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GD GOENKA UNIVERSITY | Thrive. For Life.

SCHOOL OF LAW

# International Conference on **Geographical Indications: Institutions, Technology, Entrepreneurship and Social Impact**

10–11 APRIL | 10:00 AM
GD Goenka University

Researchers, academicians, policy experts, practitioners and doctoral scholars are invited to submit original and unpublished research papers.

## Important Dates

- Conference Dates: 10–11 April 2026
- Abstract Submission Deadline: 27th March 2026
- Acceptance Notification: 1st April 2026
- Full Paper Submission: 30th April 2026

This conference seeks to create one of the first interdisciplinary platforms in India dedicated to examining Geographical Indications through the combined lenses of law, economics, technology, governance, and social impact.

**Registration Link**
https://forms.gle/Axd8ZBM2pXinyciZ7

Conveners:
Dr. Dakshita Sangwan | 91-98718-06779| dakshita.sangwan@gdgu.org
Ms. Shreya Goswami | 91-94140-49872 |shreya.goswami@gdgu.org
Co-Convenors: Dr. Neetu & Dr. Azad Singh

## A. Sponsors

## B. Knowledge Partners

## C. Academic Partners

## D. Media Partner

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*Thrive to Bridging Divides, Building Equity*

# International Conference on Geographical Indications: Institutions, Technology, Entrepreneurship and Social Impact

**10-11 April 2026, Friday-Saturday (Hybrid)**

**International Conference on Geographical Indications: Institutions, Technology, Entrepreneurship and Social Impact**

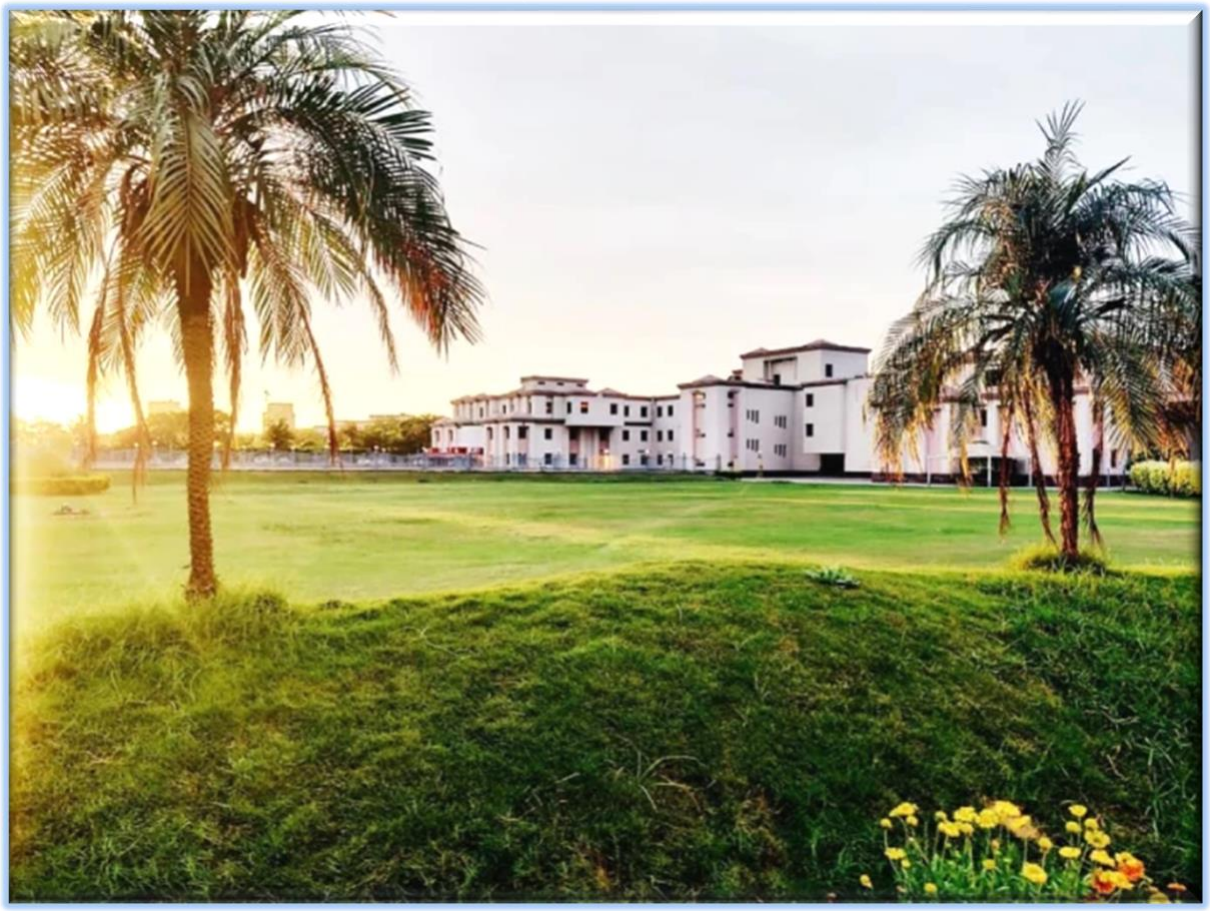
**Date**: 10 - 11 April 2026, Friday-Saturday

