



**VISHWAKARMA
UNIVERSITY**
Maximising Human Potential



Shri Rajkumar Agarwal

MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

Organised By



• Vishwakarma University •
MOOT COURT SOCIETY

11th - 13th
March, 2026

Venue :
**Vishwakarma
University, Pune**

Theme:
**Data Privacy and
Cyber Security**

E-mail - mootcourt@vupune.ac.in



Registration Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeEkvJd4nAK7nRg3XYI_5A3YLhATy9gcg2LCtCkX3-xn_GK3Q/viewform

Drive Link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BgFOC4_t0OLffS5n3TGxORyHJNMM0iU6?usp=drive_link



ABOUT VISHWAKARMA UNIVERSITY /

Vishwakarma University, Pune (VU), is a progressive institution built upon the Vishwakarma Group of Institutions' educational legacy of over 35 years. Established in 2017 through a Maharashtra Government Act as a state-private university, VU is approved by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and is an esteemed member of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi.

VU has earned national and global recognition, featuring in the Times Higher Education (THE) Global Impact Rankings 2021, which assess universities worldwide on their contributions toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The University was also honoured as an Emerging University by the Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

The University offers multidisciplinary programs across various domains, including Science and Technology, Management, Law, Design, Humanities, Social Sciences,

Art, and Music. Its modern campus is equipped with advanced laboratories, digital classrooms, design studios, libraries, and collaborative learning spaces that support holistic academic growth.

Driven by a "learning by doing" philosophy, VU strongly emphasizes practical, hands-on education through industry partnerships, internships, live projects, and skill-building initiatives. The learning model integrates knowing, practising, performing, and reflecting, ensuring meaningful academic and professional development.

Vishwakarma University also fosters a vibrant research and innovation culture through dedicated research centers and encourages students to participate in problem-solving, creativity, and knowledge creation. With a focus on academic excellence, employability, and social responsibility, the University continues to positively impact the student community and society.

FACULTY OF LAW /

The Faculty of Law at Vishwakarma University was established in 2018 with a vision to nurture skilled legal professionals and promote meaningful sociolegal research. The Faculty initially began with One-year LL.M. and Ph.D. programmes and expanded in 2019 with the introduction of Five-year Integrated and Three-year LL.B. programmes, all duly approved by the Bar Council of India.

Aligned with the University's motto "Learning by Doing", the Faculty is guided by dedicated and knowledgeable educators who foster Academic Excellence and Academic Rigour. A blend of innovative teaching methods and ICT-enabled classrooms allows students to gain both theoretical understanding and practical exposure.

The Faculty provides access to advanced learning resources, including a state-of-the-art moot courtroom, a well-stocked library, modern digital tools, and leading online legal research databases. These facilities enrich the overall academic experience and support effective skill development.

A dynamic student ecosystem is promoted through initiatives such as the Debating Society, Moot Court Society, VU Legal Aid Clinic, and Research Cell. These platforms strengthen advocacy, research, and leadership skills.

Through its Centres and Committees, the Faculty actively engages in transdisciplinary research, legal awareness programmes, legal literacy drives, and pro bono legal assistance, reflecting its strong commitment to social responsibility and community service.

ABOUT THE MOOT COURT COMPETITION

The Vishwakarma University Intra Moot Court Competition is a flagship academic initiative designed to embody the University's philosophy of "Learning by Doing." Organized by the Faculty of Law, the competition provides a dynamic platform for students to experience the intensity and rigor of real appellate court proceedings in a simulated environment.

This competition goes beyond argumentation—it trains students to think like lawyers. Participants engage in comprehensive legal research, refine their written submissions, and present structured, persuasive oral arguments before expert judges. Through this immersive process, students learn to interpret complex legal issues, apply statutory and case law to hypothetical situations, and defend their positions with clarity, confidence, and

professionalism.

What makes the VU Moot Court Competition unique is its focus on ethical lawyering, analytical precision, and holistic development. It encourages teamwork, discipline, and intellectual curiosity while sharpening critical thinking, problem-solving, and advocacy skills. Supported by VU's state-of-the-art moot courtroom, dedicated faculty mentors, and vibrant student committees, the competition serves as a training ground for future litigators, researchers, and judicial aspirants.

The event reflects Vishwakarma University's commitment to nurturing competent, responsible, and socially conscious legal professionals equipped to excel in the evolving world of law.

ABOUT THE MOOT COURT SOCIETY

The Moot Court Society at Vishwakarma University is the main student body that helps build and promote the mooting culture in the Faculty of Law. It was created to give students practical experience of how real courts work and to help them grow into confident and skilled future lawyers.

Since its beginning, the Society has successfully organized five Intra-College Moot Court Competitions. These events give students a chance to practise important skills like legal research, drafting, and presenting arguments in a courtroom setting. Through these activities, students learn to think critically, analyze legal problems, and speak

with confidence.

The Society also guides and supports students who participate in National and International Moot Court Competitions. With the help of teachers and mentors, students receive training, feedback, and exposure to higher-level competitions, which helps them improve and learn beyond the classroom. The Moot Court Society aims to create a strong and healthy mooting environment at Vishwakarma University. It encourages teamwork, discipline, professionalism, and proper courtroom behaviour, helping students grow into responsible and capable legal professionals.



GLIMPSE OF LAST MOOT COURT COMPETITION

The last moot court competition was held with great enthusiasm under the title of the Shri Rajkumar Agarwal Moot Court Competition, 2025, organized by the Department of Law at Vishwakarma University. The event hosted 20 teams and was structured across four rounds to ensure a rigorous evaluation of legal advocacy. The Preliminary Round was conducted online on March 7, 2025, while the intensity heightened during the offline rounds held on campus on March 21 and 22, 2025.

The competition centered on a complex moot problem regarding Priya and Prithvi Sharma's appeal against a murder conviction based on circumstantial evidence. Participants debated intricate legal issues, including the "last seen" doctrine, the admissibility of a retracted confession, and constitutional questions regarding the validity of the CBI's investigation.

The high-stakes Final Round was presided over by Adv. Rajesh Katore and Adv. Pushkar Durge. Following intense arguments, MM's Shankarao Chavan Law College emerged as the Winners, with IILM University, Gurugram declared as the Runners-Up. The successful execution of the event was led by Co-convenor Ms. Shruti D. and Student Conveners Mr. Lalit Bhangdiya and Ms. Bhavya Ved Parihar.



