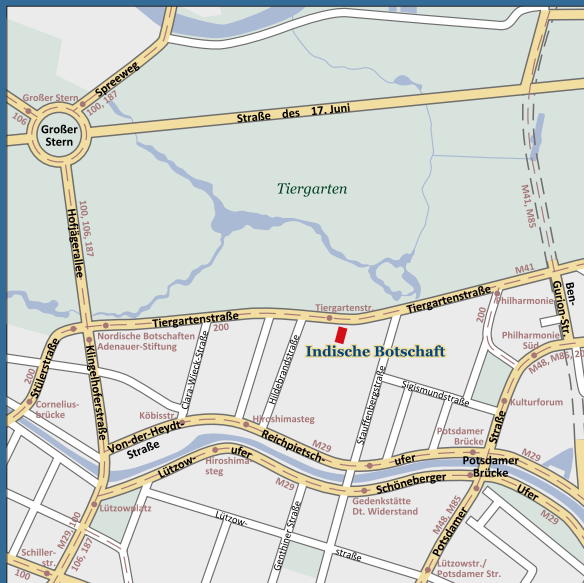


## How to get there



### Venue

Embassy of India  
Tiergartenstraße 17  
10785 Berlin

**Prior registration is required until 21 April 2026.**

Registration and further information:  
[www.leopoldina.org/science-to-policy-advice](http://www.leopoldina.org/science-to-policy-advice)

For direct event registration:  
<http://tiny.cc/leoinsa>

The lecture is open to the public and is free of charge.

Please bring your passport or national ID document for security check. You are kindly asked to come early and leave sufficient time for the registration process. Please note that no bags or pieces of luggage larger than handbags are allowed inside the lecture hall.

### German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

The Leopoldina is a classical scholarly society and has 1,700 members from almost all branches of science. In 2008, the Leopoldina was appointed as the German National Academy of Sciences and, in this capacity, was invested with two major objectives: representing the German scientific community internationally, and providing policymakers and the public with science-based advice.

[www.leopoldina.org](http://www.leopoldina.org)



**Leopoldina**  
Nationale Akademie  
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सत्यमेव जयते  
Embassy of India  
Berlin

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## From Science to Policy Advice: Science Diplomacy and the Role of National Academies – Insights from India and Germany

Leopoldina-INSA Lecture by  
INSA-President Shekhar C. Mande

Dr. Ramanuj Banerjee  
Embassy of India, Berlin  
Phone: +49 (0)30 25795-720  
Email: [science.berlin@mea.gov.in](mailto:science.berlin@mea.gov.in)

Thursday, 23 April 2026 | 4:00 pm  
Embassy of India | Tiergartenstraße 17 | 10785 Berlin

In Cooperation with the Embassy of India, Berlin

### The Indian National Science Academy (INSA)

The Indian National Science Academy (INSA), is representing all branches of science with the objectives of promoting science in India and harnessing scientific knowledge for the cause of humanity and national welfare, safeguarding interests of Indian scientists, establishing formal linkages with international bodies, promoting international collaborations and giving opinion on national issues after debate and discussions.

<https://insaindia.res.in>



# Leopoldina-INSA Lecture Series

## In Cooperation with the Embassy of India, Berlin

Leopoldina and INSA have cooperated closely over many years, e.g. by jointly organizing scientific conferences in India and Germany. The close and friendly collaboration is based on a cooperation agreement signed in 2007. Shekhar Mande's talk is part of the Leopoldina-INSA lecture series, in which high-ranking members of both academies present their work to the general public in order to promote the visibility of Indian and German science.

The lecture is organized in cooperation with the Embassy of India, Berlin in their ongoing effort to promote Indo-German science and research collaboration.

## From Science to Policy Advice: Science Diplomacy and the Role of National Academies – Insights from India and Germany

This bilateral event brings together the Presidents of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) to explore the roles and responsibilities of national science academies in Germany and India. The discussion will in particular focus on the growing importance of independent scientific advice and robust evidence for society and democratic governance.

The programme features a keynote address by Shekhar Mande, President of INSA, followed by a conversation with Bettina Rockenbach, President of the Leopoldina. Together, they will reflect on the role of science diplomacy and discuss how evidence-based expertise can contribute to informed policymaking and to addressing complex global challenges.

The event seeks to encourage exchange on how scientific knowledge can be effectively translated into policy advice and to strengthen cooperation between the scientific communities of India and Germany.

## Programme

**Thursday, 23 April 2026 | 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

**3:30 pm | Registration**

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**4:00 pm | Welcome to the event**

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Dr. Ramanuj Banerjee  
*Counsellor (Science & Technology), Embassy of India*

Dr. Ruth Narmann  
*Head of International Relations, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina*

**4:10 pm | Opening remarks**

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H.E. Ajit Vinayak Gupte  
*Ambassador, Embassy of India*

Prof. Dr. Bettina Rockenbach  
*President, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina*

**4:20 pm | Keynote lecture**

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**Development of Science, Technology and Innovation Ecosystem and Policy in India**

Dr. Shekhar C. Mande  
*President, Indian National Science Academy (INSA)*

**4:50 pm | Panel discussion**

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**From Science to Policy Advice: Science Diplomacy and the Role of National Academies – Insights from India and Germany**

Dr. Shekhar C. Mande  
*President, Indian National Science Academy (INSA)*

Prof. Dr. Bettina Rockenbach  
*President, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina*

**Moderation:** Dr. Ruth Narmann  
*Head of International Relations, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina*

**5:30 pm | Concluding remarks**

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Dr. Ramanuj Banerjee  
*Counsellor (Science & Technology), Embassy of India*

**Networking**

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**H.E. Ajit Gupte**

Ambassador of India, Federal Republic of Germany

Ajit Gupte joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1991. He studied Chinese (Mandarin) and handled China as Under Secretary (1995–1998) and during postings in Hong Kong and Beijing (1998–2004). He served in Dhaka (2004–2008)

as First Secretary/Counsellor and at ICCR as Deputy Director General (2008–2010), promoting cultural diplomacy. He later served as Joint Secretary (Haj) and Joint Secretary (Development Partnership Administration), handling global Lines of Credit (2015–2017). He was Ambassador to Denmark (Sept 2017–Mar 2021) and to Egypt (Mar 2021–Oct 2024). He assumed office as Ambassador to Germany on 13 October 2024.

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**Prof. Dr. Bettina Rockenbach**  
President, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

Bettina Rockenbach is an economist and expert in the fields of Behavioral Economics and Game Theory. Since March 2025, she is president of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. Bettina Rockenbach

studied mathematics, economics, and computer science at the University of Bonn and received her PhD in economics under the supervision of Nobel Laureate Reinhard Selten. She completed her habilitation (University of Bonn) and has been Professor of Microeconomics at the University of Erfurt, Professor of Experimental and Behavioral Economics at the University of Cologne, Director of the Reinhard Selten Institute and Fellow of the Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods in Bonn. She held visiting positions at Caltech, the University of Tilburg and UC San Diego.

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**Dr. Shekhar C. Mande**

President, Indian National Science Academy (INSA)

Shekhar C. Mande is an eminent Indian scientist and scientific administrator, currently serving as President of the Indian National Science Academy. He is a structural and computational biologist with a background in molecular

biophysics. Dr. Mande earned his Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and completed postdoctoral research in the Netherlands and United States. His scientific work has focused on protein structure, computational biology, and genome-wide analysis of proteins. He has held several leadership roles, including Director of the National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), and Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Government of India and Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR).