



# Call for Abstracts

Conference

on

## India's Engagement with the World

*June 29, 2024 (Saturday)*

*10:00 AM - 04:00 PM*

**Subhas Chandra Bose Chair on International Relations**

**School of Law, Governance and Public Policy**

### **About Chanakya University**

Chanakya University, located in Bengaluru, is an innovative global higher education institution established in 2022. The university's mission is to serve society by providing outstanding education, fostering knowledge development, and making direct contributions to practical fields. Chanakya University aspires to be India's foremost for-purpose university, on a steadfast mission, in pursuit of expanding frontiers of knowledge, nurturing world-class scholarship and advancing high-impact research. We are committed to the creation of a foremost knowledge movement in which students rise higher with ideas and achieve sustained success with abundant wisdom (jñāna), indomitable will (ichhā) and meaningful action (kriyā).

### **About Subhas Chandra Bose Chair on International Relations:**

The Subhas Chandra Bose Chair on International Relations, an initiative of the School of Law, Governance and Public Policy, represents a pioneering initiative poised to redefine the discourse surrounding the dynamic complexities of 21st-century International Relations. Rooted firmly within the burgeoning landscape of Indian strategic culture, its mandate is to invigorate India's rising trajectory in global affairs through the infusion of innovative ideas and acute analysis. With a keen focus on Asia as the definitive continent of this era, mirroring Europe's influence in the 19th century and America's dominance in the 20th, the Chair aims to articulate India's perspective on emerging global priorities. By fostering collaboration among a diverse network of stakeholders, it endeavours to cultivate a distinct knowledge base founded on evidence-based research, laying the groundwork for India's evolving role on the world stage. As a vanguard research platform, the Chair aspires to set and correct the agenda for International Relations in Asia. The Chair is driven by three overarching goals: to identify and champion high-impact interdisciplinary research, to equip advanced learners and researchers with expertise in key international relations domains, and to foster partnerships and a collaborative community dedicated to driving research and innovation forward.

**The event will be conducted in the presence of the council members,**

- Amb. P. S. Raghavan
- Amb. Vijay Gokhale
- Amb. N Parathsarathi
- Amb. D B Venkatesh Varma
- Amb. Pankaj Saran
- Prof. Manjari Chatterjee Miller
- Prof. Harsh Pant
- Shri. M J Akbar

## **Background**

Changing geopolitics and world order in the contemporary global politics have led to competing claims and claimants in the international arena. India, with its advancing economic growth, is establishing itself as a regional leader. In this journey, it is important to shape India's point of view on several emerging global priorities and agendas. This conference would serve as a platform for discussion on International Relations from an Indian perspective, reflecting India's perception of itself, its national interests and consequently, the way in which it sees the world and seeks to interact with it. It would be based on political, strategic, and cultural inheritances from across historical eras and geographical regions of the country. The ancient wisdom needs to be integrated with the realities of the contemporary world and India to move towards the Triangle of Stability: Economic aspiration and achievement, Strategic autonomy and Security. By anchoring the collective understanding of the participants, this conference will enable discussions, dialogue, and debate on building a critical discourse on India's engagement with the world.

In this era characterised by increased cooperation and conflicts between nation-states, the rise of India, as both scholars and policymakers argue, has "disrupted" the status-quo nature of international relations. India has played a vital role in bringing out an alternative narrative to global geopolitics by giving voice to emerging economies; whether on climate change, energy transition, taking a stand on normative issues, or protecting regional interests, India will continue to play a determining role in international forums over the coming years. This necessitates the identification of opportunities for cooperation, potential areas of conflict, and strategies to navigate these. It is in this background that alternative narratives of India's approach towards the changing world need to originate to describe India's worldview.

