

ODISHA POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION
(Established- 1966)

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Dear Madam/Sir,

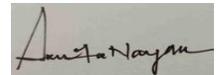
Greetings from OPSA. It gives me immense pleasure to convey that **the P.G. Department of Political Science, Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar is going to host the 29th Conference of Odisha Political Science Association on 25th & 26th December, 2021.**

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I cordially invite you and your esteemed colleagues of the department to participate in the Conference.

The Odisha Political Science Association, since its inception in the year 1966 has been working for the promotion and development of the discipline of Political Science. Prof. (Dr.) Shreeram Chandra Dash, a renowned academician, political scientist and eminent jurist, was the founder of Odisha Political Science Association, besides Prof. S. N. Rath, and Prof. B. C. Rout were co-founders of this association. Prof. Surya Narayan Misra, Former Professor and Head, Department of Political Science, Utkal University, is the current President of the Association, who will preside over the inaugural session of the conference.

Looking forward to your participation in the 29th Conference of OPSA

Yours Sincerely



(Smita Nayak)

Politics & Development in India: Issues and Challenges (Concept Note)

The contemporary times has witnessed a paradigm shift in Indian politics and its development discourse. This discourse has become central to understand politics in India today. The political dynamics witnessed the changing pattern of voting behavior in 2014 and 2019 elections. Voting behavior and electoral politics no longer premised upon traditional loyalties such as caste, language, religion and identity politics. Institutional competition is also taking place within a rapidly alerting context in the domain of both the state and civil society. In domain of competitive politics, power has been exercised at different levels and by different institutions. The nature of political formation makes it very difficult for any single party to dominate the balance between different levels of government – Central, State and local.

The fragmentation in monopoly of State power has been accompanied by new trends. While India had always been a robust electoral democracy, the access of its citizen to the State, particularly information was relatively limited. One of the most remarkable trends of the last few years has been the opening up of the government. The RTI Act, 2005 ensuring citizens' access to information is just one manifestation of this phenomenon. Citizen and Civil Society engagement in the pre-legislative process, social audits and information campaign, have all taking deep root in politics and development discourse. While the new form of accountability is growing, the practice of State on control and secrecy has hold on. In many ways, the struggle between transparency and control has now become a more prominent feature of politics in India. However, this struggle is increasingly occurring, not within the space of politics, but outside it, described as struggle between Civil Society and State. Civil Society has become active mobilizing outside the rubric of electoral and party politics and even traditional interest group-based associations to hold the Government accountable. Although Civil Society is deeply implicated by various social divisions like caste, class and region but governance premised 'secrecy' is likely to be more difficult. The transformation in the domain of market, rather than the State has come to command the leading heights of the economy. State has intervened to restructure society, so as to make more hospitable to market relations. Politics has come on the way of governing property, labour and natural resources by restructuring to make them hospitable to capital. This has transformed India's political economy. The growth in turn has

generated greater resources, which are then deployed by the State to prepare more citizens for participation in this growth or to help those who are unable to participate.

Development has witnessed in the State becoming potential in expanding a whole series of development programmes from education to employment, which are increasingly articulated in terms of rights viz., food, employment, education and so on and so forth.

Gender issues and women movements in India have been perceived both historically as well as in terms of its identity – orientation. The 1980s witnessing specific nature of women's oppression has suggested for an autonomous women's movement. The 1990s witnessing wider polity has recognized unified women movements overriding differences of identity, well reflected in Women's Reservation Bill that was defeated in the Rajya Sabha.

In the post cold war politics among nations, India has increasingly seen itself as a lead actor on the world stage. India's integration into world economy has deepened. Pressing global issues like, terrorism, environmental issues and climate change have occasioned the need for India to play a lead role in global affairs. India's role as an emerging global power has provided interesting debate.

However, by and large politics in India has largely been determined by a newer relationship of State to various, caste and subaltern groups, about how the State 'sees' the marginalized, the poor and their poverty, but about how these groups perceive the State.

Political process in India, as we have seen was central to the articulation of social cleavages due to rising polarization of voter's awareness and consciousness among those marginalized and subaltern groups. The fundamental malaise, of course remains in the absence of internal democracy, the functioning of some political parties as family fiefdoms and their dependence on largely unregulated corporate funding.

