

Platform Session – 1 (10.45 am to 12.00 pm)

Political Representation: Theoretical Underpinnings

Topic Initiation: **Prof. Harish Ramaswamy**
Dept. of Political Science, Karnataka University, Dharwad.

Platform Session – 2 (12.00 pm to 1.15 pm)

Ambedkar and Identity Politics

Topic Initiation: **Prof. Arun K Patnaik**
Dept. of Political Science, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad.

Platform Session – 3 (2.15 pm to 3.30 pm)

Political Theory and Social Movements

Topic Initiation: **Dr. Harsha S.**
Dept. of Political Science, Assam University, Silchar, Assam.

Platform Session – 4 (3.30 pm to 4.45 pm)

Epistemic Blocks in Building Indian Political Theory

Topic Initiation: **Prof. J. S. Sadananda**
Retired Professor, Dept. of Political Science, Kuvempu University.

4.45pm-5-15pm

Discussion on Seminar Outcome and Concluding Remarks by Experts

Other Expert Respondents in the Platform Sessions:

Prof. S. A. Javeed, Dept. of Political Science, Kuvempu University.
Prof. Rajaram Hegde, Dept. of History and Archaeology, Kuvempu University.
Prof. Poornananda, Dept. of Journalism and Mass Communication, Kuvempu University
Dr. U. Venkatesh, Dept. of Political Science, Kuvempu University.

Moderators of The Platform Sessions :

Dr. K. C. Suresh, Dept. of Public Administration, Tumkur University, Tumkur
Dr. A. Shanmukha, Dept. of Political Science, Kuvempu University.



Department of P. G. Studies and Research in Political Science
Jnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghatta-577451

Cordially invites you to the Inaugural function of

One Day National Seminar On Political Theory and Contemporary Political Trends in India

Presided By : **Prof. Jogan Shankar**
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor,
Kuvempu University

Chief Guests : **Prof. H. S. Bhojya Naik**
Registrar, Kuvempu University

Prof. J. S. Sadananda
Retired Professor, Dept. of Political Science,
Kuvempu University

Date : 24th March, 2018

Time : 9.45am

Venue

S. P. Hiremath Hall, Kuvempu University

Organising Secretary

Dr. S. A. Javeed

Professor,

Dept. of Political Science
Kuvempu University

Seminar Director

Dr. A. Shanmukha

Chairman,

Dept. of Political Science
Kuvempu University

Organising Committee:

Prof. K. Chandrashekhara

Dr. U. Venkatesh

Dr. Praveen T.L.

Ms. Veena E.

Faculty, Staff & Students

Department of P. G. Studies and Research in Political Science

Theme of the Seminar:

Building Political theories is an fundamental intellectual activity of Political Scientists. This is generally identifiable with, as well as distinguishable, from other related activities like political thought, political philosophy, political inquiry, political analysis etc. Importantly, Political Theory is the part of Political Science that explores what a better political world would look like and how we can improve it. The earlier generation of Political Thinkers of India have done the same to create the political system that we are living with. The theory building activity in any domain of knowledge is subjected to falsification and further improvement as and when the existing theories encounter new circumstances or new challenges in a changed environment and time. It is true about political theories as well. This challenge to the existing Political Theories has come in two important directions: one is from the post-colonial researches or scholarships and second is, naturally, from the changing nature of contemporary political trends in India.

The postcolonial scholarship posed challenges to the existing Political Theories in many aspects. Very important charge, among those, is 'Cultural Difference' point of view. This view criticises that most of the political theories and conceptual vocabularies in the domain of political science originated in the western cultural background. Most of the fundamental concepts in political science like State, sovereignty, rights, liberty, law, justice, representation, etc., are said have emerged within the framework of western cultural background. Hence, these concepts and theories are not accessible to the people belonging to the completely different culture like India. They lose the original meaning and function here. Some scholars try to justify the changed and modified meanings of these concepts and theories, however it gives room to attribute whatever meaning one would like or comfortable with. This further adds to the problem of scientific theory building activity in social sciences in general, Political Science in particular. This is one of the main issues of focus in the seminar.

Complimentary to the above conceptual and theoretical issue, the changing nature and newly emerging political trends in contemporary India is also another concern of seminar. Recently

emerging ideological debates over 'Nationalism' and 'Patriotism', debates on 'Increasing Intolerance' and Saffronisation, increasing tendency of Sectarian, Religious, Ethnic, and Caste Mobilisation, and also the Demand for separate status of Religion under the realm of Identity Politics, New issues among Backward classes, Peasants, Women and other marginalised sections added by Globalisation effect, along with these continued issues of Uniform civil code, Ban on Cow slaughter, Muslim Personnel Law and Triple Talaq, New form of Temple Entry movements by women, and the list goes on...

All those issues are discussed in Media and public endlessly but yet there is no or fewer attempts of theoretical reflections on these trends. Many have agreed that these emerging issues and trends have not been addressed and explained by the existing political theories and they have no adequate resource to do so. This has been a challenge to the existing theories and their conceptual vocabularies for being unable to explain the issues in India, because of their cultural specific nature. Hence, now the challenge is how to go about with this situation in the domain of the Discipline. Particularly, there is an urgent need for a theoretical framework or methodological framework to continue the theory building activity in Political Science. With this backdrop, though it may not cover all the issues mentioned above but taking some examples of such issues this seminar is expected to through light upon how to go about with these issues and develop the domain of knowledge in the discipline.

The Format Of The Seminar:

The main focus of the seminar is 'theory building exercise' in Political Science. Hence, the discussion will take place among the invited experts in the discipline. There are four Platform sessions in the Seminar. In each session, one expert on Political Theory/Philosophy will introduce some clearly outlined positions and questions related to the topic of their choice within the theme of this Seminar. There will be five to six expert political scientists in the panel to reflect upon the issues raised/identified by the moderators. The moderators formulate the questions/observation and pose them to a particular expert for the response and again same will be done to get the response from the Main speaker and then move on to the next expert for the response with the same exercise.