



ARMY LAW COLLEGE, PUNE



proudly presents

QUEST INDICIA

4TH NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2025

8TH MARCH & 4TH WEEK OF MARCH



KHURANA & KHURANA
ADVOCATES AND IP ATTORNEYS

ORGANISED BY

“धर्मिष्ठा”

MOOT COURT SOCIETY

ASST. PROF. TEJASWINI DEWANGAN
Faculty-in-Charge, MCS

COL. (RETD.) A.K. PANDEY
Registrar & HOA

DR. MADHUSHREE JOSHI
Principal

MR. RAJNISH KUMAR
Co-Convener, MCS

MS. SAYALI BHOR
Convener, MCS

MS. ISHA
Convener, MCS

AWARD SPONSOR

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ABOUT THE COMPETITION



The Army Law College, Pune is resolved to offer an enriched platform through the 'Quest Indicia National Moot Court Competition' for budding lawyers to hone their inner quest for truth and justice.

The 'Quest Indicia' with its ever-evolving meaning stands for the 'search for a distinguishing evidential mark to substantiate proposition and lead towards justice'.

India is the cradle of civilisation with its philosophy of seeking and sustaining truth and it is the underlying light of our 'Quest Indicia'. We shall strive to shape rational minds through such academic contests and nurture the scientific temper in all aspects of legal education. We are 'On the march to glory' to transform the world with truth, justice, and co-existence.

'Mooting' is what every law student must take pride in as it connects them to a real court experience. Army Law College, Pune strives to instill this emotion in students and to provide a platform further to hone their advocacy skills, we are proudly organizing **'QUEST INDICIA' 4TH NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2025** on 08th & 4th week of March, 2025.

Through this Competition, we wish to provide students with a thriving and rewarding experience to develop the ability to identify the legal issue from a factual scenario, conduct thorough research to advance arguments, draft written submissions, and finally, the grueling orals before eminent judges.

We will endeavor to create this atmosphere of invigorating intellectual challenges and the opportunity to learn court craft through simulated experiences in this Competition. Our main goal is to create a strong tradition of successful mooting for years to come. Hence, we are looking forward to hosting your team in our Competition! We cordially invite students from across the country to our campus and be a part of our fourth edition of the National Moot Court Competition, 2025.

ABOUT ARMY LAW COLLEGE, PUNE



Established in July 2018, Army Law College, Pune, stands as a beacon of quality legal education with a noble mission—to impart knowledge to the children of our brave, patriotic, and selfless Army Personnel. Governed by the Army Welfare Education Society (AWES), the college is strategically located in a serene environment, providing an ideal setting for academic pursuits.

Affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU), a distinguished institution ranked 10th in the 2019 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), Army Law College, Pune, upholds academic excellence. The college holds approvals from the Bar Council of India and the Government of Maharashtra, ensuring adherence to stringent standards.

Offering a five-year integrated B.B.A LL.B. & B.A LL.B program with an exclusive student intake of 60 seats reserved for the children of Army and Air Force Personnel, the college is committed to shaping future legal professionals. The vision of Army Law College, Pune, resonates with the aspiration to create employable, practice-ready, and ethical lawyers. These legal practitioners are envisioned to be equipped with a comprehensive blend of knowledge, skills, values, and global competence, reflecting the college's dedication to producing outstanding professionals who contribute to the legal landscape.

ABOUT MOOT COURT SOCIETY



At Army Law College, Pune, the Moot Court Society (MCS) stands as a pillar of responsibility, overseeing and facilitating all mooting-related endeavors within the institution. Tasked with maintaining the high standards of excellence set by the College in the field of Mooting, the society bears the name 'Dharamishta', symbolizing the commitment to walking the path of righteousness, truth, karma, and dharma.

'Dharamishta' actively encourages student participation in Moot Court Competitions, serving as a platform for honing legal skills and fostering a deeper understanding of advocacy. The society plays a pivotal role in hosting enlightening sessions covering various aspects of mooting, ranging from introductory overviews to research methodologies, tenets of legal reading and research, interpretation of statutes, moot demonstrations, drafting moot problems, composing memoranda, formatting documents, and mastering the mechanics of oral advocacy.

