



ALLIANCE
UNIVERSITY
Private University established in Karnataka State by Act No.34 of year 2010
Recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi

NAAC
GRADE A+
ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY

ALLIANCE SCHOOL OF LAW INVITES YOU TO

5th JUSTICE N. SANTOSH HEGDE MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2026

February 2026 (Online) | 7th March 2026 (Online) | 27th-28th March 2026 (Offline)





5th JUSTICE N. SANTOSH HEGDE MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2026





LETTER OF INVITATION

Message from the Dean

Greetings from the Alliance School of Law, Alliance University, Bengaluru.

The Alliance Moot Court Society (AMCS) takes great pleasure in extending a formal invitation to your esteemed institution to participate in the 5th Justice N. Santosh Hegde Moot Court Competition, 2026, scheduled to be held on 21 February, 7 March, and 27-28 March 2026.

Law, by its very nature, is dynamic shaped continuously by societal change, constitutional values, and evolving notions of justice. In this context, legal education must transcend the transmission of doctrine and instead cultivate critical inquiry, ethical reasoning, and advocacy of the highest order.

At the Alliance Moot Court Society, we are guided by the conviction that today's law students are tomorrow's custodians of the rule of law. As the legal profession confronts complex global and domestic challenges, it becomes imperative to nurture jurists who combine intellectual rigor with professional excellence.

The Justice N. Santosh Hegde Moot Court Competition is conceived as a rigorous academic exercise aimed at sharpening analytical reasoning, advancing research and written advocacy, and refining oral argumentation before distinguished jurists and scholars. The Competition offers participants a rare platform to test their skills in a challenging, competitive, and intellectually stimulating environment.

We would be honoured by the participation of your institution in this prestigious moot court competition. We are confident that your students will find the experience both academically enriching and professionally transformative, fostering not only individual excellence but also collaborative engagement and team-based advocacy.

We look forward to your institution's participation and to welcoming your students to Alliance University.

With warm regards,

Dr. V. Shyam Kishore Professor & Associate Dean – Academic Affairs Dean,
Alliance School of Law Alliance University, Bengaluru

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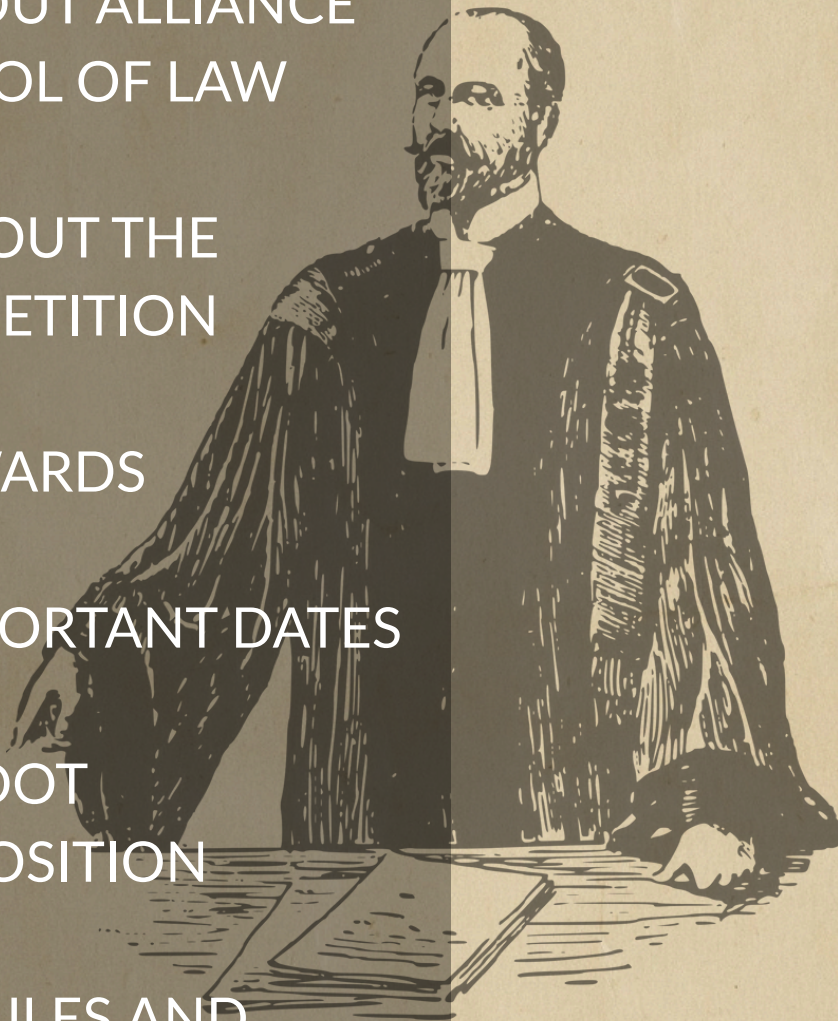
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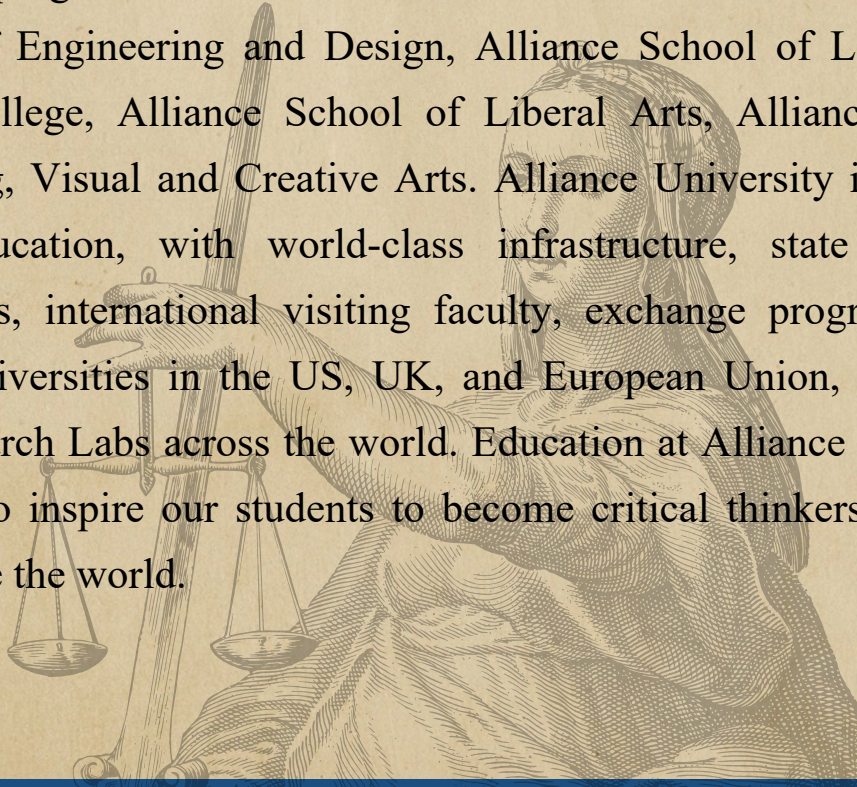
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ABOUT *Alliance University*

