

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC LAW

(Year of Inception - 2009)

Introduction: The Centre for Public Law (CPL) was established on 30th July, 2009, with the primary objective of promoting research in Public Law and exploring its intersection with other legal disciplines. As a part of its ongoing efforts, the Centre organizes regular discussions and forums that explore policy matters and the latest developments in Indian Constitutional Law and Jurisprudence.

Faculty In-Charge: Mr. D.P Kendre and Mr. Pratik

Student Coordinators: Harshal Kshirsagar, Dewangi Sharma, Ashlin Joseph, Aarzoog Gulani, Poorvi Kourav (V BA LLB), Preeti Gokhale, (III LLB), Chirayu Rushiya (IV BA LLB), Ojas Date, Tanisha Kedari, Chetan Charitra, Samrudhi Darakh (III B.A. LL.B), Vrunda Nabira, Yashaswini Joshi (II BA LLB), Aditya Kawade and Manthan Palsande (II LLB).

Weekly/Monthly Sessions Conducted by the Students:-

Title of Activity: Constitution 101 series- Article 12- The State in Indian Constitution

Date: June 24, 2022

Mode: Offline

Student Presentation: Dewangi Sharma and Ojas Date

No. of Participants: 40

Report of the Session: In this session student presenters, Devangi Sharma and Ojas Date effectively conveyed the key concepts and implications of Article 12 of the Constitution of India to the participants. The interactive discussion provided an opportunity for participants to deepen their understanding and actively contribute to the session. The session received positive feedback from the participants, who appreciated the clarity of the presentation and the opportunity to discuss and share their thoughts. It served as a valuable learning experience, enhancing participants' knowledge of the Indian Constitution and its provisions.

Title of Activity: Recent Supreme Court Updates on Challenges to CAA

Date: September 27, 2022

Mode: Offline

Student Presentation: Ashlin Joseph and Preeti Gokhale

No. of Participants: 19 Students

Report of the Session: The session on Recent Supreme Court Updates on Challenges to the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) was held on 27th September 2022. The purpose of this session was to provide students with an update on the latest developments and legal challenges surrounding the CAA. Ashlin Joseph and Preeti Gokhale provided a clear and insightful presentation, ensuring participants gained a comprehensive understanding of the latest updates regarding the CAA.

Title of Activity: EWS Reservation Challenge: Issues before the Constitutional Bench

Date: October 4, 2022

Mode: Offline

Student Presentation: Ojas Date and Tanisha Kedari

No. of Participants: 30

Report of the Session: The session on "EWS Reservation Challenge: Issues before the Constitutional Bench" was held on 4th October 2022. The purpose of this session was to discuss the challenges and legal issues surrounding the implementation of the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) reservation in India.

Title of Activity: Constitution 101 Lecture Series- "Basics of Constitutional Law"

Date: March 4, 2023

Mode: Offline

Student Presentation: Ojas Date and Chetan Charitra

No. of Participants: 35

Report of the Session: In this session Ojas Date and Chetan Charitra delivered an informative presentation on the basics of Constitutional Law. They covered fundamental concepts such as the Separation of Powers, Fundamental Rights, the Role of the Judiciary, and the Amendment Process. The presenters provided clear explanations, examples, and case studies to illustrate key principles and legal provisions. They also highlighted landmark judgments and significant constitutional amendments that have shaped India's legal framework.

Title of Activity: Constitution 101- Lecture Series- “Fundamental Rights”

Date: April 19, 2023

Mode: Offline

Student Presentation: Yashaswini Joshi and Chirayu Rushiya

No. of Participants: 14

Report of the Session: In this session Yashaswini Joshi and Chirayu Rushiya delivered an informative presentation on the Fundamental Rights enshrined in the Indian Constitution. They covered various fundamental rights, including the Right to Equality, Right to freedom of Speech and Expression, Right to Life and Personal Liberty, and Right against discrimination. The presenters explained the scope and limitations of each fundamental right, citing relevant case laws and examples to illustrate their importance. They also discussed the role of the judiciary in safeguarding and interpreting fundamental rights.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Title of Activity: Guest Lecture on Bilkis Bano- Controversy and Governance

Date: August 26, 2022

Mode: Hybrid mode

Name of the Resource Person: Prof. Dr. Sanjay Jain (Professor, NLSIU, Bengaluru).

