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VidhiAagaz Journal Infrastructure Grant

Guidelines for Applicants

Call for applications 2027

Edition	First edition, 2027 call
Issued by	VidhiAagaz, Maihar, Madhya Pradesh, India
Closing date	15 January 2027, 23:59 IST, or earlier once five grants are made
Applications	vidhiaagaz.com/journal-grant/apply/
Enquiries	grants@vidhiaagaz.com

1. The Grant

Journals published by universities and law schools carry a considerable share of the legal scholarship written each year. Many of them, however, publish without persistent identifiers or complete metadata, make no provision for long-term preservation, and appear irregularly as their editorial teams change.

The VidhiAagaz Journal Infrastructure Grant provides selected journals with the publishing infrastructure that indexing services expect, on condition that each journal observes the editorial standards those services apply. The Grant is made in kind, in the form of publishing services, and no payment of money is made under it. Each journal remains the property of its institution, which retains the journal's title, its content and every editorial decision.

2. Aims

The Grant is made with the following aims:

- to raise the editorial standards of the journals it supports, through double-blind peer review, published policies and adherence to the Core Practices of the Committee on Publication Ethics;
- to secure their regular publication, so that each issue appears on the date the journal has announced;
- to make the scholarship they publish permanently citable and discoverable;
- to prepare them for admission to indexing services and directories, including the Directory of Open Access Journals;
- to bring their work to a wider readership in India and abroad; and

- to give each journal a continuity of practice that does not depend on the members of any one editorial team.

The Grant does not promise that any journal will be indexed. Admission to an indexing service is decided by that service alone.

3. Value and term

Up to five grants will be made under this call. Each provides the journal with technical infrastructure worth ₹2,00,000 a year. Each grant begins on the date of its Grant Agreement, and is made for an initial term of two years and may be extended one year at a time, to a total of five years, where the journal has observed the conditions of the Grant in full and has made demonstrable progress towards the standards of the Directory of Open Access Journals. Extension is not automatic.

4. Scope of the Grant

For the term of the Grant, VidhiAagaz provides, without charge to the institution or to authors:

- an address on the VidhiAagaz journals platform and a website in the journal's own identity, with managed hosting and backups;
- the Journal Portal, through which submission, double-blind review, decisions and proofs are managed and recorded;
- a Crossref DOI for every article, with the fees for up to thirty DOIs a year, and the preparation of the journal's ISSN application;
- publication with the metadata that indexing services read, and long-term preservation;
- applications to indexing services as the journal becomes eligible, a written review of its standing each year, and training for each new editorial team.

Editing, copyediting and peer review remain the responsibility of the journal. Similarity and AI screening, the typesetting of articles and the production of issues, DOIs in excess of thirty a year, printed copies and books fall outside the Grant, and VidhiAagaz provides them, where asked, for an additional fee.

5. Eligibility

Applications are invited from journals in law and its allied fields, including interdisciplinary work in law and policy, law and technology, and law and management, published by a university, law school, college or research institution in any country. Journals that have yet to publish their first issue may also apply. An applicant journal must:

- be owned and published, or about to be published, by the applying institution, and not be published by a commercial publisher;
- have a Faculty Editor, being a member of the institution's academic staff who is responsible for the journal and who leads the application;

- subject, or undertake to subject, every research article to double-blind peer review by at least two reviewers, of whom at least one is a subject expert from outside the editorial team;
- screen, or undertake to screen, every submission for similarity and AI-generated text using Turnitin, iThenticate or DrillBit, and file both reports on the Journal Portal before review;
- publish at least one issue and ten research articles a year; a new journal publishes its first issue, of at least five research articles, within twelve months, and meets the full requirement from its second year;
- have, or constitute, an editorial or advisory board: at least five members for a national journal, who may all belong to the institution, and at least seven members from at least three countries for an international journal;
- be open access, and make no charge to authors for submission, review or publication during the Grant.

Journals edited by students are eligible, provided that the application is led by the Faculty Editor and that the journal meets the standard of review set out above.

