

BEYOND THE BORDERS



CHRIST
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Bangalore, India

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Department of International Studies and History

Volume 2, Issue 2



From Editor's Desk

As the academic year comes to a close, we look back at the eventful semester and the even more frenzied pace of events around the world. The 2017 world looks a lot more different from the last. The students have also learned the ropes of combining academic rigor with the hectic pace of extracurricular activities.

Our second batch of MA students successfully completed their course by defending their dissertations. The juniors batch bid them a grand farewell bringing the departmental activities to a close. This issue is dedicated to the juniors who have taken up the mantle of departmental activities and features the prize winning writings of these students on issues ranging from the most important issue in the world to globalization and populism.

Globalization that had brought the world closer together is now facing backlashes as a result of cultural conflicts. Many scholars believe that this may lead to de-globalization and more isolationist policies which are being reflected in the Brexit and the new policies of Trump administration.

The world is witnessing an ideological shift that will shape the times to come in this year and the next. It has been said that everything we are currently experiencing in our lives comes about in order to assist us in evolving to a higher level of consciousness. Let us travel together to overcome these obstacles and move on to a better world.

#beyondtheborders

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Cover Photo: Outgoing MAIS Batch 2015-2017 (Above) and MAIS – II(below)



Department of International Studies and History

Dealing with Debt crisis in 21st Century

Lessons from the Past

Sai Deepthi, II MAIS

“Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime,” said Aristotle in his famous book. Today, a global crisis is taking place where nations are going into debt. Not just particular classes of people but entire nations are going into debts. These nations are in no position to provide for the entire population that’s dependent on them. There did exist third world and underdeveloped countries even before but the difference today is that even developed countries like China which has a significantly stable economy are failing to withstand the crisis.

The term debt crisis refers to the inability of a country to repay its debts. It is not as simple as the definition sounds because a sovereign debt crisis is influenced by a number of economic factors which lead the country into such a crisis. In other words, the crisis does not take place overnight; it is the outcome of certain policies and actions of a country that leads to it. The IMF analysed the world markets of emerging economies to bring about vulnerability indicators of markets that are largely dependent on external financing.

The volatility of prices, sensitivity to interest rates, maturity profiles, reimbursement capability are some of the vulnerability indicators that help economists to foresee the emergence of a crisis.

In the 21st century, the countries that have faced the debt crisis included two of the most developed countries in the world, USA and China. The other countries include Greece, Venezuela, Puerto Rico. The crises in the 21st century are a contrast for the

very reason that the first world countries were involved in the debt crisis more than the third world countries. It started with the European sovereign debt crisis which started with the failure of Iceland’s banking system that had a domino effect on the economies of Greece and Portugal. Greece was a perfect example of how the IMF’s loans would slow down the growth of an economy when defaulted.



“An economic catastrophe can be predicted much in advance if paid attention to the market changes and growth”

Greece not being able to pay back its loans fell prey to severe austerity measures by the IMF one of which included the maximum opening up of its market to foreign capital. This is bound to slow down the growth and Greece is predicted to take more time than rescheduled to pay off its debts. The recalling for the loans by the EU members was called as a measure to ensure that the Euro does not go down. The primary reason that can be attributed to the emergence European Sovereign Crisis would be the creation of monetary union itself when there was no union in banking and buffer mechanism systems that could prevent the domino effect from taking place in case a crisis starts in one nation. The only way out would be to slow the growth of the defaulter for the benefit of the other members.

On the other hand, USA's crisis arose due to the country's shadow banking system which does not provide adequate risk analysis. China's market suffered disappearance of \$3 trillion over a period of one month this was followed by a sudden surge in the market exchange market. Such huge margin profits are bound to be succeeded by imbalances and instabilities in the economic order. These instabilities are mainly caused by economic booms which give the governments a false sense of security and when the crash happens, they run into deficit.

As seen from the above examples, the reasons leading up to the crises differ from one another although holding some basic similarities, these basic similarities prove that lessons from the economic debt crisis have not been paid much attention to.

As the world is shifting towards Globalization and is halfway through the process, it becomes even more difficult to manage crises due to the growing interdependence of markets.

One way to control such overturn of events would be for IMF to place a borrowing limit with not more than one bailout that would help the economy to restructure itself. Imposing sanctions and trade-offs can lead to slowing down of the growth and thus minimum conditions must be placed before a country can re-establish itself. Initial reimbursement must be provided in order to stabilize the public sector which will, in turn, prevent the economy from free falling into the list of the low-income economy as soon as it is termed, debtor.