LIST OF IMPORTANT DATES

PARTICULAR	DATE
Release of Moot Brochure	22 nd January
Last date for Registration	25 th February
Deadline for Seeking Clarifications	28 th February
Release of Clarifications	1 st March
Memorial Submission Deadline (Soft Copy)	5 th March
Memorial Submission at Campus (Hard Copy -5 copies from each side)	11 th March
Registration & Inauguration & Memorial Exchange	11 th March
Researcher Test + Preliminary Rounds I + Preliminary Round II	12 th March
Semi Final + Final Round & Valedictory Ceremony	13 th March



AWARDS

WINNERS

RS. 15,000

TROPHY & CERTIFICATE

RUNNER UP

RS. 12,000

TROPHY & CERTIFICATE

BEST SPEAKER

RS. 2,500

TROPHY & CERTIFICATE

BEST MEMORIAL

RS. 2,500

TROPHY & CERTIFICATE

BEST RESEARCHER

RS. 2,500

TROPHY & CERTIFICATE

ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL BE GIVEN E-CERTIFICATE




MOOT PROBLEM

1. Over the last decade, the State of Indiana has pursued an aggressive digital transformation agenda. Government services, public procurement, grievance redressal mechanisms, and citizen engagement initiatives increasingly rely on online platforms and data-driven systems. At the same time, the penetration of social media, independent podcasts, livestream journalism, and influencer-led commentary has significantly altered the nature of public discourse. State reports placed before the Indiana Legislative Assembly noted that information consumption had become highly decentralised, algorithmically curated, and increasingly shaped by a relatively small number of high-reach digital actors whose content often crossed regional and demographic boundaries.
2. Between 2022 and 2024, multiple incidents were documented where viral online narratives—some later verified, others partially inaccurate—had triggered public anxiety regarding public health advisories, infrastructure safety, and election processes. In certain instances, online rumours were followed by physical protests, work stoppages at construction sites, and temporary disruption of essential services. While several such incidents were later clarified through official statements, the State observed that corrective information often travelled more slowly than the original content. These developments led to renewed discussions within the government on whether traditional public order and criminal laws were adequate to address digitally amplified harms.
3. In early 2024, the Indiana Legislative Assembly constituted a Standing Committee on Digital Governance to examine emerging risks associated with influencer-driven communication, AI-generated content, and largescale data analytics. The Committee invited submissions from journalists, technology companies, civil liberties organisations, academic institutions, and law enforcement agencies. Its final report highlighted concerns regarding the absence of any formal registration or accountability framework for high-reach digital creators, the growing use of algorithmic tools to amplify polarising content, and the increasing difficulty faced by public authorities in responding to rapidly spreading online narratives during sensitive periods. The report also cautioned against excessive regulation and emphasised the need for procedural safeguards, transparency, and judicial oversight.

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4. Acting on the Committee's recommendations, the Legislature enacted the Online Influencers and Digital Safety Regulation Act, 2025 (OIDSR Act). The Statement of Objects and Reasons described the Act as a preventive, not punitive, measure aimed at regulating high-impact digital communication while respecting constitutional freedoms. The Act created the Digital Civic Harmony Board (DCHB), composed of a retired High Court judge and experts in cyber law, data protection, social sciences, and artificial intelligence. The Board was vested with powers to issue interim directions, conduct hearings, oversee AI systems used by public authorities, and coordinate with platforms on matters of digital safety.
 5. Around the same period, the State of Indiana announced the Smart District Corridor Project, a large-scale infrastructure initiative involving transportation upgrades, digital surveillance for traffic management, and redevelopment of urban spaces across multiple districts. The project attracted public attention due to its cost, land acquisition requirements, and the involvement of private contractors. While the government maintained that the project had undergone statutory approvals and audits, opposition parties and civil society groups raised questions regarding transparency, cost escalation, and environmental impact.
 6. In mid-2025, a popular investigative podcast titled "LokDarpan", operated by four independent creators based in Indiana, released a multipart audio series examining the Smart District Corridor Project. The podcast combined publicly available documents, interviews with unnamed sources, expert commentary, and comparative cost analyses with similar projects in other jurisdictions. The creators described the series as investigative journalism intended to promote accountability. Supporters praised the podcast for making complex infrastructure issues accessible, while critics alleged that the series selectively presented information and blurred the line between verified facts and opinion.
 7. Following the release of the podcast, the hashtag #SmartScamIndiana began trending across platforms. Some users shared excerpts of the podcast along with calls for public demonstrations, while others questioned the credibility of the claims. Contractors associated with the project reported receiving threatening messages online, and district authorities flagged concerns about potential disruptions at construction sites. At the same time, independent fact-checking organisations released mixed assessments, noting that while certain concerns raised by the

podcast were legitimate, other claims relied on preliminary or incomplete data.

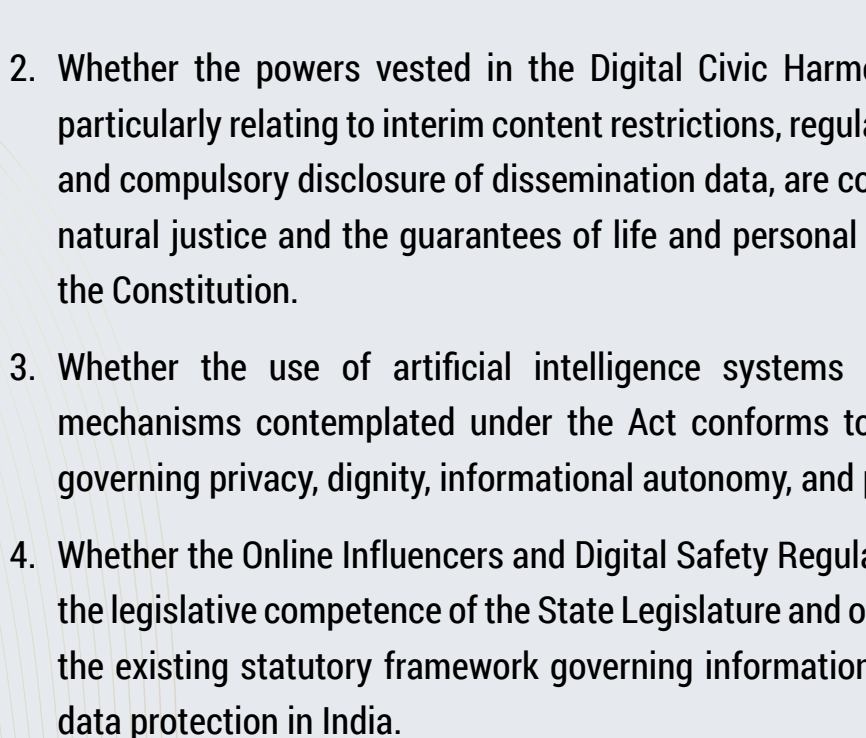
8. In this context, the Digital Civic Harmony Board invoked its powers under Section 4 of the OIDS Act and issued an interim direction directing the temporary takedown of the concerned podcast episodes. The order stated that the measure was necessary to prevent further escalation during a sensitive period and emphasised that it did not constitute a final determination on the accuracy of the content. A post-decisional hearing was scheduled, and the creators were permitted to submit clarifications and supporting material. The Board also requested audience analytics from the podcast platform to assess the scale and reach of the content, specifying that the data sought was to be aggregated and anonymised.
9. Around the same time, reports emerged regarding the State's use of an AI-assisted system known as CivicPredict. According to official statements, CivicPredict was designed to identify patterns of coordinated online artificial amplification. Civil society organisations, however, alleged that the system effectively amounted to algorithmic profiling of individuals based on their online expression. While the State denied maintaining any formal "civic risk scores," it acknowledged that certain users had been flagged for closer monitoring by human reviewers. Details regarding the procurement of datasets, consent mechanisms, retention policies, and the scope of human oversight were not fully disclosed in the public domain.
10. As public debate continued, a group of university students announced plans to host a week-long digital town hall through livestreaming platforms to discuss governance, transparency, and the Smart District Corridor Project. The event was intended to allow open participation, including anonymous submissions. Intelligence inputs placed before the DCHB warned of possible misuse of the forum for spreading false or inflammatory content. Invoking Section 13 of the OIDS Act, the Board temporarily restricted the proposed digital assembly, citing concerns of public order and digital safety, while indicating that alternative formats could be explored.
11. Subsequently, certain students organised an offline protest near a project site without obtaining prior permission under general public order regulations. The police detained several participants, some of whom were later released without charge. While the State asserted that the detentions were unrelated to any digital profiling or content regulation, student groups alleged that prior online monitoring influenced enforcement decisions.



12. In this backdrop, the Digital Creators Guild of Indiana, along with podcasters, students, academics, and digital rights organisations, filed a writ petition before the Supreme Court of Indiana. The petition challenges the constitutional validity of key provisions of the OISR Act, the actions of the Digital Civic Harmony Board, and the use of AI-assisted monitoring systems, alleging violations of fundamental rights under Articles 14, 19, and 21 of the Constitution, as well as inconsistency with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and the DPDP Rules, 2025. The State of Indiana contests these claims, asserting that its actions were proportionate, procedurally safeguarded, and necessary to address contemporary digital risks that existing legal frameworks are inadequate to manage.

***Note: Laws of Indiana are Pari materia to the laws of India**

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Whether the regulatory framework created under the Online Influencers and Digital Safety Regulation Act, 2025, including the provisions governing online content and influencer obligations, satisfies the and constitutional requirements of reasonableness, clarity, proportionality under Articles 14 and 19 of the Constitution of India.
 2. Whether the powers vested in the Digital Civic Harmony Board under the Act, particularly relating to interim content restrictions, regulation of digital assemblies, and compulsory disclosure of dissemination data, are consistent with principles of natural justice and the guarantees of life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution.
 3. Whether the use of artificial intelligence systems and algorithmic profiling mechanisms contemplated under the Act conforms to constitutional standards governing privacy, dignity, informational autonomy, and procedural safeguards.
 4. Whether the Online Influencers and Digital Safety Regulation Act, 2025 falls within the legislative competence of the State Legislature and operates harmoniously with the existing statutory framework governing information technology and personal data protection in India.
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ONLINE INFLUENCERS AND DIGITAL SAFETY REGULATION ACT, 2025

(OIDSR Act, 2025) Act No. 85 of 2025

PREAMBLE

An Act to regulate online influencers, digital platforms, content creators, podcast publishers, algorithmic systems, and high-impact digital communication; to promote responsible, transparent, and safe digital engagement; to establish a Digital Civic Harmony Board; to ensure data protection and accountability in accordance with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and the DPDP Rules, 2025; and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

**CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY****1. Short title, extent and commencement**

- 1) This Act may be called the Online Influencers and Digital Safety Regulation Act, 2025.
- 2) It extends to the whole of the State of Indiana.
- 3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires.

- a) "Online Influencer" means any individual or entity who, through a digital platform, social media, or podcast service, has a following of twenty-five thousand or more users or receives financial gain for content dissemination;
- b) "Digital Platform" includes any online interface that allows the creation, distribution, or interaction with digital content, including but not limited to social media networks, podcast platforms, content-sharing websites, and live-streaming services;
- c) "Digital Content" means any information, audio, video, text, podcast, livestream, review, commentary, or visual media published or shared digitally;
- d) "Sponsored Content" means any content published in exchange for financial, material, or promotional benefit;
- e) "Artificial Intelligence System" means any algorithmic or automated system designed to analyse, generate, rank, or influence digital content, user preferences, or behaviour;

- f) “Algorithmic Profiling” means automated classification, prediction, or scoring of individuals based on their digital behaviour, preferences, or attributes;
- g) “Board” means the Digital Civic Harmony Board established under section 7 of this Act;
- h) Terms not defined herein but defined in the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 or the DPDP Rules, 2025 shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them therein.

CHAPTER II

REGISTRATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ONLINE INFLUENCERS

3. Registration of influencers

1. Every Online Influencer exceeding the prescribed thresholds shall register with the Board in such manner as may be prescribed.
2. The application for registration shall include-
 - (a) disclosure of platforms operated;
 - (b) nature and category of digital content published;
 - (c) list of commercial affiliations or sponsorships.

4. Regulation of harmful and unverified digital content-

1. Any Online Influencer or digital creator who publishes or disseminates digital content that -
 - a. is reasonably likely to cause public apprehension or misunderstanding relating to public institutions;
 - b. contains unverified or misleading statements affecting public order, governance, or civic functioning;
 - c. may negatively influence community harmony during sensitive or high-risk periods; or
 - d. undermines public confidence in essential civic services, may be directed to remove such content and may be subject to a content restriction notice for a period not exceeding sixty days.
2. The Board may, in urgent circumstances, issue interim directions under sub-section (1) without prior hearing, subject to a post-decisional hearing within seven days,
3. For the purposes of this section-
 - a. “unverified or misleading information” means content circulated without adequate basis that may reasonably lead to public misinterpretation;
 - b. “public apprehension” means a substantial likelihood of disruption to public confidence or order;
 - c. “high-risk period” means any time period notified by the Government in the interest of digital safety.
4. Content related to academic work, bona fide political commentary, satire, good-faith journalism

or artistic expression shall not attract action under this section, unless it directly falls within sub-section (1).

5. The reasons recorded for action under this section shall remain confidential except when required to be disclosed under judicial proceedings.

CHAPTER III

CONTENT MODERATION AND DISCLOSURE OBLIGATIONS

5. Transparency in content

Online influencers shall disclose—

1. paid partnerships;
2. sponsored content;
3. affiliate marketing links;
4. promotional gifts or barter arrangements.