6. Principal conditions

A journal selected for the Grant receives the full Conditions of Grant with the offer of a grant, and the Conditions form part of the Grant Agreement. Applicants should be aware of the following principal conditions:

- all review is conducted on the Journal Portal, and the journal keeps a complete record of review for every research article, which VidhiAagaz may examine;
- the journal follows the COPE Core Practices and publishes its policies on ethics, review, copyright and the use of AI;
- every article is published open access under a Creative Commons licence and carries a Crossref DOI;
- the journal and every article carry an acknowledgement of the Grant, naming VidhiAagaz as Publishing Partner;
- the Faculty Editor reports on each year of the Grant;
- the institution commits the journal to VidhiAagaz as its Publishing Partner for the term of the Grant, and may end the Grant earlier on six months' notice, without payment, in which case the journal may not apply again for five years;
- VidhiAagaz may withdraw the Grant for a serious or unremedied breach of the Conditions, after giving the institution an opportunity to respond.

7. Application procedure

Each journal may submit one application, made by its Faculty Editor through the application form at vidhiaagaz.com/journal-grant/apply/. The form asks for the journal's aims and scope, its editorial team and board, its review procedure, its record of publication over the last two years or, for a new

journal, its plan for the first issue, and a statement of how the Grant would be used. It must be accompanied by a signed letter from the head of the institution, such as the Vice-Chancellor, Dean or Registrar, confirming that the institution publishes the journal and supports the application. The letter should cover the points set out in the Annex, and may follow the form given there. The receipt of each application is acknowledged by email, with a reference number.

8. Assessment

Applications that satisfy the conditions of eligibility are assessed by VidhiAagaz in the order in which they are received, against four criteria:

- **Editorial standards (40 per cent):** the rigour of the journal's review, the quality of the work it has published and the soundness of its policies;
- **Institutional commitment (30 per cent):** the leadership of the Faculty Editor, the continuity of the editorial team and the support the institution gives to the journal;
- **Contribution to scholarship (20 per cent):** the journal's place in its field, and the extent to which it serves a subject or readership that is otherwise poorly served;
- **Readiness (10 per cent):** the journal's capacity to work under the Conditions without delay.

New journals are assessed against the same criteria, on the strength of their editorial team, their plan and the policies they propose, and are not disadvantaged by the absence of a publication record. VidhiAagaz may invite the Faculty Editor to a conversation before reaching a decision. A grant is offered to each application that reaches the required standard, until five grants have been made; the call then closes, and its closure is announced at vidhiaagaz.com/journal-grant/. Decisions are final, and VidhiAagaz may make fewer grants than intended if too few applications reach the required standard.

9. Timetable for 2027

- Call opens: 6 November 2026
- Last date for enquiries: 31 December 2026
- Assessment of applications: in order of receipt, throughout the call
- Closing date: 23:59 Indian Standard Time, Friday, 15 January 2027, or earlier once five grants have been made
- Start of each grant: the date of its Grant Agreement

Since applications are assessed as they arrive, journals are advised to apply early.

10. Enquiries

Enquiries about eligibility or the application may be addressed until 31 December 2026 to the Grants Office, VidhiAagaz, Maihar, Madhya Pradesh 485771, India, at grants@vidhiaagaz.com.

Annex: Letter from the head of the institution

The letter is to be written on the institution's letterhead, signed by the Vice-Chancellor, Dean, Director or Registrar, and dated. It should cover each of the points below, and may follow this form.

[Letterhead of the institution]

Ref. No. ……
Date: ……

The Grants Office
VidhiAagaz
Maihar, Madhya Pradesh 485771, India

Subject: Application of [title of the journal] for the VidhiAagaz Journal Infrastructure Grant

I write in support of the application of [title of the journal], ISSN [number, if assigned], for the VidhiAagaz Journal Infrastructure Grant, and I confirm that:

1. the journal is owned and published by [name of the institution], through its [faculty, school or centre], and is not published by a commercial publisher;
2. [name], [designation], [department], is a member of the academic staff of the institution and is the Faculty Editor of the journal;
3. the institution supports the application, and will give the journal the support it needs to observe the Conditions of Grant, including double-blind peer review, the screening of submissions and regular publication;
4. the information given in the application about the journal and the institution is correct; and
5. if the journal is selected, the Grant Agreement will be signed on behalf of the institution by [the Registrar, or the designation of another officer authorised to bind the institution].

[Optional: a short paragraph on the place of the journal in the institution's academic work.]

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
[Name]
[Designation]
[Name of the institution]
[Official seal]

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