



**REPORT
ON TWO DAYS
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
“UNDERSTANDING INDIA’S NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE
EMERGING WORLD ORDER: ACHIEVEMENTS, OPPORTUNITIES
AND ASPIRATIONS”**

1-2nd May, 2025, organised by Department of Political Science

SLC (University of Delhi)

Shyam Lal College

Department of Political Science & IQAC

Sponsored by

**Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR) under the “*Rashtriya Ekta*
(National Unity)” Programme**

at

India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi (Day 1, 1 May, 2025)

and

Shyam Lal College (SLC), University of Delhi (Day 2, 2nd May, 2025)

Convenor and TIC: Dr. Niranjana Chichuan

Director of Conference: Dr. Sitaram Kumbhar



Shyam Lal College under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Hon'ble Principal Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar, the Department of Political Science successfully hosted a two-days international conference on the theme **“Understanding India's National Security in the Emerging World Order: Achievements, Opportunities and Aspirations”** on 1st and 2nd May 2025. The

conference was sponsored by the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR) under the “Rashtriya Ekta” theme to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, popularly known as “Iron Man of India” and the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India. Today, as every individual is proud of our nation's achievements in the domestic as well as international arena, the credit

also goes to our founding fathers, particularly Sardar Vallabhbhai, as he well understood the significance of national security and unity of the nation. Today, India is amid a major geopolitical repositioning and pursuing its national interests based on pragmatic and outcome-oriented policy.

To promote its interests in economy and security, it has been engaging and building stronger bilateral ties with a wide range of countries, including all major powers and countries of the Global South. Equally, it is also strengthening regional and multilateral partnerships and setting diplomatic agendas in key global forums. At the same time, the defence diplomacy of India has also been growing steadily and broadening engagement with global





powers such as the US, through the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, and open bilateral and multilateral engagements as the geopolitical scenario across the world has been changing rapidly, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.



In the era of digital age, technology and data are becoming the new weapons, a strong military power, in addition to, new type of security issues are arising related to sovereignty, governance, ethics, law, rights and security as well as non-military threats such as illegal border infiltration, smuggling of drugs, arms, and humans can contribute to social and economic instability and China-Pakistan nexus is also a concern for India.



In this context, the conference aimed to deliberate upon India's National Security in the rapidly changing world order and many well-known experts from India and abroad participated in this academic endeavour. The conference witnessed total of two hundred ninety attendees, including Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker, thirteen eminent panelist speakers, twelve chairs and fifty five

paper presenters in three parallel sessions out of ninety papers selected by the scientific committee contributed valuable insights on various aspects of India's national security and challenges from domestic and international perspective.





Day 1: Inaugural and Plenary Sessions at India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi

The conference commenced with an inaugural session at the India International Centre, graced by distinguished dignitaries and intellectuals from across India and abroad. **Prof. Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi,** was the Chief Guest and delivered the Keynote Address.

Her keynote address emphasised the following core points:

In the evolving discourse on India's national security, we must revisit the legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose vision and resolve integrated over 560 princely states into a united India. His efforts are a foundational example of strategic foresight and political consolidation, which modern security policy must reflect.

Today, India's national security should transcend traditional military frameworks to incorporate human security, including economic well-being, social harmony, education, and healthcare. A secure nation is not just one that is protected from external threats, but one that ensures dignity, justice, and opportunity for all its citizens.

Moreover, it is time we draw from India's indigenous intellectual traditions, embracing the diverse philosophical and strategic wisdom from across the country, north to south, and east to west, spanning from ancient sages to modern thinkers. These ideas offer a culturally rooted, holistic approach to security.

Finally, a key internal challenge remains: partisan





politics must not undermine national unity. When party interests outweigh national interests, we risk reviving internal security dilemmas. National security requires collective will, beyond electoral calculations. Let us strive for a security vision that is integrative, inclusive, and inspired by India's civilizational ethos.





Prof. K. G. Suresh, Director, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, presided over the inaugural session. In his address, he stressed on the following aspects of national security-

As we navigate the complexities of a shifting global order, India must adopt a unified national response to the evolving challenges of Pakistan-sponsored hybrid warfare, which includes psychological operations, misinformation campaigns, and cyber threats. This requires coordinated efforts across institutions and communities.

In this context, the responsible use of mainstream and social media becomes critical. All communication platforms must uphold the national interest, ensuring that our narratives strengthen, not weaken, our collective resolve. Equally important is the need to trust in national leadership, especially during critical moments. Our leaders are best placed to make decisions in the nation's interest, and that trust is the foundation of democratic resilience.

