3rd National Intellectual Property Article Writing Competition, 2026

Organised by

Centre for Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights, RGNUL

in collaboration with S.S. Rana & Co.

Website: https://www.ciiprrgnul.co.in

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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. Recently, the University has earned the coveted status of being one of the top-ranking law teaching institutions in the Country. Over 1000 students acquire state of art legal education in a well furnished and fully developed residential campus which boasts of all necessary infrastructural and manpower facilities for the all-around growth of the students. RGNUL is currently emphasizing research, training, and consultancy in various areas of contemporary interest. It is envisaged to be a research intensive university in the times to come. It has as many as 20+ centre's focusing on various areas of social-legal inquiries which includes the Centre for Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights. RGNUL publishes 05 journals covering a vast range of subjects of topical interest.

CENTRE FOR INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

CIIPR aims at teaching and promoting research in the IPR specialization course which is to synergize all types of IPRs in all the fields of sciences, technologies, engineering and another field of studies and further promote innovations in the interest of all the stakeholders. RGNUL, Punjab has itself been established as the Nodal Center of Academics and Professionalism in legal education and is yet to establish itself in specialising in Intellectual Property Clinics (IP Clinics). Efforts by RGNUL to create an enabling milieu by way of modernizing the IPR infrastructure as well as implementing various programs for the creation of awareness among the professionals as well as general public will be a milestone of success.

Recent works include specialized institutional publications such as Translation of Justice and Equity from the Verdicts of Justice Surya Kant, which was digitally launched by CIIPR. The Centre has also hosted two National IP Moot Court Competitions, further strengthening its footprint in advocacy-based legal pedagogy. These initiatives reflect CIIPR's continued commitment to bridging academic scholarship with practical skill-building in the field of intellectual property law.

INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

Established in October 2020, the Indian Knowledge Systems, known in Hindi as the Bhāratīya Jñāna Paramparā Vibhāga, is a division of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, which promotes Indian systems of knowledge. The division is headquartered in Vasant Kunj, Delhi, and is located at the AICTE headquarters in New Delhi. IKS operates under the leadership of National Coordinator Prof. Ganti S. Murthy, and functions in both English and Hindi to serve stakeholders across India.

The division is dedicated to reviving and mainstreaming India's traditional knowledge systems within contemporary academic and research frameworks, spanning disciplines such as philosophy, science, mathematics, medicine, agriculture, arts, and governance, hence encouraging their integration into higher education curricula, research, and public discourse as part of the broader National Education Policy vision.

S.S. Rana & Co

S.S. RANA & CO.
ADVOCATES
ISO 9001 : 2015 & ISO 27001 : 2013

Established in 1989 S.S. Rana & Co. is a full-service law firm, specializing in Intellectual Property and Corporate Law practices and has consistently been recognized as one of the Top Leading law firms of India by reputed National and International journals and platform. The Firm's Corporate office is in New Delhi and associate offices are situated in Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai and Kolkata. The firm is dedicated to its vision of proactively assisting its Indian and Fortune 500 clients worldwide, as well as grassroots innovators, with the highest quality of legal services. The Founding Partners of the firm carry a legacy of quality, integrity and diversion and have an astounding experience of 54 years each in the area of litigation and dispute resolution.

About the Competition

The Centre for Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights (CIIPR) is proud to present the Third Edition of the National Intellectual Property Article Writing Competition, 2026, building upon the success of its previous editions. Over the past two years, the competition has received an overwhelming response, with more than 150 submissions in each edition from students and young researchers across the country.

