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Department of Political Science

In collaboration with

Department of History, Department of Philosophy, Womens’ Cell

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IQAC, Sitananda College

Organizes

Two Days National Seminar

On

' Contemporary Relevance of Political Thought of Bengal Renaissance'

&

‘Gender Inequality & Discrimination in India and the Need of Understanding Women’s Role in Reforming Society: Self-confidence matters’

Dated: 7th May & 8th May 2025

Call for Papers

Paper Presentations: Online Only

The Department of Political Science, Sitananda College, Nandigram, cordially invites academicians, research scholars, and students to submit papers for a **Two-Day National Seminar** on the following themes:

Seminar Themes:

1. Contemporary Relevance of Political Thought of Bengal Renaissance

The Bengal Renaissance, spanning from the late 18th to early 20th century, marked a profound intellectual and socio-political awakening in colonial India. It was characterized by the emergence of reformist and revolutionary thought, shaped by figures like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore, and others. These thinkers challenged oppressive social practices, questioned colonial domination, and redefined Indian identity through a synthesis of modernity and tradition.

In today’s context, when India is navigating through complex challenges like religious intolerance, identity politics, gender discrimination, declining public morality, and erosion of democratic values, the ideas of the Bengal Renaissance offer timely insights. Raja Ram Mohan Roy’s liberalism,

Vidyasagar's fight for gender justice, Vivekananda's vision of inclusive nationalism, and Tagore's critique of militant patriotism and his advocacy of universal humanism hold significant relevance in addressing contemporary dilemmas.

This seminar aims to revisit the political thought of Bengal Renaissance thinkers not merely as a historical reflection, but as a vibrant legacy that can guide modern governance, citizenship, education, and ethical public life. Through a multidisciplinary lens, it seeks to explore how these pioneering ideas can contribute to reimagining India's political future. Participants are encouraged to critically engage with these themes and assess how the moral and philosophical foundations laid during the Bengal Renaissance can still inform present-day political and social reforms.

2. Gender Inequality & Discrimination in India and the Need of Understanding Women's Role in Reforming Society: Self-confidence Matters

Gender inequality and discrimination continue to be pervasive challenges in India despite constitutional protections and progressive legal frameworks. Women across social, economic, and cultural spectrums still face marginalization in education, employment, political representation, and decision-making processes. Deep-rooted patriarchy, social conditioning, and lack of institutional support often suppress women's voices and restrict their participation in shaping the society they inhabit.

However, achieving genuine equality is not possible without recognizing and empowering women as agents of change, not merely as passive recipients of rights. This seminar aims to explore the crucial role of women in reforming society and emphasizes the transformative power of *self-confidence* as a catalyst for such change. Confidence enables women to assert their rights, challenge structural barriers, participate in leadership roles, and inspire collective action at both local and national levels.

The theme invites a multidisciplinary dialogue on how policies, education systems, social narratives, and community practices can foster self-worth and leadership among women. It also seeks to highlight case studies, grassroots movements, and reform initiatives where women have played pivotal roles in driving social transformation.

By bringing together scholars, activists, and students, this seminar aspires to broaden the discourse on gender justice in India and advocate for a future where self-confident women become central to political, social, and cultural reform. Understanding this dynamic is essential for building a just and inclusive society rooted in equality and mutual respect.

This seminar aims to bring together diverse scholarly perspectives on the political and intellectual legacy of the Bengal Renaissance in shaping modern Indian thought, and on the urgent need to reimagine gender justice through women's self-confidence and participation in reform. Participants are encouraged to present interdisciplinary and critical insights on the above themes.

Submission Guidelines:

- **Registration Fee:** Rs. 300/-
- **Abstract Submission Deadline:** 28th April 2025
- **Abstract Word Limit:** 300 words
- **Mode of Presentation:** Online Only
- **Notification of Acceptance:** By 30th April 2025
- **Full Paper Submission Deadline:** 9th June 2025
- **Word Limit for Full Paper:** Within 3000 words

- **Formatting Requirements:**

- Font: *Times New Roman*
- Spacing: *1.5*
- Referencing Style: *Chicago Manual of Style, 17th Edition (Footnotes and Endnotes)*

All the presented papers will be **published as an edited book with an ISBN number**.

Important Dates:

- **Abstract Submission:** 28th April 2025
- **Seminar Dates:** 7th & 8th May 2025
- **Full Paper Submission:** 15th June 2025

Submission :

Please send your abstracts and papers to: polscsncseminar2025@gmail.com

Or to

Prof. Sreejan Das : 9874790769 (whatsapp)

Important:

All the paper presenters should submit there abstracts by/on 27th April 2025. The abstracts must contain each presenters' contact details and mobile number with WhatsApp. All must note that after 27th April a WhatsApp group will be formed for the purpose of smooth functioning of the program . The WhatsApp group will be used both on 7th May 2025 and 8th May 2025. The Google Meet for paper presentation will be shared through the WhatsApp group.

Certificates for paper presenters will be issued online.

We look forward to your active participation and meaningful contributions to this academic discourse.

**Dr. Md. Helaluddin
Convenor**

**Dr. Samu Mahali
Principal/ Chairperson**