

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 3 | 2024-25

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# व्यक्तिगत

*Celebrating the difference of opinions*



WHAT OPINIONS  
ARE MADE OF?

-The Mosaic of Thoughts That  
Shape Understanding

# 102nd DISCUSSION

## FANATICISM IN SPORTS: A UNIFYING FORCE OR DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOUR?

Sport fanaticism often serves as a powerful catalyst for community building and shaping individual's character. Cheering for your team or beloved athlete brings joy, releases stress, and often creates enthusiasm. Sports can be seen as a modern form of devotion. The enthusiasm that people have for sports is gradually turning into violence and aggression.

Extreme forms of fanaticism can escalate into violence, both inside and outside sporting venues. Riots, clashes between rival fans, and even attacks on athletes have been reported in various parts of the world.

Those audience who celebrate the success of the team, are the one who start trolling the players and at worst their families, very badly on the occasion of failure. And this will definitely have a negative impact on the players and their future career.



Overzealous fans may experience also heightened stress, anxiety, and disappointment based on the outcomes of games or performances of their favourite athlete.

Not all sports are being popularised in the society. Sports like Cricket have got massive fan base and has become symbol for commercialisation. Despite having eminent players in sports like Badminton, Javelin throw, skating, karate, chess etc, which also hold national importance, they are lacking recognition and push in the Country.

Thus raising alarm for the government to take initiatives in development of sports.



Fanaticism may lead to engagement in betting and other illegal activities, especially by young population of the country. Some argue that youth getting obsessed over sports like cricket, spending large amounts of money to attend matches and celebrate their team's success, is a waste of time and detrimental to their careers, especially when it negatively impacts their family's financial conditions. However, others counter this viewpoint by asserting that such passion for sports can inspire youth and help them achieve positions in the sports industry.

In conclusion, the impact of fanaticism in sports hinges on how it is channelled and regulated within society. When harnessed positively, it can strengthen social bonds and enrich cultural experiences. Conversely, unchecked fanaticism risks overshadowing the intrinsic values of sports and causing harm to individuals and communities alike. Therefore, fostering a culture of responsible fandom is crucial for ensuring that sports continue to serve as a unifying force rather than a source of division and conflict.

MODERATOR:

AANCHAL  
TIWARY

# 103th DISCUSSION

## BIG FAT INDIAN WEDDINGS: RITUALS OR A SHOW OF WEALTH AND POWER

Marriage is a sacred union of two individuals and the wedding is the solemnization of marriage with certain rituals. In the earlier days marriage was perceived as the special occasion and it was celebrated while observing the traditions and customs. Over the years, weddings have slowly become a wealth parade, a means to show off wealth and it was celebrated with show and pomp. More importance is given to extravagant expenses and lavish rather than for rituals. The weddings are often perceived as the symbol of their status in the society.



As per Hindu Law, there are essential ceremonies and rituals for a valid and complete Hindu marriage. The ceremonies under Hindu Law act as tools for the valid solemnization of Hindu marriage, and without their presence, a holy solemnization marriage is not considered valid. Section 7 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, states about the ceremonies of a Hindu marriage that at the time of marriage the bride and bridegroom are required to perform certain customary rites to the solemnized marriage valid. It is to be noted that the present sub-section does not provide the kinds of ceremonies which must be performed at the time of marriage because of the multiple diversifying nature of India society.

Therefore, the legislation made the texts of the sub-section discretionary in nature for parties to the marriage, where they may perform any ceremonies as per their traditions and customs. The use of the term “either of the parties thereto” makes clear that at the time of marriage, the liberty is given to both parties or either one of them to perform the ceremonies.



Section 7(2) outlines the binding nature of marriage through the completion of the "Saptapadi" ritual, signifying that both parties are legally tied to each other and can only separate through divorce. The law does not prescribe a uniform set of ceremonies due to India's cultural diversity what matters is that the ceremony, whether from the bride's or groom's side, holds essential traditional value.

Grand weddings, like the Anant Radhika wedding (₹5000 crore), contribute economically by generating employment and boosting local infrastructure, such as the Jamnagar airport. They also support artisans and involve charitable acts, like sponsoring underprivileged weddings.

While Indian weddings often celebrate tradition and culture, there's a growing shift towards eco-friendly or green weddings. These are cost-effective, sustainable, and aesthetically pleasing, breaking the stereotype that weddings must be extravagant.

In conclusion, Article 21 guarantees the right to marry, allowing individuals to choose between a court marriage or a grand celebration. However, customs and traditions should be respected, and financial prudence is essential for those opting for lavish weddings.



# 104th Discussion

## ASSESSING IMPACT OF EXAM SCANDALS AND POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY

India is an amalgamation of students from varying and diverse education systems that provides them with the ability to pursue careers in the fields they want. The issue arises when there is a dichotomy between the results and the conduction of these competitive exams. Recent high-profile exam scandals i.e. NEET-UG, involving alleged cheating and corruption allegations have significantly undermined the credibility of India's examination processes. Such scandals not only damage the reputation of educational institutions but also foster widespread skepticism about the fairness and effectiveness of academic assessments.

