CAIL
CHRIST ACADEMY INSTITUTE OF LAW

NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY
BENGALURU

Christ Academy Institute of Law (CAIL), Bengaluru

In Collaboration With

Centre for Environmental Law, Education, Research and Advocacy (CEERA)

National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru

Organizes

TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGIUM

ON

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (ESG)

(Hybrid)

23RD & 24TH November 2026

Industry Knowledge Partners

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1. ABOUT ESG

ESG stands for Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance. It is a framework that prioritizes environmental issues, social concerns, and corporate governance and is used by investors, consumers, governments, ministries (such as environment, corporate and industrial sector), and businesses to measure an organization's sustainability, ethical conduct, and long-term risk management beyond traditional financial results.

THREE PILLARS OF ESG

ENVIRONMENT (E): Focuses on how a company or public sector project impacts nature. It covers areas such as carbon emissions, climate risk, clean energy use, waste reduction, and water management etc.

SOCIAL (S): Evaluates how an organization treats people. It includes workforce health and safety, fair labor standards, human rights, and community engagement etc.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (G): Looks at leadership and internal controls. It involves board diversity, transparent reporting, executive pay, and anti-corruption policies etc.

The term ESG first came to prominence in a 2004 Report titled "Who Cares Wins" which was a joint initiative of financial institutions facilitated by the United Nations. Today the ESG movement has grown from a UN corporate social responsibility initiative into a global phenomenon. It is broader than conventional corporate social responsibility and seeks to identify how environmental, social and governance factors can affect an organization's long-term risks, opportunities, resilience and value. The World Bank describes ESG investing as an approach in which these factors are considered alongside conventional financial factors in investment decision-making. Across the world, businesses are adopting cleaner technologies, improving transparency, and embracing responsible governance. In this new era, ESG principles have become the global language of growth and strategic driver of investment, innovation and long-term competitiveness.

As one of the fastest-growing economies, India faces the dual challenge of sustaining rapid development while addressing environmental and social risks. In India, ESG has evolved from a voluntary corporate responsibility concept into an increasingly significant component of corporate disclosure and market regulation. SEBI introduced the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR), making ESG disclosures mandatory for the top 1,000 listed entities by market capitalization from FY 2022–23. The subsequent BRSR Core framework introduced specified ESG performance indicators and assurance requirements, progressively extending to larger categories of listed entities. The Indian approach therefore seeks to integrate environmental sustainability, social responsibility and corporate governance into mainstream corporate reporting, enabling investors and stakeholders to assess not merely financial performance but also an enterprise's broader social and environmental impacts.

Notwithstanding its growing significance, the ESG framework continues to face several practical and conceptual limitations that affect the reliability, comparability and overall effectiveness of ESG assessment. Furthermore, ESG increasingly intersects with questions of law, regulation, human rights, climate justice, corporate responsibility, sustainable finance, technology, supply chains and public policy. A significant concern relates to the quality, reliability and verifiability of ESG data, as disclosures may be incomplete, self-reported, inconsistent or difficult to independently substantiate. The absence of uniform standards and methodologies also creates difficulties in comparing ESG performance across companies, sectors and jurisdictions, particularly because different rating agencies may employ different indicators, weightages and assessment methodologies. Further, the regulatory landscape remains dynamic and fragmented, with ESG obligations continuing to evolve across jurisdictions and sometimes being influenced by competing economic, political and policy considerations. Another major concern is greenwashing, whereby an organization may present an exaggerated or misleading impression of its environmental or broader sustainability performance without corresponding substantive action. Finally, the “Social” component of ESG presents a particularly difficult problem of measurement and normative assessment. Concepts such as social welfare, diversity, human rights, community benefit and employee well-being are inherently context-dependent, and there may be legitimate disagreement about what constitutes “socially responsible” or “socially beneficial” conduct. Consequently, the credibility of ESG ultimately depends not merely upon greater disclosure, but upon reliable data, transparent methodologies, meaningful standardization, independent assurance and clear regulatory accountability.

2. ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGIUM ON ESG

The Two-Day International Collegium on ESG scheduled on 23rd and 24th November 2026 is conceived as an international academic forum bringing together scholars, researchers, practitioners, policymakers, corporate professionals from law and non-law domains to critically examine the evolving architecture of ESG and encourage meaningful debate on its future direction. It seeks to contribute towards a rigorous, transparent and context-sensitive understanding of ESG, while exploring how law, institutions and corporate practice can collectively respond to the environmental and social challenges accompanying contemporary economic development.

The Collegium also seeks to foster a sustained interdisciplinary engagement on the legal, institutional, economic, environmental and social dimensions of ESG, recognizing that contemporary ESG frameworks operate at the intersection of corporate governance, sustainable development, finance, human rights, environmental regulation and public policy. It provides a platform for examining the transformation of ESG from a predominantly voluntary and market-driven concept into an increasingly regulated and institutionalized framework of corporate accountability.

Moving beyond descriptive examination of ESG standards and reporting practices, the Collegium will encourage and facilitate critical inquiry into their underlying assumptions, methodologies and consequences. It seeks to examine questions concerning the design and legitimacy of ESG frameworks, the role of regulators and markets, the reliability and comparability of ESG disclosures, the emergence of assurance and accountability mechanisms, and the relationship between ESG commitments and substantive outcomes. Particular attention may also be directed towards emerging concerns such as greenwashing, ESG ratings and data integrity, supply-chain responsibility, climate-related risks, social justice, human rights, technological disruption and the differential application of ESG standards across jurisdictions and sectors.

3. ABOUT CHRIST ACADEMY INSTITUTE OF LAW

Entering in its decennial year, Christ Academy Institute of Law (CAIL), located in Bengaluru is a premier institution affiliated with Karnataka State Law University (KSLU). Established and managed by the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI) congregation, CAIL is committed to nurturing intellectually vibrant, ethically grounded, and socially responsible legal professionals dedicated to the pursuit of justice, truth and peace.

The Academic Outreach Committee (AOC) at CAIL promotes academic engagement beyond the classroom through workshops, seminars, guest lectures, lecture series, and development programmes for students and faculty. Focused on fostering critical thinking, research aptitude, and academic curiosity, the Committee connects the CAIL community with experts from legal and interdisciplinary fields. Its initiatives aim to enrich the academic environment, encourage collaborative learning, and cultivate a culture of intellectual growth and scholarly exchange within the institution.

The Centre for Law & Environment (CLE) at CAIL promotes environmental awareness through the lens of legal education. It equips students with knowledge of national and international legal frameworks for environmental protection. The Centre conducts seminars, discussions, and awareness programmes on issues like conservation, sustainable development, and environmental justice. By engaging students and faculty in quality research and analysis it fosters informed dialogue and advocacy on environmental issues.

4. ABOUT CEERA-NLSIU

The Centre for Environmental Law, Education, Research and Advocacy (CEERA), at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru is a premier research center. It is a benefactor of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of Karnataka, the Bar, and the Bench in India and abroad. Building an environmental law database, effectively networking among all stakeholders, building up an environmental law community, and policy research in the area of the environment are CEERA's main objectives. To achieve the aforesaid, CEERA has incessantly and successfully been able to build functional and professional linkages with government agencies and non-governmental organizations in India, the south-Asian region and at international levels. Identified as the Key Resource Centre under the aegis of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, CEERA has been regularly engaged in capacity building and training of practitioners, government servants, academicians, and scholars on various legal areas. CEERA has been partnering with Central Pollution Control Board in organizing Training programs for the officers of various State Pollution Control Boards and other industry professionals for over 12 years. One of the first in India, to successfully be granted a World Bank project and thereafter world bank's steady choice for the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, CEERA has been entrusted with research projects and workshops to impart training to Forest Officers, Revenue Officers, Officers of the Central Pollution Control Board and also of the Government of Karnataka.

