



LexFinis Foundation, New Delhi
First ever Industry Training Partner, Legal Sector, of MEPSC
Skill India Mission · Government of India
NITI Aayog Darpan Registration No. DL/2026/0994787
Chief Patron: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kurian Joseph, former Judge, Supreme Court of India

Right to Writ

In Public Interest — 2026

Participant Handbook and Rules

A National Writ Drafting and Advocacy Competition · National Edition 2026–27

Skill Partner



Organiser

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LexFinis Foundation, New Delhi

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MEPSC, Government of India

Lejit.ai

Live Law

Before you begin

This Handbook contains the Rules of *Right to Writ — In Public Interest 2026* and the practical information you will need at each stage of the Competition. Please read it once from beginning to end before you register, and keep it open as you work through each stage.

The Rules are binding on every registered Participant. They are to be read together with the Official Brochure, the Events and Timelines document, the LexFinis templates on Lejit.ai, the annotated sample writ petition, and every clarification, corrigendum or circular published on the Participant Dashboard at www.lexfinis.org. If there is any inconsistency, this Handbook, as last amended, will prevail.

Many Participants will be drafting a representation or a writ petition for the first time. That is expected. No prior moot court, litigation or drafting experience is required, and every stage is preceded by training from Advocates-on-Record of the Supreme Court of India. The step-by-step guide to the Dashboard and Lejit.ai, the checklists, the glossary and the answers to common questions at the end of this Handbook have been added to help you along the way.

The Competition at a glance

What it is	A national writ drafting and advocacy competition on a real public interest issue of your own choosing. It is not a moot court.
Who may enter	Law students of any year, and lawyers with not more than two years of experience as on 15 September 2026.
How you take part	Individually, or in a team of not more than two members.
Registration contribution	₹2,200/- per Participant (non-refundable), towards certification and resource content, including all training and access to Lejit.ai.
What you draft	A Representation to the competent authority (up to 3 pages) and, if selected, a Writ Petition (up to 16 pages).
Drafting tool	Lejit.ai, the AI Partner, provides legal research and drafting tools, and the LexFinis templates, to every verified Participant.
Submission	Made only once, on Lejit.ai. Multiple submissions are not allowed.
Training	Three sessions, pre-recorded and live, by Advocates-on-Record, on how to draft and argue a writ petition.
The outcome	Selected petitions are filed before the High Court or the Supreme Court of India.
Prize pool	₹10,00,000, together with a Certificate of Participation carrying the authority of MEPSC, Government of India.

Key dates

Date	What happens
15 September 2026	Registration opens
30 November 2026	Registration closes
5 December 2026	Training I — Public Interest Issues and the Representation
12 December 2026	Last date to submit the Representation
22 December 2026	Selected Representations announced
3 January 2027	Last date to submit the Writ Petition
15 January 2027	Selected Writ Petitions announced; Final Round slots notified
20 to 30 January 2027	Final Rounds before the Panel
1 to 15 February 2027	Award Ceremony
February to March 2027	Filing and appearance before the Court

Every deadline closes at 11:59 p.m. Indian Standard Time on the date stated.

What every registered Participant receives

- Three training sessions, pre-recorded and live, by Advocates-on-Record of the Supreme Court of India, on how to draft and argue a writ petition;
- the opportunity to interact with practising advocates, Advocates-on-Record and Senior Advocates on the Advisory Board of LexFinis Foundation;
- access to **Lejit.ai**, the AI Partner’s legal research and drafting tools, together with the LexFinis templates for the Representation and the Writ Petition;
- a sample writ petition, annotated clause by clause, released after Training II as a model of form and structure only;
- a drafting and formatting checklist, and a filing checklist;

- the chance to appear before a real court on a public interest issue, if your petition is selected for filing; and
- a Certificate of Participation carrying the authority of MEPSC, Government of India, on completion of Stage I.

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1. Administration

- 1.1** *Right to Writ — In Public Interest 2026* (the “Competition”) is organised and administered by LexFinis Foundation, a not-for-profit legal finishing school in New Delhi, registered with NITI Aayog (Darpan Registration No. DL/2026/0994787).
- 1.2** The Competition is conducted in association with the Management and Entrepreneurship and Professional Skills Council (MEPSC), a Sector Skill Council under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, under the Memorandum of Understanding dated 21 August 2026. It is conducted in collaboration with Solicitorsindia Law Offices, with Lejit.ai as AI Partner and Live Law as Media Partner.
- 1.3** The Competition is held under the Chief Patronship of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kurian Joseph, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India.
- 1.4** Registration and verification take place on the Participant Dashboard at www.lexfinis.org. Research, drafting and submission take place on Lejit.ai. The Final Rounds and the subsequent filing and appearance are conducted in the mode notified by the Organiser.
- 1.5** The Organiser is responsible for all administrative matters and will publish all necessary information on the Dashboard and send it to the registered e-mail address of each Participant.
- 1.6** The official addresses for all correspondence are contact@lexfinis.org and ceo@lexfinis.org. A communication sent to any other address will not be treated as notice to the Organiser.

2. Definitions

In this Handbook, unless the context requires otherwise:

- 2.1** “Organiser” or “Foundation” means LexFinis Foundation, New Delhi.
- 2.2** “Competition” means *Right to Writ — In Public Interest 2026*.

