



**TWO-DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE (HYBRID MODE)**  
**20-21 SEPTEMBER, 2025**

# **NatCon'25: Seasons of Life**

## **Reconstructing Ageism and Youthism for a More Inclusive Society**

*Aiming at Social and Human Development*

**Under the auspices of National Institute of Social Defence (NSID), New Delhi**  
**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, India**

**Being Organized by**

Department of Sociology &

School of Social Science and Interdisciplinary Studies (SSSIS)

Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala

**In Collaboration with**

National Institute of Social Defence, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, New Delhi

Indian Sociological Society's Research Committee(RC) 25 on 'Sociology of Sports'

Paavan Chhaaya Public Charitable Trust

Law Teachers India.



Indian **Sociological** Society



Law Teachers India  
Raising the Bar & Bench



**NO REGISTRATION FEE**



# ABOUT RGNUL

The Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), Punjab, was established by the State Legislature of Punjab by passing the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab Act, 2006 (Punjab Act No. 12 of 2006). The Act incorporated a University of Law of national stature in Punjab, to fulfill the need for a Centre of Excellence in legal education in the modern era of globalization and liberalization. The University was accredited with 'A' Grade by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in 2015. RGNUL, Punjab was granted autonomy under UGC Regulations, Clause 5 Dimensions of Autonomy for Category-II Universities in April 2018. The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, ranked RGNUL the first amongst the cleanest Higher Educational Institutions, Swachh Campus (2019) in the category of Government Residential Universities. The major Objective of the RGNUL, Punjab states, "Our endeavour is to serve the society through reforms in legal services by way of preparing professionally competent lawyers, inquisitive researchers, able administrators, conscientious judicial officers, and above all, socially responsible citizens, who shall be wholeheartedly and continuously engaged in the process of nation building."

The University has set up eighteen centres of research. These include, Centre for Advanced Study in Criminal Law (CASCL); Centre for Consumer Centre for Advanced Study in International Humanitarian Law (CASH); Protection Law and Advocacy (CCPLA);

Centre for Advanced Studies in Human Rights (CASIHR); Centre for Advanced Studies in Labour Welfare (CASLW), Centre for Environmental Legal Studies (CELS), Centre for Advanced Studies in Energy Laws (CASEL), Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (CADR), Centre for Constitutional Law and Governance (CCLG), Centre for Criminology, Criminal Justice and Victimology (CCV), Centre for Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights (CIIPR) and Centre for Business Laws and Taxation (CBLT). School of Agricultural Law and Economics (SALE); Centre for Advanced Studies in Cyber law and Artificial Intelligence (CASCA); School of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies (SSSIS); RGNUL Institute for Competitive Examination (RICE) and Directorate of Distance Education (DODE) have also been established. The objective of these Centres is to undertake advanced study and research in the emerging areas of the respective fields, independently or in collaboration with professional institutions at the national or international levels; to bring about publications and produce study material in the respective fields of knowledge; organize seminars, workshops and conferences on contemporary and significant issues. IGNOU School of Law is also functional at RGNUL.

The University has instituted a Legal Aid Clinic under the aegis of Punjab Legal Services Authority. The RGNUL Legal Aid Clinic, established in 2011, has a Strong Paralegal Volunteer Force of 110 members consisting of Advocates, Faculty members and students in general.

RGNUL, Punjab is member of a number of professional organizations of national and international stature like the Asian Law Institute (ALI); Association of Commonwealth Universities; Association of Indian Universities; Commonwealth Legal Education Association (ASIA); Consumer Guidance Society of India; DELNET (Development Library Network); Forum of South Asian Clinical Law Teachers; IASLIC (Indian association of Special Library and Information Centre); Indian Association of Social Science Institution; Indian Academy of Social Sciences (ISSA); Indian Commerce Association; Indian Economic Association; Indian Institute of Comparative Law; Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA); Indian Law Institute (ILI); Indian Society of Criminology; Indian Society of International Law (ISIL); International Association of Law Schools and Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI).



## ABOUT

### Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

In 1985–86, the Ministry of Welfare was restructured by creating the Department of Women and Child Development and retaining the Department of Welfare. At the same time, divisions for Scheduled Castes, Tribal Development, Minorities, Backward Classes, and Wakf were transferred from other ministries to consolidate welfare efforts. In May 1998, the ministry was renamed the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE). Later, the Tribal Affairs division was carved out to form a separate ministry in 1999, followed by the formation of the Ministry of Minority Affairs in 2007, which included the Minorities and Wakf divisions. That same year, the Child Development division was moved to the newly established Ministry of Women & Child Development.

