

LassNet Book Discussion

The Indian Constitution: A Conversation with Power

Author: **Gautam Bhatia**

(Advocate and Adjunct Professor, Jindal Global Law School)

in conversation with:

Professor Amit Prakash (CSLG, JNU)

Dr Malavika Prasad (Advocate, Bangalore)



Thursday 31 July 2025 | 1-2.30 pm (BST)
5.30-7pm (Indian Standard Time)

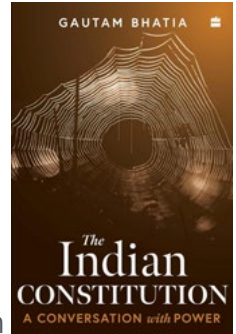
[Online \(only\) - All welcome](#)

Gautam Bhatia will discuss his new book, *The Indian Constitution: A Conversation with Power*. In 2025, the Indian Constitution turned seventy-five years old. Ever-enduring, ever-evolving, it has been a terrain of tumultuous debate and dissent: in the nation's courtrooms, upon its streets, and in the halls of Parliament. Continuing in this tradition, *The Indian Constitution: A Conversation with Power* brings a new lens to analyse the Constitution: as a document that creates, shapes, channels, and constrains power. Examining the history of Constitution-making, the debates in the Constituent Assembly,

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the Indian Constitution's design and structure, and the judicial decisions that have shaped it, this book argues that the Constitution has been a battleground upon which different visions of power have contested for supremacy. For the most part, this contest has been marked by a centralizing drift: that is, a drift towards a concentration of power within the union executive. Elements of this are embedded within the Constitution's design, but the drift has also been accelerated, at crucial historical moments, by Supreme Court judgments.

However, as this book makes clear, the centralizing drift is and was not inevitable. There have been moments of dissent and departure, which have illumined alternative possibilities. It is for the citizens of India to decide, ultimately, what vision(s) of constitutional power they want to adopt through their Constitution.



Zoom webinar link:

<https://soas-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/91833034645>