



ANCIENT WISDOM FOR MODERN ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE: RETRACING THE STEPS TOWARDS VEDAS

PANEL DISCUSSION: REINFORCING TRUST THROUGH DECENTRALIZATION AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

OUR PANELISTS



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FORMER JUDGE
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**PROF. (DR.) PRADEEP
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OUR MENTORS



PROF. (DR.) G. S. BAJPAI
VICE CHANCELLOR, NLU D



PROF. (DR.) RUHI PAUL
REGISTRAR, NLU D

OVERVIEW

Join us in this pragmatic session, in hybrid format, to examine the impact of centralization on public trust in the Indian judicial system and explore the potential of decentralization and local dispute resolution for improving justice access using the traditional community based approach. [Read More...](#)

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KEY POINTS

- Public trust and judicial hierarchy
- Centralization vs. Decentralization
- Role of Community based justice
- Practicable Solutions from ancient practices

16TH NOVEMBER 2024

10:30 AM onwards

National Law University, Delhi

PANEL DISCUSSION

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10:30 am Onwards

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***Reinforcing trust through decentralization and community participation:
Rethinking Justice for all!***

The **National Law University, Delhi** solicits your presence and participation in an engaging and enriching panel discussion under the aegis of the Major Research Project of ICSSR on ***“Indigenous Mechanism for Dispensation of Justice in India: An Analytical and Comparative Study with UK and China”*** organized by the Center for Comparative Studies in Personal Laws (CPL).

ABOUT NLU DELHI

National Law University, Delhi is one of the premier law universities in India, accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC and is ranked second (for the last consecutive five years) in the National institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), Ministry of HRD of Government of India. It aims to impart comprehensive and interdisciplinary legal education. The primary objective of the University is to evolve and impart legal education that is socially relevant. Its chief mandate is to promote legal and ethical values, objectives enshrined in the Constitution of India and to foster rule of law.

ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE STUDIES IN PERSONAL LAWS

The Centre aims to undertake research in various matters relating to constitutional law and others laws dealing with personal, matrimonial, succession related issues and to impart knowledge, to provide counseling, assistance, and litigation support. The Centre is involved in research and analysis of current laws, policies, programs and judicial pronouncements. It

organizes events such as thematic seminars, conferences and debates on various topics, concerning different kinds of stakeholders depending upon the topic of research. Keeping in mind the values of indigenous Indian society and fundamental constitutional principles, the Centre endeavors to study and research various changes occurring in socio-economic set-up, family system and behavioral patterns, varying needs and aspirations of common man, ever-widening gap between various strata of society, for which different kinds of initiatives are taken to decipher the causes and to suggest measures to improve overall peace, tranquility and development in the society.

ABOUT THE PANEL DISCUSSION

The significant shift towards centralization and a diminishing role of local institutions has had profound implications in the system of administration of justice in India, affecting the quality of legal services and the public trust in the judiciary. Historically, the informal dispute resolution mechanisms, including village councils and panchayats, played a crucial role in resolution of conflicts based on the principles of consensus and restorative justice, emphasizing reconciliation and community harmony rather than punishment.

However, the role of local institutions gradually diminished with the advent of British colonial rule and the establishment of a modern legal system. The introduction of a centralized judiciary, based on Western legal principles, created a hierarchy of courts and limited the authority of traditional dispute resolution mechanisms. Post-independence legal developments reinforced this shift towards centralization and aimed to establish an efficient legal system which was uniform across the country.

The decreasing role of community participation and increasing centralization in the Indian judicial system has significantly impacted the access to justice for members of marginalized communities and people living in rural areas. Furthermore, the centralization of the judiciary has led to long distances between courts and local communities, making legal redress a rather daunting and expensive process. The decline of local dispute resolution mechanisms has increased the burden on the formal justice system inundating the Courts with a large number of cases. While centralization has undoubtedly contributed to the establishment of a uniform and efficient legal system, it has also led to a decline in access to justice, increasing delays and backlogs, and a diminished quality of justice and a sense of disillusionment among citizens.

