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**CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN WATER  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND LAW,  
KARNATAKA STATE LAW UNIVERSITY,  
HUBBALLI**



**and**

**DEPARTMENT OF MINOR IRRIGATION  
AND GROUNDWATER DEVELOPMENT,  
KARNATAKA**



**ORGANISE**

**A**

**NATIONAL WEBINAR**

**ON**

**EMERGING TRENDS IN WATER  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND LAW  
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO  
KARNATAKA**

**Dates: 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2022**



## **EMERGING TRENDS IN WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND LAW WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KARNATAKA**

The Karnataka State Law University, Hubballi in its endeavour to promote research interest and contribute to the water legal regime has established the Centre for Research in Water Resource Management and Law. The Centre is dedicated to the study of water laws, water crisis and management, groundwater conservation and management, traditional irrigation systems, water disputes (national and international), dams, interlinking of rivers, pollution of watercourses and water bodies, management of drinking water and sanitation to name a few. The Centre is working on diverse water related projects under the esteemed supervision and guidance of Prof. (Dr.) P. Ishwara Bhat. The Centre aspires to be the platform for deliberations and recommendations on policy formulations and reforms in water law.

The Department of Minor Irrigation and Groundwater Development, Government of Karnataka with the vision and direction of Sri. J.C. Madhu Swamy, Hon'ble Minister of Minor Irrigation, has emphasised on water-harvesting initiatives and has constructed water bodies like lakes, tanks and barrages to augment water resources in the State, provide timely irrigation and increase agricultural production. The Department strongly believes that the irrigational facilities enhance agricultural production thereby adding to farmer's welfare and promoting general economic growth. One of the main objectives of the Department is to increase the areas of irrigation and to channelize irrigational facilities so that the dependency of the farmers on the rainfall is greatly reduced. The Department is striving towards increasing the participatory irrigation, strengthening of Water Users Associations, community-based irrigation schemes among many more.

### **ABOUT THE WEBINAR**

The Centre for Research in Water Resource Management and Law, KSLU and Department of Minor Irrigation & Groundwater Development in furtherance of their objective to address the water challenges in Karnataka, have jointly organized the National Webinar on the theme 'Emerging Trends in Water Resource Management and Law with special reference to Karnataka'. The Webinar invites participation across the disciplines to make it an interdisciplinary platform for discussions and deliberations. The participants in disciplines such as law, social work, public policy, hydrology, geology,

journalism etc. and interested NGOs, human right activists, water activists, officials, teachers, researchers and students are invited to participate.

Water being a vital natural resource for sustenance of life on this planet requires its judicious and prudent management. The development and management of the resource through integrated water management methods play an important role in ensuring sustainable development. Since development has a greater chance of outweighing the ideals of conservation due to the neoliberal framework, the task of meticulously framing, interpreting and implementing the normative framework both at international and national level is highly imperative for the conservation. The principles upholding water values, sustainable goals and integrated methods in international, national and state legislative and policy framework along with the precedents from judiciary serve as beacon for meeting such ends.

The challenge Karnataka is facing concerning its water resource is another core theme of this Webinar. Karnataka covers a catchment area of 191,773 km<sup>2</sup> and depends primarily on its surface and groundwater. Karnataka has a surface water potential of 102 km<sup>3</sup> possessing six percent of the total surface water of the country. Among the seven rivers that flow within Karnataka, sixty percent of the surface water is provided by west-flowing rivers and rest by the east flowing rivers. This surplus water in the west-flowing rivers has facilitated the idea of inter-linking and inter-basin transfers to provide for the water short areas of Karnataka, for instance, Bedti- Varada link, Netravathi- Hemavathi link, Mahadayi- Malaprabha link to name a few. The groundwater profile of Karnataka on the other hand, being extremely fragile is subject to constant depletion. The total replenishable ground water potential is estimated at 15.9 billion m<sup>3</sup> of which 10.7 billion m<sup>3</sup> is subject to overdraft. Further, the State has been identified as the second most drought prone after Rajasthan and of the average annual rainfall 1151 mm only half gets utilized. This scanty water profile provides all the more impetus for the conservation of water in Karnataka and its better management. The conference aims to facilitate discussions concerning the water crisis, particularly in Karnataka and its possible solution through policy changes and innovative management techniques. A holistic and pragmatic approach for such ends is the need of the hour.

The participants may explore their interests in the following sub themes or they may choose any other topic associated with the main theme of the Webinar.

## **SUB THEMES**

### **International Legal Principles on Watercourses**

The international principles concerning water such as equitable and reasonable utilization, equitable sharing of transboundary watercourses, obligation not to pollute the water, cooperation and information exchange, peaceful settlement of disputes underlying in the international instruments and decisions by the international institutions may be examined. The international development regarding water as legal person and its jurisprudential ramifications towards the eco-centrism is another interesting area.

