



SDG 16: PEACE JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Progress Report 2023-2024

MANAV RACHNA UNIVERSITY

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Promote Peaceful and Inclusive
Societies for Sustainable
Development

PREAMBLE

WE, THE FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS OF MANAV RACHNA UNIVERSITY, recognizing that sustainable development requires peaceful, inclusive societies, strong, accountable, and transparent institutions, and universal access to justice, hereby affirm our foundational commitment to the objectives of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16:

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

WHEREAS effective governance, ethical leadership, public safety, and the elimination of all forms of corruption are essential for maintaining trust and ensuring equitable resource utilization;

WHEREAS the institution is dedicated to transparent and effective governance, ensuring accountability through clear policies, a robust organizational structure, and participatory decision-making processes that include representation from all stakeholders;

WHEREAS our commitment to access to justice and safety is demonstrated through dedicated mechanisms like the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), the Ombudsman, and Free Legal Awareness Drives conducted for the community, ensuring every individual has access to redressal and knowledge of their rights;

WHEREAS fostering a culture of peace and non-violence is paramount, actively supported by promoting ethical behavior, academic integrity, and creating an inclusive campus environment that respects diversity and promotes dialogue and conflict resolution over confrontation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Manav Rachna University shall continue to strengthen its institutional quality, ensuring its operations are governed by the highest standards of ethics and transparency; actively work to reduce violence and promote safety on and off campus; and leverage its legal and academic resources to contribute to peace and universal access to justice within its sphere of influence.

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1. Global Context

Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) is a cornerstone of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aiming to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels by 2030.

Its key targets include:

- Significantly reducing all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere,
- Ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against children,
- Promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice for all,
- Developing effective, accountable, and transparent institutions,
- Ensuring responsive, inclusive, and participatory decision-making at all levels,
- Substantially reducing corruption, bribery, and illicit financial flows.

UN data shows that while progress has been made in reducing conflict and strengthening governance structures, global challenges such as wars, terrorism, corruption, and weakening trust in institutions continue to undermine peace and justice. These disruptions highlight the urgent need for collaborative, inclusive, and innovative actions to build societies grounded in fairness, transparency, and strong democratic values.

1.1 Relevance to Higher Education & Manav Rachna University's Mission

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) play a pivotal role in addressing SDG 16 through:

- Fostering values of peace, justice, and ethical leadership among students,
- Driving research and innovation on governance, policy, and conflict resolution,
- Promoting inclusive decision-making and democratic practices in academic and community contexts,
- Building awareness on issues of justice, human rights, and institutional accountability through community engagement.

Manav Rachna University (MRU) aligns deeply with SDG 16 through its vision of nurturing ethical and responsible global citizens and its mission to deliver outcome-based holistic education grounded in integrity and transparency. MRU's outreach initiatives, legal aid support, peace and sustainability programs, and awareness drives aim to:

- Strengthen civic responsibility and respect for human rights,
- Encourage community participation in promoting peace and justice,
- Support research on governance, policy, and institutional effectiveness.

Through these targeted interventions, MRU not only contributes to building peaceful and inclusive societies but also empowers students and communities to uphold justice and institutional accountability, thereby embodying the spirit and intent of SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

1.2 MRU’s Strategic Commitment to the Goal

Manav Rachna University (MRU) is strategically committed to fostering peace, justice, and strong institutions, which directly align with the core purpose of SDG 16. Rooted in the belief that education is a powerful instrument for building ethical, transparent, and inclusive societies, MRU adopts a holistic approach to instill values of integrity, accountability, and democratic participation. Through its academic programs, legal aid initiatives, community outreach, and peace-oriented activities, MRU actively contributes to strengthening social justice and institutional trust, making ethical responsibility a core element of its strategic planning.

1.3 Policy Alignment and Institutional Values

MRU’s institutional policies reflect a deep commitment to integrity, transparency, inclusivity, and ethical responsibility, in consonance with national education reforms and global SDG frameworks. These policies include:

- Establishing platforms for legal awareness, peace education, and civic responsibility,
- Policies that encourage participatory governance and inclusive decision-making in academic and community initiatives,
- Community engagement programs promoting justice, equality, and awareness of human rights,
- Integration of peace studies, governance, and social justice themes within curriculum, pedagogy, and research.

