



Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas



C.A.S.C.A

RG NUL-SAM LEGISLATION DRAFTING COMPETITION, 2026

RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW, PUNJAB

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW, PUNJAB

Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab (RGNUL) is an autonomous National Law University (NLU) established by the RGNUL Act (No. 12 of 2006) passed by the Legislature of the State of Punjab, under the second wave of reforms instituted by the Bar Council of India. Established in 2006, RGNUL has garnered a pan-India reputation as a stellar legal research and education institution. In May 2015, RGNUL became the first and the only NLU to have been accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with an 'A' grade. In March 2018, RGNUL was amongst the four NLUs to have been granted autonomous status by the University Grants Commission. The University has been ranked among the top 10 law schools in India in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN CYBER LAW AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (CASCA)

CASCA is dedicated to advancing research and policy engagement at the intersection of law and technology. It seeks to bridge the gap between technological innovation and legal frameworks by conducting rigorous, interdisciplinary research; convening scholars, practitioners, and students; and fostering informed public discourse on emerging regulatory challenges. Its commitment to collaboration and academic excellence positions CASCA as a pivotal contributor to the design and implementation of effective and evidence-based regulatory policies for the digital era.



SHARDUL AMARCHAND MANGALDAS & CO.



SAM & Co. is known globally for its exceptional legal practice, including for General Corporate, Mergers & Acquisitions, Data Protection & Data Privacy, Technology Law and Infrastructure, Energy and Project Finance. SAM & Co. has, over the years, made important contributions to some of the key policy and regulatory developments, including recommendations to Governmental & Regulatory authorities which have led to significant legal reforms to bring the extant applicable law abreast with the ever-evolving business environment. With a constantly evolving legal, regulatory and business environment, SAM & Co. is determined embrace change and stay ahead.

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The CASCA, RGNUL is organizing a two-round legislation drafting competition (Competition) centred on the proposed Digital India Bill, a landmark legislation that will shape India's digital future. It aims to encourage meaningful dialogue through legislative deliberation and cutting-edge policy advocacy in cyber law, artificial intelligence, intermediary liability and Internet of Things (IoT). The Competition provides a unique opportunity for participants to engage in scholarly discourse on contemporary issues surrounding digital governance in India and develop critical thinking skills while gaining hands-on experience in legislative structuring and legal interpretation. The Competition invites participation of students across all colleges and universities to contribute to contemporary policy discussions.

The event shall be conducted in two rounds.

Round I: Submissions received for the Competition shall be subject to a preliminary review by CASCA. Shortlisted entries shall be forwarded to SAM and seven submissions will be selected after a thorough review process.

Round II: Participants shortlisted in Round I shall be invited to the RGNUL campus to present their draft legislations before a distinguished panel of legal luminaries and Partners at SAM.

Top two teams shall be offered an opportunity to intern with SAM.*

*Participants in their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year of B.A.LL.B (Hons.), shall be eligible to avail the internship in their 4th and 5th year respectively.



THEMES FOR THE COMPETITION

THEME:

The theme is the **Proposed Digital India Bill**. The sub-themes include Intermediary Regulation, Cybercrimes Against Individuals, Artificial Intelligence Regulation, Non-Personal Data Regulation, Online Safety & Consumer Trust, and Internet of Things (IoT) Security Regulation.

The Participants are requested to select a single facet for the purpose of drafting their chapter. The sub-themes listed below are illustrative rather than exhaustive, and participants may propose any other facet that coheres with the broader scope of the proposed Digital India Bill. Submissions offering fresh, well-reasoned perspectives are encouraged, as are interdisciplinary approaches that draw on diverse fields and engage thoughtfully with both current and emerging challenges.

SUB-THEMES:

Intermediary Regulation: This theme invites analysis on liabilities, duties and due diligence obligations of digital intermediaries. Participants can explore safe harbour protection, transparency norms and obligations to prevent unlawful content ensuring that such regulation safeguards users' right to freedom of expression.

Cybercrimes Against Individuals: Focus can be directed on digital offences targeting individuals, including but not limited to identity theft, cyber-stalking, financial fraud, online harassment, deepfakes, phishing and related privacy intrusions. Attention may be given to victim-protection frameworks, investigatory powers and cyber forensics, aligning with global best practices and evolving risks.

THEMES FOR THE COMPETITION

SUB-THEMES (*CONT'D.*):

Artificial Intelligence Regulation: This theme deliberates legal approach to AI development and deployment. Participants are encouraged to draft algorithmic transparency, explainability and accountability mechanisms for harm caused by AI. The draft must balance innovation with ethical, human rights considerations and its applicability in critical sectors like health, finance and crimes.

Non-Personal Data Regulation: Participants may examine regulation of data that is not personal, such as anonymized datasets or public sector information. Key considerations include—sharing and re-use ensuring data security and encouraging secure data-driven developments while safeguarding public interest.

