



**HIDAYATULLAH NATIONAL
LAW UNIVERSITY**



**NATIONAL HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION**

NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2024

20th to 22nd September, 2024

Theme: Tribal Rights

University Campus, HNLU Raipur, Chhattisgarh



About HNLU

Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU) was established under the Hidayatullah National University of Law, Chhattisgarh, Act, (No. 10 of 2003). It is recognized by the University Grants Commission u/s 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956 and also by the Bar Council of India u/s 7 (1) of the Advocates Act, 1961. HNLU is the first National Level Institute established in the new State of Chhattisgarh in the year 2003 and the sixth Law University in the country. HNLU ranked 5th in India Today Ranking 2021 and 51-100 on crisis management during COVID by the World's Universities with Real Impact (WURI) Ranking 2021 and 201-300 among the innovative and emerging Universities by WURI is set to scale new benchmarks in the years to come.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ramesh Sinha, Chief Justice, High Court of Chhattisgarh is the Chancellor of the University. Prof. (Dr.) V. C. Vivekanandan, former MHRD Chair Professor of IP Law at NALSAR University and former Dean of the Rajiv Gandhi School of Law, IIT Kharagpur and School of Law, Bennett University is the Vice Chancellor of the University. Dr. Vipin Kumar is the Registrar (I/c) of the University.



EMPOWERING TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

HNLU's commitment to Inclusive Education & Social Justice

Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU) Raipur, located in Chhattisgarh, holds a profound relationship with the tribal communities (Adivasi Janata) of the region, recognizing their rich cultural heritage and traditional practices. Chhattisgarh is home to a large tribal population, historically marginalized in terms of social, economic, and educational opportunities. HNLU, situated at the heart of this vibrant cultural milieu, sees itself uniquely positioned to engage with and contribute to the development of these communities.


Central to HNLU's engagement with tribal communities is its commitment to outreach and inclusion. The university has undertaken various initiatives to make legal education more accessible to tribal students, including scholarships, mentorship programs, and community engagement activities. These efforts have successfully integrated tribal youth into the mainstream educational system, empowering them with legal knowledge and skills.

HNLU's research and advocacy endeavors often focus on issues relevant to tribal communities, such as land rights, forest rights, and cultural preservation. Through research, seminars, and engagement with policymakers, HNLU strives to raise awareness and contribute to the discourse on tribal rights and welfare, ensuring their voices are heard and respected.

The university's commitment is further exemplified by its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bastar Administration, a predominantly tribal-dominated district in Chhattisgarh. This MoU aims to foster collaboration in legal education, research, and capacity building, addressing the legal needs and challenges faced by tribal communities in Bastar.

HNLU's dedication to social justice and empowerment is underscored by initiatives like the Ambedkar Lecture Series, focusing on the teachings of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. These lectures invite eminent scholars, activists, and policymakers to discuss issues related to social justice, human rights, and inclusive development, promoting dialogue and debate on important social issues.

In November 2021, HNLU organized a National Conference on Tribal Transition in India, providing a platform for stakeholders to discuss tribal development and transition, raising awareness about legal and policy frameworks governing tribal rights and welfare.



Additionally, HNLU organized a One Day Online International Conference on Facets of Social Justice in the Vision of a Developed India@2047: Harnessing Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's Legacy. This conference brought together scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to discuss social justice and the role of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's legacy in shaping a more inclusive and developed India.

In essence, HNLU's relationship with the tribal communities of Chhattisgarh is one of mutual respect and collaboration, where education serves as a powerful tool for social change and empowerment. Through its academic and outreach activities, HNLU strives to bridge the gap between tribal communities and mainstream society, fostering a more equitable and just society for all.


ABOUT THE HNMCC & HIMCC MOOTING EVENTS

The Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU) has a rich tradition of organizing prestigious moot court competitions. The HNMCC, or the Justice Hidayatullah Memorial National Moot Court Competition, was initiated as part of the centenary celebrations of the eminent jurist, author, and linguist, Justice Mohammad Hidayatullah. Over the past decade, the HNMCC has grown to become one of India's premier moot court competitions, renowned for its academic rigor and competitive spirit.

The 13th edition of the HNMCC, held in 2023, was a resounding success, attracting participation from universities across the country. Under the guidance of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) V.C. Vivekanandan, the event showcased the legal acumen and advocacy skills of students from 40 teams. Participants competed fiercely for the prestigious Justice Hidayatullah Memorial trophy, the 1st runner-up prize, and titles such as the best speaker, best memorial, and best researcher.

In 2024, HNLU proudly hosted the inaugural edition of the Hidayatullah International Moot Court Competition (HIMCC). The HIMCC marked a significant milestone in the university's history, with international participation adding a global dimension to the event. Teams from around the world converged at HNLU to engage in spirited legal debates and showcase their advocacy skills on an international stage.

Throughout its history, the HNMCC and now the HIMCC have benefited from the expertise of distinguished judges. Eminent sitting judges of the High Court of Chhattisgarh presided over the



final rounds, while legal luminaries from reputed law firms, academicians, and experienced advocates from the Supreme Court and High Courts of India served as judges for the preceding rounds. Their guidance and feedback have enriched the moot court experience for participants and contributed to the competitions' success.

