



**MAHARASHTRA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY,
NAGPUR**

CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



It gives me immense pleasure to extend my warm greetings on the occasion of the inauguration of the Centre for Child Rights at Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur, and a special lecture on the theme “Protection, Participation, and Privacy of Children in the Digital Age.” In today’s technologically advanced world, children are exposed to digital platforms at a very young age, as these platforms play a major role in their learning, communication, and social interactions. Although, these platforms bring a lot of opportunities, however, this early exposure possesses a serious risk of online sexual abuse and cyberbullying for children. It is our collective responsibility, as a society, to protect the children from such dangers.

The Centre for Child Rights represents the University’s dedication to contributing to the field of child rights by promoting research and encouraging dialogue on contemporary issues pertaining to child rights. This lecture focuses on the inclusivity and participation of children in developing a safe and secure environment for them especially in the digital age.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for the Centre’s success.

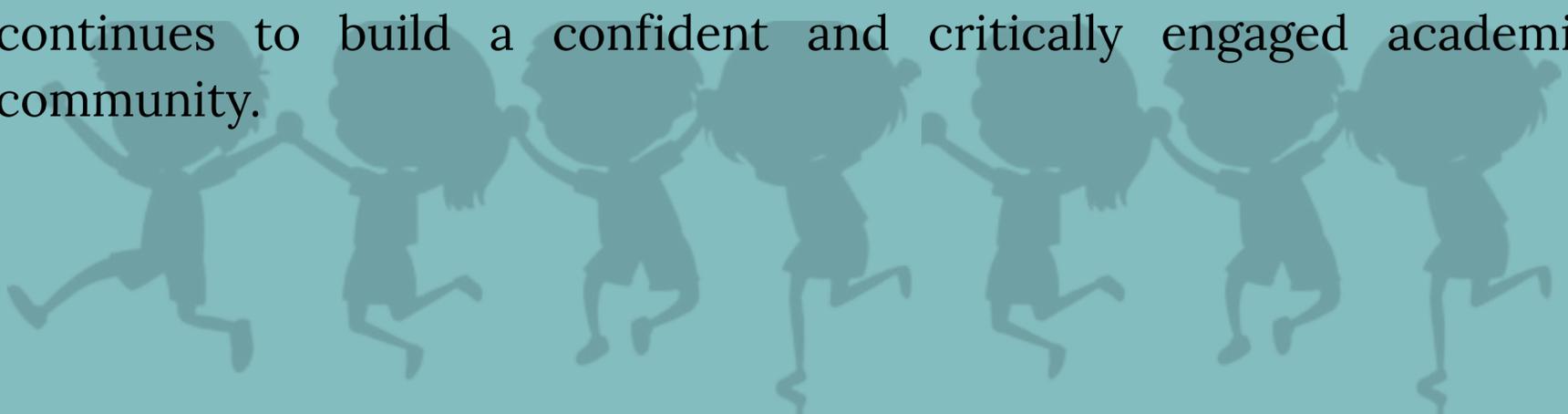
Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur (MNLU, Nagpur), established by the Maharashtra National Law University Act (Maharashtra Act No. VI of 2014), is a premier institution dedicated to excellence in legal education, research, and professional development. In a short span, the university has emerged as a vibrant academic community committed to holistic learning and meaningful contributions to society. The university offers a range of programmes including

B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), B.A. LL.B. (Hons. in Adjudication and Justicing), B.B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), LL.M., and Ph.D.

MNLU, Nagpur actively addresses contemporary socio-legal issues through its specialised centres for advanced legal studies, research, and advocacy, which regularly organise seminars, conferences, and training programmes. Guided by the vision of nurturing socially responsible and accountable legal professionals, MNLU, Nagpur continues to build a confident and critically engaged academic community.



ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS

The Centre for Child Rights aims to promote a fair and accessible justice system through a rights-based approach that recognizes children as active rights holders. It seeks to advance interdisciplinary engagement by integrating legal, social, and policy perspectives in the study and protection of child rights.

The Centre aspires to promote research, legal awareness, and academic dialogue on issues affecting children, while encouraging collaboration with government bodies, civil society, and other stakeholders. Through academic initiatives, policy discussions, and community engagement, it aims to contribute to stronger child protection frameworks and the effective realization of child rights.



MESSAGE FROM THE CENTRE IN-CHARGE



When we think about child rights, we do not view them solely as a legal subject. We understand them as a foundational element that shapes the kind of society we become. Too often, discussions concerning children arise only after harm has occurred. Through this Centre, we seek to create a space where such conversations begin earlier, with greater thought and care. The Centre aims to bring together research on issues affecting children, examined through legal, social, and policy perspectives.

It is therefore meaningful that the Centre begins its journey with a guest lecture on “Protection, Participation, and Privacy of Children in the Digital Age.” Today, children are growing up in a world where learning and interactions are deeply tied to digital spaces. While these spaces offer many opportunities, they also bring serious concerns such as cyberbullying. More than anything, I hope this Centre becomes a place that keeps child rights at the centre of academic thought.

