

GNLU TIMES

**The Utility & Limits of Legal History
in Constitutional Adjudication**
Justice Michael Kirby, Australia

Foundation Day
Justice M R Shah

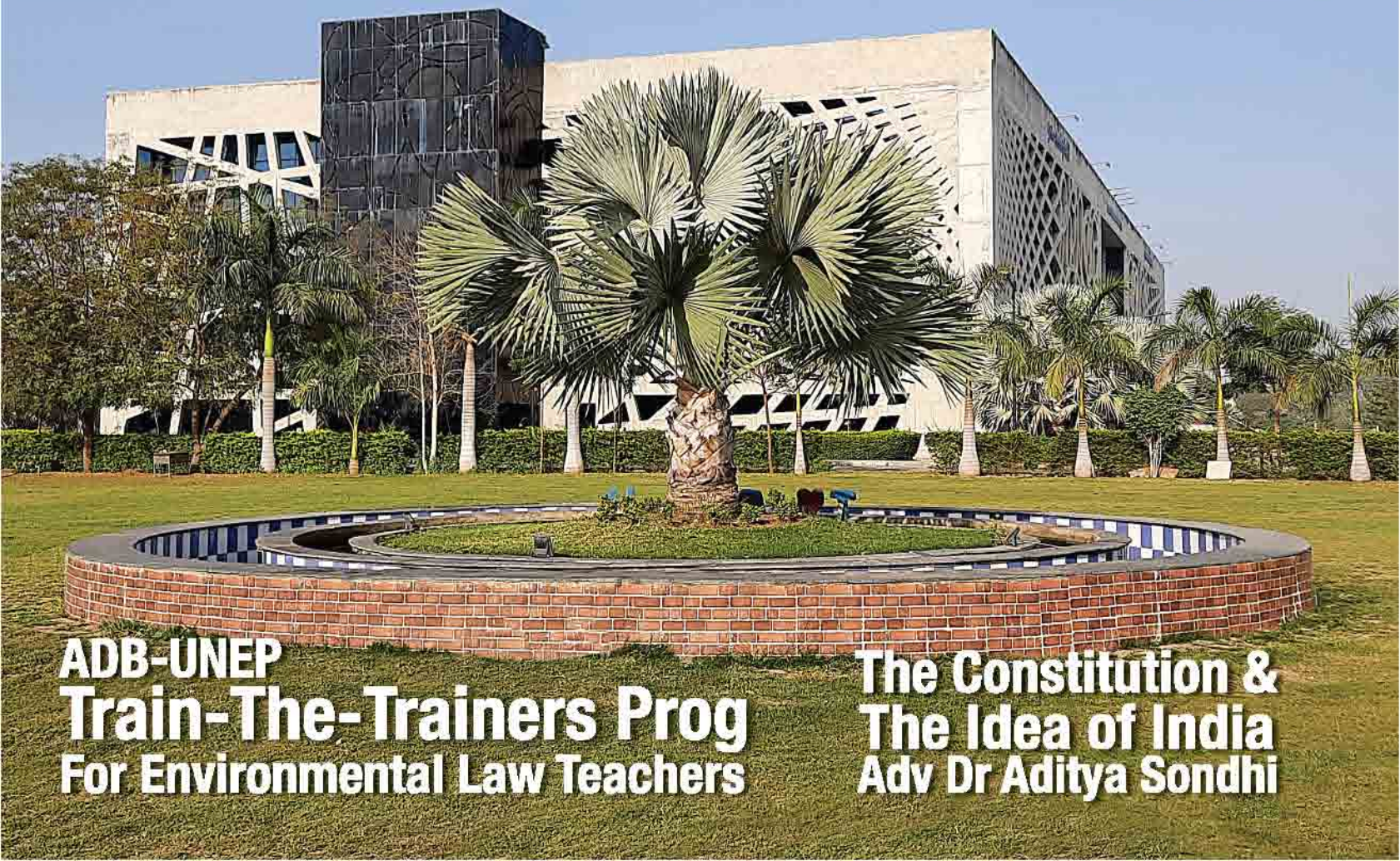
Dissents
That Made a Difference
Justice Sanjay K. Kaul

**International Conference on
Insolvency Law & CISG@40**

**Centre for
Women & Child Rights**
Inaugurated

ADB-UNEP
Train-The-Trainers Prog
For Environmental Law Teachers

**The Constitution &
The Idea of India**
Adv Dr Aditya Sondhi



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Director's Message



The Monsoon Semester was under a cloud of COVID-19 pandemic. The entire world was reeling under its pressure, with infections in billions and deaths in millions. India was no exception though we can take comfort in that India has dealt with the pandemic remarkably well compared to many other countries, including more advanced and more resourceful ones.

When India went into the world's strictest lockdown in March 2020, the GNLU campus had to be closed down like all academic institutions across the nation. However, thanks to its swift response, GNLU did not lose precious teaching time in any significant manner. We quickly adapted to online teaching and assessment and accelerated the Library's digitisation pace. Students enthusiastically participated in academic sessions and held other activities such as mootings, debating, Academic Support Programme, etc., as if they were on campus. As a result, we did not have to compromise with our academic programmes' quality by curtailing the syllabus as many other educational institutions did.

We held several seminars, conferences, and workshops on a virtual platform during the monsoon semester. Since virtual participation eliminates the need for travel and reduces the time commitment, we could get many eminent academicians, practitioners, jurists and policymakers, from India and overseas participate in these events and share their knowledge and experience with GNLU faculty and students. The only regret we have is we missed the privilege and honour of hosting these eminent personalities on our campus! But that has to wait until the situation returns to normal.

Overall, we can look back on the monsoon semester with satisfaction. We have done well despite the unprecedented challenges. We look forward to doing even better as we enter the winter semester. While the COVID-19 threat still looms large, I am sure, with the increased awareness, better observance of hygiene protocols and vaccination, we should overcome its challenges.

As I write this, the final semester students have started arriving on the campus. I look forward to a day when we will welcome all our students on the campus. I hope that day will not be far away.

With best wishes,

Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar

New Academic Collaborations

Expanding the Global Footprint

GNLU has entered into collaborative arrangements with four more overseas universities for wide-ranging activities.



Under the Transfer and Advanced Standing Agreement between University of Dayton Law School (UDSL), USA and GNLU, students who have earned their first law degree (LL.B) from GNLU will be eligible to commence study at UDSL in the online LL.M programme through advanced standing. For a limited number of GNLU students, UDSL will consider granting a full-tuition scholarship in the UDSL J.D. programme under its Leadership Honors Programme. Besides, UDSL has also agreed to explore the possibility of expanding the online LL.M collaboration to include a hybrid model of online and on-campus study, as well as joint faculty research opportunities.



Under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Faculty of Law, University of Cologne, Germany and GNLU, both institutions have agreed to promote joint research projects, joint courses of study, exchange of faculty and scholars.



University of Johannesburg, South Africa and GNLU entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration in the field of faculty exchange, student exchange, research and related areas. The MoU to this effect was signed by Prof Letlhokwa George Mpedi, Executive Dean of the Law Faculty of the University of Johannesburg and GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar.



Jagannath University, Dhaka, Bangladesh and GNLU have agreed to cooperate in the area of faculty and student exchange, collaborative research and exchange of scholars, organization of seminars, conferences and workshops.

New Domestic Collaborations



International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) and GNLU signed an MoU for active participation in the policymaking process. The MoU was signed by IFSCA Chairperson Mr Injeti Srinivas and GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar at the IFSCA Headquarters in GIFT City, Gandhinagar on September 29, 2020.

IFSCA was established in April 2020, as a unified regulator of financial products, financial services and financial institutions within an international financial services centre (IFSC). Before the establishment of IFSCA, entities operating in the IFSC were regulated by multiple regulators such as SEBI, RBI, IRDAI, etc.

The first IFSC in India has been set up at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar.

Mr Injeti Srinivas, Chairperson, IFSCA said "GNLU as a knowledge partner will be of immense help in making a robust regulatory mechanism for IFSCs in the country"

GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar said, "We are proud to be associated with IFSCA. This will allow us to contribute to the policymaking process through aid to IFSCA in research, query-solving and analysis."

VIDHI | Centre for Legal Policy

Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, an independent think tank, and GNLU signed a Memorandum of Understanding for setting up a chapter of the Kautilya Society at GNLU to conduct research and host events concerning legislative drafting and recent legal policy developments.

An MoU to this effect was signed by GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar and Vidhi Research Director Dr Arghya Sengupta, on September 29, 2020.

The Coursera logo, consisting of the word "coursera" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

GNLU has entered into a collaboration with Coursera Campus, a leading online learning platform. Now, the students, faculty and staff of GNLU can take unlimited Guided Projects offered by Coursera. They can also take one course every year without any course fee and be eligible to receive a certificate.

Foundation Day Celebrations

Gujarat National Law University celebrated its 17th Foundation Day on July 17, 2020. Given the Covid-19 pandemic, the celebrations were held virtually.

Hon'ble Mr Justice M.R. Shah, Judge, Supreme Court of India and a Member of the GNLU General Council delivered the Foundation Day address.

In his address, Mr Justice M. R. Shah congratulated the Director, faculty, staff, students, and alumni on the occasion of the Foundation Day, and conveyed his best wishes to them. He said that "Foundation Day is a moment to celebrate the rich past and an advent of a promising future."

Mr Justice Shah said that it was the dream of Shri Kirit Raval, former Solicitor General of India, to establish a world-class law university in Gujarat. Mr Raval planted the idea in the mind of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi (who was the Chief Minister of Gujarat at that time) and GNLU came to be established in the year 2004. It is indeed

heartening to note that in a short span of 17 years, GNLU has achieved incredible feats in ranking among the top-most law schools in the country. He expressed a hope that GNLU will be ranked as No.1 law school in the country soon.

He commended the role of GNLU in contributing to the judiciary of the country noting that up to the last year, more than 100 GNLU alumni have entered judiciary.

Mr Justice Shah recalled the contribution of the founding fathers including late Mr Ashok Bhatt, the then Law Minister of Gujarat, late Mr Kirit Raval, founding Director Dr V. S. Mani and the immediate-past Director Dr Bimal Patel in the process of institution building.

Referring to the Covid-19 pandemic, Mr Justice Shah said that we are passing through tough times but nothing is permanent. After every sunset, there is a sunrise. He said that there are many challenges today but we have to find out good things even in a bad situation; there are things you can only learn in a storm. "The need of the hour is to have patience and courage," he added.

He asked law students not to get disheartened. He said that businesses will always require trained legal professionals in the long run. Certain areas of law will be in greater

demand in comparison to others. Health care laws, property law, bankruptcy and insolvency law, public interest litigation, class action suits, environmental law, animal rights law, alternative dispute resolution and technology laws are likely to emerge as focused areas post-COVID 19. Legal Risk Managers will emerge who will have to anticipate problems and propose solutions. Online legal services will throw open a lot many new practice areas for the lawyers.

Observing that law is a dynamic field, he said that we have to make sense not merely of the world as it is today but also of the world as it is becoming. "Law is not a static body of rules. The past meets the present and creates a future," he added.

Referring to the technology law, he said technology often outpace changes in the law. As a result, lawyers are called upon to develop regulatory frameworks for and in an extremely dynamic and evolving technological

environment. In the years ahead, legal teaching institutions as well as practitioners will have to meet many more such challenges.

Justice M R Shah said, to take justice closer to the people, we need to enhance legal literacy and simplify legal rules.

Justice Shah concluded his address with a hope that the GNLU students

will contribute towards the smooth functioning of the society by spreading the motto of the university आ नोमद्रः ऋतवोयन्तुविश्वतः (May auspicious thoughts come to us from all over the world).

Earlier, in his welcome address, GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar thanked all stakeholders – past and present – for their invaluable contribution to the making of GNLU as a world-class university. He expressed confidence that, with their support, GNLU will attain the numero uno position among law schools in India before long. He further said that "I believe happiness alone can improve efficiency and productivity. So, let us commit on this Foundation Day to stay happy and spread happiness around us."



Constitution Day celebrations



Gujarat National Law University celebrated the 71st Constitution Day on November 26, 2020. On this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution, laying the foundation for the modern, constitutional and democratic governance in India. GNLU Director, faculty and staff members participated in the celebration observing strict COVID protocol of wearing masks and maintaining social distance. The celebration was organized under the aegis of the Legal Services Committee.

The Constitution and the Idea of India

As part of the Constitution Day celebrations, GNLU Centre for Constitutional and Administrative Law organized a webinar on “The Constitution and the Idea of India.” Dr Aditya Sondhi, Senior Advocate, High Court of Karnataka and Supreme Court of India, delivered the webinar.

Dr Sondhi explained how India's independence was not an end that was achieved, but the beginning of India's political trajectory. He said, for India, having a working constitution in the early years of independence, meant that there was not only democracy in place, but also a republic and institutional supremacy with checks and balances in place. Dr Sondhi expressed how the idea of India is greater than the constitution itself, because the Constitution, as a living and liberating document, allows for it.

Expanding on Glanville Austin's thought of how the Constitution is the cornerstone of the nation, Dr Sondhi said that the cornerstone of the Constitution is the judiciary. With the Courts being central to the idea of India, it is important to acknowledge their role in guarding the rights of the people and safeguarding the letter and spirit of the constitution.

In his welcome address, GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar acknowledged the contribution of Dr B. R. Ambedkar in giving the nation a wonderful and vibrant constitution. He also remembered the unsung heroes of the



Constituent Assembly, Mr B. N. Rau, Constitutional Adviser to the Constituent Assembly and Mr S. N. Mukharjee, Chief Draftsman for drafting independent India's constitution. He referred to the last speech of Dr Ambedkar to the Constituent Assembly and quoted “we should not be content with mere political democracy. We must make our political democracy a social democracy..... a way of life that recognizes liberty, equality and fraternity as being inextricably linked to one another. Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy.”

The webinar concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Girish R., Assistant Professor of Law and Faculty Convenor, GNLU Centre for Constitutional and Administrative Law.

PhD Awards

GNLU has declared three research scholars eligible for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). They will be awarded the degree at the next convocation of the university.



Dr Raju Narayana Swamy, IAS

Dr Raju Narayana Swamy, IAS, will receive a PhD in Law for his thesis titled "Remodelling India's Cyber Landscape: A Pragmatic Approach Based on Socio-Legal Aspect of Cybercrimes in Kerala" under the guidance of Prof (Dr) Shobhalata Udupudi, Professor of Law at GNLU.

An IAS officer of the 1991 batch belonging to the Kerala cadre, Dr Raju Narayana Swamy, is currently deployed as General Observer for the Election to the Tamil Nadu State Legislative Assembly.

Dr Swamy holds a post-graduate diploma in IPR from the National Law School, Bengaluru; a professional diploma in Public Procurement from the World Bank; an honorary doctorate from the Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (2011); and Homi Bhabha Fellowship to study Cyber law. He is also the first-ever civil servant to complete all the ten courses conducted by the National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi.

He has authored 28 books and published numerous research papers apart from several articles in the popular media. He has won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for Travelogue for Santhimantram Muzhangunna Thazvarayil. He has been awarded the 2018 Satyendra K. Dubey Memorial Award by IIT Kanpur for his professional integrity in upholding human values.

Mr Tejas Kishore Motwani

Mr Tejas Kishore Motwani will receive a PhD for his thesis titled "Right to Die with Dignity: A Comparative Analysis of the Law and Policy Regarding the Right to Die in India" under Prof (Dr) Mamata Biswal, Professor of Law at GNLU.



Tejas is a law and policy consultant & advises various government and private clients on an array of issues.

He has studied Leadership and Organization at the Harvard University as an OS scholar and graduated with a Master in Public Policy from the University of Oxford as a departmental scholar. Tejas obtained his Master of Laws at the National University of Singapore and Bachelor of Laws at Bangalore University, where he was conferred the M. Kharge Memorial Gold Medal (Dean's List category) for continuous academic excellence. Tejas has published with more than 50 national and international publications and writes regularly.

Mr Jehirul Islam



Mr Jehirul Islam will receive a PhD in Law for his thesis titled "Assessment of Consumer Protection in E-Commerce under the Indian Legal Framework: An Analytical Study with Special Reference to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (Now, the Consumer Protection Act, 2019) and the Information Technology Act, 2000" under the guidance of Dr Ravindra Kumar Singh, Associate Professor of Law at

GNLU.

Mr Jehirul Islam holds B.Sc. LLB and LLM from Yashwantrao Chavan Law College, Pune. He is currently an Assistant Professor with the Adani Institute of Infrastructure Management.



Many readers have called or written to us after the launch of the first issue of GNLU Times. All of them have appreciated the magazine. Some



have also given suggestions for improvement. We are happy that the magazine is received well. We are grateful to our readers for their support and encouragement.

In this issue, we have expanded the Student section's scope to include activities like Academic Support Programme, Mentorship Programme, Student Research and Development Council, Debating Society and Moot Court Committee. We have also tried to enrich the Alumni section by carrying more news about our alumni. We have also covered the activities of the Research & Publication Division as well as the GNLU Library.

Improvement is an ongoing process, and we promise we will continue to experiment with each issue. We seek your suggestions to make GNLU Times a lively, comprehensive university magazine that people eagerly await its next issue.

