



**RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW, PUNJAB**

PRESENTS

**14TH  
NATIONAL  
MOOT COURT  
COMPETITION  
2026**

*organised by*

**RGNUL MOOT COURT COMMITTEE  
&  
CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN  
CRIMINAL LAW**

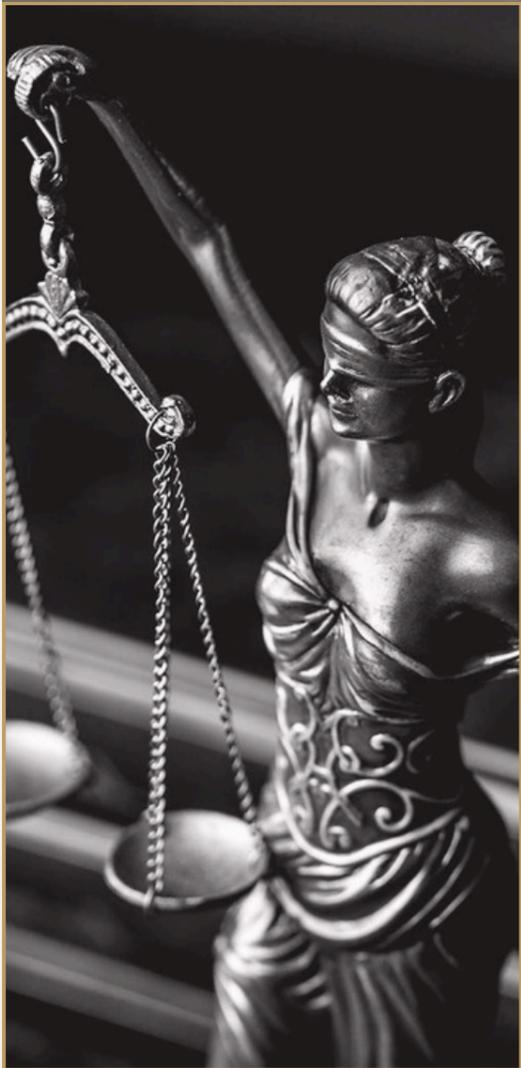
**Dates:**

**Online Rounds : 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2026**

**Advanced Rounds : 17<sup>th</sup> April & 18<sup>th</sup>**

**April, 2026**

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# ABOUT RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW

Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), Punjab, stands among India's foremost institutions for legal education and is widely recognized for its strong tradition of mooting and advocacy. Over the years, the University has cultivated a vibrant culture of oral advocacy and rigorous legal research, enabling students to develop practical skills alongside academic excellence. This emphasis on experiential learning has translated into consistent achievements at both national and international moot court competitions, establishing RGNUL as a prominent presence in global mooting circuits.

On the international stage, RGNUL has repeatedly distinguished itself by competing successfully against leading law schools from across the world. The University is among the select few Indian institutions to have secured victory at the prestigious **Monroe E. Price Media Law Moot Court Competition**. RGNUL has also achieved remarkable success at the **Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition**, where its teams have earned major international memorial awards and secured top national rankings. These accomplishments reflect the University's strong foundation in public international law and written advocacy.

RGNUL's mooters have consistently progressed to advanced stages of several prominent international competitions. The University has qualified for global rounds of the **Frankfurt Investment Arbitration Moot Court** and reached the semi-final stage at the **Ian Fletcher International Insolvency Law Moot**. RGNUL has also reached advanced knockout rounds at the **Willem C. Vis East International Commercial Arbitration Moot**, one of the largest arbitration moots in the world. In addition, RGNUL teams have earned recognition and speaker awards

at numerous international competitions, demonstrating consistent excellence in advocacy and research.

At the national level, RGNUL has built a distinguished record marked by repeated victories and podium finishes in some of India's most competitive moot court tournaments. The University has secured championship titles at prestigious competitions such as the **NUJS Herbert Smith Freehills Corporate Law Moot Court Competition** and the **National Law School Trilegal Arbitration Moot**. In addition, RGNUL teams have achieved several runner-up positions and advanced-stage finishes across major national moots, further strengthening the University's reputation for advocacy excellence.

Beyond individual awards and victories, RGNUL's success in mooting reflects a sustained institutional commitment to advocacy-based learning. The University provides a supportive academic environment that encourages students to refine their analytical abilities, research skills, and courtroom advocacy. Faculty mentorship, structured training, and a collaborative mooting culture have played a crucial role in preparing students to compete at the highest levels.

Year after year, RGNUL students continue to represent the University with distinction, demonstrating intellectual depth, professionalism, and advocacy skills on national and international platforms. These collective achievements not only highlight the University's leadership in mooting but also reinforce its reputation as a respected institution for legal education in India and beyond.



# ABOUT RGNUL MOOT COURT COMMITTEE

The RGNUL Moot Court Committee is a student-driven body responsible for promoting the culture of mooting within the University. The RMCC is a complete reflection of our university's motto, which is 'Knowledge Empowers'.

Its primary functions include organising and hosting prestigious moot court competitions, allocating external moot competitions to interested students, and maintaining records of the University's achievements in various national and international moot court events. Furthermore, RMCC plays a vital role in mentoring and guiding students through the intricacies of mooting, ranging from research and drafting to oral advocacy, thereby fostering a strong foundation for legal reasoning, courtroom etiquette, and professional excellence.

Over the years, the RMCC has successfully organised a wide range of prestigious moot court competitions that have attracted participation from premier law schools across the country. The RGNUL National Moot Court Competition, the University's flagship event, has been conducted annually since 2011. Each edition focuses on a different area of law, ranging from constitutional and criminal law to competition and intellectual property law, and has been adjudicated by eminent judges, academicians, and legal professionals.

In collaboration with Surana & Surana International Attorneys, the Committee also organised the Surana

& Surana and RGNUL International Law Moot Court Competition, which provides a platform for students to explore complex issues of public international law, human rights, and global governance. Apart from these, the Committee has hosted several other noteworthy competitions, such as the National Animal Law Moot Court Competition, 2016, India's first moot dedicated to animal law, and the AIU National Moot Court Competition, 2020, held in association with the Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi.

Beyond mooting, the RMCC also strives to cultivate judicial reasoning and writing skills among students. The Intra Judgment Writing Competition, 2020, organised in collaboration with the Centre for Advanced Studies in Labour Welfare, RGNUL, was one such initiative aimed at helping students understand the nuances of judgment drafting, legal interpretation, and rational decision-making.

