



Jawaharlal Nehru University

School of International Studies

New Delhi-110067



“70 years of Scholarship”

Organises

Two-Day National Seminar on 14th & 15th October, 2024

on

Exploring the Ideas of *Vishwa-Mitra* (Global Friendship) through Ancient Indian Political, Strategic and Diplomatic Thought

Organised by

Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory

in collaboration with

Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi

Chief Patron

Professor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit

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Jawaharlal Nehru University

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School of International Studies, JNU

About JNU

Jawaharlal Nehru University, established in 1969, is a vibrant campus. JNU believes in creating new heights in every field of education and in nurturing social awareness in society. The university has an area of about 1000 acres, and currently more than 9,000 students are studying in various disciplines. It has 13 schools, 38 centres and 8 special centres to provide quality education.

The School of International Studies (SIS) is a leading institute of JNU for providing an overview of world politics and their influence on world society. This school is renowned for producing members of various committees of national and international organizations. Of all the schools of the university, SIS lays claim to the longest history, as it was established in 1955 as the *Indian School of International Studies* (ISIS). The need for an institution devoted to the study of international and global developments was felt in the early post-independence years as India prepared to define and assert its position in the global system. *The Indian Council of World Affairs* (ICWA), which traced its roots back to 1943, was then the only institution in the country concerned with analysing foreign affairs, and it recognized the need to foster and promote the study and interpretation of global political, social, and economic developments. A committee headed by Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru recommended the setting up of the ISIS, which was established in October 1955, with Dr. A. Appadorai as its first director. While it was affiliated with the University of Delhi in its initial years, ISIS became a part of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in June 1970 as the *School of International Studies* (SIS). The School of International Studies (SIS) is a premier institution for the study of international relations and area studies in the country. Established in 1955, SIS is set to celebrate its seventieth anniversary next year—in 2025. In the seven decades of its existence, SIS has made a pioneering contribution in promoting the study of international relations and area studies in India and advancing knowledge and understanding of international affairs through theoretical and inter-disciplinary lenses. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, the current Vice-Chancellor of JNU Professor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, and Dean SIS Professor Amitabh Mattoo are a few notable alumni of SIS, JNU.

About the Seminar

In his last speech in the old Parliament, Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed India's new stature as a rising global power and stated that the world was actively seeking its friendship: "We are *Vishwa-mitra*, the world's friend and voice of the Global South." After the general elections to the 19th Lok Sabha, while addressing NDA leaders, the PM reiterated his commitment to championing the policy of '*Vishwa-mitra*'. This policy serves as a new roadmap for Indian foreign policy, organically ingrained into its ancient philosophy. In an era marked by shifting alliances, territorial conflicts, and geopolitical rivalries, the ideas of *Vishwa-mitra* (Global Friendship) stand as a beacon of enlightenment, advocating for unity, understanding, and cooperation among diverse people and countries. The vision of

global friendship transcends the boundaries of geography, culture, and creed, envisioning a world where mutual respect, empathy, and collaboration form the bedrock of international relations. This national seminar is relevant to ancient Indian political thought, which holds enormous potential to address contemporary world problems. It will explore diverse perspectives and philosophies that have shaped civilizations for centuries. Thinkers like N. D. Palmer have suggested, “Ancient Indian political thoughts deal with many subjects, which have significantly influenced the political theory of the Western world. Among these are the nature and origin of the state, types of states, the relation between state and society, forms of government, the origin of kingship, the duties of kingship, royal authority and its limitations, power politics, diplomacy, administration, the state of nature, the social contract, and sovereignty. Conflicting theories of international relations found at an international level can also be seen in ancient Indian thoughts and in the modern world.”