The interdependence of economies seen in the 21st century leading to domino effects can be prevented when proper procedural actions are taken with the utmost consideration and consultation.

In conclusion, an economic catastrophe can be predicted much in advance if paid attention to the

market changes and growth, such an analysis report submitted by countries to International Organizations on a periodic basis will and might help see the risks better in the future.

(This essay won second place in Battle of Brains Essay competition organised by Lyceum, the PG association of MAIS)

Campus Beat

1st Edition of MAIS Departmental Paper Presentation held

One of the prerequisites of today's competitive world is having good presentation skills which is endowed with innovation, self-opinions and originality of thoughts. A seminar provides such platform for expression of such ideas and also at the same time helps us understand the various developments that are taking place in different domains and keep us informed. The Department of International Studies and History started the first of its kind student seminar this semester on the topic "Issues of the 21st Century." The Seminar which was organized over a span of three months from January this semester had three sessions with each session having papers presented by first year MAIS students on three different sub-themes of Globalization, Technology and Diplomacy, and Resources and Geopolitics. The Seminar was inaugurated on 30th January 2017. Dr. Sandeep, Coordinator of the School of Law, who delivered the inaugural address stressed on the importance of discussing such issues and thereby reaching on solutions and also understanding the trends in the domain and congratulated the department for the initiative.

The first session held on the same day saw an

overwhelming participation from the students with almost fifteen papers presented on the day. Every presentation was followed by an interactive session which helped in gaining a better understanding of the topic. The second session with sub-theme “Technology and Diplomacy” held on February 21st saw papers on technological advancements such as use of social media, surveillance, cyber warfare, and their implication on diplomacy presented by the students. The next seminar with sub-theme “Resources and Geopolitics” is slated to be held on 20th March.

A Global Crisis demanding Immediate Attention!

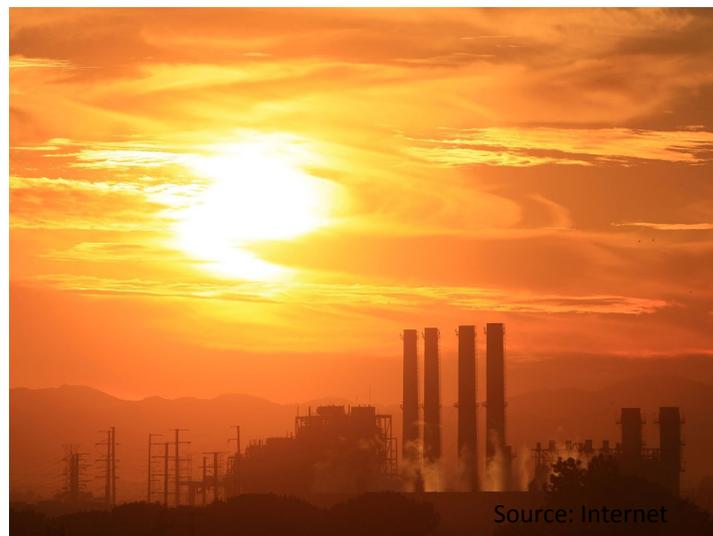
Pearl D’ Souza, IV MAIS

With the passage of time and the advancement of technology the world has become smaller, making it easy for people to communicate, travel and trade thereby leading to mutual growth and development. However, this has also led to a scenario where the problems of one state easily affect another. If these problems are not recognized, and the appropriate actions not taken, then the consequences could be overwhelming.

One problem though, which has been affecting the population across the globe equally, is climate change or global warming. Global warming refers to the rise in average surface temperatures on Earth. Technological advances have enabled scientists to perceive the problem in its entirety, gathering diverse information about our planet and its climate on a worldwide scale. Hence, it is up to all world leaders to tackle this problem for the welfare of humankind

and all living organisms in the planet. ***Looming under global crisis? How do we come out?***

Increasing sea levels because of the melting of the polar ice caps (again, caused by climate change) contribute to greater storm damage. Warming ocean temperatures are related to stronger and more frequent storms and cyclones like the ones we have been witnessing in the Southern parts of India. While consensus among nearly all scientists, scientific organizations, and governments conclude that climate change is caused by human activity, some people question the validity of such assertions and prefer to cast doubt on most evidence. They often claim that recent changes attributed to human activity can be part of the natural variations in Earth’s climate and temperature, and that it is difficult to establish a direct relation between climate change and any single weather event, such as a cyclone.



