

Conferences/ Seminars/ Workshops/ Colloquium

Name of the Conference: “Colloquium 6.0 – Central Bank Digital Currency”

- **Introduction :** The ILS Corporate Law Cell organized its marquee event, the Colloquium 6.0 on Contemporary Issues in Corporate Law, on 15/05/2022. This year, the theme of the Colloquium was Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC): Trends and Future. The speakers hosted for the event were Mr. Nilanjan Sinha, Mr. Subhash Garg, Ms. Rashmi Deshpande, Mr. Anu Tiwari, Mr. Anuroop Omkar, Mr. Sudhakar Kulkarni, and Mr. Prasanna Lohar, who are stalwarts from the Banking and Finance and Legal fraternity. The event saw an overwhelming participation of more than 40 attendees including students from ILS Law College, Pune and other law colleges, and professionals from the legal fraternity.
- **Dates:** 15 May 2022
- **Faculty Coordinators :** Dr.Swatee Yogessh and Ms. Ninawari Ware
- **Student Coordinators :** Yamini Jain, Akshita Bhandari, Shaivi Awasthy (all V BA LL.B), Devanshi Masand, Kaustubh Kulkarni, Kashish Singhal (all IV BA LL.B), Sanika Paithankar and Keyur Jaju (both III BA LL.B).
- **Level :** National
- **No. of Participants:** 50
- **Details of the session:**
- **KEYNOTE SESSION: Introduction to CBDC by Mr. Nilanjan Sinha, (General Counsel and Head Legal – India & SE Asia ICICI Bank) :** Mr. Nilanjan Sinha delivered the keynote address by introducing the fundamental concepts of Digital Currency, defining the same as “existing fiat currency issued in a digital form”. He, further, discussed the evolution and sovereignty of currency and global developments on the front of launching and issuing of CBDC by various countries. Looking at the nascence of the topic, he posed several questions to the attendees regarding the need of CBDC’s and position of digital payments in India. He also discussed the interest payment and settlement mechanism with respect to CBDCs and the convertibility aspect of the same in case of Global and Domestic transactions. While concluding the session, he touched on the topic of carbon footprints and CBDCs along with bitcoin mining and effects of printing currency notes.
- **FIRST SESSION: Fundamentals of CBDC - CBDC vs. Cryptocurrency, by Ms. Rashmi Deshpande (Partner, Business Law Chamber; ILS Law College Alumni) :**
Ms. Rashmi Deshpande started the session with the differentiation between CBDCs and Cryptocurrencies with reference to Satoshi Nakamoto’s research paper, the crux of which was development of peer-to-peer transactions without any intermediaries. She also emphasized on the public ledger system and the role of blockchain technology. As per research, the primary distinction between CBDCs and Cryptocurrency is based on the nature of the currencies, authorities governing the same, role of intermediaries and legal framework required in both of them. According to her, the fundamental difference between both types of currencies is framed around the question of anonymity and data privacy in terms of regulations and tracking of the currency in the light of blockchain technology. The session also shed light on coexistence of CBDCs and Cryptocurrencies stating use of CBDCs as currency and

possessing Cryptocurrency in the form of barter or an asset but not as Legal tender or Currency.

