

Prof. O.P.Chauhan Memorial Lecture
cum National Seminar

on

75 Years of the Indian Constitution and
Supreme Court : The Journey So Far
and Challenges Ahead



HYBRID MODE

MARCH 29, 2025

Organised by

Department of Laws
H.P.University, Shimla

ABOUT HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY

Himachal Pradesh University was established by an Act of the Legislative Assembly of Himachal Pradesh on 22nd July, 1970 as a response to the needs and aspirations of the Union Territory, poised for full statehood in the Union of India on 25th January, 1971. It is the first multi-faculty residential and affiliating university in the State that provides higher education to urban, rural and tribal areas through formal and distant modes. The headquarters of the University is located at Summer Hill, the picturesque suburb of Shimla. The University has a total area of 241.11 bighas with stately buildings set among rhododendron, silver oak, pine and deodar trees. It affords a salubrious climate and congenial atmosphere for reflection, study and research. The prime objective of the University is to disseminate knowledge, advance learning and understanding through research, training and extension programmes. It instills in its students and teachers a conscious awareness regarding the social and economic needs, cultural ethos, and future requirements of the state and the country. Himachal Pradesh University is a multi-faculty and affiliating University. It stands for knowledge, learning, progress, humanity, tolerance, intellect, morality, determination, thought, and discernment. It is a grade 'A' accredited university by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council. It enjoys the National and International repute.

ABOUT DEPARTMENT OF LAWS

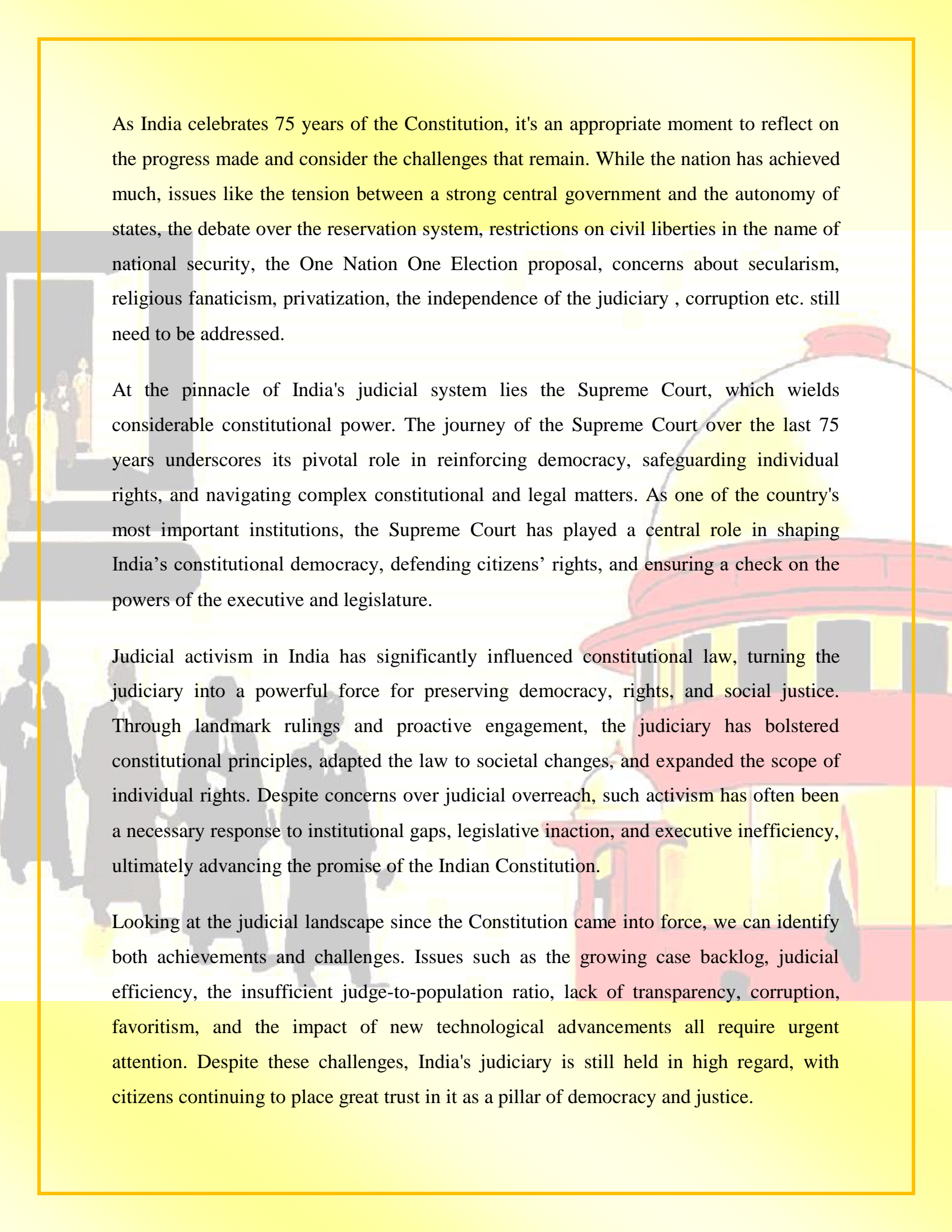
The Department of Laws came into existence in 1970 when the University was established. Initially it was housed in D.A.V. School, Middle Bazar, Shimla. Later it was shifted to Ava-Lodge, Chaura Maidan where it remained functional for some years. The Department was relocated in the University campus in 1984 and finally shifted to its own building in 1993. Since its inception the department has been actively engaged in imparting legal education, training and legal research benefiting to the students desirous of pursuing their career in law. The Department has a distinction of producing best