Most importantly, we appeal to faculty, students and alumni to share their news and photographs with us. Please let the whole GNLU fraternity know about your personal, academic, and professional achievements through us. We are sure those in the fraternity who know you would be delighted to learn about your progress.

You may email us at gnlutimes@gnlu.ac.in

We thank you once again and look forward to your continued support.

With best wishes,

Ashok Shah
Editor

Orientation Programmes

For UG & PG Students



Dr S. Shanthakumar



Dr Mamata Biswal

GNLU organized an orientation programme for the first-year students of the five-year integrated undergraduate programme in law as well as the postgraduate programme in law for the academic year 2020-21, on October 21 & 22, 2020.



Dr Shobhlata Udupidi



Dr Jagadeesh Chandra

GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar congratulated the students on securing admission to one of the finest law schools in the country. Welcoming the student to GNLU, he said that GNLU offers an excellent ecosystem for the holistic development of students and advised them to take maximum benefit of the university resources for their personal and professional growth. He also asked the students to express their sense of gratitude to their teachers, parents, siblings and friends who have stood by them in their journey so far.

Prof (Dr) Mamata Biswal, Dean, Academic Affairs welcomed the students and encouraged them to participate in high-level moot court competitions, good quality research and publication, foreign exchange programme etc. She also advised them to read and analyze at least one judgement for each subject every month to enhance their analytical skills.

In his concluding remarks, Mr Jagadeesh Chandra T. G., Registrar (Incharge) briefed the students about the administrative setup at GNLU and assured them that GNLU administration will always work towards making their stay at GNLU comfortable.

GNLU offers a five-year integrated undergraduate programme in law in five different streams: arts, commerce, science, business administration and social work, and LL.M in eight specializations: Corporate & Business Law, International Comparative Law, Intellectual Property Laws, Constitutional & Administrative Law, Criminal Law & Security Law, Sports Law, Public Policy, Law & Governance, and Maritime Law.

For Doctoral Scholars

GNLU organized an Orientation Programme for the students registered for the PhD Programme for the academic year 2020-2021, on November 20, 2020.

GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar congratulated the students on securing admission to the PhD programme of one of the finest universities in the country. He emphasized the importance of conducting high-quality research with integrity and focus on publishing the outcomes in high-quality, indexed journals. He assured the students that "it is our commitment to establish and maintain a culture of research integrity, which will be supported by robust policies, processes and governance structure to promote these values."

Dr Shanthakumar also mentioned that GNLU has identified research as a major thrust area. "I am happy to inform you that, this year, as many as 60 doctoral students have registered for PhD at GNLU. This is the highest number in the history of GNLU," he added.

"It is heartening to note that out of the 60 students admitted to the PhD programme this year, 31 are female students. Further, as many as 11 students have registered for a PhD programme in the inter-disciplinary areas. This has become possible as GNLU is the only NLU offering undergraduate programme in five streams and, therefore, has a diverse pool of faculty with specialization across a wide range of subjects," Dr Shanthakumar said.

Prof (Dr) Shobhlata Udupidi, Chairperson, PhD Programme welcomed the students to GNLU and briefed them about the PhD programme. She said that PhD is the highest pinnacle of academic activity. "When you enrol for research-oriented study, for gaining a doctorate, you make a contribution to the academic world with your research, you contribute to the knowledge base of the society, and you create knowledge. You should pursue proper, dedicated, responsible and sincere research so that there is a factual creation of knowledge," she added.

Students are admitted to the PhD programme based on a rigorous selection process which included an entrance test, a research proposal and a personal interview.

The orientation programme was followed by the coursework in Research Methodology and Literature Review in three phases, with Phase I beginning from November 21.

Life at Law School



As a part of the Deeksharambh Programme for the newly admitted students, office of the Dean, Students' Welfare, organized a webinar on Life at Law School on November 06. Ms Avani Bansal (Advocate, Supreme Court of India) interacted with the new students.

Ms Bansal is an alumnus of Harvard Law School (LL.M), University of Oxford, U.K (BCL & M.Phil in Law) and Hidayatullah National Law University (B.A. LL.B) and the author of the Book "Life At Law School."

Dissents That Made a Difference

Gujarat National Law University and CAN Foundation (Confederation of Alumni for National Law Universities) jointly organized an online interactive session with Hon'ble Mr Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Mr Dhruv Mehta, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India on "Dissents That Made a Difference: India & Abroad," on September 05, 2020.

Justice Kaul said that diversity exists across religions, cultures and communities. Diversity exists in thoughts and expressed in opinions. In a democratic society, dissents are the manifestation of such diversity. In India, dissent has been a part and parcel of our constitutional ethos, the foundational values which were laid down by our freedom struggle. It is in this regard that dissent is a vital feature of our justice delivery system.

Justice Kaul said that a dissenting opinion is indicative of what *'could have been'* and quoted former US Supreme Court Chief Justice, Justice Charles Evan Hughes who said, "A dissent in the court of last resort is an appeal to the brooding spirit of the law, to the intelligence of a future day when a later decision may possibly correct the error into which the dissenting judge believes the court to have been betrayed."

Justice Kaul explored several foreign and Indian judgements wherein the dissenting opinions expressed by a minority have later become the law of the land.

He referred to the case of *Liversidge v. Anderson* of 1941, in which Lord Atkin penned down his famous and fiery dissent remarked, *'I Protest, even if I do it alone, against a strained construction put upon words'* and unflinchingly stated that the majority on the question of liberty, *'show themselves more executive minded than the executive'*, a phrase which is very commonly used in public domain nowadays.

Fast-forwarding to a few decades later, we find similar unfolding of whims in the famous judgment in *ADM Jabalpur v. Shivakant Shukla* of 1976, which was an ignominious moment when Indian Judiciary borrowed a leaf from *Liversidge*. The Habeas Corpus case dealt with the challenge concerned *'non-speaking order under MISA Act'*. The issue before the 5-Judge bench was whether, in the light of the suspension of the enforcement of fundamental rights, a petition of habeas corpus is maintainable in the high courts. The Majority upheld the state's power to detain people who have no right to move a writ of habeas corpus before any high court challenging the legality of such detention. Justice H. R. Khanna fittingly laid down the power of dissent by remarking that, *'even though his view was at variance with the majority, the same had not stood in the way of expressing his views. While unanimity is desirable, unanimity which is merely formal and which is recorded at the expense of strong conflicting views is not desirable in the court of last*

resort.' The dissent cost Justice Khanna the Chief Justiceship of India, and the rest of his judicial career. Justice PN Bhagwati in an interview in 2011 agreed that the majority judgment of which he was part of was incorrect. In the more recent movement of redemption, Supreme Court in *KT Puttaswamy* categorically overruled the Habeas Corpus and the darkest chapter of history was buried. The celebrated dissenting opinion of Justice H R Khanna in that case now holds the field.

Justice Kaul pointed out that the trend of judicial dissents or separate opinion is varied across the globe. Jurisdictions like France, Italy, Luxembourg have no concept of a separate opinion. On this particularity, it becomes imperative that we not only value the importance of being able to dissent but also ensure that we do our bit to preserve this practice.

Senior Advocate Dhruv Mehta referred to Justice Fazl Ali's dissent in *AK Gopalan vs State of Madras* (1950), one of the earliest judgments of the Supreme Court. The Gopalan majority had held Article 21 of the Constitution, which stipulated that "no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law", provided only narrow protection against lawless infractions of bodily integrity and personal freedom by the State. Justice Fazl Ali, in his dissenting judgement, argued instead that the phrase "procedure established by law" required that deprivations of life or personal liberty must conform to standards that were themselves just, fair, and reasonable. Justice Fazl Ali's dissent in *AK Gopalan* became law two decades later.

Mr Mehta said that Justice Subba Rao was particular about personal liberty and fundamental rights and added that he had issued as many as 116 dissents.

In his closing remarks, Justice Kaul said, "It is necessary to say that the problem is not of dissent. Every society must have opinions and point of view. The debasement, however, is in the manner of dissent.....We have lost respect for each other's opinion. It isn't right or wrong, it is a question of time. We have a democratic government under the Constitution, there is a separation of powers, hence Courts can't be unelected governments. Checks and balances are necessary. It's a very delicate balance and I think the segregation of powers must be respected. Dissent by Judges must be treated with a constructive approach and there are limitations to that criticism. Dissent has and will always have importance."

Earlier, in his welcome address, GNLU Director Dr Shanthakumar described Justice Kaul as a guardian of free speech.

Ms Anupama Dhurve and Mr Kanu Agrawal, both Advocates, Supreme Court of India, moderated the session.



Expert Lectures

Finding Success in a Global Legal Sector



Prof Thom Brooks, Professor of Law and Dean at Durham Law School delivered a lecture on 'Finding Success in a Global Legal Sector,' on December 03, 2020.

Prof Brooks said, "Law attracts both the smartest and weakest students and so law schools have become more and more competitive. However, it is not just enough to be smart or to go to a good law school to be successful." The legal profession is not just limited to the local limits but now it is hugely internationalized. This is the reason why now law schools are opening their doors to the global legal sector. He pointed out that, "Graduates feel they cannot establish themselves without any family member practising law or without any connections." For this, Prof Brooks suggested along with researching for good law schools a student shall also look out for law firms in his/her local areas to scout for opportunities to gain work experience, even if it is just for a day. He implored the students, "Contact judges, lawyers and others even if its to follow them around."

Prof Brooks opined that for getting an edge over other law graduates you can either have connections or be proactive to gain work experience before graduating along with maintaining good scores. For this, he says, "A clear resume is not necessary in all cases. A resume with diverse work experiences which shows that you've tasted many different areas of law can be helpful." A diverse work experience does not make you weaker; it can make you desirable. He stated, "Diversifying your work experience can make you aware of different branches of law and may open options for you." Not all students studying law are intending to be a lawyer but most of them are while all are prepared to qualify for the degree so the competition would always be cut-throat. What he suggested was to follow certain pointers to succeed such as gaining work experience during law school, diversifying the experience, being aware of the recent developments and going beyond subject-specific knowledge. He emphasised that "There is never a right time to start getting a work experience, so start right now!" Reflecting on the current situation during the COVID-19 pandemic, Prof Brooks said, "Having some work experience is better than having none. And it is not necessary to have experience from a big firm or a physical experience only. So even if the virtual work experience is not the same as a physical one but still it can be used to your advantage given the current circumstances."

Earlier, GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar welcomed Prof Brooks and said "We are extremely fortunate to have an eminent authority like Prof Brooks to address our students."

The lecture, organized in association with the International Association of Law Schools, was coordinated by Dr Nidhi Buch, Assistant Professor of Law as well as Head, GNLU Centre for IPR and Faculty Convener, Internships and Placement.

Protection of Human Rights during the Crisis



In the backdrop of some Governments using the pandemic as an excuse for human rights violations—to quash dissent, to strengthen their surveillance powers threatening the right to privacy, to harass journalists and human rights defenders or to restrict the freedom of expression, freedom of the press,

Shri Saravanan Ganesan, Coordinator in the Cultural Wing of the Embassy of India in Berlin (Germany) delivered a special lecture on 'Protection of Human Rights during Corona Crisis'.

Shri Ganesan mentioned that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) guarantees right to life, right to liberty & fair trial, right to freedom of expression, right to peaceful assembly and the prohibition of torture and slavery, and prohibition of discrimination while the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) guarantees workers' rights (right to work, remuneration, healthy working conditions), right to social security and protection, protection of the family, right to an adequate standard of living, right to health, right to education and cultural rights.

Shri Ganesan said that the pandemic has led the world into a situation where the most basic of the rights of a human being are restricted by the various national governments. This led to unprecedented restrictions that violated numerous human rights. He added that various economic, social and cultural rights have also been seriously affected due to the pandemic, the most important of them being the worker's rights. The pandemic induced a lot of layoffs and salary reductions, businesses were shut and there were almost nil employment opportunities. Such a situation particularly calls for state intervention in terms of social security.

The right to health was also severely affected essentially because the pandemic brought the health infrastructures to the verge of collapse and access to healthcare impeded. Religious rights were affected by places of worship being closed. Education rights were affected by the classrooms going online, further creating a knowledge gap between the rich and the poor. "Protection of human dignity is an essential aspect of human rights, even during emergency times," he added.

Shri Ganesan said that while restricting human rights in an emergency, Governments must ensure that emergency measures are legal, necessary for protecting public health and strictly proportionate to that aim. They should have a specific focus and a limited duration and take the least intrusive approach possible to protect public health. Further, they should not involve discrimination solely on the ground of race, colour, sex, language, religion or social origin. He also emphasised that Governments cannot impose restrictions on the right to life, prevention of torture and slavery and the fundamental requirement of a fair trial even in times of emergency.

The special lecture was coordinated by Dr R. K. Singh, Associate Professor of law at GNLU.

Readers' Feedback

I had a chance to look through the first issue of GNLU Times. At the outset, let me congratulate you, the students and faculty of GNLU for what appears to have been a prolific winter session.

I have come across newsletters of certain foreign law schools which include one or two short articles by faculty members on topical legal issues. This is perhaps another way to add further value to the newsletter.

K. K. Venugopal
Attorney General of India

Excellent!
What a great publication!
Best,

Robert B. Ahdieh
Dean & Anthony G. Buzbee
Endowed Dean's Chair
Texas A&M University
School of Law

Good work and nice design.

Ahtzaz Ahmed
GNLU Alum and a member of J&K Judiciary

GNLU Times is very informative apart from being quite colourful and attractive. The information regarding various events and activities on campus are quite interesting. They give an insight into the opportunities available for the GNLU students, not just as professionals but for all round development and growth.

R. Sankaranarayanan
Additional Solicitor General of India

Thank you for sending the GNLU times in which an article on my visit is located. It is good!

Prof (Dr) Kota Fukui
Professor of Law,
Graduate School of Law and
Politics,
Osaka University, JAPAN

Thank you so much for sending GNLU Times. It looks awesome!

Srividhya Ragavan
Professor of Law
Texas A&M School of Law

Really happy to see the Winter Issue of GNLU Times. It has come up really well. Looking forward to seeing more such in the future! Wishing all the very best!

Nisarg Desai,
GNLU Alum
Associate Partner,
Nanavati Associates,
Ahmedabad.

I have seen the first issue of GNLU Times. It's a good initiative to revamp, restructure and, in a way, re-launch the newsletter. The first issue is comprehensive in its coverage and justifies the approach to the transformation. I am sure this new AVATAR will be liked and appreciated by GNLU fraternity.

Dr Bakul Dholakia
Former Director of IIM Ahmedabad and
Member of GNLU Governing Council

Great job.

Bijan Brahmhatt
GNLU Alum and Advocate,
High Court of Gujarat

Excellent work. Nicely captured all the events.

Dr Bindu Vijay
Assistant Professor of Science
& Technology
GNLU

Thanks and congratulations for this great effort.

DR. RAJESH GARG
Director
MVSIT, Sonapat
(Student's Parent)

It is extremely heartening to see our very first GNLU magazine. It truly makes one nostalgic.

Yashaanki Kora.
Batch 2015-2020.



Research and Publications Division

The Research and Publication Division completed four research projects during July-December 2020:

Criminal Law Reforms in India

Looking at the ineffectiveness of the criminal justice system, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has constituted a five-member committee under the chairmanship of Prof (Dr) Ranbir Singh, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, Delhi, for reforms in criminal law. The Ministry also approached GNLU, among other law universities, to conduct a study and suggest reforms.

To identify the issues and challenges of the implementation and effectiveness of IPC, CrPC and Indian Evidence Act, GNLU held six different consultations with various stakeholders such as law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, judges, advocates, academicians, eminent Scholars, law students, civil society and media representatives across the country.

GNLU Research Team also collected data, through a questionnaire, to understand the perceptions of students, academicians, professionals, researchers and other stakeholders of the system.

Based on the research findings, GNLU submitted its recommendations to the Ministry.

Role of Clinical Legal Education in improving the quality of legal education and increasing access to justice to the marginalized in the State of Gujarat

GNLU undertook this project under the 'Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' from the Ministry of Law and Justice, Govt. of India. The Principal Investigator of the project was GNLU Director, Prof. (Dr.) S. Shantha kumar.

GNLU organized a workshop August 02, 2020 for the Deans/Directors/Principals and faculty members of legal institutions in the State of Gujarat to collect their comments and suggestions. The research team concluded that, for achieving the objectives at the National level, it is inevitable to execute the CLE programmes at the state level focusing on grass-root implementation. When properly designed and implemented, CLE and its pedagogies anticipate and engage students in the full spectrum of the skills, ethics, and values of the practising legal professionals.

'Understanding the Basics of Research Methodology for Dissertation'

The research and Publication Division organized a three-day Workshop on 'Understanding the Basics of Research Methodology for Dissertation' from August 27 to 29, 2020.

Students' Perceptions Towards Support Services Provided At Higher Education Institutions

A research team consisting of Dr Ambati Nageswara Rao, Dean, Research and Publication and Ms Dhanya, Assistant Professor (Research) completed this minor research project covering HEIs in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar under PMMMNMTT/MHRD/GoI.

The study was designed to examine the demographic profile of students with disabilities enrolled in HEIs in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar; to examine the perceptions of students with disabilities towards support services provided at HEIs; to examine the impact of the provision of support services on educational experiences of students with disabilities in HEIs and to suggest possible alternatives to improve the provision of support services and enhance the educational experiences of students with disabilities in HEIs.

