

Mr. Varun Mohan

Assistant Professor, School of Public Policy and International Affairs, REVA University, Bengaluru
PhD Researcher, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru (*submitted for evaluation*)
Email: varun.mohan@reva.edu.in / varunmohan@nias.res.in | Phone: +91 97447 89981

Profile Summary

Political scientist specializing in the politics of global governance, institutional legitimacy, and climate politics, with a focus on Global South contexts. I combine concept-driven research with empirical analysis of policy documents, diplomatic practice, and institutional discourse. I have teaching experience across political theory, global politics, and public policy, with a strong interest in interdisciplinary pedagogy.

Research Focus

Global governance; global environmental politics; climate security; adaptation; sustainability; critical theory; corporate climate ethics; climate geopolitics; South Asia; social justice.

Current Positions

- **Assistant Professor, School of Geopolitics and Public Policy, REVA University (Oct 2025–present)** - Teaching and research appointment with responsibility for undergraduate/postgraduate instruction in political science and public policy. Teaching areas include political theory, international relations, global governance, and climate politics. Involved in curriculum delivery and student mentoring within an interdisciplinary liberal studies programme.
- **PhD Researcher, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru (Aug 2021-Dec 2025)**(*submitted for evaluation*) - Doctoral research examining climate security, institutional legitimacy, and Global South perspectives in international governance. Thesis submitted for evaluation; degree award pending.
- **Research Fellow, Earth System Governance Project (2024–present)** - Affiliated researcher contributing to international research networks on global environmental governance, climate politics, and sustainability transitions.

Previous Research & Teaching Positions

- **Visiting Research Scholar, School of Political Science & International Studies, University of Queensland (with Professor Matt McDonald), (Jan–Apr 2024)**
- **Founding Director, Pod Learning, (Aug 2020–Aug 2021)** - Founded and led a skill development initiative for school students, with responsibility for curriculum design, instructional delivery, and academic coordination.
- **Teaching Faculty, Political Science & International Relations, iLearn IAS Academy (Nov 2016–July 2020)** - Delivered foundational and advanced courses in political science and international relations for competitive examination candidates, including political theory, international relations, social justice, Indian polity and contemporary global affairs.

Education

- **PhD (thesis submitted), National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru (Aug 2021–Dec 2025).**
- **MA, Political Science, University of Hyderabad (2013–2015).**
- **BA, History, Loyola College, Chennai (2010–2013)**

Publications

1. Publication with peer review process

- a. **Mohan, V.***(2025). *In search of consensus: Examining Global South Perspectives on Climate Security in UNSC Debates*. Earth System Governance. 23, 100231. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esg.2024.100231>
- b. Magunna, A., & **Mohan, V.** (2025). *Anchor or overreach? Explaining divergent responses to Indian maritime diplomacy in Mauritius and the Maldives*. Journal of the Indian Ocean Region, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19480881.2025.2585234>
- c. (Accepted) Sharma, A* & **Mohan, V.** *Assessing G20's climate action: Looking beyond the Indian Presidency*. Indian Journal of Politics and International Relations

2. Submitted publications with peer review process

- a. **Mohan, V*** & Kunhikrishnan, E. *Governing at the Edge of Habitability: Legitimacy, Loss, and the Politics of Extreme Adaptation in Kerala and Beyond*
- b. **Mohan, V***. *Governing Climate Security in the United Nations: Institutional Fragmentation and the Legitimacy-Capacity Gap*.
- c. **Mohan, V*** & Panneerselvam, Prakash. *Climate Security and The Politics of Knowledge Production*.

3. Working Papers

- a. Mohan, V. (Case Study). *The Karur Fabrics: Scaling a GOTS-Certified Home Textile Business under Cost and Market Constraints*.
- b. (Book Chapter) Jayaram, Dhanasree* & **Mohan, V.** *India-Sri Lanka Climate Partnership: Navigating Shared Vulnerabilities and Building a Sustainable Future*. Vivekananda International Foundation.

4. Publication without peer review process

- a. **Mohan, V*** (2023). *Melting of ice in the Arctic: A view from South Asia*. Planetary Security Initiative. Clingendael Institute. <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/news/melting-ice-arctic-view-south-asia>

