



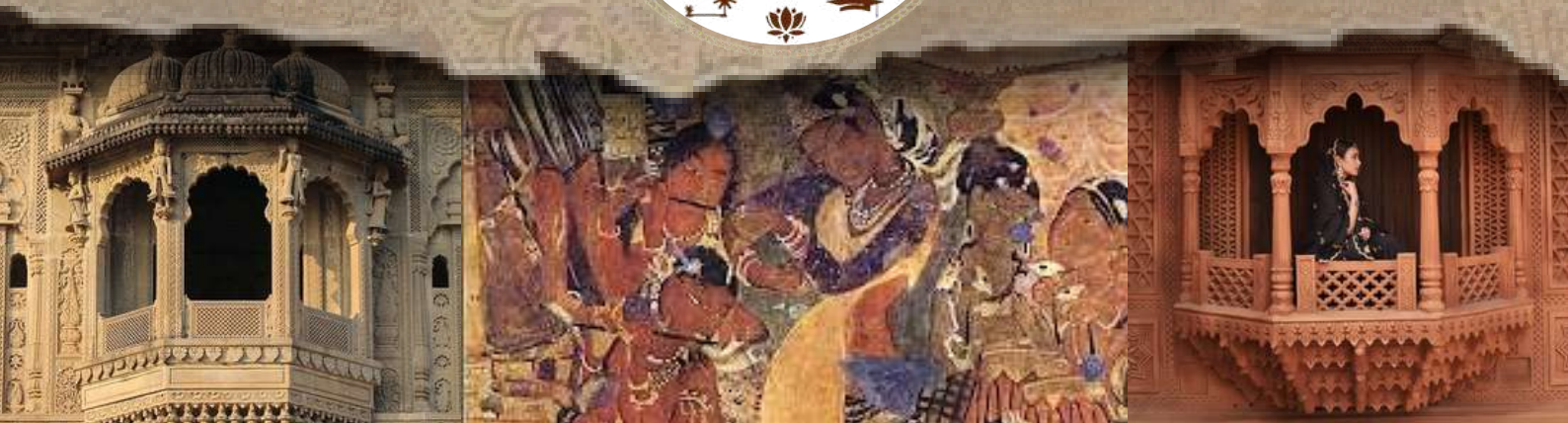
YUGANTAR

नास्ति सत्यात्यरो धर्मः

Reclaiming Bharat's Legal & Governance Thought

DHARMA-NYAYA SAMVAD

A dialogue where India's legal
past informs the future of
punishment.



About the competition :

A Round Table Conference on
Indigenous Punishment and Justice
Reform

Dharma–Nyaya Samvad is an academic round table conference that invites law students to rethink India's punishment system through indigenous Hindu concepts of justice. The competition focuses on moving beyond colonial, prison-centric punishment models and exploring reformative and restorative alternatives inspired by principles such as Dharma, Danda, and Prayaschitta.



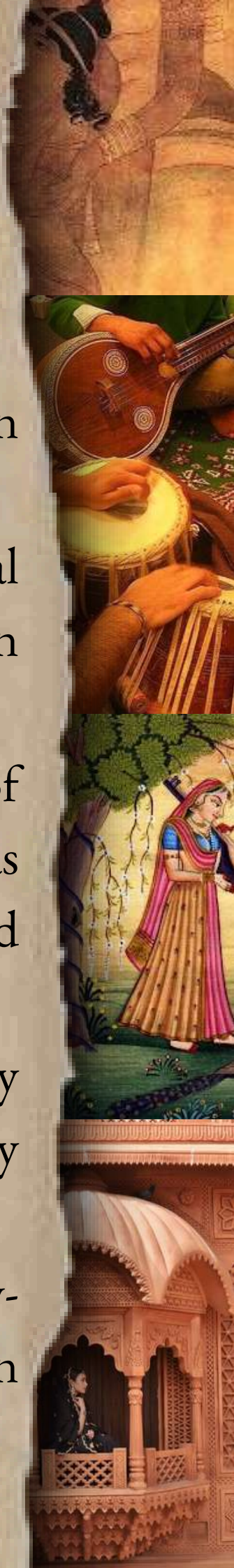
Conducted in a pure round table format, the conference promotes collaborative dialogue rather than adversarial debate. Participants engage as equal stakeholders, discussing how ancient justice philosophies can be adapted into contemporary Indian criminal law while remaining consistent with constitutional values.

