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**DEVI SHARVANI EDUCATION SOCIETY'S
V. M. SALGAOCAR COLLEGE OF LAW**

**IN ASSOCIATION WITH
JUSTICE G.D. KAMAT CHARITABLE TRUST**

**4th PRESENTS THE
EDITION OF**

**JUSTICE G. D. KAMAT MEMORIAL
NATIONAL LEVEL MOOT COURT
COMPETITION - 2026**

**26th - 28th
FEBRUARY, 2026**



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ABOUT US

V.M. SALGAOCAR COLLEGE OF LAW

Situated in the State of Goa, V. M. Salgaocar College of Law offers a wide range of programs including the Five-Year Integrated Double Degree B.A. LL.B., the Three-Year LL.B. Degree, the Two-Year Postgraduate LL.M., the Ph.D. Program, and the Diploma in Civil Law. The College is deeply committed to excellence in legal education and directs its efforts towards nurturing responsible citizenship, promoting social justice and humanism, fostering fraternity and common brotherhood, and encouraging compassion and respect for fellow beings as well as the environment. It upholds professionalism, ethics, and integrity of thought and action while ensuring equality of opportunity, freedom of ideas, and novelty of thought. Further, the institution cultivates a scientific temper along with the spirit of inquiry and reform, thereby preparing its students to contribute meaningfully to the legal profession and society at large.

Accredited with the prestigious A Grade by The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), the V. M. Salgaocar College of Law has always endeavoured to instil in its students a strong sense of commitment and professionalism, thereby contributing significantly to the growth of the legal profession in India. Over the years, the College has been recognized with several prestigious accolades, including the Institutional Excellence Award from the Society of Indian Law Firms, the Community Engagement Award from Herbert Smith Freehills, and the Knowledge Steez Legal Aid Awards from Knowledge Steez, Delhi—each emblematic of the institution's sincere efforts towards strengthening legal education and fostering social responsibility.

The College's Legal Aid Society actively works in furtherance of its motto: "Excellence in legal education in pursuit of justice and service to humanity." Equally, the Moot Court Society stands as one of the most enduring and distinguished traditions of the College, where students undergo rigorous training and selection to represent the institution at renowned national level moot court competitions, bringing laurels to the College. This consistent success is a testament to the collective efforts of its highly motivated students, committed Management, dedicated Principal, qualified teaching faculty, experienced visiting professors, and the invaluable support of its stalwart administrative and support staff.

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LATE JUSTICE GURUDAS DATTA KAMAT



Justice Gurudas D. Kamat was born in Goa on January 5, 1935. He was enrolled as an advocate by the Maharashtra Bar Council on August 10, 1962, and commenced his practice in Bombay in 1963. In 1964, he returned to his home state of Goa, where he explored various branches of law. He served as Public Prosecutor from 1967 to 1969 and, in 1980, was appointed as Advocate for the Customs and Central Excise Departments of the Government of India.

During the same period, he was also a member of the Senate and the Law Faculty at Bombay University (1980-1982). Justice Kamat was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court on November 29, 1983, and elevated as a Permanent Judge on the same date. He went on to achieve the distinguished position of Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court on July 1, 1996, becoming the first Goan to attain such an eminent post. With an illustrious career spanning over three decades, Justice Kamat retired on January 5, 1997, leaving behind an enduring legacy as a doyen of the legal fraternity



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JUSTICE G. D. KAMAT MEMORIAL NATIONAL LEVEL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

V. M. Salgaocar College of Law, in collaboration with the Justice G. D. Kamat Charitable Trust, instituted the Justice G. D. Kamat Memorial National Level Moot Court Competition in memory of Late Justice G. D. Kamat. The inaugural edition, held in January 2023, was a landmark success with the participation of 26 teams from prestigious law colleges across the country. From its very first year, the competition established itself as one of the most promising national level moot court events, with eminent practicing lawyers and High Court Judges from Goa adjudicating the preliminary, quarter-final, semi-final rounds and the final round. The winners of the first edition were the National Law University, Bhopal, while Gurusiddappa Kotambri Law College, Hubballi, emerged as runners-up, with both teams receiving certificates of merit, trophies, and cash prizes.

