



BENNETT
UNIVERSITY
THE TIMES GROUP

NAAC
GRADE A+
ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LAW

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

on

Equality, Dignity and the future of LGBTQ+ Rights — Global and Comparative Perspectives

 7th-8th April 2026  Mode: Hybrid



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GREENWICH

Organized by:

Satrang: A Centre for Queer Rights, School of Law, Bennett University

Community Outreach Partner: The Naz Foundation (India) Trust

Knowledge and Media Partner: SCC Online

International Academic Partner: University of Greenwich

Campus: Greater Noida, UP, India





THE TIMES GROUP

A 186+ YEAR JOURNEY OF LEADERSHIP,
INNOVATION & GROWTH MARCHES ON!

1835-95

1838 The original precursor of The Times of India (TOI) is launched as The Bombay Times and Journal of Commerce.



1861 The paper acquires The Telegraph and Courier to form Bombay Times & Standard & is then renamed as The Times of India. A truly national platform is born.

1892 TJ Bennett partners with FM Coleman to form Bennett, Coleman & Co Ltd (BCCL).

1940-86

1946 Ramkrishna Dalmia buys BCCL & the paper passes from British to Indian hands.



1947 Launch of Hindi newspaper Navbharat Times & the Delhi edition of The Times of India



1952 Movie industry magazine Filmfare is launched.



1954 First edition of the iconic Filmfare Awards, to honour artistic & technical excellence in the Hindi-language film industry. These became an institution with the upgradation and broadcast of not just the national Filmfare Awards, but also their regional variants.

1955 Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain buys BCCL from his father-in-law Ramkrishna Dalmia.



1959 Femina, magazine for women, is launched.



1961 The Economic Times, No. 1 business newspaper in India, is launched.

1962 Marathi newspaper Maharashtra Times is launched.



1964 The first Miss India pageant is held. This became a pathbreaking platform for women's empowerment, especially when it was telecast across the country in later years.



1987



In 1987, a brand new era began with **Vineet Jain** joining the BCCL Group, transforming it from a newspaper and magazine company into one of the largest media and education conglomerates, with leadership across **Print, Radio, Digital, TV, and Out of Home Media.**

1988-2004

1990 Times School of Marketing is launched. It, along with Times' Media School (which was set up earlier), emerges as a major source of talent for the media industry.

1991 BBC features The Times of India among the world's six great newspapers.
BCCL ventures into TV programme production for Doordarshan under the brand Times TV.



1993 Vineet Jain launches India's first private FM radio entity under the brand name Times FM for FM radio programming on a single channel shared by many media companies.

1994 Vineet Jain conceives of and launches TOI's trailblazing entertainment and lifestyle supplements namely Bombay Times, Delhi Times, etc. They were the first of their kind in the world and became a template for others.

1996 Launch of economicstimes.com - ET's news website and timesofindia.com - TOI's news website- the Group's first foray into the Internet, as conceived of by Vineet Jain, followed by Indiatimes.com a year later.

1998 In a major initiative for a media company, the group launched Times Music which currently owns ~45,000 musical tracks across genres.



1999 Vineet Jain incorporated Times Internet Limited - India's biggest digital media entity.

2001 Radio Mirchi - Nationwide private FM broadcasting company is launched by Vineet Jain.



2004 Group enters TV broadcasting with the launch of Zoom, a Bollywood & Lifestyle channel.



2004 JV with BBC to form magazine publishing company Worldwide Media. Subsequently, the Times Group bought BBC's share to make WWM a wholly-owned company.

2005-15

2005 Times OOH, the No.1 Out of Home advertising company in India, is established by Vineet Jain. The Times of India is acclaimed as world's No. 1 selling English daily broadsheet newspaper.



2006 Vineet Jain conceives of and launches leading property services entity Magicbricks.com
Launch of leading TV news channel Times Now.



2007 Launch of Junglee Music, a brand of Times Music dedicated to film music, with acquisition of music rights of Akshay Kumar starrer 'Welcome'.



2009 Launch of ET Now business news channel.



2010 Launch of English movie channels Movies Now & Romedy Now 3 years later.



2013 Vineet Jain conceives of and launches Times Pro, an award-winning EdTech initiative, for Indians who want to advance their careers; tie-ups with IITs/IIMs for executive education courses.



