

Symbiosis Law School, Pune Conclave, 2019

The Symbiosis Law School, Pune Conclave, 2019 (the *Conclave*) is one of the newest additions to a family of hallmark events hosted by our Institution. In the First edition of the Conclave, we presented a vibrant panel of Parliamentarians and Technocrats who divulged into the multidimensional spheres of politics, business and entertainment. This year we have shifted our focus onto the voices of India's youth.

The Conclave, which is scheduled in February, will be conducted a few months before the General Elections to the Parliament. Across the past four years, the nation has witnessed a churning amongst the Indian youth who have spearheaded several social changes. The *State of the Urban Youth, India* report of 2012, which was published in collaboration with UN- HABITAT proclaims that India will be the youngest nation by 2020 with an average age of 29 years. We believe that their voices should be heard the loudest this election season. We believe that they must shape the election narrative. In light of the same, we have themed the Second Edition of our Conclave as ***New India Manifesto: Young Indian Governance Narrative.***

The sub-themes shall be:

1. **Environment and Sustainable Development:** India is regarded as the fastest growing economy today, alternating its position only with China. It is asphyxiated with pollution and environmental degradation. Although the tragic consequences of this is everywhere around us, we remain blind to the threat it poses to humankind. Although most of Northern India is blanketed by toxic air, environmental preservation has not entered campaign narratives. Ignoring the environment is a direct attack upon our right to life under Article 21. It is crucial to discuss how we should treat our environment at this juncture to rejuvenate and revive it from the clutches of detrimental phenomena such as global warming and ozone layer depletion. We need sustainable development in the urban and rural ecosystems and it is imperative to find a viable solution for the same because it is currently one of the most pressing issues drawing worldwide attention.

The sub-issues for this theme shall be:

- a. Current patterns of consumption and production affecting the environment
- b. Ramifications of exploitation of resources of various kinds of land as well as those in the oceans
- c. Management of water resources for meeting the needs of present as well as future generations
- d. Dealing with the challenge of climate change in the wake of industrialization
- e. Protection of forests and biodiversity being the need of the hour

f. The growing income and wealth disparities across the globe leading to environmental hazards

g. Right to Health and Clean Environment

i. The Paris Agreement

j. Intra-Generational and Inter-generational equity

k. Green New Deal in India & Eco-Friendly Tech

l. Environmental Regulation reforms

2. Governance Reforms: Electoral, Policing, Legal and Judicial Reforms: Governance reforms encompass electoral reforms, policing reforms, legal reforms and judicial reforms. While several laws, schemes and policies filled with potential to improve the situation of people and institutions have been enacted, one of the major hurdles they face is in the governance and administration. The environment in which our institutions and government were made has changed substantially. We live in a country in which the population is increasingly becoming digital, educated and aware. This has presented several challenges to the current system along with giving solutions. The question lies in how it is to be adapted.

The sub-issues for this theme shall be:

a. Shift in the role of governance in the twenty-first century India

b. A comparative study of the impact caused by electoral reforms, policing reforms, legal reforms and judicial reforms in India.

c. Major hurdles faced in the governance and administration in India.

d. How is education, awareness and modern ideologies a threat to orthodox ways of governance and administration?

e. Is India ready for governance reforms?

f. Challenges faced due to the implementation of governance reforms in remote parts of India.

g. Women's reservation in Parliament & ticket allotment

h. Judiciary-executive relationship

i. Local Governance (panchayats and municipalities)

j. EVM vs Ballot

k. Use of technology etc.

3. Shifting the focus on Farmer Welfare and MSME Development: A majority of India's population earns its livelihood from agriculture, agricultural activities; and micro, small and medium enterprises. Both, agriculture and MSME, are gold mines which have not yet been tapped. They possess the ability to change fortunes for India's peoples without uprooting them from their own cultures and communities. They have large social and economic implications for India. Yet, they are some of the most vulnerable

sectors. More and more people are leaving agriculture each passing year for an urban-corporate life. Ways of strengthening MSMEs and increase revenues from agriculture is vital for an agrarian country such as India.

