

DR. RAVI SHANKAR RAJ

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science

D.A.V. Post Graduate College, Varanasi

(Admitted to the privileges of Banaras Hindu University)

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Educational Qualifications

- **B.A. (Hons.) Political Science** – Shaheed Bhagat Singh College (M), University of Delhi
- **M.A. Political Science** – Banaras Hindu University
- **Ph.D. (Political Science)** – Central University of Haryana
- **UGC NET–JRF (Political Science)** – UGC
- **State Eligibility Test (Political Science)** – Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh & Andhra Pradesh

Academic Appointment

Designation	Department	Institution	Period
Assistant Professor	Political Science	DAV PG College, Varanasi	08.08.2025 – Present

Research & Teaching Interests

Research Interests:

India's Foreign Policy, Soft Power, Cultural & Buddhist Diplomacy, International Relations Theories, Geopolitics, Global South, South Asia

Teaching Interests (Courses Taught): International Organisations, Indian Foreign Policy, IR Theories, Political Sociology, Comparative Politics.

Invited Roles

1. Co-Chair, Online Technical Session
Two-Day National Seminar on *“Exploring Alternative Sites of Knowledge Production in Indian Tradition: Foreign Policy, Statecraft and Governance”*
Organised by Bharati College, University of Delhi
18–19 March 2026.
 2. Co-Chair, Technical Session
Two-Day National Seminar on *“War, Trade and Tariff: Revisiting Globalisation in a Fragmented World Order”*
Organised by Central University of Haryana
29–30 January 2026
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Invited Lectures / Academic Presentations

1. **Lecture Delivered:** *“War, Trade and Inequality in a Weaponised World Economy: Why Economic Interdependence No Longer Guarantees Peace”*
Two-Day National Seminar on *“War, Trade and Tariff: Revisiting Globalisation in a Fragmented World Order”*
Organised by Central University of Haryana
29–30 January 2026
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RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles – National & International

1. **Competing Narratives of Buddhism: A comparative analysis of India and China’s approaches to Buddhist diplomacy in South and South East Asia**, pp. 1-11, *Frontiers in Political Science (International Studies)*, Frontiers Publications, Volume 8, July 2026. **(Scopus Indexed- International)** DOI- <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpos.2026.1899691>
2. **Gender Diplomacy in United Nations Peacekeeping Missions: A Case Study of India**, pp. 323–344, *India Quarterly*, Sage Publications, Volume 81 Issue 3, September 2025. **(Scopus Indexed- International)** DOI- <https://doi.org/10.1177/09749284251348576>
3. **Soft Power through Ancient Ties: Buddhism’s Role in India-Central Asia Relations**, Page No. 117-122, *World Focus*, Feb 2025, ISSN No 2230-8458, Vol 46, Number 542. **(National)**

4. **India-Argentina Relations as Middle Powers: A Soft Power Perspective**, *Global Affairs Annual Review*, Page No. 457-481, Dec 2024, ISSN 3008-993X, No1, CARI, Argentina **(International)**
 5. **India's Soft Power: The Strategic Use of Buddhist Relics Diplomacy**, Page No. *Ministry of Culture & IBC*, Nov 2024, (Special Edition- Ministry of Culture, Government of India and the International Buddhist Confederation) Page No.6-12.
 6. **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme: A Performance Appraisal**, Page No. 21-25, *Third Concept*, Jan 2024, ISSN No 0970-7247, Vol. 37, No. 443. **(National)**
 7. **Buddhism and India's Global Influence: India's Soft Power Strategy**, Page No. 58-62, *World Focus*, Oct 2023, ISSN No 2230-8458, Vol. 44, Number 526 **(National)**
 8. **India's G20 Presidency: As an Opportunity to Showcase and Boost its Soft Power**, Page No. 59-63, *World Focus*, May 2023, ISSN No. 2230-8458, Vol. 44, Number 521, May 2023. **(National)**
 9. **India and G20 Presidency: Opportunities and Challenges**, Page No. 7-10, *Third Concept*, Feb 2023, ISSN 0970-7247, Vol. 36, No. 432. **(National)**
 10. **Internationalism, Soft Power and India's Vaccine Maitri**, *Artha Journal of Social Sciences*, Dec 2022, ISSN 0975-329X, Vol. 21 Issue-4. **(National)**
 11. **India's Soft Power in Afghanistan: Myth or Reality**, Page No. 83-95, *SATRAACHEE*, Oct-Dec 2022, ISSN 2348-8425, Vol. 37, Issue No.25 **(National)**
 12. **Russia-Ukraine War: Realist and Liberal Perspective**, Page No. 78-91, *NCTN-IASP*, Helsinki, Finland, Dec 2022, ISSN 2737-0313, Vol. II Issue-III. **(International)**
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Book Chapters (National & International)

