

One Day National Seminar

On

Electoral Reforms in India

[28th January, 2017]

Concept Note

An election is a moral horror, as bad as a battle except for the blood; a mud bath for every soul concerned in it

George Bernard Shaw

At the dawn of Indian Independence, it was unanimously decided that free India, being privileged enough to be transforming into the largest democracy in the world, shall strive to be a democratic republic and religiously work towards upholding its values. General elections form one of the most significant tenets of such a democracy at regular intervals. Elections are the medium through which the attitudes, values and beliefs of the people towards their political environment are reflected express and their faith in the government from time to time and change it when the need arises.. It is a democratic procedure for selecting and controlling leaders. Elections symbolise the sovereignty of the people and provide legitimacy to the authority of the government. But with the passage of time the process of elections in India underwent various monumental changes, most of them coming from various historical legislations, unfortunately tracing their roots to a plethora of malpractices, including rampant booth capturing, rigging and unfair distribution of incentives to lure voters which is against the democratic values. For the success of democracy the free and fair elections are indispensable. But unfortunately the most important development in our election system over time has been the rapid decline in the quality of democracy and deterioration of values. Mushrooming of political parties is another threat for our democracy at a same defection in spite of Law has become fashion for power hungry politicians.

Electoral reform means introducing fair electoral systems for conducting fair elections. It also includes recuperation of the existing systems to enhance and increase the efficiency of the same. Time to time Election commission and Judiciary have ensured free and fair elections. A number of new initiatives have been taken by the Election Commission to cleanse the electoral process in India. Electoral reforms are various positive steps in the electoral system, as an endeavour to improve how the public desires are expressed in election results. The transition from secret ballots boxes to EVM's, the introduction of the concept of adult suffrage and the much required autonomy of the election commission are glaring examples of the changes undertaken by the Government.

Today we feel that there is a great need of electoral reforms in our country and one day national seminar endeavours to deliberate on these issues to concretize recommendations for better

electoral practices in the current electoral system. With this seminar, an attempt has been made to come up with possible reforms through which some major problems in the current electoral system can be addressed.

This National Seminar offers an opportunity to experts from various disciplines, be they are, Academicians, Researchers, Policymakers, Government Organization, Law Experts, International Lawyers, Judges, Negotiators, Diplomats, Government Representatives, National Organizations, Media Representatives, Non-Governmental Organization and Students to come together and share their valuable thoughts, impression and research studies on the following issues relating to majors themes on Electoral Process and Reforms in India.

Call for Papers

Seminar papers are invited from the academicians, practitioners, researchers, activists, scholars, students and other stakeholders of Electoral Reforms. The National Seminar will serve as a platform to deliberate on the following pertinent issues.

- (i) Decriminalization of Indian Politics
- (ii) Educational Qualifications of Elected Representatives
- (iii) Politics of Defection
- (iv) Office of Profit
- (v) Independence of the Election Commission of India
- (vi) Auditing of Election Manifesto
- (vii) Regulating Party Funding and Election Spending
- (viii) Recall of Elected Representatives:
- (ix) Right to Reject
- (x) NOTA
- (xi) Compulsory Voting
- (xii) Role of RTI and Political Parties
- (xiii) Media and Election
- (xiv) Exit Polls and Other Methods for Predicting Preferences of Voters
- (xv) One Candidate One Constituency
- (xvi) Role of Regional Political Parties in India
- (xvii) Politics of Communalism and Castism
- (xviii) Internal Democracy in Political Parties
- (xix) Role of Industry, NGOs and Civil Society Organizations
- (xx) Role of Women in Participative Democracy
- (xxi) Code of Conduct

Guidelines for Submission

Interested authors should submit an abstract of their original research/conceptual papers and empirical studies/case studies briefly describing objectives, methodology, major results and its implications in about 500 words. All abstracts will be peer reviewed and evaluated before final acceptance. Authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to submit and present full paper at the

seminar. The length of the full papers should not exceed about 5000 words (excluding tables, figures, illustrations and references etc.) and it must be typed in Times New Roman font Size 12 on A4 size paper with 1” margin on all sides with 1.5 line spacing using MS Word. The Blue Book: A Uniform System of Citation (19th ed.) must be strictly adhered to while submitting the abstract and full papers. Co-authorship is permitted to a maximum of two authors

Submission Procedure

The Abstract and Full length paper bearing the following details shall be sent as an attachment on **Email id.:**

Name

Affiliation

Address for correspondence

Contact Details

Theme

Title of the paper

Publication

The selected papers by the Committee will be published in a special volume on the seminar in the form of an edited book bearing an ISBN No

Registration Fee

Registration fee should be remitted through Demand Draft drawn in favour of **The Registrar, Jamia Millia Islamia** payable at **New Delhi**. Participants are required to bring the hard copies of the Demand Draft, registration form, printed copy of the paper and a valid Identity proof on the day of the National Seminar.

Type of Delegate	Single Author	Co-Author
Professionals(NGOs/Media Persons/Policy-makers)	1200	1500
Academicians	1200	1500
Research Scholar	1000	1200
Students	750	1000

Registration fee in cash can also be paid at the Registration Desks on the day of National Seminar.

Important Dates

- Last Date for Submission of Abstracts by Post/E-mail (Softcopy): 31st December, 2016
- Intimation on Selection of the Abstract: 5th January, 2017.
- Last Date for Submission of Scanned copies of Demand Draft and Registration Form: 22nd January, 2017.
- Last Date for Submission of Full Paper: 22nd January, 2017.

- Date of the National Seminar: 28th January, 2017.

In Case of Queries and Clarification the following may be contacted:

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