Professionals, Statesmen and officers rendering useful service to the Nation. Its Alumni include Judges of Supreme Court, High Courts, Union Cabinet Ministers, State Cabinet Ministers, Senior Bureaucrats, Police Officers, officers of subordinate Judiciary, Law officers, Civil Servants and members of the legal Profession. Law graduates from this Department are serving all over the country including District Courts, High Courts and Supreme Court.

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

The Constitution of India stands as the supreme law of the nation, offering a detailed, written framework that defines the country's core principles, government structure, processes, powers, and responsibilities, as well as the rights and duties of its citizens. It is more than a legal document; it represents India's unity and diversity. The Constitution ensures fundamental rights for all citizens, guaranteeing equality and protection from discrimination based on religion, caste, gender, or any other factor. These rights serve as the foundation for personal freedom and equality. At the same time, the Constitution emphasizes the importance of duties, reminding citizens of their responsibilities towards the nation and society. This balance between rights and duties is key to maintaining harmony and fostering progress in a country as diverse as India.

Rooted in essential values such as democracy, republicanism, rule of law, an independent judiciary, the autonomy of institutions, federalism, and secularism, the Constitution also upholds liberty, equality, fraternity, and individual dignity. These ideals define the very spirit of the Indian Constitution. Over the years, the Constitution has been a tool for social change, addressing historical injustices and promoting social equity. Its 75-year journey has served as a guiding light, helping India navigate through both challenges and successes. The evolution of Constitutional principles and governance institutions over the years continues to ensure justice, liberty, and equality for all citizens.



As India celebrates 75 years of the Constitution, it's an appropriate moment to reflect on the progress made and consider the challenges that remain. While the nation has achieved much, issues like the tension between a strong central government and the autonomy of states, the debate over the reservation system, restrictions on civil liberties in the name of national security, the One Nation One Election proposal, concerns about secularism, religious fanaticism, privatization, the independence of the judiciary, corruption etc. still need to be addressed.

At the pinnacle of India's judicial system lies the Supreme Court, which wields considerable constitutional power. The journey of the Supreme Court over the last 75 years underscores its pivotal role in reinforcing democracy, safeguarding individual rights, and navigating complex constitutional and legal matters. As one of the country's most important institutions, the Supreme Court has played a central role in shaping India's constitutional democracy, defending citizens' rights, and ensuring a check on the powers of the executive and legislature.

Judicial activism in India has significantly influenced constitutional law, turning the judiciary into a powerful force for preserving democracy, rights, and social justice. Through landmark rulings and proactive engagement, the judiciary has bolstered constitutional principles, adapted the law to societal changes, and expanded the scope of individual rights. Despite concerns over judicial overreach, such activism has often been a necessary response to institutional gaps, legislative inaction, and executive inefficiency, ultimately advancing the promise of the Indian Constitution.

Looking at the judicial landscape since the Constitution came into force, we can identify both achievements and challenges. Issues such as the growing case backlog, judicial efficiency, the insufficient judge-to-population ratio, lack of transparency, corruption, favoritism, and the impact of new technological advancements all require urgent attention. Despite these challenges, India's judiciary is still held in high regard, with citizens continuing to place great trust in it as a pillar of democracy and justice.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

Over the past 75 years, the Indian Constitution and Hon'ble Supreme Court has not only been a blueprint for governance but also a dynamic instrument of social change. This seminar aims to explore the Constitution's text and context, its evolution, and its relevance in addressing contemporary challenges in governance, rights, and technology. It seeks to underscore the enduring values enshrined in the Constitution while imagining its future in a rapidly changing world. Some other key objectives of the seminar are:

To assess the Constitution's transformative impact on India's legal, social, political, economic evolution and challenges of future.

