



2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION

SHRI D.V. SUBBA  
RAO

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27-29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026



# ABOUT DAMODARAM SANJIVAYYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY

Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University (DSNLU) in Visakhapatnam was established by the Andhra Pradesh Government under the DSNLU Act, 2008, with the mission of providing high-quality legal education. The university is recognized by the Bar Council of India (BCI). DSNLU is a premier law school equipped with state-of-art facilities and emphasizing on the clinical aspects to deliver world-class education, training and research.

DSNLU offers a comprehensive range of academic programs designed to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills required for their legal careers. These programs include a five-year integrated B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), a one-year LL.M. with specializations in Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, and Commercial Law, and doctoral and post-doctoral degrees in legal and interdisciplinary studies. The university is dedicated to developing quality human resources with a strong ethical foundation by imparting domain expertise in regulatory and legal fields, while also attracting and retaining competent talent.

The motto of DSNLU, "Yato Dharmastato Jayah," signifies the holistic development of the human mind, emphasizing Purity, Knowledge, and Dharma. The institution is led by Hon'ble Justice Sri Dhiraj Singh Thakur, Chief Justice of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, who serves as the Chancellor, and Prof. (Dr.) D. Surya Prakasa Rao, who is the Vice Chancellor. The university is listed by the UGC and is included under Sections 2(f) and 12(b) of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act of 1956. DSNLU is eligible for central assistance, ensuring its commitment to maintaining high educational standards and contributing to the legal profession's growth and development.



# ABOUT SHRI D.V. SUBBA RAO



The late Shri D. V. Subba Rao was an eminent lawyer, visionary leader, and distinguished public servant whose life and work left an indelible mark on the legal fraternity and public administration in India. Renowned for his unwavering commitment to justice and ethical practice, Shri D. V. Subba Rao exemplified the highest ideals of the legal profession.

He served with distinction as the Mayor of Visakhapatnam, contributing significantly to civic governance and public welfare. His tenure as the Chairman of the Bar Council of India stands as a defining chapter in his legacy, during which he played a pivotal role in strengthening legal education, reinforcing professional standards, and upholding the dignity and independence of the Bar.

A revered figure admired for his integrity, humility, and dedication to public service, Shri D. V. Subba Rao continues to inspire generations of lawyers, judges, and law students. Through this association, we seek to honour his enduring legacy and reaffirm our commitment to the values of excellence, ethical conduct, and service to society that he so steadfastly championed throughout his life.

# MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

**Prof. (Dr.) D. Surya Prakasa Rao**  
**Hon'ble Vice Chancellor**

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It is with great enthusiasm and pride that I welcome you all to our university's National Level Mediation Competition. This event marks a significant milestone in our continuous endeavor to promote Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods within our academic community. Mediation, as an essential component of ADR, offers a peaceful and collaborative approach to resolving conflicts, emphasizing the importance of communication, understanding, and mutual respect.

In the increasingly complex landscape of legal disputes, which are unmanageable for regular courts, the settlement of disputes through ADR particularly through mediation is the need of the hour. It provides an avenue for parties to reach amicable solutions without the adversarial nature of traditional litigation. By hosting this competition, we aim to provide our students with practical experience and a deeper appreciation of mediation's role in the modern legal landscape. This initiative not only enhances their legal acumen, but also equips them with the necessary skills to become adept mediators and conflict resolution specialists.

To the competitors, I wish you all the very best. May this experience enrich your legal education and inspire you to pursue excellence in your future careers. Remember, this competition is not only about winning but also about learning, growing, and fostering a spirit of camaraderie and professionalism. Embrace this opportunity to showcase your skills, exchange ideas, and strengthen your commitment to justice and dispute resolution. As we embark on this journey together, let us reflect on the importance of mediation in building a more harmonious and litigation free society. Let us strive to be ambassadors of peace, using our knowledge and skills to bridge the divides and foster understanding.

# ABOUT THE COMPETITION

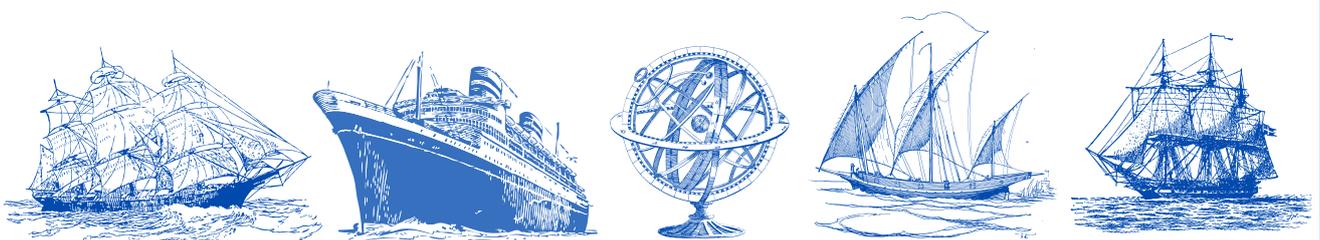
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Building on the overwhelming success of the Inaugural National Mediation Competition 2024, the Organizing Committee is delighted to announce the 2nd Edition of the National Mediation Competition, scheduled to be held on 27-29 March 2026. By engaging participants in realistic mediation scenarios, the competition seeks to nurture vital skills of negotiation, communication, and conflict management that are indispensable to the legal profession.

The 2nd Edition aspires to build upon the strong foundation laid in the first year, further enriching academic discourse in the ADR landscape. With seasoned mediators, judges, and industry experts from across the country serving as mentors and evaluators, participants will benefit from invaluable feedback and guidance while gaining exposure to diverse perspectives in dispute resolution.

More than a competition, this initiative serves as a platform for experiential learning, professional networking, and collaborative growth, equipping young legal minds to navigate the complexities of alternative dispute resolution in both domestic and international contexts.

We eagerly look forward to welcoming participants to this landmark event, which promises to be a significant step forward in their journey as future mediators and negotiators.



