

**A Concept Note of ICPR National-Workshop on  
'Kant's Political Thought on Perpetual Peace'**

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The need of human efforts to restore peace has been tirelessly felt since time immemorial. And, therefore, it's pertinent to reflect upon the idea of perpetual Peace in the contemporary global context of war and terrorism due to which we are standing at the brink of total annihilation.

Although the concept of perpetual peace was mooted first in St. Pierre's essay 'Project for Perpetual Peace' in 18<sup>th</sup> century, it became popular after the publication of Kant's essay 'Towards Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch' in 1795. What motivated Kant to write his essay was the signing of the Treaty of Basel (1795) between Prussia and revolutionary France. Kant criticized the treaty as 'the suspension of hostilities' only and not a significant move in the direction of peace. According to Kant, it's humankind's duty to solve the problem of violence and enter into the cosmopolitan ideal of a universal community of all human beings governed by the rule of law.

The significance of Kant's essay lies in the fact that it has been treated as the beginning point of the contemporary liberal thought. Moreover, the significance and relevance of the workshop can be surmised through the fact that in the year 2020 we will be celebrating 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Kant's essay and also 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II and the establishment of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Workshop is divided into following sections:

First Section:

Text and Context of Kant's essay 'Towards Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch'.

This section will analyse the points such as St. Pierre's views on perpetual peace, Rousseau on peace, Human Rights and Kant, the idea of Universal Peace in various world philosophies.

Second Section:

First section of Kant's essay: Preliminary Articles for Perpetual Peace among States. It contains six articles which are as follows: (I) "No peace settlement which secretly reserves issues for a future war shall be considered valid." (II) No independently existing state (irrespective of whether it is large or small) shall be able to be acquired by another state through inheritance, exchange, purchase, or gift." (III) "Standing armies shall gradually be abolished entirely." (IV) "The state shall not contract debts in connection with its foreign affairs." (V) "No State shall forcibly interfere in the constitution and government of another state." (VI) "No state shall allow itself such hostilities in wartime as would make mutual

trust in a future period of peace impossible. Such acts would include the employment of assassins, poisoners, breach of surrender, incitement of treason within the enemy state, etc.”

#### Third Section:

Second section of Kant’s essays: Definitive Article of Perpetual Peace Among States. This section contains three definitive articles of perpetual peace which are as follows: (I) The civil constitution of every state shall be republican, (II) International right shall be based on the *federalism* of free states, (III) *Cosmopolitan Right* shall be limited to the conditions of universal *Hospitality*.

#### Fourth Section:

Following parts of the Essay: (A) First Supplement: On the Guarantee of Perpetual Peace, (B) Second Supplement: Secret Article Towards Perpetual Peace.

#### Fifth Section:

Following Parts of the Essay: (A) Appendix (I) On the disagreement between morality and politics with respect to perpetual peace. (B) Appendix (II) On the agreement between politics and morality according to the transcendental concept of public right.

In the workshop, each one of the above described five sections could be debated in such a manner that a single expert could be earmarked for a single section only. This will bring clarity in progression in deliberations in the workshop as well as conceptual clarity from the point of view of the participants. The 10 days of the workshop, thus, remain structured precisely on the principles of conceptual clarity, progression, analysis, contemporary relevance of each section, and discussions among the participants and with the experts.

Each day, during the workshop, first session will be devoted to the textual reading of Kant’s essay ‘Towards Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch’ and then lectures will be delivered which will be followed by discussions.

Upon the conclusion of the textual reading of Kant’s Essay, each participant will be required to do presentation which will bring out their evaluation of the grasp of the conceptual discussions in the workshop. All participants will be expected to maintain decorum, discipline, peace, and their certification of participation depends on their continuous presence in all the sessions of the workshop.

Publication of a particular paper in the proceeding of the workshop depends on the quality of paper as adjudicated by the editorial board. For attaining this goal sufficient time will be given to all the participants to revise their paper after the completion of the workshop.

\*\*\*\*\* For any other information / assistance contact the Coordinator or over 09811398620, Programme Officer, Academic Centre, Lucknow. \*\*\*\*\*

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