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LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

Happy 2026

Greetings from Centre for Global India Insights & India Writes Network

It's that time of the year when we look back and look ahead to new possibilities and horizons. Diplomatically and strategically, 2025 was a challenging year marked by multiple wars and conflicts. Conflicts and Crises marked the year predominantly. In 2026, let's work proactively for peace and harmony and stability that allows us freedom to shape a more inclusive and life-affirming world we desire.

As we end 2025 and usher in another exciting year, we at CGII have much to be satisfied and take pride in. We are delighted to share some highlights of impact-making conferences and events that we organised to decode deeper complex global issues and map emerging trends.

In 2025, India held its own in a turbulent world and honed its unique narrative on global affairs that placed human values and interests of the underdog at the heart of the global agenda.

We provided first-hand reports, analyses and insights into India's unfolding ascent as a major global player, with our publications, including India and the World journal, website, podcasts and conferences organised by Centre for Global India Insights and India Writes Network.

If you wish to partner in conferences/events or need our professional consultancy services, write to us at editor@indiawrites.org, ceo@cgiiglobal.org

About us: <https://cgiiglobal.org/who-we-are/>

Events: <https://cgiiglobal.org/event/>

As we usher in 2026, we would like to sincerely thank you for your support, guidance and friendship in this professional journey.

In 2026, India will be at the centre of global diplomacy as it hosts mega diplomatic events, including the India-EU summit, India AI Impact Summit and the BRICS summit. True to our record, we promise to raise the bar for discussions centred around foreign policy and India's global rise.

We look forward to your continued support and collaboration.

Season's Greetings and wishing you a fulfilling and joyous New Year!

Manish Chand

CEO & Director,
Centre for Global India Insights
India and the World &
India Writes Network

G20@20: Africa's Moment

The Once and Future World Order

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Centre for Global India Insights (CGII), in partnership with the High Commission of South Africa, India, organized a conference titled, “G20@20: Africa’s Moment – The Once and Future World Order,” at India International Centre in New Delhi on November 12, 2025. The panel discussion brought together eminent diplomats, scholars, and policymakers, to reflect on the role of the G20 in shaping international governance and the rules-based global order.

Moderated by Manish Chand, CEO, CGII, the conference, held ahead of the G20 summit in Johannesburg, explored Africa's growing role in global governance, the evolution of the G20 as a bridge between developed and developing worlds, and the shared priorities shaping the grouping's future amid deepening geopolitical divides.

Speakers voiced optimism about the success of the G20 summit in Johannesburg and underlined that despite the boycott by US President Donald Trump the summit will be substantive in addressing key global challenges.



SPEAKERS

H.E Prof. Anil Sooklal

South Africa's High Commissioner to India

Mr Vikramjit Singh Sahney

Rajya Sabha MP, and Chairman, Sun Group

H.E. Peter Green

Australia's High Commissioner to India

H.E. Kenneth Nobrega

Brazil's Ambassador to India

Mr Shambhu Hakki

Sou Sherpa, G20 India

Moderator: Manish Chand

CEO, CGII

“The G20 is too big to fail. The UN has had a turbulent past two decades, but it continues because we believe in it. It is our organization, where we have an equal voice and a platform to discuss challenges collectively.”

H.E Prof. Anil Sooklal, South Africa's High Commissioner to India



“We in India are excited about Africa’s emergence as the world’s next growth frontier and take pride in the success stories emerging from this rising continent. It is a matter of special pride to see the kind of global attention Africa is now receiving.”

**Mr Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Rajya Sabha MP, and
Chairman, Sun Group**



“The G20 should remain sensitive to the issues and barriers faced by developing countries. India will continue to amplify the cause of the Global South in the next cycle of G20 presidencies.

**Mr Shambhu Hakki, Sou
Sherpa, G20 India**



Many challenges facing developing countries are increasingly intertwined with those of the developed world. The Global South is producing solutions of global relevance, particularly on issues such as the climate crisis.

**H.E. Kenneth Nobrega, Brazil’s
Ambassador to India**



“Climate action is fundamental for Australia. Equally critical is the preservation of the global trading system; the WTO may not be perfect, but it is indispensable, and reform must not come at the cost of its erosion.”

H.E. Peter Green, Australia’s High Commissioner to India



“As a new world order emerges, the world will have to deal with interlocking emergencies - climate emergency, financial emergency and inequality emergency. “We need to find a new vocabulary of optimism and renewal to navigate this complex and conflicted world, and this is where the G20 summit in Johannesburg matters.”

