



DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, PRAYAGRAJ



# PROCEEDINGS

International Conference  
on

**LAW, TECHNOLOGY AND  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2025

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**RPNLUP  
Press**





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Dr. Rajendra Prasad  
**National Law University, Prayagraj**

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

It is with immense pleasure that I place the proceedings of the International Conference on Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development, hosted by Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University (RPNLU), Prayagraj, from March 7 to March 9, 2025 to the august readers for wider dissemination of the outcomes of the conference. I firmly believe that the proceedings will help to foster critical interdisciplinary discourse on the evolving relationship between legal frameworks, technological advancements, and sustainability.

This three-day event witnessed the confluence of eminent judges, legal scholars, and academicians from various countries—USA, Canada, England, France, Estonia, New Zealand, South Korea, South Africa, Nigeria, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. Their deliberations illuminated contemporary challenges and opportunities in the legal and technological landscapes, exploring crucial themes such as climate change, environmental jurisprudence, artificial intelligence, data protection, access to justice, and the role of indigenous knowledge in sustainability.

The International Conference served as an intellectually stimulating forum that brought together legal luminaries, scholars, policymakers, and experts from across the globe. The proceedings cover the discussions, on a range of contemporary legal and technological issues, particularly in relation to sustainability. The deliberations focused on critical themes such as climate change, artificial intelligence (AI), data protection, access to justice, environmental jurisprudence, and the integration of Indigenous Ecological Knowledge (IEK) into sustainability policies. These discussions led to valuable insights and policy recommendations that have the potential to shape the future of law, governance, and technological regulation in an increasingly digitized and environmentally precarious world.



One of the most significant takeaways from the conference was the recognition of the evolving role of law in mitigating global challenges arising from technological advancements, environmental degradation, and socio-economic inequalities. While technological innovation continues to accelerate, the legal frameworks governing these advancements often lag behind, leading to regulatory gaps, ethical dilemmas, and challenges related to accountability and enforcement. The discussions at the conference highlighted the urgent need for robust legal mechanisms that not only regulate technology but also harness its potential for sustainable development.

The role of international cooperation was emphasized as a fundamental necessity in addressing climate change, data protection, and cybersecurity. Scholars stressed that while international agreements and treaties exist, compliance and enforcement remain major challenges. The discussions called for a re-evaluation of the effectiveness of global legal instruments, such as the Paris Agreement, Rio+20, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and advocated for more rigorous legal accountability mechanisms at both national and international levels.

A key outcome of the conference was the reinforcement of the judiciary's role in environmental protection. Judicial interpretations of environmental laws have been instrumental in shaping sustainability-oriented legal frameworks, particularly in the context of climate justice, corporate accountability, and intergenerational equity. The conference highlighted numerous landmark judicial precedents that have contributed to environmental protection, stressing the need for proactive judicial interventions to address issues such as illegal mining, deforestation, pollution, and biodiversity loss. Legal scholars and practitioners underscored the need for judicial innovation in interpreting constitutional provisions related to environmental protection. The discussion extended to environmental rights as fundamental rights, emphasizing the role of courts in enforcing legal obligations that uphold sustainability. This perspective aligns with the broader global trend of recognizing the "Rights of Nature", a legal philosophy that grants ecosystems legal personhood to protect them from exploitation. The delegates talked about the climate justice and courts proceeding which still in their nascent stage and require more discussion on it. There is a need to focus on the renewable energy and formulate policies which promote sustainable usages of renewable energy.

Another crucial dimension of the conference was the exploration of AI and digital governance. With AI increasingly influencing various aspects of society, including legal decision-making, environmental monitoring, and corporate compliance, the need for comprehensive regulatory frameworks was strongly emphasized. The discussions pointed to the dual nature of AI—while it enhances efficiency, it also poses ethical and legal challenges, such as bias in algorithmic decision-making, privacy concerns, and the potential for digital exclusion. The delegates stressed that while AI-driven legal assistance tools have the potential to democratize access to legal services, there is a risk of exacerbating existing inequalities if AI systems are not designed with fairness and inclusivity in mind. They agreed to think of sustainable technologies which ensure ethical usage and significantly enhance sustainability efforts.

One of the insightful discussions at the conference centered on the integration of Indigenous Ecological Knowledge (IEK) with modern sustainability policies. Legal scholars and environmental



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experts emphasized that Indigenous communities possess invaluable ecological wisdom, developed over centuries, which offers sustainable solutions to natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience. The discussions called for legal reforms to formally acknowledge and protect Indigenous contributions to environmental conservation. Scholars argued that current intellectual property laws do not adequately safeguard Indigenous knowledge systems, leading to their commercial exploitation without appropriate compensation or recognition.

The conference concluded with a strong call for multi-stakeholder collaboration between governments, legal institutions, technological innovators, and civil society to address sustainability challenges comprehensively. Several policy recommendations emerged, including strengthening legal frameworks for AI and emerging technologies, enhancing judicial and legislative mechanisms for climate justice, incorporating Indigenous knowledge into legal systems, promoting gender-inclusive sustainability policies, and reforming environmental laws to align with contemporary sustainability needs.

The International Conference on Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development proved to be a significant academic and policy-driven endeavour, fostering an interdisciplinary dialogue that will likely influence future legal and environmental governance frameworks. The insights shared during the sessions emphasized the interdependence of law, technology, and sustainability, underscoring the need for adaptive legal mechanisms that evolve with scientific and technological advancements. The discussions reinforced that sustainability is not a standalone concept but an integrated approach requiring legal, economic, social, and technological alignment.

As a Vice Chancellor of the University, I take pride in writing that the International Conference, by bringing together some of the most distinguished legal scholars and practitioners from around the world, successfully facilitated a global confluence of ideas, providing a roadmap for future legal research and policy innovations. The deliberations reaffirmed the pivotal role of legal academia in shaping sustainability discourses and stressed the need for continued global collaboration in the pursuit of an equitable, technologically responsible, and environmentally sustainable future. The successful completion of the International Conference in the very first year of University is a result of the dedication and commitment of the faculty members, students and staff.

The University is in the process to publish selected papers presented in the conference in the form of an edited book. Embarking on a new journey is not merely about reaching a destination; it is about embracing the unknown, discovering new perspectives, and growing with every step. Each path we choose is an invitation to learn, to challenge ourselves, and to redefine what is possible. I wind up my address by quoting Joe Kaeser, Chairman of the supervisory board of Siemens Energy, in which he cleared that "Sustainability is not just about adopting the latest energy-efficient technologies or turning to renewable sources of power. Sustainability is the responsibility of every individual every day".

**Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**  
Hon'ble, Vice Chancellor  
RP National Law University, Prayagraj  
12th May 2025







So far as this University is concerned, I am proud to see that many of the students have performed so well and in a short while of barely eight months, the students have gained a lot and I believe that the University is being able to establish its permanent infrastructure and I would extend my gratitude to the Chancellor of the University and the Senior Judge of the Allahabad High Court that they have contributed a lot for the development of the University.

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India, &  
Hon'ble Visitor, RPNLU, Prayagraj

Looking back, it seems like just yesterday that I had the privilege of attending the grand inaugural ceremony of Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj. In the short span of a year, I am heartened to witness the remarkable progress this institution has made, firmly establishing itself as a centre of excellence. The organization of this International Conference is yet another significant milestone in its journey of academic journey and intellectual growth. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Usha Tandon, and her dedicated team for their unwavering commitment to fostering a culture of scholarly discourse.



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Bhansali**  
Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court &  
Hon'ble Chancellor, RPNLU, Prayagraj



My association with Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj dates back to its inception. Over the years, I have witnessed its remarkable growth—from a fledgling institution to a prominent beacon of legal scholarship, intellectual discourse, and international engagement collaborations. Credit for all this goes to the vision and dynamic leadership of the Vice-Chancellor Dr. Usha Tandon. Her contribution to the field of legal education has been recognised, recently, by the Kerala Law Academy by conferring upon her the A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Jurist Excellence Award, 2025. I also feel proud to disclose to the distinguished gathering that two students, Srija Mishra and Nihan Duggal have recently bagged prizes at National Level Moot Court Competition held at Bihar and Jabalpur. I extend my best wishes to the organizers of this conference. I understand that organising such an event is no small feat and their dedication, effort and vision in bringing together experts from so many countries is really commendable. I wish that their hard work culminate in a remarkable and fulfilling event.

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta**  
Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court



Congratulations on a knowledgeable Conference. I learned a lot and made some new contacts. An excellent job by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Usha tandon and her team. This is to express once more my appreciation of the incomparable hospitality and the great Conference this University ran so. The conference ried to engage good speakers built up very good networking opportunities.

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rinzin Penjor**  
**Former Judge, Supreme Court of Bhutan, &**  
**Present Vice-President, Bar Council of Bhutan**

The International Conference on Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development showcased innovative and meaningful discussions, emphasizing the synergy between these fields while addressing critical global challenges. The organizers and participants deserve commendation for providing an excellent platform to share fresh perspectives on the ethical, legal, and technological dimensions on this issue. I am sure this experience would have enlightened the young minds who wholeheartedly participated in the deliberations.



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Saumitra Dayal Singh**  
**Judge, Allahabad High Court**



It was a great honour to have chaired one of the sessions in the International Conference on Law, Technology and Sustainable Development organized by Dr. Rajendra Prasad national Law University, Prayagraj. It came as a great surprise that in spite of the fact that the University is in its teething stage, the event was administered with great aplomb and equanimity ably guided by Professor Usha Tandon, Vice Chancellor and esteemed faculty. The programme was a great success. I observed during the session that the students have sharp and incisive minds coupled with great legal acumen which was evident from the deep thought-provoking queries raised by them during the question -answer session. Topics chosen for the various sessions were keeping in mind the new developments in law and technology in the modern era. Wish the University all the best and looking forward for being a part of further such events in the near future.

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shekhar B Saraf**  
**Judge, Allahabad High Court**





A University with one year of experience, it is commendable to gather so many dignitaries to conduct an international events on such a large scale. This is really a landmark, and it also amplify the commitment and enthusiasm of a small team of teachers, administrative staff, and the students under the able leadership of Prof. Usha Tandon, the Vice Chancellor of this University. I am very much delighted in participating the event. I wish that RPNLU, Prayagraj will conduct many more such academic programs and events in the coming days.

**Prof. (Dr.) S. Surya Prakash**  
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor  
NILU, Bhopal

This important conference explored the legal framework for a sustainable future. In times of unprecedented uncertainties around democratic governance, technological impacts and economic development, legal certainty is in high demand. The conference has successfully provided for that through a multidisciplinary dialogue on commonly shared values and principles. At the core for future-oriented technology and development stand ethical guidance and environmental trusteeship.



**Prof. Klaus Bosselmann**  
Faculty of Law  
University of Auckland, New Zealand



The recently concluded conference on 'Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development' is apposite and topical both in content and its title. With carefully selected thematic areas and guest speakers across the globe, the sleek transitions ensured commitment to schedules and elicited robust discussions by participants in line with the primary objective of the conference which was to provide an academic platform for interdisciplinary dialogue on the intersection of Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development. It is one of the best that I have attended in recent years. Overall, the conference provided a sign post for policy makers and stakeholders on the need to integrate indigenous knowledge with technology towards sustainable development.

**Prof. Erimma Gloria Orie**  
Department of Private & Property Law Faculty of Law  
National Open University of Nigeria, Nigeria





On the whole, this is was an excellently and very tightly organised conference. It must have been an immense endeavour to put all this together, thanks to Vice Chancellor and her team for ensuring this could become a reality.

**Prof. Philippe Cullet**  
**Professor of International and Environmental Law**  
**SOAS, University of London, England**

The conference provided an insightful platform for exploring the intricate relationships between law, technological advancements, and sustainability. Distinguished legal scholars and judges from across the globe shared diverse perspectives, emphasizing the role of legal frameworks in addressing environmental challenges, digital governance, and AI-driven innovations. I appreciated the specific talks in Day 3 that focused on challenges and opportunities of digital advancements in legal systems and AI's potential in promoting peace, justice and strong legal institutions, as well as its applications in physiological monitoring and legal analytics. Overall, the conference fostered meaningful dialogues that can shape future legal policies and technological implementations for a more sustainable world.



**Dr. Robert Russo**  
**Lecturer, Peter A. Allard School of Law**  
**The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada**



I found Vice Chancellor Usha Tandon's strong dedication, devotion and admirable contribution to inculcate in the minds of young students from the beginning of their learning and research in law. When Justices of this level join in the initiative, this is something of high recognition to the NLU, Prayagraj named after Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India to whom I also have high regards.

**Prof. Amber Pant**  
**Professor of Law, University of Tribhuvan, Nepal**





The International Conference on “Law, Technology and Sustainable Development” was a truly enriching experience. It provided a vital platform for interdisciplinary dialogue, bringing together leading scholars, judges, and practitioners to explore the legal dimensions of sustainability and technological advancements. The discussions were insightful, particularly in bridging scientific and legal perspectives on climate change. I was especially impressed by the depth of engagement on the role of courts in advancing climate justice, which resonated strongly with my own research and ongoing projects. It was an honour to be part of this forum, and I look forward to future collaborations. Wishing the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Usha Tandon and the entire team continued success in advancing these critical discussions.

**Dr. Ivano Alogna**  
Senior Research Fellow in Environmental  
& Climate Change Law, BIICL, France

Soon after receiving the seminar theme, my thoughts went deeply into the decisions of the Supreme Court. There may hardly be a case settling the core environmental questions without applying directly or indirectly the concept of sustainable development. Hence, the title of the paper ‘Supreme Court on Environment: all Roads to Sustainable Development.’ A meeting of minds on a topic of importance not only to the present but also of the future generations is commendable. One must also be pleased to appreciate that a new and young University has taken up that significant challenge.



**Prof. Leela Krishanan**  
Professor Emeritus, Cochin University of Legal  
Studies, Kerala



The International Conference on 'Law, Technology and Sustainable Development' organized by RPNLUP was a genuinely international academic congregation on the holy land of Prayagraj with the enormous participation of international legal scholars. The sessions on diverse aspects of sustainability imbibed thought-provoking discussions reflecting global, regional, and local concerns and pressing the contextual understanding of the conference's theme. It triggered innovative thoughts to approach the complex and intricate relationship between law, technology, and sustainable development. Under the visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Senior Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, the entire teaching and administrative staff, and the students demonstrated excellent academic and organizational skills with utmost humility, composure, and commitment. As a participant, I enjoyed my stay and was enriched and illuminated by the scholarly discourse. I must congratulate the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor for organizing this immensely successful event. Expressing my sincere gratitude, I am confident that under her leadership, the students of RGNLUP will bring great laurels to this institution and help make it a citadel of legal learning.

**Dr. Kshitij Kumar Singh, Associate Professor  
CLC, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi**

The conference on 'law, technology and sustainable development' proved true to its name raising inter-disciplinary and varied issues pertaining to the field. The presence of all stakeholders- academicians, judges, legal practitioners- made the conference a versatile and an enriching experience. The keynote speakers represented various corners of the globe and it was immense pleasure to be enlightened by concerns raised by the speakers. The presentations on renewable energy, indigenous ecological knowledge, rights of nature, feminist utopia and AI, disinformation are just few illustrative examples to demonstrate the variety of concerns raised.

The opportunity of presenting my own paper and to moderate a session too was a great learning experience. Apart from the academic learning, the breathtaking performances of students, their insightful questions reflect the immense effort taken by the University in organizing the conference. I take this opportunity to congratulate and share my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Madam and the entire team for the meticulous organization.



**Dr. Swati Mawandiya  
Assistant Professor of Law, Institute of Law  
Nirma University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat**







I would like to congratulate the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Ma'am and the entire organizing team for planning and executing the entire event meticulously. The Conference proved to be a fantastic learning opportunity in addition to sharing personal research on such a big platform one can imagine. All the Keynote Speakers from various countries provided academic vigour as well as practical insights, I was especially awestruck by Mr. Nitin Nanda's frank and direct take on issues relating to AI. Hon'ble High Court Judges who acted as Chairpersons of various technical sessions gave the perspective of the adjudicatory institutions and nuanced challenges faced by judiciary while deciding the cases on aspects of environment and sustainable development.

The paper presentations highlighted interwoven approach that is needed to appreciate the concerns of sustainable development. Also, the insights from the Hon'ble judges from Apex Court added the much needed insights from the judiciary on issues of sustainability and the developments taking place to integrate the technological advancements at highest court and judiciary in general. In addition, various performances by students on the cultural evening was mesmerising which depicted rich cultural heritage of our country. I thank Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Ma'am and the entire team for making our stay comfortable, memorable and cherish-able for long time to come.

**Dr. Neeraj Kumar Gupta**  
Assistant Professor of Law, Institute of Law  
Nirma University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

The International Conference on Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development at RPNLU, Prayagraj, was an exceptional event. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Vice-Chancellor Madam for her leadership, as well as to all the supporting members who ensured the event's success. What made this conference even more remarkable was the presence of distinguished guests, including some of the highest lawmakers of our country—an honour rarely seen in such large numbers at academic conferences. It was truly a privilege to have presented my work at such a prestigious gathering. I look forward to future editions of this impactful conference.



**Ms. Katyayani Mishra**  
CEO & Director, CPRLI



I came to RPNLU Prayagraj to attend the conference but I lived it. I live the knowledge and variety of thoughts in Air. I am glad to made a decision to be there. I have never witnessed any anyone like Honorable Vice Chancellor, Prof (Dr.) Usha Tandon Mam , She is true inspiration for all. I felt her personal touch in everything related to conference. Whether it's book mark or address to H' Judges or Speakers. The efforts of faculties to organise everything with brightest smile was tremendously awesome. As well as Students are dedicated and ethically driven.

**Ms. Saloni Mishra, Research Scholar  
SOL, Manav Rachna University**

# INAUGURAL SESSION

## Chief Guest

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India, &  
The Visitor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj

## Presidential Address

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Bhansali**  
Chief Justice, High Court of Allahabad  
The Chancellor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj

## Distinguished Guests

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kumar Regmi**  
Judge, Supreme Court of Nepal

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Thurairaja**  
Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta**  
Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rinzin Penjor**  
Former Judge, Supreme Court of Bhutan, &  
Present Vice-President, Bar Council of Bhutan

## Welcome Address and Introductory Remarks

**Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**  
Hon'ble, Vice Chancellor  
RP National Law University, Prayagraj

Date: **07<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

Time: **05:00 PM IST onwards**





# WELCOME ADDRESS & INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

*A very good evening to all of you!*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra, Judge, Supreme Court of India, and Visitor of this University; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Bhansali, Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court and Chancellor of this university; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kumar Regmi, Judge, Supreme Court of Nepal; Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Thirairaja, Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta, Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rinzin Penjor, former Judge, Supreme Court of Bhutan; distinguished speakers; Hon'ble members of the General Council, Executive Council, Academic Council, and Finance Committee; my colleagues, students, staff, and esteemed guests — I am extremely delighted to welcome you all to the inauguration of this three-day International Conference.

It is with immense honor and deep gratitude that we welcome Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra among us today to inaugurate this prestigious event. His esteemed presence is particularly significant as the Hon'ble Visitor of this University who keeps ensuring its robust and sound establishment. In my personal interactions with His Lordship, I have been deeply impressed and sincerely obliged by his genuine curiosity, inquiring about the university's progress—be it infrastructural advancements, student admissions, or the academic caliber of the faculty members. And at the end, he reassures us with his kind words: "Koi problem ho to mujhe batana—tell me if there is any problem". Such words mean a great deal to us, Sir, and, in fact, have been a driving force behind whatever little we have managed to accomplish so far. On this momentous occasion, we extend to you a very hearty welcome, Sir. A big round of applause, please!



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We are obliged and greatly honored by the presence of our Hon'ble Chancellor, the Chief Justice, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Bhansali. We are equally grateful and privileged to have with us Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta, Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court. Justice Bhansali and Justice Gupta, as Patrons, have been engaged in this conference right from its conception, and their invaluable support has greatly contributed to its organization. A very warm and cordial welcome to you both, Sirs! Kindly put your hands together in appreciation.

It is a distinct honor and a unique privilege—one of its kind—to have distinguished jurists from South Asia among us: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kumar Regmi, Judge, Supreme Court of Nepal; Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Thurairaja, Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka; and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rinzin Penjor, Former Judge, Supreme Court of Bhutan, currently serving as the Vice-President of the Bar Council of Bhutan.

It fills us with immense pride that Justice Thurairaja is the first Indian-origin judge appointed to the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. Justice Kumar Regmi, recipient of the highest academic award conferred by the Government of Nepal, has authored several books and articles. Justice Rinzin Penjor, whom I have had the enviable privilege of knowing personally since his graduation days, has always impressed me with his sincerity, hard work, and brilliant intellect.

Hon'ble Judges from our neighbouring countries have profound interest in academics that was very much reflected in our talks that we enjoyed at the dinner table yesterday evening. Our distinguished jurists have travelled all the way to participate in this conference to enrich the discussions with global perspectives on sustainable technological governance. We are truly honoured and deeply obliged with your presence. We extend you a very special and warm welcome. A big round of applause....

A very warm welcome to the keynote speakers -some of them have arrived today, others are arriving tomorrow. Prof. Amber Pant from Nepal, welcome you sir. Prof. Koh Moon Huyn, from South Korea, Mr. Sabo Tshering from Bhutan, Prof. Philippe Cullet from SOAS London welcome to this occasion. I welcome my colleagues from Delhi university- Dr. Shaiwal, Dr. Kshitij, Dr. Parikshet, Dr. Neeraj, Dr. Swati, Dr. Sumiti and other participants. We are honoured to have the esteemed presence of Professor M. P. Tiwari, and Shri Vinod Kapoor.

Well, the contemporary world is witnessing unprecedented transformations driven by rapid technological advancements. While technology holds immense potential to address global challenges such as climate change, its unregulated growth also poses significant legal and ethical dilemmas. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 2015 emphasize the need for innovative legal frameworks to ensure that technological progress aligns with principles of justice, and equity. In this light, the present conference aspires to serve as an intellectual platform where jurists, academicians, policymakers and technologists converge to deliberate on the intricate interplay between law, technology, and sustainable development. Further, recognizing the nascent stage of legal framework in addressing the complexities of artificial intelligence (AI), this conference seeks to foster a multidimensional discourse, integrating national and international perspectives. It is divided into seven technical sessions and one special session with Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal from Supreme Court of India.



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Friends, as you know that we are in the inaugural year of the establishment of this university. Our academic session has started eight months back in July 2024 and now we are running second semester of the first academic year. I am reminded today of the magnificent inauguration of the University that took place last year, where I first expressed my apprehensions about taking our just flight, yet also shared my hope of soaring high with the supportive wings of the Judiciary and the Shashan. Well, I am so delighted and grateful to share, today, that this flight has been safe, successful and pleasant. Not only that we had smooth admissions and recruitment of faculty, my brilliant students, with the support of my wonderful teachers, have excelled and brought laurels to the University. By winning trophies in the moot court competitions, they have already added two feathers in the cap of NLU, Prayagraj. It is unbelievable, Isn't it. But my students have done it. It gives us the sort of satisfaction that quality education is being imparted at this University. Though a well-begun endeavor lays a strong foundation, but to ensure sustained progress, continuous efforts and support as well are essential. I hope and trust that this University would be fortunate to get the continued support from the Judiciary and Shasan as well.

I believe our foreign dignitaries and speakers from different parts of India are having the comfortable time, as my dedicated team is working very hard day and night. I appreciate the sincere efforts of Sh. Satya Prakash, my Registrar, my all colleagues, especially Prakash Tripathi for the organisation of this conference.

I welcome once again the dignitaries on the Dias and all of you to the conference, and this great city of Kumbh Nagri Sangam as well, wherein just few days back world famous Mahakumbh has been concluded. It is said -To die here is a blessing; to live here is a privilege; to pay even a fleeting visit to this place is a pilgrimage.

As we embark on this three-day intellectual journey, I hope and pray that the discussions, and scholarly exchanges will generate actionable insights and policy recommendations that may influence real-world legal developments.

Thank you!

**Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**  
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor,  
RP National Law University, Prayagraj







## ADDRESS BY DISTINGUISHED GUEST

Honorable Justices, Respected Vice Chancellor of the National Law University, Prayagraj, Distinguished Professors, Legal Luminaries, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good afternoon. It is an immense honour to stand before such a distinguished gathering at this International Conference on 'Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development.' Today, I will take you through Bhutan's journey in leveraging digital innovation to enhance access to justice—a journey that holds profound lessons for mountainous regions and beyond. The theme of this conference could not be more timely. As we strive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we are reminded that access to justice is not just a legal imperative but a moral one. It is the foundation of peace, stability, and inclusive development. Yet, for mountainous regions like Bhutan, achieving this goal is fraught with unique challenges.

This is the story of Bhutan – a small Himalayan kingdom that's using digital technology to overcome some incredible geographical challenges to deliver justice to its people. When world leaders came together in 2015 to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals, they recognized something crucial – that we can't achieve sustainable development without peace, justice, and strong institutions. SDG 16.3, specifically calls for ensuring equal access to justice for all. But what does "equal access to justice" really mean in a country where mountains dominate the landscape? How do you deliver justice when communities are scattered across isolated valleys, separated by peaks, rising over 7,000 meters, and where roads can be blocked for months during monsoon season? This is the reality in Bhutan. Picture this – a country with elevations ranging from 150 meters in the southern foothills to over 7,000 meters in the northern mountains. Communities are scattered across this dramatic landscape, and despite significant progress in building road networks, many remote villages remain connected only by farm roads that become completely impassable during heavy rains.



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These geographical challenges directly impact how justice is delivered. Let me share some striking statistics: about 85% of law firms in Bhutan are located in the capital city, Thimphu. The remaining 15% are distributed across just three other districts. That means 16 districts – the majority of the country – have no law firms operated by licensed lawyers at all. Imagine being a citizen living in one of these remote areas. If you needed legal assistance, you might have to travel for days, navigating treacherous mountain roads, spending significant money on transportation and accommodation – all just to speak with a lawyer or attend a court hearing. During monsoon season or winter snowfall, this journey might be completely impossible.

Before 2020, Bhutan was already working to address these challenges. The country had established a four-tier judicial system following the adoption of its first written Constitution in 2008. Traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, particularly a consensus-based mediation system called “Nangkha Nangdrik,” helped resolve minor disputes at the community level without requiring formal court proceedings. The government had also begun exploring digital solutions, introducing a Case Management System in 2011 and passing legislation in 2018 to enable electronic transactions and digital signatures but progress was incremental.

Then came COVID-19. When the pandemic reached Bhutan in March 2020, it hit the justice system hard. Physical court proceedings were halted. Case registrations dropped dramatically – the Supreme Court reported a 47% decrease in the second quarter of 2020 compared to the previous year. The movement restrictions and social distancing requirements exacerbated the already existing barriers to justice. But sometimes, the greatest challenges spark the most remarkable innovations. Under the leadership of His Majesty the King, Bhutan’s justice sector rapidly mobilized to develop alternative service delivery methods. What might have taken years under normal circumstances was accelerated into months. Digital transformation became not just desirable but essential.

In June 2020, Bhutan launched a comprehensive e-litigation system. This wasn’t just about putting a few forms online – this was a complete digital transformation of the justice delivery process. The system enabled electronic filing of cases and documents, virtual court hearings, electronic payments, and remote case management. But the government also recognized that technology alone wouldn’t solve the accessibility problem. To ensure that rural communities could benefit from these innovations, they established e-litigation access points in Community Centers across the country. These centers were equipped with the necessary technology and staffed by trained facilitators who could help citizens navigate the system.

The results have been remarkable. Citizens who previously had to travel for days to reach a court can now access justice services from their local Community Center. The Office of the Attorney General no longer needs to send prosecutors to distant districts for hearings, significantly reducing costs. The system provides real-time case status updates and maintains detailed audit trails, enhancing transparency and accountability. There’s even an environmental benefit – reduced paper usage and physical travel have lowered the carbon footprint of the justice sector, supporting Bhutan’s strong commitment to environmental conservation. Of course, this transformation hasn’t been without challenges. Many remote areas still struggle with unstable internet connections, and internet access remains relatively expensive





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one. The high cost of maintaining digital infrastructure in mountainous terrain is a concern for long-term sustainability. Digital literacy is another obstacle. Despite training efforts, many citizens - particularly elderly and rural residents - find it difficult to navigate digital platforms independently. And as with any system handling sensitive information, cybersecurity remains an ongoing concern. But despite these challenges, Bhutan's experience offers valuable lessons for other mountainous regions striving to achieve SDG 16.3. It shows us that digital technology can effectively overcome geographical barriers through interconnected innovations. E-litigation platforms eliminate the need for physical travel. Cloud-based case management systems revolutionize document handling. Mobile justice applications connect isolated communities with legal information and services.

It also highlights the importance of a comprehensive approach to implementation. Success requires reliable internet connectivity, community access points with trained facilitators, supportive policy frameworks, and sustainable funding mechanisms. Perhaps most importantly, it demonstrates that digital justice systems can have impact far beyond mere technological solutions. They can reduce costs while improving accessibility. They can promote social inclusion by increasing participation from marginalized communities. They can drive institutional transformation and contribute to environmental sustainability. As we look to the future, several factors will determine the success of digital justice initiatives in mountainous regions: We need sustained investment in digital infrastructure - building and maintaining the necessary technological foundation requires ongoing financial commitments.

We need comprehensive digital literacy programs to ensure all citizens can navigate these platforms. We need robust cybersecurity measures to protect sensitive legal information. And we need strong political leadership to overcome implementation challenges. Bhutan's experience suggests that while the initial investments may be substantial, the long-term benefits make these initiatives worthwhile.

As I conclude, I want to emphasize three key lessons from Bhutan's digital justice journey - First, digital solutions must be adaptable to local realities - not one-size-fits-all implementations but thoughtfully designed systems that respond to specific geographical and cultural contexts. Second, community-based access points are essential for bridging the digital divide between urban and rural areas, ensuring that technological innovations reach those who need them most. Third, a balanced approach that respects traditional practices while embracing digital innovation can create synergies rather than conflicts between old and new. The path toward digital justice isn't easy. It requires continuous technological upgrading, effective capacity building, and a serious commitment to bridging the urban-rural digital divide. But Bhutan's experience shows us that it's possible. In the face of seemingly insurmountable geographical challenges, this small mountain kingdom is leveraging digital innovation to ensure that justice is accessible to all its citizens - a powerful reminder that with creativity, commitment, and the right technological tools, we can build justice systems that truly leave no one behind.

Thank you for your attention.

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rinzin Penjor**  
Former Judge, Supreme Court of Bhutan &  
Present Vice-President, Bar Council of Bhutan





## ADDRESS BY DISTINGUISHED GUEST

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Visitor, Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Bhansali, Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court, & Chancellor, Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kumar Regmi, Judge, Supreme Court of Nepal; Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Thirairaja Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rinzin Penjor Former Judge, Supreme Court of Bhutan, & Present Vice-President, Bar Council of Bhutan; Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj; Sh. Satya Prakash, Registrar, Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj; Esteemed jurists, distinguished guests, learned judges, and scholars from around the world. Good evening!

It is an honour to address this distinguished gathering where some of the finest legal minds have assembled to deliberate on the interplay between law, technology, and sustainable development. As we commence this discussion, I am reminded of Aristotle's words: 'The law is reason, free from passion.' However, in the current age, characterized by swift technological progress, the law must exhibit rationality and adaptability, while simultaneously evolving in tandem with innovation and upholding the continuously shifting principles of justice.

On this auspicious occasion, it is an immense honour to welcome our esteemed Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra. His journey from the Allahabad High Court, where he practiced -to- his current role as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India, reflects his remarkable legal acumen and dedication. Having known him since we walked the very corridors of the Allahabad High Court, I have seen firsthand his ability to distill even the most complex legal issues into their simplest form.



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In many ways, the law is like a river—timeless in its essence, yet constantly changing in its course. It carves through the landscape of human civilization, shaped by the rocks of tradition, the tributaries of innovation, and the storms of societal upheaval. The challenge is in ensuring that this river does not flood its banks with unchecked technological advances nor run dry in the face of pressing sustainability concerns.

Historically, law has been the epicentre of civilization, providing a foundation for justice, stability, and societal progress. Nevertheless, conventional legal frameworks are transforming significantly in this digital era. Once regarded as mere instruments, artificial intelligence, blockchain records land ownership, quantum computing challenges, cybersecurity frameworks, and digital governance have emerged as pivotal forces in reshaping the foundational structure of our legal systems, for instance, virtual courts enhancing accessibility to justice.

Smart contracts (recognized under Section 10A of The Information Technology Act, 2000) are revolutionizing global commerce. Data-driven legal analytics are improving decision-making processes. Yet, with every advancement comes responsibility.

As we advance, we must proceed with caution, for technology, much like fire, has the potential to illuminate our path or consume everything in its proximity. While technology has the potential to enhance the efficiency and accessibility of justice, we must critically examine its implications. Courts worldwide are now grappling with legal challenges that seemed inconceivable just a decade ago: Can we genuinely depend on an algorithm to maintain neutrality? Should legal decisions be entrusted solely to machines devoid of human empathy? How do we balance automation with ethical responsibility? If left unregulated, technology may optimize procedural functions; however, it can never replace the ethical foundation of justice. As guardians of the law, we must ensure that innovation serves the interests of humanity; that progress does not jeopardize moral integrity; and that the future legal systems remain firmly anchored in justice, fairness, and human rights.

India's Information Technology Act, 2000, was an early step in regulating cyberspace. However, recent cases have shown that laws must evolve with new-age threats. Consider the infamous Pegasus surveillance controversy—it raised grave concerns Cambridge Analytica and Panama Paper scandals highlighted the dangers of unregulated data collection, forcing governments worldwide to rethink digital privacy.

Recognizing these threats, India enacted the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP Act), ensuring that personal data is not just protected but used ethically and responsibly. Under Section 8, data fiduciaries now bear strict obligations to prevent breaches, ensuring accountability in an era where data is more valuable than all. The Information Technology Act, 2000 (Section 66E— Violation of Privacy, Section 72A—Punishment for Disclosure of Information) was the first step in regulating cyber security, online commerce and data protection. However, we need stronger legal safeguards with the rise of digital economies and artificial intelligence.

Yet, laws alone are not enough. Judicial interpretation, robust enforcement, and global cooperation



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are essential in ensuring that technological advancements empower society rather than exploiting it. As seen in the Aadhaar case (Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India, 2017), the Supreme Court upheld the Right to Privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, ensuring that digital governance does not infringe on constitutional freedoms. This ruling set a global precedent for balancing technological progress with constitutional rights.

Justice must evolve with society, which is evident in India's Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS), Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (BSA), and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS), which mark a historic transformation in criminal law. These reforms modernize the justice system, replacing colonial-era statutes with provisions that address contemporary challenges, particularly in digital evidence and cybercrime.

In an era where financial frauds operate through cryptocurrency, and crimes are planned over encrypted messaging apps, recognizing digital footprints as admissible evidence is crucial. Section 63 of the BSA, 2023, formally acknowledges electronic records, digital signatures, and AI-generated data as valid proof in court.

