is climate change. South Asia is a climate vulnerable region and cannot afford to overlook it for a long period of time. Thus, cooperation amongst South Asian countries is a mandatory and not a desirable condition.

Moreover, the post- COVID amelioration of national economies also requires dealing with borders by making them porous for import - export of goods. This brings us to the question of border management. When it comes to border control and management in South Asia also needs modernization.

There are other pertinent matters like refugees, human trafficking, human smuggling, difficulties of Borderland communities that too deserves our attention and we will welcome submission on these themes. Apart from these highlighted points, we will also invite scholars, and practitioners to present panels/papers on border politics, border security, comparative Borders, mental borders, maritime borders etc.



## About Banaras Hindu University :

Banaras Hindu University is an internationally acclaimed educational institution located in one of the most ancient cities and cultural capitals of the world, Varanasi. The University was established by Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya in the year 1916. It acts as an excellent platform for higher education and research.

## About South Asian University:

South Asian University (SAU) is an international University sponsored by eight members states of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) started in the year 2010 in the capital city of India, Delhi. SAU has a motto of 'Knowledge without borders'.

## About Mahila Mahavidyalaya:

Mahila Mahavidyalaya (MMV) was established in the year 1929 which offers undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral courses in various subjects to women. It is also known as Women's College. It provides better opportunities for inter disciplinary research due to the presence of different disciplines in same building.

## Instructions to register :

- Please propose Panels/individual papers.
- Please send an abstract of not more than 500 words.
- Panel: Must have a chair and four panelists. Organizers can help in finding a chair for your panel.
- The proposal must include a brief about the panel (500 words) and a bio-note of all the panelists.
- Individual paper abstracts should be sent in not more than 500 words along with the bio note.
- All the panel proposals, abstracts, and bio notes should be mailed to Borderconf2023@gmail.com by 28th Feb 2023.

## Keynote Speaker:

- Prof. Emmanuel Brunet Jailly, University of Victoria
- Prof. Sanjay Chaturvedi, South Asian University
- Dr. Paul Fryer, University of Eastern Finland
- Dr. Pramod Jaiswal, NIICE, Nepal
- Dr. Edward Boyle, International Research Centre for Japanese Studies, Kyoto

## Financial Support:

- On availability of funds, we will provide assistance to only cover -
  1. Travel and accommodation (Partial/ Full)
  2. Registration Fee Waiver (Partial Full - Only in Student Category)
- Publication: Selected articles will be published in an edited volume

## Organising Committee:

- Dr. Seema Das, Assistant Professor, MMV
- Dr. Umapathi Attikuppam, Assistant Professor, MMV
- Dr. Seema Tiwari, Associate Professor and Section Head, MMV
- Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Assistant Professor, MMV
- Dr. Roohi Rawat, Assistant Professor, MMV
- Dr. Apala Saha, Assistant Professor, MMV
- Dr. Dheeraj Kumar, Assistant Professor, MMV
- Dr. Harish Kumar, Assistant Professor, MMV
- Dr. Kavita, Assistant Professor, MMV

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