Since its inception, RMCC has worked tirelessly for the welfare of students, consistently offering diverse opportunities to participate in prestigious mooting and co-curricular activities. The committee's overall approach allows students to engage with knowledge, achieve remarkable success and set new benchmarks of performance at both national and international levels. Through continuous innovation and mentorship, RMCC aspires to shape skilled advocates who can contribute effectively to the future of law and represent the university.



# ABOUT CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN CRIMINAL LAW

RGNUL has established a Centre for Advanced Studies in Criminal Law (CASCL) to undertake: advanced study and research in the emerging areas of criminal law; professional training, including sensitisation on application and enforcement of criminal law fairly and coherently; research projects independently or in collaboration with professional organisations at the national and international level; to bring about publications and produce study material on various aspects of criminal law and to organise seminars, workshops and conferences on contemporary and significant issues of criminal law. The Centre aims to contribute to the improvement of the administration of the criminal justice system as a whole at regional, national and international levels. The major areas of thrust are to bring about reforms in the substantive and procedural criminal law in view of the modern crime scenario; development of sound criminal justice policy and practice; to generate respect for human rights and rule of law in the administration of criminal justice; training and technical assistance to agencies concerned with administration of criminal justice; renewal of sentencing policies and correctional systems; revamping justice to the victims of crime, and legal aid and speedy disposal of the criminal cases.



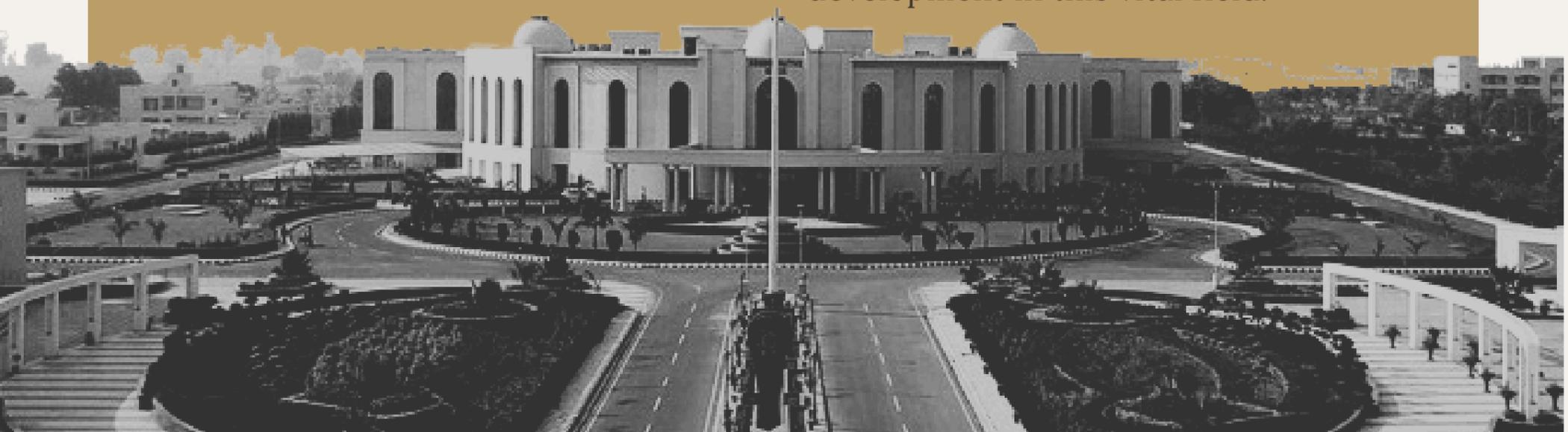
# ABOUT THE COMPETITION

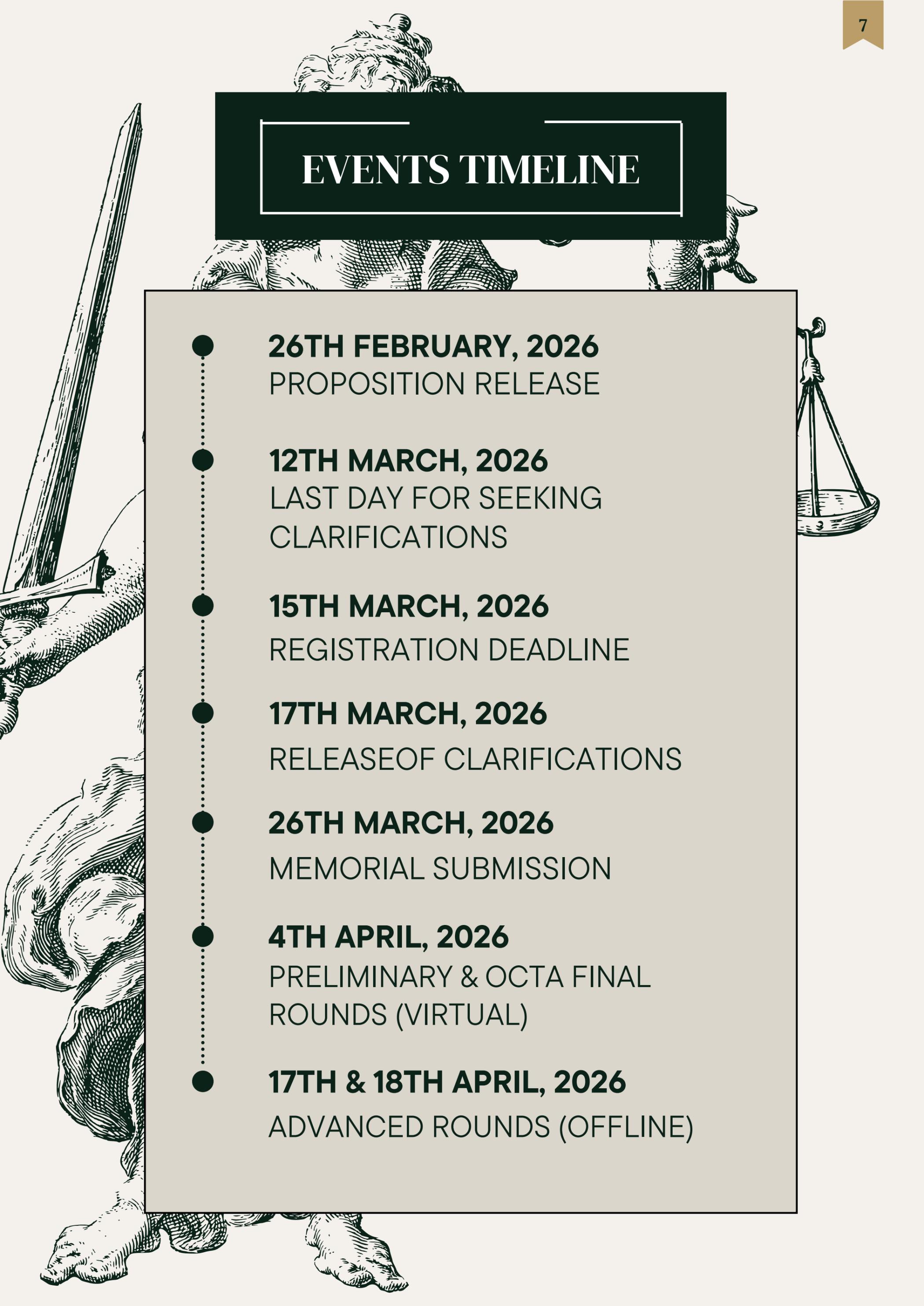
The RGNUL National Moot Court Competition, the flagship event of the **Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab**, has over the years, evolved into one of the most respected and competitive moot court events in the country. With participation from over leading law schools, including premier National Law Universities, Central Universities, and reputed law colleges, the competition reflects a truly national presence. **The 13th Edition**, held in a hybrid format, began with Virtual Rounds on April 5th and 6th, 2025, followed by On-Campus Rounds on April 19th and 20th, 2025. The edition saw a highly enthusiastic participation of top institutions such as NLSIU Bengaluru, NLU Delhi, NLU Jodhpur, NUJS Kolkata, and Jindal Global Law School, among others. The growing participation and the consistent display of talent each year highlight the competition's academic stature and its commitment to nurturing advocacy skills and analytical reasoning among budding legal professionals. The Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law Moot Court Committee (RMCC) has consistently upheld a legacy of academic and advocacy excellence through its flagship event.

