

**2 Day International Seminar Organised By the Department of Political Science,
North Bengal University, under UGC SAP DRS III, 6th-7th March, 2020**

on

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

The theme of the seminar 'Social Movements and Democratic Process' is chosen with two central presumptions: first, democracy as a society is supported by social movements regardless of the form of government, and second, democracy as government reveals its maturity and solidity to the extent the social movements emerge and are negotiated through the democratic process.

With these presumptions we widen our focus from contemporary social movements taking place synchronously within the period of formal democratic process since the Parliamentary democracy was introduced in India, to the past, and beyond the national boundaries of India, to explore the connections, both historical and contemporary between social movements and democratic process.

The wide canvass is meant to put in perspective the dynamic interface of politics of social movements in India, the mediation of political process with the social and cultural movements brought together both synchronically and diachronically. Throughout India, particularly in north eastern region past is brought alive and interrogated on ethnic terms on territorial issues. The process of migration and diaspora formation add a political dimension to social and cultural movements in the entire region including northern part of West Bengal.

A further issue is to examine the so called new social movements in the context of democratic process and understand their political implications. Do these also have a political context and political impact? Does the emergence of these kinds of movements a part of democratic process and are they connected to the electoral considerations? If so, are the borders between the traditional and new ultimately thin down and become porous allowing political process to flow through?

A further aim of the seminar is to understand agencies of social movements, NGOs, communities, associations and so on as they get placed onto the scene through the democratic process and their impact on the process itself. Having outlined thus this note the proposed seminar is intended to bring together academicians from across regions and disciplines to share their research outputs with the organisers who need wider perspectives to put their research agenda with specific thrust on North Bengal.

The proposed seminar will have the following sub-themes:

1. Theories and Concepts of Social Movements.
2. State and Civil Society in South Asia
3. Governance and Social Movements
4. Social Movements across the Borders.

Important Dates: Abstract Submission to be made by 27th February, 2020. [300 words with key words]

Intimation to Selected Paper Presenter 1st February, 2020

Full Paper Submission to be made by 3rd March, 2020

[Times New Roman, 12 font, single space, APA style, Headings in 14 font, Author's name in 10 font italics after the heading]

Abstract to be sent to: [soumitrade.nbu@gmail.com/](mailto:soumitrade.nbu@gmail.com) arun_jana1@rediffmail.com