6. Duty of due diligence

1. Every Online Influencer shall exercise due diligence while publishing or disseminating digital content and shall take reasonable steps to ensure that such content does not—
 - a. impersonate any individual or entity;
 - b. involve the creation, transmission or promotion of deepfake content;
 - c. knowingly disseminate false, fabricated, or misleading information;
 - d. promote, publish, or endorse any fraudulent scheme, financial scam, deceptive investment opportunity, or any content reasonably likely to mislead users into financial loss;
 - e. intentionally or recklessly publish content that is likely to cause unwarranted provocation, hostility, or disharmony among groups on the basis of religion, caste, creed, community, faith, or religious practices;
 - f. exploit religious beliefs, sentiments, or symbols for misleading commercial gain or fraudulent influence.
2. For the purposes of this section, “scam” includes any deceptive practice designed to obtain money, personal data, or financial benefit from users through misrepresentation, impersonation, fabricated claims, or false endorsements.
3. Nothing in this section shall prevent an Online Influencer from engaging in bona fide commentary, academic analysis, satire, or creative expression concerning religion, religious practices, or socio-cultural issues, provided that such content is not intended to provoke violence, hatred, or public disorder.

CHAPTER IV

DIGITAL SAFETY AND ALGORITHMIC ACCOUNTABILITY

7. Constitution of the Digital Civic Harmony Board

1. The State Government shall, by notification, constitute the Digital Civic Harmony Board

comprising—

- a. one retired Judge of a High Court, who shall be the Chairperson;
- b. one expert in cyber law;
- c. one data privacy professional;
- d. one social scientist or psychologist;
- e. one expert in artificial intelligence systems.

2. The Board shall—

- a. review compliance by influencers and platforms;
- b. approve use of high-risk AI systems;
- c. conduct hearings under this Act;
- d. issue takedown directions where required.

8. AI-generated content disclosure

Online influencers who use AI-generated content shall—

- a. clearly label such content;
- b. not impersonate real individuals without consent;
- c. comply with DPDP Rules on consent and notice.

9. Regulation of algorithmic profiling by public authorities

No public authority shall engage in algorithmic profiling unless—

- a. expressly authorised by law;
- b. a Data Protection Impact Assessment is conducted, where applicable;
- c. accuracy, fairness and non-discrimination safeguards are implemented;
- d. human oversight mechanisms are ensured.

10. Prohibition of civic risk scoring

No entity shall create or maintain civic risk scores of individuals based on—

- a. political affiliation;
- b. public criticism;
- c. protest participation;
- d. lawful digital expression.

CHAPTER V


DATA PROTECTION AND PLATFORM OBLIGATIONS

11. Compliance with DPDP Act and Rules

All persons and entities covered under this Act shall ensure compliance with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and the DPDP Rules, 2025, including but not limited to—

- a. notice and consent requirements;
- b. retention and erasure timelines;
- c. 72-hour breach notification;
- d. obligations on Significant Data Fiduciaries including audits and DPIAs.

12. Restrictions on data sharing

- 
1. No platform shall share personal data of influencers or users with the State unless—
 1. it is necessary and proportionate;
 2. authorised by the Board;
 3. compliant with the DPDP framework.
 2. Bulk data transfers or real-time surveillance shall not be permitted without a judicial warrant.

CHAPTER VI PUBLIC ORDER AND DIGITAL ASSEMBLIES

14. Penalty for influencers

Failure to comply with disclosure, registration, or takedown obligations may attract a penalty up to ₹5,00,000.

15. Penalty for platforms

Platforms failing to comply with lawful takedown or data disclosure obligations shall be liable to penalty up to ₹10,00,000.

CHAPTER VIII MISCELLANEOUS

16. Power to make rules

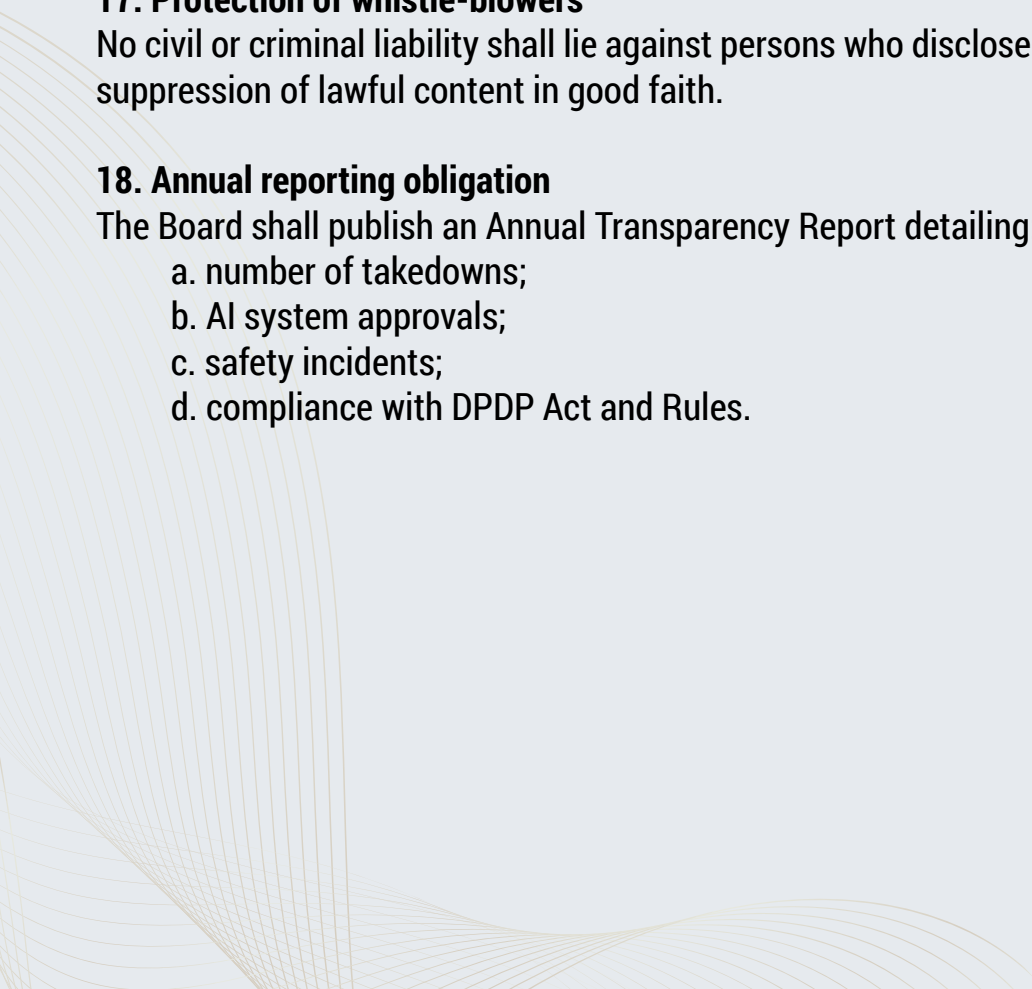
The State Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

17. Protection of whistle-blowers

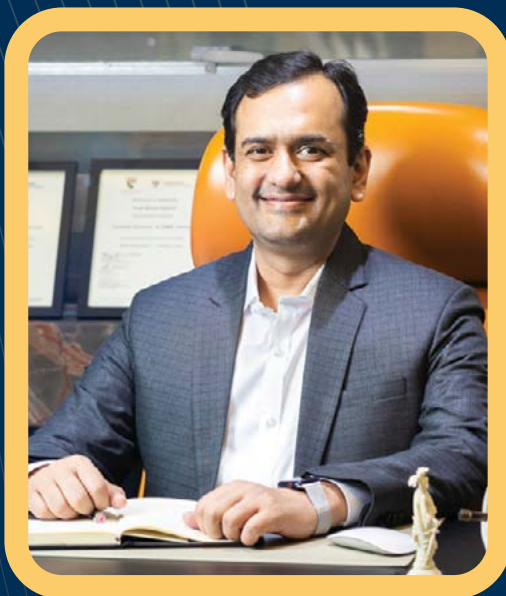
No civil or criminal liability shall lie against persons who disclose unlawful profiling, AI misuse, or suppression of lawful content in good faith.