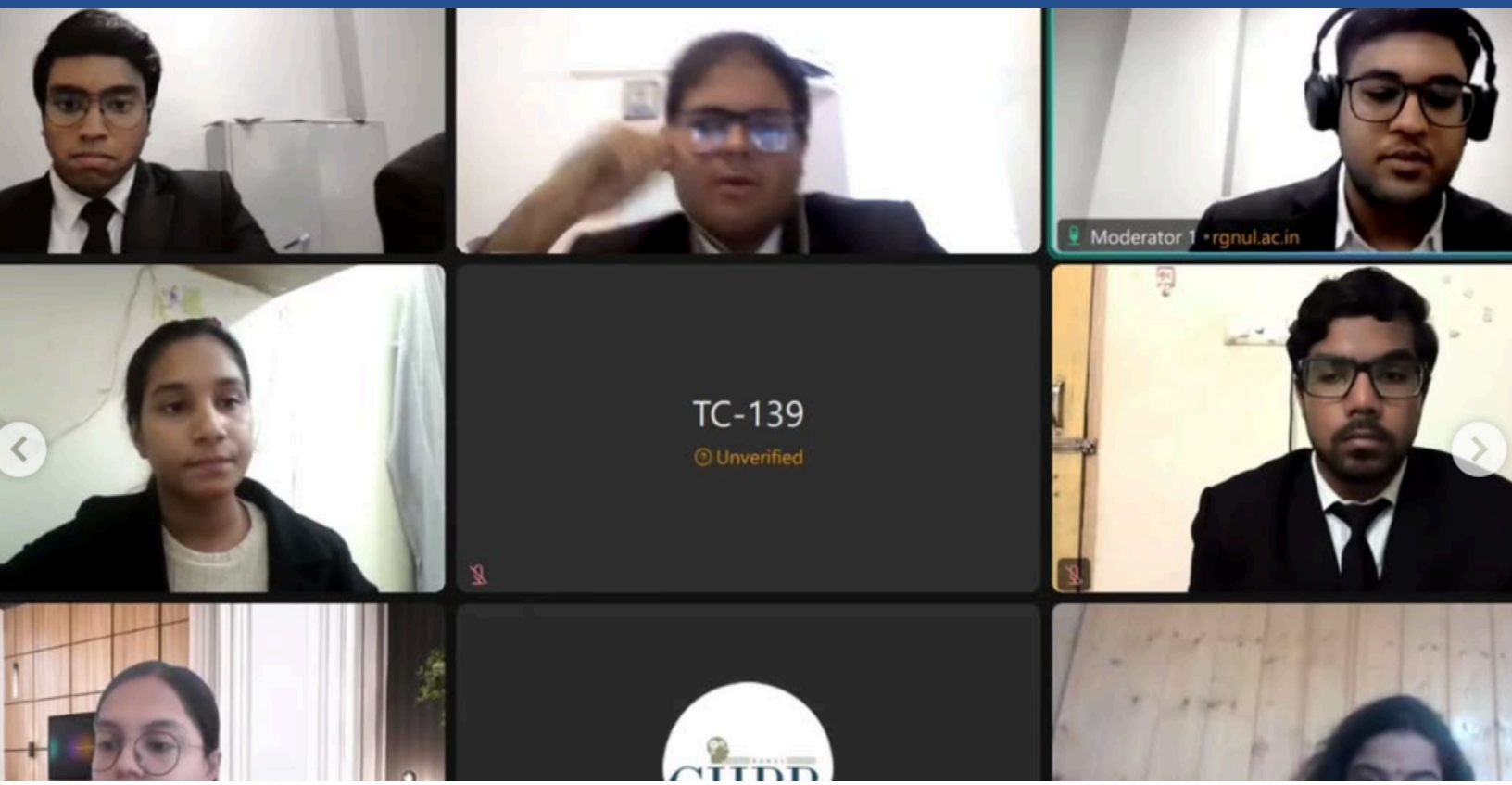
In collaboration with S.S. Rana & Co., CIIPR has consistently sought to provide participants with meaningful opportunities to showcase their research and academic writing. The Top 10 articles from each edition have been published in the annual CIIPR publication, offering young scholars a platform to gain recognition and contribute to contemporary discourse on Intellectual Property Rights.

The Third Edition aims to further this legacy by encouraging critical research, innovative thinking, and substantive engagement with emerging issues in IPR, while providing participants with opportunities for publication, recognition, cash prizes, and internships.

Format of the Competition

The competition shall entail mandatory registration, following which participants shall be required to submit a final draft of 2,500–3,000 words, inclusive of the abstract and exclusive of footnotes. The abstract shall comprise 200–250 words, followed by the full paper addressing any one of the themes specified below.

The winners shall be declared upon the completion of the blind peer-review process. The paper presentations shall be conducted in online mode.



Important Dates

REGISTRATION OPEN:
26 AUGUST 2026

REGISTRATION DEADLINE
12 SEPTEMBER 2026

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
22 **SEPTEMBER 2026**

PAPER PRESENTATION (VIRTUAL)
24 OCTOBER 2026

Registration Details

Registration Fee:

Single Author: ₹400 + GST

Co-authorship: ₹600 + GST

RGNUL Student and Co-author of a different institute: ₹700 + GST

RGNUL Students: ₹300 + GST (Same for single and Co authorship)

Note: Before making payment please go through the payment guide. Payment must be completed to confirm registration. Participants must subsequently fill out the Google Registration Form and upload the payment proof.

Important Links

Registration Link	https://forms.gle/4M1KPPh9W1YmRcyLA
Payment Portal	https://rgnul.lsacademia.in/lsa_rgnul/eventPort
OSCOLA 4th Edition	https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/
Payment Guide	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19xME8
Final Submission Form	https://forms.gle/hGqCoC246HwtZzkdA

