THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC ISSUE AND ANTI INCUMBENCY FACTOR ON VOTER CHOICE IN THE 2011 ASSEMBLY ELECTION OF WEST BENGAL: A MULTINOMIAL PROBIT ANALYSIS

Anindita Sengupta

The purpose of this study is to account for voter choice in the 2011 Assembly Election of West Bengal. Voter Choice in this study is a function of economic perceptions, spatial issues and anti-incumbency factor. A multinomial probit model has been used to analyze the voting behavior based on the aggregate Election data. The analysis shows that, firstly, the anti-incumbency factor has been the main reason behind the fall of Left front in the election. Secondly, except the local urban issues in the Kolkata Urban Agglomeration area, no other regional issue could influence the voting behavior in the corresponding regions significantly. Thirdly, except the growth rate of NSDP, no other economic factor could significantly influence the voter choice. Finally, although the land acquisition, problems of tribal people and Maoist problems could not significantly influence the voting behavior in the corresponding regions, they seem to be responsible for the overall decline in the support base of Left front in the state which was manifested in terms of a highly significant anti-incumbency voting.

Keywords: Assembly Election, Voter Choice, Anti-incumbency, Multinomial Probit Model.

WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION, 2011: RIGHT OVER LEFT

Manas Chakraborty, Rinki Kumari, Gayatri Bhagat

The Present Paper seeks to analyse the West Bengal State Assembly Election, 2011, which raise interest not only within the country but also throughout the world. The media of the whole was concerned about the outcome of the election. In order to make a comparative analysis, the earlier election of 2006 has also been taken into account for a comparative analysis.

ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Vinod Prakash Gupta
The Present paper seeks to analysis the role of civil society in a theoretical perspective on human rights.

The Indian Journal of Political Science

DISCOURSE ON HUMAN RIGHTS; NARRATIVES BEYOND “POLITICAL”

Muzaffar Assadi

Most of the time Human rights discourse is wrapped on the politics of the State, international institutions and global politics. It is in this context one has to ask the question as to the possibility of creating universal theory or discourse on human rights. It is true that Human Rights discourse has created many myths, however, they can be contested. The Paradigm that has been created in the post-globalization period is know as Market Driven Human Rights Paradigm however there are problems inherent in actualizing human rights through this paradigm. Nonetheless, we argue that in the midst of dislocation, dispossession, malnutrition, increasing poverty, disparity, homeless, shrinking urban spaces and ambiguous State, the argument of creating New Human Rights Paradigm become increasingly difficult. Therefore we argue that while detailing human rights discourse we need to go beyond, “Political”.

The Indian Journal of Political Science
Vol. LXXII, No.2, April-June, 2011, pp.387-393

THE RIGHTS TO INFORMATION ACT IN INDIA: ITS CONNOTATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION

Varsha Khanwalker

The present paper discusses the Right to Information Act in India and Analysis its various aspects.

The Indian Journal of Political Science

“E-DEMOCRACY IN INDIA”-IMPLICATIONS AND IMPERATIVES

V. Vijay Devanesan,
P. Kingsley Alfred Chandrasekaran

The paper presents a theoretical framework to the concept of e-democracy in India along with providing information on its implementation aspect.

The Indian Journal of Political Science
REINVENTING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS: PEOPLE’S PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

Satish L. Patel

Today the issue of local governance can be better addressed with the involvement and participation of the people in day-to-day governance. The framework of the paper deals with how the local government can be reinvented to ensure participation and involvement of the people at grass root level. This paper is focuses on conceptual framework for people’s participation and empowerment. People’s participation is essential for any programme of development to meet its objectives and achieving its goals. The concept of people’s participation can be related with the rights of citizenship and democratic governance.

