



GITAM
DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY

BENGALURU • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



SDG # 16 :: Progress Report : AY 2023 - 24

GITAM University – SDG #16-Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions- Progress report 2023-24

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 2025, GITAM School of Law secured the 38th 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 34 in the Indian Institutional Ranking Framework in 2025, 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 2024-25, in GITAM 87 legal professionals graduated under various programs.

Engagement:

☞ Moot-court Competitions:

Moot Court 2024 The GITAM Moot & Advocacy Committee (GMAC) of GITAM School of Law, Visakhapatnam is proud to announce the 5th edition of the “Dr. MVVS Murthi National Virtual Moot Court Competition” 2024, which will be held from 19th to 22nd of September, 2024, in association with Vydyulaw Associates and SCC Online as Knowledge Partner and SCC Times as Media Partner.

This year’s edition places a special emphasis on criminal law, aiming to deepen the legal acumen and advocacy skills of participating future legal practitioners. The virtual format of the competition ensures a wide-reaching and inclusive platform, enabling talented individuals from across India to engage in a simulated courtroom experience without geographical

constraints.

<https://www.sconline.com/blog/post/2024/08/15/dr-mvvs-murthi-5th-national-virtual-moot-court-competition-2024-by-gitam-school-of-law-visakhapatnam-19th-to-22nd-sep/>

👉 GITAM Model United Nations (GMUN)

[GITAM Model United Nations 3.0](#) (GMUN 3.0) was a significant Model UN conference held in October 2024 at GITAM University in Visakhapatnam, serving as a platform for student diplomacy, debate, and leadership, featuring committees like UNHRC, DISEC, and IMF, attracting participants from GITAM and other institutions, and culminating in a memorable social night, setting the stage for later iterations like GMUN 4.0.

Committees and Topics

During the GMUN 3.0 event, delegates participated in various committees, including:

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- UN Women (UNW)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

Participation and Engagement

The event was open to both GITAM students and non-GITAMites, encouraging diversity and collaboration among aspiring diplomats and leaders. GMUN hosts a range of activities throughout the year, including workshops,

seminars, and debates, all aimed at fostering skills in public speaking, critical thinking, and international relations and international digital landscape.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DBWg-ZvAp5d/>

Zero -Tolerance Policy

GITAM (Deemed to be University) has a **zero-tolerance policy** towards ragging and sexual harassment, with robust systems in place for prevention, prohibition, and redressal, as per University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines and Indian law.

Anti-Ragging Measures

Ragging is a cognizable and punishable offense at GITAM, with consequences ranging from suspension and expulsion to criminal prosecution.

- **Policy:** Ragging is strictly prohibited on or off campus, encompassing physical, verbal, or psychological harm. This also includes online abuse, sexual offenses, and discrimination based on gender, caste, ethnicity, or appearance.
- **Committees:** An Anti-Ragging Committee is in place to supervise and advise on action planning, conduct inquiries, and ensure a ragging-free environment.
- **Mandatory Undertakings:** All students and their parents/guardians are required to submit online anti-ragging affidavits every academic year via the UGC Anti-Ragging web portal.

- **Awareness:** The university conducts regular awareness campaigns, rallies, and orientation programs to educate students about the legal and psychological impacts of ragging.
- **Reporting:** Incidents can be reported to faculty, the Anti-Ragging Committee, or the national 24x7 helpline.

Prevention of Sexual Harassment

GITAM is committed to a safe environment for all students, staff, and faculty, adhering to the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

- **Policy:** The university has a zero-tolerance policy for sexual harassment, which includes unwelcome physical, verbal, or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature, demand for sexual favours, or creating an intimidating or hostile environment.
- **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC):** The ICC is reconstituted periodically (e.g., for the 2025 academic year) to handle complaints with confidentiality and ensure prompt remedial action.
- **Support & Reporting:** Students who experience harassment can raise a grievance with faculty, HOD, Principal, or directly with the Director-Student Life. Identities are kept confidential.
- **Awareness:** POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) awareness programs and gender sensitization campaigns are regularly conducted.
- **Online Safety:** Students are advised to take screenshots and make a note of details when facing online harassment to assist with investigations.

☞ *Signboards on violence and harassment*



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.