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'ITIHAAS' IN LIEU OF HISTORY: MAHATMA GANDHI & PHILOSOPHY OF JUSTICE

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It is imperative to commence the discussion on a philosophical footing by closely examining the terminology employed by Mahatma Gandhi in articulating his conception of justice. In *Hind Swaraj* (1909), Gandhi, through a series of dense and contemplative passages, elaborated upon the significance of the term *itihaas*, derived from (*iti*) it so happened and (*haas*) of the past. He consciously adopted this term as it conveys past events in their singularity and factual immediacy, free from retrospective interpretation. Gandhi firmly rejected the modern conception of third-party justice, particularly the role of an external adjudicator who claims to dispense justice in relation to past conflicts. He viewed such judicial intervention as inherently problematic, contending that the intrusion of a third party into historical narratives inevitably engenders subjective bias. This, in turn, leads to the distortion and adulteration of the authentic past, undermining its original meaning and truth.

According to Gandhi, the very notion of history, *his-story*, revolves around the modern historian, who selects a particular framework, formulates hypotheses, and subsequently marshals facts to fit those preconceived assumptions, thereby positioning himself as an ostensibly impartial third-party judge dispensing justice. Gandhi argued that such an approach inevitably results in multiple interpretative histories, such as Marxian, Dalit, or Feminist histories. While acknowledging their existence, he maintained that these narratives do not constitute *itihaas*, as they are shaped by interpretive intervention rather than representing the past in its unmediated and singular reality.

This was the reason Gandhi never formulated any concrete theory of Justice like John Rawls or Amartya Sen. He was not an economic

theorist like them but more of a social reformer and a practitioner, that is why he titled his autobiography as *My Experiments with Truth*. Consequently, it is not possible to summarize his ideas on justice, as he understood the concept not as an epistemology but in a deeply practical sense. However, two major realities that shaped Gandhi's views on justice were his experiences of racism in South Africa & Colonialism in India

Hence, with this context in mind let us examine Gandhi's concept of Justice. The following discourse is divided into two fragments. The first seeks to define what Gandhi meant by justice and how it is both beyond as well as critical to Western Liberal Philosophy, especially John Rawls Theory of Justice. Hence, while addressing the issue of justice for untouchables he stated that *itihaas* of Indian society must be accepted, in context with the sins of discrimination committed by the upper class. It was his views of inclusiveness in totality for justice for all varnas which led his differences with both the upper as well as lower class Hindus, including Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

The First Fragment

The question that might arise first in our minds is how we can compare John Rawls and Amartya Sen with Gandhi as these 2 sets of philosophers come from totally different set of times and age. Interestingly, a very well successful comparative studies have been done on

- Kautilya's 'Arthashastra' of 4th Century written during Mauryan India with that of Machiavelli's 'The Prince' of 15th Century written in Italy.
- Similar case can be made of Heliocentric Model of solar system made by Aryabhata and Nicholas both born in different eras and zones.

The validity of comparison can be made out

when one witness relevance of Religion as an important element in the concept of justice for both Rawls and Gandhi. Rawls thesis titled **'A Brief Inquiry into the Meaning of Sin & Faith: The Interpretation based on the Concept of Community'** and an unpublished essay of 1976 **'On my Religion'**, both claimed the role of religion and spirituality in political life.

1. The Equal Liberty Principle and the Fair Equality of Opportunity principle, propounded by John Rawls find resonance with the Gandhian idea of equality of opportunity. Through these principles, Rawls emphasizes the role of just institutions and distributive justice as mechanisms for achieving fairness within society. He acknowledges the central role of the state in the distribution of resources and places emphasis on the notion of trusteeship, which bears similarity to the Gandhian vision of a just society. However, Gandhi has some constraints with it, for which if Amartya Sen if asked his opinion, he would acknowledge Gandhi's philosophy, Gandhi in one of his writings in Young India, and I quote:

'My idea of society is that while we are born equal, meaning that we have a right to equal opportunities, all have not the same capacity. It is, in the nature of things, impossible. For instance, all cannot have the same height, or colour or degree of intelligence, etc.; therefore, in the nature of things, some will have ability to earn more and other less.'

Gandhi thus recognised, decades before Amartya Sen's articulation in 2009, what later came to be conceptualised as the Capabilities Approach. However, a clear distinction emerges between Gandhian and Rawlsian thought. Rawls discusses the Equal Liberty Principle primarily within the framework of political and civil rights as embedded in the political constitution. Gandhi, by contrast, extends this understanding by viewing political and civil rights as inseparably linked with social and economic rights. He perceives an organic interconnection among all

these rights. For Gandhi, true justice must be looked upon in terms of social and moral progress and not merely political sense, which is characteristic in western political states.

2. On the notions of Niti and Nyaya, Gandhi had rejected the idea that justice could purely be institutional. He was of the opinion that redressal of justice could be achieved both through Niti and Nyaya/Dharma, that is justice by institution and transformation of persons. In his writings he rejected the idea of structure of liberal institutions where justice is meted out by the judge as the III party in a court of law. However. Rawls and many other western liberal philosophers on justice considered a Niti-centered approach, as they focused on just institutions, which according to Gandhi were means and not the end.

Moreover, Gandhi accorded primacy to persons over institutions while seeking the foundations of justice for the basic structure of the society. He emphasized Nyaya/Dharma over Niti. Rawls on the other hand in his book A Theory of Justice, 1971 states:

'Justice is the first virtue of social institutions.'

3. Gandhi's Talisman, one of the last notes left by him before his demise in 1948, bears a close resemblance to Rawls' Difference Principle. Both emphasise that the better endowed in society carry a responsibility towards the worst off, ensuring their access to basic human needs and social benefits. For Rawls, much like Gandhi, the better off function as trustees on behalf of the least advantaged, acting to promote the interests of those whose welfare they are entrusted to represent. Gandhi in his one of the writings mentions and I quote:

'People with talents will have more, and they will utilize their talents for this purpose. If they utilize their talents kindly, they will be performing the work of the State. Such people exist as trustees, on no other terms. I would allow a man of intellect to earn more, I would not cramp

his talent. But the bulk of his greater earnings must be used for the good of the State, just as the income of all earning sons of the father go to the common family fund. They would have their earning only as trustees.'

However, Gandhian theory could be critical as it not only talks about distributive but restorative justice as well. It is restorative in the quest for the rectifications of past injustices done, on which Rawls and other Western Liberals are silent.

The second part of the address will discuss briefly this dimension of justice

The Second Fragment

It is interesting to note that justice which we witness today in India is more of Dr. Ambedkar's version. Prof. Bindu Puri, of JNU Delhi, in her book *The Ambedkar-Gandhi Debate* states that for Dr. Ambedkar justice came from the concept of liberal modernity and primarily an institutional virtue. However, Gandhi had a different opinion. He associated justice with redressing the injustice embedded in India's itihaas. For example, Gandhi spoke of addressing injustices of lower classes first to cater justice in actual sense for them. He, spoke of acceptance of responsibility of the 'sin' and asked high class Hindus to own up to the injustice of past by self-purification. Hence, Gandhi and Ambedkar also did not mean the same things when they spoke of justice or even when they talked of eradication of injustice. Gandhi's concept of Ramrajya also meant of position of equi-mindedness and equability.

'By 'Ramrajya' I do not mean Hindu Raj... Whether Rama of my imagination ever lived or not on this earth, the ancient ideal of Ramrajya is undoubtedly one of true democracy in which the meanest citizen could be sure of swift justice without an elaborate and costly procedure. Even the dog is described by the poet to have received justice under Ramrajya.'

Gandhi's concept of justice is hence, based on Absolute Truth, the way to arrive at it is through:

- Right living
- Intense training of conscience

- Ahimsa to be practiced as civic virtue
- Strict individualism
- Element of forgiveness for social change
- Just social, political, economic institutions

Dear bibliophiles, in concluding this discourse on justice, let us reimagine John Godfrey's poetic parody- '**The Blind Men and the Elephant**', wherein each man encounters a different part of the elephant and arrives at a partial and divergent understanding of the whole. One who touches the trunk perceives it as a snake, another who grasps the tail imagines it to be a rope, and so on, each conclusion shaped by a limited standpoint rather than the totality of the animal.

Concept of Justice from the notions of traditional Indian knowledge is like a huge elephant with different dimensions, touch it from a different limb and you will witness an altogether a different animal coming out of your imagination. Let us use this platform to narrate itihaas and not history because otherwise it'll be injustice to justice.

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BREATHING A 'SEASONAL CRISIS', A 'NATURAL PHENOMENON'? HAS DELHI'S AIR POLLUTION GONE TOO FAR: TIME TO MARK A FULL STOP

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A city that wakes up gasping

The morning in Delhi no longer begins with sunlight, rather with a cough. In a narrow lane near a busy highway, a mother wakes her eight-year-old son before school. He rubs his eyes, already red, and asks the same question he has been asking for weeks, why the sky looks dirty. The doctor has told her to keep him indoors. She looks around their onerous house and wonders how. Outside, a grey haze hangs low, unmoved by the early hour. A few kilometres away, a construction worker ties a faded cloth around his mouth before stepping onto the site. By noon, the cloth will be damp with sweat and smoke. He knows it will not protect his lungs, but missing a day's work means missing a meal. Advisories urging citizens to "stay indoors" were never meant for him. As evening falls, an elderly woman in a quiet South Delhi colony sits upright in bed, afraid to sleep. Breathlessness worsens after sunset. The air burns, but closing the window makes it worse. In the silence of the night, the sound of her own breathing feels heavier than the smog outside. Across the city, a pregnant woman cancels her evening walk. A delivery rider keeps riding. A street vendor keeps standing. In Delhi, life does not pause for pollution. It simply learns to endure it. This is not a seasonal inconvenience. It is a lived emergency which is repeated, normalized, and quietly inhaled by millions every day.

Normalization of the Crisis

Every winter, Delhi holds its breath. Every winter, the city chokes on a haze so thick it feels almost tangible. And every winter, the crisis is treated as routine an annual inconvenience, rather than the public health emergency it truly is. Temporary measures appear with clockwork precision; schools shut for a few days, vehicles restricted under the odd-even scheme, construction halted on paper. Advisories flood social media and news channels, warning citizens to "stay indoors" or

wear masks. Yet, these interventions barely scratch the surface they treat the symptoms, not the root causes. The factories continue to burn, the stubble piles up in neighbouring states, diesel trucks rumble along highways, and millions of residents, particularly the poor, inhale this toxic air every day.

What is normalized is not just the smog, but the indifference to its recurring violence. The public is expected to accept suffering as seasonal, while the State cycles through shortlived responses that vanish as soon as headlines fade. For a city that claims to be the Nation's capital, this casual acceptance of its own citizens suffering is both shocking and unacceptable.

When Rights Choke: Delhi's Air Crisis and the Law That Fails

Delhi's air is not just polluted; it is a daily assault on life. Children cough before breakfast. Construction workers tie damp cloths over their mouths. Pregnant women cancel walks, and the elderly brace themselves for nights of breathlessness. Every winter, these stories repeat, but the law remains silent. Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to life, promises citizens more than mere survival but it promises protection. Yet, in the haze of smog that blankets the city each year, this promise is broken, repeatedly and predictably.

The Supreme Court of India has long recognised that the right to life encompasses the right to a healthy environment. Landmark rulings, including *MC Mehta v. Union of India*, emphasised that citizens are entitled to breathe clean air as a fundamental aspect of their constitutional rights. Courts and tribunals have issued orders, directed action plans, and even penalised specific entities but the gap between judicial directives and ground reality remains stark. For residents of Delhi, the law exists in principle but not in practice. Nebulisation rooms overflow,

children wheeze, and workers inhale toxins without pause, while the institutions meant to enforce environmental law seem powerless or indifferent.

The Public Trust Doctrine further strengthens the State's legal obligations. Natural resources, including air, are held in trust for the people, and it is the State's duty to preserve them. Yet, the repeated episodes of extreme pollution reveal a breach of this trust. Each plume of smoke that infiltrates homes, classrooms, and workplaces is a visible reminder that the public's right to a safe environment is being neglected.

India's statutory framework for air quality is far from absent. The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), and the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) together constitute a comprehensive legal architecture designed to protect citizens. Yet, these laws and policies often function as ceremonial gestures. Construction bans are temporary, odd-even vehicle restrictions are sporadic, and advisories to "stay indoors" reach only those privileged enough to have indoor spaces. Enforcement is patchy, fragmented, and reactive, leaving the most vulnerable daily-wage workers, street vendors, slum residents completely unprotected.

Thus, the absence of accountability compounds the crisis. There is no mechanism to compensate victims of pollution-linked illness or death, and no authority is legally answerable for recurring violations. Courts issue directives, but repeated non-compliance reflects the inability or unwillingness of the executive to convert law into life-saving action. The result is a chilling reality: rights exist on paper, but lungs remain exposed, and deaths continue unrecorded in legal terms.