# ABOUT

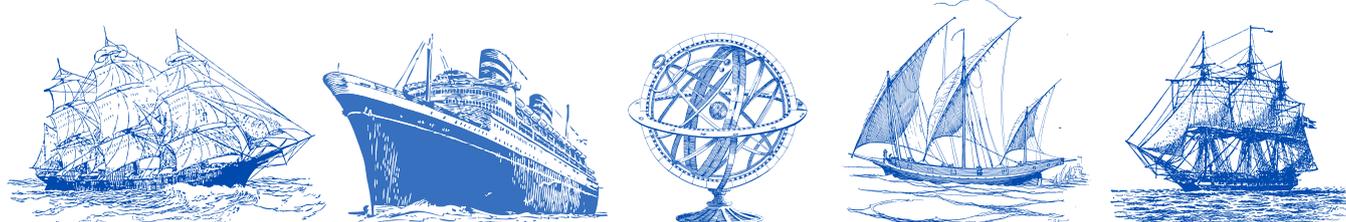
## THEME OF COMPETITION: MARITIME MEDIATION

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The 2nd Edition of the National Mediation Competition is dedicated to the theme of Maritime Mediation, reflecting the strategic importance of India's maritime sector in both domestic development and global trade. With over 7,500 kilometers of coastline, a thriving shipping industry, and increasing international engagement through ports and logistics, India's maritime space has emerged as a hub of economic opportunity and complex legal challenges. Against this backdrop, mediation offers a timely and effective tool for resolving disputes that frequently arise in the maritime domain, ranging from shipping and charterparty disagreements, port and cargo management, collisions, salvage operations, insurance claims, and marine environmental concerns, to cross border conflicts implicating multiple jurisdictions.

This theme holds particular relevance to Visakhapatnam (Vizag), the host city of the competition and the fourth largest port city of India. As a major maritime and industrial hub on the eastern coast, Vizag plays a pivotal role in the nation's trade and commerce while also facing the practical challenges of port operations, logistics, and international shipping. By situating the competition in Vizag, the event not only gains academic depth but also a real world connection to the pressing issues of maritime conflict resolution.

Through this focus, the competition encourages participants to engage with disputes that carry both national and international dimensions. Maritime mediation requires not only negotiation and communication skills but also sensitivity to commercial realities, regulatory frameworks, and geopolitical dynamics. In doing so, the competition seeks to prepare the next generation of legal professionals to navigate the intricate interface between law, commerce, and the maritime industry, while fostering critical discourse on how mediation can serve as a cornerstone for sustainable conflict resolution in one of the world's most dynamic and globally interconnected sectors.



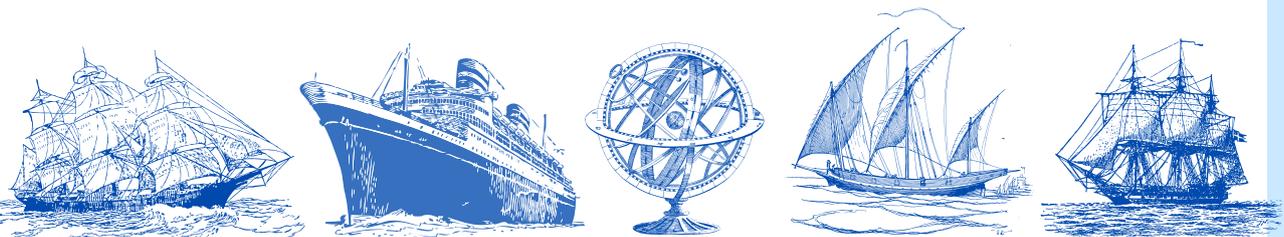
# ABOUT FORMAT OF COMPETITION

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The competition shall be in the format of a mediation competition wherein each team shall consist of 3 participants, i.e. the Client, the Counsel, and the Mediator. The Client and Counsel will form the Negotiating Pair.

The number of teams has been limited to 24. The same would be selected on a first-come basis. The competition shall have 2 Preliminary rounds and 3 Advanced Rounds (the Quarter, the Semi- Final and the Final).

The role of each member in the team shall be fixed. The time-limit shall be 60 minutes for the Preliminary Rounds, and 90 minutes for the Advanced Rounds.



# MEDIA PARTNER LIVELAW



LiveLaw is a comprehensive legal news portal that is committed to providing accurate and honest news about legal developments. LiveLaw began its journey in 2013 with the mission of making legal reporting more transparent and accessible to the common man.

LiveLaw is a leading legal news and analysis platform that has transformed the way the legal community stays informed. Since its inception in 2013, LiveLaw has been a trusted source for breaking legal news, insightful articles, and in-depth coverage of landmark judgments, making it an indispensable resource for lawyers, academicians, and students. LiveLaw covers a wide range of Supreme Court, High Court, tribunals, and regulatory bodies and it also gives analytical insights into critical legal developments.

LiveLaw's commitment to fostering legal literacy and creating an informed legal fraternity aligns perfectly with the goals of the Trial Advocacy Competition. Their partnership will enhance the research and preparation capabilities of participants, providing them with up-to-date legal insights and resources!

# KNOWLEDGE PARTNER ALL INDIA REPORTER



Founded in 1922 by the visionary Late Shri V. V. Chitale, All India Reporter Pvt. Ltd. is India's premier law publication house and a pioneer in Pan-India Law Reports. For over a century, AIR has revolutionized the legal landscape with its iconic AIR Manual series, exhaustive Digests, and authoritative Commentaries. By maintaining a complete in-house infrastructure, from editorial curation to final printing, AIR ensures "Optimum Quality" for a loyal readership of over 1 million professionals, dispatching nearly 100,000 volumes every month.

Evolving with the digital age, AIR has expanded through AIR Online to provide a robust research ecosystem across print and Web/Online platforms. This blend of traditional excellence and modern accessibility makes AIR a "virile and responsive" partner to the Indian judiciary and bar. As a legacy institution, AIR continues its mission of public service by empowering the next generation of legal minds with the most researched and reliable legal intelligence in the country.

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# KNOWLEDGE PARTNER MEDIATE GURU



**MEDIATEGURU**  
Sharing the gift of Mediation with the World

MediateGuru, a distinguished institute in the realm of alternative dispute resolution. The Institution is more than just a service provider; they are a dedicated community committed to facilitating amicable resolutions through expert mediation and arbitration services.

The team of seasoned professionals brings a wealth of experience and a deep sense of empathy to every case, ensuring a fair, efficient, and compassionate resolution process. We uphold the highest standards of integrity and professionalism, providing our clients with unparalleled support and guidance.

Beyond their core services, MediateGuru plays a pivotal role in enriching the ADR field through a series of meticulously curated events, competitions, and conferences. These initiatives are designed to foster professional development, encourage knowledge sharing, and cultivate the next generation of resolution experts.

