

INTERNATIONAL LAW AND POLICY SOCIETY

PRESENTS

4th ILPS ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION, 2026



**EXCITING PRIZE POOL
OF OVER ₹10,000/-**

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA



4TH ILPS ESSAY WRITING
COMPETITION 2026

ABOUT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA (**NLUO**)

Established in 2009 under the National Law University Odisha Act, 2008, National Law University Odisha (NLUO), Cuttack was conceived as a centre of excellence in legal education and research. Recognised by the University Grants Commission and approved by the Bar Council of India, NLUO has steadily developed into a leading national law university committed to academic rigour and professional competence. The University emphasises interdisciplinary learning and research-driven pedagogy, fostering critical engagement with law in its social, economic and global contexts.

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL LAW AND POLICY SOCIETY (**ILPS**)

The **ILPS** has been established to provide through research, working papers, publications, seminars, conferences, projects, and engagement, a platform for intellectual dialogue on contemporary issues of international law and foreign policy. The emphasis of this society will be on public international law, international affairs, and foreign policies of different countries. The society aims to engage with various stakeholders such as scholars, universities, policymakers, think tanks, and intergovernmental organizations. It provides students from different law universities the opportunity to publish their blogs and articles on international laws and policies on our distinguished website.





4TH ILPS ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION 2026

ABOUT THE ESSAY COMPETITION

The International Law and Policy Society (ILPS) at National Law University Odisha is hosting the ILPS Essay Writing Competition 2026, focusing on "Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL): Rethinking the Discipline from the Global South". Open to undergraduate and postgraduate law students, the contest invites original essays between 2,500 and 3,000 words exploring themes like colonial biases in international law, global trade dependencies, and selective enforcement double standards. Featuring a three-stage blind evaluation process, the event offers a total prize pool of ₹15,000 for the top three entries, with additional certificates and perks for participants. Registrations and submissions close in mid to end of September 2026.



T W A I L R



4TH ILPS ESSAY WRITING
COMPETITION 2026

TIMELINE

2nd September 2026
Opening of Registrations

20th September 2026
Closure of Registrations

30th September 2026
Submission Deadline

First week of October 2026
Declaration of Results





4TH ILPS ESSAY WRITING
COMPETITION 2026

CENTRAL THEME

**Third World Approaches to
International Law (TWAIL):
Rethinking the Discipline from the
Global South**

INDICATIVE SUB THEMES

- *Sources of International Law: Whether custom and general principles of "civilised nations" in Article 38 of the ICJ statute still carry the bias of their colonial-era origins;*
- *Trade and Debt dependencies in a new world order: How trade rules and lending conditions keep developing countries economically dependent;*
- *Retreat of the Global South in Investment arbitration: Why more developing countries are exiting or rejecting investor-state dispute settlement;*
- *Selective enforcement: Double standards in International law;*
- *Common Heritage or Common Exploitation: Who really benefits from shared global resources.*





4TH ILPS ESSAY WRITING
COMPETITION 2026

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. The essays must be exclusively submitted in **English**.
2. The essays should be the **original work** of the authors. Plagiarised work shall lead to disqualification.
3. Submissions exceeding a **10% plagiarism** threshold will be disqualified from consideration for the competition.
4. Essays that have been **previously published** elsewhere or are **currently under consideration** or submission for publication elsewhere will be **ineligible**.
5. The responsibility for verifying the accuracy of facts, opinions, or views in the submission lies with the author.
6. Submissions should not contain content that is offensive, abusive, derogatory or potentially defamatory.
7. The author's name should remain absent throughout the article, including within file properties and metadata. **Only team code shall be mentioned.**
8. Following the registrations, the Team codes will be allocated through mail to the participants.
9. The prescribed word limit for the article ranges from **2500-3000 words, excluding footnotes.**
10. The **articles** must be formatted with **Times New Roman font, size 12, and line spacing set to 1.5.**
11. The **footnotes** must be typed in **Times New Roman, Font Size 10, and with single line spacing.** Footnotes are permitted to conform to either the **Bluebook 20th edition** or the **OSCOLA 4th edition** citation style, as long as the citation form so chosen remains uniform throughout the submission.
12. The margins should measure 1 inch on all sides. All text should be justified.
13. The submission format for the article must be **exclusively in PDF format.** The PDF document must be named as the respective team codes.



4TH ILPS ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION 2026

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to all undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled in any discipline at a recognised law university, college, or institute.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Registration must be completed via the registration [link](#) by **20th September 2026**.