During this study, it was found many HEIs have architectural barriers that disabled persons find difficult for their day-to-day functioning.

In the Face of COVID-19: Assessing the Readiness of India's E-Court Structure

Due to the COVID-19, a unique and unprecedented situation had befallen the Indian judiciary and the need for crossing the path onto an e-platform, with lesser dependency on either physical filing of documents or presence in courtrooms during a hearing, had now become crucial than ever before. Analysing the impact of E-Court Structure on the justice delivery system of the country, the university's Research and Publication Division has compiled a research report titled "In the Face of COVID-19: Assessing the Readiness of India's E-Court Structure." The report comprises of 6 chapters penning down the international e-court models, the situation of digital literacy in India, the impact of digitalization on open courts, the domestic data protection structures and electronic court management system of the country.

New Research Projects

Baseline Evaluation of Responsive Caregiving and Early Learning Programme for Children of 3-6 years in the State of Gujarat

This research proposal submitted by Ms Apoorva Patel, Assistant Professor of Social Work and Head, Centre for Law and Society has been selected for the next round of Azim Premji University Research Funding Programme 2020. Ms Shivani Jadhav, Training & Research Associate will be providing research assistance to Ms Apoorva Patel in this project.

Cyber Security – Challenges under Cyber Space, with special reference to Women Users in the State of Gujarat

National Commission for Women has approved research grant for this project. Dr Deesha Khaire, Assistant Professor of Law will be the Principal Investigator while Ms. Apoorva Patel, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Mr Mahesh Chowdhary, Assistant Professor of Management and Ms Shivani Jadhav, Research Associate will be the Co-Principal Investigators for this project.

Needs and Issues of Children Living with HIV/AIDS in the State of Gujarat

Government of Gujarat has approved research grant for this research project. Ms Apoorva Patel, Assistant Professor of Social Work will be the Principal Investigator for this project while Mr Saurbah Anand, Assistant Professor and Ms Shivani Jadhav, Research Associate will be the co-Principal Investigators for this research project.

Workshop on “How to Publish in Scopus Indexed Journals”



The Research and Publication Division organized a Workshop on “How to Publish in Scopus Indexed Journals” on October 31, 2020. Dr Jaspreet Kaur, Associate Professor, Pearl Academy, New Delhi conducted the workshop.

The Workshop provided a platform to aspirants to gain knowledge about Scopus Index, ABDC Journal Quality

List, process to check Scopus/ABDC indexed journals, Procedure to publish in Scopus/ABDC indexed journal, Art of writing for SCOPUS journals, Hands-on tips for paper selection and Do's and Don'ts.

Dr Kaur warned the participants against the common practice of writing and subsequently submitting without thinking about the need for the writing on the topic saying that such habit has adverse impacts.

Dr Kaur also stated that 'abstract is the determining factor for an article to be chosen or rejected, hence the abstract needs to be written as per the pattern accepted by the chosen journal.'

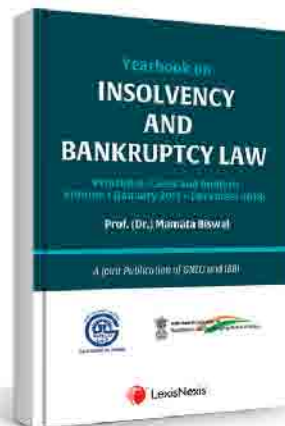
She deliberated on the requirements for starting the writing under which the need for a selection of primary lists was deliberated. The lists could be ABDC list for –Australian universities, ABS list for European universities, UGC list for Indian universities, and the SCOPUS list which is vast.

The key points that were discussed by Dr Kaur are as follows:

- One should first list out the journals of one's own need.
- One should be specific to the area of interest.
- Analysis of data is important as it ensures the genuineness of the research work.
- The paper needs to be novel and rational.

- Citation is an important factor and the author may refer to the articles published by the journal where the author plans to publish.
- The title needs to be attractive and always it may not mention the variables described in the article.
- Studying the style of the chosen journal is very important.
- PLS-SEM, Mendeley, and Zotero are important.

New Publications



“Yearbook on Insolvency and Bankruptcy Law: Principles, Cases and Analysis, Volume 1 (January 2017 – December 2018)” edited by Prof (Dr) Mamta Biswal, Professor of Law and currently, Dean, Academic Affairs, GNLU has been published by LexisNexis. The Yearbook is a joint publication of GNLU and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

Prof (Dr) Biswal said, “The Yearbook is an attempt to highlight and analyse the jurisprudence developed by the judiciary and adjudicating authorities in the decided cases, the legal developments made through the amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, relevant regulations and rules from time to time. We hope it will serve as a ready reckoner and a guide to understanding the complex and intricate nature of the Code.

Recalling how the yearbook was conceived, Dr Biswal said, “Mr Urjit Patel, the then Governor of the Reserve Bank of India had given the idea of such a publication during his visit to GNLU.”

Ms Adwaita Sharma, GNLU alumnus) and GNLU student researchers assisted Dr Biswal in this project.

Prof. (Dr.) Mamata Biswal also published a paper titled “UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross Border Insolvency in the Indian Legal Landscape” in the book 'Insolvency and Bankruptcy Regime in India: A Narrative', the Annual Publication (2020) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, p-335-344, ISBN No--978-81-947537-0-4.



Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), after evaluation by an Expert Committee, has considered Prof Biswal's research report “Legal Challenges before India to ratify the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG) – A Critical Analysis” as an exceptionally good report. Dr Biswal had conducted this research under the Senior Research Fellowship Programme of ICSSR.

Consultation on Criminal Law Reforms



Shekhar Naphade



B. V. Acharya



Joseph Aristotle

Gujarat National Law University organised a virtual Consultation on Criminal Law Reforms. Shri. B.V. Acharya, Senior Advocate and former Advocate General of Karnataka, Shri Shekhar Naphade, Senior Advocate and Shri Joseph Aristotle, Advocate-on-Record, Supreme Court of India participated in the consultation.

Mr Acharya said that for a fair trial, you need an honest Investigating Officer, an honest public prosecutor and an honest judge. Unfortunately, in our country, barring few exceptions, the standard of public prosecutors (PPs) leaves much to be desired. The appointments of PPs are generally politicised. Almost all states have dispensed with the provision of prior consultation with the High Court and District Court before appointing a PP. To improve on the quality of PPs, the law should provide for the appointment of PPs through a proper and transparent process supervised by the High Court.

Mr Acharya said that section 239 of the CrPC empowers the Magistrate to discharge the accused without trial if he considers the charge against the accused to be groundless. However, in practice, there is a tendency on the part of courts not to pass such orders without a trial. Courts should exercise the powers of discharge without trial liberally in fit cases.

Mr Naphade said that the law relating to bail is very problematic; it would not be incorrect to say that there is no law. There are no crystal clear principles to deal with bail applications. Judges use their discretion on an ad-hoc basis. Consequently, we see accused in serious offences getting bail while those in petty offences languish in jail for a long time. "Urgent reforms in the law relating to bail law are the need of the hour," he added.

Pointing to a serious anomaly, Mr Naphade said that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is constituted under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946. Section 6 of the Act stipulates that the CBI cannot exercise powers and jurisdiction in any area in a State without the consent of the Government of that State. However, Supreme Court has ruled that constitutional courts (meaning, Supreme Court of India and various High Courts), in the exercise of their powers under Article 32 and 226 of the Constitution, can direct investigation by CBI without the consent of the concerned state government. "In my opinion, the Supreme Court is not above the law. This is a serious issue and there should be a national debate on this issue," he said.

Pointing to another serious anomaly, Mr Naphade said that While the constitution of a police force is a state

subject, National Investigation Agency is constituted by the Central Government under section 3 of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008. Thus, the National Investigation Agency came under a serious challenge on this ground. While the Bombay High Court has upheld the constitution of the National Investigation Agency, lawmakers should consider removing this anomaly by amending either the Constitution or the Criminal Procedure Code.

Mr Naphade said that criminal procedure falls in the concurrent list giving powers to both the Parliament and state legislatures to enact on the same. As a result, various state legislatures have enacted laws like Maharashtra Control of Organized Crime Act, Gujarat Control of Organized Crime Act and Karnataka Control of Organized Crime Act, which often collides with the provisions of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (a central act) leading to a constitutional conundrum. "It is high time we have one comprehensive law to deal with organized crimes," he said.

Commenting on the selection of judges, Mr Shekhar Naphade said that while there is no fault in the selection procedure, the problem is competent lawyers are not willing to take up judgeship. The compensation package of judicial officers acts as a major deterrent. "In my view, the salary structure of judicial officers should be liberated from the salary structure of *Babus of Mantralaya* and judges should be offered better compensation and better work environment to attract the best talent to the judiciary," he added.

Mr Joseph Aristotle said that the Law Commission had recommended, way back in 1997, that requisite amendments should be brought about in the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act making it the duty of the police officers to ensure the safety of the arrested persons in their custody and holding them responsible for the failure of the same. Even today, this amendment has not been incorporated. As a result, cases of custodial torture and custodial deaths continue. "It is high time that we act on these recommendations to eliminate, or substantially reduce, the inhuman and uncivilized practise of custodial torture," he added.

Agreeing with Mr Acharya's statement about the need for honest IO, PP and Judge for a fair trial, Mr Aristotle said that "we also need an honest witness protected by the system and society. The present system of witness protection will not suffice."

Earlier, in his inaugural address, GNLU Director Dr Shanthakumar said that the criminal law in the country is primarily modelled after the law of the colonial era. While the law has been amended from time to time, the amendments have failed to keep pace with the socio-economic and technological changes. Consequently, there is an inordinate procedural delay and a low conviction rate. Urgent criminal law reforms are, therefore, required to bring the law up-to-date with the ever-changing dynamics of the society.

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The Role of IQAC in Enhancing Quality in Higher Education

GNLU organized a workshop on “The Role of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) in Enhancing Quality in Higher Education” on November 21, 2020. Prof J. R. Sharma and GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar conducted the workshop.

Prof J. R. Sharma is a former Professor of the National Institute of Financial Management for IAS and IRS officers. He advances complete mastery in quality academics, national and global accreditation & ranking. He was also a speaker at the 3rd World Summit on Accreditation. He has consulted with over 200 universities and colleges in academic quality and accreditation.

Prof Sharma summarized the process of setting up an effective Internal Quality Assurance Cell for creating and maintaining a quality culture at the Institute for attaining a top grade in the NAAC accreditation process and better ranking in NIRF:

1. Make a Quality Policy,
2. Select the right people for the IQAC,
3. Break-down functions and form sub-committees to lead specific functions,
4. Sub-committees may take the assistance of an external expert,



5. Flag issues that concern Governing Body's decision, and
6. Continuous monitoring, reviewing, enhancing and auditing.

He took the participants through the European Standard Guidelines as well as ISO 9001-2015 guidelines for Quality Management Systems (QMS) and guided them on how to create a hybrid QMS to suit their specific requirements. He advised the participants not to limit themselves to just quality assurance but go beyond and focus on quality improvement as global leaders like Harvard and Cambridge do.

GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar gave an overview of the IQAC and explained how it can help the country achieve the aim of the new National Education Policy of having an education system by 2040 that is second to none.

The workshop was a huge success with the participation of nearly 150 academicians. The participants included Deans, Principals, faculty

members and research scholars from various universities across the country.

The workshop was organized by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of GNLU.

GNLU Library

Given the Covid-19 pandemic, GNLU, like other academic institutions across the country, pivoted to online teaching in March 2020. GNLU Library made many strategic adaptations to ensure continued virtual support to its users in their research, teaching and learning.

Even before the pandemic, GNLU Library had started investing meaningfully in procuring digital collections. The pandemic-induced lockdown only accelerated the pace of digitization.

To ensure seamless access to the library resources even from a remote location, GNLU Library shifted to the cloud-based technology from local EZproxy server and provided remote access credentials to all the users.

During the monsoon semester, the Library added a rich collection of e-books published by renowned publishers, such as Thomson Reuters Proview, EBC Reader, Oxford Legal Research Library and Oxford Handbooks Collection. Library also subscribed to Livelaw, a law-news portal, so

that the users can remain up-to-date with the latest judgments and orders, etc. The subscription also enables GNLU faculty and students to post their events on the portal.

GNLU Library conducted eight training programmes for the first semester students of the UG, PG and PhD programmes so that they can make effective and efficient use of rich library resources including e-resources. These programmes included training in SCC Online, Manupatra, EBC Reader, Westlaw & Proview, Lexis Advance India, Oxford Legal Research Library, Oxford Law Citator and Oxford Handbooks.

Dr RK Singh, Associate Professor of Law and Convenor of the Library Advisory Committee said “GNLU library was quick to adapt to the new-normal induced by the pandemic. This helped it in reducing the impact of lockdown on the learning, teaching and research of its users to a great extent.”

Library Resources

No.	Description	Additions during Jul-Dec 2020	Total
1.	Books	293	25301
2..	Journals (including e-journals)		190
3.	E-books (Perpetual access)	90	995
4.	E-books (Annual subscription-based)	507	507
5.	Back Volumes	417	10698
6.	Databases	04	23
7.	Peace Palace Library Collection	00	2303
8.	Total Collection	1311	40017

Alumni Relations

Life in and beyond Law School

Department of Alumni Relations, in collaboration with different Centres, organized Alumni Interaction Series "Life in and beyond Law School" for the benefit of the new students who joined the university in the academic year 2020-21.



Srinjoy



Ayushi



Arnaaz



Kaazvin

In the first interaction in the series, organized in collaboration with GNLU Centre for Law and Society, Mr Srinjoy Bhattacharya (Batch 2011-2016, Senior Associate, Khaitan and Co.), Ms Ayushi Toshniwal (Batch 2012-2017, Associate, L&L Partners), Ms Arnaaz Ameer (Batch 2013-2018, Fellow, Government of Punjab) and Ms Kaazvin (Batch 2014-2019, Associate, Trilegal) shared their experience with the new students on November 02, 2020. All of them are alumni of B.S.W, LL.B programme of GNLU.

"World is changing so fast that we all have to adjust to our surroundings," said Dr Saurabh Anand, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Head, Department of Alumni Relations, while delivering a welcome note.

The panellists were asked about the challenges that students might face when they step into the real world and how to prepare for them. Srinjoy pointed out that paying special attention to certain law subjects that are taught during law school build your grasp on any profession that you might aim at. Ayushi advised taking things two at a time instead of trying to balance everything at once. Ms Arnaaz said that it is important to experience everything and highlighted the importance of reading and choosing internships in this aspect.

In the concluding part, the panellists said that there was no fixed way to land a job you love. While all of them thought that it was a safer option to have decent grades, Ayushi advised 'take it as it comes', while Kaazvin and Arnaaz emphasized on 'playing by your strengths'.

To conclude, Srinjoy said "Your aim in life should be to find your 'Ikigai'. Do a lot of self-introspection and learn from your experiences. However, you must enjoy your time in law school."



In the second interaction in the series organized in collaboration with GNLU Centre for Law and Technology, Mr Ajay Chandru, a GNLU alumnus of the first batch (2004-2009) shared his journey right from entering GNLU through his professional career and the current position as a Senior Counsel in the Amazon legal team.

Mr Chandru said that "way back in 2004, it was not common for a science student to opt for the law as a career. However, I had an intuition that my science background would help me in my career as there was a lot of buzz about technology then. I, therefore, started reading about Intellectual Property Law-related stuff.

He advised the students, "You decide for yourself what you want in life. Then, just focus on that and cut out the noise. What everyone is doing should not matter because you are the judge of yourself. You can listen to others advice but you are the one who has to decide on what you want to build your career path on. What worked for me was to cut down the noise."



Ayan



Varun



Akarshita



Hatim

The third interaction in the series was organized in collaboration with the GNLU Centre for Business and Public Policy on November 07, 2020.

Mr Ayan Mukherjee (Batch: 2004-2009, Assistant General Manager, SEBI), Mr Varun Chauhan (Batch: 2010-2015, Manager, Impact Investment Banking, Ashika Capital), Ms Akarshita Dhawan (Batch: 2012-2017, Associate, Khaitan and Co.) and Mr Hatim Hussain (Batch: 2015-2020, Rhodes & Schwarzman Scholar, 2020) interacted with the students.

The interaction revolved around complex business legal problems of the day and innovative solutions, the importance of the interdisciplinary study of commerce, management and law, life at law school and career options after graduating from a law school.

Webinar on Dignity, Socio-Economic Rights and Indian Courts



Mr Sushant Chandra (Batch 2006-11) delivered a webinar on "Dignity, Socio-Economic Rights and Indian Courts," on November 05, 2020.

Mr Sushant Chandra is practising before the Allahabad High Court. He graduated from GNLU in 2011; and pursued B.C.L from the University of Oxford in 2012. He is particularly interested in public law and legal aid issues. He has worked and appeared in various socio-economic rights cases. He has worked closely with Late Mr Pranab Mukherjee on a project on socio-economic rights. Previously, he has taught at Jindal Global Law School.

Lecture on Alternative Dispute Resolutions and its Sociological Relevance



Mr Nisshant Laoria (Batch: 2013-2018, Advocate and Partner at The Pact) gave a lecture on Alternative Dispute Resolutions and its Sociological Relevance on November 19, 2020.

