

## GNLU PRESS NOTE No. 15/2018

### Symposium on Convergence of Private International Law in IPR and Cyber Law

“The internet has made geography a history and the real challenge begins in the paradigm of the intersection of cyber law and principles of private international law”

-Mr. Pavan Duggal,

One of the top four cyber lawyers **Globally** &  
President of Cyberlaws.Net. &  
Practising Advocate, Supreme Court of India &  
Resource person at the GNLU *Symposium*

**Gandhinagar, April 04, 2018:** The GNLU Centre for Private International Law in collaboration with GNLU-Microsoft India Chair on Intellectual Property Rights and Policy Research and GNLU-GUJCOST Research Centre of Excellence on IPR Laws, Policies and Practices, organized a ‘*Symposium on Convergence of Private International Law in IPR and Cyber Law*’, on April 01, 2018 at the Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar. The symposium had engaging discussions led by Mr Pravin Anand, Dr Karnika Seth and Mr Pavan Duggal.

**Mr Narinder Singh, Chairman of the UN International Law Commission** and former **Legal Adviser to the Ministry of External Affairs, India** delivered the keynote address on ‘**Development of Private International Law in India**’. Mr Singh briefly touched upon the basics of Private International Law and historical aspects while explaining the importance of various conventions and instruments under the Hague Conference on Private International Law. Further, he added, how IPR and Cyber Law converge with Private International Law, with the emergence of technologically advanced world sans physical boundaries. Ending his address, Mr Singh said that though the internet is highly beneficial it is inappropriately used, which may take the global order for a spin.

The Symposium witnessed lectures from dignitaries at the forefront of Cyber Law and IPR in India.

**Mr Pavan Duggal** is **one of the top four cyber lawyers around the world** and is the President of Cyberlaws.Net. Apart from serving as a practising Advocate, Supreme Court of India, he has been associated with several world-renowned organization and associations.

Mr Pravin Anand is the managing partner of the Anand and Anand (full-service IP law firm), practising as he himself put it first an Intellectual Property Lawyer.

Dr Karnika Seth is a cyberlaw expert, Founding Partner at Seth Associates and Chairperson of Lex Cyberia at Seth Associates.

Session one was a highly energetic session conducted by Mr Pravin Anand rolling the ball with a discussion on the convergence of IPR and Private International Law. He emphasized on traditional disputes in IP like infringement actions, validity challenges and conflict of laws that would arise if such disputes are conducted outside territorial boundaries. Mr Anand laid particular emphasis on Indian approach and the similarities and differences with other national approaches and International instruments. He concluded that the issues arising from the convergence of IPR and PrIL are not relevant in the bulk of IP litigation, but arise in mega litigation. However, these issues are of great importance.

Session two was led by Dr Karnika Seth, who presented her views on the convergence of Cyber Law and Private International Law. The main focus of her discussion extended to IPR, Cyber Law, Evidence Act and crimes especially cybercrimes. She concluded the presentation by a brief discussion on conflict of jurisdiction and the necessity of Private International Law to intervene in Cyber Law matters.

Session three was conducted by Mr Pavan Duggal, via a Skype lecture, on Cyber Law and the paradigm of Private International Law. He discussed what the internet is and how cyber law is dealt with principles of private international law and gave insightful examples of the Russian meddling and the WannaCry software and others. He thoroughly explained challenges of the cyberspace and India's attitude of denial to cyberspace attacks, laying emphasis on the absence of a global convention to combat cybercrime. His discussion also entailed a comparative analysis of China and the stark contrast of its heavy development in cyber security laws. In concluding his presentation, he laid emphasis on the recommendations of Justice Sri Krishna's committee.

Dr RK Singh, Dean, Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Law, Gujarat National Law University, and Dr Ranita Nagar, Dean, Research & Publication and Professor of Economics, Gujarat National Law University delivered the welcome address. Dr Singh highlighted the mission of academic excellence and vision of holistic learning at GNLU, while Dr Nagar enlightened the participants about the learning experience that must be taken away from this discourse on contemporary issues.

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