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5TH NATIONAL ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION

Regulating the New Economy: Challenges in the Age
of Technology and Sustainability

Organised by

School of Agriculture Law and Economics (SALE), RGNUL

In collaboration with Dhir & Dhir Associates



sale@rgnul.ac.in

RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW, PUNJAB

The Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), Punjab, was established by the State Legislature of Punjab by passing the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab Act, 2006 (Punjab Act No. 12 of 2006). The Act incorporated a University of Law of national stature in Punjab, to fulfil the need for a Centre of Excellence in legal education in the modern era of globalization and liberalization. The University was accredited with an 'A' Grade by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in 2015. The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, ranked RGNUL the first amongst the cleanest Higher Educational Institutions, Swachh Campus (2019) in the category of Government Residential Universities.

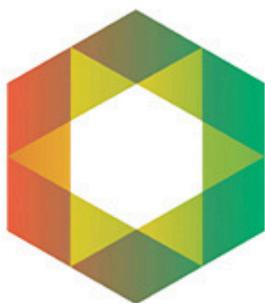
ABOUT SALE

SALE aims at teaching and promoting research in the specialization course of Agricultural Law and Economics, which seeks to integrate the disciplines of law, economics, and policy to address the multifaceted challenges of the agricultural sector. The Centre endeavors to synergize legal and economic perspectives in areas such as agricultural marketing, insurance, tenancy, credit, standardization, and international trade, while emphasizing the importance of sustainability and environmental protection. RGNUL, Punjab, as a premier institution of legal education, has established SALE as a Centre of Excellence to promote academic and professional engagement in agricultural law and policy research. Efforts by RGNUL to create an enabling environment through research initiatives, policy advocacy, and awareness programs for farmers, policymakers, and professionals will serve as a milestone towards achieving sustainable agricultural development and socio-economic justice.



ABOUT DHIR & DHIR

Established in 1993, Dhir & Dhir Associates is a full-service law firm renowned for its expertise in corporate, insolvency, and restructuring laws, as well as a wide range of commercial and financial legal services. Headquartered in New Delhi, with offices in Mumbai, Hyderabad, and a representative office in Japan, the firm has built a strong reputation for its client-centric approach and solution-oriented legal strategies. Recognized among India's leading law firms by national and international platforms, Dhir & Dhir Associates combines legal acumen with business insight to deliver comprehensive advisory and litigation support. Under the visionary leadership of its Founding Partner, Mr. Alok Dhir, the firm continues to uphold its legacy of integrity, excellence, and innovation, providing strategic counsel to corporate houses, financial institutions, government bodies, and multinational clients across diverse sectors. . This competition is spearheaded by the firm's ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) practice team. The firm is a leader in sustainability law, advising clients on navigating the complex regulatory landscape of the new economy.



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ABOUT SCC TIMES

SCC Times is an online legal news and research platform published by Eastern Book Company (EBC). It provides real-time updates on judgments delivered by the Supreme Court of India, various High Courts, and tribunals. The platform also covers legislative developments, policy changes, and important legal news. SCC Times includes case summaries, legal articles, expert opinions, and interviews, making it a useful tool for lawyers, judges, academicians, and law students. Due to its credibility and prompt reporting, SCC Times is widely relied upon for tracking contemporary legal developments in India.

In addition, SCC Times highlights landmark and constitutionally significant cases in a simplified manner. It offers subject-wise categorisation, which helps in focused legal research. The platform also reports on appointments, transfers, and administrative updates within the judiciary. Its concise summaries save time while ensuring accuracy of legal information. As a result, SCC Times plays an important role in bridging the gap between legal developments and legal education.

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THEME & SUB-THEMES

The global economy is undergoing a profound transformation driven by rapid technological innovation and an increasing emphasis on sustainability. This emerging “New Economy” presents significant legal challenges, including the regulation of Artificial Intelligence, digital markets, and sustainable finance. In response, there is a growing need for legal frameworks to evolve in order to remain effective, adaptive, and future-ready. The competition aims to encourage critical legal inquiry into these developments by bridging academic discourse with contemporary industry concerns.

