



Jamia Millia Islamia

Two-Day International Conference

On

Changing Dynamics of Migration and Indian Diaspora: Leveraging India's Global Image

Organized by

*The Centre for West Asian Studies,
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi*

18-19 November 2024

CONCEPT NOTE

Migration is the movement of individuals from one habitat, location or nation to another, and this phenomenon has seen a substantial surge as a result of globalisation. Migration, globalisation, and transnationalism are all interconnected in the contemporary world. In context to the title, it mutually reinforcing each other and motivate individuals to move beyond their national boundaries. Migration often results in the formation of transnational or diasporic communities. This notion has gained popularity in the 1990s. It is based on the idea of shared memories and a common vision. It broadens our viewpoint by shifting our attention from individual states to a global system that includes interconnected relationships and exchanges beyond national boundaries. Migrants generate a social sphere that transcends these limits and results in unique socio-economic, cultural and political consequences. For instance, imagine a family moving from India to the GCC countries. They maintain connections with their relatives in India, participate in cultural festivals and might even send money back home. This interaction forms a transnational network and illustrate how migration fosters ties that stretch across countries. Moreover, these connections can influence the host country's culture and economy, such as introducing new cuisines or increasing demand

for international goods. On a broader scale, migration can shape political landscapes by affecting policies related to immigration and multiculturalism. Therefore, the interplay between migration, globalization and transnationalism creates a dynamic and interconnected global community. Here people, ideas and cultures continuously flow across borders. Over the past few decades, diasporas have increasingly played a significant role in the international political arena. They are political and cultural bridges and de facto cultural ambassadors of their homeland in their host country and of their host country in their homeland. They have a powerful international voice, both as a special interest group in national foreign policymaking and as a transnational civil society network.

According to the United Nations Migration Stock 2019, the Indian diaspora today constitutes 32.1 million, which includes Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), Non-Residential Indians (NRIs), and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs). It is not only the largest, but also among the most successful and prosperous diaspora communities around the world. Every year, 2.5 million Indians migrate overseas, which is the highest number in the world. India has also been a major recipient of remittances, with US\$83.30 billion in 2019. However, the importance of the diaspora does not end with remittances alone; it extends beyond that to knowledge transfer, resource sharing, acting as unofficial Indian ambassadors, and pushing for India's interests abroad.

The Indian diaspora has turned out to be the biggest strategic asset from global labour sources (with one of the largest pools of relatively low-wage, semi-skilled, and skilled labour, particularly in the Gulf) and has an influential position. Not only this, the diaspora also acts as 'agents of change' in facilitating and enhancing investment, accelerating industrial development, and boosting international trade and tourism. India's vibrant diaspora is becoming a core component of foreign policy initiatives as well as a vehicle of 'soft power'. A smart power strategy combines hard and soft power resources. A country's soft power rests on its resources of culture, values, and policies. The spread of yoga, Ayurveda, Indian spiritualism, Bollywood, and Indian cuisine across the world has made India famous. It has even led to the revival of many lost relationships with many countries. Public diplomacy has a long history as a means of promoting a country's soft power, building partnerships, and establishing alliances.

The practice of public diplomacy helps India achieves significant objectives. First, it helps allay active or dormant fears within the international community about India as a rising power. Second, it also helped India compete with other countries as it sought to boost foreign tourist arrivals,

attract foreign investment, and secure new markets for its exports in an era of globalization. Public diplomacy plays a vital role in conveying and explaining India's foreign policy actions and position on major international issues. The current administration, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has projected various aspects of India's soft power, and the Prime Minister has attempted to leverage India's soft power resources to project the country as a benign rising power. He has also sought to engage the Indian diaspora across the world and attempted to promote India as an attractive destination for both tourism and foreign investment. Since the mid-2000s, India has reformed its public diplomacy, reinvesting in traditional modes of building soft power, such as the cultural exchange programmes organised by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), and utilising new methods, including the use of new social media platforms to reach out to new target audiences. It's an extension of India's long-standing concern with public diplomacy, which stretches back to the Nehruvian era. Growing interest among India's foreign policy elite in the possibilities presented by the Internet, particularly Web 2.0, has stimulated these initiatives.