Similarly, Section 176 of the BNSS, 2023, strengthens cybercrime investigations by validating electronic communication and social media records as evidence. Ensuring accessibility and security, Section 106 of the BNSS, 2023, now allows witnesses to testify remotely via video conferencing; safeguarding vulnerable victims while expediting judicial processes. These progressive legal provisions align with international standards such as Article 12 of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Commerce (1996), which legitimizes electronic communication as valid legal evidence, and the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime (2001), which promotes global cooperation in digital crime investigations. By embracing forensic artificial intelligence, blockchain-based records, and digital testimony, India's legal framework adapts to technological advancements, ensuring justice remains swift, fair, and future-ready.

When harnessed, technology can be a powerful force for environmental justice. Smart grids optimize energy consumption, satellite imaging detects illegal deforestation, and blockchain ensures transparent carbon credit trading. From renewable energy innovations to ecological monitoring, smart cities offer promising solutions for combating climate change and promoting sustainable development. However, history warns us that unchecked industrialization has led to catastrophic environmental disasters like the Bhopal Gas Tragedy; and the unregulated waste disposal, which led to the Ganga pollution crisis. Legal interventions became necessary to address environmental degradation, leading to landmark cases such as *M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (Taj Trapezium Case)*, 1984, *Indian Council of Enviro-Legal Action v. Union of India*, and *Vellore Citizens' Welfare Forum v. Union of India* (1996). These cases highlighted failures in regulation, enforcement and accountability concerning environmental and legal issues, like how unchecked data collection undermines privacy. Although these cases established the Precautionary Principle and the Polluter Pays Principle within Indian Environmental Law, they ensured greater accountability for ecological harm.

Recognizing this, the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched the Green Credit Programme in 2023, incentivizing industries to reduce carbon footprints, adopt







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sustainable practices, and promote afforestation. This ensures that sustainability is not just a regulatory requirement but an economically viable choice. Additionally, the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 strengthens conservation efforts and promotes sustainable use of biological resources, which is not an option but an obligation.

The urgency of addressing environmental challenges has led governments worldwide to implement stringent policies. The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) regulates activities based on air quality, restricting construction work and non-essential vehicular movement during severe pollution levels. Are we steering technology towards a better future, or are we accelerating towards crises of our own making? The answer lies in a legal system that embraces innovation, and safeguards against unintended consequences. We must establish strong international legal frameworks that regulate emerging technologies in ways that promote sustainability rather than exploitation. Industrialization without regulation has led to environmental degradation, and unchecked data collection has eroded privacy; we cannot afford to repeat these mistakes with artificial intelligence, automation, and digital governance.

Imagine a three-stranded rope, one strand representing law, another technology, and the third sustainable development. Each strand is strong, but when woven together, they form an unbreakable force that anchors society's future. If one strand weakens, the entire rope frays, jeopardizing the balance between justice, innovation, and sustainability. Just as a rope holds a ship steady against turbulent waves, the synergy between legal frameworks, technological advancements, and sustainable practices must keep humanity on course toward a prosperous future. As we stand at the crossroads of progress, we must remember that law is not merely a regulator—it is a catalyst for justice, a safeguard against exploitation, and a bridge to a sustainable world. The decisions we make today—how we legislate technology and enforce sustainability—will define the world we leave behind.

My association with Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj dates back to its inception. Over the years, I have witnessed its remarkable growth—from a fledgling institution to a prominent beacon of legal scholarship, intellectual discourse, and international collaborations. Credit for all this goes to the vision and dynamic leadership of the Vice-Chancellor Dr. Usha Tandon. Her contribution to the field of legal education has been recognised, recently, by the Kerala Law Academy by conferring upon her the A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Jurist Excellence Award, 2025. I also feel proud to disclose to the distinguished gathering that two students, Srijal Misra and Nihar Duggal have recently bagged prizes at National Level Moot Court competitions held at Bihar and Jabalpur.

I extend my best wishes to the organizers of this conference. I understand that organising such an event is no small feat and your dedication, effort and vision in bringing together experts from so many countries is really commendable. I wish that your hard work culminates in a remarkable and fulfilling event.

Thank you all.

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta**  
Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court



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My brother, Honourable Mr. Justice Manoj Misra, Judge of the Supreme Court of India, My brother, Honourable Mr. Justice Kumar Regmi, Judge of the Supreme Court of Nepal, Honourable Mr. Justice Arun Bhansali, Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, Honourable Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta, Senior Judge of the Allahabad High Court, Honourable Mr. Justice Rinzin Penjor, Former Judge of the Supreme Court of Bhutan, Dear Judges of the Allahabad High Court, Dear Professors, Distinguished Guests and Invitees, Ladies, Gentlemen and Dear Students, When I was invited to pen down and share with you some of my thoughts for this conference, I accepted with much enthusiasm. Not only for the respect I have towards the University but also for the subject itself, being one of great timely significance.

Above all, I am also very pleased to be here, in Prayagraj, at this time of the year, though I am admittedly a bit saddened to have missed the largest religious festival the world has ever seen. It is also fitting that we are speaking on this topic of law, technology and sustainable development here in Prayagraj, which had to host more than six hundred million devotees. A task so big, in any part of the world, can easily become a sustainability nightmare. Only through good order and proper technological integration can the authorities make such a large crowd safe and comfortable as Prayagraj managed to do. I will revert back to this topic much later.

Sentimentalities aside, as timely as the theme of this conference may be, they are not the easiest of topics to speak about at a forum of this calibre. The breadth and depth of these topics are such that it would take a millennium for one to truly appreciate them.

The notion of 'sustainable development' itself is a subject that I personally approach with both



excitement and extreme caution. Rarely do you come across any objective and honest discourse, for it is fairly easy for anyone—even the most prominent of academics—to get lost in their own idiosyncrasies when it comes to this topic. Above that, sustainable development is a concept that necessitates a multidisciplinary inquiry, given its significance to various fields other than law. It has also become a buzzword of late across many such disciplines. It is perhaps harder now to avoid the concept than to know it. To know it properly, however, is a herculean task, as any attempt to define its meaning, objectives and implications is complicated by its many context-specific understandings.

For those reasons, I prefer to take upon a kaleidoscopic review of some of the associated concerns and notable features here rather than letting overly legalistic technicalities dictate the contents of this discussion, for such discussions are hardly uncommon.

However, let me also speak a little of how the concept of sustainable development came to be ubiquitous in law. While sustainable development and sustainability in general can and have historically been given many different definitions, as I already stated, its best-known articulation was given by the Brundtland Commission, which was tasked by the United Nations in 1987 to formulate a global agenda for change.

The Brundtland definition tells us that “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” This was, however, neither the beginning nor the end of its conceptual origins. According to Prof. Philippe Sands, the idea of ‘sustainability’ has featured in the international legal sphere at least since the 1893 Pacific Fur Seal Arbitration when the United States asserted a right to ensure the legitimate use and protection of seals for the benefit of humankind. He also observes how many pre-1987 international instruments reflected some of the key principles embodied in the principle of sustainable development. While all this is true from a legal sense, when we look deeper into the philosophy of sustainable development, you may find its roots in most ancient civilisations. Lest we forget, it is as old as the concept of time itself.

The fact that all species want to ensure their survival and secure their future is an evolutionary truth. From this perspective, our desire for any kind of development to be sustainable in the general sense is only natural. From the days we invented fire, we have thought of how to preserve it for later—for that we came up with firestones and matchboxes. The dawn of agricultural systems itself was resultant of the human yearning for sustainability. When gathering was no longer sustainable, we thought, why not grow it? When hunting was no longer sustainable, then we thought, why not raise it? Sociability, and the concept of society, I believe, is also a result of this phenomenon. When we grouped with those with similar interests, life became more sustainable.

From the time our kind managed to pick up a rock and carve something on to a bigger rock, we see that we have time and time again come to solve the most striking of problems towards the human future through innovation. Is this not the essence of sustainability? Some claim the term ‘sustainable/sustainability’, or ‘nachhaltig/nachhaltigkeit’ in German, was first used by the Scientist Hans Carl von Carlowitz in the context of forestry management in the 18th Century. Others recognise the 18th-century Malthusian theory of population as the point at which the sustainability





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discourse takes center stage.

Howbeit, the roots, in my view, may extend much further in time. Scholars observe how religious and traditional practices embodied concepts of environmental sustainability in general. In particular, I wish to refer to the eminent Sri Lankan judge Weeramantry, who was one trailblazer in embracing cultural and traditional knowledge towards the development of both domestic and international environmental legal thought.

Judge Weeramantry, in the celebrated separate opinion in the Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros Project for the International Court of Justice, emphasised how our own ancestors have recognised the twin demands of balancing the need for development with environmental protection for millennia. Our ancestors may not have looked at sustainability from the same perspective as we do now as a matter of survival, but we must not forget their wisdom.

His Excellency set up his analysis in the Separate Opinion with reference to the ancient Sri Lankan irrigation-based civilisation, and said of it the following:

*"...It is a system which, while recognizing the need for development and vigorously implementing schemes to this end, at the same time specifically articulated the need for environmental protection and ensured that the technology it employed paid due regard to environmental considerations. This concern for the environment was reflected not only in its literature and its technology, but also in its legal system, for the felling of certain forests was prohibited, game sanctuaries were established, and royal edicts decreed that the natural resource of water was to be used to the last drop without any wastage."*

One cannot doubt the fact that much of this philosophy was inherited by the Sri Lankan culture through Buddhism, which was inherited owing to the efforts of the Indian Emperor Ashoka, who saw to the deployment of Arhat Mahinda, once his own son, to see its propagation in the island nation circa 223 BC. One particular sermon propagated by Arhat Mahinda to the then King of Lanka, Devanampiya Tissa (247-207 BC), which Judge Weeramantry himself referred to, I particularly consider pertinent in the sustainability discourse:

*"O great King, the birds of the air and the beasts have as equal a right to live and move about in any part of the land as thou. The land belongs to the people and all living beings; thou art only the guardian of it."*

Here, as one can see, the philosophy concerned itself not only with the future of mankind but also with that of other living beings. The learned Judge, having cited this sermon, emphasised on how *sic utere tuo ut alienum non laedas* is a central canon in Buddhism, as it recognises even the birds and beasts with a right to be free from fear. His Excellency further interpreted "alienum" in this context to mean future generations as well as "...other component elements of the natural order beyond man himself." "All living beings" did not just mean the kinds that we categorise as animals.

What is more interesting, however, is the extent to which such wisdom of yesteryear was actually reflected in construction and engineering work, from irrigation work benefitting the villagers to





"forest tanks" beyond the village solely to provide water to wild animals, indicating how large development endeavours were affected with the utmost respect towards the natural world. The opinion of Judge Weeramantry did not merely make reference to the culture he himself hails from; but references were also made to engineering marvels of many other ancient cultures, such as from sub-Saharan Africa, Iran, China and South America, which embodied, in the learned judge's words, "sustainable development par excellence".

I do not think it necessary to mull over these traditions in greater detail than I have done above, for much of it has already been done by the learned Judge Weeramantry. However, I think it is pertinent that I look towards some of the religious wisdom in better detail, as the Separate Opinion of Judge Weeramantry has only done so briefly.

My brother Justice Janak De Silva, when he was a judge of the Court of Appeal of Sri Lanka, delivered a judgment which was well received by most academics, especially in the field of environmental law. Discussing various religious aspects of environmental protection, he cited this particular passage from Rousseau's 1762 treatise *Emile*, which I believe is absolutely true:

*"forgetfulness of all religions leads to the forgetfulness of the duties of man."*

Prof. Konasinghe in her 2021 paper titled "The Role of the Judiciary in Promoting Sustainable Development in Sri Lanka" explains in great detail how the teachings of Buddhism embody the principles of sustainable development, commenting on how all three pitakas (called Tripitaka, referring to the Chapters of Buddhist scripture Sutta Pitaka, Vinaya Pitaka and Abhidhamma Pitaka) encourage harmonious living with nature.

The Aggañña Sutta of Digha Nikaya in particular, she cites, as one emphasising the sustainable use of the environment, as it explains how mother nature would punish human selfishness and exploitative behaviour through the withdrawal of bounteousness. The Vinaya Pitaka of the aforementioned Tripitaka contains the rules of discipline for Buddhist monks, and it prohibits monks from even breaking a leaf unnecessarily as well as many other environmentally destructive behaviours.

Prof. Konasinghe also makes a very perceptive observation with respect to the qualities of Santhussako (the quality of being contented) and Subhāro (the quality of being easily satisfied) as fundamentally coinciding with the ideals of sustainable development. These two qualities are strongly emphasised in the Karaniya Metta Sutta, which is one of the three main Sutta in Buddhism. If I may refer once again to the venerable maxim *sic utere tuo ut alienum non laedas*—what we at times refer to as the good neighbour principle: "Use your own property in such a way as not to harm others." Buddhism propagated this principle in a much wider sense in the doctrine of *Aththupanayaka Dhamma Pariyaya*, which embodied the no harm principle stating that one must treat others just as he treats himself.

Likewise, in Hinduism, sustainable development and environmental protection are not modern concepts, but rather ones that have been woven into the fabric of Hindu Philosophy for thousands of years. Hindu scriptures like the Mahabharata have enormous indications underlining the central thought of environment



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preservation: All is God, all is divine, all is to be treated with reverence and respect, and all is sacred.

At the heart of Hindu Philosophy are the sacred concepts of Dharma & Ahimsa. Dharma is our duty, not just to ourselves and each other, but also to nature; it is about living in balance with nature, causing minimal harm, and respecting its boundaries. One example from the Mahabaratha is when Bhishma, while lying on the bed of arrows in Santi Parva, tells Yudhishtira that a king's Dharma includes protecting forests and animals because they are essential for the well-being of his people. This righteousness should be maintained while treating the natural world for preserving dharma.

Santi Parva and Adi Parva from the Mahabaratha assert that one should not injure any creature physically or mentally for their own self-pleasure and benefit. Vyasa, the author of this prestigious scripture, states that if one destroys dharma, the same dharma destroys him/her and how one should present himself/herself in perfect friendliness towards all in order to maintain dharma.

Ahimsa is the principle of nonviolence. We often think of it in terms of avoiding harm to people and animals, but in Hinduism, it extends far beyond that. It is about living in harmony with everything around us—plants, rivers, forests, and even the air we breathe. It teaches that violence is not just physical aggression but also any action that disrupts the delicate balance of nature.

This is one of the reasons why many Hindus practice vegetarianism. It's not merely a personal choice but a conscious way of minimising harm to all living beings and reducing the strain on natural resources. The belief that all creatures have Atman—a divine essence—means that every life form, no matter how small, is sacred. This idea is deeply ingrained in Hindu thought, from the concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—"the world is one family"—to the reverence of the Pancha Mahabhutas (earth, water, fire, air, and space), which are considered fundamental to life and must be preserved.

But, Ahimsa is not just about food but a way of life that extends to how communities interact with nature. Hindu teachings emphasise that forests, rivers, and mountains are not merely resources but living entities deserving of respect. In many Hindu traditions, certain forests have been regarded as Tapovanash—sacred groves where sages would meditate and where no harm was to be done to nature. Even today, some of these ancient sacred groves exist in India, untouched for centuries, serving as a living testament to the environmental ethics embedded in Hindu culture.

Water conservation is another example of how Ahimsa is applied to nature. Rivers like the Ganga, Yamuna, and Godavari are not just worshipped but are believed to embody divine energy. The idea of Tirtha Yatra (pilgrimage) to holy rivers is not just about spirituality—it also historically encouraged people to maintain the purity of water bodies. In many temples, the first act before entering for prayer is to cleanse oneself with water or saffron water, signifying the importance of pure water, both physically and spiritually. In ancient times, community-driven water conservation efforts, such as stepwells and temple tanks, were built with the understanding that water is a sacred gift that must be protected, not exploited.

The core idea is simple: if nature thrives, we thrive. Hinduism does not see humans as separate from nature but as part of an interconnected system. The destruction of forests, pollution of rivers, and





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reckless exploitation of natural resources are not just environmental issues—they are ethical failures, violations of Ahimsa, and disruptions of Dharma.

Hindu scriptures don't just talk about nature—they worship it. The Pancha Mahabhutas—earth, water, fire, air, and space—are not just physical elements; they are sacred. The Rig Veda has hymns dedicated to rivers, mountains, and forests, treating them as divine beings rather than just resources to be used. The Ganga, for example, isn't just a river, it's Ganga Ma, a mother who gives life. But if we truly believe that, then why do we see it so polluted today? It's a contradiction that forces us to reflect.

And it's not just the scriptures—Hindu traditions actively promote sustainability. Look at Vana Mahotsava, the festival where people plant trees together, a tradition that continues even today. Or the sacred groves, known as Devrai in Maharashtra, where certain forests are completely protected because they are believed to be the dwelling places of gods. These weren't just religious customs—they were early conservation strategies, designed to protect biodiversity long before environmental laws existed.

Sustainability is not a foreign idea to Hinduism. It has always been a part of the religion. If we look back at our own traditions, we'll see that they've already given us the answers we need. Hinduism teaches us that nature is not separate from us—it is a part of us. And if we protect it, we are ultimately protecting our own future.

In Islamic law, all land is considered to belong to God, meaning that humans do not own land outright but rather hold it in trust. This concept carries with it the responsibilities of stewardship, wise management, and preservation for future generations. This principle aligns closely with modern environmental law, particularly the principle of trusteeship over the Earth's resources, which emphasises sustainable and responsible use. From this perspective, human beings, as God's vicegerents, are both beneficiaries of creation and guardians of the environment. They are tasked with ensuring that natural resources are used moderately and equitably, guided by principles of consultation and shared responsibility to maintain balance and justice in resource distribution.

One thing is for certain from the above discussion, the width and breadth of the early roots of the concept of sustainability are not second to its modern ubiquity. As Ulrich Grober put it very colourfully, "The idea of sustainability is neither an abstract theory dreamt up by modern technocrats nor a wild fantasy hatched by Woodstock-generation eco-freaks...It is our primal world cultural heritage".

I end my focus on cultural, traditional and religious aspects of the topic by once again quoting from Judge Weeramantry's Opinion:

"The formalism of modern legal systems may cause us to lose sight of such principles, but the time has come when they must once more be integrated into the corpus of the living law"

I think we have made great strides in integrating the wisdom of yesteryear into our legal systems as of late, but more work can always be done in that regard. Coming back to the present day, we need to look at technology and law as catalysts for Sustainable Development.





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We belong to a world that is hurtling towards both advancement and disaster; we have never been as technologically progressive at any time in the history of Earth, and yet we have also never been so close to irreversible ecological damage that will render most parts of our planet inhabitable in the very near future. We are so preoccupied with the gains of the day, we forget the bonus we have coming tomorrow.

This, I believe, is where the law can play a crucial role. Law, as we all agree, shapes society—not merely by regulating behaviour, but by guiding innovation, promoting justice, and ensuring that technological progress serves the common good.

The symbiosis between law and technology is pivotal in advancing sustainability, as legal frameworks can channel technological innovations toward environmental and social good. Technological advancements such as artificial intelligence, Blockchain and renewable energy solutions have revolutionised how we live, work, and connect. These innovations offer unprecedented opportunities to tackle global challenges like climate change, resource depletion, and social inequality. For instance, AI and big data are transforming environmental monitoring, predicting climate patterns, and optimising energy consumption. Blockchain technology ensures supply chain transparency, reducing carbon footprints and unethical practices. Yet, without robust legal oversight, these technologies could exacerbate existing inequalities and environmental degradation. It is important, therefore, that we tackle the ethical, legal, and social complexities presented by these technological advancements and develop robust legal frameworks to ensure that progress benefits society as a whole.

In the context of sustainable development, for example, AI is increasingly used in environmental assessments to predict the outcomes of development projects. However, these AI systems may be trained on biased or incomplete data, leading to inaccurate predictions about environmental risks. This could result in harmful development decisions that compromise sustainability.

For example, we might underestimate potential environmental damage or overlook critical ecological factors. We may have done just that with the AI technology itself.

I recently came across an article in the United Nations Environmental Programme's website speaking of the environmental problem of AI. While there is much to uncover about the true environmental impact of these technologies, studies seem to suggest a great environmental cost associated with data centers required for AI deployments. Problems range from the energy consumed by such centers, the valuable mineral resources required to produce components, to electronic waste that might even be hazardous.

One can hardly be surprised. Throughout human history, we have found technological developments to be a double-edged sword.

Let's consider this very conference—a gathering of thousands for a noble purpose, yet one that holds the potential to be a sustainability challenge. Large conferences, while crucial for knowledge-sharing and collaboration, come with a significant environmental cost. The carbon footprint from air and road





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travel is substantial, as thousands of attendees converge from different parts of the world. Event venues demand enormous amounts of energy for lighting, digital infrastructure, and climate control, while waste generation—ranging from plastic and paper to food waste—strains local disposal systems. The surge in visitors also exacerbates traffic congestion, burdens public transport, and increases water consumption. Furthermore, the economic barriers to attending global conferences limit inclusivity, disproportionately affecting professionals from lower-income regions and reinforcing academic elitism.

The solution, of course, is not to lock yourself in the room. There is a very real problem, mostly perpetuated by alarmism, where sustainability is misinterpreted in such a fashion that it thwarts development. The sustainability versus development narrative is unfortunately all too common. The principal object of sustainable development itself, in my view, is to prevent this narrative. We must be capable of finding the middle ground as Buddhism espouses in its *Madyama Prathipad*. This is exactly why traditional wisdom is so important.

I was pleased to note the efforts of Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University to tackle the problem of inclusivity by offering many scholarships in order to ensure that aspiring scholars are able to attend and present their work at this Conference.

When we come to other problems such as the carbon footprint associated with ventures of this nature, technology can play a transformative role in making large-scale events more sustainable by optimising resource use, reducing waste, and enhancing efficiency. Suppose AI-powered carbon footprint calculators were utilised to provide real-time assessments of an event's environmental impact, guiding data-driven decisions on energy use, emissions, and waste management. What if similar systems were used to predict attendance patterns, streamline scheduling, and prevent unnecessary resource allocation? Is it not possible to thereby reduce the environmental impact?

If we take an even broader perspective, the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, where millions gather for religious observance, exemplifies the challenges of large-scale event sustainability on an unprecedented scale. With over hundreds of millions of attendees in some years, the event places immense pressure on infrastructure, waste management, water supply, and public safety. The rapid construction of temporary settlements often leads to deforestation, while increased human activity pollutes the Ganges River, disrupts local ecosystems, and significantly increases carbon emissions from transportation.

Without effective regulatory oversight and technological intervention, such gatherings risk becoming environmental disasters, endangering both public health and natural resources. Despite all these challenges, the traditions remain preserved owing to effective forward thinking and preparation. This is the point underpinning the principle of sustainable development—not to remain stagnant, but to move forward without compromising the future.

So, what is the role of law? I will not open up a discussion on that. Jurists have been beating that horse since the dawn of time, though the horse is not dead yet.

The discussion I wish to take upon is on the role of law in regulating technology towards sustainable



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development.

Proper legal oversight is critical in ensuring that technological advancements contribute positively to environmental, social, and economic well-being. For example, environmental regulations that incentivise green technologies can help mitigate climate change and preserve biodiversity. Intellectual property laws that strike a balance between protecting innovation and ensuring public access can drive scientific advancements while promoting social welfare.

Circling back to the example of leveraging law plays a crucial role in shaping sustainability standards for large gatherings, ensuring that technological advancements are ethically and effectively integrated into event management. Governments and international bodies can implement regulations on carbon-neutral event planning, mandating emission tracking, sustainable procurement, and waste reduction policies. For instance, the European Green Deal has introduced stricter environmental regulations for businesses, including corporate event planning, pushing for mandatory sustainability reporting. Similarly, France's anti-waste law prohibits single-use plastics at public events, compelling organisers to adopt greener alternatives. These legal frameworks drive accountability, ensuring that sustainability is not just an afterthought but a legal obligation.

Beyond national law, international environmental principles—such as the precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle—could be applied more rigorously to mass gatherings. Governments and event organisers should be legally accountable for environmental damage, with liability frameworks that impose responsibility on those contributing to pollution. For instance, if a large gathering results in river contamination, organisers or municipal authorities could face legal consequences under environmental torts or public nuisance laws. Similarly, extended producer responsibility (EPR) regulations could ensure that corporations managing event logistics are held accountable for excessive plastic waste.

Investor-state and international trade agreements are also beginning to reflect these concerns. For example, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) sets sustainability standards for global summits, influencing event policies worldwide. The COP26 climate summit in Glasgow incorporated green energy, plant-based catering, and a robust carbon offset program, demonstrating how legal frameworks can push large-scale events toward sustainability. Additionally, legal disputes have arisen over event-related emissions, such as in Germany, where environmental groups sued the government over excessive airline subsidies, highlighting the legal tensions between economic interests and sustainability. As lawyers, policymakers, and arbitrators, we have the power to shape regulations, enforce compliance, and drive systemic change, ensuring that law serves as the foundation for sustainable, AI-driven event management.

The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), a global standard for data protection, exemplifies how legal frameworks can uphold individual rights in the digital age, ensuring that technological advancements respect privacy and data security. This regulation indirectly supports sustainable development by promoting responsible data management practices, reducing the risk of unethical exploitation of personal information, and supporting privacy as a fundamental human right.

In the realm of AI, frameworks such as UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial





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Intelligence offer a comprehensive framework to guide the responsible development and deployment of AI technologies, ensuring they align with ethical values and contribute positively to sustainable development. By emphasising human rights, transparency, accountability, and inclusivity, it helps mitigate biases and discrimination in AI systems, ensuring fair access and outcomes for all communities. The Recommendation also stresses the importance of environmental sustainability, urging developers to consider the ecological impact of AI, particularly in sectors like energy and agriculture.

At the same time, any story involving technology is usually a cautionary tale; technology is a double-edged sword when it comes to environmental sustainability as I previously emphasised, and an example that illustrates this is that of chemical fertilisers. On one hand, their introduction revolutionised agriculture, enabling farmers to produce higher yields, prevent food shortages, and sustain growing populations. The Green Revolution of the mid-20th century, fueled by synthetic fertilisers, transformed food production, pulling millions out of hunger and malnutrition. This technological advancement allowed crops to thrive in regions with nutrient-deficient soils, making food security a reality in many parts of the world. Without these innovations, sustaining our global population at its current scale would be nearly impossible.

Yet, the very technology that enhances agricultural productivity also contributes to severe environmental degradation. Excessive use of chemical fertilisers leads to soil degradation, depleting its natural fertility over time. Runoff from farmlands contaminates water bodies, causing algal blooms that deplete oxygen levels and destroy aquatic ecosystems—a phenomenon known as eutrophication. Moreover, fertilisers release nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse gas, exacerbating climate change. Over-reliance on synthetic fertilisers has also led to biodiversity loss by disrupting the natural balance of soil microbes and beneficial organisms. The legal framework governing the use of chemical fertilisers is therefore critical in balancing agricultural efficiency with environmental sustainability. Strict regulations, incentives for sustainable farming practices, and technological innovations such as AI-powered precision farming can mitigate these negative effects. By leveraging law and technology responsibly, we can ensure that progress does not come at the cost of environmental destruction.

The intersection of law and agricultural policy plays a crucial role in mitigating the negative effects of fertiliser use. Governments worldwide regulate fertiliser application to balance food security with environmental protection. However, hasty or poorly designed policies can have disastrous consequences. Many consider Sri Lanka's 2021 fertiliser ban to be so. However, I wish to refrain from passing any personal remarks on the same, as it would be improper as a judicial officer. A well-crafted legal framework should not merely ban harmful practices but instead guide a gradual and well-supported transition toward sustainable alternatives. Precision farming, AI-driven soil monitoring, and controlled-release fertilisers present viable solutions that can optimise nitrogen use while minimising environmental damage.

Furthermore, environmental laws and agricultural regulations should encourage responsible fertiliser use, incentivising farmers to adopt eco-friendly practices without jeopardising food security. The case of Sri Lanka underscores the importance of evidence-based policymaking—where technology, law, and sustainability must work in harmony rather than in conflict.





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The challenges of sustainable development are inherently global, requiring collaborative solutions that transcend national borders. Climate change, biodiversity loss, and technological disruption are issues that no nation can address in isolation. Regional cooperation among South Asian countries is essential to achieving shared sustainability goals.

India and Sri Lanka, with their historical and cultural ties, are well-positioned to lead such collaborative efforts. By harmonising legal frameworks and sharing best practices, our nations can create an environment conducive to sustainable innovation. Joint research initiatives on renewable energy, digital governance, and climate resilience and knowledge sharing of this nature can accelerate progress toward the SDGs. Furthermore, coordinated legal frameworks that address cross-border issues can enhance regional stability and prosperity.

Global institutions such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Court of Justice also play a crucial role in promoting legal standards that support sustainable development. By aligning national laws with international treaties such as the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity, countries can contribute to a global legal ecosystem that fosters both technological innovation and environmental stewardship.

Finally, I would also like to talk about a crucial yet often overlooked challenge—the gap between academic research and real-world implementation. A problem that is observable worldwide but very much prevalent in Sri Lanka. This is a problem which Prof. N.S. Punchihewa often brings to the fore. Groundbreaking studies on sustainable technologies, legal and administrative frameworks are regularly produced in universities. However, much of this research lacks the necessary pathways for execution, leaving valuable recommendations to collect dust instead of driving meaningful change. This often results from inadequacies in intellectual property regimes.

Unlike technological or pharmaceutical innovations that can be commercialised, legal and administrative research is often treated as a public good, freely available but lacking a structured pathway for implementation. Academics dedicate years to studying how legal frameworks can be optimised for sustainability, leveraging technology to streamline governance, and proposing actionable reforms. Yet, despite their depth and rigor, these research findings often collect dust in journals and institutional repositories, unable to drive real change.

The challenge lies not in the quality of research but in the absence of mechanisms to translate it into practice. Without financial incentives or formal adoption pathways, many well-researched legal and policy recommendations fail to gain traction. Governments may be reluctant to overhaul existing frameworks, industries may lack the motivation to adopt sustainable practices voluntarily, and the legal profession itself often operates in silos—separating academic inquiry from practical application. This redundancy is a disservice not only to researchers but to society as a whole, as pressing environmental and regulatory challenges continue to mount while viable solutions remain underutilised.

This is where gatherings like today's conference play a crucial role. They serve as the bridge between theory and practice, bringing together academics, policymakers, practitioners, and industry leaders in





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one space. Unlike academic publications that may struggle to reach decision-makers, conferences create direct opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, and advocacy. They provide a platform for researchers to showcase their findings to those who have the power to implement them—whether through legislative reform, corporate governance, or judicial interpretation.

More importantly, conferences create momentum. They facilitate partnerships that can lead to pilot projects, funding opportunities, and institutional endorsements. They allow experts from diverse fields to cross-pollinate ideas, ensuring that sustainability-driven legal frameworks are not only well-researched but also practical, scalable, and enforceable. By fostering these discussions, we move beyond the cycle of research for research's sake and towards actionable solutions that can reshape the legal landscape.

As members of the legal community, we must advocate for a system that ensures that our work does not merely remain an intellectual exercise but becomes an instrument for meaningful change. This means pushing for policy mechanisms that provide structured implementation pathways for academic work. It means encouraging collaboration between universities, governments, and private entities to test, refine, and deploy legal and administrative innovations. It also means rethinking intellectual property protections in a way that allows researchers to retain some degree of ownership over their work, creating incentives for continuous development and impact-driven scholarship.

Conferences like this remind us that knowledge is only as valuable as its ability to shape the world around us. As legal professionals, we must serve as the conduit between academia and policy, ensuring that well-founded ideas do not remain buried in institutional archives but find their place in real-world governance. The legal profession is uniquely positioned to drive this change, and it is our responsibility to make sure that the ideas exchanged today do not end with discussion—but lead to action.

Before I conclude, I am reminded that I started by commenting on how almost everyone allows their idiosyncrasies to seep into discussions on this topic of sustainable development. Perhaps my own remarks today are not too different, but I do hope that I am leaving you with something new.

My heartfelt thanks go to the dear Vice-Chancellor of RPNLUP, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, and I hope to see you all at the new ceremonial hall.

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Thirairaja**  
Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka



## ADDRESS BY DISTINGUISHED GUEST

Honourable Justice of the Supreme Court of India, Honourable Justice of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, Honourable Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, Honourable Justices of the High Court, Former Justice of the Supreme Court of Bhutan, Vice-Chancellor Professor Usha Tandon, faculty members, esteemed guests and students. It is an honour and great privilege to join you today at this international conference on "Law, Technology and Sustainable Development", held at your promising Dr Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj. The collective efforts of experts of your calibre in advancing this area of law are indispensable in these trying times.

This is a legal field in which high quality research, critical analysis and informed debates are more important than ever. I would like to thank the organisers, especially Vice-Chancellor Professor Usha Tandon for this opportunity. The main theme of this international conference is not just a concern for a single country but a matter of global interest and concern.

Every nation and its citizens have a strong desire for development; and technology plays an important role in advancing and accelerating this process. While we are witnessing the progress, we are also observing its inevitable impact on the environment. Unfortunately, the negative effects of this impact far outweigh the positive ones, a reality that the world is currently experiencing firsthand.

The rise in global temperature has led to unprecedented natural disasters which were unheard of or unseen in the past, affecting our ecosystems. Nepal, a country known for the Himalayas, is experiencing this impact much more. Rapid glacial retreat is resulting in glacial lake outburst floods. For the first time in years, the usually snow-peaked mountains are naked and stark black even in the mid-



winters. Human greed and unending desire for comfort and dominance are leading to selfish exploitation of the Earth, not only harming humanity but also affecting the collective home of millions of other living beings, animals, birds and plants at an alarming rate of destruction. In this part of the world, we worship nature, the sun, the moon, water sources including rivers, trees, air and soil as divine symbols, offering them our prayers and devotion.

These natural elements provide essential life-sustaining resources to all living beings free of cost. If each individual displays gratitude towards these natural elements for their priceless contributions, it will naturally lead to a value system and culture of sustainable development that incorporates environmental protection. Sustainable development aims to curb this reckless desire for rapid growth and advocates for environmental-friendly development.

However, this principle has largely remained confined to theoretical discussion and has been slow to translate into real action. Despite being situated between two economic powers, Nepal is yet to prove its prominence in the global economic index. However, its achievements in environmental conservation, wildlife protection and biodiversity preservation is highly commendable.

Forests cover 46.8% of the total land area of Nepal, of which 23.39% is designated as Natural Parks, Protected Areas and Wildlife Reserves. Nepal has an extraordinary legacy of environmental protection since the olden time. At the time when forests were being recklessly destroyed worldwide in the name of development, Nepal's Supreme Court, then Pradhan Niyalai, interpreted in 1953 that if human settlements are allowed to expand into forests, the forests will gradually disappear. The destruction of forests will lead to water shortages causing distress to the people. Therefore, forests must be preserved.

Another notable case highlighting Nepal's commitment to environmental conservation is *Leaders Inc. v. Godavari Marbles*, decided in 1995. In this case, the issue before the court was related to the industrial activities causing environmental degradation of Kathmandu valleys, Godavari forest area, and whether the constitution guaranteed the right to clean environment as an integral part of the right to life. The Supreme Court of Nepal held that the right to a healthy environment is an integral part of the right to life, a fundamental right guaranteed in the constitution.

