



# COGNIZANT

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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CONGNIZANT

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE HON'BLE VICE-CHANCELLOR

A defining moment for this term was the successful organization of the International Conference on Law, Technology and Sustainable Development, inaugurated by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra**, Hon'ble Visitor, RPNLUP and Judge Supreme Court of India.



It is with immense pride and joy that I present the third issue of Cognizant, the official newsletter of Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, covering the vibrant academic period of January to March 2025.

A defining moment for this term was the successful organization of the **International Conference on Law, Technology and Sustainable Development**, inaugurated by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra**, Hon'ble Visitor, RPNLUP and Judge Supreme Court of India. The Conference brought together legal luminaries, technologists, and environmental scholars from across the globe. The deliberations reinforced our role as a catalyst for meaningful interdisciplinary dialogue in a rapidly changing world.

Another highlight of this issue is the latest episode of our signature series '**Beyond Judgments**', featuring an enriching conversation with **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta**, Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court. His Lordship's reflections on legal ethics, empathy in adjudication, and the role of personal experience in judicial decision-making left a profound impact on our students. The session exemplified our vision of a legal education grounded in both doctrinal learning and human understanding.

A new interactive academic platform was launched with Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.D. Singh, Judge Allahabad H.C.— '**In Conversation with Legal Luminary**', aimed at fostering dialogue between students and jurists on contemporary legal challenges. This initiative, along with our **Faculty Discussion Series**, has enriched our intellectual ecosystem and encouraged critical engagement. We take great pride in our legal outreach initiative **Sankalp 51A@Mahakumbh**, where our students and faculty extended legal and humanitarian assistance to thousands of pilgrims during Maha Kumbh 2025. The University also advanced its academic frontiers by forging collaborations with leading institutions, including the **Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies (ICPS), New Delhi, and National Law University, Delhi**. These MoUs will strengthen our research environment and international engagement.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Editorial Board and warmly invite feedback from our readers as we continue building a just, inclusive, and intellectually vibrant university.

12<sup>th</sup> June, 2025

Senior Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon



## CELEBRATION OF THE 76<sup>th</sup> REPUBLIC DAY



*Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon Unfurling the National Flag*



*Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon Addressing the Audience*

**D**r. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj proudly celebrated its first-ever Republic Day on **January 26, 2025**, marking a historic occasion in tandem with the commencement of its inaugural academic year (2024). The event was a moment of deep significance, symbolizing the university's commitment to constitutional values, academic excellence, and social responsibility.

The day commenced with the unfurling of the national flag by **Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**, in the presence of esteemed faculty members, and guests. In her address, **Hon'ble Vice Chancellor** retold the story of the making of the Constitution of India in brief. She touched upon the essential values enshrined in the constitution serving as a strong foundation of a great nation. She also emphasized upon the importance of legal education in shaping a just and equitable society, urging to uphold the principles of justice, equality, and fraternity in their pursuit of knowledge.

As the University embarks on its journey of excellence, this first Republic Day celebration stands as a testament to its dedication to nurturing legal scholars, policymakers, and advocates committed to the ideals enshrined in the Constitution.

With this momentous beginning, Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj reaffirms its mission to contribute meaningfully to the legal fraternity and society at large.







**Ladli Foundation**  
A National Award Winning  
Non-Profit



## WINTER INTERNSHIP OF B.A. LL.B. (HONS.) STUDENTS

RPNLU, Prayagraj has implemented a carefully curated structured and progressive internship scheme that aligns with the students' academic journey and professional readiness. In the initial first and second years, students are encouraged to intern with think tanks, academicians, tribunals, commissions, NGOs, and social action groups to develop foundational knowledge and research capabilities. Students in accordance with the study program are given the opportunity to do internships twice a year. The University actively encourages students to pursue internships across diverse sectors such as law, social justice, corporate affairs, and public policy. These internships make students accustomed to real-world work environments, enhance their legal insight, and equip them with the skills necessary to thrive in their future careers.

During the **winter break of the odd semester, first-semester students of the B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) program of RPNLU, Prayagraj** undertook internships (from December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025) with several renowned organizations. The Internship-Externship Society of RPNLU, Prayagraj helped students in getting their desired internships. The internships done by students included working at the

- **Indian Law Institute (ILI),**
- **The National Green Tribunal (NGT),**
- **The Institute of Legislative Department under the Ministry of Law and Justice,**
- **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)**
- **Various State Women Commissions,**
- **Civil Administrative Tribunals,**
- **The Ministry of Culture,**
- **Various District Legal Services Authorities,**
- **As well as reputed NGOs like Prayas Foundation, Shakti Vahini, and the Ladli Foundation.**

This internship program reflects the University's commitment to producing well-rounded, socially responsible legal professionals with a broad worldview. RPNLU, Prayagraj further extends its support by facilitating internships not only within India but also abroad, ensuring that students are exposed to a wide spectrum of legal and administrative systems.

## SANKALP 51A @ MAHAKUMBH 2025

**O**n January 19th, 2025, Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, launched the **Sankalp 51A@Mahakumbh** initiative under the visionary leadership of **Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**. Rooted in Article 51A of the Constitution of India and in line with the Uttar Pradesh Government's "Divya Kumbh" vision, the initiative aimed to blend legal awareness, civic responsibility, and social service during the Maha Kumbh 2025. With a legal aid camp based in Sector 24, the University mobilized faculty members and Sankalp team from **January 19 to February 26, 2025** to offer legal and humanitarian assistance to the massive influx of pilgrims. This integration of legal education with real-time public engagement turned the spiritual congregation into a platform for legal awareness and social care.

From **January 26** onwards, the initiative supported pilgrims through navigation aid, resolving cases of missing persons, and civic support. Key instances included reuniting Mr. Dileep Kumar Pandey (Madhya Pradesh) with his aunt and guiding an international pilgrim (from U.S.A.) to Ashram services.

**On February 4**, the Sankalp team provided assistance at Lost & Found Centres, Jan Ashray Sthal, and Sub Central Hospital at Mahakumbh Mela. They arranged transportation for an elderly couple, guided pilgrims to identification services, and investigated complaints of shop overpricing. Civic aid was provided to individuals such as Mr. Dharendra Mishra (Odisha) and Mr. Inderdev Dwivedi (Chitrakoot).



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon with HVC, Prof. Yogesh Singh, University of Delhi, visiting the Sankalp Camp in Sector 24 in the Mahakumbh Mela





HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon with HVC, Prof. Yogesh Singh, University of Delhi (in Center); Registrar, Faculty Members & Students, RPNLUP

**February 5** saw escalated efforts with the Sankalp team guiding injured individuals to care and working closely with local police on established procedures for lost persons. A major success involved helping Mrs. Sarota, a mentally challenged woman from Jharkhand, reconnected with her family via the Social Welfare Office of Palamu and the village sarpanch.

**On Feb. 4th & 5th**, at Maha Kumbh Mela, the Sankalp Team supported injured and lost individuals at Swaroopnani N Hospital, Prayagraj. They arranged transport for Mr. Vinod Gupta (post-surgery), identified three destitute patients to facilitate their safe return, and initiated identifying their home town. Besides, ensured medical care for two teenage girls - Ms. Reshma and Ms. Sabrina with psychotic symptoms. On February 5, follow-ups on the previously mentioned girls confirmed their proper treatment. For all the three destitute patients - Mr. Ravishankar Yadav, Mr. Anil. and Mr. Hukum Singh - home identification was done & transport was arranged. Also, Mr. Malik Yadav was reunited with family via information available in his belongings.

**On February 6**, the Sankalp team visited Maha Kumbh's various sectors, collaboration possibilities with FSSAI Centre on Nukkad Nataks, and resolving all Lost and Found cases they confronted. In Sector 23, they guided pilgrims, shared pamphlets, and reunited Ms. Kolyani Kumar (Bengal) with her brother through language translation and police aid. In Sector 24, the Sankalp team's outreach efforts at Jan Ashray Sthal continued, and at Central Hospital, interacted with patients and their families, and distributed pamphlets to raise awareness, also met with Dr. K.C. Yadav.

**On February 7**, the Sankalp team assisted in managing traffic near the Legal Aid Clinic and ensured ambulance movement to Kendriya Chikitsa Kendra. They reunited Mr. Musan Mahato (Aurangabad, Bihar) and Mr. Tribhuvan (Hata, Uttar Pradesh) with their families. Provided legal assistance to Mr. Sanjoy Bhattacharjee (Delhi), Dr. Rajendra Godbale and his wife (Aurangabad, Maharashtra); and helped Mr. K. Nagraj (Bengaluru, Karnataka) to reconnect with family. They also followed up on Mr. Karan Singh's safe return.

**On February 9**, a planned outreach mission was halted due to overwhelming crowd congestion, forcing the team to retreat. So, the Sankalp team redirected its effort in traffic management.



**O**n **February 10**, the Sankalp team visited Tej Bahadur Sapru Hospital to gather stampede (on Mauni Amavasya) survivors' accounts – Ms. Kamla Devi (Satna, Madhya Pradesh, Ms. Munni Devi (Bennipur, Prayagraj), Ms. Saroj Devi (Shahjahanpur), and Mr. Kundan Singh (Ashok Nagar, Madhya Pradesh), to name a few. While some survivors praised emergency response, others highlighted delays and coordination gaps stressing the need for improved crowd and crisis management at large gatherings.

**On February 11**, the Sankalp team assisted pilgrims and reunited nine individuals at Sector 24's Lost and Found Center, including Ms. Kolyani Kumar. On February 13, they visited Lost and Found Centres in Sectors 23 and 24, helped a Gujarat family reach the Sangam amid boat suspensions, and collaborated with law enforcement to subside the confusion erupted due the sudden suspension of boats sailing towards Triveni Sangam nose. Notable cases at Sector 24 included Mr. Nathooni Yadav (Nepal), who was connected with return arrangements, and of Ms. Ram Sakhi (Naini, Prayagraj) by providing shelter while her son was being traced. At Vidya Kumbh Prathmik Vidyalaya, the team engaged teachers of sanitation workers' children.

**On February 14**, despite crowd surges, seven pilgrims—including Mr. Karma Dorje (Himachal Pradesh), Mrs. Savita Ben (Gujarat), Mr. Sushil Kumar Srivastava (Madhya Pradesh), and Mr. Dudheshwar Singh—were reunited with their families using ID verification and coordinated outreach. Following up on the previous cases, Mr. Yadav was referred to the Nepalese Embassy, and Ms. Ram Sakhi successfully reconnected with her son in Naini.

Due to restricted access at the Legal Aid Camp in Sector 24, the team adapted operations to the University camp, gaining valuable insights into mass crowd dynamics.

