



**MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

Sponsored

ONE DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

on

**MINORITIES AND THE LAW IN INDIA: ISSUES
AND CHALLENGES**



22nd March 2015

RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW
Sidhuwal, Bhadson Road, Patiala 147 006

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), Punjab, was established by the State Legislature of Punjab by passing the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab Act, 2006 (Punjab Act No. 12 of 2006). The Act incorporated a University of Law of national stature in Punjab, thereby fulfilling the need for a Centre of Excellence in legal education in the modern era of globalization and liberalization.

INTRODUCTION

India is one of the world's most heterogeneous societies. Several religions, races, languages, cultures and customs have converged in the India making it a multi-cultural, multi-religious, multi-linguistic heterogeneous society. Co-existence of several heterogeneous diverse groups demanded mutual respect for each other and tolerance towards each others' religions and religious practices. In this social setting, idea of secularism has been preached in ancient India since times immemorial. The same idea has been followed in varied degrees by ancient rulers like Ashoka and Akbar who followed the policy of religious tolerance and curbed fanaticism. Hence, the thrust of Indian society on secularism was inherent in Indian culture.

Drafting of the Indian Constitution witnessed debate on secularism and religious freedoms in Constituent Assembly and it paved the way for incorporation of various provisions in the constitution dealing with religious freedoms of individuals, religious denominations and varied features of secularism. The Constitution of India not only provided for secularism and religious freedoms but also guaranteed equality of status and opportunity to one and all. The Constitution also provided for the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups including minorities. The Constitution of India affords protection to educational and cultural rights of religious and linguistic minorities.

The Government of India and various State Governments have also launched various schemes for the welfare of the minorities and to uplift the status of the minorities in Indian society. However, despite several policy initiative of the Government, the desired result has not been achieved. In this backdrop, the Seminar attempts to explore various aspects of the rights of minorities in the present socio-legal set up and to bring academicians, administrators, practitioners and jurists at one platform to deliberate on law, policy framework and social realities pertaining to minorities in India.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

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| i) To provide comprehensive knowledge to the participants regarding the rights of Minorities. | v) To increase understanding on key issues related to National as well as International Minority Law and Policies. |
| ii) To evaluate the efficacy of the existing laws and policies for the development of minorities. | vi) To promote networking and sharing of experiences among participants to actively contribute towards the welfare of minorities. |
| iii) To broaden the perspective on the rights of the Minorities by interacting with persons from both law and non-law backgrounds. | vii) To discuss various legal and social issues and challenges pertaining to minorities in Indian set up. |
| iv) To enable the participants to develop functional understanding of the working of the National Minority Commission. | viii) To suggest changes in policies and amendments in law and implementation mechanism for better protection of minority rights. |

CALL FOR PAPERS

Well researched papers on the themes of the Seminar are invited from academicians, research scholars, students, experts and groups involved in amelioration of the status of minorities. Abstracts of individual paper presentation proposals should be in about 300-500 words. The participants should include in the abstract, details as to the title, name of author(s), keywords, university /institution, email ID, contact numbers and contact address. Peer review process will be followed in accepting papers for presentation and the participants shall be intimated.

Full length papers should not exceed 6000 words including endnotes/footnotes/references. Full length papers should be typed in MS word using Times New Roman Font Size 12 for the text, sub heading font size 13, main heading font size 14, line spacing 1.5. The Bluebook : A Uniform Style for Citation should be strictly adhered to while submitting full length papers. Abstracts and full length papers shall emailed at minorityrights.rgnul@gmail.com.

It is proposed to publish the selected research papers in the form of an edited book with ISBN number. Only the full papers submitted before the deadline shall be considered for publication.

WEB CONFERENCE

The Seminar shall have a web conferencing session for the selected participants. To avail of the facility, the participant should have submitted the abstract, registration fee and full length paper before the deadline and notified the intention to present the paper through web-conferencing. Details regarding web conferencing schedule and other details shall be sent separately.

SUB THEMES OF THE SEMINAR

Secularism, Religious Freedoms and Minorities

- Conceptualizing Secularism
- Secularism and Religious Tolerance in India
- Religious Freedoms of Minorities in India
- Secularism and Right to Conversion

Educational and Cultural Rights of Minorities

- Educational Rights of Minorities : Social Realities and Law
- Cultural Rights of Minorities in a Multicultural Society
- Right to Education and Role of Minority Educational Institutions
- Girl Education among Minorities

Institutional Framework for Emancipation of Minorities

- National Commission for Minorities : Role, Issues and Challenges
- Communal Riots and Role of Police
- Role of State, Governmental and Non Governmental Agencies
- Role of Judiciary in Protecting Minority Rights

Inclusive Development and Minorities

- Status of Minorities in India : Socio-Economic, Political and Legal Perspectives
- Empowerment of Minorities : Law and Policy
- Emancipation of Minorities : Issues and Challenges
- Impact of Governmental Initiative on the Upliftment of Minorities

REGISTRATION

Registration Fee shall be payable in the form of Demand Draft favouring REGISTRAR, RGNUL, Punjab. Abstracts and full length papers shall be sent by email at minorityrights.rgnul@gmail.com. Hard copy of full length papers shall be submitted at the registration desk on the day of seminar.

REGISTRATION FEE

Registration Fee is Rs. 750/- (separately for author and co-author). Only one co-author is allowed. Early Bird Registration (upto 05th March 2015) is Rs. 500/- (each for author and co-author)

ACCOMMODATION

Limited accommodation for participants on first come first serve basis is available subject to prior intimation at the time of registration. For details, contact the seminar coordinator.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Last Date for Submission of Abstracts	27 th February 2015
Intimation of Acceptance	02 nd March 2015
Early Bird Registration	05 th March 2015
Submission of Full Paper	15 th March 2015
Last Date for Registration and Payment (Rs. 750/-)	15 th March 2015

PATRON- IN-CHIEF

Prof. (Dr.) Paramjit S. Jaswal
Vice-Chancellor, RGNUL, Punjab

PATRON

Prof. (Dr.) G.I.S. Sandhu
Registrar, RGNUL, Punjab

SEMINAR COORDINATOR

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