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THE 1ST NLUJ - CDSE ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION, 2026

ORGANISED BY:

*Centre for Disability Studies and Empowerment
[CDSE], National Law University, Jodhpur*

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ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

National Law University, Jodhpur (NLU Jodhpur), established in 1999 in Rajasthan, is one of India's leading institutions for legal education, renowned for its academic rigour and commitment to excellence. As a premier National Law University, it seeks to develop highly competent legal professionals equipped to address the evolving challenges of law, policy, and justice in contemporary society. The University offers well structured undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes that integrate strong doctrinal foundations with practical and experiential learning. Its curriculum promotes critical thinking, interdisciplinary engagement, and research-driven inquiry, ensuring students are prepared for diverse professional and academic pathways. NLU Jodhpur's vibrant academic environment is further enriched through regular seminars, workshops, conferences, and interactions with distinguished scholars and practitioners.



ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR DISABILITY STUDIES AND EMPOWERMENT

The Centre for Disability Studies and Empowerment (CDSE) is a student-run, interdisciplinary initiative at National Law University, Jodhpur, dedicated to advancing disability rights, inclusive policy, and accessible design in India. Our work is grounded in the belief that disability justice is inseparable from social justice.

CDSE brings together scholars, practitioners, disability advocates, and Millennium Fellowship-trained student leaders committed to promoting equal participation, legal empowerment, and socio-economic inclusion of persons with disabilities. The Centre engages in research, policy analysis, accessibility audits, legal literacy programmes, and community outreach, with a focus on disability law, reasonable accommodation, inclusive education, and rights-based approaches to assistive technologies. Our members collaborate with national and international organisations, contribute to public discourse, and work towards strengthening India's disability rights framework through evidence-based advocacy and intersectional scholarship.





INITIATIVES OF THE CENTRE

1. UN Millennium Fellowship-Project Saathi:

The Project Saathi, launched under the UN Millennium Fellowship, is a student-led initiative that promotes disability awareness and legal outreach. CDSE conducted sensitisation sessions and visits to PWD care institutions across Jodhpur and helped students obtain UDID cards and access government schemes.

2. Project Ability Empowerment (PAE):

A Supreme Court-mandated initiative monitoring the implementation of the RPwD Act, 2016, in care institutions for persons with disabilities. CDSE teams conducted field inspections, documented findings, and submitted reports to nodal agencies and the Supreme Court, highlighting implementation gaps.

3. Rajiv K Luthra Accessibility Lab:

The Lab was established in collaboration with the Rajiv K. Luthra Foundation providing accessible academic resources and assistive support for students with diverse disabilities, promoting equal learning opportunities.

4. Campus Accessibility:

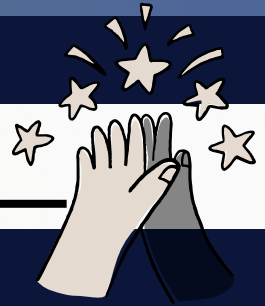
CDSE conducted a campus accessibility audit focusing on ramp safety and accessible pathways. Following its recommendations, the university constructed several new disability-friendly ramps. The Centre also facilitated the procurement of accessible golf carts to improve intra-campus mobility for persons with disabilities.



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ABOUT OUR COLLABORATORS



MEDIA PARTNER: SCC ONLINE

SCC Online, a leading legal research platform provides access to extensive legal resources including judgments, legislation, law reports, journals, and other legal materials. With digital tools designed to make legal research more efficient and accessible, SCC Online serves law students, researchers, academics, advocates, and legal professionals. It helps contribute to the dissemination of legal scholarship and contemporary legal developments, supporting meaningful engagement with research and discourse on law, rights, accessibility, and social justice.

INTERNSHIP PARTNER: MISSION ACCESSIBILITY

Mission Accessibility is a non-profit organisation dedicated to advancing the rights of persons with disabilities and creating a more accessible and inclusive society. The organisation combines legal advocacy, policy reform, research, awareness, capacity building, and accessibility initiatives to address barriers faced by persons with disabilities. Its work spans digital accessibility, education, employment, access to justice, and disability rights advocacy, including accessibility audits, workshops, legal representation, and strategic interventions. Through its efforts to promote barrier-free participation and equal opportunities, Mission Accessibility works with diverse stakeholders to advance meaningful and systemic change.





ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The Inaugural National Essay Writing Competition organised by the Centre for Disability Studies and Empowerment is centred on the theme of “Inclusion of people with disabilities.” As the RPwD Act, 2016 marks a decade of promise, critical questions remain about whether formal legal recognition has translated into meaningful participation in welfare delivery, education, employment, digital spaces, and public life. The competition aims to encourage meaningful academic engagement and discourse on disability rights and provide a unique opportunity for participants to contribute nuanced insights into an emerging and socially significant field.

THEMES OF THE COMPETITION

1. Disability and Sports: Participation, Recognition and Equality.

- Accessibility in grassroots sports.
- Classification controversies in disability sports.
- Media representation of a para-athlete.

2. Beyond Compliance: Reimagining Disability Rights Ten Years After the RPwD Act, 2016.

- From charity to rights: Has the RPwD Act changed societal perceptions of disability?
- Disability and public spaces: Who gets to belong in the city?
- The future of disability justice: What should the next decade look like?

3. AI and Accessibility: Bridging Digital Divides and Ensuring Inclusive Technology for Persons with Disabilities.

- From Assistive Technology to Intelligent Assistants: The Future of Disability Inclusion.
- AI, Employment and Disability: Creating Inclusive Workplaces or Reinforcing Existing Barriers?
- The Digital Divide and Disability: Access, Affordability and Digital Literacy in the Age of AI.



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TIMELINE OF THE COMPETITION

- Call for Papers and Registration: 12th October, 2026
- Last Date for Registration: 5th December, 2026
- Last Date for Submission: 10th December, 2026
- Results of the Competition: First week of February

REGISTRATION

We invite essays from students of all leading law colleges.



Single Author Entry: ₹150



Co Authored Entry: ₹200

The payment must be made through the following link, and the participant must select the CDSE Essay competition tab when making the payment.

REGISTRATION LINK: [CLICK HERE](#)

PAYMENT LINK: [CLICK HERE](#)



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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- The competition is open to law students pursuing three and five-year courses.
- Co-authorship is allowed up to two authors. The co-authors may be from different institutions.
- The submission must adhere to the word limit of 1500–2000 words.
- Footnotes are not permitted, all sources must be hyperlinked. The links should be publically accessible.
- The similarity index of the submission must not exceed 15%.
- AI use is strictly prohibited. If AI use is detected then the entry will not be considered for evaluation.
- The submission link along with the Team Code will be mailed individually to participants post completion of the registration process.



EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Originality and Creativity
- Quality of Research and Legal Analysis
- Clarity and Structure
- Relevance

BLIND REVIEW PROCESS

The publication team at CDSE will conduct the preliminary blind review of submissions. The final evaluation shall be done by an expert panel comprising distinguished faculty members, scholars and experts, and based on this, the results will be declared.



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RECOGNITION AND INCENTIVES

1st position

Rs. 7,500/- along with an internship opportunity at Mission Accessibility and publication of entry on the CDSE blog.

2nd position

Rs. 5,000/- along with an internship opportunity at Mission Accessibility (subject to availability of slots) and publication of entry on CDSE blog.

3rd position

Rs. 2,500/- along with publication of entry on the CDSE blog.

**Publication is subject to the Blog's editorial guidelines.*



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**FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED ON OUR
OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS.**



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*For any queries, please reach out
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