



## **NATIONAL SEMINAR ON**

# **“75 YEARS OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION: REFLECTING ON DEMOCRATIC IDEALS, INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES, AND THE ROAD AHEAD”**

**NOVEMBER 26, 2025 (WEDNESDAY)**

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

The Constitution of India was envisioned as a living document, one that would evolve with the times, yet remain firmly rooted in democratic values, the rule of law, and the ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. However, the journey over the past 75 years has not been without significant institutional, ideological, and constitutional challenges.

- The expansion of executive power, assertiveness of judiciary, and erosion of legislative authority in certain areas raise fundamental questions about the balance of power envisaged in the Constitution.
- The rise of populism and majoritarianism has sparked debates around constitutional morality versus popular mandate.
- Issues related to freedom of speech and dissent, digital surveillance, hate speech, and misuse of laws have questioned the robustness of civil liberties.
- Technological innovations including AI, facial recognition, and big data require a constitutional response to emerging digital rights and data protection concerns.
- Environmental degradation, climate change, and ecological conflicts demand rethinking of Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties in the context of environmental constitutionalism.

- The Basic Structure Doctrine, once a judicial innovation to prevent authoritarian amendments, has become a subject of continued debate as constitutional amendments and court rulings shape the polity.

As India celebrates the 75th anniversary of the adoption of its Constitution, the occasion provides a significant opportunity to reflect on the journey of the Indian Republic. Drafted by visionary leaders and shaped by the unique historical and social context of post-independence India, the Constitution has stood as a dynamic framework for governance, justice, and rights. Over the decades, it has weathered political shifts, economic upheavals, social movements, and technological revolutions. This milestone offers an opportune moment for introspection on the successes, failures, and emerging challenges faced by Indian constitutionalism in a rapidly evolving global and national landscape.

At 75, it is imperative to evaluate not only where we stand today but where we aspire to go. This seminar aims to create an interdisciplinary and interactive platform for serious engagement with these critical constitutional questions. The national seminar aims to bring together academicians, legal professionals, policy-makers, researchers, and students to discuss and debate the contemporary relevance of the Constitution, its transformative potential, and the challenges it faces amidst changing political, economic, and technological environments. The theme of the seminar encapsulates the dual purpose of celebrating the resilience of the Constitution and questioning the threats to its ideals and institutions. It invites a critical yet constructive examination of the Indian constitutional journey. Following are the objectives of the seminar:

1. To analyze the evolution and contemporary relevance of the Indian Constitution over the last 75 years.
2. To critically examine the performance of constitutional institutions and their accountability frameworks.
3. To explore emerging challenges posed by technology, globalization, and political polarization.
4. To provide recommendations for reforms in constitutional interpretation, governance, and citizen participation.
5. To celebrate and reaffirm the core values of the Constitution through academic discourse and policy dialogue.

## **SUB-THEMES**

Participants may submit papers or presentations on the following sub-themes **(these are indicative, not exhaustive).**s

### **A. CONSTITUTIONAL INSTITUTIONS: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Judicial review and activism vs. judicial overreach.
- Parliament's role and weakening of legislative debates.
- Autonomy and accountability of constitutional bodies (ECI, CAG, UPSC).
- Cooperative and competitive federalism.

### **B. DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS**

- Freedom of speech, press, and expression in the digital era.
- Protection of minorities and rising communal polarisation.
- Sedition, UAPA, and misuse of national security laws.
- Digital surveillance and privacy concerns post-Puttaswamy judgment.

### **C. CONSTITUTION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

- Affirmative action and changing caste dynamics.
- Women's rights, gender justice, and intersectionality.
- Rights of LGBTQIA+ communities.
- Tribal rights, land acquisition, and forest governance.

### **D. AMENDMENTS AND BASIC STRUCTURE DOCTRINE**

- Judicial evolution and implications of Kesavananda Bharati case.
- Politics of constitutional amendments.
- Role of Article 368 in shaping Indian federalism.

### **E. CONSTITUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

- Legal recognition of rights of nature and climate litigation.
- Role of National Green Tribunal and evolving environmental jurisprudence.
- Implementation gaps in DPSPs related to environmental protection.

## **F. TECHNOLOGY AND CONSTITUTIONALISM**

- Artificial Intelligence and algorithmic governance.
- Digital divide and access to e-governance.
- Cyber laws, misinformation, and online censorship.
- Data protection and the Personal Data Protection Bill.
- IPR & Constitution.

## **G. REFORMS AND THE WAY FORWARD**

- Electoral reforms and model code of conduct.
- Role of youth and participatory democracy.
- Revisiting constitutional duties and civic education.
- Strengthening local governance institutions.

### **THE SEMINAR WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING SESSIONS:**

- **Inaugural Session:** Keynote address by eminent constitutional scholar/jurist
- **Plenary Sessions:** Thematic panels with invited experts and policymakers
- **Technical Paper Presentation Sessions:** Parallel sessions for paper presentations
- **Valedictory Session:** Summary and recommendations

### **TARGET PARTICIPANTS:**

- Academicians and researchers in law, political science, public administration, sociology, economics
- Judges, advocates, and legal practitioners
- Representatives of civil society and NGOs
- Policy makers and bureaucrats
- Students of law and social sciences
- Media professionals and digital rights activists

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

Research papers and case studies are invited on the sub-themes. All papers will be peer-reviewed. Selected papers may be published in an edited book (**ISBN**).

- **Abstract Submission:** 300 words
- **Full Paper Submission:** 3000–5000 words
- **Citation Style:** Bluebook (21<sup>st</sup> edition) or APA (as applicable)

### **IMPORTANT DATES (TENTATIVE)**

- **Last Date for Abstract Submission:** 24th October 2025
- **Notification of Acceptance:** 1st November 2025
- **Last Date for Full Paper Submission:** 14th November 2025
- **Seminar Dates:** 26th November 2025

**NOTE: ONLY THE SELECTED PAPERS WILL BE PUBLISHED.**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

#### **SEMINAR COORDINATORS**

- Prof. (Dr.) Syamala Kandadai
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### **FOR FURTHER QUERIES CONTACT**

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