लखनऊ विश्वविद्यालय
University of Lucknow
(Accredited A++ by NAAC)

LUCKNOW UNIVERSITY MOOT COURT ASSOCIATION

presents

4TH NATIONAL - ARTICLE WRITING COMPETITION, 2026

on

"ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY AND CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE IN INDIA: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES, LEGAL REFORMS AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRATIC INTEGRITY"

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FOR REGISTRATION

LAST DATE OF REGISTRATION 31 OCTOBER, 2026

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ABOUT LUCKNOW
THE CITY OF '*NAWABS*'



Lucknow, the capital city of Uttar Pradesh, is one of India's most historically significant and culturally vibrant cities. Situated on the banks of the Gomti River, Lucknow is renowned for its rich heritage, architectural grandeur, literary traditions, and distinctive culture. Often referred to as the "City of Nawabs," it flourished under the rule of the Nawabs of Awadh, whose patronage of art, music, poetry, cuisine, and architecture left an enduring imprint on the city's identity.

The city is home to several iconic landmarks that reflect its glorious past, including the Bara Imambara, Chota Imambara, Rumi Darwaza, Husainabad Clock Tower, and the Residency. These monuments stand as enduring symbols of Lucknow's historical importance and architectural excellence.

Lucknow also played a notable role in India's struggle for independence, particularly during the Revolt of 1857, making it a city of considerable historical and national significance.

Beyond its heritage, Lucknow has emerged as a major centre for education, administration, commerce, and innovation in northern India. The city hosts several prestigious institutions, including the University of Lucknow, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University, Indian Institute of Management Lucknow, and King George's Medical University. Its growing infrastructure, expanding metro network, and thriving business environment reflect a harmonious blend of tradition and modernity.

Lucknow is equally celebrated for its culture of hospitality, often described through the concept of tehzeeb, a tradition of courtesy, respect, and refined social conduct. The city's world-famous Awadhi cuisine, intricate Chikankari embroidery, and vibrant cultural festivals continue to attract visitors from across the country and around the globe.

Today, Lucknow stands as a city where history and progress coexist seamlessly. Its unique combination of cultural heritage, academic excellence, architectural beauty, and modern development makes it an ideal destination for scholarly exchange, intellectual engagement, and meaningful dialogue on contemporary legal and social issues.







ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY



University of Lucknow is one of the oldest institutions of Indian Higher Education. It is affiliated to the University Grants Commission, Association of Commonwealth Universities, Association of Indian Universities, Distance Education Council, National Assessment and Accreditation Council, National Council for Teacher Education and Bar Council of India. The University of Lucknow has been awarded the A++ grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council in July, 2022. This was a rich inheritance for the newborn University in 1920, both materially and intellectually, and it brought with it also the richest of all heritages "a fine tradition of some fifty-five years in the case of the Canning College and some nine years in the case of the King George's Medical College." To this, the generous taluqdars of Oudh added an endowment of nearly Rupees thirty lakhs. The support from Sir Harcourt Butler's Government was strong and hearty. Since then, the Government of the United Provinces, now Uttar Pradesh, has annually contributed a handsome amount towards the maintenance of the University. In the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025, the University of Lucknow achieved significant milestones, securing the 98th position among the top 100 universities in India. In the IIRF 2025 Rankings, it was placed 5th among state universities in urban areas. Spread across 219 acres with modern infrastructure and advanced research facilities, the University maintains diversity with a balanced gender ratio and increasing international participation. Over the decades, it has nurtured generations of leaders, scholars, jurists, and professionals who have significantly contributed to India and the world.



ABOUT THE FACULTY

The Faculty of Law, University of Lucknow, established in 1921, is among the pioneers of legal education in India. Mr. Jag Mohan Nath Chak served as its first Dean, while Prof. R.U. Singh, regarded as the true architect, systematically organised teaching and research and remained Dean until 1956. He also structured the Law Faculties of Delhi University and Banaras Hindu University and drafted the Constitution of Nepal. The Faculty has produced eminent scholars and leaders. Dr. V.N. Shukla, the first LL.M. graduate and a renowned authority on Constitutional Law, authored the classic volume on the Indian Constitution. Mr. A.T. Markose, the first LL.D. graduate, later became Director of the Indian Law Institute and a member of the International Court of Justice's Administrative Tribunal. Distinguished alumni include Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, former President of India, Shri Ram Krishna Hegde, Mr. Surjit Singh Barnala, Mr. N.K.P. Salve, and eminent judges such as Justice Dr. A.S. Anand, former Chief Justice of India.