18. Annual reporting obligation

The Board shall publish an Annual Transparency Report detailing:

- a. number of takedowns;
 - b. AI system approvals;
 - c. safety incidents;
 - d. compliance with DPDP Act and Rules.
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OUR PATRONS



Dr. Bharat Agarwal
President
Vishwakarma University, Pune



Prof. (Dr.) Mukund Kulkarni
Vice Chancellor
Vishwakarma University, Pune



Prof. (Dr.) Wasudeo .N. Gade
Vice President,
Vishwakarma University, Pune

ORGANISING COMMITTEE



Dr. Apurva Bhilare

I/c Dean, School of Law & Governance,
Vishwakarma University, Pune



Prof. Divyanshu Priyadarshi

Assistant Professor
Faculty Convenor



Dr. Shruti Das

Assistant Professor
Faculty Co-Convenor

STUDENT ORGANISING COMMITTEE



Mr. Lalit Bhangdiya
Student Convenor



Mr. Bhavya Ved Parihar
Student Co-Convenor



Mr. Abinav Aaryan



Mr. Vaibhav Kashid



Mr. Gaurav Jain



Mr. Vineet Parekh



Ms. Tanisha Pawar



Ms. Taruna Parihar



Ms. Perseverance Masuku



Mr. Knowledge Merejara

REGISTRATION DETAILS /

To confirm participation, teams from every institution should register themselves. The registration fee for every team is **Rs. 1500/-**

Payment Link:

<https://learner.vupune.ac.in/events>

(Participants will have to sign-up using above Link. After signing-up Participants must select VU, Pune under organizing Institute in Pay event fees tab)

For any Query Contact

Gaurav Jain + 91 96655 75173 | Tanisha Pawar +91 90281 75153

1. The duly completed Google Form for Registration with all team details and payment details must be submitted to the Moot Court Organising Committee on or before 25/02/2026 by 11:59 p.m. (IST). The names of the participants shall remain the same after the receipt of the Registration Form, except at the sole discretion of the Organisers.
2. All teams shall be given a "Team Code" by the Organisers on validation of their Google Form for Registration.
3. The teams shall use their designated "Team Code" to correspond with the Organisers.
4. The teams must use the same team code during the submission of Memorials and all the Rounds of the Competition.
5. The amount once paid shall not be refunded.

Link for Moot Problem and Rules & Regulations

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BgFOC4_t0OLffS5n3TGxORyHJNMM0iU6?usp=drive_link

Linkedin

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/moot-court-society-vishwakarma-university/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/vu.lawmedia?igsh=MTk0bWx3amdxdjRsOA==>



The Teams must register
via the below link or QR Code.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeEkvJd4nAK7nRg3XYI_5A3YL-hATy9gcg2LCtCkX3-xn_GK3Q/viewform



Vishwakarma University, Pune

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Faculty Conveners:

Prof. Divyanshu Priyadarshi. divyanshu.priyadarshi@vupune.ac.in

Dr. Shruti Das. shruti.das@vupune.ac.in



www.vupune.ac.in





SHRI RAJKUMAR AGARWAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

RULES AND REGULATIONS REGARDING MOOT COURT
COMPETITION

Date: 11th – 13th March, 2026

Mode: Offline



MOOT COURT SOCIETY VISHWAKARMA UNIVERSITY

RULES AND REGULATIONS REGARDING MOOT COURT COMPETITION

1. DEFINITION

For the purpose of the *Shri Rajkumar Agarwal Moot Court Competition 2026*, unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms shall have the meanings assigned to them:

1.1 “Competition”

Means the *Shri Rajkumar Agarwal Moot Court Competition 2026* organized by the Moot Court Society, School of Law and Governance, Vishwakarma University, Pune.

1.2 “Organizing Committee / OC”

Refers to the Moot Court Society and the designated faculty & student coordinators responsible for administering and conducting the Competition.

1.3 “Team”

Means the group of participants representing their respective institution and comprising two Speakers and one Researcher, unless otherwise notified by the OC.

1.4 “Speaker”

Means a member of the Team who presents oral arguments during the oral rounds.

1.5 “Researcher”

Means a member of the Team who conducts research and supports the Speakers. The Researcher may be allowed to argue only under specific circumstances, at the discretion of the OC.

1.6 “Memorial”

Means the written submission prepared by each Team on behalf of both sides—

Petitioner/Appellant and Respondent—as per the formatting guidelines prescribed in these Rules.

1.7 “Clarifications”

Refers to official responses issued by the OC regarding doubts or questions raised by participating Teams concerning the Moot Proposition.

1.8 “Moot Proposition / Moot Problem”

Means the hypothetical legal problem drafted for the purpose of the Competition, on which written submissions and oral pleadings are based.

1.9 “Rounds”

Means the different stages of the oral arguments including Preliminary Rounds, Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals, and Final Round.

1.10 “Judges”

Refers to the individuals appointed by the OC to evaluate the memorials and adjudicate oral rounds.

1.11 “Scoring Criteria”

Means the parameters laid down by the OC to evaluate written and oral submissions of participating Teams.

1.12 “Code of Conduct”

Means the ethical and behavioural standards expected from all participants during the Competition.

1.13 “Team Code”

Means the unique identification number allotted to each Team for ensuring anonymity during memorial evaluation and oral rounds.

1.14 “Institution”

Means any law college or university recognized by the Bar Council of India that has registered a Team for the Competition.

1.15 “Timekeeper”

Refers to the person assigned by the OC to keep track of the time during oral rounds.

1.16 “Court Officer”

Means the person responsible for maintaining order in the courtroom and assisting the adjudicating panel during oral rounds.

1.17 “Official Communication”

Means any notification, guideline, clarification, schedule, or instruction issued by the OC through email or official website.

2. GENERAL RULES

2.1 Eligibility

The Competition is open to all students currently enrolled in a 3-year LL.B. or 5-year Integrated Law programme at any institution recognised by the Bar Council of India.

