HIDAYATULLAH NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY

RAIPUR

Two-Day International Conference on

TEXT, CONTEXT & INTERPRETATION

NAVIGATING LAW & LITERATURE IN THE CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL LANDSCAPE

29th - 30th AUGUST 2026

Online Mode

Organised by

SCHOOL OF LAW & HUMANITIES

Centre for the Study of Law & Language

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Concept Note

"In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart."

Written by Anne Frank in The Diary of a Young Girl during the Holocaust, these words stand as a timeless testament to human resilience and the enduring faith in human dignity. That such hope could emerge from the depths of history's darkest chapters makes it not merely a personal confession but a powerful moral declaration that continues to resonate across generations.

It is this tension between the worst of human conduct and the best of human belief that lies at the heart of both law and literature. Law seeks to govern human behaviour, establish justice, and protect dignity; literature seeks to illuminate the human condition, give voice to the silenced, and bear witness to lived experience. Together, they form a vital and enduring conversation about justice, identity, and the kind of world we aspire to build.

The 21st century, shaped by technological advancement, shifting socio-political landscapes, and evolving conceptions of rights and justice, has lent renewed urgency to the notions of text, context, and interpretation. Legal and literary texts alike are not static artefacts rather their meanings are continuously constructed, contested, and transformed by the contexts in which they are read, applied, and challenged. Context has grown increasingly layered through globalisation, postcolonial legacies, identity politics, and socio-economic inequalities, as a result of which interpretation has become the critical site where law and literature converge.

This conference invites academicians, scholars, researchers, legal practitioners, and students to critically engage with the intersections of law and literature and to explore how navigating these disciplines together can offer deeper insights into justice, power, humanity, and our rapidly changing world.

Objectives of the Conference

- To examine how law and literature mutually inform each other in addressing justice, power, and human dignity
- To examine the evolving relationship between text and context in the contemporary global scenario
- To analyse how legal and literary texts are continuously constructed, contested, and reinterpreted across changing contexts
- To explore how social, legal, cultural, and technological frameworks shape interpretations of human experiences.
- To foster interdisciplinary dialogue on issues related to identity, justice, power, and representation.
- To analyse contemporary challenges through literary, legal, and socio-cultural perspectives.

Key Themes & Sub-Themes

I. Law, Justice, and Society

- Legal texts and social realities
- Human rights and constitutional values
- Language vis-à-vis politics
- Gendered readings of texts and contexts
- Queer perspectives and representation
- Intersection of caste, class, and identity

II. Literature, Culture, and Representation

- Literature as a reflection of human conditions
- Identity, marginality, and resistance
- Memory, trauma, and storytelling
- Hermeneutics and critical theory

- Environment & Climate Change in Literature
- War, Narratives and Memorials

Note: The sub-themes are only suggestive areas and not exhaustive. Research papers that are not covered under the abovementioned sub-themes yet have relevance in the thrust area of the conference may also be submitted.

Important Dates

Submission of Abstract	**31ST July 2026**
Intimation of Abstract Acceptance	**7th August 2026**
Registration Deadline	**14th August 2026**
Submission of Working Paper	**23rd August 2026**
Date of the Conference	**29th – 30th August 2026**

Submission Guidelines

Abstract

Research Papers → Abstract (250–300 words) (inclusive of 5 keywords)

For abstract: The abstract must be accompanied by a brief bio-note (in 100 words) of the author indicating their email ID, contact number, designation, and official address.

All submissions must include:

- Author's full name
- Institutional affiliation
- Contact email
- Short bio (100 words)

The abstract should be in the following format:

- Times New Roman, Font Size 12 & Line spacing 1.5, Justified.
- 1-inch margins on all four sides.
- Submissions are to be made in MS Word format only.

Please name your abstract file as follows:

Full Name_abstract, e.g., if the author's name is John Doe, then the file name should be John Doe_abstract. The abstracts can be submitted through this link:

Research Papers (4000–6000 words)

- Must present original research with clear research questions, methodology, analysis, and conclusion.
- Should engage with existing literature and contribute to theoretical or policy debates.
- Abstract (250–300 words) required, summarising the research problem, method, and findings.
- Proper citation and referencing required (APA/Bluebook style/MLA 9th Edition – as per conference format).

