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Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Mr Roy Alex, Registration Number: 2170125, PhD Scholar at the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), will defend his PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Friday, 20 November 2026, at 09.30 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka, India.

Title of the Thesis	:	**A Critical Analysis of the Right to Practice, Profess, and Propagate Religion under Article 25 of the Constitution of India**
Discipline	:	**Law**
External Examiner - I	:	**Dr J M Mallikarjunaiah** Principal and Professor KLE Society's Law College KLE Technological University, CA-2, V Block, West Circle, Sir M Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Ullal Post, Bengaluru - 560091 Karnataka
External Examiner - II	:	**Dr Anand Deshmukh** Professor Department of Law Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Near Soneri Mahal, Jaisingpura, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad) Maharashtra - 431004
Supervisor	:	**Dr Shampa I Dev** 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.

Registrar (Academics)

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 05 November 2026

ABSTRACT

Religion exerts a crucial influence on all facets of human existence, transcending geographical and cultural boundaries. From ancient times, it has both cast shadows and shed light on human lives, significantly shaping the course of the world. Religion can be defined as the belief in and/or worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods. Religion helps create an ethical framework and regulates values like love, empathy, respect, and harmony in society. Around the globe, four out of every five people claim to belong to an organized faith. Due to the natural inclination of humans toward religion and the inherent quest for a higher power or God, the importance of freedom of religion and belief is recognized as crucial in every democratic constitution. It is regarded as a fundamental human right and affirmed by principles of international human rights.

Article 25 of the Indian Constitution ensures the freedom of religion, affirming that all individuals are equally entitled to the freedom of conscience and the fundamental right to freely profess, practice, and propagate their religion. However, this right is not absolute but subject to public order, morality and health, and other provisions of Part III of the Constitution. Although the Constitution bestows upon each individual the fundamental right to freedom of religion, this right is constrained and limited by various factors, including state-level anti-conversion laws, restrictions on using religious symbols and attire as prescribed by religion, and the prohibition of entry into places of worship based on gender. These laws and restrictions are often criticized for their ambiguous and discriminatory nature, ultimately undermining the intended purpose and significance of the freedom of religion guaranteed by the Constitution.

In this research, a thorough analysis is conducted to find out the interference of the state in the freedom of religion of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution of India. Often, this freedom of religion is restricted by state legislations, especially the anti-conversion laws, legislations to keep the public order, etc. This study assesses the constitutionality of such legislation and compares similar laws in other countries. Additionally, the study aims to evaluate the rationality of restrictions imposed on the practice of religion in India and explore the scope of freedom of religion concerning gender-based discrimination in religious beliefs and practices. The present study employs a doctrinal research method, relying on secondary data, primarily analyzing the legal framework and judicial rulings while also offering a descriptive overview of the rights and freedoms encompassed within.

Keywords: Freedom of Religion, Fundamental Right, Reasonable Restrictions, Gender-based Discrimination and State Interferences.

Publications:

1. **Vattakunnel, R. A.**, & Dev, S. I. (2022). Navigating for peace in the conundrums of religion and law. Journal of Dharma, 47(4), 393–412. https://dvkjournals.in/index.php/jd/article/view/3818
2. **Alex, R.**, Dev, S. I., & de Castro, D. (2023). Anti-conversion laws in India: Constitutional validity and human rights implications. Qubahan Political Journal, 2(2), 1–10. https://doi.org/10.48161/qpj.v2n2a7
3. **Alex, R.**, & Dev, S. (2026). Examining the impact of anti-conversion laws on Christian converts and religious freedom in India. Religions of South Asia, 20(1), 49–70. https://doi.org/10.1558/rosa.28569