Under the guidance of faculty-in-charges Asst. Prof. Tejaswini Dewangan, the society is led by Conveners Ms. Sayali Bhor (5th Year) and Ms. Isha (5th Year) along with Co-Convener Mr. Rajnish Kumar (4th Year). Together, they work diligently to spread awareness about mooting and conduct related activities. Notably, the society has successfully conducted in-house trials, providing students with valuable opportunities to showcase their skills and select representatives for participation in moot court competitions, further enriching the academic and practical dimensions of legal education at Army Law College, Pune.



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Convenor, MCS

JOURNEY OF QUEST INDICIA



Army Law College, Pune organized the 1st Virtual National Moot Court Competition from 8th January to 9th January, 2022.

The Chief Guest for the Inaugural Ceremony was Senior Advocate Dushyant Dave, Supreme Court and former President of the Supreme Court Bar Association for three years. During his Inaugural address, he emphasized developing reading habits, referring to and relying more on physical books and newspapers than virtual resources. He announced a jaw-dropping sponsorship of Rs. 6 Lakhs for the Competition; Rs. 3 Lakhs for the Winning team, Rs. 2 Lakhs for the Runner-up team, and Rs. 1 Lakh for 2nd Runners Up. In furtherance, Sir also donated Rs. 10 Lakhs to our College after being impressed with the smooth execution of the Competition. After fierce competition, Central University of South Bihar, Gaya comprising Aditi Tomar, Aashish Ranjan, and Kishan Kumar backed the 1st Position and received a Cash Prize of Rs. 3,40,000.

In the subsequent year, we organized the 'Quest Indicia' 2nd National Moot Court Competition, 2023 from 25th March to 26th March, 2023. After a gruelling Final round presided over by Hon'ble Justice Dr. Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi, Advocate Shovan Mishra, and Advocate (Dr.) Swapnil Bangali as our esteemed judges, Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune emerged as the winner. The team comprised Mansi Shrivastava, Chahak Sharma, and Aayushi Tyagi.

Successively, we organized the 'Quest Indicia' 3rd National Moot Court Competition, 2024 from 9th March to 10th March, 2024. After a arduous Final round presided over by Hon'ble Justice Jasti Chelameswar , Advocate Sanjeeva Deshpande, and Dr. Amar Pal Singh as our esteemed judges, Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune emerged as the winner.

Building on this success, Army Law College is now gearing up for the Fourth edition of its National Moot Court Competition.

GLIMPSES - QUEST INDICIA



Final round presided over by Hon'ble Justice Jasti Chelameswar , Advocate Sanjeeva Deshpande, and Dr. Amar Pal Singh as our esteemed judges of 3rd Quest Indicial, 2024



The draw of lots and exchange of memorial by the faculty members in 1st online national Moot Court Competition held in 2022.



The courtroom alive with energy as the competition rounds unfolded. Judges posed challenging questions, and the speakers responded with sharp, law-driven arguments. Their composure and intelligence showcased true legal talent, making the event a remarkable display of skill and wit.



After a gruelling Final round presided over by Hon'ble Justice Dr. Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi, Advocate Shovan Mishra, and Advocate (Dr.) Swapnil Bangali as our esteemed judges, Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune emerged as the winner in 2nd Quest Indicia, 2023



AWARDS



INTERNSHIP OPPURTUNITY AT KHURANA & KHURANA

WINNER	Rs. 40,000
RUNNER UP	Rs. 25,000
2ND RUNNER UP	Rs. 10,000
BEST SPEAKER	Rs. 5,000
BEST MEMORIAL	Rs. 5000

- One month access to the SCC Online Web Edition to all participants valued at Rs. 1099 each.
- one-year complimentary subscription to SCC Online Web Edition to be distributed to the winning team

RULES AND REGULATIONS



INTRODUCTION

“A Moot is a faux theatre of war that trains you for the real-life cut and thrust of court.” To moot means to bring something to a discussion. The aim of Moot Court activity is to groom the budding lawyers. It trains the students of law to create links between theory and practice. Moot court competition provides a platform for law students to showcase their mooting talent.