Therefore, Human stories make this legal failure tangible. Ramesh, a 38-year-old construction worker near Dwarka, breathes through a damp cloth every day. A six-month pregnant woman in Noida cancels her evening walks for fear of harming her unborn child. In East Delhi, children wheeze in overcrowded

classrooms while teachers plead for cleaner air. Every cough, every wheeze, every stifled breath is a testament to the law's impotence in the face of systemic inaction. If the Constitution guarantees life, and statutes provide mechanisms to protect it, why does Delhi remain a city that chokes annually? The answer is clear: the law exists, but enforcement, accountability, and remedies are missing. Article 21 and other environmental protections are not violated once they are violated every day, year after year. The crisis is not just ecological; it is legal. Until law is translated into action, until accountability is enforced, and until rights are protected in practice, Delhi's residents will continue to inhale injustice along with the smog.

Governance and Policy Failures: The Crisis That Persists

Delhi wakes under a haze that does not discriminate. Schools close for a few days, construction halts, and vehicles obey odd-even restrictions, giving the illusion of action. Yet, the air remains heavy and toxic, penetrating classrooms, workplaces, and homes particularly affecting those who cannot avoid outdoor exposure.

Government responses are reactive, triggered only when air quality reaches hazardous levels, and they disappear as soon as conditions appear marginally better. These measures, while visible, address only the symptoms. Factories continue to operate unchecked, diesel trucks move along congested highways, and stubble burning in neighbouring states releases massive clouds of smoke, leaving residents to inhale the consequences. Administrative fragmentation compounds the problem. Air quality management involves multiple agencies; the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), the Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA), Delhi Pollution Control Committee, and various state governments. The diffusion of responsibility allows enforcement to collapse.

As one official admitted off the record, "*When everyone is responsible, no one is accountable.*"

The governance failure is exacerbated by a

culture of blame-shifting. Authorities point fingers at farmers for stubble burning, citizens for vehicular emissions, and even the weather for temperature inversions and stagnant winds. While these factors contribute, they distract from systemic lapses: poor urban planning, weak industrial regulation, and delayed policy implementation. Pollution becomes someone else's problem, while citizens pay the price. The impact is felt unequally. Privileged households rely on air purifiers and sealed indoor spaces. Daily-wage workers, street vendors, and construction labourers cannot escape the toxic air.

Data underscores the gravity of the crisis. PM_{2.5} levels often soar above 400 µg/m³, exceeding the WHO safe limit by more than sixteen times. Hospitals report surges in respiratory and cardiovascular cases, yet the enforcement of existing laws remains inconsistent. Delhi's legal and institutional frameworks, designed to protect citizens, fail to prevent this public health disaster.

Ultimately, the problem is not the absence of law, but the absence of effective governance and accountability. Statutes exist, judicial orders are issued, and action plans are drafted but without strict enforcement, these remain symbolic. The city's residents continue to suffer silently, while the legal promise of clean air is unfulfilled. Real reform requires proactive measures, coordinated enforcement, and clear accountability across all levels of governance. Without these, vulnerable populations children, the elderly, workers remain exposed, and governance continues to be as invisible as the toxins swirling around them.

Conclusion: Breathing Justice into Delhi's Air

Delhi's toxic air is more than an environmental challenge; it is a constitutional and governance failure. Children wheeze in classrooms, workers choke on streets, and the elderly struggle to breathe in the supposed safety of their homes. The suffering is real, the laws exist, yet enforcement is lacking, and accountability remains almost non-existent. When citizens pay the price for systemic inaction, the failure is both moral and legal.

The Constitution of India, through Article 21, guarantees the right to life a promise that

includes the right to a healthy environment. The Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed that clean air is not a privilege but a fundamental right, and that the State bears the obligation to protect it. Additionally, the Public Trust Doctrine imposes a duty on authorities to preserve natural resources, including air, for the public good. Delhi's recurring air crisis reveals a breach of both these obligations. Statutes like the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and institutions such as CAQM and EPCA provide mechanisms to safeguard citizens. Yet, these legal instruments remain largely symbolic, leaving residents exposed to preventable harm. The governance failures are stark; fragmented administrative responsibilities, reactive measures, temporary interventions, and a culture of blameshifting. While the privileged can mitigate exposure through air purifiers and indoor protection, the most vulnerable construction workers, street vendors, daily-wage labourers bear the full brunt of Delhi's toxic skies. The law, which promises protection, is rendered meaningless without enforcement and accountability.

Addressing this crisis demands systemic reform. Proactive policies must replace reactive responses. Enforcement must be strict, coordinated, and continuous, rather than sporadic. Citizens must have avenues for legal remedies and compensation when their rights are violated. The State must treat air quality as a constitutional obligation, not a seasonal inconvenience. Without these changes, human suffering will continue, legal promises will remain unfulfilled, and Delhi's air will remain a daily hazard.

Ultimately, the air we breathe is not just a matter of environmental science, it is a matter of justice. To protect its residents, Delhi must ensure that the law, governance, and public health intersect meaningfully. The city's future depends not merely on cleaner skies but on a legal and administrative system willing to act decisively. Until that happens, every cough, every wheeze, every breath taken in Delhi is a reminder that rights without enforcement are only words and justice remains far out of reach.

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“SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY AND HUMAN ENHANCEMENT: COMPARATIVE LEGAL, ETHICAL, AND REGULATORY PERSPECTIVES FROM INDIA, CHINA, AND THE UNITED STATES”

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Introduction

Synthetic biology and human enhancement are transforming fundamental beliefs about human identity, bodily integrity, and the limits of medical knowledge, marking an unparalleled turning point in biotechnology in the twenty-first century. By creating synthetic genomes, designing metabolic pathways, and creating biological circuits that can function like programmable systems, scientists may engineer biological systems at a modular size thanks to synthetic biology. When combined with gene editing technologies like CRISPR-Cas9, prime editing, and base editing, the scientific landscape has changed from being largely focused on treating disease to potentially enhancing human traits like cognitive ability, physical performance, and sensory capacity. Deep philosophical, ethical, and legal issues are brought up by this evolution, including what the natural human form is, who has the power to change it, and how societies should protect future generations from permanent changes that that could impact the human germline or social structures. Selective breeding, early eugenics movements in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and experimental gene therapy attempts in the late twentieth century are just a few examples of the long history of the desire to alter or improve human qualities. These historical antecedents show persistent conflicts between human ambition, societal norms, and moral duty even if they were constrained by scientific knowledge, ethical consciousness, and legal monitoring. The potential risks of leaving transformational biological treatments without proper governance are highlighted by past abuses in eugenics and uncontrolled medical experimentation. The contemporary era is fundamentally different: genetic alteration is no longer theoretical due to rapid

technology advancements, and complete monitoring is urgently needed due to the magnitude, rapidity, and accessibility of interventions. National legal systems make an effort to keep up with this scientific and historical context, but with differing levels of readiness and moral commitment. Three different regulatory philosophies are evident in the methods used by China, India, and the United States of America. Instead of enforceable law, India mainly relies on incremental norms that lack statutory authority and reflect cautious participation and ethical encouragement. In response to ethical disputes, like the well-known instance of genetically altered infants, China is a prime example of swift state-regulated reform, proving the ability for quick, centralised involvement. The US has an organised, agency-led governance framework that strikes a balance between public accountability, ethical evaluation, and incentives for innovation. When combined, these nations form a comparative international laboratory for regulatory experimentation. In order to analyse how national governance models for human enhancement are shaped by political culture, legal history, administrative design, and ethical orientation, this paper places synthetic biology within both historical and modern scientific revolutions. It emphasises the urgent need for coordinated, proactive regulation that can handle the enormous prospects as well as the significant threats of a time when human biology is being engineered, optimised, and possibly reinvented.

Scientific and Ethical Landscape

Human enhancement and synthetic biology have scientific potential, but they also present equally difficult ethical, social, and philosophical challenges. Genetic engineering, computer modelling, and molecular design

are all combined in synthetic biology to develop organisms with specific roles, such as pharmaceutical-producing bacteria or synthetic organisms that can clean up the environment. Targeted changes to human DNA are made possible by gene editing technologies including CRISPR-Cas9, base editing, and prime editing, creating opportunities for both therapeutic intervention and non-therapeutic augmentation. Synthetic vaccinations, artificial chromosomes, gene drives for vector control, customised cellular therapies, and possible improvement of physical or cognitive characteristics are examples of applications. Although science has a bright future, there are many ethical issues that need to be carefully considered.

- a. **Intergenerational autonomy:** Offspring who are unable to provide their permission to genetic changes made prior to conception are directly impacted by germline editing. Since future generations may be permanently impacted by experimental or enhanced interventions, this raises important ethical concerns regarding autonomy and the rights of future generations. Moral responsibility is increased by decisions taken today that may result in dangers, obligations, or expectations for those who have not yet been born.
- b. **Genetic equity and social justice:** There will probably be unequal access to human improvement technology, with wealthy or metropolitan populations benefiting disproportionately. This could lead to genetically stratified societies where enhanced people have substantial cognitive, physical, or emotional advantages, aggravating already-existing social disparities. To avoid societal divisions, ethical frameworks must take into account measures for equitable distribution, subsidies, or regulation.
- c. **Identity, personhood, and human dignity:** Philosophical and cultural notions of identity are challenged by changes in intelligence, emotional control, or behavioural tendencies. Improvements may have an impact on one's sense of

self, agency, and social duties, posing concerns about morality, authenticity, and the psychological strain of meeting social or parental expectations.

- d. **Off-target and long-term effects:** Unintentional mutations, pleiotropic consequences, and cascading physiological alterations are risks associated with gene editing. Unpredictable interactions between synthetic organisms and natural environments could upset ecological balance and have unanticipated repercussions. To reduce these dangers, thorough preclinical testing, ecological risk assessment, and post-implementation monitoring are crucial.
- e. **Data privacy and genetic surveillance:** Concerns of privacy, permission, and potential misuse are raised by the widespread collecting of genetic data for research or enhancement purposes. Strong data protection laws and enforcement are necessary since governments, businesses, and insurance firms may use genetic data for social control, employment decisions, or profiling.
- f. **Cultural and moral pluralism:** Different cultures, religions, and political systems have different views on the ethical acceptability of human improvement. Naturalness, human dignity, and the inviolability of the genome are valued by some societies, while human potential and innovation are valued by others. To maintain societal approval and ethical legitimacy, regulatory systems must take these differing viewpoints into consideration.
- g. **Dual-use and biosecurity risks:** Gene editing and synthetic biology can be abused to produce dangerous biological agents, either on purpose or accidentally. Therapeutic research could be redirected towards pathogenic enhancement, bioweapons, or ecological devastation. Dual-use risk mitigation techniques, safe laboratory procedures, and international oversight are essential.

- h. Philosophical and moral boundaries:** Beyond the practical dangers, there are more profound philosophical issues regarding the ethical bounds of changing human nature. Should we interfere with evolution to improve characteristics other than survival or illness prevention? Tensions between human flourishing, natural boundaries, and intergenerational responsibility must be managed by ethical frameworks.
- i. Consent and coercion in enhancement technologies:** Social pressures may force people to seek modifications in order to compete in social, professional, or educational domains, even when adults give informed consent. True voluntariness and the state's role in controlling or restricting access to non-essential upgrades are called into doubt by this.

Regulatory Position of The United State

Based on agency monitoring, bioethical consideration, and multi-layered federal limits, the United States offers one of the most organised regulatory frameworks for synthetic biology and human development. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which controls gene therapies, somatic interventions, and any biological product that can have an impact on human physiology, is a key component of this framework. Germline editing is essentially prohibited by federal bans on the use of government funds for embryo editing or clinical trials including heritable alterations, but somatic gene editing for therapeutic purposes is allowed under stringent investigative protocols. In a similar vein, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) maintains regulations that limit research with human embryos and forbid financing for initiatives related to augmentation. Furthermore, the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues and the Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee have historically had a major influence on national debate, making sure that new technologies are publicly examined before being used in clinical or commercial settings. Additionally, informed consent, individual autonomy, and scientific transparency are highly valued in the US. Although frameworks like HIPAA and

genetic nondiscrimination laws address privacy concerns, there are still disagreements regarding how private companies that provide enhancement-adjacent services like polygenic risk scores or customised genetic optimisation plans handle genomic databases. Legal study highlights the need to prevent augmentation from damaging social equality, health ethics, or human dignity, and courts in the United States typically take a precautionary approach. Enhancement is still limited by ethical review, public accountability, and federal control, despite the encouragement of synthetic biology through innovation initiatives and significant commercial investment. The American model shows how a technologically evolved society tries to strike a balance between innovation and social stability, ethical protections, and constitutional liberties.