Alliance University is a Private University established in Karnataka State by Act No.34 of 2010 and is jointly recognised by the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi, Bar Council of India (BCI) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi. Since its inception in 2010, Alliance University has been a forerunner in higher education, calling out to the new generation of scholars, engineers, scientists, artists, people in business, social reformers, helping to shape and transform societies and communities through and beyond, around the world. Currently, that trailblazing spirit makes Alliance University, one of the most sought-after universities in the world, featuring top-ranked academic programmes such as Alliance School of Business, Alliance College of Engineering and Design, Alliance School of Law, Alliance Ascent College, Alliance School of Liberal Arts, Alliance School of Performing, Visual and Creative Arts. Alliance University is a leader in global education, with world-class infrastructure, state of the art laboratories, international visiting faculty, exchange programmes with leading universities in the US, UK, and European Union, and linkages with Research Labs across the world. Education at Alliance University is designed to inspire our students to become critical thinkers and to lead and change the world.



ABOUT *Alliance School of Law*

Alliance School of Law, approved by the Bar Council of India, offers five-year integrated and three-year undergraduate courses in law, including Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws Honours, B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) and Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Law Honours, B.B.A. LL.B.(Hons.), Bachelor of Law (LL.B.) that have been carefully crafted and designed to prepare its graduates for rewarding careers in various roles and responsibilities in legal service organisations.

The school also offers a full-time , one-year Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree with specializations in IT & Data Protection Law, Corporate Law, Law, Climate Change and Sustainability, Trade and Commerce Laws, Crime and Forensics Law, Human Rights Law and Intellectual Property Law, designed to develop strong research expertise in law and legal principles among its graduates at the postgraduate level.



ABOUT *the Competition*

The 5th Justice N. Santosh Hegde Moot Court Competition, 2026 is a national-level moot court competition that engages law students with contemporary issues in constitutional law, immigration governance and technology-driven administrative decision-making.

The Competition is based on an appellate proposition set before a simulated Supreme Court of Norland, arising from cross-border displacement caused by environmental and political developments in neighbouring States. Teams will address complex questions concerning the applicability of fundamental rights to non-citizens, the scope of executive authority under immigration legislation, the legality of algorithmic classification systems in administrative processes, and the constitutional implications of offshore humanitarian processing arrangements.

The Competition will be conducted in 3 Phases: The Preliminary Researcher's Test, conducted on 21st February 2026, followed by the Online Rounds on 7th March 2026 and the Offline Rounds on 27th-28th March 2026.

It aims to promote rigorous legal analysis, principled constitutional advocacy, and informed engagement with pressing global challenges, while providing participants with a platform to refine their appellate advocacy skills.

Awards

WINNER TEAM: Cash Prize of INR 1,00,000/-
(Indian Rupees One Lakh Only) & a Trophy.

RUNNERS-UP TEAM: Cash Prize of INR 60,000/-
(Indian Rupees Sixty Thousand Only) & a Trophy.

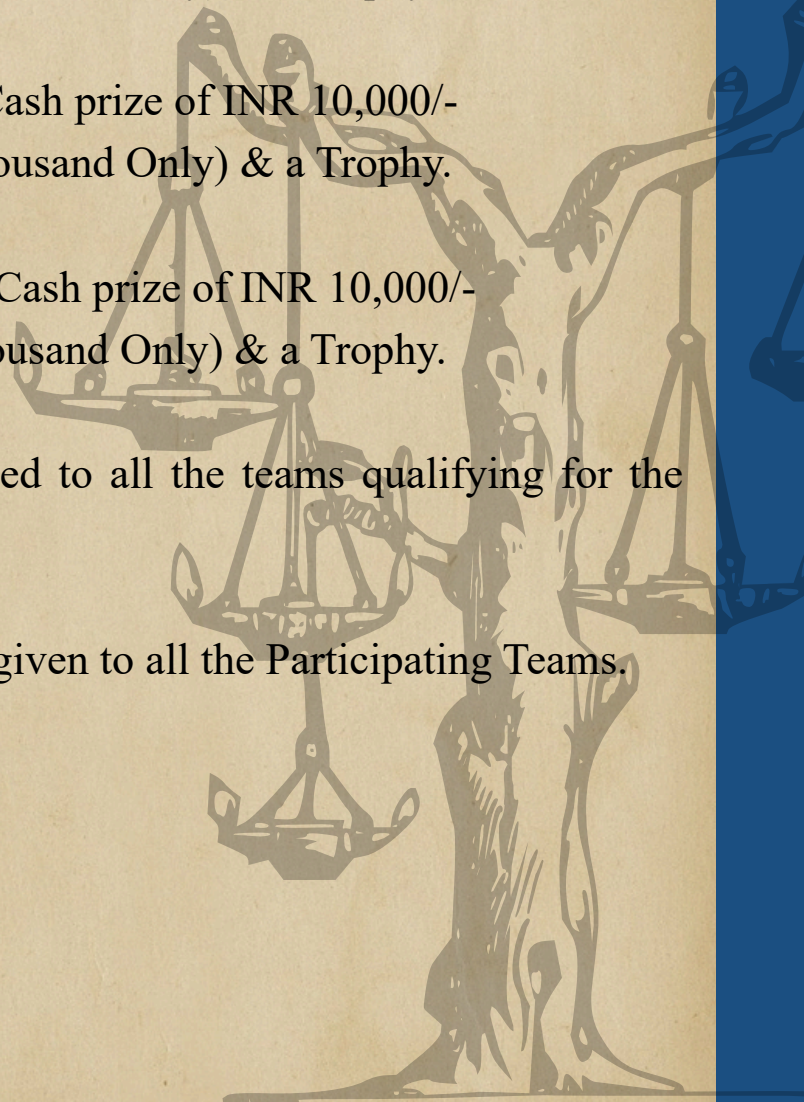
BEST SPEAKER: Cash Prize of INR 10,000/-
(Indian Rupees Ten Thousand Only) & a Trophy.

BEST MEMORIAL: Cash prize of INR 10,000/-
(Indian Rupees Ten Thousand Only) & a Trophy.

BEST RESEARCHER: Cash prize of INR 10,000/-
(Indian Rupees Ten Thousand Only) & a Trophy.

