

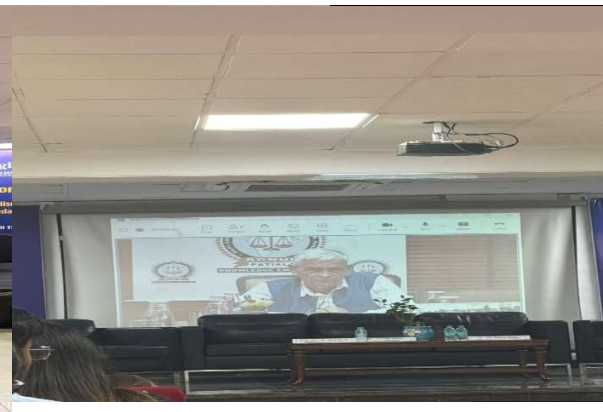


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# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONSTITUTIONALISM IN INDIAN TRADITION: FROM VEDAS TO SAMVIDHAN

17<sup>TH</sup> & 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026 (FRIDAY & SATURDAY)





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The Centre for Legal studies, GIBS organized the International Conference on “*Constitutionalism in Indian Tradition: From Vedas to Samvidhan*” on 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026 for law students of GIBS and Academicians, Presenters, Research Scholars. Its inauguration marked the formal commencement of the conference and reflected the institution’s commitment to academic excellence, intellectual engagement, and interdisciplinary dialogue.

The programme commenced as per the scheduled timeline with the registration of participants, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the triumph of knowledge over ignorance. This was accompanied by the Saraswati Vandana, invoking divine blessings for wisdom, learning, and intellectual growth. The ceremony was conducted in the esteemed presence of the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, Distinguished Guests, and other dignitaries, setting a solemn and auspicious tone for the conference proceedings.

The Welcome Address and introduction of the conference theme was delivered by Dr. Neelam Seam, who eloquently highlighted the relevance of constitutionalism within the Indian traditional framework. She emphasized how ancient Indian texts, including the Vedas and epics, have significantly contributed to the evolution of governance, justice, and ethical responsibility, thereby laying the foundational principles for modern constitutional thought in India. Her address effectively contextualized the theme and set the stage for the deliberations to follow.

The session was further enriched by insightful addresses from distinguished dignitaries. The Guest of Honour, Prof. Victoria Sergeevna Savina, shared her valuable perspectives on comparative legal traditions and emphasized the importance of global academic collaboration in understanding constitutional frameworks. The Chief Guest, Prof. (Dr.) Jai Shankar Rai, in his address, underscored the dynamic nature of constitutionalism and highlighted the relevance of integrating traditional knowledge systems with contemporary legal developments. The Distinguished Guest, Senior Advocate Balraj Singh Malik, provided practical insights into the functioning of constitutional principles within the Indian legal system, drawing from his vast professional experience.



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The Presidential Address was delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Moh. Afzal Wani (Principal, CLS), who reflected on the importance of constitutional morality, ethical governance, and the role of academic institutions in fostering critical legal thinking. He emphasized the need to revisit India's rich intellectual heritage to better understand and strengthen contemporary constitutional values.

A significant highlight of the session was the release of the Conference Souvenir by the dignitaries, which marked the formal inauguration of the conference. The souvenir showcased scholarly contributions and served as a testament to the academic efforts of the organizers and participants.

The session concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr. Seema Modi, who expressed sincere gratitude to all the distinguished guests, speakers, organizers, faculty members, and participants for their valuable presence and contributions. She also acknowledged the efforts of the organising committee in ensuring the smooth execution of the inaugural programme. The session formally ended with the National Anthem, leaving the audience inspired and setting a dignified and optimistic tone for the subsequent technical sessions of the conference.

# TECHNICAL SESSION I: PATTERN OF GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTIONALISM IN PRE VEDIC CIVILISATION





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Technical Session I, Indigenous Governance Models and Pre-Vedic Constitutional thought has laid a strong foundation by exploring governance structures that predate formal constitutional frameworks. The Key Speaker and Chair of the Session Prof.(Dr) K.B.Asthana (Dean) Maharishi Law School addressed the session with his keynote address and highlighted the genesis of the Constitution laid in the pre-vedic period. The Co- Chair further explained the roots of democratic principles such as participatory democracy and collective decision making were emerged from the very beginning of pre-vedic period. The deliberations of the researchers highlighted that: Pre-Vedic societies exhibited elements of collective decision-making and participatory governance, challenging the assumption that constitutionalism is purely a modern construct.

Comparative analyses with civilizations such as Egypt illustrated the uniqueness of Indian governance rooted in ethical and moral principles. The concept of Dharma emerged as a normative and regulatory force, guiding social order and political authority. Scholars emphasized the continuity hypothesis, suggesting that modern constitutional principles have deep historical antecedents in ancient Indian traditions.



