



COGNIZANT

A Biannual Newsletter
Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj
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COGNIZANT

-A Biannual Newsletter

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FROM THE DESK OF THE
HON'BLE VICE-CHANCELLOR

THE KEY NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS, INCLUDING THE INTERNATIONAL DEBATE COMPETITION, THE INDO-BHUTAN WORKSHOP ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS, AND THE MOU WITH THE BRICS LAW SCHOOLS CONSORTIUM, HELPED PLACING RPNLU FIRMLY ON THE GLOBAL ACADEMIC MAP.



It gives me great pleasure to present Volume II, Issue I (July–December 2025) of Cognizant, the newsletter of Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj. Originally conceived as a quarterly publication, Cognizant has transitioned to a biannual publication. This evolution aligns the newsletter more closely with the university's academic calendar, ensuring each edition captures campus milestones while maintaining the natural hiatuses of the summer and winter breaks.

The period began with the orientation programmes for the second batch of B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), and the first batches of LL.M. and Ph.D. scholars. The initiatives such as the inauguration of the 'Law and Policy Action Clinic' (LAPAC) along with the Project 'Cluster Law' underscore University's sustained emphasis on experiential and community-oriented legal education. The key national and international engagements, including the International Debate Competition, the Indo-Bhutan Workshop on Professional Ethics, and the MoU with the BRICS Law Schools Consortium, helped placing RPNLU firmly on the global academic map. The institution of the "Ravi Kant Memorial Gold Medal" in Constitutional Law stands out as a moment of profound significance.

"Beyond Judgments" interactive series with Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajan Roy, Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court (Lucknow Bench) offered students rare insights into the ethical, human, and constitutional dimensions of legal and judicial decision-making. Another interactive series "In Conversation with the Legal Luminary" featuring Mr. Vijay Hansaria, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India proved to be quite enriching.

I sincerely appreciate the efforts of the editorial team, faculty and students alike, and invite our readers to share their reflections as we collectively shape the future of RPNLU, Prayagraj.

Senior Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon
11th February, 2026

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR STUDENTS OF B.A.LL.B. (HONS.) FOR THE BATCH 2025-30



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, lightening the ceremonial lamp during the inauguration ceremony



New batch of RPNLUP Students along with the Faculty members in the Allahabad High Court Museum and Archives

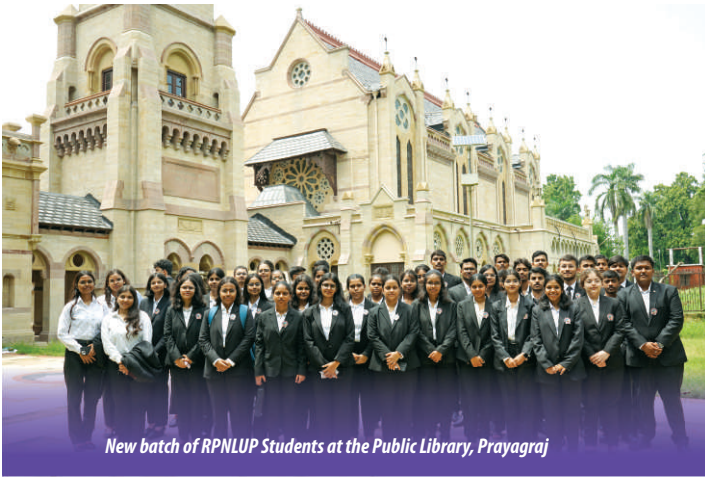


Students observe exhibits during the guided tour at the Allahabad High Court Museum and Archives

The Orientation Programme 2025 for the incoming batch of B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) students at Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, was conducted over six days, from **1st August 2025** to **6th August 2025**. The programme was designed to familiarise students with the academic framework, campus life, institutional values, and experiential learning opportunities, ensuring a smooth transition into legal education.

The first day marked the formal induction of students and their parents. The programme commenced with registration and verification of documents, during which students received welcome kits and were greeted with a traditional tilak, rose, and chocolate. Parents and students were then escorted to the Moot Court Hall while document verification continued smoothly in the Seminar Hall. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor **Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon** personally interacted with parents and students, extending her blessings and best wishes. A faculty-parent interaction session was organised after a brief tea break, where queries related to academics, hostels, and campus life were addressed. Lunch followed, along with hostel room allotment by the respective wardens. The day concluded with the successful completion of admission formalities and set a welcoming tone for the academic journey ahead.

The second day began with an inaugural session marked by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor addressed the students, emphasising the interdisciplinary nature of legal education and the importance of discipline, integrity, and consistent effort. This was followed by a faculty-student interaction session where faculty members introduced their subjects and explained interdisciplinary nature of law, how social sciences and language studies strengthen legal understanding. Students were then oriented to the Mentor-Mentee Programme, highlighting its role in academic and personal development. Sessions on hostel life, library resources, and legal research databases were conducted to familiarise students with essential facilities. Post-lunch, a cognitive and enrichment activity encouraged self-expression, creativity, and peer interaction. The day concluded with a briefing on the upcoming outreach learning programme.



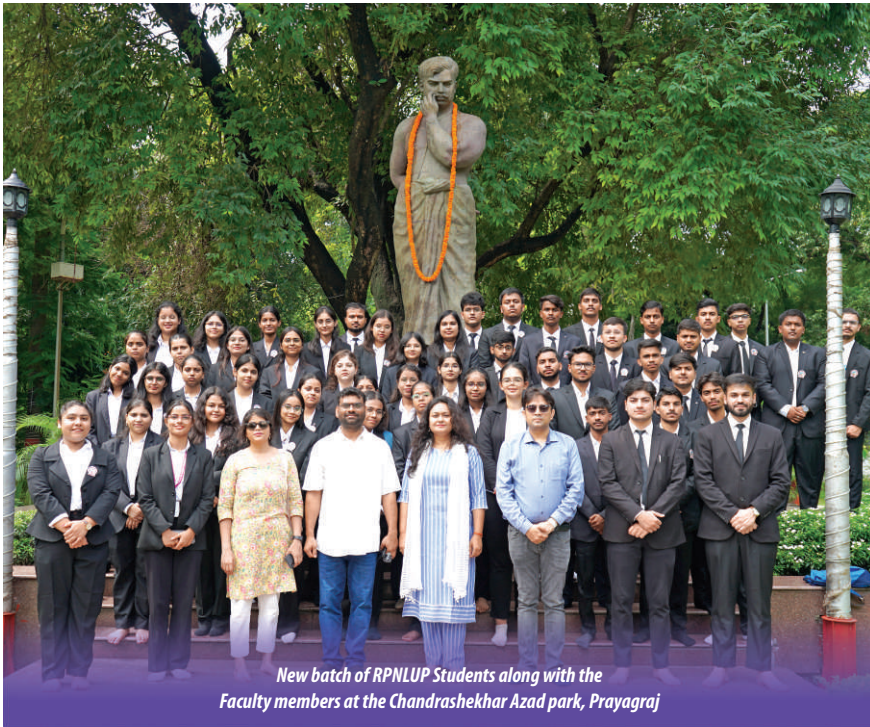
New batch of RPNLUP Students at the Public Library, Prayagraj



Students observe a demonstration of the permanent campus model during the Orientation Programme

The third day focused on outreach learning and experiential exposure. Students visited the construction site of the Permanent Campus of the University, where they were briefed on the progress and vision of the upcoming infrastructure, fostering a sense of belonging and anticipation. This was followed by a visit to the Allahabad High Court Museum and Archives, where a documentary traced the evolution of India’s judicial system and the historical significance of the High Court.

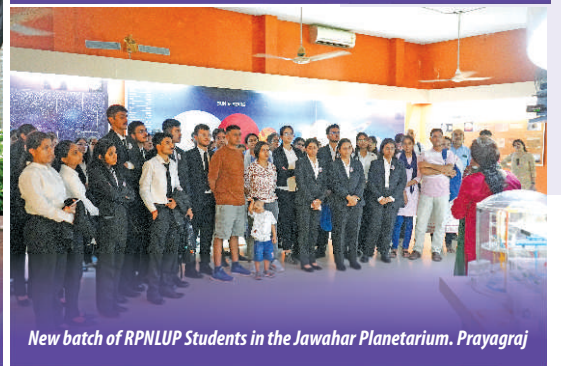
The scheduled visit to Triveni Sangam was cancelled due to flood conditions. After lunch, a cognitive and enrichment session using the Human Library format was conducted, encouraging students to reflect on perception, judgment, and empathy. The day concluded with a reflective interaction and briefing for the next day.



New batch of RPNLUP Students along with the Faculty members at the Chandrashekhar Azad park, Prayagraj



New batch of RPNLUP Students along with the Faculty members in the Central Sanskrit University, Prayagraj



New batch of RPNLUP Students in the Jawahar Planetarium. Prayagraj

The fourth day featured an extensive outreach excursion across Prayagraj. Students paid homage at Chandrashekhar Azad Park and visited the Central Sanskrit University and Public Library, gaining insight into India’s literary heritage. Visits to Anand Bhawan and Swaraj Bhawan provided a deeper understanding of India’s freedom struggle and political history, followed by an engaging session at the Jawahar Planetarium that introduced students to space science and astronomy. After lunch, an SCC Online training session equipped students with essential legal research skills through live demonstrations. The day also included orientation sessions on campus life, code of conduct, and various university cells such as the Anti-Ragging Cell, Internal Complaints Committee, Equal Opportunity Cell, SEDGs Cell, and the Students’ Grievance Redressal Committee, ensuring students were aware of institutional support mechanisms.



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon welcoming the Chief Guest



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon with Prof. (Dr.) Anju Vali Tikoo

The fifth day focused on student engagement and holistic development. Students were introduced to various student societies and participated in an interactive session on education, positive psychology, and mental wellness, highlighting the importance of emotional well-being alongside academic excellence.

The Orientation Programme concluded with the **Valedictory Ceremony** held on **6 August 2025**. The session formally marked the end of the six-day programme and reflected upon the journey undertaken by the students during the orientation. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra Menon**, Chairperson of the Armed Forces Tribunal and former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, as the Chief Guest, and **Prof. (Dr.) Anju Vali Tikoo**, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, as the Guest of Honour.

The ceremony commenced with the auspicious lighting of the lamp, after which Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon welcomed the dignitaries and the new batch of students with warmth and grace. In her address, she reflected on the evolving landscape of legal education, notably acknowledging the strong presence of women in the incoming batch. She also encouraged students to see law as an instrument of social transformation and emphasised the values of discipline, awareness, and presence of mind essential for a successful legal career.

Hon'ble Justice Rajendra Menon delivered an impactful address, reflecting on the remarkable growth in women's participation in the legal profession and encouraging students to be lifelong learners. He spoke with deep conviction about the dynamic transformation of the legal profession, particularly the increasing participation of women. Recalling his own time as a law student, when there were only two women in his class, he expressed pride in the significant strides made in recent decades. He also reminded students that success in law comes with commitment, perseverance, and an unwavering dedication to justice. He underscored the importance of reading, understanding case facts, and developing sound judgment. Addressing the students as future custodians of justice, he advised them to embrace a mindset of continuous learning, stating that "learning never ends in the legal profession."

Prof. (Dr.) Anju Vali Tikoo admired the university's commitment to nurturing future legal professionals. In her address, she invoked the inspiring life of Dr. Rajendra Prasad and urged students to embody the values of justice, social sensitivity, and humanity. Calling Sangam City a confluence not only of rivers but of aspirations and changemakers, she emphasised the university's pivotal role in shaping future leaders.

Asst. Prof. **Dr. Neha Dubey** presented an overview of the orientation programme, and the session concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by **Dr. Deepak Sharma**, Head of the Department of Law, who acknowledged the presence and contributions of the distinguished guests and commended the new batch of students for their enthusiasm and promise.



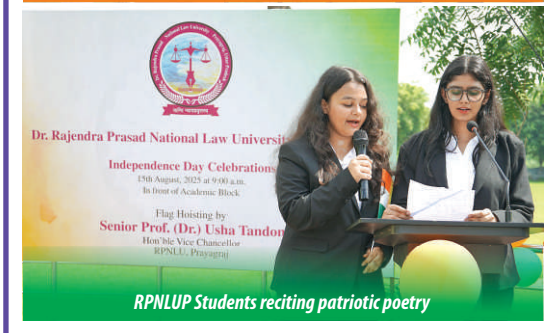
HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra Menon, Prof. (Dr.) Anju Vali Tikoo and Registrar - lighting the ceremonial lamp during the Valedictory Ceremony of Orientation Programme



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon with the Registrar hoisting the National Flag



RPNLUP Students reciting patriotic poetry

Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, celebrated India's 79th Independence Day on 15th August 2025. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, **Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**, **Mr. Satya Prakash**, Registrar of RPNLUP, faculty members, students, and other staff members gathered together to celebrate this historic occasion. This occasion was marked as the first event celebration with the batch of 2025-2030.

The event commenced with the hoisting of the national flag by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, followed by the national anthem sung in unison by all attendees, and then the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Registrar sir and the faculty members paid homage to Dr. Rajendra Prasad. The entire gathering then took part in a flag march led by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, which symbolised unity and patriotism.

Following the march, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor addressed the audience with an insightful speech. She highlighted the significance of India's Independence Day and emphasised the importance of remembering the sacrifices of those who fought for the country's freedom. In her speech, she applauded the sacrifices of Durgawati Devi, a valiant freedom fighter from Prayagraj, and other female freedom fighters.

The celebration then continued with vibrant cultural performances by the students. The students displayed wholehearted participation and enthusiasm throughout the programme. They recited beautiful self-written poems and performed songs centred on the spirit of nationhood, filling the atmosphere with patriotic fervour. The performances were well-received by the audience and added a creative and emotional touch to the celebration.

The event concluded on a joyous note with the distribution of sweets to all the participants and attendees. The celebration not only honoured India's independence but also fostered a sense of togetherness among the university members.

HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, Registrar, Faculty Members, University Staff and RPNLUP Students with National Flags in their hands



ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR THE FOUNDATION BATCH OF **LL.M. (Public Law) and Ph.D. (Law)**



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon with Registrar felicitating Prof. Anuj Kumar Vaksha



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon welcoming the distinguished guests

Prof. Kshitij Kumar Singh addressing the audience



Dr. Sonika, LL.M. Coordinator apprising the scholars about the course structure

RPNLU Prayagraj organised an **Orientation Programme** for the foundation batch of LL.M. (Public Law) and Ph.D. (Law) scholars on **22nd August 2025**. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, **Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**, in her opening remarks, first welcomed the distinguished guests and then the new batch of scholars. In her address, she introduced them to the University's vision, the academic structure of the courses, and the consultative role of faculty members. She also elaborated on the responsibilities of research scholars and highlighted the significance of values and ethics in the legal profession.

Then, **Prof. Anuj Kumar Vaksha**, University School of Law and Legal Studies, GGSIP University, addressed the audience and emphasised the significance of research in legal education. He traced the evolution of legal research from prehistoric times to contemporary developments and reflected on the potential impact of artificial intelligence in research, questioning whether it could bring rapid and transformative changes. He further highlighted how India lost its greatest asset, 'knowledge', during British colonisation, when the intellectual Centre of Knowledge shifted to the West. He noted with pride that India is now reclaiming this heritage through the development of substantive institutions such as National Law Universities (NLUs), research institutions and the revival of its rich educational system.

Prof. Kshitij Kumar Singh, Campus Law Centre, Delhi University, underscored the importance of research and its multi-dimensional nature. He urged scholars to engage deeply in research without being constrained by preconceived notions of right or wrong, and to cultivate a critical and analytical approach. Referring to the universal spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', he stressed that research must transcend narrow boundaries and serve the larger good. He further advised scholars to use artificial intelligence judiciously and to pursue knowledge selflessly.

Dr. Deepak Sharma, Ph.D. Coordinator and **Dr. Sonika**, LL.M. Coordinator, apprised the scholars about the course structure and program guidelines for the respective courses. At the end, **Mr. Satya Prakash**, Registrar of RPNLUP, gave the vote of thanks and congratulated the newly admitted research scholars.

LEGAL AID SOCIETY'S **MEDIATION INITIATIVE**

The **Legal Aid Society** of Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, conducted a **field study** in **Malak Chaudhary**, a village adopted under the National Legal Services Authority's scheme for free legal assistance. This initiative marked the first step of a broader mission: to cover the entire village and promote mediation as an effective means of resolving disputes. Data collection was carried out by Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), with support from state authorities and faculty members of the University.

The visit took place on 23rd August 2025, during which out of the 600 households, PLVs surveyed 70 to identify ongoing cases and explain mediation as a voluntary, non-adversarial process. Out of these households, 8 active cases were identified, 4 criminal, 3 civil and 1 motor vehicle cases, respectively and notably, all the parties involved expressed willingness to attempt mediation. This early willingness indicates a strong potential for scaling mediation efforts in the village and serves as an encouraging sign for future initiatives.

