

One- Day State Level Seminar

On

Political Discourse of Rights in Society: An Indian Perspective

Organized by

Department of Political Science & IQAC, Barjora College

In association with

West Bengal Political Science Association

Concept Note

The idea of rights forms the cornerstone of democratic governance and social justice. In India, the discourse on rights has evolved through layers of history, constitutional development, socio-political movements, and contemporary challenges. From the anti-colonial struggle that foregrounded civil and political rights, to post-independence efforts emphasizing socio-economic justice, the Indian experience presents a rich and dynamic landscape of debates on rights in society. The Constitution of India provides a comprehensive framework of Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy, and Fundamental Duties—collectively shaping the nation's understanding of citizenship, equality, liberty, and social welfare. However, the interpretation and enforcement of rights continue to be negotiated through democratic institutions, judiciary-led activism, social movements, and political discourse. Contemporary issues such as minority rights, gender justice, tribal and land rights, digital privacy, freedom of speech, environmental rights, and social inclusion reflect the ever-evolving nature of rights in a diverse society. In recent years, political debates on rights have gained renewed intensity due to shifting ideological positions, identity-based mobilization, the role of media, and the impact of globalization and technology. Questions emerge: How are rights framed by political actors? How do these narratives shape public perception? What tensions arise between individual and collective rights, or between state authority and citizen freedoms? How do marginalized communities articulate their demands in a complex political environment? This seminar seeks to critically explore these questions by bringing together scholars, students, activists, legal experts, and policymakers to engage in interdisciplinary dialogue. It aims to understand the theoretical foundations and practical realities of rights discourse in India, assess its current trajectories, and envision pathways for a more inclusive and equitable society.

Objectives

- To examine the evolution of rights discourse in India from historical and constitutional perspectives.
- To analyze contemporary political debates on rights and their implications for democracy and governance.
- To explore the role of judiciary, media, civil society, and social movements in shaping rights narratives.
- To highlight challenges faced by marginalized groups in asserting their rights.

- To foster informed academic and policy-oriented discussions on strengthening rights-based frameworks in India.

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced understanding of rights discourse in Indian political thought and practice.
- Insightful perspectives on emerging challenges such as digital rights, environmental justice, and identity politics.
- Recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders on safeguarding and advancing rights in a democratic society.
- Strengthened academic discourse encouraging future research and collaboration.

Patron:

***Dr. Arun Kumar Roy,
Principal, Barjora College***

Convenor:

***Dr. Krishna Roy,
Department of Political Science***

Co-Convenor(s)

***1. Kartic Gadi
Department of Political Science***

***2. Subhransu Gon
Department of Political Science***

Speakers:

***1. Dr. Pratip Chatterjee
Professor, Kalyani University.***

***2. Dr. Sekhar Sil
Associate Professor, Bankura University***

Registration (Kindly fill the google form) : Free

Link for the Registration:

<https://forms.gle/3Lcnr4CFWh6Kq7Sr7>