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# KL MEMORIAL INTER-UNIVERSITY MOOT COURT COMPETITION



Organised by

**KLEF COLLEGE OF LAW**  
**APRIL 3-5, 2026**

**KLEF COLLEGE OF LAW, KL UNIVERSITY, VIJAYAWADA, A.P**

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# INVITATION

We are delighted to invite your esteemed institution to participate in the **Fifth KL Memorial Inter-University Moot Court Competition-2026** scheduled to take place **on 3-5 April, 2026 (offline mode)**. The competition is organised by KLEF College of Law, KL University under the aegis of its Society for Debating and Mooting (SDM). We sincerely believe that it will provide an excellent platform for law students to showcase their advocacy, oratory, and research skills. The competition is an opportunity for students to simulate a court proceeding presenting legal arguments, gain handsome experience in the courtroom, develop their research, writing, and oral advocacy skills, and interact with peers from other institutions.

The competition is open to students from all law colleges across the country. We take pride in providing an enriching experience for our participants, and we are confident that this year's competition will be even more engaging and fulfilling. The competition will be judged by a panel of experienced judges, academicians and legal practitioners, providing valuable feedback and insights to the participants based on the spirit of competitiveness, transparency and appreciation of merit.

We would like to extend a cordial invitation to your institution to participate in this year's competition. We believe that your institution's participation would add value to the event and further enhance its prestige. Please find attached a detailed information brochure regarding the competition, including the rules and regulations, registration form, and other essential details.

Please feel free to contact us at ***sdm\_klef@kluniversity.in*** for any clarifications or assistance with the registration process. We look forward to your institution's participation in this event and hope to see you at KL University soon.

Sincerely,  
The Organising Committee



# ABOUT KONERU LAKSHMAIAH UNIVERSITY



The Koneru Lakshmaiah Charities which was established as a trust in the year 1980 started KL College of Engineering in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh in the academic year 1980-81. The College was upgraded to KL College of Engineering Autonomous in 2006 by UGC, and was declared as a Deemed to be University in 2009 by UGC, MHRD Govt. of India. In 2012 as a Deemed to be University, the institution was accredited by NAAC with A Grade, and later in 2018, was re-accredited by NAAC with A++ grade. In 2019 UGC, MHRD declared this institution as Category I Institution. KL Deemed to be University has received the Platinum Band (A++ Grade) in The Green Rankings 2023 by R. World Institution Rankings.



# ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF LAW



Nestled in the **Green Fields** of the Vaddeswaram Campus, KLEF College of Law is a leading centre of legal education and a vibrant hub for the legal community in the region. Driven by intellectual curiosity, experiential learning, and outcome-based education, the College fosters a dynamic community of learners actively engaged in academics, research, and justice-oriented discourse through moots, mock trials, legal aid clinics, seminars, and debates.

With the approval of the Bar Council of India, the KLEF College started functioning in 2015-16. The College offers 5-Year Integrated B.BA LL.B, and Ph.D. (both full-time and part-time) programmes. Functioning on the lines of National Law Schools, its curriculum is shaped by eminent legal experts including Prof. R. Venkata Rao, Prof. Madabhushi Sridhar, and Justice K. G. Shankar (Retd.).

With a strong faculty, advanced infrastructure for online and offline learning, and expert delivery of interdisciplinary subjects, KLEF College of Law is committed to preparing future-ready legal professionals. In furtherance of its commitment to advocacy and experiential learning, the College of Law, through the Society for Debating and Mooting (SDM), publishes a quarterly **NEWSLETTER**. The newsletter documents student participation in national and international moot court competitions and highlights their academic achievements, strategic approaches, and advocacy experiences. It serves as a reflective platform for sharing insights, research perspectives, and best practices in mooting, thereby fostering a culture of continuous learning and competitive excellence among students.

# ABOUT THE FIFTH KL MEMORIAL INTER-UNIVERSITY MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026



The **Fifth KL Memorial National Moot Court Competition, 2026** marks the next chapter in KL College of Law's pursuit of academic distinction and advocacy excellence. Conceived as a platform for the most determined and skilled law students, this edition is designed to challenge participants through a meticulously drafted moot proposition, heightened competitive standards, and a professionally structured adjudication process.

This competition aspires to go beyond conventional mooting by testing not only legal knowledge, but also strategic thinking, courtroom ethics, clarity of argument, and persuasive advocacy. Participants will engage with complex legal issues of contemporary relevance, demanding in-depth research, analytical precision, and confident oral submissions before an experienced panel of academicians and legal professionals.

With increased expectations and elevated benchmarks, the Fifth KL Memorial National Moot Court Competition offers an unparalleled opportunity for aspiring advocates to demonstrate excellence, refine professional competencies, and distinguish themselves on a national stage. The stakes are higher, the challenges sharper, and the rewards, both academic and experiential, truly transformative.

# Throwbacks from the Previous Edition: Fourth KL Memorial National Moot Court Competition, 2024

The Fourth KL Memorial National Moot Court Competition, 2024, organised by the Society for Debating and Mooting at KLEF College of Law, KL Deemed to be University, Vijayawada, stands as a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence in legal education. Conducted in a hybrid mode, the competition featured preliminary rounds in online format on **24th and 25th July 2024**, followed by the main rounds on campus from **30th to 31st August 2024**. Distinguished for its rigorous standards and inclusive platform, the competition witnessed participation from numerous teams representing eminent law schools across the country and culminated in a closely contested final round between Saveetha School of Law, Chennai, and Bharati Vidyapeeth New Law College, Pune, with the team from Saveetha School of Law emerging as the winners and Bharati Vidyapeeth New Law College securing the runners-up position.