The earth’s average temperature has increased over the past century and is expected to rise as much as 1.5° C over the next.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is identifying obligations that parties must undertake to take measures necessary to mitigate climate change.

UNFCCC points out that adjustment is essential by developing suitable and unified climate change strategies both nationally and regionally. These amendment measures are essential to avert threats such as health, food and environmental security threats. There are three mechanisms to encourage states and organizations to achieve the targets. The first mechanism is emission trading second is the clean development mechanism and third is the joint implementation. The keywords in the prevention of the dangers of climate change are mitigation and adoption. The mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and the adaption measures by states to adapt along with the climate changes. It is essential to adapt in a sustainable method to alleviate the foreseeable risks connected to the dangers of climate change. Some of the tangible measures to reduce global warming should thereby include:

- Energy conservation, which will show the earliest payback in terms of CO2 reductions, in many cases an investment in energy conservation made this year, will show CO2 reductions this year, and every year thereafter.
- Renewable energy including energy from wind, solar, wave, biofuels, etc., substitutes directly for fossil fuels and eliminates CO2 emissions entirely.
- Sequestration is the prolonged trapping of CO2 before it enters the atmosphere. However, it is an intermediate step along the way, but is not a solution. CO2 can be trapped as a gas by pushing it underground or into the ocean, or it can be trapped by plants. However, carbon sequestered by plants is, in most cases, quickly released to the atmosphere again.

- Harsher Emissions and Efficiency Standards: Innovative standards for cars are becoming a global phenomenon, whether it's more stringent rules in Asia, the European Union or the Americas. As the world nears two billion vehicles, ensuring that these cars emit less pollution will be critical.
- Private Sector Action: Not just energy/oil companies, all organization need to have a business plan that reduces their carbon footprint and deals with climate change. Organizations should invest in sustainable growth/development.

Most developing countries argue that the mechanism for climate control are biased and favor the developed nations. The very existence of these countries and of the entire world rests on this sole issue. Thus, it is high time the world leaders realized that Climate Change is the most pressing issue; it calls for leaders across the globe to stop thinking unilaterally in terms of your country versus mine, but in a more inclusive 'our world' perspective.

(This essay won First place in Battle of Brains Essay competition organised by Lyceum, PG Association of MAIS)

What IR Scholars say?

“The dangerous clashes of the future are likely to arise from the interaction of Western arrogance, Islamic intolerance, and Sinic assertiveness.”

Samuel P. Huntington,
The Clash of Civilizations , 1997

Indian Frontier Railways – On the Tracks of Peaceful Diplomacy?

Chitresh Shrivastva, II MAIS

Indian Railways, the lifeline of the nation is the 7th largest railway network in the world and the 9th largest utility employer employing close to 13 lakh people who work at the 8000 stations run 10,500 locomotives and 21,000 trains a day carrying close to 2.8 crore people which is almost the population of Australia doesn't only confine itself to the 1,15,000 kms, but at the same time goes beyond the frontiers of India to countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan and in future is aiming to reach Nepal and Russia.

The most recent being the prospects of a possible freight route being proposed between India and Russia. While this remains in the pipeline, we now turn around to the existing diplomatic lines that is between Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

India has had a historical connection with Sri Lanka by means of the Boat Mail which ran till Rameswaram after which passengers, got down and took a boat to reach Sri Lanka, earlier known as Ceylon till the closure of line after the Dhanuskodi Tragedy in 1964. The present diplomatic lines exist to Pakistan and Bangladesh. Coming to Pakistan, India runs two trains namely Samjhauta Express and Thar Express, apart from this there is also Attari Express which acts as a connecting point as the Pakistani rakes unlike Bangladesh rakes aren't allowed within the Indian sub – continent.

The connection is not only superficial, but at the same time is prone to restraints and uncertainty due to tensed relations. Besides the train was also targeted in 2007 by anti – social elements.

Talk on Refugee Crisis by German Professor

The Department of International Studies and History, held a guest lecture by Prof. Thomas Flamson on Refugee Crisis on 25th January at the Sky View on the topic – Refugee Crisis in Europe. Giving the historical perspective on the immigration system already in place in Germany, Prof. Flamson explained the social, political and economic implications of the ongoing refugee crisis.