No. of Participants: 112

Report of the Session: ILS Centre for Public Law organized a guest lecture by Prof. Dr. Sanjay Jain on 26th August, 2022, on the topic of 'Bilkis Bano- Controversy and Governance'. The session was moderated by Mr. D.P. Kendre. The session started with an informative background with Dr. Jain giving us a brief background of the case and explained us as to why did the trial in the case Bilkis Bano take place in Maharashtra and not in Gujarat (the state in which the crime was committed) and how it became fair for the outcome of the trial where the same was conducted without causing any prejudice to the victim. Dr Jain then elucidated on the process of remission and the elements which influences remission policy of a state. Various Supreme Court Judgments were also discussed during the session where the Supreme Court's observation was deliberated upon. Sir explained the procedural aspects of remission and the authorities who have their say in the final decision of remission of a convict.

Title of Activity: Guest Lecture on The Constitution of India and EWS Reservation

Date: November 26, 2022

Mode: Online

Name of the Resource Person: Prof. Dr. Sanjay Jain (Professor, NLSIU Bengaluru) and Adv. Amit Pai (AOR, Supreme Court of India)

No. of Participants: 120

Report of the Session: ILS Centre for Public Law celebrated the Constitution Day by organizing a guest Lecture of Prof. Dr. Sanjay Jain and the Supreme Court Advocate on Record Adv. Amit Pai on 26th November, 2022, on the topic of 'Constitution of India and EWS Reservation'.

Amit Pai shared valuable insights on the Constitution of India, its historical significance, and its relevance in the present context. He shed light on the principles and fundamental values enshrined in the Constitution, emphasizing the importance of equal representation and social justice.

Prof. Dr. Sanjay Jain, an expert in Constitutional Law, provided his insights on EWS Reservation. He discussed the constitutional provisions related to reservation for

economically weaker sections and examined their implications in various spheres of society.

Title of Activity: Guest Lecture on Gender Equality and Legal Profession

Date: December 2, 2022

Mode: Online

Name of the Resource Person: Adv. Thulasi K. Raj

No. of Participants: 75

Report of the Session: A session titled "Gender Equality and Legal Profession" was organized to commemorate Advocates' Day. The session was centered around a lecture delivered by Adv. Thulasi Raj, aiming to raise awareness about the gender inequalities prevalent in the legal profession and explore the challenges and opportunities faced by women within this field.

She started by discussing the sex ratio in ILS Law College, emphasizing how it has evolved over the years. She also addressed the disparity between the number of women graduating from law schools and the number of women practicing as advocates. She explored the reasons why many women drop out of the profession at an early stage and the challenges faced by women in the legal profession, including the limited opportunities available due to the attached stigma of women being perceived as the weaker groups. At the end of session, the speaker shared her personal experience as an advocate representing the appellant in the hijab case, offering insights into her journey and the challenges faced. The session concluded with an interactive question-answer session.

Title of Activity: Gender Lecture Series - "Challenges for Addressing Violence Against Women: Criminal Law Perspectives."

This lecture series was conducted under Nirbhay Kanya Abhiyan Savitribai Phule University. Total 3 lectures were conducted. Details are given below :-

Lecture-1

Resource Person: Ms. Chandni Chawla (Advocate Bombay High Court)

Date: February 25, 2023

Mode: Online

Report of the Session: The Session aimed at addressing the challenges women face to limit violence against them. Ms. Chawla pointed out state functionaries are not pro-women in matters relating to violence against women. She also pointed to the immense mental and emotional trauma a woman faces while there is any case of violence against her, how she has to tackle the difficulties to get justice.

No. of Participants: 60

Lecture 2

Resource Person: Ms. Devika Singh (Advocate)

Date: February 28, 2023

Mode: Online

Report of the Session: The session aimed at addressing gender discrimination in the workplace. Gender discrimination refers to unfair treatment or bias towards an individual based on their gender. While Constitutional protections exist to prevent such discrimination, there are still gaps and challenges in enforcing these laws. These gaps can include insufficient remedies, lack of awareness among employers and employees, and biases in the legal system. It is essential to address these gaps to ensure a fair and inclusive workplace for all individuals.

No. of Participants: 50

Lecture 3

Date: March 19, 2023

Mode: Online

Resource Person: Dr. Sanjay Jain (Professor, NLSIU, Bengaluru)

Report of the session: Dr. Snjay Jain, spoke on the women's right to vote and their representation in the state and Union legislatures. He did a comparative analysis of the women's right to vote in various countries. While doing so he pointed to the various socio-political aspects that play a role in the representation of women in political scenarios.