The second edition, held in February 2024, witnessed participation from 24 reputed institutions across India. Adjudicated by distinguished advocates from Goa, the competition saw Christ (Deemed to be University) emerge as winners and R. V. Institute of Legal Studies, Bangalore, as runners-up. Both were felicitated with certificates of merit, trophies, and cash prizes.

The third edition, held in February 2025, which hosted the participation of 26 teams representing prestigious institutions nationwide, was a grand success with. KES Shri Jayantilal H. Patel College, Mumbai adjudged winners and Christ University, Bangalore the Runners-up. Best Mooter was bagged by Pravin Gandhi College of Law, Mumbai. Best Researcher was secured by Government Law College, Thrissur and Shahaji Law College, Kolhapur secured the Best Memorial title.

To commemorate the unparalleled achievements of one of Goa's most eminent legal luminaries, Late Justice G. D. Kamat, Devi Sharvani Education Society's V. M. Salgaocar College of Law, in collaboration with the Justice G. D. Kamat Charitable Trust, is privileged, to host the 4th Edition of the Justice G. D. Kamat Memorial national level moot Court Competition in February 2026. With this remarkable legacy to build upon, the competition continues to inspire excellence in advocacy, legal education, and the pursuit of justice.



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JUSTICE G. D. KAMAT MEMORIAL NATIONAL LEVEL MOOT COURT COMPETITION



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Participants,
Welcome to V.M. Salgaocar College of Law,
At VMSCCL, we are committed to fostering an environment that inspires creativity, encourages growth, and supports academic excellence. Our goal is to provide every student with the tools, knowledge, and opportunities needed to thrive in an ever-changing world.

We believe in the power of experiential learning and moot court competitions provide students with a unique opportunity to step into the shoes of legal practitioners, presenting arguments, analyzing cases, and understanding the nuances of courtroom decorum. It is a bridge between academic learning and practical application, preparing students to face real-world legal challenges with confidence and competence.

Through the dedication of our talented staff, the support of our engaged community, and the enthusiasm of our students, we strive to create a nurturing and innovative learning atmosphere. We believe in holistic development, ensuring our students excel not only in academics but also in extracurricular activities, character building, and life skills.

It is with immense pride and pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to all of you to the Justice G. D. Kamat Memorial National Level Moot Competition 2026. This event is not just a celebration of legal acumen and advocacy skills, but also a platform that fosters critical thinking, intellectual rigor, and professional ethics among budding legal minds.

Wishing all participants the very best for the competition.



Warm regards,

Dr. G. Shaber Ali

Officiating Principal,
V.M. Salgaocar College of Law

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BACKGROUND TO THIS EDITION'S MOOT PROPOSITION

In India, the concept and implementation of reservations on the basis of caste identity has been the subject of heated debate and divisive opinion. Initially seen as a mode of upliftment for the backward classes, it is now viewed by many through the optics of distrust and suspicion, an unfair advantage at best. However, the beneficiaries of such affirmative action wish to retain their status, believing that such policies and measures are imperative for their growth as communities and peoples.

It is in this context that we witness the unfurling of a vivacious saga of revolt, determination, tragedy and triumph. A grand stand off between rival ideologies and perspectives. When the scales of conflict tipped in favour of the MIFP, the Parliament enacted the Akash Act, 2024, which was followed by the 107th Constitutional Amendment, the legislative manifestation of an anti-caste based reservation stance, which led to pan India unrest and discontent. This démarche was perceived to be a draconian attempt to undermine the basic structure of the Constitution and its enshrined principles.

The 4th Edition of the Justice G. D. Kamat Memorial National Level Moot Court Competition, 2026 explores the sensitive dilemma between caste and economic based reservations through the aforementioned Amendment while keeping in mind the germane Constitutional considerations and mandates.

