

**Annual SACP Conference 2026**  
**Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy (SACP)**  
**58th Annual Conference**  
**May 19–22, 2026**

**Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)**  
Manipal, Karnataka, India

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**Action Required: Please Complete Early**

**1. Required Submissions and Deadlines**

All participants should review and complete the following items as early as possible. These steps are essential for visa processing, airport pick-ups, and conference logistics.

**A. Travel Information Form (All Participants)**

- Complete the [Google Form](#) created by Vishnu Vardhan (PhD student, [vishnu.dopmpl2023@learner.manipal.edu](mailto:vishnu.dopmpl2023@learner.manipal.edu)).
- This form collects flight details and accommodation information and is required for:
  - Airport pick-ups from Mangalore (Mangaluru)
  - Local transportation planning
- Please review the form and have all required information ready **before** submitting.

**B. Passport Information (Non-Indian Nationals Only)**

- **Deadline: March 27, 2026**
- Indian nationals residing in India do **not** need to submit passport information.
- All non-Indian nationals **must** submit passport details by this date in order for MAHE to comply with Indian government reporting requirements.

**C. Visa Planning (Non-Indian Nationals)**

- Participants are responsible for obtaining the appropriate visa to attend the conference.
- The visa category formally intended for academic conferences is the **Conference Visa**, which SACP must officially recommend.
- Other visa categories (such as Tourist Visas) have been used by attendees in the past; however, SACP cannot formally advise on alternatives to the Conference Visa.

- Once the required information is submitted and government approval is received, visas are typically issued within a few days.

#### **D. Submission to Conference Host**

- After completing the required form(s), participants should email any requested documentation to:
  - **Dr. Karl-Stéphan Bouthillette** ([karl.bouthillette@manipal.edu](mailto:karl.bouthillette@manipal.edu))

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#### **Travel and Arrival Information**

\*(The following sections provide planning guidance for travel to and within India. These items do not typically involve early deadlines but should be reviewed well in advance of travel.)

#### **General Travel Information for Conference Participants**

##### **1. International Arrival in India**

- Main international entry hubs: Delhi and Mumbai.
- Some participants (especially from Europe) may also arrive via Bangalore (Bengaluru).
- Immigration and customs are completed at the **first port of entry** into India.
- Recommended minimum transit time between international and domestic flights: **3 hours**.
  - Transit times shorter than 1.5 hours are strongly discouraged and usually impractical.

##### **2. Connecting Flights to Mangalore (Mangaluru)**

- Mangalore (Mangaluru) is the nearest airport to Manipal.
- Connections to Mangalore are generally more frequent and efficient from Delhi than from Mumbai or Bangalore.
  - Choosing Delhi often reduces waiting time by 5–10 hours.
- Please note: **Mangalore (Mangaluru) and Bangalore (Bengaluru) are very far apart.**

- Booking domestic flights separately (rather than as a single international itinerary) is often cheaper and more flexible.
- Useful booking platforms:
  - [goibibo.com](https://www.goibibo.com) (recommended for domestic Indian flights and hotels)
  - [booking.com](https://www.booking.com) (recommended for hotels due to flexible cancellation policies)

### 3. Airport Practicalities (Domestic Flights in India)

- Arriving at the airport **2 hours in advance** is usually sufficient.
  - To facilitate security screening:
    - Do not carry lighters, knives, or similar items (confiscated items are not returned).
    - Avoid open food and liquids beyond permitted limits.
    - Be prepared to remove electronics from bags.
    - Empty pockets and minimize metal accessories.
    - Carry a printed or electronic copy of your flight ticket along with your passport; entry into airport premises requires both.
  - Delhi and Mumbai airports offer:
    - Airport hotels with shuttle services
    - Dining options within domestic terminals
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### 4. Arrival in Mangalore Airport → Transport to Manipal

- Conference organizers will arrange airport pick-ups **after** the following information has been submitted:
  - Flight details
  - Confirmed hotel information in Manipal
- Transport options may include:
  - MAHE bus
  - Shared or individual taxis (participants will be grouped when possible)

- Road travel time from Mangalore to Manipal: **1–1.5 hours**, depending on traffic.
- Participants do **not** need to arrange transport themselves for this leg, provided the required information has been submitted.

