



IN
COLLABORATION



CALL FOR PAPERS



Two-Day National Conference on 'From Environment Protection to Climate Justice: Articulating the Right to be Free From Adverse Impacts of Climate Change in India'

LIST OF IMPORTANT DATES

THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD ON



**30TH-31ST
OCTOBER, 2025**



10:00AM - 06:00PM



**THE WEST BENGAL NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL
SCIENCES, KOLKATA**

**SCAN TO
REGISTER**



- Submission of Abstract: 10th October, 2025. The Google link for submission of the abstract is as follows: <https://forms.gle/CXofvTuoIMcfyvB1A>
- Communication of Acceptance of Abstracts: 13th October, 2025
- Payment of Registration Fees: Portal Opens on 7th October, 2025. Participants can register themselves after receiving payment details from 7th October, 2025. Paper Presenters can register themselves after the communication of acceptance of abstracts.
- Last Date for Registration along with payment of Registration Fees: 22nd October, 2025
- Submission of Full Paper along with the PPT to be used for presentation: 28th October, 2025
- Date of Conference: 30th -31st October, 2025

CONCEPT NOTE

In March 2024, the Supreme Court of India came out with a very important judgement. While adjudicating upon a matter related to the protection of the Great Indian Bustard, a critically endangered species of bird, the Supreme Court came to the finding that being free from the adverse impact of climate change is a facet of the right to equality and the right to life enshrined under the Indian Constitution. Climate change affects the poor and the vulnerable (in the court's words, underserved) communities more than the rest and hence being unable to cope or adapt to its effects violates their right to life and equality.

This marks a critical juncture in India's fundamental rights jurisprudence. In spite of the rich history of the Indian judiciary's responsiveness to environmental rights-based actions, recognising the right to be free from the adverse impact of climate change as a distinct fundamental right has its own ramifications. This opens up the doors for more direct engagement with 'climate change' in environmental rights-based litigation, which has hitherto stopped short of engaging holistically with 'climate change'. As Para 24 of the judgement states:

*“Despite a plethora of decisions on the right to a clean environment, some decisions which recognise climate change as a serious threat, and national policies which seek to combat climate change, it is yet to be articulated that the people have a right against the adverse effects of climate change. This is perhaps because this right and the right to a clean environment are two sides of the same coin. **As the havoc caused by climate change increases year by year, it becomes necessary to articulate this as a distinct right.** It is recognised by Articles 14 and 21.”*

As in *Ranjitsinh*, the 'right to be free from adverse effects of climate change' may often find itself pitted against other environmental concerns (like biodiversity conservation). And unlike the classical struggle between the need for economic development and environmental protection, which has often been the theme in environmental rights-based actions before the courts, the choice between environmental conservation and the right against the adverse impact of climate change is a “dynamic” one that rules out the foregrounding of one at the cost of the other. Further, the court's engagement of a 'climate justice' vocabulary to articulate this right provides it with a context which may guide its future applications.



CONCEPT NOTE

India has been at the forefront of international climate negotiations, be it as a party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol or the Paris Climate Agreement. Its revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement commits to reduce its emissions per GDP by 45% from 2005 by 2030; to raise an additional 2.5-3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through carbon sinks; to attain 50% of installed capacity for electricity from non-fossil fuel sources, etc. It has played a crucial role in the formation of the International Solar Alliance, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, in proposing the OSOWOG (One Sun, One World, One Grid) and through successfully adding the plus element in REDD+ through soft diplomacy. India has been viewed by many as a strong advocate for climate justice, given its own situatedness in the North-South discourses and because of its colonial past. Ranjitsinh helps reinforce this visual. Ranjitsinh adds to the impressive coterie of cases globally that talk about integrating climate change concerns into the human rights discourse and outline state obligation in safeguarding the same (like Urgenda, Royal Dutch Shell, Sacchi etc.)

It is in this context that an inner and outer reading of the judgement becomes pertinent. A close deconstruction of the judgement can throw light on its situatedness in the global discourses on climate change and climate justice, its promises, the challenges that may arise to its implementation in the country and the necessary alignments, especially in law and policy, that may complement its implementation. India does not have any dedicated climate change law. Climate change concerns are sought to be addressed through a catena of sectoral legislations, some of which have seen critical amendments off late to address climate concerns. To add to these, India has adopted a host of policies and schemes aimed at climate change adaptation and mitigation, but existing scholarship has raised some doubts as to how they sit within the country's federal structure.

This is where this conference seeks to contribute. It intends to serve as a forum to generate and transmit understanding on this new fundamental right amongst the various stakeholders who are key to the realisation of this right. The organisers hope that the forum serves as an opportunity to learn, share knowledge, brainstorm and generate ideas that help towards the effective realisation of this right.



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7001335297

Mr. Manish Kumar Chouhan





ABOUT THE WB NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES, KOLKATA, INDIA

The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences was established under the WBNUJS Act, 1999 (West Bengal Act IX of 1999) adopted by the West Bengal Legislature in July, 1999. The University was notified under Clause (f) of Section 2 of the UGC Act, 1956 in August 2004 and has been granted permanent affiliation by the Bar Council of India in July 2005. WBNUJS has been accredited with A+ grade by the NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council). It was ranked fourth in the list of Law Colleges by NIRF in 2024.

