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NATIONAL LEGISLATORS' CONFERENCE BHARAT (INDIA)

राष्ट्रीय विधायक सम्मेलन भारत

REPORT

3rd VISIONING WORKSHOP

11th & 12th March 2023

Jio World Convention Centre Mumbai, Maharashtra

SUPPORTED BY

Indian Student Parliament
Since 2011

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY FOR समर्थ भारत

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Saturday, 11th March 2023

Shri. Rahul V Karad
Executive President, MIT-WPU

Extended a welcome note to guests and requested for involvement at NLC, Bharat not as मेहमान but as a मेज़बान, so the success at outcomes will be more dynamic.

Reflecting on the vision of Dr.Vishwanath D. Karad ji which includes building of institutions for the purpose of nation building, with a neutral basis for such work on practical issues to be addressed.

For a strong India, we need to overcome the fractured relations between the regions, with innovative ways to address issues like water and soil in their regions or issues related to food security from their localities.

We find the involvement and support at MIT-SOG, irrespective of parties and hence the neutrality of the platform is pristine. It is a proud moment as one of the alumni of SOG, Shri. Hemant Ogale has been appointed as the general secretary of the Maharashtra Congress.

To maintain neutrality of the NLC, Bharat, the venue is shifted to Mumbai instead of MITWPU Pune. There is high curiosity on NLC, Bharat - about how we can we bring forth the best practices in every stream, so as to usher disruptive thinking on issues like increasing the cost of elections, bribing of the voters etc. and how we can deploy innovation in a positive manner?

Congratulations on the successful visualisation of the NLC, Bharat conference to be conducted. It has brought together the custodians of the Constitution onto a single platform. This conference is going to lay the foundation for a stronger democracy and greater value to the parliamentary democracy, which is the best of the best systems adopted by India.

It is heartening to see that diversity, which contributes to the strength of the nation, is being celebrated at this conference. The multicultural and multilingual culture of India is unmatched, and such conferences that derive from this strength are going to certainly contribute to a new and stronger India.

As responsible legislators, it is our duty to ensure that people don't lose their faith in democracy. We are people service oriented and need to be the best of the legislatures to achieve this. It is only through sharing, debating, and reaching conclusions that we can improve the system and support its extension. If we let them down, faith in the system is lost. In light of this, I extend my thanks to all those who are contributing to the success of this conference, and I wholeheartedly support it.

Adv. Rahul Narwekar
Hon'ble Speaker
Maharashtra Legislative Assembly

Dr. Neelam Gorhe
Deputy Chairman of
Maharashtra Legislative Council

Dr Gorhe expressed her willingness to extend assistance for the upcoming conference, towards better legislative functioning. The meetings will lead to a series of recommendations that will strengthen parliamentary democracy in India with crucial debates and discussions.

Given the limited time allotment, deciding on the types of debates to be conducted during the conference is critical. This raises questions and dilemmas regarding time allocation. However, social issues such as dos and don'ts in any discussion, social laws and responsibilities for justice, responsibilities related to education, and justice to victims are essential topics that need to be addressed.

State level committees can play a vital role in state and centre coordination, furthermore, to address the issue of horse trading, proposal for an open ballot in council elections etc. It is crucial to note that such efforts should not be restricted to one-time events but must be a continuous process.

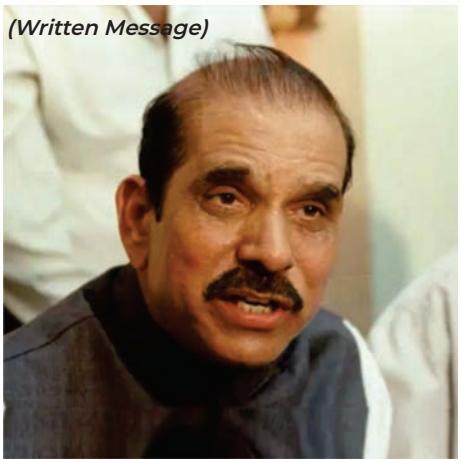
In the digital age, social media can act as a disruptor and pose a threat to legislatures. Sharing her experiences gained from interactions with the EU Parliament, she emphasized the importance of handling intolerance with the help of tolerance.

