



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE B.H. College, Howly



From Editorial Desk

The Department of Political Science is one of the most important departments of BH College, a heritage college in Lower Assam. The Department has not been only providing curriculum education to the students but also organizing various events, competition for the extra-curricular development of the students. This is the first 'News Letter' of the Department of Political Science titled 'Politica' prepared under the supervision of the respected teachers of the Department and with the cooperation of the students. This News Letter publishes information on various events organized by the Department of Political Science, achievements of the Department in various fields at different times, achievements of current and former students of the Department in various fields, as well as important articles written by students of the Department of Political Science. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their suggestions and assistance in preparing this News Letter. Also, I apologize to you for any mistakes we may have made in preparing the News Letter. I hope you all enjoy this News Letter of the Department of Political Science.

Finally, I wish the Department of Political Science and the News Letter of the Department of Political Science continued development.

Nirupam Das
Editor



From HOD's Desk

The Newsletter published on behalf of the department of political science is a long cherished objective of the department. The aim of the Newsletter is not only the focusing of students writeups having different aspects but also the milestone of the department. since the inception the department has been trying its level best to bring out the newsletter but the goal has been fulfilled in this session and hope it will glorified in near future. In the long run expecting its all round development fulfilling the students and departmental aspiration, it will gallop with relentless effort.

About the Department

Department of Political Science was established in the year 1966. Abdul Kader was the founder Head of the Department. The department offers three year and four year Under Graduate Program. After completing UG course from the department, students will have good understanding and a clear knowledge of different aspects of Political Science. It also makes the learners aware of regional, national and international issues of world politics. It gives different career opportunities to the students in different fields such as academics, civil services and other competitive exams, politics, etc.

STUDENT WRITE-UP CORNER

India's Response Towards Climate Change



Mowmi Mandal
B.A. 6th Semester,
Political Science Department, B.H.College, Howly

Climate change generally refers to the long term shift in Earth's temperature and weather patterns. It is a massive threat to mankind, therefore, many countries, including India, are trying to combat its detrimental effects. To deal with the situation, the Government of India, start-ups, and many NGOs are working together to control the pace of climate change in India and have also come up with various steps to overcome it. Climate change impacts will range from affecting agriculture - further endangering food security - to sea-level rise and the accelerated erosion of coastal zones, increasing intensity of natural disasters, species extinction, and the spread of vector-borne diseases.

Impacts of Climate Change in India: India is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. About half of its population is dependent on agriculture and climate sensitive factors. Urban populations cannot escape the consequences of climate change, either. Densely populated urban areas, especially those where unplanned urbanization has taken place, would be increasingly at risk from prolonged spells of extreme heat, floods, and disease. In 2022, 15 states across India struggled with the impacts on health, agriculture and the availability of water from heatwaves. Several studies point to the devastating economic and social costs of climate-related damages in India due to climate inaction - which could total US\$35 trillion over the next 50 years - with particular impacts in the health and agriculture sectors. With the already deteriorating health implications of local air pollution, in 2019, a study estimated that this led to an annual loss of over US\$36 billion to India's GDP.

India and Climate Change: India has developed its policy response through missions and programmes to reduce its climate vulnerability. It has condensed the targets of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the achievement of the Paris Agreement into a set of 'enhanced targets. According to the 2022 IPCC report, it has a good track record of low emissions per capita in comparison to other major world economies. Coming to the economic aspect, in India's 2021-22 Economic Survey highlights that investments made in green technology and resilient infrastructure can safeguard the economy from future climate-induced uncertainties.

Key Initiatives taken by the Central Government of India:

1. NAPCC (The National Action Plan on Climate Change)
2. NCAP (National Clean Air Programme)
3. Swachh Bharat Mission
4. PM Surya Ghar Yojna.



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India's Visionary Initiatives in International Platform: Apart from resolutely addressing climate change domestically, India has launched international coalitions. It plays a critical leadership role for other emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs) in the Global South and demonstrated this through its G20 Presidency in 2023 and by having co-founded initiatives like the International Solar Alliance, One Sun One World One Grid and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. It is actively working to organise its investment platform to channel the growing pool of international sources of climate finance.