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## TECHNICAL SESSION II: EARLY TEXTUAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF CONSTITUTIONALISM (VEDIC TO EPIC AGE)





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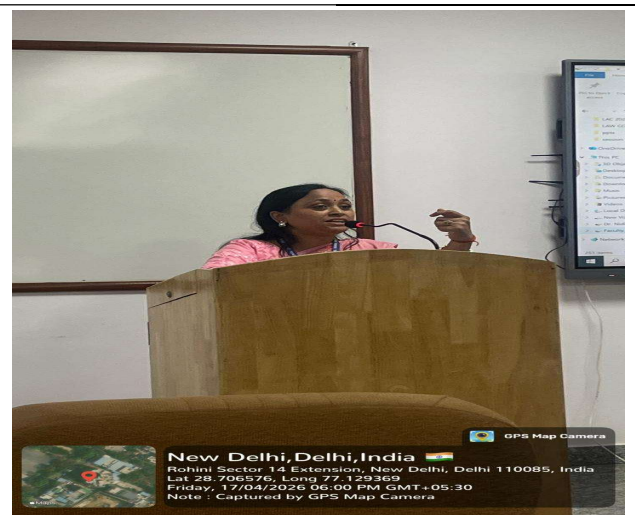
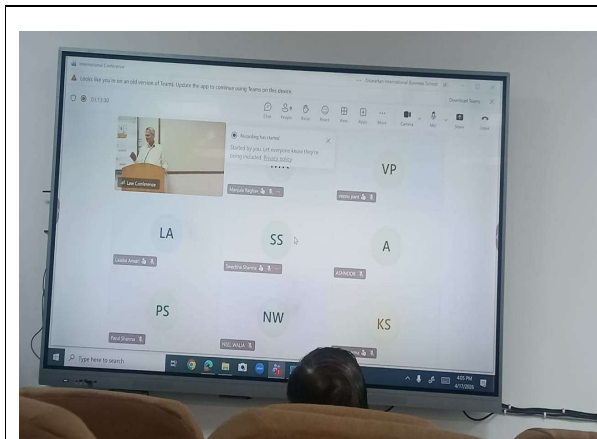
Technical Session–II, centered on the theme *Early Textual and Philosophical Foundations of Constitutionalism*, was conducted under the able chairmanship of Prof. R. N. Jha (JNU) and co-chaired by Dr. Nidhi Sharma. The session focused on exploring the concept of *Dharma*, *Rajdharma*, and ethical governance as foundational elements of constitutional thought in the Indian tradition.

The session commenced with a Green Welcome presented by Dr. Nidhi Sharma and Ms. Ramandeep Kaur, reflecting respect and sustainability. The proceedings were systematically anchored by Dr. Shreya Bhardwaj, who ensured smooth coordination and effective time management throughout the session. In his opening remarks, Prof. Jha emphasized the deep-rooted continuity between ancient Indian philosophical traditions and modern constitutional frameworks, highlighting how concepts like *Dharma* functioned as guiding regulatory principles in society.

A total of 5 research papers were presented during the session, each followed by brief yet engaging question-and-answer discussions. The papers addressed diverse themes, including the evolving status of women in Vedic texts, the interrelationship between *Dharma* and constitutionalism, ethical leadership principles derived from the *Mahabharata*, the idea of constitutional morality in governance, and the presence of indigenous values within the Indian Constitution. The presentations reflected strong interdisciplinary engagement, drawing from law, literature, and philosophy.

In his concluding remarks, Prof. Jha reiterated the importance of revisiting India's rich philosophical heritage to better understand contemporary constitutional values. He appreciated the quality of research presented and the thoughtful engagement of participants.

Overall, Technical Session–II witnessed the presentation of 5 research papers and emerged as an intellectually stimulating and academically enriching session, significantly contributing to the broader discourse on indigenous foundations of constitutionalism and governance in India.

**TECHNICAL SESSION III: CLASSICAL STATECRAFT AND JURISPRUDENCE (MAURYAN- GUPTA ERA)**

Technical Session–III, based on the theme *Classical Statecraft and Jurisprudence*, was conducted under the chairpersonship of Prof. (Dr.) Venu Pant (Sikkim University). The session formed an important part of the conference proceedings and focused on analyzing the legal and



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administrative systems of the Mauryan and Gupta periods, highlighting their relevance to modern constitutional frameworks.

The session commenced with insightful opening remarks by the Chair, who emphasized the advanced institutional structures of ancient Indian governance. She highlighted the evolution from customary norms to well-defined legal and administrative systems, demonstrating how principles such as *Dharma*, *Danda*, and Kautilyan statecraft functioned as effective mechanisms of regulation, justice, and governance.

