



Satyawati College, University of Delhi, Delhi is organising a National Seminar on

'Janapada System and Good Governance Practices in Ancient India'

in collaboration with the **Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and Satyawati College (Evening), University of Delhi**
(Under Special Call for Collaborative research projects on Vision Viksit Bharat@2047)

Date: 23-24 January, 2025, Venue: Satyawati College, Ashok Vihar, Delhi

Call for Papers

The Janapadas were the earliest form of organized complex political units in ancient India. Literary evidences suggest that the Janapadas flourished between 1500 BCE and 500 BCE. The earliest mention of the term, "Janapada" is found in the Aitareya and Shatapatha Brahmana texts. The Janapada system laid the foundation for the later Mahajanapada period, characterized by more significant and complex state formations. Under the leadership of Chandragupta Maurya, many of these Mahajanapadas were brought together, and the first "Samrajya"(Empire) was established. This seminar invites scholars from different disciplines to present papers employing historical, archaeological, and Sanskrit sources to provide a nuanced understanding of the Janapada System.

The Janapada system opens a window into early governance structures and how these can inform and enhance modern governance practices. Exploration of the Post-Vedic period's evolving Janapada system also provides an opportunity to explore early mechanisms of transparency and accountability. The principles underlying the Janapada system, particularly its emphasis on social justice, distributive justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, hold valuable lessons for modern governance. In examining the development of these mechanisms, we invariably assess the feasibility of replicating ancient governance models to address contemporary governance challenges. Seers and social reformers like Gautama Buddha, Mahavira Swami and their disciples also played a major role in raising the moral standards of the society. Examination of this can throw light on the importance of dissent and critical evaluation of ancient India.

The seminar also welcomes papers related to sustainability practices, such as waste management, water conservation, energy consumption patterns, etc., in the Janapada system. It also welcomes their attempts to understand how these ancient practices ensured self-sustainability and economic stability, and if they provided any insights into similar challenges today. By revisiting indigenous governance practices, a “Bharatiya Model” of governance that fosters organic and sustainable development can be envisioned. This model could also offer innovative solutions to contemporary issues, promote sustainability, harmony, social justice, and fraternity. Participating scholars can come up with detailed policy recommendations based on the study of the Janapada system, suggesting how these ancient practices can be adapted into modern contexts to address contemporary problems effectively.

Themes and Sub-themes:

1. History of the Janapada System
2. Kingship in Janapada System
3. Janapada System and Democracy
4. Gautama Buddha, Mahavir Swami and the Janapada System
5. Good Governance practices in the Janapada System
6. Development Discourse and the Janapada System
7. Sustainability and the Janapada System
8. Gender Discourse and the Janapada System
9. Social Justice Discourse and the Janapada System
10. The Janapada System in Different Texts

Guidelines:

1. Last date of the abstract submission is 10th January, 2025.
2. Abstracts should be in Hindi or English.
3. The word limit for the abstract is 300-500 words.
4. Fill this Google Form (<https://images.app.goo.gl/svt4zwQjyJpDkHtt9>) or send the abstract at this email id: janpada2024@gmail.com.
5. Please mention the theme and keywords.
6. Contact Dr. Ajay Kumar Yadav (9999877698) or Manashi Ghosh (9475181175) of the Organising Committee in case of any query.

• Patrons •

Prof. Subhash Kumar Singh
Principal, Satyawati College

Prof. Hari Mohan Sharma
Principal, Satyawati College (Evening)

• Organising Committee •

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