China's Post-Controversy Legal Response

Following the international scandal over gene-edited children produced by unapproved CRISPR testing, China's regulatory trajectory underwent a significant shift. China acted quickly to build a strong legal and moral framework to stop such instances after receiving criticism from around the world. Unauthorised germline modification and implantation became crimes when the state instituted criminal liability for unlawful gene editing. Before performing genetic studies with humans, research teams must seek a licence from national health authorities, go through a multi-level ethical assessment, and fulfil strict requirements. By connecting synthetic biology to national security and placing a strong emphasis on risk management, laboratory biosafety, and preventing harmful biological manipulation, China's Biosecurity Law further institutionalises control. The nation's regulatory response, which combines administrative, civil, and criminal tools to ensure compliance, demonstrates its ability to quickly alter legislation. The protection of embryos, informed consent, and institutional and researcher accountability are now prioritised in ethical guidelines. Concurrently, China maintains its position as a world leader in biotechnology, making significant

investments in genetic medicine, synthetic biology research, and enhancement-focused initiatives like high-performance biological traits and cognitive genomics. A distinctive regulatory balance is produced by this dual goal, which encourages innovation while ensuring stringent oversight. In stark contrast to the more decentralised, debate-driven model of the United States, China's approach is state-driven, centralised, and in line with national developmental goals. It makes a compelling case for developing nations like India, showing how legal reform may be quickly mobilised in response to scientific dangers and ethical transgressions. In a world where scientific advancements can surpass legal frameworks, China's experience also highlights the significance of legal readiness.

India's Evolving Framework

India's laws governing human enhancement and synthetic biology are still in their infancy and are primarily suggestions rather than legally obligatory. Ethical principles for biomedical research are provided by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), stem cell research guidelines, and genome editing protocols. However, these instruments are not legally binding and cannot impose accountability or penalties for misuse. Although operationalising these principles is still difficult, India's constitutional commitment to equality, dignity, and privacy—reinforced by court acceptance of the right to privacy—creates a normative foundation for regulating genetic technologies. There are significant gaps in the regulation of private genetic clinics, the establishment of oversight bodies, the definition of acceptable and unacceptable kinds of augmentation, and the protection of individuals from prejudice or genetic exploitation. With the growing participation of biotechnology startups, academic institutions, and private labs involved in genome sequencing, molecular diagnostics, and synthetic biology, India's scientific capabilities are growing quickly. However, problems including off-target liability, consent in embryo research, genetic data protection, cross-border genomic transfers, and dual-use biosecurity threats remain unresolved in the

absence of a comprehensive Gene Editing and Synthetic Biology Act. Proactive regulatory action is necessary due to the potential emergence of enhancement-oriented services in private markets, such as commercial biohacking, athletic genetic optimisation, and embryo selection beyond illness prevention. India is at a critical juncture: in the absence of a strong legal framework, the nation may experience moral failings, popular distrust, and international scrutiny akin to previous disputes overseas. To direct research, safeguard individuals, and bring India into compliance with international norms, a cogent legislative framework supported by expert committees and a national genomic authority is crucial.

Conclusion and Suggestions

The comparison between human enhancement with synthetic biology highlights the critical necessity for strong, proactive, and morally sound legal systems. Scientific developments in germline modification, gene editing, and the creation of synthetic organisms present previously unheard-of chances to treat illnesses, increase human potential, and solve environmental and global health issues. However, these potential come with difficult moral conundrums, such as threats to human dignity, social justice, intergenerational autonomy, privacy, ecological balance, and biosecurity. The US, China, and India all have different regulatory strategies: The United States uses an organised, agency-driven model that strikes a balance between innovation and ethical oversight and public responsibility, China exhibits quick state-led reform in response to ethical crises, while India presently relies on recommendations that lack statutory enforceability. The analysis emphasises that in the absence of unified legislation, scientific advancements run the risk of surpassing social protections, resulting in unfairness, abuse, or irreversible damage. Therefore, ethical consideration, legal clarity, institutional supervision, and international cooperation must all be integrated into effective governance. In the end, effective regulation of human improvement is a social necessity to guarantee equality, dignity, and long-term sustainability in a quickly changing

biotechnological landscape rather than just a question of legal compliance or scientific viability.

1. **Enact Comprehensive Legislation:** India should enact a specific Gene Editing and Synthetic Biology Act that provides legal authorities, defines acceptable and unacceptable practices, and enforces compliance among commercial biotechnology companies, private clinics, and research institutions.
2. **Establish a National Oversight Authority:** To oversee research, assess ethical compliance, issue licenses for germline and enhancement research, and keep a public record of all synthetic biology initiatives, a central National Genome and Bioethics Authority ought to be established.
3. **Develop Clear Distinctions Between Therapy and Enhancement:** To avoid social injustices and coercion, legal frameworks should distinguish between therapeutic treatments (disease treatment) and non-therapeutic enhancements (physical, cognitive, or emotional augmentation), limiting or regulating the latter.
4. **Strengthen Genetic Data Protection:** Comprehensive data privacy laws should address the gathering, storing, and use of genetic data, guaranteeing that people's genomic information cannot be used for discriminatory or commercial objectives in social, employment, or insurance contexts.
5. **Integrate Biosecurity and Dual-Use Safeguards:** Strict laboratory procedures, risk assessment frameworks, and international control of biological materials are all necessary to handle dual-use hazards, such as the abuse of synthetic organisms and gene editing tools.
6. **Promote Ethical Review and Public Engagement:** Research and policy decisions should be guided by mandatory ethical committees, interdisciplinary oversight, and public consultation platforms to ensure transparency, societal confidence, and culturally sensitive governance.

7. **Foster International Collaboration:** To unify safety standards, exchange best practices, and stop cross-border "enhancement tourism" or unregulated testing, India should actively collaborate with foreign organisations, including as the World Health Organisation and regulatory bodies in the US and China.

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ROLE OF CITIZENSHIP IN SAFEGUARDING TRAFFICKED WOMEN

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Introduction

Every year, thousands of women are trafficked across borders for sexual exploitation. Prostitution and human trafficking are often interconnected. Granted that international forums and multilateral organisations have defined human trafficking consistently for some time, the most widely accepted legal definition on record comes from the UN Palermo Protocol (2000) (United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2000). It holds that any recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons by means of coercion, fraud, abuse of power, or some other improper means to achieve the will of another for exploitation could be described as human trafficking. (United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2000). In 2022, India reported a 2.8% increase in the number of trafficking cases (National Human Rights Commission (India), 2024). The world at large seems to have reached a deplorable point where 61% of all trafficking victims are female, and many are trafficked specifically for sexual exploitation (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2024).

While prostitution may easily be conceived from a moralistic chauvinist point of view as the dishonouring of one's womanhood, the reality of human trafficking lays bare overlapping vulnerabilities. The combined impact of women's gender-oriented vulnerabilities and poverty, social inequality, and discrimination all contribute to increasing their susceptibility to trafficking. Migration status, gender, and class are linked together in various ways, all of which serve to make women more vulnerable, especially those migrants who have been forced into illegal immigrant status because they lack legal standing. International instruments such as CEDAW (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 1979)

articulate a strong normative mandate requiring states to prevent trafficking in human beings and to extend substantive assistance to those who have been subjected to it, yet the persistent gaps in implementation make it clear that these commitments do not reach many women who lack citizenship, residence rights, or any recognised legal status. Without citizenship, trafficked women are steadily disconnected from mainstream life, placed in situations where they cannot assert entitlements or seek institutional support and left exposed to further exploitation at every stage of the trafficking chain, and this layered vulnerability calls for new viewpoints in both legal approach and theory in order to deliver a complete understanding and relief for women.

Theoretical and Jurisprudential Approaches to Prostitution and Migration

Within protest law theory, migrant sex workers have historically fallen outside legal protection because they are not treated as full members of the political community, which makes their treatment under the law inconsistent and renders existing legal safeguards of limited use in addressing their needs. Saint Thomas Aquinas treats prostitution as contrary to moral order and believes that law should promote the common good, with his views on sexual relations being naturally tied to marriage and reproduction, he considers the work of "rent women" unlawful and subject to prohibition to protect public morality (Parekh, 2021).

Immanuel Kant's ethical system is based on treating individuals as ends in themselves, never merely as means. Therefore, prostitution degrades human dignity and with it the intrinsic worth of human beings into objects for others' sexual pleasure that transgresses their own values. In contrast, consequentialist philosophers such as John

Stuart Mill's Harm Principle prioritise social outcomes and justify state intervention on the grounds that one person harms another (Tunick, 2023). This principle supports protecting individuals from exploitation and violence, decriminalising consensual sex work, and ensuring basic harm-prevention measures, though these debates have grown more complex with the influence of contemporary feminist theory.

Radical feminists interpret prostitution as fundamentally oppressive and rooted in male domination, while Marxian feminists understand it as a form of exploitation comparable to other labour structured by capitalism (Gerassi, 2015); in contrast, liberal feminists emphasise autonomy and argue that sex work can express personal agency (Mesce, 2020). For migrant women, though, the economic and legal environment and social relations drastically limit the chance of choosing freely. Here, Hannah Arendt's concept of the "*right to have rights*" is crucial, which shows that women without legal status lack the basic protections that allow individuals to be recognised as rights-bearing members of a political community (Cotter, 2005). As such, they become trapped between cracks without nationality or membership in any country's political community, denied all fundamental rights. Migrant women are often the most vulnerable to sex trafficking, and this vulnerability intensifies when gender, class, and legal identity intersect, so as Kimberlé Crenshaw's idea of intersectionality shows, women who are marginalised as migrants, the poor, and the undocumented face overlapping and compounded forms of oppression (Crenshaw, 1991).

Although philosophical debates about sex's autonomy abound, the actual life of sex workers tells a tale of coercion, laws that cast them into marginality and the rights which are refused them so that it is necessary to have humanitarian regard, including legal mechanisms reflecting human values and the present.

An Overview of the Global Models of Prostitution and Its Effect on Migrants

Worldwide, prostitution is regulated through three primary legal models, each producing different outcomes for those who work in the

industry and, to a significant extent, for migrants involved in it. A fourth approach also exists, retaining many criminal penalties and operating as a residual category before the courts, where fines and sanctions continue to accumulate each year and impose especially heavy burdens on undocumented migrants. Across all these frameworks, the systems used to administer and enforce such laws often prove costly, and, despite hopes that legalisation will create more stable and replicable structures, significant challenges remain. In particular, restrictive immigration regimes may become the largest barrier to achieving full decriminalisation, limiting the practical benefits these models are expected to deliver (Purim, 2024). Migrant sex workers lacking legal residence encounter significant harms, since exclusion from formal protections channels them into concealed and highly dependent labour arrangements that intensify their vulnerability and restrict their activities to precarious local networks offering minimal stability, institutional support, or avenues for lawful redress.

Decriminalisation removes all criminal penalties for consensual adult sex work and treats it as a lawful occupation, allowing sex workers to claim ordinary labour rights such as safe working conditions, fair contracts, and access to social protection for work-related injuries or illness. Take the example of the Netherlands and New Zealand (Global Network of Sex Work Projects, 2019). It also creates a safer working environment but does not make the workplace more authentic or healthy living anywhere else, though. For migrant sex workers without legal residency, these advantages often remain inaccessible because their lack of status prevents them from entering regulated sectors or claiming the protections available to citizens, and this exclusion can also fuel the growth of unregulated markets and, as seen in several jurisdictions, contribute to an increase in human trafficking.

Criminalisation, used in countries like China and India, fails to reduce prostitution and instead pushes sex workers into concealed and unsafe settings where they face greater violence and reduced protection with heightened health risks of HIV and other infections (Sex Workers & Allies Network &

Yale Global Health Justice Partnership, 2020). Sex workers also take on some of that criminality. What used to be their own affairs under the terms of a contract beneath the law can now very easily go unheard or unreported, and in this way, the criminalisation model consistently fails to offer protection, reduce exploitation, or achieve its intended goals.

The Nordic model focuses on reducing demand by criminalising buyers rather than sellers, allowing sex workers to avoid direct punishment while directing legal sanctions toward those who exploit or profit from their labour. In force in countries such as Sweden and Norway, it includes "exit support" programmes for individuals who wish to leave the business (Cox, 2021). This way it may reduce street prostitution, but it is also criticised for banishing sex work into a dark and hidden world where there are few guarantees of safety. Migrant sex workers without legal standing face increased risks under the Nordic model, as immigration laws often make their presence and professional activities illegal rather than protecting them; if they are apprehended, then deportation awaits.