5. CALL FOR PAPERS

The International Collegium on Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) invites original and unpublished research papers **BY SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS** from academicians, practitioners, policymakers, legal professionals, corporate professionals, researchers, research scholars from law, non-law or interdisciplinary backgrounds for presentation on issues to the specified sub-themes. The Call for Papers seeks to encourage academic scholarship that critically examines the evolving conceptual, legal, regulatory, institutional and practical dimensions of ESG in India and across jurisdictions. Once abstracts are selected, participants shall register for the collegium by making the payment and secure the opportunity to present their papers at the collegium. Selected papers from among those submitted for consideration of publication will be published in an edited volume with an ISBN number, provided that sufficient number of good academic quality papers have been received, as per the submission guidelines. Hard copies of the edited volume will be available to participants at an additional cost, to be communicated after publication.

6. SUB-THEMES

Abstracts of research papers may be submitted on the following sub-themes. Participants may adopt doctrinal, interdisciplinary, comparative, empirical, case study, theoretical or critical approaches or any other academically acceptable research methodology.

6.1 ESG and Corporate Governance

- Board responsibility and directors' duties
- ESG and stakeholder governance
- Corporate accountability and transparency
- Shareholder activism and institutional investors
- ESG and corporate decision-making
- Ethics, integrity and responsible business conduct
- Greenwashing and ESG credibility

6.2 ESG Regulation and Legal Frameworks

- ESG regulation in India and comparative jurisdictions
- ESG vis-à-vis Corporate Social Responsibility
- SEBI, BRSR and BRSR Core
- ESG and company and securities law
- Mandatory versus voluntary ESG standards
- ESG disclosure, assurance and accountability
- Cross-border and transnational ESG regulation

6.3 Environmental and Social Dimensions of ESG

- Climate change and corporate responsibility
- Biodiversity, natural resources and environmental protection
- Climate justice and just transition
- Human rights and business responsibility
- Labour, diversity and inclusion
- Community rights and social impact

6.4 ESG, Finance, Markets and Supply Chains

- ESG investing and sustainable finance
- Green bonds and sustainability-linked finance
- ESG ratings and assessment methodologies
- Responsible supply-chain management
- Human rights and environmental due diligence
- ESG and multinational enterprises

6.5 Emerging Issues and the Future of ESG

- Artificial intelligence, technology and ESG
- ESG data and algorithmic assessment
- Data quality, standardisation and comparability
- ESG litigation and corporate accountability
- ESG and public policy
- Comparative and transnational perspectives
- Beyond ESG: rethinking corporate responsibility and sustainability

PLEASE NOTE: The sub-themes mentioned above are only indicative and illustrative and not exhaustive. Participants are welcome to submit papers addressing any other emerging or interdisciplinary issues within the broader field of ESG.

7. WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

Submission of Abstract and Participation in the International Collegium is **OPEN TO ALL** interested participants, including academicians, researchers, research scholars, professionals, practitioners, policymakers, corporate professionals, industry representatives, and members of civil society from law as well as non-law backgrounds having an interest in ESG and its evolving dimensions.

8. GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT

An abstract of 200-250 words in Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx) format only should be uploaded on or before **15TH OCTOBER** via the following link:—

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION LINK: https://forms.gle/EmXS7nGQyueRChcJ6

Each Abstract submission should be accompanied by the following details:

- Title of the Paper
- Name, Designation, Institutional Details and Contact Details of the Participant(s). A maximum of one co-participant is permitted.
- Sub-Theme (if no sub-theme, please mention Other)
- Abstract (200-250 words)
- Keywords (5-6)

PLEASE NOTE: The abstract must be submitted through the designated Abstract Submission Form Only on or before the prescribed deadline. Submission of an abstract shall be treated as an undertaking by the participant(s) that the proposed paper is original and that the information provided in the submission form is accurate.

9. SUBMISSION OF FULL PAPER

All participants whose abstracts have been accepted and who have presented their papers at the Collegium will be invited to submit their full papers for consideration of publication.

PLEASE NOTE: Full papers are **NOT REQUIRED** to be submitted prior to or at the time of the Collegium.

Following the Collegium, participants will be provided **TIME TILL 30TH JANUARY 2027** to develop, revise and submit their full papers, taking into consideration the academic discussions, feedback, observations and insights received during the Collegium.

Selected papers from those submitted will be considered for publication in the proposed edited volume with ISBN Number after editorial review, double-blind peer-review and compliance with the prescribed submission guidelines and publication requirements.

