Tribal Research and Development Institute
Government Of Madhya Pradesh

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CULTURAL PRESERVATION AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

सतत विकास, सांस्कृतिक संरक्षण एवं जनजातीय समुदाय

23rd - 24th January 2027



ORGANIZED BY

CENTRE FOR TRIBAL STUDIES AND RESEACRH
NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY, BHOPAL

IN COLLABORATION WITH

TRIBAL RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE
GOVERNMENT OF MADHYA PRADESH

&

INDIRA GANDHI RASHTRIYA MANAV SANGRAHALAYA
(CULTURAL COLLABORATION)

CONCEPT NOTE

Indigenous and tribal communities across the world possess rich traditions of ecological knowledge, customary governance, cultural expression, sustainable resource management and community-based practices that have evolved through generations of interaction with their social, cultural and natural environments. At the same time, these communities increasingly confront complex challenges arising from climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, development-induced displacement, changing land-use patterns, urbanisation, livelihood insecurity and the erosion of traditional knowledge, languages and cultural practices.

The International Conference on *Sustainable Development, Cultural Preservation and Indigenous Communities*, organized by the Centre for Tribal Studies and Research, National Law Institute University, Bhopal, seeks to provide a platform for interdisciplinary and comparative dialogue on these interconnected concerns.

The conference will retain India as a central focus while creating space for scholarship and experiences relating to other indigenous contexts across the world. It will bring together academicians, researchers, policymakers, government officials, legal professionals, Tribal Research Institutions, civil society organisations, development practitioners and representatives of tribal and indigenous communities to examine contemporary challenges, explore sustainable, participatory and culturally responsive approaches to development and governance, and identify emerging areas for future research, institutional collaboration and policy engagement.

MEDIA PARTNER

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NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY BHOPAL

The National Law Institute University (NLIU), Bhopal was established the by Rashtriya Vidhi Sansthan Vishwavidyalaya Adhiniyam, Act No. 41 of 1997, and substituted by Act No. 6 of 2018, enacted by the Madhya Pradesh State Legislature. Nestled in a serene campus near Kerwa Dam, NLIU is one of India's most prominent law schools. Renowned for its interdisciplinary legal education and research excellence, the university aspires to become one of the world's leading centers of legal education, training, and research. Its mission is to develop and nurture intellect for the betterment of the nation and humanity through law and justice. NLIU aims to impart and disseminate comprehensive legal education to achieve excellence by organizing progressive study programs and promoting research. The university focuses on enhancing students' and research scholars' ability to analyse contemporary public concerns and their legal implications, equipping law learners with the skills to advance legal education in a professional and responsible manner.



CENTRE FOR TRIBAL STUDIES AND RESEARCH

The Centre for Tribal Studies and Research (CTSR), National Law Institute University, Bhopal, has been established to promote an inclusive and interdisciplinary understanding of issues concerning tribal rights, cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and tribal governance.

The Centre undertakes research and academic engagement relating to tribal law and policy, forest rights, customary laws, resettlement and rehabilitation, education, economy, tribal criminal justice systems and related areas. It seeks to facilitate collaboration among academic institutions, government bodies, civil society organisations, community-based organisations and other stakeholders. Through research, publications, seminars, conferences, training programmes and policy engagement, the Centre seeks to contribute to informed understanding and meaningful dialogue on contemporary issues affecting tribal communities.

TRIBAL RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE GOVERNMENT OF MADHYA PRADESH

Tribal Research and Development Institute was established on 20.04.1954 at District Chhindwara Headquarters, in the year 10 April 1965, the headquarter of the institute was shifted to the new office prepared in Bhopal Shyamala Hills. The museum of the institute was kept in the building of Chhindwara itself, which is being operated today by the name of Shri Badal Bhoi State Tribal Museum.

