



The Journal

BY
FOR THE YOUTH



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From the Editors Desk

I-Parliament is an initiative that brings together students from schools across India to discuss, debate, design and enact law in a simulated parliamentary session. I-Parliament started in 2016 with 10 members in the organizing committee.

While preparing for the second session of I-Parliament, there was an idea to introduce a Press segment to play the role of the fourth pillar of Democracy. The delegates were divided into four Media Houses and produced one newspaper each as well as conducted the ‘free2speak debates. In this process, the delegates not only fulfilled their jobs as writers, reporters and editors but also experienced a form of broadcast journalism as debaters & anchors.

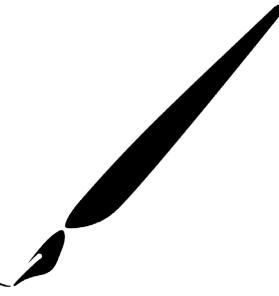
To further foray into the world of Media & Journalism, we were driven by the idea of starting our own Journal. The I-Parliament Journal is a publication which not only covers issues that are discussed during the sessions but would also publish articles on various topics related to Law and Policy. Through The Journal, the youth will get to read about the views of intellectuals and scholar’s as we interview them. With regard to the I-Parliament sessions, the publication aims to facilitate dialogue between students on relevant issues and further the depth of debate to enhance the interests of participants.

In this edition of The Journal, we are covering I-Parliaments highlights since its inception, an interview which focuses on ‘The Legal Aspect of The Aadhar Act’, an article on ‘Milking of the Ganges’ as well as introducing the day to day external speakers.

As the Editorial Board of The Journal, it is an honour and privilege for us to present to you the Issue for Session Six. I hope you have a great time reading this as well as well as our future issues. Your feedback is always welcome at iparliament2016@gmail.com

Aviva Baig
Editor-in-Chief
I-Parliament Journal

Founder's Note



It is with great delight that we welcome you to the 6th National Session of I-Parliament. As we complete our third year, we are overwhelmed with the response and love we have received over the span of the past five sessions.

I-Parliament is a movement that brings youth together from all sections of society to debate and articulate their thoughts on critical issues that affect our future.

Our mission is to reach out to the farthest corners of the country and leave no stone unturned in empowering youth and ensuring that their voice is heard.

It took us three years of hard work before we managed to make our dream a reality. Little did the two of us imagine, that I-Parliament would one day develop into something that would give opportunities to young minds from across India to connect with each other and voice their opinion on critical issues related to our nation's progress.

In the sessions held so far, I-Parliament was able to develop innovative legislative ideas through extensive, vigorous and exciting debate amongst participants. These were then crafted by I-Parliament into weighty Constitutional and Legislative Amendment proposals that have received appreciation from senior policy experts.

Bills that have been formulated at the I-Parliament have been presented to honourable MPs like, Shri Rajiv Satav, Shri Shashi Tharoor, Shri Dinesh Trivedi, Shri. P. Chidambaram and Shri Gaurav Gogoi. At the session held in April last year we discussed and drafted a Bill on Electoral Reforms in India. The Bill was duly handed over to Ms. Sushmita Dev, Member of Parliament, Silchar, for her consideration for being moved as a Private Member's Bill in the Lok Sabha. The Bill was appreciated by her and is in the process to be taken to Parliament.

We welcome you to the 6th Session of I-Parliament. We hope you have a fruitful time discussing and debating important matters, raised during this session. Do remember to be familiar with rules and procedures and the topic of discussion (The Aadhaar Act) for which we have provided an extensive background guide, and links to relevant articles. We look forward to getting to know you and we hope to have a great session with brilliant thought provoking debates and speeches from all of you.

Having already secured the support and active engagement of a wide cross section of students and schools from various states, we are confident that the future of I-Parliament is undoubtedly bright. We are in the process of starting several new initiatives including youth Democracy Clubs that aim to strengthen the movement and at the same time make it ongoing throughout the year.

Raihan Vadra

Founder & Secretary General
I-Parliament

Yasharth Goyal

Founder & Secretary General
I-Parliament

Highlights since inception _____....

1.



The I-Parliament Bill on Article 365 of the Constitution was forwarded to Shri P.Chidambaram and Shri Rajeev Satav, Members of Parliament for their consideration.

2.



Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Sushmita Dev filed the Session 3 Bill on Electoral Reforms with the legal department of the Representation of People's Act.

3.