All three models share the same problem with migrants; legal status and rights are still contingent upon citizenship. Immigrant and undocumented sex workers are routinely denied social security, labour protections, and avenues for redress in court. This conflicts with international standards and the *Rantsev* judgement, where the European Court of Human Rights held the state responsible for failing to protect a trafficked non-citizen woman (*Rantsev v Cyprus and Russia*). Protecting sex workers' rights ultimately depends less on the universal human dignity found in those principles of international law and more upon whether they have legal papers or not. As citizenship is not just essential to justice and safeguards for migrants working in sex industries, it plays an important role for all workers everywhere.

Legal Status of Prostitution and Trafficking in India

Across much of Indian society, prostitution is morally stigmatised, producing sustained discrimination and exclusion that deprive sex

workers of rights or services to which every Indian is entitled (Sampada Gramin Mahila Sanstha (SANGRAM) and VAMP, 2008). Reports suggest that in India, around four women are pushed into prostitution every hour, three of them against their will, and according to data, 95% of trafficked persons in India are forced into prostitution, with the recent NCRB listing a total of 6,616 human trafficking cases as registered in India, out of which trafficking for the sex trade is the highest in numbers (Najar, 2021). In India, The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, is the principal law governing prostitution. It criminalises activities like brothel-keeping, pimping, and public solicitation, but unlike other countries' legislation, it does not outlaw prostitution itself. This is an aim to protect victims of trafficking and exploitation. Meanwhile, living as prostitutes in the codes of law gives them no protection against any attacks. It happens altogether without being regulated, and the sex industry, therefore, is still open to abuse, even though it seems that virtually everyone else can enjoy labour rights and legal protections in modern India (G.Anilkumar, 2025).

Sex workers are entitled constitutionally to equality (Article 14), freedom from discrimination (Article 15); the right to life and dignity (Article 21); freedom in choice of occupation (Article 19(1)(g)); and also, human trafficking or enforced labor (Article 23) warrants protection. Judgments of the courts gradually recognised sex work as a profession and focused on protecting sex workers' dignity and fundamental rights. One of the most significant cases in this trajectory was when the case of (*Kajal Mukesh Singh And Ors v. State of Maharashtra*, 2020) affirmed that voluntary sex work is not illegal. That sex workers should not be arbitrarily arrested or evicted was also upheld by the judgment. In 2022, the *Budhadev Karmaskar* judgment set out detailed directions for protecting sex workers from rights violations, including restricting media disclosure of identities, ensuring medical care after attacks, and penalising police officers who commit violence. (*Budhadev Karmaskar V. State of West bengal*, 2022).

Despite progressive rulings, migrant sex workers in India continue to suffer severe stigma, social exclusion, and neglect by institutions, which diminishes their ability to access justice or welfare. Although the law has changed to make the distinction between voluntary sex work and forced exploitation, current social attitudes and the uncertainty of the law make this marginalised group genuinely weak (Kempadoo, 2017). Therefore, it is important to enhance legal protections, consciousness and praxis for people who need protection generally, while at the very bottom of society are sex workers.

Migrant Sex Workers in India and their Vulnerability

Migrant women in India who work as prostitutes face a triple paralysis: legal, social and economic. The migration of Indian sex workers with the accelerated globalisation that occurred as certain nations, such as Pakistan, forced them to withhold their services and jump national borders, thereby making it easier for criminal elements like traffickers to recruit them (Kempadoo, 2017). Many women are recruited with expectations of higher earnings in major commercial centres, yet the debts imposed by traffickers absorb most of their income and place them in arrangements where prices are set unilaterally, repayment schedules are opaque, and financial obligations expand in ways that restrict their ability to leave or negotiate better conditions (Dr. Sanya Khan, 2024). India functions simultaneously as a source, transit point, and destination for several forms of human trafficking, with the largest proportion occurring within its own borders, creating circumstances in which undocumented migrants enter highly constrained labour settings and experience further exclusion within the social environments where they attempt to settle (Joffres, 2008). Prejudice, in terms of their access to rights and services, remains a grave obstacle for sex workers. And it's even more dangerous for migrant sex workers, who are typically without residence records, speak little or no local language and don't realise that they can ask for protection from the public health authorities (Sampada Gramin

Mahila Sanstha (SANGRAM) and VAMP, 2008). Established social attitudes have branded them as morally corrupt people and left them open to abuse; thus, it is less likely the police will come to help them. Their uncertain and often undocumented status lets authorities use immigration and policing laws to detain or deport them, creating a constant fear of removal that, as Nicholas de Genova explains through the idea of deportability, places undocumented migrant sex workers in insecurity and invisibility where exploitation becomes easier and protection nearly impossible (Eriksen, 2024). This not only impacts their health care but also puts them at increased risk from HIV/AIDS, and they're also subject to more discrimination (Kumar, 2020). In addition, the women find themselves at risk of social exclusion.

Ultimately, their difficulties are deepened by economic insecurity, stigma, and lack of citizenship, which limits access to legal protection and makes citizenship a key boundary between vulnerability and protection in Indian society.

Citizenship as a Tool for Exclusion

The foundational status of citizenship in India establishes an individual's civil, political and social rights, determining the level of legal protection one has access to, how one participates in governance, and what welfare opportunities are available (Vanamala, 2023). Civil rights include: equal treatment under law; the security and sanctity of one's person; freedom of thought, expression, conscience and religion; and freedom to participate in cultural activities which engage them socially or politically. Hannah Arendt tells us what it means to be stateless (Cotter, 2005). For such persons are outside the law's protection and thus ineligible for its benefits or recognition; everything they do is illegal. Migrant sex workers thus experience both legal and social marginalisation, which leaves them without a sense of belonging within the city where they work or live.

The 1955 Citizenship Act identifies who can become a citizen of India and bars illegal aliens indirectly, subjecting them to detention and deportation under regulations such as the Foreigners Act or the Passport (Entry into

India) Act. Yet citizens possess constitutional guarantees, including fair treatment (Article 15), the right to be free from discrimination, the right to engage in any profession (Article 19(1)(g)), and safeguards against forced labour and trafficking in persons (Article 23).

For example, in the Delhi High Court case *Chetan Dutt v. Union of India*, officials in effect arrested many accredited Indian citizens who lacked documents and made them illegal aliens because their facial characteristics seemed to indicate (wrongly) that they were from other countries (Kapur, 2007). This is an especially acute problem for migrant sex workers who are often without permanent addresses, family backing, or papers of any kind; as such, they remain in constant danger if they leave sheltered areas, which offer even a measure of protection from arrest by authorities.

In *Budhadev Karmaskar v. State of West Bengal*, the Supreme Court mandated the issuance of an identity card for marginalised groups. Although the UIDAI system provides identification to many residents, refugees continue to receive no formal certification (*Budhadev Karmaskar v. State of West Bengal*, 2022). Aadhaar's strict requirement of a fixed address excludes individuals whose lives are mobile or unstable, and courts have clarified that documents such as Aadhaar or voter IDs cannot be treated as proof of citizenship (SCC Online, 2025). Therefore, this reveals deeper and wider failings within current identity paradigms.

Migrant sex workers' lack of certain measures, such as valid certificates, food and clothing allowances, and the right to schooling or welfare services, easily leads to this. They are in society, both affected and unstable - legally, they do not exist at all. This invisibility reproduces what Arendt called "the deprivation of a place in the world", where individuals are deprived not only of rights but of the very capacity to be recognised as rights-bearing subjects (Cotter, 2005). For relief from such wrongs, we must move forward by extending justice and protection to all who live outside formal boundaries.

Conclusion and suggestions

Non-citizens must also be able to claim protection against job discrimination, whether in the workplace or in the provision of medical care. It needs regular programmes of legal information and provision of confidential complaint channels to protect against exploitation, harassment and physical assault. Introducing temporary work-based residency permits for migrant sex workers that allow them to live and work legally in India without the threat of deportation. Tailored awareness programmes for different migrant communities will provide better access to social and legal resources. Police officers should receive structured training on human trafficking, labour rights, and human rights law, combined with accountability mechanisms, so enforcement protects rather than punishes migrant sex workers. More fundamentally, migrant sex workers who lack citizenship require reliable access to reproductive and sexual health services that are affordable and user-directed, along with stronger repatriation mechanisms and formally structured workplace safety standards that function as essential safeguards. When implemented together, these measures create a more coherent and humane framework of law and rights that aligns domestic regulation with international human rights standards while extending meaningful protection to economically and socially marginalised groups.

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ACID ATTACK: A CRIME THAT BURNS BEYOND THE BODY

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Introduction

Acid attacks constitute one of the most brutal forms of interpersonal violence, distinguished by their capacity to inflict instantaneous and lifelong damage. The corrosive nature of the substance ensures that harm occurs within seconds—melting skin, tissue, and bone, and often impairing vision. Yet the trauma extends far beyond the physical body. Victims endure prolonged psychological distress, extreme social stigma, exclusion from employment and education, and an unending cycle of medical reconstruction. Acid violence therefore becomes not merely an assault on the body but an attack on personhood itself.

In India, such attacks are deeply intertwined with patriarchal structures, gender-based discrimination, socioeconomic vulnerability, and the easy accessibility of corrosive substances. Most perpetrators are driven not by an intent to kill but to disfigure, punish, or assert dominance—reflecting a distinct form of violence where the objective is to permanently alter the victim's identity. This makes acid attack a unique crime: one that leaves a visible mark of control and humiliation intended to last a lifetime.

Despite legislative amendments, judicial scrutiny, and public interest interventions, acid attacks continue to rise. Survivors often face procedural delays, inadequate compensation, and gaps in rehabilitation services. Effective regulation of acid sale remains inconsistent across states, while socio-legal barriers hinder victims' access to justice. In light of these challenges, a holistic analysis of acid violence is necessary—one that examines its legal, institutional, and humanitarian dimensions.

The Concept and Nature of Acid Attacks

An acid attack typically involves the intentional throwing or administering of corrosive substances, such as sulphuric, nitric, or hydrochloric acid, upon another person. The consequences are devastating: deep

burns, permanent disfigurement, blindness, and frequently, long-term disability. Acid attacks disproportionately affect women and girls, particularly in contexts of rejected marriage proposals, refusal of advances, property disputes, or familial conflicts.

What sets acid attacks apart from other forms of assault is that the intent is often not homicide but the infliction of permanent damage. The perpetrator's goal is to impose visible suffering—transforming the victim into a living symbol of vengeance. Because the violence targets appearance, it undermines self-esteem, social identity, and the victim's sense of dignity.

Medical literature confirms that victims require multiple surgeries, prolonged hospitalization, and extensive psychological care. The financial burden is enormous, often exceeding what most families can afford. The result is a cycle of poverty, trauma, and marginalization that lasts decades.

Legal Framework Governing Acid Attacks

India's legal approach to acid attacks has evolved significantly—from the pre-2013 framework under the IPC to the specific provisions introduced through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, and more recently, through the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS), and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (BSA). Together, these statutes reaffirm the State's obligation to protect victims, punish offenders, and ensure timely compensation.

A. Under Section 124, BNS:

- Voluntarily causing grievous hurt by using acid or corrosive substances carries "rigorous imprisonment of not less than ten years", extendable to life.
- The offender must pay "adequate compensation" to cover the victim's medical expenses and rehabilitation.
- "Attempt to throw acid" also constitutes a punishable offence with imprisonment of

“at least seven years”.

This provision retains the spirit of IPC 326A/326B but adopts clearer definitions and broader coverage of “corrosive substances,” reflecting contemporary patterns of acid violence.

B. Victim Compensation and Procedural Safeguards Under the BNSS (2023)

Key reforms relevant to acid-attack survivors include:

1. Section 357A (now BNSS Chapter XXXIII – Victim Compensation Scheme)
 - States must ensure mandatory, time-bound compensation for acid-attack victims.
 - District Legal Services Authorities must process claims without procedural delay.
2. Enhanced Police Duties Under BNSS
 - Police must register information promptly, provide immediate medical assistance, and ensure early recording of the survivor’s statement before a magistrate.
 - Medical treatment cannot be denied on procedural grounds (BNSS Section 199).
3. Time-Bound Investigation Requirements
 - BNSS imposes stricter timelines for investigating heinous offences, which include acid attacks due to their minimum punishment threshold.

C. Evidentiary Standards Under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (BSA)

Relevance to acid-attack trials includes:

1. Admissibility of Digital and Medical Evidence
 - Burns reports, medical certificates, photographs, and digital documentation are admissible without extensive formal proof (BSA Sections 61–63).
2. Expert Testimony
 - Medical experts’ opinions regarding the nature of burns, corrosive chemicals, and injury severity carry significant probative value (BSA Sections 39–45).
3. Dying Declarations
 - If the victim suffers fatal injuries, their statement remains admissible without corroboration (BSA Section 26).

The BSA thus strengthens evidentiary

reliability and reduces delays in establishing guilt.

D. Survivor-Centric Protections Under Judicial Precedents

The Supreme Court has repeatedly emphasized the need for:

- Free medical treatment (including reconstructive surgeries) for acid-attack victims;
- Strict regulation of acid sale;
- Mandatory police compliance with victim-assistance protocols.

