



HIDAYATULLAH NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY

R A I P U R

— Two-Day International Conference on —

LAW, RIGHTS & INDIGENOUS FUTURES

RETHINKING TRIBAL JUSTICE IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

28th - 29th MARCH 2026

Online Mode

Organised by

SCHOOL OF LAW & HUMANITIES

Centre for Study of Law & Indigenous People



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HNLU Raipur

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Indigenous and tribal communities today stand at the crossroads of history. On the one hand, they bear the heaviest burdens of displacement, ecological loss, cultural erasure, and political marginalisation. On the other, they carry with them resilient knowledge systems, community structures, and alternative visions of justice that offer the world fresh ways of thinking about democracy, environment, and human dignity.

Conventional academia has often failed to capture this dual reality. Legal studies tend to remain confined to statutes and judgments; social sciences often abstract lived experiences into theories; and public policy debates are dominated by technocratic voices that rarely listen to the communities themselves. The result is a fragmented understanding of Indigenous lives; when what is needed is a holistic, interdisciplinary conversation.

This conference is an attempt to rethink tribal justice by breaking disciplinary silos. We invite scholars of law, sociology, anthropology, political science, environmental studies, history, women's studies, and cultural studies to place their perspectives in dialogue. Here, customary laws will be read alongside constitutional promises, oral traditions alongside human rights standards, and ecological ethics alongside development policies.

Crucially, this conference recognises that youth voices, especially those of Indigenous and first-generation scholars, are often absent from mainstream academic platforms. By foregrounding their perspectives, the conference aims not only to generate academic knowledge but also to imagine Indigenous futures shaped by justice, resilience, and solidarity.

To move beyond theory into practice, the conference will welcome not only research papers but also policy briefs, community case studies, and ethnographic narratives. This openness reflects our belief that knowledge is plural, and that the future of Indigenous studies lies in embracing diverse ways of knowing and speaking.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

- To explore the meaning of justice for Indigenous and tribal communities in the context of globalization, ecological crises, cultural erasure, and political marginalisation.
- To foster interdisciplinary dialogue across law, sociology, anthropology, political science, environmental studies, history, women's studies, and cultural studies.
- To centre youth perspectives and student voices, thereby challenging academic hierarchies and creating inclusive spaces for dialogue.
- To encourage participation of first-generation scholars, tribal/Indigenous students, and researchers working at the intersections of multiple disciplines.
- To ensure the long-term scholarly and policy impact of student contributions through publication in an edited book/journal on Law and Indigenous Studies.
- To cultivate comparative and global perspectives by engaging with Indigenous struggles worldwide and building transnational solidarity.

KEY THEMES & SUB-THEMES

I. Law, Rights, and Justice

- Customary law and state legal systems: conflicts and convergence
- International law, human rights, and Indigenous peoples (UNDRIP, ILO conventions)
- Restorative and community-based justice models

II. Culture, Identity, and Lived Experience

- Cultural resilience, language preservation, and identity politics
- Gender roles, intersectionality, and agency in tribal societies

- Oral traditions, performance & Indigenous knowledge systems
- Media and representation of Indigenous communities

III. Human Rights and Public Policy

- Health, education, and social protection in tribal regions
- Governance, decentralisation, and participatory democracy
- Witch-hunting, displacement, and other forms of structural violence

IV. Climate, Ecology, and Sustainability

- Indigenous ecological knowledge and climate adaptation
- Tribal cosmologies and environmental ethics
- Just transitions: extractive economies, energy & climate justice

V. Development, Economy, and Globalisation

- Development-induced displacement and rehabilitation challenges
- Mining, infrastructure, and corporate interventions
- Tribal economies, sustainable livelihoods, and social entrepreneurship
- Technology, digitalisation & the transformation of Indigenous life

VI. Comparative and Global Dialogues

- Comparative legal systems on Indigenous rights
- South–South exchanges: Latin America, Africa, South Asia
- Cross-continental student perspectives on Indigenous struggles
- Building transnational solidarity among Indigenous communities

Note: The sub-themes are only suggestive areas and are not exhaustive. Research papers that are not covered under the abovementioned sub themes but have relevance in the thrust area of the conference may also be submitted.