5. Policy Outreach: Commentaries/Opinions/ Rapporteur

- a. **Mohan, Varun** et.al., (December 2025). *US national strategy shift opens new doors and new demands for India*. Telangana Today. <https://telanganatoday.com/opinion-us-national-strategy-shift-opens-new-doors-and-new-demands-for-india>
- b. **Mohan, Varun** (December 2025). *COP30 and Climate Geopolitics*. Centre of Excellence for Geopolitics and International Studies. <https://geopolitics.reva.edu.in/circular-detail/cop30-and-climate-geopolitics>
- c. **Mohan, V.*** (February 2025). *A Test of Governance: India's Struggle Against Environmental Upheaval*. South Asian Voices. Stimson Center. <https://southasianvoices.org/ec-m-in-r-indian-environmental-governance-02-14-2025/>
- d. **Mohan, V.*** (December 2024). *Market mechanism debate: Article 6 key to emissions reduction*. The New Indian Express. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/xplore/2024/Dec/28/market-mechanism-debate-article-6-key-to-emissions-reduction>
- e. **Mohan, V.*** & Panneerselvam, Prakash (April 2024). *Forging a Green Alliance: India-Australia Collaboration on Climate Change*. Australia-India Institute. University of Melbourne. <https://aii.unimelb.edu.au/forging-a-green-alliance-india-australia-collaboration-on-climate-change/>
- f. **Mohan, V.*** (April 2024). *India's Electoral Bond Conundrum*. South Asian Voices. Stimson Center. <https://southasianvoices.org/pol-m-in-n-india-electoral-bond-conundrum-04-16-2024/>
- g. **Mohan, V.*** (2022, July). *Sri Lanka Crisis: A 21st Century French Revolution*. Geopolitical Monitor. <https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/sri-lanka-crisis-a-21st-century-french-revolution/>
- h. **Mohan, V.*** (2022, March). *Interpretation of QUAD and AUKUS in Indo-Pacific Region*. The Geopolitics. <https://thegeopolitics.com/interpretation-of-quad-and-aukus-in-the-indo->

[pacific-region/](#)

- i. Master Dissertation titled '*The Concept of Security Redefined: A Human Security Approach*' submitted to University of Hyderabad, India.

Projects/Grants/Fellowship

- a. The British Academy Travel Bursary 2026 (Second Equitable Conference, South Africa)
- b. International Studies Association 2026 Annual Convention Travel Grant, USA
- c. ICSSR (Indian Council of Social Science Research) International Travel Grant (2025)
- d. Research Grant: Global South perspectives on People Positive Climate Action- National Institute of Advanced Studies.
- e. Senior Research Fellowship, Government of India (2021-2025)

Conferences

- a. (*forthcoming*) Paper presentation titled '*Contested Climates, Fractured Orders: Climate Security, the UN, and the Crisis of Global Legitimacy*' at the **ISA 2026 Convention** (21-25, March), **Greater Columbus, Ohio, USA**
- b. (*forthcoming*) Panel discussion. Second Equitable Partnership Conference 2026. National Research Foundation (NRF) & the Royal Society, and the British Academy, 3-5 February 2026 in **Pretoria, South Africa**.
- c. Presented paper titled '*Geopolitics in Crisis: Climate Governance and Power Dynamics in the Indo-Pacific*' at the **4th NERPS Conference** at the De La Salle University (DLSU) in **Manila, Philippines**.
- d. Presented paper titled "In Search of Consensus: Examining Global South Perspectives on Climate Security in UNSC Debates" at the **ISSS-IS Pittsburgh 2024 Conference, USA**
- e. Presented Paper titled 'Climate Security in the Arctic- a Global South Perspective' in the International Conference- "Polar (In)Securities: The Future of Global Affairs in the Circumpolar North," organized by **the Arctic Institute** on June 9, 2022
- f. Co presented Paper titled 'Emerging Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Markets: Growth, Opportunities and Challenges to India' at the Annual International Studies Convention, December 10-12, 2013, JNU, New Delhi, India.

Talks/ Voluntary Activities/ Rapporteur

- a. Observer at **the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP29), Baku, Azerbaijan**.
- b. NIAS Wednesday Discussion Series. "In Search of Consensus: Examining Global South Perspectives on Climate Security in UNSC Debates". 11 December 2024
- c. Special Rapporteur (August 2024). Co-Drafted the report on "*India, EU, and Just Energy Transitions: Strengthening Climate Diplomacy for Sustainable Futures*." at the conference of India, EU, and Just Energy Transitions: Strengthening Climate Diplomacy for Sustainable Futures, Manipal University.
- d. Volunteer at the 2024 Forum on 'Re-Imagining Earth System Governance in an Era of Polycrisis' 14-18 October 2024

Teaching Competencies and Academic Skills

- Undergraduate teaching in political science, international relations, and public policy, with experience engaging students from interdisciplinary backgrounds.
- Course delivery and assessment in political theory, global governance, climate politics, and international security.
- Curriculum design and syllabus development for introductory and advanced-level courses.
- Qualitative research methods, including document analysis, discourse analysis, and policy analysis.
- Academic writing and peer-reviewed publication; policy-oriented writing and knowledge translation

Certificates/Membership

- International Studies Association

- Coordinator-South-South Initiative, Earth System Governance Project