A few initiatives taken by India to tackle the climate change problems globally are :

1. International Solar Alliance (ISA)
2. One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) project -
3. COP26 Glasgow Summit
4. COP28 Dubai Conference- The COP28 was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 30th Nov to 12th Dec, 2023. The countries for the first time formally assessed their progress under the 2015 Paris climate agreement. The delegates discussed adaptation and mitigation efforts to achieve positive outcomes towards dealing with climate change in the near future.

Current challenges in India's climate policy: For the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill 2022, the Ministry of Power (MoP) is appointed as the nodal Ministry and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) as the implementing agency. However, the question arises whether the MoP will be the right body to regulate the scheme. As per the Business Allocation Rules, it is the MoEFCC that looks into climate change matters and environmental norms. In countries such as the UK and the US, it is the Environment Ministry that implements the schemes as proposed by the Bill. There is no clarity as to who will regulate the carbon credit certificates as mentioned in the Act. The interchangeability of certificates is not clearly defined as the same activity may be applied to energy savings, renewable energy, and carbon credits

Recommendations for a better approach towards Climate Change

1. Lack of political will inhibits making climate change a priority for the political class. It must be understood that climate change impacts can jeopardize objectives of economic growth and poverty reduction. As such there should be more attempts to motivate political willingness.
2. Initiatives like the Indo-German Energy Forum (IGEF) established in 2006 to increase Indo-German cooperation in renewable energy, investment, and research and development in energy projects must be encouraged for long-lasting sustainable environmental development through R&D.
3. Stop building new coal power capacity and develop a sustainable and inclusive plan for the early retirement of its existing capacity. This includes the rapid build-out of renewable electricity and storage options, to ensure seasonal peaks in the demand can be met safely.
4. Other steps which India needs to take include: developing sectoral investment and private sector engagement plans in support of NDC, strengthening national sector capacities to access and coordinate climate finance, etc.



UNIFORM CIVIL CODE



Sanka Roy
B.A. 6th Semester,
Political Science Department, B.H. College, Howly

Uniform, as the word says, includes personal laws of citizens that are applied equally no matter to which religion, sex, gender, and sexual orientation they belong. A Uniform Civil Code means that all sections of the society, irrespective of their religion, shall be treated equally according to a national civil code, which shall apply to all uniformly. Article 44 of the Indian Constitution states that- "The State shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India". Uniform Civil Code aims to establish a single national law that would apply to all faith communities in matters of personal concern, such as adoption, inheritance, and marriage. The UCC will replace the existing religious personal laws in India and have a uniform law that will cater to all citizens, irrespective of their religion. HISTORY OF UNIFORM CIVIL CODE The origins of UCC date back to the 19th century, when the country's leaders emphasized the necessity for uniformity in the codification of Indian law with regard to crimes, evidence, and contracts but particularly advised against codifying the personal laws of Hindus and Muslims. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had mixed feelings on the matter and believed that UCC was merely a suggestion rather than an imposition. "I do not think that the time is ripe in India at the present moment for me to try to push it through," Pandit JawaharLal Nehru stated.

HISTORICAL CASES RELATED TO UCC.

- **SHAH BANO CASE** : The Shah Bano case, also known as Mohammad Ahmed Khan v. Shah Bano Begum, was brought before the Indian Supreme Court for the first time in the year 1985. The court instructed Parliament to draft a Uniform Civil Code in connection with the case. Shah Bano's case was about obtaining maintenance money from her husband after she had triple talaq in accordance with Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

- **Sarla Mudgal Vs. Union of India**: The Sarla Mudgal Case, which raised the issue of bigamy and disagreement over marriage-related issues within the current personal laws, was another significant case that gained attention. The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 states that just one of the grounds enumerated therein may be used to dissolve a Hindu marriage that has been solemnized in conformity with Hindu law, according to the court.