- 2.3** “Participant” means a law student, or a lawyer described in Rule 4.2, who has registered under Rule 5 and whose registration has been verified, whether taking part individually or as a member of a team.
- 2.4** “Team” means two Participants who take part jointly and make a single entry. A team may not have more than two members.
- 2.5** “Entry” means the Representation and, where applicable, the Writ Petition submitted by an individual Participant or by a team.
- 2.6** “Participant Code” means the unique alphanumeric code allotted to each Participant on verification of registration.
- 2.7** “Issue” means the live public interest issue that the Participant identifies and sets out in the Representation, as described in Rule 9.
- 2.8** “Representation” means the written representation addressed to the appropriate government body or statutory authority and submitted under Rule 10.
- 2.9** “Writ Petition” means the petition drafted under Article 32, 226 or 227 of the Constitution of India and submitted under Rule 11.
- 2.10** “Panel” means the panel of judges and evaluators constituted by the Organiser under Rule 15.
- 2.11** “Dashboard” means the Participant’s account at www.lexfinis.org.
- 2.12** “Lejit.ai” means the AI Partner of the Competition, on whose platform Participants research, draft and submit their Entries.
- 2.13** These Rules are inclusive and not exhaustive. Any deviation from them may attract a penalty or disqualification. The decision of the Organiser on any dispute or doubt is final and binding.

3. Nature and Object of the Competition

- 3.1** This is not a moot court competition and it is not a simulation. There is no moot proposition, no hypothetical set of facts, no claimant or respondent, and no memorial. Each Participant works on a real public interest issue of their own choosing.
- 3.2** The object of the Competition is that a law student, before leaving college, and a young lawyer, before the habits of practice set in, should learn how a petition is actually researched, drafted, filed and presented in court, and should learn it on a cause that matters.
- 3.3** Training comes before drafting. Structured training by Advocates-on-Record of the Supreme Court of India is delivered before each stage, so that every Participant drafts with knowledge.
- 3.4** Selected Writ Petitions are presented before the Panel for admission and are then filed before the High Court of the concerned jurisdiction or the Supreme Court of India, depending on the facts and circumstances. The Participant may appear as party in person or may take the assistance of the Foundation in arguing the matter.
- 3.5** Every Certificate of Participation carries the authority of MEPSC, Government of India.

4. Eligibility

- 4.1** Any student enrolled in a bona fide three-year or five-year undergraduate law programme, or in a postgraduate law programme, at a recognised college, university or institution in India is eligible.
- 4.2** Lawyers are also eligible. An advocate or law graduate, whether in practice or in employment, with not more than two (2) years of experience after enrolment or qualification as on 15 September 2026, may register, participate on the same terms and compete for the same awards as a student Participant.

- 4.3** Students of any year of study are eligible. No prior moot court, litigation or drafting experience is required.
- 4.4** A Participant may take part individually or in a team of not more than two members. Each member of a team must be eligible under Rule 4.1 or Rule 4.2 and must register separately under Rule 5. Teams of three or more are not permitted, and no Participant may be a member of more than one team.
- 4.5** There is no limit on the number of entries from any one college, university or institution.
- 4.6** Each individual Participant or team may make only one Entry: one Representation and, if shortlisted, one Writ Petition.
- 4.7** Participating institutions are requested, by Circular No. LFF/RTW/2026/01, to nominate a Faculty Coordinator. Faculty Coordinators may also be nominated to the evaluation panel.

5. Registration and Contribution

- 5.1** Registration opens on 15 September 2026 and closes on 30 November 2026. Registration can be completed only at www.lexfinis.org, under *Upcoming Events* → *Writ Petition Competition* → *Register now*.
- 5.2** The one-time registration contribution is ₹2,200/- (Rupees Two Thousand Two Hundred only) per Participant. In a team, each member registers and remits the contribution separately. The contribution is remitted through the Dashboard by UPI, and the transaction reference ID and a screenshot of the payment must be submitted for verification.
- 5.3** LexFinis Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation. The registration contribution is made towards the certification and resource content provided by the Foundation, and no part of it is applied to any commercial activity. The contribution, once remitted, is not refundable or transferable in any circumstance, including withdrawal, non-attendance at training or non-submission, as set out in the Contribution Policy Guidelines.

- 5.4** Each Participant must complete their profile with a photograph and a Government-issued identity document, together with their college or university details (for students) or proof of enrolment or employment showing the date of enrolment or qualification (for lawyers). The Guidelines and Resources sections of the Dashboard, and access to the competition on Lejit.ai, open only after verification.
- 5.5** No registration will be accepted after 30 November 2026.

6. Participant Code and Anonymity

- 6.1** Every verified Participant is allotted a Participant Code, which appears on the Dashboard.
- 6.2** The Representation and the Writ Petition, as submitted for evaluation, must carry only the Participant Code (for a team, the Participant Codes of both members) in the upper-right corner of the first page. They must not disclose the name of any Participant, their college, university or institution, or any faculty member, anywhere in the text, headers, footers or footnotes.
- 6.3** Rule 6.2 does not apply to the copy of the Representation actually dispatched to the authority, or to the final, court-ready petition prepared under Rule 17, both of which bear the Participant's own name. In the copy submitted for evaluation, write the Participant Code in place of your name in the signature block.
- 6.4** Any breach of anonymity is penalised under Rule 18.