The study also assessed levels of legal awareness and access to justice. Initially, villagers were reluctant to share details of their disputes, but once the purpose of the exercise was clarified, many became more forthcoming. The survey highlighted concerns about unresponsive advocates, such as a lawyer who neglected to contact a motor vehicle claimant for over three years. Land disputes emerged as the most common type of case, often linked to unclear or unjust land laws, making mediation particularly relevant in the local context.



PLVs conducting a field study in Malak Chaudhary village

Awareness sessions were conducted to explain the benefits of mediation through simple, relatable examples. Men were generally more open to discussions, while women often hesitated in the presence of male family members, speaking more freely when approached individually. Limited awareness of government legal aid schemes was also observed, with many villagers reporting difficulties in accessing benefits despite widespread publicity. This gap between policy and practice underscores the importance of grassroots legal aid interventions.

While initial willingness to adopt mediation was cautious, the readiness of the 8 identified cases to proceed demonstrates promising potential. With sustained outreach, mediation can gradually gain the community's trust, enabling the Legal Aid Society to fulfil its mission of making justice more accessible and promoting peaceful dispute resolution across the village. The findings from Malak Chaudhary may also serve as a model for expanding mediation awareness and legal aid initiatives in other rural areas.



PLVs along with the Faculty members and State Authorities

INTERNATIONAL DEBATE COMPETITION

Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj on **30th August 2025**, through its **Debate and Discussion Club (DDC)**, successfully hosted its first **International Debate Competition, 2025**, marking a significant milestone in the university's pursuit of academic excellence and global engagement.

The debate on **"The U.N. has failed in maintaining international peace and security"** drew the participation of 28 teams from India and abroad. Students' advanced compelling arguments, examining the role of the United Nations in peace building and global conflict resolution. The debates highlighted the depth of legal reasoning, analytical skill, and critical engagement of budding legal minds.



Distinguished panel of adjudicators adjudging the preliminary round of the competition

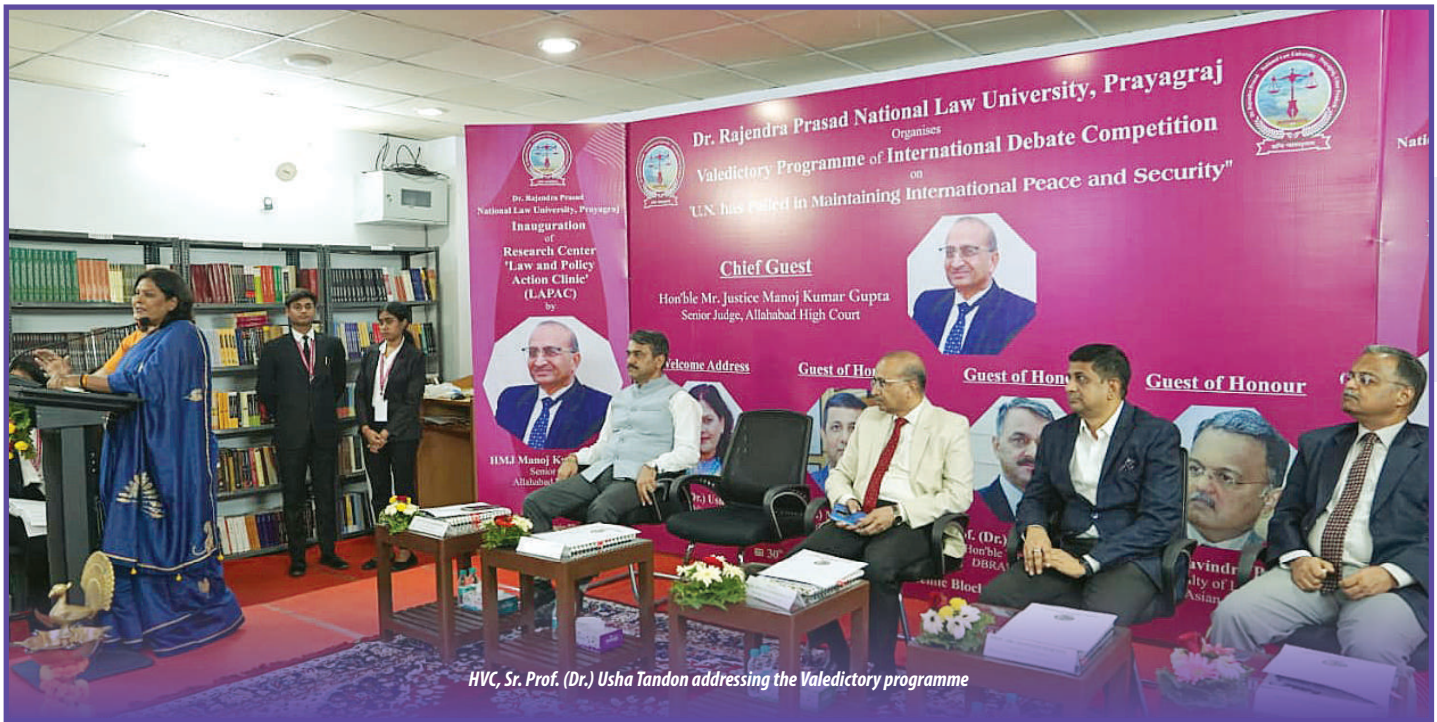


Distinguished panel of adjudicators adjudging the preliminary round of the competition



Distinguished panel of adjudicators adjudging the final round of the competition

The competition was adjudged by an eminent and diverse panel of academicians and experts representing prestigious institutions such as **Dr. Sujith K.**, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU); **Dr. Amrendra Kumar Ajit**, University of Delhi; **Prof. (Dr.) Maheswar Singh**, National Law University Delhi; and **Dr. Neeraj Kumar Gupta**, Nirma University, among others. The presence of such a distinguished jury enriched the intellectual quality of the competition and provided students with invaluable feedback. Particularly, the final round featured **Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Kumar Sinha**, Vice Chancellor, Dharamshastra National Law University, Jabalpur; **Prof. (Dr.) Devinder Singh**, Vice Chancellor, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonapat; and **Prof. Ravindra Pratap**, Dean, Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University, Delhi. The panel lauded the participants' clarity of thought, spontaneity, and in-depth research, while highlighting the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in addressing global issues.



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon addressing the Valedictory programme

The eventful day culminated into the Valedictory programme, where in her inaugural address Hon'ble Vice Chancellor **Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**, while appreciating the Debate and Discussion Club for its pioneering initiative, emphasised the university's commitment to nurturing platforms that encourage rigorous dialogue. The valedictory session was graced by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta**, Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court, who congratulated the winners and addressed the gathering with words of inspiration. He emphasised the visionary leadership of Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, whose unwavering commitment to academic pursuit and dedication to the growth of the University has culminated in the successful organisation of such a prestigious international event in the very first year of the institution's journey. HMJ Manoj Gupta also applauded the hard work and commitment of the faculty members and students, noting their role in making the competition a remarkable success.



Winners of IDC- Team from HPNLU Shimla Receiving Award



Runners-up of IDC- Team from G.N.L.C., Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya Receiving Award

The Chief Guest also declared the results and presented awards and certificates to the winners. The Winner's Trophy and a cash prize of Rs.50,000 were awarded to Ms. Vaanya Sharma and Ms. Akshata Sharma from Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla. The Runner-Up Trophy and cash prize of Rs. 20,000 went to Ms. Jiya Hedav and Mr. Sarthak Singh Chouhan from G.N.L.C., Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore. The Best Speaker Award, accompanied by a cash prize of Rs. 5,000, was conferred upon Ms. Shranaya Sehgal from Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies, New Delhi.



International team of IDC- Team from Faculty of Law, Far Western University, Nepal Receiving Token of Appreciation



Best Speaker of IDC- Ms. Shranaya Sehgal, VIPS Receiving Award

This winning amount was sponsored by **Mr. Vinod Kapoor**, President, Bhartiya Sahitya Bhawan. A token of appreciation was also gifted by the University to the team participating from the Faculty of Law, Far Western University, Nepal. The University also released its publications - Proceedings of the International Conference, Ground report of the Project Sankalp 51A@ Mahakumbh, and two issues of the *Cognizant* newsletter.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta, HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Kumar Sinha, Prof. (Dr.) Devinder Singh, Prof. (Dr.) Ravindra Pratap releasing the University's Publications

Speaking on behalf of the organising team, **Dr. Neha Dubey**, Convener, Debate and Discussion Club, highlighted that the competition was designed to encourage students to critically engage with pressing international issues and foster a culture of constructive debate. The program concluded with a Vote of Thanks by **Mr. Satya Prakash**, Registrar, RPNLUP, who expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest and dignitaries for their encouragement and support. The International Debate Competition 2025 not only celebrated the spirit of intellectual exchange by bringing together students from diverse regions and academic institutions, but also reaffirmed RPNLUP's vision of preparing young legal minds to address contemporary global challenges with reason, empathy, and vision.

INAUGURATION OF **LAW AND POLICY ACTION CLINIC (LAPAC)** AND LAUNCH OF PROJECT **'CLUSTER LAW'**

Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj (RPNLUP), marked a defining moment in its journey of research innovation and social responsibility with the launching of its flagship initiative, Project '**Cluster Law**', along with the inauguration of its Research Centre, the **Law and Policy Action Clinic (LAPAC)**. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta**, Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court, as the Chief Guest, launched the Project 'Cluster Law' and LAPAC, which signified a major stride in integrating legal education with the lived realities of society.



Inauguration of LAPAC, RPNLUP

In her welcome address, **Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPNLUP, articulated the University's vision of nurturing future-ready advocates, researchers, and policy thinkers who combine intellectual rigour with social commitment. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor underscored the significance of Project 'Cluster Law' as a pioneering initiative rooted in experiential pedagogy. She explained that the project has been designed with a dual objective: on one hand, to provide law students with hands-on training by involving them in field work, case analysis, and legal aid activities, and on the other, to extend legal awareness and assistance to communities that have historically remained outside the mainstream of justice delivery.

Turning to the Law and Policy Action Clinic, she emphasised that the clinic would serve as a hub of research and action-oriented learning, designed to generate practical solutions to contemporary legal and policy challenges, thereby bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. By integrating students into these processes, LAPAC will shape a generation of lawyers who understand the practical dimensions of justice and remain deeply rooted in service to society.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta inaugurating LAPAC

In his distinguished address, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta lauded the vision and effort of RPNLUP, a one-year-old university, in initiating Cluster Law and establishing LAPAC, describing them as “unique and novel ideas” that combine academic scholarship with real-world engagement. He applauded that Project ‘Cluster Law’ focuses on three distinct groups: rural communities, small-scale industrial sectors, and tribal groups. Each of these groups represents a unique set of socio-economic and legal challenges, and

engaging with them would not only enrich the students’ learning but also contribute to the empowerment of these vulnerable communities. He remarked that these initiatives have arrived at the right moment, when there is a growing need for legal education to move beyond the classroom and into the lives of people who are most in need of justice. HMJ Manoj Gupta emphasised that the true purpose of law is not only to adjudicate disputes but also to empower, to dignify, and to create opportunities for fairness and equality.

Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Kumar Sinha, Vice Chancellor, Dharamshastra National Law University, Jabalpur, **Prof. (Dr.) Devinder Singh**, Vice Chancellor, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonapat, and **Prof. Ravindra Pratap**, Dean, Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University, Delhi, were also present in the programme as Guests of Honour and reflected their views on the empirical research in legal education.

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by **Mr. Satya Prakash**, Registrar, RPNLUP, who expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest and dignitaries for their encouragement and support.



Dignitaries in front of LAPAC, RPNLUP

With the launch of Project ‘Cluster Law’ and the inauguration of LAPAC, RPNLUP has reaffirmed its place as a centre of legal scholarship, innovation, and social engagement. These initiatives are more than academic exercises; they are a pledge that the law will be harnessed not merely as a profession, but as a service, a means to uplift simple societies, empower the marginalised, and inspire the next generation of lawyers to see justice as both an idea and a lived reality.

INDO-BHUTAN WORKSHOP ON “PROFESSIONAL ETHICS”



Justice Rinzin Penjor addressing the audience, along with Mr. Chhime Dorji, HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, Ms. Sonam Yangden (left to right)

Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, hosted the **Indo-Bhutan Workshop on “Professional Ethics”** on 3rd September, 2025. The workshop brought together eminent legal professionals from India and Bhutan to deliberate on the significance of ethics in the legal profession, with particular emphasis on judicial ethics. The event served as an important academic and professional exchange, highlighting shared values and ethical responsibilities across legal systems.

The workshop witnessed the participation of distinguished speakers from Bhutan, including Hon’ble **Mr. Justice Rinzin Penjor**, Vice President of the Bar Council of Bhutan and former Judge of the Supreme Court of Bhutan; **Mr. Chhime Dorji**, Registrar, Bar Council of Bhutan; and **Ms. Sonam Yangden**, Council Member, Bar Council of Bhutan. Their presence added an international dimension to the discussions and enriched the learning experience of students and faculty alike.

The programme commenced with opening remarks by the Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, **Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**,

who warmly welcomed the guests and underscored the indispensable role of professional ethics throughout a legal professional’s journey. She emphasised that ethical conduct is not merely a formal requirement but a guiding principle that shapes credibility, public trust, and the long-term integrity of the legal system.

Delivering the keynote address, HMJ Rinzin Penjor offered a comprehensive perspective on judicial ethics. He observed that the judiciary functions not only as a legal institution but also as a moral authority grounded in integrity, impartiality, and discipline. Addressing contemporary challenges such as judicial backlogs, he reiterated that ethical responsibility demands fairness, consistency, and equal treatment for every litigant.

Drawing from India’s judicial history, he referred to landmark examples set by HMJ V.R. Krishna Iyer and HMJ H.R. Khanna, whose decisions reflected courage and unwavering commitment to constitutional values. He also linked these principles to global standards, particularly the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct.



Students of RPNLUP attending the Indo-Bhutan Workshop



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon felicitating Justice Rinzin Penjor



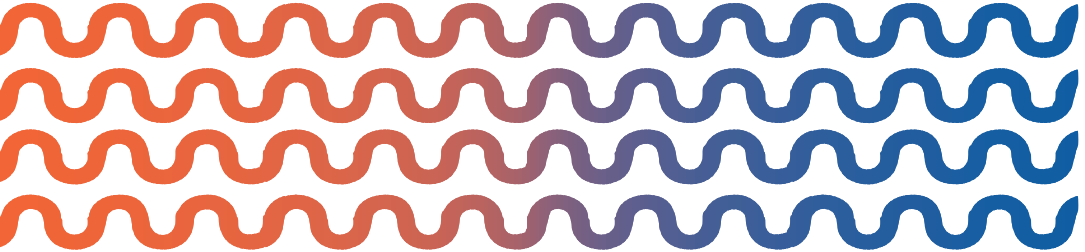
HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon felicitating Ms. Sonam Yangden

From the Bhutanese perspective, HMJ Penjor highlighted the Bhutan Judicial Services Act, which requires judges to remain independent of political influence while adhering to strict ethical norms. He noted that although Bhutan's judiciary operates on a smaller scale, the responsibility of upholding ethical standards remains equally critical.

Ms. Sonam Yangden focused on ethics as a matter of individual choice and moral courage, especially when actions are not subject to external scrutiny. She stressed the importance of diligence, integrity, sound legal knowledge, and a strong work ethic in preserving the dignity of the legal profession. Mr. Chhime Dorji further reinforced these views by stating that while law confers authority, it is ethics that grants legitimacy and public confidence to the legal profession.

An engaging question and answer session followed, during which students raised thoughtful queries on issues such as professional ethics in the era of artificial intelligence, ethical conduct of judges in courtrooms, challenges of maintaining ethics in corrupt environments, and the dilemmas faced by young legal professionals in corporate and litigation practice. The panelists responded by emphasizing that professional ethics stem from individual conscience and can be practised consistently across all circumstances.

The Indo-Bhutan Workshop on Professional Ethics emerged as a significant academic event, reaffirming the shared commitment of India and Bhutan to fostering a legal culture anchored in conscience, accountability, and professional responsibility.



CONQUERORS AND GRAND INTRA MOOT COURT COMPETITIONS

The **2nd Edition of Conquerors Intra Moot Court Competition** was organised on 13th and 14th September 2025, for the batch of 2025-30. The event provided an engaging platform for the first semester of B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) students to showcase their advocacy skills, with sixteen teams, comprising both oralists and researchers, participating in the preliminary rounds. Several distinguished advocates from the High Court of Allahabad and the District Court, Prayagraj, were invited to adjudicate the competition.

