

विधि संकाय
दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय



Faculty of Law
University of Delhi

FACULTY OF LAW UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

organises a two day
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
on

DELIMITATION IN INDIA: BALANCING REPRESENTATION AND FEDERAL EQUITY

26 - 27 SEPTEMBER 2025

VENUE: FACULTY OF LAW, UMANG BHAWAN, CHHATRA
MARG, DELHI - 110007

Call for Papers



011-27667483



delimitation@law.du.ac.in



About the Faculty of Law

Established in 1924, the Faculty of Law is a premier department of the University of Delhi, an institution of national importance under Entry 63 of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. As a national center for legal education, it has produced generations of eminent jurists, Supreme Court and High Court judges, leading senior advocates, political leaders, policymakers, and public intellectuals. Despite its illustrious alumni, the Faculty remains committed to egalitarian ideals, offering high-quality legal education at nominal cost. Strategically located in the heart of Delhi, it attracts a diverse student body from across India and abroad. With over 10,000 students enrolled in LL.B., B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), B.B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), LL.M., and Ph.D. programs, it is among the largest law schools in the world.

The Faculty fosters academic excellence through its distinguished teaching staff, multicultural learning environment, and a robust calendar of seminars, conferences, moot courts, and workshops. It regularly hosts scholars from renowned national and international institutions under various fellowships and MoUs aimed at global academic exchange. A pioneer in areas like Intellectual Property Rights, Human Rights, Environmental Law, and Gender Justice, the Faculty has significantly influenced legal reform in India. Faculty members have contributed to laws against dowry deaths, media accountability, women's and children's rights, and the promotion of secularism.

With growing emphasis on corporate, financial, and technology law, the Faculty remains aligned with India's evolving legal and economic landscape. Its faculty are deeply involved in mentoring, accessible beyond the classroom, and dedicated to socially relevant legal education.

The Faculty of Law is dedicated to nurturing future legal professionals and public leaders. It instills in its students a strong sense of purpose and a deep commitment to social justice. Guided by a rich tradition of excellence in teaching, research, and public service, the Faculty continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the legal landscape of the country.



About the Conference

Delimitation plays a crucial role in upholding democracy and adapting to the evolving demographics of the country. It is vital for ensuring fair representation in elections, addressing key issues such as population shifts, equal voting power, gerrymandering, and the balance of representation between urban and rural areas.

Since independence, India has conducted four delimitation exercises based on census data to maintain a balanced and representative democratic system. These exercises involve redrawing the boundaries of electoral constituencies to reflect demographic changes, ensuring that each vote carries equal weight and minimizing the risk of political manipulation.

As the country approaches 2026, debates surrounding the upcoming delimitation exercise have gained prominence. At the heart of this discussion lies the challenge of balancing population-based representation with the principles of federal equity. Demographic trends vary significantly across states—those that have effectively curbed population growth through progressive policies may face a reduction in parliamentary representation. In contrast, states with higher population growth could gain disproportionately, raising fundamental questions about democratic fairness, the incentives for good governance, and the very nature of India's federal compact.

The Supreme Court of India, in the classic case on delimitation **Kishorchandra Chhanganlal Rathod v. Union of India**, (2024) 7 SCR 1124, has established that the judgment in **Meghraj Kothari v. Delimitation Commission**, AIR 1967 SC 669, does not impose an absolute restriction on judicial review. The Honourable Court emphasized that a complete bar on judicial intervention would deprive citizens of any platform to articulate their grievances, thereby leaving them entirely at the discretion of the Delimitation Commission. Such a circumstance would contradict the Court's role as a constitutional entity and its obligation to safeguard the public interest, as well as the principle of separation of powers. Nonetheless, the Court recognized that the finality of the Delimitation Act is safeguarded under Article 329 of the Constitution, a position that was reaffirmed by the Supreme Court in **Public Interest Committee for Scheduling Specific Areas & Ors. v. Union of India**, (2023) 16 SCR 1074 ruling that in view of Article 329, Delimitation Notification is beyond the realm of judicial review.

The integration of technology into the delimitation process offers several advantages. It enables more accurate, data-driven, and transparent redrawing of constituency boundaries, reducing human error and potential bias, thereby upholding the principles of representative democracy. However, technology also presents challenges. Technologies like digital processes may exclude stakeholders unfamiliar with such tools, leading to a lack of inclusivity. There is also a risk of data manipulation or misuse if proper checks and balances are not in place.

