UNITY AND DIVERSITY: A CONSTITUTIONAL PERSPECTIVE

India is a land of diversities in every sense of the term. Hundreds of languages are spoken across India which have different dialects. India is also a country of divergent races where one race is altogether different from the other race. In terms of culture, heterogeneity reaches its climax. Indian state has different cultures within the same area among the people of different castes, religious groups and tribal affiliations. Religion-wise, Indian state remains heterogeneous not only in the context of presence of different dominant religious groups within the country but also in view of the fact that within the major religions there are so many denominations having altogether different religious tenets from other denominations within the same group. Diversity within a religion reaches its climax among Hindus to the extent that so many scholars including Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, say that “Hinduism is not a religion, but a common-wealth of the faiths that originated from the sub-continent”. Keeping in view this diversity the founding fathers of the Indian constitution made unity in diversity the bedrock of Indian polity.

Protection of religion both individual as well as corporate is a fundamental right within the constitution. Every section of Indians having distinct culture, script or language of its own
has a right to conserve the same. For the sake of conservation of linguistic and religious identity minorities have been allowed to establish educational institutions of their choice. The State cannot intervene in the administration of these institutions except for maintenance of academic standards. India does not have a national language but official languages. Apart from official languages, Hindi and English so many other languages have been recognized by the constitution. Seen in the context of this scenario India seems to be a land of minorities, be they linguistic, religious, cultural or ethnic. It is this notion of Indian polity that has for long been a subject of debate among the socio-legal circles of the country. Recently the issue has again become a focus of attention.

It is high time that this topic be deliberated upon in the context of contemporary situation. In order to contribute to this debate, the School of Legal Studies, Central University of Kashmir has decided to hold a seminar on “Unity and Diversity: A Constitutional Perspective”.

Sub-Themes of the Seminar

Status of the Cultural and Linguistic identities within Indian Legal Framework.

- Educational and Cultural Rights of Linguistic and Religious Minorities in India
- Ethnicity and Law
- Caste, Religion and Affirmative Action
- Indian Federalism and Regional Identities
- Homogeneity and Pluralism.
- Challenges to Secular Ethos of India

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Abstract:** The abstract of the paper comprising 300 words must reach us by or before 05th September, 2014
- **Notification of Acceptance of Abstracts:** The list of the accepted abstracts will be displayed on the university website on 10th September, 2014. Acceptance of the abstract will be conveyed as per the report of the referees.
- **Full Paper:** The full papers of the accepted abstracts comprising 4000 to 5000 words must reach us by or before 1st October, 2014. It may be emphasized that no paper presentation will be allowed without the submission of the full paper.

The soft copy of the submission may be addressed at seminar.slscuk@gmail.com and the hard copy at Mr. Hilal Ahmad Najar, Coordinator, National Seminar on Unity and Diversity-A Constitutional Perspective, School of Legal Studies, Central University of Kashmir, Kanipora Road, Nowgam-190015. All; the information regarding the acceptance of papers etc. will be conveyed through e-mail only.
**REGISTRATION FEE:**

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Before 5th Sept., 2014</th>
<th>Late Fee (upto 20th Sept., 2014)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>Rs. 2000/</td>
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<td>Research Scholars</td>
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Co-author shall not be more than one in a single paper. Rules of registration fee are equally applicable for the co-authorship as well.

No T.A/D.A will be paid. However, the local hospitality will be provided by the university. Accommodation for outstation participants will be arranged by the university.

**THE SCHOOL OF LEGAL STUDIES: AN OVERVIEW**

The School of Legal Studies is one of the emerging teaching centres at the Central University of Kashmir. It is the first department of the university to start an undergraduate course in Law in the form of B.A.LL.B integrated course with an annual intake capacity of 50 students. In the year 2012, the School launched the LL.M course which is a postgraduate course in Law, with an annual intake capacity of 10 scholars. The postgraduate programme was started with an intention to make the School not only a teaching centre but also a research centre. This centre of learning includes not only legal academics but also social scientists in order to give added impetus and develop the interdisciplinary strengths in the School at various levels. The students in the School are admitted through an all India competition in order to attract the best talent from the country and afford them an opportunity to pursue the various courses offered by the Department.

The school also offers the doctoral research programme in Law from July, 2014. At present, the School focuses on the following research areas: **Criminal Justice System, International Law, Human Rights, Business and Corporate Law, Islamic and Comparative Law, Constitutional Law.**

Apart from offering degrees in law at undergraduate, post-graduate and research levels, the school also teaches human rights to the post-graduate students of other departments of the university to inculcate in them a sense of social responsibility with high respect for all irrespective of caste, colour, creed, gender, religion, culture, complexion and place of birth.

**PROGRAMMES OFFERED**

**B.A.LL.B.**

The school offers an integrated honours degree in B.A.LL.B. that is a five-year undergraduate degree programme. Students after passing higher secondary school examination (10+2) become eligible to seek admission in this course. The admission is strictly based on **All India Central Universities Common Entrance Test (CUCET).** Students in this course are imparted knowledge in different fields of arts and social sciences like **General English, Economics, History, Political Science and Sociology** along with a comprehensive knowledge about the **law.**
undergraduates are also required, at the end of the course, to complete the compulsory internship programme at various law firms. A degree in law, especially the B.A.LL.B course, provides myriad career opportunities in public as well as private sector organizations. There are excellent job prospects for law graduates not only in Government Services (Judicial, Administrative and Academic) but also in business, industry, and the traditional careers as barristers or solicitors in private practice.

**Post Graduate Programme (LL.M)**
The LL.M is a two-year postgraduate research degree programme. It involves both taught and research components. Scholars are required to complete certain foundation courses and few elective courses, in addition to one research project and a dissertation work. The programme specializes in Criminal Justice System and is designed for students who are interested in exploring and developing new critical perspectives on major contemporary national and international debates in this area. Scholars who are admitted to this programme already hold an honours degree in law. The admission to this programme is strictly based on All India Central Universities Common Entrance Test (CUCET) held every year.

**Doctoral Research Programme (Ph.D)**
The school also offers the doctoral research programme in Law from July, 2014. At present, the School focuses on the following research areas: **Criminal Justice System**, **International Law**, **Human Rights**, **Business and Corporate Law**, **Islamic and Comparative Law**, **Constitutional Law**.
ORGANISING COMMITTEE

1. Prof. Mehraj Uddin Mir, Vice-Chancellor, CUK, (Chairman of Seminar)
2. Prof. S. Fayaz Ahmad, Head, Deptt of Tourism Studies
3. Prof. M. Afzal Zargar, Registrar
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6. Mr. Syed Reyaz Rufai, Librarian
7. Mr. Hilal Ahmad Najar, Assistant Professor, Deptt of Law (Coordinator)
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Two Day National Seminar on Unity and Diversity: A Constitutional Perspective

25th & 26th of October, 2014

School of Legal Studies Central University of Kashmir

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