GITAM
DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY

BENGALURU • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
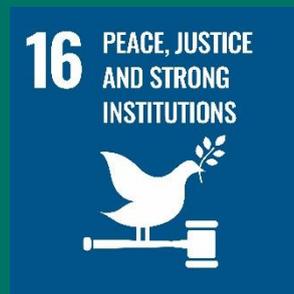
SDG # 16

Progress Report : 2022-23

GITAM University – SDG #16-Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions-Progress report 2022-23

Introduction:

Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) is focused on promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions. It seeks to reduce all forms of violence, promote the rule of law, ensure equal access to justice, and build accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. SDG 16 recognizes that the foundations of sustainable development are not just environmental and economic, but also social and political. The presence of peace, good governance, and robust institutions is essential for achieving long-term prosperity and well-being for all. This goal addresses issues such as violence, corruption, inequality, and institutional weaknesses—all of which undermine development and impede social, economic, and environmental progress. By strengthening the rule of law, promoting human rights, and ensuring effective and transparent governance, SDG 16 aims to create societies where individuals can thrive, businesses can grow, and communities can prosper in a safe and just environment.

Research:

☞ Research Publications in Scopus Index: GITAM has a relative activity index of 0.19 in its Scopus indexed publications relating to SDG16 during the reference period of 2021-2023.

☞ Projects: GITAM is supported by SERB in establishing one project. Dr. Sourav Bhowmick's research on Secure Control Algorithms Design for Distributed Formation and Containment Control Problems Subjected to Cyber Attacks is a cutting-edge study that intersects cybersecurity, control systems, and distributed systems—areas of crucial importance in the modern technological landscape.

Education:

Established in 2012, GITAM School of Law, Visakhapatnam, ranked among the top 10 law schools in India, focuses on quality legal education and

research. The school offers a flexible curriculum tailored to meet the needs of the legal profession.

In NIRF, 2024, GITAM School of Law secured the 37th rank, making it the sole private law institution in AP State to enter the NIRF ranking framework.

GITAM School of Law achieved a ranking of 33 in the Indian Institutional Ranking Framework in 2024, and it currently holds the top position on the IIRF ranking in the AP state.

Career 360 ranks GITAM School of Law in Visakhapatnam as one of the top 10 law schools in India.

GITAM School of Law offers

☞ BA.LLB(Hons) at Under Graduate Level
☞ BBA.LLB(Hons) at Under Graduate Level
☞ LL.M(Constitutional & Administrative Law),) at Post Graduate Level
☞ LL.M(Corporate & Commercial Laws),) at Post Graduate Level
☞ LL.M(IPR & Cyber Laws) at Post Graduate Level
☞ Ph. D. in Law

Key initiatives:

☞ GITAM has policies and systems in place to ensure the presence of peace, good governance, and to make University a strong institutions for achieving long-term prosperity and with a concern for well-being of all. A few to mention:

➢ Anti-ragging policy
➢ Anti- bribery & corruption policy
➢ Code of conduct for employees and students
➢ Grievance redressal procedure
➢ Academic freedom Policy
➢ Ethics Policy

☞ GITAM ensures that all the stakeholders would have a place and scope to

voice-out their concerns and actively participate in decision making process at various levels.

☞ The Internal Quality Assurance committee have representatives of society, management, academic and supporting staff, students, alumni, parents, NGOs, local government.

☞ The students clubs, associations, chapters, event committees all have to follow the democratic systems in their functioning.

☞ Women empowerment Cell would look into the aspects of gender and ensures no discrimination and well-being of women students and employees.

☞ Ethics Committee is in place to ensure the ethical behaviour particularly in clinical research area.

Progress:

☞ During the academic year 2022-23, in GITAM 68 legal professionals graduated under various programs.