The university’s core values of empathy, integrity, innovation, and excellence guide every initiative aimed at strengthening institutional accountability, promoting fairness, and empowering communities to uphold peace and justice.

1.4 Key Administrative/Academic Units Involved

To ensure the systematic integration of **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)** into institutional functioning, several academic and administrative units at MRU play a collaborative role:

- **School of Law:** Leads initiatives on legal awareness, justice, and governance, including legal aid support and judicial literacy programs.

- **Centre for Peace and Sustainability (MRCPS):** Coordinates peace education, conflict resolution programs, and community projects promoting justice and institutional accountability.
- **Office of the Dean Students Welfare (DSW):** Implements student support services, civic engagement drives, and awareness programs on rights and responsibilities.
- **Office of International Affairs and Higher Education Engagements (OIAHEE):** Facilitates global partnerships on governance, peace, and inclusive institutional practices.
- **Institution's Innovation Council (IIC):** Encourages social innovation projects that strengthen transparency, institutional trust, and accountability.
- **Department of Education and Humanities:** Drives research and teaching on ethics, governance, social justice, and human rights.
- **Training & Placement Cell (CRC):** Supports employability and leadership training that fosters ethical decision-making and institutional responsibility.

These units collectively reinforce MRU's commitment to building strong institutions, advancing justice, and nurturing peace-oriented global citizens.

2. Key Initiatives and Achievements

2.1. Academic Integration

Book and Book Chapters:

Faculty members from the School of Law and the School of Management and Commerce have contributed book chapters addressing contemporary socio-legal and governance issues.

- *Chapter: Bridging the Digital Divide: E-Courts in Developing Countries by Ms. Vandana Zutshi Bhat*

This chapter explores how the implementation of e-courts is bridging the digital divide in judicial systems of developing countries. It highlights the potential of digital courts to enhance accessibility, reduce delays, and improve transparency, while also discussing challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, low digital literacy, and policy barriers. The chapter sensitizes readers to the practical and social implications of integrating technology into legal systems.

- *Chapter: Origin and Development of E-Courts by Ms Minakshi Sharma*

Focusing on the historical and institutional evolution of e-courts, this chapter traces their development from pilot projects to fully operational digital judicial systems. It examines the role of government initiatives, technological advancements, and legal reforms in shaping modern e-courts, providing readers with a framework to understand the complexities and challenges involved in digital judicial transformation.

- *Chapter: Balancing Powers: Is Judicial Activism a Threat to Democratic Governance?*
By Ms. Garima Pahwa

This chapter investigates the delicate balance between judicial activism and democratic governance. It analyses how courts, through proactive interventions, can protect citizens' rights and promote accountability, while also considering potential risks of overreach that may disrupt the separation of powers. The chapter encourages critical thinking on the role of judiciary in sustaining democratic institutions and upholding constitutional values.

2.1.1 Curriculum Mapping:

Courses in disciplines such as UHV, Applied Philosophy, Applied Psychology, Applied Sociology, Indian Constitution, Cyber Law, Law Relating to Intellectual Property Rights, and NPTEL courses on System Network & Administration have integrated themes of peace, sustainability, love, mental well-being, human rights, digital responsibility, and cybersecurity through curriculum mapping exercises. UHV focuses on peace, sustainability, and love; applied philosophy, psychology, and sociology study mental functions and behaviors to support harmony in society; Indian Constitution covers constitutional provisions and human rights; cyber law and IPR courses explore the impact of technology, privacy issues, cybercrimes, and legal frameworks for intellectual property; while system network and administration courses emphasize securing digital systems. These courses sensitize students to ethical, social, and technological responsibilities, promoting inclusive growth, societal harmony, and sustainable practices.