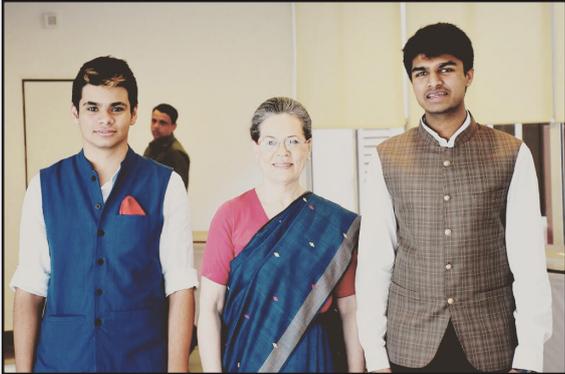
The Session 4 Bill on Right to Privacy was submitted to Shri Gaurav Gogoi, MP, Kaliabor for his consideration to be moved as a Private Members Bill in the Lok Sabha.

4.



The latest Bill from I-Parliament on the Asylum Act has been submitted to Shri Dinesh Trivedi, MP, Barrackpore.

5.



I-Parliament was honoured to welcome the then Congress President and UPA Chairperson Smt Sonia Gandhi as Chief Guest for our first three Sessions.

6.



I-Parliament was honoured to welcome Shri Rahul Gandhi, Member of Parliament, Amethi and Congress President as Chief Guest for Session 4.

7.



I-Parliament was honoured to welcome Shri Hamid Ansari, Former Vice President of India as Chief Guest for Session 5.

8.



The Founders of I-Parliament were hosted by Royal Government of Bhutan to interact with Members of the Bhutan Children's Parliament and discuss and plan future joint endeavours.

India

By Miraya Vadra

There is an obvious reality
That makes us smile with glee,
One that makes us proud
A feeling we are allowed.

But behind this beauty
There's a hidden insanity
One that's kept away
From the bright of day

We're all happy with the imaginary "perfect"
But concealed is everything that's wrecked.

This country may be demolished
Due to our eyes being unpolished



Quotes about I-Parliament _____....

“

The fact that I-Parliament not only helps us voice our opinions on current matters or helps understand our rights better but getting Member of Parliaments of take our amended bill into considerations to make India a better country is tremendous.

- Sritejas Murugan, CPI(M), Chalakudy

”

“

I-Parliament is better than what I expected it to be. I feel that the overall participation has been much better in this session compared to the previous session. The panelists and everyone present are so factual that it adds to your knowledge tremendously.

-Arushi Gandhi, INC, Gulbarga

”

“

The panel with Mr. Jaivir Shergill and Mr. Zoheb Hossein helped enable debates and gave us more points to speak on. I-Parliament has been a really different experience in comparison with other conferences since it has a much more realistic approach.

-Tanishk Saha, INC, Kishanganj

”

“

I've been for I-Parliament for three consecutive sessions and the level of debate is the reason I keep coming back here. I have also been a part of other youth parliaments as a delegate as well as in the executive board but nothing compares to I-Parliament.

- Vinamr Bajaj, INC, Arunachal East

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Cartoons by Aradhita Maheshwari



