GOA UNIVERSITY

MANOHAR PARRIKAR SCHOOL OF LAW, GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC POLICY

PRESENTS

2ND PARRIKAR NATIONAL MOOT COURT & POLICY HACKATHON, 2025

Directorate of Higher Education
Government of Goa

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
&
GOA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

75 years of adoption of the Indian Constitution

27 - 28 FEBRUARY 2025

Block G, Goa University, Taleigao Plateau, Goa-India

ABOUT GOA UNIVERSITY

Established under the Goa University Act of 1984, Goa University commenced its illustrious journey on June 1, 1985. Nestled on the scenic Taleigao Plateau, overlooking the serene Zuari estuary, the University sprawls over 402 acres, boasting a state-of-the-art campus equipped with modern infrastructure, including faculty blocks, student hostels, sports facilities, and 24-hour high-speed internet connectivity.

Goa University has consistently risen in stature, providing a diverse array of graduate and post-graduate programs, while excelling in research, earning a high rating in research output. Accredited by NAAC, the University has garnered prestigious rankings in multiple national and international platforms. It occupies a coveted position in the QS Asia Rankings, placed in the 601-650 band, while also securing a commendable 189th rank in Southern Asia. In a significant stride towards fostering innovation and research, Goa University inaugurated the Goa University Research Park Unit (GURU) under the UNIGOA Knowledge & Innovation Foundation. This initiative aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry, providing a collaborative platform for research and development. The establishment of GURU underscores the University's commitment to advancing research and innovation, aligning with its mission to contribute meaningfully to societal and technological progress.

ABOUT MANOHAR PARRIKAR SCHOOL OF LAW, GOVERNANCE, AND PUBLIC POLICY

The Manohar Parrikar School of Law, Governance, and Public Policy at Goa University integrates key disciplines like Law, Public Administration, Tribal Studies, and Disability Studies, along with the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Chair in Leadership and Governance. Its creation serves a dual purpose: first, as a living tribute to the late Manohar Parrikar, whose dedication to people-centric governance and public engagement left an indelible mark on the state, and second, as a hub for policy-relevant research and academic excellence. The School not only honours Parrikar's legacy of effective governance but also aspires to shape future public policy professionals through its advanced programmes.

Dedicated to fostering impactful research that contributes to society, the School has ongoing research projects, national seminars, international MoUs, and lectures by esteemed guest faculty, the school actively engages with global and local legal challenges. To learn more, visit the website or click on MPSLGPP.

PROGRAMMES OFFERED
LL.M in Human Rights
LL.M in Alternative Dispute Resolution
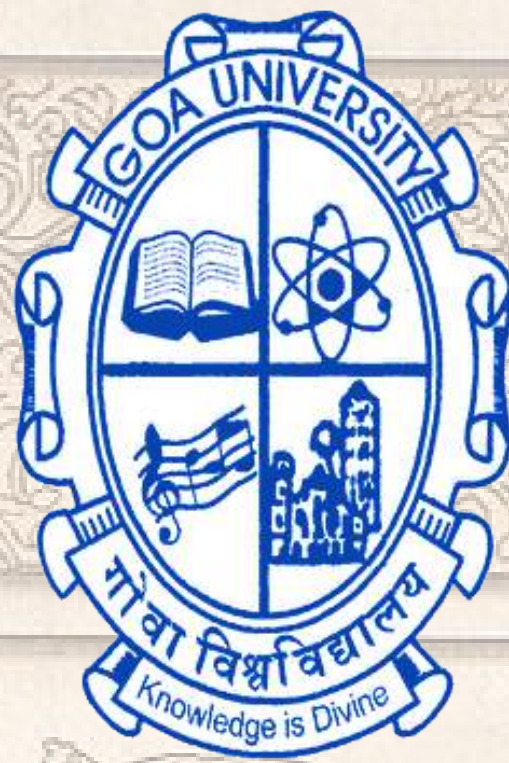**M.A. in Public Administration**

ABOUT THE EVENT

The **Parrikar National Moot Court & Policy Hackathon 2025**, now in its second edition, continues to pay homage to the legacy of Manohar Parrikar, the esteemed former Chief Minister of Goa, whose dedication to justice, governance, and intellectual pursuit was unparalleled. This event bridges two pivotal spheres of legal and policy innovation.

The <u>Moot Court Competition</u>, reflecting Parrikar's academic prowess and commitment to legal reform, comprises three key components: the moot court competition, a researcher's test, and judgment writing. These elements work in harmony to challenge participants' legal expertise, research acumen, and analytical skills. A legal quiz further adds to the competitive spirit, allowing participants to showcase their depth of legal knowledge.

The <u>Policy Hackathon</u> fosters an environment of policy-driven innovation, inviting solution-oriented minds to create legal frameworks that echo the values Parrikar championed—transparency, inclusivity, and good governance.

