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e- Conference on “Copyright Regime in the Digital Era” held at ICAI

Today, the ICAI University Jharkhand organized National e-Conference on “Changing Contours of Copyright Regime in the Digital Era: Challenges & Opportunities”. Key Speakers were Dr. Venkat Reddy Donthy Reddy, IPR Attorney and Founder, RVR Associates, Hyderabad; Shri Prashant Kumar Singh, Member, Bar Council of India; Shri Rajesh Pandey, Secretary, Jharkhand State Bar Council; Shri Hemant Khosla, Deputy Registrar, Copyright Office, Govt. of India and Dr. A.V.N. Rao, Director, ICAI Law School, IFHE, Hyderabad; Dr. K. Syamala, Director (Research and Training) and Dr. M.R.S. Murthy, Associate Professor & Registrar, both from National University for Studies and Research in Law (NUSRL), Ranchi chaired the technical sessions. research Papers were presented by researchers, practitioners and students from reputed institutions like National Law Universities, IIT, Kharagpur etc.

Welcoming the participants, Prof. O.R.S. Rao, Vice Chancellor of the University said, “In ancient India, Knowledge, the output of human intellect was shared freely through generations, from Gurus to Sishyas, for public good. However, in the recent times, as knowledge became a major source of wealth creation, right to that knowledge that is Copyright, has been taking a centre stage, to encourage the creators of the new Knowledge”. “As the world is increasingly becoming more digital, Copyright protection should keep pace with technology, at the same time, balancing the interests of creators/owners and the public users, like educational institutions”.

Explaining the basic tenets of Copyright, which include originality, tangible expression of idea and commercial implications, Dr.

A.V.N. Rao emphasized the importance of Moral Rights versus Economic Rights of the author, by giving examples. Dr. Venkat Reddy narrated the significance of Fair Use Doctrine under Copyright Act, referring to the Delhi High Court Judgement in the case of University of Oxford vs. Rameshwari Photocopy services wherein the Court held that Copyright is not a divine right and is intended to increase the harvest of knowledge, not to impede it. Referring to the advent of Online Education in the wake of COVID-19 Pandemic, Shri Prashant Kumar Singh explained how the Judiciary fully supported use of copyrighted educational content “in course of education”. Shri Hemant Khosla reinforced the role of technology and cloud environment in the copyright regime and how digital content can be protected by the authors using Triple Protection Mechanism. He also explained various initiatives taken by Govt. of India to keep pace with developments in Digital technology.

Out of over 50 papers that were received, ten best papers were presented by the authors through online mode. Speaking during the valedictory session, Dr M R S Murthy highlighted that Indian IPR Protection regime is on par with that in developed countries. Dr Syamala explained the challenges faced from latest technologies like artificial Intelligence and Robots in jurisprudence of digital copyrights.

The Conference was coordinated by Prof. Alok Kumar, Co-ordinator, Faculty of Law. Prof Akriti Gupta, Faculty of Law anchored the event. The vote of thanks was proposed by Prof. Arvind Kumar, Registrar. Dr. Bhagabat Barik, Assistant Dean and other faculty members, students of the University participated in the event.