### **Implementation of International Water-law Principles within the Domestic Sphere**

The implementation of international water law principles within the Indian legal system is a fascinating aspect. The reflection of such principles in the legislations and policies and the judgements of Indian courts and tribunals concerning water may also be analysed.

### **Right to Clean Drinking Water**

The right to pollution free drinking water has been recognised as a fundamental right. The realization of this right is often grappled with the problems of availability, accessibility and affordability. The solutions may be explored beyond creation of policies, schemes, administrative directives, to include the hurdles in their effective implementation.

### **Interlinking of Rivers and Inter-basin Transfers**

The rivers and the projects have social, economic, and environmental dimensions associated with them. The feasibility of such projects may be examined through these dimensions.

### **Inter-state Water Disputes**

Most of the rivers having inter-state watercourse are subject matter of dispute between Karnataka and other riparian states. The tribunal awards have reaffirmed their faith in the national and international law concerning the rights of the riparian for their equitable shares and reasonable allocation of river water. Further, the *2019 Inter-State River Water Dispute (Amendment) Bill* to constitute a single tribunal for inter-state water disputes may also be examined.

## **Pollution of Water Bodies**

The pollution and contamination of watercourses and water bodies is the consequence of urbanization, industrialization and unsustainable agricultural practices. The laws have flawed to meet the challenges and so have the institutional boards with their non-coordination. The possible solutions may be explored in this area.

## **Water Justice Movement**

Water issues have mobilised the masses for instance pollution, tribal rights associated with water bodies, various PILs filed at High Court and Supreme Court, issues attracting NGT, reviving traditional irrigation methods to name a few. The reflections of participatory democracy and the legal ramification of these may also be explored.

## **Groundwater Management**

The private entrepreneurship of groundwater has resulted in its overdraft and unreasonable extraction. There can be further exploration of this position in the light of the right to drinking water. *The Karnataka Ground Water (Regulation for Protection of Sources of Drinking Water) Act, 1999* and *the Karnataka Ground Water (Regulation and Control of Development and Management) Act, 2011* may be explored for its efficacy in conservation of groundwater and water justice. The emphasis attached to rainwater harvesting may also be examined.

## **Irrigation Systems of Karnataka**

The deliberations upon the irrigation may occur at two stages; firstly, importance of the traditional forms of irrigations that were predominately found in Karnataka and the need for their revival. The traditional irrigation systems have to be encouraged for their cost efficiency and durability. Secondly, there is a pressing need to address the discrepancies and challenges in the *Karnataka Irrigation Act 1965* and its amendments. The importance of participatory irrigation management may be explored as a desirable model.

## **Role of Panchayaths and Municipalities**

The participatory water management from below is identified as an important institutional mechanism to look for water solutions. Karnataka has seen a rise in participatory water management in Gram Sabhas. The Water Users Association is one of a few forms of structures that have followed the traditional management systems. The evolution of these structures and pro-active participation of Panchayaths and

Municipalities enhances and ensures community participation which in turn improves the decentralised governance.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

<b>Deadline for Abstract Submission</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
<b>Communication of Acceptance</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
<b>Last Date for Registration</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
<b>Deadline for Full Paper Submission</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
<b>Dates of Webinar</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2022

### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

- Abstract and Full Paper must be in Times New Roman, text- font size 12, spacing 1.5, Footnotes-Times New Roman, font size 10, single-spaced, footnoting style- Bluebook 20<sup>th</sup> Edition, margins: 1 Inch on all sides.
- Papers are invited both in Kannada and English languages.
- Word limit for Abstract is 300-500 words. Abstract must have the name, designation and affiliation Author and co-author (if any). Co-authorship is allowed up to three authors.
- Word limit for Full Paper is 3000-5000 words (exclusive of Footnotes)
- All the submissions should be sent to [crwrml.kslu@gmail.com](mailto:crwrml.kslu@gmail.com). For further queries about Webinar please contact Ms. Nayashree Bhosge, Phone No. 9743586725; Email: [nayashree@yahoo.com](mailto:nayashree@yahoo.com) or Dr. Akhila Basalalli, Phone : 8130532632, Email : [akhilabasalalli12@gmail.com](mailto:akhilabasalalli12@gmail.com)
- Selected papers will be published in a book with an ISBN number subject to the discretion of the University

### **REGISTRATION**

Registration is open for all. There is no registration fee.

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/pyGfWpmNsWyusWh16>

## **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

### **Patron-in-Chief**



**Sri. J. C. Madhu Swamy**

**Hon'ble Minister of Law, Parliamentary Affairs & Legislation and  
Minor Irrigation, Government of Karnataka and  
Pro-Chancellor, KSLU, Hubballi**

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**Vice Chancellor, KSLU &  
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