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THE MOOT PROPOSITION

Association for Affirmative Action v. Union of India

Factual Background

1. The policy of reservations in India, intended as a tool to achieve social justice and equality, has over the years become a contentious issue, generating widespread debate and political polarization. In recent decades, demands for inclusion of new communities in the list of backward classes have increased, often coinciding with electoral cycles.
2. In the 2019 General Elections, the Indian Peoples Party (IPP) made extensive promises to expand reservations for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and to include additional castes such as Karpus, Jhants, Marthas, and Lingadharis in the list of backward classes. The IPP, led by Prime Minister Mr. Arvind Jadhav, secured a comfortable majority in Parliament.
3. Concerned with the declining popularity of IPP and the growing political pressure of the upcoming elections, the Government issued an Office Memorandum dated 25 January 2023, enhancing OBC reservation in education and public employment from 27% to 38%, and adding the above-mentioned castes to the OBC list. The decision was announced in the Prime Minister's address to the nation on the Republic Day 2023.
4. The announcement triggered widespread student protests and public dissent across the country, particularly among sections of the youth and general category students. Social media platforms saw a surge in divisive posts and comments, and sporadic incidents of violence were reported. Several universities witnessed strikes and boycotts.
5. The Office Memorandum was subsequently challenged before the Supreme Court of India, which issued an interim stay on its implementation. As a counter to the protests, Solidarity Rallies were organized by OBC groups supporting the new policy.

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THE MOOT PROPOSITION

Association for Affirmative Action v. Union of India

6. Amidst this unrest, Akash Arora, a 21-year-old political science student from the Mumbai Institute of Social Sciences, gained prominence for his viral speech denouncing the politicization of reservations. He advocated a 15-year phased transition from caste-based reservations to educational and economic criteria, ultimately leading to free education for all. His movement, titled “Move India Forward (MIF)”, rapidly gained national traction, particularly among students and young professionals.

7. On 14 February 2023, during a public rally organized by MIF at Azad Maidan, Mumbai, Akash Arora was shot dead by a young man claiming to have acted to protect his community’s new OBC status. Akash’s death galvanized national sentiment and he was symbolized as a martyr for equality.

8. In the aftermath, the MIF movement transformed into a political party — the Move India Forward Party (MIFP) — under the leadership of Kasturi Rajan, a brilliant young lawyer and close associate of Akash. The MIFP, supported by various youth groups, professionals, and industry associations, campaigned in the 2024 General Elections on the platform of building a casteless and equitable India, pledging to cap reservations at 35% and gradually phase out caste-based quotas.

9. The MIFP secured a historic victory, and Kasturi Rajan, aged 30, became the youngest Prime Minister of India.

Legislative Developments

10. As the first major policy step, Parliament enacted the The Akash Act, 2024, in memory of Akash Arora. The Act prohibited:

- The use of caste identity in any public, private or official communication, except for the limited purpose of implementing reservations;
- The formation of caste-based associations or organizations; and
- The publication or broadcast of caste-based identification in any media.

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THE MOOT PROPOSITION

Association for Affirmative Action v. Union of India

The Act was challenged as violative of Articles 19(1)(a), 19(1)(b), and 19(1)(c) of the Constitution. However, the Supreme Court upheld its constitutional validity.

11. Encouraged by the decision, the Government introduced The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-first Amendment) Bill, 2025 on 30 August 2025, proposing:

- To restructure reservations on the basis of economic and educational backwardness;
- To phase out caste-based reservations over a 15-year transitional period.

12. The Bill was passed by both Houses of Parliament with the requisite majority, following extensive lobbying, public mobilization, and amidst of boycott of the session by major opposition parties. The Constitution (One Hundred and Seventh Amendment) Act, 2025 was subsequently notified.

13. This was followed by nationwide protests, violence, and civil unrest against the Amendment. Several civil society organizations, activists, and political parties under the name of Association for Affirmative Action (AAA) filed petitions before the Supreme Court challenging the validity of the Amendment as violative of the basic structure of the Constitution, particularly the principles of equality, social justice, and affirmative action.

14. Given the importance of the constitutional questions involved, the Chief Justice of India referred the matter to a Constitution Bench of five judges.