These judicial directives complement the BNS, BNSS, and BSA reforms.

Judicial Interpretation and Case Law

Indian courts have played a pivotal role in shaping acid attack jurisprudence:

1. State (Delhi Administration) v. Mewa Singh

In this case, the accused was familiar with the victim. One day, he made some rude and inappropriate remarks to the victim, which she and her father found offensive and rebuked him for. The accused became very angry and threw acid on the victim while she was sleeping with one of her cousins on the night of 19 May. The victim suffered burns covering 40 percent of her body, the Sessions Court gave the accused the benefit of the doubt and acquitted him.

However, when the case came up for appeal before the Delhi High Court, the court overturned the Sessions Court’s decision. The court noted that ignoring the sworn testimony of Gita was completely unreasonable and Mewa Singh was the one who threw the liquid on Gita’s face, and his guilt in this matter was clearly established.

2. Devanand v. State

The wife of the accused, Prem Lata, had left him and was staying with her parents. On the night of the incident, he went to her place and tried to sleep with her, but she resisted. He threatened her, saying he would throw acid on her, and then actually did so. The woman screamed in pain and was taken to the hospital. As a result of this brutal act, she became blind in one eye.

The court sentenced him to 7 years of rigorous imprisonment. It noted that the couple had strained relations, and about 15

days before the incident, the accused had taken Prem Lata to her father's house and then stopped caring for her. On the night of the incident, he came to his wife's home at midnight but was turned away.

Although he may have felt hurt at that moment, he had enough time to think about the consequences of his actions, which he had planned in advance. The circumstances showed that he had already bought sulphuric acid with the intention of punishing his wife.

3. Suresh Kumar Appu v. State

This case involved a woman who was a software engineer and had rejected a marriage proposal from the accused, who was a construction worker. The accused wanted to marry her, but both she and her father refused. They also filed a complaint with the police, and the accused was warned. Later, the accused threw acid on the woman, causing her to lose vision in one eye. She later died due to an infection caused by the acid.

The Sessions Court found the accused guilty and sentenced him to life imprisonment under Section 302 of the IPC, along with 2 years in prison under Section 326 of the IPC. A fine of 0.1 million rupees was also imposed.

4. Maqbool v. State of Uttar Pradesh

In this case, the question was whether Section 326A or Section 326B of the IPC applies when the injury caused by acid is simple. The court noted that Section 326A specifically refers to 'voluntarily causing grievous hurt by use of acid,' while Section 326B does not mention the nature of the injury in its title.

However, upon close examination, both sections list eight types of injuries: (i) permanent damage, (ii) partial damage, (iii) deformity, (iv) burns, (v) maiming, (vi) disfigurement, (vii) disability, and (viii) grievous hurt. Among these, the first seven are based on the typical effects of acid, while the eighth relates to the severity of the injury. Under both sections, grievous hurt is just one of the eight injuries.

The court further observed that if the injury falls under any of the eight categories listed in Sections 326A or 326B, the special provisions of these sections apply, regardless of whether the injury is simple or grievous. As a result, the accused was held responsible under

Section 326A of the IPC and was sentenced to 7 years in prison

5. Laxmi v. Union of India

She was born in Delhi and came from a middle-class family. In 2005, when she was 15 years old, she was attacked by three men near Tughlaq Road in New Delhi. The reason for the attack was her refusal to marry Naeem Khan, also known as Guddu. After the attack, her face and body were seriously injured and disfigured.

In 2006, a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed and sought for framing of new laws or changing existing laws like the IPC, CrPC, and Evidence Act. It also asked for compensation for Laxmi and a complete ban on the sale of acids, which were easily available and easy to get. In 2013, the SC ruled in favor of Laxmi and Rupa.

This ruling introduced several restrictions on the sale of acids. According to the new rules, acid cannot be sold to anyone under the age of 18 and before buying acid, a person must show a photo identity card. The compensation amount was increased from ₹50,000 to ₹300,000. The court also ordered the government to provide free medical treatment for surgeries related to acid attacks.

However, even with these rules in place, acids are still easily available in the market. Despite the landmark ruling, acid attack cases have not stopped, and they continue to rise. Many women, like Laxmi, suffer for the rest of their lives because of these attacks, even though they have done nothing to deserve it.

6. Parivartan Kendra v. Union of India

The Court criticized weak enforcement of acid-sale rules and emphasized the need for effective state action.

NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, introduced the 2016 Scheme to ensure comprehensive support for acid attack survivors. Its objectives include:

1. Enhancing legal aid at national, state, and district levels;
2. Ensuring access to proper medical treatment and rehabilitation;

3. Conducting research to identify systemic gaps;
4. Increasing trained panel lawyers and paralegal volunteers;
5. Coordinating with police, NGOs, and medical institutions for holistic assistance.

Legal Services Clinics

Under the 2011 Regulations, Legal Services Clinics must be established in hospitals specializing in burn treatment. Lawyers and paralegals stationed there assist victims with:

- Accessing immediate medical care,
- Obtaining medical certificates necessary for compensation,
- Navigating legal and administrative procedures,
- Securing rehabilitation services.

State Authorities are required to notify police stations, government departments, and NGOs upon establishing such clinics.

Challenges in Enforcing Laws

Despite robust legal provisions, significant obstacles persist:

1. **Easy Availability of Acid:** Corrosive substances remain easily accessible in markets due to lax enforcement.
2. **Delayed Compensation:** Survivors often wait months or years to receive mandated compensation, impeding access to treatment.
3. **Insufficient Medical Facilities:** Rural areas lack specialized burn units, forcing victims to travel long distances for care.
4. **Weak Rehabilitation Mechanisms:** Survivors face limited opportunities for counselling, vocational training, or social reintegration.

Suggestions for Legal and Policy Reform

1. **Stricter Enforcement of Acid Sale Rules:** States must ensure compliance with the Model Rules (2013) and impose penalties for unauthorized sale.
2. **Creation of Special Fast-Track Courts:** Dedicated courts would expedite trials, preventing prolonged trauma.
3. **Enhanced Compensation Amounts:** Current minimums do not reflect medical inflation and the lifelong nature of injuries.
4. **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Community sensitization can reduce

stigma and encourage reporting.

5. **Comprehensive Support Programs:** Establishing counselling centres, skill-training modules, and employment schemes would aid rehabilitation.

Conclusion

Acid attacks represent not only a physical assault but a profound violation of dignity, autonomy, and identity. Despite legislative progress and judicial interventions, the persistence of such violence highlights deep societal issues—gender discrimination, weak enforcement mechanisms, and inadequate survivor support systems.

A multidisciplinary approach is essential. Law must operate alongside social reform, community accountability, and systemic restructuring. Only when society confronts the roots of acid violence, strengthens institutional responses, and ensures holistic rehabilitation can we hope to eradicate this crime that burns far beyond the body.

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MIHIR RAJESH SHAH V. STATE OF MAHARASHTRA & ORS.
MANU/SC/1492/2025; 2025 SCC ONLINE SC 2356

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Facts of the case:

A. Background of the Incident:

- On 07.07.2024, a white BMW driven at high speed violently collided with the Complainant's scooter from behind.
- The complainant and his wife(victim) were thrown onto the bonnet of the vehicle.
- The complainant fell aside, but his wife got stuck between the front left wheel and bumper.
- Despite the grievous situation, the alleged driver, Mihir Rajesh Shah, the Appellant herein, continued to drive, dragging the victim.
- He then absconded from the incident scene without offering assistance to the complainant and his wife or informing authorities. The victim later succumbed to her injuries; the complainant suffered minor injuries.
- An FIR (No. 378/2024) was registered at Worli Police Station under relevant provisions of the BNS, 2023 and Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. The damaged BMW was located near the Kalanagar Junction Flyover, along with co-accused Rajrishi Rajendra Singh Bindawat and Rajesh Shah, appellant's father.

B. Arrest and Investigation:

- Co-accused: Arrested on the same day of the incident (07.07.2024).
- Appellant: Arrested on 09.07.2024, having allegedly attempted to evade arrest.
- The investigation strengthened the case against the Appellant through:
 - a) Evidence of alcohol consumption shortly before the accident;
 - b) CCTV footage of him driving;
 - c) His attempt to alter appearance;
 - d) Use of a FASTAG registered in his

name;

e) Other incriminating particulars

C. Remand Proceedings Before Judicial Magistrate (Lower Court):

- After arrest, he was produced before the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC).
- Initially placed in police custody,
- Then moved to judicial custody. This sequence was challenged by the Appellant on the ground that the written grounds of arrest were never furnished, violating Article 22(1) and Section 47 BNSS (formerly Section 50 CrPC).

D. Proceedings Before the Bombay High Court:

- The Appellant approached the Bombay High Court in Criminal Writ Petition No. 3533 of 2024.
- The High Court acknowledged that the police did not supply written grounds of arrest as required under Section 47 BNSS.
- However, the High Court upheld the arrest and custody, giving the following reasons:
 - The Appellant was conscious of the gravity of the offence.
 - A substantial body of evidence pointed towards his culpability.
 - The Appellant had evaded arrest, justifying custodial interrogation. Thus, despite procedural lapse, the High Court held that the arrest was not illegal, and custody need not be disturbed.

E. Approach to the Supreme Court of India

- Aggrieved, the Appellant challenged the High Court's judgment before the Supreme Court.
- During the preliminary hearing, the court declined to entertain the petition on merits initially,

- Issued notice only on the question of law concerning
- the necessity to furnish grounds of arrest in writing, and
- the effect of non-supply on the validity of arrest and remand.
- Connected matters were granted ad-interim relief (release on bail) due to similar issues of law and an Amicus Curiae was appointed to assist the Court.

Laws Applicable, Main Issue Raised and Question of Laws/Legal Positions determined by the court:

Laws applied: Sections 35(3), 35(6), 47, 48, and 58 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023(BNSS); Sections 41A, 47, 50, 50(1), 50A, 57, 187, and 167 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973(CrPC); Articles 20, 21, 22, 22(1) and 22(5) of the Constitution of India(Constitution); Sections 19, 19(1) and 45 of the Prevention Of Money Laundering Act, 2002(PMLA)

Issue Raised:

The main issue as raised by the Appellant in these Appeal is the violation of the Appellants' right Under Article 22(1) of the Constitution of India and Section 50 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 ('CrPC 1973') now Section 47 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 ('BNSS 2023') as the Appellants assert that they were not informed of grounds of their arrest in writing.

Court formulated the following questions of law for consideration:

- Whether, in each and every case, even arising out of an offence under Indian Penal Code, 1860, now repealed by Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 would it be necessary to furnish grounds of arrest to an Accused either before arrest or forthwith after arrest? and,
- Whether, even in exceptional cases, where on account of certain exigencies it will not be possible to furnish the grounds of arrest either before arrest or immediately after arrest, the arrest would be vitiated on the ground of non-compliance with the provisions of Section 50 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, now repealed by Section 47 of

Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023?

Arguments made by Appellant and Respondents:

Arguments by the Appellant:

The Appellant's counsel contended that the entire arrest and remand process was unconstitutional due to the non-supply of written grounds of arrest, violating both constitutional and statutory mandates.

1. Violation of Article 22(1) of the Constitution:

- Article 22(1) mandates that every arrested person must be informed of the grounds of arrest at the earliest.
- The Appellant argued that mere oral intimation is insufficient, and that the communication must be meaningful and effective.
- Since the Appellant received no written notice, his fundamental right under Article 22(1) was breached.

2. Violation of Section 47 BNSS (Section 50 CrPC):

- Section 47 obligates the arresting officer to "forthwith communicate" the grounds of arrest.
- Counsel argued that this obligation, when read with Article 22(1), necessarily requires written communication, as oral communication leaves room for factual disputes.
- Failure to provide written grounds makes the arrest illegal ab initio.

3. Reliance on Key Precedents:

- Pankaj Bansal v. Union of India (2024) 7 SCC 576:
 - Supreme Court held that providing written grounds of arrest is essential and should be done "as a matter of course and without exception."
 - Appellant argued that this principle applies to all offences, not just those under special statutes like PMLA.
- Prabir Purkayastha v. State of (NCT of Delhi) (2024) 8 SCC 254:
 - Court reiterated that the grounds must be furnished in writing irrespective of the statute

invoked.

- The Appellant emphasized that the Court called this a fundamental and statutory right.
- (c) *Vihaan Kumar v. State of Haryana* (2025) 5 SCC 799:
- Court held that informing grounds of arrest is mandatory, forming part of Article 22(1).
 - Although the judgment mentioned practicality, it reaffirmed that written supply avoids later disputes.

