




SVKM's Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Chandigarh Campus
Plot No. 5, Education City, Sarangpur, Chandigarh - 160014

 0172-3501302

THE LEGAL CHRONICLE



E-Newsletter

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Exploring the evolving world of LAW



Connecting Knowledge, Justice and Society.



*Photograph by:~
Ishika Sondhi BA LLB (Hons) ; Sem X*

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MESSAGE FROM THE DESK

Dr. Jyotsna Singh
I/C Director

“An institution is defined not only by what it teaches, but by what it chooses to express.”

This newsletter stands as a thoughtful reflection of our academic ethos, where ideas are not confined to classrooms but are encouraged to evolve, be questioned, and be shared. It captures the intellectual vibrancy of our students and the culture of inquiry we strive to nurture. Such platforms are integral in building a community that values both scholarship and expression. I commend the editorial team for curating a publication that is as insightful as it is engaging, and I look forward to seeing it grow as a voice of the institution.



Dr. Durgambini Patel
Dean, School of Law

In a multi-campus academic ecosystem, creating spaces that foster shared intellectual engagement becomes especially important. This newsletter does precisely that it bridges campuses, perspectives, and experiences.

It is encouraging to see students contribute meaningfully beyond formal academic frameworks, engaging with ideas that are relevant, diverse, and thought-provoking. Initiatives like these strengthen not only individual expression but also institutional cohesion.

My appreciation to the team for their effort, and I hope this platform continues to serve as a unifying thread across campuses.text



Dr. Rashmi Khorana Nagpal
Associate Dean, School of Law

It is a pleasure to present the second edition of the School of Law's student-led newsletter. Building on the success of its inaugural issue, this edition reflects the continued enthusiasm, creativity, and intellectual engagement of our students. I believe that academic excellence extends beyond structured curricula; it is equally reflected in how ideas are explored, articulated, and disseminated. This newsletter provides an important platform for such engagement. It encourages students to critically examine contemporary issues, refine their perspectives, and communicate with clarity and purpose, skills that are essential in both academic and professional spaces.

The dedication of the editorial team and contributors is truly commendable. Through their efforts, this newsletter once again provides a valuable platform for thoughtful discourse, diverse perspectives, and creative expression beyond the classroom. I congratulate everyone involved in bringing out this edition and look forward to its continued growth in the years ahead.



Dr. Tanmeet Kaur Sahiwal
Faculty in Charge

It is a pleasure to present the second edition of the School of Law's student-led newsletter. Building upon the success of the inaugural issue, this edition reflects the continued dedication, creativity, and intellectual curiosity of our students. This publication is more than a collection of articles; it reflects a sustained commitment to academic engagement and intellectual discipline.

What is particularly noteworthy is the range of perspectives and the depth of thought that contributors bring forward. Curating such a platform requires not only creativity but also a careful balance of relevance, clarity, and coherence.

It is heartening to see this initiative take shape with such intent and consistency. I extend my appreciation to the editorial team for their efforts and trust that the newsletter will continue to evolve as a meaningful academic and reflective space within the institution.



TIPS FOR *Aspiring Lawyers*

Justice Anoop Chitkara is a distinguished jurist whose journey from a third-generation lawyer in Shimla to a Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court reflects excellence, dedication, and intellectual depth. Enrolling in the Bar in 1990, he built a formidable reputation in criminal law, with nearly 500 reported judgments to his credit and recognition as a Senior Advocate in 2019. His career is marked not only by sharp legal acumen but also by meaningful contributions to legal scholarship, judicial reform, and mentorship having authored research, delivered lectures, and nurtured aspiring lawyers through internships. Elevated to the bench in 2019 and now serving at the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Justice Chitkara embodies a rare blend of scholarship, mentorship, service, and a forward-looking vision for the future of law.

Interview with

**JUSTICE ANOOP CHITKARA
PUNJAB & HARYANA HIGH COURT**



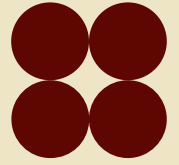
LAW *meets Psychology*

**MS. MANVIDEEP ARORA
GENERAL COUNSELLOR
PUNJAB & HARYANA HIGH COURT**

Manvideep Arora is a psychology counsellor at the Punjab and Haryana High Court, working at the vital intersection of law and mental health. Specializing in child custody, marital disputes, and protection cases, she focuses on safeguarding the emotional well-being of children while navigating the complexities of human experience within legal conflicts.

With a Master's degree in Forensic Psychology and Mental Health, Manvideep's expertise is informed by her work in the UK, ranging from remand prisons to community-based offender rehabilitation. These roles have deepened her understanding of behavior across the spectrum of vulnerability and accountability.

TIPS FOR ASPIRING LAWYERS



*From the Bench of
Hon'ble Justice Anoop Chitkara
Punjab and Haryana High Court*

From your experience, what should law students prioritise during law school to develop a strong legal foundation, and what practical competencies would you consider essential for those intending to pursue litigation?

"From my experience, law students especially those interested in litigation should first understand the importance of dedication, networking, and financial planning. Litigation in India often favors second-generation lawyers due to existing networks, so first-generation lawyers must be prepared to build connections from scratch. It is also crucial to assess whether you can sustain yourself financially for the initial few years, as litigation takes time to become rewarding. Litigation is best compared to a mango tree, not a guava tree. A guava tree starts bearing fruit quickly, but a mango tree takes years to grow before it gives results however, once it does, it yields in abundance. Similarly, litigation takes time to establish, and the real question is whether you have the financial and emotional capacity to sustain yourself during those initial years. This is particularly important for first-generation lawyers who do not have an existing network or support system.

Regarding strong legal foundation, a strong legal foundation primarily means developing "legal common sense." This requires removing all biases and approaching every case with fairness and objectivity, treating all individuals equally regardless of background. Equally important is a clear understanding of legal fundamentals students must consistently refer back to statutes, carefully read provisions, and apply them to specific facts rather than relying on memory.

As for practical competencies, students should pursue diverse internships, I would suggest intern with a judge, an advocate, and even a technology company since exposure to different aspects of the legal system and emerging fields like technology is essential for becoming a well-rounded legal professional."



Many students feel uncertain about their career direction even in later years of law school, what would be your advice for navigating this phase with clarity and confidence?

"Uncertainty about career direction in law school is extremely common, but in India, it is often intensified by peer pressure and family expectations. As it is often said, the "raja beta" mindset places a unique burden where the child is treated like a prized workhorse, expected to constantly perform. The moment that "horse" slows down or chooses a different path, it risks criticism, loss of respect, and comparison. This pressure can quietly shape career decisions, not out of clarity, but out of fear.

The reality is that your decision also depends on your background. Some may have the financial freedom to explore, while others especially from middle-class or service families need stability and early income."

In your opinion, what meaningful learning outcomes should students seek to gain from internships and how can they present themselves in a manner that creates a positive and lasting professional impression within the workplace?

"From my experience, internships are not just about learning law they are about building habits that will define you as a professional. The first thing I always emphasize is punctuality. It is not just about time; it is about your commitment to your word. Let me give you my own example when I was in school in Shimla, despite the harsh weather, snow, and slippery roads, I was never late even for a single day. That habit stayed with me throughout my life. As a lawyer, I was never late to court even once, and even as a judge, I made it a point to be exactly on time not early, not late, but precisely when the court was to begin. That is the level of discipline you must aim for.

The second thing is how you present yourself. When you meet someone, they first assess you through your appearance, your body language, and your attitude. If you are well-dressed, carry yourself properly, and have a smile on your face, I would say 99% of the battle is already won. So every day, you must dress and carry yourself in a way that reflects professionalism.

Another important aspect is how you deal with fellow interns. There should be no backbiting. All interns around you are not your competitors they are your colleagues. In fact, I have seen the best of friends later fighting in court when it comes to promotions and positions. But during internships, there is no such conflict. This is the time to build genuine friendships and professional connections that may stay with you for life.

Also, remember to be sincere in your work. Be the first to come and the last to leave you will gain much more exposure that way. And most importantly, never bluff. If you do not know something, have the courage to say, "Sir, I do not know, but I will learn and get back to you." Honesty and willingness to learn will take you much further than pretending to know everything.

So, if I have to sum it up be punctual, present yourself well, build good relationships, work sincerely, and always remain honest. These are the qualities that will not only help you learn but will also leave a lasting impression wherever you go."

While the number of women in law schools continues to rise, their representation in active legal practice remains comparatively low, what steps do you believe are necessary to bridge this gap, and what guidance would you offer ?

"I agree, the number of women in law schools is definitely increasing, their participation in active litigation is still limited, and one of the primary reasons is the social structure especially the institution of marriage. Even today, many families believe that a girl must be married at a certain age, and that her primary role is to settle down early, have children, and manage a household. This mindset often interrupts or completely derails long-term legal careers, particularly in litigation which demands time, patience, and sustained effort. This is something that must change, but such social shifts take time perhaps even generations.

As far as young women aspiring to build a career in law are concerned, I believe there should be no distinction between men and women in terms of capability or financial responsibility. Ultimately, your career decisions must also align with your financial realities. If you are in a position where your family depends on you, you must approach your career with that sense of responsibility. The key is to stay committed, be financially aware, and not let societal expectations limit your professional ambitions."

There is often considerable debate among law students while choosing between litigation and corporate practice; from your perspective, how should students approach this decision ?