**Mode of Conference:** Hybrid (Zoom Meeting & GD Goenka University, Gurugram, India)

Abstract/ Case Study **Submission link:** https://forms.gle/Pb5iLPMhcTx8oPiw7

## 1. ABOUT GD GOENKA UNIVERSITY, GURUGRAM, HARYANA

GD Goenka University is a private university located in Sohna, Gurugram, Haryana, India. It was established in 2013 by the GD Goenka Group through the Haryana Private Universities (Amendment) Act, 2013. The GD Goenka Group was founded by Shri A.K. Goenka. The University is approved by the University Grants Commission (UGC). GD Goenka University is an internationally acclaimed and premier institution of higher education in India. Quality education, aimed at directing students towards research, innovation, and extension, is the defining element of GD Goenka University. It is also recognized as a QS I-GUAGE "Diamond" rated University.



## 2. ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Geographical Indications (GIs) occupy a critical intersection between intellectual property law, international trade, cultural heritage, development economics, and increasingly, technology-driven governance systems. Recognized under the TRIPS Agreement and embedded within national and regional legal frameworks, GI protection is widely promoted as a mechanism for safeguarding traditional knowledge, enhancing market differentiation, and supporting rural and artisanal livelihoods. Across jurisdictions—including the European Union, South Asia, and other emerging Global South economies—GI regimes have expanded rapidly, both in scope and regulatory sophistication.

Parallel to this legal expansion, technological interventions—such as digital traceability systems, blockchain-based provenance tools, e-commerce platforms, certification technologies, and data-driven supply chain management—are increasingly being proposed as solutions to long-standing challenges in GI governance, enforcement, and market access. Governments, international organizations, and private actors are investing in technological infrastructures to address issues of misappropriation, counterfeit goods, information asymmetry, and weak enforcement mechanisms.

Despite these developments, there remains limited empirical clarity on whether and how law, economics, and technology together translate into tangible economic gains and measurable social outcomes for primary producers. Existing scholarship has made important doctrinal, policy, and technical contributions; however, comparatively less attention has been paid to field-based evidence, distributional effects within GI value chains, the real-world adoption of technological tools, and their impact on producer agency and livelihoods. This has resulted in a persistent gap between legal intent, technological promise, and lived experience, particularly in contexts characterized by informal production systems, intermediary dominance, and asymmetric bargaining power. Against this backdrop, the proposed International Conference seeks to create a focused, high-level scholarly forum to critically examine the functioning of Geographical Indications in practice by integrating legal analysis, economic evaluation, and technological assessment, drawing on comparative perspectives and empirically grounded research to reassess prevailing assumptions about GI effectiveness.

