



On the auspicious event of 50 Years Celebration of the Department of Political Science, RBU

Call for Paper

One-day National Level Seminar

on

Revisiting 75 Years of Indian Independence

to be organized by

Department of Political Science, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata

on

9 December 2022

Venue: Sarada Kaksha, Rabindra Bharati University, 56A, B. T. Road, Kolkata – 700050, W.B.

Concept note:

India has completed 75 years of her independence from colonial rule in 2022. The Indian State, with all its democratic accoutrements, never seemed to escape academic criticism. Historians, political analysts, economists, and sociologists have all attempted to comprehend the nature and dynamics of the Indian state and political system as a whole. Given the variety of analyses of the Indian State and political system, the topic might carry on for quite some time. What matters is whether India is treated as a single political entity, notwithstanding the fact that the Indian State is made up of a number of institutions. Political institutions work on three levels in a complex socio-cultural matrix: national, state, and local. The necessity for a historical understanding of the genesis and historicity of these institutions as they have evolved over time supports the need to locate and understand them in the social matrixes in which they are entrenched. In brief, it has become important to regard India as a collection of many institutional functions acting in an equally diverse socioeconomic setting; this necessitates a multidisciplinary approach so that each institution may be understood in connection to its social surroundings. It also necessitates the academic treatment of institutions ranging from the Central Government and State Government institutions to those at the village and city levels. Furthermore, one must evaluate both political and economic frameworks, as well as the intellectual and discursive processes that inform and impact them. Contemporary discourses on Indian politics also argue that the operation of the Indian state cannot be understood solely by examining changes at the political centre, because they are influenced by developments in wider civil society as well.

Now, India is often regarded as one of the powerhouses in the Developing World. It is also held that India is likely to emerge as a vital player in the global economy. In addition, India's geostrategic location has provided her with power in international politics, which can be transformed into geopolitical profits, albeit with its own set of obstacles and complexity. India's recent role, which corresponds to her economic progress. It also emphasizes her need to take a more active part in the international community. As a result, India aspires to be both an engaged global actor and a responsible regional power. She has participated in global discussions and taken an independent stance on major topics such as nuclear proliferation, trade agreements, war disputes, and the environment. Her regional role has been revitalized by engagement initiatives in her various neighbouring regions – West Asia, Connect Central Asia, and Act East. Furthermore, the marine sphere has emerged as the most active component of Indian geopolitics, with notions such as Oceania, Indian Ocean Region, Asia Pacific, and the Indo Pacific becoming essential to India's policy and action-based ventures in the neighbourhood. Whether it is referred to as "Extended Neighbourhood" or "Neighbourhood First," it determines India's geopolitical goals, which are articulated through various foreign policy efforts.

In this context, the Department of Political Science, Rabindra Bharati University, is going to organize a National Level Seminar to locate and revisit the 75 Years of India's Independence through the lens of dynamics of the Indian State and society vis a vis her engagement with the emerging international order.

The sub-themes of this Seminar are:

1. Changing nature of Indian democracy
2. Party System in India
3. Emerging role of the Constitutional bodies in India
4. Social dynamics of Indian politics
5. Economic dynamics of Indian politics
6. Elections and electoral politics in India
7. Federalism and state autonomy
8. Changing nature of Indian administration and public policy
9. Mapping of Indian foreign policy

Abstracts (not more than 300 words) are invited from faculty members, scholars, and students within **30 November 2022**. Abstracts should be sent to rbucfp2022@gmail.com.

Registration fee for faculty members, scholars, and students (other than present students of RBU) is **INR 100/-** and will be accomplished on the spot.

No T.A./D.A. and accommodation will be provided to the participants.

Convenor

Professor Biswanath Chakraborty
*Head, Department of Political Science
Rabindra Bharati University*

Joint-Convenors

Sri Kunal Debnath
Sri Sankar Bhunia
*Assistant Professor
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