**On February 17**, the Sankalp team ensured the safe return of Mrs. Ugani Chmain (Nepal), and coordinated reunions for Mr. Praful Patel, Mr. Abhishek Prajapati, and Mrs. Kaushalya Devi with their families. Through the team's assistance, Mr. Rahul Kumar Pandey received medical assistance at the Sector 24 Hospital. Legal aid pamphlets were distributed at the PWD camp, and navigation support was extended to pilgrims heading toward Sangam Ghat and Hanuman Temple.

**On February 18**, multilingual assistance was provided across stakeholder groups. Lost and Found efforts at Sector 24 of Mahakumbh Mela, reunited a Nepali woman through the Nepal Embassy. At Arail Ghat, traffic coordination with police was effective, and rights awareness campaigns were conducted for pilgrims.

**On February 19**, five reunions were facilitated by the Sankalp team, notably Mr. Sidheshwar Prasad with his wife, and Ms. Kamla Dwivedi with her village group. At the health centre center, consultation with Dr. S.S. Chandel highlighted over 700 treated cases. Additionally, the team distributed Legal aid materials, and traffic support was provided near Someshwar Temple.

**On February 20**, four critical cases were addressed by the Sankalp team, including Ms. Shail Devi's (Bihar) reunion, and efforts to locate Ms. Suman's (Uttar Pradesh) family. Besides, an unidentified elderly woman was referred to officials. Later that day, investigations were initiated for an accident victim near the High Court premises.





**On February 21**, seven women pilgrims, Ms. Urmila Devi (Bihar), Ms. Subhashni Devi (Chhattisgarh), Ms. Neena Devi (Bihar), Ms. Jirauti Devi (Bihar), Ms. Laldevi Sharma (Bihar), Ms. Jagni Devi (Madhya Pradesh), and Ms. Parvati Hardha (Madhya Pradesh), were reunited through coordinated searches and public announcements by the Sankalp team. Navigation support was provided across key locations.

**On February 24**, the Sankalp team expanded legal assistance to medical negligence awareness and grievance documentation. Reunions included Mr. Hiralal (Prayagraj), Mr. Lalsay Patali (Chhattisgarh), Mr. Lakan Yadav (Odisha), Mr. Vidyasagar (Bihar), Mr. Vinod Mishra (Uttar Pradesh), Ms. Satyma (Bengaluru), and Mr. Virendra Kumar (Madhya Pradesh). Language barriers were resolved with translator support and police databases.

**On February 25**, the Sankalp team resolved a medical expense dispute and corrected a hospital medication error. A lost pilgrim was escorted to his spiritual guide. Reunions were arranged for Ms. Indraakti (Uttar Pradesh), Mr. Ram Babu Chaudhary, and Mr. Arvind Kumar (Bihar). They also peacefully mediated a conflict between two senior pilgrims.

These efforts demonstrated the team's unwavering dedication to legal aid, social justice, and effective coordination during a high-volume public event. Through sustained humanitarian efforts and legal aid, Sankalp 51A@Mahakumbh upheld principles of justice and compassion, reinforcing Mahakumbh 2025 as a spiritually vibrant and socially responsive event.



## A WORKSHOP ON AWARENESS OF RIGHT TO INFORMATION



*Registrar, Sh. Satya Praksh with the faculty members and students of B.A.LL.B (Hons.) II Sem.*

An online workshop on “Awareness of Right to Information and Janhit Guarantee (Right to Public Services)” was held on **7th February 2025** from 3:00 to 4:30 PM in the Seminar Room of Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj. The event was jointly organized by the University and the **Department of Administrative Reforms, Government of Uttar Pradesh** to promote awareness about transparency, citizen empowerment, and legal entitlements in public service delivery.

The workshop commenced with a welcome address by **Shri Satya Parkash, Registrar, RPNLUP** who highlighted the importance of the RTI Act, 2005 and the Uttar Pradesh Janhit Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2011 in ensuring accountable governance and the role of legal academia in furthering rights-based awareness.

**Mr. Vipin Gangwar**, Chief Inspector of Government Offices, Prayagraj, explained the procedural and legal contours of the RTI Act, while **Mr. Rahul Singh**, State Resource Person and Team Head, RTI Online, demonstrated the RTI online portal and explained how citizens can digitally access government services. He also elaborated on the operational framework of the Janhit Guarantee Act.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion where participants actively engaged with the resource persons. The workshop successfully bridged the gap between public officials and the academic community, reaffirming the University's commitment to democratic legal education and civic engagement.



## MoU BETWEEN RPNLU, PRAYAGRAJ AND ICPS, NEW DELHI



In a landmark move to deepen academic engagement and collaborative training, **Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj (RPNLUP)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies (ICPS), New Delhi** on **February 13, 2025** in Prayagraj. The agreement aims to promote institutional cooperation in the areas of constitutional law, parliamentary procedures, legislative drafting and fields crucial to the evolving landscape of Indian governance and legal education.

The MoU was formally signed by **Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of RPNLU, Prayagraj and **Dr. Seema Kaul Singh**, Director of ICPS. This collaboration signifies a strategic commitment to undertake joint research projects, develop academic programs, and conduct training activities that contribute to scholarly advancement and professional excellence in constitutional and parliamentary studies.

Through this MoU, both institutions will collaborate to organize regular seminars, workshops, and conferences addressing contemporary issues in legislative and constitutional domains. Additionally, they will work in tandem to design and implement specialized academic courses that enhance public understanding of the Constitution, the rule of law, and the democratic parliamentary system.

Speaking on the occasion, **Hon'ble Vice Chancellor** emphasized the academic and professional value of the partnership. "This collaboration will provide our students and faculty with much-needed exposure to the practical dimensions of legislative drafting and governance, thereby enriching their academic and professional growth," she noted.

**Dr. Seema Kaul Singh** echoed this sentiment, stating, "This MoU represents a major milestone in fostering academic excellence, policy research, and practical training in the fields of constitutional and parliamentary studies. We are excited to begin this meaningful journey with RPNLUP."

This collaboration between RPNLUP and ICPS reaffirms their shared vision of promoting academic innovation, interdisciplinary legal research, and democratic governance. It sets the foundation for impactful contributions to India's constitutional and legislative scholarship in the years to come.

## A WORKSHOP (ONLINE)



**O**n 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025, the **Debate & Discussion Club** of Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, in collaboration with **Vivekanand Swadhyay Mandal**, hosted an engaging online workshop titled "Learning the Nuances of Debating: Focusing on Communication Skills."

The session featured distinguished speakers **Dr. S.K. Kashyap**, Mentor, Vivekanand Swadhyay Mandal and **Dr. Girjesh Singh Mehra**, Motivational Leader Scientist, ICAR-IARI, both celebrated for their oratory and motivational impact. With a focus on structured argumentation, persuasive speech, and non-verbal communication, the workshop aimed to enhance students' public speaking confidence and critical thinking. **Dr. Mehra** captivated the audience with vivid demonstrations, drawing on iconic speeches by Martin Luther King Jr. and Swami Vivekananda, while **Dr. Kashyap** simplified complex techniques with clarity. Lively mimicry and insightful anecdotes underscored the importance of tone, body language, and emotional intelligence. Interactive participation ensured a dynamic learning environment, leaving students inspired to refine their communication skills and engage more deeply in the art of debating.



# BEST SPEAKER AWARD

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Deo Mangal Memorial National Moot Court Competition, 2024, proved to be a pivotal experience for the team comprising Ms. Srijal Mishra, Mr. Abhyuday Sharan, and Mr. Abhishek Raj. With a theme centered on constitutional and criminal law, the event drew participation from 43 teams nationwide in a hybrid format that challenged their adaptability and skill.

During the preliminary rounds on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025, the team showcased thorough legal research, structured argumentation, and analytical precision, securing a place in the quarterfinals. On 9th February, they faced strong contenders, navigating complex legal issues with clarity and confidence. Their teamwork reflected remarkable dedication and cohesion, even as the journey concluded at the quarterfinal stage.

Among the standout achievements was the recognition of **Ms. Srijal Mishra as Best Female Speaker**. Her performance was distinguished by articulate delivery, in-depth understanding of legal principles, and persuasive advocacy. The award was a testament to her diligence, intellectual finesse, and unwavering commitment to the craft of mooting.

This competition marked a meaningful milestone in their collective journey, reinforcing their passion for legal advocacy and inspiring continued growth. The team looks forward to representing their institution in future competitions with renewed ambition and academic zeal.



(From left to right) Mr. Abhyuday Sharan, Mr. Abhishek Raj, Ms. Srijal Mishra and Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon

## APJ ABDUL KALAM JURIST EXCELLENCE AWARD CONFERRED UPON

### HON'BLE VICE-CHANCELLOR, SR. PROF. (DR.) USHA TANDON

On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025, **Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, was bestowed with the esteemed **APJ Abdul Kalam Jurist Excellence Award**. This distinguished honour, jointly instituted by the **Kerala Law Academy (KLA)** and the **Global Research Conference Forum (GRCF)**, commemorates her transformative impact on legal academia, pioneering scholarship in environmental jurisprudence, and steadfast advocacy for gender justice. Presented during the KLA-GRCF International Conference held in Trivandrum, Kerala, the award citation lauded her "outstanding contribution in legal scholarship, exemplary commitment to the legal profession, and an understanding dedicated to upholding the principles of Justice and academic excellence." Her incisive research continues to inform policy reforms and shape the discourse on sustainable development and women's rights.

**HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Tandon's** erudite leadership and intellectual vision have elevated institutional benchmarks, nurturing a milieu of rigorous scholarship and progressive pedagogy. Her acclaim not only affirms her personal academic legacy but also reflects the University's enduring dedication to excellence in legal education and interdisciplinary innovation.

The University fraternity warmly congratulates its visionary Hon'ble Vice Chancellor for this meritorious recognition and celebrates her enduring influence on the evolution of Indian legal thought.



*Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon  
Receiving APJ Abdul Kalam Jurist Excellence Award*



*Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon  
Delivering Thank-you Note at KLA-GRCF International Conference Held in Trivandrum, Kerala*



# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LAW, TECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Mishra, Judge, Supreme Court of India - Lighting the Lamp at the Inaugural Day of the International Conference



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon Presenting Memento to HMJ Arun Bhansali, Chief Justice, A.H.C & Chancellor, RPNLUP

The **International Conference on 'Law, Technology and Sustainable Development,'** held at MNNIT Seminar Hall, organized by Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj from **7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025**, witnessed a remarkable convergence of judges, academicians, technologists, and researchers from across the globe. The conference commenced with a welcome address by **Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, RPNLUP, who emphasized the urgent need for multidisciplinary dialogues amidst the unprecedented technological advancements reshaping society and law.