1. **South Asian Women in UN Peacekeeping Missions: Progress, Paradoxes, and Policy Solutions**
In *Palgrave Handbook on International Peace and Security*, Palgrave Macmillan, Singapore
ISBN 978-981-96-8219-5 (**Scopus Indexed- International**)
DOI- https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-96-8219-5_1-1
2. **India's Strategic Pathways: Enhancing Land and Maritime Connectivity with the Middle East**
In *India-Middle East Relations in a Changing Global Order Bridging Horizons* Page No- 309-337, ISBN No- 978-981-92-0414-4 (**Scopus Indexed- International**)
DOI- <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-92-0415-1>
3. **India-Bangladesh Relations in the Post- Hasina Era: Non-Traditional Security Dimensions**
In *Security Beyond the Battlefield: Non-Traditional Security Architecture*, Page No- 24-44, ISBN No- 978-81-686981-0-9 (**National**)
4. **Exploring the Soft Power Dynamics in India- Bhutan Relations**
In *India's Foreign Policy Changing Contour* (2026), **MANAK Publications (2023)** Page No- 281-301, ISBN No. 978-93-48788-77-1 (**National**)
5. **Balancing the Dragon: India- Sri Lanka Relations under the Neighbourhood First Policy Amidst China's Expanding Influence**
In *Global Geopolitical Power Shifts: The Role of India, Pakistan and China* (2025), Page No.154-173, ISBN No.978-93-49566-78-1 (**National**)
6. **India's Balancing Act in the Global South: Strategic Imperatives Amidst the Resurgence of Geopolitics**
In *The Solidarity Approach in Geography: Cases from the Indian Subcontinent*, **Springer (2025)**, Page No. 15- 32, ISBN No. 978-3-031-86752-1 (**Scopus Indexed- International**)
DOI- https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-86753-8_2
7. **Soft Power and Vaccine Diplomacy: A Case of COVID-19 Pandemic**
In *Humanities and Sustainability from Glocal Perspectives Towards Future Earth: Proceedings of IGU Thematic Conference 2022, India*, **Springer Singapore (2025)**, Page No. 93-105, ISBN No. 978-981-96-0380-0 (**Scopus Indexed- International**) DOI- https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-96-0381-7_9
8. **India's Soft Power and Buddhist Diplomacy: A Study of Investment and Initiatives**
In *Changing Dynamics of India's Foreign Policy: Challenges and Way Ahead*, **ACS Publishers (2025)**, Page No. 24- 34, ISBN No.978-93-94893-43-6 (**National**)

9. **Ensuring Health for All: Examining the Role of Digital Health in India**
In *Intersecting Realities and Health Resilience and Governance in India*, **Palgrave Macmillan, Springer (2025)**, Page No. 201-227, ISBN No.978-981-97-9095-1 (**Scopus Indexed- International**) DOI- https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-9096-8_11
10. **The Geopolitical Significance of Afghanistan for India in Emerging World Order**
In *Emerging Dynamics of India-Afghanistan Relations: Regional Cooperation vs Global Geopolitics*, **Palgrave Macmillan, Springer (2024)**, Page No. 31-48, ISBN No.978-981-97-4706-1 (**Scopus Indexed- International**) DOI- https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-4707-8_3
11. **India's Water Conflict with Neighbouring Countries and Its Impact on National Security**
In *India's Neighbourhood Policy during Modi's Regime: Issues and Challenges*, **MANAK Publications (2023)**, Page No. 185-196, ISBN No. 978-93-91897-41-3 (**National**)