Professor Flamson addressing the audience

The lecture also comprised of statistics showing the diversity of cultures and religions of the refugees and the countries from where they came. This was then followed by a short question and answers session, post which the program concluded with a token of appreciation by Dr. Manoharan, Faculty, Dept. Of International Studies and History.

On the other hand, lies our Bangladesh counterpart. The borders are porous and there is no doubt that the border has been prone to circulation of fake currencies and terrorists, yet the Maitree Express which runs between Dhaka and Kolkata has so far

been functioning without interruptions, has not been the only way in which India seeks to build relations with Bangladesh, but India has also been a partner in developing the Bangladesh Railway. Bangladesh Railway has been supplied with non – functional Metre Gauge locomotives and Rolling Stock. In the most recent report, India has supplied the state of the art Linke Hoffsman Bosch coaches which be lending a helping hand in helping develop the dilapidated infrastructure of Bangladesh Railways.

The Pride of India



Maitree Express



Samjhauta Express

Or if we even look at the African example, especially regarding the Congo Jungle Railways. Again, when we look at the condition of the African Railways, we can look at it more as a give and take situation. While on the one hand India supplies locomotives, on the other hand we also learn certain things from the African Railways as well. The Dedicated Freight Corridor has been a model of many countries including India. Moreover, Africa has been sustaining through import of essential assets such as locomotives and coaches. Coming to India’s opportunity to penetrate its closest neighbors namely India and Pakistan, seems to be hindered by security challenges. Whereas when we look at the Myanmar connection, its proximity to North Eastern State makes it a viable connection. yet again what is common amongst all neighbors is the problem of infiltration which becomes more of a challenge and he fact that North Eastern state is in its nascent state of being connected to the rest of India and thus a rail line through the North East upto Burma can see a longer time to turn into reality.

Thus there needs to be strengthening of external security to facilitate protection of Railways and its assets and at the same time ensure that the railways acts as a facilitator of peaceful diplomacy and not a strain in the diplomatic ties.

Train your Thoughts!

Before independence Asif Ali was the rail minister. Who was the first rail minister after independence of India?

(Clue: A Highly Honourable Profession in the world, a beloved resurrected GoT character & the Private Secretary to India's first Prime Minister!)

Chinese New Media - In a Giant Cage or Not?

Report on one-week Certificate course on Chinese New media in IIT Madras

Harini Madhusudan, II MAIS



II MAIS students at IIT-M

The only idea about internet in China is usually that everything is censored by the Chinese government. And they do not have Facebook, Google or Twitter like we do. However, all of these perceptions changed when I attended the short-term course on Chinese New Media by Dr. James Leibold and Dr. Sonika Gupta, in IIT Madras during February second week.

Organized by the Department of Chinese Studies, IIT Madras, in collaboration with Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) and MHRD, Government of India, this week long course “China Wired” was an area-specific study on the New Media in China. Lectures by Dr. James Leibold of La Trobe University, Australia and Dr Sonika Gupta, IIT-M covered all perspectives about the Sinophone Internet - the history, politics, the social and economical aspect of it and much more.

We looked into the characteristics, the key players in Chinese media (Tianya, Sina Weibo, Baidu, Tencent

WeChat, Alibaba, Taobao etc) and the CCPs approach to the internet. One interesting thing that we learnt was that the censorship was intended not to stop critique of the government but to stop the people from mobilising and organising mass movements like the Tiananmen Square incident. We also learnt extensively about the censorship regime in China and how it evolved over time. In relations to internet usage and socio-political change in China, it was explained how internet in China serves as the “weapons of the weak” for people at the same has become an “digital opium” promoting cyber balkanisation and nationalism.

On the whole, the lecture series provided an opportunity to look at the complicated role of Sinophone internet which is rapidly evolving and changing socio-political atmosphere in China.

Panel discussion on Elections 2017

Politics in today’s democratic era has assumed various forms and has led to a more open platform for discussions, debates, questions and answers and points and counter points. Keeping this in mind, Lyceum, the PG Association of the Department organized a parliamentary debate on 6th March at Sky View, Central Block, Main Campus on the topic “Ideologies and Parties” in reference to Election 2017. Twelve students from the II MAIS participated in the discussion and shared their thoughts on the topic. Criminalization of politics, political alliances and the opportunist nature of politicians, role of religion and caste in Indian politics were discussed elaborately by the panelists. It was followed by an interactive session with the audience.