The Competition not only provided participants with an immersive experience in simulated court proceedings but also recognised outstanding talent through an array of accolades including the Winners' Trophy with cash prizes, Best Memorial, Best Speaker, and Best Researcher awards. Teams demonstrated exemplary proficiency in legal research, written submissions, and oral advocacy, laying the foundation for professional readiness and reinforcing the core values of legal practice.

Building on the success of this prestigious event, we invite aspiring advocates to participate in the current edition, where opportunities to excel, network, and refine mooting skills await. Join us in continuing this proud legacy of legal scholarship and competitive excellence.



# RULE BOOK

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The Organising Committee of the **Fifth KL Memorial Inter-University Moot Court Competition** will have exclusive authority to interpret the rules in the interest of just and fair competition. The definitions placed below by the Organising Committee shall be final and the decision of the Organising Committee regarding the applicability of these rules will be final.

These rules may be called the rules for the Fifth KL Memorial Inter-University Moot Court Competition, 2026.

The decision taken by the Panel/Judge will be final; if any disputes arise, they are subject to be resolved at the discretion of the organising committee.

## **DATES, VENUE & STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION**

The Fifth KL Memorial Inter-University Moot Court Competition will be held entirely in **OFFLINE MODE**. The Preliminary rounds, Octafinals, Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final shall be conducted in offline mode at KLEF College of Law, KL University, Vijayawada. The top sixteen (16) teams from the preliminary rounds shall qualify for the Octafinals.

## **LANGUAGE**

The official language of the Competition shall be English only.

## **ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION**

The Competition is open to all students, enrolled bona fide on a regular basis in an undergraduate Law course (5 years Integrated Law course/ 3 Year L.L.B Course) or its equivalent, conducted by any recognized Institution/College/University of any State.

## **DRESS CODE**

The participating teams must adhere to the following dress code during the moot court competition. Male- White shirt, black trousers, black tie, black coat, and black shoes. Female- White shirt or White kurti with a black trousers along with a black coat and black shoes, or as specified in the Advocates Act, 1961.

## **TEAM COMPOSITION**

The team shall comprise either two members (both designated as Speakers/Oralists and one of the speakers shall be designated as Researcher) OR three members (two of them shall be designated as Speakers/Oralists and one of them shall be designated as Researcher). No team will be allowed to substitute any of its members after a team has submitted its Registration form, except with the permission of the Organising Committee.

## **IDENTIFICATION OF PARTICIPATING TEAMS**

Each participating team shall be allotted a unique **team code** immediately after receiving a confirmation of the completion of registration formalities. The Codes allotted shall serve as the only means of identity of the team for all intents and purposes, until the completion of the competition Disclosure of identity of the parent College/ Institution/University otherwise than on the registration form shall incur disqualification of the participating team.

## **ANONYMITY**

Student counsel may introduce her/himself to the court in the usual manner and may also state her/his name, if asked for. However, the team's college/institution affiliation shall not be mentioned at any time before the valedictory ceremony. Further, all team members, coaches, advisors, and observers shall refrain from identifying a team's school at any time and in any manner, including, but not limited to, wearing any identifying items, such as school clothing, ties, patches, or pins or carrying identifying material (such as a book with a college logo, or college seal). Any material presented to the Panel should be devoid of any identification marks/ seal of the team. If any such mark/ seal exists, it shall be treated as resorting to unfair means. Any violation of the Rules stated above shall attract penalty or disqualification as determined by the Moot Court Society. The decision of the Judges in this regard shall be final and not subject to challenge.

## **CLARIFICATIONS**

The teams may seek for clarifications regarding the moot proposition as per the dates stipulated. Such requests shall be mailed to [sdm\\_klef@kluniversity.in](mailto:sdm_klef@kluniversity.in) and no other means of communication shall be regarded as amounting to clarification unless published in the manner stated hereinafter. The clarifications issued by the Organising Committee from time to time shall be final, binding, and shall form an integral part of the moot proposition. Participants are advised to refer regularly to the consolidated document containing clarifications published from time to time, accessible [HERE](#).

## **MEMORIAL SUBMISSION**

All memorials submitted for the purposes of the Competition shall strictly comply with the rules of the Competition. Each team must prepare three sets of printed copies of memorials for submission through postal/courier mode. The Petitioner memorials are required to have a Blue cover and Respondent memorials are required to have a Red cover.

The soft copies of memorials shall be submitted in **pdf** format (only) latest by **27th March, 2026 11:59 pm** either through the link or by scanning the QR code provided at **Page no. 21** of this brochure.

## **PLAGIARISM POLICY**

Plagiarism in any manner is strictly prohibited and if any participating team is found to be indulging in the same shall be disqualified from the competition. The decision of the Organising Committee regarding plagiarism would be final and binding on all participants.

## **MEMORIAL CONTENTS**

The memorial must contain the following pages only:

- Cover Page –The cover page shall contain the Case Title, Party Name, Name of the Court, and Team Code on the top right corner.
- Table of Contents.
- Index of Authorities.
- Statement of Jurisdiction.
- Statement of Facts.
- Issues Raised.
- Summary of Arguments.
- Pleadings/Arguments Advanced.
- Prayers.

