

**Webinar by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)**  
**on**  
**“Lawbreakers being the lawmakers: A paradox in Indian democracy”**

**Date and Time:** 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025, Wednesday, 3 PM (IST)

**Agenda**

| Time   | Session   |
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| 15:00- 15:10   | <b>Welcome Address   Introduction of the topic and speakers</b><br>Maj Gen Anil Verma (Retd) (Head of ADR)  |
| 15:10- 16:10<br><br>Speaker Allotted Time: 10-12 minutes per speaker | <p>Panel Discussion on <b>“Lawbreakers being the lawmakers: A paradox in Indian democracy”</b></p> <p><b>The focus points for the webinar are as follows:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Curbing the rising number of legislators with criminal cases: Who will bell the cat? Executive or Judiciary?</li> <li>2. Does repeated election of tainted politicians adversely affect good governance?</li> <li>3. Is the Indian voter unaffected by the tainted background of politicians?</li> <li>4. Lifetime ban or disqualification for 10 or 15 years for convicted politicians: which is appropriate?</li> <li>5. Slew of Supreme Court judgements such as fast track courts, trial to be completed within a year, publication of criminal cases details by candidate and political parties in media, etc, as also recommendations of various committees/commissions have been unable to bring about reform. Is there a way forward or will voters/citizens remain captives of the current duplicitous system wherein the rules of the game are different for the politicians and common citizens?</li> </ol> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Maj Gen Anil Verma (Retd)</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Dr S.Y. Quraishi</b> (former Chief Election Commissioner, Election Commission of India)</li> <li>2. <b>Shri Gaurav Gogoi</b> (Member of Parliament &amp; Deputy Leader of Indian National Congress in Lok Sabha)</li> <li>3. <b>Ms Kavita Srivastava</b> (President, People's Union for Civil Liberties)</li> <li>4. <b>Advocate Ruben Mascarenhas</b> (Working President, Aam Aadmi Party-Mumbai)</li> <li>5. <b>Shri Prashant Bhushan</b> (Senior Lawyer, Supreme Court of India)</li> </ol> |
| 16:10- 16:25   | <b>Question and Answer Session</b>  |
| 16:25- 16:30   | <b>Concluding Remarks &amp; Vote of Thanks</b><br>Maj Gen Anil Verma (Retd)   |