Manish Chand, CEO, CGII

Resetting India–China Relations

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Amid shifting geopolitical alignments, Centre for Global India Insights, in partnership with Chintan Research Foundation, organised a conference titled “SCO Summit & Resetting India–China Relations,” at India International Centre in New Delhi on August 22, 2025. Eminent diplomats, military leaders, and scholars shared their views on opportunities and challenges facing this crucial partnership as the two Asian giants recalibrate their

multifarious relations. In his keynote, Chinese Ambassador Xu Feihong emphasized the growing momentum of bilateral cooperation and initiatives to normalize India-China relations, including high-level exchanges, resumed pilgrimages, rising trade, and renewed ministerial visits. Looking ahead, Ambassador Xu outlined four guiding directions: strengthening strategic trust, aligning development strategies, deepening people-to-people engagement, and upholding international justice by resisting protectionism and safeguarding WTO norms.

“China-India friendship benefits Asia. China and India are the double engines of economic growth in Asia.”

**Chinese Ambassador to India
Xu Feihong**

SPEAKERS

Amb. Xu Feihong
China's Ambassador to India

Amb. (Retd.) Venkat Verma
Member, National Security Advisory Board

General M.M. Naravane
Former Chief of Army Staff

Amb. (Retd.) Neelam Sabharwal

Manish Chand
CEO, Centre for Global India Insights

Moderator: Mr Shishir Priyadarshi
President, CRF



“The spotlight is on the future of the India-China relationship, which is one of the most consequential bilateral dynamics in the region and indeed the world.”

**Mr Shishir Priyadarshi,
President, CRF**



Stability on the boundary is essential to restoring trust. The 2005 Agreement on Political Parameters provided a useful framework for negotiations.

**General M.M. Naravane, Former
Chief of Army Staff**



“Multipolarity should not be engineered by force but emerge through discussion and negotiation — certainly not through antagonism with the West.”

**Ambassador Venkatesh Varma
Member, National Security
Advisory Board.**

“The need for positive and harmonious relations between India and China is now more urgent than ever. In a polarising and fragmenting world order, the two rising Asian powers need to find a modus vivendi and adapt the art of peaceful coexistence to emerging realities.”

Manish Chand, CEO, Centre for Global India Insights



“Both sides must endeavour to build a better understanding of each other’s regional initiatives, international ambitions and aspirations which will help in reducing mistrust of each other’s actions as being directed against the other.

Amb. (Retd.) Neelam Sabharwal



Decoding Operation Sindoor New Normal, New Doctrine

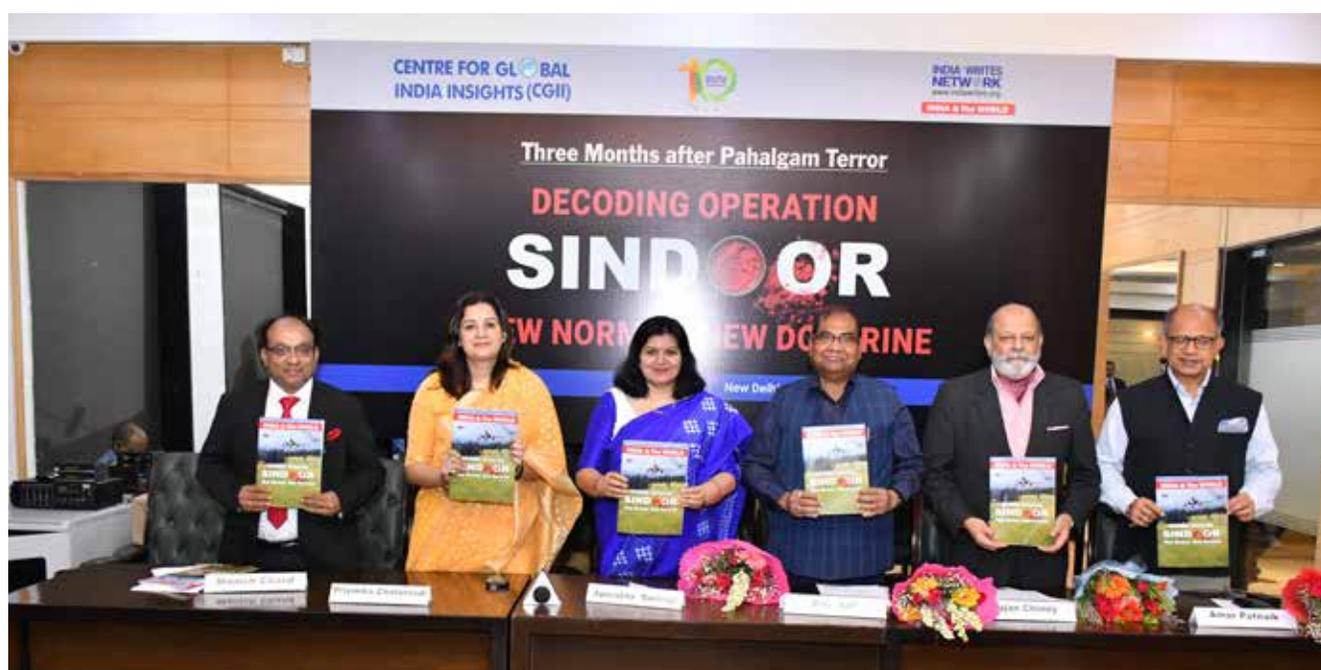
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Centre for Global India Insights (CGII) and its flagship journal India and the World organised two panel discussions on India’s strategic choices after Operation Sindoor at Constitution Club of India, New Delhi, on July 20, 2025. Eminent parliamentarians, diplomats, and defence experts participated in the conference titled, “Decoding Operation Sindoor: New Normal, New Doctrine.” Lauding Operation Sindoor, speakers underlined the need for national unity and bolstering capacity to tackle cross-border terrorism. The panel discussion featured three Members of Parliament – Mrs Aparajita Sarangi, Mrs Priyanka Chaturvedi and Mr Brij Lal. The panel comprised senior diplomats who accompanied parliamentary delegations to different countries as part of India’s diplomatic outreach in the wake of Operation Sindoor. A special edition of India and the World on “Operation Sindoor “ was formally unveiled by distinguished speakers at the conference.

