In recent years, we have seen significant increase in caste based atrocities in many parts of the country. This in many ways undermines the endeavors for creating a society based on human rights, social justice, and social inclusion. The atrocities are not only common in less developed states, but they are also quite rampant in relatively developed states. It is estimated by NHRC that in the country, on an average, a crime against Dalits takes place every 18 minutes; every day 3 dalit women are raped, 2 Dalits are murdered, 2 dalits’ homes are burnt, and 11 dalits are beaten up. A striking observation made by some scholars has been that the crime against dalits are rising significantly in ‘economically developed’ pockets of the country. The total number of registered cases of crimes committed against the SCs by the non-SCs and non-STs in India during 2003 to 2009 were as many as 203576 and the total number cases that reached various courts in India for trial, including pending cases, till 2009 were as many as 106522.

The lower conviction rates of the criminals arrested for atrocities on Dalits further emboldens the perpetrators. In has been found that the conviction rate under SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act is only about 15.71% and pendency is as high as 85.37%. By contrast, conviction rate under IPC is over 40%. Even the reports prepared by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and placed before Parliament contain merely factual information received from States about registration and disposal of cases; various administrative arrangements made for the function of the Act and funds spent, without any
meaningful analysis of the performance of the States which could form the basis for making corrective interventions. Under-reporting of Atrocities Act cases is a very common and therefore the decline in the number of registered cases does not provide a true picture of the incidence of atrocities.

**Call for papers:** Abstracts are invited from Academicians, Practitioners, Research Scholars and Students on sub themes or any topic related to the conference. The paper contributors are advised to send an abstract of 500 words (Font size 12 and line spacing 1.5) in standard format on or before 7th May, 2015 and full paper with maximum 4000 words should be sent by email to the Organizing Secretary conference.srd@tiss.edu

*Some selected papers may be included in a book edited by the conveners of the Conference.*

**Sub themes**

- **The changing caste-based relations in rural and urban areas:** changing identities; social relations; caste inequality and discrimination in the context of urbanization, migration, political participation, access to education and employment.
- **Atrocities and Dalit activism:** forms of atrocities, histories of Dalit activism and their impact on the large society.
- **Atrocity and government policy:** critical assessment of policy framework for SC/ST welfare, the assumptions, perspectives, and programmes, including various provisions of criminal and civil Acts.
- **Political parties and issues of Dalit:** caste and non-caste based mobilization and their impact on welfare/interests of Dalits
- **Women’s organization and issues of Dalit women:** relevance and effectiveness of national/regional women organizations in protecting the rights of Dalit women; representation of Dalit women in the women organizations

**Registration Fee:**

Registration Fee is Rs. 500/- for research Scholars/students and Rs.1000/- for faculties and others; to be paid on or before 10th June, 2015. The Institute accepts the following methods of payment: Multicity Cheque/Bank Demand Draft in favour of *Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.*
**Travel and Accommodation:**
All outstation participants will be provided free board, lodging and local hospitality within the campus. These facilities will be available to participants from the evening of 28th June, 2015 to the morning of 1st July, 2015. The cost of travel will not be reimbursed by the Institute.

**How to Reach:**
Tuljapur is connected with Pune, Hyderabad and Mumbai by Train. Some of the nearby railway stations are Solapur (60 kms), Latur (70 kms) and Osmanabad (22 kms) and well connected by road.

**Important Dates:**
- Last date of submission of abstract: 7th May, 2015
- Acceptance of abstract: 15th May 2015
- Payment of the registration fee: 10th June 2015
- Submission of full paper with abstract: 15th June 2015

**Convener:** Dr Ramesh Jare (Associate Professor)
**Co-Convener Dr Sampat Kale (Assistant Professor)**

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