Policy Briefs / Reports

- **India's 'Wait and Watch' Diplomacy: Redefining Regional Engagement in South Asia**, Institute for Security and Development Policy, Stockholm (May 2025)
(**International**)

Media / Op-Eds / Outreach

1. *Iran Crisis: A Test for the Expanded BRICS under India's Presidency*, Times Now
2. *Why A World War III Is Very Unlikely After All*, NDTV
3. *The saga of 'Blue Helmets': India's glorious legacy as 'Peacekeeper'*, The Polity.
4. *Union Budget 2025: India's foreign-aid strategy to counter China's expanding footprint*, India Sentinels.
5. *Mahakumbh 2025: Harnessing India's Civilisational Soft Power in Global Diplomacy*, India Foundation.

6. *The Rise of Nationalism and Its Role in The Crisis of The Liberal World Order and Global Conflicts*, RHI, Netherlands.
 7. *Trump 2.0 and Its Implications for India: Opportunities and Challenges*, RHI, Netherlands.
 8. *Indo-Nepal Relations During Covid Crisis*, The Kootneeti.
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Peer Reviewed Book Review

1. **BBIN-A Post-SAARC Phenomenon: Unlocking the Potential for Energy Cooperation** (Simi Mehta). *India Quarterly: A Journal of International Affairs*, 82(1), 107-111. Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) & SAGE Publications (2026). DOI: [10.1177/09749284251405644](https://doi.org/10.1177/09749284251405644) (Scopus Indexed- International)
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Articles Reviewed (Peer Review Experience)

1. Reviewer, **Open Journal of Political Science** (International Journal).
 2. Reviewer, **Women's Studies International Forum** (Elsevier, Scopus-indexed).
 3. Reviewer, **Frontiers in Political Science – International Studies** (Frontiers, Scopus-indexed).
 4. Reviewer, **Global Media and Communication** (SAGE, Scopus-indexed).
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Conferences & Seminars

International & National Conferences (2021–2025)

1. International Conference on “*Reimagining the Global South: Opportunities and Challenges for India*”
Date: 15-17 October 2025
Organised by: School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
Venue: Convention Centre, Jawaharlal Nehru University
Paper Presented: *India’s G20 Presidency: Leading the Global South to the Forefront*
2. International Conference on “*India’s Rising Soft Power: Strategic Dimensions and Global Outreach*”
Date: 19-20 March 2025
Organised by: Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Bihar
Venue: India International Centre, New Delhi
Sponsors: ICSSR & ICWA
Paper Presented: *Comparative Analysis of India and China’s Buddhist Diplomacy in South and Southeast Asia*
3. International Conference on “*Monsoon: The Sphere of Cultural and Trade Influence*”
Date: 12-13 February 2025
Venue: IGNCA, New Delhi
Organised by: ASIA, SGT University
Sponsors: IGNCA & Ministry of Culture
Paper Presented: *Buddhist Soft Power: India’s Strategic Use of Buddhism in South and Southeast Asia*
4. *Young Scholars’ Seminar*
Date: 30 September 2024
Venue: St. Joseph’s University, Department of International Relations, Peace and Public Policy
Paper Presented: *India-Uzbekistan Soft Power Outreach: A Comprehensive Study*
5. International Symposium on “*Bollywood through the Lens of International Relations*”
Date: 16-17 May 2024
Venue: School of International Relations and Strategic Studies, Jadavpur University
Paper Presented: *Bollywood Beyond Borders: India’s Soft Power Dynamics in Afghanistan and Indonesia*
6. International Conference on “*One Earth, One Family, One Future: Navigating Human Rights through the Lens of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*”

Date: 28-29 March 2024

Venue: JNU, New Delhi

Organised by: Human Rights Studies Programme, School of International Studies

Sponsors: ICSSR, ICWA, NHRC

Paper Presented: *India's Soft Power Diplomacy: Nurturing Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam through Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)*

