



Department of Political Science, BBAU

Organizes a panel discussion on

UP ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2012: PUBLIC CONCERNS AND POLITICAL AGENDA

CONCEPT NOTE

This discussion aims at deliberating upon the forthcoming assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. Being the largest populous state and territorially the third biggest, UP acquires centre stage in Indian politics. The politics of state has witnessed many upheavals in the last two decades. It has decided the rise and fall of national parties like the Indian National Congress and Bhartiya Janata Party. UP has been the epicentre of political transformation, or what is termed as 'democratic upsurge', in the form of mobilization and assertion of backward castes and communities resulting in emergence and successes of parties like Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party.

Amidst these changes of political power equations and the pattern of formations of political alliances in the last two decades, the forthcoming assembly elections become extremely crucial. The elections will have serious political, social and economic ramifications. It is also significant in the context of emerging concerns of governance, underdevelopment, regional disparities, political division of the state, lack of industrialization, and so on. The existing hiatus between the state performance and public welfare has interrogated the capabilities of political parties.

The deliberations will attempt to address several questions like, what dominates the agenda of political parties in the 2012 assembly elections; what would be the chief determinants of electoral behaviour; how political parties respond to public concerns and demands; whether the politics of governance or the politics of identity will decide the future course of politics in the state?

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

1ST February 2012

Conference Hall: School for Ambedkar Studies

Babsaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University

Raebareli Road, Lucknow

First Session: 10.30 a.m. -12.00 a.m.

Introduction of the theme

Professor Ramesh Dixit, *Lucknow University*

Mr. Brajesh Shukla, *Former Bureau Chief, Hindustan Times*

Discussion

Tea Break (12.00 a.m. – 12.10 p.m.)

Second Session: 12.10 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.

Dr. A. K. Verma, *Christ Church College, Kanpur*

Mr. Gills Verniers, *Centre de Sciences Humaines de New Delhi*

Mr. Santosh Valmiki, *Hindustan*

Discussion