Online Safety & Consumer Trust: This theme can discuss rules to protect users, especially children and vulnerable sections of society, from online harms including misinformation, deceptive practices and unfair commercialization. The allaying provisions can include content moderation standards, disclosure requirement, age-appropriate design codes, and consumer redressal forums to ensure users' online well-being.

Internet of Things (IoT) Regulation: Participants may propose frameworks to regulate the security, interoperability, and privacy of connected devices. Issues include protection against cyber-attacks, mandatory security standards, data governance, certification mechanisms, and obligations on manufacturers and service providers to inform consumers of risks and ensure compliance in the IoT ecosystem.

FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION

I. THE DRAFT LEGISLATION

Participants must submit a self-contained chapter of the proposed Digital India Bill in relation to a single, well-defined facet or themes/subject matter within the Bill's scope. The chapter should be coherent and operable on its own. An illustrative list of themes/subject matter the chapter can cover is provided below. **The suggested structure provided below is intended as guidance only and is not mandatory.**

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Long Title | 5. The Operative Section |
| 2. The Preamble/Objective Clause | 6. Procedural Provisions |
| 3. Extent and Applicability | 7. Exceptions and Exemptions Clause |
| 4. Definitions | 8. Offences and Penalties |

II. THE ADDENDUM

The addendum is a concise, policy-oriented companion to the draft chapter. Its purpose is to explain the rationale, design choices, and expected impact of key provisions, enabling evaluators to assess the coherence and feasibility of the proposal. The format for the addendum is elaborated upon below:

Section Title(s): The addendum should include the title of a provision or groups of provision, which shall be followed by the explanation. Participants are not obligated to include all provisions in the addendum, and only those which in their opinion require elaboration and justification.

Explanation: Participants shall justify key provisions introduced, elaborating on the relevance, objective, purpose, discussion of the problem (if any) and impact of the proposed provision.



MARKING CRITERIA

The Competition shall consist of 2 rounds. The marking criteria for **Round I (Drafting Round)** shall be as follows:

Writing Skills	The teams shall write in a clear, simple and unambiguous manner and follow key legal terminologies wherever relevant. The draft legislation shall be grammatically sound.	10 Marks
Formatting	The teams shall use formatting appropriate for a draft legislation and there shall be no errors regarding the font, text size, spacing, etc.	5 Marks
Research Skills	The teams shall incorporate relevant analysis of the provisions and concepts, which shall reflect the knowledge of the authors. The teams shall incorporate novel ideas and legal solutions.	30 Marks
Applicability of the legislation	The draft shall provide legal solutions that can be applicable in real-world scenarios.	25 Marks
The Addendum	The addendum should succinctly explain the key objectives, legal design, implementation pathway, stakeholder impact, and safeguards of the selected provisions.	30 Marks
TOTAL		100 Marks

MARKING CRITERIA

The marking criteria for **Round II (Presentation Round)** shall be as follows:

Understanding of the Legislative Problem	The teams shall demonstrate a clear understanding of the issue the legislation seeks to address, including background, socio-legal relevance, and policy gaps.	20 Marks
Quality of the Drafted Legislation	The teams shall demonstrate structure, coherence, legal soundness and practicality in their draft legislation.	30 Marks
Presentation and Communication Skills	The teams shall be judged upon their clarity of delivery, their ability to engage judges meaningfully and their team coordination.	25 Marks
Handling of Questions	The teams shall be judged on the depth of their knowledge displayed while responding to questioning by the judges, as well as their ability to handle critical questions professionally.	15 Marks
Supporting Research & References	The teams will be judged on their evidence-based justifications relying on statutes, precedents and other sources.	10 Marks
TOTAL		100 Marks

Note: In case two teams have the same marks in Round II, the team having higher marks in Round I shall be allotted a higher rank.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. The Draft shall be accepted in the English language only and shall not exceed the prescribed page limits. 5 marks shall be deducted for each page exceeded.
2. Under no circumstances, shall the identity of the author(s) be revealed in the manuscript. Only the allotted Team Codes will be used as identifiers. The teams are required to delete the meta-data of the drafts.
3. The manuscript should not exceed more than 20% similarity. Turnitin software shall be used for similarity checks.
4. The use of generative artificial intelligence tools for drafting or editing is strictly prohibited; submissions may be subject to verification measures.
5. Submission shall be made in '.doc' or '.docx' and '.pdf' formats. No other format would be considered for the Competition. The file must be named TeamCode.pdf (and .doc /.docx)
6. In case of any dispute, the discretion of the Organizing Committee shall be final.
7. The Legislation and the Addendum shall be submitted as one combined file not exceeding 30 pages (inclusive of all the pages).
8. Eligibility and Team composition: The Competition shall be open to all students pursuing an under-graduate degree from a recognized college or university. Student in any year of their degree are allowed to participate. The Competition allows for interdisciplinary co-authorship. **Entries may be submitted by individual authors or teams of up to 2 members.**
9. The submission must be done in the prescribed format at this link:

COPYRIGHT POLICY

Upon selection for publication, the copyright of the manuscript will be transferred to the CASCA, RGNUL. However, all moral rights shall remain with the author(s). The Top 3 entries shall be published on CASCA's website.



