

NATIONAL ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION

**“CONSTITUTIONAL COURAGE, LIBERTY
AND THE RULE OF LAW”**

**Reflecting on the Enduring Legacy
of Hon'ble Justice H.R. Khanna**

Organised by
**SCHOOL OF LAW,
GALGOTIAS UNIVERSITY**

In Collaboration with
**DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR NATIONAL
LAW UNIVERSITY, SONEPAT, HARYANA**

SKS Partners (Industry Partner)
Through
**CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE LAW
School of Law, Galgotias University**



About the Organising Institutions

School of Law, Galgotias University

The School of Law, Galgotias University, is committed to excellence in legal education, research, and professional development. Through its academic centres and initiatives, including the Centre for Comparative Law, the School promotes critical engagement with contemporary legal and constitutional issues and provides students with opportunities for research and scholarly discourse.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonapat

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonapat is a premier national law university dedicated to excellence in legal education, research and interdisciplinary scholarship. The University fosters critical legal thinking and engagement with constitutional values, human rights and contemporary issues of law and governance.

Industry Partner – SKS Partners

SKS Partners is a full-service Indian law firm offering expertise across diverse areas of legal practice. With its emphasis on integrity, intellectual rigour and practical legal solutions, the firm brings valuable professional and practitioner perspectives to this academic initiative.

Collaborative Vision

The collaboration between Galgotias University, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonapat, and SKS Partners brings together academic scholarship, national legal education and professional practice to foster meaningful dialogue on constitutional courage, individual liberty and the rule of law.



Rationale

Constitutional democracy is tested most profoundly during periods of crisis. Emergencies, threats to national security, institutional conflicts, technological transformations and social polarisation can place significant pressure upon constitutional institutions and individual freedoms.

In such circumstances, the rule of law, judicial independence and protection of fundamental rights become particularly significant.

Hon'ble Justice H.R. Khanna's legacy provides an important starting point for examining these questions. His jurisprudence demonstrates the importance of judicial conscience and principled constitutional reasoning in safeguarding liberty and maintaining the balance between State authority and individual rights.

The proposed competition seeks to move beyond a purely commemorative exercise and create a substantive academic engagement with the larger constitutional questions embodied in Hon'ble Justice Khanna's legacy.

The involvement of the Centre for Comparative Law, Galgotias University further enables participants to examine these questions from comparative and interdisciplinary perspectives, drawing upon constitutional experiences from India and other democratic jurisdictions.

Essay Themes

Participants may choose any one of the following themes:

1. Constitutionalism in Times of Crisis: Protecting Liberty Against the Excesses of State Power
2. Judicial Independence and the Preservation of Constitutional Democracy
3. The Constitutional Value of Judicial Dissent
4. Fundamental Rights and the Limits of State Power
5. Judicial Courage and Constitutional Governance
6. Emergency Powers and Constitutional Safeguards: Lessons for Modern Democracies
7. Human Dignity and the Expanding Horizons of Fundamental Rights
8. Constitutional Democracy Beyond Majoritarianism: Protecting the Individual
9. Judicial Dissent and Constitutional Development: A Comparative Perspective
10. National Security and Civil Liberties: Finding the Constitutional Balance
11. Constitutional Democracy in the Digital Age: Privacy, Surveillance and State Power
12. The Rule of Law and Democratic Resilience: Lessons from Constitutional Crises

Participants may adopt a doctrinal, comparative, interdisciplinary, historical or contemporary perspective, provided that the essay substantially engages with the central theme of the competition.

ELIGIBILITY

The competition shall be open to students and young scholars, including:

- Students pursuing 5-year integrated LL.B. programmes;
 - Students pursuing 3-year LL.B. programmes;
 - Students pursuing LL.M. students;
 - Research scholars in Law and allied disciplines; and
 - Students from disciplines such as Political Science, Public Policy, International Relations, Sociology and other relevant disciplines.
- Participation shall be individual.

Participants may be required to provide valid proof of institutional affiliation at the time of registration.

Essay Requirements

The submitted essay must be:

- Original;
- Unpublished;
- Written specifically for the competition;
- The independent work of the participant;
- Relevant to one of the prescribed themes; and
- Supported by appropriate legal and academic authorities.

Participants are encouraged to make extensive use of primary sources, including constitutional provisions, judicial decisions, legislation and other authoritative materials, along with relevant scholarly literature. Essay to be submitted on following email: gusoleessay26@gmail.com

Word Limit

The essay should be within:

4,500–5000 words

The word count shall exclude:

- Footnotes;
- Bibliography; and
- References.

The final competition guidelines may prescribe the precise word-count requirements.

Citation and Referencing

Participants shall use a consistent and recognised citation methodology [ILI or Blue Book] throughout their submissions. Participants are expected to ensure the accuracy and authenticity of all citations and authorities.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

The organisers are committed to maintaining the highest standards of academic integrity.

All submissions must be original.

An essay may be disqualified in cases involving:

- Plagiarism more than 15%.
- Unattributed use of another person's work;
- Fabricated or manipulated citations;
- Fabrication of authorities or sources;
- Submission of previously published work; or
- Other forms of academic misconduct.

The organisers reserve the right to conduct plagiarism and originality checks.

The decision of the Organising/Academic Committee in matters relating to academic integrity shall be final, subject to the applicable competition rules.

