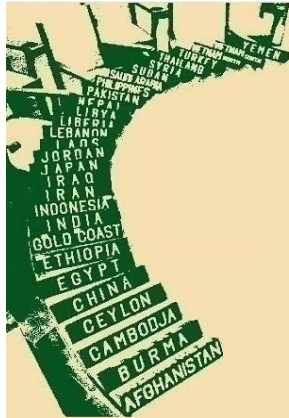


# Bandung Day Symposium 2026

organised by

Council for Social Development (CSD) & India International Centre



Respecting Sovereignty, Equality, Peace and Human Rights

**BANDUNG DAY SYMPOSIUM 2026**

On

**"Bandung to BRICS: Women, War and Peace"**

Jointly organised by

Council for Social Development and India International Centre

Date: 24 April 2026 (Friday), Time: 14:30 - 17:00

Venue: Conference Room No - II, India International Centre

Keeping the Bandung Principles of 1955 in mind, as India prepares to host the 18th BRICS Summit later this year, the panelists would address, from the vantage point of women, issues that have led to recent wars and how to build conditions of peace in contemporary times.

<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Professor K. Srinath Reddy</b> President, CSD
<b>Welcome address:</b>	<b>Shri K. N. Shrivastava</b> Director, IIC
<b>Introduction:</b>	<b>Professor Rama Baru</b> Jindal Global University, Former Professor of JNU  <b>Professor Manoranajan Mohanty</b> Former Professor of University of Delhi
<b>Speakers:</b>	<b>Professor Anuradha Mitra Chenoy</b> Adjunct Professor, Jindal Global University and Former Professor and Dean, Jawaharlal Nehru University  <b>Amb. Meera Shankar</b> Former Ambassador  <b>Professor Uma Chakravarti</b> Historian, Film-maker, Former Professor, Miranda House, University of Delhi  <b>Ms. Rita Manchanda</b> Independent Consultant on Gender, Peace and Security on Southeast Asia  <b>Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj</b> Formerly India's Permanent Representative at the UN  <b>Professor Vasanthi Raman</b> Social Scientist, Feminist Activist
<b>Discussant:</b>	<b>Dr Rityusha Mani Tiwary</b> Bhagat Singh College, DU, Convener, Bandung India Network
<b>Vote of Thanks :</b>	<b>Dr Sourindra Mohan Ghosh</b> Assistant Professor, CSD

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*This programme has as Knowledge Partners  
Shahid Bhagat Singh College and Shyamlal College (Evening), University of Delhi.*

EXHIBITION ON BANDUNG @ 70 IN DDML HALL GROUND FLOOR, CSD (11:00 am - 5:00 pm)

## **REPORT:**

**Theme:** “Bandung to BRICS: Women, War and Peace”

**Date:** 24 April 2026 (Friday)

**Time:** 14:30 – 17:00 IST

**Venue:** India International Centre

The Council for Social Development (CSD), in collaboration with the India International Centre, organised the Bandung Day Symposium 2026 on 24 April 2026 at Conference Room No. II, India International Centre, New Delhi. Titled “Bandung to BRICS: Women, War and Peace”, the event was held from 14:30 to 17:00 under the chairmanship of Professor K. Srinath Reddy, President, CSD. An engaging exhibition on Bandung @ 70 was inaugurated by Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, IAS (Retd.), Former Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Honorary Special advisor to the President, CSD. The exhibition was on display at the Durgabai Deshmukh Memorial Hall, CSD premises, offering visual and historical insights into the enduring legacy of the 1955 Bandung Conference and its relevance to contemporary global challenges. The symposium brought together distinguished scholars, former diplomats, and experts to reflect on the Bandung Principles, while examining the role of women in understanding the roots of recent conflicts and pathways to peace, especially as India prepares to host the 18th BRICS Summit later this year.



**CSD Team & Participants at the Exhibition Bandung Day 2026**

**Professor K. Srinath Reddy**, President of CSD, welcomed everyone, introduced the theme and underscored the continued relevance of sovereignty, equality, and peace in today's geopolitical context.

