



Competitive Examinations Centre Savitribai Phule Pune University

National Seminar on

Contemporary India – ‘Vision 2020’

(10th & 11th January, 2020)

The Competitive Examinations Center, Savitribai Phule Pune University, is organizing a two-day national seminar on the theme ‘Contemporary India- Vision 2020’, inviting speakers/ scholars/ experts to deliver lectures on contemporary issues that concern us and have engaged attention of our society and nation.

Sub-themes of the Seminar:

- * Internal Security**
- * Economy, Polity & Governance**
- * Environment & Science**
- * International Relations**

Date:

Day One - 10th January, 2020 (Two sessions)

Day Two - 11th January, 2020 (Two sessions)

Venue: Savitribai Phule Pune University

About Competitive Examinations Centre:

Established in 1970, the Competitive Examinations Centre, Savitribai Phule Pune University, has always nurtured the following objectives:

- ★ Creating awareness and encouraging youth to appear for UPSC/MPSC Civil Services Examinations and other Competitive Examinations.
- ★ Cultivating interest and providing specific training required for such Examinations.
- ★ Building confidence among the students through continuous counseling, and providing necessary exposure to competitive environment.
- ★ Providing adequate infrastructure and state-of-the-art training tools for achieving such targets.

The Centre has been catering to the variegated needs of its students. Alongside the regular academic activity, the Centre also holds various interactive sessions, seminars and programmes on personality development, Yoga and basic English remedial classes for students. The objective behind organizing seminar is to create an informed, discerning and organized mind, equipped to compete and succeed.

Concept Note – Contemporary India – ‘Vision 2020’

Today in a globalised world, India is witnessing profound changes in society, politics and economy. The world is keen to engage with India. Since independence India has marked the journey from being ‘underdeveloped’ to developing and aspiring to be ‘developed’, \$5 trillion economy. The resurgent economy, advancement of science and technology expanding middle class, and the restless, aspirational majority at the bottom of the pyramid, are the main characteristic of

contemporary India that enjoys an unprecedented demographic dividend.

On the other hand, India is struggling to find inclusive ways to balance growth with equity. Endemic corruption, poverty, misogyny, exploitation of children and weaker section are as evident as the ideological friction and development-versus-environment challenges consuming our national and societal discourses. Such a confusing but challenging state of contemporary India demands serious attention.

The proposed seminar ventures to explore possibilities of defining the nature of “contemporary India” and address the following themes and resultant questions arising out of the focal theme.

1. Internal Security

In this session we aim to identify the new challenges of internal security. The issue of cyber security and privacy has acquired urgency in the era of ‘Digital India’. The expansion of internet and growing consumption of data by youth has multiple consequences. Fake news, rumors and hate speech spread like fire in the era of 24/7 news and social media, resulting in the tensions and conflicts of alarming magnitude. They often acquire communal overtones and provide grounds that breed extremism or terrorism. In this session we aim to identify the issues and challenges of our internal security and seek practical answers.

2. Politics and Governance

India is a nation, where multiple religions, castes, communities, cultures and language cohabit. Against all odds, Indian Democracy has sustained. Contemporary Indian polity is passing through many twists and turns.

The recent Parliamentary election has changed many previous equations. This session will address various issues like the “Idea of India” and perceived threat to a secular, democratic nation? Is India moving towards single party politics? What are the implications of ‘one nation one language or identity politics?

Is the present economic model sustainable, is development by-passing the poor and the down-trodden?

3. Environment and Science

With rapid globalization and urbanization, the present model of ‘development’ has also seen indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources at the cost of environment. This session aims at understanding issues relating to sustainable but eco-friendly development and how science can assist in achieving the objective. Is India’s space programme cost-effective or is it diverting resources from inclusive development?

4. International Relations

India aspires to emerge as a global power. The image of new emerging India has placed it in the focus of global imagination. In a scenario of multi-polar world India’s foreign policy needs more academic discussion on American withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Pakistani albatross and the Chinese challenge, Act East policy, etc.

The seminar will encourage academic discussion involving scholars from diverse disciplines and try to address the complex realities of contemporary India.