We must also recognise energy security and social cohesion as vital pillars of national security, both of which remain susceptible to internal and external disruption. Strengthening these domains is essential to building long-term resilience. At the same time there is a need to promote “Make in India” as a strategic tool to reduce defence import dependence. Self-reliance in defence production is not just an economic imperative but a national security priority.





Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar, Principal, Shyam Lal College, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the relevance and objectives of the conference.

Dr. Sitaram Kumbhar, Conference Director, introduced the conference theme, while



Dr. Niranjan Chichuan, Convenor, delivered the vote of thanks.



Other dignitaries present on the dais included
Dr. Bhabani Dixit, Former Managing Editor,
World Focus Journal;



Prof. Rekha Saxena, Senior Professor,
HoD, Department of Political science, University of
Delhi; and other senior academics.





Plenary and Technical Sessions

Following the inaugural session, the day featured three plenary sessions and two technical sessions took place at IIC from 11.30 am to 1.30pm and another two plenary sessions from 2.30pm to 3.30 pm and 3.30pm to 5.30 pm. The distinguished speakers for three sessions were Dr. Uttam Kumar Sinha, Senior Fellow -MP-IDSA, Dr. Smruti Pattanaik, Senior Fellow- MP-IDSA, Shri K. N. Shrivastava, Former IAS & Director, IIC, Dr. P. K. Mishra, Former DG, BSF, Prof. Rekha Saxena, HoD, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, Dr. Amit Ranjan, National University of Singapore, Prof. Pralay Kanungo, Leiden University, Netherlands, Prof. Sanjeev Kumar H. M., Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, Prof. Rajvir Sharma, University of Delhi, Prof. Tapan Biswal, School of Open Learning, Delhi University, Dr. Bhawani Dixit, Journalist and Editor of World Focus Journal, Dr. Sumit Kumar Jha, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. These prominent scholars deliberated on wide-ranging topics, including geopolitical shifts, defence preparedness, cyber security, and India's diplomatic strategy.

The two technical sessions were also held at IIC from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm in Conference Room I and Conference Room II. Around fourteen researchers, academics, and students presented research papers during the sessions.

Plenary Session I: Internal External Threats: Emerging Security Environment, Challenges and Vulnerabilities

Observation by Prof. Rekha Saxena

Head, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi

India's national security must be viewed through a multidimensional lens in today's evolving global landscape. A key concern is China's rapid military-technological expansion, which sets a benchmark for





India's strategic preparedness. India must respond with greater investment in indigenous defence technologies, innovation, and strategic foresight to ensure national resilience.

India's recent leadership in G-20 and BRICS reflects its growing influence in shaping a multipolar world order. By promoting inclusive and equitable global governance, India has positioned itself as a vital bridge between developed and developing worlds.



This aligns with the broader vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, which aims at building a self-reliant, secure, and diplomatically agile India. The roadmap emphasizes strategic autonomy, technological sovereignty, and a strong developmental foundation—essential pillars for safeguarding India's future in a complex world.

Together, these elements underscore a comprehensive approach to national security—balancing hard power, economic strength, and global diplomacy.



Observation by Dr. Smruti S. Pattnaik

Senior Fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi

India's security calculus must pay close attention to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which poses serious strategic and sovereignty concerns, particularly given its extension through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. This corridor enhances China's presence in the region and deepens strategic collusion between Beijing and Islamabad, which India cannot afford to overlook.

At the same time, the Northeast region remains a sensitive and strategically vulnerable zone, due to its difficult terrain, ethnic complexities, and proximity to international borders. Greater infrastructural development, connectivity, and integration efforts are essential to securing the region and turning it into a strategic asset.

India's growing partnership with ASEAN countries offers a valuable opportunity to counterbalance China's regional assertiveness. Strengthening these ties through trade, defence cooperation, and cultural diplomacy will be crucial in enhancing India's strategic footprint in the Indo-Pacific. A nuanced and regionally integrated approach is essential for safeguarding India's long-term national interests.





Observation by Shri K. N. Shrivastava

Director, India International Centre, New Delhi

The recent Pahalgam attack is a stark reminder of the constant threats facing our nation and the urgent need for heightened vigilance, both internally and externally, when it comes to national security.

India today faces a growing spectrum of security challenges. Cyber security threats are escalating and have the potential to cripple critical infrastructure and compromise national sovereignty. At the same time, Left-Wing Extremism (Naxalism), as well as communal and ethnic tensions, remain serious internal threats. These fissures, if left unaddressed, can erode social cohesion and national unity.