The competition commenced on 12th September with the Researchers' Test, Draw of Lots, and Exchange of Memorials, setting the stage for the oral rounds. The Preliminaries, consisting of two oral rounds, were held on 13th September and were adjudged by Adv. Manisha Chaturvedi, Adv. Anoop Baranwal, Adv. Pratik Kumar, Adv. Prashant Mishra, etc. During the oral rounds, teams were evaluated on parameters such as the Knowledge of Law, Application of Law to Facts, Ingenuity and Ability to Answer Questions, Style, Poise, Courtesy and Demeanour, Organisation and Flow of Arguments, and Reference to the Memorial. The rounds offered a valuable learning experience as the judges provided the students with insights into legal points and the nuances of advocacy. At the end of the Preliminary Rounds, four teams advanced to the semi-final stage.



Final Oral Round of the Conquerors Intra Moot Court Competition 2025



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal, Mr. Tarun Agrawal, Prof. (Dr.) Kavita Solanki felicitating the Winners of the Conquerors Intra Moot Court Competition 2025

On 14th September, the four teams competed before distinguished division benches in the Semi-Final Rounds, which were adjudged by Adv. Parijat Mishra, Adv. Abhishek Tiwari, Adv. Vijay Kumar Ojha and Adv. Saumitra Dwivedi. These rounds marked a notable escalation in the difficulty level of the competition, as the division benches engaged the teams with rigorous questioning and close adjudication, thereby refining the students' argumentation approach.

The Final Round saw the engagement of the two finalist teams in a spirited round of arguments before a distinguished three-judge bench, namely, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University, **Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**; **Adv. Priyanka Midha**, Advocate, Allahabad High Court and **Adv. Tarun Agrawal**, Advocate, Allahabad High Court.

The round concluded with a feedback session between the judges and the teams: the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, in her address, commended the first-year students for their impressive performance despite having joined the University only a month earlier. Further, she thanked both of the other judges for sparing their time to adjudicate the competition. Adv. Priyanka Midha, in her feedback, encouraged students to be proactive and work hard to give back to the University, as it had which had provided them with a foundation of excellence. Adv. Tarun Agrawal appreciated and lauded the students for their exemplary arguments. He emphasised that the true takeaways from such competitions should be the friendships formed and the knowledge of law gained, not the outcome of victory or defeat.

The competition concluded with the declaration of the results: The winning team comprised **Ms. Soundarya Awasthi, Ms. Richa Arya, and Ms. Sarvika Shankar**. The Runners-Up position was secured by **Mr. Sahastrarchi Tej Dwivedi, Mr. Shaswat Tripathi, and Ms. Swarnima Yadav**. Individual accolades were also announced: the award for **'Best Speaker'** was conferred upon **Mr. Sahastrarchi Tej Dwivedi**, the award for **'Best Researcher'** upon **Ms. Sarvika Shankar**, and the award for **'Best Memorial'** upon the team comprising **Ms. Suhani Yadav, Ms. Gaurvi Singh, and Ms. Kavya Kayasth**.

The competition began with the researchers' test, followed by the Draw of Lots and Memorial Exchange, which set the stage for the oral rounds. The preliminary rounds, which consisted of two oral sessions, took place on 27th September, 2025. Participants were rigorously assessed based on their knowledge of the facts, understanding of the law, and reference to written submissions, poise, demeanour, style, and ability to answer questions. The two rounds featured an intellectually demanding competition, where teams presented their case arguments based on the competition's theme to the judges, who actively questioned them to test their understanding. As a result, four teams emerged as qualifiers for the semi-final rounds scheduled for the next day.

On 28th September, the semi-finalists competed in the knockout rounds before a Division Bench of practising advocates and legal experts. These knockout rounds became even more intensive, wherein teams showcased their deep research and effective articulation of arguments, which were subjected to further meticulous questioning by the judges to determine the teams that would qualify for the finals.



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal, Mr. Tarun Agrawal, Prof. (Dr.) Kavita Solanki felicitating the Winners of the Grand Intra Moot Court Competition 2025



Final Oral Round of the Grand Intra Moot Court Competition 2025

For the senior students of third semester B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), the Moot Court Society of the University organised the **1st Edition of the 'Grand Intra Moot Court Competition'** on 27th and 28th September 2025, for the Batch of 2024-29. The event, comprising thirteen teams of oralists and speakers, constituted a prestigious forum for a cutting-edge competition and provided an opportunity for the students to refine their advocacy prowess and demonstrate their legal acumen. The competition was assessed by a distinguished panel of advocates from the High Court of Allahabad and the District Court.

The Final Rounds saw the engagement of the two finalist teams in a spirited round of arguments before a distinguished three-judge bench. The bench comprised the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, **Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, Dr. Kavita Solanki**, Professor, USLLS, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, and **Mr. Tarun Agrawal**, Advocate, Allahabad High Court. The finalists impressed the judges with well-structured arguments and thorough research.

The team comprising **Mr. Suryansh Mishra**, **Ms. Tejaswi Sharma** and **Ms. Nandini** emerged as the winner. The Runners-Up position was bagged by the team comprising **Ms. Saumya Sachan** and **Ms. Janhavi Singh**. Individual honours were also announced: the award for **'Best Speaker'** was conferred upon **Ms. Tejaswi Sharma**, the award for **'Best Researcher'** upon **Mr. Aditya Raj** and the award for **'Best Memorial'** upon the team of **Ms. Samraddhi Jain** and **Mr. Anmol Patel**.

Beyond fostering a competitive dimension, the competition functioned as an enriching endeavour wherein participants benefited from the invaluable guidance and feedback from the distinguished legal practitioners and experts. It served as a testimony to the University's enduring dedication to building moot culture in its students and preparing them to navigate the dynamic challenges of the legal profession.



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon and the Registrar of RPNLUP felicitating Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal, Judge, Allahabad High Court

The Valedictory Session for the Conquerors' Intra Moot Court Competition (2nd Edition) and the Grand Intra Moot Court Competition (1st Edition) on 28th September 2025, marked a celebration of advocacy, learning, and the spirit of moot culture, showcasing the skills and commitment of the University's budding legal professionals.

The ceremony was graced by Hon'ble **Mr. Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal**, Judge, Allahabad High Court, as the Chief Guest, along with Prof. (Dr.) Kavita Solanki, USLLS, GGSIP University, New Delhi, and Mr. Tarun Agrawal, Advocate, Allahabad High Court, as the Guests of Honour. HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon warmly introduced the dignitaries, expressed gratitude for their presence, and applauded the spirited performances of the participants. She reiterated RPNLUP's commitment to nurturing a vibrant

mooting culture that strengthens advocacy skills and professional excellence.

Delivering the Valedictory Address, **HMJ Arun Deshwal** congratulated all participants and remarked that while knowledge of law is essential, the true hallmark of a lawyer lies in the ability to think critically, with empathy and integrity guiding their practice. He urged the students to follow the University's motto of justice, reminding them that fairness and human values distinguish great lawyers from good ones. His words provided lasting inspiration to the students as they step forward in their legal journeys.'

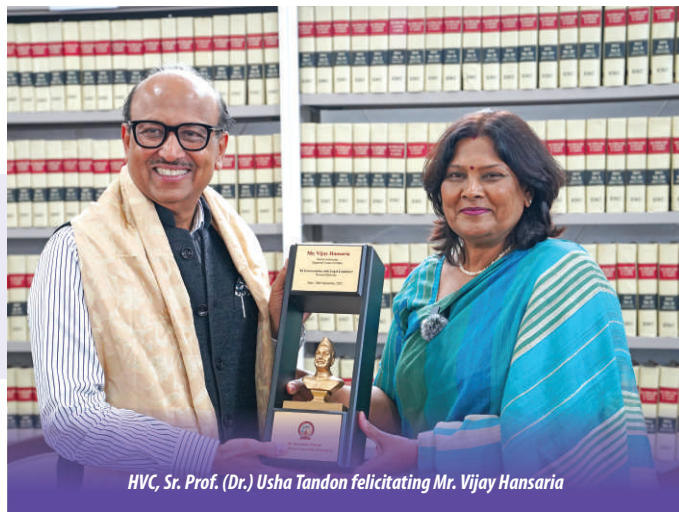
Dr. Sonika, Faculty Convener of the Moot Court Society, highlighted the role of moot courts in preparing law students for the practical challenges of the profession. She reminded participants that while corporate opportunities may be lucrative, litigation remains the irreplaceable foundation of advocacy, and moot culture acts as a bridge between academic knowledge and courtroom realities. Mr. Tarun Agrawal congratulated the participants, remarking that "There are no losers in such competitions."

The session also included a brief presentation on the activities of the Moot Court Society by Faculty Convener, Dr. Sonika, Asst. Prof., and concluded with a Vote of Thanks by the Faculty Co-convenor, **Dr. Deepak Sharma**, HoD, Law.

The Valedictory Session marked the successful conclusion of both intra-moot court competitions, reaffirming RPNLUP's commitment to experiential legal education, advocacy training, and the holistic development of its students. The competitions not only celebrated the talent and determination of the University's students but also stood as a testament to its vision of nurturing future advocates who excel in both knowledge and character.



IN CONVERSATION WITH THE LEGAL LUMINARY - MR. VIJAY HANSARIA



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon felicitating Mr. Vijay Hansaria



Mr. Vijay Hansaria addressing the Audience

In the **second episode** of the series of **In Conversation with Legal Luminary, Mr. Vijay Hansaria**, Sr. Advocate, Supreme Court of India, was invited, where Hon'ble Vice Chancellor **Sr. Prof. Dr. Usha Tandon** interacted with him. The event was held on 20th September, 2025 and started at 11:00 a.m., where Sir took an informal take on the event, making the conversation more interactive. He appreciated that more females are taking up law as a profession, noticing the equal sex ratio among the students.

Following this, when the first question was asked about his legal profession, and how he deals with it while being labelled as someone who was born with a 'silver spoon', and what all he had to deal with, as his father was a Supreme Court judge, he gave a small gist about the small village in Assam where he was born. The village where he used to live had no primary schools, and he did not receive any formal education till the fourth standard. When he started his practice, he had to move out to Delhi because his father was the judge of the Assam High Court.

He then tried to break the common notion that the law is chosen by those who are unable to do anything else. He then emphasised the research and typing skills for law students, and recalled how they didn't have access to computers at his time, and had to give everything handwritten to the typist beforehand. Then he was talking about how technology should go hand in hand with legal education.

Sir has also been part of the landmark case of *ADR v. Union of India*, where he argued against the scheme in the Electoral Bond case. He had also been the Amicus Curiae in the case of *Aswini Kumar Upadhyay v. Union of India*, which was related to prolonged trials in the India Legal System.

Sir then talked about the numerous criminal cases pending against the ministers and MLAs and gave the data for the same. Following this, a question was raised by one of the students, that since we follow the principle of innocence until proven guilty. So merely alleging charges against policymakers doesn't render them guilty, and hence, legislators, until proven guilty, should not be questioned about their credibility. To which he replied, making an analogy between the rule for public servants to be suspended in case they are imprisoned for more than 48 hours.

With this, the floor was opened for questions from the students. A question was asked with reference to the ongoing discussion about the criminal allegations on Ministers, i.e. MPs and MLAs, with the recent news alleging that 15 crore rupees were found burning in the official residence of Justice Yashwant Verma, who is at the Delhi High Court, and the video of it also got released in the public domain. There was a nationwide debate, and the common people started forming perceptions about the judiciary. When there are instances like this, it shakes the trust of common people in the judiciary, which is believed to be the guardian of justice.



The next question asked was about views on preventive detention and its impact on both security and individual liberty, for which he emphasised national security and due process of law should be prioritised.

Questions relating to the accused contesting elections and its co-relation to the commonly used phrase 'innocent until proven guilty', and about the rights of homosexuals were also asked, to which Sir replied very patiently and gracefully.

The last question was "What advice would you give to us as 1st year students on how to make the most of our internships and early years of practice and how to develop confidence in oral arguments before the Court?" to which Sir replied by re-emphasizing the need for hard work and confidence in the legal career, and firstly interning under research centres for better skill development, and then going towards the legal internships.

After wrapping up the questions, a rapid-fire round was conducted, where he had to describe the following former Supreme Court judges in one word, and it went like this: Justice PN Bhagwati - legal aid; Justice Murtuza Fazal Ali - to the point; Justice V. Ramaswamy - good judge; Justice Fatima Beevi - slow; and Justice Sujata Manohar - precise.

In the next round, he had to reply in one word for the following rapid fire questions: Role model - father; Strength - self-confidence; if he had to amend one of the provision in the constitution - equality, as we have never been equal, even though it is already in constitution, and Equality amongst equals should be followed; and asked if he had to add one provision in the constitution, what would it be to which he asked to disqualify one with criminal charges from elections; and lastly, the Impact of AI in legal education - lethargic.

Finally, concluding the session, he talked about the Artwork in the constitution and gifted one of the copies of his book to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Ma'am. The expansive and bold interaction with Mr. Hansaria gave meaningful exposure to the students.

A FIR was logged against the judge. What was done was that he got transferred to the parent high court, i.e., Allahabad High Court. Therefore, being a legal luminary and having these many years of experience in this field, what were his views on the issue of holding accountability of judges when such incidents happen, and the sole removal process of judges? He gave a straightforward reply and said that he would have suspended the judge in such a case if he had been the authority to do so. But he also raised the concern about how people also speak fake news after losing the case, and that judges can't even come out in public to answer and put forth their side.

Another student asked two questions to the Sir, which were "This is a common saying that- if you want to win, know the law, and if you want to really win, then know the judge. This is a sarcastic statement, but the problem hidden in this statement is about the growing instances of corruption and misconduct within the judiciary. What is your take on that?" and "Even after dedicating all hard work, the first-gen lawyers still face a lot of problems as compared to second and third generation lawyers. How to tackle it?"

He replied by saying that "the quote can be interpreted such that knowing the approach which a judge follows will make you win, not by knowing the judge personally. Giving on-point answers and not trying to mislead the judge makes a huge difference. And being a first-generation lawyer, hard work is the key, and no other approach can replace that."

INSTITUTION OF 'RAVI KANT MEMORIAL' GOLD MEDAL



On 28th September 2025, Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, with solemnity, formally announced the institution of the **Ravi Kant Memorial Gold Medal**. This distinguished honour commemorates the life and legacy of Late Senior Advocate **Shri Ravi Kant**, one of the most venerated members of the Allahabad High Court Bar.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the endowment of this Medal was ceremoniously executed between Hon'ble Vice Chancellor **Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon** and **Mr. Tarun Agrawal**, son of Late Shri Ravi Kant. The signing took place in the august presence of the Hon'ble Chief Guest, **Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal**, Judge, High Court of Judicature at Allahabad. The occasion was further dignified by the gracious presence of **Prof. (Dr.) Kavita Solanki**, Faculty, USLLS, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi, as the Guest of Honour.

In his address, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deshwal underscored the deeper significance of the initiative, remarking that the medal not only immortalises the exemplary service of Shri Ravi Kant but also resonates with the University's guiding ethos: those who tread the path of justice are never alone, for they are aided by the righteous. HMJ Deshwal emphasised that this Gold Medal is emblematic of such enduring support and recognition.

HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon, in her reflections, affirmed that the Ravi Kant Memorial Gold Medal will stand as an enduring beacon of inspiration. She observed that the medal

shall motivate students to aspire to the intellectual rigour, professional integrity, and unwavering commitment to justice that characterised the distinguished life and career of Late Shri Ravi Kant. Late Senior Advocate Shri Ravi Kant commenced his legal practice in 1969 upon graduating in law from the University of Allahabad. Over the course of a luminous career, he established himself as an authority in civil and constitutional law, widely admired for his analytical brilliance, clarity of expression, and steadfast dedication to the rule of law. Beyond his remarkable professional achievements, Shri Ravi Kant was also a magnanimous mentor whose guidance shaped the careers of numerous lawyers and judges, leaving a profound imprint on the legal fraternity.

Reflecting on his father's lifelong dedication to the legal profession and his unwavering commitment to advancing legal education, Mr. Tarun Agrawal remarked that this endowment is conceived not merely as an award but as a source of inspiration, encouraging students to pursue their studies with diligence and devotion.

The Ravi Kant Memorial Gold Medal shall henceforth serve not merely as a recognition of academic excellence, but as a perpetual tribute to the values, vision, and enduring contributions of Late Shri Ravi Kant. In honouring his memory, the University reaffirms its commitment to nurturing a culture of merit, ethical responsibility, and scholarly distinction among the next generation of legal professionals.

PARA LEGAL VOLUNTEERS BASIC TRAINING PROGRAMME



Students being trained as PLVs



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon addressing the students at the Inaugural Session



Sh. Surjan Singh (O.S.D., UPSLSA) addressing the Students



Visit to Naini Central Jail

procedural ethics, negotiation techniques, and the human dimensions of justice delivery. The sessions were particularly impactful in sensitising students to the plight of marginalised communities, with discussions on missing children, prisoner rehabilitation, and welfare schemes for crime victims reinforcing the imperative of empathy in legal practice.