Short Title: These Rules shall bear the title **‘Quest Indicia’ 4th National Moot Court Competition Rules 2025 - Rules and Regulations**”.

Definitions: Unless otherwise stated following shall be construed as under–

- “Administrator” shall mean the Faculty of Law, Army Law College, PUNE and Moot Court Society of Army Law College, Pune.
- “Clarifications” shall mean any questions, inquires or doubts sent by a registered team (after final registration) to the organizers seeking any factual clarification(s) in the Moot Proposition. The clarifications, if any, provided by the college shall be considered as if it were a part of the Moot Proposition and shall have no individual significance.
- “Competition” means “Quest Indicia’ 4th National Moot Court Competition, 2025”.
- “Institution” means any recognized law School/College or University.
- “Participating Team” means the team which has registered itself for the competition as per the rules for registration of Army Law College, Pune.
- “Participating Institution” shall be presumed to be the parent institution of the participating teams. From each institute, only one team can represent the institute.

- “Organizer” means the Faculty of Law, Army Law College, Pune.
- “Rebuttals” refer to those arguments/questions that the complainant may raise at the end of the main pleadings of all the Orators. This shall be replied to appropriately by the Respondent.
- “Written Submission” means the memorandum of written submissions submitted by any Team Organizer.
- “Organizing Committee” means the Moot Court Society hereinafter referred to as MCS.
- “MEC” means Memorial Evaluation Committee.

I. ELIGIBILITY AND TEAM COMPOSITIONS

- Each team shall comprise of three members (one member shall be designated as a researcher).
- Only one team from each participating college shall be registered for the competition. Each team shall comprise of three members (two Speakers and one Researcher).

NOTE: No faculty member, coach, observer, or designated observer or fourth member is allowed to accompany the team, and neither will be allowed to join the teams during their visit for the physical rounds.

Participation is restricted to bona fide law students either enrolled in the 3-year LL. B. Course or the 5-year Integrated Law Course.

II. CHANGE IN THE TEAM COMPOSITION

- Any change in team composition will not be entertained after the registration.
- In case of any unforeseen contingency where it becomes imperative to change the team composition, the participating team shall send an email regarding the same to the Administrator and MCS containing the compelling reason for the change. However, the change in the composition shall be done at the discretion of the MCS.

CLARIFICATIONS

- The participating teams may seek clarifications on the official moot proposition by sending an email to questindicia2025@gmail.com by **14th February, 2025 (05:00 hrs. IST)**.

NOTE: Any clarification via any other medium will not be entertained and shall not be taken into consideration.

III.LANGUAGE

The official working language of the 'Quest Indicia' 4th National Moot Court Competition, 2025 shall be English only.

IV.DRESS CODE

Inside the courtroom, the participant shall follow the below-mentioned dress code:

- The dress code for the oral rounds shall be the advocate's attire, i.e., Black, and White combination, including a Blazer/ Tie.

NOTE: Disclosure of identity through uniform or in any other is strictly prohibited.

V. ANONYMITY

Student Counsel may introduce himself/herself to the court in the usual manner and may also state their names. However, the team's college affiliation shall not be indicated to the judges at any time.

Further, all team members shall refrain from identifying a team's college at any time and in any manner, including, but not limited to, wearing any identifying items (such as college clothing, ties, badges, patches, or pins) or carrying/showing material (such as books with a college logo or college seal, among others).