Engage with industry thought leaders at their workshops, participate in challenging competitions, and become part of a network that values and promotes the principles of peace and resolution. MediateGuru are steadfast in our mission to create a more harmonious world, one resolved dispute at a time.

# KNOWLEDGE PARTNER MANUPATRA



Manupatra is India's leading online legal database service provider, empowering legal professionals with access to an extensive library of cases, statutes, and business documents. With a legacy of 24 years, we are pioneers in the Indian legal database industry, offering the most comprehensive collection of legal resources.

Its advanced search engine, powered by Natural Language Processing and enhanced by Artificial Intelligence, ensures unparalleled accuracy and efficiency in legal research. It has a dedicated team of professionals who work tirelessly to deliver the most up-to-date and high-quality database to our users.

As the largest publisher of legal, tax, corporate, and business policy materials in India, Manupatra is recognised as the fastest-growing law publishing company. We have curated the most extensive online repository of Indian legal materials, featuring primary manuscripts and exclusive analytical content, including commentaries, treatises, digests, and editorial revisions.

# ABOUT C – MAN



## CENTRE FOR MARITIME, ADMIRALTY AND NAVIGATION LAWS (C- MAN)

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The Centre for Maritime, Admiralty, and Navigation Laws (C-MAN) at DSNLU, Visakhapatnam, is a specialized hub for research and academic excellence in Private International Law, Cross-border transactions, Dispute Resolution, Trade Law, Maritime and Navigation regulations. With a vision to advance legal policies and promote excellence in the maritime sector, the Centre engages students, scholars, and practitioners with critical issues in these fields. C-MAN organizes conferences, seminars, workshops, and competitions, offering participants opportunities to deepen their legal expertise and contribute to global Maritime Law discourse.

The Centre is dedicated to creating public awareness and fostering research, education, and training in the field of maritime and shipping laws. It further seeks to facilitate networking and collaboration with domestic and international experts from the maritime industry, thereby promoting the exchange of knowledge and best practices. At the same time, it aims to address the pressing challenges posed by contemporary maritime issues, including security and safety concerns, environmental protection, piracy, and other emerging areas of global significance.

# ABOUT CADR



## CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (CADR)

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The Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (CADR) at Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Visakhapatnam, was established to promote academic discussion and research in the field of ADR practices. Recognizing the significant stress on the Indian justice system due to the mounting backlog of cases, CADR emphasizes the importance of Alternative Dispute Resolution methods such as mediation, arbitration, conciliation, and Lok Adalats, which provide effective alternatives to litigation through the involvement of neutral third parties.

The Centre is committed to undertaking and promoting policy-oriented research and academic teaching in various ADR procedures, including mediation, conciliation, arbitration, Lok Adalats, negotiation, and mini-trial. It undertakes multidisciplinary research projects and creates opportunities for experiential learning for students, complemented by periodic guest lectures, seminars, workshops, courses, training programs, and annual conferences. In addition, it collaborates with leading ADR institutions to spread awareness about the benefits of ADR through camps and classes, and provides mediation and arbitration services to interested parties. The Centre also seeks to enhance the quality of arbitration services by offering professional training with the support of recognized experts, particularly in sectors with high demand but a shortage of qualified professionals. Ultimately, it strives to adopt global best practices in ADR and foster a strong culture of alternative dispute resolution in India.

# RULES

## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026

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### 1. General Clause

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Shri D.V. Subba Rao National Mediation Competition, 2025-2026, organized by Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, will be held offline in the University Premises i.e., Vishakhapatnam from 27th - 29th March 2026.

#### 1.1 Language

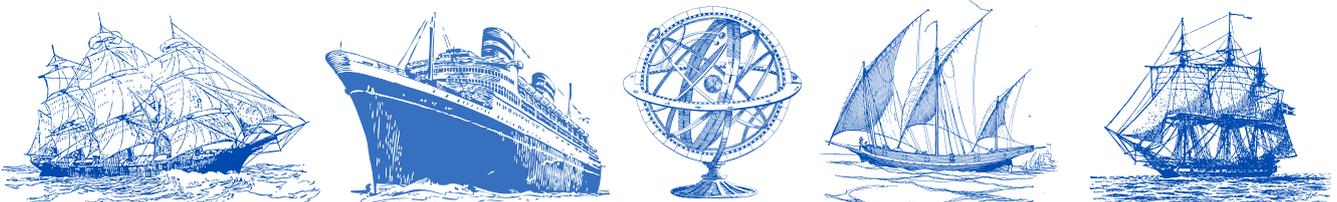
The Official Language of the competition, for all purposes, shall be English. All written and oral submissions shall be made in English only.

#### 1.2 Dress Code

The Dress Code of the Competition shall be business formals.

#### 1.3 Discretion of the Organising Committee

- 1.3.1. The Organising Committee shall have the full discretion to take any decision with regard to the Competition.
- 1.3.2. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional, and immoral conduct of the participants.



# RULES

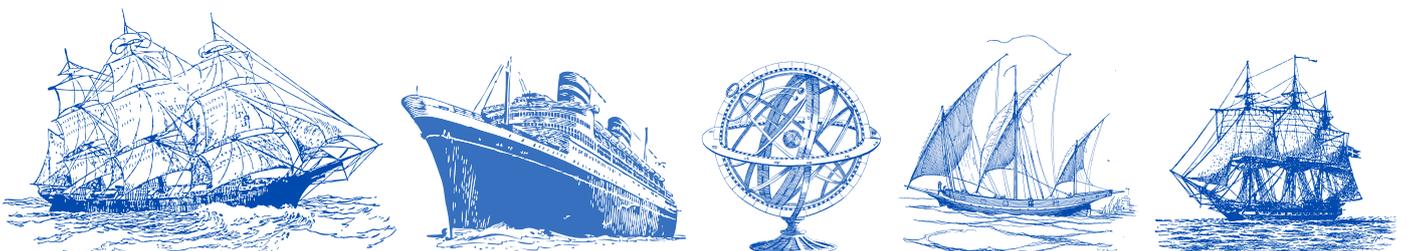
## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025–2026

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- 1.3.3. If any situation arises that is not covered by the rules, the decision of the Organizing Committee shall be final and binding.
- 1.3.4. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to vary, alter, modify, or repeal any of the above rules without any prior notification, if so required and as they may deem appropriate.

