



International Conference on *The U.S. Presidential Election 2016*

Concept Note

The one-day conference on U.S. Presidential Election 2016 attempts to present an overview of the ongoing U.S. presidential election campaign and the impact of the positions taken by the presidential candidates on multiple issues beyond borders. The conference will deliberate on the political parties and candidates in the fray and their policies and issues that shape the election campaign. It will engage experts on American politics and foreign policy for generating insights that will help develop an in-depth understanding of the changes in the election process over the years and the country's prospective foreign policy overtures.

The changing trends in electioneering hold the potential to influence the pluralist-liberal nature of the American society and party regime. Public opinion will be a determining factor that will drive the nation to redefine its objectives in serving its citizens. Amongst the major trends that emerged in this election year is the reordering of American political thinking. The series of primaries in 2016 has already set in motion the debate on the role of the U.S. in the changing global order. Therefore, the conference warrants providing an understanding of the re-positioning of America in the political and economic world order.

CPPR-Centre for Strategic Studies based in Kochi is actively studying the international implications of the U.S. presidential campaign and the ensuing presidential election. This conference is organised by CPPR- Centre for Strategic Studies in association with Sacred Heart College, Thevara, Kochi and South India American Studies Network - Kerala Chapter.

The proposed conference has the following thematic sessions:

- ***U.S. Presidential Election - Key Issues and Themes***

The dynamics involved in the presidential election - party primaries and conventions in the run-up to the final election in November 2016 - offer varying views on the various socio-political and economic concerns that influence the U.S. electorate.

The conference will delve into the position taken by the different U.S. governments on a number of international issues. It will attempt to reflect on the growing anti-establishment sentiments towards the political system and the undemocratic elements that came to light during the primaries. The panel will discuss the key points and themes that played a significant role in the shaping of the presidential campaign.

- ***An appraisal of Foreign Policy during President Barack Obama's tenure and the expected changes in the U.S. Foreign Policy***

An appraisal of American foreign policy during President Obama's tenure will be presented discussed in detail. It will cover not only the political and security elements but also the trade and commerce aspects. The stand taken by the Obama administration on topics varying from the West Asian crisis to climate change will be reviewed. The panel will also explore how historians will record the tenure of the Obama administration.

- ***U.S. Presidential Election - The Indian prospects***

The U.S. and India - the world's oldest and largest democracies - consider each other as 'natural allies', united by converging strategic visions. The recent past has witnessed bi-lateral relations scaling to greater levels of convalescence. It is to be noted that the bedrock of this liaison is rooted in the steady progress of the Indo-U.S. strategic partnership on economy, politics, diplomacy and security. The varied contours of this engagement are reflective of India being identified as the pivot for the U.S. in its Asia-Pacific strategies and the mutual consensus to address global challenges like climate change and terrorism. Notwithstanding, the steady friendship forged by the Narendra Modi government with the



Obama administration was instrumental in paving the way for the recent advances in strategic and defence partnership.

The session will focus on the prospective stakes for India if the status quo goes for an alteration. This will be followed by an assessment of ways to uphold a constructive relationship to endure the current upswing in the bi-lateral ties with a new leader at its helm.