We must also confront the issue of illegal migration, which carries significant demographic and security implications, especially in sensitive border regions. Externally, India continues to grapple with cross-border terrorism, with Pakistan as its principal sponsor, as well as border disputes and recurring military stand-offs with China.

China's strategy of encirclement through regional influence and infrastructure projects adds another layer of complexity to our security environment. In light of these threats, our dependence on foreign defence technologies must be reduced. The time has come for India to prioritize self-sufficiency in strategic sectors, ensuring that our security is not vulnerable to external pressures or supply chain disruptions. A strong, secure India requires an integrated, forward-looking strategy that addresses both traditional and emerging challenges with clarity and resolve.



Plenary Session II: India's Role in Maintaining Regional Stability

Venue: IIC Auditorium

Observation by Prof. Rajvir Sharma

Former Professor of Political Science, University of Delhi

In his opening remarks, Prof. Sharma, as the chair of the session, reflected on the evolution of India's national security pre- and post-2014, noting a decisive shift from a reactive posture to a more assertive and strategic security paradigm. His approach focused on both hard and soft power to address threats comprehensively.

He also highlighted India's achievements in non-war conflict resolution, particularly its ability to defuse tensions through diplomacy, strategic restraint, and confidence-building measures, demonstrating that strength and stability are not always measured in military engagements.

He underscored the emerging significance of environmental security as an essential component of national and border stability. Resource stress, climate-induced migration, and ecological degradation near sensitive borders can exacerbate tensions. Thus, sustainable development and environmental foresight must now be integral to India's regional security strategy. India's role in regional stability rests on this balanced, holistic vision—one that combines strategic readiness with responsible leadership.





Observation by Dr. Uttam Kumar Sinha

Senior Fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi

He drew a historical parallel between the security challenges India faced in 1965 and the current threats along our borders with Pakistan and China. While the nature of threats has evolved, the strategic pressure on India's frontiers remains intense and demands constant vigilance and adaptability.

He commended India's border treaty management, particularly with countries like Bangladesh and Bhutan, as a model of diplomatic conflict resolution. These peaceful negotiations reflect India's commitment to resolving disputes through dialogue and consensus.

To ensure long-term stability in the region, he emphasized the importance of the "Neighbourhood First" policy. A stable and cooperative South Asia is essential for India's own security and growth. By investing in regional trust-building and economic interdependence, India can strengthen both its influence and the region's resilience. India's strategic outlook must be anchored in both historical wisdom and forward-looking diplomacy.



Observation by Dr. Pravas Kumar Mishra

Former Director General, Border Security Force (BSF)

Dr Pravas Kumar Mishra exposed the persistent hybrid warfare tactics employed by Pakistan, which combine terrorism, propaganda, cyber





threats, and misinformation to destabilize India internally and externally. Recognising and countering this multi-pronged strategy is critical to safeguarding national security.

He highlighted the strategic vulnerability of the Siliguri Corridor, commonly referred to as the “Chicken’s Neck”, which remains a sensitive and narrow passage linking mainland India to the Northeast. Ensuring its security requires both military readiness and infrastructural fortification.

Furthermore, he advocated for proactive media diplomacy as an essential tool in today’s information-driven conflicts. India must shape global narratives with credibility, counter disinformation, and project its security concerns effectively on international platforms. Strengthening information control and border awareness is vital for India’s comprehensive national defence.

Observation by Prof. Sanjeev Kumar H. M.

Professor of Political Science, University of Delhi

Prof. Sanjeev Kumar H. M. highlighted the growing concern of Pakistan-sponsored radicalisation efforts in parts of Bengal, which threaten to disturb social harmony and internal security. These developments demand coordinated intelligence efforts and community engagement to counter extremist narratives.

He emphasised the value of cultural diplomacy with neighbouring countries as a strategic tool to build trust, deepen people-to-people ties, and counter hostile influences in the region. Shared heritage can be a powerful stabilizing force in South Asia.





He also commended India's strategic and calibrated response to the Balakot airstrikes, which demonstrated the country's resolve to respond decisively to cross-border terrorism while maintaining diplomatic maturity.

In the wake of the recent Pahalgam attack, he stressed the importance of carefully planned security operations that are both effective and restrained, avoiding escalation while ensuring justice and deterrence. India's national security strategy must balance strength with sensitivity, and retaliation with responsibility.