The Chief Guest, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra**, Judge, Supreme Court of India, and Visitor, RPNLUP, stressed that framing the right questions is critical to leveraging technology for effective solutions and called for global participation in sustainable development efforts. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Bhansali**, Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, and Chancellor, RPNLUP, in his Presidential Address, highlighted the instrumental and aspirational role of law in balancing technological growth with environmental protections. Distinguished guests such as **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rinzin Penjor**, from Bhutan, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Thurairaja** from Sri Lanka, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta**, Judge, Allahabad High Court, from India, and **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kumar Regmi** from Nepal provided rich comparative perspectives on the challenges and opportunities posed by the intersection of technology, law, and sustainable development within their respective jurisdictions.



Release of the Souvenir by the Distinguished Dignitaries in the Inaugural Session of the International Conference





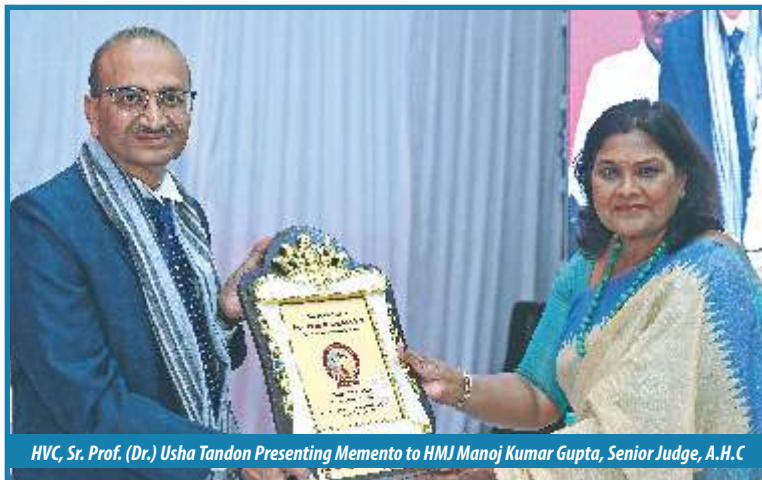
HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon Presenting Memento to HMJ Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal, Judge, A. H. C



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon Presenting Memento to HMJ Vinod Diwaker, Judge, A. H. C



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon Presenting Memento to HMJ Ajay Bhanot, Judge, A. H. C



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon Presenting Memento to HMJ Manoj Kumar Gupta, Senior Judge, A.H.C

Across seven technical sessions chaired by eminent judges of Allahabad High Court including **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra**, Judge, Allahabad High Court, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinod Diwaker**, Judge, Allahabad High Court, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Bhanot**, Judge, Allahabad High Court, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal**, Judge, Allahabad High Court, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Salil Kumar Rai**, Judge, Allahabad High Court, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shekhar B. Saraf**, Judge, Allahabad High Court, and **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Saumitra Dayal Singh**, Judge, Allahabad High Court, participants engaged in in-depth discussions.



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon Delivering Keynote Address

Keynote addresses by global experts such as **Hon'ble Vice Chancellor**, RPNLU, Prayagraj, **Prof. Klaus Bosselmann** (University of Auckland), **Prof. Amber Pant** (Tribhuvan University, Nepal), **Prof. Moon-Hyun Koh** (Soongsil University, South Korea), **Prof. Philippe Cullet** (SOAS, University of London), **Dr. Ivano Alogna** (BIICL, France), **Prof. Erimma Gloria Orie** (National Law University of Nigeria), **Mr. Nitin Nanda** (Estonia), and **Dr. Robert Russo** (University of British Columbia) illuminated critical areas such as Earth System Law, Carbon Capture Policies, Indigenous Ecological Knowledge, Climate Litigation, AI Ethics in Environmental Decision-making, and conscious use of technology in preserving human rights and environmental balance.





Technical Session – IV, Day II at the International Conference Chaired by HMJ Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal, Judge, Allahabad High Court

Technical Session – II, Day II at the International conference chaired by HMJ Vinod Diwakar, Judge, Allahabad High Court

Numerous scholars contributed significant research through paper presentations, such as Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, **Dr. Moatoshi Ao's** analysis of India's environmental laws driving technological change, Asst. Professor, Institute of Law, Nirma University, **Dr. Neeraj Kumar Gupta's** study on India's biofuel policies, Asst. Professor, Department of Law, Marwadi University, **Dr. Pallavi Gupta's** insights on digital democracy and access to information, and Asst. Professor, Arya Kanya Degree College, Prayagraj, **Dr. Astha Misra's** emphasis on eco-innovation supported by strong legal frameworks. Other notable presentations included CEO & Director, CPLRI Pvt. Ltd., **Dr. Katyayani Mishra's** smart water management initiatives, Asst. Professor, RPNLUP, **Dr. Suchit Kumar Yadav's** exploration of social justice in sustainable development, Asst. Professor, RPNLUP, **Dr. Neha Dubey's** analysis of AI's role in achieving feminist ideals, Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, **Dr. Sumiti Ahuja's** study on combating misinformation, Asst. Professor, RPNLUP, **Dr. Deepak Sharma's** examination of freedom of speech in the digital era, and Research Scholar, Gautam Buddha University, **Mr. Himanshu Saini's** research on AI-driven physiological signal monitoring. Discussions also included indigenous knowledge systems presented by Asst. Professor, RPNLUP, **Dr. Prakash Tripathi** and Professor, SOAS, University of London, England, **Prof. Philippe Cullet**, demonstrating the essential role of traditional wisdom in modern sustainability efforts.



Technical Session – VI, Day III at the International Conference Chaired by HMJ Shekhar B Saraf, Judge, Allahabad High Court

Technical Session – VII, Day III at the International Conference Chaired by HMJ Saumitra Dayal Singh, Judge, Allahabad High Court



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon Presenting Memento to HMJ Saumitra Dayal Singh, Judge, A. H. C



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon Presenting Memento to HMJ Salil Kumar Rai, Judge, A.H.C



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon Presenting Memento to HMJ Ashwani Kumar Mishra, Judge, A.H.C.



*HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon Presenting Memento to HMJ Shekhar B. Saraf, Judge, A.H.C*



*HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon Presenting Memento to Mr. Nitin Nanda, a Renowned International Lawyer*



*Dignitaries at the Inaugural Day of the International Conference*



*Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon Presenting Memento to HMJ Rajesh Bindal, Judge, Supreme Court of India*

Special addresses by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal**, Judge, Supreme Court of India highlighted the necessity for strict legal enforcement for sustainable development, while **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Michael D. Wilson**, Former Judge, Hawaii Supreme Court, USA powerfully emphasized the courts' pivotal role as guardians of climate justice in an era of irreversible climate change. Research Scholar, Manav Rachna University, **Ms. Saloni Mishra's** presentation demonstrated how AI and technology can enhance law enforcement efficiency, and **Mr. Nitin Nanda**, International Lawyer, Estonia, engaged the audience on critical concerns regarding AI's conscious behavior, private data protection, and blockchain regulation. **Dr. Robert Russo**, Lecturer, Peter Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada insisted on maintaining transparency and human oversight in AI-assisted decision-making processes, particularly in environmental law contexts.

The conference also witnessed profound discussions around misinformation and fake news, its implications on democracy, and the necessity for robust regulatory frameworks, as highlighted by **Dr. Sumiti Ahuja**, Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, and **Dr. Deepak Sharma**, Asst. Professor, RPNLUP. Legal innovations concerning green technologies, intellectual property rights, and balancing sustainable innovation were deliberated by **Dr. Parikshet Sirohi**, Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi and **Dr. Kshitij Kumar Singh**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, while **Prof. Moon-Hyun Koh** Professor of Law, Soongsil University, Seoul, Korea, provided valuable insights into Korea's pioneering CCUS law for carbon





Technical Session – I, Day II at the International Conference Chaired by HMJ Ashwani Kumar Mishra, Judge, Allahabad High Court

Technical Session – V, Day III at the International Conference Chaired by HMJ Salil Kumar Rai, Judge, Allahabad High Court

Technical Session – III, Day II at the International conference chaired by HMJ Ajay Bhanot, Judge, Allahabad High Court

neutrality. The integration of AI in enhancing food security and climate-resilient agriculture, explored by **Dr. Sonika**, Asst. Professor, RPNLUP, underscored the technological shift needed to meet SDG targets by 2030.

The second day of the International Conference culminated in a spirited **Cultural Night**, where students of Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj enthralled the audience with poetry, dance, and music. Delegates contributed soulful performances, creating a memorable evening of artistic celebration and cultural unity.



Students Performing

Students Performing in the Cultural Program of the International Conference

The **Valedictory Session** of the International Conference on “Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development” concluded with an address by the **Hon’ble Vice Chancellor**, RPNLUP honouring **Hon’ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal**, Judge, Supreme Court of India, for his significant contributions including a landmark ruling on stay orders. His connections with the legal fraternity, literary pursuits, and philately were warmly recognized.



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon Presenting Memento to Hon’ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mittal, Judge, Supreme Court of India, at the Valedictory Session





(from Left to Right) Prof. Rama Shanker Verma, Director, MNIT, Prayagraj; Prof. Moon-Hyun Koh, Professor of Law, Soongsil University, Seoul, Korea; Prof. (Dr.) S. Surya Prakash, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, NLUJ, Bhopal; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal, Judge, Supreme Court of India; Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPNLU, Prayagraj, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon; Mr. Nitin Nanda, International Lawyer

Discussions highlighted the applications of AI—both responsible and problematic—environmental stewardship, gender rights, IPR, and food security. The session concluded with reflections on policy implications and a cultural evening celebrating academic camaraderie. **Prof. Koh** stressed the need for global awareness in pollution prevention, using Beethoven's possible lead poisoning to illustrate environmental hazards. He urged students to aim for excellence in sustainability. **Prof. Verma** welcomed delegates to MNNIT Prayagraj and called for strict legal frameworks to address pharmaceutical waste and ecological damage. He encouraged law students to pursue public service and foster constitutional values. **Mr. Nanda** shared his 22-year journey in law, emphasizing perseverance and the challenges of case

pendency in Indian courts. **Prof. Prakash** reflected on the evolution of law with technological advances, including AI confession tools and the DPDP Act, advocating ethical governance. **HMJ Pankaj Mithal** emphasized law's role in environmental justice, promoting interdisciplinary learning to address emerging challenges such as data privacy and AI ethics.

The International Conference concluded with a resounding call to action—championing interdisciplinary collaboration, ethical innovation, and inclusive legal frameworks. As scholars, practitioners, and students depart, they carry forward not only new knowledge but a renewed commitment to shaping a future where law and technology converge to foster sustainability, equity, and global progress.



The Students of B.A.L.L.B. (Hons.) Sem. II, RPNLUP along with the Dignitaries at the International Conference



## IN CONVERSATION WITH LEGAL LUMINARY



*HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, RPNLUP with HMJ Saumitra Dayal Singh, Judge, Allahabad High Court*

Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj (RPNLUP), launched its flagship interactive series, '**In Conversation with Legal Luminary**,' with a motivational first episode featuring **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Saumitra Dayal Singh**, Judge, High Court of Allahabad. This trailblazing effort, envisioned under the academic leadership of **Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of RPNLU, Prayagraj, seeks to offer students a vibrant platform to interact firsthand with distinguished legal scholars on significant contemporary legal questions.