Adding to its prestige, the flagship competition has consistently been graced by eminent jurists, sitting and former judges of the **Supreme Court and High Courts**, senior advocates, and

academicians from across the legal fraternity. **The 12th Edition**, for instance, was presided over by **Hon'ble Mr Justice S. Thirairaja, Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka**, and **Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Kumar Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur**. Each year's moot problem is thoughtfully crafted around contemporary and complex legal issues, ensuring that participants engage with relevant and intellectually stimulating challenges. The moot is strengthened by collaborations with prominent partners such as **Live Law, SCC Online, and Manupatra**, the competition continues to set a benchmark in legal advocacy and experiential learning, embodying RGNUL's vision of combining academic excellence with practical exposure in the pursuit of justice.

The theme for the **14th RGNUL National Moot Court Competition** is white collar crimes. For law students, understanding the complex legal, ethical, and technological dynamics underlying white collar crimes is crucial to ensure robust legal advocacy, compliance, and reform in a rapidly evolving landscape. Moot court competitions on white collar crime provide an invaluable platform for aspiring lawyers to hone their research, analytical, and advocacy skills on real-world scenarios, equipping them to address sophisticated financial wrongdoing and to contribute meaningfully to legal practice and policy development in this vital field.





## EVENTS TIMELINE

- **26TH FEBRUARY, 2026**  
PROPOSITION RELEASE
- **12TH MARCH, 2026**  
LAST DAY FOR SEEKING  
CLARIFICATIONS
- **15TH MARCH, 2026**  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE
- **17TH MARCH, 2026**  
RELEASE OF CLARIFICATIONS
- **26TH MARCH, 2026**  
MEMORIAL SUBMISSION
- **4TH APRIL, 2026**  
PRELIMINARY & OCTA FINAL  
ROUNDS (VIRTUAL)
- **17TH & 18TH APRIL, 2026**  
ADVANCED ROUNDS (OFFLINE)

# ORGANISING COMMITTEE



**Professor (Dr.) Jai S. Singh**  
Vice Chancellor, RGNUL, Punjab

**Patron in Chief**



**Dr. Ivneet Kaur Walia**  
Registrar (Officiating), RGNUL, Punjab

**Patron**



**Prof. (Dr.) Sharanjit**

**Coordinator**



**Dr. Jaswinder Kaur**

**Coordinator**



**Dr. Shiva Satish Sharda**

**Co-Coordinator**



**Dr. Manpreet Kaur**

**Member**



**Dr. Gurneet Singh**

**Member**



**Dr Basant Singh**

**Member**



**Dr. Anubhav Kumar**

**Member**



**Mr. G. Sisir**

**Member**



# CONTACT US

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**MOOT PROPOSITION**

## Moot Proposition<sup>1</sup> | 14<sup>th</sup> RGNUL National Moot Court Competition, 2026

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1. Saint Education School, Gurugram (**‘SES’**) is a recognized private school situated in Gurugram, Haryana. It is owned and governed by the Saint Education Society (**‘the Society’**), a registered non-profit established in 1949 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The Society currently owns and operates 15 schools across India under the brand name “Saint Education School”, with the earliest school operating since 1950.
2. In the year 2005, the Society was approached by the Haryana Urban Development Authority (**‘HUDA’**), now known as the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP), to open a school in Gurugram. At the time, the Government of Haryana was keen on having good quality and reputed schools set up in Gurugram— an area that the Government wished to develop as a model city for the State. In view of this, HUDA offered to sell a 10-acre plot of Government land located within Gurugram to the Society for the construction of the new school at a price which was 25% less than the market rate at the time. Upon receiving the offer, the President of the Society, Mr. Francis George, was overjoyed, and the Society did not only purchase the land, but also included the Chief Minister of the State of Haryana as a member of the Society. Ever since then, Mr. George has ensured that the sitting chief minister of Haryana is always included as a member of the Society. The chief ministers have regularly attended annual functions, sports days and other special events of SES, Gurugram. The Chief Minister, as an ex-officio member of the Society, possessed voting rights in matters relating to expansion, infrastructure and financial approvals.
3. According to applicable state policy, SES, Gurugram was obligated to reserve 25% of the seats for students from Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) on the property granted by HUDA. Additionally, the school was expected to submit yearly compliance reports to the State Education Department.
4. Over the years, SES, Gurugram has earned the reputation of being one of the most exclusive schools in the country, with the annual fee for each student ranging between INR 15,00,000/- (Rupees fifteen lakhs only) to INR 20,00,000/- (Rupees twenty lakhs only)