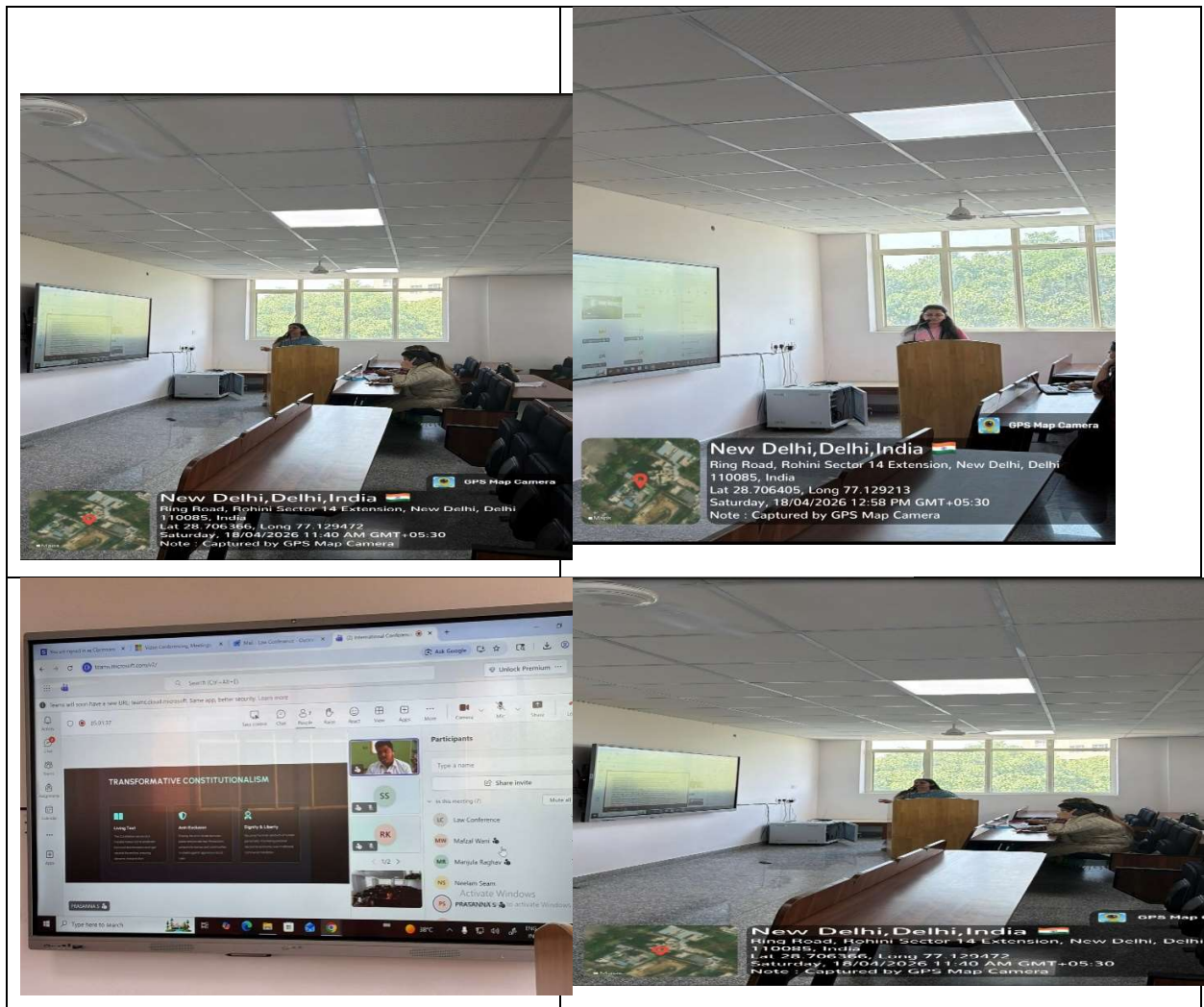
A total of 5 research papers were presented during the session, each followed by brief interactive discussions. The papers covered a wide range of themes, including judicial administration in the Mauryan and Gupta periods, governance and administrative principles in Kautilya's *Arthashastra*, the notion of fundamental rights and duties in ancient jurisprudence, sovereignty and diplomacy in classical Indian polity, ethical leadership through the teachings of the *Bhagavad Gita*, and the role of morality as a proto-constitutional framework. These presentations reflected strong interdisciplinary perspectives, integrating law, history, philosophy, and governance.

The session maintained a structured format, allowing for focused academic exchange and meaningful engagement during the Q&A segment. Participants actively engaged with the presenters, raising questions on the contemporary relevance and practical applicability of ancient governance models in today's legal and constitutional systems.

In her concluding remarks, Prof. Pant appreciated the quality, depth, and relevance of the research presented. She emphasized that understanding ancient Indian jurisprudence is essential for developing a holistic perspective on constitutional evolution and governance in India.

