



National Article Writing Competition

**ORGANISED BY:
CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DISABILITY STUDIES,
HPNLU - SHIMLA**

**IN COLLABORATION WITH:
ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS**



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About HPNLU



The Himachal Pradesh National Law University (HPNLU) Shimla, was established by the State Government in the year 2016, by an Act of the Legislature (Act 16 of 2016). The University started functioning from October 5, 2016.

Located in the geographical terrains of the Himalayas, HPNLU, Shimla, is one of the best places for studying law in India. The University focuses on the holistic developments of students about the legal system, topographies of law making, legal practice, and administration. The institution has attracted excellent set of teachers from all over India. The University is committed to provide inter-disciplinary and practical/application based legal education keeping in view the requirements of the overall developments of its students.

Under the academic and administrative leadership of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, the team HPNLU, is committed to achieve new heights in legal education.





About CHRDS

The Centre for Human Rights and Disability Studies at Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla will serve as one platform, which aims at bringing the first person voices along with people from academia, research-activism, government departments, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. CHRDS is a research cum activism Centre of its kind in the region, which emphasises to connect and address the welfare and healthcare concerns of people with diversities and related concerns, which includes healthcare, education, employment, social and cultural life and access to justice etc. Through research and deliberation, this Centre will try to create a narrative, which focuses on the issues of healthcare, privacy, dignity, autonomy, right to self-determination, right to social, economic, political and cultural preservation of people with disabilities.

The Centre aims to serve as a role model for taking dialogue into practice. While bridging the gap, the Centre tries to set a standard for right to 'act' in terms of the modern-day 'rights' jurisprudence, as developed under Disability-diversities studies and health justice discourse.



About ADR



The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) is a pioneering nonpartisan, non-profit organization in India, established in 1999 by professors from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad. ADR's mission is to improve governance and strengthen democracy through electoral and political reforms, focusing on transparency, accountability, and decriminalization of politics. Its landmark achievement was a Supreme Court ruling in 2002-03, which made it mandatory for all election candidates to disclose their criminal, financial, and educational backgrounds, empowering voters with critical information. ADR's flagship programs, such as Election Watch and Political Party Watch, analyze candidate affidavits and party finances. Since the landmark judgment of the Supreme Court in 2003, ADR along with the National Election Watch, has conducted Election Watches for the 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha Elections, Rajya Sabha Elections and almost all State Assembly Elections post 2003 in the country. The organization also advocates for inner-party democracy and regularly files Public Interest Litigations (PILs) to drive systemic reform, making it a key watchdog for Indian democracy.



About the Competition

In light of ADR's expertise in democratic reforms and CHRDS's focus on the intersection of human rights and disability, the Centre for Human Rights and Disability Studies presents a collaborative National Article Writing Competition on the theme of "**Electoral Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**"

The following are the five broader themes:

- Theme 1: Beyond the Ballot Box: Examining the Legal Barriers to Electoral Participation for Persons with Disabilities
- Theme 2: The Right to Vote as a Right to Equality: Reinterpreting Suffrage Through a Disability Rights Lens
- Theme 3: Digital Democracy or Digital Divide? The Legal Promise and Perils of Electronic Voting for the Disabled
- Theme 4: Guardianship vs. Citizenship: Legal Capacity and the Disenfranchisement of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities
- Theme 5: From Tokenism to Transformation: Implementing Accessible Elections as a Constitutional Mandate



Guidelines

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- All submissions will undergo a double-blind peer review to ensure the integrity and impartiality of the evaluation process.
- The composition of the peer review panel and the policies governing its functioning shall be determined solely at the discretion of the CHRDS, HPNLU.
- Author shall not disclose any information regarding the identity, including, but not limited to name, institutional assistance, professional details, etc., within the submission. Non-adherence of this rule will lead to immediate disqualification.
- All rules & penalties are subject to final discretion of the organising committee. In case of any conflicts, the CHRDS, HPNLU shall be the final authority on the guidelines.

