

CENTRE FOR TRIBAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Himachal Pradesh National Law University , Shimla



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Mode: Online Paper Presentation
HIMACHAL PRADESH NATIONAL
LAW UNIVERSITY, SHIMLA

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRIBAL IDENTITY, GOVERNANCE AND JUSTICE IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA

*Recognition, Rights and Realities:
Tribal Identity, Governance and
Justice in Contemporary India*

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Tribal and indigenous communities in India continue to face major changes driven by economic shifts, resource use and growing State involvement. Despite constitutional promises of dignity, cultural freedom and self-rule, many still experience displacement, land loss and limited access to justice and services. Laws like the Forest Rights Act and PESA offer support, but their use varies widely. With rising migration, digitization, markets and climate pressures reshaping identities and livelihoods, this Conference offers a space to examine these issues and support policies that strengthen rights and cultural knowledge.



01. About University

The Himachal Pradesh National Law University (HPNLU), Shimla, was established by the State Government in 2016 through Act 16 of 2016 and began functioning on October 5, 2016. Admissions to its Undergraduate programmes—B.A.LL.B. and B.B.A.LL.B. (Five-Year Integrated Courses)—and its one-year LL.M. Postgraduate programme are conducted through the Common Law Admission Test. The LL.M. offers four specializations: Constitutional Law, Criminal Law and Forensic Studies, Business Law and Intellectual Property Rights. The University also offers Doctor of Philosophy and Post-Doctorate Programmes in Law. Situated in the Himalayan foothills, HPNLU provides an enriching environment for legal education, combining academic rigor with practical and interdisciplinary learning. With a distinguished faculty drawn from across India and dynamic academic leadership, the University has rapidly emerged as a sought-after institution committed to excellence in legal education and holistic student development.



Humanity is defined by its immense diversity, visible not only in physical traits or social practices but deeply rooted in cultures, traditions, languages, belief systems and ways of life. Among this mosaic, tribal and indigenous cultures hold a distinctive place, representing ancient knowledge systems, ecological wisdom and community-based traditions that shape the nation's heritage.

Yet these cultures remain underrepresented and vulnerable, facing diminishing traditional practices, displacement due to development projects and structural inequalities. Contemporary constitutional discourse, guided by transformative constitutionalism, calls for greater recognition of diversity, autonomy, equality, dignity and self-determination for tribal communities.

In this context, the Centre for Tribal and Cultural Studies at Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla, has been established to foster research, dialogue, advocacy and capacity-building on tribal rights and cultural preservation, bridging gaps between constitutional commitments and lived realities through collaboration with academia, policymakers, NGOs and tribal communities.

02.

About Centre for Tribal And Cultural Studies

03.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The Call for Papers and Conference aims to provide a platform for:

- ❑ Promoting interdisciplinary research on tribal identity, governance, cultural heritage and rights-based frameworks.
- ❑ Encouraging dialogue between scholars, practitioners, policymakers, community representatives and civil society stakeholders.
- ❑ Examining constitutional guarantees, statutory protections and customary practices to understand their implementation and impact.
- ❑ Evaluating emerging issues such as migration, digital technologies, environmental concerns and market integration and their effects on tribal communities.
- ❑ Supporting community-centric approaches that uphold cultural autonomy, ecological knowledge and indigenous worldviews.
- ❑ Contributing to policy-oriented discussions to strengthen protections for tribal communities and promote inclusive, sustainable development models.

04.

CONFERENCE THEMES

The Conference will primarily focus on

"Recognition, Rights and Realities: Tribal Identity, Governance and Justice in Contemporary India"

SUB-THEMES

- History and Evolution of Tribal Identity in India
- Citizenship, Recognition and the Politics of Inclusion: The State's Role in Defining and Contesting Tribal Identities
- Constitutional Promises and Legal Pluralism: Evaluating the Interface between Constitutional Safeguards, Customary Law and State Frameworks
- Recognition of Tribal Cultures within State and Constitutional Frameworks
- Language, Law and Power: The Politics of Linguistic Recognition in Education, Administration and the Courts
- Religion, Custom and Secular Law: Contestations over Conversion, Autonomy and State Regulation

**Part I:
Identity,
Recognition
and Cultural
Frameworks**

Part II: Land, Governance and Justice

- **Land, Forest and Resource Rights: FRA 2006 & PESA Implementation Challenges**
- **Autonomy, Federalism and Self-Governance: The Sixth Schedule, PESA and the Reconfiguration of Tribal Self-Determination**
- **Development, Displacement and Rights Violations: Legal Accountability in Mining, Infrastructure and Conservation Projects**
- **Justice in Context: Customary Dispute Resolution, Tribal Courts and Access to Formal Justice Systems**
- **Land, Territory and Jurisprudence: Legal Battles over Forest Rights, Resource Extraction and Environmental Governance**
- **Human Rights Frameworks and International Norms: Indigenous Rights under UNDRIP and Their Translation in Indian Law**
- **Reimagining Justice: Decolonial Approaches to Law, Recognition and Restorative Justice for Tribal Communities**

