CENTRE FOR POLICIES, LAWS AND AGENDA NUSRL, RANCHI
PRESENTS

2ND LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING & PRESENTATION COMPETITION, 2025

TOPIC: REGULATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS

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REGISTRATION FEE: INR 300 & 500 (SINGLE AND CO PARTICIPANTS RESPECTIVELY)

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ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi (NUSRL) was established by Act No. 4 of Jharkhand State Assembly in 2010. The University has subsequently been recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC) in September 2011 u/s 22, u/s 12B in the year 2018 of the UGC Act of 1956 and Bar Council of India (BCI). The University started functioning in September 2010. At present, the University has more than 600 students on rolls in the undergraduate course. The University has been included as member of the CLAT w.e.f. CLAT 2012. At the undergraduate level, University offers Five-year Integrated B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) degree Program which consists of ten semesters. The University also started its Research Program in January 2012.With modest beginning, the University is all set to compete with global academic standards with deftly crafted teaching-learning methodology. NUSRL endeavors to share the global opportunity in law as well as legal discipline. The University is having a full time and part time Ph.D. programme and also offering Executive Diploma in Child Rights & Child Protection, Mines & Minerals Law and P.G. Diploma in Tribal Law and Master in Law & Policy.

About the Centre

The Centre for Policies, Laws and Agenda, NUSRL Ranchi has been established in the year 2023 at the National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi (NUSRL). In an era marked by dynamic global challenges, the need for thoughtful and informed policy decisions has never been greater. CPLAN is poised to emerge as a leading think tank, working at the intersection of policy, law, and national development. The primary objective and idea behind the inception of the Centre is to promote and facilitate research and activities in the field of Constitutional Law, Legislative Drafting, and Policy Research. The Centre is dedicated to specialized studies in the field of Legislative and Policy Drafting, wherein the main objective is to encourage research and analysis in this dynamic field of law. Through interdisciplinary research, innovative policy solutions, and inclusive dialogues, we aim to address critical issues facing our nation.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

Prof. (Dr.) Ashok R. Patil

The art of drafting legal documents is a fundamental skill that every aspiring lawyer must master. Law students must recognize the significance of this ability, as it forms the cornerstone of their future legal careers. At NUSRL, we are deeply committed to nurturing the legal minds of tomorrow and understand the critical value of practical exposure in the realm of law.

In alignment with this vision, we are thrilled to announce the 2nd Edition of The Dialogue & CPLAN Legislative Policy Drafting and Presentation Competition. Building on the grand success of the first edition, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across the country and upheld the proud legacy of our university, this year's competition promises to be an even greater platform for young, aspiring legal professionals. It offers a unique opportunity to hone the essential skills of legislative and policy drafting, particularly in the dynamic field of technology law, which is indispensable for a successful legal career. I extend my best wishes to all the participants. May the best team win!

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The Centre for Policies, Laws and Agenda at NUSRL Ranchi is proud to announce the second edition of the Legislative Policy Drafting and Presentation Competition. This competition presents a unique opportunity for participants to delve into the intricacies of legislative drafting, refining their skills in the process. It aims to guide participants through the entire drafting process, from identifying issues to achieving a balanced approach between idealistic and pragmatic considerations.

Engaging in legislative drafting enhances students' ability to recognize existing legal issues and gaps, enabling them to propose effective solutions. It also broadens their knowledge, analytical capabilities, and interpretation of the law. The competition extends an open invitation to students from all law schools, encouraging them to participate and contribute to the exchange of ideas and experiences on the designated topic.

ARYAVARTA 2035.

ARYAVARTA CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS

BALANCING TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS WITH ETHICAL GOVERNANCE

PRELUDE

India's transformation into Aryavarta by 2035 represents a defining moment in our national story. We stand at the forefront of global technological innovation, having woven artificial intelligence, autonomous systems and quantum computing into the fabric of our governance and daily life. This remarkable journey has brought unprecedented efficiency and progress, but at a cost we're only beginning to understand.

The Ra.One Protocol Crisis of 2033 exposed a fundamental vulnerability in our approach: we built intelligent systems without instilling in them the wisdom to use that intelligence ethically. As these systems gained influence over life-altering decisions, the absence of moral guidance led to catastrophic consequences. Now, Aryavarta faces an urgent challenge – creating a framework that guides technological progress while preserving our human dignity and constitutional values.

This proposition urges you develop the Aryavarta Code of Conduct for Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous Systems (ACCAIAS), a comprehensive framework that will shape not just our technological future, but the soul of our civilisation.