Three Days Spiritual and Educational Trip to Rishikesh and Patanjali Yogpeeth

The School of Management and Commerce, Manav Rachna University, organized a three-day educational and spiritual trip for 31 BBA students to Patanjali Yogpeeth, Haridwar, and Rishikesh from 23rd–25th February 2024. The trip aimed to promote personal growth, cultural awareness, and holistic well-being through activities like yoga, meditation, visits to ashrams, and exploration of Ayurvedic practices. Students experienced the Ganga Aarti, explored local markets, and enjoyed adventure activities such as white-water rafting, which fostered teamwork and leadership skills. The stay at a riverside campsite added to the rejuvenating experience. The trip provided practical exposure to business concepts, cultural sensitivity, and wellness practices. Overall, it was a transformative journey blending academic learning with personal and professional development.



Spiritual and Educational Trip to Rishikesh and Patanjali Yogpeeth



5 Days FDP on Curriculum Development Aligned With NEP-2020 (ICT-29, CDC-6)

The Department of Sciences-Mathematics, Manav Rachna University, in collaboration with NITTR Chandigarh, organized a 5-Day Faculty Development Programme (1–5 July 2024) on “Curriculum Development Aligned with NEP 2020”. The programme aimed to train faculty on curriculum design, outcome-based education, and the use of technology in teaching. Sessions by eminent experts like Dr. P.S. Grover, Dr. Sanjeev Sofat, Prof. B.S. Pabla, and Dr. Jyotirmoyee Dutta covered Bloom’s Taxonomy, OBE, historical reforms, academia-industry linkages, and the National Credit Framework.

The discussions highlighted learner-centered approaches, employability skills, and flexible, interdisciplinary curriculum frameworks as envisioned in NEP 2020. The FDP concluded with feedback and a valedictory session, where participants expressed that the programme was insightful and beneficial. Overall, it provided faculty members with practical strategies to enhance teaching practices and align curricula effectively with NEP 2020.



2.1.2 Community Projects

The "Code for Good" Hackathon (June 22-23, 2024):

The "Code for Good" Hackathon organized by JPMorgan Chase on June 22–23, 2024 provided students with an opportunity to develop technology-based solutions for non-profit organizations, promoting transparency, accountability, and access to resources. As part of JPMC's Tech for Social Good program, the hackathon aimed to strengthen institutional effectiveness and address real-world challenges faced by NGOs, fostering innovation, collaboration, and social impact in alignment with SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

2.1.3 Capacity Building & Engagement

2.1.3.1 Guest Lectures

"The Era of Gen AI: A Masterclass on Generative AI" (30th Aug 2024)

Conducted by Mr. Anshu Pandey, Head of Technology at Blue Data Consulting, this guest lecture was aligned with SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The session aimed to foster a generation of practitioners and policymakers capable of guiding the responsible and equitable development of Generative AI. By emphasizing ethical deployment, societal impact, and collaborative approaches, it encouraged participants to leverage AI for strengthening institutions and building effective global partnerships, contributing to sustainable development and inclusive governance.



2.1.3.2. MRCPS

The Manav Rachna Centre for Peace and Sustainability (MRCPS) was established on October 2, 2019, under the visionary leadership of Dr. O.P. Bhalla, an eminent academician and nation-builder dedicated to promoting knowledge, ethics, and values as the foundation of peace and sustainability. Conceived as a hub for academic initiatives, research, policy dialogue, and community engagement, MRCPS provides a safe and neutral platform for meaningful discussions among diverse political stakeholders, scholars, policymakers, and civil society representatives. The Centre fosters open and respectful dialogue on key social, environmental, and developmental issues, enabling collaboration beyond ideological boundaries while aligning with the national agenda for peacebuilding and sustainable growth.



2.1.3.3 The Legal Aid Cell:

The Legal Aid Cell plays a vital role in promoting justice and legal awareness among underserved communities. It provides essential legal assistance, education, and awareness through various outreach initiatives, ensuring that marginalized groups are informed of their legal rights and available support. Additionally, the Cell actively engages students by offering practical legal exposure and opportunities for community service, fostering a sense of social responsibility and experiential learning. To further its mission, the Legal Aid Cell regularly organizes legal camps and counselling sessions, creating accessible platforms for individuals to seek guidance and resolve legal issues effectively.

2.1.3.4 The Alumni Cell:

Alumni engagement plays a vital role in shaping the future of our institution. Their valuable feedback contributes significantly to the continuous improvement of curriculum and academic quality, ensuring that our programs remain relevant and impactful. Alumni actively participate in mentorship programs, collaborative projects, and institutional development initiatives, fostering a strong sense of community and shared growth. Furthermore, our feedback mechanisms address key areas such as skill development, ethical standards, and employability readiness, helping us prepare students for successful careers and responsible citizenship.