VI. REGISTRATION

- Participating institutions must register by completing the attached form and submitting a scanned copy to questindicia2025@gmail.com, along with completing the Google Form, by **10th February 2025, 23:59 IST**.
- Upon the successful completion and submission of the Registration Form, teams will receive an email from the Organizers confirming their successful Registration.
- If such an email is not received, teams may concurrently send an email with their registration details to questindicia2025@gmail.com, and a response will be sent by the Organizers within seven (7) days confirming the successful Registration.
- The Registration Forms must be completed and submitted with all required particulars. Incomplete Registration Forms will not be accepted. Once a team is registered, its composition cannot be altered.
- Registration Fees:
 1. Rs. 1500/- per team that qualifies for Oral Round.
 2. Rs. 3500/- per team selected for Semi Final round (with Accommodation)
- There is no registration fee for registering in the competition and for Memorial Selection Round.
- Payment Details are mentioned on Page 24 of the Brochure.
- Any registration form received without the receipt of the payment shall not be considered for the final registration.
- Any form received after the last day of registration will not be allowed
- The teams shall be solely responsible for any delay caused due to delay in receipt of Registration Form.
- Registration fee once paid shall not be refunded.

VII. STRUCTURE OF COMPETITION

The competition will be conducted in two stages:

Stage I: Memorial Selection Round

Stage II: Oral Rounds

The Moot Court Competition shall comprise of the following four oral rounds:

1. Preliminary Round I and II on 08th March, 2025.
2. Quarter-final round on 08th March, 2025.
3. Semi-Final Round in the 4th week of March, 2025.
4. Final Round in the 4th week of March, 2025.

- Preliminary and Quarter-Final Round is scheduled to be held in online mode through **Cisco Webex Platform**.
- Semi-Final and Final Round will be held offline at Army Law College, Pune Campus and the teams should report one day prior from the date of Semi-Finals at ALC Campus.

The rules for the Memorial Round are as follows:

- The top **24 teams**, based on the highest memorial scores will be eligible to participate in the Oral Rounds.
- The results of the Memorial Evaluation Round will be declared on **3rd March 2025**.
- All 24 teams that qualify for the Memorial Selection Round will receive a separate registration link. The registration fee for the Oral Rounds is ₹1500 per team.
- The top 4 teams selected for the Semi-Final Round will be required to pay an additional fee of ₹3500. This fee covers accommodation and food during the Semi-Final and Final Round.
- Teams successfully registering online as mentioned will be provided with a Team Code, which will be included in the confirmation email sent by the Organizers to the email address provided by the team in the Registration Form.
- After receiving the Team Code, the team must mention this number

in all future communications with the Organizers.

- Apart from the Team Code, teams are instructed not to display or add the names or logos of their Colleges, Universities, or Law Schools in any communication(s) to the Organizers or in the memorials/material submitted for the competition.

Note: There will be no Researcher's Test in this Competition.

General instructions during the proceedings

- The time split between the speakers must be communicated to the Court Room Master prior to the commencement of each Round. Once so informed, these timings shall not be changed.
- Use of any electronic gadgets is not permitted during oral proceedings.
- Teams shall not disclose, in any manner whatsoever, for the entire duration of the Rounds, either their own individual identities or the identity of the institution that they represent, even if asked by the judges.
- Teams can pass on a compendium of the sources they cite in their Memorials if so, permitted by the judges. In case of absence of any team or failure of any team to reach in any of the oral submission rounds will render disqualification of the team for that round.
- In such a case, their opponent shall make their oral submissions ex-parte and the calculations shall be made accordingly.
- The oral arguments should be confined to the issues presented in the memorial. Discrepancies shall not be permitted.
- The researcher may sit with the speakers during the oral submissions. However, No researcher of any Team shall be permitted to address the Panel.

*Evaluation shall be done based on the following criteria:

SR. NO.	CRITERIA	CRITERIA
1.	Articulation of issues	20
2.	Presentation skills and citation of authorities	20
3.	Court mannerisms	20
4.	Application of legal principles	20
5.	Response to the queries of court	20

*Any Team that violates any of the Rules concerning the Oral Pleading Sessions shall be penalized. The decision of the Bench shall be final in this regard.