The sub-issues for this theme shall be:

- a. Importance of agriculture and agricultural activities in rural India.
- b. Contribution of micro, small and medium enterprises to the Indian economy
- c. The potential of the agricultural sector and MSME in India.
- d. The ability of MSME to change fortunes for India's peoples without uprooting them from their own cultures and communities.
- e. Social and economic implications of MSME development and Farmer Welfare schemes in India. Yet, they are some of the most vulnerable sectors.
- f. The implications of migration from agricultural lands to an urban-corporate life. Ways of strengthening MSMEs and increase revenues from agriculture is vital for an agrarian country such as India

4. Gender Empowerment: In the past 4 years, India has made great progress in recognizing gender rights. Gender equality has become an essential facet in India's narratives. However, this has not materialized into policies and administration. Men continue to dominate most sectors and tend to receive more opportunities and benefits. Women have lesser opportunities, more vulnerable and subject to opprobrium in most respects. Transgender persons are on the brink of civil death. Very little is being done to rectify these issues. Indeed, India ranks among the least in gender equality and has continued to be ranked low. As our country becomes more digital and westernized the gender divide is set to widen exponentially. Legal recognition cannot be the sole step towards gender empowerment. Social acceptance is the key to harmonious inclusion of the marginalized genders in the societal mainstream.

The sub-issues for this theme shall be:

- a. Social Trends and Gender Stereotypes in India
- b. How do poverty, work and employment factors affect gender constraints?
- c. New role reversals leading to Gender Empowerment
- d. Policy framing to the tune of Gender Empowerment
- e. Causes of Gender discrimination and ways to eradicate the same.
- f. Orthodox views causing hindrance to gender empowerment and ways to tackle them.
- g. Rights of Transgender Persons Bill
- h. The 377 Judgment
- i. Gender in Cinema and Art

5. Youth Empowerment: Youth empowerment is an essential facet of ensuring progress and modernization in a State. The same can be done by the reformation of the Education System Campaign addressing other issues. By 2020, India will be the youngest nation in the world. Although this is a golden opportunity to change the course of our country, the Indian youth finds itself crippled by an outdated and unfruitful education system at all levels. Although more Indians are emerging with degrees and educational certificates, knowledge development and skill development are extremely low. The employability of a majority of Indians is questionable. Along with a faulty educational system, the Indian youth are faced with stigma and are put under tremendous emotional and mental stress. This spells a recipe for disaster. Immediate reformation in this arena needs to be made through corrective and effective policy.

The sub-issues for this theme shall be:

- a. Engaging the youth in Nation-Building
- b. Youth Development, focusing on formal education
- c. Importance of a healthy youth population
- d. Youth Employability, Livelihoods and entrepreneurship
- e. Youth and technology
- f. Contribution of Youth towards sustainable development

No other sub-themes shall be allowed for purposes of the event. We believe that technology, art, law, policy, medicine, economics and commerce can (and must) all be leveraged to provide solutions to these issues; where no single discipline can solve these issues on their own.

The primary objective of the Conclave is to create an apolitical avenue, which allows an open, academic discussion of ideas and opinions about multiple issues, which impede India's progress and their resolution. In addition to the same, the Conclave seeks to:

1. Foster an interdisciplinary discussion of common issues in India;
2. Bring together experts and students into a single forum for discussing these issues and potential resolutions in a pragmatic manner; and
3. Create a vision for India to strive towards in the years to come after the Elections in 2019

Structure of the Conclave

1. *Eligibility*: Students of any discipline studying in undergraduate or postgraduate colleges in India.¹ An applicant may participate individually. No teams are allowed.
2. *Application Procedure*: The applicant is required to submit the application form that has been attached to the mail by **11:59 pm, 30th January 2019**. The applicant is also required to submit a Policy Note on any of the sub-themes mentioned above.
 - The Policy Note may scope out issues prevalent in India under the particular sub-theme, elaborate upon one particular issue, suggest solutions or analyze the effectiveness of solutions which have already been proposed.
 - The Policy Note must be original, well researched, and well referenced and should not contain more than 1500 words including footnotes. A uniform method of citation must be followed throughout the Note.
 - The Policy Note shall be used for short-listing applicants. The Note shall be coded before it is forwarded to the Assessor to maintain anonymity.

The Assessor shall score the applications on the following criteria:

- analysis of problem/scenario at hand (30%),
- plausibility of solutions presented (40%),
- research (20%) and
- articulation (10%).

The Assessor shall be a person with expertise in the said field.

3. *Shortlisting & Registration*: The first shortlist will be released by **4th February 2019**. A maximum of 25 (5 x 5) applicants will be shortlisted to participate in the Conclave. Shortlisted participants are required to register themselves with the payment of Rs. 500 before **9th February 2019**. The bank details for payment of registration have been annexed to the mail.
A second shortlist *may* be released at a later date depending upon the number of applicants who have registered for the Conclave; or for any other reason deemed appropriate by Symbiosis Law School, Pune.

