

# SCHOOL OF LAW, CHRIST (Deemed to Be University)



## ENVIRONMENTAL LAW STUDIES AND ORIENTATION PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

### REPORT OF EVENTS

Panel Discussion on 'Sustainable Development and Urbanization' 26th September, 2019

#### **Guests for the Event:**

1. Dr. Ramakrishna Arkalgud, the Former Director of Zoological Survey of India.
2. Dr. Krishna Raj, Professor, Institute for Social and Economic Change
3. Dr. T V Ramachandra, Professor, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science

Dr. Ramakrishna Arkalgud was the first speaker, the Former Director of Zoological Survey of India. He started his lecture on the broad issue of Biodiversity and Sustainable Development. He went on to discuss in detail the issue of urbanization, the need of integration in today's world and the goal to accomplish i.e poverty alleviation. He spoke on the interconnection of environment, economy and society - the three parameters required to meet the environmental goals. He also referred to the world data of economic output, the biodiversity index and the concept of economic value, and the requirement of creating a balance between all. He compared the nations biodiversity with US, the condition of Great Barrier Reef and the world approach towards the issue of environmental degradation. Finally, he concluded with mentioning the main aim to be focussed on is the need of inclusive development. He also spoke of how environmental justice is instilled with concepts of basic rights such as that of clean drinking water, or other such standards of living. He also touched upon the recent concepts of Niti Ayog and the role of State Government to accomplish the welfare goals.

The second speaker for the day was Dr. Krishna Raj, Professor, Institute for Social and Economic Change. Dr. Raj began his discussion with the topic of interlinkage between Sustainable development and bio-diversity. Further he explained the three components of earth in detail and its connection with the goal of sustainable development i.e irreversibility, uncertainty, and uniqueness. He dealt with the concept of role of environment-waste accumulator also. He explained the importance of how biodiversity leads to economic development. Also explained the role of forest in economic development and the responsible use of public money. The causes that lead to the loss of Bio-diversity and the definition of sustainable development. He explained the concept of use and non-use value of Bio-diversity and forest resources. He also dealt with the concept of EIA, the use of total economic value, further he also explained the importance of Genetic Resources of India, the patent , IPR rights and the international approach towards it. He concluded his discussion by referring to the concept of Green GDP recently undertaken by Government of India and the need of changed societal behaviour to deal with the issues relating to environment and Bio-Diversity.

The third and the last speaker was Dr. T V Ramachandra, Professor, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science. He started his discussion on the topic of Sustainable Development and biodiversity and briefed the students on it as it was discussed by the earlier speakers. He dealt with the issue of conservation of Western Ghats, the waste of resources, the need to adhere to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change guidelines, the impact of industrialisation, growth of cities, the various agents of change, the importance of waste disposal, the issue of electricity consumption and the global warming effect. Finally, he concluded the session by asking some students to summarise the discussion.

**Pictures from the event:**











## REPORT ON THE GREENER SIDE

**27th November 2019**

**9am - 1pm**

**Venue - K.E. Auditorium Christ main campus**

The Greener Side is a collaborative effort of bringing in various responsible brands together who have pledged to bring back the environment's forgotten resilience. This is that time of the year when the alarm for an environmental emergency has been buzzed without an option to snooze. And hence, we as responsible global citizens must come together to act when Mother Nature needs us the most.

Environmental Law Committee, School of Law, Christ organised the very first activity in collaboration with Christ Incubation Cell headed by Father Benny Thomas. National Geography Wild was the main contemporary agenda of the event, wherein a documentary was played by their team. Followed by screening of Green Business Ideas shortlisted to present at a University level. Lastly, music bands entertained the audience of over 300 students across campuses.

First main was the external organisers. They assisted the whole conduct and brought in their team to campus getting the event structured.

Pictures from the event:









## Report of Capacity Building Programme on Environmental Policy Research and Management - Day 1 (15.02.2020)

**Guest for the event:**

**Mr. Leo Saldhana, Environmental Support Group**

The Environmental Law Society and Orientation Programme Committee conducted a two-day certificate course to facilitate a Capacity Building Programme on Environmental Policy Research and Management, conducted by **Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI)**, an initiative of the Government of Karnataka and The Environmental Support Group, a Non Governmental Organization.

The first half of the course was conducted on 15th February, 2020. Two sessions were conducted on the first day. The first session was a lecture delivered by Mr. Leo, who heads the activities of the Environmental Support Group. He oriented the students about a few state legislations, rules and regulations in relation environmental management, with respect to protection of water bodies and green cover within Karnataka. He discussed the inherent issues in various instances of environmental degradation which were of current prevalence. The students also had an interactive session with him, wherein he put forth his opinions in relation to afforestation programmes, role of Corporate Social Responsibility in environmental conservation and

about the present state of ecological affairs in Karnataka, other parts of the country and across other nations as well. He also shared his courtroom experience in presenting cases in support of protection of the natural environment, though he is not a lawyer. However he was able to provide a useful account on the manner of drafting a petition for filing it as a Public Interest Litigation.

During the second session the popular documentary “Wild Karnataka” was screened for the students. It was a production supported by the Government of Karnataka. It showcased the array of biodiversity and portrayed the endemic natural environment across the State of Karnataka. The picture was a treat to the eyes. It provided an opportunity to the students to learn about the livelihood of various species of flora and fauna within the State. The students were instructed to submit a critical review of this documentary, in order to assess the scope of their understanding about eco-centric principles and ecological welfare, in light of the message conveyed by the motion picture.

## **22nd February,2020.- II Phase of Capacity Building Programme on Environmental Policy Research and Management**

### **Guest for the event:**

**Dr. Vinay Kumar, Director, Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI)**

The Environmental Law Studies and Orientation Programme Committee aims to bring about a change in the sphere of environmental perspectives by undertaking small initiatives that helps to create awareness among the society, which is an urgent need of the hour. It has become imperative to create awareness about environment degradation and the challenges it poses to lawmakers. In pursuance of the above-mentioned objectives, the Committee has organised and undertaken the initiative of a certificate course to facilitate a Capacity Building Programme on Environmental Policy Research and Management, conducted by Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI), an initiative of the Government of Karnataka and The Environmental Support Group, in 2 phases- on 15th February and 22nd February,2020.

The main aim was to help students through this workshop to strengthen their research skills in the field of Environmental Law and to help them understand the problems and lacunae that lie in the sphere of environmental protection.

The second phase of workshop was organised on the 22nd of February, 2020 in Room 711 (7th Floor, Central Block) from 1.30 P.M. to 3.45 PM. There was 1 session conducted by the Dr. Vinay Kumar K.H. a renowned Indian Forest Service Officer, Chief Conservator of Forests & Director, EMPRI. He dealt with the topics of Environmental Law Protection Act, 1986, Biological diversity Act, 2002 in reference to Karnataka State laws, providing an overview to the students on broad topics of environmental concern,

the lecture was followed by Q&A session by the participants. Thereafter, the Guest and participants were provided with snacks also.

Post the interactive session on the 22nd of February, participants would be mandatorily required to submit an abstract of not more than 500 words towards the successful completion of the workshop. Thus, the core objective of the workshop was to facilitate research in environmental issues, thereby aiming to bring about both theoretical and practical change in the surrounding by creating awareness and encouraging the students to engage in activities related to the environmental issues.





