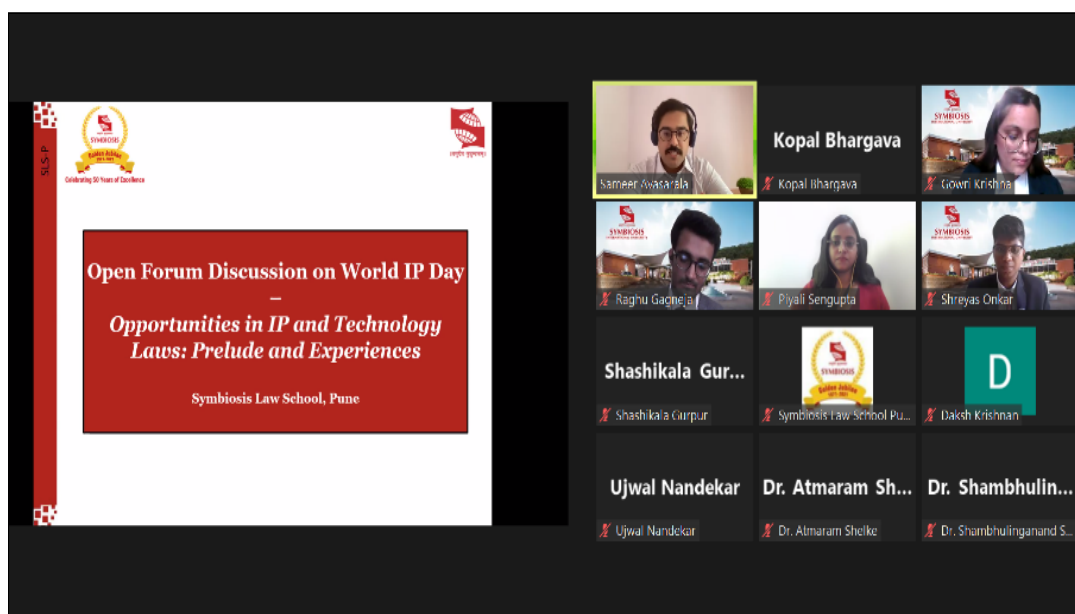


REPORT ON OPEN FORUM DISCUSSION ON WORLD IP DAY 2022



DETAILS OF THE EVENT

Date	6 th May, 2022
Time	3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Venue	Zoom (Virtual)
Nature of Event	Open Forum Discussion on World IP Day 2022
Conducted by	Tech Legal Cell and Career & Professional Development Cell, Symbiosis Law School, Pune
Resource Persons	1. Mr. Sameer Avasarala, Senior Associate, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan 2. Ms. Piyali Sengupta, Legal Counsel, Truecaller
Theme	<i>Opportunities in IP and Technology Laws: Prelude and Experiences</i>

Rapporteur(s):

- Mallika Tewari (III Year, 2019-24, BBA-LLB)
- Vaishali Prasad (II Year, 2020-23, LLB)
- Kopal Bhargava (II Year, 2020-25, BA-LLB)
- Param B Kailash (I Year, 2021-26, BBA-LLB)

Editor of the Report:


- Garv Chawla (II Year, 2020-25, BBA-LLB)

SUMMARY OF THE EVENT

INTRODUCTION TO OPEN FORUM DISCUSSION

An Open Forum Discussion on World Intellectual Property Day 2022 was conducted by the Tech Legal Cell in collaboration with the Career and Professional Development Cell. The Theme of the Open Forum Discussion was centered on the *Opportunities in IP and Technology Laws*, wherein two distinguished resource persons graced the event by sharing their experiences and enlightening the students on the various dimensions of IP, Tech and Media Laws.

The Convenor of the Tech Legal Cell, Ms. Gowri Krishna, began the session by introducing the Theme for the Open Forum Discussion and setting the stage for the welcome address to be given by the Director of Symbiosis Law School, Pune, Dr. Shashikala Gurpur Ma'am.