- **Use of Blockchain Technology, Mr. Prasanna Lohar, (Vice President, Technology, DCB Bank):** The aspects of innovations in payment by RBI and Blockchain Technology were further covered by Mr. Prasanna Lohar. He defined blockchain as foundational technology which primarily improves productivity in the current monetary ecosystem. He discussed the stages and kinds of Blockchain technology used for developing CBDCs and benefits of having CBDCs using blockchain. The design and key considerations were also briefly introduced by him, which were further elaborated by Mr. Anuroop Omkar under ‘Key Considerations for Rollout of Retail CBDCs in India’.
- **Key Considerations for roll out of Retail CBDCs in India by Mr. Anuroop Omkar (Partner, AK & Partners) :** During the session, Mr. Anuroop Omkar discussed the difference in retail CBDCs and digital payments, need for retail CBDCs and issuance structure of retail CBDCs. Lastly to conclude the first panel discussion, the 3 models of CBDC- Direct CBDC, Indirect CBDC and Hybrid CBDC were elaborated in light of the question of money laundering and resolving the risks involved in CBDCs.
- **SECOND SESSION: Impact of CBDC - Issues and Effects of Taxation on CBDC, by Mr. Subhash Garg, (Finance and Fiscal Policy Strategist, Former Finance and Economic Affairs) :** The first speaker after the break was Mr. Subhash Garg who delivered a note on issues and effects of taxation on CBDCs. He compared the situation prevalent in earlier times to that of today, viz., the change from gold/silver to paper currencies to transactions in the digital form, and their tax aspects. He opines that it ought to take a lot of time for the central bank or the RBI (in India) to align to the needs of CBDCs, and then to further the tax objectives owing to the regulatory framework prevalent in the country at present, socio-economic circumstances, amongst others. He analyzed cross-border transactions and notes that India might follow the trends of the western world. According to him, “if the Dollar gets digitalized, the rupee note would be digitalized. However, all these would not be anytime soon”. Talking about the budget and the 1% TDS on transactions, he opined that it ought to be problematic for concerned authorities because it requires thousands of tax returns which would flood the system. It also locks the money as 1% TDS is only available when you claim. He marked that India has so far not come with the taxation of value addition and proposed that a GST of highest rate or something alike would likely be imposed.
- **Impact of Digital Currency on Financial Markets, by Mr. Sudhakar Kulkarni, (Partner, Astute Securities) :** The second panelist in this session, Mr. Sudhakar Kulkarni, had come in-person for the colloquium. He discussed and interacted with the participants on the impact of digital currency on the Financial Markets. He started with explaining the need of CBDC and clearly demarcated the difference between CBDC and Cryptocurrency as many use these two terms and concepts synonymously. He marked that on one hand, cryptocurrencies being unregulated often causes disruptions, chaos and upsets in the crypto market which affects the Financial Systems. However, this is not true with CBDC as these digital currencies ought to be regulated by the Central Bank (RBI in India) owing to which it is less likely to cause chaos in the market, and is more likely to assist the common people in transactions. He noted that CBDC might seem to have disrupted the markets with its incoming, however, this is not true. He agreed with our first speaker viz. Mr. Subhash Garg, and marked that the incoming of

CBDCs ought to take time. Even if digital currencies come, physical notes are not going anywhere or getting replaced any time soon, as it is likely to be present in the system for another 100-200 years. Thus, as on the current date, not much change is expected in the Financial Markets with the incoming of the digital currency. He concluded on a positive note that CBDCs, upon entering the market, sooner or later ought to revolutionize and ease transactions for the common man in the markets.

- **CBDC: Trends and Future, by Mr. Anu Tiwari, (Partner, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas)** : Mr. Anu Tiwari was the final speaker of the panel and addressed the participants on the trends and futures of the CBDC. He opened the floor of discussion with an interesting question on whether or not we really need digital banks. He went on to elaborate on the history of money and explained that this was not the first time that a disruption would have happened in the market, as earlier transactions used to happen in commodities, post which they were shifted to paper currencies, etc. He also compared the monetary systems of India and China, amongst other countries and gave a roadmap on the current trends of CBDCs in other countries like Bahamas, Eastern Caribbean, Martial Islands, Thailand, Singapore, United Kingdom, etc. He introduced the participants to the working paper released by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) in January 2022 and discussed how the future would be regulated with the incoming of the CBDC. He concluded the session by asking participants some open questions like “Would one be banking with a central bank or with an individual bank?” and “how would one differentiate between regulating physical money and digital money?”

Post the panel discussion, Dr. Swatee Yogesh, faculty in-charge, Corporate Law Cell gave a vote of thanks to the panelists which marked the end of the 6th edition of the Colloquium.