2.2 Team Composition

1. Each team shall comprise three (3) members:
 - Two (2) Speakers
 - One (1) Researcher
2. No substitution of team members shall be allowed once registration is completed, except in cases of genuine emergency and only with prior approval of the OC.
3. A team may participate as a *two-member team* (both speakers) only if permitted by the OC. However, such teams have to inform the participant who will appear for the Researcher’s Test.

2.3 Official Language

1. The official language of the Competition shall be English.
2. All written submissions and oral pleadings must be strictly presented in English.

2.4 Dress Code

1. Participants shall adhere to the following dress code:
 - Male Participants: White shirt, black trousers, black blazer, black formal shoes.
 - Female Participants: White shirt/salwar, black trousers, black blazer, black formal shoes.

2.5 Team Code & Anonymity

1. Each team will be assigned a Team Code upon successful registration.
2. Teams must not disclose the name of their institution at any stage of the Competition.
3. Any memorial, document, or oral argument revealing institutional identity will lead to penalty or disqualification as determined by the OC.
4. Judges shall be addressed only as “Your Lordship/Your Ladyship” or “Hon’ble Judges”.

2.6 Communication

1. All official communication shall be made through the email address provided during registration.
2. It is the responsibility of each team to regularly check their email and official notifications.

2.7 Courtroom Etiquette

1. Participants must maintain proper courtroom decorum at all times.
2. Disrespectful behaviour, misrepresentation of facts, or use of derogatory language will result in strict disciplinary action.
3. Mobile phones must be switched off or kept on silent mode during proceedings.

2.8 Plagiarism

1. Any form of plagiarism in the memorials will result in strict penalties, including rejection of memorials or disqualification.
2. An originality threshold of 85% or higher is recommended.

2.9 Technical Issues

1. The OC shall not be responsible for technical or logistical issues faced by teams during registration or submissions.
2. Teams are advised to maintain backup copies of memorials and documents.

2.10 Authority of OC

1. The decisions of the Organizing Committee in all matters related to the Competition shall be final and binding.
2. OC reserves the exclusive right to interpret or amend the rules at any time prior to or during the Competition.

3. REGISTRATION

3.1 Registration Process

1. All participating institutions must complete the registration through the Official Registration Form provided by the Organizing Committee (OC).
2. The registration form must be filled out accurately with all required details of the institution and team members.
3. Incomplete or late submissions may lead to rejection of registration.

3.2 Registration Fees

1. Each team must pay a non-refundable registration fee of Rs. 1500/-.
2. Payment must be made through the authorized mode provided by the OC –
Payment Link: <https://learner.vupune.ac.in/events>
(Participants will have to sign-up using above Link. After signing up, participants must select VU, Pune under organizing Institute in Pay event fees tab.)
3. Proof of payment must be uploaded along with the registration form.
4. No registration will be confirmed without receipt of full payment.

3.3 Confirmation of Registration

1. Upon verification of the registration form and payment, each team will receive a Confirmation Email from the OC (Within 24 hours).
2. The Confirmation Email will include:
 - Team Code
 - Memorial submission guidelines
 - Important dates and schedule
 - Any additional instructions
3. Teams must acknowledge the confirmation email within the stipulated time.

3.4 Last Date for Registration

1. The last date for registration shall be **25th February**.
2. Requests for extension shall not be entertained except under extraordinary circumstances at the discretion of the OC.
3. Registration fees shall not be refunded under any circumstances.

3.5 Substitution of Members

1. Substitution of any team member may be permitted only in cases of medical emergencies or unavoidable circumstances.
2. Prior written approval from the OC is mandatory for substitution.

3.7 Communication with OC

1. All queries and communication regarding registration shall be directed to the Official Email ID: mootcourt@vupune.ac.in
2. The OC shall not be responsible for missed communication due to errors in email submission by teams.

3.8 Payment Details:

Payment Link: <https://learner.vupune.ac.in/events>

(Participants will have to sign-up using above Link. After signing up, participants must select VU, Pune under organizing Institute in Pay event fees tab.)

NOTE: There is no accommodation provided

3.9 Registration Details

Google Form Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeEkvJd4nAK7nRg3XYI_5A3YLhATy9gcg2LCtCkX3-xn_GK3Q/viewform?usp=dialog

To access the brochure:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BgFOC4_tOOLffS5n3TGxORyHJNMMOiU6?usp=drive_link

4. CLARIFICATION REGARDING MOOT PROBLEM

4.1 Seeking Clarifications

1. Teams may seek clarifications regarding the Moot Proposition only through the official email ID provided by the Organizing Committee (OC).

2. All clarification requests must be submitted on or before the Clarification Deadline, as mentioned in the Official Schedule.
3. Clarification requests submitted after the deadline will not be entertained under any circumstances.

4.2 Format of Clarification Requests

1. Clarifications must be sent in a single consolidated document containing all queries of the team.
2. The document must include the following:
 - Team Code (mandatory)
 - List of numbered questions
 - Clear reference to the relevant paragraph(s) of the Moot Proposition
3. Teams should not disclose the name of their institution while seeking clarifications. Any such disclosure may lead to penal action.

4.3 Scope of Clarifications

1. Clarifications are limited only to resolving ambiguities or inconsistencies in the Moot Proposition.
2. The OC shall not answer:
 - Questions seeking legal arguments
 - Interpretations of law
 - Requests that materially alter the facts of the proposition
 - Hypothetical extensions of the facts
3. Teams are expected to interpret the problem to the best of their ability beyond the scope of genuine factual inconsistencies.

4.4 Release of Clarifications

1. The Official Clarifications to the Moot Proposition shall be released on the date specified in the Schedule.
2. All teams will receive the clarification document via email and it will also be uploaded on the official website/notice board.
3. The issued clarifications shall be final and binding on all participants.

4.5 Clarification Binding Nature

1. Teams must ensure that their memorials and oral arguments are consistent with the Moot Proposition as amended by the Clarifications.
2. No additional or modified requests for clarifications shall be entertained after the Official Release.

5. MEMORIAL RULES

5.1 General Requirements

1. Each team must prepare Memorials for both sides:
 - Petitioner/Appellant
 - Respondent / Defendant
2. Memorials must be submitted in both Soft Copy and Hard Copy formats within the deadlines specified in the schedule.
3. Memorials must be the original work of the participants. Plagiarism beyond the allowed limit will attract penalties.

5.2 Soft Copy Submission

1. Teams must submit the soft copies of both Memorials in PDF format only.

2. Files must be named strictly as:

- TC_XX_Blue.pdf

- TC_XX_Red.pdf

(Where XX represents the Team Code.)

3. Soft copies must be emailed/uploaded only through the official email of the corresponding participant.

4. Failure to submit soft copies on time shall result in disqualification unless allowed under exceptional circumstances by the OC.