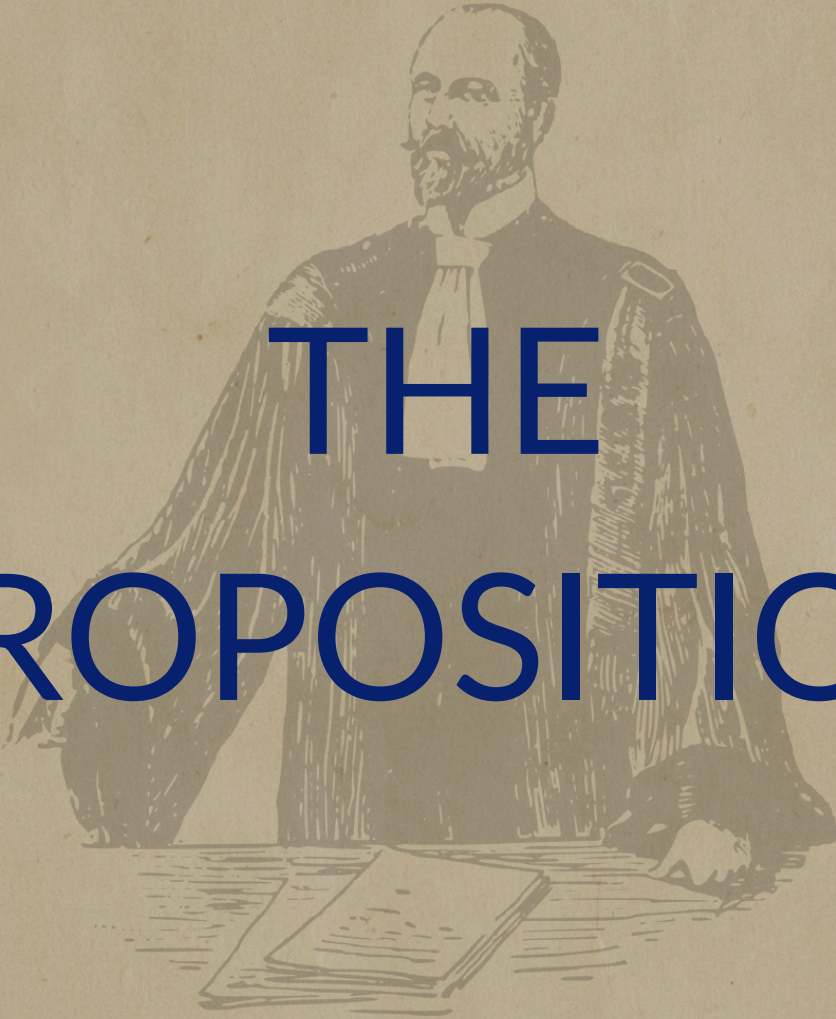
Certificates of Merit shall be awarded to all the teams qualifying for the Quarter-Final Rounds and beyond.

Certificates of Participation shall be given to all the Participating Teams.



Important *Dates*

Last Date of Registration	15th February 2026
Release of Clarifications	20 th February 2026
Preliminary Researcher's Test	21 st February 2026
Memorial Submissions (Soft Copy)	25 th February 2026
Preliminary Rounds (Online)	7 th March 2026
Final Researcher's Test	27 th March 2026
Octa-Final Round	27 th March 2026
Quarter-Final Round	27 th March 2026
Semi-Final Round	28 th March 2026
Final Round	28 th March 2026



THE PROPOSITION

Moot *Proposition*

I. Background and Regional Setting

1. The Republic of Norland is a constitutional democracy with a written Constitution that guarantees a range of justiciable rights. These guarantees extend to citizens and, in many instances, to all persons within its jurisdiction. Norland shares land and maritime borders with Belvaria and Ardonia. All three States have longstanding social, cultural, and economic interactions through regulated and informal cross border movement.

Environmental Developments in Belvaria

2. Belvaria's southern coastal districts have experienced significant environmental change over the past decade. Government reports in Belvaria documented erosion patterns, saline ingress, altered monsoon cycles, and recurrent cyclonic events. Local protective infrastructure deteriorated in several regions. Administrative efforts at internal relocation were undertaken, but the scale of movement outpaced the available institutional capacity.

3. Beginning in late 2025 and continuing through 2026, Norland's border districts recorded increased arrival of Belvarian nationals. Many reported loss of habitable land or livelihoods due to environmental pressures. Some carried personal identification documents issued by Belvarian authorities, though their legal effect in Norland was unclear. Local administrations reported that arrivals often relied on pre existing kinship and employment links in Norland's border areas.

Internal Developments in Ardonia

4. During the same period, parts of Ardonia faced political disturbances. Independent civil society groups recorded episodes of curfews, temporary communication restrictions, and movements of populations from specific districts. A section of these individuals travelled northwards into Norland through hill routes that were not consistently monitored. Norland's district officials acknowledged the presence of Ardonian nationals who arrived without documentation during this period.

Public Discourse and Governmental Position

5. Within Norland, academic commentators, policy institutions, and civil society groups discussed the combined consequences of these developments. Some emphasised humanitarian responsibilities and the need for temporary protection frameworks. Others highlighted administrative, economic, and border management considerations. Norland had not enacted any statutory asylum or temporary protection regime. The Government reiterated that it did not consider itself bound by the 1951 Refugee Convention or the 1967 Protocol.

6. Norland relied on the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, which regulates entry, stay, verification, and removal of non-nationals. The Act authorises the Government to issue guidelines and procedures necessary for its implementation. The Central Government took the stand that it has the power, using executive power to “direct the removal of a foreigner from India for contravention of any of the provisions of this Act”.

II. Administrative Response and Adoption of Technology

7. The Ministry of Home Affairs issued instructions for uniform screening, identity recording, and classification of new arrivals. Officers were directed to follow standardised processes that would ensure consistency across districts.

The VIGIL System

8. To assist officials, the Government introduced a digital system known as VIGIL. According to official circulars, VIGIL processes biometric data and certain demographic and behavioural indicators. It then generates one of three classifications: admissible, requires further verification, and unauthorized presence. The Central Government claimed that the use of VIGIL was to aid its powers and functions, and done under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025.

9. The methodology used by VIGIL is not publicly disclosed. Government communications state that disclosure could compromise data integrity and system security. Officers were instructed to review outputs independently before issuing any order. Reports from district administrations indicated that the

system was frequently used as a primary reference point during classification, especially in high volume circumstances where documentation was limited.

10. Requests for external audits or expert evaluations of VIGIL's accuracy or design were recorded in legislative committee minutes, but no audit had been completed at the time of this litigation.

III. Executive Arrangement with Azuria

11. In March 2026, Norland entered into an executive arrangement with the island State of Azuria. The arrangement established Humanitarian Processing Zones, referred to as HPZs, on the islands of North Ellan and Varo. Before entering into this arrangement, it was placed before Norland's Parliamentary Committee on External Affairs. Committee notes reflect discussion regarding logistics, foreign affairs considerations, and financial implications, but did not witness any specific opposition from any political party.