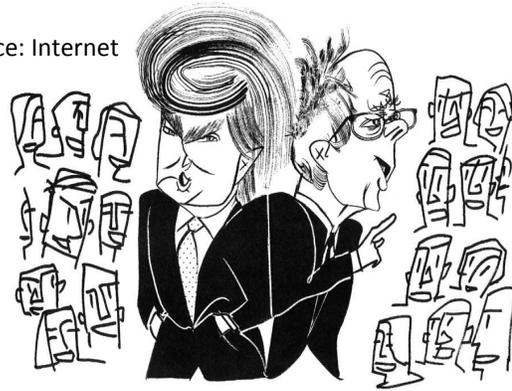
Populism - Targeting the Vulnerability of International Refugees

Niyati Shetty, Sathvik N, II MAIS

With large scale movement of people taking place from crisis-stricken countries to first world nations, people and nations have shown mixed reactions. While some nations are more accepting, most lately some major liberal democracies have followed a closed door policy towards these vulnerable men, women and children. Populism which is now widespread in the most developed nation's politics, has leaders coming forward who claim to keep the interest of 'the common people' as the most important, saving them from internal 'elites' and external 'threats' that will hinder their safety, prosperity and development. With the occurrence of tragic terror attacks witnessed worldwide, populist politics in first world nations has managed to sway public sentiment against the acceptance of International Refugees. Refugees are now either being denied entry into countries or being subject to intense screening procedures imposed by extreme vetting plans before being granted conditional sanctuary. With the popular reasons behind the denial of refugees being to keep out 'radical Islamic terrorists', and to protect the lives and jobs of citizens, Populism has managed to grow while ignoring the families fleeing from slaughter and turmoil. Trump's rhetoric has been very incendiary and exclusionary from the beginning of his campaign and this has determined his policies. Some of the proposals that President Trump has put forward soon after entering the White House are building a wall on the Mexican border, cutting corporate taxes to keep

the jobs in America, banning immigration and a broad crackdown of skilled labour entering US. These kind of nationalist policies aim at isolating the State in the present globalized world and in the process lead to the segregation of people. The people entering the US territory with valid visas and permits were treated as criminals. In some instances, due to the ad-hoc nature of Trump's executive order to temporarily ban immigrants from seven Muslim dominated regions, many mothers were indefinitely not allowed to meet their children in airports.

Source: Internet



The need for safety, security and stability are the main reasons why States and their citizens are following the Realist rhetoric of Populist leaders like President Trump. There is a belief that job security and the livelihood of citizens is affected by immigrants who provide cheap labour. Also, a widespread fear of the threat of terrorism is preventing rational dialogue on the topic and indiscriminate hatred of a particular religion. Realism should represent the heritage of the nation rather than reflect the ideology of a demagogue. In the quest protect one's own security and stability, the dignity and worth of others are not taken into account.

(The article is an edited version of a paper presented by the authors in the inter-disciplinary PG conference held on 3 March, 2017)

The Unravelling of Globalisation in 21st Century

Is it a Boon or Bane?

Bhargav Acharya, II MAIS

The concept of globalisation is a much contested one in the present day scenario. Globalisation is about creating new social connections and expanding the existing networks that transcend the geographical boundaries and traditional aspects of economics, culture and politics. Limiting our knowledge to singularity only leads to confusion as it is both a process and a movement that could help in the integration of the world.

The contemporary globalisation has led to a series of debate.

Is there any one particular cause or a combination of many?

Is it really aiding people in reducing the global-local nexus?

Is it leading to the growth of more inequality and hierarchy?

And most importantly, is it a 'boon' or a 'bane' to the humankind? It is imperative to understand the dimensions of globalisation to find possible answers to the above questions. Globalisation has taken an unprecedented boost in the last three decades owing to profound social transformations centred on the world economy. The poor countries have been able to harness the potential of their abundant labour to break into global markets for manufactured goods and for services. The Trans National Companies,

international economic institutions and regional trading systems like EU have further emerged as the major building blocks of the 21st century's global economic order. The political processes deal with the principle of state sovereignty, the growing impact of IGO's, the prospects for regional and global governance, policies affecting trade and environment. In the ever changing globalising world, the nation-state controls vital elements like merchandise trade, migration, diplomacy, nationalism, satellite communications, etc. This further consolidates the close link between the economic and political aspects of globalisation.

