



समानो मन्त्रः समितिः समानी

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON:

**CRIMINAL LAW REFORMS IN INDIA: DECOLONISING
INDIAN LAWS FOR THE 21st CENTURY**



Organised by:

**DEPARTMENT OF LAW,
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL
RAJA RAMMOHANPUR,
PIN - 734013
DIST. DARJEELING , WEST BENGAL**



**Thursday , Friday
5th and 6th Dec, 2024**



**Department of Law,
University of North Bengal**



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About University of North Bengal

Welcome to the University of North Bengal, an esteemed educational institution seamlessly blending education with nature. Our campus is renowned for its verdant surroundings, creating a tranquil and conducive atmosphere for both academic pursuits and relaxation. Established in 1962 through an Act of the West Bengal Legislature, the University of North Bengal is committed to nurturing education, training, and research across diverse disciplines.



Our mission is to propel and disseminate knowledge, challenging higher education to meet the evolving needs of society. Nestled on 315.99 acres at the foothills of the Himalayas, our university provides breath-taking views of the Kanchenjunga peak, enveloped by tea gardens and forests. In a commitment to expanding educational opportunities, we have also set up a second campus in Jalpaiguri, further enriching avenues for higher education and research. For additional information, please visit [<https://www.nbu.ac.in>].



About the Department of Law

The Department of Law is prominently situated on Asian Highway 2 between Bagdogra and Siliguri in the District of Darjeeling. The distance from Bagdogra is six kilometers and from Siliguri is ten kilometers. The Department has its own campus in the South Block of the University of North Bengal. The sprawling campus of the University enjoys the pristine beauty of the Eastern Himalayas and is the intellectual hub of North Bengal. Siliguri is an important subdivision of the district and commercial capital of North Bengal. Located at the foot hills of Eastern Himalayas, Siliguri is the gate way to North Eastern India and land locked countries like Bhutan and Nepal. It shares a huge and porous international border with Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. It is well connected with all metropolis and major cities by air and rail.



The Department of Law, formerly known as the North Bengal University College of Law, was established in the year 1974 and upgraded as the Department of Law in the year 2000. Presently the Department offers B.A. LL.B. [Honours] 5-year integrated course, LL.M. course and Ph.D.

The intake at the LL.B. level is one hundred twenty five, and the LL.M. course which was started in 1993 has forty seats. The criteria of admission both at B.A. LL.B. [Honours] under CBCS mode and LL.M. under CBCS mode are on merit. The department has a rich Ph.D. programme.

It was started in 1999 and since then 52 Ph.D. degrees have been awarded. Presently, there are about eighteen scholars engaged in doctoral research under various faculty members under the UGC Regulation, 2009 and UGC Regulation, 2016. The Department attracts scholars and students from all over India and especially from Sikkim, Assam, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa. It also attracts students from Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh.

The Department was jointly selected by the British Council, Delhi, University of Warwick, U.K. and the National Law School of India University to carry out the 'Human Rights Outreach Project'. It was also a partner institution with CEERA, National Law School of India University for carrying out environment education for forest personnel, tea garden personnel and judicial officers. The Department has published booklets in Human Rights, Environment Legislations in Bengali and Nepali.

It has a Legal Aid Clinic in collaboration with the State Legal Services Authorities. It runs a very successful NSS programme. The Centre for Child Rights was formed in 2018 at the behest of the UNICEF. In collaboration with the Legal Aid Committee, it has been successfully conducting outreach programmes in relation to child rights and child welfare. One of the monumental works of the Department of Law is the publication of the Indian Journal of Law and Justice (IJLJ) from March, 2011. The Indian Journal of Law and Justice (ISSN-0976:3570) is a double-blinded, peer-reviewed, refereed, UGC CARE Listed bi-annual journal which has been internationally and nationally acclaimed and indexed with the SCOPUS and HeinOnline. Authors from distinguished institutions from all over the world have contributed to the contents of this highly acclaimed journal to add to its value and standard. The journal can be accessed from its official website ijlj.bu.ac.in. The Department hosts a robust Moot Court Society, formed in 2018, which has the credit of organising National Moot Court Competitions and Inter-Department Moot Court Competitions where teams representing distinguished Law Schools and Colleges participate. The Moot Court Society provides opportunities to students to develop their advocacy skills and facilitates the participation of the students to participate in National and International Moot Court Competitions.



