



Gujarat National Law University

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Workshop to design the curriculum of the new Diploma on Smritishatras and Legal System of India organised at GNLU

Gandhinagar, April 27, 2021: Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) and Shree Somnath Sanskrit University (SSSU) organised a two-day workshop to discuss the curriculum of the Online Diploma Course on Smritishastras and the Legal System of India.

Leading subject experts participated in the workshop, the prominent among them were Shri Gopbandhu Mishra (Vice-Chancellor, Shree Somnath Sanskrit University), Prof (Dr) Mamata Biswal, (Dean, Academic Affairs, GNLU), Dr Richa Sharma (Head, Centre for Legal History, Philosophy and Tradition, GNLU), Acharya Narendra Pandya (Principal, Shree Somnath Sanskrit University), Acharya Vasantacharya, Dr Anjani Singh Tomar (Associate Professor of Law, GNLU), Mr Jose Verghese (Advocate, Supreme Court of India and High Court of Delhi), Ms Meera Dubey (Upadhyapaka, Dharmashastra, BSM, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda).

After detailed deliberations over two days, It is tentatively decided that the proposed one-year diploma will offer three papers of 3 credits each:

1. Survey on Indian Legal History and Literature

This paper will cover a literature review (Ramayana, Mahabharata, Purana, Vedic Sahitya, Sutra Sahitya, Smruti Sahitya, Anuvad Sahitya and Nibhanda Sahitya) and historical overview (Rajdharm, concept, power, duties and source of the power of kings, philosophy of Mahidasa, southern and northern legal traditions).

2. Dharmashastras and Present Legal System

This paper will examine the present legal system in the context of the ancient legal system based on Dharmashastras and Arthashastra.

3. Crime, Punishment and Evidence Law

This paper will undertake a comparative study of the Indian Penal Code and the Indian Evidence Act with the doctrine and administration of Criminal Justice in Ancient India and explore the linkage between the two systems.

SSSU VC Dr Gopabandhu Mishra said, “The course will enable students to have a holistic view by integrating modern law concepts with the traditional system of law and jurisprudence contained in the ancient Indian scriptures.”



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GNLU Dean Dr Mamata Biswal said, “The Supreme Court of India and various High Courts refer to Dharmashashtras, Manusmriti and other ancient texts in their judgments even today. The course will help the legal fraternity to understand Smritishashtras in the modern legal context.”

The diploma is being launched in furtherance of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between GNLU and Shree Somnath Sanskrit University in January 2021.

The workshop was organised under the aegis of the GNLU’s Centre for Legal History, Philosophy and Tradition.

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