

# NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON MEDIA LAW

27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Organised by

**Law Commission of India**



**National Law University, Delhi**

at

*Jacaranda Hall | India Habitat Centre | Lodhi Road | New Delhi- 03*

## Schedule

### 27 September 2014: Day I

TIME	EVENT
9:00 – 10:00	REGISTRATION
10:00 – 10.50	INAUGURATION
11:15 – 1:15	<b>PANEL I: Self Regulation v. Statutory Regulation: Does the news media need structural regulation?</b>
2:00 – 3:30	<b>PANEL II: Contempt of Court and Reporting of Court and Legislative Proceedings</b>
3:30-5:00	<b>PANEL III: Privacy, Defamation and Trial by Media</b>

### 28 September 2014: Day II

TIME	EVENT
10:00-10:15	Address by Chief Election Commissioner
10:15 – 11:45	<b>PANEL IV: Paid News, Opinion and Exit Polls</b>
11:45 – 1:15	<b>PANEL V: Social Media</b>
1:15 – 1:45	Open House

**Panel Descriptions and Composition**  
**Inaugural Panel**

**DURATION:** 10.00 am to 10.50 am

<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
10:00 – 10:05	<b>Words of Welcome by Prof. (Dr.) Ranbir Singh, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, Delhi</b>
10:05 – 10:15	<b>Address by Justice AP Shah, Chairman, Law Commission of India</b>
10:15 - 10:30	<b>Address by Guest of Honour, Mr. Prakash Javadekar, Minister of State for Information &amp; Broadcasting and Environment &amp; Forests (IC)</b>
10:30 – 10:45	<b>Inaugural Address by Chief Guest, Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister for Law &amp; Justice and Communications &amp; IT</b>
10:45 – 10:50	<b>Words of Thanks by Prof. (Dr.) Mool Chand Sharma, Member, Law Commission of India</b>

27 September 2014: Day I

**PANEL I: SELF REGULATION V. STATUTORY REGULATION: DOES  
THE NEWS MEDIA NEED STRUCTURAL REGULATION?**

(11.15 am – 1.15 pm)

**8 minutes per speaker followed by audience inputs**

**SPEAKERS**

1. Justice R.V. Raveendran
2. Soli Sorabjee
3. N. Ram
4. Rajdeep Sardesai
5. Ravish Kumar
6. Vanita Kohli-Khandekar

**MODERATOR:** Sidharth Varadarajan

**DESCRIPTION:** This session will consider whether the Indian media require regulation in order to fulfill their democratic functions. Content and structural regulation, including regulation of media ownership, will be discussed in this context. Discussants will be encouraged to explore the relative merits of different regulatory strategies, including self and state-led regulation.

27 September 2014: Day I

**PANEL II: CONTEMPT OF COURT AND REPORTING OF COURT AND  
LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS**

*(2.00 pm – 3.30 pm)*

**8 minutes per speaker followed by audience inputs**

**SPEAKERS**

1. Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw
2. H.K. Dua
3. Rajeev Dhavan
4. Geeta Seshu

**MODERATOR:** Barkha Dutt

**DESCRIPTION:** This panel will discuss the Indian and common law of contempt, and the urgent need for reform of contempt laws. In particular it will address the question of whether ‘scandalising’ the court should continue as a criminal offence, and the law governing the reporting of court proceedings. This panel will also discuss how reporting of proceedings of courts and the legislature can be best facilitated, so that the right to know and the interests of justice are balanced.

27 September 2014: Day I

**PANEL III: PRIVACY, DEFAMATION AND TRIAL BY MEDIA**

(3.30 pm – 5.00 pm)

8 minutes per speaker followed by audience inputs

**SPEAKERS**

1. Justice Ravindra Bhat
2. Madhavi G. Divan
3. Vinod Mehta
4. Saikat Datta

**MODERATOR:** Manoj Mitta

**DESCRIPTION:** This panel will discuss the concerns arising when the right to free speech and the freedom of the press create harms to individuals. It will discuss these individual interests as they arise in the course of media trials, as well as generally. In particular, it will discuss how privacy protections can be better formulated, and the case for the effectiveness of criminal penalties for defamation.

**28 September 2014: Day II**

**PANEL IV: PAID NEWS, OPINION AND EXIT POLLS**

(10.00 am – 11.45 am)

**8 minutes per speaker followed by audience inputs**

**Address by Chief Election Commissioner**

**SPEAKERS**

1. Uday Shankar
2. Meenakshi Arora
3. P. Sainath
4. Shashi Shekhar
5. Paranjoy Guha Thakurta

**MODERATOR:** Maneesh Chhibber

**DESCRIPTION:** This session will consider the issues of paid news and the regulation of opinion and exit polls in the context of the distortions in the media landscape. These issues will be examined both from the perspective of the right to free speech, including the public's right to receive information, and from the effect of paid news and opinion and exit polls on the conduct of free and fair elections.

**28 September 2014: Day II**

**PANEL V: SOCIAL MEDIA**

(11.45 am – 1.15 pm)

**8 minutes per speaker followed by audience inputs**

**SPEAKERS**

1. Sidharth Luthra
2. Usha Ramanathan
3. Karuna Nundy
4. Dr. Gulshan Rai
5. Gitanjali Duggal

**MODERATOR:** Pavan Duggal

**DESCRIPTION:**

Intermediary liability remains one of the most significant issues in the context of the social media. The law currently requires intermediaries to block access to content in response to government orders, and to take down content that infringes law upon receiving notice to do so. Many have criticized the prevailing legal system for resulting in over-blocking of online speech. This session will explore the concerns of various stakeholders in this context.

**28 September 2014: Day II**

**OPEN HOUSE**

(1.15 pm – 1.45 pm)

Justice Usha Mehra, Justice S.N. Kapoor and Prof. (Dr.) Mool Chand Sharma, Members of Law Commission of India will be interacting with the audience.

Archived