



INDIAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

ILA Monthly Newsletter

AUGUST 2026

INAUGURAL NEWSLETTER

A MONTH OF IDEAS & IMPACT

ONLINE WEBINAR
8 AUGUST
11AM IST

ILSA (ILA) National Webinar on
STUDENT ACTIVISM & THE LAW:
Rights, Responsibilities & Legal Consequences

DR. VINOD KUMAR SINGH
B.A. Honours, LL.M., LL.D.
Former Advocate at Supreme Court, India
Former Vice-Chancellor, All India Law Institute, Lucknow

SHOBHA GUPTA
B.A. Honours, LL.M., LL.D.
Senior Advocate at Supreme Court of India
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NAVNEET CHUGH
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Former Advocate at Supreme Court of India
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15 AUGUST, 2026 **11AM IST**

INDIAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION presents

The 27 Lawyers Who Won India Its Freedom
WITHOUT LAWYERS, WOULD INDIA BE FREE TODAY?

OUR PANELISTS

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Online Webinar **29 August (Saturday) | 11am**

What is the Reality of the Constitution's Promise of Free Legal Aid For the Needy?

DR. DEEPIKA S
B.A. Honours, LL.M., LL.D.
Former Advocate at Supreme Court of India
Former Vice-Chancellor, All India Law Institute, Lucknow

AJAY VERMA SINGH
B.A. Honours, LL.M., LL.D.
Former Advocate at Supreme Court of India
Former Vice-Chancellor, All India Law Institute, Lucknow

SHAMBHAVI PRASAD
B.A. Honours, LL.M., LL.D.
Former Advocate at Supreme Court of India
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VISHAL K. MISHRA
B.A. Honours, LL.M., LL.D.
Former Advocate at Supreme Court of India
Former Vice-Chancellor, All India Law Institute, Lucknow

SANDEEP PANDEY
B.A. Honours, LL.M., LL.D.
Former Advocate at Supreme Court of India
Former Vice-Chancellor, All India Law Institute, Lucknow

RAVI KUMAR
B.A. Honours, LL.M., LL.D.
Former Advocate at Supreme Court of India
Former Vice-Chancellor, All India Law Institute, Lucknow

RAJESH KUMAR
B.A. Honours, LL.M., LL.D.
Former Advocate at Supreme Court of India
Former Vice-Chancellor, All India Law Institute, Lucknow

Article 38A of the Constitution of India, enshrines the two pillars of Equal Justice and Free Legal Aid, viz. "The State shall secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice, on a basis of equal opportunity in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that no person is denied justice on the basis of economic or other disabilities."

Dialogues on rights, legal heritage & access to justice

Featuring ILA & ILSA webinars and leadership achievements

www.indialawyers.org



ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

Building a stronger, more connected legal profession in India

The Indian Lawyers Association (ILA) is a voluntary professional organization for legal professionals in India. Its membership is open to lawyers, judges, professors, law students and others interested in law and the legal profession.

ILA works to support professional development, ethical conduct, access to justice, effective law reform and the rule of law, while building a nationwide professional network and facilitating the exchange of information across its chapters.

ILA VISION

**Timely. Appropriate.
Accessible justice.**

Website highlights: 100+ chapters | 10K+ lawyers | 100+ events

SERVE MEMBERS

Professional growth & networking

IMPROVE PROFESSION

Education, ethics & public service

ADVANCE RULE OF LAW

Access to justice & fair legal process

MESSAGE TO OUR READERS

Welcome to the ILA Monthly Newsletter - a monthly initiative to keep members, lawyers, law students, partners and the wider legal community informed about ILA's programmes, chapter leadership and professional achievements.

This first edition captures August 2026 highlights: an ILSA dialogue on student activism, an Independence Day tribute to lawyer-leaders, a national conversation on free legal aid, and achievements from ILA chapter leaders and members.

This is only the beginning. Stay connected for more ideas, initiatives, opportunities and stories from across the ILA community - every month.

A monthly view of conversations, leadership and progress across the ILA community.

08 AUGUST 2026

Student Activism & the Law

Rights, Responsibilities & Legal Consequences

ONLINE WEBINAR
8 AUGUST
11AM IST

ILSA (ILA) National Webinar on
STUDENT ACTIVISM & THE LAW:
Rights, Responsibilities & Legal Consequences

COLIN GONSALVES
Senior Advocate at Human Rights Law Network, Delhi

BINDU DUBEY
State Secretary, BJP - Uttar Bharatiya Morcha

DR. ANTHONY RAJU
Advocate Supreme Court, Chairman, Indian National Human Rights Protection Council

DR. MUKTESH CHANDER
IPS (Retd.), Special Member for Cybercrime and Artificial Intelligence at National Human Rights Commission

DR. VIKRAM SINGH
IPS (Retd.), Former Director General of Police, UP, Chancellor Noida International University

SHOBHA GUPTA
Senior Advocate at Supreme Court of India

JULIO FRANCIS RIBEIRO
IPS (Retd.), Police Officer-in-Charge, Director General of Police, Punjab (Retd.), & Commissioner of Police Mumbai (Retd.)

NAVNEET CHUGH
CPA, Attorney, Managing Partner - Chugh LLP, Founder, ILSA

EVENT SNAPSHOT

DATE	Saturday, 8 August 2026
TIME	11:00 AM IST
PLATFORM	Microsoft Teams
ORGANISED BY	Indian Law Students' Association (ILSA)
MODERATOR	Navneet Chugh

DISTINGUISHED PANELISTS

Colin Gonsalves; Bindu Dubey; Dr. Anthony Raju; Dr. Muktesh Chander, IPS (Retd.); Dr. Vikram Singh, IPS (Retd.); Shobha Gupta; and Julio Francis Ribeiro, IPS (Retd.).