Mr Nisshant Laoria is an alumnus of GNLU and an accredited Mediation Advocate, SCMA London and an Associate Grade Arbitrator, CI Arb, London. He is an accredited Mediator at The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Government of India, an accredited mediator at Indian Institute of Arbitration and Mediation (IIAM) and a certified cross-border mediator & scholar, PSMA, Charles University, Prague.

Alumni News



Dr Deva Prasad (Batch: 2004-2009) has published an article "India: Implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing: Emerging Legal Challenges" <https://content.iospress.com/articles/environmental-policy-and-law/epl200241> Deva Prasad currently

holds Assistant Professor of Law position at Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode.



Ms Aashka Chudasama (Batch 2013-2018) participated in an online event organized by the Institute of Medicine and Law (IML) to discuss salient aspects of organ donation in the country. The other panellists at the event included Justice Sunil Ambwani, former Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court, Mr

Mahendrakumar Bajpai, an advocate in the Supreme Court of India and director of IML, Dr Manoj Gumber, a city-based nephrologist, and Mr Nilesh Mandlewala, founder of Donate Life NGO.



Mr Kushal Sinha (Batch 2006-11) promoted as Partner at Shardaul Amarchand Mangaldas (SAM) Delhi office.



Akshay Kharbanda (Batch: 2012-2017) has recently joined Reliance Jio as Manager, Public Policy and will be engaged in public policy for both Reliance Jio and Reliance Retail.



Mr Amit Kumar (Batch: 2005-2010) has joined as Head of Legal at Tejas Networks Limited.



Ms Sanyukta Saxena (Batch: 2019-2020, LL.M) has joined Jindal Global Law School, Jindal Global University, Sonipat as an Academic Tutor and TRIP - Teaching & Research for Intellectual Pursuit - Fellow, in November 2020.

Obituary



Avinash Chanda

We regret to inform you that Mr Avinash Chanda, 24, LL.M Batch 2018-19, died November 29, 2020, as a result of injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident involving a speeding truck. He succumbed to the injuries on the spot. He was returning to Jaipur from Sikar where he had gone to attend a wedding.

Avinash was born on January 28, 1996. He did his B.A. LL.B. (Hon) from the University of Rajasthan and LL.M. from GNLU. He had cleared the Junior Research Fellowship test in 2020 and was preparing for the Rajasthan Judicial Services Examination. He is survived by his parents and a younger brother.

GNLU has lost a promising alumnus in his death.

We deeply mourn the sad and untimely demise of Avinash and pray for strength to the bereaved family to bear this huge loss!

Forging a New Path: Vruti Patel



GNLU alumni are shining bright in corporate law firms, litigation and judiciary and making their alma mater proud. But, here is an alum who has forged a new path, to make a difference in society.

Ms Vruti Patel, an alumna of 2018 batch of GNLU, gave up her career as a corporate lawyer in a Mumbai-based law firm and moved back to Ahmedabad to start *ecoflo* to end 'period poverty' and make safe sanitation accessible to women from an underprivileged background.

On being asked about her motivation behind this, she said, "I became more empathetic to this problem when I learnt its implication first-hand in real life - our housekeeper, Reshma's daughter was forced to quit school after getting her period. I launched my initiative, *ecoflo*."

"I began this journey in the small town of Bavla, near Ahmedabad, and held sessions in the schools for pre-adolescent and adolescent girls to educate them about this very biological process of the female body and spread awareness about the importance of menstrual hygiene and health. I distribute biodegradable sanitary napkins which, when disposed of in a pit, will turn into compost within 90-180 days, depending on varying environmental factors."

However, the larger goal, according to Vruti, is to educate people about menstruation and breaking the taboo around menstruation.

To support this noble cause and to convert the same in the countrywide movement to end 'Period Poverty' in India, Vruti has launched a crowd funding drive. "We have received a very encouraging response," adds Vruti.

GNLUTimes wishes all the best to Vruti in her endeavour.

Making Headlines: Amresh Anand



Mr Amresh Anand, GNLU alumnus of 2010-2012 batch (LLM in Corporate Law), is an independent litigating lawyer based out of the Delhi High Court.

Some of his matters to secure justice for those wronged have made it to mainstream media. Recently in January 2021, The Times of India reported a matter in which Anand had approached the Magistrate Court in Delhi on behalf of a senior citizen whose young boy had gone missing in November 2020 and his dead body was later fished out of a Delhi Jal Board sewage treatment plant. The police had, however, refused to even lodge an FIR. Upon Anand's petition seeking directions to the Delhi Police to investigate the matter, notice to the Delhi Police has been issued and now they are obliged to look into the matter and file a status report.

In another matter, a young boy facing charges under POCSO for eloping with his minor girlfriend and later marrying her, was lodged in jail and his pregnant wife was forced to stay in woman's shelter home where she gave birth to a girl child. Anand not only got the boy acquitted of all charges but was also able to secure him visitation access to his wife and his child, which the Hindu covered on its Front page on February 13, 2020, under the headline "Runaway couple to reunite on V-Day eve".

In yet another case, Anand secured an acquittal for a woman facing harassment and trial for 11 years for alleged abduction, extortion and criminal intimidation, which was covered by the Hindu.

Anand has joined the Delhi State Legal Services Authority to help the poor and needy.



Student Activities

Debating Society

Set up in 2009 to promote, train and provide a platform for a debating culture among GNLU students, GNLU Debating Society is one of the most active societies at the University. During the monsoon semester of 2020-2021, 15 GNLU students under the aegis of the society participated in various debating events and won laurels as under:

International debates

1. Champions ESL, World Women's Debate Open 2020
2. Top 2 Adjudicator, Royal Rhetorics Women's Open 2020
3. Best Adjudicator and Invited Adjudicator, Wolce Women's Pre ABP Malaysia 2020
4. 2nd Best Adjudicator, Panamanian Debate Open 2020



Aaryana Anand
Batch of 2017 - 2022

NATIONAL Debates

1. Top 5 Adjudicator, Safar X Ashoka Debate Open 2020
2. Invited Adjudicator, Aditi PD 2020
3. Quarter Finalist, VoxPopuli Asian Parliamentary Debate 2020
4. Quarter-Finalist, Hansarj Debate 2020
5. Invited Adjudicator, PRE WSDC 2020

International debates

1. Champions- ESL, Finals Best Speaker, World Women's Debate Open 2020,
2. Top 3 Breaking Adjudicator, Royal Rhetorics Open, 2020
3. Breaking Adjudicator, Monash Malaysia BP, 2020
4. Breaking Adjudicator, Pre ABP Wolce Debate, 2020



Chahana Charles
Batch of 2018-2023

NATIONAL Debates

1. Best Adjudicator, Symbiosis Law School Pune, 2020
2. 4th Best and Invited Adjudicator, Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Debate, 2020
3. 4th Best and Invited Adjudicator, Uthan Asians Parliamentary Debate, 2020
4. Quarter Finalist, Vox Populi Asian Parliamentary Debate, 2020
5. Quarter Finalist, Maharashtra Debate Open, 2020 (teamed with VIT College)



Atirath Anand
Batch of 2018 - 2023

National
Semi-Finalists,
Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial
Debate, 2020



Hitoishi Sarkar
Batch of 2018 - 2023

ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Established in 2010 to increase inter-batch academic interaction, ASP seeks to provide hands-on assistance to the students with the help of their seniors.

ASP sessions range from general sessions on specific subjects to the examination preparation sessions which are often capsuled to prepare the students for the big day.

The majority of teaching in 2020 was online. This came with its own set of challenges for the new students as they

had to face the inception of their college endeavours online. ASP helped them to manage their academics at the university level, exam-writing and a general overview on studying law; all in a systemized virtual environment.

With more than 60 sessions by 21 Teaching Assistants in the monsoon semester of 2020-2021 academic year, ASP created a record of holding the maximum number of sessions in one semester, the previous record being 37.

Mooting at GNLU

GNLU students participated in 57 Moot Court Competitions, both National and Inter National, and won laurels at seven of them.

5th VITSOL National Moot Court Competition on International Law jointly organized by the VITSOL and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2020

Best Memorial award



Aniket A. Panchal
Batch 2019-24



G Vishal
Batch 2019-24



Gyanda Kakar
Batch 2019-24

Novice Arbitration Mooting Competition 2020

Semi-Finalists and AIAC Best Written Submissions Award



Shivika Agrawal
Batch 2019-24



Soundarya Rajagopal
Batch 2019-24



Abhayaditya Singh
Batch 2019-24

7th VIPS International Law Moot Court Competition, 2020

Semi-Finalists



Sujay Jain
Batch 2017-22



Anjana Ravikumar
Batch 2018-23

12th Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition, 2020

9th Best Team and the 5th Best Written Submissions in the global rounds of the competition



Keertana Venkatesh
Batch 2017-22



Bharatt Goel
Batch 2018-23

17th KK Luthra Memorial Moot Court Competition, 2021.

Quarter-Finalists



Aarayana Anand
Batch 2017-22



Rachit Taparia
Batch 2017-22



Soumya Shankar Ukil
Batch 2016-21

5th Symbiosis Law School Hyderabad, National Moot Court Competition, 2021

Quarter-Finalists



Kanika Mittal
Batch 2019-24



Yeesha Sharma
Batch 2019-24



Dhruvil Singh Rathod
Batch 2019-24

6th National Trial Advocacy and Judgement Writing Competition, 2021

Runner-Up



Advyay Goyal
(Batch 2018-23)



Dharmvir Brahmhatt
(Batch 2018-23)



Sannidhi Buch
(Batch 2018-23)

Intra Rounds

The Moot Court Committee (MCC) conducted a Memorial Based Intra Round in September 2020 as a screening round for students from the 2nd - 5th year.

MCC recognizes the difficulty faced by first-year students to compete with their seniors in the very first go. Therefore, a separate memorial intra round moot based on municipal law was organized exclusively for the first-year students.

Moot Coaching for First Years

Students of the penultimate year who have participated in various moot court competitions conducted coaching classes for the first-year students virtually.

Additionally, moot experience sharing sessions were held by several GNLU alumni, who were avid mooters in their student days.

Student Research Development Council

Student Research Development Council (SRDC) was set up at GNLU in 2014 to establish a vibrant academic space where research among students is nurtured.

At present, SRDC has 73 student-members in nine different Student Research Groups dedicated to research in Alternative Dispute Resolution, Corporate Law, Environmental Law, International Law, Intellectual Property Rights, Law & Interdisciplinary areas, Law & Technology, Public Law and Indian Bioethics SRG.

SRDC organized a Capacity Building Session on "Navigating Law School: How to Publish Research and Pursue Internships," on November 20, 2020.

Corporate Law SRG organized an online session on IBC & Recent Developments on April 12, 2020.

International Law SRG conducted a Capacity Building Session on Covid-19 & International Law on March 26, 2020.

Law & Interdisciplinary Studies SRG conducted a session on November 29, 2020, to guide the students on how to research in this field.

Alternative Dispute Resolution SRG launched the GNLU SRDC-ADR Magazine. It also conducted a webinar on

'Part-1 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and other issues pertaining to the 1996 Act.'

Public Law SRG conducted interactive sessions on National Education Policy, Determination, and Interpretative Holism & Art 19, on August 16, 2020.

Law and Technology SRG organized Capacity Building Sessions on "Artificial Intelligence & Law: From Elon Musk to IT Amendment Act," on March 12, 2020, and on "The legality of Internet Shutdown and AI & Mobility," on February 06, 2020.

Intellectual Property Rights SRG conducted a Capacity Building Session on "Patentability of SARS COV-2 as virus strain and the possibility of its biopiracy," on May 22, 2020. The SRG also organized a webinar on "Interface between IPR & Competition Law" by Mr Aditya Gupta, Attorney & Co-Founder, Ira Lawon May 30, 2020. It also launched a Newsletter on contemporary issues and developments in the field of IPR.

Environmental Law SRG is working on the Climate Change Litigation Index which would be modelled along the lines of the one created by Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia Law School and Arnold & Porter focusing on the US cases.

GNLU Student Mentorship Programme

Launched in 2017, GNLU Student Mentorship Programme strives to build a self-reliant student community in the university. The idea behind the GSMP was to imbibe a sense of community living where the comprehensive development of new students is facilitated by their seniors. It is a programme of the students, for the students, and by the students. The mentoring relationship provides a developmental opportunity for mentors and mentees both.

GSMP for 2020-21 opened in November 2020 to an overwhelming response from students, with over six hundred mentees and two hundred mentors enrolling for the program.

For the first time this year, GSMP collaborated with the

student initiative 'Take A Break' to venture into mentorship in the mental and emotional sphere too. Recognizing the stress and emotional toll that law school takes on new students, GSMP provided them with an opportunity to request a mentor exclusively for mental health and well-being, in addition to the general mentor for academic, co-curricular or extra-curricular activities. The new initiative was received well, as nearly all mentees who enrolled for the program also requested for the second mentor for mental and emotional help. It is hoped that the new initiative not only helps students through the emotional struggles in law school but would also bolster a larger movement on campus to remove the stigma on conversations around mental health.

GNLU Gender and Sexuality Forum

GNLU Gender and Sexuality Forum organized a series of conversations with people working actively in the intersection between LGBTQIA+ rights and the law.

The first in the series was a conversation with Mr Danish Sheikh on November 10. Danish is a PhD scholar at the Melbourne Law School.

Danish talked on a variety of issues from litigating queer rights to his favourite plays and everything in between.

The next conversation was with Dr Oishik Sircar on

December 08, 2020.

Dr Oishik Sircar is Associate Professor, Jindal Global Law School, Adjunct Fellow, University of Technology Sydney Law School and Associate Member, Institute for International Law and the Humanities, Melbourne Law School.

Oishik talked on a variety of issues from neoliberalism and queer movement to taking the queer rights movement ahead with a majoritarian government and everything in between.

Onboarding Experiences



"Let all good and noble thoughts come to us from all directions" is the motto of GNLU and it translates into the teaching methods and sense of camaraderie among all the students. Our teachers have always tried to illuminate us regarding imbibing a scientific and rational approach. As a

batch, we have not been able to experience the university in person but we are very much blended into the strong fibre of the institution. GNLU embraces its responsibility as a training ground for future social engineers by imparting the importance of social service. GNLU has not only upheld the preamble in its infrastructure but also it's functioning. It preserves and professes the intrinsic values and ideals which the constitution imparts and which form the cornerstones of the nation.

Subani Raiji
BA LLB, 2020-2025



With a decent CLAT rank, I had a few good NLU options. But I chose GNLU primarily because it is only here that I can pursue my UG studies in both the areas of my interest - science and law. The variety in the integrated degree that is offered here is unheard of in any other law school.

Although I am here for just a semester, I can say that GNLU is one of the best institutions for students' all-round development. The focus on academics and support from professors is great. The idea of conducting a moot court in the first semester is innovative. It was a really interesting experience for me to learn about the specifics of the application of the law. I consider myself fortunate to be a part of this esteemed institution.

Sarvagya Chitranshi
BSc LLB, 2020-2025



Getting into GNLU has been a dream come true for me. I was thrilled to get into one of the top law schools in India. It was however disheartening to know that the classes will be held online due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The late commencement of the semester posed a big challenge both for the

students and teachers. However, GNLU Professors, undeterred by the challenges, encouraged us to perform despite the constraints. I am deeply impressed by the deep knowledge of professors and their patience and perseverance in teaching. The moot court sessions with our seniors provided practical solutions to real-world problems. Every day, I learn something new and I look forward to face-to-face interactions with my professors and batch-mates.

Ria Shah
BBA LLB, 2020-2025



It was during lockdown when I got a break from my legal practice that I decided to pursue higher studies. I was delighted when I was allotted GNLU which is my alma mater. I pursued my BSc.LLB (Hons.) from GNLU in the 2009-14 Batch. The students and teachers co-ordinated via group emails. The online classes were fun and the faculty members employed various methods to keep the classes interesting. The end-semester examinations were also held in online mode through open book resources wherein we were encouraged to research and write analytical answers. I look forward to meeting the faculty members and batchmates on campus in the next semester.

Haren R Toshawara, LLM, 2020-21



I was always inclined towards social work and ethics so I have opted for the BSW stream and GNLU is the only Law School offering this stream. When the CLAT exam was postponed for the fifth time, I was scared whether the academic year will be scrapped to the ground. But when I attended my first class at GNLU, I felt the wait was "WORTH IT". I appreciate studying in an atmosphere where individuals from all walks of life came together, celebrated collective differences, and learnt from each other. My classmates are friendly, supportive amazing people who made the online classes a bit bearable. The first semester in itself taught me to be capable enough to realize that you are the maker of your destiny and the greatest predictor and reviewer of your ability.

Sanya Singh
BSW LLB, 2020-2025



Though the GNLU campus remained closed due to COVID 19 pandemic, GNLU has ensured that the learning continues. It has been four months since my association with the university and I can only praise the efforts initiated by the administration and the faculty members to assist students

in the learning process. From the admissions to the semester examinations, everything has been done online in the most user-friendly manner. Faculty members have been supportive all this while. Overall, the experience at GNLU has been enriching and fruitful, and the challenges posed by the pandemic have been tackled well and no hindrance has been caused to the learning process.

