

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

## THREE DECADES OF INDIA'S JOURNEY TOWARDS LOCAL SELF GOVERNANCE *ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND FUTURE PROSPECTS*

(HYBRID MODE)



**United Nations**   
**Academic Impact**



**26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025**

Organised by  
**CENTRE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES**  
in collaboration with **IQAC**  
**MAR GREGORIOS COLLEGE OF LAW**





## ABOUT MGCL


Mar Gregorios College of Law (MGCL) was established in 2012 as a significant milestone in the educational ministry of the Syro - Malankara Catholic Church. MGCL is under the administration of the Major Archdiocese of Trivandrum of the Syro - Malankara Catholic Church and operates under the governance of the Malankara Catholic Educational Society. The college was founded with a mission to be a centre of excellence in legal education. The inspiration for the college's establishment came from the revered memory of His Grace Most Reverend Archbishop Benedict Mar Gregorios, who served as the second Metropolitan Archbishop of the Major Archdiocese of Trivandrum. The college was founded by His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis, the Major Archbishop-Catholicos of the Malankara Catholic Church. MGCL is affiliated with the University of Kerala, and it has received recognition from the Bar Council of India. With its dedication to fostering excellence in legal education and strong affiliation with prestigious institutions, Mar Gregorios College of Law has become a prominent choice for aspiring legal professionals seeking a comprehensive and quality legal education.

Since our beginnings a decade ago, we have consistently evolved into a centre of excellence, attaining the distinction of being Kerala's first NAAC accredited law college. Over the years we have also been honoured with accolades such as the SILF-MILAT Institutional Excellence Award, 2017. Beyond academics, we strive to spark creativity and inquiry across various realms, providing a holistic educational experience.

## CENTRE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES

In an era of rapid societal change, the study of constitutional law is vital for ensuring justice and upholding democratic values. The Centre for Constitutional Studies at Mar Gregorios College of Law was established to promote awareness of constitutional principles among students and citizens. The Centre serves as a platform for discussing emerging constitutional issues, and educating citizens about their rights and duties. It focuses on analyzing significant court judgments and promotes responsibility in fulfilling constitutional obligations.

The Centre organizes courses, conferences, and seminars to explore contemporary constitutional developments. It has hosted an international seminar on constitutionalism and sustainable development and conducted over 100 awareness programs in schools about Indian constitutional law. Through these initiatives, the Centre fosters meaningful discussions and promotes constitutional literacy.







## CONCEPT NOTE

Local self-governments (LSGs) are pivotal in India's democratic structure, functioning as foundational entities that facilitate development, governance, and participatory democracy. This conference aims to bring together policymakers, scholars, academicians, and stakeholders to engage in meaningful discussions regarding the changing dynamics of local administration in India. The conference aims to concentrate on themes such as decentralization, legal and institutional frameworks, developmental roles, fiscal autonomy, and comparative insights from global practices. Further, the conference intends to highlight the indispensable role of local self-governments in development, touching upon agriculture, fisheries, sanitation, waste management, healthcare, education, poverty alleviation programs, centrally sponsored schemes, disaster management, skill development, e-governance, smart cities, and environmental protection in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## OBJECTIVES OF CONFERENCE

- Reexamine the concepts of decentralization, devolution, delegation in the context of participatory democracy and local self-governance in India.
- Evaluate the constitutional and legal structure of local self-governance, in particular the influence of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments on the institutions/structures of governance.
- Examine the role of local self-governments in development including but not limited to sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, smart cities, disaster management, and skill development initiatives.
- Investigate the fiscal support mechanisms that are available to local self-governments, including Centre-State financial transfers.
- Examine the success of Panchayat Raj systems in comparative perspective.



# THEMES & SUB THEMES

## 1. EVOLVING PERSPECTIVES OF DECENTRALISATION

- Nature of Local Self Governance in India - Decentralisation, Devolution, Delegation or Deconcentration
- Gandhian Perspectives on Panchayati Raj
- Local Self-Governance and Democratic Accountability
- Participatory Democracy and Local Self-Governance
- Measuring the Performance of Local Self Governments