Engagement:

☞ **Open Dias to discuss the current political scenario**:

GITAM School of Humanities and Social Sciences orchestrated an insightful Symposium on December 19, 2023 named 'Samvaad', with a theme 'Whither the I.N.D.I.A and the N.D.A.?: India's Changing Electoral Landscape,'. Dr. Rahul Verma from Center for Policy Research, Dr. Kailash K. from the University of Hyderabad, and Dr. A Chandrashekar Reddy from GITAM were the distinguished speakers. Students from various university schools involved in interactive sessions. Exploring key questions, the symposium analyzed strategies, implications, and potential shifts in political dynamics, providing a comprehensive perspective on India's electoral landscape.

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7146373341254172673

☞ **Moot-court Competitions:**

Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthi National Virtual Moot Court Competition has been one of the significant events, aimed at nurturing the advocacy skills of aspiring lawyers across the country. The competition provides a platform for law students to hone their legal research, writing, and oral advocacy skills in a simulated court environment judged by eminent legal professionals and academicians. This year's moot is particularly significant as it delves into the discipline of Criminal Law amidst a transformative era in India's legal landscape. With the recent overhaul of colonial-era criminal codes and the introduction of new criminal laws, this competition presents a unique and timely challenge for aspiring advocates. GITAM Moot Court was held from 5th to 8th of October 2023 on Intellectual Property Rights.

https://www.legalbites.in/topics/moot-court-competitions/dr-mvvs-murthi-4th-national-moot-court-competition-2023-gitam-956540

☞ GITAM Model United Nations (GMUN)

GITAM School of Law Hosts Model United Nations Conference on Cyber Security and Cyber Warfare Protection Visakhapatnam, February 21, 2023 – The GITAM School of Law proudly hosted its annual Model United Nations Conference today, gathering young delegates from across its student body to engage in a dynamic simulation of the United Nations. Students represented 70 countries, addressing the timely and critical issue of Cyber Security and Protection against Cyber Warfare. Throughout the day, participants engaged in spirited discussions and debates, mirroring the procedures and practices of the UN. Acting as country delegates, students presented national perspectives on cyber security threats, examining the impact of cyber warfare on critical infrastructure, economic stability, and individual privacy. They also discussed potential international strategies to strengthen global defenses, promote data protection, and safeguard digital sovereignty in an increasingly interconnected world. This conference offered GITAM's law students a platform to explore the complexities of international diplomacy and cyber policy, enhancing their understanding of global cyber challenges. The event concluded with each delegate committing to advancing discussions on these pressing issues, contributing to the vision of a secure, collaborative

international digital landscape.
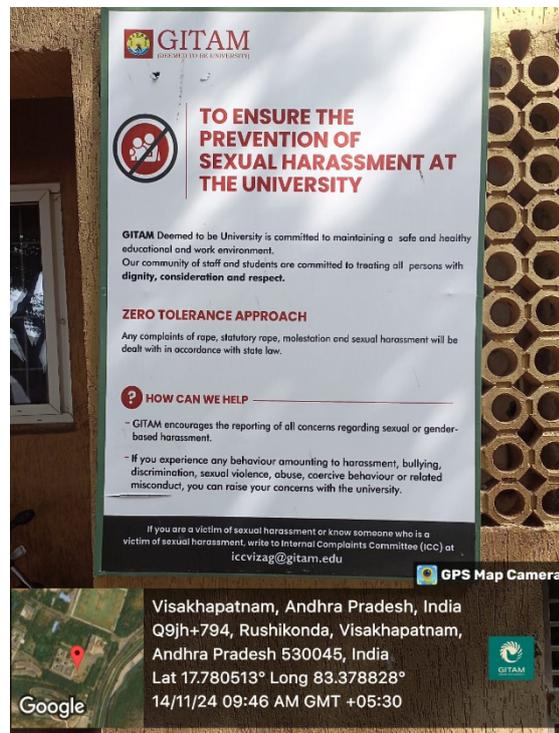
Way forward:

SDG 16 remains paramount for GITAM as it deals with Generation-Z population who grew up with rapid digital changes. In the era of smart technologies, more precisely disruptive technologies, upholding the value systems and nurturing the ethical behavior is a challenging task and GITAM with its robust systems would accomplish this goal.