Teams submit a solution-oriented position paper to support informed discussion. The competition aims to foster policy-oriented thinking, ethical reasoning, and innovative justice reforms among future legal professionals.



Objective of the competition:

- To facilitate a round table dialogue on reforming India's punishment system
- To critically examine colonial punishment models still reflected in contemporary criminal law
- To study ancient Hindu concepts of punishment and justice such as Dharma, Danda, Prayaschitta, and Reformation
- To propose practical, constitutionally compliant reforms inspired by indigenous justice traditions
- To encourage collaborative, policy-oriented legal thinking rather than adversarial debate



Eligibility:

- Open to undergraduate and postgraduate law students
- Participants may belong to any recognized university or law school
- Inter-college teams are not permitted
- There is no team cap, per university.

Team Composition :

- Each team shall consist of 2 members
- All team members must be from the same institution
- The team members must have studied the constitution as a subject in their past or present semester.



Thematic Focus Areas:

Teams are encouraged to base their discussion on one or more of the following:

- Decolonising Colonial Punishment Models in India
- Hindu Concepts of Punishment: Dharma, Danda, Prayaschitta
- Reformative and Restorative Justice in Ancient India
- Community-Based Justice and Social Responsibility
- Victim-Centric Justice in Indigenous Traditions
- Integrating Indigenous Punishment Models with Constitutional Law



Structure of the Competition:

Round Table Conference (Single Round)

This competition shall be conducted in the form of a moderate round table discussion, not a conventional debate.

- Each table will consist of 12 teams
- Each table will be moderated by:
 - A faculty member / researcher / legal professional
- The session shall be interactive and discussion-based



Participation format per time;

Component	Description	Time
Initial Intervention	Team presents its core ideas & reforms	4–5 minutes
Interactive Discussion	Open discussion with other teams	8–10 minutes
Moderator Interaction	Clarifications & probing questions	3–4 minutes
Concluding Remarks	Final thoughts / refined reform	2 minutes

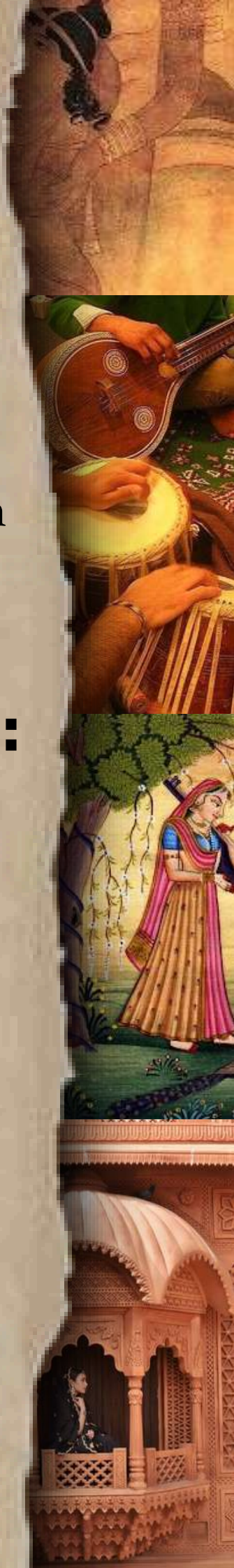


The Position Paper is :

- Not a memorial
- Not argumentative
- Not to be read or presented
- A background document supporting informed participation in the round table

Format of the Position Paper :

- Word Limit: 1500–2000 words
- Font: Times New Roman
- Font Size: 12
- Line Spacing: 1.5
- Citation Style: Bluebook (20th Edition)
- Submission Mode: Soft copy
- Deadline: 8th February

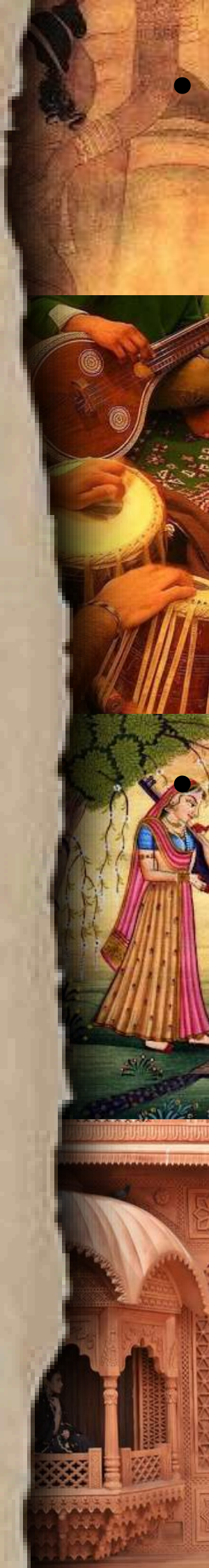


Brief Background:

- Present Indian punishment system
- Colonial influence on criminal sentencing
- Limited use of case laws, reports, or statutes (no excessive theory)
- Indigenous Hindu Punishment Philosophy

Explanation of key concepts such as:

- Dharma (justice as moral order)
- Danda (controlled authority)
- Prayaschitta (atonement and correction)
- Focus on principles, not historical punishments



Problem Identification :

- Identify specific issues such as:
- Overuse of imprisonment
- Lack of reformative mechanisms
- Marginalisation of victims
- Prison overcrowding
- Proposed Reforms & Solutions (Core Section)
- This is the most important part of the paper.
- Teams must clearly propose:

New punishment models inspired by indigenous practices, such as:

- Prayaschitta-based sentencing
- Community service as corrective punishment
- Victim restitution and reconciliation mechanisms



How these reforms can:

- Reduce incarceration
- Improve reform
- Restore social harmony
- Solutions must be practical and implementable, not abstract philosophy.
- Constitutional Compatibility
- Brief explanation of how proposed reforms:
- Comply with Article 14 (Equality)
- Respect Article 21 (Dignity & Due Process)
- Function within India's secular legal framework.



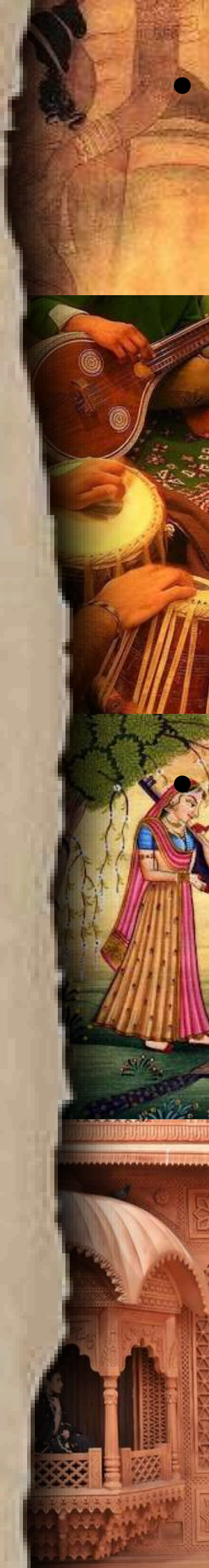
Evaluation criteria:

Position paper:

Criteria	Marks
Research & Conceptual Understanding	25
Identification of Problems	25
Quality of Reforms & Solutions	25
Constitutional Reasoning	25
Total	100

Round table conference.

Criteria	Marks
Clarity of Thought	20
Contribution to Discussion	20
Practical Insight	20
Constitutional Awareness	20
Team Coordination	10
Responsiveness	10
Total	100



Awards:

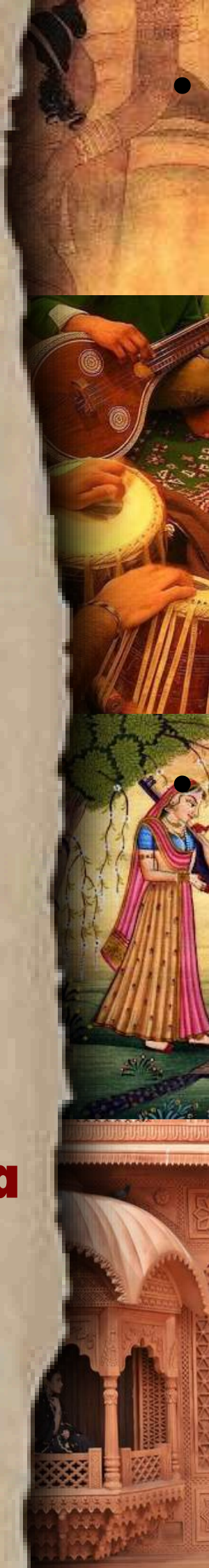
- Best Innovative Idea
- Best Amendment Proposal

Price Pool: ₹3,000

Entry fee: ₹350

DEADLINE: 15th February

**Kindly make the payment via
the Registration link!**



Registration Link



**For more enquiries,
Contact:-**

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General Queries:-

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For more updates follow:

