

4th IDIA Chhattisgarh National Essay Writing Competition



Increasing Diversity by Increasing Access to Legal Education

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About IDIA

Increasing Diversity by Increasing Access to Legal Education (IDIA) is a non-profit organisation working in India that aims to empower underprivileged and marginalised children by giving them access to quality legal education.

IDIA sensitises students from across the country to Law as a career option, selects underprivileged and marginalised students with an aptitude for law, trains them, and provides scholarships to the students on gaining admission to law schools. IDIA not only enables access to legal education but also fosters diversity at the leading law schools, thereby enriching the very process of legal education.

IDIA started out as a student-run movement in 2010 from West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences. Founded by **Late Prof. (Dr.) Shamnad Basheer**, the movement seeks to empower students from underprivileged backgrounds through legal education and to create community leaders from within these communities. Prof. Basheer, in an interview with *Chambers Diversity & Inclusion*, explained the core idea of IDIA - “CNR Rao, a former scientific advisor to the Prime Minister of India once said: “our Einsteins’ are in our villages.” At IDIA, we have adapted this sentiment to: “Our Harts’ are in our villages.” Taking this to heart, we have decided to intensify our program and visit the remotest of Indian villages to sensitise and train the HLA Harts (a legendary legal philosopher) of tomorrow.”

To know more about the organisation, visit www.idialaw.org.

About the Competition

In 2018, we, at the Chhattisgarh Chapter of IDIA, (based out of **Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur**) set out to take the aim of IDIA one step further and reach out to students all over India for their perspectives on legal issues. We wanted not only to encourage active dialogue but also for their voices to be heard. After the resounding success of the previous three editions of the *IDIA Chhattisgarh National Essay Writing Competition*, which saw the participation of students from universities and institutions from across India, the IDIA Chhattisgarh Chapter is pleased to organise the 4th edition of the *IDIA Chhattisgarh National Essay Writing Competition*. This year, we have extended the Competition to include school students from classes 9th to 12th in order to increase awareness of law amongst school students and expose them to the various opportunities available in this dynamic field.

The Competition focuses on developing a culture where good writing is produced, shared, and appreciated. We see writing not just as a mode of communication, but as a means to step into the shoes of other people and look at the world through their eyes. With this Essay Competition, we seek to push people's limits a little harder; we are eager to see the world through their eyes. We are also eager to be jarred into thinking, to be awakened, to be aware.

We encourage you to come up with enthralling ideas that give everyone an opportunity to understand the different ideas flowing from your minds. This Competition has been commenced with one primary goal, which is to inculcate a habit of having constructive dialogue among individuals with varied personalities and ideas. This Competition is working in the direction of overall development. This initiative says that it is not only the academics that one needs to prioritise but also the individual perspective which is often left unheard under a load of academic and co-curricular engagements. The opinion is everyone's treasure, and this is the right platform that allows everyone to express their opinion.

To this end, the organisers aim to achieve the dual purpose of:

Furthering academic discourse, facilitating conversation, and increasing discussion on sociologically important topics by encouraging students across the country to develop original and creative thinking on contemporary legal issues.

Contributing towards the goal of increased access to education to students from underprivileged and marginalised communities by raising funds for the IDIA Charitable Trust. All proceeds collected shall be applied towards funding the day-to-day operations of the Trust, including sponsoring the training/education of IDIA Trainees/Scholars.

Write to engage in conversations. Write to give other people a chance to acknowledge the ideas which have been left unheard. Write to develop as a new individual.

Themes

Participant Category I (School Category): Students of Classes 9th–12th

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030): Strengthening Global Solidarity and Facilitating Discussion Between Various Stakeholders

The *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) are a universal plan for all countries to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. They are a set of 17 goals to be achieved by 2030, which include 169 targets. A few of the goals, namely Poverty, No Hunger, Good Health work on areas that are quite significant when it comes to overall human population development, both for the present and future. Other goals, namely Life on Land and Life below Ocean aims to showcase a holistic approach towards conserving the environmental elements. According to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, “SDG aims to recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth — all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.” Participants are encouraged to analyse and evaluate the various SDG goals in light of the changing world order and suggest novel approaches towards its realisation.

A few indicative sub-themes are provided below. Do note that this is not an exhaustive list, and participants are free to write on any topic as long as it is within the ambit of the aforementioned central theme.

- Role of India in Helping the World Achieve SDG Goals;
- Role of International Organisations for Housing World Population/World Hunger;
- Cryptocurrency and Climate Change;
- Access to Healthcare in Least Developed Countries: The Way Forward;
- Access to Education for Child Refugees and Migrants;
- Access to Justice: A Reality for the Underprivileged;
- Are Stakeholders Included in the Law-making/Justice Process?