As HNLU continues to uphold its commitment to academic excellence and legal education, the HNMCC and HIMCC stand as shining examples of the university's dedication to fostering legal talent and promoting the art of advocacy on a national and international level.

ABOUT HNLU-NHRC NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2024

Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU), a prestigious institution in the field of legal education, is excited to introduce a groundbreaking initiative that combines legal excellence with societal advancement - the Moot Court Competition in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India. This competition, the first of its kind in India, focuses on 'Tribal Rights' and encourages the participation of at least one Scheduled Tribe (ST) student in each participating team.

In a world where the pursuit of justice and the protection of human rights are paramount, this competition stands as a symbol of intellectual rigor and compassionate activism. Bringing together the brightest legal minds, this competition transcends its role as a mere contest, becoming a transformative journey of ideas, insights, and inspiration.

The collaboration between HNLU and NHRC signifies a partnership dedicated to nurturing legal brilliance and upholding the principles of justice. This event embodies the values of equity, empathy, and the empowerment of every individual.

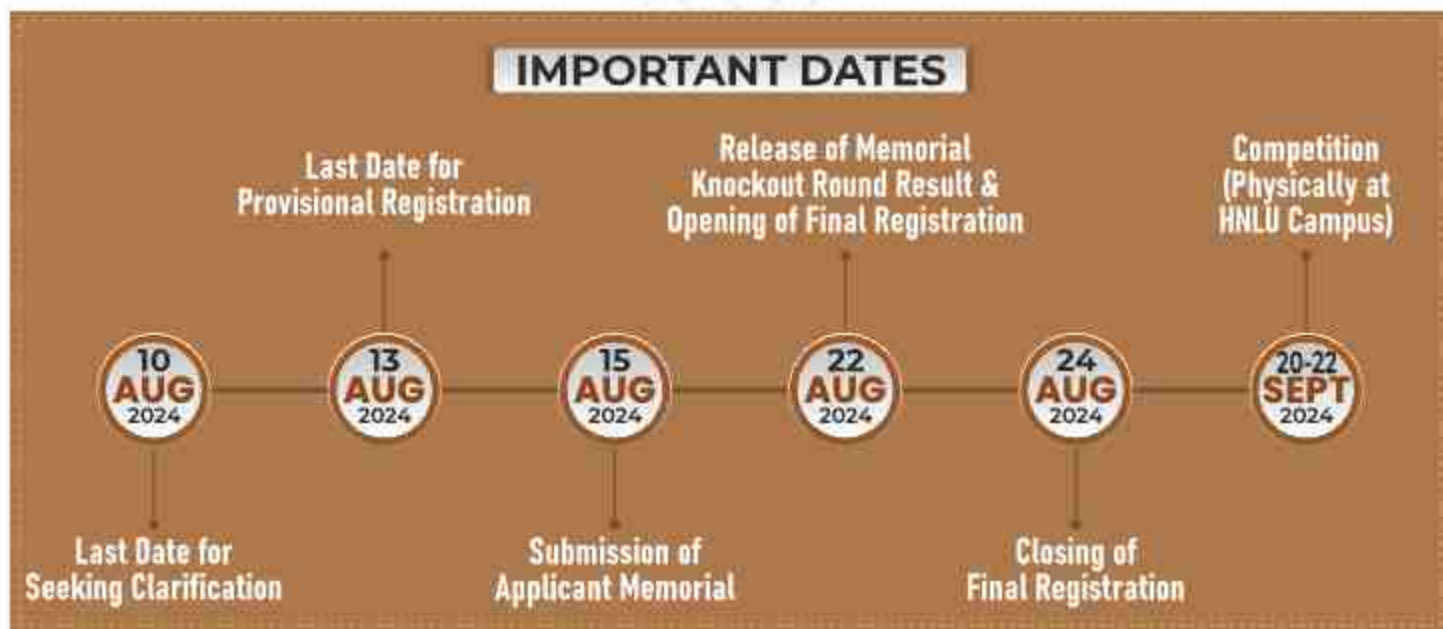
Participants, young scholars from legal backgrounds, will engage in rigorous legal simulations, challenging their abilities to analyze complex issues, construct compelling arguments, and present them articulately before seasoned judges. The competition, poised to be a crucible of ideas, offers an unparalleled opportunity for young legal minds to refine their advocacy skills and immerse themselves in the intricate tapestry of human rights jurisprudence.

As the gavel strikes and the courtrooms resonate with impassioned debates, the Moot Court Competition serves as a testament to the power of education, collaboration, and the pursuit of justice. This event not only promises to shape the future legal landscape but also reinforces the belief that through collective efforts, legal luminaries can effect positive change on a societal scale.

We invite you to join us in this celebration of legal prowess and humanitarian values as we embark on a journey to unravel the depths of law and human rights. The Moot Court Competition in association with the NHRC is not just an event; it is a symphony of intellect, ethics, and advocacy, harmonizing to create a brighter tomorrow for all.

The HNLU-NHRC National Moot Court Competition 2024, sponsored by the NHRC, will take place from Friday, 20th September to Sunday, 22nd September, 2024.


MODE OF COMPETITION: The event will be in physical format. The University has adequate infrastructure of the participants for the event. The University is also equipped with a Master Moot Court Hall and 5 subsidiary Moot Court Hall apart from a 350 seater Auditorium where a Grade Finale takes place. The Campus is well connected with an Airport and Railway Station at a short distance.



