Two-Day International Conference on Hybrid Mode

IPATC
INSTITUTE FOR PAN-AFRICAN THOUGHT AND CONVERSATION

UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Two-Day International Conference

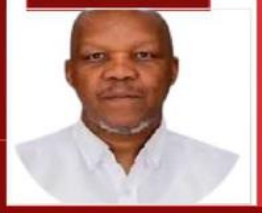
THEME

India-African Relations Today: South-South Cooperation, Inclusive Development, and the Emerging World Order

10 - 11 May 2027

Hybrid Mode

Chief Patron



Prof. Siphamandla Zondi

Professor, University of Johannesburg; Director, The Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation; and Commissioner, National Planning Commission of South Africa.

Patron



Dr. Vikash Kumar

Assistant Professor, Dyal Singh Evening College, University of Delhi; President of the Indian Research Scholars Association; Associate Editor, AJSTID, Scopus Index; Deputy Editor, Development in Practice, Taylor & Francis; and Visiting Fellow, University of Lapland, Finland.

Organised by
Indian Research Scholars Association in collaboration with the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation, University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Roadmap of the Conference

Stage	Activity	Timeline
1	Call for abstracts	1 November to 31 December 2026
2	Abstract Review and Acceptance	1 January to 10 January 2027
3	Full paper submission	10 January 2027 to 10 March 2027
4	Paper reviewed by committee and initial suggestions	11 March to 20 March 2027
5	Revised Paper submission	21 March to 5 April 2027
6	Registration for Presentation	6 April 2027 to 15 April 2027

Google Form for Abstract Submission: https://forms.gle/AiBP59RjVFLmstx96.

Concept Note of the Conference

Concept Note of the Conference: India–African relations constitute a significant dimension of contemporary international relations, reflecting the historical convergence of anti-colonial struggles, shared developmental aspirations, and the collective pursuit of a more equitable international order. The relationship is rooted in historical interactions, transcontinental cultural exchanges, and the common experiences of colonial subjugation, racial discrimination, economic exploitation, and political marginalization. During the twentieth century, India and numerous African countries developed a common political consciousness around the principles of sovereignty, self-determination, non-intervention, and international solidarity. These principles subsequently found expression in the Non-Aligned Movement, Afro-Asian solidarity, and the broader intellectual and political traditions of the Global South. In the contemporary geopolitical environment, India–Africa relations have transcended their historical foundations and evolved into a multidimensional partnership encompassing strategic diplomacy, economic cooperation, technological advancement, educational exchange, healthcare, environmental sustainability, and institutional collaboration. The increasing prominence of emerging economies, the redistribution of global economic power, the intensification of geopolitical rivalries, and the growing contestation surrounding the legitimacy of existing international institutions have further enhanced the strategic significance of this relationship. India and African countries are important participants in the ongoing transformation of the international system. Their collective engagement raises fundamental questions concerning the distribution of global power, the democratization of international institutions, the restructuring of development partnerships, and the representation of historically marginalized societies in global decision-making processes. In this context, India–Africa relations provide an important analytical framework for understanding the aspirations, limitations, and possibilities of South–South cooperation in an increasingly interconnected yet deeply unequal world. The principal challenge is to transform diplomatic goodwill and historical solidarity into substantive developmental outcomes. This requires institutional mechanisms that facilitate technology transfer, strengthen local productive capacities, promote knowledge co-creation, and ensure that economic partnerships generate employment and social value within participating countries. The conference will therefore critically examine whether South–South cooperation can provide an alternative to externally imposed developmental paradigms or whether it risks reproducing existing asymmetries through new configurations of economic and political power.

Principal Research Question: To what extent can India–Africa relations, through South–South cooperation, contribute to inclusive development, the democratization of global governance, and the emergence of a more equitable multipolar world order?

Objectives of the Conference

- Critically examine the historical evolution, contemporary dynamics, and future trajectories of India–Africa relations within the changing international system.
- Theorize South–South cooperation as a framework for mutual learning, institutional capacity-building, and sustainable development.
- Analyze the relationship between democratic governance, civil society participation, social justice, and inclusive development.
- Investigate the implications of multipolarity, geopolitical competition, and multilateral institutional reform for the collective aspirations of the Global South.
- Explore opportunities for collaboration in trade, investment, digital public infrastructure, technological innovation, education, healthcare, and renewable energy.
- Promote comparative scholarship on indigenous knowledge, epistemic justice, community empowerment, and decolonizing development.
- Facilitate interdisciplinary dialogue and institutional partnerships among scholars, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and civil society representatives from India and African countries.