WHY THIS CONVERSATION MATTERED

The session brought together voices from law, human rights, public life, academia and law enforcement to examine how student activism intersects with constitutional freedoms, legal boundaries and civic responsibility. Discussion covered freedom of speech and peaceful assembly, responsible engagement, public order, legal consequences of unlawful conduct, and the growing influence of social media and misinformation.

15 AUGUST 2026

The 27 Lawyers Who Won India Its Freedom

Without Lawyers, Would India Be Free Today?

SPECIAL INDEPENDENCE DAY TRIBUTE

ILA commemorated 27 lawyer-trained personalities associated with India's freedom movement and nation-building, revisiting how law, advocacy, constitutional thought, public leadership and institution-building shaped the country's journey.

PANELISTS

Ravi Tilak; Ankit Chamoli; Vandana Gour; Adv. Hasit Seth; Nawaz Haindaday; Saurav Kapoor; and Yashwant Singh.
Moderator: Navneet Chugh.

SELECTED LEGACIES REVISITED

Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, C. Rajagopalachari, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Chittaranjan Das, Bhulabhai Desai, K. M. Munshi, Lala Lajpat Rai, Motilal Nehru, Madan Mohan Malaviya and others.



Law as a force in nation-building

The webinar looked beyond familiar public identities to examine how legal education, advocacy, constitutional thinking and commitment to justice informed the contributions of these figures. It also invited today's legal professionals to reflect on the profession's continuing responsibility to justice, constitutional values and the public interest.

29 AUGUST 2026

The Reality of the Constitutional Promise of Free Legal Aid

Is equal access to justice being realised in practice?

Online Webinar 29 August (Saturday) | 11am

What is the Reality of the Constitutional Promise of Free Legal Aid For the Needy?

PANELISTS:

- DR. DEEPIKA S.**
Advocate,
Mediator & Peacebuilder,
Researcher, Digital Commentator
& Social Activist
- AJAY VEER SINGH**
Advocate,
Supreme Court of India,
Managing Partner
BS, Jain & Co.
- DHANANJAY TIWARI**
Deputy Chief Legal Aid
Defense Counsel (Chameli)
CG
- DUSHYANT K. MAHANT**
Founding Partner,
Mahant & Mahant Advocates
- SIDHANT PANDITA**
Associate Partner,
Dispute Resolution
Class Law India
- AJAY GARG**
Founder of Garg & Garg
Advocates
Founder,
Radhey Krishna Foundation
- NAVNEET CHUGH**
CPA, Attorney, Managing
Partner - Chugh LLP,
Founder - ILA

Article 39A of the Constitution of India, enshrines the twin pillars of Equal Justice and Free Legal Aid, directing that: "The State shall secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice, on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall, in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities."

ARTICLE 39A IN FOCUS

The webinar examined the ground realities of India's free legal aid system and whether the constitutional promise of equal justice and free legal aid is translating into timely, meaningful and effective assistance for those who need it most.

PANELISTS

Dr. Deepika S.; Ajay Veer Singh; Dhnanjay Tiwari; Dushyant K. Mahant; Sidhant Pandita; and Ajay Garg.
Moderator: Navneet Chugh.

KEY THEMES

- Public awareness and accessibility of free legal aid
- Quality of legal representation and early access to counsel
- Challenges faced by legal aid lawyers and institutional support
- Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS)
- Role of law schools, NGOs, pro bono lawyers and volunteers

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

Success cannot be measured only by the existence of schemes and institutions. The discussion focused on whether people in need can actually obtain accessible, timely and effective legal assistance - and what the legal community can do to help bridge remaining gaps.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Adv. Hitesh Ramchandani

ILA Thane President | International Arbitrator & Mediator



KLUWER LAW INTERNATIONAL MEET 2026 | MUMBAI

Adv. Hitesh Ramchandani facilitated a panel discussion on "Managing Complex Cross-Border Disputes in an Uncertain World" at the Kluwer Law International Meet 2026, held on 24 July at The President Hotel, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai. He also received a memento in recognition of his contribution. The discussion focused on international arbitration, cross-border dispute resolution and the evolving global legal landscape, with approximately 40-50 participants in attendance.

ACROSS THE ILA COMMUNITY

Recognition, professional leadership and legal innovation

Vasanthika Srinath

ILA Bangalore President | Founder & Managing Partner, Arnava Legal

RECOGNITIONS

Arnava Legal was recognised as Best Boutique Technology Law Firm 2026 - South India and received the AI Governance Excellence Award 2026 - South India from APAC Insider, along with Most Innovative Corporate Law Firm - Bengaluru 2026 from Legal Insider.



Advocate Mehul Bansal

ILA Amritsar Board Member | Founder & CEO, Talon Advocacy

His current work combines litigation, legal journalism and mentorship, with recent initiatives focused on Alternative Dispute Resolution, systemic reforms and ethical advocacy. He also serves as Managing Head, Kotasin Law Firm (Punjab Branch).



Adv. Dr. Gitesh Khanna

ILA Alwar President | Director, K. K. Khanna & Associates, Advocates

Advocate Gitesh Khanna was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in recognition of his contributions to Law, AI, ODR and Legal Technology.



Stay connected. Stay informed.

More updates from the Indian Lawyers Association are coming every month.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN FUTURE EDITIONS

- Major ILA and ILSA webinars, programmes and professional conversations
- Chapter developments, leadership updates and collaborations across India
- Member achievements, legal initiatives and community contributions
- Opportunities for lawyers, law students and the wider legal fraternity

Indian Lawyers Association

A voluntary professional organization for legal professionals in India.

Learn more: www.indialawyers.org

Thank you for reading the ILA Monthly Newsletter.

August 2026

Stay connected. Stay informed. More exciting updates from ILA are coming every month.