## **GUIDELINES FOR MEMORIAL FORMATTING:**

The following content specifications must be strictly followed:

- The memorial shall be typed on an A4 size page and all the pages of the memorial should have a page number at the bottom.
- Font and Size (General) –Times New Roman, 12 pts.
- Line Spacing (General) – 1.5 lines.
- Font and Size (Footnotes) –Times New Roman, 10 pts.
- Line Spacing (Footnotes) – 1 pts.
- Page Margins – 1 inch on all sides.
- Cover Page of Memorials: Petitioner -Blue and Respondent-Red.
- Saved as aforesaid, all the citations and footnotes must be in adherence to the **22nd Edition of Bluebook, 2025.**

# DEFINITIONS

**The following expressions and words used in this competition will have the following meanings**

1. **Bench** refers to the members duly invited by the institute, to adjudge any of the rounds, collectively.
2. **Compendium** means ‘Collection of all the materials/ documents referred by the mooters in the memorial. It also includes the extract of the Judgment, case laws, textbooks etc.’
3. **Competition** means ‘Shri. Koneru Lakshmaiah Fifth Memorial Inter- University Moot Court Competition, 2026’.
4. **Court Room** shall refer to the courtrooms where the oral rounds will take place.
5. **Clarifications** means any questions, queries, or doubts sent by the registered teams about clarification and explanation of any legal or factual issue to the organising society, within the given deadline.
6. **Disqualification** means ‘Disqualification incurred by participating team as per the decision taken and communicated to the participating team by organising Society.’
7. **Evaluation** means ‘allotment of marks at Preliminary and Final Rounds by Judges invited by organising Society on evaluation of the performance of participating teams and also evaluation and allotment of marks to written Memorials’ by Panel of Evaluators selected and appointed by organising Society. For the removal of doubts it is hereby informed that in case of any doubt, dispute, disqualification etc. of any participating team, the decision of the Organising Society shall be final.
8. **Judges** means ‘the Sitting, as well as retired Judges of Higher and Lower Judiciary, Senior Law Faculty Members and Senior Lawyers, appointed at the discretion of organising Society from different parts of India to evaluate the performance of participating teams in oral arguments by allotment of marks as per evaluation procedure’.
9. **Moot Problem** means a set of facts published by the institution for moot court competition.
10. **Organising Society** means The Society for Debating and Mooting (SDM) consisting of one faculty coordinator and the core committee.
11. **Participants** means ‘the two Student-Speakers and the Research Associate of the participating team’.

12. **Participating College/Institution/University** shall be the parent Institution of the participating team.

13. **Participating Team** means the ‘team from participating College/ Institution/ University registered for the competition as per the rules stated in this document.

14. **Penalty** means ‘any sanction other than Disqualification of the participating team announced by the organising Society.

15. **Problem** means ‘the problem selected for the Round’ (Annexure) for the competition.

16. **Rebuttals** refer to those arguments /questions that the Petitioner may raise at the end of the main pleadings of all the Respondent.

17. **Researcher** means the member of the team designated by the members thereof as researcher.

18. **Reservation** means ‘the right reserved by the organising Society/ higher authorities of KLEF to invite any College/ Institution/ University without any formalities of registration etc.’

19. **Registration** means ‘the registration of participating team on receiving the Registration Form with Demand Draft/ Online Payment’.

19. **Rules** means ‘The Moot Court Competition-2026 Rules’ as originally framed as amended by the organising Society from time to time.