“What happened on the 7th of May, under the name of Operation Sindoor and the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior leaders, should have occurred after the Mumbai attacks in 2008.”

Aparajita Sarangi, MP



SPEAKERS

Amb (Retd.) Pankaj Saran
Convenor, NatStrat, former Deputy NSA

Lt Gen. (Retd.) Syed Ata Hasnain
Former Commander, Indian Army's 15 Corps

Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Anil Golani
Director General, Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS)

Amb. (Retd.) Manjeev Puri
India's former ambassador to EU, member of multi-party delegation for Operation Sindoor

Lt Gen. (Retd.) Raj Shukla
Defence expert and Member, UPSC

Amb. (Retd.) Yash Sinha
India's former High Commissioner to UK

Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Rakesh Sharma
Defence expert & Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation

Smt. Aparajita Sarangi
MP (BJP) Lok Sabha

Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi
MP, Lok Sabha
Shiv Sena (UBT)

Shri Brij Lal
MP (BJP) Lok Sabha

Shri Tejasvi Surya
MP, Lok Sabha (TBC)

Dr Amar Patnaik
former MP, BJD

Amb. (Retd.) Sujan Chinoy
DG, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

Moderator: Manish Chand
CEO, Centre for Global India Insights



“No country can progress, if terrorism continues to thrive and one particular nation allows it to thrive.”

Priyanka Chaturvedi, MP



“This calibrated paradigm-shifting retaliation against the butchers of Pahalgam, which took barely 22 minutes, ended decades of strategic patience, ushering in a new era of offensive defence.”

Manish Chand, CEO, Centre for Global India Insights.



“India will respond decisively to every attack on its forces and citizens. A Sindoor memorial should be built at Baisaran Valley as a symbol of the historic operation, which the Prime Minister agreed to under his own signature.”

Brij Lal, MP



“There is need for traditional intelligence gathering, building secure communication.”

Sujan Chinoy, DG, MPIDSA



“Our adversaries, and even our allies, now recalibrate their perception of India’s threshold.”

Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) Anil Golani



“This is deterrence by punishment, yes, but also by denial, deception, and disruption.”

Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Syed Ata Hasnain.



“The international community is increasingly viewing India as a stable, confident power that is willing to act not only decisively, but also responsibly.”

Amb (Retd.) Y.K. Sinha



BRICS in Rio: Shaping an Inclusive and Sustainable World Order

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EMBASSY OF
BRAZIL
NEW DELHI



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Centre for Global India Insights, in partnership with the Embassy of Brazil in India, organised a conference titled “BRICS in Rio: Shaping an Inclusive and Sustainable World Order,” at India International Centre in New Delhi on June 20, 2025. Mr Dammu Ravi, India’s BRICS Sherpa, Secretary (ER) in India’s Ministry of External Affairs, delivered the keynote address which focused on the pivotal role of BRICS+ in providing viable solutions for challenges faced by the Global South.

