



MAGADH UNIVERSITY

BODH GAYA

Two-Day National Conference

ON

“DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS & PARTY POLITICS IN INDIA”

12-13 September, 2025

Organized by:

**Department of Political Science
(Magadh University, Bodh Gaya, Bihar)**

In collaboration with

IQAC (Internal Quality Assurance Cell)

About the Magadh University, Bodh Gaya

Magadh University is located in cultural city of Bihar, Bodh Gaya. It is in the vicinity of Mahabodhi Temple which is a UNESCO world heritage site. It is one of the largest universities in Bihar. At present, there are 19 constituent colleges, about 100 affiliated Degree Colleges that includes Law colleges, Engineering Colleges, B.Ed. Colleges and Pharma colleges of the University spread in five districts (Gaya, Nawada, Jehanabad, Arwal and Aurangabad). There are 37 departments in university offering traditional and vocational courses. The University is a brainchild of the eminent educationist and then Education Minister of undivided Bihar, Shri Satyendra Narayan Singh (later Bihar CM). It was established on 1st March, 1962 and initially started functioning in Gaya town and shifted to the present location in 1964. Dr. K.K. Dutta was the founder Vice-Chancellor of Magadh University. The present Vice Chancellor, Prof. Shashi Pratap Shahi has been taking keen interest to revive its glorious past in terms of quality education and promoting the faculties to organise and participate in workshops/seminars/conferences at national and international levels.

About the Conference

The two-day national conference on “Democracy, Elections and Party Politics in India” is being organised by the Department of Political Science from 12th to 13th September, 2025. After 75 years of Independence, India has by and large been a model of a thriving democracy. Election Commission and political parties has played a great role in shaping and strengthening the democracy in India in last seven decades. The conference aims to critically examine the dynamics of electoral politics, party systems, and democratic institutions, focusing on challenges such as authoritarian drift, populism, and institutional decay.

About the Department

Welcome to the Department of Political Science at Magadh University, Bodh Gaya. The department was established in 1963. The department is served by a diverse team of eight full time faculty and five non-teaching staff. The faculty members are always committed to render all possible assistance and guidance to the students. The Department offers Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy courses. It strives to fulfil its mission to provide educational opportunities to all aspiring youth to excel in life by developing academic excellence, fostering values, creating civic responsibility, and building global competencies in a dynamic environment. It gears up the students to practice an effective democratic citizenship role. The Department has well-qualified faculty and excellent facilities for research. It also aims at building an academic community of students and teachers devoted to an open critical and scientific study of the discipline with an emphasis on inter-disciplinary approach. The department focuses at making courses relevant to social requirements and to develop an awareness of the basic issues and challenges in the country among the students.

Conceptual Framework

In a nation-state as vast and diverse as India—with its multilingual, multiethnic, and multicultural identity—democracy serves not just as a form of government but as a lived experience for over a billion citizens. The role of political party and Election Commission (EC) are key in ever evolving multifaceted democracy in India.

Elections in India have become phenomena happening all round the year, whether parliamentary, presidential, state legislatures or by-polls. This keeps the EC engaged for most of the times. The expansion in politicisation of Indian society has raised the number of contestants and voters. In this ever-increasing competitive political arena, safeguarding democracy and maintaining rule of law is serious responsibility which establishes or breaks trust in the EC. The EC's autonomy in the face of governmental controls has also come under the scanner. The jurisdiction of EC encompasses drawing out voters, conducting a safe election, handling election violence, reducing ruling party/parties' excesses, and curbing money and muscle power.

Parties across the political spectrum have tended to converge on macroeconomic policy, but continue to diverge on social policies and larger issues that confront India, such as nation building and secularism. Chronic lack of internal democracy coupled with the rise of political corruption and clientelist practices are matters of serious concern.

In recent decades, there has been an impressive mobilization of the poor and marginalized groups, including the lower castes and women, which has been reflected in voting, in participation in local government, and in the leadership that has come to power. If India continues to grow economically at a rapid pace, a reinvigorated and stronger democracy will soon be put in place.