## 3. ORGANIZER: SCHOOL OF LAW, GD GOENKA UNIVERSITY

The School of Law (SOL), GD Goenka University, Gurugram, is a research-oriented and professionally driven law school committed to excellence in legal education, interdisciplinary scholarship, and policy engagement. The School offers undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes with a strong emphasis on intellectual property law, technology law, commercial law, international trade, and regulatory governance, alongside core public and private law disciplines. We actively integrate law with technology, economics, and social policy, encouraging empirical, comparative, and practice-oriented

research. Faculty members regularly engage with government bodies, international organizations, industry stakeholders, and civil society, contributing to policy consultations, academic publications, capacity-building programmes, and executive training. With a growing focus on internationalization, the School of Law seeks to foster global academic collaborations, joint research initiatives, and high-quality scholarly dialogue through conferences, workshops, and publications. The School is particularly committed to research and engagement that connects doctrinal legal analysis with real-world impact, especially in areas affecting development, innovation, and community livelihoods.

## 4. ADVISORY BOARD

We are happy to announce our association with the Advisory Board Members, who are playing an important role in the step-wise strategic administrative execution and academic guidance for the event. The 'first names' are placed in alphabetical order within each section.

**International Advisory Board Members:**

Prof. Andrea Zappalaglio, Professor of Intellectual Property Law, University of Leeds.

Prof. Annette Kur, Professor of European and International Trademark Law; European Industrial Design Law; International Procedural Law in the Field of Intellectual Property; Affiliated Research Fellow, Department of Intellectual Property and Competition Law, Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition, Munich, Germany.

Dr. Delphine Marie-Vivien, CIRAD (Centre for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development), Deputy Director of the Joint Research Innovation Unit.

Prof. Enrico Bonadio, Professor of Intellectual Property Law, Solicitor of England and Wales, The City Law School, City St George's, University of London.

Prof. Irene Calboli, Regents Professor of Law at Texas A&M University School of Law; Academic Fellow & Chair, IP Researchers Europe Conference at the University of Geneva; and Executive Director, IP & Innovation Researchers of Asia (IPIRA) Network.

Prof. William Van Caenegem, Professor, Bond University, Faculty of Law, Gold Coast, Australia

**National Advisory Board Members:**

Dr. Abhilash Aggarwal, Head of the Department, School of Law, Rai University, Ahmedabad.

Dr. Annamma Samuel, IP Attorney, (Former DPIIT Chair, GNLU).

Prof. Dr. Debashish Poddar, Professor of IPR, National Law University and Judicial Academy (NLUJAA), Assam.

Prof. (Dr.) Dhirendra S. Parihar, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration) & Registrar, G.D Goenka University, Gurugram, Haryana.

Prof. (Dr.) Faizanur Rahman, Professor of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

Prof. (Dr.) M. Sakthivel, Professor of Law, Tamil Nadu National Law University, Tiruchirapalli.

Prof. (Dr.) L. Pushpa Kumar, Director, Integrated Law Course, University of Delhi.

Prof. Pinaki Ghosh, IPR Chair, West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS).

Dr. Rosmy Joan, Associate Professor of Law, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.

Prof. S.C. Roy, Professor of Law and DPIIT Chair, Chanakya National Law University, Bihar.

## 5. THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS

The Conference will engage with, but not be limited to, the following themes:

**Track 1: GI Protection in International Trade and Comparative Law**

1.1 TRIPS and bilateral trade agreements
1.2 EU, India and Global South models
1.3. GI diplomacy and negotiations

**Track 2: Markets, Pricing and Economic Value of GI Products**

2.1 Price premiums and market access
2.2 Branding and consumer perception
2.3 Value chain sustainability

**Track 3: Livelihoods, Gender, and Social Impact of GIs**

3.1 Gendered economic participation
3.2 Inclusion of marginalized communities
3.3 Collective welfare outcomes

**Track 4: Institutional Design and Regulatory Governance**

4.1 Public institutions and capacity
4.2 Decentralization and local governance
4.3 Transparency and accountability

**Track 5: Blockchain, Traceability and Digital Certification**

5.1 Provenance authentication systems
5.2 Barriers to tech adoption
5.3 Interoperable digital frameworks

**Track 6: Data, Platforms and E-Commerce Ecosystems**

6.1 Platform visibility of GI products
6.2 Data ownership and producer control
6.3 Algorithmic access and asymmetries

**Track 7: Enforcement, Misuse and Compliance Mechanisms**

7.1 Cross-border protection challenges
7.2 Counterfeiting in digital markets
7.3 AI-driven enforcement tools

**Track 8: Cooperatives, Intermediaries and Producer Organizations**

8.1 Power dynamics in value chains
8.2 Cooperative governance models
8.3 Benefit sharing and collective bargaining

**Track 9: Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Sustainability**

9.1 Ethical commercialization
9.2 Heritage protection vs commodification
9.3 Community consent frameworks

**Track 10: Empirical and Law-and-Economics Approaches to GI Research**

10.1 Field-based methodologies
10.2 Mixed-method impact studies
10.3 Evidence gaps in GI assessment

**Track 11: Policy Reform and Future Pathways in GI Governance**

11.1 Evidence-based regulatory reform
11.2 Technology-aware policymaking
11.3 Inclusive GI development models

**Track 12: GIs, Innovation and Rural Entrepreneurship**

12.1 GI-led enterprise ecosystems
12.2 MSMEs and start-up integration
12.3 Innovation within traditional systems

## 6. EXPECTED ACADEMIC AND POLICY OUTCOME/S

The Conference is designed to generate high-impact scholarly and policy outputs, including:

6.1 A peer-reviewed academic journal/s published by a reputable publisher with recognized indexing in Scopus.
6.2 Selected contributions will be further refined into policy white papers for submission to esteemed indexed journals in the fields of intellectual property law, law and economics, technology policy, gender studies and intellectual property rights, and development studies.
6.3 An edited book will be compiled of the case studies.
6.4 To enhance the visibility of students' academic work, chosen papers will be published in a peer-reviewed journal's special issue with an impact factor of 5+.

## 7. TARGET PARTICIPANTS

The targeted audience for the conference, towards paper presentations and case studies, includes the following groups:

7.1 Government Officials, Policymakers, and Experts from Intellectual Property Rights Organizations and Other Stakeholders.
7.2 Academicians, Research Scholars, and Students from National and International Universities; and
7.3 Artisans, Self-help Groups, and Cooperative Heads.

## 8. BEST PAPER / CASE STUDY AWARD

To recognize outstanding research contributions, Best Paper and Case Study Awards will be presented across the conference tracks. All awards will be decided by the Conference Review Committee based on the quality, originality, methodological rigour, and contribution of the paper to the field.

8.1 Best Paper in each Track: **One paper** from **each track** will be selected as the **Best Paper**, resulting in **12 awardees** in total. The authors will be awarded **e-Certificates of Excellence**.

8.2 Case Study in each Track: **One case study** from **each track** will be selected as the **Best-Case Study**, resulting in **12 awardees** in total. The authors will be awarded **e-Certificates of Excellence**.

## 9. IMPORTANT DATES

| Milestone | Date |
|---|---|
| Abstract Submission Opens | 06 March 2026 |
| Abstract Submission Deadline | 27 March 2026 |
| Acceptance Notifications | On or Before 01 April 2026 |
| Camera-Ready Presentation (Power-point presentation shall be mailed to organizers, only after abstract acceptance, for smooth conduct of the event) | 05 April 2026 |
| Conference Dates | 10-11 April 2026 |
| Camera Ready Final Paper Submission (Publication charges will be additional to the conference charges) | 30 April 2026 |

## 10. ABSTRACT SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

10.1 Core of Abstract

10.1.1 Title and Authors' Details: The abstract must include a clear and concise title (maximum 15 words), along with the author details, including the full names of all authors, their institutional affiliations, and email addresses, with the presenting author clearly marked with an asterisk (*).

10.1.2 Word Limit: The word limit for the abstract shall be 400-600 words.

10.1.3 Research Gap: Briefly identify the research gap in 1–2 sentences.

10.1.4 Objectives: Clearly state the aims or objectives of the study in 1–2 sentences.

10.1.5 Methodology: Indicate the research methodology used (e.g., doctrinal analysis, case studies, comparative analysis, empirical research).

10.1.6 Key findings or expected outcomes: Highlight the major findings or expected results of the research.

10.1.7 Originality: Explain how the research contributes to interdisciplinary scholarship or advances existing discourse.

10.2 Formatting Rules: Authors must adhere to the following formatting requirements.

10.2.1 Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt.

