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COALITION GOVERNMENT AND FEDERAL SYSTEM IN INDIA

M.G. Khan

The breakdown of the national consensus on a parliamentary majority in India, a phenomena which is characteristic of the function of parliamentary governments in the developing countries, has led to a new trend, that is coalition, to identify the federal division of powers with sub-national pluralism. Coalitions have become an inevitable and indispensable part of the national and regional politics in the present politics of India, and coalitions in India primarily owe their existence to a set of determined people, who combine to govern for personal and party ends. The unifying force is power. It is the pooling of ambitions. That at present scenario regional parties are sharing power at the Centre and helping in the process of consensus is not true. In fact, they do not necessarily participate in governance of the country. They stay parochial in their outlook. Populism is their method to gather support. Thus the regional parties have come to stay in the Indian political system and their relevance is not only confined to their respective states but it also extends to the national scene. The federal approach in governance is the result of the assertion of the regional parties. Their participation in the coalition government is the reinforcement of the "periphery" and federal governance at the centre. The BJP led coalition government at the centre today is trying to be more federal in its organization and the use of Article 356 is to the minimum as compared to one party dominant system in India.

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REFLECTIONS ON THE 12th ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS OF RAJASTHAN

N.S. Gehlot

There are two kinds of voting patterns in Rajasthan, first identify-based voting factor like caste or religion and the other governance based-voting pattern where development mattered. The voters took for the issues like bijli, paani-sarak while casting their votes. In that sense, the state electorate has shown maturity. Secondly, the poll-trend has brought to the end of the road for Hindutva, the Ram-Mandir controversy or other sensitive issues,

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REFLECTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE POSITION OF INDIAN WOMEN

Jogendra Kr. Das

In the present paper we attempt to reflect the position of Indian women vis-à-vis the human rights situations. We find that the human rights situation of women is disappointing in the sense that their basic rights are violated by the patriarchal structure and culture of Indian society and politics. We conclude by saying that India's progressive development depends and its mission towards building up into a developed nation may be fulfilled on and with protecting human rights of men and women and we assume that it may be impossible to protect women human rights unless we save them from ongoing crimes and that the accessibility of women to their human rights within the four walls of the family has to be ensured first and only then we could think of a prosperous women in the new millennium.

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**SOCIAL CAPITAL IN KERALA: MIXED
EVIDENCE FROM A VILLAGE PANCHAYAT**

**Jos Chathukulam
M.S. John**

This paper is based on a micro-study of social capital in a village Panchayat in Kerala. It argues that the predominant characteristic of much of the associational life that came into being is based on a pre-occupation with entitlements rather than commitment to collective action of a civic kind. It also points out the limitations of social capital generated through the inter mediation of political parties within a framework of agitation to be streamlined into more positive forms of civic engagement. The idea of synergistic action did not materialize during the period of participatory planning in the Panchayat. It was also found that social capital was strongest in those regions of the study Panchayat where political parties were relatively weak and non-political horizontal organizations exist.

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**PROSPECT OF COMMUNITY POLICING :
AN INDIAN APPROACH**

Tapan Chakraborty

Community Policing concept has been in practice since long that lost its historical justification. The idea has now gained fillip and different countries have been encouraged from the success nation of different community policing schemes. The essence of Community Policing is to minimize the gap between policemen and citizen to such an extent that the policemen become an integrated part of the community they serve. In other words, the individual policeman should know each member of the community and he should, in turn, be known by them. One key to the success of any Community Policing Project is the ability of its 'sponsors' to 'sell' the project to its beneficiaries. And for that it is necessary that the beneficiaries are clearly identified and wooed.

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**MAPPING GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY AND
EMPOWERMENT: TWO CASE STUDIES**

J.S. Sekhon

For over five decades a change is taking place in the electoral process in India as a whole and Punjab in particular. This paper deals in the changing nature of the power structure in the rural Punjab particularly in the post-green revolution era. It also reflects upon the impact of terrorist violence (1978-92) on the very nature of the working of the grassroots level democratic institutions at the village level. The paper seeks to analyze the causes and consequences of the changing nature of the village level politics in Punjab which is more or less factional one. Holding of the land and traditional caste superiority factors seem not to be a dominant factor in these two case studies. While on the other hand a political organized ideological group and fight for a common cause at the grassroot level could become a rallying point to alter the traditional power structure as it is in the case of this paper.

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E-GOVERNANCE FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

C.P. Barthwal

Governance involves interaction between the formal institutions and those in the civil society. Governance refers to a process whereby elements in society wield power, authority and influence and enact policies and decisions concerning public life and social upliftment". The World Bank's focus on governance reflects the worldwide thrust toward political and economic liberalization. Such a governance approach highlights issues of greater state responsiveness and accountability and the impact of these factors on political stability.

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PUBLIC POLICY MAKING IN INDIA :

A STUDY OF SIKKIM

Manas Chakrabarty

Vidyawati Agarwala

Policy as a rule is the product of extensive study and intensive analysis of available data. Public policy is a statement or an interpretation of an action . In a democratic political set up of the country, public policy occupies a very significant place. It is so because the making of public policy touches all sections of the people of the society and hence is significant. One important point should be kept in mind while making a public policy.It should be framed in such a manner so that it can distribute benefit to all in the society. So far as Sikkim is concerned, public policy, as studied within a span of time, shows that the government has left no stone unturned to make the public policy in such a way so that it can be beneficial to all sections of the people.