Towards A New World: Peaceful, Humane, Secure and Inclusive

One of the core units of the Faculty of International Studies, the Department of Strategic and Security studies has been conceptualised with a deeply thought out aim and well planned strategy to become a pioneering centre of advanced studies and research in India in the arena of Strategic and Security studies. The overall aim is to intelligently pool and constructively engage the best minds in the pursuit of a more peaceful world and the strategy is to ignite the imagination of all the stakeholders - the policy makers, the academics, the journalists, general public and particularly the youths - with the idea that another world is possible. Inspired with the motto, ‘Towards A New World: Peaceful, Humane, Secure and Inclusive’, the Department is uniquely different and unusual from other such Departments for the fact that here, the main emphasis is on the construction of the idea of a more peaceful world - a world not just with the absence of wars and conflicts but one that is much more positive with the ideas which actually make conflicts much less likely i.e., the idea about emancipation, rights, justice, fairness, security etc.

That is precisely the reason why the Department is named as the, ‘Department of Strategic and Security Studies’ explicitly meaning that unlike the Department of War Studies, or Department of Peace and Conflict Studies or the Department of Defence and Security Studies where generally the focus is on understanding war, or analysing conflicts or developing methods and tools to quantify war and conflicts or developing defence capabilities, etc., here, the main emphasis will be on building a viable narrative of peace - a narrative which has the capability, intellectual rigour and practical insight to tide over the dominant war narrative which currently hegemonies the prevailing discourse.

Inspired by the noble vision of the founding father of this institution, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan who instilled hopes in the indian populace during the then depressing environment of the dark days of Colonialism by harking on the liberating and moderating impulse of the modern scientific education, this department, similarly aims to rekindle the spirit of hope in the prevailing atmosphere of gloom all over the world - the world of ever increasing violence, deadlier weapons, environmental degradation, growing insecurities etc. This will be achieved by the twin process of high quality teaching and innovative research of practical significance. World class researches will be carried out not just to unearth the causes of conflicts but basically to help locate the levers for the promotion of a sustainable and durable peace. These high class practically relevant researches will inform the policy makers and other stakeholders through the galaxy of students who will be particularly trained for this purpose at the department.

The department, therefore, will not just be for those who want to study strategy, war, peace, international politics, etc., but will be relevant for anyone and everyone who take interest in and are concerned with the goings of the world and want to play her part in making it a better place to live in.

This department i.e., the Department of Strategic and Security Studies is about who we are and what we actually want ourselves to be.

Helping build durable, sustainable and long-lasting peace, supporting for the establishment of an inclusive, benign and enabling environment for all and assisting in the creation of a more secure, humane and fulfilling life for everyone - is what this department strives to work for.
Department’s Vision

The primary aim of this department is to constructively play its part in helping build a more peaceful world through high quality research and innovative teaching in areas related to Strategic and Security Studies. In the pursuit of this goal, the activities of the department will essentially be academic with a definite eye on the practical relevance, carefully following the principle ‘making knowledge work’. Therefore, along with cultivating academic excellence in the identified areas, the department plans to have effective and informed communications not only with the community of scholars, policy makers and practitioners but also with the general public at large so as to genuinely promote the idea of a more secure and peaceful world.

The department’s overarching concerns which relates to the production and refinement of knowledge related to the broader theme of strategy, security and peace, is of universal concern and as such the department aims basically to be international in its orientation, catholic in its perspective and cosmopolitan in its reach though with an Eastern/Indian tinge.

Aspiring to be a premiere world class academic institution with exceptional educational and research opportunities that will shape the discourse in the field and be a centre for future leaders in academic, public and political arenas who will propagate the idea of the possibility of a better world, this Department stands to make a distinct and lasting contribution at the forefront of strategic, security and peace studies.
Key Strategic Goals for the Department

1. Develop as a Department of excellent teaching in the area of Strategic and Security Studies

2. Emerge as a Centre for Advanced Research in core identified areas.

3. Inspire informed exchange with other stakeholders and inform public discourse on important themes

4. Develop liaison with the government of India particularly Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Defence for policy advice, informed exchange and other related assistance

5. Forge strategic collaboration with related think-tanks, university departments and research centres.

6. Pursue publishing role both scholarly and at popular level.

7. Become a patron for good researchers, teachers and students interested in the field of Strategic and Security Studies.
Developing As A Department of Excellent Teaching
Develop as a Department of excellent teaching in the area of Strategic and Security Studies

The Department of Strategic and Security Studies is dedicated to cultivate a teaching and research standards which reflects the highest standards of the discipline. Planning to develop as a full fledged academic department imparting education both at the graduate and Masters level, the department plans to proceed in the following manner:

1. To begin with, an Open Elective Course on the theme of Strategic and Security Studies will be offered which will be available to the interested students from any faculty of the university. This paper will be of general interest to students with an added emphasis on acquainting them with the pressing issues grappling humanity and thus evince interest in them to be responsible citizens and an informed and engaged human beings.

   Apart from this another Optional Paper related to the broader theme of Strategic and Security Studies will be offered specifically for the students enrolled in the Faculty of International Studies. Of optional nature, meant only for those students from the faculty who are interested, this paper will be a bit more detailed and specialised.

2. The department plans to initiate a Six Month’s Certificate Course in Strategic and Security Studies. This Course will be available to students as well as to others who can no longer count them as students. Professionals like journalists, aspirants of foreign and diplomatic services, etc., would specially find this Certificate Course beneficial as also those who would like to become more informed and responsible citizens aware of the happenings around their surrounding.