Source of Funding (College/University/Others) : Corporate Law Advisor sponsored the stationery

“Remembering S P Sathe”

PROFESSOR S. P. SATHE 15th PUBLIC MEMORIAL LECTURE, 2021

Faculty Coordinators: Dr Shaila Daware, Ms Swati Kulkarni and Mr Rohit Bokil

Date: 31 October 2021

Resource Person: Hon’ble Justice P.N. Prakash (Judge, Madras High Court)

Topic : Forensic Science in Criminal Courts:

Report : This year, Remembering Prof. S. P. Sathe 15th Memorial Public Law Lecture was delivered by Hon’ble Justice P.N. Prakash (Judge, Madras High Court) on 'Forensic Science in Criminal Courts: The Role of Judges, Prosecutors and Defense Lawyers' on 31 October, 2021.

Justice Prakash began the memorial lecture by mentioning the earlier trend of criminal investigation and how in the past the criminal investigation was mainly accused centric. Further, Justice Prakash highlighted the role which judges have to play in deciding cases which are solely based on forensic evidence. Justice Prakash emphasized the need on the part of prosecutors to handle the forensic evidence with utmost care in order to prevent its tampering or mishandling. During the memorial lecture Justice Prakash referred to his own judgments to highlight the value and importance of forensic evidence. Justice Prakash also referred to the Uthra case in which the death was caused by inflicting cobra bites to disguise it as death as an accidental cobra bite.

The public memorial lecture ended with the remarks of the Chairperson, Justice Mridula Bhatkar, Former Judge, Bombay High Court and President, Indian Law Society,

PROFESSOR S. P. SATHE 15th NATIONAL CONFERENCE (VIRTUAL)

‘ROLE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS’

Faculty Coordinators : Dr Shaila Daware, Ms Swati Kulkarni and Mr Rohit Bokil

Date : 30 - 31 October, 2021

Theme of the Conference: Technological revolution has brought a paradigm shift in the fields of forensic science. DNA profiling, lie detector tests, narco analysis are some of the most obvious and striking examples of such a merger of scientific discovery, technological advancement and forensic application in the criminal justice delivery system. There is an increased resort to the application of new technological advancements in forensic science to criminal investigation. The benefits are many fold; but primarily it has the potential to strongly increase the speed and efficacy of criminal investigation. While on the other hand the application of forensic tools have led to moral, legal and physical abuse of individuals. Use of forensic tools in the criminal justice system raises serious issues of privacy rights and violation of human rights.

Essentially forensic science has to operate in a legal context. There are constitutional and other legal constraints on how a criminal investigation can be carried out. It also raises concerns about reliability and relevance of scientific evidence in criminal trials. Therefore it is necessary to set out the rules regarding validity, reliability, admissibility and acceptability of scientific and digital evidence in criminal trials.

Thus it has become increasingly necessary to analyze and comprehend the legal implications of advanced technology and forensic science in the context of our legal system. The Conference provided a unique interdisciplinary platform for intellectuals from the field of science, technology and law to discuss, exchange and share their experiences and deliberate on how law can regulate and effectively utilize potential of advanced technology and science to bolster the deliverance of justice in the criminal justice system.

Report: Day One of the conference began with the opening remarks by Dr. Sanjay Jain, Principal, ILS Law College, Pune. After the opening remarks, Dr. Asha Srivastava, Head of the Department, CFSL, New Delhi introduced the subject of Forensic Science to the audience. Dr. Srivastava explained the various stages involved in collection of forensic evidence and analysis of the forensic evidence with apt examples.

After Dr. Srivastava, Mr. Yuvraj Narwankar, Advocate, Bombay High Court, discussed the applicability of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 to the Forensic Evidence. Mr. Narwankar, with the help of important judgments, explained the practical legal difficulties encountered in the admissibility of forensic evidence. Ms. Sathya Narayan, Director ILSCA, Hon. Director, IALS, ILS Law College, Pune chaired the first session.