The educational visits to Naini Central Jail, District Jail, and the District Court, Prayagraj, provided students with firsthand exposure to

Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, in collaboration with the **Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority (UPSLSA)** and the **District Legal Services Authority (DLSA)**, successfully concluded a **three-day Para Legal Volunteers' (PLVs) Basic Training Programme** for the B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) students of the 2025 batch. Held from **6th to 8th October, 2025**, the initiative aimed to impart foundational knowledge of India's legal aid framework and cultivate a cohort of socially conscious legal professionals committed to advancing access to justice.

The inaugural session was graced by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, **Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**, who underscored the transformative potential of legal aid in democratizing justice. She urged students to embrace community engagement as an extension of their academic journey, emphasising that programmes like PLV training bridge theoretical learning with lived legal realities and foster empathy-driven leadership in law.

Through a series of lectures and interactive sessions, students were introduced to critical dimensions of legal aid, including victim compensation schemes, child protection laws, prison reform, mediation practices, and constitutional mandates under Article 39-A. The pedagogical approach emphasised experiential learning, enabling students to engage with real-world legal challenges and institutional frameworks.

A key highlight of the training was the simulation-based dispute resolution exercise, wherein students assumed roles such as complainants, defendants, mediators, and judges. These enactments deepened their understanding of

the functioning of correctional institutions and judicial proceedings. These immersive experiences enriched their comprehension of institutional dynamics and underscored the importance of reformative justice. The valedictory session concluded with a thought-provoking reflection on the evolving nature of law, encapsulated in the theme "Law changes with perspectives." Drawing analogies between legal reasoning and cinematic narratives, the session encouraged students to approach legal aid with creativity, patience, and a balanced outlook.

The programme featured a distinguished panel of legal experts and public officials, including **Sh. Surjan Singh** (O.S.D., UPSLSA), **Sh. Dinesh Gautam** (Secretary, DLSA, Prayagraj), **Smt. Ritandhra Mishra** (Mediator, DLSA), **Sushri Shikha Chaudhery** (Principal Magistrate, Juvenile Justice Board), **Shri. Sarvajit Singh** (District Probation Officer, Prayagraj), **Smt. Mahima Maurya** (Senior Advocate, Allahabad High Court), **Smt. Nancy Shukla** (Naib Tehsildaar), **Sh. Lavlesh Tripathi** (Superintendent, Central & District Jail, Naini), **Sh. Vikas Gupta** (Chief, Legal Aid Defence Counsel), **Sh. Gaurav Singh** (Deputy Chief, LADC).

Asst. Prof. **Dr. Deepak Sharma**, Faculty Convener, HoD of Law, delivered the vote of thanks, lauding the programme as a landmark in RPNLUP's ongoing commitment to integrating academic excellence with societal responsibility.

The successful completion of the PLV training reaffirms RPNLUP's dedication to nurturing ethically grounded, socially responsive lawyers who embody the constitutional values of justice, equality, and service.

WORKSHOP ON PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE FORMATS



A **workshop on Parliamentary Style Debates** was successfully conducted on 9th October 2025 under the aegis of the **Debate and Discussion Club** of Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of both academic batches, reflecting a strong interest in debating activities among the student community. The workshop was conducted by **Ms. Pratibha Gaur** (B.A.LL.B. (Hons.), III Semester, 2nd year) under the supervision of **Dr. Neha Dubey**, Faculty Convener, DDC.

The primary objective of organizing this workshop was to familiarize students with the concept of parliamentary debating, its various formats, fundamental rules, and procedural aspects. Additionally, the workshop aimed to contribute to the development of critical thinking, public speaking, logical reasoning, and effective communication skills among students.

The workshop commenced with an introductory explanation of parliamentary debate as a structured and formal method of discussion, closely resembling deliberations conducted in legislative bodies. It was emphasized that parliamentary debate encourages participants to express their viewpoints in a logical, organized, and respectful manner, while also responding constructively to opposing arguments. Each format follows its own structure and rules, while retaining the

core essence of reasoned argumentation. For the purpose of this workshop, the discussion was primarily centered on the Asian Parliamentary (AP) and British Parliamentary (BP) formats, as these are most commonly used in academic debating circuits.

The workshop was marked by a high level of interaction, with students actively participating through questions and discussions. The presenter addressed each query with patience and precision, fostering an inclusive and engaging atmosphere. This active exchange reflected the students' enthusiasm and their keen interest in developing and refining their debating skills, thereby contributing to the overall success of the session.

SPECIAL LECTURE ON **LAW OF CONTRACT BY PROF. BHARAT**



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon felicitating Prof. (Dr.) Bharat

A Special Lecture on the Law of Contract was organised on 4th November, 2025 for the students of B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), Semester I, to provide them with a strong foundational understanding of one of the core subjects of legal studies. The lecture was delivered by **Dr. Bharat**, Professor, University Institute of Legal Studies (UILS), Panjab University, Chandigarh, and was held from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the students' regular classroom.

The session began with an introduction to the significance of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, highlighting its relevance in regulating civil and commercial relationships in everyday life. Dr. Bharat emphasised that the law of contract forms the backbone of private law and plays a crucial role in governing agreements and obligations in society. This initial discussion helped students appreciate the practical importance of the subject beyond its theoretical framework.

Dr. Bharat then elaborated on the essential elements of a valid contract, including offer and acceptance, lawful consideration, free consent, capacity of parties, and lawful object. Each concept was explained in a structured and simplified manner, keeping in mind the academic level of first-semester students. The discussion was enriched with relatable examples, which made complex legal provisions easier to understand and apply.

An important aspect of the lecture was the reference to relevant judicial precedents under the Indian Contract Act. Dr. Bharat discussed select case laws to demonstrate how courts interpret and apply contractual principles in real situations. These references provided students with an early exposure to judicial reasoning and reinforced the practical application of statutory provisions.

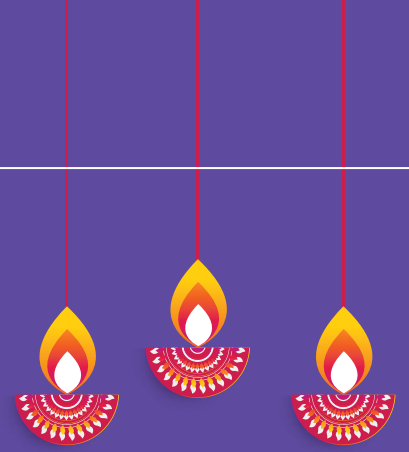
The lecture was highly interactive, with students actively participating in discussions and responding to questions posed by the speaker. Dr. Bharat encouraged students to analyse hypothetical situations and apply legal principles, thereby fostering critical thinking and analytical skills. He also shared valuable practical insights and academic guidance on how to approach the study of contract law effectively.

The session concluded with an interactive question-and-answer segment, during which students' doubts regarding contractual obligations and enforceability were addressed. Overall, the lecture proved to be academically enriching and intellectually stimulating. It offered students a clear conceptual understanding of the Law of Contract and laid a strong foundation for their future legal studies.



Dr. Bharat interacting with B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) I Sem. Students

DIWALI CELEBRATION DEEPANJALI



Students decorating the premises for the event



The colourful ambience of the event

Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, was illuminated with joy, festivity, and cultural vibrance on the evening of 16th October 2025, as the **Cultural Society** successfully organised Deepanjali 2025, to celebrate Diwali. The event marked a significant milestone in the university's cultural journey and aimed to foster unity, togetherness, and festive cheer among students and faculty members.

The celebration commenced with an energetic DJ session that instantly set a lively and celebratory tone for the evening. Students gathered enthusiastically, filling the venue with music, laughter, and excitement. The vibrant atmosphere reflected the true essence of Diwali, celebrating happiness, harmony, and community spirit.

Following the opening session, an engaging partner-finding game was organised, where participants were given chits bearing the names of famous couples. The activity generated immense enthusiasm and participation, as students eagerly searched for their matching partners. The first twenty successful pairs qualified for the next round, adding a sense of friendly competition and anticipation to the event.

One of the major highlights of Deepanjali 2025 was the balloon race, which brought waves of laughter and excitement. Couples competed while balancing a balloon between their backs, requiring coordination, patience, and teamwork. The audience cheered wholeheartedly as participants raced toward the finish line. In the first round, **Ms. Kriti Raj** and **Mr. Shashwat** from the I Semester B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) emerged victorious, while Mr. Aditya Dixit and Ms. Tanu Grewal from the III Semester B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) claimed victory in the second round. The game not only entertained the audience but also encouraged camaraderie among students.



Students participating in festive activities



Group photo of Students of RPNLUP during the event



Students release sky lanterns at the conclusion of the celebration

The event then transitioned into a brief yet captivating open mic segment. **Ms. Arunima** from I Semester B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), along with **Ms. Stuti Mishra** and **Ms. Rounak** from the III Semester B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) mesmerised the audience with their energetic dance performances on popular Bollywood tracks. Their performances were met with enthusiastic applause and added a cultural charm to the evening.

Following the open mic, the DJ session resumed, transforming the venue into a lively dance floor. Students danced with great enthusiasm, and faculty members also joined in, creating a warm and inclusive environment. The participation of faculty members highlighted the strong bond between students and teachers, reinforcing the sense of unity within the campus community.

A photography session was organised thereafter, allowing participants to capture and preserve cherished memories of the celebration. The event concluded on a serene and visually captivating note with the lighting of lanterns. The glowing lanterns symbolised hope, positivity, and the triumph of light over darkness, beautifully encapsulating the spirit of Diwali.

Overall, Deepanjali 2025 was a grand success, witnessing enthusiastic participation from both students and faculty members. The event not only celebrated the festival of Diwali but also strengthened cultural bonding, promoted a sense of belonging, and provided a refreshing break from academic routines. The celebration will undoubtedly be remembered as a cultural event that enriched campus life and brought the university community closer together.

INTRA DEBATE COMPETITION



Dr. Deepak Sharma and Dr. Suchit Kumar Yadav adjudging the preliminary round



HVC, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon adjudging the Final Round

The **Debate and Discussion Club** of Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, continues to foster a culture of critical thinking and intellectual engagement among students. In furtherance of this objective, the Society successfully organised the **Second Intra-Debate Competition, 2025, on 16th October 2025**, witnessing enthusiastic participation and thought-provoking deliberations.

The event commenced with the formal welcome of the esteemed judging panel comprising **Dr. Deepak Sharma**, Head of the Department of Law, and **Dr. Suchit Kumar Yadav**, Asst. Prof. of Political Science, both from the University. Their presence added immense academic value to the competition.

The preliminary round revolved around the motion **"The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 is stifling innovation in the name of protection."** Participants demonstrated commendable preparation and analytical depth while presenting arguments both for and against the motion. A total of sixteen students participated, evenly divided across the two sides, each showcasing strong research skills, logical reasoning, and confident articulation.

The preliminary rounds began with participants speaking in favour of the motion, followed by another member from the team presenting a structured rebuttal against it. As the rounds progressed, each speaker contributed compelling perspectives, supporting their arguments with factual data and legal reasoning. The final speakers of the preliminary round further elevated the intensity of the debate by effectively responding to interjections, marking a dynamic conclusion to the round.

Based on the judges' evaluation, Team TC03, comprising Ms. Adwitiya Sinha and Mr. Suryansh Mishra, and Team TC08, comprising Ms. Nehal Sharma and Ms. Stuti Mishra, qualified for the final round.

The final round featured an on-the-spot topic: **"In this modern age, online gaming is better than traditional gaming."** The finalists were provided 15 minutes to prepare their arguments using digital resources. Ms. Nehal Sharma and Ms. Stuti Mishra argued in favour of the motion, while Ms. Adwitiya Sinha and Mr. Suryansh Mishra opposed it. The debate witnessed an intense exchange of ideas, with participants addressing crucial issues such as the impact of online gaming on mental and physical health, social interaction, and youth development.

FRESHER'S FIESTA

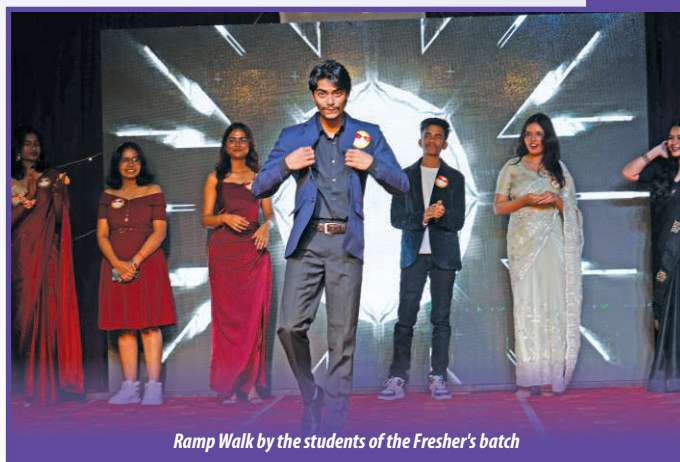


Commencement of the event

Freshers' Fiesta was organised on **14th November 2025** at the Football Ground of Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, to extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to the newly admitted students of the B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) Batch 2025-30. The event aimed to provide the freshers with a joyful and memorable beginning to their academic journey while fostering a sense of belonging, confidence, and unity within the university community.

The event commenced with an engaging welcome process, where freshers were allowed entry in small batches. Each student was greeted with a unique title that reflected their personality, instantly creating an atmosphere of excitement and inclusivity. To further enhance the experience, a face-painting stall and a confession box were set up at the entrance, encouraging interaction and participation. After the entry process, students were seated and served refreshments. This was followed by the warm welcome of the faculty members, whose presence added grace and encouragement to the occasion.

The formal programme began with an energetic ramp walk. First-semester students confidently participated in the Mr. and Ms. Showstopper round, followed by the much-awaited Mr. and Ms. Freshers walk. The ramp walk not only showcased style and confidence but also reflected the enthusiasm of the newly inducted batch. An open stage session followed, allowing students to express themselves freely. This segment



Ramp Walk by the students of the Fresher's batch

witnessed enthusiastic participation and spontaneous performances, adding vibrancy to the event.



Students participating in activities

Subsequently, a two-round game session was organised to keep the audience engaged and entertained. The first round, titled the Hook Step Challenge, witnessed impressive performances, with twelve students qualifying for the next stage. The second round, Pick the Item Challenge, was conducted in six rounds and tested the participants' presence of mind and creativity. **Mr. Kartik Kadam** and **Ms. Arunima Agarwal** emerged as the winners of this segment. The game session was followed by a lively group dance performance by the third-semester girls, which was met with loud applause and appreciation from the audience.



Faculty members and senior batch winners felicitating Mr. Fresher, Ms. Freshers, Mr. Showstopper and Ms. Showstopper

One of the major highlights of the event was the **Mr. and Ms. Freshers Title Hunt**. Registered participants were given chits containing riddles related to their seniors, which they had to solve to progress through the rounds and reach the final stage. This innovative activity encouraged interaction between juniors and seniors while adding an element of fun and suspense. The prestigious titles were won by **Mr. Nishant Jadwani** as Mr. Fresher and **Ms. Padmaja Lohani** as Ms. Fresher.

Following this, **Mr. Abhay Singh Yadav** and **Ms. Swarnima Yadav** were declared the winners of the **Mr. Showstopper** and **Ms. Showstopper** titles, respectively. All the winners were felicitated by the faculty members with awards and sachets, acknowledging their confidence, talent, and performance. The event further featured an open mic session, during which several students showcased their talents through singing and dancing, creating an atmosphere of celebration and encouragement.

The programme concluded with an energetic DJ session followed by dinner. Overall, Freshers' Fiesta 2025 was a grand success that strengthened bonds, celebrated talent, and created lasting memories, marking a joyful beginning to the academic life of the new batch.



Senior batch performing a group dance



Group photo of the Fresher's batch 2025-2030

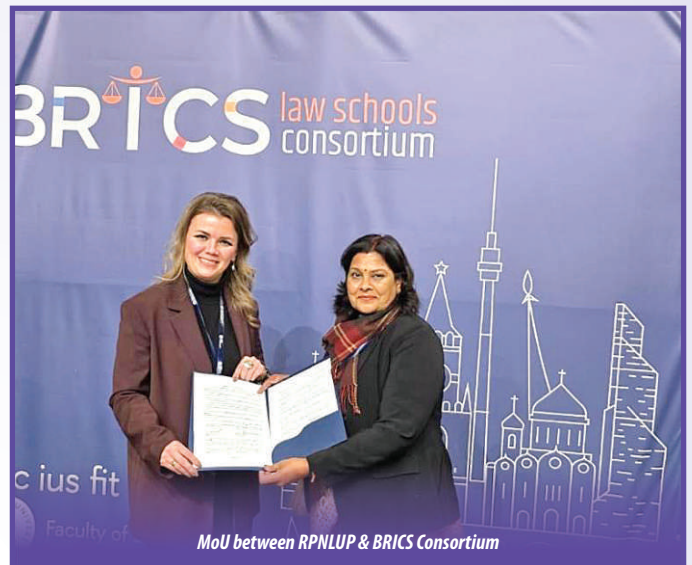


RPNLUP SIGNS MOU WITH

BRICS LAW SCHOOLS CONSORTIUM



HVC, Sr. Prof. Dr. Usha Tandon at the BRICS



MoU between RPNLUP & BRICS Consortium

Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, achieved a significant milestone in its journey towards global academic engagement by signing a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the **BRICS Law Schools Consortium in Moscow, Russia, on 2nd December, 2025**. Through this agreement, the University has become one of the founding members of the Consortium, marking an important step in strengthening its international academic presence.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of RPNLUP, **Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon**, on behalf of the University. The BRICS Law Schools Consortium is an academic platform comprising leading law schools from BRICS nations, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The Consortium aims to explore and analyse the legal systems of these countries to identify similarities and differences and to determine key areas for future cooperation.

