

**5TH RGNUL MULTIDISCIPLINARY CONGRESS**  
**ON**  
**FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN SOUTH ASIAN REGION**

**August 31, 2019**



**Organised by:**

**School of Social Sciences and Inter-disciplinary Studies  
and Alternative Dispute Resolution Cell,  
Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab**



**In collaboration with:**

**Centre for Trade and Investment Law, New Delhi**



## **About the Organisers**

Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), Punjab, was established by the State Legislature of Punjab by passing the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab Act, 2006 (Punjab Act No. 12 of 2006). The Act incorporated a University of Law of national stature in Punjab, thereby fulfilling the need for a Centre of Excellence in legal education in the modern era of globalization and liberalization. RGNUL started functioning from its Headquarters-Mohindra Kothi, The Mall, Patiala w.e.f. 26 May 2006. The University acquired approval of the Bar Council of India (BCI) in July 2006. The University also got registered with the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi under Section 2(f) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 and has been declared fit to obtain grant from the (UGC) under Section 12-B of the UGC Act, 1956.

The University has also set up research centres to promote research and related activities. In consonance with the Objectives of Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), Punjab, the School of Social Sciences and Inter-disciplinary Studies (SSSIS) has been established at the University. The SSSIS has been established to foster the social aspect of all learning. The School promotes the idea of inter-disciplinary studies and research. SSSIS plans to develop a degree on social sciences.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Cell (ADRC) has been established to promote students' interest in Alternative Dispute Resolution constituting dispute resolution methods like Arbitration, Negotiation, Mediation and Conciliation. These methods gained momentum in the country in past few decades. Thanks to the efforts of Legal Services Authorities under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, and other initiatives, ADR mechanisms have now become a part of Indian justice delivery system. These dispute resolution methods, though more economical and faster are not yet very popular among common Indian masses. ADRC endeavors to promote and develop ADR as a vehicle of socio-economic and political justice. The ultimate objective of the Cell is to strengthen ADR mechanism in the country by emerging as a platform for students to further their interests in the field. A strong team of teachers and students is working towards achieving this end.

## **About Centre for Trade and Investment Law, our collaborator**

The Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL), New Delhi, was established in the year 2016 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT). The Centre's primary objective is to provide sound and rigorous analysis of legal issues pertaining to international trade and investment law to the Government of India and other governmental agencies. The Centre is aiming to create a dedicated pool of legal experts that who could provide technical inputs for enhancing India's participation in international trade and investment negotiations and dispute settlement. The Centre also aims to be a thought leader in the various domains of international economic law such as WTO law, international investment law and legal issues relating to economic integration.

It is CTIL's mission to identify, analyse and provide creative ideas and perspectives to influence the international discourse on wide ranging aspects of international economic law. The Centre engages on a regular basis with different stakeholders including central and state governments, think-tanks, research centres, national law schools and other institutions rendering legal education in international economic law, independent legal professionals, industry organizations and the private sector. The Centre is also conceived as a ready repository of trade and investment related information including updates on ongoing trade negotiations and disputes.

## Concept Note

The period of 1990s brought enormous changes in overall development of countries, especially those, which were opening their economies for the first time. For example countries of South Asian Region (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Afghanistan, Maldives, Bhutan) The basic indicators of development including economic growth, physical and human capital formation, economic welfare, happiness index, etc have improved in most of the South Asian Countries, much due to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

*“Investment abroad also means to play in a new and unknown playground.”*

- R. H. Christie

FDI is a dynamic trend as it involves internal economic policies of a country, its bilateral as well as multilateral trade relations, internal economic organisations, other international platforms and Multinational Corporations (MNCs), etc. FDI is one of the channels for financing Green projects in South Asian countries. The label of ‘Green FDI’ has emerged to identify those investments that aim to achieve the environmental objectives for instance conservation projects, investment in renewable energies, reforestation, etc.

South Asian countries have advantageous position to attract FDI for example, steady economic growth, single digit inflation, vast domestic markets, growing number of skilled personnel and increasing entrepreneurial class and so on. On the other hand these countries face economic challenges due to FDI for example MNCs bringing FDI generally monopolise resources, introduce inappropriate technology and also create the problem of unfavourable balance of payments. These countries face political challenges as Foreign Direct ‘Investment’ tends to become foreign direct ‘intervention’ by jeopardising civil liberties, undermining socio-cultural environment and political rights, rights of indigenous people, thereby creating trust deficit towards FDI.