Day one of the conference ended with paper presentations. In total there were eight paper presenters. The papers touched upon various aspects of intersection of law and forensic science and issues

pertaining to forensic evidence. Contemporary challenges to the admissibility of forensic evidence were also discussed by the presenters. To mention a few, Dr. Paturkar argued that there is an absence of any regulatory framework that would address the emerging issues stem cell technology in her paper titled as 'An Enigmatic Story of Store Tissue.' On the other hand Mr. Abhishek Sharma Padmanabhan and Dr. Sapna S argued that The evidentiary value of DNA can be enhanced by enacting detailed Legislation governing the usage and protection of Personal Data in their paper 'The Constitutionality of DNA Regulation Bill, 2019 and Right to Privacy'.

First Session of the Second day of the Conference began with the Public Memorial Lecture by Hon'ble Justice P.N. Prakash, Judge Madras High Court on the topic of 'Forensic Science in Criminal Courts: The Role of Judges, Prosecutors and Defence Lawyers'. Justice Mridula Bhatkar, Former Judge, Bombay High Court and President Indian Law Society, was the chairperson for the Public Memorial Lecture.

Mr. Anupam Sharma, Special Prosecutor, CBI initiated the second session with his speech on the topic of 'Forensic Investigation: Scope, Limitations and the Legal Challenges' in which Mr. Sharma discussed the various challenges faced by the prosecution and police machinery in forensic investigation.

Dr. Mrunal Satish, Professor of Law, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, thoroughly discussed the topic of 'Constitutional and Other Constraints pertaining to Forensic Science'. Dr. Mrunal Satish put a particular emphasis on value of medical evidence in rape adjudication. Professor Dr. Sanjay Jain, Additional Charge Principal, ILS Law College, Pune chaired the second session.

In the third session of the second day, Justice K. Kannan, Former Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court, discussed at length the problems of forensic science testimony in the courtroom. After Justice Kannan, Dr. Pratiksha Baxi, Associate Professor, Centre for the study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, with the help of a video message enlightened the audience on 'Ethnographic accounts of victims subjected to forensic science in rape cases'.

Ms. Vaijayanti Joshi, Director, Academics and Administration, ILS Law College Pune and Hon. Secretary Indian Law Society, Pune chaired the third session.

In the last session of the day, Mr. Siddharth Aggarwal, Sr. Advocate Delhi High Court, Professor Dr. Deepa Paturkar, Vice Principal, ILS Law College, Pune and Dr. Nitish Nawsagaray, Assistant Professor, ILS Law College engaged in the panel discussion on 'The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019: Whether a compromise on privacy rights of an individual?' The chairperson for the last session was Dr. Santosh Jaybhay, Vice Principal, ILS Law College, Pune.

The conference ended with a vote of thanks.

TWO- DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDEPENDENCE OF JUDICIARY & JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS (VIRTUAL)

Faculty Coordinators : Dr Shaila Daware, Ms Swati Kulkarni and Mr Rohit Bokil

Date : 26-27 February 2022

Number of Participants - 100

Report : The Post Graduate Department in Law organized a Two- Day National Conference on Independence of Judiciary & Judicial Accountability: Contemporary Challenges and Solutions on the 26-27 February 2022 in virtual mode.

Report :- The conference was inaugurated by Mr. Vikramjit Banerjee, Additional Solicitor General of India Supreme Court. Key-note speech was delivered Prof. (Dr.) Upendra Baxi

The speakers for the Conference were -:

- Mr Dr. Arghya Sengupta , Senior Research Fellow, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, Delhi.
- Dr Sanjay Jain Principal, ILS Law College, Pune
- Dr. Shashikant Hajare, Principal, Army Law College, Pune ,
- Ritwika Sharma Senior Resident Fellow and Lead at Charkha, Vidhi's Constitutional Law Centre.
- Hon. J. Manish Pitale, Judge, Bombay High Court
- Prof Dr K.V.S Sarma Vice Chancellor, Maharashtra National Law University Aurangabad. :
- Hon'ble Justice R.C Chavan Former Judge Bombay High Court
- Mr. Amit Pai, Advocate, Supreme Court of India

The Conference addressed the following aspects -

- Revisiting the Constitutional Architecture of Indian Judiciary
- Quest for 'better system': Appointment of Judges
- Post-appointment nuances
- Post-retirement role of Judges

The Conference included research paper presentations from academicians, legal scholars and students.