Protecting and nurturing parliamentary democracy is crucial, and efforts must be made to combat any threats that destabilize it.

Saturday, 11th March 2023

I would like to extend my congratulations to all participants of the NLC, which is a very noble thought. It's heartening to see people come together to strengthen national integrity and uphold other constitutional values. I wish everyone all the best for the success of the NLC, and I hope that this initiative will inspire more people to work towards a better future for our country.

(Written Message)



Shri. Manohar Joshi
Former Speaker of Lok Sabha &
Former Chief Minister, Maharashtra

Dr. Pradnya Rajeev Satav
Hon'ble MLC, Maharashtra

The National Legislators Conference (NLC) is a first-of-its-kind platform that provides an opportunity for legislators to explore the genuine potential of their respective states. While all legislators can benefit from the platform, it is especially important to recognize the importance of female participation.

Women's participation in politics is crucial for strengthening the Indian political system, and we must explore ways to encourage and empower more women to take on leadership roles. In many villages, the Sarpanch Pathi culture can be a barrier for women's participation in politics. Therefore, it is imperative to conduct a session focused on female empowerment. By doing so, we can create a more inclusive and diverse political system that reflects the needs and aspirations of all citizens.

The conference will comprise of 40 thematic sessions covering a diverse range of topics. To make the registration process smoother, online registration through the conference website can be allowed. While traditional media coverage is important, it's also crucial to utilize the power of the internet to reach a wider audience.

The Assembly secretaries can be requested to send the profiles of participating MLAs to promote their engagement in the conference. Additionally, E-Vidhan can be used to facilitate a paperless seminar, enabling the participants to learn from shared experiences.

Dr. Vanlalthlana
Hon'ble MLA
(IND, Aizawl North, Mizoram)

Saturday, 11th March 2023

Smt. Namita Mundada
Hon'ble MLA
(BJP, Kaij, Beed, Maharashtra)

NLC will be working as The Young Legislators' Conference, NLC is an innovative and unique concept that recognizes the importance of engaging with young politicians. As more and more young people enter politics, it is important to address issues that may affect them, such as parental responsibilities.

Providing facilities like creches can create a supportive environment that allows these young politicians to work without disruptions. It is crucial for young people and established politicians alike to stay away from negativity and political rivalries and instead work together to tackle larger issues. By fostering a positive and collaborative environment, we can create a stronger and more effective political system that benefits everyone.

The legislature has 12 broad functions, including legislation, deliberation, financial control, control of the executive, judicial role, executive role, electoral roles, external relations, constitutional role, amendment role, ratification role, and shaping public opinion. However, there are several themes that need to be addressed to improve the capacity and capability of the legislature. Case studies and documentation can be used to enhance the legislative process and ensure accountability.

The specialization of committees and the implementation of a shadow cabinet structure can improve the quality of legislation. The power structure of the executive also needs to be examined to ensure a balance of power. Legislatures should also embrace technology to streamline the legislative process. Adequate funding is crucial for the smooth functioning of the legislature.

In addition, legislators need to engage with youth, children, and elders to ensure their participation in the political process. Finally, research should be conducted to identify and address gaps in legislative functioning.

Prof. Abhishek Mishra
National Secretary & Spokesperson
Samajwadi Party and
Former Minister, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh

Smt. Meira Kumar Ji
Former Speaker, Lok Sabha

Appreciating the selfless efforts of Shri. Rahul V. Karad, called on the need for collaborative work to make the NLC, Bharat a success. It is noteworthy that India is a vast country, and there has been no such attempt made before where state MLAs from different states meet on a neutral platform to share and discuss the ideas for the betterment of the democracy.