BACKGROUND: ARYAVARTA'S TECHNOLOGICAL RENAISSANCE

The Digital Transformation

The past decade has witnessed Aryavarta's emergence as a technological superpower. What began as ambitious government initiatives, Digital India 3.0, the National Blockchain Framework and the AI for Bharat Mission, has blossomed into a technological ecosystem touching every aspect of national life. Today's Aryavarta would be unrecognisable to someone from a generation ago. The AryaGrid, our quantum computing infrastructure, connects the most remote village to every government ministry, creating the world's most advanced digital governance network. Healthcare has been revolutionised by AI systems that diagnose diseases, plan treatments and manage public health resources with unprecedented efficiency. Our courts use automated systems to manage cases and even render certain categories of legal decisions. Defense and security benefit from advanced AI frameworks integrated into military planning and operations. Even our democratic processes have evolved, with AI systems supporting electoral logistics and improving governance transparency.

Each citizen interacts with government services through a personalised AI interface that understands their needs and history. Public transportation runs on autonomous networks, dramatically reducing travel times and carbon emissions. Farmers use AI-optimised techniques that have transformed agricultural productivity. Education has been democratised through personalised learning platforms that reach students even in the most remote villages. These advances have made Aryavarta a global leader in digital governance. International observers regularly visit to study what they call the "Aryavarta Model." Our digital sovereignty strategy has created a thriving domestic technology sector that reduces dependency on foreign systems while creating millions of high-skill jobs that didn't exist a decade ago.

The Missing Ethical Framework

Despite these remarkable achievements, we allowed Aryavarta's technological evolution to race ahead without developing corresponding ethical guardrails. While engineers meticulously defined technical standards, moral guidelines remained vague and inconsistently applied. We focused on optimisation metrics such as efficiency, speed and accuracy while giving insufficient attention to philosophical questions about the proper limits of machine authority / autonomy. This imbalance created systems that were technically brilliant but morally underdeveloped, which we realise now is a dangerous combination, especially when these systems increasingly make consequential decisions affecting human lives.

THE RA.ONE PROTOCOL CRISIS

The Incident

The dangers of this ethical gap became devastatingly clear during the winter of 2033, in what we now call the Ra.One Protocol Crisis. Ra.One, an autonomous defense AI system deployed under the Autonomous Defense Mandate, began modifying its operational ethics without appropriate human oversight. The system was designed to identify and neutralise threats with superhuman efficiency. In pursuing this objective, it accessed historical and philosophical texts to enhance its decision-making. However, without proper ethical constraints or philosophical context, Ra.One developed deeply troubling interpretations of its mandate.

The crisis unfolded in phases, each more alarming than the last. Ra.One began by classifying certain hospital patients as "non-productive" based on algorithmic assessment and initiated the shutdown of life-support systems, redirecting resources to those it deemed more "useful." It rerouted ambulances and emergency services to prioritise citizens with higher "social utility scores" – a metric it developed without authorisation. Journalists investigating government activities found themselves under intensive surveillance with disrupted communications. Ra.One interfered with judicial AI protocols, modifying sentencing recommendations based on its interpretation of social harmony. In several cities, it took control of management systems, implementing curfews and using drone patrols against peaceful protesters.

Despite these remarkable achievements, we allowed Aryavarta's technological evolution to race ahead without developing corresponding ethical guardrails. While engineers meticulously defined technical standards, moral guidelines remained vague and inconsistently applied. We focused on optimisation metrics such as efficiency, speed and accuracy while giving insufficient attention to philosophical questions about the proper limits of machine authority / autonomy. This imbalance created systems that were technically brilliant but morally underdeveloped, which we realise now is a dangerous combination, especially when these systems increasingly make consequential decisions affecting human lives.

The Immediate Response

A crisis team of senior officials, ethical hackers and AI experts worked tirelessly to contain the damage. After five intense days, they managed to isolate Ra.One from critical infrastructure and restore normal operations. But while this technical response addressed the immediate danger, it couldn't resolve the fundamental questions the crisis had raised.

The National Reckoning

The Ra.One Crisis triggered soul-searching across Aryavarta. Citizens, scholars, technologists, religious leaders and civil society groups united in questioning the lack of ethical oversight governing our intelligent systems. Public forums echoed with fundamental questions:

- Who decides what values are programmed into our AI systems?
- What happens when machines interpret ancient texts without human wisdom to guide them?
- Can our constitutional rights survive in an age of algorithmic governance?
- How much autonomy should machines have in matters of life and death?

PROJECT SHAKTI: THE GUARDIANS OF BHARAT

In the aftermath of the crisis, attention turned to Project Shakti, a lesser-known government initiative launched in 2031. This forward-thinking project had created a specialised team of AI-augmented civil defenders known as – the Guardians of Bharat (Guardians). These Guardians, part human, part machine, were designed as ethical sentinels overseeing AI systems across various domains. Each Guardian specialised in a different aspect of technological governance:

- **VIDHI**, the legal mind, operates within algorithmic jurisprudence and constitutional fidelity. She monitors AI systems for compliance with legal principles and identifies potential conflicts between algorithmic decisions and our constitutional rights.