Finally, India utilizes public diplomacy campaigns to attract international attention and capital in order to promote socio-economic development. Encouraged by other countries' modest successes, India has begun utilizing public diplomacy to shape the views of the international community. By doing this, it ultimately hopes to change their behaviour towards it. Like any other emerging economy, its programmes and campaigns not only present India as an attractive destination for tourism and investment, but also underscore its uniqueness to set it apart from others. Projecting soft power assets like Bollywood, Buddhism, Indian cuisine, Indian classical dance and music, cricket, and yoga are already part of the country's public diplomacy strategy. The process of branding India as a unique country worthy of travel and investment will likely continue into the future. If it can help promote economic growth and development, build new partnerships, and facilitate India's rise, the country's public diplomacy efforts will have fulfilled their stated objectives.

Aims of The Conference

The conference aims to address following critical contemporary issues concerning diaspora communities, focusing on their integral role and engagement in global and national discourse.

- **Role of Diaspora Communities in Ongoing Discourse:**
 - To analyse the impact of diaspora communities on global and national socio-political and economic discussions.
 - To explore the influence of diasporic networks on cultural exchange and innovation.
 - To assess the contribution of diaspora communities to international diplomacy and soft power dynamics.
- **Engagement in Building New Partnerships:**
 - To Investigate the role of diaspora in fostering transnational business and trade partnerships.
 - To examine how diaspora networks, facilitate knowledge transfer and technological collaboration.
 - To highlight case studies of successful diaspora-led initiatives in education and healthcare sectors.
- **Opportunities and Challenges of Engaging Diaspora:**
 - To discuss the economic opportunities presented by diaspora remittances and investments.
 - To Identify cultural and social integration challenges faced by host nations.
 - To analyse the complexities of maintaining dual identities and loyalties among diaspora members.
- **Strategies for Leveraging Diaspora Communities:**
 - To propose policies to enhance diaspora engagement in national development projects.
 - To Recommend frameworks for integrating diaspora expertise in science, technology, and innovation sectors.
 - To suggest ways to strengthen diaspora networks through digital platforms and social media.
- **Evaluation of Success in Leveraging Diaspora:**
 - To assess the effectiveness of current policies aimed at engaging diaspora communities.
 - To review the impact of diaspora contributions on economic growth and development.
 - To identify gaps and areas for improvement in existing diaspora engagement strategies.
- **Additional Areas of Exploration:**
 - To explore the role of diaspora in humanitarian aid and crisis response.
 - To examine the influence of diaspora on political lobbying, promoting nationalism and advocacy in host countries.
 - To discuss the potential of diaspora tourism in promoting cultural heritage and bilateral ties.
 - To investigate the impact of diaspora on global migration trends and policies.

The proposed conference intends to facilitate dialogue among global academics and researchers to examine emerging viewpoints and novel techniques. The planned seminar intends to comprehensively explore the topics of migration, diaspora, and public diplomacy. The main objective of the conference will be to provide an epistemological framework for academic writing and offer logical perspectives. Furthermore, the exploration of new perspectives and the identification of emerging patterns are topics that captivate a wide audience and undoubtedly contribute to the future reconsideration and realignment of policy approaches. Ultimately, we would publish the selected articles as a book.

Themes and Sub-Themes for the Conference

❖ **Theoretical Backdrop**

Conceptual Understanding of Migration

Historical Evolution of Migration Theories

Contemporary Perspectives on Migration Flows

Diaspora and Transnationalism

Dynamics of Transnational Networks

Identity Formation in Diasporic Communities

Globalization and Migration

Impact of Globalization on Migration Patterns

Economic Globalization and Labor Mobility

Migration and Gender

Gender-Specific Migration Experiences

Feminization of Migration and Its Implications

Public Diplomacy and Diaspora

Role of Diaspora in Shaping National Image

Strategies for Diaspora-Inclusive Diplomacy

❖ **Diaspora Engagements**

Diaspora Investment and Entrepreneurship

Facilitating Business Ventures and Start-ups

Financial Flows and Economic Development

Diaspora, Knowledge, and Technological Transfers

Leveraging Expertise for National Growth

Innovation and Technology Exchange

Diaspora: Social Networks and Foreign Policy

Strengthening Global Networks and Connections

Role of Social Media in Diaspora Connectivity

Influence on Bilateral and Multilateral Relations

Advocacy and Lobbying by Diaspora Groups

Diaspora Philanthropy

Contributions to Education and Healthcare.