BENEFITS OF UCC

1. National Integration and Secularism: UCC will encourage secularism and national integration by giving all citizens a shared identity and sense of belonging. Additionally, it would lessen intercommunal and inter-religious disputes brought on by various personal laws.
2. Gender Justice and Equality: UCC will ensure gender justice and equality by eliminating the prejudice and repression that women experience as a result of many personal laws. In terms of marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, maintenance, etc., it would provide women the same rights and status as males.
3. Modernisation and Reform of Outdated and Regressive Practices: The UCC would update and modernise the archaic and backwards practices that are common in several personal laws. It would end practices like triple talaq, polygamy, child marriage, etc. that are against the human rights and values established in the Indian Constitution.

WHY INDIA NEEDS A
UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

CHALLENGES OF UCC IN INDIA • Socio – Political Challenges: Minorities worry that, in the name of uniformity, the culture of the majority will be imposed upon them. It will be extremely difficult to bring all of these individuals together given the vast cultural variety of India. The adoption of the Uniform Civil Code is challenging because of the patriarchal outlook of Indian society. • Constitutional Challenges: The equality right and the freedom of religion are at odds. The fundamental right to practice one’s religion is established by Article 25. Each religious denomination’s or section’s right to “conduct its own business in religious matters” is safeguarded under Article 26(b). Article 29 defines the right to preserve distinctive cultures. The Uniform Civil Code is neither essential nor desirable at this time, according to a 2018 report by India’s Law Commission. The Commission contends that secularism and the nation’s diversity cannot be irreconcilable.

STATES THAT SPOKE ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UCC.

Uttarakhand: Uttarakhand, became the first state to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). The UCC bill was passed by voice vote after a two-day debate in the Uttarakhand assembly. Besides Uttarakhand, only Goa had UCC which was implemented by Portuguese in 1867.

Assam : Last year, Assam chief minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma said that UCC will be implemented in Assam by February 2024. Speaking about Triple Talaq, Sarma said, “no one would be allowed to have more than one wife.

Karnataka: In its 2023 election manifesto, UCC implementation was seen as Bhartiya Janata Party’s (BJP) key focus. The party said that it will implement UCC in Karnataka based on the recommendations made by a high-level committee constituted for the same purpose. The election results, however, did not come in the favour of the Saffron party.

WAY FORWARD: India has a unique blend of codified personal laws of Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Parsis. There exists no uniform family-related law in a single statute book for all Indians which is acceptable to all religious communities who co-exist in India. However, a majority of them believe that UCC is definitely desirable and would go a long way in strengthening and consolidating the Indian nationhood. Instead of using it as an emotive issue to gain political advantage, political and intellectual leaders should try to evolve a consensus. The question is not of minority protection, or even of national unity, it is simply one of treating each human person with dignity, something which personal laws have so far failed to do.



DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Voter Awareness Programme



Voter Awareness Programme was organised by the Electoral Literacy Club, Department of Political Science, B.H. College, Howly in collaboration with UCO, Lead Bank Office, Barpeta on 26th April, 2024.

Wall Magazine Inauguration



The departmental wall magazine '**Political Outlook**' of the Department of Political Science has been inaugurated by Ranjit Bhuya, Vice Principal, B.H. College in presence of the HOD, other faculty members and students of the department. In his speech, Vice Principal talked about the significance of a wall magazine as a platform for developing writing skills of the students.

Departmental Seminar Held



A student seminar was organized by the department on **20th November, 2023**. There were more than **100** participants in the seminar. The objective of the seminar was to inculcate the habit of seminar presentation in the students.

A Special Talk

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A Special Talk has been organized by the Department of Political Science on the occasion of birth anniversary of Sardar Vallaabhbhai Patel which is also celebrated as Rastriya Ekta Divas or National Unity Day. The talk was delivered by Khurshed Alam, retired Head of the Department. The program started at 1 pm and attended by teachers and students of the department. Teachers from other departments also attended the program. Honorable Principal of our college, Dr. Bhushan Chandra Pathak, graced the occasion.

