



PROJECT 39A
EQUAL JUSTICE
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

CERTIFICATE COURSE ON

Capital Punishment in India

LAW, PRACTICE AND JUSTICE



**A TWO-MONTH
ONLINE CERTIFICATE COURSE**

12th September 2026 – 01st November 2026

www.project39a.com



ABOUT PROJECT 39A

Project 39A, the criminal justice research and litigation centre at National Law University Delhi, works at the intersection of research and litigation with respect to the criminal justice system, with a specific focus on death penalty research and litigation, legal aid and the facilitation of access to justice.

ABOUT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY DELHI

National Law University Delhi (NLUD) is India's premier law school, renowned for academic excellence, impactful legal research, and global engagement. Committed to justice, innovation, and leadership, NLUD shapes future legal minds through interdisciplinary education, vibrant student life, and partnerships with leading institutions worldwide.

INTRODUCTION

The death sentence is the most severe and irreversible form of punishment which has undergone significant developments. However, structured, practice-oriented training on the subject remains unexplored. Recognising this opportunity, Project 39A at National Law University Delhi proposes to organise a two-month online certificate course pertaining to all aspects of the death penalty as it relates to theory and practice, titled "Capital Punishment in India: Law, Practice and Justice."

The course shall take the participants through the theoretical, constitutional, procedural, forensic, comparative and reform dimensions of capital punishment, drawing on Project 39A's own expertise, alongside wider scholarship and jurisprudence. The course will bring together various eminent speakers who are domain experts and renowned legal practitioners in the field of criminal law.

The course will provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of capital punishment in India, while equipping them with the doctrinal knowledge and practical skills necessary for advisory, litigation, research and policy work in this field.



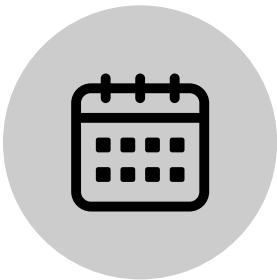
COURSE STRUCTURE



Target Audience:

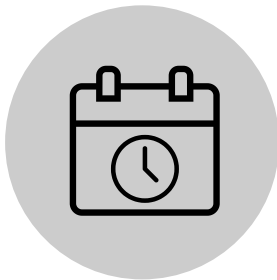
This course is designed for students from undergraduate and postgraduate courses, forensic science students, legal practitioners, professionals, academics, researchers and for those with a strong interest in the criminal justice system.

COURSE AT A GLANCE



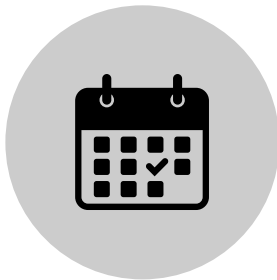
DURATION

8 Weeks
2 hours/lecture
(32 hours)



DATES

12.09.2026 to 01.11.2026



SCHEDULE

Weekends
(Saturday-Sunday)



SPECIAL SESSION

To accommodate the availability of a distinguished speaker, Lecture 5 has been scheduled on **Monday, 21st September 2026, (05:30 PM - 07:30 PM).**



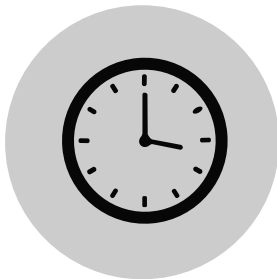
RECORDINGS

Access for
3 Months



SPEAKER MODEL

One speaker/ lecture



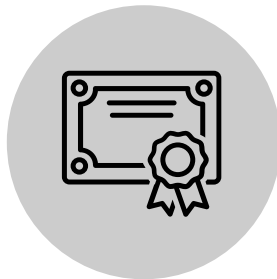
TIMING

11:00 AM – 01:00 PM IST
(for Indian Speaker lectures)
02:00 PM – 04:00 PM IST
(for International Speakers)



ATTENDANCE

A minimum of 75% to be mandatory



CERTIFICATE

Awarded on successful completion of all components, including an online assessment exam to be held on 01.11.2026



COURSE CONCLUSION (HYBRID)

The course will conclude with a hybrid session delivered by the Executive Director, Project 39A, allowing participants the option to attend either online or in person at NLU Campus (Dwarka, Delhi)

SPEAKERS FOR THE COURSE

01



Prof. (Dr.) GS Bajpai
Vice Chancellor,
National Law University Delhi

”

“Penological Justifications for Capital Punishment”

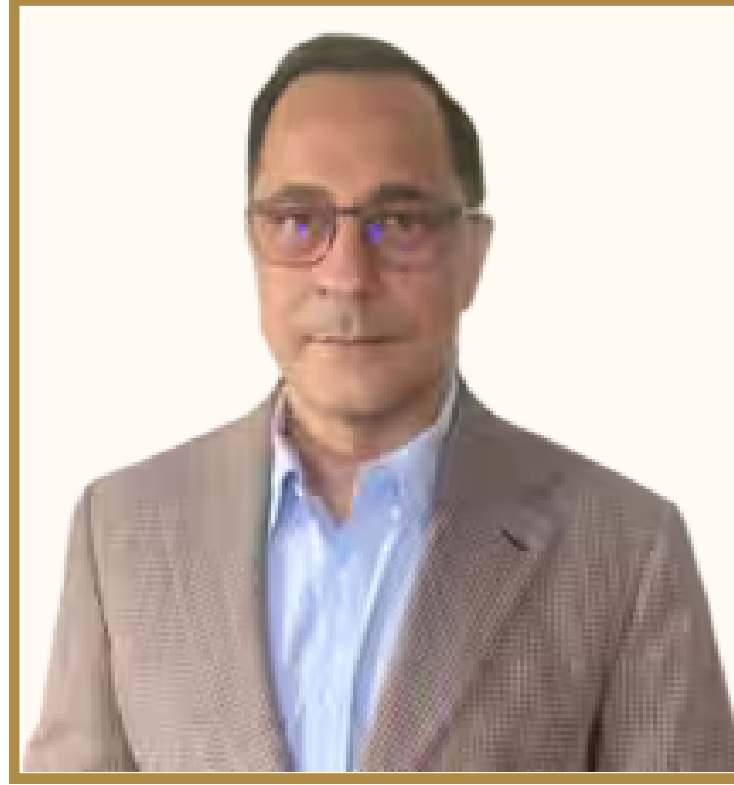


12.09.2026 (Saturday)



