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NOTE OF 50 YEARS OF ASIL

Benjamin Cardozo J remarks ‘Law is a living growth, not a changeless Code’ in his book on *The Growth of Law*. To add to this remark, it is true that law is not static and it changes with the needs of the society and vary with time and new circumstances like the technological development and innovations. Annual Survey of Indian Law (ASIL) is a premier publication of the Indian Law Institute (ILI). Inaugurated in 1965, this year the survey completes 50 years of committed engagement with the laws laid down in India. Over these years, the scope of the survey has increased considerably in order to reflect and map the developments in the emerging areas of the legal discipline. The primary objective of the survey is to critically review the legislative and adjudicative functioning of the various rungs of Indian democracy, with the larger aim of generating a dialogue between the law-makers (including judges) and the Indian legal academia.

Appreciating the role played by the courts of record in the Indian judicial system, the survey focuses on the important decisions of the Supreme Court and the high courts. The range of themes that feature in ASIL has also grown substantially, and as of now, the survey contains 34 chapters directed to both public and private law subjects, as well as specialized areas like Intellectual Property Rights, Banking Law, Cyber Law, Public Interest Litigation, Child Rights, Competition Law, Socio-Economic Offences, Women and the Law, to mention a few. The chapter on Central Legislation gives the overview of the laws enacted by the Parliament every year.

ASIL has become an important secondary source for many legal researchers who are especially interested in tracking the apex court’s interpretive trajectory on different aspects of Indian law. In an attempt to enhance accessibility, all the issues of the survey have been uploaded on the ILI website. The biggest challenge has been to expand the reach of ASIL in such a manner that it is used not only as a dossier of contemporary legal developments, but also emerges as an educative tool for those who are rendered as outsiders in the legal system. We remain aware that the journey from jurisprudence to ‘demosprudence’ cannot begin till legal research and scholarship take the much needed leap from technocratic legalese to activist pedagogies and conceive of law-making as a democratic and participatory exercise.

ILI is committed to improving the quality of this publication both in terms of content and style. Therefore, we always encourage the contributors to mark a shift from the black letter reportage of law to critical legal analysis of Indian law by adopting inter-disciplinary methodology in their research and writing.

We look forward to any feedback from our readers that would enable us to enrich the quality of ASIL.

Manoj Kumar Sinha
Editor