Rule-1

Definitions

- 1.1. Advanced rounds refers to the Quarter-finals, Semi-finals and Final rounds of the Competition, which shall be knock-out rounds.
- 1.2. Bench Memorandum means the memorandum of law and authorities concerning the Competition Proposition prepared by the University for the exclusive use of Competition judges.
- 1.3. Competition refers to HNLU-NHRC Moot Court Competition (HNLU-NHRC MCC). The Competition includes memorial rounds, oral rounds, and researchers' test.
- 1.4. Competition Proposition or Proposition means the official proposition of the Competition as supplemented, corrected, and/or clarified.
- 1.5. Competition Rules or Rules refers to the rules contained herein and such other notification as the Secretariat or the Organising University may make in respect to conduct of the competition.
- 1.6. Corrections and Clarifications means the corrections and clarifications to the proposition, as published pursuant to Rule 7.2.
- 1.7. Ex-parte round means an oral round wherein only one team submits their pleadings, i.e. in the absence of the opposite team.
- 1.8. Memorial refers to the written arguments submitted by each team, on behalf of both the Parties, according to the competition rules. A team shall prepare only one (1) memorial for each party to the dispute.
- 1.9. Memorial Evaluators refers to the evaluators who will be responsible for evaluating the memorials that have been submitted by the teams.

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- 1.10. Oral rounds refers to a team's pleadings, comprising of oral submission by the team, in front of the judges, on behalf of one of the parties, against another team representing the opposing party. The competition includes two categories of oral rounds i.e. Preliminary Rounds and Advanced Rounds.
- 1.11. Parties refers to the parties to the dispute as identified by the moot proposition as Informant/ Appellant and Opposite Party/ Respondent.
- 1.12. Preliminary rounds: It refers to the Oral Rounds which will take place prior to the Advanced Rounds of the Competition for the purpose of determining the teams that will proceed to the Advanced Rounds.
- 1.13. Raw Scores
- For Preliminary Round: The aggregate of the marks obtained in the memorial and the oral round will constitute the Raw Scores of a team for the preliminary rounds.
- For Advanced Round: The aggregate of the marks obtained in the said oral round will constitute the Raw Scores of a team for that specific advanced round.
- 1.14. Recognized Institution includes: the university and its constituent colleges, school, faculty of law, institute, etc. if any, authorized to enroll students for obtaining a bona fide degree in law as per their legal system.
- 1.15. Scouting: Scouting is the act of attending an oral round (except the final round) by any member/coach of a team in which the concerned team is not competing. The clause does not apply to Coaches who have been invited as judge for the specific round that they are judging.
- 1.16. Secretariat: means the Organising Secretariat or Organising Committee of the competition, as notified by the Organising University.
- 1.17. Team code: Team code refers to the unique Code allotted to each participating team for the purpose of this Competition.
- 1.18. Organising University shall mean Hidayatullah National Law University, Nava Raipur.



Rule-2

Eligibility Criteria

- 2.1 All students enrolled Bona-fide on a regular basis in an undergraduate/post-graduate law course (Bachelors' Degree in Law i.e. 3-Year LL.B. or 5- Year LL.B. Integrated Programme) or its equivalent conducted by any recognized institution.
- 2.2 However, only one (1) team shall be eligible to participate, per recognized institution. In a system where a university has constituent colleges/institutes/school/faculty of law/department etc. each such constituent entity can register a team or the university as such can be represented by a team comprising students from different constituent colleges.
- 2.3 Only 20 teams will be permitted to qualify for oral rounds.

Rule-3

Team Composition

- 3.1 Each Team shall comprise of a maximum of three (3) members out of which two (2) members shall be designated as speakers, and one (1) member shall be a researcher.
- 3.2 The teams may choose to participate without a Researcher. However, either of the other two members must appear for the Researcher Test.
- 3.3 Once the team composition is communicated to the Secretariat, no change in team composition shall be permitted unless prior permission has been obtained from the Secretariat.
- 3.4 In line with the central theme of the Competition, participating teams are encouraged to have at least one member belonging to the Scheduled Tribes (ST) community.

Team Registration

- 4.1 Registration for the Competition will commence on the date as notified in the brochure. The last date for registration shall be notified in the brochure.
- 4.2 The teams shall be required to send the final registration fee (to be paid at the time of final registration):
- Registration fee - Rs. 5000 (Rupees Five Thousand Only) per team.
 - To seek Accommodation in Hostel - Rs. 3000 (Rupees Three Thousand Only) per team. The accommodation shall be provided at University Hostel (Non-AC, non-attach accommodation with 1 Bed, 1 Mattress, 2 sheets, 1 Blanket, 1 Chair & Table set, 1 set of Toiletries), for which the participants shall abide by University Hostel Rules. The University provides separate hostels for boy and girl students. Please note that accommodation fee has to be paid only after the Memorial Knockout rounds.
- All meals during the competition will be provided at the University campus.
- 4.3 The following scanned documents are required to be submitted by the teams at the time of final registration:
- Letter of approval from the concerned recognised Institution permitting the team to take part in the competition.
 - The receipt of online payment of registration fee.
 - Any ID issued by the Government OR ID Issued by the Recognised Institution the Participant is enrolled with.
 - Caste Certificate issued by appropriate government authority for the Team Member belonging to the Scheduled Tribe.
- 4.4 The registration form can be accessed here: <https://forms.gle/jEZtYv4Jvc631KF27>

Rule-5

Judge Responsibility

Judges shall ensure a thorough adherence to the spirit of judgeship in the competition.