"When students are confused between litigation and corporate practice, the decision should not be emotional but practical. First, assess your financial capacity litigation often takes time to become financially stable, whereas corporate jobs may offer quicker returns. Second, evaluate your college and exposure. Top-tier institutions often open doors to corporate firms, but for students from lesser-known colleges, those opportunities may be limited, so the "choice" is sometimes not as open as it seems. Third, be honest about your abilities, employability, and skills. Corporate roles demand a certain level of polish, training, and competitiveness. Finally, consider family expectations and personal circumstances. In the end, the decision should come



from a realistic assessment of your background, opportunities, and interests not just trends or peer pressure."

How do you believe students should prepare for growing integration of AI in the legal profession and how can they utilize AI to its fullest potential in their academic and professional development?

"From my perspective, students must understand that AI is not here to replace you it is here to assist you. I'll give you my own example. I was among the first judges to use AI, it was the case of Jaswinder Singh vs State of Punjab CRM-M-22496-2022, Neutral Citation No:=2023:PHHC:044541, on 27th March 2023. But let me be very clear: I did not use AI to decide the case. The bail had already been dismissed based on facts. After that, I asked about the global view on cruelty as a factor in bail. It gave me a different perspective. That is how AI should be used not as a judge, but as a tool to test your reasoning. Now, understand the real power of AI. If I had asked interns to compile a worldwide legal position, it would have taken weeks, maybe a month, and multiple people. AI gave me that comparative perspective within a day. So the real skill today is not just legal knowledge it is knowing how to frame the right prompt. If you ask the right question, AI can compress weeks of work into hours.

Even in my daily functioning except for judicial decisions, I use technology constantly. While giving this very interview, I am recording it through multiple tools like speech-to-text systems, drafting assistants one converts speech into text, another refines punctuation, another ensures accuracy. If one fails, I have backups. This is how I use technology as an assistant incognito. It is like a secretary but a "secret secretary," working silently with your thought process.

Let me explain the larger picture with a simple analogy. When tractors were introduced, horses resisted saying that it would fail. But what happened? Tractors eliminated hunger and transformed agriculture. The horses that learned to adapt and work with tractors survived; those that did not became dog meat. The same applies to AI and technology. If you refuse to learn it, you will be left behind. But if you adapt, it will multiply your efficiency.

I was inspired in a similar way early in my career. There is a former judge of the Supreme Court, Hon'ble Justice Deepak Gupta (Retd.) who, back as a lawyer in Shimla, chose to buy one of the earliest computers, a 286 system, at a time when it was more expensive than a car. People thought it was unnecessary, but he had the foresight to understand where the profession was heading. That decision inspired me to adopt technology early in my own journey.

So my advice is simple: learn what is relevant to your work and use it intelligently. Use AI for research, drafting, and efficiency but never for decision-making. Your mind must remain the judge. AI is only your assistant."

When students look back on this phase of their lives years from now, what mindset or value do you hope they carry forward through their legal journey?

"I would suggest one simple approach inspired by the 10-10-10 method by Suzy Welch whenever you take a decision, think about its impact not just today, but after 10 minutes, 10 hours, 10 days, 10 months, and 10 years. That is how you understand your own risk capacity, because every individual is different. That is the beauty of being human different perceptions, different thought processes, different ways of understanding life.

From my own experience, I can tell you this never rush into a decision not as a judge, not as a lawyer. If a file comes to me and I am not able to take a clear call immediately, I don't force an answer. I keep the file aside, read it again later with a fresh mind, and if even then I am not convinced, I keep the file for re-hearing. Because as a judge, your opinion affects someone's life, rights, and future. It is better to say "I cannot advise on this currently" than to give a wrong opinion in haste. That honesty and clarity of mind is far more important than show-off of knowledge.



Secondly, you must ask yourself what is your objective in life? Do you want to make money, or do you want to contribute to society? If your only goal is money, then law is not the right profession. It is a profession, not a business. You can earn reasonably well, but even the best lawyers cannot match the wealth of top business magnates. And beyond a point, money itself loses value. A well-known study by Princeton University economists Daniel Kahneman and Angus Deaton (2010) found that emotional well-being rises with income only up to about \$75,000 per year (in the U.S. for a small family), and beyond that, additional income does not significantly increase day-to-day happiness this shows that money has diminishing returns when it comes to happiness.

Material things give temporary happiness a new car, for a few days; even major life events settle into normalcy over time. So don't chase only money. The mindset I would want students to carry forward is this: clarity of purpose, patience in decision-making, and honesty with oneself. Because in the end, your success in law will not depend on how much you know, but on how you think, how you decide, and how responsibly you use your judgment."

If your journey in law could be reduced to one belief or a guiding principle that you would want every law student to remember in moments of doubt, what would it be?

"If my journey in law were to be reduced to one guiding principle, it would be this: never take a decision when your mind is fluctuating.

As a judge, every decision affects lives, rights, and justice itself. So unless I am completely clear, I do not decide. I have always followed a simple discipline whenever I am in doubt, I put that file at the bottom of the stack. That delay gives me distance and clarity. If the doubt persists, I give it 24 hours I sleep over it. If I am still not clear, I extend it to 48 hours. These pauses are not hesitation; they are a conscious effort to ensure that justice is not hurried. Even after that, if clarity does not come, I do not decide in isolation. I have matters researched, I engage with my colleagues, I re-examine the record. And if despite all of this I am still not satisfied, I would rather list the matter for further hearing than pass an uncertain order. A judge must have the humility to acknowledge doubt and the patience to resolve it properly.

Before I took the bench, even as a lawyer, I followed the same principle I would return a brief if I could not find a clear point. That sense of honesty carries forward into judging as well.

The second principle I have always believed in is integrity: never take or give commissions or any form of kickbacks for cases. Your credibility is your greatest asset, and once that is compromised, the foundation of justice itself begins to weaken.

So in moments of doubt, remember, pause, reflect, and decide only when your conscience and mind are both clear. That restraint is what ultimately defines a good judge.



After years on the Bench and at the Bar, what continues to inspire your faith in the legal profession and justice?

"If we had no Constitution of India, I would still be governed by someone whether a Raja or a Mughal. It is the Constitution that gives me independence and dignity. For me, the Constitution is my Gita, and Dr. B R Ambedkar is my Krishna.

My faith in the legal system comes from the strength of our democracy. In this country, anyone can rise to the highest office. We have seen leaders from the most humble beginnings, lead the nation. Many of us are first-generation professionals this itself is the success of democracy. But democracy cannot survive without an independent judiciary.

Let me explain this with a simple example. Think of a pressure cooker in which you are boiling pulses. Herein, the government is like the cooker, and the people's aspirations and grievances are the pressure building inside it. The legislature acts like the weight on top, it regulates and releases some pressure. But if that system fails, if the pressure keeps building unchecked, the cooker will burst. That is where the judiciary comes in. It is like the safety valve of the pressure cooker. When everything else fails, the safety valve releases the excess pressure and prevents an explosion. And it does so carefully it releases pressure without harming the vessel or the people around it. That is the compassion and balance of the judiciary.

So, my faith remains constant because the judiciary stands as the final safeguard of democracy, ensuring that society does not collapse under its own pressures, and that justice ultimately prevails."



Could you share a book that has personally influenced you and that you would strongly recommend to students interested in criminal litigation?

"I don't suggest any one specific book solely for criminal law, but I would recommend two books which are useful not just for law, but for developing your overall perspective. One is Animal Farm by George Orwell, and the other is Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Noah Harari."

If you could give only one piece of advice to every law student reading this newsletter, what would it be?

"If I were to offer just one piece of advice to a student reading this, it would be the very first lesson we are all taught on our first day of school long before we understand its depth, but one that defines an entire life if truly followed: always speak the truth.

As children, we see these words written on school walls, recited to us before we even learn to read them ourselves. We are told that truth prevails, that it is a guiding principle, even a national ideal. But as we grow, somewhere along the way, this simple principle begins to feel complicated, inconvenient, even harsh. Yet, in my experience, nothing could be further from the truth.

Throughout my journey whether at the Bar or on the Bench I have adhered to one unwavering rule: never speak a lie. Not as a lawyer, not as a judge. Because the moment you commit yourself to truth, everything else becomes simpler. You do not have to remember versions, construct narratives, or defend contradictions. Truth stands on its own; it requires no support.

Many believe that truth is harsh, especially in today's times. And yes, it may appear so in a world that often rewards convenience over integrity. But in reality, truth is not bitter it is the sweetest thing there is. It brings clarity, peace, and ultimately, respect.

So my advice is simple, but not easy: choose truth, every single time. If you do that, you will find that you do not need to do much else because truth, in the end, always prevails."

LAW MEETS PSYCHOLOGY

The invisible role of court counsellors in Family Justice

Ms. Manvideep Arora

General Counsellor ; Punjab & Haryana High Court



The law deals with actions, but justice often lies in understanding the mind behind them.

In legal education, disputes are often encountered in their most structured form: through statutes, case law, and carefully reasoned judgments. A case begins, arguments unfold, and a decision is delivered. The process appears linear, contained, and conclusive. However, in the field of family law, this structure often tells only part of the story. Disputes involving families, particularly those concerning children, do not exist solely within the boundaries of legal provisions. They are shaped by emotions, relationships, histories, and lived experiences. Orders may be passed, and rights may be defined, yet the conflict often continues in more subtle and complex ways. It is within this space, between legal resolution and lived reality that the role of the court counsellor emerges.