MINORITY REPRESENTATION OF A POLITICAL MAJORITY GROUP: WOMEN IN INDIAN DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

Rashmi Shrivastava

While women constitute nearly half of electorate in India, their representation in elected bodies including the two houses of parliament has always been negligible. Women candidates have to struggle against great odds, no matter to which party they belong. The old political norms of the Gandhian era have been totally discarded by now, and women find themselves at a great disadvantages in this cut-throat political atmosphere. The low representation given to them by the various political parties on their lists if candidates for the elections to the parliament and state assemblies is not merely an indicator of their inferior political status but reveals their subordinate position in a society and refusal to recognize their right and ability to participate in the nation’s development activities. The recent trends in electoral processes in the country reflects the poor status of Indian women in terms of their political participation. Data indicates that the elected women to parliament in India from barely 10 percent of the total seats, although women from 50 percent to the total population. A sole women ina legislative body a few have difficulty being heard. If this percentage could rise to 25 to 30 percent or above, they could intervene and benefit from support of women colleagues in what has been up till this time, a male-dominated body. The object of this paper is to highlight the fact that the numerical strength of women in decision making bodies poses serious problems. Women are strictly a very small minority group in elected bodies and consequently in course of time they become the “silent minority”. This is a universal phenomenon, as mostly women all over the world feel “loneliness”, “normalness” and “isolation” in political life.
Liberal Universalism and the Question of Difference

Preeti Singh

Democracy is assumed to be integrally associated with liberalism which does believe in primacy of individual. But classical liberalism is conventionally distinguished from liberal democracy. A form of democracy i.e. representative democracy- was identified as one of the constitutional devices of liberalism from the 19th century only and since then liberalism and democracy have been seen as complementary to each other. The advocates of liberalism asserted that only a liberal state having faith in the primacy of autonomous individual can be democratic. Under the liberal democracy people are invested with the ‘undisputed right to determine the framework of rules, regulations and policies within a given territory and to govern accordingly.

Globalisation and Its Impact on Women- An Assessment

Jayanta Parida

Government of India adopted Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in 1991, which is otherwise known as New Economic Policy (NEP), in response to mounting burden of debt leading to a balance of payment crisis. This policy made a significant departure from the past. The long cherished principles of growth with justice, equity and self-reliance have become obsolete with new emphasis on privatization, liberalization and globalization (LPG). Today this LPG Model emphasis the role of the market, export oriented growth and reduced state invention. With the passage of time, the forces of globalization and marketisation have intruded into every sphere of activity- from social to political, commerce to economy and environment to culture. Globalization, though has opened up windows of opportunities for the elite sections for the society, nonetheless it has held an adverse impact on the poor and marginalized women groups. In this paper an effort has been made to study the impacts of globalization on women.
HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUDICIAL ACTIVISM IN INDIA

Romil Bhatkoti

In the existing case system very often rights of individual and the state-to be presumed as executive branch of the government more often than not seem to be antagonistic to each other. As a safe mechanism in a situation where human rights are violated, it is but judiciary which plays positive role in interpreting the rights taking into context evolutionary process of society and hence guide or check the state accordingly. Hence judicial activism is not something to be seen as extra constitutional mechanism rather it becomes all the more necessary where basic rights of individual are jeopardized by the state. The concept of judicial activism is dynamic era.

GENDER AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION: INTERSECTIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE CENTRAL HIMALAYAS

Divya Updhyaya Joshi

In the paper an intersectional approach has been used for analyzing the complex interlink age between gender, political consciousness and political participation. It analyses how generated discourses interlink with the political at various levels of Himalayan socio-political life. The paper’s hypothesis is that gender consciousness is not a central precondition to the schemata of political consciousness for a majority of the women. This is contrary to the experience of how political consciousness and gender consciousness are linked in developed societies. Based on a study of women engaged in varied political activity in the Central Himalayan region of Uttarakhand. It concludes that gender consciousness is not a significant facilitator of politicization. Research on gender and political leadership in the region has so far has narrowly defined both political and gender consciousness, failing to account for the intersectional consciousness, concerns, and loyalties held by women of differing caste and socio-economic groups.

TOWARDS A CHARTER OF ADMINISTRATIVE ETHICS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Aureliano Femandes

Civil servants hold key instrumentalities in the exercise of power, not only in the domains of the political and administrative, but increasingly in societal, ecological and
personal domains, such that no area of human endeavour is outside is outside their ambit. Despite pressures to downsize, civil service everywhere if growing in power and size, while continuing to be unresponsive and anti-democratic. Adoption to administrative Responsibility and professional ethics, founded on morality and adherence to rule of law, can go some way in reconciling and legitimating the civil service with democratic institutions and norms, in South Asia.