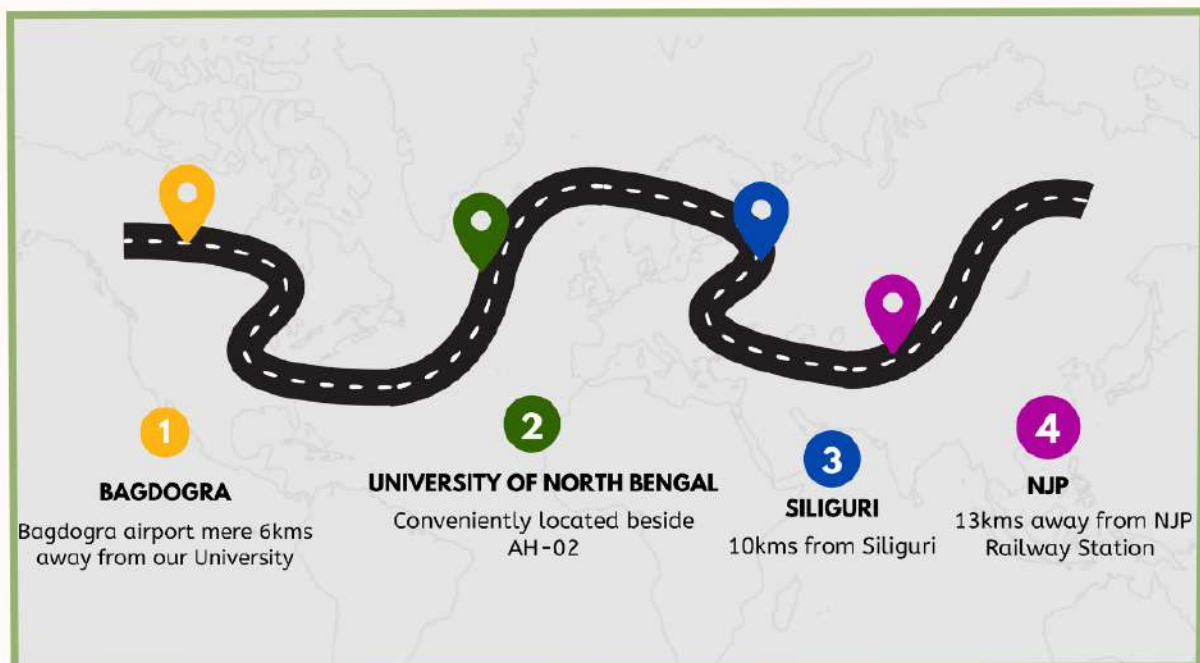
It is also noteworthy that the Department established the Centre for Cyber Law and Cyber Security in 2018 which organises various workshops to spread awareness on Cyber Law and Cyber Security. Last but not the least the Department has been organising Regional, National and International Seminar/Conference / Workshop/Symposium etc at regular intervals. The Department also undertakes a number of Research Projects sponsored by different National and International bodies on regular basis. Moreover, it has close collaboration with renowned national and international institutions.



How to reach?

Siliguri boasts excellent connectivity to major cities like Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi, Gauhati, as well as international destinations like Kathmandu, Dhaka, and Thimpu, through a variety of transport options. The nearest major railway station is New Jalpaiguri (NJP), situated on the key transit route connecting Guwahati/Dibrugarh to Kolkata/Chennai/Hyderabad/Pune/Delhi, with all major trains stopping here.

Conveniently located beside AH-02, the campus is just 10 kms from Siliguri and 13 kms from the NJP Railway Station, and 6 kms from Bagdogra Airport making it easily accessible.



Concept Note

The Indian Parliament has initiated a transformative step in the criminal justice system by replacing three historical laws: the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, respectively. These new laws, grounded in Indian values of justice (nyaya), signify a shift from a punitive to a justice-oriented approach, reflecting Bhartiya Nyaya Paddhati.

The overarching goal is to create a criminal justice system that not only protects citizens' rights but also upholds the Rule of Law, ensuring accessible and speedy justice for all. This reform represents a significant stride towards an equitable, modern, and just legal framework in India.