### 1.4 Code of Conduct

- 1.4.1. All Participants are expected to maintain decorum during the competition.
- 1.4.2. The institution enforces a Zero Tolerance Policy on sexual harassment. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to disqualify any participant involved in such conduct, in addition to any other legal actions that may be pursued.
- 1.4.3. The Organizing Committee will set up an Equity Committee to ensure the orderly conduct of all participants of the Competition.



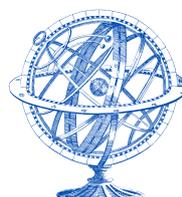
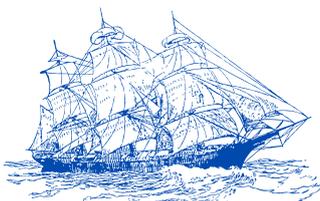
# Rules for the

## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026

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### 2. Definition

- 2.1 “Advanced Rounds” refers to the Quarter Finals , Semi-Final , and Final Rounds conducted during the 2nd DSNLU National Mediation Competition.
- 2.2 “Caucus” denotes a private meeting between the Mediators and a Team , during which the overall time allocated for the Mediation Session continues to elapse.
- 2.3 “Clarifications” refer to procedural orders and any clarification(s) issued by the Organizing Committee.
- 2.4 “Competition” signifies the DSNLU National Mediation Competition 2025-2026.
- 2.5 “Competition Rules” refer to the rules and guidelines set forth in this document.
- 2.6 “Confidential Information” refers to the factual information provided exclusively to one Negotiating Team , in accordance with the Competition’s Rules.
- 2.7 “General Information” pertains to the factual information made available to all registered participants.



# Rules for the

## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026

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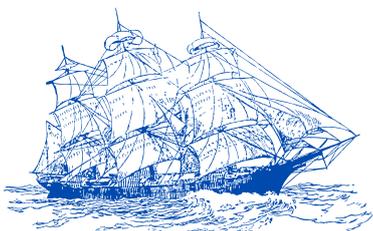
- 2.8 “Handout” refers to a pre-prepared sheet of A4 paper that contains any diagram/picture/text aid to help the party explain their point of negotiation.
- 2.9 “Judge/Expert Assessor” refers to a lawyer or an academician nominated and/or selected by the Organizing Committee who evaluates and scores the performance of the Participating Team during a Mediation Session in accordance with the Competition Rules.
- 2.10 “Mediator” refers to a member of a team of three who shall be acting individually in the capacity of a mediator for the purposes of the Competition.
- 2.11 “Mediation Room” refers to the physical mediation table set-up where the competition shall take place.
- 2.12 “Negotiating Team” refers to two participants out of a team of three, acting in the capacity of client and counsel for the purposes of the competition.
- 2.13 “Organizing Committee” refers to the Committee that shall be Organizing the National Mediation Competition, 2025-2026.
- 2.14 “Participating Team” refers to a team whose registration has been approved by the Organising Committee.
- 2.15 “Penalty” refers to the deductions imposed on the participating team/individual in breach of any Rules, as provided by the Organising Committee.

# Rules for the

## **NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025–2026**

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- 2.16 “Preliminary Rounds” refers to the rounds which take place before the Advanced Rounds of the Competition and for the purpose of determining the scores and ranks of the participants in the mediation to determine which teams advance to the Advanced Rounds.
- 2.17 “Qualifying Teams” refers to the teams and mediators qualifying for Advance Rounds.
- 2.18 “Requesting Party” refers to the party, in the proposition, at whose behest the option of Mediation was exercised.
- 2.19 “Responding Party” refers to the party other than the requesting party in the Mediation session.
- 2.20 “Session Manager” refers to member/s of the Organising Committee designated as such, in charge of overseeing the smooth conduct of every Competition Session.
- 2.21 “Scouting” refers to observing and gathering information on other team's strategies, techniques, and confidential information.
- 2.22 “Team Code” refers to the unique number allotted to the Team which would be used to identify them throughout the Competition.



# Rules for the

## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025–2026

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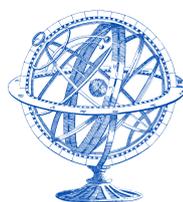
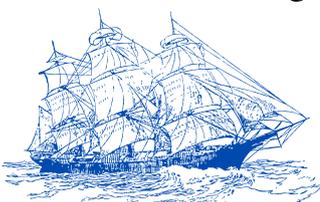
### 3. Participation and Eligibility

- 3.1 Only Law Colleges/Universities recognized by the Bar Council of India are eligible to participate.
- 3.2 Only bonafide students pursuing L.L.B. three/five-year degree programs in the aforementioned institutions (refer to Rule 3.1.), And/or are registered in their respective Institutions as full-time students for the Current Academic Year are eligible to participate.
- 3.3 All the recognized universities are allowed to send a maximum of two teams for the event subject to the discretion of the Organizing Committee.

**No cross-university team(s) are allowed.**

### 4. Team Composition

- 4.1 Each participating team shall consist of 3 members: a Negotiating team of 2 members and a Mediator.
- 4.2 Each Negotiating Team shall comprise of 1 Counsel and 1 Client respectively. The Negotiating Teams shall indicate which Participant are designated as Client and Counsel at the time of completing the Final Registration.



# Rules for the

## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025–2026

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- 4.3 The designation of Participants as ‘Client’, ‘Counsel’, and ‘Mediator’ will remain unchanged throughout the Competition.
- 4.4 No team shall be accompanied to the competition venue by any Coach/Instructor.

### 5. Provisional Registration

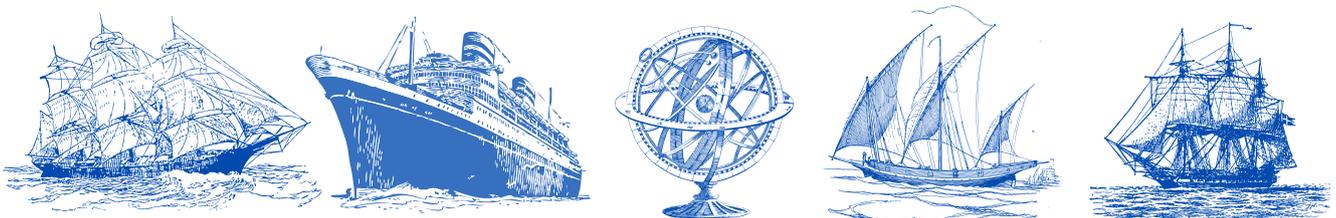
The Competition shall be first open for Provisional Registration for universities through which each University can book a maximum of two slots. The Provisional Registration is to be done on or before 11:59 PM IST on 15th February 2025-2026. There is a maximum registration capacity of 24 teams, first preference shall be given to the provisionally registered Universities for a specified time, after which the slots shall be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis.