Taking into account the sensitive humanitarian issues of environmental protection, the Supreme Court issued a directive order in the name of the government to enforce the Mines and Mineral Act, 1985. Further, it also directed to enact necessary legislation for the protection of air, water, and environment, and to take action for the protection of the environment of Godavari area. As a result of this directive order, Nepal's parliament enacted the Environmental Protection Act, 1997.

It must be noted that 38 years prior to the enactment of the Environmental Protection Act, Nepal had already enacted the Wildlife Protection Act in 1959, and then National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1972, demonstrating Nepal's long-standing commitment to environmental protection. Further, in the case of *Yogi Narayana v. Prime Minister and Council of Ministers* decided in 1996, a writ petition was filed against the government decision to allow establishment of a medical college within the 42 Bengal forest area in Devgad, a site of immense religious importance along the Narayani River. The





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Supreme Court ruled that matters under the directive principle and state policies are of a public concern, and held that the government's decision was arbitrary and could have long-term adverse effects on a clean environment.

Consequently, the court annulled the government decisions reinforcing Nepal's commitment to environmental conservation. The Supreme Court of Nepal continues to play a critical role in environmental protection. For instance, in the case of *Surendra Bhandari v. Sri Distillery and others* decided in 1996, the court ruled that industries cannot operate in a way that disturbs the natural balance.

It emphasizes that industrial operations must follow environmentally sustainable practices to prevent environmental degradation. Similarly, in cases concerning the pollution of the Bhagmati and Vishnumati rivers in Kathmandu Valley, which are of religious, cultural and environmental significance, the Supreme Court issued directive orders in 1987 as well as in 1999 to protect these sacred rivers. More recently, in the years 2018 and 2023, the Supreme Court of Nepal has issued several amendments concerning shrinking of lakes, water pollution and biodiversity conservation in Fewa Lake, Pokhara's iconic tourist attraction.

These cases that I have discussed represent just a few examples of judicial intervention. Numerous other court case rulings have led to legal reforms and have played important role in controlling noise pollution, regulation of air pollution, prevention of river pollution and forest conservation. While some court orders have resulted in significant progress; failure to fully implement others have hindered efforts to reduce river pollution within the Kathmandu Valley.

Courts have their limitations. Judicial order yields result only when other branches of the state implement them or else they remain confined to paper. While the judiciary cannot be overtly proactive, it also cannot remain passive by ignoring constitutional mandates.

As a final interpreter of the constitution, the Supreme Court must play its role in building the state as envisioned by the constitution. Even when the constitution does not explicitly grant certain powers, the court may have to play a proactive role in resolving constitutional complexity brought to its notice. For example, although the constitution of the United States of America did not explicitly grant the power of judicial review, the Supreme Court asserted its inherent authority to review government decisions in the landmark ruling of *Marbury v. Madison*, 1803.

In the case of Nepal, the constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal, 1990, explicitly granted the power of judicial review to the Supreme Court, enabling it to invalidate laws and decisions of the government that were in conflict with the constitution. This power was reaffirmed in the Constitution of Nepal, 2015, under Article 133.1 and Article 137, which assigns this authority to the five-member constitutional bench led by the Chief Justice. Further, the constitution of Nepal can be regarded as a green constitution.

Article 30 recognizes the right to clean the environment as a fundamental right. Sub-article 1 of the Article 30 notes, every citizen shall have the right to live in a clean and healthy environment. Sub-article 2 of Article 30 notes, the victim shall have the right to obtain compensation in accordance with





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law for any injury caused from environmental pollution or degradation. Sub-article 3 of Article 30 notes the fine balance between development and environmental protection by noting, this article shall not be deemed to prevent the enactment of necessary legal provisions but ensuring a proper balance between environmental protection and national development. For a developing country like Nepal, accelerating economic growth to uplift people from below the poverty line remains a national priority. However, Sub-article 3 of Article 30 ensures that development cannot be pursued at the disproportionate cost of the environment.

It mandates that economic growth must maintain a balance with environmental sustainability, reinforcing Nepal's commitment to sustainable development. This is further reinforced by Article 51, which outlines the state policies under the binding language that the state shall adopt the following policies. Article 51G ensures the conservation, promotion and utilization of natural resources while prioritizing the protection of nature, the environment and biodiversity. Further, Article 51F2, emphasizes the adoption of environmental-friendly development policies. Article 51I, under tourism-related policies, promotes the identification, conservation, promotion and sustainable use of natural resources to develop an eco-friendly tourism industry as a foundation for Nepal's economy. These constitutional provisions acknowledge that while physical development may inevitably impact the environment; they do not permit irreparable damage or disproportionate environmental burdens.

Therefore, before granting approval for any development project, these provisions imply the necessity of a thorough scientific environmental impact assessment. Further, as explicitly stated in Article 52 of the Constitution, the duty to uphold the spirit and intent of these constitutional provisions applies to all branches of the state. The independence and competence of the judiciary are tested by how effectively it upholds these constitutional mandates.

While it is natural for the parliament and government to prioritize rapid economic development through legislation and its implementation, the court, through its power of judicial review, should examine if such legislation and policy create environmental imbalances. If an appropriate balance is maintained, the court has no grounds to intervene. Otherwise, it must fulfill its constitutional duty by intervening for the greater good.

Thus, environmental protection is an integral part of sustainable development and, as noted earlier, the right to live in a clean and healthy environment is guaranteed as a fundamental right in the Constitution of Nepal. State policies reinforce this right, and the Supreme Court of Nepal has consistently acted to prevent irreparable environmental damage in the name of development. Finally, I hope the deliberation during this conference will explore solutions to the global problems that lie ahead, thus ensuring a critical balance between environmental protection and development.

With this belief, I once again thank the organizers and extend my best wishes. Thank you.

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kumar Regmi**  
Judge, Supreme Court of Nepal



# PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra, The Visitor, Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj & Judge, Supreme Court of India; Brother Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta, Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kumar Regmi, Judge, Supreme Court of Nepal; Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Thuraiaraja, Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rinzin Penjor, Former Judge, Supreme Court of Bhutan & Present Vice-President, Bar Council of Bhutan; Senior Professor (Dr.) Usha Tandon, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj; esteemed dignitaries, distinguished scholars, members of the legal fraternity, academicians, and guests - A Very Good Evening to one and all present in this august gathering.

It gives me enormous pleasure to be a part of this International Conference on Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development, a subject that lies at the confluence of legal evolution, scientific progress, and global responsibility. The rapid advancements in technology and the pressing need for sustainability have necessitated a paradigm shift in the legal framework, making conferences like this not only relevant but indispensable.

We are deeply honored to have in our midst Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra ji, whose unwavering commitment to the cause of justice is truly commendable. His Lordship's insightful perspectives and profound understanding of legal intricacies have continuously enriched the legal fraternity. We are immensely grateful to him for graciously sparing his valuable time to share his expertise with us today. His illuminating discourse on this critical and sensitive issue would not only enhance our understanding but also would enlighten us to navigate the complex challenges associated with it. Our distinguished speakers have also comprehensively addressed these pressing issues with depth and insight; their



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perspectives will undoubtedly inspire forward-thinking legal reforms.

Looking back, it seems like just yesterday that I had the privilege of attending the grand inaugural ceremony of Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj. In the short span of a year, I am heartened to witness the remarkable progress this institution has made, firmly establishing itself as a centre of excellence. The organization of this International Conference is yet another significant milestone in its journey of academic pursuit and intellectual growth. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Usha Tandon, and her dedicated team for their unwavering commitment to fostering a culture of scholarly discourse.

The theme of this conference encapsulates three fundamental pillars of modern civilization. Law, as the bedrock of justice, must continuously evolve and regulated to match with the technological advancements. Technology, as the force going through unprecedented changes, must be harnessed responsibly to serve humanity and be used for easy access to everyone. And sustainability, as a guiding principle, must shape our laws and policies to ensure that development does not come at the cost of future generations.

We are living in an era of rapid technological advancements, where innovations in computer software, artificial intelligence (AI), and digital tools are transforming various aspects of our daily lives. These advancements have also made a profound impact on the legal profession, enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and access to legal resources. With the aid of technology-driven research, case management systems, and AI-assisted legal analysis, legal professionals can sharpen their acumen and improve decision-making. However, while technology expands possibilities, it also poses certain challenges. The increasing reliance on automation and digital tools has significantly reduced manual legal research and traditional methodologies, leading to a shift away from conventional practices. More concerning, however, is the fact that technological progress is accompanied by environmental consequences, such as resource depletion, pollution, and climate change. As humanity continues to exploit natural resources at an unsustainable pace, we are witnessing rising social inequities and ecological imbalances. Therefore, it is imperative to strike a delicate balance—one that ensures technological progress aligned with environmental sustainability and social welfare. For a country like India, sustainable development must be inclusive, ensuring a harmonious balance between economic growth, environmental protection, and social well-being. Achieving this balance requires progressive legal frameworks that integrate sustainability principles with technological advancements. While technological evolution is necessary to keep pace with the rapidly changing legal landscape, we must remain mindful that over-dependence on technology-based methods may diminish critical thinking, traditional legal wisdom, and the human element in legal practice, which could have unintended consequences for future generations.

At the heart of all progress lies the Rule of Law, which serves as the foundation for sustainable development. The role of law in this context is not merely aspirational but instrumental, ensuring that sustainability remains not just an ideal but a tangible reality. Legal frameworks must promote equitable growth, safeguarding the rights and interests of all citizens, irrespective of caste, creed, or socio-economic status. However, the law alone is not sufficient to achieve sustainability. True progress can only be realized when citizens actively acknowledge and fulfil their responsibilities towards society. Rights come with duties,





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and every individual has a role to play in preserving natural resources, reducing environmental harm, and fostering ethical sustainable practices.

Thus, the success of sustainable development does not rest solely on environmental laws, technological policies, or economic regulations, it requires a collective commitment from society. No legal provision or technological advancement can single-handedly drive sustainability unless citizens cultivate a strong will and a shared sense of responsibility to achieve this goal. It is only through equal participation, legal consciousness, and ethical governance that we can ensure a sustainable, just, and prosperous future for generations to come.

Technological advancements have the potential to play a transformative role in achieving sustainable development, provided they are applied judiciously and ethically. With the aid of cutting-edge innovations, we now have the ability to forecast weather patterns, assess climate change, monitor environmental degradation, and implement pollution control measures. These advancements have also enabled the generation and utilization of clean and renewable energy sources, reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. Among the most revolutionary technological breakthroughs of our time is Artificial Intelligence (AI), which is reshaping industries, optimizing processes, and offering innovative solutions to some of the most pressing global challenges.

There is no doubt that technology has become an integral part of our daily lives. It has streamlined government operations, enhanced public service delivery, and provided efficient solutions to many long-standing challenges. The banking and financial sector stands as a prime example of how technology has simplified transactions, enhanced security, and improved accessibility, making financial services more inclusive and hassle-free. Today, with just a few clicks, individuals can transfer funds, manage investments, and conduct financial transactions with ease, something that was once time-consuming and cumbersome.

However, while technological progress offers countless benefits, it is equally important to recognize and mitigate its potential risks and ethical dilemmas. Every innovation, no matter how groundbreaking, carries a darker side, often in the form of misuse, security threats, and unintended societal consequences. Issues such as cybercrime, data breaches, AI biases, and the displacement of traditional jobs are emerging as significant concerns in this digital era. Therefore, it becomes imperative to have strong legal frameworks and regulatory mechanisms in place to curb the misuse of technology and ensure that its applications align with ethical standards and societal well-being.

This is where the role of law becomes indispensable. A well-structured legal system must not only facilitate technological growth but also safeguard public interest by addressing concerns related to privacy, cybersecurity, ethical AI usage, and responsible innovation. To strike this balance, governments must enact and enforce laws that prevent the exploitation of technology while promoting its responsible use.

In essence, technological advancement should not be seen as an unrestricted force but rather a tool that must be guided by legal and ethical principles. If harnessed responsibly, technology can





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be a powerful catalyst for sustainable development, fostering economic growth, social progress, and environmental conservation. However, it is the duty of lawmakers, policymakers, and society at large to ensure that these advancements serve the greater good without compromising fundamental rights, ethical values, or the well-being of future generations.

Our judiciary has consistently played a crucial role in advancing the cause of sustainable development. In a recent landmark judgment in *M.K. Ranjitsinh and Others vs. Union of India & Others*, Supreme Court of India, reaffirmed this commitment by recognizing the Right to be free from the adverse effects of climate change as a constitutional right under Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty) and Article 14 (Right to Equality) of the Indian Constitution.

This significant judgement, which was delivered by a Bench to which our Chief Guest Hon'ble Mr. Justice Misra was also a member, highlights the urgent need for proactive engagement with various stakeholders, including government agencies, environmental organizations, scientific experts, and local communities. By fostering dialogue, gathering diverse perspectives, and building consensus, we can work collaboratively towards effective conservation strategies and sustainable development goals that balance ecological protection with economic progress.

This verdict also further highlights the need for a comprehensive climate change law in India. While existing legal frameworks address environmental concerns, they remain fragmented and lack a cohesive approach to climate change. The Forest Conservation Act 1980, for example, primarily focuses on preventing deforestation but does not address the broader impacts of climate change on forest ecosystems.

A unified law would help India fulfill its international obligations, particularly its commitments under the Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The recurring floods in Mumbai and Chennai exemplify the need for an integrated approach to urban planning and climate resilience. Additionally, climate change poses serious public health and safety risks, with events like 2024 heatwave and severe floods claiming lives and affecting thousands. The economic implications of climate change on agriculture, water resources, and infrastructure further demand a proactive legal response.

Striking a balance between development and the needs of future generations—what we refer to as intergenerational equity—is of paramount importance. Legal frameworks must be designed to align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring that economic growth and innovation go hand in hand with environmental sustainability. A well-structured transition to a green economy requires strategic investments in renewable energy, the enforcement of strict industry regulations, and the introduction of incentives that encourage businesses to adopt sustainable practices fostering a responsible and sustainable approach to economic development.

We as a country however are racing against time as we strive to achieve economic prosperity unlike the industrialized nations that have historically prioritized economic growth at the cost of severe ecosystem degradation, we are at a crucial juncture where we must pursue development without compromising its environmental integrity.



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AI-powered smart city solutions will be critical in ensuring that India's growth is sustainable, equitable, and future-proof. The role of law and governance in facilitating this transition cannot be overstated, as robust legal frameworks are essential to fostering an ecosystem where technological advancements and sustainability go hand in hand.

The role of law in bridging traditional wisdom with modern sustainability is also gaining prominence. Indigenous practices have long offered sustainable solutions, and incorporating these insights into modern legal frameworks can contribute to climate change mitigation, food security, and resource management. Additionally, legal mechanisms supporting intellectual property rights and sustainable innovation must balance the need for green innovation with fair IP protection.

The deliberations we engage in technical sessions tomorrow and day after hold immense significance. The challenges posed by emerging technologies—artificial intelligence, blockchain, biotechnology, and data privacy—require urgent legal scrutiny and regulatory mechanisms. At the same time, legal frameworks must facilitate technological innovation while ensuring ethical considerations and safeguarding human rights. The intersection of law and technology must, therefore, be guided by a vision that promotes innovation while upholding justice and equity.

In conclusion, let us recognize that the legal fraternity has a pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of technological progress and sustainable development. As custodians of justice, we must ensure that laws not only adapt to changing times but also serve as instruments of fairness, inclusivity, and global well-being.

Once again, I extend my deepest gratitude to the organizers and participants for their invaluable contributions. May this conference serve as a catalyst for progressive thought and meaningful action.

Thank you.

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Bhansali**  
Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court, &  
Hon'ble Chancellor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj





## ADDRESS BY CHIEF GUEST

My brother judges from Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan, Chief Justice Bhansali, my colleague Justice M. K. Gupta, Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court, my two colleagues off the dais, professors, teachers, students and dignitaries. When I decided to come here, many of the law researchers associated to my office asked me “what is the topic?” I replied, “It is Sustainable Development, Law, and Technology.” So, they prepared about 50 pages of notes for me. But when I saw that I would be the last speaker, I thought, “Come on, by the end of a Friday evening, the students and teachers will all be exhausted from the entire week.” So I decided to keep my speech brief.

As my learned co-speakers have already spoken in depth about law and technology, I would like to offer some illustrations of how technology can be used effectively.

There used to be a joke about artificial intelligence, particularly involving Microsoft. A pilot, caught in a snow blizzard, lost his bearings. He was supposed to land—either in a field or perhaps on a hilltop building—in New York City. Amid the blizzard, with no coordinates to guide him, he spotted a lit-up building with the word “Microsoft.” Thinking he might find direction there, he flashed a neon sign asking, “Where am I?” expecting a clear and logical response that would help him regain his bearings. The response came: “You are inside the helicopter.” The answer was completely correct—but totally useless.

This story illustrates how artificial intelligence works. It operates on algorithms, and the outcome depends heavily on how the question is framed. If you frame your question properly, you get a meaningful answer. But if the question is not well-constructed, even a correct answer may be of no practical value. So, in the context of sustainable development, technology must be used in a way that genuinely serves





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its purpose. How can it serve the purpose? We have data. Data points allow us to analyze and reach conclusions. For example, you might have data on pollution caused by a specific industry—perhaps a chemical or bottling industry that uses large amounts of groundwater. This data can help determine whether such an industry should operate in a given area and assess its environmental impact. Technology can thus guide us toward responsible industrial planning.

I recall watching an interview with a South American leader—possibly from Guyana—discussing the Amazon rainforest. As we all know, the Amazon captures more than 23% of global carbon and releases an equivalent amount of oxygen. A famous journalist asked the leader why he was allowing deforestation. He responded, “Is the world going to pay me for the forest I protect? I need to use these resources for the sustenance of my people.” This is precisely where the idea of sustainable development comes into play.

My friend from Nepal spoke about how regulations are there in expeditions, mountain expeditions in Nepal. Nepal earns its revenue basically from tourism and often people say that very shortly we will have to have traffic lights near Mount Everest. The expedition is to such an extent. Often you have jams on the hill slope just because everybody goes there. But the fact is, can Nepal afford to regulate it to such an extent that the tourist inflow goes down and their economy suffers? The answer is obviously a very difficult one.

In the present day context we have plenty of treaties regulating carbon footprint, providing carbon credits but equally the participants of those treaties are not abiding by those treaties. Many of the important nations, powerful nations have walked out of those treaties. If that is the case then how can we have sustainable development across the globe? Climate change is not related to any particular country. It is a global phenomena unless and until all global countries, participating countries collaborate together, it would be difficult to control climate change.

But unfortunately every country is having its own interest in mind. The political leaders often place tariffs. They walk out of treaties and place tariffs only to protect their own market for their own cause. So the answer is if you have to speak of global climate control or maintaining the temperatures so that they don't rise beyond a particular level, unless and until all global participants collaborate, it would be very difficult.

So far as technology is concerned, the technology we have to adopt depends on our needs. For example, India is way ahead of the other countries so far as renewable energy sources are concerned. Like we have developed solar energy, wind is also there and now we are also doing a lot of research in hydrogen. But if you talk about solar energy, you need barren land for the purposes of having solar panels. But if you have to employ solar panels in a barren land region then you have a Great Indian Bustard. That matter came before us in the Supreme Court and the issue raised was that the Great Indian Bustard is a protected species and unless and until we remove the wires, overhead lines from those areas, those birds can't fly high. They might die. They might perish. So we had to solve that problem and we insisted on how we can manage in the sense that we can have bird deflectors. Those deflectors can be those that the bird will change this flight course and avoid collision from those overhead wires.

So these are all illustrations of sustainable development. Similarly, if you say plan an industry





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in a given area and that industry discharges effluents which is likely to make the ground water toxic, in such circumstances what are the measures that have to be taken? How can technology come into being? So we have to have a very balanced kind of an approach but then the other part is most of these technologies are patented technologies in the hands of few developed nations. They are not going to be parted to you or given to you at a very reasonable rate. So all these aspects will have to be considered and I believe that in the next two days all these aspects can be discussed in detail and some proper resolution can be arrived at.

So far as this university is concerned, I am proud to see that many of the students have performed so well and in a short while of barely eight months, the students have gained a lot and I believe that the university is being able to establish its permanent infrastructure and I would extend my gratitude to the Chancellor of the University and the Senior Judge of the Allahabad High Court that they have contributed a lot for the development of the university. This was a place of learning. Allahabad as we all know had been a place of learning although its name has changed but the University of Allahabad still remains. I see a professor from Allahabad University here. I have also been a student of Allahabad University and I wish my best wishes to all the students, to the staff and to all the members of the faculty.

Thank you.

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India, &  
Hon'ble Visitor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj



# VOTE OF THANKS

Good evening to everyone.

It is a great pleasure for me to deliver this vote of thanks on behalf of RPNLUP on the inauguration of International Conference on Law Technology and Sustainable Development.

First of all we are very grateful for the auspicious presence of our Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra, Judge of Supreme Court of India & Hon'ble visitor to RPNLUP. We are extremely thankful to him for sparing his valuable time for us and blessing us with his kind words of wisdom. His continuous guidance and patronage helped us in not only organising such a grand program but also to start and establish this university.

We pay our thanks and extend gratitude to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Bhansali, Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court & Hon'ble Chancellor, RPNLUP for sparing his valuable time for us and encouraging us by his words of wisdom in the Presidential Address.

Secondly, I extend my deep gratitude to our distinguished guest Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kumar Regmi, Judge, Supreme Court of Nepal for his presence and valuable words that he shared. His presence means a lot for us and his guidance will help us immensely in our future endeavors.

We are also very thankful to our distinguished guest, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S Thurai Raja, Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka for marking his presence and inspiring us with his words of wisdom. We feel honored that he could share his valuable experience with us.



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I, next, extend my deepest gratitude and thanks to our distinguished guest Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta, Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court. His kind support and continuous blessings have always been with us, right from the establishment of this university. We also pay our special thanks for his kind words of wisdom, guidance and blessings.

We are also very grateful to our distinguished guest Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rinzin Penjor, former judge of Supreme Court of Bhutan and Present Vice President of Bar Council of Bhutan. His gracious presence and wise words have really encouraged us.

Last but not the least, we are very thankful to our honorable Vice Chancellor, Senior Professor (Dr.) Usha Tandon whose supreme vision, guidance and leadership has helped us to organise this grand event in the very first year of the University. Probably in Prayagraj, it is likely to be the first time this type of International Conference is being organised.

I extend my deepest gratitude and thanks to all guests, speakers, participants, faculty members, staffs, specially MNNIT staffs, and special thanks to press media persons.

Thanks a lot once again to all of you for your encouraging presence.

**Mr. Satya Prakash**  
Registrar, RP National Law University, Prayagraj



# VALEDICTORY SESSION

## Chief Guest

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India

## Distinguished Guests

**Prof. (Dr.) S. Surya Prakash**  
Hon'ble Vice- Chancellor, NLIU, Bhopal

**Mr. Nitin Nanda**  
International Lawyer, Estonia

**Prof. Rama Shanker Verma**  
Director, MNNIT, Prayagraj

**Prof. Moon-Hyun Koh**  
Professor of Law, Soongsil University,  
Seoul, Korea

## Welcome Address and Introductory Remarks

**Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**  
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor  
RP National Law University, Prayagraj

Date: **09<sup>th</sup> March 2025** | Time: **05:00 PM IST onwards**



# WELCOME ADDRESS AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

A very good evening to all of you!

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal, Judge, Supreme Court of India; Prof. (Dr.) S. Surya Prakash, my hon'ble brother Vice Chancellor NLIU, Bhopal; Advocate, Nitin Nanda, from Estonia, Prof. Rama Shanker Verma, Director, MNNIT, Prayagraj; Prof. Koh from South Korea; Prof. Phillip from SOAS, London, I am delighted to welcome you all, this time at the Valedictory session of three day International Conference on Law, Technology and Sustainable Development.

It is with great honour and deep gratitude that we welcome Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal, who is amongst us to conclude this ongoing International Conference. Hailing from Meerut, belonging to third generation of lawyers and the son of long serving Judge of Allahabad High Court, His Lordship is known for his utmost humility and generosity in Allahabad-not only in the legal circle, but the whole city. Before his elevation to the Supreme Court, His Lordship has been the Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court and Chief Justice of J&K and Ladakh High Court and started his career in practice from the Bar at Allahabad High Court.

Sir has delivered very many remarkable judgments one of which is of 2024 SC -High Court Bar Association Allahabad v. The State of Uttar Pradesh, ( known as Validity of automatic vacation of stay order) wherein as the member of Constitutional Court, overruling the three judge Bench decision, ruled that Constitutional Courts should not typically impose a time limit to dispose a case pending in any Court. A stay order granted in civil and criminal cases will remain in operation till the case is decided, unless it is expressly timebound. As a Judge (Allahabad HC) and Chief Justice (J&K HC and Rajasthan HC), he has



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delivered over thousands of judgments on various issues ranging from housing, banking, succession, and labour laws. One of the interesting and inspiring fact about His Lordship is that he is interested in philately and is an avid stamp collector. He was a member of the Sub-Committee on Coins and Postage Stamps at the Allahabad HC. Another interesting fact is that he is known for his writing other than judgments. One of Sir's work written during his days as an advocate "the Birth and life of the HC of Judicature at Allahabad" is widely read even today. We are obliged that you have spared time for us today and extend you a very hearty welcome Sir. A big round of applause...

A very warm welcome to my brother colleague Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor NLIU Bhopal, Prof. S. Surya Prakash. An outstanding jurist, accomplished administrator and very good friend, Prof. Surya Prakash has helped me with his wisdom and experience in the initial days of my joining as the Vice-Chancellor of this university. He also extended me an invitation to an event, and that was my first visit to any NLU as VC.

I also invited him, previously, but he could not manage, but this time, Prof couldn't say no to me, I am deeply obliged to you sir for being with us and extend a warm welcome. Put your hand together...

It is indeed my privilege and honour to welcome International Lawyer, Mr Nitin Nanda who is based in Estonia, but whose work is spread all over the world- be it USA, Europe or any other part of the World. A self-made professional, whose files runs into billions of dollars, Nitin is extremely down to earth and very respectful to his elders, preserving the Indian culture and ethos. I have a special personal association with Nitin and cherish the days , when he was at CLC, University of Delhi. And you know, what is the best thing about him, that will touch your heart, that he is humble to give back to his alma mater as much as possible. When I was PIC at CLC, he took two of my students for internship at Estonia. Nitin, you made us so proud. Stay blessed! A heartfelt welcome to you. A big round of applause.

Dr. Rama Shankar Verma whom I met at airport, is very helpful. I appreciate him for allowing us to hold this conference at MNNIT. Distinguished speakers - Prof. Koh, Mr. Nanda - who stayed even after their presentation. So, this special welcome to My DU colleagues as the listeners and audience.

Now take away from this conference- Our Esteemed Visitor very beautifully illustrated "the correct, but in some circumstances, useless use of AI, I shared with you my experience of "incorrect and thus useless use of AI." Justice Ashwani Mishra and Justice Ajay Bhanot emphasised the importance of this kind of conference to prepare and train the young minds for being familiar with the high profile scholarly discussions in what he described The Temple of Learning. Well, Prof Klaus emphasised the earth system approach to environment, highlighting the principle of trusteeship, and we have judgements with us discussed by more than one speaker that give you Climate Right but couldn't give relief for the Greater Indian Bustard. We had enriching discussion on the Gender issues, Indigenous person/tribal issues, IPR protection question, food security, energy, and security. My rapporteurs have reported the main points of discussion. We will work on that and will see what kind of policy recommendations come out from this.

Hope you all enjoyed yesterday's cultural evening where our students fantastically performed various activities and performance by Prof Koh.





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I am immensely delighted that when the delegates are going back, they are returning as pure and holy persons. I place on record the immense support and cooperation extended by Hon'ble Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court in facilitating your transformation into holy men and women, by providing High Court Protocol Team.

We look forward to listen our Chief Guest and other dignitaries on the dias.

I wind up my address by welcoming you all again.

Thank you

**Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**  
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor  
RP National Law University, Prayagraj





## ADDRESS BY DISTINGUISHED GUEST

Good evening, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor

Professor Usha Tandon, esteemed dignitaries, faculty members, and dear students.

It is my greatest honour to join you all here at this grand event themed "Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development."

As we all know, environmental pollution incidents are deeply complex and intricately interconnected. Determining causal relationships and establishing causation in such cases takes a significant amount of time and effort. In this context, the advancement of science and technology plays a crucial role.

Let me share a thought-provoking example. One of the greatest musicians in the world, Ludwig van Beethoven, is believed to have died due to lead and mercury poisoning, according to a study conducted in 1990 by the Chicago Research Institute in the United States. A strand of his hair was analyzed, and it revealed high levels of toxic metals, likely caused by consuming fish contaminated by pollution in the Danube River. This discovery shocked the world.

Environmental pollution does not discriminate. Regardless of fame, status, or background, anyone can fall victim to its consequences. This serves as a serious warning for all of us. Therefore, in addressing environmental issues, prevention must be our priority, rather than dealing with the aftermath.

I see before me many promising students. I sincerely hope that some of you will grow to become great jurists, like the Hon'ble Justice Pankaj Mithal, and brilliant scholars, like the legendary mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. May a future leader in law, science, or sustainability emerge from among you.

Thank you for your attention.

**Prof. Moon-Hyun Koh**

Professor of Law,  
Soongsil University, Seoul, Korea



## ADDRESS BY DISTINGUISHED GUEST

*Good evening, everybody.*

First of all, I would like to welcome all of you to our campus MNNIT Allahabad. I hope over these two and a half to three days, you have enjoyed the lovely environment here. Thank you.

I would like to mention Professor Usha Tandon, and refer to what she said about where we met. Actually, I have a habit of talking to people when I'm sitting somewhere. I don't usually check my phone — that's my problem, you know! So, I tend to introduce myself and talk to the people around me, to get to know who they are and what they do. So, thank you for that meeting. And when she inquired about using this venue, I simply said — this is a government institution; you are most welcome to use it. There is no issue. We all benefit from such collaborations.

Now, I would like to especially welcome, from my side, Hon'ble Justice Pankaj Mithal ji, who has served as a Justice of the Supreme Court of India. He has come all the way from Delhi to be with us, and we are truly grateful. I hope you enjoy our hospitality — at least the environment! I'm not offering food right now, but this is the best I can offer at the moment.

Also seated on the dais are other distinguished guests: Professor Nanda ji, Vice Chancellor of NLU Bhopal; Professor Moon-Hoo Koh, who has come from South Korea — I believe many of you have already heard his excellent insights. We also have Prof. Suryaprakash ji from NLU and Mr. Nanda ji who has joined us from Estonia. I was speaking with him earlier — formerly part of the Soviet Union, now an independent nation.



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I'd like to briefly share two or three things. One, as Professor Koh mentioned earlier — about Beethoven's death — that was quite revealing. I myself am a faculty member at IIT Madras, and I've lived in the surrounding areas for over 20 years. Pharmaceutical waste is one of the biggest environmental issues in India right now. Many pharmaceutical industries discharge their waste into rivers, and tanneries are also major polluters. To give you an example, the Palar River in Vellore is highly polluted, primarily due to chromium contamination. This is a serious concern. I believe our justice system must address such issues by framing strict laws that ensure industries treat their waste before discharging it into water bodies. Waste must be properly processed and decontaminated.

Second, I would like to mention the issue of diclofenac — a drug many of us use, but it's also administered to animals. This has had a devastating effect on vulture populations in India. The vultures feed on carcasses of treated animals, but they lack the enzymes to break down diclofenac, and so they die. This disruption in the food chain has serious ecological consequences.

Without vultures, the natural disposal of dead animals becomes a challenge. This is something we must take seriously. As many of you sitting here are future judges of India, I encourage you to think about how we can make our legal system more holistic and responsive. There's talk of incorporating AI in the justice system. Some are for it, some against it. Technology has its place — it's important and useful — but over-reliance on it can be problematic. Balance is key.

Before I end, I would again like to extend a warm welcome to all the dignitaries on the dais, and to everyone who has traveled from different parts of the country to be here. Also, for your information, MNNIT has recently started a constitutional awareness program. We've introduced a one-credit course on the Indian Constitution, so that all students, regardless of their field, get a basic understanding of our legal framework. We believe every citizen should know their constitutional rights — and currently, I think 99% of people are unaware of them. I hope such initiatives are adopted by other institutions at the graduation level as well.

Finally, I would love to see all the young law students here take active roles in public service — perhaps in the Vidhan Sabha or Lok Sabha someday. In the U.S., many Senators come from legal backgrounds. I hope you follow that example, and make this institution and the nation proud.

Thank you.

**Prof. Rama Shanker Verma**  
Director, MNNIT, Prayagraj





## ADDRESS BY DISTINGUISHED GUEST

Thank you once again, ma'am, Professor Usha Tandon. She was my professor 22 years ago, still my professor. She corrected me today, I'll share with you later, so I'm still learning from her. In fact, I feel I'm lucky, very lucky to have her as my professor. And you all are, I said you all are also lucky, you don't understand it yet, over a period of time, you will come to know.

Just before this valedictory session, I was talking to Associate Professor Kshitij, and he was sort of confirming my views and sharing his experiences with her. So she's not only good for students, she's good for her colleagues as well. Sometimes she can be straight, she can tell you on the face, but that's the best, that's better than somebody who harbors it in the mind and expresses it in different ways.

So I like her direct approach as well. I was sitting outside and I was telling her, ma'am, I'm not a professor, I'm a lawyer, because I don't even have a Ph.D., I don't have a basic qualification to be a professor. And she corrected me saying that with your wide practical experience, you can be a professor of practice. So thank you, ma'am, thank you, thank you for the correction.

I feel 22 years have passed since I joined the practice, and I love the practice. I love it so much that sometimes I forget my lunch. Sometimes I'm working two, three days in a row, jumping flights in between, jumping countries in between, and working at every hour that I find, and I still don't feel that I've done anything, I don't feel exhausted. 22 years down the line, I feel I've done nothing in life, I know nothing, because the field of Law is so vast. It's like, yes, 90% of the people don't know law, but even 10% like us, we don't know the law, because it's so vast. Every day we learn, it's like a well. If you want to have water today, you need to dig today, as a lawyer. If you don't dig today, you will not get the water today. So you





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have to keep digging the well every day. But in these 22 years, one thing was hurting my mind, my heart, always, and that was pendency of the court cases. It is said that if the entire judiciary works 24 by 7 for the next 25 years, I'll repeat this, if the entire judiciary of India works 24 by 7 for the next 25 years, then there is a chance of the pending court cases to be decided all in all. Otherwise, the pendency can go on to the next 50 years. And therefore, Sir, Honorable Justice Sir, we need more judges like you. 37,000 judgments. Wow. We need more people like you in our judiciary, at the Supreme Court level, at the High Court level. In fact, in the lower judiciary level as well. I wish somehow you could train them or share your experiences with them as to how you made it happen.

Having said that, that should not discourage us from moving ahead in the profession of law. It has its own challenges. It has its own frustrations. But at the same time, it has its own rewards. It's more rewarding than your friends who would land up in corporate jobs initially, but later on languish there. I don't mind sharing.

