



National Seminar

INTERRELATIONSHIP AMONG
STATE, SOCIETY AND NATION:
AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE



Sponsored by

**Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)
New Delhi**

Organized by

**Department of Political Science, University of
Lucknow, Lucknow-226007**

**7th & 8th April, 2025
(Hybrid Mode)**

Venue

Malviya Hall, University of Lucknow

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About University of Lucknow

The idea of starting a University at Lucknow was first mooted by Raja Sir Mohammad Ali Mohammad Khan, Khan Bahadur, K.C.I.E. of Mahmudabad, who contributed an article to the columns of "The Pioneer" urging the foundation of a University at Lucknow. A little later Sir Harcourt Butler, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E, was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces, and his well-known interest in all matters under his jurisdiction, specially in matters educational, gave fresh life and vigour to the proposal. The first step to bring the University into being was taken when a General Committee of educationists and persons interested in university education appointed for the purpose, met in conference at Government House, Lucknow, on November, 10, 1919. At this meeting Sir Harcourt Butler, who was in the chair, outlined the proposed scheme for the new university.

A discussion followed, and it was resolved that the University of Lucknow should be a Unitary, Teaching, and Residential University of the kind recommended by the Calcutta University Mission, 1919, and should consist of the Faculties of Arts, including Oriental Studies, Science, Medicine, Law, etc. A number of other resolutions were also passed and six sub-committees were formed, five of them to consider questions connected with the University and one to consider the arrangements for providing Intermediate Education. These sub-committees met during the months of November and December, 1919, and January, 1920; and the reports of their meetings were laid before a second Conference of the General Committee at Lucknow on January 26, 1920; their proceedings were considered and discussed, and the reports of five of the sub-committees were, subject to certain amendments, confirmed. The question of incorporation of the Medical College in the University, however, was for the time being left open for expression of opinion. At the close of the Conference donations of Rupees one lakh each from the Rajas of Mahmudabad and Jahangirabad were announced. The resolutions of the first Conference together with the recommendations of the sub-committees as confirmed at the second Conference were laid before a meeting of the Allahabad University on March 12, 1920, and it was decided to appoint a sub-committee to consider them and report to the Senate.

The report of the sub-committee was considered at an extraordinary meeting of the Senate on August 7, 1920, at which the Chancellor presided, and the scheme was generally approved. In the meantime the difficulty of incorporating the Medical College in the University had been removed. During the month of April 1920, Mr. C.F. de la Fosse, the then Director of Public Instruction, United Provinces, drew up a Draft Bill for the establishment of the University of Lucknow which was introduced in the Legislative Council on August 12, 1920. It was then referred to a Select Committee which suggested a number of amendments, the most important being the liberalising of the constitution of the various University bodies and the inclusion of a Faculty of Commerce; this Bill, in an amended form, was passed by the Council on October 8, 1920. The University of Lucknow Act, No. V of 1920, received the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor on November 1, and of the Governor-General on November 25, 1920.

The Court of the University was constituted in March, 1921, and the first meeting of the Court was held on March 21, 1921, at which the Chancellor presided. The other University authorities such as the Executive Council, the Academic Council, and the Faculties came into existence in August and September, 1921. Other Committees and Boards, both statutory and otherwise, were constituted in course of time. On July 17, 1921, the University started teaching -- both formal and informal. Teaching in the Faculties of Arts, Science, Commerce, and Law was being done in the Canning College and teaching in the Faculty of Medicine in the King George's Medical College and Hospital. The Canning College was handed over to the University on July 1, 1922, although previous to this date the buildings, equipment, staff, etc., belonging to the Canning College had been ungrudgingly placed at the disposal of the University for the purposes of teaching and residence.

The university campus is spread over 219.01 acres. It gained recognition for its quality of education and research accredited with a "Grade A++" by NAAC. This accreditation reflects the university's commitment to maintaining high standards in teaching, research, and overall educational quality. It is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and is a member of various academic and professional bodies. Today, the University of Lucknow is a prominent institution offering undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs across various fields including arts, science, commerce, law and management.