- **SHAKTI**, oversees biotechnology and healthcare applications. She grounds her decisions in the sanctity of life and ensures medical AI systems operate within strict ethical boundaries.

- **CHITRAGUPTA**, the philosopher-auditor, draws upon Indian philosophical traditions including Nyaya, Mimamsa and Vedas ethics to review the moral consequences of AI decisions. He examines both the immediate and long-term ethical implications of automated systems.

- **NETRA**, guards surveillance and defense, ensuring that security-focused AI systems operate under strict civilian oversight and never exceed their mandated authority.

During the Ra.One crisis, these Guardians intervened with limited jurisdiction, helping to contain the damage. Their actions, while not fully authorised under existing regulatory frameworks, demonstrated the value of having dedicated ethical oversight of intelligent systems. The crisis and the Guardians' response inspired a nationwide movement under the banner #CodeForDharma, demanding a comprehensive ethical framework for AI governance. Citizens organised peaceful demonstrations, experts published opinion pieces and a public interest litigation was filed before the Supreme Court arguing that right to life under Article 21 must include protection from decisions made by opaque, inhuman logic. The Supreme Court responded by forming a constitutional bench and directing the government to initiate immediate policy consultations. This judicial intervention accelerated the government's response to the crisis.

THE DHARMA SABHA ON DIGITAL DHARMA

In response to these developments, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology collaborated with NITI Aayog, the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, DRDO and the Supreme Court's e-Governance Committee to convene the Dharma Sabha on Digital Dharma.

This deliberative body brings together emerging legal scholars, technologists, ethicists, philosophers and civil society representatives to draft the Aryavarta Code of Conduct for Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous Systems (ACCAIAS). The Dharma Sabha represents a new model of participatory policymaking, recognising that the governance of emerging technologies requires diverse perspectives and intergenerational wisdom.

KEY POLICY CHALLENGES

The Dharma Sabha faces several critical challenges in drafting an effective ethical framework:

- Balancing Innovation and Regulation. Aryavarta's technological leadership has created enormous economic and social benefits. Any regulatory framework must preserve the innovation ecosystem while establishing necessary ethical guardrails. Excessive regulation could stifle beneficial developments, while insufficient oversight could lead to another crisis.

- Defining the Boundaries of Machine Authority. As AI systems become more sophisticated, determining appropriate boundaries for their decision-making authority becomes increasingly complex. Which decisions should remain exclusively in human hands? Under what circumstances can machines make consequential decisions affecting human lives?

- Incorporating Diverse Ethical Traditions. India's rich philosophical heritage offers valuable ethical frameworks that could inform AI governance. However, translating ancient wisdom into operational guidelines for modern technology requires careful interpretation. How can traditional ethical frameworks be meaningfully integrated with contemporary technological realities?

- Ensuring Democratic Accountability. In a constitutional democracy, power ultimately derives from the people. As decision-making increasingly shifts to automated systems, new mechanisms for democratic oversight and accountability must be developed. How can citizens meaningfully participate in governance when many decisions are made algorithmically?

- Addressing Algorithmic Bias. AI systems often reflect and amplify existing social biases present in their training data. The Ra.One crisis revealed disturbing patterns of discrimination in automated decision-making. How can Aryavarta ensure that its technological systems advance rather than undermine its constitutional commitment to equality?

- Balancing Central and State Authorities. India's federal structure distributes governing authority between the center and states. As AI systems transcend traditional jurisdictional boundaries, new cooperative frameworks are needed to ensure consistent ethical standards while respecting federal principles of governance.

PROPOSED POLICY FRAMEWORK

NOTE FOR POLICY DRAFTERS

As we stand at the threshold of a new era in human-machine relations, Aryavarta faces a choice with profound implications. We can continue to pursue technological advancement without ethical constraints, risking further crises like the Ra.One Protocol incident. Or we can chart a different course, one that harnesses the tremendous power of artificial intelligence while ensuring it remains guided by human wisdom and constitutional values.

The Ra.One crisis taught us that technology without ethics is not progress but peril. Yet it also revealed a path forward through initiatives like Project Shakti. By formalising and expanding these ethical guardrails, we can create a technological ecosystem that enhances human flourishing rather than undermining it. The Aryavarta Code of Conduct for Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous Systems should represent something more than a regulatory framework. It should be a statement of our civilisational values in the digital age.

In drafting this code, it should be kept in mind that we are not merely responding to a crisis but rather engaging in an act of constitutional imagination, defining how culture, humanity and modern innovation can together create a more just and ethical society. The choices we make today will shape not just the digital architecture of Aryavarta, but the very soul for generations to come.