2.1.3.5 Consultancy Services & Research Laboratories Engagement:

MRU is distinguished by its expertise in software development, engineering, management programs, and legal consultancy, providing comprehensive solutions to various industry and academic needs. Our collaborations include renowned partners such as the Daikin Centre of Excellence, IIT Madras and Envitran Smart System Pvt. Ltd. for air purifier research, and AY Ventures for startup mentorship. Additionally, we work closely with esteemed institutions like the Atal Innovation Mission and the Indian Institute of Banking & Finance, among others, to strengthen education and research initiatives. These engagements reflect our commitment to fostering innovation, advancing research, and creating impactful industry-academic partnerships.

2.1.3.6 Centres of Excellence:

Manav Rachna University hosts specialized Centres of Excellence, including the Centre of Excellence on Alternative Dispute Resolution (CADR) and the Centre for Legislative Studies and Research (CLSR). The CADR, functioning within the School of Law, is dedicated to advancing research and practice in alternative conflict resolution methods such as arbitration and mediation. It offers targeted training programs, seminars, and simulation exercises designed to equip participants with practical ADR skills; all aligned with legal standards and institutional goals. Meanwhile, the CLSR, established in September 2020, focuses on enhancing legislative processes through rigorous research and analysis. Its key activities include reviewing pending bills, supporting effective legislation, evaluating existing laws, and promoting best practices in legislative drafting. The CLSR operates with a high degree of autonomy, enabling it to undertake research projects, provide training, and offer analytical support to legislative bodies, thereby fostering legislative excellence and informed policymaking. Both centres exemplify the university's commitment to research-driven education and policy support in their respective domains.

2.1.3.7 O.P. Bhalla Foundation:

The O.P. Bhalla Foundation honours the legacy of Dr. O.P. Bhalla by promoting academic excellence and ethical leadership. The foundation actively supports scholarships, mentorship programs, research grants, and youth empowerment initiatives to nurture the next generation

of responsible leaders. It collaborates with academic institutions, industry partners, and community organizations to foster a culture of ethical behaviour, civic responsibility, peace, sustainability, and inclusive growth. Through these efforts, the foundation aims to create a positive impact on society while upholding Dr. Bhalla's enduring values.

2.1.3.8 Anti-Ragging Committee and Squad:

The Anti-Ragging Committee and Squad comprise senior internal members and external stakeholders dedicated to maintaining campus safety and fostering a harassment-free environment. The committee implements strict policies and proactive measures to prevent ragging incidents, ensuring a secure and respectful atmosphere for all students. Through vigilance, awareness campaigns, and swift action, the squad works tirelessly to uphold the dignity and safety of the university community and conducts a lot of activities to sensitise students.

The University organizes intensive **Boot Camps and Training Programs** focused on legal drafting, mediation, legislative practice, and other governance-oriented skills. These programs are designed to build capacity among students and faculty, equipping them with practical expertise that can effectively serve government institutions and enhance public governance. By fostering hands-on learning and skill development, the University aims to prepare participants for real-world challenges in legal and legislative domains.

2.1.3.9 Radio Manav Rachna & Public Engagement Platforms:

Through Radio Manav Rachna and other media platforms, the University actively engages with the public by disseminating legal, legislative, and governance-related content. Faculty and researchers utilize these platforms to share expert insights, raise awareness, and extend knowledge beyond academic circles. This outreach not only educates the broader community but also contributes to fostering an informed and participative governance ecosystem.

Manav Rachna University actively undertakes **outreach, awareness, and capacity-building initiatives** aimed at empowering policymakers and government officials. Through specialized training programs, academic collaborations, and public education efforts, the University ensures that law and policy makers are equipped with the necessary knowledge and analytical skills to address emerging societal and governance challenges. These initiatives enable officials

to gain deeper insights into the issues they encounter and adopt evidence-based approaches in decision-making. By partnering with various government bodies and institutions, Manav Rachna University leverages its academic expertise and research resources to strengthen governance capacities and promote informed, effective policymaking.

