

SEMINAR NO: 40

NAME_OF THE DEPARTMENT: POLITICAL SCIENCE

TITLE OF THE SEMINAR: TWO DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR ON DEMOCRACY AND DISSENT IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA

DATE: 17-11-22 to 18-11-22

**TWO DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR
ON
'DEMOCRACY AND DISSENT
IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA'**

November 17th and 18th 2022
Venue : Audio Visual Theatre, St John's College, Anchal.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
NAR GREGORIUS MADAR, ANCHAL, KERALA, INDIA
Re Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC

**INSTITUTE OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

Organised by
Department of Political Science and Public Administration, St. John's College, Anchal.
In Association with Institute of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Kerala.

SEMINAR ON 'DEMOCRACY AND DISSENT'

The poster features a central graphic of a white hand reaching up, set against a background of stylized buildings and a bar chart. The top section is white with blue and red accents, and the bottom section is blue with a white hand icon.

Dear Sir / Madam,

The Department of Political Science and Public Administration, St John's College, Anchal invites you with great pride and honour to the National Seminar on "Democracy and Dissent in Contemporary India", scheduled to be held on November 17 and 18, 2022. We solicit the presence of members of faculty, research scholars and PG students of your esteemed institution.

Never in recent history has the Indian Republic faced as much attack to its foundational values – democracy, secularism and federalism as in the last few years. The Central government, perhaps for the first time since the national emergency, has jumped into the bandwagon to equate any criticism of the government and its policies as treason and 'anti-national'. Many of the critics of the government in the world's largest democracy, including prominent activists, are now behind the bars and charged with sedition. The shrinking space for civil society is yet another concern as the NGO sector is muzzled on the pretext that they are pushing 'foreign' agendas and working against national interests.

It is against this backdrop that the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, St. John's College, Anchal, in collaboration with Institute of Parliamentary Affairs, is organising a two-day national seminar on the topic, "Democracy and Dissent in Contemporary India". The seminar intends to take stock of the prevailing political climate in the country, particularly the ways in which the ruling dispensation deals with resistance, protests, and radical thoughts.

We invite you most earnestly, to attend this seminar and enrich the deliberations.

Dr Cherian John
Principal

Dr Ronie Thomas
Head of the Department

The letter is set against a background of a stylized map of India. At the top right, there is a circular logo with the text 'SEMINAR ON 'DEMOCRACY AND DISSENT'' and 'INSTITUTE OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS'.

Inaugural Session 17-11-2022 (10.00 a.m. to 11.15 a.m.)

Welcome : Ms Amalin Nissar, III BA Political Science

Presidential Address : Dr Cherian John, Principal

Inaugural Address : **Dr Raju Narayana Swamy IAS**
Principal Secretary, Department of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Kerala.

Keynote Address : **Dr. Valerian Rodrigues**, Professor (Retd), Centre for Political Studies, JNU, New Delhi.

Release of report of India @2047 - Kerala Youth Survey

Felicitations : Fr Jinoy Mathew, Bursar
Prof. Jerry C. Jackson, IQAC Co-ordinator
Ms. Anula S., Secretary, Political Science Association

Vote of Thanks

Resource Persons for various Academic Sessions:

Mr. Abhilash Mohan, Executive Editor, Mathrubhumi News, Thiruvananthapuram.

Dr. S. R. Sanjeev, Head and Assistant Professor of Journalism, Mar Ivanios College, Thiruvananthapuram

Dr. Vidyha R, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Madras Christian College, Chennai

Mr. M. R. Manu, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Collegiate Education, Government of Kerala

Mr. Binun Waheed, Secretary, District Panchayat, Kollam.

Dr. T. K. Jabir, Associate Professor (on Contract), Institute for Multidisciplinary Programmes in Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam

Dr. Sreejesh N. P., Assistant Professor of Political Science (on Contract), Calicut University.

Valedictory Session 18-11-2022 (2.30 pm - 3.30 pm)

Welcome : Ms Sildia Thomas, Assistant Professor (on Contract), St John's College, Anchal.

Valedictory Address : **Adv. N. K. Premachandran M. P.**

Rapporteur's Report : Ms. Archana P Assistant Professor (on Contract), St John's College, Anchal


Valedictory Remarks:

1. Dr. Cherian John, Principal, St John's College, Anchal.
2. Dr. Ranie Thomas, Assistant Professor, St John's College, Anchal.
3. Dr. Sajan Thomas, Assistant Professor, St John's College, Anchal.
4. Mr. Thomas Mahan, Assistant Professor, St John's College, Anchal.
5. Ms. Gouri Nair S, Assistant Professor, St John's College, Anchal.

Vote of Thanks : Mr. Ashwin Easo James, Assistant Professor (on Contract), Department of History, St John's College, Anchal.

