



# Concept Note

## Railways in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Future Ahead

Over the years following independence and a sway of globalisation, the global approach to International Relations has undergone a tremendous change in how the countries shape relations with their neighbours and the resultant global community, while also bringing the Northern and Southern Hemisphere with growing interdependence given the growing need for improvement in infrastructure and economising capital costs by strengthening the fixed and variable assets in Railways, which have now been realized as an essential asset to the economic progress of the country through geopolitical and materialistic means by means of promoting the culture of Railway Education, Transfer of Technology and collaborations in strategic infrastructure projects

The Session on “*Railways in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Future Ahead*” will emphasize on the following questions which are an important catalyst to the promotion of Railways as an instrument of diplomacy:

1. How do diplomatic approaches help in railway expansion?
2. *Are High – Speed Rail Corridors symbolic of the growing infrastructure advancement in the once sunset industry?*
3. *What is the underlying motive behind north – south collaboration in development of Railway Infrastructure?*
4. How can countries help each other in developing from the developing countries perspective?
5. *Is participation by external funding institutions such as Asian Development Bank, World Bank and International Monetary Fund an asset or a liability? What is the way forward?*

6. *How can the establishment of Universities be a game changer in changing the approach of the global politics towards railways, especially from a developing perspective?*
7. *Can erstwhile administration models help the Railways of the Southern Hemisphere help them survive given the growing challenge posed by the railways of developed countries?*

Towards the end of the session, we aim to achieve the following objectives:

1. Helping understand and appreciate the role of railways in diplomatic connections
2. Understand the objectives of collaboration between developing and developed countries in the contemporary railway economy
3. Understanding the role of developed countries in helping the developing countries jointly achieve the goals of an efficient railway infrastructure and promoting a learning culture in the process of development
4. Critically assess the role of financial institutions and help the railway systems generate resources to sustain development goals
5. A critical assessment and appreciation of dedicated education system in promoting a holistic development of railways
6. Understanding the relevance of administrative models in the contemporary railway economy

## **The Session**

The session will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> June at 7:30 PM IST. Participants will be invited to participate through live video and social media handles and gain insights into the this rather unique and unexplored domain of railways. We look forward to hosting you

## **Contact Us**

For more updates on the upcoming session of global class, stay tuned and follow us on:

**Global Class:** <https://durhamcollege.ca/globalclass/classes/>

**Chitresh Shrivastva Writes:** <https://chitreshshrivastvawrites.weebly.com/upcoming-events.html>. (*The event page will be updated shortly*)

## About the Speaker

Chitresh Shrivastva obtained his bachelors in Media Studies, Literature and Psychology and Masters in International Studies from CHRIST (Deemed to be University). He has been into the research related to Domestic and Global Railway Policies for over 11 years with a greater focus towards domestic railway policies from the perspective of Indian Railways.

He has published for articles on Railways for publications like *Dainik Bhaskar*, *The Hindu*, *Deccan Herald*, *We Care [ A Publication by Centre for Social Action]*, *Young Bhaskar*, *The Mint*, *Rail Business [FOCUS INDIA]* and numerous online publications such as *Harvard Economics Review*, *South Asian Monitor*, *South Asian Voices*, *Thunderbuzz*, *News Minute* to mention a few. He has also written a thesis titled **“High Speed Rail Corridor: The Role of External Actors”** which has been listed as the most read publication on ResearchGate and Academia by prestigious Indian Institutes such as Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur and Indian Institute of Management, Indore

He has delivered guest lectures on various topics related to historical, economic and technical aspects of railways across deaneries at both Undergraduate and Postgraduate levels at CHRIST (Deemed to be University) and has also presented numerous papers at National Conferences related to domestic and global railway policies. In 2017 he was awarded the best paper for his paper titled **“Narrating Railways through Accounts and Films”** presented at the Synthesize National Conference

He was recently listed amongst the top 5% most read researchers by Academia with his works being read from 26 countries. Currently he is associated with Thunderbuzz as a guest columnist with specialisation in Railway Policies and is working on two books related to Domestic and Global Railway Policies