Against this backdrop, the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, a premier legal institution takes pride in organizing a two day international Conference on “Delimitation In India: Balancing Representation And Federal Equity.” The conference provides a valuable platform for academics, lawyers, NGOs, intellectuals, policymakers, bureaucrats and and experts from diverse fields to engage in informed and meaningful dialogue on the subject. Renowned national and international experts and practitioners are invited to deliberate on the legal, policy, administrative, and social dimensions of the conference's central theme and its sub-themes



OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

- To analyze the Constitutional and legal framework of delimitation
- To explore the federal implications of delimitation
- To study the role of the delimitation commission
- To evaluate representation and population balance
- To evaluate the impact of delimitation on political representation
- To analyze political and electoral impacts
- To discuss federal equity and state autonomy
- To discuss alternative models and global comparisons
- To examine international experiences and best practices
- To promote public awareness and engagement

CALL FOR PAPERS

To achieve the objectives of the conference, the participants are invited to make critical analysis on the themes and sub-themes given hereunder. Original papers are invited, but are not limited to, the following themes and sub-themes:

THEMES AND SUB-THEMES

1. Historical and Constitutional Background

- Evolution of delimitation in India (1952, 1963, 1973, 2002 Commissions)
- Delimitation Acts (1952, 1962, 1972, 2002)
- Constitutional provisions (Articles 81, 82, 170, 330, and Delimitation Acts)
- Freeze on Delimitation (1976–2026): 42nd and 84th Constitutional Amendments
- Impact of 2001 Census & 2002 Delimitation

2. Principles and Objectives of Delimitation

- Equal representation: “One person, one vote”
- Demographic equity and population-based representation
- Ensuring effective and inclusive governance
- Preventing malapportionment and gerrymandering

3. Political and Electoral Implications

- North-South divide and regional imbalances
- Fear of undermining fiscal and political federalism
- Role of the Rajya Sabha and inter-state checks
- Seat Redistribution Debates



THEMES AND SUB-THEMES

4. Socio-Economic, Political and Demographic Considerations

- Population Growth and Fertility Rates
- Urban vs. Rural Representation
- Representation of Marginalized Groups
- Women and minority representation
- Changing political power dynamics at national and state levels

5. Administrative and Technical Aspects

- **Use of Census Data:** Accuracy, delay, and reliability of census in boundary redrawing.
- **Criteria for Redrawing Boundaries:** Geographical contiguity, population, and administrative convenience.
- **Technology in Delimitation:** GIS and digital mapping in modern exercises.

6. Legal and Institutional Mechanisms

- Structure and mandate of the Delimitation Commission
- Judicial oversight and scope for review
- Role of Parliament and state legislatures
- Transparency and public participation in the process
- **Controversies and Litigations:** Disputes over boundary changes or constituency status.

7. Comparative Perspectives

- **Global Practices in Delimitation:** Delimitation practices in other federal democracies (e.g., USA, Canada, Australia)
- Gerrymandering vs. Fair Representation: Ensuring neutrality and fairness.
- Decentralized models and their efficacy

8. Future Challenges and Reforms

- Post-2026 Delimitation Concerns
- Alternatives to population-based representation
- Technological integration (GIS-based delimitation)
- Political Consensus Building





GUIDELINES FOR PAPER SUBMISSION

(Applicable to presenters whose abstracts have been accepted after review)

- Abstract of the paper should not exceed 250 words.
- On the first page the following details should be mentioned:
 - Title & Name of the Author(s)
 - University/Organization, Paper Title
 - Theme & Sub-Theme of the Conference
 - Email Address & mobile number
- The maximum word limit of the full paper should not exceed 10,000 words (including footnotes).
- Pagination & Style
 - Times New Roman Font; Size 12 for text & 10 for footnotes
 - Line spacing should be 1.5 for text and single for footnotes
 - Document Format should be docs. or docx.
- The style of citation and references should be of 'Indian Law Institute, Rules of Footnoting' available at <http://www.ili.ac.in/cstyle.pdf>
- The language of the paper should be in English or Hindi.

NOTE:

- The full papers to be sent to delimitation@law.du.ac.in by 17 August 2025 by 11:00 PM.
- The Registration and Abstract should be submitted at the given below link by 10 August 2025 by 11:00 PM

Registration form link <https://forms.gle/A5TXXsRbUg8Jkj5c7>



Informationtion

TRAVEL ALLOWANCE & ACCOMMODATION

No TA/DA will be provided to participants. Participants are advised to arrange their own or claim the same from their institutions.

The participants are advised to arrange their own accommodation. However, on prior request and subject to the availability of rooms at the University guest house, a limited number of accommodations may be arranged at the expense of the participant.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The conference will also be graced by eminent Professors, Judges, Bureaucrats, Policymakers, Lawyers, Representatives from International Organizations, Think Tanks, NGOs etc .

IMPORTANT DATES

- Opening of Registration and Abstract submission: 16 June 2025
- Closing of Registration and Abstract submission: 10 August 2025
- Declaration of Accepted Abstract: 26 August 2025
- Closing for full paper submission : 6 September 2025
- Date of Conference : 26 – 27 September 2025

Note:

Registration is free. Only a limited number of papers will be selected for presentation after review. The number of participants including paper presenters shall be limited to one hundred.

Non-presenters will be selected on first- cum-first serve basis. Both paper presenters and non- presenters are mandatorily required to register in the hereinabove given registration link.

VENUE:

The venue of the conference will be at Umang Bhawan, Faculty of Law, Chhatra Marg, Delhi - 110007



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