



Editorial

The Journal and Publication Society, School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), takes pride in placing on record, the seventeenth issue of the *Christ University Law Journal*. This issue of the journal comprises of researched articles, spanning a variety of legal topics and a case comment. The academic writings are authored by legal practitioners, academicians and students.

Articles

In the article titled *Analyzing the Social License to Operate in International Investment Law*, the author Rudresh Mandal analyzes the legal nature of the Social License to Operate (SLO), and its growing presence in the field of International Investment Law. The author begins the article by defining the concept of the Social License to Operate and traces its history to fields such as Human Rights and Commercial Law. The author then proceeds to explain the importance of the SLO as held by International Courts and Investment Tribunals. He also examines its acceptance and impact on sustainable development and related concepts. The author looks into Investment Arbitration and its burgeoning symbiotic relationship with the concept of the SLO, with a well-founded theoretical analysis that encompasses its current status and the problems it faces. The author concludes by giving solutions that Investment Tribunals must use in order to better adjudicate upon matters pertaining to the SLO, in the context of its growing importance in the field of international law.

In the article titled *Analyzing the Role of the Goods and Service Tax Network in Helping the State Preserve a Just Social Order*, the author Kodandaraman Sethuraman theorizes the compliance of the Common Electronic Portal of the Goods and Service Tax Network (GSTN), as a part of the State's Constitutional Duty in furthering a 'just' social order. The author begins by delving into the nature of the machine-learning algorithms that underpin the structure of the Goods and Service Tax Network. He subsequently explains the various screening algorithms embedded into the GSTN in order to ensure that the Duties of the State are envisaged in this process, by

emphasizing its role in the maintenance of Good Governance. The author proceeds to examine the methods that the State can employ in securing a 'just' social order. He concludes the article elaborating on the methods of implementation of the algorithms into the GSTN, using the guidelines laid out in the State Policy.

The author, Nishant Pande, in his article, *Right Against Exploitation under Article 24 of the Indian Constitution*, focuses his research on Article 24 of the Indian Constitution, particularly on the horizontal and vertical application of this article. To tackle the growing hazards faced by children, Article 24 of the Constitution prohibits the employment of children in hazardous environments. The author traces the development of Article 24 through precedents. Analysing foreign jurisprudence such as the Constitution of Ireland, Bill of Rights of South Africa, the author seeks to read the article more broadly, to evaluate if Article 24 can be read within the ambit of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. He draws a comparison between articles 21 and 24 to allow the reader to understand the settled law. He concludes that it cannot be read as broadly as intended, for Article 24 has been reduced to a mere instrument to guarantee the substantive right of education to children, but purposive interpretation is possible.

Kartik Agarwal, in his article, *Maratha Reservation in Maharashtra: A Challenge to the Principles of Equality*, focuses his research on the question if the Special Educational and Backward class Act, 2018, which allows for 16% reservation for Marathas, is justifiable or not. The article reads the legislative piece in the light of Articles 15(4) and 16(4) of the Indian Constitution. He criticizes the act on the grounds that there exist no exceptional circumstances to allow for surpassing the allowed 50% reservation. Upon a thorough examination of precedents, the article enables the reader to understand the situation and the law in conflict. The author contemplates solutions such as procedural and implementation related improvement in the government schemes, one-time reservation among many others, as an alternative to the proposed policy of reservation.

Ankit Raturi, in his paper, *An Analysis of the Implementation of the NRC with Respect to Statelessness in Assam* has analyzed the recently published National Register of Citizens (NRC). The NRC lists out

those who qualify as “citizens of India”. Those excluded from the list would have to be deported. Therefore, while the NRC establishes the citizenship of several, it also renders several ‘stateless’ i.e. those who are not considered a national of any state. The NRC was adopted in the State of Assam after the Assam Agitation that took place in the 1970’s, against the increased immigration from Bangladesh. The historical context provided will allow the reader to fully appreciate the “immigrant question” and critically analyze the move to draft the NRC. The paper attempts to determine whether or not the NRC would finally put an end to the struggle of the Assamese, while providing various perspectives on the same. The paper points out the several procedural fallacies in the drafting of the NRC and also explores the issue of deportation with regards to statelessness.

The Journal and Publications Society expresses its gratitude to all scholars and reviewers who have contributed to this issue of the journal and solicit their continued patronage and cooperation. We are grateful to the Christ University management, the Center for Publications, the Library personnel and the National Printing Press, for extending their support towards our humble mission of making effective contribution to legal research.

Sharmila N
Issue Editor