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission of Abstract 15th February, 2026

Intimation of Abstract Acceptance 22nd February, 2026

Registration Deadline 7th March, 2026

Submission of Full Paper 15th March, 2026

Date of the Conference 28th – 29th March 2026

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Abstract

Research Papers → Abstract (250–300 words) (inclusive of 4 keywords)

Policy Briefs → Executive Summary (150–200 words)

Community Case Studies → Abstract (150–200 words)

Ethnographic Notes → Context Note (100–150 words)

For Abstract: must be accompanied by a brief bio-note (in 100 words) of the author indicating his/her email ID, contact number, designation, and official address.

All submissions must include:

- Author's full name
- Institutional affiliation
- Contact email
- Short bio (100 words)

The abstract should be in the following format:

- Times New Roman, Font Size 12 & Line spacing 1.5, Justified.
- 1-inch margins on all the four sides.
- Submissions are to be made in MS Word format only.

The abstract must identify a research problem clearly to be discussed by the author in the full paper, and the particular theme of the conference associated with the paper.

Please name your abstract file as follows:

Full Name_abstract e.g. if author's name is John Doe then the file name should be John Doe_abstract. The abstracts can be submitted through this link:

1. Research Papers (4000–6000 words)

- Must present original research with clear research questions, methodology, analysis, and conclusion.
- Should engage with existing literature and contribute to theoretical or policy debates.
- Abstract (250–300 words) required, summarising the research problem, method, and findings.
- Proper citation and referencing required (APA/Bluebook style – as per conference format).

2. Policy Briefs (2000–3000 words)

- Should focus on a specific policy issue affecting Indigenous/tribal communities.
- Must provide evidence-based analysis with concrete recommendations for policymakers.
- Concise writing style, using headings, bullet points, and visuals (tables, charts) where relevant.

3. Executive Summary (150–200 words)

- Required, highlighting the issue, evidence, and key recommendations.
- References and data sources must be clearly indicated.

4. Community Case Studies (2500–4000 words)

- Must highlight lived experiences, grassroots initiatives, or specific community struggles.
- Can be narrative in style but should include analytical reflection.
- May include photographs, testimonies, or qualitative data (with consent).
- Should connect the local case to broader academic or policy debates.
- Abstract (150–200 words) required, outlining the case context, method, and insights.

5. Ethnographic Notes (1500–2000 words)



- Based on fieldwork, participant observation, or engagement with Indigenous communities.
- Should capture cultural practices, oral histories, rituals, or everyday life.
- Reflexive approach expected: author's role and perspective must be acknowledged.
- Use descriptive clarity while linking to wider theoretical or cultural discussions.
- Context Note (100–150 words) required, describing the field site and thematic focus

For citation, the author is required to follow the APA Formatting and Blue book Citation (12th Ed.).

The final paper should mandatorily have the suggestions/recommendations made by the author(s).

The language of submissions should preferably be English or Hindi.

For Publication of Papers:

- Selected research papers may be published in an edited book by a reputable publisher with an ISBN.
- The authors willing to consider their paper for publication must submit a duly filled in and scanned 'DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY & ASSIGNMENT OF COPYRIGHT FORM' to be provided with the communication of acceptance of paper.
- The submitted papers shall be checked through a similarity software approved by the University.
- Any paper exceeding 10% similarity shall be outrightly rejected.
- The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in generating content is permissible only up to 20% of the total work. Authors must ensure that the paper reflects original analysis, interpretation, and argumentation.
- The submitted papers shall go through a blindfolded peer review process before selection for publication in an edited book with ISBN as per the University Policies.
- Selection for paper presentation does not entitle publication in the book
- The Committee reserves the right to disqualify any submission that does not comply with these guidelines.

Please click the Link given below or scan the QR Code for Submission of Abstract:

<https://forms.gle/DZgjqJcunRC4zLXk6>



WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

- Academicians, Postgraduate and Undergraduate students from law, social sciences, humanities, environmental studies, and related disciplines.
- First-generation scholars and tribal/Indigenous students are especially encouraged to participate.
- Young researchers and interdisciplinary scholars working on issues related to law, rights, justice, culture, ecology, and Indigenous futures.
- Students interested in presenting research papers, policy briefs, community case studies, or ethnographic notes within the conference themes.

