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BOLSTERING THE INDIA WAY

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RAKSHA मन्थन

DEFENCE | DHARMA | DIPLOMACY | DEVELOPMENT



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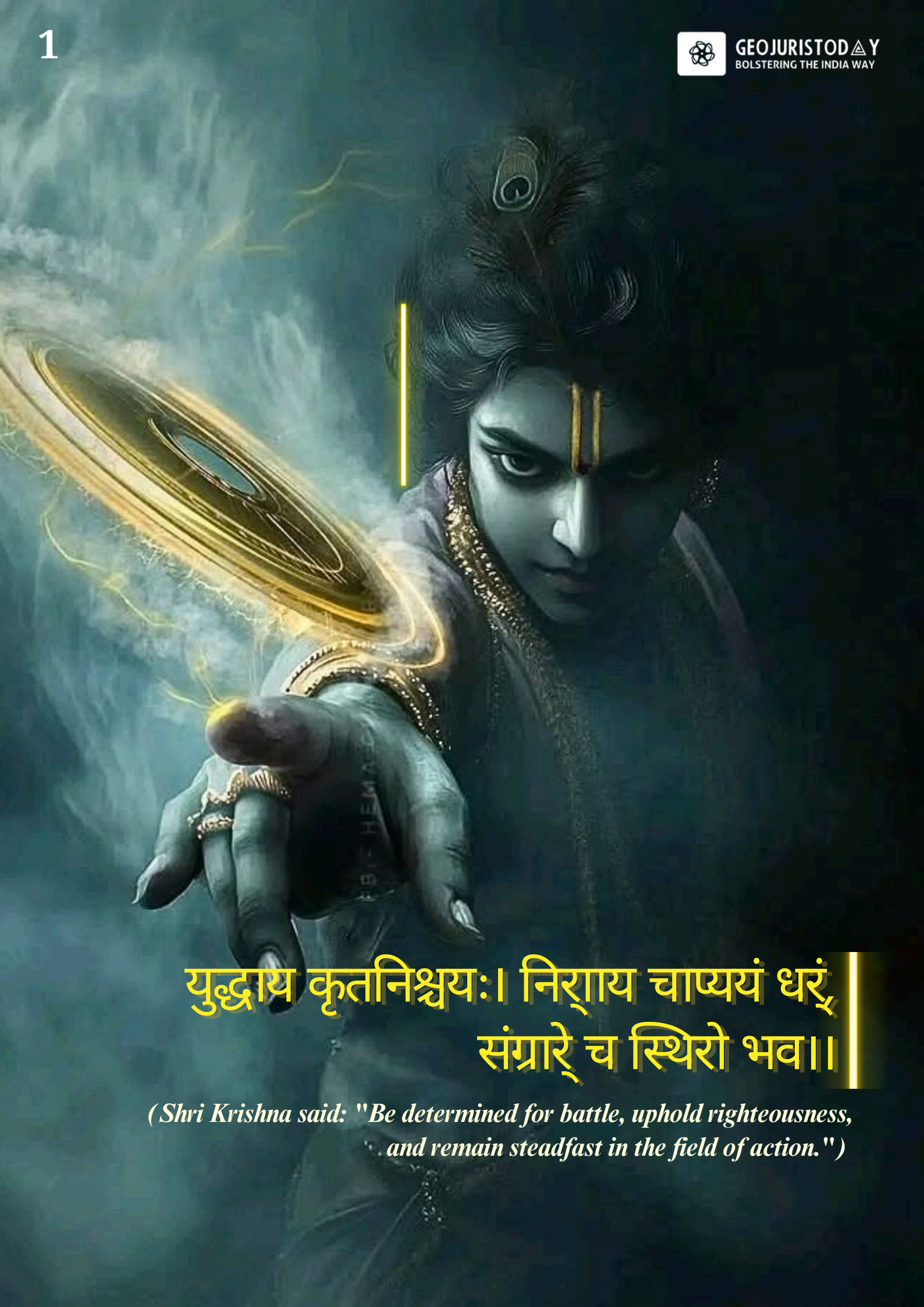


युद्धाय कृतनिश्चयः। निराय चाप्ययं धरं,
संग्रारे् च स्थिरो भव।।

(Shri Krishna said: "Be determined for battle, uphold righteousness, and remain steadfast in the field of action.")



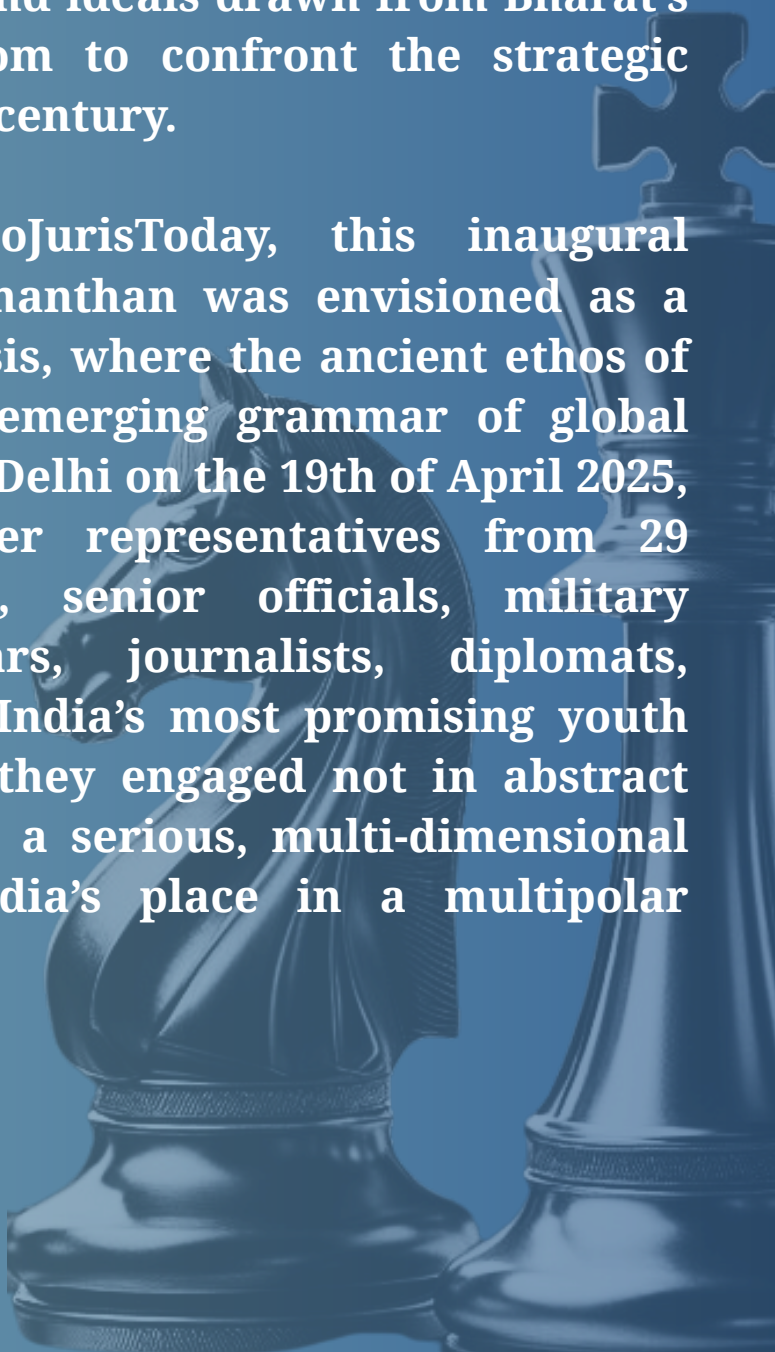
RAKSHAMANTHAN 2025

A Strategic Confluence of Dharma, Defence, & Diplomacy

Introduction

In a world beset by ideological dissonance, strategic recalibration, and the quiet disintegration of post-war global consensus, the need for rooted yet forward-facing forums of discourse has never been more urgent. It was in this backdrop of global fragmentation and civilizational reawakening that Rakshamanthan 2025 was conceived. Not as a mere academic or policy conclave, but as a manthan a deliberate churning of ideas and ideals drawn from Bharat's civilizational wisdom to confront the strategic realities of the 21st century.

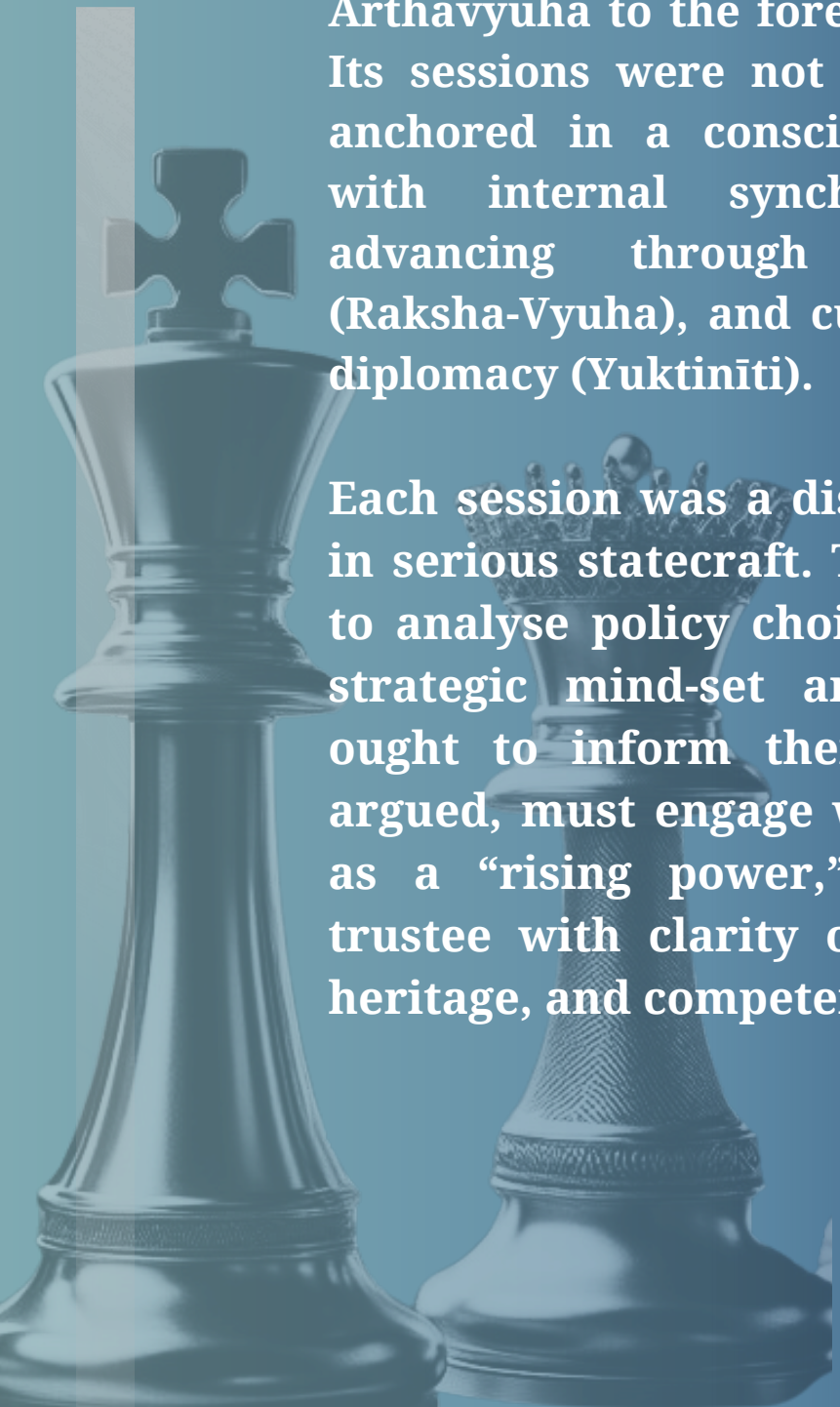
Organized by GeoJurisToday, this inaugural edition of Rakshamanthan was envisioned as a platform of synthesis, where the ancient ethos of Bharat meets the emerging grammar of global order. Held in New Delhi on the 19th of April 2025, it brought together representatives from 29 foreign embassies, senior officials, military strategists, scholars, journalists, diplomats, technologists, and India's most promising youth leaders. Together, they engaged not in abstract theorization but in a serious, multi-dimensional dialogue about India's place in a multipolar world.