REC

DR. SHASHIKALA GURPUR
Fulbright Scholar
Jean Monnet Chair Professor (2021-2024)
Director, Symbiosis Law School, Pune
Dean, Faculty Of Law, Symbiosis International (Deemed University)
Karnataka Govt. Annual Kirtur Rani Chennamma Awardee 2018-2019

Current Positions

- Director, Symbiosis Law School, Pune.
- Dean, Faculty of Law, SIU.
- Jean Monnet Chair Professor (2021-2024).
- Member of Curriculum Development Committee, Bar Council of India, Academic Council of National Judicial Academy, Bhopal, IALS Global Law Dean's Forum, International Consortium of Law Schools.
- Member, MCCA Corporate Legislation Committee 2020-2022.
- Principal investigator and Project Manager in several research projects like Erasmus projects on 21st Teach Skills, Climate Change Policy and Law, ILFM, ICSSR Projects, etc.

Experience

- Listed as one of the '100 Legal Luminaries of India' by LexisNexis.
- Former member of the Law commission of India.
- More than 26 years of teaching experience including tenures in NLSIU, Bangalore, SDM Law College, Mangalore, Manipal Institute of Communication, MAHE, Manipal and University College Cork, Ireland.
- 72 articles/research papers, two co-authored books and twelve book chapters to her credit.
- Acted as an Advisor to research project and publication for Asian Network of Women in Communication sponsored by WACC, UK in 1999-2004
- Distinguished Member Of The Editorial Board of LexisNexis Butterworths, Journal of IPR by CSIR, Law and Policy Journal, Dublin, Ireland, Polish Law Review.

Education

- Ph.D. in International Law (Mysore University) UGC-NET
- LL.M. Mysore University (Gold Medalist)

ADDRESS BY DR. SHASHIKALA GURPUR MA'AM

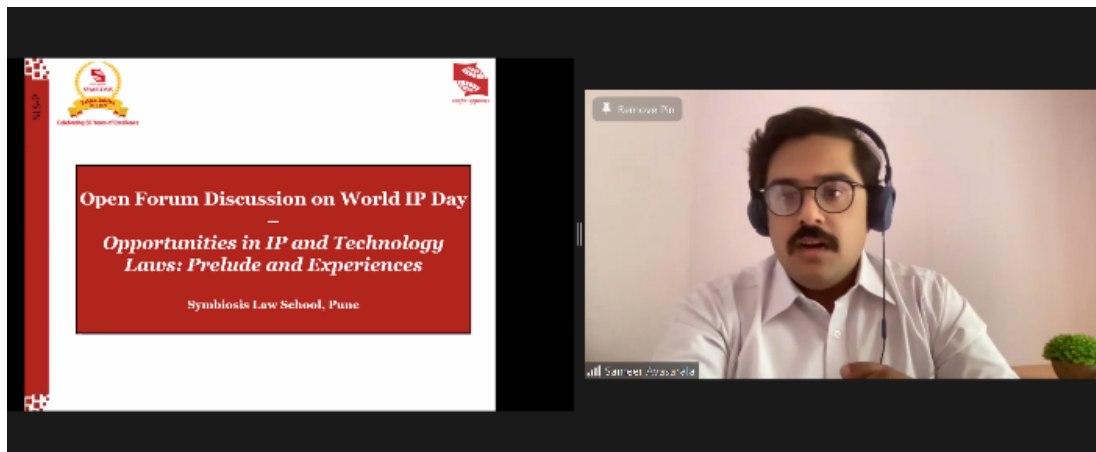
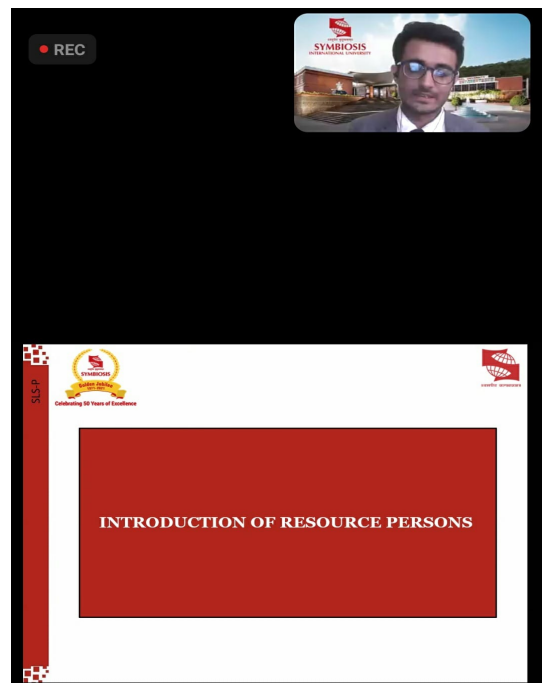
Dr. Shashikala Gurpur Ma'am is the Director of Symbiosis Law School, Pune and the Dean, Faculty of Law, for Symbiosis International University. Dr. Gurpur Ma'am is an accomplished academician, a passionate researcher, toastmaster and a Fulbright scholar. She is also the Jean Monnet Chair Professor for EU Climate Justice, Law, Governance, Management and Policy – whose welcome address highlighted critical areas within the domain of IP Law. The address delineated how intellectual property is the cornerstone for materializing the ingenuity and innovation among the youth, and how such innovation by the youth will not have protection without the existence of IP Law.

