

VIDHI POLICY CHALLENGE

INTRODUCTION

Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy is an independent think tank doing legal research and assisting government in making better laws. Vidhi is committed to producing legal research of the highest standard with the aim of informing public debate and contributing to improved governance.

VIDHI POLICY CHALLENGE

Vidhi is organising a team-based competition where participants propose a legal and/or policy solution that focuses on '**Blockchain Technology**'. The topics may include:

- Financial applications of Blockchain Technology
- The use of Blockchain Technology for identity management
- Using Blockchain Technology to improve governance and democratic processes

The above mentioned sub-themes are illustrative in nature and not exhaustive. Participants are encouraged to choose one of these or any other sub-theme within the broad category of 'Blockchain Technology.'

STAGE ONE: SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Teams shall submit a proposal that comprises the following:

- **Problem Statement:** Teams must successfully identify a problem which they propose to solve and illustrate its relevance.
- **Solution:** The second part of the proposal must provide a solution in the form of a law, regulatory model, technological intervention, or any other approach that the team deems fit.

STRUCTURE OF PROPOSAL

- Abstract
- Proposal (Problem Statement and Solution)
- Details of authors (Name, college, year of study and contact details)

TECHNICAL DETAILS

- The proposal should not exceed 1000 words in length excluding abstract and author details.
- The abstract should be between 100 to 250 words.
- Submissions without abstracts and author details shall be rejected.
- References should be in the form of footnotes. The use of endnotes is not permitted.
- Proposals must be in font Trebuchet MS, size 11 and with 1.5 spacing.
- Footnotes must be in font Trebuchet MS, size 10, single line spacing and in Oscola citation style.
- Tables, pie-charts, and similar tools may be used.
- Proposals shall be assessed on the basis of ability to identify a problem and the novelty of proposed solutions.

STAGE TWO: SUBMISSION OF POLICY BRIEF

Ten (10) shortlisted teams shall be required to submit a detailed policy brief that expands on their initial proposal in the following manner:

- **Relevance of Problem:** A detailed exploration of the immediacy and relevance of the identified problem.
- **Elaborate Solutions:** The Policy Brief must contain detailed, practical solutions and must clearly state the manner in which they can be implemented. Generic policy or legal solutions should be avoided.

STRUCTURE OF POLICY BRIEF

- Cover Page
- Table of Contents
- Index of Authorities
- Research Questions
- Abstract
- Policy Brief
- Conclusion
- Details about authors (Name, college, year of study, and contact details of authors)

TECHNICAL DETAILS

- The Policy Brief should be between 3500 words and 5000 words in length, excluding cover page, table of contents, table of authorities, research questions, abstract, footnotes and author details.
- The abstract should be within 200-400 words.
- References should be in the form of footnotes. The use of endnotes is not permitted.
- All submissions must be in font Trebuchet MS, size 11 and 1.5.
- Footnotes must be in font Trebuchet MS, size 10, single line spacing and in Oscola citation style.
- Tables, pie-charts, and similar tools may be used.
- Policy Briefs shall be assessed on the basis of quality of the research and the practicability of the solution, including implementation and enforcement.

STAGE THREE: PRESENTATION AND DEFENCE

For the final stage, the ten shortlisted teams shall present and defend their Policy Brief, using a powerpoint presentation, to an expert panel.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

The format shall be as follows:

- Each team will have eight (8) minutes of presentation time which will be divided between speaker 1 and speaker 2.
- This will be followed by a Q & A with the panel for four (4) minutes.
- Participants will be judged for originality of thought, their ability to defend their views and presentation skills.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Stage 1: 28 October 2017 - 11:59 pm

Deadline for submission of Proposal. Top ten (10) teams will be selected for stage 2 & 3 - Decisions will be communicated by 6 November 2017.

Stage 2: 24 November 2017 - 11:59 pm

Deadline for submission of Policy Brief and Presentation for the ten (10) shortlisted teams.

Stage 3: 1 December 2017 - 2 pm onwards (India International Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi)

Presentation and Defence of Policy Brief.

ELIGIBILITY AND TEAMS

- Teams of two (2) students enrolled in a 3-year/5-year law course of a recognised university.
- Individual entries will not be entertained.
- This competition is open to students currently in the 3rd, 4th or 5th year of a five year integrated law course or in the final year of a three-year LL.B. course.

PRIZES

- All ten (10) shortlisted teams will receive a certificate of participation.
- First Prize: The winners of this challenge will be offered a 4 week internship with Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and a cash prize of INR 30,000.
- Second Prize: The runners-up shall receive a cash prize of INR 20,000.

Publication

- Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy may consider publishing the best entries.

Copyright

The copyright in the ten (10) selected policy briefs and presentations will vest with Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and only moral rights shall vest with the author(s).

Please send in queries and applications to policychallenge@vidhilegalpolicy.in. Only applicants that qualify for the next stage will be contacted directly.