

3rd National Blog Writing Competition, 2026

Rulebook

Challenging the Settled: Critiquing the Accepted Positions of Law and Policy



Registration Form



Centre for Policies, Laws, and Agenda, NUSRL (CPLAN)
National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi

Preliminary

1. Short Title and Objective

- 1.1. These Rules may be called the *3rd National Blog Writing Competition Rules, 2026*.
- 1.2. These Rules shall regulate the conduct, participation, submission, review, and publication of entries in the *3rd National Blog Writing Competition, 2026*, being organised by the *Centre for Policies, Laws and Agenda, NUSRL (CPLAN)* at the *National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi*, for its flagship blog “*The Policy Chronicle*”, and provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

2. Definitions

In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) “*Competition*” means the *3rd National Blog Writing Competition, 2026*, being organised by the *Centre for Policies, Laws and Agenda, NUSRL (CPLAN)* at the *National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi*;
- (b) “*Participant*” or “*Author*” means any individual or team of up to two Authors duly submitting an entry for the Competition;
- (c) “*Editorial Board*” means the body responsible for the review, editing, acceptance, and publication of Submissions;
- (d) “*Submission*” or “*Manuscript*” means the blog entry submitted by the Participant(s) in accordance with these Rules;
- (e) “*Blog*” or “*The Policy Chronicle*” means the flagship blog of CPLAN, being the platform on which accepted Submissions shall be published;
- (f) “*University*” means the National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi.

3. Themes and Sub-themes

- 3.1. The theme of the Competition shall be “*Challenging the Settled: Critiquing the Accepted Positions of Law and Policy.*”
- 3.2. The theme seeks to encourage Participants to move beyond merely describing established laws, doctrines, policies, and institutional practices, and to critically examine the assumptions and principles underlying them, assessing whether accepted legal and policy positions remain relevant, effective, and just in light of changing social, constitutional, political, economic, and technological realities.
- 3.3. The following shall be the indicative, and not exhaustive, sub-themes of the Competition:

- Lacunae in Legal Interpretation: Addressing Gaps in Existing Laws
 - Laws Unsuitable for Contemporary Times: Rethinking Outdated Legal Frameworks
 - The Limits of Judicial Precedent in a Changing Society
 - When Policy Lags Behind Technology: Regulatory Gaps in the Digital Age
 - Questioning the “Settled Law”: Revisiting Established Judicial Doctrines
 - Colonial Legacies in Contemporary Law: Is the Existing Framework Still Relevant?
 - The Conflict Between Constitutional Principles and Outdated Statutory Provisions
 - Ambiguity in Legal Interpretation: When the Law Fails to Provide Clear Answers
 - Law Versus Social Change: Can Existing Legal Rules Keep Pace with Society?
 - Gaps in Protection: Unaddressed Rights in Contemporary Legal Frameworks
 - Policy Without Practice: Examining the Implementation Gap in Public Policy
 - Technological Change and Legal Obsolescence: Laws Struggling to Keep Pace
 - The Problem of Rigid Legal Categories in an Evolving Society
 - Reconsidering Traditional Legal Doctrines in Light of Emerging Social Realities
 - Judicial Innovation or Judicial Overreach? Challenging Established Legal Positions
 - Invisible Gaps in Law: Communities and Issues Left Outside Legal Protection
 - From Precedent to Progress: When Should Established Law Be Reconsidered?
 - The Disconnect Between Law on Paper and Law in Practice
 - Contemporary Problems, Outdated Laws: The Need for Legal Reform
 - Beyond the Settled Position: Constitutional Morality, Social Justice, and Legal Change
4. The sub-themes are directional in nature, and Authors are free to explore intersections between the sub-themes and other relevant aspects of legal and policy analysis.

4. Mode of Conduct

- 4.1. The Competition shall be conducted entirely in online mode.

5. Eligibility and Participation

- 5.1. The Competition shall be open to law students, academicians, researchers, and professionals from all fields.
- 5.2. Participation may be either: (a) individual (Single Author); or (b) in co-authorship, not exceeding two Authors.