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<sup>1</sup> The facts and names provided in this moot proposition are entirely fictional. Undisputed facts stated in the proposition are to be assumed to be true and participants are not to assume any facts inconsistent therewith. While the names of cities, states and courts of India have been used to keep the proposition realistic, all actions attributed to them in this proposition are entirely fictitious. Names of people, schools, etc. are fictitious.

depending on the year of schooling. Known for its world-class infrastructure and highly qualified teachers, SES, Gurugram meets its expenses exclusively through collected fees and alumni donations. Despite the high fee, each year, hundreds of parents apply to have their young kids admitted to the school in the first grade (Class 1) as it becomes increasingly difficult to obtain admission in later classes. However, since SES, Gurugram admits only 300 students in any grade, every year most applicants fail to obtain admission for their kids.

5. As per school policy, all admission applications for an academic year must be submitted to SES' admissions office latest by the first day of February. Mr. Karan Khurana, a business tycoon, wanted to admit his daughter, Myra, to the school, but was able to come down to the admissions office with the filled application form only on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024. During the visit, he met the Admissions Manager of SES, Mr. Prakash Chopra, and one Ms. Nalini Saini, who was also there to submit her daughter's application for admission. Mr. Chopra was responsible for receiving and vetting all admission applications for SES, Gurugram, and transmitting the eligible applications to the Admissions Committee of SES, Gurugram, which consisted of the principal of the school, senior teachers and Society members. The Committee was headed by the President of the Society. Mr. Chopra was responsible for preliminary scrutiny of applications; he had no independent authority to grant admissions and could only forward applications to the Admissions Committee with remarks.
6. While Mr. Chopra initially refused to accept the application forms of both parents citing the lapsed deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024, upon requests for an exception, Mr. Chopra allegedly offered to back-date the filing of the applications if each of them paid INR 10 lakhs in cash by 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024.
7. Ms. Saini left the meeting and immediately approached Mr. Sunny Brar, an acquaintance who worked as an inspector in the office of the Superintendent of Police, State Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Bureau (SVACB), Gurugram, and informed him of the events that transpired. In the evening, before Mr. Chopra returned from work, acting without prior judicial authorization but on the basis of specific information received from Ms. Saini, Inspector Brar installed remote listening devices in the apartment corridor adjacent to Mr. Chopra's flat. On the evening of 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024, the bugs planted in the apartment recorded the following conversation between Mr. Chopra and Mr. Khurana:

**Transcript of the Recorded Conversation:**

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024

**Time:** 6:30 PM - 6:45 PM

**Mr. Khurana:** *I hope you will be able to ensure that my child gets admission to SES.*

**Mr. Chopra:** *I will ensure that the application is backdated and filed. The decision on admission is taken by the Admissions Committee, but there is nothing to worry. Myra's application will go through.*

**Mr. Khurana:** *Good. Thank you. I will be leaving now. I am keeping this bag here. It has ten lakh rupees.*

**Mr. Chopra:** *Thank you. Will speak to you soon.*

—**End of Recording**—

8. On the same night, Inspector Brar went to the Superintendent of Police, SVACB, Gurugram with the recording and informed him of what had transpired. The Superintendent of Police severely admonished Inspector Brar, relieved him of active duty with immediate effect, and brought Ms. Saini to the station. Ms. Nalini Saini and Mr. Sunny Brar's accounts of events were recorded and an FIR lodged with the SVACB, Gurugram against both Mr. Chopra and Mr. Khurana.
9. On the morning of 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024, a team led by the Superintendent of Police raided the apartment of Mr. Chopra, arrested him under charges of an offence under Section 7, Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and executed a search warrant permitting search and seizure of all documents and other materials in the apartment which may be relevant to the investigations. A bag containing INR 10 lakhs was recovered from the residence. The team, *inter alia*, seized Mr. Chopra's laptop and ordered him to type in his password and unlock the device. However, Mr. Chopra refused to do so. Over the course of the day, SVACB's officers were able to compel Mr. Chopra to share the password; the officers informed Mr. Chopra that non-cooperation may attract adverse legal consequences under applicable law. Witness testimony and CCTV audio-visuals of the interrogation carried out in the residence of Mr. Chopra were later presented during trial and they established that the police officers threatened that Mr. Chopra would be punished for more severe offences than bribery if he refused to share his laptop's password, including under the infamous

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. No physical violence was used during the interrogation, which was video recorded.

10. The laptop contained files which showed that Mr. Chopra held a small fortune in cryptocurrencies, with the total value estimated to be upward of INR 2 crores. The private keys for the cryptocurrencies were stored in the hard drive of the laptop. Given Mr. Chopra's monthly salary of just INR 40,000/- per month and in the absence of any other known sources of income, the SVACB added charges under Section 13(1)(b), Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
11. During the raid, the police also seized the mobile phone of Mr. Chopra, which was locked using biometrics. The police physically forced Mr. Chopra to place his right, index finger on the mobile's fingerprint scanner to open the phone. Thereafter, the police opened the WhatsApp application installed on the phone and checked Mr. Chopra's recent correspondence. Much to the surprise of the police team, they found the following WhatsApp message sent to the principal of the school, Ms. Neha Gupta:

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024

**Time:** 7:30 PM

**Message Text:** *Hi, ma'am! Mr. Karan Khurana came over and handed the application for his daughter to me. Let Mr. George know. Will bring the money next Friday when we meet at the club?*

*Ms. Neha Gupta had seen and reacted with the 'thumbs up' emoji*

The investigating officers recorded in the case diary that biometric unlocking constituted physical evidence.

12. On basis of this message, the SVACB police team obtained a warrant to search Ms. Gupta's residence as well as her office on the premises of SES, Gurugram. During the raid conducted on the evening of 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024, the police team arrested her for the suspected commission of an offence under Section 7 read with Section 12 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. While no cash or other incriminating material was found from her residence or office, the police was able to recover and seize the final compilation of admission applications received by SES, Gurugram by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024, and found Ms. Myra Khurana's application dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 in the compilation.

