

ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education

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Women – Championing Environmental Sustainability

On January 25, 2024, the eve of the 75th Republic Day, the Indian government announced the list of winners of the Padma Awards 2024. Among the winners of the Padma Shri awards was Chami Murmu, an environmental activist from Jharkhand, popularly known as Lady Tarzan for her contribution to the protection of forests and wildlife in Saraikela Kharsawan, one of the most backward districts of the state. The journey of the tribal woman, who braved oppression and personal tragedy to dedicate her life to restoring the environmental balance in an area plundered by the timber mafia, is a story of resilience and inspiration.

A school dropout, Chami Murmu started working as a laborer at the age of 10 to support her mother and three siblings. When she was about 16, she attended a meeting at which she learned about the importance of tree plantations and environmental conservation. She then started planting saplings in her village, but soon ran into opposition from the community and elders. Undeterred, Chami gathered the support of women in the neighborhood and formed a group called Sahayogi Mahila Bagraisai with 11 members. These women started a small nursery and began planting eucalyptus, sal, acacia, seesham, and neem saplings in the barren lands around their village. At the same time, they also protected the trees from loggers.

Over the years several women from the neighboring villages joined the group, which now has over 3000 members. These women have planted 30 lakh trees in more than 500 villages in the state of Jharkhand, helping to restore forests in the area, which were destroyed by the timber mafia. The network of women has grown so

strong that they get information of any tree being illegally cut in the area and group members immediately reach the place to stop the felling.

While Chami Murmu shows how a single woman's determination can result in a huge change in the environment, she also brings to mind the Chipko Movement of the 1970s. In the Chipko Movement, women in Uttar Pradesh formed themselves into groups to prevent deforestation in the Himalayan region. Deforestation had resulted in the destruction of wildlife habitat, caused environmental damage, and impacted the livelihoods of the natives who depended on the forests in the area. The local women then took a stance against logging and prevented felling by hugging the trees to stop the loggers. The movement then spread across to other areas in the county, and came to be touted as the first ecofeminist movement in the world. These instances show how women in civil society can create powerful networks to stop environmental degradation and spread the cause of environmental sustainability.

OECD quoted studies to show that women and men exhibit different behaviors and attitudes while making choices that affect the environment. Women are more prone to recycling and are more likely to prefer eco-friendly products. They also have a marginally 'greener' attitude when using alternative fuels, transport, etc. OECD also quoted links between women's leadership and positive environmental outcomes in government ministries, corporations, and grass-roots organizations.

An increase in the representation of women in corporate boards and in political roles can help companies and countries give adequate weightage to environmental sustainability. A research study on forestry conservation programmes in India showed that a higher representation of women led to improved conservation outcomes, evident in the increase in forest cover. Women's involvement in making policies also yielded positive outcomes. This reiterates the fact that women as leaders and decision makers can help in advancing environmental sustainability. ♦

Water Walks: The Hidden Cost of Climate Change on Women's Livelihoods



- Dr. A. Suneetha Rajesham,
Asst. Professor, FST

Climate change is a long-term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth's local, regional and global climates. These changes are noticeable in increased temperatures, dried up river beds, decrease in number of trees and foliage for animals, decrease in ground water levels, increase in sea water levels. Decrease in water levels is a huge problem for many nearby villages.

Fetching drinking water is a grueling daily routine for millions of women in India. Enduring the scorching summer months or the freezing winters, they walk for miles every day, balancing plastic or earthen pots on their heads and carrying buckets in their hands to manage the household water requirements. And it is always the women who go to fetch water because men go out for work to earn money.

Women spend four-to-five hours every day travelling back and forth from their nearest reliable water source - a dry lake - to fill their pots. The water is dirty and so they have to dig holes on the side for the water to filter through naturally and seep in.

Because of this daily grind the women can't go anywhere looking for a job and girls can't go to school to study. If they look for a lively hood, their family will have to stay thirsty; if they go for water they can't earn for the family. Either way it's difficult for them and they are forced to live in perennial poverty.

This is particularly true in India where, experts say, the need to secure drinking water is holding women back and hindering economic growth. This is the condition in villages not very far away from the well-developed cities with all facilities.

