Cry for Reform at UC Berkeley's Seminar on Indian Democracy

Academic seminar as gripping as a Hollywood blockbuster

By ANUPAM GHOSH

BERKELEY, Calif. — The debate, passionate, evocative, a bit of an argument, was no surprise. But the audience on democracy here was as gripped as a movie in a Hollywood theater. But at the end of the day it was an academic seminar, with top experts on both presenting democracy, argument, thought-provoking papers on the state of democracy.

The seminar was titled "Cry for Reform at UC Berkeley's Seminar on Indian Democracy" and was held as part of the India Silent Film Festival. The seminar was organized by the Center for Indian Studies at UC Berkeley and was attended by more than 300 people, including students, faculty, and community members.

The seminar featured a panel of experts discussing the state of democracy in India, including experts from both India and the United States. The panelists included Indian-American political scientist and former UC Berkeley professor Madhav Gadgil, Indian-American author and political commentator, and former Indian ambassador to the United States Prashant Bhushan.

The seminar began with a keynote address by Gadgil, who spoke about the importance of democracy and the challenges that India faces in maintaining a strong democratic system. He highlighted the need for greater transparency and accountability in the government and the importance of holding elected officials accountable for their actions.

Bhushan, who has been a vocal critic of the Indian government, spoke about the need for a stronger civil society and the importance of protecting free speech and the freedom of the press.

The audience was engaged throughout the seminar, with many asking questions and offering their own thoughts on the state of democracy in India. The seminar concluded with a panel discussion, where the experts discussed the key issues facing democracy in India and what steps can be taken to address these challenges.

Overall, the seminar was a thought-provoking and engaging event that brought together experts from both India and the United States to discuss the state of democracy in the world's largest democracy.

For more information on the seminar, please visit the website of the Center for Indian Studies at UC Berkeley.