13. Mr. Khurana was informed of the arrests and the FIR against him on the morning of 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and interrogated at his residence. He denied bribing Mr. Chopra and also denied meeting him at his residence. He claimed that he had submitted Myra's admission application on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 and denied Ms. Saini's account entirely. He stated that his visit to Mr. Chopra's office in SES, Gurugram on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 was just to enquire about further admission formalities and an inspection of the school premises to ensure it meets his expectations.
14. Despite the successful raids based on information obtained by Inspector Brar, disciplinary action was initiated against him for flouting the police rules and for trespassing into Mr. Chopra's residence. Upon the enquiry revealing unlawful conduct on part of Mr. Brar, he was suspended from duty for twelve months.
15. On 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024, a chargesheet was filed before the Additional District and Sessions, Gurugram (designated as a Special Judge) naming Mr. Prakash Chopra, Ms. Neha Gupta and Mr. Karan Khurana as accused persons under The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Since there was no evidence against Mr. Francis George, apart from Mr. Chopra's message to Ms. Gupta mentioning him, he was not accused in the chargesheet.
16. The judge took cognizance of the matter and proceeded to frame charges against the accused persons based on the chargesheet. The matter proceeded to trial, and all three individuals were convicted. In its final judgment dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025, the trial court rendered the following findings:
- (i) The witness testimony of Ms. Nalini Saini and Mr. Sunny Brar, both of whom were examined as prosecution's witnesses, inspired confidence and was consistent with contents of the FIR.
  - (ii) The voice recordings relied upon by the police and the prosecution were obtained through the illegal actions of Inspector Brar but were nevertheless relevant and admissible under law in the present proceedings.
  - (iii) The aforesaid voice recordings were genuine, and the voices recorded therein belonged to Mr. Chopra and Mr. Khurana. Several witnesses were examined on this issue which proved this beyond reasonable doubt.

- (iv) Mr. Chopra and Ms. Gupta were both amenable to the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and had violated the same on multiple counts.
- (v) Mr. Chopra had accepted a bribe of INR 10 lakhs from Mr. Khurana, which was corroborated not only by the FIR lodged by Ms. Saini, who also testified as a witness in the trial, but was also clearly proven by the voice recordings. The amount was taken as an inducement to facilitate the admission of Mr. Khurana's daughter to SES, Gurugram in an unlawful and corrupt manner in violation of school admission rules. The recovery of INR 10 lakhs from the residential home of Mr. Chopra by the SVACB during the raid further corroborated this. Therefore, Mr. Chopra had committed an offence under Section 7, The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
- (vi) There was nothing wrong in the police compelling Mr Chopra to unlock his mobile phone using his fingerprint and the evidence obtained through this process, including his conversation with Ms. Neha Gupta, the school principal, was admissible in evidence.
- (vii) Ms. Neha Gupta had abetted the offence under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 committed by Mr. Chopra.
- (viii) There was nothing wrong in the police compelling Mr. Chopra to share the password of his laptop to facilitate the investigation process and the evidence of possession of cryptocurrencies obtained in that manner were admissible and relevant.
- (ix) Mr. Chopra was in possession of financial resources in excess of known sources of income, including around INR 2 crores in cryptocurrency and an offence under Section 13(1)(b) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was made out against him even without knowledge of the exact deeds committed to gain such financial resources.
- (x) Mr. Khurana had bribed Mr. Chopra and his actions amounted to inducing a public servant to perform a public duty improperly. Therefore, Mr. Khurana

had committed an offence under Section 8, Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

17. Thus, the court sentenced Mr. Chopra to five (5) years of imprisonment along with fine to the tune of INR 1 lakh. Ms. Gupta was sentenced to three (3) years of imprisonment and a fine of INR 50,000/-. Mr. Khurana was also convicted under Section 8. The court directed Mr. Khurana to pay a fine of INR 5 lakhs but did not sentence him to imprisonment.
18. Mr. Chopra, Ms. Gupta and Mr. Khurana challenged the judgment dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025 before the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh on several grounds ('the High Court'). The Appellants contended that Mr. Chopra and Ms. Gupta were not amenable to the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Moreover, the sound recordings and evidence obtained from the laptop and mobile phone of Mr. Chopra were inadmissible as they were illegally obtained. Before the High Court, the Appellants, for the first time, also raised the issue that the investigation and prosecution were illegal as requisite sanctions had not been obtained under Section 17A and Section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
19. In its judgment dated 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2026, the High Court allowed the appeal and overturned both the convictions holding—
  - (i) Mr. Chopra & Ms. Gupta were not amenable to the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and therefore, no crime under the Act could be established against them or Mr. Khurana.
  - (ii) The sound recordings and evidence obtained from the mobile phone and laptop of Mr. Chopra were unlawfully obtained and were also in breach of privacy rights. Therefore, the said materials were inadmissible in evidence. In the absence of these materials, the conviction of the Appellants could not be sustained.
  - (iii) The investigations and the prosecution were bad in law as they were commenced without requisite sanctions under Section 17-A and Section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, respectively.

20. Against the aforesaid judgment of the High Court, an appeal has been filed by the State of Haryana before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India challenging all three of the abovementioned findings of the High Court. The Supreme Court has admitted the appeal, given the importance of the issues raised, the matter has been referred to a 5-judge bench before which it is now fixed for final hearing on the following issues:

**Issue 1: Whether Mr. Chopra & Ms. Gupta are amenable to the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988**

**Issue 2: Whether the illegally obtained sound recordings were admissible in evidence?**

**Issue 3: Whether the police acted unlawfully in compelling Mr. Prakash Chopra to share his laptop password and unlock his mobile phone during police investigations, and if so, to what effect?**

**Issue 4: Whether prior sanction for prosecution under Section 19 and Section 17-A of The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was mandatory in the facts and circumstances of the present case, and if so, to what effect?**

