



Indian Council
of World Affairs

as an Institution of National Importance

MAYNAGURI COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
in collaboration with
INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS
(ICWA), NEW DELHI
Presents

A TWO-DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR (HYBRID MODE)
ON
INDIA IN THE CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER:
ASPIRATIONS, CONSTRAINTS AND
STRATEGIC CHOICES

26 & 27 November, 2026



Maynaguri College, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal

CONCEPT NOTE

The contemporary international system is undergoing a fundamental structural transformation, marked by the gradual erosion of the post-Cold War unipolar order and the emergence of a complex, fragmented multi-polarity. This transition is defined by heightened geopolitical competition, the resurgence of power politics, weakening multilateral governance structures, and the rapid securitization of critical domains—ranging from supply chains and emerging technologies to energy and maritime trade routes. Simultaneously, the international system is also undergoing a profound transformation marked by an increasing convergence of economic power and strategic competition. While military capabilities continue to shape the global balance of power, economic instruments have emerged as equally significant tools for pursuing national interests. Trade policies, investment regimes, technological standards, sanctions, financial networks, critical supply chains, digital infrastructure, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and control over strategic resources have become central to contemporary statecraft. This growing fusion of economics and geopolitics has given rise to the expanding field of geo-economics, where states employ economic leverage to advance political and strategic objectives without necessarily resorting to conventional military conflict.

The changing nature of international politics has blurred the traditional distinction between war and peace. Contemporary conflicts increasingly assume hybrid forms, combining military force with economic coercion, cyber operations, information warfare, digital surveillance, technological competition, and strategic communication. The Russia–Ukraine conflict, tensions across the Taiwan Strait, instability in West Asia, disruptions in global maritime routes, and increasing competition in the Indo-Pacific demonstrate how geopolitical rivalries are now deeply intertwined with geo-economic calculations. These developments have intensified concerns regarding food security, energy security, inflation, supply-chain resilience, maritime security, and technological sovereignty across regions. As one of the world's fastest-growing major economies and an increasingly influential global actor, India faces the complex challenge of safeguarding its strategic autonomy while navigating an increasingly polarized international system. India's diplomatic engagement today extends beyond traditional security concerns to encompass trade negotiations, technology partnerships, energy security, connectivity initiatives, climate governance, resilient supply chains, maritime cooperation, digital public infrastructure, and critical emerging technologies.

The current geopolitical landscape presents several significant challenges for India's foreign policy. The intensifying strategic rivalry between the United States and China requires India to carefully balance its expanding partnerships with Western democracies while simultaneously managing a difficult and unresolved border relationship with China. The continuing Russia–Ukraine conflict has complicated India's longstanding strategic partnership with Russia, particularly in defence procurement and energy cooperation, while simultaneously necessitating stronger engagement with Europe and the United States. Likewise, instability in West Asia, including the Israel-US–Iran conflict and tensions in the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, directly affects India's energy security, maritime trade, expatriate communities, and broader regional interests.

India's foreign policy discourse has increasingly articulated the ambition to transition from a traditional 'rule-taker' to a 'rule-shaper' in global affairs and India has time and again has expressed its desire for both the normative and functional drive for Great Power status. Central to these aspirations are securing permanent representation on the United Nations Security Council and pushing for structural reform in international financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. India's aspirations also include positioning herself as a bridge between the Global North and the Global South through development partnerships, digital public infrastructure sharing, and climate justice advocacy. To this must be added India's maritime and regional leadership and establishing India as the primary net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

However, to balance its ambitions against structural limitations, India has deployed an adaptive strategic doctrine characterized by pragmatic Multi-Alignment thereby engaging simultaneously across contrasting geopolitical groupings—balancing membership in the Quad and I2U2 with active participation in BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

At the same time, India has also been shifting its focus from rigid, multilateral treaties toward flexible, task-oriented minilateral coalitions.

Having thus set the context, this two-day National Seminar proposes to deconstruct the key drivers of current international systemic reconfigurations and evaluate their specific impact on India's national interests. Secondly, it also aims to rigorously examine India's strategic responses—including multi-alignment, defense modernization, and regional integration efforts—to assess their efficacy and long-term sustainability. The third objective of the proposed seminar is to bridge theory and practice by bringing together academicians, strategic analysts, researchers and young scholars to generate actionable, evidence-based policy inputs, thereby contributing towards a meaningful academic discourse that will serve as an invaluable repository for the policymakers.

Sub-Themes under which Abstracts could be sent:

We invite original research papers, theoretical frameworks, and case studies aligned with the main theme. Sub-themes include, but are not limited to:

1. Multi-Alignment and Strategic Autonomy in India's Foreign Policy;
2. The Great Power Triad: Navigating US-China Competition and Russia
3. India, the Global South and Reform of Global Governance;
4. India's Continental and Maritime Dilemma;
5. India and the Indo-Pacific: Strategic Challenges and Opportunities;
6. India's Extended Neighbourhood;
7. Mini-lateralism and Hedging: India's role in Issue-based Coalitions;
8. Geo-economics, Supply Chain Resilience and India's Economic Diplomacy;
9. Hard Power Modernization, Defence Autonomy and *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*;
10. Soft Power, Cultural Diplomacy and Diaspora Engagement;
11. Technology Governance, Critical Infrastructure and India's Options;
12. Climate Diplomacy, Environmental Governance & India's Role.