NOTE: Students currently not enrolled in any undergraduate programme, and/or taking a gap year post completion of their school studies, are eligible to participate under this category.

Participant Category II (College Category): Students Pursuing Graduation/Post-Graduation

01. **Cryptocurrency, NFTs and Digital Assets Regulation**

Digital assets like cryptocurrency and NFTs represent the present and the future of financial technology. Blockchain technology has created ripples worldwide by turning art, music, videos and in-game items into digital assets, puzzling regulators into a cautious waiting game. Governments in most countries are unsure how to deal with these new-age technologies to promote public interest while protecting the rights of the stakeholders. It is, therefore, crucial to discuss and understand these elements with special emphasis on the regulatory frameworks governing them.

02. **Changing Data Privacy Landscape in India**

Data privacy, primarily the privacy of individuals, is emerging as a major issue in India. Increasing internet access and digital literacy have exposed a huge gap in the existing data protection framework. Couple this with the unique problems in a post-Covid world where tracking apps, telemedicine and online payments have become the norm; a serious discussion on data protection is the need of the hour. The recent controversy on Pegasus and other international data surveillance programs have raised questions regarding the data security of individuals. The rising surveillance capitalism is a cause of worry on the economic front. The *Personal Data Protection Bill* of 2019 was recently in the news as the Joint Parliament Committee working on the matter tabled its report in the Upper House. The Bill possesses immense contemporary relevance as India lacks a strong privacy legislation.

03. **Reforms in the Medical Sector**

COVID-19 has reflected the appalling state of the medical sector and health infrastructure of our country. It is evident that the system needs to be revamped, and active discussions on the means and methods for successfully achieving this target must be encouraged. Topics of discussion include but are not limited to, legal liability of medical personnel acting in a professional capacity, principles of privacy *vis-à-vis* health records and other related data, and insurance and other instruments for medical practitioners for injuries sustained during the pandemic.

04. **Dimensions of Digital Education and the Future**

The extension of technological advancements to the education sector is the way forward for the optimisation of the learning process in India. Due to its rising significance, it is important to discuss various facets related to it, including the role of inclusivity and accessibility within the system along with the legal interventions and regulations to enable the success of digital education.

05. **Cross-border Insolvency Framework in India**

The country's Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), particularly on corporate insolvency issues, is expected to see some changes as the government is likely to come up with a comprehensive framework for cross-border insolvency and make several changes to the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) to avoid delays in the resolution process. The current provisions in the IBC are not comprehensive and were susceptible to delay and uncertainty. The proposed governance framework was also open to public consultation recently, signifying the need for a popular and well-rounded approach. Numerous procedural and legal challenges would have to be addressed for the effective adaptation and implementation of the proposed framework. However, once the hard work is carried out and the hurdles are met, the legal framework could ensure cooperation and communication between different jurisdictions and successfully address the resolution of cross-border disputes concerning India.

NOTE: Participants are free to write on, and choose, any suitable topic for their essay as long as it is within the ambit of the aforementioned themes.

Rules & Guidelines

General Rules

- The Competition is open to all students pursuing school, college, undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in any recognised school/university/college in India.
- The Competition is being organised under the following two categories:
 - **Category I (School Category):** students of classes 9th – 12th;
 - **Category II (College Category):** students pursuing graduation/post-graduation
- Students interested to participate in the Competition are required to click [here](#) to register. The minimum contribution for registration is **₹150** for a **single author** and **₹200** in the case of **co-authorship**.
- Once the registration and payment are successfully completed, the participants shall be emailed with the confirmation of their payment along with a Participation Code.
- The Participant Code, which will be assigned to every participant, shall serve as an identification code for all communication with the organisers post the registration. There should not be any other identification mark apart from the Participant Code on the cover page of the essay.

Submission Guidelines

- The essay must be written in either **Hindi** or **English** and submitted in Microsoft Word document format (.doc/.docx).
- Co-authorship up to a maximum of **two authors** is permitted.
- Only one submission is allowed per author/team. Submissions, both as co-author and single, will be treated as multiple submissions and will be disqualified as an entry to the Competition.
- The following formatting specifications need to be strictly adhered to: **Main Body:** Font – Times New Roman, Font Size – 12, and Line Spacing – 1.5; **Footnotes:** Font – Times New Roman, Font Size – 10, and Line Spacing – 1.0; **Margins** should be 1 inch or 2.54 cm on all sides.
- The word limit is **2500-3000 words** excluding footnotes. Footnotes must follow the Bluebook system of citation (Harvard, 20th edition), however, the same is relaxed for participants under Category I.
- The essay must contain an **abstract**, not exceeding 250 words (which would not be counted in the word limit for the essay). It must indicate the theme/topic.