Enhancing Community Welfare through

Philanthropy

Multiculturalism and Citizenship

Integration Policies and Dual Citizenship

Promoting Inclusive Societies

Diaspora and Cyberspace

Digital Platforms for Diaspora Engagement

Cybersecurity and Digital Identity

Diaspora and Civil Society

Contributions to Civic and Social Movements

Building Civil Society through Diaspora Initiatives

Diaspora and Social Movements

Participation in Global Social Justice Causes

Mobilization for Political and Social Change

❖ **Indian Diaspora Abroad**

Migration and Diaspora in the Gulf

Economic Contributions and Challenges

Labor Policies and Worker Rights in the Gulf

Diaspora in South-East Asian Countries

Historical Ties and Modern Connections

Economic and Cultural Integration in SE Asia

Diaspora in Western Countries

Socio-Economic Impact in the West

Policy Engagements and Community Development

Impact of Migration on Health Sector

Migrant Health Challenges and Policies

Contributions to Healthcare Systems

Education and Skill Development in Diaspora

Enhancing Educational Opportunities

Skill Development Programs for Diaspora Youth

❖ **Cultural Identity, Public Diplomacy, and Soft Power**

Cultural Diffusion and Diaspora

Spread of Cultural Practices and Traditions

Influence on Global Cultural Landscapes

Cultural Impact on Host/Home Communities

Enhancing Cultural Diversity and Understanding

Promoting Cultural Heritage Preservation

Foreign Policy of India and Public Diplomacy

Leveraging Diaspora for Diplomatic Goals

Enhancing India's Image through Public

Diplomacy

Public Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution

Mediating Conflicts through Diaspora Networks

Peacebuilding and Reconciliation Efforts

Soft Power and Indian Diaspora

Utilizing Cultural Assets for Global Influence

Diaspora as Cultural Ambassadors

Digital Diplomacy and Cultural Diplomacy

Promoting India's Image through Digital

Platforms

Cultural Diplomacy Initiatives and Programs

India's Bi-lateral/Tri-lateral Relations and

Diaspora

Strengthening Diplomatic Ties through Diaspora

Engagement.

Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Partnerships

Diaspora and Ecology

Environmental Advocacy and Sustainable Practices

Role in Addressing Climate Change

Diaspora, Human Rights, and Gender Issues

Advocacy for Human Rights in Host Countries

Addressing Gender-Based Challenges

Forced Migration, Refugees, and Resettlement

Policies for Refugee Protection and Integration

Challenges of Forced Displacement

❖ Migration, Diaspora, and Future Policy Challenges

Contribution of Migration in Home/Host Countries

Economic and Social Contributions

Enhancing Bilateral Economic Ties

Remittances and Their Contribution

Impact on National Economy and Development

Strategies for Enhancing Remittance Flows

Policy Initiatives and Way Forward

Additional Information

Any additional topic relevant to the primary theme of the Conference with particular emphasis on Gulf migration and diaspora is welcome for consideration.

Taking the above issues into mind, the Centre for West Asian Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi proposes to organize an international conference entitled “**Changing Dynamics of Migration and Indian Diaspora: Leveraging India’s Global Image.**”

Proposed Date of Conference: November 18-19, 2024.

Venue: Centre for West Asian Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi- 110025, India.

Guidelines for Submission:

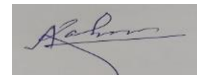
- The soft copy of the abstract and full paper should be sent as an email attachment to ascseminar@gmail.com
- The abstract must not exceed 300 words and should be attached with a brief bio note of the author
- Research papers should be formatted as per APA Style and should be sent as MS Word Document (font: Times New Roman 12; word limit: 6000-7000)
- Selected papers will be published with a Reputed Publication.

Important Dates:

Last date for abstract submission: - 07 October 2024

Intimation for the acceptance of abstract: - 11 October 2024

Last date for Full paper submission: 5 November 2024



Prof. Anisur Rahman
(Conference Convenor)
Professor, CWAS,
Jamia Millia Islamia
New Delhi-110025