

Call for Paper



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Concept Note for the National Level Seminar cum Workshop on 27th – 28th March, 2024

Democratization, Social Justice, and Human Rights *Interrogating India's Experience since Independence*

In an increasingly interconnected world, the ideas of democracy, social justice, and human rights have become integral to the ideologies and operations of institutions at both national and global levels. India's experience with democratization, social justice and human rights is intricate and multifaceted, shaped by the country's distinct historical, cultural, and socio-economic context. India is frequently hailed as the largest democracy in the world because of its stable electoral system, which enables recurrent elections at all governmental levels. India has had multiple elections since independence from British imperial power in 1947, ushering in a parliamentary form of government. Nonetheless, obstacles including political dynasties, electoral integrity, and corruption continue to exist and hinder the full enactment of democratic norms. India's journey towards social justice has been marked by efforts to address historical injustices, particularly those related to caste discrimination, socio-economic disparities and ecological marginalization. The Indian Constitution, adopted in 1950, enshrines principles of equality, social justice, and affirmative action through provisions such as reservation quotas for historically backward communities, including SCs, STs and OBCs. Despite these measures, deep-rooted inequalities persist, and marginalized groups continue to face discrimination and exclusion in various spheres of life. In addition, India has a diverse and vibrant civil society that actively engages in advocating for human rights protection and promoting accountability. However, human rights violations remain a concern, including issues such as police brutality, religious and communal violence, gender-based violence, and restrictions on freedom of expression and dissent. Instances of state repression, particularly in conflict-affected regions such as Jammu and Kashmir, North-eastern states and areas affected by left-wing extremism, have drawn criticism from domestic and international human rights organizations.

In recent years, debates around democracy, social justice, and human rights in India have intensified, fuelled by contentious issues such as citizenship rights, religious freedom, and the erosion of democratic norms. While India has made significant strides in certain areas, there

is still much work to be done to address systemic inequalities, protect fundamental rights, and strengthen democratic institutions to ensure the inclusive and equitable development of all its citizens. In this context, the seminar proposes an integrated approach to further democratization through these endeavours. The seminar, therefore, invites abstract **on or before 18th March, 2024 within 300 words** on the following sub-themes, which are included but not limited to:

- 1. Democratization: Its Possibilities and Constraints;**
- 2. Social Justice: Its Nature and Manifestations; and**
- 3. Human Rights: Issues and Challenges.**

Email id for abstract submission: polsc@rbu.ac.in

Joint-Convener

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