

MESSAGE FROM THE PATRON-IN-CHIEF



Dear Readers and Contributors,

I am proud to present the latest edition of the MAGLAW Student Journal, focused on the theme: “Elections in India: Institutions, Challenges, and Pathways to Reform.”

Democracy, the essence of our country, is primarily supported by the electoral process, preserving the *“for the people, to the People, by the people”* spirit of our republic’s political structure. The legal and institutional frameworks that support and govern elections are continuously evolving to optimize this process as best as can be.

This issue of MAGLAW aims to provide a critical space for exploring the complexities of this topic, and induce understanding for the same. Our contributors have tackled key sub-themes, including the integrity of Electoral Institutions and Constitutional Vision, the impact of Electoral Systems and Representation, the complex aspects of Electoral Integrity and Transparency, the challenges of Technology and Elections, and the need for Electoral Reforms and Future Directions. By engaging with these different facets, we fulfill the important role of legal scholarship: to closely examine the established legal frameworks and systems that support our democratic ideals.

The MAGLAW Student Journal is a key platform where emerging legal minds can conduct thorough research, present thoughtful arguments, and suggest new solutions to ongoing constitutional and governance issues. The articles in this issue showcase the courage and dedication of our student authors in navigating this important area of public law.

I sincerely thank the editorial team for their hard work in putting together this exceptional volume, and all the authors for their valuable contributions. This journal reflects your effort, insight, and commitment to academic excellence.

As you read through these pages, I hope you find not just information, but deep understanding of the realities of India’s electoral democracy. May this issue spark meaningful discussions, inspire further research, and enhance your grasp of the path toward ongoing democratic renewal.

Warm regards,

Prof. (Dr.) Vandana Arora
Chairperson, Department of Laws
Patron-in-Chief, MAGLAW

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Contributors and Readers,



It is with immense pride that we present this year's edition of the MAGLAW Student Journal, dedicated to the theme "Elections in India: Institutions, Challenges, and Pathways to Reform." At a time when democratic processes are facing intense scrutiny across the world, the Indian electoral system; which is the backbone of the world's largest democracy—demands renewed academic engagement, critical reflection, and principled reform.

This issue celebrates the vision of democratic inquiry. The articles in this edition examine the institutional framework governing elections in India, the evolution of electoral systems and representation, and the persistent challenges confronting electoral integrity, transparency, and public trust. The key areas of investigation range from constitutional bodies and the Election Commission of India to the impact of technology, campaign finance, and comparative global practices, the contributors have approached the subject with analytical rigor and balance.

As Editor-in-Chief, I remain deeply committed to upholding ethical integrity and scholarly responsibility. The true value of academic work lies in its originality, constitutional fidelity, and normative clarity. While legal frameworks and institutions evolve, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that electoral reforms remain anchored in democratic ideals, fairness, and the rule of law.

This edition aspires to go beyond academic record and encourage informed dialogue among students, scholars, practitioners, and policymakers alike. It urges readers to critically examine existing electoral mechanisms, confront systemic shortcomings, and envision reforms that strengthen the spirit of democracy.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the authors, reviewers, and the editorial team whose dedication and diligence have made this issue possible. Their intellectual contribution and efforts have significantly enriched the journal.

Warm regards,

Prof. Shipra Gupta
Editor-in-Chief, MAGLAW

MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT EDITORS

DURGEISH DAMINI JAISWAL



Democracy is rightfully credited as the foundation of our republic's unique governance structure, with elections serving as its ironclad safeguard.

As the world's largest electoral democracy, India's mastery of the electoral process is not only a feat, but a formidable pillar of the institutional strength of our legal framework.

With this issue, we have humbly tried to bring awareness and facilitate a deeper conceptual understanding—not just by fostering critical appraisal of the present status quo, but also by presenting solutions to the concerns identified.

I extend sincere gratitude to our faculty advisors, peer reviewers, and every contributor who helped shape this issue of our journal into a testament for time-immemorial to the ever-evolving legal framework that secures every freedom, right, opportunity, and amenity bestowed upon us by the democratic nature of our governance system.

JANNAT



It gives me immense pleasure to present this edition of MAGLAW. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Student Editor of this journal. The journey of curating and compiling this edition has been an enriching experience and has reaffirmed my belief in the power of student-led academic initiatives.

The current theme, “Elections in India: Institutions, Challenges and Pathways to Reform,” has been carefully curated in accordance with contemporary needs. Elections form the backbone of India's democratic framework, and the challenges confronting the electoral process today demand careful examination and innovative thinking. This edition has received valuable contributions from law students across institutions in India, who have analysed the theme in depth by engaging with diverse dimensions such as the role of technology, electoral reforms, comparative perspectives, and emerging concerns such as deepfakes, etc.

As this journal is exclusively authored by students, this publication underscores the vital role of informed and inquisitive student voices. Students are the future of the country, and through rigorous research, deep engagement, and critical inquiry, we can meaningfully contribute to the strengthening of democratic institutions and the nation's future.