



Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR) Sponsored

NATIONAL SEMINAR

on

**Indian Democracy at Crossroads: Issues and
Challenges**

22nd and 23rd March, 2017

Organized by



Department of Political Science

Satyawati College (University of Delhi)

NAAC Accredited with Grade “A”

Ashok Vihar, Phase – III, Delhi - 110052

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Indian Democracy at Crossroads: Issues and Challenges

India is not only the largest but also the most resilient democracy of the world. Democracy, for India, is not merely a form of government but a way of life, as well. While its neighborhood has witnessed lapses of democracy rather frequently, India has been able to sustain its democracy quite successfully with periodic elections and increasing active participation of people. The federal structure of the country has undergone decentralisation with the number of states increasing from 10 to 29 and 7 Union Territories. The population has grown almost four-fold from 351 million to 1300 million approximately. India has also become the third largest economy (PPP) in the world and is currently the fastest growing economy as well. The literacy rate is constantly increasing albeit slowly. In order to ensure smooth functioning of democracy and to keep pace with the changing times, the Constitution of India has been amended more than 110 times. Yet, the country's track record of fight against poverty, illiteracy, corruption, gender discrimination, economic inequalities, regionalism, and other social inequalities is shockingly below the level of expectation. The largest democracy in the world has run into a '*crisis of governability*' within a period of about seven decades. The erosion in political order, gradual decline in value system and a deepening of socio-economic crises has brought the Indian Political System to crossroads where the people, the real stakeholders, are required to take decision about the future course amidst uncertainty. It is the greatest paradox of the Indian political system that in an apparent phase of '*electoral democracy*' or of Galbraith's '*functional anarchy*', people have reposed their full faith in the democratic process. This is by far the greatest achievement since independence. As a result, particularistic perspectives and aggressive pursuit of self-interests very often clash with the common interests of the people.

One of the most striking features of contemporary India has been the emergence of a burgeoning middle-class; and a large number of the populace aspiring to be part of it. In the process, the parties in India have responded to the upsurge of aspirations of people by shaping and reshaping a welfare state and a more inclusive participative democracy. Merger and splits among political parties that are more visible in contemporary India have been

mainly due to aspirations of emerging new elites and leadership issues. But in this process the parties which have been using money and muscle power to win elections have given safe accommodation to persons with criminal records and facilitated their entry into the deliberative chambers. This trend is on the rise and the democratic process gets vitiated when persons with criminal records entering into the decision making forums and policy formulation bodies. Another major complaint against political parties is that parties have resorted to populist policies and programmes. Some analysts accuse the parties of indulging in competitive populism. Political analysts across the world are watching the way the Indian democratic order shapes itself in the third millennium.

In this context, it is imperative to critically examine the various aspects of the functioning of democracy in India and the challenges it encounters in the era of globalization, particularly in relation to the rising expectation of the people. This National Seminar is an endeavor to analytically and judiciously examine the issues and challenges that the Indian democracy faces with the honourable intentions of contributing to its futuristic evolution.

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite academics and research scholars to submit their research papers on the sub-themes to be covered in different technical sessions during the seminar.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

The seminar would address the following three inter-related objectives:

- To reflect on major issues and challenges, functional as well as ideational, faced by Indian democracy;
- To critically examine the role of state and non-state actors (citizens, social movements, media and Indian diaspora) in making the Indian democracy more vibrant, and
- To probe the possibilities and avenues for ensuring socio-economic justice in the Indian social system.

SUB-THEMES:

(1) The Structures and Spirit of Indian Democracy

- (a) Issues and conflicts among Legislature, Executive and Judiciary
- (b) Nationalism, Secularism and Pluralism

(2) Social and Public Policies: Issues and Challenges

(3) Non-state Actors: Citizens, Social Movements, Media and Indian Diaspora

(4) Functional Democracy: The Electoral System, Political Parties and Pressure Groups

IMPORTANT DATES:

Seminar Dates	22 and 23 March 2017
Deadline for Submission of Abstract	05 March 2017
Notification of Acceptance	10 March 2017
Deadline for Submission of Full Papers	20 March 2017

Select papers will be published in a book with ISBN by a reputed publishing house.

Abstracts and full length research papers are to be submitted electronically at the following email address:

polsciencesatyawati@gmail.com

GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS:

- ❖ **Title page:** The title page of the paper should contain the title, author's name, designation, affiliation, and email ID.
- ❖ **Abstract:** Abstract should be around 750 words.
- ❖ **Paper** should be submitted in Font type- Times New Roman; MS Word, Font Size- 12; and Walkman Chanakya 905, Font size-14, Line Spacing- 1.5 for papers in Hindi.
- ❖ **Single Paper:** Only one paper will be entertained from one author.

REGISTRATION FEE:

- Faculty Participants (Paper Presentation): ₹ 800/-
- Research Scholars (Paper Presentation): ₹ 400/-
- If two authors are paper presenters, then both have to submit their registration fee separately.

MODE OF PAYMENT

Registration fee has to be paid online. The bank details are as follow:

Bank: Punjab National Bank

Branch: Satyawati College

Account Holder's Name: Principal, Satyawati College

Account Number: Saving Bank Account No. **06370101345020**

IFSC Code: PUNB0466400

Address: Satyawati College (M), University of Delhi, Ashok Vihar, Phase – III, Delhi-110052.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Convenor:

Dr. Pradeep Kumar 9818039311 polsciencesatyawati@gmail.com

Co-convenor:

Mr. Swadesh Singh

Members:

Dr. Ashutosh Trivedi Dr. Aditya N Mishra

Mr. Jiya Lal Mr. Kamal Kumar

REGISTRATION FORM



**Satyawati College, University of Delhi,
Ashok Vihar, Phase – III, Delhi – 110052**

National Seminar

On

“Indian Democracy at Crossroads: Issues and Challenges”

Date: 22-23 March, 2017

Date.....

Name:

Designation:

Department/College/University:

Official Address:

Mobile No:

E-mail ID:

Title of the Paper:

.....

Paper Presentation ()

Delegates Signature.....

Registration Fee:

- Faculty Participant (Paper Presentation): ₹ 800/-
- Research Scholars (Paper Presentation): ₹ 400/-
- If two authors are paper presenters, both have to submit their registration fee separately.