Beyond Legal Questions: The Psychological Realities of Family Disputes

Family disputes frequently present themselves before courts as legal questions; custody, visitation, maintenance, and guardianship. Yet beneath these formulations lie deeper emotional currents: unresolved conflict between parents, strained relationships, fear, attachment and in many cases, the unarticulated experiences of children. The law provides a framework to address rights and obligations. It ensures structure, predictability and enforceability. However, it does not fully account for the psychological dimensions that influence how individuals experience and respond to these disputes.

A visitation arrangement, for instance, may be clearly outlined in a court order. From a legal standpoint, the issue appears resolved. Yet a child's reluctance to engage with a parent, or a parent's difficulty in facilitating that engagement, may persist. These responses are often rooted in emotional realities that remain unaddressed. Similarly, prolonged litigation does not always stem from legal complexity alone. It may reflect communication breakdowns, mistrust, or unresolved emotional injury. In such situations, legal processes continue but meaningful resolution remains limited.

This is the point where legal structure meets psychological experience. It highlights the need for an approach that engages with both dimensions.

The Role of Court Counsellors: Functions and Process

It is within the gap between legal determination and lived experience that the role of the court counsellor becomes significant. The integration of counsellors within the family justice system in India is grounded in legislative intent. The Family Courts Act, 1984 provides for the appointment of counsellors and welfare experts to assist the court, reflecting a shift toward a more responsive and less adversarial model of justice. Within this framework, counsellors engage with the human dimensions of disputes, facilitating understanding, communication and emotional processing alongside the legal process. A legal order may define the terms of interaction but counselling works to make those interactions possible in practice, much like drawing a map versus learning how to walk the terrain. Counselling in court-linked matters is structured and purpose-driven. However, due to limited awareness and persistent stigma in Indian society, a significant part of this work involves psychoeducation. Children, parents and couples are guided to understand emotional responses, relational patterns, and the developmental needs of children.

⁹ In custody and visitation matters, this includes helping parents recognise the psychological impact of conflict on the child, the importance of both parents in the child's life, and the long-term implications of disrupted relationships.

Many individuals entering the legal process are unable to identify the underlying causes of their emotional reactions. What presents as anger or rigid positioning often stems from maladaptive communication patterns such as lack of communication, non active listening, or harsh tones. Counselling works toward identifying these patterns, increasing awareness, and introducing tools for healthier communication. As this understanding develops, individuals are better able to move from reactive responses toward more constructive engagement.

In matters involving children, counselling emphasises welfare beyond legal definitions. Parents are supported in maintaining parental roles despite conflict, while also considering the child's emotional comfort in arrangements such as visitation. At the same time, prolonged litigation can create entrenched patterns of hostility and defensiveness. Counselling seeks to address these by reframing perspectives and preparing individuals for more meaningful participation in mediation.

Family disputes also involve emotional fatigue, where actions may be driven by validation or control rather than long-term considerations. Counselling brings awareness to these responses, particularly their impact on children, and encourages a distinction between personal emotions and the child's welfare. Counsellors are often misunderstood. Counselling is not aimed at forcing reconciliation but at enabling informed decision-making. It does not delay proceedings or replace legal strategy. Instead, it complements legal processes by addressing the human factors that influence how those processes unfold in practice.

Counselling Within the Legal Process

The presence of counselling within the legal framework reflects an understanding that effective resolution requires attention to both legal and psychosocial dimensions.

The Lawyer's Interface with Counselling

Within family disputes, the role of legal practitioners is both well-defined and deeply significant. Lawyers bring a strong grounding in legal principles, an understanding of client rights and a professional responsibility toward representation. For legal practitioners, counselling can function as a supportive component within case progression. In practice, the role of lawyers in matters involving counselling extends beyond representation. Custody-related disputes often unfold in contexts where legal positions are closely intertwined with emotional experiences. Lawyers are well positioned to guide clients toward more constructive participation. When clients are made aware of the purpose and benefits of counselling, they are more likely to engage meaningfully with the process.

In some instances, lawyers facilitate this by helping parties appreciate the importance of maintaining the child's relationship with both parents. They may encourage interaction where appropriate and support compliance with interim arrangements. Such engagement does not alter the lawyer's role as an advocate. Rather, it reflects professional conscientiousness; an awareness that the manner in which a dispute is navigated can shape not only its outcome, but also its long-term impact. Counselling, in this context, can assist lawyers in clarifying client objectives, particularly where initial positions are shaped by emotional distress. It also prepares clients to engage with court processes, including mediation and facilitates openness to resolution where resistance may be rooted in emotional factors rather than legal disagreement. If lawyers navigate the legal roadmap of a case, counsellors help ensure that the individuals travelling that path are emotionally able to reach its destination.

Judicial Decision-Making and Psychosocial Insight

Judicial decision-making in family matters frequently requires an assessment that extends beyond legal claims into the lived realities of the individuals involved. Counsellors contribute to this process by offering insights, where considered necessary and appropriate, particularly in matters concerning child welfare, while maintaining the confidentiality of counselling sessions.

These insights may not be apparent from pleadings alone and can include observations relating to the child's developmental needs, emotional state and adjustment, the extent to which those needs are being met, patterns within parent-child interactions, as well as the underlying relational dynamics influencing the dispute. Such inputs assist the court in forming a more comprehensive understanding of the situation, particularly in custody and visitation matters. They may also inform the court's consideration of whether a matter is suitable for mediation or requires adjudication. In this manner, counselling does not guide the decision itself, but provides the context within which judicial discretion is exercised.

Mediation and Counselling: Complementary Processes

While mediation and counselling serve distinct purposes, their integration often strengthens dispute resolution. Mediation addresses the formulation of agreements, while counselling explores the emotional and relational context influencing those agreements. Where counselling precedes or accompanies mediation, parties often approach negotiations with greater clarity, reduced hostility and an increased capacity for engagement. This contributes to outcomes that are not only agreed upon but are also more sustainable over time.

Evolving Practice: The Growing Role of Counsellors in Family Courts

While the Family Courts Act, 1984 envisioned the inclusion of counsellors as an integral part of family justice, their consistent and structured engagement has become more visible in recent years.

One notable development has been a gradual movement away from purely adversarial frameworks toward more resolution-oriented processes. Early-stage counselling interventions often create space for dialogue before positions harden into prolonged legal battles. There is also a discernible improvement in how child welfare is understood and addressed. With the involvement of counsellors, the focus extends beyond parental rights to include emotional security, attachment and the child's lived experience. This enables a more nuanced application of the "best interests of the child" principle.

Counselling has also contributed to greater clarity in disputes. By engaging with underlying emotional and relational concerns, it helps distinguish between issues requiring legal adjudication and those that can be addressed through communication. This often results in more focused litigation and in some cases, earlier resolution. Another area of impact is the sustainability of outcomes. Agreements and court orders that are informed by emotional readiness and mutual understanding tend to be more workable in practice, reducing the likelihood of repeated litigation. Counselling has also supported individuals in moving forward with greater emotional clarity, enabling them to rebuild their lives beyond the dispute. At the same time, these developments remain uneven. The availability of trained counsellors, variations in infrastructure and differing levels of engagement across courts continue to shape how effectively this role is utilised. Nevertheless, the increasing integration of counselling within family courts reflects a broader shift, one that aligns more closely with the original intent of the legislation. It signals an emerging recognition that effective legal processes in family matters are closely linked to an understanding of human behaviour and relationships.

Conclusion

Family disputes exist at the intersection of law and human experience. While legal frameworks provide essential structure, their effectiveness often depends on how individuals are able to engage with and implement them. In family disputes, what is argued in court is often only a fraction of what is felt. Counselling attempts to give space to the rest. The inclusion of counsellors within the system reflects an acknowledgment of this complexity. Their work contributes to understanding, communication, and the translation of legal outcomes into lived realities. For those entering the field of law, awareness of this role offers a broader perspective, one that situates legal reasoning within the context of human relationships. Law may decide where individuals must go, but psychology helps to determine whether they are able to get there.



The Gavel & The Glyph

Navigating India's New Legal Waves



India's Arbitration Wave: A New Frontier for Law Students

By - Divyanshi Thapa ; BA LLB (Hons) Sem VIII

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Emojis in the Legal Context

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Beyond Uniformity: Why Changing Family Laws maybe India's Best Path

By - Jyotkamal Kaur ; BA LLB (Hons) Sem IV

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INDIA'S ARBITRATION WAVE

A New Frontier for Law Students and Lawyers

By Divyanshi Thapa
BA LLB (Hons) Semester VIII

Arbitration has become one of the most important methods of resolving disputes in modern legal systems. In India, arbitration is gaining increasing importance due to economic growth, international trade, and foreign investment. As a law student studying dispute resolution, it is clear that arbitration is no longer just an alternative to litigation but has become an essential mechanism for resolving disputes efficiently. India has recognised the need to strengthen arbitration in order to improve ease of doing business, attract foreign investment, and reduce the burden on courts.

Over the past decade, India has taken several legislative, judicial, and institutional steps to transform itself into a global arbitration hub. Arbitration is now widely used in infrastructure projects, corporate disputes, international commercial contracts, and government agreements. Recent developments, including new arbitration centres, reforms in arbitration law, and important arbitration awards in infrastructure and corporate disputes, show that arbitration is playing a central role in India's legal and economic system. However, despite progress, India still faces challenges such as judicial delays, lack of trust in arbitration institutions, and competition from foreign arbitration centres like Singapore and London.