The NUJS, Kolkata, along with the GNLU and NLSIU, Bengaluru, remain the only three national law schools which have the honourable Chief Justice of India as the Chancellor. This set-up provides an aura of exclusivity and rare stature to these National Law Schools in India. It may be noted that all other National Law Schools have the Chief Justice of the respective state High Courts as their Chancellors.

NUJS is considered one of the best amongst the elite national law schools in India built on the five-year law degree model proposed and implemented by the Bar Council of India. The university offers a five-year integrated B.A./BSc. LLB (Hons.) degree programme at the undergraduate level and a Master of Laws (LLM) programme at the postgraduate level. Admission to the former programme is through the Common Law Admission Test, a highly competitive, nationwide common entrance examination, held jointly by fourteen of the seventeen national law schools. NUJS also offers MPhil, PhD and diploma in business laws and other programs. It also offers a number of online courses that attract students from 17 countries across the world so far.

The Chief Justice of India is the Chancellor of NUJS and is also the Chairman of the General Council, the supreme policy-making body of the University. Prof. (Dr.) Nirmal Kanti Chakrabarti is the Vice Chancellor of the University.



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OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME:

- 1) To serve as a forum for explication upon the 'right to be free from adverse effects of climate change' and its various facets
- 2) To understand the situatedness of this right within the framework of 'climate justice'
- 3) To generate a consensus amongst key stakeholders about the contours and contents of this right.
- 4) To provide a forum where strategies and key considerations in its implementation can be deliberated.
- 5) To transmit the ideas generated through the deliberations in the forum amongst key stakeholders.

OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME:

- 1) The participants shall be able to amplify their understanding of the right to be free from adverse effects of climate change through the exchange of views of the participants and deliberations by subject experts.
- 2) The conference aims to underscore the key concerns and considerations with regard to recognition of 'right to be free from adverse impacts of climate change' as a fundamental right.
- 3) The conference shall aid in charting out strategies for the implementation of the right
- 4) The participants shall be able to arrive at a shared understanding on the right and the strategies to its implementation.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

The conference aims to target key stakeholders like academics, lawyers, representatives of non-profit organisations, rights-advocacy groups, scholars, bureaucrats and students.



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PAPER PRESENTATION THEMES:

We invite paper submissions from academics, lawyers, professionals, policy makers, researchers, students and non-governmental organisations on any of the themes mentioned herein and beyond. The presentations must align with the overall theme of the conference and must seek to illuminate the subject from diverse vantage points.

§ Interrelationships Between Climate Change and Human Rights

§ Epistemic Challenges to the Integration of Climate Change within the Human Rights Discourse (non-anthropocentric approaches, holism, biocentrism, ecocentrism, rights of nature, wild laws etc.)

- Sustainability as the Bridge Between Climate Change and Human Rights
- Climate Change, Human Rights and Climate Justice
- Law, Culture and Environmental Protection in India
- International Relations, International Law and Climate Change
- India's Role in International Climate Change Negotiations
- India's domestic framework for climate change adaptation and mitigation
- India's Climate Action and Indian Federalism
- Indian Judiciary and Environmental Protection
- Principles of public trust, intergenerational equity, interspecies justice, non-regression etc.
- Fundamental Rights and Climate Change
- The right to be free from adverse impacts of climate change
- Climate Change and Climate Justice
- Any sectoral analysis of climate change, climate justice or human rights. Such sectors can be forestry, disaster, water governance, energy sector etc.
- Role of Urban Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions in Climate Action
- Role of NGOs and the civil society in Climate Action

WORD LIMIT:

Abstracts should be of a maximum of 500 words. Full Papers should be between 5000 and 8000 words.

FORMATING GUIDELINES:

- The body of the submission 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 Single Line Spacing.



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REGISTRATION PROCESS :

1. Fill the Registration Form

- Google Forms are provided for Participants and Paper Presenters.
- Please ensure all details are filled accurately.

2. Payment Details

- After submission of the registration form, payment instructions and bank details will be shared with you via email.

3. Confirmation of Registration

- Your registration will be confirmed only after the successful completion of payment.
- A confirmation mail will be sent to you once the payment is verified.

Please note: Filling the registration form alone does not confirm participation. Payment completion is mandatory.

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PAYMENT DETAILS

- Participation + Paper Presentation (per author/co-author): ₹1770 INR (including GST)
- Participation Only: ₹1180 INR (including GST)
- Note: Each co-author must register separately and make individual payments through the provided link.



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Mr. Manish Kumar Chouhan



PATRON IN CHIEF

PROF. DR. N.K. CHAKRABARTI
Vice Chancellor
West Bengal National University of
Juridical Sciences

PATRON

MR. RAJA CHAKRABORTY
REGISTRAR
WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF
JURIDICAL SCIENCES

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

MR. UJAL KUMAR MOOKHERJEE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
MOBILE : 9123891353
Mail :
ujalmookherjee@nujs.edu

MR. MANISH KUMAR CHOUHAN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
MOBILE : 7001335297
Mail :
manishkumarchouhan@nujs.e
du

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7001335297
Mr. Manish Kumar Chouhan

