

网上研讨会

从宪法视角及其他方面比较中国 和印度两国少数民族享有的权利

National Webinar on

Balancing the Minorities' Rights in China and India

A Constitutional Perspective and Beyond

27 January 2022, 11:00 AM (IST)

Information Brochure



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Faculty of Law University of Delhi

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Balancing the Minorities' Rights in China and India: A Constitutional Perspective and Beyond

One-Day National Webinar

Protection of minorities' rights in international affairs is a dominant subject and China is not an exception. The denial of social and cultural rights to minorities by some Asian countries has attracted attention from global media and the United Nations. The question of minorities' rights in China has been an issue of substantial advances in the academic world too. The western media has been critical towards China drawing global attention to the issue of denial of human rights and religious freedom to Uyghur Muslims of Xinjiang (China). At present, balancing ethnicity, diversity, and minorities rights within the democratic framework has been the biggest challenge for China. If we decipher China's development and ethnic policies, it is evident that China has been tackling the minorities' rights, cultural diversity, and dignity with national integration to some extent. The protection of minorities' rights, thus, operates on the hypothesis that social, cultural, and linguistic affiliations are essential features of the very notion of a modern nationstate and the question is whether China fits this hypothesis? In contrast, India's standards towards minorities' rights are premised on the theory of secularism and the idea of multiculturalism, preserving India's ethnic diversity. It is admitted that certain occurrences of deprivation of cultural and religious rights have taken place; but minorities in India have been in a better position than in China. India is portrayed as one the most complex multi-ethnic societies governed by a modern nation-state and has been consistent in resolving its ethnic differences amicably.

The Constitution of India adopted two methods for protecting the interests of minorities. Firstly, the constitutional guarantee which is understood as the constructive quality of provisions that protects from discrimination and inequal treatment. Secondly, it has also conferred some special rights (in the form of special provisions) also known as affirmative action for the minorities.

The webinar will primarily focus on the status of religious, cultural and linguistic autonomy of the minorities in China and India under the international human rights law framework. While the Indian Constitution promises autonomy to its religious minorities and assures minorities their freedoms; on the other hand, China which is considered a restricted society remarkable in scale and duration has been weakened by the rise of xenophobic nationalism and threats to its religious minorities, especially the Uyghur Muslims and the inhabitants of Tibetan Autonomous Region, China. The international community and major powers of the world have repeatedly displayed their strong displeasure towards China over the denial of basic human rights to the Tibetan population and the need for a holisitic resolution of the Tibetan nationalist issue.

The major thrust of this webinar is to decipher how minorities are being treated in China and India, what policies they have adopted to balance the minorities' rights and development strategies. Whether China follows affirmative action for its minorities? What are the major grievances of Uyghur Muslims of Xinjiang and Tibetan minorities (China)? What is the Chinese constitutional and ethnic policy towards cultural and religious autonomy of its ethnic communities? The webinar will be a humble attempt to expand the existing knowledge about India and China in sphere of protection of minorities' rights of the two Asian powers.



Prof. (Dr.) Alka ChawlaPatron and Professor-in-charge,
Campus Law Centre

Welcome Address

Prof. Alka Chawla teaches Intellectual Property Law, Administrative Law and Jurisprudence and is an authority on IPRs in India and abroad. She holds a Ph.D. in Copyright Law from the University of Delhi. She has twice figured in the 'Top hundred powerful women in Law' list by the World IP Forum. She has been nominated as the 'National expert on Intellectual Property' by the European Trade and Business Council; Mentor to the Intellectual Property Protection Organisation; Advisor to National IP Organisation and Member, Education Committee, FICCI. She has authored

two books on Copyright Law published by Macmillan and Lexis Nexis and has articles and research papers in reputed journals. She is the author of the 'Report on Counterfeiting and Piracy in India' (OECD, Europe). She has delivered lectures at various national/foreign universities and various Judicial, Police and Custom Academies throughout the country. She has been a resource person for seminars, workshops and courses conducted by the WIPO, USPTO, UGC, etc.