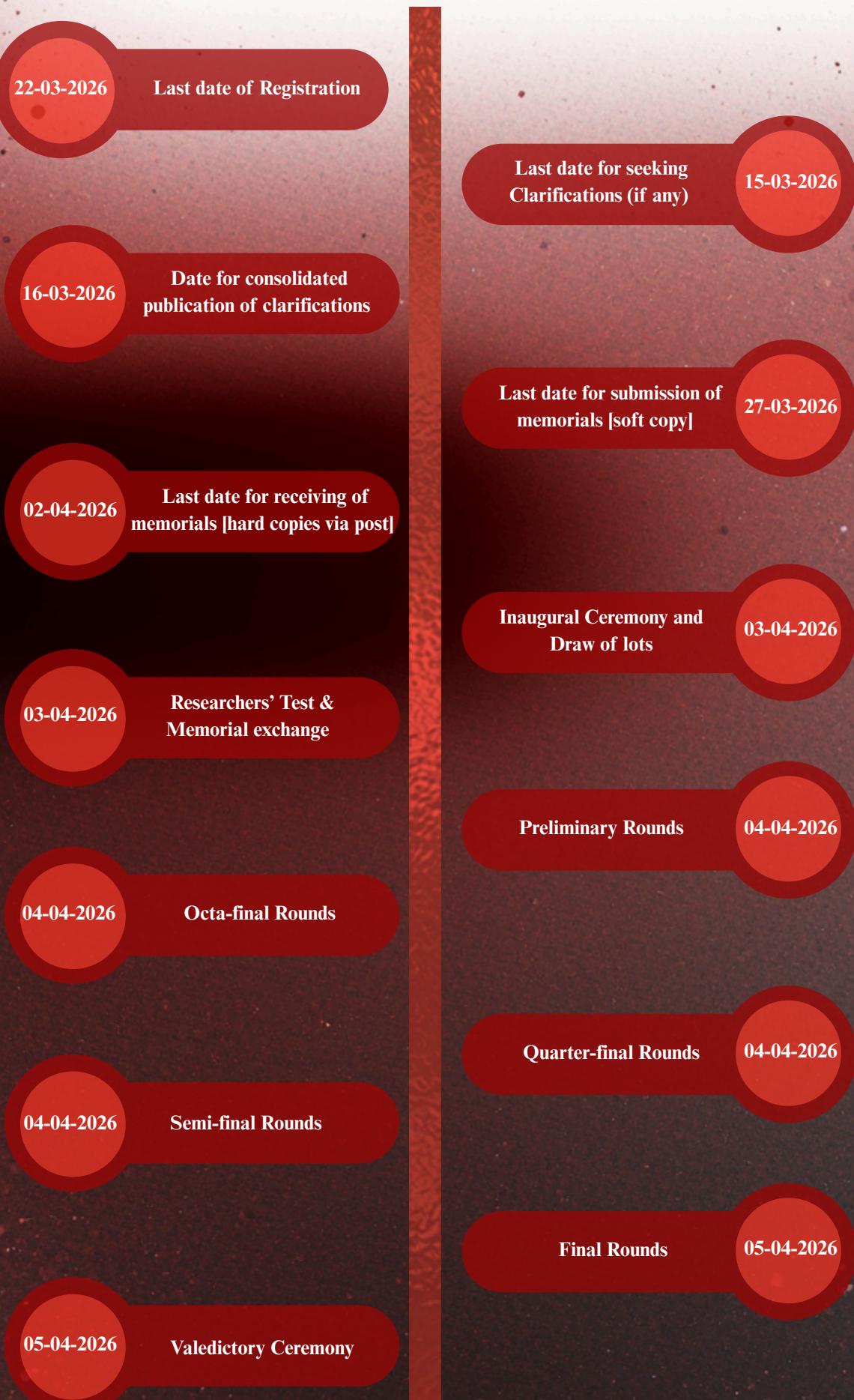
20. **Scouting** means a person observing the Oral Rounds of a team other than the team which is associated with the participating team.

21. **Speaker** refers to a participant who presents oral arguments in any given round.

22. **Sub-Rebuttals** refers to the defence presented by the Respondent to the rebuttals.

23. **Team Code** refers to the code allocated to a participating institution by the organising committee after completion of the Registration.

# IMPORTANT DATES



# ROUNDS

## STRUCTURE OF ROUNDS

### **RULE 1: Preliminary Rounds**

1. Each participating team shall argue two Preliminary Rounds, namely Preliminary Round I and Preliminary Round II.
2. The Preliminary Rounds shall be **non-knockout rounds**, and participation in both rounds shall be mandatory for all teams.

### **RULE 2: Basis of Ranking After Preliminary Rounds**

1. At the conclusion of both Preliminary Rounds, all teams shall be ranked primarily on the basis of the number of wins secured in the Preliminary Rounds.
2. Teams securing two wins shall rank above teams securing one win, and teams securing one win shall rank above teams securing no wins.

### **RULE 3: Qualification to Octa-Finals**

1. The Top Sixteen (16) teams in the overall ranking after the Preliminary Rounds shall qualify for the Octa-Final Rounds.
2. All teams securing two wins in the Preliminary Rounds shall automatically qualify for the Octa-Finals, subject to Rule 5.
3. Where fewer than sixteen teams secure two wins, the remaining slots shall be filled by teams with one win, in order of ranking determined under these Rules.

### **RULE 4: Tie-Breaking Criteria for Ranking**

Where two or more teams have an equal number of wins, their ranking shall be determined sequentially on the basis of:

1. Higher cumulative score obtained across both Preliminary Rounds;
2. Higher Net Margin Ratio, calculated by determining for each Preliminary Round the difference between the team's score and the opponent's score divided by the total score awarded to both teams in that round, and averaging such values across the two Preliminary Rounds;
3. Higher memorial score (component 1-5; table on **page 19**) in the Preliminary rounds taken together, where applicable;
4. Higher scores after calculating the NPI (Normative Performance Index), computed by standardising each team's cumulative performance with reference to the mean and standard deviation of scores obtained by all participating teams in the Preliminary Rounds;
5. Decision by draw of lots, conducted by the Organising Committee in a fair and transparent manner, in case all the previous tie breakers do not yield the desired result.

### **RULE 5: Nature of Octa-Final and Subsequent Rounds**

1. The Octa-Finals and all subsequent rounds of the Competition shall be knockout rounds.
2. The winner of each round shall advance to the next stage of the Competition

## **ORAL PLEADINGS**

1. Any form of scouting during the competition is strictly prohibited and shall entail instant disqualification of the team.
2. A “Round” shall mean the Oral arguments advanced by both teams.
3. The proceedings and method of presentation of oral arguments shall be, to the extent possible, in alignment with the procedure adopted by the Supreme Court.
4. In case any team fails to appear in an oral round, the round shall be conducted ex-parte and the scoring shall be done as if the defaulter team had been present and arguing.
5. Before the start of the oral rounds, each team shall inform the Court Officer regarding the order of speaking as well as the allocation of time between themselves and the time reserved for rebuttals.

