

**CHRIST**(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
BANGALORE | DELHI NCR | PUNE

Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Nisha Yadav, Registration Number: 2072015, 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, 16 October 2026, at 09.00 am in Conference Hall, First Floor, B-Block, Delhi NCR Off-Campus, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Ghaziabad - 201003, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Title of the Thesis : **Environmental Concern in International Investment Treaties of India: A Critical Review**

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.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 06 October 2026

Registrar (Academics)

ABSTRACT

International investment is important to boost economic growth, and investment treaties are an important way of promoting the global trade and investment of the country by providing access to the global market, technology transfer, employment generation and a favourable balance of trade. However, such investment benefits also bring along challenges of their own kind, especially the non-trade related i.e. the adverse impact of such investment on traditional knowledge and communities - human, animal and plant health - and ecology and the environment. There is a need to examine concerns related to investment laws and the inherent responsibility of the governments to extend protection to its people and economy from any adverse impact related to international investment agreements (IIAs), including on the environment. While terminating most of the earlier bilateral investment treaties (BITs), India adopted a renewed template for treaty texts in the form of Model BIT 2015, which was revised in 2017. The revised template for the new BITs included environmental protection as an important and necessary condition for any such treaties, making it a non-negotiable provision in the post 2017 BITs. After the adoption of the Model BIT 2015, India Government entered into new agreements, as foreign investment continues to be a pivoted economic goal for the Indian Government. However, this preference for international investment needs to be harmonised with the international and domestic environmental protection obligations. This study examines the BITs of India and analyses the effect of such investments on environmental protection, besides its contributions to meeting the sustainable development targets of the country. This research study aims to critically review the objectives, contributions and outcomes of the IIAs from a legal viewpoint, particularly from the realm of environmental protection and sustainable development.

Keywords: International Investment Agreement, Bilateral Investment Treaties, Environment, Sustainable Development Goals 2030, International Investment, Sustainable Development

Publications:

1. **Yadav N**, Pallissery F. International investments and environmental protection in India - Policy and implementation gaps in mitigating the carbon footprints. *Global Transitions*. 2023;6:100108. doi:10.1016/j.glt.2023.100108. Available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2589791823000245>
2. **Yadav N**, Pallissery F. Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection Under the International Investment Agreements of India – A Critical Review. *Int J Environ Sci*. 2025;11(7):867-875. Available at: <https://theaspd.com/index.php/ijes/article/view/8931>
3. **Yadav N**. India's recent free trade agreements and alcohol control: implications for public health and SDG commitments. *Indian J Community Med*. 2026;51(Suppl 2):S405-S408. doi:10.4103/ijcm.ijcm_579_25. Available at: https://journals.lww.com/ijcm/fulltext/2026/04002/indias_recent_free_trade_agreements_and_alcohol.23.aspx