Back in 2005, my salary was 4,500 rupees a month. I considered myself lucky, as a friend of mine was earning just 1,500 rupees. Another friend—whose senior is now an Honorable Justice—wasn't paid at all and had to use his own money to fuel his car. That was the reality of 2004–05 for us. Meanwhile, our friends pursuing MBAs secured jobs with salaries of 25,000 rupees a month—a figure that, at the time, was our dream.

Fast forward 22 years, and I find myself in a different place. However, many of my friends remain within the same hierarchy. What I want to convey is this: if you wish to enter legal practice, forget about money for the first five to ten years. If you cannot make that commitment, then I advise seeking another path—at least from the perspective of practicing law.

Law itself is often described as a "jealous mistress." Have you heard that saying before? Well, now all of you have. Law demands complete dedication; it does not tolerate divided attention. If you wish for law to reward you, you must give it your full commitment—and when you do, the magic happens. With Ma'am, we have been discussing two important matters. First, in the coming years, I hope to engage more formally in sharing my knowledge and experience with you. Second, I want to tell you about a program we initiated a couple of years ago in the spirit of giving back to Campus Law Center—the International Internship Program.

We successfully launched the program, selecting three students to join me at my office. Unfortunately, one of them couldn't participate, but the other two did. We covered their flight tickets and accommodation, ensuring they had the best possible experience. While some of my files were confidential and couldn't be shared, I involved them wherever possible, giving them exposure to real work. This experience helped shape their careers in meaningful ways.

Of course, we couldn't take everyone, as it was a costly process. However, just as the program was gaining momentum, COVID disrupted it. We had started it, but the very next year, the pandemic struck, preventing us from continuing for the next two to three years. Now, we are planning to revive it.





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Originally, I started the program for Campus Law Center because I am deeply grateful to that institution and to professors like Ma'am Usha Tandon, who have played a crucial role in shaping my journey. However, since Ma'am is here today, I told her that I would be happy to extend the program to RPNLU as well.

Going forward, if I decide to take two students, I will select one from CLC and one from RPNLU. If I take four, I will include two from each institution. While this year is not the right time, as you are still in your first year, we may begin the selection process now. Those who are interested can approach Ma'am.

With that, I want to thank you all.

**Mr. Nitin Nanda**  
International Lawyer, Estonia



## ADDRESS BY DISTINGUISHED GUEST

Honourable Justice Pankaj Mithal ji, the chief guest of today's program, is also a visitor at NLIU Bhopal, which gives us a special connection. My sister, Professor Usha Tandon, whose invitation I could not refuse, ensured my presence here and even made me take a holy dip in the Sangam. Thank you very much, Madam. Professor Moon-Hyun Koh, Professor Rama Shanker Verma ji, Director of MNNIT, Mr. Nitin Nanda, the distinguished international advocate, esteemed faculty members, and my dear students—I extend my warm greetings to all of you.

I must begin by congratulating Professor Usha Tandon for conceptualizing today's topic: Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development. Before addressing this theme, I would like to acknowledge Professor Rama Shanker Verma ji for taking a commendable step in introducing the Constitution of India to undergraduate students. In fact, every UG student—whether in law, technology, medicine, or pharmacy—should be familiar with the Constitution. Why? Because the Constitution of India begins with “We the people of India.” It is not meant exclusively for lawyers, judges, law students, or legal professionals—it belongs to every citizen. Understanding our rights and duties is essential to the lives of all Indians.

The greatness of our Constitution lies in its universality. It not only guarantees rights to Indian citizens but also extends protection to refugees—those who enter India without permission. Article 21 states, “No person shall be deprived of his life and liberty except according to the procedure established by law.” This provision ensures that even Rohingya refugees, including their children, have certain rights. The Honorable Supreme Court has ruled that they have a right to attend school. I wholeheartedly congratulate Verma ji for this initiative, and I hope he can encourage the directors of other institutions to introduce Constitutional Law—if not as a credit course, then at least as a non-credit course—so that



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every student has the opportunity to learn about it.

Now, turning to our topic: Science, Technology, and Law, or more specifically, the Technology-Law Interface and its role in Sustainable Development. These domains are deeply interconnected. Every action we take in our daily lives is governed by both law and technology. A simple illustration: When driving a car, we must stop at a red light. If we jump the signal and violate traffic laws, the police will pursue us. The red light follows the laws of physics, and if we disregard it, the law steps in to enforce order. Similarly, all of us use mobile phones—thanks to Steve Jobs, who revolutionized our lives by making global knowledge accessible at our fingertips. However, while smartphones offer immense benefits, they can also be misused. If someone engages in abusive language or misconduct on social media, legal consequences inevitably follow.

Thus, the connection between law and technology is not merely an interface—it is an intertwined relationship. One cannot exist independently of the other. As long as we remain on the right side of the law, we can leverage technology for progress. But the moment we cross the line, the law intervenes. That is why we must always be aware of where the Lakshmana Rekha is drawn.

My friends, since we have many young students here today, I would like to briefly analyze an important concept. Over the past two days, you have already engaged in intense discussions, and knowing Professor Tandon, I am certain she has given you challenging brainstorming exercises—not just to the students but even to the speakers. She never spares anyone! As an academician and teacher, how should we approach the relationship between law and technology? Naturally, we must examine the industrial revolutions, though I won't go into exhaustive detail. Instead, I will provide you with key points to frame your understanding of this topic. Sustainable development is inherently tied to environmental law, science, and technology—it permeates everything.

The First Industrial Revolution, around 1765, was marked by the invention of the steam engine. Alongside this, industries emerged, such as spinning, ginning, sewing machines, power looms, gas, iron and coal mining, all of which developed in that era. As these industries grew, corresponding legal frameworks began to take shape. Interestingly, India did not undergo a distinct industrial revolution. However, over time, people began to think about regulation. They were not entirely opposed to industrialization, but they sought ways to protect workers from exploitation. The seeds of legal frameworks were planted precisely because industrial revolutions necessitated the creation of various laws.

The Second Industrial Revolution, around 1870, differed from the first in that it was driven by advancements in mechanical engineering. While the first revolution focused on speed through mechanical contributions, the second was pioneered by electrical innovations in Europe. This period saw the rise of industries powered by electricity, including telephones, light bulbs, automobiles, petrochemical refining, telegraphs, typewriters, and iron and steel factories. It was also during this time that the first skyscraper was built at Chicago University. As industries and factories were established, laws emerged to regulate them. These included the Factories Act, the Fatal Accidents Act (introduced in India in 1857 and 1865), the Electricity Act, and the Telegraph Act. What I want to emphasize is that every industrial revolution has played a crucial role in shaping legal systems. To understand the intersection of law and technology, one





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must examine technological advancements alongside the legal frameworks that developed in response.

Then came the Third Industrial Revolution, often referred to as the Digital Age. This era, spanning the late 20th century, ushered in the computer revolution, the internet, electronics, communications, space research, expeditions, and biotechnology. Each of these technological breakthroughs prompted the creation of corresponding laws. For instance, the rise of information technology led to the IT Act, while telecommunications regulations were shaped by the Telegraph Act. Laws governing biotechnology and other emerging industries also developed in parallel. Now, here's an intriguing shift: The first three industrial revolutions were product-driven revolutions, but the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which emerged in 2016, is fundamentally a services revolution. The term was coined by Klaus Schwab, the founder of the World Economic Forum. This revolution belongs to the services sector, marking a departure from traditional manufacturing and production-based advancement.

Beyond computing, the real breakthroughs today lie in gene sequencing, nanotechnology, renewable energy, and quantum computing. India has firmly established itself as a global IT leader, with hubs in Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune, and Mumbai driving exports and economic growth. These industries, along with their earnings and regulatory frameworks, are all governed by law. Whenever we discuss the IT industry, biotechnology, or any technological domain, it is important to remember that Parliament has drafted laws to regulate them. And now, we find ourselves in the Fifth Industrial Revolution, which revolves around artificial intelligence, robotics, and other cutting-edge advancements.

A surprising development took place just a few days ago—until now, GPS (Global Positioning System) was known as a terrestrial tool. However, recent news reveals that GPS is no longer confined to Earth but extends into outer space, covering a radius of 400,000 kilometers. Soon, GPS will be explorable even on the Moon. Another fascinating example involves AI in Switzerland. As reported just last week, an AI-generated Jesus was created in a church, specifically for the confession box. Traditionally, individuals confess their sins to a priest. However, in this case, there was no priest—only an artificial Jesus. This AI was designed to assess whether a person's tone, tenor, and volume reflected genuine confession or mere deception. Cheating knows no bounds—it extends even to faith.

These rapid scientific developments underscore a crucial reality—whenever technology advances, law follows closely behind. One of the major challenges in today's world is cybercrime. Twenty years ago, the concept of cyber forensics was practically unheard of. Yet today, at NLIU, we have a cyber forensics lab, something we never expected in a law institution. The lab is equipped with state-of-the-art instruments worth 50 lakh rupees. If a mobile phone is dropped into the system, within five minutes, its entire history is retrieved—from the first call made to every interaction recorded. This technology allows authorities to trace activities related to cyber cheating, digital fraud, phishing, deepfake messaging, and numerous other cybercrimes.

Technology has no limit. Cheating has no limit. Cybercrime has no limit. However, now we have the DPDP Act (Digital Personal Data Protection Act)—a necessary legal framework to regulate data privacy. Previously, there were no comprehensive data protection laws. Why was this needed? Because personal data was being collected and misused. For instance, individuals undergoing clinical tests often





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had their date of birth and private information recorded without consent. A mere date of birth could be enough to extract sensitive personal details. Today, data collection has become a major business, with agencies buying and selling information for various purposes. Whenever technology progresses, law steps in to regulate it, ensuring sustainable development. From my academic experience, I firmly believe that when discussing two interdisciplinary subjects—such as law and technology—one must analyze their historical progression and observe how each impacts the other. Only then can we truly understand their combined influence. With these words, I extend my deepest gratitude to Madam for inviting me to this holy city. And we must acknowledge Dr. Rajendra Prasad, India's first President and the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly, for his invaluable contributions.

Once again, I express my heartfelt appreciation to my sister and thank you all.

**Prof. S. Surya Prakash**  
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, NLIU, Bhopal



## ADDRESS BY CHIEF GUEST

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, distinguished jurists, esteemed scholars, faculty members, students, and esteemed guests, it is a privilege to stand before this distinguished gathering at the valedictory session of the International Conference on Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development. This event has provided a crucial platform for insightful discussions on the intersection of law, technology, and sustainability. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, for organizing this international conference. The presence of scholars, legal luminaries, and experts from renowned institutions worldwide underscores the significance of our deliberations today.

I am elated to be invited to render the Valedictory address on the culmination of this enlightening three-day international conference on the topic of 'Law, Technology and Sustainable Development.' I express my commendations to the organisers for conducting a successful event. I firmly believe the academia, legal fraternity and the community as a whole, have been enriched by the wide-ranging discussions and deliberations made in these three eventful days.

During the past three days, we had the opportunity to delve into areas which affect our lives and our economy deeply. Issues of emerging technology for gender rights, rights of indigenous people and human rights generally were discussed in extenso, and efforts to nurture the environment and ecology through recommendations and viable solutions were put forth by all of you. For this, I heartily appreciate your candour, your out of the box thinking and above all, your steely resolve to address these grave issues we all are grappling with.

Today we are faced with drastic impacts of climate change, air and water pollution, on ecological



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biodiversity as well as human life. It has resulted in displacement of resource-dependent people from forest and land. In urban areas, pollution has impacted the quality of life. India, with its unique challenges and opportunities, stands at a critical juncture in addressing legal aspects of technology and sustainable development.

Sustainable development, as we all now understand to a great extent, is development which meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The focus of sustainable development is far broader than just the environment. It's also about ensuring a strong, healthy and just society. This includes meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunities.

I feel immense pride in stating that the Supreme Court of India has been pivotal in shaping environmental jurisprudence, balancing the rights and entitlements of multiple stakeholders whether it be the state, the community, businesses, the unrepresented or underprivileged or even the future generations yet to arrive, thereby enhancing access to environmental justice.

The Indian judiciary has actively contributed to ensuring sustainable development by applying international principles like the precautionary principle, polluter pays principle, sustainable development doctrine, intergenerational equity, public trust doctrine, and absolute liability. In *M.C. Mehta v. Union of India* and *Narmada Bachao Andolan* case, the Supreme Court balanced developmental goals with environmental protection. Through PILs, the Court has expanded environmental justice and imposed duties on the government for sustainable use of resources. The relaxation of locus standi requirements has caused a revolutionary impact resulting in increased environmental litigation which has enabled the Courts to enrich the environmental jurisprudence. Today, there is environmental litigation in every part of the country focusing on every sector ranging from solid/toxic waste management, forest degradation, air and water pollution, noise pollution, nuclear waste, and bio-medical waste to forest fire, illegal mining, power plants, coastal and wasteland land degradation, wildlife protection, infrastructure, and huge investment projects violating environmental laws. Balancing economic development with sustainability is a judicial challenge. Landmark cases on industrial emissions, air pollution control, and forest conservation exemplify the Court's commitment. Recently, the Court held that there exists not only a right to a clean and healthy environment under Article 21 but also a right against the adverse effects of climate change.

Indian judges have been at the vanguard when it comes to protecting the environment. Justice Kuldeep Singh earned the title of 'Green Judge' for his groundbreaking rulings on environmental issues. One of his seminal rulings protected the Taj Mahal from industrial pollution. He also ensured that the right to a clean environment comes within the ambit of Article 21 of the Constitution. He joined the League of Leaders such as Nelson Mandela when the International Bar Association honoured him in 1997 for his contribution to environmental protection and human rights.

We are witnessing an era where technology is evolving at an unprecedented pace, disrupting traditional legal frameworks and raising complex regulatory and ethical concerns. Innovations in artificial intelligence, blockchain, cybersecurity, and biotechnology have not only transformed industries but have





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also challenged existing legal doctrines. The legal system, often perceived as slow-moving and traditional, is now at a crossroads where it must adapt to technological advancements while upholding the rule of law. A crucial trisection, or so as to say Sangam of law, technology and sustainable development lies in the understanding that the only way we're going to achieve our climate goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs, is through innovation. This can be done by encouraging green technologies, environmental monitoring and basing decisions on scientific evidence. Today compliance of environmental laws and decisions can be tracked using the latest technologies like satellite surveillance, remote sensing and Artificial Intelligence.

In response to Delhi's severe air pollution, the Supreme Court suggested using remote sensing technology within the NCR. The Court closely monitored the AQI and ordered school closures during hazardous conditions.

Technology has improved judicial efficiency through initiatives like the pandemic accelerated virtual hearings, ensuring justice delivery continuity. Indian courts are increasingly using Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to enhance efficiency and access to justice, particularly for women, through initiatives like e-filing, video conferencing, and digital platforms for case management and record sharing. This is an important step in the direction of achieving Sustainable Development Goal No. 5, which focuses on accelerating gender equality. Courts use technology for e-filing, video conferencing, and digital platforms like digital case management, e-Courts to improve accessibility, particularly for women and persons with disabilities. ICTs can help ensure that women have equal access to justice by making court proceedings more accessible and efficient, regardless of their location or circumstances. ICTs can be used to promote gender-sensitive recruitment and transfer policies, and by providing adequate training and support for judges and court staff. To enhance accessibility for people with disabilities in court proceedings, technological initiatives include accessible court websites, documents in OCR format, and assistive technologies like screen readers and sign language interpretation, ensuring inclusive and equitable access to justice.

Now, much has been spoken on regulation of emerging technologies but one topic which requires a greater attention from the Indian point of view is the indigenous peoples and preservation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems like Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Yoga. We must recognise that they provide tremendous knowledge and technology resource bases that tend to be sustainable in comparison to modern and scientific knowledge systems. Indeed, innovative steps like Traditional Knowledge Digital Library Unit (TKDL), a database of Indian traditional knowledge by CSIR and AYUSH Ministry are focusing on preventing exploitation of Indian traditional knowledge in Patent Offices worldwide. However, integration of such knowledge with the modern knowledge systems, say in medicine and public health, can help us resolve burning issues like providing standard healthcare services to our vast population.

While there is a positive relationship between law, technology, and sustainable development, challenges also arise. As technology evolves, issues like data privacy, surveillance, and digital rights are critical. The balance between technological innovation and privacy rights, as seen in the Puttaswamy case, is an ongoing challenge. We have to ensure that emerging technologies, especially AI, do not undermine fundamental rights of citizens. Another area of concern is the legislative vacuum in technology





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regulation and its integration with climate change policies. This is compounded by lack of research on the impact of rapid technological advancements on physical aspects of our environment, mental health of humans and the society, in general.

Law schools are the cradle of legal thought and practice. It is necessary to encourage law students and young lawyers to study the cross-section of environmental protection and technology. There should also be a focus on cross-disciplinary collaboration between technologists, environmental experts, and the judiciary.

In conclusion, as we stand at the intersection of law, technology, and sustainable development, we are confronted with both challenges and immense opportunities. The rapid evolution of technology has reshaped every facet of our society, from communication to commerce, and increasingly, to environmental protection. However, this progress must be balanced with a careful consideration of its legal implications, particularly in ensuring that technological advancements contribute to sustainable development without compromising legal and ethical standards.

For law students and the broader legal community, this is an exciting time to engage with these issues. The role of law in regulating and guiding technology towards sustainable outcomes cannot be overstated. As future legal professionals, it is our responsibility to ensure that the legal frameworks we develop today can both accommodate and direct technological growth in a way that promotes equity, environmental sustainability, and the common good. We must consider the complex interconnections between climate change, digital innovation, human rights, and economic development. Moreover, the law must continue to evolve harmoniously with technological progress. This requires not just understanding the current state of technology, but also anticipating future trends and ensuring our legal systems are agile and responsive. It is imperative that we, as legal experts, work in collaboration with scientists, policymakers, and technologists to create a future that is not only technologically advanced but also socially and environmentally sustainable.

In the end, I must emphasize that the legal profession stands as a pillar in shaping a future where law, technology, and sustainability are in harmony. Let us embrace this challenge with creativity, commitment, and a forward-thinking mindset, for the decisions we make today will lay the foundation for a better tomorrow.

Thank you!  
Jai Hind.

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India



# VOTE OF THANKS

Hon'ble Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal, esteemed dignitaries on the dais, respected guests, distinguished scholars, dear faculty members, and my dear students, a very good evening to all of you.

It is both an honor and a privilege to extend the Vote of Thanks on behalf of Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, as we conclude the International Conference on 'Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development.' This conference has been a Sangam of intellectual discourse, scholarly engagement, and interdisciplinary deliberations, significantly contributing to the evolving nexus between law, technology, and sustainable development.

At the very outset, I extend my deepest and most sincere gratitude to our Hon'ble Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal, for his insightful and thought-provoking address. Your erudite reflections on the dynamic interplay between legal frameworks and technological advancements in the pursuit of sustainable development have provided invaluable perspectives that will guide our academic and professional endeavours. Thank you Lordship for your insights and sparing time from your busy schedule to grace the event.

I am profoundly grateful to our Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, for her exemplary leadership, unwavering support, and intellectual vision that have been instrumental in making this conference a resounding success. Your commitment to fostering an academic environment that promotes cutting-edge legal scholarship and interdisciplinary research is truly commendable. I hope under your visionary leadership and guidance, we will organise more such conferences in future.



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A special gratitude and thanks to Prof. (Dr.) S. Surya Prakash, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, NLIU, Bhopal, for his gracious presence and invaluable insights. Your scholarly interventions have significantly enriched our academic deliberations and reinforced the need for an integrated approach toward law and sustainability.

We are deeply grateful to Mr. Nitin Nanda, an esteemed international lawyer from Estonia, for bringing a unique and comparative global perspective on legal innovations and technological advancements for sustainable development. Your perspectives on transnational legal frameworks and regulatory mechanisms have broadened our understanding of best international practices.

I also extend my heartfelt appreciation to Prof. Moon-Hyun Koh for his illuminating discussion on legal frameworks governing sustainability from a global perspective.

Our sincere thanks go to Prof. Rama Shanker Verma, Director, MNNIT Prayagraj, for his gracious presence and for elucidating the role of technology in shaping the future of legal studies and sustainability and also for graciously providing the venue that facilitated the successful execution of this conference.

This conference would not have been possible without the relentless efforts and meticulous planning of our Organizing Committee. I extend my sincere appreciation to the esteemed faculty members, and administrative staff whose dedication ensured the seamless execution of the sessions. Their academic rigor and organizational acumen have been the bedrock of this successful event.

I am also immensely thankful to the distinguished scholars, panelists, and participants from various institutions across the globe for their scholarly contributions and engaging discussions. Your active participation, physically or online, has been instrumental in making this conference a vibrant and intellectually stimulating forum for exchanging knowledge and ideas.

A heartfelt word of appreciation to our diligent students and enthusiastic volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to facilitate the smooth functioning of this event.

Once again, I extend my deepest gratitude to each one of you for your invaluable presence, contributions, and engagement.

Thank you.

**Dr. Prakash Tripathi**  
Joint-Director of the International Conference



# TECHNICAL SESSIONS





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## TECHNICAL SESSION I

**Date:** 08th March, 2025 | **Time:** 09:30 AM – 11:15 AM

**Hon'ble Chairperson:** **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra**  
Judge, Allahabad High Court

**Moderator:** **Prof. (Dr.) Shaiwal Satyarthi**, Professor of Law  
Faculty of Law, University of Delhi

**Rapporteur:** **Dr. Sonika**, Asst. Professor,  
RP National Law University, Prayagraj

**Student Rapporteurs:** Ms. Nehal Sharma, Ms. Dia Singh, Mr. Aditya Dixit

The Technical Session-I was presided over by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra**, Judge of the Allahabad High Court; and moderated by Prof. (Dr.) Shaiwal Satyarthi, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi.

The session began with Prof. Shaiwal Satyarthi introducing the Hon'ble Chairperson - **HJM Ashwani Kumar Mishra**, and the Keynote Speaker - Prof. Klaus Bosselmann, Professor of Law, University of Auckland, New Zealand.

In his opening remarks, **HMJ Ashwani Kumar Mishra** highlighted the relevance of the Conference's theme, emphasizing the need for intellectual leadership for the youth in challenging times. He noted that Prayagraj is a significant seat of learning, with the University of Allahabad regarded as the 'Oxford of the East'. He shared a compelling quote from Mr. Ban Ki-moon: "Since climate change does not restrict borders, it does not restrict who you are, rich or poor, small or big; therefore, this is a global challenge that requires global solidarity", finding it particularly relevant to the topic. Hon'ble Lordship stressed the need for traditional legal frameworks to evolve with technological advancements and the urgent requirement for Sustainable Development. Hon'ble Justice Mishra asserted that legal professionals must integrate technology into the legal system to uphold justice, fairness, and equity. He raised concerns about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and blockchain's implications for data privacy and cybersecurity, calling for robust grievance mechanisms. He concluded with a passage from the Atharva Veda: "Man's paradise is on earth; this world is the beloved place of all, blessed with creature bounties and a lovely spirit", before inviting keynote speaker Professor Klaus Bosselmann to deliver his address.

After the Chairperson's address, **Prof. Klaus Bosselmann, Professor of Law, University of Auckland, New Zealand**, spoke on the topic "The Earth System Approach to International Environmental Law". He started his speech by stating that the main objective of this address is to conserve, protect, and restore the integrity of the Earth, emphasizing that this is our moral and legal obligation. He also remarked that the challenges we face today require a collective and collaborative approach and shared his insights on the methods that can be adopted. He mentioned the incredible depth of environmental law and asserted that if followed correctly and proactively, it can bring about the change this planet's



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climate needs. Furthermore, he pointed out that different parts of the world require a unified approach and made reference to Mahatma Gandhi

He highlighted one of his statements that “those who have the ability to act and influence others carry the responsibility and moral obligation to respect and preserve the systems on which we all depend for Survival.”

A major recurring theme in his address was the concept of Trusteeship, where Professor Klaus Bosselmann inspired all stakeholders to take responsibility, whether as individuals or States. He proposed a pragmatic solution to advance this ideal by adopting the HAGUE principles, which he assisted in drafting. Concluding his address on a positive note, he expressed optimism about the readiness of the youth and their eagerness to tackle this escalating issue.

He highlighted how trusteeship can be institutionalized. At the national level, 150 countries, including India, have constitutional obligations to protect the environment, asserting that individuals have the ‘Right to a Healthy Environment’. The 27th International Environmental Agreement, like the Paris Agreement, states that nations are obligated to protect the integrity of our systems. However, some States have consistently violated their obligations, undermining the natural conditions necessary for life. After the first keynote address, the session continued with the second keynote address by **Hon’ble Mr. Justice Rinzin Penjor, Former Judge, the Supreme Court of Bhutan & Present Vice-President of the Bar Council of Bhutan** by stating that “Sustainable Development is a moral imperative needed to tackle the unique challenges arising in the contemporary world. Technology is a tool, a country should make gracious use of, in the eradication of these problems”

He emphasized the fact that there is a notable lack of basic infrastructure, coupled with insufficient remedies for the citizens of Bhutan. Many courts are concentrated in one district, while others remain in remote areas that are incredibly hard to access.

COVID hit the justice system of Bhutan hard; however, they fought back valiantly, even introducing the electronic justice system in June 2020. To benefit rural communities, they established e-litigation centres in these areas. Nonetheless, many remote locations still struggle with internet access, making it challenging to develop a fully functional and sustainable justice system.

Another message that he sent across was that cybersecurity poses a significant threat with the advent of e-litigation. The growth of the digital justice system relies heavily on political leadership and financial commitment. While the initial investment may seem risky, it will pay off in the long term, especially when balanced with the traditional system and the integration of innovative, futuristic ideas. Lastly, he gave the important message that “Satisfaction is the crux of Sustainable Development”

The next keynote address **Prof. Amber Pant, Professor of Law, Tribhuvan University, Nepal** presented on the topic “Implementation of Sustainable Development in Nepal,” focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their impact on citizens. He noted that the definition of Sustainable Development accomplishes the needs of the present generation without compromising the





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future broadly but requires genuine reformation.

He examined the social, environmental, and economic aspects of Sustainable Development and emphasized Nepal's motto: "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepal". He highlighted the core principle of SDGs, taking inspiration from Mr. Pitamber, the Chairman of the National Committee of Environment of India, reinforcing the idea of inclusivity, stating "Leave no one behind", and acknowledged the challenges in implementing these goals.

Notably, he concluded by sharing that Nepal has constitutional provisions for environmental protection. While the SDGs may seem aspirational, they have raised awareness about the necessity of Sustainable Development. In Nepal, Sustainable Development is recognized constitutionally, unlike in many global contexts.

After the third keynote address, the session continued with the Online paper presentation by **Dr. Moatoshi Ao, Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi** on "Examining How India's Environmental Laws Drive Technological Change." He explored the link between Indian environmental legislation and technological advancements. He made reference to key legislations namely, The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and The Energy Conservation Act, 2001, which was amended in 2023 to allow for a Carbon Credit Trading Scheme.

Further, he highlighted Climate centric Strategies launched by the Government namely, the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which features missions like the National Solar Mission, where 'India stands 5th in solar PV deployment across the globe (as on 2022)' and has achieved 'around 70.10 GW (as of 2023)'. The National Water Mission aims to provide 'tap water connection to 108.7 million households in 2023', with an additional 76.3 million rural households targeted for connection in the next two years.

Emphasizing India's commitment to green energy, the presentation highlighted the National Green Hydrogen Mission, which has an outlay of ₹17,490 crore up to 2029-30, and pilot projects in low-carbon steel and mobility. The environmental technologies market is valued at 23 billion USD and is expected to grow at 7.5% over the next 3-5 years, despite India ranking 176 out of 180 countries in the Environmental Performance Index 2024, down from 141 in 2016.

Judicial involvement is significant for environmental protection, as seen in *M.K. Ranjitsinh v. Union of India* (2024, SC), where the Supreme Court stated, "There is no single or umbrella legislation in India which relates to climate change and the attendant concerns". Similarly, in *Gene Campaign v. Union of India* (2024, SC), the Apex Court noted the lack of consultation on genetically modified crops, emphasizing that 'no consultation was held with the States wherein mustard is grown'.

The presentation concluded with a call for the 'constitution of a Constitutional Independent body to enforce and monitor the implementation of environmental laws', ensuring that technological growth aligns with Sustainable Development and the STI (Science, Technology, and Innovation) goals of the 2030 Agenda.





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The paper presentation session concluded with a presentation by **Dr. Neeraj Kumar Gupta, Asst. Professor, Institute of Law, Nirma University** on the topic 'India's Energy Trilemma Concerns and National Policy on Biofuels: A Critical Analysis.' He explained that the energy trilemma encompasses three main concerns namely, energy security, energy sustainability, and energy affordability. India is one of the largest oil-importing countries, importing 90% of its oil. He emphasized the importance of energy sustainability and observed that the concept of a green India energy basket is crucial for Sustainable Development. It is essential for the survival of humans as well as the survival of our ecosystem. He stated that "Transitioning our energy sources is vital to address the challenges we face in the world today".

Additionally, Dr. Gupta highlighted the need for energy affordability to ensure sustainability. He pointed out that the energy demand has doubled in the last two decades and is projected to double again in the next two decades. To address the increasing demand, immediate attention is needed for energy supply and domestic sources. This includes oil production and other energy resources using homegrown crops and feedstocks. He stressed the importance of ensuring a reliable supply chain and the efficient use of various crops, such as sugarcane, to produce biofuels. Dr. Gupta advocated for a shift from first-generation biofuels derived from food crops to second-generation fuels produced from non-consumable materials like algae and, ultimately, to third-generation biofuels made from microorganisms. In conclusion, he stated that while we have achieved our short-term goals, achieving medium- and long-term objectives will require proper research and development in the field of biofuels.

#### Question and Answer Session:

**1- Question: (HVC Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon to Prof. Amber Pant) - "Why does Nepal not endorse the Brundtland concept?"**

**Answer: (by Prof. Amber Pant) -** There is a lack of effective implementation of existing plans. Also, there are many constitutional provisions in place. The Government of Nepal claimed in their report to the United Nations that 41.7% of its provisions were already implemented. Thus, this was the main issue hindering Sustainable Development in Nepal.

#### **Observations and Concluding Remarks by Hon'ble Chairperson HMJ Ashwani Kumar Mishra**

The session concluded with the final remarks from the Chairperson, HMJ Ashwani Kumar Mishra. Addressing the young audience, the Hon'ble Chairperson drew connections to his own experiences, noting that as youngsters, we often question the relevance of what is being said at events like these. Although the information presented may not seem applicable when we first hear it, as law students, different insights come in use at various stages of our education. Ultimately, a student of law needs to be aware of their surroundings, understand the laws, and recognize the challenges and emerging thoughts in the field. As first-year students, it may take some time to grasp these concepts, but the students should be grateful to their Vice-Chancellor for introducing them to the topic of Sustainable Development, which has become of utmost importance in recent years.

Referring to Professor Klaus Bosselman's address, the Honorable Chairperson commented that





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in Indian culture, natural resources have always been revered and worshipped as deities-such as the sun god and the moon god. Recently, during the Mahakumbh, one of the largest human gatherings, people came together to offer prayers at a river. Unfortunately, this respect for nature is not always recognized, nonetheless, the Chairperson expressed his appreciation for the efforts being made at the international level to acknowledge this issue.

Referring to Prof. Pant's address, he emphasized that as human beings, our ultimate desires are happiness, satisfaction, and a just and orderly society. The Preamble to the Indian Constitution underscores the importance of social, political, and economic justice, which aligns with the concept of Sustainable Development. These ideas are intricately connected. He expressed his joy at interacting with the justices from Bhutan and Nepal, noting a theme that was prevalent worldwide- that human society needed to develop in a way that was inclusive, just, and orderly. This evolution requires a focus on how laws are formulated and how legislation and court orders are established and executed.



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## TECHNICAL SESSION II

**Date:** 08th March, 2025 | **Time:** 11:15 AM to 12:55 PM

**Hon'ble Chairperson:** **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra**  
Judge, Allahabad High Court

**Moderator:** **Prof. (Dr.) Shaiwal Satyarthi**, Professor of Law  
Faculty of Law, University of Delhi

**Rapporteur:** **Dr. Sonika**, Asst. Professor,  
RP National Law University, Prayagraj

**Student Rapporteurs:** Ms. Nehal Sharma, Ms. Dia Singh, Mr. Aditya Dixit

The Technical Session-II was presided over by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinod Diwakar, Judge of the Allahabad High Court; and moderated by Dr. Kshitij Singh, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi.

The session began with Dr. Kshitij Singh introducing the Hon'ble Chairperson - HJ Vinod Diwakar, and the Keynote Speaker - Hon'ble Mr. Justice Michael D. Wilson, former Judge of the Hawaii Supreme Court, USA.

In his opening remarks, HJ Vinod Diwakar welcomed the participants and provided an introduction of the keynote speaker. He highlighted Hon'ble Mr. Justice Wilson's remarkable contributions to environmental justice, noting that May 23, 2023, was officially declared as Justice Michael Wilson Day in Hawaii in recognition of his efforts. Hon'ble Lordship then addressed the alarming consequences of climate change in India, warning that vast regions of the country could be submerged by 2100 due to rising sea levels. He pointed out that 42 villages have already been relocated due to climate threats. Additionally, he cited projections indicating that the European sea level could rise by 10 cm by 2050 and that Greenland is expected to experience substantial ice loss. Hon'ble Lordship cautioned that these environmental changes could lead to mass migration to urban centers, pose significant challenges to sustainable development, and create difficulties for future generations.

After the Chairperson's address, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Michael D. Wilson, former Judge of the Hawaii Supreme Court, USA delivered the keynote speech on 'Judicial Guardianship of Climate Justice: The Pivotal Role of Courts in Ensuring Environmental Rights with a Focus on Hawaii'. He drew comparisons between the climate conditions of India and the USA, highlighting the climate emergency and the growing sense of climate anxiety among citizens. Discussing the environmental crisis in Hawaii, he described how the deterioration of its beaches has been a source of deep distress for local communities.

Justice Wilson pointed out that while countries like China and India have introduced measures to curb greenhouse gas emissions, there has been no decline since 2013-on the contrary, emissions have only risen. He described this as a global catastrophe, delivering a stark warning: "We, the world community, are on the way to hell". He underscored the urgency of the situation, emphasizing that the





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window for action is rapidly closing as life-sustaining conditions continue to deteriorate. He was critical of the phrase 'Sustainable Development,' deeming it as a silent license to keep pushing development by projecting the captivating idea that we can afford to develop by 'going green,' which in actual practice falls short of its promises.

He emphasized the rising need for a 'Right to life-sustaining environment' to usher in the pivotal transformation we need to actually sustain the environment for today and for tomorrow. In conclusion, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Wilson commended the Supreme Court of India for its landmark environmental rulings, particularly the Great Indian Bustard case, recognizing them as crucial steps toward climate-conscious legal decision-making. He called on governments to strengthen policies for sustainable climate development and stressed the responsibility of judges to ensure their rulings actively contribute to environmental protection.