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THE MOOT PROPOSITION

Association for Affirmative Action v. Union of India

Issues for Consideration

1. Whether the Amendment is inconsistent with the constitutional mandate of substantive equality and the State's obligation to promote social justice and protect historically disadvantaged communities?
2. Whether the power of the state to make special provisions for the advancement of SC, ST and OBC is part of basic structure of the Constitution?
3. Whether the Constitution (One Hundred and Seventh Amendment) Act, 2025, which restructures and phases out caste-based reservations, damages the basic structure of the Constitution, and hence invalid?

DRAFTED BY

Prof. (Dr.) M.R.K.Prasad

Fulbright Scholar

V.M.Salgaocar College Of Law

Panaji, Goa

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TIMELINE OF THE COMPETITION

Event	Date
Release of the moot proposition & rules for moot court competition	15th December 2025
Commencement of registration	15th December 2025
Last date of registration	20th January 2026
Allotment of team codes	28th January 2026
Last date for seeking clarifications	30th January 2026
Release of clarifications (if any) by the organising committee	5th February 2026
Last date for submission of soft copy of memorials (online)	12th February 2026
Inaugural ceremony, Researcher's Test & draw of lots (offline)	26th February 2026
Preliminary and Quarter final rounds	27th February 2026
Semi-finals, Final round & the Valedictory ceremony	28th February 2026

The organising Committee reserves the discretion to change the timeline or grant an extension for the dates mentioned above

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GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

NOTIFICATION

WHEREAS, Devi Sharvani Education Society's V. M. Salgaocar College of Law, Goa, has announced the **4th Edition** of the Justice G. D. Kamat Memorial National Level Moot Court Competition, to be held from **26th February 2026 to 28th February 2026**, enabling law students from across India to showcase their skills in law and legal principles;

THEREFORE, the Organising Committee of this Competition hereby makes the following rules:

1. SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT

1.1 These rules may be called the "JGDK-MCC Rules – 2026."

1.2 They shall come into force from the date of publication on the official website of V. M. Salgaocar College of Law: <https://vmslaw.edu.in>.

1.3 The rules are reviewed annually and are subject to change. Reliance shall be placed only on JGDK-MCC Rules – 2026 and not on any previously applicable rules.

2. DEFINITIONS

Unless the context otherwise requires, in these rules:

2.1 **Bench** – Members duly invited by the Host Institution to adjudge any of the Competition rounds collectively.

2.2 **Clarifications** – Explanations published by the Organising Committee regarding the Moot Proposition, or queries answered within the given deadline.

2.3 **Competition** – The Justice G. D. Kamat Memorial National Level Moot Court Competition, 2026.

2.4 **Grievance Redressal Committee** shall mean the faculty body appointed by the Host Institution for the administration of grievances and the conduct of disciplinary proceedings relating to the Competition.

2.5 **Host Institution** – Devi Sharvani Education Society's V. M. Salgaocar College of Law, Goa.

2.6 **Memorial** – The written arguments submitted by teams on behalf of both parties, as per the prescribed rules.



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GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

2. DEFINITIONS

2.7 **Memorial Round** – The assessment of memorials on the pre-defined criteria, as mentioned herein.

2.8 **Moot Proposition** – The set of facts published by the Organising Committee, along with any clarifications or corrections.

2.9 **Official Email** – The official email of the Competition: vmsnationalmoot@vmslaw.edu.in.

2.10 **Official Website** – <https://vmslaw.edu.in>.

2.11 **Oral Submissions** – Oral pleadings made by teams before the Bench during the Competition, including rebuttals.

2.12 **Organising Committee** – The student-faculty-staff body appointed by the Host Institution to administer the Competition.

2.13 **Participant** – Bona fide representatives of a recognized Law College/University authorized by the Bar Council of India to award law degrees, who have registered as per these Rules.

2.14 **Penalty** – Deductions imposed on a team's score.

2.15 **Plagiarism** –

- Direct duplication of another's work (books, articles, internet sources) without acknowledgment.
- Direct or substantial duplication of another moot memorial, whether competing or not, with or without acknowledgment.
- Substantial duplication means at least seven continuous words or significant paraphrasing of another memorial with minor changes but retaining its substance.

2.16 **Rebuttals** – Arguments by the Petitioner/Plaintiff in response to the Respondent/Defendant's submissions.