**Participating teams are required to submit written memorials/submissions and prepare oral arguments for each side.**

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**RULEBOOK**



## RULEBOOK

### 14<sup>th</sup> RGNUL National Moot Court Competition, 2026

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#### Definitions

1. **Definitions:** Unless otherwise provided, the words used in the rules shall be construed as hereinafter provided:
  - 1.1. **“Administrator”** means the administration of the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab and shall also include the members of the RGNUL Moot Court Committee;
  - 1.2. **“Advanced Round”** means the Final Round, Semi-Final Rounds and the Quarter-Final Rounds, of the Competition;
  - 1.3. **“Bench”** refers to the members duly invited to adjudge the oral rounds, individually or collectively;
  - 1.4. **“Committee”** means the RGNUL Moot Court Committee;
  - 1.5. **“Clarifications”** refer to the explanations to the Proposition issued by the Administration;
  - 1.6. **“Competition”** means the 14<sup>th</sup> RGNUL National Moot Court Competition, 2026;
  - 1.7. **“Memorial”** means the written arguments submitted by each team, submitted according to these Rules;
  - 1.8. **“Oral Round”** means a team’s pleadings, comprising two oralists, submitted orally in front of the bench, on behalf of one of the parties against another team representing the opposing party;
  - 1.9. **“Participating Team”** means the team which is eligible to participate in the Competition after completion of the registration procedure;
  - 1.10. **“Participating Institution”** shall be the parent institution of the participating teams;
  - 1.11. **“Proposition”** means the hypothetical Moot Proposition of the Competition released by the Administration. Clarifications as defined under these rules shall form a part of the problem;
  - 1.12. **“Penalty”** refers to the deductions imposed on the memorial scores of a participating institution;

- 1.13. **“Petitioner”** means the side that argues on behalf of the Petitioner at any given point in the Competition;
- 1.14. **“Plagiarism”** means the direct or substantial duplication of somebody else’s work, represented as one’s own, without properly acknowledging the same by giving a citation or adding quotation marks;
- 1.15. **“Preliminary Rounds”** means the oral rounds which take place before the advanced round, for the purpose of determining which teams qualify for the advanced rounds.
- 1.16. **“Rebuttals”** refer to the arguments presented by the Petitioner in response to the Respondent’s submissions at the end of the main pleadings of all the oralists;
- 1.17. **“Respondent”** means the side that argues on behalf of the Respondent at any given point in the Competition.
- 1.18. **“Scouting”** means a person observing the Oral Rounds of a team other than the team such person is associated with;
- 1.19. **“Oralist”** refers to a participant who presents oral arguments in any given round;
- 1.20. **“Sur-rebuttal”** refers to the defence presented by the Respondent to the rebuttals as defined in Clause 1.16;
- 1.21. **“Team Code”** refers to the code allocated to a participating institution by the administrator after completion of the Registration.

#### **Interpretation**

2. The Administrators will have the exclusive authority to interpret the Rules in the interest of fairness and equality. The interpretation placed upon these Rules by the Administrators shall be conclusive and the decision of the Administrators regarding the application of these Rules shall be final.

#### **Mode of the Competition**

3. The Preliminary Rounds & Octa Final Rounds of the Competition shall be held **virtually** on **4th April, 2026** through Cisco Webex Software. The Administrators reserve the right to switch the mode of the Competition. The participants will be notified in advance of the mode of the Competition in case of any modifications.
4. The Advanced Rounds of the Competition shall be held **on campus** from **17th to 18th April, 2026**.

**Eligibility & Team Composition**

5. Participation is strictly restricted to bona fide law students pursuing the three years or five years LL.B. degree course in any institution in India. Students pursuing their LL.M. and Diploma courses are not eligible for participation.
6. A recognized institution shall be entitled to send only **one team** to the competition.
7. Each participating team should have three members. In a team, two members shall be designated as 'Oralists' or 'Speakers' and the third member shall be designated as 'Researcher'.
8. Once registered, a team will not be permitted to vary the composition of the team in any manner. Changes, if any, may only be made with the express permission of the Administrators (at their discretion), if due reason is shown for the same.
9. Any changes with respect to the contact details of the participants shall be notified to the Administrators with immediate effect.
10. Each team which has successfully completed the Registration requirements under the Rules shall be allotted a unique Team Code. Once the Code is allotted, every team must use this team code for any further communication(s) with the Administrators during the entire course of the Competition.

**Registration**

11. The registration for the moot shall open on **24<sup>th</sup> February, 2026**.
12. All the participating institutions have to confirm participation by filling the registration form via this [registration link](#) on or before **15th March, 2026, 11:59 PM IST**.
13. In furtherance to this, the participating Universities are required to send a detailed mail consisting the details of the participating members along with an Authorization Letter/Mail.
14. There is no cap on the total number of teams. However, if the total number of registrations **exceeds 40 teams**, then a **memorial qualifier round** shall decide the **top 32 teams**, which shall then argue in the Preliminary Rounds.
15. The participating teams are required to pay a registration fee of **INR 3000/- (plus GST)** at the time of registration for the preliminary rounds. The accommodation fee for the Advanced Rounds shall be **INR 6000/- (plus GST)** which shall be paid after qualifying to the Advanced Rounds. This fee shall be inclusive of accommodation for 3 days (16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2026).

16. The registration fee of INR 3000/- (plus GST) will **not be payable** in case the memorial qualifier (on registration on 40 teams) takes place. In case of the memorial qualifier only the top 32 teams qualifying for the preliminary rounds shall be required to pay this registration fee. However, in case of the memorial qualifier not taking place, all the teams **shall be required** to pay the registration fee. Therefore, the payment link for registration fee shall be sent to all the teams after the registration for the competition closes.
17. The teams qualifying for the Advanced Rounds will be required to make the payment of the accommodation fee by **10th April, 2026**. Any delay in making this payment shall result in disqualification of the team from the Advanced Rounds and the next team with the highest score in the Preliminary Rounds will qualify for the same.

#### Clarifications

18. The last date for submitting clarifications to the Moot Proposition is 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2026. All such requests must be submitted through this [google form](#) only.
19. The request for clarifications should be clear and related to the facts of the case and not related to the substantive arguments.

#### Memorials

20. Each team must prepare one Petitioner and one Respondent Memorial. The language of all the memorials must be English.
- 21. Submission of Soft Copies of Memorials:**
- 21.1. All team shall send a soft copy of Memorials for each side in both MS Word and PDF formats, latest by **11:59 PM IST on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2026**. The submission shall be made via this [google form](#) only.
- 21.2. Any submission made after the said deadline, unless extended, shall be considered as late submission and penalized. A penalty of 2 marks per hour, up to 24 hours past the deadline, shall be deducted in case of delay in the submission of soft copy of written submissions. A further penalty of 1 mark per day per side shall be levied in case of delay in submission of hard copy of written submission.
- 21.3. Each Memorial should be contained in a single file with the name of the file being the allocated team code followed by the first letter of the party whose arguments are presented in that Memorial, i.e., an P for Petitioner and R for Respondent. For instance, the Petitioner memorial of team code 9 should be named “TC 9P”.

