Winter School is an event organized every year between Dec. 14 and 18 by the Doon University. The University organized its third Winter School this year with the theme “Visioning India’s Role in Globalized World”. The inaugural session of the Winter School was graced by the presence of the Honorable Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Girijesh Pant, Former Foreign Secretary, Shri Shyam Saran and Ambassador S.T. Devare, Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs. The Vice Chancellor expressed his happiness for the fact that participants from across the country, not only from Uttarakhand and the area around, rather as far as from Kerala and Mumbai, came to the Winter School this year. He welcomed everybody to the third Winter School and said that he proposed to discuss India’s vision of globalization and its positioning itself in that perspective. He then invited Ambassador Devare to present his views on the global diplomatic as well as strategic standing of India in the world. The Chief Guest of the session, Shri Shyam Saran, was requested to address India’s position on its negotiation with world powers on environmental issues. Shri Saran raised the equity issue, which is very important from India’s point of view in due course of any negotiation on this issue. The day one of the Winter School received deliberations from distinguished diplomats, as the afternoon session was addressed by a former Ambassador, Dr. Arvind Gupta, presently Director, IDSA. He spoke at large on “India’s Strategic Partnership: Changing Profile of Engagement”.

The day two focused more on the scholastic discussion on “Nation State in Globalizing World: Changing Parameters of foreign policy.” Eminent scholars like Prof. Pushpesh Pant from the JNU and Prof. Ramesh Dixit from Lucknow University spoke in the first session on this subject matter at length and posed serious threats that India is facing in our times. In the second session Dr. Rajan Kumar from the JNU spoke on the main theme of the Winter School, Visioning India’s Role in Globalizing World. Prof. Ripusudan Singh spoke on the institutional aspect of globalization and its implication on India. He spoke at length on the topic as to why should India be Member of the United Nations Security Council.

Day three witnessed a very interesting panel discussion on India’s Potential and Limitation in Global Engagement. Dr. Indu Singh and Prof. Madhurendra Kumar presented their views on this topic and said that misgovernance in India was a real evil on the face of globalization, although it had a positive side as well to offer. Prof. Kumar said that India needed a very strong Indian Ocean Policy, military diplomacy and border management policy. In the afternoon, Lt. Gen. K.K. Khanna spoke on India’s Security
Perception in Globalizing World. His deliberations were followed by an interesting and scholastic discussion between the participants and the speaker.

The morning session of day four of the Winter School was addressed by Lt. Gen. O.P. Kaushik, former Vice-Chancellor, MDU, Rohtak. He spoke on the “Role of India in the Security of South Asia”. He quoted at several occasions from the PM’s address to the Commanding Officers of Indian Armed Forces on 11th October, 2011 and reiterated the need for strategic autonomy and managing affairs with our neighbours. He said that the formation of an independent sovereign nation called Bangladesh went to the credit of India and its armed forces. Although there is a kind of total instability all around India, we are well capable of defending ourselves against any war imposed upon us.

In the afternoon, the participants of the third Winter School were addressed by yet another scholar from the India academia, Prof. Shri Prakash from the Jamia Milia Islamia. He spoke on an interesting topic, i.e., “Positioning India as Asian Power” In his address, Prof. Prakash brought the Asian model of development and power to light and contrasted it with the Indian model. He gave a historical account of India’s prowess and emphasized a great deal of humanism that has been there in India. He compared and contrasted the Chinese and the Indian ways of thinking and acting and projected India against China as a world power with several ethical values.

The day five of the Winter School witnessed in the valedictory session a very enlightening speech on “Changing Nature of Conflict and India’s Security Perception” by the Commandant of the IMA, Lt. Gen. Manvender Singh. He said that the change of pace in terms of technology was a bigger challenge for the military of any country and thus he gave a broad overview of several security related issues that concerned the country. He advocated a better synergy between the civil and defense bodies of our country and also provided, in terms of the Vice-Chancellor of Doon University, several “new academic agenda for our University”. The third Winter School of Doon University concluded successfully with this remarkable note.