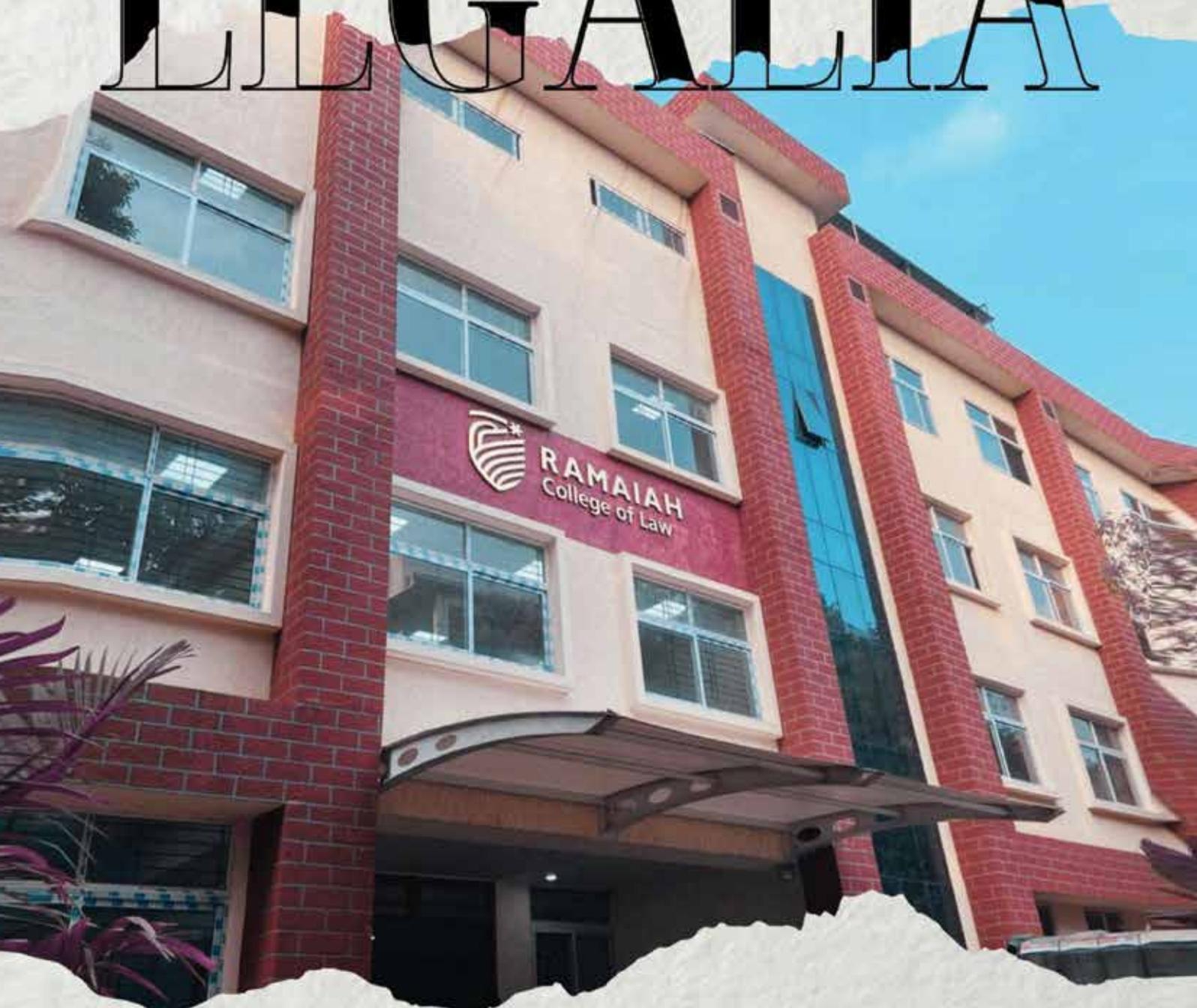




STUDENTS' MAGAZINE

# LEGALIA



JANUARY-JUNE 2025  
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## CONTENTS

Sl. No.	Content	Page No
1	Message from RCL Gazette	3
2	The Courtroom Beyond the Pages: How Law Lives in Stories	6
3	Colours of the Sky	6
4	Resilience	6
5	The Startup Bubble Paradox	7
6	Patteda Anchu Saree and Fabrics Receives Geographical Indication (GI) Tag: Another Significant Milestone for Karnataka	9
7	The Weight of Time	12
8	The Sacred Ache	13
9	Confession of a Bare Act	14
10	Sharing and Remixing MEMES: Can They Get You Into Legal Trouble?	15
11	The Greater Change	17
12	When The Law Gets Weird: Odd Rules Across Borders	18
13	POSH Act, 2013: Ensuring Safe Workplaces for Women	20
14	Can you RTI the PM's Marksheets?	22

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## MESSAGE FROM RCL GAZETTE

To the creative minds,

It has been such a joy to work on this edition of our magazine. Every page reflects the creativity, honesty, and imagination of our contributors, and editing it has been a truly rewarding experience.

What I loved most about this process was discovering the range of voices within our community; some bold, some reflective, some playful, and how each piece adds its own color to the larger canvas. This magazine is more than a collection of writing and art; it's a space where we allow ourselves to pause, express, and connect beyond the routine of classes and deadlines.

In many ways, putting this magazine together reminded me of why creative outlets matter so much in our lives. They allow us to step outside rigid structures, embrace vulnerability, and tell stories that might otherwise remain untold. Every poem, essay, or sketch here is proof that creativity is not a luxury, it is a necessity that shapes who we are.

I am deeply grateful to everyone who shared a part of themselves in these pages. It takes courage to put your thoughts and creativity out into the world, and this magazine is a celebration of that spirit.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition as much as we enjoyed shaping it together. May it inspire you to create, to dream, and to never stop expressing yourself.

- **Monisha Rajashekhar**

Dear readers,

This edition of Legalia is more than just a magazine. It's a canvas of imagination and expression that brings together the many voices of our student community at RCL. Inside, you'll find ideas explored through thought-provoking articles, emotions captured in poems, and art that speaks louder than words.

What makes this edition special is that it's not just the variety of work it holds but the passion, creativity, and honesty behind every submission. To every student who contributed, thank you. You haven't just filled these pages, you've given them life.

