

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
&
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND STRATEGIC STUDIES
Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla-171005**



A One Day National Seminar
on
**India and the United Nations: Navigating Geopolitical Shifts and Security
Challenges**

October 24, 2025

Chief Guest
Professor Mahavir Singh
Vice-Chancellor, H.P. University, Shimla

Guest of Honour
Prof. Rajinder Verma,
Vice-Chancellor
H.P. Technical University,
& Pro-Vice Chancellor,
H.P. University, Shimla

Guest of Honour
Prof. Balkrishan Shivram
Dean of Studies
H.P. University, Shimla

Keynote Address
Prof. Kamal Kinger, Department of Defence & Strategic Studies, Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab

Valedictory Speech
Prof. Rajinder S. Chauhan (Retd.), Former Vice-Chancellor, H.P. University, Shimla

Programme Schedule	
Inaugural Session	10.15 A.M. to 11.30 A.M.
Tea Break	11.30 A.M. to 11.45 A.M.
First technical session	11.45 A.M. to 1.30 P.M.
Lunch	1.30 P.M. to 2 P.M.
Second technical Session	2.00 P.M. to 4.00 P.M.
Tea Break	4.00 P.M. to 4.15 P.M.
Valedictory Session	4.15 P.M. to 5.30 P.M.

Convenor
Dr. Abha C. Khimta
Chairperson,
Political Science &
Defence & Strategic Studies
H.P. University Shimla

Organising Secretary
Dr. Bhawna Sharma
Associate Professor
Political Science
H.P. University, Shimla

Organising Secretary
Dr. Ashok Kumar
Assistant Professor
Defence & Strategic Studies
H.P. University, Shimla

Venue
VC Committee Room, H.P. University, Shimla

CONCEPT NOTE

The United Nations (UN) stands at a critical juncture in its nearly eight decades of existence. Conceived in 1945 as the premier multilateral body to promote peace, security, and development, the UN has since witnessed seismic transformations in the global political, economic, and security order. From decolonisation and the Cold War to post-Cold War unipolarity and the present multipolar contestations, the UN has remained the principal stage where global security challenges are debated and negotiated.

In the 21st century, international politics has been profoundly shaped by major geopolitical shifts; the rise of China and India, the resurgence of Russia, the recalibration of U.S. power, and the evolving roles of middle powers. Alongside traditional inter-state rivalries, the world now confronts new and complex threats such as cyber warfare, terrorism, climate change, pandemics, and the weaponisation of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and drones. These dynamics demand a reassessment of the role of the UN in ensuring peace and security.

For India, the United Nations remains both a platform of opportunity and a site of persistent contestation. India has historically been one of the strongest proponents of multilateralism, peacekeeping, and global justice. Yet, its quest for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council remains unfulfilled. At a time when India aspires to greater global leadership—through the G20 Presidency, active involvement in the QUAD, BRICS, SCO, and Indo-Pacific frameworks—its engagement with the UN acquires new strategic relevance.

The seminar thus seeks to explore the changing global order and the UN's role within it, from an Indian perspective. It will deliberate on how India can navigate shifting geopolitical alignments, leverage its diplomatic capital, and address emerging security threats in partnership with the UN and its agencies.

Proposed Sub-themes:

- ❖ Geo-political Shifts and India's Strategic Autonomy
- ❖ Peacekeeping and Beyond: India's Role in UN Missions
- ❖ Terrorism, Cross-Border Threats and the UN's Response
- ❖ UN Reforms: Indian Perspective
- ❖ Cyber Security, AI Warfare, and Global Governance
- ❖ Climate Security and India's Global Commitments
- ❖ South Asia and the UN: Conflict Management and Mediation

Note: Papers/Abstracts are invited before October 20, 2025 at the Emails: kumar.ashokk87@gmail.com