Introduction

What set Rakshamanthan apart from traditional policy summits was its intentional civilizational framing. While the language of global affairs often defaults to realism and materiality, Rakshamanthan unapologetically restored the vocabulary of Dharma, Mandala, Yukti, and Arthavyūha to the forefront of strategic thinking. Its sessions were not arbitrarily structured but anchored in a conscious sequencing beginning with internal synchronization (Samanvaya), advancing through external preparedness (Raksha-Vyuha), and culminating in civilizational diplomacy (Yuktinīti).

Each session was a discipline-spanning exercise in serious statecraft. The objective was not just to analyse policy choices, but to reflect on the strategic mind-set and moral grammar that ought to inform them. India, the organizers argued, must engage with the world not simply as a "rising power," but as a civilizational trustee with clarity of purpose, confidence in heritage, and competence in design.



The day unfolded across five thematic sessions, each curated to respond to a distinct strategic challenge:

- ## SAMANVAYA

Strategic Pathways to Viksit Bharat @2047

This session examined the building blocks of India's strategic future. Panellists explored governance reform, national resilience, administrative modernization, and cultural coherence as prerequisites for a strong, unified, and competitive India. The discussion brought to light the urgent need to harmonize state capacity with strategic intent, drawing attention to the internal contradictions that must be reconciled if Bharat is to become truly Viksit.

- ## RAKSHA-VYUHA

India's Defence Strategy and the need for Transformation and Modernisation

Against the backdrop of persistent border tensions and rising non-traditional threats, this session dissected India's military modernization imperatives. From integrated theatre commands and Atma Nirbharta in defence production to the growing utility of space and cyber frontiers, panellists debated how India must recalibrate its defence architecture. The discussions emphasized strategic asymmetry, jointness, and defence diplomacy as critical vectors.

CYBER-DHARMACHAKRA

Navigating the Digital Battlefield of Modern Warfare

This session interrogated the frontlines of cyber conflict, information warfare, and digital sovereignty. Panellists including cybersecurity experts and legal mindsexplored how deep fakes, narrative manipulation, and AI-enabled propaganda pose existential threats not just to state security but to societal cohesion. The session offered a civilizational lens on digital ethics, asking: can dharma inform how we govern cyberspace?

ARTHAVYŪHA

The Impact of Political Shifts and De-Globalisation on Global Trade and Supply Chains

Here, the conversation turned to the geo-economic realignments underway. With the weaponization of trade, regionalism on the rise, and global supply chains under stress, how should India navigate protectionism without becoming insular? Speakers addressed India's role in reimagining multilateralism, promoting economic sovereignty, and balancing self-reliance with global interdependence.

YUKTINĪTI

Mandala, Multipolarity, and the Global Family in India's Strategic Thought

This session served as the philosophical anchor of the day. Going beyond contemporary power politics, it revived Indic strategic thought rooted in texts like the Mahabharata, Arthashastra, and Bhagavad Gita. The session challenged the audience to ask: can India offer a new global ethic, one that does not mimic Western realism but draws from the civilizational ethic of balance, restraint, and righteous action?





A Confluence of Statesmanship & Youth Energy

One of Rakshamanthan's most distinctive features was its intentional intergenerational design. This was not a conference where youth were relegated to tokenism. Emerging scholars, law students, researchers, and young professionals actively engaged with ambassadors, generals, and professors questioning, responding, and co-creating the strategic conversation. The dialogues that followed were refreshingly direct, high on content, and unscripted in spirit.

Many embassies expressed genuine interest in bilateral and thematic collaborations based on the questions raised. Several even noted that Rakshamanthan offered a uniquely Indian approach to strategic dialogue, grounded yet innovative, traditional yet forward-looking.

- ***Capturing the Spirit***

This Event Report does not aim to replicate verbatim everything that was said. Instead, it seeks to capture the intellectual atmosphere, the key insights, and the strategic undercurrents that defined Rakshamanthan. It aims to memorialize the spirit of inquiry, the rigor of the discussions, and the civilizational lens through which participants engaged with global affairs.

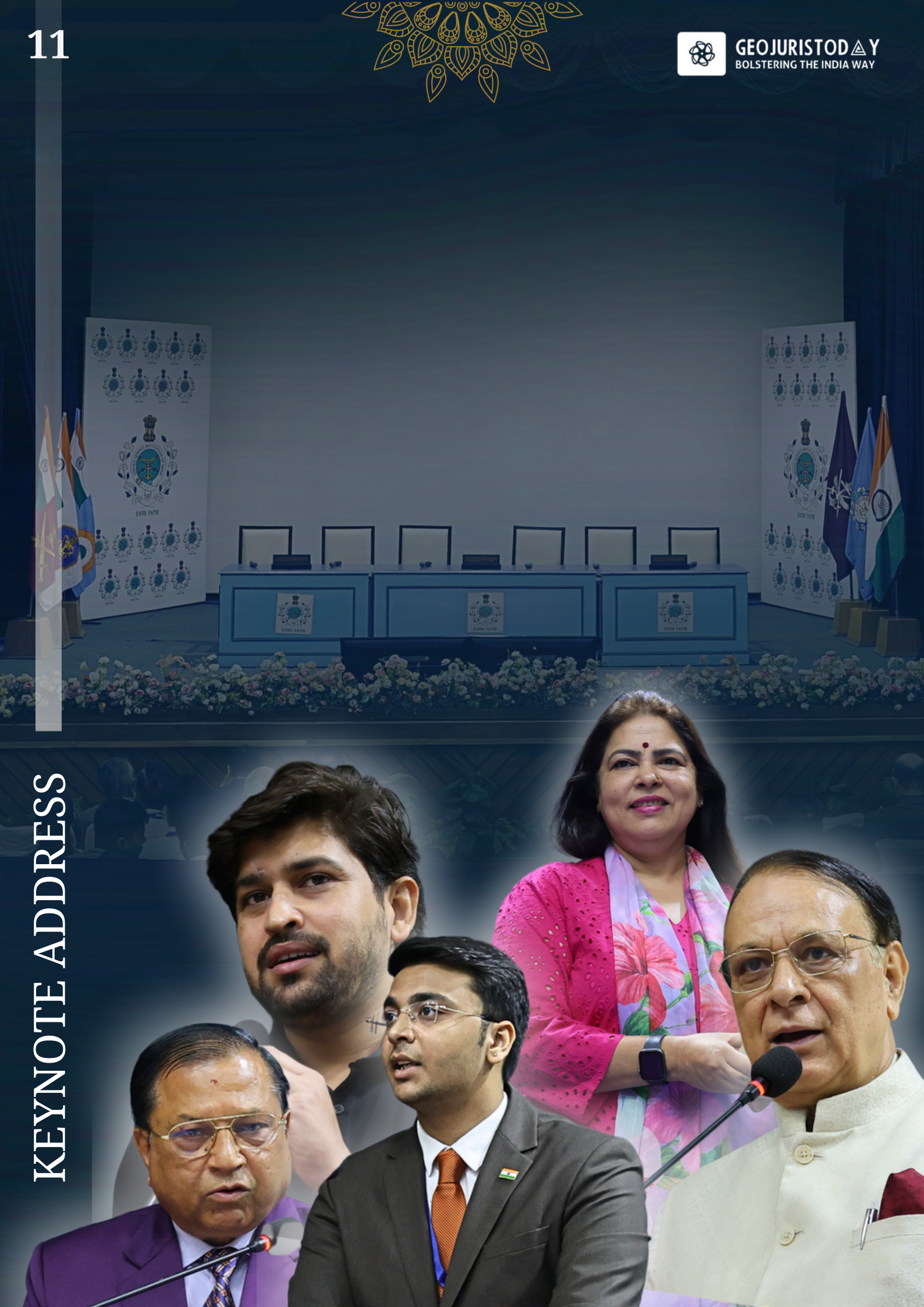
Indeed, in a policy ecosystem that often separates defence from diplomacy, and tradition from technology, Rakshamanthan offered an integrated perspective, fusing strategy with sanskriti, policy with purpose, and power with principle.

- ***A Beginning, not a Culmination***

Rakshamanthan 2025 was never intended to be an episodic affair. It was and remains a strategic invocation, a declaration of intention from a civilization that is ready not just to participate in the global order, but to shape it.



KEYNOTE ADDRESS



FOUNDER'S ADDRESS



-Rudraksh Aneja

founder of The Geojuristoday

Let me start with a confession:

I wasn't born in Takshashila.

I didn't study under Chanakya.

And I haven't seen Krishna's diplomacy live.
But like millions of young Indians today, I inherited something more powerful India's civilizational memory. And it's telling us, loudly and clearly:

"Your time has come."

India is not just rising. India is remembering. We are remembering that long before the West debated morality in foreign policy, Long before the West talked of Jus In Bello, we had the Mahabharata where a warrior paused a war for the sake of righteousness.

Our Blood echoes with the pride of remembering that before the idea of sustainable living became fashionable, we worshipped rivers, trees, animals even the soil beneath our feet. We are remembering that Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam was not just a G20 slogan but more of an operating system. And guess what? We live in a time where Version 2.0 of the same has become necessary, updated with satellites, AI, and Sanskrit quotes that hit harder than a diplomatic demarche lest we all fall prey to the fires of our own Nuclear Weaponry.
To our esteemed readers from across the globe, allow me to say this with pride: India is not trying to be the next superpower. India is trying to be the first civilization-power of the modern era.

Now, to my fellow young Indians, I see you. I feel your restlessness. Your DMs are full of "Where are we headed?", "Is diplomacy just for suits?", and "Why should I care?"

To those who say India is complicated, I say:

Yes, we are. We have 122 major languages and yet one national soul. We invented zero and now we're aiming for net-zero. We debated the universe long before we had Twitter threads. And yes we don't cancel each other. We chant, debate, disagree and then sit down to share prasad.

Ladies & Gents

India doesn't want to lead the world with missiles. India wants to lead with mantras, models, and meaning. Whether it's our humanitarian aid, our digital public infrastructure, or our defence diplomacy India's civilizational ethos isn't just alive; it's activated. We are not a nation in search of relevance. We are a civilization rediscovering its rhythm with the energy of youth, the clarity of Dharma, and the strategy of Kautilya.

Let me close with this thought:

"In a world full of noise, let us be a manthan, a churning. Because only from a churning comes the nectarand yes, sometimes, the poison too. But we are India. We are the birthplace of the one who drank poison lest the world fall prey to its rot, we are Birthplace of Krishna's tenacity, the land of Buddha's dreams, the land of Mahavira's love and the land of Guru Gobind's Sword. We are the rope, we steady the mountain, and we never stop churning."

To the world, we say: don't just watch India. Engage with her. Learn from her. Debate with her. Build with her. Because this is not just India rising this is Bharat awakening.
And the world needs this awakening. Now more than ever.

Address by



Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi

Former Minister of State for External Affairs

At Rakshamanthan 2025, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi delivered a deeply anchored articulation of India's emerging strategic grammar, where civilizational confidence meets calibrated statecraft. Her address was not merely a presentation of policy themes; it was a coherent strategic doctrine, rooted in dharma, dignity, and democratic depth. With clarity, conviction, and characteristic candour, she situated India's global posture within a civilizational continuum, refusing to view statehood as a post-1947 phenomenon but as the latest chapter in an ancient tradition of balance, dialogue, and assertion.

Her vision was expansive yet exacting. Maritime interoperability, she noted, is not a tactical imperative, it is a philosophical one. In an age defined by contested oceans and transactional diplomacy, India's pursuit of free and open navigation is not just about safeguarding trade,it is about defending the principle of sovereign choice, unhindered movement, and shared prosperity. Maritime security, she emphasized, is inseparable from national security.

She stressed the importance of securing shipping lanes, particularly in the context of global chokepoints vulnerable to non-state actors. Citing the nexus between terrorism and supply chain disruption, evident in the recent Houthi-led attacks in the Red Sea, she underscored how India's military doctrine must evolve to meet the demands of complex interdependences. The interplay between military readiness and economic resilience is no longer theoretical; it is strategic fact.