## **ORAL ROUNDS**

### **PRELIMINARY ROUNDS:**

1. Oral rounds for each team will be provided a duration of **25 minutes** (including rebuttals), wherein each speaker of a team will be allowed to argue for up to 10 minutes. No team shall reserve more than 5 minutes for rebuttals.
2. Each oral round will be for a maximum duration of 50 minutes.
3. Any extension of time beyond this specified period is subject to the deduction of marks as the Judges may deem fit.
4. However, the time limit for each round in preliminary shall be 25 minutes for Team 1 and 25 minutes for Team 2. Team members can pass research materials to the speaker in a discreet manner. Oral arguments shall confine to the written memorials.
5. During the oral rounds, Speakers at the podium and participants seated at the counsel table shall not operate, for any purpose, Mobile Phones, Laptop Computers, iPad, or any other computer or electronic devices which are internet enabled or have instant messaging enabled through any means.
6. The compendium can be submitted to the Court Officer prior to the oral rounds which will be submitted to the Judges at their discretion.

### **OCTA-FINALS:**

1. The Octa-Final round follows with the 16 teams selected in the Preliminary Round.
2. Each oral round will be for a period of 50 minutes.
3. Each team will be given a maximum time period of **25 minutes** for oral submissions.
4. No team shall extend their submissions beyond the prescribed limit subject to the discretion of the Judges.

## **QUARTERFINALS:**

1. The Quarter-final round follows with the 8 teams selected in the Octa-finals round.
2. Each oral round will be for a period of 60 minutes.
3. Each team will be given a maximum time period of **30 minutes** for oral submissions.
4. No team shall extend their submissions beyond the prescribed limit subject to the discretion of the Judges.

## **SEMI FINALS:**

1. Each oral round will be for a period of 80 minutes, (including rebuttals), wherein each team will be allowed **40 minutes**.
2. Any extension of time beyond this specified period is subject to the deduction of marks as the Judge may deem fit.
3. No Team shall reserve more than 5 minutes for rebuttals

## **FINALS:**

1. Each oral round will be for a period of 90 minutes, (including rebuttals), wherein each Team will be allowed **45 minutes**. Any extension of time beyond this specified period is subject to the deduction of marks as the Judge may deem fit.
2. No Team shall reserve more than 5 minutes for rebuttals.

# EVALUATION OF MEMORIALS

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## **Memorial Evaluation and Researcher's Test**

### **1. Anonymous Evaluation of Memorials**

All memorials submitted for the Competition shall be evaluated by a panel of designated evaluators in a strictly anonymous (blind review) manner for a total of One Hundred (100) marks, having due regard to the evaluation criteria prescribed in these Rules.

### **2. Purpose of Blind Review and Best Memorial Determination**

The blind review shall be conducted on the basis of encoded memorials, without disclosure of the identity of the participating team or institution, for the sole purpose of determining the recipients of the Best Memorial Prize.

### **3. Limited Use of Memorial Marks**

The marks awarded in the memorial evaluation shall not be considered for any other stage, ranking, or component of the Competition, including but not limited to qualification to advanced rounds, team rankings, or oral round scoring.

### **4. Exception for Best Researcher Determination**

Notwithstanding the above, the marks obtained in memorial evaluation shall be used exclusively for the purpose of determining the **Best Researcher Award**, which shall be computed on the basis of the cumulative score of:

- marks obtained in memorial evaluation; and
- marks secured in the Researcher's Test.

### **5. Researcher's Test — Notification of Format**

The complete module, structure, and evaluation format of the Researcher's Test shall be formally notified to all participating teams on or before the last date of registration for the Competition.

# **EVALUATION OF MEMORIALS**

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Memorials will be evaluated by a team of evaluators through three rounds of evaluation and a cumulative score gained in the three rounds combined shall be allotted against the each teams' memorial for the purposes hereinbefore mentioned. The basis of evaluation shall be as follows:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>BASIS OF EVALUATION</b>	<b>MARKS</b>
1	Presentation of facts	5
2	Ingenuity and Logical Reasoning	20
3	Interpretation of Law	20
4	Extent and use of Authority	20
5	Relief Sought	10
6	Format and Citation	10
7	Quality of Language	10
8	Adherence to the Guidelines	5
9	Total Marks	<b>100</b>

# EVALUATION OF ORAL ARGUMENTS

S. No.	BASIS OF EVALUATION	MARKS
1	SYNOPSIS AND PRESENTATION OF FACTS	5
2	IDENTIFICATION AND ARTICULATION OF LEGAL ISSUES	5
3	ORIGINALITY IN PRESENTATION AND APPLICATION OF LAW	15
4	DEPTH OF RESEARCH	5
5	CITATION OF CASES	5
6	RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS	10
7	COURT MANNERISM AND ETIQUETTE	5
8	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>

## MISCELLANEOUS:

- The Moot Court Society reserves the right to modify any of the Competition Rules at any point in time in the interest of the fairness and integrity of the Competition but not otherwise.
- The Moot Court Society shall communicate any changes made in the Competition Rules to the Teams.

## INTERPRETATION OF RULES:

- All interpretations of all the rules and information given for this competition are at the complete discretion of the Organising Society and College of Law. The decision so made shall be final and binding on all participating teams.
- The Moot Court Society reserves the right to take decisions on any matter not mentioned in the Competition Rules. Any such decision taken by the Moot Court Society shall be final and binding.

## SCOUTING:

The teams will not be allowed to observe the orals of any other teams. Scouting is strictly prohibited. Scouting by any of the team's members will result in disqualification.