"First, women can't take up paid work because they have to do all the household chores and secondly, even if they wish to find some work after doing their daily chores, there are not enough paid jobs for women in rural India," says Prof Ashwini Deshpande, who heads the economics department in Delhi's Ashoka University.

International Development Enterprises (IDE) estimated that Indian women spend 150 million workdays every year fetching water, equivalent to a national loss of income of Rs. 10 billion. This impacts not just rural women but also the rural and national economy. Experts say that if women can spend this time in paid activities, they can be financially independent and it can also boost the economy.

The only way to relieve these women and young girl from this burden is to provide drinking water through piped drinking water. Only if all the corporate sectors, whether it is educational institutions or IT sectors come forward to help in the construction of such pipelines, will the women of the rural areas get enough free time to start some business or attend school for studying. ♦

Comparison of Two Metro Station Areas of Two Indian Cities for Socio-Demographic Attributes and Travel Characteristics



On May 3, 2024, at 4:00 PM, Prof. Aruna Sri Reddi, PhD, Professor at the ICFAI School of Architecture, delivered an engaging seminar in Room no. 302, focusing on the comparative analysis of two metro station areas in different Indian cities concerning their socio-

demographic attributes and travel characteristics. Prof. Reddi commenced the seminar by emphasizing the significance of understanding the socio-demographic composition surrounding metro station areas, elucidating factors like population density, income distribution, employment opportunities, and cultural diversity. Through meticulous comparative studies, distinct socio-economic patterns emerged, shedding light on the diverse urban landscapes of the two cities under examination.

Transitioning into the discussion on travel characteristics, Prof. Reddi delved into the intricacies of travel behaviors observed in the vicinity of metro stations. Factors influencing mode choice, including accessibility, affordability, and convenience, were thoroughly analyzed. Through comparative analysis, notable differences in modal shares, trip purposes, and travel distances between the two cities were brought to the forefront, providing valuable insights into the unique travel dynamics shaping urban mobility.

The seminar extended beyond mere observation to discuss the implications of these findings for urban planning endeavors. Prof. Reddi underscored the relevance of incorporating socio-demographic and travel characteristics into infrastructure development, land-use planning, and public transportation policies. Furthermore, she stressed the necessity for context-sensitive approaches tailored to the specific needs and characteristics of each city, advocating for a holistic and inclusive urban planning framework.

In concluding the seminar, Prof. Reddi outlined potential directions for future research, advocating for longitudinal studies to monitor changes in socio-

demographic trends and travel behaviors over time. She also encouraged cross-disciplinary collaborations to address the multifaceted challenges inherent in urban environments comprehensively. Overall, the seminar provided a thought-provoking analysis of metro station areas in Indian cities, offering valuable insights for academia, urban planners, and policymakers, while underscoring the importance of understanding the dynamic relationship between urban form, socio-demographic characteristics, and travel behavior. ♦

Women's Day @ IFHE

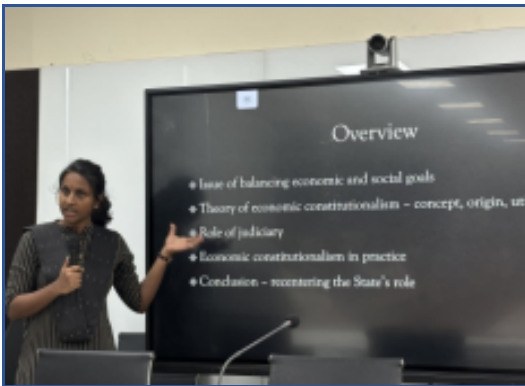


ICFAI Law School Hyderabad celebrated Women's Day on March 7th, 2024. Organized by the Cultural Club of ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad. Prof. S Vijayalakshmi Registrar delivered a motivational speech, emphasizing the pivotal role of women in society. She also shed light on the theme "Inspire Inclusion," urging for the dismantling of barriers and biases to create a more inclusive world where every woman feels valued. Dr. V Asritha, a distinguished Functional Nutritionist and Certified Food & Spirit Practitioner, graced the occasion as the guest of honour. She underscored the significance of healthy dietary habits, offering insights on how they can enhance women's productivity.



