



Online National Seminar on “Democracy, Development and Discontent: Issues, Perspectives and Challenges in Contemporary India”

DATE: 21.09.2024 & 22.09.2024

Concept Note:

The contemporary crisis of democracy and development in India is multifaceted, encompassing a range of social, political, and economic challenges that have emerged in the wake of India's rapid transformation over the past few decades. Development, as conceptualised in India, has long been the subject of intense debate, with intellectual arguments prioritising exponential increase in economic productivity contending with persuasive propositions making a case for more holistic models of human development. The point of convergence lay in the fact that India had largely been unsuccessful in its effort to industrialise and instead transmogrified into a service and agriculture-dominated economy. Additionally, India charted a course where it sought to achieve the twin goals of Democracy and Development simultaneously, creating a host of complexities that went on to shape the nation's political landscape for decades. These emergent tendencies have been symptomatic of the disjuncture between democratic practice and developmental imperative as the gradual yet methodical weakening of state capacity coupled with sub-optimal outcomes in socio-economic upliftment bear testament to the shortcomings of the primary strategy for development initiated in India. At the same time, the economic expansion that has substantively materialised has been largely inimical to satiating the basic needs of large sections of people, as a result of which vast inequities abound throughout India not only in terms of economic resources but also in terms of social agency and political representation.

Given this fractured state of affairs, there arises an overwhelming need for problematising the Development-Democracy approach by conducting a meticulous investigation of the discontents that have developed due to the shortsighted policymaking and uninformed decision-making during the preparatory years of post-Independence. The purported trajectory of development needs also to be brought under scrutiny, citing how discontents have come about as a result of the failure of development strategy to deliver promised goals. The threats to the environment also pose important questions as to how development can and ought to be reconceptualised in the wake of new challenges. To that end, alternative approaches to development and narratives for radical renegotiation of state priorities would be the central focus of this Conference.

Subthemes:

- 1) Contemporary Crisis and Prospects for Indian Democracy
- 2) Challenges to Development/Sustainable Development in Contemporary India
- 3) Critical Issues of Discontent with India's Democratization and Development Process

- **Certificate:** Digital Certificate to be provided to all participants
- **Publication:** The selected full papers will be published in our E- Journal "Criticality", ISSN No- 2584-0738 (Online)

Registration Fees:

Faculty: Rs. 300/-

Scholar: Rs. 200/-

Student: Rs. 100/-

Last date of Abstract Submission & Registration: 23/08/24

***Submit 250 words (Max) Abstract & Registration Fees to the link below:**

<https://forms.gle/iXFAHBvMSJs2ueSq9>

Convenor:

Prof. Sumana Goswami
(Secretary, ASF)

Co-Convenors:

Prof. Manabendra Saha (Asst. Sec, ASF)
Prof. Suchetana Paul (Asst. Sec.ASF)
Prof. Subhranil Ghosh, (Exec, ASF)

For any query, please contact + 91- 6290469176/8617744789