NLC Bharat is an innovative platform that has excited everyone and is going to contribute to improve democracy through larger initiatives and discussions. It is important to note that the survival of the Indian democracy is the biggest miracle the world has witnessed, as many European politicians and political scientists had predicted its collapse due to high poverty.

Through our collective efforts at NLC, Bharat we must fight to restore the confidence in the democracy. Furthermore, we should consider inviting the Commonwealth Delegation to participate in this effort.

Saturday, 11th March 2023

The relationships between people and representatives are becoming a major issue as the interest in legislative sessions is declining, and the quality is reducing. The perception of people regarding legislators is also diminishing, with negative connotations such as being corrupt, illiterate, criminal, or rich. We need to reduce this negative perception and bring people together through our actions.

It's important to start at the grassroots level, connecting with voters and improving their perception of the MLA's role. Negative comments on social media are also hindering the legislature's progress. To imbibe positivity among the people, we need to work together, protect the government, provide business opportunities to the opposition, and protect the system.

We must also focus on how to correct the system and ensure that the legislature's sittings are not reduced, and the quality is maintained. Finally, I would like to thank you for your vision and dedication towards bringing positive change in our political system.

Shri. Satish Mahana ji
Hon'ble Speaker
Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly

Dr. C. P. Joshi
Hon'ble Speaker,
Rajasthan Legislative Assembly

To address problems in the parliamentary democracy, IT IS IMPORTANT TO EMPHASISE ON implementation of the proposals for the sucess of any future sessions.

Qualitative analysis of legislative contributions and legislation to date is also necessary. It is important to identify issues for discussion and group them based on topics, with MLA's given the choice of selecting their groups.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a new challenge of a systemic educational divide, and we need to find ways to improve the skills and knowledge of students entering the system.

The different practices across states highlight the need for a political platform where parties can send their nominees to discuss important matters.

Political parties need to be asked to send their nominees to the session, and it is crucial to address the unruly behaviour of representatives. Finally, different states have unique challenges that can be addressed by dividing them into various groups for discussion.

We aim to cultivate a positive outlook towards the political system and encourage participation from diverse cultural groups. Bringing together varied perspectives will lead to improved ideas and better outcomes for the system.

Our goal is to increase attendance and ensure maximum engagement from the public. As we approach the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, we are collaborating with various states to ensure a successful celebration. Congratulations to Rahul Ji for his recent accomplishments, and we are ready to offer our assistance in any way possible.

Shri. Girish Gautam ji
Hon'ble Speaker,
Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly

Saturday, 11th March 2023

Shri. Gian Chand Gupta
Hon'ble Speaker
Haryana Legislative Assembly

NLC Bharat coincides with the eve of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, a platform to strengthen democracy. It also marks as an ensemble of legislators across the country to help in effective exchange of thoughts.

To make the event successful, we need consensus among political parties on how to proceed. It is essential for legislators to acquire knowledge from this platform and improve their understanding of best practices from different regions.

However, with around 4000 people attending the conference, it may be challenging to manage. Therefore, we should form a small group to discuss the issues and come up with a consensus. Ultimately, we need to improve democratic practices' effectiveness by passing a resolution and sending it to all the assemblies for adoption.

When it comes to measuring the success of our efforts, there are various metrics that can be used. While some may argue that the level of enlightenment attained by legislators or political parties is an important indicator of success, it's crucial to remember that technology can also be utilized to our advantage. However, in addition to utilizing technology, it's equally important to prioritize educating voters.

After all, a well-informed and educated electorate is essential to the functioning of a healthy democracy. Therefore, success should be measured not only by the level of enlightenment among those in power but also by the degree of education and engagement among the broader population.

We can look to the example of Brexit in the UK, where Facebook provided data to Cambridge Analytica, which played a significant role in organizing and campaigning for Brexit, ultimately influencing the outcome. Technology has certainly improved our reach, and we should leverage it to increase the reach of our events.

