

Parul[®]
University



National E-Seminar on
**Scientific Temperament In
Public Policy: Social
Engineering Lives**

**March 01, 2021
Monday**



Prologue:

"India" as an area of study has always attracted multidimensional and interdisciplinary academic attention. She remains one of the countries that encompasses diverse and distinct cultural practices. Religion has always been considered to be a significant component in Indian history, foundational for the conceptions of morality, and thereby contributing to the formation of a strong value system in the society. Its influence on state policies is an undeniable truth. However, with the growth and development in the field of science, religion considered as a human construct, was continuously doubted and questioned for the premises that were intangible and unproved. In the Indian context, during the colonial period, the British tried to modify Indian practices of paganism to European enlightenment.

In independent India, with an objective to build an independent and free India in true sense, the constituent assembly looked in incorporating measures to address certain practices rooted in caste, superstitions and other exclusionary norms under the ambit of religion.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru included in his speech on at the midnight of 14th August 1947, to 'fight and end poverty and ignorance...' and to 'build up a prosperous, democratic and progressive nation'. Religion that had based the beliefs, opinions and mindsets was allowed to remain as it were. The same has been ensured and fostered through our own meaning and understanding of 'secularism' – Sarva Dharma Sambhav, an Indianised version, unlike the American concept. The Indian Constitution protects and promotes these diverse, distinct cultures and practices, and ensures a peaceful cohabitation of all of them through its basic values of liberty, fraternity, human dignity, unity and integrity of the nation, thereby fostering pluralism.

The same percolates in the laws and policies of the country where every individual has an unbridled liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship, yet carefully remains restricted to not to conflict with each other. One of the fundamental duties under Art. 51 A (h) is "to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform". Scientific Temper refers to an open, question seeking mind. It seeks to invoke and develop critical thinking, rationality and objectivity in the different facets of life.

In contemporary India, with the advent of scientific advancements and technological modernization, the lifestyle of individuals has seen a drastic change. Despite the pursuit of excellence, India harbors certain beliefs and practices based on superstitions than science. An illustration for the same could be the ISRO chairman seeking divine help for the success of Mars Orbiter mission by performing pujas. Another social issue is caste-based discrimination that continues to further the restrictive system based on certain set of social norms. Within the past decade, numerous activists have succumbed to death as they fought to eradicate these traditional beliefs, superstitions and practices. Activists including Narendra Dabholkar, M. M. Kalburgi, Gauri Lankesh questioning the religion based socio-political beliefs were murdered for their efforts in rationalizing the general perception in the society.

When such deeply ingrained beliefs exist in an individual's personal and public sphere, laws can mould the behavior of the individuals and in turn, reshape the mindset of the society. It is pertinent to analyze the nature and objectivity of laws and policies within the socio-political context and understanding the efficacy of these laws and assess the need to adapt them to the changing social interests.



About the event:

Parul Institute of Law and Centre of Research for Development, Parul University is organizing a National E-Seminar titled 'Scientific Temperament in Public Policy: Social engineering lives' on 01st March, 2021. The Seminar aims to serve as a platform to discuss and critically review the journey of India from 1947. It seeks to engage the stakeholders from different spheres and analyze the role of scientific temperament in public policy. While the same is critical inclusiveness and peaceful growth, and development of the nation, it also has its inadvertent influence and impact on individual lives.

The objective of the Seminar is to identify these grey areas, develop sustainable solutions through discourse from diverse fields and disciplines, and work towards creating a pluralistic and egalitarian society.

Papers may be presented on the following sub-themes:

- Religion and culture – Inter-relations in modern discourses of law
- Customary law – legitimizing beliefs
- Role of law in engineering perceptions and moulding opinions
- Nationalism and Jingoism in contemporary times – an output of blind faith
- Judicial trends in promoting constitutional mandate of developing scientific temper
- State approaches to dissent – Scientific attitude in public discourse
- Innovations in curriculum and pedagogical tools in education
- Approaches to further pluralism in public policy
- Critical approach to research – A quest for truth
- Policy approaches during COVID-19
- Medical Science, Health and Governance
- Women's experience and Scientific temperament
- LGBTQA+ rights and Culture of Scientific temperament
- Social justice issues and alleviation through Scientific temperament

The above-mentioned themes are only indicative and any paper relevant to the main theme of the Seminar may be submitted. The seminar welcomes and encourages interdisciplinary participation from across the world.

Submission Guidelines:

- Abstracts of 250 - 300 words with the title of the paper, institutional affiliation of the author, can be submitted on or before February 13, 2021. Keywords (atleast 3) must also be mentioned.
- Co-authorship of maximum two participants is allowed. However, individual registrations must be done.
- The full paper should not be more than 5000 words excluding images, tables, footnotes, and bibliography. The full paper can be submitted on or before February 25, 2021.
- Use 14pt bold font size for the title and 12pt normal font for the main text with 1.5-line spacing. All text should be in Times New Roman font. Use APA style for referencing.
- The authors are required to take special care in citing all the sources that they will refer to in their submissions. Submission of a paper implies that the work is original and not plagiarized in any manner. The submissions will be checked for plagiarism.
- The abstracts, Full papers and any other communication is to be done to seminar.pil@paruluniversity.ac.in



Registrations Can Be Done On:

<https://forms.gle/3ioJwz2SXtgN9cZa6>

Timeline:

- 13 February 2021** : Submission of abstracts
- 25 February 2021** : Last date for Registration and Submission of Full papers
- 01 March 2021** : E-Seminar date

Intimation of abstract selection will be communicated within 3 working days.

Selected papers will be published in the form of Seminar proceedings with ISBN.

Seminar Chair

Dr. Akil Saiyed

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