5.3. There shall be no restriction on the number of Participants from a single institution.

5.4. Registration shall be completed through the prescribed [Google Form](#).

6. Registration Fee

6.1. A registration fee shall be payable as follows:

Category	Fee
Single Author	₹300
Co-authorship (maximum two authors)	₹250 per author

2. No registration shall be deemed valid without payment of the prescribed fee.

7. Important Dates

7.1. The following shall be the dates for the Competition:

Event	Date
Opening of Registration	27th August 2026
Last Date for Registration	15th September 2026, 11:59 PM
Last Date of Seeking Clarifications	20 th September, 2026, 11:59 PM
Date of Release of Clarification	25 th September, 2026
Submission Deadline	30th September 2026, 11:59 PM
Declaration of Results	25 th October, 2026

7.2. No request for extension of any date shall ordinarily be considered.

7.3. These dates are tentative and are subject to change at the discretion of the Editorial Board.

8. Awards and Prizes

8.1. The following awards shall be conferred:

Award	Prize
First Prize	₹5,000, Memento and Certificate of Merit
Second Prize	₹3,000, Memento and Certificate of Merit
Third Prize	₹2,000, Memento and Certificate of Merit
Top 15 Blog Entries	Publication on the official CPLAN website
All Participants	Certificate of Participation

8.2. All published Authors shall be duly credited on the Blog for their respective Submissions.

Submissions



9. Submission Requirements

- 9.1. Every Submission shall be made in electronic format, strictly in .doc or .docx format.
- 9.2. Every Submission shall be titled with their Team Code.
- 9.3. Every Submission shall be the original, unpublished work of the Author(s), and must contain a novel analysis of the issue.
- 9.4. The length of every Submission shall not ordinarily exceed 1200–2000 words.
- 9.5. No Submission shall contain any mark, symbol, bio, or other identifier that may disclose the identity of the Author within the main manuscript. Failure to comply shall lead to summary rejection.
- 9.6. Authors are encouraged to include relevant images, infographics, or flowcharts, provided that such content is original or free from copyright restrictions.
- 9.7. The Submission must not be under consideration for publication at any other platform.

10. Formatting Guidelines

- 10.1. Font: Garamond
- 10.2. Font Size: 12 (main text); 10 (endnotes).
- 10.3. Line Spacing: 1.5 (main text); 1.0 (endnotes).
- 10.4. Alignment: Justified.
- 10.5. Double quotes and italics shall be used when quoting verbatim, and the names of statutes, case laws, and other legal documents shall be italicised.
- 10.6. The title and sub-heading 1 shall be left-aligned, bold, Capitalise Each Word; sub-heading 2 shall be left-aligned, italicised, and in Sentence Case.

11. Referencing Guidelines

- 11.1. All references shall, as far as possible, be hyperlinked within the text itself. Where an online source is not available, endnotes may be used.
- 11.2. Endnotes shall strictly follow the Bluebook, 21st Edition.
- 11.3. No speaking notes shall be permitted.

12. Originality and Generative-AI Refutation

- 12.1. Every Submission shall be the original work of the Author(s). Any form of plagiarism is strictly prohibited, and every source relied upon must be duly cited.

- 12.2. Plagiarism must adhere to the *University Grants Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018*, and must ordinarily be 10 per cent or below.
- 12.3. The use of Generative-AI writing tools shall be permitted only to the extent of 20 per cent of the Submission.
- 12.4. Plagiarism and Generative-AI content shall be checked and determined using Turnitin. Calculation of plagiarism shall exclude footnotes, case laws and quoted text.
- 12.5. Plagiarism exceeding 10 per cent but not exceeding 15 per cent shall invite a deduction of 5 marks from the score obtained under Rule 14; plagiarism exceeding 15 per cent but not exceeding 20 per cent shall invite a further deduction of 10 marks. Plagiarism exceeding 20 per cent shall result in summary rejection of the Submission.
- 12.6. Generative-AI content exceeding 20 per cent but not exceeding 30 per cent shall invite a deduction of 5 marks from the score obtained under Rule 14; content exceeding 30 per cent but not exceeding 40 per cent shall invite a further deduction of 10 marks. Generative-AI content exceeding 40 per cent shall result in summary rejection of the Submission.