Plenary Session: Linkage of National Security and Foreign Policy

The plenary session titled "Linkage of National Security and Foreign Policy" offered insightful perspectives on the interdependence between a nation's external engagements and its internal security paradigms. The session was chaired by Dr. Babhani Dixit, Former Managing Editor of World Focus Journal, who set the tone by emphasizing the evolving dynamics of global politics and their implications for national security frameworks.





Prof. Pralay Kanungo from Leiden University, Netherlands, highlighted how geopolitical shifts and ideological alignments influence the strategic calculus of states, particularly in the context of South Asia. He stressed the need for a nuanced foreign policy that can balance regional aspirations with global responsibilities.

Dr. Amit Ranjan of the National University of Singapore (NUS) provided a comparative analysis of regional security architectures and underlined the significance of diplomatic engagements in mitigating cross-border tensions and fostering stability.

Shri K. Mahesh, IAS, brought a practitioner's perspective to the discussion, focusing on the administrative and policy challenges in aligning foreign policy objectives with national security goals. He emphasised the need for institutional coherence and inter-agency collaboration to effectively respond to emerging threats.

Former Professor Tapan Biswal from the University of Delhi emphasized that each nation is driven by its own national interests and goals. The focus of Global Issues and India's Strategic Neighbourhood is to examine the international security landscape and its influence on India's foreign policy. Power dynamics are in a state of constant flux, and if a country fails to comprehend, value, and adapt to the ongoing changes in its environment, its security will be significantly compromised. Overall, the session underscored the strategic imperative of integrating national security considerations into the formulation and execution of foreign policy.





Technical Session I: Viksit Bharat and Its Roadmap for 2047

The technical session I was held Conference Room (CR)-1 of the India International Centre (IIC). The session was chaired by Prof. Ruchika Ramakrishnan from Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi, who provided an insightful overview of India's long-term developmental vision in the context of national security.

The session witnessed active participation from faculty members and research scholars across India, who presented thought-provoking papers aligned with the theme. The presentations covered a wide array of topics, including strategic economic planning, technological innovation, environmental sustainability, defense modernization, and the role of youth and education in shaping a secure and developed India by 2047.

The session fostered a vibrant exchange of ideas on how India can align its security strategies with its developmental aspirations, ensuring a holistic and inclusive roadmap toward becoming a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by the centenary of its independence.





Technical Session II: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: His Role, Legacy and Vision for the Unity of the Nation

The technical Session II was held at Conference Room Conference Room (CR)-2, India International Centre (IIC). The session was chaired by Prof. (Dr) Madhuri Sukhija, Professor at Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi, who offered an enriching introduction to Sardar Patel's pivotal role in shaping a unified and secure India.

Faculty members and research scholars from various institutions across the country presented their research papers, delving into different dimensions of Sardar Patel's contributions—ranging from the integration of princely states and administrative consolidation to his vision of national unity and governance. Several papers also explored the enduring relevance of his leadership in contemporary discussions on national security and integrity.

The session served as a reflective and scholarly platform to revisit Sardar Patel's legacy and its implications for India's present and future, particularly in the context of building a resilient and united nation.





Day II

The second day of the conference was held at Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi, hosting six parallel sessions at Multipurpose Hall (MPH), Seminar Hall and Board Room, followed by the valedictory session at the MPH.

As part of the international conference on "Understanding India's National Security in the Emerging World Order: Achievements, Opportunities and Aspirations," six technical sessions were held at Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi, in Multipurpose Hall (MPH), Seminar Hall and Board Room on the second day. These technical sessions covered a diverse range of themes integral to India's national security discourse. These sessions provided a platform for scholarly engagement on topics of strategic importance and were marked by active participation from faculty members and research scholars across India.

The themes of the Technical Sessions included:

- Linkage of National Security and Foreign Policy
- India and Great Power Politics in the Indian Ocean Region
- Aspiration to Become a Global Power
- India's Strategic and Economic Interests and Prosperity
- Internal and External Threats: Emerging Security Environment, Challenges and





Vulnerabilities

- India's Role in Maintaining Regional Stability

Each session featured presentations of well-researched papers that addressed both historical and contemporary dimensions of national security. The discussions explored India's strategic positioning in the evolving global order, the growing significance of the Indian Ocean Region, and the complex interplay between foreign policy and security. Other sessions examined India's aspirations as a rising global power, the balance between economic development and security priorities, and the multifaceted nature of internal and external threats.