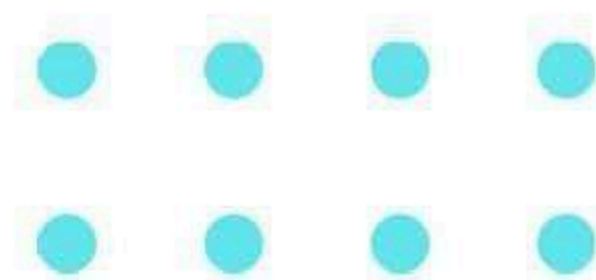
## 2. CONSTITUTIONAL & LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF LSGs

- Perspectives from the Constituent Assembly on Local Self Governance
- Context and Impact of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments
- Role of Constitutional Machinery for Local Self Governance - State Election Commission;
- Finance Commission; State Finance Commission; District Planning Committee
- Decentralisation and Women's Representation
- Decentralisation and Reservation
- LSGD Ombudsmen
- Grama Nyalayas
- Citizens Charters and LSGs
- Effectiveness of the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996

## 3. LSGs IN DEVELOPMENT

- Agriculture and Local Self Government
- Fisheries and Local Self Government
- Sanitation and Waste Management Responsibilities
- Health Institutions and Local Self Government
- Education and Local self-governments
- Role of Local Self-Governments in Biodiversity and Environment Protection
- Convergence in Sustainable Development and the Role of Local Self-Governments
- LSGs and their role in Poverty Alleviation Programs
- LSGs and Centrally Sponsored Schemes
- Disaster Management & the role of LSGs
- Skill Development, Self-Help Groups & the role of LSGs
- E – Governance and LSGs
- Smart Cities and Local Self-Government





#### 4. LSGs AND FISCAL AUTONOMY

- Fiscal Efficiency in Local Governance and Development
- Centre-State Transfers for Local Self Governments including the role of centrally sponsored schemes
- Revenue generation, budgeting, and resource allocation by local self-governments

#### 5. DECENTRALISATION IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

- Democratic Decentralisation in Kerala and other states of India:  
A comparative Perspective
- Lessons from the EU Charter of Local Self Governance
- BRICS Countries and their approach to local self-governance vis-à-vis the Indian experience

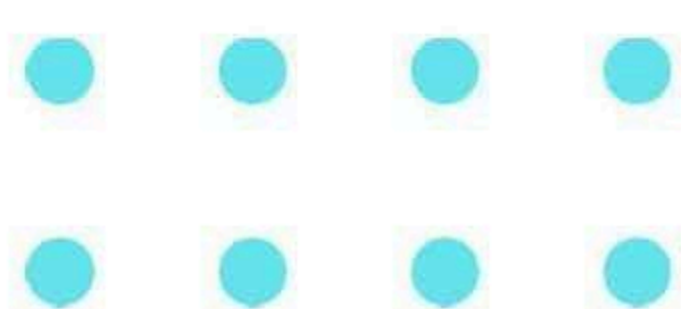
The sub-themes are only suggestive areas and are not exhaustive. Research papers that are not covered under the abovementioned sub-themes but have relevance in the thrust area of the conference may also be submitted.

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

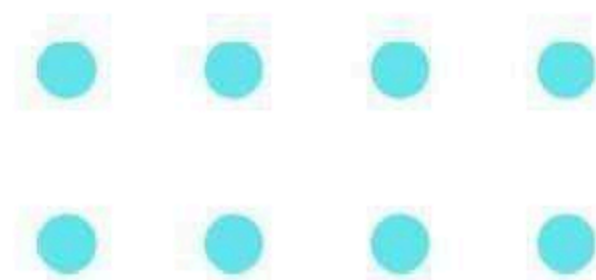
**ABSTRACT :** The abstract should not exceed 250 words and must be accompanied by a cover page stating the following : Title of the Paper, Sub - theme of the paper, Name and Designation of the author (s), E-mail address, Postal address, and Contact Number.

**Link for Abstract Submission:**

[Click Here](#)