Kanika Kaushik
LLM, 2020-21



The day I got into GNLU was probably one of the most memorable days of my life. I wasn't expecting a lot from the online mode of education. But I was wrong. GNLU surpassed all my expectations and made online learning enjoyable for us. When I met our professors at the orientation, albeit virtually, I realised how

blessed I was to have knowledgeable professors who were also kind and understanding. The online classes were structured and teachers encouraged us to have healthy discussions. We even had our seniors and alumni take our 'moot court' classes. Seniors are easily accessible and are ready to help us. They even held extra classes for us to understand difficult topics. Constant efforts from seniors and faculties have ensured that we feel like a part of the GNLU family.

Harshit Singh
B.Com LLB, 2020-25

Student News



Debargha Roy, B.A. LLB. 2019-24, has filed a Public Interest Litigation before the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court for the implementation of Section 12(1)(c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 in the State of Assam (Debargha Roy v. the State of Assam, PIL 66/2020). On December 18, 2020, the Court heard the petition and called the Government of Assam to file a response on the status of implementation of the provision in the State. This PIL was filed after extensive research on this issue by Project Saathi, an NGO founded by Debargha in 2019 which works towards inclusive education.

Debargha together with Vijaylakshmi Puli, Batch of 2017-22, emerged as Winners in Symphfest National Music Competition, 2020 organised by Artistikyou held in December 2020. They competed with top colleges in India including IIM Ahmedabad, IIT Delhi, Hindu College & Zakir Hussain College.



Divya Shekhar Srivastava, Batch 2017-2022, together with two of his friends developed the Fatehpur Delivery App for delivery of essential items during the lockdown due to COVID-19 in his home district Fatehpur. The app was received well and used extensively for procuring the essentials during the lockdown. The app featured on the

NITI Aayog Twitter handle and NITI Aayog CEO Mr Amitabh Kant tweeted praising the application. The District Authorities also sent a letter of Appreciation. Several local newspapers carried reports about the app.

Amar Singh, B.A., LL.B. (Hons.), 2019-24 batch, received a merit certificate for securing Top 10% result at the National Quiz on Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code conducted by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, in September 2020.



Amar Singh has also co-authored a research report on Budget Transparency in India with Transparency International India that has been relied upon by the World Bank in one of its reports.

Anant Agarwal, B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), Batch 2019-2024 became the only undergraduate student from across the world, and the only Indian student, whose paper was selected for Yale Law School's 3rd Annual Conference on Law and Macroeconomics, co-organised by Yale Law School and the Institute of International Economic Law, Georgetown University Law Center. He presented his research paper titled, 'Mitigating Recessions: Incorporating Macroeconomic Levers into Bankruptcy Law in India'. His research analysed the recent suspension of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 through the lens of macroeconomics, and proposed a novel solution in bankruptcy law policy.



Priyanshu Agarwal (BSW LLB) and Bhashit Bhatt (BBA LLB) have founded a blogpost "Themisis," which aims to simplify and analyse news and present them without distortion by manipulation or propaganda.



Karma Shah, 2019-2024 batch, secured the AIR 10th rank and 1st rank in Ahmedabad in the Company Secretary Foundation Examination held in December 2020.



Swapneel Mahesh Sejal, B.Sc.LL.B (Hons.) Batch 2019-2024 obtained a score of 175 out of 200 in the first Company Secretary Executive Entrance Test (CSEET) in August 2020.

Joy of Sharing

Students and alumni of GNLU made generous contributions to raise a fund to cheer up the housekeeping and security staff on contract on the eve of the Diwali festival. The fund was utilized for distribution of ration kits to these staff members numbering around 125.

Institutional membership NAPSWI

GNLU has secured institutional membership of National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI). This membership will help the BSW LLB students of GNLU in shaping their personal and professional goals.

Internship on Migrant Tracking project



Abhinav Saikia



Ananya



Ananya Mohapatra



Devendra Verma



Diya Vaishnav



Ganesh Aggarwal



Shoaib Akhtar

These students of the B.A. stream 2019 batch completed the two-month internship with Centre for Social Justice on their Migrant Tracking project. During the internship, they collected data from the migrant workers to monitor the state response and collect information on the loss of wages due to the lockdown including pending wages. The data was later collated and sent to the National Legal Services Authority as well as State and District Legal Services Authorities to facilitate the payment of various statutory benefits to these workers through the organization of service camps.



Divyang Shukla



Pratyusha Ivaturi



Pratika Negi



Ruchitha Devu Sai



Udita Verma



Vansh Gupta



Yeeshha Sharma

Faculty News



Dr K. Parameswaran, Associate Professor of Law has been inducted as an active PISLAP Participant in the Project for Integrating Spirituality, Law and Politics (PISLAP), an international network of lawyers, law professors, law students, legal workers, and others who are seeking to develop a new spiritually-informed approach to law and social change, based out of

U.S.A.

He is also inducted on the Advisory Board for AURO Journal of Legal Research, Auro University.

He also completed 18-day training on "Introduction to Vedas" organized by Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute and India Heritage Centre, Pune from September 07-25, 2020.

Further, To extend his research knowledge on 'Law, Religion, Spirituality & Justice' and to energise legal, educational & judicial systems, Dr Param delivered 34 webinars for various institutions in India & abroad involving multiple stakeholders like law-teachers, students, advocates, policy-makers, judges, civil-society & social action groups etc.

Some prestigious invitations include; Role of Spirituality in Law & Justice for PISLAP, USA, an 8 lecture-series on

Legal-Research for PhD Scholars at Symbiosis International University, 6-lecture series on Spirituality in Education, Research, Life & Work for South Carolina, USA and Auro University, Role of IT in Building Knowledge, Research & Teaching Practices for GB Pant University (MHRD-TEQIP-III), National Constitution Day Chief-Guest Address of 'We the People' for Sinhadag law college, Fabric of Indian Constitutional Law for NIFT, in addition to lectures for Nirma University, SAFIC, SAS, STU, JC Law College, VIPS-Delhi, Navarachana University, Allahabad & Madras University etc.

Dr Param was also interviewed by College Dunia to share his insights on legal academics and future challenges for India and the role of legal research by law students and law teachers.



The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda has awarded a degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Law to Ms Niyati Pandey, Assistant Professor of Law for her doctoral thesis on "A Study of Contemporary Non-International Armed Conflicts and the Applicability of International Humanitarian Law: Issues and Challenges" under the guidance of Dr Namrata Luhar, Assistant Professor of Law, The M. S. University of Baroda.



Prof (Dr) Mamata Biswal, Dean, Academic Affairs moderated a panel discussion at the 17th Asian Law Institute (ASLI) Conference organized by National Law University, Delhi and the Asian Law Institute, Singapore from November 7 to 9, 2020.

Dr Biswal also delivered an Expert Talk for the TCS Internal Sexual Harassment Committee on "Sexual Harassment Law" on September 04, 2020.



Ms Apoorva Patel, Assistant Professor of Social Work and Head, Centre for Law and Society has been selected as a Cohort 5: 2021 #Teach SDGs Ambassador, a global community of Teach SDGs educators working together to meet the @UN 2030 Agenda to reach the #GlobalGoals!"



Dr Nidhi Buch, Assistant Professor of Law gave a keynote address at the webinar "IPR-Significance & Challenges" organised by Badruka College of Commerce and Arts, Hyderabad on July 02.

She also delivered a talk on "GI-An important tool for developing countries" at the Centre for Innovation and Facilitation, CNLU Patna on July 31. She also shared her thoughts on "GI: An important IP tool for Socio-Economic growth" at the World Intellectual Property Forum 2020, in December, 2020.



Dr Saurabh Anand, Assistant Professor delivered a lecture on "Teaching Sociology in Law Schools: Issues and Challenges" at the Alumni Week Celebrations organized by Department of Sociology, Punjab University, Chandigarh

GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar was invited to participate in various conferences, seminars and workshops organised by academic institutions across the country. The prominent events among them are listed below:

01. Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar participated in the panel discussion on "Continuing Education During Covid: How Higher Education Institutions should adapt to the changing times" on July 03, 2020. The panel discussion was a part of the Higher Education Leadership Conclave organised by MasterSoft in association with Microsoft. The other panellists were Dr S. S. Gokhale (Director NIT-Kozhikode and Formerly Dean- IIT Madras), Prof. Lalit Kumar Awasthi (Director NIT, Jalandhar), Dr Mahendra Sharma, Pro-Chancellor & Director-General (Ganpat University), Prof Gautam Sinha (IMS Unison University) and Mr Gurudev Somani, CEO, MasterSoft.
02. He was a Distinguished Speaker at the Law University Vice Chancellors' colloquium on "Reimagining The Law Schools Of The Future: Role Of Public Law, Technology & Social Responsibility" on July 08, 2020. The seminar was organised by Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University. Other distinguished speakers were Prof. (Dr.) Nishtha Jaswal (Vice-Chancellor, Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla), Prof. (Dr.) Vijendra Kumar (Vice-Chancellor, Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur), Prof. (Dr.) Srikrishna Deva Rao (Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, Orrisa), Prof. (Dr.) V.C. Vivekanandan (Vice-Chancellor, Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur) and Prof. (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University).
03. He delivered an inaugural address at the virtual Regional Consultation on Criminal Law Reforms



organised by GNLU in association with the School of Public Policy and Law, Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Co-operative Management, Shivsagar, on July 27, 2020.

04. He delivered an inaugural address at the virtual Regional Consultation on Criminal Law Reforms organised by GNLU in association with the School of Legal Studies, Cochin University of Science and Technology on July 29, 2020.

05. Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar was a distinguished Speaker at the online Programme "Convergence in Developmental Programmes for Women and Children with different Institutions/organisations/universities/departments" organised by the National Institute of Public Cooperation & Child Development (Ministry of Women & Child Development, Govt. of India), on July 29, 2020.
06. He delivered an inaugural address at the virtual Regional Consultation on Criminal Law Reforms organised by GNLU in association with Jagran Lakecity University on July 30, 2020.
07. He inaugurated the virtual Consumer Outreach Programme organised by India's Telecom Regulatory Authority on August 07, 2020.
08. He delivered an inaugural address at the virtual Regional Consultation on Criminal Law Reforms organised by GNLU in association with UPES Dehradun on August 08, 2020.
09. He was a distinguished speaker at the webinar on "Life in Law School" organised by Government Law College, Vellore, on August 13, 2020.
10. He delivered a session, "Humour in Classroom", at the Pondicherry Central University on September 03, 2020.
11. He inaugurated the five-day online Faculty Development Programme on "Climate Change and Environmental Legal Protection" organised by the Department of Law, School of Legal Studies, the Central University of Tamil Nadu from September 07-11, 2020. He also delivered a lecture on "Paris Agreement and India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions Towards Climate Justice: A critical review of Indian law, policy and perspective" in the FDP on September 08, 2020.
12. He was invited as a distinguished Resource Person for the Refresher Course in LAW: Current Challenging Legal Issues organised by Human Resource Development Centre, Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur in September 2020. He delivered lectures on "Teaching Environmental Law" and "Evolution of International Environmental Law" on September 07 & 14, 2020.
13. He was invited as a Chief Guest for the Freshers' Induction Programme 2020 organised by VIT School of Law, Vellore Institute of Technology, on September 09, 2020.
14. He was invited as a distinguished resource person for the online Faculty Induction Training Programme organised by UGC Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC), Pondicherry University, Puducherry. He delivered lectures on "Constitutional Values" and "Fundamental Duties" on September 16, 17, 22 & 23, 2020.
15. He was invited as a Key Note Speaker at the webinar "National Education Policy 2020: Transformation in Education" organised by Sushant University on October 15, 2020.
16. He was invited as a Resource Person for the Capacity Building Programme on "Research Methodology, Research and Publication Ethics" organised by Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla, from October 16 to 28, 2020. He delivered a lecture on "Research Methods vs Methodology" on October 27, 2020.
17. He delivered an inaugural address at the National Maritime Heritage Conclave organised by Gujarat Maritime University on November 18 and 19, 2020.
18. He delivered an expert lecture on "Constitution and Composite Culture" in a webinar organised by Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University on November 23, 2020.
19. He was a Distinguished Speaker at the Global Virtual Conference "Reimagining & Transforming the Future of Law Schools and Legal Education: Confluence of Ideas During & Beyond Covid-19." The conference was organised by Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University during 25-27 November 2020. His session's theme was "Revisiting the Criteria for Law School Rankings in the 'New Normal'."
20. He delivered the inaugural address in the Webinar "Cyber Security", organised by TRAI, Regional Office Jaipur, on November 26, 2020.
21. Department of Law, the Central University of Gujarat invited Prof. (Dr.) S. Shanthakumar as a distinguished speaker at the Constitution Day celebrations organised on November 26, 2020.
22. He delivered a special lecture at the Department of Law, the Central University of Kerala, on Constitution Day, November 26, 2020.
23. He inaugurated a webinar, "Role of the Navy in Shaping India", organised by Gujarat Maritime University on December 04, 2020, in commemoration of the Indian Navy Day 2020.
24. He was invited as a distinguished speaker in the IIT Law School Webinar Series organised by Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. He spoke on "Climate Change Litigation in India" in the webinar "Climate Protection & Identifying Conditions for Human Dignity" on December 05, 2020.
25. He was invited as a distinguished speaker for a webinar "India's First Arbitration and Mediation Centre exclusively focussed on the Maritime & Shipping sector within Gujarat Maritime Cluster" organised by Gujarat Maritime Cluster on December 11, 2020. The Chief Guest for the Webinar was Hon'ble Mr Justice M. R. Shah, Judge, Supreme Court of India.
26. He was invited as the Guest of Honour for the 49th Annual Conference of the International Society of International Law on December 19, 2020.

V.S. Mani Centre for Air and Space Law



Mr. Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque

GNLU's V.S. Mani Centre for Air and Space Law in collaboration with the Institute of Air Law, Space Law and Cyber Law, University of Cologne, Germany organized the 5th edition of GNLU Air and Space Law Academy (GASLA) from September 27 to October 04, 2020.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Mr Rakesh Sasibhushan, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Antrix Corporation Limited & Chairman, CII National Committee on Space, Hon'ble Mr Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque, Judge, High Court of Kerala and GNLU Director Prof Dr S. Shanathakumar.

Commenting on the huge potential of the space sector, Mr Rakesh Sasibhushan said that it is becoming an industry verticle that no one can ignore. "Global Space industry revenues were valued at \$ 360 Billion according to market reports. Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs estimate that the global space industry could generate revenues of more than \$1 trillion by 2040. Bank of America Merrill Lynch sees the space industry growing to \$2.7 trillion in 30 years. This growth is enabled by the new technologies, miniaturisation, lowering of costs, increasing demand and enabling regulatory framework.

On the Indian space sector, Mr Sasibhushan said, "India is a major Space faring nation. However India's share in the global space market is only around 3%, owing to the lack of capacity to address the commercial demands. This lack of capacity evolves from the regulation or rather the lack of it, in managing the commercial space activities in India."

Stressing on the importance of promoting private investment in the space sector, Mr Sasibhushan said, It will not be an exaggeration to say that the true potential of the space sector can be better realised by the promotion of private enterprises to venture into space. For enabling this in India, a suitable regulatory framework is a must. United Nations Office for Outer Space Activities has 95 members out of which 25 nations have developed their domestic legislations for space activities."

Mr Sasibhushan said that with the space sector promising rapid growth, the time is ripe for our country to bring appropriate legislation along with business-friendly policies to enable the Indian industry to establish its position in this highly rewarding and exciting domain at a global level. In this regard, he felt that the UK model may be more appropriate for the second generation exploring countries as it allows changes in the industry to be followed promptly by corresponding legislative changes.

In the end, he hoped the space sector will become a major contributor to the Indian economy and generate thousands of jobs.

Hon'ble Mr Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque echoed the views expressed by Mr Sasibhushan when he said that the only way for India to effectively exploit the commercial aspects of outer space was to encourage the entry of private players.



Mr Rakesh Sasibhushan

He added that ISRO has all the capabilities but, it also has the constraints of being a public sector unit. A lot of investment has gone into this sector from the Government side. Now, we should have appropriate legislation for the entry of private players in the sector. The technology developed by ISRO over the years can then be shared with them for extracting the commercial advantage of it.

In his welcome address, GNLU Director Prof (Dr) Shanthakumar said, "Air Law and Space Law is governed by vastly different legal regimes. However, there is no international consensus on where national airspace ends and where outer space begins. Further, the regimes of both Air Law and Space Law were developed at a time when the technology for earth-to-earth aerospace movements did not exist. The technological advancement has raised new questions. The law needs to evolve to keep pace with technology. For example, a hybrid-aerospace vehicle is capable of operating within national or international airspace, as well as operating in outer space. This means that, on any given flight, a hybrid-aerospace vehicle may operate both as an aircraft and a spacecraft. So, which law would govern the flight – Air Law or Space Law? This makes a strong case for a new regime of aerospace law."

Dr Divya Tyagi, Assistant Professor of Law and Head, VSMCASL proposed a vote of thanks.

Spanned over eight days, eminent experts in the field of air and space law from India and overseas covered various issues in the air and space laws.

V.S. Mani Memorial Lecture



Late Dr V S Mani



Dr V Balakista Reddy

Following the inauguration of the academy, Prof. (Dr.) V. Balakista Reddy, Registrar, NALSAR, Hyderabad delivered the 3rd V.S. Mani Memorial Lecture on "Covidization and its impact on International Law, International Air & Space Laws: A Third World Perspective."