This event is not just a contest but a celebration of Parrikar's lasting influence on education, justice, and policy, bringing together some of India's brightest legal minds to shape the future of the legal profession.

The event culminates in a publication with an ISBN number that documents the proceedings, the best moot court memorials, the best Judgment, and the 5 best policy briefs.

MOOT COURT

Constitutional Law

75 years of adoption of the Indian Constitution

**Directorate of
Higher Education**
Government of Goa

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
&
GOA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

GOA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

REGISTRATION GUIDELINES FOR MOOT COURT

Eligibility: Students enrolled in either a 5-year or 3-year LL.B. program in India with each institution limited to one team.

Team Composition: Each moot court team must consist of three members—two speakers and one researcher. For judgment writing one member from the same team, or one additional participant may register.

Language: The language of the Competition shall be English.

Code of Conduct: Each team will be given a unique code and must not reveal their identity, institution, or location. Any violation may lead to penalties, including disqualification. Teams are expected to maintain professionalism throughout the competition.

Dress Code: Participants must follow the prescribed courtroom attire. Participants must wear formal black and white attire, either traditional or western.

Registration:

OPTION 1	**Rs. 6,000**	Includes two nights' accommodation at the University Guest House, transport upon arrival and during event hours, and meals.
OPTION 2	**Rs. 3,000**	Includes only transportation within the Goa University campus, and meals during event. (Without accommodation)

To register for the competition team has to fill out the registration form available at: https://forms.gle/ZaaaGvLp5XRcX6Du9 or, scan the QR Code.

To pay the registration fees, visit the SBI Collect portal at https://www.onlinesbi.sbi/sbicollect/. Select the '**Educational Institution**' category, find **Goa University**, and choose relevant category of Moot Court with accommodation or Moot Court without accommodation.

Complete the form, make the payment, and save the receipt or screenshot for submission with your registration form.

STRUCTURE OF THE MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Scoring Criteria: Teams will be judged on five criteria, each worth 20 points: Articulation of Issues, Presentation Skills, Citation of Authorities, Courtroom Manners, Application of Legal Principles, and Response to judges' Queries.

Tie-breaker: In case of a tie, the memorial score will be used to decide the outcome.

Preliminary Rounds: Each team will participate in two rounds, arguing once as Petitioner and once as Respondent. Matchups will be assigned by the organising team and communicated a day prior. Each team gets 20 minutes to present, with an additional 5 minutes for rebuttals, if allowed by the judges. Time can be split between the speakers, with a minimum of 8 minutes and a maximum of 12 minutes per speaker. Only one speaker per team can handle rebuttals. The top 8 teams with the highest combined scores will advance to the quarterfinals.

Quarterfinal Rounds: Each team will argue once in the quarter-finals, with the side they represent being determined by a draw of lots before the round. This will be a knock-out stage. Each team is allotted 20 minutes for their oral arguments, with time divided between the two speakers, allowing a maximum of 12 minutes and a minimum of 8 minutes per speaker. Teams may reserve up to 10 additional minutes for rebuttal or sur-rebuttal, subject to the judges' discretion, which is separate from the allotted time. Any extra time will also be at the judges' discretion.

Semifinal Rounds: The top four teams will compete in knockout rounds, with memorial exchanges and a draw of lots to determine sides (petitioner or respondent) taking place a day prior. Each team is allotted 30 minutes for oral arguments, divided between two speakers, with each speaking for 13–17 minutes. Up to 5 minutes may be reserved for rebuttal or sur-rebuttal, as decided by the judges, and this is separate from the main allocation. Judges may allow additional time at their discretion, but exceeding the limit without permission will result in penalties.

Final Rounds: The memorial exchange and the draw of lots to determine the side each team will argue on will take place before the final round. Each team will have 45 minutes for oral arguments, with the time divided between the speakers at the team's discretion. Each speaker may speak for a minimum of 20 minutes and a maximum of 25 minutes. Up to 20 minutes may be reserved for rebuttal or sur-rebuttal, at the judges' discretion. This reserved time is separate from the main allocation.

Memorials: Teams must bring 6 copies of the memorial (3 for petitioners and 3 for respondents). Soft copies must be submitted to **hackathon.mps@unigoa.ac.in** by **05 February 2025**, and hard copies should be handed in at the registration desk on **27 February 2025** at **9:00 AM**.

Memorial Format
- Content: Cover page, Table of Contents, List of Abbreviations, Index of Authorities, Statement of Jurisdiction, Statement of Facts, Statement of Issues, Summary of Arguments, Arguments Advanced, and Prayer.
- Font & Style:
  - Body: Times New Roman, size 12, line spacing 1.5, headings size 14.
  - Footnotes: Times New Roman, size 10, justified alignment.
  - Citations must follow the Bluebook (21st edition).
  - Team code on the upper right corner of the cover page.
- Memorials must not exceed 35 pages, including the cover page and pleadings. No annexure, photograph, or exhibit allowed.
- Hard copies must match the soft copy submitted. Any discrepancies will lead to penalties.
- Memorials should contain no identification other than the team code.
- Evaluation Criteria: Knowledge of Facts, Knowledge of Law, Research, Authorities Cited, Format, and Overall Drafting.

