



# **National Webinar on Criminal Justice System during the Pandemic 2021**



**Surendranath Law College**

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# Challenges before the Criminal Justice System in India during Covid-19 Pandemic

Organized by –Surenranath Law College, Kolkata

Date – 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

(Through Zoom Online Platform)

Chairperson: Dr. Mohammadi Tarannum

Convener: Dr. Caesar Roy

The criminal justice system of any State is the set of agencies and processes established by governments for administration of criminal justice aimed at controlling crime and imposing punishment on persons who violate the law. The criminal justice system is an instrument for social control to ensure people obey the laws and in case of violations there exists provisions of imposition of punishments. It is a group of all the agencies that help to maintain law and order in the nation. The criminal justice system is used to punish criminals so that crimes can be prevented or when crimes occur there Other forms of Social Control include family, educational institutions, religious places, etc. But these agents help in moral control. Only the criminal justice system leads to crime control and ensures justice by punishing criminals. India's criminal justice system is based on the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)** ('Indian Justice Code') which is the official criminal code of the country. It came into effect on 1 July, 2024 after being passed by the parliament in December 2023 to replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), enacted in 1860 which dated back to the period of British India. Criminal Justice System involves maintaining the rule of law in the country ,preventing crime ,adjudicating crime and criminals, compensating and rehabilitating victims and deterring offenders from committing any crime in the future.

Surenranath Law College, Kolkata organized a National Webinar on "**Challenges before the Criminal Justice System in India during Covid-19 Pandemic**" on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 through Zoon Online Platform. Near about 200 students, Research Scholars and Faculty Members from the various Colleges and University across the country participated in this National Webinar.

Criminal Justice System is established to maintain law and order and control crime. But the virus outbreak has affected the criminal justice system in India and facing various challenges in this regard. The object of this webinar was to discuss the

various issues relating to the challenges before the Criminal Justice System in India during COVID-19 Pandemic. The various subthemes of the webinar was as follows –

- Virtual Court – A New Trend in Access to Justice (Future of Litigation and Court Practice in India)
- Pandemic and Its Effect on Domestic Violence
- Correctional Administration and the Rights of the Arrested Persons and Under Trial Prisoners
- Bail and the Rights of the Arrested Person during Pandemic
- Pandemic and Use of Epidemic Diseases Act as well as Disaster Management Act
- Human Rights of Vulnerable During Pandemic

The webinar was overall conducted, supervised and moderated by **Dr. Mohammadi Tarannum**, Vice-Principal of Surendranath Law College **who was the** Chairperson of this Webinar. The keynote speakers were **Prof. (Dr.) Nirmal Kanti Chakrabarti** Hon'ble **Vice-Chancellor, West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (WBNUJS)**, Kolkata and the Chief Guest, **Honourable Mr. Justice Bibek Chaudhuri, High Court at Calcutta.**

**Prof. (Dr.) Nirmal Kanti Chakrabarti** delivered his speech on "*Challenges before the Criminal Justice System in India during COVID-19 Pandemic.*" Later the Chief Guest, **Honourable Mr. Justice Bibek Chaudhuri**, High Court at Calcutta shared his concern about the various issues relating to the challenges before the Criminal Justice System in India during COVID-19 Pandemic. After the inaugural session, the four eminent Resource persons delivered their important speech on theme of webinar and related aspects. It was followed by interaction session.

**Prof. (Dr.) Bharti**, Professor of Law at **National Law University, Delhi** and **Prof. (Dr.) Sarfaraz Ahmed Khan**, Faculty Member of West Bengal **National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata.**

The first Resource person **Prof. (Dr.) Sarfaraz Ahmed Khan**, Faculty Member of West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata, gave a detailed presentation on "*COVID 19 Pandemic and the Consequential Regulatory Framework in India.*" The presentation was quite detailed and covered many details of regulatory framework in India to tackle this Pandemic issues. The second Resource person **Prof. (Dr.) Bharti, Professor of Law at National Law University, Delhi**, delivered her lecture on "*Gender Related Offences in the time of Pandemic.*" Various genders related issues and offences during this Pandemic were nicely discussed by the speaker. The third Resource Person , **Dr. Sathish Gowda, Associate Professor, Dept. of Studies in Law & University Law College, Bangalore University** delivered his lecture on "*Compensation to COVID*

*Victims under Criminal Justice System in India – A Human Rights Perspective.”* Various schemes and plans of compensation under the laws and policies of the Government to the COVID victims in the human rights perspective were placed by the speaker.

The Resource person, **Dr. Aneesh V. Pillai**, Assistant Professor of Law, **School of Legal Studies, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kerala**, delivered his lecture on *"Pandemic and Legal Framework in India."* Laws and regulations during this Pandemic were discussed by the last speaker.

After completion of the lecture of each resource person there followed an interactive question and answer session which proved to be intellectually stimulating and academically engaging for all participants as all the Resource persons answered the questions passionately and provided valuable insights.

The technical session was chaired by **Prof. (Dr.) Sarfaraz Ahmed Khan**, Faculty Member of West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences. In this session papers were presented by the various students, scholars and Faculty on various aspects of the sub themes of the webinar. The programme clinched with proposing Votes of Thanks by **Dr. Caesar Roy**, distinguished faculty member of Surendranath Law College and also Convenor of this National Webinar. He explicably thanked one and all for their presence and support in drawing out the success of the Webinar. Feedback link was given in the chat box to all the participants for due fill in and submission. Certificate dispatch was assured to be emailed to all the participants within fifteen days from the completion of the event. **Dr. Mohammadi Tarannum**, Vice-Principal of Surendranath Law College & Chairperson of this National Webinar formally closed the event with best wishes and hopes of meeting for such extended academic gathering in the days to come.