12. Under the arrangement:

- Azuria would provide land and maintain external perimeter security.
- Norland would administer and operate the internal functioning of the HPZs.
- Norland extended financial support to build infrastructure- ports, roads, highways, etc., as part of the arrangement.
- Norland would fund construction, maintenance, and operational costs of the facilities.
- Persons who did not meet criteria of lawful presence under Norland's domestic law could be relocated to the HPZs pending further decision.

Relocation Process

13. Beginning in April 2026, individuals classified as unauthorised presence were relocated to the HPZs. Prior to relocation, they were housed in Transit Centres within Norland. Transit Centres included temporary accommodation, documentation facilities, and medical booths. Access to the Centres required prior authorisation.

14. Relocation occurred in scheduled groups. Documentation related to relocation included lists prepared by district officials. By December 2026, approximately 400,000 individuals were recorded as having been relocated to the HPZs.

IV. The Humanitarian Processing Zones

15. Each HPZ consisted of modular residential units, ration distribution points, primary-level schooling, and medical units. Residents were issued identification cards that enabled access to services within the HPZs. Movement outside the perimeter required written permission.

16. International organisations were permitted scheduled visits. Their reports noted the availability of basic amenities as well as the absence of a clear procedure for individual review of continued residence. There was no statutory or administrative timeline indicating when relocation would end or what criteria would determine the conclusion of relocation.

17. In July 2027, a cyclone made landfall close to the North Azuria HPZ. The Government of Norland stated that relief operations were initiated and essential utilities restored, and the Government was taking all possible measures to mitigate the damage. However, unofficial reports from civil society agencies and activists show that grave damage and humanitarian crisis occurred marked by loss of life and property. Both the Governments dismissed these reports on the ground that they are biased and baseless.

V. Proceedings Before the Supreme Court

18. In August 2027, the Centre for Human Dignity, a public interest organisation registered in Norland, filed a petition under Article 32 of the Constitution. The petition represented individuals residing in the HPZs and individuals who had received relocation notices.

19. The petition challenged the constitutionality of the relocation process and associated administrative measures. It raised questions concerning the applicability of fundamental rights to individuals relocated outside Norland, the procedural fairness of technology assisted administrative decision making,

the scope of executive authority under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, and the conditions of residence within the HPZs.

VI. Government Response

20. The Government submitted that immigration control falls within areas of sovereign competence and that relocation to the HPZs is consistent with the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025. It stated that the arrangement with Azuria is a lawful instrument of foreign affairs and administrative cooperation and that VIGIL operates as a tool supporting, rather than determining, official decisions. The Government also stated that Norland is not bound by international refugee instruments and maintained that constitutional protections should be understood within the context of lawful entry and regulatory authority.

21. The Supreme Court of Norland admitted the matter hearing.

Issues:

- I. Whether the writ petition is maintainable, having regard to the applicability of fundamental rights to non-citizens relocated to and residing within the Humanitarian Processing Zones situated in the territory of Azuria?
- II. Whether the VIGIL digital classification system established in pursuant to the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 is arbitrary, unreasonable, or excessive?
- III. Whether the relocation of non-citizens to the Humanitarian Processing Zones in Azuria violates the principle of non-refoulement and the guarantee of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution of Norland?



THE *Rulebook*

RULES AND REGULATIONS, 2026

1. SHORT TITLE

- 1.1. The event shall be called “**5th Justice N. Santosh Hegde Moot Court Competition, 2026**” (JNSHMCC).
- 1.2. This document shall be referred to as the “**5th JNSHMCC Rules and Regulations, 2026**”.

2. IMPORTANT TERMS

- 2.1. **Bench:** A “Bench” refers collectively to the Judges in the Oral Pleading Rounds.
- 2.2. **Clarifications:** “Clarifications” refer to the explanations relating to and corrections to the Moot Proposition issued pursuant to Rule 6 stated herein. They shall be treated as part of the Moot Proposition.
- 2.3. **Compendium:** A “Compendium” means a compilation or consolidation of legal or other authorities that a Team seeks to rely upon during the Oral Pleading Rounds.
- 2.4. **Competition:** “Competition” refers to the “**5th Justice N. Santosh Hegde Moot Court Competition, 2026**”.
- 2.5. **Faculty In-Charge:** The faculty member appointed by the Dean of the Alliance School of Law to oversee the functioning of the Alliance Moot Court Society and the conduct of the Justice N. Santosh Hegde Moot Court Competition.
- 2.6. **Identity:** “Identity” means any fact pertaining to the recognition of:
- a) a Team, its individual members, or the Institution/College/University represented by the Team;
 - b) the state or region where such Institution/College/University is located; and,
 - c) includes any identification marks/seal of the Team or the Institution/College/University represented thereof.
- 2.7. **Judge:** A “Judge” refers to the individual adjudicators appointed for the evaluation of the participating teams’ performance during the Oral Pleading Rounds.

2.8. **Members:** “Members” refer to the Faculty Members and Student Members of the Alliance Moot Court Society (AMCS).

2.9. **Memorial:** A “Memorial” refers to the memorandum of written submissions, which shall be submitted by the participating teams according to this Rulebook.

2.10. **Memorial Score:** “Memorial Score” refers to the score determined in accordance with Rule 9 herein.

2.11. **Moot Proposition:** A “Moot Proposition” refers to the hypothetical set of facts released by the Organizers and shall include any subsequent clarification(s) as and when released by the Organizing Committee.

2.12. **Oral Score:** “Oral Score” refers to the scores given by a judge to a particular speaker of each participating team pleading before the Bench during the Oral Pleading Rounds.

2.13. **Oral Pleading Rounds:** “Oral Pleading Rounds” refers to the oral pleadings before a Panel as explained in Rule 13 herein.

2.14. **Organizing Committee:** “Organizing Committee” or “OC” is the Alliance Moot Court Society (AMCS), including any other authorized persons, appointed for the administration and conduct of the Competition and of all events leading to the Competition.

2.15 **Participating Team:** A “Participating Team” refers to a group of 2 or 3 participants who are eligible to participate in the Competition after completion of the registration procedure.

2.16. **Penalties:** “Penalties” refer to the marks which shall be deducted in case of violation of the Rules and Regulations of the Competition.

2.17. **Petitioner:** A “Petitioner” shall include Appellant, Plaintiff, Complainant, Prosecution, Informant, etc.

2.18. **Researcher:** A “Researcher” refers to a member of a Participating Team designated by the team as a Researcher.

2.19. **Respondent:** “Respondent” shall include Defendant, Respondent, Defence, etc.

2.20. **Rebuttals:** “Rebuttals” refer to the set of arguments/challenges that the Petitioner/Appellant/Prosecutor shall raise at the end of the arguments advanced by all the Speakers, where no attempts can be made to introduce new arguments.

2.21. **Speaker:** “Speaker” refers to the two members of a participating team who shall be arguing in the Oral Pleading Rounds.

2.22. **Student Members:** “Student Members” refer to the students at the Alliance School of Law who have been associated with the Competition in any capacity.