About the Department

The Department of Political Science was established in 1922 as a teaching Department in the University of Lucknow. The Department holds the unique distinction of being the first independent and the oldest Department of Political Science in India. Some of the leading Political Scientists in India, such as Prof. V.S. Ram, Prof. M.V. Pylee, Prof. Eddy Ashirvatham, Prof. I.D. Sharma, Prof. K.P. Mishra, Prof. P.N. Masaldan, Prof. G.N. Dhawan, Prof. Raghuveer Singh, Prof. C.A. Perumal, Prof. R.B. Das, Prof. D. P. Singh, Prof. L.D. Thakur, Prof. S M Sayeed, Prof. S.K. Dwivedi, Prof. B. K. Tiwari, Prof. R N Pandey, Prof. R.K. Mishra, Prof. Ashutosh Mishra, Prof. Rajiv Saran and Prof. Shashi Shukla have been the distinguished faculty members of the Department. There is Prof. V. S. Ram Memorial Endowment in the Department, established in 1998 by Shri A.N. Ram, I.F.S., in memory of his late father, Prof. V S Ram, who was the Founder-Head of the Department.

Besides, being engaged in teaching and research, the Department is committed to providing students with the best possible educational opportunities as well as developing spirit of inculcating knowledge. The objective of the Department is to develop understanding of the subject and analytical reasoning among the students as well as to encourage quality research. Our courses are updated regularly and are so structured as to enhance creativity and exploration of new ideas. Apart from teaching and research, the faculty members and the students are actively engaged in training, consultancy, extension activities and extra –curricular activities.



ABOUT THE SEMINAR

The modern concept of Political Science extensively discusses the origin and development of the state. It is commonly accepted today that the state is indispensable for society, without which no social function can be efficiently accomplished. However, the contemporary notion of the state seems to overlap with the concept of the nation, thereby creating various problems. The structure and functioning of the state is often in conflict with the fundamental composition of the nation, leading to the overshadowing of the nation's inherent essence and, eventually, its fragmentation. Society, which forms the core identity of the nation, encompassing its culture, traditions, customs and beliefs, frequently appears at odds with the state.

This discord raises numerous issues, such as challenges to humanity, environmental sustainability, education, public participation, and equitable distribution systems. In this context, it becomes imperative to explore alternatives for an acceptable structure of the state, society and nation.

The term "state" has always been a subject of debate. Scholars who laid the foundation of Political Science, thinkers focusing on societal structures, and researchers analyzing the state from pluralistic or monistic perspectives have all presented their insights on the objectivity, origin, development, purpose and conceptual framework of the state. Although contemporary discussions often question the state's operations, it remains undeniable that without the state, current governance mechanisms would lose their relevance, making it indispensable.

This seminar aims to illuminate the various dimensions of the interrelationship among the state, society, and nation, focusing on two key aspects:

1. The ideal perspective on the state, society and nation from an Indian viewpoint and their interpretation in the Indian context.
2. A comparative analysis of contemporary Western socio-political concepts and their differentiation from the Indian approach to state functioning.

Humanity has always been central to social structures. While Western thought treats this as a modern concept, Indian philosophy has upheld the primacy of the individual since ancient times. Western thought presents the triad of individual, society and state, but the Indian perspective diverges significantly. The Indian understanding of the state is deeply rooted in social structures, cultural identities, and collective aspirations.

In ancient India, the necessity of the state was acknowledged to maintain societal order, peace and security. The Indian perspective on the origin of the state, as reflected in texts like the *Mahabharata* and Jain and Buddhist scriptures, recognizes that society pre-existed governance systems. Similar to how language precedes grammar, society's existence predates the state. The state in India was not an abrupt phenomenon but evolved through mutual discourse between humans and society.