4. Argument on Illegality of Remand Orders:

- Since the arrest was unconstitutional, all subsequent remand orders are also illegal.
- Even the filing of a chargesheet cannot “cure” or validate an unconstitutional arrest.
- The Appellant sought to be set at liberty immediately.

Arguments by the Respondents:

The State argued that the arrest was legal, and that the law does not impose an absolute mandate to provide written grounds in all cases.

1. Compliance with Article 22(1) was Achieved:

- The State submitted that the Appellant was orally informed of the grounds of arrest.
- Article 22(1) does not prescribe a specific mode of communication.
- Oral communication fulfils the constitutional requirement.

2. Section 47 BNSS Does Not Specify Written Form:

- Section 47 simply says “communicate,” not “communicate in writing.”
- Statutory silence should not be construed as an absolute requirement of written supply.
- Only special statutes like PMLA or UAPA explicitly require written grounds.
- Thus, judgments like *Pankaj Bansal* and *Prabir Purkayastha* are distinguishable.

3. Existence of Procedural Safeguards Already Ensured:

- The Appellant was produced before the

Magistrate within 24 hours.

- The Magistrate considered the remand papers and granted custody.
- This shows that the arrest complied with procedural mandates, even if written grounds were not supplied.

4. Gravity of the Offence and Appellant’s Conduct:

- The Appellant attempted to evade arrest, which justified immediate action.
- The seriousness of the offence (death due to reckless driving) required swift arrest.
- Written grounds may not be practicable in such situations.
- Therefore, oral communication was sufficient in the circumstances.

5. No Prejudice Caused to the Appellant:

- The Appellant was aware of the allegations through:
 - Gravity of the offence,
 - Substantial evidence, and
 - Evasion from arrest.
- The State argued that non-supply of written grounds did not prejudice his ability to defend himself.
- Hence, non-furnishing of written grounds should not invalidate the arrest.

6. Harmonious Construction with Vihaan Kumar Case:

- In *Vihaan Kumar*, the Supreme Court recognized that practical constraints may make immediate written communication impossible.
- Therefore, no absolute rule can be imposed.
- As long as the arrested person is “informed,” compliance is achieved.

Cases laws relied upon:

Following cases were relied upon by Supreme Court for its decision:

***Pankaj Bansal v. Union of India* (2024) 7 SCC 576**

Principle:

The Court held that the grounds of arrest must be furnished in writing as a matter of course and without exception. Oral intimation is insufficient. Furnishing written grounds

ensures meaningful exercise of rights under Article 22(1), prevents factual disputes, and promotes transparency in the arrest process.

Relevance:

This case was used to strengthen the rule that written communication is essential under Article 22(1), even when ordinary laws are applicable.

Prabir Purkayastha v. State of (NCT of Delhi) (2024) 8 SCC 254

Principle:

The judgment reaffirmed that for any offence, including UAPA, the arrested person has a fundamental and statutory right to receive the grounds of arrest in writing, at the earliest, without exception. Non-communication vitiates both arrest and remand.

Relevance:

This case reinforced the mandatory and universal nature of the requirement and provided constitutional reasoning for written communication.

Vihaan Kumar v. State of Haryana (2025) 5 SCC 799

Principle:

Article 22(1) makes communication of grounds of arrest mandatory. While immediate written supply may not always be practical, non-compliance renders the arrest unconstitutional. Arrest cannot be validated by subsequent remand or filing of chargesheet.

Relevance:

The Court drew from this case to acknowledge exceptional situations while still mandating that written grounds be supplied within a reasonable time.

Lallubhai Jogibhai Patel v. Union of India (1981) 2 SCC 427

Principle:

Grounds of arrest/detention must be communicated in a language the arrestee understands. Failure to supply intelligible communication defeats Article 22 protections.

Relevance:

Used to emphasise that effective

communication requires providing written grounds in a comprehensible language.

Joginder Kumar v. State of U.P. (1994) 4 SCC 260

Principle:

Arrest severely affects liberty, reputation, and personal dignity. Arrest must be justified and cannot be routine. Procedural safeguards are integral to preventing misuse.

Relevance:

Cited to highlight the gravity of arrest and the need for detailed procedural compliance.

Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar, (2014) 8 SCC 273

Principle:

Arrest brings stigma and long-term consequences; the police must avoid unnecessary arrests. Procedural fairness helps mitigate these harms.

Relevance:

Relied on to underscore the importance of strict adherence to procedural rights, including communication of grounds.

Manubhai Ratilal Patel v. State of Gujarat (2013) 1 SCC 314

Principle:

The Magistrate must apply judicial mind to remand; the accused must have an opportunity to oppose remand effectively.

Relevance:

Used to emphasise that the accused must receive written grounds before being produced for remand so that meaningful representation is possible.

Decision of the court:

The Supreme Court delivered a significant ruling on the constitutional and statutory mandate surrounding communication of the grounds of arrest, fundamentally strengthening the procedural rights of arrested persons on the following grounds:

A. Communication of Grounds of Arrest Is Mandatory in All Cases:

The Court held unequivocally that the obligation to inform an arrested person of the grounds of arrest is mandatory, arising directly from:

- Article 22(1) of the Constitution, and
- Section 47 of the BNSS (formerly Section 50 CrPC).

This requirement applies to every offence,

whether under BNS, special statutes, or any other law. The nature or gravity of the offence does not dilute or modify this mandate.

B. Grounds of Arrest Must Be Furnished In Writing:

- Oral communication, by itself, does not meet constitutional standards.
- Written communication is necessary to make the right meaningful, prevent future factual disputes, and ensure transparency.
- Written grounds must be provided in a language the arrestee understands.

This is required for the arrestee to effectively:

- Challenge the arrest,
- Oppose remand,
- Seek bail,
- Exercise the right to consult counsel.

C. Exception: Oral Communication Allowed Only in Extreme Situations:

The Court acknowledged very narrow exceptional circumstances, such as:

- Arrests in flagrante delicto,
- Immediate pursuit situations,
- Situations where providing a written document at the moment of arrest is not feasible.

Even in such cases:

- Grounds may be conveyed orally at the time of arrest, but
- Written grounds must still be supplied later within a reasonable time, and
- *Must be furnished at least two hours before the accused is produced for remand.*

This two-hour minimum interval is now a judicially mandated rule.

D. Non-Supply of Written Grounds Renders the Arrest and Remand Illegal

The Court held that:

- Non-compliance with the above requirements results in the arrest being illegal and unconstitutional.
- Any subsequent remand order that flows from such an arrest is also vitiated.
- The detained person is entitled to be set at liberty. Importantly, the Court clarified that filing of a chargesheet does not cure the illegality.
- *Distinction Between “Grounds of*

Arrest” and “Reason for Arrest”

The Court emphasized that supplying written grounds is not a mere formality but a substantive safeguard. Grounds of arrest must reflect:

- Specific facts and material forming the basis for the arrest,
- Not vague or general statements,
- And must be immediately understandable to the arrestee.
- Duty to Inform Relatives/Friends also Mandatory (Section 48 BNSS)

The Court reiterated that:

- The arresting officer must inform a relative, friend, or nominated person of the arrest.
- This must be formally recorded in the police station register.
- The Magistrate must verify that this requirement has been fulfilled.

This safeguard operates in addition to the right to know the grounds of arrest.

E. Final Holding and Directions

- Grounds of arrest must be furnished in writing in all cases, without exception.
- *Communication must be in a language understood by the arrestee.*
- In exceptional circumstances, oral communication may temporarily suffice, but written grounds must be given within a reasonable time, and at least two hours prior to remand.
- Failure to comply renders the arrest and remand illegal; the arrestee is entitled to release.
- These directions are binding and shall govern all arrests henceforth.

Way Forward:

The Supreme Court’s decision is likely to influence how arrests are carried out in a practical and consistent manner across the country. By making it clear that written grounds of arrest are mandatory, the judgment pushes police authorities towards greater accountability and uniformity. Officers will now be expected to prepare written grounds at or around the time of arrest, which naturally reduces ambiguity and helps prevent disputes later about what exactly was communicated. This shift also aligns well with

the broader criminal procedure reforms under the BNSS, where emphasis is placed on clarity, documentation, and procedural fairness.

Another important implication of this ruling is its impact on remand proceedings. Since the Court has laid down that written grounds must be supplied at least two hours before the accused is produced before the Magistrate, remand hearings are likely to become more meaningful. Magistrates will be in a better position to assess whether the arrest was lawful and whether further custody is justified. This may gradually reduce the tendency of granting custody as a routine measure and encourage more careful judicial oversight at the earliest stage of the criminal process.

In the larger picture, the requirement of written grounds may also help curb unnecessary or arbitrary arrests. When officers are required to record the basis of the arrest, it naturally compels them to think through the justification and ensures that the decision is not taken lightly. This could lead to a more principled use of arrest powers, especially in cases where investigation could otherwise proceed without taking the accused into custody immediately. It also ensures that the accused is in a better position to seek legal advice, oppose remand, or apply for bail, because they have a clear written statement of the allegations against them.

Finally, the judgment is likely to increase awareness among citizens about their rights during arrest. When people know that they are entitled to written grounds in a language they understand, they are better equipped to question non-compliance and approach courts if required. Over time, this may foster a culture where both police and the judiciary treat these procedural safeguards as essential components of a fair criminal justice system, rather than technicalities. Overall, the ruling sets a clearer and more rights-oriented framework for arrests going forward and is likely to influence practice at the ground level in a positive way.

Endnotes

1. *Mihir Rajesh Shah v. State of Maharashtra & Ors.*, MANU/SC/1492/2025; 2025 SCC OnLine SC 2356.
2. Constitution of India, art. 22(1).

3. *Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita*, 2023, s. 47.
4. *Pankaj Bansal v. Union of India*, (2024) 7 SCC 576.
5. *Prabir Purkayastha v. State (NCT of Delhi)*, (2024) 8 SCC 254.
6. *Vihaan Kumar v. State of Haryana*, (2025) 5 SCC 799.
7. *Lallubhai Jogibhai Patel v. Union of India*, (1981) 2 SCC 427.
8. *Joginder Kumar v. State of U.P.*, (1994) 4 SCC 260.
9. *Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar*, (2014) 8 SCC 273.
10. *Manubhai Ratilal Patel v. State of Gujarat*, (2013) 1 SCC 314

ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

COLLEGIATE ACTIVITIES

Farewell Party 2025

The University Institute of Laws, Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana hosted a Farewell Party on 2nd May 2025, bringing together juniors and seniors in a warm celebration of memories and new beginnings. The evening featured an energetic ramp walk by the outgoing batch, showcasing their confidence and style.

The titles of Ms. Farewell and Mr. Farewell were awarded to Surbi and Simrandeep Singh (B.A. LL.B. 5th Year) respectively. The event was marked by heartfelt speeches, performances, games, and the presentation of mementoes to the graduating batch. It was successfully organized under the guidance of Dr. Vaishali Thakur, Dr. Meera Nagpal, and Dr. Pooja Sikka, with the support of student coordinators Jesus Goyal, Manav Brar, Harsh Kumar, and Divyansh Yadav.

Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme – Debate Competition 2025

The University Institute of Laws, Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana organised a Debate Competition on 8th August 2025 under the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme as part of the Viksit Bharat@2047 initiative. The event was held under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig and the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk.

Coordinated by Dr. Meera Nagpal and Ms. Isha Tiwari, with student coordinators Gaurav Garg and Dhruvak Garcha, the debate was held on the topics “Viksit Bharat” and “Environmental Issues Across the Globe.” Twelve students from LL.B. and B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) participated, showcasing strong research, articulation, and critical thinking skills. Ms. Tamanna Kohli and Mr. Deepak Kumar served as judges. Vaibhav Mahajan (LL.B. 5th Sem) secured first position, while Divya Bhardwaj (B.A. LL.B. 3rd Sem) secured second position.

Creative Poster-Making Competition under “Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme”

The University Institute of Laws, Panjab University Regional Centre (PURC), Ludhiana organised a Poster-Making Competition on

11th August 2025 under the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme, under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC. Nineteen students participated, creatively expressing themes of youth empowerment and national development.

The winners were Prabhdeep Kaur (First), Sahima (Second), and Mansi (Third), all from B.A. LL.B. (1st Semester). The competition provided a vibrant platform for students to showcase their vision for India’s future through visual art.

Rangoli-Making Competition under “Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme”

The University Institute of Laws, Panjab University Regional Centre (PURC), Ludhiana, hosted a Rangoli-Making Competition on 12th August 2025, under the aegis of the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme. The event was organised under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC Ludhiana, and coordinated by Dr. Meera Nagpal and Ms. Banveer Kaur Jhinger as Faculty Coordinators. A total of 10 teams participated, each bringing alive vivid and imaginative designs. The competition concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where winners were felicitated with trophies and certificates. The position holders were:

- Winners – Inderjit Pal and Nandini Gupta (B.A. LL.B. 7th Sem)
- Runners-up – Jai Singh Chahal and Vansh Jain (B.A. LL.B. 1st Sem)

The enthusiastic participation of students not only highlighted their artistic abilities but also reflected their patriotic spirit and values.