The collaboration seeks to promote academic mobility and cultural exchange among participating institutions. It also focuses on expanding academic and legal research cooperation, conducting joint training programmes for professional international lawyers, and providing legal support for regional development strategies across BRICS

nations. Through these objectives, the Consortium aims to foster a deeper understanding of comparative legal systems and strengthen the role of legal education in addressing global and regional challenges.

Commenting on the occasion, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon stated that the association with the BRICS Law Schools Consortium reflects RPNLUP's commitment to globally engaged legal education and research. She emphasised that the collaboration would encourage meaningful comparative legal scholarship, enhance academic exchange, and prepare students and faculty to contribute effectively to international legal discourse while remaining grounded in constitutional values and social responsibility.

This MoU further adds to RPNLUP's growing network of academic collaborations. Earlier this year, the University signed Memoranda of Understanding with the Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria, National Law University Delhi, and the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, Delhi. These initiatives collectively reaffirm RPNLUP's vision of academic excellence, international cooperation, and socially responsive legal education.



FACULTY SEMINARS



In the **6th episode**¹ of the **Faculty Seminar** on **19th September, 2025**, **Dr. Neha Dubey**, Assistant Professor of English, presented a presentation on the topic "**Regulatory and Environmental Blind Spots in Uttar Pradesh's Renewable Energy Transition**", offering critical analysis of Uttar Pradesh's renewable energy ambitions. She observed

that while the state has set ambitious targets for expansion in solar, bioenergy, and green hydrogen, its regulatory framework continues to reveal significant gaps in environmental coherence, lifecycle accountability, and institutional integration.

The presentation explained that the government's Solar Energy push has been positioned as the primary strategy to reduce dependence on non-renewable sources. Policies such as the **Solar Energy Policy 2022** were acknowledged for promoting investment and capacity building, yet she emphasized that they lack enforceable provisions for ecological siting, biodiversity safeguards, and end-of-life waste management. The discussion cautioned that the absence of a dedicated solar waste regulation, coupled with informal disposal practices and limited recycling infrastructure, poses risks of soil contamination, heavy metal leaching, and ecological disruption—particularly in sensitive regions like Bundelkhand and Barabanki.

Turning to the **Draft CRE Regulations (2024–2029)** of the Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission, the presentation noted their progressive stance on grid integration and banking norms. However, it highlighted that these regulations fail to adequately address the environmental externalities of large-scale renewable deployment. The reliance on agrarian and mixed-use land for solar parks, without ecological zoning or cumulative impact assessments, was identified as a source of land-use conflict and a challenge to sustainability.

In comparing Uttar Pradesh with other states, the presentation pointed out that Tamil Nadu and Gujarat have already initiated pilot recycling programs and integrated solar waste into e-waste tracking systems. Uttar Pradesh, by contrast, lacks a circular economy framework and **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** mandates for photovoltaic modules.

The presentation concluded that this regulatory lacuna calls for a comprehensive policy overhaul. The further discussion on the presentation underscored that bridging these gaps is essential not only for ecological resilience but also for ensuring that Uttar Pradesh's renewable energy transition remains ethically grounded, scientifically informed, and institutionally accountable.



In the **7th episode** of the Faculty Seminar held on **26 September 2025**, **Dr. Akanshi Vidyarthi**, Assistant Professor of History, delivered a presentation titled "**Making Maternity Modern: Reflections from the Magazines of Colonial North India.**"

Dr. Vidyarthi's presentation examined discourses surrounding childbirth, childcare, and maternity practices among women in colonial North India. Drawing on Hindi magazines published in the United Provinces between 1900 and 1945, she highlighted how maternity practices were not static but evolved in response to new influences.

¹ *Earlier episodes of the faculty seminar have been published in the earlier issues of Cognizant (from vol. 1 to this issue)

The discussion revealed that the arrival of western medical practices in India marked a turning point. Western medical discourse often portrayed Indian childbirth traditions as regressive and unsanitary. In response, Indian communities selectively incorporated aspects of western medical knowledge into existing maternity practices, creating a hybrid model that reflected both continuity and change. Dr. Vidyarthi emphasized that traditions are dynamic, adapting over time to new contexts and pressures.

Two magazines—**Arya Mahila** and **Chikitsak**—were central to her study. These publications played a significant role in shaping and disseminating knowledge about childbirth and childcare to readers in the colonial United Provinces. They served as platforms where evolving ideas about maternity were debated, negotiated, and absorbed into everyday practices.

The presentation combined a detailed PowerPoint with an extended discussion, encouraging faculty members to reflect on how cultural traditions intersect with medical modernity. Dr. Vidyarthi concluded by underscoring the importance of viewing maternity practices as historically adaptive, shaped by both indigenous traditions and external influences.

Emphasising the significance of privacy, she started the discussion by throwing light on background of computers, internet, applicable laws and cyber-crime data.

Generally, privacy can be defined as the right of an individual to enjoy her existence by herself and decide her limitations of physical and mental interaction with others. Privacy is generally classified into four major categories, namely, informational privacy, personal privacy, bodily privacy, and territorial privacy. Further, she made reference to Warren and Brandeis's observations that the primordial objective of privacy is to protect 'inviolable personality'. Even the 'Right to Privacy' is one of the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of India and the same has been recognised in several judicial pronouncements. Undoubtedly, personal dignity and liberty are the core elements of the 'Right to Privacy'. She expounded as to how cyber-crimes such as stalking, e-mail spoofing, cookies, online digital profiling, globally unique identifier, phishing, etc. breach privacy rights of individuals. These crimes are transformed version of conventional offences which are constantly expanding and adversely affecting various innocent individuals as mentioned in official records of Government. She highlighted that the emergence of Artificial Intelligence has further ignited the debate globally. Further, Artificial Intelligence and data algorithm, 'excessive surveillance' and data retention threaten the 'right to be left alone'.

Further, Artificial Intelligence has various inter-sectoral challenges namely, consumer affairs, ecommerce based cyber frauds, Aadhar based frauds, information technology related offences namely, sextortion in the form of digital arrest, cyber bullying, misuse of artificial intelligence, digital arrest, deep fakes, excessive surveillance, unauthorized transmission of personal images, transnational cyber-crimes, data retention cyber space, mobile phone related OTP (One-time Password) Scams, etc. These modern-day cyber-crimes and Simultaneously, she explained the grey areas in Information Technology Act, 2000 and Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 which open avenues for wrong doers to easily evade penalties.

A reference to the Sri Krishna Committee Report and Report of the Group of Expert on Privacy along with United Kingdom law on data protection laws namely, Data Protection Act 1984 and Freedom of Information Act 2000 was made to suggest the need of overhauling of existing laws. Replying to a query, she suggested that self-vigilance and awareness are the keys



In the **8th episode** of the Faculty Seminar, **Dr. Sonika**, Assistant Professor of Law, made a discussion on the topic **“Right to Privacy in the era of Emerging Cyber Technologies: Issues and Challenges”** on **October 17, 2025**.



to safe and hassle-free cyber-access. She concluded the discussion by suggesting the need of effective compliance to achieve the perceptible goal of 'safe cyber eco-system.

In the **9th episode** of the Faculty Seminar held on **31 October 2025** and focused on **"Digital Arrest: Global Footprint, Modus Operandi, and Comparative Legal Mechanisms."** Dr. Deepak Sharma, Assistant Professor of Law, opened the session by explaining what "digital arrest" really looks like in practice: scammers pose as police, courts, tax, or narcotics officials and keep the victim on a continuous

phone/VoIP/video call to create panic and control. The discussion highlighted the usual script—victims are told they are "under digital arrest," warned not to disconnect, shown forged IDs or fake warrants, and then pushed to transfer money to so-called "safe" or "audit" accounts or to share sensitive details such as OTPs and passwords. Once the money is sent, it is quickly moved through mule accounts and sometimes routed further through crypto trails to make recovery difficult.

The session also placed this within a wider global pattern, noting that similar scams have been reported across multiple jurisdictions, and compared how different systems respond—India's offence framework (including provisions under the BNS and the IT Act) and quick reporting mechanisms like **1930**, alongside institutional models such as Singapore's coordinated anti-scam response, Hong Kong's dedicated anti-deception structures, and U.S. complaint and enforcement channels through the FTC and FBI-IC3. The discussion closed with practical takeaways: faster coordination between banks, telecom providers, and law enforcement; early warning nudges and cooling-off steps for suspicious transfers; and stronger verification methods to counter deepfake-style impersonation—while keeping due process and oversight firmly in view.



STUDENTS DEBATE AND DISCUSSION SERIES



The **Debate and Discussion Club** of Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, upholds its vision of promoting thoughtful and inclusive exchange of ideas through its weekly Round-Table Debate & Discussion Series organised every Thursday, these interactive sessions enable students to critically examine historical and current legal issues, explore their social consequences, and engage in reasoned discussion that sharpens analytical skills and encourages meaningful participation.

On **21st August 2025**, the Weekly Debate and Discussion session was held on the topic **“Stray Dogs or Public Safety? The Supreme Court’s Delhi NCR Order,”** presented by **Mr. Devansh Upadhyay** and **Mr. Aditya Dixit** (students of B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) III Sem.). The discussion centred on public safety, especially attacks on children by stray dogs, and the practicality of constructing shelter homes within eight weeks. While critics questioned the arbitrariness of the order and existing shelter conditions, supporters emphasised justice for victims and the primacy of human life.

Presenters:



On **4th September 2025**, the Weekly Debate and Discussion session was conducted on the topic **“Data Colonialism: Is India Trading Sovereignty for Tech Progress?”**, presented by **Ms. Swarnima Yadav** and **Mr. Parth Dwivedi** (students of B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) I Sem.). The debate examined concerns surrounding data sovereignty and safety, highlighting how reliance on foreign technology firms may shift control over critical data and digital standards beyond national boundaries.

Presenters:



On **11th September 2025**, the Weekly Debate and Discussion session was held on the topic **“Bail v. Jail: Is India’s Pre-Trial Detention System Unconstitutional?”**, presented by **Ms. Vanya Sidana** and **Ms. Siddhi Sharma** (students of B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) III Sem.). The discussion weighed the justification for strict bail norms as a means to prevent absconding, witness tampering, and obstruction of investigations against concerns that widespread undertrial detention and overcrowded prisons dilute the principle that bail is the rule, thereby undermining personal liberty under Article 21 and the presumption of innocence.

Presenters:



On **18th September 2025**, the Weekly Debate and Discussion session was conducted on the topic **“Is Reservation in the Private Sector Justified?”**, presented by **Ms. Anushka Singh** and **Ms. Prachi Mittal** (students of B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) I Sem.). The debate examined whether extending reservations to the private sector remains necessary for uplifting underprivileged communities, with arguments in favour highlighting ongoing caste-based discrimination and socio-economic inequality, while opposing views stressed the rights of the general category and concerns over misuse through fake certificates.

On **25th September 2025**, the Weekly Debate and Discussion session was held on the topic **“Is Judicial Immunity Essential for Maintaining the Autonomy of the Judiciary?”**, presented by **Mr. Ayush Trigun** and **Ms. Kriti Raj** (students of B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) I Sem.). The discussion explored the balance between judicial independence and accountability, with proponents emphasising the need for strong immunity to ensure impartiality, while critics argued that limited oversight could exist without undermining autonomy, highlighting the importance of sustaining public trust in the justice system.

Presenters:



Ms. Anushka Singh



Ms. Prachi Mittal

Presenters:



Mr. Ayush Trigun



Ms. Kriti Raj



BEYOND JUDGMENTS

SPEAKING WITH **HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJAN ROY** *(Senior Judge, Lucknow Bench, Allahabad High Court)*



(from left to right) Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajan Roy, Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court, Lucknow Bench interacting with Ms. Tejaswi Sharma and Ms. Soundarya Awasthi, Students of RPNLUP

Q1. Your Lordship, from your journey as a student of law at Lucknow University to serving as a Senior Judge at the Lucknow Bench, you have witnessed decades of learning and transformation. Looking back at your early years at the Bar, were there particular experiences or individuals that most significantly shaped your professional career?

Ans. Yes, the early years at the Bar were truly full of experiences and learnings. One quickly realizes that the most valuable lessons are not just in textbooks but are learnt in the courtroom itself. One learns to understand how to prepare a case, how to read the psychology of the court, and above all, how to understand the mind of the judge. I was fortunate enough to learn from my seniors who had advised me to be present in court from 10 to 4 initially, not idling in the canteen, but observing proceedings with care which I believe had been truly transforming. My maternal grandfather, who had served at the Patna High Court, inspired me to rehearse arguments before a mirror. Despite this, I clearly remember my legs trembling before the Court in those early attempts. Justice Tarun Aggarwal once told me that the sooner one begins observing the court proceedings, the better it is. That advice stayed with me. The journey of a lawyer and a judge begins similarly, with hard work, careful observation, and the humility to learn from those around you.

Q2. Every advocate remembers the first case they argued, and every judge remembers the first matter they presided over. Your Lordship, could you share which of these 'firsts' remains etched in your memory, and what lessons from that day still resonate with you in the courtroom?

Ans. To be honest, I do not distinctly recall my very first case as a lawyer or as a judge. The vast number of similar cases everyday over the years makes it difficult to single one out, yet, what remains constant is the atmosphere of the courtroom, which often depends on the personality of the judge sitting in the courtroom. Some bring humour, others seriousness, and some balance both. Broadly, I have observed three types of judges, those inclined towards academics that going by the books, those focused on practical realities, and those who make a balance between the two.

So, yes, each day brings its own lessons, and every matter carries significance. For the person standing before the court, even a small case may be the most important matter of their life, I always keep that perspective intact with me.

Q3. Sir, the shift from advocacy to adjudication demands not just a change of role but also a transformation in mindset. How did Your Lordship internalise this transition, and what were the most difficult habits to unlearn?

Ans. The internalisation of a judge's role begins much earlier, while one is still a lawyer. As advocates, we often concern ourselves less with who is right or wrong instead focusing on presenting our client's case effectively. But as judges, the responsibility shifts. We must determine what is right or wrong strictly within the ambit of law. Lawyers enjoy a certain freedom in their arguments, but judges must remain bound by constitutional limits. The most difficult habit to unlearn was perhaps the instinct to argue from one side alone because as a judge, one must step back, keep both side on definite pedestal, and make sure that justice is not only done but seen to be done.

Q4. Your Lordship, public sentiment often runs high in cases involving constitutional morality, such as same-sex relationships, adultery, or entry into religious places. In an age of instant outrage and social media trials, what inner discipline enables judges to remain steadfast in their constitutional duty, even when decisions may be unpopular?

Ans. You see, a judge must always remember that his decision must reflect strength and fearlessness he carries. Public opinion and political pressures cannot dictate judicial reasoning. I believe maturity lies in being composed, not impulsive, and in circumventing distractions. Each judge has his own philosophy of life which is important but circumstances must never control decision-making. Definitely, in the age of instant outrage, the judiciary's credibility lies on its ability to remain calm and reasoned even when decisions may be unpopular.

Q5. Your Lordship, integrity is often described as the quiet foundation of judicial decision-making, especially in complex or high-stake matters. From Your Lordship's experience on the Bench, how does this commitment to integrity influence the way judges approach reasoning, discretion, and the evaluation of arguments before the Court?

Ans. Integrity can have different meanings. For a judge, it lies in remaining faithful to the facts, evidence, and the law. Arguments must be evaluated not on sentiment or external influence but on their legal merit. That is the essence of judicial integrity. The profile of a judge, in my opinion, should align with the proverb "live like a hermit." Judicial office is not comparable to executive posts; it demands restraint, humility, and detachment from airs of authority.

Q6. In *Moti Lal Yadav v. Chief Election Commissioner, ECI (2026)*, Your Lordship acknowledged the divisive impact of caste-based political rallies, yet declined to issue directions beyond the existing statutory framework. How does a judge internally navigate the tension between social reality and constitutional limits?

Ans. See, we live in a society where marginalized communities often rely on such rallies to voice their grievances. So, to completely ban them would risk silencing their concerns. The law provides boundaries and as a judge must remain within those limits, i.e. not going beyond the constitutional limits, where the work lies with legislature or executive. In that case, we expressed no opinion beyond the statutory framework, for it is ultimately the domain of the legislature and the executive. So, the tension between social reality and constitutional limits is real but what should prevail is faithfulness to the law.



