

## CALL FOR PAPERS:

Interested participants are requested to send an abstract within 350 words to [ugbpoliticalscience@gmail.com](mailto:ugbpoliticalscience@gmail.com) by 15.02.2018. Acceptance of abstracts will be communicated to the participants by 16.02.2018.

Full papers, not exceeding 3000 words are to be submitted by 20th February, 2018. Full papers with abstracts and short bio-notes of the author(s) should be mailed as a single MS word attachment, font size 12 in Times New Roman with 1.5 (APA style) line spacing. Selected papers will be published in a Book with ISBN.

## Registration Fees:

Teachers - 500/-

Research Scholar and Students -300/-

On the seminar day, tea and lunch will be provided to the participants.

- No TA/DA & other allowances will be provided to the participants for attending the seminar.
- The Seminar Organizing Committee is unable to provide accommodation to the outstation participants. However, assistance will be provided to find adequate hotel accommodation on prior request.
- In case of presentation made by joint authors, each of them should get registered separately.

## How to reach Malda and the University:

Malda is a district town located at the heart of West Bengal and is well connected to the entire India through rail and bus services. The nearest railway station is Malda Town (IRCTC code: MLDT) and N.H. 34 connects it to the northern and the southern parts of Bengal. By road Malda is 326 kilometres away from Kolkata and 253 kilometres away from Siliguri. The University is situated on N.H. 34 near Rabindra Bhawan. The Central Bus Terminus of Malda is adjacent to the University campus. City Buses, Auto/ Toto Rickshaws and Rickshaws on solo and sharing basis are available at reasonable rates throughout the day from the Railway station.



# National Seminar

On  
**Restructuring Indian Federation:  
The Recent Experience**

Inaugurated by

**Professor Swagata Sen**

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor,  
University of Gour Banga, Malda

Organized by:

Department of Political Science  
University of Gour Banga

March 21, 2018

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that the Department of Political Science, University of Gour Banga, is going to organize One Day National Seminar on ***Restructuring Indian Federation: The Recent Experience on 21st March, 2018.***

On behalf of the Seminar Organizing Committee, I cordially invite you to participate in the said seminar and share your views on the subject.

With warm regards,

**Dr. Jitendra Sahoo**

Convener

Seminar Organizing Committee,  
Head, Dept. of Political Science,  
UGB, Malda, West Bengal,  
India, Pin-732103.

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Venue:

Department of Political Science  
(ICT Hall-306, Humanities Building)  
University of Gour Banga  
P.O. Mokdampur, Dist. Malda, West Bengal,  
India-732103.

## Seminar Concept Note

Article 1 of the Constitution of India states that 'India, i.e. Bharat shall be a Union of States'. Indian federation was not a product of coming together of states to form the federal union of India. It was rather a conversion of a unitary system into a federal system. Indian model of federalism is called quasi-federal system as it has given much power in the hands of the Central Government. It can be better phrased as 'federation sui generis' or federation of its own kind.

It was regional disparities, historic differences and the enormous cultural diversity of India that led the framers of its Constitution to adopt a federal form of government. Still, they did include several centralizing elements: the office of the centrally-appointed governor, the all-India administrative services (the higher civil service, which serves both the central government and the states), very centralized revenues, and the power to declare an internal emergency and dismiss an elected state government. These mechanisms enabled the central government to exercise its influence and control over the states. After independence, those centralizing aspects of the federal system had been reinforced by the dominance of one party, the Congress Party, at both the central and the regional levels. As the Congress Party became more centralized in its own functioning and organizational structure, the balance tilted even more heavily in favour of the centre. After 1960s, the political dynamics has changed the political process for restructuring the centre-state relations.

The one party dominant system has been fragmented with the emergence of the regional parties based on the demand for more fiscal and administrative autonomy within the federation. This process, sometimes described as the shift from centralized federalism to co-operative federalism, which began in the mid-1970s. Since the 1990s, it has been further consolidated with coalition governments being formed at the centre. The failure of any one party to gain majority in the Parliament, and the growing dependence of national parties for support from regional parties to run the government at the centre, has given more elbow room for the federal units to bargain and influence important decisions at the centre. Government replaced the Planning Commission with the NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog on January 1, 2015. The Aayog has been mandated to serve as a policy think-tank for the central as well as state governments and has Prime Minister as its Chairperson.

INDIA requires a stronger federal system to strengthen the democratic framework of the Indian State. The powers of the states in the legislative, administrative and financial spheres are limited even though they have a major responsibility to ensure development and fulfill the needs of the people. It is necessary to correct existing imbalances by thorough restructuring of centre – state relations. Having a federal system with equitable relations between the centre and the states, which has an important bearing on the functioning of our democracy as well as the well being of the people.

Fiscal federalism in India has always been deeply problematic, with vertical and horizontal imbalances not only persisting till date but also getting aggravated in many cases. Resources have always remained centralised in the hands of the union government with the states suffering from gross inadequacy of resources in relation to their development needs. The already limited financial and economic decision making powers of the states have got further constrained in the post- liberalisation period.

With the introduction of GST, the Constitutional provisions relating to the financial

devolution between Centre and States has drastically changed which may create profound impact on the future of our federation. Challenges are many. Equitable and efficient management of natural resources like water, mineral and energy, issue of identity, autonomy movements constantly pose challenges to Indian federation. The Challenges of Federalism and Federal political systems generally involve complex relationships between two or more levels of governments, which can lead to tensions that require mechanisms for resolving them. Hence, restructuring of the centre-state relations is one more way in which federalism has been strengthened in practice.

### Sub Themes:

1. Centre-State Relations: The Theoretical debate
2. Concept and Practices of Cooperative Federalism in India
3. Tension Areas of Indian Federalism in Recent time
4. Administrative and Financial Reforms and its Impact on Indian Federation
5. Role of Judiciary in Restructuring the Indian Federation
6. Local Self Government in the Context of Emerging Trends of Indian Federation
7. Women Empowerment, Democracy and Indian Federation
8. Major Policies: Education, Health, Environment, Make in India, Digital India in the Context of Emerging trends of Indian Federation
9. Central sponsored schemes: Its Implications and significance on Indian federation
10. Good Governance and E-Governance and its impact on Indian Federation
11. Future challenges to Indian Federation.
12. Any other related themes.

### Resource Persons:

**Professor Surya Narayan Misra**, Formerly Professor of Political Science, Utkal University, Vanivihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India.

**Professor Jayanta Krishna Sarmah**, Professor, Department of Political Science, Gauhati University, Guwahati, P.O. Gauhati University -781014, District: Kamrup, Assam, India

**Professor Manas Chakraborty**, Emeritus Professor (UGC), Department of Political Science, University of North Bengal, P.O. North Bengal University, Dist. Darjeeling, West Bengal, India.

**Professor Biswanath Chakraborty**, Professor of Political Science, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, India.

### Chief Patron of the Seminar:

**Professor Swagata Sen**, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Gour Banga, Malda, West Bengal, India.

### Seminar Organizing Committee:

**Dr. Jitendra Sahoo**, Head and Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Gour Banga, Malda, West Bengal.

**Dr. Badal Sarkar**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Gour Banga, Malda, West Bengal.

**Sri Siddhartha Sankar Manna**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Gour Banga, Malda, West Bengal.

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**Sri Ayan Das**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Gour Banga, Malda, West Bengal.