

## FEDERAL STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

On due approval of the competent authority, Centre has initiated „Federal Studies Lecture Series“. The programme is intended (i) to enrich epistemological canvass of the research scholars and faculties; (ii) to expose them to contemporary discourses on the issues of concern; (iii) to train them in the interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary approach to knowledge building; and (iv) to methodologically orient them towards advance specialization.

1. Prof. Rajat Ganguly from School of Social Sciences & Humanities, Murdoch University, Murdoch, Australia, delivered a Lecture on ‘Contemporary Statehood Demands in India’ on 17 November 2012 in the Lecture Hall of the Centre for Federal Studies. He also circulated his paper entitled “[Identity Politics and Statehood Movements in India](#)”.
2. The second of this series, a half-day Lecture-cum-Workshop on ‘Contemporary Challenges of Indian Democracy’ was organized on 26 November 2012 in the Hall No. 2, Hamdard Convention Centre. Vice-Chancellor, Dr. G.N. Qazi, in his opening remarks highlighted the critical relevance of ‘Federal Studies’. He specifically emphasized the need for interface studies among different disciplines taught, studied and researched in the university. Resource persons - Paranjoy Guha Thakurta, an eminent TV journalist, having academic associations with premier institutions of excellence in India; and Shankar Raghuraman, Associate Editor, *The Times of India*, analytically presented panoramic overview of the dynamics of Indian democracy from the phase of one dominant party system to the current phase of coalition politics. Its genesis lies in the shift in the politics of social justice and identity since 1984. The underlying argument of the lecture was that the political processes in India are so complex and unpredictable that it is almost impossible to provide any prospective assessment and generalized theory of Indian politics. Even the nature and context of political coalitions are so diverse and variegated in the different states that any sort of generalization appears quite fallible. Taking Uttar Pradesh as a microcosm of the coalition politics in the country, the speakers averred that what seems to be national politics is highly regionalized, and the regional satraps are likely to take centrestage of politics. In fact, India is going to have multiple systems of coalitions. The lecture generated lively and contemporaneous debate on the issuing marking current phase of Indian politics. Registrar, Dr. Firdous A. Wani insightfully concluded the core ideas and counter ideas of the workshop.
3. Prof. Apoorvanand, an Eminent Literary Critic, Columnist and Academician of Repute from Delhi University, delivered a lecture on ‘Communalism: Old and New’ on 26 November 2013 in the Lecture Hall of the Centre for Federal Studies. Key to his argument was the two mutually reinforcing propositions – (i) normalization of communalism; and (ii) nationalization of communalism.
4. Dr. Firdaus A. Wani, Registrar, Jamia Hamdard, delivered Orientation Lecture on Understanding Research on 27 November 2013 in the Lecture Hall of the Centre for Federal Studies.