In order to facilitate discourse on India's engagement with the world from the point of view of India and its ancient wisdom, the following themes and sub-themes have been identified:

**Panel Theme 1- Advancing India-centric frameworks, narratives, and terminologies** for India's engagement with the world

**Moderated by: Members of the Council for Subhas Chandra Bose Chair on International Relations**

The oft-celebrated historical civilizational inheritances have scarcely found utterance in contemporary discussions in the field of international relations. Ancient Indian Strategic Thought has a rich legacy, providing insights into the principles of statecraft, governance, and strategic decision-making. This serves as a foundation for understanding the evolution of strategic thinking in India and India's changing

worldview. Deeply intertwined with philosophical concepts, it encompasses diverse strategies tailored to different contexts. In an increasingly interconnected world, Indian strategic thought offers valuable insights for navigating contemporary realities. An attempt to pursue international relations from the Indian view requires developing, testing and advancing India-centric frameworks, narratives, and terminologies. The focus is on the following sub-themes:

- Understanding and Evaluating the Traditional Indian Statecraft and its Relevance in Global Politics: A Contextual Analysis
- Challenges and Strategies to evolve agreeable India-centric frameworks, narratives, and terminologies War and Peace: Reimagining Cooperation and Bridging Antagonism

## **Panel Theme 2 - Strategic Culture and Thought for Rising India**

**Moderated by: Members of the Council for Subhas Chandra Bose Chair on International Relations**

In the dawn of a new era for Rising India, strategic culture and thought stand as beacons guiding the nation's trajectory. With a legacy of resilience and innovation, India attempts to advance its national interest in achieving inclusive growth, equitable development, social cohesion, regional harmony, and national security while upholding timeless principles of cooperation, advancement of peace, prosperity, and inclusive growth. India's external strategies must be reflective of this to forge opportunities amidst the challenges of turbulent neighbourhoods, conventional and sub-conventional security threats, climate change, and humanitarian crises. The following descriptive and analytical sub-themes attempt to provide a structure for discussing the trajectory of India:

- Contours of evolving strategic culture and thought in India: the past, present and future for conventional (land, air and maritime security for war and peace times, espionage, terrorism, etc.) and non-conventional security (bio, cyber, human, food, energy, etc.)
- Strategies for advancing national interest in the multipolar world order
- Reimagining cooperation: engagement in regional and international organisations
- India's sphere of influence as a regional leader (Arc of neighbourhood, Asia Pacific, etc.)

## **Key Questions**

The guiding questions are not exhaustive, but they will constitute the core of the discussion in the conference and are not intended to limit the discussions. These questions aim to stimulate insightful discussions on various aspects of India's self-perception, foreign policy, and its evolving role in global affairs while also considering its historical and civilisational heritage.

- How do historical civilizational inheritances shape contemporary global dynamics and interactions?
- In what ways can nations leverage their historical legacies to address present-day challenges?
- How can we reconcile the tensions between preserving cultural heritage and adapting to modern realities?
- How has India's self-perception evolved over time, and what impact has this had on its approach

to international relations?

- What are some potential templates, narratives, and terminologies that could effectively encapsulate India's rising role in global affairs?
- How can India leverage its strategic location, geography, demography, and economy to assert its role as a regional leader?
- What are the key challenges and opportunities associated with India's aspiration to become a regional leader, and how can these be addressed?
- What are some effective strategies for advancing India's national interests through its foreign policy initiatives?

### **Submission Guidelines**

- Who can send the extended abstract: researchers, practitioners, and professors in the field of International Relations
- Extended abstract on one of the sub-themes or topics aligned to the theme
- Word count - between **850 - 1000 words** in length
- The title shall not be more than 15 words. The name and designation of the author are to be mentioned below the title
- Submissions must be in Times New Roman format, font size: 12, and line spacing: 1.5
- Relevant sources must be duly acknowledged wherever necessary.
- We request you submit your short note by **June 19, 2024**
- Please email your submissions to [krutikar.phd23@chanakyauniveristy.edu.in](mailto:krutikar.phd23@chanakyauniveristy.edu.in)

### **For more information, contact us,**

- Gowri Dixit ([gowrid.phd23@chanakyauniversity.edu.in](mailto:gowrid.phd23@chanakyauniversity.edu.in))
- Krutika Reddy ([krutikar.phd23@chanakyauniveristy.edu.in](mailto:krutikar.phd23@chanakyauniveristy.edu.in))
- Website: <https://chanakyauniversity.edu.in/>
- GPS Location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/XykgJCrtzwEFDUcb7>