

# Bharat's Geostrategy for Amritkaal

---

**Date:** February 8, 2024

**Venue:** Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi

**Organized by:** Department of Political Science, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi  
in collaboration with the Global Counter Terrorism Council (GCTC)

## Introduction

On 8 February 2024 a significant conference was held at Daulat Ram College (DRC), University of Delhi, focusing on "Bharat's Geostrategy for Amritkaal". The conference aimed to delve into various aspects of India's geopolitical strategies in the context of the evolving global landscape, with a particular focus on Amritkaal, that is, a technology-driven and knowledge-based economy with strong public finances, and a robust financial sector. The event brought together eminent personalities, scholars, students, and experts to discuss and deliberate on key issues concerning national security, technology, spirituality, regional relations, and prospects. All the dignitaries were facilitated by college authorities, and opening remarks were provided by **Dr. Savita Roy**, the Principal of DRC. She emphasised how girls are progressing more than boys in this decade in terms of medals and rankings.

Opening remarks were made by GCTC Advisor **Bhupendra Chaubey** (Editor-in-Chief, India Ahead News). He focused on topics such as reversed gender bias, witnessing long-term changes in solar power in rural areas, and the purchasing power of middle-class people. He acknowledged that in the last ten years, many drastic changes have occurred, and one of them is India not being bothered by political adversaries of nations. He addressed the doubts of the audience regarding unemployment.

Keynote Address was given by **Dr. Yogendra Narain** (IAS, Patron-Global Counter Terrorism Council, Chancellor-HNB Garhwal University Former Secretary General-Rajya Sabha, Defense Secretary, Government of India & Chief Secretary Uttar Pradesh) emphasised Shri Narendra Modi's quote "it's not an era of war but it is one of dialogue and diplomacy" and transitioned between friendship with middle east, supply chain by China, debts of Pakistan, defense exports, aviation sector and promotion of research and development. This speech was followed by questions from the audience like how a humanities student can contribute towards research in defense sector to which they replied to it does not matter what the background is, everybody can contribute towards research and development.

## Session 1: Taking National Security to the People



The opening session was chaired by Lt Gen **Syed Ata Hasnain, retd** (PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM & Bar, Advisor GCTC, Member of National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India, Chancellor-Central University of Kashmir & former GOC XV & XXI Corps, Indian Army), **Dr. Tara Kartha** (Former Director-National Security Council Secretariat, Former Senior Fellow, USIP Washington, Distinguished Fellow, IPCS), **Dr. Kriti Singh**, (Associate Professor, Amity University), **Apoorva Gehlot** (Student) and **Shreya Pandey** (Student)



The conference commenced with Moderator, Political Analyst, Sh **Sushil Pandit** by quoting " The best argument against democracy is a conversation with an average voter", followed by a series of thought-provoking discussions under the theme "Taking National Security to the People". While Lt Gen **Syed Ata Hasnain, retd** emphasized the needs of being self-sufficient and modernisation, **Dr. Tara Kartha** interlinked food safety, climate change effects and communal riots and pollution with national security and gave better implementation ideas. **Dr. Singh** pointed out the increasing interconnection between global terrorist organisations and national defense vulnerabilities, including cyber-attacks, phishing, and data breaches. Students **Apoorva Gehlot** and **Shreya Pandey** of the DRC shed light on various dimensions of national security and its dissemination to the masses. They have attempted to include every aspect of national security. The session emphasised the critical role of public awareness and participation in ensuring the nation's security and resilience.

## Session 2: Technology & Digital Transformation@2047: A Vision

The second session was initiated by **ShTanmoy Chakrabarty** (Former Group Govt Affairs Officer, TATA Group) and was chaired by **Prof. Charu Malhotra**, Professor, Indian Institute of Public Administration, **Gurpreet** (student) and **Isha Tomar** (Student).



**Tanmoy Chakrabarty** (moderator) highlighted that there is a silent revolution going on here where the aspirations of not just urban India but all of India are transforming. He highlighted government initiatives for digital advancements such as online payments and schemes for technological development. He stated India is going to be the real power focused on envisioning the role of technology and digital transformation in shaping India's future and will be “Sone ki Chidiya” soon.

**Prof. Charu** shared differences in her experience of the digital world when she travelled from one village to another, how the village Orchha, Tikamgarh district is different from the village in Malappuram, Kerala, etc. She quoted whatever works in other parts of the world would never work in India. However, whatever works in India will work in the rest of the world! She also presented a SWOT analysis of India's technological development. She also provided valuable insights into what the future holds in technological advances that can be made for a child born now. She explained the difficulties and workable solutions to the upcoming technological challenges. She also cleared cyber security-related and future technological advancement doubts with ease. **Gurpreet** and **Isha Tomar** conveyed the potential of technological advancements in governance, economy, and society, projecting a vision for India in 2047.