The first session, which took place on **March 18, 2025**, was on the topic "**Law and Artificial Intelligence**." In his insightful speech, **HMJ Saumitra Dayal Singh** referred to Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a "double-edged sword." While appreciating AI's revolutionary role, especially in legal research and information processing, he critically analyzed its limitations. **HMJ Saumitra Dayal Singh** further explained that citations created by AI tend to be inaccurate and unreliable and in fact carry considerable danger to legal scholarship's integrity because of over-reliance on algorithm-based databases.

Discussing copyright and intellectual property rights, **HMJ Saumitra Dayal Singh** pointed out that, according to Indian law, protection under copyright is not granted to non-human entities and therefore does not apply to AI-generated material. He implied that although existing legislation does not accept AI-generated content, the changing role of AI may come to require future legal amendments to accept such new realities.



*HMJ Saumitra Dayal Singh , Judge, Allahabad High Court and HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, RPNLUP Addressing the Audience*

Answering a query from a student during the engaging Q&A session, **HMJ Saumitra Dayal Singh** pointed out that AI can prove to be an effective tool to settle minor legal issues such as traffic offenses but warned against dependency on AI to make complex judicial judgments. He reiterated that justice is a fundamentally human concept governed by subtle contexts, changing values of society, and moral intuitions that AI, notwithstanding its technological evolution, cannot altogether grasp.

**HMJ Saumitra Dayal Singh** spoke of India's cautious but evolutionary implementation of AI in the judicial system, citing examples such as virtual courts and segregation of cases mechanisms. Nevertheless, he asserted that essential judicial activities, particularly the dispensation of justice, have to remain a uniquely human function. Voicing ethical issues, he challenged the transparency and reliability of AI developers and cautioned that the uninhibited dependence on sub-translucent algorithms threatened basic concepts of fairness and justice.

**Hon'ble Vice Chancellor**, adding her thoughts, stressed that although AI-based bots are increasingly supporting judicial systems in most developed nations, India is being cautious in accepting these technologies completely. She appreciated the conservative stance of India's judiciary, finding a balance between innovation and constitutional principles.

The session also included a spirited rapid-fire round where **HMJ Saumitra Dayal Singh** gave frank views on wider legal and societal issues. He labelled contemporary women as "great," supported the conferment of legal personhood to nature, surmised positively regarding the eventual legalization of LGBTQ+ unions in India, but strongly objected to any suggestion of substituting judges with AI mechanisms. He was especially dubious of the potential use of AI as a legal assistant, emphasizing the inimitable human factors of empathy, rationality, and moral discernment in law.

The first session of 'In Conversation with Legal Luminary' was able to set a high standard for the series by providing students with scarce and precious glimpses into the changing interface between technology and the legal framework. With this endeavours, RPNLU, Prayagraj, led by **Hon'ble Vice Chancellor**, continues its tradition of promoting intellectually stimulating environments where the future generation of legal practitioners can critically discuss the emerging issues of the contemporary legal scene.



# MoU BETWEEN RPNLU, PRAYAGRAJ AND NLU, DELHI

In a landmark development for legal academia, **Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj**, and **National Law University, Delhi**, have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly strengthen legal education, research, and intellectual exchange. The MoU was formally signed by **Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPNLU, Prayagraj**, and **Prof. (Dr.) G.S. Bajpai, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, NLU Delhi**, on **March 24, 2025**. It marked a pivotal moment in academic cooperation between two of India's premier legal institutions.

This strategic partnership is designed to cultivate a vibrant research culture, promote cross-institutional collaboration, and support the pursuit of legal scholarship. As part of this initiative, both the universities will engage in joint research endeavors focusing on contemporary legal challenges, host national and international seminars, conferences, and workshops, and establish platforms for dialogue among students, faculty, and legal professionals.

The MoU also includes faculty and researcher exchange programs, allowing scholars to collaborate on cutting-edge legal issues, share expertise, and enhance interdisciplinary learning. Moreover, the agreement provides for research scholarships and structured academic training programs, thereby expanding opportunities for students to engage in high-level legal research and education.

Speaking on the occasion, **Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, RPNLU**, underscored the importance of such institutional alliances in shaping the future of legal education in India. She expressed that this collaboration would significantly enrich RPNLU, Prayagraj's academic and research environment, while also contributing to the broader development of legal thought in the country.

This MoU between RPNLU, Prayagraj and NLU, Delhi not only strengthens institutional ties but also sets a strong precedent for academic synergy in legal education, laying the foundation for a more collaborative and research-oriented legal landscape in India.



*Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon and Prof. (Dr.) G.S. Bajpai, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, NLU Delhi – Signing of MoUs*

## FORTNIGHTLY FACULTY DISCUSSION SERIES



*Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon*

Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University (RPNLU), Prayagraj, ceremoniously inaugurated its **Fortnightly Faculty Discussion Series** on **28th March 2025**, heralding a pivotal advancement in cultivating a dynamic and intellectually enriched academic ethos. Conceived to encourage scholarly synergy and interdisciplinary dialogue, this initiative establishes a forum for rigorous engagement on salient legal and sociocultural matters.

Inaugurating the session, Honourable Vice-Chancellor, **Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**, presented her seminal research on "**The Complexities of Protection and Allegations of Abuse in the Context of Workplace Sexual Harassment of Women.**" She critically engaged with the evolving legal discourse on sexual harassment in the Indian workplace, with particular reference to the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act). Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Tandon emphasized that the enactment of the POSH Act marks a significant juridical and normative shift in India's commitment to eliminating structural barriers to women's

participation in the workforce. She traced the philosophical underpinnings of the Act to CEDAW's mandate, which recognizes the right of women to a workplace free from violence, exploitation, and intimidation as a fundamental human right and a precondition for achieving substantive equality.

The presentation provided an incisive description of the POSH Act's key components, including its comprehensive definition of sexual harassment, and the institutionalization of Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) for grievance redressal. Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Tandon critically examined the procedural architecture of the Act, highlighting both its progressive intent and the limitations observed in its operationalisation over the past decade. One of the most nuanced dimensions of her analysis lay in the interrogation of the provision relating to false and malicious complaints. Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Tandon acknowledged the legal and ethical tensions embedded in this clause, cautioning against the potential chilling effect it may have on genuine survivors seeking redress. At the same time, she advocated for a balanced and context-sensitive interpretation that upholds the integrity of due process while safeguarding against the misuse of protective legislation. Drawing upon landmark judicial pronouncements, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Tandon elucidated the dual challenges of under-enforcement of the Act on the one hand and on the other hand the fear of misuse of POSH Act, calling attention to the judiciary's evolving role in interpreting the Act through the lens of constitutional morality and transformative justice.



*Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, along with Registrar, Sh. Satya Prakash and Faculty Members at Seminar Hall, RPNLUP at the Fortnightly Faculty Discussion Series*



# WEEKLY STUDENT'S DEBATE & DISCUSSION SERIES

The Debate and Discussion Club of Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, continues its commitment to fostering open and inclusive discourse through its weekly round-table Debate & Discussion Series. Held every Thursday, these sessions provide students with a platform to engage in meaningful debates on past and present legal developments and their societal implications, encouraging critical thinking and active participation.

On the 13th of February 2025, the weekly sessions resumed after the winter internship break. The debate was presented on **“The new immigration policy, introduced by the U.S.”** by Mr. Lakshay Choudhary and Ms. Tashu Singh. The policy ended the birthright citizenship of undocumented or temporary visa migrants thus, becoming a headline for intervention in human rights. In the session, the possible impact it could have on Indo-US relationship was also discussed.



On the 18th of February 2025, the weekly debate & discussion session was held on techno-legal and futuristic topic discussing **“Whether Artificial Intelligence can be incorporated into the criminal justice system or would it lead to unfair trials and convictions.”** The presenters of the session were Ms. Vanya Sidana and Ms. Stuti Mishra. The week's session also saw the introduction of a new section dedicated to dispense knowledge on the life journey and landmark contributions of a renowned personality from the field of Law.

On the 24th of February 2025, the weekly session took place on the subject of **“Conflict and chaos rising from the debate over the UCC and whether the country can balance its secular ideals and ethos with the application of this bill or would it favour one community over the others”**. The session was presented by Mr. Durgesh Yadav and Mr. Ayush Pandey.



In session on 20th March 2025, presented by Ms. Samraddhi Jain and Ms. Babli Choudhary, discussion was held on the **“New Lokpal order, which brought High Court judges under its jurisdiction, and whether this order would strengthen accountability on the part of judges, or undermine judicial independence and freedom.”**

## BEYOND JUDGMENTS: SPEAKING WITH HON'BLE **MR. JUSTICE MANOJ KUMAR GUPTA**

(SENIOR JUDGE, ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT)



(from right to left) Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta, Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court giving interview to Ms. Nehal Sharma, Ms. Tashu Singh and Mr. Aaditya, Students B.A.LL.B. Hons. II Sem.

**Q1. Your Lordship, whether it is being a student of law or a practising advocate at the Bar, each phase of a legal career holds its own significance. Among these, your Lordship, which 'first day' stands out as the most memorable for you?**

**Ans.** It was definitely the first day, I argued a case as a lawyer in court. In our times, there were no moot courts, nor was any emphasis laid on practical training. So, till that day, I was a bit skeptical about my success in the profession. But after that day, I was sure that I would perform well.

**Q2. The transition from the Bar to the Bench must have marked a profound shift in your mindset and responsibilities. Your Lordship, how did this journey shape your career, and what personal challenges or comforts helped you embrace your role on the Bench with conviction?**

**Ans.** As a lawyer, I learned that dedication is essential in performing one's duties, and that trait carried over into my time as a judge. It is important to focus on your responsibilities, remain impartial, and not only deliver justice but also instil confidence in people that justice is being served. I believe this approach is one of the greatest strengths while on the Bench.



**Q3. Amidst the demanding nature of judicial responsibilities, how do you cultivate qualities such as an insightful mind and humility—traits often considered essential to judicial grace and composure, which Your Lordship so distinctly embodies?**

**Ans.** Over the years, working on complicated cases, maintaining patience in Court, and staying focused became ingrained in my personality when I transitioned to the other side—as a judge. For a litigant, every case matters, whether simple or complex. As judges, we may perceive some cases as straightforward or highly intricate, but we must always remember that, for the person standing before the court, it may be the most important case of their life.