The Indian Journal of Political Science
Vol. LXXII, No.2, April-June, 2011, pp.463-475

ACTIO-POPULARIS- A PERSPECTIVE ANALYSIS ON PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION OF INDIA

Ansuman Rabboni, 
P. Kingsley Alfred Chandrasekaran

According to roman law the term ‘Actio popularis’ signifies an action to obtain remedy by a person or a group in the name of the general public, or other abstract entities such as morale, etc. without being or directly in an authorized way representing the victim. It generally refers as a trustee of the public good to initiate reassessment. The term is similar to public interest litigation (PIL) of India which is currently also accessed by Hungry were even non citizens have the right to launch an action popularis to recapitulate, vested towards the interest of the country.

The Indian Journal of Political Science

TOWARDS ONLINE ACTIVISM AND PUBLIC SPHERE IN INDIA

P.R. Biju, Gayatri O.

India incredibly in recent times found to have been larger internet penetration not in terms of the number of people using internet platforms but rather the frequency of people making use of internet. The use and reach of internet is so extensive that now it has turned out to be a space for organizing protest and politics in many sense. In India there are a wide variety of online social networking platforms which like any other offline groups can more or less be common platform for organizing public spaces where discussion on public issues can be organized. This proposal enquires whether such platforms meet the requirements of a true public sphere in the context of selected online activist platforms in Indian cyber space.

The Indian Journal of Political Science
Vol. LXXII, No.2, April-June, 2011, pp.489-500

CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION OF COALITION GOVERNMENT IN INDIA
Sudhir Kumar

India has leaving aside the short span of 1975-76, witnessed the uninterrupted reign of democracy. The adult franchise, impartial election, independent judiciary, multi party system are bedrock of democracy. The electorate changes the government through ballot only. The coalition government formed on either pre poll or post poll alliance loses its credential by conflicts among coalition partners. The present paper takes into account various aspects of coalition government in India and analyses the constitutional dimensions besides discussing the merits and demerits.

The Indian Journal of Political Science

SECULARISM IN INDIA : CHALLENGES AND ITS FUTURE

Ranbir Singh
Karamvir Singh

The present paper purports to examine and analyze the concept of Secularism in the context of world in general and India in particular. India is a secular state in the same way as it is a democratic state. Secularism is the only way of development in a plural society like ours. It is not a new phenomenon in India, we find its roots in the reign of Ashoka the Great. But the occurrence of communal riots in the recent years indicates that the Indian Government has failed to establish a secular society. Communal politics, religious militancy, poverty, illiteracy and political corruption are posing serious threats to secularism. But the present turmoil will certainly be ever it sincere efforts with more stable secular policy are made. Majority of the problems will automatically be solved and the country will become an adobe of peace progress and prosperity.

The Indian Journal of Political Science
Vol. LXXII, No.2, April-June, 2011, pp.511-522

DECISION MAKING PROCESS ON POLICY OF LIBERALISATION IN INDIAN STATE

Chittaranjan Mohanty

This paper analyses the social and political forces that impinge upon role of the state and the market in the Indian Economy. More specifically, it attempts to reflect to the decision-making process during first phase of liberalization policy in India from 1991 to 1995 (Narsimha Rao Government): a period that has become one of the important phases in the discourse of democratic politics in India. It also examines how liberalization policy gained ground in India and the kind of changes that occurred over the period 1991-96. It explores the most striking change that has taken place in the discourse of politics and economics as India moved from state-led commanding economic pattern to market friendly economy system. Primarily, it emphasizes
how state’s relationship to the economy got decisively reshaped from the year 1991 by the neo-liberal agenda adopted in response to a combination of internal and external pressures and how the liberalization policy has led to a re-examination of state intervention in the competitive market and its consequent development.

