

Data Privacy in the times of a Pandemic

As a part of virtual learning sessions, the Moot Court Association of School of Law, Mumbai University's Thane-Sub Campus organised the 2nd webinar on 1st May 2020. This is an initiative wherein guest lecturers from different fields of law with expertise come up and share their intellect, guiding the students about the way things are shaping up in the legal field. The guest lecturer for the second webinar was **Mr Vikram Koppikar** holding expertise in Data Privacy, Banking, Mergers and Acquisitions and IPR. The webinar raised questions, allowed the students to contemplate the importance of Data Privacy in the times of a Pandemic like Covid-19.

The session was scheduled at 6.00 pm IST and was started by the kind words of the Director of the University, **Dr Sunita Magre** and a brief introduction about the esteemed guest. Mr Koppikar commenced the session by talking about the actions or acts passed by various government and organisations, how these enforced acts violated the guidelines of privacy and how the decisions could have been made better by not upholding the privacy in the times of pandemic. He discussed the WHO health guidelines on how the medical data is processed without the explicit consent of the holder and also the government of different states of the country published travel records, patients diagnosed with Covid-19 on the government sites. He further shed light on the integrity of geo-fencing, Arogya Setu App and Corona Kavach App and discussed every parameter related to them in detail. He even highlighted the Puttaswamy judgement, the different tests of privacy listed in this landmark case on Right to Privacy and how there has been a severe violation of privacy by giving examples of the instances. The lecturer later addressed the questions of the students. It was an interactive session wherein the students were allowed to bring up their doubts or questions which were duly answered by Mr Koppikar. The questions were regarding various topics such as the Arogya Setu App and its criticism, a career in data privacy and related field, data protection bill in detail. Mr Koppikar answered all the questions by illustrating examples and analysing every aspect in detail.

The lecture was concluded by **Dr Raina Midha**, who thanked Mr Vikram Koppikar on behalf of the students and University for providing such valuable insight to everyone and taking out his time to educate them. The session was attended by a total of 33 participants who found it informative and helpful. The response to the session was in a significant number, and the enthusiasm showed by the participants was appreciated by Mr Vikram Koppikar.