- All submissions should be made in an electronic form at hnluteam@idialaw.org under the subject heading “**Submission: 4th IDIA Chhattisgarh National Essay Writing Competition**” by **10 March 2022, 23:59 hours** (Indian Standard Time, GMT +5:30).
- The essay must be accompanied by a separate document containing the following information about the participant: (i) full name of the participant; (ii) theme/topic chosen; (iii) participant’s current year of study and name of the degree pursued (applicable only to students under Category II; mention current class, if belonging to Category I); (iv) name and full address of the participant’s school/university; (v) name and full postal address of the participant; (vi) phone number of the participant; and (vii) email ID of the participant.
- The essay must be original and bonafide work of the participant. Incomplete or plagiarised submissions shall be summarily rejected. The plagiarism limit is 15% (excluding footnotes).
- Avoid extensive footnotes or extensive quotations. Reference or paraphrasing of thoughts and ideas from standard works are acceptable without quotations, provided they are duly acknowledged in footnotes or otherwise as may be suitable.
- No part of the essay should contain any form of identification of the participant such as the name of the author, School/University/College name, etc. on the essay. Any form of identification will lead to disqualification.

Evaluation Criteria

- The essays will be evaluated in a two-stage process on the basis of original thinking, grasp of the subject, writing skills and choice of topic.
- All submissions received will be evaluated by a screening committee comprising legal professionals. Authors of the top 5 essays will be notified via email.
- The top 5 essays shall be sent to the **Judging Panel** comprising **Mr Murali Neelakantan, Mr Alok Prasanna, and Ms Ankita Hariramani** for the selection of the winner and the runner-up.

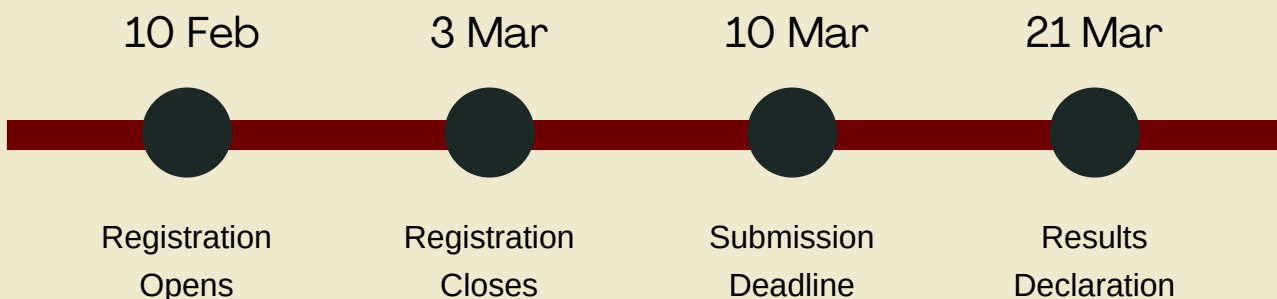
Prizes

- In **Category I**, the Winner and Runner-up will receive cash prizes as follows:
 - **Winner: ₹5,000;**
 - **Runner-up: ₹3,000**
- In **Category II**, the Winner and Runner-up will receive cash prizes as follows, including an **internship opportunity at Khaitan & Co** to be provided to the Winner:
 - **Winner: ₹8,000;**
 - **Runner-up: ₹5,000**
- The **top five essays** will be awarded a **Certificate of Merit**. A Certificate of Participation will be awarded to all the participants.

Miscellaneous

- By entering the Competition, the participants agree to indemnify the organisers from and against all claims, suits and damages based on any claim of copyright infringement or plagiarism or unauthorised use.
- Any copyright infringement/plagiarism shall result in automatic disqualification. The organisers reserve the right to recall any prize if it is discovered later that the essay suffered from any copyright infringement/plagiarism.
- The essay shall be considered to be a property of the IDIA Chhattisgarh Chapter, which reserves the right of publication of the same as it may deem appropriate.
- The organisers assume no responsibility for lost, delayed or incomplete entries or technical malfunction of the server, traffic congestion on the internet or a combination thereof.
- The winners of the Competition authorise the organisers to use their names and photos, if required, for the purpose of publicising the Competition and its results.
- If there arises any situation that is not contemplated in the rules, the organisers' decision on the same shall be final and binding. The administration of the Competition, including determining the eligibility of any participant or essay, evaluation of essays, and awarding of the prizes, is within the sole and absolute discretion of the organisers.

Important Deadlines



Contact Information

Join our endeavour to make an impact on the life of an individual.

IDIA sensitises, trains and provides scholarships to children from underprivileged backgrounds to be a part of the legal fraternity.

For inquiries, please email us at hnluteam@idialaw.org or contact Viraj Aditya (Team Leader) at +91 8447-488-295 or Deeksha Singh (Deputy Team Leader, Fundraising) at +91 9754-456-437.

Contact

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