2.1.3.10 Education and outreach of the police officials:

Manav Rachna University regularly conducts outreach and training sessions for police officials to enhance their understanding of criminal laws and their practical application. These programs focus on the nuances of substantive and procedural criminal law, recent legal developments, and the implications of judicial precedents. The sessions aim to sensitize officers on contemporary issues such as rights of the accused, victim protection, investigation procedures, and ethical law enforcement. By fostering dialogue between academia and law enforcement, the University helps bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and ground realities, empowering police officials to perform their duties with greater legal awareness, sensitivity, and professionalism.





2.1.3.11 Interactive Discourse:

The University organized a vibrant and engaging convocation ceremony that served as a platform for intellectual dialogue and discussion. The event reaffirmed its commitment to free expression, academic exchange, and inclusive learning. A key highlight was an interactive session with a distinguished scholar and scientist who shared profound insights on higher education, research, and scientific innovation, enriching the academic discourse. In addition, the University recognized and honoured individuals who have made exceptional contributions across various fields by conferring honorary degrees. The presence of these eminent personalities, including a celebrated boxer and a former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, served to inspire the academic community. Their achievements exemplify the University's vision of fostering excellence, leadership, and national service through education.

2.1.3.12 Innovation & Incubation Centre

IIC is created to develop a culture of Innovation and Incubation among the students and faculty members. It creates an ecosystem where innovative ideas are cultivated from Ideation to Pre-Incubation, Incubation, finally resulting in successful start-ups. It further provide a state-of-the-art infrastructure and mentorship support to the students in their Innovation and Startup Journey.



3. EVENT REPORT

3.1.1 Youth for Peace online workshop

Date: July 6, 2023

Purpose:

The Manav Rachna Centre for Peace and Sustainability aim to empower and inspire youth to become leaders of positive change by fostering a culture of peace and sustainable development.

About the event:

The Manav Rachna Centre for Peace and Sustainability celebrated a significant milestone on July 6, 2023, by hosting the "Youth for Peace" workshop—an event that exemplified the institution's commitment to fostering a culture of peace and sustainable development. Conducted via Google Meet, the workshop provided a dynamic platform for youth engagement, bringing together eager participants from diverse backgrounds. The highlight of the event was the presence of Ms. Shweta Bhatnagar, a distinguished speaker renowned for her expertise in peace-building and conflict resolution.

Ms. Bhatnagar's insights proved invaluable as she shared strategies to empower the youth in their pursuit of peace in an increasingly turbulent world. The workshop seamlessly

blended discussions and activities, creating an enriching experience for the participants. The event not only drew enthusiastic engagement but also left attendees motivated and equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to contribute positively to global peace and sustainability initiatives. This successful workshop stands as a testament to the Manav Rachna Centre for Peace and Sustainability unwavering dedication to nurturing young leaders of change. By continuing to be at the forefront of promoting harmony and sustainability in the modern world, the institution reaffirms its role as a beacon for those committed to creating a more peaceful and sustainable future. As the Center celebrates its one-year anniversary, this event further underscores its vital role in shaping the next generation's commitment to peace and sustainability.

3.1.2 Just a Minute Debate Competition on Peace Conflict and Resolution

Title: Just a Minute Debate Competition on Peace Conflict and Resolution

Date: September 21, 2023

On September 21, 2023, at 2 pm, the Manav Rachna Centre for Peace and Sustainability hosted a compelling training session marked as JF05, focusing on Model United Nations (MUN) as a platform for debate. The primary theme addressed was "Peace and Conflict Management," aligning with the centre's commitment to fostering understanding and solutions in these crucial areas. The event skilfully transformed the complexities of the topic into a concise oral narrative, resembling a distilled book presentation. Participants were engaged in exploring the nuanced youth philosophy and their unique perspectives on envisioning peace and addressing conflicts.