Prof (Dr) V S Mani was the founder Director of Gujarat National Law University. He passed away in August 2016. GNLU launched a new interdisciplinary Centre for research in the niche field of Air and Space Law and named it as V.S. Mani Centre for Air and Space Law in the honour of late Prof Mani, who himself was an expert in the field of Air and Space Law.

Dr Reddy fondly remembered his association with Prof Mani first as a student and then as a colleague. He briefed the participants about the significant contribution of Prof Mani in the field of international law in general and air and space laws in particular.

GNLU Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution

GNLU Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution organized a webinar on the theme "Mediation Today" on September 04, 2020. All panellists were senior advocates and renowned experts in the field of mediation:



Mr Niranjana Bhatt is the founder and the Managing Trustee of the Institute for Arbitration Mediation Legal Education and Development and a Convener of the Ahmedabad Mediation Centre, the first lawyers run Mediation Centre of India. He received advance mediation training from the Harvard Law School PIL Programme and was a member of the Indo-US Central Study Team.

Mr Sriram Panchu has been at the forefront of the mediation movement in India and is an internationally recognized mediator. He has been appointed by the Supreme Court of India to mediate significant public disputes.



Ms Laila T. Ollapally is the Founder of CAMP – Camp Arbitration and Mediation Practice Pvt. Ltd. and Founding Coordinator of the Bangalore Mediation Centre (BMC) acclaimed as the most successful Court-Annexed Mediation program in the country. She has

been appointed by the Supreme Court and High Court to co-mediate several high-profile and sensitive disputes with Supreme Court Judges.

Ms Sadhana Ramachandran is a Senior Vice-President of Maadhyaam- Council for Conflict Resolution, a leading organization in the area of Alternative Dispute Resolution. She was one of the three interlocutors appointed by the Supreme Court of India to engage with the anti-CAA protesters at Shaheen Bagh.



Mr Niranjana Bhatt spoke on "Mediation: Then, Today and Tomorrow." He said that mediation is not new to India. It has not come from western countries. Mediation was practised in ancient India based on the principles of wisdom, reason and prudence. The concept of mediation is also found in Buddhist scriptures: "Know well what leads

you forward and what holds you back, and choose the path that leads to wisdom."

Mr Niranjana Bhatt said that mediation is complementary and not competitive. He said a person goes to a court in a hope to find a solution to his problem. However, during litigation, he finds that his problems have increased. He has lost his time, his money, his relationships and also the peace of mind. Here, the mediation scores over litigation. Why fight, when one can have agreements? Why resist when one can cooperate? Why focus on a problem, when one can have a solution? Why condemn someone, when one can understand? Why fight when one can build relationships? Why indulge in rivalry when harmony is possible? Why cling to the past, when one can march forward in future? And, why create a win-lose situation, when it is possible to create a win-win solution?

Mr Bhatt said that in mediation, parties get an opportunity to play their participatory roles in the resolution process, which in turn generates a sense of ownership and integrity which ultimately creates a win-win solution over a win-lose situation compared to litigation.

Sharing his views about the "Future of Mediation in India: An Expectation," Mr Sriram Panchu debated on the Singapore Mediation Convention (SMC). He said that after the signing of SMC, enforcement of mediation agreement would now become easier than enforcement of an arbitral award in India.

Speaking about "Promotion of Mediation in India: Issues and Challenges," Ms Laila Ollapally said that satisfaction and happiness of parties should be given utmost importance in resolving disputes which is possible in the mediation process only. She said that for mediation to be more acceptable as a means of dispute resolution, a change in the mindset of stakeholders, particularly advocates is needed. The decision of the Bar Council of India to introduce Mediation as a core subject in law university syllabus is a step in the right direction. It will inculcate the spirit of mediation among advocates right from the beginning.

Ms Sadhana Ramachandran discussed the role of academic institutions in advancing mediation in India. She deliberated on the importance of mediation-Advocacy and role-play in the teaching of mediation. She also discoursed on the importance of psychology to conduct the mediation process.

Earlier, GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar welcomed the esteemed panellists and said it is important to discuss and debate these issues now as India has signed the Singapore Mediation Convention in 2019 and Bar Council of India has recently decided to introduce Mediation as a core subject in the three-year and five-year courses in law schools and universities.

Dr Vikas Gandhi, Associate Professor of Law and Head, GNLU Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution proposed a vote of thanks.

GNLU Centre for Corporate and Insolvency Law

National Colloquium on Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process

GNLU Centre for Corporate and Insolvency Law organized a National Colloquium on Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process on September 19, 2020.



Mr Injeti Srinivas, Chairman, International Financial Services Centres Authority said that IBC is the most successful legislation. No other law in the country has delivered its intended outcome so quickly. No other economic legislation has impacted behaviour so much in such a short period. The impact is

so much that even Reserve Bank of India report has acknowledged that not only the NPAs have come down but the rate of additions to NPAs has also come down.



Mr Ajay Bahl, Insolvency expert said that the new insolvency regime under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 has given birth to a completely new profession of Resolution Professional in a record short time. Other professions such as chartered accountant, cost accountant, company secretary have taken a long time

to evolve while the profession of Resolution Professional under the IBC Code has come into being within a record short time. Today, in less than four years of the IBC coming into operation, around 3000 Resolution Professionals are registered with IBBI.



GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar said that according to the World Bank data, after the introduction of the IBC, the time taken to resolve stressed loans is reduced from 4.3 years to about 1.5 years while the recovery rate for financial creditors has improved from 26% to 48%. This is a remarkable achievement.

Dr Shanthakumar added that the functioning of the insolvency regime in India has stabilized pretty fast by global standards. In the US, for example, it took 10 years for the bankruptcy law to attain some stability. At one point, they were even considering repealing it.



Mr Sudhakar Shukla, full-time member of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India quoted the American economist Milton Friedman, who said, "Only a crisis - actual or perceived - produces real change. When that crisis occurs, the actions that are taken depend on the ideas that are lying around. That, I believe, is our basic

function: to develop alternatives to existing policies, to keep them alive and available until the politically impossible becomes politically inevitable."

Prof (Dr.) Mamata Biswal, Dean, Faculty & Academic Affairs, GNLU and Head, GCCIL also shared her thoughts on the subject.

International Conference on Insolvency Law and CISG@40

GNLU Centre for Corporate and Insolvency Law (GCCIL) in collaboration with United Nations UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (UNCITRAL RCAP), Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) and UNCITRAL National Coordination Committee India (UNCCI) organized an International Conference on Insolvency Law and CISG@40 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of The UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG).

The conference was inaugurated by Dr M S Sahoo, Chairperson, IBBI. Other dignitaries present at the inaugural session included Ms Athita Komindr, Head, UNCITRAL RCAP, Mr Luca G. Castellani, Legal Officer, Secretariat of UNCITRAL, Mr K R Saji Kumar, Executive Director, IBBI, Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar, Director, GNLU and Prof (Dr) Mamata Biswal, Dean, Faculty & Academic Affairs and Head, GCCIL, GNLU.



In his inaugural address, Dr M. S. Sahoo, Chairperson of IBBI and the Chief Patron of the Conference said that the impact of COVID 19 on business is severe. The similar situation of lower intensity in the 2008 financial crisis had witnessed a sharp increase in the instances of personal and corporate insolvencies. That is an indication of things likely to come in the coming days.



Ms Athita Komindr, Head, UNCITRAL RCAP said that Today, the CISG has been adopted by 94 States and that together represent over two-thirds of the global economy. This is an important step towards contract law harmonization and modernization.



Mr Luca G. Castellani, Legal Officer, Secretariat of UNCITRAL said that the major achievement of 2020 is the finalization of Guide on International Commercial Contracts (with a focus on sales).



In his opening remarks, Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar said that CISG is playing an important role in promoting cross-border commercial activities and supporting sustainable economic development.



Mr K R Saji Kumar, Executive Director, IBBI proposed a vote of thanks.

As a part of the conference, a Round Table on Cross Border Insolvency was held, which was chaired by Dr T. K. Vishwanathan UNCCI, Chairman, Bankruptcy Law Reforms Committee & Former Union Law Secretary) and co-chaired by Dr Mamata Biswal (Dean, Faculty & Academic Affairs and Head, GCCIL, GNLU).

GNLU Centre for Research in Criminal Justice Sciences

GNLU Centre for Research in Criminal Justice Sciences and Police Academia Interaction Forum jointly organized a webinar on "COVID-19 Pandemic: Law Enforcement Challenges," on July 11, 2020. The webinar was delivered by Shri Narasimha Komar, IPS, Inspector General of Police (Law & Order), Gujarat State.

Shri Komar said that the pandemic and the resultant lockdown was a new experience for the police as also for the public. However, despite several constraints, police played a critical role in the COVID-19 pandemic management in close coordination with other departments of the state government such as Health, labour, civil supplies as well as the central government. It enforced the lockdown while ensuring that the essential services are not disrupted. He said that police adopted a strategy of information, communication, persuasion, domination and intervention for effective lockdown with people participation.

Shri Komar said that the pandemic has disrupted the functioning of all wings of the criminal justice system, namely, police, forensic science, prosecution, judiciary and prison & correctional services. All these wings will have to rework their systems & processes and coordinate with each other to navigate through these difficult times. We have learnt a lot of lessons and improved our internal systems and processes. I am sure, we would be able to provide better quality service to the people of Gujarat in the coming days.

The pandemic has led to the new paradigm of policing:

from the police station to beat station, from conventional policing to community policing, from the arrest-based investigation to evidence-based investigation & need-

based arrest. Police have also resorted to the use of technology like drones & hydrogen balloons for aerial surveillance, RFID-based e-beat system for reducing human intervention in the supervision of police patrols, eGujCop & Poket Cop to facilitate paperless & remote investigation and supervision to reduce public interface and vehicle tracking and management system.

Replying to a question, Shri Komar said that, "the instances of increase in the domestic violence cases during lockdown have been reported in many other countries and also in other states in India. However, Gujarat has been quite fortunate in this regard. Based on

the statistics of FIRs, complaints, emails, help centre data and NGO inputs, we have found that there was no perceptible increase in domestic violence in Gujarat during the lockdown."

Earlier, in his inaugural address, GNLU Director Prof (Dr) Shanthakumar said: "Law enforcement has always been a very demanding task with multifarious duties. But, the Covid-19 pandemic has thrown innumerable new challenges before the police force. In this context, it is useful to study as to how COVID-19 will affect future law enforcement. I am grateful to Shri Komar for having agreed to enlighten us on the challenges of law enforcement post-COVID-19."



Sabarimala Temple: The dichotomy between customs and women's rights

GNLU Centre for Research in Criminal Justice Sciences organized a webinar on "Sabarimala Temple: The dichotomy between customs and women's rights" on August 22, 2020. Mr Sanjay R. Hegde, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India delivered the webinar.

Advocate Sanjay Hegde explained the concepts of equality and secularism in the context of the Indian constitution. He said that the basic test is to find out the test of essentiality to any practice, if it can be established, it can be a part of the religion/faith, otherwise not.

Advocate Hegde then analysed the concept in the Sabarimala Reference, where the Supreme Court has considered it to be discriminatory. He explained further how this is



discriminatory as it is biased about gender and certain times of the life of a particular gender.

In an answer to the question raised by the audience, Advocate Hegde made it clear how this is included in the concept of being discriminatory. He also informed the audience about the way further in this matter. He gave more than 15 major case laws in the history of India.

Earlier, in his welcome address, GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar gave a brief history of the case and highlighted the constitutional issues involved.

Dr Anjani Singh Tomar, Associate Professor of Law and Head, GNLU Centre for Research in Criminal Justice Sciences delivered a vote of thanks.

GNLU Centre for Disability Studies

Virtual Summer School on Disability Studies



Abhishek Thakur

GNLU Centre for Disability Studies (GCDS) organized a nine-day virtual Summer School on Disability Studies from August 08 to 16, 2020.

In his inaugural address, GNLU Director Prof (Dr) Shanthakumar said that our world has a long history of discrimination against persons with disability. We should, therefore, research disability studies to produce knowledge in support of justice for people with stigmatized bodies and minds.

Over nine days, different experts in the field dealt with various aspects of disability like Concept, Nature, Definitions and Models of disability,



Renu Adlakha

Theoretical Perspectives of Disability, Governmental Policy and Framework for the Empowerment of Disabilities and Research on Disabilities.

The expert resource persons included Dr. Sanjay Jain (Principal, ILS Law College, Pune), Mr. Abhishek Thakur (Assistant Professor, University of Delhi), Prof. (Dr.) Renu Adlakha (Centre for Women's Development Studies - ICSSR), Dr. Ambati Nageswara Rao (Assistant Professor, GNLU), Mr. Mukesh Kumar (Certified JAWS 2020, CPACC) and Dr. Anita Ghai (Assistant Professor, Ambedkar University, Delhi).



Sanjay Jain



Anita Ghai

National Education Policy 2020 on Disabilities

GNLU Centre for Disability Studies in collaboration with Sruti Disability Rights Centre organized a webinar on 'National Education Policy 2020 on Disabilities: Expectations, Assurances and Realities' to celebrate the International Day of People with Disabilities 2020.

In his inaugural address, GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar said that NEP has adequate provisions to ensure that children with disabilities get opportunities for equal participation across the educational system. However, NEP is a policy document. Whether and to what extent the intended benefits of the policy will reach children with disabilities will depend on its implementation.

Ms Radhika Alkazi, Managing Trustee, Aartha-Aastha said that the Right to Education Act should be amended to make early education a legal right. She said that children with disabilities should not be relegated to home-based education; rather the school system must be adjusted to the needs of such children at least for early education.

Ms Shampa Sengupta, Director of Sruti Disability Rights Centre, also expressed her concerns about the provision for educating the parents of children with disabilities for enabling them to teach such children. She felt that parents of children with disabilities already have a lot of responsibilities and they should not be saddled with more.

Another panelist, Dr Pubali Agarwal, Assistant Professor at

Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education, University of Delhi expressed happiness over the inclusion of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and said it would benefit children with special needs.

Ms Shabnam Agarwal, Founder Director, Aanandini emphasized on the need for the cooperation of regular teachers for the growth of children with disabilities. She expressed her concerns about the lack of awareness among the parents of children with disabilities about the various teaching techniques and other related information.

Dr Boopathi, Assistant Professor at Central University, Tamil Nadu highlighted that disability diversity needs to be acknowledged in the society, and stated the lack of knowledge about Braille and other assistive aids is a matter of concern.

Ms Saudamini Pethe, Trustee Access Mantra Foundation mentioned about the attitudinal barriers in using sign language. She called for the empowerment of the deaf community. For this purpose, the sign language should be standardized, all content and curriculum should be made available in sign language and parents should be made aware of different types of hearing impairment.

The webinar concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Marisport, Assistant Professor of Law and Head, GNLU Centre for Disability Studies.

Comments on Draft Bills and Amendments

During the monsoon semester, GNLU Centre for Disability Studies submitted recommendations/comments on various draft bills and proposed amendments to the concerned ministries of the Government of India:

1. Draft University of Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Sciences Bill, 2021

2. Proposed amendments to the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992.

3. Better Implementation of National Education Policy 2020 towards Persons with Disabilities.

4. Decriminalisation of Minor Offences under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

Centre for Legal History, Philosophy and Tradition

The Utility and Limits of Legal History in Constitutional Adjudication

GNLU Centre for Legal History, Philosophy and Tradition in collaboration with Virtual Law School organized a lecture on "The Utility and Limits of Legal History in Constitutional Adjudication," on December 23, 2020. The lecture was delivered by Honourable Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG, an international jurist and Former Judge of the High Court of Australia, which is the highest court in Australia.

"Courts serve as an umpire for democracies, interpreting the Constitution with the changing times and context," remarked Justice Kirby as he delved into the importance of legal history in constitutional adjudication. He said, unlike in China, under our traditions in India and Australia, what the judges say the constitution means is what it means because the judges have the last say. "This was explained in the Supreme Court of the USA soon after the establishment of the Republic in the United States breaking away from the imperial power of Britain in 1776. You have to have an umpire, and especially in a federation, you have to have an umpire because the Constitution lays down where power lies. Does it lie with the federal legislature or with state legislatures or with both the federal and the state legislature? And in China, they resolve that by saying, well, this is decided ultimately by the Supreme People's Congress and it's therefore decided ultimately by the legislature. But the view that was taken in the United States, which has been followed in India and Australia, is that you have to have an umpire. The umpire stands outside the battleground and is independent of the battleground," he added.

Advancing argument against the originalist doctrine, he said going back only to the original intent can lead to very unfortunate consequences, such as the right to bear arms in the United States, which was intended for a society that did not have an organized police force but now has been understood to permit in the second amendment to the United States constitution that everyone can have a Kalashnikov or an automatic firing weapon and that is surely not something that Indians or Australians would like to see.

Justice Kirby said that a constitution should be viewed as a living tree, as it's sometimes called, a living document that must be given meaning to accord with the needs and requirements of the society for whom the constitution speaks. The final say in the matter of interpretation of the constitution should belong to judges. Turning it over to parliament might not be the right way to go. In this context, Justice Kirby cited the example of gay rights in India and referred to the Supreme Court of India's judgement in the case of Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India upholding the rights of gay people and striking down section 377 of the Indian Penal Code. "If that had been left to the legislature, I

think this would not have happened," he added.