The theme of the competition is:

“Regulating the New Economy: Challenges in the Age of Technology and Sustainability”

Suggested sub-themes include, but are not limited to:

1. ESG Frameworks: Corporate Accountability and the Move Beyond Compliance.
2. Green Financing: Legal Mechanisms for Sustainable Investment and Carbon Trading.
3. Agri-Tech & Law: Regulatory Challenges in Smart Farming and Biotechnology.
4. The Circular Economy: Legal Incentives for Waste Management and Resource Efficiency.
5. Digital Economy & Antitrust: Balancing Innovation with Fair Competition in Big Tech.
6. Data Privacy vs. Sustainability: The Environmental Cost of Data Centers and AI.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES & POLICY

I. General Rules & Eligibility

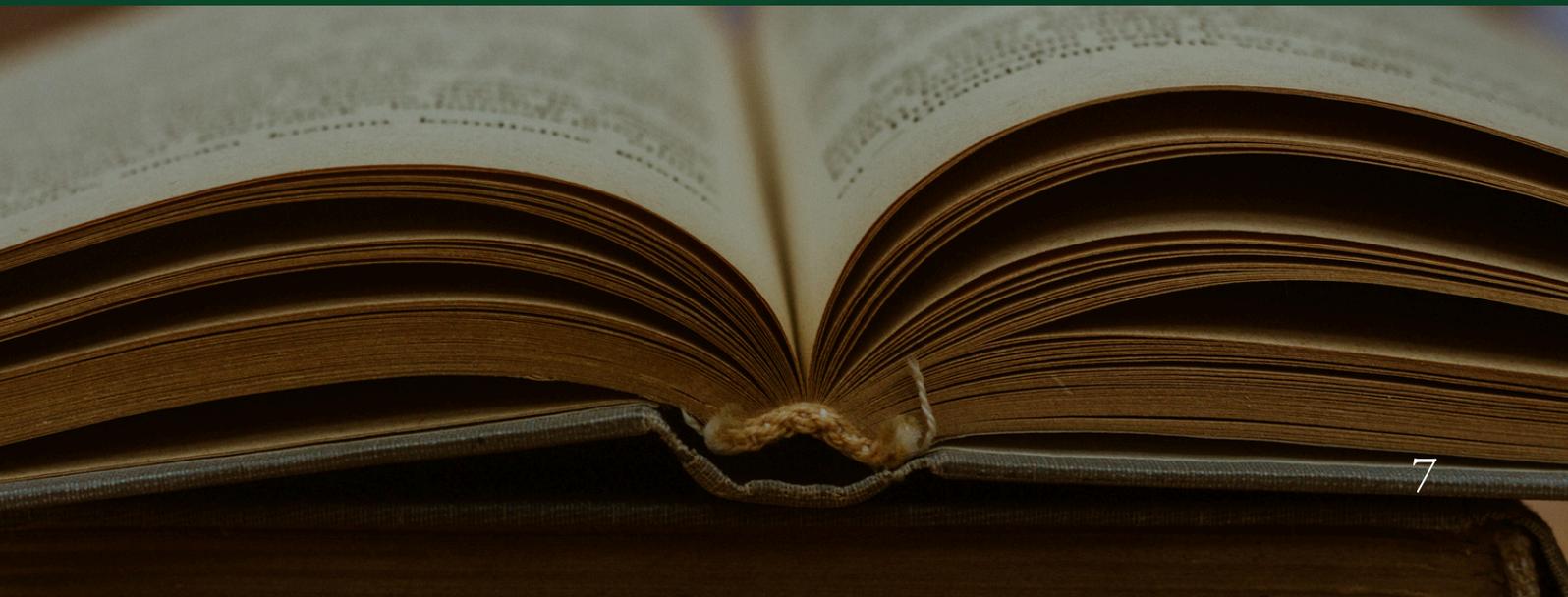
1. **Word Limit:** The essay must be between 3,000 – 5,000 words, exclusive of the abstract and footnotes. (Note: Essays significantly exceeding or falling short of this limit may be subject to a penalty).
2. **Co-Authorship:** Co-authorship is permitted for up to a maximum of two authors per entry.
3. **Single Entry:** Participants are allowed to submit only one entry. Multiple submissions by the same author(s) will result in disqualification.
4. **Anonymity Policy:** To ensure a fair double-blind review process, the manuscript must not contain the name, university, email, or any other information hinting at the identity of the author(s).
 - Note: Personal details should only be entered in the Registration Form/Cover Letter.
5. **Originality:** The submission must be the original work of the author(s).
 - **Plagiarism:** A similarity index above 10% will result in immediate disqualification.
 - **AI Content:** The use of AI tools (ChatGPT, etc.) for text generation is strictly prohibited. Entries found to be AI-generated will be rejected.
6. **Exclusivity:** The essay should not have been published earlier (in print or online), nor should it be under consideration for publication elsewhere.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES & POLICY

II. Editorial Policy & Content Focus

The School of Agricultural Law and Economics (SALE) and Dhir & Dhir Associates seek entries that go beyond mere descriptive analysis.