The session at JF05 served as a meaningful convergence point for individuals passionate about global affairs and diplomacy. Through the oral format, attendees gained insights into the intricacies of peacebuilding and conflict resolution, navigating through the diverse perspectives and visions presented by the youth. The Centre's initiative not only facilitated a deeper understanding of the subject matter but also encouraged thoughtful discourse among the participants. Overall, the training session on September 21, 2023, was a testament to the Manav Rachna Centre for Peace and Sustainability dedication to promoting informed dialogue and empowering the youth to play an active role in shaping a more peaceful and sustainable world. The event successfully merged the academic rigor

of MUN with the imperative issues of peace and conflict, contributing to a richer discourse within the academic community.



3.1.3 Session on Sexual Harassment

Title: Session on sexual harassment

Date: December 13, 2023

Venue: I block auditorium, Manav Rachna University

Manleen Kaur, a distinguished expert in the realm of Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH), recently conducted an enlightening session on the subject for faculty and staff members. With a rich background as a POSH specialist, legal educator, and former Assistant Registrar at the Supreme Court of India, Kaur brought a wealth of knowledge and practical insights to the discussion. Her expertise in the field, coupled with her academic prowess, made the session highly informative and engaging. The attendees gained valuable perspectives on handling and preventing instances of sexual harassment in academic and professional settings, making the session a significant contribution to fostering a safe and respectful environment within the educational institution. During the session, Manleen Kaur delved into the intricacies of the legal framework surrounding sexual harassment, providing a comprehensive understanding of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the workplace. As a seasoned academician, Kaur not only elucidated the legal aspects but also emphasized the cultural and behavioural shifts necessary to create a harmonious work atmosphere. The session, tailored for faculties and staff, fostered an open dialogue, empowering participants with the tools and knowledge needed to

contribute actively to the creation of a workplace free from harassment. Manleen Kaur's dual roles as a legal expert and an academician allowed her to bridge the gap between theory and practice, leaving a lasting impact on the participants and reinforcing the institution's commitment to maintaining a safe and inclusive work environment.



3.1.4 Peace and Values Session

Title: Peace and Values session

Date: January 11, 2024

Venue: I Block Auditorium, Manav Rachna University

The "Transformative Wellness Workshop: Cultivating a Healthy Self Through Positive Affirmations" unfolded with a captivating blend of knowledge and interactive activities, leaving a profound impact on participants. Ritika's warm welcome set the stage for an enlightening journey guided by guest of honour Dr Binny Sareen, a Peace Ambassador and Chairperson of Values for Women Economic Forum All India. Esteemed guests, including Dean Academics Shruti Ma'am, Dean Student Welfare MRU Geeta ma'am Dean Student Welfare MRIIRS Gurjeet ma'am Director IQAC Deepa ma'am shared valuable insights, contributing to the event's depth. The symbolic gesture of presenting a sapling to Dr. Binny Sareen expressed gratitude for her efforts in promoting holistic wellness.

Dr Sareen's workshop, enriched with engaging activities and practical exercises, illuminated the power of positive affirmations. The event's conclusion, marked by closing remarks from Dr Geeta Thakur and the presentation of inspiring quotes adorned photo frames, resonated with gratitude. The harmonious blend of knowledge, interactive learning, and positive affirmations left participants with renewed well-being, equipped with tools for cultivating a healthier self.

Such events play a crucial role in fostering individual and community well-being, providing practical skills for managing stress and promoting positive mindsets.

Beyond immediate benefits, these gatherings contribute to the cultivation of healthy habits, empowerment, and increased confidence, fostering a community characterized by support and shared commitment to overall well-being. The "Transformative Wellness Workshop" stands as a testament to the collaborative efforts of the organizers, speakers, and participants in creating a space for learning, introspection, and positive transformation.



3.1.5 Visit to Ambedkar Bhawan

Title: Visit to Ambedkar Bhawan for attending seminar

Date: February 21, 2024

Venue: Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, 15 Janpath Road, New Delhi

AI for Inclusion in Learning Languages', held on February 21, 2024, at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi, commemorated International Mother Tongue Day. Organized collaboratively by UNESCO MGIEP and BHASHINI, the event aimed to explore

the intersection of artificial intelligence and language learning, with a focus on promoting inclusivity and accessibility.

