



**Colloquium on**

# **Bharatiya Nyaya Drishti: Rethinking Jurisprudence through Indian Knowledge Traditions**

**April 3, 2025, 2:30 PM**

**Conference Hall, RGNUL**

# About the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab

The Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab (RGNUL) is an autonomous National Law University (NLU) established by the RGNUL Act (No. 12 of 2006) passed by the Legislature of the State of Punjab, under the second wave of reforms instituted by the Bar Council of India. Established in 2006, RGNUL has garnered a pan-India reputation as a stellar institution for legal research and education. In May 2015, RGNUL became the first and the only NLU to have been accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with an 'A' grade. In March 2018, RGNUL was amongst the four NLUs to have been granted autonomous status by the University Grants Commission. The University has been ranked among the top 10 law schools in India in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.





# About the Colloquium

Modern jurisprudence has been largely influenced by Western legal thought, often overlooking India's rich legal-philosophical traditions. Ancient Indian knowledge systems—including Dharmashastra, Arthashastra, Nyaya, Mimamsa, and Buddhist and Jain traditions—offer deep insights into justice, governance, and ethics. Despite their relevance, these traditions remain underexplored in mainstream legal education. This colloquium, *\*Bhartiya Nyay Drishti: Rethinking Jurisprudence through Indian Knowledge Traditions\**, aims to critically examine these indigenous perspectives and explore their contemporary significance.

Designed for graduate and postgraduate students in law, philosophy, political science, and history, the colloquium will introduce them to foundational concepts in Indian legal traditions. It will encourage discussions on Dharma as a legal framework, legal reasoning in Nyaya and Mimamsa, Kautilya's Arthashastra on governance, and Buddhist and Jain contributions to ethics and conflict resolution. Additionally, the event will analyze the colonial impact on Indian jurisprudence and the importance of integrating indigenous perspectives into legal education.

The colloquium will feature keynote lectures which aim to bridge law with philosophy and history while fostering academic research on Indian jurisprudential traditions. By engaging with themes such as customary law, community justice systems, and legal interpretation in ancient texts, students will gain fresh perspectives on contemporary legal issues.

Ultimately, this event seeks to inspire young scholars to critically engage with India's jurisprudential heritage and contribute to a legal discourse that is both globally informed and rooted in Indian intellectual traditions. By revisiting these frameworks, the colloquium will encourage a more holistic, inclusive, and contextually relevant understanding of law and justice in India today.

# Theme

## भारतीय न्याय दृष्टि: न्याय शास्त्र एवं भारतीय ज्ञान परम्पराओं का संगठन

Bharatiya Nyaya Drishti: Rethinking Jurisprudence through Indian Knowledge Traditions

### SUB THEMES

Rethinking Natural Law through Indian Darshanas

Decolonizing Legal Thought: Integrating Indigenous Jurisprudence

Law and Justice in the Arthashastra and Manusmriti

Dharma and the Concept of Rights and Duties

Dharma as a Legal and Ethical Concept

Gandhian Thought and Legal Decentralization

Customary Law vs. Codified Law in India

Legal Principles in Manusmriti, Yajnavalkya Smriti, and Narada Smriti

धर्म एव हतो हन्ति धर्मो रक्षति रक्षितः।  
तस्माद् धर्मो न हन्तव्यः मा नो धर्मो हतोऽवधीत्॥

DHARMA, WHEN DESTROYED, DESTROYS; DHARMA, WHEN PROTECTED, PROTECTS.  
THEREFORE, ONE SHOULD NOT VIOLATE DHARMA, LEST DHARMA DESTROYS THEM.

- मनुस्मृति 8.15

# Eminent Resource Persons

Prof. (Dr.) Anurag  
Deep  
Professor of Law,  
Indian Law Institute

Prof. (Dr.) Pradeep  
Kulshreshtha  
Dean, Bennett School  
of Law

Prof. (Dr.) Shruti Bedi  
Professor, University  
Institute of Legal  
Studies, Punjab

Prof. (Dr.) Sujata Bali  
Professor and Dean,  
IILM Law School,  
Gurugram

Prof. (Dr.) Naresh  
Vats  
Professor of Law &  
Dean Academics,  
RGNUL, Punjab

## PATRON - IN - CHIEF

Prof. (Dr.) Jai Shankar Singh  
Vice Chancellor, RGNUL Punjab

## PATRON

Dr. Ivneet Kaur Walia  
Associate Professor of Law & Registrar (Officiating), RGNUL, Punjab

## ACADEMIC ADVISORS

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## FACULTY COORDINATORS

Dr. Renuka Soni  
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## STUDENT COORDINATORS

Vandana Sharma  
PhD. Scholar & Junior Research Fellow, RGNUL

Kunal Yadav  
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Kavya Shukla  
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