**The Provisional Registration link can be accessed here:**

**[Register Here \(Link\)](#)**

### 6. Final Registration

Post provisional registration, teams need to complete the process of final registration, within a specified time period.



# Rules for the

## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026

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### 7. Registration Fees

Registration Fees will have to be paid by the Selected Teams within the deadline/s stipulated.

The Selected Teams shall pay a Registration Fee of Rs. 9,000/- (non-refundable) inclusive of food, refreshments, and accommodation.

#### Account details are:

- **Bank** : UNION BANK OF INDIA
- **Branch** : SABBAVARAM
- **Address** : Sabbavaram, Visakhapatnam - 531035
- **Account Holder** : Registrar, DSNLU
- **Account No.** : 283710100024089
- **IFSC Code** : UBIN0828378

### 8. Travel & Accommodation

8.1 Accommodation for all participants shall be provided by the Organizing Committee. The Registration Fee of Rs. 9,000/- is inclusive of accommodation fees for all participants. (Note: In case a team wants to stay for more than the stipulated 4 days (i.e., from 26<sup>th</sup> March Evening - 29<sup>th</sup> March Evening), they shall pay extra depending on their needs.)

Note : Food will be provided from the 27<sup>th</sup> Morning to the 29<sup>th</sup> Evening.

# Rules for the

## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025–2026

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8.2 Accommodation shall be provided by the Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Visakhapatnam, from 26th March evening to 29th March evening.

Accommodation shall be provided to the male and female participants separately.

8.3 If any team wishes to arrive earlier or postpone their stay beyond the given schedule, they shall bear additional accommodation & food costs. Participants are requested to make travel arrangements accordingly.

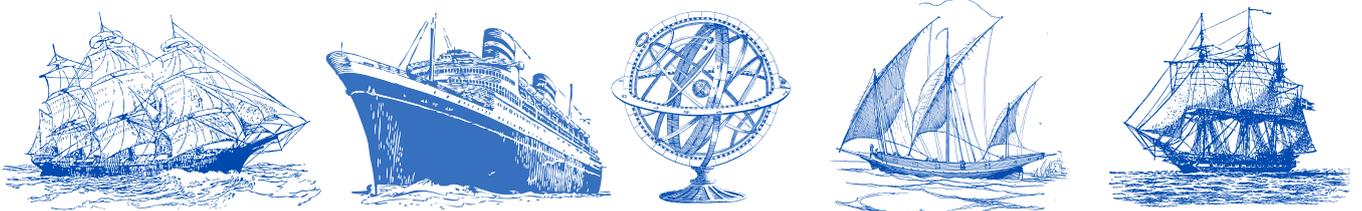
The Organizing Committee shall facilitate teams by providing points of contact for making travel arrangements during arrival and departure from the Airport, Bus-Stand or Railway Station.

## 9. Communication

8.6 All communications to the Organizing Committee shall be via email, addressed to

**[nationalmediation@dsnl.ac.in](mailto:nationalmediation@dsnl.ac.in)**

8.7 Any information communicated to one member of a team shall be considered as official communication to the whole team.



# Rules for the

## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025–2026

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### 10. Awards

#### 10.1 Negotiating Team

- **Winning Negotiating team** - Trophy + Cash Prize of Rs. 25,000.
- **Runners-up Negotiating Team** - Trophy + Cash Prize of Rs. 15,000.
- **Best Negotiating Team of Preliminary Rounds** - Certificate of Merit+ Cash Prize of Rs. 5,000.

#### 10.2 Mediator

- **Winning Mediator** - Trophy + cash prize of Rs. 12,500.
- **Runner up Mediator** – Trophy + Cash Prize of Rs. 7,500.
- **Best Mediator in Preliminary rounds** - Certificate of Merit + Cash Prize of Rs. 5,000.

### 11. Mediation Session

11.1 A Mediation Session will consist of two opposing Negotiating teams (Client-Counsel pairs) who will try to resolve a dispute in the presence of two Mediators.

# Rules for the

## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026

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- II.2 For each round, there will be one set of common facts (“Mediation Problem”) and different confidential information for each of the opposing Negotiating Teams, which will be given 30 minutes before the start of the round.
- II.3 During the Preliminary Rounds, Each Negotiating Team will represent the Requesting Party once, and the Responding Party once. In the course of its two Preliminary Rounds, the party that a team shall represent during a round will be informed to them prior to an hour before the start of the rounds.
- II.4 The Preliminary Rounds will be of 60 minutes each which will be inclusive of caucus and Quarter-Final, Semi-Final and Final Rounds will be 90 minutes each.
- II.5 The cumulative time provided for caucuses is 10 minutes for the Preliminary Rounds, Quarter-Final, and Semi-Final Rounds and 15 minutes for the Final Round.
- II.6 Each Mediation Session shall mandatorily consist of:
- Opening Statement by the Mediators and the Parties.
  - Joint Session: It refers to a meeting where all the parties involved in the dispute come together to be present before the mediator to discuss the dispute.



# Rules for the

## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025–2026

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- **Caucus:** A Caucus (i.e., a private session) shall be called by a Negotiating Team or by the Mediator. There shall be only one Caucus with each of the Negotiating Teams. The Negotiating Team that is not part of the Caucus will be required to leave the Competition room. A Caucus may last for a maximum of 10 minutes. The Mediator will be responsible for managing the Caucus and adhering to the time limit and will be marked based on it. Failure to adhere to the time limit will result in a penalty, which will be decided by the Judge/Expert Assessors assessing the respective Competition Session.
- **Closing Statements of the Parties and Mediators.**

11.7 The Session Manager shall supervise each round and the Timekeeper appointed by the Organisers shall be responsible for keeping time.

11.8 The Timekeeper will give 30-minute, 15-minute, 5-minute & 1-minute warnings and will announce when the time is up. The Negotiations shall stop at the end of the allotted time.