Overall, Technical Session–III witnessed the presentation of 5 research papers and emerged as a highly engaging and intellectually enriching session, successfully highlighting the continuity between classical Indian statecraft and modern constitutional thoughts.

## TECHNICAL SESSION IV: CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK IN THE PRE-VEDIC PERIOD



Technical Session-IV was successfully conducted under the theme “*Constitutional Framework in the Pre-Vedic Period.*” The session was chaired by Prof. Dr. Queeny Pradhan, Professor and Former Dean, USLLS, GGS IP University, Delhi, who delivered the Presidential Address as the Session Chair. The session was coordinated by Ms. Ramandeep Kaur, ensuring smooth and



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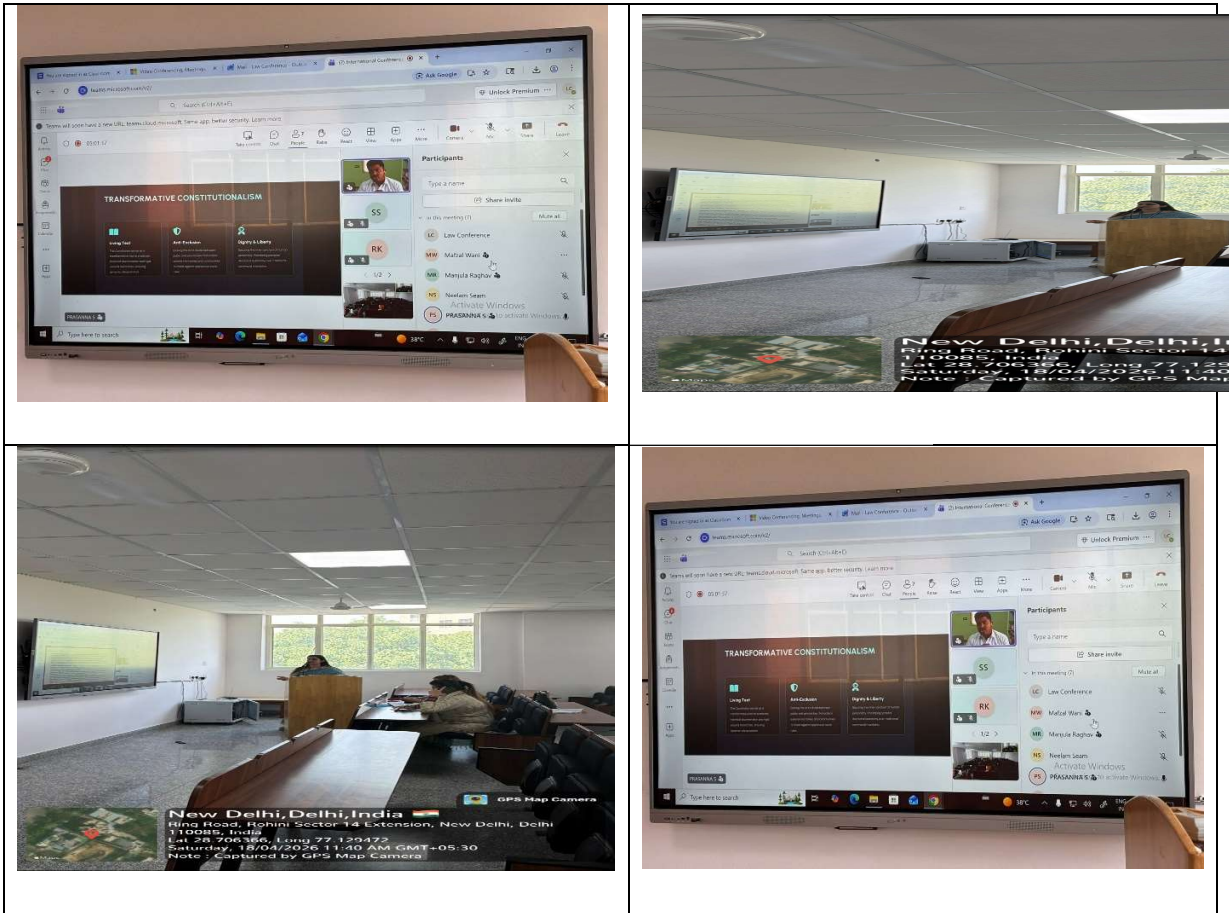
effective conduct. The session witnessed 16 online and 10 offline attendees, reflecting active academic participation.

The session was further enriched by the presence of Dr. Neelam Seam (Conference Coordinator), constitutional values. Additionally, Prof. (Dr.) Moh. Afzal Wani (Principal, CLS) shared his words of wisdom, highlighting the relevance of Indian knowledge systems in shaping and emphasizing the importance of integrating traditional legal philosophies with contemporary governance frameworks. The session was effectively anchored by Ms. Garima Juneja, who facilitated the proceedings seamlessly. Five research papers were presented. The session concluded with remarks from the Chair, appreciating the scholarly contributions and encouraging continued research in the field of constitutionalism rooted in Indian traditions.

