

**Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy  
TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, MUMBAI**

Cordially invites you for a

Two-day National Seminar on

**Revisiting Reservation Policy in India:  
The Changing Basis and Perspectives**

Dates

November 29 & 30, 2019

Old Conference Hall

**TISS**

The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) was established in 1936 as the Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work. In 1944 it was renamed as the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. In 1964 it was declared Deemed to be a University. The Institute also has three MHRD/UGC approved off-Campuses at Tuljapur, Hyderabad and Guwahati. At present, the Institute offers graduate, post-graduate, M.Phil., and Doctoral programs from these Campuses. Since its inception, the Vision of TISS has been to be an institution of excellence in higher education, committed to respond to the changing social realities through the development and application of knowledge, towards creating a people-centered, ecologically sustainable and just society that believes in equality and social justice and protects and promotes the human rights and dignity of all. The Institute has been consistently ranked very high by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and its present score is 3.89 out of 4.00, which is the highest among the currently accredited universities in the Country.

**Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP):**

The CSSEIP was established at TISS, Mumbai in March 2007 as one of the X Plan schemes of the University Grants Commission (UGC). The mandate of the Centre is to understand through research how certain castes and communities such as the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Religious Minorities continue to face social exclusion, discrimination and violence. The Centre is also to understand the impact of various protective and development policies and measures that the State has introduced in addressing such issues. In 2014, the Centre introduced an integrated M.Phil-Ph.D. programme in *Inclusive Development and Social Justice*. The primary objective of the programme is to build research capabilities of students interested in understanding the structures and process of social exclusion and the impact of state's inclusive policies in addressing those issues. Another major academic activity of the Centre is its annual seminar. The purpose of this initiative is to bring together research

scholars and academics to debate on issues and challenges of those castes and communities facing exclusions of one kind or the other and the outcomes of various inclusive policies introduced and implemented for the purpose by the State. It is also to understand the ways forward through debate and discussion. The Centre's M.Phil/Ph.D. scholars play a major role in hosting this event.

### **The Seminar Context:**

India is a nation of diverse nationalities. Since independence, India with its cherished ideals of *liberty, equality* and *fraternity* enshrined in the Constitution has been trying to become one nation with its socio-cultural diversities intact. Recognizing the caution given by the Chairman of the drafting committee of the Indian Constitution Dr. B. R. Ambedkar that *fraternity* or oneness among citizens can not become a reality, unless the citizens are able to experience first *liberty* and *equality*. The desire to infuse a sense of oneness among all citizens was paramount at the time of framing the Constitution as the incidents of indignities, violence and hatred particularly between castes and between religions was not only widespread but also more frequent. Even today a vast majority of the Scheduled Castes (SCs), particularly in rural areas, experience caste based indignities, discrimination and violence and prevented from experiencing liberty and equality because of the non-SCs' desperation to hold on to their superior position in the caste hierarchy.

The Scheduled Tribes (STs) also experience violence and economic marginalization due to their unique socio-cultural traditions and way of life and extreme level of illiteracy and ignorance prevailing among them. Lack of legal protection against the entry of outsiders into their locations and the number of state sponsored development projects which often displace them in large scale from their natural habitation and means of sustenance are also responsible for their plight.

It is due to such intimidating social conditions of these castes and communities that necessitated special Constitutional provisions for their protection and development. The major policies introduced by the government to realize the spirit behind the special Constitutional provisions provided for the SCs and STs include: (a) Protective laws such as the *Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955* (PCR Act) and the *Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989* (POA Act); (b) *Reservation Policy*. While the protective laws are meant to protect these communities from all forms of injustice and exploitation, the Reservation policy is to ensure representation of the SCs and STs not only in august decision making bodies such as Parliament and State Legislature, and now in local bodies as well, but also in bureaucracy and in all government funded institutions and Public Sector Units (PSUs). Under this policy the SCs and STs are entitled in proportion to their population admission in educational institutions, including Universities and colleges funded by the government. This policy has been in practice from 1950 onwards.

