

॥न्यायस्तत्र प्रमाणं स्यात्॥



**Environmental Colloquium on *Waste - Law and Policy in
India***

to be held on

World Environment Day

5th June 2019

National Law University, Delhi

About National Law University:

National Law University, Delhi is one of the premier institutes in India for Legal training and Research. Established in accordance with National Law University Act, 2008 it has certainly grown leaps and bounds in this short period of time under the able leadership of Prof (Dr.) Ranbir Singh.

With the primary objective to impart comprehensive and interdisciplinary legal education that is socially relevant, the university has made a name for itself in terms of quality legal research. It has several important Research projects to its credit such as Death Penalty project, Project on impact and implementation of Juvenile Justice Act, 2000, UNDP Project on Access to Justice for Marginalized peoples etc.

About the Centre:

The Centre for Environmental Law, Policy and Research was established in August 2016, under the kind guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ranbir Singh (Vice-chancellor of National Law University, Delhi) and the stewardship of Dr. Bharti (Associate Professor) as the Director, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the National Law University, Delhi. It is an initiative for the propagation and advancement of legal education and research in the field of Environmental Law.

About the Programme:

The issue of waste management has become a serious concern at the global level. Rapid economic growth and ever-increasing population have led to a drastic increase in the amount of waste generated annually. Worldwide, more than 1.3 Billion tonnes of municipal solid waste is generated every year and this figure is expected to double by 2025. Even more worrisome is the fact that the above figure does not include other types of wastes such as e-waste, bio-medical waste, hazardous wastes etc. This enormous amount of waste is already exerting pressure on the ecosystem at the global level. Developing countries like India are even more prone to the detrimental impact of waste due to lack of technology, economic constraints and several development projects already over burdening the ecosystem.

Methodology:

On 5th of June 2019 we celebrate World Environment Day by organizing an Environmental Colloquium on law and policy in relation to waste management in India with main emphasis on e waste, plastic waste and MSW.

In order to deal with the issue of Waste management comprehensively the present Colloquium shall primarily be focussed on -

- i) Legal and Policy aspects of waste management in India
- ii) Enforcement and current scenario
- iii) Technical facets of waste management
- iv) Sustainable best practices

Aims and objectives:

- To generate awareness about the existing rules and regulations regarding waste management.
- To critically analyse the rules, regulations and policy initiatives taken by the Indian government regarding specific issues pertaining to waste management in India.
- To assess existing models and strategies pertaining to waste management and strive for cost effective technologically feasible models for sustainable waste management at the district, state and national level.

Issues and challenges:

- i) E- Waste-

India is the fifth largest producer of E- waste in the world. With over 100 crore mobile phones in circulation we generated 2 million tonnes of electronic waste in 2016 alone. Constant developments in the field of science and technology leading to newer electronic gadgets is the major cause for this drastic increase in electronic waste. Proper disposal and containment of e- waste is extremely important as it has grave implications on human health and environment. It is also important to highlight that this issue is even more serious in major

cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata etc. Important policy initiatives have been taken by the government in this regard but much more needs to be done. Dealing with this type of waste requires a collective effort involving all the stakeholders from manufacturers to consumers.

ii) Plastic waste

India generates 25,940 tonnes of plastic waste every day, but 40% of it remains uncollected choking drainage and river systems, littering the marine ecosystem, causing soil and water pollution.

Plastic industry is among the fastest growing markets in India owing to its usage in several sectors including automobile, packaging, textile, healthcare etc.

It is truly the boon and bane of our times. On one hand it is indispensable to the modern generation due to its uses in information technology, healthcare, packaging etc. While on the other hand it has far reaching effects on environment. Important policy initiatives have been taken by the Indian Government mainly Plastic Waste management rules 2016. However, the efficiency of same in dealing with this issue is still questionable. For developing countries like India establishment of affordable and sustainable waste practices is extremely important.

ii) Municipal Solid Waste

Rapid urbanization and uncontrolled growth of population has resulted in a severe problem of municipal solid waste management.

Supreme court of India reiterated the importance of municipal waste management in the case of IN RE: OUTRAGE AS PARENTS END LIFE AFTER CHILD'S DENGUE DEATH &ORS wherein it was stated that management of solid waste is a crucial issue and also causes several vector borne diseases.

The indiscriminate dumping and open air burning of solid wastes is the most problematic and highly unregulated issue in India. It still remains to be one of the most difficult arena demanding comprehensive regulations on the part of the state. The problem is two-fold.

Firstly, the organic as well as inorganic wastes of the residential complexes collected in pits or on the surface in itself causes soil pollution. Unregulated waste from slum clusters and illegal/unrecognized residential areas also leads to a compounding of the issue on waste management and needs specific regulation.

Moreover, such unregulated waste has further chances to cause air pollution when burnt and water pollution, when due to heavy rains or otherwise it seeps inside the earth affecting the ground water. Secondly, solid waste, which is primarily, the refuse or garbage from every house-hold and every occupational establishment, grows exponentially with the rise in population. It no longer remains the problem of metropolitan cities, in fact, the indiscriminate dumping of waste is becoming quite visible and evident in hilly areas of the country as well. This problem is of gigantic magnitude as every single day, over one lakh tonnes of raw garbage is thrown along roads, waterways and wetlands just outside the city limits of India's 300 plus Class-I towns and cities. Therefore, the challenge is to provide for expeditious redress of the rising concerns of unmanaged and untreated dumping of solid wastes across the nation.

Learning outcomes-

The present Colloquium shall provide the participants with a thorough understanding of legal and policy features of waste management in India. It shall also impart a basic understanding of important strategies required for sustainable management of waste. The intention is to equip the participants with requisite knowledge and practical inputs essential to initiate sustainable management of waste in their homes, places of work (educational institutions, Government premises), communities etc. and inspire their family and colleagues as well to do the same.

Call for Participants:

Interested and serious participants may apply for the Environmental Colloquium on Waste Management Law and Policy in India. There is **no participation fee** but in view of the limited number of seats (**50**) first come first serve basis will be observed.

The seminar will be held from **2.30 pm to 5.00 pm**.

Last Date of registration for the programme is **31st May 2019**.

Kindly click on the link below for registration:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Wixfd2FDWgMltJTIAKOa8Km0xObLQgppLICG3o83554/edit>

For further information, Kindly contact: Vishwendra Panwar,
vishwendra.panwar@nludelhi.ac.in, 8884280831.