- 21.4. A penalty of 5 marks shall be levied in case the written submission is submitted in any other format.

## 22. Submission of Hard Copies of Memorials:

- 22.1. Only teams qualifying to the Advanced Rounds are requested to submit hard copies of their Memorials via post and the same should reach the Administrator latest by **12<sup>th</sup> April, 2026**. Teams will have to provide the Administrators with **five copies** of the memorials for **each side** (Total 10 Copies). The hard copies of written submissions must be an exact replica of the soft copies submitted to the Administrators. Any difference in the same will result in penalties including disqualification from the competition.
- 22.2. The following is the address for sending the hard copies of the Memorials and for any official correspondence:

**Dr. Jaswinder Kaur**

**Faculty Coordinator, RGNUL Moot Court Committee**

**Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab**

**Sidhuwal-Bhadson Road, Patiala, Punjab - 147001**

**Mobile Number- 9855077842**

## 23. General Conditions for Memorials:

- 23.1. The Memorials shall not contain any form of identification apart from the team code. If any such identification or mark, symbol, etc. which has the effect of identifying the team is found on the Memorials, then it shall result in instant disqualification of the participating team.
- 23.2. Petitioner's Memorials are required to have a **blue cover page** and the Respondent's Memorials are required to have a **red cover page**.
- 23.3. A penalty of 1 mark per side shall be levied in case the team uses the wrong cover page of the Memorial.

## 24. Guidelines for the Format of Memorials:

- 24.1. The Memorials must contain the following components in the order listed below:
- 24.1.1. **Cover Page:** The cover page shall contain the case title, side of the Memorial, year of Competition, name of the forum and team Code on top right corner.
- 24.1.2. **Table of Contents**

- 24.1.3. **List of Abbreviations**
- 24.1.4. **Index of Authorities:** The Index of Authorities must list all the authorities cited in the Memorial. The Index must indicate the page number(s) and/or the paragraph number(s) of the Memorial in which the authority is cited.
- 24.1.5. **Statement of Jurisdiction**
- 24.1.6. **Statement of Facts:** The Statement of Facts must contain a concise statement of the relevant facts of the dispute. As far as may be, the Statement of Facts should be limited to the stipulated facts and legitimate inferences which can be drawn from those facts. Argumentative facts are prohibited. Statement of Facts shall not exceed 2 pages. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark for each exceeded page.
- 24.1.7. **Issues Raised**
- 24.1.8. **Summary of Arguments:** The Summary of Arguments should contain a summary of the substance of the arguments. The Summary of Arguments should not exceed 2 pages. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark for each exceeded page.
- 24.1.9. **Pleadings/Arguments Advanced:** All legal arguments must be limited to the Pleadings/Arguments Advanced section the written submission. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 2 marks. The Pleadings/Arguments Advanced and Prayer must not exceed 20 pages. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per exceeded page.
- 24.1.10. **Prayer:** Non-compliance with respect to clauses (1) to (8) and (10) will result in a penalty of 1 mark for each missing section. Non-compliance with respect to section (9) will result in the Memorial not being considered for evaluation at all.
- 24.2. **Team Code:** The team code must be ascribed on the top right corner of the cover page. The code must be succeeded by the side for which the Memorial is prepared. The teams must use “P” for Petitioner / “R” for Respondent. For example; in case the Team Code is 36 the team must write “TC 36P” in case of Memorial for Petitioner and “TC 36R” in case of Memorial for Respondent.
- 24.3. The Memorial must maintain an equal margin of 1 inch on all sides. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark each side of Memorials.
- 24.4. **Font, size and line spacing:** The text font should be Times New Roman or Garamond, size 12 and must be in 1.5 line spacing. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 0.5

mark per incorrect format of font, size and line spacing with a maximum of 2 marks per page of the Memorial.

24.5. **Footnotes:** The footnotes must be in font Times New Roman or Garamond, size 10 and singly spaced. Footnotes must conform to the Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA), 4th Edition in the Memorials throughout. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per page. Substantive/Speaking footnotes are strictly prohibited. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per substantive citation.

24.6. **Header and Footer:** The font used for the header/footer, if any, shall be Times New Roman or Garamond, size 10, 1 spacing. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per page of the Memorial.

24.7. **Page Limit:** There is no maximum page limit on the Memorial and the Pleadings/Arguments Advanced shall be of a maximum of 20 pages. No annexures, photographs, exhibits, etc. should be added to the written submission.

**25. Plagiarism:** In case instances of plagiarism are found in a certain memorial, the participating institution alleged to have committed plagiarism will be served a show cause notice by the Administrators. If found guilty of plagiarism, the Administrators may impose any sanction that they may deem fit, including disqualification from the Moot.

**26. Memorial Evaluation Criteria:**

S. No.	CRITERIA	MARKS ALLOTTED
1.	Evidence of Original Thought	20
2.	Knowledge of Law & Facts	20
3.	Proper & Articulate Analysis	20
4.	Clarity & Organisation	10
5.	Extent & Use of Research	10
6.	Correct Format & Citation	10
7.	Grammar & Style	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

**Oral Rounds**

- 27.** The competition shall consist of the following rounds:
- 27.1. Preliminary Rounds;
  - 27.2. Octa-Final Rounds and;
  - 27.3. Advanced Rounds:
    - 27.3.1. Quarter-Finals
    - 27.3.2. Semi-Finals
    - 27.3.3. Finals
- 28.** During each of the abovementioned rounds, the order in which the teams shall present their arguments is as follows:
- 28.1. Petitioner Speaker 1;
  - 28.2. Petitioner Speaker 2;
  - 28.3. Respondent Speaker 1;
  - 28.4. Respondent Speaker 2;
  - 28.5. Rebuttal and Sur-rebuttal. Rebuttals shall be permitted only at the discretion of the Bench.
- 29. Speaker Score:** The score shall be determined on the basis of the individual aggregate score of the speaker taken only from the Preliminary Rounds. Individual Aggregate Score shall be determined as the sum of the following:
- 29.1. Score of Speaker in Preliminary Round I
  - 29.2. Score of Speaker in Preliminary Round II
  - 29.3. Half of Memorial Score
- 30.** The Researcher shall not be permitted to address the Bench during the Oral Rounds. The Researcher may however, be permitted to pass notes to the Speakers at the discretion of the Judges. Such notes shall be passed through the court clerks present in the court room.
- 31.** Participants may use their own bare acts, print outs and commentaries provided that anonymity is not violated during the Rounds.
- 32.** The decision of the Judges as to the marks allotted to each team shall be final and binding.