¹ The applicants will have to present an Identity Card issued by their Institution as proof of eligibility.

4. *Forum Allotment*: The participants will be divided into 5 forums inclusive of 5 participants on the basis of draw of lots.

Preliminary Track

5. *Format of Forum*: The Forum shall follow a focused-group discussion format. The participant will share the Forum with 4 other participants and the Chair of the Forum.
6. *Chair of the Forum*: Each Forum shall be chaired by an expert in the relevant field. The expert shall initiate the discussion by presenting an overview of the sub-themes enlisted before that Forum. The expert shall then moderate the discussion among the participants.
7. *Conduct of Proceedings for the Forum*: All the 5 forums will discuss and deliberate upon the five sub-themes. A maximum of 30 minutes will be allotted for discussion over one sub-theme (30 x 5 = 150 minutes)

The discussion session will be divided into two slots of 60 minutes and 90 minutes each, which will be interceded by a 10 minutes tea break. An additional 10 minutes will be given to the forums to finalize their manifesto after the end of the discussion sessions.
8. *Goal of the Forum*: The participants are expected to discuss their ideas across the discussion of the session by considering all the stakeholders relevant to the Forum. They are required to crystallize their ideas into a *manifesto*; along with a justification for the same and approach towards implementation.

The *manifesto* is created only when a majority of the participants have reached a consensus by the end of the session. Those who disagree with the manifesto or its justification are allowed to dissent from it by presenting their own manifesto along with a justification in the Assembly.
9. *The Assembly*: The Assembly shall take place after the Forum. The Assembly shall follow a Presentation format where each Forum will present their vision statement, justification and implementation approach. The dissenters in each Forum will also present their manifesto.

The Assembly shall be chaired by the panel of experts in the relevant field(s) who will initiate as well as moderate the discussion.

The expert panel shall also assess the candidates on the basis of a uniform marking criteria.

10. *Conduct of Proceedings in the Assembly*: As each Forum and Dissenter present their manifestos, they may be questioned by fellow participants from any Forum as well as by the Chair. A maximum of 10 minutes will be reserved for presentation of the vision statements by the forums and the dissenters.
11. *Goal of the Assembly*: The presentations allow the participants to present their vision statements inclusive of solution to their peers. Questions from peers and the Chair would challenge their notions, which would help in crafting a better vision statement or change it entirely.
- Further, the presentations would make everybody aware about a participant's stance on the subject.
12. *Defection*: At the end of the Assembly, the participants who are in dissent with the manifesto of their group can leave their Forum and form a Party with participants from other Forums after considering their vision statements, justifications and approaches for their Forum subject. There must be a minimum of three participants for a Party to be recognized. There may be a maximum of 7 participants in each party so that at least two parties remain at the conclusion of the Preliminary Track.
13. *Vision Statement*: The members of the newly formed Parties will have to collate and reconcile their manifesto, justification and approaches at the end of the preliminary track to create their Party's Vision Statement.
- The parties will be given time till 9:00 pm following the conclusion of all sessions on Day 01 to finalize their vision statements which shall be mailed to conclave.slsp@gmail.com in the given format.
- The vision statements of each party will be presented to other parties before the conduct of the proceedings of the Sabha on Day 02.

Primary Track

14. *The Sabha*: The Sabha is the final segment of the Conclave which shall take place on the second day.
15. *Format of the Sabha*: The Sabha shall adopt the approach of a Parliamentary session where each Party presents their consolidated vision statements along with their justifications.
- The Sabha shall be chaired by an eminent expert/expert panel. The Chair shall initiate the discussion which will be moderated by an expert.

16. *Conduct of Proceedings in the Sabha*: Each Party shall have a certain amount of time to present their vision statement. In this time, they may be questioned by the other Parties as well as by the Chair. The members of the Party may refuse a question from another Party. However, they may not refuse a question from the Chair or a question by another Party which has been allowed by the Chair. The audience may direct their questions to a Party through the Chair. Balanced acceptance of questions from other Parties earns more points.
17. *No Modifications in Vision Statement*: A Party is not allowed to make changes to their vision statements after it is scrutinized by the Chair and other Parties at the Sabha. The final vision statement shall be submitted to the Chair at the end of the Sabha.
18. *Vision Statement 2019*: At the conclusion of the Sabha, the Chair shall scrutinize all the Manifestos which have been submitted. The Chair may then identify different vision statements/justifications in each Manifesto to present their description of the ideal manifesto arising from the Sabha. This is the ***Vision Statement 2019***.

