

Course title: Environmental Aspects of Business Activities					
Course code MPL 156	No. of credits: 2	L-T-P distribution: 14-14-0	Learning hours: 28		
Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): Environmental Law and Policy (NRE 155/MPL 155)					
Department: Centre for Postgraduate Legal Studies					
Course coordinator (s) : Dr. Lakshmi Raghupati		Course instructor (s): Dr. Lakshmi Raghupati			
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Course type	Core				
Course offered in	Semester 2				
Course Description					
<p>Business organizations have to comply with various environmental regulations on a daily basis. These regulations start operating from the inception stage onwards. In addition, the growing environmental consciousness and consumer preferences have forced business to go green. In this context, this course is intended to introduce the students to the legal issues in the interface between environment and business. In that process it introduces various environmental regulations that directly affect business operations. The voluntary environmental standards and the liability issues in mergers and acquisitions are also discussed. The course will build on the knowledge gained in the basic course on <i>Environmental Law and Policy</i>.</p>					
Course objectives					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To analyse various environmental regulations that have a bearing on business activities. 2. To understand the liability principles and its importance in mergers and acquisitions. 3. To provide an overview of the voluntary initiatives by the industry to address environmental concerns. 					
Course Content			L	T	P
Module 1: Introduction			4		
The changing nature of business and its interaction with nature Nature as a commodity, valuation issues, property rights Greening of Business Environmental Standards: ISO 14000 family Forest Stewardship Council, Marine Stewardship Council Sustainable Stock Exchange Initiative, Sustainability Reporting CSR requirements under the Companies Act					
Module 2: Consent and industrial siting			2	2	
Consent requirements: Consent to operate and establish Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 PCBs/CPCB/PCC: powers, composition etc. Uniform consent rules Environment (Siting for Industrial Projects) Rules, 1999 Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989					
Module 3: Environmental Clearance			2	4	
Concept of EIA; Models-mandatory, discretionary Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, EIA notification- categorization, steps involved, general conditions, validity and monitoring; Appeal – role of NGT					
Module 4: Clearances under the Forest and Wildlife Protection Laws			2	4	
Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; Procedure for forest clearance; Different stages; Valuation, Compensatory afforestation CEC, NGT Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and clearances					

Module 5: Biological Diversity	2	2	
Biological Diversity Act, 2002; Access and Benefit sharing; IPR issues, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001.			
Module 6: Liability and other issues	2	2	
Legal principles relating to liability; Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991; Liability for nuclear accidents Extended Producer Responsibility: E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016, Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2016 Importance in Mergers & Acquisitions			
Total	14	14	
Evaluation criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation : 10 • Term Paper : 25 • Presentations : 25 • Major Test : 40 			
Learning outcomes By the end of the course, it is expected that the students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify various environmental issues involved in business operations and be in a position to prepare client briefs. 2. Spell out various compliance requirements under environmental laws and advise clients accordingly. 			
Pedagogical approach A mixture of lecture and discussion methods will be adopted. The topics under each module will be introduced through an introductory lecture, followed by discussions by students. Students are expected to come prepared and initiate discussions on topics that have been assigned beforehand.			
Materials Suggested Readings <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kohli, Kanchi and Menon, Manju (eds.) (2016), <i>Business Interests and Environmental Crisis</i>, New Delhi: Sage. 2. UNEP (2015), <i>Stock exchanges and Sustainability</i>, Geneva: International Environment House. 3. OECD (2006), <i>Environmental Compliance and Enforcement in India: Rapid Assessment</i>, New Delhi: OECD India. 			
Additional information (if any)			
Student responsibilities Students are expected to come prepared with readings and actively participate in the discussions.			

Course Reviewers

1. Ms. Els Rynaers Kini, Partner, M. V. Kini & Co., Mumbai.
2. Prof. Bindu Ronald, Professor, Professor, Symbiosis Law School, Pune.