



NATIONAL LEGISLATORS' CONFERENCE, BHARAT

राष्ट्रीय विधायक सम्मेलन, भारत Planning Workshop

Tuesday, 6th December 2022
Oxford Club, Pune, Maharashtra



A Planning Workshop for the National Legislators Conference, 2023 was organized on 6th December 2022 at Oxford Club in Pune. It was attended by the National and International academic leaders and current as well as former MLAs from different states and political parties. The academic and political leaders deliberated upon the purpose, objectives, design and expected outcome of the NLC. The

discussion's ambit was both, i.e. the 3-days NLC conclave being scheduled in June 2023 and NLC's long-term work agenda. The discussion has led to finalization of the focus of the NLC and the participants of the Planning Workshop expressed desire of and optimism about the NLC. All the participants have expressed the willingness to be part of the NLC journey.

Participants in Meeting:

- Dr. Ram Charan, Business Consultant, Author, CEO Advisor (Chairmen, NLC, Bharat-One Day Planning Workshop)
- Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan, Founder and President of Lok Satta Party.
- Shri. Avinash Dharmadhikari, former IAS Officer, Indian Politician, Social Activist
- Dr. Ashok Joshi, Entrepreneur, Scientist & Demographer
- Shri. Rahul V. Karad-Initiator, MIT School of Government & Bharatiya Chhatra Sansad, NWP, NTC, Sarpanch Sansad
- Dr. Rajendra Shende, Chairman TERRE Policy Centre, Former Director UNEP
- Dr. Surendra Srivastava, Member-Board of Foundation for Democratic Reforms (FDR) and National President of Loksatta Movement
- Dr. Vanlalhlana-MLA, Mizoram (Online)
- Shri. Richards Johnkumar-MLA, Puducherry (BJP, Nellithope) (Online)
- Shri. Ashraful Hussain-MLA (All India United Democratic Front), Chenga, Barpeta, Assam (Online)
- Shri. Talari Aditya-Former MLA, Satyavedu Chittoor SC Andhra Pradesh (TDP) (Online)
- Shri. Aseem Goel-MLA, Harayana (Ambala)- (Online)
- Prof Anil Gupta, IIM-A, Founder HoneyBee network Coordinator

Shri. Rahul V. Karad initiated the meeting by welcoming and felicitating the dignitaries. The opening remarks, set the context and expectations from the One-Day National Legislators Conference (NLC), Bharat Planning Workshop.

Major Discussion Points:

Presentation to summarising the discussion and outcomes of two earlier visioning sessions help in Pune and New Delhi.

Mr. Aniket Kale:

Discussion on steps to be taken for evolving NLC, Bharat as an institution with a long-term vision, on issues of membership (institutional membership/ individual membership), research based advisory services & training, knowledge sharing between state legislature/legislators, international cooperation for research & exchange programmes, working group (theme/issue based) etc.

Evolving a project management unit for evidence-based research, institutional assistance for assemblies, capacity building programs for legislatures.

Working on international/ national collaboration with incumbent organisation associated in areas of legislature/ public policy/ innovation centres – leveraging with the connects developed, so that these organisations will feature during the inauguration in June'2023.

Publication of periodic Journal as a longstanding initiative for documentation and good research.

Dr. Rajendra Shende:

G-20 offers unique opportunity for positioning NLC, Bharat a unique platform nationally and globally, who can we leverage it to showcase our strengths on - Values of Peace, Equity – Equality, Education system with youth & innovation at its core.

Preparing data repository of MLA's best practices / unique initiatives to showcase at pavilions.

Mr. Priyanka Upadhyaya:

Discussion on how NLC can evolve as a platform for





dialogue, a language of non-violent communication, and developing tradition of social audit to be expanded to the scope for Legislators Audit by its constituency for purification of legislative businesses.

Shri. Avinash Dharmadhikari:

Developing NLC as a platform for bringing out 'Issues of National Consensus' like that of Idea of India as a Nation, democratic reforms, environmental degradation, artificial intelligence etc.

Can we think of Indian Model of Democracy – thoughts on Gandhian idea of decentralisation, idea of district list, idea of citizens committees etc.

Discussion of session themes based on codification of best legislative practices for better legislature functioning, issue of fiscal norms & legislators fiscal responsibility, autonomy of legislators, representational issues & constituency reservation models, federal realities and delimitation exercise, rethinking.

Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan

Whole atmosphere should be on positive of democracy and consensus- topics to include- Empowerment of Legislatures/ Legislators.... Women Reservation / Alternative models – power of state legislature ... Fiscal Issues/management, support system for the legislators – must be the talking

themes of the conference – where there will a concrete take aways.

We should resist by indulging in discussion of many diverse topics with no concrete take away.

Reforms on State Legislative Council (SLC), to include representation of members of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) & Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) so to work towards further decentralisation and offering a greater voice to PRI and ULB's

Need a discussion on current First Past the Post System (FPTP) and think of discussion for the proportional representational model.

The approach should not be of teaching MLAs, it should be avoided the topics can be thought in a way it can be communicated subliminally. The atmosphere at NLC should be of celebrating the successes of democracy.

On evolving NLC as a permanent platform/ institution – we should plan for it and let it evolve during the conference.

In external context – democracy has taken a back seat with different challenges, India needs to discover its historic role globally.. we have an obligation to show how democracy works in delivering... not merely in surviving – and here at NLC we are developing those the necessary process going forward to be better by



proving for research, insights and forum for them to talk..and we create continuous human process for democracy –to deliver better.

