

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

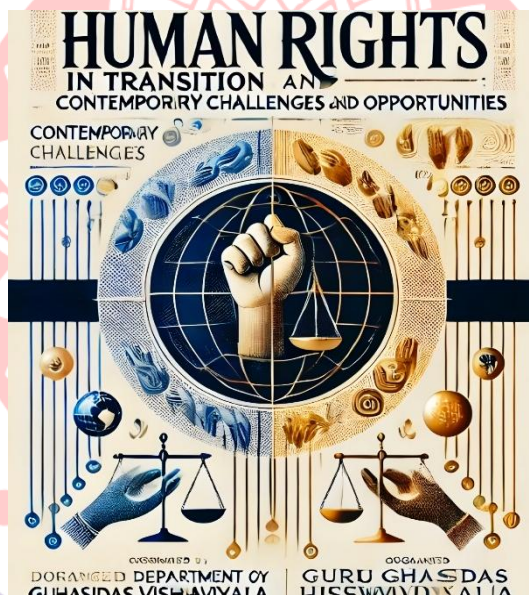
HUMAN RIGHTS IN TRANSITION: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

07th & 08th March, 2025

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ORGANISING BY

DEPARTMENT OF LAW
GURU GHASIDAS VISHWAVIDYALAYA
(A Central University)
KONI, BILASPUR, CHHATTISGARH (INDIA)



ABOUT GURU GHASIDAS VISHWAVIDYALAYA

Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (GGV), a premier Central University located in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, operates under the Central Universities Act, 2009. Named after the revered saint Guru Ghasidas and guided by the Sanskrit motto "Gyan Panth Kripan Kae Dhara" (The Path of Knowledge is the Flow of Grace), GGV embodies a legacy of educational excellence and inclusivity. Accredited with the prestigious A++ grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), the university offers a diverse array of undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs across disciplines like Science, Arts, Commerce, Engineering, Management, Law, and Education. Committed to empowering students from tribal and underserved communities, GGV fosters innovation, critical thinking, and social responsibility. Its modern infrastructure, dedicated faculty, and vibrant learning environment make it a centre for holistic growth, shaping future leaders while contributing significantly to societal progress and national development.

ABOUT US (THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW)



The Department of Law at Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (GGV) has been a pioneer in legal education since its inception in 2012, blending with national standards to create an intellectually vibrant environment for cultivating dynamic legal acumen. With a team of accomplished faculty comprising distinguished professors, scholars, from across India, the department offers a robust curriculum that combines rigorous coursework, experiential learning through legal aid clinics, and vibrant moot court activities. Offering integrated B.A. LL.B. and B.Com.LL.B. courses approved by the Bar Council of India, along with LL.M. (Self-Financed) and Ph.D. programmes recognised by the University Grants Commission, the department is committed to fostering advocacy skills, legal services, and law reforms, empowering students to serve society with professionalism and ethics. Key initiatives such as the Moot Court Society, Legal Aid Clinic, Speakers' Forum, and Alternative Dispute Resolution Cell, and the recently established Pro-Bono Club, approved by the Department of Justice, underscore its dedication to ensuring access to justice for marginalised communities. Through interactive workshops, training sessions, and a culture of engaging with classic literature, the Department of Law inspires students to explore new ideas, cultivate critical thinking, and excel in legal practice.

ABOUT BILASPUR

Bilaspur, the "Cultural Capital of Chhattisgarh," is a dynamic city blending rich history, cultural heritage, and modern development. Nestled along the Arpa River, it is home to iconic landmarks like the revered Mahamaya Temple and historic Ratanpur Fort, reflecting its ancient roots and architectural grandeur. Renowned for its aromatic Dubraj rice, the city is aptly called the "Rice Bowl of Chhattisgarh." Bilaspur also serves as an educational and industrial hub, housing Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (GGV), a Central University, and the headquarters of the South East Central Railway zone. Despite rapid urbanization, the city retains its traditional charm with vibrant festivals like Navratri and offers natural retreats like the Achanakmarg Wildlife Sanctuary, part of a UNESCO biosphere reserve. This harmonious blend of tradition and modernity makes Bilaspur a vital centre of cultural, spiritual, and economic significance.