Remembering S P Sathe

Professor S.P. Sathe 16th Memorial International Conference on

“Politico-Legal Dimensions of Climate Change: Past, Present, and Future”

- **About the Conference:** The 16th edition of the Professor S.P. Sathe International Conference was organized on the theme of Climate Change. The effects of climate change are unevenly

distributed across the world. It already threatens the survival of various communities in different parts of the world, however, most of mainstream society remains indifferent to the severity of the consequences that they may face in the future. In the UN Climate Change Conference 2021 (COP 26), the world witnessed debate over these issues. In furtherance of the same, the conference aimed to contribute to the discussion of the problems and possible legislative measures to curb climate change at local and global level.

- **Dates :** 8-9 April 2022
- **Faculty Coordinator :** Dr. Suvarna Nilakh, Ms. Varsha Khandagale, Ms. Divya Mittal, Ms. Vindhya Gupta
- **Mode of Conference:** Hybrid
- **Student Coordinators:** Chirayu Rushiya, Samakshi Pandey (III BA LL.B) and Sneha Kulkarni (V BA LL.B)
- **Level:** International

Report:

Inaugural Session: The inaugural session began with an introduction of the college, the Remembering S.P. Sathe Event and the Conference by Principal (Additional Charge), Dr. Sanjay Jain. It was followed by the Keynote Speech on the topic ***Twin challenges in a climate risked world: Sustainability and Affordable Inclusive Growth***, delivered by Ms. Sunita Narain, Director General, Center for Science and Environment. Ms. Narain highlighted the dichotomy within India regarding the need for affordable inclusive growth for the marginalized and vulnerable section of the society, and how various developmental agendas for this section may put them at further risk of vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change. Climate conscious development must be the focus of the government.

Session I - *Impact of Climate Change on Statehood and State Territory*: The session was aimed at discussing the rise of sea levels, and the resultant disappearance of land and loss of sovereignty for a vulnerable section of the world population. The session began with opening remarks by the chairperson, Dr. Ilias Plakokefalos, Adjunct Lecturer, University of Athens and was followed by an examination of public law and its interface with statehood and climate justice by Prof. (Dr.) Sanjay Jain. Dr. Alexandra Harrington, Executive Director and Sr. Fellow, Center for International Sustainable Development Law, gave an overview of the international conventions that have a bearing on the issue and the lacuna within them, requiring an urgent international cooperation and several amendments to bring climate refugees within their scope. The last presentation was on the issue of climate migration '*Conflicts and Chaos- Assam's Climate Crises*' delivered by Rituraj Phukan, Environmental Activist and Writer. The presentation shed light on the effect of climate change on the life and livelihood of the people of Assam, and interventions required on their behalf.

Session II - *Intersection between Right to Development, Climate Change and the Developing World*: The session aimed to discuss the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and its application to enable the development of the vulnerable populations without compromising on the goals climate change mitigation and adaptation. The session was chaired by Adv. Els Reynaers, Partner, M.V. Kini. The first speaker for the session was Adv. R V Anuradha, Partner, Clarus Law Associates who discussed the concept of sustainable development as applied in international trade

and highlighted how it has the potential of being used for protectionist policies by the global north countries, thus compromising the development of global south countries. She was followed by Dr. Markus Gehring, Associate Professor, Director of the Center for European Legal Studies, Hughes Hall at University of Cambridge, who discussed the European perspective on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and the necessity of incorporating principle of sustainable development within the international trade policies, which if correctly done can accommodate the needs of all countries. The session ended with a presentation by Ms. Dulki Seethawaka, a representative of World Youth for Climate Justice, an international NGO that has been working on the ground for raising awareness about issues regarding climate justice.

