

ILS Law College, Pune

Law College Road (Chiplunkar Road) Erandwane, Pune, Maharashtra - 411004

Phone No. 020 2565 6775

REMEMBERING S. P. SATHE :

19TH NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2025

RULEBOOK





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KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS

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PART I: GENERAL

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The *Remembering S. P. Sathe - 19th National Moot Court Competition*, 2025 ["Competition"] shall be organized from 27th to 29th March 2025 by Indian Law Society, Pune and ILS Law College, Pune ["ILS, Pune"] in an offline mode.

2. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

2.1 TEAM MEMBER ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1.1. Students enrolled in a full-time bachelor's (three-year or five-year or the equivalent of the same in a Indian college/university/institution) law program at the time of the Competition are eligible to participate in the Competition.
- 2.1.2. Each college/university/institution shall be entitled to send only ONE team to the Competition.

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2.2 TEAM COMPOSITION

- 2.2.1 A team shall be composed of either: Two
 - (2) Members: Both Speakers, or

Three (3) Members: Two (2) Speakers and One (1) Researcher.

2.2.2 Once the team composition is communicated to the Organising Committee, no change in the same shall be permitted. The Organising Committee shall have discretion to approve any such changes.

2.3 NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING TEAMS

2.3.1 All colleges/universities/institutions offering law programs are welcome to register for the Competition. A maximum of twenty-four (24) teams will be eligible to participate in the competition and shall be selected on first come first



serve basis to appear in the Oral Rounds to be held at ILS, Pune.

2.3.2 In case there is an odd number of participating teams in the Preliminary Rounds, ILS, Pune shall nominate a non-competing dummy team that will not proceed beyond the Preliminary Rounds.

3. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

3.1. The official language of the Competition is English. All the rounds shall be conducted in English. The Memorials [written briefs] also shall be drafted in English.

4. DRESS CODE

4.1. The teams are expected to follow a dress code of Black and White Western or Indian formals (Courtroom Formals) during the Oral Rounds.

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5. CLARIFICATIONS

- 5.1. Clarifications can be sought by the participating teams regarding the Moot Proposition and the Rulebook through the Google Form available <u>here</u>.
- 5.2. The deadline to submit requests for clarifications is **11:59 PM IST** on **18 February 2025** (Monday).

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PART II: REGISTRATION

6. REGISTRATION PROCESS

- 6.1 Any college/university/institution offering law programs and interested in sending their team can register for the Competition at the following <u>LINK</u>. The deadline for completing final registration by paying the requisite fees is **11:59 PM IST** on **25 February 2025** (Saturday).
- 6.2 Teams must first complete the payment and then attach proof of payment in the form of a screenshot (.jpeg or .jpg format) or a PDF file while filling the registration form available at the link above or before 11:59 PM IST on 25 February 2025 (Saturday).
- 6.3 All teams shall be given a "Team Code" by the Organizing Committee on validation of their Registration Form and confirmation of payment of registration fees. Thereafter, the teams shall use their designated "Team Code" for all correspondence with the Organizing Committee.
- 6.4 The designated "Team Code" must be used by the participating teams during Memorial Submission as well as the Oral Rounds of the Competition. The identity of the teams shall not be revealed or disclosed directly or indirectly at any stage of the Oral Rounds and in the Written Memorials.



7. REGISTRATION FEES

Description	Indian Teams
Total Fee with Accommodation	INR 9,000/-
Total Fee without Accommodation	INR 3,000/-

- 7.1. All fees are non-refundable.
- 7.2. Fees for Indian teams are inclusive of GST.
- 7.3. All administrative charges leviable by the bank are to be borne by the registering teams.

8. ACCOMMODATION

8.1. Teams can avail accommodation by paying the specified fee in Rule 7 for the days of the Competition only i.e., 27th, 28th and 29th March 2025 (2 nights and 2 days). In case the participants wish to stay the night of 26th March 2025 or arrive a day early i.e., on 26th March 2025, they will have to bear the accommodation costs themselves.

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PART III: FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION

9. ROUNDS

The Competition shall include two stages (Memorial Submissions and Oral Rounds).

9.1 MEMORIAL SUBMISSION

9.1.1. Each participating team shall prepare and submit FIVE (5) copies of memorial [written briefs] for each side, i.e., the Petitioner and the Respondent.