Expected Outcomes and Academic Significance: The conference is expected to generate interdisciplinary insights into the political, economic, social, and intellectual dimensions of India–Africa relations. It will provide a platform for critically assessing existing cooperation mechanisms, identifying institutional and policy gaps, and developing research-informed recommendations for strengthening future partnerships. The deliberations may facilitate collaborative research networks, academic exchange programs, joint publications, policy briefs, and sustained engagement among universities, research institutions, government agencies, and civil society organizations. Selected scholarly contributions may also be considered for publication in an edited volume or an appropriate peer-reviewed academic journal, subject to editorial standards and publication arrangements. The conference will further contribute to the development of comparative perspectives on South–South cooperation, inclusive development, and global governance. By bringing together diverse

disciplinary approaches and regional experiences, it seeks to encourage theoretically informed, empirically grounded, and policy-relevant scholarship.

Sub-Theme of the Conference:

Theme 1: India–Africa Relations, Geopolitics, and the Emerging World Order

1. India–Africa Strategic Partnerships in a Multipolar World
2. India, the African Union, and the Reform of Global Governance
3. India–Africa Relations amid Great-Power Competition: China, Europe, and the United States
4. BRICS, G20, and the Collective Voice of the Global South

Theme 2: South–South Cooperation, Civil Society, and Sustainable Development

1. India–Africa Trade, Investment, and Economic Cooperation
2. Development Partnerships, Capacity-Building, and Technology Transfer
3. Industrialization, Entrepreneurship, and Employment Generation
4. India–Africa Cooperation in Climate Change, Renewable Energy, and Sustainable Development

Theme 3: Inclusive Development, Democracy, and Civil Society Engagement

1. Civil Society Organizations and Participatory Governance in India and Africa
2. Democratic Institutions, Political Participation, and Social Justice
3. Indigenous Communities, Marginalized Groups, and Inclusive Development
4. Gender Equality, Youth Empowerment, and Social Inclusion

Theme 4: Innovation, Digital Transformation, and Knowledge Partnerships

1. Digital Public Infrastructure, E-Governance, and Digital Inclusion
2. Inclusive Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Grassroots Development
3. Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Epistemic Justice, and Decolonizing Development
4. Higher Education, Academic Collaboration, and Research Partnerships

Theme 5: Historical Connections, Cultural Dimensions, and Future Prospects

1. From Anti-Colonial Solidarity to Contemporary India–Africa Partnerships
2. Cultural Diplomacy, Diaspora, and People-to-People Relations
3. Education, Language, Heritage, and Intercultural Dialogue
4. Emerging Opportunities and Challenges in India–Africa Relations: A Roadmap for Future Cooperation

Who can participate in the Conference: The conference aims to bring together a diverse and interdisciplinary community of scholars, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and institutional representatives engaged in the study and advancement of India–Africa relations. The primary participants include faculty members, professors, postdoctoral researchers, doctoral scholars, and early-career academics from universities, colleges, and research institutions in India and African countries.

Scholars specializing in Political Science, International Relations, Economics, Sociology, History, Public Administration, Commerce, Management, Development Studies, and International Political Economy are particularly encouraged to participate. The Webinar also aims to engage policymakers, diplomats, government representatives, international organizations, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, and development agencies working on diplomatic cooperation, democratic governance, economic development, and social inclusion. Representatives of the African Union, regional organizations, academic networks, and institutions promoting South–South cooperation constitute an important part of the intended audience, subject to their availability and willingness to participate. Special emphasis will be placed on doctoral scholars, postdoctoral fellows, and young researchers whose work addresses emerging questions concerning geopolitics, indigenous knowledge systems, digital transformation, sustainable development, and global governance.

Call for Abstract Submission: The organizing committee cordially invites original research papers, conceptual articles, comparative studies, and policy-oriented contributions from academicians, researchers, faculty members, postdoctoral fellows, doctoral scholars, policymakers, and practitioners from India, African countries, and other parts of the world. Submissions should address the conference theme and its associated thematic areas. Contributions employing theoretical, empirical, historical, comparative, or interdisciplinary approaches are particularly welcome. All submissions should demonstrate academic rigor, originality, and relevance to contemporary debates on India–Africa relations. Interested participants are requested to submit a 150–200-word abstract, along with the paper title, author's name, institutional affiliation, email address, and five relevant keywords.