CONCEPT NOTE

Human rights form the bedrock of any democratic society, ensuring dignity, equality, and justice for all individuals. In India, the protection and promotion of these rights face numerous challenges stemming from social, economic, political, and technological transformations. This conference seeks to explore these challenges and highlight opportunities to strengthen the human rights framework at the national level.

Marginalized communities in India, particularly Dalits and tribal populations, continue to experience systemic discrimination despite constitutional protections. Issues such as caste-based atrocities, denial of land rights, and forced displacement due to development projects remain prevalent. Tribal communities, in particular, face significant struggles as their cultural identity, livelihoods, and access to natural resources are frequently jeopardized. Economic inequality further exacerbates these issues, leaving large segments of the population without access to basic socio-economic rights like healthcare, education, and housing.

Women and gender rights in India also present significant concerns. Gender-based violence, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, and workplace discrimination, remains widespread despite legal safeguards. While the decriminalization of Section 377 in the old penal law (IPC) has provided some relief to the LGBTQ+ community, systemic discrimination and a lack of institutional support persists. Comprehensive reforms and a shift in societal attitudes are crucial for ensuring true equality.

The freedom of expression, an essential pillar of democracy, faces growing restrictions in India. The use of sedition laws and other legal measures to curb dissent has raised concerns about the shrinking space for dialogue and critique. Journalists, activists, and human rights defenders often face threats and violence, undermining their ability to hold power to account. Similarly, custodial violence and police brutality continue to tarnish the justice system, with incidents of torture and extrajudicial killings highlighting the urgent need for police and judicial reforms.

The condition of labourers and migrant workers reflects another area of human rights concern. The unorganized sector, which forms the backbone of India's economy, remains largely unprotected, with workers facing unsafe conditions, low wages, and exploitation. The COVID-19 pandemic brought these vulnerabilities into sharp focus, with millions of migrants struggling to return home amid the lockdown, underscoring the absence of robust social security systems.

Digital advancements have brought new challenges to human rights, particularly in the realm of privacy and data protection. With increasing surveillance and misuse of personal information, citizens' right to privacy is at risk. Cybercrimes, online harassment, and algorithmic biases further complicate the digital landscape, calling for stronger regulatory frameworks.

Issues related to refugees and stateless persons also demand attention. Policies such as the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC) have raised questions about the right to nationality, equality, and secularism. Refugees from neighbouring countries often face uncertain legal statuses, lack of access to basic services, and social exclusion.

Environmental and climate justice issues, including deforestation, industrial pollution, and displacement due to climate change, disproportionately affect vulnerable communities.

Recognizing the right to a healthy environment as fundamental is essential for achieving sustainable development.

While human rights violations are a matter of serious concern in nations worldwide, at the international level, they present even more complex challenges. Violations such as genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and the suppression of political freedoms continue to occur, often in conflict zones or under authoritarian regimes. The international community's response is frequently hindered by geopolitical interests, the lack of effective enforcement mechanisms, and the principle of state sovereignty, which can prevent swift action or accountability. Moreover, issues like human trafficking, forced labour, and restrictions on freedom of expression persist, highlighting the need for stronger global cooperation and robust international legal frameworks to address these widespread abuses effectively.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This conference aims to critically analyse the state of human rights in India amidst socio-economic and technological changes, addressing challenges like caste discrimination, gender violence, and digital surveillance. It will explore opportunities for strengthening the human rights framework through policy reforms, legal amendments, and awareness, emphasizing the role of the judiciary, government, and civil society. By fostering dialogue among experts, scholars, and policymakers, the conference seeks actionable solutions to promote equity and safeguard human rights.