2.23. **Sur-Rebuttals:** “Sur-Rebuttals” refer to the defence presented by the Respondent in response to the Rebuttals.

2.24. **Team:** A “Team” refers to the registered representatives of any College/Institution/University participating in the Competition and shall include only those members as specified in Rule 3.6 herein.

2.25. **Team Code:** “Team Code” refers to an anonymous identifier code allotted to each Participating Team for the purposes of identification throughout this Competition.

2.26. **Written Submission:** “Written Submissions” refer to the arguments submitted by any Team in written format as per Rule 7 herein.

3. ABOUT THE COMPETITION

3.1. **AMCS:** The Alliance Moot Court Society shall have the responsibility of organizing the competition. They shall be releasing the schedule of the event, moot proposition, guidelines and other allied notifications while looking after all the relevant matters pertaining to the event.

3.2. **Competition Format:** The 5th Justice N. Santosh Hegde Moot Court Competition, 2026, shall consist of the following rounds:

a) Preliminary Researcher’s Test conducted online on **21st February 2026**, where the Researchers from all Participating Teams are required to answer 30 (thirty) objective-

type questions carrying 1 mark each.

b) The Preliminary Rounds shall be conducted online on **7th March 2026**, where all Participating Teams are required to compete in two Oral Pleading Rounds as per Rule 14.1. The Top 16 Teams from this Round would qualify for the further rounds.

c) The Octa-Final Round, Quarter-Final Round, Semi-Final Round and the Final Round shall be conducted offline on **27th March 2026** and **28th March 2026**, at the Alliance University Central Campus. All these rounds shall be elimination rounds.

3.3. Language: The official language of the competition shall be **English**.

3.4. Interpretation: The organizers of the event will have the final authority to interpret the Rules and Regulations.

3.5. Eligibility: Students enrolled in a 5-year Integrated program or a 3-year LLB program are eligible to participate in this competition. Only **1 Team** per institution/campus shall be permitted to participate in this Competition. Teams must consist exclusively of students from a single educational institution. Cross-institutional collaborations are strictly prohibited.

3.6. Team Composition: Each Participating Team shall constitute 2-3 members. In a team consisting of two members, both members shall be default Speakers, while one shall also be designated as a Researcher. Whereas, in a team of three members, two members shall be designated as Speakers and the third as the Researcher.

Once registered, the team shall not be permitted to modify the team composition, except with the express permission of the OC.

3.7. Dress Code: The Participants, particularly for the Inauguration, Oral Pleading Rounds and Valedictory & Prize Distribution, are to adhere to the following dress code only:

a) **Gentlemen:** Black trousers, White shirt, Plain Black Blazer, Black Tie,

b) **Ladies:** Black trousers, White Shirt, White Kurta and Black Churidar pants, Plain Black Blazer

4. REGISTRATION

4.1. Interested teams must register themselves for the Competition on or before **15th February 2026** (before 11:59 PM IST) through the Google Form, the link to which is provided below:

<https://forms.gle/HFQRsgfiEcsZ8kJh6>

In case of incomplete registrations, the team's application shall be rejected automatically.

4.2. Each Team is required to upload a bona fide letter issued by the appropriate authority, along with the seal of their College/Institution/University attached to the duly filled Registration Form.

4.3. Registration Fee is **Rs. 3000/- per team**, which shall be paid through the payment link provided on the official website of the JNSHMCC 2026 Competition on/before **15th February 2026**.

5. ALLOTMENT OF TEAM CODES

5.1. **Team Codes:** Each Participating Team which has successfully completed the Registration requirements under Rule 4 shall be allotted a unique Team Code, which must be used for any further communication(s) with the Organizers during the entire course of the Competition.

6. CLARIFICATIONS TO THE MOOT PROPOSITION

6.1. In case of any clarification(s) regarding the Moot Proposition, a Participating Team may fill the MS Form as shared by the Organising Committee on or before **18th February 2026** (11:59 PM IST).

6.2. Such submissions shall be made through the link provided below:

<https://forms.gle/bCHU6W4WieHWAmqo9>

6.3. The Clarifications to the Moot Proposition will be released on a rolling basis via a Live Tracker on the Competition's website. No clarifications shall be updated on the tracker beyond **20th February 2026**.

7. MEMORIAL SUBMISSION

7.1. Each Participating Team shall prepare two memorials, one on behalf of the Petitioner and the other on behalf of the Respondent.

7.2. The submission of the aforementioned Memorials shall be made as a soft copy (in MS Word .doc/.docx and pdf format) for evaluation on or before **25th February 2026** (06:00 PM IST). Such submission shall be made with concurrence of all members of the Participating Team.

7.3. Each team shall be permitted to submit the Memorial **ONLY ONCE** using the official link.

7.4. Memorials submitted beyond the deadline shall attract penalties, and any submission beyond **28th February 2026** shall not be accepted.

7.5. Any re-submission after the deadline shall be made via email to the mootcourt@law.alliance.edu.in, and shall attract a penalty of 15 marks, per resubmission per side.

7.6. Such submission shall be made through the link provided below:

<https://forms.gle/yNDUQvzL8S8LR5958>

No submission made via email shall be accepted by the Organizing Committee.

7.7. The file names of the Memorial Submissions shall only contain the Team Code and the side they pertain to in the following format:

e.g. (for Team Code 01) 01P or 01R, 'P' being for 'Petitioner' memorial and 'R' for 'Respondent' memorial, and so forth.

7.8. Each Team qualified for the Octa-Final Rounds must submit three hard copies of their Written Submissions per side, via registered post to the address provided at the end of this Rulebook, on or before **18th March, 2026**.

7.9. The hard copies submitted by the Participating Team must be exactly the same as the Submissions made under Rule

7.10. Any violation of this rule shall attract a penalty or disqualification as determined by the Organising Committee.

8. FORMAT OF THE MEMORIAL

8.1. The Memorial shall be drafted only on A4-size paper.

8.2. Memorial Content: The Memorial should contain the following sections:

a) Cover Page for Petitioner and Respondent should be coloured differently, “BLUE” Cover for Petitioner and “RED” Cover for Respondent.

b) Table of Contents,

c) Index of Authorities,

d) Statement of Jurisdiction,

e) Statement of Facts (not exceeding two pages),

f) Statement of Issues,

g) Summary of Arguments (not exceeding two pages),

h) Arguments Advanced (not exceeding twenty-five pages),

i) Prayer (not exceeding one page),

8.3. Sub-Issues are allowed but creation of new issues is not allowed.

8.4. No memorial shall exceed the maximum limit of **40 pages**, including the Arguments Advanced and Cover Page.

8.5. Each memorial shall have the following on its cover page:

a) The full cause title,

b) The Team Code on the upper right-hand corner of the cover page,

c) The name and place of the forum resolving the dispute,

d) The relevant legal provision under which it is filed,

e) Names of parties and their status

f) Memorial submitted on behalf of <SIDE>.

