



## FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

## DHARMA TO DATA

Integrating Indian Knowledge Systems  
and AI-Driven Innovation in Modern  
Legal Pedagogy and Practice

Xavier Law School,  
St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

January 12-19, 2026 | Virtual Mode

## OFFICIAL BROCHURE

*This Faculty Development Programme represents a transformative initiative designed to address critical gaps in contemporary legal education while honouring India's jurisprudential traditions. The seven-day intensive virtual programme titled "Dharma to Data: Integrating Indian Knowledge Systems and AI-Driven Innovation in Modern Legal Pedagogy and Practice" brings together faculty from across India to explore the convergence of classical legal philosophy with cutting-edge technological and pedagogical innovations.*

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XAVIER LAW SCHOOL

# *Raison d'etere of the FDP*

The Indian legal profession faces a critical juncture. The transition from colonial-era legal codes to a modernized legal framework creates unprecedented demands on legal educators. Simultaneously, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and digital forensics are fundamentally reshaping legal practice, with predictive case analytics achieving excellent accuracy in forecasting outcomes and AI-powered tools automating document review, research, and legal analysis. While Western-centric legal pedagogy dominates Indian law schools, India possesses a rich jurisprudential heritage rooted in concepts of Dharma, Rajadharma (constitutional governance), Nyaya (justice), and Yukti (equity) that remain deeply relevant to contemporary legal challenges. Supreme Court judgments increasingly reference dharmic principles in constitutional interpretation, yet legal educators often lack frameworks for systematically integrating these traditions into modern curricula.

This programme addresses this disconnect by proposing that Indian legal traditions and emerging technologies are not contradictory but complementary. Dharma understood as righteous duty, ethical grounding, and commitment to justice provides essential moral anchors for deploying technology responsibly. AI and digital tools, conversely, expand the capacity for justice delivery and can amplify rather than replace the ethical reasoning that defines excellent legal practice.





## Objectives

- To deepen Faculty Understanding of Dharma as Contemporary Jurisprudential Framework
- To equip Faculty with Evidence-Based Pedagogical Frameworks for Active, Student-Centered Learning
- To develop Faculty Competence in Understanding, Teaching, and Critically Evaluating AI and Emerging Legal Technologies
- To enable Faculty to Integrate Contemporary Legal Challenges into Modernized Curriculum
- To support Faculty Development of Actionable Plans for Sustainable Innovation

# Themes of the FDP

## Theme I

### Dharma as Foundational Jurisprudence

The programme begins with deep engagement with India's legal philosophical traditions, positioning Dharma not as religious doctrine but as a sophisticated framework for understanding righteous duty, constitutional governance, and justice. Supreme Court jurisprudence increasingly interprets fundamental rights and duties through dharmic principles—the Court has explicitly held that "dharma is used in the context of duties of the individuals and powers of the King (the State)" to mean constitutional law. Participants will explore how classical texts (Manusmriti, Dharmasutras, Arthashastra) addressed questions of governance, justice, equity, and social order that remain relevant to contemporary constitutional interpretation, criminal law, and human rights jurisprudence.

## Theme II

### Pedagogical Transformation

Drawing on evidence-based pedagogical research, this theme equips faculty with concrete methodologies for shifting from doctrinal knowledge transmission to active, student-centered learning. Case-based and problem-based approaches engage students with authentic legal dilemmas, dramatically improving engagement and critical thinking. The programme provides frameworks for designing blended synchronous-asynchronous courses that leverage technology to enhance rather than diminish classroom interaction.

## Theme III

### Technology, AI, and Legal Practice

As AI matures from experimental to indispensable—with predictive litigation tools, legal research assistants, automated contract review, and regulatory intelligence platforms becoming standard—faculty must understand these applications deeply enough to teach them critically.

The programme covers AI applications in legal research (natural language processing), judicial analytics (machine learning for case outcome prediction), cybercrime investigation, and data privacy regulation. Critically, it addresses limitations, ethical challenges, and the irreducible role of human judgment in complex legal decision-making.

## Theme IV

### Contemporary Legal Challenges and Innovation

The programme situates technological and pedagogical innovation within concrete legal problems demanding faculty attention: the criminal law modernization represented by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, the explosion of cybercrime and need for digital forensics expertise, constitutional interpretation addressing emerging rights and marginalized populations, and professional ethics in an AI-driven profession.