Our Distinguished Resource Persons:

Dr. Happymon Jacob

Founder & Director, Council for Strategic Defence and Research (CSDR) & Distinguished Visiting Professor at Shiv Nadar University, NCR & Former Professor JNU, New Delhi



Dr. Biswanath Chakraborty

Professor, Dept. of Political Science, Rabindra Bharati University, West Bengal

Dr. Ranjita Chakraborty

Professor & Head, Dept. of Political Science
University of North Bengal (NBU), West Bengal



Dr. Biswajit Mohapatra

Professor (Associate) of Politics & International Relations & Co-ordinator, ASEAN Study Center (An MEA Initiative), North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, Meghalaya

Dr. Tanwir Arshed

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science,
Presidency University, Kolkata, West Bengal



Dr. Avipshu Halder

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science,
University of Kolkata, West Bengal

ICWA Representative:

Dr. Dhruvajyoti Bhattacharjee

Senior Research Fellow, ICWA, New Delhi

About the Organizers :

Maynaguri College

Established in 1999, Maynaguri College is a premier academic institution situated in rural hinterlands of North Bengal in the district of Jalpaiguri. This College is affiliated to the University of North Bengal and is a NAAC credited B+ (Third Cycle) academic institution. The Department of Political Science is one of the oldest departments of Maynaguri College. It was established in 1999 when the college started its journey. The Department of Political Science has been at the forefront of fostering academic excellence, critical thinking, and socio-political awareness among students, actively organizing seminars and discussions on contemporary global and national issues.

Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) was established in 1943 by a group of eminent intellectuals led by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Dr. H. N. Kunzru. Its principal objective was to create an Indian perspective on international relations and act as a repository of knowledge and thinking on foreign policy issues. It was registered as a non-official, non-political and non-profit organisation under the Registration of Societies Act 1860. By an Act of Parliament in 2001, the Indian Council of World Affairs has been declared an institution of national importance. The Vice President of India is the ex-officio President of ICWA.

ICWA has over 100 MoUs with leading international and national think tanks, research and academic institutions to promote better understanding on international issues and develop areas of mutual cooperation. It is devoted exclusively for the study of international relations and foreign affairs.



Submission Guidelines :

- **Abstract:** 250–300 words, clearly stating the research objective, methodology, and key findings, along with 4-5 keywords.
- **Format:** Times New Roman, 12-point font size, 1.5 line spacing (MS Word document).
- **Cover Page:** Title of the paper, author(s) name, designation, institutional affiliation, email address, and contact number. Abstract must be sent along with the cover page.

Note:

1. *Authors of selected abstracts shall be given an opportunity to present their full papers at the seminar;*
2. *Selected peer-reviewed papers will be published in an edited volume with an ISBN number by a reputed publisher.*

Important Dates :

Last Date for submission of Abstract:

15th November, 2026

Notification of Acceptance of Abstract:

17th November, 2026

Last Date for Registration:

18th November, 2026

Conference Dates:

26 & 27 November 2026

Scan for Submission of

**Abstract &
Registration**



Registration Details

All participants (paper presenters and attendees) must register for the conference:

Participant Category & Registration Fees :

Faculty / Academicians

₹ 800

Research Scholars

₹ 400

Students (PG)

₹ 200

- **Chief Patron:** Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy, Hon'ble MP, Jalpaiguri & President, Governing Body, Maynaguri College
- **Patron:** Dr. Rajadipta Roy, Principal, Maynaguri College
- **Convenor:** Dr. Priyadarshini Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Department Political Science, Maynaguri College
- **Organizing Committee:**

Secretary:

Dr. Papia Deb, Associate Professor & Head, Dept. of Political Science, Maynaguri College

Members:

Dr. Susmita Pandit, Coordinator, IQAC, Maynaguri College

Sudeshna Basu, SACT, Dept. of Political Science, Maynaguri College

Nishith Ranjan Sarkar, SACT, Dept. of Political Science, Maynaguri College

Mousumi Guha, SACT, Dept. of Political Science, Maynaguri College

Lalit Kumar Mandal, SACT, Dept. of Political Science, Maynaguri College

Lipika Guha, SACT, Dept. of Political Science, Maynaguri College

CONTACT INFORMATION

For any queries regarding abstract submission, registration, or travel logistics, please contact:

Convenor:

Dr. Priyadarshini Ghosh

Assistant Professor

Department of Political Science

Maynaguri College,

Maynaguri, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal – 735224

Phone:

(+91) 9654475884/8250734043

Email:

deptofpoliticalscience@onlinemaynaguricollege.org.in

Website:

www.maynaguricollege.ac.in

