

**NCAFI-2022: NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
ASYMMETRICAL FEDERALISM IN INDIA- PROBLEMS  
AND PROSPECTS 3 AND 4 MARCH 2022**

A TWO-DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE COMMEMORATING  
AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV  
ORGANIZED BY  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
MOTILAL NEHRU COLLEGE (DAY)  
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

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**Keynote to be delivered by Dr Louise Tillin, Professor of Politics and Director King's India Institute  
Abstract Submission**

The abstract should be written in 250-300 words containing title, brief introduction, objectives, relevance, methodology and major findings of the paper. Please use Times New Roman 12 point fonts for English and for Hindi use Kurti Dev 10 point fonts. **Please submit the abstract at:** [polscience@mln.du.ac.in](mailto:polscience@mln.du.ac.in) **by 20 December 2021.** The selected abstracts would be notified through mail by **30 December 2021.**

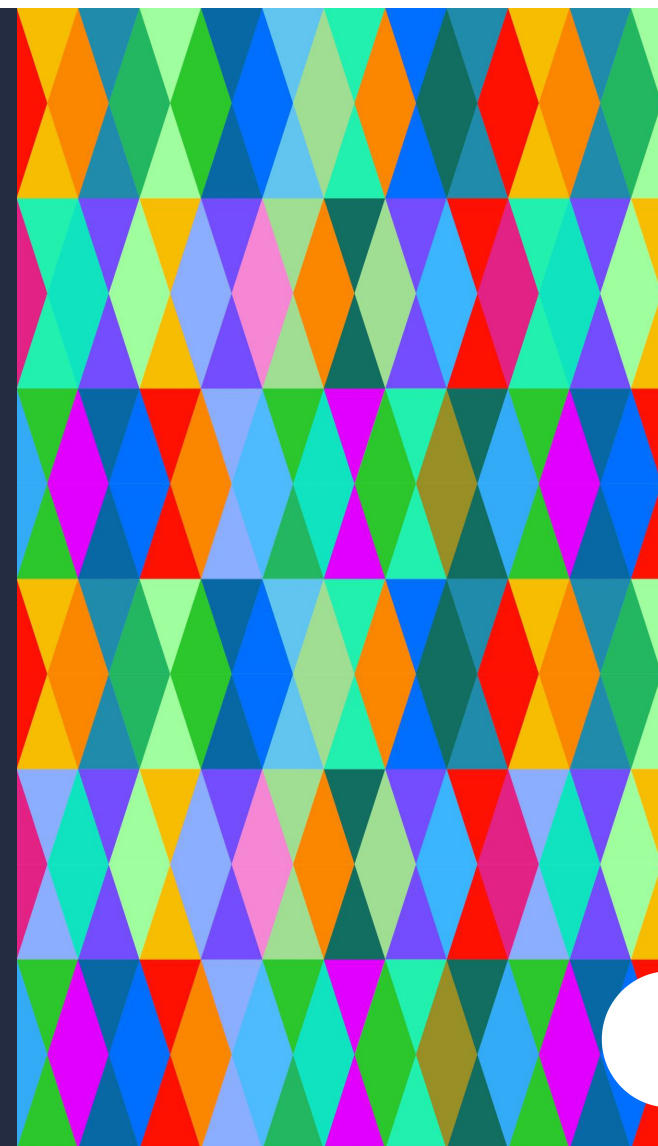
**For Further information please see:** <https://easychair.org/cfp/ICAFI2022> and  
[http://www.mln.du.ac.in/pdf/seminar\\_polsc.pdf](http://www.mln.du.ac.in/pdf/seminar_polsc.pdf)

**Submission of Full Papers**

Deadline for full paper submission of the accepted abstracts would be **15 February 2022**  
**Registration for the conference** will start from **1 February 2022.** **Fee for Registration** is Rs. 500 for Research Scholars and Rs 1000 for Faculty members and academicians.

**Contact:**

All questions related to conference and submissions of abstract/paper should be emailed to:  
[polscience@mln.du.ac.in](mailto:polscience@mln.du.ac.in)





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### **CONCEPT NOTE**

One of the most enduring features of independent India's political system has been that of federalism. The federal structure and relations have evolved and adapted to accommodate diverse requirements spanning a whole range of economic, cultural and political variables. The existing diversities and internal heterogeneity in a 'state-nation' like India, a term used by scholars to define India as a pluralist polity has differential layers. Asymmetry in simplest terms denotes granting of differential rights to these differential layers existing in the federal sub-units. Asymmetrical Federalism also denotes a 'utilitarian' division of power or responsibilities amongst the otherwise equal units of the state. Asymmetrical Federalism has remained a major tool for the Indian constitution makers to limit the emerging secessionist tendencies as well as to accommodate diverse socio-cultural groups in the ambit of national identity. The idea behind, 'special states need special powers' derives from the tendency of secessionism and separatism transpiring from a special set of historical identity, cultural associations, geographical location, and/or religious or ethnical belongingness of the people of that particular federal unit. While in theory it has been widely accepted that asymmetrical provisions are meant to dissemble the separatist tendencies and successionist voices by providing the desired autonomy and special arrangements within the wider ambit of the federal structure, in practice, it is argued that asymmetric provisions are discriminatory, by placing prescriptions on who can own property in particular regions, or because they privilege certain kinds of 'special' identities over others. Given these debates and dilemmas, as we celebrate 75 years of India's independence we also need to celebrate the resilience and dynamism of India's unique template of federalism within which the concept and practice of asymmetrical federalism has been particularly pertinent. Focused on this endeavour, this conference attempts to make salient the variations, transitions and the future prospects of asymmetrical federalism in India.



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### **CONFERENCE THEMES**

- Theorizing asymmetrical federalism through a conceptual and comparative framework
- The Indian case of asymmetrical federalism with reference to concerns and considerations as reflected in the Constituent Assembly debates
- Provisions and working of decentralized autonomous councils as provided for under the Vth and VIth schedule of the constitution.
- The nature and impact of secessionist and separatist demands on the federal structure of the country.
- Abrogation of article 370 and its implications as well as special features of the union territories established in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- Financial federalism and asymmetries in devolution of funds, grants and aid to the sub-national units with special reference to the Goods and Services Taxation regime.
- Covid-19 pandemic and emerging federal asymmetries in management, mitigation of its impact as well as future -proofing.
- Dilemmas and possibilities of reconciling claims of territoriality, social cleavages and political cultures through asymmetrical federal institutional arrangements and practices in the context of nationalist and majoritarian identities.