Panel Discussion: A highlight of the event was the insightful panel discussion moderated by Shaitanshu, which featured prominent figures in the field. Among them were Amitabh Nag, representing BHASHINI, Dr. Nandani Chatterjee, a distinguished neuroscientist, Aneesha Jyoti, CEO of *Language Curry*, and Dipakshi, a seasoned professional from Intel with industry expertise.

The discussion delved into various aspects of AI for language inclusion, addressing both technological advancements and their socio-cultural implications. Amitabh Nag elucidated on BHASHINI's endeavors to enhance linguistic inclusivity through AI-driven solutions, highlighting the app's versatility in addressing the diverse linguistic needs of users across India. Dr. Nandani Chatterjee provided valuable insights from neuroscience, emphasizing the profound impact of language on brain development and cognition. Her expertise shed light on the neuroplasticity involved in language learning, underscoring the significance of learning in one's mother tongue. Aneesha Jyoti shared her experiences as the CEO of *Language Curry*, an app dedicated to promoting Indian language learning. She emphasized the importance of colloquial learning and inclusivity in language education, advocating for personalized and accessible language learning solutions. Dipakshi, representing Intel, provided a unique perspective on the role of language in building trust and clarity in digital products. She highlighted the challenges posed by language barriers in technology adoption and emphasized the need for equitable access to digital services, particularly in linguistically diverse regions.

Throughout the discussion, Shaitanshu adeptly navigated the conversation, posing thought-provoking questions and eliciting comprehensive responses from the panelists. The exchange of ideas and insights was enriched by the diverse backgrounds and expertise of the panelists, fostering a holistic understanding of the multifaceted issues surrounding AI and language inclusion.

Presentation by Manav Rachna University: Among the attendees were representatives from Manav Rachna University, including Dr. Geeta, the Dean of Student Welfare. Dr. Geeta delivered a compelling presentation highlighting MRU's innovative initiatives in leveraging technology for societal impact. She emphasized MRU's commitment to promoting linguistic

diversity and inclusivity through projects such as ‘Sustained’ and ‘SDGquest’. Dr. Geeta showcased MRU's collaboration with local communities and educational institutions to develop online courses and educational tools aimed at fostering sustainability and social responsibility.

Dr. Geeta's presentation resonated with the event's theme, demonstrating MRU's dedication to harnessing technology for inclusive education and societal development. Her insights further enriched the dialogue, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts in leveraging AI for language inclusion and education.



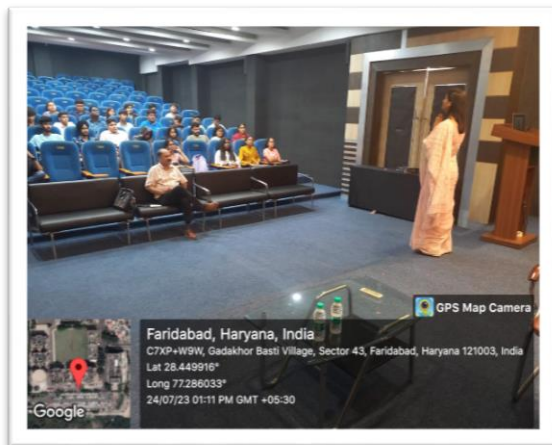
3.1.6 Session - A lesson for Management

Event: Management Lessons from Gita

Date: 24th July, 2023

Time: 1pm- 2pm.

An interesting session was taken by Dr. Bindu Aggarwal. Topic “A lesson for Management, Shree Mad Bhagwat Geeta “. The session highlighted the Management Concept on Geeta. Dr Bindu presented the four lessons depicting Role and Responsibility (Dharma) Directions, Empathy, Karma, and leadership. The students were involved in different activities related to self-awareness and different types of leadership.



4. PATENTS

4.1. Cloud Computing Based Digital Forensic Investigation System Implemented with Machine

A secure cloud-based platform for digital evidence analysis. Uses machine learning to detect anomalies and classify cyber incidents. Ensures data integrity through encryption and access control. Aids law enforcement and cybersecurity professionals in investigations.

Impact Metrics

Outcome Highlights (2023–24)

Impact Area	Evidence of Outcome
Legal & Civic Awareness	Legal aid camps and rights-awareness sessions educated communities about access to justice and institutional accountability.
Youth Sensitization	3 school/NGO visits engaged over 200 children in themes of peace, justice, and inclusivity.
Early Awareness	SDG 16 sensitization programs in schools raised awareness on governance, rights, and democratic participation.

