



**Department of Political Science
Rabindra Bharati University**

**Call for Abstract
State Level Seminar cum Workshop on**

Understanding World Politics: Challenges and Opportunities

In collaboration with IQAC, RBU

Date: 24 & 25 February 2026

Kavi Janani Sarada Sabhakaksha
Emerald Bower Campus
56A, B. T. Road, Kolkata – 700050

Registration fees: ₹500 for teachers
₹300 for scholars and students (other than RBU).
Spot registration only.
No TA/DA is admissible

Abstract (not more than 250 words) may be sent to
polsc@rbu.ac.in in Word/doc. version only.

Last date of abstract submission: 20 February 2026

Head
Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury

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Concept Note:

Antonio Gramsci once said that, the “old world is dying, the new world struggles to be born. Now is the time of monsters.” It was said after the First World War. But, it appears to be so apt in view of the fast-changing global political scenario that has started emerging with Donald Trump becoming the President of USA for the second time in January 2025. Undoubtedly, President Trump has been changing the terms of both domestic politics in the USA as well as the rules of the game in international politics.

Some sort of ‘rules-based’ international order appeared to have emerged after the Second World War, when the rules were formulated almost exclusively by the Atlantic powers, comprising countries of Western Europe and North America. It was a framework primarily designed by the victors of Second World War. The emerging global architecture, underscored by the Bretton Woods system and the United Nations, was primarily drafted by the USA and UK. But, a counter-force, led by the Soviet Union, on the basis of Communist ideology, began resisting the Western world propagating the ideas of market economy and liberal democracy, and therefore, the Cold War engulfed almost the entire world. While the Western bloc prioritized political pluralism and market capitalism, the Eastern bloc gave importance to centralized planning and collective socioeconomic rights. It was also a time when a large number of colonies in Asia and Africa could come out of the yoke of imperialism.

Subsequently, with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the socialist eastern Europe at the turn of the 1990s, there was an epochal shift in the world politics with flexing of economic as well as political muscles by the USA and its allies, who started pushing the policy of liberalisation and globalisation across the world, almost challenging the long decolonisation. In this new world, capital and technology could easily cross the national borders, but the movement of population, mostly of labour, became gradually restricted. It was difficult for sovereign states to control the movement of global capital and technology any more, but the mobility of population could easily be contained through the governance of borders and new immigration policies. The terrorist onslaught on the USA further changed the nature of world politics, and the mobility of population has been securitised globally since then in an unprecedented manner. The liberal international order championed the freedom of

market factors but tightened the grip on human movement, and therefore, the latest phase of globalization has been asymmetric. The newly decolonised countries in the Global South started discovering that. While they had gained political independence, the global economic rules are often forcing them back into a state of dependency on Western capital and technology. The securitization justified the high-tech surveillance, and more aggressive immigration policies.

In view of all these, the growing xenophobic sentiments across the world catapulted many illiberal, and sometimes authoritarian leaders to power with slogans commensurate with the fresh ideals of de-globalisation, with more emphasis on the 'nation' again. In this situation, the world is at a crossroads. Does this conjuncture of history indicate a rebalancing of power with the USA at the centre of the world? Or, does it point to a new contestation between the Global North and the Global South? Does it imply a realignment of forces in the world with more importance of regional powers? Does it signify the facilitation of de-dollarisation? Will the UN survive these changes? Will Board of Peace set the new rules for the world? What would be the role of China and the BRICS+ in this changing context? The seminar organised by the Department of Political Science would address these pressing questions, when the traditional power structures are being contested by new, often transactional, alliances.

Sub-themes:

1. Theoretical perspectives to understand world politics
2. Bilateral and multilateral relations
3. Geopolitics, maritime issues, resource politics
4. Environment, human rights, counter-terror initiatives
5. Migration and transnational narratives
6. Regionalism and sub-regionalism
7. Any other issues related to the theme.

All are cordially invited