

## GENERAL THEME

**Widening Canvas, Shrinking Spaces: Writer and Society Today**

**Sub Themes:**

1. Literature in a surveillance society
2. Allegory as a strategy
3. Satire : who laughs at whom
4. Paid news, fake news and no news
5. Media lynching
6. Committed versus commercial
7. Writer as a subject
8. Cartoons and caricature
9. The world of “comments and likes” – its economics
10. Cinema of resistance vs. cinema of convenience
11. Twitter revolution : The dangers of “instantism” for literature
12. University and school syllabi : New battlegrounds

Well researched papers conforming to MLA VIII edition are invited on any of the above themes or on any other aspect of the topic of the conference. There is no word limit but usually the research papers should have a word count of 2500 to 3500 words.

Please mail the abstract of your papers (300 words) by **30<sup>th</sup> September, 2019** and full papers by **15<sup>th</sup> October, 2019** at **Email: raseconference2019@gmail.com**

## REGISTRATION

<b>Registration Fee</b>	:	<b>Rs. 1500</b>
<b>Research Scholars/ Students</b>	:	<b>Rs. 1000</b>
<b>Spot Registration</b>	:	<b>Rs. 2000</b>

Please send your fee through RTGS to following account and send UTR number to Dr. Shashikant Acharya.

<b>Account No.</b>	:	<b>30861754670</b>
<b>IFS Code</b>	:	<b>SBIN0031116</b>
<b>Bank</b>	:	<b>State Bank of India Gandhi Chowk, Nagaur</b>

## ABOUT THE VENUE

The XVI Annual Conference will be held at Smt. Madi Bai Girls College, Nagaur. The college was founded in 1997 and was shifted to its new building in 2014. Dr. Brinda Singh is presently the Principal of this College. The college is situated on Nagaur-Jodhpur Road near Water Works Chauraha and is 2Km. away from the Railway Station and 3 Kms. Away from the State Roadways Bus stand

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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# XVI Annual Conference of Rajasthan Association for Studies in English

on  
**Widening Canvas, Shrinking Spaces:  
Writer and Society Today**



**RASE**

**9-10 November, 2019**

Organized by  
**Smt. Madi Bai Mirdha Government Girls' College**  
Nagaur, Rajasthan

## CONCEPT NOTE

Writer and society are integrally connected with each other. No writer can write in isolation and similarly no writer can remain unaffected by the society around. The socio-political and economic environment of a given time and place molds a writer and his approach to the world. The post globalization world led to a series of changes in literary perceptions and analyses. It created a new world order which is governed by a new set of values and novel aspirations of the states and people. It is a society of creation of wealth as a primary value. Both at the level of the individual and the state it is being understood as a sign of progress. The unipolar world has created a world order with the states becoming more and more powerful and the hard earned freedoms of people seem to be shelved in the name of national interests. Egalitarianism seems to have taken a back seat in the wake of new economic changes and challenges. In literary sphere post-modernity has become a major phenomenon spreading its wide wings casting their dark shadow over the world menacingly.

The reality is no more real and falsehood is no more false. What glitters is not gold and what irks is not pain. The truth is hidden behind a mesh of pretensions and propaganda prevails as truth. The media has come forward in a big way to define and present the strains of life. The concept of Post Truth is a new theoretical premise being used and discussed widely to negotiate between what is and what is projected. The new media has taken over the traditional print medium. This electronic and digital revolution has created a world of virtual experience which has replaced the real life experiences and reached a point where it seems more real than the real one.

## MARKET AS MEDIATOR

The twenty first century is a century in which market has emerged as a major force determining national and international policies. The capitalist economic system cuts across national boundaries and modulates the people of the world through factors that affect their life. In classical economic thought it is assumed that in a capitalist economy consumer is sovereign. This is something to be seriously pondered. Citizen is not sovereign, consumer is. Only that citizen is a consumer who has the purchasing power. In a system governed by market forces the wealth is distributed unequally to create islands of affluence surrounded by oceans of poverty. Thus only a small portion of citizens who are consumers are sovereign and determine the priorities of market as well as polity. The market mediates production and sets priorities of the nation state as well.

