



ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE OF LAW

(Affiliated to KSLU & Approved by BCI)

National Conference

on

Reimagining the Right to Higher
Education and Democratic Participation in
a Changing World
(For Undergraduate Students)

09 OCTOBER 2026 | HYBRID MODE



BCI Approved | Affiliated to Karnataka State Law University, Hubballi

The First Jesuit Law College in South Asia

About St Joseph's College of Law

St. Joseph's College of Law (SJCL) is approved by the Bar Council of India (BCI), New Delhi and affiliated to Karnataka State Law University, Hubballi. St. Joseph's College of Law has forayed into the area of imparting legal education in the academic year 2017- 2018. It is the first ever Jesuit Law College in South Asia. The Jesuits also run other premier institutions in India, like Loyola College, Chennai, St. Xavier's College, Calcutta and St. Xavier's College Mumbai. The Institution is driven by the ideology of faith and labour that is resonated in the motto of the College "FIDE ET LABORE". At St. Joseph's College of Law, we are driven with the vision to produce competent, ethically sound lawyers who are committed to the cause of transforming society.

About the Conference

The twenty-first century has transformed the relationship between education, democracy, and leadership. Artificial intelligence, digital governance, climate change, widening inequalities, economic uncertainty, and rapid technological innovation demand graduates who are not only professionally competent but also ethically grounded, socially responsible, and committed to constitutional values.

India's young population represents one of the world's greatest democratic assets. Yet access to quality higher education continues to be shaped by structural inequalities involving caste, class, gender, disability, language, region, and the digital divide. Contemporary debates surrounding reservation, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, privatisation, digital learning, entrance examinations, campus governance, academic freedom, and student welfare demonstrate that higher education is no longer merely an educational issue; it is increasingly a question of constitutional rights, social justice, and democratic participation.

Recognising these realities, St. Joseph's College of Law (SJCL), Bengaluru, is organising the National Undergraduate Conference on the theme '**Reimagining the Right to Higher Education and Democratic Participation in a Changing World**' on 09 October 2026 in hybrid mode to provide an interdisciplinary platform where students critically examine the evolving relationship between higher education, youth leadership, constitutional governance, technology, human rights, and inclusive development.

The conference welcomes original research from undergraduate students across disciplines and seeks to encourage informed dialogue, innovative ideas, and policy-oriented scholarship that contributes to building a more equitable, democratic, and inclusive society.

Conference Objectives



Promote undergraduate research on contemporary legal, social, and policy issues.



Encourage interdisciplinary scholarship on education, democracy, and leadership.



Foster constitutional values, social justice, and responsible citizenship.



Examine emerging challenges created by AI, digital technologies, and governance.



Inspire innovative solutions for inclusive and sustainable democratic futures.

Conference Themes

1

Theme I: The Right to Higher Education: Constitutionalism, Equality and Educational Justice

Constitutional rights, Human rights, RTE and higher education, Academic freedom, Educational reforms, Access and inclusion, International perspectives

2

Theme II: Youth Leadership and Democratic Governance

Civic engagement , Student leadership, Constitutional values, Public policy, Electoral participation, Democratic innovation, Local governance

3

Theme III: Reservation, Equity and Social Justice

Reservation debates, Merit and equality, Representation, Faculty diversity, Campus discrimination, Private institutions

4

Theme IV: Artificial Intelligence, Technology and the Future of Education

AI ethics, Digital learning & Usage of AI, Classroom education in the age of AI, Doctrinal Research and AI, Empirical Research and AI, AI as teachers

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Theme V: Digital Inclusion and Educational Access

Digital divide, Internet access, Online learning, Digital literacy, Educational infrastructure, Technology and equality



Who Can Participate?

Undergraduate students from Law, Political Science, Public Policy, Sociology, Economics, Management, Commerce, Psychology, Education, Media Studies, Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, and other allied disciplines.



Presentation Mode



In-Person Presentation

All participants based in Bengaluru are required to attend the conference in person.



No. 18, Field Marshal Cariappa Road (formerly Residency Road), Shanthala Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560025



Hybrid Option

Participants residing outside Bengaluru can opt for online presentations.



Important Dates



Deadline for submission of abstract ————— 08 September 2026



Notification of selection of abstract ————— 12 September 2026



Last date for registration ————— 16 September 2026



Submission of full paper ————— 28 September 2026



Conference date ————— 09 October 2026



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES



Authors are required to submit an abstract of 300 words with 5-6 keywords in MS Word format (.doc/.docx).



Submission of the abstract to be made via the Registration Link provided below.



The full paper should contain a minimum of 3,000-4,000 words, inclusive of footnotes. All submissions must follow the Bluebook 20th Edition citation style.



The manuscript should be in Times New Roman, font size 12, 1.5 line spacing, with footnotes in size 10



Submissions must be original, unpublished, and not under consideration elsewhere. A paper is permitted to have a maximum of two authors. The co-author must register separately.



Similarity index below 10%; plagiarism or unacknowledged AI content will result in disqualification.



Only authors whose abstracts the committee accepts will be permitted to present their papers. The committee will consider the best papers presented during the conference for publication, subject to peer review.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



Awards will be determined by an expert evaluation panel considering originality, research methodology, analytical quality, relevance to the conference theme, and effectiveness of paper presentation.

1

REGISTRATION FEES



SJCL UG Students —

₹300



NON-SJCL UG Students —

₹500

2

HOW TO REGISTER



Registration link: <https://events.sjcl.edu.in>



Last Date for Registration: 15 September 2026



Please note: the registration fee should only be paid after receiving the acceptance email for your abstract. If anyone makes the payment before their abstract is accepted and it is subsequently not accepted, the committee will not be responsible for refunding the amount.

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ORGANISING TEAM



Chief Patron

Dr. Daniel Fernandes SJ
Vice President, BJES & Director, SJCL



Patrons

Dr. Pauline Priya S
Principal

Shobha R
Vice Principal

Fr. Harry Terry SJ
Finance Officer



Coordinators



Dr. Rajrupa Sinha Roy
Assistant Professor
of Law



Dr. Amit Anand
Assistant Professor
of Law



Ms Lincy Joykutty
Assistant Professor
of Law

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FOR ANY QUERIES



Please mail at: research@sjcl.edu.in

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We look forward to welcoming you on 09 October 2026 — Hybrid Mode.