

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

The inaugural volume of LexGaze Law Review is at its essence an attempt towards furthering quality research in the field of legal education. It is a synergistic blend of long and short articles that present a plethora of contemporary legal issues ranging from the rights of multiple strata of the society on one end of the spectrum to revisiting specific components of the Constitution of India on the other.

LexGaze owes its existence to the unique challenges to the continuity of the learning process presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Constraints related to proximity, distance, and forced isolation disturbed the formal process of education in unimaginable ways that posed a host of unforeseen and unexpected problems. The field of education, which has hereto boasted of an eternal sunrise, faced the dangers of reduced or fettered access to the continuity of the learning process for the first time ever. The potential impact of the pandemic on the process of learning, student fraternity and academia in general, however proved to be an inspiration to two law students which ultimately led to the birth of 'LexGaze'.

The objective of LexGaze is essentially a single point program - intellectual contribution towards mitigating the consequences of forced isolation and ensuring that no student remains an island for the lack of thought and guidance. LexGaze is one such endeavour born in April, 2020. We at LexGaze strive towards ensuring that students and members of the legal fraternity and other allied fields around India, and by extension- the world over, do not suffer from an intellectual dearth and are able to traverse along their chosen path of learning.

Keeping in view the aforesaid, a large number of intellectually awakening and thought provoking activities were organised, and are being conducted by LexGaze. Amidst the first initial activities, LexGaze took the initiative of conducting a series of online educational seminars, namely, 'Collocutio', which focused on research and writing research papers. The lag between harbouring a wish to write a research paper and possessing the necessary skill-sets to actually write and publish a research paper has been a long standing bane of the student community. LexGaze via 'Collocutio' attempted to address this essential hurdle towards quality research work. The objective underlying this theme was quite straightforward - equipping the students with the necessary skill-sets for effective utilisation of the resource called time. Our aim was to promote the twin objectives of learning anew and research discipline. As a second endeavour, a blogging platform has also been created so students and those already working are able to voice their thoughts on matters of contemporary legal relevance. In addition to the above LexGaze also initiated its weekly newsletter, wherein every week, one theme is picked up and a melange of stories pertaining thereto are assembled by Team LexGaze, also including top legal updates from the week. The latest link in the chain of LexGaze is a panel discussion series popularly known as "LexGaze Roundtable", wherein controversial socio-legal subjects are discussed by a panel of experts with the discussion being moderated along pre framed guidelines. Last but not the least, keeping in mind the significance of staying up-to-date with important events as they unfold, especially in the legal profession, a daily bulletin is also released by LexGaze.

The months of back breaking labour and humongous quantities of hard work by the Team LexGaze has now culminated into the inaugural issue; 'Volume I of the LexGaze Law Review'. The inaugural issue presents articles on the changing dynamics of the relations between India and the United States of America; the need for a law protecting LGBTQ+ rights in India in

addition to the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India*; and the issue of offences related to pirated movies are discussed at length by authors in the form of long articles. The short articles have focused on women's property rights through the lens of Gayle Rubin; a study of stem cells; lifting of the corporate veil by means of arbitration and the right to a clean environment vis-à-vis the right to development making the dream a reality.

Skilled research and the ability to convert one's research into disciplined writing is I daresay an intellectual activity of the highest order. Not only does the researcher benefit from such activity, it is the world at large that stands to benefit from quality research. The LexGaze Law Review aims to achieve both these ends.

Having organised and conducted many such thought stimulating student oriented activities, involving the larger academic community in legal research and writing, it was a logical step to offer a platform to the recipients of such training to publish their research. We at LexGaze are honoured that many distinguished members of the legal fraternity shared in our purpose and consented to join us in our pursuit. We are indeed blessed to have the support of Dr Ujwala Bendale: The Dean, Faculty of Law New Law College, Ms Shriya Maini: Advocate on Record at the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, Mr Nikhil Varma and Mr Pratyush Miglani: the Founding Partners of Miglani Varma and Co., New Delhi to name a few and many others who have all blessed us in this initiative by joining our board of Mentors and Advisors. In addition to the above names, LexGaze also takes immense pride in having an Editorial Board composed of law teachers from reputed law schools in India, practicing advocates, and students from various law schools all over the country. I would however like to reiterate here that LexGaze at its heart is a students' initiative, by the students and for the students.

I would like to extend my warmest gratitude to all of our authors who contributed to the present issue of the LexGaze Law Review. It is my utmost belief that all of these articles written by advocates and law students will prove to be an informative and thought-compelling read.

Last but not the least, on a philosophical note, I would like to observe that the world that we lived in pre-COVID 19 could be described as one galloping unfettered at a lightning speed, where change was imminent and pressure of performance was the order of the day. It was a world where humanity in all ages and appearances without exception was engrossed in a race without cause for thought or a moment of respite- a harsh world that gave no quarter, until there was a paradigm shift in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic which compulsively amassed humanity under the same umbrella. COVID -19 served the purpose of reminding the world at large that while we may all differ on the outside we are all on the inside essentially human and we share one thing in common- our humanity. Faced with a pandemic which has had such an all-encompassing effect on all walks of life, it would not be amiss to say as the old saying goes, “collective trauma needs collective healing”. In the pandemic that we are all battling, it is the collective, and the collective only that can help situations change for the better. If I may quote Robin Williams who very correctly said, “No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world”. May I be so bold as to add, words and ideas can change the world sooner if many repeat them in unison, again and again. After all what is ‘Research’ but ‘Re-search’ that is search again and again and again.....

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