The impact of the unfair assessment left an indelible imprint on the students and their families. The irony of the situation manifests itself as the irregularity of the exam and the 67 students scoring full marks unlike any other year prior. Thus, Impact students:

1. **Erosion of Trust:** The immediate impact on students is a profound erosion of trust in the examination process. Candidates who prepare diligently feel demoralized when they perceive that others may have unfair advantages due to leaks.
2. **Increased Stress and Anxiety:** The uncertainty and fear of the examination's fairness contribute to heightened stress and anxiety among students. They worry not only about their own preparation but also about the potential for the examination to be compromised.
3. **Inequality and Injustice:** Paper leaks disproportionately affect students from less privileged backgrounds, who may lack the resources to obtain leaked papers. This exacerbates existing inequalities in the education system and undermines the meritocratic nature of the examination.

Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan declared that there is no evidence that paper leaks have happened in the past seven years which led to questioning the accountability and transparency of the authorities. India's major testing agency, NTA, was questioned because of the continuous inconvenience created by the agency as evident in CUET 2024. Exams like the NET have been canceled, causing much uncertainty for students.

Instead of assigning blame one should understand that this organization is newly established and is conducting around 17 examinations including major exams. This does not dissolve them of the responsibility they have however the blame cannot solely lie with the NTA. The governments and their guidelines should be questioned too.

Scandals like this have led to various states such as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and West Bengal demanding for de-nationalised exams which is understandable on their part but it wouldn't be as beneficial for the overall wellbeing of the students and their education from a bird's eye perspective. To ensure fair exams, the government has implemented the Public Exam (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, which prevents leaks and unauthorized entry. Its goal is to combat cheating.



## CONCLUSION:

India's education system faces significant challenges due to ongoing examination scandals and mismanagement by institutions, which has led to a loss of trust and calls for reform. The recent NEET-UG 2024 controversy and other similar issues highlight the urgent need for greater transparency and effective oversight, calling for reform. It affects students' trust and well-being, damages the reputation of educational institutions, and undermines the credibility of the education system. Addressing these issues requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including educational authorities, government bodies, and the broader community, to implement robust measures and restore confidence in the examination process.

# 105th Discussion

AMARVEER KAUR

## THE WEIGHT OF A NATION: VINESH PHOGAT'S OLYMPIC DISQUALIFICATION

The disqualification of Vinesh Phogat, a two-time Olympian and one of India's most accomplished wrestlers, from the women's 50 kg wrestling final at the Paris 2024 Olympics has shocked and disappointed the nation. Phogat, who typically competes in the 53 kg category, opted to move to the 50 kg weight class due to Antim Panghal securing the 53 kg spot and her recovery from an ACL surgery. However, in a dramatic turn of events, she was disqualified on August 7 for being 100 grams overweight before the final bout, despite having successfully competed in earlier rounds.

Under international wrestling regulations, a wrestler who fails the weigh-in on any competition day is automatically eliminated. Phogat had earlier defeated Cuba's Yusneylis Guzman in the semi-final, but her weight discrepancy on the final day resulted in her disqualification, rendering her Olympic journey incomplete. The Indian contingent, led by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), appealed the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS), seeking at least a joint silver medal for Phogat since she met the weight requirement during earlier rounds.

However, CAS dismissed the appeal on August 14 without elaborating on its reasoning, intensifying public and institutional frustration.

The IOA, represented by advocate Vidushpat Singhania, expressed disappointment with the verdict and pledged continued support for Phogat, exploring further legal avenues. The controversy has sparked a broader debate about the fairness and rigidity of international sporting rules. Critics argue that there may have been inconsistencies in rule enforcement or procedural oversight, while others believe the disqualification, though harsh, was a necessary consequence of the rules. The case has raised vital concerns regarding transparency and equity in sports governance.

Phogat's final efforts to make weight were reportedly extreme and physically taxing. Her team undertook desperate weight-cutting methods—extensive cardio, fasting, cutting her hair, removing blood, and undergoing intense sauna sessions—but the last 100 grams proved impossible to shed. This episode underscores the immense pressure elite athletes endure and the thin margin between success and disqualification.



The incident has serious repercussions for Phogat's career. Missing an Olympic final can damage an athlete's morale, public image, financial prospects, and long-term reputation within the sporting community. The emotional toll and loss of potential endorsements or accolades further compound the tragedy.

The IOA's role in this controversy is now under scrutiny. It is expected not only to investigate the events leading to the disqualification but also to advocate for reforms in support systems, weight management protocols, and athlete wellness. The association must also serve as a global voice for Indian athletes, pushing for fair treatment and structural improvements within international sports bodies.

In conclusion, while the rules of international competition are clear, the disqualification of Vinesh Phogat exposes gaps in preparation and support that must be addressed collectively. Blame should not rest solely on the athlete; the entire management team shares responsibility. The incident is a wake-up call for better governance, athlete welfare, and institutional accountability in Indian sports.