The main work of the organization is anthropological research of the tribes of the state, research on tribal subjects, evaluation study of development works, language and civic education of the tribes of the state, compilation, recording, promotion and protection of tribal culture and their cultural dimensions. Organizing workshops on various arts of tribes, their cinematography and filming and seminars on their education, health and other subjects. Re-orientation training of revenue/police and other departmental officers of the state and training of public representatives on constitutional and protective measures for tribals etc.

INDIRA GANDHI RASHTRIYA MANAV SANGRAHALAYA

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS), also known as the National Museum of Humankind, is located in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Mission of the organization is to foster national integration and promote research, training, and inter-institutional collaboration to preserve and revitalize vanishing tangible and intangible cultural traditions.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- To provide an international and interdisciplinary platform to examine contemporary legal, constitutional, environmental, social, economic, and governance challenges affecting tribal and indigenous communities.
- To facilitate evidence-based discussions on indigenous rights, environmental governance, cultural preservation, sustainable development, and community participation.
- To recognise the importance of indigenous knowledge systems and traditional ecological practices in biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable resource management.
- To encourage comparative exchange of experiences from India and other indigenous contexts across the world.
- To strengthen dialogue among academia, government institutions, Tribal Research Institutions, civil society organisations, development practitioners, and tribal and indigenous community representatives.
- To promote interdisciplinary research and international institutional collaboration on tribal and indigenous issues.
- To identify emerging research areas and policy questions concerning tribal and indigenous communities.
- To disseminate high-quality research and scholarship to encourage continued academic and institutional engagement beyond the conference.

CONFERENCE OUTCOME

- Examine legal, socio-economic, environmental, and governance issues affecting tribal communities.
- Promote indigenous knowledge, customary governance, sustainable livelihoods, and community-based conservation.
- Encourage evidence-based discussions and develop practical policy recommendations for sustainable tribal development.
- Foster institutional partnerships, interdisciplinary research, and capacity-building initiatives.
- Raise awareness about tribal heritage, indigenous knowledge systems, and their role in climate resilience.
- Establish a platform for continued academic collaboration and policy dialogue on inclusive tribal development.

THEMES

Sustainable Development and Tribal Communities

- Sustainable development and tribal perspectives
- Climate resilience and adaptive governance
- Sustainable livelihoods and inclusive development
- Tribal entrepreneurship and economic empowerment
- Natural resource governance and environmental justice
- Traditional tribal economies
- Community-led development models
- Indigenous approaches to sustainable economies

Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Environmental Conservation

- Traditional ecological knowledge and biodiversity conservation
- Community-based conservation models
- Sacred groves and customary environmental practices
- Indigenous agricultural systems and food security
- Traditional medicine and biological resources
- Indigenous knowledge and climate adaptation
- Documentation, transmission and protection of traditional knowledge

Constitutional, Legal and Governance Frameworks

- Constitutional safeguards for Scheduled Tribes
- Forest Rights Act and implementation challenges
- PESA and participatory governance
- Customary laws and traditional governance institutions
- Access to justice and legal empowerment
- Environmental governance and participatory decision-making
- Land, forests and community resource rights
- State interventions and institutional practices
- Comparative legal frameworks concerning indigenous peoples

Culture, Identity and Heritage

- Preservation of tribal and indigenous languages
- Tribal art, literature, folklore, music, dance and oral traditions
- Documentation and digitisation of cultural heritage
- Protection of indigenous intellectual and cultural heritage
- Museums, archives and cultural institutions
- Technology and AI in cultural preservation
- Cultural identity and contemporary development
- Intergenerational transmission of indigenous knowledge

Climate Change, Environment and Sustainable Resource Management

- Climate change and vulnerable tribal communities
- Water security and community resource management
- Forest conservation and ecosystem restoration
- Human-wildlife interactions
- Disaster resilience in tribal regions
- Biodiversity and community conservation
- Environmental justice and indigenous communities
- Climate-induced livelihood transitions

Development, Displacement and Human Rights

- Development-induced displacement and rehabilitation
- Land acquisition and tribal rights
- Mining, infrastructure projects and environmental governance
- Development and customary land rights
- Livelihood transitions and social justice
- Gender dimensions of displacement
- Human rights and indigenous communities
- Resettlement, rehabilitation and community participation