7. Structure of the Competition

The Competition has three stages, and each is preceded by training.

Stage	What the Participant does	Output and deadline
I • The Representation	Identifies a live public interest issue and a jurisprudential gap; researches precedent and statute; drafts and dispatches a Representation to the competent authority.	Representation of up to 3 pages, by 12 December 2026
II • The Writ Petition	Shortlisted Participants draft a full writ petition under Article 32, 226 or 227, fit to be filed.	Writ Petition of up to 16 pages, by 3 January 2027
III • The Final Rounds	Selected Participants argue for admission before the Panel; winners are announced and the petitions are filed in court.	Oral presentation, 20 to 30 January 2027; awards; filing

- 7.1** A Participant moves from one stage to the next only on selection. Selected Representations are announced on 22 December 2026 and selected Writ Petitions on 15 January 2027. Winners are announced on Live Law and honoured at the Award Ceremony between 1 and 15 February 2027. Filing and appearance before the Court follow in February and March 2027.
- 7.2** The complete calendar is set out in the Events and Timelines document, which forms part of these Rules.

8. The Training Programme

- 8.1** Training is the defining feature of the Competition and is included in the registration contribution. Every Participant gets access to pre-recorded and live sessions by Advocates-on-Record of the Supreme Court of India on how to draft a writ petition. There are three sessions, each available as a video under Resources on the Dashboard and each also conducted live on a date notified on the Dashboard.

Session	What it covers
Training I: Public Interest Issues and the Representation	What a public interest issue is, and how to recognise a live constitutional or statutory gap; what a representation is, whom it is addressed to, and how to structure it, with the evidence, annexures and the prayer.
Training II: The Craft of Drafting a Writ Petition	How to draft a writ petition, step by step: choice of forum and jurisdiction; synopsis and list of dates; cause title; facts; grounds; prayer; affidavit; annexures; court fee; and common defects.
Training III: Courtroom Skills for Arguing a Writ Petition	How to open, structure and close an admission argument; answering the Bench; and how a writ petition differs from an ordinary petition in its forum, its purpose and the way it is argued.

- 8.2** Each session must be completed before the stage it relates to. A Participant who has not attended the applicable session, either live or through the pre-recorded video, may be declared ineligible to submit at that stage.
- 8.3** Slides and reading lists are released on the Dashboard under Resources along with each video.
- 8.4** Every verified Participant is given access to the legal research and drafting tools of Lejit.ai, the AI Partner, including the LexFinis templates for the Representation and the Writ Petition. The rules on the responsible use of AI are in Rule 14, and a step-by-step guide to getting started is at the end of this Handbook.
- 8.5** During the Competition, Participants will have the opportunity to interact with practising advocates, Advocates-on-Record and Senior Advocates who are members of the Advisory Board of LexFinis Foundation.

Training on writ drafting

You are not expected to know how to draft a writ petition before you begin. Training II is devoted entirely to it and takes you through every part of a petition, from the cover page to the affidavit and annexures. After the session, an annotated sample petition is released under Resources so that you can see how each part is laid out.

9. The Issue

- 9.1** Each Entry must be built on one live issue of public importance that discloses a jurisprudential gap: a real constitutional wrong, or a real failure of statutory duty, which the courts have not yet conclusively addressed. The Issue must satisfy the following three tests.

Test	What it requires
Live	The wrong is continuing or imminent, not over or merely academic. There must be an identifiable person, class of persons or public interest that is presently affected.
Unsettled	The point has not been conclusively decided by the Supreme Court of India or by the High Court of the jurisdiction in which relief would be sought. A pending matter is not a bar, but it must be disclosed.
Remediable	A writ court can grant a workable remedy, such as a direction, a mandamus, a quashing, a time-bound compliance or an audit. If no order of a writ court would change anything, the Issue is not suitable.

- 9.2** The Issue is not submitted separately. It is identified and set out in the Representation itself, and is assessed from the Representation against the latest judgments of the Supreme Court and the High Courts and the laws and policies in force in India on the date of assessment. Representations are screened for this purpose, including through the screening system on Lejit.ai.

9.3 Before you begin drafting, use the Legal Research tool on Lejit.ai, and your own reading of the primary sources, to confirm that your Issue has not already been conclusively settled by the Supreme Court or a High Court.

What does not qualify

- A purely private dispute, such as a service matter personal to the Participant, a contractual claim, a family dispute, a landlord and tenant matter, or the recovery of money.
- An issue already conclusively decided by a High Court or the Supreme Court, unless the Participant identifies a genuinely distinct facet that has not been addressed, and says so expressly.
- A matter that is sub judice between the Participant and the proposed respondent.
- A demand for legislation in the abstract, without any identifiable constitutional or statutory duty already owed.
- An issue that cannot be supported by any material on record, such as speculation, rumour or unverified social media content.
- An issue framed so as to target an individual, a community or an institution, rather than to secure a public remedy.

Illustrative subject areas

The following examples show the kind of issue that works well. You are free to choose any other cause, and originality of subject is rewarded.