To create a platform for critical engagement with the Constitution's and Hon'ble Supreme Court's journey over the past seven decades while shaping the discourse on its role in the 21st century and Road Ahead.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Academicians, legal professionals, research scholars, students and other stakeholders are hereby invited to contribute papers for the National Seminar on “ *75 Years of the Indian Constitution and Supreme Court : The Journey so Far and Challenges Ahead* ”. The contributions may be forwarded in both soft and hard copies according to the schedule provided hereunder. However, the prior registration would be necessary so as to ensure proper arrangement in the seminar as the whole. No TA/DA shall be provided by the University and therefore, the participants should obtain the same from their respective institutions. Soft copy of abstract and papers may kindly be forwarded as per the Schedule attached. Selected research papers shall be published in a book-bearing ISBN.

SUB THEMES

Constitution of India and Supreme Court @ 75

Achievements, Experiences, Memories and Lessons from the Indian Constitution and Judiciary

Constitution of India as an Instrument for Economic Growth and Social Justice

Constitution of India in Precept and Practice

Constitutional Reforms: Necessity and Boundaries

The Role of Legislature and Executive in Strengthening Constitutional Democracy

Constitutional Supremacy vs Parliamentary Sovereignty

Changing Dimensions of Constitutionalism

Role of Governor: Contemporary Issues and Challenges

Accountability of Political Parties for their Manifesto and their Role to make an effective Democratic system

Role of the Election Commission in the Democratic System: Contemporary Issues and Challenges

Data Privacy & AI Governance: The Constitutional Perspective.

Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policies: Relations and Comparisons

The Role of Technology in Judiciary: E-Courts & Access to Justice.

Secularism: Issues and Challenges

Uniform Civil Code: Socio-Political Issues

Multiculturalism and Constitution of India.

One Nation One Election.

Parliamentary Competence to amend the Constitution and Principle of Basic Structure

Corruption: A threat to Constitutionalism

Media Transparency: An Essential Condition for a Successful Constitutional System.

How Relevant is Constitutional Morality?

Supreme Court and Indian Federalism

Collegium System of Judicial Appointment

Judicial Activism: Need of hour or Encroachment on Legislative power

Access to Justice

Right to Life and its New Dimensions

Data Protection and Right to Privacy.

Backlog of Cases and Role of Constitutional Courts in India

Court Arrears and its Impact on Administration of Justice in India

Judicial Reforms: Ways to Combat with Judicial Inefficiency

Role of Judges/Lawyers/Stakeholders in Reformation of Indian judiciary

Above mentioned topics are not exhaustive, but other topics can also be accommodated if it's in line with the theme of the Seminar.

BRIEF GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstract submission must be strictly in MS Word format only. (Submission made in any other format shall not be considered)

1. The MS Word file must mention the details in this order:

- Title of the Paper
- Name of the Author and Co-author (if any)
- Designation
- Affiliation
- Contact details of Author and Co-author (e-mail IDs/ contact or mobile numbers etc.)
- Abstract

2. Co-authorship is limited to the maximum of two authors.

3. Abstract shall not exceed more than 250-300 words including keywords (maximum 4). Author(s) names, designation and their affiliations are not included.

4. All submissions must be in Times New Roman, font size 12, justified and with 1.5 line spacing.

BRIEF GUIDELINES FOR FULL PAPER SUBMISSION

1. Full paper must be accompanied by a Cover page which must include following details:
 - Title of the Paper
 - Name of the Author and Co-author (if any)
 - Designation
 - Affiliation
 - Contact details of Author and Co-author (e-mail ids/contact or mobile numbers etc.)
2. Co-authorship is limited to the maximum of two authors
3. All submissions must be in Times New Roman, font size 12, justified and with 1.5 line spacing, Paper size: A4 Sheet with margin of 1 cm
4. Paper should be original and unpublished work of the author(s) and any form of plagiarism is strictly prohibited.
5. Plagiarism criteria: 10 percent, excluding footnotes and bibliography.
6. The word limit of the full submitted paper should not be more than 3000 words.
7. The author(s) must give a declaration of the originality of the work. The UGC Anti-plagiarism guidelines shall be adhered. Author(s) shall solely be responsible for the accuracy of statements, opinion and view presented in the paper.

