



CENTRE FOR SHAASTRIC STUDIES AND RESEARCH IN LAW

Background

Modern legal studies, rule making, justice dispensation, practice, procedure, and the methodologies presently associated thereto are greatly influenced by the western philosophy and the Westminster model of governance. Even after 70 years of independence, the methods of inquiry as well as decision making process are undertaken in the same manner.

The Indic knowledge resources encompass systems of justice, governance, practise as well as procedure. Their emphasis on development of a scientific temper and methods of inquiry has led to the creation of vast body of time-tested intellectual heritage. These knowledge systems came to a stand-still due to certain historical reasons. Despite the time lapse, these knowledge systems encapsulated in our literature like Nyaayashastra, Mimaansaa, Arthashastra, etc, continue to be relevant and can help us resolve many constitutional, administrative and legal issues. However, we did not recognise, revise and apply these knowledge resources.

The Idea of Indic Legal Studies

Recognising the importance of such a measure, the Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur in association with Kavi Kulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit University, Ramtek have established the Centre for Shaastric Studies and Research in Law (CSSRL). The universities are conscious of the long term goals and therefore seek to identify these knowledge systems as relevant for both the theory of law and its practise and therefore endeavour to undertake appropriate research activities and develop the necessary teachings.

Objectives

Both the universities have identified the following specific objectives to be achieved on a primary level in order to take this project ahead :

- To identify such branches and subjects in Indic knowledge systems as are relevant for the study of law,
- To study and utilize these knowledge systems for resolving contemporary issues,
- To hold seminars and conduct world class research and analysis,
- To develop and launch practical-oriented courses in the various levels of academics,
- To entrust the development of study material and pedagogy to the expertise in that field comprising of scholars in shaastric knowledge, academicians, lawyers and judges and to ensure that the course material so developed is appropriately suited for the academics of law as well as legal practice.

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