



सत्ये स्थितो धर्मः

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, ODISHA

# Kautilya Society

*PRESENTS*

## 1<sup>ST</sup> ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION

*ON THE THEME*



ARBITRATION AND POLICY



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## OVERVIEW OF THE INSTITUTION



National Law University Odisha, Cuttack was established by Act 4 of 2008 by the Odisha State Legislature keeping in mind an enunciated vision of advancement of learning, teaching, research, diffusion of knowledge in the field of law and catering to the needs of society by developing the professional skills of those intending to take up the professions of Advocacy, Judicial Services, Legal services, and so on. National Law University, Odisha is committed to providing an atmosphere in which academic excellence is the foremost priority for students. Along the lines of this vision, NLUO has significantly catered to the needs of the research in various legal fields by paving way for various dedicated research centers and societies. Such endeavors enable students to pursue individual interests and take part in various literary and recreational activities throughout the academic year.

The Kautilya Society is one of such initiatives of NLUO which aims at promoting study, research, and informed deliberation in the field of public policy, and its allied subjects with a policy and application-oriented purpose.





## ABOUT KAUTILYA SOCIETY, NLUO



Kautilya Societies are student initiatives in universities across the country set up by Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy ('Vidhi') with the aim to widen access to legislative drafting and analysis, and to empower young minds to explore public policy as a career path. The Kautilya Society, NLUO Chapter has been set up at National Law University Odisha, in association with Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy.

The Kautilya Society initiative envisions providing opportunities to their students for successful careers in public policy and other related fields such as development, advocacy, consultancy, campaigning, financial analysis, economics and research. The vision of the society is to provide awareness and opportunities for students to nurture their interest in public service and policy as career options with a view to becoming good citizens of India.



## ABOUT VIDHI



The Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy ('Vidhi') is an independent think-tank doing legal research to make better laws and improve governance for the public good. They do this through high quality, peer reviewed original legal research; through engaging with the Government of India, State governments and other public institutions to both inform policy-making and to effectively convert policy into law; and through strategic litigation petitioning courts on important law and policy issues. Their abiding values are non-partisan engagement, research excellence and independence.



## EVENT DETAILS



### THEME: ARBITRATION AND PUBLIC POLICY IN INDIA

#### Introduction

Arbitration has been constantly posited as a totally private dispute resolution mechanism for parties to resolve any contractual breaches or disagreements privately, without having to resort to the courts. Arbitration is seen as providing a ‘double solution’, it firstly, helps to unburden the Court’s caseload and secondly, it ensures confidentiality between parties, helping to forego any unnecessary public scrutiny. However, it has been observed, and even, lamented upon, that the present arbitral system in India has not helped with any of the following. In fact, enforcement petitions have posed to be a major roadblock to the ‘speedy’ nature of arbitrations, with enforcement petitions being delayed as much as 5 years. Such has been the case of arbitration in India, that as recent as in 2023, the Ministry of Finance even rolled out a Circular, discouraging the inclusion of arbitration in public procurement contracts.

In light of this scenario, literature on Indian arbitration does not fulfil the discussion it begets. Public policy is the biggest challenge posed during enforcement proceedings, so that the award is not converted into a binding judgment. Hence, an Essay Writing Competition on the theme of “Arbitration and Public Policy in India” will not only help add literature to this ever-contentious issue, but also allow the authors make themselves aware with how public policy and arbitration constantly clash, collide and sometimes, be harmonious to each other in high stakes arbitrations.

## Sub-Themes

Arbitrability of Workplace Sexual Harassment Claims

The ‘Ghost in the Machine’: AI-Assisted Arbitral Awards and the Public Policy Challenge

Green Arbitration: Reconciling Investor Protection with Climate Change Public Policy

Data Sovereignty vs. Arbitral Confidentiality: A New Public Policy Frontier

Third-Party Funding and Public Policy: A Necessary Evil or a Modern Tool for Justice?

Inclusion of Civil Procedures in Ad-hoc Arbitrations: Necessary for Proper Disposal or Infringement on Autonomy?

