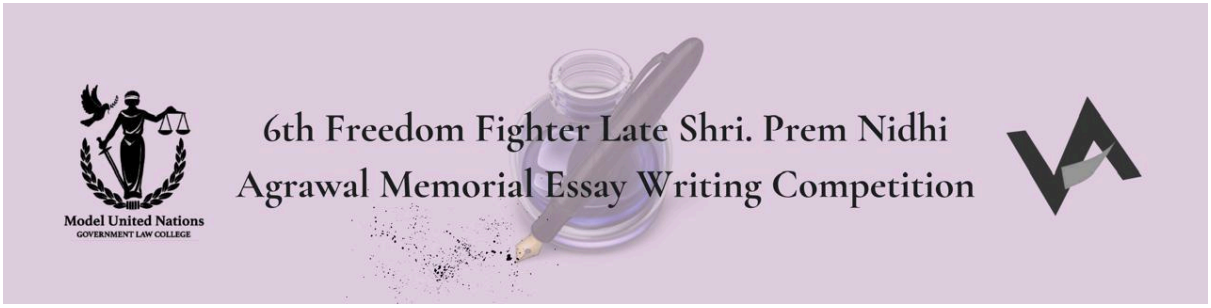


Introduction

Virendra Agrawal & Co., in collaboration with the Government Law College Model United Nations Society, proudly presents the 6th Freedom Fighter Late Shri Prem Nidhi Agrawal Memorial Essay Competition. This joint initiative seeks to honour the legacy of the revered freedom fighter while continuing the annual partnership between both institutions.

Selection Process

The competition follows a two-stage selection process. In the first stage, a panel of distinguished lawyers and advocates, known for their expertise and experience, will carefully review and shortlist ten standout essays from the submissions. These shortlisted essays will then proceed to the second stage, where a sitting justice of the Bombay High Court will undertake a detailed examination. This final evaluation will determine the top three winners.

The essays will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Content
2. Writing Style
3. Language & Grammar
4. Flow/Presentation
5. Novelty

Each criterion will carry equal weight in the assessment.

Topic

The competition provides participants a platform to showcase their analytical skills and delve into thought-provoking discussions on some of India's most pressing challenges. Participants are encouraged to submit articles addressing contemporary issues, offering well-researched

perspectives and proposing innovative solutions. This year's theme, "Deepfakes, Free Speech, and State Control: Where Should India Draw the Line?" invites participants to critically examine India's regulatory and ethical landscape, weighing the dangers posed by deepfake technology against the fundamental rights guaranteed to its citizens.

The rapid expansion of digital media in India has created a dynamic space for public discourse, creativity, and political participation. Yet this progress also brings unsettling challenges, particularly with the emergence of deepfakes artificially generated videos and audio that can mimic real individuals with striking accuracy. As these technologies become more accessible, they raise profound questions about authenticity, accountability, and the future of democratic communication.

The topic calls for an exploration of how India can uphold free expression while responding to the risks posed by manipulated media. Deepfakes blur the boundary between truth and fabrication, complicating efforts to maintain trust in public institutions. They have the potential to distort political narratives, damage reputations, and fuel social tensions, especially in a country where digital information spreads rapidly across diverse linguistic and cultural communities. With elections, public movements, and social debates increasingly shaped by online content, the threat of deceptive media looms larger than ever.

At the same time, the issue is not simply technological it is constitutional. Any attempt to regulate deepfakes must grapple with India's strong, though not unrestricted, commitment to freedom of speech. Measures designed to curb harmful misinformation risk becoming instruments of excessive state control if not implemented with transparency and restraint. Overbroad censorship or intrusive surveillance could undermine democratic participation and disproportionately affect already vulnerable groups whose voices often challenge dominant narratives. It encourages a nuanced reflection on how the nation can safeguard truth and security without diluting the liberties that form the bedrock of its democracy.

Topic for the competition is:

Deepfakes, Free Speech, and State Control: Where Should India Draw the Line?

Guidelines

1. Word Limit: 2500 Words [Excluding an abstract of not more than 300 words].
2. Citation Style: Harvard Bluebook 20th Edition.
   Refer to the link below for citation formats:

https://www.scconline.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/20th-Harvard-bluebook.pdf

3. Co-authorship of up to two authors is allowed.
4. Zero plagiarism policy.
5. The Essays are to be submitted only in "Word" format.
   Refer to the link below for a sample essay:
   https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZNHeLFhfTBt8JUSqMrR1hzAIB-ULwir4/view?usp=drive_link

Prizes

Winning Essay: Cash Prize of Rs. 6,000/- along with a Trophy, Certificate of Merit and publication of the essay in the GLC MUN 2026 Souvenir.

Second: Cash Prize of Rs. 4,000/- along with a Trophy and Certificate of Merit.

Third: Cash Prize of Rs. 2,000/- along with a Trophy and Certificate of Merit.

All participants shall receive e-certificates for their participation.

Deadline

The deadline for essay submissions is **15th February, 2026.**