Researchers' Test: A test will be conducted for researchers, based on which the best researcher will be selected.

The organizers reserve the right to resolve any disputes or ambiguities arising during the course of the event. The decision of the organizers shall be final and binding on all participants.

RULES FOR JUDGMENT WRITING

Guidelines:

The Judgment should be in English language only.

Word limit: 4000 – 6000 words (including footnotes)

Submissions must be made in both PDF and MS Word format to **hackathon.mps@unigoa.ac.in before 05th February 2025.**

No hardcopy submission is required.

Main Text: Times New Roman, font size 12, double spacing, justified, with a margin of one inch on all sides.

Footnotes Times New Roman, font size 10.

Citation Mode: Any relevant citation format.

A cover page stating the name of the competition, student author's name, and team code must be attached.

The Judgment should have:
- Index
- Introduction of Facts
- Clear articulation of the issues that arise for consideration/points of determination.
- Evidence led to proving each factual issue and appreciation of evidence on each issue.
- Applicable law and the application of law to the facts of the case.
- Reasoning and findings.
- Conclusion.

Scoring criteria: Point of view, Originality, Ideas & concepts, Word limit , Grammar, Unique writing style, Creativity, Descriptive language and Plagiarism (less than 10%).

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW QUIZ

General Rules

Team Composition: Each team participating in the Constitutional Law Quiz must consist of two members. Teams that do not qualify for the semi-finals of the moot court competition will have the unique opportunity to participate in this secondary quiz.

Eligibility: Teams not advancing to the semi-finals of the main competition are allowed to split into two separate teams of two members each, thereby doubling their chances to showcase their knowledge.

Quiz Theme: The quiz will revolve around "75 Years of the Indian Constitution", covering significant events, amendments, landmark judgments, and historical milestones.

- Teams must register for the quiz at least one hour before the preliminary round begins.
- All participants are required to adhere to the quiz guidelines and maintain the decorum of the event.
- Mobile phones, reference materials, or any electronic devices are strictly prohibited during the quiz.

PRE-EVENT TIMELINE

12 DECEMBER 2024	**REGISTRATION COMMENCES PROPOSITION RELEASE**
30 JANUARY 2025	**LAST DAY FOR REGISTRATION**
31 JANUARY 2025	**LAST DAY TO SEND CLARIFICATIONS**
05 FEBRUARY 2025	**LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF JUDGMENT IN PDF AND WORD AT HACKATHON.MPS@UNIGOA.AC.IN**
05 FEBRUARY 2025	**LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF MEMORIALS (SOFT COPY) AT HACKATHON.MPS@UNIGOA.AC.IN**
27 FEBRUARY 2025	**INAUGURAL CEREMONY PRELIMINARY ROUNDS I & II QUARTER-FINALS**
28 FEBRUARY 2025	**RESEARCHERS' TEST SEMI-FINALS CONSTITUTIONAL LAW QUIZ FINALS VALEDICTORY CEREMONY**

PRIZES

Winners	₹30,000 + Trophy + certificate
Runners-up	₹20,000 + Trophy + certificate
Best Researcher	₹5,000 + Trophy + certificate
Best Memorial	₹5,000 + Trophy + certificate
Best Speaker (Male)	₹5,000 + Trophy + certificate
Best Speaker (Female)	₹5,000 + Trophy + certificate
Best Judgment	₹10,000 + Trophy + certificate
Best Judgment (Runners-up)	₹5,000 + Trophy + certificate
Quiz Prizes	₹10,000 + Trophy + certificate

MOOT COURT PROPOSITION

The Republic of Odanta, a sprawling nation with a rich tapestry of cultures and traditions, stands at the crossroads of secularism and modernity. With its majestic landscapes of verdant plains, snow-clad peaks, and shimmering coastlines, this Westphalian mosaic is home to a pluralistic society that reveres harmony. Governed by its visionary Constitution, Odanta is a beacon of liberty, ensuring equality, dignity, and the untrammelled rights of its people. Yet, beneath this façade of coexistence lies a society grappling with the interplay of ancient traditions and constitutional mandates. This is a tale of three narratives that unravel in the vibrant corners of Odanta, each highlighting the tensions between faith and fundamental rights.

I. Breaking the Chains of Halala: A Storm in Trombay

On the western coast of Odanta lies Trombay, a bustling urban centre where the sea meets unyielding concrete. Amidst the cacophony of waves and whispers of progress, Fatima Sheik's life unfolded—a poignant saga of shattered dreams and resilience. A young Muslim woman, Fatima envisioned a thriving corporate career, only to be ensnared in the oppressive clutches of societal diktats.

