



VITNESS PUBLIC POLICY MEET 2016

Themes for the event:

1. DATA PROTECTION

Data protection is one of the major concerns for India today. The Supreme Court of India, through judicial pronouncements, has recognised the Right to Privacy as a fundamental right. Since the emergence of technology and the electronic world, India has witnessed many issues regarding data security such as data stealing which causes intrusion to a person's privacy.

The Information Technology Act 2000, though indirectly talks about data protection, is said to be much inclined to regulate cybercrimes. The Government of India framed the Information Technology (Reasonable Security Practices and Procedures and Sensitive Personal Data or Information) Rules, 2011 since it felt the need for stricter regulations to curb data privacy violations. It is found that the rules have failed to serve the purpose due to the lack of effective implementation mechanism. There is no jurisprudence with respect to this field in India since the data privacy crimes reported is very minimal. It should also be noted that there is no governmental regulatory authority, exclusively, to oversee the data privacy violations. The United States of America is found to have a stricter data protection policy as there are around 20 national data security laws and several state laws while the United Kingdom, with the Data Protection Act 1998 ('Act'), is said to have a very stringent approach in handling the personal data. Being an outsourcing hub, it is really essential and exigent for India to have a stringent and an effective data protection policy.

In the backdrop of smart cities and the discussions revolving around them while considering the economic, legal and other relevant factors formulate a better data protection policy that can be effectively implemented in India.

2. THE DECLINING SUPPORTIVENESS IN SPORTS

“Gold Medals are not made of real gold; they're made of sweat, determination and hard work.”

When we sit with our early morning paper, the headlines are often sad and depressing. This causes us to turn over to the end to the sports section to feel light and happy. But the melancholy is that now-a-days even this section is flooded with greed, politics and corruption. With the Rio Olympics and the grand opening night held on 7th August 2016, there is a lot to debate about. There are many games which are being held in Olympics, but the most saddening part with regard to our country not being a part of many competitions like Fencing, Water Polo, Canoe Sprint etc. These games never get importance in India, the reason behind this is because of all the hype and importance that is given to just one game and the players of that sport, which is “Cricket”. The lack of encouragement to other sports has led our country to just have 1 medal(Bronze), even after 17 days since Olympics has started. There is an urgent need for people to realise that sports is not limited to that one game called cricket.

Sports in India is still a developing field and are sadly not being respected like it is being respected in other countries. It is not a blunt statement, but it is the Olympic medal chart that gives us an idea as to how the other countries give equal importance to all the sport events, unlike us. We require a proper sports regulatory body. The only existing guiding and regulatory bodies for sports in India are Sports Authority of India, Sports Law and Welfare Association of India and Board of Control for Cricket (BCCI). The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs was set up to create opportunities and build required infrastructure for achieving excellence in sports. It mainly issues notifications and guidelines from time to time for the purpose of regulation of National Sports Federation (NSF). The primary role of the National Sports Federation is the promotion of sports and its related activities. There are no comprehensive legislations to support and develop sports in India.

With such limited scope and extent, players face high levels of discrimination, politics and prejudice which not only affects them physically but also mentally. Have we ever thought why our players don't get motivated and play well? Well, let us think about it at least now. Let us step into their shoes and not only share but also understand their pain. Let us take a step forward and come up with reasonable and feasible steps to encourage them by drafting a policy!

3. SMART CITIES AND GREEN DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Smart Cities Mission was launched with an objective “to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, *a clean and sustainable environment* and application of ‘Smart’ Solutions” by Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25th June, 2015. Presently, unauthorised constructions, without proper policies to ensure coordinated development, have resulted in congested expanse for urban dwellers, also leading to intensification of heat in urban areas.

Though only 31.16% of India’s population is classified as urban according to the 2011 census of the Government of India, a failure to integrate environment and urban development through targeted policy, into the city planning has been observed. The quality of life of the citizens should not be measured by ignoring the environmental challenges. This fiasco transpired because of a number of shortcomings ranging from lack of coordination between State and central entities to improper decision making and implementation.