9.2. **PRELIMINARY ROUNDS**

- 9.2.1. There will be two (2) Preliminary Rounds to ensure that each team is given the opportunity to argue from both sides of the Moot Proposition.
- 9.2.2. The fixtures for the Preliminary Rounds shall be determined by draw of lots.
- 9.2.3. For the Preliminary Rounds, the winner of each such round shall be determined on the basis of the total speaker scores secured by the team in the round.

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9.3. QUARTER-FINAL ROUND

- 9.3.1. Eight teams will proceed to the Quarter-Final Round in four Courtrooms on the basis of: first, total wins in the Preliminary Round; second, total speaker scores of the Preliminary Rounds; and in case of a tie, adding scores of the Memorial [written briefs] in the total speaker scores of the Preliminary Rounds
- 9.3.2. These teams shall each argue only once for the side allotted by a draw of lots.

The fixtures for the Quarter Final Round shall be as follows:

Rank 1 v. Rank 5 (Quarter Final Round I)
Rank 2 v. Rank 6 (Quarter Final Round II)
Rank 3 v. Rank 7 (Quarter Final Round III)
Rank 4 v. Rank 8 (Quarter Final Round IV)

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9.4. SEMI-FINAL ROUND

- 9.4.1. Four teams who win in the Quarter-Final Round on a knock-out basis (i.e., the teams that secure higher total speaker scores in the Quarter-Final Round against the opposing team) will proceed to the Semi-Final round in two Courtrooms.
- 9.4.2. In case of tie in speaker scores the teams with higher scores in the Memorial [written briefs] will proceed to the Semi-Final round.
- 9.4.3. These teams shall each argue only once for the side allotted by a draw of lots.

9.5 FINAL ROUND

- 9.5.1 Two teams who win in the Semi-Final round on a knock-out basis will proceed to the Final Round.
- 9.5.2 These teams shall each argue only once for the side allotted by a draw of lots.

9.5.3 The winner of the Final Round shall be the team that secures a higher total speaker score in the Final Round.

9.5.4 In case of tie in speaker scores the teams with higher scores in the Memorial [written briefs] will be the winner.

9.5.5 The team which wins the Final Round shall be declared as the "Winning Team". The other team shall be declared as the "Runners-Up Team."



10. PROCEEDINGS

10.1 PRELIMINARY, QUARTER-FINAL, AND SEMI-FINAL ROUNDS

- 10.1.1 The Preliminary, Quarter-Final, and Semi-Final Rounds shall last for a maximum of sixty (60) minutes each. Each team will have thirty (30) minutes for presenting their oral arguments. This shall include the submissions of both the speakers from the team and the time reserved for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal. Each speaker shall argue for at least twelve (12) minutes. The time split between the speakers must be communicated to the courtroom clerk prior to the commencement of each round.
- 10.1.2 Only one (1) speaker from each team shall be permitted to rebut/sur-rebut, as the case may be. Participants must communicate to the Judges, at the beginning of the round, the time reserved by the team for rebuttals or sur-rebuttals.

10.2 FINAL ROUND

10.2.1 The Final Round shall last for a maximum of ninety (90) minutes. Each team will have forty-five (45) minutes for presenting their oral arguments. This shall include the submissions of both the speakers from the team and the time reserved for rebuttal/surrebuttal. Each speaker shall argue for at least twenty

(20) minutes. The time split between the speakers must be communicated to the courtroom clerk prior to the commencement of the round.

10.2.2 Only one (1) speaker from each team shall be permitted to rebut/sur-rebut, as the case may be. Participants must communicate to the Judges, at the beginning of the round, the time reserved by the team for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.



10.3 EXCHANGE OF MEMORIALS [WRITTEN BRIEFS]

10.3.1 There shall be an exchange of memorials [written briefs] between the respective opposing teams, in accordance with the fixtures, prior to all the rounds of the Competition.

10.3.2 The teams are prohibited from making any copies of the exchanged memorials.

10.4 GENERAL RULES FOR ORAL ROUNDS

- 10.4.1 Teams participating in the Oral Rounds while making their submissions are not confined by the content of their Memorials [written briefs]. Notwithstanding the aforementioned rule, the Judges shall be provided copies of each team's Memorial and the Judges may pose questions to the team with reference to the same.
- 10.4.2 Any memorials [written briefs] or reference material carried into the Courtroom shall not bear any insignia of the college/university/institution to which the team belongs. Using identity indicators on these submissions or reference material will result in immediate disqualification of such a team from the Competition.

