



NATIONAL CONCLAVE 2026 *on*

INDIA @ 76 – FEDERAL CROSSROADS

Organised by

The Central Law College

(Affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University)

(Approved by the Bar Council of India)

Yercaud Main Road, Kannankurichi, Salem - 636 008, Tamil Nadu



19th September, 2026 (Saturday)

ABOUT THE CENTRAL LAW COLLEGE, SALEM

The Central Law College (CLC), Salem, stands tall as a beacon of legal knowledge with a monumental 42-year legacy. Following a landmark 1984 Madras High Court victory, CLC achieved the historic distinction of becoming the First Private Law College in Tamil Nadu. Initially offering its comprehensive 5-year Integrated and 3-year Law Degree courses under the permanent affiliation of the University of Madras, the college evolved alongside the legal discipline. Since 1997, it has been proudly affiliated with The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, the Nation's first specialized Legal University and remains fully recognized by the Bar Council of India. The College also offers postgraduate degree courses in the department of Constitutional Law and Criminal Law. For over four decades, this judicially endorsed Institution has served as a premier Launchpad, instilling the true spirit of advocacy in thousands of graduates who now serve with distinction across the Indian Judiciary and Global Legal Arenas.

ABOUT THE FOUNDER, PROF. R. V. DHANAPALAN

The foundational bedrock of this legacy was laid by the illustrious Prof. R.V. Dhanapalan, M.A., M.L., a pioneering Academician, eminent Jurist and a selfless Visionary. He built a formidable 20-year constitutional practice before the Madras High Court (1967-1987) under the mentorship of Prof. N.A. Subramanian and Dr. S. Mohan (later Supreme Court Judge)

Prof. R.V. Dhanapalan left a lasting impact on Indian higher education and public governance through pivotal leadership roles and dedicated service. Deputed by the then Chief Minister Arignar Anna as State Representative to the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies in New Delhi, he contributed directly to national legislative policy alongside veteran MP Prof. N.G. Ranga. In higher education, he was appointed Special Officer by the State Government to establish the Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, served on the high-level Vice-Chancellor committee for the University of Madras (1994-95), acted as Educational Adviser to the Governor, and held key governance positions across various university Senates, Syndicates, and Boards of Studies. Additionally, he served on State Public Service Commission selection committees while maintaining deep philanthropic commitments to society.

ABOUT THE CHAIRMAN, MR. SARAVANAN DHANAPALAN

Building on this magnificent heritage, the present Chairman has spent over two decades elevating the institution through his work as a lawyer and dedicated educational leader.

As the former Co-Chairman of the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, he served on its Enrollment and Disciplinary committees. He is also a Senate Member of the Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University and an Executive Council Member of the Tamil Nadu National Law University, Trichy.

As head of CLC Salem and Central Learning Campus (CBSE) in Yercaud, he has raised academic standards by hosting national conferences, moot courts and practical legal training exercises. He established the Centre for Mediation and Arbitration (CEMA), which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Justice F.M. Ibrahim Kalifullah and Mr. Sriram Panchu.

All through these works, he carries on his family's strong history of giving back to society. As a member of the Indian Law Institute and the Indian Institute of Public Administration in New Delhi, the Chairman works as a visionary leader shaping the future of legal education while preserving its rich history.

GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Prof. A. Manickam

Chief Administrative Officer

Hon'ble Mr. Justice E. Padmanabhan

Former Judge, High Court of Madras

Hon'ble Dr. Justice. P. Jyothimani

Former Judge of High Court, Madras,

Former Judicial Member of National Green Tribunal (Southern Region)

Hon'ble Mr Justice. G.M. Akbar Ali

Former Judge, High Court of Madras

Dr. S.S.P. Darwesh

Former Vice - Chancellor, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai

Prof. Dr. V. Vijayakumar

Former Vice - Chancellor, National Law Institute University, Bhopal

THE INSTITUTIONAL IMPERATIVE & NEED FOR DISCUSSION

India's federal story is not a settled chapter, it is being rewritten almost every year. As we cross the crucial milestone of 76 years of the Constitution, the imminent expiration of the Lok Sabha seat freeze and the upcoming Delimitation Commission, the GST compensation cess, discretion of the Governor over a State Assembly's bills and a decades-old language debate, respecting language as the bedrock of State identity have brought long-term structural anxieties into sharp focus.

To understand this historic moment, we cannot look at law in isolation. This National Conclave is designed to unpack the foundational pillars shaping modern India:

Political & Constitutional: The evolving boundary between provincial autonomy and central authority, from a Governor's role over Assembly bills to the Supreme Court's recent rulings.

Representational & Democratic: The realities of delimitation as India approaches its first seat re-allocation in decades, alongside the Tenth Schedule's struggle to protect elected mandates from political defection.

Economic & Fiscal: The fiscal rights of manufacturing and GST-contributing States under a changing tax regime, and the deeper contest over ecological federalism: who controls the revenue from a State's resources.

Cultural & Linguistic: The guarantees of the Eighth Schedule and the vibrant pluralism of regional identity, in par with a centralised vision for education and the discussion to keep language as the core of State identity.