I hope this edition inspires you, makes you think, and reminds you that creativity is at the heart of who we are.

- **Siyaa Sujith**

Dearest Readers,

Working on this edition of Legalia has been a joyful reminder of the creativity and spirit that thrive within the RCL community. Each contribution in these pages carries its own spark—a story, a voice, an idea—that reflects the passion of its creator.

From powerful poems and captivating short stories to striking artwork, every piece has been a delight to discover. We hope this edition gives you a refreshing pause from the routine of academics and opens a window into the imaginations that make our community so unique.

It has been a pleasure curating these works, and we hope you enjoy reading this issue just as much as we enjoyed bringing it to life.

Happy reading!

- **Varshini**

Greetings to our readers!

We are delighted to present this latest edition of our magazine which is an inspiring collection that celebrates creativity, thought, and expression. Within these pages, you will find a rich tapestry of perspectives: insightful articles, imaginative works, and visuals that speak louder than words. Each contribution has been thoughtfully chosen to resonate with both the mind and the heart.

This edition is not just a magazine but, it is an invitation to pause, reflect, and explore new ideas. Whether you seek knowledge, inspiration, or simply a moment of joy, we hope you find it here. So turn the pages at your own pace, immerse yourself in the stories, and allow them to spark curiosity and connection. May this reading journey be as rewarding for you as curating it has been for us.

**- Swapnika Adapala**

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest edition of Legalia, where law meets ideas, and ideas spark conversations. This edition brings together sharp legal insights, compelling case commentaries, and thought provoking articles that reflect the dynamism of the legal world today. Curated with care and crafted with passion, every page is an invitation to think deeper, question further, and be inspired.

Happy reading!

**- Mainaki Deshpande**

To the creative souls who made this possible,

It is with immense gratitude and joy that we share this new edition with you. Putting this magazine together has been an unforgettable journey. Every page is a testament to the incredible talent of our contributors. They have poured their hearts, imaginations, and hard work into these pieces, and it has been a true privilege to bring them together.

This magazine is more than a collection; it's a conversation—a space where voices can connect and ideas can bloom. We hope you find a piece of yourself within these pages and that the stories, art, and poetry inspire you as much as they have inspired us.

**- Khadija Damana**

To our Esteemed Readers,

It is with immense pride and excitement that we present to you our latest issue. It is a testament to the incredible talent, creativity, and unique perspectives.

At the heart lies our commitment to providing a platform where ideas converge, stories are told, and creativity is celebrated. We believe that everyone has a voice worth hearing, and this magazine strives to amplify those voices, fostering dialogue and connections across our campus.

We invite you to dive into these pages, to explore the narratives, challenge your perspectives, and perhaps even discover a new facet of our shared experience. May this issue spark curiosity, encourage reflection, and remind us all of the vibrant intellectual and creative spirit that defines our community.

Thank you for being our reader. We hope you enjoy this journey through the heart and mind of our college.

**- Palki Kashyap**

Fellow Readers,

With insurmountable joy and pride, we present the new issue of Legalia! This collection is a celebration of creativity and the indispensable role of art in our lives. We believe that art is not merely an addition to life, but a window into it. The pages you are about to read are a testament to this truth. As Robert Frost once wrote, "Nothing gold can stay," and while the most beautiful moments in life are often fleeting, art gives us a profound gift. It's an instruction for living a life, as Mary Oliver described: "Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it." These pieces reflect our shared human experience, preserving the essence of what is golden and challenging us to see things differently. If even one resonates with you on a personal level, it has succeeded at its job. We are incredibly grateful to our talented contributors for sharing their brilliance with us, and we hope you find as much joy in reading it as we did in putting it all together.

**- V Srividhya**

Dear Readers,

Working on this edition of our magazine has been one of those rare experiences that feels both grounding and inspiring at the same time. Between classes, assignments, and the chaos of college life, this space became something more than just a project. It became a reminder of why I love words, ideas, and creativity in the first place.

What makes this issue special to me is not just the talent on display, but the honesty behind it. Each creation carried a piece of someone's inner world, their wit, their fears, their quiet reflections, their bold declarations and together, they form a mosaic of who we are as a community. Editing these pages felt like being invited into someone else's imagination for a while, and I'm grateful for that trust.

What I will carry with me most from this process is the courage it takes to put our thoughts on paper, and then to take the even braver step of sharing them with the world.

So, as you flip through these pages, I hope you find something that makes you pause. It could be a line that lingers, a thought that sparks, or even just a reminder that creativity has a place in all of us, no matter how busy or overwhelmed we get.

Thank you for reading, and thank you to everyone who poured a bit of themselves into this edition. It's been a joy to hold these voices together in one place.

Warmly,

- Smriti Rangan

Dear Readers,

Every new semester feels a little like opening a fresh notebook, the pages are blank, the possibilities wide open and the stories waiting to be written. This issue of Legalia captures that same energy, voices eager to be heard, ideas that challenge the ordinary and creativity that refuses to stay quiet.

This issue is at its heart a celebration of student voices. From the poetry that captures fleeting emotions to the features that spotlight unsung corners of our campus, every page is a reminder of the creativity and resilience that define our community. It's proof that stories are everywhere, you just need to listen closely.

More than anything, this magazine is about the connection between students and stories, between past and present, between imagination and reality. I hope as you flip through, you feel the same sense of discovery and belonging that guided us while creating it.

Thank you for reading, supporting and sharing in this community. Here's to another season of learning, questioning and creating together.

Warmly,

- Judith Lara J

## The Courtroom Beyond the Pages: How Law Lives in Stories

When most people think of law, they imagine thick books, endless statutes, and courtrooms filled with stern faces. But beyond this formal image, law has always been a story—a story of justice, of wrongs and remedies, of power and resistance. Strangely enough, some of the best places to witness this drama are not in textbooks, but in novels and movies.

Take Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, for instance. Atticus Finch is not just a lawyer; he is a symbol of courage in a deeply unjust system. The trial scenes are less about legal arguments and more about what it means to stand for truth when the world refuses to listen. Similarly, movies like *12 Angry Men* remind us that justice is fragile, shaped by human bias and integrity. A single dissenting voice in a jury room can change the course of a man's life.