St. John's College, Anchal

St. John's College is a Christian aided institution under the Malankara Syrian Catholic Management and administered by the Major Archdiocese of Thiruvananthapuram. The College, affiliated to University of Kerala was established in 1964. The Department of Science and Technology, Government of India has recognized St. John's College under its DST-FIST program in 2016. The NAAC re-accredited the college with 'A' grade and recognized it under the Star College category. The department offers BA Program in Political Science since 1967 and MA Program in Public Administration since 1999. The Department of Political Science & Public Administration has a strong emphasis on developing an empirical research orientation, together with high pedagogical priority to the key concepts and theoretical frameworks of Political Science and Public Administration. The Department is particularly interested in undertaking initiatives that aim to disseminate the Constitutional values among students and youth.



Organising Committee

Dr Ranie Thomas (Head and Convenor)
Dr Sajan Thomas (Co-ordinator)
Mr Thomas Mahan
Ms Gouri Nair S.
Ms Sildia Thomas
Ms Archana P
Mr Ashwin Easo James



TWO DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

On

“DEMOCRACY AND DISSENT IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA”

Department of political science and public administration of Saint John's College collaboration with the institute of parliamentary affairs Government of Kerala proudly organised a 2 days National seminar on 17-18 November 2022 on the vibrant topic Democracy and Dissent in contemporary India.

The national Seminar started with Prayer and Third BA Political Science Student Ms Amalin Nizar welcome whole invitees and audience of the Seminar. This auspicious event was inaugurated by the honourable principal secretary department of parliamentary affairs Government of Kerala Dr Raju Narayana Swamy IAS by lightning the lamp and with his fruitful inaugural address. Through his words he commented that the spirit of democracy is indented in diversity and apart from the opposition people movement's play and important role in protecting it.

In his inaugural talk he points out various moments such as Chipko movement Narmada Bachao Andolan Appiko movement Plachimada and silent valley protest etc. He gave specification on the financial miss optimism and its trust on the gap between affluent and impoverished. He added that the Indian constitution is on the verge of collapse and it can be overcome only through people dissent. The importance of state structure in a country and the decentralisation process got special attention in his talk. He pointed out that Indian women is empowered to a large extent. He added that is seminar should be coming platform to take it into a practical level with people participation by proposing rational solution to the challenges facing our country today.

Ms Ajmi JS; Student of Second Year Public Administration Presented the survey report done by department of political science and public administration on “ India @ 2047: Kerala Youth Survey”.

Valerian Rodrigues (Rtd. Professor; JNU), Mr Manu MR (Academician) were led the academic sessions of the first day of the National Seminar.

Dr Valerian Rodrigues, retired professor centre for political studies, JNU, presented his keynote address. He discussed the attributes of an enlightened academic session. He re-integrated that India's constitutional democracy has the potential to make room for a radical democratic perception. The Indian constitution is not a major document that lays out divisions between governmental organs. Eminent personalities like Dr. BR Ambedkar fetched the Directive Principles of State Policy, laid open from article 36 to 51 in the Indian Constitution, from the stereotype of an aggregate of tracheal documents to something which deserves absolute attention. Hence the fire sticks of fraternity. The idea of equal rights before the law of the land irrespective of caste, class, educational background and so on, is one of the praiseworthy properties of the constitutional democracy in India. The feeling of citizenship is supposed to bring a sense of unity among the population of the nation. The constitutional morality is something which is of primary importance. Several not working political thinkers have advocated nursing consensus between the process of ruling and being ruled.

Independence India has spectated countless instances of social movements led by certain section like the peasantry, tribal, backward classes etc. He proposed to probe into these kinds of moments through a constitutional lens. He put forward his scrupulous conclusions at the end of the talk. He suggested that it is the need of the moment to rally around the constitution in order to voice it as a whole. Indian constitutionalism can be a source of solidity and strength the civil society which occurs enlighten by utilising the constitutional perception is expected to be empowered to take part in state affairs.

The ideas conveyed by Dr. Valerian wizardry of perpetual eminence.

Prof. Jerry c Jacson (IQAC Co – Ordinator) Facilitated the whole seminar conducted by Department of political science and public administration of Saint John's College collaboration with the institute of parliamentary affairs Government of Kerala.

The afternoon session was an academic one incorporating the topic of amazing challenges to as well as the role of media in Indian democracy Mr Manu MR assistant professor of political science collegiate education. He brought the audience to Greece the candles of democracy through his talk. How much the concept of democracy has changed during the period of Kalidasa from placing people at the spotlight to investing the idea of kingship in the people;

Does all are told to be the rulers. Mr Manu proposed the sophisticated thought fuel to buy the advent and advancement of technology to be a key factor triggering the survival of democracy public opinion play say centric roll in a democratic society. Democratic society one of the crucial changes that certain society. One of the cruise when changes that certain societies have faced while placing themselves within a democratic sphere, from once being controlled by monarchy, is the evolution of the nature of punishments. Punishments, which were once drive and by a feeling of vengeance, advanced to find themselves in a reformative realm. Miss information this information et cetera get dispersed through social media and dance definitely a matter of concern. There the need of media literacy gains prominence. It's high time for the public to be aware of reading between the lines. The issue of majoritarianism two is a bone of contention full stop the democratic system most often tends to follow the majority which need not necessarily lead to the best outcome. Depending the public perception on the matters regarding this is what a democratic state clamours for. So India being the largest one in the coveted group of democratic Nations leads to address this issue with at most solemnity.