14. Evaluation and Marking Criteria

- 14.1. Every Submission that qualifies preliminary screening shall be evaluated out of 100 marks, in accordance with the following criteria:

Criteria	Weightage	Evaluation Parameters
Relevance & Novelty of the Topic	20%	Contemporary relevance of the issue chosen; originality and novelty of the perspective adopted; alignment with the theme “Challenging the Settled” and the prescribed sub-themes
Depth of Critical and Analytical Engagement	25%	Ability to move beyond mere description to critique; identification of gaps, contradictions, or inconsistencies in the existing legal/policy position; strength and cogency of the arguments advanced
Research Quality and Engagement with Authorities	25%	Adequacy and accuracy of sources relied upon; engagement with case law, statutes, and existing literature; accuracy of citations and authorities referred to
Practical and Policy-Oriented Suggestions	10%	Concreteness, feasibility, and evidence-basis of the alternative approaches or reforms proposed; workability of the suggestions offered

Structure, Coherence and Clarity	10%	Logical flow and organisation of the submission; clarity and lucidity of expression; accessibility to readers without a formal background in law or policy
Compliance with Submission and Formatting Guidelines	10%	Adherence to the word limit, formatting, referencing, anonymity, and other submission requirements prescribed under these Rules

14.2. Submissions found to contravene the thematic requirements under Rule 3, or not aligned with the prescribed theme and sub-themes, shall be liable to rejection irrespective of their score on the above criteria.

14.3. Non-compliance with any of the submission or formatting guidelines contained in these Rules shall invite a penalty at the discretion of the Editorial Board to the extent of 10 marks, in addition to summary rejection where such non-compliance is material.

14.4. Publication is not guaranteed merely upon meeting the eligibility, submission, and formatting requirements prescribed under these Rules. Only the top-ranked Submissions, as determined on the basis of the marks obtained under this Rule, shall be selected for publication and/or awards under Rule 17.

15. Submission Guidelines

15.1. All Submissions shall be made only through the prescribed [Google Form](#). Submissions shall not be accepted through email or any other medium.

Post-Submission and Evaluation Guidelines

16. Post-Submission

16.1. Acknowledgement of Submission: The Editorial Board shall make every effort to acknowledge receipt of each Submission within 48 hours of submission.

16.2. Preliminary Screening: The Editorial Board shall screen every Submission for compliance with the eligibility, submission, and formatting requirements prescribed under these Rules, and for plagiarism and Generative-AI content under Rule 12. Submissions that do not meet these requirements shall be rejected at this stage, and no further review shall be undertaken.

16.3. Evaluation: Every Submission that clears the Preliminary Screening shall be evaluated by the Editorial Board, or by a panel of reviewers constituted by it, strictly in accordance with the Marking Criteria under Rule 14. Evaluation shall ordinarily be conducted on a blind basis, without reference to the identity of the Author(s).

- 16.4. Selection: On the basis of the marks obtained under Rule 14, (a) the top 15 (fifteen) Submissions shall be selected for publication on the Blog; and (b) the top 3 (three) Submissions overall shall be conferred the awards under Rule 8.
- 16.5. Communication of Results: The results of the Competition shall be declared on or around the date specified in Rule 7, and shall be communicated to all Authors. The Editorial Board shall not be obliged to furnish individualised feedback or reasons for the non-selection of any Submission.
- 16.6. Pre-Publication Editing: Prior to publication, the Editorial Board may carry out formatting, copy-editing, citation verification, proofreading, and minor grammatical or stylistic edits to selected Submissions, without seeking the prior approval of the Author(s). However, the editorial board may require the author to make changes in the manuscript, if required.

18. General Policy

- 18.1. Simultaneous submission of the same Manuscript at any other platform shall not be permitted during the pendency of the Competition.
- 18.2. Upon selection for publication, copyright in the Manuscript shall vest in The Policy Chronicle, published by the Centre for Policies, Laws and Agenda (CPLAN), National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi. Authors shall retain their moral rights.
- 18.3. The decision of the Editorial Board regarding evaluation, selection, rejection, editing, and publication shall be final and binding.

Miscellaneous

19. Clarifications

- 19.1. Clarifications, if any, may be emailed to cplan@nusrlranchi.ac.in.