Reasons Behind the Growth of Arbitration in India

The rise in arbitration in India is closely related to the country's economic development and globalisation. As the Indian economy grows and attracts foreign investments, the number of commercial transactions has grown considerably. As a result, the number of contracts, business relationships and disputes has also grown. Businesses find arbitration to be more efficient than litigation. Foreign companies find arbitration to be more preferable since it is impartial and does not rely on the court system of any country. Arbitration is also less confrontational than litigation. As a result, arbitration has become an integral part of commercial law in India.

Legal Framework Governing Arbitration in India

Arbitration in India is governed by the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. This Act was introduced to provide a modern legal framework based on international standards such as the UNCITRAL Model Law. The main objective of the Act is to ensure speedy dispute resolution, reduce court interference, and promote party autonomy.

Initially, arbitration in India faced many problems. Courts frequently interfered in arbitration proceedings, and enforcement of arbitral awards was slow. This reduced the effectiveness of arbitration and discouraged foreign investors. To address these issues, India introduced several amendments in recent years, particularly in 2015 and 2019, to strengthen arbitration law and align it with international practices. These amendments introduced strict timelines, limited court intervention, and improved enforcement mechanisms. They also promoted institutional arbitration, which is more organised and efficient compared to ad hoc arbitration. These reforms have played an important role in improving arbitration in India.

Government Efforts to Promote India as a Global Arbitration Hub

The Indian government has taken several steps to promote arbitration as part of its economic and legal reforms. The government has recognised arbitration as a key tool to improve ease of doing business and attract foreign investment.

One of the most important steps was the establishment of the India International Arbitration Centre (IIAC) has been established by the India International Arbitration Centre Act, a statute promulgated by the Parliament of India. The purpose of this enactment is to create an independent and autonomous regime for institutional arbitration. This centre was created to provide world-class arbitration facilities and reduce dependence on foreign arbitration institutions. However, recent reports show that the centre is still struggling to attract large numbers of cases and gain full trust from businesses, highlighting the challenges India faces in developing strong arbitration institutions.

The government has also promoted arbitration through policy reforms and international cooperation. The Law Ministry has emphasised that arbitration reforms and the establishment of arbitration centres are important steps towards creating a global dispute resolution framework. Another important initiative is the plan to establish arbitration centres in different states. For example, Andhra Pradesh has announced plans to set up an international arbitration centre in Visakhapatnam to promote faster dispute resolution and reduce reliance on courts. These initiatives show that India is actively working to strengthen arbitration infrastructure and promote itself as a global arbitration hub.

Institutional Arbitration and Growth of Arbitration Centres

Institutional arbitration is essential for India to become a global arbitration hub. Institutional arbitration provides organised procedures, administrative support, and professional management of disputes. One of the key arbitration institutions in India is the Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration. This centre provides modern arbitration rules, emergency arbitration procedures, and strict timelines for resolving disputes efficiently. It also allows consolidation of arbitration proceedings and appointment of emergency arbitrators, making dispute resolution faster and more effective. India is also developing arbitration facilities at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), which is emerging as a global financial and arbitration hub. Recent developments, including new leadership and growing financial activity, show that GIFT City is becoming an important centre for global finance and dispute resolution.

Additionally, arbitration training programmes are being organised to develop skilled arbitrators and improve arbitration expertise. For example, arbitration training initiatives have been launched to promote diversity and professional development in arbitration.

These developments show that India is investing in arbitration infrastructure and professional training to strengthen its arbitration ecosystem.

Role of the Judiciary in Supporting Arbitration

The judiciary plays a crucial role in promoting arbitration and ensuring effective dispute resolution. In recent years, Indian courts have adopted a pro-arbitration approach and emphasised minimal judicial intervention. The Supreme Court of India has delivered several judgments supporting arbitration and clarifying arbitration procedures. Courts have emphasised that arbitration should be independent and efficient, and judicial interference should be limited. Recent court decisions have clarified procedural issues, including jurisdiction and enforcement of arbitral awards. These decisions help strengthen arbitration law and ensure consistency in arbitration proceedings. Courts have also encouraged arbitration in commercial disputes. In many cases, courts have referred disputes to arbitration instead of resolving them through litigation, recognising arbitration as a faster and more effective method of dispute resolution.

Arbitration in Recent Infrastructure and Commercial Disputes

Arbitration is increasingly being adopted as a means of resolving large infrastructure and commercial disputes in India. Recently, an arbitrator appointed by the Bombay High Court ordered the Maharashtra government to pay ₹691 crore in a tollway dispute, highlighting the significance of arbitration in resolving large infrastructure disputes. Arbitration has also been adopted as a means of resolving corporate disputes related to dealership agreements. In a recent dispute, arbitration held that the termination of a dealership agreement was illegal and awarded compensation to the aggrieved party. These examples illustrate that arbitration is playing a significant role in resolving complex commercial disputes between the government and private companies. Government departments are also examining arbitration disputes to minimize financial losses. For instance, government departments have been ordered to examine arbitration disputes related to large financial claims to ensure better legal management. These examples illustrate that arbitration is becoming a prominent means of resolving commercial and government disputes.

Increasing International Arbitration and Legal Reforms

India is witnessing a significant rise in international arbitration, followed by progressive legal developments and policy changes to make India preferred destination for resolving cross-border commercial disputes. One of the most significant developments is the decision of Bar Council of India to allow foreign lawyers and foreign law firms to take part in international commercial arbitration in India on a reciprocal basis, especially in advisory and arbitration-related work. This development has further strengthened India's position as an arbitration-friendly country and has encouraged foreign investors and multinational companies to consider India as a possible seat of arbitration. Simultaneously, changes in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 have further strengthened the legal framework by promoting institutional arbitration, facilitating the faster enforcement of arbitral awards, and preventing judicial overreach. The creation of modern arbitration institutions such as the India International Arbitration Centre has further improved the arbitration infrastructure in India and provided world-class facilities for international arbitration. International arbitration conferences, seminars, and professional events organized in India are also contributing to increasing awareness, building expertise, and facilitating discussions on key topics such as the enforcement of foreign awards, technological developments, and best practices worldwide.

India's Progress Towards Becoming a Global Arbitration Hub

India has made significant progress in strengthening arbitration law and infrastructure. Legislative reforms, institutional development, and judicial support have improved arbitration efficiency. Experts and judges have stated that India has the potential to become a global arbitration hub due to legal reforms, professional expertise, and economic growth. Arbitration is increasingly becoming the preferred method of dispute resolution in India. Recent reforms introduced in 2024 and 2025 demonstrate India's commitment to modernising arbitration and improving dispute resolution mechanisms. These reforms aim to strengthen arbitration institutions and improve efficiency. These developments indicate that India is moving in the right direction to become a global arbitration hub.

Career Opportunities in Arbitration for Law Students

For law students and young lawyers, the rise of arbitration presents exciting career opportunities. Arbitration offers diverse career paths, including working as arbitration lawyers, researchers, legal consultants, and arbitrators. Law firms are increasingly handling arbitration cases, and arbitration institutions are offering internships and training programs. Arbitration also provides opportunities to work on international disputes, which helps lawyers gain global exposure. Compared to traditional litigation, arbitration offers faster career growth and exposure to complex commercial matters. Law students who develop expertise in arbitration can build successful and rewarding careers.

Skills Required to Build a Career in Arbitration

To succeed in arbitration, law students need to develop certain essential skills. Strong research skills are necessary to understand legal principles and prepare arguments. Drafting skills are important for preparing arbitration agreements, claims, and legal submissions. Advocacy skills help lawyers present arguments effectively before arbitrators. Analytical thinking is essential to understand complex disputes and find solutions. Communication skills are also important, as arbitration involves presenting arguments clearly and confidently. Participation in moot court competitions, especially arbitration moots, can help students develop these skills and gain practical experience.

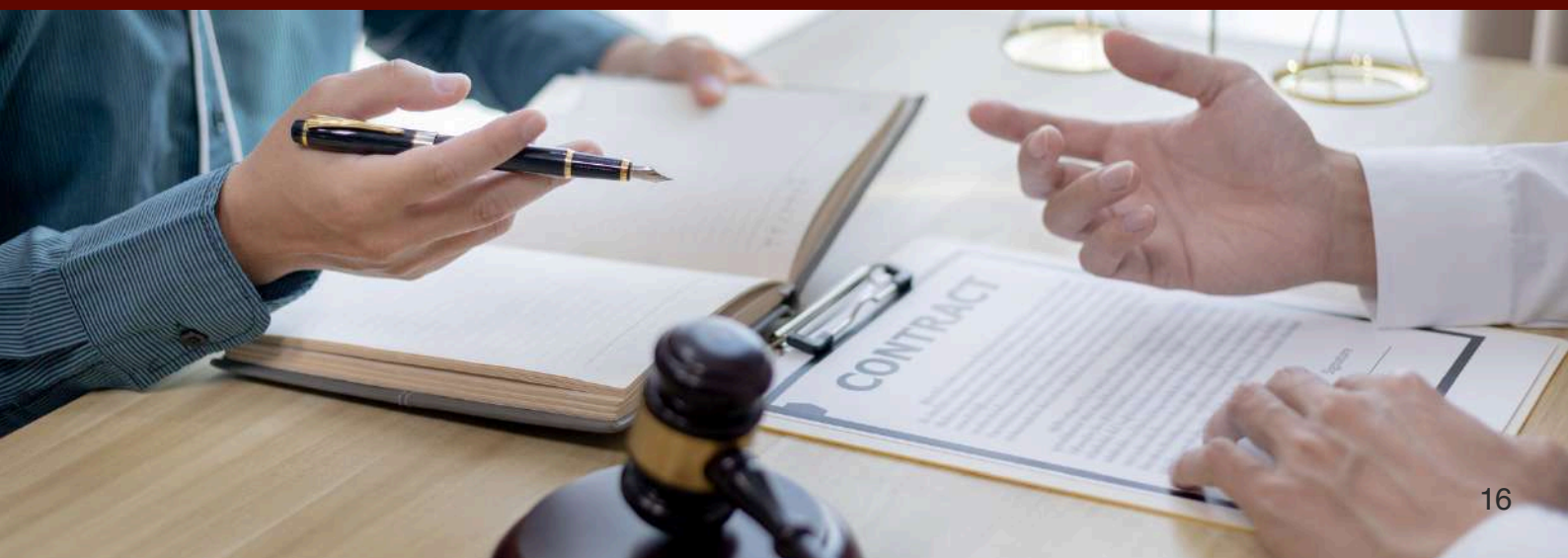
Challenges Facing India's Arbitration System