Dr. Gurpur Ma'am also accentuated the need for incentivising IP and how it should be considered to have great potential and a future for generating income, providing employment, and contributing to national and community development. She also highlighted the colossal importance of an IP Lawyer who not only is capable of fostering innovation in legislation but also tips the scales toward the righteousness and ingenuity of innovation.

Dr. Gurpur Ma'am also mentioned the various nuances that exist in the field of IP with reference to stem cell-based products, and how future IP lawyers need to be well equipped, capable, and innovative to tackle such upcoming issues.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOURCE PERSONS

The first resource person for the event was introduced by the Co-Convenor of the Tech Legal Cell, Mr. Raghu Gagneja.



Mr. Sameer Avasarala is an alumnus of Symbiosis Law School, Pune, and works as a Senior Associate in Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan on Corporate Advisory and Data Protection. In the past, he has been an Associate at Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas – working as a part of their Technology, Media, and Telecommunication team.

In his address, Mr. Sameer spoke about his affiliation with IP since his time in college and showed increasing importance and dedication towards IP during his time in college. He emphasized how IP Law has been gaining increasing recognition in the world after he graduated from law school and his experience post the explosion of Technology Law in 2017, with the landmark ruling in the case of Puttaswamy by the Supreme Court.

Mr. Sameer has advised several clients on cases that involve the Data Protection Bill and advised several companies on data protection, compliance assessments in privacy laws and laws revolving around gaming as well. In addition to Indian laws, Mr. Sameer also has experience with laws around the world on the matters. Consequently, he explained that there is an increasing preference for lawyers to be well-acquainted with EU Law and Indian Law on matters involving IP in order to take up cases involving cross-border work.

Mr. Sameer concluded by stating that the convergence of regimes to develop a global standard is imminent and there will be a need for all to comply with such global standards. Mr. Sameer's address was followed up by Ms. Piyali Sengupta's address consequent to a brief introduction.



Ms. Piyali Sengupta works as a Legal Counsel at Truecaller International LLP in Bangalore. She previously worked with Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, Bangalore – dealing with drafting, and performing reviews of various technology agreements and IP assignments. Ms. Piyali has also worked with Reliance concerning the development of technology and Yupp TV, which is a media entertainment company that serves as an OTT platform for Indian users in the USA.

She has been an invaluable asset to the TMT team and has extensively dealt with several IP and Media Law-related issues. Some of her key experiences include dealing with an AI company that dealt with detecting human movement, AI-driven vending machines using iris detection, and

drafting several software license agreements. Her address also stressed the very technical and careful aspects of her work wherein she had to be very cautious about the rights that should be mentioned in a software agreement, and making sure that ads were within certain compliances.

Ms. Piyali concluded by explaining how regulation law has a need to catch up with technology law and how it proves to be a common contention among IP-focussed discussions.

After the addresses of the resource persons, the floor was open to discussions wherein the students who attended the Open Forum Discussion were allowed to question the resource persons on the various perplexities that exist in the field of Tech and IP Laws and prospective queries on pursuing a career in these domains.

With regards to what a student can stand to gain from TMT Law, Mr. Sameer explained how technology laws are going to have an increasing role regardless of whether a person works in the TMT sector or not.

Students also asked questions on how to build the foundation to study IP Law, for which Ms. Piyali advised on laying the groundwork from college itself and developing a reading habit towards laws revolving around IP. She also explained how IP is a vast subject and to carefully decide on whether IP and TMT Law is the course the students are willing to take and build on for their future careers.

