



**Centre of Excellence of Public Policy and Governance
Utkal University, VaniVihar, Bhubaneswar-751004 (Odisha)**

One Day National Seminar

on

Frontiers of Regulatory Governance in India: Trends and Issues

to be held on 15 March 2023.

Introduction of the proposed seminar:

Regulation is broadly understood as an activity by the state to address risk in different arenas like social or environmental, market failure or equity concerns through rule-based directions. In fact, it has been operated as legislative and administrative tool by the state. Notwithstanding the above, shift has been occurred in the idea of regulation through the commencement of governance paradigm. Such shift may be analysed in two forms.

One of the forms is associated with institutional shift. Conventionally, the act of regulation was monopolised by government departments. Now we are experiencing alternative agencies in the shape of independent regulators in many sectors. Like state regulates the private and public business sectors (like infrastructure, services, finance, technology, consumer goods) as well as social sectors (like public services, public health, safety, environment, human rights) in India. Reform in regulation has brought independent regulators in finance, public utilities, environment, etc. further the role international actors has also been visible how the regulation to be conducted by the state. The above changes can describe appropriately through the definition on regulation by Morgan. He defines regulation as “the administrative technology of controlling business through law-backed specialised agencies”.

The other aspect is associated with public policy arena. The justification for regulatory reform comes with the concern about promotion of public interest which is an important policy objective for governments. Ensuring fair access, non-discrimination, affirmative action, or any other matter of public importance can provide an important reason for regulation. Some major regulations in this regard in India are: support pricing where government offering to buy wheat or rice from farmers at a price which is higher than the market price, In public distribution system: supply of food grains at a price which is lower than the market price – Free distribution of piped water and free power to

agriculture – these are regulatory decisions to levy zero tariffs which stem from policy stances – Free power to agriculture which happens before elections. All the above policy issues may conflict with the market centric idea of regulation where possibility of lobbies and manipulation contradict public interest.

India started developing regulatory institutions with the introduction of reforms in 1991. Basically, it evolved through economic regulation through privatisation and reform in financial and business. But existing reports indicate that the regulatory environment which has developed over a period of time does not seem homogeneous across sectors. Besides the above, to what extent regulatory interventions have promoted public interest needs to be discussed. All the above development, no doubt, has opened up the opportunity for many disciplines to engage into the research arena of regulation. Moreover, discussion on the contemporary trends and issues on regulatory governance has to offer both discipline specific knowledge and also enable it to expand its multidisciplinary character. As alternative regulatory institutional structures are continuing since more than two decades in India, it is essential to understand how their existence has been bringing new learning both in terms of complexity and prospect for core concepts in administration like delegation, control and accountability. Further it may offer the scope to learn comparative perspective on government regulation and independent regulation. As the governance reform is driven by the assumptions that large state bureaucracies are inherently defective and wasteful, and that the market is better equipped than the state to provide most goods and services and it would provide scope for individual choice both for investors and consumers. Moreover, the above shift needs to be interrogated in the context of Public Administration. Against the above backdrop, the objectives of the proposed seminar have been framed.

Seminar Objectives:

Taking into account the above discourse, the focus of the seminar will be on following objectives

- To understand how the conceptual understanding on regulation has been reshaped with the advent of governance paradigm
- To understand the implication of regulation in ensuring the concern of equity and justice
- To unpack complexities of regulatory governance in addressing the concern of public interest
- To learn and document how researches in regulatory governance offers the scope for enhancing discipline specific knowledge on public administration

Taking into account the above objectives, the following sub themes are framed to call for papers.

- Regulation, Governance and Institutional Structures
- Regulatory agencies and delegation
- Regulatory regime and Consumer action
- Regulation, welfare and poor

These are merely the broad sub-themes of the Seminar. The participants of the Seminar are free to decide their own title of the paper, but to see that the chosen title is directly related to the title of the seminar itself.

Instructions for Submissions:

- Submissions on the above themes are expected from those engaged in teaching and research including faculties, experts and Ph.D scholars.
- The abstract should be concise and within 500 words. The Font size would be 12 in Times New Roman. It should have at least a working title, what it tries to attempt (objectives), and a brief outline of methodology used in the proposed paper.
- The completed papers should be within 5000 to 6000 words.
- All submissions must entail the full name of the participant, his/her educational qualification and contact details.

All abstracts and completed papers must be sent to the following email ID:

jtudu.publ@utkaluniversity.ac.in

No TA/DA will be borne by the organiser. Only local hospitality will be provided to paper presenters.

All the participants are required to register themselves. The link for the registration has given below:

<https://forms.gle/2sA8tVQARNLnvRss9>

Important Dates:

- Last date for abstract submission: 31 January 2023
- Notification of selection of abstracts: 5 February 2023
- Submission of full paper: 28 February 2023
- Seminar Date: 15 March 2023

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