Session III - *Climate Change and Vulnerable Groups*: The session was aimed at discussing the specific concerns of the socio-economically and culturally vulnerable populations of the world with respect to the added problems due to climate change. The session was chaired by Dr. Deepa Paturkar, Vice-Principal ILS Law College Pune. The first speaker was Dr. Ramakrishna Kilaparti, Director, Woodwell Climate Research Center, who spoke on the role of the Green Climate Fund in mobilizing climate finance for the vulnerable populations and the challenges faced in this aim. He was followed by Dr. Vandana Shiva, Environmental Activist, who highlighted the vulnerabilities of the farming and agricultural sector to climate change and the policies required from the government to address these vulnerabilities. Thereafter, Dr. Nitish Nawsagaray, Assistant Professor, ILS Law College, spoke about the intersectionality of climate change with race, and how climate change mitigation efforts need to be conscious of the racial and ethnic bias for successful implementation. The session ended with a video presentation by Ms. Yumna Kamel, and Ms. Stephanie Hader, Co-Founders and Executive Directors, Earth Refuge, who explained their work with climate vulnerable populations and the progress they have been able to make in certain countries because of the government policies in these jurisdictions.

Session IV - *Mobilizing International and National Cooperation for Addressing Climate Change*: The session aimed at discussing the requisites for mobilizing international and national cooperation for climate change mitigation, and the role of state and non-state actors for the same. The session was chaired by Dr. Deepa Paturkar, Vice-Principal, ILS Law College, Pune. The first speaker of the session was Dr. N H Ravindranath, Retd. Professor, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, who explained the role of the scientific community in the action against climate change and the support required from the government. He was followed by Mr. Myron Mendes, National Facilitator, Indian Network on Ethics for Climate Change, who talked about the challenges faced by non-state actors such as working against climate change in mobilizing government support for initiatives taken by them. The last presentation was given by Mr. Nikhil Joshi, Head, Impact Evaluation, Paani Foundation, on the success story of Paani Foundation in mobilizing cooperation at the grassroots level within the local population to develop drought resilience in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

Session V - *Changing Contours of Climate Politics*: The session was a panel discussion on the increasing demand for transparency, accountability, and public participation in decision making that has an environmental agenda, and its impact on government action. The panelists were Dr. Daniel Lindvall, Faculty, Uppsala University, Sweden, Adv. Sanjay Upadhyay, Founder and Managing Partner, Enviro Legal Defense Firm, Mr Aditya Valiathan Pillai, Associate Fellow, Initiative for Climate, Energy and Environment at the Center for Policy Research (CPR), and Mr. Tanmay Takle,

Special Assistant, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Tourism and Protocol, Government of Maharashtra. It was moderated by Dr. Priyadarshini Karve, Managing Director, Samuchit. The panelists gave perspectives on the impact of climate change on the way societies approach political participation of the people at the International, National, and local level.

Outcome of the Conference: Publication in the form of Book

Total No. of Participants: 100

Details of Collaborations : EBC, SCC Online, Earth Refuge, World Youth for Climate Change, Enviro Legal Defence Firm and INECC (Indian Network for Ethics in Climate Change)

TEDxILSLaw

(Virtual)

Faculty Coordinators- Mr Ashish Pawar, Ms Ninawari Ware

About the Event:

TED stands for – Technology, Entertainment and Design. It is a global non-profit organization devoted to spreading ideas by hosting short and powerful talks (~18 minutes).

TEDx: x- stands for independently organized events. TEDx event is a local gathering where live TED-like talks and performances are shared with the local community. They are fully planned and coordinated independently, but have to follow the guidelines laid down by TED. The content and design of each TEDx event is unique and developed independently. The topics include a diverse range, from a new innovation or ideas, to talks on issues which nobody knew about.

Theme: May it be change, growth, or undiscovered notions, new realities emerge constantly in front of us. With our event, we aim to set the ball rolling for a conversation beyond the parameters of what is known and familiar. What lies beyond the self, beyond the pedestrian dialogue? The theme of our event was Alternate Universe. It aims to deconstruct the present, to look past what is. Taking the step towards unbounded potential, the event sets stage to unravel revolutionary possibilities.

