

## Webinar by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)

on

**“Decriminalisation of Politics: Is the 130th Constitution Amendment Bill the right path?”**

**Date and Time:** 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026, Thursday, 4 PM (IST)

### Agenda

Time	Session
16:00- 16:05	<b>Welcome Address   Introduction of the topic and speakers</b> Dr Vipul Mudgal (Trustee of ADR)
16:05- 17:05  Speaker Allotted Time: 10-12 minutes per speaker	<b>Topic: Decriminalisation of Politics: Is the 130th Constitution Amendment Bill the right path?</b> <b>The focus points for the webinar are as follows:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can the proposed bill exceed the limits prescribed by the Constitution on qualifications or disqualifications of elected Members of House/State Assembly? Are the rules of disqualification different for Ministers and MPs/MLAs?</li> <li>Is this move just the need for constitutional morality in electoral functioning, or is it a ploy to 'abuse law and investigative agencies' by the governments-in-power?</li> <li>Is there any rule of law which allows a person to be incarcerated by executive fiat without a trial and conviction by a judicial officer?</li> <li>Whether to constitute an offence and attract disqualification, one has to be triable by courts?</li> <li>Is it practicable to expect investigating agencies such as the Police, CBI, ED, and NIA to ever file a case against a sitting PM?</li> <li>Whether the Indian Judiciary, through a series of judgments, has been able to dissuade political parties from giving tickets to candidates with criminal background?</li> <li>Whether the Indian judiciary is right in holding that de-barring persons against whom charges have been framed in serious/heinous crimes falls under the domain of Parliament?</li> <li>Why is Parliament so reluctant to bring in a comprehensive legislation to prohibit persons with criminal background from contesting elections?</li> <li>Whether the proposed bill will actually solve the problem of growing criminalisation of politics, as flagged by many constitutional bodies?</li> </ol> <b>Moderator:</b> Dr Vipul Mudgal (Trustee of ADR) <b>Speakers:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Shri T.S. Krishnamurthy</b> (former Chief Election Commissioner, Election Commission of India)</li> <li><b>Dr Laxmikant Bajpai</b> (Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and National Vice President, Bharatiya Janata Party)</li> <li><b>Ms Anamika Yadav</b> (National Coordinator, All India Mahila Congress)</li> <li><b>Dr Fuad Halim</b> (Senior Leader, Communist Party of India (Marxist))</li> <li><b>Shri Chakshu Roy</b> (Head of Legislative and Civic Engagement Initiatives, PRS Legislative Research)</li> </ol>
17:05- 17:25	<b>Question and Answer Session</b>
17:25- 17:30	<b>Concluding Remarks &amp; Vote of Thanks</b> Dr Vipul Mudgal (Trustee of ADR)