



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

CALL FOR PAPERS

TWO-DAYS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

On

“ELECTORAL POLITICS IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA: EMERGING TRENDS”

(22-23 FEBRUARY, 2018)

Organized by

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY, HYDERABAD
(A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY)**

NATIONAL CONFERENCE: RATIONALE & SCOPE

Elections are fundamental to the very existence of a democratic polity. It is singularly the most important mechanism through which popular sovereignty is exercised—an exercise through which the wishes and desires of people are expressed. India as the largest democracy of the world has evolved a unique election process and electoral politics. The evolution of electoral politics played a vital role in the very deepening of democracy in Indian context. The adjustments and transformations in the electoral landscape have allowed India to maintain and consolidate a democratic system despite the presence of various social and economic challenges to it. The transformations have allowed the deepening of democratic process allowing incorporation of disadvantaged groups and peripheral actors into the fold of the political system. The evolution of electoral politics and democratic process had not followed linear trajectory yielding democratic progress—with its markers: expansion of participation and broadening of choices. Electoral politics rather travelled along a very complex path in Indian context.

Electoral politics in India operates in a distinct set up involving the participation of three key actors: the election commission, the political parties and the populace. Election Commission as an independent body is assigned the fundamental task of conduct of free and fair elections. In its performance of the role of filter against any form of corruption in the election process, Election Commission ensures the purity and legitimacy of the democracy. Political parties are responsible for the realization of democratic life by emerging as the vital link between the society and the polity and by mediating political process and policy making. The “People” are in principal both the maker and the recipient of the system. The success of both the electoral politics and the democratic process essentially depends on the implications they have for the populace.

A) Electoral Politics in India

Electoral politics in Indian context is a dynamic process involving participation of range of actors—and not just political parties. It involves a distinct interaction between political parties, media, civil society groups and corporate houses. The temporal framework of electoral politics extends beyond the actual span of elections. Electoral politics itself is a broader process involving several sub-



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processes and microscopic interactions among actors—with corresponding identities. It involves several exercises: agenda setting, funding and mobilization strategies. The presence of elections at three levels: national elections, state elections and the elections for local bodies make elections a pervasive phenomenon of Indian Politics. As a result, electoral politics acquires enormous significance to the extent that it ends up encompassing all forms of politics within itself.

B) *Emerging Trends*

“One Party System” or the “Congress Party System” has been the most relevant catchphrases to define the nature of electoral politics in India for initial three decades after independence. However, the subsequent period saw series of churning yielding massive transformation in the electoral landscape and electoral politics. These transformations were associated with other changes in social and economic domains. As a result, there has been a gradual move from one party dominance system to a political ecosystem characterized with the presence of multiple parties and pattern of competition. The nature of change was different at the three different levels of electoral politics. Coalitions emerged as the defining aspect of electoral politics at the national level. At state level however, riding on the wave of caste assertions—regional political parties emerged as the main players.

The developments in mass media and the penetration of capitalist globalization further transformed the arena of electoral politics by ushering in changes in mobilization strategies and introducing newer set of actors. The emergence of 24/7 news channels and the participation of diaspora community was an outcome of these transformations. Likewise, the revolution in digital arena and the corresponding rise of social media has created newer sites of cultivation and production of the big *lehar*—the election waves. These transformations have made the reading an assessment of electoral politics a difficult task for political scientists. Old frameworks and models of assessments of Indian electoral politics have been rendered redundant by these transformations. However, they also offer exciting theoretical possibilities for political scientists. This seminar intends to bring together people attempting to respond to these transformations in the landscape of India’s electoral politics.

THE FRAMING OF THE CONFERENCE: OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this National Conference on “**Electoral Politics in Contemporary India: Emerging Trends**” is to gauge the emerging trends in electoral politics. It seeks to explore the emerging patterns in electoral politics by bringing together scholars who have sought to capture and explain these patterns in their research.

The **Two-Days National Conference** will act as a platform for scholars, researchers and students of politics to present and share their work and findings. It will further allow them to situate their research in the broader field of study of electoral politics. It would also allow them to identify potential areas of further explorations.