India's expanding strategic footprint, particularly across the Indo-Pacific, is not adventurism,it is anchorage. Joint military actions, growing naval bases, and active military operations across the region reflect both deterrence and direction. India–Philippines cooperation was highlighted as a model of military diplomacy, forged through shared values, strategic trust, and regional alignment against expansionist threats. In contrast, she warned against debt-trap diplomacy that compromises sovereignty under the guise of assistance, naming no one, yet signalling clearly.

The doctrine she proposed is one of preparedness, militarily, diplomatically, and morally. From cyber warfare to climate change, she mapped the new battlefield, where the lines between kinetic conflict and cognitive warfare have blurred. Humanitarian operations, such as India's rapid deployment of medically equipped ships during disasters in Turkey and Thailand, were cited not as soft power anecdotes, but as manifestations of a civilizational ethic: strength used for service.

Equally compelling was her call for a redefined "Neighbourhood First" policy, where extended friendship is not limited to geographic proximity but expands through maritime, economic, and cultural corridors. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) was framed as a strategic artery, not merely for trade, but for trust.

Supply chain integrity emerged as a sovereign imperative. In an age where disruption is used as a tool of coercion, India must move from being a node in someone else's grid to becoming a guarantor of continuity. She proposed zero tolerance toward terrorism, not merely in rhetoric but in legal, strategic, and economic terms.

Diplomacy, in her vision, was not a ceremonial exercise but a strategic tool. Military diplomacy must rise alongside classical diplomacy, ensuring active engagements and sustained dialogues between nation-states. She advanced a powerful case for state-centre synergy, recognizing that strategic outcomes depend as much on federal coordination as on foreign collaboration.

Finally, her call was civilizational, not nostalgic, but normative. India must lead not with mimicry, but with meaning. Freedom of navigation must flow from a deeper commitment to freedom and prosperity. The shift from "foes to friends" demands not idealism, but strategic trust-building. Trust, she declared, must replace trust deficits. Power must be used not to colonize, but to civilize through consensus and conviction.

In a world increasingly defined by fragmentation, Smt. Lekhi's address was an invocation, a reminder that India's rise must be one of memory, responsibility, and strategic clarity. The churn is inevitable. What matters is whether the nation leads it or is led by it.

Address by



Shri Shakti Singh

In a conference defined by intellectual gravitas and strategic statecraft, *Shakti Singh's address stood out as a cultural surge but an invocation of youthful resolve rooted in civilizational pride*. Speaking in fluent and impassioned Hindi, his message was not adorned with jargon, but armed with conviction, a reminder that India's future will not be shaped by policies alone, but by the awakening of its youth and the remembering of its roots.

With fiery cadence and unfiltered honesty, he opened his remarks with a piercing observation making all those before him realise that Until we attain freedom in our thinking, no other form of freedom holds true meaning.

He called for the youth to be enlisted not only in economics or politics, but in narrative warfare, cultural assertion, and strategic innovations creators of new paradigms, not just as participants in old ones. His was not a lamentation of what is lacking, but a rallying cry for what is possible.

He boldly questioned the psychological dependence on external validation. One ought to think, When we need foreign literature to understand our own civilization, the problem is not of knowledge it is of self-worth. It was a direct challenge to intellectual colonization, and a call for the *decolonization of the Indian mind.*

In one of the most arresting moments of his speech, He roared that India will not be awakened by others. It will be awakened by its youth. But first, we must awaken the India within ourselves.

Unlike many youth leaders who mimic establishment tones, Shakti Singh's voice carried the weight of lived reality not shaped by privilege, but by inner clarity and cultural immersion. He did not ask for space, he claimed it, with dignity, articulation, and fire.

Shakti Singh's presence at Rakshamanthan reminded everyone present that India's rising voice will not be delivered in diplomatic pressers alone it will rise from *debating halls, dharma memory, and youth whose minds are free and whose hearts are anchored.*

Address by



Dr. Adish C. ggarwala

President of the International Council of Jurists

Dr. Adish C. Aggarwala brought to Rakshamanthan 2025 the voice of institutional memory and jurisprudential depth. As one of India's most distinguished legal minds, his intervention transcended conventional legal analysis it was a call for strategic clarity rooted in constitutional morality and civilizational selfhood.

With clarity and precision, Dr. Aggarwala reminded the audience that no nation can chart its strategic future by borrowing another's compass. This assertion struck at the heart of India's foreign and defence policy discourse, arguing that true sovereignty lies not only in arms or alliances, but in a nation's ability to think independently, historically, and ethically.

Cautioning against over-reliance on imported strategic paradigms, warning that "strategic autonomy is not achieved merely through capability it is achieved through clarity. That clarity, he emphasized, must be reflected in our institutions, doctrines, and legal systems requiring not only structural reform but also ideational coherence.

Cautioning against over-reliance on imported strategic paradigms, warning that "strategic autonomy is not achieved merely through capability it is achieved through clarity. That clarity, he emphasized, must be reflected in our institutions, doctrines, and legal systems requiring not only structural reform but also ideational coherence.

Perhaps the most compelling segment of his address came when he reframed the very definition of national security:

"Security today cannot be measured only in missiles and manpower it must be understood in bandwidth, in data sovereignty, in civil cohesion, and in public trust."

This expansive view reflected not just legal brilliance but strategic dharma an understanding that sovereignty must now be protected across cyberspace, courts, and cultural consciousness.

He concluded with a profound reflection that encapsulated the Rakshamanthan spirit:

"The world may not be interested in India's history, but it will soon be affected by the choices we make anchored in it."

Dr. Aggarwala's contribution was not simply a keynote it was a constitutional invocation. His words reminded the gathering that India's global role must be shaped not just by power metrics, but by civilizational responsibility, strategic foresight, and legal fidelity.

Address by



Major General B.K. Sharma AVSM, SM (Retd)

Director General, The USI

With the commanding presence of a seasoned military thinker and the analytical depth of a strategic scholar, Lt. Gen. B.K. Sharma (Retd.), Director General of the USI, delivered a comprehensive and clear-eyed assessment of India's national security imperatives at Rakshamanthan 2025. His intervention reflected not only battlefield experience but a rare intellectual clarity rooted in doctrine, shaped by geopolitics, and tempered by realpolitik.

Opening his remarks with a sober invocation of India's two-and-a-half front threat scenario, Gen. Sharma wasted no time in establishing the stakes The eloquence of his words made the room realise that we are no longer in an era of predictable conflicts. Instead, India faces threats that are kinetic, cognitive, economic, and informational.

This multiform paradigm was unpacked not just in military terms but in terms of strategic friction with threats emanating from state actors, proxies, grey zone warfare, and technological encroachments. His formulation of "multi-domain convergence" was especially instructive, urging Indian strategic planners to think beyond the binaries of war and peace, and prepare instead for constant competition across domains.

Gen. Sharma's remarks took on greater depth as he addressed the urgent need for jointness and integration within India's defence architecture. With clinical precision, he made the audience understand that the time has come to move beyond rhetoric on theatre commands and institutionalize synergy doctrinally, structurally, and operationally.

This was not merely a critique it was a strategic imperative. He pointed to the pace at which adversaries are evolving their warfighting capabilities, warning that India could not afford institutional inertia in the face of doctrinal asymmetry. India must define its role not only as a balancing power, but as a stabilizing force in an increasingly unpredictable region."

A particularly striking moment came when Gen. Sharma reflected on the narrative dimension of national security, The message was clear, If you do not tell your story, someone else will. And their version may not end well for you.

This discourse echoed the central premise of Rakshamanthan itself that civilizational security is not merely about territory, but about narratives, memory, and intellectual sovereignty. His call for India to invest in information dominance, cyber deterrence, and cognitive infrastructure was urgent, timely, and unflinching.
In many ways, his intervention represented the essence of Rakshamanthan: the convergence of security and statesmanship, of military clarity and civilizational consciousness."

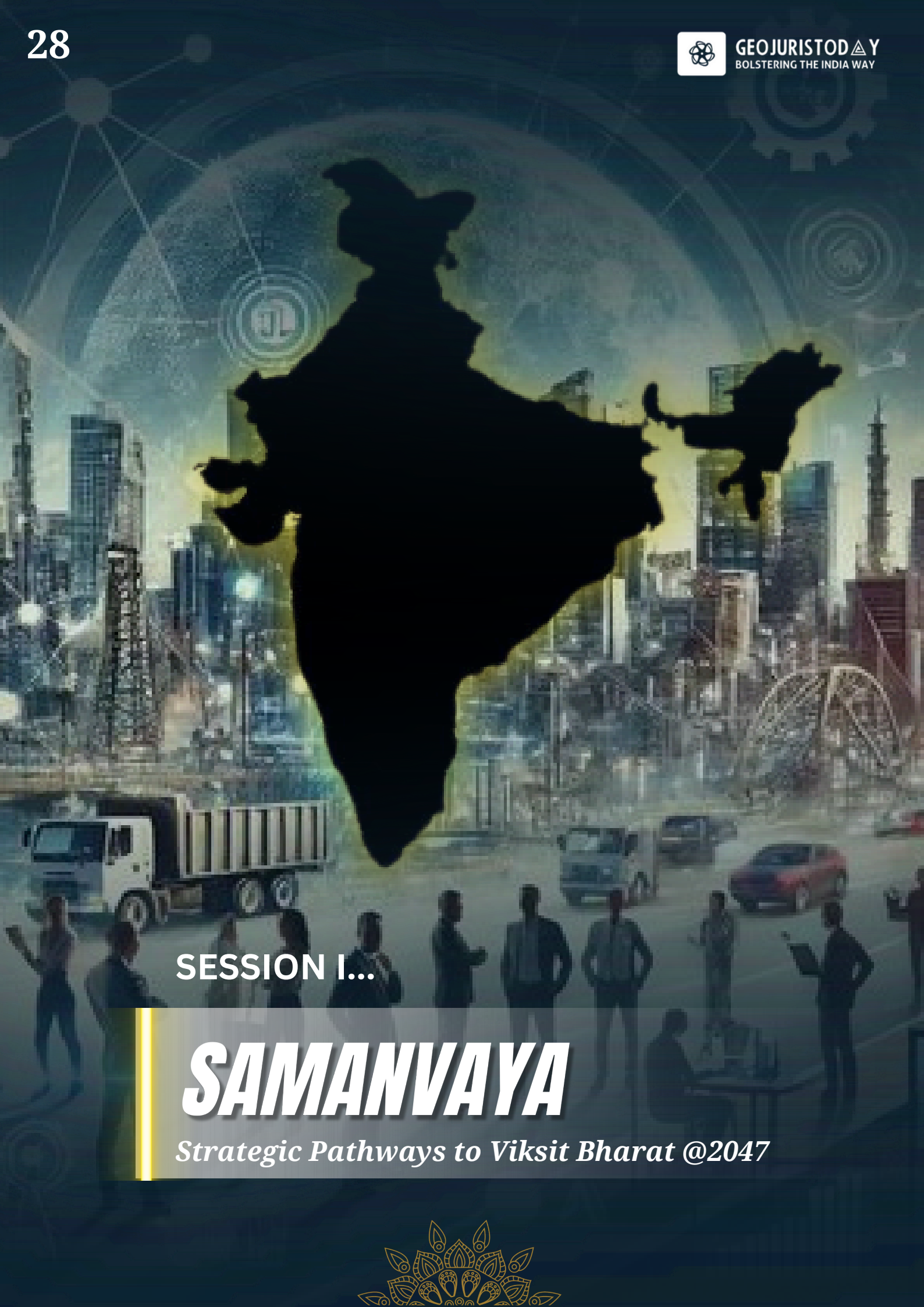
Our Sessions











SESSION I...

SAMANVAYA

Strategic Pathways to Viksit Bharat @2047

The inaugural Samanvaya Session of RakshaManthan 2025 commenced with an incisive exploration of India's strategic aspirations under the unifying theme— "Strategic Pathways to Viksit Bharat @2047." But more than just a backdrop, the very concept of "Samanvaya" was at the heart of the discourse. A Sanskrit word meaning coordination, synergy, and harmonious integration, Samanvaya embodies the spirit of collaborative nation-building. It is a call for co-creation rather than competition between the pillars of governance—civil administration, defence establishments, diplomacy, political leadership, and the citizenry.

As India aspires to become a fully developed nation by 2047, marking a century of its independence, the session explored how this ambition must be underpinned by inter-institutional alignment and whole-of-nation thinking. Samanvaya was not viewed as an abstract idea, but as a living principle that must animate policy, security, and society. It implies coherence between policy formulation and ground implementation, between national vision and regional realities, and between traditional wisdom and modern innovation.