8.6. **Other Important Rules:** Teams shall cite authorities in the memorial using standard footnoting format.

8.7. The Memorial Submissions shall not contain any annexure, photograph, diagrams, or other representation of like nature.

8.8. The Memorial Submissions shall adhere to the following mandatory specifications:

- a) Font: Times New Roman
- b) Font Size: 12
- c) Line Spacing: 1.5
- d) Margins: 1 inch on each side.
- e) Body of text: Justified

For footnotes, the formatting specifications are:

- a. Font type: Times New Roman
- b. Font size: 10
- c. Line spacing: 1.0
- d. No additional space between 2 footnotes
- e. Body of text: Justified

8.9. Plagiarism shall not exceed more than 15% of the overall content of the memorial.

AI-generated content in the Memorial Submissions may result in the imposition of a penalty or disqualification from the Competition.

9. MEMORIAL EVALUATION

9.1. The memorials shall be evaluated on the following criteria:

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Maximum Marks</u>
1	Identification and Articulation of Issues and Jurisdiction	15
2	Knowledge of Law and Depth of Research	15
3	Interpretation and Application of Law of the Facts	15

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Maximum Marks</u>
4	Authoritativeness and Persuasiveness	10
5	Organisation of Arguments	10
6	Clarity of Thought	10
7	Originality and Innovation	10
8	Grammar and Presentation Style	10
9	Relief Sought	5
	TOTAL	100

9.2. The total marks for the Memorial Submissions shall be calculated by deducting penalties imposed, if any, in accordance with Rule 10 herein, from the total marks obtained by the team under this Rule.

10. MEMORIAL PENALTIES

10.1. Any Memorial Submission(s) violating any of the specifications enumerated in Rules 7 to 9 of the Rulebook shall be penalized according to the scheme provided below:

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Summary of Penalty</u>	<u>Marks Deduction</u>
1	Delay in Submission of Memorial (Soft Copy)	10 Marks per copy per additional day

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Summary of Penalty</u>	<u>Marks Deduction</u>
2	Re-submission of Memorial (Soft Copy)	15 Marks per Submission per side
3	Failure to Adhere to the Formatting Guidelines	10 Marks
4	Failure to Adhere to the Plagiarism Guidelines as per Rule 8.8	Disqualification/20 Marks per side
5	Violation of Anonymity	5 Marks

11. EXCHANGE OF MEMORIAL SUBMISSIONS

11.1. For the Preliminary Rounds, the teams shall receive the Memorials of the opposite Participating Team via email. Such email shall be sent to the Email-IDs of Speaker 1 from each Participating Team, as submitted through the Registration Form.

11.2. Exchange of Memorials shall take place prior to the Oral Pleading Rounds.

Provided that during the Offline Rounds, the Memorial Submissions of the opposite Participating Team shall be returned to the Court Clerks on the completion of each Round.

11.3. All Participating Teams are prohibited from making any indications on their opponents' Memorials, thus exchanged. The Teams are also prohibited from making any copies of the opponent's Memorials, electronically or otherwise. Violation of this rule shall result in immediate disqualification.

12. RESEARCHER'S TEST

12.1. The Researcher's Test shall be conducted in 2 phases: Preliminary and Final.

12.2. The Preliminary Researcher's Test shall be conducted on **21st February 2026**, in online mode.

12.3. The member designated as Researcher in each Participating Team shall appear for the test.

12.4. The duration of the Preliminary Researcher's Test shall be 30 minutes. The test shall consist of 30 (thirty) objective-type questions carrying 1 mark each.

12.5. The designated Researchers of each Participating Team qualifying to the Offline Rounds shall be eligible to attempt the Final Researcher's Test.

12.6. The Final Researcher's Test shall be conducted on **27th March 2026**, in pen-and-paper mode.

12.7. The duration of the Final Researcher's Test shall be 30 minutes. The test shall consist of 30 (thirty) objective-type questions carrying 4 marks each, with 1 mark deducted for each incorrect answer.

12.8. The Best Researcher shall be determined on the basis of the cumulative scores in both the Researcher's Tests.

13. ORAL PLEADING ROUNDS

13.1. The Moot Court Competition shall comprise the following 4 rounds:

- a. Preliminary Rounds – Conducted Online
- b. Octa-Final Round – Day 1
- c. Quarter-Final Round – Day 1
- d. Semi-Final Round – Day 2
- e. Final Round – Day 2

13.2. The Preliminary Rounds of the Competition shall be hosted online via Zoom Meeting or Google Meet or Teams, which shall take place on **7th March 2026**.

13.3. Teams shall submit their Oral Pleading throughout the Competition in the following order:

- a. Speaker 1/Orator 1 for Petitioner
- b. Speaker 2/Orator 2 for Petitioner
- c. Speaker 1/Orator 1 for Respondent
- d. Speaker 2/Orator 2 for Respondent
- e. Rebuttal by the Petitioner
- f. Sur-Rebuttal by the Respondent

13.4. The Rebuttals or Sur-rebuttals, as the case may be, shall be presented by only one Speaker of each Participating Team.

13.5. The Rebuttals of the Petitioner shall be limited to responding to Arguments Advanced by the Respondent. The Sur-rebuttals of the Respondent shall be limited to responding to the Rebuttals made by the Petitioner.

13.6. Rebuttals and Sur-Rebuttals shall be permitted only at the discretion of the Bench.

13.7. The Researcher may pass research material, other written materials or notes to their respective teams' Speaker who may be speaking, in a discreet manner. Such passing shall only be permitted if made through the Court Clerk.

13.8. Before the Oral Pleading Round of a Team begins, the Speakers of the Team shall inform the Court Clerk regarding the following, after which this information shall not be amended:

- a. Order of speaking of the Speakers.
- b. Time reserved by each speaker for Oral Pleadings, as well as for Rebuttals or Sur-rebuttals, as the case may be, in accordance with Rule 12.

13.9. Extensions of time may be granted only in extraordinary circumstances at the discretion of the Bench and are strongly discouraged.

13.10. In case any opponent Team fails to appear in an Oral Pleading Round, the round shall proceed ex parte.

13.11. Any Compendium that a Team seeks to rely on shall be submitted to the Court Clerk prior to any Oral Pleading Session. Such a Compendium must contain a cover page specifying the Team Code only. Further, the Compendium must contain a Cover Page in WHITE stating the side it represents. The court clerk shall provide such Compendium to the Bench.

13.12. The Team seeking to present a Compendium during the Preliminary Rounds, shall inform the Court Clerk before the commencement of the Rounds.

Subsequently, the Court Clerk shall grant the Researcher presenter's rights so as to assist their respective team's Speakers with presenting the Compendium.

13.13. Submission of Compendium is not mandatory and is the choice of the Participating Teams seeking to make such submission.