# PRIZES FOR THE MOOT COURT COMPETITION



**I. WINNING TEAM - Rs. 44,444/-**

**II. RUNNERS-UP - Rs. 33,333/-**

**III. BEST MEMORIAL - Rs. 5,555/-**

**IV. BEST STUDENT ORALIST (MALE) - Rs. 5,555/-**

**V. BEST STUDENT ORALIST (FEMALE) - Rs. 5,555/-**

**VI. BEST RESEARCHER - Rs. 5,555/-**

Certificates of Participation shall be provided to all the participants

# REGISTRATION

The preliminary registration must be completed on or before **22-03-2026** along with payment of the prescribed registration fee. Registration shall be effected by duly filling the registration form through the link/QR code provided below.

The registration shall be deemed complete only upon full payment of the Registration Fee and proper submission of the registration form containing all required particulars.

Upon completion of the registration formalities, participants shall receive an official confirmation email from the Organising Committee containing the allotted Team Code. Teams shall quote this Team Code in all subsequent communications with the Organising Committee, and no personal identities shall be disclosed unless expressly required.

The soft copies of the Memorials shall be submitted on or before **27-03-2026** through the link/QR code provided below. The hard copies of the Memorial must be dispatched at the earliest by the most expedient mode of shipment available. The last date for receipt of the hard copies by postal dispatch shall be **02-04-2026**.

Participants who opt for accommodation provided by the Organising Committee shall be entitled to **complimentary food** during the competition period. Teams intending to avail accommodation are required to inform the Organising Committee in advance about their arrival details to facilitate necessary arrangements.

Upon arrival, all teams shall report at the designated venue for in-person registration, following which accommodation and other incidental arrangements shall be made. The registration fee for the competition is **₹3,500 per team** (excluding food and lodging).

The accommodation charges are **₹2,700 per team** per day for **air-conditioned** rooms and **₹2,250 per team** per day for **non-air-conditioned** rooms, **inclusive of food**.

Although the accommodation charges are calculated on a per-person basis, accommodation shall be provided on a double-occupancy basis.

The registration fee, once paid, shall be non-refundable.

Payment link



Registration link



Memorial Submission link



# MOOT PROPOSITION

## PART I

**Swatantra Pradesh** is a federal unit within the **Union of Andhrakisthan**. Though politically quasi-federal in matters assigned by the federal compact, its constitutional architecture, judicial structure, and administrative conventions operate in pari materia with the constitutional framework historically associated with the **Union of India**. The jurisprudence of fundamental rights, the doctrine of judicial review, and the interpretive traditions of public law remain deeply influential within its Courts. In the recent past the Constitutional Courts have been inspired by the interpretive approach of transformative constitutionalism, living constitution, dignity jurisprudence, and constitutional morality.

Geographically, Swatantra Pradesh stretches along the **Boromandal Coast**, where the shifting blues of the **Azure Sea** dissolve into the narrow historic passage known as the Kalinga Strait. Inland, the terrain rises gradually into the gentle shoulders of the **Easternly Ghats**, undulating hill ranges broken by fertile valleys, seasonal streams, and ancient forest settlements. Among these valleys lies **Ukara**, a region celebrated equally for its emerald coffee plantations and for the quiet endurance of indigenous tribal communities whose cultural memory predates recorded political history.

The socio-cultural fabric of the State is neither wholly ancient nor entirely modern. It is instead a layered continuum, locally described as **Telangam** culture, a synthesis of agrarian ritual, classical art, mercantile ambition, and technological aspiration. Fertile deltas nourished by the Krishnaveni and Godavarneer river systems sustain its dense rural populations, while port cities such as Vishakshapuri anchor shipbuilding, naval logistics, and maritime trade. At the same time, Quantum Valley, the State capital, has in the recent times emerged as a prominent corridor for biotechnology, artificial intelligence, and advanced medical research.

Classical expression remains deeply revered among all sections of the society. The intricate dance tradition of Kuchipodi and the devotional musical corpus known as Annama Sangeetam continue to be preserved through hereditary transmission, patronage institutions, and state-supported academies. Notably, certain musical compositions, particularly the rare “Sarasa” kritis, are believed within particular lineages to carry aesthetic nuances inseparable from familial inheritance. The High Court of Swatantra Pradesh, situated in Quantum Valley, exercises expansive constitutional writ jurisdiction under **Article 226** of the **Constitution of Andhrakisthan**, mirroring the remedial breadth historically associated with Indian constitutional courts. Questions touching dignity, identity, bodily autonomy, privacy, and technological ethics increasingly arrive before this Court, reflecting the tensions and synergies between inherited social norms and rapidly evolving biomedical science.

## **PART II**

In the hill-edge settlement of Vaddesnagar in Rutnug District, reside Dr. Arvind Reddy, a cardiologist of considerable professional repute, and his wife Anjali Reddy, a classical Carnatic vocalist belonging to an old and respected musical lineage. Their marriage, solemnised fifteen years earlier, was widely regarded as a Union of Intellect and Art—medicine and music bound within shared cultural devotion. Despite sustained medical consultation for more than a decade after their marital knot, the couple remained unable to conceive naturally due to a documented reproductive condition affecting Anjali.

Within their familial and cultural milieu, the absence of a biological child carried emotional, social, and symbolic weight. Beyond personal longing, they wished for a successor capable of inheriting Dr. Reddy's medical legacy and Anjali's custodianship over a rare eighteenth-century archive of Sarasa compositions, transmitted exclusively through blood descendants for eleven generations.

