1ST PCGT-ABACL NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2026

21st – 22nd November & 5th December, 2026

OFFICIAL RULES

1. GENERAL

1.1 Team Composition

Each team shall comprise of **two (2) members** only, consisting of **two (2) speakers.**

1.2 Eligibility

Participation is restricted to bona fide law students enrolled either in the 3-year L.L.B Law course or the 5-year integrated Law course studying in India. Participation is limited to only one team per College or University. Cross College/University teams are strictly prohibited.

1.3 Language

The official language of the Competition is **English**. All Competition Rounds, including the Written Submissions or Compendiums shall be in English.

1.4 Accommodation

1.4.1 Accommodation shall only be provided to teams qualifying for the Semi-Final Round of Arguments and residing outside of Mumbai at the cost of the Organisers, for 1 night at the maximum (subject to change), which is 5th December, 2026.

1.4.2 Teams arriving earlier shall contact the hotel/the respective place of stay directly (details of the accommodation shall be shared later), and make their bookings accordingly. Extra charges shall have to be incurred by the team for additional days of stay.

1.4.3 Accommodation shall not be provided to a third team member, coach, professor or family member.

1.4.4 Accommodation for the participants living outside Mumbai shall be notified to them via e-mail a week before the Competition.

1.4.5 Any concerns that participants have pertaining to room allotment are required to be conveyed to the Organisers. Changes in the room allotment can be made by the Organisers after the same has been conveyed to them, at their discretion.

1.5 Dress Code

The dress code for the participants during the Rounds of the Competition shall be Black and White Formals with a tie mandatory for gentlemen and Western or Indian Formals for ladies. A blazer is mandatory for both.

2. REGISTRATION

2.1 All registering Colleges must provisionally register themselves by sending an e-mail to ***pcgt.conclave@gmail.com***. The last date to provisionally register is **18th November 2026,** by **11:59 p.m. IST**. Only after the provisional registration has been confirmed shall a link to a Google Form and details for the payment of registration fees be provided.

2.2 The Registration Fee is **Rs. 1,500/- (Rupees One Thousand Five Hundred Only) per Team**. The **Registration Fee** must be paid via Bank Transfer or Net Banking, the details of which have been provided below;

ACCOUNT NAME: PUBLIC CONCERN FOR GOVERNANCE TRUST

NAME OF BANK: HDFC BANK LTD

ACCOUNT TYPE: SAVINGS ACCOUNT NO. : 50100231805300

IFSC CODE: HDFC0000005

MICR CODE: 400240005

BRANCH: Bhulabhai Desai Road Branch, MUMBAI

2.3 This Registration Fee is exclusive of accommodation. Accommodation shall be provided only for teams qualifying for the Semi-Final Round of Arguments of the Competition if residing outside of Mumbai.

2.4 In the event of a team backing out of the Competition less than **Two (2) weeks** prior to the Oral Rounds, the team shall not be eligible for a refund of the Registration Fee.

2.5 All teams shall be given a "team code" by the Organisers on validation of their Registration form. Thereafter, the teams shall use their designated "team code" for all correspondence with the Organisers.

2.6 The assigned "team code" must be used by the teams during the submission of Memorials and during all the Rounds of the Competition.

3. COMPETITION RULES

The Competition Rounds shall comprise **one (1) Preliminary Round**, **one (1) Semi-Final Round** and **one (1) Final Round**. The Preliminary Rounds of Arguments shall be conducted **online**. The Semi-Final Round of Arguments and the Final Round of Arguments shall be conducted **offline** at ***Adv. Balasaheb Apte College of Law, Dadar West, Mumbai***. Teams qualifying in the Preliminary Round of Arguments shall be provided with a **ten (10) day gap** to appear offline for the Semi-Final Round of Arguments at the venue.

3.1 Preliminary Round of Arguments

3.1.1 There shall be **ONE (1)** Preliminary Round of Arguments. Each team shall argue for both the sides (Petitioner and Respondent), arguing as the Petitioner in one Preliminary Round and Respondent in the other.

3.1.2 A team shall be credited with a win in the Preliminary Round of Arguments if their Round Total is greater than that of the Opposing Team.

3.1.3 In the event of a tie in a Preliminary Round, the team securing higher marks under the criterion '**Knowledge and Application of Relevant Law'**, as specified in the Marking Criteria.

3.2 Semi-Final Round of Arguments

3.2.1 Four (4) teams shall advance to the Semi-Final Round of Arguments from the Preliminary Round of Arguments. The Semi-Final Round pairings shall be according to a Draw of Lots.

3.2.2 The Semi-Final Round of Arguments shall consist of **one (1) Mooting Round** and shall be a "Knock-Out" Round, where the winner of each Semi-Final Pairing shall advance to the Final Round of Arguments.