Despite progress, India faces several challenges in becoming a global arbitration hub. One major challenge is the lack of trust in arbitration institutions. Some arbitration centres are still struggling to attract cases and gain confidence from businesses. Another challenge is the delay in establishing regulatory bodies such as the Arbitration Council of India. The delay in setting up this regulatory body has raised concerns about institutional development. Judicial delays and procedural complexities also affect arbitration efficiency. Although courts support arbitration, enforcement of arbitral awards can still take time. Competition from foreign arbitration centres such as Singapore and London also presents a challenge. Many international disputes involving Indian parties are still resolved in foreign arbitration centres. Infrastructure limitations and lack of trained arbitrators are additional challenges that must be addressed.

Conclusion

India's arbitration wave represents a major transformation in the country's legal system and offers a new frontier for law students and lawyers. Arbitration has emerged as a faster, more efficient, and globally accepted method of dispute resolution. Legal reforms, judicial support, and institutional developments have strengthened India's arbitration framework and increased its global relevance. For law students, arbitration offers exciting career opportunities, international exposure, and professional growth. As arbitration continues to expand, students who develop knowledge and skills in this field will be well-prepared for the future. India's journey towards becoming a global arbitration hub is not only shaping the legal system but is also creating a new generation of lawyers equipped to handle modern dispute resolution. Arbitration is no longer just an alternative—it is becoming an essential part of the legal profession, and law students today have the opportunity to be at the forefront of this important legal revolution.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization or the editorial board.





EMOJIS

In The Legal Context

By Nimisha Berry
BBA LLB (Hons) Semester VI

Emojis are the very first language of the digital world, which have been created to express emotions and add emotional nuance to text that otherwise would be flat and lifeless. In total, there are 3,953 emojis in the Unicode Standard, as of September 9, 2025. Emojis are widely used to give clarity and express tone in digital communications. The thumbs-up emoji is one of the most frequently used; for most daily users, ‘👍’ usually means just that acknowledgement or agreement. But in courts, the understanding of such signs will be based mainly on the situation and the communication method used by the parties involved. As emojis can convey intent or feelings, they might be a deciding factor in how a message was interpreted or if an agreement was made. This article discusses the use of emojis in the Indian courts along with international perspectives.

Interpreting Digital Expressions in Court: Can a Symbol Amount to a Threat or Agreement?

Under the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, electronic records were given legal recognition. Today, emojis are being incorporated into daily legal and professional communications. Legal contracts through electronic mediums are recognised and given legal validity, as held in the case of *Trimex International FZE Ltd v. Vedanta Aluminium Ltd.*

Sub-silentio (legal silence) rule is used to express something that is not expressly mentioned by the court. The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, defines the admissibility of electronic records, but it keeps sub-silentio in the meaning of emojis, or semantic symbols, in the evidentiary requirements. Thus, in the context of Section 86, the court will presume the affixed signature is made by the subscriber with the intention to approve or accept the electronic record.

There is a lot of ambiguity on the use of emojis; for instance, an emoji can have different meanings based on previous interactions; there is an added layer of cultural differences due to which the meaning of the emoji changes in different contexts. The interpretation of emojis is a legal grey area and it depends on the facts and circumstances of each case. In *Director General, Railway Protection Force v. Narendra Chauhan*, thumbs-up emoji was used in reply to a message in a WhatsApp group relating to a murder. This was construed as a celebration of the offence and the said person was removed from service. The Madras High Court held that the ‘👍’ could be interpreted to be an alternative to “OK”. In the case of *Linga Bhasker v. State of Tamil Nadu*, the Madras High Court held that the use of emojis cannot be considered as an act to insult others but is used to convey one’s feelings.

Contract Formation: Acceptance through the use of Emojis

Within the framework of Section 9 under the Indian Contract Act, 1872, it may be deduced through an implied act that the use of an emoji can be a form of acceptance which is in the same rank as a nod or a handshake, particularly when the essential contract terms have been posted in writing in a very clear manner. Nevertheless, the use of emojis as an expression of acceptance comes with certain difficulties such as an assumption of the wrong identity in a non-face-to-face conversation, inadvertent contract creation due to the emoji being taken as a sign of agreement even though the other party had a different intent, and rapid approval for given the speed and informality of digital messaging.

In Canada, the case of *South West Terminal Ltd. v. Achter Land & Cattle Ltd.* The court ruling was a summary judgment which sided with SWT, stating that a valid contract for the sale of flax had been concluded when Achter, in reply to a texted copy of the contract, sent a ‘👍’. The court was not convinced by Achter's argument that the emoji merely indicated receipt of the document and applied to objective principles of contract formation. As a result, they concluded that the emoji, from the view of a reasonable person, meant acceptance, specifically taking into account the parties’ previous dealings where Achter had time and again accepted contracts through very short text confirmations such as “ok” and “yup.” The court also affirmed that the emoji was an “action in electronic form” that could express assent under the Canadian Electronic Information and Documents Act and that it met the written and signed requirement in section 6 of the Canadian Sale of Goods Act since the communication's authenticity and intention were evident. Thus, the non-delivery of flax by Achter was construed as a contract breach.

In legal disputes involving contract disputes, harassment, etc., emojis are frequently scrutinised to grasp the sender’s intent. In the case of *US v. Christensen*, the federal court had to decide whether the meaning of the message would alter due to the inclusion of emojis.

Although these cases occurred outside the Indian legal context, they set an example of how digital symbols are forming a part of legal disputes and the need to rectify any legal uncertainty.

Role of Emojis in Criminal Liability

Globally, emojis are increasingly recognised by courts as important indicators of possible intent in cases of defamation, harassment, and threats. A gun emoji was among the factors examined by a U.S. court in *State v. Hannah* to decide if it really represented a threat. Similarly, France convicted Ajoghag Bilal, a 22-year-old man in 2016 for sending a gun emoji to his ex-girlfriend, regarding it as a death threat.

Moreover, the “👁️” emoji in Australia’s *Burrows v. Houda*, was considered defamatory because of its suggestion of secrecy or wrongdoing. In the *U.S. case Taylor v. Twitter*, emojis such as “👁️” and “👤” were analyzed for their threatening connotations, although the spoken word was finally upheld as protected. These instances demonstrate that courts regard emojis as vital contextual factors in the realm of online communication.

Judicial Challenges and the Need for Standardisation in Emoji Interpretation

To minimize the factors contributing to the courts and peoples reading and interpreting emojis, it is recommended that the parties involved be informed about the legal implications of online communication, that messages be clearly marked as “subject to contract” when necessary, and that it be explicitly stated whether the agreements are meant to become legally binding only after they have been formally documented and signed, thus making sure that all the essential terms are properly comprehended by both sides.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization or the editorial board.





BEYOND UNIFORMITY

Why Changing Family Laws maybe India's Best Path

By Jyotkamal Kaur

BA LLB (Hons) Semester IV

In its 2018 law commission report, the committee, which was chaired by former Supreme Court Justice B.S. Chauhan, stated that "cultural diversity cannot be compromised to the extent that our urge for uniformity itself becomes a reason for threat to the territorial integrity of the nation."

India is renowned for its diversity and unity. Indians are the best example of how people of different religions, cultural customs, and social standards can coexist and even thrive. Therefore, is it appropriate for the government to enact legislation in the hopes of strengthening national unity when, in practice, it is provoking cultural and religious unrest and the government is accused of doing so only to garner support from the populace?

On January 27, 2025, Uttarakhand became the first state to enact the uniform civil code (ucc). Other states, like Gujarat and Goa, also established committees to determine whether their own UCCs were necessary. For instance, Goa has its own civil code, which is also known as Goa family law. Because it has specific requirements for particular communities, this civil code is not strictly uniform.

Hindu men are allowed to engage in bigamy under certain conditions outlined in the codes of usages and customs of Goan gentile Hindus [for example, if the wife does not bear a male child by the age of 30 or if she does not bear a child by the age of 25]. Bigamy is illegal in other communities. Additionally, divorce is only allowed for Hindus in Goa if the woman has committed adultery.

The following features were taken into consideration when the uniform civil code bill was approved in other Indian states: first, it guarantees that all civil laws are free from religious influence, hence fostering secularism. Second, maintaining national cohesion. Lastly, to make the legal process simpler. The areas of marriage, inheritance, divorce, and adoption are all covered by UCC.