Rule-6

Assistance to a team from any other team(s)

6.1 No Assistance, generally, to be Taken from Non-members:

Every team must research and write its memorial without the assistance of non-members. Teams may receive general advice from their respective Team Coaches. However, such advice must be limited to general advisory on the area of law concerned, the structure of written arguments, and general commentary on the team's arguments. No advice whatsoever may be taken from any member or team coach of another team.

6.2 No Assistance to be Provided to Another Team:

Team Members and Team Coaches from any Team, including Teams that have been eliminated from the Competition, shall not provide assistance in any way to any other Team. Prohibited assistance includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- a. giving the Team's notes or Memorials to a Team still in the Competition;
- b. posting the Team's Memorials online so that a person who is not a registered Team Member may access them;
- c. engaging in practice Moots against a Team with whom their preliminary rounds have been fixed; and
- d. providing video or audio recordings of previous Moots, whether practice Moots or Competition Moots, to a Team still in the Competition.

The Secretariat may allow for otherwise prohibited assistance if deemed to be in the best interests of the Competition.



6.3. Use of Bench Memorandum and Other Teams Memorials by Teams:

The Bench Memorandum shall be confidential at all times. Any team found making use of the Bench Memorandum, however acquired, shall be disqualified. In preparing its Memorials, no team may incorporate arguments or other information from the Memorials of other teams.

Rule-7

Clarifications to the Moot Proposition

7.1. Clarifications and Corrections:

Clarifications can be sought and Corrections may be requested, until the date as notified in the brochure, through a Google Form that can be accessed [here](#).

Based upon the requests received from all Teams, Corrections and Clarifications to the Competition Proposition will be published on the date as notified in the brochure. Each Team must ensure that it receives and adequately notes the Corrections and Clarifications in preparation for the Competition.


7.2. Rights over the memorials:


The Secretariat reserves the right to disseminate and reproduce the memorials for the purposes of the Competition. The Secretariat will not be responsible for any mistakes or errors that are a part of the memorial.


Rule-8

Rules relating to Memorials

The memorial submission for registered teams must be made via a Google form that will be sent to the team post-registration.

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- 8.1 Each participating team is required to prepare a memorial for each party to the dispute with the following mandatory heads:
- a. Cover Page
 - b. Table of Contents
 - c. Index of Authorities
 - d. Statement of Jurisdiction
 - e. Statement of Facts (not exceeding 2 pages),
 - f. Issues Raised
 - g. Summary of Arguments (not exceeding 2 pages)
 - h. Arguments Advanced (not exceeding 20 pages)
 - i. Final Submission/Prayer (not exceeding 1 page)
- 8.2 Teams shall cite authorities following the Uniform citation method using footnotes in accordance with the 21st Edition of Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation.
- 8.3 The Cover Page of each memorial must contain only the following information:
- a. The Team Code in the upper right corner of each memorial
 - b. The name of the forum resolving the dispute.
 - c. The name of the Competition
 - d. The Cause Title.
 - e. The party on behalf of which the memorial is prepared.

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- 8.4 All teams shall attach one copy of the memorials for each side in (.docx) format (Microsoft Office 365, 2019, 2016, 2013 or 2010) as well as one copy in (.pdf) format in the Google Form link provided.
- 8.5 All four files (two .docx and two .pdf) should be submitted in a single form submission.
- 8.6 Memorials submitted twelve (12) hours after the memorial submission deadline, will not be accepted and such teams shall be disqualified from the Competition.
- 8.7 A memorial once submitted will be considered final and cannot be revised.
- 8.8 In the scenario where any memorial is sent late (in a separate form submission), the penalty for late submission imposed on the latter memorial will be imposed on the earlier memorials as well. The penalty will also be imposed if the aforementioned memorials are submitted in different form submissions.
- 8.9 It is the responsibility of each participating team to ensure that the electronic copies of the memorials Can be opened with Microsoft Office 365, 2019, 2016, 2013 or 2010 (.docx format) and Adobe Acrobat Reader 9 (.pdf format).
- 8.10 Memorials shall be named according to the team code and the party for which the memorial is submitted. (For instance, Team 01 will name its memorials as 01-I and 01-R where 'I' is the Informant/Appellant and 'R' is Respondent/Opposite Party).
- 8.11 All teams are required to submit ten (10) sets of hard copies for each side of the memorials to the Organizing Committee, upon their arrival at the venue of the Competition on 15th March 2023. The memorials shall be collected by the Registration-Team designated by the Secretariat after the successful on-site registration of the respective teams.
- 8.12 All parts of the memorial (including headers, footers and headings) shall be typed on A4-sized paper/format, with the following formatting specifications:
- a. Font Type: Times New Roman
 - b. Font Size: 12

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- c. Line Spacing: 1.5
 - d. Margins: 1 inch on each side
- 8.13 For footnotes, the formatting specifications are
- a. Font Type: Times New Roman
 - b. Font Size: 10
 - c. Single Spacing between lines
 - d. Margins: 1 inch on each side
 - e. Speaking footnotes or endnotes are not allowed.
- 8.14 The memorials shall be spiral-bound / soft bound. The following color scheme should be followed for the cover page of the memorials:
- a. Informant/Appellant – BLUE
 - b. Opposite Party/Respondent – RED
- 8.15 The memorials shall not contain any annexure, photograph, graph, diagram, or any other representation of such nature.
- 8.16 The hard copies of the memorials must be identical to the soft copies submitted by the team. In case of any violation of this rule, the team shall incur a penalty, subject to the decision of the Organizing Secretary. In case of non-identical submissions, the prior submission shall be considered as final.
- 8.17 A Team may prepare a compendium of cases, though the same shall not be a part of the memorial or be used for memorial evaluation purposes.