11.9 No extension of time shall be granted under ordinary circumstances. Even under extraordinary circumstances, wherein an extension of time is granted, then such extension will not exceed 5 minutes. The decision of the Judge(s) on the allocation of time extension shall be final.

# Rules for the

## **NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026**

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- II.10 The creation of extraneous facts is not permitted and teams shall be penalized for the same. However, teams may reasonably interpret the problem to draw conclusions.
- II.11 It is clarified that the amount of time available to the participants after the release of Confidential Information in any round may be changed at the discretion of the Organizing Committee, provided that the same shall be notified in advance, and shall be uniform for all participants in the Rounds.

## **12. Confidential Information**

- 12.1 The Confidential Information for a round shall be released 30 minutes before the round.
- 12.2 The Confidential Information for the Semi-Final Rounds shall be released 45 minutes before the said round. The Confidential Information for the Final Rounds shall be released 60 minutes before the commencement of the round.
- 12.3 The teams shall not disclose their Confidential Information to any other participant throughout the Competition. Disclosure of Confidential Information by any team before or after their round shall be grounds for immediate disqualification from the Competition.

# Rules for the

## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025–2026

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### 13. Negotiation Plan

- 13.1 It is mandatory for all Negotiating Teams to submit a Negotiation Plan for the Preliminary Rounds to the Organizing Committee on the day of the Competition.
- 13.2 The Negotiation Plan can be of a maximum of 5 pages and carries 10 marks for the Preliminary Rounds. Teams shall not submit Negotiation Plan for the advanced round.
- 13.3 The submission of the Negotiation Plan must be in physical (printed) format only.
- 13.4 The negotiating team shall bring 2 copies of the Negotiation Plan with them and shall submit a copy to the Organizing Committee at the time of Formal Registration at the venue of the competition.
- 13.5 The Negotiation plan shall compulsorily consist of the following non-exhaustive headings:
- **Define Objectives:** Clearly outline your short-term and long-term goals.
  - **Research:** Gather information about the other party, market conditions, and any relevant facts.
  - **BATNA (Best Alternative to a Negotiated Agreement):** Identify your best alternatives if the negotiation fails.

# Rules for the

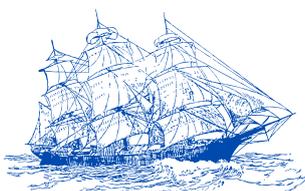
## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026

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- WATNA (Worst Alternative to a Negotiated Agreement)
- Reservation Point: Determine the minimum acceptable outcome.

### 14. Reference Material, Gadgets & Handouts

- 14.1 In a Competition Session, teams are permitted to use only Personal Notes and Stationery Items.
- 14.2 The Participants are prohibited from using any other Electronic Gadget that allows for any form of communication, including, but not limited to: laptops, tablets, mobile phones, smart bands, smartwatches, etc.
- 14.3 During the Mediation Session, the Participants may provide the other party, Mediator and the expert assessors with any pre-prepared handouts, like any diagrams or text, on an A4 size sheet before the session begins to present their explanation. (Maximum of 3 copies)
- 14.4 The use of any resource and/or exhibit other than those indicated in the Rules is strictly prohibited. Failure to adhere to the Rules contained will result in Penalty. The Penalty will be decided by the Organizing Committee.



# Rules for the

## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026

### 15. Rounds & Progression

- 15.1 There shall be a total of 5 rounds in the Competition. 2 Preliminary Rounds, Quarter-finals, Semi-Finals and Final.
- 15.2 In each round, the Negotiating Team & the Mediator shall be competing and be marked independently of each other.
- 15.3 In no round will the Mediator(s) be from the University/Institution of the Negotiating Team(s). This condition shall not be applicable in the Finals.
- 15.4 Advancement to Quarter-Finals: The Top 8 Negotiating Teams and the Top 8 Mediators having the highest cumulative scores from both the preliminary rounds will advance to the Quarter-Final rounds. The matchups for the quarter finals will be based on power match up system provided as below:



# Rules for the

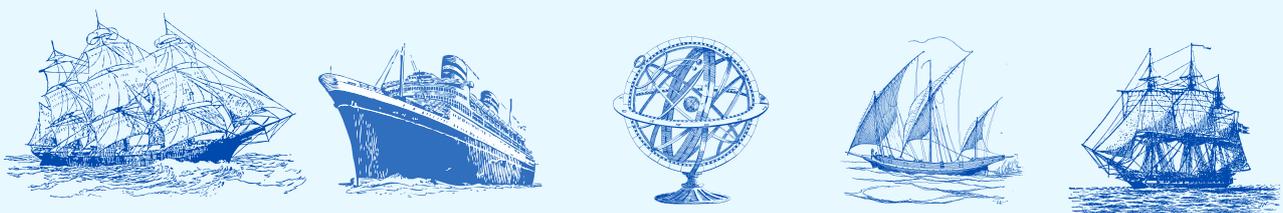
## **NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026**

- 15.5 **Advancement to Semi-Finals:** The advancement to the Semi-Final Round will be on a knock-out basis. The negotiating pair and the Mediator having the higher score than their fellow competitors of that Mediation round would Advance to the Semi-Final rounds of the Competition. The Match-ups for the Semi-final rounds will be decided through draw of lots.
- 15.6 **Advancement to Final:** The advancement to the Final Round will be on a knock-out basis. The Negotiating Pair and the mediator having the better score than their fellow competitors of that Mediation Round would Advance to the Final Round of the Competition.

## **16. Tiebreaker**

### 16.1 **Negotiating team**

In case of a tie in Preliminary Rounds, for a Negotiating Team, the team with the higher marks in the “Negotiation Plan” criteria of the scoresheet given in the Rules, shall be given preference. If a tie still persists, then the score under Teamwork and Coordination shall be considered. If a tie still persists, then the same shall be resolved by a lot.



# Rules for the

## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026

In case of a tie in Advanced Rounds, for a Negotiating Team, the team with the higher marks in the “Effective Negotiation Skills” shall be given preference. If a tie still persists, then the score under Teamwork and Coordination shall be considered. If a tie still persists, then the same shall be resolved by a lot.

