

Internetization of Global Politics: The 'New Normal'

April 22, 2019

Symbiosis School of International Studies organised a day long technological symposium on April 22, 2019 at its campus for the students on the topic, “*Internetization of Global Politics: a new normal*”. The objective of this symposium was to unpack the debate around the role of online technology in international affairs and provide the audience with the correct detailing of how disruptions in the current scenario play a significant role in defence and foreign affairs. The key resource persons were Group Captain (Retd.) Dr. Ajey Lele (Senior Fellow, IDSA), Mr. Ananth Padmanabhan (Fellow, Centre for Policy Research) and Mr. Sanjay Kanvinde (Member of Task Force, Cyber Security Cluster Pune Initiative).

The session I of the symposium focused on the concept of Internetization of global politics. The discussions revolved around the role of disruptive technologies in defence and foreign affairs. Students were given a good knowledge of disruptive technologies like Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, and Hypersonic Weapons, IOT, Industry 4.0. The discussions extended further about the role of international institutions in data regulation and how these institutions play a role in framing modern day acts of diplomacy. The symposium thereby helped in demystifying the critical concepts of cyber warfare that are involved in the arena of international relations thus creating a new internet based world order.

Session II of the symposium focused on the role of Artificial Intelligence and cyber which is a new form of the battlespace in the global arena. The discussions wrapped around the role to democratise the AI and to understand if there exists any way to avoid digital colonisation. The students played an app based quiz (KAHOOT) in which the questions were based on the concepts of AI and cyber warfare to make them better understand the new form of warfare coming up which is having no exact battlefield. The students also polled for some qualitative questions like, “What is more important for nation building- Privacy or National Security?” in order to check their take on the conceptual analysis of the new trends that are emerging out of the digital scenario in international affairs. The discussions finally wrapped with the understanding of how the electoral integrity of any state can be secured in cyberspace and then followed by an informal question- answer session between the students and the three key resource persons. Hence, the technological symposium helped students to understand the critical role of technology in the arena of international affairs and how the new world’s order based on the Internetization of things.