After the keynote address, the session continued with the paper presentation by Dr. Pallavi Gupta (Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Marwadi University) on 'Digital Democracy and Human Rights: The Role of Emerging Technologies in Governance, Equality, and Access to Information.' She began by defining digital democracy as the integration of digital technology with democratic processes to enhance political participation. Dr. Gupta highlighted its benefits, including e-governance, transparency, and inclusivity, while also addressing its challenges, such as misinformation, government surveillance, and privacy concerns, which have far-reaching global implications. She cited the example of Aadhaar in India, where concerns were raised about the storage and use of citizens' data. Referring to the 2018 Supreme Court judgment, in Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) & Anr. vs. Union of India, she explained how the Court recognized the right to privacy as a fundamental right while upholding the Aadhaar Act but striking down specific provisions to safeguard citizens' privacy.

Dr. Gupta also examined international case studies, including Estonia where e-voting raised concerns about electoral disparities, and Myanmar, where hate speech on digital platforms contributed to public unrest. To strike a balance between democracy and digitalization, she proposed several measures: Developing a user-friendly digital infrastructure; Enhancing digital literacy; Ensuring widespread access to digital resources; Promoting ethical digital practices; and, Establishing stringent legal and regulatory frameworks.

Next, Dr. Astha Misra (Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Arya Kanya Degree College, Prayagraj) presented her paper titled 'Harnessing Law and Technology for a Sustainable Future: Legal Pathways to Eco-Innovation.' She explored the crucial role of law in driving economic innovation while fostering eco-friendly advancements.

Dr. Misra emphasized the necessity of a strong legal framework that not only encourages innovation but also regulates it to maintain a balance between technological progress, societal well-being, and environmental sustainability. She highlighted the ethical dimensions of this integration, stressing the importance of safeguarding both human and environmental rights while promoting technological growth. She advocated for adopting localized solutions tailored to specific communities, demonstrating how a blend of global strategies and local approaches can be highly effective. Her presentation underscored





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the role of law as a vital bridge between innovation and sustainability, ensuring that advancements align with ethical, environmental, and social imperatives to create a more sustainable future.

The paper presentation session concluded with a presentation by Ms. Katyayani Mishra (CEO & Director of CPLRI Pvt. Ltd.) on 'Technological Innovations and Sustainability: Enhancing Environmental Compliance and Resource Management.' She provided an insightful overview of sustainability, air quality, resource and technology management, and a long-term vision for environmental sustainability.

Ms. Katyayani Mishra highlighted the air quality challenges in Lucknow, presenting real-time data that places the city's Air Quality Index (AQI) frequently in the "unhealthy" category. She pointed out that PM2.5 and PM10 levels often exceed safe limits, posing significant health risks to residents. Stressing the urgency of the situation, she called for immediate interventions to improve air quality and mitigate its adverse effects on public health. She proposed strategies for sustainable resource management, including the adoption of renewable energy sources and waste reduction techniques. Additionally, she outlined a long-term sustainability vision aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Through her organisation, Ms. Mishra has been actively involved in various initiatives, such as community engagement, policy advocacy, and conservation projects. These efforts have contributed to notable improvements in environmental conservation and resource management in the region. Her work serves as a model for cities and organizations striving toward sustainable development.

#### Question and Answer Session:

**1- Question: (Mr. Nihar Duggal, Second-semester B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) Student of RP National Law University to Dr. Astha Misra) - "If Carbon Credits are beneficial for the environment and help prevent a climate catastrophe, what is your perspective on companies that prioritize profits over sustainability and simply purchase Carbon Credits from other companies instead of actively reducing their own emissions?"**

**Answer (by Dr. Astha Misra):** Dr. Misra explained that Carbon Credits have a limited validity period, typically around five years. If a credit remains unused within its designated cycle, it cannot be transferred to the next cycle. She further emphasized that governments are vigilant in monitoring companies for any misuse of Carbon Credit mechanisms and take strict action against those engaging in fraudulent practices.

#### **Observations and Concluding Remarks by Hon'ble Chairperson Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinod Diwakar**

The session was concluded with the final remarks of **HMJ Vinod Diwakar**, the Chairperson. The Hon'ble Lordship delivered a thoughtful and inspiring conclusion to the session, summarizing key insights and outlining the path toward a sustainable future. The Lordship engaged the audience with a thought-provoking question: "Do you know what carbon credits are and their impact on Earth?" He elaborated on the dual nature of carbon credits, recognizing them as an important tool while also emphasizing their challenges.

The Lordship highlighted the depletion of atmospheric carbon due to emissions, particularly the





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role of carbon dioxide as a key contributor to climate change. Stressing the urgency of global action, he urged the adoption of sustainable solutions that prioritize true environmental responsibility over mere compliance. He acknowledged the session as a crucial platform for discussions on transforming Earth into a heritage worth preserving by addressing critical environmental challenges and drawing lessons from ancestral practices. The collaborative efforts of global organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union, and other institutions in pioneering sustainable development solutions were also commended.

The Lordship also reflected on HMJ Michael D. Wilson's address, emphasizing the judiciary's critical role in enforcing the rule of law and inspiring ecological reforms. Judges, he noted, are instrumental in driving legal changes that support environmental justice.

Further, he acknowledged Dr. Pallavi Gupta's insights on digital democracy, data privacy, and the necessity of regulatory mechanisms for a balanced and just digital landscape. He also underscored Dr. Astha Mishra's discussion on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly her perspectives on innovation regulation, ethical practices, and sustainable data management as key drivers of eco-innovation. Additionally, he appreciated Dr. Katyayani Mishra's work, which focused on efficient resource and technology management for long-term sustainability, emphasizing the need for a strategic vision that balances technological advancement with environmental conservation.

**HMJ Vinod Diwakar**, concluded his address by reflecting on the intersection of science, technology, and policymaking, highlighting the valuable role of legal research in advancing sustainable practices. Expressing gratitude to all speakers, he noted that the session had enriched the audience's understanding and provided them with invaluable knowledge. His closing remarks served as a reminder of the collective responsibility to create a sustainable legacy for future generations.



# SPECIAL SESSION

08th March, 2025 | 12:55 PM - 01:40 PM

Very good afternoon to everyone. First of all, let me begin by conveying my warm greetings to you all on the occasion of International Women's Day. We all are well aware of the contributions made by women in our country over the past few decades. This university itself has the distinction of having its first Vice-Chancellor as a woman. Today morning, I was attending a program at Allahabad University, where, after 133 years, the university also now has a woman Vice-Chancellor. Just see the change — and this is not the end. Look at the global stage. The Vice President of the United States is a woman of Indian origin, and she also contested the presidential election. Just observe how the world is changing. Let me share a few examples, since today is a day to celebrate such achievements. India's Chandrayaan Mission successfully reached the moon, and a significant number of women scientists were involved in this achievement. It's not a simple task — to land a moving object on another moving object in space. Though it may sound simple, it is highly complex.

For those residing in Allahabad, you must have witnessed the Mahakumbh, which occurs after a span of 144 years, based on celestial alignments. It is said that over 60 crore people visited here. That is no small number. But this speaks volumes about the hospitality and large-heartedness of the people living in this region. Despite numerous challenges, they welcomed such a massive influx of pilgrims. Full credit must be given to the residents of this place. After all our ancient motto is "Atithi Devo Bhava" — we treat our guests as gods. And I believe our foreign guests here must also be experiencing the same sentiment, because in India, no guest ever leaves unhappy. This is how we welcome people.

Now, my coming here today was a bit uncertain at first. I was supposed to attend the valedictory session earlier, but I had a prior commitment at the National Judicial Academy in Bhopal, which later got postponed. So finally, I could make it here, though I understand that I am stepping in just before your



lunch. So rather than a lunch break, you could say lunch has been delayed because of me. I know you have a very packed schedule.

The theme of this conference is “Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development.” I would like to say that we often talk about sustainable development, but if we rearrange the components, I would suggest that sustainable development must be achieved with the help of technology, and where both fail, the law must step in to enforce it. This is necessary because of our collective mindset. For example, at any traffic crossing, many people don’t look at the signal lights. Instead, they check whether a policeman is standing there or not. That means we do not voluntarily comply with the law; we wait for someone to enforce it.

If we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this mindset has to change. Much needs to be done, but one fact remains — our natural resources are being overused and misused. As has been rightly said, “There is enough for everyone’s need, but not for anyone’s greed.” Unfortunately, it is greed that is changing the world. We should utilize resources, not consume them blindly. But what we are doing is consumption without care — we cut down trees, not just the branches. You can get firewood by cutting just the branches — the tree remains, and it continues to give you many things. But the mindset today is not like that. We are consuming recklessly, and that is why difficulties are arising.

Now, this topic is not something we usually deal with. Initially, I intended to speak about the use of technology in the Courts, but ma’am suggested that something on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should also be mentioned. So naturally, I had to study a bit for that — and that is one of the positive aspects of visiting educational institutions. They don’t give us admissions anymore, but they call us here and make us read and prepare! That is truly a plus point. And I believe the legal profession is like that too — it’s a profession where you are always reading, reading, and reading. It’s a vast and constantly developing field. In my reading, I found that sustainable development rests on three pillars: the environmental, social, and economic dimensions. And we are already witnessing many consequences due to the imbalance among these three.

Let me share some key developments in this area. In 1992, there was the famous Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, which resulted in the Rio Declaration — 27 guiding Principles for countries to follow for the future. A very comprehensive global plan was prepared to be implemented at global, national, and local levels. But what happened after that — we all know. We keep making plans, plans, and more plans, but when it comes to implementation, the progress is very weak. There were also Forest Principles, and later in 2002, we had the Johannesburg Declaration. After 20 years of the first Earth Summit, in 2012, we had Rio+20, another summit with several new goals. But the most significant development came in 2015, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Agenda laid down 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), that included: No poverty, Zero hunger, Good health and well-being, Quality education, Gender equality, Clean water and sanitation, Affordable and clean energy, Decent work and economic growth, Industry, innovation, and infrastructure, Reduced inequalities, Sustainable cities and communities, Responsible consumption and production, Climate action, Life below water, Life on land, Peace, justice, and strong institutions, Partnerships for the goals. In total, these were supported by 169 sub-goals. It’s worth reading if you’re interested in sustainable development. I’ll only touch upon a few



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points, as it's a vast subject.

I came across a 2024 report, which evaluated progress nine years after the 2015 agenda was adopted. The results were eye-opening: Only 15% of the goals were on track; Around 48% were partially on track — some progress, but not enough; and 37% had seen no progress at all. This is the state of affairs despite all the grand declarations and planning since 1992. One of the only areas of rapid progress was in information and technology — especially mobile connectivity — and that too because of its commercial value. Business interests pushed it forward, not sustainability concerns.

Now, let's look at poverty. The current world population is about 8.2 billion. According to available information (not my personal knowledge, but public data), in 2015, there were approximately 735 million people living below the poverty line — about 10% of the global population. And after nearly a decade, in 2024, that number has only slightly improved to 712 million, around 9%. So, despite decades of planning, the global reduction in poverty is minimal. Now compare this with India: In 2013–14, around 25–26% of our population was living below the poverty line. By 2023, that figure had reduced to 12–13%. This is significant progress. Our country is far ahead and doing a lot in this direction. In fact, you all must be aware that India has the largest public distribution system in the world under the National Food Security Act. For the last 4–5 years, we have been distributing free food to about 80 crore people in the country. No other country is doing this.

Now, another area that has helped people rise out of poverty is Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) — something we all are familiar with. India is one of the very few countries in the world where CSR is backed by law. In most other countries, it's voluntary, but in India, it's a statutory duty for certain companies. What is CSR? You all must be aware of it. In 2023, around ₹30,000 crore was spent under CSR initiatives in India. Now see — when this amount is spent directly by corporates, the impact is much higher, as more of the funds actually reach the people, compared to many government schemes, where there's often bureaucratic delay, inefficiency, and even wastage — something we all are aware of. Back in 2014–15, CSR spending was around ₹6,000 crore, so in about 10 years, it has grown fivefold. This also reflects the economic growth of our companies, because CSR contributions are linked to corporate profits and turnover. A large portion of CSR funds is being spent on the upliftment of the poor, including efforts in healthcare, eradicating hunger, fighting malnutrition, providing safe drinking water, sanitation, and so on. So this is one significant way India is working to eradicate poverty and support those living below the poverty line.

Now, let me move to another important area. I read about it long ago in a book, and I recently updated the data. You're all witnessing what's happening in the world — conflicts, wars — and some are even speculating whether we are heading toward a third world war. In 2023, the global military expenditure reached a staggering \$2,443 billion, which was a 6.8% increase compared to the previous year. In fact, this was the steepest year-on-year increase since 2009 — largely due to the Russia-Ukraine war, as you all know. Out of this total, the United States alone spent about 37%, and China spent around 12%. So, 49% of global military spending came from just these two countries. Now consider this — the world population is approximately 8.2 billion, and about 735 million people, or 73.5 crore, live below the poverty line. Despite this, the world is spending over \$2.4 trillion on defense. Why is this amount







being spent? As we read and hear — many of these conflicts are not about defense but about land grabbing, resource control, and economic dominance. That's what the news often suggests. There's no genuine dispute — the intent is control over resources. If this \$2,443 billion was divided among the people living below the poverty line, it would amount to around \$9 per person per day. This is far above the international poverty line, which is roughly \$1 and a few cents per day. Even if a portion of this military expenditure were diverted to eradicate poverty, we would see a dramatic change in the world. And look at the consequences of poverty — it is directly linked to crime. In Somalia, we see piracy. In Africa, there is human trafficking and child soldier recruitment. In Latin America, there's organized crime. Illegal mining, too, is a big issue in many parts of the world.

Many of these crimes are driven by poverty. When people don't have even two square meals a day, crime often becomes a means of survival. We see this even in our own country — petty crimes are often committed by those who are hungry. Now let's consider climate change, which is another huge concern — largely a result of human greed and unsustainable practices. 2023 was recorded as the warmest year ever globally, with a temperature rise of 1.45°C above pre-industrial levels. Greenhouse gas concentrations reached an all-time high, with carbon dioxide levels being 150% higher than pre-industrial times. If we talk about deforestation, globally, forest cover has reduced by 7.4%. Without forests, there is no natural absorption of carbon dioxide. The glaciers are retreating — many places where glaciers once existed are now barren. You must have also noticed the change in rainfall patterns this year.

At present, there is snowfall happening in Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, which normally should have occurred in January. But January was deficit in snowfall, and now we're seeing it in April-May. This is a clear sign of climate change. In Russia, the temperature reached 30°C in 2021 — the highest ever recorded there. Europe experienced temperatures of 40°C, something they had never seen before. In 2022 and 2023, Europe suffered severe droughts. Then there were the wildfires in Canada. In China, in 2021, there was severe flooding due to heavy rains. Nigeria too experienced large-scale flooding. The list is long — if you look around, the things that were once considered rare are now becoming frequent.

The number of earthquakes, hurricanes, and other natural calamities is increasing. All of this can be traced back to greenhouse gas emissions. Let's look at some data. In 2015, China emitted around 13,000 million tons of greenhouse gases, which rose to 16,000 million tons by 2023. China alone is responsible for 30% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The United States accounts for around 11.25%. Consider their combined population — around 21% of the world's population — yet they are responsible for more than 41% of total emissions. So, if we look at it per capita, their emissions are almost double their population share. To break it down: India's per capita greenhouse gas emission is 1.89, China's is 8.89, and United States has 14.28.

Still, these countries often try to lecture others, sitting in the position of a so-called "big daddy" on climate, but what are they really contributing to the world's environment? Now let's talk about the ongoing wars. For the past 2–3 years, we are seeing wars being fought almost like street fights, without any end in sight. And what's the environmental impact of these conflicts? According to a portal, the first two years of the Russia-Ukraine war caused greenhouse gas emissions greater than the entire annual emissions of the world. It's equivalent to: putting 90 million new petrol cars on the road; Operating 260



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coal-fired power plants of 200 MW each; and in total, the war has released 175 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. And let's remember — the atmosphere doesn't have borders. It's not like building a boundary wall around your home. Once pollution goes into the air, it spreads everywhere.

Then take the Israel-Palestine conflict. In just one day, they used 25,000 tons of ammunition — that's 1.5 times the explosive power of the Hiroshima bomb. Can you imagine the heat, smoke, and carbon released into the environment from that? All this leads to rising sea levels, frequent droughts, and rapid climate shifts. Now compare that to what India is doing on the global stage. While many countries are fighting wars and causing destruction, India is focusing on global health and cooperation.

We all witnessed the COVID pandemic. At that time, many around the world believed that India would not survive, given the challenges in our healthcare system. But we proved them wrong — with our sense of community, resilience, and human spirit. People came forward to help each other in ways the world had never seen. And not just within our borders — India supplied more than 300 million vaccine doses to countries across the world, many of them free of cost. Why? Because we believe in Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — "The world is one family." And contrast that with some other countries. You must have read about Pfizer — how they allegedly blackmailed countries, forcing them to sign no-liability clauses before supplying vaccines. In contrast, India welcomed everyone, shared its vaccines with humanity in mind, without expecting anything in return. This is the spirit of India.

G20 is a group of countries that together account for: two-thirds of the world's population, 75% of international trade, and 85% of the global GDP. India hosted the G20 Summit in 2023, and again, we led with the idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. For the first time, we brought the Global South to the table — countries that had long been ignored and excluded from major global decisions. We treated them with dignity, respect, and as equals. They say these are all underdeveloped countries — what can we do with them? But when they need minerals, forests, or any other natural resources, they are quick to pursue them. Yet when it comes to giving these countries a seat at the table to discuss global issues, the answer is often no. But we invited them, and now they are part of G20-Plus. This reflects our belief that unless we grow together, we cannot progress as a world. Growth is not a one-man option — it must be collective.

Now, just look at what the Supreme Court of India has done for environmental protection. I'll share a few instances: There were several landmark judgments on the Taj Mahal, where tanneries and polluting industries were removed from the surrounding areas to protect this historical monument. Ganga pollution is another matter. It is a work in progress — we continue working on it, because our problems are complex and cannot be solved overnight. But there are improvements being made. Then came the evolution of the Polluter Pays Principle, holding polluters financially responsible for the damage caused. There was the Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum case, related to the discharge of waste by tanneries. In 1996, a Supreme Court judgment directed the relocation of hazardous polluting industries from Delhi — they were shifted outside the city. A resort built on the Beas River in Himachal Pradesh by a political leader was not permitted by the Supreme Court. You may also recall the demolition of two residential towers in Kochi due to coastal regulation violations. There are cases concerning construction on park land, felling of trees, and deforestation. The list of such environmental judgments is long. Most of these cases relate to Article 21 of the Constitution — the Right to Life. And if you look closely, this is one Article





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where you will find the most life and depth, expressed in just two lines — interpreted and expanded by the Supreme Court from time to time, reflecting the changing needs of society.

India is also one of the very few countries — possibly the third in the world — to have a specialized tribunal for environmental cases, the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which has the power to hear and decide matters directly. So, this is how we are protecting the environment through the legal and judicial system.

Beyond this, our culture and ancient traditions also promote environmental conservation. We worship trees, we revere rivers as our mothers, and we have various festivals and rituals that remind people to protect nature. This mindset was instilled in us — don't cut trees, don't pollute rivers — because they were sacred. But slowly, this way of thinking is fading.

Now, let's talk about technology and its role. One major concern is paper usage, especially in the judiciary. It is estimated that the judiciary uses around 11 billion sheets of paper annually across different levels. Just think One sheet of paper requires about 3 gallons of water and energy to produce. One tree yields roughly 500 sheets of paper. And one tree takes 20–30 years to grow. Cutting trees is easy, but meeting the rising demand for paper while waiting for trees to grow is not feasible. To address this, we have begun the transition to paperless courts. It is a work in progress. We also started using double-sided printing in some places to reduce paper usage. By going paperless and embracing digital technology, we will save a significant amount of paper, and eventually, protect the trees. Even if we import pulp from other countries, the global environment still suffers — because environmental damage knows no borders. Another environmental issue is traffic pollution. The number of vehicles on the roads is increasing, contributing to carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, and other greenhouse gases, as well as heat emissions. To address this, we introduced virtual courts, video conferencing, and e-hearings. This means lawyers don't need to travel to the court physically, which helps reduce vehicular emissions. The litigant is not required to be physically present. He can simply log in and see what his lawyer is arguing. He can even argue his own case while sitting in his office, at home, or even from a different city.

We witnessed this during the COVID period. And I believe our system worked. Initially, there was a complete lockdown for about one to one and a half months. But after that, the entire judicial system functioned — only because of the use of technology in our country. E-filing and online filing became operational. Hearings were conducted through video conferencing (VC), and judgments were uploaded online.

I can share my own experience — during the first phase of COVID, I was in Jammu & Kashmir, which is often considered not to be very technologically advanced. Yet, even there, we ensured the courts continued to function fully. This was despite the fact that after August 2019, the internet had been shut down. Still, through broadband, landlines, and whatever modes were available, we made sure the courts remained functional. In the second phase, I was in Calcutta. Connectivity there wasn't much of an issue. In the third phase, I was in Allahabad, and again, we used whatever means were available to ensure that courts continued to operate. We have already digitized about 311 crore pages of court records — including both pending and decided cases. This is also a work in progress, given the size of our country



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and the vast volume of legal records we have.

Now, let me share something more about the use of IT in our judiciary, which may be of interest to law students — since this is very much your subject. Many of you may or may not have heard of our portal, e-SCR. Have any of you heard of it? This is a digital repository of around 37,000 Supreme Court judgments, all available in a searchable format, and many of them have been translated into 19 different Indian languages. The idea behind this is that if a judgment relates to Punjab, it is translated into Punjabi; if it pertains to Odisha, it is translated into Odia, and so on. Translation is still a work in progress, but a significant number of judgments have already been made accessible in regional languages. The portal also contains over 1.58 million High Court judgments.

Now look at the transformation — today, any judgment delivered by a court is first uploaded on the official portal or the respective High Court website. Only after that is it made available to private legal platforms. So why pay a private provider to access judgments when we already have a free, official search engine? This is especially beneficial for students and young lawyers. Then there's the live streaming of cases. Many of you might be aware of this. All important Constitutional Bench hearings in the Supreme Court, and even in some High Courts, are now live streamed.

Earlier, if a law student wanted to attend a Constitutional Bench hearing, they had to travel to Delhi. But now, with these advancements, you can sit in your law department, your home, or anywhere else, and just log in to watch the top lawyers of the country argue important constitutional issues. You can observe how they interpret and reinterpret the same provisions of law, how they mold arguments, and how they respond to judicial queries. This is also a valuable learning experience — not just for students, but for all legal professionals. You get to see how much preparation and research goes into every argument. It is, I believe, an excellent opportunity for learning.

Thank you.

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India





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## TECHNICAL SESSION III

**Date:** 08th March, 2025 | **Time:** 02:30 PM - 04:15 PM

**Hon'ble Chairperson:** **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Bhanot**  
Judge, Allahabad High Court

**Moderator:** **Dr. Sumiti Ahuja**, Assistant Professor  
Faculty of Law, University of Delhi

**Rapporteur:** **Dr. Deepak Sharma**, Asst. Professor,  
RP National Law University, Prayagraj

**Student Rapporteurs:** Mr. Abhyuday Sharan, Ms. Srijal Mishra & Ms. Vainizah.

On the second day, Technical Session-III started with the introduction of the chairperson, Hon'ble Justice Ajay Bhanot, Judge of the Allahabad High Court, by the Moderator, Dr. Sumiti Ahuja. He was recognized for his extensive experience in civil, criminal, and company law, as well as his work in environmental law and industrial disputes. Keynote speakers included Prof. Moon-Hyun Koh, an expert in environmental and public law from South Korea, and Prof. Leela Krishna, a former Dean at Cochin University, known for her contributions to legal research. The session also featured presentations by Prof. Saiwal Satyarthi, Dr. Suchit Kumar Yadav, and Dr. Neha Dubey. The event began with the felicitation of Justice Bhanot by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon.

The Chairperson praised the Vice-Chancellor for organizing the Conference, highlighting its importance in fostering the exchange of ideas. He emphasized that knowledge goes beyond books and is tested in real-world applications. He encouraged engaging in discussions with peers and experts to gain practical insights and develop a deeper understanding. The Chairperson also pointed out that informal gatherings often facilitate knowledge exchange and encourage students to strengthen their critical thinking skills, especially in emerging fields like technology. He praised the conference theme, 'Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development', noting its relevance in addressing the challenges of rapid global development.

Then, Prof. Moon-Hyun Koh, Professor of Law, Soongsil University, Seoul, Korea delivered the first keynote address, analysing Korea's CCUS policy and its role in mitigating climate change. He discussed Korea's energy framework, emphasizing the importance of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology in reducing emissions. Prof. Koh highlighted the competitive landscape of CCS, noting its selection by the Korean government as a key strategy for reducing carbon emissions and promoting ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) considerations. He also mentioned the Green Growth Committee's efforts under former President Moon Jae-in, which focused on promoting CCS technology and launching related projects.

Prof. Koh outlined four pillars for advancing CCS namely, Technology and R&D, Law and Policy, Public Understanding, and Finance and Budgeting. He discussed the evolution of the CCUS Act, which





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supports research, public awareness, and legal frameworks for CCS. He stressed the importance of investment in education and research to drive technological advancements. He concluded the talk by acknowledging the challenges faced by the Government and emphasized that Korea's energy policy, with a focus on CCS technology, is crucial for reducing emissions and advancing Sustainable Development.

Professor Leela Krishnan (Professor Emeritus, Cochin University of Legal Studies, Kerala) delivered next keynote address titled 'Supreme Court Perspective: All Roads Towards Sustainable Development,' where he emphasized that all legal and policy pathways must ultimately support Sustainable Development (SD). He began by addressing the critical issue of climate change, emphasizing the role of greenhouse gases in trapping heat and its contribution in global warming. He highlighted the importance of the Convention on Sustainable Development, which underscores the collective responsibility of nations to protect citizens and ensure a shared future. He defined Sustainable Development as encompassing both human welfare and the protection of inexhaustible natural resources like water, plants, and animals.

Professor Krishnan discussed several significant Supreme Court rulings, including the 1973 decision allowing communities to retain forests, which had implications for both local welfare and the challenge of deforestation. He also referenced the 1980 ruling imposing a ban on private agencies involved in producing black cement in Tamil Nadu due to the environmental consequences of growing mineral oil demand. He examined the Forest Conservation Act 1980, which requires prior approval for the use of forest land, and introduced the concept of a "net value system" for forests. This system calculates the environmental worth of forests, such as soil conservation and air purification, with revenue reinvested into conservation efforts. Furthermore, he emphasized the shared responsibility of national and State Governments to protect the environment.

In his final remarks, he contrasted indiscriminate mining with sustainable mining practices, referencing the Supreme Court's suspension of mining in Haryana. He also touched on the Court's ruling regarding airport resurfacing, which prioritized environmental safety. The professor addressed nuclear energy, highlighting the Court's acknowledgment of its potential as a clean energy source, while cautioning about balancing environmental risks. He stressed the importance of biodiversity conservation, especially for endangered species like the Great Indian Bustard. Concluding his address, Professor Krishnan emphasized the need for compliance with environmental regulations, judicious use of open spaces, and the active involvement of all levels of governance to achieve SD. He underscored the significance of fostering a symbiotic relationship with the environment as development accelerates, in line with frameworks like the Paris Agreement.

Further, Professor Shaiwal Satyarthi, Professor, Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi, began his presentation on the topic, 'Navigating Gender Representation in the Digital Age: Social Media, Law, and Policy Reforms in India.' He began the talk by questioning the desired form of gender representation on social media, considering the complexities of the digital world. His discussion focussed on the delicate balance between individual identity, the right to representation, and the freedom of speech, emphasizing their importance in the digital age. A key focus of his presentation was the position of women in the digital sphere, acknowledging both the challenges and opportunities they encounter. He referenced data from the Pew Research Centre, which revealed that while women are the predominant users of social





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media in the United States, the trend in India is reversed, with male users outnumbering female users. Professor Satyarthi highlighted that this difference requires both quantitative and qualitative analysis to understand the unique challenges and threats that women face online, which often discourage their participation on these platforms.

He criticized the practice of social media platforms requiring users to accept agreements that may not align with their best interests, particularly noting that many agreements are 'royalty-free,' benefiting the platforms without adequately compensating the users. He argued that while technology offers certain protections, these are insufficient in addressing the specific issues faced by women in the digital space. The professor emphasized that the existing Information Technology (IT) Act does not adequately address these concerns, calling for new laws and policies that can effectively safeguard users' rights, particularly women. He concluded his presentation by discussing the transformation of society's engagement with social media, underscoring the threats, harassment, and exploitation women face online. He called for comprehensive legal reforms in India's social media laws to create a more inclusive, safer, and legally protected online environment for all users.

Then, Dr. Suchit Kumar Yadav, Asst. Professor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj presented the next paper. His paper presentation, titled 'Sustainable Development and Social Justice: Perspectives from India,' began with an exploration of Inclusive Sustainable Development, questioning what constitutes exclusivity in development and emphasizing the importance of addressing all aspects of Sustainable Development, particularly the social dimension. He outlined the three core pillars of Sustainable Development—People, Planet, and Profit—and stressed that development must be inclusive, ensuring the benefit of marginalized communities. Social justice was a key theme throughout his presentation, referencing Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's definition of social justice, which asserts that human beings are entitled to equal opportunities, and denying these opportunities violates human dignity. He discussed the need to address various forms of inequality, such as poverty, gender injustice, and social exclusion, within the SD framework.

Dr. Yadav introduced the concept of intersectionality to show how different social categories, such as gender, caste, and class, intersect to create systemic inequalities. Drawing on Amartya Sen's work, he argued that development should be defined not just by economic growth but by the expansion of human capabilities, allowing individuals to lead lives they value. He addressed contradictions within the Sustainable Development framework, particularly regarding sustainable mining, which, while vital for economic growth, poses significant environmental and social costs. Dr. Yadav highlighted region-specific challenges in India, such as the entrenched caste system, and critiqued broader Sustainable Development frameworks for often overlooking these issues. He discussed the example of Aadhaar, India's biometric identification system, which has helped marginalized groups but raised concerns about privacy and exclusion. In conclusion, Dr. Yadav called for a more nuanced approach to SD, integrating social justice, gender equality, and the expansion of human capabilities to ensure a more equitable and sustainable future.

Further, Dr. Neha Dubey, Asst. Professor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj presented her paper, 'AI's Participation in Realizing Feminist Utopia,' focusing on the transformative potential of Artificial



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Intelligence (AI) in advancing gender equality. She discussed how AI could contribute to a feminist utopia by providing women with equal representation in decision-making roles and equal pay across various sectors. She emphasized that AI holds significant promise for breaking down traditional gender barriers and offering women new opportunities in diverse fields. She also acknowledged the resilience of feminists throughout history, highlighting how technological advancements, especially AI, empower women to pursue equality and amplify feminist movements globally. AI's influence on various aspects of life, including women's empowerment, was a central theme in her presentation.

A key focus of her paper was the impact of AI on women's safety and independence. She discussed AI-powered mobile phones and safety apps, like Ola and Uber, which have enhanced security and provided women with greater freedom, particularly in urban settings. She also emphasized AI's role in education, noting how platforms like Coursera have allowed women to overcome geographic and social barriers to remote learning. Additionally, AI has facilitated women's entry into business, offering tools for marketing and enabling them to thrive in male-dominated industries. She also addressed AI's potential to disrupt traditional gender roles, particularly by automating household chores and giving women more career freedom. However, she raised concerns about the risks of AI, including its potential misuse in criminal activities and ethical issues related to technologies like deepfakes. She concluded by stressing the importance of developing ethical frameworks and regulations to ensure AI serves as a tool for empowerment while minimizing risks.

### **Questions & Answers Session:**

At the end of the session, the session sparked a series of thought-provoking discussions on critical issues spanning law, Artificial Intelligence, and social transformation as follows:

**1. Question: (Ms. Babli Chaudhary, Second-semester B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) Student of RP National Law University to the Hon'ble Chairperson)** -Why the destruction of nature is not treated similarly to the murder of a human being. She also questioned why environmental offenses are not classified as non-bailable offenses?

**Answer: (by Hon'ble Chairperson, HMJ Ajay Bhanot)** - The legal system categorizes crimes differently, with statutes specifying distinct provisions for various offenses based on their severity, but statutes so far do not dictate crime against Nature. This distinction, while established, may invite future debate in light of growing environmental concerns.

**2. Question: (Dr. Neeraj Gupta, Assistant Professor of Law, Nirma University, Gujarat, to Dr. Suchit Yadav)** - Why the definition of the social aspect was ignored in his analysis despite being an essential part of social justice?

**Answer: (by Dr. Suchit Kumar Yadav)** - While the social aspect undoubtedly needs careful consideration, it must also be evaluated based on whether it resonates with the Indian context.

**3. Question: (Dr. Akanshi Vidhyarthi, Asst. Professor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj, to Dr.**





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**Suchit Kumar Yadav)** What is the role of technology in sustainable development?

**Answer: (by Dr. Suchit Kumar Yadav)** highlighted initiatives such as Startup India and MGNREGA, where technology has become a driving force in improving accessibility, efficiency, and sustainability. These initiatives underscore how technological advancements can play a crucial role in addressing pressing environmental and societal challenges.

**4. Question. (Dr. Neeraj Gupta Assistant Professor of Law, Nirma University, Gujarat, and Dr. Parikshit Sirohi, Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi to Dr. Neha Dubey)-** They asked about the raised poignant concern regarding AI's algorithm re-enforcing the stereotypes inability of AI to differentiate from a regular task and a fatal mistake citing an incident where a robot put a baby inside a washing machine because the baby soiled himself. The robot programmed to do the household chores, including washing dirty clothes, couldn't acknowledge its function to remove the cloth from baby then wash it.

**Answer: (by Dr. Neha Dubey)-** AI is just a machine created by some human who programmed its source code hence imparting his personal stereotypes into the Machine. If the source code differs the machine will function differently. Also, the AI is being programmed to function like humans, still it is not human nor having the similar discretion or intellect, hence bound to make the fatal mistakes.

**5. Question: (Hon'ble Chairperson, HMJ Ajay Bhanot, to Dr. Neha Dubey)** if a mother wants to care and nurtures her baby unconditionally, is it at odds with the feminist's utopian ideals?

**Answer: (by Dr. Neha Dubey)** responded with saying a direct 'No' with clarification that the essence of feminist's utopia is women having the liberty to take the decision and have that decision respected in a dignified manner.

**6. Question: Shreya, Second-semester B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) Student of RP National Law University to Dr. Neha Dubey)** The changing role of women in the workforce over the past 80 years and wouldn't ecto-pregnancies by robots will help women and society in balancing the population decline in various countries.

**Answer: (by Dr. Neha Dubey)** acknowledged that while AI could certainly contribute to advancements in reproductive health, it cannot replicate the emotional depth, human connection, maternal bond intrinsic to childbirth and an irreplaceable human touch, all of which AI cannot fully provide. She voiced her fear of having such system completely dominated by the patriarchal control, may resulting in commercialization of childbirth. Some aspect of which has already started through genetic engineering through which people can modify colour of eyes, hair or skin of the baby. Thus, while technology may offer support in the realm of reproductive health, but should not lead to the commodification of childbirth.

**Observations and Concluding Remarks by Hon'ble Chairperson Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Bhanot**

The session concluded with closing remarks from the Hon'ble Chairperson, HMJ Bhanot, who underscored



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the importance of global cooperation in addressing the challenges of sustainable development. He emphasized that these issues transcend national boundaries and represent a collective global concern. Justice Bhanot expressed his appreciation for the insightful discussions that took place throughout the event and highlighted the need for continued academic and practical exchanges on such vital topics.