Anti-Ragging Campaign 2025

The Anti-Ragging Committee of the University Institute of Laws, Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana organised an Anti-Ragging Campaign to mark Anti-Ragging Day (13 August). An awareness session on 12 August was conducted by Prof. (Dr.) Arti Puri and Mr. Taranjeet Singh for MBA and B.A. LL.B. first-year students, highlighting the legal, institutional, and moral implications of ragging. Students also viewed a documentary and heard cautionary messages from seniors. Dr. Neelam Batra addressed the Girls’ Hostel

residents on the issue, and an Anti-Ragging Slogan Writing Competition held on 18 August saw Samrat Sohi (B.A. LL.B. 3rd Sem) and Ishika (MBA 1st Sem) declared winners.

Judgment Writing Training Session and Competition

The University Institute of Laws, Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana organised a Judgment Writing Training Session and Competition on 19–20 August 2025 under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC. Sixty-two students participated in the programme, which began with a training session highlighting the importance of judgment writing as a vital judicial skill.

The competition held on 20 August required participants to write judgments in Contract Law based on a given factual proposition. Adv. Narinder Chhibba and Adv. Sukhjinder Singh Sekhon served as judges. Tanisha (B.A. LL.B., 3rd Sem) secured first position, followed by Raghav Sharma (LL.B., 5th Sem) and Prachi (B.A. LL.B., 1st Sem). The event concluded with the Moot Court Society Investiture Ceremony and the award distribution.

Paath of Shri Sukhmani Sahib and Hawan

The University Institute of Laws, Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana organised a Paath of Shri Sukhmani Sahib, followed by Hawan and Langar, to seek peace and prosperity for the academic session 2025–26, under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC.

Faculty members, staff, and students participated with devotion in the Paath, Kirtan, Ardas, and Hawan, praying for a successful academic year. The event concluded with the serving of Langar, reflecting the values of humility, service, and togetherness.

Webinar on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) titled “How to Become the Top 1% of IPR Expert Lawyers”

The Placement Cell of the University Institute of Laws, Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana organized a webinar on Intellectual Property Rights titled “How to Become the Top 1% of IPR Expert Lawyers” on 11th September 2025, under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC. The session

aimed to equip students with practical insights and career guidance in the field of IPR.

Ms. Neelam Kejriwal, Corporate Law Professional and Co-Founder of LegalEdge, led the session, covering key areas such as patents, trademarks, copyrights, designs, and litigation, along with career opportunities and industry challenges. The event was coordinated by the Placement Cell faculty and student coordinators Gurnoor Kaur and Ishleen Kaur, with support from student volunteers Divya and Nandini Gupta.

Quiz Competition to celebrate ‘Hindi Diwas’

The University Institute of Laws, Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana organized a quiz competition to celebrate Hindi Diwas on 12th September 2025, under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC Ludhiana, and the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig, Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University. The competition tested students’ knowledge of the Hindi language through rounds on idioms, synonyms, dictation, oral expression, and general knowledge.

Seven teams participated, with the first prize won by Ravneet Kaur, Khushbu, and Devanshi, and the second prize by Manvi, Aastha, and Lovika. The event was organized by Mrs. Shalini Verma and Mr. Baldev Singh, with support from student coordinators Mayank Sharma, Stuti Singh, and Divya. The enthusiastic participation of students reflected their appreciation for the Hindi language.

Orientation Session on “Voter ID Registration”

The Election Literacy Cell of the University Institute of Laws, PURC, organised an Orientation Session on Voter ID Registration under the chief patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig, Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University, and the leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC. The session was guided by Prof. (Dr.) Arti Puri and Ms. Tamanna Kohli and attended by 40 B.A. LL.B. first-year students.

Students were briefed on the importance of voter registration, followed by a practical demonstration by student coordinators

Nandini Gupta and Divya on the NVSP portal and Voter Helpline App. The session successfully equipped students with essential knowledge and hands-on guidance for democratic participation.

Freshers Party 2025

The University Institute of Laws, Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana hosted a Freshers' Party to welcome the new students of B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), LL.B., and LL.M. under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig, Vice Chancellor, Panjab University, and the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC. Around 250 students participated in the celebration, which featured icebreakers, performances, games, and an energetic ramp walk.

The event was coordinated by Mr. Baldev Singh, Mrs. Shalini Verma, Mrs. Isha Tiwari, Department Representative Chetan Sharma, and student coordinator Karanvir Singh Sidhu. Divya (LL.B. 1st year) was crowned Ms. Fresher and Rayyan (B.A. LL.B. 1st year) Mr. Fresher, while Shaurya and Abhineet received the Mr. Perfect title and Sheena was awarded Ms. Charming.

Session on "Writs and Judicial Activism: Guardian of the Indian Constitution"

The University Institute of Laws (UIL), Panjab University Regional Centre (PURC), Ludhiana organised a guest lecture titled "Writs and Judicial Activism: Guardian of the Indian Constitution" under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig, Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University, and the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC. The session was delivered by Mr. Vivek Salathia, Advocate at the Supreme Court of India and the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Drawing on his extensive experience, Mr. Salathia explained the procedure of filing writs and the role of judicial activism in protecting fundamental rights, supported by practical examples. Sixty-nine students attended the session, which was successfully coordinated by Dr. Homa Bansal.

Integrity Pledge Ceremony

The University Institute of Laws (UIL), Panjab University Regional Centre (PURC), Ludhiana organised an Integrity Pledge Ceremony under the Vigilance Awareness Week

Programme 2025, under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig, Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University, and the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC. The programme aimed to promote the values of honesty, integrity, and ethical conduct inspired by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Fifty-three students participated in the ceremony, pledging to uphold anti-corruption values. The event was coordinated by Dr. Pooja Sikka and Dr. Homa Bansal, with support from student coordinators Keshav Malhotra, Mayank Bansal, Divya Jyoti, Khushwinder, Gitika, and Simrandeep Kaur.

Slogan Writing Competition to Observe Vigilance Week

The University Institute of Laws (UIL), Panjab University Regional Centre (PURC), Ludhiana organised a Slogan Writing Competition as part of Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig, Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University, and the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC. The competition encouraged students to promote the values of integrity, honesty, and vigilance through creative expression.

The event was judged by Prof. (Dr.) Aditi Sharma and Dr. Vaishali Thakur. Jasneet Kaur (B.A. LL.B. 1st Year) secured first position, while Raghav Sharma (LL.B. 5th Semester) secured second position. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Homa Bansal with support from student coordinators Keshav Malhotra, Mayank Bansal, Divya Jyoti, Khushwinder, Gitika, and Simrandeep Kaur.

Essay Writing Competition to Observe Vigilance Week

The University Institute of Laws, Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana organised an Essay Writing Competition on 29 October 2025 to observe Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 on the theme "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility," under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig, Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University, and the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC.

Twenty students participated in the competition, which was evaluated by Mr. Deepak Kumar. Priyanka (LL.B. 5th Semester) secured first position, while Khushman Virk (B.A. LL.B. 3rd Semester) secured second

position. The event was coordinated by Dr. Homa Bansal with the support of student coordinators Keshav Malhotra, Mayank Bansal, Divya Jyoti, Khushwinder, Gitika, and Simrandeep Kaur.

Intra Department Moot Court Competition 2025

The Moot Court Society (MCS) of the University Institute of Laws successfully organized the Intra-Department Moot Court Competition under the esteemed patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig, Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University, Chandigarh (Chief Patron), and Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, UIL, PURC, Ludhiana (Patron). The event was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Vaishali Thakur, Faculty Coordinator.

A total of 30 teams participated in two preliminary rounds featured the Semi-Final and Final Rounds, where the top four teams showcased exceptional advocacy and analytical skills. The rounds were adjudicated by an esteemed panel including Mr. Surinder Mohan (Additional District and Sessions Court Retd.), Prof. (Dr.) S.C. Sharma and Prof. (Dr.) Amit Ludri who lauded the participants for their clarity and confidence.

The winning team was TC-05 (Khushbu Chadha, Gunitinder Kaur, Ritika Mahajan) while TC-03 (Anjalika Sood, Ekampreet Kaur, Gunjan Naharwal) secured the Runner-up position. Individual awards were also presented:

- Best Speaker: Vansh Goyal (TC-07)
- Best Researcher: Yuvraj Singh (TC-22)
- Best Memorial: Abhijai Singh Rana, Chaitanya Vashishat, Arshnoor Arora (TC-35)

The event concluded on an inspiring note, reaffirming UIL's commitment to nurturing courtroom competence and practical legal skills among its students.

Know Your Right: RTI Workshop

The University Institute of Laws, Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana, successfully hosted a skill development workshop, "Know Your Right: RTI Workshop", on 12 November 2025, aimed at educating participants about the Right to Information (RTI) Act and its applications. Over 65 students attended the event, which featured

speakers Mr. B.K. Mehta, Retired District and Sessions Judge, and Adv. Vipin Saggar, President of the District Bar Association, Ludhiana.

The workshop included an RTI Drafting Competition, where Karamjot Singh Kalra (LL.B. 3rd Sem) and Shubham Sood (LL.B. 1st Sem) secured first and second positions. The event was organised with support from Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig, Vice Chancellor, Panjab University, and Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC, Ludhiana, and coordinated by Prof. (Dr.) Aman Amrit Cheema, Dr. Nisha Jindal, and student coordinators Muskan Jindal and Vansh Bansal. The workshop provided valuable insights into the RTI Act, promoting transparency and accountability in governance.

Alumni Meet 2025

The University Institute of Laws, Ludhiana, successfully hosted its Alumni Meet on November 8th, themed "Reconnect, Reignite, and Rediscover," drawing an overwhelming attendance of over 120 individuals including alumni, faculty, and student volunteers. The event fostered spirited camaraderie and shared experiences between current students and esteemed alumni.

The day began at PAU Ground with a thrilling cricket match, where the current students emerged victorious against the alumni. The afternoon continued with light-hearted games showcasing teamwork, including Tug of War, three-legged race, and lemon spoon race.

The event culminated in a formal dinner at Friends Regency, celebrating the merging of "the past and present." Alumni were individually honoured for their professional achievements. Key contributions were made: Adv Hariom Jindal donated ₹1 Lakh, Adv Gagandeep Saini offered to repair and maintain the office premises, and Adv Diwakar Madra generously donated a cricket kit to the students.

The success was achieved under the guidance of Chief Patron Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig, Director Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, and Faculty coordinators Prof. (Dr.) Aman Amrit Cheema, Dr. Sarita Paul, and Dr. Nisha Jindal. They were supported by student coordinators Chetan Sharma, Karanvir Singh Sidhu, and

Palak Garg, the 25 core committee members, and the entire student volunteer team.

The meet successfully strengthened the bond between students and alumni, planting seeds for lifelong connections.

NSS ACTIVITIES

Cleanliness Drive

The NSS Unit of the University Institute of Laws, Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana organised a Cleanliness Drive – “Swachhta hi Sewa” on 18 September 2025 under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig, Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University, and Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC.

Thirty-one students participated in campus cleaning and awareness activities promoting a clean Ludhiana and a clean India. The drive was organised by Dr. Meera Nagpal (NSS Programme Officer) along with Mr. Baldev Singh, Mrs. Sumanpreet Kaur, and Mr. Deepak Kumar, with student coordination by Sukrit Bassi (B.A. LL.B. 9th Semester).

Blood Donation Camp

The NSS Unit of the University Institute of Laws, Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana organised a Blood Donation Camp on 24 September 2025 at PURC, Ludhiana, under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig, Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University, and Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC, to commemorate the upcoming National Blood Donation Day.

Around 70 students, along with faculty and staff, participated as donors, demonstrating the spirit of service and compassion. The camp was coordinated by Dr. Meera Nagpal (NSS Programme Officer) and faculty coordinators Mr. Baldev Singh, Ms. Banveer Kaur, Mr. Deepak Kumar, and Ms. Sumanpreet Kaur, with student coordinators Sukrit Bassi, Jesus Goyal, Divya Jyoti, Saksham Jain, Dhruvak Garcha, and other volunteers ensuring its smooth execution.

Donation Drive

The NSS Unit of Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana, organised a Donation Drive on 25 September 2025 at Santushti Vidya Niketan, Ludhiana, to commemorate NSS Day, under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig, Vice Chancellor, Panjab University, and guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director,

PURC.

The drive aimed to support underprivileged children by providing essential stationery. Donations were collected from around 85 students and faculty members, with 20 NSS student volunteers actively participating. The event was coordinated by Dr. Meera Nagpal (NSS Programme Officer), faculty coordinators Ms. Banveer Kaur Jhinger and Mr. Deepak Kumar, and student coordinators Divroop Kaur, Pamelpreet Kaur, and Paarth Puri.