She once dreamed of a successful corporate career, imagining herself thriving in business and defying societal expectations. However, her dreams were derailed when she was married against her will. Soon after, she became a mother, and her aspirations took a backseat to the reality of an oppressive marriage. Her husband, Arbaz, a Sunni Muslim, quickly revealed his abusive nature. What started as emotional manipulation escalated into physical violence. Fatima tried to hold the marriage together, hoping Arbaz would change, but the abuse continued. Despite her efforts, the toxic environment crushed her spirit, and she found herself trapped in a cycle of abuse.

What began as emotional manipulation quickly escalated into physical abuse. Arbaz subjected Fatima to relentless torment, driven by anger and control, and every attempt to salvage the marriage was met with disdain. Despite the cruelty, Fatima kept hoping for change, for the sake of their child

MOOT COURT PROPOSITION

In a fit of rage, Arbaz divorced Fatima, but the cycle of abuse continued. He returned, professing regret, and Fatima, hoping for a better future, gave the marriage another chance. Yet, the abuse flared again, leading to another divorce. The constant emotional turmoil left Fatima drained, isolated, and struggling financially.

The breaking point came when Arbaz returned once more. This time, however, his demand was so grotesque that it left Fatima reeling in disbelief. Arbaz expressed his desire to remarry her, but under one horrifying condition: Fatima would first have to consummate her marriage with one of his friends, Jaleemm, thus invoking the practice of *Nikah Halala*. This deeply patriarchal and exploitative practice requires a woman who has been divorced to marry and consummate her relationship with another man before she can remarry her original husband. The suggestion was not only an assault on her dignity but also a manifestation of the deeply ingrained misogyny within the system.

Fatima was horrified. Her sense of self, already battered by years of abuse and neglect, now felt completely shattered. The very idea of being subjected to such a humiliating and dehumanising practice was the final straw. Outraged, she firmly rejected Arbaz's demand and demanded he leave her life forever.

In her anguish, Fatima confided in a close friend, who listened to her story with deep concern and compassion. Her friend introduced Fatima to Nari Shakti, a prominent women's rights organisation dedicated to advocating for gender equality and the protection of women from systemic abuse. Fatima found solace in the support of Nari Shakti and its leader, Sunaina Khan, a fierce advocate for women's rights who had long been battling against harmful practices like *Nikah Halala*. With the help of Nari Shakti, Fatima found the courage to take legal action. The organisation filed a writ petition in the High Court of Trombay, challenging the practice of *Nikah Halala* as unconstitutional and discriminatory.

II. Mutilating Rights and Dignity: Shadows of Tradition in Kalikata

On the east corner of the country, a storm was brewing with a young mind ready to take on the entrenched religio-political authorities. Almeen Firdaus, an 18-year-old student at St. Jerome's Higher Secondary School in Harwaj Taluka of Kalikata State, was admired for her academic brilliance and leadership in class. One afternoon, during a lunch break, Mrs. Alva, her class teacher, noticed Almeen unusually quiet, her face reflecting distress. After persistent encouragement, Almeen revealed a deeply personal and painful ordeal rooted in the religious practice of her Mohra community: Female Genital Mutilation.

Almeen described how, at the age of 8, she had been subjected to a traditional ritual considered a rite of passage for young girls. The procedure, she explained, involved an alteration of her body, purportedly to preserve her virtue and align her with religious expectations. Though conducted in the presence of trusted community elders, the procedure caused her significant pain, leaving her physically and emotionally scarred. The event, which Almeen was too young to understand at the time, continued to impact her health and mental well-being, resulting in a fear of speaking up against the norm due to societal and familial pressure.

Moved by Almeen's courage in sharing her story, Mrs. Alva decided to act. She began by engaging the school community and reaching out to organizations that advocated for children's rights and health. With their support, she initiated campaigns to raise awareness about the potential harm of such practices. Understanding the systemic nature of the issue, she eventually filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the High Court of Kalikata, arguing that such traditions violated constitutional protections, including equality, non-discrimination, and the right to dignity and personal liberty. The case brought national attention to the tension between cultural practices and individual rights, giving Almeen and others like her a platform to advocate for lasting change.

Meanwhile, the Mohra community strongly opposes the challenge to their religious practice, arguing that it is a fundamental tenet of their faith and thus protected under Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution of Odanta.

