

FOREWORD

On behalf of Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co (SAM & Co), I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to the Editorial Board of the RGNUL Financial and Mercantile Law Review (RFMLR) for successfully conducting the 2nd RGNUL - SAM Conclave on Practical Aspects of Information Technology Litigation & Data Protection in India 2022 (2nd RGNUL - SAM Conclave, 2022). I would also like to thank the talented pool of authors, faculty members of RGNUL, and professionals at SAM whose time and efforts helped in the successful fruition 2nd RGNUL - SAM Conclave, 2022.

India is positioned as one of the largest data markets in the world. In furtherance, it is of paramount importance to have robust regulations and comprehensive laws that complement the pervasive information technology sector. India presently does not have any express legislation governing data protection or privacy, though there are some relevant laws in India dealing with data protection such as the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Indian Contract Act, 1872. Over the years, various sectoral regulations and rules have also introduced suitable remedies and preventive mechanisms for data protection. However, a fragmented set of regulations and the constantly changing trends in technology have resulted in some loopholes in the existing laws. Thus, it is important to initiate discourse around the disputes that have emerged in the realm of information technology and data protection, and to tread upon the evolving global data governance landscape. With this spirit, SAM & Co collaborated with RFMLR for the purpose of expatiating and

stimulating research on contemporary issues regarding the practical aspects of information technology and data protection in India.

The 2nd RGNUL - SAM Conclave, 2022 was organized virtually, over two weekends: May 07, 2022 and May 14, 2022. The first event was the Paper Presentation Session which proved to be informative and insightful for both the participants and the panelists. Research papers on diverse and pertinent topics such as Online Dispute Resolution, End-to-End encryption and privacy, data localization etc. were presented by various law students.

Further, I was glad to be a speaker along with other leading experts such as - Mr. Gauhar Mirza (Partner, SAM & Co), and Dr. Subhajit Basu (Associate Professor, Leeds University) at the Expert Panel Discussion of the 2nd RGNUL - SAM Conclave, 2022. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Prakhar Deep (Senior Associate, SAM & Co), and it was attended by students and professionals from across the country.

The Special Edition, 2022 tries to capture a detailed discourse on the emerging issues faced in the Indian data governance and information technology landscape, with a particular focus on understanding the disputes that emerge in India. The cutting-edge research demonstrated by the authors through their comprehensive papers will prove to be seminal in furthering the aim of providing practical insights into the evolving field of information technology and data protection. We hope that the research papers are insightful and useful for students and professionals interested or working in this field.

Lastly, we look forward to collaborate with RFMLR again in the upcoming academic sessions and collectively move towards disseminating legal knowledge and furthering the discourse on various pertinent legal issues.

Best Wishes

Mr. Tejas Karia

Partner, Head-Arbitration

Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co