- **Date:** 16-17 April 2022
- **Students Team:**

Student Coordinators : Amol Gupta, Navya Maheshwari

Speaker Curation Team : Krishna Nair, Aditi Dhabe, Yukta Duragkar, Gautam Garg, Anvi Londhe, Sakshi Dekhmukh, Charvee Jha

Marketing Team -Shruti Thakur, Yashashree Raut, Advait Khare, Haider Tapia

Design Team : Prajkta Salunke, Aditi Inamdar, Anoushka Joseph

Tech Team - Shreyash Mansurkar, Anud Singh

- **Level** - International
- **Report** -
- **Day 1**

Session 1: Title: “Ableism and Disability Rights”

Idea: Ableism- a social issue that permeates our society but is often overlooked, and how differently abled people live in an alternate reality compared to the lives of others.

Speakers: Dr.Sanjay Jain ,Professor &Principal (Additional Charge) at ILS Law College, Pune

Session 2: Title: A Reality where parents & teachers raise better generation of humans

Idea: Imagine a world where an entire generation is raised in a way where it knows how to cope with their life and all the issues that come along with it. Dr. Sharma talked about how parents could be trained to bring up a sound generation.

Speakers: Ms.Sapna Sharma, Author, International Counsellor.

Session 3: Title: Resolving disputes in an Alternate Universe.

Idea: The dreams of a speedy and inexpensive way are not of the utopian world in this alternate universe. As ADR, alternate dispute resolution, is on the rise, Aditya Manubarwala discussed the problems faced by the Indian judiciary and how ADR and ODR could be the solution to the same.

Speakers: Mr. Aditya Manubarwala, Practicing Advocate at The Supreme Court of India.

- **Day 2**

Session 1: Title: I dream of an equal world.

Idea: Vanshika shed light upon the existing discrimination faced by women in the workplace and the detrimental impact of gender biases on women workforce. Through her experiences, she highlighted several such instances of discrimination faced at workplace. She talked of a world where roles are not gendered and a world where equality is not just an abstract idea but a reality.

Speakers: Ms.Vanshika Goenka, Founder, Kool Kanya

Session 2: Title: The Great Metaverse.

Idea: The reign of metaverse is here and tech giants like Apple, Microsoft and Facebook (now Meta) race to acquire it. Mr.Shukla flawlessly explained the technology avoiding tech jargon and explored how the technology would be adopted by the future generations on a big scale.

Speakers: Mr. Utkarsh Shukla, Founder, Yug Metaverse.

Session 3: Title: My World of Queer Belonging.

Idea: The sinister design of homophobia, transphobia and transmisogyny is that LGBTQ+ people are deemed worthy of their violence, pain, humiliation and suffering. Even in places that claim to be Queer inclusive, they are celebrated only when they are being fabulous.

Nauman Beig, a Constitutional Law enthusiast and LGBTQ+ Rights activist, spoke about Queer issues from the perspective of belonging and the role of allies in fighting the good fight.
Speakers: Nauman Beig, V BA LL.B, ILS Law College, Pune

Total No. of Participants: 1854

TWO DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND FUTURE WARFARE

(VIRTUAL)

- **About the Conference:** The emergence of new means and methods of warfare has created grave issues and concerns for the application of the principles of International Humanitarian Law. Hence, the Centre for International Law and the Post Graduate Department in Law organized the Two Day International Conference on International Humanitarian Law and Future Warfare.
- **Dates :** 28 - 29 April 2022
- **Faculty Coordinators :** Dr. Nitish Nawsagaray, Mr. Rohit Bokil and Ms. Divya Mittal
- **Student Coordinators:** Nikita Bhakare (V BA LLB), Ashutosh Ghag, Tushar Rajput, Pratyusha Susarla (all IV BA LL.B), Rasika Acharya and Tanya Khandelwal (both II LL.B)
- **Level -** International
- **Report:**

The Centre for International Law organized a conference covering the rapidly developing and ever-changing frontiers of International Humanitarian Law on 28 and 29 April 2022. The focus was on future warfare- a term encompassing the newer technologies and aspects of war, such as Artificial Intelligence and Space based wars. The conference was organized into four sessions spanning over two days, each covering a distinct and deeply intriguing topic, with a paper presentation of selected papers submitted to the center on the second day.