III. Divine Hanging: Faith Suspended in Kishkinda

In the southernmost reaches of Odanta lies Kishkinda, a land celebrated for its opulent temples and progressive ethos. Yet, nestled within this cultural haven is the Nandev Temple, where devotion manifests in a visceral, unsettling ritual. Christopher Periera, an avid photographer with an insatiable curiosity for cultural diversity, had traversed more than 100 countries, capturing moments of human expression in all their glory. From the vibrant streets of Mexico's Mazatlan Carnival to the ancient rituals of Ethiopia's Ukila Bula tradition, his lens has witnessed some of the world's most captivating and unusual customs. He has been awarded 'Photographer of the Year 2020' by the BCS, an evangelical Christian society that honours its members for capturing exquisite pictures of churches. The globe-trotter had recently set his sights on the southern state of Kishkinda, where his journey would unveil a shocking cultural practice.

Kishkinda, with its tranquil landscapes steeped in ancient traditions, intrigued Christopher. However, it was the ancient Nandev Temple, the spiritual epicenter of the Eka religious denomination, that truly captivated his interest. The temple, with its exquisite Nagara-style architecture, stood as a testament to Kishkinda's rich heritage. As he admired the intricate carvings that adorned the temple's majestic walls, Christopher felt the temple's age-old history pulse through the air. It was here, in the temple's farthest corner that he witnessed '*Thookkam*', an age-old tradition that would leave him dumbfounded.

What he witnessed in the temple corner was unlike anything he had seen before. Devotees, a sea of people, were intense in their prayers, their eyes fixed skyward as though waiting for a sign. The air was thick, carrying the mingled scents of burning camphor, incense, and sweat. Devotional songs ebbed and flowed like

waves, punctuated by the sudden shrillness of conch shells, a sound that seemed to cut through both the air and his nerves. Then he saw them. High in the air, three men were suspended, their bodies dangling from a wooden structure. His eyes widened in disbelief. Large, gleaming hooks pierced their bare backs, pulling their flesh taut and holding them aloft. Blood oozed slowly from the wounds, that darkened their dhotis and dripped down.

A hush fell over the crowd as the men began to sway, carried by ropes and poles manoeuvred by temple attendants. Each swing sent shudders through their bodies, but they remained silent. There were no cries of pain, no visible struggle—only a quiet surrender.

Christopher noticed that instead of wails to stop the practice, the crowd had become more animated. The chanting grew in tempo and the drums beaten more vigorously. For the people, this was not an act of cruelty; it was devotion to the deity which couldn't be pacified in any other manner. This practice, deeply rooted in Kishkinda's temple culture, was shrouded in a mystique that Christopher had never encountered. As an outsider and an atheist, the practice left him deeply unsettled, raising questions about its implications for superstitions, dignity, and religious traditions. Determined to understand the origins and purpose of this ritual, Christopher decided to learn more. He began to speak with locals, monks, and devotees, hoping to unravel the meaning behind this sacred but peculiar custom.

As his inquiries deepened, he discovered that the practice had been passed down for centuries, believed to have origins in Hindu mythology, where Garuda pacified Goddess Kali by offering his blood. While some saw it as an essential act of faith, others questioned its relevance in modern times, especially given the temple's pristine reputation and the progressive socio-economic status of Kishkinda. It was a delicate balance of tradition versus modernity, with locals divided on whether such practices should evolve with the changing times.

MOOT COURT PROPOSITION

Christopher, deeply perturbed by the ritual he had witnessed in Kishkinda, decided to take legal action. Recognising the grave constitutional implications of the practice, he approached Democratic Ideals, a prominent organisation dedicated to the protection of civil liberties and individual rights. Albert, the leader of the organisation, argued that the practice violated fundamental constitutional principles such as human dignity, equality before the law, and the right to personal autonomy, particularly in light of its oppressive nature. Democratic Ideals, already engaged in fighting for civil rights in various capacities, agreed to take the case, understanding its potential to address systemic issues at the intersection of religion and constitutional rights.

The filing of the case had significant social repercussions. Social media platforms erupted with discussions, with the petition drawing widespread criticism. The digital uproar soon manifested in the form of intense backlash, leading to violent protests across Odanta. For a week, multiple cities in the region witnessed widespread unrest as law and order broke down under the weight of unruly masses. The situation escalated to such a degree that paramilitary forces were eventually deployed to restore peace.

The protests also reverberated within the Parliament of Odanta, where political factions took sharply contrasting positions. The Liberal National Party (LNP), the principal opposition, vehemently criticised the petitioners and the government, accusing them of "disrespecting the rights of religious communities." Shane Nigam, a rising political figure and member of the LNP, sought permission to introduce a bill aimed at protecting religious practices and addressing the demands of the protestors.