Prof. B. R. Deepak

Professor & Chairperson, Centre for Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Speaker's Topic > China and Tibet: Beyond the Constitutional Autonomy

Prof. B. R. Deepak presently serves as Professor at Centre for Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Prof. Deepak is one of the most prominent voices on Chinese Studies in South Asia and he routinely appears on all national news channels programmes as an expert on China and shares his views with the policymakers, academics, and media circle. He is known for his straightforward approach to Chinese matter and his thoughts and views are largely based on ground realities and authentic information on China. He has

authored many books and research papers and his major area of specialization are Chinese Language and Literary Work, China-India Strategic Relations, Ethnicity and Tibet Issues, and China's Socio-Political and Economic issues. Prof. Deepak is also the recipient of the prestigious Nehru Fellow Award-1996 and Asia Fellow Award-2006. Currently, he is the Chairperson of Centre for Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University.



Dr. Debasish Chaudhuri

Assistant Professor, Guru Nanak Dev University

Speaker's Topic > Protection of Minorities' Rights in Xinjiang Problem: Resolution through Legal and Political Means

Dr. Debasish Chaudhuri is currently a faculty in the Department of Foreign Languages, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab. His research interests includes Chinese nationalism and ethnicity, regional economy and politics, ethnonational movements in Xinjiang, political dissent and ethnic literature. He has authored two books titled 'Countering Internal Security Challenges in Xinjian–Rise of the Surveillance State' (2021) and 'Xinjiang and the Chinese State–Violence in the Reform Era' (2018). His other publications include 'Xinjiang Studies and its Relevance in India' (2020), 'Nationality Work under the Fifth-Generation

Leadership: Xinjiang Question' (2019), 'Land, People and Faith: Wang Meng's Narrative of Uyghur Life in Zhe bian fengjing' (2019), 'Evolution of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Role of India' (2016), 'China's Policy in Xinjiang, 1948-78' (2016), 'Minority Economy in Xinjiang–A Source of Uyghur Resentment' (2010) and 'A Survey of the Economic Situation in Xinjiang and its Role in the Twenty-First Century' (2005). He has taught at Jawaharlal Nehru University and University of Delhi and has worked as Research Faculty at Vivekananda Foundation and Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS).



Dr. Narender Nagarwal

Webinar Director & Speaker Assistant Professor, Campus Law Centre

Speaker's Topic > Debating Constitutionalism and Balancing the Minorities' Rights in China and India

Dr. Narender Nagarwal currently teaches law at Campus Law Centre and is known for his extensive work on Constitutional Law, Minorities Law and Human Rights in India. Besides having a Ph.D. in Constitutional Law, his work in critical areas of secularism studies, strategic area studies and certain issues of India's foreign policy has been influential. His other areas of interests include peace and conflict studies, Indo-Pak relations, South Asia and Middle East studies. He began his academic life from University of North Bengal, Darjeeling (West Bengal) and has also served in Pondicherry

Central University, Puducherry. He has lectured at scores of universities and law schools in India on various issues of Constitutional Law, Minorities Law and Police Reforms. He has also authored many research papers and book chapters, and his work has opened up new areas of research on conceptions of Minorities Law in India and South Asia. He is also a member of editorial boards of leading publications and journals in India and abroad.



Mr. Jai Prakash Meena

Webinar Secretary Assistant Professor, Campus Law Centre

Jai Prakash Meena is an Assistant Professor in the Campus Law Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. He has done his B.A. LL.B.(Hons.) from the University of Rajasthan and LL.M. from the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research – NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. He continued his

academic interest and completed his Post Graduate Diploma in Labour Laws. He has a number of publications both in national as well as international journals. He has attended many national, international seminars, conferences, and workshops.

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Student Organizing Committee



Akshay Kumar Student Convener LL.B. Third Year

(+91) 9452 6557 07

Ananthu G SStudent Convener
LL.B. Second Year

(+91) 7736 3649 85



Kanika Chhillar Student Co-Convener LL.B. Third Year

(+91) 7838 9095 30



Minthang TimothyStudent Co-Convener
LL.B. Third Year

(+91) 9899 2272 41

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