Justice Kirby further said that the basic structure doctrine propounded by the Supreme court of India is very interesting. It is based upon the intellectual postulate that if you are using the power to amend the constitution it implies that important features of the constitution remain and that you're not sweeping aside the constitution, but amending and changing it in particular respects..... the idea of the doctrine of basic structure was followed in Pakistan for a while but I don't think it's now followed in the Pakistan Supreme Court and I don't know of any other Commonwealth country that has adopted the basic structure, but I think there is a lot to be said for the basic structure doctrine and in some ways, in Australia, the High Court of Australia in respect of the separateness and independence of the judiciary has upheld a basic structure idea that it's something which cannot be easily changed because it is essential to have in a federal constitution, a branch of government, which will be independent of the executive and the legislature and can decide matters independently..... I think it's one that will influence the High Court of Australia in the future. When it comes to deal with issues of what is so fundamental, lying behind the constitution that even a referendum we'll not be able to change it. Should we have a basic structure of that kind? In India, the Supreme court has suggested that the rule of law and judicial review come within that notion of basic structure but this is something which is continuing to develop and, I think in this respect, the Supreme court of India will have lessons to teach us in Australia for similar problems that may come before us in the future.



In reply to a question, Justice Kirby said that the Indian constitution is easier to amend as compared to the constitution of most other common law countries. It is very difficult to amend the constitution in Australia or the United States. For example, the Australian Constitution can only be altered by referendum. In a referendum, all Australians of voting age vote yes or no for the proposed changes. To succeed, a majority of voters nationwide and a majority of States (four out of six) must approve the changes. Over the years, there were 28 proposals to amend the constitution in Australia, but only six of them succeeded. The easy amendability of the Indian constitution was perhaps one of the factors leading the Supreme Court of India to lay down the Basic Structure Doctrine in the Kesavananda Bharati case.

In his welcome address, GNLU Director Prof. (Dr.) S. Shanthakumar spoke about the importance of the Originalist Theory of interpretation and its relevance not only in the Indian context but in constitutional adjudication across legal systems. Dr Richa Sharma, Assistant Professor of History and Head of GNLU Centre for Legal History, Philosophy and Tradition proposed a vote of thanks.

GNLU Centre for Intellectual Property Rights

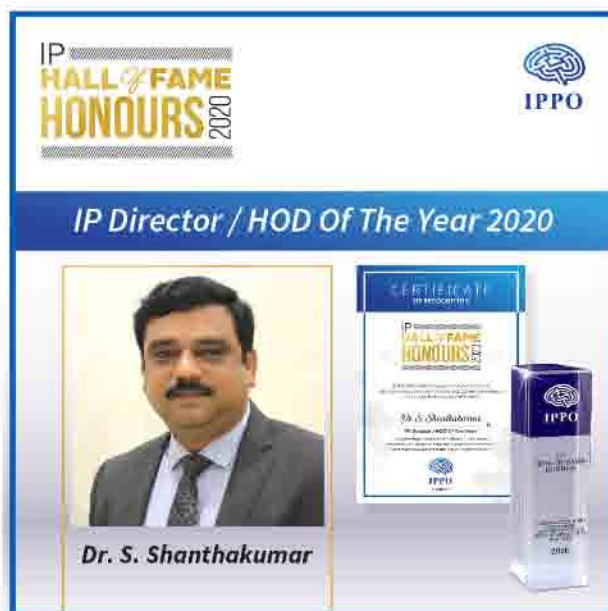
IP Fest 2020

GNLU Centre for IPR participated in the IP Fest 2020, an annual celebration of the importance of Intellectual Property Rights, organized by the IP Promotion Outreach Foundation (IPPO), Ahmedabad on October 15 and 16, 2020.

IP Fest 2020 focused on “IP in Technology & Digital Era” and “IP for Entrepreneurs, Startups.”

GNLU Centre for IPR recognized as India's Top IP Stakeholder

In a unique recognition, GNLU Centre for IPR bagged a spot in the e-book “India's Top IP Stakeholder” published by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), as a prestigious and



Dr. S. Shanthakumar

top-most IP education provider in the country. The e-book featured the research and training activities of GCIPR and accolades received over the years.

The e-book was launched during CII's 6th International Conference on IPR, held on December 18, 2020.

GNLU Director recognized as the IP Director of the year

The IP FEST also recognizes and awards the best of IP Contributors and Innovators under several categories. This year, GNLU Director, Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar was recognized as the IP Director/HOD of the year 2020 for his contribution to the Intellectual Property domain.

Webinar on Intellectual Property Rights

GNLU Centre for Intellectual Property Rights (GCIPR), jointly with Shri Venkateshwara College of Pharmacy, Puducherry organized a webinar on Intellectual Property Rights exclusively for students of Shri Venkateshwara College of Pharmacy, on July 02, 2020.

In his keynote address, GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar emphasized the relevance of Intellectual Property Rights in everyday life and reiterated the need to

learn about the nuances of IP laws and practices which applies to various professions.

Prof (Dr) Shobhalata Udupudi, GNLU, Dr Nidhi Buch, Assistant Professor and Head of GCIPR and Ms Hetvi Trivedi, Research Associate at GNLU delivered sessions on “Patent law and Biotechnology”, “Salient Features of the Indian Patent Act, the US and European Patent Systems” and “World Intellectual Property Organization and its Role in IPR,” respectively.

Impact of Drug patents on prices: an Indian perspective

GNLU Centre for Intellectual Property Rights (GCIPR) hosted a webinar in collaboration with Nishith Desai Associates on 'Impact of Drug Patents on Prices: an Indian perspective,' on September 22, 2020.

The webinar was delivered by eminent lawyers Mr Darren Punnen and Ms Shreya Shenolikar, both from Nishith Desai Associates.

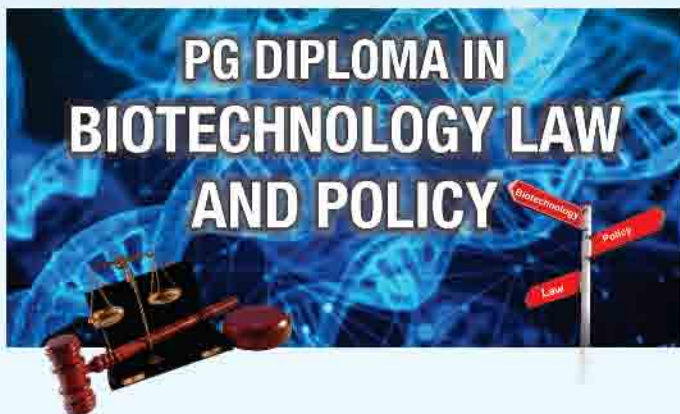
Shreya began by discussing the primary role of patents in drug pricing, briefly highlighting India's aggressive approach towards controlling drug prices. She took the participants through the domestic scenario before 2005 when India granted only process patents to pharmaceutical companies and not product patents. This system enabled the Indian pharma companies to reverse engineer drugs and sell throughout the globe while undercutting the price. Thereafter,



with a crucial amendment in the Patents Act in 2005, India introduced a protection regime that offered both product patents as well as process patents.

Darren took the session further, explaining in detail the reasons behind India's drug price control regime. He took the participants through the Drug Price Control Order (latest Order was issued in 2013) under which the government ensures that while a pharmaceutical company can recoup its investment, the drug continues to be affordable to the masses. Darren highlighted the pitfalls of this drug pricing control regime and suggested that this could perhaps be fixed by using the American model where insurance companies play a huge role in determining prices.

Dr Nidhi Buch, Assistant Professor of Law and Head, GCIPR, proposed a vote of thanks.



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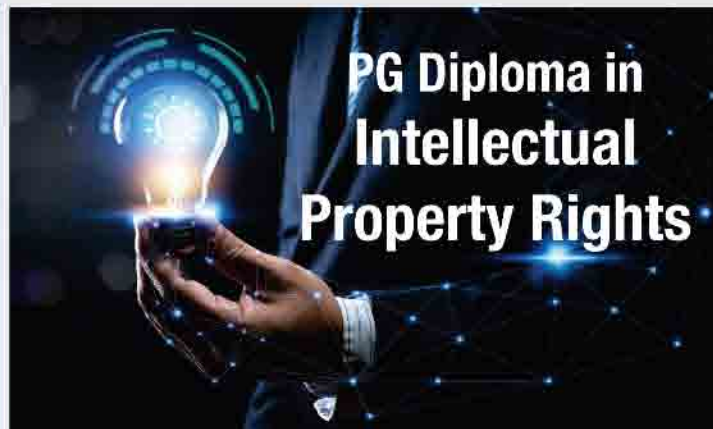
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- Law of Trademarks and Geographical

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- IPR and Biotechnology, Plant Varieties, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions
- IPR: Valuation, Management, Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Dissertation

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GNLU Centre for Environmental Law, Sustainable Development and Climate Change

ADB-UNEP TRAIN-THE-TRAINERS Programme

GNLU Centre for Environmental Law, Sustainable Development and Climate Change in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Jawaharlal Nehru University organized the TRAIN-THE-TRAINERS Programme for strengthening the capacity of environmental and climate change law teachers, from November 22 to 28, 2020.



The dignitaries present at the inaugural session included Justice Swatanter Kumar, Ex Chairperson, National Green Tribunal (Chief Guest), Ms Christina Pak, Principal Counsel, ADB, Dr Georgina Lloyd, Asia and the Pacific Office of the UNEP at Bangkok, Mr Matthew Baird, an eminent Climate Change Lawyer from Australia, Dr Nupur Chowdhury,

Assistant Professor of Law at JNU, Mr Shyam Divan, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Atty. Rose-Liza Eisma-Osorio, University of Cebu, Prof. Amanda Kennedy, Queensland University of Technology and Dr S. Shanthakumar, Director, GNLU.

In his inaugural address, Justice Swatanter Kumar said

that Environmental Law teachers need to bridge the gap between theory and practice and stressed the need for a practice-oriented method of teaching. "The book-oriented method of teaching induces the students to use their laptops, rather than their minds, to figure out solutions," he said



Mr Shyam Divan discussed the challenges faced in evolving a proper regime on Environmental Law.

In his welcome address, GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar said that capacity-building of environmental law professors is very crucial for sustainable development as their students will become future policymakers, legislators, environmental defenders, judges, etc. and will eventually influence policy making."

The week-long programme covered diverse topics such as Pollution Control Regulation, Regulation of Forests and Biodiversity, Environmental Law in Asia, Teaching Environmental Law in the Next Decade, Designing an Environmental Law Clinic and Environmental Law in the Anthropocene, Nature Conservation in India and Lessons for Teaching in the New Age.

A Comparison of US Environmental Laws to International Laws Concerning Resource Conservation



GNLU Centre for Environmental Law, Sustainable Development and Climate Change organized a webinar on "A Comparison of US Environmental Laws to International Laws Concerning Resource Conservation" on October 05, 2020. The lecture was a part of the International Association of Law Schools (IALS) Distinguished Guest Speaker Programme.

Dr Jocylin Pierro, Toxicologist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency delivered the lecture. She discussed the Resource Conservation Recovery Act and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, Basel convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. She said the Basel Convention promotes environmentally sound disposal of hazardous waste by reducing and regulating the import and export of hazardous waste among its 169 parties and added, "India is a signing party to the convention, the U.S. is not."

Celebration of Wild Life Week

GNLU Centre for Environmental Law, Sustainable Development and Climate Change celebrated Wild Life Week by organizing a guest lecture on "Wildlife Through Photography" on October 10, 2020. The resource person of the event was Dr Kaid Johar, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad. Dr Johar elaborated on 'How Covid- 19 is impacting on wildlife?' and 'how it is to see wildlife through



the lens?' Dr Johar spoke about the importance of wildlife. He shared a lot of wildlife that he has captured through his lens like Saras Crane in flight etc...He explained about the photographic techniques that are necessary while photo shooting birds. He went on to further explain how the wild lives could freely move due to the restricted movement of human beings during Covid 19.

Centre for Law and Economics

Academy on Law and Economics



Hans Bernd Schäfer Thomas Ulen Nuno Garoupa Tom Ginsburg Anurag Agarwal

Centre for Law and Economics organized a six-day virtual Academy on Law and Economics during August 25-30.

The inaugural session was attended by Prof. Thomas Ulen, Professor Emeritus of Law, University of Illinois, Prof. Ram Singh, Professor of Economics at Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, Prof. PM Prasad, Professor, Department of Economic Sciences, IIT Kanpur, GNLU Director Dr Shanthakumar, Dr Ranita Nagar, Professor of Economics and Head, Centre for Law and Economics at GNLU and GNLU faculty members.

In his inaugural address, Dr Shanthakumar said that law and economics interact in multiple ways. While economists are expected to be informed about the legal environment in which the economic activities are conducted, lawyers are expected to be aware of the economic effects of the current legal regime. In this context, the academy, which allows the interdisciplinary study of significant problems in each subject, acquires importance.

Prof Ram Singh, Professor of Economics at Delhi School of Economics, referred to the current issues amid COVID-19 pandemic such as wages for the lockdown period,

moratorium for loan repayments & interest-waiver, payment of compensation by insurers for the loss of business during the lockdown. He said these issues are not merely legal or economic but also social and political. In this background, the academy is a welcome initiative to apprise the participants of the significance of the multi-dimensional area of law and economics and its increased importance during the current pandemic.

The six-day long academy touched upon numerous legal fields such as competition law, constitutional law, insolvency and bankruptcy laws, finance law, law and technology, security laws, taxation Laws, criminal law and law of contract, and saw 26 expert resource persons including Prof. Thomas Ulen, Professor Emeritus of Law, University of Illinois College of Law, Prof. Tom Ginsburg, Leo Spitz Professor of International Law and Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, Prof. Nuno Garoupa, Professor of Law, George Mason University, Antonin Scalia Law School, Prof. Hans Bernd Schäfer, Professor Emeritus at the University of Hamburg, Germany, Prof. Ram Singh, Professor of Economics at Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, Prof. PM Prasad, Professor, Department of Economic Sciences, IIT Kanpur and Prof. Anurag Agarwal, Professor of Law and Strategy at IIM Ahmedabad.

More than 140 participants comprising students, research scholars, academicians and professionals attended this academy.

GNLU Essay Competition on Law and Economics 2020



Krishna Agarwal Pranay Jalan Varada Bhat Mahek Khandelwal

Centre for Law and Economics organized 03rd GNLU Essay Competition on Law and Economics.

The participants were invited to submit essays focusing on any of the substantive areas of Law and Economics, including Basic Areas of Law and Economics, Regulation and Business Law, Economics of Legal Procedure, Law and Finance, Market Regulators, Economic Analysis of litigations, International Law (public and private) and other substantive areas of Law and Economics.

Apart from the above, given the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, entries were also invited on the broad theme of "Law, Economics, and the COVID-19 Pandemic." It included topics such as the Role of a Welfare State, Surveillance, and Privacy, Public Healthcare, Employment Law, Intellectual Property Rights, International Liability,

Criminal Justice Responses, Corporate Law, Global Economy and Competition Law in the context of the pandemic as well as the Role of International Organisations during Pandemics.

The centre received 60 entries from undergraduate and postgraduate students across India.

Krishna Agarwal, a second-year student of BA. LL.B. (Hons.) programme of GNLU bagged the first prize of Rs.15,000 for her essay on "Re-shaping and re-structuring the Judiciary: Law and Economics Analysis."

Pranay Jalan, a third-year student of BBA LLB (Hons.) programme of GNLU, got the second prize of Rs.10,000 for his essay on "The Incidence of Safety Regulation on COVID-19 Compensation Claims."

The third prize of Rs.5,000 went to Varada Shyama Bhat N & Mahek Khandelwal of School of Law, Christ University for their essay on "An Institutional economic analysis of wearing a mask."

Top five essays will be published in GNLU Journal on Law and Economics: COVID-19 Special Issue.

Centre for Law and Technology

Blockchain Technology and Fintech: Applications and Regulations

GNLU Centre for Science and Technology organized a webinar on Blockchain Technology and Fintech: Applications and Regulations on August 25, 2020.

Dr M. K. Bhandari, CEO, Infinity Law-Tech Educational Services and visiting faculty at National Law University, Assam gave presentations on the blockchain technology and regulatory framework for fintech in India.



market, Dr Bhandari said that the overall transaction value in the global Fin-Tech market is predicted to grow from around USD 5.49 trillion in 2019 to USD 9.82 trillion in 2023, a CAGR of 15.64%. Similarly, the overall transaction value in the Indian Fin-Tech market is estimated to jump from approximately USD 66.1 billion in 2019 to USD 137.8 billion in 2023, growing at a CAGR of 20.18%.

In his inaugural address, GNLU Director Dr Shanthakumar gave a brief overview of the blockchain ecosystem and said: "a day is not far when the entire judicial system would depend on this technology, right from the filing of a petition to its final disposal."

Dr Bhandari said that cryptocurrency or digital currency is a misnomer because a currency implies a sovereign issuer, which element is missing in the case of cryptocurrency. At best, cryptocurrency can be classified as Digital Assets, he said.