The Indian Journal of Political Science
Vol. LXXII, No.2, April-June, 2011, pp.523-527

**DR. AMBEDKAR PERCEIVES CASTE SYSTEM AS INHERENTLY PERNICIOUS**

C D Singh

The present paper tries to provide an analysis of the views of Dr. B R Ambedkar on caste system in India.

The Indian Journal of Political Science
Vol. LXXII, No.2, April-June, 2011, pp.529-537

**TRANSFORMATION OF BAHUJAN POWER IN TELANGANA: THE CONCEPT OF ‘BAHUJANIZATION’ IS TO CONSTRUCT THE BAHUJAN IDENTITY**

Chalemall Venkateshwarlu

The concept of ‘Bahujanization’ is more useful to construct the Bahujan identity (Dalit-Bahujans) in Telengana. In the analysis of the social, economic, cultural and political consciousness of the Bahujans of Telengana. Bahujanization has been an important cultural process ever since the Buddhist established themselves India. In telengana, after the emergence of Madiga Dandora movement, the caste identity struggles have tried to unify different castes. These caste equations led towards Bahujanisation. The caste identify movements at one end and the activism of intellectuals, writers and singers at other end have given the required momentum to this development. The movement, hitherto, in the form of caste identify struggles have now took shape as movement for separate telangana. The literature was identified as the literature of ‘Bahujan’ castes. Gradually this literature, leadership and the identity struggles moved towards social change and bahujanization. This paper is an attempt to analyze the caste identity movements that transformed into Bahujanization process based on the fundamental principle of the Mahatma Joti Rao Phule and Ambedkar thoughts – Bahujanization is the process for emancipation of Bahujans from all kinds of exploitation.

Keywords ‘Bahijanization’ Caste Identity and Dalit-Bahujan.

The Indian Journal of Political Science
Vol. LXXII, No.2, April-June, 2011, pp. 539-546

**TIBET: ELUSIVE PEACE**

Anupma Kaushik
Tibet represents one of the unresolved issues of the world. It represents an area which the nature intended to be peaceful but man had ensured that peace has eluded this area for last sixty years. On the one hand are the Tibetans led by the Dalai Lama who claim that Tibet was an independent nation which was annexed by a stronger neighbour i.e. China. They fear that China is pursuing the policy of total assimilation of Tibetan people and their culture, ruthlessly suppressing opposition and waiting for the demise of the Dalai Lama. They also claim that Autonomous Tibetan Region (ATR) in China does not enjoy real autonomy. The Chinese have been benefiting from education and economic development since 1950. Any resistance to Chinese authority by Tibetans is termed by China as a revolt by traditional religious forces. The strategy of Tibetans led by the Dalai Lama so far has been to pressurize the Chinese government through international community to respect human rights of Tibetans and to negotiate with the Dalai Lama on granting meaningful autonomy to TAR. This strategy has so far failed to bring peace in Tibet. The paper makes a case for adoption of Gandhian method for achieving lasting peace in Tibet.

The Indian Journal of Political Science
Vol. LXXII, No.2, April-June, 2011, pp.547-554

“NUCLEAR NIHILISM OF NORTH KOREA : PERLIS AND PATH AHEAD”
Sanjay Baranwal

Till the end of Second World War, Korean peninsula has been a victim of imperial interests of great powers, after Second World War, cold was politics prepared way for its partition but nuclear statemate of the region added a new dimension to the politics of East Asia, especially after North Korean (D.P.R.K) nuclear test, requiring to consider its causes and impact on the world. In fact D.P.R.K. used every trick to fulfill her nuclear ambition. Wisdom now lies in working for re-unification of both Korea's like Germany and eliminating nuclear weapons for ever like chemical weapons (C.W.C).