The University hereby, plans to organize a Panel Discussion on *“Reinforcing Trust through Decentralization and Community Participation: Rethinking Justice for all!”*

The objective of this panel discussion is to facilitate deliberations on whether an insight into the ancient concepts of justice, morality, social order and governance can be a

yardstick for a better system for administration of justice, or the traditional principles are so unaligned with the complexities of modern law that they will hinder all progress instead of facilitating it. This engaging dialogue aims to delve into the nuances of and discover novel solutions to the contemporary concerns which have placed the judiciary at the forefront of the dichotomy of increasing expectations and the decreasing trust of the public.

Featuring the expert voices in the field of justice administration and ancient Indian legal thought, this panel discussion intends to undertake the discourse on solving modern problems by applying the ancient Indian wisdom by re-evaluating the ancient thought in the context of practicable implementations as reforms in the modern system. This discussion aims to delve into the existing and potential interaction of the modern system of justice administration with the traditions and principles of the ancient Indian legal thought to discover innovative solutions to contemporary problems.

PROBLEM QUESTION

How can the decreasing public trust and engagement in the modern Indian legal system due to the centralization in the hierarchical system of judicial administration be upended with the help of reforms aligning with the concept of community-based justice?

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- The role of hierarchical structure and centralization in the administration of justice
- Factors affecting perceptions of fairness, accessibility, and accountability
- Case studies or examples of public trust issues and barriers to public participation
- The impact of delays and backlogs
- Decentralization and community-based justice
- Role of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms
- Balancing centralization and decentralization
- Practical application of ancient wisdom to modern challenges

ABOUT OUR PANELISTS

Our esteemed panelists for this session are–

1. **HJI (Dr.) B.S. Chauhan** is a retired Supreme Court Judge who began his journey as a lawyer and standing counsel for the Government of state of Uttar Pradesh. He was appointed as a judge of Allahabad High Court in 1995. He served as the Chief Justice of the Odisha High Court before being elevated as a judge in the Supreme Court in 2009. He was appointed as the chairman of the 21st Law Commission in 2016. Notably, he has also served as the chairperson of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal after.
2. **Prof. (Dr.) Manjula Batra** is a Senior Professor and Mentor at the School of Law, NorthCap University. She has more than 28 years of experience in teaching and over two decades in research. She is the former Dean and Professor of School of Law, Jamia Milia Islamia. She has also served as the director of the Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies. The Editor-in-chief of the Jamia Law Journal and editor of the magazine “Jauhar” published by Jamia, also has numerous publications to her name.
3. **Prof. (Dr.) Pradeep Kulshreshtha**, currently serving as the Dean, Bennett School of Law, is a senior academician with over thirty years of extensive expertise in academic affairs, legal research & advisory services. Before joining Bennett University, he was Dean, Sharda School of Law, Sharda University, and Greater Noida. He was also with K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram as a Professor and Dean, School of Law. He has authored and edited 21 books, 46 research papers and conference papers.

MODERATORS:

1. **Prof. (Dr.) Anupama Goel**, Professor of Law and Former Registrar, Research Director, CPL, NLU Delhi.
2. **Mr. Himangshu Rathee**, Assistant Professor, School of Law, NorthCap University.

The Panel Discussion is cordially extended to research scholars and students pursuing their masters or in the final year of their undergraduate studies from any discipline. The session will be held in a hybrid format. Scholars and students of NLU Delhi shall attend in person. Only the scholars and students from other institutions may join online. Participations certificates will be given on the basis of registration and attendance.

We look forward to your contribution in this dialogue!

PATRON-IN-CHIEF & PATRON

Prof. (Dr.) G.S. Bajpai

Vice Chancellor
National Law University, Delhi

Prof. (Dr.) Ruhi Paul

Registrar
National Law University, Delhi

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