Scouting: Scouting by the speakers, researcher, or any other person affiliated with a team will lead to the immediate disqualification of such a team. Scouting shall be deemed to have happened if any person affiliated with a team is found:

Witnessing, hearing, observing, etc. the oral submissions in a round, except where the round is one in which the team to which they are affiliated is participating in; or

Reading a memorial [written briefs] of a team except where: it is of the team to which they are affiliated; or the Memorial have been obtained on account of an exchange of memorial prior to a round of the team to which they are affiliated.



PART IV: MEMORIALS

11. ANONYMITY

- 11.1 The "Team Code" assigned to all participating teams in pursuance of Rule 6.4 shall be used by the participating teams during Memorial Submission.
- 11.2 The memorials [written briefs] shall not contain the names of the team members or any sign, symbol, or text that reveal the identity of the college/university/institution to which the team belongs. Using identity indicators on the memorials will result in immediate disqualification of such a team from the Competition.

12. CONTENTS OF MEMORIALS [WRITTEN BRIEFS]

12.1. Each memorial shall necessarily consist of the following and only the following sections: Cover page

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- a. Table of Contents
- b. List of Abbreviations
- c. Index of Authorities
- d. Statement of Jurisdiction
- e. Statement of Facts
- f. Questions Presented
- g. Summary of Pleadings
- h. Pleadings
- i. Prayer



13. FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

13.1 The formatting requirements of the Memorial [written briefs] are as follows:

13.1.1. FONT AND SPACING:

- 13.1.1.1 The font used in all parts of the Memorial [written briefs], including headings and subheadings, must ONLY be Times New Roman (black font colour), font size 12, with 1.5-line spacing, and justified alignment.
- 13.1.1.2 The font used in the footnotes must ONLY be Times New Roman, font size 10, with single line spacing, and justified alignment.
- 13.1.1.3 There should be a margin of 1 inch on all sides of the page.
- 13.1.1.4 Each section of the memorial, except the Cover Page(s), must be numbered. Page numbers till Summary of Pleadings (inclusive) must be in small Roman Numerals (e.g. ii, iii, iv). Page numbers of the Pleadings and Prayer must be in Hindu-Arabic Numerals (e.g. 2, 3, 4), beginning at 1.

13.1.2. COVER PAGE:

Each Memorial [written briefs] shall have the following and only the following on its Cover Page:

- 13.1.2.1 Participant's Memorial [written briefs] Code assigned by the OC on the top righthand corner of the Cover Page
- 13.1.2.2 The name and year of the Competition
- 13.1.2.3 The name and place of the forum
- 13.1.2.4 The name of the case
- 13.1.2.5 The title of the Memorial (for instance, "Memorial for the Union of India" or "Memorial for the Interveners").



13.1.3. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND INDEX OF AUTHORITIES:

- 13.1.3.1 The table of abbreviations must contain all abbreviations used in the Memorial [written briefs]. This will include common abbreviations such as "&," "%," "ICJ," "UK" etc.
- 13.1.3.2 The Index of Authorities must contain a list of all legal authorities cited in any section of the Memorial [written briefs]. The Index of Authorities must contain the page number(s) of the Memorial [written briefs] where the authorities are so cited. It must be divided based on the category of the authority, such as "Treaties/Conventions," "UN Resolutions and Other Documents," "International Cases and Arbitral Decisions," "Domestic Cases," "Articles and Journals," etc.

13.1.4 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

13.1.4.1 The statement of facts must contain a brief overview of the relevant facts of the dispute.

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13.1.4.2 It should be limited to the actual facts as stated by the drafter, and necessary inferences.

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13.1.5 QUESTIONS PRESENTED:

The legal questions presented for adjudication before the Court are the "Questions Presented."

13.1.5.1 These must be presented as neutral questions.

13.1.6 PLEADINGS AND PRAYER:

- 13.1.6.1 The substantive submissions, legal interpretations, and arguments put forth by the participant are to be contained in the pleadings. The exceptions are:
- 13.1.6.2 To the extent that the Prayer sets out the relief;
- 13.1.6.3 In so far as such argument may be summarized in the Summary of Pleadings;
- 13.1.6.4 In so far as the argument may be anticipated in the Questions Presented.
- 13.1.6.5 The final relief requested from the Court is to be set forth in the prayer.