Registration fee (non-refundable) for each participant:

- Single Authorship: ₹250
- Co-Authorship (Maximum of Two Authors): ₹400

Visit this link for the payment procedure and link: [link](#)

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Registered participants may submit their essays via the submission form by **30th September 2026** (the submission link will be shared with the registered email IDs). Please ensure that the details provided in the submission form are the same as in the registration form.





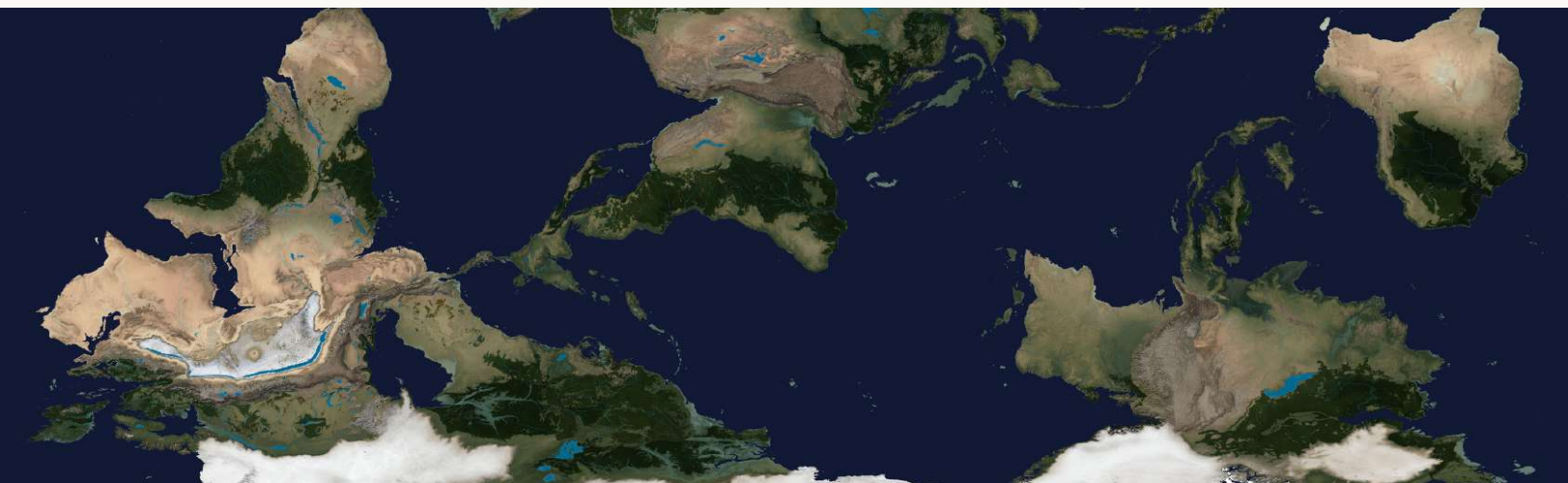
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EVALUATION PROCEDURE

The competition would follow a rigorous selection process to ensure fair and transparent evaluation through three distinct stages:

1. **Initial assessment by Junior Editors:** The submissions would be vetted to ensure they are in accordance with the specified submission format and to assess their originality, coherence and thematic relevance.
2. **Comprehensive Review by Senior Editors:** The Senior Editors will undertake a thorough evaluation to shortlist the top 10 submissions.
3. **External Review:** Each of the top 10 shortlisted submissions will undergo a blind assessment by external judges, which could consist of resource persons from the Collaborating Organisation. They will shortlist the top 3 articles in a ranked manner.

NOTE: REFRAIN FROM CONTACTING ANYONE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD. IT WILL CONSTITUTE AS A MALPRACTICE AND WILL LEAD TO IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION.





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MARKING SCHEME

Clarity, Structure and Coherence	10 points
Language and Persuasiveness	10 points
Novelty and Contribution to Existing Literature	10 points
Legal Accuracy & Depth of Analysis	10 points
Referencing and Research	10 points

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

The competition will feature a prize pool of Rs. 15,000/- for the Top Three entries:

- **Winners: INR 7,500 Cash Prize**
- **Runners-up: INR 5,000 Cash Prize**
- **Second Runners-up: INR 2,500 Cash Prize**

All participants will receive Certificates of Participation, while the Top Five entries shall be awarded Certificates of Merit, and the Top 10 entries shall get a chance to publish their piece on the [ilpsblog](#).





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COMPETITION 2026

| CONTACT US

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