The Indian Journal of Political Science
Vol. LXXII, No.2, April-June, 2011, pp.555-566

POLITICAL PARTIES IN INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES : A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS
Ramesh Kumar

This paper attempts to provide structural and functional aspects of the political parties in India and the United States that operate under their own democratic traditions, social mores and political ethos prevalent in two countries. India has a parliamentary form of government while US is federal polity, hence these differences impact on the political parties of the two countries because in the United States there prevails a two party system and in India there is a
multi-party system. Political parties in US have loose organizational structures while national political parties in India possess well-knit organizational set-up from national to district and even village level. It also highlights the presence of special interest groups in the United States which seek to curry favours from political parties, while such groups have yet to make their presence felt in India. While asserting that there are more differences than commonalities between the Indian and American political parties, a plea is made for increased interaction between the political parties of the two countries for mutual advantage and strengthening the democratic institutions in other parts of the globe.

The Indian Journal of Political Science
Vol. LXXII, No.2, April-June, 2011, pp.567-578

BIJU JANTA DAL IN ODISHA POLITICS

Mrunyunjaya Sahu

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) as a major regional party in Odisha provides a window of opportunity to assess the political trend in the state on the letter half of the 1990s. The state electorate has largely favoured regional parties. Both in the Lok Sabha and in the assembly elections. This paper attempts to locate the thirteen years old party, the Biju Janata Dal within the broader framework of Odisha’s electoral politics and it seeks to focus on the emergence of the BJD, its electoral success, social base, ideology, leadership, organization style and its future prospects, the paper examines the future prospects of the BJD party.

Keywords : Regional Party, Ideology, leadership, Organization.

The Indian Journal of Political Science
Vol. LXXII, No.2, April-June, 2011, pp.579-582

CO-OPERATIVE SUGAR INDUSTRY IN MAHARASHTRA

Mohan Chougule

Maharashtra became the highest sugar industry since 1988. The state of Maharashtra has been rightly called the Sugar King State. The Sugar Industries have positively contributed to the development of the rural areas of the state. However, the crafty politics in the field of sugar industries has been causing farmers to stage demonstrations for a variety of demands. The other impact is that cane growing farmers have been committing suicides. By means of the cooperative movement congress has been localizing politics to the district levels. In order to grab vote banks and acquire power, the political parties are seen to exploit the caste-based strategy. As a result, only the rich farmers reap the harvest. There has been collaboration between the cooperative movement and the state politics supporting the efforts at clinching and maintaining power. It is also true that it has provided thousands of job opportunities to different sections of society. The co-operative sugar industrial movement has come under the impact of globalization which got under way since 1990s. the need of the time is the use of modern technology to help the sugar industry manufacture good quality sugar in minimum cost.
to production and investment. Besides, the industry should resort to other supporting units for complementary products.

The Indian Journal of Political Science
Vol. LXXII, No.2, April-June, 2011, pp.583-596

POLITICS OF SILENCINGS : ECHOES OF THE MARGINS FROM MIZORAM
Anup Shekhar Chakraborty

The complex history(ies) of the nearest India do not fit easily into the jigsaw of the standard narratives of pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial history(ies) of mainland India. The ‘Northeast’ as a socio-politico category in contemporary Indian politics symbolizes a space where patriarchal hegemony dictates the construction of the discourses and narratives of inclusion and exclusion. To the mainland Indians, Mizoram as a category political as well as cultural serves as a faint reminder of ‘Laldenga and the protracted insurgency in the Christian dominated area’: and the success of India’s democratic mechanisms as reflected through the singing of the Peace Accord(1986) and the implementation of what Baruah calls ‘Cosmetic Federalism’. To the other vast majority of mainland Indians the region remains a geo-political puzzle, mapping its geographic location; its habitants become a quest in itself. Mainland India and the world beyond are hardly aware of the underlying realities of the region- the politics of Silencings- evxulsions and inclusions, politics of Identity, religious persecutions; state led victimization of women and the marginal’s etc which are justified in the name of ‘State-Building’. In the backdrop, the paper attempts to trace the sources and the construction of the marginal position of women, vai and the pols who form the traid of the marginals and also reflect on the politics of silencing as propelled by the hegemony of the nexus of patriacrchy in Mizo society.

The Indian Journal of Political Science
Vol. LXXII, No.2, April-June, 2011, pp.597-606

UNITED NATIONS REFORMS IN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES
M.H. Faridi

The paper provides an insight into the reform process in the United Nations in the perspectives of international peace and cooperation.