Grounds of DQ

19. The following shall be the grounds for disqualification:
 - i. Any attempts to collude with the Chair
 - ii. Any attempts to influence the Chair through improper means
 - iii. Revealing your identity (name, college, discipline of study etc) to the Chair at any time during the Conclave.
 - iv. Misdemeanor in the nature of physical violence and verbal abuse.
 - v. Plagiarism in the policy note, vision statement or manifesto.

Assessment Criteria

20. The performance of a participant shall be assessed in the Forum, the Assembly and the Sabha on the following criteria:
 - a. Grasp over the subject
 - b. Relevance of the Vision Statement.
 - c. Justification and analysis for the vision statement.
 - d. Plausibility of approach under the vision statement.
 - e. Clarity of thought
 - f. Advocacy & Articulation
 - g. Teamwork
 - h. Collaboration (How they are open to incorporating changes in their statements)

Awards

21. The following awards shall be given at the end of the Conclave:

1. Best Manifesto (team): Certificate + Cash Prize

Criteria:

- a. Originality of content (10m)
- b. Relevance to theme (awareness about problems faced) (20m)
- c. Authorities cited/referred (5m)
- d. Feasibility of implementation (financial viability, etc.) (20m)
- e. Timeline of completion of proposed initiatives (immediate and near future goals) (10m)
- f. Solutions offered (and not mere criticism) (20m)
- g. Checkpoints (regulatory bodies to assess progress) (15m)

2. Best Collaborator (team): Certificate + Cash Prize

Criteria:

- a. Clarity of thought (20m)
- b. Advocacy & Articulation (20m)
- c. Teamwork (30m)
- d. Collaboration (How they are open to incorporating changes in their statements)(30m)

3. Best Dissenter: Certificate + Cash Prize

Criteria:

- a. Reason for dissent (20m)
- b. Relevance to theme (20m)
- c. Compliance with current legal system (20m)
- d. Solution offered (that resolves reason for dissent) (20m)
- e. Impact of dissent (making own members realise flaw in proposed argument) (20m)

4. Best Vision Statement (team): Certificate + Cash Prize

Criteria:

- a. Relevance to theme (how India can use this statement to vote in 2019) (20m)
- b. Innovative solutions to current needs (20m)
- c. India's progress (global and national collaborations) (20m)
- d. Proposal of necessary legislations (20m)
- e. Self-reliance (20m)

SUMMARY BRIEF FOR SLS-P CONCLAVE 2019

SLS-P CONCLAVE 2019				
PRELIMINARY TRACK: DAY 01				
Stage I: Forum Discussion				
<u>Forum A</u>	<u>Forum B</u>	<u>Forum C</u>	<u>Forum D</u>	<u>Forum E</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Expert • 5 Members • 5 Sub-themes • 2 Volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Expert • 5 Members • 5 Sub-themes • 2 Volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Expert • 5 Members • 5 Sub-themes • 2 Volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Expert • 5 Members • 5 Sub-themes • 2 Volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Expert • 5 Members • 5 Sub-themes • 2 Volunteers
Result: Forum Manifesto/Dissenter's Manifesto				
Total Time: 175 Minutes (5 x 30 ¹ + 10 ² + 10 ³ + 5 ⁴)				
Stage II: Assembly				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaired by the Expert Panel • Presentations by 5 Forums • Presentations by Dissenters, if any • Open to Questions by Experts + Forums 				
Result: Party Formation + Vision Statement				
Total Time: 130 Minutes (5 x 15 ⁵ + 15 ⁶ + 40 ⁷)				
PRIMARY TRACK: DAY 02				
Stage III: Sabha				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Expert Moderator • 5 Expert Panellists • Presentation by 5 Parties + Dissenters, if any⁸ • Open to Questions from Audience, Parties and Experts 				
Result: Vision Statement 2019 + Other Awards				
Total Time: 190 Minutes (7 x 20 ⁹ + 20 ¹⁰ + 30 ¹¹)				

¹ The Theme-wise Simultaneous Forum Discussion

² Tea Break

³ Additional Time to Condense the Manifesto at the end of the discussion s

⁴ Miscellaneous

⁵ Presentation of Manifesto per Forum

⁶ Presentation of Dissenter's Manifesto

⁷ Opening Address, Closing Address, miscellaneous

⁸Number bound to change

⁹ Vision Statement Presentation and Questioning

¹⁰ Discussion by Experts

¹¹ Miscellaneous: Opening Remarks, Closing Remarks etc