Rule-9

Penalties

9.1 Any memorial violating any of the specifications mentioned under Rule 8 will be penalized according to the following scheme:

S No.	Criterion	Penalty Deductions
1.	Late submission of memorials	1 marks (each memorial), for every hour after the deadline
2.	Failure to comply with page limit as prescribed in rule 8(a)	1 Mark per extra page
3.	Failure to comply with the rules 8(c)	0.25 Marks per specification with a maximum of 5 marks per memorial
4.	Failure to comply with rule 8(b)	0.25 per violation, with a maximum of 5 Marks per memorial
5.	Exclusion of items mentioned in rule 8 (a)	2 Marks per specification
6.	Submission of Memorials through multiple emails	1 Mark per additional email
7.	Inclusion of speaking footnote/ endnote	0.5 Marks per footnote/ endnote

There will be a maximum cap on the penalties which may be imposed for the violations mentioned in the table:

- For late submission of memorials, a maximum deduction of 12 marks will be imposed as a penalty.
- For failure to comply with the formatting specifications prescribed above along-with speaking footnotes and endnotes, a maximum deduction of 20 marks will be imposed as a penalty.
- There will be no cap on imposing penalties for all other specifications save and except those mentioned above.

Scoring Criteria

10.1. Memorial Scoring Criteria

The marks distribution for the memorial shall be as follows:

S.No.	Criterion	Marks
1	Application of Facts	25 Marks
2	Reasoning	25 Marks
3	Use of authorities and precedents	20 Marks
4	Understanding Law and procedure	20 Marks
5.	Formatting	10 Marks

10.2. Anonymity

There should be no indication of the institution which the team represents, the name of the members in the memorials, or any other material carried inside the courtroom. The teams must also not disclose, or attempt to disclose, any such information at any stage of the Competition, either to the Judges or any other person as decided by the Organizing Secretary.

The violation of this rule will result in severe penalties, which may involve disqualification, as determined by the Organizing Secretary.

Teams must not reveal the identity of their institution, Jurisdiction, or nationality of origin to judges at any time during a Round.

Organizing secretary may impose a Penalty (up to and including disqualification) against any Team that intentionally or inadvertently discloses its school, Jurisdiction, or country of origin to a judge during a Round, whether or not such disclosure occurs during a Moot. All instances of disclosure during a Round shall be reported to the Organizing secretary.

Merely posting pictures of a participating Team or Team Member(s) on social media or a publicly available website, absent other facts, does not constitute a violation of this Rule.

Format of the Competition

11.1 Rounds:

The Moot Court Competition shall consist of Memorial Round, Preliminary rounds and Advanced rounds. Each team will argue in two (2) preliminary round, once on behalf of each Party. In the Advanced rounds, the teams would represent only one side in each round.

11.2 Memorial Knockout Rounds:

There shall be a Memorial Knockout Round subsequent to the submission and evaluation of the Applicant Memorials only.

The teams qualifying the round shall be selected based on their Memorial scores. Only these teams shall be eligible to participate in the Oral Rounds of the Competition.

The Result of the Memorial Knockout Round shall be notified to the teams latest by date as provided in brochure. 20 teams shall qualify for the oral rounds, whereas the secretariat may change the above number.

11.3 Researchers Test:

A Researcher Test shall be conducted for adjudicating the “Best Researcher” on 20th of September, 2024. The Speakers shall not be eligible to participate in the test.

However, in the case of a two-member team, one of the speakers shall be eligible to appear for the Researcher Test and the same shall be notified by the team to the Organisers at the time of Formal Registration.

11.4 Oral Rounds:

(A) General: The mode of communication for the Competition shall be English only. The dress code to be adhered to for the duration of the Competition is-

- a. Ladies: Courtroom Formals (Preferably Black Blazer).
- b. Gentlemen: Courtroom Formals (Preferably Black blazer).



(B) Format:

- a. The matchup of teams in Preliminary Rounds shall be determined on the basis of a draw of lots.
- b. The team with the higher Raw Score in a round will be deemed to have won a round.
- c. In a situation where after the preliminary rounds, there exists a tie in the number of wins of two or more teams, it will be decided in the following order:
 1. On the basis of marks obtained under the head 'Reasoning in the Application of Principles'.
 2. The final decision will be made on the basis of Researcher Test scores.