2.17 **Researcher** – The team member registered as the Researcher for the Researcher's Test.

2.18 **Rules** – The official rules referred to as JGDK-MCC Rules – 2026.

2.19 **Scouting** – Observing or accessing another team's oral arguments or memorials without authorization.

2.20 **Session Supervisor** – Member(s) of the Organising Committee designated to oversee each Competition round/session.

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GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

2.21 **Speaker** – A participant who is registered as a mooter and presents oral arguments in any round.

2.22 **Sur-Rebuttals** – Responses by the Respondent/Defendant to the Petitioner/Plaintiff's rebuttals.

2.23 **Team** – A registered group of three participants representing one institution.

2.24 **Team Code** – A unique code assigned to each registered team by the Host Institution.

3. INTERPRETATION

3.1 The Organising Committee reserves the right to interpret and change the rules to ensure fairness and equality.

3.2 Any such interpretation shall be final and binding.

3.3 The Host Institution reserves the right to amend, modify, or repeal any rule, and such changes shall be communicated in due course.

3.4 In case of conflict, the decision of the Organising Committee shall be final and binding.

3.5 The Host Institution may change the mode of the Competition (to online), postpone, or cancel the event in case of unforeseen circumstances that pose risks to participants, judges, volunteers, or organizers.

4. ELIGIBILITY

4.1 Students pursuing a **Five-Year Integrated Law Program** or a **Three-Year LL.B. Program** may participate.

4.2 Students pursuing a post-graduate diploma or short-term certificate course in law are **not eligible**.

4.3 Students from institutions not recognized by the Bar Council of India are not eligible.

4.4 Only **one team per institution** is permitted

5. TEAM COMPOSITION

5.1 Each team shall consist of three members only – two Mooters and one Researcher.

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GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

5.2 No change in team composition shall be permitted after registration, except with prior approval of the Organising Committee.

5.3 All members of a team must belong to the same institution; cross-institutional teams are not permitted.

5.4 Only registered members may participate and avail of participant facilities.

6. VENUE

The Oral Rounds will be held at **V. M. Salgaocar College of Law, Miramar, Panjim, Goa – 403002** from **26th to 28th February 2026**.

7. LANGUAGE

The official language of the Competition shall be **English**. All written and oral submissions must be in English.

8. MOOT PROPOSITION

8.1 Teams must argue both for the Petitioner and Respondent as per the Moot Proposition framed by the Organising Committee.

8.2 The proposition link will be made available on the official website.

9. DRESS CODE

- **Ladies** – White salwar-kurta or white shirt with black trousers, black blazer, and black shoes.
- **Men** – White shirt, black trousers, black tie, black blazer, and black shoes.

Note: The same dress code applies to the Inaugural and Valedictory ceremonies.

10. REGISTRATION

10.1 General

- Registration shall be completed by paying the fee and filling the form available at **<https://forms.gle/fgruigsZ5vzU53tu9>**
- Registration opens on **15th December 2025** and closes on **20th January 2026 (11:59 PM)**.

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GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

- Only the first 26 teams will be allowed to participate.
- In the event that more than 26 teams register, the registration fees of the excess teams shall be refunded

10.2 Registration Fee

- The fee is **INR 8,500** (inclusive of GST @ 18%).
- Includes accommodation, food, library access, Wi-Fi, and other facilities at the discretion of the Host Institution.
- Payment shall be made online via NEFT/IMPS.

Payment Details:

- **Account Name:** V. M. Salgaocar College of Law
- **Account Number:** 102210100006744
- **IFSC Code:** BKID0001022
- **Bank Branch:** BOI Miramar
- **Note:** The registration fee is non-refundable once paid, except in cases where a team's registration is not accepted due to the participation cap (i.e., after the 26-team limit is reached).

10.3 On-Site Registration

- Teams must report on **26th February 2026** (Time TBA).
- The following documents must be submitted:
 - Bona fide Certificate
 - Consent Form
 - 2 copies of Memorials (each side)

11. CLARIFICATIONS

Clarifications on the Moot Proposition must be sought by email to vmsnationalmoot@vmslaw.edu.in on or before **5th February 2026 (11:59 PM)**.

