



THE INDIAN LAW INSTITUTE
BHAGWAN DAS ROAD
NEW DELHI



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF LAW
AND GOVERNANCE,
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

*National Conference
on*

***Fifty Years of Basic Structure Doctrine (1973 - 2023):
In Retrospect and Prospect***

Presidential Address:

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat

Speakers:

Prof. (Dr.) Upendra Baxi

Emeritus Professor, University
of Warwick and Delhi.

Prof. (Dr.) Kamala Sankaran

Professor and Ford Foundation Chair in PIL,
NLSIU, Bangalore.

Dr. P. Puneeth

Associate Professor, CSLG, JNU, New Delhi.

The most profound and entirely unique contribution of the Indian judiciary to constitutional jurisprudence is the development of the doctrine of basic structure. It was designed to save the essential form and spirit of the Constitution, but it also conferred unparalleled power on the Indian judiciary to strike down constitutional amendments. Ever since its invention on April 24, 1973, the question – is it a boon or a bane has been a subject matter of discussions and academic writings. How might we address this binary today? Or what kind of constitutional promise does the judicial interpretation of the basic structure doctrine hold for the future? As the doctrine completes 50 years of its existence, it is important to revisit the question and to, particularly, look at how well it worked in the past 50 years and is it still efficacious to preserve the Constitution even today when its core values are diluted not through formal constitutional amendments but through other means.

Date and Venue:

April 24, 2023 @ 4.00 PM
Plenary Hall,
The Indian Law Institute, New Delhi.

Coordinators:

Jyoti Dogra Sood
Pratiksha Baxi
P. Puneeth

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