These reforms are not just a cosmetic update but a comprehensive reworking of India's criminal laws to better align with contemporary realities. The new laws aim to address the long-standing inefficiencies and inadequacies of the existing statutes, which have been criticised for being outdated and unresponsive to the needs of modern society. The drive for these changes was fuelled by the necessity to enhance legal procedures, and integrate technological advancements.

These reforms are anticipated to have a profound impact on various sectors, from law enforcement and judiciary to the general public. By introducing measures like digitalisation of processes, videography in search and seizure, and forensic science integration, the new laws aims to enhance transparency, accountability and efficiency within the criminal justice system.



Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita: Key Highlights

- Simplification and reduction of Sections
- Enhanced Focus on Crimes Against Women and Children
- Introduction/inclusion of white-collar crime
- Repeal and modification of Sections

Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita: Key Highlights

This new legislation focuses on modernising investigative and trial processes, improving the efficiency and transparency of law enforcement and ensuring faster delivery of justice.

- Introduction of Zero FIR and e-FIR
- Procedural Improvements
- Videography in Search and Seizure Operations
- Provisions for Speedy Trials
- Recognising the chronic issue of delayed justice, the new code introduces several measures to expedite trials.

Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam: Key Highlights

- Expansion of the Definition of Evidence
- Inclusion of Digital and Electronic Records
- Integration of Forensic Science
- Establishment of National Forensic Science University
- Mandatory Forensic Team Visits for Serious Crimes

Impact on the Criminal Justice System

The introduction of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam in 2023 is expected to have a profound impact on India's criminal justice system. These reforms are designed to enhance efficiency, improve conviction rates, and ensure the protection of citizens' rights.

- Improving Conviction Rates
- Use of Scientific and Forensic Evidence
- Mobile Forensic Labs and Quick Analysis

Protecting Citizens' Rights with The New Criminal Laws

- Victims' Rights and Protection Measures
- Transparency and Accountability in Law Enforcement
- Legal Considerations with The New Criminal Laws
- Balancing Modernisation with Tradition
- Addressing Colonial Influences
- Adapting to Contemporary Legal Standards
- Privacy and Human Rights Issues



Sub-Themes:

- Theme 1: Significant Changes and Impact of BNS
- Theme 2: Significant Changes and Impact of BNSS
- Theme 3: Significant Changes and Impact of BSA
- Theme 4: Any other topics relating to the new Criminal Laws, 2023



Registration fees:

- Teachers/Academicians/Govt. Officials/Advocates/NGO and INGO Officials : Rs. 2,000/-(without accommodation)
- Research Scholars/Students (on production of proper documents) : Rs. 1,500/-(without accommodation)
- Teachers/Academicians/Govt. Officials/Advocates/NGO and INGO Officials - Outside India :Rs. 4,000/-(without accommodation)
- Research Scholars/Students (on production of proper documents)- Outside India : Rs. 3,000/-(without accommodation)
- Accompanying Persons : Rs. 1,500/-(without accommodation)
- For every co-author (maximum of two each), the registration along with payment must be made offline on the day of Seminar.
- No TA/DA will be provided.
- The Registration Fee is non-refundable.



SUBMISSIONS - DETAILS AND GUIDELINES:

1. Abstracts of not more than 300 words, for original research papers on the above-mentioned themes are invited, submitted as MS Word documents, with a cover letter containing the name, designation of the author(s) and theme.
2. Participants are to register and send their abstracts via <https://forms.gle/mCzBsQrMkJC9mA4y8>
3. There can be a maximum of two authors only for each Abstract/Paper.
4. Authors of shortlisted abstracts shall be required to send their full-length papers who would have the privilege of presenting their papers at this seminar.
5. Full-length research papers in the form of articles within 7000 - 10,000 words (inclusive of footnotes), should be sent.
6. Potential contributors are required to adhere to a uniform mode of citation (20th Bluebook mode of Citation).
7. Selected papers may be considered for publication in our journal, Indian Journal of Law and Justice (IJLJ)/ in the edited book.

IMPORTANT DATES:

1. Submission of abstracts: **4th October, 2024**
2. Communication of selected abstracts: **9th October, 2024**
3. Submission of full paper: **30th October, 2024**
4. Communication of acceptance of full paper: **7th November, 2024**
5. Date of Seminar: **5th and 6th December, 2024**

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