5.3 Hard Copy Submission

1. Teams must bring 5 hard copies each of the Blue and Red Memorials at the time of on desk registration.

2. Hard copies must be identical to the soft copies submitted earlier.

3. Any variation between soft and hard copies may result in penalties.

4. Spiral binding is permitted.

5.4 Memorial Structure

Each Memorial must contain the following components in the order listed below:

1. Cover Page (Blue and Red)

2. Table of Contents

3. List of Abbreviations

4. Index of Authorities

5. Statement of Jurisdiction

6. Statement of Facts (*without legal arguments*)

7. Issues Raised

8. Summary of Arguments

9. Arguments Advanced

10. Prayer

5.5 Cover Page Requirements

Each Memorial's cover page must contain:

- Court Designation
- Parties Name
- Team Code (Top Right Corner)
- Competition Name
- Title: "*Memorial on behalf of the Petitioner/Appellant*"

Note: *No institutional identification is permitted anywhere in the Memorial.*

5.6 Formatting Guidelines

1. Font Style: Times New Roman

2. Font Size:

- Main Text: 12
- Footnotes: 10

3. Line Spacing:

- Main Text: 1.5
- Footnotes: 1.0

4. Margins: 1 inch on all sides

5. Alignment: Justified

6. Citation Style: Bluebook 21st Edition

7. Paper Size: A4

8. Page Limit:

- Memorial (excluding cover page): Maximum 40 pages
- Arguments Advanced: Maximum 25 pages

5.7 Anonymity

1. Team Code must be printed on the top right corner of Cover page.
2. Teams must not reveal their institution's name at any point.
3. Any mention of institution, insignia, or watermark will lead to severe penalties including rejection of the memorial.

5.8 Scoring of Memorials

Memorials will be evaluated on the following parameters (100 marks per side):

Knowledge of Law	20 marks
Interpretation of Law & Application to Facts	20 marks
Use of Authorities & Citations	15 marks
Clarity, Coherence & Organization	15 marks
Quality of Arguments	15 marks
Grammar, Style & Presentation	10 marks
Formatting Compliance	5 marks

5.9 Penalties

Penalty marks may be imposed for the following:

- Late Submission: 1 mark per hour

- Formatting Errors: 0.5–2 marks per error
- Plagiarism: Up to 20 marks or disqualification
- Breach of Anonymity: Immediate disqualification

5.10 Queries Related to Memorial Submission

1. All queries must be made only through the official email ID provided.
2. OC's decision regarding memorial compliance and penalties is final and binding.

6. COMPETITION ROUNDS

6.1 Overview of Rounds

The Competition will consist of the following rounds:

1. **Researcher Test**
2. **Preliminary Round I**
3. **Preliminary Round II**
4. **Semi-Finals**
4. **Final Round**

Each team will argue once as Petitioner/Appellant and once as Respondent/ Defendant in the Preliminary Rounds.

6.2 Preliminary Rounds

6.2.1 Pairing & Side Allocation

1. Pairing of teams for both Preliminary Rounds shall be done through a draw of lots in the presence of all teams.

2. Each team shall argue once for the Petitioner and once for the Respondent.
3. Memorial scores will be added to oral scores only in the Preliminary Rounds.

6.2.2 Time Structure

1. Total Time per Team: 25 minutes
2. Division of Time:
 - Speaker 1: Minimum 7 minutes
 - Speaker 2: Minimum 7 minutes
 - Rebuttal & Sur-rebuttal: Maximum 5 minutes (to be allocated by the team)

Note- The Researcher is not allowed to argue.

6.2.3 Evaluation Criteria (Preliminary Rounds)

Each speaker will be evaluated on the following parameters:

Knowledge of Law	20 marks
Interpretation of Law & Application to Facts	15 marks
Use of Authorities & Citations	10 marks
Response to Questions	15 marks
Advocacy Skills & Courtroom Manner	20 marks
Clarity, Organization & Structure	10 marks
Time Management	10 marks

Total Oral Score per team (per round): 200 marks

6.2.4 Qualification for Semifinals

1. Qualification will be based on Combined Score (Preliminary Round I + Preliminary Round II).

2. Top Four teams will be Qualified for Semi Finals
3. In case of a tie:
 - Higher Memorial Score will prevail.
 - If still tied, Score of Researcher Test will be considered.

6.3 Semi-Finals

6.3.1 Format

1. The Semi-Final will be a knockout round.
2. Top 4 teams have to argue on one side, depending on the side they receive through Draw of lots.

6.3.2 Time Structure

- Total Time per Team: 35 minutes
- Speaker 1: Minimum 12 minutes
- Speaker 2: Minimum 12 minutes
- Rebuttal/Sur-rebuttal: Max 5 minutes

6.3.3 Evaluation Criteria

Judges will place increased emphasis on:

- Mastery of facts
- Creative legal reasoning
- Judicial mannerisms
- Strategic handling of counter-arguments

Decision is final and binding.

6.4 Final Round

6.4.1 Format

1. Winner of the Competition of Knock Out round.

6.4.2 Time Structure

- Total Time per Team: 50 minutes
- Speaker 1: Minimum 20 minutes
- Speaker 2: Minimum 20 minutes
- Rebuttal/Sur-rebuttal: Max 5 minutes

6.4.3 Evaluation Criteria

Depth of Legal Analysis	25 marks
Handling of Judicial Questions	25 marks
Legal Research & Authorities	15 marks
Advocacy Skills	10 marks
Courtroom Etiquette	10 marks
Strategy, Persuasion & Structure	15 marks

The judges' decision is final, conclusive, and not subject to review.

6.5 General Rules for All Rounds

1. Teams must remain strictly anonymous; revealing identity will result in disqualification.
2. Time extension will not be permitted except at the sole discretion of the judges.
3. Speakers may divide time among themselves but must inform judges before starting.
4. Only one speaker may address rebuttal or sur-rebuttal.
5. The Researcher may pass notes to speakers but may not address the court.

6. Judges may question speakers at any time during the argument.
7. Use of electronic devices (phones/laptops) during rounds is strictly prohibited.

7. RESEARCHER TEST

7.1 Purpose of the Researcher's Test

The Researcher's Test is conducted to evaluate the legal knowledge, research aptitude, analytical ability, and understanding of the Moot Proposition of the designated Researcher from each team.

7.2 Eligibility

1. Only the Researcher whose name is submitted at the time of registration is permitted to appear for the test.
2. Substitution of the Researcher is not allowed unless approved in writing by the Organizing Committee (OC) under exceptional circumstances.

7.3 Structure of the Test

1. The test shall be conducted in offline mode as per the official schedule.
2. The test will consist only of Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs).
3. Questions will be based on:
 - Moot Proposition
 - Relevant laws
 - General legal principles
 - Fact-based legal reasoning
 - Landmark judgments (basic understanding)

7.4 Duration & Marks

- Duration: 45 minutes

- Total Marks: 50
- Question Type: 50 MCQs × 1 mark each

7.5 Allowed Materials

1. Only Stationary materials permitted (Pen, Pencil, Eraser).
2. No electronic devices (mobile phones, smart watches, earbuds, laptops, tablets, etc.) are allowed inside the exam hall.
3. Any violation will lead to immediate disqualification from the test.