The welcome address was delivered by **Shri K. N. Shrivastava**, Director of IIC, who recalled the historical significance of the Bandung Principles. He highlighted the growing trend of multi-alignment in contemporary times and noted how the 18th BRICS summit in India provides the perfect moment to reaffirm the enduring spirit of South-South cooperation.

The introduction was jointly presented by **Professor Rama Baru** (Jindal Global University, Former Professor at JNU) and **Professor Manoranjan Mohanty** (Former Professor, University of Delhi). Professor Baru highlighted the relevance of the theme with reference to the “lawless world we live in.” She characterised the legacy of the Bandung spirit through three key principles: development, peace, and social justice, and emphasised that the role of women is indispensable in advancing these objectives.

Professor Mohanty situated the discussion within the historical context of the Bandung Conference, highlighting its significance during the era of Cold War bipolarity and its contribution to the emergence of the Non-Aligned Movement. He placed particular emphasis on the role of women in peace building, conflict resolution, and the pursuit of social justice.



***“Bandung to BRICS: Women, War and Peace – Symposium at IIC”***

The panel of distinguished speakers brought diverse insights to the theme. **Professor Anuradha Mitra Chenoy**, Adjunct Professor at Jindal Global University and Former Professor and Dean at Jawaharlal Nehru University, highlighted links between Bandung, NAM and BRICS, describing all as counter-hegemonic platforms challenging Western dominance. However, she noted their lack of gender-sensitive approaches. The discussion focused on Afro-Asian solidarity, human rights, and the role of women's movements. Emphasis was placed on the disproportionate impact of war on women and children, urging greater focus on peace and security. She concluded by emphasising the need for a more coordinated engagement between the Non-Aligned Movement, BRICS, and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda to advance inclusive, gender-responsive frameworks for global peace and development.

**Ambassador Meera Shankar**, Former Ambassador, highlighted that the Bandung spirit, while rooted in anti-colonial struggles and resistance to great power domination, largely excluded women's voices, as gender and environment issues were not part of its core agenda. She discussed how its vision of global solidarity contrasts with today's far more uncertain and volatile world, where multilateralism is weakening and principles of institutions like the UN are often sidelined. She also pointed to challenges in global trade, where unilateral actions such as tariffs undermine established norms. At the same time, she emphasized that technological advances can foster sustainability and address climate change through renewable energy alternatives, while stressing the urgent need for greater participation of women in peace, security, and politics at all levels of governance.

**Professor Uma Chakravarti**, Historian, filmmaker, and Former Professor at Miranda House, University of Delhi, highlighted the enduring "spirit of Bandung," particularly its vision of fluid, more permeable borders and cooperation beyond rigid nationalism. She linked this idea to feminist approaches to peace, emphasizing solidarity across regions, especially in South Asia. Drawing from cross-border feminist dialogues in South Asia, including meetings held in Lahore in the early 2000s, she highlighted how sustained engagement can help address historical injustices, such as the acknowledgment of violence against women during the Bangladesh Liberation War. She underscored that feminist thought is layered and evolving, requiring collective engagement. She stressed that peace-building must move beyond theory into everyday practice, reinforcing inclusivity, shared histories, and cooperation as essential to sustaining meaningful and lasting peace.

**Ms. Rita Manchanda**, Independent Consultant on Gender, Peace and Security in Southeast Asia, emphasized that women bring grounded, lived perspectives to peace-making, rooted in community, livelihood, and survival. She argued for greater inclusion of women in mediation and reconciliation processes, noting that feminist visions must move from theory into policy influence. Linking history to the present, she described the Bandung Conference as a moment of de-colonial multilateralism, where newly independent nations shaped global dialogue. However, she also highlighted the absence of women from high-level platforms like Bandung and BRICS. Overall, she stressed feminist solidarity, South-South cooperation, the need to translate Bandung's spirit into everyday peace practices, and importance of women's participation at all levels of decision making.