10.2.2 Spacing: 1.5 Spacing

10.2.3 Alignment- Justified

10.2.4 File type: .docx or .pdf

10.2.5 File name format: LastName_Topic.docx

10.2.5.1 Example: *Goswami_Haryana Phulkari.docx*

10.3 Submission Process: Abstracts must be submitted through the online conference submission portal. **Submission link: https://forms.gle/Pb5iLPMhcTx8oPiw7**

10.4 Ethical Guidelines: Original work is required, with plagiarism and AI checks ensuring no more than 10% similarity. **Only one abstract is allowed per presenter, and each paper can have a maximum of three authors.**

## 11. CASE STUDY FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION

The case studies must be submitted through the **same registration link.** The indicators mentioned below serve as guiding parameters and participants are encouraged to incorporate relevant indicators while preparing their case studies. These guidelines constitute an integral part of the indicative rubrics for case study submission.

### 11.1 Relevance to Geographical Indications (15%)

11.1.1 Clear identification of a GI product or GI-related issue. Consideration of the participation, rights, and representation of artisans, farmers, and local producer communities involved in the GI product.

11.1.2 Demonstrates linkage between the product and its geographical origin (quality, reputation, or characteristics, originally clicked pictures may be used).

### 11.2 Contextual and Historical Background (10%)

11.2.1 Provides a concise overview of the product's origin, traditional practices, and socio-cultural significance.

11.2.2 Explains the evolution of the GI and its importance to the region or community towards sustainability.

### 11.3 Legal and Institutional Analysis (15%)

11.3.1 Examination of the legal framework governing the GI (national and/or international).

11.3.2 Discussion of institutions dealing with producer groups, government bodies, international organizations.

**11.4 Methodology and Evidence (10%)**

11.4.1 Use of credible sources, fieldwork, data, or empirical evidence (inclusive of pictures and videos).

11.4.2 Clear explanation of the research or analytical approach used.

**11.5 Economic and Social Impact (10%)**

11.5.1 Assessment of how GI protection affects producers, local communities, markets, or rural development.

11.5.2 Evaluation of Gender Roles and Livelihood

**11.6 Environmental and Cultural Sustainability (10%)**

11.6.1 Consideration of biodiversity, traditional knowledge, and sustainability of production practices.

11.6.2 Entrepreneurship, Generational Skills, and demand of Novation.

**11.7 Challenges and Governance Issues (15%)**

11.7.1 Identification of challenges such as awareness, misappropriation, enforcement difficulties, market access, or institutional limitations

11.7.2 Role of Digital Platforms and Accessibility in Governance

**11.8 Policy Insights and Lessons Learned (5%)**

11.8.1 Clear articulation of lessons, best practices, or policy recommendations for strengthening GI systems.

11.8.2 Role of Self-help Groups, Government and Non-Government Organization in policy recommendations

**11.9 Originality and Contribution (5%)**

11.9.1 Novel insights to showcase the ground - reality

11.9.2 Comparative perspectives, or innovative analytical frameworks with pictures with one or two artisans of same GI.

**11.10 Clarity and Structure (5%)**

11.10.1 Logical organization, and clarity of argument

11.10.2 Academic writing quality or video submission.

## 12. AUTHOR GUIDELINES FOR PAPER PUBLICATIONS

12.1 The authors who are interested in the paper publication shall follow the Author's Guidelines. The last date to submit papers is 30 April 2026, Thursday. Separate submission guidelines will be shared after the conference.

12.2 All submissions must be written in English.

12.3 The full paper should be between 3000–6000 words, including references and footnotes.

12.4 All citations and references must conform to the Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (21st edition).

12.5 Only original and unpublished work will be considered. Submitted papers must not be under review or previously published elsewhere. All papers will undergo plagiarism and AI-content checks, and submissions exceeding 10% similarity or AI-generated content may be rejected.