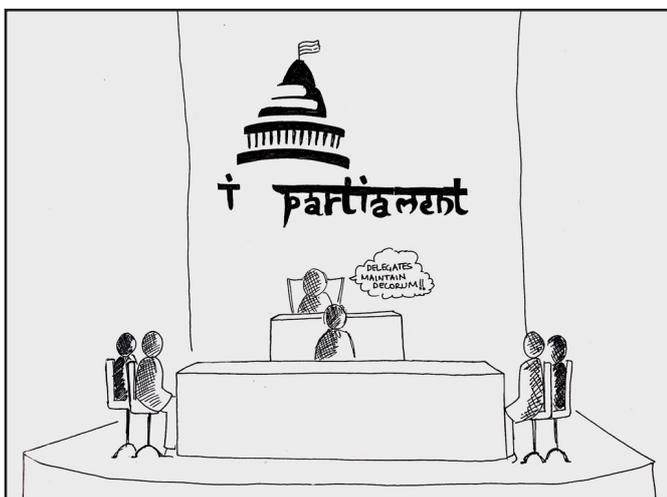
The Press conducting Free2Speak debates



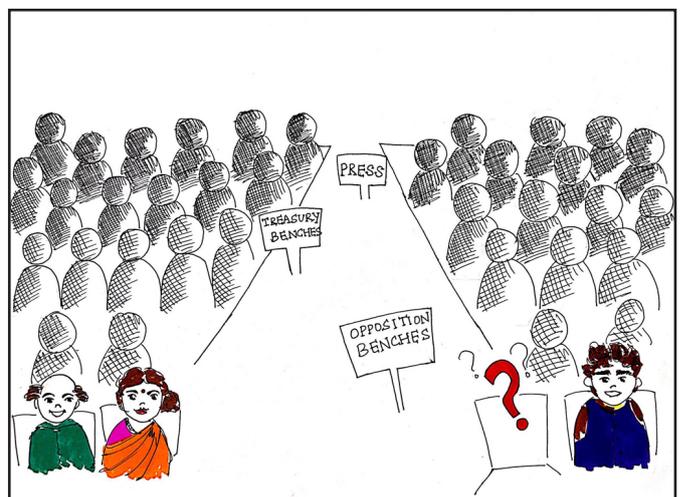
The Aadhaar Card



Delegates during coalition meetings



Speaker in action



House in Session

Milking of The Ganges

by Madhav Bhardwaj

Flashback 2014, when the PM in waiting chose Varanasi over the rest of India for his Lok Sabha seat, and upon setting his first campaigning step in the holy city, in a show that probably paled in comparison Lord Ram's return and welcome to Ayodhya after vanquished Raavan, grandiosely announced in a voice that seemed to be coming straight from heaven, 'I have not come here, Mother Ganga has called me...' - the battle for him was more or less won.

Nothing moves the Indian psyche as does Gopal (god), Gai(cow) and Ganga.

The fatalistic and religious public, largely rural, has for centuries revered the holy river as a mother, a 'devi', and believes it to be freeing one of sins merely by taking a dip while being alive, and even after death.

This belief and faith has not diminished even after any number of reports depicting the level of pollution in the river, and millions continue to throng the ghats on numerous occasions of 'snan parv' etc.

The country and Kashi catapulted him and the saffron party to power with a record number of votes and seats. Appropriately, the premier announced the formation of a new and dedicated ministry of Ganga Rejuvenation as his first administrative step, according it top priority.

Uma Bharti, the poster woman of Hindutva and party's saintly-connect was the minister-in-charge. For more effect she swore that she'll serve the Ganga till her last breath.

The world was floored and the heralding of Ram-Rajya seemed a certainty. Modiiji seemed like a new age Bhagirath, incarnated to rid the river of all its ailments.

Funds flowed, hundreds and thousand crores of rupee flowed. Then we saw the reshuffling of ministers and Nitin Gadkari of Maharashtra, former president of party, close to the RSS as also to the corporate world was the main minister

and, coincidentally, Mr. Satypal Singh, former commissioner of Mumbai Police (Maharashtra) , was made his deputy. Time flowed. Money flowed. River flowed and that is it.

The 'Namami Gange' Programme was launched as an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014 with a budget outlay of Rs 20,000 crore to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of Ganga.

The present time situation is that the government acknowledged that it found in a lab test that the pollution level of the river Ganges had gone up by 58% since 2014. Interestingly, the samples were collected from Varanasi, our PM's constituency. As a response to an RTI, the Govt. said 'Rs 22,238.73 crore have been allocated and that so far, only 26 per cent of the sanctioned projects have been completed'

The government plans to open up the river for commercial transportation, ferries for personal use have already been introduced. Commercial transporting comes with a package of possible oil spills and other polluting agents which pose a critical threat to not only humans, but also more than 265 fish species, 90 amphibian species and the endangered Ganges river dolphin.

The sacred river will be host to cruise-type glitzy celebrations, wining & dining, merry-making. It is beyond comprehension that whereas this government went to the extreme extent of banning the immersion of the ashes of the dead ones in the river with an eye on its pollution (even though the very advent or genesis of Ganga on earth was for the purpose of salvaging the souls of the dead once their last rites were performed alongside it), how could it shut its eyes on this blatant violation of its sublimity and rampant ravaging of its purity ? And the fun of the matter is that there's no cognisance of the matter from the otherwise vigilant NGT, proactive courts , Ministry of environment and forest , and no murmur at all from the sensitive saintly class- otherwise up in arms for the Ram Mandir, and, along with RSS, even taking pot-shots at the Supreme Court! And amongst the few who have spoken up and protested, at least two have been left to die.