IMPORTANT DATES

Last Date for Abstract Submission: 18th March, 2025

Abstract Acceptance Intimation: 20th March, 2025

Last Date for Full Paper Submission: 25th March, 2025

Last Date for Registration and Fee Payment: 25th March, 2025

NOTE: The registered participants only shall be allowed to present their papers in the seminar subject to submission of full papers in due course of time. Papers received after stipulated deadline shall not be entertained for participation in seminar. All abstracts shall be published in souvenir. The conference will be conducted in hybrid mode with both online and offline components. Paper presenters are requested to kindly specify their mode of presentation in seminar as offline or online mode.

REGISTRATION FEES

Students/ Research Scholar: Rs. 500.00

Academicians/Others: Rs. 1000.00

Co-author(s) : Rs.500 for Students/Research Scholars and Rs.1000 for Academicians/Others

The Registration Fee may be deposited in A/c No – 43406732468, IFSC - SBIN0002490,

SBI Summer Hill Branch, Shimla -171005 on or before 25th March, 2025.

Registration on spot is also allowed.

ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

The Participants are advised to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

LINK FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT AND FULL PAPER

ijcseminarlaw2025@gmail.com

LINK /QR CODE FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION

<https://forms.gle/WyPHNcq32iX2QutE7>



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REGISTRATION FORM

PROF. O.P.CHAUHAN MEMORIAL LECTURE CUM NATIONAL SEMINAR

on

“75 Years of the Indian Constitution and Supreme Court: The Journey so Far and Challenges Ahead”

at

Department of Laws, H.P. University, Shimla

on

29th March, 2025 (Saturday)

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Address_____

Contact No._____ **Email**_____

Name of the Co-Authors_____

Title of the Research Paper_____

Registration Amount_____

Mode of Payment_____

Dated_____

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WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PARTICIPATION

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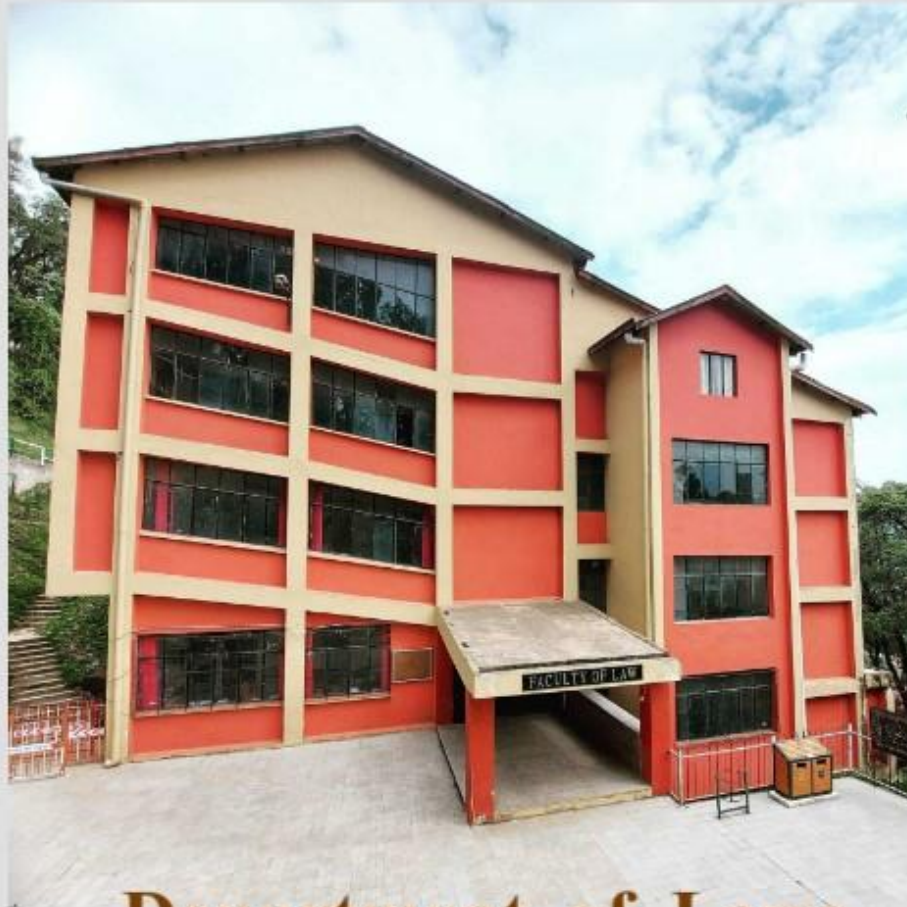
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