Contemporary Policy Perspectives and Emerging Issues

- Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)
- Intellectual property rights and protection of indigenous knowledge
- Tribal youth and leadership
- Urbanisation and migration
- Artificial intelligence and digital technologies for tribal development
- Documentation and preservation of indigenous knowledge
- Emerging models of tribal governance
- Best practices in tribal development
- Indigenous communities and the future of sustainable development

Education, Health and Social Development

- Tribal education and inclusive learning
- Digital inclusion and access to technology
- Skill development and capacity building
- Public health and traditional healthcare systems
- Nutrition and social security
- Indigenous languages and education
- Gender and social development
- Youth, education and leadership

प्रमुख विषय

सतत विकास एवं जनजातीय समुदाय

- सतत विकास एवं जनजातीय परिप्रेक्ष्य
- जलवायु सहनशीलता एवं अनुकूलन संबंधी शासन
- सतत आजीविका एवं समावेशी विकास
- जनजातीय उद्यमिता एवं आर्थिक सशक्तीकरण
- प्राकृतिक संसाधन शासन एवं पर्यावरणीय न्याय
- पारंपरिक जनजातीय अर्थव्यवस्थाएँ
- समुदाय-आधारित विकास मॉडल
- सतत अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के प्रति स्वदेशी दृष्टिकोण

स्वदेशी ज्ञान प्रणालियाँ एवं पर्यावरण संरक्षण

- पारंपरिक पारिस्थितिक ज्ञान एवं जैव विविधता संरक्षण
- समुदाय-आधारित संरक्षण मॉडल
- पवित्र उपवन एवं प्रथागत पर्यावरणीय प्रथाएँ
- स्वदेशी कृषि प्रणालियाँ एवं खाद्य सुरक्षा
- पारंपरिक चिकित्सा एवं जैविक संसाधन
- स्वदेशी ज्ञान एवं जलवायु अनुकूलन
- पारंपरिक ज्ञान का दस्तावेज़ीकरण, हस्तांतरण एवं संरक्षण

संवैधानिक, कानूनी एवं शासन संबंधी ढाँचे

- अनुसूचित जनजातियों के लिए संवैधानिक संरक्षण
- वन अधिकार अधिनियम एवं उसके क्रियान्वयन की चुनौतियाँ
- पेसा (PESA) एवं सहभागी शासन
- प्रथागत कानून एवं पारंपरिक शासन संस्थाएँ
- न्याय तक पहुँच एवं कानूनी सशक्तीकरण
- पर्यावरणीय शासन एवं सहभागी निर्णय-निर्माण
- भूमि, वन एवं सामुदायिक संसाधनों से संबंधित अधिकार
- राज्य का हस्तक्षेप एवं संस्थागत प्रथाएँ
- स्वदेशी समुदायों से संबंधित तुलनात्मक कानूनी ढाँचे

संस्कृति, पहचान एवं विरासत

- जनजातीय एवं स्वदेशी भाषाओं का संरक्षण
- जनजातीय कला, साहित्य, लोककथाएँ, संगीत, नृत्य एवं मौखिक परंपराएँ
- सांस्कृतिक विरासत का दस्तावेज़ीकरण एवं डिजिटलीकरण
- स्वदेशी बौद्धिक एवं सांस्कृतिक विरासत का संरक्षण
- संग्रहालय, अभिलेखागार एवं सांस्कृतिक संस्थाएँ
- सांस्कृतिक संरक्षण में प्रौद्योगिकी एवं कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI)
- सांस्कृतिक पहचान एवं समकालीन विकास
- पीढ़ी-दर-पीढ़ी स्वदेशी ज्ञान का हस्तांतरण