MAJOR SUB-THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE:

The Seminar will comprise of the following sub-themes:

1. **Political Parties and New Mobilization Strategies**
2. **New Media and Elections**
3. **Identity Assertion and Electoral Politics**
4. **Globalization, Election and the Diaspora**
5. **New Trends in Regional Politics**
6. **State and Elections in Periphery**

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GUIDELINES FOR PAPER SUBMISSION:

The Conference committee solicits original research papers from the academia, students, researchers and experts from different aspects of Indian studies on any of the sub-themes to be considered for presentation at the conference and publication afterwards in the form of an edited book.

The deadline for the submission of abstracts along with final papers is 15 February, 2018.

- Only original, unpublished work will be accepted for the conference.
- Papers should reflect the conference themes.
- Abstract and the full paper need to be submitted for approval to the Paper Committee of the Conference by the date already announced.
- Authors may submit their abstract and final paper as email attachment to afrozalam2@gmail.com. Please use the subject line as: "Submission of Abstract/Final Paper for National Conference on Electoral Politics".
- The abstract (max. 500 words) and final paper (max. 7500 words) should be in MS Word format.
- The word limit of the final paper is inclusive of Tables and Figures which may be incorporated into the text of paper as close to where they are first referred.

REGISTRATION DETAILS:

There is no Registration Fee.

IMPORTANT DATES

1. **Last date for abstract and final paper submission: 15 February, 2018**
2. **Acceptance of paper: 19 February, 2018**
3. **Date of Conference: 22-23 February, 2018.**

LOCAL HOSPITALITY & ACCOMMODATION:

The outstation participants will be provided food and accommodation during the Conference in the university campus.

PROFILE OF THE UNIVERSITY:

Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) is a central university established in the year 1998 by an Act of Indian Parliament, with all India Jurisdiction, to promote and develop Urdu language, impart vocational and technical education in Urdu medium through conventional and distance modes and focus on women education. The headquarter of the University is at a central location of Gachibowli in Hyderabad and spread over 200 acres. The university has been awarded 'A Grade' by NAAC in 2009 and again in 2016.

Over the last twenty years, MANUU is working as a mission-driven University with a strong commitment to teaching, learning, research and innovation along with a special focus on women education to fulfill its statutory mandate.

The University has a unique distinction of offering courses and programmes from elementary to higher education in general and professional, technical and vocational streams in particular in Urdu. It is catering to the educational needs of the large sections of unreached Urdu population of the society and delivering education through teaching, research, training and outreach activities with

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well established Schools, Departments, Centres and Satellite campuses. The university is offering 17 Ph.D, 12 M. Phil, 25 Post Graduate and 18 Under Graduate programs and a few Diploma and Certificate Courses. The University has approximately 400 regular faculty, 400 non-teaching staff and 6000 regular students from across India. Furthermore, the diversity of University Campus is also good with proportionate male-female ratio and representation of different sections of the society.

PROFILE OF THE DEPARTMENT:

The Department of Political Science was established as an independent Department in the month of June, 2015. Earlier, the Department was jointly working with the Department of Public Administration. The Department is offering both undergraduate and post-graduate programmes in Political Science. The Department gradually progressed and started its Ph.D. Programme from 2017-18 academic session with the object to nurture quality research by establishing conditions most appropriate for incubating scholarly activity.

Today, it is one of the largest departments in terms of students and courses in the School of Social Sciences with students from more than 7 states and from different social backgrounds. With a mix of young and experienced pool of faculty, the Department is committed to provide high quality learning experience to its students and researchers. As a promising department, it aims to emerge a learning centre of excellence and distinguished scholarship. It also strives to provide multidimensional learning experiences which integrate rigorous academic, applied, practical and cross-disciplinary perspectives to ensure a deep understanding of Political Science in all its contexts.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Chief Patron	Patron	Organising Secretary (Convenor)	Members
Dr. Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz Vice-Chancellor	Prof. Shakeel Ahmad Pro Vice-Chancellor	Dr. Afroz Alam Head, Department of Political Science	1. Dr. Mohd. Khursheed Alam 2. Ms. Shabana Farheen 3. Mr. Muzaffar Hussain

CONTACT ADDRESS

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