After prolonged deliberation, the couple elected to pursue gestational surrogacy, a practice then governed primarily by medical guidelines and private contractual arrangements rather than comprehensive statutory regulation[1].

## **PART III**

Lakshmi, aged twenty-eight in 2007, was employed as a nurse at the hospital where Dr. Reddy practised as a general physician. In the same year, she consented to function as a gestational surrogate for the Reddy family in return for monetary consideration of Rupai 8 lakhs (the currency of Andhrakisthan). Lakshmi belonged to a socio-economically vulnerable household in the old quarters of Vishakshapuri, and the consideration was expected to alleviate familial indebtedness and support the education of her siblings. The surrogacy arrangement, including the associated medical procedures and contractual formalities, was facilitated through Arogya Fertility Centre (AFC), which at the relevant time was regarded as a technologically advanced reproductive clinic in the State of Swatantra Pradesh.

Unknown to the intended parents and to Lakshmi, the sperm used in the procedure originated from an anonymous donor sample archived by AFC in 2006. The donor, whose identity was recorded only within restricted clinical files had executed a written confidentiality agreement stipulating permanent anonymity and the clinic had mutually agreed to protection of privacy and anonymity. The clinic director at the time, Dr. L. Priyalaxmi, authorised the use of the preserved sample in accordance with prevailing professional norms.

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[1] At the relevant time, assisted reproductive arrangements in Andhrakisthan were not governed by any comprehensive statutory enactment and operated within a largely permissive legal vacuum, guided principally by private contractual arrangements and the Inland Council of Medical Research's National Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART Clinics in Andhrakisthan, 2005, which were advisory in nature and lacked binding statutory force.

#### **PART IV**

On 12 January 2008, a female child was born through gestational surrogacy and was named Aariv Reddy. The birth certificate recorded Dr. Arvind Reddy and Anjali Reddy as her legal parents. Lakshmi relinquished all claims in accordance with the agreement and returned to her native village to start a new life. Within the clinic's internal records, however, a brief handwritten annotation described the donor:

"Age: 32; Blood group: B+; Telangam Brahmin lineage; Engagement in "party work"; No family history of cardiac disease"

#### **PART V**

Aariv was brought up in an environment saturated with music, scholarship, and disciplined affection. She aspired to pursue professional legal education and learn her family's traditions with greater enthusiasm. In particular, she intended to seek admission to the Bar through Lincoln's Inn (United Kingdom). By the age of fourteen, she began formal training in the Sarasa tradition under her mother's guidance. Yet subtle dissonances emerged for certain melodic transitions, traditionally believed to arise intuitively within the lineage, proved persistently difficult for her. Her music instructor remarked privately, though without malice, that artistic inheritance sometimes followed "paths invisible to pedagogy."

During a school genetics project, Aariv learned that her blood group was B+, while both her recorded parents possessed O+ blood groups. The inconsistency prompted questioning to which her parents, for the first time, disclosed the fact of surrogacy, but assured her she remained genetically theirs. The matter rested uneasily, neither fully explored nor entirely forgotten.

#### **PART VI**

In January 2024, Dr. Arvind Reddy suffered sudden cardiac arrest while he was working. He was diagnosed with a rare hereditary disorder identified in regional medical literature as Telangam Cardiomyopathy Variant (TCV), a condition associated with particular sub-communities. He was given the best treatment available and required constant personal monitoring and intermittent medical attention thenceforth. For Aariv, the diagnosis transformed curiosity into fear. Her own medical risk could not be evaluated without clarity regarding paternal genetic history.

In March 2025, while reviewing archived medical files of the family, Aariv encountered references to "Donor No. 32." Confronted again, her mother disclosed the complete truth. The disclosure revealed that the ovum was Anjali's while the sperm had originated from an anonymous donor.

## **PART VII**

Upon attaining majority, on 12 January 2026, Aariv formally approached Arogya Fertility Centre, seeking the disclosure of the donor's identity, or, at minimum, his genetic and medical history. The clinic refused the request, citing:

1. The 2007 confidentiality agreement (claiming that the disclosure would tantamount to breach of contract)
2. Emerging statutory policy reflected in the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, and privacy concerns.
3. Potential harm to the donor, now described as a public figure.

Fragments later surfaced through informal inquiry: the donor had been a young Telangam political worker undergoing treatment at the hospital during 2006-07.

## **PART VIII**

The donor was eventually inferred to be Srikanth Bhagavtar (aka SK), now aged fifty-two and a Cabinet Minister for the Department of Happiness in the State. He is an anticipated chief-ministerial candidate, public advocate of traditional family values, and a vocal critic of anonymous reproductive technologies. He is married with two children, none of whom is aware of any prior sperm donation. Upon receiving a copy of legal notice, he instructed his counsel to oppose disclosure on grounds of absolute contractual confidentiality, right to privacy and family life, and irreparable personal and political harm.

## **PART IX**

On 12 March 2026, Aariv experienced cardiac symptoms, physical discomfort, shortness of breath, and palpitations. Her cardiologist recorded:

“Definitive diagnosis of suspected TCV requires paternal genetic history. Absence of such information prevents risk assessment, preventive care, and counselling regarding future offspring.” She apprehended that the complicated state of health and lack of information could entail risks to physical health and affect the prospects of her reproductive rights. Medical urgency thus intersected with constitutional silence. She began mulling options of legal recourse and asserted that within Telangam tradition, Gothram determined ritual belonging, lineage shapes marital legitimacy, and artistic inheritance carries genealogical meaning. If her paternal origin differed from assumed lineage, she argued, her cultural self-understanding remained incomplete.