2014 Vineet Jain expands Times Group into film production and distribution with the launch of Junglee Pictures, whose first movie (Dil Dhadakne Do) was released in 2015. It has released 10 award-winning movies till 2024 including Talvar, Bareilly ki Barfi, Raazi, Badhaai Ho, Badhaai Do, Doctor G, etc.

2014 ET Panache, the lifestyle supplement of The Economic Times conceived of and launched by Vineet Jain.



2015 Inaugural edition of India's leading business summit - ET Now Global Business Summit (GBS); graced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as Chief Guest & in subsequent years.



2016



BENNETT UNIVERSITY

THE TIMES GROUP

A PEERLESS LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION IS LAUNCHED - With the vision to nurture and empower the youth, Vineet Jain launches Bennett University - in the multi-disciplines of **Engineering, Applied Sciences, Management, Law, Media and Liberal Arts.**

2017-24

2017 Radio Mirchi expands to a total 74 stations in 64 cities and becomes the No. 1 radio company in India by revenue and number of stations. Extension of English news channel space through the launch of Mirror Now & Times Now World.



2021 Launch of Hindi general news channel (Times Now Navbharat) and Hindi business news channel (ET Now Swades).



2023 Times Music forges long term equity partnership with Primary Wave, USA-based music publishing company & home to legends like Bob Marley, James Brown, Whitney Houston, etc.



2023 Launch of Maverik Movies, a film production house focussing on South Indian languages. Mirchi expands its digital offering by acquiring Gaana.



2024 Entry into sports on global scale: Major presence in new age & fastest growing sport - Pickleball- with the launch of Pickleball World Rankings (PWR), the PWR World Series, PWR World Tour, PWR India Tour & League in partnership with Pickleball Asia.



ABOUT BENNETT UNIVERSITY

Extending the core journalistic principles of Trust, Knowledge and Public Service, Bennett, Coleman and Co. Ltd. (BCCL) established over 178 years ago, has continually undertaken initiatives for the betterment of Indian society. The group established its footprint in the education sector by launching Bennett University with multi-disciplinary education to make students life and industry ready. It then launched Bennett University, a state private university in Uttar Pradesh with the aim of providing Ivy League quality of education to undergraduate and postgraduate students making them life and career ready'. Bennett University is committed to provide global exposure with excellent faculty members, infrastructure, international collaborations, trailblazing research and vibrant campus life consisting of a magnificently constructed sports complex, skill- enhancing clubs and myriad activities and amenities to participate and indulge in. The university features six schools with 30+ programs and 70+ leading specializations in Engineering, Management, Media, Law and Liberal Arts, and has positioned itself as one of the top universities in India.

14,500+ STUDENTS	70+ STARTUPS LAUNCHED	20+ CORPORATE COLLABORATIONS	₹125 Cr+ FUNDS RAISED BY STARTUPS	16+ SPORTS FACILITIES	68 ACRES FUTURISTIC CAMPUS
120+ INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS	40+ STUDENT LED CLUBS & SOCIETIES	50+ UNDERGRADUATE, POSTGRADUATE & DOCTORAL PROGRAMS	10,000 HOSTEL CAPACITY	90%+ PH.D. FACULTY	1200+ COMPANIES FOR PLACEMENTS



ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF LAW

Bennett University ventured into the domain of higher education in Law and established School of Law in 2017 with a vision to strive for excellence in teaching, research, and advocacy towards Justice for all by shaping thought leaders in public policy of national and international dimensions. The school imbibes the best practices of national and international law schools in terms of curriculum, pedagogy, innovation in teaching methods and to add new interfaces addressing emerging new issues. Invested and promoted by the largest media enterprise, which is a natural ally in voicing people's rights, has envisaged this school to educate and train the future thought leaders in the field of Law. The School of Law, Bennett University is a knowledge space not only to acquire a professional degree but also to shape the compassionate individual under the professional robe.



ABOUT CENTRE

Satrang: A Centre for Queer Rights at the School of Law, Bennett University is an academic, research, and policy-oriented initiative committed to advancing the rights and inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons. Anchored in constitutional values of equality, dignity, and privacy, the Centre seeks to engage critically with legal, social, and institutional questions surrounding gender identity and sexual orientation. It aims to contribute meaningfully to contemporary legal discourse through scholarship and dialogue.