जलवायु परिवर्तन, पर्यावरण एवं सतत संसाधन प्रबंधन

- जलवायु परिवर्तन एवं संवेदनशील जनजातीय समुदाय
- जल सुरक्षा एवं सामुदायिक संसाधन प्रबंधन
- वन संरक्षण एवं पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र का पुनर्स्थापन
- मानव-वन्यजीव अंतःक्रियाएँ
- जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में आपदा सहनशीलता
- जैव विविधता एवं सामुदायिक संरक्षण
- पर्यावरणीय न्याय एवं स्वदेशी समुदाय
- जलवायु परिवर्तन से प्रेरित आजीविका में बदलाव

विकास, विस्थापन एवं मानवाधिकार

- विकास परियोजनाओं के कारण विस्थापन एवं पुनर्वास
- भूमि अधिग्रहण एवं जनजातीय अधिकार
- खनन, अवसंरचना परियोजनाएँ एवं पर्यावरणीय शासन
- विकास एवं प्रथागत भूमि अधिकार
- आजीविका में परिवर्तन एवं सामाजिक न्याय
- विस्थापन के लैंगिक आयाम
- मानवाधिकार एवं स्वदेशी समुदाय
- पुनर्वास, पुनर्स्थापन एवं सामुदायिक भागीदारी

समकालीन नीतिगत दृष्टिकोण एवं उभरते मुद्दे

- विशेष रूप से कमजोर जनजातीय समूह (PVTGs)
- बौद्धिक संपदा अधिकार एवं स्वदेशी ज्ञान का संरक्षण
- जनजातीय युवा एवं नेतृत्व
- शहरीकरण एवं प्रवासन
- जनजातीय विकास हेतु कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता एवं डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकियाँ
- स्वदेशी ज्ञान का दस्तावेज़ीकरण एवं संरक्षण
- जनजातीय शासन के उभरते मॉडल
- जनजातीय विकास की सर्वोत्तम प्रथाएँ
- स्वदेशी समुदाय एवं सतत विकास का भविष्य

शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य एवं सामाजिक विकास

- जनजातीय शिक्षा एवं समावेशी शिक्षण
- डिजिटल समावेशन एवं प्रौद्योगिकी तक पहुँच
- कौशल विकास एवं क्षमता निर्माण
- सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य एवं पारंपरिक स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रणालियाँ
- पोषण एवं सामाजिक सुरक्षा
- स्वदेशी भाषाएँ एवं शिक्षा
- लैंगिक समानता एवं सामाजिक विकास
- युवा, शिक्षा एवं नेतृत्व

CALL FOR PAPERS

The conference invites original research papers, policy papers, empirical studies, case studies and interdisciplinary contributions addressing the broad theme of the conference. The papers can be submitted in English or Hindi only.

Researchers and practitioners are encouraged to engage with contemporary issues concerning tribal and indigenous communities from legal, constitutional, environmental, socio-economic, cultural, technological, institutional and policy perspectives. Contributions may focus on India or examine comparative experiences from other indigenous contexts across the world.

PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITY

Selected papers presented at the conference may be considered for publication, subject to peer review and applicable editorial processes. Further publication details will be communicated to selected authors following the conference.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The conference welcomes faculty members and academicians, researchers and research scholars, doctoral and postgraduate students, legal professionals and judicial officers, government officials and policymakers, and representatives of Tribal Research Institutions, think tanks and public policy institutions. It also invites environmental and development practitioners, civil society and community-based organisations, tribal and indigenous community representatives, traditional knowledge holders, community leaders, social entrepreneurs, and scholars and institutions working on indigenous peoples, indigenous studies and related fields, including participants from international academic and research institutions.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Authors are invited to submit original and unpublished research relevant to the theme and objectives of the project. All submissions must maintain academic integrity and adhere to the prescribed submission requirements.

