



**Research Committee, Bharati College in Collaboration with
Department of Political Science, Satyawati College, University of Delhi**

Cordially invite you to the **Book Release and Panel Discussion**
On
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: THEORY AND PRACTICE

Edited by
Nirmal Jindal and Kamal Kumar

Chair:

Prof. Veena Kukreja

Head, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi

Distinguished Panellists:

Prof. Swaran Singh
Chairperson, CIPOD
SIS, JNU

Prof. Navnita C Behera
Department of Political Science
University of Delhi

Prof. R Rajagopalan
CIPOD, SIS, JNU

Patrons:

Dr. Rekha Sapra
Principal
Bharati College, University of Delhi

Dr. Nirmal Jindal
Principal
Satyawati College, University of Delhi

Convenors:

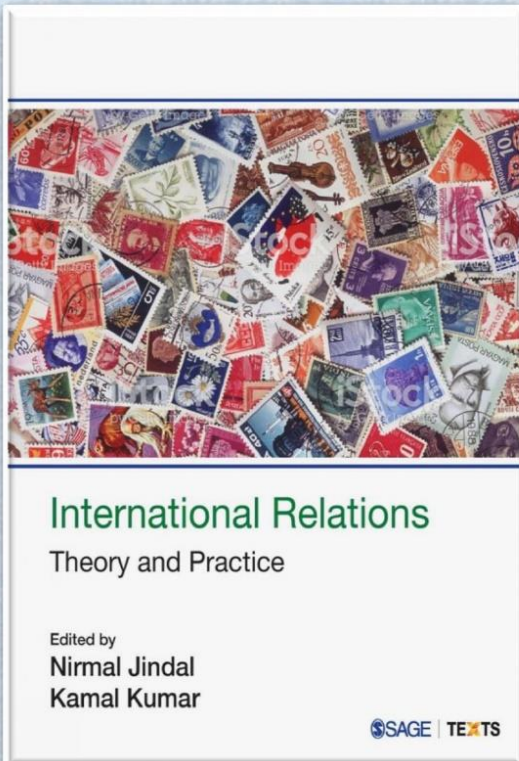
Dr. Shailza Singh
(Convenor, Research Committee
Bharati College)

Dr. Sangit Sarita Dwivedi
(Deptt. of Pol. Sci.,
Bharati College)

Dr. Swadesh Singh
(TIC, Deptt. of Pol. Sci.,
Satyawati College)

Date: February 20, 2021 **Time:** 2pm onwards

Meeting Link (Google Meet): <https://meet.google.com/cpu-yCHF-hof>



A REPORT ON THE EVENT

RESEARCH COMMITTEE
BHARATI COLLEGE
AND
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
SATYAWATI COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

BOOK RELEASE AND PANEL DISCUSSION
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: THEORY AND PRACTICE

Edited By
NIRMAL JINDAL AND KAMAL KUMAR

On February 20th, 2021, the Research Committee of Bharati College in collaboration with the Department of Political Science of Satyawati College organized the book release of *International Relations: Theory and Practice* edited by Nirmal Jindal and Kamal Kumar. The event was chaired by Prof. Veena Kukreja who is the Head of the Department of Political Science at University of Delhi. The organizing committee invited three distinguished panelists to initiate a discussion on the book. The panel comprised of Prof. Swaran Singh, Chairperson, CIPOD, SIS, JNU; Prof. Navnita C Behra, Department of Political science, University of Delhi, and Prof. R Rajagopalan, CIPOD, SIS, JNU.

The event began with Dr. Shailza Singh, the convenor of the Research Committee at Bharati College, welcoming the book editors, the authors, the chairing member, the panelists and the participants of the event. The Principal of Bharati College, Dr. Rekha Sapra, joined in to pay her gratitude for allowing Bharati College to be a part of this significant event. Dr. Rekha Sapra expressed her privilege and acknowledged the importance and the opportuneness of the book.

Following this Dr. Nirmal Jindal virtually released the book and thanked everyone present for their support and encouragement. Prof. Veena Kukreja forwarded the book and spoke a few lines in the praise of the book. Dr. Kukreja conveyed that the book had its pedagogic strength as it worked on putting emphasis on non-western perspectives. This enriches student's understanding of theories which does not remain limited to dominant western narratives. She further praises the attempt of the book to decolonize the discipline of International Relations, which ultimately also benefits how faculties and scholars makes sense of the discipline in entirety. She congratulates the authors and the editors of the book for taking up this significant intellectual task which culminated into this book.

Subsequent to this, a discussion surrounding the implication of the book was initiated by our esteemed panelist, Prof. Swaran Singh. Prof. Swaran started by acknowledging the enormous potentiality of the book and recognizing the arduous work the writers did admits the crisis of the pandemic. She further complimented the authors for making the book extremely reader friendly

and attractive for the budding students. The appealing graphs and tables would entice students to read further and go deeper into intellectual discourses. She suggests that the book could be specifically beneficial for undergraduate students who are freshly embarking on their intellectual journeys. Therefore, she hopes that the book can be made available in Hindi and other regional languages, so that it can become fairly accessible to the wide range of students in the country.

Prof. Swaran was followed by Prof. Navnita C Behera in taking the dialogue further. She thanked Prof. Singh for her invaluable comments, and claimed that she supports all of her observations. She adds to her comments by complimenting about the opportune time of releasing this book, when the academic trends of the world are shifting towards a process of decolonization of disciplines. Such projects emphasize on the need to move beyond Eurocentrism and thereby debunking dominant theories. Such initiatives acknowledge the existence empirical evidences of the Global South, and highlights their relevance in disciplinary discourses. At this point she raises the importance of the pedagogic practices in class. And incorporation of such books into the syllabuses changes the techniques and motives of teaching.

Through such pedagogic difference students begin to learn by unlearning dominant theories by questioning them. Students can finally stop using Western Canon as their reference point and relate to theories through knowledges that are documented from their surrounding world. Prof. Behera further addresses the faculty to participate in this transformation of discourses, from dominant Eurocentric theories to the theories emerging from the experiences of the global south.

Prof. R Rajagopalan joined the discussion as our third esteemed panelist by commenting on the accessibility of the book. The book, Prof. Rajagopalan said, was very clear with its concepts with their examples based on Indian context, makes it specifically suitable for students of the Global South. Prof. Rajagopalan also complimented on the wide area of issues the book covered, and for maintaining coherence and consistency throughout the book. He also very wisely suggests that students from disciplines other than International Relations and Political Science will also find it very feasible and interesting. This would further encourage students across disciplines to engage in the discourses related to this field. Prof. Rajagopalan ends by collecting the idea that theories are general in their characteristics.

However, in order to understand which theories remains suitable for our context, we must also invest in formulating theories of our own. It is when we learn about all the theories emerging from the east and the west, the developed and the under-developed, the first world and the third world, can we really make sense of the world by deciding which theories reflects our reality.

By the end of the event, Prof. Kukreja thanks the panelist of their invaluable comments and judgement on the book and hopes that the second volume of the books reflects on the comments made by them. Dr. Sangita Sarita Dwivedi closed the event by thanking everyone for their participation and investing their valuable time with us.

(Report prepared by Ms. Samhita Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Bharati College)