

Course title : Electricity Law, Reforms and Practice				
Course code : MPL 163	No. of credits : 2	L-T-P distribution : 12-16	Learning hours : 28	
Pre-requisite course code and title (if any) :				
Faculty :		Centre for Post Graduate Legal Studies		
Course coordinator (s) : Dr. M P Ram Mohan		Course instructor (s) : Avijeet Lala		
Contact details : avijeet.lala@hsalegal.com				
Course type		Elective		
Course offered in		Semester 2		
Course Description:				
<p>This course deals with the legal, policy and business issues concerning the electricity sector of India. It is designed to provide the students with a comprehensive overview of the subject, and the opportunity to explore legal responses to social and economic challenges which the sector faces. The course will involve advanced study of topical legal issues with the aid of real life case studies.</p>				
Course objectives :				
<p>This course will give the students an overview of electricity laws and policies in India, take them through the reform cycles that has taken place in Indian electricity sector, and equip the students with the practice of electricity laws. The main objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mapping of various laws and policies relating to electricity sector; 2. Understanding the reform agenda and policy objectives impacting the electricity sector; and 3. Case studies to get insight into the practice of electricity laws covering government policies, judicial decisions, topics such as open access, parallel licensing, tariff fixation etc. 				
Course Contents:				
Module	Topic	L	T	P
1.	Introduction to electricity laws and reforms in India Political and legislative history of electricity laws and reforms; legal, political and social conflicts surrounding electricity regulation; constitutional and legal basis for electricity regulation in India	2		
2.	Indian Power Sector and Electricity Act, 2003 Overview of Indian power sector; scheme and salient features of EA03; legal and regulatory concepts under EA03; key institutions under EA03; role of government in electricity regulation; EA03 and business interface; walk through of EA03 provisions; critics view point on EA03	2		

3.	<p>Concept of Open Access, Parallel Licensing and power trading</p> <p>Understanding concept of open access; regulatory provisions and challenges in implementation of open access; multiple licensees in distribution - importance and impediments; provisions regarding power trading, power exchange and market development; captive generating plant</p> <p><i>Case studies and Class room exercise:</i></p>	2	5	
4.	<p>Renewable Energy – Regulatory framework</p> <p>Provisions regarding renewable energy under EA03; regulatory treatment of renewable energy; government policies and programmes</p> <p><i>Case studies:</i></p>	2	2	
5.	<p>Tariff Determination - Generation, Transmission, Distribution</p> <p>Principles and process for tariff determination; regulatory norms for tariff fixation; concept of ABT and UI mechanism; scheduling and despatch and grid system; POC charges and transmission tariff; Multi Year Tariff; cost plus tariff fixation versus tariff discovery through competitive bidding;</p> <p><i>Case studies and Class room exercise:</i></p>	2	4	
6.	<p>Opportunities and Challenges of electricity regulation in India – Generation, Transmission, Distribution, Trading</p> <p>Opportunities in electricity sector; challenges in electricity regulation; regulatory uncertainty; issues relating to fuel shortage and power evacuation; subsidy; tariff design; T&D loss; network laying; balancing competition and consumer interest etc.</p> <p><i>Case studies and Class room exercise:</i></p>	2	5	
Total		12	16	0
Evaluation procedure :				
Weightage (%)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation : 10 • Term Paper : 25 • Presentation : 25 • Final examination : 40 				
Learning outcomes :				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Able to understand specific sectoral legal issues and the regulatory challenges of electricity business 2. Appreciate the critical legal and regulatory issues relating to electricity, business and society 				

Pedagogical approach :

The electricity law course will be taught through interactive sessions based on prior discussed readings. Many legal principles have a strong relation with sector policies and politics, and also court decisions. The course will brief introduce specific sector issues and legal framework. Subsequent classes will be based on tutorials where students will have a central role in discussing and raising legal issues.

Suggested Readings :

1. Report of Expert Committee on State-Specific Reforms - Structuring of APDRP, Reform Framework and Principles of Financial Restructuring of SEBs, Ministry of Power, Government. of India, September 2002.
2. Report of the Expert Group on Restructuring SEBs, Group headed by Montek Singh Ahluwalia, 2001.
3. Lok Sabha Debates, Electricity Bill 2001.
4. Electrifying India - Regional Political Economies of Development, Sunila S. Kale, Stanford University Press, 2014.

Additional information (if any) :**Student responsibilities :**

Attendance: At-least 75% attendance will be necessary to be able to appear for the final exam.

Course Reviewers:

Mr. Sakya Chaudhuri, Partner, HSA Advocates

Mr. Sanjay Sen, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court