- Non-implementation of accessibility standards for persons with disabilities in public buildings, transport or court complexes.
- The absence or non-functioning of statutory committees and grievance mechanisms mandated by law at the district or institutional level.
- Gaps in the framing of rules under a parent statute, which leave a right conferred by the statute unenforceable in practice.
- Non-compliance with environmental clearance conditions, waste management rules or noise standards in a defined locality.

- Conditions in shelter homes, observation homes or old age homes, or in the provision of statutory legal aid.
- Denial of, or delay in, a statutory entitlement such as a pension, scholarship, maintenance or compensation scheme.
- The occupational safety and welfare of workers in a defined sector where a statutory duty already exists.
- Digital access, data handling or procedural fairness in the administration of a public welfare scheme.

A worked example: how an issue becomes a petition

The gap. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the rules framed under it require public buildings to meet accessibility standards and require periodic accessibility audits. In a given district, the court complex, the sub-divisional office and three government dispensaries have no ramp of the prescribed gradient, no accessible toilet, no tactile guidance and no working lift. No accessibility audit appears to have been carried out, and the statutory grievance route has produced no response.

Why it is live, unsettled and remediable. Persons with disabilities in the district cannot presently reach a court or a dispensary without assistance; the specific failure in that district has not been adjudicated; and a writ court can direct an audit, fix a time-bound compliance schedule and call for a status report.

The constitutional and statutory basis. Equality before the law and the guarantee against discrimination; the right to life with dignity, of which meaningful access to justice and to public health facilities is a recognised facet; the directive to provide free legal aid and equal opportunity; and the specific duties cast by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 on the appropriate Government and local authorities.

Stage I: the Representation. Addressed to the Registrar General of the High Court, the District Magistrate and the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, setting out the facts, the statutory duty, the specific failures with dates and photographs, and a request for an audit and a compliance schedule within a stated period.

Stage II: the Writ Petition. Filed under Article 226 before the High Court of the concerned jurisdiction, seeking a writ of mandamus directing the respondents to carry out an accessibility audit, complete the rectification within a time-bound schedule and place a compliance report before the Court. The unanswered Representation forms part of the cause of action and is annexed to the petition.

This example illustrates method, not merit. You must independently verify every statutory provision, rule and authority you rely on. Using any research or drafting tool, including Lejit.ai, does not relieve you of that obligation.

- 9.4** Two or more Participants may independently choose the same subject area. Each Entry is evaluated on its own, and the independent choice of the same subject is not a breach of Rule 14.

10. Stage I — The Representation

- 10.1** The Representation is a formal written communication addressed to the government body, statutory authority or public officer competent to redress the Issue. It is the foundation of the Writ Petition and, if it goes unanswered, forms part of its cause of action. The Representation is made by the Participant, or by both members of the team, in their own names as citizens acting in the public interest.
- 10.2** The Representation must not exceed three (3) pages, excluding annexures, and must be drafted on Lejit.ai using the template “LexFinis — Representation to a Government Body”.
- 10.3** The Representation must contain the following, in this order:
- (a) Participant Code (upper-right corner of the first page) and date;
 - (b) Addressee: the designation, department and full official address of the competent authority;
 - (c) Subject: one sentence stating the grievance and the relief sought;
 - (d) Reference: the statutory provision, rule, scheme, circular or judgment under which the duty arises;
 - (e) Who makes the Representation: the Participant, or both members of the team, as citizens acting in the public interest;
 - (f) Statement of facts: numbered paragraphs, in chronological order, each fact capable of being supported;

- (g) The duty and its breach: the provision, what it requires, and exactly how it has not been complied with;
- (h) Material relied upon: documents, photographs, RTI replies, official data and media reports, with an index;
- (i) Prayer: specific, workable and time-bound requests, numbered (a), (b), (c); and
- (j) Signature block: name, capacity, contact details and the list of annexures.

10.4 The Participant must send the Representation to the addressee and keep proof of dispatch, such as a postal receipt, an e-mail acknowledgement or an online grievance registration number.

10.5 The Representation must be submitted on Lejit.ai, and the proof of dispatch and a declaration of bona fides and of the absence of personal interest uploaded to the Dashboard, on or before 12 December 2026.

10.6 Selected Representations are announced on 22 December 2026. Only selected Participants proceed to Stage II.

11. Stage II — The Writ Petition

11.1 The Writ Petition must be drafted under Article 32 (before the Supreme Court of India), or under Article 226 or Article 227 (before the High Court of the concerned jurisdiction), of the Constitution of India. The choice of forum must be justified in the petition itself and must follow from the facts and circumstances of the cause.

11.2 The Writ Petition must not exceed sixteen (16) pages, excluding the cover page, index, annexures and the vakalatnama or memo of appearance as party in person. It must be fit to be filed: a document that could be presented at the filing counter without material alteration. It must be drafted on Lejit.ai using the LexFinis writ petition template.