It is tough to understand the fact that even the opp. parties have not thought it fit to take note of and highlight this issue of conversion of the Ganga 'Maa' from being 'Jeevadayni' goddess into a river carrying vessels of fun and frolic , and commercial trade. A shameless milking of the sacred river.

Back in 2014, Shri Modi made a promise regarding the work "A lot of it is dirty work, but I'm up to the task.' It took me 4 years, to understand that he actually has done what he had said, there was just some variance in the connotation.

Day by Day External Speakers

Day 1



A.K. Shiv
Kumar

Time: 04:00 - 05:30 PM Venue: Jawahar Bhawan, New Delhi Date: 10 November, 2018



Shehla
Rashid

Time: 04:00 - 05:30 PM Venue: Jawahar Bhawan, New Delhi Date: 10 November, 2018



Malvika
Singh

Time: 04:00 - 05:30 PM Venue: Jawahar Bhawan, New Delhi Date: 10 November, 2018



Rajeev
Satav

Time: 04:00 - 05:30 PM Venue: Jawahar Bhawan, New Delhi Date: 10 November, 2018



Sanjay
Pugalia

Time: 04:00 - 05:30 PM Venue: Jawahar Bhawan, New Delhi Date: 10 November, 2018

Day 2



Abhik
Chimni

Time: 03:30 - 05:00 PM Venue: Jawahar Bhawan, New Delhi Date: 11 November, 2018



Apar
Gupta

Time: 03:30 - 05:00 PM Venue: Jawahar Bhawan, New Delhi Date: 11 November, 2018



Gopal
Sankaranarayanan

Time: 03:30 - 05:00 PM Venue: Jawahar Bhawan, New Delhi Date: 11 November, 2018



Shyam
Divan

Time: 03:30 - 05:00 PM Venue: Jawahar Bhawan, New Delhi Date: 11 November, 2018



The Legal Aspect of The Aadhaar Act

5 questions for Shefali Malhotra
(Consultant, National Institute of Public Finance & Policy)

1 What was the purpose of the Aadhaar act?

The original purpose of the Aadhaar Act was to facilitate provision of benefits and subsidies to individuals residing in India.

2 What are your views on the Supreme Court ruling on the constitutional validity of the act?

The Aadhaar Act was tested on the tests laid under the Puttaswamy Case: Legality, legitimate state aim, necessity and proportionality. The majority judgment felt the Aadhaar Act satisfied all the tests, subjecting to declaring some provisions void. I broadly agree with the judgment on the Aadhaar Act satisfying the legality and legitimate state aim tests. On the other two tests, I feel the Supreme Court relied rather heavily on the government's submissions on the nature of information being collected and the privacy protections put in place. I don't think the government's submissions were adequately tested by the Supreme Court to arrive at its conclusion (this is also probably because Supreme Court lacks the expertise to deal with complex issues related to technology, data and privacy). The judgment is also limited in so far as it mostly focussed on surveillance by private entities, while completely ignoring the possibility and dangers of state surveillance.

3 Is it possible for a new law to be enacted to enhance the usage of Aadhaar? Such as mobile phone linking etc.?

Presently, yes. However, if challenged, the law will have to be tested on the four tests laid under the Puttaswamy Case.

4 .How will the new data protection law that is currently being discussed impact the use of Aadhar?

I think there are few concerns related to the data protection law and the protection of privacy rights of individuals, particularly,

- I think there is not enough guidance on “purpose specification”, “use limitation” and “collection limitation” principles. This will be crucial to check the expansion of Aadhaar to other purposes for legitimate purposes through legitimate means.
- Section 98(1) gives untrammelled discretion to the government in issuing directions on any question of policy, seemingly separate from the safeguards that have been prescribed in the Act, as long as it is in the interest of national security or public order.
- Section 19(2) permits the processing of sensitive personal data (such as passwords, financial/biometric/genetic data) without consent, if it is “strictly necessary” for the exercise of any function of the State, authorised by law for the provision of “any service or benefit to the data principal from the State”.

5 . Aadhar was initially meant to ease the flow of government services to people, do you think that it adheres to this purpose or it has become a tool for government intrusion? Can it be used as a tool for oppression in the future?

I think the stated purpose of Aadhaar was not adhered to, and was being used for multiple other purposes. This was curtailed to some extent by the Aadhaar judgment.

Yes, it can be used as a tool of oppression, especially for state surveillance (neither the Aadhaar Act judgment nor the Data Protection Law provide adequate protections in this regard).



Our Team



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