This uniform is used in Uttarakhand. The Civil Code (ucc) applies to:

- Every resident, with the exception of LGBTQA+
- Live-In Couples (applicable if registered within 1 month)
- Couples who are married (if registered within 60 days).

It also consists of:

- Criminalization of triple talaq and nikah halala, which is a custom in which a woman must wed another man after her first husband divorces her
- Outlawing polygamy and bigamy
- Equal rights to property for men and women.

After it was passed, uniform civil codes quickly spread throughout the country. Muslims and Hindus alike believed that their religious freedom was at danger because of this law. Section 2 of the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act 1937 states that as Muslim law is based on religious law, having more than one wife is not illegal as long as the husband respects each one equally. Bigamy is prohibited by Section 1 of the Hindu Succession Act of 1955.

The 2018 Law Commission study found that eliminating discrimination, particularly discrimination against women, should be the main objective and held that ucc is neither required nor desirable. Instead of enacting a brand-new single law, this commission study recommended amending the current family laws. It added that there has been debate in a number of judgments on whether "personal law" is protected by articles 25–28 of the Indian Constitution or if it is a law under article 13. The commission believed that maintaining the variety of personal laws while making sure they don't conflict with the fundamental rights protected by the Indian constitution could be the wisest course of action in the absence of agreement on a unified civil code. To do this, it is preferable that all personal laws pertaining to family problems be codified as much as possible. Any disparities that have found their way into codified law should then be corrected by modification.

Article 14 of the Constitution states that while it may be beneficial to have a consistent law for everyone, enacting it all at once could work against India's unity. Since UCC was established as a directive principle of state policy, the state has the authority to decide whether or not to implement the law. In contrast, the 2022 Law Commission study emphasized the necessity to amend current laws while soliciting public and religious opinions on a standard civil code.

It was described as "an unconstitutional and anti-minority move" by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, adding that the "rhetoric" on the ucc was only an effort by the federal government and the Uttarakhand governments to deflect public attention away from issues with unemployment, the economy, and inflation.

The BJP has pledged in its 2019 Lok Sabha election campaign to introduce ucc if it were elected. This pledge was given in consideration of the young people in Uttarakhand who wished to marry outside of their caste, which is why it was questioned whether the uniform code bill's passage was done so only to garner votes. Because polygamy is allowed in Islam, some Hindu men converted to Islam only to marry a second wife without divorcing their first spouse, as was the case in *Sarla Mudgal v. Union of India* in 1995. Under the Hindu marriage act 1955, bigamy is illegal and any Hindu who remarries without divorcing his or her spouse can be prosecuted for bigamy under section 494 of the Indian penal code. The supreme court held that under the Hindu marriage act 1955, the first marriage would need to be dissolved for the second marriage of a Hindu husband, solemnized after his conversion to Islam, to be considered legal. Therefore, the second marriage was deemed illegal under section 494 of the Indian Penal Code.

Most significantly, the facts of this case and the data from several statutes highlight the discriminatory practices against women, regardless of their religious affiliation. According to the 18th and 22nd law commission reports, the main objective is to amend the current laws so that they are adequate and do not discriminate against women, rather than having a single law that governs all religions.

Some people may find a uniform civil code to be rational, while others may find it contentious. This law lacks consensus, and if it is put into effect, it would lead to anarchy in the country, leaving the majority of people unhappy and unheard. As the all India Muslim board feels that ucc is unconstitutional but polygamy is unconstitutional as well. In the same way Hindu families think marrying outside the cast is against social norms but every individual has the right to chose there own partner. Accordingly, ucc may be opposed to diversity while simultaneously defending individual rights.

Some members of the Muslim community believe that the uniform code law will violate their right to freedom of religion by forcing them to practice only one religion, which is against the constitution. The 22nd law commission report explicitly sought views and ideas from the public at large and recognized the religious organisations to gauge their perspectives on the uniform civil code. In order to address inequality without requiring complete uniformity across all religions, the 21st Law Commission's 2018 consultation paper, "Reform of Family," recommended amending and codifying current family laws. This will help minority religions feel as though their right to practice their own religion is being taken away.

The government's main objective should be to remove gender bias from current family laws and safeguard individual rights, but it should also allow communities to freely practice their religion and social customs without being compelled to abide by a single law that may be unconstitutional to them. However, if we consider states like Goa, where prejudice against women reaches a whole new level, a Uniform Civil Code would make far more sense in eliminating gender bias from the ground up. The government of India also faces the problem of majority consensus, which causes trouble in minority religious groups because they believe their religion will be eclipsed by that of the majority.

In conclusion, if used properly, a unified civil code might undoubtedly be a good law to remove gender bias, caste-based discrimination, empower women, and safeguard people's rights and wants from the ground up. But it also could challenge the golden diversity of India which could be even a worse situation for a country like India with its rich cultural beliefs and practices, that is why a single law could be a challenging opinion for many. Therefore, in order to address this issue with a variety of viewpoints, our law commission reports provide us a solution: changing the current family rules. This would eliminate gender bias and preserve the wealthy India's cultural richness.

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STUDENT EXPERIENCES

“The classroom teaches the law; experience teaches the lawyer.”

Chambers of Justice Anoop Chitkara Punjab & Haryana High Court



My internship with Justice Anoop Chitkara at the Punjab and Haryana High Court was a very engaging learning experience, especially for anyone interested in criminal law and research based work. Being attached to a Division Bench gave me a practical understanding of how judges approach complex matters and evaluate records and precedents. During the

internship, I worked on three murder reference cases. My main role was to research case laws related to appreciation of evidence, standards of proof, and conviction principles. Along with legal research, I also worked extensively on medical jurisprudence issues connected with these matters. This included studying topics such as blood clotting, potency in males, semen sample analysis, and how forensic and medical reports are used and tested in criminal trials. It helped me understand how scientific evidence supports legal conclusions.

I also assisted in a long-pending writ petition concerning pension claims. For this, I researched relevant judgments and statutory rules and categorized different types of petitioners based on their service background and eligibility. This improved my ability to structure research and connect facts with legal principles. Overall, the internship strengthened my research and file-reading skills and gave me a realistic insight into how courtroom decision-making works at the High Court level.

Karanvir Singh
BBA LLB (Hons) ; Sem VI

Chambers of Justice Sanjiv Berry Punjab & Haryana High Court

My internship at the Punjab and Haryana High Court under Justice Sanjiv Berry was a transformative milestone that bridged the gap between legal theory and lived experience. Observing live proceedings turned abstract principles into a tangible intersection of law and human reality, providing a firsthand look at how facts are weighed and precedents are tested. By researching legislations like the BNS, BNSS, and the SARFAESI Act, I contextualized my academic learning within real-world disputes. Drafting case summaries further sharpened my ability to isolate legal issues with the precision and clarity essential for effective advocacy. Beyond the research, witnessing Justice Berry’s balanced approach to judicial reasoning underscored the ethical discipline and professional rigor required in the legal field. Ultimately, this experience refined my communication and adaptability, reaffirming my commitment to the study of law and providing a clear vision for my future professional role.

Vrinda Goyal
BA LLB (Hons) ; Sem VI



Legal Department Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.



In December 2025, I had the opportunity to intern with the Legal Department of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Delhi. The internship offered a meaningful introduction to the functioning of a Public Sector Undertaking and the role of legal strategy in large-scale commercial and regulatory operations.

During my internship, I analyzed scrutiny committee reports and observed internal compliance and OEC meetings, focusing on mediation as an efficient alternative for commercial disputes. I gained insight into how PSUs balance settlement-oriented strategies with formal adjudication. My research spanned UNCLOS, the Oilfields Act (including the 2025 Amendment), and Sections 14 and 32 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act. By drafting defense-oriented legal pointers for ONGC, I bridged theoretical knowledge with institutional practice in energy sector governance.

Mansha Kalra
BA LLB (Hons) ; Sem VIII

Chambers of Thakur Advocates Senior Adv K K Thakur

During my December internship at the Chambers of Thakur Advocates, I had the privilege of working under the mentorship of Mr. K.K. Thakur, Senior Panel Counsel for the Government of India, and Ms. Poonam Thakur. While many peers focused on District Courts, I chose to specialize in the Central Administrative Tribunal, bridging legal theory with the administrative backbone of Service Law. My work involved rigorous research concerning UPSC, EPFO, and BSNL, navigating the complexities of recruitment rules, pension matters, and disciplinary actions.

The academic and disciplined atmosphere of the Tribunal required a precise grasp of procedural nuances. Beyond administrative law, I drafted for Labor Court and Family Law matters and observed proceedings at the Punjab and Haryana High Court. Maintaining a diligent work ethic allowed me to learn directly from a Senior Panel Counsel, where I developed the ability to draft with clarity and authority. This transformative experience instilled in me a deep respect for India's administrative machinery and the disciplined conduct required of a future advocate.

Vasu Sharma
23 BA LLB (Hons) ; Sem VI

Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India

Grateful to conclude an enriching internship at the Institute of Legislative Drafting and Research (ILDR), Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, where I had the opportunity to closely engage with the law-making process at its very source. Working under the mentorship of Shri R. S. Jayakrishnan, Additional Legislative Counsel, Legislative Department, was a privilege. His clarity of thought, patience in explaining legislative technique, and deep constitutional insight made this experience truly transformative. Learning legislative drafting, vetting, statutory interpretation, and policy engagement under his guidance strengthened my understanding of how law evolves beyond textbooks through precision, deliberation, and constitutional responsibility.