The academic session of second day of the National seminar handled by Abhilash Mohan (Mathrubhumi Executive Editor), Dr. R Vidya (Assistant Professor in Political Science; Madras Christian College), Dr.Sreejesh NP (Assistant Professor on Contract; Calicut University), Mr Binun Vaheed (Kollam District Panchayat Secretary) leads the academic sessions of the two say national seminar.

This session dealt with citizenship and the media freedom in contemporary India. Second BA Political Science student Jayaram R welcomed whole invitees and audience to the seminar.

The first session led by Abhilash Mohan. According to him the essence of democracy is dissent. Media takes an important part in democracy. It is considered as 4th pillar of democracy. India's place in press freedom index is 150 even though India crossed its 75 years of independence. Media in India constantly work for the efficiency of democracy and its accountability. The responsibility of media is to reflect what is happening in the democracy. He opened out descend in today's society is become extremely dangerous in contemporary India.

It is also the current condition of media in Indian democracy. Media often tends to stimulate the majoritarian Ideas and it closely linked with democracy there comes the question, whether

democracy should exist or not. He concluded his words by proposing the need to do a scrutinized research on the way the media performs its tasks.

Dr Vidya presented the constitutional dynamics of the politics of citizenship in India. She mentioned the part 2 of the constitution which includes article 5 to 11 that deals with citizenship. While considering the idea of citizenship no discrimination should be carried out on the ground of caste.

The concept of evaluation connects the past events with the present ones and places citizenship should be based on ethnicity. But radical construction aims at creating a hybrid community. She brought the thoughts of Jawaharlal Nehru who saw citizenship as something which has the powers to create a brand new Bharat.

The Citizenship act came into being in 1955. In contemporary India, citizenship act CAA of 2019 makes citizenship a little bit complicated in India. So nation will face numerous issues related to the latest CAA of 2019. She is pressed that, we need to take into account individual opinions too about the idea of citizenship. This concept will evolve further and the nation will witness numerous incidences regarding the way same topic.

The third academic session on the theme 'The Social Dimensions of Democracy' was held. The session was taken by the first resource person Dr. Sreejesh NP, the assistant professor, Calicut University. The anchor paper title was 'Indian Democracy at Crossroads: Searching the Way for Social Democracy and Addressing the Challenges'. It included whether there is any issue in Indian democracy in a theoretical as well as practical sense. It was clear that its practical challenges that we face in the Indian democracy. He quoted the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi who supported a political democracy with decentralization of power and distribution of resources. At the same time, Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India, backed the idea of democratic socialism since he was more concerned with the economic crisis faced by India. Meanwhile, B.R. Ambedkar highlighted the importance of social democracy with 'steel deserves genuine administration'. He proclaimed that without social democracy there is a need to ensure that the society follows democratic thought. Dr. Sreejesh NP introduced a handful of topics which have immortal significance within a short span of time. The session was precise yet effective.

In the next session taken by Binun Wahid secretary district Panchayat Kollam and present a paper title on challenges in Disaster governance; some field Reflections. She started off by reminiscing the agencies during the 2018 flood that happened in Kerala. He stressed that the governance of the public, towards disasters, is the greatest challenges of disaster governance. Poor disaster awareness may cause massive hurdles in field of disaster governance. He opined that sometimes disaster preach in dispensable lessons. We need to absorb those morals and get enlightened by that. He emphasized the glory of disaster management act through his session. He asserted the efficiency of the functioning of local self-government institution especially during emergencies we need to aware of the societal structure within which we live. The academic session hand till the by Mr Binun Wahid was and eye opening element of the two day seminar. Ms Vrinda S Lal II MA Public Administration Thanked all personalities in part of the National Seminar. A total of around 150 students were participated in the seminar.

The Valedictory Session started by the welcome speech of Ms Sildia Thomas (Assistant Professor on Contract , Department of Political Science and Public Administration, St Johns College, Anchal). The Valedictory Session Inaugurated and addressed by Adv. NK Premachandran MP. Rapporteurs Report presented by Ms. Archana P (Assistant Professor on Contract , Department of Political Science and Public Administration , St Johns College, Anchal) , Ms Harda ML (First BA political Science), Ms Anilenth (Third BA political Science), Muhasina Farsana (Second BA Political Science), Ms Sandra(First MA Public Administration), Ms Balagopika A (Second MA Public Administration). Mr. Thomas Mohan (Assistant Professor of Department of Political Science and Public Administration Felicitated the whole Seminar conducted by Department of political science and public administration of Saint John's College collaboration with the institute of parliamentary affairs Government of Kerala. Mr. Aswin Eso James (Assistant Professor on Contract, Department of History, St Johns College, Anchal) Thanked the whole Valedictory session of two day National Seminar.