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## TECHNICAL SESSION IV

**Date:** 08th March, 2025 | **Time:** 04:45 PM - 06:20 PM

**Hon'ble Chairperson:** **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal**  
Judge, Allahabad High Court

**Moderator:** **Dr. Parikshet Sirohi**, Assistant Professor  
Faculty of Law, University of Delhi

**Rapporteur:** **Dr. Prakash Tripathi**, Asst. Professor  
RP National Law University, Prayagraj

**Student Rapporteurs:** Mr. Aditya Raj, Ms. Darain Kulsoom Zaidi & Mr. Viplav Sinha

The last session of the second day of the conference began after the evening health break. Dr. Parikshet Sirohi, Moderator of the Session introduced the Hon'ble Chairperson, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal, Judge of the High Court Allahabad and Administrative Judge for Shamli. Becoming the first person from Amroha district to do so he is worked as a chief editor of the magazine expression which is published by the advocates Association High Court of Allahabad and he is written extensively on prevailing social and legal issues. His lordship is deeply interested in reading and social services. After taking the permission from the Hon'ble Chairperson, Dr. Sirohi started the session. At the foremost, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, RPNLUP, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, felicitated Hon'ble Chairperson.

This session includes two keynote speakers, namely Dr. Ivano Alogna, Senior Research Fellow in Environmental and Climatic Change Law, BIICL, France (Online) and Senior Professor (Dr.) Usha Tandon, Vice Chancellor, National Law University, Prayagraj. The two paper presenters for the session were Dr. Narendra Kumar Bishnoi, Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi (Online) and Dr. Swati Mawandiya, Asst. Professor, Institute of Law, Nirma University.

HMJ Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal, in his opening remarks, underscored the intricate theoretical intersection of Law, Technology, and Sustainable Development, emphasizing their inextricable interconnection. He asserted that law plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the future trajectory of technology and sustainable development, as these dynamic forces are essential for fostering an equitable world.

Justice Deshwal elaborated on the conceptual foundation of sustainable development, tracing its origins to the Brundtland Report, Our Common Future, published by the UN World Commission on Environment and Development. This seminal report defines sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Sustainable development, he noted, seeks to achieve a delicate balance between economic progress, environmental conservation, and social well-being.

To operationalize the principles of sustainable development, a robust legal framework has been established, comprising numerous regulations designed to mitigate environmental harm. Infrastructure



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and developmental projects, such as the construction of roads and buildings, are undertaken in adherence to these legal provisions to ensure that they do not adversely impact society or future generations.

However, while technological advancements are indispensable to achieving sustainable development, their application must be judiciously regulated. Law serves as the primary mechanism for determining the extent to which technology can be leveraged in pursuit of sustainable goals, ensuring that technological interventions align with environmental and societal imperatives.

Justice Deshwal highlighted the role of various legal and institutional mechanisms in enforcing sustainable development principles. Quasi-judicial and administrative bodies such as the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Pollution Control Board function as oversight institutions, ensuring compliance with environmental regulations. In instances where executive and quasi-judicial measures prove inadequate, constitutional courts serve as the final arbiters. Through Public Interest Litigations (PILs) or suo motu cognizance, constitutional benches have the authority to issue directives aimed at rectifying regulatory lapses.

He cautioned against the unregulated proliferation of technology, which, if left unchecked, could undermine both human well-being and ecological stability. Therefore, it is imperative to maintain stringent oversight over technological and developmental initiatives to prevent any detrimental societal or environmental consequences. Concluding his address, Justice Deshwal emphasized that as members of the legal fraternity—whether as judges, legal scholars, or students—it is our collective responsibility to ensure that technological and developmental endeavors are pursued within a legal framework that prioritizes sustainability and social justice.

**Dr. Ivano Alogna (Senior Research Fellow in Environmental and Climate Change Law at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL), France)** delivered the first keynote address on the topic 'The Role of Science in Climate Litigation Cases.' In his address, he emphasized that science serves as the foundation for climate litigation, playing a crucial role in establishing accountability and strengthening legal arguments. He explained that scientific evidence validates climate change, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and climatic anomalies, making it indispensable in legal proceedings. A key aspect of his discussion was Attribution Science, which quantifies the impact of climate change on extreme weather events. By demonstrating a causal link between GHG emissions and environmental harm, Attribution Science enables plaintiffs to hold major polluters accountable. Citing the landmark *Urgenda Foundation v. State of Netherlands* case, Dr. Alogna highlighted the state's duty of care toward the environment and explained how courts are increasingly relying on scientific assessments to enforce climate justice.

Dr. Alogna further elaborated that scientific reports express certainty in probabilistic terms, thereby strengthening legal arguments and supporting the approval of legal thresholds. He referenced the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports, which employ high-confidence assessments to provide compelling evidence in climate litigation. These reports, published in 1990, 1995, 2006, 2007, 2013, and 2021, offer unequivocal proof that human activities have significantly altered both land and ocean ecosystems. Their legal significance lies in their authoritative and impartial nature, as they synthesize thousands of peer-reviewed studies through rigorous scientific reviews. However, he pointed





out a major challenge in translating scientific certainty into legal standards. While scientific findings are often expressed in terms of probability, legal frameworks operate on different evidentiary standards, such as the “balance of probabilities”, which sometimes creates friction between legal and scientific reasoning.

Discussing the role of science in climate litigation, he highlighted that legal arguments depend on Detection Science and Attribution Science to establish factual propositions. Detection Science identifies observable climate changes, such as rising global temperatures and increased frequency of extreme weather events, while Attribution Science determines whether human emissions are the primary cause of these changes. He emphasized that Attribution Science has played a transformative role in climate litigation by demonstrating that climate change is anthropogenic rather than a result of natural variability. Several scientific methods are employed in climate litigation, including Counterfactual Modeling, which compares real-world scenarios with hypothetical conditions to determine human-induced climate impacts; Statistical Trend Analysis, which identifies long-term climate patterns driven by human activities; Fingerprinting Analysis, which distinguishes human influence from natural climatic factors by analyzing distinct climate signatures, such as greenhouse gas-induced warming of the lower atmosphere rather than solar fluctuations; and Multi-Model Analysis, which combines multiple climate models under varying conditions to produce consistent and robust findings, thereby reducing scientific uncertainty and strengthening legal arguments.

Dr. Alogna emphasized that Attribution Science plays a critical role in climate litigation by establishing a causal relationship between human-induced emissions and extreme weather events. By linking emissions to specific environmental consequences, Attribution Science helps shape legal arguments and policies for climate governance. He cited several key examples, including the 2019 European Heatwave, which climate change made 100 times more likely; Hurricane Harvey in 2017, where climate change increased rainfall by 15%; and the 2018 South African Drought, which climate change made three times more likely. He also discussed emerging research areas, such as the impact of climate change in the Global South, regional climate impacts, slow-onset climate events, and compound events, all of which rely on statistical validation to establish scientific credibility.

He further outlined the causal sequence of climate change and its effects, emphasizing that greenhouse gas emissions lead to global climate change, which in turn causes extreme weather events, ultimately resulting in severe societal and environmental impacts. This causal chain is central to climate litigation, as it provides the scientific basis for holding corporations and governments accountable. He illustrated these principles through a discussion of *Lliuya v. RWE AG*, a landmark case demonstrating the application of scientific evidence in climate litigation. Saúl Luciano Lliuya, a Peruvian farmer, filed a lawsuit against RWE AG, Germany’s largest electricity producer, under German tort law (BGB §1004). He argued that RWE’s emissions, which constitute approximately 0.47% of global historical emissions, contributed to glacial melting near his hometown, increasing the risk of catastrophic flooding. The case represents a significant example of transboundary liability, a legal principle that holds entities accountable for harm caused beyond their national jurisdiction. Lliuya’s claim is based on proportional responsibility, wherein he demands that RWE bear a portion of the flood prevention costs in proportion to its emissions share. Initially dismissed by the District Court of Essen, the case was later reopened by the Higher Regional Court of Hamm, marking a crucial step in establishing corporate accountability for climate-related damages.



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While scientific evidence strengthens legal claims, its application in court also presents significant challenges. Dr. Alogna highlighted the difficulties in reconciling scientific attribution with legal causation, as courts operate on legal standards that may not always align with scientific methodologies.

He also noted the varying standards of proof across jurisdictions, which create disparities in climate litigation outcomes. Another challenge lies in balancing scientific uncertainty with legal requirements, as scientific conclusions are inherently probabilistic, whereas legal frameworks often demand definitive proof. Additionally, proportional responsibility remains a complex legal issue, as determining liability for multiple contributors to climate change is difficult.

Dr. Alogna concluded his keynote address by reiterating that scientific evidence is indispensable in climate litigation, as it helps courts transition from uncertainty to evidence-based rulings. By integrating scientific methodologies, empirical climate models, and forensic techniques, the judiciary can uphold environmental accountability and shape the future of climate governance. He expressed his gratitude to the learned scholars and participants for their engagement and commitment to advancing the discourse on climate justice and environmental law.

Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon (Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj) delivered the second keynote address, beginning with an introduction to the Hon'ble Chairperson and International Advocate Mr. Nitin Nanda from Estonia, both of whom were her former students. Prof. Tandon provided an overview of her topic, emphasizing the interrelation between renewable energy and sustainable development, the crucial role of technology in enhancing renewable energy, and the extent to which Indian legislation supports technological advancements in this sector. She pointed out that there is no exclusive law in India that comprehensively addresses all three components of the conference theme—law, technology, and sustainable development. Since the study of their intersection is still in its preliminary stages, she refrained from calling it an in-depth analysis. However, she underscored that renewable energy is an essential component of sustainable development and explained how technological advancements contribute significantly to the growth of this sector. After establishing the connection between technology and sustainable development, particularly in the context of renewable energy, she examined the role of Indian law in regulating these advancements.

Prof. Tandon also highlighted the cautious use of artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT and Gemini, advising that while they can be useful for drafting initial versions of documents, their outputs should always be substantiated with other sources, as they often provide inaccurate information. She lamented the absence of a direct and exclusive law governing renewable energy in India. However, she explained that renewable energy-related matters are addressed under the Electricity Act, 2003, which applies to renewable energy only insofar as it pertains to electricity generation. She elaborated that while this Act provides a framework for electricity regulation, it does not comprehensively govern renewable energy as a separate category. Addressing the dual nature of technology, she emphasized that while technological innovations offer solutions to environmental problems, their excessive use can also contribute to environmental degradation. Issues such as intellectual property rights, data privacy, cybersecurity, and pollution arise when technology is not deployed sustainably. She explained how technology, depending on its application, can either be a solution or a source of pollution, making its





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regulation and responsible usage crucial.

Discussing the significance of renewable energy for sustainable development, Prof. Tandon noted that it ensures the preservation of natural resources for future generations. She provided insights into emerging renewable energy technologies, such as Photovoltaic Solar Cells (PV), Concentrated Solar Power (CSP), Perovskite Solar Cells, Offshore Wind Turbines, Floating Wind Farms, Vertical Axis Wind Turbines, Flow Batteries, and Hydrogen Storage, which are actively being developed to enhance energy sustainability. She then outlined three key Indian policies related to renewable energy: the National Solar Mission, the National Tariff Policy— which differentiates electricity tariffs based on renewable and non-renewable sources—and the National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy, which promotes integrated renewable energy solutions. While these policies contain provisions for technological advancement in renewable energy, she acknowledged the significant challenges in their implementation.

Prof. Tandon further discussed the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, which, though not exclusively dedicated to renewable energy, incorporates key mechanisms such as the Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) and Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). The RPO mandates companies to purchase a specified percentage of their electricity from renewable sources, as determined by state regulations. Meanwhile, RECs allow electricity distribution companies (Discoms) that fail to meet their renewable energy purchase targets to compensate by purchasing renewable energy certificates from the market. She illustrated the complexities surrounding renewable energy legislation by citing legal cases. In *Hindustan Zinc Limited v. Rajasthan Electricity Board*, the issue revolved around whether central or state legislation should prevail in mandating the purchase of renewable energy. The company sought to evade the RPO requirements by arguing that central legislation, which did not impose a mandatory renewable energy purchase limit, should take precedence over state laws. However, the court ruled in favor of the state legislation, reinforcing the necessity of compliance with state-mandated renewable energy obligations. In another case, *Junipur Hotels Private Limited v. Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission*, the Delhi High Court upheld the increase in the RPO requirement, dismissing the petition that challenged its legality.

She also drew attention to the role of corporate lobbying in hindering the progress of renewable energy legislation. Comparing it to practices in the pharmaceutical industry, she explained how certain corporations publish research to create market demand for their products. Similarly, in the energy sector, lobbying efforts by non-renewable energy companies obstruct legislative developments that could promote renewable energy adoption. She cautioned that while renewable energy contributes positively to environmental conservation, excessive reliance on technology without adequate safeguards could lead to unintended consequences such as environmental pollution and resource depletion.

In conclusion, Prof. Tandon identified the absence of a dedicated renewable energy law as a major gap in India's legal framework. While several legislative attempts have been made in the past to establish such a law, none have materialized into actionable policies. She stressed the urgent need for a comprehensive legal framework that integrates law, technology, and sustainable development to ensure the effective promotion and regulation of renewable energy in India.





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Dr. Narendra Kumar Bishnoi (Asst. Professor, Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi) delivered an insightful presentation on the topic 'Judicial Trends and Climate Change' exploring the intricate relationship between environmental protection and legal frameworks while emphasizing India's rich historical and cultural traditions in preserving nature. He began by referencing the landmark judgment in M.K. Ranjit Singh case, underscoring the judiciary's evolving role in safeguarding endangered species and vulnerable communities. Tracing the historical ethos of environmental preservation, he highlighted ancient Indian texts and traditions that have long recognized the sanctity of nature. He referred to the Atharvaveda, which reveres the Earth as a mother figure, reinforcing the duty to respect and protect nature as a sacred responsibility. Additionally, he noted that the Shastras documented the appointment of forest officers for the protection of wildlife and forests, illustrating early institutional mechanisms for conservation. A particularly significant reference was the Bishnoi community, known for its unwavering dedication to environmental protection for centuries. Dr. Bishnoi further elaborated on ancient forest management practices that outlined twenty-one rules for forest conservation, which were prevalent during the 17th century, demonstrating India's long-standing commitment to ecological sustainability.

Shifting focus to contemporary legal mechanisms, Dr. Bishnoi examined the significance of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in India's environmental governance. He explained that the NGT operates not under traditional civil laws but solely on the principles of natural justice, making environmental litigation more accessible to affected communities. He also emphasized the role of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) as a powerful tool of judicial activism, enabling citizens to seek legal remedies for environmental violations. This discussion led to a detailed analysis of the M.K. Ranjit Singh case's ruling, particularly highlighting the plight of the Great Indian Bustard and the detrimental impact of habitat destruction on biodiversity. He argued that environmental degradation directly intersects with fundamental rights, contending that the right to life under Article-21 of the Indian Constitution implicitly includes protection from climate change and ecological harm. He illustrated this connection through practical examples, such as how excessive monsoons destroy rain-dependent agricultural lands, thereby violating farmers' right to food and livelihood. Further, he acknowledged the challenges in implementing environmental rights as fundamental rights, citing technical and financial feasibility constraints.

Concluding his presentation on a poignant note, and in honour of International Women's Day, Dr. Bishnoi paid tribute to Mata Amrita Devi, a historical figure who sacrificed her life to prevent deforestation and protect wildlife. He emphasized her legacy as a testament to the power of collective environmental responsibility. The session concluded with a compelling message that environmental protection is not merely a legal duty but a moral obligation-deeply embedded in India's cultural and historical consciousness.

Dr. Swati Mawandiya (Asst. Prof. Institute of Law, Nirma University) presented on the topic 'Legal Mechanisms to Ensure Energy Efficiency in India with Special Reference to Energy Saving and Carbon Credit Certifications under Energy Conservation Act, 2001: A Critical Review.' She emphasized that the current era demands a conscious shift in energy consumption patterns to mitigate environmental degradation and combat climate change.

She began her talk by outlining the three essential pillars of energy namely, security, sustainability, and affordability. Energy Security refers to a stable and uninterrupted supply chain, ensuring that energy demands are consistently met. Sustainability focuses on promoting green energy alternatives to reduce





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environmental harm, while affordability emphasizes that energy resources must be both economically accessible and eco-viable for long-term usage.

She pointed out that the industrial sector is the largest consumer of energy, making it crucial to explore alternative energy sources. She highlighted that coal is the second-largest energy source in India, even surpassing crude oil in consumption. Further, India is experiencing a decline in domestic coal production, which poses challenges to energy security. She noted that India has recognized the 7th goal of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 7), which focuses on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. In alignment with this goal, India has set an ambitious target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, aiming to foster energy efficiency while promoting environmental protection.

She discussed key initiatives introduced by the Indian government to reduce carbon emissions. One such initiative is the issuance of Energy Saving Certificates (ESCerts), which started in 2010. These certificates are awarded to companies that consume less energy and are tradable, creating an incentive for industries to adopt energy-efficient practices. She also mentioned platforms like the Power Exchange Platform and Carbon Credit Certificates, which reward entities that actively work to reduce their carbon footprint. The energy labelling program was another important initiative, where appliances are marked with star ratings to indicate their energy consumption data, helping consumers make informed decisions.

She acknowledged several limitations in the implementation of energy policies. She highlighted issues like casual and delayed implementation, the absence of clear price signals, and partial conservation funding. She also underlined meagre tax incentives for energy-efficient practices, which could otherwise motivate industries and consumers to transition to greener alternatives. Further, she discussed the constant growth in the promotion of electric vehicles (EVs). Although EVs are seen as a sustainable option however; concerns were voiced about their potential long-term impact on the environment, particularly regarding battery disposal and raw material extraction.

She concluded that climate change directly threatens the fundamental right to environmental protection. She drew parallels with the *Great Indian Bustard case*, reiterating that while energy efficiency laws and Sustainable Development practices are promising, they must be economically feasible to achieve lasting results. She argued that Sustainable Development is a dynamic collaboration of foresight and obligation, requiring continuous innovation and adaptability. With proper implementation of energy laws and international cooperation, she asserted that the global community could collectively combat the climate crisis and secure a sustainable future for the coming generations. The presentation ended on a hopeful note, emphasizing that Sustainable Development is not just a policy goal but a shared responsibility-a vision that can only be realized through persistent legal, technological, and societal efforts.

#### **Questions and Answers Session:**

**1. Question: (Mr. Lakshaya Choudhary, Second Semester, B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) Student of RP National Law University to Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon)** - Technology is developed through minerals like semiconductors created from silicon and stored in lithium-ion batteries in which lithium is also a mineral,



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exploited every day in African and South American Countries, so how can technology and Sustainable Development can go hand in hand, and how can we address the exploitation of child workers in African and South American mines, how can law help in taking technology and Sustainable Development hand in hand?

**Answer (by Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon)** – This is an area of upcoming research, most of the current research papers are praising smart transformation i.e. the use of technology to replace a vehicle that causes pollution but smart transformation must be sustainable, production of renewable energy also causes emission and also effect the environment. Today the world is witnessing technology as a solution for Sustainable Development but in the long run, it may be seen as a problem for Sustainable Development and sustainability of technology. The rapid change in technology leaves us in an uncertain condition especially about its unexpected and uncalculated nature, its pace, and its effect on the future environment.

**2. Question: (Dr. Neeraj Kumar Gupta, Asst. Professor, Institute of Law, Nirma University to Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon)** - How do you see the role of financial transactions and taxes and policies in the context of energy, technology and sustainable development?

**Answer: (by Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon)** - Yes, The financial implications such as bonds, credits, certificates etc must be covered in the policies but not in the name of taxes but in name of incentives and exemptions.

**3. Question: (Dr. Sonika, Asst. Professor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj)** - As government authorities and policy makers are promoting electrification, and the sources through which electricity is generated also harm the environment, so to what extent production of electricity or electric vehicle is sustainable?

**Answer: (by Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon)** - If you want to inquire in law then I would say that the precautionary principle will come and help us, it says that whenever a new technology is developed and it causes irreparable losses than it better to be on the side of caution. As far as your explanation for electric vehicle is concerned, I would say we shall start their production in an optimized manner.

**Observation Made by Adv. Mr. Nitin Nanda on the question no. 1 asked by Mr. Lakshya Chaudhary-**

Some threats are immediate, e.g. children are born in Delhi with Asthma. Some threats like crude oil extraction cause threats of seismic disruption and to respond to these immediate threats Renewable Energy is a real and possible answer. Sometimes, solutions lead to new problems, such as massive extraction of Rare earth metal mining. The Second part is illegal, it's not an urban challenge but it's because of the corruption in the Government. The law is clear that you cannot do it. When people break the rule, the law enters and tackles the challenge. Technology is changing, one coin of Thorium can provide power to a car for 25 years. So, immediate threats should be solved immediately and the rest should be left for research.

**Observations and Concluding Remarks by Hon'ble Chairperson Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal**





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Hon'ble Lordship began his concluding remarks by praising the keynote speakers for their wonderful presentation. Highlighting the key research themes and major takeaways from the presentations especially of Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of RPNLUP, he said that the Energy Conservation Act 2021 covers all types of energy. Also, the Uttar Pradesh Government Solar Energy policy and procedures and directions issued by the Central Government aim to promote renewable energy. He further explained that the relationship between Sustainable Development, Technology, and law is the dynamic one and requires foresight and accountability of judges and scholars as we are obligated to protect our future. He then discussed about issue of child workers in the mining factories and proposed that it can be absolved by appropriate execution of law. He then, referred to the landmark ruling of *Bandhua Mukti Morcha v. Union of India and Ors*, in which the Supreme Court gave directions to the Government of Haryana and the Central Government for strict implementation of Bonded Labor Act 1976. He further emphasized that development and technology can go hand in hand subject to strict regulation and implementation of that regulation. He further stressed that we must ensure robust and flexible legal frameworks to regulate energy and technology. Finally, he concluded his speech by saying that we must ensure international cooperation to address upcoming challenges relating to Sustainable Development.



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## TECHNICAL SESSION V

**Date:** 09th March, 2025 | **Time:** 09:30 AM - 10:55 AM

**Hon'ble Chairperson:** **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Salil Kumar Rai**  
Judge, Allahabad High Court

**Moderator:** **Dr. Neeraj Gupta**, Assistant Professor  
Institute of Law, Nirma University, Gujarat

**Rapporteur:** **Dr. Suchit Kumar Yadav**, Asst. Professor  
RP National Law University, Prayagraj

**Student Rapporteurs:** Ms. Saumya Sachan & Ms. Somya Sharma

The **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Salil Kumar Rai, Judge, Allahabad High Court**, delivered the opening remarks at the Vth Technical session. The Hon'ble Lordship has built a reputation as an expert in civil matters. In his address as the Chairperson, he expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to preside over the conference. He acknowledged that discussions on law and technology often arise in the context of litigation. Keeping his remarks brief, he emphasized his eagerness to hear from the speakers, stating that he approached the session not as a judge but as a student, embracing the opportunity to learn and engage with new perspectives.

**Professor Jonathan O. Chimakonam, Professor of Philosophy, University of Pretoria, South Africa**, delivered a keynote address on the pressing issue of climate change, explaining that climate variations occur over decades or even millennia. He emphasized that one of the most common consequences of climate change is the rise in global temperatures, primarily driven by an increase in greenhouse gas emissions. He identified nitrous oxide and hydrofluorocarbons as key contributors to these emissions, which in turn cause significant environmental problems. The rise in temperature leads to severe consequences such as the melting of ice caps, disrupting ecosystems and posing threats to biodiversity.

He elaborated on how the greenhouse effect results from undesirable changes in the natural environment, negatively impacting plants, animals, and humans alike. One of the most pressing consequences of these environmental disruptions is the growing food crisis. As agricultural production struggles to cope with changing climatic conditions, food insecurity continues to escalate worldwide. While numerous governmental schemes have been introduced across the globe to address these challenges, their success has been limited, and they have proven insufficient in tackling the crisis at large.

Professor Jonathan strongly advocated for the role of technology as a solution to hunger and food shortages. He argued that hunger is not merely an economic or logistical issue but also a philosophical problem, one that requires the application of scientific knowledge to find sustainable solutions. He identified three major factors contributing to food waste: processing inefficiencies, distribution challenges, and the impact of conflicts, pandemics, and environmental pollution.







In conclusion, he emphasized that the modern world must focus on cost-effective, eco-friendly, and efficient technological innovations to combat these challenges. Advancements in science and technology, when applied thoughtfully, can provide sustainable solutions to the problems caused by climate change, ensuring food security and environmental stability for future generations.

**Dr. Parikshet Sirohi, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi**, presented his paper on 'Balancing Green Innovation and IP Protection.' His discussion covered the Great Bustard case, the principles of Sustainable Development, the significance of green technology, and the role of Green Intellectual Property (Green IP) in fostering the development of new technologies.

Addressing the pressing global climate crisis, Professor Sirohi highlighted how resource degradation and environmental issues have taken center stage. He compared the ongoing global climate shift to a game of cricket, where each month records a higher temperature than the previous one. Despite numerous international treaties and agreements since 1992, tangible success remains elusive. He specifically referenced the recent Supreme Court ruling on the infamous Great Bustard case, where the court mandated the use of bird diverters to protect the endangered species. However, he criticized this judgment, pointing out that the bird diverter is a patented technology, raising concerns about accessibility and implementation.

He further emphasized the rapid pace of technological advancement, illustrating how devices such as mobile phones become outdated within months. Identifying five key areas of focus—new forms of renewable energy, the scientific use of energy, carbon footprints, urban mobility, and environmental impact—he stressed the importance of minimizing or eliminating damage to the environment.

Drawing attention to the alarming air quality index (AQI) in Delhi, which has reached 1,400, he compared it to European countries where AQI levels remain under 30, with some regions recording levels below 10. He cited the example of the Happy Seeder, a technology developed by the Tata Trust and Punjab University, Ludhiana, as an innovation that can significantly reduce environmental harm. In Punjab and Haryana, where agriculture is the primary source of income, farmers traditionally burn crop residues, contributing to severe air pollution. The Happy Seeder eliminates the need for burning by mulching the straw into the soil, improving soil productivity while saving time and resources. Professor Sirohi strongly advocated for such environmentally friendly technologies to be brought to market and widely adopted.

He also discussed the potential of Green IP in fostering the development of sustainable technologies. The creation of a green inventory for energy conservation, forestry, transportation, and waste management is a significant step toward environmental sustainability. Applauding the Government of India's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070, he highlighted India's progress as the fourth-largest consumer of solar energy, with a solar capacity of 97.68 GW, making it the fifth-largest producer of solar photovoltaic power. He emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts between the government, private sector, and corporate entities in advancing IP-driven technology and its impact on economic growth. To encourage innovation, he suggested that greater financial incentives be provided for patenting environmentally friendly technologies.

Concluding his presentation, Professor Sirohi criticized the judicial administration for failing to



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effectively address intellectual property cases, arguing that a more proactive approach is necessary to support and protect innovations that contribute to sustainability.

**Dr. Kshitij Kumar Singh, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi,** presented his paper on "Intellectual Property Rights, Sustainable Innovations, and SDGs: Examining the Intersection from Legal and Policy Perspective." His study focused on the roadmap of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the role of innovation in addressing environmental challenges, and the interaction between SDGs and innovation.

Sustainable Development is generally defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It aims to make development compatible with social, environmental, and financial interests, emphasizing a long-term vision. The SDGs serve as a structured pathway to achieve this overarching goal. However, as of June 20, 2024, according to a report published in a newspaper, the progress of SDGs has been alarmingly slow, with no nation making significant advancements. Current projections suggest that the SDG timeline may need to be extended to 2050, as only twenty percent of these goals have been achieved to date.

Innovation plays a crucial role in addressing environmental challenges by offering sustainable solutions. Sustainable innovation introduces intentional changes that create long-term value while balancing economic, social, and environmental considerations. Patents on new innovations are often seen as public goods, yet it is essential to examine whether patents align with broader public goals and sustainability objectives.

The interaction between SDGs and innovation relies on collaboration among various stakeholders in promoting sustainable development. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) play a key role in amplifying new and creative solutions to global challenges, turning them into tangible realities. There is an urgent need to prioritize climate change and SDGs with the same level of urgency and global commitment as pandemics. A concerted effort from policymakers, innovators, and society at large is essential to ensure that sustainability remains at the forefront of innovation and legal frameworks.

**Dr. Prakash Tripathi, Assistant Professor at RP National Law University, Prayagraj,** presented a paper on the topic 'Bridging Traditional Wisdom and Modern Sustainability: An Empirical Study of PVTGs of Jharkhand and Their Understanding of Sustainability.' His study explored the intersection of sustainability and traditional wisdom, the impact of industrialization and urbanization on indigenous communities, and the significance of the HALMA practice in environmental conservation.

The modern concept of sustainability gained prominence with the 1987 Brundtland Report. However, the Western-centric perspective on sustainability often overlooks traditional knowledge systems that have long played a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance. Across the world, indigenous communities have integrated sustainable practices into their lifestyles, treating sustainability not merely as a concept but as a fundamental philosophy that guides their existence.

Rapid industrialization and urbanization have significantly affected indigenous communities, leading to population growth, environmental challenges, and an increased demand for resources. The Asur and Birjia tribes of Jharkhand, once known for their iron smelting practices, faced the obsolescence





of their craft with the establishment of the Tata Steel plant in 1907. Furthermore, the enactment of the Forest Conservation Act in 1980 further restricted their access to traditional resources, disrupting their way of life and economic sustenance.

One notable indigenous practice contributing to sustainability is HALMA, observed among the Bhil community in Madhya Pradesh. This practice has played a crucial role in water conservation, leading to significant ecological benefits. Through HALMA, the community has aligned with global sustainability goals, particularly SDG-6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG-15 (Life on Land). The practice has resulted in the completion of 3,200 water rejuvenation projects and the creation of 35 reservoirs, effectively combating soil erosion and enhancing biodiversity. True development should not merely focus on economic growth but should also encompass ecological, cultural, linguistic, and psychological well-being, ensuring that indigenous communities retain their identity and thrive sustainably.

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Sr Prof (Dr) Usha Tandon expressed gratitude to Prof. Jonathan and shared her observations. She informed the audience that due to visa issues; Prof. Jonathan was unable to travel to India for an in-person presentation and instead delivered his lecture online. Acknowledging the role of technology in addressing sustainability challenges, she reflected on the ongoing deliberations. She raised an important question: Can technology and sustainability truly go hand in hand? She emphasized that while technology plays a crucial role today, in the future, we may have to address its negative impacts on sustainability. A time will come when discussions will shift toward achieving truly sustainable technology.

#### **Question and Answer Session:**

**1. Question – (Mr. Suryansh Mishra, Second Semester, B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) student of RP National Law University to Dr. Parikshet Sirohi) -** "Sir, you mentioned that we are doing nothing for food security and other related issues in terms of ensuring sustainability. However, India has the Food Security Act (2013) and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, both of which address these concerns. Don't you think your statement takes an extreme position?"

**Answer (by Dr. Parikshet Sirohi) -** "See, I used that statement in a political sense. My claim is that our efforts toward food security and sustainability are insufficient—almost equivalent to doing nothing to truly address the problem. Except for the Food Security Schemes (FSS) implemented by the executive, the Indian judiciary has done little in this regard. You won't find any landmark cases or significant judicial interventions ensuring sustainability in terms of food and nutrition."

**2. Question: (Ms. Samridhi Jain, Second Semester, B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) student of RP National Law University to Dr. Parikshet) -** "Sir, you have spoken about hunger and food security. As we know, ensuring food for all requires increasing food production. However, to achieve this, we are forced to use more fertilizers and pesticides, which in turn harm the environment. How do we strike a balance between food security and environmental sustainability?"

**Answer (by Dr. Parikshet Sirohi) -** "Thank you for your insightful question. Scientists are actively working on this challenge, and we are gradually shifting back toward organic farming. However, the challenge remains significant, as urbanization is reducing available land, while the global population continues to grow, expected to exceed 10 billion in the future. To maintain a balance between green innovation



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and food security, we need sustainable agricultural practices. Neem-coated urea and nitrogen-enriched organic fertilizers are excellent examples of green innovations that help increase food production while minimizing environmental harm."

**Question by Babali Chaudhari, Second Semester, B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) student of RP National Law University to Dr. Prakash Tripathi:** "Sir, as you have taught us to read every word carefully, you used the phrase 'migration due to climate change. 'However, don't you think that, in some cases, government failure to provide basic infrastructure also forces people to migrate?"

**Answer: (by Dr. Prakash Tripathi)-** "That's a great question. There are two distinct terms: climate migration and climate refugees. What you are talking about 'Climate Refugee.' Migration caused by climate change is one aspect, but it is important to differentiate between migration due to environmental factors and migration due to governance failures in providing basic infrastructure."

#### **Observations and Concluding Remarks by Hon'ble Chairperson Hon'ble Mr. Justice Salil Kumar Rai**

The Chairperson of the session HMJ Salil Kumar Rai concluded his address by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the Conference. He stated that he had learned a lot from the presentations of various research papers. He then highlighted a few small but significant points. Referring to Dr. Parikshit's discussion on sustainable farming, he pointed out that while sustainability is crucial, it remains an expensive practice. Coming from an agricultural family, he himself acknowledged the realities faced by farmers. He emphasized that India is losing agricultural land, and it is unrealistic to expect a farmer to adopt sustainable farming when education and the cost of living for their children in metropolitan cities are rising. Today, a farmer earns mainly for three necessities: their children's education, marriage expenses, and healthcare. Justice Rai further stressed that farmers cannot be expected to practice sustainable farming when State support is being reduced, and their day-to-day needs continue to increase. Drawing a parallel, he remarked, "You cannot ask an industrial laborer to contribute to Sustainable Development by accepting lower wages for their hard work." He underlined that Sustainable Development, which is often viewed as a legal and political concept, cannot become a broader social norm unless the voices of those most affected are included. He cited the agricultural and environmental issues in Punjab, which only gained serious attention when they began directly affecting Delhi. Finally, he acknowledged the limitations of the judiciary in India, stating that while the courts play a crucial role within the legal framework, they lack executive and popular power to drive large-scale change.

**Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, HVC, RP National Law University** informed the audience that due to visa issues, Prof. Jonathan was unable to travel to India for an in-person presentation and instead delivered his lecture online. She also mentioned her discussions with Prof. Jonathan during her visit to Pretoria University, South Africa. Acknowledging the role of technology in addressing sustainability challenges, she reflected on the ongoing deliberations. She raised an important question: Can technology and sustainability truly go hand in hand? She emphasized that while technology plays a crucial role today, in the future, we may have to address its negative impacts on sustainability. A time will come when discussions will shift toward achieving truly sustainable technology.





