

Miranda House

University of Delhi

A two day National Seminar funded by ICSSR:

Constitutional Morality and Governance: Challenges and Possibilities

23-24 April 2018

Call for papers

Constitution of India is a moral and legal document. It embodies an ethical vision on how governance 'ought to be'. This vision is a product of rigorous study of experiments and experiences of many other countries and their constitutions. The makers of constitution were wise enough to understand that the 'moral' content of the society changes with socio-economic and political context. Therefore, they made Constitution of India amenable to amendments. However, the enthusiasm and energy to see the Constitution as a tool for sustaining, strengthening and shaping morality of society waned soon in post- independence India. However, the Indian judiciary constantly continued referring and interpreting it, in order to protect the constitutionality and to accept any amendment as per the ethos of the constitution. The engagements with the Constitution of India by politicians, policy makers and people at large got diluted by 1960s. The focus of the study to Indian politics also got shifted from the study of constitutional morality to political processes and social movements. The immediate consequence of this shift was that the constitution was rarely seen as a moral text to be understood and interpreted in terms of values and ideals. The centrality of constitutional morality got subordinated by the public morality which was often governed by dominant sections of society, in return, started shaping the understanding of the role of the government, the expected behavior of the politicians and the performance of the governance.

In the early 1990s, the Indian state underwent change in the light of the globalisation, liberalization, and privatization. It was in this context, the role of the state as the sole actor to ensure governance has shifted. Of late, governance received a new terminology called as "good governance" and with the change, several plural actors like the state, market, institutions, civil society, are being involved in shaping the society, in distributing and managing the public resources. However, it is worth mentioning that governance in the current times is still interlinked with the rule of law under the constitution. Furthermore, governance allows inclusion, participation and also ensures responsiveness from the political leaders.

To understand challenges and possibilities of constitutional morality and governance in contemporary India, it is imperative for scholars, students, and the society at large to engage in a deliberation. Keeping in mind, significance of these aspects a two day national seminar on

'Constitutional Morality and Governance: Challenges and Possibilities' is a platform to discuss, deliberate and dedicate to following themes.

Session I. Rights, Constitutional Morality and Governance

Session II. Development, Constitutional Morality and Governance

Session III. Social Inclusion, Constitutional Morality and Governance

Research papers related to core themes are invited from research scholars, faculty members and independent scholars from any disciplinary background. If you are interested in presenting the paper in the seminar, kindly note that an abstract of 300 words have to be submitted by **13 April 2018** and selected authors will be notified by **16 April 2018**. Full text of selected papers will need to be submitted by **20 April 2018**. For further queries and submission of abstracts and full text/paper please contact the email address given below:
mhicssrseminar2018@gmail.com