The cultural segment featured mesmerizing performances including dances, songs, and speeches by both students and faculty members, showcasing their latent talents. Faculty members had also participated in various competitions organized by the Cultural Club before Women's Day, such as Rangoli, Musical Chairs, Lemon and Spoon race, Badminton, and Chess. Cash prizes were awarded to the winners during the event. ♦

Papers Presented and Published



Ms. Thejaswini Shrikanth, Assistant Professor, ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad presented a faculty seminar titled “Harmonising Economic Growth and Socio-Economic Rights: Need for Economic Constitutionalism in India”, on 09 May 2024.

Abstract: Decisions concerning economic growth and realisation of socio-economic rights are predominantly seen as trade-offs to be made by the State. With the advent of globalisation, neoliberal economic policies have shifted the roles and priorities of the State. Arguably, globalisation has resulted in the State losing its power over regulating the economy. This ‘regulatory race to the bottom’- by way of bartering human rights, labour and environmental standards for short-term economic gains- has impacted the realisation of socio-economic rights. This has prompted a re-examination of the relationship between the government, economy

and society. Existing research has studied the relationship between globalisation and human rights, revealing the primary concern that there are no prescribed rules governing economic policy decisions. A nation's economic policies are charted based on its goals and aspirations, manifested in its constitution. The mechanism to balance these goals takes us to the theory of economic constitutionalism, which is concerned with determining the extent of State intervention in the market. This research will discuss the origin and implications of the theory of economic constitutionalism, which refers to a rules-based constitutional order for making economic policy decisions. Its significance lies in the growing importance of human rights approaches to economic governance, thereby providing avenues for ensuring efficiency without compromising on ‘legal due process’. This research underscores that India is a welfare state, and economic constitutionalism is necessary to re-establish its role as the primary provider of socio-economic rights without compromising its economic objectives. In doing so, this research seeks to provide further insights into the discourse on constitutional law and economics. ♦



Ms. Barkha Joshi, Assistant Professor, ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad, presented a faculty seminar titled “Self-Preferencing in Digital Markets: Exploring Ex Ante Regulation and India's Draft Digital Competition Bill 2024”, on 29 May 2024

Abstract: Self-preferencing is the practice where a platform, like an e-commerce marketplace or search engine, gives its own products or services priority over competitors. While this phenomenon existed in traditional markets, it has become a significant issue in digital markets. Self-preferencing can lead to harm to consumers and stifle competition. Various jurisdictions have tackled this issue, which is evident in cases like the Google Shopping case and the Google Matrimony case, where Google faced penalties for such practices. To address this issue, many countries have embraced ex-ante regulation. Ex ante regulation involves setting clear rules and guidelines for dominant firms to follow proactively rather than relying solely on ex-post enforcement actions after harm has occurred. For instance, the European Union introduced the Digital Markets Act. Following suit, India has taken steps by introducing a Draft Digital Competition Bill 2024. This paper will explore the concept of self-

preferencing, the necessity for ex-ante regulation in digital markets, the key aspects of the Draft Digital Competition Bill 2024, its limitations, and recommendations for improvement. ♦



CS (Dr.) Pallavi Baghe, Assistant Professor, ICAI Law School, Hyderabad, presented a faculty seminar titled “ESG and BRSR: Steering towards Sustainable Governance”, on 30 May 2024.

Abstract: Good governance in corporations is not only essential for companies but is vital to society. Recently, there has been a growing concern about saving Mother Earth’s natural resources to make them last as long as possible. The significant users of natural resources are businesses, so they ought to operate as green as possible without compromising their operations. These days, there is hardly any conversation on corporate governance without talking about Environmental, Social, and Governance regulations (ESG). It is an initiative of the United Nations that refers “to the inclusion of environmental, social and governance criteria into investment decisions taken by companies as a manifestation of responsible or sustainable investment practices.” The three factors look beyond financial metrics and are the drivers of long-term sustainability and success of the company and, ultimately, of the global economy. Consequently, the research analyses the growing recognition of ESG amongst businesses since interconnectedness exists between sustainable business practices, social responsibility, and long-term economic success. The Indian corporate, industrial, banking, and other sectors and investors have understood the importance of ESG, and most of them will fulfill this compliance in the coming years. The ESG framework is not codified in India, but many laws apply to companies that relate to ESG in a fragmented manner. ESG in India is in the evolving stage. Therefore, many challenges have been identified in the effective implementation and integration of ESG practices. This research study examines these challenges, encompassing environmental issues, social considerations, governance structures, sustainable development factors, and uncertainty concerning the director’s duty in ESG matters, and eventually puts forth the recommendation for better integration of ESG into the corporate sector. ♦