12. ANONYMITY OF TEAMS

12.1 Teams shall use only their allotted Team Code and must not disclose institutional identity in memorials or oral rounds.

12.2 Logos, badges, or identifiers are prohibited.

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GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

12.3 Compendiums or other material presented to the Bench must not bear any identifying marks.

12.4 Violation may result in penalties or disqualification at the discretion of the Organising Committee.

13. MEMORIALS & MEMORIAL ROUND

13.1 General

- Each team must prepare two memorials - for the Petitioner and the Respondent.
- Soft copies (PDF) must be submitted via email to vmsnationalmoot@vmslaw.edu.in on or before 12th February 2026 (11:59 PM).
- The subject line should read: "Team Code - Memorials"
- Nomenclature of PDF: Team Code - P / R e.g. If your team code is 7, the pdf of memorial for petitioners and respondents will be named as "7 - P" and "7 - R" respectively.
- 2 hard copies of each side must be submitted during on-site registration.
- There shall be no exchange of memorials.
- Upon submission, the copyright in all memorials shall be deemed to be owned by the host institution, which may use or share the same for institutional purposes.

13.2 Format

Memorials shall include the following (in order):

- Cover Page
- Table of Contents
- List of Abbreviations
- Index of Authorities
- Statement of Jurisdiction
- Statement of Facts
- Issues Raised
- Summary of Arguments
- Arguments Advanced
- Prayer

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GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

• **Cover Page Requirements:**

- Team Code (top right corner)
- Name of Competition
- Cause Title (X v. Y)
- Forum/Court Name
- Relevant statutory provision invoked
- Party on whose behalf submissions are made

Colour Scheme:

- Petitioner – Blue
- Respondent – Red

13.3 Formatting

- Font: Times New Roman
- Font Size: 12 pt (10 pt for footnotes)
- Line Spacing: 1.5
- Alignment: Justified
- Margins: 1 inch each side
- Headings: Bold, same font
- Borders: Required
- Binding: Spiral only
- Page Limit: 35 pages (Arguments Advanced not exceeding 20 pages)

13.4 Citations

- All citations must conform to Harvard Bluebook, 21st Edition.
- No explanatory footnotes permitted.

13.5 Plagiarism & Use of AI

- Plagiarism/AI detected in a memorial shall not be permitted beyond the limit of 15% and the non-compliance with the same shall result in a penalty in accordance with 15.2.
- Plagiarism report to be emailed along with the memorial

13.6 Page Numbers

All pages (except cover) must be numbered in Hindu-Arabic numerals.

Important: Names/logos of institutions must not appear anywhere in the memorial.

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GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

14. SUBMISSION OF SOFT COPIES

- Memorials must be submitted in PDF format to vmsnationalmoot@vmslaw.edu.in by **12th February 2026** (11:59 PM).
- Subject line: Team Code – Memorials.
- Late submissions may invite penalties in accordance with the marking criteria mentioned at 15.1.

15. ASSESSMENT OF MEMORIALS

15.1 Marking Criteria

Each memorial shall be marked out of 100 by an expert panel, based on pre-determined criteria.

CRITERION	MARKS
Application and Appreciation of Facts	20
Application of Legal Principles, Authorities and	20
Identification and Presentation of Issues	20
Logical Reasoning	20
Grammar and Clarity	10
Originality	10

PARTICULARS	DEDUCTIONS
Not following the cover/title page color scheme	0.25 marks per submission
Team code not placed as specified	0.25 marks per submission
Exceeding the page limit	0.25 marks per extra page

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GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

15. ASSESSMENT OF MEMORIALS

15.2 Penalties and Deduction Criteria

PARTICULARS	DEDUCTIONS
Late submission	1 mark for every hour past the deadline
Incorrect format, font, or spacing	1 mark per submission
Incorrect or inconsistent footnotes/citations	0.25 marks per submission
Plagiarism & use of AI over the allowed limit	1 mark for every 10% over the limit
Revealing team identity	Discretion of the Bench

16. SUBMISSION OF HARD COPIES

16.1 Hard copies of the memorials must be submitted on the day of arrival, i.e., **26th February 2026**.

16.2 Each team is required to bring **two hard copies** of each side (Petitioner and Respondent), amounting to a total of **four copies**.