Shri. Ramraje Pratapsinh Naik Nimbalkar ji
Hon'ble MLC, Maharashtra and Former Chairman
Maharashtra Legislative Council

Shri. Dilip Walse Patil
Hon'ble MLA (NCP, Ambegaon, Maharashtra),
Former Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly,
Former Home Minister, Govt. of Maharashtra

NLC, Bharat will be an assembly of young legislators from different parties, and one that could potentially address important issues faced by the legislators. The public perception of representatives is something that needs to be looked into, especially in light of the current state of law-making.

We need to concentrate on different aspects of governance, people are perplexed at how we bring money, and election expenditure is contributing to public perception of political parties. We need to devise mechanisms for the reduction of expenditure and improve the public's perception of us. Every youngster has a mobile phone in their hand, but they're not always ready to take on big ideas.

That's why I would like to request NLC, Bharat to invite all young legislators to this conference, as it would help reduce the cost burden and promote greater participation. Lastly, I hope that we can work together to review our approach to law-making and improve public trust in our political institutions.

Saturday, 11th March 2023

The discussion revolved around various themes at the NLC, including the origins of MIT and its interactions with Shri Vishwanath Karad ji, the establishment of SOG, and the reinvention of democracy. The BCS initiative, which was followed by successive chief ministers, was also discussed. Through brainstorming sessions, concrete programs were developed for a meaningful outcome. There were concerns about the independence of constitutional institutions and the challenges they face.

The weakening of the party system, the reduced number of session days, and the quality of sessions were also points of concern. Participants emphasized the need for strong support from parliamentarians and the separation of powers, highlighting issues such as Chief Minister-centric or party centric politics taking precedence. Issues related to anti-defection, or the hindrance of new ideas were also discussed, along with the post-retirement benefits of the judiciary. To structure the conference properly, party-neutral discussions must be conducted to give real power to the legislature.

Shri. Prithviraj Chavan
Hon'ble MLA (INC, Karad South, Maharashtra)
Former Chief Minister, Maharashtra &
Former Union Minister, Govt. of India

Shri. Rajeev Sethi
Padma Bhushan, Noted Indian Designer
Scenographer & Art Curator & Chairperson
Asian Heritage Foundation

It is essential to allocate enough time to develop creative content that can engage the audience's emotions and make the event a memorable experience. Rushing through the process could compromise the quality of the emotional content created.

To address the challenges faced by the Legislative Council, political parties need to be involved in the process. Live streaming and platforms like websites can be used to make legislative proceedings more accessible to the public and should be employed. To promote transparency and accountability, the anti-defection law should be restricted only to confidence motions, no confidence motions, and budget voting. Committees need to be made more effective, as they are the backbone of the legislative process.

As Woodrow Wilson said, "Congress in session is Congress in exhibition; Congress in committee is Congress at work." The shrinking number of days in each session is a big concern, and more needs to be done to support legislators. The support system for legislatures is weak and inadequately supported, as seen in the example of the American Congress, which employs three minimum support staff or employees for the lower-level leaders and nearly 150 support staff at the highest level.

The composition of the Legislative Council needs to be revisited, and a legislative council for local self-government bodies should be created, just as there is a Rajya Sabha for the states.

Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan IAS (Retd.)
President, Loksatta Party & General Secretary,
Foundation for Democratic Reforms &
Former MLA

Saturday, 11th March 2023

Smt. I. Deepa Venkat
Social Activist
Managing Trustee, Swarna Bharat Trust

The current political system is not inclusive enough, and the rising expenditure is alarming. The focus of political parties seems to be on distributing freebies rather than actual governance, leaving the legislature with limited influence over these decisions. Furthermore, there has been a lack of wholehearted participation from the group, with no clear direction for their goals.

In order to facilitate genuine discussions on improving democracy and setting an example for others, a permanent forum needs to be established. This forum can help bring about change and create opportunities for real progress.

The NLC is an exceptional platform that celebrates democracy by bringing legislators together, reminiscent of the Presiding Officers meeting during the British era. It must serve as a platform for exchanging ideas, with more and more MLAs given the opportunity to speak and assistance provided to them.