20. Miscellaneous

- 20.1. Any disqualification arising from a violation of these Rules shall not entitle the Participant(s) to a refund of the registration fee.
- 20.2. The decision of the Editorial Board shall be final and binding in all matters relating to the Competition.
- 20.3. The Editorial Board shall be at its discretion to amend these Rules at any time.
- 20.4. The Editorial Board shall determine any matter not expressly provided for in these Rules, and amend any rule thereof.



20.5. The students of National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi shall not be eligible to take part in the competition.

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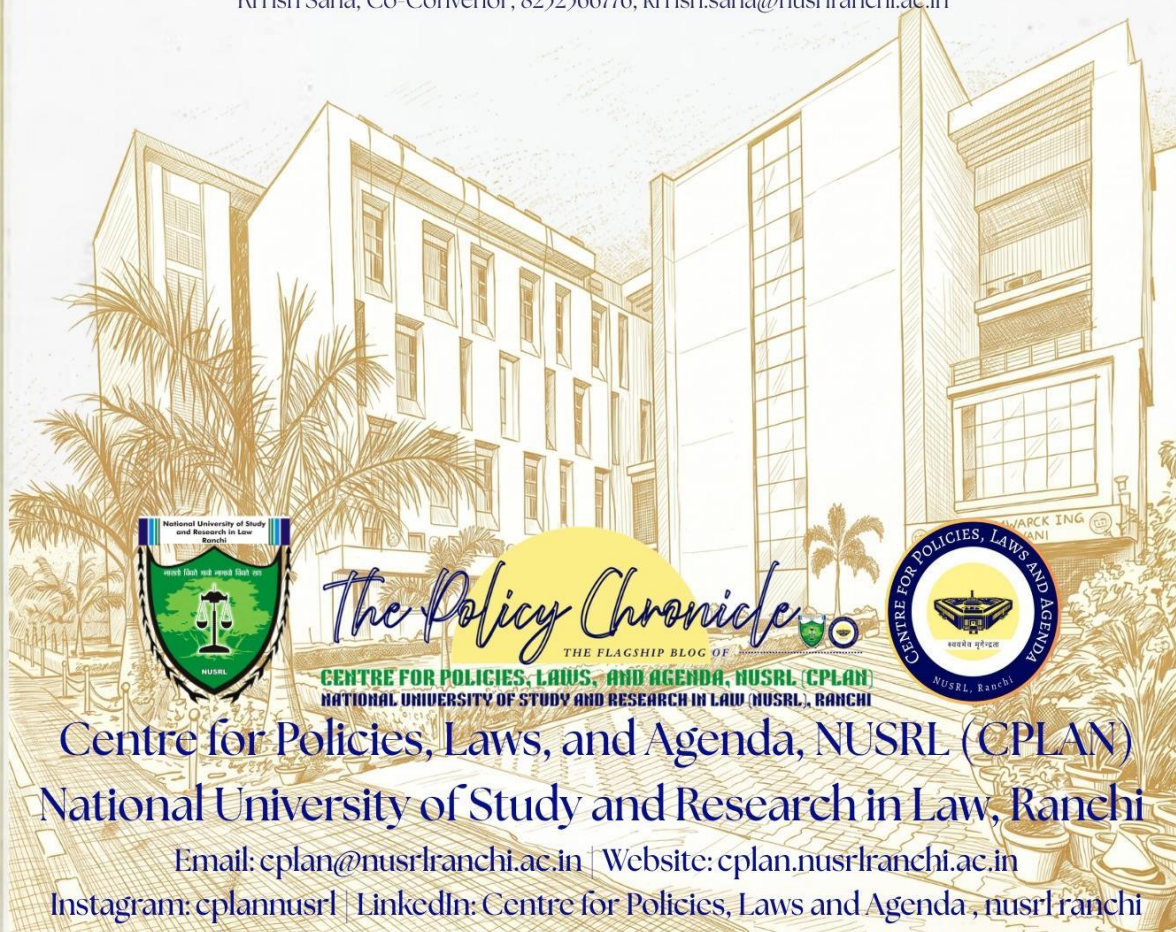
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