The marks breakup for the Oral Rounds shall be as follows:

S. No.	Criterion	Marks
1.	Response to Questions and Articulation	25 Marks
2.	Reasoning and Application of Principles	25 Marks
3.	Use of Authorities and precedents	20 Marks
4.	Application of Facts	20 Marks
5.	Advocacy Skill, Court Craft and Demeanour	10 Marks

(C) Bench strength:

The Bench for the purposes of the Preliminary Rounds shall consist of two judges. For the Advanced Rounds, two-judge bench for Quarterfinals & a three-judge bench for Semi Finals and a Five-judge bench for the Final Rounds. Organising secretariat reserves the right to change number of judges per bench.

(D) Communication between members of the team:

The members of a team are allowed to communicate among themselves during the Oral Rounds. However, the same must be in written form only and must not be in violation of general courtroom practices.



(E) Electronic devices inside the Courtroom:

During oral rounds of the competition, oralists at the podium and Team Members seated at counsel table may operate, only for purposes directly relating to the said oral round, laptop, tablet, mobile phone, PDAs, etc., provided such devices are not internet-enabled or data-capable, or have instant messaging capabilities.

Violation of the said rule shall lead to disqualification from the concerned oral round.

(F) Time keeping devices inside courtroom:

The official time of the match shall be indicated by the bailiff. No one other than the bailiff may display timecards or otherwise signal to the oralist how much time is left.

(G) Scouting:

There are two types of scouting, both of which are prohibited. "Direct Scouting" occurs when a Team attends a Moot involving one or more Teams against which it will compete in a future Moot.

"Indirect Scouting" occurs when a Team attends a Moot involving two Teams against which it is not scheduled to compete in the Preliminary Rounds, or when a Team, through any other means, obtains or attempts to obtain information about another Team regardless of whether the Team seeking the information will compete against the Team(s) for which information is sought.

The decision of Organizing secretariat shall be final with regard to any disciplinary action taken against team for violation of rules under this clause.

(H) Duration:

- For the Preliminary Round, each team will be allotted a total of thirty (30) minutes to present their arguments. No speaker shall be allowed to plead for more than twenty (20) minutes. Each team is entitled to reserve a maximum of five (5) minutes, out of the total thirty (30) minutes, for rebuttals and sur-rebuttals.
- For Advanced Rounds, each team will be allotted a total of forty-five (45) minutes to present their arguments. No speaker shall be allowed to plead for more than twenty-

five (25) minutes. Each team is entitled to reserve a maximum of five (5) minutes, out of the total forty-five (45) minutes, for rebuttals and sur-rebuttals.

- The teams are to arrive at the designated Courtroom fifteen (15) minutes before the Round is supposed to start. In case the team fails to report to the designated Courtroom within ten (10) minutes of the starting of the Round, the team will be deemed to have forfeited the Competition and the Round will continue as an ex-parte round.

(I) Advanced Rounds:

- The party to be represented by the teams in the Advanced Rounds shall be decided by way of a coin toss.
- Qualification in the Advanced Rounds will be determined by win/ loss in the respective Advanced Round.

Rule-12

Awards and Trophies

All participants will receive a 'Certificate of Participation'. Special awards will be distributed in the following categories:

12.1. Team:


The team which wins the final round will be adjudged as the 'Winner of the HNLU-NHRC MCC' and will get an amount of ₹ 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) and a trophy.

The team which secures second place will get the title of 'Runners-up' and a prize money of ₹30,000/- (Rupees Thirty Thousand only).

12.2. Best Memorial:

The team with the highest applicant memorial score (aggregate) will get the 'Best Memorial - Applicants' prize along with a cash prize of ₹7,000/- (Rupees Seven Thousand Only).

The team with the highest respondent memorial score (aggregate) will get the 'Best Memorial - Respondents' prize along with a cash prize of ₹7,000/- (Rupees Seven Thousand Only).



In case of a tie between the aggregate memorial scores of two or more teams, the winner will be decided in the following order:

- On the basis of aggregate marks obtained under the head 'Reasoning'.
- The final decision will be made on the basis of a Coin Toss.

12.3. Best Speaker:

The Speakers (one Male and one Female) which secure highest marks in preliminary rounds will get the title of 'Best Orator Male' and 'Best Orator Female' respectively and a prize money of ₹10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) each.

In case of a tie between the aggregate oral scores of two or more speakers, the winner will be decided in the following order:

- Based on aggregate marks obtained under the head 'Reasoning in the Application of Principles'.
- The final decision will be made on the basis of a Coin Toss.

12.4. Best Researcher:

The researcher with the highest score in the Researcher Test will get the 'Best Researcher' prize along with a cash prize of ₹10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only).

In case of a tie between the marks obtained by two or more Researchers, the winner will be decided on the basis of:

- Memorial score of the teams which the researchers represent;
- If the tie persists, then coin toss.

Rule-13

Power to Promulgate Additional Measures


The Organizing Secretariat may promulgate any other measures for the orderly conduct of the Competition or to correct deficiencies in the Competition. It is anticipated that additional measures will be adopted when Team Registration has been completed.

Exemplary Power clause

- The Secretariat reserves the right to make changes in the rule if situation so warrant.
- In case of any dispute arising in the interpretation of the rules, or otherwise, the decision of the Organizing Secretary in consultation with the Organizing Committee would be final and binding.
- Scores obtained by the teams/participants shall be kept confidential with Organizing University, whereas upon receiving official written request from statutory authorities of a participating institution the Organising Secretariat may disclose them the results of the team of their institution. Such request shall be made within 7 days of the completion of the event, after which no such requests shall be entertained.