It is imperative that the NLC, Bharat is institutionalized as a permanent body with themes divided into subthemes and sessions. The freedom of speech is crucial, and the challenges faced by legislators, such as time constraints for MLAs from opposition parties, not being free to express their thoughts, party ideologies' impositions, and anti-defection laws' impact and constituency issues, must be discussed. Such issues need to be given priority. Additionally, an archive of NLC must be created as a repository to experience democracy.

Shri. P D T Aacharya
Former Secretary
General of the Lok Sabha

Dr. Anshul Avijit
National Spokesperson
Indian National Congress, Journalist, Historian

It is important to shift the focus towards recognizing the crucial role played by People's Representatives in our democracy. Currently, democracy is predominantly limited to the process of elections, and less emphasis is placed on actual work and constitutional procedures.

In this regard, the NLC and Bharat can serve as a platform to legitimize the role of these representatives and promote decentralization of political structures. By placing greater importance on the role of People's Representatives, we can strengthen our democratic institutions and promote greater accountability and representation.

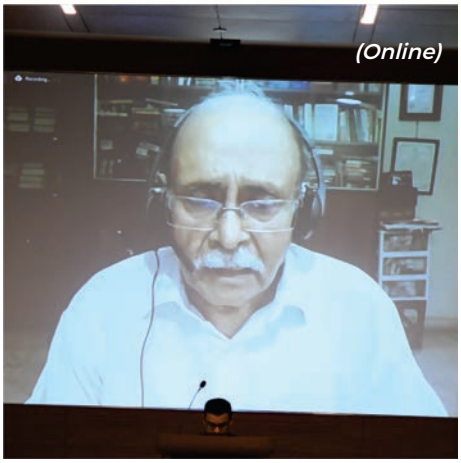
Therefore, it is essential to recognize and promote the crucial role played by People's Representatives in our democracy, and platforms like the NLC and Bharat can help achieve this goal.

Saturday, 11th March 2023

In order to guarantee a successful event, it is crucial to prioritize the management of VIPs. Nevertheless, certain logistical and coordination difficulties may emerge which could pose a challenge. One way to overcome these obstacles is to collaborate with the Chief Secretary, Commissioner of Police, and BMC. This collaborative approach can help streamline and coordinate the necessary arrangements for VIP management.

In addition, setting up a control room dedicated to monitoring and management can provide further support to ensure that everything runs smoothly. The control room can act as a centralized hub for communication and coordination, enabling quick decision-making and swift response to any unexpected situations that may arise during the event.

Therefore, careful planning and effective coordination with relevant authorities, along with the establishment of a control room, are key measures to ensure the smooth management of VIPs during an event.



Shri. Vivek K. Agnihotri IAS (Retd.)
Former Secretary General, Rajya Sabha

Shri. Abhijit Panse
Leader, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena,
Director, Thackeray Movie

To avoid any linguistic issues faced by MLAs, it is advisable to appoint translators and interpreters. A questionnaire can be prepared for MLAs to select the topics of their choice, which can then be included in the program.

Authors and writers should be appointed for the documentation and advertising of the event. To engage a wider audience, including the youth, the program can be live-streamed. Additionally, technology can be leveraged to enhance the experience of the attendees.

The focus of the initiative should be on empowering the empowered. To achieve this, it is necessary to profile MLAs based on their backgrounds and identify their strengths and weaknesses. Networking sessions should be organised for MLAs with private industries to establish better support systems. It is important to include non-political issues in these sessions, and priority should be given to common issues that affect the masses.

Shri. Amit Kumar Mandal
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly
Jharkhand (BJP, Godda, Jharkhand)

Saturday, 11th March 2023

Shri. Milind Tupe
Director Financial Services, TCS

A well-structured plan is required to execute the NLC successfully. This plan should include the formation of a governing structure and the appointment of a consultant to ensure smooth functioning of the program. In addition, event organisers, media partners, and logistic in-charges are needed to manage the logistics of the event.