*H.M.J. Manoj Kumar Gupta at the  
Threshold of the Legal Profession*

**Q4. Many in the legal fraternity have spoken about your instinctive ability to mentor with both wisdom and empathy, particularly toward beginners finding their footing. Your Lordship, may we know who was your mentor, guiding and supporting you in your early days of struggle?**

**Ans.** It was actually my father who guided me into this profession. I had always been a science student and had taken various competitive exams for admission into an engineering college. I even secured admission to the Birla Institute of Engineering, paid the fees, and was allotted a room in the hostel. However, before I was set to leave, I learned—not directly from my father but through his friends—that he wanted me to pursue a career in law. Perhaps it was because I had three sisters, and an engineering job might not have kept me in Allahabad. Eventually, he persuaded me to enter the legal profession, and I yielded to his wishes, enrolling in the LL.B. course at Lucknow University. “Work hard with great honesty”, that was my father’s principle, and that enabled me to remain steadfast in my profession.

**Q5. Article 300A of the Constitution of India is often regarded as a procedural right, but when land is lost without due process, what is truly taken away is a sense of home and identity. In *Kanyawati v. State of U.P. and Others* (2025), the Bench presided over by Your Lordship defended the citizen’s right to property against executive overreach. Do you believe this Article deserves deeper judicial attention, not just as a legal safeguard but as a concept tied to dignity and belonging?**

**Ans.** Yes, definitely. Initially, the Right to Property was a Fundamental Right; however, it later became a Constitutional Right under Article 300A. The Right of Eminent Domain remained with the State. When a citizen’s land is expropriated by the State, a fundamental principle of law dictates that the individual must receive appropriate compensation. In catena of judgements, the Supreme Court has defined the scope of judicial review of ex-proprietary legislations falling under Schedule Ninth of the Constitution. The Right to Livelihood is particularly impacted when land is taken away, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable members of society. Every judicial system has a responsibility to protect the landless, marginalized, and most disadvantaged individuals. Cases involving such persons should be handled with empathy, acknowledging that their source of livelihood and shelter is being taken away.

**Q6. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, “The life of the law has not been logic; it has been experience”. Have there been moments in your Lordship’s own journey where experience, rather than doctrine, reshaped the way you understood a case before you?**

**Ans.** Yes, a child custody case once came before me, where one parent lived abroad while the other resided here. A significant amount of counselling took place in our Court chambers. Both parents were at odds, and neither seemed to prioritize the child’s welfare. At that moment, we issued certain orders with the child’s well-being as the primary concern, as prioritizing the child’s best interests was essential. Such situations do arise, but ultimately, I believe we must adhere to the law. While we may empathize with litigants and their circumstances, our actions must remain within the boundaries of the legal framework.

**Q7. There are many cases where the provisions of the law do not always perfectly align with principles of morality. For instance, in *Aruna Shanbaug v. Union of India* (2011), where the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution was debated, the court faced the difficult question of whether the withdrawal of life-sustaining therapies for a person in a Permanent Vegetative State (PVS) was lawful. The Supreme Court ultimately legalised passive euthanasia. Your Lordship, personally, how do you approach cases where the law is clear, but the moral implications are challenging?**

**Ans.** You see, the law is ever-evolving, and we must interpret it while considering the concerns of society. Take, for example, the case you mentioned—where the victim was in a vegetative state. From a moral standpoint, one could argue that we should not violate the will of God, nor hasten the process by allowing doctors to end that life. On the other hand, we must ask: what benefit is there in prolonging a person’s suffering in such a miserable condition? When faced with dilemmas like these, one often finds oneself torn between conflicting perspectives. While morality has its considerations, we must ultimately uphold the law.

As judges, when we encounter grey areas, we strive to address and clarify them. However, when a clear, written law exists, we must abide by it—unless, of course, that law is ultra vires to a constitutional principle.

**Q8. In sensitive cases like same-sex relationships, adultery, or entry to religious places, such as the Sabarimala issue, public sentiment runs high, and constitutional stakes are profound. In an age of instant outrage, when such emotionally charged matters come before the judiciary, what enables judges to remain steadfast in their duty?**

**Ans.** In sensitive cases, it is essential for a judge to remain unaffected by media narratives and avoid the influence of social media. Once public commentary begins, it can create external pressure, but I believe a judge’s true strength comes from within. Over the years, with experience, one learns to navigate and manage this pressure.

Ultimately, our foremost duty is to uphold the law and act in the public interest. Take, for instance, issues like Sabarimala, where the rights of a particular group—such as women—are at stake. In such cases, the judiciary must rise to the occasion. Just as past reformers challenged regressive practices like sati, the law must continue to evolve. In pivotal moments like these, judicial decisions can play a crucial role in shifting public perception, aligning with evolving standards of human dignity.



**Q9. In the light of increasing concerns regarding judicial corruption and a lack of adequate subject-matter expertise, what qualities, in your opinion, your Lordship will define the next generation of skilled and respected judges in India?**

**Ans.** First and foremost, a judge must be honest with oneself and committed to the integrity of their work. A judge is expected to remain within a defined circle, avoiding unnecessary social interactions or associations that might compromise the dignity of the office. If these principles are followed sincerely, no difficulties arise.

Despite criticism, I believe the judiciary has largely retained the public's trust. Landmark judgments, such as *Minerva Mills* and *Kesavananda Bharati* (the Basic Structure doctrine cases), and even the *Sabarimala* verdict, stand as testaments to the judiciary's ability to deliver justice while safeguarding constitutional values.

**Q10. The late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who served on the Supreme Court of the USA, had a profound passion for opera and often mentioned how it brought her joy and relaxation. Similarly, the distinguished senior advocate Mr. Harish Salve is an accomplished pianist who frequently turns to music to unwind. Your Lordship, how do you choose to relax or recharge after a day filled with intense hearings and legal arguments?**

**Ans.** After a hectic day, I find great relaxation in cooking—it is, in fact, a passion of mine. Apart from that, I enjoy gardening, particularly tending to my kitchen garden and lawn. Both activities serve as my best stress busters and help me unwind from the demands of my profession.

**Q11. As the Executive Chairman of the Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority (UPSLSA), Your Lordship plays a crucial role in ensuring access to justice for marginalised communities. Given the diverse socio-economic landscape of Uttar Pradesh, what innovative strategies do you envision implementing to bridge the gap between the legal aid services and those most in need?**

**Ans.** I would say that it is an honourable responsibility to serve on the Committee but accompanied with their own set of challenges. Uttar Pradesh is a vast State, and when you consider that about one-tenth of the population requires legal aid, the scale of the issue becomes evident. Large sections of the population, particularly women, the poor, and other disadvantaged communities, are unaware of their rights, let alone the legal remedies available to them. That is a major concern for us.

While we are making efforts to reach out, the real challenge often lies in the quality of legal services being provided. Unfortunately, not enough lawyers are willing to take up pro bono work, resulting in a situation where, although we can offer legal aid, the quality of representation often does not meet the high standards it should. We are working to change this. Our main focus right now is not just to expand legal aid but to ensure that the quality of service provided matches what one would expect if they could afford private counsel.

One of our key initiatives is improving legal aid for the defence, particularly for convicts and undertrials. This is often a neglected area, but we are allocating significant funds to hire competent lawyers who can provide high-quality representation. Our goal is to ensure that those who need legal aid the most receive not only legal assistance but effective and capable advocacy. Justice must be delivered fairly, regardless of a person's background or financial status.

Another challenge we face concerns Permanent Lok Adalats. The quality of personnel managing these Adalats is not always up to the mark. Many are older and retired individuals who, due to their age, lack the passion and enthusiasm required for public welfare. Without the necessary drive, the impact and effectiveness of these Adalats remain limited. We are actively working to address this issue.

Beyond statistics and data collection, I have also had the opportunity to visit prisons in Prayagraj—where there are two prisons—as well as in Lucknow and Meerut. These visits have profoundly shifted my perspective. Meeting undertrials and witnessing their conditions first hand changes the way one thinks about the justice system. Over time, I have developed a deeper sense of empathy when handling such cases. I have come to understand the importance of approaching legal matters with compassion and a human touch, as that is when true justice can be served.

**Q12. With rapid technological advancements transforming social structures, the legal system must adapt to them. Which areas of law do you foresee should gain prominence in the coming years?**

**Ans.** Firstly, I believe the electoral system may require some adjustments. As a democratic nation, we must continuously strive to enhance transparency in our processes. The electoral bond case has recently underscored the need for greater openness in the system. Recent directions from the Supreme Court emphasize this necessity—for instance, ensuring clarity on the sources of political funding and how those funds are utilized. Therefore, I believe some legal reforms in this area may become necessary.

Secondly, on a societal level, certain issues demand legislative attention. Artificial Intelligence and data privacy are becoming major concerns. There is a growing fear of misuse, particularly regarding personal data. The law must evolve to safeguard individuals, ensuring that their data is neither sold nor exploited by AI systems.

**Q13. Previously, we talked about the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and her profound love for opera in addition to her career in law, so much so that, in her youth, she had once wanted to become an opera singer. Your Lordship, if you had not chosen the path of law, may we know what alternative profession you might have pursued?**

**Ans.** As I mentioned earlier, I was a science student and was on the verge of pursuing engineering. Had it not been for my father's guidance, I likely would have followed that path. I have always had a knack for understanding how things work and enjoyed repairing items like fans—often succeeding in those little projects.

If I had become an engineer, I probably would have specialized in mechanical engineering, perhaps designing cars or something similar. It is an area I have always found fascinating, and I could have seen myself excelling in it had I not chosen law instead.



**Q14. Your Lordship, as Chairperson of the committee that established RPNLU Prayagraj, you have played a vital role in laying its foundation. What are your expectations from this law school, and what message would you like to share with its students?**

**Ans.** This University is very close to my heart, and I have witnessed its growth from its earliest stages. The primary motivation behind its conceptualization was the recognition that Allahabad has always been a center of education. While numerous law colleges offered LL.B. courses, the rise of dedicated universities specializing solely in legal education made us realize the urgent need for such an institution in Allahabad. Thus, the dream of establishing this university began to take shape as we initiated its planning and development.

Legal education is not just about securing employment or entering the profession—it is about becoming an informed citizen who understands the Constitution, which is supreme. Knowing your rights, understanding your duties, and helping others become aware of them is fundamental. While legal theory is studied in classrooms, real law is practiced in courtrooms. I encourage students to visit the courts, observe legal proceedings, and gain an understanding of the practical side of law.

There are many career avenues beyond litigation, such as corporate law, company law, and legal research. However, if you have even the slightest interest in litigation, I strongly encourage you to pursue it. First-generation lawyers and women are thriving in the profession today. In litigation, there has been a significant shift in mindset, allowing women to excel in the field. The future of litigation is bright, and I am confident that the students here will contribute to that promising future.