The panel, composed of seasoned practitioners from various fields, delved into how true national development cannot happen in silos. Rather, it demands a synchronized approach where every stakeholder operates not in isolation, but in concert—much like the coordinated notes of a symphony. Through this lens, Samanvaya emerged not just as the theme of the session, but as a guiding philosophy for India's onward journey.



Esteemed Panelists

- **Major General BK Sharma (Retd)**: Director General, United Service Institution of India
- ***Mr. Jitesh Khosla***: *Former Chief Secretary, Assam*
- ***Major General Praveen Kumar (Retd)***: *AVSM, VSM, SM, Defence Expert*
- ***Mr. Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar***: *Former Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir*
- ***Ambassador Amarendra Khatua***: *Former Secretary, MEA*
- ***Mr. Sumeet Bhasin***: *Director, Public Policy Research Centre*



Major General B.K. Sharma (Retd)*, s**erving as the moderator, opened the session by framing Samanvaya not just as a theme, but as a strategic necessity for India's journey toward Viksit Bharat @2047. With his extensive defence and policy experience, he emphasized that the challenges facing India today—be it national security, governance, economic equity, or global diplomacy—are deeply interconnected and cannot be addressed in silos. ***"We are transitioning from compartmentalized planning to comprehensive national power," he observed, advocating for a shift from vertical institutional hierarchies to horizontal coordination across sectors. He further highlighted the role of civil-military fusion in strategic planning and called for institutional mechanisms that align defence, development, and diplomacy in real-time. His reflections resonated with clarity and urgency, particularly as he invoked the idea that national security now also includes economic resilience, social cohesion, and technological autonomy. ***"The future will be shaped not just by firepower, but by foresight and fusion,"*** he said. His moderating presence anchored the session with scholarly depth, sharp transitions, and a strategic foresight that encouraged panelists to reflect beyond conventional frameworks.

The first panelist to speak was ***Mr. Jitesh Khosla***, former Chief Secretary of Assam, who brought in valuable administrative and governance insights from one of India's most complex and dynamic regions. Khosla emphasized that bureaucratic reforms and good governance would be the cornerstone of India's march toward Viksit Bharat. ***"Development is not only about GDP numbers," he noted, "but about the efficiency with which institutions function and respond to citizens."*** Drawing upon his experience, he argued that achieving the 2047 vision would require embedding transparency, accountability, and technology into every layer of governance. ***"Without efficient and responsive governance,"*** he warned, "the idea of a developed India will remain aspirational, not operational."

Adding a strategic military dimension to the discourse, ***Major General Praveen Kumar (Retd)*** provided a decisive military perspective, emphasizing that a secure India is a prerequisite for a developed India. He called for urgent reforms in defence preparedness, indigenous technological capacity, and joint operational doctrines. ***"We are not preparing for yesterday's wars,"*** he stated, "we must anticipate and prepare for tomorrow's threats—be it in cyberspace, outer space, or in the realm of AI." He argued for a seamless integration of the armed forces with the scientific and industrial ecosystem, suggesting that India must institutionalize defence diplomacy and technological alliances as part of its global strategy. Drawing attention to vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure and data security, he warned that development without security is a fragile construct. Citing successful models of civil-military coordination from global powers, he advocated for deeper collaboration between policymakers and military strategists. ***"National security is not an isolated ministry—it is a mindset that must permeate all sectors,"*** he concluded. His perspective reinforced the idea that strategic foresight and technological innovation must form the defensive backbone of India's developmental aspirations, making national security not just an outcome but a strategic enabler.

Mr. Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, former Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, offered compelling insights into the link between internal stability and developmental justice. Drawing from his direct administrative role in a conflict-sensitive region, he emphasized that security and development are two sides of the same coin, especially in regions with histories of mistrust and marginalization. ***"People need to feel heard, not just governed,"*** he remarked. Bhatnagar elaborated on how enhanced infrastructure, transparent governance, and youth engagement in Jammu & Kashmir have gradually begun transforming alienation into aspiration. He stressed that development in such areas should not be transactional but transformational, led by sustained trust-building and empathy.

"There can be no Viksit Bharat unless every region feels part of its narrative," he said, calling for inclusive national strategies that prioritize education, skill development, and employment as instruments of peace. His on-ground experience lent credibility to the broader argument that integrated policy execution, informed by local contexts, is critical to building resilient and peaceful societies. Bhatnagar's remarks aligned perfectly with the session's theme, reminding the audience that true Samanvaya is about bridging not just institutions, but also hearts and histories.

Bringing in the diplomatic and international relations perspective, ***Ambassador Amarendra Khatua***, a seasoned Indian Foreign Service officer, underlined the importance of India's global positioning and strategic partnerships in achieving Viksit Bharat by 2047. He argued that as India rises, it must negotiate its place in an increasingly multipolar world through smart diplomacy, regional leadership, and cultural outreach. "***India's future is not only about what it builds within, but how it projects outside,***" he observed. Referring to India's growing voice in platforms like the G20, BRICS, and SCO, Ambassador Khatua stressed that the coming decades would test India's ability to convert moral capital into strategic capital. ***"We must not only be the Vishwaguru in ideas," he said, "but also the Vishwa Karta in execution."***

Mr. Sumeet Bhasin, a prominent political analyst and director of Public Policy Research Centre, was originally scheduled to provide a grassroots political and societal perspective to the session. However, due to unavoidable last-minute circumstances, he was unable to join. His absence was acknowledged by the moderator and the panel, recognizing the importance of political participation and narrative-building in national development.

The deliberations in the Samanvaya Session laid out a multi-dimensional roadmap toward achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. A clear consensus emerged on the imperative for integrated institutional cooperation, where civil administration, military leadership, and diplomatic apparatus collaborate not in parallel, but in convergence. Moving forward, the emphasis must be on translating strategic intent into operational effectiveness. This includes accelerating defence modernization with indigenous innovation, strengthening governance through data-driven and transparent frameworks, and investing in human capital—especially the youth—as central stakeholders in national progress. The session also underscored the importance of regional inclusion, particularly the integration of historically sensitive areas like Jammu & Kashmir, the Northeast, and tribal belts into the larger development discourse. On the global stage, India must craft a diplomacy that balances its ancient civilizational ethos with modern strategic agility, asserting its place as both a knowledge leader and an economic powerhouse. Finally, narrative-building and civic education must go hand-in-hand with policy execution to cultivate a well-informed, participatory citizenry. As the panelists collectively highlighted, the vision of a developed India can only be realized through "samanvaya"—coordination, commitment, and collective responsibility. It is not merely about building infrastructure, but about nurturing a nationhood rooted in harmony and resolve.

The Samanvaya Session of RakshaManthan 2025 was not merely a forum for discussion—it was a catalytic convergence of ideas, experience, and national will. Each speaker, in their own right, articulated a fragment of the greater whole that India aspires to become: a nation secures in its borders, efficient in its governance, inclusive in its development, and confident in its global identity. What emerged was a reaffirmation of India's immense potential—but also a reminder that these potential demands vision with vigilance, and progress with purpose. The pathway to Viksit Bharat is neither linear nor guaranteed—it requires deep reforms, cultural shifts, and a sustained alignment between the state, its institutions, and its citizens. But most importantly, it requires unwavering belief in the idea of India as a collective, harmonious civilizational project. The session closed not with complacency, but with conviction—a call for sustained action, meaningful dialogue, and national coordination. As echoed in the words of Major General BK Sharma, "We are not building a country for the next election—we are building a civilization for the next century." It is in that spirit that this session shall be remembered—not for its speeches, but for the vision it dared to set in motion.



SESSION II...

RAKSHA-VYUHA

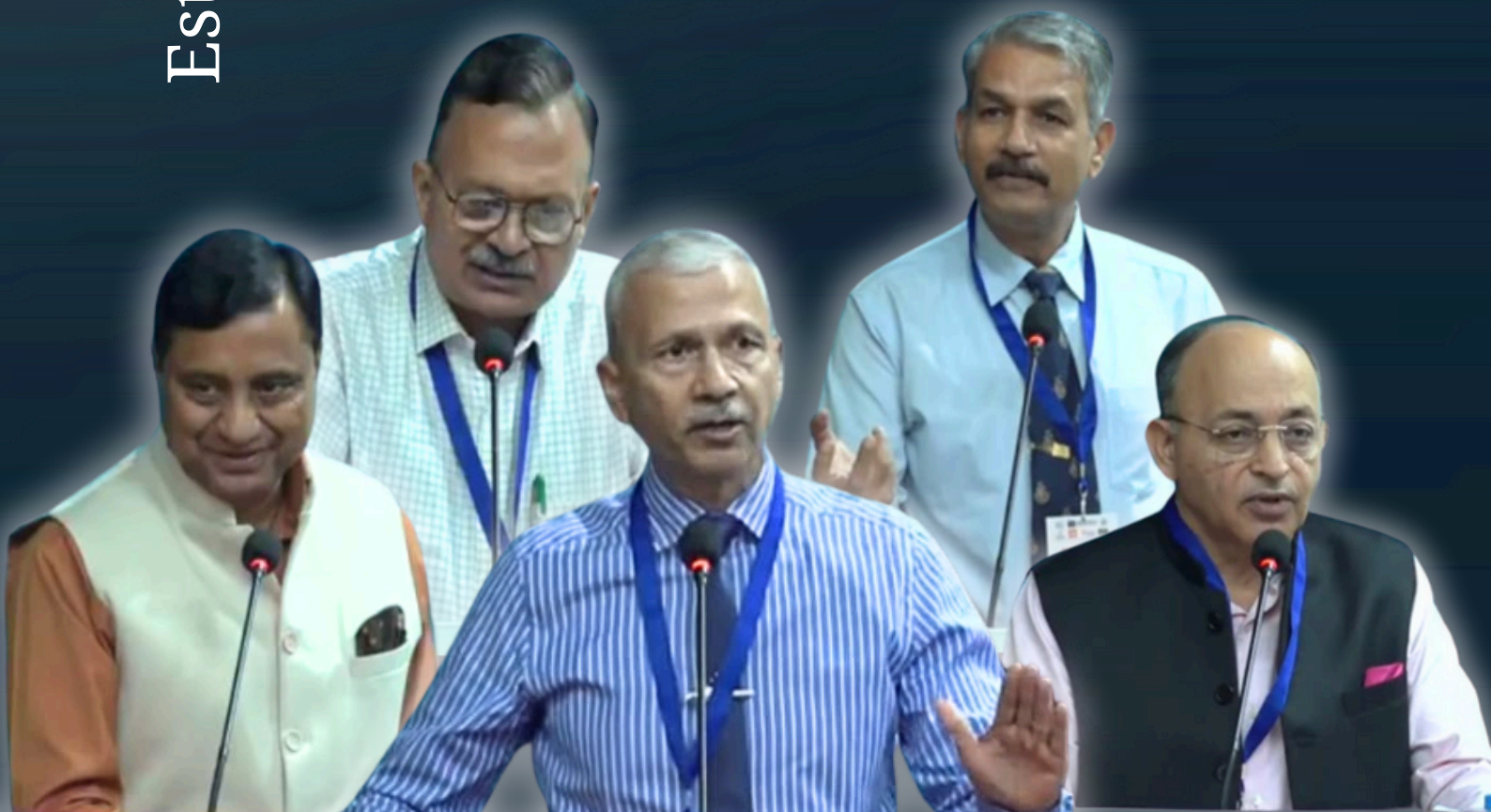
India's Offence Strategy and the need for Transformation and Modernisation

RAKSHA – VYUHA convened distinguished voices from the Indian Armed Forces to share invaluable insights into the nation's strategic defence preparedness, aligning it with the overarching vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047. The conversation was firmly anchored in the evolving landscape of modern warfare, underscoring the urgent need for technological innovation, integrated operational frameworks, and cross-sectoral collaboration. The panel delved into critical dimensions such as land warfare modernization, maritime security imperatives, efficient defence budgeting, the strengthening of indigenous defence manufacturing, and the expanding scope of international defence diplomacy. The session offered not only a realistic assessment of current challenges but also laid out actionable strategies aimed at securing India’s position as a resilient and self-reliant global power by 2047. The panel explored pressing concerns and actionable strategies spanning land warfare, maritime security, defence budgeting, indigenous capabilities, and international defence diplomacy.