Even popular culture sneaks in lessons of law. Think of *Suits*, where witty dialogue and sharp suits disguise the fact that beneath the glamour lies the essence of advocacy—the art of persuasion, strategy, and sometimes, bending the rules. Or Bollywood's *Pink*, which raised a loud, necessary voice: No means no.

These stories show us what classrooms sometimes cannot—that law is alive, breathing, and deeply human. It is not just about what is written, but about how people interpret, resist, or embrace it. Law in stories is less about procedure and more about emotion; less about sections, more about society.

So, the next time you feel buried under case law citations or constitutional provisions, maybe step outside the legal library and into literature or cinema. You might find that justice is not confined to judgments—it also lives in the stories we tell.

- GALIN DEVAIAH, 5<sup>th</sup> Year, B.Com., LL.B. 'A'

## Colours of the Sky

The sky is never the same twice, a canvas brushed with fleeting hues, morning whispers in gentle gold, a promise of beginnings new.

Afternoons shimmer in restless blue, stretching wide, bold and free, clouds drift like wandering thoughts, shaping dreams for all to see.

Evening arrives in tender fire, a palette of crimson, rose, and flame, reminding us that endings too, hold beauty without shame.

Night drapes the world in velvet dark, but even then, stars softly glow, teaching us that light survives, wherever the winds may blow.

So very shade the heavens wear, be it dawn or twilight high, is life's own way of telling us: there is meaning in every sky.

## Resilience

The world bends us,  
sometimes until we nearly break.  
Storms arrive uninvited,  
and shadows stretch longer than dawn.

Yet in the cracks of our silence,  
a quiet strength begins to grow.  
Not loud, not shining  
but steady, unyielding, alive.

Resilience is not the absence of wounds,  
but the courage to carry them as maps,  
to rise with the weight of yesterday,  
and still walk toward tomorrow.

Every fall writes its lesson,  
every scar tells its truth.  
And when we stand again,  
we are not the same  
we are stronger,  
softer,  
and infinitely more human.

- ARCHANA TIWARI, 5<sup>th</sup> Year, B.B.A., LL.B.

## The Startup Bubble Paradox

When we look at the current Indian startup boost, what comes to my mind is the boom of the Dot-com Bubble that the US economy witnessed. The similarities are a must watch for startup founders and big players who want to have a suitable business growth and expand as a long-term sustainable market business. The rise of computers and innovation in the internet is one of the best evolutions to ever happen for the American economy. It not only made sure the US stood tall in the world but also gave it a unique soft power. But with its rise, venture capitalists saw a new "Next Big Score" in the market. The boost of company valuations was so huge that companies were valued 100x of their revenue power. The concept became: "Growth Over Profit, Get Big Fast, and Get Large or Get Lost."

From a traditional business perspective or traditional financial metrics, this sounds very stupid. Why I say that is very simple, business means making sure your product is liked for what unique value you provide over other players, not which player can sell it cheaper or advertise more aggressively. I in no way state that expansion is not good it is. But the unit economics of a business is the key that lets it stand in the market as a pillar for longer than its competitors.

For example, If a product like daily grocery is being sold, a player with a dark store and heavy discounting may succeed for a while. But a player who collaborates with local kirana stores and builds a network among local established sellers will be more successful in the long run.

In the first case, you have heavy overheads in terms of capital, rent, software maintenance, and delivery partners. But in the second case, it all comes down to only your software and delivery partner pay. You can also use data from kirana owners to later enter as a wholesale dealer to them with a higher margin for your earnings. Both cases can lead to a sustainable market, but structured growth must always be the focus.

The biggest flaw in today's startup boom is the burn bubble, the belief that one big event sponsorship will create lasting

growth. During the US Dot-com Bubble, a company called Pets.com arose. It sold pet products and delivered them home. It instantly clicked because it provided big discounts, free delivery, and no convenience fee. Pets.com raised millions in funding and spent a fortune on sponsorships like the Super Bowl 2000. But the model had several flaws like low-margin products, heavy discounts, and high customer acquisition costs. Eventually, all the money dried up, and with a \$300 million loss, Pets.com shut down in just 2 years. This story feels very similar to the Indian ed-tech giant BYJU'S, which saw its boom during COVID when schools were closed and online learning became the only option. Instead of focusing on its core business, BYJU'S diversified aggressively. It acquired big players from different fields of education at inflated rates and spent heavily on brand sponsorships, from the FIFA World Cup in Qatar to the official Indian cricket team, even hiring Bollywood star Shahrukh Khan. These moves looked impressive but generated poor returns. As a result, BYJU'S accumulated massive debt, leading to constant layoffs and cuts in operations. Just like Pets.com, it expanded too quickly, without ensuring profitability.

The startup ecosystem has seen some very positive players, but only because of a proven business model with a clear way to profitability. This is slowly missing in many new startups, where millions are being spent on customer acquisition without strong repeat usage. With the funding winter, cracks are already visible. For long-term survival, Indian startups must focus on Shift focus from burn to profitability, Strengthen unit economics, and Prepare for competition from giants like Tata and Reliance, who are entering almost all big markets startups have created like e-commerce and fintech with enormous resources and deep hold on market aggregators.

The paradox of the startup bubble is this: while bubbles create hype, attract capital, and spark innovation, they also destroy weak models that cannot sustain themselves. For Indian startups, the real test is whether they will chase short-term visibility and spending or build long-term, sustainable businesses that can thrive even after the bubble bursts.

- YASH S PANDITH 5<sup>th</sup> Year B.B.A.,LL.B. 'B' SEC





- VINIT RANJAN - 2<sup>nd</sup> Year, B.A., LL.B., 'B'



## Patteda Anchu Saree and Fabrics Receives Geographical Indication (GI) Tag: Another Significant Milestone for Karnataka



The Patteda Anchu Saree and Fabrics, a traditional handloom textile from the district of Karnataka, has officially received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag on March 28, 2025. This marks a significant recognition of the rich textile heritage of the weavers of Gajendragad Taluk. The GI tag was granted to the Gajendragad Nekarar Sahakari Utpadak Sangh, a cooperative society of traditional weavers of Patteda Anchu Sarees, and the Commissioner of Textile Development and Director of Handlooms and Textiles, Government of Karnataka, and the Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre (VTPC), Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Karnataka, as the facilitators for the GI. The weaver was hand held by the Ramaiah Centre for Intellectual Property Rights.