ABOUT THE ROUNDS:

1. PRELIMINARY ROUND

- There shall be two Preliminary rounds (Prelims I and II) on **8th March, 2025** in an online mode Via Cisco Webex Platform and every team shall be allowed to argue from each side.
- The Draw of Lots for the Preliminary rounds shall be drawn by the MCS on 07th March, 2025 and the memorials shall be exchanged on the same day.
- Each team shall get a total of 20 minutes to present their case and shall include the time for 'Rebuttal' and 'Surrebuttal'.
- Any extension of time beyond the specified period shall be subject to the discretion of the judges.
- The division of time between the speakers is at the discretion of the team members, subject to a maximum of 12 minutes for one speaker. At the end of the two Preliminary rounds, the top 8 teams will qualify for the Quarter Finals. The top 8 teams will be selected based on the cumulative scores of the two Preliminary rounds.

2. QUARTER-FINAL ROUND

- The Quarter Final round shall be held after the completion of the preliminary rounds on **8th March, 2025** in an online mode Via Cisco Webex Platform. The Quarter Finals shall be a knock-out round. A team will be credited with a win in the Quarter Finals if its total marks are higher than its opponent's team.
- The side to be presented by the team shall be determined by way of the draw of lots with the teams picking the lots after the completion of the preliminary rounds. Each team shall get a total time of 30 minutes to present their case and shall include the time for 'Rebuttal' and 'Surrebuttal'.
- The division of time between the speakers is at the discretion of the team members, subject to a maximum of 15 minutes for one speaker.

NOTE: Teams should have a stable internet connection and laptop/phone during the oral rounds.

3. SEMI-FINAL ROUND

- The Semi-Finals will be held in the **4th week of March, 2025** in offline mode in the ALC campus
- The Semi-Finals shall be a knock-out round. A team will be credited with a win in the Semi-Finals if their total marks are higher than their opponent's team.
- The side to be presented by the team shall be determined by way of the draw of lots with the teams picking the lots after the completion of quarter-final Rounds.
- Each team shall get a total of 40 minutes to present their case. This time will include the time for 'Rebuttal' and 'Surrebuttal'.
- The division of time between the speakers is the discretion of the team members, subject to a maximum of 20 minutes for one speaker.
- The winner of each courtroom fixture i.e., 2 Teams from the semi-final round shall proceed to the final round.

4. FINAL ROUND

- The Semi-Finals will be held in the **4th week of March, 2025**.
- The top two Teams from the Semi-Final Round shall qualify for the final round. It shall be a knockout round, where the side for pleading shall be determined based on draw of lots. The maximum time for arguments shall be the same as in the Semi-finals.
- The Winner of the Final Round shall be declared the winner of the Competition.

VIII. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- Intake/use/even mere possession of any prohibited substances (e.g. cigarettes/alcoholic/narcotic substances) is strictly banned during their stay throughout the competition.
- All the Participants shall be responsible for orderly conduct during the competition. They shall mandatorily observe all rules and regulations that they are subjected to from time to time as per the orders of the Organizers of Army Law College, Pune.
- Violation of any such directives/rules/guidelines shall result in severe penal action to the extent of barring the respective institution from participating in any events organized by Army Law College and additional state prosecution may also follow.

IX. MEMORIAL AND EVALUATION

Each team must prepare Memorials for both sides to the dispute i.e., the Petitioner(s) and the Respondent(s) as the case may be.

The rules regarding the Memorial are stated as under:

- The Memorial shall not contain any form of identification of the participating institution 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 Memorial, the same shall result in instant disqualification of the participating team.

X. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR MEMORIAL SUBMISSION

- The Memorials shall be submitted in soft copy format only. Each Team shall submit the soft copies of the Memorials, in “pdf” format on or before **24th February, 2025** not later than 11:59 pm [IST] by emailing the same to (questindicia2025@gmail.com) with the subject of the mail being "Memorial Submission - "Team code".
- Later, the teams selected for Semi-Final Round shall submit the four (4) hard copies each of Petitioner and Respondent Memorials after reaching the campus.
- The file name of the electronic copies of the memorial must contain only the team code and the side being represented in the following format. Example - For Team Code O1 shall be "TC01-P" and "TC01-R", wherein 'P' stands for Petitioner Memorial and 'R' for Respondent Memorial.
- A penalty of one (1) mark shall be levied in case the Memorials are submitted in any other format or as multiple files by the Team at the time of submission of the soft copies of the memorials.
- The team submitting their ‘Memorials’ after the last date of the submission shall stand “disqualified” from the competition.