The growth of cultural interconnections and interdependencies in the 21st century has been such that its effects could be seen influencing the societal and individual behaviour across the globe. The advent of internet and digital media networks has facilitated people in blending cultures widely and circulate freely than ever before.

The effects of economic, political and cultural aspects of globalisation can ultimately be found in its impact on the ecology of the world. The 21st century has been at the receiving end of global environmental issues like global warming, climate change and pollution. The worldwide natural and man-made disasters clearly indicate that the ecological problems today can only be dealt with the alliance of global powers. The threat to the world order and human existence has never been more than it is now in the 21st century. The world has been the perfect stage for various terrorist organisations. The growing anger towards the established governments and rapid growth in technology have been effective tools in corrupting human thought and action. The terror inflicted countries are further affected by

humanitarian crises and forced to flee their homeland.

Although only around 2-3% of the world population stays out of their country of origin, immigration control is seen as a serious issue and many governments try to restrict the population flows particularly from West Asia. The world we know today has led to the phenomenon of finite F.E.W.

The growth in demand has been far greater than the growth in supply. This demand has put severe pressure on the planet's ecosystems resulting in shortage of rainfall, change in weather patterns, etc. The rapid build-up of gas emissions including carbon dioxide, methane, sulphur oxides and chlorofluorocarbons on the earth's atmosphere has greatly enhanced the planet's capacity to trap heat.

According to the recent reports it has been found that the world temperature has increased every year since 2012. The cultural hegemony prevalent in the present world has resulted in the undermining of diversity of the world's existing cultures. The role of media has been instrumental in the growth of this culture with their influence on shaping people's figment of

interests and structured desires around the world. To add to existing woes, it is estimated that the indigenous languages are shrinking at a rapid pace.

Globalisation is an uneven process that is experienced very differently by people living in different parts of the world. There isn't one way to explain the gravity of something as significant as globalisation.



There has to be collective effort by countries like U.S, China, India and Russia to bridge the global-local nexus in societies. A truly successful movement of globalisation can be realised by 'thinking local and going global'. The 21st century is the age of

global crises and the future of globalisation depends on a reformist agenda with building a global order that respects human values without destroying the cultural diversity of any region.

(The above article is an essay written from a Seminar paper that the writer presented in the 1st Edition of MAIS Departmental Student seminar held on 30 January, 2017)

Answer to Quiz on Page 8: Dr. John Mathai

Where are the Leaders of Tomorrow?

Soundarya J, II MAIS

Brexit, Trump, ISIS, refugee crisis, coups, populist movements, economic stagnation, and what not!

To say it in Lenin's words, "There are decades when nothing happens and there are weeks when decades happen". 2016 has turned out to be one of the tumultuous years of the decade with too many shocks and surprises all around the world. Threat of climate change, terrorism, and economic crisis – all looms over our head. World events continue to muddle on without any clear path ahead. But one factor that unites them all. In the heart of all global crises we have today lies one of the biggest crises of our world – the Leadership crisis. Sounds off the topic, doesn't it? No it is not.

The Syrian crisis for that matter is an example of leadership failure on every level. It started because of indecisiveness of Barack Obama to act in the early 2012 when the IS emerged along with the rebels they trained. The USA, Russia, Syria, Iran and middle eastern players did not act when the threat emerged. But today when the threat has become so visible and dangerous, every country wants a solution which satisfies their own interest in the region.

Yemen crisis has been going on for years. But nobody notices it because Saudi Arabia is the country playing and no world leader wants to disturb the major player in the oil— rich West Asia because their economic interest will also be affected by this. The global leaders are playing petty politics based on self-interest over an humanitarian crisis.

In economic sphere also, we see the failure of leadership. According to World Economic Forum report on deepening income inequality, both developed and developing countries has the poorest half of the population controlling less than 10% of its total wealth. This is not just the case of today. Even during its early days, statistics has always exposed the other side.



Self-interest, and short-term gains makes leaders today forget how interdependent we are in this world.

"Me" overshadows "We," for them. Almost 86% of respondents of survey on Global Agenda 2015 agreed that we have a leadership crisis today. Does any world leader stand out as a person with ability, ideas and talent, who can bring countries together to solve any issue?

