

REPORT ON NATIONAL SEMINAR ON CONTEMPORARY LEGAL ISSUES

School of Law, Christ (deemed to be university), Bengaluru hosted its National Seminar on Contemporary Legal Issues on the 8th and 9th January, 2018 at the main campus.

The seminar witnessed the participation of a large number of students from across the length and breadth of the country.

The event was inaugurated on the 8th February, 2018. It was presided over by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Cyriac Joseph** who was the Chief Guest of the programme, **Mr. Alok Prasanna Kumar**, Guest of Honour and **Mr. Sunil Abraham** Guest of Honour. The programme started on a good note with lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries to invoke the blessings of the almighty for the smooth functioning of the event. The Concept note of the programme was delivered by Dr. Jayadevan Nair, Faculty In-Charge, School of Law, Christ (deemed to be university). The address delivered by the various dignitaries enlightened the audience. It was an enriching experience to witness such thought provoking insights to the contemporary legal issues which were the subject of the National Seminar as it widened the horizons of the topic of discussion. On conclusion of the inauguration of the event, the Sessions of the Seminar event. Over a span of 2 days the National Seminar witnessed 4 Sessions with 2 Sessions being held on each day.

The topics which were debated and discussed in the sessions were as follows:

SESSION 1:

- Right to Privacy in India
- Understanding privacy in India post Puttaswamy judgement
- Right to privacy and section 377 of the Indian Penal Code
- Right to privacy and implications on data protection
- Right to privacy and data protection on social media
- Digital realm and the right to privacy
- State surveillance, search and seizure and the status of privacy in India
- The impact of right to privacy on collection of biometrics information
- Implications of right to privacy on marital relationships – marital rape and restitution of conjugal rights

- Distribution of welfare benefits and the Right to privacy in India

SESSION 2:

- Religion and Constitution
- Implications of the triple talaq judgement on the constitutional philosophy
- Religion and the constitution of India-has jurisprudence bridged the divide?
- Uniform civil code after triple talaq judgement – is it an evasive goal?
- Social reform and religion in India
- Secular state and religious reforms in India

SESSION 3:

- Challenges to freedom of speech and expression in India
- Freedom of speech and the growing nation state: an assessment
- National anthem and Supreme Court Directionovershooting the legal mandate?

SESSION 4:

- Miscellaneous constitutional issues of contemporary concern
- Constitution of India and approaches to res extra commerciam
- Constitutionalmandate and the righttopursue profession and free trade in India
- Gandhian philosophy and the Constitution of India
- Rohingya crises and the constitutional conscience in India

Each presenter was given 20 mins to present their paper which included 2mins for answering the questions posed by the moderators.

On Day 1, Session 1 was moderated by Mr. Alok Prasanna Kumar & Mr. Sunil Abraham. Justice Puttasamy v. Union of India, a judgement which had triggered a lot of interesting inferences and prophecies for future of constitutional jurisprudence witnessed a lot of debate and was critically analysed in this session, as the judgement by affirming the right to privacy albeit with restrictions, set forth the possibility of fresh prospect on several issues connected to it.

The issue of transgender rights i.e. clarification of their position was also brought forth for discussion as it was a prominent issue existing in the society where judgements were silent on the question of sexual

Session 2 was moderated by Shashank Athreya, who is currently working for Vidhi, Centre for Legal Policy, Bengaluru and Krutika Ravindran, who works at Centre for Law and Policy Research (CLPR), Bengaluru. The presenters of this session focussed on hotly debated topic of triple talaq. The ShayaraBano's judgment that outlawed triple talaq which eventually triggered relationships between secular constitutional mandates and personal or religious laws was praised. Also, the future courses of reforms to personal laws could either be stymied or facilitated in the context of Uniform Civil Code debate was discussed deeply.

The first day concluded on a very good note with a lot of take backs for the audience.

Day2 started off with Session 3 which was moderated by Mr. Deepika Sinhal & Advocate Arvind Sharma. The session witnessed a lot of focus on the national anthem debate. The directions of the Supreme Court on National Anthem (ShyamNarainChouksey v. Union of India) related solemn formalities raised concerns on freedom of speech and expression as it disturbs the ruling on the same issue in Bijoe Immanuel v. State of Kerela (1986). These concerns were raised by the presenters as it was felt that thrusting a form of outward expression or coerced speech and expression was equally violative of the guarantee of freedom of speech and expression.

The final session i.e. Session 4 was moderated by Prof. V. S. Mallar & Mr. S.P. Shankar.

The session saw debates on the liquor policy. The trade in liquor was termed to have met with a fresh ground of controversy with political class promoting a no holds barred liquor policy and with Supreme Court of India setting down regulatory conditions was discussed in this session by the presenters. They also debated on the strange reversal of the political will as liquor ban imposed by the prior government in Kerala had been upheld by the Supreme Court of India (The Kerala Bar Hotels Association v. State of Kerala). Also, the regulations on trade of cattle with its implications on fundamental rights indirectly effecting a constraint on cow slaughter that had raised considerable constitutional debate was discussed. Finally, the mass exodus of Rohingya immigrants into India that had raised questions on their status within the Indian constitutional framework and international law was debated upon.

The programme came to an end after witnessing 2 days of rapid discussions and debates on the implications of all the aforesaid developments across the globe and thereby brought out refreshing perspectives, propositions and suitable recommendations.

The valedictory ceremony saw **Prof. V. S. Mallar** as the Chief Guest, **Mr. S.P. Shankar**, Senior Advocate High Court of Karnataka, as the Guest of Honour. Their perspectives on the contemporary legal issues had a great impact on the audience and helped them to draw conclusions on the issues persistent.

The event was a grand success as it functioned in a smooth manner with the exuberant and consistent efforts of the Faculty in charge (Dr.Jayadevan Nair , Dr Aradhana Nair and Ms.AditiNidhi) , organising team and student volunteer body who were backed by the supportive management - Dr Fr Benny Thomas , Director , School of Law , Christ (deemed to be university) and Dr Somu C S , Associate Dean , School of Law , Christ (deemed to be university).