7.6 Scoring & Evaluation

1. The Researcher's Test score will be considered solely for the Best Researcher Award.
2. The test score will not affect the team's progression to knockout rounds unless there is tie between the teams.
3. The Moot Court Society Convener's decision is final and binding.

7.7 Misconduct & Disqualification

1. Any form of cheating, communication with others, or possession of unauthorized materials will result in:
 - Immediate expulsion from the test
 - Disqualification from the Best Researcher Award
2. Serious violations may also lead to disciplinary action against the entire team.
3. Non-adherence to dress codes strictly will result in immediate disqualification of the team.
4. All non-compliance decision will be taken by The Moot Court Society Convener.

7.8 Result Declaration

1. Results of the Researcher's Test will be announced during the Valedictory Ceremony.

2. The participant securing the highest score will be awarded the Best Researcher Award.

8. AWARDS

To honour exceptional performance and dedication, the following awards shall be presented during the Valedictory Ceremony of the Shri Rajkumar Agarwal National Moot Court Competition:

8.1 Winning Team

- Trophy
- Certificates of Achievement
- Cash Prize of Rs. **15,000/-**

8.2 Runner-Up Team

- Trophy
- Certificates of Achievement
- Cash Prize of Rs. **12,000/-**

8.3 Best Memorial

Awarded to the team securing the highest memorial score across both sides (Petitioner & Respondent combined).

- Trophy
- Cash Prize of Rs. **2500/-**

8.4 Best Speaker (Overall)

Awarded to the participant with the highest cumulative oral scores in both Preliminary Rounds.

- Trophy

- Cash Prize of Rs. **2500/-**

8.5 Best Researcher

Awarded to the participant securing the highest marks in the Researcher's Test.

- Trophy
- Cash Prize of Rs. 2,000/-

8.6 Certificates

1. Participation E-Certificates will be awarded to all team members who participate in the Competition.
2. Certificates will not be provided to teams that withdraw or are disqualified.
3. Replacement certificates will not be issued.

9. CODE OF CONDUCT

9.1 Professional Behaviour

1. All participants must maintain the highest standards of professionalism, discipline, and ethical conduct throughout the Competition.
2. Participants must remain respectful towards judges, organizers, volunteers, and fellow participants at all times.
3. Any form of misconduct will result in immediate disciplinary action by the Organizing Committee (OC).

9.2 Courtroom Decorum

1. Participants must address the judges as "Your Lordship/Your Ladyship" or "Hon'ble Judges."

2. Participants must stand when the judges enter or exit the courtroom.
3. Argumentation with the judges or questioning their authority is strictly prohibited.
4. Disturbances, loud whispering, or passing notes disruptively are not allowed inside the courtroom.

9.3 Identity Confidentiality

1. Teams must **not** disclose the name of their institution in memorials, during oral rounds, or in any communication.
2. Any revealing of institutional identity verbally or in writing will lead to penalties or disqualification.
3. Only the Team Code must be used for identification.

9.4 Use of Electronic Devices

1. Use of mobile phones, laptops, tablets, smart watches, or other electronic devices inside the courtroom is strictly prohibited.
2. Devices must be switched off or set to silent mode during proceedings.
3. Unauthorized use of devices will be treated as misconduct.

9.5 Dress Code

1. Participants must wear the prescribed formal courtroom attire (as detailed in Section 2).
2. Participants appearing in casual or improper attire may be barred from arguing in that round.

9.6 Fair Play & Integrity

1. Participants shall not engage in any conduct that provides an unfair advantage, including:
 - Cheating

- Plagiarism
 - Collusion with other teams
 - Attempting to influence judges or organizers
 - Using unauthorized materials
2. Any attempt to manipulate scoring or influence judges will lead to immediate disqualification.

9.7 Communication with Judges & Officials

1. Participants must not communicate with judges outside the courtroom about the Competition or its issues.
2. Any attempt to discuss the moot problem, scoring, or feedback with the judges in an informal setting will be treated as misconduct.
3. Participants must follow instructions given by volunteers, timekeepers, and court officers with courtesy.

9.8 Prohibition on Substances & Misconduct

1. Consumption or possession of alcohol, drugs, or intoxicants on campus is strictly prohibited.
2. Harassment, discrimination, bullying, or inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated and may lead to disqualification.

9.9 Consequences of Violation

1. For any violation of this Code of Conduct, the OC may impose penalties including:
 - Deduction of marks
 - Disqualification from a round
 - Disqualification from the entire Competition
 - Cancellation of awards or certificates

2. The OC's decision on disciplinary matters shall be final and binding.

10. MISCELLANEOUS

10.1 Interpretation of Rules

1. The Organizing Committee (OC) reserves the sole and absolute authority to interpret all rules mentioned in this brochure.
2. In case of any ambiguity, the interpretation provided by the OC shall be final and binding on all participants.

10.2 Power to Amend Rules

1. The OC may add, modify, or repeal any rule at any time prior to the commencement of the Competition.
2. Any such amendment will be communicated to all teams through the official communication channels.
3. Once the Competition begins, rules may be changed only under compelling circumstances, at the discretion of the OC.

10.3 Technical Issues & Responsibility

1. The OC shall not be responsible for technical failures faced by teams during registration, submission of memorials, or communication.
2. Teams are strongly advised to maintain backup copies of all documents.
3. Late submissions due to technical issues at the team's end shall not be excused.

10.4 Emergency Situations

1. In the event of unforeseen circumstances (natural disasters, administrative limitations, medical emergencies, etc.), the OC may:

- Alter the schedule
- Shift venues
- Convert rounds to online/hybrid mode
- Postpone certain sessions

2. All decisions taken by the OC in such situations shall be final.

10.5 Confidentiality of Evaluation

1. Judges and evaluators shall maintain complete confidentiality regarding:

- Memorial scores
- Oral round scoring
- Team identities

2. Teams must not attempt to access or influence any evaluation documents.

10.6 Prohibition on Influence

1. No participant, faculty coordinator, or associated person shall attempt to influence judges, evaluators, volunteers, or organizers in any manner.

2. Any such attempt will result in immediate disqualification of the concerned team.

10.7 Campus Regulations

1. All participants must comply with the general rules and regulations of Vishwakarma University during their presence on campus.

2. Damage to university property may result in penalties or reimbursement liability.

10.8 Lost & Found

1. Participants are responsible for their belongings.

2. The OC shall not be liable for loss, theft, or misplacement of personal items.

10.9 Final Authority

The Organizing Committee's decision on all matters relating to the Competition shall be final, binding, and not open to challenge.

MOOT COURT SOCIETY VISHWAKARMA UNIVERSITY