REGISTRATION AND FEE

For International Professionals and Academicians	: 30 USD
Academicians and Professionals	: INR 1000
Research Scholars	: INR 750
Students	: INR 500

NOTE

1. Registration fee is payable only after the acceptance of the abstract. Participants are required to attach a screenshot of the successful payment to the registration form. Once deposited, the payment is non-refundable, the screenshot of the successful payment is in the registration form. The said payment is non-refundable once it's deposited.
2. As the event will be for two days, the slot for the presentation will be made available beforehand.

3. Only quality papers will be selected for publication. Merely a candidate allowed for presentation will not be the sole ground to claim publication until the author responds to scrutiny suggested in the paper from time to time.
4. In case of more than one author in one paper, each author will pay a fee mentioned above individually.
5. There would not be any fee for faculties and students of HNLU.
6. Certificate of presentation will be provided to the participants.
7. The registration fee covers only the paper presentation. Authors of selected papers will be required to pay an additional amount that will be communicated in due course for the publication of their paper in the edited book.

PANEL EXPERTS AND RESOURCE PERSONS

The conference will host a diverse group of experts and practitioners to guide student participants, provide feedback, and enrich discussions.

- Academics and Scholars: Eminent professors and researchers from law, sociology, anthropology, history, political science, environmental studies, and cultural studies etc.
- Legal Practitioners: Judges, lawyers, and advocates working on issues of constitutional rights, Indigenous justice, and human rights.
- Policy Experts: Specialists from government bodies, think tanks, and international organisations dealing with tribal/Indigenous issues, rights, and development.
- Community Leaders and Activists: Tribal elders, grassroots organisers, and Indigenous rights activists who bring lived experiences and community knowledge.
- Writers and Media Persons: Journalists, cultural practitioners, and documentary filmmakers representing Indigenous voices and struggles.
- International Experts: Scholars and practitioners working on Indigenous rights across Latin America, Africa, Australia, and other regions to foster comparative global dialogue.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT (HIGHLIGHTS)

- Amplifying Voices: Centre student, first-generation scholar, and Indigenous perspectives in global debates.
- Knowledge & Policy: Produce research and policy insights with real-world relevance for law, governance, and rights.
- Collaboration & Dialogue: Foster interdisciplinary and transnational solidarity across regions and disciplines.
- Capacity Building: Equip students with research, writing, and policy engagement skills for academic and professional growth.

ABOUT HNLU

Hidayatullah National Law University, a premier institute for legal education and research is celebrating its 20th Year of establishment. The University's motto, 'धर्म संस्थापनार्थम्,' translates to 'for the sake of establishing the primacy of laws of eternal values.' In line with this ethos, HNLU strives to provide advanced legal education that shapes students into more than just legal professionals; it instils in them a profound responsibility to contribute to society. In recent years, the university has introduced a series of ground-breaking programs, including Lex Osmose, Ex-Arca, HNLU Press, Sui Generis, HEXA, HAAI and R-Has, with the new spoke model of research centers setting a new standard for innovation and academic excellence.

ABOUT CENTRE FOR STUDY OF LAW & INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

The Centre for law and indigenous people is one-of-a-kind initiative established under the school for Law and Humanities to explore, understand and preserve the intersection of legal scholarship and indigenous perspective. It aims to provide a platform for rigorous research, thoughtful discussions and collaborative initiatives regarding the rich traditions of the indigenous peoples. The centre is committed not only to the scholarly pursuit of legal knowledge but also to profound understanding of the unique challenges faced by indigenous communities and to that extent it envisions to contribute meaningfully to the development of legal frameworks that respect and integrate indigenous perspective.

CONFERENCE ADVISORS



Prof. V.C. Vivekanandan
Vice-Chancellor, HNLU



Dr. Deepak K. Shrivastava
Registrar (I/c), HNLU



Dr. Vishnu Konoorayar
Dean, Research



Dr. Avinash Samal
Director, School of Law & Humanities

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Dr. Ayan Hazra
Secretary

Head, Centre for Study of
Law & Indigenous People

Mr. Aashutosh Kumar Aahire
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Co-Secretary

Head, Centre for
Infrastructure Laws

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Co-Secretary

Head, Centre for Law
& Language

Members

Mr. Pradeep Barman

Mr. Deepak Kumar

Dr. Archana Shyam Gharote

Dr. Priyanka R. Mohod

STUDENT COMMITTEE

Preeti Talreja
Student Convener

Agam Gupta
Student Co-convener

Palak Saini
Pragati Dhruv
Sheen Wanchoo
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CONTACT INFORMATION

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