Overall, the session proved to be intellectually stimulating and contributed significantly to the academic discourse on indigenous constitutional frameworks.

The formal Vote of Thanks was delivered by Ms. Ramandeep Kaur, expressing gratitude to the Prof. Dr. Queeny Pradhan, Prof. (Dr.) Moh. Afzal Wani, Dr. Neelam Seam and Dr. Seema Modi, presenters, and participants.

## TECHNICAL SESSION V – CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN BRITISH ERA: FROM VEDAS TO SAMVIDHAN



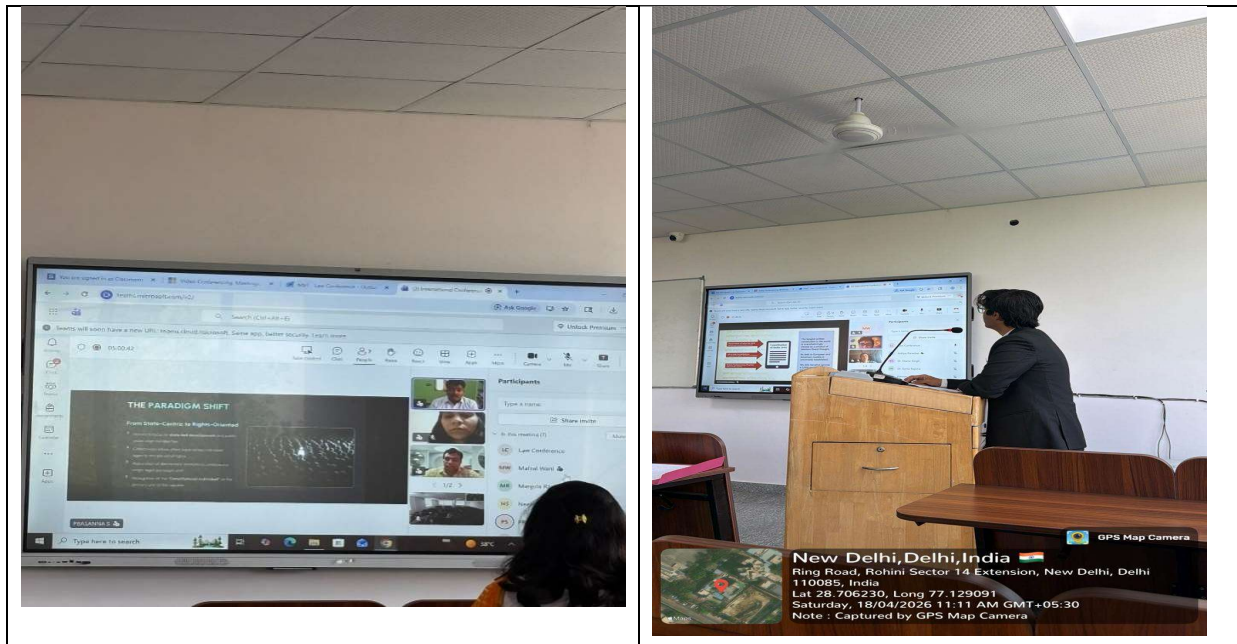
Technical Session V focused on the theme “*Constitutional Development in the British Era.*” The session was graced by Prof. Afzal Wani (Principal, CLS) as the distinguished resource person. It explored the evolution of constitutional thought, the relationship between morality and law, and India’s socio-legal transformation from the colonial period to the present.

Four research papers were presented, addressing key themes such as the relationship between constitutional morality and Dharma, the expansion of Article 21 to include human dignity, the

constitutional debate on the marital rape exception, and the impact of Charter and Regulatory Acts on India's constitutional framework. The session was evaluated by Dr. Neelam Seam, who appreciated the depth and relevance of the research. An interactive discussion followed, highlighting contemporary legal challenges and the role of the judiciary in shaping constitutional values.

Overall, the session was intellectually enriching and emphasized the dynamic nature of constitutional law, concluding with meaningful academic engagement and insightful deliberations.