Reflecting on the global and national trends in the FinTech

Talking about the challenges in cryptocurrencies, Dr Bhandari said that anonymity of issuer is a big hurdle in regulating and taxing cryptocurrency and added that blockchain version 4.0 is examining whether we can trace the initiator of the transaction by reverse engineering. If this succeeds, it will be easy for governments to enforce compliance with KYC norms and also collect tax on cryptocurrency transactions.

In the conclusion, Dr Bhandari said that India has the potential to become the next global fintech hub that can manage domestic as well as global transactions.

Interplay between AI and Law

Mr Abhishek Senthilnathan, Member, Technology & Privacy Law Practice, Nishith Desai Associates delivered a webinar on "Interplay between AI and Law" on August 13, 2020.



Mr Abhishek said that AI is here to stay and has become ingrained in society. It is for the

Governments to consider whether the current laws in place are suitable to deal with/keep up with technological improvements or whether there is a need to enact more technologically specific laws to deal with the several concerns and issues being raised daily.

Digital Health in India



GNLU Centre for Law and Technology in collaboration with Nishith Desai Associates hosted a webinar on "Digital Health in India" on September 24, 2020. Mr Darren Punnen and Ms Shreya Shenolikar of Nishith Desai Associates participated in the webinar.

The primary areas of focus in the webinar were telemedicine and e-pharmacies, why they are useful and how can they be leveraged effectively, issues with regulating e-pharmacies and telemedicine and Emerging technologies: robotic surgery and AI.



Scientific and Legal issues in the development of Vaccine for COVID-19

GNLU Centre for Law and Technology organized a webinar on "Scientific and Legal issues associated with the development of medical kit/vaccine to fight COVID-19" on October 09, 2020. MR. Binu Philip, Senior General Manager and Head, Business Development, Zydus Research Centre delivered the webinar.



Mr Philip discussed about the multi-pronged approach of Zydus towards the pandemic where they are developing

products in various branches, namely- diagnostic, wellness, prophylactic vaccine (novel DNA-based vaccine), therapeutic products, etc. India indeed shows great potential in becoming a successful forerunner in this race for vaccines against Covid-19. He concluded the presentation by addressing the techno-legal issues related to the development of drugs during the pandemic situation and the need for collaborated efforts between the government and private entities in developing medical products for the pandemic.

Blockchain Technology and e-Governance



Jayesh Ranjan



Manindra Agrawal



Anupam Tiwari



Adarsh S.



Pulkit Dojer

GNLU Centre for Law and Technology in collaboration with Gujarat Council on Science and Technology, Department of Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat organised a webinar on 'Blockchain Technology and e-Governance' on September 19, 2020. The following experts participated in the webinar :

1. Mr Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Information Technology, Electronics and Communications Department, Government of Telangana,
2. Dr Manindra Agrawal, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering & Team Leader, National Blockchain Project funded by National Security Council Secretariat,
3. Mr Anupam Tiwari, Joint Director, Government of India,
4. Mr Adarsh S., Research Scientist and Convener, Kerala Blockchain Academy and
5. Mr. Pulkit Doger, Joint Partner, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan

Mr Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Government of Telangana said that blockchain technology is known for the cryptocurrency but it has much more to offer than a cryptocurrency. It is a very useful tool in areas where there are issues like ambiguity, opaqueness, multiple players, traceability and trust deficit. The immutability of Blockchain technology can bring in a paradigm shift from opaqueness to transparency in governance.

Mr Jayesh Ranjan said that the Government of Telangana has framed a robust blockchain policy and created a Blockchain District wherein founding stakeholders, namely, the state Government of Telangana, Union Government through the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), private sector participant (Tech Mahindra) and an academic institution (IIIT, Hyderabad) are brought on a common platform. The blockchain District functions as an administrative control unit for overseeing the implementation of the blockchain technology for governance in various areas.

Mr Jayesh Ranjan said that the Government of Telangana has launched a major land record purification project called "Dharini" wherein we have added a strong layer of blockchain security. The existing manual system of land record has many imperfections and leave a room for a lot of mischiefs. The blockchain technology-supported system is transparent, tamper-proof and immutable, and successfully addresses the problems of the conventional system.

Mr Jayesh Ranjan said that the blockchain technology has great potential in many other areas of governance. He said that the day is not far when we will be casting our vote from home thanks to the blockchain technology-supported solution. Polling booth visits and all malpractices associated with it will become history. He said this has already become a reality in Estonia. Estonia is the first country in the world to hold nation-wide elections using internet voting or i-Voting. This system allows voters to cast their ballots from any internet-connected computer anywhere in the world. Compared to the electronic voting systems which involve costly and problematic machinery, the Estonian system is simple, elegant, secure, and saves both the time and cost.

IIT-Kanpur Professor Dr Manindra Agrawal talked about the National Blockchain Project which has been funded by the National Security Council Secretariat to develop e-governance solutions using blockchain technology. The project is currently working on two e-governance applications: secure healthcare infrastructure and land record management. He said that land record management will be shortly implemented in Uttar Pradesh on a pilot basis.

Mr Anupam Tiwari said that the Government wants to kill bitcoin but loves blockchain which can be used to increase transparency and fight corruption. He said that blockchain removes middleman between buyer and seller and leads to trustworthiness through unique features of security, authenticity, integrity and transparency.

Mr Adarsh S. said that blockchain can be used for governance in many areas such as public notary service, certificates (birth, death, marriage, education), land record, tender processing, identity management, crime records, evidence management, voting, taxation, community policing, real estate, insurance, energy grids, farm produce organizations, telecom, airline, tourism and legal services. He said that blockchain has a great future and added that IBM dedicates US dollar 200 million and 1000 employees to blockchain-powered projects.

Mr Adarsh said that the Kerala Blockchain Academy has developed blockchain-based solutions: Certichain, Agrochain, Swasthyachain, Skillchain and Immunochain.

Earlier, GNLU Director Dr Shanthakumar welcomed the distinguished speakers and thanked them for accepting the invitation to share their knowledge with students.

Dr Thomas Mathew, Professor and Head of GNLU Centre for Law and Technology proposed a vote of thanks.

Centre for Trade and Competition Law

GNLU Centre for Trade and Competition Law organized a webinar 'Recent Developments in Competition Law and Challenges During COVID-19,' on July 18, 2020.

The webinar was delivered by the renowned Competition Law expert Mr Manas Kumar Chaudhuri. Currently, he is a Partner, Competition Law Practice, Khaitan & Co.

Mr Chaudhuri said that the competition law aims to promote and sustain competition in markets to protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade. It, therefore, prohibits practices that hurt the competition. However, COVID-19 is creating havoc with the economy. CCI has, therefore, issued an advisory for the guidance of businesses. The advisory permits companies to coordinate certain activities in a limited way to ensure continued supply and fair distribution of products & services during COVID-19 so long as such coordination does not lead to either price-fixing, limiting or allocation of markets etc. At the same time, CCI has cautioned businesses from taking advantage of the Covid-19 situation and engaging in anti-competitive practices prohibited by law. Thus, CCI has provided a limited – and not a blanket - relaxation to meet the challenges in the wake of COVID-19.

Mr Chaudhuri then dealt with the provisions of the Draft Competition Amendment Bill, 2020. He said that while the draft bill contains many good proposals such as the inclusion of Buyers' cartels, the concept of the deal-value test to trigger combination filings, settlement & commitment procedure, the appointment of a Governing Board, and inclusion of Penalty guidelines in the Act itself, it has some proposals which raise concerns. They include:

change in appointing authority of Director General, giving power of a criminal court to Director-General and giving power to Director-General to summon bankers, auditors and legal advisers for deposition on oath.

Mr Chaudhuri said that Facebook's USD 19 billion (Rs 1,16,000 crore) deal to acquire WhatsApp could not be reviewed by CCI as Facebook and WhatsApp did not breach the prescribed financial thresholds in terms of assets and turnover in India to decide whether a merger deal would require CCI's approval. The amendment bill proposes to give flexibility to CCI to include "Deal-Value Test" in the financial threshold for non-traditional businesses. Post-amendment, such high-value merger deals will not be able to escape the CCI scrutiny.

The amendment proposes to give power to DG to call bankers, auditors and legal advisers for deposition on oath. Mr Chaudhuri said, "this is a draconian proposal in my view."

In reply to a question, Mr Chaudhuri said that CCI does not make any distinction between private sector and public sector companies while enforcing compliance with the Act.

Earlier, in his inaugural address, GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar said that in view of COVID-19 pandemic, CCI has issued an advisory for businesses on April 19. Substantial changes to the Act are proposed to be made through Amendment Bill 2020. In this background, we are fortunate to have a renowned expert like Mr Manas Kumar Chaudhuri to enlighten us on the subject.

Dr Udayakumara Ramakrishna B.N., Assistant Professor of Law and Head, GNLU Centre for Trade And Competition Law proposed a vote of thanks.



WTO Appellate Body Crisis

Professor Petros C. Mavroidis, Edwin B. Parker Professor of Foreign and Comparative Law at Columbia Law School, New York delivered a webinar on "WTO Appellate Body Crisis and Possible Ways Out" on the October 09, 2020.

Prof. Mavroidis highlighted the necessity for contemplating the future course of action of the World Trade Organization (WTO) against the backdrop of the loss of its Appellate Body – hitherto donning the mantle of the supreme court of trade.

Despite the primary role of the Appellate Body as an ultimate recourse to be invoked sparingly, it has become omnipresent over the years with over 70% of Panel decisions being appealed, since 2008. Thus, the Appellate Body has turned out to be a regularized body for dispensing justice at the WTO which can dictate the law by way of precedents. This can be problematic since the Appellate Body is predominantly made up of government officials who are primarily guided by the considerations of the respective States that they represent.



The US has been particularly averse to the functioning of the Appellate Body since the Trump administration has been blocking appointments/re-appointments of Appellate Body members since 2017. While other members have voiced similar concerns, no member has expressed an explicit opinion of dispensing away with the Appellate Body altogether, in contrast to the US. However, due to the functioning of the WTO decision making by consensus, the view of the US of giving up on the Appellate Body prevailed. As a result, the WTO is faced with the unique situation of an Appellate Body in abeyance.

The situation has resulted in negative externalities as decisions of the Panel are now appealed into a "void". In light of this situation, there needs to be a review of the effectiveness of the Appellate Body.

Looking forward on the way ahead, his proposal is that unification where 12-15 judges are appointed for a term 6-8 years. He also suggested having a plenum and chambers with plenum as a precedent setter – the body empowered with authority to change the law.

Centre for Women and Child Rights inaugurated at GNLU



Ms. Leelaben Ankoliya



Mr. Priyanka Kanoongo



Dr. Laxmi Bhawani

Mr Priyank Kanoongo, Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), Government of India inaugurated the Centre for Women and Child Rights at GNLU, on September 15, 2020. The dignitaries present at the function included Ms Leelaben Ankoliya, Chairperson, Gujarat State Commission for Women, Dr Laxmi Bhawani, Chief, UNICEF Office, Gujarat and GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar.

The centre has been established to promote active discourse and deliberation in the field of women and child development. The centre is divided into two wings; the research wing will engage in empirical and legal analysis to produce publications and policy briefs while the capacity building wing will organize field-driven activities with the key stakeholders (women and children) to improve their status and condition in society.

In his inaugural address, NCPCR Chairperson Mr Priyank Kanoongo said, "Even before the formation of the United Nations, Mahatma Gandhi spoke of human rights in the concept of Sarvodaya and Swaraj. As a lawyer in modern times, Gandhiji did everything possible to protect human rights all over the world. The rights of children in India need to be conceptualized from an Indian perspective. We need to change our vision from "child-centric" to "family-centric" where the child is at the centre of the family and the family is strengthened. I congratulate GNLU for setting up a Center for the Rights of Women and Children and assure that NCPCR will provide internships to the students of this Center as well as provide all possible assistance in their research work."

Dr Laxmi Bhawani, Chief, Unicef Office, Gujarat delivered

the keynote address. She said, "There are several studies which have time and again indicated and reinforced that the more women are empowered in society, the better it is for overall social well being." She further said that it is not possible to realize women and child rights without accountability and a strong justice system.

Delivering the special address, Ms Leelaben Ankoliya, Chairperson, Gujarat State Commission for Women gave an account of the various steps the Government of Gujarat and the State Commission for Women are taking for women empowerment in the state. "Protection of women's rights and their empowerment is not the task only of the Government or Women Commission; all of us will have to work together to create a better and more equal society," she added.

Earlier, in his welcome address, GNLU Director Dr Shanthakumar quoted the UN Secretary-General that "Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls is the unfinished business of our time, and the greatest human rights challenge in our world." He added, "since the founding of the United Nations in 1945, the world started discussing women's rights as a subset of human rights and yet it is unfortunate that even after 75 years, there is a need to continuously discuss and debate women's rights as human rights....it is of paramount importance to end the multiple forms of gender violence and secure equal access for women to quality education and health, economic resources and participation in political life."

Dr Asha Verma, Assistant Professor of Law at GNLU will head the Centre.

Indian Bioethics Project

GNLU Chapter of The Kautilya Society

Following the signing of the Memorandum Of Understanding between GNLU and The Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, GNLU has established the GNLU Chapter of the Kautilya Society to conduct legal research to identify gaps in the law and governance, host events concerning legislative drafting or other issues which require the attention of policymakers and recent legal policy developments.

Blog Launched

Indian Bioethics Project launched a blog <<https://indianbioethicsblog.wixsite.com/blog>>. The blog aims to bring forth authorship in bioethics and bio-law from an Indian perspective and has published two blogs: 'DNA Tests and Section 112 of the Indian Evidence Act: The Need for a Uniform Standard' by Ashutosh Kumar, Hidayatullah National Law University, Batch of 2019 and 'A Critique of the Surrogacy Regulation Bill, 2019,' by Rohin Bhatt and Kelly Dhru.

GNLU Centre for Law and Society

Role of Philanthropy and Impact Investing in Post Covid-19 Resilience



GNLU Centre for Law and Society in collaboration with Nishith Desai Associates organized a webinar on "Role of Philanthropy and Impact Investing in post-Covid-19 resilience," on August 06, 2020. Mr Rahul Rishi, a GNLU alumnus and leader of Social Sector and Impact Investing Practice at Nishith Desai

Associates, Mumbai delivered the webinar.

GNLU Director Prof (Dr) S. Shanthakumar gave the inaugural address and Ms Apoorva Patel, Assistant Professor of Social Work & Head, GNLU Centre for Law and Society proposed a vote of thanks.

The Contours of a National Health System in India

GNLU Centre for Law and Society in collaboration with Nishith Desai Associates organized a webinar on "The Contours of a National Health System in India," on September 23, 2020. Mr Darren Punnen and Ms Shreya Shenolikar of Nishith Desai Associates delivered the webinar.

Mental Health Programs, Policy and Law



On the occasion of World Mental Health Day, GNLU Centre for Law and Society organized a webinar "Mental Health Programs, Policy and Law," on October 10, 2020. Dr Shekhar P. Seshadri, Psychiatrist and Professor, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences gave

the webinar. Prof. Seshadri talked about how every child in conflict with the law is a child in need of care and protection.

The Unsuccessful Twenty: Disparities in the Legal Profession

GNLU Centre for Law and Society in collaboration with Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy organized a webinar "The Unsuccessful Twenty: Disparities in the Legal Profession," on October 22, 2020. Mr Alok Prasanna, Co-founder and Lead Vidhi, Karnataka delivered the webinar. Based on his research on disparities in the legal profession, he said that the top 7% of the Advocates-on-Record filed approximately as many cases as the remaining 93% of the Advocates-on-Record in the Supreme Court of India. An identical pattern was seen on the Bangalore Tribunal Court where 90% of the lawyers are left with the remaining 50% of the cases.

PIL on Solid Waste Management

GCLS assisted Advocate Aaditya Bhatt, a practising advocate in the High Court of Gujarat, in filing a PIL on solid waste management in Ahmedabad. The PIL has identified specific failures on part of the responsible stakeholders in the implementation of the Plastic Waste Management Rules and prayed for addressing these issues.

Constitution and Composite Culture



GNLU Centre for Law and Society organized a webinar on "Constitution and Composite Culture" on November 23, 2020. The webinar was delivered by Prof (Dr) Surya Prakash, Vice-Chancellor, Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Vizag. He emphasized the importance of linking culture and law in cases of Fundamental

Rights, Directive Principles and also our National Flag.

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative Research Project

GCLS signed an MoU with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) on December 20, 2020. CHRI is an independent, non-profit organization that works for the practical realization of human rights through various methods in Commonwealth countries. Pursuant to the MoU, CHRI Research Project has been initiated at GNLU. In phase 1 of the project, the student-interns of GNLU have researched various countries for their legal aid for persons in police custody.

Saral Kanoon Handbooks

GNLU Centre for Law and Society has collaborated with "We Innovate", a policy foundation to prepare handbooks which would consolidate complex laws in a simplified format, with the intent of making them more accessible to various stakeholders. Three such handbooks on Women Rights, Children's Rights and Prisoners' Rights have been prepared and will be published shortly.

GNLU Law and Society Review

The second volume of Law and Society Review (LSR) was released in July 2020 as a special issue on the theme "Algorithms, Law and Democracy" with Dr Naveen Thayyil, Associate Professor of Law and STS at IIT-Delhi, as the Guest Editor. The special issue comprises articles written by a host of scholars and students from around the world on this emerging but not adequately studied domain, especially in India.



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