With 41 permanent faculty members, the institution offers LL.B. (Three-Year), LL.B. (Hons.) Five-Year, LL.M., Ph.D., and LL.D. programmes. It organises the Dr. V.N. Shukla Memorial Lecture series and has hosted refresher courses. Students have excelled in national and international moot courts, including the Willem C. Vis Arbitration Moot (Vienna, 2025), and organised a Model UN in 2025. Graduates are placed in leading firms, corporations, and judicial services, with many pursuing advanced studies at Yale, Cambridge, etc.



OUR PUBLISHING PARTNER

The Lucknow University Moot Court Association (LUMA) is pleased to announce its collaboration with LawFoyer as the Publishing Partner for the National Article Writing Competition. This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to promoting legal education, encouraging academic research, and providing a platform for aspiring legal scholars to contribute to contemporary legal discourse.

LawFoyer is a legal platform dedicated to legal awareness, academic engagement, and the dissemination of legal knowledge. Through this association, LUMA aims to strengthen the academic value of the competition by encouraging participants to engage in original legal research, critical analysis, and scholarly writing on contemporary legal issues.

The National Article Writing Competition seeks to bring together law students, research scholars, academicians, and legal professionals to examine significant legal questions, analyse existing legal frameworks, and present innovative, well-reasoned perspectives. The collaboration with LawFoyer further supports this objective by creating opportunities for participants to showcase their research and writing abilities.

LUMA looks forward to a meaningful association with LawFoyer in fostering a culture of academic excellence, originality, and research-oriented legal education. This partnership represents a valuable step towards encouraging emerging legal scholars to develop their analytical skills and make meaningful contributions to the field of law.

Publication shall be subject to the competition guidelines and the applicable editorial and publication requirements.



OUR PATRONS



HON'BLE PROF. J.P. SAINI
Vice-Chancellor
University of Lucknow
Lucknow-226007 (U.P.) India



PROF. (DR.) R.K. VERMA
Head & Dean
Faculty of Law
University of Lucknow
Second Campus, Jankipuram Lucknow-226031 (U.P.), India

OUR CO-PATRONS



DR. CHANDRA SEN PRATAP SINGH
Teacher Coordinator
Lucknow University Moot Court Association
Faculty of Law
University of Lucknow



DR. ARCHNA SINGH
Teacher Co-Coordinator
Lucknow University Moot Court Association
Faculty of Law
University of Lucknow



DR. KALINDRI
Faculty Member
Lucknow University Moot Court Association



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DR. RUPAM LAL HOWLADER
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Lucknow University Moot Court Association



DR. SUDHIR KUMAR VERMA
Faculty Member
Lucknow University Moot Court Association



DR. ANJALI SINGH
Faculty Member
Lucknow University Moot Court Association

ABOUT LUCKNOW UNIVERSITY MOOT COURT ASSOCIATION

The Lucknow University Moot Court Association was established in 2012 with the objective of developing practical knowledge and skills essential to the legal profession. It achieves this by organizing moot court competitions that simulate real-life court proceedings, where participating teams present arguments as opposing counsel.

Since its inception, the Association has remained actively engaged in promoting legal advocacy and academic excellence. It has successfully organized 11 inter-semester moot court competitions, 12 inter-collegiate moot court competitions, 5 national moot court competitions, and 1 international moot court competition. In addition, it has conducted a National Judgment Writing Competition, Client Counselling Competition, national seminars, memorial drafting competitions, and several other academic events.