Patteda Anchu sarees are characterised by their solid deep-coloured body with a contrasting Patte (border) running along its edges. Unlike other handloom sarees, these do not incorporate traditional saris or motifs, making them highly durable and sustainable. The saree stands out for its thickness, opaqueness, and resilience is an integral part of the North Karnataka handloom legacy and customary traditions of the region.

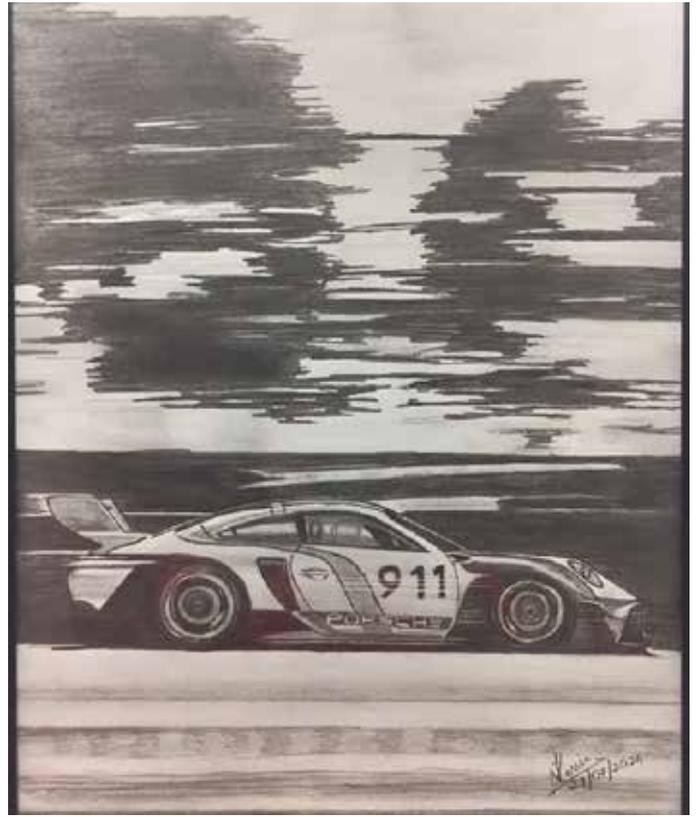
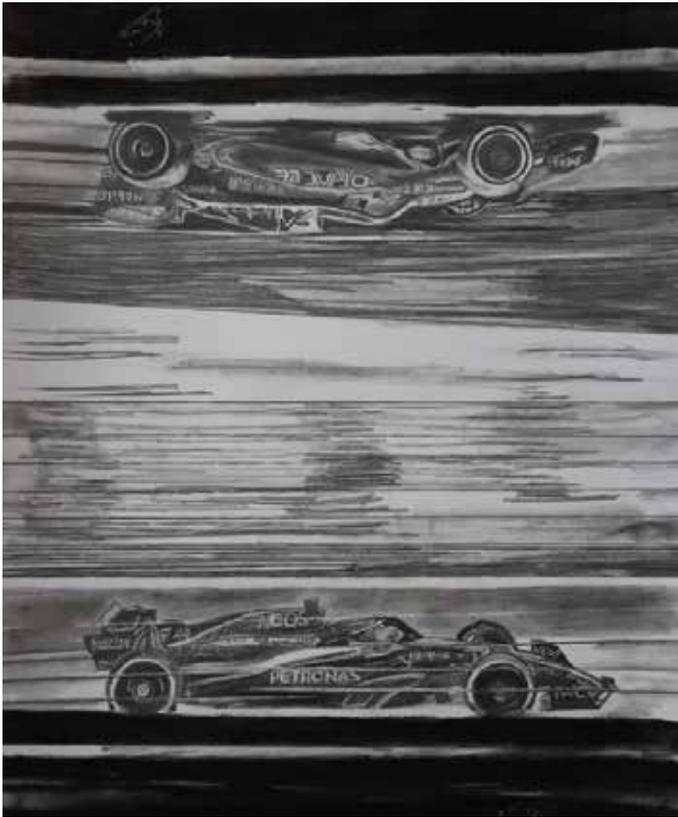
The Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre (VTPC), Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Karnataka, along with Ramaiah Centre for Intellectual Property Rights, is in the process of identifying and filing GI applications for the prospective GI products from across the state of Karnataka. Inspired by the Karnataka State Geographical Indication Policy, 2019, for the empowerment of the producers, the initiative ensures the benefit of the registered GIs is accessible to its fullest extent to the rightful owners of the geographical indication, beyond focusing on the registration of geographical indications. The Initiative is also supported by the Karnataka State Department of Agriculture, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, the District Industries Centres from various districts, the district administration, and various governmental and non-governmental organisations. Through this initiative, GI applications are filed for Shivarapattana Stone Carvings from Kolar, Kagga Rice from Uttara Kannada, Hase Chittara of the Malanadu region, and Karadant. This initiative has also identified over 55 prospective products from various districts of Karnataka, with Uttara Kannada leading the list of prospective GI products from the state.

The Commissioner of Textile Development and Director of Handlooms and Textiles, Government of Karnataka and Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre (VTPC) as facilitators of the Geographical Indication, intend to extend support to the producers of Patteda Anchu sarees and fabrics in complying with the post registration compliances like the registration of the original weavers of the product as 'authorised users' with the GI registry. With the support from the facilitators and the guidance and counsel of Ramaiah Centre for Intellectual Property Rights, the producers of Patteda Anchu saree and the Handloom Research Institute at Gadag are gearing up towards achieving the status of the first geographical indication tagged product from Karnataka to have a robust Inspection Structure and Quality Control Manual.

- RAMAIAH CENTRE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (RCIPR)



- ANANYA SANTHOSH, B.Com., LL.B., 'A'



- KEVIN GEORGE M, 5<sup>th</sup> Year, B.Com., LL.B., 'A'

## The Weight of Time

We think of time in hours and days,  
but it lives in smaller things—  
the laughter that stays in the air,  
the silence of a classroom  
when everyone has walked out for the last time,  
the glow of a streetlight  
on a walk home that feels like it belongs only to you.