When asked on how students can be updated on the various legal developments in these ever evolving fields, Mr. Sameer highlighted how even major conglomerates and IP firms look up material/research published by students on the latest developments in IP and how the vast student resources available are gradually gaining drastic importance.

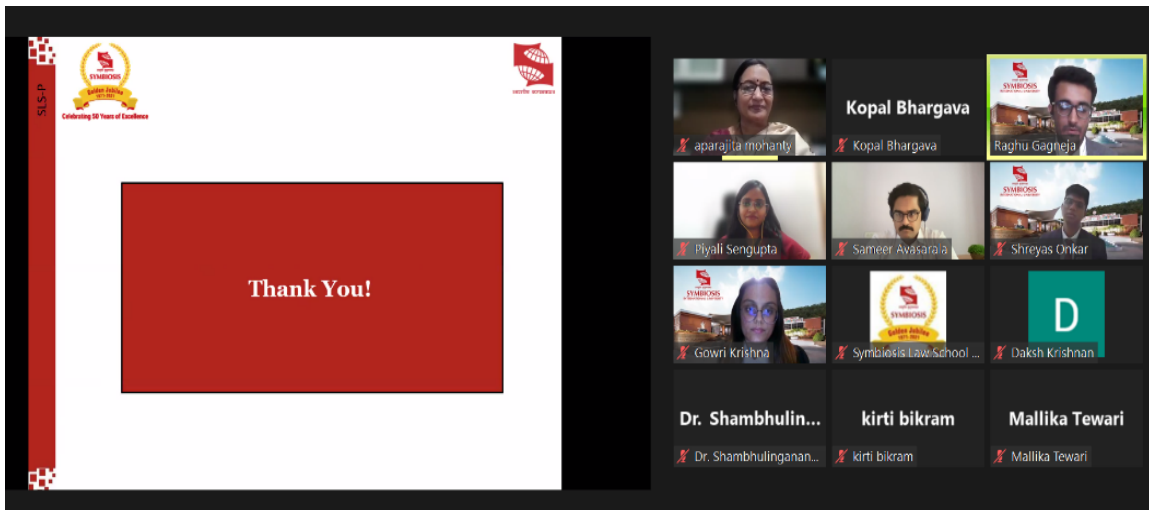
Ms. Piyali also addressed how lawyers were the least affected and largely well-protected by the pandemic and there is an increasing need for more lawyers in the TMT field when asked about the opportunities that exist for lawyers post the Covid-19 pandemic.



The students also posed the question as to what field of IP Law among Trademark, Copyright, and Patent has most opportunities; to which the resource persons explained how there are no barriers that exist to participate in all three fields, and a knowledge of all three fields is required to survive in the Tech Law field.

Mr. Sameer and Ms. Piyali concluded the Open Forum Discussion by emphasizing how fruitfully the discussion had proceeded. The journey of the panelists from their respective law schools to their respective firms/companies was highlighted to the students and served as an example to inspire a similar path to lay the ground-work and construct a pathway to a career in IP and Technology Laws.

The panelists emphasized the immense scope of IP. Further emphasizing that dedication, hard work, and early focus of the students would lay concrete foundation to pursue a career in this field.



The Open Forum Discussion ended with the vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Aparajita Mohanty Ma'am, the Deputy Director of Academics in Symbiosis Law School, Pune.

LEARNING OUTCOME AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

The session was very helpful and insightful as it dissected and laid down various aspects and opportunities in the fields of IP and Tech Laws. The resource persons' invaluable experience and insights into ground reality of the industry – provided students a new perspective on the nuances and intricacies involved in the area of IP and Tech Laws.

The speakers not only drew attention to the Indian scenario but also gave a global picture of what this field has in store for those who wish to pursue a career in IP Law and Tech Law. The discussion addressed a multitude of branches ranging from Technology, Media and Telecommunications, Artificial Intelligence, to Privacy Law and Cyber Security.

Overall, it was an immensely insightful session which not only addressed the opportunities and career aspects related to IP and Tech Laws but also addressed the doubts of students to make them well-acquainted to pursue a career in the aforementioned fields. The celebration of World IP Day 2022 can thus be concluded as a success, by encouraging future generations to build on opportunities available at the confluence of IP and Tech Laws.