13.1.7 FOOTNOTES AND CITATIONS:

13.1.7.1 Footnotes shall be limited to the identification of the authority, and cannot contain any substantive legal arguments.

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Illustrative example of an acceptable footnote: Case Concerning the Barcelona Traction, Light and Power Company Limited (Belgium vs. Spain) [46 ILR 178] [hereinafter "Barcelona Traction"].

Illustrative example of an unacceptable footnote: Case Concerning the Barcelona Traction, Light and Power Company Limited (Belgium vs. Spain) [46 ILR 178] [hereinafter "Barcelona Traction Case"] (Where the ICJ held that if it were to decide the case in disregard of the relevant institutions of municipal law it would, without justification, invite serious legal difficulties).

13.1.7.2 The style of footnoting to be followed throughout the Memorial [written briefs] shall be the Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation: latest Edition.



14. SUBMISSION OF THE MEMORIALS [WRITTEN BRIEFS]

- 14.1. The soft copy of the memorials [written briefs] must reach the following e-mail address: mailto:spsathemoot@ilslaw.in at or before 11:59 PM IST on 15 March 2025 (Saturday).
- 14.2. Late submission of memorials [written briefs] after the specified deadline will attract a penalty of one (01) mark per hour till 02:59 AM IST on 16 March 2025 (Sunday). No Memorial [written briefs] submitted after 02:59 AM IST on 16 March 2025 (Sunday) shall be accepted and such non-submission will result in immediate disqualification of the team from the Competition.
- 14.3. The subject of the email shall be "Memorial [written briefs] for Team Code []".
- 14.4. The Memorial [written briefs] must be e-mailed in MS Word ("doc" or ".docx") format and PDF format. The file names of the soft copy of the Memorial [written briefs] must contain only the Memorial [written briefs] code and the side being represented in the following format: 023A or 155R, where "A" (Applicant) and "R" (Respondent) represent the sides of the Parties set out in the Moot Proposition.
- 14.5. Each team shall be required to carry a minimum of 5 copies of printed memorials from each side to be submitted to the Organising Committee upon arrival on **28 March 2025**.

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15. EVALUATION OF MEMORIALS

Sr. No.	Criteria	Marks
1.	Application and Appreciation of Facts	10
2.	Application of Legal Principles, Authorities, and Precedents	20
3.	Presentation, Structure and Articulation	10
4.	Ingenuity and Logical Reasoning	10
	Maximum Marks	50
	Less Penalty Points	
	Total Marks for Memorial [written briefs]	50 (minus penalty points)



15.2. The following penalties shall be deducted after each such Memorial [written briefs] has been evaluated.

DESCRIPTION	PENALTY
Failure to include all sections of the Memorials	3 marks for each section per Memorial [written briefs]
Failure to include necessary information on the cover page of the Memorial [written briefs]	1 mark for each violation per Memorial [written briefs]
Delay in submission	Till 02:59 AM IST (GMT + 5.30 hrs) on 16 March 2025 (Sunday) : 1 mark per hour of delay After 02:59 AM IST (GMT + 5.30 hrs) on 16 March 2025 (Sunday): Disqualification from the Competition
Use of incorrect font style, font color, font size or line spacing	1 mark per violation, maximum of 5 marks per Memorial [written briefs]
Incorrect Page Margins or Page Numbers	LS 1 mark per Memorial [written briefs]
Plagiarism (in any part ofthe Memorial [written briefs] or in full)	10 – 30%: 5 marks Beyond 30%: Disqualification from the Competition
AI-generated Content (in any part of the Memorial [written briefs] or in full)	10 – 30%: 5 marks Beyond 30%: Disqualification from the Competition



PART V: ADJUDICATION

16. MARKING CRITERIA FOR ORAL ROUNDS

16.1. Each judge in each round will mark each team member according to the criteria given below:

Criteria	Maximum Marks	
	Speaker 1	Speaker 2
Knowledge and Presentation of Facts	10	10
Knowledge and Understanding of Legal Provisions and Content of Arguments	20	20
Arrangement, Presentation, and Logical Reasoning	10	10
Court Etiquette and Time Management ESTD. 191	10	10
Sub-Total	50	50
Total	1	00



17. AWARDS

17.1. Prizes for the Competition are as follows:

- a. Winning Team: Trophy and Certificates
- b. Runners-up team: Trophy and Certificates
- c. Best Memorial: Trophy and Certificates
- d. Second-Best Memorial: Certificates
- e. Best Speaker of the Competition: Trophy and Certificates
- f. Second-Best Speaker of the Competition: Certificates
- g. Best Speaker of the Finals: Certificate
- h. Justice V. A. Naik Prize for the best team from Maharashtra: Trophy and Certificates

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17.2. Members of each team will receive a certificate of participation.