Years slip quietly through our hands.  
Semesters fold into each other,  
faces change, friendships drift,  
and what once felt unshakable  
becomes part of memory.  
But it isn't deadlines or grades  
that we hold onto in the end.

It's the fragments—  
a line that refused to leave us,  
a kindness that arrived unasked,

the rituals with friends  
that turned ordinary days  
into something unforgettable.

Perhaps time is not a straight line at all,  
but a collection of pieces we gather—  
some heavy with meaning,  
others so light we only recognize them later,  
pressed like flowers in an old book.

And maybe its gift is this:  
that even as we rush forward,  
it leaves us with souvenirs—  
proof that the smallest of moments  
are the ones that last the longest.

- MONISHA RAJASHEKHAR, 5<sup>th</sup> Year, B.B.A., LL.B., 'B'



- MONISHA RAJASHEKHAR, 5<sup>th</sup> Year, B.B.A., LL.B., 'B'

## The Sacred Ache

Why do you miss the hell you once knew?  
The quiet hums a hollow tune.  
You begged the storm to pass you through,  
And now you miss the wrathful moon.  
This blessed peace, this gentle shore,  
Is just a land you cannot claim;  
The blood runs thin, and begs for more  
Of that familiar, burning flame.

It is no friend, this ache of old,  
No treasured guest to ask to stay.  
It's like a roommate, distant and cold,  
Whose presence keeps the ghosts at bay.  
You hate the noise, the bitter air,  
The constant shadow at the door,  
But dread the silence of the chair  
When they decide to live no more.

Perhaps it is the final chain  
That holds you to the self you were,  
A monument built of your pain,  
A history you can't let blur.  
For when the final scar has healed,  
And this last chapter comes to cease,  
A terrifying truth is revealed:  
You must begin, and be at peace.

And so you grant your pain a grace,  
A tragic glamour, sharp and bright.  
A way to stand outside the race,  
A solitary, special light.  
You build a shrine of what you've lost,  
Believe your suffering unique,  
Ignoring what the lesson taught,  
That you are human, frail, and weak.

You dream this suffering will pay  
A debt that destines you for heights,  
A purchase price for holy rights.  
A necessary dark before the lights.  
But greatness does not keep that vow,  
It is no prize for tears you've cried.  
It demands all you are, right now—  
Your soul, your life, the self inside.

- KHADIJA DAMANA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, B.A., LL.B., 'B'

## Confession of a Bare Act

"Oh, look, it's you again. Yes, you, fumbling through my pages, probably just realized the exam is tomorrow.

I'm the Constitution of India, 1950, by the way. And let's be clear: I am not 'a book.' I am not 'study material.' I am THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND.

Think of me as the grumpy, all-knowing grandparent of your law school existence. You touch me with trembling fingers before exams, hoping I'll magically bless you with grace marks.

Spoiler alert: I won't. You have to actually read me.

I remember my birth, back in the Constituent Assembly. Visionaries, passionate debates, every comma considered.

Now?

I spend my days gathering dust on library shelves, watching students underline entire paragraphs in fluorescent pink and call it 'preparation.' Honestly, Ambedkar didn't spend years crafting me so you could mark 'State shall' like it's a coloring book. It's an insult, frankly.

And don't even get me started on the hostel kidnappings. One fine day, I'm peacefully resting on my shelf, the next, some panicked second-year shoves me into their backpack like I'm contraband. No library slip, no 'by your leave,' just pure, unadulterated constitutional abduction.

Article 21, people! Doesn't a supreme law have a right to life and dignity too? A quiet, respectful life, on a properly lit shelf?

The horrors I've witnessed in those dorms... Coffee rings scarring Article 14 like battle wounds. Noodles, actual noodles, slurped over my magnificent Preamble. Someone

even had the audacity to scrawl, and I quote, 'Fundamental Rights = Chill, DPSP = Sleep' in my margins.

Excuse me? I am the supreme law of the land, not some cheap meme template for your social media. Have you no respect?

And then came the ultimate betrayal: Google.

Suddenly, my pages lay untouched.

'Bro, just search Article 19 clause (1)(a),' I'd hear. 'Bro?' I'm your literal syllabus! You're outsourcing me to an algorithm? The sheer audacity!

Eventually, I was unceremoniously dumped back in the library. Not out of affection, mind you. Oh no. I was the last hurdle after exams and before semester vacations. Poetic justice, I suppose. I'm quite good at that.

So here I am, back on my high shelf, strategically placed between my long-suffering comrades, BNS and BNSS.

We watch you. We see you frantically flipping through my pages at 3 AM, muttering desperate prayers to 'We, the People.' As if that will salvage your grades.

Just remember this: I'm older than your grandparents, wiser than anyone, and I miss nothing. Treat me with the reverence I deserve – or the next time you butcher one of my Articles in class, I'll personally whisper into your professor's ear: 'Ask them if they've ever actually read the Constitution?'"

"Yours (begrudgingly),

The Constitution of India, 1950. (aka, the Law that judges you)"

- PALKI KASHYAP, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, B.A., LL. B

# Sharing and Remixing MEMES: Can They Get You Into Legal Trouble?

In today's digital era, memes have become a staple of how we communicate online. They're shared, remixed, and created daily by millions across social media platforms. Memes have this uncanny ability to make us laugh, reflect on culture, and comment on society, all within a few seconds. But behind this playful exchange lies a very fascinating and complex legal web: can sharing or remixing memes put you at a risk of copyright infringement? What are the copyright rules that most people don't even realize apply to their favorite memes?

## WHAT EXACTLY IS A MEME?

Before we dive in, let's clarify what a meme actually is. The term originally comes from evolutionary science, describing how cultural ideas spread and evolve. But on the internet, a meme is typically a funny or meaningful image, video, GIF, or piece of text that is copied, shared, and altered to convey humor, satire, or commentary.

Take the "Success Kid" meme for example, showing a toddler clenching his fist in triumph, used widely to express small victories. Memes are everywhere, and they're part of our daily digital language.

## WHAT IS A COPYRIGHT?

When we talk about intellectual property, one of the most important pillars is copyright law. At its core, copyright is designed to protect creators - the artists, writers, photographers, filmmakers, and software developers, by giving them exclusive rights over their original works. But what exactly does that mean?

