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LEGISLATORS PERCEPTION ON CAMPAIGN TECHNIQUES DURING ELECTIONS (1997-2012)

Sunita Rani

The present work is an attempt to analyze the level of awareness and consciousness of the legislative leadership in Punjab on campaign techniques used during elections. The technique of stratified random sampling was used to obtain a sufficient number of responses. There are 117 constituencies in Punjab. From 1997 to 2012, four elections were held in Punjab. A total of 272 legislators were elected to all the four legislative assemblies. Out of 272 legislators, 136 legislators were selected for this study. Present work analyze the importance of different factors during elections viz., election symbol, party manifesto, role of money, role of caste, religion and personality etc., In order to examine the role of campaign techniques during elections, a detailed schedule was prepared to collect information about the problem. The data were collected from the sampled legislators with personal interviews.

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CASTE, COMMUNITY AND COLONIALISM: JYOTIBA PHULE'S MODERNITY

Amrita Sharma

Phule's Ghulamgiri and Shetkaricha Asud provides a glimpse of the idea of modernity he worked with. Phule's contribution to the dalit movement and to the Indian national movement were deeply marked by his particular understanding of modernity which traversed the difficult and at times overlapping boundaries of caste, community and anti colonialism. To arrive at an understanding of modernity in the ambivalent times of hope, opportunity, oppression and struggle was a profoundly political and progressive act and revisiting Phule's narratives brings us to relook some of the contemporary debates around individual and group rights, community versus nation, and the class-caste overlap in the Indian context. Phule offered a careful yet strong critique of colonialism while meticulously deploying the ideas and tools of modernity which inevitably tied themselves to the history of colonialism in the subcontinent. Phule's political project aimed at constituting dalits as political subjects, to which end, his contribution remains powerful and most consequential.

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TOWARDS REFORMING THE JUDICIARY — THE NJAC

O.P.B. Shukla

The paper highlights the basic features of the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 and looks forward towards it as a major step to reform the judiciary.

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ELECTION EFFECT ON AAP: ONCE BITTEN TWICE SHY

Sanjay Mishra

The paper seeks to analyse the effect of elections- the Assembly elections of Delhi of December 2013 and the 16th Lok sabha elections of May 2014- on the Aam Aadmi Party. The party, after its formation in October 2012, had scripted one of the most spectacular electoral victories, winning 28 seats in the 70-member Assembly of Delhi. If this unexpected electoral triumph catapulted it to the seat of power in Delhi and inflated its ego to such an extent that it turned a blind eye to the goof ups it committed in its brief stint in the Delhi government, the drubbings in the parliamentary elections in less than six months, has given it a reality check of the Indian politics. Against this backdrop, the paper seeks to analyse the decision of the party to concentrate on the Assembly elections in Delhi and to refrain from electoral contest in upcoming Assembly elections in Haryana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Jammu and Kashmir.

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WORKING OF PANCHAYATS UNDER PRECOLONIAL ASSAM AND UNDER THE 73rd AMENDMENT ACT

Manashi Sarma

The Seventy Third Constitution Amendment Act, 1992 provides a basic framework of decentralization of powers and functions to the PRIs at different levels. In fact different states in India had different modes of functioning at the grass roots levels. Assam too was no exception in this respect. The paper tries to make an attempt to study how the panchayat system worked during the Ahom period and under the 73rd Amendment act.

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ELECTORAL POLITICS IN ASSAM: A STUDY OF THE TEA GARDEN WORKING COMMUNITIES OF DIBRUGARH DISTRICT

Pushpa Champia

A democratic Political system connotes run without political parties. Each political party has its own structural form, ideological orientation, leadership pattern and operational style. These are the intermediary structures between society and government, and are central to both in the sense that they connect bridges to create a two-way communication process between them. Through this paper the researcher has discussed the role and functioning of political parties influenced and mobilizes the tea garden working communities of Dibrugarh in Assam.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF RIGHT TO EDUCATION IN MAHARASHTRA: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Shriram Yerankar

Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. This UN recommendation (Article 26 of the 1948 UDHR) has been reinforced in the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009, which came into effect in India on 1 April 2010, enshrining in law for the first time the rights of all Indian children aged between 6 and 14 years to free and compulsory elementary education regardless of caste, class, gender, etc. The RTE Act, though deserves due credit for laying down in fairly specific terms state's responsibility towards education, it would be appropriate to examine the status and awareness on the part of schools and concerns authority to provide free elementary education to the children aging between 6 to 14 years of old. Present research study has tried to explore the status of the implementation, awareness and understanding of the provisions of RTE among teachers, parents and children in some rural schools of Maharashtra. Five years have already passed since implementation of the RTE Act in Maharashtra but so far there has been some progress only in terms of enrollment/basic infrastructure but towards guaranteeing quality education in terms of student learning the state has not achieved much. Same is the case with regard to its awareness and understanding among its various stakeholders. By providing some recommendation the paper calls for an urgent intervention by the government to strengthen the operational aspect of the Act in the state. Key-words: Right to Education, Maharashtra, Implementation, RTE Act 2009.