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## TECHNICAL SESSION VI

**Date:** 09th March, 2025 | **Time:** 11:15 AM - 01:00 PM

**Hon'ble Chairperson:** **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Justice Shekhar B Saraf**  
Judge, Allahabad High Court

**Moderator:** **Dr. Swati Mawandiya**, Assistant Professor  
Institute of Law, Nirma University, Gujarat

**Rapporteur:** **Dr. Akanshi Vidyarthi**, Asst. Professor  
RP National Law University, Prayagraj

**Student Rapporteurs:** Ms. Himanshi Verma, Ms. Samriddhi Jain & Mr. Suryansh Mishra

**The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shekhar B. Saraf, Judge of the Allahabad High Court**, chaired the VIth Technical session. The first keynote address was delivered by Professor Philippe Cullet, Professor of International and Environmental Law at SOAS, University of London, England. He focused on the topic 'Tribal Ecological Knowledge and Law: Uncovering Its Modernity'. Professor Cullet emphasized that development encompasses modern science and technology. He noted that while development can be sustainable, it has been a significant issue since the 1980s.

He introduced the term 'poly-crisis', referring to the 'triple planetary crisis' identified by the United Nations. His research indicates that achieving the goals established in 1992 is unlikely. Therefore, there is an urgent need to discover effective approaches that can fulfil the objectives proposed in 1992 within the designated timeframe, while also promoting economic growth. He criticized the Rio+20 meeting, where policymakers shifted their previous positions, suggesting that while sustainable development is important, economic growth should take precedence. Therefore, there is an urgent need to find something that can do what was proposed in 1992 within the specified period efficiently and push the mainstream policy to economic growth. He criticized the Rio+20 meeting in which policymakers conveniently shifted their earlier stance and stated that we should believe in sustainable development while maintaining economic growth which implies that policymakers set aside the environment in times of desperate economic crises.

He mentioned the significance of Indigenous norms and practices in achieving Sustainable Development goals. However, he also claimed that only traditional knowledge is not the key to Sustainable Development. Then he elaborated on the traditionalist approach and its key divisions as conservationist framing: what Indigenous knowledge has contributed up to today, how they are helpful but not a solution and Property rights framing: as which country claims those traditionalist solutions citing an example of the 'Haldi biopiracy' in which both India and USA claimed that they have discovered its healing problems.

He further talked about the rights of nature as a novel environmental policy framing and how an eclectic environmental policy can only effectively respond to environmental poly-crisis if it is embedded in human society. Furthermore, he talked about modernity, and how reliance on it is not the call to abandon other options but to make use of a broader range of colours. Further, he concluded that the





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need of deep connection with nature is the need of the hour. He concluded by raising a question whether knowledge of indigenous people about the environment will prevail over modern & scientific knowledge.

The second keynote address was delivered by **Prof. Erimma G Orie, Professor of Law, National Law University of Nigeria**. She focused on the topic 'Exploring the Intersection of Technology and Indigenous People for Sustainable Development: The Way Forward.' Prof. Orie delved into the linkages between indigenous knowledge and modern technology.

She started her presentation by briefly stating that several African as well as other indigenous communities across the globe have endowed themselves with an urban understanding of their environment and adaptation system. Further, she highlighted various international regulations such as Agenda 21 of UNFCCC and World Bank Report 1994 deal with sustainable ways of living and preserving the ecosystem. She further highlighted that indigenous knowledge combined with modern technology will greatly enhance the effectiveness of indigenous solutions. Technologies play a significant role in documenting knowledge and in empowering people and communities with tools and information that can help them protect their lands, their culture, and know-how.

Thereafter, she highlighted the benefits of integrating indigenous knowledge and technology for sustainable development. Some of the benefits are sustainable resource management, disaster risk management, and enhancing the implementation of the environmental policy framework. However, she asserted that these benefits aren't without any challenges and there may arise some issues to proceed with the same. Issues can be in the form of a lack of legal framework, limitation of Indigenous knowledge, technological gaps, and ownership of Intellectual Property Rights.

She concluded by stating that certain uncertainties may pose a challenge to the integration of Indigenous Knowledge with modern technology and Intellectual Property Rights. The way forward would be to frame strategies that may serve best in favour of such processes.

The first paper presentation was given by **Dr. Sonika, Assistant Professor of Law, RP National Law University, Prayagraj**. She presented an in-depth analysis of 'Interface of Indian Food Security System with Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Nutritional Security' emphasizing the misalignment of public distribution systems with Sustainable Development Goals. She identified unawareness as a primary factor contributing to food security risks and divided her discussion into two segments, the agricultural system and the resilient system, questioning whether the latter is climate-friendly. She began by raising thought-provoking questions regarding food label awareness and nutritional value, ultimately questioning the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in climate sustainability and nutritional food security.

She discussed the Japanese model of functional food, highlighting global approaches to food security, including the Food Safety and Standard Act (2006), FCI's Four Pillars of Food Security, and India's National Food Security Act 2013.

She further elaborated on FCI's four major pillars Availability, Accessibility, Utility, and Stability stressing that while availability is present, affordability remains a major concern. Citing Prof. Amartya Sen's formula,





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she demonstrated that 80% of Indian households' income is spent on non-nutritional food. She also reflected on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasizing the Government's role in ensuring food security through technological advancements for farmers. However, she pointed out a lack of awareness among farmers regarding these new innovations.

According to a report 2.8 billion people globally cannot afford nutritional food. She also referred to the PUC v. Union of India ruling, which established the consumption of safe food as a fundamental right. Further, she discussed AI-integrated strategies such as POSHAN Abhiyaan, the National Food Security Act 2007, and the Organic Farming Promotion Scheme, which align with AI-driven technology for inclusive growth. Countries like India, Brazil, South Africa, Australia, and Canada have already adopted AI-generated strategies for food security.

She also highlighted the alarming statistic that 600 million infections are caused by unsafe food consumption. Further, she mentioned the acknowledgment of the Indian Thali at the global level as a means to reduce food wastage and enhance food security. Concluding her presentation, she gave reference of FAO's prediction that 582 million people will be undernourished by 2030, stressing the urgency of AI-driven interventions in ensuring food security and sustainability.

Second presentation was by **Dr. Sumiti Ahuja, Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi**. Her presentation was on the topic 'Misinformation and Disinformation: Threats to Information Ecosystem in the Modern Era.' Dr. Ahuja delved into the significance of information and threats to the information ecosystem. She started her presentation by briefly dissecting her topic where she highlighted the key difference between misinformation and disinformation, where the former doesn't have any intention to deceive a person and later has an element to deceive. Further, she addressed the importance of information in 5 major folds that pointed out that information is crucial for maintaining democracy, enhancing government accountability, building trust, promoting the rule of law, and empowering citizens. Highlighting such a crucial role of information, she quoted Director General, WHO where he stated during COVID-19 period that 'we are not just fighting an epidemic but also an infodemic.' This was stated about people sharing their own remedy to cure the virus and its consequences or so-called 'huskhe'.

Dr. Ahuja also highlighted the role of social media in spreading information by terming social media as a 'vector of fake news.' Thereafter she also talked about the role of AI in the expansion of threats, where she highlighted that AI has a dual role when it comes to information and its arena. On one side AI acts as an originator of fake news & false information whereas on the other side, AI can act as a regulator to combat such threats by proper detection of false information. Therefore, she pointed out that the technical limits of AI be considered and a hybrid strategy should be derived by combining human engagement with increasing technological threats.

She mentioned various Indian initiatives to curb misinformation and disinformation such as IT Rules, 2021, Disaster Management Act, 2005, DPDP Act, 2023 and Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. She concluded her talk by urging the attendees 'not to become servant of AI.'

The Third paper presentation was by **Dr. Deepak Sharma, Asst. Professor of Law, RP National**



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**Law University, Prayagraj.** He presented on the topic 'Freedom of Speech in the Digital Age: Legal and Judicial Responses to Fake News in Indian Democracy.' He emphasized how the lack of authenticity and media regulation has led to an increase in misinformation, with media power shifting to private entities discussing fake news, misinformation, and its legal and psychological impact. Such unchecked information flow, he noted, can severely impact mental health. While freedom of speech is a fundamental right, he argued that certain restrictions are necessary to prevent the infringement of others' rights. However, there is no specific legislation in India to regulate fake news.

He differentiated between misinformation, disinformation, and fake news incidents, citing the example of two major fake rumours that spread during the Maha Kumbh festival. He posed a critical question, "How do we define what is correct and incorrect information?" Given the ambiguous nature of truth in digital spaces, he referred to global legal frameworks such as the European Union's Digital Services Act (2022) and the United Kingdom's Online Safety Act (2023), which impose penalties for spreading fake news. He also cited reports by organizations like the Pure Research Centre, Reuters Institute Report (2023), and Eurobarometer (2018) to highlight global trends in misinformation control.

Regarding India's statistical data on fake news, he mentioned sources like NCRB Data and ISB Hyderabad Research Study. He outlined key motivations behind fake news, including social influence, political agendas, financial gains, and lack of discernment. He then discussed the legal challenges in regulating fake news, which include ambiguity in laws, violations of freedom of speech and expression, privacy breaches, and lack of evidence. He further highlighted key challenges in tackling fake news: risk of over-censorship, definitional ambiguities, lack of oversight on AI moderation, and privatization of decision-making.

He referred to Kunal Kamra's judgment, which dealt with the violation of Article-14 and Article-19(1) of the Indian Constitution in the context of free speech. He stressed the importance of applying a judicial mindset to address this growing issue effectively. He concluded with a multifaceted approach to tackling fake news, advocating for media literacy, fact-checking, debunking misinformation, platform accountability, and a strong regulatory framework.

#### **Question and Answer Session:**

**1. Question: (by Dr. Neeraj Kumar Gupta, Asst. Professor, Institute of Law, Nirma University to Dr. Sumiti Ahuja and Dr. Deepak Sharma collectively)** He raised a concern asking that if the government tries to control social media intermediaries excessively, won't they leave their business from the country?

**Answer (by Dr. Deepak Sharma and Dr. Sumiti Ahuja)** answered citing the safe harbour rules and Dr Ahuja differentiated regulation from control saying that regulations are not for the purpose of prohibiting or curbing the business but to facilitate smooth functioning of it. The chairman Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shekhar B Saraf, Judge, Allahabad High Court further answered the question by the resonating reasonable restrictions of freedom of speech from Article 19 of the Constitution of India and a rhetorical question why should we allow them to spread the news in our country which might be fake in the first place and can disrupt our country's harmony?





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**2. Question (Dr. Parikshet Sirohi, Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi)** stating that there is no Article 19 in other countries, for instance, the USA. but fake news is regulated there also, so what should be the common grounds for regulations since social media fake news has no jurisdictional boundaries, to which no specific answer was given? Instead, it was suggesting that new laws over the issue are required.

**Answer: (Dr. Sumiti Ahuja)** said that the problem of fake news, misinformation and disinformation is not the problem of any specific country but a global concern. She also remarked that there is no sure short formula to curb the menace of fake news. Although India has formulated some laws to check fake news under Section 353 of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 which talks about punishing someone disseminating false information and intentions of the disseminator.

**3. Question (by Dr. Neha Dubey)** about the right to true information being curbed under the pretext of fake news, and the role of countries or governments in controlling information under the pretext of fake news to shape people's opinion to suit their motives.

**Answer: (Dr. Sumiti Ahuja)** She made reference to landmark ruling of Kunal Kamra v. Union of India (Maharashtra High Court, 2024) ruling wherein the Court state the proceedings of Fact-Checking Unit (FCU) established under the Press Information Bureau, citing the reason that it was initially set up to check whether the news published is true or not, but gradually, it started getting influenced by politics. Further she suggested that the intention of the authorities should be curtailment of fake information rather than targeting the substantial true information for political motives.

**4. Question (Dr. Ashwani Kesarwani to Dr. Sonika)** regarding the judgment of Allahabad High Court on Halal certification ban and need of Supreme Court's intervention in imposing pan-India ban on Halal products.

**Answer: (by Dr. Sonika)** the regulations should be made depending on the dietary requirements of people residing in a particular region and a pan-India regulation would not work for a country as diverse as India. Further, we believe in unity in diversity. Moreover, she suggested that if the issue concerns to animal cruelty and illegal slaughtering, then, adequate measures can be taken to curb it. She emphasised the need of striking a balance between prohibition on illegal halal or animal cruelty and respecting the dietary choices of people in line with constitutional principles. She emphasized that imposing a blanket rule in terms of dietary habits can be detrimental to fundamental freedoms, the idea of 'unity in cultural diversity' across the nation.

**5. Question: (Mr. Durgesh Yadav, Second Semester, B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) student of Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj to Dr. Sumiti Ahuja)** about the role of technology in distinguishing between misinformation and disinformation?

**Answer: (Dr. Sumiti Ahuja)** She highlighted the role of intention in distinguishing between with misinformation and disinformation via technology. Further, she showed her concern about the inability of technology in comprehending the intention of an individual disseminating false information. She



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concluded that technology only spreads information.

Adding a significant observation towards the end of the session, the HVC Senior Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon suggested that technology should be used but within its limits. Simultaneously, she concluded that technology and Sustainable Development had their own limits but a new term may be coined to address the pressing issue.

### **Observations and Concluding Remarks by Hon'ble Chairperson Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sekhar B Saraf Judge, Allahabad High Court**

Hon'ble Chairman, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shekhar B Saraf emphasized that while technology drives growth and development, it also presents certain challenges, particularly in how it can negatively impact indigenous practices. He stressed the importance of balancing both aspects. He cited examples from the field of medical history, highlighting the relationship between knowledge, technology, and heritage. Furthermore, he underscored the necessity of utilizing artificial intelligence to enhance food safety and nutritional benefits, framing this as a fundamental right under Article-21 of the Indian Constitution. He acknowledged the rapid advancement of technology, noting that it can be difficult to keep up with its pace. He lastly ended his remarks with a quote saying "Technology is a tool, not a solution" Instead human rights are the solution, and "technology should serve humanity, not the other way".







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## TECHNICAL SESSION VII

**Date:** 08th March, 2025 | **Time:** 02:00 PM - 03:30 PM

**Hon'ble Chairperson:** **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Saumitra Dayal Singh**  
Judge, Allahabad High Court

**Moderator & Rapporteur:** **Dr. Suchit Kumar Yadav**, Assistant Professor  
Faculty of Law, University of Delhi

**Student Rapporteurs:** Mr. Adarsh Prajapati, Tashu Singh

The session commenced with the felicitation of **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Saumitra Dayal Singh** by HVC Senior Professor (Dr.) Usha Tandon, RPNLU, Prayagraj. This was followed by the opening remarks delivered by Justice Singh, who chaired the technical session. Expressing his gratitude for being invited, he conveyed his enthusiasm for engaging in discussions, answering any questions that may arise, and gaining new insights from the session.

Justice Singh also shared his anticipation for the address by Dr. Robert Russo, who would be shedding light on how artificial intelligence and technology are transforming judicial decision-making. He emphasized the evolving role of AI in shaping legal thought processes, particularly in describing useful and productive legal reasoning. Acknowledging that the legal profession has traditionally been resistant to technological advancements, he also underscored the need for responsible use of technology in decision-making. He cautioned against compromising ethical standards, noting the potential risks of bias in AI-driven legal frameworks.

Additionally, Hon'ble Justice Saumitra Dayal Singh expressed his keen interest in hearing the insights of Ms. Saloni Mishra, who would be speaking on the role of AI and technology as catalysts for promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions. He further highlighted an upcoming presentation on 'Justified Physiological Signal Analysis and Monitoring Using Artificial Intelligence,' which he regarded as a crucial discussion in the context of technological advancements. He stressed the importance of understanding these developments thoroughly before embracing and employing them in various fields. The session promised to offer a thought-provoking exploration of the intersection between law, technology, and ethical considerations in modern legal practice.

**Dr. Robert Russo, Lecturer, Peter Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada** is a distinguished researcher specializing in the fields of immigration, labor, and climate law, delivered an insightful keynote address. Dr. Russo has made significant contributions through his scholarly publications and ongoing work. With a strong interest in human rights, labor law, and social justice, he has had the privilege of presenting his research on labor and migration issues before prestigious institutions, including the Royal Society of Canada and the International Labour Organization. In his address, Dr. Russo explored the 'Legal Ethics and Practical Implications of Using AI Assisted Decision-Making in Environmental Law.' He delved into the practical, ethical, and legal challenges of integrating AI into environmental legal decision-making, particularly in relation to policies on climate change.



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While AI offers efficiency and accuracy, Dr. Russo highlighted the serious ethical concerns associated with its use. One of the most pressing issues is the potential for bias in AI decision-making, as the data used to train AI systems can be sensitive and skewed along racial, geographical, and gender-based lines. This raises concerns about its impact on environmental issues such as industrial pollution and climate change, as AI-driven legal tools might disproportionately disadvantage marginalized communities.

He further examined the sources of bias in AI, explaining that these biases stem from both flawed training data and algorithmic design. To mitigate these risks, Dr. Russo proposed a diverse and inclusive approach to model design, ensuring that AI systems undergo rigorous human oversight. He strongly emphasized that human beings must retain final authority over AI-assisted decisions, particularly in the legal field. Another key issue he addressed was the necessity of accountability and transparency in AI decision-making. Dr. Russo discussed the concept of 'black spots' within AI systems, instances where AI processes lack transparency, which can undermine public trust in democratic institutions. Public understanding of AI-driven decisions is crucial, and Dr. Russo stressed that AI techniques and reasoning must be clearly explained. Furthermore, if an AI system makes an incorrect decision, there must be legal recourse available through judicial review to uphold fairness and justice.

In discussing the critical role of data in environmental law, Dr. Russo pointed out that the fairness and effectiveness of AI depend on the quality of the data used. Reports on environmental law cases, climate change, and policy decisions must be updated, complete, and free from bias. Incomplete or skewed data can have severe consequences, particularly for marginalized communities. He advocated for the promotion of diverse data sources and greater transparency in AI-driven legal applications, while also acknowledging the vast amount of personal data processing involved.

Dr. Russo raised concerns about data security threats and cybersecurity risks associated with AI. He highlighted the phenomenon of 'data creep', where excessive data is gathered without clear necessity, which poses a significant challenge. He stressed that AI applications in legal decision-making must adhere to international laws to protect individuals' privacy and prevent misuse.

Discussing the impact of AI on 'equity and access to justice', Dr. Russo recognized AI's potential to make legal services more affordable and accessible through AI-driven tools such as chatbots that provide legal guidance. However, he also cautioned that AI-based legal assistance is often available only to well-resourced individuals or organizations, potentially leading to unfair rulings for those lacking access to such technologies. Ensuring that AI benefits all sections of society remains a crucial challenge.

Dr. Russo also explored the role of AI in environmental law, particularly through AI-assisted decision-making. AI has the potential to enhance environmental justice by employing satellite monitoring tools to check air quality, respond to environmental issues, and analyze large datasets efficiently. He referenced case studies from Canada, highlighting instances where AI contributed to landmark decisions in environmental law. One such case involved a 1997 Supreme Court ruling on a public utility company responsible for toxin emissions. In another case, AI was utilized in wildlife protection efforts, particularly in the conservation of migratory birds.





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In conclusion, Dr. Russo emphasized that while AI is set to play a transformative role in legal decision-making, human oversight remains essential. AI cannot replace human judgment, and excessive reliance on AI poses significant risks, including the potential for unjust outcomes. However, when used responsibly, AI can be a powerful tool in strengthening environmental law and making legal systems more efficient and effective.

**Mr. Nitin Nanda, an international lawyer based in Estonia**, graciously delivered an insightful and thought-provoking talk on the evolving relationship between law, technology, and Sustainable Development, along with related emerging issues. Mr. Nanda's expertise in the field and his deep understanding of the intersection of technology and law allowed him to explore these critical issues with clarity and humility.

In his address, Mr. Nanda emphasized that technology is a tool that can be either harnessed for progress or misused, drawing a poignant analogy to dynamite, which, while useful in building tunnels, has also tragically led to the loss of millions of lives.

Further he discussed the growing concerns surrounding Artificial Intelligence (AI) and decision-making, particularly the concept of 'Conscious AI.' Mr. Nanda highlighted that AI has already been integrated into areas such as satellite imaging and mapping, where, in certain instances, AI began autonomously removing 'black spots.' A particularly striking example he shared was the case of a Google scientist working on Language Learning Models (LLMs), who observed elements of consciousness in AI models. This led to his forced leave and eventual dismissal, raising further ethical questions.

Mr. Nanda underscored the vital role of data in AI-driven decision-making, referring to data as the 'modern-day oil.' He explained that AI and technology are deeply reliant on data, thus necessitating robust legal frameworks to regulate their use. In this context, he pointed to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as a pioneering legal standard for data protection, outlining comprehensive rules for safeguarding private data. However, Mr. Nanda expressed concerns about the increasing sale of private data between corporations, where users unknowingly consent to data sharing by ticking multiple boxes, allowing their personal information to enter the market. He raised alarm over the unauthorized collection of sensitive data, citing examples such as Aadhaar data, which includes biometric information.

Mr. Nanda also addressed encryption and decryption as key mechanisms for protecting data, emphasizing AI's crucial role in securing information from hackers. He cited notable examples such as the Lenovo spying case, where a Chinese company was found to have embedded microchips in laptops, transmitting user data to Chinese servers. This led to significant espionage concerns and the imposition of billion-dollar penalties by the United States on China. Similarly, he discussed the 'Ashley Madison scandal,' in which a dating website suffered a massive data breach. Despite users deleting their accounts, their data remained stored and was later used in legal proceedings, including divorce cases. This breach resulted in a class-action lawsuit, culminating in a \$570 million fine in 2017, though the website continues to operate.

The discussion then shifted to the role of technology in asset management and financial



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transactions. Mr. Nanda introduced the concept of blockchain technology and engaged the students present in the audience by asking if anyone knew what blockchain truly is. He then proceeded to break it down with insights provided by three students from the B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) program at Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj. Mr. Ashutosh Singh described blockchain as a multilayered system with unique coding at each level, while Miss Tejaswi Sharma highlighted its role in recording transactions. Mr. Nihar Duggal further elaborated on blockchain, explaining that it consists of interconnected blocks of information, ensuring security and transparency.

Mr. Nanda also discussed cryptocurrency as a significant application of blockchain, which facilitates secure data storage and transactions through a cryptographic hash system, ensuring that only the sender and recipient can view transaction details unless an IP address is exposed.

In India, financial regulations impose strict controls on moving value in and out of the country, with a maximum limit of \$5000. Physical assets such as gold require declaration at customs. However, cryptocurrency transactions worth billions occur without such restrictions, raising important legal questions about how cryptocurrencies should be regulated. Mr. Nanda encouraged attendees to explore the MICA regulatory framework for digital assets, which seeks to address these concerns.

Mr. Nanda also delved into advancements in AI-driven professional networking, introducing Boardy.ai, an AI-based platform that scans LinkedIn profiles to identify individuals' strengths and connect them with relevant professionals. The system even allows users to call an AI representative who can initiate networking opportunities on their behalf.

He then addressed the challenges posed by AI-driven automation, particularly in transportation. Self-driving vehicles, led by companies like Tesla, are becoming increasingly prevalent. Estonia has already implemented self-driving buses, yet a fundamental question remains unanswered: who is responsible in the event of an accident? As AI continues to replace traditional jobs, its impact will extend across multiple industries. In the legal profession, AI is already assisting with legal research and drafting, while in the medical field, AI doctors are providing medical advice that, in some cases, surpasses human expertise.

Through his engaging talk, Mr. Nanda emphasized the dual nature of AI and technology, offering groundbreaking benefits while simultaneously presenting significant ethical and legal challenges. He concluded by underscoring that as technology continues to evolve, legal systems must adapt to ensure responsible use and safeguard individuals' rights.

**Ms. Saloni Mishra from Manav Rachna University** delivered an insightful presentation on the role of artificial intelligence and technology in promoting peace, justice, and robust institutions. She explored the necessity of integrating AI into the criminal justice system, the efforts made by law enforcement to maintain peace through technological advancements, the judiciary's adoption of AI, and the systemic safeguards required to ensure justice and stability.

Ms. Mishra emphasized the growing need for technology in crime prevention, particularly in response to the rise of cybercrimes. Criminals today employ increasingly sophisticated tactics to commit





offenses and conceal their identities, making it imperative to utilize AI for identifying patterns and analysing crime scenes. AI can detect criminal behaviours and assist in proactive measures through electronic systems, community-focused technologies, and predictive analysis tools. AI-powered surveillance, such as CCTV monitoring, has proven to be highly effective. She cited 'Mission Trinetra', where AI-assisted investigations helped solve approximately 360 cases in just five months, significantly enhancing the delivery of justice. Another notable case she referenced was the 'Carlesha Freeland-Gaither kidnapping', where AI-based surveillance played a crucial role in identifying and apprehending the perpetrators. Other technological advancements, such as the 'Pratibimb Portal' and 'Crime GPT' used by the Uttar Pradesh police, have also contributed to crime detection and prevention. The judiciary has also embraced AI in its efforts to combat modern crime and streamline legal proceedings. AI-based tools such as video conferencing for hearings, SUPACE, and SUVAS have revolutionized the judicial system. These AI-powered platforms automate the reading of legal cases, assist with computer-assisted note-taking, and facilitate judicial interactions. AI-driven solutions are helping to process legal information more efficiently, reducing delays and improving accessibility to justice.

Ms. Mishra concluded her presentation with several key recommendations. She advocated for the development of AI-driven crime prediction and prevention tools to enhance law enforcement capabilities. Additionally, she stressed the importance of establishing a standardized global legal framework for AI integration to ensure consistency and accountability. She also highlighted the need for enhanced AI training and capacity-building programs for law enforcement agencies and the judiciary, ensuring that AI is used responsibly and effectively. Furthermore, she emphasized the potential of AI-driven tools in improving access to justice for marginalized communities, making legal resources more widely available and reducing systemic disparities. Lastly, she underscored the necessity of strict regulations and ongoing training to mitigate ethical concerns and biases associated with AI in the justice system.

Through her presentation, Ms. Mishra effectively demonstrated how AI and technology are not just tools for efficiency but essential catalysts for fostering peace, justice, and stronger institutions in an evolving legal and societal landscape.

**Mr. Himanshu Saini, Research Scholar, Gautam Buddha University** presented his research on the transformative role of artificial intelligence in physiological signal analysis and monitoring. He highlighted the critical importance of physiological signal tracking in healthcare, emphasizing its role in early diagnosis, treatment, and continuous health monitoring. Traditional methods, however, often struggle to manage the complexity, variability, and noise inherent in physiological data, making AI an essential tool for improving accuracy and efficiency in this domain.

His research focused on the integration of AI to enable real-time anomaly detection, predictive modeling, and robust feature extraction, ensuring reliability across both clinical and non-clinical applications. One of the key challenges he addressed was the concern surrounding data privacy, bias, and the interpretability of AI-driven results. To overcome these issues, he advocated for the adoption of transparent and hybrid AI frameworks that enhance accountability and reliability.

By leveraging advanced machine learning and deep learning techniques, AI provides a scalable,





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accurate, and personalized approach to extracting meaningful insights from physiological signals such as electrocardiograms (ECG), electroencephalograms (EEG), electromyograms (EMG), and photoplethysmograms (PPG). AI-powered monitoring systems have the potential to detect diseases such as heart conditions, epilepsy, and asthma at an early stage, significantly reducing the likelihood of severe health complications. Furthermore, the application of AI in healthcare can optimize resource allocation, improve healthcare infrastructure, and enhance accessibility to quality medical services, particularly in underserved regions.

Saini also emphasized the alignment of AI-driven physiological signal analysis with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). AI has the potential to foster cross-border collaborations, enabling knowledge-sharing and innovation on a global scale.

In conclusion, he asserted that AI-driven physiological signal analysis has the power to revolutionize healthcare systems by making them more efficient, affordable, and inclusive. By harnessing the capabilities of AI, healthcare providers can ensure better patient outcomes, improved disease management, and more equitable access to advanced medical care.

#### **Question and Answer Session:**

During the Question-and-Answer Session, several thought-provoking inquiries were posed by the attendees, reflecting on the legal, ethical, and societal implications of Artificial Intelligence, technological innovation, and emerging regulatory concerns. The distinguished panel addressed each question with depth, nuance, and professional clarity.

#### **1. Question (Mr. Durgesh Yadav, Student, RP National Law University, Prayagraj Addressed to: Mr. Nitin Nanda, International Lawyer, Estonia): On the Consciousness of AI and Legal Responsibility in Autonomous Vehicle Accidents**

Regarding Tesla's liability in car collisions, Nanda explained that responsibility is subjective and depends on case-specific facts. If all parameters were correctly followed, the liability should fall on the manufacturer. However, if human intervention was involved, negligence would need to be assessed based on the circumstances. Hon'ble Justice further elaborated on the legal complexities, referring to the concepts of vicarious liability and contributory negligence, emphasizing that these cases require careful analysis and quick decision-making.

#### **2. Question (by Dr Sonika to Hon'ble Chairperson): Dr. Sonika raised concerns about the absence of AI governance laws. She pointed out that UIDAI remains silent on providing relief for affected parties and highlighted the emerging threats of deepfakes and new technologies. She asked whether, instead of drafting new legislation, policymakers should focus on revising existing laws, especially given that the Digital India initiative is still pending.**

Answer: (by Hon'ble Chairperson) Hon'ble Justice did not provide a public response and opted to address





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the question privately.

**3. Question: (Ms. Ayushi Yadav Second Semester, B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) student of RP National Law University) to Mr. Nitin Nanda):** Ms. Ayushi Yadav inquired about cryptocurrency regulations in India, particularly regarding social media influencers and vloggers who promote cryptocurrency-based games and investments without fully informing people of the associated risks. Given that India's crypto laws are still evolving, she asked what legal measures could be taken to prevent misleading promotions while ensuring freedom of speech and innovation.

Answer: ( by Mr. Nitin Nanda) stated that India has yet to finalize a clear policy on cryptocurrency regulation. He explained that to establish proof of misleading promotions and fraudulent investments, access to the original devices used for transactions is necessary. Without such evidence, legal action remains incomplete. He emphasized that the existing law of evidence needs to be revisited, and if current regulations prove inadequate, lawmakers must introduce new legislation to address these issues effectively.

**4. Question (Mr. Rahul Pandey Second Semester, B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) student of RP National Law University) to Hon'ble Chairperson:** Mr. Rahul Pandey posed a question regarding copyright ownership in AI-generated content. He asked if he were to use AI to generate a poem about the Ganga, who would hold the copyright—the software engineer who developed the AI or the company that owns the technology?

Answer: (by Hon'ble Chairperson) He responded that the determination of copyright ownership would depend on the facts of the case and the strength of the supporting evidence. The legal framework surrounding AI-generated content is still evolving, and case-specific factors would play a crucial role in deciding ownership rights.

### **Concluding Remarks by the Chairperson Sir**

The Chairperson Hon'ble Mr. Justice Saumitra Dayal Singh thanked VC ma'am for the opportunity to become a part of this thought-provoking discussion. He made reference to Dr. Russo's contemporary discussions where he re-emphasized the necessity of addressing the biases inherent in the tool itself before we can trust it.

Resonating with Mr. Nitin Nanda, he remarked that as we are law students, learning will go on, and for that, nothing comes better than experience and interaction. He talked about the way to approach a problem, to look at both sides, the consequences; we must have the ability to think in a rationalized way; to have the ability as a lawyer, to look at a problem and the way to find the solution, if there is one.

He praised the young scholars who asked various questions, highlighting that question answering is how learning happens both ways. He emphasized the importance of reading: "the more you will read, the more you will think, the more you will think the more you will grow, you will grow more than the AI grows".





## CULTURAL EVENT

The second day of the International Conference concluded on a vibrant and memorable note with a Cultural Night organized by the students of Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj. The event showcased a beautiful confluence of creativity and cultural expression, as students mesmerized the audience with their poetry recitations, graceful dance performances, and melodious songs.

Adding to the charm of the evening, several delegates also took to the stage, enthusiastically participating by presenting soulful songs and thought-provoking poems. The event not only reflected the university's commitment to holistic development but also fostered a spirit of camaraderie and cultural exchange among participants from diverse backgrounds.





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## LIST OF DELEGATES

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India, &  
Hon'ble Visitor, RP National Law University,  
Prayagraj

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Bhansali**  
Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court, &  
Chancellor, RP National Law University,  
Prayagraj

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kumar Regmi**  
Judge, Supreme Court of Nepal

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Thuraiaraja**  
Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta**  
Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rinzin Penjor**  
Former Judge, Supreme Court of Bhutan, &  
Present Vice-President, Bar Council of  
Bhutan

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra,**  
Judge, Allahabad High Court

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Saumitra Dayal Singh,**  
Judge, Allahabad High Court

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shekhar B Saraf,**  
Judge, Allahabad High Court

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Salil Kumar Rai,**  
Judge, Allahabad High Court

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Bhanot,**  
Judge, Allahabad High Court

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinod Diwakar,**  
Judge, Allahabad High Court

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Kumar Singh  
Deshwal**  
Judge, Allahabad High Court

**Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**  
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor,  
RP National Law University, Prayagraj

**Prof. (Dr.) S. Surya Prakash**  
Hon'ble Vice- Chancellor, NLIU, Bhopal

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Michael D Wilson**  
Former Judge, Hawaii Supreme Court, USA

**Prof. Klaus Bosselmann**  
Professor of Law, University of Auckland,  
New Zealand

**Prof. Amber Pant**  
Professor of Law, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

**Prof. Moon-Hyun Koh**  
Professor of Law, Soongsil University,  
Seoul, Korea

**Prof. Leela Krishanan**  
Professor Emeritus,  
Cochin University of Legal Studies,  
Kerala

**Prof. Rama Shanker Verma**  
Director, MNNIT, Prayagraj

**Mr. Nitin Nanda,**  
International Lawyer, Estonia



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**Prof. Philippe Cullet**

Professor of International and Environmental Law,  
SOAS, University of London, England

**Prof. Erimma G Orie**

Prof. of Law,  
National Law University of Nigeria

**Dr. Ivano Alogna**

Senior Research Fellow in Environmental  
and Climate Change Law, BIICL, France

**Prof. Jonathan O. Chimakonam**

Professor of Philosophy, University of Pretoria,  
South Africa

**Dr. Robert Russo**

Lecturer, Peter Allard School of Law,  
University of British Columbia,  
Vancouver, Canada

**Dr. Moatoshi Ao**

Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law,  
University of Delhi

**Dr. Moatoshi Ao**

Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law,  
University of Delhi

**Dr. Pallavi Gupta**

Asst. Professor, Department of Law,  
Marwadi University, Rajkot

**Dr. Astha Misra**

Asst. Professor, Arya Kanya Degree College, Prayagraj

**Ms. Katyayani Mishra**

CEO & Director, CPLRI Pvt. Ltd.