13.14. Any further legal or technical authorities not included in the Compendium may be passed only at the discretion of the Bench, provided that such authorities were submitted to the court clerk prior to the Oral Pleading Round for verification of compliance with Rule 5 herein.

13.15. Teams are not permitted to make such contentions in the Oral Pleading Rounds that have not been made in the Memorial Submissions, except with the express permission of the Bench.

13.16. The use of mobile phones, laptops, or any other electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited during the Oral Pleading Rounds, except to the extent necessary to participate in Preliminary Oral Pleading Rounds.

13.17. Participants may use their own bare acts, printouts and commentaries, provided that anonymity is not violated during the Rounds.

13.18. Any Team which violates any of the Rules with respect to the Oral Pleading Rounds may be penalized. The decision of the Bench in concurrence with the Faculty in Charge shall be final in this regard.

13.19. The decision of the Judges as to the marks allotted to each team shall be final and binding.

14. STRUCTURE OF ORAL ROUNDS

14.1. Preliminary Round(s):

14.1.1. Every team shall argue twice in the Preliminary Round(s), once for the Petitioner and once for the Respondent.

14.1.2. No two teams shall face each other more than once in the Preliminary Rounds.

14.1.3. The timings and fixtures of teams in the Preliminary Rounds shall be determined on the basis of a draw of lots. The same shall be intimated to the Participating Teams via email on the Email-IDs of Speaker 1 from each such Team, on **6th March 2026**.

14.1.4. Each side shall get a maximum time of **15 minutes** to present their arguments. This time is inclusive of the time reserved for Rebuttals or Sur-Rebuttals, as the case may be.

14.1.5. The maximum permitted time for Rebuttals or Sur-Rebuttals, as the case may be, is restricted to 2 minutes each side.

14.1.6. No Speaker shall be permitted to address the Bench for more than 10 minutes, and each speaker is required to speak for a minimum of 5 minutes exclusive of time taken for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals.

14.1.7. The teams must adhere to the joining time, and in case of failure, the team may be disqualified. Following this, if a team is not present, no additional time will be granted by the Organising Committee. The other team present at the round will be heard ex- parte.

14.1.8. All Teams must keep their cameras switched on throughout the course of the rounds and shall remain muted unless it is their turn to speak. During the entire duration of the rounds, the participants are requested to ensure that they are within the camera's view and maintain an adequate distance from the desktop/ laptop used for this purpose.

(No Mobile Phones are Allowed)

14.2. Scoring in the Preliminary Round(s):

14.2.1. The scores of all Participating Teams for the Preliminary Rounds shall be determined as a cumulative total of the Memorial Evaluation criteria under Rule 9 and the Oral Pleadings Evaluation criteria under Rule 15 herein, for each Speaker.

14.2.2. The Preliminary Rounds shall not be conducted on a knockout basis.

14.3.3. The Top 16 Teams shall be ranked as per the following scheme:

- a. Firstly, on the basis of the aggregate points obtained from the two Oral Pleading Rounds and the cumulative Memorial Score.
- b. In the event of a tie in the aggregate scores of a team for this round, the ranks shall be determined on the basis of the team's cumulative Oral Pleading Score. The team securing the higher cumulative Oral Pleading Score shall be awarded the higher rank.

If the tie persists, the higher rank shall be awarded to the team whose speakers have secured higher aggregate scores under Criteria 2, 5, and 8 of Rule 15.1 across both Oral Pleading Rounds.

14.3. Octa-Final Round:

14.3.1. The sixteen (16) teams that proceed to the Octa-Final Round, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted through a draw of lots on the basis of which the fixtures for the Octa-Final Round shall be determined. The draw of lots shall take place on **27th March 2026**.

14.3.2. Each side shall get a maximum time of **25 minutes** to present their arguments. This time is inclusive of the time reserved for Rebuttals or Sur-Rebuttals, as the case may be.

14.3.3. The maximum permitted time for Rebuttals or Sur-Rebuttals, as the case may be, shall be restricted to 3 minutes each side.

14.3.4. Each Speaker shall address the Bench for a minimum of 10 minutes and for not more than 15 minutes, exclusive of the time reserved for Rebuttals or Sur-Rebuttals.

14.4.5. The Top Eight (8) Teams shall qualify for the Quarter-Final Round on a knock-out basis, i.e., the winner of each Octa-Final Round shall qualify for the Quarter-Final Round. The knockouts will be based on the scores awarded as per the evaluation criteria laid down in Rule 15 only.

14.5.6. If there is a tie, the team whose speakers have secured higher aggregate scores under Criteria 2, 5, and 8 of Rule 15.1 shall be declared the qualifying team.

14.5.7. If the tie persists, then the team whose speakers have secured higher aggregate scores under Criteria 2 of Rule 15.1 shall be declared the qualifying team.

14.4. Quarter-Final Round:

14.4.1. The eight (8) teams that proceed to the Quarter-Final Round, as determined by the above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots, on the basis of which the fixtures for the Quarter-Final Round shall be determined. The draw of lots shall take place on **27th March 2026**.

14.4.2. Each side shall get a maximum time of **25 minutes** to present their arguments. This time is inclusive of the time reserved for Rebuttals or Sur-Rebuttals, as the case may be.

14.4.3. The maximum permitted time for Rebuttals or Sur-Rebuttals, as the case may be, shall be restricted to 5 minutes each side.

14.4.4. Each Speaker shall address the Bench for a minimum of 10 minutes and for not more than 15 minutes, exclusive of the time reserved for Rebuttals or Sur-Rebuttals.

14.4.5. The Top Four (4) Teams shall qualify for the Semi-Final Round on a knock-out basis, i.e, the winner of each Quarter-Final Round shall qualify for the Semi-Final Round. The knockout will be based on the scores awarded as per the evaluation criteria laid down in Rule 15 only.

14.4.6. If there is a tie, the team whose speakers have secured higher aggregate scores under Criteria 2, 5, and 8 of Rule 15.1 shall be declared the qualifying team.

14.4.7. If the tie persists, then the team whose speakers have secured higher aggregate scores under Criteria 2 of Rule 15.1 shall be declared the qualifying team.

14.5. Semi-Final Round:

14.5.1. The four (4) teams that proceed to the Semi-Final Round, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots, on the basis of which the fixtures for the Semi-Final Round shall be determined. The draw of lots shall take place on **28th March 2026**.

14.5.2. Each side shall get a maximum time of **25 minutes** to present their arguments. This time is inclusive of the time reserved for Rebuttals or Sur-Rebuttals, as the case may be.

14.5.3. The maximum permitted time for Rebuttals or Sur-Rebuttals, as the case may be, shall be restricted to 5 minutes each side.

14.5.4. Each Speaker shall address the Bench for a minimum of 12 minutes and for not more than 18 minutes, exclusive of the time reserved for Rebuttals or Sur-Rebuttals.