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GOOD GOVERNANCE AND TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT: A STUDY ON ORISSA

Dibyakanti Bilung

The concept of “Governance” and “Good Governance” are being increasingly used in developed and democratic Country. Governance is about the interaction between the democracy and social welfare. Good governance means the development of the Economical, social and cultural development of a country. Development is now seen as a transformation of society a move from old ways of thinking and old forms of social and economic organization to new one. The new one is industrialization. While the State taking the advantage of new economic reforms starts the process of industrialization, the local people basically the tribal people resist the developmental efforts raising host of questions which affect adversely their lives. This paper is concerned upon the recent experience of mineral rich state of Orissa bent on the massive drive for industrialization which is fully the goal of good governance or in a challenging situation?

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ELECTION 2014: ANALYSIS OF ODISHA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Johani Xaxa

Election is the process through which the masses legitimize the authority of the government, whether it is the state or central government. The 2014 election to Lok Sabh and three state legislative assemblies made a different picture than before. In Odisha, the Biju Janta Dal has made clean sweep in the state. While more than three fourth of the nation voted for Modi, Naveen Pattnaik defied the abnormal trend and a regional party back to power with thumping majority in the state.

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A STUDY OF POLITICAL REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN STATE AND CENTRAL LEGISLATURE IN ODISHA FROM 1951 TO 2014

Dasarathi Bhuiyanm

This paper attempts to investigate the conceptual and material bases of women’s historic exclusion from the formal arena of politics in an Indian state–Odisha and tries to identify factors that facilitate or hinder the creation of an enabling environment for women’s political empowerment. Women’s participation in formal politics can be gauged by examining them in relation to the following indicators: women’s participation in the Parliament, Legislative Assemblies, institutions of local governance and political parties and their participation in the electoral process as constituencies as well as candidates. The analysis of these indicators reveals that historically women have been kept away from politics and political parties as well as other formal institutions have not validated their participation. Women are poorly represented at higher leadership levels. Even historically, it is observed that women’s participation in positions of power in both houses of the Indian Parliament has never exceeded 15 per cent of all seats.

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ROLE OF PEOPLE AND GOVERNANCE IN PANCHAYAT RAJ SYSTEM: A STUDY OF ‘BELAGAVI PANCHAYATS’ IN KARNATAKA WITH A MODEL OF ‘CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM’

B.M. Tejasvi

The governance at the village level begins with socio-economic and political life of its citizens. The atmosphere is altogether indifferent in the villages. The study reveals that no scheme of govt. succeeds unless the development of skills and techniques of governance improved among the public. A comprehensive plan on the development of the village can be developed with the help of supporters of the system. The modus operandi that existed in a specific period and time may not be suited to operate on its own in another period. Hence, the lapses that occur between these two periods of gap must be filled in with a modern tool of control. In other words, sharp edged blades and scissors could replace the old ones. An attempt is made to activate GPs and TPs in the form of civil society forum in this paper.

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DECENTRALIZATION AND POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION OF CULTURAL IDENTITIES: RESOLVING THE GORKHA PROBLEM

Jhumpa Mukherjee

Since the 1990s decentralization has emerged as a popular mechanism for people's participation in local governance. The present article seeks to reinterpret decentralization not as an administrative strategy of local governance but as an institutional model for political accommodation of cultural identities through an analysis of the Gorkhaland movement and the political trajectory from DGHC to GTA. It tries to map the experiments of decentralization in the form of territorial autonomy and its effect on questions of development and identity in the hills of West Bengal.

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INDIA'S LOOK EAST POLICY: AN ASSESSMENT

B.P. Singh

The paper discusses the foreign policy of India with special analysis of the Look east policy.

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US AND INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICIES: CONVERGENCE AND DIVERGENCE

Asima Sahu

The nuclear proliferation issue had remained for the most part a key source of dispute between India and the US. Differences between the two nations over non-proliferation matters had persisted for a very long time. As a matter of fact, India's nuclear policy was instrumental in redesigning the international nonproliferation regime and the U.S. nuclear export policy. The Indo-US Nuclear Agreement has virtually rewritten the rules of the global nuclear regime by underlining India's credentials as a responsible nuclear state that should be integrated into the global nuclear order. This paper attempts to identify the convergence and divergence between India and US as far as issues of nuclear proliferation are concerned.

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UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS: AN OVERVIEW

Suvir Kapur

Peacekeeping is over 60 year old enterprise that has evolved rapidly in the past decade from a traditional, primarily military model of observing ceasefires and force separations after inter state wars, to incorporate a complex model of many elements, military and civilian ,working together to build peace in the dangerous aftermath of civil wars. Peacekeeping has legitimacy , burden sharing and an ability to involve troops from around the world integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to advance multi dimensional mandates. United Nations Peacekeeping is guided by consent of the parties; impartiality ; non use of force excepting self defence and defence of the mandates. United Nations Peacekeeping Forces are required to help implement complex peace agreements , improve the security situation, to train and reorganize military and police and to build democratic institutions for smooth transition of power to elected government.

**‘INTERNET FREEDOM’, SOCIAL MEDIA AND INDIAN DEMOCRACY:
PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES**

Nishant Kumar

The debate over ‘internet freedom’ is at the centre of public discourse in India. This article tries to argue that the main problem relates to the failure of the society at large in recognizing the capacity of internet to shape the political and social life in a revolutionary way. The article also argues that an attempt to limit the understanding of internet freedom to the issue of law is a serious reductionism and it fails to recognize the way ‘digital divide’ in society denies opportunities to a large section to ‘exercise’ this freedom. Therefore, it is believed that any discourse on freedom especially in a developing country like India cannot evade the questions of availability, affordability and accessibility.