11.3 The Writ Petition must contain the following, in this order:

- (a) Cover page: the name and place of the Court; the Article under which the petition is filed; space for the petition number; the cause title; and the Participant Code in the upper-right corner;
- (b) Index, with page numbers;
- (c) Synopsis and List of Dates: the narrative in brief, followed by the dated events in chronological order;
- (d) Cause title and memo of parties: the petitioner and respondents, with full descriptions and addresses;
- (e) Statement of jurisdiction: why this Court, under which Article, and why any alternative remedy is not efficacious;
- (f) Statement of facts: numbered paragraphs, each linked to an annexure where applicable;
- (g) Grounds: lettered (A), (B), (C), each a self-contained proposition of law applied to the facts and supported by authority;
- (h) Locus standi and public interest: the standing of the petitioner, and the absence of personal gain;
- (i) Declaration as to alternative remedy, delay and laches, and any pending proceedings on the same subject;
- (j) Prayer: the writs and directions sought, numbered, precise and capable of being complied with;
- (k) Interim relief, if sought, stated separately with the reason for urgency;
- (l) Affidavit in support, in the prescribed form;
- (m) Annexures, serially marked (Annexure P-1, P-2 and so on), each with a true-copy certificate; the Representation and the proof of its dispatch must be annexed; and
- (n) Court fee and filing details, as applicable to the forum.

11.4 The Writ Petition must be submitted on Lejit.ai, with the combined annexures uploaded to the Dashboard, on or before 3 January 2027. Selected Writ Petitions are announced on 15 January 2027.

- 11.5** An annotated sample writ petition is released to every registered Participant under Resources after Training II. It is supplied only as a model of form, structure and language. Reproducing its substance, or any part of it beyond ordinary formal expressions, is plagiarism within the meaning of Rule 14.

12. Formatting Requirements

- 12.1** Both the Representation and the Writ Petition must comply with the following requirements. Formatting carries marks, and departures are penalised under Rule 18.

Requirement	Specification
Paper size	A4 (210 × 297 mm), portrait, single-sided
Margins	1 inch (2.54 cm) on all four sides
Body text	Times New Roman, 14 pt
Line spacing	1.5 lines, justified alignment
Headings	Times New Roman, 14 pt, bold, upper case; sub-headings 14 pt, bold, sentence case
Footnotes	Times New Roman, 10 pt, single spacing; citations only, with no argument in footnotes
Page numbers	Bottom centre, Times New Roman 12 pt, consecutive from the first page of the text
Paragraph numbering	Sequential Arabic numerals; grounds lettered (A), (B), (C)
Citation style	Bluebook (21st edition) or OSCOLA (4th edition); choose one and use it consistently
Language	English only. Handwritten submissions are not accepted in any circumstance.

Requirement	Specification
Annexures	Legible copies, serially marked and indexed; not counted in the page limit
Not permitted	Decorative borders, watermarks, logos, photographs in the body, coloured text, and any mark identifying the Participant or the institution

13. Submission Protocol

- 13.1** The Representation and the Writ Petition are submitted only on Lejit.ai, from the document editor, by using the “Submit to competition” button. Submissions by e-mail, post or any other means are not accepted and will not be evaluated.
- 13.2** **A submission can be made only once.** Multiple submissions are not allowed, and a submitted document cannot be withdrawn and submitted again. Review your draft carefully in the My Documents section of Lejit.ai before you press “Submit to competition”. For a team, only one member submits, on behalf of both.
- 13.3** Supporting documents are uploaded to the Dashboard at www.lexfinis.org, using the following file names.

Document	File name
Proof of dispatch	RTW2026_<ParticipantCode>_PROOF (for example, RTW2026_RW1042_PROOF.pdf)
Declaration of bona fides	RTW2026_<ParticipantCode>_DECL
Annexures to the Writ Petition (combined)	RTW2026_<ParticipantCode>_ANNEX

- 13.4** Every deadline expires at 11:59 p.m. Indian Standard Time on the stated date. The time recorded by the server is conclusive.

- 13.5** Late or incomplete entries are not accepted. There is no grace period, and no late-submission penalty is offered in place of acceptance. Please submit well in advance; a connectivity failure is not a ground for extension.

14. Originality, Plagiarism and the Use of AI

- 14.1** Every submission must be the original work of the Participant or the team, prepared for this Competition alone. Work previously submitted for academic credit, for another competition or for publication is not eligible.
- 14.2** Quotation from statutes, rules and judgments is expected and is not plagiarism, provided it is clearly marked as a quotation and properly cited. Reproducing another person's expression without citation is plagiarism.
- 14.3** Every submission is screened for similarity. Penalties are applied on the following scale, calculated on the total word count of the document, excluding properly cited quotations, statutory extracts and the standard formal parts of a petition.

Similarity found	Consequence
Up to 10%	No penalty
Above 10% and up to 15%	Deduction of 5 marks
Above 15% and up to 20%	Deduction of 10 marks
Above 20%	Disqualification
Reproduction from the sample writ petition supplied under Rule 11.5	Disqualification

- 14.4 Lejit.ai and the responsible use of AI.** Lejit.ai, the AI Partner, provides legal research and drafting tools to every Participant, and their use is permitted and encouraged at every stage. The tools are there to help you research and draft; they do not replace your own judgment. Every Participant remains personally answerable for every word they submit.

- 14.5** In particular, every Participant must independently verify every case, statute, rule, provision, citation and factual statement relied on, from the primary source or a recognised law report, before including it in a submission. A citation that does not exist, or that does not support the proposition for which it is cited, is treated as a failure of authenticity and is penalised under Rule 18. If the failure is substantial, it may result in disqualification.
- 14.6** Each submission must be accompanied by a declaration, generated on the Dashboard, that the work is original, that every authority has been independently verified, and that no confidential or personal information has been included without consent.

