



THE 2nd IDIA CHHATTISGARH NATIONAL ESSAY

WRITING COMPETITION 2019

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF PROF. (DR.) SHAMNAD BASHEER

About Us

"Give a man a fish, and you'll feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you've fed him for a lifetime."

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 Prof.(Dr.) Shamnad Basheer, the movement seeks to empower underprivileged students and help them transform into leading lawyers and community advocates by giving them access to quality legal education. Professor 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've adapted this sentiment to: "Our Harts' are in our villages." Taking this to heart, we've decided to intensify our programme and visit the remotest of Indian villages to locate and groom the HLA Harts (a legendary legal philosopher) of tomorrow." IDIA sensitizes 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.

CREATING C.H.A.M.P.S

IDIA's job does not end with merely facilitating law school admissions for underprivileged children. Rather, the ultimate goal is to produce leading lawyers and community advocates who are "Creative, Holistic, Altruistic, Maverick and Problem solvers" (C.H.A.M.P.S). To this end, IDIA has conceptualised a rigorous training and mentorship programme to help each IDIA Scholar to blossom to their fullest potential.

Overview

Last year, we at the Chhattisgarh Chapter of IDIA (based out of the ***Hidayatullah National Law University*** in Raipur) set out to take the aim of IDIA one step further and reach out to law 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 IDIA Chhattisgarh National Essay Writing Competition, which saw the participation of students from law universities and institutions from across India, the IDIA Chhattisgarh Chapter is pleased to organize the 2nd edition of the National Essay writing competition this year.

In Memoriam:

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."

Thomas Campbell



This year, the essay writing competition is dedicated to the memory of Prof (Dr.) Shamnad Basheer. A true legal luminary, Prof. Basheer was the founder of IDIA and built it from the ground up. He touched countless lives by bringing the law to the doorstep of every scholar and striving to make legal education accessible to all, back when such institutions were only the playing field of the rich and the English-speaking minority. For Prof. Basheer, a lawyer was the most important contributor to society, a harbinger of change. Hence increasing diversity in legal education was a must since diversity is the biggest contributor to innovation. A mentor and a guide to all of us at IDIA, Shamnad Sir was our biggest cheerleader and supporter, always inspiring us by his words and actions and inculcating a culture of leadership and responsibility in his teams. With his death, a light seems to have gone.

Shamnad Sir himself, in his inimitable style however, would have reprimanded us for even thinking such a thing. To him, his work would continue until every child has an opportunity to pursue their dreams of a legal education and every law school is a hotpot of various cultures, classes and castes. And for the millions whose hearts he touched, he shall forever live on.

Objectives

1. The primary objective of this competition is to encourage the law students across various states in India, through a quality competition and to develop original and creative thinking on some of the important contemporary issues relating to the Constitution of India.
2. 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. [A minimum registration fees will be charged from the participants.]

Nature of the Competition

1. Forum: The competition will be conducted online, where all communications between the organizers and participants, including the registrations and submissions will be made online through emails.
2. Theme: The theme of the competition will be – ***“Contemporary Developments in the field of Constitutional law in India”***.
3. Evaluation: The write-ups will be evaluated in three stages:
 - a. *1st 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.
 - b. *2nd Stage* – A Panel of two or more lawyers from different High Courts in India with adequate experience in the field of constitutional law, will evaluate the shortlisted write-ups and each panelist will score the write-ups. The average score of the two panelist will be considered to shortlist the top 10 write-ups.
 - c. *3rd Stage* – A Panel comprising of Constitutional Law Experts, comprising **Prof. Mahendra Pal Singh** (Chancellor, Central University of Haryana & Constitutional Expert) **Ms. Aruna Roy** (Social Activist and Magsaysay Award Winner) and **Mr. Apar Gupta** (Executive Director, Internet Freedom Foundation) will evaluate the top 10 write-ups and the final score will be considered to ranking the write-ups in the order of 1 to 10.

