VIDHI MANTHAN 3.O

Mediation Competition (National Level)

2026-27

22nd December 2026

Organized by

P.E.S. Modern Law College, Pune

OFFICIAL RULEBOOK

Mediation Competition (National Level) 2026

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Letter of Authorization:

Every participating team must carry a Letter of Authorization from its institution or college. The letter must be on official letterhead, signed and stamped by the Principal, Dean or Head of the Institution. It must name all team members and the competition the team is entering. It must be submitted at the registration desk on reporting. The organizers may refuse participation to a team without it.

Accommodation:

Accommodation will be provided on request, subject to availability. It is charged separately from the registration fee, and the participating team must pay it. Teams needing accommodation must say so in the registration form, within the registration period. The accommodation fee for each competition is stated in its rulebook.

Team Participation:

An institution may field only one team in each competition. A second team from the same institution in the same competition will not be accepted. An institution may still enter a team in each of the other competitions.

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Introduction:

The Modern Law College, Pune, proposes to host a Mediation Competition on 22nd December 2026. Organized by Modern Arbitration Centre. The competition aims to foster mediation skills among law students, promote alternative dispute resolution, and provide a platform for them to showcase their abilities. It is a very common method of Alternative Dispute Resolution where two parties settle their matter outside Court with the help of their individual Counsels and facilitated by a neutral third party called the mediator.

Objectives:

- To cultivate student understanding of mediation principles, procedures, and techniques.
- To enhance student communication, negotiation, and problem-solving skills.
- To promote mediation as a viable alternative to traditional litigation.
- To foster a competitive environment that encourages excellence in mediation.

Event Details:

- Date: 22nd December, 2026
- Time: 7:30 am
- Venue: Modern Law College, Pune.
- Participants: Open to all Law Colleges & Law Schools on a National level
- Registration Fee: ₹2000/- only (non-refundable)

Eligibility Criteria:

- Students pursuing full-time 3-year LL. B or 5-year BA.LL. B/BBA.LL. B program from a university or Institute recognized by the Bar Council of India are eligible to apply.
- Only one team per college can register for the competition.
- The Participants are required to register as a team of 3 students. (One Counsel + One Client + One Mediator).

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Definitions /interpretations:

1. Caucus / Separate Session: A private, confidential meeting held between the Mediator and one Negotiating Team. The overall session timer continues to run during a caucus.
2. Mediator: A student participant acting independently in the capacity of a neutral third party to facilitate dispute resolution between opposing teams.
3. Negotiating Team: The members of the registered team acting in the designated roles of Client and Counsel.
4. General Information: Common factual background of the mediation problem distributed to all teams.
5. Confidential Information: Secret factual details provided exclusively to one party (Requesting Party or Responding Party) prior to the commencement of a round.
6. Scouting: Directly or indirectly observing other active mediation rooms, or gathering strategic/scoring information from external courtrooms.

Registration:

1. Each team shall register themselves through the registration link - registration link
2. The registration fees shall be 2,000 Rs/-only.
3. The organizing committee will communicate the acceptance of the registration.
4. In case of any withdrawal of team after making the payment of the registration fees, the same shall not be refunded.
5. The organizing committee shall accept the registration of a maximum of 20 teams on the first come first serve basis.
6. Last-minute entries (On Site Registration) are welcome if the total number of registered teams does not exceed 20.
7. Teams shall pay the registration fee using the bank details given below and mention transaction reference number in the registration form. Registration shall be treated as confirmed only after the payment is verified by the organizing committee.

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Payment Details:

Bank Name:	IDBI Bank
Account Name:	PES Modern Law College Student Store A/c
A/c no.:	0062104000194518
IFSC Code:	IBKL0000062
MICR Code:	411259003

Once a team registers by completing the formalities given, a code (hereinafter "team code") shall be assigned to the team. The organizing committee has the exclusive right to decide in case of any dispute related to the registration. The decision of the organizing committee in such acase shall be final.

Competition Structure

1. The competition shall comprise of Preliminary Round and Final Round.
2. The preliminary round shall consist of the knock-out round.
3. Confidential information will be provided 40 minutes prior to the commencement of each round.
4. The participants cannot change their roles within the team during the competition.
5. The official and only language of the competition shall be English.
6. Each team shall consist of three members – one Counsel, one Client and one Mediator, as declared at registration.
7. The General Information shall be common to all teams, whereas the Confidential Information shall be provided exclusively to the concerned party.
8. The schedule, draw and room allotment for each round shall be announced by the organizing committee. Teams must report at the notified time.
9. The organizing committee reserves the right to modify the schedule or format of the competition, if required, and its decision shall be final and binding on all participants.

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Preliminary Round:

Preliminary Round:

1. The Preliminary Round shall be conducted in a knock-out format. The pairing of teams and the allotment of sides shall be decided by draw conducted by the organizing committee.

2. Each session shall be conducted before a panel of two judges. The Mediator shall be allotted by the organizing committee and shall not mediate a session in which his/her own team is a negotiating party.

3. The General Information shall be distributed to all teams and the Confidential Information shall be provided to the respective parties 40 minutes before the commencement of the round. Teams shall be identified only by their team code.

4. The scores awarded by the judges shall decide which teams qualify for the Final Round. The number of teams qualifying for the Final Round shall be announced by the organizing committee.

Final Round:

1. Only the teams qualifying from the Preliminary Round shall participate in the Final Round. A fresh set of General Information and Confidential Information shall be issued for the Final Round.