Using Lejit.ai well

Use Lejit.ai to find relevant statutes and judgments, to organise your research, and to check the structure of your draft against the LexFinis template and the training material. Before anything goes into your submission, open the judgment or the Act itself and confirm that it says what you say it says. The Panel checks citations, and a citation that cannot be verified costs 3 marks each time.

15. Evaluation and the Panel

- 15.1** Every submission is read and marked by a Panel comprising former Judges of the Supreme Court of India, former Judges of the High Courts, Senior Advocates of the Supreme Court, senior legal educationists and members of the Foundation's Advisory Board. Participating institutions may nominate a faculty member to the evaluation panel.
- 15.2** The broad criteria are content and clarity, critical thinking, authenticity, evidence-based argument, logical presentation and topic relevance. They are applied through the following marking schemes.

Stage I — Representation (100 marks)

No.	Criterion	Marks
1	Identification of the Issue and the jurisprudential gap, assessed against the latest judgments and policies in force; topic relevance	25
2	Factual foundation, material relied upon and its verifiability	20
3	Identification of the statutory or constitutional duty and of its breach	20
4	Structure, clarity and drafting quality	15
5	Prayer: specific, workable and correctly addressed	10
6	Compliance with formatting, citation and submission requirements	10
Total		100

Stage II — Writ Petition (100 marks)

No.	Criterion	Marks
1	Choice of forum, jurisdiction and maintainability, including locus standi	15
2	Synopsis, list of dates and statement of facts	10
3	Grounds: legal reasoning and application of law to facts	25
4	Research, use of authorities and evidence-based argument	20
5	Prayer and interim relief: precision and enforceability	10
6	Authenticity and originality, including verification of authorities	10
7	Language, drafting discipline, formatting and annexures	10
Total		100

Stage III — Presentation before the Panel (100 marks)

No.	Criterion	Marks
1	Knowledge of law: provisions, principles and authorities	30
2	Application of law to the facts of the Participant's own cause	25
3	Ability to answer questions from the Bench	20
4	Structure of submissions and time management	15
5	Court craft, poise, courtesy and demeanour	10
Total		100

15.3 The final standing is decided on the aggregate of Stage I (weight 20%), Stage II (weight 50%) and Stage III (weight 30%). In the event of a tie, the higher Stage II score prevails; if the tie persists, the higher score under

criterion 3 of Stage II prevails.

- 15.4** Marks, the identities of evaluators and internal deliberations are confidential. Re-evaluation is not available, and the decision of the Panel is final and binding.
- 15.5** Any attempt by a Participant, or by anyone on their behalf, to contact a member of the Panel about the Competition will result in immediate disqualification.

16. Stage III — The Final Rounds

- 16.1** The Final Rounds are held between 20 and 30 January 2027. Each selected Participant or team is given an individual slot within that period, notified on 15 January 2027, and appears before the Panel to make an admission-style submission on their own Writ Petition.
- 16.2** Each Entry is given fifteen (15) minutes: ten minutes for submissions and five minutes for questions from the Bench. A team may divide the submission time between its two members as it chooses. The Panel may extend the time at its discretion.
- 16.3** The Participant should begin by identifying the Court, the Article invoked, the parties and the relief sought; then state the facts in brief; take the Bench through the grounds; and close on the prayer.
- 16.4** A compendium of authorities may be placed before the Panel, if permitted. It must be indexed and paginated.
- 16.5** **Dress code.** Court formals. Men: white formal shirt, black trousers, black blazer and black tie. Women: white formal shirt with black trousers or skirt and a black blazer, or a plain white kurta with black trousers and a black blazer.
- 16.6** Where a round is held online, the Participant's video must remain on throughout, and the Participant must join from a quiet, well-lit and neutral setting at least fifteen minutes before the allotted time. A delay of more than five minutes may result in the Participant forfeiting that round.

17. Filing and Appearance before the Court

- 17.1** After the Final Rounds, the Writ Petitions selected by the Panel are finalised for filing before the High Court of the concerned jurisdiction or the Supreme Court of India, as the facts and circumstances require. Filing and appearance take place in February and March 2027.
- 17.2** The final, court-ready version must bear the name of the Participant, or of both members of the team, as petitioner. Anonymity under Rule 6 no longer applies at this stage.
- 17.3** The Participant may choose either to appear as party in person before the Hon'ble Court, or to take the assistance of the Foundation and its collaborating counsel in presenting the matter. The choice must be recorded in writing.
- 17.4** The Foundation facilitates filing and mentoring and, where the Participant so chooses, representation. The Foundation gives no assurance of admission, listing, interim relief or any particular outcome, all of which rest entirely with the Hon'ble Court.
- 17.5** If the Foundation, after professional advice, is of the view that a petition should not be filed in its existing form, it will give its reasons to the Participant and an opportunity to revise. Nothing in these Rules obliges the Foundation to file any petition.
- 17.6** Court fees and statutory charges relating to filing are borne by the Foundation unless otherwise notified. Travel and personal expenses are borne by the Participant.

