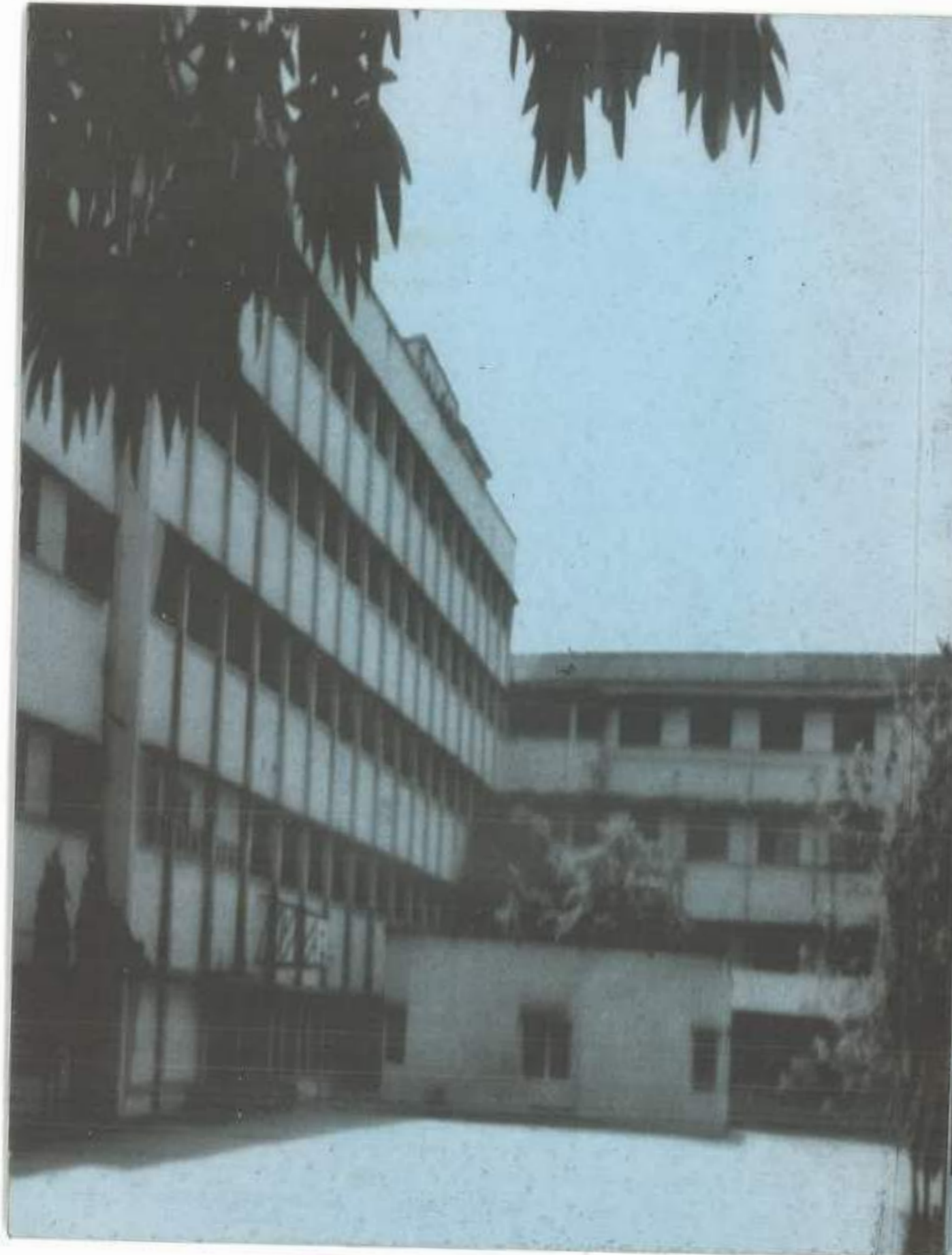


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## PERCEPTION

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## FOREWORD

(Dr. Aditi Dey)

We are in the midst of exciting times in the Department of Political Science. Our collaborative academic projects have taken off. Perception has begun its onward journey as a journal traversing inter-departmental academic milestones, with an assigned ISSN (print).

We are delighted to record the enthusiasm and diligence of our students to participate in this academic exercise. Needless to say efforts of the faculty of the department as well as others in the college have contributed significantly to the encouraging evolution of Perception.

My best wishes always.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aditi Dey'.

