



Call for Application

To participate in
ICSSR Sponsored
Two-Week (12 days)



CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

(Social Sciences-Interdisciplinary)

on

**Geopolitics in the 21st Century: Global Trends,
Regional Dynamics, and Implications for India**

13 April – 25 April 2026

to be organized in
JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA (A Central University)
NEW DELHI 110025

Programme Directors and Organisers:

- Prof. Mujib Alam, MMAJ-Academy of International Studies, JMI, New Delhi
- Prof. Sujata Ashwarya, Centre for West Asian Studies, JMI, New Delhi

Capacity Building Programme (CBP)

Introduction

The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) funds and promotes **Capacity Building Programmes (CBPs)** in universities, colleges, and research institutes to strengthen the research capabilities of early-career academics and to cultivate a deeper understanding of key theoretical and methodological concepts in social science research. In practical terms, CBPs are equivalent to **Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs)** and are widely recognised under *professional development activities*, beneficial for **promotion requirements under UGC–CAS**.

The core purpose of an ICSSR-sponsored CBP is to support in-service early-career faculty and researchers (Lecturers/Assistant Professors and equivalent positions) by enabling them to develop a systematic and rigorous grasp of research design, methodological choices, and research strategies. While the philosophical foundations of social science research are broadly shared, each discipline has evolved its own distinctive theoretical frameworks and methodological tools. Consequently, scholars engaged in interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary research must often acquire familiarity with approaches beyond their primary area of training.

Against this backdrop, the present CBP seeks to acquaint early-career Lecturers/Assistant Professors and researchers from Indian universities, colleges, and institutes with the broad domain of Social Sciences and International Studies and to enhance their analytical and research capacities in this area.

Concept and Objectives

The twenty-first century has witnessed the reassertion of geopolitics as a central force shaping the international system. Contemporary geopolitics is characterised by multipolarity, complex interdependence, and the growing influence of both state and non-state actors. Traditional concerns of territory, power, and resources now intersect with emerging dimensions such as geoeconomics, technological competition, energy transition, environmental security, cyber warfare, and strategic influence within multilateral governance. The COVID-19 pandemic, accelerating climate change, disruptions in global supply chains, and the resurgence of armed conflicts have further underscored the relevance of geopolitics in shaping global security, prosperity, and governance.

India's strategic interests are deeply connected to these developments across multiple regions—from South Asia and Southeast Asia to West Asia, Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, and the Americas. A sound understanding of contemporary geopolitical realities is therefore essential for safeguarding India's strategic autonomy, supporting sustainable development, and strengthening its role as a responsible and influential global actor.

Accordingly, this two-week Capacity Building Programme seeks to equip young faculty members and researchers with the analytical tools, historical grounding, and contemporary insights necessary to engage critically with key geopolitical trends and regional dynamics. The programme is designed to strengthen both academic research and policy-relevant scholarship in an increasingly complex global environment.

In addition, several course modules are dedicated to building a strong foundation in research methodology. These include focused sessions on the use of data in social science research, research tools and techniques, library and e-library training, and the essentials of academic writing. The programme also incorporates critical reflections on Indian Knowledge Systems and introduces decolonial frameworks as important perspectives for advancing methodological and epistemic justice in contemporary social science research.

WHO CAN APPLY? ELIGIBILITY

- The participants should be a Lecturer/ Assistant Professor in a UGC recognized Indian University/Deemed University/Colleges/Institutes of National Importance or ICSSR Research Institutes/ Recognised Institutes, and their application should be duly forwarded by the parent institution.
- There will be a total of thirty (30) participants from social science disciplines, of which ten (10) will be local (from National Capital Territory [NCT] of Delhi), ten (10) from within the National Capital Region (but outside of Delhi-NCT) and ten (10) from outside Delhi-NCR (rest of India).
- Jamia Millia Islamia and ICSSR follow the Government of India Rules & Directives regarding SC, ST and Persons with Benchmark Disability categories.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Interested candidates are required to **fill in the online application form** and upload the **required documents** as specified below.
- All applications from **Lecturers/Assistant Professors and Researchers** must be **duly forwarded by their parent institution**.

- **The candidates (Lecturer/Assistant Professors/ Researchers** must upload the following:
 - A **No Objection Certificate (NoC)** from the parent institution (Download the pdf proforma: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/135mMUnXuRRkrUhAzwqkzFpYCU3s7I2eE/view?usp=sharing>), and
 - A **Recommendation Letter** from the Head of the Department.

Note: The NoC and Recommendation may be **combined into a single letter** and uploaded as **one PDF file**.
- Selected participants are required to **obtain the requisite leave** from their respective institutions to attend the programme. The CBP is a **full-time, in-person programme**, and participants must attend **all sessions in the University (Jamia Millia Islamia) campus**.
- Applications must be submitted **only through the online application form** available at the following link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfIjnA6dlFvub00GEGQwI2cYxSptcAoLXvUsdWskqzZNYLRcg/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

Selection Process:

Selection will be conducted in accordance with ICSSR guidelines.

Registration Fees:

There is **no registration fee** for this programme.

Travel and Accommodation:

- **Travel:** Participants **from outside the NCT of Delhi** will be reimbursed *to-and-fro (point-to-point)* travel expenses **as per ICSSR guidelines**. Reimbursement will be admissible by **train (AC 3-tier / AC Chair Car)**, or **Volvo bus** (for distances **up to 500 km**), or **app-based taxi** (not above **sedan category**, for travel **up to 50 km one way**).
- **Accommodation:** **Up to 20 participants** residing **outside the NCT of Delhi** will be provided **shared accommodation** (male and female separate) in the **Jamia Millia Islamia Guest House**. Accommodation will be available from **6:00 pm on 12 April 2026** to the **afternoon of 25 April 2026**.

Important Dates:

- Last Date for Application: **15th March 2026**
- Announcement of Provisionally Selected Participants: **By 20th March 2026**
- Announcement of Final Selected Participants (after receiving the leave sanction order): **By 31st March 2026**

Contact for Queries:

Course Directors:

- Prof. Mujib Alam (Email ID: malam3@jmi.ac.in) (WhatsApp message only: 9818947970)
- Prof. Sujata Ashwarya (Email ID: scheema@jmi.ac.in)