David Wallace said leader is one who helps "overcome the limitations of own selfishness, weakness and fear and get us to do better, harder things that we can get ourselves to do on our own." Obama, Trump, Putin, Modi, Le Pen, Cameron, Hollande, Erdogan, Bashar al Assad, Park Geun Hye,

Duerete, Xi Jinping – these are the leaders we could come up with who look at nothing more than their country’s national interest, or who do not have moral integrity or who doesn’t want to take up the decisive global leadership position.

Today, we have the knowledge; we have the solutions; we know the path we have to follow for resolving the global issues. But we do not have the decisive, determined leader who will mould consensus among all stakeholders, implement them and lead the people.

In such a situation, it is people who should show the leaders the right direction. The digital media today provides citizens unprecedented advantage in terms of accessing information and making their voices heard out in public. Arab Spring, the recent impeachment of South Korean President, the Native Americans’ movement against Dakota pipeline and many other incidents of the recent times shows that when leaders fail, it is their citizens who steers them in the right direction. It also shows us there is the tiny beacon of light at the end of the dark tunnel. Let us not lose it. Let us not fight small fights amongst ourselves based on self-interest for a greater fight awaits us.

Campus Beat

Battle of Brains conducted by Lyceum

The Department of International Studies and History held its first ever departmental fest “Battle of Brains” on 12th and 14th of December, 2016.

The first day of the event was presided by Dr. Venugopal Menon, Dr. Vageshwari SP and Rev. Fr.

Benny Thomas.

The event started with an invocation song which was followed by a welcome speech by Dr. Vagishwari, followed by an introduction to event by Dr. Venugopal Menon. Father Benny Thomas boosted the morale of the department and participants through his words of encouragement.

The first event Just a Minute started which saw overwhelming participation from the students. This was followed by Model UN, a simulation of United Nations where students donned the role of diplomats and delegates of various countries in Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly.

The aim of the MUN was to enable the students to understand the functioning of United Nations. The other competitions held on the second day included Poster Making, Essay Writing and Classical Debate.

The valedictory function was held on day 2 which was presided by Dr. John Joseph Kennedy, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences. The event started with a Welcome speech by Dr. Venugopal Menon which followed by an event report by Chitresh Shrivastva.

Dr. John Joseph Kennedy gave the valedictory address. This was later followed by the debate finals after which prize distribution took place and the winners were facilitated by Dr. John Joseph Kennedy. The Fest coordinator Dr. Koiremba Singh ended the ceremony with his words of appreciation to all the people involved.

(The back cover of this issue has the posters which won 1st and 2nd prizes respectively in the poster making competition)

Namma Food Corner: Which country to eat in?

“To the extent that we all eat food and we all have souls, food is the single great unifier of culture.”

We believe that food is the gateway of experiencing foreign culture and also as students of International Studies, a way improving diplomatic relations between nations. In today’s world, it is not necessary to travel to far off places to try their cuisine. *Namma Bengaluru* itself has become melting pot of delicious delicacies of other lands. Every semester we try to use this space to explore the food of different regions in Bengaluru which our friends taste and share with you. And this time our friends gave themselves a treat of Korean cuisine.

With a sizeable Korean expat population in the city along with regular business visitors from Seoul and beyond, Bengaluru is home to several restaurants that claim to serve authentic Korean fare. Whether it is elaborate Korean-style barbecues, tangy kimchi or the wholesome one-pot Bibimbap, or the side dishes “banchan” we get for free, our pick of Korean eateries will leave you spoilt for choices. Here two of our classmates share their thoughts on eating authentic Korean food in Bengaluru.

Himalayan Restaurant

Address: 8, 1st A Cross Rd, 5th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560034



A simple ambience and crazy K-Pop music, the atmosphere is happy. We had jambong, a soup-

based noodle. For main course we had bibimbap, i.e., mixed rice topped with namul and gochujang and fried egg or sliced meat along with grilled chicken, chicken sizzler added with all famous Korean spices. The food was equal parts sweet and spicy and had an authentic Korean flavour to it.