OUR CONVENERS



ARYAN SINGH
(CONVENER)



AARUSHI CHAUDHARY
(CONVENER)

OUR HEADS

ANOOP KUMAR & ANIMESH PATEL (RESEARCH HEADS)

DIVA CHAUDHARY & ANAS ALI (ORGANIZING HEADS)

ANAS ALI & PRACHI PANDEY (TREASURER)

ANURAG KUMAR & PRACHI PANDEY (DOCUMENTATION HEADS)

ADITYA SAINI (INFRASTRUCTURE HEAD)

KUMARI RUPA & ARPITA MAURYA (MEDIA & OUTREACH HEADS)

ANKITA VERMA & ARPITA MAURYA (HOSPITALITY HEADS)

OUR MEMBERS

ADITI SINGH	AMIT PRATAP
ANAND KUMAR	ANMOL SRIVASTAVA
ANURAG MISHRA	HRISHABH TOMAR
KEERTIKA	NAIMISHI SINGH
NITYA KANOJIYA	PAWAN YADAV
PRANJALI SINGH	RAKSHA TIWARI
RIYA KUMARI	SHUBHAM SAINI
SHIVAM YADAV	VARDAN TYAGI

ABOUT THE ARTICLE WRITING COMPETITION

The Lucknow University Moot Court Association (LUMA), Faculty of Law, University of Lucknow, proudly presents the National Article Writing Competition, 2026, on the theme **"Electoral Democracy and Constitutional Governance in India: Contemporary Challenges, Legal Reforms and the Future of Democratic Integrity."** The competition is conceived as a platform for meaningful academic engagement with some of the most pressing issues confronting India's democratic and constitutional framework, including electoral integrity, institutional accountability, political finance, electoral reforms, technology-driven challenges, and democratic governance.

The competition invites law students, researchers, academicians, and legal professionals from across the country to contribute original, analytical, and research-driven articles that critically examine contemporary developments in election law and constitutional governance. Participants are encouraged to engage with complex legal questions, evaluate existing frameworks, and propose innovative reforms grounded in constitutional values and democratic principles.

By fostering rigorous legal research and scholarly discourse, the competition seeks to promote intellectual excellence, encourage informed debate, and contribute to the development of legal scholarship in the field of electoral democracy. It offers participants a unique opportunity to showcase their research and writing abilities while contributing to discussions that shape the future of democratic governance in India.

LAWFOYER INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF DOCTRINAL LEGAL RESEARCH

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THEME & SUB-THEMES

"Electoral Democracy and Constitutional Governance in India: Contemporary Challenges, Legal Reforms and the Future of Democratic Integrity"

1. Constitutional Foundations of Electoral Democracy
- Articles 324-329 of the Constitution
- Constitutional status and powers of the Election Commission of India
- Electoral democracy as a part of the Basic Structure Doctrine
- Constitutional morality and electoral governance
- Judicial review in electoral matters
- Constitutional limitations on electoral reforms

2. Independence, Accountability and Reform of the ECI
- Appointment and removal of Election Commissioners
- Scope of the ECI's supervisory, directional and control powers under Article 324
- Enforcement challenges faced by the ECI
- Institutional independence versus executive influence
- Comparative analysis of election management bodies
- Electoral governance and public trust

3. Electoral Integrity, Corrupt Practices and Democratic Accountability
- Campaign expenditure regulation
- Misuse of government machinery
- Electoral corruption and vote buying
- Criminalization of politics
- Electoral offences and enforcement mechanisms
- Effectiveness of election petitions

4. Religion, Caste, Hate Speech and Identity-Based Campaigning
- Religious appeals in elections
- Caste-based mobilisation and constitutional equality
- Hate speech during election campaigns
- Secularism and electoral politics
- Constitutional limitations on identity politics
- Social justice versus electoral populism

5. Electoral Finance, Political Funding and Transparency
- Electoral bonds and campaign financing
- Corporate funding of political parties
- Transparency and disclosure obligations
- State funding of elections
- Financial accountability of political parties
- Money power and democratic equality

6. Technology, Artificial Intelligence and Elections
- Deepfakes and electoral manipulation
- AI-generated political content
- Social media regulation during elections
- Algorithmic influence on voters
- Cybersecurity and election infrastructure
- Digital campaigning and constitutional freedoms