Code of Conduct

- A violation of the prescribed Code of Conduct will invite sanctions which will be decided by the Organizing Secretary.
- Teams are expected to behave with other team members and the Judges / Organisers / Volunteers in a dignified manner.
- Teams should not attempt to influence Judges/Organisers in any manner.
- Participants are expected to maintain decorum in the courtroom during the Competition and to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the legal profession.
- The teams should not engage in any form of unethical, unprofessional, or wrongful conduct during the entire period of the Competition.
- Participants should not indulge in the consumption / carrying of drugs / alcohol / arms or ammunition / immoral / illegal activity or any other form(s) of taste/addiction during the course of the Competition.




Moot Proposition

1. The Democratic Republic of Himvarsha, a nation that won its independence from British colonial rule in 1948 is a nation celebrated for its vibrant diversity, encompassing a multitude of cultures, religions, and traditions. The constitution and all other laws of Himvarsha are pari-materia to the laws of India. It seeks to balance this diversity with principles of equality and national unity. The recent enactment of the Uniform Civil Code has stirred a profound constitutional debate, rooted in the historical and contemporary challenges of harmonizing personal laws with the ideals of a modern, secular state.
2. Historically, personal laws in Himvarsha have been governed by religious doctrines, resulting in different legal standards for Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and communities defined under the law from time to time. The drive for a Uniform Civil Code dates back to the colonial era, where efforts to codify laws met with resistance due to the complex interplay of religion and law. Post-independence, the debate resurfaced during the drafting of the constitution. Makers of the constitution championed the



Uniform Civil Code as a means to ensure equality and justice. However, the strong opposition from religious and cultural groups led to its inclusion in the Directive Principles of State Policy rather than the enforceable part of the constitution.


3. In recent years, the push for a Uniform Civil Code gained momentum with political leaders advocating for its implementation as a step towards symmetrical arrangement and national integration. The current Union government, led by the Himvarsha National Party (MNP), tabled the Uniform Civil Code Bill in the Parliament, arguing that a unified code would eliminate gender biases inherent in personal laws and promote equality.
4. The Supreme Court and various High Courts on several occasions have given certain verdicts to end the discriminatory practices (for example, judgment to provide equal maintenance rights to women of all religions, declare discriminatory divorce practice 'Triple Talaq' as unconstitutional, etc.). These constitutional courts have always mooted for the enactment of a Uniform Civil Code. Recently, the Supreme Court reaffirmed the rights



of all women from all religions to get lifetime maintenance under criminal laws in an equal manner. Considering this to be an appropriate time, the Union Government enacted and implemented the Uniform Civil Code with effect from 1st January 2024 with the aim to harmonize the personal laws governing marriage, divorce, maintenance, inheritance and adoption. The statement of objectives of the code states that this code has been introduced with the intent to unify the disparate personal laws governing various communities into a single, cohesive code.


5. Salient Features of the Uniform Civil Code 2024:

- I. Bigamy is not permissible in any religion/community.
- II. Marriage is to take place as per the prevailing customs (e.g., Nikah for Muslims, Saptapadi for Hindus provided that it can be proved to be a customary practice).
- III. Marriage must be compulsorily registered within one week with the Office of the District Collector.
- IV. A uniform legitimate method for divorce, adoption, maintenance,



and inheritance is prescribed, in such a manner as the State may, by law, determine.

6. Heritageville, a village in the North Eastern State of Garulaya is home to two tribal communities—the Kharmsinghs, who follow matrilineal customary law, and the Myngdohs, who have adopted a patriarchal system due to their conversion to Christianity. Ms. Dorphang Khongwir, a Kharmsinghs woman, inherited property from her mother according to matrilineal customs. However, her brother, Mr. Dollo Khongwir wanted to challenge this under the Uniform Civil Code, claiming equal inheritance rights. The conflict escalated when the village headman, under pressure from both families, failed to mediate a resolution. On 15th April, 2024, the dispute turned violent during a village meeting, resulting in injuries and property damage. The local police, facing ambiguity in applying either the Uniform Civil Code or customary laws, struggled to maintain law and order. The conflict escalated and turned violent in which a police constable Mr. Shempeng lost his life.
7. Mr. Shempeng, who belonged to a tribal community, married Mackenzie by elopement in 2020. They lived a secluded life in a separate village with



their three-year-old child, Emerson. On 29th February 2024, a cloudburst in their native village Heritageville took several lives, including the life of Shempeng's elder brother Phagun, who was married to Sera Sema for the last 2 years and used to live in a joint family with his parents at Heritageville.

8. When Shempeng arrived at his village for performing the last rites of his elder brother, under the impression that Shempeng is still unmarried, he was made to perform levirate marriage with Sera Sema on 1st March 2024. Since the family prominently practices the custom of levirate marriage and considering the fact that Shempeng hadn't disclosed his marriage with Mackenzie, he couldn't refuse marrying Sera Sema mainly because of the emotional trauma that the family was undergoing. For the next 1.5 months, Shempeng neither visited Mackenzie nor did he contact her by any means of communication. He was probably looking for the right time to disclose his 1st marriage. On 15th April 2024, he was informed by the district police headquarters about the sudden violence that had erupted at Heritageville and since Shempeng was residing at that place, he was ordered to rush to the location and handle the situation, where he lost his life.