# 106th Discussion

MODERATOR:

SHASHWAT  
SINHA

## VIGILANTISM VS RULE OF LAW:

### THE ETHICAL AND LEGAL DILEMMAS OF KIRA'S JUSTICE

Vigilantism arises when individuals or groups, frustrated with the legal system's inefficiencies, take justice into their own hands. Rooted in the belief that traditional law enforcement fails to adequately punish the guilty or protect the innocent, vigilantism bypasses legal protocols in pursuit of immediate justice. This raises significant ethical and legal dilemmas about whether personal morality can justify actions taken outside due process.

In popular culture, the anime \*Death Note\* offers a vivid portrayal of this conflict. Its protagonist, Light Yagami, gains the power to kill using a supernatural notebook and adopts the identity of "Kira" to eliminate criminals. Initially celebrated by the public as a hero, Light's actions soon blur moral lines as he commits crimes himself, raising concerns about whether his version of justice restores order or erodes it. His journey illustrates how subjective morality can lead to dangerous consequences when unchecked by legal systems.

#### Vigilantism in the Indian Context

India has seen intense debates surrounding vigilantism, especially in high-profile criminal cases. Public frustration has led to suggestions of harsh punitive measures, including capital punishment, torture, and chemical castration, especially for heinous crimes like sexual assault. The 2012 Nirbhaya rape case reignited these discussions, with calls for swift, even extrajudicial justice. While some see such measures as necessary, others argue they undermine democratic values and the legal process.

The death penalty and harsh punishments often have consequences beyond the convicted, affecting families and reinforcing a cycle of violence. Proposals like chemical castration raise human rights concerns, and torture, though emotionally charged, violates legal and ethical norms. These extreme responses reflect a lack of faith in the current legal system's capacity to ensure timely justice.

#### Rule of Law and Its Importance

The rule of law asserts that justice must be delivered through established procedures to ensure fairness and consistency. Bypassing this system, as vigilantes do, threatens social order and legal integrity. While many are critical of the system's delays and inefficiencies, abandoning it altogether risks subjective and potentially dangerous interpretations of justice.

Public opinion often reflects the tension between moral beliefs and legal standards. What one group sees as justice, another may perceive as excessive or unjust. This highlights the importance of an impartial legal framework, even if imperfect. Reforms to enhance the efficiency, accessibility, and responsiveness of the justice system are necessary, but taking the law into individual hands undermines long-term societal stability.

## Justice: Morality vs. Legality

The central tension in vigilantism lies between retributive and restorative justice. Retributive justice focuses on punishing wrongdoers, while restorative justice seeks to heal and address root causes of crime. True justice requires a nuanced approach that balances both models.

Vigilantes often act from personal trauma or emotional motives, clouding their judgment. Their actions may reflect personal vengeance rather than legal objectivity. Understanding the psychological and emotional context behind such acts is vital. Mental health, trauma, and personal bias must be considered when examining why individuals resort to extrajudicial actions.

### Conclusion

The conflict between vigilantism and the rule of law represents a broader societal struggle to reconcile personal morality with legal fairness. While vigilantism may seem like a shortcut to justice, it risks undermining democratic principles and legal institutions. The legal system, despite its flaws, is essential for ensuring consistent, impartial justice. The challenge lies in strengthening these institutions to restore public trust while maintaining the rule of law, ensuring that justice is both fair and effective. The ongoing debate reflects society's deeper quest to define justice in a world of conflicting values and urgent realities.



# 107th DISCUSSION



## SOCIO-ECONOMIC DIVIDE IN ENTERTAINMENT: HOW SCALPING EXCLUDES THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Scalping is a recurring issue in India, where individuals or groups buy tickets at market rates and resell them illegally at inflated prices. This is especially common with event and concert tickets and is considered unethical and exploitative.

A recent case involves Coldplay's upcoming concert in Mumbai in January 2024. Lawyer Amit Vyas filed a complaint with the Economic Offences Wing of Mumbai Police against Book My Show, alleging it facilitated illegal resale of tickets through Viagogo.

Tickets originally priced between ₹2,500 and ₹35,000 were reportedly sold for up to ₹3 lakh. Investigations suggest Book My Show may have engaged in cartelization by giving bulk access to scalping agents in exchange for mutual profits.

Scalping, though not explicitly defined in Indian law, is considered illegal under various statutes. The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 addresses unfair trade practices, while the Competition Act, 2002 targets abuse of dominant market positions—both of which indirectly cover scalping.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 has further criminalized the unauthorized sale of tickets under Section 112, classifying it as a “petty organized crime.”

Beyond legal implications, scalping raises serious ethical concerns. It limits access to events and concerts to only the wealthy, depriving genuine fans and the general public of fair opportunities. This deepens socioeconomic divides and undermines the principle of equal access to entertainment and public experiences.

Scalping has long existed in India, but modern technology has amplified the problem. Weak cyber laws make it difficult to monitor and prevent such practices effectively.

Some believe scalping should be legalized with proper regulation. By taxing resold tickets heavily, the government could generate revenue while maintaining control over the market. This view treats scalping as an unavoidable aspect of the digital economy.

However, many oppose legalization, arguing it should remain illegal. They advocate strict punishment under existing laws and the introduction of specific legislation to curb scalping and safeguard consumer rights in the digital ticketing ecosystem.