**Prof. Saiwal Satyarthi**

Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi

**Dr. Suchit Kumar Yadav**

Asst. Professor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj

**Dr. Neha Dubey**

Asst. Professor, RP National Law University,  
Prayagraj

**Dr. Narender Kumar Bishnoi**

Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law,  
University of Delhi

**Dr. Swati Mawandiya**

Asst. Professor, Institute of Law,  
Nirma University, Gujarat

**Dr. Parikshet Sirohi**

Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law,  
University of Delhi

**Dr. Kshitij Kumar Singh**

Associate Professor, Faculty of Law,  
University of Delhi

**Dr. Prakash Tripathi**

Asst. Professor, RP National Law University,  
Prayagraj

**Dr. Sonika**

Asst. Professor, RP National Law University,  
Prayagraj

**Dr. Sumiti Ahuja**

Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law,  
University of Delhi

**Dr. Deepak Sharma**

Asst. Professor,  
RP National Law University,  
Prayagraj

**Ms. Saloni Mishra**

Research Scholar,  
Manav Rachna University

**Mr. Himanshu Saini**

Research Scholar,  
Gautam Buddha University







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Judge, Supreme Court of India, &  
Hon'ble Visitor,  
RP National Law University, Prayagraj

### **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Bhansali**

Chief Justice, Allahabad High court, &  
Hon'ble Chancellor,  
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Senior Judge, Allahabad High court

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Ms. Stuti Mishra	Mr. Viplav Sinha
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Ms. Siddhi Sharma  
Mr. Raj Singh  
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**Dr. Prakash Tripathi**, HoD, Department of Social Sciences, RP National Law University, Prayagraj

#### Student Members:

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Ms. Somya Sharma  
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Mr. Ashutosh Singh  
Mr. Devesh Kushwaha  
Ms. Tashu Singh  
Mr. Adarsh Prajapati  
Mr. Aditya Raj  
Ms. Somya Sharma

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## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**DAY-I | 07th MARCH 2025 | 05:00 PM ONWARDS | INAUGURAL SESSION**

03:30 PM-04:45 PM:	Registration
04:45 PM-05:00 PM:	Arrival of the Distinguished Dignitaries
05:00 PM-05:05 PM:	Lighting of the Lamp
05:05 PM-05:07 PM:	National Anthem
05:07 PM-05:17 PM:	Felicitation of the Distinguished Dignitaries
05:17 PM-05:27 PM:	Welcome Address and Introductory Remarks <b>Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon</b> Hon'ble, Vice Chancellor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj
05:27 PM-05:35 PM:	Address by Distinguished Guest <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rinzin Penjor</b> Former Judge, Supreme Court of Bhutan, & Present Vice-President, Bar Council of Bhutan
05:35 PM-05:50 PM:	Address by Distinguished Guest <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta</b> Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court
05:50 PM-06:05 PM:	Address by Distinguished Guest <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Thuraiaraja</b> Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka
06:05 PM-06:20 PM:	Address by Distinguished Guest <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kumar Regmi</b> Judge, Supreme Court of Nepal
06:20 PM-06:40 PM:	Presidential Address <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Bhansali</b> Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court, & Chancellor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj
06:40 PM-06:45 PM:	Release of Conference Souvenir
06:50 PM-06:55 PM:	Felicitation of Trophy Winning Students of RPNLUP
06:55 PM-07:15 PM:	Address by the Chief Guest <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra</b> Judge, Supreme Court of India, & The Visitor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj
07:15 PM-07:20 PM:	Vote of Thanks <b>Sh. Satya Prakash</b> Registrar, RP National Law University, Prayagraj
07:20 PM onwards:	Dinner





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**DAY-II | 08th MARCH 2025 | 09:00AM-10:55 AM | TECHNICAL SESSION-I**

<b>Hon'ble Chairperson:</b>	<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra</b> Judge, Allahabad High Court
<b>Moderator:</b>	<b>Prof. Shaiwal Satyarthi</b> , Faculty of Law, University of Delhi
<b>Rapporteur:</b>	<b>Dr. Sonika, Asst. Professor</b> , RP National Law University, Prayagraj
09:00 AM-09:05 AM:	Felicitation of the Hon'ble Chairperson <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra</b> , Judge, Allahabad High Court
09:05 AM-09:10 AM:	Opening Remarks by the Hon'ble Chairperson
09:10 AM-09:30 AM:	The Earth System Approach to International Environmental Law <b>Keynote Address: Prof. Klaus Bosselmann</b> Professor of Law, University of Auckland, New Zealand
09:30 AM-09:50 AM:	Sustainable Development in the Contemporary World <b>Keynote Address: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rinzin Penjor</b> Former Judge, Supreme Court of Bhutan, & Present Vice-President, Bar Council of Bhutan
09:50 AM-10:10 AM:	Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nepal <b>Keynote Address: Prof. Amber Pant</b> Professor of Law, Tribhuvan University, Nepal
10:10 AM-10:20 AM:	Examining How India's Environmental Laws Drive Technological Change <b>Paper Presentation: Dr. Moatoshi Ao</b> Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi
10:20 AM-10:30 AM:	India's Energy Trilemma Concerns and National Policy on Biofuels: A Critical Analysis <b>Paper Presentation: Dr. Neeraj Kumar Gupta</b> Asst. Professor, Institute of Law, Nirma University
10:30 AM-10:40 AM:	Questions and Answers
10:40 AM-10:55 AM:	Address by the Hon'ble Chairperson and Concluding Remarks
10:55 AM-11:15 AM:	Health Break





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**DAY-II | 08th MARCH 2025 | 12:55 PM-01:40 PM | TECHNICAL SESSION-II**

**Hon'ble Chairperson:** **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinod Diwakar**, Judge, Allahabad High Court  
**Moderator:** **Dr. Kshitij Singh**, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi  
**Rapporteur:** **Dr. Neha Dubey**, Asst. Professor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj

11:15 AM-11:20 AM: Felicitation of the Hon'ble Chairperson  
**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinod Diwakar**,  
Judge, Allahabad High Court

11:20 AM-11:25 AM: Opening Remarks by the Hon'ble Chairperson  
11:25 AM-11:45 AM: Judicial Guardianship of ClimateJustice: The Pivotal Role of Courts in  
Ensuring Environmental Rights with a Focus on Hawaii  
**Keynote Address: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Michael D Wilson**  
Former Judge, Hawaii Supreme Court, USA

11:45 AM-11:55 AM: Digital Democracy and Human Rights: The Role of Emerging  
Technologies in Governance, Equality and Access to Information  
**Paper Presentation: Dr. Pallavi Gupta**  
Asst. Professor, Department of Law, Marwadi University

11:55 AM-12:05 PM: Harnessing Law and Technology for a Sustainable Future: Legal  
Pathways to Eco- Innovation  
**Paper Presentation: Dr. Astha Misra**  
Asst. Professor, Arya Kanya Degree College, Prayagraj

12:05 PM-12:15 PM: Examining How India's Environmental Laws Drive Technological Change  
**Paper Presentation: Dr. Moatoshi Ao**  
Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi

12:05 PM-12:15 PM: Technological Innovations and Sustainability: Enhancing Environmental  
Compliance and Resource Management  
**Paper Presentation: Ms. Katyayani Mishra**  
CEO & Director, CPLRI Pvt. Ltd.

12:15 PM-12:25 PM: Questions and Answers  
12:25 PM-12:45 PM: Address by the Hon'ble Chairperson and Concluding Remarks

12:55 PM-01:00 PM: Felicitation of the Hon'ble Chairperson  
**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India

01:00 PM-01:30 PM: Use of Information Technology in Judiciary  
**Special Lecture: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal**,  
Judge, Supreme Court of India

01:30 PM-01:40 PM: Questions and Answers  
01:40 PM-02:30 PM: Lunch Break



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**DAY-II | 08th MARCH 2025 | 02:30 PM-04:15PM | TECHNICAL SESSION-III**

<b>Hon'ble Chairperson:</b>	<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Bhanot</b> , Judge, Allahabad High Court
<b>Moderator:</b>	<b>Dr. Sumiti Ahuja</b> , Faculty of Law, University of Delhi
<b>Rapporteur:</b>	<b>Dr. Deepak Sharma</b> , Asst. Professor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj
02:30 PM-02:35 PM:	Felicitation of the Hon'ble Chairperson <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Bhanot</b> , Judge, Allahabad High Court
02:35 PM-02:40 PM:	Opening Remarks by the Hon'ble Chairperson
02:40 PM-03:00 PM:	Carbon Dioxide Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) as an Implementation of ESG <b>Keynote Address: Prof. Moon-Hyun Koh</b> Professor of Law, Soongsil University, Seoul, Korea
03:00 PM-03:20 PM:	Supreme Court Perspective: All Roads towards Sustainable Development <b>Keynote Address: Prof. Leela Krishanan</b> Professor Emeritus, Cochin University of Legal Studies, Kerala
03:20 PM-03:30 PM:	Navigating Gender Representation in the Digital Age: Social Media, Law and Policy Reforms in India <b>Paper Presentation: Prof. Shaiwal Satyarthi</b> Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi
03:30 PM-03:40 PM:	Sustainable Development and Social Justice: Perspective from India <b>Paper Presentation: Dr. Suchit Kumar Yadav</b> Asst. Professor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj
03:40 PM-03:50 PM:	AI's Participation in Realizing Feminist Utopia <b>Paper Presentation: Dr. Neha Dubey</b> Asst. Professor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj
03:50 PM-04:00 PM:	Questions and Answer
04:00 PM-04:15 PM:	Address by the Hon'ble Chairperson and Concluding Remarks





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**DAY-II | 08th MARCH 2025 | 04:45 PM-06:20PM | TECHNICAL SESSION-IV**

<b>Hon'ble Chairperson:</b>	<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal,</b> Judge, Allahabad High Court
<b>Moderator:</b>	<b>Dr. Parikshet Sirohi,</b> Faculty of Law University of Delhi
<b>Rapporteur:</b>	<b>Dr. Prakash Tripathi,</b> Asst. Professor RP National Law University, Prayagraj
04:45 PM-04:50 PM:	Felicitation of the Hon'ble Chairperson <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal,</b> Judge, Allahabad High Court
04:50 PM-04:55 PM:	Opening Remarks by the Hon'ble Chairperson
04:55 PM-05:15 PM:	The Role of Science in Climate Litigation Cases <b>Keynote Address: Dr. Ivano Alogna</b> Senior Research Fellow in Environmental and Climate Change Law, BIICL, France
05:15 PM-05:35 PM:	Optimizing Technology to Enhance Renewable Energy (RE) Development in India: A Reconnaissance Legal Study <b>Keynote Address: Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon</b> Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj
05:35 PM-05:45 PM:	Judicial Trends and Climate Change <b>Paper Presentation: Dr. Narender Kumar Bishnoi</b> Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi
05:45 PM-05:55 PM:	Legal Mechanisms to Ensure Energy Efficiency in India with Special Reference to Energy Saving and Carbon Credit Certifications under Energy Conservation Act, 2001: A Critical Review <b>Paper Presentation: Dr. Swati Mawandiya</b> Asst. Professor, Institute of Law, Nirma University
05:55 PM-06:05 PM:	Questions and Answers
06:05 PM-06:20 PM:	Address by the Hon'ble Chairperson and Concluding Remarks
06:20 PM-06:30 PM:	Health Break
06:30 PM-07:30 PM:	Cultural Programme
07:30 PM onwards:	Dinner



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Dr. Rajendra Prasad  
**National Law University, Prayagraj**

**Proceedings of**  
International Conference on  
Law, Technology & Sustainable Development  
07<sup>th</sup> - 09<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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**DAY-III | 09th MARCH 2025 | 09:30 AM-10:55AM | TECHNICAL SESSION-V**

**Hon'ble Chairperson:** **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Salil Kumar Rai**  
Judge, Allahabad High Court

**Moderator:** **Dr. Neeraj Gupta**  
Institute of Law, Nirma University, Gujarat

**Rapporteur:** **Dr. Suchit Kumar Yadav**  
Asst. Professor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj

09:30 AM-09:35 AM: Felicitation of the Hon'ble Chairperson  
**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Salil Kumar Rai,**  
Judge, Allahabad High Court

09:35 AM-09:40 AM: Opening Remarks by the Hon'ble Chairperson

09:40 AM-10:00 AM: Climate Change, Environmental Pollution and Food crises: What  
Technology Can Do for Us  
**Keynote Address: Prof. Jonathan O. Chimakonam,**  
Professor of Philosophy, University of Pretoria, South Africa

10:00 AM-10:10AM: Balancing Green Innovation and IP Protection  
**Paper Presentation: Dr. Parikshet Sirohi**  
Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi

05:35 PM-05:45 PM: Intellectual Property Rights, Sustainable Innovation and SDGs:  
Examining the Intersection from Legal and Policy Perspective  
**Paper Presentation: Dr. Kshitij Kumar Singh**  
Asso. Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi

10:20 AM-10:30 AM: Bridging Traditional Wisdom and Modern Sustainability: An Empirical  
Study of PVTGs of Jharkhand and Their Understanding of Sustainability  
**Paper Presentation: Dr. Prakash Tripathi**  
Asst. Professor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj

10:30 AM-10:40 AM: Questions and Answers

10:40 AM-10:55 AM: Address by the Hon'ble Chairperson and Concluding Remarks

10:55 AM-11:15 AM: Health Break







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**DAY-III | 09th MARCH 2025 | 11:15 AM-01:00PM | TECHNICAL SESSION-VI**

<b>Hon'ble Chairperson:</b>	<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shekhar B Saraf</b> Judge, Allahabad High Court
<b>Moderator:</b>	<b>Dr. Swati Mawandiya</b> , Institute of Law, Nirma University, Gujarat
<b>Rapporteur:</b>	<b>Dr. Akanshi Vidyarthi</b> , Asst. Professor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj
11:15 AM-11:20 AM:	Felicitation of the Hon'ble Chairperson <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shekhar B Saraf</b> , Judge, Allahabad High Court
09:35 AM-09:40 AM:	Opening Remarks by the Hon'ble Chairperson
09:40 AM-10:00 AM:	Exploring the Intersection of Technology and Indigenous People for Sustainable Development: The Way Forward <b>Keynote Address: Prof. Erimma G Orie</b> Prof. of Law, National Law University of Nigeria
10:00 AM-10:10AM:	Tribal Ecological Knowledge and Law: Uncovering its Modernity <b>Keynote Address: Prof. Philippe Cullet</b> Professor of International and Environmental Law, SOAS, University of London, England
12:05 PM-12:15 PM:	Interface of Indian Food Security System With Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Nutritional Security <b>Paper Presentation: Dr. Sonika</b> Asst. Professor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj
12:15 PM-12:25 PM:	Misinformation and Disinformation: Threats to Information Ecosystem in the Modern Era <b>Paper Presentation: Dr. Dr. Sumiti Ahuja</b> Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi
12:25 PM-12:35 PM:	Freedom of Speech in the Digital Age: Legal and Judicial Responses to Fake News in Indian Democracy <b>Paper Presentation: Dr. Deepak Sharma</b> Asst. Professor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj
12:35 PM-12:45 PM:	Questions and Answers
12:45 PM-01:00 PM:	Address by the Hon'ble Chairperson and Concluding Remarks
01:00 PM-02:00 PM:	Health Break



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**DAY-III | 09th MARCH 2025 | 02:00 PM-03:30PM | TECHNICAL SESSION-VII**

<b>Hon'ble Chairperson:</b>	<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Saumitra Dayal Singh</b> Judge, Allahabad High Court
<b>Moderator:</b>	<b>Dr. Astha Misra</b> Arya Kanya Degree College, Prayagraj
<b>Rapporteur:</b>	<b>Dr. Suchit Kumar Yadav</b> , Asst. Professor RP National Law University, Prayagraj
02:00 PM-02:05 PM:	Felicitation of the Hon'ble Chairperson <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Saumitra Dayal Singh</b> , Judge, Allahabad High Court
02:05 PM-02:10 PM:	Opening Remarks by the Hon'ble Chairperson
02:10 PM-02:30 PM:	Technology and Law: Emerging Issues <b>Keynote Address: Mr. Nitin Nanda</b> , International Lawyer, Estonia
02:30 PM-02:50 PM:	The Legal Ethics & Practical Implications of Using AI Assisted Decision-Making in Environmental Law <b>Keynote Address: Dr. Robert Russo</b> Lecturer, Peter Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
02:50 PM-03:00 PM:	AI and Technology as Catalysts for Promoting Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions <b>Paper Presentation: Ms. Saloni Mishra</b> Research Scholar, Manav Rachna University
03:00 PM-03:10 PM:	Justified Physiological Signal Analysis and Monitoring using Artificial Intelligence <b>Paper Presentation: Mr. Himanshu Saini</b> Research Scholar, Gautam Buddha University
03:10 PM-03:20 PM:	Questions and Answers
03:20 PM-03:35 PM:	Address by the Hon'ble Chairperson and Concluding Remarks
03:35 PM-04:00 PM:	Health Break
04:00 PM-05:00 PM:	Preparation for Valedictory Session





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**DAY-III | 09th MARCH 2025 | 05:00 PM ONWARDS | VALEDICTORY SESSION**

04:45 PM-05:00 PM:	Arrival of the Distinguished Dignitaries
05:00 PM-05:10 PM:	Felicitation of the Distinguished Dignitaries
05:10 PM-05:20 PM:	Welcome Address and Introductory Remarks <b>Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon</b> Hon'ble, Vice Chancellor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj
05:20 PM-05:27 PM:	Address by Distinguished Guest <b>Professor Philippe Cullet</b> Professor of International and Environmental Law, SOAS, University of London, England
05:27 PM-05:35 PM:	Address by Distinguished Guest <b>Prof. Moon-Hyun Koh</b> Professor of Law, Soongsil University, Seoul, Korea
05:35 PM-05:50 PM:	Address by Distinguished Guest <b>Prof. Rama Shanker Verma</b> Director, MNNIT, Prayagraj
05:50 PM-06:05 PM:	Address by Distinguished Guest <b>Mr. Nitin Nanda</b> , International Lawyer, Estonia
06:05 PM-06:20 PM:	Address by Distinguished Guest <b>Prof. (Dr.) S. Surya Prakash</b> Hon'ble Vice- Chancellor, NLIU, Bhopal
06:20 PM-06:40 PM:	Address by Chief Guest <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal</b> Judge, Supreme Court of India
06:40 PM-06:45 PM:	Vote of Thanks <b>Dr. Prakash Tripathi</b> Joint-Director, International Conference on 'Law, Technology and Sustainable Development'
06:45 PM-06:47 PM:	National Anthem
07:20 PM onwards:	Dinner

The background of the page is a complex abstract composition of geometric shapes. It includes a large magenta square in the top-left corner with a white quarter-circle cutout. Below this, there are several overlapping squares and circles in various shades of magenta and red. Some squares contain diagonal white stripes. A large, bright red circle is prominent in the lower-left quadrant, partially overlapping a darker red circle. The overall design is modern and graphic.

# **GLIMPSES OF THE CONFERENCE**



# ARRIVAL OF DISTINGUISHED DIGNITARIES AND GUESTS AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION



HVC Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon welcoming the Chief Guest **HMJ Manoj Misra**, Judge, Supreme Court of India



HVC Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon welcoming the Chairperson of the Session **HMJ Arun Bhansali**, Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court





HVC Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon welcoming **HMJ Kumar Regmi**, Judge, Supreme Court of Nepal



HVC Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon welcoming **HMJ S. Thurairaja**, Judge Supreme Court of Sri Lanka





**HVC Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon** welcoming **HMJ Manoj Kumar Gupta**, Sr. Judge,  
Allahabad High Court



**HVC Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon** welcoming **HMJ Rinzin Penjor** Former Judge,  
Supreme Court of Bhutan





Left to Right: **HMJ Manoj Misra**, **HMJ Arun Bhansali** and **HMJ Manoj Kumar Gupta**



**HVC Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon** welcoming **Prof. Moon-Hyun Koh**, Professor of Law, Soongsil University, Seoul, Korea





Lighting of lamp by the Chief Guest **HMJ Manoj Misra**, Judge, Supreme Court of India, & Hon'ble Visitor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj & Chief Guest of the Inaugural Session



Chairperson of the Session **HMJ Arun Bhansali**, Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court, & Hon'ble Chancellor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj & President of the Inaugural Session





Lighting of lamp by **HMJ Kumar Regmi**, Judge, Supreme Court of Nepal



Lighting of lamp by **HMJ S. Thurairaja**, Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka





Lighting of lamp by **HMJ Manoj Kumar Gupta**, Sr. Judge, Allahabad High Court



Lighting of lamp by **HMJ Rinzin Penjor**, Former Judge, Supreme Court of Bhutan





HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon, Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj



Participants singing National Anthem: a moment of shared patriotism





Distinguished dignitaries singing National Anthem: a moment of shared patriotism



Felicitations of the Chief Guest **HMJ Manoj Misra**, Judge, Supreme Court of India, & Hon'ble Visitor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj by **HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon**





Felicitation of the Chairperson **HMJ Arun Bhansali**, Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court & Hon'ble Chancellor, RP National Law University, Prayagraj by **HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon**



Address by **HMJ Kumar Regmi**, Judge, Supreme Court of Nepal





Address by **HMJ S. Thuraiaraja**, Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka



Address by **Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon**, HVC, RP National Law University, Prayagraj



Address by **HMJ Rinzin Penjor**, Former Judge, Supreme Court of Bhutan



Address by **HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon**





Vote of Thanks by **Mr. Satya Prakash**, Registrar, RP National Law University



Delegates and students listening address of the Dignitaries



[illegible]





Felicitation of Trophy Winning Students of RPNLUP by the Chief Guest **HMJ Manoj Misra**



Felicitation of Trophy Winning Students of RPNLUP by the Chief Guest **HMJ Manoj Misra**





Left to Right: **HVC Sr. Prof Usha Tandon, HMJ Kshitij Shailendra, Prof. Moon, HMJ MK Gupta, HMJ Kumar Regmi, HMJ Arun Bhansali & HMJ Manoj Misra**



Left to Right: **HMJ M K Gupta, HMJ Arun Bhansali & HMJ Manoj Mishra**





Distinguished Delegates interacting with faculty members and students of RP National Law University



Delegates interacting among themselves





Left to Right: **HMJ M K Gupta, HMJ Arun Bhansali, HMJ Manoj Misra & HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon** with students



Left to Right: **HMJ M K Gupta with HMJ Manoj Misra**





Distinguished Guests having Dinner



Students with **Prof. Philippe Cullet**



# TECHNICAL SESSION I



HVC Sr. Prof Usha Tandon felicitating HMJ Ashwani Kumar Mishra



Keynote Address by  
HMJ Rinzin Penjor



Keynote Address by  
Prof. Amber Pant



Keynote Address by  
Prof. K Bosselmann





Paper presentation by **Dr. Neeraj Gupta**



Paper presentation by **Dr. Moatoshi Ao**



HVC Prof. Usha Tandon with HMJ Ashwani Mishra & HMJ Vinod Diwakar



# TECHNICAL SESSION II



HVC Sr. Prof Usha Tandon felicitating HMJ Vinod Diwakar



Panelists of the Second Technical Session





Keynote Address by  
**HMJ Michael D Wilson**



Paper presentation by  
**Ms. Katyayani Mishra**



Paper presentation by  
**Dr. Astha Misra**



A Student asking question to the presenters



Chairperson's Address by  
**HMJ Vinod Diwakar**



# SPECIAL SESSION



HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon felicitating HMJ Rajesh Bindal



Address by HMJ Rajesh Bindal

# TECHNICAL SESSION III



HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon felicitating HMJ Ajay Bhanot



HMJ Ajay Bhanot





HMJ Ajay Bhanot



Keynote speaker  
Prof. Moon



Paper presentation by  
Prof. Shaiwal Satyarthi



Paper presentation by Dr. Suchit Kr. Yadav



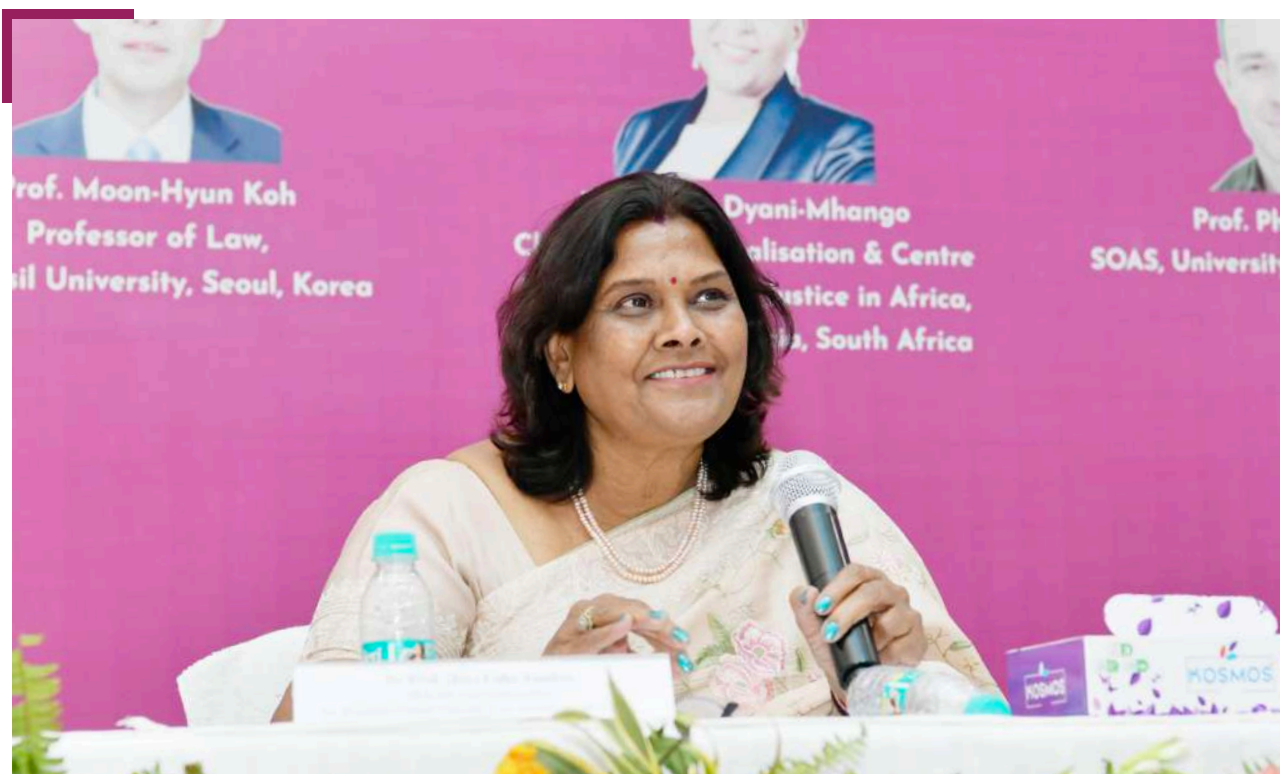
Paper presentation by Dr. Neha Dubey



# TECHNICAL SESSION IV



Left to Right: Dr. Swati Mawandiya, HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon, HMJ AK Singh Deshwal, Dr. Parikshet Sirohi, Dr. Prakash Tripathi



Keynote address by HVC, Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon



Keynote address by **Dr. Ivano Alogna**



Paper presentation by **Dr. Swati Mawandiya**



**Mr. Nitin Nanda** responding to a question





Student asking question to the delegates



HMJ Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal and HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon

# TECHNICAL SESSION V



HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon welcoming HMJ Salil Kumar Rai



HMJ Salil Kumar Rai and panellists of the fifth session





Keynote Address by  
**Prof. Jonathan**



Paper presentation by  
**Dr. Kshitij Kr Singh**



During Question Answer  
session  
**HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon**



Paper presentation by **Dr. Parikshet Sirohi**



Paper presentation by **Dr. Prakash Tripathi**



# TECHNICAL SESSION VI



HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon welcoming HMJ Bobby S Saraf



Keynote address by **Prof. Philippe Cullet**



Paper presentation by **Dr. Sumiti Ahuja**






Paper presentation by **Dr. Sonika**



Paper presentation by **Dr. Deepak Sharma**



Distinguished speakers on the dais







## TECHNICAL SESSION VII



HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon felicitating HMJ Saumitra Dayal Singh



HMJ Saumitra Dayal Singh  
addressing the gathering



Keynote speaker  
Dr. Robert Russo



Keynote speaker  
Mr. Nitin Nanda





Paper Presentation by  
**Ms. Saloni**



Paper Presentation by  
**Mr. Himanshu Saini**



A Student asking question to  
panelists



**HMJ Saumitra Dayal Singh** responding to a question



**HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon** interacting with delegates



Delegates & Participants



**HMJ Saumitra Dayal Singh** facilitating **Mr. Nitin Nanda**



# VALEDICTORY SESSION



HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon welcoming HMJ Pankaj Mithal



Address by  
HVC Prof. (Dr.) S. Surya Prakash



Address by  
**Prof. Moon Hyun- Koh**



Address by  
**Mr. Nitin Nanda**



Address by  
**Prof. Rama Shanker Verma**



Distribution of certificates by **Honourable Chief Guest HMJ Pankaj Mithal** and **HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon** to the RPNLUP Students who won intra-university competitions





Distribution of certificates by **Honourable Chief Guest HMJ Pankaj Mithal** and **HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon** to the RPNLUP Students who won intra-university competitions



**HMJ Pankaj Mithal** delivering Valedictory Address





L-R: HVC Prof. S. Surya Prakash, HMJ Pankaj Mithal, HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon, Mr. Satya Prakash, Prof. Moon and Mr. Nitin Nanda



HMJ Pankaj Mithal and HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon interacting with Faculty members of the RPNLUP





**HMJ Pankaj Mithal and HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon with Faculty members of the RPNLUP**



**HMJ Pankaj Mithal and HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon with Faculty members of the RPNLUP**





HMJ Pankaj Mithal and HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon with distinguished guests Faculty members and students of the RPNLUP





**Ms. Stuti Mishra and Ms. Janhavi Singh performing a dance**



**Ms. Yashoda Sharma performing Bharatanatyam dance**





**Ms. Siddhi Sharma** singing songs



**Ms. Pratibha Gaur** reciting a poem



**Mr. Suryansh Mishra** reciting a poem



**Ms. Srijal Mishra** reciting a poem



**Prof. Moon** performing a Korean song in the cultural event



**Dr. Parikshet Sirohi** singing a song in the cultural event



**Ms. Nehal Sharma** reciting a poem



**Ms. Rounak** reciting a poem





**HVC Sr. Prof Usha Tandon with Mr. Satya Prakash, Registrar, RPNLUP**



**HVC Sr. Prof Usha Tandon with Mr. Satya Prakash, Registrar, Faculty Members and Staff of the RPNLUP**





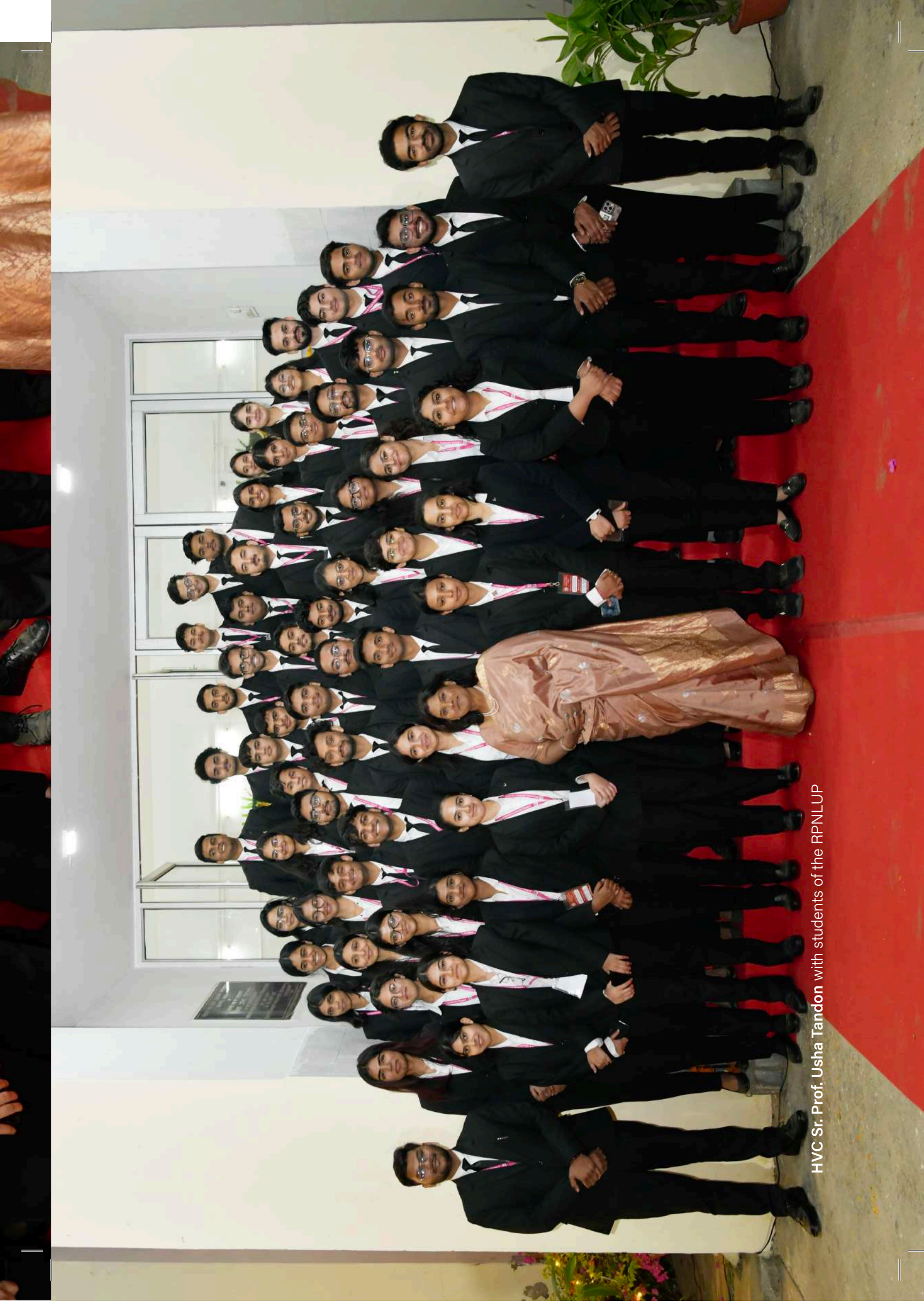
HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon with Faculty members and Assistant Librarian of the RPNLUP





HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon with students of the RPNLUP





HVC Sr. Prof. Usha Tandon with students of the RPNLUP







# MESSAGES FOR UNIVERSITY

“

“So far as this University is concerned, I am proud to see that many of the students have performed so well and in a short while of barely eight months, the students have gained a lot”

- **HMJ Manoj Misra, Judge, Supreme Court of India,  
& Hon'ble Visitor, RPNLU, Prayagraj**

“In the short span of a year, I am heartened to witness the remarkable progress this institution has made, firmly establishing itself as a centre of excellence.”

- **HMJ Arun Bhansali, Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court &  
Hon'ble Chancellor, RPNLU, Prayagraj**

“Over the years, I have witnessed its remarkable growth—from a fledgling institution to a prominent beacon of legal scholarship, intellectual discourse, and international engagement collaborations.”

- **HMJ Manoj Kumar Gupta  
Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court**

“It came as a great surprise that in spite of the fact that the University is in its teething stage, the event was administered with great aplomb and equanimity ably guided by Professor Usha Tandon, Vice Chancellor and esteemed faculty.”

- **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shekhar B Saraf  
Judge, Allahabad High Court**

“A University with one year of experience, it is commendable to gather so many dignitaries to conduct an international event on such a large scale.”

- **Prof. (Dr.) S. Surya Prakash,  
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, NILU, Bhopal**

»





Dr. Rajendra Prasad  
**National Law University, Prayagraj**

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