## TECHNICAL SESSION VI: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND MODERN INDIAN CONSTITUTION





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Technical Session VI on the theme “*Constituent Assembly and Modern Indian Constitution*” was successfully conducted on 18th April 2026 (Saturday) from 2:00 PM onwards. The session commenced with the keynote address by Prof. Ravinder Kumar, who spoke on “Constitutionalism in India: From Vedas to Samvidhan.” In his comprehensive address, he traced the philosophical and normative foundations of Indian constitutionalism to ancient texts such as the Vedas, emphasizing that the idea of rule of law, justice, and ethical governance has deep civilizational roots in India. He highlighted how these ancient principles evolved through various historical phases and ultimately found expression in the modern Constitution of India. The speaker elaborated on the continuity between dharmic traditions and contemporary constitutional values such as justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. He also underscored the role of the Constituent Assembly in synthesizing indigenous traditions with modern democratic ideals. By drawing connections between ancient normative systems and present constitutional practices, he demonstrated that Indian constitutionalism is not merely a borrowed framework but a deeply rooted indigenous concept. His address provided a holistic understanding of constitutional development and inspired participants to rethink constitutional discourse through a historical and cultural lens.

The first presentation by Prasanna S and Dhanya K on “Evolution of Individual Autonomy and Privacy in Indian Constitutionalism” explored the gradual recognition of privacy as a fundamental right in India. The presenters traced the journey from early judicial reluctance to the landmark recognition of privacy as intrinsic to personal liberty. They examined how autonomy and dignity are interlinked within constitutional jurisprudence. The paper discussed key developments that strengthened individual rights in the modern era. It also reflected on contemporary challenges in balancing privacy with state interests. The presenters highlighted the transformative role of the judiciary in expanding rights. Their analysis underscored the growing importance of personal autonomy in constitutional discourse.

The second presentation by Dr. Manjula Raghav on “*Sovereignty and Sanction: Law, Administration, and Diplomacy in the Classical Indian Polity*” offered a detailed exploration of



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governance structures in ancient India. The presenter examined how sovereignty was conceptualized in classical Indian texts and practices. She discussed the interplay between law, administrative authority, and diplomatic relations in maintaining political order. The paper highlighted the role of sanctions, both moral and legal, in enforcing governance. It also explored the sophistication of ancient administrative systems and their relevance to modern governance. The analysis reflected on the integration of ethical considerations within statecraft. The presentation provided valuable insights into the complexity and depth of classical Indian polity.

The third presentation by Muskan Chadha and Yash Setia on “Dispute Resolution in Ancient India and Its Comparative Analysis with Modern ADR Mechanisms” provided a comparative study of traditional and modern dispute resolution systems. The presenters highlighted the role of community-based justice systems in ancient India. They discussed how principles of mediation and conciliation were deeply embedded in traditional practices. The paper drew parallels between ancient mechanisms and modern Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods. It emphasized the efficiency, accessibility, and participatory nature of traditional systems. The presenters argued for integrating indigenous practices into contemporary legal frameworks. The analysis showcased the relevance of historical practices in modern legal systems.

The fourth presentation by Dr. Manju Pathania Biswas on “From Dharma to Democracy: Evolution of India's Civilizational Identity” examined the transformation of India’s socio-political ethos over time. The presenter traced the shift from dharmic governance to democratic constitutionalism. She highlighted the continuity of ethical and moral principles despite structural changes. The paper explored how ancient values continue to influence modern political identity. It also reflected on the adaptability of Indian civilization in embracing democratic ideals. The discussion emphasized the coexistence of tradition and modernity. The presentation offered a nuanced understanding of India’s evolving identity.

The fifth presentation by Ms. Swechha Sharma on “Moral Foundation of Constitutionalism: Exploring Pre-Vedic Normative Traditions in Modern Indian Constitutional Thought” delved into the lesser-explored roots of constitutional morality. The presenter argued that pre-Vedic



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traditions also contributed significantly to normative frameworks in India. The paper examined ethical principles that shaped early societal governance. It connected these traditions with contemporary constitutional values. The analysis highlighted the continuity of moral reasoning across historical periods. The presenter emphasized the importance of recognizing indigenous intellectual heritage. The paper contributed to broadening the discourse on constitutional origins.

The sixth presentation by Dr. Manpreet Kaur on “Reinforcing the Normative Supremacy of Constitutional Morality in Fostering Transformative Constitutionalism” emphasized the centrality of constitutional morality as a guiding principle in judicial interpretation and governance. She argued that constitutional morality transcends textual limitations and ensures that democratic values are upheld in spirit. The paper highlighted landmark judicial trends that reinforce transformative constitutionalism in India. It stressed the importance of embedding moral reasoning within constitutional adjudication. The presenter also discussed how constitutional morality acts as a safeguard against majoritarian excesses. The analysis reflected on the dynamic and evolving nature of constitutional interpretation. Overall, the paper advocated for a value-based approach to constitutional governance.

