Dr. Upendra Baxi
Emeritus Professor of Law
University of Warwick and Delhi
website: http://www.upendrabaxi.in

B-10/7201, Vasant Kunj
New Delhi, 110070
Email: U.Baxi@warwick.ac.uk
https://warwick.academia.edu/UBaxi

Foreword

Professor (Dr). Usha Tandon marks and maps an important juristic contribution by an act of imagination that now results into this inaugural edition of Annual Survey of Allahabad Law [ASAL]. It is important to recall that this venerable institution was initially located at the Accountant General's office within the University of Allahabad complex. It is well-worth remembering that a very close connection thus exists between legal studies, universities, justice, and democratic accontability.

The High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, as is known since 11 March 1919, has a cluster of brilliant Justices, many of whom have adorned the Supreme Court of India, and High Courts in India and made significant normative contributions. The constitutional spirit of secularity is forever in display. As is well known, the Allahabad High Court was constructed by Khan Saheb Nizamuddin of Loha Mundi, Agra, India, who also is reported to have gifted a water fountain to the High Court.

Of course, the Annual Survey of Indian Law [ASIL] published by the Indian Law Institute contains many analyses of Allahabad High Court's judicial and juridical labours. That engagement will, one hopes, continue in its full splendour, if only because it may provide a comparative (India-wide) account of judicial discourse. But as the learned contributions in the first issue demonstrate, in the fullness of their contributions, a specific engagement with Allahabad High Court is normatively nourishing and empirically enriching.

A Survey is always more than a survey! This is so, despite the tendency of many learned authors, to write that 'in this case'... and 'in the other' 'the Court decided this or that'. Such a narrative style fatigues the reader, who in any case is looking for more than the ratio of a case. Important as is to ascertain the outcome of a case or controversy, it is enchanting to pursue the real reasons which are often submerged often in the debris of a long winded judicial discourse.

Professor Karl Lewellyn always taught the first semester course in Chicago Law School and he proverbially began his class by asking his students that they should not 'look at what judges say but what they do with what they say'. Law saying is always performative, and as Professor Julius Stone never tired of reminding us every case has multiple rationes and not a single ratio, thus offering further 'leeway of choice.

I very much hope that ASAL will illuminate our reading habits and styles and help continue to promote fresh readings of judicial discourse. I must immediately add that such reading is very remote from fast machine reading; a view which I have elaborated many times in my writings. I very much hope that the ASAL will contribute to the virtues of slow reading as against speed reading. As Paul Virilo used to say in his great little book Speed and Politics (1977), dromology (the science of speed) may eventually overcome democracy.

Professor Usha Tandon's exemplary academic leadership in bringing out ASAL reflects her longstanding commitment to legal scholarship. The ASAL model, well started by her should encourage similar strivings for other States and Union Territories. Such a spread will be a just contribution to celebrations of 75+ constitutionalism of India.

Upendra Baxi,
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