Prof. S.C. Raina, Professor, Faculty of Law, Delhi University delivered a special lecture on “Criminal Law: Issues and Challenges” at ITMU Law School on 25th August 2015. He mainly highlighted contemporary issues like Cyber Crimes, Human Trafficking, Police Reforms, Criminal Trials and system of punishment in India during the lecture and suggested valuable changes in the present criminal law.

Prof. Raina quoted many incidents of violation of Criminal Laws including the Delhi gang-rape case which has opened a Pandora’s Box. One of the most hotly debated topics emerging out of this is Police Reforms and improvement in the criminal justice system. As is well-known, the criminal justice system, which is generally defined as the system of practices and institutions of governments directed at upholding social control, deterring and mitigating crime, or sanctioning those who violate laws with criminal penalties and rehabilitation efforts, is one of the State’s sovereign and most fundamental functions. He emphasised on one of the universally acknowledged concept that better criminal justice can be achieved through improved coordination among law enforcement, courts, and correctional agencies. The initial point is definitely law - criminal law, in this particular case. He further explained that Law is a system of rules usually enforced through a set of institutions. The purpose of law is to provide an objective set of rules for governing conduct and maintaining order in a society. It is no point iterating that law comes in the realm of legislation. Criminal law has two major faces - procedural law and substantive law. Criminal Procedure Code 1973, associated with the Indian Evidence Act 1872 may be called the base of Indian procedural law. The Indian Penal Code 1861 is the major substantive criminal law in India, though there must be many hundred other criminal minor acts spread to various fields like Aircraft Act, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, Cattle Trespass Act, Central Excise Act to Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, Child Marriage Restraint Act, Cinematograph Act to Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act, Wild Life (Protection) Act and Young Persons (Harmful Publications) Act. He further suggested specific changes in many acts so as improve the implementation of criminal law to increase the conviction rate in India, which is very less (approx 27%) at present in India.