Esteemed Panelists

- *Major General R.S. Yadav*– Our moderator for this session, sir is the Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies and Simulation at the United Service Institution (USI) of India. As a seasoned strategist, he has played a pivotal role in shaping defence policies and simulations.
- *Lieutenant General Kapil Agarwal (Retd.)*– A decorated officer and former Director General of the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME), Lt. Gen. Agarwal has also chaired the Army Pay Commission Cell, where he spearheaded critical reforms in defence personnel policies.
- *Lieutenant General D.P. Pandey (Retd.)*– Former General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Srinagar Corps and Commandant of the Army War College in Mhow, Maj. Gen. Pandey is a battle-hardened leader with deep operational experience in counter-insurgency and high-altitude warfare.
- *Major General Sanjay Meston (Retd.)*– As a former Military Attaché to Afghanistan, Maj. Gen. Meston brings a unique perspective on coalition warfare, regional security dynamics, and defence diplomacy.
- *Vice Admiral Anil Kumar Chawla (Retd.)*– A distinguished naval officer and former Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) of the Southern Naval Command, Vice Adm. Chawla has been instrumental in shaping India's maritime strategy.



Major General R.S. Yadav (Retd.)

Major Gen. Yadav opened the session with a powerful reminder that military power is central to India's rise as a global force. He underlined five critical focus areas for India's defence transformation:

- ***Transformation is a Necessity*** – As India moves towards its development goals, defence forces must transform to remain future-ready.

- ***Technology is Central on the Battlefield*** – The nature of warfare is shifting, and advanced technologies will decide outcomes.

- ***Striving for Atma Nirbhar Bharat*** – A self-reliant India must extend to defence manufacturing and strategic autonomy.

- ***Prudent Budgeting*** – Resources must be allocated smartly, ensuring value and efficiency in defence spending.

- ***Inclusion of Experts*** – Defence discussions should not be limited to diplomats and bureaucrats. Security experts, with their field experience, must play an active role in policy shaping.

He made a strong case for interdisciplinary collaboration, combining diplomacy and security expertise to make India's strategic posture more robust and realistic.

Lt. Gen. D.P. Pandey (Retd)

Lt. Gen. Pandey focused on how ***warfare is undergoing a deep transformation*** due to both technological and environmental changes.

- He described how ***flattening of information***—where data is accessible to many in real time—creates both power and vulnerability.
- Climate change and migration patterns, he noted, are becoming increasingly relevant in assessing security risks.

Three major doctrinal shifts were highlighted:

- ***Human Capital and Equipment*** – Modern combat is no longer about numbers but about the synergy between man and machine.
- ***"Nowhere to Hide" Warfare*** – In today's warfare, soldiers and equipment are constantly under surveillance, increasing exposure.
- ***Drone Warfare and Hybrid Systems*** – The future lies in AI, robotics, and advanced communication networks that allow both decentralised and centralised operations.

He emphasized the importance of:

- Investing in tech-savvy personnel
- Curating training programs suited for new-age war
- Improving the quality of recruitment to bring in individuals who can adapt to rapid tactical and technological shifts

His message was clear: conserve human resources, use technology wisely, and reshape training models to build a smarter, not just larger, force.

Lt. Gen. Kapil Agarwal

Lt.Gen. Agarwal spoke about the ***financial and industrial aspects of defence preparedness***, framing his arguments around the Union Budget 2025–2026.

- He asserted that ***India's defence budget needs a larger share of the GDP***, especially in light of emerging threats and global comparisons.
- He highlighted the ***Agnipath scheme***, viewing it as part of broader reforms but emphasized that such changes must be supported by structural strengthening in research and manufacturing.

Key points from his intervention:

- ***Revamping R&D Investment*** – Compared to countries like the U.S., China, and Israel, India spends far less on defence R&D. He stressed the need for home-grown innovation.
- ***Reducing Dependency on Foreign Tech Transfers*** – Over the years, India has focused on technology transfer agreements that often exclude critical components, limiting indigenous development.
- ***From Assembling to Manufacturing*** – India risks becoming an assembler of parts rather than a true defence manufacturer. A cultural shift towards designing, developing, and owning the entire tech cycle is required.
- ***Integrated Defence Industrial Corridors*** – Instead of fragmented growth, India should move toward an integrated model with indigenously developed weapon systems at the core.

Major General Sanjay Meston

Highlighted the ***triad of political leadership, economic strength, and military power*** as the foundation for a secure and developed India.

- Emphasized that ***global powers seek to cooperate with India*** in defence and strategic affairs
- Brought attention to the ***"Neighbourhood First" policy***, noting challenges with ***China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.***
- Strongly advocated for military diplomacy to become a cornerstone of India's foreign policy.
- Proposed the development of a dedicated ***West Asia policy***, recognizing the strategic importance of the Gulf and Middle East in India's defence and economic future.

Session 2 of RakshaManthan reflected a growing consensus: India's path to becoming a Viksit Bharat must be backed by strategic defence transformation. Military capability, economic policy, and diplomatic strategy must evolve together — not in isolation.

From modernizing warfare doctrines and enhancing R&D to strengthening maritime power and expanding military diplomacy, India must take bold, coordinated steps. The panel underscored the importance of self-reliance, regional leadership, and global strategic engagement.

As Major General Sanjay Meston aptly stated, the world wants to engage with India's defence sector — and India must be prepared not just to participate but to lead.

This session made it clear that the time for incremental change is over. A bold, visionary approach rooted in indigenous capability, regional diplomacy, and strategic foresight is essential if India is to secure its place as a developed and secure global power.



SESSION III...

CYBER DHARMACHAKRA

Navigating the Digital Battlefield of Modern Warfare

CYBER DHARMACHAKRA, a panel discussion focusing on the rising threat of Cyber Warfare with an agenda of "Navigating the Digital Battlefield of Modern Warfare" encompassed thoughts and perceptions of eminent personalities from the field. It included panellists of importance from the area belonging to institutions like NASSCOM, Centre for Human Security Studies to name a few. In today's digital world, Cyber warfare has emerged as a critical dimension of national security in the digital age. A 2023 World Economic Forum report indicates that over 80% of countries have experienced cyber incidents targeting critical infrastructure, underscoring the growing need for resilient cybersecurity frameworks. Modern cyberattacks extend beyond data breaches, often disrupting essential services, financial systems, and military operations. As digitalization accelerates, it is imperative for India to strengthen its cybersecurity infrastructure, invest in indigenous AI solutions, and develop robust mechanisms to counter disinformation. A proactive and adaptive approach is essential to safeguard national interests in an increasingly complex cyber domain. CYBER DHARMACHAKRA, thus, acted as a crucial forum to recalibrate India's strategic outlook in response to the evolving dynamics of the 21st-century global digital landscape.



Esteemed Panelists

- ***Brigadier Vivek Kumar***, Emerging Technology expert, is a senior officer and inspiring leader with profound experience in operational commands and strategic planning and security frameworks bringing in insights on hybrid threats and preparatory mechanisms
- ***Air Vice Marshal Dr. Devesh Vatsa*** Advisor, Data Security Council of India, NASSCOM, is a distinguished person with experience in operational commands and cyber polity, national air defence and policy advocacy.
- ***K.B Singh***, Digital peace builder and public policy visionary, a distinguished personality of the USI Cyber Peace, Cyber Centre of excellence, is one of the most prominent speakers on cyber ethics, digital rights and cyber security awareness, of India.
- ***Mr. Kanneganti Ramesh***, Director of the Centre for Human Security Studies, is a well-recognised leader with a commendable record expertise Human centric services and cyber governance and is reputed for his works based on impacts of cyber threats on individual rights.
- ***Mr. Nidhish Bhatnagar***, Chief Operating Officer, Rathon.AI is a pioneering entrepreneur and technologist with interests on developing cutting-edge AI technologies and defence innovations which can rapidly improvise digital warfare.



Brigadier Vivek Kumar

Brigadier Vivek Kumar acted as the moderator of the CYBER DHARMACHAKRA panel which highlighted the concern of growing cyber-attacks and the importance of combatting such warfare.

- ***Indian Standpoint of the 1991***

2 curtains were drawn- disintegration of the Russian Soviet union and star wars program that was fuelling the arms race. Launch of three things- Gulf war, proving how network centric warfare will be, birth of internet and the marketing of viruses.

- ***War is where the wealth is:***

War is a battle between those who seek unlimited power- fortune 500 companies, like Google, Microsoft, Meta in this instance which show where wealth is moving and where the war can positively move.

- ***Impact of movement:***

Doubling of speeds of micro-chip and expansion of storage capacities – boom of the cyber sector leading to the war being fought in that domain.

- ***Real threat: Machine power taking over brain power***

Impact on every industry which coneys that war isn't fought on the frontiers but at every corner of the economy.

- ***Role of cyber:***

Bringing the individual and the economy to the forefront of the frontier, resulting in the need for each of them to be defended.

War is now not fought only in the borders but at every corner of the society.

- ***Threat of the future:***

Humanity is now at the precipice of extinction with the two threats of engineered pandemics and unaligned AI. Annual threat assessment of US also says that AI and synthetic biology are going to be the threat of future.

Air Vice Marshal Dr. Devesh Vatsa

Dr. Devesh Vatsa made his take on "How the character of war is changing with emerging technologies-key aspects of principles governing the digital battlefield"

- ***Introduction to cyber attacks:***

Narrates how a polymorphing malware attacks the assets in the system and how modern AI tools create trust-based problems due to its deceptive outlook such as deepfake.

- ***What is digital battlefield?***

Use of digital technologies and warfare tactics in military operations and conflicts by leveraging computing and display technologies in enhancing awareness and extend military capabilities. Elements that make us strong could become factors of destruction.

- ***Importance of digitalisation in warfare:***

Interplay of humans, data and embedded intelligence in modern warfare is blurring making no distinction between physical and digital warfare

- ***Impacts of digital warfare:***

Any access to information by a digital adversary will result in lethal damages equivalent to those emerging from conventional warfare. Such rapidly changing character of war is a threat to the national security

- ***Means to win wars of the future***

New technologies like advanced computing, data analytics, artificial intelligence, autonomy robotics, directed energy and hypersonic and bio technology are the very technologies that might ensure our victory against tomorrow's digital war. It is crucial to take inspiration from neighbouring countries such as China and USA on how to make the best use of these technologies in warfare policies.

- ***Aspects of such modern technologies***

These advanced systems enhance the situational awareness of the battlefield, precision in communication coordination, improvement in abilities of cyber warfare, better intelligence gathering and advantage of automation engineerings. Simply, it's an effective way to condemn threat to human life by way of robotic science.

- ***Usage of these technologies: Guiding principles***

Primarily, understanding the terrain of the communication network, IOT censors and how they can be defeated. Secondly, learning cyber security basics and knowing about your own systems by installing zero-trust architecture, batch updates, designing resilient and secured systems and participating in counter-information warfare to fight against spread of disinformation and prevent cognitive attacks.

- ***Future of battlefield: the tomorrow problem***

Tomorrow's battlefield is a combination of improved censors, automation, AI, hypersonic and other advanced technologies which will produce more accurate, better connected and faster and longer ranges and more destructive weapons, primarily available to the most advanced militaries but some within reach of other actors.

