



THE 3rd
IDIA CHHATTISGARH
NATIONAL ESSAY WRITING
COMPETITION 2020

ABOUT US

Increasing Diversity by Increasing Access to 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.” IDIA sensitises underprivileged students from across the country to law as a career option, trains them and provides scholarships to the students on gaining admission to law schools.

OVERVIEW

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 1st and 2nd edition of IDIA Chhattisgarh National Essay Writing Competition, that saw the participation of students from universities and institutions from across India, the IDIA Chhattisgarh Chapter is pleased to organise the 3rd edition of the IDIA Chhattisgarh National Essay Competition this year.

The IDIA Chhattisgarh National Essay Competition, directs focus on the importance of writing, and writing well. We seek to develop 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 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.

The entire team requests 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's not only the academics which one needs to prioritise, but also the individual perspective which is often left unheard under the load of academic and co-curricular engagements. Opinion is everyone's treasure, and this is the right platform which allows everyone to express the opinion.

Hence, the IDIA Chhattisgarh team humbly urges all the prospective participants to come out and write. 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.

OBJECTIVES

- The primary objective of this competition is to encourage students across India, to develop original and creative thinking on some contemporary legal issues arising out of Covid-19.
- To raise funds for the IDIA Charitable Trust. All the proceeds collected shall be fully applied towards funding the day-to-day operations of the Trust.



THEME

Role of Law in times of Covid-19

India, in the 21st century, can be looked at from a plethora of lenses but one of the most prominent ones would be through that of a pandemic. In a country where millions of people are infected by the virus, finding a new normal has become the greatest quest for humankind. Times like these require a firm legal regime that can balance that need of the people with the collective good of the country. This edition of the essay competition is an attempt to stir a discussion on how the law is playing its role in the times of Covid-19. The following are the sub-themes for the essay competition:

SUB-THEMES:

- 1. Healthcare and Rights of Citizens**
- 2. Technology and Privacy during times of Covid-19**
- 3. India's Response to Covid-19: An Executive Aggrandisement?**

NATURE OF THE COMPETITION

- **Forum:** The competition will be conducted online, where all communications between the organisers and participants, including the registrations and submissions will be made online through emails.
- **Evaluation:** The write-ups will be evaluated in three stages:
 - **First Stage** – The team from IDIA Chhattisgarh Chapter will evaluate the write-ups and the ones found to be plagiarized or with improper formatting will be disqualified.
 - **Second Stage** – Working professionals with adequate experience in the field of law will evaluate the shortlisted write-ups. The top 10 highest scoring write-ups will be advanced for the third stage of evaluation.
 - **Third Stage** – A Panel comprising of esteemed legal luminaries will evaluate the top 10 write-ups. The final score will be considered for ranking the write-ups in the order of 1 to 10.

GUIDELINES AND RULES

1. PARTICIPATION & REGISTRATION

- 1.1 Only one essay per participant may be submitted. Co-authorship up to 2 authors is allowed.
- 1.2 The essay must be written in English.
- 1.3 Only original essays will be considered for the competition. No part of the essay should have been published earlier nor should it be under consideration for publication or contest elsewhere. The participant will be required to submit a separate undertaking with regard to the originality of the work.
- 1.4 Participant code will be assigned to every participant. The participant code 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 team code on the cover page of the essay.
- 1.5 Participation is open to all undergraduate and postgraduate students across universities in India.
- 1.7 Once the registration and payment are successfully completed, the participants shall be emailed with the confirmation of their payment along with a link for submission of their manuscripts and a Participation Code. This link should not be shared with others.

CONTRIBUTION

Single Author	₹ 250
Co-Authors (Maximum 2)	₹ 350

2. PRESENTATION & SUBMISSION

2.1 The essay must not be more than 3000 words, including footnotes.

2.2 The essay should consist of:

- **Cover Page** (includes only the Team Code and the topic of the essay)
- **Abstract** (not more than 250 words);
- **Reason for choosing the essay topic;**
- **Declaration regarding originality of the essay;**
- **Introduction;**
- **Body of the essay;**
- **Conclusion.**

3. EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

3.1 Font – **Times New Roman**; Font Size – **12**; Line Spacing – **1.5**; Footnote Font Size – **10**; Footnote Spacing – **1.0**.

3.2 Font size of Heading & Subheading – **14**; Alignment – **Justified**.

3.3 Plagiarism is strictly prohibited. Footnotes, wherever apposite, must be provided in the OSCOLA 4th edition format.

3.4 The authors are encouraged to write on contemporary issues relating to the themes and must provide analytical arguments rather than descriptive essays.

3.5 The essay must be submitted through the link emailed to the participants (See 1.7) in both MS Word and PDF formats.

3.6 The link shall also ask the participants for a covering letter (as a separate attachment) mentioning the Participant(s) name/s, Name of University/College, Year/Semester, Participant Code.

3.7 Covering letter mentioning the details of the Participant(s) and Cover page of the manuscript mentioning only the title of the essay and the Participant Code are mandatory. The essay will be disqualified if, at any stage, the participant(s) reveal their identities anywhere except the covering letter.

3.8 Registration form can be accessed [here](#).

3.9 The organisers assume no responsibility for lost, delayed or incomplete entries or technical malfunction of the server, traffic congestion on net or a combination thereof.

4. MARKING CRITERIA

4.1 Each Essay will be marked on a total of 100 marks.

4.2 Essays will be judged on the basis of the following parameters:

PARTICULARS

Legal Arguments	30 Marks
Language, Structure and Writing Style	20 Marks
Quality and use of footnotes	10 Marks
Critical Analysis	40 Marks
Total	100 Marks

4.3 The decision of the judges and the Core Organising Committee will be final in all respects.

5. AWARDS

5.1 Certificate of participation shall be given to all the participants.

5.2 Prize cheques:

1st Prize - ₹ 8000;

2nd Prize - ₹ 5000;

3rd Prize - ₹ 2000

5.3 Medals and Certificates of merit shall be awarded to 3 best essays.

6. IMPORTANT DATES

6.1 Date of notification – **October 8, 2020**

6.2 Last date for registration – **October 28, 2020**

6.3 Last date for submission – **November 8, 2020**

6.4 Result declaration – **December 18, 2020**

7. MISCELLANEOUS

7.1 If there arises any situation that is not contemplated in the rules, the Organisers' decision on the same shall be final. The administration of the contest, 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.

7.2 Submissions post 23:59 on the last date of submission will attract negative marking of 1 mark per hour.

7.3 Copyright of the essays rests with the Organisers.





IDIA

CHHATTISGARH

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