Social Awareness Rally on Communal Harmony

The NSS Unit of Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana, organised a Social Awareness Rally on the theme “Communal Harmony” to commemorate Communal Harmony Day, under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig, Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University, and guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC.

The rally, covering the Civil Lines area, promoted peace, brotherhood, and unity among communities, with students raising slogans like “Ekta mein shakti hai yahi hamari bhakti hai.” Thirty-seven NSS volunteers participated actively. The event was coordinated by Dr. Meera Nagpal (NSS Programme Officer), faculty coordinators Mrs. Sumanpreet Kaur and Mr. Baldev Singh, and student coordinators Sukrit Bassi and Nandini Taank.

Tree Plantation Drive

The NSS Unit of Panjab University Regional Centre (PURC), Ludhiana, organised a Tree Plantation Drive at Phallewal Village, Ludhiana, under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig, Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University, and the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC.

The drive aimed to raise environmental awareness and promote sustainable living. Thirty-four NSS volunteers planted 50 saplings, including Mango, Guava, Neem, and Curry Leaf trees, contributing to a greener environment. The event was coordinated by Dr. Meera Nagpal (NSS Programme Officer) with support from faculty coordinators Mr. Deepak Kumar and Mr. Baldev Singh, and student coordinators Divya, Nandini Gupta, and Kanwar Gurnaz Singh Wander.

Lecture on “Organ Donation Awareness”

The Legal Aid Cell of the University Institute of Laws, Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana, organised a lecture on Organ Donation Awareness to promote the significance of organ donation and its life-saving impact. The event was held under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC.

The session featured Dr. Gursagar Singh Sahota, Chief Liver Transplant Surgeon at DMCH, who, along with his team, addressed common myths and highlighted how a single donor can save multiple lives. Seventy-five students attended, and the event was coordinated by the Legal Aid Cell faculty along with student coordinators Sukrit Bassi, Keshav Malhotra, Suhani, and Sidharth Sharma. The lecture inspired participants to view organ donation as an ultimate act of compassion and service.

ACHIEVEMENTS

UIL Students Shine at National Trial Advocacy Competition

The University Institute of Laws, Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana, congratulates its students for securing the Runner-Up position at the 1st Annual Trial Advocacy Competition organised by Christ University, NCR Delhi, on 26–27 September 2025.

The team of Divya, Ishleen Kaur, and Nandini Gupta (B.A. LL.B. 4th Year) showcased exemplary advocacy skills among nearly fifty teams, earning the Runner-Up Trophy and a cash prize of ₹20,000. UIL acknowledges the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC, and the encouragement of Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig, Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University. This achievement highlights the students’ dedication and reinforces UIL Ludhiana’s reputation in legal education and advocacy training.

Panjab University Zonal Youth and Heritage Festival 2025

Students from Panjab University Regional Centre (PURC), Ludhiana, delivered outstanding performances at the Panjab University Zonal Youth and Heritage Festival held at SCD Government College, Ludhiana.

Khushi Kohli (B.A. LL.B. 2nd Year) – First Prize

in Essay Writing

Harjas Kaur (B.A. LL.B. 1st Year) – Third Prize in Elocution

Shaureya Sharda (LL.B. 1st Year) – Third Prize in Histrionics

Their achievements reflect exceptional talent and dedication. Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC, and Dr. Meera Nagpal congratulated the students, while the festival participation was guided by Prof. (Dr.) Aditi Sharma (Youth Festival In-charge) and faculty coordinators Prof. (Dr.) Aman Amrit Cheema, Dr. Meera Nagpal, Adv. Vandana Bhanot, Dr. Surendra Kumar, Mr. Rajnish Saryal, Mr. Deepak Kumar, Mrs. Shalini Verma, Mrs. Tamanna Kohli, Dr. Nisha Jindal, and Mrs. Banveer Kaur.

UIL, PURC Ludhiana Secures Best Memorial Award at International Moot Court Competition

The University Institute of Laws (UIL), Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana, proudly secured the Best Memorial Award at the 3rd Dr. S.M. Juniwal Ranka International Moot Court Competition, organised by Apex University, Rajasthan, from 14–17 November 2025.

The competition featured 53 top law schools globally, and UIL’s team—Nandini Taank, Chetan Sharma (B.A. LL.B. 4th Year), and Setika (B.A. LL.B. 3rd Year)—excelled in legal research, analysis, and written advocacy. The achievement was guided by Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC, and Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig, Vice Chancellor, Panjab University, with mentorship from Moot Court Committee Head Dr. Vaishali

UIL Students secure ‘Best Team’ at Arun Jaitley Memorial Moot Court Competition ITM University, Gwalior

The University Institute of Laws, Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana, proudly celebrates its students for securing the Best Team (Winner) position at the Arun Jaitley Memorial Moot Court Competition, School of Law, ITM University, Gwalior, held from 14–16 November 2025.

The winning team—Jesus Goyal, Divyansh Yadav, and Harsh Kumar (B.A. LL.B. 5th Year)—stood out among 36 participating teams from prestigious National Law Universities and

other institutions. Their outstanding advocacy and legal acumen earned them the Winners' Trophy, medals, and a cash prize of ₹51,000. This achievement reflects their dedication and the mentorship of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, PURC, and adds another proud milestone to UIL Ludhiana.

UIL Student Selected for North Zone NSS Pre-Republic Day Parade Camp 2025

Jesus Goyal, a final-year B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) student at Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana, and active NSS volunteer since 2022, successfully progressed through multiple selection stages for the North Zone NSS Pre-Republic Day Parade Camp 2025, under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Director, and Dr. Meera Nagpal, NSS Coordinator.

After clearing the State-Level Preliminary Selection at Panjab University, he qualified for the State-Level Pre-Republic Day Parade Trial Camp at Guru Kashi University, Talwandi Sabo, where he excelled in cultural performances, personal interviews, and rigorous physical assessments, being selected among only 21 boys from over 160 participants. He subsequently represented PURC Ludhiana at the State-Level NSS Pre-Republic Day Parade Camp at Chitkara University (21–30 November 2025), a 10-day residential camp with volunteers from 76 universities and 196 colleges across eight states. During the camp, he actively participated in yoga, cultural activities, physical training, parade sessions under Army officers, and academic workshops, exemplifying discipline, commitment, and the ideals of the National Service Scheme.

FACULTY INFORMATION

Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Virk

Guest Lectures:

"The Death of Critique by Critics: Can Fundamental Duties (Art. 51(A)) Generate Moral Limits to Hashtags" in Refresher Course on Law organized by UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, Sardar Patel University, Anand, Gujarat on August 29, 2025.

Goldfish Don't Bark: Justice-The Moral Limits to Market" in Refresher Course on Laws and Social Justice organized by UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, on August 19, 2025.

Address as Chief Guest in International Conference on Role of Technology in the Enforcement of Law and Order, organized by Law College Durgapur in collaboration with Global Academy of Juridical Sciences (GLOAJUS), West Bengal, on August 16, 2025.

Address as Guest of Honor on Induction and Orientation Program 2025, organized by G.H.G. Institute of Law, Sidhwa Khurd, Ludhiana, on August 7, 2025.

Publications:

"Silent Waters, Fading Futures: Legal and Ecological Crisis of Punjab's Harike Wetland", Lawyers Update (Law & Justice Publishing House), Vol XXXI, Part 12, December 2025.

Shedding Light on Light Pollution: Artificial. Light at Night (ALAN) and Human Health", Lawyers Update (Law & Justice Publishing House), Vol XXXI, Part 7, October 2025.

"Being Beyond a Gay Moralism: Glancing Homosexuality from the Philosophical Perspectives of John Corvino?", University Institute of Laws Bulletin, lex verita, 2025 Edition, Vol. 2, Issue-2, July, p.6-11.

"Artificial Light at Night Impacting Nocturnal Species: A Dimension of Light Pollution", Practical Lawyer (EBC Publishing House), August 2025.

International Publisher: (Springer, Singapore: ISBN 978-981-95-3360-2: Hardcover; 978-981-95-3363-3: Softcover; 978-981-95-3361-9: eBook), "Law, Economy, and Society: Insights into Legal & Economic Issues in India", 2025 (First Author).

National Publisher: (Law & Justice Publishing House, New Delhi), "Transgender & Law: International and National Perspectives", 2025 (First Author).

Prof. (Dr.) Aman Amrit Cheema

Guest Lectures:

"Sustainable Development Goal 11 and Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016: A Critical Analysis, National Conference on Sustainable Development Goals for Human Rights for an equitable Future: A Prismatic Perspective organized by The Law School, University of Jammu, Jammu in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India (4th - 5th December 2025)

"Right To Property vis a vis Compulsory Acquisition: ANATOMISING ACQUISITION LAW OF INDIA", Refresher Course (Online) On Law Organized By MMTTC, SARDAR PATEL UNIVERSITY, GUJARAT (18th - 31st August 2025), 30th August 2025.

"Justice in Land acquisition? Evaluating the Procedural Justness Of The Land Acquisition, Rehabilitate And Resettlement Law Of 2013?", Refresher Course (Online) On Law and Social Justice Organized By MMTTC, H.P. UNIVERSITY, Shimla (18th - 30st August 2025), 27th August 2025.

Invited Expert Lecture: "Anti Ragging Laws" Anti Ragging Week, organized by Directorate of Students' Welfare, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary & Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana, August 20, 2025.

Publications:

Law, Economy and Society: Insights into the Legal and Economic Issues in India, Springer Nature Singapore, 2025. (Scopus Indexed)

Transgender and Law: International and National Perspective, Law and Justice Publishing, 2025.

Harmonising Federalism Electoral Synchronization: A Critical Appraisal of 'One Nation One Election' Indian Journal of Law and Legal Research, Vol. VII, Issue V, November 2025, pp. 6827-6837.

Legal and Economic Synergy for an Equitable Society, Law, Economy and Society: Insights into the Legal and Economic Issues in India, Ashish Virk, Aman Amrit Cheema & Dr. Pooja

Sikka (ed), 2025, (Reference Book), Springer Nature Singapore, Singapore, pp. 3-13. (Scopus Indexed)

Surrogate Advertising in India, Law, Economy and Society: Insights into the Legal and Economic Issues in India, Ashish Virk, Aman Amrit Cheema & Dr. Pooja Sikka (ed), 2025, (Reference Book), Springer Nature Singapore, Singapore, pp. 61-72. (Scopus Indexed)

Security or Rights? India's New Immigration Law Dilemma, Practical Lawyer, Issue 311, December 2025, pp. 66-69.

Balancing Reservation Policy and Recruitment Rules: A study of the Supreme Court's Ruling on Category Migration, Lawyers Update, Vol XXXI, Part 12, December 2025, pp. 32-34.

The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025: Sunset of a Sunrise Sector? Lawyers Update, Vol XXXI, Part 11, November 2025, pp.25-27

Dr. Pooja Sikka

Guest lectures:

Delivered an expert session on "Trade and Tariff Dynamics in Global Economic Relations" for the EduTalk Club at Sri Aurobindo College of Commerce & Management, Ludhiana, on 13th October 2025.

Chaired a technical session in National Conference on the theme Interdisciplinary in Commerce and held at Dashmesh Khalsa College, Zirakpur on 7th November 2025.

Delivered an expert session as a Resource Person for the ICSSR Funded Virtual Research Methodology Workshop organized by Mahatma Night Degree College of Arts and Commerce, Mumbai held on 20th November 2025.

Publications:

Virk, A., Cheema, A. A., & Sikka, P. (Eds.). (2025). Law, Economy, and Society: Insights into Legal and Economic Issues in India. Springer Nature.

Dr. Homa Bansal

Paper presentation:

National Seminar "Tracing The Constitutional Journey of India: From 1950 to Present", Presented a paper titled "Prostitution – as Stigma, Society and shortcomings of the Indian Legal Framework" on 1st November, 2025, organized by IQAC.

Publications

Book titled – "Transgender and Law: International and National Perspective" by Prof (Dr.) Ashish Virk, Prof. (Dr.) Aman Amrit Cheema, Mrs. Homa Bansal., PUBLISHED by LAW AND JUSTICE PUBLISHING Co. ISBN- 978-93-48076-93-9

Chapter titled – "The Digital Dilemma: Regulating Social Media in India" in book titled – "LAW, Economy, and Society: Insights into Legal and Economic Issues in India", published by Springer Publication, ISBN-978-981-95-3360-2

Ms. Isha Tiwari

Paper presentation:

"Governance of Delhi: A Constitutional Perspective" was presented at the National Seminar on "Tracing the Constitutional Journey of India: From 1950 to the Present", which was organised on 1st November, 2025 at GHG Institute of Law, Sidhwan.



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