Researches have found that lack of good governance, slow economic growth, corruption, electoral malpractices and inflation were the most silent issues among the voters during the 2014 and 2019 General Elections. This was also well manifested in the voters' choice in Various State Assembly elections during this period. This shift in voter's choice has increasingly become development centric. Voters have started rejecting political parties which failed to deliver on 'development front'. Voter's mobilization and demand has given clarion call "give us

development”. The politics in contemporary India and the dynamics of electoral politics have witnessed a great shift towards the issue of livelihood and development. This has become a national trend including Odisha.

Thus, this conference proposes to discuss issues and challenges concerning politics and development in contemporary India. Apart from this issue, the conference also would like to respond to various other important issues. The relevant issues pertaining to politics and development discourses will be deliberated upon by the Academicians, Eminent Scholars and Administrators during the course of this Two-Days National Conference.

While the above is the major broad theme of the conference, it has several sub themes which are given below;

Sub – themes of the Conference topic:

1. Political Economy of Reforms
2. India and her Neighbours: The Strategic Concerns
3. Public Policy and Democratic Decentralization in India
4. The Dynamics of Development in Post Pandemic Era: Issues and Challenges

Guidelines for Abstracts/Full-Papers

All the abstracts and full-papers should include the full details of the author(s) on the cover page. The authors are requested to kindly submit the abstract of their papers by **10th of December, 2021** positively and full papers by **20th of December**. **The papers received after the last date will not be entertained.**

Requirement for the conference papers or points to be followed:

1. Papers (two hard copies) should be sent to the General Secretary, Odisha Political Science Association / Organizing Secretary, 29th OPSA Annual Conference, 2021, along with soft copy in word file sent to email: opsaconferenceuu2021@gmail.com
2. The format of abstract/full-paper must be in MS word, Times New Roman, Font Size-12 double-spaced.
3. The full-papers must be submitted with plagiarism report (less than 10% is accepted).

4. Authors are advised to follow APA Style.
5. Abstract should be limited to 250 words and with five keywords.
6. The length of full-paper should be limited to 3,000 words with an abstract at the beginning and five keywords.

About the University

Established in the year 1943 and situated on a sprawling picturesque lush green campus of about 400 acres, it boasts of being the seventeenth oldest University in India. This teaching-cum-affiliating University has at present 27 Post Graduate departments and 30 self-financing programmes in various disciplines of Science, Humanities, Law, Social Science, Commerce and Management with about 4000 students on roll. In recognition to its contribution to the nation building, it has been accredited 'A+' by the NAAC, UGC, New Delhi.

About Department of Political Science

It was established in 1958 in the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack and was shifted to its present campus in 1962. In 1996, the Department of Public Administration was carved out of the Department of Political Science. In addition, School of Women Studies, P.G. Diploma in Chinese Studies and Development Journalism and Electronic Communication were instituted. Subsequently, except P.G. Diploma in Chinese Studies, other two department became independent after due recognition by the U.G.C. It is noteworthy to mention that the Department was inducted into the UGC-SAP (DRS-I) in 2004 and this is the first and the only Political Science Department in the state to get inducted into UGC-SAP (DRS). Dr. K.V Rao was the first head of the Department and was succeeded by Prof. Shreeram Chandra Dash in 1963. The Department in particular owes a deep sense of gratitude to late lamented Prof. Shreeram Chandra Dash, a legendary figure and doyen in the field of Political Science. The Department has instituted the Shreeram Chandra Dash Memorial Foundation in the name which conducts the Annual Memorial lecture programme in his honour since 1995.

Membership / Life Membership

Anyone wishing to become a life member of OPSA should fill up the enclosed 'Enrolment Application Form' along with one passport size photograph and documentary evidence of Post Graduate degree etc. The application form duly filled in with a multi-city cheque or Bank Draft (payable at Bhubaneswar) fee Rs.2000/- in favour of the "Odisha Political Science Association" OR in cash to Dr. Smita Nayak, Associate Professor & Head, P.G. Department of Political Science, Utkal University and the Organizing Secretary of 29th Annual OPSA Conference, 2021. One wishing to be enrolled as an associate member can become so at the time of conference by depositing Rs.1000/- (one thousand) only.

Delegate Fee and Local Arrangements

We thankfully acknowledge our gratitude to Dr. Smita Nayak, Head, P.G. Department of Political Science for taking initiative to host the 29th Annual Conference of OPSA. The members who wish to participate in the session have to deposit Rs.1000/- towards delegates fee at the time of registration. The Organizing Secretary may be consulted by her Mobile No.**9861083060/8908100707**