

APJ ABDUL KALAM AIR & SPACE LAW & POLICY ESSAY COMPETITION, 2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I. What is this essay competition about?

The relevance and the utility created by aviation and space sector(s) have drawn everyone's attention, especially, during the COVID times. This development in terms of their contribution and relevance to the economy is very positive but sadly what we witnessed is the lack of vision and strategy when it comes to resilience to withstand a pandemic of this nature. Governments globally failed in their efforts and as lawyers and policy experts, we surely have a role to play to support the business that is of great importance to the economy, both at national and international level.

Along with a strong policy that supports aviation, space, and general transport sector(s), jurisprudence needs to be established and academic - private sector commitments in this area need to be further enhanced.

II. What is the objective of this competition?

It is intended to provide insight into related problems and concerns by including possible solutions and analyses for air and space law practitioners and experts. Besides, these observations illustrate the global dimension of air and space operations and the need for a progressive strategy for designing and implementing law and policy to resolve existing and potential challenges.

The name of the contest is in a certain way a tribute to Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's contribution to India's aerospace industry. By offering a forum for students, educators, and professionals from diverse fields, we support his vision.

III. Who are the organisers?

Mr. Sagar Singamsetty is the Founder of the "Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Air and Space Law and Policy Essay Competition" and Managing Director of Aerospace and Aviation Lawyers Association of India (AALAI). The essay competition is organized by the Aerospace and Aviation Lawyers Association of India (AALAI) in collaboration with the Centre for Aerospace & Defence Laws (CADL), NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.

IV. What is the theme of the competition?

"Legal and policy aspects that need further consideration in the development of the future vision and strategy relating to Aviation, Space and transport sector(s)".

V. Is there any registration fee being charged?

No, we are not charging any registration fee at any stage of the competition.

VI. What are the guidelines for submission?

- a. The essays shall be in English.
- b. The word limit for the essay is 4500-5000 words (exclusive of footnotes or any other references).

- c. Abstract of about 250-300 words to be placed at the beginning of the essay. Also specify 4-5 keywords in the abstract.
- d. The mandatory formatting specifications for the essay are a 1-inch margin on all sides; Times New Roman typeface with 12-point font size; Alignment Justified and 1.5 line spacing.
- e. For footnotes, the mandatory formatting specifications shall be: Times New Roman typeface with 10-point font size; and single (1) line spacing.
- f. Authorities must be cited throughout the essay using the [BLUEBOOK 19th edition citation method](#).
- g. A bibliography is not expected. Tables and figures should have a title and number.
- h. Quotations may be in the original language if a translation is provided in English either in the text or in a footnote.
- i. ANONYMITY: To protect anonymity and to ensure a fair process, the name of the applicant must NOT appear anywhere in the submitted essay.
- j. PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism is a cause for immediate disqualification. The original content limit shall stay above 80 percent.
- k. The copyright of the entry to the Journal will rest with the Editorial Board once the entry has been selected and the authors(s) of the same have been notified.

VII. What are the modes of communication for the participants?

All communications to the Participants will be done through their respective email-ID.

All queries can be directed to us through our official email-ID: aerospaceconference@nalsar.ac.in with the subject of the query being **"Query for APJ Abdul Kalam Essay Competition 2020"**.

All the submissions of manuscripts must be sent to aerospaceconference@nalsar.ac.in with the subject line being **"Submission for APJ Abdul Kalam Essay Competition 2020"**.

*** Please note, any entry not complying with the said guidelines shall not be put to review and evaluation.**

VIII. Will the authors be required to pay any publication and/or printing charges for the hard copy of the special issue?

No. The authors of the winning entries are not required to pay any amount for the publication and/or printing of the essays in the special issue.

IX. How will the plagiarism be checked by the editorial board? What are the guidelines regarding plagiarism?

All manuscripts shall be screened through the plagiarism software "Turnitin". Plagiarism is cause for immediate disqualification. The permissible level of cited material is subject to proper citation of such content.

X. What are the criteria of evaluation?

Quality of Research	15 Marks
Originality/Creativity	20 Marks
Language, Grammar, and Style	15 Marks
Organization, Structure, and Clarity of Expression	20 Marks
Viability of Recommendation / Suggestions	30 Marks

XI. What is the methodology of evaluation?

The essays will be evaluated in three stages.

STAGE 1: *The essays will be evaluated by the Editorial Board of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Essay Competition. The top twenty essays will be sent for stage two.*

STAGE 2: *The essays will then be evaluated by our Consulting Board, which comprises legal practitioners and research scholars in the field of air and space law. The top ten essays will be sent to stage three.*

STAGE 3: *The essays will further be evaluated by Advisory Board, which comprises Emeritus Professors, Professors, Academicians, and Senior Legal Practitioners from different national and international universities, law firms, and companies in the field of Air and Space Law. The last stage evaluation shall determine three winners of the competition.*

XII. What is the prize money for the competition?

RANK	AMOUNT
Winner	INR 50,000 (USD 670)
First Runners Up	INR 30,000 (USD 400)
Second Runners Up	INR 20,000 (USD 260)

*** The amount is inclusive of international money transfer charges or national/international postal tax deduction.**

XIII. Will there be any publication of the winning essays?

In addition to cash prizes for the top three winning entries, the top ten entries will be published in a special issue of the Indian Journal of Air and Space Law (ISSN 2394-6091), NALSAR University of Law,

India. The organizers may invite the authors of the top 10 selected essay entries to present their essay at an International Conference on air and space law and policy that will be organized in May/June 2021 in Hyderabad, India. Cash awards will be presented at the international conference.

XIV. 2019 Edition and Winners of the essay competition

The first edition of the essay competition had more than 60 submissions and this goes to show the interest in this niche area of law and policy. Following were the winners of the 2019 edition and received cash awards:

- *Keertana Venkatesh, "Countering Cyber-Attacks in Outer Space: Challenges and Solutions in Law and Policy".*
- *Ishita Das, "Bringing A Piece of Moon to Your Honey': The Legal Challenges Relating to Mining of the Lunar Resource".*
- *Vani Kaushik, "Need for Revisiting the Registration Convention, 1975".*

Other selected essays from 2019 can be found at:

<https://cadl.nalsar.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/IJASL-Journal.pdf>

XV. What are the important dates to remember?

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION: 15th February 2021

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULT: 15th April 2021

DATE OF CONFERENCE: May/June 2021