Inter-Departmental Quiz Competition



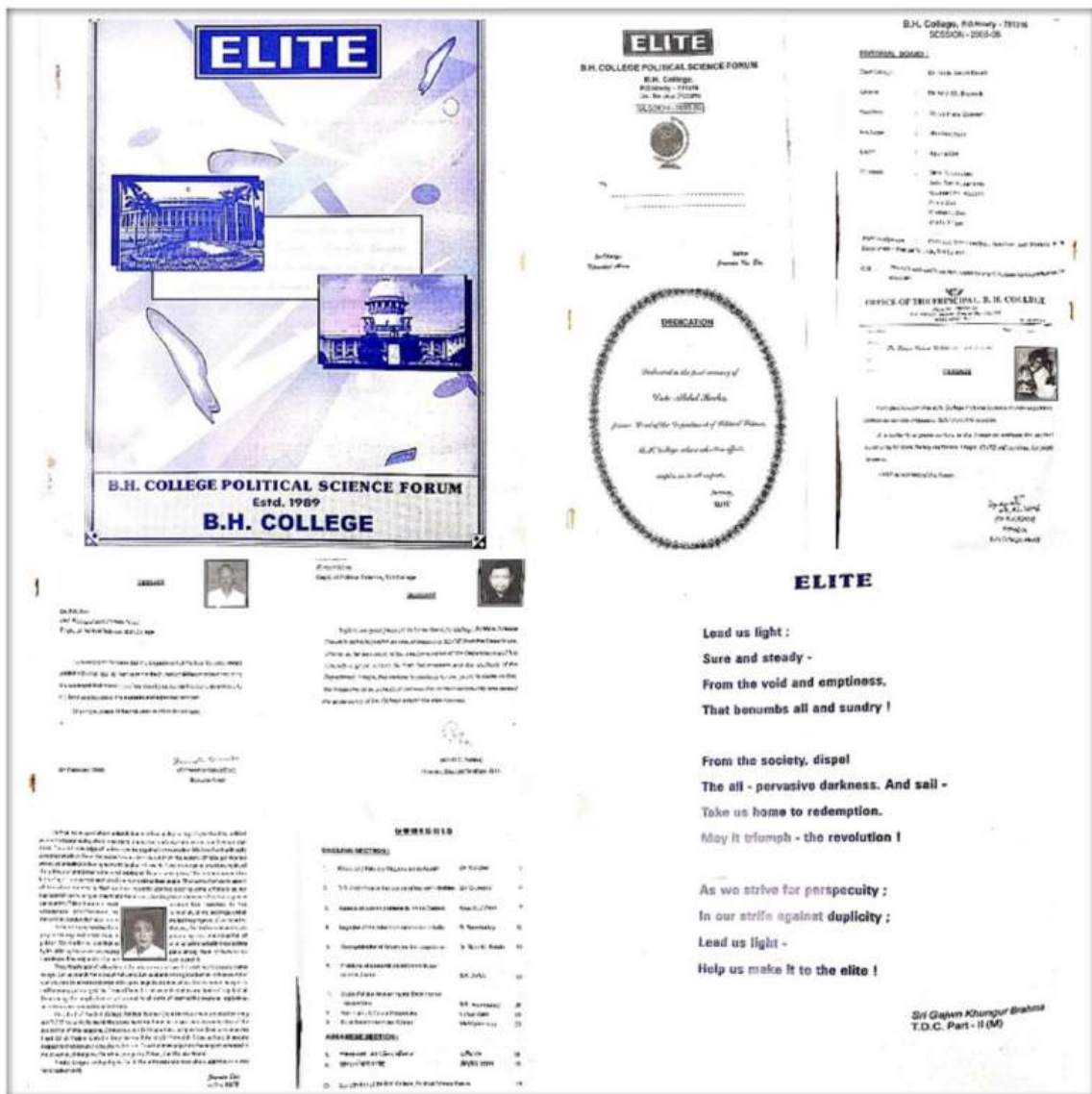
Inter-Departmental quiz competition has organised by the Electoral Literacy Club, Department of Political Science in collaboration with IQAC, B.H college

Prize Money Quiz Competition



Prize Money Quiz competition has organised by the Electoral Literacy Club, Department of Political Science, B.H. College

A DEPARTMENTAL MAGAZINE NAMED 'ELITE'
 WAS PUBLISHED IN 1989.