The Centre aspires to bridge the gap between judicial recognition of queer rights and lived realities by promoting informed research, sensitisation, and inclusive practices. It seeks to create safe and affirming spaces for queer students on campus while fostering greater awareness and allyship among students, faculty, and staff. Through academic programmes, public events, and policy engagement, Satrang endeavours to strengthen institutional sensitivity and inclusion.

In addition, Satrang aims to engage—subject to interest and feasibility—with legal practitioners, civil society organisations, and relevant institutions to support knowledge-sharing and capacity-building initiatives. The Centre will encourage student leadership and interdisciplinary collaboration while aligning with the School of Law's broader commitment to access to justice and social responsibility. Through its activities, Satrang seeks to emerge as a meaningful academic platform advancing equality, dignity, and justice.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Over the past decade, Indian constitutional jurisprudence has played a transformative role in recognising the rights of LGBTQ+ persons. Decisions such as *NALSA v. Union of India* (2014), *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* (2017), and *Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India* (2018) have foregrounded constitutional values of dignity, autonomy, privacy, and equality. However, the absence of comprehensive legislative protection and the persistence of social, institutional, and structural barriers continue to limit the realisation of these rights.

Recent developments—such as debates around marriage equality, queer family recognition, workplace inclusion, healthcare access, digital violence, and criminal justice responses—raise pressing questions about the future trajectory of LGBTQ+ rights in India. There is a clear need for an academic platform that critically examines these issues from legal, policy, and socio-institutional perspectives.

This national conference aims to create such a platform by bringing together academics, legal practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and students to engage in rigorous, rights-based discussions on the present and future of LGBTQ+ equality in India.

OBJECTIVES

The conference seeks to:

1. To critically examine post-Navtej and post-NALSA developments in LGBTQ+ rights jurisprudence.
2. To analyse gaps between constitutional recognition and lived realities of LGBTQ+ persons.
3. To explore emerging issues in queer rights, including family law, labour rights, healthcare, digital spaces, and criminal justice.
4. To encourage scholarly research and student engagement in LGBTQ+ rights and queer legal studies.
5. To strengthen the academic and research mandate of Satrang: A Centre for Queer Rights.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Conference invites well-researched original papers amongst professionals, academicians, practitioners, research scholars, administrators, students, social activists and the representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations for presentation on the following themes and sub-themes:

Theme I: Constitutionalism, Equality, and LGBTQ+ Jurisprudence

- Constitutional morality, dignity, autonomy, and substantive equality
- Evolution of LGBTQ+ rights jurisprudence in India
- Sexual orientation and gender identity under Articles 14, 15, 19, and 21
- Role of courts in advancing or limiting queer rights
- Comparative constitutional approaches to LGBTQ+ equality
- International human rights law, UN mechanisms, and treaty interpretation

Theme II: Family, Kinship, and Intimate Citizenship

- Marriage equality, civil unions, and alternative legal recognition
- State regulation of intimacy and private life
- Family, kinship, caregiving, and queer intimacies
- Adoption laws, foster care, and LGBTQ+ parenting
- Surrogacy, assisted reproductive technologies, and access to parenthood
- LGBTQ+ persons and personal laws: inheritance, succession, and guardianship
- Child rights, best interests, and queer families

Theme III: Gender Identity, Health, and Bodily Autonomy

- Legal recognition of gender identity and documentation
- Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act and allied policies
- Access to healthcare, mental health services, and insurance
- Medical ethics, consent, and gender-affirming care
- Sexual and reproductive health rights of LGBTQ+ persons
- Disability, queerness, and access to healthcare
- Bodily autonomy, self-determination, and state control

Theme IV: Violence, Criminal Justice, and Access to Justice

- LGBTQ+ persons and the criminal justice system
- Policing, profiling, and custodial experiences
- Sexual violence, consent standards, and queer survivors
- Hate crimes, bias-motivated violence, and legal responses
- Prison rights, detention, and carceral experiences
- Procedural barriers, evidentiary rules, and access to justice
- Victim protection, support mechanisms, and restorative approaches