The fundamental ideas of Indian political thought encompass scientific fields of knowledge about the political systems, ideologies, and institutions of ancient India. The purpose of this seminar is to familiarize participants with various facets of Indian political ideas and institutions as presented in ancient texts, including the *Nitishastra*, *Vedic Samhitas*, *Bhagavad Gita*, *Valmiki Ramayana*, *Mahabharata*, *Puranas*, and *Kautilya's Arthashastra* etc. Understanding the political thoughts and philosophy of ancient India is essential to analyse and compare them with modern world problems. A deep and critical understanding can help learners analyse and contrast Indian and Western thoughts and ideas, aiming to find indigenous tools and concepts necessary to understand Indian society, social institutions, polity, political institutions, and economic systems worldwide. This seminar aims to develop a better academic approach to real-world problems through the study of indigenous concepts and ideas on the State, Society, and Service of politics. It also aims at understanding the vertical perspective on the concept of the state and the horizontal impact of concepts like *Dharma* (not religion).

The State and Dharma constitute the backbone of Indian Political Thoughts. The main objective of the seminar is to develop an insight into the applicability and utility of ancient Indian political thoughts in terms of the evolution of the state, the duties of rulers and citizens, political obligations, division of labour, social stratification, the rights and progress of women, legal traditions, local administration, financial management, war, peace and reconciliation, diplomacy, and the patterns of consumption, production, and distribution of resources in society. To highlight how many western political philosophies and ideologies draw influence and inspiration from Indian thoughts. The thoughtful title of the seminar has been ably supported by the ICSSR, New Delhi.

Objectives

The political thoughts and philosophy in ancient India are essential for understanding, explaining, and analysing the problems of the modern world. A deep and critical understanding can help learners analyse and compare Indian and Western thoughts and ideas. Hence, the seminar will bring together academicians, researchers, and practitioners of ancient Indian statecraft to deliberate on the “Role of Bharat in the Emerging World Order.” The need and necessity of reshaping the global world order is of utmost priority for peace, prosperity, and cooperation among the members of the world community. The seminar aims to gather researchers, academia, think tanks, administrators, leaders, and media to give practical shape to the ideas of ancient India in the context of the contemporary world.

The seminar proposes to evolve an understanding with the potential to address what EAM S. Jaishankar termed the “Dilemmas of Raisina Hills.” A diplomatic and academic understanding needs to be incorporated in policy paradigms as well. It delves into *Vishwa-mitra* philosophy of fostering global friendship as depicted in ancient Indian texts and its relevance in contemporary international relations. The seminar will explore ancient Indian political thought to analyse the political theories and principles like *Vishwa-mitra* proposed by ancient Indian scholars and their impact on governance and diplomacy. Economic insights from Ancient India will examine the economic policies and practices by ancient Indian thinkers and their potential applicability in the modern global economy.

However, it seems the world has lost such a vision. The West has failed to do the needful, for want of ideas and guiding principles. Hence, India, as a nation that inherits great cultural, spiritual, philosophical, and thoughts on statecraft, has to shoulder the responsibility to work with and for the world's humanity. The Vedic and Upanishadic values, ideas of *Neetisastra*, statecraft in the Mahabharata, ideas of justice and righteousness in the Ramayana, and many more. In Indian tradition, for higher knowledge, the word *prana/Prajna* (wisdom) is used. Traditionally, for philosophy in India, the following three words are used: *Darshana* (philosophy), *Paravidya* (transcendental knowledge), and *Anvikshiki* (exploration). These contain a wealth of ideas that can provide solutions and ways to address many problems that the world faces today. The vision of global friendship transcends the boundaries of geography, culture, and creed, envisioning a world where mutual respect, empathy, and collaboration form the bedrock of international relations. The fundamental ideas of Indian political thought are scientific fields of knowledge about the political systems, ideologies, and institutions of ancient India. The purpose of this seminar is to connect with the various facets of Indian political ideas and institutions as presented in ancient texts, including but not limited to the *Nitishastra*, *Vedic Samhitas*, *Bhagavad Gita*, *Valmiki Ramayana*, *Mahabharata*, *Puranas*, and *Kautilya's Arthashastra*.

Sub-themes:

The seminar seeks to delve into the profound depths of Ancient Indian Political Thought, exploring its relevance and applicability to contemporary global challenges. By examining the principles embedded in ancient texts and philosophies, the seminar aims to foster a deeper understanding of how these timeless ideas can inform modern governance, diplomacy, and societal structures. The diverse sub-themes outlined below are designed to guide our exploration, each focusing on a specific aspect of ancient Indian thought and its potential to address current world issues.

