DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, SONEPAT

(Established under Haryana State Legislature Act no.15 of 2012)

Centre for Public Policy and Good Governance

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

on

Rule of Law at a Transformative Crossroads:

Rethinking Public Law, Governance, and Accountability.



23rd September, 2026

Hybrid Mode

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ABOUT DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, SONEPAT

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat, established by the State Government of Haryana in 2019 through State Legislature Act No. 15, stands as a premier institution reflecting India's commitment to justice and constitutional values. Strategically located with excellent connectivity to Delhi, the University offers B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), B.B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), LL.M., and Ph.D. programmes, providing a comprehensive legal education that combines academic rigour with ethical and social awareness.

The University houses eleven specialised research centres, three dedicated cells, and a Legal Aid Clinic, fostering holistic legal education and community engagement. Its modern, eco-friendly campus integrates advanced facilities with inclusive design, embodying Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of law as a means of social transformation.

Through MoUs with institutions like V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, and the University of Waikato, New Zealand, the University promotes collaboration and global exposure. Guided by Hon'ble Chancellor Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh, Hon'ble Governor of Haryana, and Hon'ble Visitor Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, the University continues its pursuit of academic excellence and social relevance, offering aspiring legal scholars an ideal platform to shape a just and equitable society.

ABOUT CENTRE FOR PUBLIC POLICY & GOOD GOVERNANCE (CPPGG)

The Centre for Public Policy and Good Governance (CPPGG) at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University (DBRANLU), Sonepat, is dedicated to fostering interdisciplinary research, promoting ethical governance, and contributing to effective and inclusive public policies. Under the guidance of Worthy Registrar Prof. (Dr.) Ashutosh Mishra, Director, CPPGG, the Centre addresses contemporary governance challenges through rigorous, evidence-based research.

CPPGG focuses on critical areas such as sustainable development, social equity, public administration, institutional accountability, access to justice, and inclusive growth. By bringing together perspectives from law, economics, public policy, social sciences, and allied disciplines, the Centre encourages academic discourse and practical solutions to emerging policy challenges. The Centre organises seminars, conferences, national workshops, panel discussions, training programmes, and collaborative research projects to facilitate dialogue between academia, policymakers, legal professionals, civil society, and other stakeholders. These initiatives provide a platform for students, researchers, practitioners, and experts to exchange ideas and engage with real-world governance concerns.

Aligned with DBRANLU's vision of holistic and socially responsive legal education, CPPGG emphasises the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), capacity-building, innovation in governance, and equitable development. Through its research and policy-oriented engagements, the Centre aspires to serve as a dynamic platform for knowledge creation, capacity enhancement, and constructive policy advocacy, contributing towards a more accountable, sustainable, and inclusive governance framework in India.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



HON'BLE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Prof. (Dr.) Devinder Singh

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor ,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my heartfelt greetings to all participants, scholars, and distinguished guests attending this International Conference on "Rule of Law at a Transformative Crossroads: Rethinking Public Law, Governance, and Accountability" organised by the Centre for Public Policy and Good Governance at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat.

Democratic institutions today are navigating a rapidly evolving governance landscape shaped by algorithmic decision-making, expanding executive powers, and shifting public-private boundaries, developments that raise pressing questions of transparency, due process, and institutional accountability. As a University committed to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of law as an instrument of social transformation, we recognise the Rule of Law as a living practice that must evolve with changing power, technology, and governance.

I congratulate the organisers, faculty, and students for their commitment, and extend my best wishes for the conference's success. This conference would offer a valuable platform for critical, comparative scholarship on these challenges, and I am confident its deliberations will yield rich insights and thoughtful contributions towards reimagining public law and governance for our times.

MESSAGE FROM THE REGISTRAR



HON'BLE REGISTRAR

Prof. (Dr.) Ashutosh Mishra
Director ,
Centre for Public Policy and Good Governance
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University,
Sonepat

It gives me great pleasure to extend my warm greetings to all participants, scholars, and distinguished guests attending this International Conference on "Rule of Law at a Transformative Crossroads: Rethinking Public Law, Governance, and Accountability" organised by the Centre for Public Policy and Good Governance.

As Registrar, and in my capacity as Director of the Centre for Public Policy and Good Governance, I take pride in our institution's ongoing efforts to foster scholarly research, interdisciplinary discourse, and constructive engagement with foundational legal and policy issues. As democratic institutions worldwide confront the challenges of algorithmic decision-making, expanding executive powers, and shifting public-private boundaries, the Rule of Law must be understood as an evolving institutional practice, one that reconciles legal certainty with the demands of a transforming society. This conference reinforces our commitment to cultivating an environment where critical inquiry and collaborative scholarship address these pressing questions of transparency and accountability.