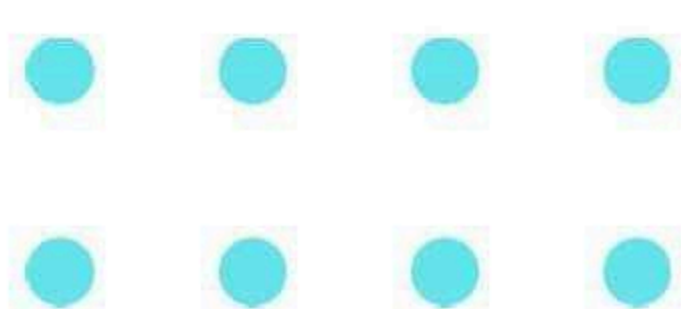


## GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PAPER

1. The manuscript should be 3500-5000 words, typed in MS Word, with 1.5 line space, 12 Font size, Times New Roman Font.
2. The manuscript should carry an abstract of about 150-250 words with not more than six keywords. Both the abstract and keywords are mandatory.
3. The tables and figures in the text, if any, should be centred with proper titles, and they are to be in JPEG format. Only black and white figures will be accepted for the printed version of the journal. Scattered images and tables are not permitted.
4. Proper citation should be given in the manuscript for Images/Figures and Tables reproduced from other sources.
5. Citations shall be according to APA 7th edition.
6. Every contribution should be accompanied by a declaration that the article is original and has not been published nor submitted elsewhere for publication.
7. Author contribution statements should be included at the end of the manuscript and should state any conflict of interest in the manuscript.
8. In the case of multiple authors, one author should be designated as the Corresponding author and will be the principal contact for the editorial team for any publication-related matters.
9. Corresponding authors should get consent from the co-authors for any matter related to publication.
10. Upon acceptance of the article, the copyright form should be submitted to the editorial office and signed by all authors.
11. Link for submission of full paper :

**[Click Here](#)**

12. All correspondence should be addressed to: [conf2025@mgcl.ac.in](mailto:conf2025@mgcl.ac.in)







## FOR PUBLICATION OF PAPERS

- Selected research papers may be published in an edited book bearing an ISBN number. Additional charges will be applicable as article processing charges.
- The authors willing to consider their paper for publication must submit a duly filled-in and scanned 'DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY & 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 College.
- Any paper exceeding 10 % similarity shall be outrightly rejected.
- The submitted papers shall go through a blindfolded peer review process before selection for publication in an edited book with ISBN. Acceptance of articles is subject to recommendation by the review panel and subsequent acceptance by the Editors.
- The Editorial Board reserves the right to make necessary revisions to the text in keeping with the article style and standard.
- Selection for paper presentation does not entitle publication in the book.



## IMPORTANT DATES



|  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>Submission of Abstract</b>                      | <b>: April 30, 2025</b>            |
| <b>Confirmation for Selection of Abstract</b>      | <b>: May 5, 2025</b>               |
| <b>Last date of Registration &amp; Fee Payment</b> | <b>: May 30, 2025</b>              |
| <b>Submission of Full Paper</b>                    | <b>: May 30, 2025</b>              |
| <b>Conference Dates</b>                            | <b>: June 26,27 &amp; 28, 2025</b> |





**MODE OF PRESENTATION:** Presentation will be conducted in a Hybrid manner, including both online and offline.

**VENUE:** Mar Gregorios College of Law, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Confirmation for registration of the conference shall be subject to the payment of registration fee and submission of the registration form.

Payment once made shall not be refunded. All transfers are non-refundable in nature.

No TA/DA shall be granted to participants.

The registration fees does not include accommodation charges.

Certificate will be presented to every participant who duly submits and presents the paper.

## REGISTRATION FEES

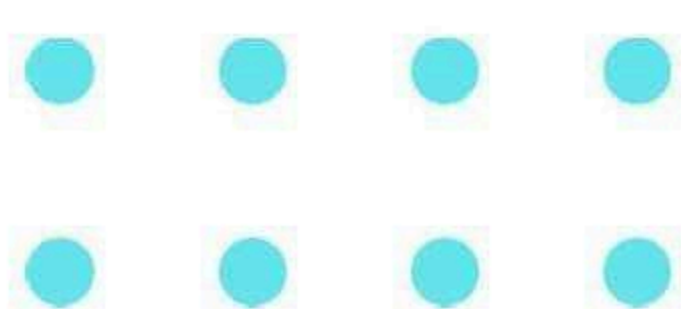
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|---|--------------------|
| Student/Research Scholars / Foreign Student   | : Rs 500 / USD 20  |
| Academicians/ Policy Makers/ Industrialists/<br>Professionals/ Foreign Professional | : Rs 1000 / USD 25 |
| For Participation   | : Rs 250           |

In case of co-authorship, both presenters have to register separately

[Click Here](#) *To Register - Participants :*

Payments shall be made through the payment gateway provided on the website [MGCL WEBSITE CLICK HERE](#)

Instruction for payment : [CLICK HERE](#) [OR CLICK HERE FOR PAYMENT](#)







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