PLEASE NOTE: Submission of a full paper does not, by itself, constitute acceptance for publication. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to accept, seek revisions to, or reject a paper based on its academic quality, originality, relevance and compliance with the submission and publication guidelines.

PLEASE NOTE: All submitted papers will undergo a Similarity and AI-Generated Content detection check, and submissions with more than 10% Similarity and AI-Generated Content will not be accepted. However, participants will be accorded an opportunity to revise their papers and resubmit before the final decision of acceptance or rejection is taken.

10. BEST PAPER PRESENTATION AWARD

In recognition of outstanding scholarly contributions to the discourse on ESG, **BEST PAPER PRESENTATION AWARD** shall be conferred upon the paper adjudged to demonstrate exceptional originality, intellectual rigour, analytical depth and overall scholarly merit. The Best Paper Presentation Award shall carry a **CASH PRIZE OF ₹5,000/- (RUPEES FIVE THOUSAND ONLY)** along with a **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**.

The evaluation shall consider, inter alia, (a) originality and novelty of the research; (b) clarity and significance of the research questions; (c) depth and quality of analysis; (d) engagement with relevant legal, academic, policy and empirical sources; (e) methodological rigour; (f) coherence and structure of the paper; (g) contribution to contemporary ESG scholarship; (h) quality and effectiveness of oral presentation; and (i) ability to respond substantively to questions and scholarly critique. The decision of the evaluation panel shall be final and binding.

11. REGISTRATION

Registration for paper presentation for the International Collegium on ESG shall be open only after the acceptance of the abstract. Participant(s) whose abstracts have been accepted shall be required to complete the registration process within the prescribed period. In the case of a paper, with co-participant, both participants are required to register jointly and pay the applicable registration fee. Both participants shall be entitled to participate in the academic sessions and present the paper, subject to the programme schedule.

However, alternatively, anyone who wish to attend the International Collegium on ESG without presenting a research paper may register as a participant, subject to the availability of seats and payment of the applicable registration fee. Registration as a participant is **OPEN TO ALL** research scholars, academicians, professionals, corporate professionals, policymakers from any background (law or non-law). Participants shall be entitled to attend the various sessions of the Collegium and participate in the discussion. Interested participants may register for the Collegium using the following Link: —

REGISTRATION LINK: https://forms.gle/j2Y2YzAbLU7p5oFf8

PLEASE NOTE: Participant(s) who have registered for paper presentation are not required to register separately as participant.

Registration shall be treated as complete only upon submission of the prescribed registration form and payment of the applicable registration fee. The registration fee, once paid, shall be non-refundable.

12. CERTIFICATES, TA/DA AND ACCOMODATION

All registered participants, shall receive an E-Certificate subject to attendance requirements at the Collegium. Attendance during all the sessions of the Collegium is mandatory to be eligible for issuance of the certificate.

No Travel Allowance (TA), Daily Allowance (DA) or accommodation shall be provided by the host Institution to participants. Participants are required to make their own arrangements for travel, accommodation and other incidental expenses.

13. REGISTRATION FEE

The Registration Fee for the Collegium for all participants shall be **₹1,500/-** (**RUPEES ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED ONLY**).

IMPORTANT: In case of papers with co-participants, both participants are required to register jointly and pay the applicable registration fee.

14. IMPORTANT DATES

PARTICULARS	DATE
Last Date for Submission of Abstract	October 15, 2026
Intimation of Confirmation of Abstract	October 20, 2026
Last Date of Registration	October 25, 2026
Date of Collegium	November 23-24, 2026
Last Date for Submission of Full Paper for Consideration of Publication	January 30, 2027

15. IMPORTANT LINKS

PARTICULARS	LINK
Abstract Submission Link	https://forms.gle/EmXS7nGQyueRChcJ6
Registration Link	https://forms.gle/j2Y2YzAbLU7p5oFf8
Registration Fee Payment Link	https://rzp.io/rzp/ECTmAow

16. ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Rev. Fr. Thomas Chakkramakkil, CMI

Prof. (Dr.) Fr. Davis PV, CMI

Prof. (Dr.) Sairam Bhat

Dr. Sini John
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Mr. Sreehari VS

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17. INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS/ SPEAKERS

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