FORMATTING GUIDELINES

- All the entries must be formatted in Times New Roman, Font Size 12, and Line spacing 1.5, with normal margins on A4 paper. For the headings, font size 14.
- Footnotes must follow the citation system specified in Harvard Blue Book, 20th Edition. All entries should contain footnote citations formatted in Times New Roman, Font Size 10 and Single Line spacing. No Speaking Footnotes shall be submitted in the PDF.
- The word limit, inclusive of footnotes, shall be 2500-3000 words.





Guidelines

PRIZES

- **FIRST PRIZE** - Cash Prize of ₹3000 + publication + certificate of merit
- **SECOND PRIZE** - Cash Prize of ₹2000 + publication + certificate of merit
- **THIRD PRIZE** - Cash Prize of ₹1000 + publication + certificate of merit
- Remaining 7 shortlisted articles - publication+ certificate of merit
- All participants - Certificate of Participation

PUBLICATION OF ARTICLES

- Top 3 articles: To be published on ADR's official website..
- Remaining 7 shortlisted articles: To be published on the official website of CHRDS, HPNLU Shimla.

REGISTRATION STRUCTURE

A nominal registration fee of:

- ₹250 for a single-authored submission
- ₹500 for a co-authored submission



Guidelines

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- The paper must be the original and unpublished work of the author and should not be in consideration for publication or in a contest elsewhere and must be related to one/more theme(s)/sub-theme(s).
- All manuscripts must be submitted only via the link provided.
- Manuscripts sent via email will not be accepted. All submissions are to be made in English language and in word .docx format only.
- All essays would be checked for similarity and those with similarity index more than 20% would be liable for rejection/penalty as determined by the organising committee.
- Use of AI of any form is strictly prohibited.
- As a condition of publication, the author(s) agree that the submitted manuscripts will be the property of CHRDS, HPNLU. The author(s) also grant CHRDS, HPNLU an irrevocable, transferable, non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to reproduce, publish and distribute their submissions in all media.
- In case of any conflicts, the CHRDS, HPNLU shall be the final authority on the guidelines.
- Author shall not disclose any information regarding the identity, including, but not limited to name, institutional assistance, professional details, etc., within the body of the manuscript. Non-adherence of this rule will lead to immediate disqualification.