- ***Results of such technologies***

The proliferation and usage of such technological systems over time will make assets vulnerable, heighten the risk of escalation and make combat potentially deadly

Mr. M. A. K. P. Singh

Mr. KP Singh shared his insights on “Cyber security of critical infrastructure and supply chain risk”

- ***Hackers:*** Sparce humanity The existing attacks by terrorist- an example of how inhumane they are, giving reference to the pager attack, a classic example of cyber supple chain attack
- ***Compromised components:*** A risky life Involvement of China in supply of compromised defence equipment with malware and potential damages it inflicts
- ***Tackling such unnecessary compromised actions:*** There's a method called Hardware trojan testing, yet India doesn’t have the capability to execute this. Option of buying from trusted sources, but no stability in this world of geo-politics. Safeguarding critical components to the maximum.
- ***Athmanirbartha- self sufficiency:*** No fear of attack when the country is self sufficient to produce all that it needs, since no trade equals no chance of invasion. Easy to monitor and reduce problems
- ***Resilience:*** the key to fighting back: any attack or blackout must not cripple the entire economy. Country be equipped with ample cyber security laws to combat and prosecute such invisible attacks. Make a list of considerations to be made before making any overseas purchase to ensure usability
- ***Compliance to certification:*** it is crucial to ensure anything we procure is safe and secure. Ensure compliance to the certification of 62443, which isn’t really performed in India. Propose new laws or amendment to the Information Technology Act and make provisions for government funding and testing facilities for a protected environment.
- ***Means to combat:*** ensure compliance to even the most basic laws- citing the Iran attack which happened due to a trivial non-compliance. Brainstorming with fresh minds for new perspectives. Make practical solutions unlike USA’s ban of imports from powerful counties. Take measured to mitigate risk and its impacts

Mr. Kanneganti Ramesh

Mr. Kanneganti Ramesh highlighted on “Dehumanising AI and Cyber preparedness”

- ***Inapplicability of the preamble of Indian Constitution in Cyber space*** Cyber space has 5 components – manufacturing space, political space, intellectual space, maritime space and new emerging technology space. Crucial to determine where India stands amongst these spaces.

- ***Need for humanisation:*** it is crucial to see how humans are treated amidst all the rapid development the world in experiencing.

- ***Challenge of India to obtain freedom:*** india’s fight for freedom from the vicious clutches of the Chinese- it is the second freedom struggle to be fought with, basing reliance on the venomous Chinese-orchestrated COVID -19 attack.

- ***India to lead the way:*** India’s mindset and its ethical, legal, sociological, historical and cultural values that are ingredients of its AI policy are key to helping it lead the battle against Chinese oppression

- ***Friends of foe in the battlefield:*** Importance on being self-reliant and self-sufficient, rather than being dependant on other countered since there are no permanent friends or foe in the geopolitical arena.

- ***Keys to victory:*** 4 step victory- plan, prepare, perspire and inspire to be equipped with the right attitude and resilience

Conclusion

The esteemed panel of speakers for CYBER DHARMACHAKRA established that cyber warfare has emerged as a formidable threat in the 21st century, reshaping the very nature of conflict and national security. No longer confined to data breaches, cyberattacks now disrupt critical infrastructure, financial systems, military operations, and even democratic institutions. The increasing frequency and sophistication of such attacks—as seen in global incidents like the ransomware attack and AI-driven operations—highlight the urgent need for nations to adapt quickly to the shifting dynamics of cyber threats.

For India, the stakes are particularly high. With rapid digitalisation and a growing reliance on digital platforms across governance, economy, and defense, the country faces heightened vulnerability. Moreover, the rise of narrative warfare and disinformation campaigns, especially during election cycles, threatens social cohesion and democratic integrity. These challenges underscore the importance of a multi-layered response that includes investing in cutting-edge cybersecurity infrastructure, fostering indigenous AI capabilities, strengthening legal and policy frameworks, and building public awareness to counter digital manipulation.

To remain secure and sovereign in the digital era, India must adopt a forward-looking approach—anticipating future threats, fostering innovation, and promoting international cooperation on cybersecurity norms. Only through such comprehensive efforts can the nation effectively safeguard its digital frontiers and ensure long-term resilience in an increasingly contested cyber domain.



SESSION IV...

ARTHAVYŪHA

The Impact of Political Shifts and De-globalization on Global Trade and Supply Chains

The potential return of Donald Trump to the U.S. presidency and rising deglobalization trends could significantly reshape global geopolitics and geo- economics. Trump's previous tenure was marked by protectionist policies, including substantial tariffs on imports from China, Mexico, Canada, and the European Union. These measures aimed to protect domestic industries but often led to heightened trade tensions and retaliatory actions. Reinstating such protectionist policies would likely disrupt international trade and supply chains, leading to higher consumer prices and inflation. Industries reliant on global supply chains, such as automotive and electronics, could face increased production costs and operational challenges. A shift towards de-globalization may prompt countries to reassess alliances and economic partnerships, potentially diminishing U.S. influence in global trade and forming new economic blocs. Reduced interdependence among nations might escalate geopolitical tensions, as economic ties that previously served as deterrents to conflict weaken. The economic consequences of renewed protectionist policies include global economic growth and stability, supply chain resilience, trade realignments, geopolitical stability, and domestic implications.



Esteemed Panelists

- ***Amb. K.P. Fabian***, Our moderator for this session, Amb. Fabian sir is a veteran diplomat with a distinguished career spanning decades. He has served as India's Ambassador to Qatar, Iran, Italy, and Madagascar, and is renowned for his expertise in multilateral diplomacy and crisis-management. His deep understanding of geopolitical dynamics will undoubtedly steer this discussion with wisdom and clarity.
- ***Dr. Sriparna Pathak***– An accomplished scholar, Dr. Pathak serves as the Associate Dean and a leading expert on China Studies. Her research focuses on China's foreign policy, Belt and Road Initiative, and its implications for global trade. Her analytical prowess will shed light on how political shifts in Asia are reshaping supply chains and economic alliances.
- ***Wing Commander Praful Bakshi (Retd)***– A decorated veteran and former spokesperson for India's Ministry of Defence, Wg. Cdr. Bakshi is a stalwart in warfare studies and strategic security. His expertise in defense economics and hybrid threats will provide a critical lens on how trade disruptions intersect with national security.
- ***Ambassador Gurjit Singh***– A developmental diplomat and acclaimed author, Amb. Singh has served as India's Ambassador to Ethiopia and the African Union. His work on South-South cooperation and trade infrastructure in Africa makes him a vital voice on the reconfiguration of global supply chains in a fragmented world.
- **Commodore R.S. Vasan (Retd)**– As the Director General of the Centre for China Studies and a former Indian Navy officer, Cmde. Vasan brings unparalleled expertise in maritime security and Indo-Pacific geopolitics. His insights will highlight the defense-economic nexus, particularly in contested trade routes.



Key Takeaways

Mr. Fabian emphasized that peace has been neglected. Trump's administration has resulted in a dramatic political upheaval, particularly in the White House, as well as worldwide consequences. The focus on globalization is that there has been no actual globalization, as we all know, which refers to the free movement of wealth, technology, and, most crucially, humanity. In other ways, it was regionalization rather than globalization, as seen in the European Union, where more than two-thirds of commerce occurs within the union. In terms of deglobalization, America is dissatisfied with the relocation of factories to other nations, particularly China, among others.

In 1972, Richard Nixon paid a visit to China, often known as ***Nikuson Shokku*** (Nixon Shock) in Japan. After this visit, ties between China and the United States improved. However, as early as 1949, Jawaharlal Nehru advised Harry Truman to engage in talks with China. However, it took years to materialize that advise, which was then executed by Nixon. China joined the WTO and became the largest beneficiary of the so-called globalization movement. According to President Donald Trump. China has taken away manufacturing from the United States. However, the real cause is that manufacturing or production costs in America have risen dramatically in comparison to other countries where they have remained relatively cheap. Commenting on supply chains, Mr. Fabian gave an example of how US tariffs affect basic cross-border commerce, resulting in unnecessarily high costs.

He used the example of importing an automobile component. For example, a carbonator transported into the United States from Canada or Mexico would traverse the border at least ten to twelve times. As a result of Mr Trump's 20% taxes on cross-border goods, the costs of crossing the border may be calculated each time. This is an exorbitant price to pay for such trading practices. However, before this is realized and a course adjustment occurs, the effects will be obvious after causing major damage, as Mr. Fabian recalled the legendary character Mark Antony from Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar as stating, "Evil that men do, outlives them; the good is often interred with their bones."

Commodore R.S. Vasan (Retd)

Mr. Vasan discussed the Bharat Nexus, a new global trading system, and its potential to strengthen the economy through industries, space, and the unexplored depths of the ocean. He proposed cooperation with ISRO, orbital manufacturing units, semiconductor companies, and quantum materials to establish a space-based economy. He also suggested focusing on ocean sciences for short or long-term efforts, such as those undertaken by organizations like NIOT and others seeking to harness the seas as part of blue economy initiatives.

He also discussed ***quantum trade diplomacy*** and quantum encrypted financial systems to address legacy concerns with digital rupee statements. He also discussed India's potential to become a worldwide AI employment hub, improving available robots and other tech innovations while working on "make in India."

India's economy is now the fifth largest in the world, but there is still a significant discrepancy between India and China, with a $5 trillion GDP compared to China's $20 trillion economy. To overcome this divide, Vasan proposed complying with SDG 14, which is to meet the objectives of the blue economy, and using the seas rather than exploiting them. To solve the lack of space or land, India must develop floating industrial zones, focus more on offshore manufacturing processes, and harness the seas for fisheries to meet future protein and deep sea mineral demands. He underlined the ***need for self-sufficiency in active pharmaceutical ingredients*** and the application of AI to accelerate the medical supply chain. Investment and policy frameworks, PPP models, strategic partnerships with Japan and the UAE, and other areas of interest can be pursued to enhance India's economy. He also emphasized the ***reform of IMF regulations***, which are the reason governments choose BRI investment due to strict IMF standards. As Vasan concluded his talk, India must rigorously concentrate on tech-driven policies with a set time range, aligning policy and tech management with AI, initiating orbital and underwater pilot projects, increasing research and development commitment, making it mandatory for public and private institutions, developing SWIFT alternatives, hyper loop, feasibility studies, and maximizing alliances like QUAD's CMP for partners.

Mr. Gurjit Singh continued by answering the session's primary discussion points and giving us in-depth analysis of those issues and subjects that are extremely significant in light of the current situation and changes in the world order. He started by pointing out that we may be on the verge of a recession as he talked about the economic ramifications of these supply chain and political changes as well as the potential effects of protectionist policies on global economic growth and stability. The global projected rate for this year is 2.3%, which is below the 2.5% threshold that is typically considered a recession. Therefore, recessionary trends in all of our trade partners must be taken into account in all of our present strategies.

He continued by talking about supply chain resilience and the tactics that businesses may use to lessen the effects of higher tariffs on global supply networks. He claimed that India must not yearn for protection and instead become more industrially competitive. We must prioritize research and development and develop key technologies because we cannot be a member of a robust supply chain without our own research and development. Resilient supply chains require trust, which must be built on the availability of labor, raw resources, and smaller but accessible markets. ***"Don't ignore Africa and Latin America in the search for the USA, as was already done by Columbus,"*** he remarked.

He went on to talk about what trade alignments exist, which nations are most likely to create new trade alliances in reaction to US protectionism, and how this would change the structure of international trade networks. He said that new alliances do exist, but they are complex. He continued by saying that Chinese Premier Xi Jinping was visited Malaysia, Vietnam, and Cambodia just a day before yesterday. These nations cannot survive without the United States, even if they are all eyeing China. Few nations have not pursued the US market and are currently able to survive without it. The question of whether or not this reliance can be altered remains a crucial one.

"The United States is using tariffs as a medium," Mr. Gurjit Singh said. They have no intention of pursuing it. As part of a new wave of technical colonialism, they want to dominate our telecommunications industry, agricultural output, public sector, infrastructure development, and other items of importance to them by forcing open our markets.

Concerning the issue of ***geopolitical stability*** and the possibility that a reduction in economic interdependence among nations might result in a rise in geopolitical conflict, he said that the United States is the largest belligerent and is now seeking to hibernate. The Chinese see this as an opportunity and wish to assert their strategic dominance in order to become more noticeable in places where we did not want them to be. Europe's defense resources and capabilities are growing. It is unclear if it still desires peace and how it will create a military- industrial complex in the absence of conflicts. The dilemma facing Europe is this.

These phenomena' effects include the ***SDGs' disarray, the promise of climate financing, and the advantages of globalization that the west once promised us are no longer coming our way***. Since we cannot afford to de-globalize due to significant investments in globalization, we must strive for collaboration. Following Mr. Gurjit Singh's speech, our esteemed moderator, Mr. Fabian, finished by quoting Shakespeare and stating that ***"brevity is the soul of wit."***

Mr. Bakshi began his talk by highlighting the deficiencies that made it clear that an Atmanirbhar Bharat was required. ***"After 75 years of independence, we realized the need because we are not Atmanirbhar,"*** he said. We disregarded our country's interests and failed to create a motto that encapsulated the present course of our development objectives, which is Viksit Bharat 2047. He stated that our country is being impacted by changing problems in the geopolitical shift and security landscape. What are our interests with regard to Viksit Bharat, 2047? To comprehend, we must choose an approach that emphasizes several aspects. What is urgently needed?