Submission Guidelines

- Eligibility: The competition is open exclusively to undergraduate students. Cross-institutional teams are permitted.
- Authorship: Each submission may have a maximum of two authors.
- Language: The submission must be written in English only.
- Word Limit: The final manuscript must comprise 2,500–3,000 words, inclusive of the abstract and exclusive of footnotes.
- Abstract: Each submission must include an abstract of 200–250 words.
- Citation Style: All submissions must strictly adhere to the OSCOLA 4th Edition.
- Similiarity The similarity index must not exceed 15%. Submissions exceeding the prescribed limit shall be liable to rejection.
- AI Usage: The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools for generating, drafting, rewriting, paraphrasing, or substantially modifying the manuscript is strictly prohibited. Any violation shall result in disqualification.
- Originality: The manuscript must be the original and unpublished work of the author(s). It must not have been previously published or submitted simultaneously to any other competition, journal, or publication.
- Exclusive Submission: An author/team may make only one submission. Multiple submissions, whether as a single author or co-author, shall result in the disqualification of all concerned entries.
- Formatting: The following formatting specifications must be strictly adhered to:
  - Main Body: Times New Roman, 12-point font, 1.5 line spacing, justified alignment.
  - Footnotes: Times New Roman, 10-point font, 1.0 line spacing, justified alignment.
  - Margins: 1 inch (2.54 cm) on all sides.
- Submission Format: The final manuscript must be submitted in DOC/DOCX format through the designated Google Form before the prescribed deadline.
- File Naming: The final manuscript must be named strictly in the format “Team Code”. The Team Code shall be communicated to registered participants subsequently.
- Anonymity: The name(s), institution(s), contact details, or any other information indicating the identity of the author(s) must not appear anywhere in the manuscript. Any breach of anonymity shall result in disqualification.
- Concurrent Submission: Author(s) shall refrain from submitting the manuscript elsewhere during the pendency of the review and evaluation process.

DOUBLE-BLIND REVIEW PROCESS

The submissions shall undergo a two-stage double-blind review process:

Stage I – Technical Review:
All submissions shall first undergo a technical screening to assess compliance with the prescribed word limit, formatting requirements, citation style, similarity threshold, anonymity requirements, and other submission guidelines. Submissions failing to satisfy the mandatory technical requirements may be rejected at this stage.

Stage II – Content-Based Review:
Submissions qualifying the technical review shall proceed to a content-based double-blind peer review, wherein the identity of both the author(s) and the reviewer(s) shall remain undisclosed. The manuscripts shall be assessed on the basis of their quality of research, depth of analysis, originality, legal reasoning, clarity, coherence, and overall contribution to the discourse on Intellectual Property Rights.
The outcome of the review process shall determine the entries shortlisted for the virtual paper presentation.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The submissions shall be evaluated on the following parameters:

- Relevance and depth of analysis of the chosen IPR theme;
- Originality of thought, argument, and perspective;
- Quality of legal and policy research and accuracy of citations;
- Clarity, coherence, and structure of the writing;
- Strength of legal reasoning and analysis;
- Overall contribution to contemporary discourse on Intellectual Property Rights; and
- Adherence to the prescribed formatting and submission requirements.

VIRTUAL PRESENTATION & FINAL EVALUATION

Shortlisted participants shall be required to virtually present their articles before an esteemed panel of assessors. The presentations shall be evaluated on the basis of the participants' understanding of the subject, quality of analysis, articulation of arguments, presentation skills, and responses to questions posed by the assessors.

The assessment and scores awarded by the panel of assessors shall be final and binding, and the final rankings shall be determined on the basis of the scores awarded in accordance with the prescribed evaluation criteria.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- The Centre reserves the right to summarily reject or return any submission that does not comply with the prescribed guidelines.
- Articles violating any of the submission guidelines shall be summarily rejected.
- Late or incomplete submissions shall not be considered under any circumstances.
- The name and institution of the author(s) must not be mentioned anywhere in the submitted manuscript.
- The decision of the Review Panel and Panel of Judges shall be final and binding.
- The organisers reserve the right to make decisions regarding any matter not expressly covered under these guidelines.

Themes

- Patent Exhaustion and the Limits of Post-Sale Control Over Repair and Emerging Areas
- Copyright, Computational Learning and the Limits of Permissible Use in Training Large Language Models
- Trademark Protection of Product Appearance After the Expiry of Design Rights
- Geographical Indications, Tribal Displacement and the Continuity of Community-Based Product Identity
- Trans-border Reputation and the Territorial Limits of Trademark Protection in the Global Digital Marketplace

Note: The themes provided are indicative and non-exhaustive in nature. Participants are free to choose a topic beyond the listed themes, provided it falls within the broader scope of Intellectual Property Rights.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

The top three entries will be awarded cash prizes:

1st Prize: ₹15,000
2nd Prize: ₹10,000
3rd Prize: ₹6,000

In addition to the cash prizes, the top two entries will be offered an **internship opportunity at S.S. Rana & Co.**

Note: Internship opportunities will be offered exclusively to 4th and 5th-year students of the B.A. LL.B. programme and 3rd-year students of the 3-year LL.B. programme

Furthermore, the **Top 10 ranked articles**, as selected by the Review Panel, will be published in the official CIIPR Journal/Book and on the CIIPR website.

All participants will also receive Certificates of Participation in recognition of their contribution.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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Vice-Chancellor
Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law

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Komal

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Any and all clarifications and queries regarding the Competition's rules & regulations shall be sought via e-mail to ciipr@rgnul.ac.in or contact the following Event Coordinators:

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