These sub-themes have been meticulously selected to provide a comprehensive framework for discussions, enabling participants to engage with various dimensions of ancient *Bharatiya* wisdom. Through this exploration, we hope to uncover insights that can contribute to building a more harmonious, just, and sustainable global society. Each sub-theme offers a unique lens through which we can analyse the past and draw lessons for the future, ensuring that the seminar's deliberations are both wide-ranging and deeply impactful.

- Theory of State and Statecraft in Indian Scriptures
- Sources of Ancient Indian Political, Cultural, and Economic Thought
- Policy of War and Peace in Indian Scriptures
- Hermeneutics of Ancient Indian Texts, Contexts, and Vocabulary
- Ideas of *Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam*, *Yogakshema* and integral humanism
- Concept of *Bharatiya Chiti* and *Vishwa-mitra*
- Democracy and Governance Practices in Indian Scriptures
- Diplomacy in Ancient India and *Vishwa Mitra*
- Institutions such as Panchayats, Dharm Sabhas, Guilds etc.
- Global aspirations of Society and Ethics in Indian Thought
- Rationality and Rebellion in Ancient Indian Thought
- *Eco-dharma*: Ecology and Sustainability in Ancient India
- Status and Progress of Women in Ancient Society
- Global Approach in Ancient Literature
- Role of Indian Peacekeeping Forces in *Vishwa-shanti* (World Peace)
- Rescue operations by Indian troops from conflict zones
- Contribution of Archeological Survey of India in preservation of heritage and culture worldwide

Call for Papers:

A limited number of abstracts will be selected for the presentation. Paper proposals pertaining to the theme, sub – themes of related areas as mentioned above are invited. Kindly send an abstract (Max 150-200 words) at: jnu.sis70seminar@gmail.com

Important Dates

Submission of Abstracts on or before	15 th September 2024
Communication of acceptance	25 th September 2024
Submission of full paper on or before	5 th October 2024

Full paper comprising 5000-5500 words may be submitted either in English (MS Word, Times New Roman, Font 12 (1.5 spaced), or in Hindi Kruti Dev-10, Font 14 Double spaced) with title, name (s) of the author (s), complete postal address, institutional affiliation, email, contact and WhatsApp number(s). For the reference pattern, kindly follow APA style sheet.

Registration

Registration will be accepted through online mode only. Registration fees is non-refundable.

Date	Research Scholar/Student	Faculty
Up to 15 th Sept. 2024	500	1000
15 th to 20 th Sept. 2024	700	1200

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/gA8t4JaW2RA2xrJ28>

Note: Research scholars must enclose a proper certificate from the concerned institution duly forwarded by the respective supervisor or head of the department. Due to limited accommodation facilities, participants out of Delhi- NCR only will be provided accommodation. A flat fee of Rs. 3000/- per person will be charged from accompanying persons. Registration fee entitles the delegates entry into all sessions, full hospitality, meals, snacks, accommodation, conference kit, a certificate of attendance.

Account Details to pay registration fees:

Account No.	35404650496
IFSC Code	SBIN0010441
MICR Code	110002428
Name of the Bank	STATE BANK OF INDIA
Branch	JNU NEW CAMPUS
Account Name	JNU SPONSORED PROJECT AC

Hospitality: Free hospitality and moderate accommodation will be provided to the delegates. The participants from Delhi- NCR will have to make their own arrangements for accommodation.

How to reach:

New Delhi has three major railway stations (New Delhi, Hazarat Nizamuddin, Anand Vihar Terminal) and two major Bus Stations (Sarai Kale Khan and ISBT Kashmiri Gate). The members can use Taxi, Bus or Metro to reach JNU. The members planning to stay before and/or after these dates are advised to make their own arrangements.

Weather: Weather in Delhi is pleasant during October



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Dr Amit Kumar Sharma, H N B Garhwal University, Uttarakhand
Dr Ramanand, Director, Center for Policy Research and Governance, Delhi

Contact

Dr Ravi Rameshchandra Shukla, Mob. No. 8076345757 (WhatsApp Only)
Shivam Tiwari, Mob. No. 9649690296 (WhatsApp Only)
