



Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai
Law, Humanities, and Social Sciences Collective

LHSS LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMPETITION

2026



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ABOUT THE COLLECTIVE

The LHSS Blog of MNLU Mumbai, initiated in January 2022 metamorphosed into The LHSS Collective after 11 months of its inception as the founding vision of the blog stirred us to expand our operations, outreach and team. The LHSS Blog was formed due to an observable lack of platforms in the global south which were dedicated to studying the intersection between Law and Social Sciences. Hence, MNLU Mumbai approved the creation of such a platform. The faculty in charge for the blog is Dr. Upamanyu Sengupta. Apart from functioning as a regular blog, LHSS successfully consolidated and curated the relevant literature produced in monthly roundups, apart from creating content like editorials, podcasts and such other forms, while actively commissioning and soliciting content from well-known personalities in this field among other things. The collective today delivers on all goals of the blog apart from a renewed approach to collaborating with like-minded sister organizations.

Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai, established under the Maharashtra National Law University Act 2014 on 20th March 2014, is one of the premier National Law Universities in India. The Act envisaged to establish a National Law University in Maharashtra to impart advanced legal education and promote society-oriented research in legal studies for the advancement of societal life of the people in the country.

Prof. (Dr.) Dilip Ukey, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the University provides exemplary leadership to the institution in achieving its mandates. The prime goal of the University is to disseminate advanced legal knowledge and processes of law amongst the students and impart in them the skills of advocacy, legal services, law reforms and make them aware and capable to utilize these instruments for social transformation and development.

ABOUT MNLU MUMBAI

ABOUT THE COMPETITION



The Legislative Review Competition by the Law and Humanities Society (LHSS) invites participants to critically analyze recent legislations (2024–2026) within the Global South. It encourages an intersectional approach to examine how laws on issues like labour, migration, land, and digital governance shape—and often deepen—existing social inequalities. Participants assess a chosen legislation’s intent, implementation, and socio-political impact, with particular attention to marginalized communities. The competition promotes rigorous legal research and reform-oriented thinking, challenging participants to propose informed recommendations while engaging with broader questions of justice, representation, and democratic accountability in contemporary lawmaking.

The earlier editions of LHSS-led academic events have consistently focused on fostering interdisciplinary dialogue at the intersection of law, humanities, and social sciences. For instance, flagship initiatives such as the LHSS Symposium have, over multiple editions, brought together students, scholars, and practitioners to deliberate on pressing socio-legal issues. Notably, the third edition of the symposium in 2025 built upon the success of its previous two editions, indicating sustained participation and institutional continuity.

In substance, past events have functioned as more than mere competitions—they have operated as intellectual incubators. They have consistently enabled participants to interrogate dominant legal narratives, foreground Global South perspectives, and produce scholarship that is both critical and contextually grounded. This institutional consistency enhances the credibility and academic value of the LHSS essay competition in its present form.

ABOUT PAST EVENTS

CONCEPT NOTE

Law has always been both a promise and a weapon. Across human history, laws have simultaneously proclaimed universal rights and entrenched hierarchies by extending protection to some while systematically exposing others to harm, erasure, and dispossession. The postcolonial world inherited this contradiction wholesale, adopting the institutional architecture of liberal democracy while preserving the structural inequalities that colonialism had engineered. Today, as globalisation accelerates, technology reshapes the exercise of state power, and the Global South asserts new economic and political ambitions. Legislatures across Asia, Africa, and South America are making consequential choices about labour, land, environment, public health, digital governance, and the terms of belonging. These choices will determine the character of democratic life for generations.

India's Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 expands state powers to detain and deport with minimal procedural safeguards, but this erosion of due process is not unique to immigration. It reappears in land acquisition legislations which compress consultation timelines and limit judicial challenge, in labour codes that subordinate worker protections to investor convenience, in public health statutes that vest sweeping emergency powers in the executive with limited legislative accountability, and in data governance regimes that prioritise state access over individual privacy.

Across the Global South, the populations most exposed to these legislative choices share overlapping vulnerabilities, they are workers in the informal economy, smallholder farmers dispossessed by commercial agriculture, indigenous communities resisting extractive industries, linguistic and religious minorities navigating majoritarian nationalism, women and gender minorities confronting legal regimes that formalise patriarchal control, and stateless persons denied the basic legal standing required to access any rights at all. These vulnerabilities are the product of colonial legal transplants that were never adequately interrogated and of democratic deficits that insulate lawmaking from the communities most affected by it. Technology has added new dimensions to these dynamics without resolving any of the underlying tensions. Algorithmic systems now inform decisions about welfare eligibility, policing, credit access, and border control. Without adequate and measured intervention, they embed and automate historical biases at scale.

FORMAT & REGISTRATION

1. In a legislation review participants are expected to examine a legislation (promulgated within the past 2 years, 2024 to 2026), its intent, enforcement, and socio-political impact. The participants are expected to submit an intersection review of a legislation of their choice in the following manner:
 - a. A brief write up of what the legislative review endeavors to do and what according to you are the highlights of your review (150-200 word summary on the legislation chosen, and key issues identified)
 - b. Review of specific sections or thematic analysis of the areas covered by the legislation
 - c. Recommendations (including but not limited to, suggestions raised in Law Commission Reports, any deletion or amendment, alternative policy approaches etc.)

Please note that the format for each review may differ depending on the legislation. The abovementioned structure is indicative in nature.

2. Registration Fee:

- a. Single Author: INR 350
- b. Co-author (Two persons per submission) : INR 700
- c. Detailed registration and payment form is attached [here](#)

IMPORTANT DATES

OPENING OF REGISTRATION

15. 06. 2026

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION

26. 07. 2026

LAST DATE FOR REGISTRATION

20. 07. 2026

DECLARATION OF RESULTS

10. 08. 2026

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Word Limit: 1500-2500 words
2. All submissions must be made via the Google form provided post registration. Submissions sent via email shall not be accepted.
3. All submissions must be original, unpublished, and not under consideration by any other journal/blog.
4. Co-authorship is permitted (maximum of two authors per submission, including the first author).
5. Plagiarism and AI-generated content will be checked rigorously, and any submission found in violation will be rejected without further review. For purposes of plagiarism, the similarity tolerance is 10 percent.
6. Submissions should be in MS Word format (.docx or .doc) and named with the title of the review, along with mentioning the specific legislation being reviewed.
7. Submissions should not contain any author-identifying information to ensure an unbiased assessment of the submission



1. Best Legislative Review - INR 3,000
2. Runner Up Legislative Review - INR 2,000
3. Top 3 submission to be considered for publication in LHSS Journal | Vol 1, Issue 2 (subject to editorial discretion).

PRIZES

PATRON

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Also, follow us on [LinkedIn](#) & [Instagram](#) for further updates.