# 108th DISCUSSION

MODERATOR:

PALEPU  
KRISHNA VIJAY



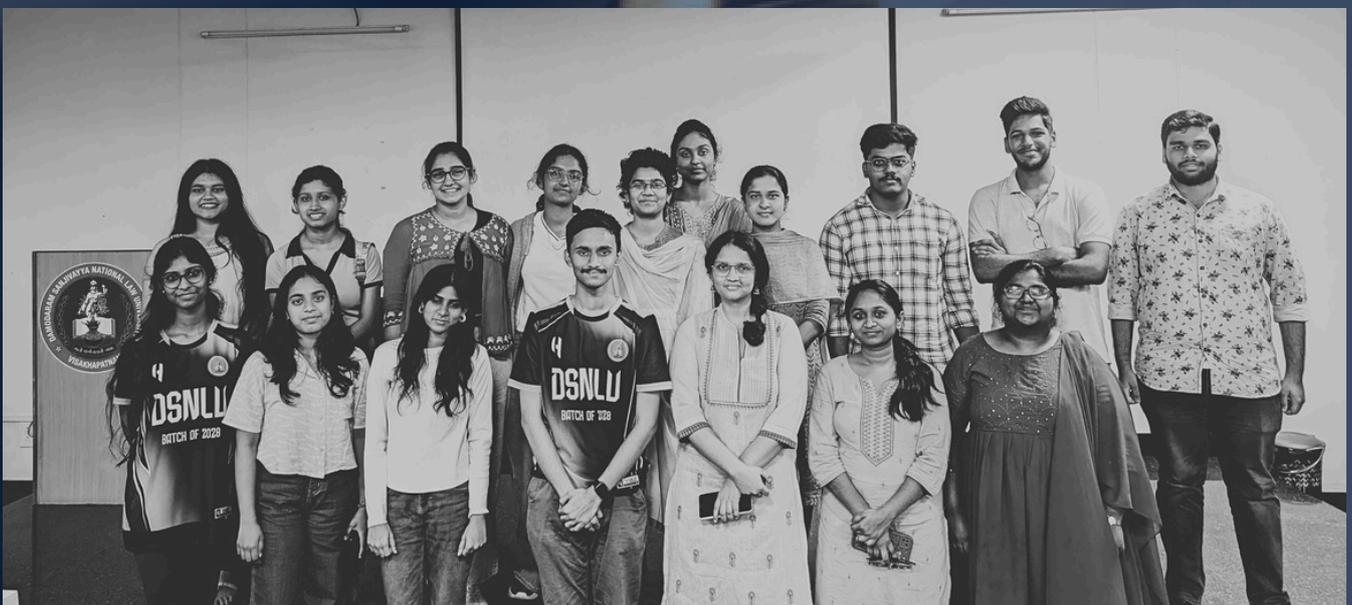
## ATUL SUBHASH CASE AND DOUBLE- EDGED SWORD OF ALIMONY LAWS

### Introduction

The Atul Subhash case marks a crucial intersection of law and accountability. Subhash, a Bengaluru resident, was found dead on December 9, 2024. Before his death, he left a 24-page note and an 81-minute video accusing his estranged wife and her family of mental harassment and abuse. Subhash alleged that his in-laws had demanded a settlement of Rs 3 crore as part of the divorce proceedings.

He also alleged bias by a family court judge in Uttar Pradesh, claiming favouritism toward his in-laws.

Subhash was entangled in multiple legal cases, including charges of attempt to murder, dowry harassment and unnatural sex, some involving his parents as co-accused.



## Insights Of Alimony Abuse From The Case

The uproar that originated from Atul Subhash's suicide led to a debate on the misuse of dowry laws and alimony laws. The Supreme Court, with regards to the divorce case, listed an eight-point formula to decide alimony amount.

India's divorce and alimony laws are governed by various legal provisions according to the person's religion, which aim to ensure fairness and financial support during or after divorce proceedings.

Alimony being the central focus of the laws is intent on factors like duration of marriage, financial stability, and the standard of living.

The recent allegations on the misuse of alimony laws revolve around individuals filing exaggerated or false claims to secure financial advantages, leading to weakening the original intent of the laws. Atul's tragic death along with the note left by him, has exposed the dark side of India's divorce and alimony laws and has become a symbol of need for legal reform.

### Alimony And Gender: Feminism Vs. Pseudo-Feminism

Feminism advocates for gender equality and justice, emphasizing fair treatment in societal and legal matters. It addresses women's financial dependency, alimony, and societal power imbalances.

In cases like the Atul Subhash case, feminist principles support women's right to alimony, ensuring they can regain financial independence post-divorce. Pseudo-feminism involves exploitation of feminist principles for personal gain or manipulation, distorting the spirit of equality and justice. It may perpetuate gender bias, overlooking complexities of relationships, and advocate for women's rights in a selective manner, ignoring fairness in divorce settlements.

This approach undermines the legitimacy of real gender-based issues.

The Atul Subhash case demonstrates the potential for both feminism and pseudo-feminism in the application of alimony laws.

A true feminist perspective would advocate for equitable distribution of resources post-divorce and support for gender empowerment. However, if alimony is used manipulatively, it could perpetuate gender-based inequalities or for personal gain, creating an unjust environment.