## **PART X**

A writ petition under Article 226, was filed by Aariv on February 14, 2026, which inter alia sought:

- Recognition of a fundamental right to know one's genetic origins under Article 21 and protection of her right to health.
- Disclosure of the donor's identity.
- Alternatively, disclosure of medical/genetic data via neutral mechanism.
- Interim genetic testing without public revelation

The petition arrayed the following as respondents: Arogya Fertility Centre, Srikanth Bhagavtar (as a potential appropriate/necessary party, though she had no definitive answer to her search yet), State of Swatantra Pradesh, Union of Andhrakisthan.

In their preliminary objections, the Respondents (especially 1 and 2) contended that any compelled disclosure of genetic or biological identity would constitute a serious infringement of the right to privacy and decisional autonomy as recognised by the constitutional courts. It was further argued that the surrogacy arrangement and all attendant medical records were governed by binding contractual and fiduciary obligations of confidentiality, the breach of which would expose the parties and the medical institution to civil and regulatory liability. The Respondents also asserted that disclosure at a belated stage would cause irreparable harm to personal dignity, familial stability, and social reputation, particularly in the sensitive context of assisted reproduction. Emphasis was placed on the child's best interests, including the preservation of psychological security and protection from unwanted public scrutiny. Additionally, it was submitted that retrospective interference with a concluded reproductive arrangement would undermine legal certainty in emerging fields of reproductive technology and deter legitimate medical practice. On these grounds, the Respondents maintained that the reliefs sought were constitutionally impermissible, contractually barred, and contrary to settled principles governing privacy, reputation, and the welfare of the child. However, the petitioner argued against the retrospectivity of the Constitutional rights, especially recognised through judicial precedents, inadequacy of other existing evidentiary principles within the statutory scheme, and need for a judicial intervention.

## **PART XI**

As the matter proceeded to final hearing, the Court framed the following issues for consideration at the stage of oral arguments scheduled for 2 and 3 April 2026:

1. Whether the right to know one's genetic origins forms part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21.
2. Whether a donor's right to privacy may override a donor-conceived adult's medically necessary claim to genetic information.
3. Whether contractual confidentiality in assisted reproduction can supersede constitutional protections of dignity, identity, and health.

**Note:** The participating teams shall refrain from framing additional issues. However, allied issues, questions and concepts of law governing the issues above may be argued as sub-issues.

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The Organising Committee places on record its sincere gratitude to Ganesh Nanda and Rupa A. Yarru who generously consented to mentor the students and extended invaluable assistance in the planning and logistical arrangements of this edition of the Competition.

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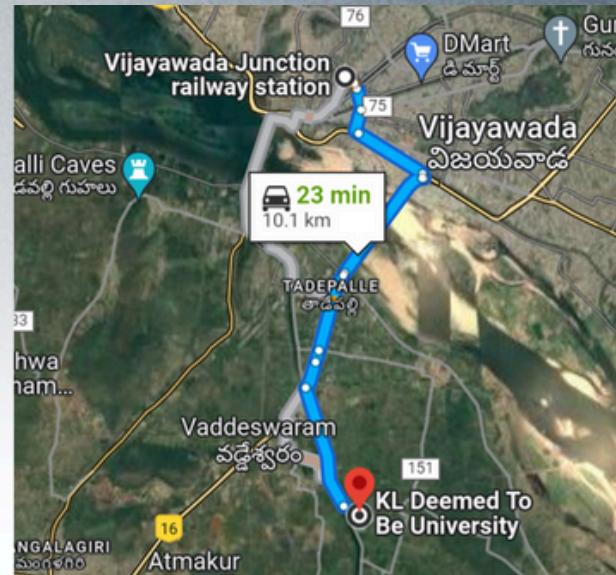
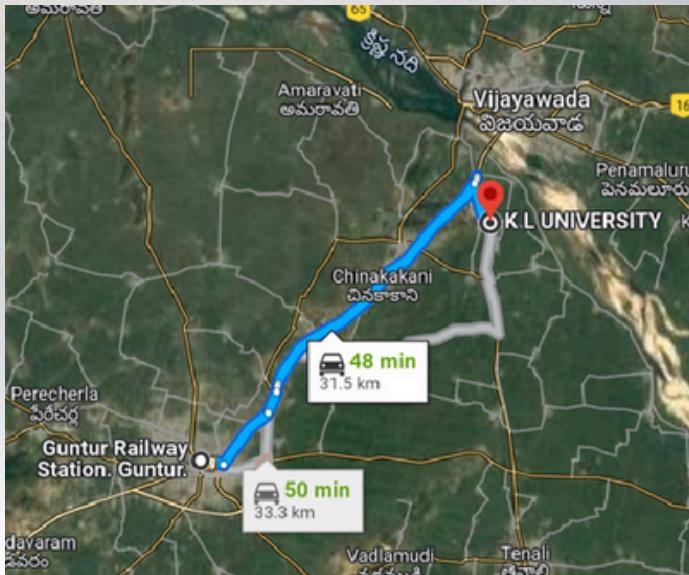
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