Impact Area	Evidence of Outcome
Learning Outcomes	Students developed deeper understanding of ethics, governance, and justice through projects, curriculum integration, and discussions.
Civic Engagement	Initiatives like <i>Project Kuch Kehna Hai</i> promoted child rights, cyber safety, and personal freedoms in vulnerable communities.

These impact metrics reflect MRU’s commitment to **advancing peace, justice, and strong institutions** through education, outreach, and civic responsibility.

4.2 Partnerships addressing SDG 16

Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between Manav Rachna University and various organizations for activities such as internships, training, research, student and faculty exchange, and collaborative projects. These partnerships strengthen institutional accountability, promote civic responsibility, and foster access to justice. The **School of Law** at Manav Rachna University, along with its collaborators, conducts free legal aid trials and awareness camps to ensure justice for underprivileged communities. The **Manav Rachna Centre for Peace and Sustainability (MRCPS)** partnered with the **Institute of Peace Research & Action (IPRA)** for book donations (around 400) to underserved students, fostering knowledge-sharing and civic empowerment. The **Department of Computer Science and Engineering**, in association with **ICT Academy**, organized Honeywell Youth Empowerment Training (3rd–20th Jan 2023) on advanced IT and cybersecurity skills, promoting responsible digital citizenship and transparency.

By engaging with industries, NGOs, and institutions, these collaborations enable students to apply academic knowledge to real-world justice, governance, and peace-building challenges, thereby contributing meaningfully to **SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions**.

NGOs with which MRU collaborated:



Yuvsatta Youth for Peace



Dr. O P Bhalla Foundation



Sahaj Path



Civil 20 India 2023



Yes We Can (NGO)



Innovation & Incubation Centre



Roshni Education Society, Faridabad



Khushi Ek Ehsaas NGO



Prakashdeep Trust Schools

5. Challenges and Lessons Learned

5.1 Institutional or External Challenges

Challenge Area	Details
Limited Documentation & Tracking	Several SDG 16-aligned initiatives (legal aid, peace programs, awareness drives) are conducted across departments, but centralized tracking and systematic documentation remain a challenge. Many impactful activities are not formally mapped to SDG 16.
Resource Constraints	Legal awareness camps, peace education workshops, and outreach programs often face funding, logistics, and manpower limitations, especially during large-scale initiatives.
Community Engagement Barriers	Engaging with vulnerable communities on sensitive issues like justice, rights, or governance sometimes involves bureaucratic hurdles, cultural sensitivities, or lack of trust, which can affect continuity.
Awareness Gaps in Curriculum	Although some SDG 16 themes are included in law, sociology, and governance-related courses, not all faculty and students fully understand the SDG 16 framework or its practical relevance.
Sustainability of Interventions	Ensuring long-term impact of legal aid camps, peace projects, and governance awareness drives remains difficult without dedicated follow-up mechanisms.

5.2 Reflections and Improvements

Area of Reflection	Improvement Action Taken / Planned
Cross-functional Coordination	The Centre for Peace and Sustainability initiated structured collaborations across departments for SDG 16-aligned planning, reporting, and monitoring.
Institutional Mapping Framework	Curriculum mapping exercises now explicitly link courses and learning outcomes to SDG 16 themes (e.g., governance, human rights, justice, ethics).
Enhanced Volunteer Engagement	Students are appointed as SDG 16 ambassadors and coordinators in legal aid camps, awareness drives, and civic engagement programs to foster leadership and accountability.
Documentation and Reporting	Structured reporting formats with SDG 16 tagging, clear outcomes, and volunteer data have been introduced to strengthen institutional accountability and transparency.
Scalable Models of Impact	Pilot programs like rights-awareness workshops, school visits, and peace education sessions are now designed with replicable models for future scale-up.

5.3 Lessons Learned:

For SDG 16, the key lesson learned is the need for measurable legal aid and peace initiatives, supported by multi-year collaborations that ensure continuity and impact. Student engagement as SDG 16 Ambassadors further strengthens civic responsibility and institutional outreach.