Dr. Ashwini Kelkar

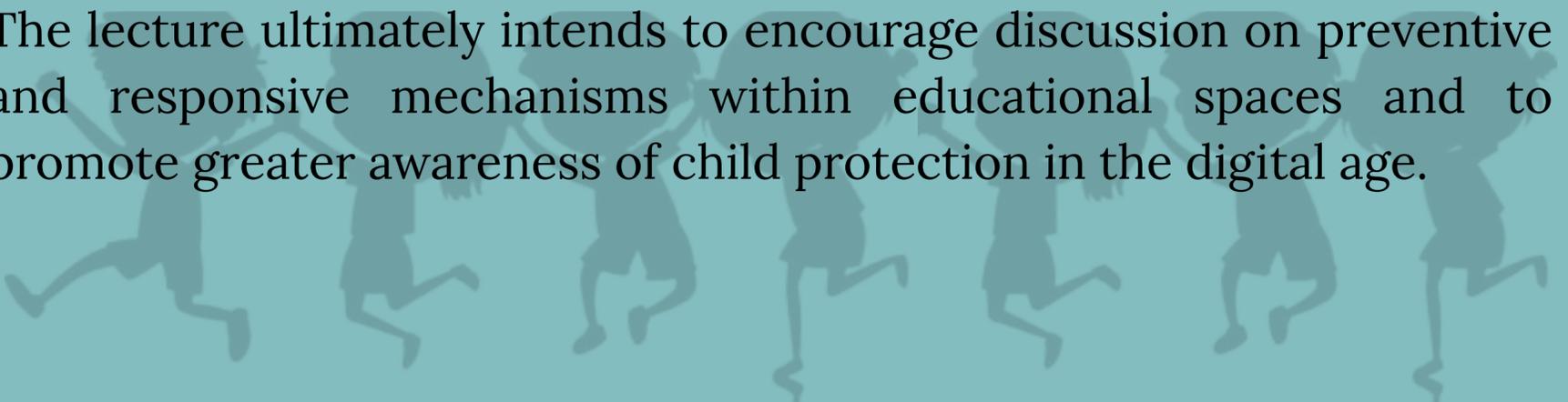
ABOUT THE EVENT



The Centre for Child Rights marks its inauguration through a guest lecture on the theme “Protection, Participation, and Privacy of Children in the Digital Age.” The lecture aims to address the evolving nature of childhood in an era increasingly shaped by digital platforms and virtual learning environments. While these spaces offer opportunities for learning, growth, and expression, they also expose children to risks such as cyberbullying, online grooming, privacy violations, and digital exploitation.

The session will focus on understanding the concept of child rights protection in the digital age and the forms of online abuse faced by children, along with their impact. It also aims to highlight the legal safeguards available under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Information Technology Act, and emerging data protection frameworks, while engaging with international standards under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The lecture ultimately intends to encourage discussion on preventive and responsive mechanisms within educational spaces and to promote greater awareness of child protection in the digital age.



ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Prof. (Dr.) Varsha V. Deshpande is a distinguished legal academician and currently serves as Professor and Head of the Department of Law at Dr. Ambedkar College, Deekshabhoomi. With over 23 years of teaching experience, her areas of expertise include Constitutional Law, Jurisprudence, and Gender Issues. She has published several research papers in reputed national and international journals and is frequently invited to deliver lectures at law universities and colleges across India.

Dr. Deshpande also serves as a regular trainer at the Institute of Military Law, New Delhi, where her lectures have been widely appreciated by officers of the Indian Army, Navy, and defence personnel from other countries. In recognition of her excellence in legal education, she was awarded the title of “Law Guru” and the Late Shri R. B. Pendharkar Professional Excellence Award by the High Court Bar Association, Nagpur in 2022. Alongside her academic work, she actively engages in public speaking and educational outreach, including lectures on Constitutional Law through her YouTube channel, “Dr. Varsha V. Deshpande.”

MEET OUR TEAM

CENTRE IN-CHARGE

Dr. ASHWINI KELKAR

STUDENT MEMBERS

- Mr. Aditya Bhattacharjee
- Ms. Akshi Agrawal
- Ms. Ananya Singh
- Ms. Anushka Goel
- Mr. Chirag Halai
- Ms. Damini Gaur
- Ms. Diya Bafna
- Ms. Khushi Jain
- Ms. Kritika Mishra
- Ms. Meghna N Nath
- Ms. Neha Tiwari
- Ms. Oorja Sharma
- Mr. Param Patil
- Mr. Pradhyumna Bhinda
- Ms. Prastawana Sarma
- Ms. Purvi Satrawla
- Mr. Raj Srivastava
- Ms. Ratan Priya
- Ms. Ruchi Hotwani
- Ms. Shambhavi Acharya
- Ms. Shrutee Mishra
- Ms. Subhankita Kasturi
- Ms. Teesha Shrivastava
- Ms. Vedika Burghate
- Mr. Vivek Danduboyina
- Ms. Wanshika P. Shukla