3. A One Year Diploma Course on the theme of Strategy, Security and Peace is also in the pipeline. This Diploma Course will be more specialised and focussed and as such for enrolment in the Diploma course, Masters and M.Phil/Ph.D level students or those professionals who have at least three years of recorded services will be allowed.

4. Alongwith all other preliminary preparations, the Department intends to start Two Years Full Time Masters Level Course on the theme of Strategy and Security in the future. This Masters Course will be unique of its kind at least in India as there is no other university or college which offers this Course on the theme of Strategy and Security although there are few places in India offering Masters Course on the subject of Defence and National Security.

5. The Department also plans to begin a Graduate Level Programme in Strategic and Security Studies and make this as an important emerging discipline at the level of Graduation itself.
Emerging As A Centre for Advanced Research
Emerge as a Centre for Advanced Research in Core Identified Areas

The Department is envisaged to be a Centre for Advanced Research in core areas of strategic and Security Studies. Aimed at addressing the lack of scientific researches on the strategy and security aspect of the prevailing world, this department will primarily be interested in locating the sources of instability and insecurity which mars the current goings of the world. Not shy of critiquing the dominant belief, researches here will be carried out with due scientific rigour and intellectual honesty.

Security Studies in the post Cold War and more recently the post unipolar world, when time and space have dramatically shrunked, have acquired uniquely novel dimensions undreamt of even just a few years ago. Symmetric security has not just given way to asymmetric security rather the very idea of security has been challenged. The increasingly complex and ever widening notion of security - from physical surveillance, to online surveillance to even bio-surveillance and from societal security to environmental security to the concept of human security as a whole - has not just revolutionised the current studies around these themes but has also fundamentally challenged the existing tools, methodologies and theoretical frameworks to understand them.

Therefore, apart from focusing on developing the theoretical framework and methodological tools advancing the study of Strategic and Security Studies as a scientific discipline, the Department will also carry out researches for practical significance related to the pressing issues confronting the world like cyber security, biosecurity, space security etc.

As an academic department, students will be enrolled in M. Phil and PhD programmes and an enabling and supportive ambience will be provided to them to carry out world class researches.
Inspiring Informed Exchange
Inspire informed exchange with other stakeholders and inform public discourse on important themes

The Department along with being a Centre of Excellence for teaching and research also aspires to play its part in informing the wider public about issues related to Strategy, Security and Peace. For this, the Department plans to hold popular lecture series as well apart from organising academic seminars and scholarly talks. The faculty, researchers and students will be encouraged to connect with the wider audience through blogs, popular write-ups and public interactions. Here, the purpose of the Department is to move towards making the world a better place to live in and therefore, informing the public at large becomes very important. Being well and strategically informed is the first step towards any strategy to secure oneself from possible insecurity. That is the main reason that this department takes extra pains to make efforts in this direction.

An important idea this department wants to formalise in this direction is the holding of yearly Summer/Winter Schools of International Character. This School will have its faculty members drawn from both fields, those involved in teaching and research as well as the practitioners. This will be a two week intensive programme and will attract among its participants not just students and researchers of international relations, peace and security studies but those from the diplomatic services, foreign services and practical field as well.
Evolving As a Liaisoning Centre
Develop liaison with the Government of India particularly Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Defence for policy advice, informed exchange and other related assistance.

Apart from researches carried out as a part of PhD programmes, this Department also plans to have the arrangements for the pursuance of independent, high quality scientific researches on areas of pressing national needs. Building on the expertise of the faculty and researchers, the Department envisages to provide consultancy and research in the field of global security and strategy for the government and other organisations who are in need. Based on independently procured and hardly earned scientific facts, the researchers at the department will provide deep insights which will help form an informed and well suited policy.
Forging Strategic Collaboration
Forge strategic collaboration with related Think-Tanks, University Departments and Research Centres.

For good research and teaching, strategic collaboration is very important. The department, therefore, plans to have a good network of international scholars and institutions who will be consulted and associated with in the pursuit of high quality teaching and research by the Department. For strategic collaboration organisations, think tanks, university departments, research centres etc, with similar themes will be specially solicited.
Pursuing Publishing Role
Pursue publishing role both scholarly and at popular level

The Department also aims to be a Centre for scholarly academic publishing. There is a plan to start a peer reviewed yearly journal on the theme of Strategic and Security Studies. Apart from this yearly publication, regular publishing of occasional papers, working papers, research monographs etc., will also be encouraged.

Alongwith academic publishing, the Department will also encourage popular write-ups for the wider dissemination and propagation of the ideas of Strategy, Security and Peace.
Becoming A Patron
Become a patron for good researchers, teachers and students interested in the field of Strategic and Security Studies

The success of the aims and mission of this Department depends on the people who constitute its very existence. As such, the Department plans to associate the best minds interested in the field who will help realise the goals of this Department and enable it to become one of the best in the world in its field. With the aim of providing the best possible working ambience and excellent research support system, the Department will associate with itself not only the best faculty and researchers but also ambitious and studious students who together will help build for this Department a brand name in the field of teaching and research in areas related to Strategy, Security and Peace not only in Asia but around the whole world.

In terms of faculty, researchers and students intake, the Department will celebrate diversity, flexibility, initiatives and learning.