Unlike the modern state, which tends to dominate, the Indian state functioned as a companion to society, integrating with its organized structure rather than ruling over it. The Indian state operated within defined boundaries, ensuring social harmony and individual responsibility, while avoiding direct control over agriculture, trade or production. Modern states, in contrast, have expanded their role to encompass almost every sphere of human activity.

A critical dimension of Indian governance is its emphasis on *dharma*—a guiding principle for the state and ruler to act in the interest of society. Ancient texts like the *Manusmriti* and Kautilya's *Arthashastra* underscore this principle. Modern secularism, with its separation of state and religion, has disrupted this harmony.

The ideal Indian state was a caretaker of societal and individual welfare without encouraging complete dependence on it. It neither abandoned its responsibilities nor overstepped its limits. This integrated model may not align with contemporary governance standards, yet its principles and values can provide a foundation for effective administration in a nation like India.

Sub-Themes:

1. The Indian Concept of Nation vs. Western Nation-State Models
2. The Modern State: Process of Formation and Challenges
3. Welfare State in India: A Comparative Perspective
4. Nation Building and National Identity
5. Constitution and Democratic Governance
6. Social Structure and Diversity
7. Local Governance: Historical Development
8. Dimensions of Indian Social and National Thought:
 - Environment
 - Humanity
 - Religion, Politics and Spirituality
 - Education
 - Gender Discourse
 - Social Harmony
 - Literature
 - Duties and Rights
 - Public Participation
 - Philosophy
 - Music and Science
 - National Consciousness in Indian Society

This seminar seeks to examine and present the Indian perspective on the interrelationship of state, society and nation, aiming to rediscover pathways for resolving contemporary challenges through the lens of Indian thought.

CALL FOR PAPERS/ARTICLES

Paper proposal in the form of Abstracts and Full Papers are invited on the above sub-themes and the main theme of the seminar. An abstract (not exceeding 300 words) and the full paper (not exceeding 5000 words) should be submitted either in English (Times New Roman, 12 Font) or in Hindi (Mangal or Krutidev (010), 14 Font) in soft copy to the Convener of the Seminar. The abstract as well as full length paper should be mailed to iassn2025@lkouniv.ac.in All accepted and presented full papers in the seminar shall be published in an edited book with ISBN or in UGC care list Journal from a reputed publisher.

AWARDS:

Two best papers presented in the seminar will be awarded. The decision of the organising committee will be final and binding.

Key Dates and Deadlines:

Abstract Submission: 28.02.2025

Full Length Paper Submission : 25.03.2025

Early Bird Registration (Last date): 20.03.2025

Registration with late fee starts from: 21.03.2025

REGISTRATION

Participants are required to register for the seminar. Registration fee should be submitted either through NEFT/online to the account of Professor & Head, Political Science Department, or by Cash. Registration fee includes of seminar kit, certificate of participation/presentation as well as lunch and High tea during the seminar.

Online Registration Link-

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1peIarPuuJfP7D1zf1LugkHIqZY3sMkuiGQuaG7wTP8/edit>



Account Details:

Bank Name: Indian Overseas Bank

Branch Name: BSIP, Lucknow

Beneficiary Name - Professor & Head, Political Science Department.

A/c No. 187301000001591

IFSC: IOBA0001873

Registration Fee:

| Participant | Before 20.03.2025 | After 20.03.2025 | Onspot payment |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Policy Analysts, Social Worker, NGOs | 1600 | 2000 | 2000 |
| Faculty Members | 1200 | 1500 | 1500 |
| Research Scholar | 700 | 1000 | 1000 |
| Students | 500 | 500 | 500 |

Accommodation and Travel:

The outstation participants may request for stay in the university campus in Hostels and Guest House. Allotment will depend on availability and will be done on First Come First Serve basis. Participants/Delegates have to arrange for TA/DA on their own.

