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CHRIST

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BANGALORE | DELHI NCR | PUNE

Department of International Studies, Political Science
and History and Department of Liberal Arts
CHRIST University, Bengaluru

International Conference on

**FRENCH COLONIAL
PRESENCE IN INDIA:
CULTURAL IMPRINT &
DECOLONIALITY
(1664-1954)**

CALL FOR PAPERS

Conference Venue: Christ University, Bangalore

Contact Information: Kindly send the abstracts to

frenchpresence.international@conference.christuniversity.in

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THEME AND SCOPE

The conference, 'French Colonial Presence in India: Cultural Imprint and Decoloniality,' will be held on January 29th and 30th, 2026, at CHRIST University, Bengaluru, India. With its unique interdisciplinary approach, this event will provide a revisionist examination of the French colonial legacy in India from 1664 to 1954. The seminar seeks to address the historical myopia surrounding the diversity of imperial ideologies and indigenous responses to the French presence.

The British often overshadows the French colonial experience. However, it left an indelible mark on India's social, cultural, intellectual, maritime, and urban landscapes. The seminar will explore how French settlements like Pondicherry, Chandernagore, and Mahe were important hubs in transoceanic networks of commerce, diplomacy, religion, language, and law.

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THEME AND SCOPE

It will also investigate how these territories became sanctuaries for nationalist revolutionaries, such as swadeshi activists, members of secret societies like Jugantar and Aurobindo Ghosh.

We invite history, cultural studies, political science, literature, and architecture scholars to contribute to a more comparative and pluralistic understanding of Indian coloniality. This is a unique opportunity to generate academic knowledge contributing to the decolonisation of knowledge, resonating with India's vision of IKS and Vikshit Bharat @2047 imperatives, resonating with SDG 8, 9, and 16. It initiates broader conversations about cultural memory, heritage management, and postcolonial representation in India. A curated selection of peer-reviewed essays will be published by an internationally reputed SCOPUS-Indexed publisher as an edited volume.

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SUB THEMES

Theme One: Decolonisation and Memory

- The role of cultural memory in shaping Franco-Indian diplomacy.
- Oral and memory-based narratives of the current generation of Franco-Indian individuals/families.
- The integration of former French territories into the Indian Union.

Theme Two: Maritime Empires and Environmental Impact

- The influence of maritime trade on Franco-Indian relations.
- The ecological impact of colonial urban infrastructures.
- Reimagining sustainability practices in former French coastal towns.

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SUB THEMES

Theme Three: Colonial Pluralism and Cross-Cultural Contact

- The role of French missionaries in multilingual education and cultural exchange.
- Implications of inter-racial and mixed marriages.
- Creole and hybrid cuisine

Theme Four: Material and Aesthetic Culture

- Franco-Indian hybridity in architecture and town planning.
- Dress, textiles, and sartorial blending, such as lace blouses and tri-colour saris.
- Colonial-era furniture, liturgical objects, hybrid art forms, and public art.



GUIDELINES

1. The seminar will be a supportive platform for works-in-progress on the French colonial presence in India and its sub-themes. We strongly encourage roundtables and pedagogically focused submissions from PhD candidates and early-stage researchers, as your contributions are vital to the academic discourse.
2. Individual paper proposals should include:
 - a. A paper title and a 250 word abstract with 5-6 keywords
 - b. The presenter's name, affiliation, email address, and a maximum 100-word short bio note.
 - c. AI-generated content is not accepted, and submissions should not exceed a 10% similarity with content from all sources.
 - d. Final submissions for publication must be **4,000-6,000 words**, including abstract, keywords, body, and bibliography, and must adhere to the **APA 7th edition** citation style in Times New Roman font (size 12).

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REGISTRATION DETAILS

Submission Deadline: October 31, 2025

Notification of Acceptance: November 10, 2025

Final Paper Submission: January 15, 2026

Conference Venue: Christ University

Conveners: Dr. Priscilla Rozario, Dr. Anna Varghese
& Dr. Robert Ivermee

Co-Conveners: Dr. Sreemoyee Sarkar,
Dr. Loung Nathan KK, Dr. Prerana Srimal &
Dr. Madhumati Deshpande

CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Faculty (Indian)	2500 INR
Faculty (International)	USD 30
Students/Research Scholars (Indian)	2000 INR
Students/Research Scholars (International)	USD 15

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