Dr. P. L. Jayanthi Reddy, Assistant Professor, ICAI Law School, IFHE, Hyderabad presented a faculty seminar titled “Unfair Practices in Public Examinations: A Legal Perspective”, 07 June 2024.

Abstract: Public examinations are a cornerstone of the education system, determining student progression, certification, and access to higher education and employment opportunities. Unfair exam practices can create significant disparities among students, giving some an unfair advantage over others. It also undermines the principle of meritocracy and can perpetuate inequality. In the last few years, we have witnessed many public examination paper leaks, causing frustration among youth because of the cancellation of exams. With technological advancements, new cheating methods have emerged, necessitating updated legal frameworks to address these sophisticated means of unfair advantage. Therefore, ensuring the integrity of these examinations is paramount to maintaining public trust and ensuring the value of educational qualifications. A new bill can provide comprehensive measures to detect, prevent, and penalize cheating. This article explores the recent The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act 2024, passed by the parliament to prevent unfair means in public examinations, which aims to provide transparency, fairness, and credibility to the public examination system. ♦



Dr Gowri B, Chanal Assistant Professor, ICAI Law School, IFHE, Hyderabad presented a faculty seminar titled “Evaluating the Impact of Foreign Direct Investment on The Retail Sector in India”, 06 June 2024.

Abstract: The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) supports not only the business persons but also their business activities. The country in which such investments are made also stands to benefit as the foreign capital encourages innovative and modern formats of retailing compared to traditional retail stores. The retail sector,

which is one of the formats of business activities, gains by the FDI. However, the extent of the inflow of FDI into a country depends upon that FDI inviting country's policies, infrastructure, and existing market structure. The WTO, GATS, GATT, and the ASEAN, inter alia, have played a crucial role in streamlining foreign trade in goods and services and calling for accountable and transparent government policies in dealing with FDIs. Presently, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and India in the Southeast Asian region possess potential markets for international merchandise, and these markets constitute the largest retailing market in the world, offering a wide range of merchandise. With the inflow of FDI and the entry of foreign retailers, including the mighty retailing Transnational/Multinational Companies, the organisation of retailing itself has undergone a substantial change. Additionally, factors like the introduction of Privatisation, Liberalisation, and Globalisation policies, as well as increasing urban population and expansion of the middle-income and high-income earning groups along with technological advancements, besides the availability of E-market and plastic money, among others, have been instrumental in restructuring the retail activities. There are well-founded speculations and anti-competition market concerns that the smaller and traditional retail activities are adversely affected by modern and bigger retailing. It is a source of livelihood for a major portion of the population in the country. The challenges are that the FDI would improve the efficiency of the retail trade, bring new innovative technology and quality products to the consumers, besides leading to economic growth, is not able to outweigh the threat of livelihood that it poses on the lives of the people involved in the unorganized retail sector. Hence, there is a need to study the implications of FDI on the Retail sector for the purpose of finding the best policies that will enhance India's attractiveness to investors and will lead to consensus between proponents of FDI in India and opposition and to increase the government's commitment towards the WTO regime. The potential of the retail sector and its contribution to the Indian economy highlights the relevance of this research paper. ♦

Dr. Rashmi Sahay, Sr. Assistant Professor, Dept. of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, Faculty of Science and Technology, IcfaiTech



- a) Dr. Rashmi Sahay, Sr. Assistant Professor, Dept. of AI and DS published an article titled "Routing attack induced anomaly detection in IoT network using RBM-LSTM" in Elsevier ICT Express Journal. The journal is a Quartile (Q)-1 journal with an impact factor of 5.4 and is indexed in SCI-E and Scopus. DOI of the article: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ict.2024.04.012>

- b) Dr. Rashmi Sahay published a paper titled "Federated Learning-based Techniques for Healthcare IoV: Challenges and Future Directions - A Knowledge Review" in 9th International Conference for Convergence in Technology (I2CT) during 5th&7th April 2024.