## Session 3: Building a Conscious Bharat by Integrating Science and Spirituality

The third session explored the integration of science and spirituality to foster a conscious and harmonious society. Speakers like **Syed Salman Chishty**, (Chairman, Chishty Foundation), **Dr. Malvika Singh**, (Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Daulat Ram College), **Palak Gautam** (Student) and

**Mukta Mani**(student). Amb **Suresh Goel**, (IFS, (Retd.) The Advisor-Global Counter Terrorism Council and Former DG-ICCR, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India), as a moderator, explained the importance of being spiritual and how even a scientist can be a spiritual person before stepping up for discovery. He also mentioned how Indians have had nuclear power since the seventies but have not yet used it for the betterment of humanity, he wound up with Mahatma Gandhi's saying, "if science and spiritualism go hand in hand, then one can create heaven on the holy earth.'



We had the pleasure of listening to **Syed Chisty**, who suggested looking at educational reforms to incorporate the teachings of both science and spirituality into the curriculum from an early age. He pointed out the studies on the effects of medication on brain function and political, theocratic benefits of spiritual practices, and the role of consciousness in the universe, leading to the promotion of holistic healthcare as well. He said that there is a need to emphasise common spiritual practices and principles found in various religions by including rewording ancient spiritual practices considering modern aesthetics and needs. **Dr. Malvika Singh** stated that science is a very objective stream of knowledge based on facts, logic, and reason, and the progress of science in the world has given us a lot of materialistic development. She questioned how we know only about discovering single-celled amoeba and not about the consciousness it acquired. She gave an example of Charak Sahita, who talks about consciousness and other texts related to human and natural development. Furthermore, the students shared insights into India as the land of profound philosophy, theory, and spirituality that extends throughout ancient texts.



Following this, Ms **Meeta Rajivlochan** (IAS, Secretary, Youth Affairs, Department of Youth Affairs, Government of India) shared insights on the mindset people should have while building a business and that today's youth should be more careful while using technology and social media, as they are not the only people who are going to get affected. She pointed out that how in 1600s-1700s, the East India company came to your country and ruled for over hundreds of years even after not having an immense amount of money, soldiers, resources, technology, etc. like current day India, yet they succeeded in doing so because of our lack of cooperation and immersion in personal gains. She explained this with the example of Jagat Seth (powerful and wealthy banker) and how these businessmen for their personal benefit deceived the country and society in which we live. She then focuses on the future implications of technology and the evolution of quantum computers, drones, artificial intelligence, and large-scale models. The government has introduced a platform of her ministry which has around one crore and four lakh youths to connect with other youths with the same interests. She concluded with the contribution ratio of women and underlying opportunities in India.

#### **Session 4: India and its Neighbors: Looking Ahead in 2047**

The final session of the conference focused on India's relations with its neighbours and prospects in the region. **Prof Swaran Singh** (Professor-Centre for International Politics, Organisation & Disarmament, Jawaharlal University), Col (Dr.) **Shailendra Singh, retd** (Army Veteran & Defense Analyst), **Khwaish Kothari** (student), **Ruchita Joshi** (student), and **Anshika Bhatt** (student) provided insights into the geopolitical dynamics, challenges, and opportunities in India's neighborhood, emphasizing the need for diplomatic foresight and cooperation.



The session was initiated by moderator Prof. **Kavita Sharma** (Advisor-Global Counter Terrorism Council Former President, South Asian University & Former Principal, Hindu College) by explaining how Southeast Asia has managed to prosper by coming together as an association, but the same time is engaged in showing off power by some countries. She focused on unemployment, gender inequalities, religious extremism, brain drain, etc., and the effects of happenings in neighbouring countries in India. **Prof Swaran Singh** pointed out that demographic dividend, women empowerment, and technology could perhaps make progress possible but will throw up its own new challenges. He also discussed the disruption, gave an example of Baluchistan, and explained the de-hyphenation of Pakistan and the Indian assertive and acceptable approach in foreign policies. **Dr Kanwal Sibal** (IFS (Retd), Chancellor-Jawaharlal Nehru University, Chairman, Advisory Board, Global Counter Terrorism Council & Former Foreign Secretary, Government of India) then addressed the group and gave everyone some great words of inspiration.

## Conclusion



The conference on "Bharat's Geostrategy for Amritkaal" served as a platform for enriching discussions and exchanging ideas among experts, scholars, and students. The diverse range of topics covered during the sessions underscores the multifaceted nature of India's geopolitical challenges and opportunities. As the nation strides towards its future, such dialogues play a crucial role in shaping informed policies and strategies to navigate the complex geopolitical landscape. The event concluded with a note of remarks by **Prof K. Ratnabali** (Dean, Academic Affairs & Chairperson-NEP Cell, University of Delhi) and appreciation by **Dr. Shivali Aggarwal** (Dept. of Political Science, Daulat Ram College) of all participants, organizers, and GCTC for their valuable contributions and support towards advancing the discourse on India's geostrategy for Amritkaal.

T. R. Greeshma  
Research Coordinator  
GCTC