The investors also face a number of challenges in FDI. Investors have to place their money in a foreign environment under different laws, different rights and duties, and with unknown future protection of their investments. Security is necessary to promote foreign investment which is recognized as one of the driving forces in supporting development in developing countries. The need for protection is the reason for various measures introduced by governments to secure investments by following the system of foreign dispute settlement under the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) in

combination with Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs). The 5th RGNUL Multidisciplinary Congress on Foreign Direct Investment in South Asian Region aims to look into the above mentioned and other interdisciplinary aspects of Foreign Direct Investment in South Asian countries. The participants are invited to send abstracts followed by papers on the themes of the seminar.

### **Sub-Themes of Conference**

- Regional Disparities in Foreign Direct Investment in India and its consequences
- Foreign Direct Investment and Green Finance (Environmental Concerns, Energy Concerns)
- Foreign Direct Investment in South Asian Region: A Sectoral Analysis
- Country specific Foreign Direct Investment: Challenges in South Asian countries
- Foreign Direct Investment inflows in India: Trends, Policies and Implications
- Challenges and Future prospects of Foreign Direct Investment
- Intra South Asia: Regional integration and Foreign Direct Investment
- Socio Political Conflicts in Foreign Direct Investment in South Asia
- WTO Agreement on TRIMS and flow of Foreign Direct Investment
- Foreign Direct Investment and Investment Treaty Arbitration
- International Trade and Investment Dispute Settlement

*\*The above mentioned themes are not exhaustive; participants can send papers on related themes as well.*

### **Call for Papers**

Seminar papers are invited from academicians, practitioners, researchers, scholars and students on the issues related to specified themes. Authors of selected papers would be given an opportunity to present their papers on the day of the seminar in person. In case of non-availability of the Author, option of Web Conferencing is available. The slots for the Web Conferencing would be uploaded on the University Website.

## Important dates

Last Date of Abstract Submission	25 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019
Acceptance of Abstract	30 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019
Full Paper Submission (Soft Copy)	30 <sup>th</sup> July, 2019
Full Paper Submission (Hard Copy)	25 <sup>th</sup> August, 2019

## Submission Guidelines

- The papers must be submitted in English language only and must be in Microsoft Word format (.doc/.docx). Papers in any other format/language will not be accepted.
- The abstract of the paper should contain 300 – 350 words accompanied by a brief profile of the author indicating his email ID, contact number and official address.
- The paper should not be of more than 6000 words. It must be typed in Times New Roman, Font Size 12 on A4 size paper with 1” margin on all sides with 1.5 line spacing.
- Follow RLR Guidelines for the citation, available at the RGNUL website (<https://www.rgnul.ac.in/PDF/6ab5d512-208c-4a68-be1c-5a6fda5f857d.pdf>).
- By participating in this congress, participants agree to assign exclusive copyright in the work to RGNUL and its affiliates. RGNUL shall be entitled to, without limitation, publish the paper (or part(s) thereof) in any manner it sees fit (with due acknowledgement to the author) and edit the entries for publication without permission from or further notice to the participant.
- The papers should be the original work of the author. Any kind of plagiarism will lead to disqualification. The papers published elsewhere or selected/submitted for publication elsewhere shall also be disqualified. Further, the author will be solely responsible for any claim, suit or damages based on copyright infringement, unauthorized use or plagiarism. The University will not be liable for any such claim.

## Submission Procedure

- The papers (soft copy) must be sent by email to [5mdcrgnul@gmail.com](mailto:5mdcrgnul@gmail.com) with the subject “*Submission for the 5th RGNUL Multidisciplinary Congress*” on or before the last date of full paper submission (soft copy).
- A hard copy of the single side printed full paper should be sent on or before the last date of full paper submission (hard copy) to the Convenor(s) at the address mentioned below.
- The paper and details of the author must be submitted as separate documents in the same e-mail.

## Publication

Please note that ten (10) papers shall be selected for the publication in the form of an edited book. RGNUL reserves the right to amend, modify, change or repeal any of the papers at any point of time without notice.

## Registration Details

Registration Fees Structure	
Student/Research Scholar	Rs. 500 Rs. 800 (in case of co- authorship)
Academicians/Professionals/Others	Rs. 800 Rs. 1200 (in case of co-authorship)
Foreign Participants	US\$ 50

Registration is open from the date of announcement of the conference. Participants can register themselves and pay the registration fee through the online payment link:

<https://www.rgnulerp.org/lisa/eventPortal/loginFrom.jsp>.

Please note that the last date of the submission of registration fee is **30 July 2019**.

## Further Details

The Accommodation will be arranged for the out-station participants on prior-request basis.

## Contact Details

For any queries or clarifications, please feel free to contact the undersigned:

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Or reach us at [5mdcrgnul@gmail.com](mailto:5mdcrgnul@gmail.com) with the subject “*Query-5th RGNUL Multidisciplinary Congress*”.

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