No. of Participants: 30

COMPETITIONS CONDUCTED

Title of the Competition: Constitutional Law Quiz

Date: November 24, 2022

Name and Designation of the Judges: The Winners were decided on the basis of points they scored. The Core Committee was the scorekeepers.

No. of Participants: There were 30 teams.

Winners: Ganesh Kokate - II LLB (Winner), Siddharth Jadhav - II LLB (Runner Up), Ankit Raj - II.LLB (Second Runner Up)

Report: On 24th November, 2022, the Centre for Public Law had organized Constitutional Law Quiz Competition, 2022, for the II BA LLB and II LLB students. The competition consisted of two rounds - Preliminary and Finals. In the preliminary round, 30 participants competed and 6 of them qualified for the Finals. The preliminary round consisted of oral questions, where participants had to provide one-word answers in writing. Each correct answer was awarded 1 mark, and there were 2 special tie-breaker questions.

In the Finals, participants faced 5 rounds of questions, including Personalities, Picture type, Odd one out, Chronological question - Order arranging, and Rapid fire. Each correct answer in the Finals was worth 10 marks, with no negative marking. If a question was passed, the participant who answered it correctly received 5 marks. The Picture round was a buzzer round, adding an element of excitement to the competition.

Participants adhered to the rules diligently, answering only on their turn and refraining from prompting answers. The top 3 winners were recognized for their outstanding performance and awarded books and certificates, signifying their achievement and expertise in Constitutional Law.

Title of the Competition: 3rd CPL Constitutional Law Extempore Moot Court Competition, 2023.

Date: April 17 & 18, 2023

Name and Designation of the Judges: The preliminary round was judged by the students of V BA LLB and III LLB of ILS Law College, Pune. While, the Final Round was judged by Adv. Raghav Puranik and Adv. Shreyas Shetty.

No. of Participants: 50

Winners: Anoushka Kaulgekar (III BA LLB) (Winner), Soumik Ghosh (II BA LLB) (Runner Up), and Sanchita Dhupar (III BA LLB) (Second Runner Up)

Report: The 3rd CPL Constitutional Law Extempore Moot Court Competition was held on 17th & 18th April 2023, with the objective of familiarizing students with the functioning of Constitutional Law in India. The preliminary rounds were conducted on 17th April, 2023, and the final rounds were conducted on April 18, 2023. The event saw a very good student turnout from college, indicating a growing interest in Constitutional Law among students. A notable aspect of the competition was that the Moot Propositions were also prepared by the students. The Preliminary proposition was contributed by Tejas Bhonge and the Final Proposition by Nishant Bajoria. This hands-on exercise allowed participants to gain a deeper understanding of Constitutional Law while showcasing their legal analysis skills in a simulated courtroom setting.

The Judges for the Preliminary Rounds were the Final Year Students from BA LLB and LLB. While the judges for the Final Rounds were Adv. Shreyas Shetty and Adv. Raghav Puranik.

The format of the competition is such that it molds the participant to act quickly and decisively. The moot problem is released only a few hours before the competition. The Participants have to then prepare their arguments on the basis of available resources and present the oral submissions before a bench consisting of two judges. After the Preliminary Rounds, two participants from each courtroom were selected for the Final Round.

PUBLIC LAW BULLETIN

Faculty Editor: Mr. Dnyaneshwar Kendre and Mr Pratik

Student Editors: Aditi Mishra, Dewangi Sharma, Saahas Arora (all V BA LLB)

In the academic year 2022-23, new inductions were made to the team of contributors at the Public Law Bulletin. The aim was to involve junior students and train them in academic writing and research. A team of 11 students, with 3 student editors under the guidance of Mr Dnyaneshwar Kendre and Mr Pratik, worked towards curating the bulletin. On December 6, 2022, the public law bulletin released its 21st Volume on the theme 'Gender and the Constitution'. It included articles on Gender Diversity in the Legal Profession, Conjugal Rights, Abortion Rights in US, a Critical Analysis of the Marital Rape judgment, etc. The aim of the bulletin was to put forward discussion and discourse on contemporary issues related to Gender and its interaction with constitutional law.

Vol and Issue No.	Date of Publication	Theme	Names of Contributors
Vol 21 No.1	December 6, 2022	Gender and the Constitution	Shalanki Prasad, Nikita Mehrotra, Saahas Arora, Kaushik Parkhe,, Preeti Gokhale, Aditi Mishra, Sanya Solanki, Vidhi Khimawat and Vishakha Patil