2. The Final Round shall be conducted before a panel of judges and the roles, timings and rules of conduct applicable in the Preliminary Round shall continue to apply, unless otherwise notified.

3. The winner and the runner-up shall be decided on the basis of the marks scored in the Final Round, and the Best Mediator shall be decided on the basis of the Mediator's marking criteria.

4. In case of a tie, the decision of the judges shall be final and binding on all participants.

Time Distribution:

Preliminary Round – 45 Minutes

Sr.no	Particulars	Time Allotted
1.	Party 1 – Presentation of Case	10 Minutes
2.	Party 2 – Presentation of Case	10 Minutes
3.	Separate Discussion of Party 1 with the Mediator	10 Minutes
4.	Separate Discussion of Party 2 with the Mediator	10 Minutes
5.	Conclusion	5 Minutes
	Total	45 Minutes

Final Round – 60 Minutes

Sr.no	Particulars	Time Allotted
1.	Party 1 – Presentation of Case	15 Minutes
2.	Party 2 – Presentation of Case	15 Minutes
3.	Separate Discussion of Party 1 with the Mediator	10 Minutes
4.	Separate Discussion of Party 2 with the Mediator	10 Minutes
5.	Conclusion	10 Minutes
	Total	60 Minutes

No Extra time shall be granted in any case whatsoever.

Note: Out of the total time frame, five minutes at the end shall be granted to the judges for questioning the team upon the session.

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Awards and Prizes

1. The team that scores the highest in the final round shall be declared as "winners" and shall be awarded a trophy and a certificate of merit.

2. The team that scores the 2nd Rank in the final round shall be declared as "runner up" and shall be awarded a trophy and a certificate of merit.

3. Best Mediator award and certificate of merit.

4. Every participating team shall be awarded a Certificate of Participation.

Marking Criteria:

Two judges in each round will mark each team member according to the criteria given below:

Sr.no	Marking Criteria	Marks
1.	Opening Statement of your perspective	10
2.	Effective Communication Skills	10
3.	Mediation Plan	20
4.	Building a cordial relationship	10
5.	Creative options to resolve conflicts	20
6.	Use of caucus	10
7.	Professional conduct	10
8.	Time management	10
	Total:	100

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Mediator's marking criteria:

Sr. no	Marking criteria	Marks
1.	Opening and ground rules	10
2.	Communication and active listening	10
3.	Neutrality and ethics	10
4.	Mediation plan and process management	20
5.	Use of caucus	10
6.	Helping the parties reach options and agreement	20
7.	Rapport and managing emotions	10
8.	Time management	10
	Total:	100

Cash Prizes:

Winner Team: Cash Prize of Rs. 21,000/- + Trophy + Certificate.

Runner-Up Team: Cash Prize of Rs. 11,000/- + Trophy + Certificate.

Best Mediator: Cash Prize of Rs. 5,000/- + Trophy + Certificate.

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Mediation Plan:

The mediation plan should not exceed two pages in length. It must be typed in Times New Roman font, with headings in size 14 and the main content in size 12, using justified alignment and 1.5-line spacing. Submissions that do not follow this format will not be accepted. Each side is required to submit three hard copies.

Mediation Plan must consist of:

Contents:

1. Introduction
2. Cause of Action & Key Issues
3. Parties' Underlying Interests & Alternative Settlement Options (including BATNA/WATNA.)

The Last date to submit the mediation plan:

Last date of submission: 15th December 2026

Soft Copy Submission mail: vidhimanthan.modernlaw@gmail.com
The soft copies of the mediation plan (of both sides) must reach the above-mentioned email address.

The three hard copies of the mediation plan (per side) shall be submitted to the organizing committee at the time of reporting at the venue.

Clarification Mail:

All queries and requests for clarification regarding the rules, the competition format or the logistics shall be sent to the official email address: **vidhimanthan.modernlaw@gmail.com**.

1. The subject line of the email shall be: "Clarification – Vidhi Manthan 3.O – [Team Code]".

2. The email shall mention the name of the college, the team code and the contact number of the sender. Queries should be specific, numbered and concise.

3. Queries should be sent well in advance of the competition. The organizing committee will endeavour to reply within 48 hours; replies of general importance may be shared with all registered teams.

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Code of conduct for participants:

1. The dress code for the competition shall be business formal.

2. Any behaviour of indiscipline with the judges, organizing committee, any staff member or student volunteer shall be dealt with strictly and may lead to immediate disqualification from the competition without scope of appeal.

3. Carrying, possessing or consuming liquor, cigarettes or any other intoxicating substance shall be dealt with strictly and may lead to immediate disqualification from the competition without scope of appeal.

4. Any kind of electronic devices are not allowed during the session like mobile phones, laptops, tablets, earphones, smart watches, etc. Participants are advised to use Bare Act, Journals, etc.

Grounds for Disqualification:

- Revealing one's identity to other participants or judges during the competition.
- Engaging in cheating or any form of unfair practice.
- Using threats, coercion, or any form of intimidation.

Scouting:

Teams will be immediately suspended for scouting or spying on opponents in any form, including asking friends or colleagues to do so. Only the following people are allowed in a mediation room: Participants, Judges, Volunteers, MLC Organizing Committee Members.

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Organizing Committee

Faculty In Charge

Asst. Prof. Urja Jain
Ph. 9131910874

Asst. Prof. Namrata Sukale
Ph. 8855921909

Student Co-Ordinator

Gaurav Kumar
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