

GIAN-MHRD PROGRAMME
MMAJ ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA

**CIVILISATIONS AND WORLD ORDERS:
THE MAKING OF GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

A SERIES OF TWELVE LECTURES DELIVERED BY

PROF AMITAV ACHARYA

Dr. Amitav Acharya is Professor at the School of International Service, American University, Washington D.C. He is the UNESCO Chair in Transnational Challenges and Governance and Distinguished Professor of International Relations at the School of International Service, American University, Washington, D.C. He is author of *Whose Ideas Matter?* (Cornell 2009), *The Making of Southeast Asia* (Cornell 2013), *Rethinking Power, Institutions and Ideas in World Politics* (Routledge 2013) and *The End of American World Order* (Polity 2014, Oxford India 2015), and editor of *Why Govern: Rethinking Demand and Progress in Global Governance* (Cambridge 2016). His articles have appeared in *International Organization*, *International Security*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Journal of Peace Research*, and *World Politics*. He was a Fellow of the Asia Center, Harvard University, and a Fellow of Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He was elected to the Christensen Fellowship at St Catherine's College, Oxford University in 2012 and held the inaugural Nelson Mandela Visiting Professorship in International Relations at Rhodes University, South Africa during 2012-13. He is the first Indian, Asian and non-Western scholar to be elected as the President (for 2014-15) of the International Studies Association (ISA), the largest and most well-known scholarly association in international studies worldwide.

OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

The end of the 20th century saw the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Eastern European socialist bloc. The political map of the world that had been divided into two blocs for the better part of the 20th century no longer held. In the unipolar/multipolar world that has come into being since the end of the Cold War, the equations between states and nations are changing constantly, with new players and old staking new claims, asserting, striving for, and imposing their versions of 'democracy' in myriad ways. Religions, ethnicities, relations between minorities and majorities are often in conflict and these conflicts are cast in the academia under the garb of the 'Clash of Civilisations'. At the same time, rising global interdependence, the decline of the West and the increasingly important role of rising powers such as China and India in the world order make it imperative to challenge the Eurocentric conception of international relations and imagine the possibility of a Global IR. In this global scenario, it has become ever more important to revisit the concepts of 'civilisation' and 'world order', to examine them from a historical and global perspective and to analyse their

interaction and inter-relationships through the ages and to draw lessons for the present and the future.

This series of 12 lectures, derived from Prof Acharya's idea and agenda of a Global IR Theory, covered a vast spectrum of historical periods and civilisations and the ways in which these civilisations dealt with relations with near and distant polities. The first, inaugural lecture introduced the framework and concepts. The following lectures dealt with the Sumerian, Greco-Persian, Hellenistic civilisations; the Indian and Chinese World Orders; the contrast between the South-East Asian and Mediterranean World Orders; the Islamic Civilisation and its contribution to the European Renaissance and Globalisation; contributions of the East to Civilisations in the West in the modern period ; the expansion of colonialism and the post-colonial states post 1945; a critique of Samuel P. Huntington's theory of the 'Clash of Civilisations'. In his final lecture, Prof Acharya propounded his theory of the 'Multiplex World Order' and what he calls 'Global International Relations'.

The primary objectives of the course were as follows:

- To offer students in-depth understanding of some of the important concepts of International Studies and Area Studies
- To provide a broad ranging history of civilisations and world orders
- To examine some of the major civilisations in detail and to analyse their impact on the world orders of their times
- To examine the contemporary world order as well as the 'civilisational' stakes within it

The lectures by Prof Acharya were chaired by eminent specialists from the field of International Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities. Four of the lectures were chaired by specialists from Jamia Millia Islamia. The chairpersons from outside JMI were from Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis, Observer Research Foundation, University of Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru University. They commented in detail on the lectures. The interactions were intensive and productive. Over 70 postgraduate and research students from Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Jamia Millia Islamia attended the GIAN Course.