Although disability is a subject under the State List, the Central Government has been proactive in the sector by operating national institutes and regional centers, funding NGOs, and offering concessional loans through the National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation. India is also a signatory to international agreements like the 1992 Beijing Proclamation and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which took effect in 2008. However, within MoSJE, disability matters were handled by a single bureau, limiting its effectiveness. Recognizing the need for a focused approach, the 11th Five Year Plan recommended the creation of a dedicated department.

On January 3, 2012, the government approved, in principle, the establishment of a Department of Disability Affairs. This decision was formally announced by the President in Parliament on March 12, 2012. Finally, on May 12, 2012, two departments were created within MoSJE: the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Department of Disability Affairs, which was later renamed the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan).

## ABOUT

### The National Institute of Social Defence (NISD)

The National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), located in New Delhi, is the nodal training and research institute under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, focusing on social defence. It was initially established as the Central Bureau of Correctional Services in 1961 and later became an autonomous body in 2002. NISD plays a key role in developing policies, programs, and tools for social defence, particularly in areas like drug abuse prevention, welfare of senior citizens, and transgender and beggary prevention.

The National Institute of Social Defence was set up originally as the Central Bureau of Correctional Services in 1961, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, in pursuance of the recommendations emerging at various National Forums. In 1964, the Bureau was transferred to the then Department of Social Security.

Since 1975, the Institute was a subordinate office under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The National Institute of Social Defence has become an Autonomous Body vide Government of India Notification No. 10-3/2000-SD. Vol. II, dated July 15, 2002, and is registered under the Societies Act XXI of 1860 with the Government of NCT, Delhi.

The National Institute of Social Defence is the nodal training and research institute in the field of social defence. Though social defence covers the entire gamut of activities and programmes for the protection of society, it is currently focusing on human resource development in the areas of drug abuse prevention, welfare of senior citizens and transgenders, beggary prevention, and other social defence issues.

**What is the National Institute of Social Defence?**

1. NISD is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.
2. NISD is a centre to carry out research on social defence.
3. NISD coordinates and liaises between the government and the non-government organisations at state, national and international levels.
4. The institute develops preventive, curative and rehabilitative tools, programmes and policies in the field of social defence, and also undertakes research, training, consultancy, documentation and publication in the field.

The mandate of the institute is to provide inputs for the social defence programmes of the Government of India through training, research and documentation



## ABOUT

### DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

The Department of Sociology at RGNUL, Punjab was established in 2013. The subject of Sociology has been taught in the institution from the year 2006. Presently, the department runs six (6) papers of Sociology Major (from first to sixth semester) and three (3) papers of Sociology Minor (for first, second and fourth semester) for all the batches. The department has been organizing various events of national as well as international level. Many seminars, conferences and training programmes have been organized by the faculty of the department from time to time. Series of lecture are also organized by inviting professionals from various fields of social sciences. The Objective of the department is overall development of the students inclusive of academic growth and psychological health. Various sessions of counselling are held by the faculty of the department to address social issues affecting the students in order to empower them socially to deal with the challenging social situations efficaciously. The department of Sociology is committed to undertake academics and research in order to produce functional results for the society and various communities.

## ABOUT

### The School of Social Science & Interdisciplinary Studies (SSSIS)

The School of Social Science and Interdisciplinary Studies (SSSIS) has been established at the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), Punjab, in consonance with the university's objectives. SSSIS aims to foster the social aspect of all learning and promotes the idea of inter-disciplinary studies and research. It plans to develop a degree on social sciences. Dr. Jasleen Kewlani, Assistant Professor of Sociology, serves as the co-ordinator of the SSSIS. The School's aims and objectives include promoting interdisciplinary studies and research within and outside the university, designing new curriculum and degrees of academic and social relevance, promoting innovative teaching methods, encouraging a holistic intellectual approach to address social problems, and achieving excellence in integrated studies and higher-level research.

