

## Introduction

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In this edition, *Lentera Hukum* consists of five articles that discuss several law topics, especially in Indonesia and India. All we can say is all of the writers whose insightful contributions enriched this journal issue are deeply appreciated. We also consider it an honor to extend our sincere gratitude to the numerous peers, experts, and board members for their direction and support in evaluating and choosing the research articles.

The first five articles by Riski Fauza Mayana and Tisni Santika were titled “Geographical Indication & Gastro-Diplomacy as Nation Branding.” Using a normative and socio-juridical approach, the concept of gastro diplomacy and strategies carried out by Indonesia will be examined. The laws, regulations, theories, and legal principles of Geographical Indications relevant to the research also analyze the opportunities and challenges in implementing geographical indication as part of gastro diplomacy strategies and how it impacts the strengthening of Indonesia’s national branding. The study finds that, to integrate geographical indication protection into the gastro diplomacy strategy effectively, it is necessary to take strategic measures through both collective action and institutional approach.

The second article is a paper written by Arief Amrullah with the title “Paradigm Shift of Death Penalty Regulation in Indonesia.” demonstrates that in the new Indonesian Criminal Code, the death penalty is the last resort and is imposed alternatively with a ten-year probation period. If the convict shows an exemplary and commendable attitude during the imprisonment, the death penalty can be changed into life imprisonment or imprisonment for a maximum of twenty years. The arrangement of a ten-year probation period in new Indonesia’s Criminal Code relies on the principle of corrective-rehabilitative-restorative justice. It is also a middle way to accommodate views that reject and support the death penalty, which reflects the novelty and shifting of the death penalty paradigm to be an alternative punishment in Indonesia.

Third, article written by Suteki, Abdul Jalil, Aga Natalis, and Angelica Vanessa Audrey Nasution titled “Empowering Local Communities: Enhancing

Engagement in Anti-Corruption Action Programs” deals with necessitating comprehensive response to corruption issues that continue to be widespread in Indonesia. The article describes that empowerment of community engagement at the local level is essential to the fight against corruption in the development, implementation, and monitoring of Anti-Corruption Action programs. This study aims to analyze the significance of community involvement in anti-corruption measures within Indonesia. The article concluded that anti-corruption learning programs, law enforcement, and community awareness are necessities to combat corruption effectively. Additionally notable is the increasing importance of the independent media's role in discovering corruption, increasing public awareness, and promoting good governance simultaneously.

Vijay Kishor Tiwari and Saarthak Biswas write the fourth article, "Countering Hegemony in Legal Academia in the Global South: A Critique of Upendra Baxi's Legacy." This study aims to outline the thought of logical objectivity and universalism, which have their downsides, and the custom of logical judiciousness that has come about in logical imperialism. Subsequently, logical universalism remains slippery in social sciences variables which pliable, and every conclusion is interim as every conclusion is contextual such as law. The thought of Upendra Baxi's closeness in direction of Indian authority is something that has not gotten a obvious frame of conversation in the scholarly community. Baxi is broadly celebrated as one of the foremost powerful and characterizing habitations within the legitimate framework, so much so that the Indian Incomparable Court has moreover been referred to his works for interpretation of laws and for understanding Indian Constitution. Hence, there's no question that Baxi features a gigantic nearness within the Indian legal thoughts. The issue that emerges is whether this inadvertent over-reliance on Baxi's worldview is so broad that it stops the development of novel thoughts and investigate strategy within the Indian legal field. In this case, the philosophy made by Baxism is now such common sense within the current age, where so much dependence has been put that it may not permit the development of other strategies within the current worldview.

Finally, a fifth article is titled “Equality, Affirmative Action, and Economically Weaker Sections in India” by Sukrit Garg and Vikash Kumar Upadhyay. This research aims to investigate The Indian Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act of

2019, which gave the State the authority to enact special measures for any less wealthy segment of the citizens. Further, in the case of reservation, the special provision would be in addition to the existing reservations. On November 7, 2022, the Supreme Court of India judged the Amendment's constitutionality on the ground of breach of the 'equality code' failed by the majority. This paper shall provide closer scrutiny and a critical assessment of the determinations of the apex court in the judicial review of the 103rd Amendment. The article employs the doctrinal and analytical method to study the 103rd Amendment, which enabled the State to create measures of positive discrimination for the economically weaker sections of society. Throughout the history of independent India, the 103rd Amendment is one such measure Parliament took to ensure that economic disadvantages do not stand in the way of citizens pursuing their dreams. There are challenges in applying the reservations and the social impact. Yet, the government and the citizens must ensure that such policy steps are thoroughly debated and discussed in all public forums. This measure will ensure that the policy measures are not appreciated merely at face value. It will also encourage the citizens to participate in the significant issues surrounding their lives.

Hopefully, these articles can enrich the repertoire of legal perspectives. We sincerely hope you enjoy this edition of the Journal and appreciate your continued support.