The above themes are **suggestive** and the authors are free to submit pieces on any other subject which falls within the broader theme of the intersection of arbitration and public policy.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Submissions shall be made in .doc/.docx format (Word 2007 or 2010 or 2013).
- All submissions are to be made via this [google form](#). (*Note*: write title of the submission and team code as the file name. Example: The arbitrability of tenancy matters\_T001.docx).
- The google form that will be used for submission will ask for the following:
  - a. Name
  - b. Email
  - c. Contact Number(s)
- The name of the file or the file in no place shall indicate the identity of the author(s).
- Manuscript word limit: 1500-2000 (excluding endnotes)
- Hyperlinking shall be the preferred mode of referencing. If hyperlinking is not possible, then end-noting may be resorted to.
- Font: Times New Roman. Font size: 12. Line spacing: 1.5. All text should be justified.
- Each manuscript must contain an Abstract of 50-100 words (not inclusive within the total word count)
- The competition shall follow a strict plagiarism and AI policy. All articles must have a similarity index of less than 10% and 0% AI. Articles with false positives shall be duly read to ensure whether the piece is originally written or it has been written by an AI model.
- The essay should be error-free; grammar, spelling, punctuation etc.
- It is recommended that the authors visit the Vidhi website to get a better understanding on the type of submissions that the Editorial Board looks forward to receiving.

## PLEASE NOTE:

Manuscripts not in conformity with these guidelines may be rejected at the sole discretion of the Editorial Board. The Editorial Board reserves the right to send the manuscripts back to the authors for any modification(s) at any stage, in the event of non-conformity with any of the submission guidelines. The Editorial Board may, in its absolute discretion, waive any of the above rules or amend the process. In case of any dispute or ambiguity, the decision of the Editorial Board shall be final and binding.

## ELIGIBILITY

- Students pursuing Five-Year/Three-Year LLB Discipline
- Students pursuing One-Year/Two-Year LLM Discipline
- Students who are not pursuing law but are interested in the subject-area are also allowed to participate.

## PROCESS OF EVALUATION

All articles will go through a three-tiered editorial process. They are as follows:

### A. First Stage:

This stage shall entail a preliminary check of the article, whether it follows the prescribed formatting guidelines such as being within the word count, not breaching the plagiarism limit, is not AI-written, etc. This stage is to undertake a clerical check of the article.

### B. Second Stage:

This stage shall entail the editors to read through the articles, to assess whether the ideas are novel and original, to assess structure of the article and whether proper citations have been provided along with a grammar check.

### C. Third Stage (or the External Panel):

This shall be the final stage, where selected articles from the second stage will be forwarded to an External Panel of 3-4 members to decide the articles which shall be selected for publication on the Vidhi Blog as well as the Winners of the Competition.

Publication on the Vidhi Blog is upon the sole discretion of the External Panel.

## \* PROCESS OF REGISTRATION \*

- Registration to be done via [this form](#) by the 30th of November, 2025.
- Registration fee (non-refundable) is as follows for the participants:

|                   | Single authorship | Co-authorship |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| NLUO Students     | Rs.150            | Rs.250        |
| Non-NLUO Students | Rs.250            | Rs.400        |

- All participants are requested to pay the registration fee in the following way:
- Visit <https://eazypay.icicibank.com>
- Enter Institution Name as 'National Law University' and click on 'Go'
- Fill the details.
  - a. Email id
  - b. Mobile No.
  - c. Amount
  - d. Student Name (Enter your name)
  - e. Roll or Enrolment No. (Enter your Roll / Enrolment number for NLUO students and enter 131 for others)
  - f. Semester (Enter your Semester number for NLUO students and enter 11 for others)
  - g. Year
  - h. Payment Date
  - i. Purpose (Mention KS Essay Writing Competition)
- Once required data is filled in click on 'Submit' after enter the captcha and OTP.
- After the payment you will get the auto generated payment receipt.

## PROCESS OF SUBMISSION

- Team codes will be allotted after registration.
- Submission must be done via [this form](#) by the 15th of December, 2025.
- Please ensure that details provided in the registration form is same as in the submission form.

## TIMELINE

Last date for registration

30.11.2025

Last date for submission

15.12.2025

## PRIZES

Winners

Rs. 5,000

Runners-up

Rs. 3,000

Second Runners-up

Rs. 1,500

The top submissions will also be published on the Vidhi Blog subject to the discretion of the External Panel.



## CONTACT US:



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## STAY CONNECTED WITH US