**Ruchira Kamboj**, former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, spoke on global governance and women's leadership. She observed that peace efforts often falter due to a persistent gap between commitment and implementation, noting that "peace fails because of the gap between commitment and practice." She further drew attention to the differentiated application of international principles in contemporary conflicts, arguing that even states committed to maintaining peace frequently violate these very norms. Emphasising the gendered impact of conflict, she stated that women are among the most affected, facing challenges related to food security, healthcare, displacement, and overall human security. Looking ahead to India's engagement with BRICS, she underscored the need for a pragmatic approach, stressing that institutional reform is both urgent and indispensable.

**Vasanthi Raman**, social scientist and feminist activist, highlighted the intersection of activism and policy. She offered a critical perspective on the neoliberal paradigm, linking it to the rise of majoritarianism, patriarchy, and environmental degradation. She argued that gender itself has



become instrumentalised, observing that while there is a growing demand for women's representation in positions of power, insufficient attention is paid to the question: *what kind of women are being empowered?* She characterised the present moment as historically significant, suggesting that it offers new opportunities for women to take leadership roles in peacemaking and denuclearisation. Concluding her remarks, she emphasised that the way forward lies in building coordinated global efforts for peace and demilitarisation.

The discussion was further deepened by **Dr. Rityusha Mani Tiwary**, who, as discussant and Convener of the Bandung India Network, offered a critical synthesis of the session's themes. She highlighted that while the spirit of the Bandung Conference emphasized solidarity and equality, significant gaps remain, particularly in the visibility and participation of women. She argued that contemporary groupings such as BRICS, despite their expansion, have not adequately transformed structural inequalities, especially in areas like gender inclusion and decision-making processes.



**Re-interpreting the Bandung Principles - Discussion - Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, DU**

Dr. Tiwary also urged a redefinition of peace not merely as the absence of war, but as the presence of justice, ecological balance, and freedom from exclusion, hunger, and violence. Her reflections reinforced the need to reinterpret Bandung principles in a more inclusive and equitable framework suited to present global realities.



**Deliberations on the spirit of the Bandung Conference - Solidarity and Equality**

**Ambassador Shyam Saran** delivered concluding observations and expressed gratitude to the organizers, particularly Professor Mohanty, for their collaboration in successfully organizing the Bandung anniversary event. He appreciated the thought-provoking discussions, especially on gender equality, and highlighted the contributions of fellow diplomats such as Ambassador Meera Shankar and Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj. He underscored the persistent gap between discourse on equality and its practical realization, emphasizing that peace, security, and development remain incomplete without a clear gender perspective.



The Chair opened the floor for questions from the audiences, which were answered and deliberated by the speakers and discussants.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by **Dr. Sourindra Mohan Ghosh**, Assistant Professor at CSD. He thanked all the panelists, organisers, knowledge partners, and the participants.

The symposium concluded on a constructive note, reflecting its success as a meaningful and intellectually engaging platform for dialogue. It brought together scholars, practitioners, and students from diverse universities and institutions, ensuring a wide range of perspectives and active participation throughout the sessions. The discussions effectively connected the enduring principles of the Bandung Conference with present-day global challenges, while also identifying critical gaps in their application.

Looking ahead, the deliberations highlighted the importance of India's role within BRICS as an opportunity to advance more inclusive, equitable, and gender-responsive frameworks of global governance. The symposium reaffirmed the continued relevance of South-South cooperation and underscored the need for pragmatic institutional reforms to address contemporary geopolitical and developmental concerns. Overall, the event stood out as a successful and forward-looking engagement, contributing meaningfully to ongoing debates on peace, development, and international cooperation.

**Exhibition on Bandung @70 at CSD -DDM Hall.**



**Link for the Bandung Day Symposium 2026 - <https://youtu.be/abreYhJ5q8M>**

(We acknowledge the contribution of Mr. Aman Kakkar and Akash (students of Shaheed Bhagat Singh College) in rapporteuring during the event)



**COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

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