



Gujarat National Law University
Gandhinagar



NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

5 January 2014



Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat
Government of Gujarat



Centre for Constitutional &
Administrative Law (CCAL), GNLU

RELEVANCE

India is world's largest and most vibrant democracy. Compared to her neighbours' experience with democracy, Indian people have shown tremendous confidence in democratic system of governance. Imposition of emergency tested their trust in and aspiration for democracy. Drafters of Indian constitution established a democratic society. They acknowledged its significance by giving constitutional status to Election Commission of India. The Supreme Court of India, on its part, has regarded democracy as one of the basic features of the Indian Constitution. However, need has been felt over period of time to strengthen the democracy further. Therefore, various measures are being explored so that democracy becomes more participatory in actual practice.

India is home to religious, linguistic, cultural and geographical diversity. Governing such diversity can be extremely daunting. With rising level of education in people and increasing consciousness amongst them about their rights, good governance has become their natural expectation.

Both participatory democracy and good governance are inter-related and strengthen each other. There is now a growing consensus that both governments and citizens should have a crucial role to play in promoting good governance and ensuring public transparency, responsiveness and accountability. The need for strengthening participatory democracy and good governance is an issue of contemporary significance all over the world.

People who are subjected to non- democratic governance are demanding democracy and those who are already part of democratic governance are making efforts for strengthening it further. Indian citizens are no exceptions. Human rights are neither fully acknowledged nor respected and there is a feeling of disillusionment with governments due to lack of transparency, responsiveness and accountability. As a result, ordinary citizens especially women, socially and educationally backward and other marginalized groups are largely excluded from governance processes and the making of decisions that directly affect their lives. The impact of non-responsive and unaccountable government has resulted in alarming levels of corruption and mal-administration across the various levels of governance. It has become the main obstacle in achieving overall development by compromising the quality and effectiveness of public policy making. However, endeavours are being made to strengthen participatory democracy and good governance by Parliament as well as Judiciary in India. But much more is still to be done.

Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat, Government of Gujarat is holding National Vibrant Education Summit on 10th & 11th January, 2014. Centre for Constitutional and Administrative Law (CCAL), Gujarat National Law University in collaboration with the Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat, Government of Gujarat is organizing a Pre-Summit National Conference on "Strengthening Participatory Democracy and Good Governance" on 5th January, 2014.

Aims of the conference

- To evaluate the best practices of participatory democracy across the world.
- To evaluate the lacunae in the existing representative democracy model.
- To understand the evolution of participatory democracy in India and its existing status.
- To study the initiatives of the Government for implementing participatory democracy at various levels of the society.
- To understand how the participatory democracy and good governance strengthen each other.
- To analyse the role of the judiciary in promoting participatory democracy and good governance in India.
- To analyze the role of the civil society and media in enforcing transparency and accountability in the governance.
- To promote innovative methods for implementing the principles of participatory democracy and good governance.
- To assist the stake-holders in democracy to acquire skills and tools to promote participatory democracy and good governance.

Resource Persons:

Judges, Senior Advocates, Academicians, Media persons, Social activists

Target Audience:

Academicians, Advocates, Civil Society Organisations, Law students

Expected Tangible outcomes of the conference:

- To propose guiding principles for better and smooth functioning of participatory democracy.
- To identify the shortcomings in the existing governance system and suggest measures for good governance.
- Publication of the selected papers in the form of a book.

Relevance of Democracy and significance of Good governance for the common man is debated across the world. Emerging India with its diversity needs the participation of all sections of the society in the functioning of the government. The recent instances of mal-administration and corruption at various levels of the governance have shattered the Indian dream of a transparent and accountable government. This conference would provide a platform to various stakeholders particularly law students to find means to fulfil the said dream.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Important Dates

Research papers are invited on any of the sub-themes of the conference.

