

**CHRIST**(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
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Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Amrutha Rose J Valavi, Registration Number: 2072008, PhD Scholar at the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Saturday, 26 September 2026 at 11.15 am in Room No. 2208, Seminar Hall, Management Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Pune Lavasa Off-Campus, Pune - 412112, Maharashtra, India.

Title of the Thesis	:	Animal Rights in India: A Study to Ascertain Legal Personhood of Non-Human Beings
Discipline	:	Law
External Examiner - I	:	Dr Sairam Bhat Professor National Law School of India University Gnana Bharathi Main Rd, Opp NAAC, Teachers Colony Nagarbhavi, Bangalore - 560072, Karnataka
External Examiner - II	:	Dr Shiju M V Professor BITS Law School Kalyan-Murbad Road, Village Kamba, Pawshepada Taluka Kalyan, District Thane - 421301
Supervisor	:	Dr Manjeri Subin Sunder Raj Associate Professor School of Law CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka
Co-Supervisor	:	Dr Anto Sebastian Associate Professor School of Law CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka

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: 12 September 2026



Registrar (Academics)

ABSTRACT

This study examines the evolving recognition of animal rights and the concept of legal personhood in India, highlighting the challenges arising from pluralistic jurisprudential perspectives and ambiguities in existing statutes, such as the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. Despite judicial advancements interpreting animal welfare under fundamental rights, particularly Articles 21 and 51A(g), as seen in landmark judgments like *Animal Welfare Board of India v. A. Nagaraja & Ors*, the current legal framework remains insufficient to confer full legal personhood on non-human beings. The research consolidates philosophical discourse, judicial trends, and policy developments on animal personhood, identifies gaps in Indian legislation, and suggests progressive amendments grounded in scientific evidence and contemporary philosophical thought. Guided by research questions exploring jurisprudential patterns, constitutional interventions, policy support, and international precedents, the study hypothesizes that greater recognition of animals' intrinsic value, informed by both domestic judicial evolution and global practices, can establish a comprehensive framework for legal personhood in India. Through doctrinal analysis, the study seeks to reconcile progressive judicial pronouncements with regressive legislation, advocating for stronger and more effective protection of animal rights.

Keywords: animal rights, animal welfare jurisprudence, agencies of law, prevention of cruelty to animal act, legal personhood.

Publications:

1. Valavi, A. R. J., Raj, M. S. S., & Sebastain, A. (2026). Sustainable consumption for life on land: Impact of “cruelty-free” and “ethically-certified” cosmetics labels. In *Terra Thrive*. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-02738-2_16
2. Valavi, A. R. J., Sunder Raj, M. S., & Sebastian, A. (2025). Examining the possibility of integrating sustainable agricultural practices into laws for safeguarding the rights of farm animals: A comparative study. *Derecho Animal*, 16(1), 83–115. <https://doi.org/10.5565/rev/da.659>