FORMATTING GUIDELINES

FORMATTING GUIDELINES FOR THE LEGISLATION

- **Font:** Times New Roman
- **Long title:** 14 pt, Bold, ALL CAPS, centered.
- **Act number/date lines:** 12 pt, Regular, centered.
- **Chapter headings:** 12 pt, Bold, Small Caps, centered.
- **Preamble/Objectives:** 12 pt, Regular, justified, single spacing; blank line between recitals.
- **Section headings:** 12 pt, Bold, left-aligned; section number + period + space, then heading text.
- **Body of text:** 12 pt, Regular, justified, single line spacing.
- **Sub-sections:** (1), (2) flush with left margin; hanging indent ~0.63 cm.
- **Lettered clauses:** Indent 1.25 cm, hanging indent ~0.63 cm.
- **Clause endings:** Semicolon for all except final clause in a list, which ends with a full stop.

FORMATTING GUIDELINES FOR THE ADDENDUM

- The text must be in Times New Roman font with a size of 12. Line spacing should be set to 1.25, and no paragraph spacing is allowed.
- Margins must be one inch on all sides, and the text alignment should be justified.
- Citations shall conform to the OSCOLA (4th Edition) style. The footnotes shall be formatted in Times New Roman, 10-point font, single line spacing, with justified text alignment.
- The numbering against the heading (1., 2.,) / sub-heading (1.1, 1.2,) shall be in the decimal number format system.



FORMATTING GUIDELINES

FORMATTING GUIDELINES FOR THE ADDENDUM

- Headings shall be in bold and sub-headings shall be italicized.
- Acronyms must be spelled out when first referenced, followed by the abbreviated form in parenthesis.
- Any tables or figures (if necessary to illustrate reasoning) must be centred, labeled above (e.g., “Table 1: Title”), use Times New Roman 10-point font, and referenced in the text.
- Speaking footnotes are allowed.
- Underlining, highlighting, or color text should not be used.
- **Explanatory paragraph:** Add a narrative section at the beginning of each legislative provision in the addendum, explaining the “why” behind the significant legislation, with references to comparative frameworks or precedent where helpful.

PAGE LIMIT

- **Draft legislation:** The page limit is a maximum of 20 pages, inclusive of the cover page.
- **Addendum:** The page limit is a maximum of 10 pages. The addendum does not require its separate cover page.
- **Cover page:** shall include the Team Code and the title of the draft legislation.



IMPORTANT DETAILS

TIMELINE OF THE COMPETITION

Brochure Release	18 th December 2025
Deadline for Registration	15 th January 2026
Deadline for Submission	5 th February 2026 (11:59 PM)
Declaration of Results for Round I	15 th February 2026
Final Presentation and Declaration of Results of Round II	5 th March 2026

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

Participants must register via this **Google Form**, duly attaching the payment receipt along with the form. The registration fee shall be as 590 INR per team member.

Payment Link: https://lsacademia.in/lisa_rgnul/eventPortal/loginFrom.jsp

Note: The registration fee is exclusive of accommodation charges. Teams qualifying for the Second Round (Presentation Round) and attending the event in person at the RGNUL campus shall bear their own accommodation and related expenses.

PRIZES

- The members of the top 2 teams shall be awarded with a 3-month apprenticeship/traineeship with SAM & Co. Policy Team.*
- Certificate of Merit shall be given to the Top 5 teams.
- Certificate of Participation shall be given to all Participants.

*Participants in their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year of B.A.LL.B (Hons.), shall be eligible to avail the internship in their 4th and 5th year respectively. The apprenticeship/traineeship is subject to eligibility criteria prescribed by SAM & Co. All decisions regarding eligibility rest solely with SAM & Co.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

PATRON

Prof. (Dr.) Jai Shankar Singh
Vice Chancellor, RGNUL

COMPETITION DIRECTORS

Dr. Ivneet Walia
Registrar (Offg.), RGNUL
Centre Coordinator, CASCA

Dr. Sukhwinder Kaur Virk
Assistant Professor of Law, RGNUL

STUDENT CONVENORS

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*Incase of any queries, please reach out to us at
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ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

STUDENT MEMBERS

Chirkankshit Bulani

Jui Dharwadkar

Inika Dular

R Dayasakti

Shoptorishi Dey

Vishwaroop Chatterjee

Jacob Eldho Kalarikkal

Uday Gupta

Incase of any queries, please reach out to us at casca@rgnul.ac.in

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Instagram



LinkedIn