**Interviewed by-**

**- Ms. Tashu Singh**

**- Ms. Nehal Sharma**

*(Students of B.A. LL.B. Hons. II Sem.)*

**Photographed by –**

**- Mr. Aaditya**

*(B.A.LL.B. Hons. II Sem.)*

## FACULTY FOOTPRINTS



### **(Dr.) Usha Tandon, Senior Professor of Law**

#### ***Publications:***

- "Harnessing Technology for Advancing Legal Education: Spotlighting Clinical Legal Education", NLUJ Law Review, (Special Issue), V. 11, 59 (Jan, 2025).

#### ***Paper Presentation:***

- Presented a Research Paper titled "Optimizing Technology to Enhance Renewable Energy (RE) Development in India: A Reconnaissance Legal Study" at the International Conference on Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development organized by Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

#### ***Meetings:***

- Participated in the online meeting of BRICS Law School Consortium, Moscow, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Participated in the Selection Committee meeting for Professors in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi AUD, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

#### ***Recognitions:***

- Conferred "APJ Abdul Kalam Jurist Excellence Award 2025" by KLA-GRCF (Kerala Law Academy and Global Research Conference Forum, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025)



### **Dr. Deepak Sharma, Assistant Professor of Law**

#### ***Resource Person:***

- Invited to Deliver Lecture on Recent Trends in Criminal Law, by the Institute of Legal Studies, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Campus, Meerut as part of the Pre-Ph.D. Course Work Programme organized for research scholars in law on 28th and 29th January 2025 and focused on the theme 'Recent Trends in Criminal Law.'

#### ***Paper Presentation:***

- Presented a Research Paper titled "Freedom of Speech in the Digital Age: Legal and Judicial Responses to Fake News in Indian Democracy" at the International Conference on Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development organized by Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, from 7th to 9th March 2025.





## Dr. Sonika, Assistant Professor of Law

### **Paper Presentation:**

- Presented a Research Paper titled "Interface of Indian Food Security System with Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Nutritional Security" at the International Conference on Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development, organised by Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, from March 07–09, 2025.

### **Adjudged:**

- Adjudged Preliminary Rounds of 7<sup>th</sup> Surana & Surana and RGNUL International Law Moot Court Competition, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025.
- Adjudged Preliminary Rounds of 13<sup>th</sup> RGNUL National Moot Court Competition, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



## Dr. Prakash Tripathi, Assistant Professor of Sociology

### **Paper Presentation**

- Presented a Research Paper titled "Bridging Traditional Wisdom and Modern Sustainability: An Empirical Study of PVTGs of Jharkhand and Their Understanding of Sustainability" at the International Conference on Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development organized by Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, from 7th to 9th March 2025.



## Dr. Neha Dubey, Assistant Professor of English

### **Paper Presentation**

- Presented a Research Paper titled "AI's Participation in Realizing Feminist Utopia" at the International Conference on Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development organized by Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, from 7th to 9th March 2025.



## Dr. Suchit Kumar Yadav, Assistant Professor of Political Science

### **Resource Person:**

- Delivered a lecture as a Resource Person at a three-day International Seminar titled "Indigenous Resources of Peacebuilding: Experiences from the Global South", organized by the UNESCO Chair for Peace and the Malaviya Centre for Peace Research, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, from March 18–20, 2025.

### **Paper Presentation:**

- Presented a Research Paper titled "Sustainable Development and Social Justice: Prospective from India" at the International Conference on Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development, organised by Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, from March 07–09, 2025.

### **Participated/ Attended:**

- Participated in a two-day comprehensive workshop on "Wrongful Convictions and Innocence Claims: Issues and Challenges in India", organised by the School of Legal Studies, Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Science (UPSIFS), Lucknow, on February 08–09, 2025.

## STUDENTS SPOTLIGHT



**Mr. Saurabh Jain** (B.A.LL.B. Hons. II Sem.)

**Publication**

Paper titled "The Role of E-Contracts in the Digital Economy: Challenges and Legal Solutions" has been published in the Indian Journal of Law and Legal Research. (January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025) (ISSN: 2582-8878, Vol. VI, Issue VI), publication link: <https://lnkd.in/gBT-uxjb>.

Participated in 1<sup>st</sup> NLIU-CRIL Article Writing Competition, CRIL, NLIU Bhopal.



**Ms. Samraddhi Jain** (B.A.LL.B. Hons. II Sem.)

Selected at the IDIA's Central team's Legal Reasoning section (Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025).

Winner of Slogan Writing and Poster Making Competition of RPNLUP's Foundation Day. Awarded on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the International Conference.



**Ms. Siddhi Sharma** (B.A.LL.B. Hons. II Sem.)

Finalist at the Nrityanjali Solo Dance Competition at Riwayaat 7.0 fest of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow, February 13-15, 2025.



**Ms. Tanu Grewal** (B.A.LL.B. Hons. II Sem.)

Semi Finalist in the 9th Inter-University Moot Court Competition, Law College Dehradun, February 21-23, 2025, among 32 teams (Researcher).



***Ms. Pratibha Gaur (B.A.LL.B. Hons. II Sem.)***

Semi Finalist in the 9th Inter-University Moot Court Competition, Law College Dehradun, February 21-23, 2025, among 32 teams (Speaker).

***Mr. Ayush Pandey (B.A.LL.B. Hons. II Sem.)***

Secured 8<sup>th</sup> position among 41 teams at the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Inter University Debate Competition, organized under YUVA'25 by the Vivekanand Swadhyay Mandal at G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar (January 14-15, 2025).

**Topic:** Government policies effectively encourage Indian youth to embrace entrepreneurship  
Campus ambassador, Debating Society, Vivekananda Swadhyay Mandal.

***Mr. Durgesh Yadav (B.A.LL.B. Hons. II Sem.)***

Secured 8<sup>th</sup> position among 41 teams at the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Inter University Debate Competition, organized under YUVA'25 by the Vivekanand Swadhyay Mandal at G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar (January 14-15, 2025).

**Topic:** Government policies effectively encourage Indian youth to embrace entrepreneurship

Semi Finalist in the 9<sup>th</sup> Inter-University Moot Court Competition, Law College Dehradun, February, 21-23, 2025, among 32 teams (Speaker).

***Ms. Janhavi Singh (B.A.LL.B. Hons. II Sem.)***

Secured 8<sup>th</sup> position among 41 teams at the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Inter-University Debate Competition, organized under YUVA'25 by the Vivekanand Swadhyay Mandal at G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar (January 14-15, 2025).

**Topic:** Government policies effectively encourage Indian youth to embrace entrepreneurship



## **Mr. Devansh Upadhyay** (B.A.LL.B. Hons. II Sem.)

Secured 8<sup>th</sup> position among 41 teams at the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Inter-University Debate Competition, organized under YUVA'25 by the Vivekanand Swadhyay Mandal at G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar (January 14-15, 2025).

**Topic:** Government policies effectively encourage Indian youth to embrace entrepreneurship

Quarter finalist in the 4<sup>th</sup> AIU National Moot Court Competition, Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur (Speaker).



## **Mr. Suryansh Mishra** (B.A.LL.B. Hons. II Sem.)

Quarter finalist in the 4<sup>th</sup> AIU National Moot Court Competition, Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur (Speaker).



## **Mr. Aditya Agarwal** (B.A.LL.B. Hons. II Sem.)

Quarter finalist in the 4<sup>th</sup> AIU National Moot Court Competition, Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur (Researcher).





# WALL OF FAME

## Best Speaker Award

The team comprising Ms. Srijal Mishra, Mr. Abhyuday Sharan, and Mr. Abhishek Raj represented the university at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Deo Mangal National Moot Court Competition, organized by GNS University, Bihar, Feb. 9th, 2025. Competing against some of the most talented law students from across the country, the team demonstrated commendable skills. Notably, Ms. Srijal Mishra was adjudged the Best Female Speaker of the competition, in recognition of her articulate advocacy and confident presentation throughout the rounds. The team's success reflects their hard work, dedication and commitment to excellence, and brings great pride to the university.



*Ms. Srijal Mishra being appreciated for her achievement by HMJ Manoj Misra, Judge, S.C. & Visitor, RPNLUP at the International Conference*

## JUDICIAL TRENDS

### I. **Supreme court affirms right to alimony even in void marriages** *[X v. Y, (2025 INSC 197)]*

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, comprising Justices Abhay S. Oka, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, and Augustine George Masih, held that a spouse from a void marriage under Section 11 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, is entitled to seek permanent alimony under Section 25 of the Act.

The issue before the Court was whether a decree of nullity under Section 11 precludes a party from seeking maintenance under Section 25. The Court held that the expression “any decree” in Section 25 includes a decree of nullity under Section 11. It reasoned that Section 23 of the Hindu Marriage Act, which governs decrees under Sections 9 to 13, also covers decrees under Section 11, and therefore Section 25 cannot be read in isolation.

The Court referred to *Chand Dhawan v. Jawaharlal Dhawan* (1993) 3 SCC 406 and *Ramesh chandra Rampratapji Daga v. Rameshwari Rameshchandra Daga* (2005) 2 SCC 33, which recognized the principle of granting financial relief irrespective of the subsistence or nullity of a marriage. It distinguished *Yamunabai Anantrao Adhav v. Anantrao Shivram Adhav* (1988) 1 SCC 530, noting that Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure has a different statutory scheme from Section 25 of the Hindu Marriage Act.

The Bench further observed that equitable considerations and the conduct of the parties remain relevant under Section 25. While the right to claim maintenance extends to void marriages, relief may be denied depending on the facts of the case. On interim maintenance, the Court held that

Section 24 of the Hindu Marriage Act, which provides for maintenance pendente lite and litigation expenses, applies even where the validity of the marriage is in dispute.

### II. **Supreme Court allows plea of juvenility after 25 years, orders release of convict and directs rehabilitation measures** *[Om Prakash @ Israel @ Raju @ Raju Das v. Union of India & Anr., [2025 INSC 43]]*

A two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, comprising Justices M. M. Sundresh and Aravind Kumar, allowed an appeal concerning a claim of juvenility and ordered the release of the appellant, who had been in incarceration for nearly 25 years for an offence committed in 1994 while a minor.

The issue before the Court was whether the appellant, convicted of culpable homicide and originally sentenced to death (later commuted), was entitled to relief under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Acts of 2000 and 2015, given his status as a juvenile at the time of the offence. The appellant’s plea of juvenility had been raised at the trial stage but was rejected by courts at various levels. The Bench found documentary evidence, including a school birth certificate and RTI-obtained records, establishing that the appellant was 14 years old at the time of the offence.

The Court held that a claim of juvenility can be raised at any stage of legal proceedings. It relied on Section 7-A of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000, and Section 9(2) of the 2015 Act, which allow the plea of juvenility to be raised even after finality of proceedings. It ruled that the earlier decisions rejecting the claim could not attain legal finality without proper adjudication of the issue.