Roadmap of the Conference 10-11 May

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Abstract Submission Google Form:

If the abstract is accepted by the organizing committee, the author will receive a separate acceptance email. Authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to submit their full papers in accordance with the guidelines communicated by the organizing committee. Submissions should be original and should not be under consideration for publication elsewhere. Submitted papers will be reviewed independently by two reviewers and checked for plagiarism in two stages using Turnitin software and Drilbit software.

Google Form for Abstract Submission: https://forms.gle/AiBP59RjVFLmstx96.

Or scan here for Abstract Submission

The organizing committee welcomes contributions that advance scholarly understanding, encourage cross-regional collaboration, and generate constructive policy recommendations for strengthening India–Africa relations. Selected papers may be considered for publication in an edited volume or an appropriate peer-reviewed journal, subject to the relevant editorial and review procedures.Johannesburg

Please contact us for queries

Dr. Shubhangi Amble: *irsa.ac.in121@gmail.com* ***or*** *shubha.amble7@gmail.com*

Manorma Kuntal: *Manoramak108@gmail.com*

Mr. Ratidzo C Makombe: *ratidzom@uj.ac.za*, ratiemak@gmail.com

For any queries, you can send a message to WhatsApp: 9919914900

Guidelines for the authors: The Conference accepts papers from all interested participants. The volume follows its guidelines and accepts chapters only in the formats specified in the

guideline sections. It is necessary for all contributors to be prepared to establish a consistent academic, editorial, and publication framework for all papers submitted to the edited volume. The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that every contribution to the manuscript is submitted in a single format that meets the publisher's expected standards. All contributors are requested to read these guidelines carefully before submitting the paper. The organizing committee reserves the right to request modifications if a submission does not comply with the requirements or does not sufficiently align with the webinar's scope.

Formatting of the Manuscript for the Submission: The research paper should be submitted by email and should be approximately 6,000–7,000 words, including the abstract, keywords, references, tables, figures, and appendices. The paper must address a clearly defined theme, theoretical foundation, or contemporary issue that should be the chapter's focus, not the book's or section's. Contributors should avoid excessively broad discussions and instead develop a focused, coherent, and analytically substantive argument. Because it is an edited volume, submit your work as a chapter. The paper should demonstrate engagement with relevant scholarly literature, a strong theoretical foundation, appropriate empirical evidence, and a critical discussion. The author should offer a meaningful addition to existing scholarship, whether through theoretical refinement, empirical evidence, comparative analysis, contemporary discourse, or policy interpretation. The manuscript should be sufficiently developed to stand as an independent scholarly chapter while also contributing to the intellectual coherence of the edited volume. You should submit your paper in this format, but not all sections are required to compile the chapter. Here are some general formatting guidelines for submitting the chapters.

Title of the Paper
Author Name, Institutional Affiliation, and Email ID
Abstract (150-180 words)
Keywords (Four to Six Keywords)
Introduction:
Theoretical or Conceptual Framework
Relevant Secondary data with relevant sources and Analysis
Discussion of the data
Conclusion
References (APA 7th edition)

The author can follow their own writing style, which depends on her/him, but they must follow the guidelines related to the abstract, keywords, and references. However, every chapter should maintain a clear progression from its title to the conclusion. The first page should include the complete chapter title, the full name of each author, the institutional affiliation, department, university, or organization, the institutional email address, and the ORCID iD, where available. The corresponding author should be clearly identified. Author details must be accurate and consistent with the information submitted during the abstract stage. Any change in authorship or institutional affiliation should be communicated to the editor before final acceptance.

Tables, Figures, and Graphs: Tables, figures, graphs, maps, and diagrams should be included only where they make a meaningful contribution to the paper. Each table and figure must have a consecutive number and a clear, descriptive title. They should be referred to in the main text before appearing in the manuscript. Sources and explanatory notes must be provided where required. Authors are responsible for checking the accuracy of numerical information, labels, units, and calculations. Figures should be legible and supplied in an appropriate resolution. The editor may request modifications to tables and figures to ensure consistency across the volume.

Sentence Structure and Language: Contributors must use clear, coherent, and professional academic English throughout the chapter. The manuscript should follow British English spelling. Sentences should be grammatically correct, logically arranged, and appropriately connected through effective transitions. Authors should avoid unnecessarily long sentences, informal expressions, repetition, unexplained technical terms, and excessive jargon. The manuscript should follow 1.15line spacing, consistent paragraph spacing, and uniform formatting of headings, subheadings, tables, and figures.