### Section 498A: A Double-Edged Sword

Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, originally designed to protect women from domestic violence, has been criticized for being misused as a weapon. Critics argue that false allegations are made under this provision to coerce financial settlements or seek revenge. The Supreme Court has termed this misuse "legal terrorism." Despite its protection, its overuse has caused significant social and familial disruptions.

In 2020, the National Crime Records Bureau reported over 85,000 cases of cruelty by husbands or their families under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, with 5,821 falsely declared. Nearly 25% of alimony claims involved exaggerated demands or unfounded allegations, causing financial and emotional distress. Over 2,000 male suicides were linked to family disputes and harassment during divorce proceedings.

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## Judicial Discipline

The claims made by Atul in his 24-page note about the legal system's bias and the corruption continuing in the courts have aroused several contemplations in the public.

The note consists of his allegations that a judge had demanded Rs 5 lakh to "settle" the case and he has also alleged that a clerk had asked Rs 3 lakh so he would ensure a fair maintenance order be passed.

Judicial corruption, such as bribery or undue influence, can compromise the fairness of trials and decisions on alimony or divorce settlements. Evidence of such practices could lead to a breach of judicial discipline and public trust, as seen in the Atul Subhash case.

Corruption in the judiciary can significantly damage public perception, particularly in sensitive cases like alimony and divorce. This could lead to skepticism about the impartiality of future cases and diminish the legitimacy of judicial rulings, thereby affecting public trust in the legal system.

Judicial discipline requires judges to maintain neutrality and unbiased rulings, ensuring equal opportunity for both parties and adherence to facts, legal principles, and evidence. Deviation could undermine the legal process's credibility and lead to bias. Judges must balance claims without societal pressures or personal opinions.

## Conclusion

The misuse of divorce and alimony laws has exposed flaws in the system, highlighting the need for reforms to prevent legal exploitation and ensure justice for genuine victims.

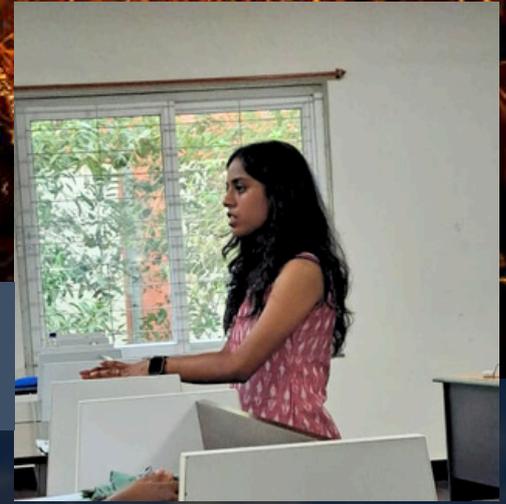
A balanced approach, implementing stricter guidelines, promoting gender-neutrality, and fostering awareness, is essential to create a legal system that serves its intended purpose of justice, protection, and fairness for all parties involved.

The case explores feminist principles in divorce and alimony settlements, but raises concerns about misuse and potential corruption. It emphasizes the need for fair treatment without gender biases.

Judicial discipline and potential corruption also highlight the importance of maintaining integrity and ensuring impartiality, transparency, and accountability.

# 109TH DISCUSSION

MODERATOR:  
VINAMRATHA MARRI



## MAHA KUMBH MELA: A CONFLUENCE OF FAITH, CULTURE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA

The Kumbh Mela originates from Hindu mythology, particularly the Samudra Manthan tale, where drops of Amrit (nectar of immortality) fell at Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik—now the four Kumbh Mela sites. The Maha Kumbh is held every 144 years at Prayagraj. Its timing is based on the astrological positions of the Sun, Moon, and Jupiter. Devotees believe bathing during the Mela washes away sins and grants moksha. Beyond religion, the Mela showcases India's cultural richness, social fabric, and economic activity.

The Maha Kumbh Mela generates significant economic activity, benefiting multiple sectors. The hospitality industry, including hotels, dharamshalas, and homestays, witnesses an unprecedented surge in demand. Small-scale vendors selling religious artifacts, food, and souvenirs experience a boom in sales.

Additionally, infrastructure development sees major investments, with improved roads, sanitation facilities, and public transport systems enhancing the urban landscape. The tourism industry, both domestic and international, flourishes during this period, contributing to government revenues and creating employment opportunities for thousands of people.

The Maha Kumbh Mela, which has been held from 13 January 2025 to 26 February, 2025, is a sacred pilgrimage that is celebrated four times over a course of 12 years. The expected turnout of 45 crore devotees in 45 days was exceeded within a month, reaching 66 crores+ by the concluding day.

The budget allocated for the Maha Kumbh Mela, 2025 is 15000 Crores where Central government and State Government of Uttar Pradesh contributed equally. The Indian Railways also arranged 1,000 special trains to Prayagraj to ensure seamless transportation, safety and infrastructure readiness. The railway stations are also equipped with AI-based crowd management systems to monitor crowd density and prevent stampedes. There was vast infrastructure development to accommodate more pilgrims.



