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Jindal School of Government
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Jindal School of Government and Public Policy

cordially invites you to an

Open Lecture

on

"Politics, Policy,.....and Panchayats"



Ms Rashmi Shukla Sharma, (IAS., retd.)

Ms Rashmi Shukla Sharma joined the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in 1984. She is an alumna of Delhi and Princeton universities from where she earned M.Phil. (Psychology) and a Master's degree in Public Administration, respectively. She has held senior positions in the Union Government and Government of Madhya Pradesh, apart from various field-level posts in the early part of her careers. In the course of her service she acquired in-depth knowledge and experience in School Education and Local Government. She is the author (with Vimala Ramachandran) of **The Elementary Education System in India: A Field Based Investigation of Institutional Structures, Processes and Dynamics** (2009), Routledge Press, New Delhi, and **Local Government in India: Policy and Practice** (2009), Manohar Publications, New Delhi, besides many papers in the *Economic and Political Weekly* and elsewhere. She retired early from government service to take up research and teaching in related to governance and public policy.

Abstract

Panchayats have had a chequered history in India: sometimes seen as important by policy-makers, and at other times neglected. In fact, the very meaning of the word 'Panchayat' has changed in Indian policy over time, embodying Gram Swaraj, rural development, local democracy, people's participation at different junctures. These varying stances towards Panchayats are rooted in larger political and policy shifts, which make Panchayats more or less attractive for political actors.

The lecture will trace the ups and downs of the importance of Panchayats in Indian policy since Independence, as well as the changes in the content of policy regarding Panchayats. These ups and downs will be related to the larger political changes and policy shifts in the country. These larger developments influence not only the importance of Panchayats, but also how they are structured, their powers and institutional capabilities. This dynamic provides insights into the compulsions and motivations that drive policy formulation.

Wednesday, 23 August 2017, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

T2, Global Conference Room

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