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9. Posthumously, Shempeng was awarded the 'Shoor Chakra' and a compensation of Rs. 50 Lakh. Sera Sema received a special compassionate appointment in the Police Department of Garulaya. The supreme sacrifice of Shempeng was all over the news from where Mackenzie got to know about the sad demise of her husband and also about the monetary reward and compassionate appointment of Sera Sema. Mackenzie reached Heritageville to claim that it is her right to get the reward as well as the compassionate appointment as she is the legitimate wife of Shempeng. She also claimed that her deceased husband's marriage with Sera Sema wasn't legitimate. With the help of a women welfare NGO named Mahila Samaj kalyan (MSK), she filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court of Himvarsha.
 10. Sera Sema and Shempeng's family contended that levirate marriage and polygamy are essential aspects of their customary laws, and the Uniform Civil Code violates their right to preserve and practice their customs. The village headmen contacted the Chairman of the Tribal Well-being Association (TWA), another NGO working nationwide to protect the interests of the Tribal Communities. TWA also filed a petition in the



Supreme Court of Himvarsha challenging the constitutional validity of the Uniform Civil Code.

11. The enactment of the Uniform Civil Code sparked nationwide protests, particularly among tribal communities and other religious groups. The Union Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Kynpham Singhanian gave a statement in the Parliament that the government is considering the scope to amend the Uniform Civil Code to provide exemptions for tribal communities. This statement triggered further demands from other communities for similar exemptions, as Uniform Civil Code has allegedly deprived them of their religious and customary rights. The Islamic Personal Law Board also filed a petition in the apex court claiming that exemptions from Uniform Civil Code be provided to all those communities who have had their customary practices since time immemorial and also claimed that providing exemption to only one community would be discriminatory.
12. Considering the multiple petitions, the Supreme Court of Himvarsha has clubbed all the petitions and listed the matter for hearing on September 22, 2024.

13. Issues Framed by the Supreme Court:

- I. Whether Mackenzie is entitled to the compensation and compassionate appointment posthumously awarded to Shempeng.
- II. Whether the Uniform Civil Code is constitutionally valid and aligns with the fundamental rights.
- III. Whether the Uniform Civil Code infringes on the rights of tribal and other communities to preserve and practice their customs..
- IV. Whether the Uniform Civil Code should provide exemptions to tribal communities and other religious groups.

Note:

- I. The order of issues in which they shall be contended are likely to be as the parties deem appropriate. These issues are only indicative. The parties are free to frame any other issues.
- II. The Supreme Court of Himvarsha considers judgments of Indian Courts to be of persuasive value.

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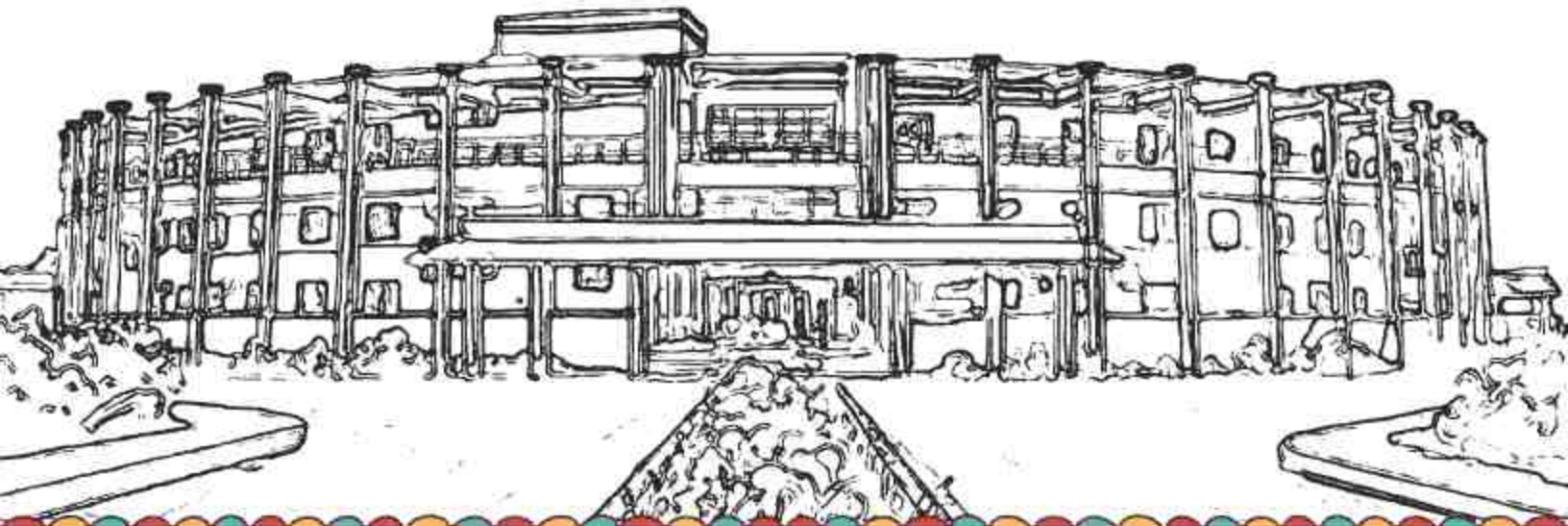
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