Elections in India are the largest exercise of democratic participation in the world, and political parties—ranging from national parties to regional parties—play a pivotal role in shaping the discourse, direction, and destiny of the democracy. But as our electoral landscape evolves in response to social transformations, digital disruptions, and citizen activism, key questions emerge: Are political parties truly representative? How do elections empower or fragment the democratic spirit? What reforms can deepen democratic accountability?

This conference will delve into these critical dimensions, aiming to foster dialogue, debate, and understanding of the complex interplay between electoral processes, party politics, and democratic ideals in India. Let us embark on this intellectual journey together, with curiosity, courage, and commitment.

Objectives

- Analyze the historical evolution of India's party system
- Assess the functioning of electoral institutions and reforms
- Explore democratic decline and erosion of liberal norms
- Discuss comparative perspectives from South Asia
- Engage with grassroots movements and civil society's role

Keynote Speakers

1. **Prof. Mamta Chandrasekhar (Principal, PM College of Excellence, AB Vajpayee Govt. College, Indore)**
2. **Prof. Binod Kumar Jha (Head, Dept. of Political Science, PPU)**
3. **Prof. Gyanranjan Swain (Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur)**
4. **Dr. Pawan Kumar (CUSB, Gaya Ji)**

Who Should Attend/ Participate

Faculties, Researchers and Students in Political Science.

Abstract/ Full Paper Submission Guidelines

The authors should adhere to the following for both abstract and full-length paper:

- Every paper must be accompanied by a cover page, which should include the Thematic Panel, Title of the paper, name(s) of the author(s) and their affiliations, Contacts, E-mail Id and Correspondence Address.
- Papers are invited in both languages: English and Hindi.
- The Abstract & Research Papers should be in a MS Word Document format, (English Font: Times New Roman, Font size 12 and Hindi Font: Unicode, Font size 14) with 1.5 line spacing, 2.5 inch margins, aligned and 7th APA style of referencing. In-text citation is recommended.
- Abstracts should be limited to 300–500 words followed by 3 to 4 keywords.
- The Word Limit for Full Research Paper is limited to 3000–5000 words, and must include the following: Title, Objectives of the study, Research Questions, Methodology, Findings, Conclusion/Implications/Recommendations, Limitations (if any), References.
- Contributors are expected to follow Academic Ethics with respect to acknowledgment of any original idea or source materials adapted/adopted from others.
- Submit your abstract and paper in MS-Word and PDF format to the email:

biharpsa2025@gmail.com

Abstract will be reviewed by conference reviewed committee. The numbers of paper that can be accommodated is limited, so please be sure to submit your abstract and full paper early.

Important Dates

- **Submission of Abstract : 31st August, 2025**
- **Submission of Full – Length Paper : 05th September, 2025**
- **Notification of acceptance of Full Paper : 08th September, 2025 with panel details**

Call for Papers:

Original and unpublished research papers are invited on following Sub-Themes:

Elections and Electoral Integrity

- **Electoral Reforms and Institutional Design**
E.g., EVMs, VVPATs, delimitation, model code of conduct
- **Campaign Finance and Political Funding**
Role of electoral bonds, corporate donations, transparency
- **Electoral Malpractices and Democratic Backsliding**
Vote-buying, misuse of state machinery, media manipulation
- **Voter Behaviors and Turnout Trends**
Caste, class, religion, gender dynamics in voting patterns
- **Role of the Election Commission of India (ECI)**
Autonomy, accountability, and recent controversies

PARTY SYSTEM AND POLITICAL COMPETITION

- Evolution of the Party System
From Congress dominance to multi-party coalitions and BJP's rise
- Regional Parties and Federalism
DMK, TMC, AAP, BJD—agents of decentralization or fragmentation?
- Coalition Politics and Party Alliances
UPA, NDA, Third Fronts—strategic alignments and ideological compromises
- Intra-party Democracy and Leadership Centralization
Dynastic politics vs cadre-based structures
- Party Ideologies and Populism
Shifts from socialism to Hindutva, neoliberalism, and welfare populism

DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIC NORMS

- Democratic Erosion and Institutional Decline
Judicial independence, media freedom, civil liberties
- Majoritarianism and Minority Rights
Citizenship debates, NRC/CAA, communal polarization
- Grassroots Movements and Democratic Renewal
Farmers' protests, anti-CAA protests, RTI activism
- Role of Civil Society and NGOs
Watchdogs or adversaries? Legal constraints and political pressures
- Digital Democracy and Misinformation
Social media's role in mobilization, surveillance, and propaganda

COMPARATIVE AND THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

- India in Comparative Perspective
How does India fare on V-Dem, Freedom House, or EIU indices?
- Democratic Resilience vs Autocratization
Applying Levitsky & Ziblatt's framework to Indian democracy
- Electoral Authoritarianism Debate
Is India drifting toward competitive authoritarianism?

(Note: - Any other topics relevant to the theme are also accepted)

Organising Committee

- **Chief Patron:**
Prof. S.P. Shahi (Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Magadh University)
- **Patron:**
Prof. B.R.K. Sinha (Hon'ble Pro-Vice Chancellor, Magadh University)
- **Convener:**
Dr. Anjani Kumar Ghosh, Head, Department of Political Science
- **Organising Secretaries:**
Dr. Shamshad Ansari & Mr. Abinash Kumar (Faculties, Department of Political Science)

Registration Committee:

Dr. Priyanka Singh, Mr. Chhotu Yadav, Mr. Archana & Mr. Ravi

Abstract Review Committee:

Dr. Divya Mishra, Dr. Shradha Rishi, Dr. Priyanka Singh & Mr. Abinash Kumar

Advisory Committee:

1. Prof. R.S. Jamuar (Dean, Social Sciences, M.U.)
2. Prof. Deepak Kumar (Head, Dept. of Sociology, M.U.)
3. Prof. Pramod Kr. Choudhary (Dept. of Sociology, M.U.)
4. Prof. Mukesh Kumar (Head, Dept. of History)
5. Prof. Suniti Suman (Head, Dept. of Psychology)
6. Dr. Vinod Kumar Yadavendu (Head, AI& AS)
7. Prof. Sushil Kumar Singh (Director, DDE)
8. Prof. Sadhna Thakur (Patliputra University)
9. Prof. Rakesh Ranjan (Patna University)
10. Prof. Muneshwar Yadav (L.N. Mithila University)
11. Prof. Anil Kumar (J.P. University)
12. Prof. Jagdish Pd. (T.M.B.U.)
13. Prof. Kundan Singh (Veer Kunwar Singh University)
14. Prof. Archana Kumari, Dept. of Political Science (R.N. College, Hazipur)
15. Dr. Ghanshyam Roy (Registrar, Munger University)
16. Prof. A.H. Wahidi (Purnea University)
17. Prof. Devraj Suman (Munger University)
18. Dr. Shyam Mohan Mishra (B.N. Mandal University)

Accommodation

Accommodation facility will be provided to faculties only (Except the faculties of Magadh University and its constituent and affiliated colleges).

Registration Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwt35e_AMZCJzP3NK1St_ipG0CE2uThPCcuW8VnL467gMcAA/viewform?usp=header

Registration Fee:

Faculty	Rs. 1000/-
Research Scholar	Rs. 750/-
Students	Rs. 500/-



UPI ID: 20250820001500-iserevuqrsbrp@cbin

Beneficiary Name: - Political Science Conference 2025

Bank Name: Central Bank of India, M.U. Bodh Gaya

Account No.: 5855878226

IFSC: CBIN0280045

Important Contacts:

Dr. Shamshad Ansari: - 9302735871

Dr. Divya Mishra: - 7488401657

Dr. Priyanka Singh: - 9532853367

Dr. Shradha Rishi: - 9958621798

Mr. Abinash Kumar: - 9871408226

