



Notice for the PhD Viva-Voce Examination

Ms Sahana Florence P, Registration Number: 2170017, PhD Scholar at the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Monday, 24 November 2025 at 2.00 pm in Room No. 628, 6th Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru – 560029, Karnataka, India.

Title of the Thesis : Rights of Indigenous Peoples: A Comparative Study with Reference to International Law

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: 14 November 2025

Registrar (Academics)

ABSTRACT

Indigenous peoples constitute a significant section of the population across the globe; there can be no real development without their empowerment. Indigenous peoples are inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment. They have retained social, cultural, economic and political characteristics distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live. Despite such extensive diversity, Indigenous communities worldwide have one thing in common: they share common problems related to the protection of their rights as distinct peoples. Over the past 20 years, indigenous peoples' rights have been recognised through international instruments. However, despite the UNDRIP, 2007 and UDHR, they still face threats due to systematic government policies. Existing international human rights standards have not adequately protected them, necessitating the development of new mechanisms to address their specific needs. This thesis provides an overview of problems affecting indigenous peoples' rights policies in contemporary international law.

This study compares the rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and India, considering their colonial heritage, high percentage of indigenous population, and global human development rankings. The study examines how these nations conceptualise, establish, and contest Indigenous peoples' rights, examining factors like demography, legal recognition, commitment to international laws, land rights, cultural freedom, political participation, self-determination, and socio-economic indicators.

Keywords: *Human resources, Indigenous peoples, inheritors, UNDRIP*

Publications:

1. **P. Sahana Florence** and Achyutananda Mishra (2024), Traditional Ecological Knowledge Repository in the Indian Himalayas: An Overview, Addressing the Climate Crisis in the Indian Himalayas Can Traditional Ecological Knowledge Help? https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-50097-8_12
2. **Sahana Florence P** and Achyutananda Mishra (2024), Development v. Rights: A Case for Sustainable Development of Onge Tribes of Little Andaman, *International Journal on Minority and Groups Rights*, doi:10.1163/15718115-bja10197.