PART VI: MISCELLANEOUS

18. CONFIRMATION OF TRAVEL ITINERARY

18.1. Participating Teams will be required to pay the requisite fee under Rule 7 and they must confirm their travel itinerary i.e. the number of rooms required by the team to the Organising Committee at or before 11:59 PM IST (GMT + 5.30 hrs.) on 28th February 2025 (Friday). No further changes to the room allocation will be permitted.

19. ORGANIZERS' EXTRAORDINARY POWERS

- 19.1. All participants are expected to maintain decorum in the Courtrooms during the Oral Rounds of the Competition and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the legal profession.
- 19.2. The Organising Committee reserves the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional, and immoral conduct throughout the duration of the Competition.
- 19.3. The Rules governing the conduct of the Competition should be strictly adhered to. Any deviation thereof, in letter or in spirit, can attract penalties or disqualification at the sole discretion of the Organising Committee.
- 19.4. If any member of a participating team is found participating under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or other narcotic substances, the concerned team will be immediately disqualified from the Competition.
- 19.5. Any act prohibited under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Information Technology Act, 2000 (and the rules under the statute), any other central/state or local law is applicable to regulate the conduct of participants in all regards. Accordingly, the participants shall bear personal liability for the same and the Organising Committee shall not be liable.



No participants shall possess or use any electronic device(s) – Mobile, Laptop, Tablet, Smart Watch etc. in the Courtroom during the Oral Rounds of the Competition.

- 19.7. The Organising 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.
- 19.8. ILS, Pune follows a Zero-Tolerance Policy towards Sexual Harassment and Ragging. In case any participant is involved in such activity, ILS, Pune will initiate appropriate action under laws regulating such violations including disqualification of such participant from the Competition.
- 19.9. The Organising Committee shall resolve unanticipated or unexpected contingencies, if any, and the decision of the Organising Committee in this regard shall be final and binding.
- 19.10. In case of any dispute arising in context of the Competition, the decision of the Organising Committee shall be final and binding.

20. DISCLAIMER

20.1. The material in the Moot Proposition is neither intended to nor does it attempt to resemble any incident or any person, living or dead. Any such resemblance is purely coincidental. The material in the Moot Proposition is a fictitious factual account prepared for the purposes of the present Competition only and it does not attempt to influence or predict the outcome of any matter whatsoever.



21. TIMELINE OF THE COMPETITION

Event	Date
Release of Moot Proposition and Rule Book	17 th February 2025
Registrations Open	17 th February 2025
Deadline for Seeking Clarifications	24 th February 2025
Deadline for Final Registration	25 th February 2025
Release of Clarifications	27 th February 2025
Confirmation of Travel Itinerary	28 th February 2025
Deadline for Submission of Soft Copy of Memorials	15 th March 2025
Draw of lots, Exchange of Memorials and Inauguration Ceremony	27 th March 2025
Preliminary and Quarter-final Rounds	28 th March 2025
Semi-Final and Final Rounds and Valedictory Ceremony	29 th March 2025



PART VII: ORGANISING COMMITTEE & CONTACT DETAILS

PATRONS

Ms. Vaijayanti Joshi, Honorary Secretary, Indian Law Society **Dr. Deepa Paturkar**, Principal, Additional Charge, ILS Law College, Pune

FACULTY CONVENORS

Dr. Swatee Yogessh Ms. Divyashree Dacha Mr. Meer Shais Ali Mr. Akshay Khandekar

STUDENT CONVENOR

Mr. Rahul Joshi : (+91 93591 79139)

STUDENT CO-CONVENOR

Ms. Mahima Srivastava : (+91 7756985391)

STUDENT COORDINATORS

ILS

Ms. Mrunmai Pimparkar : (+91 9588453828)

Ms. Navnisha Patni : (+91 6267848574)

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE: spsathemoot@ilslaw.in | LinkedIn | Instagram