Course title: Forest Law and Policy			
Course Code: MPL 126	**No. of credits : 3**	**L-T-P Distribution** : 39-6-0	**Learning Hours** : 45
Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): None			
Course coordinator : Dr. Kavita **Course Instructor**: Dr. Manini Syali			
Contact Details:			
Course type: Core **Course offered in: Semester 2**			
Course Description : State's approach towards forests has changed over a period of time. From being considered as an impediment to agriculture during the initial years of colonization, forests were seen as an important source of revenue during a significant part of the colonial rule. The discourse on climate change has forced to view forests as carbon sinks. This course is an attempt to provide an overview of the forest laws and policies both at the national and international level.			
Course objectives 1. To understand the legal regime on forestry in India and the changes in the policy over a period of time. 2. To analyse the role of local communities in forest management under various laws and policies. To appreciate the evolving international law in the field and the concerns of the developing countries.			

Course Content	**L**	**T**	**P**
Module 1: Introduction : History, Evolution and Basic Concepts of Forest Law and Policy	7		
History of forest laws and policies in India: Different stages British Colonial Forest Policies Impact of British Policies on Forest Dwellers National Forest Policy 1952 and 1988 Functions of forests: ecological, social, and economic functions(legal perspectives), Purposes of forest management Forest Governance Structures f. Definition of forests and its importance			
Module 2: Overview of the legal regime	9	2	
Constitutional Provisions – Indian Forest Act 1927, Classification of forests – Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 –Non-forest purpose- national security and forest conservation- CAMPA, 2016 –Forest Rights Act, 2006 – Interface between Forest Laws and Land Acquisition Laws; Role of Judiciary: Forest Conservation case ; Divergent Views of the Courts			
Module 3: Forest dwellers and forest governance	7	1	
Van Panchayats, Joint Forest Management, Forest Rights Act, 2006 PESA and its impact on forest governance, Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Forest Governance: international legal framework protecting indigenous rights, Gender intersectionality in Forest Governance Economic aspects of forest governance: Van Dhan Yojna			
Module 4: Wildlife conservation and forests	7	1	
Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 – Protected Areas – Forest dwellers and wildlife conservation, Interface with FRA Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 – ESA Notifications – Eco-sensitive Zones (ESZs) around protected area: judicial contribution – Eco-tourism activities in Protected Areas : regulation Resource Conflict: Coal bed Methane in Fringe Areas; Human-Animal Conflict			
Module 5: International Legal regime on forests	9	2	

Regional Agreements: Trends; Soft law instruments: Stockholm Declaration, World Charter for Nature, Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, Forest Principles 1992, Forestry Principles, 2007, SDGs – Goal 15. Treaties: Ramsar Convention, CITES, CBD, UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement, World Heritage Convention, International Tropical Timber Agreement			

REDD+, Economic Law and Forests; Forest Based Solutions for Climate Resilience; Forest Governance and Space Technology ; Transboundary Forest Management			
Total	39	6	0

Evaluation criteria

1. Minor Test: Written Examination- 20% [Syllabus: Module 1]
2. Written Assignment: Research Paper or Case Comment – 20 % [Entire Syllabus]
3. Presentation on the Assignment -20 % [Entire Syllabus]
4. Major Test: Written Examination-40 % [Syllabus: Module 2-4]

Learning outcomes

On completion of this course, the students would be able to:

1. **Understand and Recall** key principles of forest law and policy, including the historical evolution of forest governance, international agreements, and national frameworks for forest conservation and management. *[Minor Test, Major Test]*
2. **Apply** this knowledge to real-world scenarios in forest conservation and management, effectively using legal reasoning to assess policy implications, regulatory decisions, and sustainable forest practices. *[Minor Test, Major Test, Case Comment, Presentation]*
3. **Analyze and Critique** forest laws, policies, and reforms at national and international levels, identifying potential areas for improvement in forest management, indigenous rights, and sustainable use of forest resources. *[Research Paper, Presentation]*
4. **Evaluate** the role of forests in broader environmental and socio-economic contexts, considering the implications of legal frameworks on biodiversity conservation, climate change, indigenous rights, and sustainable development. *[Minor Test, Major Test, Research Paper or Case Comment, Presentation]*
5. **Create** well-reasoned arguments and proposals for policy or legal reform to address contemporary challenges in forest law, such as deforestation, wildlife conservation, climate change, and community rights. *[Research Paper, Presentation]*

Pedagogical approach

Predominantly based on classroom teaching. A lot of emphasis will be given for self-study.
For this module wise reading material will be distributed in advance.

Module 1: History of Forest Laws and Policies in India

Key Readings:

5. **Sivaramakrishnan, K. (1999)**, *Modern Forests: Statemaking and Environmental Change in Colonial Eastern India*, Stanford University Press.
6. **Gadgil, M. & Guha, R. (1992)**, *This Fissured Land: An Ecological History of India*, University of California Press.

Module 2: Forest Governance and Communities

Key Readings:

1. **Forest Rights Act, 2006**
2. **Lele, S., & Menon, A. (2014)**, *Democratizing Forest Governance in India*, Oxford University Press.
3. **Government of India (1996)**, *Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA).*

4. **Agarwal, A., & Gibson, C. (1999)**, *Community and the Environment: Ethnicity,*

5. *Gender, and the State in Community-Based Conservation*, Rutgers University Press.
   Saravanan, V. (2009), *Decentralized Governance and Natural Resource Management in India: The Role of Van Panchayats in Uttarakhand*, Natural Resources Forum, Vol. 33, Issue 1.

Module 3: Forest Dwellers and Forest Governance

Key Readings:

1. **Springate-Baginski, O. (2010)**, *Forest Rights Act 2006: Recognizing the Rights of Forest Dependent Communities*

in India, University of East Anglia.

2. **Menon, A., & Kohli, K. (2014)**, *Ecology, Equity, and Rights: Forest Governance through Forest Rights Act, 2006*, Journal of Indian Law and Society.

Shiva, V. (1993), *Monocultures of the Mind: Perspectives on Biodiversity and Biotechnology*, Zed Books.

3. **Vasant Saberwal & Mahesh Rangarajan (2003)**, *Battles over Nature: Science and the Politics of Conservation*, Permanent Black.

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4. **Sarin, M. (2005)**, *The Joint Forest Management Program in India: Some Critical Issues*, in *Forests, People and Power*, Earthscan.

Module 4: Wildlife Conservation and Forests

Key Readings:

1. **Wildlife Protection Act (1972)**:
2. **Rangarajan, M. (2006)**, *India's Wildlife History: An Introduction*, Permanent Black.
3. **Madhusudan, M.D. & Karanth, K.U. (2002)**, *Local Hunting and the Conservation of Large Mammals in India*, Ambio.
4. **Shahabuddin, G. (2010)**, *Conservation at the Crossroads: Science, Society, and the Future of India's Wildlife*, Permanent Black.
   Kothari, A., & Pathak, N. (2006), *Protected Areas and People: The Future of the Wildlife Conservation Strategy in India*, Economic and Political Weekly.

Module 5: International Forest Law and Policy

Key Readings:

1. **United Nations (1992)**, *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*:
2. **United Nations (1997)**, *Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.*
3. **FAO (2010)**, *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010*, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
4. **International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA, 2006)**:
   Humphreys, D. (2006), *Logjam: Deforestation and the Crisis of Global Governance*, Earthscan.

Additional information (if any)

Course Reviewer:

1. Prof. Dr. M. Sakthivel, Professor, Tamil Nadu National Law University
2. Ms. Nidhi Singh, Programme Officer, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)