## POLITICS AS COLLABORATOR

The new economic and political order clearly proclaims of a nexus of the market, political forces and media. The politics which is prime force of transformation collaborates with market to continue the status quo. Those in power always want to remain in power and use the forces of market to achieve this goal. The market has the natural tendency to move with the profit motive. Earning of profit and accumulation of wealth is the prime objective. In a capitalist system the forces of market and political forces collaborate to help each other thus capitalists are happy with piling up wealth and politicians are happy to remain in power, of course with the help and support of the market.

## MEDIA AS MANIPULATOR

Jean Baudrillard, a post modern philosopher says that in post-modernity, as opposed to modernity, we witness the decline of absolute truth and the rise of relativism, where no single dominant meanings can be widely agreed on in society. He says that the media creates something like “hyper reality”. This is in no way related to reality. The suffix “hyper” indicates that the simulated images claim to be more important than reality per se. This reverse chain of signified and signifiers goes against the Kantian notion of concept and noumenon in which reality did exist. Here media refers to electronic and cyber media which create so many simulated images that it becomes difficult to know which is the real and which is virtual. More often than not this is modulated by the ruling classes. The political power uses media to serve its own interest and the corporate capital which owns media also assists the ruling class to further its own ends.

## STATE AS DICTATOR

Democracy as defined by Lincoln has taken a new form. The term “People” no longer represents the common masses. Democracy is a system of government for “some people”, “Of some people” and “by some people”. Elections are manipulated and have become more of an “Event Management” issue where everything is designed by professionals and are “designer” products. Right from the manifesto of a party to the outfit of the leaders, their language, propaganda material, interviews, speeches and rallies are designed by paid professionals. Therefore the state also becomes an organism governed by the vested interests of these agencies. Any voice that disrupts their interest or challenges the policies to serve the corporate masters of the “elected” government is sniffled in the name of “national interest”. New laws are framed to define and design expression of the people.

## LITERATURE AS A REFLECTION OF SOCIETY

All the changes taking place all around within the country and abroad have their literary connotations as well. The world of perception and experience is widening day by day. Man is aiming at landing on Mars. Newer forms of social, political, economic, cultural and intellectual structures are taking shape. From human intelligence to artificial intelligence is a journey in the unexplored future. In this widening world the spaces of expression are shrinking. Society stands a witness to the overwhelming changes sometimes playing an onlooker and at some other times, though not very often, standing by the writer. There are impositions of market, restrictions of state, threats of non-state power groups and above all, the greed and fear of the individual.

There are limitations of media themselves and challenges of language and signs. The cultural imperialism of the twentieth century has come to the world in a new Avtaar of cultural homogenization. Consuming the same media over and over again people tend to think alike and react on issues using a typically homogenous tone and texture. The same lexicon repeats itself from all quarters as if it is an echo of the same sound. A new hegemonic media imperialism snatches away individual's freedom to have his own views and exercise his freedom of choosing from the available options of artistic expression. We are already in a surveillance society with Adhar cards, Pan cards, mobiles, television and internet whose data are so vulnerable This is the reason why George Orwells classic novel Nineteen Eighty Four has been discussed once again this year seventy years after its first publication.

The term ‘shrinking space’ can be understood as a concept or framework that captures the dynamic relationship between repressive methods and political struggle, including the ways in which political struggle responds to these methods to reclaim space, and the impact this response has upon how political struggle and creativity relate to one another. Its value as a framework is that it helps us to think through common trends of repression, including their sources, effects and mechanism.

The XVI Annual Conference aims at discussing some of these issues in the light of the literary texts published in recent years. The writer and society are integral. In a literary creation it is important how their relationship exists in a given time and space. Critical research papers on this theme are invited from teachers and scholars based on some text - fiction, cinema, drama, poetry, autobiography, biography, non-fiction, diary, letters, journalistic work etc. Some of the sub themes are suggested below. But they are just suggestive. Papers on the main theme other than the sub themes are also welcome.