

TWO DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON

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FOUR DECADES OF THE NDPS ACT, 1985

*Jurisprudential evolution, contemporary
challenges and a roadmap towards
Drug-Free India by 2047*

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MAHARASHTRA NATIONAL LAW
UNIVERSITY, NAGPUR

April 10-11, 2026
(Hybrid)



ABOUT

MNLU, NGPUR

Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur, an Institution with a students' centric outlook, was established by the Government of Maharashtra in 2015. The University started its academic activities from August 1, 2016 and is currently in its 9th year of academic pursuits, presently running the B.A.LL.B.(Hons.) Five-Year Integrated Degree Course; B.A.LL.B. (Honours in Adjudication and Justicing) Five-Years Integrated Degree Course; B.B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) Five-Year Integrated Degree Course, and the One-Year LL.M. (Postgraduate) Degree Course.

The University is recognised by the University Grants Commission under 12(B) of University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956 and the Bar Council of India (BCI), New Delhi. It is also a member of Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi and Consortium of National Law Universities.

The University is making rapid progress towards the dream of achieving excellence in the field of legal and justice education with its dedicated faculty members, research associates, research scholars, students and staff under the dynamic guidance of the Chancellor, Hon'ble Shri Justice Atul S. Chandurkar, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar.

ABOUT

THE CONFERENCE

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 has constituted the cornerstone of India's drug control regime for nearly four decades. While the Act has played a central role in regulating narcotic offences, its implementation has engendered complex jurisprudential questions and significant practical challenges, necessitating sustained academic scrutiny and informed policy dialogue.

In this context, the University proposes to organise a Two-Day National Conference titled "*Four Decades of the NDPS Act, 1985: Jurisprudential Evolution, Contemporary Challenges, and India's Visionary Roadmap towards a Drug-Free India by 2047.*" The conference seeks to bring together legal scholars, members of the judiciary, law enforcement authorities, public health experts, civil society organisations, and specialists in narcotics control to critically examine emerging judicial interpretations and contemporary enforcement concerns.

The conference aims to provide a rigorous academic platform for deliberation on the evolving legal framework governing narcotic offences, with particular emphasis on procedural safeguards, evidentiary standards, bail jurisprudence, sentencing principles, and the broader constitutional and institutional challenges arising in the enforcement of the NDPS Act.

Conducted over two days, the conference will feature three plenary sessions designed to ensure comprehensive engagement with both doctrinal and practical dimensions of NDPS law. Through informed dialogue and interdisciplinary perspectives, the deliberations seek to contribute meaningfully to contemporary narcotics jurisprudence and the administration of criminal justice in India.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Conference invites original, unpublished, and full-length scholarly papers (4000–8000 words) on the NDPS Act, 1985, with particular emphasis on emerging jurisprudential developments, contemporary challenges in narcotics control, criminal justice administration, and policy frameworks aligned with the vision of a Drug-Free India by 2047.

Submissions may include doctrinal, theoretical, comparative, empirical, and interdisciplinary research, and may address, inter alia, the conference themes and sub-themes.

Researchers, academicians, legal professionals, policymakers, and students intending to participate are required to submit an abstract clearly indicating the proposed title, research problem, objectives, methodology, and relevance to the conference theme. Selected submissions shall be presented by the authors during the Technical Sessions of the Conference in hybrid mode.

It is further proposed that selected papers, subject to peer review and editorial scrutiny, shall be published in a special issue of the Contemporary Law Review.

I

CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE NDPS ACT, 1985, PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS, EFFECTIVE PROSECUTION AND DEFENCE STRATEGIES.

II

LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSES FOR COMBATING NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS, AND CROSS-BORDER DRUG NETWORKS.

III

REHABILITATION & DE-ADDICTION AS A LEGAL AND SOCIO-INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE TO DRUG DEPENDENCE AND SOCIAL RE-INTEGRATION.

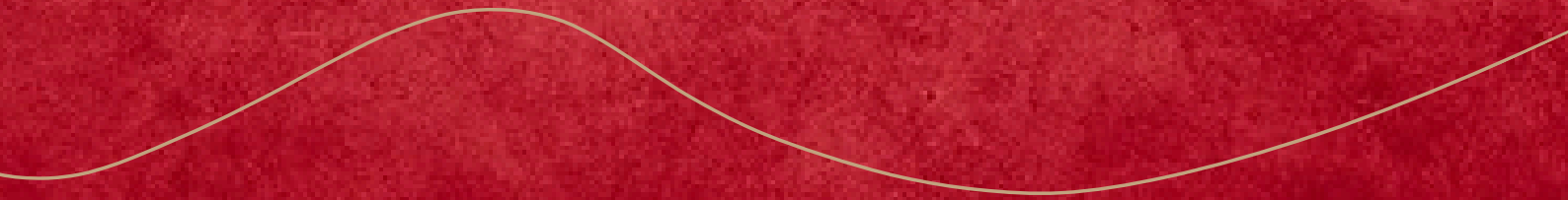
IV

CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES IN REGULATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NDPS ACT, 1985.

SUB - THEMES

THEME 1

Criminal proceedings under the NDPS Act, 1985: Procedural safeguards, effective prosecution and defence strategies.