- **Abstract Word Limit: 250–350 words.**
- **Full Paper Requirement: 3,000–5,000 words, applicable only after the abstract has been accepted.**
- **Plagiarism and AI-generated content must not exceed 10%.**
- **File Format: Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx) only.**
- **Font and Formatting:**
- **Font: Times New Roman.**
- **Font Size: 12 pt for the main text.**
- **Line Spacing: 1.5 for the main text.**
- **Footnotes: Times New Roman, 10 pt, with single (1.0) line spacing.**
- **Citation Style: OSCOLA 5th Edition.**

Submission Method: Abstracts and other required submission details must be submitted through the official Google Form https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScaCnul4CXoG0dYr_bgLtXgCzMGbUkKWTurvYMmiIGE4CbB6g/viewform?usp=publish-editor

***Important Note:** Authors must first submit an abstract within the prescribed word limit. The full paper is to be submitted only after the abstract has been accepted. All submissions must comply with the prescribed citation style and academic integrity requirements.*

प्रस्तुति संबंधी दिशा-निर्देश

लेखकों को विषय एवं उद्देश्यों से संबंधित मौलिक एवं अप्रकाशित शोध पत्र प्रस्तुत करने के लिए आमंत्रित किया जाता है। सभी प्रस्तुतियों में अकादमिक ईमानदारी बनाए रखना तथा निर्धारित दिशा-निर्देशों का पालन करना अनिवार्य है।

- **सारांश की शब्द सीमा: 250–350 शब्द।**
- **पूर्ण शोध पत्र की शब्द सीमा: 3,000–5,000 शब्द। पूर्ण शोध पत्र केवल सारांश की स्वीकृति के पश्चात् प्रस्तुत करना होगा।**
- **साहित्यिक चोरी (प्लेज़रिज़्म) और AI द्वारा उत्पन्न सामग्री की सीमा 10% से अधिक नहीं होनी चाहिए।**
- **फाइल प्रारूप: केवल Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx) प्रारूप में।**
- **फ़ॉन्ट एवं प्रारूप संबंधी दिशानिर्देश:**
- **हिंदी शोध पत्र: मुख्य पाठ के लिए मंगल (Mangal) फ़ॉन्ट, 12 पॉइंट आकार तथा 1.5 लाइन स्पेसिंग।**
- **फुटनोट: 10 पॉइंट फ़ॉन्ट आकार एवं सिंगल (1.0) लाइन स्पेसिंग।**
- **उद्धरण शैली: हिंदी में लिखे गए शोध पत्रों में भी निर्धारित उद्धरण शैली का पालन किया जाना चाहिए तथा स्रोतों के मूल शीर्षक एवं संदर्भ विवरण यथासंभव मूल भाषा में बनाए रखने चाहिए।**

महत्वपूर्ण सूचना: लेखकों को सर्वप्रथम निर्धारित शब्द सीमा के भीतर सारांश प्रस्तुत करना अनिवार्य है। पूर्ण शोध पत्र केवल सारांश की स्वीकृति के पश्चात् ही जमा किया जा सकता है। सभी प्रस्तुतियों में निर्धारित उद्धरण शैली तथा अकादमिक ईमानदारी संबंधी दिशा-निर्देशों का पालन करना आवश्यक है।

शोध पत्र प्रस्तुत करने की विधि: सारांश एवं अन्य आवश्यक विवरण आधिकारिक Google Form के माध्यम से जमा किए जाने चाहिए। https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScaCnul4CXoG0dYr_bgLtXgCzMGbUkKWTurvYMmiIGE4CbB6g/viewform?usp=publish-editor

CONFERENCE FORMAT

The conference will be conducted in a physical mode at the National Law Institute University, Bhopal. Participation by international presenters through an online/hybrid mode is permitted

PARTICIPATION & REGISTRATION

Practitioners / Industry Professionals: INR 2500/-
Faculty / Academicians: INR 2000/-
Students: INR 1500/-
NLIU Students: INR 1000/-
International Participants: 50 USD (INR 4750/-)
Non-Presenting Participants: INR 1500/-

NOTE:- ***Registration amount includes Conference kits, breakfast, Lunch and High-Tea for the Two-Days Conference, Accommodation and travel are not included in the registration fee. Registration and Payment details will be shared after acceptance of the abstract through email.***

Registration fee once paid, will not be refunded under any circumstances

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation may be available at NLIU, Bhopal, on a paid and on a first-come, first-served basis , subject to availability and applicable institutional arrangements.

