



# National Seminar

On

# Rethinking Democracy

(21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2025)



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Utkal University**

**Bhubaneswar-751004, Odisha**

**INDIA**

**ORGANISING COMMITTEE:**

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**Venue**

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**Bhubaneswar - 751004**

**Odisha.**



## Call for Papers

Human history has entered a phase where the long-cherished ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity appear increasingly difficult to realize. In his book *Rethinking Democracy* (2005) Rajni Kothari holds that these democratic values and the idea of a state are worth pursuing so as to liberate people from the shackles of both traditions and modernity. These ideals and values together provide humankind with a vision of a utopian social order—humane and just. For long it has been imagined that a “democratic way of life” will provide humanity with the necessary framework of, both institutional and ideological, through which the utopia could be realized. It is against this backdrop that the faith in such an ideological cum institutional framework for ‘delivering the goods’ is being questioned. Unprecedented challenges and political upheavals in different parts of the country and the world offers the opportunity for re-evaluating and rethinking democracy.

Democracy has never been more contested. For those who have it, democracy offers a grab-bag of rights and freedoms not found in other regime types; for those who want it, democracy holds the promise of a better life free from the constraints of oppressive forms of power. Democracies around the world are being weakened from within—by the actions and efforts of their elected leaders. In their book, Dr. Erica Frantz, Dr. Andrea Kendall-Taylor, and Dr. Joseph Wright (2023) discuss how the rise of personalism in democratic politics has become the key culprit for democracy’s ills. Personalist leaders—or those leaders that take on outsized influence relative to the parties that back them—are more likely to dismantle institutional checks on the executive, deepen political polarization, and weaken supporters’ commitment to democratic norms of behavior, all actions that pave the way for democratic backsliding and collapse.

India too, is undergoing massive process of inner change. It may be highlighted here that India was one of the first countries to embrace democracy as its mode of self-rule following decolonization. The most important questions and apprehensions at the inaugural moment of India democracy were pertaining to the possibility of democratic political system in a deeply hierarchical society and forming deliberative reasoning in order to arrive at substantive and enduring agreements amidst the enormous diversity and inequalities prevalent in India.

The challenges contemporary India faces are – how to relate and join the deeper ie the inner drives of citizens and communities to the broader challenges of socio-political transformations and the still larger challenges of emancipation; how to engage in the preservation of freedom and autonomy in the face of external confrontations of both corporate and transnational varieties, and confrontations from within the nation state, such as economic divides based on caste and class, and the more threatening communal, religious and ethnic identities of communities. D. L. Seth (2018) rightly maintains that the base of institutional democracy in India will have to expand beyond parties and elections and the political authority will have to seek legitimization by also responding to the politics of no-party and non-electoral organizations and movements that have arisen in the wider public realm.

It is therefore, important to explore the challenges that confront this indeterminate form of governance. The seminar gives the opportunity to explore the nature, and contemporary practice of democracy – both in India and elsewhere across the globe. It is an attempt to provide alternative narratives about the complex and contested history of democracy and also to highlight on the nature and functioning of democratic political institutions including the rise of non-democratic powers, while examining the future of democracy

## Sub-Themes:

Papers are invited from academics, researchers, policy makers, members of the civil society and young research scholars revolving around but not restricted to the following sub-themes:

1. **Rethinking Democracy: Philosophical Perspectives**
2. **Democracy and the State**
3. **Terrorism, Security and Democracy**
4. **Challenges to Democracy: Global Perspectives**
5. **Democracy and Participation**
6. **Democracy in India**
7. **Social Movements and Democracy**
8. **Markets and Democracy**
9. **Education and Democracy**
10. **Bureaucracy, Public Policy and Democracy**

## Paper Submission Guidelines:

Abstracts of the papers (Max. 250 words) and full papers (Max. 3500 words) in Word format in Times New Roman, 12 font size and 1.5 line spacing, on any of the sub themes as mentioned above are invited to be submitted on or before the last dates to [confuupolscience2025@gmail.com](mailto:confuupolscience2025@gmail.com)

## Important Dates:

**Abstract Submission with Registration Fee (payment Receipt): By 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Submission of Full Papers: By 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Seminar Dates: 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025**

Email address for sending Abstract and Full Papers: [confuupolscience2025@gmail.com](mailto:confuupolscience2025@gmail.com)

## Registration:

**Registration is mandatory for all paper presenters, participants and discussants.**

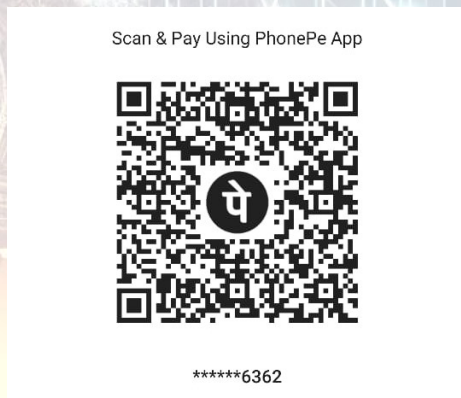
Paper presenters and participants must register on or before March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Limited accommodation on shared basis will be provided to the participants/delegates(Only outstation) on payment basis who register for the same on or before the due date. Registration



fees cover a conference kit, high tea, and a working lunch. Delegates and participants can make the payment by transferring directly to the following:

**Bank Account: 80162610000756, IFSC Code: CNRB0018016, Name: ARATI PRADHAN, Bank Name: Canara Bank.**

“OR” they can pay through UPI by scanning the QR Code and share the payment receipt details to the email provided.



### *Registration Fee details:*

*Registration Fee details (includes Seminar materials, tea and working lunch):*

Students of other Colleges & Universities Rs. 500/-

Research Scholars (**Full-time**): Rs. 500/-

Academicians, in-service professionals Rs. 1,500/-

Selected papers will be included in the conference volume.

**Seminar Dates 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2025.**