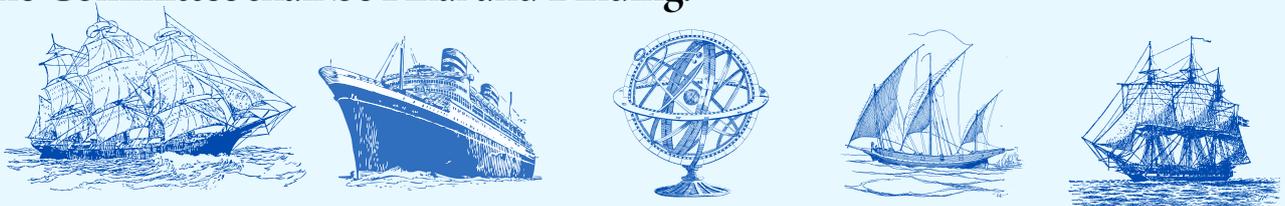
### 16.2 Mediators

In case of a tie for Mediators, the Mediator with the higher marks in the “Mediating Skills” criteria of marking Criteria given in the Rules, shall be given preference. If a tie still persists, then the score under “Opening Statement” shall be considered. If a tie still persists, then the same shall be resolved by a lot.

**All decisions taken by the Organizing Committee in case of a tie shall be Binding and Final.**

## 17. Grievance Redressal

An Equity Committee of 5 Organizing Committee Members shall be established to address the grievances arising during the Competition. All decisions taken by the Committee shall be Final and Binding.



# Rules for the

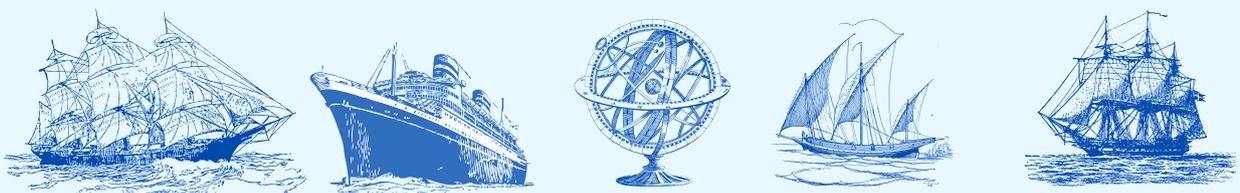
## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026

### 18. Marking Criteria

#### 18.1 Negotiating Team Scoresheet

##### Preliminary Rounds

S. No	Criteria	Maximum Marks
1	Opening Statement (Expressing confidence in the process, skillful articulation of facts to put forth the case, Courteous Presentation of Opposing Perspective, persuasive comments to influence the other party)	10
2	Professionalism (Efficient Use of Listening Skills and Body Language, Appropriate Tone, Language, and Demeanor.)	5



# Rules for the

## **NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025–2026**

3	<p>Negotiation Strategy (Overall strategy developed to deal with the dispute, time spent on relation building, information gathering, and slowly moving into negotiation; change of approach, adaptability)</p>	15
4	<p>Effective Negotiation Skills (Extent of success in protecting interests, creative ways adopted to achieve goals, reasons for failure in negotiation (if any), conclusion of session, handling of emotions, handling of hard bargaining.)</p>	15
5	<p>Effective Use of Confidential Information (Decision on disclosure of confidential information, Timely and appropriate disclosure of confidential information, Incorporating confidential information in Negotiation Strategy)</p>	10

# Rules for the

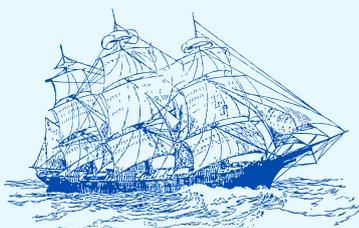
## **NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025–2026**

6	Use of Mediator (Timely and effective use of mediator, mediators' interventions to secure the desired outcome, Use of Mediator Timely and effective use of mediator, mediators' interventions to secure the desired outcome.)	5
7	Team Work and Coordination (Effectiveness of collaboration, reliance and faith on each other's ability, working together as a team, communicating with each other, sharing of responsibility, providing mutual support)	15
8	Generating Creative Options (Generating options to satisfy one's needs and interests, efforts made to satisfy other's interests, objective evaluation of options generated by other party.)	10

# Rules for the

## **NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026**

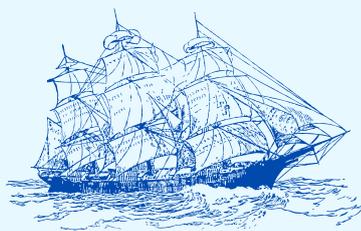
9	Time Management (Ensuring judicial use of time in the mediation session, adherence to the time divisions stipulated in the Rules)	5
10	Negotiation Plan (BATNA, WATNA, Analysis of interests of both the parties)	10
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>100</b>



# Rules for the NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026

## Advance Round Scoresheet

S. No	Criteria	Maximum Marks
1	Opening Statement (Expressing confidence in the process, skillful articulation of facts to put forth the case, Courteous Presentation of Opposing Perspective, persuasive comments to influence the other party)	10
2	Professionalism (Efficient Use of Listening Skills and Body Language, Appropriate Tone, Language, and Demeanor.)	5



# Rules for the

## **NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026**

3	<p>Negotiation Strategy (Overall strategy developed to deal with the dispute, time spent on relation building, information gathering, and slowly moving into negotiation; change of approach, adaptability)</p>	15
4	<p>Effective Negotiation Skills (Extent of success in protecting interests, creative ways adopted to achieve goals, reasons for failure in negotiation (if any), conclusion of session, handling of emotions, handling of hard bargaining.)</p>	20
5	<p>Effective Use of Confidential Information (Decision on disclosure of confidential information, Timely and appropriate disclosure of confidential information, Incorporating confidential information in Negotiation Strategy)</p>	10

# Rules for the

## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026

6	Use of Mediator (Timely and effective use of mediator, mediators' interventions to secure the desired outcome, Use of Mediator Timely and effective use of mediator, mediators' interventions to secure the desired outcome.)	5
7	Team Work and Coordination (Effectiveness of collaboration, reliance and faith on each other's ability, working together as a team, communicating with each other, sharing of responsibility, providing mutual support)	20
8	Generating Creative Options (Generating options to satisfy one's needs and interests, efforts made to satisfy other's interests, objective evaluation of options generated by other party.)	10