XI. Guidelines for formatting:

Memorial Structure: The Memorial must contain the following contents in the order as stated below:

A. Cover Page: The Cover Page must be BLUE for the Petitioner and RED for the Respondent. A penalty of 1 (One) mark per side shall be levied in case the team uses the wrong cover page in their Memorial. The Cover Page of the Memorial must contain the following information:

- The ‘team code’ in the upper right-hand corner.
- The ‘name’ and ‘year’ of the Competition.
- The name of the case (Case Title).
- The ‘side’ for which the Memorial has been prepared.
- Name of the ‘forum’ adjudicating the dispute.
- Table of Contents.

B. List of Abbreviations.

C. Index of Authorities: The Index of Authorities must list all the authorities cited in the Memorial.

D. Statement of Jurisdiction.

E. Statement of Facts: The Statement of Facts must contain a concise statement of the relevant facts to 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. Statement of Facts shall not exceed 2 pages.

F. Issues Raised.

G. Summary of Arguments: The summary of arguments should contain a summary of the substance of the arguments and should not merely be the production of the various headings and sub-headings of arguments. The Summary of Arguments shall not exceed 2 pages.

H. Pleadings/Arguments Advanced: All legal arguments must be limited to the Pleadings/Arguments Advanced section of the Memorial. The Pleadings/Arguments Advanced must not exceed 25 pages. [Note: Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 2 marks for each exceeded page.]

I. Prayer: The Prayer shall not exceed 1 page.

- **Team Code:** The team code must be ascribed to 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 and “R” for Respondent. For instance, in the case of Team Code being TC 01, the team must write “TC01-P” in case of Memorial for ‘Petitioner’ and “TC01-R” in the case of Memorial for ‘Respondent’.
- **Margin:** The Memorial must maintain an equal margin of 1 inch on all sides.
- **Basic compliance for Memorial:** The Memorial (including the preliminary pages and excluding the cover page) shall adhere to the following mandatory specifications: Paper size: A4, Font type: Times New Roman, Font size: 12, Line spacing: 1.5, Body of text: Justified.

[**Note:** Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 02 marks for each side of the written submission.]

- **Header and Footer:** The font used for the header/footer, if any, shall be Times New Roman, size 10 with single spacing.
- **Footnotes:** The footnotes must be in font type: Times New Roman, Font size: 10, Line spacing: 1.0, Paragraph spacing: 0, no additional space between 2 footnotes and the body of text, and Justified with a Uniform Style of Citation (Bluebook, 21st Edition) to be strictly followed throughout the Memorial. [Note: Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 (One) mark per page.]
- **Marking criteria for the Memorial(s) submitted by the Teams:** Memorial from each side shall carry a total of 100 marks. The written submissions shall be marked on the parameters which are laid down as under:

SR. NO.	CRITERIA	CRITERIA
1.	Originality	20
2.	Knowledge of Law and Facts	20
3.	Analysis	20
4.	Structure, Language, Grammar and Format	20
5.	Extent and Use of Research	20

XII. Exchange of Memorial

- The exchange of Memorial for the Preliminary Round shall take place on 08th March, 2024. The memorial exchange for the advanced round of competition(s) shall take place at least 1 (One) hour prior to the conduct of the advanced rounds (Quarter- Finals, Semi-Finals, and Finals).
- Teams are prohibited from making any remarks on the opponent's Memorial and, thus, exchanged. Teams are also prohibited from making any copies of the opponent's memorial, electronically or otherwise.

XIII. Tie Breaker

In the event of tie between the marks of two teams, following criteria shall be considered in order of their mentioning:

- Preliminary Round

Memorial Marks

Application of legal principles

(Note: There shall be two preliminary rounds, in which each team shall be given a chance to present both the sides.)

