

NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON MEDIA LAW

27th & 28th September 2014

Organised by

Law Commission of India

in

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
10.50 - 11:15	TEA
11:15 – 1:15	PANEL I: Self Regulation v. Statutory Regulation: Does the news media need structural regulation?
1:15 – 2:00	LUNCH
2:00 – 3:30	PANEL II: Contempt of Court and Reporting of Court and Legislative Proceedings
3:30-5:00	PANEL III: Privacy, Defamation and Trial by Media

28 September 2014: Day II

TIME	EVENT
9:30 – 10:00	TEA
10:00-10:15	Address by Chief Election Commissioner
10:15 – 11:45	PANEL IV: Paid News, Opinion and Exit Polls
11:45 – 1:15	PANEL V: Social Media
1:15 – 1:45	Open House
1:45 – 2:30	LUNCH

Panel Descriptions and Composition

Inaugural Panel

DURATION: 10.00 am to 10.50 am

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

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.