I am confident the discussions will offer valuable insights into reimagining public law and governance for our times. I congratulate the organisers, faculty, and students for their diligent work, and extend my best wishes for a rewarding conference.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Governance is undergoing a profound transformation as power increasingly operates through digital technologies, algorithms, delegated authorities, private platforms, and institutions beyond traditional territorial boundaries. The International Conference on "Rule of Law at a Transformative Crossroads: Rethinking Public Law, Governance, and Accountability" examines how public law can respond to these evolving forms of power, including algorithmic governance, executive discretion, digital due process, contested territories, displaced legal orders, and the public consequences of private power.

The Conference also considers how constitutional continuity, legal legitimacy, and rights can be preserved in contexts of exile and displacement. As the Indian Supreme Court observed in S.G. Jaisinghani v. Union of India, “the absence of arbitrary power is the first essential of the rule of law.” The United Nations similarly emphasises accountability of “all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself,” placing accountability and safeguards against arbitrariness at the heart of the Rule of Law. Half a century later, a 13-judge bench entrenched this principle as part of the Constitution's unamendable "basic structure," holding that Parliament's amending power, however wide, cannot touch the rule of law, separation of powers, or judicial review. The Conference proceeds from the premise that this doctrinal anchor must now be tested against forms of power the 1973 bench never anticipated.

Ultimately, the Conference seeks to reimagine the Rule of Law as a dynamic framework for emerging forms of governance, while safeguarding constitutional values, rights, human agency, and accountable power.

The Conference therefore provides a platform for scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and students to critically examine these emerging challenges and develop innovative legal responses. It aims to foster interdisciplinary dialogue on how public law can remain effective, legitimate, and responsive in an increasingly complex governance landscape.

By bringing together diverse perspectives from constitutional law, technology, international law, and governance, the Conference seeks to bridge theory and practice. It aspires to generate meaningful scholarship and practical pathways for strengthening accountability, protecting rights, and ensuring that the Rule of Law remains resilient in times of institutional and technological change

ABOUT THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



DR. LOBSANG SANGAY

Senior Visiting Fellow, East Asian Legal Studies Program, Harvard Law School; Former Sikyong (President), Central Tibetan Administration

Dr. Lobsang Sangay is a Senior Visiting Fellow at the East Asian Legal Studies Program, Harvard Law School, and served two terms as the democratically elected Sikyong (President) of the Central Tibetan Administration. He holds an LL.B. from Delhi University and LL.M. and S.J.D. degrees from Harvard Law School. His work focuses on democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and governance in exile, with extensive research on Tibetan law and legal autonomy.

Beyond his political leadership, Lobsang Sangay has been an active advocate for Tibetan human rights, democracy, and greater autonomy. He has represented the Tibetan cause at international forums and continues his academic research and teaching on Tibet, international law, governance, and human rights. He is also the author of several works on Tibetan law, democracy, and the Tibetan government-in-exile.



APURV KUMAR MISHRA

Consultant to the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, Former Policy Leader Fellow at European University Institute in Florence, Italy.

Apurv Kumar Mishra is presently serving in the Government of India as a Consultant in the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council. From February-June 2022, he was a Policy Leader Fellow at European University Institute in Florence, Italy. He previously worked as a senior research fellow at India Foundation, a premier think-tank in India where he led initiatives relating to Indian foreign policy. He was also an adjunct faculty of law at Ashoka University and taught courses on law at several universities including Gandhinagar National Law University and Plaksha University. He is the editor-in-chief of India Law Journal. Apurv is a founding member of Robin Hood Army- a voluntary organisation of young professionals and students that works to get surplus food from restaurants to less fortunate people in 350+ cities across 12 countries.

ABOUT THE THEME

THEME

Rule of Law at a Transformative Crossroads: Rethinking Public Law, Governance, and Accountability

Democratic institutions worldwide are navigating a rapidly evolving public-law landscape shaped by algorithmic decision-making, expanding executive powers, shifting public-private boundaries, and democratic backsliding. Public law is thus being tested on several fronts, as AI-driven administrative decisions, emergency governance, delegated authority, and corporate performance of public functions reshape the Rule of Law, judicial review, administrative discretion, and separation of powers. While these developments may enhance efficiency, they also raise concerns about transparency, human oversight, due process, accountability, institutional trust, and the balance of power. At this "Transformative Crossroads," longstanding certainties are being renegotiated in real time rather than treated as settled doctrine. The special issue therefore invites critical and comparative scholarship, particularly from Global South, comparative constitutional, law and technology, and interdisciplinary perspectives, examining the Rule of Law as an evolving institutional practice responding to changing configurations of power, technology, and governance.