Participants opting for accommodation will be charged as under:
Guest House (Double Occupancy) INR 525/- Per person per day.
Convention Centre (Double Occupancy) INR 788/- Per person per day.

CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS

Certificates of participation and paper presentation will be provided to eligible participants. The conference will also recognise outstanding contributions through Best Paper Award and Best Presentation Award.

IMPORTANT DATES

Call for Papers	18th October 2026
Abstract Submission Deadline	15th November 2026
Notification of Acceptance	20th November 2026
Registration Deadline	05th January 2027
Full Paper Submission	05th January 2027
Conference Dates	23rd and 24th January 2027

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

PATRON-IN-CHIEF



HON'BLE JUSTICE SHRI ARAVIND KUMAR

Judge, Supreme Court of India
Visitor, National Law Institute University, Bhopal

CHIEF PATRON

HON'BLE JUSTICE SHRI ALPESH YESHVANT KOGJE

Chief Justice, High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur
Chancellor, National Law Institute University, Bhopal



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Vice Chancellor
National Law Institute University, Bhopal

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MR.VIVEK BAKSHI

Registrar
National Law Institute University, Bhopal



CONFERENCE CONVENOR



PROF. (DR.) BIR PAL SINGH

Professor of Panchayat Admin. & Nyaya Panchayat
Chairperson, Centre for Tribal Studies and Research
National Law Institute University, Bhopal

CONFERENCE CO-CONVENOR

DR. SEEMA SHRIVASTAVA

Assistant Professor of Economics
National Law Institute University, Bhopal



ORGANISING SECRETARY



Dr. Srishti Chaturvedi
Assistant Professor of Law
National Law Institute University, Bhopal

COORDINATORS



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15. **Dr. Jalaj Goantiya –** ***Chairperson, Centre for Studies in Tribal and Indigenous Communities, Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur***

INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS

1. **Dr. Graham Dutfield –** ***Professor of International Governance, University of Leeds, England***
2. **Prof. Dmitri Bondarenko –** ***Institute of Anthropology and Ethnology, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow***
3. **Dr. Amrita Mukherjee –** ***Associate Professor in Law, University of Leeds, England***
4. **Dr. Dinh Hong Hai –** ***Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology and Religious Studies, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, VNU-Hanoi***

THE CITY OF BHOPAL

Known as the City of Lakes - Bhopal stands as a prominent centre for indigenous cultural research, art, and heritage in Central India. The city and its surrounding regions are home to significant historical and cultural landmarks. Highlights include the Madhya Pradesh Tribal Museum, which celebrates the life, art, and life of tribal communities, alongside Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, a 200-acre open-air museum of human history. Complementing these cultural institutions are nearby UNESCO World Heritage Sites like Bhimbetka Rock Shelters and Sanchi Stupa, the 11th Century-built Bhojpur Temple, Bharat Bhavan, an iconic multi-arts and cultural museum, as well as natural landmarks such as the Upper Lake (Bhojtal) and Van Vihar National Park.









HOW TO REACH BHOPAL

By AIR:-
Raja Bhoj Airport (Bhopal) operates flights connecting to Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Udaipur, and Raipur. Distance from Bhopal Airport to NLIU is ~21 km.

By TRAIN:
Bhopal is served by two major railway hubs: Bhopal Junction and Rani Kamlapati Railway Station (named in honour of the legendary Gond Queen Rani Kamlapati), both well connected to all major Indian cities.

By ROAD:
Regular bus and taxi services connect Bhopal to nearby heritage sites (Bhimbetka, Sanchi, Bhojpur) as well as major cities such as Indore, Ujjain, Jabalpur, Delhi, and Mumbai.