12.6 Review and evaluation criteria: All submitted papers will undergo a peer review process and will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- 12.6.1 Thematic relevance: The paper should demonstrate a clear and direct connection with the conference themes or sub-themes.
- 12.6.2 Theoretical contribution: Submissions should contribute to advancing existing scholarship within the fields of law, economics, technology, gender studies and social sciences.
- 12.6.3 Methodology: The research design and methodology should be appropriate and clearly articulated. Papers may employ doctrinal analysis, empirical research, case studies, comparative analysis, or other relevant methods.
- 12.6.4 Empirical or doctrinal strength: Papers should demonstrate strong legal reasoning through analysis of statutes, judicial precedents, and legal doctrines, or present reliable empirical data and analysis where applicable.
- 12.6.5 Policy implications: Submissions should provide clear insights and recommendations relevant to policymakers, technology developers, regulatory bodies, or civil society organizations.
- 12.6.6 Clarity and Structure: Papers must be well organized, logically structured, and written in accordance with accepted academic writing standards.
- 12.6.7 Research approach and interdisciplinary engagement: Researchers are encouraged to follow pluralistic and interdisciplinary research approaches.

## 13. REGISTRATION FEE & PAYMENT DETAILS

### 13.1 The Registration Fees for the conference are as follows:

| Categories* for Paper Presentation and Case Study Presentation.<br><br>Inter-Institutional Affiliation of Authors / Co-Authors is acceptable. | | *The fee is intended solely for conference participation and does not include or guarantee publication of the paper.* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Online Presentation (Single Author) | Up to TWO Co-authors Allowed (Online Presentation) | Offline Presentation (Single Person) |
| Indian Institutional Affiliation | Students / Researchers | INR 1000 | INR 1800 | INR 1500 |
| | Academician | INR 1500 | INR 2200 | INR 2000 |
| | Direct and Indirect Industry Stakeholders inclusive of Artisans | INR 2000 | INR 4000 | INR 2500 |
| | Attendee Only | INR 800 | Not Applicable | INR 1200 |
| International Institutional Affiliation | Students / Research Scholars | USD 30 | USD 75 | USD 50 |
| | Academia/Industry | USD 50 | USD 135 | USD 100 |
| | Attendee Only | USD 20 | Not Applicable | USD 50 |

*****The term 'Indian' and 'International' will be interpreted as per your institutional affiliation. Any person whose affiliation institution is based out of Indian Jurisdiction will be considered as 'international author /attendee'**.** Only e-Certificate of Attendance will be provided to Attendees.*

### 13.2 Link to pay registration fees in Indian Currency (INR)

https://pay.jodo.in/pages/uNYxYPgzoqEfzhFL

### 13.3 QR Code to pay registration fees in Indian Currency (INR)

### 13.4 Details to pay registration fees through International Currency / Gateways

| HDFC BANK DETAILS | |
|---|---|
| NAME OF BENEFICIARY | G D GOENKA UNIVERSITY |
| BANK ADDRESS | HDFC BANK LTD., SITE NO.- 2, OCF POCKET, SECTOR- C, VASANT KUNJ, NEW DELHI- 110070, INDIA |
| SAVINGS ACCOUNT NO. | 02731450000270 |
| IFSC CODE | HDFC0000273 |
| SWIFT CODE | HDFCINBBDEL |
| ROUTED THROUGH: | |
| CORRESPONDENT BANK | JP MORGAN CHASE BANK, NEW YORK |
| CORRESPONDENT BANK SWIFT CODE | CHASEU33 |
| CORRESPONDENT BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER | 001-1-406717 |

:

## 14. ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

**Chief Conference Patron**
Mr. Nipun Goenka
Managing Director, GD Goenka Group

**Conference Patron**
Prof. (Dr.) Dinesh Shenoy, Vice Chancellor, GD Goenka University

**Conference Chairperson**
Prof. (Dr.) Aneesha PR, Dean, School of Law, GD Goenka University

**Conveners**
Dr. Dakshita Sangwan, Associate Professor, School of Law, GD Goenka University
Ms. Shreya Goswami, Assistant Professor, School of Law, Head-IPR Cell, GD Goenka University

**Co-Conveners**
Dr. Neetu, Assistant Professor, School of Law, GD Goenka University
Dr. Azad Singh, Assistant Professor, School of Law, GD Goenka University

## 15. FOR QUERIES, CONTACT

Overall queries: dakshita.sangwan@gdgu.org | +91-98718-06779 |
Paper-related queries: shreya.goswami@gdgu.org |+91-94140-49872|
Payment related queries: azadsingh@gdgu.org |+91-87083-52488|