

**CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES, CALCUTTA,  
R-1 BAISHNABGHATA PATULI,  
KOLKATA 700094**

**GENERAL SEMINAR**

Dr. Mujibur Rehman  
Faculty at Jamia Millia Central University, New Delhi

will give a talk titled:

“Rise of Saffron Power and Its Implications for Secular India”

Abstract

This paper seeks to explain the causes and consequences of the electoral rise of the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) for Indian democracy. The outcome of the 2014 parliamentary election and the electoral successes the party has accomplished in various states ( For example, Maharashtra, Haryana, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh etc), I argue, has moved the country towards the Hindu Right thus causing an ideological shift in Indian electoral politics of the kind that is both unprecedented and irreversible. This, however, does not mean that the return of the Modi government to power after the 2019 parliamentary election is definite. Instead, I argue, that regardless of the outcome of the 2019 election, (which means even if the BJP or Modi fail to return to power) the ideological shift that has occurred would remain irreversible. Looking at various changes that are taking place, and various forms of majoritarianism unfolding at different levels such as love jihad, cow vigilantism, etc, I argue that a new saffron system is coming into place in which the state and party are surreptitiously pursuing a Hindu right ideology without officially challenging the secular Constitution. My paper will deliberate in detail how these forces are unfolding and how there is a distinct possibility for the creation of a Hindu Rashtra even in the presence of a secular Constitution.

The presentation will be followed by a discussion on Dr. Rehman’s edited volume, ‘Rise of Saffron Power: Reflections on Indian Politics’ (Routledge, 2018), by Prof. Samir Kumar Das, Professor of Political Science at the University of. Calcutta.

Date: Monday, 26 November, 2018; Time: 3 – 5 pm  
Venue: CSSSC’s Seminar Room, Patuli Campus

Debdatta Chowdhury  
(Convener, Seminar Committee)

All are welcome to attend.