These are not four disconnected issues chosen for variety. They are four faces of the same question that has defined the Indian Union since the 1950s. Every generation renegotiates this balance in its own way through courts, fiscal councils, elections, & classrooms. This year, all four arenas are active at once, which is precisely what makes this conclave timely as well as academic.

We have chosen these themes because they sit at the intersection of Law, Economics, Politics, and Culture and because the decisions being made on each of them right now will shape how India's States and its Centre relate to one another for years to come. This is a conversation that concerns policymakers and citizens alike. We invite you to be a part of this dialogue, not as a spectator, but as a participant in conversations that will shape the Republic's next chapter.

Sessions

1. The Constitutional Tug-of-War: Safeguarding State Sovereignty in the Modern Era.
2. The Changing Electoral Map: Delimitation Realities and Political Party Hopping.
3. The Price of Federalism: Balancing State Revenues, GST Reforms and the Battle for Ecological Federalism.
4. The Linguistic Issues: Our Language, Our Future: Reclaiming Education from the Concurrent List.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The National Conclave on “**INDIA @ 76 – FEDERAL CROSSROADS**” is open to undergraduate and postgraduate students, research scholars, academicians, legal professionals and anyone with a keen interest in the field of Constitutional Law, Polity, Governance, Sociology and Economics etc.,. This Conclave will be a valuable forum for fostering discussions and sharing insights on the Indian Constitution and its relevant fields in the contemporary era. We hope this platform will be an impeccable experience enriching networks, discussions and productive collaborations for the participants

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Abstract: Abstract shall not exceed 300 words and shall include five key words. The author(s) shall specify the title of the paper, Name(s) and designation of the Author(s). All abstracts should be submitted by filling the following Google Form Link <https://forms.gle/XcQUQiFtE99HkTU96> on or before 21.08.2026. **The e-copy of the book of abstracts will be shared only with those who attend in person**

Author and Co-Author: There may be an author and one co-author for a research paper.

Note: There will be no presentation session. However articles submitted will be eligible for publication after scrutiny. Participants who have submitted the abstracts should mandatorily attend the conclave. Articles for Publication will be considered only for those who were present in person throughout the programme.

Registration: Registration should be done on or before 21.08.2026 by using the following Google form Link <https://forms.gle/XcQUQiFtE99HkTU96>

Full Paper: The submission should be original, unpublished and should adhere to the themes of the Conclave. (Plagiarism and AI content must be less than 10%). The full paper can be submitted on or before 04.10.2026. Link for submission of full paper will be shared to the registered mail id after the conference.

Word Limit: Full paper should not exceed 3000 words.

Text: Size 12-pt. Times New Roman, 1.5 Line Spacing; Heading 14-pt (bold), Times New Roman: Sub-headings 12-pt (bold), Times New Roman.

Reference Style: Authors must properly cite references and avoid plagiarism. A uniform system of citation: The Blue Book – 21st edition reference style or APA reference style should be followed strictly.

Author Name and Designation: Author Name and Designation would appear under the Title of the Paper on the First Page / Abstract.

Note:

Participants registering as UG/PG Students must be enrolled in a full time course at any recognised University or College

**Participants will be provided with Conference Kit, Refreshments and Lunch.
Certificates will be provided to all the participants only in person during the Valedictory Session.
Participants shall arrange for their own travel.**

REGISTRATION FEE

PARTICIPATION	
Students & Research Scholars	500
Academicians	750



BANK DETAILS FOR PAYMENT

Bank Name	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank
Branch	Kannankurichi Branch, Yercaud Main Road, 636008
Account No.	60100050301715
IFSC	TMBL0000060

IMPORTANT LINKS

<https://forms.gle/XcQUQiFtE99HkTU96>

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract Submission	21.08.2026 (Friday)
Registration	21.08.2026 (Friday)
Date of National Conclave	19-09-2026 (Saturday)
Full Paper Submission	04.10.2026 (Sunday)
Intimation Regarding Publication	10.10.2026 (Saturday)

Note:

Publication Fee: Rs. 750 for soft copy & Rs.1000/- per hard copy book (Publication Fee should be paid only after receiving confirmation from the committee. E-Certificates will be shared for selected publications with ISBN)

PROGRAMME

10.00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M. : INAUGURAL SESSION

11.05 A.M. TO 12.15 P.M. : SESSION - I

12:15 P.M. TO 12:30 P.M. : TEA BREAK

12:30 P.M. TO 1:45 P.M. : SESSION - II

01:45 P.M. TO 02:30 P.M. : LUNCH

02:30 P.M. TO 03:45 P.M. : SESSION - III

03:45 P.M. TO 05:00 P.M. : SESSION - IV

05:00 P.M. TO 05:15 P.M. : TEA BREAK

05:15 P.M. TO 06:30 P.M. : VALEDICTORY SESSION

Chief Patron

Mr. D. Saravanan

Chairman & Advocate

Patron

Prof. Dr. Begum Fatima

Principal

Conference Committee Members (Assistant Professors)

Ms. Neeraja. S Mrs. G. Priyadharshini Mr. S. Shri Sabareeshwaran Mr. Poovarasan. R
Mrs. Yauvana Roja. M Ms. Nithiyakumari. M Mrs. Sona. S Mr. Giriprasad. B

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