## Theme V

### Research Excellence and Academic Leadership

Faculty development extends beyond teaching to research and scholarship. The programme supports contemporary research methodologies—including socio-legal, empirical, and interdisciplinary approaches—that address real-world legal problems and produce publications advancing the field. It provides practical guidance on publishing in academic journals, building research collaborations, and securing funding.

# Day-wise Break-Up of the Session

## Day 1

### Foundations of Dharma and Legal Jurisprudence

The opening day establishes conceptual foundations. The keynote address positions Dharma beyond religious connotations toward its constitutional meaning. Participant activities include analyzing Supreme Court judgments that explicitly invoke dharmic principles, identifying continuities between ancient legal texts' treatment of justice (Nyaya) and modern constitutional jurisprudence.

## Day 2

### Legal Pedagogy and Active Learning

This day provides evidence-based pedagogical frameworks and practical design skills. Faculty learn why traditional Langdell case method, while valuable, requires supplementation with problem-based and experiential elements to develop critical thinking, practical skills, and ethical reasoning. Hands-on workshops have participants design case studies for their own courses, practice facilitating difficult class discussions, and develop assessment strategies evaluating higher-order thinking.

## Day 3

### Artificial Intelligence and Legal Technology

Faculty explore AI applications across legal practice and education. Sessions cover legal research tools using natural language processing, machine learning systems predicting case outcomes with demonstrated accuracy, and AI-powered contract review and document automation. Critically, faculty also engage with limitations and risks: algorithmic bias, data privacy concerns, the irreplaceable role of human judgment in matters requiring ethical reasoning.

## Day 4

### Contemporary Legal Challenges

This day grounds the programme in pressing contemporary issues. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

2023 represents the most significant criminal law modernization since independence; faculty learn how to teach this reform while its judicial interpretation is still emerging. Cyber forensics addresses the explosive growth of cybercrime cases rose in recent years requiring integration of technical knowledge with legal frameworks. Constitutional law sessions engage with landmark 2024-2025 Supreme Court decisions on fundamental rights, equality, and access to justice.

## Day 5

### Research Methodologies and Scholarly Excellence

Faculty development encompasses research and scholarship. Sessions cover contemporary legal research methodologies including socio-legal and empirical approaches that address real-world legal problems. Publishing guidance helps faculty navigate journal selection, article structure, and navigating peer review. Guest perspectives from journal editors and successful researchers provide practical insights.

## Day 6

### Specialized Workshops and Skill Development

Parallel workshops allow faculty to deepen expertise in specific areas: legal writing and advocacy, clinical legal education, virtual moot courts and simulations. This structure accommodates diverse institutional contexts and faculty interests while providing intensive skill development.

## Day 7

### Consolidation and Impact

A reflective roundtable explores how faculty will implement learning in their institutions, identifying needed support and building commitment to ongoing engagement beyond the programme.

# Participation

## Eligible Participants

- Academicians,
- Legal Professionals
- Research Scholars

## Registration Fees

INR 700  
(Inclusive of GST)

## Registrations Open

22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2025

## Methodology

Lectures will be delivered in online mode  
(Google Meet)

## Intake Capacity

60 only

## Registration Closes

4<sup>th</sup> January, 2026



[Click to Access  
Registration Form](#)



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# Organizing Committee

## Convenors

### Dr. Ranjeeta Mukherjee

*Dean, Xavier Law School,  
St. Xavier's University, Kolkata*

### Dr. Siddhant Chandra

*Assistant Professor, Xavier Law School,  
St. Xavier's University, Kolkata*

## Co-Convenors

### Dr. Subhajit Chakraborty

*Assistant Professor,  
Xavier Law School,  
St. Xavier's University, Kolkata  
(Finance)*

### Dr. Kaustav Choudhury

*Assistant Professor,  
Xavier Law School,  
St. Xavier's University, Kolkata  
(Technical)*

### Dr. Ankita Chakraborty

*Assistant Professor,  
Xavier Law School,  
St. Xavier's University, Kolkata  
(Co-ordination)*



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