CALL FOR PAPER

We cordially invite Academicians, Students, Researchers, Legal Professionals, Policymakers, Representatives of Civil Society, and Human Rights Activists, Government Officials having their stake in protecting human rights, to submit their research papers for the upcoming **National Conference**. The Conference will feature technical sessions addressing various sub-themes listed below:

Sub-Themes	
1. Constitutional and Legal Framework for Human Rights	1. The Constitutional Protection of Human Rights: Challenges and Opportunities
	2. Freedom of Expression: Challenges in the Age of Sedition Laws and Dissent
	3. Custodial Violence and Criminal Justice Reforms
	4. Refugee Rights and Statelessness: CAA and NRC Implications
	5. Judicial Activism and Its Role in Promoting Human Rights
2. Social Justice and Marginalized Communities	6. Caste-based Atrocities and the Struggle for Equality among Dalits
	7. Tribal Communities: Displacement, Land Rights, and Cultural Survival
	8. Gender-based Violence: Gaps in Protection and Enforcement

	9. Rights of the LGBTQ+ Community: Progress and Challenges
	10. Access to Education and Healthcare for Marginalized Communities
3. Economic Inequality and Labour Rights	11. Economic Inequality: Impact on Access to Human Rights
	12. Migrant Workers' Rights: Labour Laws and Social Security
	13. The Unorganized Sector: Labour Rights and Exploitation
	14. Sexual Harassment and Workplace Discrimination
	15. Challenges in Enforcing Minimum Wage Laws
4. Environmental and Climate Justice	16. Environmental Justice: Climate Change and Vulnerable Communities
	17. The Right to a Healthy Environment: Integrating Human Rights and Environmental Laws
	18. Human Rights in Conflict Zones: Geopolitical Constraints
	19. Legal and Ethical Dimensions of Climate Refugees
	20. Community-based Strategies for Sustainable Development
5. Cyber and Digital Rights	21. Digital Privacy: Data Protection and Surveillance Challenges
	22. Cybercrimes and Online Harassment: Strengthening Legal Frameworks
	23. Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights: Ethical Considerations
	24. Regulation of Hate Speech and Misinformation Online
	25. The Right to Internet Access as a Human Right
6. Global Human Rights Challenges	26. International Human Rights Violations: Accountability and Governance
	27. Human Trafficking and Forced Labour: Strengthening Legal Responses
	28. Refugee Crises and the Role of International Organizations
	29. Post-conflict Rehabilitation and Justice Mechanisms
	30. Emerging Issues in Global Health and Human Rights
7. Civil Society and Political Freedoms	31. Shrinking Space for Political Dissent: Role of Civil Society
	32. Media and Freedom of Speech in Democratic Societies
	33. Whistleblowers and the Protection of Democratic Values
	34. The Role of NGOs in Advancing Human Rights
	35. Citizen Movements and Grassroots Advocacy for Political Freedoms
	36. Papers addressing intersections of caste, gender, environment, economic disparity, and other interdisciplinary themes

8. Emerging Issues and Intersectionality	37. Intersectionality in Policy-making: Challenges and Opportunities
	38. Addressing Discrimination through a Multidisciplinary Approach
	39. Technology and Intersectional Disparities in Access to Rights
	40. The Role of Cultural Narratives in Shaping Human Rights Discourses

These sub-themes, as suggested above, are not exhaustive. Participants are encouraged to explore the above sub-themes or propose related topics in alignment with the conference's overarching theme.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- ☐ Submissions should include:
 - An Abstract (250-300 words)
 - A clear outline of objectives and legal provisions relevant to the topic
 - Case laws and empirical analysis (if applicable)

FORMAT FOR MANUSCRIPTS

- Language: English or Hindi
- Software: Microsoft Word
- Font: Times New Roman (English), Kruti Dev 10 or Kokila (Hindi)
- Font Size:
 - Title: 14 pt, bold, uppercase
 - Author's Name: 11 pt, italic, without prefixes
 - Abstract: 11 pt
 - Main Text: 12 pt
 - Footnotes: 10 pt
- Line Spacing: 1.5 for main text; 1.0 for footnotes
- Length: 3,500 to 6,000 words (including footnotes)
- Citation: Follow ILI Rules for footnoting (<https://ili.ac.in/cstyle.pdf>)

Manuscripts must be original and must include:

- Educational qualifications, designation/professional status, university/organization name, and email ID in the footnotes on the first page.
 - Keywords (maximum 5 words)
 - Divisions into headings, with Introduction and Conclusion sections.
- ☐ Manuscript shall be E-mailed at : nationalconferencedolggy@gmail.com

Note: Participants are requested to adhere strictly to the above guidelines.