18. Penalties

No.	Violation	Penalty
1	Exceeding the prescribed page limit	2 marks for each page or part of a page
2	Violation of any formatting requirement under Rule 12	0.5 mark for each violation, up to 5 marks
3	Disclosure of the Participant's identity or institution in breach of Rule 6	5 marks
4	Not following the file naming convention for supporting documents	2 marks
5	Citing an authority that does not exist or does not support the proposition	3 marks for each instance; disqualification if substantial
6	Failure to annex the Representation and proof of dispatch to the Writ Petition	5 marks
7	Plagiarism	As per the scale in Rule 14.3
8	Late or incomplete submission	Not accepted; the Participant does not advance
9	Not completing a mandatory training session, live or pre-recorded	Ineligible to submit at that stage
10	Contacting the Panel; falsely holding out as an advocate; taking part in more than one Entry	Disqualification

18.1 The imposition of penalties, including disqualification, rests solely with the Organiser, whose decision is final.

19. Awards, Certification and Publication

Award	Value	Number
Winner	₹1,50,000	One: the highest-rated petition
Runner-up	₹75,000 each	Four: total ₹3,00,000
Second Runner-up	₹25,000 each	Five: total ₹1,25,000
State Winner	₹10,000 each	One per State, subject to participation thresholds
Best University	₹1,00,000	One: the highest-performing university

The total prize pool is ₹10,00,000. Where an award is won by a team, the prize money is shared equally between its two members.

- 19.1** Every Participant who completes Stage I receives a Certificate of Participation carrying the authority of MEPSC, Government of India. Certificates are sent to the registered e-mail address within six weeks of the Award Ceremony.
- 19.2** Winners are announced by the Media Partner, Live Law, and honoured at the Award Ceremony held between 1 and 15 February 2027. Winning petitions are published, giving their authors a citation that stays on their record.
- 19.3** Prize money is transferred to the bank account notified by the Participant, subject to identity verification and to deduction of tax at source where applicable.

20. Miscellaneous

- 20.1** Authorship of every submission remains with the Participant. By registering, the Participant grants the Foundation and the Media Partner an irrevocable, royalty-free licence to reproduce, publish and circulate the submission, in whole or in part, for the purposes of the Competition, for publication and for legal education.
- 20.2** The Foundation may record the training sessions and the Final Rounds, and the rights in those recordings vest in the Foundation.
- 20.3** Participants must not include the personal, medical or identifying information of any individual without that individual's written consent, and must redact such information where it is not necessary to the cause.
- 20.4** No Participant who is not enrolled as an advocate shall hold themselves out as one, and no Participant shall give any assurance about the outcome of any proceeding. Nothing in the Competition creates a relationship of advocate and client between the Foundation and any person, except as expressly recorded in writing.
- 20.5** If any member of a Participant's institution is notified of any information concerning the Competition, the Participant is deemed to have been duly notified.
- 20.6** The Organiser reserves the right to alter these Rules and the schedule at any time during the Competition. Any alteration will be communicated promptly through the Dashboard and by e-mail.
- 20.7** The Organiser reserves the right to interpret these Rules and to decide any matter not covered by them. Such interpretation and decision are final and binding on all Participants.
- 20.8** Complaints about the conduct of the Competition may be made only by e-mail to contact@lexfinis.org or ceo@lexfinis.org, within seven days of the event complained of.

21. Contact

Organising Office

Ms Chandani Kaur Uppal, Chief Executive Officer

LexFinis Foundation

T-05/LL-02, Ground Floor, Commonwealth Games Village, Akshardham, Delhi
110092

contact@lexfinis.org · ceo@lexfinis.org

+91 8860031712 · www.lexfinis.org

For all queries about registration, training, submissions and the Final Rounds, write to contact@lexfinis.org or ceo@lexfinis.org with your Participant Code in the subject line. Queries received within 48 hours of a deadline may not be answered before the deadline expires.

Getting Started: the Dashboard and Lejit.ai

This is a short guide to the steps you will follow, from registration to submission. Detailed guides with screenshots are available under Resources on the Dashboard.

On the LexFinis website

1. Go to www.lexfinis.org and open *Upcoming Events* → *Writ Petition Competition*. Click “Register now”.
2. Fill in the registration form and click “Create Account & Enroll”. Your student account is created.
3. Complete your profile when prompted: upload a photograph, confirm your details, and complete the identity verification.
4. On the Student Dashboard, click the contribution banner, scan the QR code with any UPI app, and remit ₹2,200. Enter the transaction reference ID, upload a screenshot, and click “Submit Payment”.
5. Wait for the LexFinis team to verify the payment. Your payment status on the Dashboard will then update.
6. Read the Guidelines and watch the training videos under Resources before you begin drafting.

On Lejit.ai

1. Open the Lejit.ai link provided to you. It opens the law student sign-up page. Enter your details and verify with the OTP. **Do not change the referral code** shown on the page.
2. Complete the onboarding page and click “Save & Continue” to reach the Lejit.ai dashboard.
3. Use **Legal Research** to research your Issue. Describe the facts, ask follow-up questions, and check the sources and similar cases it shows you. Confirm that the Issue has not been conclusively settled.
4. Open **Draft with AI**, click **LexFinis templates**, and choose “LexFinis — Representation to a Government Body” (Stage I) or the LexFinis writ petition template (Stage II).

5. Draft in the editor. The AI Assistant panel can help with specific clauses. Your work is saved automatically under My Documents.
6. Review the finished document in My Documents. When you are certain it is final, click **“Submit to competition”**. You can submit only once.