In 1992, this policy of reservation was extended, as per the recommendation of the Mandal Commission, also to those Socially and Educationally Backward

Classes whom the Constitution recognized as the Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Although the OBCs accounted for over 52 percent of the total Indian population (as per 1931 Census), only 27 percent reservation was permitted in view of the Constitutional condition that the overall percentage of reservation should not exceed 50%. Initially this 27% reservation was applicable only for jobs in government departments and institutions. This job reservation for the OBCs was protested through violent means and also through self-emulation. The protest was largely by the people belonging to non-SCs/STs and OBCs. But the government went ahead and implemented it. Later on, this reservation for the OBCs was extended also for admission in government funded/aided educational institutions and universities, including IITs. This came into effect from the academic year 2008-09. This decision was also revolted against, although unsuccessfully. One of the main arguments advanced against reservation for the OBC was that the OBCs who primarily constituted of the so called *Shudra* or *Backward* or intermediary castes, did not suffer the kind and extent of indignities, violence and poverty which the SCs and STs did. Then, why should the OBCs also be given reservation. But reservation for the OBCs both for jobs and education is a reality today in most of the academic institutions, although the extent of its implementation is very poor, far from the desired level.

Despite repeated GOs from the UGC and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment that funding would be stopped to those educational institutions and universities that fail to fill up the reservation quota in admission and recruitment, many of the academic institutions have not filled the reservation quota, and the reason usually given is that “suitable candidates are not available”.

Amidst such prolonged resistance to implementing the existing reservation policy in its true spirit, the present government has introduced 10% reservation for “Economically Weaker Sections” (EWS) for admission in Central educational institutions (103<sup>rd</sup> Amendment of Constitution of India), and this Order was implemented from the academic session 2019-2020. The people falling within the EWS category include those other than the SCs, STs and the OBCs.

With the inclusion of EWS also as beneficiaries of reservation, it is not inappropriate to conclude that there is hardly any caste or community today in India that is not covered under reservation policy. In other words, now every caste and community is a potential beneficiary of reservation policy. This new development in the history of reservation has generated number of legal, social and political questions among academics, political leaders and social activists.

### **Seminar Theme:**

In the above context, the Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, TISS, Mumbai proposes to organize a two-day national seminar on

*“Revisiting Reservation Policy in India: The Changing Basis and Perspectives”*. The proposed seminar has the following objectives:

**Seminar objectives:**

- To understand the current debates on reservation and its impact on various castes, tribes and religious minorities.
- To comprehend the context of shifting the basis of reservation from social and educational backwardness to economic backwardness, and its possible impact on the social justice commitment of the Constitution.
- To understand the justifications advanced by various castes and communities demanding to be included and excluded from the list of SCs, STs and OBCs.

**Specific Sub-themes:**

1. Building fraternity (a feeling of oneness) among all Indians and the relevance of representation through reservation.
2. Politics of reservation.
3. Reservation or affirmative action policy in countries outside India.
4. Implementation of reservation policy provided for the SCs and STs.
5. Reservation policy for the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes i.e., the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and its implementation.
6. Education and employment opportunities for the SCs and STs through reservation policy: Achievements and Challenges.
7. Political reservation as a means to represent the issues of the SCs and STs in Parliament, State Legislature and local bodies such as Panchayat.
8. Efficacy of exclusive protective laws such as the PCR Act and the SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 in protecting the SCs and STs from all forms of injustices and exploitation.
9. Women among the reserved categories as beneficiaries of reservation.
10. Alleviating poverty among the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) through reservation policy.
11. Implementing reservation for the EWS and the legal, social, economic and political issues and challenges ahead.
12. The issue of sub-caste reservation or quota within quota.
13. Building Grassroots democracy through political reservation at *Panchayati Raj* and Municipal Corporation levels.
14. Claims of certain castes and communities to be included in or excluded from the list of SC or ST list: Social and legal issues and challenges.
15. Religious Minorities as beneficiaries among the OBC category.

These are merely the broad sub-themes of the seminar. The participants of the seminar are free to decide their own title of the paper, but to see that the chosen title is directly related to any one or more of these sub themes.

