

Universal Periodic Review of India 2012
(24th May, 2012 Geneva)

Remarks by Prof. Ranbir Singh,
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As the Vice Chancellor of the National Law School, it was my privilege to prepare the first draft of the National Report of India for the UPR 2012 at the request of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Apart from closely following the general guidelines of the UNHCR for the preparation, our effort has been to make it as exhaustive and inclusive as possible. The process started more than a year ago. I constituted a small group of committed individuals to assist me, which included a lawyer, an academician and a journalist. Our attempt was to receive all relevant inputs from the stakeholders, civil society, reputed experts, journalists and media, concerned government/ regulatory and statutory authorities, and most importantly, include various pertinent judgments of the Supreme Court of India.

Needless to add, all concerned Ministries and Departments of the Government of India have contributed in the preparation of the Report, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Ministry of Minority Affairs, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the Ministry of Law and Justice, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Mines, the Planning Commission and the Ministry of External Affairs.

In addition, effective consultations were held with stakeholders consisting of several non-governmental organisations, civil society and experts involved in human rights related activities. We had participated in the consultative workshop, which brought together a range of participants. The Government also participated in the consultations held by the National Human Rights Commission in various States of India to ensure that the inputs reflected the federal polity of our country and the diversity of views.

In a spirit of complete transparency, this draft was posted on the website of the Government. It was heartening for us to receive comments and inputs from all parts of India, much of which helped us sharpen our report.

All the information collected pursuant to the rigorous and long process of consultations has been woven into the report, which is before you. The final meeting of this process was chaired by the Foreign Secretary himself.

Before I conclude, I would like to draw your attention to another new feature of our report – an exhaustive annexure on the evolution of our Fundamental Rights under Chapter III of our Constitution.

Thank You.

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