Overcoming the persistent inefficiency, a comprehensive and workable policy for green development of smart cities is required for environmental conservation and for monitoring environmental changes.

4. INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

13.5 million People need humanitarian aid owing to a violent civil war. About 4.8 million of the populations are refugees, and 6.5 million are displaced within the country; half of those affected are children. Children affected by the clash are at risk of becoming ill, malnourished, abused, or exploited as per the surveys conducted. Millions have been forced to quit school.

There are about 4.7 million refugees of a Nation ‘X’ in neighbouring countries. Almost one million have applied for asylum in the security of Europe. More than 13.5 million people are still in need of support and shelter inside Nation ‘X’. The country’s pre-war population, half of which is about 11 million people have been killed or forced to flee their homes.

There is a steady and constant struggle among the families, in Nation ‘X’ to survive. The Refugees to the neighboring countries tussle to be accepted by other countries in order to find safety. We wish to form policies for the said nation to improve the socio economic

conditions, mainly for the internally displaced citizens, which should mandatorily include, but not limited to, the following:-

- ❖ Citizens escaping conflict need all the essentials to sustain their lives: food, clothing, health assistance, shelter, and household and hygiene items.
- ❖ They need dependable provisions of clean water, as well as sanitation facilities.
- ❖ Children need a protected environment and a chance to play and go to school.
- ❖ Adults require employment options in case of long-term displacement.

Note: The policy should be drafted on ANY ONE of the above given themes.

Rules for Public Policy Meet:

1. ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION

1.1 The competition is open to all graduate and post-graduate students of any Indian university.

1.2 A team can comprise of minimum 2 and maximum 5 members from the same college/ university.

1.3 Recognised institutions/ college/ universities shall be entitled to send a maximum of THREE teams to the competition.

1.4 No participant can be part of more than one team.

2. CLARIFICATIONS TO THE THEME

2.1 Teams may request for clarification via email to **vitnssppm@gmail.com**

2.2 Teams can also contact list of persons mentioned at the end.

3. ANONYMITY OF TEAMS

3.1 Teams shall not reveal their identity in any form except by means of the team code allotted to them during the competition.

3.2 The Written Submission shall have the Team and University name ONLY on the cover page and NO WHERE ELSE throughout the submission.

3.3 Any material presented to the panel should be devoid of any identification marks or seal of the team.

3.4 Any violation of the above rules shall attract severe penalty as determined by the Organising Committee.

4. GENERAL RULES:

4.1 A policy should be drafted on the given theme.

- 4.2 The teams will have to submit their soft copy of the DRAFT POLICY by **September 12 2016**, by 23:59 Hours to **vitnssppm@gmail.com**. Kindly submit complete details of the team including the contact information while sending the soft copy of the policy.
- 4.3 The selection of teams will be done by the jury panel.
- 4.4 Any submission after 23:59 hrs on September 12, 2016 shall attract negative marks of 0.25 for each day of delay.
- 4.5 Any policy draft that is selected but not presented, shall not qualify for any awards
- 4.6 Decision of the judges shall be treated as final and binding on all and cannot be contested.
- 4.7 Plagiarism is strongly discouraged. Plagiarism includes duplicating, in part or full, anyone else's work and exhibiting it as an original work; using ideas, opinions or thoughts produced elsewhere without proper acknowledgement of the source; not specifying that a figure, sentence or any data mentioned in the policy was originally produced elsewhere. If the Organising Committee finds that the policy submitted for the event is plagiarised from any source, the policy will get rejected and no refund shall be granted.

5. REGISTRATION

- 5.1 Each team shall complete the registration within **September 1 2016**.
- 5.2 The registration fee for a team is Rs.1000/-.
- 5.3 A Demand Draft drawn in the name of "**VIT University**" payable at **Chennai**, along with the team details, should be sent through a post. The post must be received on or before September 9 2016.
- Postal Address: **VIT School of Law,**
VIT University,
Vandalur-Kelambakkam road,
Chennai - 600127.
- 5.4 Payment once made shall not be reimbursed.