**Instructions for submissions:**

- Submissions on the above themes are expected from those engaged in teaching, research including M.Phil and PhD scholars, and advocacy.
- The abstract should be concise and within 500 words. It should have at least a working title, what it tries to attempt (objectives), and a brief outline of methodology used in the proposed paper.
- The completed papers should be within 3000 to 3500 words.
- All submissions must entail the full name of the participant, his/her educational qualification and contact details, including Cell No. and email id.
- All abstracts and completed papers must be sent to email:  
<[csseip.seminar2019@gmail.com](mailto:csseip.seminar2019@gmail.com)>

### Important dates:

- Announcement of Seminar: **25<sup>th</sup> September 2019**
- Last date for abstract submission: **25<sup>th</sup> October 2019**
- Notification of selected abstract: **27<sup>th</sup> October 2019**
- Payment of Registration fee: **28<sup>th</sup> October to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**
- Submission of full paper – **20<sup>th</sup> November 2019**
- Seminar dates – **29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

### Registration fee:

S. No.	Categories	Indian Delegates (₹)		Foreign Delegates (\$)	
		With Stay Requirement	Without Stay Requirement	With Stay Requirement	Without Stay Requirement
1	Faculty Members	4500/-	2500/-	250/-	200/-
2	Research scholars/ Students, NGOs	3800/-	1800/-	200/-	150/-
3	Participants not presenting paper	3500/-	1500/-	180/-	130/-

### On-line payment:

- All the participants of the seminar who include – (a) those whose "Abstracts" have been accepted for presentation, and (b) those whose request for mere participation in the seminar have been accepted – have to make online payment towards "Registration Fee" any time during **28<sup>th</sup>**

**October to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019** using the following link: <  
[https://support.tiss.edu/conf\\_regi\\_form/](https://support.tiss.edu/conf_regi_form/)>

**All registered participants will get the followings:**

- 1) Seminar Bag, 2) Seminar Abstract booklet, 3) Notepad, 4) Pen.
- Lunch, morning and evening tea/coffee with biscuits.
- In case of multi authored research paper, and all the authors want to participate in the seminar, all of them have to register themselves making due on-line payment. At the end of seminar, every registered participant will get a due certificate.

**Seminar Venue:**

**Old Conference Hall,** Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Main Campus, V.N. Purav Marg, Mumbai - 400088.

**2) Accommodation:**

All those opted for “Registration with stay requirement” may note the followings:

- Limited number of rooms are available in the TISS guest house located within the TISS campus premise. This facility will be provided on first-come first-served basis. All the rooms in the TISS Guest house are twin-sharing rooms with attached Washroom facility; No single room is available. The check-in and check-out time for the TISS guest house:
- Check in - 28<sup>th</sup> November- after 11: 00 AM.
- Check out - 30<sup>th</sup> November – before 11: 00 AM.

Those participants opted for “Registration without stay requirement” have to make their own arrangement for their stay during those two days of the seminar.

**Food:**

All registered participants will get a lunch (Veg/non-Veg) and tea and biscuits both in the morning and afternoon on both the days of seminar.

Please note that the cost towards breakfast and dinner on all days of your stay has to be met by yourself. Breakfast and dinner is available in the TISS guest house and in the TISS Dining Hall at a subsidized price (refer the table below). The seminar organizing committee will assist you on this matter.

*The cost of breakfast and dinner:*

<b>Food</b>	<b>From Guest House</b>	<b>From Dining Hall</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Breakfast	Rs. 105/- (NV & Veg)	Rs. 35/- (Veg only)	7:30 am - 9:30 am
Dinner	Rs. 273/- (NV);	Rs. 50/- (Veg only)	8 pm to 9:30

	Rs. 210/- (Veg)		pm
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### Explore Mumbai:

Mumbai is one of the oldest and popular cities in the country and the world. It is an island of Arabian Sea. There are many places to visit and shop. Some of them are mentioned below:

Gateway of India, Colaba Street Shopping, Elephanta Cave, Jahangir National Art Museum, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Museum, Marine Drive, Hanging and Kamla Nehru Garden, Juhu Beach, Haji Ali Dargah (Situating Inside Arabian Sea), Nehru Science Center and Planetarium, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Goregaon Film city.

You can visit these places by local train and bus services. Ola/Uber Cab or Normal City Cab services are also available in the area. You may also take a tour of Mumbai city through Mumbai Darshan Bus Services.

### Contact:

Seminar Coordinator	Student Volunteers
Prof. Avatthi Ramaiah Contact: 022-25525352 raamaiah@gmail.com	Mr. Kamal Naresh (8850069589) < <a href="mailto:kamal6f@gmail.com">kamal6f@gmail.com</a> >  Mr. Chandramani Piyush (7070589200). < <a href="mailto:chandramani.piyush@gmail.com">chandramani.piyush@gmail.com</a> >