KAUTILYA SOCIETY, RMLNLU PRESENTS

BLOG WRITING COMPETITION

ABOUT KAUTILYA SOCIETY

Kautilya Society, a dynamic subdivision of the "Vidhi" framework, serves as a progressive policy and law society within the college, drawing inspiration from the ancient Indian economist and philosopher. The society's primary goal is to foster a comprehensive understanding of contemporary policy issues, engaging students in critical analysis and innovative problem-solving. Its comprehensive approach involves various platforms, including insightful blogs, engaging podcasts that facilitate a deeper understanding of complex legal concepts, and independent projects that promote academic inquiry and creativity.

Moreover, the society collaborates with reputable law firms and policy think tanks to conduct in-depth research projects, allowing students to contribute to real-world policy development and analysis. Its "Book Adda" and "Policy Adda" initiatives serve as a rich repository of legal and policy literature, promoting continuous learning and intellectual growth. By nurturing socially responsible legal and policy scholars through research, collaboration, and interdisciplinary engagement, Kautilya Society is dedicated to nurturing future leaders committed to upholding justice, equity, and effective governance.

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The blog writing competition conducted by the Kautilya society would allow the participants to ponder upon the broader policy themes with contemporary relevance. Such themes along with its sub themes are directed by the society to get a concrete viewpoint on that issue. The competition would not only delve into the legal issues of these themes but the overarching applicability of the proposed legal positions in the realm of policy making.

Themes in brief

DIGITALISATION OF INDIAN RUPEE

Last February, India's Finance Minister declared that India would create its own central bank digital currency (CBDC). Two pilot projects have already been launched in less than a year. The Digital Rupee (e₹) is being promoted by the Reserve Bank of India.This is part of a larger trend of rising interest in CBDCs. Countries all over the world, from major economies Like the US, China, Germany and the UK to the smaller ones like Nigeria and Jamaica are either developing or have already implemented CBDC.

The rapid increase of CBDCs was sparked by the sharp rise in cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum, which saw record price increases during the post-COVID investment craze. Now that the cryptocurrency investment bubble has burst, countries have an even greater incentive to provide secure alternativestoprivate cryptocurrencies. The release of a discussion paper from the RBI preceded the launch of the first Digital Rupee pilot. The concept paper discusses the motivations for the CBDC scheme, as well as the design, technology, and policy considerations. These motivations include:

a. Reducing the usage and popularity of volatile private cryptocurrencies

b. Reducing the cost of cash management operations

c. Promoting digital financial inclusion

d. Increasing the speed and efficiency of cross-border transactions

e. Introducing innovation in the payment system

Sub Topics may include:

1. Smart Contracts and Legal Enforcement: Explore the legal implications of incorporation smart contracts in digital currency transactions and analyse how traditional legal frameworks can adapt to accommodate self-executing contracts in digtial curency.

2. Decentralized Finance (DeFi) and Regulatory Challenges: Examining the emergence of decentralised financial systems and their implications for regulatory authorities. Further evaluating potential legal hurdles in regulating decentralised platforms, such as lending protocols, liquidity pools, and automated market makers

REFUGEE RIGHTS

Refugee rights are of immense global significance, highlighting the ethical and legal duty to protect and support individuals fleeing conflict and persecution. This issue is particularly relevant to the Israel-Palestine conflict, where generations of Palestinian refugees have been displaced from their homes. Their rights and the question of their return remain a core and contentious aspect of any potential resolution. The international community's engagement with refugee rights is pivotal in addressing the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the region and finding a just and lasting solution to the conflict.

Sub Themes:

1. Detention and Asylum Seeker Rights: Delve into the controversial practice of detaining asylum seekers, its impact on their rights, and the international legal frameworks surrounding the detention of refugees and asylum seekers.

2.Gender-Based Violence Among Refugees: Focusing on gender-based violence within refugee populations, this sub-theme can discuss the prevalence, causes, and solutions for issues such as sexual harassment, domestic violence, and human trafficking affecting displaced women and girls.

3.Mental Health and Trauma Among Refugees: The mental health challenges faced by refugees, including trauma, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. It can discuss the importance of mental health support and the stigma often associated with seeking help.

4.Access to Education for Refugee Children: The challenges and initiatives related to providing quality education to refugee children, including issues such as language barriers, discrimination, and the importance of education in the integration process.

INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE POLICY

Refers to a healthcare approach that combines traditional medical treatments with evidence-based complementary therapies. This approach emphasises the importance of addressing the whole person, including their physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual well-being. Integrative medicine policy aims to promote patient-centered care, focusing on the individual's unique needs and preferences while incorporating various therapeutic approaches to achieve optimal health outcomes.

