

DES Centre for Legal Excellence

Faculty Coordinator

Dr. Anagha Baldota

DES Centre for Legal Excellence (CLE) is a platform to facilitate co-curricular, legal & paralegal courses, interdisciplinary projects & practical oriented avenues for the participants. The centre is very keen to inculcate values, knowledge & skills among the learners through various teaching learning methods.

DES Centre for Legal Excellence started this academic year with celebrating Late V.B. Gogte, a lawyer & disciple of Swatantryaveer Savarkar, for his sacrifice & contribution to India's freedom struggle. On 22nd July 2021, a speaker of an exemplary repute, Shri Charudatta Aphale, performed a ballad to offer tribute to the heroic deeds of DES alumnus, Adv. V.B. Gogte.

The year 2021 marks the 138th birth anniversary of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, one of the most prominent ideologues of *Hindutva* in the 20th century. In his remembrance, DES Shri Navalmal Firodia Law College's Centre for Legal Excellence proposed & organised **Swatantryaveer Savarkar Smruti Abhinav Bharat Vyaspeeth**, a three day lectures series with a view to expand its reach to the masses on topics of history, socio-legal aspects, economic and political importance. On 20th August 2021, the Governor of West Bengal, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the series, various courses & *Atal Lawlit National Fest*. Dr. Priya Chopde, Officiating Principal, DES SNFLC delivered an influential discourse on an intriguing topic of **Uniform Civil Code**. The impartial and unbiased approach to the topic was highly appreciated by the critics & audience. Asst. Prof. Madhura Apte presented a review of **India's Economic Story since 1947** in her lecture that also highlighted the nexus between law and Economics. Asst. Prof. Saurabh Jadhav took the audience to the rapid tour of world's history. His efficacious tale of the past threw light upon various aspects of **India's trade, political and defence policies & diplomacy in foreign policy**. Shree Mahesh Athavale, Vice Chairman, Deccan Education Society & Governing body, concluded this lecture series with the well researched, eye-opening discussion on the **interrelationship between Hindu scriptures, old & contemporary Laws, ethics & morals in profession**. The initiative was highly appreciated by the print as well as social media. During the unprecedented situation of Covid pandemic, it was phenomenal to succeed in this new venture.

Being at law school, the learner has to be groomed into multidimensional & multifaceted professional. The **interdisciplinary certificate courses** like Law & Logic, Law & Psychology, Law & Economics, Medico-legal studies, Financial Markets are value additions to the academic growth of the institute. Various legal luminaries delivered the sessions in the core course of Advocacy Skills so as to educate students about theory & its application. Lawyers & doctors guided the participants about physiological & forensic aspects along with factual cases & its analysis during the certificate course in Medico-legal studies. The certificate course in Financial Markets gave an overview of the market & investments

patterns to the students. Soft Skills course, being the utmost need of an hour was dynamically conducted by the experts to bring about overall development of students.

Paralegal Internship in collaboration with **Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram** was another project which was inaugurated on 10th December 2021. Mr. Girish Kale, & Bhakti Sathey from Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram, Dr. Sharad Kunte, Chairman, DES GB & Council, Adv. Nitin Apte, Chairman, CDC, DES SNFLC, Dr. Priya Chopde, Officiating Principal, DES SNFLC, addressed the students with their motivating thoughts & inspirational speeches. Recently, a paralegal internship was opened by **Janajati Kalyan Ashram** which was availed by seven pre-law students.

Apart from courses & internship, to cherish the research spirit of young minds & appreciate their creativity, on 26th January 2022, DES CLE ventured the launch of an **e-journal, Vedhas** which provided a creative platform & quality exposure to the future editors & budding lawyers as authors. The journal also welcomed the practicing advocates from high court & Supreme Court to voice their opinions on crucial, current legal issues.

DES CLE organised a workshop '**Empowering Women in Cyber Security & Digital Literacy**' on the occasion of Woman's Day, 08th March 2022. To widen the horizon of spreading awareness of Cyber frauds among the students, DES CLE kept the workshop open for outside institutes & the overwhelming response was of about 223 participants who were guided by the Cyber Security trainer & Consultant, Mrs. Varsha Yadav. The workshop was fruitful for one & all as many active participants raised day to day queries in handling social media issues while safeguarding themselves from online cyber crimes.

DES CLE is looking forward to contribute to the curricular & co-curricular development of the learners by initiating various courses, projects, workshops & training sessions in upcoming years.