In contrast, the ruling alliance, led by the Justice for National Progress (JNP), extended its support to the petitioners, citing the constitutional mandate to foster a "scientific temper" and uphold the values enshrined in the supreme law of the land.
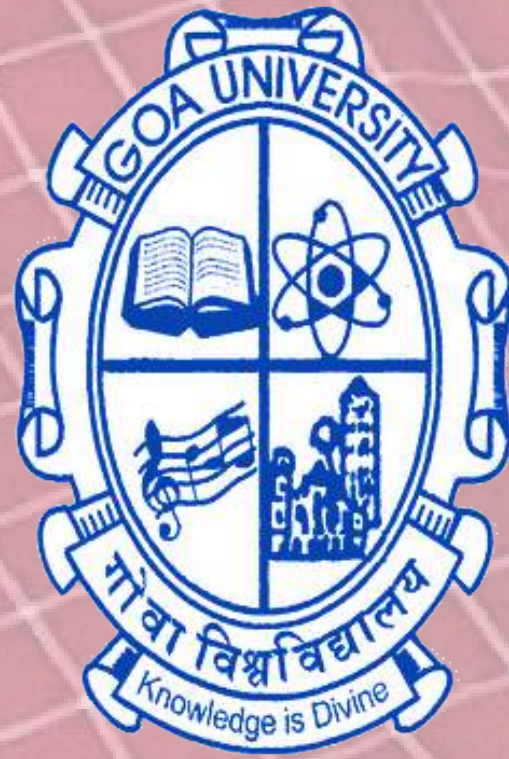
MOOT COURT PROPOSITION

The government found itself in a precarious position, caught between these conflicting ideologies. Amid this turmoil, the Attorney General intervened, recommending that the Government refer the matter for a Presidential Reference under Article 143 of the Constitution of Odanta.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of Odanta, acknowledging the profound constitutional and societal implications of the petition, has admitted the Presidential Reference and framed the following issues:-

1. Whether these religious practices violate the fundamental rights of the people?
2. What is the scope and extent of judicial review with regard to religious practice as referred to in Article 25 of the Constitution of Odanta?
3. Whether a person not belonging to a religious denomination or religious group can question a practice of that religious denomination or religious group by filing a PIL?
4. Whether the rights of a religious denomination under Article 26 of the Constitution of Odanta are subject to other provisions of Part III of the Constitution of Odanta?

Note:
1. Constitution of Odanta is in *pari materia* with the Constitution of India.
2. Participants may add additional issues.

POLICY HACKATHON

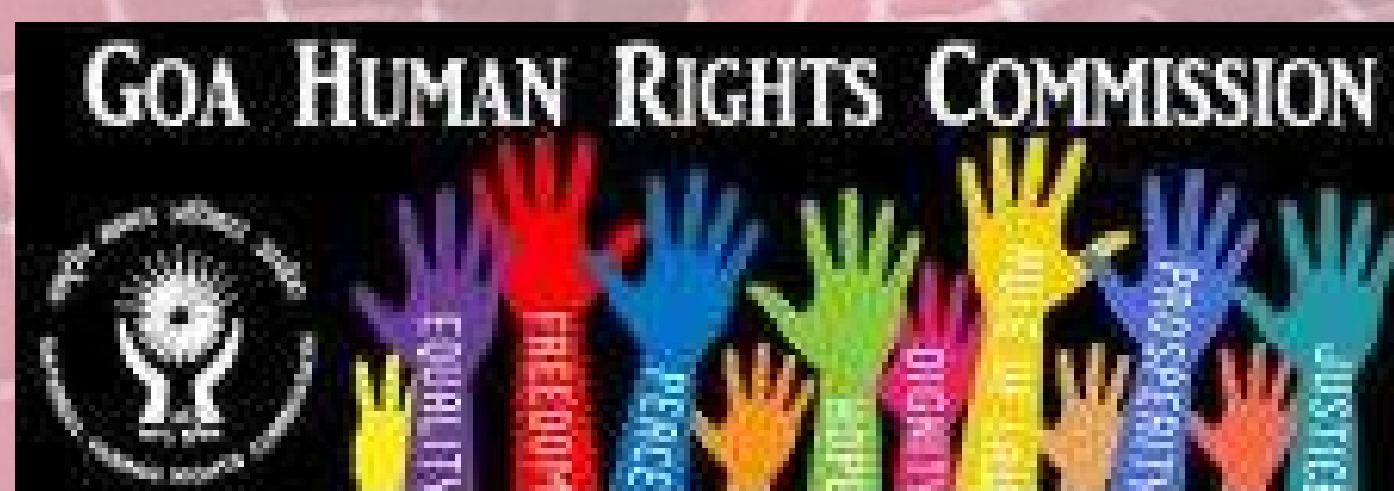# &

POLICY MANTHAN

2025

'Hinterland Tourism Policy of Goa'

**Directorate of
Higher Education**
Government of Goa

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
&
GOA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ABOUT POLICY HACKATHON

Policy Hackathon is an innovative platform designed to engage graduate and post-graduate students in the dynamic process of policymaking, innovation, and collaboration that synchronizes the innovative ideas of the budding experts participating in policymaking exercises. This event aims to produce creative and practical policy solutions to specific societal challenges in the realm of Public Administration and Public Policy.Participants work intensively within a set timeframe to develop practical, data-driven solutions to real-world challenges. The innovative ideas garnered at this event would benefit key stakeholders and contribute to filling in the gaps between the theory and practice of Public Administration and Public Policy.