The Court further observed that its ruling did not amount to a review of the Presidential commutation order under Article 72 but was limited to applying the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act. While upholding the conviction for culpable homicide, the Court set aside the sentence imposed in excess of the ceiling under juvenile justice laws and directed the appellant's immediate release. The Uttarakhand State Legal Services Authority was directed to facilitate his reintegration into society through rehabilitation measures and welfare schemes.

### III. **The existence of an arbitration agreement is a precondition for the enforceability of an arbitral award**

*[State of Uttar Pradesh & Anr. v. R.K. Pandey & Anr., [2025 INSC 48]]*

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and R. Mahadevan, allowed an appeal against a decision of the Allahabad High Court and held that the existence of a valid and authenticated arbitration agreement is a prerequisite for any arbitral award to be legally enforceable under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

The case arose when R.K. Pandey, a retired Lab Assistant, after the dismissal of his writ petition on the issue of superannuation, initiated arbitration unilaterally by appointing two arbitrators and obtaining ex parte awards totalling over ₹46 lakhs against the State of Uttar Pradesh and a medical college.

The central issue was the absence of any executed or mutually acknowledged arbitration agreement. The Court found no documentary evidence of an agreement, its invocation, or ratification by the

State or the Municipal Board. It held that arbitration is consensual in nature and cannot be imposed unilaterally.

Relying on Section 7 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, the Court ruled that the absence of a valid arbitration agreement rendered the entire arbitral process void ab initio. It further held that unilateral appointments and ex parte awards without arbitral jurisdiction cannot be sustained.

The Supreme Court set aside the arbitral awards, declared the execution proceedings non-maintainable, and imposed costs on the respondents for misuse of the arbitral mechanism.

### IV. **Supreme Court clarifies principles on registration of second FIRs, restores quashed FIR in corruption case**

*[State of Rajasthan v. Surendra Singh Rathore, [2025 INSC 248]]*

A two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, comprising Justices Sanjay Karol and Prashant Kumar Mishra, allowed a criminal appeal filed by the State of Rajasthan challenging the Rajasthan High Court's order that had quashed a second FIR against a government officer.

The case arose from corruption allegations involving the respondent, then Chief Executive Officer-cum-Project Director of the Bio-fuel Authority. The first FIR was based on a specific bribe demand, while subsequent information from a Constable of the Anti-Corruption Bureau revealed a wider criminal conspiracy involving systemic bribery in the issuance of bio-fuel licenses. This led to the registration of a second FIR.

The issue before the Court was whether the second FIR was maintainable or whether it constituted duplication of the earlier FIR concerning the same offence. The Rajasthan High Court had quashed the second FIR under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, holding it to be an abuse of process.

The Supreme Court held that the High Court erred in treating both FIRs as part of the same transaction. It observed that the first FIR related to a specific incident, whereas the second FIR, based on subsequent information, disclosed a distinct and broader conspiracy. Referring to established principles, the Court noted that a second FIR is not permissible for the same incident, but is maintainable where it relates to materially different facts, a broader conspiracy, a counter-version, or separate incidents.

Holding that the second FIR in this case disclosed substantially different facts and a wider scope of criminality, the Supreme Court set aside the High Court's judgment and restored the second FIR for investigation.

## V. **Supreme Court constitutes national task force to address student suicides in higher educational institutions** *[Amit Kumar & Ors. v. Union of India, [2025 INSC 384]]*

A two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan, directed the constitution of a ten-member National Task Force to address the rising incidence of student suicides across higher educational institutions.

The matter arose from the suicides of two B.Tech. students, Ayush Ashna and Anil Kumar, from marginalized communities at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. Their families alleged caste-based discrimination and institutional apathy, though the Delhi High Court had declined to initiate criminal proceedings, relying on police findings that academic pressure was the cause.

The issue before the Court was the increase in student suicides and whether systemic failures by educational institutions in addressing mental health, discrimination, and welfare contributed to the problem. Referring to data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the Court noted that over 13,000 student suicides were reported in 2021, with an increase of 4% in 2024.

The Court directed the immediate formation of a National Task Force to (i) identify the causes of student suicides in higher education institutions, (ii) conduct inspections and assess existing welfare and grievance mechanisms, (iii) review legal and institutional frameworks on mental health, discrimination, and harassment, and (iv) propose actionable, time-bound reforms to strengthen prevention and accountability.

The Court further directed that the Task Force submit an interim report within four months and a final report within eight months.

## VI. **Grabbing breasts, breaking strings of pyjamas not sufficient to hold rape charge: Allahabad High Court** *[Akash & Ors. v. State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors. [2025 AHC 37075]]*

A single-judge Bench of the Allahabad High Court, comprising Justice Ram Manohar Narayan Mishra, modified a trial court's order summoning three accused under charges of rape and attempted rape.

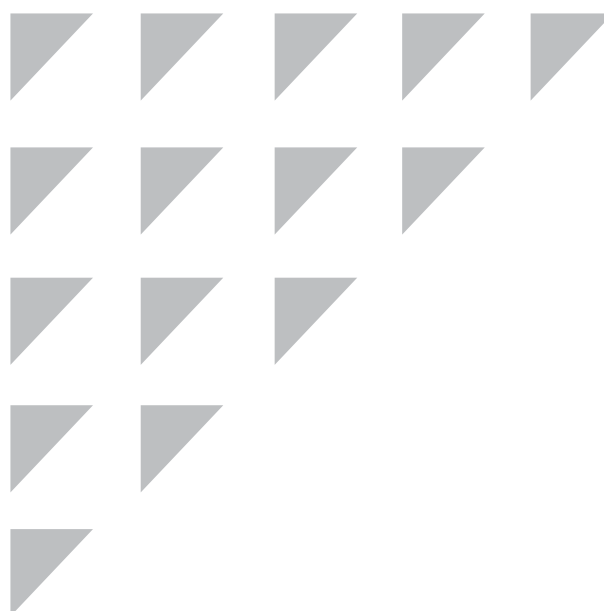
The case concerned allegations that the accused, residents of the same village as the minor girl, offered her a lift while she was returning with her mother. During this incident, one accused allegedly grabbed her breasts, another broke the string of her pyjama, and she was nearly dragged beneath a culvert before passers-by intervened. The trial court had taken cognizance under Section 376 IPC (rape) and Section 18 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act (attempt to commit an offence under POCSO).



The accused approached the High Court seeking quashing of the summons, contending that the allegations, even if accepted as true, did not constitute an attempt to rape. The High Court examined the legal distinction between preparation and attempt, noting that for an act to amount to attempt there must be a direct step towards the commission of the offence. The Court found that the material on record did not establish such a step, nor evidence of an act approaching penetrative sexual assault.

The Court referred to earlier precedents, including *Rex v. James Lloyd* (1836) and *Express v. Shankar* (1881), which laid down the requirements for proving attempt in sexual offences. On this basis, it held that the accused were not liable under Section 376 IPC or Section 18 of POCSO but were liable under Section 354B IPC (assault with intent to disrobe) and Section 9(m) of POCSO (aggravated sexual assault on children under 12 years of age).

The Court also noted inconsistencies in the records regarding the girl's age, but by invoking Section 9(m), treated her as being below 12 years of age.



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

### I. The Tribhuvan Sahkari University Act, 2025

The Tribhuvan Sahkari University Act, 2025 was passed during the budget session on 1st April 2025. The Act aims to establish the Institute of Rural Management Anand, Gujarat (IRMA) as the 'Tribhuvan' Sahkari University to establish India's first national cooperative university to advance education and training in the cooperative sector that will provide education and training in the cooperative sector. It will offer degree programs, distance learning, and e-learning courses, and develop centres of excellence in the co-operative sector. It may establish outlying campuses or affiliate institutes in any other place in India or outside India. The university will be registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860. The Vice-Chancellor, appointed by the Central Government for a three-year term (renewable for two years), will be the chief executive and academic officer of the University. They will lead the Executive Council, whose composition, powers, and member terms will be defined by the Central Government. The University will have a Governing Board chaired by a Chancellor, a distinguished individual appointed by the Central Government for five years. The Board will review University policies and nominate members to administrative councils. Other members of the Governing Board include Vice-Chancellor, Secretary to the Cooperation Ministry, four Secretaries of the central ministries dealing with cooperative sector, heads of boards such as NABARD, National Dairy Development Board, and National Fisheries Development Board, and four eminent persons in the field of cooperatives. Additionally, a Board for Affiliation and Recognition, led by the Vice-Chancellor, will manage the admission and affiliation of institutes. The Act serves as a landmark initiative to strengthen cooperative education and training in India.

### II. The Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Act, 2025

The Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Act, 2025, was passed during the budget session on 3rd April 2025, the objective of the Act is to give legal effect and incorporate the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment (Cape Town Convention, 2001) and its Protocol on Aircraft Equipment into Indian law. Though India acceded to these in 2008, it had not ratified them, rendering their provisions non-binding. The Cape Town Convention seeks to standardize transactions involving movable property like aircraft, engines, and helicopters, ensuring creditor rights in case of default. The Act aligns these conventions with Indian laws to ease leasing processes, attract aviation investments, and improve India's compliance scores under the Cape Town Convention. These reforms are crucial for lowering airline costs and promoting sector-wise growth. It will provide a significant boost to the leasing industry, which is the need of the hour.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is designated as the regulatory authority to issue orders for implementing the Convention. Debtors must maintain and submit records of dues related to aircraft ownership or usage. Creditors may exercise remedies only after notifying the DGCA of default. In insolvency cases, creditors can repossess assets within two months or a mutually agreed period, whichever is earlier. Certain entities like the Central Government, public service providers, or inter-governmental organizations can detain aircraft if dues remain unpaid. The Act has an overriding effect over conflicting laws and grants the High Court's jurisdiction over Convention claims. The Central Government is empowered to make rules for implementing the Convention and Protocol, including directions to DGCA and obligations of debtors and creditors.



## III. The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025

The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 aims to regulate the entry, stay, and departure of foreigners in India. The Act repeals several obsolete laws, including the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000. It mandates that all individuals entering or leaving India must have a valid visa and passport, which will be examined by immigration officers. The Act proposes the establishment of the Bureau of Immigration, which will oversee visa issuance, regulate entry and exit, and handle transit stays within India. The Bureau's Commissioner, appointed by the Central Government, will manage these functions. Foreign nationals arriving in India will also be required to register with a Registration Officer. Additionally, carriers must provide passenger and crew information to immigration officers, while educational and medical institutions must report details of foreign students and patients. The Act expands the definition of transportation to include air, sea, and land travel and prohibits any transport from leaving India without clearance from an immigration officer. It also increases penalties for immigration violations, such as entering without a valid passport, with penalties rising to imprisonment for up to five years and fines up to Rs. 5 lakh or both. Finally, the Act grants police officers of at least the rank of Head Constable the authority to make arrests without a warrant in immigration-related matters.