Originality, Plagiarism, and Research Ethics: The paper must be original, unpublished, and ethically prepared. Plagiarism will be checked using DrillBit software at two stages: first, when the contributor submits the manuscript, and second, after peer review, when the revised manuscript is resubmitted. The acceptable plagiarism limit is 10%, while AI-generated content must not exceed 20%. Authors must ensure proper acknowledgment, accurate citations, informed consent where applicable, and compliance with research ethics standards. Chapters exceeding these limits may be returned for correction or rejected. At the final editorial stage, the editor reserves the right to reduce or remove an author’s name in cases of serious non-compliance, misconduct, or failure to meet the stated criteria.

Review Process: All submitted papers will undergo a double-review process, beginning with an initial editorial assessment, and will then be sent to two reviewers for evaluation. Their comments and recommendations will be communicated to the contributor for necessary revision. The revised chapter will then be returned to the same reviewers for further assessment. If the chapter meets the required academic and editorial standards, the editor will issue a formal acceptance letter.

About the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation: The Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC) is a research institute established in 2016 at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. It serves as a centre for intellectual engagement, critical scholarship, and the advancement of Pan-African thought, knowledge, and culture. The Institute provides a platform for scholars, practitioners, policymakers, activists, and civil society actors from across Africa and its diaspora to engage in meaningful dialogue on the political, economic, social, cultural, and developmental challenges confronting African societies. PATC seeks to promote original and innovative research, encourage critical debate, and strengthen the University of Johannesburg's international academic profile in Pan-African studies. Its intellectual orientation is grounded in the recognition of Africa's historical experiences, cultural diversity, intellectual traditions, and contemporary aspirations. The Institute contributes to debates on Pan-Africanism, African international relations, decolonization, political transformation, higher education, migration, and the relationship between Africa and the wider world. A central dimension of the Institute's work is the production and dissemination of knowledge that reflects African realities and engages critically with dominant intellectual and developmental paradigms. Through research activities, public dialogues, conferences, teaching, and collaborative initiatives, IPATC facilitates interdisciplinary engagement among academics, emerging researchers, and practitioners. Its activities also encourage reflection on African agency, regional integration, social justice, sustainable development, and the continent's position within the changing global order.

About the Indian Research Scholars Association: The Indian Research Scholars Association is a platform whose objective is to exchange creative, constructive, promotional, and progressive dialogue with research scholars in all the universities, colleges, and research institutes of India doing research in the subjects of Social Sciences, Humanities, Commerce, and Management. The association also has six Zonal Wings through which scholars' regional issues are addressed. Through this platform, subject experts' lectures are organized, and

research-related information is shared. Lectures have been organized on research methodology, contemporary issues, research dynamics, and related topics. Researchers at various universities, colleges, and research institutes operate this platform. Selection is done according to the work done in their particular field. In this, research-related lectures are organized by subject-matter experts and research scholars. To develop the flow of logic and language in their work and communication style, this platform welcomes all research scholars in India who are actively engaged in research.

Mission: Our primary mission is to empower researchers, academicians, and students by providing the tools, guidance, and platforms they need to excel in their academic pursuits. We believe in sharing knowledge free of charge because knowledge is meant to be shared, not sold. We aim to foster a community that values knowledge sharing, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the development of cutting-edge research methodologies. IRSA aims to connect research scholars on one platform to exchange creative, constructive, promotional, and progressive dialogue with research scholars in all the universities, colleges, and research institutes of India

Achievements: Our first major achievement is successfully bringing researchers from across the country together on a single platform. With a proven track record of organizing successful events, including more than 12 workshops (one week and 10 days) on 'Data Analysis Using SPSS Software' and a one-week national-level e-workshop on 'Enhancing Research Paper Writing Skills'. We have garnered a large number of participants from leading academicians, researchers, and students across India. Our lecture series, workshops, and book discussion sessions have successfully reached every state and UT in our country. Consequently, 4000+ young researchers from across India have connected with IRSA on various social media platforms and are members of IRSA. Delegates from various countries, including the USA, France, Germany, Russia, and Bangladesh, have visited this virtual platform and shared their knowledge and experiences. We have successfully conducted 150+ lectures, 50+ book discussions, and more than 50 Webinars with the participation of vice-chancellors, professors, researchers, and professionals. These sessions have provided a platform for insightful discussions on topics such as key concepts of research methodology, how to develop a questionnaire, how to avoid mistakes during research, hypothesis testing, and more; book discussions on various contemporary issues like Reimagining Innovation Systems in COVID and Post-COVID, Globalization and Sustainable Development, Internal Security, and so on have received positive feedback for their depth and relevance.