Theme

When our Constitution was drafted and adopted in the winter of 1949, the Constituent Assembly could never have foreseen the landmark changes which the sacrosanct law of the land has gone through in the past seventy years. Right from National Commission for Backward Classes to the recent amendment of Article 370, our constitutional fabric has shifted and been mended depending on the societal needs and changes of the time. This has led to a transformation of our Constitution into even more of a patchwork quilt than it already was in 1949, and has led to unprecedented development of constitutional law in novel fields. In light of these developments, it is imperative that the field of constitutional law be examined in a new light. To that effect, this year’s theme is ***“Contemporary Developments in the field of Constitutional law in India”***. We encourage participants to think beyond merely explaining the developments and cataloguing the constitutional amendments. Thoughtfully constructed essays detailing the far reaching effects of such and other innovative ideas are welcome.

Guidelines and Rules for the Essay Competition:

1. Participation and 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 law schools.

1.6 REGISTRATION DETAILS

Registration fees—Rs.200 for Single Participant and Rs.250 for Co-authors (Two Maximum).

Mode of payment- BHIM/Paytm/NEFT

For BHIM –

7987556978@upi (Manash Mandal)

For Paytm –

7987556978 (Manash Mandal)

For NEFT –

Bank Account Holder	Manash Mandal
Account Number	1188104000028440
IFC Code	IBKL0001188
Bank Name	IDBI
Branch	Uparwara, Raipur

The registration form shall be filled post the payment of the requisite registration fees. A proof of the same shall be attached in the registration form.

2. Presentation and Submission:

2.1 The essay must not be more than 3000 words, excluding footnotes (speaking footnotes also excluded).

2.2 The essay should consist of -

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

2.3 Formatting guidelines are

- Font - TIMES NEW ROMAN
- Font Size- 12
- Line Spacing - 1.5
- Footnote Font Size - 10
- Footnote Spacing - 1.0
- Font Size of Heading &Subheading - 14
- Alignment - Justified

2.4 Plagiarism is strictly prohibited. Footnotes, wherever apposite, must be provided in the Bluebook 20th edition format.

2.5 The essay must be submitted in both MS Word and PDF format at Idiachhattisgarhevents@gmail.com

2.6 Entries shall be enclosed with a covering letter (as a separate attachment) mentioning the Participant's name/s, Name of School/ College, Class/Semester, Participant Code. Note- Both Covering letter mentioning the details of the Participant/s and cover page mentioning only the title of the essay and the Participant code are mandatory.

2.7 Registration form can be accessed at: <https://forms.gle/thSsNV2hJWbmo27FA>

2.8 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.

3. Marking Criteria:

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

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

Creativity	30%
Content	30%
Holistic Approach	20%
Structuring	10%
Format	5%
Grammar	5%

3.4 The decision of the judges and the core organising committee will be final in all respects.

4. Awards

4.1 Certificate of participation shall be given to all authors and co-authors.

4.2 Prize cheques (1st Prize- Rs. 8000; 2nd Prize- Rs. 5000; 3rd Prize- Rs. 2000), Medals and Certificates of merit shall be awarded to 3 best essays.

4.3 The winner will be provided with an opportunity to work under a leading lawyer.

5. Important Dates

Date of Notification- 5th September 2019. Last date for registration- 23rd September 2019. Last date for submission- 13th October 2019. Result Declaration- 2nd December 2019.

6. Miscellaneous:

6.1 If there arises any situation that is not contemplated in the rules, the organiser's decision on the same shall be final. The administration of the contest, including determining the eligibility of Participant or essay, evaluation of essays, and awarding of the prizes, is within the sole and absolute discretion of the organisers.

6.2 Submissions post the last date of submission will attract a negative marking of 1 mark per hour.

6.3 Copyright of essays rests with the Organisers.

For more information or clarification please write at idiachhattisgarh@gmail.com

or contact the following –

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