7. Freedom of Speech, Political Expression and Electoral Regulation
- Political advertising and constitutional protections
- Election-time restrictions on speech
- Social media moderation during elections
- Fake news and electoral misinformation
- Balancing electoral integrity with free expression
- Constitutional validity of campaign restrictions

8. Electoral Justice and Resolution of Election Disputes
- Election petitions and judicial delays
- Specialized electoral tribunals
- Standards of proof in election disputes
- Judicial intervention in electoral processes
- Alternative models of electoral adjudication
- Comparative electoral dispute resolution

9. Federalism, Representation and Electoral Governance
- One Nation, One Election
- Delimitation and representation
- Electoral federalism
- Centre-State relations in election administration
- Regional parties and democratic pluralism
- Constitutional implications of simultaneous elections

10. Electoral Equality, Inclusion and Democratic Participation
- Women's political representation
- Political participation of marginalized communities
- Electoral accessibility for persons with disabilities
- Youth participation in democratic processes
- Voting rights and electoral inclusion
- Equality in political representation

11. Elections in the Age of Democratic Backsliding
- Majoritarian democracy and constitutionalism
- Democratic erosion and electoral institutions
- Abuse of state power during elections
- Rule of law and electoral governance
- Comparative perspectives on democratic decline
- Safeguarding democratic legitimacy

12. Emerging Frontiers in Election Law and Democratic Governance
- Climate change and elections
- Electoral implications of migration and displacement
- Diaspora voting rights
- Blockchain-based voting systems
- Future of EVMs and electoral technology
- Reimagining electoral governance in the twenty-first century

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Eligibility

- The competition is open to Law Students, Research Scholars, Law Professionals and Professors from institutions recognised by the Bar Council of India.
- Co-authorship is permitted up to two authors. Each co-author must be named on the title page, and Inter-University Participation is permitted.
- Only original, unpublished work will be accepted. Articles pending publication elsewhere or submitted to another competition are ineligible.

2. Registration and Payment

- Participants must complete the registration form available at : - Registration link providing the required details and payment information.
- The registration fee is ₹400 for single authors and ₹600 for co-authors, payable through the payment details provided in the registration Google Form.
- The organisers will verify each payment. Only participants whose payment is confirmed will be treated as registered.
- Once registration is confirmed, participants will receive an acknowledgement by email along with their assigned Manuscript ID. This ID must be used for all further communication regarding the entry.
- The Google Form for manuscript submission will be sent to the registered email address 15 days after the acknowledgement. Participants should check their spam folder and write to mcc.lucknowuniv@gmail.com if the form has not arrived within the stipulated time.
- Registration alone does not constitute a submission. The manuscript must be uploaded through the second form before the submission deadline.
- **Additional Publication Charge:** Following the evaluation process, the top 15 articles will be selected for digital publication by LawFoyer at **LawFoyer International Journal of Doctrinal Legal Research,** an ISSN-bearing publication. Authors whose articles are selected for publication will be required to pay an additional publication charge of ₹300 per article. This charge will be payable only after the selection of the article and will be separate from the initial registration fee.

3. Theme and Scope

- Articles must address Theme / Sub-Themes. Submissions that fall outside the theme may be rejected at the screening stage.
- The article should offer a clear thesis, supported by sound legal reasoning and engagement with relevant primary and secondary sources.

4. Manuscript Requirements

- Word limit: The manuscript must contain 3,500 - 4,000 words, inclusive of footnotes and excluding the title page.
- Abstract: Abstract of up to 200 words and 5 keywords.
- Format: Microsoft Word (.docx), Main Text [Font Style Times New Roman, Font Size (12 pt), 1.5-line spacing, justified], and footnotes in (10 pt).
- Citation style: OSCOLA 4th edition.
- Language: English.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

5. Submission Format and Anonymity: Each participant must submit two separate documents through the second form:

(a) Anonymous manuscript

- The manuscript will be identified only by the Manuscript ID assigned by the organisers after payment verification.
- The file name, document properties, headers, footers, footnotes, acknowledgements and body text must not contain the author's name, institution, or any other identifying detail.
- Authors must avoid the use of self-identifying references such as “in my earlier article” in their footnotes.