SUB-THEMES

1. Democracy Beyond Territory: Constitutionalism, Legitimacy & the Rule of Law in Exile

• Legal authority of governments and institutions operating without territorial control.

• Constitutional continuity, courts, and legal orders amid displaced or suspended institutions.

• Recognition and legitimacy questions arising from competing claims to sovereignty.

As of end-2025, 129.4 million people worldwide are forcibly displaced or stateless i.e. roughly 1 in every 70 people on Earth.

2. The Right to Govern, Not Be Governed by Machines: AI, Administrative Power & Regulatory Accountability

• Transparency and human oversight in AI-driven government decisions.
• Algorithmic bias in welfare, licensing, policing, and public service access.
• Judicial review of automated systems like vehicle-registration auctions.

Indian courts are currently sitting on over 5.5 crore pending cases, Supreme Court pendency alone crossed 92,000 in January 2026, the pressure driving the judiciary's turn to AI-assisted case management and research tools.

3. Constitutional Silences, Executive Power & the Limits of Administrative Discretion

• Delegated power, executive discretion, and limits on administrative action.
• Role of tribunals, commissions, and ombudsman institutions in oversight.
• Judicial review as a check against executive excess.

Since 1952, 637 ordinances have been promulgated at the central level in India, with the annual rate nearly doubling to roughly 10–11 a year in 2014–2019 compared to the preceding decade's average.

4. The Right to Be Heard in a Digital State: Due Process Beyond the Digital Divide

• Connectivity, affordability, and digital literacy as barriers to rights access.
• Notice, hearing, and appeal rights in digital administration.
• Need for human intervention and offline alternatives in e-governance.

Rural internet penetration in India stands at just 48.3 per 100 people, and a 2025 study found nearly half of offline rural households remain unconnected not for lack of infrastructure, but because they don't know what the internet is or how to use it.

5. Elections, Democratic Legitimacy & the Rule of Law in Transition

• Institutional independence and integrity in free and fair elections.
• Fairness in electoral roll revisions like SIR and voter verification.
• Deepfakes, disinformation, and AI campaigning's effect on electoral choice.

Deepfake attempts targeting India's 2024 general election rose by an estimated 280% compared to the previous cycle, in a year the World Economic Forum ranked India as the single highest-risk country globally for mis- and disinformation.

6. Environmental Rule of Law: Climate Transition, Development & Institutional Accountability

• Climate change reshaping environmental regulation.
• Independence and accountability of environmental regulators.
• NGT's jurisdiction, remedial powers, and interface with judicial review.

The National Green Tribunal was sitting on over 5,000 pending cases across its five benches as of late 2025, with as few as 6 judicial members in post against a sanctioned strength of 20.

7. Competing Claims, Contested Territories & Conflicting Legal Orders

• Sovereignty disputes and their constitutional implications.
• Courts and transitional authorities maintaining legality amid uncertainty.

There are currently more than 150 active territorial and border disputes worldwide, at least 11 of them involving nuclear-armed states directly or by proxy.

8. Private Power, Public Consequences: Corporations, Platforms & the Expanding Rule of Law

• Corporations and platforms performing traditionally public functions.
• Business and human rights accountability across supply chains and conflict zones.
• Ensuring transparency where private entities shape public life.

The world's five largest corporations by market value now carry a combined valuation of roughly $16.4 trillion, in the range of an entire national economy the size of China's.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Submissions will pass through **blind peer review**, and acceptance will be subjected to the report of the peer review team.
2. The final paper should be submitted after the notification/communication of acceptance (15 September, 2026) of the abstract.
3. **Eligibility criteria**: The Conference is open to undergraduate and postgraduate students, research scholars, academicians, legal practitioners, professionals, policymakers, and other individuals interested in the relevant areas of law and policy.
4. The final submission shall be concluded within the prescribed deadline. No abstract or full paper shall be accepted after the respective submission deadlines.
5. Paper Presenters have to register after the acceptance of the abstract with payment of the required fees. **Registration and Submission Link shall be provided after acceptance of Abstract.**
6. For participation, registration is mandatory upon confirmation of participation.
7. The Organising Committee reserves the right to accept or reject the submissions at any stage of the review. The decision of the organisers regarding the selection of the papers shall be final. The copyright for all entries shall vest with the organisers who herewith reserve the right to modify the contributions as per the requirements of necessity.
8. There shall be a **zero-tolerance policy on plagiarism**, and a similarity index of up to **10% is permissible**. All final submissions will be subjected to blind peer review and a plagiarism check, after which the selected papers will be considered.
9. An E-certificate will be awarded to the participants presenting the paper.
10. All abstracts must be submitted in .docx format via Google Form.
11. Paper Presenters may visit the Campus or Join Online. However,
12. **No Accommodation** shall be provided by the Organising Committee.

