



Talk & Discussion on
"Supreme Court Judgments on Human Rights, Mining and the Environment"

With
[Dr. Colin Gonsalves](#)

Organised by
[The Centre for Public Policy & Governance](#)
[Goa Institute of Management](#)

Date & time: Saturday, 26th July 2025, 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm IST

Venue: Zuari Hall, The International Centre Goa, Dona Paula
and live streaming on GIM YouTube

GIM YouTube live-stream:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/nDQFtDMMtow?si=cIGv3lvtRWK5NX8B>

Keynote speaker

Dr. Colin Gonsalves



[Dr. Colin Gonsalves](#) is the Founder of Human Rights Law Network (HRLN), India's leading public interest law group. Upon attaining his law degree in 1983, he co-founded the Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) and developed it into a national organization bringing together over 200 lawyers and paralegals operating out of 28 offices spread throughout India. Dr. Gonsalves transitioned his practice from the Labour Courts to the Bombay High Court in 1984 and was designated as Senior Advocate, before moving onto the Supreme Court of India in 2000. He has brought numerous precedent-setting cases to the Supreme Court and the High Courts of various states. Amongst these cases was the "Right to Food" case in the Supreme Court of India which ordered subsidized grains to be given to 700 million poor persons. He has written, edited and co-edited a number of articles and books on a range of human rights law issues. He was presented with the "International Human Rights Award" by the American Bar Association in 2005. In 2010, he was conferred a Doctorate of the University, honoris causa, by the University of Middlesex, UK. He was given the "Mother Teresa Memorial Award" for Social Justice "in recognition of remarkable contribution in legal services addressing human rights" in 2010 and an Award of the Centre for Reproductive Rights, New York, 2015

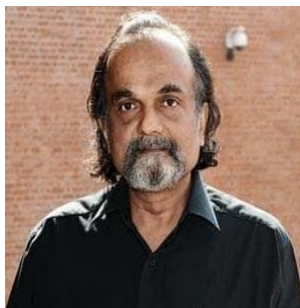
– for Pioneering and Exemplary Leadership in Advancing Women’s Reproductive Rights and Social Justice in India. He was awarded the Right Livelihood Award 2017. Most recently Dr. Gonsalves was involved in two important climate change cases, the Chardham case in the Himalayas and the coastal road case in Mumbai, a series of important abortion rights cases, the premature release of prisoners who were incarcerated for long periods of time, in cases involving non-violent social activists who were granted statutory bail, the demolition of the houses of the poor at Haldwani which were stayed by the Supreme Court, a series of petitions done during the Covid period on health rights, cases on behalf of migrant workers who were forced to leave the cities and walk hundreds of kms to their villages, the social boycott of Dalits in the state of Haryana, the protection of farmers rights, the protection of tribals across India who were threatened with mass eviction and so on. For more about Dr. Gonsalves see (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colin_Gonsalves).

Context of the talk

Mining in India continues to be massively destructive of the environment and hurtful to the people who stay in and around the mining areas. But the worst effects are on the Adivasi community. Large scale mining in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and elsewhere destroys their lives and leads to displacement. The Supreme Court intervened time and again to prevent tribal lands being sold to non-tribals in the extraordinary Samatha Judgment and even declared Government to be “non-tribal” so that even PSUs could not mine in “Scheduled Areas”. In the successful struggle of the tribals of Odisha against the North Korean giant conglomerate POSCO, the Supreme Court decisions prevented cutting of trees and mining in the tribal areas.

The battle between the indigenous people and the corporations is reaching a crescendo, but lately the Judiciary is apparently losing interest in Human Rights, Tribal Rights and the Protection of the Environment. What will the future hold for the next generation?

Discussant



[Prof. Sebastian Morris](#) is Senior Professor and Chair of the Centre for Public Policy and Governance at the Goa Institute of Management. He retired from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad after over 25 years of teaching, research and consultation. His principal interests are the Indian economy, infrastructure development and regulation, the public sector and governance, international trade and investments, macroeconomics, and small industry. His recent books have been: *Macroeconomic Policy in India since the Global Financial Crisis - Trends, Policies and Challenges in Economic Revival Post COVID* (Springer Nature, 2022); (ed.) *The Difficulty of Being Gajendra Haldea - Reflections on His Life and Legacy* (Bloomsbury, 2023) and (ed.) *The India Infrastructure Report 2023 – Urban Planning and Development* (Bloomsbury, 2023).

Moderator



[Prof. Kingshuk Sarkar](#) is Associate Professor and Chair of the General Management and Public Policy Area at the Goa Institute of Management. He’s also a member of the CPPG. He had earlier served as labour administrator for more than two decades with the Govt. of West Bengal. His interests include labour & industrial economics, development economics, business economics, labour administration and labour laws, plantation economics and labour, labour laws and labour administration, employment relations and informal labour. In the past, he has worked as a faculty at the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida specializing in labour laws and labour administration. He has also worked as Assistant Professor in the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, in connection with works related to BPL Census 2011.

Schedule of the event

4.15 pm to 5.00 pm	Registration and Refreshments
5.00 pm to 5.05 pm	Welcome (Ms. Bernice de Souza)
5.05 pm to 5.15 pm	Introductory Remarks by Prof. Ajit Parulekar, Director, GIM
5.15 pm to 5.20 pm	Setting the Context (Prof. Sebastian Morris, Chair, CPPG-GIM)
5.20 pm to 6.00 pm	Keynote address by Dr. Colin Gonsalves (Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India; Founder-Human Rights Law Network)
6.00 pm to 6.45 pm	Open session, discussion and Q&A (With Dr. Colin Gonsalves and Prof. Sebastian Morris and Q&A Moderated by Prof. Kingshuk Sarkar)
6.45 pm to 6.55 pm	Concluding remarks (Prof. Sebastian Morris, Chair, CPPG-GIM)
6.55 pm to 7.00 pm	Vote of Thanks

For any queries kindly contact:

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Venue:

The International Centre Goa (ICG), Dona Paula

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