

## **TWO DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR ON ELECTORAL REFORMS AND THE LAW AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES, COCHIN**

### **The University**

The National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS) is a State University established by law in Kerala to advance and disseminate learning and knowledge of law and legal processes, to develop scholarship and a sense of responsibility towards society and to promote legal and judicial reforms to strengthen the administration of justice in India. The University is located in Cochin, Kerala State, India and offers courses at the graduate, post-graduate and doctoral levels besides certificate and diploma courses.

### **The Organiser**

The Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Law Reforms (CPSLR) under the NUALS is an endeavour of the University to make legislation more effective for social transformation and to achieve social justice by equitable administration of law. The CPSLR adopts an inter-disciplinary approach to identify the inadequacies of present laws, suggest the changes required and support the enactment of new laws to meet emerging challenges. The CPSLR strives to guarantee public participation in the process of law making thus providing valuable inputs for the qualitative improvement of the law. It provides a point of convergence for law makers, academicians and the general public.

### **The Topic**

Free and fair elections ensure the survival of a democracy. In every election supervised by the Election Commission of India, we witness a battle between the forces inimical to democracy and those in favour at one or the other level. This prompts measures and counter-measures to identify and rectify the loopholes present in the system that restricts the freedom and fairness in the elections. The Election Commission of India is the institution practically responsible for the conduct of elections and hence in a comparatively better position to provide factual data. The interpretation of such data needs the constant supervision of the enlightened public lest democracy be undermined by a flawed zeal that pits freedom and fairness against the fundamentals of democracy.

A Background Paper on Electoral Reforms prepared by the Core-Committee on Electoral Reforms of the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India and co-sponsored by the Election Commission of India, was

published in December, 2010 to initiate public debate and formulate opinion on the topic. Much debate has taken place thereafter.

It is proposed that the reforms suggested in the Background Paper be studied comprehensively in the light of developments thereafter in a National Seminar to be hosted by NUALS with participation from the members of the enlightened public, the professionals, the academics and all other stakeholders in our democracy.

### **The Seminar**

The seminar is proposed to be a national one with sessions running to two days keeping in view the importance of the subject, the number of changes that are proposed in the consultation paper and the divergent views possible on the topic.

There would be an inaugural session on day one followed by two technical sessions and a valedictory session on the next day. The sessions would be arranged to facilitate papers on similar issues to be dealt with jointly, followed by moderated discussions and deliberations.

The seminar aims to provide a legal perspective to the proposed electoral reforms. It is proposed to invite experts as resource persons for each session. The CPSLR intends to organise on a later date, a symposium with the participation of national level leaders of political parties who will be asked to respond to the findings of the seminar.

### **Thematic break-up**

For convenience and to enable focussed discussions the seminar is broken up into the following technical sessions:

#### Technical Session I

1. Criminalisation of Politics
2. Financing of Elections
3. Regulating Political Parties
4. Auditing of Finances of Political Parties

#### Technical Session II

1. Conduct and Better Management of Elections
2. Adjudication of Election Disputes
3. Review of Anti-Defection Law
4. Alternatives to the present system (List System, Functional and Proportional Representation, Right to Recall, etc.)

## Call for Papers

Academicians, lawyers, researchers, students, laymen and others interested in the subject are invited to present papers on the themes mentioned in the breakup of the seminar. An abstract not exceeding 150 words shall be submitted for consideration. The abstract shall preferably contain the synopsis of the paper with a brief reference to the conclusion. The abstract accompanied by a covering letter with the name, designation, postal and email address and telephone number of the contributor may kindly be posted or emailed to:

**Director,  
Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Law Reforms,  
National University of Advanced Legal Studies,  
HMT Colony P.O., Cochin 683 503,  
Kerala State, INDIA.**

**Email: [cpslr@nuals.ac.in](mailto:cpslr@nuals.ac.in)**

The abstract should reach on or before 20<sup>th</sup> of February, 2012. Papers shall be accepted for presentation at the seminar after a process of screening and approval done by the organisers. The intimation of selection will be made through email on 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, 2012. The full paper should reach on or before 25<sup>th</sup> of February, 2012. There will not be any delegate fee.

The seminar is scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of March, 2012.

For registration & further enquiries, please contact the **Research Assistant, Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Law Reforms, National University of Advanced Legal Studies, HMT Colony P.O., Cochin 683 503, Kerala State, INDIA** at [cpslr@nuals.ac.in](mailto:cpslr@nuals.ac.in)

## Important Dates

**Seminar: 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> of March, 2012.**

**Submission of Abstract: 20<sup>th</sup> of February, 2012.**

**Submission of Full Paper: 25<sup>th</sup> of February, 2012.**



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Cochin, Kerala**

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**NUALS Campus, Cochin**