I am also thankful to the officers and staff of ILDR for providing a structured and intellectually stimulating environment, and to SVKM's Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS) for encouraging such invaluable exposure.

This internship reaffirmed my interest in constitutional and legislative work and offered a rare opportunity to witness law in action inside the corridors where statutes take shape. Grateful for the learning, mentorship, and inspiration.

Chakshu Jain & Rhythm Garg
BA LLB (Hons) ; Sem VI



CELEBRATING

Student Achievements



“Achievement is not just about reaching the goal, but about the dedication and resilience shown along the way.”



Pooja Jain , Asmi and
Aaradhya singh verma
BALLB SEM 4

Nation wide moot court competition, 2026
by Chandigarh University
POSITION SECURED :- I



Aarohi Gupta
BBA LLB SEM 2

NMIMS INTRA MUN
POSITION SECURED :- Best delegate
(UNCSW)



Harshdeep
BBA LLB SEM 2

NMIMS INTRA MUN
POSITION SECURED :- Best
Videographer



Bhavika garg

NMIMS CRC RESEARCH CONFERENCE
POSITION SECURED :- 18th rank (certificate of
merit)



Anshika Goel
BA LLB SEM 8

State Round of Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament
POSITION SECURED :- Participation in State Round,
cleared District and Zonal rounds



Lakshay BA LLB SEM 8
Yashita and Ansh BA LLB SEM 4

UILS National Moot Court
Competition
POSITION SECURED :- I

“CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE, INSPIRING FUTURES.”





Sehajnidhaan & Akash
BA LLB SEM 6

Arguendo 26 -6 JUSTICE A.S. ANAND NATIONAL
MEDIATION AND NEGOTIATION COMPETITION,
2026
POSITION SECURED :- I



Aprajita Vashishta
BA LLB SEM 6

Indo-Australia Model Youth Parliament 2026
POSITION SECURED :- Best Delegate(
Australia-India Stakeholder's Meet) (AIMS)



Ayudh Gulia, Dishita and
Ananya Singh
BALLB SEM 4

10th C.L. Agrawal National
Moot Court Competition
POSITION SECURED :- III



Sania Verma
BALLB SEM 6

CGC , MUN
POSITION SECURED:-High
Commendation



Raghav Sagar Sharma and
Jatin
BBA LLB SEM 4

Justice J. S. Verma Memorial ADR & Client
Counselling Competition, 2026
POSITION SECURED:-Best Negotiations Plan



Jasmine, Anushka and Vedansh
BA LLB SEM 6

All India IILM Moot Court
Competition
POSITION SECURED :- Semi Finalist



Zorawar, Gurnoor and Kli
BA LLB SEM 2

NMIMS Hyderabad Mock Trial
Competition
POSITION SECURED :- I



Arpita
BA LLB SEM 2

Vivek Mahotsav 2025
POSITION SECURED :- II



Amrita, Ira and Mansirat
BA LLB SEM 6

Symbiosis Moot Court Competition
POSITION SECURED :- III



PU MUN Diplomats 2.0

“Win! Win! Win! –
Proof that effort, focus,
and belief always pay off.”

ACADEMICS *and* BEYOND

CURRICULAR PURSUITS



February 24, 2026 |

Sh. Arun Kumar Aggarwal, Secretary, SLSA Chandigarh, visited the School of Law, NMIMS Chandigarh and interacted with students. He discussed NALSA's "Frames of Justice" initiative, encouraging students to engage in creative advocacy through reels, short films, and explanatory videos on important social justice issues such as, trafficking, and the rights of undertrial prisoners.

He also shared insights on the role of legal services authorities in promoting legal literacy and access to justice, and felicitated the winners of Mock Parliament 2.0. The session highlighted the significance of student participation in spreading awareness and contributing to a more informed and just society.



Students under the initiative organized by District Legal Services Authority Chandigarh (DLSA), delivered a powerful street play on CyberCrime Awareness at the vibrant Rose Festival Chandigarh effectively engaging the Public and spreading Awareness about the growing risks in digital world through impactful storytelling and compelling performance.



A proud and memorable milestone for the School of Law, Chandigarh, as it marks the launch of the Inaugural Edition of The Legal Chronicle. The publication serves as a dynamic platform for aspiring legal minds to express their ideas, showcase research, and engage with contemporary legal issues. The launch of The Legal Chronicle not only celebrates academic excellence but also sets the foundation for a legacy of thought and innovation.

“TRUE EDUCATION LIES IN APPLYING KNOWLEDGE, EXPLORING IDEAS, AND GROWING THROUGH EVERY EXPERIENCE.”



Students from BALLB 1st Year, visited The Tribune, where they gained valuable insights into the functioning of the press, the process of news reporting, and the crucial intersection between journalism and legal frameworks. The visit offered a deeper understanding of media ethics, responsibility, and the role of law in regulating and safeguarding press activities.

At the Central Police Station, Sector 17, Chandigarh, students were exposed to the practical aspects of criminal justice administration, including investigative procedures and the application of criminal and cyber laws. This hands-on experience provided a clearer perspective on law enforcement processes, enhancing their understanding of how legal principles operate in real-world scenarios.

“ MY VISIT TO CONSTITUTION MUSEUM

On the 17th of February, 2026, our college arranged an academic visit to the **Constitution Museum** at **O.P. Jindal Global University**. The visit was both informative and motivational, as it gave us a better insight into the history of the Indian Constitution. The museum, created by O.P. Jindal Global University, is a beautiful representation of the history of constitution-making, reflecting the vision of the Constituent Assembly and the ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.

The visit was for several hours, during which we went through the detailed representation of the exhibits, archives, and interactive displays. In conclusion, this experience has not only enriched my learning but also helped me develop a sense of respect for the principles of the constitution and a commitment to pursue law with integrity and dedication.

-Shalini (BA LLB SEM4)”



Visit to Godrej Industries



10 April 2026

The ADR Club in collaboration with Samvad Mediation Centre, Lucknow, organised a comprehensive two-day workshop on Alternative Dispute Resolution. The sessions, facilitated by Dr. Mohammad Umar, focused on key aspects of arbitration and mediation, blending conceptual discussions with practical learning through drafting exercises and mediation simulations.

Participants actively engaged throughout, gaining valuable experiential learning and a deeper understanding of ADR mechanisms. The workshop highlighted the effectiveness, flexibility, and increasing relevance of ADR as an efficient alternative to traditional litigation, making it both academically enriching and professionally insightful.





2nd NMIMS Moot Court



The 2nd National Moot Court Competition 2026 was successfully hosted on March 13–14, with participation from 32 teams representing leading law schools across India. The competition focused on complex issues at the intersection of Constitutional Law and Intellectual Property Rights, inspired by the *University of Oxford v. Rameshwari Photocopy Service* case. The event was graced by esteemed members of the judiciary during the **inaugural, Hon’ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal, Judge, Supreme Court of India; Hon’ble Mr. Justice Virender Singh (Retd.), Former Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand and Haryana; Prof. (Dr.) Balram K. Gupta, Former Director, National Judicial Academy; and Hon’ble Mr. Justice P. S. Dhaliwal (Retd.), Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Former Judge, High Court of Punjab and Haryana; and during the valedictory Hon’ble Mrs. Justice Sudeepti Sharma, Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court and Hon’ble Mrs. Justice Ritu Bahri (Retd.) Former Chief Justice, Uttarakhand High Court.** The event provided a dynamic platform for legal research, advocacy, and courtroom argumentation, encouraging students to pursue the legal profession with integrity and dedication.

“Learning is not confined to classrooms—it is built through every pursuit of knowledge.”

CO-CURRICULAR EXCELLENCE

REEL-TO-REAL

“Where learning meets laughter!”

HIRAETH – The Cultural Club successfully organized “Reel to Real – Community Awareness through Mass Media” on 6th February 2026, celebrating the transformative power of meaningful cinema to inspire reflection, dialogue, and social responsibility.

Through compelling performances and immersive storytelling across segments such as Voices on Screen, Echoes of Expression, and Walk for a Cause, students transformed the stage into a vibrant platform for awareness and engagement. Their creativity, expression, and strong commitment to addressing pressing social issues were truly commendable.



WHERE TALENT THRIVES





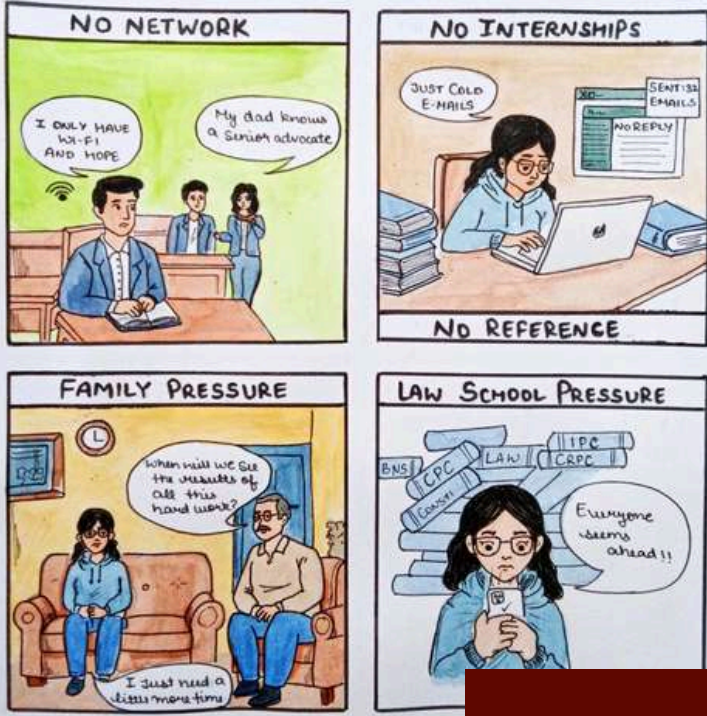
Ik Band Khidki

Ik band khidki
raah bina gali vich ik awaaz
murdi,
par usdi parchai hawa ton pehla
hi beh jaandi.
Chann de kinare koi rang paani
vich ghoomda,
jiven yaadan apna hi chehra
bhul jaande hon.
Patthar vi kade pankh varga
halka lagda,
te pankh kade dil te bojh varga
digda.
Ik khidki
Jedi kade khuldi nahi,
phir vi hawa andar aake sab
kuch hilaundi ae.
Te is sab vich dil ik khali bartan,
jo kadi bhar da nahi,
kadi toot da nahi,
par ajj vi awaaz karda rehnda
jiven kise nu yaad vi na hove keh
isda matlab ki si.