14.5.5. The Top Two (2) Teams shall qualify for the Final Round on a knock-out basis, i.e, the winner of each Semi-Final Round shall qualify to the Final Round. The knockout

will be based on the scores awarded as per the evaluation criteria laid down in Rule 15 only.

14.5.6. If there is a tie, the team whose speakers have secured higher aggregate scores under Criteria 2, 5, and 8 of Rule 15.1 shall be declared the qualifying team.

14.5.7. If the tie persists, then the team whose speakers have secured higher aggregate scores under Criteria 2 of Rule 15.1 shall be declared the qualifying team.

14.6. Final-Round:

14.6.1. The two (2) teams that proceed to the Final Round, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots, on the basis of which the fixtures for the Final Round shall be determined. The draw of lots shall take place on 28th March 2026.

14.6.2. Each side shall get a maximum time of **30 minutes** to present their arguments. This time is inclusive of the time reserved for Rebuttals or Sur-Rebuttals, as the case may be.

14.6.3. The maximum permitted time for Rebuttals or Sur-Rebuttals, as the case may be, shall be restricted to 6 minutes each side.

14.6.4. Each Speaker shall address the Bench for a minimum of 06 minutes and for not more than 14 minutes, exclusive of the time reserved for Rebuttals or Sur-Rebuttals.

14.6.5. The team that wins the Final Round shall be declared the “Winner Team”, while the other shall be declared the “Runners-Up Team”. Such determination shall be made on the basis of the scores awarded as per the evaluation criteria laid down in Rule 15 only.

14.6.6. If there is a tie, the team whose speakers have secured higher aggregate scores under Criteria 2, 5, and 8 of Rule 15.1 shall be declared the Winner Team.

14.6.7. If the tie persists, then the team whose speakers have secured higher aggregate scores under Criteria 2 of Rule 15.1 shall be declared the Winner Team.

14.6.8. The Bench strength for the Final Round shall be an odd number but not one (1).

15. ORAL PLEADINGS EVALUATION

15.1. The following shall be the evaluation criteria as per which each Speaker shall be marked out of 100 marks for their Oral Pleadings.

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Maximun Marks</u>
1	Appreciation and application of Facts	15
2	Interpretation and Application of Law	15
3	Organisation and Flow of Arguments	15
4	Use of Authorities and Reference to Memorials	10
5	Knowledge of Law and Facts	10
6	Clarity of Thought and Expression	10
7	Ingenuity and Ability to Answer Questions	10
8	Argumnetative Skills, Creativity and Innovation	10
9	Style, Poise, Demeanour and Court Mannerism	05
	TOTAL	100

15.2. The total marks for the Oral Pleadings shall be calculated by deducting the marks for penalties, if any, in accordance with Rule 16 of this Rulebook, from the total marks obtained by the Team under Rule 15 herein.

16. ORAL PLEADINGS PENALTIES

16.1. Each Participant is liable to have penalties imposed on the basis of the following criteria:

Sl. No.	Summary of Penalty	Marks Deducted
1.	Improper Courtroom Communication	3 Marks - Each Instance
2.	Scouting	10 Marks – Each Instance or Disqualification (in case of multiple instances)
3.	Violation of Anonymity	5 marks – Each Instance

17. AWARDS

17.1. **Winner Team:** The Team winning the Final Round of the Competition shall be given a trophy and a cash prize of INR 1,00,000/- (Indian Rupees One Lakh Only).

17.2. **Runners-Up Team:** The Runners-Up Team in the Final Round of the Competition shall be given a trophy and a cash prize of INR 60,000/- (Indian Rupees Sixty Thousand Only).

17.3. **Best Speaker:** The Speaker having the highest cumulative Oral Score in the Preliminary Rounds and the Octa-Final Round shall be given a trophy and a cash prize

17.4. **Best Memorial:** The team securing the highest cumulative Memorial Score from both the Petitioner and Respondent sides shall be given a trophy and a cash prize of INR 10,000/- (Indian Rupees Ten Thousand Only).

17.5. **Best Researcher:** The Researcher having the highest cumulative Researcher Score in the Preliminary Researcher's Test and Final Researcher's Test shall be given a trophy and a cash prize of INR 10,000/- (Indian Rupees Ten Thousand Only).

17.6. Certificates of Participation shall be given to all the Participating Teams.

17.7. Certificates of Merit shall be awarded to all the teams qualifying for the Quarter-Final Rounds and beyond.

17.8. The awards and certificates of merit shall be given **only** during the Valedictory Ceremony to be conducted on **28th March 2026**, and all qualifying teams shall be present in the Valedictory Ceremony.

18. MISCELLANEOUS

18.1. The Organising Committee reserves the right to amend, modify, change, or repeal any of this Rulebook, which shall be duly communicated to the Participating Teams.

18.2. The Organising Committee reserves the right to make decisions on any matter not mentioned in this Rulebook. Any such decision taken by the Organising Committee shall be final and binding.

18.3. In case any Participating Team believes that the Rules have been violated at any stage of the Competition, the Team shall, **within 15 minutes** after the completion of the round in which the alleged violation has occurred, register a complaint with the designated Student Coordinator of the Competition.

18.4 Team(s) shall approach the Bench with any complaints under any circumstances whatsoever.

18.5. If any member of a team is notified or informed of any detail or information concerning the Competition, it shall be deemed as if the said team as a whole has been duly notified or informed.

18.6. **Travel Details:** The 16 teams that qualify for the Octa-Final Round will be required to inform the Organising Committee of their travel plan by filling out the Travel Form through the Google Form link that will be circulated post the Preliminary Rounds. The same shall be done by **15th March 2026**. Any changes in the given plan should be intimated to the organisers well in advance.

18.7. Participants shall be provided to University-managed and approved accommodation.

19. IMPORTANT DATES:

Sl. No.	Events	Dates
1.	Last Date of Registration	15 th February 2026
2.	Last Date for Seeking Clarifications	18 th February 2026
3.	Release of Clarifications	20 th February 2026
4.	Preliminary Researcher's Test	21 st February 2026
5.	Deadline for Submission of Soft Copy of Memorials	25 th February 2026

Sr. No.	Events	Dates
6	Preliminary Rounds	7 th March 2026
7	Last Date to Share the Travel Details	15 th March 2026
8	Deadline for Submission of Hard Copy of Memorials	18 th March, 2026
9	Opening Ceremony & Orientation	27 th March 2026
10.	Final Researcher's Test	27 th March 2026
11.	Octa-Final Round	27 th March 2026
12	Quarter-Final Round	27 th March 2026
13	Semi-Final Round	27 th March 2026
14	Final Round	28 th March 2026
15	Valedictory Ceremony & Prize Distribution	28 th March 2026

Contact *Details*



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5 JUSTICE N. SANTOSH HEGDE MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2026

February 2026 (Online) | 7th March 2026 (Online) | 27th-28th March 2026 (Offline)