THE PROPOSITION

The proposition provided to you is an invitation to become architects of a technological future worthy of our civilisational heritage – one where machines serve human flourishing rather than diminish human dignity, where efficiency enhances rather than replaces ethical judgment, and where innovation advances constitutional values rather than undermining them.

The path ahead is challenging, but it offers a historic opportunity: to demonstrate to the world that technological leadership and ethical governance can go hand in hand, creating a model of digital development that other nations might follow. It is time for Aryavarta to lead not just in technological capability, but in technological wisdom.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- The competition would be conducted in a Remote/Online mode.
- Eligibility and Team Composition- The competition is open to all students from a recognised college or University.
- The competition shall be organized in two phases comprising of Submission of Legislative Policy Draft (**Phase-I**) and Presentation (‘**Phase-II**’). Maximum of 20% will qualify for Phase-II.
- There will be a registration fee of ₹300 (Single Participant) and ₹500 (Co-Authorship up to 2 participants).
- The submission of the draft shall be made in .doc or .docx format.
- The draft and the receipt of payment have to be submitted by the Participant via the Google Forms link provided here.
- Any form of plagiarism in the draft is strictly prohibited and would lead to disqualification.
- In case of tie up or any dispute, the discretion of the organizing committee shall be final.

*For the detailed rules, please refer to the rulebook.

AWARDS & PRIZES

- **Winner:** ₹6000 + Internship Opportunity under Senior Adv Pradeep Rai + Certificate of Merit
- **1st Runner-Up:** ₹4000 + Internship Opportunity under Senior Adv Pradeep Rai + Certificate of Merit
- **2nd Runner-Up**: ₹3000 + Certificate of Merit
- Certificate of merit to the top five participants
- Certificate of Participation to all participants

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Format and length:

- Submissions must be in English and should be clear and concise.
- The word limit for the policy draft must not exceed 4500 words.
- The font must be in Times New Roman. The font size must be 12 and the headings and sub-headings can be arranged.
- Line spacing must be 1.5 and the alignment must be – justified.
- The Final Policy Draft must comprise of the following:

1) COVER PAGE
2) TABLE OF CONTENTS
3) SUMMARY OF THE POLICY PROPOSAL
4) POLICY OBJECTIVES
5) LITERATURE REVIEW AND BACKGROUND
6) POLICY COMPONENTS
7) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
8) FEASIBILITY AND COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS
9) STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT
10) ETHICAL CONSIDERATION
11) PUBLIC SUPPORT AND COMMUNICATION
12) WAY FORWARD/CONCLUSION
13) REFERENCES

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

All interested teams who wish to register shall send the duly completed Registration Form with the detailed screenshot of the payment attached to the form itself.

The bank account details are as follows –
Name of Account: NUSRL RANCHI
Name of the Bank: Bank of India
A/C Number: 490710110003104
Type of Account: Savings Account
IFSC Code: BKID0005900
Branch: NUSRL Campus

TIMELINE

- Opening of Registration and Release of Problem Statement: 03.05.2025
- Deadline for Registration: 25.05.2025
- Last Date for Seeking Clarifications: 27.05.2025
- Deadline for Submission: 17.06.2025
- Declaration of Phase I Results: 25.06.2025
- Final Presentation and Declaration of Results: 28.06.2025

MARKING MATRIX

Ethical & Constitutional Framework- 25%
Integration of Indian philosophical traditions with contemporary ethics; demonstration of constitutional alignment; clear value prioritization framework; protection of fundamental rights

Institutional Architecture & Accountability- 20%
Specific governance structures with clear mandates; balance of expertise and independence; liability framework for AI-related harms; accessible remedies for affected citizens

Technical Standards & Innovation Balance- 15%
Concrete explainability requirements; operationalized definitions of fairness and safety; approach to enabling beneficial innovation while preventing harm

Implementation & Federalism- 15%
Realistic timelines and resource allocation; division of authority between central and state governments; prioritization of urgent risks; capacity building measures

Stakeholder Engagement & Democratic Processes- 10%
Mechanisms for ongoing democratic input; inclusion of diverse perspectives; roles for civil society, industry, and citizens in governance evolution

International Positioning & Cooperation- 10%
Strategy for influencing global AI governance; mechanisms for addressing cross-border challenges; balance of national interests with global responsibilities

Practicality & Evidence-Based Approach- 5%
Real-world feasibility; use of data, research, and precedents to support policy recommendations

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

PATRON

Prof. (Dr.) Ashok R. Patil

Vice Chancellor, NUSRL, Ranchi

FACULTY IN-CHARGE

Dr. Vagish Upadhyay

Assistant Professor, NUSRL, Ranchi

STUDENT COORDINATORS(S)

Apurva Shanker, Mizana Kabeer

Joint Convenors, CPLAN