Sub-themes for integrative medicine policy may include
1. **Regulatory Frameworks:** Investigate the regulatory structures required to ensure the safe and effective integration of complementary therapies within conventional healthcare systems. This may involve establishing guidelines for training, licensing, and accreditation of practitioners.
2. **Evidence-Based Research:** Emphasise the need for rigorous scientific research to validate the efficacy and safety of integrative treatments. Highlight the importance of funding and supporting research initiatives that explore the effectiveness of integrative approaches in managing chronic illnesses and promoting overall wellness.

3.Healthcare Accessibility and Affordability: Analyse strategies for making integrative healthcare more accessible and affordable to diverse populations. This could involve exploring the integration of integrative medicine into public healthcare systems and insurance coverage policies.

4. Education and Training: Focus on the development of educational programs for healthcare professionals to enhance their understanding of integrative medicine. Highlight the importance of incorporating integrative medicine principles into medical school curricula and continuing education programs.

DISABILITY INCLUSIVE POLICY AND LAWS

During G20 which was hosted by India, disability and inclusion in India was a hot topic of discussion and the lack of policy framework around the same was highlighted. Social policies in the context of inclusive discourse have struggled to establish a conducive environment for the integration of individuals with disabilities. This challenge primarily stems from their 'visible invisibility,' a paradoxical situation where they remain overlooked and underrepresented in various aspects of society, including legal frameworks, developmental strategies, institutional practices, official statistics, political discussions, academic pursuits, policy advocacy, community-based rehabilitation efforts, and public support systems.

At the national level, the discourse on disability inclusion should, therefore, prioritize addressing this issue of invisibility across theoretical, structural, statistical, and programmatic dimensions. By doing so, it can lay a solid foundation of knowledge necessary to formulate effective interventions within the broader framework of human rights.

Sub-topics may include:

1.Lack of policy framework for a disabled friendly infrastructure in educational setup in India:

The absence of a policy framework for disabled-friendly infrastructure in education can potentially lead to violations of legal and human rights. India has ratified international agreements and conventions, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which emphasize the right to education for all, without discrimination. The lack of a coherent policy framework may render the country non-compliant with these obligations.

2. Sports and absence of Disability friendly framework in India: A significant concern is that individuals with disabilities in India are often excluded from sports opportunities. This exclusion stems from a lack of accessible sports infrastructure, insufficient awareness about adaptive sports, and limited initiatives to promote sports among people with disabilities. This exclusion deprives them of the numerous physical, mental, and social benefits that sports offer.

3. Marriage laws in India and loopholes for a disabled partner or the loopholes for a disabled person under personal laws and family law regime: Disabled individuals encounter difficulties in divorce and maintenance under family law due to legal loopholes affecting their access to alimony, support, and fair asset division.

These challenges also extend to child custody and guardianship, where legal gaps can impact their parental rights and children's best interests.

4. Governmental rules and regulations and their failure to comply with the international standards on disabled friendly framework: One of the primary areas where governmental rules fall short is in ensuring physical accessibility for individuals with disabilities. International standards, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), call for accessible public spaces, transportation, and infrastructure. However, many government regulations in India do not rigorously enforce these standards, resulting in a lack of ramps, accessible transportation, and other facilities, making public spaces and services inaccessible for people with disabilities.

INDIAN STATE AND ITS INTERACTION WITH TRIBES

India, with its diverse cultural landscape, has a significant presence of indigenous tribal communities, often residing in remote and ecologically sensitive regions. The interaction between the Indian state and these indigenous tribes has been a complex and evolving aspect of Indian policy and law. The Indian government, over the years, has recognized the need to protect the rights, culture, and way of life of these tribal communities. This recognition is reflected in various legal frameworks, such as the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, which aims to grant land rights to forest-dwelling tribes. The Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Indian Constitution provide special provisions for tribal areas and self-governance. Despite these efforts, challenges persist, including issues related to land acquisition, displacement, and developmental projects in tribal regions. Striking a balance between development and safeguarding tribal rights remains an ongoing challenge. The government's policies must ensure that these indigenous communities are not marginalised but rather empowered to participate in the development processes while preserving their unique identities and cultural heritage.

The interaction between the Indian state and indigenous tribes continues to be a crucial aspect of Indian governance and legal frameworks, emphasising the need for greater sensitivity, inclusivity, and equitable development in these regions.

Sub-topics may include:

1. The extent to which pre-existing laws, such as the Constitution of India and the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, recognise and support indigenous self-determination and autonomy.

2. The effectiveness of pre-existing laws, such as the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, and the Forest Rights Act, 2006, in protecting the rights of indigenous tribes.