# Rules for the

## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026

9	Time Management (Ensuring judicial use of time in conference, adherence to the time divisions stipulated in the Rules)	5
	Total	100

### 18.2. Mediator Scoresheet

S. No	Criteria	Maximum Marks
1	Opening Statement (Explaining the mediation process effectively, explaining the mediator's role, Confirming Neutrality, Authority and Voluntariness)	15
2	Establishing working atmosphere (Creating an Atmosphere of Trust & Setting the Mood for the First Conference, facilitation of discussion and Setting ground rules)	10

# Rules for the

## **NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026**

3	Mediation Process (Creating an Agenda for the Session, maintaining impartial and non-judgmental approach, adherence to ground rules)	10
4	Effective Handling of Caucus (Asking Timely and Proper Close/Open Ended Questions, Encouraging Creative Options to Resolve Conflict, Timing and Reasons for Calling for a Caucus)	15
5	Mediating Skills (Identifying and Acknowledging Interests of the parties, Summarizing, Reframing and Confirming when needed, Approach adopted in assisting option generation, Steps taken to keep options realistic, Encouraging the parties to generate Win-Win options)	20
6	Ability to work with co-mediator (Teamwork and Cooperation with co-mediator)	5

# Rules for the

## **NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026**

7	Conduct and Demeanour (Body language, Listening Skills, Professionalism, Display of patience)	5
8	Control Over the Session (Adherence to the Agenda, Ground Rules assisting parties to move forward in the session, Timely Intervention)	10
9	Time Management (Management of joint session time, Caucus time, Equity in distribution of time to the parties)	5
10	Closing Statements (Summarising the mediation session, Effective ending to the session)	5
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>100</b>

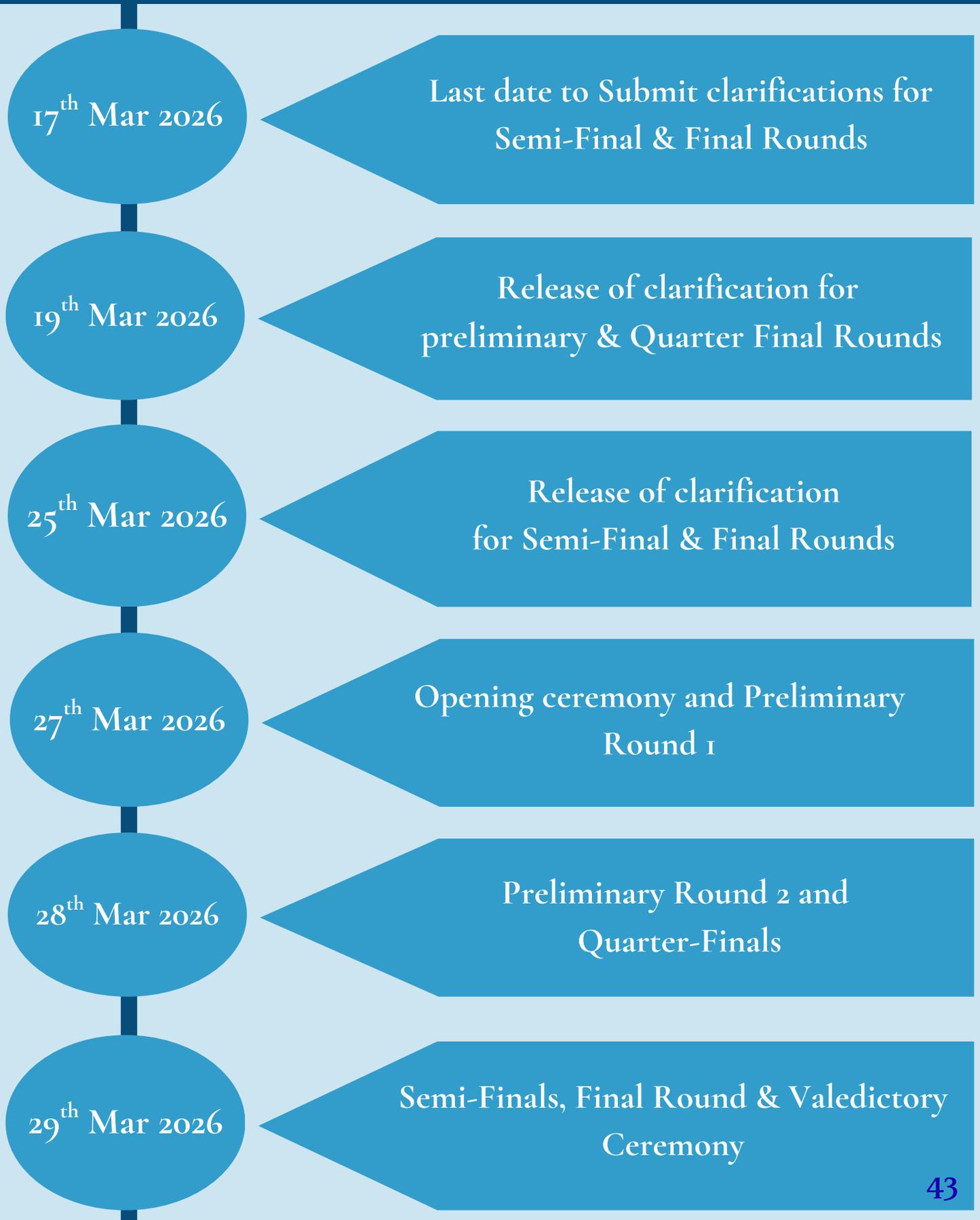
# Timeline

## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026



# Timeline

## NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025-2026





About

# VISAKHAPATNAM

Visakhapatnam, often referred to as the "City of Destiny," is a vibrant port city and industrial hub located on the eastern coast of India, in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Named after Visakha, the Hindu God of Valour. Visakhapatnam is celebrated for its stunning natural landscapes, including picturesque beaches like Ramakrishna Beach and Rushikonda Beach.

Visakhapatnam is not only known for its natural beauty but also for its rich Maritime Heritage. The city is home to the Kursura Submarine Museum, where visitors can explore a decommissioned submarine, providing a glimpse into India's naval history.

Visakhapatnam is more than just a city; it's a destination that offers a perfect blend of natural beauty, historical significance, educational excellence, and cultural richness. As you visit Vizag for our national mediation competition, we hope you take the time to explore and experience the dynamic city has to offer.

# Contact US

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