



Xavier University Bhubaneswar
University Dialogue Series (UDS)

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Venue: Classroom 129

Singular Identity as Foundation of Nation: A Critique of Two-Nation Theory

Speakers:

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Can singular identity be a good enough reason to stay together as nation? Especially when diversity is inherent to social life, economic structure and biological stability. Even in family – basic foundational unit of society – the individuals have different thoughts, identities, preferences and choices. For Sen (2005) the singular identity as ‘solitarist’, can be a good way to misunderstand nearly everyone in the world.

In this backdrop the paper critically explores the two-nation theory, which is based on the singular identity of religion – as predominately known and stated– for nation-state formation. The case of Jammu and Kashmir dispute (post 1947) and major wars between India and Pakistan is taken as frame of reference to explore the issue.

The concept of nation is dynamic and multi-layered in nature, and should be interpreted with in the broader domain of flux in society, polity, economy, geo-political scenario etc. Based on historical study of events the authors observe that Pakistan has not stuck to the original conceptualisation of two-nation theory proposed by Iqbal (1930).

Keywords: Singular Identity, Two-nation theory, Jammu and Kashmir, India, Pakistan

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