33. Teams shall notify the Court clerks of the division of time between the 2 Speakers (including time reserved for Rebuttal & Sur-rebuttal) prior to the commencement of the Rounds. Once so informed, these timings shall not be changed.
34. The Judges, at their discretion, may extend the time limits stated. The finality of the decision as to the time structure and the right to allow Rebuttals or Sur-rebuttals shall vest with Judges.

**35. Oral Round Scoring Criteria:**

S. No.	CRITERIA	MARKS ALLOTTED
1.	Knowledge of Law	10
2.	Logic & Reasoning	10
3.	Organisation & Clarity	10
4.	Persuasiveness	10
5.	Deference to Court	10
6.	Proper & Articulate Analysis of Issues	10
7.	Understanding of Relevant Legal Principles	10
8.	Knowledge and Use of Legal Authorities & General Principles of National Law	10
9.	Ingenuity, Analogous Reasoning, & Ability to Answer Questions	10
10.	Reference to Written Submissions	10

**Structure of Oral Rounds**

**36. Preliminary Rounds:**

- 36.1. Every team shall argue twice in the Preliminary Rounds, once for the Petitioner and once for the Respondent. No two teams shall face each other more than once in the Preliminary Rounds.

36.2. The match-up of teams in Preliminary Rounds shall be determined on the basis of draw of lots. Draw of lots shall take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2026.

36.3. Each side shall get a maximum time of 30 minutes to present their arguments of which no Speaker shall be permitted to address the Court for more than 18 minutes. The time limit is inclusive of the time for Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal respectively. The maximum time for Rebuttal is 2 minutes and the maximum time for Sur-rebuttal is 1 minute. Each speaker is required to speak for a minimum of 12 minutes exclusive of time taken for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals.

36.4. ***Scoring:***

36.4.1. For the Preliminary Rounds, the winner of each such round shall be determined on the basis of the speaker scores from which the top 16 teams will proceed to the Octa Final Rounds.

36.4.2. In case of a tie between two or more teams, the memorial scores of the teams shall be used a tie-breaker to determine the top 16 teams for the Octa Final Rounds.

**37. Octa Final Rounds:**

37.1. The Octa Final Rounds shall take place between the top 16 teams of the Preliminary Rounds on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2026.

37.2. A draw of lots shall be conducted to decide the match-ups and sides for the Octa Final Rounds.

37.3. The 16 teams that advance to the Octa Final Rounds shall argue only ONCE for the side allotted by the draw of lots.

37.4. The Octa Final Rounds shall be a knockout round, meaning that the winner of each court room shall qualify to the quarter-final round.

37.5. Each side shall get a maximum of 30 minutes to present their arguments of which no Speaker shall be permitted to address the Court for more than 18 minutes. The time limit is inclusive of the time for Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal respectively. The maximum time for Rebuttal is 2 minutes and the maximum time for Sur-rebuttal is 1 minute. Each speaker is required to speak for a minimum of 12 minutes exclusive of time taken for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals.

37.6. ***Scoring:***

37.6.1. For the Octa Final Rounds only the speaker scores of both the teams shall be taken into account. The team with the higher speaker score shall win the court room and shall advance to the Quarter-Final Rounds.

**38. Quarter-Final Rounds:**

38.1. The eight teams that proceed to the Quarter Final Rounds, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots. The fixtures for the Quarter Final Rounds shall be based on the system of power matchup from the Octa Final Rounds and shall be as follows:

Rank 1 vs. Rank 8 (QF 1)

Rank 2 vs. Rank 7 (QF 2)

Rank 3 vs. Rank 6 (QF 3)

Rank 4 vs. Rank 5 (QF 4)

38.2. Four teams shall qualify for the Semi Final Rounds on a knock out basis, i.e., the winner of each Quarter Final Round shall qualify to the Semi Final Rounds.

38.3. **Scoring:**

38.3.1. The top four teams shall be determined only on the basis of cumulative speaker scores.

**39. Semi-Final Rounds:**

39.1. The four teams that proceed to the Semi Final Rounds, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots. The fixtures for the Semi Final Rounds shall be as follows:

Winner of QF 1 vs. Winner of QF IV

Winner of QF II vs. Winner of QF III

39.2. Two teams shall qualify for the Final Round on a knock out basis, i.e., the winner of each Semi Final Rounds shall qualify to the Final Round.

39.3. For the Semi Final Rounds, each team may distribute its allocated forty-five (45) minutes as it deems fit, provided that no oralist is allocated less than fifteen (15) minutes or more than twenty-five (25) minutes for presentation of main arguments. No more than five (5) minutes are reserved for its rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.

39.4. **Scoring:**

39.4.1. The top two teams shall be determined only on the basis of cumulative speaker scores.

**40. Final Rounds:**

40.1. 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. The bench strength for the Final Round shall be an odd number but not one.

40.2. The team which wins the Final Round shall be declared as the 'Winning Team'. The other team shall be declared as the 'Runners-Up Team'.

40.3. For the Final Rounds, each team may distribute its allocated forty-five (45) minutes as it deems fit, provided that no oralist is allocated less than fifteen (15) minutes or more than twenty-five (25) minutes for presentation of main arguments. No more than five (5) minutes are reserved for its rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.

40.4. ***Scoring:***

40.4.1. The winner of the Final Round shall be determined on the basis of the score of the oral rounds only.

**Miscellaneous**

41. Scouting is strictly prohibited. Scouting by any of the team members shall result in disqualification.

42. If a team scheduled to take part in a Round does not appear within 10 minutes of the scheduled time, the other team present shall be allowed to submit ex-parte.

43. Participants are expected to behave in a dignified manner and not to cause any inconvenience to the Administrators, the Judges of the Competition or any of the other participants.

44. Facilities such as photocopying, library usage, internet connectivity, etc. may be provided subject to the convenience of the Administrators and will be informed to the teams closer to the commencement of the Competition. Notwithstanding, participants are requested to make their own arrangements for the same.

45. The Administrator reserves the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional or immoral conduct.

46. The Administrator shall not be responsible for any loss of belongings of the team during the Competition.