- **Analytical Approach:** We desire essays that are analytical, provide critical commentary, and stimulate discussion on the intersection of Law, the New Economy, and Sustainability.
- **Scope:** While summaries of recent judgments are helpful, high-scoring entries will be those that critique legal frameworks, propose policy reforms, or explore comparative perspectives from foreign jurisdictions.
- **Objective:** Authors are expected to assess current challenges and recommend strategies to support the ESG framework, foster innovation in the digital economy, and ensure sustainable development.
- **Interdisciplinary:** We encourage authors to explore consociated themes where economics and technology meet legal regulation.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES & POLICY

III. Formatting Standards

To ensure uniformity, all submissions must adhere to the following formatting rules:

- File Format: Microsoft Word Document (.doc or .docx) only. PDF submissions will not be accepted.
- Body: Font – Times New Roman, Size 12, Line Spacing 1.5, Justified Alignment.
- Footnotes: Font – Times New Roman, Size 10, Single Spacing.
- Margins: 1 inch (2.54 cm) on all sides.
- Citation Style: All citations must strictly follow *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (21st Edition).

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES & POLICY

IV. Submission Process

Abstract: All submissions must be accompanied by an abstract of 200–300 words. This should briefly explain the research question, the scope of the analysis, and the structure of the essay. The abstract must be included at the beginning of the main file.

How to Submit:

- The manuscripts must be submitted via mail to sale@rgnul.ac.in with the subject line: "Submission: 5th National Essay Competition – [Title of Paper]".

Review Timeline:

- Preliminary Review: Conducted by SALE Academic Team (Screening for plagiarism and formatting).
- Final Review: Conducted by the Joint Review Board (Dhir & Dhir Associates & SALE Experts).

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES & POLICY

V. Copyright & Legal

- **Copyright Transfer:** Upon submission, the author(s) agree to grant the School of Agricultural Law and Economics (RGNUL) and Dhir & Dhir Associates the right to publish the essay on their respective platforms or in a compiled book/journal.
- **Moral Rights:** All moral rights (right to be attributed as the author) shall remain vested with the author(s).
- **Cross-Posting:** If a selected entry is published by the organizers, it cannot be cross-posted to other websites/journals without the explicit written permission of the Editorial Board.



TIMELINE & REGISTRATION DETAILS

Registration Fee:

Rs. 350/- + GST (as applicable)

Last Date for Submission:

15 February 2026

Payment to be made from link below

https://rgnul.lsacademia.in/lisa_rgnul/eventPortal/loginFrom.js

₹

Registration Link:

<https://forms.gle/MAZPGejcZhKQN5Qs9>

Participants are advised to carefully read the brochure prior to registration.

AWARDS & THE FINAL PRESENTATION

1. Awards & Incentives

- 1st Prize: Cash Prize of ₹4000 + Internship at Dhir & Dhir Associates + Certificate.
- 2nd Prize: Cash Prize of ₹2000 + Internship at Dhir & Dhir Associates + Certificate.
- 3rd Prize: Cash Prize of ₹1000 + Internship at Dhir & Dhir Associates + Certificate.

2. Colloquium

The authors of the Top 10 entries shall be required to present their essays at a colloquium organised by SALE. The colloquium is tentatively scheduled to be held in the second week of March and shall be conducted either in online or hybrid mode, subject to final decision by the SALE team at RGNUL.



ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Patron in Chief

Prof. (Dr.) Jai Shankar Singh
Vice Chancellor | RGNUL, Punjab

Patron

Dr Ivneet Walia
Registrar (Officiating) | RGNUL, Punjab

Faculty Coordinator

Dr. Brindpreet Kaur
Assistant Professor of Economics | RGNUL, Punjab

Student Convenors

Gurmander Singh
Harsheen Kaur Luthra

CONTACT DETAILS

Any and all clarifications and queries regarding the competition shall be sought only via e-mail to **sale@rgnul.ac.in**.