## ABOUT INDIAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY (ISS)- RC 25 'SOCIOLOGY OF SPORTS'

The Indian Sociological Society (ISS) is a leading academic organization in India, dedicated to promoting the scientific study of society and advancing the discipline of sociology. Established in 1951 by eminent sociologists such as Professor G.S. Ghurye, the ISS was created to provide a national forum for scholars to understand and address the complexities of Indian society, especially in the post-independence period. The Society aims to encourage sociological research, teaching, and dialogue on pressing social issues. It organizes annual conferences, seminars, and regional workshops where sociologists present papers on a wide range of topics, including caste, gender, urbanization, education, and development. These events serve as platforms for academic exchange between senior scholars and young researchers. A major contribution of the ISS is its commitment to academic publishing. It publishes two important journals: the Sociological Bulletin, a peer-reviewed English journal that includes research articles and theoretical papers, and the Bhartiya Samajshastra Sameeksha, a Hindi-language journal that promotes sociological work in regional languages. These journals have enriched sociological literature in India and made the discipline more accessible. The ISS has played a significant role in promoting indigenous sociological perspectives, moving beyond Western models to address uniquely Indian social structures like caste, kinship, and village life. It has also contributed to policy debates on education, social justice, and rural development by offering research-based insights. In summary, the Indian Sociological Society is a cornerstone of sociological research and teaching in India. By fostering academic collaboration, encouraging the use of Indian languages, and focusing on local realities, it continues to shape the field of sociology and contributes to a deeper understanding of Indian society. Presently Professor (Dr.) Maitrayee Chaudhuri is the President of the ISS.

The Research Committee (RC) 25- Sociology of Sports, being led by a dynamic and world renowned sociologist Professor (Dr.) Sanjay Tewari, focuses on studying the relationship between sociology and sports, including various socio-cultural structures, patterns and organisations or groups involved with sports. RC 25 also explores how sports are shaped by and in turn shapes social structures, cultural norms and individual identities. Research Committee 25 is one of the largest committees of the Indian Sociological Society showcasing spectacular academic and professional performance.



## ABOUT PAAVAN CHHAAYA PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST

Paavan Chhaaya Public Charitable Trust, located in Bahadurgarh, Haryana, in the Jhajjar district, stands as a compassionate model for reimagining aging and dismantling ageist norms in our society. Established on the ancestral land of Mr. Ravinder Kumar, whose generous donation laid the foundation for the initiative, the trust provides a nurturing and dignified home for 15–20 elderly residents. In a world increasingly driven by youth-centric ideals, Paavan Chhaaya serves as a powerful reminder that aging is not a decline, but a continuation of life's journey rich with wisdom, memory, and value. It promotes intergenerational harmony and human dignity by offering a space where the elderly are respected, heard, and cared for. As part of the global discourse on "Seasons of Life," the Trust embodies the core idea of reconstructing both ageism and youthism to build a more inclusive, empathetic society. Through its community-centered approach and focus on human development, Paavan Chhaaya challenges the marginalization of the elderly and invites us to rethink the roles they play in shaping culture, knowledge, and identity. This initiative underscores that true societal progress can only be achieved when all life stages are valued equally and inclusively.

## ABOUT LAW TEACHERS INDIA

Law Teachers India, being led by a popular public figure Advocate Dr. Kalpesh Gupta, is a dedicated platform aimed at fostering academic and professional growth among legal educators across the country. It serves as a networking and resource-sharing hub for law teachers, offering a wide range of features such as a faculty directory, job and research opportunities, knowledge repositories, and updates on academic events like seminars and workshops. The platform encourages collaboration among legal academics and promotes excellence in legal education by providing a space for the exchange of ideas, teaching methods, and scholarly work. By bringing together educators from diverse institutions, Law Teachers India plays a crucial role in strengthening the legal academic community and contributing to the development of legal education in India.

# ABOUT THE THEME OF THE CONFERENCE

After the stellar success of NatCon'24 on Youth and the subsequent publication of three edited books comprising of manuscripts selected after rigorous peer review and editorial process, Department of Sociology, RGNUL, Punjab is back in action on NatCon'25 on 'Seasons of Life'.

