



Department of Parliamentary Affairs,
Government of West Bengal
Sponsored

Two-Day International Conference

On

Postcolonial Democracy in India *Contested Pasts, Present Transformation and the Future Possibilities*

24 - 25 January, 2025

Venue:

Gour Mahavidyalaya, Malda, West Bengal, India

Distinguished Speakers from Across the Globe



PROF. DEEPAK KUMAR

Jawaharlal Nehru University, India



**PROF. SOBHANLAL
DATTAGUPTA**

Calcutta University, India



**PROF. DWAIPAYAN
BHATTACHARYA**

Jawaharlal Nehru University, India



**PROF. BISWANATH
CHAKRABORTY**

Rabindra Bharati University, India



DR. DAYABATI ROY
University of Helsinki, Finland



PROF. JITENDRA SAHOO
University of Gour Banga, India



DR. SUVOBRATA SARKAR
Rabindra Bharati University, India

Organized by

Department of Political Science,
Gour Mahavidyalaya, Mangalbari, Malda, West Bengal, India
in collaboration with

West Bengal Political Science Association



CALL FOR PAPERS

Concept Note:

Postcolonial democracy in India started its journey with the Nehruvian ethos of development and quasi-socialist and secular credentials. Scholars have debated on the derivative and contested notion of democracy in the South Asian context and the role of the postcolonial nation-state in empowering and deepening democracy. However, the Emergency in 1975 put a severe challenge before democracy. The dismemberment of the 'Congress system' surfaced various regional forces. The rise of various conservative forces since the 1980s and the emergence of neo-liberal capital following the liberalization in the 1990s have led to changing democratic discourses. The advent of different governance technologies has further made the terrain more contesting and challenging. The 'Second Democratic Upsurge' that marked the emergence of Mandal politics in the late 1980s and the early 1990s, various social movements on issues of environment and livelihood, the anti-land grab movements, the rise of identity politics along the lines of religion, regionalism manifested in different corners of the country. Cumulatively, they galvanized democracy and opened up new horizons hitherto unthought of, unexplored. These perspectives in turn have called for newer approaches to revisit the trajectory of postcolonial democracy in India. How did the initial years of democracy address the social fault lines? Do we need to get back to the foundational ideas to remap the cartography of postcolonial democracy? How can this remapping alleviate the challenges we are facing in the contemporary? What role does science and medicine, the literary imaginations play in forging this topography of postcolonial democracy? India is currently the fourth largest economy in the world and achieved remarkable progress in the field of science and technology. Do these progress go hand in hand with democratic values or new possibilities in Indian democracy are opening up? This seminar proposes to analyze and explore the changing discourses of democracy in India. It also proposes to examine the popular ideas of the nation, and newer questions about the role of the state, the corporate houses, citizens, and the people.

Abstracts of 250-300 words are invited on topics that can engage with these broader points:

- Democracy in South Asia
- Indian Democracy in Historical Perspective
- The Changing Profile of Indian Democracy in a Globalizing World
- Populism and Dissent
- Indian Democracy and New Social Movements

- Dalit Politics and its impact on Indian democracy
- Indian Democracy and Identity Discourse
- Panchayati Raj and Democracy
- Constitutional Rights and the People
- Media, Capital, and Changing Public Sphere in India
- Identity Politics and its Contribution to Democracy
- Civil Society, Human Rights in Recent Socio-Political Scenario
- Civil Society-State Interface in India
- India and the Geopolitics of the Indian Ocean Region
- Inter-state relation in the South Asian Region
- Sino-India Relations and Its Implications for Indian Democracy
- Women's Participation in Indian Democracy.
- Demos in literary imaginations.
- Indian Constitution @75
- Science, Technology, Medicine and Nation Building.

Keynote Speakers:

- **Prof. Deepak Kumar**, *Professor (Retd.)* History of Science and Education, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.
- **Prof. Sobhanlal Dattagupta**, *(Retd.)* S. N. Banerjee Chair Professor, Department of Political Science, Calcutta University, Kolkata, West Bengal, India.
- **Prof. Dwaipayan Bhattacharya**, Professor, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.

Speakers:

- **Dr. Dayabati Roy**, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland
- **Prof. Biswanath Chakraborty**, Professor, Department of Political Science, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, West Bengal, India
- **Prof. Jitendra Sahoo**, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Gour Banga, Malda, West Bengal, India.
- **Dr. Suvabrata Sarkar**, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, India



IMPORTANT DATES

- **18 December, 2024**
Last Date of Submission of Abstracts.
- **25 December, 2024**
Intimation of Acceptance.
- **28 December, 2024**
Last Date of Registration by Paper-presenters.
- **12 January, 2025**
Submission of Full Papers.

REGISTRATION FEES

Paper Presenters	₹1500/-
Faculties and Teachers	
Research Scholars	₹1000/-
P.G./U.G. Students	₹500/-
Participants without Paper-presentation	₹500/-

(Registration includes Conference kit, refreshments, lunch on Conference days and certificate)

Abstracts are to be sent - seminargmpols25@gmail.com



[Note: Selected papers would be published in a peer-reviewed journal/in an edited volume]

Account Details for Submission of Registration Fees

A/C Name: Principal Gour Mahavidyalaya

A/C No. : 30953889478

Branch Name: Mangalbari (12416)

IFSC Code : SBIN0012416

Name of Bank: State Bank of India

Travel Help Desk (For Speakers only): Shilpi Tour and Travels, Malda
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GOUR MAHAVIDYALAYA (COLLEGE), INDIA

Gour Mahavidyalaya (College), accredited B+ by NAAC, is one of premier higher education institutes in the city of Malda, West Bengal, India, catering to over five thousands students across eighteen disciplines, and vocational education & skill-based education. It has running skill-hub, recognised by the PMKVY, Govt. of India.

Gour Mahavidyalaya was established in 1985 as an institution of higher education in the Malda. with the cooperation of locals. It traversed a long way successfully fulfilling the aspirations of thousands of students. After running a race of 40 years, it has now become one of the best colleges in Malda district with its well-developed faculties of Humanities, and Science and various academic and extra-curricular facilities, and brilliant academic results. The College is affiliated with the University of Gour Banga and offers two undergraduate programmes leading to B.A., and B.Sc., degrees. Currently, we have 20 departments. We have a Learners Support Centre for Distance and Online Education Affiliated with Rabindra Bharati University which offers master's courses in various subjects. We also have a Study Centre Affiliated with Netaji Subhas Open University which offers various UG and PG courses.



THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Department of Political Science began its journey in 1985, the year the College was established. From the beginning, the subject was taught only as a general course until 2005, when it was also introduced as an honours course. Presently, we have two Full-time Teachers and three SACT Teachers. The Department of Political Science is one of the College's most active and vibrant departments. We take online classes when required. We also have introduced an Add-on course from the 2022-23 Session. Our college has been performing well in the Youth Parliament Competition, organized by The Department of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of West Bengal for the last couple of years under the mentorship of our department.

The department is well equipped with ICT tools like projectors, desktops, and Laptops with dedicated WI-FI connection. We apply ICT tools for the effective teaching-learning process, especially after the Introduction of NEP programme. A good number of books relating to political science are available in our College Library. We also have a small departmental library.

Academic Collaborators



Gour Mahavidyalaya Press



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