DECCAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

A Brief

The Deccan Centre for International Relations (Deccan Centre) is an independent think tank. It is the ninth centre under the Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR), which is one of India's well-known institutions since 1970 focused on finance, economics, and development research and now expanding into other areas as well. Deccan Centre for International Relations is the first one dedicated exclusively to the study of international relations. It was inaugurated on 30th January 2026 in Chennai.

Based in Chennai city, Deccan Centre focusses on international relations of five South Indian states – Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana, and three Union Territories (UTs) – Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry. Each state of India has its own distinctive characteristics and unique requirements both domestically and internationally. These South Indian states/ UTs have been, in many ways, the drivers of India's development and growth and have had historical, cultural, maritime, business, tech hubs and other links with specific regions of the world. By focusing on the unique strengths of southern India, Deccan Centre will enhance international engagement of India's five South Indian States under the broader rubric of India's foreign policy.

In the above context, Deccan Centre focusses on priorities and requirements of these States and UTs in diverse areas such as geopolitics, security, technology, including digital, business, trade, diaspora, environment, maritime and other issues, and identify opportunities in international engagement with specific countries, regions, and themes/ areas of mutual interest. It explores opportunities for greater engagement with the Global South, including in digital and emerging technologies. It seeks to enhance greater understanding among other countries and international partners on public policy, technology, and business interests of these States and UTs.

The Deccan Centre has, inter alia, four broad verticals:

1. **Geopolitics:** opportunities and challenges, both regional and global, in strategic, security and development space impacting South India.
2. **Technology:** focus on emerging and disruptive technologies, digital transformation, AI, biotechnology, and others.
3. **Business:** business links of South India to global markets.
4. **Others:** Other areas of interest including diaspora, environment, Global South, public policy etc

Deccan Centre works closely with the stakeholders to bring value added to their work. It does this through collaboration with institutions and organisations, undertake joint projects, publish policy briefs, and research papers, put out dedicated podcasts, connect businesses and collaborate with academic and policy institutions in India and abroad. The Centre brings out daily updates on areas of interest to the Deccan region.

Please follow Deccan Centre's website, social media handles as well as daily newsletters for updates.

Website: www.deccancentre.org

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Background of IFMR

Established in 1970 as a not-for-profit society, the Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR) was created with a clear and forward-looking purpose: to provide rigorous, research-based inputs to industry and government in the areas of finance and economics. Sponsored by the erstwhile ICICI Limited, the House of Kotharis, and other leading industrial groups, IFMR Society was the first institution of its kind in Asia, setting a benchmark for policy-relevant research and institution-building.

Over time, IFMR has evolved into a vibrant research ecosystem. IFMR has 330 researchers in 9 specialised centres. It has partnership with MIT, Yale University and NITI Aayog. IFMR has been recognised by Ministry of Finance, Government of India as Institution of National Importance. It has also established KREA University in Sri City, Andhra Pradesh in 2018, which is fast becoming a major educational focus.

IFMR's 8 other specialised centres undertake pioneering work in development economics across critical domains such as finance and financial inclusion, digital payments, infrastructure and governance, agriculture, health, education, labour markets, entrepreneurship, and small and medium enterprises. These centres reflect IFMR's long-standing commitment to grounding public debate and policy choices in evidence, data, and field-level insights. They specialize in conducting high-quality policy and action-oriented research and inform policymaking debate by partnering with influential stakeholders.