11:00 AM – 01:00 PM IST

02



Mr. Saurabh Kirpal
Senior Advocate

”

“How India Inherited and Retained Capital Punishment”



13.09.2026 (Sunday)



11:00 AM – 01:00 PM IST

03



Dr. Seema Kaul Singh
Director, The Institute of Constitutional and
Parliamentary Studies (ICPS)

”

“The Constitutional and Judicial Architecture of Capital Punishment in India”



19.09.2026 (Saturday)



11:00 AM – 01:00 PM IST

SPEAKERS FOR THE COURSE

04



Dr. Shailesh Kumar
Royal Holloway
University of London

”

“Who is on Death Row in India?”



20.09.2026 (Sunday)



02:00 PM – 04:00 PM IST

05



Dr. Siddharth Luthra
Senior Advocate

”

“Death Penalty Trials and Sentencing: Inside
the Courtroom”



21.09.2026 (Monday)



05:30 PM – 07:30 PM IST

06



Mr. Rajshekhar Rao
Senior Advocate

”

“The Appellate Journey, the Mercy Petition
and the Last Recourse”



27.09.2026 (Sunday)



11:00 AM – 01:00 PM IST

SPEAKERS FOR THE COURSE

07



Dr. G K Goswami
Founder Director, Uttar Pradesh State
Institute of Forensic Sciences (UPSIFS)

”

“Traditional Evidence vs Forensic Evidence and the Risk
of Getting it Wrong” &
“From Scene to Swab: Crime Scene Investigation and
DNA Profiling”



03.10.2026 (Saturday) & 04.10.2026 (Sunday)



11:00 AM – 01:00 PM IST

08



Mr. Sanjiv Sen
Senior Advocate

”

“The Forensic Expert in the Witness Box:
Admissibility and the Evidentiary Weight”



10.10.2026 (Saturday)



11:00 AM – 01:00 PM IST

09



Prof. Dr. Anneke Petzsche
University of Bremen, Germany

”

“The Abolitionist Norm:
A Comparative Study”



11.10.2026 (Sunday)



02:00 PM – 04:00 PM IST

SPEAKERS FOR THE COURSE

10



Mr. Kapil Sankhla
Managing Partner, Sankhla & Associates

”

“The Case for Retention:
A Comparative Perspective”



17.10.2026 (Saturday)



11:00 AM – 01:00 PM IST

11



Dr. Pupul Dutta Prasad
**Inspector General of Police, BPR&D &
Honorary Director, Project 39A**

”

“Capital Punishment and
the Global South”



18.10.2026 (Sunday)



11:00 AM – 01:00 PM IST

12



Mr. Shailesh Madiyal
Senior Advocate

”

“Penal Populism, Media and the Manufacture
of Public Demand”



24.10.2026 (Saturday)



11:00 AM – 01:00 PM IST

SPEAKERS FOR THE COURSE

13



Justice J.R. Midha
Former Judge, Delhi High Court

”

“The Weight of the Decision: Sentencing in
Capital Cases”



25.10.2026 (Sunday)



11:00 AM – 01:00 PM IST

14



Mr. Sanjay Vashishtha
**Advocate, Supreme Court of India &
Executive Director, Project 39A**

”

“Beyond the Death Penalty: Reform and
Sentencing Alternatives”



31.10.2026 (Saturday)



11:00 AM – 01:00 PM IST

Disclaimer: Speakers may change in the event of exigent circumstances.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Build a working understanding of trial of a capital case and appellate procedure in the context of new criminal law codes
- Critically engage with the empirical realities of death sentencing in India
- Develop an understanding of theoretical, historical and constitutional foundations of capital punishment in India
- Explore the relevance of forensic evidence and forensic expert opinion in capital cases
- Engage critically with the emerging global trends surrounding capital punishment with a special focus on the global South
- Analyse the jurisprudence of sentencing doctrine in India in capital cases
- Understand the role played by media and penal populism in shaping public perception regarding capital punishment
- Gain insight into alternatives to capital punishment and proposals to reform death sentencing in India

FEES & REGISTRATION

- INR 10,000 for all the participants
- Registrations open on 12 August 2026 and close on 10 September 2026
- The full course fee must be paid at the time of registration
- The fee once paid is non-refundable



**USE QR CODE OR LINK
BELOW FOR REGISTRATION**

LINK:

<https://odl.nludelhi.ac.in/register2.0.html>

COURSE COORDINATOR

- Ms. Radhika Bhadri, Academic Fellow, Project 39A, NLUD

P39A TEAM MEMBERS

- Mr. Piyush Arya, Project Manager, Project 39A, NLUD
- Ms. Sruti Chandran, Litigation-cum-Research Associate, Project 39A, NLUD



CONTACT US

- For more details, visit our website:

<https://www.project39a.com/>

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- Phone: 8130846006



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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONNECT US ON:



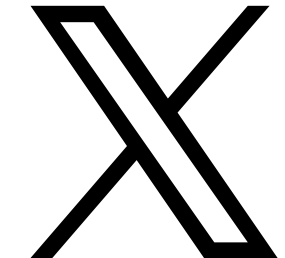
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