7. *International Seminar on "India's Culture-based Foreign Policy in South and Southeast Asia"*

Date: 11-12 March 2024

Venue: Department of Political Science, University of Delhi

Paper Presented: *Buddhism as a Soft Power Asset: India's Potential for Global Influence*

8. *International Conference on "India & Southeast Asia: One Indic-Belt"*

Date: 5-7 May 2023

Venue: JNU, New Delhi

Sponsors: ICSSR, ICCR, ICPR, ICHR

Paper Presented: *India's Soft Power Approach through Cultural Diplomacy in Southeast Asia*

9. *International Seminar on "India @ 75: Culture, History and Politics"*

Date: 30-31 July 2022

Venue: M.L.T. College, Saharsa

Paper Presented: *India's Soft Power Assets: Opportunities and Challenges*

10. *International Geographical Union Thematic Conference*

Date: 24-25 November 2022

Venue: Central University of Haryana

Organised by: Department of Geography

Paper Presented: *The Game of Soft Power through Vaccine Diplomacy During the Pandemic*

11. *Asia-Pacific Peace Research Association Conference: "Redefining Peace Towards a Just, Non-violent and Sustainable Future of the World"*

Date: 10-12 October 2022

Venue: USTM, Meghalaya

Paper Presented: *Russia-Ukraine War: Realist and Liberal Perspectives*

12. *National Seminar on "Extremism in Afghanistan and its Impact on India and the Asian Region"*

Date: 13-14 May 2022

Venue: Central University of Haryana

Paper Presented: *India's Soft Power Approach in Afghanistan: A Success or a Failure?*

13. *International Seminar on "Revisiting the Ideas of India: From Swaraj to New India"*

Date: 19-21 May 2022

Venue: Department of Political Science, University of Delhi

Paper Presented: *India's Vaccine Maitri: An Effort of Internationalism During Covid-19*

14. *National Seminar on "India's Neighbourhood Foreign Policy during Prime Minister Modi's Regime"*

Date: 29-30 September 2021

Venue: Central University of Haryana

Paper Presented: *Buddhism, Democracy and Bhutan: A Conglomeration of Buddha's Idea*

15. *International Webinar organised by Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE)*

Date: 27-29 August 2021

Paper Presented: *Buddhism as India's Soft Power*

Magazine Articles

1. *Women in Peacekeeping: India's Soft Power in Global Diplomacy*, EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY DIPLOMATIST, March 2025, Vol.13, Issue-3. P. No-(16-18).
 2. *India's Rising Influence: Leading the Global South in a Multipolar World*, EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY DIPLOMATIST, January 2025, Vol.13, Issue-1. P. No-(21-23).
 3. *Guarding the Waves India's Maritime Power and the China Challenge*, Defence and Security Alert, December 2024, Vol.16, Issue-3. P. No-(31-35)
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Professional Development & Certificate Courses

1. *Mendeley Reference Management Workshop*
Type: One-day Online Workshop
Date: October 2024
Organised by: Amity Institute of Biotechnology

 2. *Research Methodology and Academic Writing for National Security Research*
Type: Three-day Online Workshop
Date: 25-27 September 2024
Organised by: Directorate of Research and Publications, Rashtriya Raksha University

 3. *Feminist Foreign Policy: Past, Present and Future*
Type: Three-day International Certificate Training Program
Date: 24-26 June 2024
Organised by: The Asia Foundation & IMPRI

 4. *Cultural Diplomacy - India's Soft Power Strategies*
Type: Five-month Certificate Course
Duration: January-May 2023
Organised by: National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS)

 5. *Multifaceted Aspects of Bodh Gaya and the Philosophy and Teachings of Buddhism*
Type: Three-month Certificate Course
Duration: August-October 2022
Organised by: International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), and Deshkal Society

 6. *Emerging Dimensions of India's Foreign Policy and Global Politics*
Type: Three-day Training Course
Date: 14-16 July 2022
Organised by: Impact and Policy Research Institute (IMPRI)
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Declaration

I hereby declare that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Date: 01.08.2026

Signature

(Dr. Ravi Shankar Raj)
