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Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Ananya Pandey, Registration Number: 2270100, PhD Scholar at the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Friday, 15 May 2026 at 10.00 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R&D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka, India.

- Title of the Thesis** : **Farmers' Rights to the Protection of Plant Varieties: A Comparative Human Rights Perspective with Reference to India**
- Discipline** : **Law**
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The members of the Research Advisory Committee of the Scholar, the faculty members of the Department and the School, interested experts and research scholars of all the branches of research are cordially invited to attend this open viva-voce examination.

Registrar (Academics)

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 17 April 2026

ABSTRACT

The intersection of intellectual property rights (IPRs) and human rights within agriculture has generated an expansive discourse on farmers' rights. India's Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001, introduced as an effective sui-generis in compliance with the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS), was designed to preserve farmers' rights. However, despite all the attempts, the implementation of the Act has significantly underscored numerous limitations that have become challenging to protect the rights of farmers. These challenges include weak institutional support, procedural hurdles in benefit sharing, vague registration processes, growing corporate control over the seed system and dependence on plant breeders' privileges for accessing the plant varieties. By comparison, the European Union (EU) and the United States of America (USA) offer more structured, progressive, and effective legal frameworks. These regimes explicitly incorporate broader human rights standards such as the right to food, recognition of traditional knowledge, access to genetic resources and participation in governance. The EU and the USA provide clearer procedures and more effective support for farmers including benefit sharing and active participation in decision-making process. Considering the above perspective, this study examines the protection of farmers' rights to plant varieties via a comparative human rights lens, explicitly focusing on the Indian perspective, in contrast to the legal and regulatory framework of the EU and the USA. This study underscores the urgent need for the Indian legislature to reform its legal framework to adopt and support a human rights-based approach to farmers' rights under the IPRs regime.

Keywords: *Plant Variety Protection, Intellectual Property Rights, Right to food, Seed Sovereignty, Livelihood, Cultural Participation, Access to seeds.*

Publications:

1. **Ananya Pandey**, and Achyutananda Mishra. "Conflict and Coexistence of Human Rights: An Exploratory Study with Reference to Intellectual Property Rights" *Journal of Human Rights and Social Work* (2025) (Journal Article, Impact Factor- 2.7, Q1 Scopus Indexed Journal).
2. **Ananya Pandey**, and Achyutananda Mishra. "Intellectual Property and Human Rights of Farmers: Striking a Balance in the Era of Globalization." *Globalization, Global Security, and New International Realities for Modern Democracies* (2025). (Book Chapter, IGI Global-Scopus Indexed).
3. **Ananya Pandey**, and Achyutananda Mishra. "Safeguarding Traditional Knowledge and Farmers' Rights: A Balanced Approach to IP Protection." *Global Perspective on Indigenous Oral Traditions* (2025). (Book Chapter, IGI Global- Scopus Indexed).