For citation, the author is required to follow the APA Formatting/ MLA 9th Ed. or Blue Book Citation (12th Ed.).

The language of submissions should preferably be English & Hindi.

For Publication of Papers:

- Selected research papers may be published in an edited book by HNLU Press with an ISBN.
- The authors willing to consider their paper for publication must submit a duly filled-in and scanned 'DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY & ASSIGNMENT OF COPYRIGHT FORM' to be provided with the communication of acceptance of the paper.
- The submitted papers shall be checked through a similarity software approved by the University.

- Any paper exceeding 10% similarity shall be outrightly rejected.
- The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in generating content is permissible only up to 20% of the total work. Authors must ensure that the paper reflects original analysis, interpretation, and argumentation.
- The submitted papers shall go through a rigorous blind peer-review process before selection for publication in an edited book with an ISBN as per the University Policies.
- Selection for paper presentation does not entitle publication in the book.
- The Committee reserves the right to disqualify any submission that does not comply with these guidelines.

Please click the Link given below or scan the QR Code for Submission of Abstract:

https://forms.gle/9DBmrywVPsWXfqsy9

Who Can Participate

- **Academicians, Postgraduate & Undergraduate students** from law, social sciences, humanities, and related disciplines.
- **Young researchers & interdisciplinary scholars** working on issues related to law, rights, justice, culture, ecology, and literature.
- Students interested in presenting **research papers**.

Registration and Fee

For International Professionals and Academicians	**: 30 USD**
Academicians and Professionals	**: INR 1000**
Research Scholars	**: INR 750**
Students	**: INR 500**

NOTE

1. The registration fee is payable only after the acceptance of the abstract. Participants are required to attach a screenshot of the successful payment to the registration form. Once deposited, the payment is non-refundable, and the screenshot of the successful payment is to be attached to the registration form.
2. As the event will be for two days, the slot for the presentation will be made available beforehand.
3. Only quality papers will be selected for publication. Merely being a candidate allowed for presentation will not be the sole ground to claim publication until the author responds to the scrutiny suggested in the paper from time to time.
4. In case of more than one author in one paper, each author will pay the fee mentioned above individually.
5. There would not be any fee for the faculty and students of HNLU.
6. A certificate of presentation/Participation will be provided to the participants.

Panel Experts and Resource Persons

The conference will host a diverse group of experts and practitioners to guide student participants, provide feedback, and enrich discussions.

- Academics and Scholars: Eminent professors and researchers from law, literature, history, political science, environmental studies, and cultural studies, etc.
- Legal Practitioners: Judges, lawyers, and advocates working on issues of constitutional rights, human rights, and environmental justice.
- International Experts: Scholars and practitioners working in the fields of law, literature and humanities across various regions to foster comparative global dialogue.

About HNLU

Hidayatullah National Law University, a premier institute for legal education and research, is moving in leaps and bounds towards its Silver Jubilee of its establishment and towards making a real difference in legal education. The University's motto, ' धर्म संस्थापनार्थम, ' translates to 'for the sake of establishing the primacy of laws of eternal values.' In line with this ethos, HNLU strives to provide advanced legal education that shapes students into more than just legal professionals; it instils in them a profound responsibility to contribute to society.

In recent years, the university has introduced a series of ground-breaking programs, including Lex Osmose, Ex-Arca, HNLU Press, Sui Generis, HEXA, HAAI and R-Has, with the new spoke model of research centres setting a new standard for innovation and academic excellence.

About Centre for the Study of Law & Language

The Centre for Law and Language is a one-of-a-kind initiative established under the School for Law and Humanities to explore, understand and establish the intersection of legal scholarship and linguistic curiosity. It aims to provide a platform for rigorous research, thoughtful discussions and collaborative initiatives to expound the role and significance of language in the field of law and legal inquiries. The Centre is committed not only to the scholarly pursuit of legal knowledge but also to a profound understanding of the unique nexus between language and law to be able to contribute reciprocally to the better understanding of language and law.

Conference Advisors

Prof. V.C. Vivekanandan
Vice-Chancellor, HNLU

Dr. Vishnu Konoorayar
Dean, Research

Dr. Avinash Samal
Director, School of Law & Humanities

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Dr. Kamal Narayan
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Student Committee

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Shubhanshu Dubey
Student Co-convener

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