



Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Mr Manu Mariyan Abraham, Registration Number: 2270106, PhD Scholar at the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) will defend his PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Saturday, 27 June 2026 at 11.00 am in Room No. 628, 6th Floor, R&D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka, India.

Title of the Thesis : **A Critical Analysis of the Law Governing State Surveillance Vis-à-Vis Right To Privacy**

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: 13 June 2026

Registrar (Academics)

ABSTRACT

This study examines the inherent conflict between the State's imperative for national security through surveillance and the individual's fundamental right to privacy within the Indian legal framework. Historically, national security has routinely overridden individual privacy, a conflict rooted in ancient espionage practices and amplified by modern technological advancements. The Indian government, through the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and the IT (Amendment) Act, 2008, holds broad authority to intercept, monitor, and decrypt communications for reasons of national security, public order, and crime prevention. Crucially, these powers are criticised as vague and unregulated due to the lack of clear guidelines or limits on their use, creating a high risk of abuse and encroachment on privacy rights. While the subsequent Digital Personal Data Protection Act (2023) was enacted to protect citizens' data privacy, it notably exempts state surveillance activities and permits data processing without consent, thus failing to resolve the core conflict. The situation is further complicated by the exponential growth of AI-enhanced surveillance (such as facial recognition and predictive policing), which dramatically increases the State's monitoring and analytical capabilities while raising serious privacy concerns. This research examines the existing legal framework and judicial interpretations, highlighting how the lack of dedicated surveillance legislation and procedural safeguards, such as judicial oversight, allows the government to justify potentially infringing actions under the guise of state security. The study ultimately proposes specific legislative and procedural safeguards and reforms aimed at harmonising national security requirements with the constitutional mandate of protecting citizens' rights to privacy.

Keywords: *State surveillance, privacy, judicial oversight, procedural safeguards.*

Publications:

1. **Manu Mariyan Abraham** & Shampa Dev, AI-Driven Surveillance in India: Reconciling Privacy, National Security, and Legal Oversight, 8 J. DATA PROT. & PRIVACY 183 (2026) (SCOPUS)
2. **Manu Mariyan Abraham** & Shampa Dev, Navigating the Intersection of AI Models, State Surveillance, National Security, and AI Regulation in the Indian Technological Landscape, in NAVIGATING THE INTERSECTION OF AI POLICY, TECHNOLOGY, AND GOVERNANCE 251 (Alaa Youssef & Ayse Arslan ed., 2025) (SCOPUS)
3. **Manu Mariyan Abraham**, A Legal Analysis on Navigating Facial Recognition Technology in India's State Surveillance Framework, in CHAMPIONING CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL ERA 57 (Adrian David Cheok ed., 2026) (SCOPUS)