The discussion revolved around major geopolitical challenges, the urgency of reforming multilateral institutions, economic coordination within BRICS and with the broader Global South, the push for local currency trade, and sustainable development. Speakers reflected on the centrality of BRICS as a counterweight to Western-dominated frameworks and reaffirmed their respective countries' commitment to democratic, inclusive, and sovereignty-respecting global governance. The discussion also underlined the importance of the upcoming Indian presidency of BRICS in 2026 in advancing these priorities.

Experts advocated a bigger role for BRICS in shaping an inclusive world order by promoting interests of the Global South and underlined the need for greater unity in combating terrorism.



“BRICS has to get its act together and find solutions for the Global South. This requires commitment, a lot of hard work, and to be able to look deep into those issues, into the future.”

Mr Dammu Ravi
India's BRICS Sherpa
and Secretary (Economic
Relations), MEA

SPEAKERS

Mr Dammu Ravi,
BRICS Sherpa, India

H.E Kenneth Félix Haczynski da Nóbrega
Brazil's Ambassador to India

H.E Denis Alipov
Russia's Ambassador to India

HE. Ina H. Krisnamurthi
Indonesia's Ambassador to India

H.E Kamel Zayed Kamel Galal
Egypt's Ambassador to India

Ms Jyoti Vij
FICCI Director General

Moderator: Manish Chand
CEO, Centre for Global India Insights

“The expanded BRICS holds out the promise of reform of international institutions with inclusiveness, with the Global South exercising effective influence on its reconfiguration.”

Brazil’s Ambassador to India Kenneth Nobrega.



“BRICS issued a strong condemnation of the Pahalgam terror attack. This shows BRICS can speak with one voice on terrorism.”

Denis Alipov, Russia’s Ambassador to India

“Right now, the Global South represents 85% of the world’s population and 39% of global GDP. Yet multilateral institutions do not reflect this reality.”

Ina Krisnamurthi, Indonesia’s Ambassador to India



“BRICS should focus on areas of cooperation that enjoy consensus, rather than divisive issues.”

Kamel Zayed Kamel Galal, Egypt’s Ambassador to India

The industry believes that trade in local currencies will help in lowering the transaction costs of cross-border trade significantly, thus giving a boost to intra-BRICS trade.

Ms Jyoti Vij, FICCI Secretary General



“In this conflicted world of competing interests, we need robust multilateralism and consensus-building. This is where expanding multilateral groupings like BRICS can play a pivotal role in infusing hope in despairing times and in offering viable solutions to cross-cutting challenges.”

Manish Chand, CEO, CGIII



The Trump Card: India's Choices and Strategy



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The online conference “The Trump Card: India’s Choices and Strategy,” was organised by Centre for Global India Insights (CGII) and India Writes Network to map the trajectory of the India-US relations under the Trump 2.0 presidency on January 15, 2025, just days before Donald J. Trump’s inauguration as the 47th President of the United States. The conference brought together leading diplomats, business leaders, and experts to analyse both the opportunities and challenges facing India in navigating this new chapter in the India-US partnership.



“For India, the FTA presents an opportunity to attract investments from US companies seeking alternatives to Chinese manufacturing hubs. Success stories like Apple’s expansion in India exemplify how targeted policies can encourage foreign direct investment.”

Mukesh Aghi



“The new Trump administration must hit the proverbial ground running, clear-eyed, motivated and prepared. With proper and focused management, the U.S. and India can have, a free trade bilateral agreement by the end of 2027.

Shalabh Kumar



“Given personal chemistry between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President-elect Trump, one can expect the India-US strategic partnership to scale new heights under the Trump 2.0 presidency.” -

Manish Chand



“The U.S.-India defence corridor will continue to grow. In the months and years ahead we will see a lot more integration in terms of systems to provide that common operating picture to like-minded allies.”

Vivek Lall



“The Indo-Pacific strategy will align with India’s own strategic interests in South Asia, particularly when it comes to the idea of working with partners to counter China and its growing presence and influence in the region.”

Michael Kugelman

SPEAKERS

Amb. (Retd.) Kanwal Sibal
Former foreign secretary, India

Mukesh Aghi
President & CEO, US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) – to join from Washington DC

Vivek Lall
Chief Executive, General Atomics Global Corporation – to join from Washington DC

Shalabh Kumar
US Industrialist, Republican Party – to join from Chicago

Michael Kugelman
South Asia Institute, Wilson Centre, US - to join from Washington DC

Harinder Sekhon
Author & expert

Chair & Moderator: Manish Chand
CEO, Centre for Global India Insights, India Writes Network