Policy Hackathon, an event curated by the Public Administration Programme of Manohar Parrikar School of Law, Governance and Public Policy, Goa University, aims to bring together young minds from a wide range of disciplines across the national level. The focus is on fostering interdisciplinary collaboration to create time-bound, actionable policies that align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By addressing critical issues such as Goa's hinterland tourism policy, the event aims to deliver impactful solutions that benefit both the local community and policymakers.

POLICY MANTHAN

Policy Manthan 2025 is a discussion forum designed to bring together leading experts from various fields to critically engage with pressing policy issues. This event focuses on Goa's Hinterland Tourism Policy, providing a platform for in-depth discussions on sustainable tourism development, local community engagement, and policy innovation. The forum seeks to stimulate young minds by exploring various facets of the chosen topic, fostering meaningful dialogue and audience participation. The goal is to create a space for structured deliberation, with expert-led conversations addressing the broad dimensions of hinterland tourism and its future potential.

Policy Manthan is open to all, regardless of participation in the Policy Hackathon. Vigilant citizens, students, academicians, and anyone interested is invited to engage with our stellar panel on issues affecting daily life. The registration link is Policy Manthan 2025. Join us on 28th January 2025 from 10 a.m. onwards at Block E Auditorium, School of Chemical Sciences Goa University for an insightful,enriching and intellectually stimulating deliberation.

REGISTRATION GUIDELINES FOR POLICY HACKATHON

Eligibility: Student enrolled in an undergraduate/postgraduate degree in any discipline.

Team Composition: A minimum of two and a maximum of three members in one team may register. The team may be interdisciplinary. Each team must have one mentor/guide. Maximum of two teams may participate from a institution.

Dress Code: Participants must wear formal attire, either traditional or western.

Language: The language of the Competition shall be English.

Code of Conduct: Each team will be given a unique code and must not reveal their identity, institution, or location. Any violation may lead to penalties, including disqualification.

Registration: To register for the competition team has to fill out the online registration form available at Policy Hackathon 2025.

Registration is **free** until the final selection. Only the teams shortlisted will be contacted and communicated to pay the registration fees for participation in the Final Round at Goa University.

QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION

To pay the registration fees, visit the SBI Collect portal at https://www.onlinesbi.sbi/sbicollect/. Select the 'Educational Institution' category, find Goa University, and choose relevant category. Complete the form, make the payment, and save the receipt or screenshot for submission with your registration form.

OPTION 1	**Rs. 6,000**	Includes two nights' **accommodation** at the University Guest House, transport upon arrival and during event hours, and meals.
OPTION 2	**Rs. 3,000**	Includes transportation within Goa University campus, and meals during event hours only. **(Without accommodation)**

GUIDELINES FOR POLICY HACKATHON

Preliminary Stage
- Each team must submit a policy brief as per the format given below, focusing on the theme provided by the deadline at **hackathon.mps@unigoa.ac.in**.
- All submissions will be vetted, and the selected teams will be invited to the finals at Goa University.

Finals
- The finals will be held at Goa University in a physical setting only. Each team will present their policy brief to a panel of judges using a PowerPoint presentation.
- The selected teams must submit **four printed copies of their policy brief** during the time of registration on Day 1.

Guidelines for PowerPoint presentation
- Each team will be allocated 20 minutes for the presentation, followed by a 10-minute Q&A session with the judges.
- Visual aids, data charts, and bullet points are encouraged but should be already mentioned in the submitted policy brief.
- All team members must actively participate in the presentation.
- The presentation content is limited to the submission made, no additional data maybe used.
- Professionalism must be maintained at all times.

Scoring Criteria
- Innovation and creativity
- Feasibility and Practicality
- Impact and Value
- Clarity and Coherence
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Data-driven and Evidence-based
- Sustainability and Environmental Considerations
- Presentation Skills and Engagement
- Overall comprehensiveness and draft formatting
- Futuristic

FORMAT FOR DRAFTING POLICY BRIEFS

- **Title**: The title of the anticipated Policy has to be stated clearly
- **Introduction**: A brief overview of the issue being addressed should be provided which should include the purpose of the policy and its relevance to contemporary administration
- **Problem Statement**: The problem statement has to be clearly defined in the background of specific issues the policy aims to address.
- **Background information**: This should include context, data and evidence highlighting the issues and significance.
- **Policy Objectives**: The specific objectives and goals the policy aims to achieve should be addressed.
- **Stakeholder Analysis/Eligibility Criteria**: Key stakeholders involved or affected by the policy should be clearly identified.
- **Proposed Policy Measures**: Description of the proposed policy measures, strategies, and actions.
- **Implementation Plan**: A clear plan for policy implementation, including timelines, resources needed, and responsible parties, ought to be provided.
- **Expected Outcomes**: Elucidation of expected outcomes and impacts of the policy, including short-term and long-term effects.
- **Evaluation and Monitoring**: Enunciating the policy monitoring mechanisms and evaluation.
- **Feedback Mechanisms**: Description of prospective feedback mechanism for policy improvisation.
- **Budget and Resource Allocation**: Provide estimates of costs involved in policy implementation, identification of potential funding sources, and resource allocation strategies.
- **Conclusion**: Summarisation of significant highlights of the policy draft and inclusion of a call to action, encouraging stakeholders to actively support and engage with the outlined policy.
- **References**

