

National Conference

The Decline of the Liberal World Order and Lessons For India



9-10 October, 2026



Maharashtra National Law University,
Nagpur



cirg@nlunagpur.ac.in



About the University

Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur is established by Maharashtra Government by way of enactment known as the Maharashtra National Law University Act (Maharashtra Act No. VI of 2014) and the University takes pride in being the Nineteenth National Law University in the country. The University is making rapid progress towards its dream of achieving excellence in the field of legal education. MNLU, Nagpur is located in centre of the country; it gives a unique position to be the centre for dissemination of the knowledge in all parts of the nation; currently the University is offering Undergraduate, Post-Graduate and Doctorial courses. MNLU, Nagpur is fully residential University and has all modern facilities for the advance studies and educational gatherings.



About ICWA

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) was established in 1943 by a group of eminent intellectuals led by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Dr. H. N. Kunzru. Its principal objective was to create an Indian perspective on international relations and act as a repository of knowledge and thinking on foreign policy issues. The Council conducts policy research through an in-house faculty as well as through external experts. It regularly organises an array of intellectual activities including conference, seminars, roundtable discussions, lectures and brings out a range of publications. The Council's national outreach is focused on creating awareness of and scholarship on issues pertaining to foreign policy and international relations

About the Conference

This national conference will critically examine the decline of the liberal world order and its implications for India and the Global South. Bringing together policymakers, legal experts, diplomats, and strategic analysts, the event will address interconnected challenges such as the weaponization of trade, multilateral institutional crises, regional flashpoints in the Indo-Pacific, and democratic backsliding in South Asia. Through ten thematic sessions, participants will analyze shifting alliances, de-dollarization, bilateral arrangements, and India's trade strategy amid rising protectionism. The discussions will connect international developments with India's national interests, exploring effective trade approaches, neighbourhood stability, and strategies for the Global South to assert agency in global governance reform.

Important Dates



Sub-Themes of the Conference

The Conference invites well-researched original papers amongst professionals, academicians, practitioners, research scholars, administrators, students, social activists, and the representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations for presentation

- **The Weaponization of Trade & International Law:** *Analysing sanctions, tariff wars, and the politicization of international dispute resolution.*
- **Crisis of Multilateralism and Decline of the Liberal World Order:** *The paralysis of the UN, the WTO, and the urgent need for institutional reform.*
- **Global Commons and Sovereign Liability:** *Securing maritime, cyber and aviation domains amidst shifting state responsibilities and cross-border tension.*
- **Regional Flashpoints & Shifting Alliances:** *The Architecture of the Indo-Pacific, focusing on security frameworks and the deterrence of unilateral aggression.*
- **The Expansion of Regional Blocs and De-dollarization:** *The rise of BRICS+, the SCO and the systemic shift away from Western financial hegemony.*
- **Rise in Bilateral Arrangements:** *The strategic pivot from unwieldy multilateral treaties to agile, issue-based bilateral and Mini lateral partnerships.*
- **India's Trade Strategy in an Era of Protectionism:** *Navigating supply chain resilience, Make in India and safeguarding cross-border commercial interests.*
- **Erosion of International Law and Norm-Based Order:** *The implications of ignoring the "Rule of Law" in global statecraft.*
- **Democratic Backsliding:** *Analysing neighbourhood instability, internal political crises, and their spill over effects on India's immediate security environment.*
- **Reassertion of Global South Agency in Global Governance:** *Institutionalising the gains of India's G20 leadership and forging a new, inclusive global policy framework*

A curated selection of papers presented at the conference will be published in a special edited volume

Submission Guidelines

- Papers shall be between **3,500 - 5,000 words** (excluding endnotes/cover page/table of contents/annexures (*if any*))
- The manuscript shall be relevant to the theme or sub-themes of the Conference.
- The manuscript must be original and unpublished work and must not be under simultaneous consideration for publication elsewhere.
- The manuscript should present a coherent argument, critical analysis, or examination of the issue identified as per the themes of the conference.
- Co-authorship is allowed. (**Maximum two authors**)
- The similarity index of the manuscript shall not exceed **12%** (excluding references, bibliography, and properly quoted material).
- AI tools may be used only in a limited, assistive capacity and should not be used to generate or rewrite any part of the manuscript
- The Organisers reserve the right to subject all submissions to plagiarism/AI screening and reject any paper that does not comply with the prescribed guidelines.

Formatting Guidelines

- The main body of the manuscript should be in Times New Roman, Font Size 12, alignment justified and in 1.5 line spacing.
- References must conform to the the **American Psychological Association, Seventh Edition (APA-7)** and Endnotes should be in Times New Roman, Font Size 10, alignment justified and in 1.0 line spacing.
- The body of the manuscript should not contain any personal details of the author, so as to enable anonymity. It must be accompanied by a cover page, which should include -
 - Name of the Author along with current designation & institutional affiliation, if any
 - Title of the Manuscript
 - Email Address & Contact Number



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About the Centre

The Centre for International Relations and Governance (CIRG) at Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur, is dedicated to promoting the study and research of global issues through a legal lens. The Centre is established to conduct research on global cooperation, camaraderie, conflicts, and diplomacy. It explores areas such as nuclear policy, human rights, sustainable development, soft power, diplomacy, international justice, and institutional frameworks, aiming to enhance global governance through both traditional and alternative approaches. The Centre strives to emerge as a platform for learning and disseminating knowledge on international relations and institutional frameworks through an interdisciplinary perspective. Beyond teaching and research, the Centre is actively engaged in publications, awareness initiatives, and outreach programs. To foster awareness and skill development, it conducts various activities, including short-term programs, certificate courses, seminars, conferences, symposiums, and workshops.

Chief Patron

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Head, CIRG

Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur

Co-Convenor

Prof. Aditya Satpute

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur

Venue

Maharashtra National Law University

Near Village Waranga,

PO: Dongargaon (Butibori), Nagpur 441108

The Organizers will be providing accomodation and local hospitality to all participants throughout the event days

Contact Us



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