- **Quarter Finals**
- Memorial marks.
- Response to the queries of the Court.

- **Semi Finals**
- Memorial marks.
- Response to the queries of the Court.

XIV. Compendium

- All relevant case laws statutory material and other evidence based on which the participants are going to present and substantiate their arguments may be submitted before the Hon'ble Bench during the Oral Rounds of arguments in the form of a 'Compendium'.
- Participants shall ensure that anonymity is not violated while passing on any material to the Bench. If any mark, name, seal, symbol, or logo of their institution/college/university is present, participants must ensure that the same is rendered unrecognizable.

XVI. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- Intake/use/even mere possession of any prohibited substances (e.g. cigarettes/alcoholic/narcotic substances) is strictly banned during their stay throughout the competition.
- All the Participants shall be responsible for orderly conduct during the competition. They shall mandatorily observe all rules and regulations that they are subjected to from time to time as per the

orders of the Organizers of MCS.

- Violation of any such directives/rules/guidelines shall result in severe penal action to the extent of barring the respective institution from participating in any events organized by MCS and additional state prosecution may also follow.

XVII. GENERAL ETIQUETTE

- The participants are expected to behave in a dignified manner and not cause any unnecessary inconvenience to the organizers.
- Deference to the Judges of the Moot Court Competition is expected to be maintained in the Courtroom.
- The Organizers reserve the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional, or immoral conduct.

XVIII. SCOUTING

- Scouting is strictly prohibited. Scouting by the speakers, researchers or any other person affiliated with a team will lead to an instant disqualification of such team.
- Scouting is found to have committed if any person affiliated with the team witness, hear, observe etc. of the oral submission of any team other than it is participating or reading the memorial of a team except its own or the memorial obtained on account of exchange of memorials.

XIX. INTERPRETATION OF RULES

- The Organizer's decision as regards the interpretation of rules or any other matter related to the competition will be final.
- If there is any situation, that is not contemplated in the rules, the Organizer's decision on the same shall be final.

- The Organizers reserve the right to vary, alter, modify, or repeal any of the above rules if so required and as they may deem appropriate at any time before and/or during the competition. Any dispute arising in the moot courtrooms during the rounds would be at the discretion of the presiding officer of the respective courtroom. In any conflict, the decision of the Judges would be final.

XX. PAYMENT DETAILS

- Name of the Account Holder : Army Law College Institutional Fund
- Account No. : 37764808404
- Bank Name : State Bank Of India
- Branch : Dehu Road, Pune, Maharashtra
- IFS Code : SBIN0000569

XXI. DISCLAIMER

The material in the Moot Court proposition 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.

IMPORTANT DATES



SR. NO.	CONTENT	PAGE NO.
1.	Publication of Moot Proposal	15th January, 2025
2.	Last Date of Registration	10th February, 2025
3.	Last Date of Seeking Clarifications	14th February, 2025
4.	Release of Clarifications	17th February, 2025
5.	Submission of Memorial	24th February, 2025
6.	Result Declaration of Memorial Round	3rd March, 2025
7.	Draw of Lots (Preliminary Round)	7th March, 2025
8.	Inauguration Ceremony, Prelims & Quarter (Online)	8th March, 2025
9.	Semi Finals & Finals	4th week of March, 2025