CO-AUTHORSHIP

Co-authorship of maximum 1 author per paper is allowed, however registration has to be done individually.

PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITY

Selected full Papers will be published in the Edited Book bearing ISBN.

REGISTRATION FEES

The participants are required to submit the registration fee as per the following guidelines:

- Faculty/Professionals/Delegates/Research Scholars: ₹1000
- Students (UG/PG): ₹800
- Spot Registration: Additional ₹200

Note: No TA/DA will be provided. Co-authors are required to complete a separate Google form and separate fee payment as mentioned above for registration.

PAPER PRESENTATION AWARD

The conference offers participants the opportunity to win awards, trophies, and certificates for outstanding paper presentations. The award categories are structured as follows:

Best Presentation Award in Conference	One Award
Best Presentation Award in Technical Session	Eight Awards (1 Per Technical Session)
Runner UP Presentation Award in Technical Session	Eight Awards (1 Per Technical Session)

LINK FOR GOOGLE FORM FOR REGISTRATION

<https://forms.gle/upXaTgKNezS2kbRR6>

ACCOUNT DETAILS

A/C Name	REG GURU GHASIDAS UNI BILASPUR
A/C No.	37137162271
IFSC Code	SBIN0018879
Bank Name	State Bank of India, Lodhipara, Koni, Bilaspur
UPI ID	FOGGU@SBI

ACCOMODATION

Accommodation shall be provided to out station participants to the maximum of 20 in number on the first come first serve basis. An additional amount of Rs. 800/- per person shall be charged for it.

IMPORTANT DATES

Registration	22 Feb, 2025
Last date of abstract submission	25 Feb, 2025
Full Paper Submission:	05 March, 2025
Conference Date	07th & 08th, March, 2025

Note: If full paper is submitted within above mentioned date, it will be published in a book after peer review and necessary correction. In case of submission of Abstract only paper presentation will be allowed.

GUEST

 <p>Prof (Dr.) R. Krishna Murali (Key Note Speaker)</p>	<p>Professor, Faculty of Law, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi</p>
 <p>Prof (Dr.) Sibaram Tripathi</p>	<p>Professor, Faculty of Law, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi</p>
<p>OTHER GUESTS</p>	<p>The event will be attended by distinguished guests, including a judge, legal experts, university leaders, human rights representatives, media professionals, individuals involved in tribal movements in Chhattisgarh, and officials from the legal aid authority.</p>

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Patron in Chief	<p>Prof. (Dr.) Alok Kumar Chakrawal</p> <p>Hon'ble Vice Chancellor</p> <p>Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, (C.G.)</p>
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Patron	<p>Prof (Dr.) A. S. Ranadive Registrar Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, (C.G.)</p> <p>Prof. (Dr.) M. N. Tripathi Dean, School of Studies of Law, GGV, Bilaspur</p>
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- ☐ Dr. Rajkumar Nagwanshee, Associate Prof., Department of Economic, GGV

CONTACT DETAILS

- ☐ For any queries, feel free to reach out via email : nationalconferencedolggv@gmail.com or call on:

+91-7999921349

Mr. Akash Manwani

+91 – 7000321725

Miss. Jhalak Sachdev

+91- 7257046510

Mr. Sushant Gautam

- ☐ Address: Department of Law, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Koni, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, India, Pin- 495009

Convenor

Dr. Sagar Kumar Jaiswal

Assistant Professor, Department of Law,
Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, C.G.

Email Id: adv.sagar@yahoo.co.in

Contact No. 9452565566

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