- Last date for submission of Abstract:
08 December, 2013
- Selection of Abstract: 11 December, 2013
- Last Date for submission of Full Papers:
22 December, 2013



Paper submission Guideline:

Full paper should have a cover page containing the following:

- Full name
- Institution/Organization/University
- Professional/Educational details
- Email address
- Mobile number

Full paper should be submitted in MS Word format with the following specifications:

- Font Type : Garamond
- Spacing : 1.5 inch
- Font Size: 16 points for Title, 14 points for Subtitle and 12 points for Text.
- Citation Method: Chicago Manual of Style (CMS) 16th Edition
(www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)
- Word Limit: 3000

Abstracts/ Papers should be sent to:
cacalconf2014@gnlu.ac.in

GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

- The Abstract should be of 300-500 words and should contain key words at the end. The author shall specify Title of the paper, name(s) of author (s), professional titles, e-mail addresses and contact number.
- The abstract should be typed in MS Office Word in Garamond, font size 12 with 1.5 spacing.
- All abstracts should be submitted through email only.
- The author(s) should indicate the sessions and sub-theme on which the paper is based.
- The abstracts shall be screened by the Organising Committee. The authors of the shortlisted abstracts shall be intimated accordingly.

REGISTRATION FEE & MODE OF PAYMENT

- Rs 2,000
- Co-authorship is permissible upto two per submission.
- Co-author should register individually.
- Demand Draft in favour of "Gujarat National Law University" payable at Ahmedabad, Gujarat on or before 22 December, 2013.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Technical Session I: 1145 – 1345 Hrs

Theme: Participatory Democracy

- Electoral Reforms - Right to Reject, Mandatory Voting
- Role of Election Commission of India in conduct of fair elections
- Local Self Governments and Participatory Democracy
- Emerging role of Civil Society Organizations
- Human Development and Right to Education in Democracy
- Role of Social media
- Marginalised Groups and Participatory Democracy

Technical Session II: 1445 – 1645 Hrs

Theme: Good Governance: Principles, Practices and Perspectives

- Global Perspectives on Good Governance
- Role of International Institutions in promoting Good Governance
- Right to know
- Protection of Whistleblowers
- Corruption as antithesis to Good Governance
- Central Vigilance Commission
- Freedom of Media in Good Governance
- Promises of E-Governance
- Right to Development and Good Governance

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Sunday, 5 January 2014

Breakfast : 0800-0900 Hrs

Registration: 0900-0930 Hrs

Inauguration: 1000 –1130 Hrs

Refreshments: 1130 – 1145 Hrs

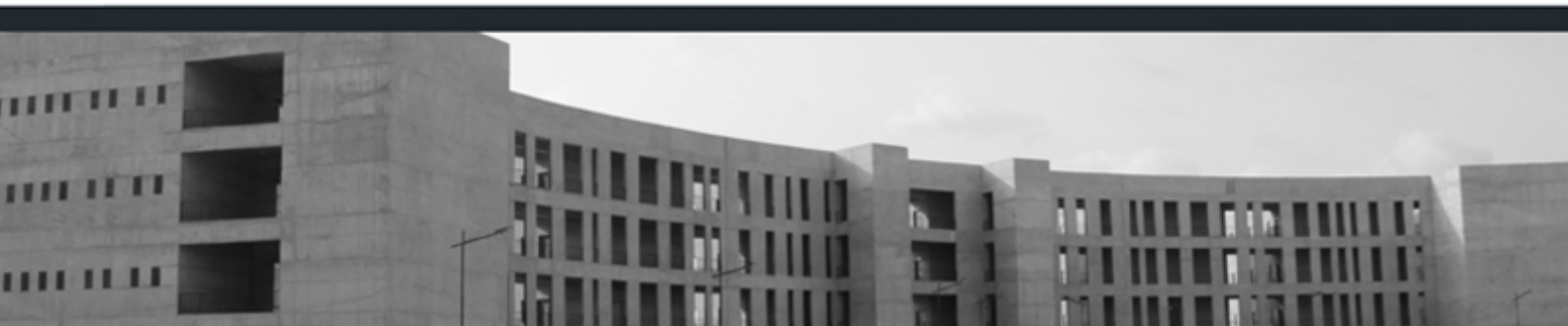
Technical Session I: 1145 – 1345 Hrs

Lunch Break: 1345-1445 Hrs

Technical Session II: 1445 – 1645 Hrs

Tea Break:1645-1700 Hrs


Valedictory Session: 1700 – 1745 Hrs




GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY

Conference Organizers

Centre for Constitutional and Administrative Law, Gujarat National Law University
Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat, Government of Gujarat

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 /GNLU

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Venue

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