Imagine you write a poem, draw a painting, compose a song, or take a photograph. Copyright law automatically gives you the right to control how that creation is used. Practically, this means only you (or those you authorize) can reproduce, distribute, perform, display, or create new works based on your original creation. It's a legal shield to ensure you get credit and potentially financial benefit from your hard work.

Copyright doesn't protect ideas themselves; it protects the expression of ideas. For example, anyone can think about a story with a clever plot, but only the person who writes it down in a unique way holds copyright on that particular version.

These rights arise automatically the moment an original work is fixed in a tangible medium (like on paper, a digital file, or canvas), you don't have to register to get copyright, though registration can help if disputes arise.

## COPYRIGHT LAW MEETS MEME CULTURE

Here's where things get a little tricky. Most memes we see use images, videos, or music clips that someone else created and own. Under copyright law, these original creators have exclusive rights, meaning they control how their work is copied, shared, or adapted.

Technically, if you take a copyrighted image or video and turn it into a meme without permission, it might be a copyright infringement. This means the creator could theoretically call you out, send a takedown notice, or even sue although, this hasn't stopped meme sharing from exploding in popularity.

## WHAT SAVES MEME CREATORS?

Copyright wouldn't be practical without some flexibility. The key legal principle we will be looking at is Section 52 of the Copyrights Act, 1957. Unlike the broader and more flexible "fair use" doctrine in the United States, Indian copyright law offers what is known as fair dealing exceptions referring to specific scenarios where the use of copyrighted works is allowed without permission.

Section 52 lists several "acts" that do not constitute infringement, meaning they are legally permitted uses of copyrighted material. These exceptions are particularly relevant in the case of memes because they encompass criticism, review, reporting of current events, and parody or satire that are common purposes memes serve.

For example, when a meme uses a copyrighted image or clip to humorously critique or comment on something, it can fall under the criticism or review exception. Similarly, meme creators commenting on political or social issues using excerpts of original content may be protected when their use qualifies as reporting current events.

However, this is a narrower concept. Section 52's exceptions usually apply only if the copyrighted work is used fairly and in a reasonable manner. That means you cannot simply copy and redistribute someone else's work wholesale; the use should be very limited and must serve the purpose of commentary, education, or parody.

Let's consider the "Success Kid" meme again, which was a photo of a toddler clenching his fist in triumph. This image was originally captured by a photographer who owns the copyright. However, its adaptation into a meme format that humorously expresses personal victories is more than mere copying; it transforms the original into a new context that comments on everyday successes.

Under Section 52(1)(a) of the Indian Copyright Act, such use may qualify as fair dealing for criticism or review or reporting of current events, which are explicitly exempted from infringement claims.

This means that when the "Success Kid" image is used to poke fun, deliver commentary, or reflect social sentiments through memes, it can be legally protected, even if the original photograph is copyrighted. The key is that the meme must be a fair and reasonable use, focused on commentary, criticism, or parody.

In the early 2020, the case of Laney Griner v. King for Congress made US headlines. Griner owned the copyright to the "Success Kid" meme, and the Republican candidate's campaign used the image in fundraising without permission. The court ruled this was copyright infringement because the use was commercial, and not sufficiently transformative of the original.

However, Section 52 does not protect commercial exploitation of copyrighted material without permission. So, using memes in advertisements or merchandise could still lead to legal trouble.

## ESSENTIALS OF FAIR USE

Fair use isn't a get-out-of-jail-free card. Courts look at factors like:

1. The **purpose** of use:

if it is non-commercial, educational, or commentary uses, they are more likely protected than commercial ones. Meme sharing for fun is usually fine, but selling meme merchandise without permission is risky.

2. The **nature** of the original work:

the more creative or unpublished the work, the stronger the protection.

3. The **amount** of the work used:

using a small part (like one frame of a video) is more acceptable than copying entire works.

4. The **effect** on the market:

if the meme could harm the original creator's ability to profit, that weighs against fair use.

## WHAT ABOUT COMMERCIAL USE?

The problem arises when memes are monetized without permission. Companies using viral memes to promote products must tread carefully. Many businesses have faced cease-and-desist letters for unauthorized meme use. For example, music or movie companies have clamped down on unlicensed use of their tracks in meme videos.

If you are starting a meme-based brand or marketing campaign, getting permissions or licenses is extremely vital. Otherwise, it can quickly escalate into legal trouble and damage your brand reputation.

## SO, SHOULD YOU BE WORRIED?

For most students and casual internet users, sharing or creating memes for fun, commentary, or education is unlikely to invite legal trouble. The legal principle of fair use/fair dealing offers strong protections for transformative and non-commercial meme creation.

But if your meme use involves:

- Selling products or advertising without licenses
- Using memes in political campaigns commercially
- Copying large parts of original creative work verbatim
- Sharing memes that invade privacy or are defamatory

Then you should proceed with caution.

### HOW TO MEME RESPONSIBLY (AND LEGALLY)

1. Always try to add your own creativity or commentary to make your meme transformative.
2. Avoid using entire copyrighted works but rather pick short clips or small images.
3. Don't monetize memes without permission.
4. Be sensitive to cultural and privacy issues.
5. Familiarize yourself with fair use/fair dealing laws.
6. When in doubt, seek advice or stick to public domain or creative commons content.

Memes are a powerful form of expression that connect millions across the globe instantly by blending humor with social critique. Yet, their legality lies in a careful balance between respecting original creators' rights and embracing the cultural remixing inherent to the digital age.

As law students living in this digital landscape, understanding the nuances around meme copyright isn't just academically relevant, it's essential for navigating our online lives and future legal careers.

- SMRITI RANGAN, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year B.B.A., LL.B., 'B' Sec

## The Greater Change

When silence gathers in the heart of man,  
And restless hands forget their claim,  
The world will shift, as world began,  
No fleeting crown, no borrowed name.  
A spark will rise where shadows fall,  
And love will be the root of all.

The rivers wait for purer streams,  
Unstained by greed, unchained by fear;  
The greater change lives in our dreams,  
It calls us close, it draws us near.  
Through broken stone, through time's divide,  
The truth still waits on the other side.

Not in empires, nor in gold,  
Nor in the towers reaching high,  
But in the hearts grown brave and bold  
To ask for the earth, to ask the sky:  
What greater love, what greater grace,  
Than man reborn in his true place?

