CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES

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CILS YOUNG SCHOLARS' CONFERENCE 2027

CALL FOR PAPERS

United Nations at 80: India and the International Legal Order

25-27 February 2027 | School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi



CONCEPT NOTE

United Nations at 80: India and the International Legal Order

BACKGROUND

The United Nations completed eighty years in 2025. In this context, the UN80 initiative, led by the United Nations Secretary-General and welcomed by General Assembly Resolution 79/318, prompts reflection on past, present, and future global multilateral co-operation. India has played a pivotal role in shaping the International Legal Order, advocating decolonisation, disarmament, the rule of law, and equitable development. As the UN looks ahead, it is crucial to assess India's contributions and vision for a just and inclusive global order.

INDIA AND THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ORDER

India's relationship with the UN has been deeply rooted in its commitment to peace, justice, and international co-operation. From early leadership in the Non-Aligned Movement to active participation in peacekeeping and norm-building, India has consistently supported a rule-based order while voicing the concerns of the Global South. The world faces new challenges such as climate change, technological disruption, conflict, and, inequality, this conference seeks to bring together early-career researchers to explore and assess India's past, present, and future positions in shaping the global legal architecture.

CONFERENCE PURPOSE

The conference aims to foster critical reflection and scholarly discourse on India's role in shaping and responding to the International Legal Order, in the context of the UN80 initiative. Organised by the Centre for International Legal Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, this CILS Young Scholars' Conference brings together early-career researchers and practitioners to explore historical legacies, contemporary challenges, and future possibilities in International Law. It also provides a platform for the scholars to contribute innovative and critical perspectives to the conference themes.

OBJECTIVES

- To examine India's evolving role in shaping the International Legal Order since the inception of the United Nations.
- To explore India's civilisational philosophy of Vishwaguru and its relevance in contemporary global governance.
- To assess India's leadership in the Global South and its advocacy for equity, justice, and solidarity.
- To analyse India's influence on the development of legal norms, institutions, and practices within the UN system.
- To engage with key areas of International Law in which India has played a significant role.
- To reflect on the UN80 initiative and India's vision for multilateralism in the 21st century.

THEMES

The following are suggestive themes; connected topics are welcome as well.

- Histories of International Law: Bharatiya, Inter-cultural and Global South Perspectives
- Natural Resources, Environment and International Law
- Emerging Technologies and International Law
- Human Rights, Armed Conflicts and International Law
- International Economic Order and Challenges to Multilateralism
- International Law in Indian Practice
- Global Commons and International Law

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The conference aims to produce a body of scholarly work which maps India's engagement with the International Legal Order at this critical juncture in the UN's evolution. Selected papers may be considered for publication in an edited volume or a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal. The conference seeks to nurture the next generation of International Law scholars in India, equipping them to contribute meaningfully to global legal debates.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We invite original abstracts that pertain to any of the conference's thematic areas and engage substantially with International Law. Submissions that offer fresh perspectives, critical analysis and rigorous engagement with International Law are especially welcome.

- The abstract must be submitted in English and in MS Word format only, with a word limit of 300-350 words, along with 5 keywords.
- The abstract should clearly outline the title, research problem, methodology, and key arguments/conclusion.
- A separate cover page outlining the theme under which the paper aligns, the name and institutional affiliation of the author(s) (maximum two authors), email address and contact details, and a short biographical note of approximately 100 words for each author.
- The text should be in Times New Roman, 12-point font, with 1.5-line spacing (For Headings, use 14-point font).
- All submissions will be screened for plagiarism and AI-generated content.
- Scan the QR Code to Submit Your Abstract or visit https://forms.gle/QZqMnVSTGN7iVrqZ7.

- Eligibility: The conference is open to Ph.D. Scholars, Early Career Academicians, Legal Practitioners and Postgraduate Students (LL.M./M.A.) with a background in International Law.
- Certificates will be provided to the participants.
- The conference will be held in person only.
- Registration Fee: ₹500/- for scholars/students and ₹1000/- for faculty members and others.

Conference Timelines

Abstract Submission Deadline	20 December 2026
Notification of Acceptance	30 December 2026
Registration for the Conference	05 January 2027
Full Paper Submission Deadline	30 January 2027
Conference Dates	25–27 February 202

CONVENER

Dr. Vinai Kumar Singh

CO-CONVENER

Dr. Fazil Jamal

"Scan to Submit Abstract"

Organisers: Scholars of CILS

For queries, write to: cils.ysc2027@gmail.com

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