~ Samridhi Chhabra,
BA LLB (Hons) Sec A ; Sem II

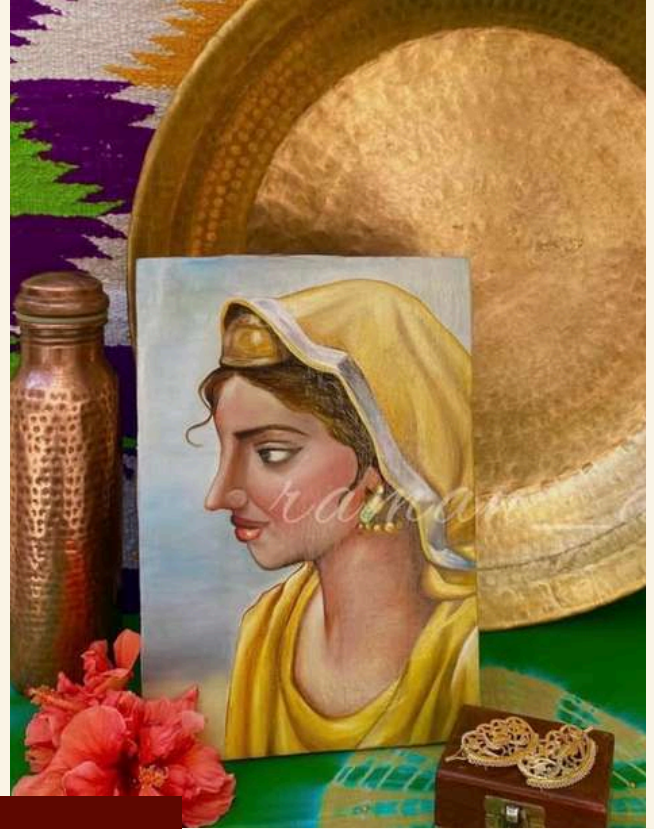
FIRST IN THE FAMILY

STRUGGLES OF A FIRST-GENERATION LAW STUDENT



The Weight of Firsts

Divyanshi ; BA LLB (Hons) Sem VIII



Roop-e-Punjab

Raman Kumar ; BA LLB (Hons) Sem VIII

Gavel & Brushes



The Midnight Willow

Pragya Singh ; BA LLB (Hons) Sem X



Echoes Unveiled

Shafa ; BA LLB (Hons) Sem II - B

a creative corner where the precision of logic meets the fluidity of art. This gallery showcases a diverse collection of drawings curated by our students, proving that the analytical mind is equally capable of profound visual expression. From intricate sketches to bold experimental strokes, these works offer a unique window into the imagination and talent flourishing within our community.



UPCOMING EVENT RADAR

STAY AHEAD. STAY
INFORMED.

1st R.N. Mittal Memorial National Moot Court Competition 2026 (DU)

Organiser: Moot Court Society, Law Centre-I,
Faculty of Law, University of Delhi

Dates: 24 – 26 April 2026

Last Date of Registration: 14 April 2026

Mode: Offline (Physical Moot)nt setting.

1st International & 2nd National Symposium on FinTech and the Future of Finance: Law, Innovation and Regulation

Organiser: CICTL, Maharashtra National Law
University Mumbai & The Dialogue

Mode: Hybrid (Offline + Online participation)
symposium format with academic presentations

Dates: 8 – 9 May 2026

Last Date of Submission:
1 June 2026

Prize:

- Presentation at symposium
- Publication opportunities (selected papers)
- Certificate of participation/presentation

Annual Student Essay Contest 2026

Organiser: Jane Austin Society of North America
Dates: Announced April 2026 (entries open from
February 2026)

Last Date of Submission:
1 June 2026 (Abstract)

Mode: Online submission (international
participation allowed)

Prizes

- 1st Prize: \$1000 scholarship + conference
registration + accommodation
- 2nd Prize: \$500 scholarship
- 3rd Prize: \$250 scholarship

4th Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial All India Youth Parliament & MUN

Organiser: Quantum University

• Dates: 28 – 29 April 2026

• Last Date of Registration: 20 April 2026

• Mode: Offline (Physical Event)

Registration Fee

• Without Accommodation: ₹1,200

• With Accommodation: ₹2,500

Moot Court Competition 2.0, 2026 at School of Law, M S Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bangalore

Dates: 22 - 24 May 2026

Last Date to apply
7 May 2026

Prize:

- Winners – ₹35,000
- Runner-Ups – ₹30,000
- Speaker (Petitioner/Appellant) – ₹5000
- Speaker (Defendant/Respondent) – ₹5000
- Researcher – ₹5000
- Memorial – ₹5000



Batch of 2026

Our Favourite Seniors,

As this chapter of your lives gently comes to a close, we find ourselves standing at the threshold of gratitude, admiration, and a quiet kind of pride for having known you, learned from you, and walked these corridors alongside you. You were never just seniors to us. You were our first guides in an unfamiliar place, our silent motivators during moments of doubt, and the living proof that growth here is not just academic, but deeply personal. In your achievements, we found inspiration; in your struggles, we found reassurance that the journey, though demanding, is always worth it.

You leave behind more than memories, you leave a legacy, you will always have a special place here because you are the first graduating batch from NMIMS Chandigarh School of Law. In every event organized, every small act of kindness, you have shaped this institution in ways that will continue to echo long after you've gone. There is something beautifully bittersweet about this moment. While we celebrate all that awaits you, the courtrooms, the careers, the dreams unfolding, we cannot help but feel the absence you will leave behind. The laughter in the corridors will sound a little different, the classrooms a little quieter. But perhaps that is the nature of every meaningful goodbye it carries both an ending and a beginning.

As you step forward into the world beyond these walls, carry with you not just knowledge, but the warmth of the bonds you built here. And know that wherever you go, a part of you will always remain here in the stories we will tell, in the paths we will follow, and in the inspiration you have left behind. From juniors who looked up to you more than we ever said - thank you, for everything.

*With admiration and best wishes,
Your Juniors*

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD



There is something quietly powerful about beginnings not the kind that arrive with noise, but those that return with greater purpose, deeper reflection, and a voice more certain of itself.

As we present to you The Legal Chronicle, Second Edition, Volume I, we do so with immense pride and gratitude. This edition is not merely a collection of pages it is a living tapestry woven from the thoughts, talents, and experiences of our community.

Within these pages, the law finds many expressions. It speaks through the insightful articles, it resonates in the thoughtful writings of students, and comes alive in the achievements that mark journeys of perseverance and growth. But beyond the law, this Chronicle also celebrates creativity in its purest form, through poems that feel, drawings that speak without words, and ideas that refuse to be confined.

It is, at its heart, "*by the students and for the students*" a space where intellect meets imagination, where academic rigor coexists with artistic expression, and where every voice, no matter how small, finds a place to be heard. This volume traces the rhythm of our time together its milestones, its achievements, its shared moments of learning and growth. It celebrates not only what we study, but who we are becoming in the process. Each page stands as a testament to voices of students, for students, woven together with sincerity and pride.

As you turn these pages, we hope you find more than just words. We hope you find connection, inspiration, and perhaps a reflection of your own journey within them.

Warm Regards,

The Editorial Board

To all our readers,

Keep going because you deserve to see what happens when all of your hard work pays off.





The Editorial Board

2025-2026

Dr. Tanmeet Kaur Sahiwal FACULTY CONVENOR

Divjot Kaur EDITOR

Prisha Sood & Mehak Jain SUB EDITORS

Chakshu Jain & Rhythm Garg RESEARCH EDITORS

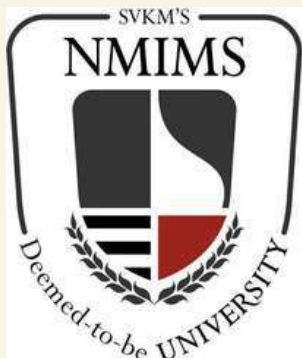
Pragya Singh & Priyanshi Grover STUDENT MENTORS



*Campus Photography :~
Ishika Sondhi BA LLB (Hons) ; Sem X*

The Legal Chronicle

E-Newsletter
Vol. I | Edition II
2026



SVKM's Narsee Monjee Institute
of Management Studies,
Chandigarh Campus



Plot No. 5, Education City,
Sarangpur, Chandigarh - 160014



0172-3501302



info.chd@nmims.edu



@nmims_chandigarh