

**5<sup>th</sup> International Conference**  
**Organised by**  
**Bengal Institute of Political Studies, Kolkata in collaboration**  
**with IQAC, Kanchrapara College (50 Years Celebration), North 24**  
**Parganas, West Bengal**

**on**  
**Democracy and Populist Discourse**  
**in the Twenty First Century**

**Date of the Conference: 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 (Saturday)**

**Venue: Kachrapara College, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India**

**Concept Note**

The demise of the Soviet Union along with the collapse of the socialist bloc in the late 1980s and early 1990s witnessed the widespread pattern of democratisation as authoritarian regimes were overthrown or collapsed. The noted scholar Samuel Huntington defined this emerging scenario as the third wave of democratisation. It was widely argued that the collapse of authoritarian regimes would open space for democracies to flourish. Much to our dismay, gradually over the years, it became apparent that moving towards the process of democratisation was not a very simple or linear process. Legacies of the former autocratic regimes continued to cast deep shadow in the form of 'behavioural patterns, rules, relationships, social and political situations, norms, procedures, and institutions.' At present, populist sentiment across the globe has presented a huge challenge by way of bypassing the role of the state in effective governance. The Sri Lankan experience has shown the impact of populist politics in recent past.

It is beyond any doubt that democracy as a form of governance is the most viable means to address the competing and conflictual demands raised in the system. Liberal democracies in the twenty first century are however facing a huge challenge of populism from within, which has in due course boosted the process of democratic backsliding in many countries including the United States, United Kingdom, Italy, Brazil, South Africa, India, Turkey, the Philippines etc. Populist discourse is in fact a two-edged sword: on the one hand, it offers space for democratic renewal; and on the other, it can undermine accountability by eroding the institutional checks on executive power necessary for a durable democracy.

Historically, populism had been viewed as popular engagement in politics, free from any special interests. Of late, it has however been associated with the politics of simplification and opportunism. Scholarship on populism for the first time came to the limelight in the late 1960s when Ionescu and Gellner published their edited volume – *Populism: Its Meaning and National Characteristic*. Since then, there has been exponential growth in the study of populism, especially in the backdrop of the rise of far-right parties in Europe. Then with the election of Donald Trump as the President of the United States in 2016, populism became a trendy concept, both within academia and among the wider public. Populist mobilization [in few countries like Turkey, Venezuela, Thailand] has precipitated democratic breakdown and turned towards autocracy. Populist parties frequently focus on personalistic leaders at the expense of party, institutionalisation. Therefore, the key questions that needs to be addressed are as follows:

- (a) How do we conceptualise the framework of populism?
- (b) Why are democracies giving rise to populist leadership at the very first place?

- (c) How does populism and electoral politics are interlinked together in Democracy?
- (d) What is the nature of relations between democracy and populism?
- (e) What are the impact of populist politics on Governance-Rule of Law and Economy of the country?
- (f) How one should examine the relationship between populist politics with the worldwide growth of identity politics?
- (g) With the rise of populist politics, is there any existential threat of Democratic system in future

In the above-stated backdrop, this international conference aims to focus on the following sub-themes:

1. Concepts-and Theories of Populist Politics
2. Populism and Populist leadership
3. Democracy – Election and Populist Politics
4. Democracy, Populist Politics and World Order
5. Populist Politics and its impact on Governance-Rule of Law-Economy
6. Populism and Identity Politics

## **Call for Paper**

### **Stage-1: Abstract and full Paper**

Teachers, Scholars, Students of Social Science are invited to send an abstract on any of the sub-theme within 250 words including title of the paper and keywords by 15 August, 2022. Sender of the Selected Abstract will be communicated to complete registration process and also to send full paper for presentation.

**Email for sending Abstract/ Full paper or for any form of communication to the organizers**

( Abhisek please create an email address for the conference)

**Stage-2:**

**Registration Process:**

You are required to send Registration fee through on line Bank Transaction

Name of the Bank: **SBI**

Branch- **Rabindra Bharati University campus Branch**

Bank Account No- **37542485870**

IFS Code- **SBIN0010417**

**Registration fee**

**Faculty Member –Rs.800**

**Research Scholar- Rs. 500**

**Student - Rs. 250**

**Please send the payment receipt copy to our email address.**

**Stage-3: Paper Presentation**

Each presenter will get around 8 to 10 minutes to present his/her paper.

**Stage -4 : Publication of your full article in book form**

After the conference, all the full papers will be reviewed by an editorial board for final selection of the article for publication in book form with ISBN number. A small amount may be required for the publication of your article in the book.

### **Tentative Programme Schedule:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>9am -10 am</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>10am to 11am</b>	<b>Inaugural session</b>
<b>11am to 1pm</b>	<b>Panel Discussion by experts</b>
<b>1pm to 2pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>2pm to 4.30pm</b>	<b>Parallel session</b>
<b>4.30pm to 5.30pm</b>	<b>Valedictory session</b>

**Prof Deb Narayan Bandyopadhyay, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Bankura University will inaugurate the conference**

### **Important Resource Persons who will participate in the Conference:**

1. Prof. Martin Malek, National Defence Academy, Vienna, Austria
2. Prof. Ganga Thapa, Former Professor, Tribuban University, Kathmandu, Nepal
3. Prof. Samir Kumar Das, Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta
4. Prof. Sanjay Bharadwaj, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi
5. Prof. Prabir De. Department of Political Science, University of Kalyani, West Bengal

### **Organizing Committee of the Conference:**

#### **Conveners:**

**Dr. Pradipta Mukherjee**

**Dr. Bimalendu Ghosh**

#### **Joint Conveners:**

**1. Dr. Debasis Nandy**

**2. Dr. Abhisek Karmakar**

**Members:**

- 1. Prof. Debtanu Majee**
- 2. Dr. Narmada Kothari**
- 3. Dr. Partha Sarathi Dey**
- 4. Prof. Joyprakas Mondal**
- 5. Dr. Sukanya Mukherjee**