- c) Dr. Rashmi Sahay's project proposal titled: "Quantum Resilient Lightweight Cryptography Models for Constrained IoT Devices" was accepted for IFHE Seed money grant (Amount: Rs. 2,00,000). ♦

Dr. Shyamala Reuben, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Science and Technology, IcfaiTech

- a) Received Graduation for completing Masters in Divinity from GSOL Bangalore on 5th in the month of April.
- b) Participated and Presented Paper in AIRCON Conference held in King's College London, UK on "Religion and Spirituality: A Soul of Positive Youth Behaviour A Study on Socio-Psychological Perspective"



- c) Recognised with the KINGS AWARDS for Psychology and Community Development in London, UK from OXFORD AWARDS CLUB in the month of April. ♦

- **Ms Sai Akhila Budaraju** presented and published a paper Titled 'Revitalizing India's Heritage: A Holistic Approach to Conservation and Preservation' National Conference on Architectural and Cultural Cornerstones organised by JNIAS School of Planning and Architecture, Hyderabad, on April 5th 6th, 2024.



The paper was published in the Conference publication of 'National Conference on Architectural and Cultural Cornerstones' Conference.

- **Ms Sai Akhila Budaraju**, presented and published a paper Titled 'Preservation Strategies for Historic Temples: A Case Study of the Meenakshi Temple in Madurai, Tamil Nadu' International conference on "The Legacy of Traditional Architecture", scheduled on 27 April 2024 at the Department of Architecture, ZHCET, AMU, Ali-garh.

The paper was published in the Conference publication of "The Legacy of Traditional Architecture".

- **Ms Sai Akhila Budaraju** presented and published a paper Titled 'Preserving Cultural Heritage in Urban Landscapes: Strategies for Inclusive Urban Renewal and Heritage Conservation' International conference on "Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Human Settlement" (held by Department of Architecture Poonima University Jaipur in association with COA - TRC Bhopal, ITPI , Synergy University and IGBC from 02 May 2024 - 04 May 2024).

The paper was published in the Conference publication of "Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Human Settlement". Won the best paper award for the Published paper. Publication for Scopus Indexed journal is in process.

- **Ms Sai Akhila Budaraju** presented and published a paper Titled 'Urban Climate Resilience: Innovative Strategies for Adapting to Climate Change Challenges' International conference on "Architecture & Design of Built Environment-2024 (ADoBE'24)", held on 06 June 2024 - 07 June 2024 at the Department of Architecture, Woxen Univeristy.

The paper was published in the Conference publication of "ADoBE'24". Publication for Scopus Indexed journal is in process.

Faculty Seminars/Conference/FDP



Ms. Thejaswini Shrikanth, Assistant Professor, ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad. Harmonising Economic Growth and Socio-Economic Rights: Need for Economic Constitutionalism in India", on 09 May 2024.

Ms. Talari Bhuvanewari, Research Scholar , Computer Science and Engineering, Faculty of Science and Technology (IcfaiTech) attended a Faculty Development program on "Machine Learning Applications for Engineers" during 3rd to 7th June 2024 in CBIT



Dr. P Rohini was invited to be a Session Chair for one technical session of Seventh International Conference on Soft Computing and Signal Processing (ICSCSP — 2024)" scheduled on June 21-22, 2024. The conference was organised by Malla Reddy College of Engineering and Technology (MRCET), Hyderabad, India.

Student Achievements



ICFAI Law School excelled at **Thrithi 2024**, a prestigious event that brought together top institutions. Our students showcased their talent and passion, achieving outstanding results. **First Prize in Solo Competition (Muskan Sem IV)** ♦

Voxpopuli Debate Club is glad to share that our students of VIII Semester **Ms. Swastika** and **Shruti Raj Singh**, participated in the **National Debate Competition** organized by Woxsen University School of Law held on 30th and 31st of May 2024 in virtual mode and were declared as winners of the competition. ♦