SELECTED PAPERS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS; HOWEVER, ADDITIONAL CHARGES WILL APPLY FOR PUBLICATION.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- **Word limit of the Abstract:** 250-300 words.
- **Word limit of the Full Paper:** 3000-5000 (excluding footnotes)
- The main text should be in Times New Roman with font size 12 and line spacing of 1.5.
- The footnotes should be in Times New Roman, font size 10, with line spacing of 1.0.
- One-inch margins on all sides should be maintained.
- **Citation Style:** Bluebook 21st Edition/ APA

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION QR & LINK

OR

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT

GUIDELINE FOR PAYMENT

1. Payments must be made only after Acceptance of the abstract.
2. Payments must be made to the bank account listed below by 18 September, 2026.
3. Papers submitted before the payment has been made, will not be considered.
4. Payment proof must be attached along with the Paper submission.
5. Payment once made will not be refunded.
6. In case of any dispute arising, the decision of the Organising Committee will be final and binding.

For Payment of the Registration Fees-

Account Name: REGISTRAR DBRANLU RAI
Account Number: 50100156483861
I**FSC Code:** HDFC0003433

REGISTRATION FEES

CATEGORY	Registration Fee Offline/Online
Practitioners/ Academicians/ External Faculty	Rs. 1500 per author
Students	Rs. 750 per author
DBRANLU Students/ Faculty	Rs. 500 per author
International Delegates	50 USD per author

IMPORTANT DATES

13 SEPTEMBER, 2026	LAST DATE OF ABSTRACT SUBMISSION
15 SEPTEMBER, 2026	COMMUNICATION / NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF ABSTRACT
18 SEPTEMBER, 2026	LAST DATE OF REGISTRATION, PAYMENT OF FEES & FINAL PAPER SUBMISSION
23 SEPTEMBER, 2026	DATE OF CONFERENCE / PRESENTATION

PAST CONFERENCES



Convocation Ceremony for Batch 2019-2024



National Conference — Indianisation of the Legal System



National Conference on Artificial Intelligence

CONTACT US

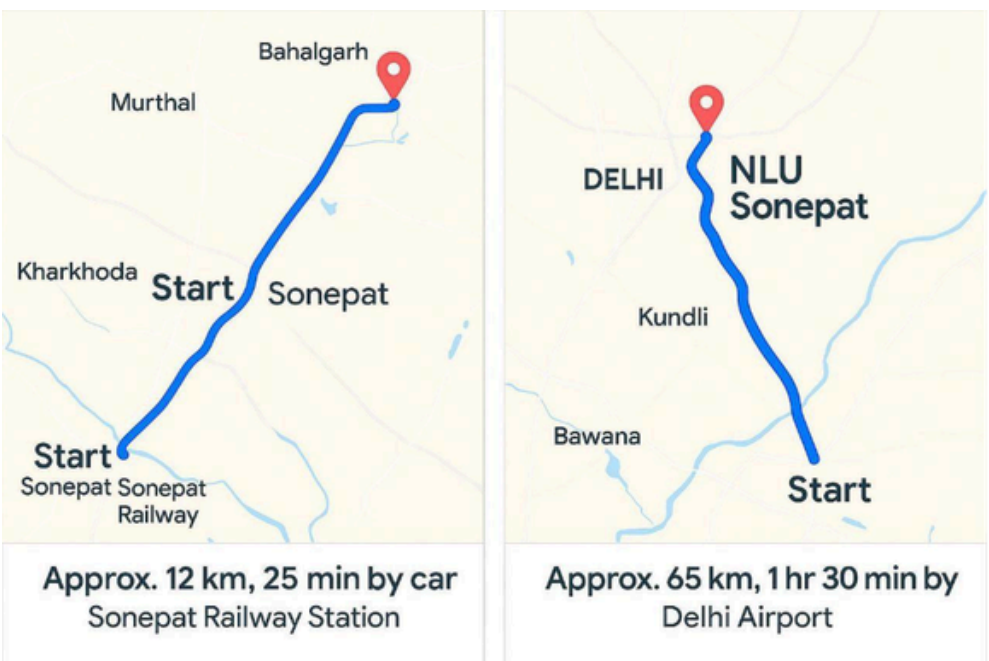
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All communication(s), queries, and update(s) to be communicated through the official mail ID.

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