Centre for International Politics, Organisation and Disarmament (CIPOD)

School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Organizing Two-Day National Seminar
Sponsored by ICSSR (Northern Regional Centre)

on

Plural Worlds and Civilizational Pathways to Global Order: Bharat Nīti as an Indian Paradigm of International Relations

16th - 17th March, 2026
Venue: Convention Centre, JNU

About The Program

The conference aims to establish an alternative paradigm of International Relations by deliberating upon indigenous Indian frameworks of political thought that offer distinct ways of analysing, interpreting, and engaging with global politics. Rooted in India's civilizational experience, Bharat Nīti represents a knowledge tradition in which power, leadership, and diplomacy are understood through ethical responsibility, relational conduct, and collective welfare rather than through power maximization alone. The conference proceeds from the premise that India possesses internally coherent paradigms of knowledge that can contribute meaningfully to contemporary debates on global order and international relations.

The conference invites scholarly engagement with key indigenous conceptual categories such as Mitra (ethical and trust-based relationships), Guru (moral and intellectual leadership), Shakti (capability guided by restraint), and Kalyan (collective welfare). Together, these concepts articulate a vision of global politics in which power functions as a means rather than an end, leadership derives legitimacy from conduct and example, and international engagement is evaluated through its impact on social harmony and human well-being. Bharat Nīti thus foregrounds balance, responsibility, and purpose as central principles of political action at the global level.

Spanning classical, medieval, and modern Indian thought—from early political-strategic traditions to contemporary formulations such as Integral Humanism—the conference seeks to highlight both continuity and evolution within Indian approaches to global politics. It encourages interdisciplinary participation from political science, international relations, philosophy, history, strategic studies, and Indian Knowledge Systems to explore how indigenous Indian ideas can inform discussions on global governance, strategic autonomy, normative leadership, South–South cooperation, and post-Western International Relations.

At a time of geopolitical shifts, crisis of multilateralism, and the search for post-Western frameworks in International Relations, indigenous paradigms have gained renewed significance. Bharat Nīti offers a civilizationally grounded yet analytically relevant approach to issues such as multipolarity, strategic autonomy, ethical leadership, and South–South cooperation. By emphasizing relational ethics, restrained power, and collective welfare, it contributes meaningfully to contemporary debates on global governance and alternative world orders.

Major Themes and Sub-Themes

1. Bharat Nīti as an Indigenous Paradigm of International Relations

2. Indigenous Conceptual Categories in Indian Political Thought

3. Indian Civilizational Thought: Continuity and Transformation

4. Ethics, Power, and Responsibility in Global Order

5. Bharat Nīti and Global Governance

6. Strategic Autonomy and Indian Foreign Policy

7. South–South Cooperation and Alternative World Orders

8. Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Indian Knowledge Systems

Registration Fee:

Participants	Fees
Faculty	₹ 2,000
Research Scholars	₹ 1,500
Students	₹ 1,000

Important dates:

Deadline for submission of abstract: 26th February, 2026

Communication of acceptance: 02nd March, 2026

Deadline of fee payment: 09th March, 2026

Full Papers to be submitted by: 14th March, 2026

Release of Conference Schedule: 15th March, 2026

Guidelines for submission of abstract and full paper:

- Abstract should submitted in word file format in maximum 500 words including five key words and highlighting the statement of problem, major research question, objective and the major findings.
- Only shortlisted abstracts will be considered to develop a research paper of about 5000-7000 words (including references). The submission should be original and must not have more than 10% of similarity. Consider SIS - JNU manual for referencing https://www.jnu.ac.in/sites/default/files/SIS_Research_Manual.pdf
- The proposal of abstract and full version of the paper should be submitted to cipodjnu@gmail.com
- No TA/DA and accommodation will be provided.
- Payment link will be shared only with those who will receive communication of acceptance.

Note - A committee will review the abstracts and full papers and information regarding acceptance, modification, rejection, and presentation shall be communicated to the authors subsequently. The selected papers will be published through a reputed national publisher with ISSN/ISBN No.