

# Report

Online Seminar/ Symposium

on

**Bengal Tomorrow: Society, Culture and Politics**

30 September 2020

Organized by

Department of Solitical Science, Gour Mahavidyalaya

Ambedkar Centre for Social and Cultural Studies, Gour Mahavidyalaya

&

*Alposankhak: A Critical Thinking Collective and a Reading Group*

## Concept Note

Whither Bengal politics? Is the much-vaunted secular and progressive political lexicon in Bengal set for an identity based or right-wing take over? Is there any possibility of a progressive political resurgence in Bengal? Does the incremental 'rise' of OBCs and Dalits in Bengal destabilize the entrenched upper caste/ Bhadrakalok hegemony? How can the Bengali Muslims reclaim their political agency? How to address the growingly saffronized North Bengal Question? How can CAA and anti- CAA Movement impact Bengal politics? What role can COVID 19 play in Bengal Politics in the days to come? This Panel Discussion seeks to find answers to these questions. It proposes to understand the contested terrain of Bengal politics through the dialectic of the local and the national, the secular and the religious, the centre and the periphery, the normative and the irruptive. Speakers will visit the past to understand the current socio-political transformations and will try to invoke the future through their analysis.

## Objective of the Seminar

As already stated the objective of the seminar is to-

1. Discuss the socio-cultural and political change in contemporary Bengal.
2. Discuss the impact of COVID 19 and CAA and Anti-CAA Movement on Bengal politics.
3. Discuss the contested terrain of Bengal politics through the dialectic of the local and the national, the secular and the religious, the centre and the periphery, the normative and the irruptive.

## Invited Speakers and Topic

Sreya Sarkar, public policy professional based out of Boston, USA- *"The Culture of Denial of Identity Politics in West Bengal: Past, Present and Future"*

Dr. Rajadipta Roy, Associate Professor, Maynaguri College, WB.- *"No One Lives in a Landscape: The Global, the Geist & the 'Green-screened North Bengal"*

Prof. Ranabir Samaddar, Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies, Calcutta Research Group - *"Bengal Tomorrow: Society, Culture and Politics"*

Dr. Debjani Sengupta, Associate Professor, Indraprastha College for Women, Delhi University - *"Dandak Theke Marichjhapi: Rehabilitation and Representation of 1947 Partition's Dalit Refugees"*

## Outcome of the Seminar

The seminar was a huge success as it achieved its stated objectives. The invited speakers made us acquainted with the changing socio-cultural landscape of Bengal. Bengal is no stranger to identity politics. And the Sreya Roy discussed the emerging identity politics in Bengal and its implications for Bengal. Dr. Rajadipta Roy discussed the division between the north and the south Bengal and made us once more aware of the need to bridge the gap. Dr. Debjani Sengupta highlighted the violence perpetrated on the Dalits in Bengal and Prof Ranabir Samaddar focused on the changing scenario of Bengal politics and its significance.

## Brochure, Schedule and Snippets of of the Seminar

The brochure features a dark blue background with a stylized green and yellow leaf graphic on the right side. The text is arranged in a structured layout with various sections:

- Web-symposium**
- BENGAL TOMORROW: SOCIETY, CULTURE AND POLITICS**
- 30 September 2022**  
10:00 PM IST, Chennai
- Session 1** (10:00-11:00 PM IST)  
<https://youtu.be/7HwD9mJLQ>
- Session 2** (11:00-12:00 AM IST)  
<https://youtu.be/5EgP7Gd9wU8>
- ORGANISED BY**  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, SOU, MAYNAGURI  
INDRAPRASTHA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, DELHI UNIVERSITY  
BANGALORE - A SOCIAL THEORY COLLECTIVE AND RESEARCH GROUP
- SESSION**  
DR. RAJADIPTA ROY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, MAYNAGURI COLLEGE
- SESSION**  
DR. DEBJANI SENGUPTA, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, INDRAPRASTHA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, DELHI UNIVERSITY
- SESSION**  
DR. RAJADIPTA ROY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPT. OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, SOU, MAYNAGURI  
DR. MANJIB KUMAR, COORDINATOR, ANDBHAR CENTRE FOR SOCIAL & CULTURAL POLICY STUDIES & RESEARCH, DEPT. OF ENGLISH, SOU, MAYNAGURI  
PRAC. ANINDYO SARKAR, INDRAPRASTHA, ANANDKHALI - A CRITICAL THINKING COLLECTIVE & PROF. DEPT. OF ENGLISH, SOU, RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY
- Organizing Institution**  
BANGALORE - A SOCIAL THEORY COLLECTIVE  
DEPT. OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, SOU, MAYNAGURI
- Supporting Institution**  
Sreya Roy, Lect. Dept. of Political Science, SOU, Maynaguri  
Parag Bhowmik, WCPD, Dept. of Political Science, SOU, Maynaguri  
Dr. Souvik, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Sociology, SOU, Maynaguri
- Technical Support**  
Anil Bhattacharya, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Computer Science and Application  
Anil Kumar Das, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Computer Science

The schedule slide has a dark blue background with a stylized green and yellow leaf graphic on the left side. It provides a detailed timeline of the event:

- SCHEDULE**  
Wednesday, 30th Sep 2022  
Welcome Address  
Dr. Rajadipta Roy, Associate Professor, Political Science, SOU, Maynaguri  
Dr. Parag Bhowmik, Coordinator, WCPD, SOU, Maynaguri
- Introducing the Theme & Moderating the Discussion**  
Anir, Eiy, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science, SOU, Maynaguri  
Prof. Anindyo Sarkar, Indraprastha, Anandkhal: A Critical Thinking Collective and Prof. Dept. of English, SOU, Nandi University
- Dr. Manjib Kumar, Coordinator, Anandkhal Centre for Social & Cultural Policy Studies & Research, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, SOU, Maynaguri**
- Session 1** (10:00-11:00 PM)  
Youtube Link: <https://youtu.be/7HwD9mJLQ>
- Break**  
Dr. Sreya Roy, Policy Professional based out of Bangalore  
*"The Culture of Ghast of Identity Politics in West Bengal: Past, Present and Future"*
- Session 2** (11:00-12:00 AM)  
Youtube Link: <https://youtu.be/5EgP7Gd9wU8>
- Dr. Ranabir Samaddar, Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies, Calcutta Research Group**  
*"Bengal Tomorrow: Society, Culture and Politics"*
- Dr. Debjani Sengupta, Associate Professor, Indraprastha College for Women, Delhi University**  
*"Dandak Theke Marichjhapi: Rehabilitation and Representation of 1947 Partition's Dalit Refugees"*



**Bengal Tomorrow: Society, Culture and Politics (Session- I)**

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**Bengal Tomorrow: Society, Culture and Politics (Session- I)**

520 views 3 yr ago ...more



**Bengal Tomorrow: Society, Politics and Culture ( Session II)**

185 views 3 yr ago ...more



**Video record of the Seminar**

<https://youtu.be/jbaJDUIUqL0> (Session –I)

<https://youtu.be/CgoP7Q49wU8> (session- II)