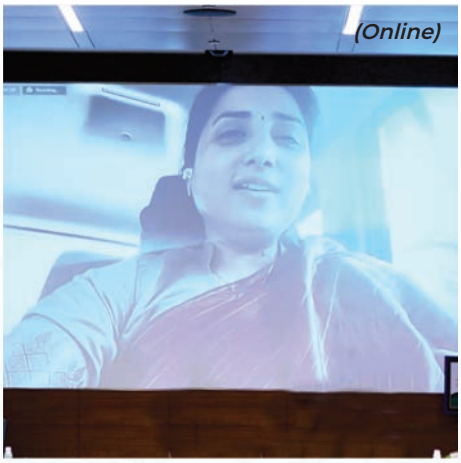
Corporate social responsibility (CSR) from both public and private institutions is necessary to support the event financially. It is also essential to crystallise the schedule, agenda, objectives, and outcomes of NLC. An induction program should be organised for MLAs and MLCs to acquaint them with the event.

Furthermore, a consultant should be appointed to find solutions to the challenges faced by MLAs and to operationalise those solutions. Finally, it is important to create a new database and build a toolkit specific to this event to help manage the event more effectively.

There is a need to explore more innovative ways to reshape the perception of political leaders as heroes. Currently, political figures are often associated with negative connotations, which can discourage public trust and engagement. Therefore, it is essential to promote more positive and constructive narratives for political representatives. By emphasizing their positive contributions and achievements, we can help eliminate negative stereotypes and encourage greater public support and engagement.

This can be achieved through various mediums, such as social media campaigns, public speeches, and awareness programs. In conclusion, it is crucial to explore new and creative ways to change the public perception of political leaders as heroes, and to promote a more positive and constructive image of our representatives.

Shri. Nanik Rupani
Indian Entrepreneur & Chairman Emeritus of Priyadarshni Academy.



Smt. Ragini Sonkar
-

To ensure equal representation, women need to be given more opportunities to participate in politics. Additionally, perceptions regarding politics need to be changed to encourage more women to participate. It is also essential to ensure that members' rights are not compromised and that they are empowered in this aspect.

Best practices should be shared and discussed to improve the functioning of the legislature. As members' rights and related issues and best practices are significant factors in deciding or becoming factors of judgment, it is crucial to have open discussions on these topics.

Saturday, 11th March 2023

Shri. Abhay Vaidya
Director, Pune International Centre

The event should include dedicated sessions to demonstrate the best practices of MLAs, which can be used as a reference by others. Additionally, an NGO named Shantilal Mutha Foundation should be included in the event. The foundation's work in the field of education can be showcased as an example to motivate and inspire others to work towards similar goals.

In order to ensure effective communication on issues of concerns, it is recommended to arrange separate online sessions for Chief Ministers (CMs) and Governors. This will allow for a focused discussion on specific issues related to each state and region.

Other area should be focussed on is to enhance the telecalling system. The training of telecallers should also be given significant attention to ensure that they are equipped to handle queries and provide accurate information.

Providing training for the legislatures will ensure that they are well-equipped to handle a wide range of queries and provide effective solutions to citizens' problems. By implementing these measures, the government can improve its communication with citizens and build trust in its ability to provide effective governance.

Shri. Ashok Dewan ji
Former Joint Secretary, Government of India
Former OSD to the Vice President of India.

। वन्दे मातरम् ।

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वन्दे मातरम् ।

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अबला केन मा एत बले ।
बहुबलधारिणीं नमामि तारिणीं रिपुदलवारिणीं मातरम् ।। २ ।।
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वन्दे मातरम् ।।

NATIONAL LEGISLATORS' CONFERENCE
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राष्ट्रीय विधायक सम्मेलन | ৰাষ্ট্ৰীয় বিধায়ক সন্মিলন | জাতীয় আইনসভার সম্মেলন |
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8 March 2023