

Report of the First Think Tank Society Panel Discussion

Organized by MANUU Law School

Theme: *One Nation, One Election (ONOE)*

The Think Tank Society of MANUU Law School organized its first panel discussion on the theme “*One Nation, One Election*”. The initiative is designed to nurture critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and a culture of debate among law students, while engaging them with pressing constitutional and policy issues.

Opening Session

The program was anchored by Ms. Alfiya K.A. (BA., LL.B Hons.), who warmly welcomed the participants.

The session commenced with inaugural remarks by **Prof. (Dr.) Tabrez Ahmad, Dean, MANUU Law School and Chairman of the Think Tank Society**. He underscored the importance of creating such forums within the Law School to cultivate a culture where students acquire broader intellectual perspectives and develop skills that go beyond classroom learning.

This was followed by remarks from **Dr. Sateesh Kumar (Faculty Convener)** and **Ms. Afifa Ahmad (Faculty Co-Convener)**. They highlighted the value of such student-led initiatives in nurturing and shaping socially conscious and vibrant legal professionals.

Panel Discussion

The panel discussion on *One Nation, One Election* was moderated by **Dr. Mudasir Bashir Bhat (Faculty, Political Science)**. He provided an overview of the historical background, contemporary debates, and constitutional challenges of ONOE before inviting the panelists to share their insights.

The Panel comprised four MANUU Law School students:

- **Ms. Nazia Rohi (LL.M)**
- **Mr. Md Iftekhar (LL. B)**
- **Mr. Md Faisal (BA., LL. B Hons.)**

- **Mr. Md Hasib Nayyer (BA., LL. B Hons.)**

They began with opening remarks on the theme ONOE, followed by a structured discussion across four thematic rounds. The panelists addressed questions on the following themes:

- **Governance:** Reflections on the impact of frequent imposition of the Model Code of Conduct, disruptions to policymaking, questions of financial expenditure, and the constitutional-logistical feasibility of ONOE.
- **Democratic Accountability:** Consideration of whether fewer elections would reduce accountability, how longer gaps between elections might affect voter influence, and whether ONOE could encourage long-term policy focus over short-term populism.
- **Federalism:** Examination of the balance between national unity and state autonomy, the challenges posed by mid-term government dissolutions, and the idea of phased implementation before adopting simultaneous elections fully.
- **Party Politics:** Analysis of how ONOE might affect regional representation, the risk of national issues overshadowing local concerns, and the likely reshaping of campaign strategies for both national and regional parties.

The audience, comprising faculty and students of MANUU Law School, actively participated by posing questions to the panelists, further enriching the discussion with practical and constitutional concerns.

Conclusion

In his closing remarks, the moderator summarized the deliberations, noting that ONOE carries both promise—in terms of reducing expenditure and ensuring governance stability—and caution, particularly regarding federal balance and democratic accountability.

Vote of Thanks

The program concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by **Mr. Mujahidul Islam (BA., LL.B Hons., Student Co-Convener)**. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to:

- **Prof. (Dr.) Tabrez Ahmad**, Dean and Chairman of the Think Tank Society, for his vision and guidance.
- **Dr. Sateesh Kumar (Faculty Convener)** and **Ms. Afifa Ahmad (Faculty Co-Convener)** for their constant support.
- **Mr. Saif Ali (Student Convener)** for his dedicated efforts in organizing the event.
- The **moderator, Dr. Mudasir Bashir Bhat**, for steering the panel discussion with depth and clarity.
- The four **panelists**—Ms. Nazia Rohi, Mr. Md Iftekhhar, Mr. Md Faisal, and Mr. Md Hasib Nayer—for their thoughtful contributions.
- The faculty and student audience for their enthusiastic participation.

He concluded by noting that this inaugural event of the Think Tank Society has set the tone for a continuing culture of academic debate and reflective learning within the Law School.