

ST. THOMAS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), THRISSUR
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY AND POLICE SCIENCE



IN COLLABORATION WITH
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (NHRC), NEW DELHI



NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DIGITAL GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: BALANCING SECURITY AND RIGHTS IN THE AGE OF DATA PROTECTION

**CALL FOR PAPERS &
PARTICIPATION**

 **5, 6 & 7 AUGUST, 2026**

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), New Delhi:

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India is a premier statutory body constituted under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. As the nation's ultimate guardian of human rights, the NHRC works tirelessly to protect, promote, and advocate for the right to life, liberty, equality, and dignity of all individuals. In the modern digital landscape, the Commission actively monitors, reviews, and engages with evolving structural issues concerning digital data privacy, state and corporate algorithmic governance, systemic cyber security, and the human rights implications of emerging surveillance technologies. By collaborating on this national forum, the NHRC emphasizes its mandate to anchor rapid technological advancement firmly within constitutional rights and democratic accountability.

St. Thomas College (Autonomous), Thrissur

Established in 1889, St. Thomas College (Autonomous), Thrissur, stands as a premier landmark of higher education in India with over a century of academic excellence. Re-accredited by NAAC with an 'A++' Grade, the institution has consistently pioneered transformative education across disciplines. It is widely renowned for nurturing rigorous research, fostering ethical leadership, and seamlessly integrating contemporary technological and social advancements into its academic ecosystem. Driven by its motto *Veritas Vos Liberabit* (The Truth Shall Set You Free), the college continues to shape progressive policies and empower generations of scholars.

The event is anchored by its Department of Criminology and Police Science, which has been a frontrunner in developing interdisciplinary scholarship, field training, and policy-oriented research in criminology, security studies, forensics, and modern policing methodologies.

ADVISORY CONSILIUM



Mar Andrews Thazhath
Patron

(Archbishop,
Archdiocese of Thrissur)



Mar Tony Neelankavil
Manager

(Aux. Bishop,
Thrissur Archdiocese)



Dr. Fr. Martin KA

Principal



Rev. Fr. John (Biju)
Panengadan

(Exe. Manager)

THEMATIC AGENDA

DAY 1: CONSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF DIGITAL GOVERNANCE & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Core Theme: Data Protection, Fundamental Rights and Democratic Governance

Focus Areas:

- Critical overview of the DPDP Act 2023
- Right to privacy (Puttaswamy judgment)
- Data fiduciaries & consent mechanisms
- Children's data protection and online safety
- Role of the Data Protection Board of India
- EU GDPR comparative insight
- Alignment with UN SDG 16.

DAY 2: SURVEILLANCE, POLICING AND SECURITY IN THE DIGITAL STATE

Core Theme: Technology-Driven Crime Control: Security Imperatives and Human Rights Safeguards

Focus Areas:

- Predictive policing,
- AI investigations,
- Facial recognition
- Algorithmic bias & discriminatory profiling risks
- Data protection laws vs. criminal procedures
- Digital forensics & data retention
- National security exemptions
- Emerging cybercrimes (dark web, cyber-grooming, digital sexual exploitation).

THEMATIC AGENDA

DAY 3: ACCOUNTABILITY, INCLUSION AND RIGHTS-BASED DIGITAL FUTURES

Core Theme: Balancing Security, Freedom and Sustainable Development in the Data-Driven State

Focus Areas:

- Mass surveillance vs. civil liberties
- Platform governance & corporate accountability
- Gig/platform labor data risks
- Digital exclusion impacts on marginalized communities
- Human rights impact assessments
- Rights-based regulatory policy reforms.



BEST PAPER AWARD

To foster rigorous academic scholarship and innovative policy solutions, the Organizing Committee is proud to announce the Best Paper Award for the most outstanding primary research presented at the conference.

The Award Includes:

- Gold Medal of Excellence
- A Cash Prize of ₹5,000
- A Special Certificate of Merit

Eligibility Criteria:

Limited to original, empirical, primary research only (conceptual or purely review-based papers are not eligible).

Plagiarism Policy:

Authors must submit a recognized plagiarism check report with a similarity index of 10% or strictly below.

Evaluation parameters:

Shortlisted papers will be presented in an exclusive session and evaluated by an expert academic jury on methodological rigor, originality, and thematic relevance. Authors must explicitly opt-in via the Google Form option.