The conference began with an inaugural address by Dr. Sanjay Jain on the importance of Domestic law and international law working in tandem, and the ability of the conference to enable such a level of coordination.

Opening Session: Retired Major General Nilendra Kumar was the keynote speaker for the conference, and explained the core concepts of international humanitarian law, and provided insights into the development of technology and its effects on combatants and civilians over the last century.

He further went on to explain the fundamental rules of war- the protection of civilians and non-combatants. This protection was labelled a duty which every State had to satisfy before the implementation of any new weapon during times of war. However, with autonomous weapon systems, as well as the expanse of the urban sprawl and civilian populations, the duties and abilities of keeping battlefields and military targets distinct must be critically looked at.

Session 1: The conference then shifted into its first session on Space Wars. The speakers consisted of Professor Dr. G.S. Sachdeva and Dr. Ajay Lele. Professor Sachdeva talked about Space Wars, establishing their legality under international law, the liabilities of the parties participating in such conflicts, as well as the unique nature of hostile activities not amounting to acts of war. The presentation ended with exploring the possible ways for the establishment of a code ensuring the prevention of such conflicts.

Dr. Lele's presentation added on to this topic and focused on the rights of a nation to defend itself from threats based in space. He explained that the lack of territoriality in space, combined with the unique, constantly moving, and ungovernable nature of satellites opened a nation to multiple new means of attack. The focus of the speech was on the justification of such self-defensive actions, and the *jus ad bellum* that must be present before any act of military force is used in space.

Session 2: With the first session ending, the second session focused on Smart Warfare, and the problems with implementation of AI. Dr. Lauren Sanders opened the debate on this topic, providing an analysis of International Humanitarian Law and its view on Autonomous Weapons System. She covered three perspectives- the application of existing norms to the field, the development of new customs to govern the regulation of such autonomous weapons, and an outright ban on these categories of weapons. Following Dr. Sanders was Dr. Shiri Krebs, who targeted the current systems of real time information provided by drones, and its compliance with International Humanitarian Law. The last speaker for the session was Dr. Asaf Lubin, who brought to light the gravity of data protection issues, and the protection afforded to classified and private civilian data under IHL during times of conflict, ending day one of the conference.

The second day opened with a series of paper presentations by members of the legal field from all over India, moderated by Dr. David Ambrose.

Session 3: Following the series of paper presentations, the third session for the day was on a concept that has its roots in fiction but is rapidly becoming a reality- super soldiers. Dr. Rain Liivoja and Dr. Yahli Shereshevsky covered the various aspects of Super Soldiers in the eyes of International Humanitarian Law, ranging from their classification as a distinct entity under international law, to special rights of the soldiers subjected to any form of augmentations, and also covered the new norms to be followed when dealing with any augmented soldiers during times of conflict and war.

Session 4: The last session for the day and for the conference was on the urbanization of warfare, and its impact on both civilians and non-combatants. Dr. Umesh Kadam gave the attendees a perspective of how the International Committee of the Red Cross developed new norms and established tracking mechanisms for newer technologies of war. The organization, he explained, focuses on the need for States to establish expansive regulations for any new technology or weapon used by them and regulate the occupations of rapidly developing cities and civilian areas. Dr. Marnie Lloyd further elaborated on this aspect, focusing on the humanitarian consequences of war in cities. She explained the need to establish humanitarian corridors and safe zones during such conflicts, as well as the responsibility of the occupying army to ensure the integrity of the

infrastructure and not cause any lasting damage to essential supplies that would be used by civilians. The final speaker for the conference was Dr. Sanjay Jain himself, who gave a riveting analysis of persons with disabilities during armed conflicts- not from the perspectives of a special category of victims, but rather as equals deserving of fair treatment on the level as other civilians.

Total No. of Participants: 45