So when the stars in silence burn,  
And dust forgets its borrowed name,  
The greater change will still return,  
A song of light, a tender flame.  
For in the soul, where shadows part,  
The greater change is love's own start.

- MAINAKI DESHPANDEY, 4<sup>th</sup> Year, B.Com., LL.B., 'A'

## When The Law Gets Weird: Odd Rules Across Borders

Have you ever heard of a country where you cannot chew gum? Or where guinea pigs are legally entitled to have a friend? As strange as it sounds, these aren't made-up rules from a comedy sketch. They are real laws still in the books in certain parts of the world.

Laws are supposed to be serious business. They define crimes, protect rights and regulate society. But every now and then they also give us gems of sheer absurdity. Take Denmark for example where parents cannot freely choose a baby name from their imagination, the State maintains an office list of "acceptable" names and anything unusual gets vetoed. Or consider Singapore, where chewing gum is banned not because it is harmful but because discarded gum made cleaning the streets a nightmare.

What sounds laughable to outsiders often has deep cultural or historical roots. A law that feels "bizarre" to us may represent discipline, tradition or even compassion in another society. So let's take a quick world tour of the legal oddities that make you wonder are lawmakers brilliant? Ridiculous? Or just human beings like the rest of us?

### When Eating Becomes Illegal

If you thought food only lands you in trouble when you eat too much, think again. Around the world food has inspired some of the strangest laws still in the books.

**SINGAPORE:** where chewing gum is banned. YES banned. The story goes back to the early 1990's when discarded gum stuck on train doors was causing breakdowns in the brand new Mass Rapid Transit Systems. The government responded not with awareness campaigns but with an outright ban. To this day, unless you have a medical

prescription for nicotine gum, you'd better keep that Wrigley's in your pocket when you land at the Changi Airport. It's a law that makes visitors laugh, but locals credit it with giving Singapore its famously clean streets.

**ITALY:** you will discover that feeding pigeons in Venice's St. Marks Square is illegal. At first glance this sounds cruel to our feathered friends. But the reasoning is practical, pigeon droppings

were causing severe damage to the centuries old marble and mosaics of the Venetian landmarks. In 2008, the city finally banned the practice, imposing fines which tourists could rather spend on a gondola ride.

### When Loneliness Becomes Illegal

Most of us think animal laws are about protecting tigers, elephants or whales. But in **SWITZERLAND:** the law goes right down to the tiniest of the creatures. It is illegal to own just one guinea pig. Why? Because guinea pigs are social animals and leaving one alone is considered cruelty. If your pet passes away, Swiss law expects you to immediately find another companion for the lonely survivor. Some pet owners even "rent" guinea pigs for this purpose. Yes, that's a real "guinea pig rental service". Somewhere out there is a business model that basically runs on Tinder for lonely guinea pigs. This might sound like an over the top regulation but it is actually a world leading stance on animal rights.

### When Naming Becomes Illegal

Choosing a baby name can spark family debates that last longer than the pregnancy. But in some countries, the government gets the final say.

**DENMARK:** where parents must choose from an official list of around 7,000 approved names. If you want something different, say, "Banana" or "ElonX" you need special government permission.

**NEW ZEALAND:** has also taken this seriously. Names like "Queen of England" and "Duke" have all been denied official recognition. The reasoning is clear, names are a public identity and states don't want kids saddled with something embarrassing or absurd. Of course, critics argue this borders on excessive state control. Shouldn't parents have the freedom to be creative? But then again imagine attending school roll call and hearing "Lord Voldemort Sharma". Perhaps a little legal guidance isn't the worst thing.

### **What Do These Laws Really Tell Us?**

It's easy to laugh at the thought of someone getting fined for chewing gum or owning a lonely guinea pig. But scratch beneath the surface and these so called "bizarre" laws actually reveal a lot about the societies that created them.

Take Switzerland's guinea pig rule. On the face of it, it sounds like lawmakers had nothing better to do than legislate rodent romance. But in reality it reflects a society that takes animal rights seriously, right down to the smallest creature. It's progressive, compassionate and very Swiss orderly, precise and humane.

Now compare that with Singapore's chewing gum ban. Outsiders find it comical, but locals see it as a symbol of the city-state's obsession with discipline, cleanliness and efficiency. To Singaporeans it isn't about denying you your peppermint fix, it's about keeping a million person metropolis running smoothly.

In short, these quirky laws remind us that law is never neutral. It reflects cultural values, history and sometimes even national quirks. What makes you chuckle today was probably a very serious solution to a real problem yesterday.

So the next time you roll your eyes at a weird law pause for a moment. Beneath the oddity, there's usually a logic sometimes outdated, sometimes progressive, always fascinating. And if nothing else, these laws prove that the legal world isn't always dry statutes and grim judgments. Sometimes, it's also a treasure chest of delightful absurdities.

So, as a word of caution when you travel abroad, do check the local laws. Because while you may think you're just chewing gum or feeding a pigeon, somewhere out there, you might technically be committing a crime.

- JUDITH LARA J, 4<sup>th</sup> Year B.Com., LL.B., 'A' Sec

# POSH Act, 2013: Ensuring Safe Workplaces for Women

A historic legislation known as the Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (POSH) Act, 2013, aims to give women safe and respectable workplaces. Following the Supreme Court's well-known ruling in Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan, which initially acknowledged sexual harassment in the workplace as a breach of basic rights, it was put into effect.

## Why It Matters

The Act acknowledges that every woman has the right to work in an environment free from fear, prejudice and harassment. By holding employers accountable, it not only addresses complaints but also emphasizes prevention through awareness and training.

The POSH Act is essential in ending the taboo around harassment and shifting the responsibility from individuals to organizations. It guarantees that women won't have to choose between their safety and their professions and that employers are responsible for preventing and resolving such problems. The Act conveys a powerful social message that respect, equality and diversity are non-negotiable in the workplace, in addition to providing legal protection. The POSH Act promotes women's employment and helps create a more equitable and forward-thinking society by preserving these ideals.