The session concluded with an engaging discussion and interactive question-answer round, where participants critically engaged with the themes presented. The session successfully highlighted the depth and diversity of Indian constitutional thought, bridging ancient traditions with modern legal frameworks

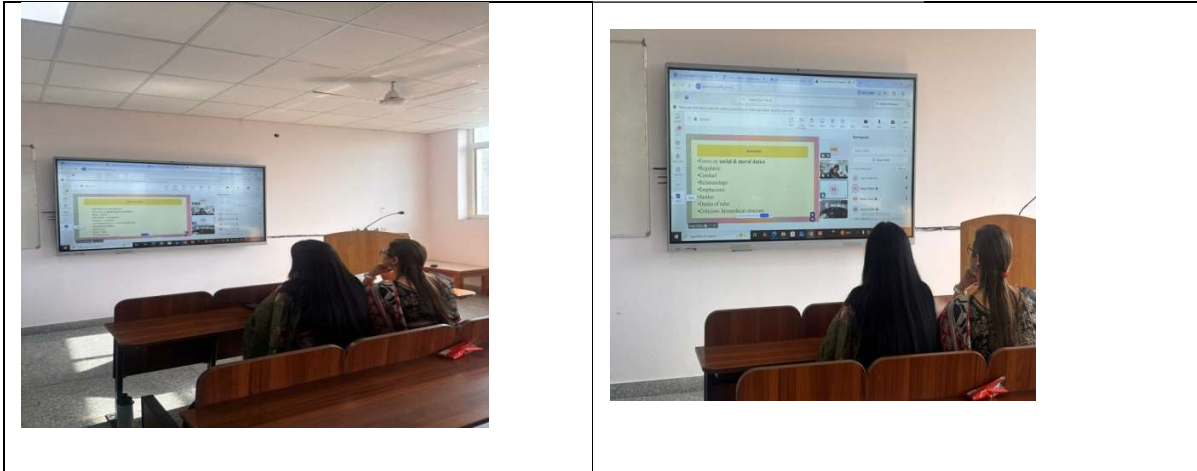


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## TECHNICAL SESSION VII: POST-CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS (1950–PRESENT)



Prof. Dr. Namita Singh Malik, Founding Director & Principal, GL Bajaj Institute of Law, as the distinguished resource person for Technical Session VII.

Technical Session VII of the conference was organized around the theme “*Post-Constitutional Developments (1950–Present)*”, aiming to explore the evolution of constitutional principles, judicial interpretations, and the dynamic relationship between law, society, and morality in independent India. The session brought together diverse scholarly perspectives that critically examined contemporary constitutional challenges while also revisiting the philosophical and historical foundations of Indian jurisprudence. The presentations collectively highlighted how the Indian Constitution continues to evolve as a living document, responding to changing societal needs and values.

The session featured three research papers, each addressing a distinct yet interconnected aspect of constitutional discourse. The first paper, titled “*Constitutional Morality at the Bedroom Door: Reassessing the Marital Rape Exception in India*”, was presented by Dr. Ankita Tandon.



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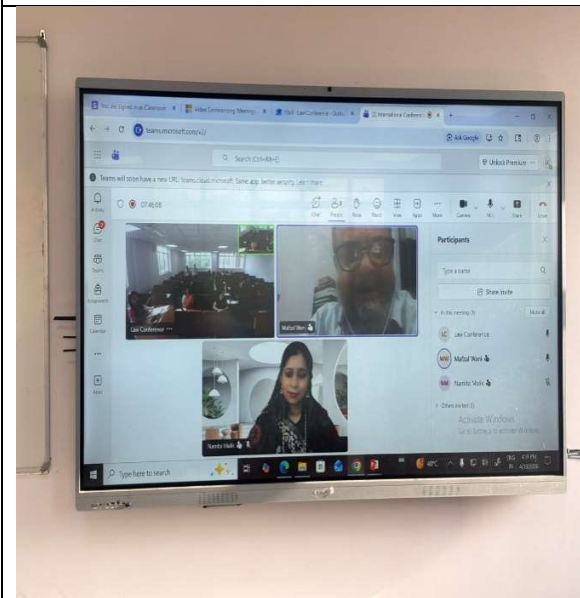
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The second paper, “*Constitutional Morality & Dharma: Pillars of Justice*”, was jointly presented by Ms. Jyoti Saxena and Prof. (Dr.) Pallavi Gupta. The third paper, titled “*Fundamental Rights & Duties in Ancient Indian Jurisprudence*”, was presented by Ms. Palak Anand. This presentation focused on tracing the origins and development of the concepts of rights and duties within ancient Indian legal traditions. The paper highlighted that while the formal articulation of fundamental rights is a relatively modern phenomenon, the essence of these rights can be found in ancient Indian texts and practices. The presentation also reflected on the importance of reviving a sense of civic responsibility in modern society. It argued that the effective realization of fundamental rights depends not only on legal enforcement but also on the willingness of individuals to fulfill their duties. This perspective encouraged the audience to think beyond a rights-centric approach and consider the broader ethical dimensions of citizenship.