- Evolving judicial interpretation and procedural compliance governing investigation;
 - Legal implications and evidentiary standards concerning prosecution and statutory presumptions;
 - Bail jurisprudence, judicial discretion and concerns surrounding prolonged undertrial detention;
 - Procedural safeguards, fair trial and protection against false implication;
 - Legal implications and procedural lapses in sentencing and conviction.
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SUB - THEMES

THEME 2

Law enforcement responses for combating narcotics trafficking, illicit financial flows and cross border drug networks.

- Narcotics trafficking as a driver of illicit financial systems and money laundering;
- Cross-border narcotics control, international cooperation, intelligence sharing and multilateral enforcement mechanisms;
- Role of Narcotics Control Bureau, Enforcement Directorate, Border Guarding Forces and the Indian Coast Guard in dismantling organised trafficking networks;
- Maritime and border interdiction strategies for preventing transnational drug smuggling;
- Digital narcotics networks, dark web trafficking and technology-enabled drug distribution.

SUB - THEMES

THEME 3

Rehabilitation and De-addiction as legal and socio- institutional response to drug dependence and social re-integration

- Scope, objectives and implementation challenges of rehabilitation and de-addiction measures under the NDPS Act, 1985;
- Regulatory and administrative gaps in ensuring uniform standards of care, monitoring and accountability of de-addiction and rehabilitation centers;
- Implementation challenges in India relating to the availability, affordability and accessibility of de-addiction and rehabilitation services;
- Balancing punitive enforcement with rehabilitation-oriented interventions through integration of criminal justice and public health approaches;
- Socio-legal concerns of drug addiction and rehabilitation among vulnerable groups.

SUB - THEMES

THEME 4

Contemporary challenges in regulation, accountability and implementation of NDPS Act, 1985

- Role of print, broadcast, and digital media in glamorizing substance use, and influencing public scrutiny in enforcement;
- Impact of media trial, investigative integrity, judicial approach, and narcotics policy discourse;
- Comparative and policy assessment of India's readiness to follow global shift towards limited legalisation or decriminalisation models;
- Online availability of narcotics, its impact on youth and State's responsibility;
- Growing socio-cultural assimilation of narcotics use within educational and corporate ecosystems and the resulting enforcement challenges.

The following guidelines should be adhered to while submitting the abstract:

- The abstract should not exceed 300–350 words and must be submitted on or before March 22, 2026.
- All abstracts must be accompanied by a cover letter containing the following details:
 - Name of the Author(s)
 - Theme and Sub-Theme(s)
 - Email ID of the author(s)
 - Contact Number of the author(s)
 - Postal Address

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

ABSTRACT

NOTE: CO-AUTHORSHIP IS PERMITTED TO A MAXIMUM OF TWO (2) AUTHORS. ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE THE AUTHOR'S ORIGINAL AND UNPUBLISHED WORK, AND SHOULD NOT BE UNDER PROCESS FOR PUBLICATION IN ANY OTHER JOURNAL.

LINK FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION : [CLICK HERE](#)

The following guidelines should be adhered to while submitting the paper:

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

FULL PAPER

- The word limit of the paper shall be 4000 to 8000 words (exclusive of footnotes).
- The font style of the paper should be Times New Roman with font size being 12 for the main text and 10 for the footnotes.
- The line spacing for the main text and footnotes should be 1.5 and 1 respectively (Endnotes are not permitted).
- Margins of 1 Inch should be maintained on all four sides of the pages.
- Citation Style to be followed is MNLU Mode of Citation.
- The File Name should be in the format given: Name of Author-Title of paper. The abstract and full paper have to be submitted in .doc/.docx format.
- A plagiarism declaration statement should be attached along with the full paper. (The permitted similarity index is 10%). The use of AI in writing is prohibited.
- The abstract and full paper have to be submitted in .doc/.docx format.

NOTE: THE LINK FOR SUBMISSION OF THE FULL PAPER SHALL BE SHARED ONCE THE ABSTRACT IS ACCEPTED.

AWARDS

To encourage academic excellence and high-quality scholarly contributions, the following awards shall be conferred:

- Best Research Paper Award
- Second Best Research Paper Award
- Best Presenter Award
- Second Best Presenter Award

The criteria for “Best Paper” includes adherence to all the rules related to formatting, payment of the requisite fee and the deadlines specified for submission. All selected presenters shall receive certificates of presentation, and award winners shall be recognised during the Valedictory Session.

**SUBMISSION OF
ABSTRACT
MARCH 22, 2026**

**SELECTION OF
ABSTRACT
MARCH 24, 2026**

**REGISTRATION AND
PAYMENT OPENS
MARCH 24, 2026**

**REGISTRATION
CLOSES
MARCH 28, 2026**

**MANUSCRIPT
SUBMISSION
APRIL 07, 2026**

**CONFERENCE
APRIL 10-11, 2026**

TIMEZONE

Abstract selection will be communicated via email. After the selection of the Abstract, participants are required to pay the registration fees (exclusive of accommodation charges) and upload the receipt to the registration form. Fee payment for registration can be done through the link provided through email. The last date for payment of the registration fee is March 28, 2026.

Registration Fee:

Students & Research Scholars

- Single Authorship – Rs. 700
- Co-Authorship – Rs. 1,000

Academicians and Professional

- Single Authorship – Rs. 1,200
- Co-Authorship – Rs. 1,500

Non Presenting participants - RS. 400

OUR TEAM



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PROF. (DR.) VIJENDER KUMAR
HON'BLE VICE CHANCELLOR**



**PATRON
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