MOOT PROPOSITION, 2025



1. Ajit Singh, a third-generation miner and the Managing Director of Singh Mining Corporation (SMC), has been running one of the largest iron ore mining companies in the State of Dravida, Union of Bharat for over 30 years. SMC operates under a lease granted in 2015 for 20 years. This lease agreement includes an ambiguous clause stating, “The lessee shall be liable to pay royalties and other taxes as may be imposed from time to time.”
2. In 2022, SMC’s operations came under scrutiny when an environmental NGO filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) alleging that the company had caused severe ecological damage to the Kaveri Forest Reserve, which is home to several endangered species and indigenous tribes.
3. In January 2024, the State of Dravida passed the Dravida Mineral Taxation Act, 2024 (DMTA), introducing an “Environmental Impact Tax” on all mineral-bearing lands, claiming that it was necessary to address the environmental degradation caused by mining activities. The Act also established the Dravida Ecological Restoration Fund (DERF), which allocated 60% of the tax revenue to afforestation and tribal rehabilitation programs.
4. SMC challenged this tax before the High Court of Dravida, arguing that the additional financial burden made their operations unsustainable and violated the terms of their lease agreement. They also argued that the tax was, in essence, double taxation, as they were already paying royalties under the Union’s Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) enacted by the Parliament in exercise of its legislative powers under Article 246 of the Constitution. The MMDR Act is a comprehensive code for the regulation of mines and development of minerals. Section 9 of the said act provides that the holder of a mining lease shall pay royalty in respect of any mineral removed or consumed from the leased area at the specified rates.

5. However, the State of Dravida was of the opinion that Parliament does not have the legislative powers to tax minerals rights using its residuary powers because the subject matter has been expressly enumerated in the State List and would empower states to generate significant revenue from their natural resources, enhancing their ability to fund welfare schemes and services.

6. Meanwhile, the Union of Bharat, concerned about the economic implications of state-specific taxes on mining, issued a circular declaring that no state law could impose taxes inconsistent with the MMDR Act. The circular also warned mining companies against paying the Environmental Impact Tax, claiming it would violate federal principles and disrupt uniformity in mineral regulation.

7. In a surprising twist, documents leaked by a whistleblower revealed that SMC had been significantly underreporting its profits for over a decade, leading to massive revenue losses for both the Union and the State. This prompted the Enforcement Directorate to initiate a money laundering investigation against Ajit Singh.

8. Amidst this chaos, the Supreme Court of Bharat delivered a landmark judgment distinguishing royalties from taxes, stating that states had the legislative competence to impose taxes on mineral-bearing lands under Entry 49, 50 of the State List and Entry 54 of the Union List enumerated in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of Bharat. Emboldened by this judgment, the State of Dravida filed a petition in the Supreme Court, seeking a declaration that the Dravida Mineral Taxation Act, 2024 (DMTA) was constitutionally valid.

9. Adding another layer to the controversy, neighboring states raised concerns over the DMTA's impact on interstate trade. Dravida's new tax significantly increased the cost of minerals exported to neighboring states, leading to accusations that the tax violated Article 301 of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of trade, commerce, and intercourse throughout the territory of Bharat.

10. Furthermore, the indigenous tribes affected by mining activities filed a writ petition before the Supreme Court, seeking direct control over the DERF funds, arguing that the State had failed to consult them while drafting the DMTA.

11. The Supreme Court of Bharat, recognizing the wide-ranging implications of the matter, consolidated the following cases:

1. The Union of Bharat's petition challenging the constitutional validity of the DMTA.
2. SMC's appeal against the High Court's decision upholding the DMTA.
3. The neighboring states' challenge alleging a violation of Article 301.

Note: - The laws and Constitution of Bharat are pari material/same to that of Republic of India.

ISSUES:-

1. Whether the State of Dravida has the authority to enact the Dravida Mineral Taxation Act, 2024, imposing the Environmental Impact Tax?
2. Whether the Dravida Mineral Taxation Act, 2024 is in conflict with the Mine and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 ?
3. Whether the Dravida Mineral Taxation Act, 2024 impacts the federal structure and revenue-sharing mechanisms between the Union and the States pointing out the difference between royalty and other taxes?
4. Whether the Dravida Mineral Taxation Act, 2024 strikes at balance between the economic development and the environmental sustainability?

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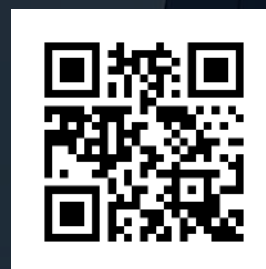
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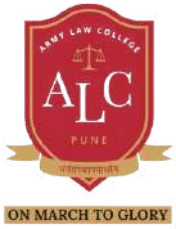


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Signature :

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