- Dr. Sonika, Asst. Prof. of Law  
&  
- Mr. Divyansh Gupta,  
- Mr. Mohd. Anas  
*(Students of B.A.LL.B. Hons. II Sem.)*

## EXPRESSIONS

### INTEGRATING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN URBAN PLANNING - CREATING ENVIRONMENTALLY RESISTANT CITIES

#### Introduction

In urbanization across the globe, there exists a merger of sustainable practices being a priority and a compulsion by way of a legal mandate that makes a goal of achieving an atmosphere of environmentally resilient cities. Urbanization boosts economic growth and leads to infrastructural development. On the other side of the coin, it has a deep impact on the environment, and thereby, there arise environmental issues, which may include depletion of resources, high rise in levels of pollution, and climate changes.

Legal systems must be put in place and must, therefore, be established so that there happens to exist a harmonization of urban expansion with ecological preservation, which would lead to ensuring that cities are equipped to withstand environmental challenges alongside continuing the promotion of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

#### The Indian Jurisprudence and Universal Mandates

Under the Indian Jurisprudence, the constitutional mandate, as laid down under Article 48A directs the State to protect and improve the environment, while Article 51A(g) lays a fundamental duty on citizens to safeguard the natural environment. These constitutional provisions are directive principles that lay the constitutional commitment to sustainability, which is further supported in the forms of legislative enactments, including the Environment Protection Act, 1986, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The Town and Country Planning Acts across different states in India, including the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act, 1966 also bring to light the necessity to consider ecological basis and put on criterion during urban development.

The efforts put in the direction of sustainable urban planning fits correctly with the globally recognised international agendas of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to be specific, with Goal 11, which deals with inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements.

#### The Approach of the Legislature and the Judiciary

At this juncture, one must take reference from a landmark decision in this regard in the case of Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India, where the Hon'ble Supreme Court recognized the principle of sustainable development and the precautionary principle as essential components of Indian environmental jurisprudence. The Court laid that there must be an integration of environmental shields within industrial and urban planning projects, emphasizing the polluter pays principle and the need for proactive environmental management.

Other important decision is that of Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar wherein it has been elaborately and categorically established that the right to a clean environment is part of the right to life encompassed within the nuances of Article 21 of the Constitution.

The decision in the case of MC Mehta v. Union of India against the government stands out as an example of an active judiciary compelling results in terms of pollution control and sustainable urban policies.



At this point, one must also take note of the *T. Damodhar Rao v. Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad*, which exhibits the need and importance for environmental protection in urban planning along with the duty of state to tread on again the balanced road in development with ecological manifestation.

One of the important areas where there can be legal development through legislative enactments is a mechanism to keep a check through assessments of climate vulnerability into such laws of regions and infrastructural laws. This is a way that demands a shift from reactive compliance to proactive risk mitigation, ensuring that urban planning anticipates climate-related risks such as flooding, heatwaves, and air quality deterioration.

The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Rules, in India is an attempt that deals with such needs by restricting construction along vulnerable coastlines, thereby also ensuring the enforcement inconsistencies persist. Enhancing the capacity of local bodies and urban planners through technical training and resources is essential for effective implementation. Additionally, public participation has to be regarded as one of the critical elements for urban sustainability. Laws like these empower the community through Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and public hearing mechanisms facilitated by EIA Notification, 2006.

Judicial pronouncements such as in the case *Narmada Bachao Andolan v. Union of India* have reiterated a public interest, well-informed in investment decisions relating to development projects, the connection between environmental justice and resilience within urban settings.

It therefore creates a framework within which to conduct such sustainable practices through the Smart Cities Mission, which was launched in 2015; however, this strategy is very much a function of localized enforcement and broad urban governance. Strong monitoring mechanisms and the establishment of benchmarks would be required for the establishment of sustainable living conditions. Globally, the Paris Agreement and the United Nations' New Urban Agenda emphasize climate-resilient urban development.

### **The Needs and International Measures' Comparative Analysis**

The European Union's Green Deal lays its focus on carbon-neutral cities through policies aimed at renewable energy integration and emission reduction.



When one compares different legal structures, it is concluded that cities such as Copenhagen and Singapore have successfully embedded sustainability within urban design through regulatory mechanisms, such as mandatory green roofs and water-sensitive urban designs. Singapore's Green Plan 2030 sets a strong precedent by integrating urban biodiversity conservation with carbon neutrality goals.

Analysis of this system lays emphasis on the urgency towards a multiple directional approach that combines the legal requirements and enforcements laid through judicial decisions that form a part of public policy as well. The actual struggle is faced when there comes a question of actual need for development alongside taking an equal care of environmental conservation, particularly in a region where there is rapid urbanisation going on and where infrastructure deficits often impede green transitions.

Adding on to this, the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) and the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) provide regulations for sustainable construction practices.

It is pertinent to note that incorporating features like rainwater harvesting, energy-efficient architecture, and green spaces into urban design enhances environmental sustainability while reducing urban heat islands and mitigating flood risks.

## Conclusion

Urbanization leads to environmental issues such as pollution, resource depletion, and climate change in addition to encouraging economic growth. In order to balance development and ecological preservation, sustainable urban planning must be required by law. In India, environmental protection legislation and constitutional guarantees provide a legal foundation for sustainability. In addition to this, there is an integration of designs framed in urban master plans and strengthening zoning laws to control unregulated expansion can help mitigate ecological damage. The judiciary has also been actively involved, as evidenced by a number of cases. Evaluations of climate vulnerability must also be included into urban legislation and policy frameworks for proactive risk mitigation.

A comprehensive legal strategy that incorporates judicial rulings, legislation, constitutional demands, and global best practices is needed to build environmentally resilient communities. Legal frameworks must change to incorporate estimates of climate risk, implement sustainable policies, and encourage public involvement. Implementation will be successful if local capacity is increased, urban governance is strengthened, and transparency is promoted. Long-term green urban development depends on multisectoral cooperation and education. Cities may achieve ecological balance, resilience, and inclusivity by taking a proactive, legally supported strategy, guaranteeing a sustainable future. Additionally, initiatives that include programs such as awareness campaigns and community services can also be encouraged to make certain that there exists grassroots participation in urban sustainability efforts.

**- Mr. Saurabh Singh**  
(B.A.LL.B. Hons. II Sem.)

## Buffalo Trouble

Sarthak was a hardworking boy from a small village. His family owned a tiny piece of land where they grew crops to survive. Though they were poor, they believed in honesty, hard work, and the power of hoping for the best because, let's be honest, that was all they could.



But trouble, as always, had four legs, horns, and zero manners. Rohan, the village's unofficial prince, owned a buffalo who believed in 'free range dining'. One day, it waltzed into Sarthak's field like it owned the place and had a feast that would put wedding buffets to shame. When Sarthak complained, the villagers, ever eager to impress the rich, said, "It's your fault for not having a fence! Moron, maybe next time, train your crops to run."

Sarthak sighed but stayed patient. He had nearly saved enough money to build a fence. But fate, being the prankster that it is, had other plans. One fateful afternoon, as he walked through his field, the buffalo locked eyes with him in an intense, dramatic stare down. And then, like an action hero in a climax scene, it charged. Sarthak barely had time to think before he was airborne, landing flat as if he was dead. "He lived", his family rushed him to the hospital, and just like that, his fencing fund became his medical bill.

Now, with no savings, a flattened field, and a personal vendetta against one very entitled buffalo, Sarthak was desperate. He decided to seek justice. He went to the police station, where the officer greeted him with the warmth of a broken refrigerator. "Justice is available," he said, "but it comes with service tax." The bribe was so high that even the buffalo would have gasped if it understood economics. Left with no choice, Sarthak took a loan, paid the officer, and waited. And waited. And... nothing. The case was as lost as his savings. Now he was not only broke but also became a champion in avoiding his creditors.

One evening, while avoiding his creditors and random buffaloes as he wandered through a village, considering a career in buffalo avoidance, he saw a board outside a university: Legal Aid Clinic—Free Help for the Needy. "Free" was his favourite price, so he stepped in and told his story to the students and their professor. Their expressions went from shock to amusement to, "Oh, we're definitely taking this one to court."

The legal clinic took up his case. They filed a complaint against Rohan for letting his buffalo live its best life at Sarthak's expense and another against the police officer for treating justice like a premium subscription. When the case reached court, the judge, thankfully not a buffalo enthusiast, ruled in Sarthak's favour. Rohan had to compensate him for his injuries and crop damage, and the police officer got a much-needed career change.

For the first time, Sarthak saw justice free of charge! As he walked home, he felt something new: "HOPE". He had fought the system and won. And though life still had its struggles, he knew one thing: the poor might be ignored, but they are not powerless.

Moral of the Story: Justice may be blind, but it can still smell corruption and injustice. Also, if a buffalo ever stares at you intensely—run.

**- Mr. Durgesh Yadav**  
(B.A.LL.B. Hons. II Sem.)

## Moon

Shining so high,  
Up in the sky,  
Lonely you seem,  
Yet strong you gleam.

With scars so deep from ages past,  
A warrior standing, bold and vast.  
An honoured guest in the endless night,  
You grace our world with silver light.

A symbol pure, a token true,  
Of love that shines in misty hue.  
The hero of our childhood lore,  
Yet often forgot, our hearts implore.

When clouds conceal your gentle glow,  
We yearn for you; we miss you so.  
Your silver beams, so soft, so bright,  
Bring warmth and wonder to the night.

The stars surround, but none compare,  
To you, O Moon, beyond compare.  
You rule the dark, command the waves,  
And anchor us in earthly caves.

My dear Moon, in endless space,  
May we still cherish your embrace.  
Your stories whisper through the air,  
A timeless glow beyond compares.

**- Ms. Vanya Sidana**

*(B.A.LL.B. Hons. II Sem.)*



## Legal Humour

### 1. How does a law student flirt?

"Are you Article 21? Because you're giving me the right to life, liberty and hope."

### 2. Why do lawyers make terrible poets?

Because they file an affidavit for every metaphor, object to all similes and hate double meanings unless they're in ambiguous clauses.

### 3. Why don't criminal lawyers need gym memberships?

Because they're already great at handling heavy cases.

### 4. CrPC has two types of trials — warrant case and summons case.

Warrant case: Full-blown drama.

Summons case: Just "You're invited to trauma."

### 5. Friend: "Why did you choose law?"

Me: "For justice."

Also, me: Crying while memorizing 87 ingredients of Defamation.

### 6. Senior: "Why are you crying?"

Intern: "They said 'be prepared for court!' I brought arguments, they wanted coffee."

### 7. Someone: "What is your favourite part of law?"

Law Student: "Law of Torts, because sometimes punching someone isn't illegal, it's civilly profitable."

*Collected by-*

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*(B.A.LL.B. Hons. II Sem.)*

## TOONIFIED





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“ In attaining our ideals, our means should be as pure as the end. ”



Dr. Rajendra Prasad



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