



Center of
Excellence for
Geopolitics and
International Studies



REVA
UNIVERSITY
Bengaluru, India

NAAC
GRADE
ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY
A+

Center of Excellence for Geopolitics and International Studies

REVA University, Bengaluru

National Conference "Cold War 2.0 and India"

in collaboration with
Indian Council of World Affairs,
(ICWA)

13-14 December 2024

SDG Goals





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The contemporary geopolitics is rapidly changing due to wars, crisis, conflicts that are spreading across regions and geographies. A Cold War type of security situation has arisen and is marked by strategic competition between the US-led West including NATO and its new Indo-Pacific partners (Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea) or IP4, and Russia and China individually and collectively with North Korea and Iran.

This geopolitical competition has attracted new labels such as “New Cold War”, “Cold War 2.0”, and “Second Cold War” and is illustrative of the earlier Cold War that witnessed high tension between the US and the USSR for over three decades. The potential geographies for the current competition are in Eurasia, West Asia and the Indo-Pacific.

India is pursuing twin strategies of “strategic autonomy” and “multi-alignment”. It is engaging the US and Russia alike through deft diplomacy. China’s ambition to emerge as a global power is a major challenge for India; meanwhile Iran and North Korea present complex dilemmas. Similarly, the engagement by IP4 with the NATO has triggered complex mutation of the Quad.

These Cold War 2.0 geopolitical realities impact India’s foreign policy initiatives in the Indo Pacific. The Center of Excellence for Geopolitics and International Studies, REVA University plans to host a national conference titled “Cold War 2.0 and India” at its campus in Bengaluru on 13–14 December 2024. It is a Track 2 (academic and policy) activity and aims to bring together experts from universities and think tanks across India to deliberate on the evolving global security dynamics arising from a Cold War 2.0.

The two-day conference is spread over five specialist sessions. It will provide valuable inputs to multiple stakeholders on the evolving global security environment.

Session 1 will elucidate on the theoretical and conceptual framework of Cold War 2.0. The key issues for enquiry are:

- a. Cold War 2.0 induced international relations.
- b. Comparison of drivers of the earlier and current Cold War.
- c. Present-day strategic realities and alignments.
- d. Geopolitical hot spots.

Session 2 is focussed on:

- a. Geopolitical dynamics between the US, NATO, IP4 on one side, and China and Russia on the other.
- b. Role of Ukraine, Israel, Syria, Iran, and North Korea in Cold War 2.0.
- c. Transformation of military industrial complexes and diversification of supply chains.
- d. Mutation of multi-polarity.

Session 3 will highlight the impact of Cold War 2.0 on the economic order.

Issues for consideration are:

- a. Current status of globalization of trade and capital flows.
- b. Challenges of dependence on single source under new strategic realities.
- c. Businesses seeking assured supply chains as well risk-free supply routes.
- d. Diversification of sourcing and relocation of productions at / closer to home.

Session 4 covers the nuclear and technological complexities of Cold War 2.0. The issues for debate are:

- a. More countries attempting to acquire nuclear capability (Iran and Saudi Arabia) while some others seek protection (Ukraine).
- b. Trends in military nuclear technology capability building (AUKUS, Iran, Pakistan, North Korea).
- c. Emerging technologies as tools of power for geopolitical dominance.
- d. Evolving battlefield marked by autonomous platforms.

Session 5 will evaluate how India should navigate the geopolitics of Cold War 2.0. The issues for enquiry are :

- a. Impact of Cold War 2.0 on India's security.
- b. Management of strategic rivals (US, China, Russia) and their proxies.
- c. Effectiveness of 'strategic autonomy' and 'multi-alignment' strategy in Cold War 2.0.
- d. Case for Global South led NAM 2.0.



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13 December 2024

09:30–10:15 | Inaugural Session:

- **Introduction to the Conference:** Dr. Vijay Sakhuja, Head, Center of Excellence for Geopolitics International Studies (CEGIS), REVA University, Bengaluru.
- **Inaugural Address:** Dr. P. Shyama Raju, Hon'ble Chancellor, REVA University, Bengaluru.
- **Special Remarks:** Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi.
- **Special Address:** Admiral Arun Prakash, former Chief of Naval Staff, Indian Navy.
- **Keynote Address:** Professor M. D. Nalapat, Professor Emeritus, REVA University, Bengaluru.

10:15–11:45 | Session 1: Conceptual and Theoretical Formulations of Cold War 2.0

- **Chair:** Dr. Sanjay R. Chitnis, Pro Vice Chancellor (Strategic Initiatives, Industry Innovation), REVA University, Bengaluru.
- **Speaker:** Professor Nanda Kishore, Pondicherry University, Pondicherry.
- **Speaker:** Dr. Aliva Mishra, MMAJ/Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.
- **Speaker:** Dr. Anshuman Behera, Conflict and Security Studies, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru.

11:45–12:00 | Tea Break

12:00–13:30 | Session 2: Strategic Impacts of Cold War 2.0

- **Chair:** Dr. Vijay Sakhuja, Head, Center of Excellence for Geopolitics and International Studies (CEGIS), REVA University, Bengaluru.
- **Speaker:** Professor Aswini K. Mohapatra, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- **Speaker:** Dr. Harinder Sekhon, CUTS International, New Delhi.
- **Speaker:** Dr. D. Thirumaran, Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, Voorhees College, Vellore.

13:30–14:30 | Lunch

14:30–16:00 | Session 3: Economic Impact of Cold War 2.0

- **Chair:** Dr. Shubha A., Professor and Dean, REVA Business School, REVA University, Bengaluru.
- **Speaker:** Professor Rajeev Kumar, former Dean and Registrar, Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Bihar.
- **Speaker:** Professor Bharati Hiremath, Maharaja College, University of Mysore.
- **Speaker:** Dr. Tejal Khanna, Gitam (Deemed to be) University, Bengaluru.

19:00 | Dinner

14 December 2024

09:30–11:00 | Session 4: Nuclear–Technological Advancement and Cold War 2.0

- **Chair:** Dr. Rajashekhar C. Biradar, Pro Vice Chancellor, REVA University, Bengaluru.
- **Speaker:** Dr. Anmol Mukhia, Christ University, Bengaluru.
- **Speaker:** Ms. Avni Sablok, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi.
- **Speaker:** Dr. Abhinav Pandya, Usanas Foundation, Udaipur.

11:00–11:15 | Tea Break

11:15–12:45 | Session 5: India and Cold War 2.0

- **Chair:** Professor Aswini K. Mohapatra, former Dean, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- **Speaker:** Air Marshal Anil Khosla, former Vice Chief of the Air Staff, Bengaluru.
- **Speaker:** Commodore Udai Rao (retd.), former Director, Cabinet Secretariat, Bengaluru.
- **Speaker:** Major General N. D. Prasad (retd.), Centre for Contemporary China Studies, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

12:45–13:00

- **Valedictory Address:** Air Marshal M. Matheswaran, President, The Peninsula Foundation, Chennai.
- **Vote of Thanks:** Dr. Devender Kumar, Assistant Professor, Center of Excellence for Geopolitics and International Studies, REVA University, Bengaluru.

13:00 | Lunch



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