RESOURCE PERSONS



Dr. Shekhar Seshadri

Former Senior Professor, Dept. of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, NIMHANS Bangalore



Dr. Upma Gautam

Professor, University School of Law and Legal Studies, GGSIPU, New Delhi



Dr. Sandhya R S

Professor
Department of Sociology
University of Kerala



Dr. Sumit Kumar Choudhary

Senior Assistant Professor, School of Forensics, Risk Management & National Security, RRU, Ministry of Home Affairs, Gujarat



Dr. Muthumani Sundaram

Assistant Professor, CUSAT & IPR Consultant



Dr. Sramana Majumdar

Assistant Professor, Nayanta University, Pune

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



Dr. Febin Baby

Vice Principal & Head, Department
of Criminology and Police Science



Christo Kurian Ajoy

Assistant Professor, Dept of
Criminology and Police Science



Bisha Babu

Assistant Professor, Dept of
Criminology and Police Science



Francis C Varghese

Guest Lecturer, Dept of
Criminology and Police Science



Dilruba Kc

Intern, Dept of
Criminology and Police Science

SUBMISSION STANDARDS, IMPORTANT DATES & REGISTRATION

Submission Quality & Originality Standards

- **Blind Peer Review:** All submitted abstracts and full papers will undergo a rigorous double-blind peer-review process.
- **Methodological Rigor:** Papers must demonstrate sound methodological frameworks and direct relevance to digital governance, security, and human rights.
- **Full paper submission guidelines** will be emailed to authors following abstract acceptance.

Important Deadlines

**22nd July, 2026: Early Bird
Registration Deadline**

**25th July, 2026: Abstract
Submission Deadline**

**30th July, 2026: Full Paper &
Final Registration Deadline**

Registration Inclusions

**All valid registrations directly
include access to:**

- **Official Conference Kits**
- **Entry to All Academic &
Interactive Sessions**
- **Lunch and Refreshment**
- **Entry to the Exclusive
Conference Gala Night**
- **Official Certificates of
Participation**

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/XrXQ7mcasBVq7i5S6>

Email: cpsste.nhrconf26@gmail.com

Phones: +91 9188070353 | +91 9400162737 | +91 8921139627



EXPLORE THE HERITAGE OF THRISSUR



Sree Vadakkumnathan Temple: Central Swaraj Round Shiva temple featuring classical Kerala architectural style and historic murals

Our Lady of Dolours Basilica: Built in 1929, one of the largest churches in India, celebrated for its towering Gothic architecture.



Guruvayur Shri Krishna Temple: One of India's most revered and historic pilgrimage destinations, dedicated to Lord Krishna and located just a short drive from the city center.



Athirappilly Water Falls; Known as the "Niagara of India, a spectacular 80-foot natural waterfall at its peak beauty during monsoon.



Weather & Travel Advisory: Refreshing monsoon landscape (22°C–30°C). Delegates are strongly advised to carry umbrellas and rainwear.

VENUE CONNECTIVITY, REGISTRATION & CONTACTS



SCAN FOR
THE VENUE

How to Reach the Venue ;

St. Thomas College (Autonomous), Thrissur is located in the heart of Thrissur city, making it highly accessible across all modes of transit:

- From Cochin International Airport (COK): Located approximately 50 km from the venue. Pre-paid taxis are available at the terminal and take around 1 hour and 15 minutes via the National Highway (NH544).
- From Thrissur Railway Station: Situated just 2.5 km from the college campus. Auto-rickshaws and local taxis are readily accessible at the station exit (roughly a 10-minute ride).
- From KSRTC Bus Stand / Sakthan Bus Stand: Located roughly 2.5 from the campus, with constant auto-rickshaw connectivity and local town buses running towards the college area.

STUDENT COORDINATORS & HOSPITALITY DESK

For general inquiries regarding the conference, please contact the numbers listed below

Student Convenor	Nivya M M 9072972274	Paper submission	Ain Wilson 94967 24915
Student Convenor	Aatish Manoj 80864 00753	Best paper award	Athulya Vinu 88480 86646
Student Convenor	Milta Irene Manoj 91 75599 79390	Corporate relations	Nivedita K 98470 90091
Accommodation	Rosna Jose Paul 62828 63982	Travel	Maheswar M 9495949528

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/XrXQ7mcasBVq7i5S6>
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