3. The extent to which pre-existing laws, such as the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, and the Right to Information Act, 2005, can be used to promote reconciliation and healing between the Indian state and indigenous tribes.

4. The extent to which pre-existing laws, such as the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, and the Forest Rights Act, 2006, recognize and support the participation of indigenous tribes in decision-making processes that affect them.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF INDIA AND AI AUTOMATION

The ongoing digital transformation in India, exemplified by the proposed Digital India Act 2023 (DIA), underscores a crucial need to adapt legal frameworks in response to the swiftly evolving technological landscape. This initiative addresses the multifaceted impacts of technological progress, particularly in the realms of artificial intelligence (AI) and automation. The increasing integration of AI across sectors necessitates updated regulations to address its legal, ethical, and societal implications. The DIA's emphasis on online safety, trust, accountability, and the regulation of new-age technologies like AI highlights a proactive approach to managing the challenges presented by these advancements. This act aims to replace the outdated Information Technology Act of 2000, recognizing the vast technological strides made since its inception. By incorporating guidelines for AI and blockchain technologies, the DIA anticipates and addresses the complexities of these innovations. The DIA strives to strike a balance between encouraging innovation and safeguarding individual rights within an ever-expanding digital landscape.

It marks a significant leap forward in aligning legal frameworks with the demands of a rapidly evolving digital era, promising a more comprehensive and contemporary approach to governance in the technologically advancing Indian society.

Sub-topics may include:

1. Examining the Human-AI Collaboration and the emerging trend of humans working alongside AI and automation systems and its implications for the workforce, job roles, and productivity, while taking into consideration the Impact on Job Displacement.

2. Empowering Content Creators by ensuring fair monetization by Adtech Giants and the legal principles involved.

3. Creating digital standards for intelligent technologies: AI and Machine Learning and assessing India's Global future in terms of Global competitiveness and innovation

4. The role of law in ensuring that AI is used in a responsible and ethical manner and the development of ethical guidelines and principles for the development and use of AI with emphasis on need for Creation of new regulations around emerging digital paradigms like blockchain, metaverse etc.

NATIONAL DEEP TECH START- UP POLICY

The National Deep Tech Startup Policy presents a pivotal initiative, crucial for nurturing and sustaining India's burgeoning deep tech startup ecosystem. With a focus on innovation and fostering a knowledge-driven economy, this policy addresses the critical challenges faced by startups venturing into cutting-edge technologies such as AI, blockchain, IoT, and biotechnology. By emphasizing key priorities like research enhancement, intellectual property protection, funding facilitation, resource access, and regulatory support, the policy sets the stage for a more conducive environment for deep tech startups to thrive. Furthermore, its comprehensive approach recognizes the importance of human capital, procurement mechanisms, and policy interlinkages in ensuring a robust foundation for the deep tech sector. This initiative stands as a catalyst to drive economic growth, innovation, and technological advancement, positioning India as a global leader in the realm of deep tech solutions.

Sub-topics may include:

1. Importance of fostering Ethical Innovation and Challenges Faced by Deep Tech Startups and the importance of government in maintaining a level playing field.

2. **Relevance of introducing financial instruments and mechanisms that could be introduced to sustain and support the funding needs of deep tech startups, considering their long gestation periods and high-risk nature.**

3. **Emphasizing the importance of regulatory sandboxes and shared infrastructure to be optimally structured to balance innovation and regulatory compliance while ensuring resource accessibility for deep tech startups.**

4. **Scope of pivotal mechanisms needed to bridge the gap between academia and industry in deep tech startups for fostering innovation and research commercialization**

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We invite entries from students, currently enrolled in an academic program. If you are interested in submitting a piece, kindly fill the form <u>here</u>.

The deadline for sending the entries is 25th December, 2023.

Authors are expected to adhere to the following submission guidelines:

- Articles should contain content that is both original and unpublished. Plagiarised content is highly discouraged.
- Articles should be submitted in Microsoft Word format.
- Sources should be added in the form of hyperlinks in the article.
- The maximum word limit for the entries is 3000 words.
- Co-authorship of upto 2 authors is allowed
- Cross-institution authorship is allowed.

INCENTIVES

- The cash prizes for the winners is as follows
  - a. Rs. 3000 for the Winner
  - b. Rs. 2000 for the Runners up
  - c. Rs. 1000 for the Second Runners up
- Participation certificates will be given to all authors.
- Publication on Kautilya blog for meritorious entries would depend on the discretion of the review team.

In case of any queries, contact us at kautilya.rmlnlu@gmail.com.

Contact no.- Shubhangi Verma- 6388996083

Avesta Vashishtha- 9050936933