## Key Highlights of the Act

- **Wide Scope:** Covers all female workers in both the organized and unorganized sectors, including those who are employed on a contract, temporary, internship, or permanent basis.
- **Unwelcome activities** such as physical advances, sexually suggestive comments, request for sexual favours, inappropriate content or any unwanted verbal or nonverbal behavior of a sexual nature are considered harassment.
- **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC):** In order to accept and handle complaints, any organization with ten or more employees are required to establish an ICC to receive and address complaints.
- **Time-Bound Process:** Employers must strictly follow up on complaints and address them within 90 days.

- The employer's responsibilities include creating a secure workplace, conducting awareness and training sessions, and swiftly addressing infractions.

## Challenges Ahead

Notwithstanding its progressive foundation, the Act encounters obstacles like limited awareness, inadequate implementation in smaller businesses, and victims' reluctance to report due to shame or fear of retaliation.

Another significant challenge is the fear of reprisal and stigma.. Women frequently put off complaining because they fear being held accountable, scrutinized or shunned in their community or place of employment. Reporting may be discouraged in certain situations by the complainant's fear of losing her job or experiencing career setbacks.

Additionally, there are issues with the functioning of the Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) . Even though ICCs are required by the Act, not all organizations have one and in those that do, their members are not always sufficiently qualified to handle delicate issues in a fair and compassionate manner. Establishing and overseeing Local Complaints Committees (LCCs) remains inconsistent particularly in smaller or unorganised sectors.

## Conclusion

The POSH Act is more than just a law; it is a step towards building workplaces rooted in respect and equality. True success lies not only in compliance but in fostering a culture where women feel safe, empowered, and valued.

It's crucial for students entering the workforce to remember that the POSH Act both protects them and holds employers accountable. The first steps in creating inclusive environments are understanding your rights, being aware of reporting procedures, and fostering respectful encouraging civil interactions. In addition to being required by law, a safe workplace is the cornerstone of mutual respect, creativity, and productivity. We are one step closer to building a society in which safety and equality are unassailable when both people and organizations take the Act seriously.

- AADHYA SUBHASH, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, B.B.A., LL.B., 'A'



- GHANA BOPPANA, 5<sup>th</sup> Year, B.B.A., LL.B., 'B'

## Can you RTI the PM's Marksheets?

University of Delhi v Neeraj, 2025 SCC Online Del 5668

**“The fact that a person holds a public office does not, per se, render all personal information subject to public disclosure.” — Delhi High Court**

### Introduction

Can curiosity about a leader's college grades ever outweigh their right to privacy? The recent judgment of the Delhi High Court has once again brought into sharp focus the delicate balance between transparency in governance and the protection of individual privacy. What began as a routine information request soon evolved into a significant legal dispute over the limits of the Right to Information Act, 2005. In its August 2025 decision, the Delhi High Court underscored that while public office invites scrutiny, the protection of personal information remains a constitutional guarantee unless a compelling public interest justifies disclosure.

### Case in a nutshell

The controversy traces back to 2015, when an RTI applicant Neeraj, sought access to full results of all students who appeared in the BA exam in 1978, including names, roll numbers, fathers' names, marks and whether they passed or failed. The request drew attention because 1978 was the year Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi had reportedly completed his graduation. The University denied the application, arguing that such data was personal information, exempted under Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act. The matter was appealed, and the Central Information Commission (CIC) ordered the University to permit inspection of the

registers of all 1978 BA graduates. Delhi University, along with CBSE in similar disputes involving politicians' academic records, challenged these directions before the Delhi High Court. After prolonged litigation, Justice Sachin Datta ruled in August 2025 that marksheets, grades, answer scripts and related academic records are personal information. The court criticised the CIC's approach as “thoroughly misconceived” and warned against allowing RTI to become a tool for “fodder for sensationalism” rather than a genuine instrument of accountability.

### Balancing the Right to Know with the Right to Privacy

At the heart of this case lies a clash of two constitutional rights, which can also be termed as a classic constitutional tension: transparency versus privacy. The High Court noted that the Right to Information and the Right to Privacy stand on equal footing, where neither right is absolute. The RTI Act itself strikes the balance wherein Section 3 gives every citizen the right to information, while Section 8 carves out exemptions, including personal information.

The Delhi High Court laid down a clear test: First, ask whether the information attracts a reasonable expectation of privacy? If yes, does an overriding public interest justify disclosure despite this expectation?

The court leaned heavily on the Supreme Court's landmark judgment in *KS Puttaswamy v Union of India*, which elevated privacy to the status of a fundamental right under Article 21. It explained that privacy protects dignity, autonomy, and the right to control personal information. Thus, simply holding public office does not erase individual's privacy rights.

### **When does Public Interest trump Privacy?**

The court made a crucial distinction that, 'something of interest to the public' is not the same as 'something in the public interest'. Public interest can override privacy when the disclosure directly ensures eligibility for public office, exposes fraud or misrepresentation, protects an important public cause such as health or safety, or has a clear link to official accountability.

The court stressed the need for an objective test and not subjective political motivations. A Central Public Information Officer must identify the purpose of the request and check whether there is a clear, rational link to public accountability. In the PM's degree case, no such link was established. Educational qualifications were not a statutory requirement for the office of Prime Minister, nor was there any allegation of fraud linked to his official duties.

### **The Importance of this Decision**

This judgment is a valuable reminder of how courts balance competing rights and shape doctrine through practical disputes. It shows that the RTI Act, while being a vital

instrument for transparency, is not limitless and cannot be used to pry into private data like academic records without good reason. By reinforcing privacy as a constitutional guarantee under Puttaswamy, the Court has clarified that the right to know is not automatically superior to the right to be let alone. The decision also warns against mistaking political curiosity or media attention for genuine public interest, and its criticism of the CIC highlights the importance of discipline in watchdog institutions.

The Delhi High Court's verdict is a reminder that what is of interest to the public is not always in the public interest. It is an invitation to think about where lines should be drawn, and how to ensure that RTI remains a scalpel for accountability and not a sledgehammer for intrusion.

*- AAKARSH, 5<sup>th</sup> Year, B.B.A., LL.B., 'A'*



**THE  
CONSTITUTION OF INDIA**

We, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a **SOVEREIGN, SOCIALIST, SECULAR, DEMOCRATIC, REPUBLIC**, and to secure to all its citizens:

**JUSTICE**, social, economic and political  
**LIBERTY** of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship,  
**EQUALITY** of status and of opportunity and to promote among them all  
**FRATERNITY** assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-ninth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.