Part III: Knowledge, Property and Representation

- Knowledge Systems and Intellectual Property: Protecting Traditional Ecological and Medicinal Knowledge within Modern IPR Regimes
- IPR, GI Tags and Community Ownership of Cultural Heritage
- Epistemic Justice: Recognising Indigenous Ways of Knowing in Law and Academia
- Education, Modernity and Legal Empowerment: Bridging Customary Learning with Curriculum
- Media, Representation and Cultural Rights: Visual Sovereignty and the Legal Framing of Indigenous Narratives
- Digital Governance and Tribal Representation: Emerging Technologies in Participatory Democracy and Rights Advocacy



Part IV: Transition, Migration and Modernity

- **Urbanization, Migration and Identity Law: Legal Recognition of Tribal Communities in Urban and Diasporic Spaces**
- **Diasporic Indigeneity: Tribal Identity Outside Traditional Territories**
- **Livelihood Shifts and Market Economy Integration**
- **Digital Modernities and Tribal Futures: Cyber Rights, Data Sovereignty, Virtual Indigeneity**
- **Socio-Economic Realities: NFHS, NSSO, Tribal Health & Education Data**

- **Gender, Custom and Legal Reform: Re-examining Women's Agency within Tribal Legal and Customary Systems**
- **Culture and Modernization: Cultural Continuity vs. Assimilation Pressures**
- **Ritual, Memory and Oral Heritage Documentation**
- **Cultural Heritage Repatriation and Ethical Preservation**
- **Towards the Future: Sustainable Community-Led Governance and Policy Reforms**

Part V: Gender, Culture and the Future

The conference will include a plenary inaugural session, followed by theme-based panel discussions and online paper presentation sessions. Each presentation will be followed by interactive Q&A segments, allowing participants to engage with speakers, experts and fellow researchers.

05.

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE

06.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Research papers are invited from:

- **Students**
- **Researchers**
- **Academics**
- **Lawyers**
- **Tribal rights activists**
- **NGO professionals**
- **Policy experts**
- **Scholars in Law, Humanities, Sociology, Anthropology and allied fields.**

**ALL PAPER PRESENTATIONS WILL BE
CONDUCTED ONLINE.**

07.

MODE OF THE CONFERENCE

08. IMPORTANT DATES.

Date for Clarifications:
25th December 2025

Abstract Submission
Deadline:
5th January 2026

Notification of
Acceptance:
15th January 2026

Full Paper Submission:
20th February 2026

Online Conference
Date:
28th March 2026

Interested participants are invited to submit abstract (300 words) via the Google Form below:

[**SUBMIT HERE**](#)

The selected abstracts will be required to submit their full papers along with the registration fee and will be called upon to present the same during the Online Conference.

09. SUBMISSION RULES:

- **Max 300-word abstract**
- **Full paper must follow HPNLU Citation Style**
- **Word Limit for the Paper, 3000-5000 words**
- **Max 2 co-authors allowed**
- **Abstracts & papers to be submitted only via Google Forms**
- **Only selected authors must pay registration fee**
- **Plagiarism should not exceed 10%**

STUDENTS:

Single Author: INR 500
Co-author: INR 700

SCHOLARS/ ACADEMICIANS :

Single Author: INR 1000
Co-author: INR 1200

**NOTE:
FEES ARE APPLICABLE ONLY
AFTER ACCEPTANCE OF THE
PAPER.**

10.

REGISTRATION FEES

11.

SUBMISSION & FORMATTING GUIDELINES

FORMATTING:

- **Word limit: 3000-5000 words**
- **Font: Times New Roman**
- **Size: 12**
- **Spacing: 1.5**
- **Citation: HPNLU Style**
- **File type: Word + PDF**
- **Include: Title, Name(s), Institution, Email, Keywords (max 5)**

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

- **Originality**
- **Relevance to theme**
- **Research quality**

12. ORGANISING COMMITTEE



**Patron-in-
Chief:**

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gurmeet Singh
Sandhawalia
The Chancellor, HPNLU, Shimla**



Patron:

**Prof. (Dr.) Priti Saxena
The Vice Chancellor
HPNLU, Shimla**

FACULTY ORGANISING COMMITTEE



Director:

**Prof. (Dr.) S.S. Jaswal,
Professor of Law, HPNLU**



Co-ordinator

**Dr. Ved Prakash ,
Assistant Professor of Political
Science, HPNLU**



Co-ordinator

**Dr. Narinder Pal,
Assistant Professor of History,
HPNLU**

STUDENT ORGANISING COMMITTEE



Student Convenor:

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Student Co-convenor:

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Secretary: Ishika Trivedi- Batch (23-28)

Treasurer: Vinay Chandra Pratap Singh Thakur- Batch (23-28)

Public Relations Head: Shubham Verma- Batch (23-28)

Student Advisor: Himanshu Sharma- Batch (22-27)

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Abhinav Wadhwa- Batch (23-28)

Ayush Chaubey- Batch (23-28)

Garima Mankotia- Batch (23-28)

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Vanshika Sachdev- Batch (24-29)

Anisha Chaudhary- Batch (25-30)

Dipika Vij- Batch (25-30)

Harsh Kumar Mahilange- Batch (25-30)

Pratyush Negi- Batch (25-30)

Raj Vardhan Vishwakarma- Batch (25-30)

In case of any queries or assistance, please feel free to reach out to us at

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