The session was evaluated by Prof. (Dr.) Namita Singh Malik, who provided detailed and constructive feedback on the presentations. She appreciated the depth of research, clarity of arguments, and relevance of the topics discussed. Her evaluation highlighted the importance of engaging with both contemporary issues and historical perspectives to gain a holistic understanding of constitutional developments. She also encouraged the presenters to further refine their arguments and continue contributing to academic discourse in this field.

In conclusion, Technical Session VII was a highly engaging and intellectually stimulating segment of the conference. It successfully brought together diverse perspectives on post-constitutional developments in India, ranging from contemporary legal challenges to historical and philosophical insights. The session underscored the evolving nature of constitutional law and the need for continuous dialogue and reflection.

## VALEDICTORY CEREMONY





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The Valedictory Session of the International Conference was conducted from 5:00 PM to 5:30PM, marking the formal conclusion of the event. The session reflected upon the insightful deliberations, academic engagement, and scholarly contributions made throughout the conference.

The session commenced with a report on the conference presented by Dr. Neelam Seam (Conference Coordinator), who highlighted the key themes, sessions, and active participation of academicians, researchers, and students. The report encapsulated the intellectual richness of the conference and emphasized its success in fostering interdisciplinary dialogue.

This was followed by the Valedictory Address delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Namita Singh, Director, G.L. Bajaj Institute of Law. In her address, she appreciated the efforts of the organizers and participants and emphasized the importance of continuous academic inquiry, collaboration, and innovation in the fields of law, governance, and technology. Her address inspired the audience to carry forward the insights gained during the conference into their future academic and professional pursuits.

The session proceeded with the Distribution of Certificates, wherein dignitaries acknowledged the contributions of presenters, participants, and organizers. This segment served as a recognition of scholarly efforts and active engagement throughout the conference.

Following this, Concluding Remarks were delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Afzal Wani (Principal, CLS), who reflected on the significance of integrating traditional knowledge systems with contemporary frameworks. He commended the quality of discussions and encouraged continued research in the domain of constitutionalism and governance.

The session concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr. Seema Modi (Conference Coordinator). She expressed heartfelt gratitude to the distinguished guests, speakers, organizing committee, and participants for their valuable contributions and support in making the conference a success.

**FLYER OF THE EVENT**



<b>TYPE OF EVENT</b>	Annual Event
<b>VENUE</b>	GIBS Auditorium & Seminar Hall
<b>TIME &amp; DURATION</b>	17th & 18th April 2026 (Friday & Saturday)
<b>CONDUCTED BY</b>	GIBS
<b>ORGANISED FOR</b>	Academics, Presenters, Research Scholars, Law Students
<b>NAME OF THE COORDINATOR</b>	Dr. Neelam Seam Dr. Seema Modi
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	52 Participants



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<b>RESOURCE PERSON</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Session I:</b> Prof. (Dr.) K. B. Asthana – Dean, Maharishi Law School</li><li>• <b>Session II:</b> Prof. R. N. Jha – Professor, JNU</li><li>• <b>Session III:</b> Prof. (Dr.) Veenu Pant – Professor, Sikkim University</li><li>• <b>Session IV:</b> Prof. Dr. Queeny Pradhan – Professor &amp; Former Dean, USLLS, GGSIP University</li><li>• <b>Session V:</b> Prof. (Dr.) Moh. Afzal Wani – Principal, Centre for Legal Studies, GIBS</li><li>• <b>Session VI:</b> Prof. Ravinder Kumar – Professor (Keynote Speaker)</li><li>• <b>Session VII:</b> Prof. (Dr.) Namita Singh Malik – Founding Director &amp; Principal, GL Bajaj Institute of Law</li></ul>
<b>OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To explore the evolution of constitutionalism from ancient Indian traditions to modern frameworks.</li><li>• To promote interdisciplinary dialogue on law, governance, and society.</li><li>• To encourage research and critical analysis on constitutional developments.</li><li>• To foster collaboration among academicians, researchers, and professionals.</li></ul>
<b>LEARNING OUTCOME</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enhanced understanding of the historical and contemporary dimensions of constitutionalism.</li></ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ability to connect traditional Indian knowledge systems with modern legal frameworks.</li><li>• Development of critical thinking on constitutional issues and judicial interpretation.</li><li>• Strengthened academic engagement and research-oriented perspectives.</li></ul>
<b>SHORT FALL DURING EVENT</b>	NA
<b>LINK TO YOUTUBE VIDEO</b>	April 17, 2026- <a href="https://youtu.be/vwQWyZRt9iU">https://youtu.be/vwQWyZRt9iU</a> April 18, 2026- <a href="https://youtu.be/jToFdFwH5_o">https://youtu.be/jToFdFwH5_o</a>

**PREPARED & SUBMITTED BY: DR. SHREYA BHARDWAJ, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, CLS-GIBS**