H.M.J. Rajan Roy in his younger years in the legal profession

Q7. In situations where competing constitutional values or political pressures create tension in adjudication, what guiding principles does Your Lordship rely upon to ensure the preservation of judicial independence, neutrality, and fidelity to the Constitution?

Ans. First and foremost, judicial independence lies on inner strength as I stated earlier. A judge must rely on his own conviction and capability to take strong decisions which gets reflected in the personality of the judge. That inner strength is the guiding principle. Ultimately, the Constitution is the touchstone, and fidelity to it ensures that judicial independence is preserved, even when there are competing values.

Q8. Your Lordship, beyond the demands of the Bench and the rigors of legal life, every individual finds solace in personal pursuits. May we know, what hobbies or interests bring Your Lordship joy outside the courtroom, and how do you usually spend your moments of leisure?

Ans. As a young man, I was deeply inclined towards sports, and I actively participated in them. Even today, whenever time permits, I try to engage in some sporting activity, though the demands of judicial work now consume most of my time. Over the years, I have increasingly found solace in spiritualism. It provides me inner strength and inner clarity. I also derive immense joy from spending time with my family, as those moments allow me to reconnect with myself beyond the courtroom and its responsibilities.

Q9. Your Lordship, with increasing digitisation of court processes, do you believe technology is merely a tool for efficiency, or can it also reshape the culture and accessibility of justice in India?

Ans. Technology can certainly do much more than merely improve efficiency. A recent and successful example is video conferencing, which has significantly enhanced representation and participation. It has promoted clarity and transparency in proceedings, and litigants are now able to witness court processes more easily. Although there are some practical challenges—particularly for lawyers who may find it difficult to argue as effectively in a virtual setting—the overall impact has been positive. Counsels can now argue from virtually anywhere, which has expanded access considerably. Additionally, the digitisation of records has greatly facilitated judicial functioning by making documents more accessible and manageable.

Q10. Your Lordship, Artificial Intelligence is increasingly influencing judicial processes, and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anoop Chitkara of the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court once reflected on the possibility of Artificial Intelligence assisting in judgment writing. May we know, does Your Lordship presently see a role for AI in your own judicial work?

Ans. I do not see a role for Artificial Intelligence in judgment writing. Judging is fundamentally a human function because it directly concerns the rights and lives of individuals. A judgment is not merely a mechanical exercise; it involves careful evaluation of facts, law, circumstances, and the human dimensions underlying a dispute. The process requires sensitivity, discretion, and a nuanced understanding that cannot be replicated by a machine. Therefore, in my view, judgment writing must remain a human responsibility.

Q11. Your Lordship, Hon'ble Supreme Court in 2025 has emphasised the importance of a mandatory three-year period of practice at the Bar before entry into the judiciary. Viewed against this backdrop, how does Your Lordship assess the traditional apprenticeship model at the Bar today?

Ans. I believe the apprenticeship model at the Bar remains extremely important. It is, in fact, worrisome that many young lawyers today are not joining the Bar in the traditional sense. Practising under the guidance of a senior advocate teaches lessons that no book can impart. The courtroom has many dimensions—human, procedural, and practical—which can only be understood through experience. It is through the struggle of practice—through interacting with clients from diverse and often disadvantaged backgrounds—that one develops empathy. When you sit with uneducated litigants and understand their anxieties, you cultivate the sensitivity required for adjudication. Such empathy cannot be developed unless one has first sat in the lawyer's chair.

Q12. Access to justice continues to be a significant concern, particularly in large states like Uttar Pradesh. What innovations or policy measures does Your Lordship believe can bring the justice system closer to ordinary citizens?

Ans. Access to justice is a multifaceted issue. One of the primary concerns is the very low judge-to-population ratio. Various Law Commission reports have highlighted this issue with empirical data. The root problem is that justice cannot be rushed; judges are not machines into which data is fed to produce instant output. Careful adjudication takes time, and therefore, we must have an adequate number of judges. Even dismissing a non-maintainable matter takes time—perhaps only half a minute—but that time is taken away from cases that genuinely deserve judicial attention. This indicates the need for a filtering stage to screen matters effectively before they reach full adjudication. Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms, including mediation, are certainly valuable and should be strengthened. However, we must think holistically. In my view, a comprehensive approach would include: first, appointing sufficient judges; second, strengthening ADR and mediation; third, instituting effective filtering mechanisms; and fourth, taking stern measures against false or frivolous cases. Only through such an integrated strategy can we meaningfully enhance access to justice.

Q13. Your Lordship, had the path of law not led you to the Bench, is there another profession or calling you believe you might have pursued?

Ans. I come from a family deeply rooted in the legal profession. My father, though an IPS officer, had also practised law for four years. Both my parental grandfather and my maternal grandfather were lawyers. Given this background, I do not believe I ever seriously considered pursuing anything other than law.

Q14. Finally, Your Lordship, when you reflect on your journey, not only in terms of judgments delivered, but also in the values and principles, what insight you hope that future generations of lawyers and judges will carry forward from your experiences.

Ans. Every generation has something new and valuable to contribute. However, it is equally important that they remain connected to the wisdom and experiences of previous generations. Continuity of values is essential for institutional strength. I sometimes feel that many young people today are highly motivated by financial success. While material aspirations are natural, society must work towards restoring a balance. The philosophy of life must be placed above the philosophy of money. A holistic approach to life—grounded in ethics, reflection, and service—is vital. Above all, one must continuously learn from past experiences. The legal profession, and particularly the judiciary, demands not only intellectual ability but also depth of character and perspective. These are cultivated through reflection, humility, and a conscious effort to remain rooted in enduring values.

Interviewed by-

- Ms. Tejaswai Sharma

(B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) III Sem)

- Ms. Soundarya Awasthi

(B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) I Sem)

Photographed By-

- Mr. Kaustubh

(B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) III Sem)



FACULTY FOOTPRINT



(Dr.) Usha Tandon, Senior Professor of Law

Publications:

- Chapter in a book "Gender Sensitive Laws: The Complexities of Protection and Allegations of Abuse in the Context of Workplace Sexual Harassment", in Dimitrije Čeranić, Svjetlana Ivanović et. al. (ed) Law Between Protection and Abuse Vol. I. , p 21-38, (East Sarajevo 2025) ISBN 978-99938-57-91-4 available at https://www.pravni.ues.rs.ba/Download/Zbornik-Pravo_izmedju_zastite_i_zloupotrebe/Tom_1.pdf

Address/Speech/Public Lecture

- As the Chief Guest delivered the Inaugural Address for the Workshop on "Epigraphy and Palaeography: Deciphering our Glorious Past", by Allahabad Museum, 18 August, 2025.
- As the Guest of Honour, delivered an address at the Valedictory Session of the 7th NLIU-Singhania @ Partners National Client Counselling Competition, at NLIU, Bhopal, 5th Oct., 2025.
- Presented paper on "Why Environmental Multilateralism Matters to Tackle the Triple Planetary Crisis" at the International Symposium on "Multilateralism and the Development of International Rule of Law- In Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Founding of the United Nations" at Shenzhen, China, 23-24 Oct., 2025.
- As the Chief Guest delivered the Inaugural Address at the online Short-Term Course/ FDP on "Research Methodology in Social Sciences." Organised by UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC), University of Allahabad, 12 Nov., 2025.
- As the Chief Guest of the Session, spoke on "The Bhagavad Gita and Environmental Law: Dharma, Sustainability, and Legal Perspective" at the National Conference on "Relevance of the Bhagavad Gita in the Indian Legal System" Organised by the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, 14 Nov, 2025.
- As the Distinguished Speaker spoke at the thematic sessions on "Judicial Ethics, Recusal & Integrity: Standards & Challenges Across Jurisdictions" at the International Convention on "The Independence of Judiciary: Comparative Perspectives on Rights, Institutions and Citizens" at JGLS, Jindal Global University, 29 Nov. 2025.
- As a Panelist made a presentation on "Integrating Digital Competence into Law Schools in India" at the International Conference on "Legal Education in BRICS Countries: Perspectives and Challenges in XXI Century" at HSE University, Moscow, Russia, 01 Dec., 2025

- As the Co-Convenor of the Working Group on Ecology, BRICS Law School Consortium, made a presentation on “Key Outcomes of the Working Groups on Ecology”, at HSE University, Moscow, Russia, at 3 p.m., 02 Dec., 2025.

Meetings

- Emergency Executive Committee meeting of Consortium of NLUs (online) 30th July, 2025.
- Online meeting of BRICS Law School Consortium, 8 Sep., 2025
- Meeting of Vice-Chancellors of National Law Universities on ‘Inclusion of Legislative Drafting’ and ‘Plain Language Drafting’ as core courses in the course curriculum of National Law Universities” held by Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, 30 September, 2025
- Governing Body meeting of Consortium of NLUs (online), 4 Nov., 2025
- Governing Body meeting of Consortium of NLUs (online), 7 Nov., 2025
- Governing Body meeting of Consortium of NLUs (online), 16 Dec., 2025

Doctoral Scholars

- Ph.D. scholar, Keerty Dabbas, successfully defended via-voce on “Legal Dimensions of Climate Change with Special Reference to India’s NDCs to The Paris Agreement”, University of Delhi, 12 Oct., 2025.
- Examined Ph.D. thesis of Gargi Lahiri on “Right To Health And Intellectual Property Rights With Special Reference to Patent Protection: A Socio-Legal Study In India”, University of Calcutta, 20 May, 2025.
- Took Ph.D. Viva of Renu Vijayavaria on “Cyber Crime in India with Specific Reference to Banking Sector in the State of Rajasthan, Raj Rishi Bhartihari Maysya University, Alwar, 17 Sep., 2025.
- Examined Ph.D. thesis of Shrishti Khare, on “Climate Change Governance: A Study of Indian Legal Framework from the Lens of Paris Agreement, 2015”, NLIU, Bhopal, 16 Oct., 2025.
- Took Pre-Submission Presentations of the Doctoral Theses of Research Scholars of Hidayatullah National Law University, 11 Nov., 2025,



Dr. Deepak Sharma, Assistant Professor of Law

Participated/Attended

- Invited as an “Eminent Speaker” at the National Conference on “Future of Virtual Digital Assets in India, 2025: Legal, Regulatory and Economic Perspectives”, organized by Pitambara Legal Associates in collaboration with the Human Rights Council of India (Punjab & Haryana) and the International Journal of Human Rights & Law (ISSN: 3107-5827), held on 14 December 2025.

Research Project

- Received a short-term research project grant of ₹2,00,000 by the Legal Policy Action Clinic (LAPAC), Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, on “Effectiveness of State-Funded Legal Aid in Offences against Property: A Case Study of Prayagraj District, Uttar Pradesh.”

Adjudged

- Served as a Judge for the inter-institutional group discussion event “Excelsia-2025”, organised by Saint John’s Academy, Prayagraj.



Dr. Sonika, Assistant Professor of Law

- Contributed to the preparation of a Model Question Paper Booklet of RGNUL Institute for Competitive Examinations (RICE).

Research Project

- Received a short-term research project grant of ₹2,00,000 by the Legal Policy Action Clinic, Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, on “Working of Gram Nyayalayas in Eastern U.P. vis-a-vis Access to Justice”



Dr. Prakash Tripathi, Assistant Professor of Sociology

Publications

- Published an article in the RPNLU Law Review, an International Double blinded peer reviewed Journal (Vol – 1, Year 2025, Page- 162-181, ISSN No- 3107-751X). Title of the Paper : “Awareness and Access: Whether Himalayan Tribes Know Their Rights under FRA, 2006”.

Research Project

- Received a short-term research project grant of ₹3,00,000 by the Legal Policy Action Clinic (LAPAC), Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, on “Moonj Craft in Prayagraj: Exploring Challenges in Commercialization and Women Empowerment.”



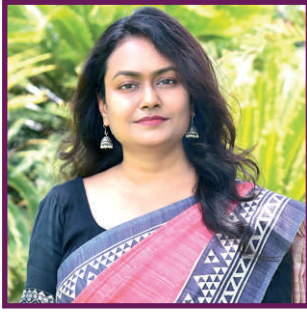
Dr. Suchit Kumar Yadav, Assistant Professor of Political Science

Publications

- Author of paper Title - Educational Diplomacy As Soft Power: India's Role In African Higher Education Reforms (2014–2025), Journal of Applied Bioanalysis, Volume 11 Special Issues -12 (2025) Pages 265-272, D.O.I:10.53555/jab.v11si12.1686
- Co-Author of paper Title - Feasibility Studies and Analysis of Geopark in Kutch Region of Gujarat, India as the UNESCO Recognised World Geoheritage and Tourism Site, Journal of Environmental & Earth Sciences | Volume 07 | Issue 09 | September 2025

Research Project

- Received a short-term research project grant of ₹3,00,000 by the Legal Policy Action Clinic (LAPAC), Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, on “Assessing the Implementation of welfare policies: A study of Musahar community of Varanasi, U.P.”



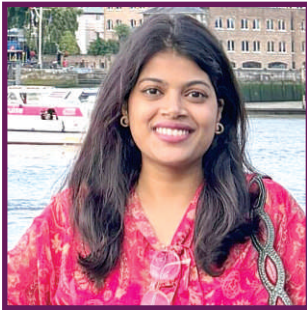
Dr. Neha Dubey, Assistant Professor of English

Research Project

- Received a short-term research project grant of ₹3,00,000 by the Legal Policy Action Clinic (LAPAC), Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, on “Moonj Craft in Prayagraj: Exploring Challenges in Commercialization and Women Empowerment.”

Adjudged

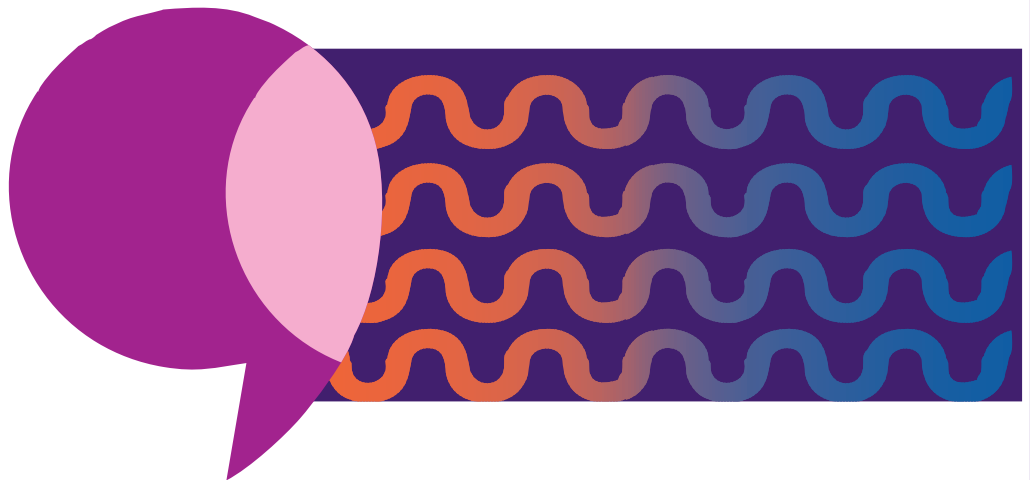
- Served as a Judge for the inter-institutional group discussion event “Excelsia-2025”, organised by Saint John’s Academy, Prayagraj.



Dr. Akanshi Vidyarthi, Assistant Professor of History

Research Project

- Received a short-term research project grant of ₹3,00,000 by the Legal Policy Action Clinic (LAPAC), Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, on “Assessing the Implementation of welfare policies: A study of Musahar community of Varanasi, U.P.”



STUDENTS SPOTLIGHT



Ms. Stuti Mishra (B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) III Sem.)

Research Paper Presentation

Author of "Sacred Yet Strained: Environmental and Legal Dimensions of River Use During Mahakumbh in Prayagraj" at the 6th Nadi Conference, organized by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) under the Ministry of Culture



Ms. Rounak Sonkar (B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) III Sem.)

Research Paper Presentation

Co-Author of "Sacred Yet Strained: Environmental and Legal Dimensions of River Use During Mahakumbh in Prayagraj" at the 6th Nadi Conference, organized by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) under the Ministry of Culture.



Ms. Tejaswi Sharma (B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) III Sem.)

Elevated to Deputy Team Leader (Operations) of IDIA Law, UP Chapter



Ms. Gaurvi Singh (B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) I Sem.)

Member of IDIA Law, UP Chapter

Campus Ambassador for Jus Corpus (October-December 2025)



Ms. Samraddhi Jain (B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) III Sem.)

Selected as a member for IDIA UP chapter - Law for All vertical.