To ensure a smooth Maha Kumbh 2025, the Indian Railways implemented disaster preparedness and emergency response measures. Prayagraj Airport was modernized, and the Ministry of Tourism partnered with Alliance Air to boost air connectivity, introducing 81 new flights in January 2025.

The Union and Uttar Pradesh governments ensured affordable food through subsidized rations, free meals, and strict food safety protocols. The Swachh Maha Kumbh Abhiyan promoted environmental responsibility, with a strict plastic ban and use of biodegradable cutlery. The state also undertook water treatment initiatives to maintain clean river water, ensuring a sustainable and spiritually enriching pilgrimage experience.

Despite extensive arrangements, crowd management failed due to the overwhelming number of pilgrims. The February 15, 2025 stampede at New Delhi Railway Station, which claimed 18 lives, highlighted the lack of effective crowd control. The massive influx also threatened the ecological balance of the Ganges and Yamuna rivers. To prevent pollution, the National Green Tribunal directed the Uttar Pradesh government and Central Pollution Control Board to ensure no untreated sewage entered the rivers. Authorities conducted bi-weekly water testing and published results online. Daily waste included 16 million liters of faecal sludge and 240 million liters of greywater, posing serious challenges.

## Conclusion

The 2025 Maha Kumbh Mela presented formidable challenges in preserving river purity amidst an immense gathering. Through a combination of legal directives, community engagement, and innovative waste management technologies, authorities successfully mitigated pollution risks, ensuring the event's spiritual objectives harmonized with environmental sustainability.

The Maha Kumbh Mela remains a unique blend of devotion, tradition, and economic activity, showcasing India's spiritual resilience and cultural richness. By adopting sustainable practices, leveraging modern infrastructure, and fostering awareness among pilgrims, the event can evolve into an environmentally conscious and well-managed religious gathering. Addressing these concerns proactively will not only preserve the sanctity of the Kumbh but also set a precedent for handling large-scale events in contemporary India.

# 110th DISCUSSION

MODERATOR:

SHASHWAT  
SINHA ✦

## SYMBOLS OF HOPE OR FEAR: WHAT TRULY DRIVES SOCIAL CHANGE

(In the context of The Dark Knight Ideological clash between Batman and Joker)



The ideological clash between Batman and the Joker in The Dark Knight represents two opposing forces that shape societies: fear and hope. Batman employs fear as a tool to deter crime and establish order, whereas the Joker challenges the very foundation of societal stability by exposing hypocrisy through chaos. This contrast raises a question important about whether fear or hope is the primary driver of social change.

Fear has often been used as a mechanism to maintain law and order. Batman instills fear in criminals, making them hesitate before committing crimes. Similarly, governments and legal systems worldwide use strict laws to deter unlawful behaviour.

In India, movements like the Independence struggle and protests against social injustices have challenged oppressive structures, leading to reforms.

Civil disobedience and mass demonstrations, such as those seen during the Anti-CAA protests and farmer agitations, reflect how disorder can push for necessary transformations. However, while chaos can highlight flaws in the system, its unpredictability can also result in destruction rather than progress. Further the Batman's philosophy, demonstrates that fear alone is insufficient. Hope is essential for creating lasting change.

Similarly, In India, leaders like Mahatma Gandhi used non-violence and hope to inspire a movement that changed the nation. In contrast, fear-driven approaches, such as emergency rule under Indira Gandhi, led to public backlash and eventual democratic restoration. Leaders and social movements often require both fear and hope to prevent wrongdoing and hope to inspire positive action.

Figures who represent ideas, whether heroes like Batman or disruptors like the Joker, influence societal behaviour. Fear-based messages quickly influence behaviour and help maintain control, but over time, they can lead to resistance. On the other hand, hope-based messages bring gradual yet lasting change. While fear may create order temporarily, hope supports long-term progress.

# Drishtikon Day Discussion

MODERATOR:

SHANMITHA  
BHO GADI



## UNION BUDGET 2025-26

### Introduction

The Union Budget 2025–26, presented by Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, focuses on inclusive development under the theme "Sabka Vikas", meaning growth for all. Quoting Telugu poet Gurajada Appa Rao, she emphasized that a nation's real strength lies in its people, not just in its land.

The Budget outlines the vision of Viksit Bharat (Developed India) through broad and ambitious goals eliminating poverty, ensuring quality education and healthcare, creating meaningful employment,

increasing women's participation in the economy, and transforming India into the global food basket through empowered farmers. The government is committed to driving growth through key sectors such as agriculture, MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises), investment, and exports, which are seen as the four powerful engines of India's development. These sectors are supported by ongoing reforms and a clear focus on inclusivity, technology, and employment generation.