Dr. Ashok Joshi

The program flow should consider more networking sessions, give them a subject to talk about and a moderator so as to facilitate more interaction for a more productive outcome.

Dr. Surendra Srivastava

Quoting Shri. Narendra Modi(Prime Minister of India) that “In India democracy is by Civilisation”, politics is a noble endeavour to serve people. Effort should be to make Politics should be a buzz word, youth are ready to embrace the politics, so as to take India ahead and work for betterment of country.

To make the effort of NLC sustainable, we should have a permanent secretariat of the NLC, so as to spearhead the thought on good politics and politics as a tool for change. On rotation basis, every year Speaker of the State Legislature be heading it so as to take the institutions across India.

Dr. Vanlalhlana-MLA, Mizoram

Need support on good study of bills/background- we lack on that side. We were interested towards the executive part, but what we need to learn as an MLA and need orientation on these legal aspects.

Reading of budget documents and grasping of the nomenclatures and the jargons used, we need to have knowledge on it.

Shri. Richards Johnkumar-MLA, Puducherry

The challenges for the UT with the state legislature are bit different than those with status of state. Role of the Lt.Governor is important with the nature of powers entrusted. Also sometimes faces challenges from bureaucrats where work is delayed.

An awareness for the MLA on these issues will be helpful.

Shri. Ashraf Hussain-MLA (All India United Democratic Front), Chenga, Barpeta, Assam

Being an MLA is a challenging job, he/she needs to be an Doctor/Engineer/Lawyer etc as MLA comes in

contact with so many departments, it is difficult to have an understanding of all. Also the other challenge is of there is no continuity of record for the office of MLA. When new MLA is elected, they need to have a repository of this data.

The discussion at NLC should include empowerment sessions on understanding welfare schemes, how the bills are discussed, what are the processes involved etc.

We need discussion on sharing of best practices, office upkeeping for an MLA etc.

Shri. Talari Aditya Former MLA, Satyavedu Chittoor SC Andhra Pradesh (TDP)

Challenges on understanding the legislative processes, need training for MLA on how the house functions, budget preparation and nomenclatures used.

It will be good if we are exposed to training on Legislative House Rule Book – as the book comprehensively mentions the rule but need to understand the terminology in a lucid manner, what we find is that through interaction and discussion – it is the best way to learn and understand.

We will be happy to know/educate self on the avenues for MLA to get funds from the central government

Shri. Aseem Goel-MLA, Hararyana (Ambala)

NLC should be a platform for changing the perception for the politics and towards politicians. It is wrong to consider politics is a bad profession and politician are always engaged in corrupt.

We should work on discussions by which the MLA is made aware of his/her powers and legislative privileges to work for the people. It is true that by protocols MLA's are well positioned in hierarchy – but in reality the challenge we face is in offices or at the hands of the bureaucrats etc, we face challenge in offices to get the work of people done.

The MLAs are the representatives of people, and we are answerable to them. An awareness on such issues will really go a long way to address the challenges faced by MLAs and will help build better ecosystem of answerability.



Prof. Anil Gupta

As an innovator we look for-

- Ability to solve problem with their own genius and their own local resources.
- Voice /visibility/ velocity to those who want to learn through cross pollination of ideas.

Therefore here at NLC it will be prudent to identify legislators in party/ state who has made a difference with minimum resources and learn from them, they can be the one who has won 5/6 times and learn from their experience or it can be learning from a legislator who has work in a sector and due to the recognition of work in that sector how his has scripted success for himself/herself with use of those tools.

Thus using these discussions we can move the discussion in the positive direction to work on those synergies. It can be in the form of-

- Display of outstanding work at constituency
- Exhibition of social innovation from own constituency using their resources.

Dr. Ram Charan

Look for concrete ideas,

What are those best 3 items what will be focused and delivered and what are those 3 items what are the envisaged take away from the NLC conference and what will be played heavily in the press.

Legislators do not work in isolation; they have to be linked think about what is being offered in the input- there should be a takeaway point where there is emergence of consensus.

Don't pick the issues where there is no end – look for issues where there is light at the end of tunnel.

The missions should be to enhance the capacity of the MLA/legislatures, we should be very focused. We should not lecture them, they are leaders of some constituency – we need to enhance their capacity.

Designing questions for the facilitators as a prompts for a fruitful discussion, as a consensus can be emerged. how do we put that process in... and drive the agenda.... so there can be initiatives from the MLAs?

Shri. Rahul V. Karad

How can we build up on the momentum for the conference, so the conference reaches to each legislator and legislature, and they feel value to attend the conference.

Capturing the success stories of the MLAs and it will be the solid record for reference and making it available on the website.

Effective ways and means for the upkeep of the Office of MLA, and what will be the take aways.

Pavilions by various ministries/ state legislature for display of best practices and help learn, provide platform for electioneering companies, best CSR practice, stalls of ideal democracies and its model to study – these pavilion as a part of exhibition will be open for all people.

Action points for follow-up:

- Finalisation of program structure, program flow and format to ensure maximum interaction-networking.
- Finalisation of theme verticals, topics, and discussion areas.
- Finalisation of groups and responsibilities for National and International collaborations.
- Finalisation of organisational structure for NLC, Bharat with a long-term vision.
- Finalisation of participants eligibility criteria
- Preparing Actionable Policy steps with mantra 'Action to Policy' for the success of NLC, Bharat.
- Establishing a permanent secretariat for the NLC, Bharat.