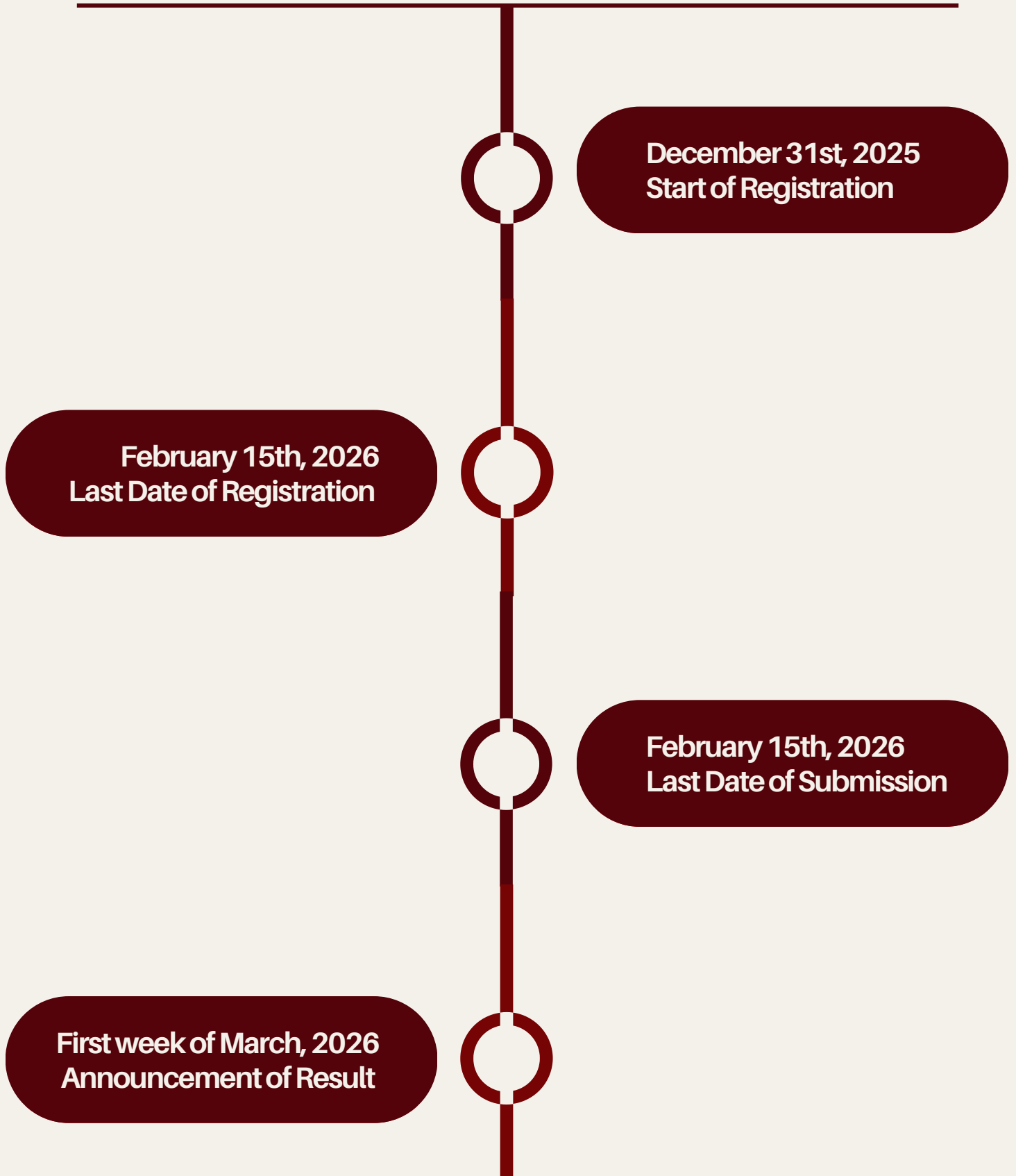
Assessment Criteria



These assessment criteria establish a clear and comprehensive framework for evaluating all submissions. Students are expected to adhere strictly to each guideline relating to content quality, writing standards, language proficiency, structural coherence, and ethical conduct. Compliance is essential, and any article found to contain more than 20% plagiarism will be automatically rejected.

CRITERION	MARKS	DESCRIPTION
1. Content Quality	30 marks	- The article must stay strictly aligned with the given or theme topic. - Information presented should be factually accurate, well-researched, and relevant. - Ideas must be original, insightful, and demonstrate critical thinking
2. Writing Style and Creativity	30 marks	- Writing must be engaging, expressive, and show a unique personal voice. - Creative presentation of ideas is encouraged while maintaining an academic tone - Use of examples, narrative flow, and innovative structuring is appreciated.
3. Language Proficiency	20 marks	- Grammar should be accurate with minimal errors. - Sentences should be well-structured, fluent, and easy to read.
4. Structure and Organisation	10 marks	- Paragraphs should flow logically with transitions. smooth. - Ideas must be organized coherently and presented in a meaningful sequence.
5. Ethical Writing	10 marks	Plagiarism must be avoided. Proper citations should be used when required

Competition Timeline



Registration Details*

REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

- The Registration for the competition shall be done only via (link). Once participants have registered for the event, the submission must be done only via the link given below.
- After the registration, the submission link shall be active till the 15th of February, 2026 [11:59 PM] For submissions by the participants.

[Registration & Payment Link]

[Submission Link]



Scan now to register!



Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla



Centre for Human Rights and Disability Studies

Patron

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