Collectively, these sessions fostered meaningful dialogue, encouraged critical perspectives, and highlighted pathways for India's strategic advancement in a rapidly changing international



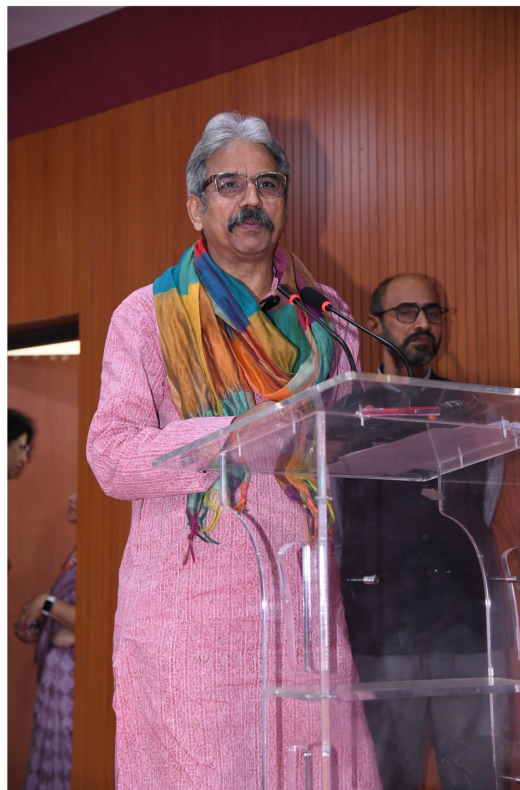
environment.





Valedictory Sessions at Shyam Lal College

The conference culminated in a Valedictory Session held at the Multi-Purpose Hall. Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Former Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Motihari, Bihar and currently Senior Professor at Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, was the Chief Guest. In his valedictory address, he reflected on the evolving nature of national security and called for collaborative academic endeavours to shape India's strategic outlook.



Prof. Munim Kumar Barai from Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan, was the Guest of Honour and offered an international perspective on the theme, acknowledging India's significant role in regional and global security dynamics.

The event was also graced by Prof. Kusha Tiwari, Director IQAC, Shyam Lal College, Prof. Neena Shireesh, Dr. Sitaram Kumbhar, Dr. Niranjan Chichuan, and the entire organising committee of the Political Science Department, whose meticulous efforts ensured the resounding success of the conference.





The conference attracted over Ninety abstract submissions from scholars across India and abroad, out of which ninety high-quality abstracts were selected and published in a conference souvenir. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of around two hundred eighty students, making it a significant academic event in the national capital.





Conclusion

This two-day international conference not only provided a robust academic platform for the exchange of ideas and research but also reaffirmed the importance of inclusive, indigenous, and informed dialogue on national security in the changing world order. The Department of Political Science, Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi, continues to champion academic excellence and national engagement through such impactful initiatives.



Most significantly, the students who attended the discussions were deeply fascinated by the ideas shared by the speakers. Many of them also presented their papers during the conference. The event was well-attended by both faculty members and students, and the response was overwhelmingly positive. Students actively engaged in the sessions and clarified their doubts related to the topics discussed. Overall, the sessions were lively and interactive, fostering a greater awareness among students about India's national security and its foreign policy in the emerging world order.



We, the organising committee at the Department of Political Science, Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi, are grateful to our Principal, Dr. Rabi Narayan Kar, and the IQAC Director, Prof. Kusha Tiwari, Prof. Neena Shireesh, Senior Faculty of the Department of Political Science, SLC for their constant encouragement, guidance and support. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the sponsors of the International Conference, the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), for providing the financial support necessary to organise this event.

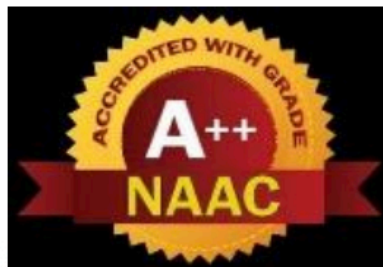
A special thanks to the Scientific Committee, Core Committee members and the Organising Committee, comprising all faculty members of the Department of Political Science, for their tireless efforts in making this conference a truly engaging and enriching experience for all. The conference concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Rekha Kaushik. We also express our heartfelt appreciation to our students for their active participation, which played a key role in making the event a great success.

We hope to continue with many more such successful events in future.









SLC(University of Delhi)

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Organized Two Days International Conference

on

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Under the Rashtriya Ekta (National Unity) Programme

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Venue: India International Centre (IIC) & Shyam Lal College

Shyam Lal College
(University of Delhi)

NAAC A++

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