

Themes –

- Indian Constitution and Electoral System
- Election Trends since 1947
- Role of Election Commission
- Role of Political Parties
- Right to reject, recall and compulsory voting
- Electoral transparency and integrity
- Election stakeholders-Administrators, Citizens, Election Observer Group
- Role of caste, religion, money & muscle power

Selected full papers will be published with ISBN

Important Dates:

Submission of Abstract – 15/01/15
Confirmation of Acceptance – 20/01/15
Request for Accommodation – 22/10/15

Registration Fee:

Faculty – Rs.500/-
Research Scholars – 300/-
Students – 100/-

Accommodation:

Hotel accommodation can be booked on request.

Address for Correspondence:

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Chief Guests

Prof.W.Rajendra
Vice-Chancellor
Sri Venkateswara University
Tirupati

Guest of Honour

Prof.M.Devarajulu
Registrar
Sri Venkateswara University
Tirupati

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A National Conference on



Electoral Reforms: Need of the Hour
January 31st, 2015



Organised by

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M.Vishnu Prakash
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Patron

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About our college

Sri Vidyaprakasa Ananda Government College (M), Srikalahasti was established in August 1966 as composite college, with the initiative taken by Swami Vidyaprakasa Ananda of Sri ShukaBrahma Ashrama, a couple of miles away from the town. The Swamy being a great educationist and philosopher was moved by seeing the then prevailing conditions in and around this town. The Government of Andhra Pradesh, decided to bifurcate the composite colleges in the state and therefore, the Intermediate courses were separated and retained in the school campus and the Degree Science sections along with the laboratories were shifted into the present campus in 1997.

The college has recognition under 2(f) and 12(b) of the UGC Act, since 1974. It has permanent affiliation of Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati since 1991 – 92. The Commissionerate of Collegiate Education, Andhra Pradesh identified this college as one of the Centres of Excellence.

About the Department of Political Science

The Department has been established since the inception of the college. The Department has one post. Yet the contribution is immense in all the college activities. The Department offers Right to Information Act, 2005 as a free certificate course to all the students in the college.

About our soil

The Srikalahasti Temple is one of the important ancient Shiva Temples of Southern India and it is one of the Panchaboortha Lingas which is Vayu Linga

and the remaining four Lingas of Agni, Prudhvi, Akasa, Jala are in Tamil Nadu. Built on the banks of the river Swarna Mukhi, this temple is opened during the times of Solar and Lunar Eclipses also unlike other temples. Srikalahasti is renowned for its Kalamkari work and won international laurels.

It is 40 km from Tirupati, the abode of Lord Venkateswara, connected through land, rail and air (Renigunta is the nearest airport).

The Background

Elections constitute the signpost of democracy. These are the medium through which the attitudes, values and beliefs of the people towards their political environment are reflected. Elections grant people a government and the government has constitutional right to govern those who elect it. Elections are central democratic procedure for controlling leaders. Elections provide an opportunity to the people to express their faith in the government from time to time and provide legitimacy to the authority of the government. Thus, free and fair elections are indispensable for the success of democracy.

Over the years, the Election Commission has conducted a number of laudable electoral reforms to strengthen democracy and enhance the fairness of elections. The recent introduction of the NOTA (none of the above) button on the ballot unit is a bold step in the right direction to indicate their displeasure. The

Tarkunde Committee Report of 1975, the Goswami Committee of 1990, the Elections Commission's recommendations in 1998 produced a comprehensive set of proposal regarding electoral reforms.

However, our system is still plagued by many vices. The political parties resort to foul methods and corrupt practices. Such maladies encourage the anti-social elements to enter the electoral fray. The success of reforms will depend upon the will of the political parties to adhere to and implement such reforms. An independent media and an enlightened public opinion have no substitute in pushing through reforms.

Objective of Conference

The conference aims to analyse the electoral reforms that are implemented from time to time for smooth functioning of our democratic system. It creates a conducive common platform to discuss further reforms for free and fair elections and to exchange ideas for academicians, men in media and experts from diverse fields and the students' fraternity.

Call for Papers

The authors are invited to submit abstract for presentation in about 300 words and full length paper in not more than 10 A4 pages in Times New Roman font only.

Title – Bold, 14pt, main body – 12pt with 1.5 line spacing, 2 cm margins, justified. References – 10pt Times New Roman. Should be submitted electronically as MS Word file only in .doc/.docx format