6. ORAL SUBMISSIONS

- 6.1 The policy drafts should be presented during the event i.e., on **September 17 2016**. Each team will get a maximum of 15 minutes to present their policies.
- 6.2 Two members from each team will be allowed to present their policy.
- 6.3 The presentation will be followed by a question and answer session.
- 6.4 The panel of judges will ask the presenters questions regarding the policy submitted that will last for five minutes.
- 6.5 Then the audience will get five minutes for asking the presenters questions regarding the policy presented.
- 6.6 The participants may also present their papers in MS-Power Point (ppt) format.
- 6.7 Violation of any rule can result in rejection of policy.

7. GUIDELINES FOR DRAFTING A POLICY

In drafting the policy, the following important guiding principles must be adhered to:

- 7.1 The policy should be structured, drafted and presented in a way that makes the policy understandable and easy to read and interpret.
- 7.2 The content of the policy should be concise, to the point; action orientated and should have a logical and coherent structure. The structure of the policy can be tested by asking whether it is simple to locate topics or subjects in the text and move from one topic to another. Organisation within the policy can be achieved by putting related material together, by putting the most important ideas first and the less important ideas, for example, unusual cases and procedural detail, later.
- 7.3 Plain language must be used that can be readily understood by the targeted audience. A policy that is easy to understand is less likely to result in dispute and also assists those involved in implementing the policy. However, the policy should not be over-simplified to the point that it becomes legally uncertain. Thus the objective should be to produce a policy that is both easily read and understood and legally and practically effective in achieving the desired policy objectives. There are many ways in which a policy can be stated in a simple, accurate and unambiguous manner: by means of purpose clauses,

incorporating key or basic concepts and definitions besides explanatory provisions and examples.

7.4 The policy, content and language should be used in ways that promote effective communication. This can be achieved by using clear and unambiguous language. It is also suggested that the active instead of the passive voice and everyday words should be used.

7.5 The policy must be clear as to whether any matter or action prescribed in the policy is mandatory or discretionary by using the words “must” or “may”.

7.6 Gender-neutral language should be used, for example: “chairperson” rather than “chairman”.

7.7 Policies should be written in the present active tense.

7.8 The policy presentation or layout should be used to promote effective communication. Presentation techniques include the use of headings, table of provisions, page headers, white space and typefaces that help readability.

7.9 Context of the policy should be paraphrased and numbered numerically.

7.10 Figures should be used in the numbering of divisions and subdivisions.

7.11 Letters may be added to figures if a revised policy inserts a new paragraph between existing paragraphs that use figures, e.g. between paragraph 19 and paragraph 20, the paragraph inserted will be paragraph 19(a).

7.12 The policy document should be drafted in English.

7.13 The policies drafted should be in accordance with the existing Indian Legal Framework.

7.14 Authorities should be cited to substantiate the policy drafted.

POLICY FORMULATION PROCESS:

The draft submitted should contain the following phases:

- Initiation
 - o Issue identification

- o Policy tools
 - o Policy analysis
- Generation
 - o Policy formulation
 - o Decision making
 - o Policy drafting
- Implementation
 - o Policy implementation

FORMAT:

- Word limit- The draft should not exceed 3000 words
- Font style for text: Times New Roman.
- Font size for text: 12 points.
- Font size for headings: 18 points.
- Font size for sub-headings: 14 points.

ADJUDICATION:

The participants will be marked by the judges for the following:

1. Policy drafted:
 - Abidance by the guidelines specified
 - Legal, social, political and economical feasibility of the policy
 - Precision of policy formulation taking into account of existing laws and legal system
2. Oral submission:

- Ingenuity and persuasiveness
- Usage of authorities
- Response to questions
- Manner and method
- Research Inputs
- Clarity of thought

The organizers reserve the right to change/update the rules of the contest at any point of time and will do their best to inform to participants of the same. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the teams to keep themselves updated.

PRIZES

- Winning team : Rs. 7,000
- Runner- up team : Rs. 4,000

DRESS CODE: Western formals

CONTACT DETAILS OF THE ORGANISERS:

Coordinators

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