16.3 The soft copy submitted online and the hard copy submitted at registration must be **identical**. Any discrepancies may lead to severe penalties, including possible disqualification.

16.4 Submission of memorials shall constitute consent for the Organising Committee to reproduce, disseminate, or publish them as deemed necessary.

16.5 The Organising Committee shall not be responsible for any errors or mistakes in the submissions.

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17. RESEARCHER'S TEST

17.1 The Researcher's Test shall be conducted on 26th February 2026 at the Competition venue .

17.2 Only the team member registered as "Researcher" may appear.

17.3 The test shall consist of 50 objective questions.

17.4 Questions will relate to the Moot Proposition, applicable law, allied areas of law, and relevant case law.

18. STRUCTURE OF ORAL ARGUMENTS

18.1 General

- The Competition will be held over three days - 26th, 27th & 28th February 2026.
- The structure of rounds is:
 - Two Preliminary Rounds
 - Quarter-Finals
 - Semi-Finals
 - Final Round
- Preliminary Rounds & Quarter-Finals - 27th February 2026
- Semi-Finals & Final - 28th February 2026
- Order of pleading: Petitioners → Respondents → Rebuttal (Petitioners) → Sur-Rebuttal (Respondents).
- Failure to present oral arguments shall result in disqualification from the round (in preliminaries) or from the Competition (in knockouts).
- Compendiums or written material (other than memorials), if any, shall be submitted to the Bench through the Court official only.
- Use of electronic devices (smart watches, laptops, mobiles, tablets, ear buds/pods etc.) during rounds is strictly prohibited.
- Teams are prohibited from using a coach during arguments (online/offline).
- Opposing team memorials will not be shared. (no memorial exchange)

18.2 Preliminary Rounds

- Each team shall argue once from each side.
- Pairing of teams and sides shall be determined by draw of lots.
- No team shall face the same opponent twice.

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- Each team: 30 minutes total; each Speaker: max 20 minutes.
- Rebuttals: max 5 minutes (included /reserved in 30 minutes).
- Top 8 teams (cumulative prelim score) advance to Quarter-Finals.
- Tie-breaker: memorial marks added. In case of further tie, the result shall be determined by coin toss / lots.
- Best Speaker: Determined from individual cumulative prelim scores.

18.3 Quarter-Finals

- Qualification based on Prelim cumulative scores (Ranks 1-8).
- Fixtures: 1 v 8, 2 v 7, 3 v 6, 4 v 5.
- Sides (Petitioner/Respondent) decided by draw of lots.
- Each team: 40 minutes total; each Speaker: max 25 minutes.
- Rebuttal/Sur-Rebuttal: max 6 minutes (within /reserved 40 minutes).
- Tie-breaker: memorial marks added. In case of further tie, the result shall be determined by coin toss / lots.
- Knockout: 4 winners progress to Semi-Finals.

Courtroom	Team 1 (Rank)	Team 2 (Rank)
1	1	8
2	2	7
3	3	6
4	4	5

18.4 Semi-Finals

- Qualification: 4 winning Quarter-Finalists.
- Fixtures: Ranked 1-4 based on Quarter-Final scores.
- Fixtures: 1 v 4, 2 v 3
- Sides decided by draw of lots.
- Each team: **50 minutes total; each Speaker: max 30 minutes.**
- Rebuttal/Sur-Rebuttal: max 6 minutes (within 50 minutes).

**A****B****C****D****E****F****G****H****I**

GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

- Tie-breaker: memorial marks added. In case of further tie, the result shall be determined by coin toss / lots.
- Knockout: 2 winners progress to Finals.

Courtroom	Team 1 (Quarter-Final Rank)	Team 2 (Quarter-Final Rank)
1	Rank 1	Rank 4
2	Rank 2	Rank 3

18.5 Final Round

- Qualification: 2 winning Semi-Finalists.
- Sides decided by draw of lots.
- Each team: 50 minutes total; each Speaker: max 30 minutes.
- Rebuttal/Sur-Rebuttal: max 8 minutes (within 50 minutes).
- Tie-breaker: memorial marks added. In case of further tie, the result shall be determined by coin toss / lots.
- Winners & Runners-Up determined.