Font and Formatting

Font: Times New Roman
Font Size: 12 (Body), 14 (Headings)
Line Spacing: 1.5
Footnotes: Times New Roman, size 10
Alignment: Justified
Word limit: 1500 - 3000 words (excluding footnotes)
Citation/References – APA (7 th Edition)

PRIZES

Winners	₹20,000
Runners-up	₹10,000
Best Speaker (Male)	₹5,000
Best Speaker (Female)	₹5,000
Best Policy Brief	₹5,000

PRE-EVENT TIMELINE

12 DECEMBER 2024	REGISTRATION COMMENCES AND RELEASE OF PROBLEM
06 JANUARY 2025	LAST DAY FOR REGISTRATION
31 JANUARY 2025	LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE POLICY DRAFT (SOFT COPY) AT HACKATHON.MPS@UNIGOA.AC.IN
10 FEBRUARY 2025	INTIMATION TO THE SELECTED TEAMS FOR FINAL REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES+ REGISTRATION PAYMENT LINK TO THE FINAL TEAMS
21 FEBRUARY 2025	LAST DATE OF FEE PAYMENT
27 FEBRUARY 2025	INAUGURAL & ONSTAGE FINALS
28 FEBRUARY 2025	POLICY MANTHAN VALEDICTORY

POLICY HACKATHON CHALLENGE STATEMENT
SUSTAINABLE HINTERLAND TOURISM IN GOA: AVENUES AND LIABILITIES

Goa, known as the Rome of the East or Pearl of the Orient, has been a paradise for tourists over the ages. However, it's the coastal landscape comprising pristine beaches which have garnered the attention of tourists, both domestic and international. The prospects of Hinterland tourism by and large remain underutilised. Goa has been blessed with a natural landscape traversing the Western Ghats and cascading its beauty across the hinterlands in the form of lush green hills, crystal-clear streams, waterfalls and rivers. The revenue and employment opportunities provided by coastal belt tourism is limited to the peak season from October to May. For the residual four months the coastal belt tourism is in hibernation mode as the monsoon brings a halt to most of the outdoor operations along the coast. This results in seasonal loss of employment and also loss of revenue to the State exchequer during these months.

In contrast, hinterland tourism offers a year-round alternative, especially during the monsoon when coastal tourism slows down. By developing hinterland tourism, Goa can create sustainable livelihoods for communities in these regions while adding to the state's revenue. However, it is essential to balance this development with sustainable practices that preserve the region's ecological integrity. Unchecked tourism development can harm the fragile ecosystems of the hinterlands, which are rich in biodiversity and essential for maintaining environmental balance. Therefore, any expansion of hinterland tourism must align with sustainable development goals, ensuring that economic growth does not come at the cost of environmental degradation. The Goa Tourism Policy 2020 has highlighted Culture and Heritage Tourism and Nature-based Tourism besides Coastal Tourism. Conservation, regeneration, and promotion of Goan culture and heritage are among the key initiatives of the Goa Tourism Master Plan 2021. The Goa Tourism Policy 2020 also states that ecologically sustainable and environmentally sound practices would be espoused in the expansion of nature-based tourism.

CHALLENGE STATEMENT

Hinterland Tourism in Goa is less explored both by domestic and foreign tourists. The vast potential of hinterland tourism opportunities is yet to be harnessed to its fullest. The challenge statement for the present Policy Hackathon is to develop novel, all-encompassing, and long-term sustainable solutions in the form of sustainable hinterland tourism policies that guarantee: -

- The development of sustainable hinterland tourism opportunities with particular emphasis to its harnessing during the hibernation season of coastal tourism in Goa,
- Maintenance of the balance between hinterland tourism avenues and the conservation of local culture and forests,
- Community participation and capacity building in the creation and sustenance of hinterland tourism livelihood opportunities,
- Sustaining the carrying capacity of hinterland tourism avenues,
- Maintaining a healthy balance between Hinterland Tourism and Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Organsation, namely Goal 8 and Goal 12.

Goal 8 highlights inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment, and decent work. Goal 12 focuses on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns.

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75 years of adoption of the Indian Constitution

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&
GOA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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