



Call for Paper

**Department of Political Science
Bharati College – University of Delhi**

In Collaboration with

Prajna Pravah (IR Ayam – Delhi Prant)

Organising Two-Day

National Seminar

Sponsored by

ICSSR (Northern Regional Centre)

on

**Exploring Alternative Sites of Knowledge
Production in Indian Tradition: Foreign
Policy, Statecraft and Governance**

Date - 18th -19th March, 2026

Venue – Bharati College – Janakpuri, New Delhi



About the Seminar

Knowledge production in India developed through multiple intellectual and institutional locations that cannot be fully captured within modern Western disciplinary frameworks. Traditions of political thought, diplomacy, governance, and statecraft emerged through texts, administrative practices, institutional arrangements, ethical philosophies, and social organisation. These traditions formed integrated systems of political reasoning in which authority, power, justice, and responsibility were understood as interconnected concerns.

Indian political thought is deeply rooted in both normative and practical considerations. Ideas of governance were shaped by administrative experience, moral obligation, and social regulation. Diplomatic practices reflected strategic calculation, normative restraint, and institutional memory. Concepts of state authority were linked to welfare, accountability, and legitimacy. These forms of political reasoning were generated and sustained through royal courts, advisory councils, religious institutions, customary bodies, and local governance structures. Each of these sites contributed to the production and circulation of political knowledge.

Colonial epistemic interventions altered the status of indigenous political traditions, and their scholarship classified Indian knowledge systems as pre-modern, religious, or culturally specific. Administrative reforms weakened indigenous institutions and displaced local governance practices. Western political theories acquired institutional dominance within academic and policy frameworks. This process resulted in the marginalisation of indigenous political reasoning as a legitimate source of theoretical insight.

Contemporary political science and international relations in India continue to reflect this epistemic hierarchy, where Western theoretical models remain the primary reference point for analysing governance and foreign policy. Indigenous traditions are frequently treated as historical material rather than as analytical frameworks, which limits conceptual diversity and constrains the development of context-sensitive theory. Therefore, this Seminar proposes to explore alternative sites of knowledge production within Indian traditions related to foreign policy, statecraft, and governance. It seeks to treat classical texts, historical practices, institutional memories, and ethical-political philosophies as legitimate sources of theoretical insight rather than as merely historical or cultural artefacts. The study aims to analyse and



reinterpret these traditions in ways that are analytically rigorous and relevant to contemporary debates on governance and international relations.

Sub-Themes

- Indigenous Theories of Statecraft and Political Order
- Diplomacy, War, and Interstate Relations in Indian Thought
- Law, Justice, and Administrative Ethics
- Colonial Disruptions and Epistemic Marginalisation
- Contemporary Relevance and Policy Implications
- Any other related themes.

Important dates:

Deadline for submission of abstract (300 words):	1 st March, 2026
Communication of acceptance & Payment Link:	5 th March, 2026
Full Papers (Tentative) to be submitted by:	14 th March, 2026
Conference presentation:	18 th – 19 th March 2026
Final Paper Submission (For Publication)	12 th April 2026

(Interested participants are requested to send their abstract and full paper to the email:
seminarbharaticollege@gmail.com)

Registration Fee:

Scholar/ Student –	500 (Without accommodation)
Faculty/ others –	800 (without accommodation)

Guidelines for Submission for the abstract and full paper:

The guidelines for submission of abstracts and full papers are as follows.

Abstract:

The abstract should not exceed 300 words. It should include title of the abstract, the author's name, designation, institutional affiliation, mailing address, contact number, E-mail ID.

Full Paper:

- The length of full paper including tables, diagrams, illustrations, references, etc. should be between 5000 to 7000 words.
- The full paper should be in English and typed in MS-Word in Times New Roman with font size 12 and 1.5 space.



- Bibliographical references should be arranged alphabetically and given at the end of the text in the APA 2021 format.
- The full version of the paper should be submitted in soft copy by **March 10, 2026**, to seminarbharaticollege@gmail.com

A Committee will review the abstracts and full papers, and information regarding acceptance, modification, rejection and presentation shall be communicated to the authors subsequently. The selected papers will be published by a reputable national publisher with an ISSN or in a special issue from any reputed Scopus/Web of Science-listed peer-reviewed journal.

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