



NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA
CENTRE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Presents

1st CCJHR ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION

On

“Reimagining Criminal Justice in Contemporary India”- The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

November - December 2025
(Virtual mode)

ABOUT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, ODISHA:



National Law University Odisha, Cuttack was established by Act 4 of 2008 by the Odisha State Legislature keeping in mind an enunciated vision of advancement of learning, teaching, research, diffusion of knowledge in the field of law and catering to the needs of society by developing the professional skills of those intending to take up the professions of Advocacy, Judicial Services, Legal services, and so on. National Law University, Odisha is committed to providing an atmosphere in which academic excellence is the foremost priority for students. Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights (CCJHR) is one such initiative at NLUO. It aims to foster study, research, and informed deliberation on criminal laws and their related subjects, with a focus on policy and practical application.

ABOUT NLUO CENTRE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS (CCJHR):

The Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights (CCJHR) was established to provide a platform for discussion and deliberation on the intersection of criminal justice and human rights. The vision behind the Centre is to generate interest and discussion on contentious issues in this field and to analyze how the criminal justice system can operate while minimizing human rights violations. The Centre's primary goal is to conduct extensive research and analysis on the current legal system's operation in the human rights domain, with a focus on preventing violations. It has organized various events, including a single-credit course on 'Criminal Justice Institutions in India' in collaboration with the Centre for Poverty and Access to Justice (CPAJ) and the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI).

VISION OF THE COMPETITION:

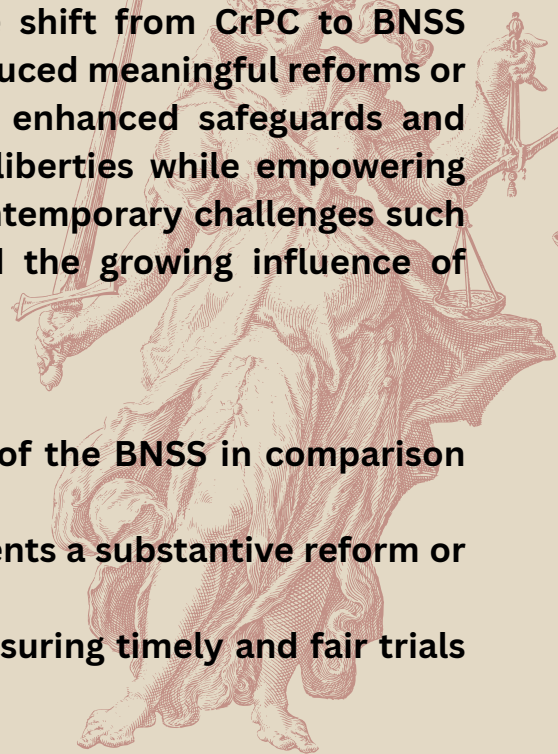
“Justice cannot be for one side alone, but must be for both”

-Eleanor Roosevelt

With the enactment of the Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS), India has undertaken one of the most significant legal transformations in its criminal justice framework since independence. The shift from CrPC to BNSS raises crucial questions: Has the new legislation introduced meaningful reforms or merely repackaged the existing framework? Do the enhanced safeguards and procedural mandates adequately protect individual liberties while empowering victims? To what extent do these reforms address contemporary challenges such as technological advancements, speedy justice, and the growing influence of media trials on the fairness of proceedings?

The following are the goals of this course:

1. Examine the implementation and practical impact of the BNSS in comparison with the CrPC.
2. Assess whether the shift from CrPC to BNSS represents a substantive reform or a symbolic replacement.
3. Study the effectiveness of the new provisions in ensuring timely and fair trials in a digital and media-driven age.



THEME AND SUB - THEMES :

The competition invites scholarly essays on the central theme:

"The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023: Reimagining Criminal Justice in Contemporary India."

This theme seeks to explore the procedural reforms brought about by the new legislation, which replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC). The new law aims to modernize India's criminal justice system, emphasizing technology, citizen-centric approaches, and victim participation.

Participants are encouraged to critically analyze this topic through the following sub-themes, which are indicative but not exhaustive: -

- BNSS vs. CrPC - Continuity or Change?
- Balancing Rights in the BNSS
- Presumption of Innocence in the Age of Media Trials
- Speedy Trials under BNSS - Aspiration vs. Reality
- Powers of Police under BNSS
- Victim Empowerment in BNSS
- Balancing Efficiency and Rights
- Technology in Criminal Justice under BNSS, 2023



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE :

The provisional schedule is as follows:

Date	Event
21 st December 2025	Registration Deadline
31 st December 2025	Submission Deadline
January 2026	Declaration Of Results

ESSAY SUBMISSION GUIDELINES :

- Name of the author(s) or any other form of identification must not be mentioned in the research paper.
- Co-authorship is limited to a maximum of two (2) authors.
- A cover page must be attached with the submission. The cover page format will be shared with participants upon successful registration.
- Word limit: 1000 – 1500 words, excluding footnotes, index, and bibliography.
- Font style – Times New Roman.
- Font size – 12 for Headings (Heading 1- Bold and Alphabetical, Heading 2- Italics and Roman, Heading 3- Underlined and small alphabets), 12 for Body, 10 for Footnotes.
- Line spacing – 1.5 for body, 1.0 for footnotes.
- Citation style – OSCOLA.
- Margins – 1 inch (i.e., 2.54 cm) on each side.
- Note: Speaking footnotes are allowed in the submissions but should be limited to 50 words.
- Plagiarism limit is 10% in accordance with UGC guidelines.
- Use of artificial intelligence for submissions is strictly prohibited and highly discouraged.

REGISTRATION PROCESS :

Participants must register for the competition via Google Forms. Upon successful registration and payment of the fee, each participant will be assigned a unique Team Code, which will be communicated to them via email. This Team Code must be used for all future correspondence.

Google Forms Link: <https://forms.gle/UCF3NAygqCFb6Vd9A>

Registration Fees are as follows:

STUDENTS of NLUO	
Single Author	Co-Authorship
INR 300	INR 500

STUDENTS	
Single Author	Co-Authorship
INR 400	INR 700

FACULTY / PROFESSIONALS	
Single Author	Co-Authorship
INR 500	INR 800

Payment Link: <https://eazypay.icicibank.com>

NOTE: Please refer to the **payment guidelines** before making any payment!

PRIZES & AWARDS :



All participants in the competition will receive a Certificate of Participation. The top three winners will be awarded cash prizes and will have their essays published on the CCJHR blog. The prize structure is as follows:



First Position	INR 8000
Second Position	INR 5000
Third Position	INR 3000

CONTACT DETAILS :

Event Coordinators :-

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