The theme for NatCon'25 is 'Seasons of Life': Reconstructing Ageism and Youthism for a More Inclusive Society, Aiming at Social and Human Development. This conference seeks to critically examine the pervasive and often intertwined phenomena of ageism and youthism. Ageism, discrimination based on age, affects individuals across the life spectrum, while youthism, the privileging of youthfulness, creates distinct societal pressures and exclusions. The theme invites scholars to dissect the ideologies underpinning these biases, exploring how they manifest in social, legal, economic, and cultural spheres. The conference aims to move beyond identifying these issues to proposing pathways for "reconstruction" – building a society that values all ages and stages of life equally. By employing a critical lens, participants will analyze power structures, historical contexts, and intersecting identities (like gender, race, class) that shape experiences of age-based discrimination. The goal is to stimulate robust discussion and contribute to developing frameworks for a genuinely inclusive society where the diverse "Seasons of Life" are celebrated and accorded dignity and respect.



# SUB-THEMES FOR AUTHORS

## Empowerment:

- Silver Empowerment, 'Active ageing' by WHO, COVID and Old Age
- Loneliness and Suicide Risk
- Exclusion of Older People in Policy-Making
- Role of Neighbourhoods (emphasis on Asian cultures)
- Effect on Informal Caregiver (daughter, daughter-in-law and son, wife)
- Enhanced Care-Centric Policies, Representation in Education, Curricula, School Environments, and Lifelong Learning Opportunities
- Activism, Advocacy, and Resistance Against Age-Based Discrimination
- Increasing crime against elderly: murders, dacoity, trespassing and violence

## Economic Discrimination and Disparity

- Unstable Jobs
- Unpaid Internships
- Economic Barriers for Young Adults
- Forced Retirements, Low Employment Prospects
- Lack of Upskilling Opportunities
- Low/Inadequate Pension
- Fluctuations in the Economy
- Intergenerational Equity

## Gender and Sexuality

- Older Women at Greater Risk of Poverty and Exclusion
- Gender-Based Violence and Underreporting (especially in Rural Setups)
- Treatment of Transgender Old Women by their Communities
- Loopholes in Policy regarding Transgender Older Women, Old People And Sexuality
- References by Sexology related to Elderly people's mindset
- Sexual disorders in the elderly
- Sexual rights of the elderly
- Older Women in Brothels
- Intersecting Identities of Ageism/Youthism
- Gender
- Race
- Class
- Disability

# SUB-THEMES FOR AUTHORS

## Social and Cultural Rights

- Technological Gap and Digital Divide
- Social Media Online Communities, and Digital Policies
- Harassment in household, disability-friendly policies/spaces
- Age-based discrimination intersects with other forms of marginalization, such as racism, ableism, and socioeconomic status
- Theoretical Frameworks of differentiating Ageism and Youthism
- Media, Culture, and Representation of Age
- Health
- Media Portrayals shaping Attitudes Toward Age
- Critically evaluating news, film, and advertising images of youth and old age
- Impact on public perceptions
- Well-being across the Lifespan
- Historical Contexts of Ageing and Youth
- Psychological Impacts of Ageism and Youthism
- Philosophical and Ethical Considerations of Age-Based Bias

## Accessibility to Urban Lifestyles : Possible Vulnerabilities

- Migration policies only focusing on influx of younger people
- Separation of older people from families in conflict zones
- Migrated older people in big cities and their plight
- Forced labour in working children
- Urbanisation and globalisation
- Poor Social Networking and Community life
- Pressure of urban ways of life in case of transfer/migration from Rural areas
- Separation from family, children, and grandchildren
- More people Migrating older people are left in Rural setup (for example: Punjab)
- Migration due to Climate Change and leaving behind Ancestral lands
- Urban development policies, ramps and walkways, pedestrian and elderly crossings
- Domestic Violence of the elderly
- Physical, emotional and mental abuse of white haired members of households
- Forced labour's
- Disgraceful living conditions



# SUB-THEMES FOR AUTHORS

## Political Representation

- Critiquing the exclusion of youth from meaningful participation in political processes, and the tendency to tokenize youth perspectives rather than integrate them authentically
- Assessing barriers to political engagement and leadership for both younger and older populations, and strategies to enhance their voices in governance
- Global Perspectives on Age and Discrimination
- Building Intergenerational Solidarity and Inclusive Communities
- Legal and Policy Dimensions of Age Discrimination
- Role of Middle Generations: Bridging or Perpetuating Divides
- Investigating how adults in the "middle generation" mediate or reinforce ageist attitudes between youth and elders
- The Role of Law and Human Rights in Combating Ageism and Youthism
- Ageism and Youthism in Education and Learning
- Technology, Digital Divides, and Age
- Activism, Advocacy, and Resistance Against Age-Based Discrimination
- The Role of Law and Human Rights in Combating Ageism and Youthism
- Global Perspectives on Age and Discrimination
- Philosophical and Ethical Considerations of Age-Based Bias
- Building Intergenerational Solidarity and Inclusive Communities
- Historical Contexts of Ageing and Youth
- The Language of Age: Discourse and Power, approach-based, voter participation

