



Parul Institute of Law

Faculty of Law, Parul University, Vadodara.

National Conference on 'Scientific Temperament in Public Policy: Social engineering lives'

February 29, 2020 Saturday

Prologue:

India remains one of the countries that encompasses diverse and distinct cultures and practices. Religion has remained a significant component in Indian history, foundational for the conceptions of morality, and thereby contributing to the formation of a strong value system in the society. Its influence on state policies is an undeniable truth. However, with the growth and development in the field of science, religion considered as a human construct, was continuously doubted and questioned for the premises that were intangible and unproved. In the Indian context, during the colonial period, the British tried to modify Indian practices of paganism to European enlightenment.

In independent India, with an objective to build an independent and free India in true sense, the constituent assembly looked in incorporating measures to address certain practices rooted in caste, superstitions and other exclusionary norms under the ambit of religion.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru included in his speech on at the midnight of 14th August 1947, to 'fight and end poverty and ignorance...' and to 'build up a prosperous, democratic and progressive nation'. Religion that had based the beliefs, opinions and mindsets was allowed to remain as it were. The same has been ensured and fostered through our own meaning and understanding of 'secularism' – *Sarva Dharma Sambhav*, an Indianised version, unlike the American concept. The Indian Constitution protects and promotes these diverse, distinct cultures and practices, and ensures a peaceful cohabitation of all of them through its basic values of liberty, fraternity, human dignity, unity and integrity of the nation, thereby fostering pluralism.

The same percolates in the laws and policies of the country where every individual has an unbridled liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship, yet carefully remains restricted to not to conflict with each other. One of the fundamental duties under Art. 51 A (h) is "to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform". Scientific Temper refers to an open, question seeking mind. It seeks to invoke and develop critical thinking, rationality and objectivity in the different facets of life.

In contemporary India, with the advent of scientific advancements and technological modernization, the lifestyle of individuals has seen a drastic change. Despite the pursuit of excellence, India harbors certain beliefs and practices based on superstitions than science. An illustration for the same could be the ISRO chairman seeking divine help for the success of Mars Orbiter mission by performing pujas. Another social issue is caste-based discrimination that continues to further the restrictive system based on certain set of social norms. Within the past decade, numerous activists have succumbed to death as they fought to eradicate these traditional

beliefs, superstitions and practices. Activists including Narendra Dabholkar, M. M. Kalburgi, Gauri Lankesh questioning the religion based socio-political beliefs were murdered for their efforts in rationalizing the general perception in the society.

When such deeply ingrained beliefs exist in an individual's personal and public sphere, laws can mould the behavior of the individuals and in turn, reshape the mindset of the society. It is pertinent to analyze the nature and objectivity of laws within the socio-political context and understanding the efficacy of these laws and assess the need to adapt them to the changing social interests.

About the event:

Parul Institute of Law and Centre of Research for Development, Parul University is organizing a National Conference titled 'Scientific Temperament in Public Policy: Social engineering lives' on 29th February, 2020 Saturday. The conference aims to serve as a platform to discuss and critically review the journey of India from 1947. It seeks to engage the stakeholders from different spheres and analyze the role of scientific temperament in public policy. While the same is critical inclusiveness and peaceful growth, and development of the nation, it also has its inadvertent influence and impact on individual lives.

The objective of the conference is to identify these grey areas, develop sustainable solutions through discourse from diverse fields and disciplines, and work towards creating a pluralistic and egalitarian society.

Papers may be presented on the following sub-themes:

- Religion and culture – Inter-relations in modern discourses of law
- Role of State: Moralizing law or legalizing morality
- Customary law – legitimizing beliefs
- Role of law in engineering perceptions and moulding opinions
- Nationalism and Jingoism in contemporary times – an output of blind faith
- Homogenization of beliefs and way of living – A premise for national integration
- Arthashastra: Law, state and economics in current times
- Judicial trends in promoting constitutional mandate of developing scientific temper
- State approaches to dissent – Scientific attitude in public discourse
- Innovations in curriculum and pedagogical tools in education
- Approaches to further pluralism in public policy
- Critical approach to research – A quest for truth

The above-mentioned themes are only indicative and any paper relevant to the main theme of the conference may be submitted.

Submission guidelines:

- Abstracts of 250 - 300 words with the title of the paper, a brief one-page CV of the author(s) along with their institutional affiliation, can be submitted on or before February 20, 2019. Keywords (at least 3) must also be mentioned.
- Co-authorship of maximum two participants is allowed. However, individual registrations must be done.

- The full paper should not be more than 5000 words excluding images, tables, footnotes, and bibliography. The full paper can be submitted on or before March 2, 2019.
- Use 14pt bold font size for the title and 12pt normal font for the main text with 1.5-line spacing. All text should be in Times New Roman font. Use APA style for referencing.
- The authors are required to take special care in citing all the sources that they will refer to in their submissions. Submission of a paper implies that the work is original and not plagiarized in any manner. The submissions will be checked for plagiarism.
- The abstracts along with the brief CV and the full papers, and any other communication is to be done to **conference.pil@paruluniversity.ac.in**

Registrations can be done on: <https://forms.gle/phrqfSLvddMhULaf8>

Timeline:

- **17 February 2020** – Submission of abstracts
- **25 February 2020** – Last date for Registration
- **29 February 2020** – Conference date and submission of full paper

Intimation of abstract selection will be communicated within 3 working days.

- **Selected papers will be published in the form of Conference proceedings with ISBN.**

Conference Chair

Dr. Akil Saiyed,
Director, Parul Institute of Law
Dean, Faculty of Law, PU

Organizing Secretary

Mr. Jimmy Jose
Assistant Professor

Support Committee

Dr. Kalpesh Gupta

Shri. P. N. Parikh

Mr. Gururaj Devarhubli

Dr. Rajesh Singh

Ms. Astha Chaturvedi

Ms. Shruti Kamble

Mr. Hari Krishna Rajput

Mr. Faiz Ayat Ansari

Ms. Axita Thakkar

Payment Mode:

Via demand draft in favour of “**Research & Development Unit of PU**” or online mode on the account details given below:

Students	Participants	250	Bank	: HDFC Bank
	Presenters	500	Account Name	: R & D Centre Unit of PU
Research Scholars/ Academicians/ Professionals	Participants	500	Account Number	: 50100269520370
	Presenters	1000	IFSC Code	: HDFC0009277
			MICR Code	: 390240031
			Branch	: Sangam Char Rasta

For any queries or clarifications, please contact: Mr. Jimmy Jose (+91 78029 14805)