(b) Title page (separate file): The title page must include:

- Manuscript ID and title of the article
- Full name of the author(s)
- Institution, course and year of study, or designation and organisation
- Email address and contact number
- LinkedIn profile link
- ORCID ID (optional, if available)

Note: Manuscripts that reveal the author's identity, or that are submitted without a separate title page, may be disqualified.

6. Originality, Plagiarism and AI Use

- All submissions will be checked by the organisers for similarity and AI - generated Contents.
- The similarity index must not exceed 10 %.
- AI-generated content must not exceed 10 %. Participants should note that AI detection tools are not perfectly reliable, and the organisers may ask for drafts or version history in case of doubt.
- Entries exceeding either threshold will be disqualified without refund. Cases of deliberate plagiarism or misrepresentation may also lead to a ban from future events by the organisers.
- Authors are responsible for ensuring proper attribution of all sources and ideas.

7. Review Process

- Every manuscript will undergo peer review by a panel of reviewers.
- The review will be conducted on an anonymised basis. Reviewers will assess manuscripts using only the Manuscript ID, and author details will be withheld until the evaluation is complete.
- Based on the evaluation, the top 15 articles will be selected for digital publication by LawFoyer at **LawFoyer International Journal of Doctrinal Legal Research**, an ISSN-bearing publication.
- Authors whose articles are selected for publication will be required to pay an additional publication charge of ₹300 per article.
- Selection for publication will be based on the merits of the manuscript and the decision of the review panel. The decision of the review panel is final and binding. No correspondence regarding scores or rankings will be entertained.

PAYMENT DETAILS

- SINGLE AUTHOR: RS. 400
- CO-AUTHORS: RS. 600
- Authors whose articles are selected for publication will be required to pay an additional publication charge of ₹300 per article.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

- All who are interested in participating in the competition must fill out the Google registration form before the 31st of OCTOBER, 2026 through the link

REGISTRATION LINK or SCAN HERE FOR REGISTRATION

ACCOUNT DETAILS

- ACCOUNT NUMBER: 27238100004973
- IFSC CODE: BARB0BLYBAN
- ACCOUNT HOLDER NAME: ANAS ALI
- BANK NAME: BANK OF BARODA
- BRANCH: HARDOI-UNNAO ROAD, BANGARMAU, U.P.



IMPORTANT DATES

- Registration opens: 13 OCTOBER 2026
- Last date for registration and payment: 31 OCTOBER 2026
- Last date for manuscript submission: 30 NOVEMBER 2026
- Declaration of results will be communicated later.

Note: Late submissions will not be accepted. No extension will be granted unless announced officially by the organisers.

PRIZES AND RECOGNITION

- Winner: Rs. 3000 + Mementoes + Publication Opportunity
- First runner-up: Rs. 2000 + Mementoes + Publication Opportunity
- Second runner-up: Rs. 1000 + Mementoes + Publication Opportunity
- E-Certificates of participation for all valid entries.
- Top 15 articles would be published in collaboration with "LAWFOYER" (ISSN: 2583-7753).

EVALUATION CRITERIA

S. No.	CRITERIA	MARKS
1	Relevance to the Theme and Sub-Themes	15
2	Originality and Novelty of Ideas	15
3	Depth of Legal Research	20
4	Quality of Legal Analysis and Argumentation	25
5	Structure, Organization, and Clarity	10
6	Citation and Referencing	5
7	Language, Grammar, and Presentation	5
8	Contribution to Legal Scholarship and Reform Discourse	5
Total		**100**

CONTACT DETAILS

FORM RELATED QUERIES

ADITYA SAINI
7376929970

ANURAG KUMAR
7388029705

TOPIC RELATED QUERIES

ANOOP KUMAR
9277151061

GENERAL QUERIES

ARYAN SINGH
(CONVENER)
6387599843

AARUSHI CHAUDHARY
(CONVENER)
7351345459

Mail us at **mcc.lucknowuniv@gmail.com**

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