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Gaming industry needs regulator: Nirma meet

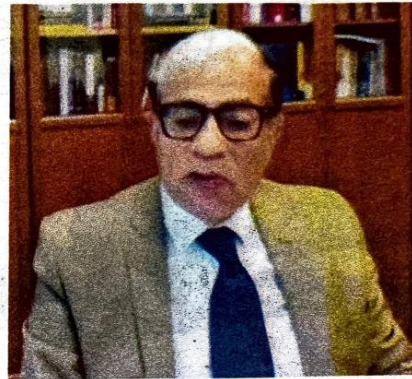
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There is a deep connect between law and economy, and the online gaming industry has thrived more in the Covid times. But there is a lack of uniformity in the legal position across states. The legal regime is ambiguous, which poses a challenge for investors and a significant compliance burden for game operators," said Justice A K Sikri, former judge of Supreme Court, during his virtual address at the Focused Group Discussion on Gaming Law in India at Nirma University on Saturday.

He stated that there are two aspects of online gaming, i.e. the skill vs chance debate. If money is involved in games, then it becomes gambling. He emphasised that this sector can create many job opportunities and also referred to the report by NITI Aayog on the issue. There is the need for an authority to monitor regulatory compliance, lack of protections for gamers and safeguards against illegal activity. These are areas of concern, he said.

Dr Anup K Singh, director of Nirma University, stressed on the



A K Sikri, former SC Judge

need to deliberate on moral aspects in addition to the legal aspects on the issue of gaming in India. He highlighted the need for development of educational games.

On the gaming industry itself, Dr Madhuri Parikh, dean and director of Institute of Law, said that India's gaming industry was worth about Rs 90 billion in 2020 and online gaming was expected to touch 500 million users by 2025.

The discussion was held in collaboration with Neetigya Legal Consultants LLP whose advocate, Maulik Nanavati, was present at the occasion along with Gopal Jain, senior advocate of Supreme Court, among others.