Evaluation Criteria

The essays shall be evaluated by a panel comprising distinguished academicians, constitutional law scholars, legal practitioners and experts in comparative law, as may be constituted by the organisers.

Evaluation Criteria	Weight age
Understanding and interpretation of the theme	20%
Constitutional and legal analysis	25%
Originality and critical thinking	20%
Quality of research and use of authorities	15%
Comparative/interdisciplinary perspective	10%
Structure, coherence, language and presentation	10%
Total	100%

The evaluation shall place particular emphasis on originality, analytical depth and the participant's ability to develop a coherent constitutional argument.

Awards and Cash Prizes

The competition shall recognise the top three submissions through the following cash prizes:

Position	Cash Prize
First Position	₹10,000/-
Second Position	₹5,000/-
Third Position	₹3,000/-

In addition to the cash prizes, the winners shall receive certificates of excellence/merit and appropriate institutional recognition.

The organisers may also institute additional special recognition awards for outstanding submission

PUBLICATION IN EDITED BOOK

One of the distinguishing features of the competition shall be the opportunity for academic publication. Selected high-quality essays from the competition shall be considered for publication in an:

EDITED BOOK

Focusing on constitutionalism, liberty, judicial courage, fundamental rights and the rule of law, and reflecting upon the enduring constitutional legacy of Hon'ble Justice H.R. Khanna.

The proposed edited volume will provide participants with an opportunity to contribute to a scholarly collection addressing contemporary and comparative constitutional questions.

Publication will be subject to:

- Editorial review;
- Originality and plagiarism verification;
- AI should be zero percent
- Compliance with prescribed formatting and citation requirements;
- Author consent;
- Any necessary revisions suggested by the editorial committee; and
- Applicable publication standards.

The final selection of essays for inclusion in the edited book shall be made by the Editorial/Academic Committee.

Publication in the edited book shall not necessarily be restricted to the three prize-winning essays; other essays of exceptional academic quality may also be selected.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

To provide a meaningful bridge between academic excellence and professional development, selected meritorious participants may also be considered for internship opportunities.

Subject to availability, institutional requirements and applicable eligibility criteria, internship opportunities may provide exposure to areas such as:

- Constitutional law research;
- Comparative law research;
- Legal research and writing;
- Policy research;
- Judicial and legal practice;
- Alternative Dispute Resolution;
- Academic research; and
- Other relevant areas of legal and professional development.

The organisers shall communicate specific internship opportunities, eligibility requirements, duration and host institutions separately.

Internship opportunities shall be subject to the policies and availability of the respective host institution/organisation and shall not be construed as an automatic entitlement for every participant.

CERTIFICATES

Certificates shall be provided as follows:

Winner: Certificate of Excellence

Second Position: Certificate of Merit

Third Position: Certificate of Merit

Selected Authors: Certificate/Recognition for Publication

Eligible Participants: Certificate of Participation

The organisers may also issue special recognition certificates for exceptional contributions, including Best Constitutional Analysis, Best Comparative Perspective and Best Original Argument.

ROLE OF THE CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE LAW

The Centre for Comparative Law, School of Law, Galgotias University, shall provide a comparative and interdisciplinary dimension to the initiative. The Centre will encourage participants to examine Indian constitutional questions in light of experiences from other constitutional democracies. Areas of comparative inquiry may include:

- Judicial independence;
- Constitutional courts;
- Judicial dissent;
- Emergency powers;
- Fundamental rights;
- Human dignity;
- Separation of powers;
- National security;
- Constitutional remedies;
- Digital rights; and
- Democratic resilience.

This comparative dimension will enable participants to understand both the distinctiveness of the Indian constitutional experience and its place within the wider global discourse on constitutional democracy.

INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION

The collaboration between the School of Law, Galgotias University, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonapat, Haryana, and the Centre for Comparative Law, School of Law, Galgotias University, reflects a shared commitment to promoting:

- Constitutional scholarship;
- Comparative legal research;
- Academic excellence;
- Student development;
- Legal research and writing;
- Inter-institutional academic engagement; and
- Constitutional and democratic values.

The initiative is intended to provide students and young researchers from across India with a national platform for meaningful scholarly engagement.

TIMELINES

The competition shall recognise the top three submissions through the following cash prizes:

Activity	Proposed Date
Announcement of Competition	Ocotober 9, 2026
Full Essay	November 30, 2026

The final dates shall be approved by the Organising Committee and communicated through the official competition notification.

ORGANISING STRUCTURE

Patron-in-Chief

Mr. Suneel Galgotia
Hon'ble Chancellor, Galgotias University, Uttar Pradesh, India

Patrons

Dr. Dhruv Galgotia
CEO, Galgotias University,
Uttar Pradesh, India

Adv. Aradhana Galgotia
Director Operations, Galgotias University,
Uttar Pradesh, India

Co-Patron

Prof. (Dr.) K.Mallikharjuna Babu
Vice Chancellor, Galgotias University,
Uttar Pradesh

Prof. (Dr.) Devinder Singh
Vice-Chancellor
DR. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University,
Sonapat, Haryana

Competition Director

Prof. (Dr.) Aditya Tomer
Dean, School of Law, Galgotias University

Academic Partner

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonapat, Haryana

Industry Partner

SKS Partners, New Delhi

Academic Unit

Centre for Comparative Law, School of Law, Galgotias University

**For Submission and General Queries please write us on
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