September, 2017

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### IN MEMORIAM

**Smt. Mahashweta Sen (Roy)**

**(1954-2017)**

**Department of Political Science**

**(1980-2014)**

**Shri Shikshayatan College**

The management, faculty, and staff of Shri Shikshayatan College deeply mourn the untimely and sad demise of Smt. Mahashweta Sen (Roy), an alumnus and former H.O.D (1999 to 2008) of Political Science, who left for her heavenly abode in the early hours of 30th January 2017.

After graduating from the Department of Political Science of this college in 1975, Smt. Sen joined the Department as a faculty in 1980 and served the institution till her superannuation in June 2014, contributing immensely to the academic and non-academic life of the institution. She also served the Institution as one of the members of the Governing Body, as NAAC Coordinator, as Teachers' Council Secretary, and as the Editor of the College Magazine – Shikshayatan Patrika.

A dedicated teacher and a perfectionist to the core, her cheerful nature, student-friendly attitude, eloquence and mastery over the subject endeared her to her students. As a colleague she was helpful, accommodative, understanding and open to new suggestions. Her passion for work and strong sense of duty made her live up to all the expectations and commitments.

We salute the determination, optimism and indomitable spirit of resilience and fortitude exhibited by her in overcoming both physical and personal adversities. She will be truly missed by all of us. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the members of her family. We pray to the almighty to give peace to her departed soul.

The event turned out to be an experience I would never forget. What was most enriching to know was the life experiences of the people who lived there. While some had no resentment and were happy, the others seemed to be saddened about not living the last few years of their life with their family members. The one thing that the visit definitely made the students realise was the importance of our parents in our lives. While some wanted to share their own experiences, others found satisfaction in watching us singing and dancing. Every story and every emotion shared by them touched us to such an extent that it will definitely leave a lasting impact on the lives of all of us. For the two hours we spent there, the students joined hands and put their best efforts to make them happy. What we loved was realising that the members wanted us to come and meet them again and again and spent time with them. We felt like we were a family.

**Kritika Ahuja, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Honours, Roll 43**

## BOOK REVIEW

**Neighbours, Major Powers and Indian Foreign Policy by Aneek Chatterjee, Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan Private Limited, 2017; ISBN: 978-81-934157-5-7, pp. xvii+250 pp. Rs. 225.**

**Ms. Debolina Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science**

With India's steadily improving stature in the international community, a text book on Indian foreign policy is something every reader of International Relations would benefit from. While the academic market is flooded with books on the same, one which is informative and analytical, highlights the recent "tectonic shifts" and is, at the same time, written in a lucid manner is not a very common find. These are some of the gaps Aneek Chatterjee hopes to plug with his latest book titled '*Neighbours, Major Powers and Indian Foreign Policy*'.

Schematically, the book is divided into two parts – '*India and her Neighbours*' and '*India and Major Powers*'. The author has given a general overview about the changing philosophy of Indian foreign policy in the *Introduction* and then traced the evolutionary journey of Indian foreign relations, tracing the historical roots as well as the recent shifts in the foreign policy behaviour of India towards them and vice versa. The powers included are (in that order) Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan and Myanmar in the first part and the United States, China, Russia, Japan, European Union, Britain and ASEAN on the second part. Separate chapters on Maldives and SAARC are conspicuous by their absence.

The book has meticulously recorded minute details of major achievements in the field of India's foreign relations. Each chapter, barring one or two starts with an introduction which is basically a short history of the relations between the two powers and then presents the sub-sections under the rubrics 'Political Relations', 'Economic Relations', 'Security Relations', 'Cultural Relations' and on the basis of his discussion, he concludes the chapter with 'Recommendations for the Future'. A thorough *Index* with statistical charts and tables have been used generously to help the readers. Unfortunately, maps are missing. Contentious issues that act as irritants have been identified precisely. Here the author has followed a style of linear descriptive narration rather than opting for a critical analysis.

All in all, the present work has surely added to the International Relations corpus. However, one cannot help but notice a few glitches like cursory mention of the two-nation theory, One Belt One Road (OBOR) highlighting primarily Sinhala nationalism and plight of the ethnic Tamils in Sri Lanka at the expense of post-civil war reconstruction, the absence of the investigation of possible impact of BREXIT on future Indo-E.U relations, etc.

The mode of expression could have been better in quite a few places. In fine, a young learner would surely get insight of major developments in course of the bilateral relations. Though the book has not opened new horizons, the involved reader would find most of the happening discussions under one roof. ■