The economic factor, which encompasses India's industrial potential and other regional challenges like the 1962 China conflict, must be our first focus. Risks from unlawful cyber activities, threats from demographic shifts, threats from the maritime industry, threats from illegal migration, and threats to different economic and industrial sectors. The need of investigating these issues and acting quickly was underlined by him. However, no nation can endure regime isolation and must make deals with other nations for a variety of reasons. Whether we want to reglobalize or deglobalize, we must examine a mutually beneficial policy framework.

He highlights the significance of unionization, such as that of the European Union, which was founded to protect the interests of all of Europe. According to him, we require a comparable framework and India should endeavor to join its neighbors in a prosperous realm. ***Shinzo Abe***, the late prime minister of Japan, also advocated for India to lead the effort to establish what he called the ***Indo-Pacific Zone***, a region of prosperity. All nations in the Pacific Ocean and the IOR would be included since China's aggressive overtures will have a direct impact on them. ***Nehru*** had a similar concept for an ***Asian relations summit*** in 1947. It did not, however, lead to a successful conclusion. In 1947, the summit took place in New Delhi and lasted for a week.

Mr. Bakshi continued by highlighting how India's interests were disregarded in the early years after independence and the several wars that followed, both of which had a profound effect on India in a myriad of ways. While China concentrated on establishing itself holistically and subsequently expanding its rule in regional regions, no Indianization program or self-sufficiency was prioritized. Because of the rich commercial prospects in the area, it established its supremacy in both the oceans and the neighboring territories. These include 70% of Chinese commerce passing via the South China Sea and the Strait of Malacca, 60% of petroleum traffic, 70% of global trade, and 70% of energy exposure.

Mr. Bakshi then discussed how India has undergone a transformative shift, including a strong, diplomatic posture like that in the dispute in the Galwan Valley. The Philippines, Netherlands, and Germany have publicly approached India to participate into different trade-related and other accords, which further demonstrates India's increasing clout in the global order. It also makes sense to refrain from placing sanctions on Russia in contrast to the USA. In addition to bringing the Brahmos missile from India, the Philippines is now hoping to purchase the LCA. ***India is presently moving more quickly toward the Atmanirbharata.*** It has reduced imports while increasing defense output by 174%.

Important initiatives have been taken in the direction of indigenous production, such as the construction of defense industrial corridors in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Focus must be placed on how to go forward and work together to address any threats to the concept of coprosperity. The advantages of a collaborative business, encompassing tourism, communications, scientific programs, space, technology, and cyber security, were then emphasized by Mr. Bakshi. Even if it may appear idealistic at the moment, he put out the *notion of a hypothetical union of Pacific nations, which would perhaps be the biggest regional cooperation group in the history of the world system.* He continued by highlighting how many countries across the world have expressed interest in working with India as they have realized its ability. To conclude his address, Mr. Bakshi went on to court that ***"India would be a true superpower, not only industrially or militarily, but as a leader of vast humanity in the Indo-Pacific zone by 2047, facilitated by crucial, diplomatic and political strategies and efforts".***

Dr. Sriparna Pathak

Dr. Pathak started out by restating Mr. Fabian's assertion that there has never been real globalization. China's decades-long, nefarious trade policies—which include dumping, copyright violations, illiberal trade, tariffs, non-tariff barriers, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, denial of equal market access to Indian goods and services, and blocking vital exports to India —are also to blame, not just the current US tariffs. All of this ensured that there has never been any real globalization. To what extent has China actually cooperated with trade agreements with India? Would China continue to be the major supplier or the focal point of the supply chain in the upcoming years or near future, given the historical period that IR is presently experiencing?

Among these benefits are ***infrastructure and scale***: It is challenging to completely replace China due to its 32% of global production, unparalleled capacity, supply chain ecosystems, and logistical networks. It has ***several specialized supply chains*** since it imports essential items like electronics components, which are difficult to source from elsewhere in the near future, and rare earth elements, which account for 80–90% of world supply. ***Cost Competitiveness***: China's existing industrial clusters and economies of scale even with added duties , keep costs low. ***Access to international markets:*** China's commerce with non-US markets, including ASEAN and the EU, is facilitated by initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative, which offer alternative export routes and mitigate the effects of tariffs.

What obstacles exist for China's position? Chinese goods to the US are now much more expensive due to high US tariffs of 145%. Historically, the majority of China's exports have been consumed by the US market. Businesses are now searching for alternatives as a result, particularly in the areas of equipment, electronics, and textiles. Tensions have increased as a result of China's 125% tariff on US imports and export restrictions on rare earth metals.

Supply chain diversification: To reduce tariff risks, multinational corporations are using China plus one techniques to move production to nations like Mexico, Vietnam, and India. Geopolitical pushback: By reducing reliance on China as a strategic thread, US policies encourage friendshoring and re-shoring, which reduces China's market share.

China's worldwide connectivity and depth of manufacturing will make it a vital supplier for years to come, but its market dominance in the US is waning. What leverage does India have in this situation? India is well-positioned to benefit from the US-China trade war and changes in global supply chains as tariffs reduce the competitiveness of Chinese exports. India must pay a 26% US duty, which is much less than China's 145% and Vietnam's 46%. In important industries, such as textiles, which account for 17% of US imports compared to China's 52%, it gives India a competitive advantage. Other items include medications and electronics that, because of tariff exemptions, are 20% less expensive than their Chinese counterparts in iPhones and smartphones. Along with Strategic alliances, India might negotiate advantageous conditions for this bilateral trade deal with the US, which aims to complete the First Trench by September or October 2025. ***A further benefit is India's alignment with US security and technological objectives.*** How may India take use of this? Reforming infrastructure and policies, making it easier to do business, streamlining compliance, and lowering non-tariff obstacles are all necessary. In order to compete with Vietnam and Malaysia, it is necessary to improve port and transportation facilities and implement custom procedures to draw of interestequalization programs for MSME in order to provide export financing to small businesses. Building capacity is necessary. We must make investments in labor, electronics production, textile clusters, and labor-intensive industries like toys and shoes.

Dr. Pathak asserts that in order to diversify export markets and lessen dependency on the US, free trade agreements with the EU and the UK are crucial. It is necessary to protect against Chinese dumping and to stop China from sending surplus goods to India, which would harm indigenous producers. ***India's potential as a strategic hedge for manufacturers shifting their focus away from China is seen with great confidence.***

Therefore, the session Arthavyuha led to this thought-provoking conversation on the profound impact of contemporary political shifts and the evolving nature of globalization on trade, economic structures, and strategic alliances. Set against the backdrop of a potential return of Donald Trump to the U.S. presidency, the discussion explored how renewed protectionist policies —such as heightened tariffs and trade barriers—might disrupt the current international economic order. The session highlighted that such developments could not only inflate consumer costs but also destabilize global supply chains, particularly in critical sectors like electronics, automotive manufacturing, and high-technology goods.

The panelists collectively underscored the far-reaching consequences of de-globalization trends, including the erosion of multilateral trade partnerships and a tilt toward economic self- reliance. These shifts, while addressing domestic political agendas, could undermine global economic stability and increase the risk of strategic misalignment and conflict. The conversation emphasized the need for adaptive policy frameworks that safeguard national interests without compromising on global engagement.

Together, the panel offered a multidimensional analysis of how India must navigate the challenges and opportunities presented by these global transformations. The session served as a timely and insightful forum, reinforcing the importance of strategic foresight, economic agility, and diplomatic engagement in an increasingly uncertain world.



SESSION V...

YUKTINĪTI

Mandala, Multipolarity, and the Global Family in India's Strategic Thought

YUKTINITI, the panel discussion centred around the agenda “Mandala, Multipolarity and the global family in India’s Strategic Thought” included voices and insights from various corners of the world of academia. It included panellists from organisations like Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), University of Delhi, United Service Institution of India (USI) to name a few. In a rapidly shifting global order where alliances are fluid and ideologies are blurred, India stands uniquely positioned, not as a passive observer but as a nation with moral vocabulary and strategic clarity to shape the emerging world. As global power becomes multipolar, the need to revisit frameworks like the Mandala theory and values like Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam becomes urgent. India’s ancient yet adaptable strategic lens offers a compelling alternative to Western paradigms, blending realism with ethical diplomacy. The discussion highlights that India is not a passive player



Esteemed Panelists

- ***Prof. Dr. Bharti Chibber,*** Professor of International Relations at the University of Delhi, , is a distinguished academic and thought leader who have significantly contributed to India's foreign policy narrative by integrating classical Indian philosophies with global governance structures.
- ***Ambassador Nutan Kapoor Mahawar,*** Additional Secretary at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), is a distinguished career diplomat known for her expertise in regional diplomacy and institutional multilateralism, skillfully balancing strategic assertion with diplomatic subtlety.
- ***Ambassador Sujan R. Chinoy***, Director General of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA)
- ***Major General P.K. Goswami*****,** Director of the United Nations Cell at USI, is a distinguished military leader with a decorated service record and extensive expertise in international peacekeeping and defence diplomacy, offering nuanced insights into India's role as a global peacebuilder through his experience in peacekeeping operations and multilateral frameworks
- ***Air Vice Marshal Rajiva Ranjan VM (Retd.),*** A decorated officer with a distinguished career in air operations and strategic planning, renowned for his expertise in defence diplomacy and aerospace strategy.
- ***Mr. Sumeer Bhasin***, A distinguished International Affairs Expert, offering profound insights into emerging geopolitical alignments, India's global footprint, and strategic communication, with specialized knowledge in global governance, South-South cooperation, and India's leadership role in multipolar forums.



Prof. Dr. Bharti Chibber

Prof. Dr. Bharti Chibber's remarks as the moderator of the YUKTINITI panel highlighted India's strategic ethos in a rapidly evolving world.

- I***ndian Strategic Thought Rooted in Yuktiniti:***

India's approach to strategy, or Yuktiniti, is deeply embedded in its civilizational heritage, offering timeless relevance in navigating today's complex global dynamics.

- E***volution of Warfare:***

The nature of conflict has shifted—from the Cold War to economic, environmental, IT, and cyber warfare—demanding adaptive yet principled responses rooted in Indian thought.

- N***ational Interest Redefined:***

India's rise is not about global dominance or power projection but about reclaiming its rightful place through shared progress and values.

- V***asudhaiva Kutumbakam as Strategic Core:***

India's philosophy of "the World is One Family" forms the moral backbone of its foreign and security policy, emphasizing collaboration over competition.

- A ***Non-Threatening Rise:***

Referencing PM Modi's Independence Day speech, India's ascent should not instill fear—it is peaceful, cooperative, and culturally non-imperialistic.

- R***egional Dimensions & Localisation:***

Emphasizing the importance of regional ties, localised diplomacy, and cultural proximity in shaping strategic partnerships.

- I***ndia's Role in Peacekeeping:***

A continued commitment to global peace and stability, with India playing a key role in UN peacekeeping and conflict resolution efforts.

Ambassador Nutan Kapoor Mahawar

Amb. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar's address on "The Yukti of Multipolarity" during the YUKTINITI panel.

- M***ultiplicity of Conflicts & Divisions:***

The world today is witnessing widespread conflict, deep polarization, ideological confrontations, radicalism, and fractured social fabrics.

- G***eopolitical Recession & Divide:***

Analysts foresee a looming geopolitical recession, marked by a widening chasm between major global powers.

- M***ultipolarity as Strategic Yukti:***

India must harness the Yukti—the strategic wisdom—of multipolarity to shape a people-centric, stable, and peaceful world order.

- F***oundations of a New World Order:***

A just international system must be built on peace, sovereign equality, cooperation, interdependence, mutual respect, and diplomacy—not dominance.

- R***ise of Multipolarity Post-2008:***

The 2008 financial crisis accelerated the move toward multipolarity, showing the limitations of unipolar models.

- M***ultipolarity = Collective Strength:***

It promotes distributed power, long-term stability, and maximizes options for weaker nations by avoiding binary power blocs.

- P***luralism, Diversity & Soft Power:*** Multipolarity upholds diversity, blends interdependence, and values morality, duty, and care for the vulnerable.

- V***asudhaiva Kutumbakam as a Pole of Principles:***

India should stand as a moral pole—attracting others through values and soft power, not through material dominance.