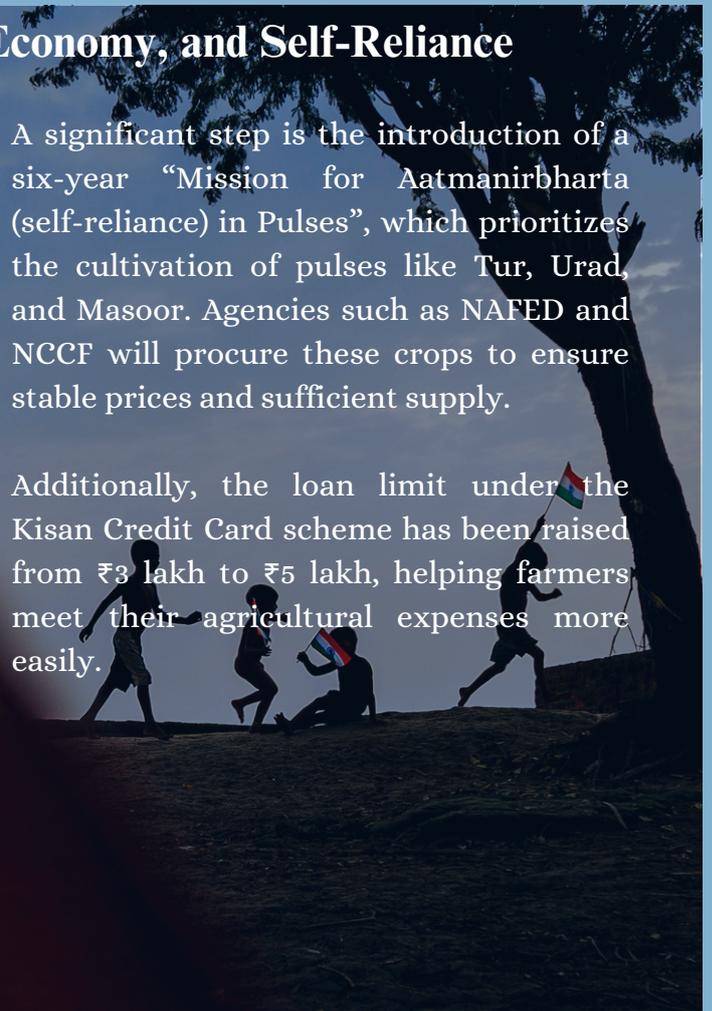
### Strengthening Agriculture, Rural Economy, and Self-Reliance

The first growth engine, agriculture, is targeted through the Prime Minister Dhan-Shaanya Krishi Yojana. In partnership with the states, the scheme will cover over 100 districts and aims to boost agricultural productivity, promote crop diversification, improve irrigation systems, and enhance storage facilities. It will also ensure easier access to both short-term and long-term credit.

A new program called 'Rural Prosperity and Resilience' will focus on reducing underemployment in rural areas by introducing skilling programs, investing in rural infrastructure, and promoting the use of modern technology. Special attention will be given to women, youth, small and marginal farmers, and landless families.

A significant step is the introduction of a six-year "Mission for Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) in Pulses", which prioritizes the cultivation of pulses like Tur, Urad, and Masoor. Agencies such as NAFED and NCCF will procure these crops to ensure stable prices and sufficient supply.

Additionally, the loan limit under the Kisan Credit Card scheme has been raised from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh, helping farmers meet their agricultural expenses more easily.



## Boosting Exports, Enhancing Investment Climate, and Supporting the Middle Class

The fourth engine of development exports will be driven through collaboration between the Ministries of Commerce, MSME, and Finance. An Export Promotion Mission will support MSMEs in accessing international markets and enhancing India's global trade presence. These efforts complement domestic reforms to strengthen the overall economy.

The Union Budget 2025–26 also introduces key changes to simplify compliance, modernize regulations, and attract investment. Notably, the FDI limit in the insurance sector is proposed to be raised from 74% to 100%, provided that companies reinvest all premium collections within India.

A major highlight is the revamped income tax regime. The exemption limit has been increased from ₹7.5 lakh to ₹12 lakh annually. This significant tax relief is expected to boost consumption, savings, and investments, placing more disposable income in the hands of the middle class.

## Empowering MSMEs, Entrepreneurs, and Workforce through Innovation and Inclusion

The second engine of development MSMEs has received a strong push. Given their 45% contribution to India's exports, the government has raised the investment and turnover thresholds for MSME classification by 2.5 and 2 times, respectively. This will help MSMEs expand operations, adopt new technology, and access capital more easily. A new scheme aims to support five lakh women, SCs, and STs in becoming first-time entrepreneurs, offering term loans up to ₹2 crore over five years.

The third engine focuses on people, innovation, and the economy. The Budget proposes 50,000 Atal Tinkering Labs in government schools and five National Centres of Excellence for advanced skill training in partnership with global institutions. A ₹500 crore Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence will strengthen education and tech capacity.

To boost local manufacturing, a “Made in India” toy initiative and a National Manufacturing Mission were announced. Gig workers will also receive ID cards and health coverage under PM-JAY.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the Union Budget 2025–26 lays out a bold vision for a developed India by focusing on inclusive growth, innovation, and economic resilience. Through strategic investments in agriculture, MSMEs, technology, and exports, along with sweeping reforms and tax reliefs, the government aims to uplift the poor, empower women and youth, and strengthen the middle class. With a strong emphasis on development, transparency, and opportunity, the Budget positions India firmly on the path to becoming a Viksit Bharat in the near future.