3.2.3 A team shall be credited with a win in the Semi-Final Round of Arguments if their Total round score is greater than that of the Opposing Team.

3.2.4 In the event of a tie in the Round Total of the teams in the Semi-Final Round, the decision of the Judges shall be deemed final.

3.3 Final Round of Arguments

3.3.1 Two (2) teams shall advance to the Final Round of Argument from the Semi-Final Round. A Draw of Lots Procedure shall determine the allocation of sides for the teams in the Final Round.

3.3.2 The Final Round shall also consist of **one (1) Mooting Round** which shall be a "Knock-out" Round where the team with the higher Round Total shall be declared as the Best Team.

4. ORAL SUBMISSIONS

4.1 The Oral Rounds shall be conducted on a virtual platform for the **ONE (1)** Preliminary Round of Arguments.

4.2 Each team shall have two speakers who shall divide the oral submissions between themselves.

4.3 During the course of the Oral Submissions, no speaker shall reveal his/her identity or the identity of his/her College/University by any means whatsoever. Doing so shall result in negative marking as deemed appropriate by the Judges.

4.4 No change in the team composition shall be permitted. Changes in the team composition shall be allowed only in exceptional circumstances subject to permission from the Organisers. However, in the event of a change, the Organisers are to be notified at the earliest via e-mail stating a valid reason for the same.

4.5 No change in the speaker roles shall be permitted after the registration of a team has been completed. The designated roles - Speaker 1 and Speaker 2 shall remain the same throughout all stages of the Competition, that is, Preliminary, Semi-Final, and Final Rounds of Arguments.

4.6 Each team shall have a maximum of 20 minutes to present their overall Oral Submissions (excluding the rebuttal). Each team may reserve time for a rejoinder/ rebuttal. At the commencement of each session of the Oral Submissions, each team must notify the Court Officer about the amount of time that they want to reserve for their rejoinder. Maximum time allowed for Rebuttal shall be **10 Minutes**. Each team shall notify the Court Officer as to the division of time between the 2 speakers.

4.7 It is to be noted that any team in a session of the Oral Submissions is not in the capacity to reserve any time for a sur-rejoinder for that session. Sur-rejoinders may be granted by the Judges, and remain at the sole discretion of the Bench for that session.

4.8 Teams shall be required to inform their speaking order to the Organisers. It is to be noted that a speaker shall be permitted to speak **only once** during the course of each Round of the Oral Submissions, with an exception for the rejoinder/sur-rejoinder.

4.9 There shall be **two (2) warning bells**, one at **five (5) minutes** before the completion of the allocated time for each speaker and one at **one (1) minute** before the completion of the allocated time for each speaker, respectively. Additionally, there shall be a final bell at the completion of the allocated time for each speaker. Oral Submissions made under the rejoinder/sur-rejoinder shall be made by only one speaker.

4.10 All teams shall be expected to carry with them any case law and authorities which they intend to refer to during the course of their Oral Submissions. Teams must note that they shall not be permitted to submit any material to the Judges if such material bears the name of their College/University.

4.11 During the course of Oral Submissions, the participants cannot submit to the Court any material containing pictorial representation whatsoever. Further, the participants will not be permitted to make any audio/visual representation, nor will they be allowed to use personal computers, laptops and any other technical or mechanical device during their Oral Submissions.

4.12 If at any instance a submission is made with any material in violation of Clause 4.11 and if any picture, sketches, photos, cartoons, caricatures, audio film, video film, projector-slide or a computer-generated image is submitted or presented to the Court, the team in violation shall be subject to disqualification or negative marking as deemed appropriate by the Judges.

5. ONLINE PLATFORM RULES

5.1 The participants must ensure that they have a strong and stable internet connection with good audio and video facilities. They must use laptops or PCs for the Oral Rounds. The use of cell phones is prohibited.

5.2 The background of the participants on video must be plain and must not contain any symbols or any representations.

5.3 The participants (speakers) must ensure that any noise or audio other than the voice of the participant does not occur during the Online Oral Rounds. It is advisable to plan and prepare for the Online Oral Rounds in advance accordingly.

5.4 All participants are required to submit their e-compendium by 18th November 2026, as this will be the primary material used for the preliminary rounds. The submission of the e-compendium is mandatory; however, at the discretion of the judges, participants may be permitted to use the screen-sharing feature for their submission if necessary. It is advisable to use PDF viewing applications such as Preview, Adobe Acrobat, or similar tools for displaying their Compendiums.

5.5 The teams must ensure that they do not disclose the identity of their College at any stage during the Competition as aforementioned. Any kind of canvassing shall lead to the disqualification of the teams.

5.6 At the time when one participant is speaking, others are expected to keep their microphones on mute.

5.7 The participants must not start the session before the host. The Meeting ID, Password, and Link to each session shall be shared with the participants before each Round.