Submission Checklists

Before you submit the Representation (by 12 December 2026)

- ☐ Drafted on the LexFinis Representation template on Lejit.ai and within three pages, excluding annexures.
- ☐ Participant Code in the upper-right corner of the first page; no name, college or faculty member anywhere in the submitted copy.
- ☐ All ten parts under Rule 10.3 included, in the correct order.
- ☐ Every case, statute and fact checked against the primary source, including anything found through Lejit.ai.
- ☐ Representation actually sent to the addressee, with proof of dispatch ready to upload.
- ☐ Declaration of bona fides ready to upload to the Dashboard.
- ☐ Times New Roman 14 pt, 1.5 line spacing, 1-inch margins, page numbers at the bottom centre.
- ☐ Final review done in My Documents, because “Submit to competition” can be pressed only once.

Before you submit the Writ Petition (by 3 January 2027)

- ☐ Within sixteen pages, excluding the cover page, index, annexures and vakalatnama or memo of appearance.
- ☐ All fourteen parts under Rule 11.3 included, in the correct order.
- ☐ Choice of forum and Article justified in the statement of jurisdiction.
- ☐ Grounds lettered (A), (B), (C); paragraphs numbered in sequence.
- ☐ Representation and proof of dispatch annexed, with every annexure marked P-1, P-2 and so on, and certified as a true copy.
- ☐ No text reproduced from the annotated sample petition.
- ☐ One citation style used consistently, and every authority verified.
- ☐ Dashboard declaration completed and annexures uploaded with the correct file name; submitted once on Lejit.ai.

Glossary of Terms

Short explanations of terms used in this Handbook, for Participants who are meeting them for the first time. They are a starting point only; the training sessions explain each in detail.

Term	Meaning
Writ petition	A petition asking a constitutional court to issue a writ, order or direction to enforce a right or to require a public authority to perform its duty.
Article 32	The provision under which a person may approach the Supreme Court directly for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights.
Article 226	The provision empowering every High Court to issue writs for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights and for any other purpose. It is wider in scope than Article 32.
Article 227	The High Court's power of superintendence over the courts and tribunals within its territory.
Mandamus	A writ directing a public authority to perform a duty that the law requires it to perform.
Certiorari	A writ quashing an order or decision made without jurisdiction or in breach of the law.
Public interest litigation	Litigation brought to secure a remedy for the public or for a class of persons who cannot easily approach the court themselves.
Locus standi	The standing, or right, of a person to bring a matter before the court.
Representation	A formal written request to an authority asking it to act. An unanswered representation often forms part of the cause of action for a writ petition.

Term	Meaning
Cause of action	The set of facts that gives rise to the right to seek relief from the court.
Synopsis and List of Dates	A short summary of the case, followed by the key events in date order, placed at the front of the petition.
Grounds	The legal reasons on which the petition asks the court to grant relief.
Prayer	The specific relief asked of the court.
Affidavit	A written statement of facts sworn or affirmed to be true before an authorised officer.
Annexure	A supporting document attached to the petition and relied upon in it.
Delay and laches	Unreasonable delay in approaching the court, which may lead it to refuse relief.
Sub judice	A matter that is already pending before a court.
Advocate-on-Record	An advocate registered with the Supreme Court who alone may file matters and act for parties there.
Vakalatnama	The document by which a party authorises an advocate to appear on their behalf.
Party in person	A party who appears and argues their own case without an advocate.

Frequently Asked Questions

I am in my first year. Can I take part?

Yes. Students of any year of any recognised law programme in India may participate (Rule 4.3).

I enrolled as an advocate eighteen months ago. Am I eligible?

Yes. Lawyers with not more than two years of experience after enrolment or qualification, as on 15 September 2026, are eligible (Rule 4.2).

Can I participate with a friend?

Yes. You may take part in a team of two. Each of you must be eligible and must register separately. Teams of three or more are not permitted (Rule 4.4).

Do I have to get my Issue approved first?

No. There is no separate Issue submission. Your Issue is set out in your Representation and assessed from it against the latest judgments and policies in force (Rule 9.2).

I have never drafted a petition. Will I be able to do this?

Yes. No prior experience is required. Training II teaches you how to draft a writ petition, part by part, and you will receive an annotated sample petition and a drafting checklist.

Can I use AI to draft?

Yes. Lejit.ai is provided to every Participant for research and drafting. You must, however, verify every authority and fact yourself, and you are answerable for every word you submit (Rule 14).

I missed a live training session. What now?

Watch the pre-recorded video under Resources on the Dashboard. Completing each session, live or recorded, is mandatory (Rule 8.2).

Can I correct my draft after I have submitted it?

No. A submission can be made only once on Lejit.ai, and multiple submissions are not allowed. Review everything in My Documents before you submit (Rule 13.2).

Another participant has chosen the same subject. Is that a problem?

No. Independent choice of the same subject is permitted, and each Entry is evaluated on its own (Rule 9.4).

Do I need to be an advocate to appear in court?

No. You may appear as party in person, or take the assistance of the Foundation and its collaborating counsel (Rule 17.3).

Who bears the court fee?

The Foundation bears court fees and statutory charges for filing, unless otherwise notified. Travel and personal expenses are yours (Rule 17.6).

Law students don't get to stand in court. Until now.