Theme V: Institutions, Technology, and Lived Realities

- Workplace inclusion, discrimination, and labour rights
- Educational institutions, campus inclusion, and student rights
- Anti-discrimination law, affirmative action, and institutional duties
- Digital spaces: online harassment, cyber violence, and platform accountability
- Surveillance, data protection, and privacy
- Media representation, cultural narratives, and queer visibility
- Intersectionality: caste, class, disability, religion, region, and sexuality
- Law, policy, governance, and future directions for reform

ELIGIBILITY

Participation is open for students, research scholars, academicians and industry experts from law and other social sciences stream.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

The abstract should not exceed 800 words and must indicate the theme of the proposed research with relevant keywords. It must be accompanied by a cover page which should include:

- Sub-theme of the paper
- Title of the Paper
- Name of the author(s)
- E-mail address
- Postal address and Contact Number
- Co-authorship is allowed. (Maximum two authors.)

Scan to Pay



Note:

- All Abstract submissions are required to be mailed to satrang@bennett.edu.in before the last date of Abstract Submission.
- Subject Line of the Mail should be [Abstract Submission for International Conference on Beyond Decriminalisation: Equality, Dignity, and the Future of LGBTQ+ Rights in India].
- Document Name must be in the following format: [Author Name_Title of the Paper].

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR FULL LENGTH PAPER SUBMISSION

- Full paper must have a word count of approximately 5000-8000 words.
 - Originality, coherence, thoroughness and contribution to discourse and knowledge will be taken into consideration for selecting papers.
 - All papers will undergo rigorous “double blind review” process. The full paper must be submitted in MS Word (.doc or .docx) format only.
 - The mode of submission of full paper shall be communicated via our official email with the participants whose abstracts shall be accepted.
1. Full Paper must contain a cover page inclusive of the following details: -
 2. Name(s) of the author(s),
 3. Designation, - Institutional affiliation,
 4. Email ID, - Contact number(s) of the author(s)
 5. Authors are requested to adhere strictly to the following abstract formatting guidelines:
 6. Title: Font: Times New Roman | Size: 16 | Alignment: Center; Bold
 7. Heading: Font: Times New Roman | Size: 14 | Alignment: Left; Bold
 8. Sub-Heading: Font: Times New Roman | Size: 12 | Alignment: Left; Bold
 9. Main Text: Font: Times New Roman | Size: 12 | Spacing: 1.5 | Alignment: Justified - Footnotes: Font: Times New Roman | Size: 10 | Spacing: 1.0
 10. Referencing: Bluebook (21 Edition) style Citations.
 11. Co-authorship is permitted (maximum of 2 authors).
 12. Selected full papers will be published by reputed publishers with an ISBN.
 13. Plagiarism in any form and use of AI is strictly prohibited and would render the submission disqualified. All references used must be duly cited and a similarity index of up to 10% is permissible.



IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMELINES

Abstract Submission	20 th March, 2026
Notification of Abstract Acceptance	23 rd March, 2026
Last Date of Registration and Payment	25 th March, 2026
Full Paper Submission Deadline	3 rd April, 2026
International Conference	7 th -8 th April 2026

REGISTRATION FEES

- Academician, Faculty based in India
(Single Authorship – INR 1800 and Co-Authorship- INR 1500).
International Academician: USD 30
- Research Scholar, NGO Authors based in India
(Single Authorship– INR 1000 and Co-Authorship INR 800 per person).
International Scholar: USD 15
- Student - undergraduate and Postgraduate based in India
(Single Authorship– INR 600 and Co-Authorship INR 500 per person).
International students: USD 10



AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

- *The best paper in each theme shall be awarded with “Best Paper Presenter Certificate.”*
- *Selected papers will be published in an ISBN Book.*
- *All presenters will be awarded with a certificate of presentation.*
- *All attendees will be awarded with a certificate of participation.*

BENNETT UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP



Mr. Vineet Jain

Chancellor, Bennett University,
Managing Director, BCCL

Awarded Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2013 for transforming BCCL into India's Most Respected and Largest Media Group



Ms. Revati Jain

Pro Vice Chancellor
Bennett University



Dr. Raj Singh

Vice Chancellor
Bennett University



Mr. Senthil Kumar

Chief Operating Officer
Bennett University

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Pradeep Kulshrestha***

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Honorary Doctorate, National American University
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