6. MARKING CRITERIA FOR THE ORAL SUBMISSIONS

6.1 Each Speaker shall be marked out of a total of 100 marks by each Bench Judge.

6.2 The Round Total shall be the aggregate of the total of the **two (2) speakers.**

6.3 The following shall be the Marking Criteria and the Marks Allocated to compute the Round Total for each team:

Sr. No.	Marking Criteria	Marks Allotted
1.	Knowledge and Application of Law	25
2.	Interpretation and Use of Facts	20
3.	Ability to Answer Questions	15
4.	Organisation and Flow of Arguments	15
5.	Time Management and Rebuttals	10
6.	Style, Poise, Courtesy and Demeanor	15
	Total	100

6.4 The decision of the Judges pertaining to the marks allotted to any team shall be final. To ensure uniformity in the marking system, all the Judges shall be provided with a marking guideline.

7. AWARDS

7.1 The following awards shall be presented:

(i) Best Team – INR 5000/-

(ii) Runner-up Team – INR 3000/-

(iii) Best Speaker – INR 2000/- (This shall be decided based on the preliminary round)

7.2 All participants shall be presented with E-Certificates of Participation, and all the winners of awards shall be presented with Certificates of Merit and a cash prize.

8. CODE OF CONDUCT AND EQUITY

8.1 Standards of Professional Conduct

8.1.1 All participants shall abide by the Rules of the Competition and maintain the highest standards of professionalism and conduct throughout every stage of the Competition.

8.1.2 Any act or conduct that disrupts, or is likely to disrupt, the decorum or orderly functioning of the Competition shall be strictly prohibited.

8.1.3 Participants shall refrain from unduly prolonged arguments, repetitive submissions, and unnecessary commentary.

8.1.4 The decisions of the Judges shall be final and binding. All participants are expected to accept such decisions with due respect and refrain from displaying any form of disrespect towards the Bench, its observations, or its decisions.

8.1.5 Participants shall not engage in any act or activity that compromises the integrity of the Competition, undermines the Institution, or brings it into disrepute.

8.1.6 Every participant shall uphold the Rules and integrity of the Competition. Any violation of these provisions may invite appropriate action by the Organisers.

8.2 Equity and Anti-Harassment

The Organisers are committed to ensuring that the Competition provides a fair, inclusive, and non-discriminatory environment across all its stages and fora. Every participant and individual associated with the Competition shall be treated with dignity, fairness, and respect.

8.2.1 Participants shall maintain respectful and courteous conduct towards fellow participants, Judges, volunteers, members of the organising committee, and all other individuals associated with the Competition.

8.2.2 Any conduct that causes discomfort, humiliation, or distress to another individual, including but not limited to discrimination, harassment, bullying, vilification, or any other form of inappropriate behaviour, shall be strictly prohibited.

8.2.3 Any act that infringes upon an individual's right to equitable and respectful treatment or violates the principles set out in these provisions may invite appropriate action by the Organisers.

8.3 Complaints and Disciplinary Action

8.3.1 Any participant or team wishing to raise a complaint concerning the conduct or demeanour of any individual associated with the Competition shall formally submit the same to the members of the Organising Committee/PCGT.

8.3.2 Any participant who believes that they have experienced a breach of equity or wishes to raise a related grievance shall formally communicate the same to the members of the Organising Committee/PCGT.

8.3.3 The Organisers shall have the discretion to examine complaints concerning breaches of conduct, equity, or other forms of misconduct and determine the appropriate course of action.

8.3.4 The decision of the Organising Committee in relation to complaints and grievances raised by participants, including those concerning demeanour, equity, misconduct, or violations of the Competition Rules, shall be final.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

9.1 No member of a team, nor any individual associated with a team, shall be permitted to observe the oral arguments in any courtroom in which their team is not competing while their team remains in the Competition. Any team found to have engaged in scouting, whether directly or through its members or any other person, may face strict disciplinary action, including disqualification from the Competition.

9.2 Participants shall maintain proper decorum during all courtroom proceedings and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the standards of the legal profession.

9.3 The interpretation of these Rules and all matters relating to the procedures of the Competition shall fall within the authority of the Organisers, whose decision shall be final.

9.4 In respect of any matter or eventuality not expressly addressed by these Rules, the Organisers shall have the authority to determine the appropriate course of action, and their decision shall be final.

9.5 The Organisers reserve the right to amend, modify, supplement, or withdraw any of the Rules of the Competition, as may be considered necessary or appropriate.

DISCLAIMER

The Material in the Moot Problem is not intended to and does not attempt to resemble any incident or any person living or dead. All material in the problem is fictitious and any resemblance to any incident or person, if any, is not intended, but merely coincidental.

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