- Sanya Dixit, II MAIS

Arirang Restaurant

Address: No.13, N.K Enclave Building, 4th Cross, Opp. Himalaya Store, Chinnappa Layout, Kammanahalli Main Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560084



Best Korean experience you can have in Bengaluru. The restaurant also gave you a small peek into real South Korean Culture and Mannerisms. The waiters were respectful and attentive to the customers. We tried tuna gimbap and BBQ chicken in hot sauce. The complimentary cinnamon tea was too strong. If you want to know how they taste, go here soon ;)

- Sukanya Ghosh, II MAIS

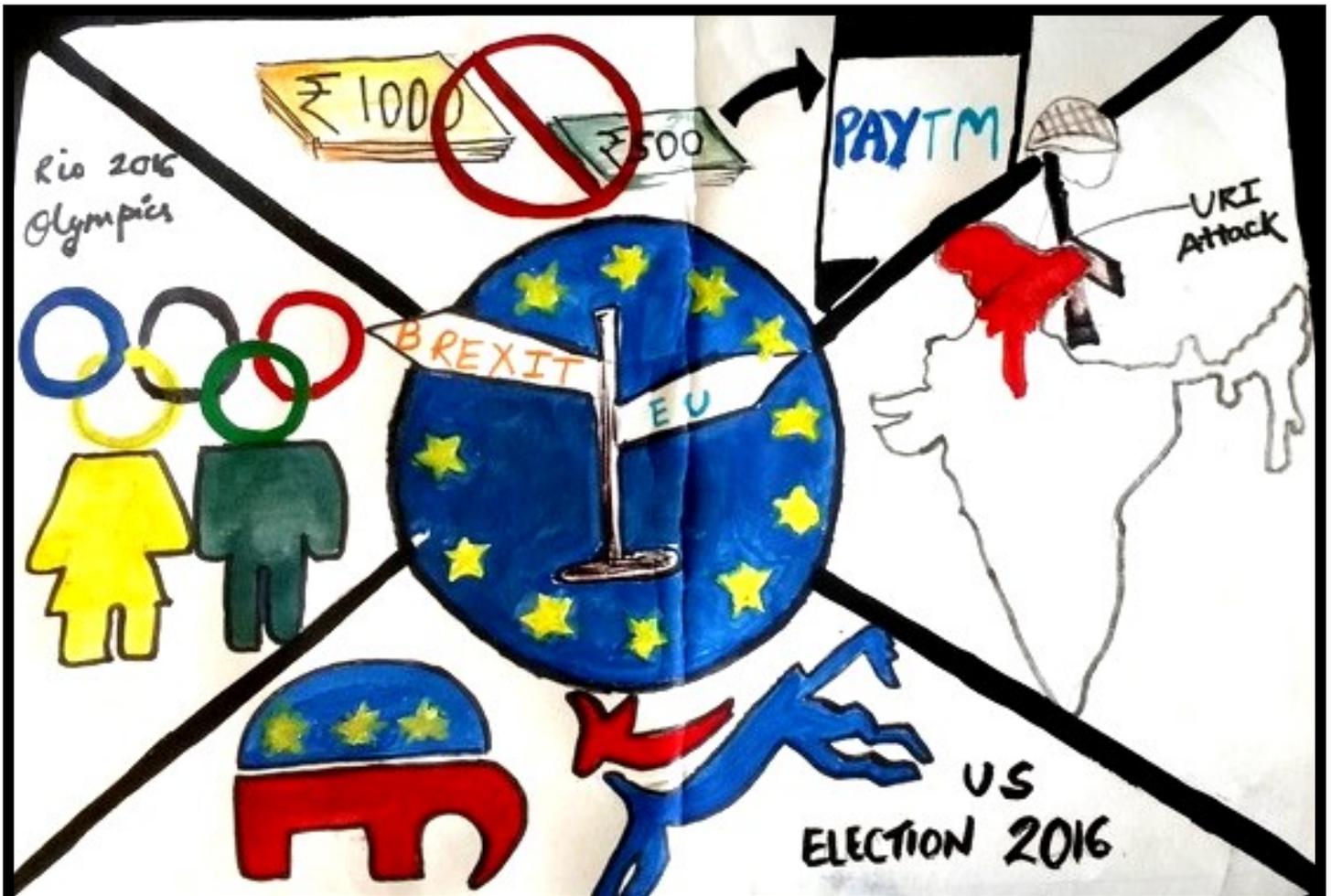
Other Korean Restaurants around College:

-Hae Kum Gang

Address: No. 20, 2nd Floor, Castle Street, Near Brigade Tower, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560025.

-The Tao Terraces

Address: 1 MG - Lido Mall, 5th Floor, 1 MG Mall, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Opp. Taj Vivanta, Halasuru, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560008.



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