मौलाना आज़ाद नेशनल उर्दू यूनिवर्सिटी مولانا آزاد نیشنل اردو یونیورسٹی
Maulana Azad National Urdu University
A Central University Established by an Act of Parliament in 1988
(Accredited with 'A+' Grade by NAAC)

Organized by: Department of Political Science

TWO DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

24th – 25th March 2026

Indian Democracy and Elections in the Digital Era: Transformations and Challenges for Viksit Bharat 2047

Concept Note

Paper Presentation In Hybrid Mode (Online/Offline) NO Registration Fee

NO TRAVEL ALLOWANCES | LIMITED ACCOMMODATION

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract Submission:
15 Feb 2026

Acceptance Notification:
20 Feb 2026

Full Paper Submission:
15 Mar 2026

CHIEF PATRON
Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, MANUU

PATRON
Prof. Sk. Ishtiaque Ahmed
Registrar, MANUU

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Prof. P. H. Mohammad
Dean, SASS, MANUU

CONVENER
Prof. A. Nageswara Rao
Head, Dept. of Political Science

CO-CONVENER
Dr Khwaja Md Afroz
Dept. of Political Science

Scan for Website Details, Updates & Abstract Submission
nationalseminardops.wordpress.com

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

India is witnessing a critical phase in its democratic evolution as it moves towards the centenary of its Independence in 2047. The national vision of *Viksit Bharat 2047* underscores the goals of inclusive growth, citizen-centric governance, technological advancement, and democratic deepening. In this context, strengthening democratic institutions, ensuring electoral integrity, and expanding meaningful political participation are vital for sustaining India's constitutional democracy in the digital age. Over the past decade, the expansion of digital public infrastructure—such as EVMs, Aadhaar, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), DigiLocker, CoWIN, APPs and other e-governance initiatives—has fundamentally transformed governance mechanisms and state-citizen relations. These digital interventions have enhanced transparency, efficiency, and accountability in public service delivery, while also reshaping welfare politics, political competition, and public trust in institutions.

The increasing penetration of digital technologies has significantly influenced India's electoral processes and democratic participation. Political communication and campaigning have shifted towards social media platforms, data-driven strategies, and technology-enabled political outreach. Digital mobilisation has expanded political engagement, especially among youth and first-time voters, and has facilitated new forms of civic participation and political expression. At the same time, these transformations pose serious challenges to democratic processes. Issues such as misinformation, fake news, algorithmic manipulation, digital surveillance, data privacy concerns, and unequal access to digital technologies raise critical questions

about electoral fairness, democratic accountability, and institutional trust. These challenges necessitate systematic academic inquiry and policy-oriented discussion.

The digital transformation of democracy has had differentiated impacts across social groups. Marginalised communities—including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, religious and linguistic minorities, women, rural populations, and the urban poor—have experienced both new opportunities and continuing exclusions. While digital platforms have enabled access to welfare schemes and political communication, persistent digital divides based on gender, region, education, and socio-economic status continue to shape unequal participation and representation. Understanding how digital governance and electoral processes intersect with social inequalities is crucial for advancing an inclusive democratic framework aligned with the constitutional values of social justice and equality.

Against this backdrop, by bringing together scholars, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners, the seminar seeks to foster critical reflection and constructive dialogue on the future of Indian democracy in the digital age. The outcomes of the seminar will contribute to building a resilient, participatory, and socially just democratic framework, consistent with the constitutional vision and the long-term national aspiration of *Viksit Bharat 2047*.

ACADEMIC AND POLICY RELEVANCE

The seminar is academically significant as it addresses emerging debates at the intersection of political science, public policy, media studies, sociology, and development studies. It aligns with government priorities related to democratic governance, social inclusion, digital transformation, and public policy research. The deliberations will also contribute to evidence-based policymaking by generating insights relevant to electoral institutions, governance reforms, and inclusive development strategies.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

The proposed national seminar aims to:

1. Examine the impact of digital transformation and welfare-oriented governance on India's democratic institutions and electoral processes.
2. Analyse changing patterns of political participation, representation, and political communication in the digital era.
3. Assess the opportunities and challenges faced by marginalised and underrepresented groups in India's evolving digital democracy.
4. Facilitate multidisciplinary dialogue on electoral reforms, media regulation, data governance, and inclusive digital citizenship.
5. Contribute scholarly and policy-oriented perspectives relevant to strengthening democracy in the context of *Viksit Bharat 2047*.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Enhanced scholarly understanding of the relationship between digitalisation, elections, and democratic participation in India.
- Research-based insights into inclusion, representation, and democratic inequalities in the digital era.
- Policy-relevant recommendations for strengthening transparent, inclusive, and citizen-centric democratic institutions.
- Creation of a knowledge base supporting India's democratic preparedness for *Viksit Bharat 2047*.
- **Publication of selected peer-reviewed papers in an edited volume or reputed academic publication.**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAPER SUBMISSION

Full Paper Formatting Requirements:

Length: 3000–5000 words | **Font:** Times New Roman, 12 pt | **Spacing:** 1.5 line spacing / 1-inch margins | **File Format:** Microsoft Word (.doc) | **Abstract:** 200–250 words with 4–6 Keywords | **Citation Style:** APA Referencing | Reference Font Size: 10 pt

THEMES & SUB-THEMES

Theme 1: Democracy, Digitalisation, and Political Participation

- Changing patterns of voter engagement in the digital era
- Role of digital platforms and social media in political mobilisation
- Youth participation and emerging forms of civic engagement
- Digital inclusion and participation gaps

Theme 2: Inclusion, Representation, and Social Justice

- Electoral participation of SCs, STs, and OBCs
- Political inclusion of religious and linguistic minorities
- Women's political leadership and gender-inclusive democracy
- Grassroots mobilisation and democratic empowerment

Theme 3: Media, Public Discourse, and Democratic Culture

- Digital and mass media influence on political narratives
- Misinformation, fact-checking, and democratic accountability
- Media regulation, freedom of expression, and citizen rights
- Ethical civic culture and electoral communication

Theme 4: Welfare Politics, Developmental Governance & Viksit Bharat 2047

- Democratic implications of *Viksit Bharat* vision
- Competitive welfarism and developmental governance
- Transparency, service delivery, and citizen-centric policies
- Inclusive development in education, health, housing, and livelihoods

Theme 5: Electoral Institutions, Reforms & Democratic Futures

- Role of the Election Commission and electoral integrity
- Institutional reforms for transparent and fair elections
- Local governance and decentralised democracy
- Building a future-ready electoral system

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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All Research Scholars & Students of the Department of Political Science

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