### **Visas and Passport Information (Important)**

- Immigration and customs procedures are handled at the port of arrival in India.
  - Participants should plan a **minimum of three hours** for transit between international and domestic flights to allow time for baggage collection, customs clearance, and gate transfer.
  - For administrative and governmental requirements, **passport details from all non-Indian participants must be submitted by March 27, 2026.**
    - By Indian government regulations, the host institution must notify the Ministry of External Affairs no later than two months prior to the conference.
  - Conference participants are responsible for obtaining the appropriate visa in accordance with Indian immigration regulations.
    - A **Conference Visa** is the category formally intended for participation in academic or professional conferences.
    - Other visa categories (such as Tourist Visas) have been used by conference attendees in the past, but SACP must formally recommend the Conference Visa as the category aligned with Indian regulations.
  - To support the visa process, participants should complete the required information form and email it to our host:
    - **Dr. Karl-Stéphan Bouthillette** ([karl.bouthillette@manipal.edu](mailto:karl.bouthillette@manipal.edu))
  - Once government approval is received, visas are typically issued by embassies within a few days.
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### **5. Train Travel Option**

- Participants traveling by train should arrive at **Udupi Railway Station**.
- From Udupi to Manipal:
  - Auto-rickshaw ride: approximately 10 minutes

- Approximate cost: ₹100
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## 6. Expected Weather in Manipal (May 19–22, 2026)

- Daytime temperatures: approximately 30–32 °C (86–90 °F)
- Nighttime temperatures: approximately 21–26 °C (70–79 °F)
- Conditions: warm and humid
- Occasional showers are possible; the monsoon typically begins in early June.

## Recommended Dress

- Light, breathable clothing (cotton or linen recommended)
  - Modest attire for conference sessions (e.g., covered shoulders; knee-length or longer garments)
  - Comfortable footwear, preferably suitable for rain
  - Light rain protection (umbrella or rain jacket)
  - Sun protection (hat, sunglasses, sunscreen)
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## 7. Getting Around in Manipal

- Manipal is a compact campus town.
- Most destinations are accessible on foot or by auto-rickshaw.
- Bargaining is generally not customary or appreciated; drivers typically quote standard fares.
- Local etiquette:
  - Avoid using the Hindi term “*bhaiya*.”
  - Preferred forms of address include “ji,” “sir,” or “ma’am.”
  - Local languages include Kannada, Tulu, Konkani, and English.

## About Manipal

- Manipal is a small and safe university town (approximately 5 km across).
- Visitors generally find it welcoming and easy to navigate.

- Nightlife is active on weekends but quiets around midnight; during the conference period the town is typically calm.
  - When visiting temples or religious sites, please follow local customs, including modest dress.
  - At beaches, many local visitors swim wearing shorts and T-shirts; modesty is appreciated outside designated beach areas.
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## 8. Hotels and Venue Access

- From most hotels, the conference venue is within a 10-minute walk.
- Depending on participant distribution, shuttle buses may be arranged from designated hotels at set times.

### Hotel Recommendations

*(Details, prices, and availability subject to confirmation)*

- **Fortune Valley View**  
Email: [valleyview@fortunehotels.in](mailto:valleyview@fortunehotels.in)  
Phone: +91 820-350-0600 / +91 84520 40404
- **Country Inn by Radisson, Manipal**  
Email: [reservation@cismanipal.in](mailto:reservation@cismanipal.in)  
Phone: +91 820 270 1600 / +91 91484 46432
- **GreenPark Suites**  
Email: [hotelgreenparkmanipal@gmail.com](mailto:hotelgreenparkmanipal@gmail.com)  
Phone: 0820-429-5701
- **Hometown Galleria**  
Phone: +91 63615 90515
- **Hotel Ashlesh**  
Phone: +91 820 257 8888
- **Hotel Tranquil Manipal**  
Phone: +91 99017 56666
- **Hotel Manipal Inn**  
Phone: +91 820 292 4000

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## 9. Additional Notes

- Once participant details are finalized, conference logistics will be coordinated centrally.
- The organizing team remains available for travel-related questions until the conclusion of the conference.
- Manipal is a calm, welcoming campus town with nearby beaches and coastal access.

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## 10. Contact Information

- **Conference Host:**  
Dr. Karl-Stéphan Bouthillette  
[karl.bouthillette@manipal.edu](mailto:karl.bouthillette@manipal.edu)
- **SACP President:**  
Geoffrey Ashton  
[gashton@usfca.edu](mailto:gashton@usfca.edu)
- **SACP Secretary:**  
Kevin Taylor  
Program questions, scheduling, cancellations  
[sacpcontact@gmail.com](mailto:sacpcontact@gmail.com)