## Role of Sports in Elderly Care

- Analysis of Role of Cinema in Elderly and their survival
- Accessibility to Sports related Guidance
- Indoor games in old age homes
- Mental health and sports
- Physical well-being
- Media portrayals of old persons in Sports

# SUB-THEMES FOR AUTHORS

## Right to Privacy

- Disregard for privacy of older persons
- Wide-ranging duties in the household

## Elderly and Companionship

- Trending remarriage and class factors
- Crime and remarriage - Honour Killings
- Need of companionship in Household v. Old age Homes
- The Traditional and Customary Strictures on Remarriage of Elderly people
- Taboo of Remarriage among older persons
- Lack of support from Children
- Companionship



# CALL FOR PAPERS AND SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Original, unpublished research papers, conceptual articles, and case studies relevant to the conference theme and sub-themes are invited.

## Abstract Submission: LAST DATE- 30TH JULY, 2025

- Interested participants are required to submit an abstract of not more than 300 words, along with 3-5 keywords. The abstract should clearly state the research question, methodology, main arguments, and potential contribution to the conference theme. Abstracts must be accompanied by a cover page including the title of the paper, name(s) of the author(s), affiliation(s), email address(es), and contact number(s).

## Full Paper Submission: LAST DATE- 7th August, 2025

- Upon acceptance of the abstract, authors will be invited to submit their full papers. Full papers should ideally be between 5,000 and 8,000 words, including footnotes and references. Papers must follow a consistent citation style APA format. Formatting guidelines; Font- Times New Roman, Spacing-1.5 for body and 0.5 for footnotes, Font size; 12-body, 14- Title and 10-Footnotes

## Submission Process:

- Abstracts aligned and attached with the full paper/s is required to be submitted electronically to a designated email address given below: [rgnulnatcon2025@rgnul.ac.in](mailto:rgnulnatcon2025@rgnul.ac.in)

Submissions must adhere to the specified deadlines.

## Review Process:

- All submissions will undergo a very stringent and rigorous editorial process by a panel of experts. Acceptance of abstracts and full papers will be based on relevance, originality, rigor, and contribution to the conference theme.

**Kindly Note:** Any manuscript depicting a similarity/plagiarism index higher than 10 percent (as per UGC Guidelines) shall stand rejected and shall not be entitled to be put in the editorial process.

# REGISTRATION DETAILS

As the event is sponsored by the National Institute of Social Defence, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, India, there is **NO REGISTRATION FEE** for any participant. We only require a good-quality papers to be presented and published after the selection process.

**Registration Form Link for Participants/Presenters:**

<https://forms.gle/ns4oJAgZkNqcsTwn8>

## KINDLY NOTE:

1. The award for the **BEST PAPER PRESENTATION** shall be awarded **ONLY** for/on the basis of the **OFFLINE PRESENTATIONS**; irrespective of participants being RGNUL's student/scholar or otherwise.
2. All the correspondence related to the NatCon 25- 'Seasons of Life', has to be addressed to the given official email Id **ONLY: [rgnulnatcon2025@rgnul.ac.in](mailto:rgnulnatcon2025@rgnul.ac.in)**
3. The first book carrying the selected manuscripts shall be published and released on the Inaugural Session of NatCon25- Seasons of Life

# IMPORTANT DATES

**Last Date for Abstract Submission:** 30th July, 2025

**Notification of Abstract Acceptance:** Rolling Basis (within 24 hours of submission of the Abstracts)

**Last Date for Full Paper Submission:** 7th August, 2025

**Kindly Note:** Last Date for Registration : 30th July, 2025

**Registration Form:** <https://forms.gle/ns4oJAgZkNqcsTwn8>

**Official Email ID:** [rgnulnatcon2025@rgnul.ac.in](mailto:rgnulnatcon2025@rgnul.ac.in)



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Vice-Chancellor | RGNUL, Punjab



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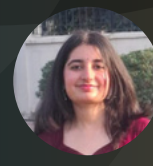
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