

GNLU and MEA Hosts Ambassador Lecture on “Rule of Law, Multilateralism and Indian Foreign Policy in a Transitional Global Order”

Gandhinagar, 1 April 2026:

The GNLU Centre for Public and Private International Law at Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, organised a distinguished lecture under the Ambassador Lecture Series by Anil Trigunayat, former Ambassador and a seasoned practitioner of international diplomacy.

Delivering his lecture on “*Rule of Law, Multilateralism and Indian Foreign Policy in a Transitional Global Order*,” Ambassador Trigunayat provided a candid and nuanced assessment of the contemporary international system. He observed that “*the biggest casualty of international discourse today has been international law*,” noting the growing gap between legal norms and state practice.

Highlighting the evolving global order, he remarked that “*the world is in a flux—the old order is almost dead, but the new one is yet to take shape*,” underscoring the uncertainties shaping global governance and diplomacy.

Ambassador Trigunayat critically examined the functioning of multilateral institutions, pointing out that while institutions such as the United Nations, World Trade Organization, and International Court of Justice continue to exist, their effectiveness is increasingly undermined by selective compliance and unilateral actions by powerful states. He cautioned that “*unilateralism is the preferred currency today*,” raising concerns for global peace, stability, and predictability.

Discussing contemporary conflicts, particularly in West Asia, he highlighted the erosion of established principles such as proportionality and adherence to international humanitarian law, observing an “*utter defiance of international law*” in ongoing conflicts.

The lecture also outlined emerging global trends, which he categorised as multiple layers of geopolitical, geoeconomic, geotechnological, and georeligious contestations. He further identified key shifts such as de-globalisation, de-risking, de-hyphenation, and de-dollarisation as defining features of the current international landscape.

On India’s foreign policy, Ambassador Trigunayat emphasised the importance of **strategic autonomy and multi-alignment**, noting that India continues to engage with diverse global actors while safeguarding its national interests. He reiterated that the primary objective of foreign policy remains “*to serve national interest—development, stability, and peaceful engagement with other nations*.”

He further highlighted India’s evolving role as a **voice of the Global South**, grounded in principles such as inclusivity, human-centric development, and the ethos of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*.

The session witnessed active engagement from students and faculty, with discussions ranging from India’s balancing strategy in global conflicts to the future of multilateralism and the challenges posed by great power politics.

The lecture concluded with a call to students of international law to remain committed to strengthening the rule-based order, even amidst its contemporary challenges, reinforcing the continued relevance of law in shaping global governance.