- H***istorical Context of Multipolarity:***

India has historically experienced multipolarity (e.g., 6th century BCE with the 16 Mahajanapadas, Mauryan era), showcasing coexistence of monarchies and republics.

- C***ontrast with Global History:***

The world has largely known power struggles and subjugation; true multipolarity has never fully existed globally.

* ***India's Role Going Forward:***

As India rises, it must actively contribute to shaping a multipolar world through diplomacy, defense, and strategic yuktis.

- P***urpose of Strategy:***

All strategies must ultimately serve the betterment of humanity—ensuring dignity, stability, and improved living for all.

Ambassador Sujan Chinoy

Ambassador Sujan Chinoy's insightful remarks focused on India's place in a shifting global order.

- G***lobal Order is Rigid Yet Dysfunctional:*** The current global order, established post-WWII, remains in place but is increasingly ineffective—fractured by polarization, rigidity, and outdated power structures.
- U***NSC Reform: A Missed Opportunity:*** Minimal reforms since 1965 (expanding non-permanent seats from 11 to 15) highlight the International system's resistance to meaningful change.
- F***riction from Power Imbalance:*** There's a growing mismatch between the balance of power and the entrenched global order—causing geopolitical tension and instability.
- D***efining Multipolarity is Complex:*** The transition to a multipolar world is underway, but identifying clear poles is difficult—especially with internal EU challenges and evolving security alliances.
- I***ndia's Strategic Neutrality:*** India has skillfully maintained balanced relations with major powers and emerging poles, while staying neutral in conflicts that do not directly affect it (e.g., Russia-Ukraine).
- P***ro Bono Diplomacy:*** India's G20 presidency and initiatives like SAGAR & MAHASAGAR reflect an inclusive, value-driven approach—focusing on global good over power politics.
- W***eaponization of Global Vectors:*** Globalization's pillars—technology, trade, finance—are increasingly being weaponized, challenging the cooperative spirit of interdependence.
- I***ndigenous Strategic Thought as Compass:*** India must draw from its own traditions, including the Mandala system, Vedantic philosophy, and Sarvodaya, to guide its foreign policy in modern times.
- V***edantic Core of Human Values:*** A symbiotic International system can be built on shared human values and the concept of Atman, where cooperation doesn't compromise sovereignty.
- S***elf-Reliance & Sovereignty:*** Concepts like Swarajya and Atmanirbhar Bharat remain crucial for India's global engagement, balancing autonomy with interconnectedness.
- R***ole of Regional Platforms:*** India should further strengthen institutions like BIMSTEC to foster regional collaboration rooted in mutual respect and strategic depth.

Major General P.K. Goswami

Maj. Gen. P.K. Goswami's remarks highlighted India's enduring role in global peace and security through UN peacekeeping.

- U***N's Diminishing Influence:***

The UN, once central to global peace and security, has seen its authority decline over the last decade—yet remains the only viable global institution for conflict resolution.

- I***ndia's Strong Peacekeeping Legacy:***

India has contributed to over ***50 UN peacekeeping missions***, deploying ***over 2.9 lakh troops and police personnel***, showcasing long-standing commitment.

- P***eacekeeping as a Reflection of Indian Ethos:***

India's involvement is not transactional—it reflects deep civilizational values, rooted in prayers for ***peace, humanity***, and the belief that "the World is One Family."

- C***ultural Foundations of Peacebuilding:***

India's ***unity in diversity***, and its history as a ***pluralistic, tolerant, multi-ethnic society,*** strengthens its role as a natural peacebuilder on the global stage.

- C***ivilizational Diplomacy in Action:***

Participation in peacekeeping is an extension of India's cultural values, foreign policy, and civilizational identity—blending ***humanity with statecraft.***

- G***lobal Trust in Indian Troops:***

Indian peacekeepers are welcomed and respected globally due to their ***professionalism, leadership***, and ***deep commitment*** to peace and human dignity.

Air Vice Marshal Rajiva Ranjan VM (Retd)

Air Vice Marshal Rajiva Ranjan VM (Retd.)'s address focused on Atmanirbharta, technology, and India's rise through innovation and cooperation.

- S***hanti Through Shakti:*** True peace (Shanti) is secured through strength (Shakti), and strength is built through self-reliance (Atmanirbharata) in technology, industry, and science.
- T***echnology as a Strategic Asset:*** By developing ***General Purpose Technologies (GPTs)*** and enabling their diffusion across sectors, India can link technology with economic strength —leading to military and global power.
- T***echnology-Economy-Military Trishul:*** This trident—tech, economy, and defense—forms the basis for India's re-emergence and global respect.
- R***ise of India's Tech Leadership:*** India's resurgence is backed by innovation, diversity, inclusiveness, and the strategic fusion of industry, academia, and defense users.
- A***I and the Cognitive Domain:*** Dominance in ***AI and cognitive warfare*** is as critical as kinetic power. Multi-domain integration of sensors and data through AI will define future conflicts.
- I***ndia's Ethical AI Leadership:*** India's engagement in GPI, AISET, G20 AI for Public Good, and PM's vision of AI as a tool "writing the code for humanity" highlights Dharmic leadership in tech.
- I***ndia as a Tech Enabler for the World:*** Through open-source platforms and initiatives like ***UPI, Aadhaar, Digilocker,*** India is creating scalable ***digital public goods*** for the global South.
- C***ybersecurity and Collaboration:*** India's ***open-source approach, cyber resilience***, and ***secure digital projects*** contribute to a multipolar tech ecosystem based on trust, not coercion.
- M***anthan Period – Strategic Churning:*** India is in a transformative phase—a ***'Manthan'***—where innovation, liberalization, and cooperation converge to shape a powerful, inclusive future.

Key Takeaways

Mr. Sumeer Bhasin

Mr. Sumeer Bhasin's address highlighted India's soft power and civilizational engagement, particularly in the context of Afghanistan.

- Y***uktiniti and Soft Power:***

India's strategic thinking (Yuktiniti) is not limited to hard power—it extends deeply into soft power, rooted in empathy, civilizational wisdom, and long-term engagement.

- P***ost-9/11 Afghanistan Engagement:***

India's role in Afghanistan has been humanitarian, not transactional—focused on goodwill, stability, and capacity-building, rather than strategic gain.

- C***ivilizational Ties and Emotional Bonds:***

India's approach reflects a civilizational connection with Afghanistan, fostering emotional bonds based on shared history and cultural continuity.

- L***ong-Term Development Commitment:***

India has helped build Afghanistan's parliament, provided scholarships, and offered aid, reflecting values-driven diplomacy rather than short-term interests.

- S***oft Power in Action:***

India's influence is also cultural—Bollywood films and Indian serials are popular in Afghanistan, enhancing people-to-people ties and trust.

- S***trategic Access through Chabahar:***

India's Chabahar Port initiative is not just economic—it supports civilizational foreign policy by providing Afghanistan with trade access and connectivity.

- I***ndia as a Beacon of Rationality and Wisdom:***

Through its consistent and ethical engagement, India positions itself as a beacon of rationality, tolerance, and enduring civilizational wisdom on the global stage.

The YUKTINITI panel showcased India's multidimensional strategic vision rooted in its civilizational ethos, offering a compelling counter-narrative to power-centric global discourse. The insights from esteemed panelists illuminated how Yuktiniti—India's indigenous strategic thought—can guide the country in navigating today's complex geopolitical environment marked by conflict, polarization, and systemic dysfunction. Whether through multipolarity, peacekeeping, technological innovation, or soft power diplomacy, India is positioning itself not as a hegemon but as a moral and cooperative force in global affairs.

From Ambassador Mahaware's advocacy of a people-centric multipolar world, to Major General Goswami's emphasis on peacekeeping as civilizational service, to Air Vice Marshal Ranjan's vision of technological Atmanirbharata, each voice highlights India's commitment to ethical leadership. Ambassador Chinoy's call for indigenous value systems in policy, and Mr. Bhasin's example of Afghanistan further highlighted India's long-standing tradition of empathy-led diplomacy. At the core lies Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—the belief that the World is One Family—guiding India's rise as inclusive, principled, and cooperative.

In an age of shifting power dynamics, India's strategic trajectory is not just about global positioning but about offering the world an alternative rooted in harmony, duty, and dignity. YUKTINITI reinforces that India's rise will be shared, peaceful, and deeply human.

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RAKSHAMANTHAN 2025

Concluding Remarks

RakshaManthan 2025 brought together a wide range of voices—defence veterans, diplomats, economists, academics, technologists, and administrators—to think deeply and honestly about India's path to becoming a fully developed nation by 2047. What emerged was not just a collection of panel discussions, but a shared vision for the country's future—rooted in balance, cooperation, courage, and clarity.

At the heart of this event was the idea of Samanvaya—a Sanskrit word meaning coordination, synergy, and collective effort. The first session firmly laid this foundation, reminding us that progress cannot be achieved in isolation. India's journey to 2047 will require its institutions—civil, military, diplomatic, and developmental—to work together, not apart. The panelists called for a shift away from fragmented governance toward a more harmonized model of nation-building. This includes bridging gaps between urban and rural India, tradition and modernity, and policy and people.

The defence-focused session, Raksha-Vyuha, gave a clear picture of the challenges facing India's armed forces and national security systems. But more importantly, it offered practical ways forward. From modernizing equipment and doctrines to making military service more future-ready, the message was clear: India must be prepared for new kinds of conflict. At the same time, building up indigenous production and valuing the role of military diplomacy were seen as ways to strengthen both our self-reliance and international standing.

The Arthavyūha panel added an economic lens to the conversation. As the global order becomes more uncertain—with shifts in leadership, trade blocs, and economic alliances—India needs to protect its interests while staying open to new opportunities. The panelists explored how domestic growth and global trade must go hand-in-hand, especially in times of disruption. They spoke of the need for smarter investment in infrastructure, manufacturing, ocean-based industries, and fair international partnerships. Their reflections showed that development is not just about numbers but about building a strong and inclusive economy that can withstand external shocks.

Cyber Dharmachakra brought attention to a different battlefield—the digital world. While we often think of warfare as something fought with weapons and troops, today's threats also come through invisible networks that can damage economies, spread false

information, and threaten the safety of everyday life. The speakers urged that cybersecurity be treated not just as a technical matter but as a matter of national character and resilience. They reminded us that trust, awareness, and ethical judgment are just as important as any defence system.

The final session, Yuktiniti, looked beyond hard power to the values that must guide India's rise. Drawing on India's ancient traditions and its place in a fast-changing world, the speakers argued that India's global influence must be based not on dominance, but on balance, cooperation, and a sense of shared humanity. Concepts like Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—the world as one family—were not used as slogans, but as guiding principles for diplomacy, peacebuilding, and strategic engagement. The panel emphasized that India can and should offer a different model of leadership—one that listens more than it commands, builds more than it breaks, and includes rather than excludes.

Across all sessions, several core ideas stood out.

First, the importance of working together. Whether it's government departments, defence forces, businesses, or communities, coordination is no longer optional—it is essential. Second, the value of self-reliance—not as isolationism, but as the ability to stand on our own feet while welcoming others. Third, the need for inclusion. No vision of a developed India can be complete without bringing every region and every citizen into the story—especially those who have historically been left out. Fourth, the need for honesty in our ambitions. The path to 2047 is not a straight line. It will require difficult conversations, structural reforms, and a willingness to learn from past mistakes.

Above all, RakshaManthan reminded us that India's journey to becoming a developed nation is not just about policies or programs. It is about a shift in how we think and act—as citizens, as institutions, and as a people. It is about recognizing that the strength of a nation lies not only in its military or economy, but in its ability to care, to adapt, to cooperate, and to dream.

As the sessions drew to a close, what lingered was not only the memory of rich discussions but also a call to action. The panelists did not offer easy solutions. They offered something more valuable: conviction, clarity, and a sense of shared responsibility. They reminded us that 2047 is not just a date on a calendar. It is a destination we must work toward—together, patiently, and with purpose.

To quote from one of the closing remarks: "We are not building a country for the next election—we are building a civilization for the next century." In this spirit, RakshaManthan 2025 stands as a milestone—not because of the speeches made, but because of the direction it set. A direction rooted in harmony, driven by effort, and sustained by belief.

RAKSHAमन्थन

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Regards

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