## "A Delicate Balance: The Political Debate Over the PM's Visit to the Chief Justice"

By N.Akshitha 1st year (3 year LLB batch)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the residence of former Chief Justice of India, Dhananjay Chandrachud, during the Ganeshotsav festival has sparked discussion about the delicate balance between the judiciary and the executive. Although the visit appeared to be a personal and ceremonial gesture, the Opposition raised concerns about the optics and the potential impact on judicial independence. They argue that such informal interactions could create perceptions of undue influence, especially in sensitive cases involving the government.

Judicial independence is a core principle of the Indian Constitution, ensuring that the judiciary remains free from executive pressure. While judges are entitled to social interactions like any other citizens, the public nature of this visit particularly involving the Prime Minister raises questions about maintaining clear boundaries between the branches of government.

Supporters of the visit maintain that cordial relationships between different arms of government are not inherently problematic, provided they do not compromise the judiciary's autonomy. However, in a democracy where checks and balances are vital, it is crucial that both the judiciary and the executive avoid actions that might erode public confidence.

Ultimately, the incident underscores the importance of preserving institutional integrity. While personal gestures should not be over-politicized, both branches must remain mindful of their roles and the need to uphold the perception and reality of judicial independence.

## Judiciary v. Executive

As Krishna Iyer J. said in *In Re: S Mulgaokar*, "Justice fails when judges quail." The Supreme Court is the Guardian Angel of Fundamental Rights. The Judges are the custodians of the Constitution of India. There is a reason why the Judicial Independence is paramount to a democracy and is part of the basic structure of the Constitution as held in *Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain* (1975 SC 2299), *Minerva Mills v. Union of India* (AIR 1980 SC 1789) and *L. Chandrakumar v. Union of India* (1997 3 SCC 261). The acts done by the former C. J. D. Y. Chandrachud may contribute to the weakening of the independence. The Judicial Independence was achieved through great hardship by Judges like John Marshall C. J. in cases like *Marbury v. Madison* (5 U.S. 137 1803).

By Krishna Vijay Palepu,  
III Semester

10th Feb - 16th Feb 2025

# VIVIDH 4.0

## ANNUAL POLICY DISCUSSION COMPETITION



VIVIDH is the flagship annual policy discussion competition organised by Drishtikon. It is a unique event where participants are presented with a draft legislation, meticulously prepared by the members of Drishtikon, and are required to propose amendments to it.

The competition is built on the idea of embracing vividh – diverse perspectives. Participants engage in detailed discussions on each proposal, analysing the provisions and delving into the nuances of the topic. They have complete freedom to propose amendments or choose not to, and are encouraged to agree, disagree, or maintain a neutral stance towards the views of their co-participants.

Participants are evaluated on their ability to interpret the clauses, the relevance and viability of their proposed amendments, and their skill in lobbying fellow participants to support their proposals.

The core objective of VIVIDH is to provide a platform where participants can articulate their viewpoints, critically analyse differing perspectives, and address potential conflicts constructively.

So far, three successful editions of VIVIDH have been conducted. This year, the fourth edition was held from 10th February to 16th February, 2025.



### Bills Presented:

- The Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill, 2024
- The Coastal Shipping Bill, 2025
- The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024
- The Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill, 2024 (Finals)

# NEETI – 2nd NATIONAL POLICY DRAFTING COMPETITION

## DRISHTIKON **X** ORPHEUS OF DSNU SABHA FOUNDATION

The Drishtikon Committee of Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University (DSNU), in collaboration with the Orpheus Sabha Foundation, proudly organized the NEETI 1st National Policy Drafting Competition.

The Orpheus Sabha Foundation, a non-profit organization, is committed to empowering youth by nurturing their research, public speaking, and leadership skills within a diverse and inclusive environment.

NEETI was conceptualized as a unique competition aimed at promoting policy drafting and analytical thinking among students across the country. This year's was the second edition of NEETI.

This year's theme, "Satellite Internet", challenged participants to engage with a pressing contemporary issue through innovative and practical policy solutions.

The competition was open to undergraduate and postgraduate students from recognized institutions, with participation allowed individually or in teams of two.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation.

### Cash Prize:

- INR 11,000 for First Place
- INR 7,000 for Second Place
- INR 5,000 for Third Place

In addition, the top five teams received Letters of Recommendation from a former bureaucrat, and the top ten finalists were awarded Certificates of Merit. All registered participants were issued e-certificates of participation.

Special appreciation is extended to Mr. Arjun Raghavendra M. for his invaluable guidance, and to faculty members Ms. Soma Bhattacharjya and Ms. Sherley Hepsiba Dokkiburra for their unwavering support throughout the event. The organizers also expressed heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Pratiksha Ullal and Ms. Architi Batra for serving as esteemed honorary judges on the final evaluation panel.

The success of NEETI marks a significant step forward in encouraging students to confront real-world challenges through policy innovation.

The competition concluded with a virtual Valedictory Ceremony and Group Discussion held on July 27th, marking the culmination of a stimulating and insightful event.

The winners were:

- **First Prize:** Ritika Rawat & Neha Maurya from Asian Law College
- **Second Prize:** Alpesh Anil Bagul & Nishtha Deepak from HNLU, Raipur
- **Third Prize:** Eshant Kumar from RMNLU, Lucknow

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