WALL OF FAME

Winners of National Moot Court Competition by University of North Bengal, Darjeeling

The team comprising **Ms. Srijal Mishra**, **Mr. Abhyuday Sharan**, and **Mr. Abhishek Raj** (all from B.A.LL.B. (Hons.), III Sem.) represented the RPNLUP at the National Moot Court Competition organised by the **University of North Bengal**, 11th and 12th December, 2025. Competing against more than 50 teams from across the country, the team emerged as **Winner**. In addition to the team achievement, **Ms. Srijal Mishra** was adjudged the **Best Speaker** of the Competition. The team's success reflects their hard work, dedication and commitment to excellence, and brings great pride to the university.



(Left to Right) Winning Team comprising Ms. Srijal Mishra, Mr. Abhyuday Sharan and Mr. Abhishek Raj, B.A.LL.B. (Hons.), Sem III



Ms. Srijal Mishra (B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), Sem III) adjudged as 'Best Speaker'

Winners of Tarkshetra, Inter-University Conclave hosted by Banaras Hindu University (BHU)

The university marked a significant milestone in its academic journey by delivering an exceptional performance at Tarkshetra, the prestigious National Inter-University Conclave hosted by **Banaras Hindu University**, 25 to 28 December, 2025. **Ms. Anushka Singh** (B.A.LL.B. (Hons.), I Sem.) was conferred the **Best Delegate Award** in the **United Nations General Assembly – DISEC Committee**. Adding further to the University's success, **Mr. Ayush Trigun** (B.A.LL.B. (Hons.), I Sem.) secured the prestigious **title of Mr. Vivek Samrat** in the **Dharmkshetra Committee**. These remarkable achievements reflect their exceptional oratory skills, analytical abilities, and commitment to excellence.



*Ms. Anushka Singh
(B.A.LL.B. Hons. I Sem.)*



*Mr. Ayush Trigun
(B.A.LL.B. Hons. I Sem.)*

JUDICIAL TRENDS

I. **Admissibility of Secretly Recorded Spousal Conversations in Divorce Proceedings: Supreme Court Restores Family Court Order** (*Vibhor Garg v. Neha*, 2025 INSC 829)

A two-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court of India (Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma) considered the permissibility of admitting covertly recorded spousal conversations in a matrimonial case. By a unanimous decision, the Court allowed the appeal against the Punjab and Haryana High Court's order dated 12 November 2021 and restored the Family Court's order permitting the production of a compact disc, original memory card, and transcripts, directing that these materials be taken on record and considered in accordance with law.

The principal issue was whether, in a divorce proceeding between spouses, secretly recorded conversations could be admitted in evidence having regard to section 122 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (spousal communications), the requirements for electronic records (including section 65B of IEA), the scheme of the Family Courts Act, 1984, and the right to privacy under Article 21.

The Court recorded the factual matrix as follows: the parties were married on 20 February 2009; a divorce petition under section 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act was filed in 2017 and amended in 2018; in July 2019, the husband sought to place on record recordings from 2010 and 2016 with transcripts; the Family Court, Bathinda, by order dated 29 January 2020, permitted production relying, inter alia, on sections 14 and 20 of the Family Courts Act; the High Court set aside that order on privacy grounds by judgment dated 12 November 2021.

The Court stated that section 122 of the Indian Evidence Act is a rule of spousal privilege concerning communications made during marriage, but it contains an express exception for "suits between married persons." In proceedings inter se spouses, disclosure of communications made during marriage is not barred by section 122 of IEA. Admission remains subject to the satisfaction of evidentiary requirements applicable to electronic records, including section 65B of the IEA certification and foundational proof. Section 14 of the Family Courts Act, which relaxes technical rules of evidence, need not be invoked where the Evidence Act itself permits reception; the Family Court may, however, regulate procedure to safeguard dignity and privacy.

On electronic/audio evidence, the Court reiterated the settled tests: relevance to the issue, proper identification of the voice, and proof of accuracy excluding the possibility of tampering; illegality or absence of consent in collection does not by itself render evidence inadmissible, though it calls for caution in appreciation. The Court referred to authorities including *Yusufalli Esmail Nagree v. State of Maharashtra* (AIR 1968 SC 147) and *R.M. Malkani v. State of Maharashtra* ((1973) 2 SCR 417) on tape-record evidence; *M.C. Verghese v. T.J. Poonan* ((1969) 1 SCC 37) on the scope of section 122; and decisions addressing the distinction between acts and communications, such as *Ram Bharosey v. State of U.P.* ((1954) 1 SCC 284) and *Appu @ Ayyanar Padayachi v. State* (AIR 1971 Mad 194). Privacy jurisprudence, including *K.S. Puttaswamy* (2017) 10 SCC 1 and *Kaushal Kishor* ((2023) 4 SCC 1), was noticed to clarify that the statutory exception in section 122 governing suits between spouses controls the admissibility question in matrimonial litigation.

Applying these principles, the Supreme Court set aside the High Court's exclusionary order and restored the Family Court's direction permitting production of the compact disc, memory card and transcripts, with the clarification that admissibility and evidentiary weight are to be determined by the Family Court in accordance with the Evidence Act (including section 65B) and the usual tests of relevance, authenticity, and reliability. The appeal was allowed unanimously, and the parties were left to bear their own costs.

II. **Public Safety and Stray Dogs: Supreme Court Issues Interim Directions for NCR** (*In Re: "City Hounded by Strays, Kids Pay Price", Suo Motu Writ Petition (C) No. 5 of 2025, 2025 INSC 977,*)

A two-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court of India (Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Justice R. Mahadevan) took suo motu cognisance of rising dog-bite incidents in the National Capital Region and considered immediate measures. After hearing the Amicus Curiae and the Solicitor General, the Court issued interim directions by order dated 11 August 2025.

The principal issue was whether court-directed steps were warranted, consistent with Articles 19(1)(d) and 21, to address public-safety risks posed by stray-dog attacks while operating within the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023. The Court noted that twelve months of data showed sustained increases in reported dog-bite cases and attendant risks of rabies and serious injury in public spaces.

The Court recorded the factual matrix placed on the record: nationally, approximately 37,15,713 dog-bite cases were reported in 2024; Delhi recorded about 25,201 cases in 2024 and 3,196 cases in January 2025; the national tally for January 2025 was about 4,29,664. The material highlighted injuries to children, the elderly and other vulnerable groups, along with accidents attributed to animal interference on roads.

The Court stated that any interim response must be humane and lawful. The legal framework referred to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (including section 38 rule-making power) and the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, noting features such as capture-sterilise-immunise protocols, complaint handling, observation, and limited euthanasia for incurably ill or mortally wounded animals. The Court also referred to precedent, including *Animal Welfare Board of India v. Union of India* (2023) 9 SCC 322 and *Animal Welfare Board of India v. A. Nagaraja* (2014) 7 SCC 547, while clarifying that the present directions were confined to interim administration of public safety.

Distinguishing immediate protective steps from long-term policy questions, the Bench confined itself to interim measures. On the materials presented, the Court considered the situation sufficiently grave to warrant a shelter-based approach for the NCR pending further hearing, with monitoring through periodic status reports.

The Court directed authorities in Delhi, NOIDA, Ghaziabad, Gurugram and Faridabad to commence rounding up stray dogs without delay; to establish and scale dedicated shelters or pounds; and to maintain humane standards (no overcrowding, adequate food, continuous supervision, timely veterinary care, and separate accommodation for vulnerable animals). Dogs were to be sterilised, dewormed and immunised in accordance with the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, but not released back onto streets or public places during the subsistence of the interim regime. The order required daily capture and housing records, CCTV monitoring of shelters, creation of a public helpline within one week, and a four-hour response window for complaints, with the possibility of contempt in cases of obstruction or non-compliance.

The Court specified publication of information on availability and stock of anti-rabies vaccines and bite-management facilities, and permitted adoption in accordance with the Animal Welfare Board of India's Standard Protocol for Adoption of Community Animals dated 17 May 2022, without re-release to public areas. The Court transferred W.P. (C) No. 67 of 2023, Parthima Devi v. Municipal Corporation of Delhi, from the Delhi High Court to be heard with the present matter owing to the overlap of issues.

The Court listed the matter after four weeks for compliance and further orders, with status reports to be filed by the concerned authorities. The interim directions remained operative until further orders.

III. Limitation and Scope of "Sexual Harassment" under the POSH Act: Supreme Court Dismisses Appeal; Time-Bar Sustained (*Vaneeta Patnaik v. Nirmal Kanti Chakrabarti & Ors.*, 2025 INSC 1106)

A two-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court of India (Justices Pankaj Mithal and Justice Prasanna B. Varale) considered whether a complaint under the POSH Act, 2013, was within limitation and whether the High Court correctly restored the Local Complaints Committee's rejection on that ground. The Court dismissed the appeal.

The principal issue was whether the written complaint dated 26 December 2023 fell within section 9 of the POSH Act and whether later administrative steps could be treated as incidents "in relation to or connected with" earlier acts of sexual harassment to extend the limitation as a "series of incidents."

The Court recorded the factual matrix as follows: the appellant, a faculty member at NUJS, alleged unwelcome conduct beginning in September–October 2019; her promotion was kept in abeyance in October 2019 and cleared on 2 April 2022; the last pleaded instance of sexual harassment occurred in April 2023; on 29 August 2023 she was removed from an administrative position; thereafter a preliminary inquiry regarding

project funds was initiated; the written complaint to the Local Complaints Committee was filed on 26 December 2023. The Local Complaints Committee rejected the complaint as time-barred; a Single Judge directed reconsideration on merits; a Division Bench restored the Local Complaints Committee's rejection.

The Court stated the governing provisions: section 2(n) (definition of "sexual harassment"), section 3 (illustrative circumstances amounting to sexual harassment), and section 9 (limitation of three months from the incident and, in case of a series, three months from the last incident, extendable by a further three months for recorded reasons). It reiterated that a complaint must be filed within three months from the last incident, or within six months if the delay is condoned.

Applying these provisions, the Court held that the last pleaded act of sexual harassment was in April 2023 and that subsequent administrative measures in August–December 2023 did not constitute sexual harassment "in relation to" or "connected with" earlier acts for section 9. Referring to *Union of India v. Tarsem Singh* ((2008) 8 SCC 648), the Court distinguished a "continuing wrong" from a "recurring wrong" and treated the April 2023 incident as a completed act not extending limitation.

On that basis, the Court concluded that the complaint filed on 26 December 2023 was beyond time even on the outer six-month window under section 9. The Local Complaints Committee was competent to reject the complaint at the threshold where the bar of limitation is apparent on the face of the complaint. The appeal was dismissed, and the Court directed that the judgment be reflected in the résumé of respondent no. 1, with compliance to be ensured by him.

IV. Curative Review to Rectify Manifest Injustice: Supreme Court Acquits Surendra Koli (*Surendra Koli v. State of Uttar Pradesh, 2025 INSC 1308*)

A three-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court of India (Chief Justice B.R. Gavai and Justices Surya Kant and Vikram Nath) considered whether its curative jurisdiction could be invoked to recall an earlier final judgment that had affirmed Surendra Koli's conviction and death sentence in the Nithari prosecutions. The Court allowed the curative petition and acquitted Koli.

The principal issue was whether, after dismissal of review, the Supreme Court may exercise curative jurisdiction to recall its own final judgment when the conviction rests on an evidentiary substratum that had been rejected in a series of legally identical companion cases, producing irreconcilable outcomes under Articles 14 and 21. The Court noted that twelve acquittals had been affirmed in July 2025 on the same section 164 CrPC confession and section 27 Evidence Act recoveries that underpinned the earlier conviction.

The Court stated that curative jurisdiction is a narrow, residual power recognised in *Rupa Ashok Hurra*, sourced in Articles 129, 137 and 142 read with Order XLVIII of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013. It is not a second review or an appeal. Its object is to cure a manifest miscarriage of justice, including results that offend equality and due process.

Distinguishing curative recall from review, remand or appellate reassessment, the Bench confined recall to foundational defects. The Court identified the following: the section 164 CrPC statement was recorded after prolonged custody without meaningful legal aid and without a satisfactory judicial inquiry into voluntariness, engaging section 24 of the Evidence Act; the section 27 "discoveries" showed contradictions, prior public knowledge and non-exclusive recovery sites; and the forensic record did not connect identification of remains to authorship of the offences.

On parity, the Court held that like cases must be treated alike. Once the common evidentiary pillars

had been rejected in twelve companion matters, they could not sustain the prior conviction. The Court therefore exercised curative power to recall the earlier decision.

The Court recalled and set aside its 2011 judgment and the 2014 review order; quashed the Trial Court (13 Feb 2009) and High Court (11 Sep 2009) judgments; acquitted Koli of offences under sections 302, 364, 376 and 201 of the IPC; and directed his release forthwith if not required in any other case.

V. Mandatory Written Grounds of Arrest under Article 22(1): Supreme Court on Scope and Timeline (*Mihir Rajesh Shah v. State of Maharashtra & Anr., with connected matters, 2025 INSC 1288*)

A two-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court of India (Chief Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih) decided a cluster of criminal appeals and an SLP concerning the communication of grounds of arrest. By a unanimous decision, the Court held that Article 22(1) requires that grounds of arrest be furnished in writing in all offences and fixed a minimum timeline linked to remand proceedings.

The principal issues were: (a) whether it is necessary in every case, including offences under the *Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023*, to furnish grounds of arrest before or forthwith after arrest; and (b) whether, in exceptional situations where immediate written supply is impracticable, non-supply ipso facto vitiates the arrest under section 47 of the *Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023* (earlier section 50 CrPC).

As factual background, the lead appeal arose from a July 2024 road-traffic fatality in Mumbai involving a BMW car, followed by arrests and remand proceedings. The Bombay High Court upheld the arrest despite a lapse in furnishing written grounds. The Supreme Court granted leave limited to the questions of law, tagged connected matters presenting the same issue, and appointed an *amicus curiae*.

The Court identified Article 22(1) and sections 47–48 of the BNSS (formerly sections 50 and 50-A of the CrPC) as the governing provisions and reviewed decisions including *Pankaj Bansal v. Union of India*, *Prabir Purkayastha v. State*, and *Vihaan Kumar v. State of Haryana*. On that basis, the Court stated that the right to be informed of the grounds of arrest is a constitutional requirement, must be effective, and ordinarily requires written communication; the obligation is statute-neutral and applies to all offences.

On mode, language, and timing, the Court held: (i) grounds of arrest must be communicated in writing, in a language understood by the arrestee; (ii) where immediate written supply is impracticable in exceptional, in-flagrante situations, oral communication at the moment of arrest may occur, but a written copy must follow within a reasonable time and, in any event, at least two hours before production for remand; and (iii) remand papers must contain the grounds, with any delay explained for the magistrate's scrutiny, to enable effective consultation with counsel and a real opportunity to oppose remand.

On consequences, the Court stated that failure to supply written grounds within the stipulated window renders the arrest and subsequent remand illegal; release may follow, with liberty to the prosecution to move a fresh, reasoned remand application after supplying the written grounds. The obligation to inform relatives or a nominated person under section 48 BNSS operates in addition to the duty to inform the arrestee.

Applying these conclusions, the Court disposed of the lead appeal in terms of the settled legal position, ordered that interim bail earlier granted in the connected appeals would continue, and continued ad-interim relief in the tagged SLP. The Court directed circulation of the judgment to all High Courts and State/UT administrations and stated that the procedure affirmed would govern arrests henceforth.

VI. Blanket 'no-arrest' and time-bound investigation orders set aside (*State of Uttar Pradesh & Anr. v. Mohd. Arshad Khan & Ors., Criminal Appeals Nos. 5610–5612 of 2025; 2025 INSC 1480, decided on 19 December 2025*)

A two-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court (Justices Sanjay Karol and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh) allowed the State's appeals against orders of the Allahabad High Court that, while refusing to quash a common FIR, (i) fixed a 90-day timeline to complete the investigation and (ii) restrained arrest till cognisance. By a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court set aside both directions.

The principal issue was whether, when declining to quash an FIR under Articles 226/227 or section 482 CrPC, a High Court can nonetheless direct a time-bound investigation and grant blanket protection from arrest until cognisance.

The Court recorded the factual matrix as follows: an STF inquiry into forged documents for arms licences led to a complaint dated 31 July 2024 and a common FIR dated 24 May 2025 (Case Crime No. 33 of 2025, P.S. Nai Ki Mandi, Agra) for offences under sections 420, 467, 468, 471 IPC and sections 3/25/30 of the Arms Act, 1959. The three writ petitions before the High Court were by (i) Mohd. Arshad Khan (alleged procurement of multiple licences using false particulars, including altered date of birth), (ii) Muhammad Zaid Khan (alleged licence on forged details), and (iii) Sanjay @ Sanjay Kapoor (then Arms Clerk), alleged to have facilitated processing with forged or false records. The High Court refused to quash but directed completion of the investigation in 90 days and restrained the arrest till cognisance.

On writ jurisdiction, the Supreme Court observed that High Courts have wide powers to prevent abuse of process or to secure the ends of justice, and to ensure fair investigation and compliance with arrest-procedure safeguards. At the same time, directions that pre-empt the statutory framework of investigation or arrest must be issued only within settled parameters and with reasons tied to the facts of the case.

On time-bound investigations, the Court observed that fixing deadlines is an exceptional measure. It may be used where delay, stagnation, or demonstrable prejudice is shown. It is not a routine or prophylactic direction at the inception of an investigation. The Court referred to the speedy-trial line of decisions, directions for prompt investigation, and cautions against judicial micromanagement, and held that the 90-day timeline imposed by the High Court was unwarranted on the record.

On protection from arrest, the Court applied the three-Judge Bench decision in *Neeharika Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. v. State of Maharashtra*. The Court observed that blanket “no arrest/no coercive steps” orders, when the High Court has declined to quash, are not consistent with the governing principles. Protection against arrest must be considered under the appropriate legal route (such as anticipatory bail) on settled tests and reasons. The Court also noted that reliance on *Shobhit*

Nehra v. State of U.P. without engaging with materially different facts was incorrect, and reiterated that precedents must be read in context. As factual background, the lead appeal arose from a July 2024 road-traffic fatality in Mumbai involving a BMW car, followed by arrests and remand proceedings. The Bombay High Court upheld the arrest despite a lapse in furnishing written grounds. The Supreme Court granted leave limited to the questions of law, tagged connected matters presenting the same issue, and appointed an *amicus curiae*.

The appeals were allowed. The directions fixing a time-bound investigation and restraining arrest till cognisance were set aside. Interim protection already operating in favour of the respondents was directed to continue for two weeks to enable them to seek appropriate remedies, after which actions may proceed in accordance with the law. Pending applications were disposed of.

by:

Dr. Deepak Sharma
Assistant Professor of Law



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

CENTRAL LEGISLATIONS

- I. **The Merchant Shipping Act, 2025:** The Merchant Shipping Act 2025 repealed the Merchant Shipping Act 1958 and the Coasting Vessels Act 1838. It aims to ensure the compliance of maritime treaties and international instruments, namely, the Maritime Labour Convention, MARPOL Convention (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, Maritime Labour Convention, to which India is a party. Further, it ensures the development of Indian shipping and efficient maintenance of the Indian mercantile marine in the national interest. The Central Government shall establish the National Shipping Board under Section-4 of the Act. Under Section-7, the Central Government appoints the Director-General of the Maritime Administration and Mercantile Marine Department and Shipping Offices at major ports to ensure the execution and to ensure administrative functions, respectively.
- II. **The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025².** The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act was notified in the Gazette on September 22, 2025. The Act aims to promote and regulate the online gaming sector, including educational games, e-sports and social gaming. Section-4 of the Act determines that it aims to protect youth while encouraging innovation in skill-based gaming. It applies to online money gaming services offered within the territory of India or operated from outside the territory of India. It absolutely bans the money games involving wagering or betting, however, encourages e-sports and non-monetary games. Further, it prohibits banks or financial institutions from facilitating any transaction or authorising funds towards payment for any such gaming service. Notably, Section-6 of the Act imposes a ban on advertisements related to

online money games. It mandates age verification, addiction safeguards and data protection of such games. The Central Online Gaming Authority regulates registration and ensures compliance and enforcement of the Act. If a person offers banned games, then it has to face a pecuniary penalty of ₹1 crore and imprisonment up to three years or both under Section-9 of the Act.

- III. **The Artificial Intelligence (Ethics and Accountability) Bill 2025³.** The Artificial Intelligence (Ethics and Accountability) Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha of the Parliament. The objective of the Bill is to establish an Ethics and Accountability Framework for utilising Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies. Such technologies are used in decision-making, surveillance, and algorithm systems for the prevention of any misuse and to ensure transparency, fairness and accountability. Clause 2(a) of the bill defines Artificial Intelligence as computer systems or applications of performing tasks which generally need human intelligence, which is not restricted to decision making, language processing and visual perception only. Further, algorithmic bias is defined as systematic errors present in AI systems that give unfair results. Clause-5 restricts the use of Artificial Intelligence in surveillance to be used for lawful purposes with the prior approval of the Committee constituted by the Central Government. A Committee is to be constituted, known as the Ethics Committee for Artificial Intelligence (AI), to frame and recommend ethical guidelines, to monitor compliance with ethical standards, to spread awareness among stakeholders, to review matters about breach of statutory provisions, and to undertake any other functions prescribed by the Central Government.

² <https://www.meity.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/10/8a7f103cefc68ed8aaa2ebc9a2ed7c13.pdf>

³ The Artificial Intelligence (Ethics and Accountability) Bill 2025, Bill No. 59 of 2025, Introduced by Smt. Bharti Pardhi, Member of Parliament.

The Committee comprises the Chairperson, a representative from academia, industry, civil society and government, experts from other domain namely, data science, law, and human rights. The Bill determines that critical decision-making includes law enforcement, financial credit and employment and prohibits AI systems from discriminating on ground of race, religion, or gender. Such decision-making may be subjected to stringent ethical reviews by such a committee. Further, it enlists responsibilities of the developers who develop, design and execute AI systems and models, namely, maintenance of transparency in AI systems by disclosure of limitations and intended purpose of such systems, unveiling the rationale behind AI systems' based decisions which impact individuals. Further, the developer shall ensure algorithmic bias by maintaining inclusivity in training datasets, by conducting regular audits for identification and mitigation of such bias, by maintaining records of compliance with ethical standards, etc. The bill prescribes a penalty of Rupees five crore and suspension or revocation of licenses in case of non-compliance with statutory provisions.

IV Code on Wages 2019, Industrial Relations Code 2020, Code of Social Security 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020. Notified⁴: The Government of India notified the Code on Wages 2019, Industrial Relations Code 2020, Code of Social Security 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020 on 21st November 2025. The Code of Wages 2019 rationalised the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Minimum Wages Act 1948, the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 and the Equal Remuneration Act 1976. The Code of Wages 2019 confers the right to Minimum Wages for employees in both organised and unorganised sectors. Under this Code, the Government shall determine the floor wage on the basis of minimum living standards by taking into consideration geographical variations. An employee is entitled to overtime wages at least twice the normal rate for any work done outside of working hours. The Code provides for

compounding of offences except in the case of repetition of the commission of offences within five years. In case of first-time commission of offences, a pecuniary penalty (up to fifty per cent of the maximum fine). Further, the Industrial Relations Code 2020 rationalised three legislations, namely, the Trade Unions Act 1926, the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act 1946, and the Industrial Disputes Act 1947. Under the Code, the concept of fixed-time employment has been introduced. The industrial establishment shall set up a re-skilling fund and contribute an amount equal to 15 days' wages for a retrenched worker. The amount shall be credited to the account of the worker within 45 days of retrenchment. The fund shall be utilised to train the retrenched employees. The definition of 'Worker' includes journalists, promotion staff, supervisory employees earning up to Rs. 18000 (Eighteen Thousand) per month. Further, the threshold limit for the Standing order has been raised from 100 to 300 employees. The industrial tribunals consist of one judicial and administrative member each. In case of failed conciliation, parties may approach the tribunal within 90 (Ninety) days.

Further, the Code on Social Security 2020 rationalised existing nine legislations namely, the Employee's Compensation Act 1923, the Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959, the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act 2008, the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952, the Cine-Workers Welfare Fund Act 1981, The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act 1996, the Employees' State Insurance Act 1948. It includes the definition of gig worker, platform worker, etc. and provides for the constitution of a social security fund to finance social security schemes for platform workers, gig workers, unorganised workers, etc. The concept of deemed employment has been introduced, wherein the accidents during travel between the workplace and home qualify for compensation.

The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020 rationalised existing thirteen labour legislations namely, the Factories Act 1948, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act 1979, the Factories Act 1948, the Mines Act 1952, the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act 1996, the Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Act 1958, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act 1970, etc. The definition of 'Migrant Worker' includes an inter-state migrant worker employed directly through contractors or migrate his or her own. Such a worker is entitled to a lump-sum annual travel allowance to their native place once every 12 months, as well as portability of the public distribution system and other social security benefits across States. Conclusively, the four central legislations rationalised a total of twenty-nine (29) existing labour laws.

- V. **The Right to Disconnect Bill, 2025⁵:** The Right to Disconnect Bill 2025 was introduced in the Lower House of the Parliament. The objective of the bill is the establishment of the Employees' Welfare Authority, which confers the Right on every employee to disconnect and to refuse to answer work-related telephonic calls, e-mails during holidays and out of work hours. Clause-2(e) of the Bill defines 'out of work hours' as time other than work hours agreed upon between the employee and the employer in the work contract. The Employees' Welfare Authority consists of the Chairperson ex officio, Vice-Chairperson ex-officio and ex officio Members. The Bill prescribes the functions of the Authority, such as the dissemination of requisite information about the use of digital and communication tools to the State Governments, companies and societies, conducting a baseline study for the data collection about usage of such tools outside work hours & in personal life by employees, issuance of directions to appropriate governments, societies, and companies. The Bill imposes a duty upon the individual companies and societies having more than 10 employees to draft a customised Charter

mentioning clarifications on out-of-work hours, service conditions of employees, etc. Further, the Authority mandatorily directs such a company or society to determine the terms and conditions for working out-of-work hours after negotiating with the employees, unions or employee representatives. The authority shall prepare an annual report, submit it to the Central Government, and the Central Government shall lay it before each House of Parliament. Also, such a charter shall individually mention when an employee may be contacted during out-of-work hours and holidays, only after mutual agreement between the employee and employer. In case of mutual agreement for contact during out-of-work hours, the employee is entitled to overtime at the normal wage rate. The Bill mandates the appropriate Government to provide counselling services to employees to aid them in maintaining work-life balance. Further, digital detox centres and digital detox counselling services shall be established by the appropriate government. Such centres shall provide counselling services for rational personal use of digital and communication tools. The Bill prescribes a penalty at the rate of one per cent of the total employees' remuneration for non-compliance with the statutory provisions & Charter and work done during out-of-work.

STATE LEGISLATIONS

The Uttar Pradesh Public Records Act, 2025⁶: The Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed the Uttar Pradesh Public Records Act to regulate the management, administration and preservation of Public records of the record-creating agency. The Act will come into force with the Gazette notification. The Records Creating Agency includes the State Government, departments, statutory bodies and corporations, commissions and committees constituted by the State Government. It defines the public records as any document, manuscript, file, any microfilm, microfiche, or facsimile copy of a document.

⁵The Right to Disconnect Bill, 2025, Bill No. 51 of 2025 introduced by Smt. Supriya Sule, Member of Parliament.
⁶<https://uplegisassembly.gov.in/getImageHandler.ashx?D=21752&con=11>

Further, it includes the reproduced image or images represented in a microfilm. Also, it includes any material produced by a computer or by a device of any record-creating agency. According to Section-4 of the Act, no person is allowed to take out public records without prior approval of the State Government. In case of authorised removal, destruction, alteration or defacement of any public records, the records officer shall take appropriate action for their recovery or restoration and submit the report to the Director under Section-7. If the director opines that a record is more than a hundred years old, which is defaced or is in such condition and difficult to put to any archival use, then it shall be destroyed. Public records must bear a security classification before transferring to the Uttar Pradesh State Archives. Under Section-11, the U.P. State Archives may accept any record having national or historical significance from private sources. Such records may be accessible to any bona fide research scholar. Further, the State Government may constitute an Archival Advisory Board consisting of the Chairman and One Member

(ex officio), four members and one Member Secretary (ex officio). The core functions of the Board include advising the State Government on matters of public records, laying down guidelines for Archivists' training, issuing directions for the acquisition of records from private custody, etc. Section-16 of the Act protects from prosecution or other legal proceedings if anything is done in good faith or intended to be done in pursuance of this Statute by a person.

RIGHT TO DISCONNECT BILL, 2025: The Right to Disconnect Bill 2025 was introduced in Kerala. It aims to maintain a work-life balance for the private sector employees, especially in the digital or Information Technology sector. It grants employees a sense of security from disciplinary action in case of non-response to official emails, messages, calls and virtual meetings post-office hours.

by:
Dr. Sonika
Assistant Professor of Law





Expressions



What is the shape of fear? Is it failure, standing at the edge of something you tried to become? Or is it death, quietly waiting like a period at the end of a sentence? I used to think fear had edges, that it could be recognized before and avoided. I was wrong. Fear is not something you run from. It is something that grows into you and starts living there. Sometimes fear looks like my mother growing older. Not suddenly, not dramatically, but slowly, in ways that hurt more. In the way her hands pause before lifting something heavy. In the way time touches her face so gently that love cannot stop it. I am afraid because I love her, and loving her means knowing that one day my love will not be enough to keep her here. Sometimes fear is the way I see good in everyone. The curse of believing that people mean well, even when they prove otherwise.

Fear is knowing that I will keep trusting, not because I am brave, but because I do not know how to stop. That my softness is not innocence, but a flaw I will carry into every hurt. Sometimes fear is a man. Not a face, not a name, just the knowledge of how easily safety can disappear. How quickly power shifts. How the body learns lessons the mind never agreed to study. Fear is understanding that some memories do not ask for permission before they stay. Sometimes fear is physical. It is how skin burns and how pain leaves a smell behind that never fully leaves. It is learning that the body remembers everything, even when the world pretends nothing happened. Healing is not clean. Survival is not noble. It is just what happens when you do not die.

The truest shape of fear is this belief that has settled into me like a permanent truth. That loving anything means losing it, slowly and inevitably. That attachment is only grief that has not happened yet. Fear is knowing that everything I choose will eventually leave, rot, or change beyond recognition. Fear is not darkness. It is clarity. It is what I see when I close my eyes and there is nothing left to distract me. It is not imagination. It is certainty, that nothing stays, that nothing is safe, that even the things I love most are already moving away from me. And I still love, not because I believe in hope, but because I do not know any other way to exist.

Ms. Kavya Kayasth
(B.A.LL.B. (Hons.), I Sem.)

Anatomy of Battle Won

A battle won is no better than a battle lost,
As the metal clung through the pulsing hearts,
Turned pale and asked, "Can I sleep now at last?"
No one is aware of the name that cried,
"Tell my wife, I won't come home this time."

As he lay upon his vexed bed, maroon from him or someone else,
Take a sigh, and be proud of your sacrifice,
To a riot that was never yours to fight,

Their finest suits are on, unfettered grins present,
"Let's put an end to this," and then they'd shake their hands.
All the ink is red, and the skies grew dark,
As the latest news: it's another day of war.

"Joyous day it is, our seed has finally blossomed!
I hope he stands as brave as you! If we are having a son!"
'I wrote you months ago,' thought an oblivious mind,
Horror flashed her conscience: 'Did he not survive?'

It all subdued as they all took defeat,
His hands are stained forever with innocent rage, crimson on his morals' seat,
"Is this what I've become?" crossed the general's mind,
The armour clutched his breathing, another gold to his line!
There is no life forward for he who travels past, walks past or flies past,
Because a battle won is no better than a battle lost.



- Ms. Anushka Singh
(B.A.LL.B. (Hons.), I Sem.)

CAGE AND THE BIRD

A cage with no bird inside,
Is just a home with no one to reside,
Don't blame the cage, it's just a vessel with some bars,
It's the wings and the sky that gives the bird scars,
If the bird was wingless, it would despise the high,
The cage would be her home and fear would be the sky,

The sky wouldn't look so tempting if it couldn't fly,
If it was wingless, the cage wouldn't have made it cry,
Don't blame the cage, it's just another shelter,
If it was a stranger to glide, then nothing would have wept her,
It's not the cage that's wrong,
It's not even the sky or the freedom song,

It's her wings and the temptation to fly,
That keeps her wanting to dive in the high,
Keep building cages and keep blaming the sky,
But you can't cut her wings and you can't destroy the stem.
It's not the cages she is afraid of,
It's the fear of never using the wings she is made for.



- Ms. Anushka Shakya

(B.A.LL.B. (Hons.), I Sem.)





Legal Humour

Law students don't say "I don't know."
They say, "It depends on the facts of the case."

The real meaning of "reasonable doubt" in law school:
"Will this come in the exam?"

Law school teaches you one essential life skill:
How to argue passionately... even when you're completely wrong.

What's the difference between a law student and a lawyer?
One thinks they know everything, the other knows they don't.

Why is criminal law everyone's favourite?
The facts are so interesting that one doesn't need a Netflix subscription.

Define Reasonable Time:
Any duration longer than what the student actually has.

Law school teaches you confidence in stages.
First year: silence.
Second year: overconfidence.
Third year: caution.
Final year: "It depends".

Average student in a company law class:
I understand this.
I understand parts of this.
I understand the idea of this.
I will understand this later.

Students in that one legal exam:
Since I don't know the answer, let's cite a case law.



Collected by-
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(B.A.LL.B. (Hons.), III Sem.)

Toonified

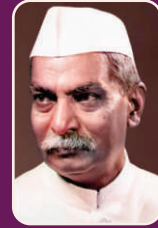


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“ In attaining our ideals, our means should be as pure as the end. ”



Dr. Rajendra Prasad



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