ELITE

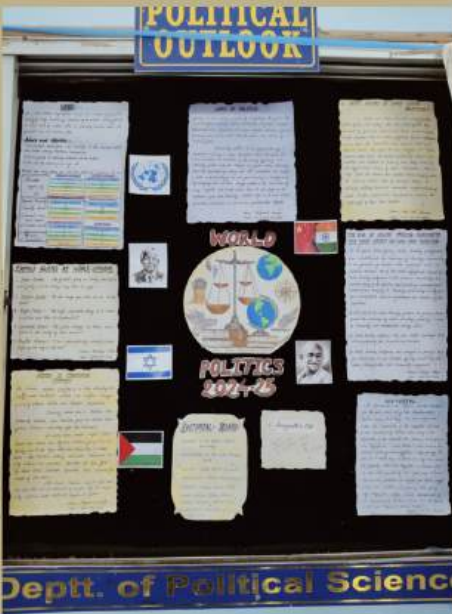
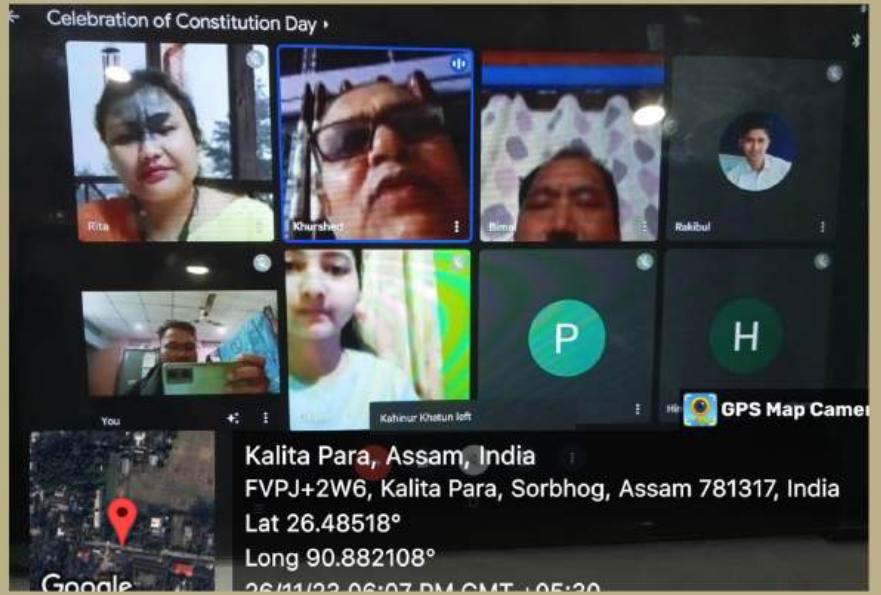
Lead us light :
 Sure and steady -
 From the void and emptiness,
 That benumbs all and sundry !

From the society, dispel
 The all - pervasive darkness. And sail -
 Take us home to redemption.
 May it triumph - the revolution !

As we strive for perspicuity ;
 In our strife against duplicity ;
 Lead us light -
 Help us make it to the elite !

Sri Gajwan Khunpur Brahm
 T.D.C. Part - II (M)

Glimpses of the Department





Editorial Board

Advisor: Dr. Bhushan Chandra Pathak, Principal

Teacher Members: Bimal Basumatary (HOD), Dr. Rita Saikia, Mouchumi Kalita, Nabajit Nath