18.6 Rebuttal & Sur-Rebuttal

- Distribution of time between Speakers must be declared in advance.
- Only one Speaker may deliver the rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.
- Sur-rebuttals are at the discretion of the Bench.

**A****B****C****D****E****F****G****H****I**

GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

18.7 Assessment Criterion for Oral Arguments (Score Sheet Format)

Sr. No.	CRITERION	AVERAGE	ABOVE AVERAGE	GOOD	VERY GOOD	TOTAL MARKS	M1	M2
1	Appreciation of facts	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	10		
2	Correct articulation of legal issues, clarity and brevity	6-8	9-12	13-16	17-20	20		
3	Knowledge of law and interpretation	6-8	9-12	13-16	17-20	20		
4	Ability to answer to questions posed	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	10		
5	Advocacy skills	6-8	9-12	13-16	17-20	20		
6	Use of authorities and citations	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	10		
7	Language and style, General impression and Court manners	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	10		

18.8 Scouting

- Teams may not observe rounds where they are not participants.
- Violation of any rule /instruction will result in strict disciplinary action, including disqualification.

19. ACCOMMODATION

19.1 Registration fees include accommodation for participants during the Competition.

19.2 No concession/refund if teams arrange their own stay. Teams must inform the Accommodation Head if opting out.

19.3 Accommodation dates: **26th February – 1st March 2026** (check-in/out details to be notified).

**A****B****C****D****E****F****G****H****I**

GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

19.4 One room per team will be allocated. Room allocation details will be emailed after registration.

19.5 Teams must follow accommodation rules strictly.

19.6 Additional Rooms, Extended stays before/after official dates must be arranged and paid for directly with hotel authorities.

19.7 The Host Institution is not responsible for any such costs.

20. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

20.1 Absence of any team member in a round must be reported to the Organising Committee.

20.2 Disclosure of institutional identity in any form results in disqualification.

20.3 Bench decisions in all rounds are **final and binding**.

20.4 Food will be provided on competition days as mentioned in the schedule.

20.5 Participation constitutes consent to photography/videography.

20.6 Property damage shall result in compensation / liability.

20.7 Misconduct (smoking, alcohol, vulgarity, obscenity, violence, derogatory remarks, anti-national/communal/racist behaviour) results in disqualification.

20.8 Non-compliance with rules may lead to suspension/expulsion, disqualification, or withholding of prizes/certificates.

20.9 The Organising Committee has final authority in resolving ambiguities.

21. VIOLATION OF RULES

21.1 Violations may result in point deductions or disqualification by the Grievance Redressal Committee.

21.2 Teams will be given a reasonable opportunity to represent themselves before penalties are imposed.

21.3 Decision of the Grievance Redressal Committee & Organising Committee is final and binding.



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AWARDS

WINNER	Cash Prize of Rs 50,000/- Trophy and a Certificate of Merit
RUNNERS - UP	Cash Prize of Rs 25,000/- Trophy and a Certificate of Merit
BEST SPEAKER	Cash Prize of Rs 15,000/- Trophy and a Certificate of Merit <i>(based on prelim scores).</i>
BEST MEMORIAL	Cash Prize of Rs 15,000/- Trophy and a Certificate of Merit <i>(based on memorial round scores).</i>
BEST RESEARCHER	Cash Prize of Rs 10,000/- Trophy and a Certificate of Merit <i>(based on Researcher's Test).</i>

MASSIVE PRIZES AWAIT

- The Winning team takes home one-year SCC Online Web Edition Subscription worth **₹ 96,000/-**
- Every **participant** gets exclusive **one-month access** worth **₹ 3,100/-**

- All teams, including Winners and Runners-Up, shall receive **Certificates of Participation at the Valedictory Ceremony.**
- Certificates/trophies will not be couriered; presence at Inaugural & Valedictory is mandatory

**A****B****C****D****E****F****G****H****I**

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