

1ST HPNLU NATIONAL VIRTUAL

MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2020

28th-29th NOVEMBER, 2020



Himachal Pradesh National Law University Shimla, 16 Miles, Shimla-Mandi National Highway Ghandal, District Shimla, HP-171014

Web: http://www.hpnlu.ac.in

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1ST HPNLU NATIONAL VIRTUAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2020

28th–29th November, 2020

It gives us immense pleasure to announce that the Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla, is organising its 1st HPNLU National Virtual Moot Court Competition.

The Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla is a premier Law University in India established by the Himachal Pradesh National Law University Act, 2016 (16 of 2016). The University commenced operations on 5th October, 2016 and currently administers batches of B.A. / B.B.A. LL.B, LL.M (one year programme) and Ph.D.

The National Moot Court Competition is an endeavour to offer law students an opportunity to develop skills which are crucial for growing into a successful lawyer and to expose them to the developing frontiers of law which shall help them to develop holistically. With this objective, we are delighted to invite your esteemed institution to the 1st HPNLU National Moot Court Competition scheduled from November 28-29, 2020 at Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla via online mode.

ELIGIBILITY

Himachal Pradesh

Faculty of Law/Law School/Universities is invited to participate in the1st HPNLU National Virtual Moot Court Competition, 2020 by registering on or before **October 28, 2020**. Only one team can register from one institution/college. Members of the team must be undergraduate students, pursing Bachelors of Law Degree (5-year integrated course or 3-year).

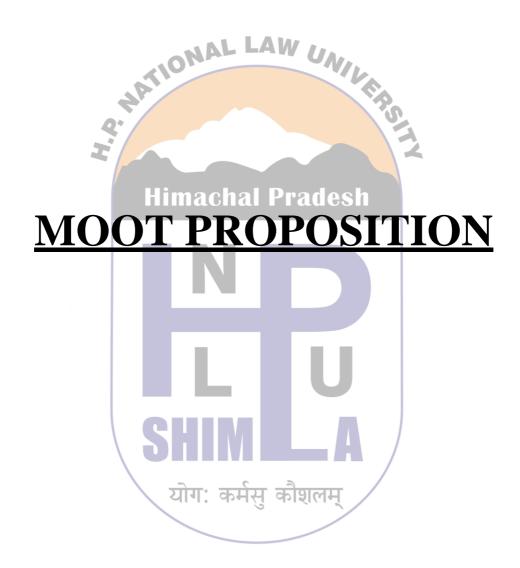
LIST OF IMPORTANT DATES

Notification of Competition & Release of Moot Proposition	12 th October, 2020
Last date of Registration	28 th October, 2020
Last date for seeking Clarifications	30 th October, 2020
Release of Clarifications & Team Codes	2 nd November, 2020
Last date for submission of soft copies of Memorials	12 th November, 2020
Draw of Lots and Exchange of Memorial*	27 th November, 2020
	(Evening)
Inauguration and the state of t	28 th November, 2020
Preliminary	28th November, 2020
Quarter Final Rounds & Semi Final	29 th November, 2020
Final Round & Valedictory	29 th November, 2020

^{*}Draw of lots will be uploaded on the University website one-day prior to the competition.

The Google meet link for the Virtual Moot Court Competition will be provided well before the date of the Competition.

CONTACT DETAILS



$\mathbf{1}^{\mathrm{ST}}$ HPNLU NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2020

MOOT PROPOSITION

- 1. Aryavarta is a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic having 28 states and 9 Union Territories. Constitution of Aryavarta provided a federal form of government wherein powers were divided between the Union and States. Part XI of the Constitution of Aryavarta contained detailed division of legislative and taxing powers between Union and States. Part XII of the Constitution deals with financial relations between Union and States and contains detailed provisions. Intially under the Constitution, as enacted, there were only two tiers of government and powers were constitutionally divided by part XI between these two tiers of government i.e. federal and provincial level.
- 2. Directive Principles of State Policy in Part IV of the Constitution of Aryavarta in Article 40 provided that the State shall take steps to organize village Panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government. However, Part IV of the Constitution is non-justiciable. Keeping in view the constitutional mandate, amendments were incorporated in the Constitution of Aryavarta and Part IX and IX-A were inserted by 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments. These parts provide for third tier of government i.e. local governments. Before the insertion of these two parts in the Constitution, local governments i.e. Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipalities were existing in several states but they were not constitutionally recognised as such.
- 3. Local governments were in existence in different parts of the country but the elections were not held regularly. The constitutional amendments provided in 243E that the duration of Panchayats shall be five years. The provision provided that the elections to constitute Panchayats shall be completed before the expiry of its duration or before the expiration of six months from the date of its dissolution, if dissolved earlier. Similar provision is contained in Article 243U. All the provinces brought their legislations in line with the constitutional amendments
- 4. Delta Pradesh is one of the 28 States of Aryavarta. Local governments were in existence in the Delta Pradesh by virtue of Delta Pradesh Municipal Act, 1911 and Delta Pradesh Municipal Corporation Act, 1976. To enforce constitutional mandate,

- Delta Pradesh enacted Delta Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 to establish Panchayati Raj Institutions at three levels in Rural Areas.
- 5. In Urban Areas, Delta Pradesh had 99 Municipal Councils and 10 Municipal Corporations till 2017. On 2nd February 2017 issued a notification under section 3(1) of Delta Pradesh Municipal Corporation Act, 1976 and notified three urban areas to have municipal corporations. Earlier these areas had Municipal Councils under the Act of 1911. The tenure of these Municipal Councils expired on 28th February 2017. The State Election Commission took up the task of delimiting and revising the constituencies as per law but the elections could not be held till 2019. The Provincial government claims that the electoral rolls and records are being updated due to delimitation of constituencies and therefore, it is not in a position to hold elections.
- 6. Delta Pradesh Peoples Party (DPPP) is in opposition in the State and Aryavarta Peoples Party (APP) is the ruling party in the State. DPPP has alleged that since the party in power apprehends that it will lose the elections, it is delaying elections which is against the constitutional mandate. DPPP has wrote a letter (in October 2019) to the President of the Federation calling upon him to dismiss the provincial government claiming that the failure of the State to hold elections should be deemed as failure of constitutional machinery in the State. In the alternative, DPPP requested the President to issue appropriate direction the State for conducing elections. Aryavarta Nationalist Party (ANP) is in power in the Union which is political adversary of APP. ANP came to power in 2019 by 2/3rd majority displacing APP.
- 7. DPPP filed petition in the High Court claiming that the Provincial government was bound to conduct elections before the expiry of the tenure of local government and that non-holding of elections is against the constitutional mandate. It has prayed that appropriate order/writ/direction be issued to the federal government to dismiss the Provincial government since the provincial government cannot be carried on in accordance with the constitution.
- 8. During the pendency of the petition in the High Court, President of Aryavarta issued a direction to the State under Article 256 on 11th October 2019 to conduct elections to the newly constituted Municipal Corporations on or before 31st January 2020 and to issue the notification, as soon as may be, for the holding the elections. Consequent to issuance of such notification, Delta Pradesh filed a Suit in the Supreme Court of

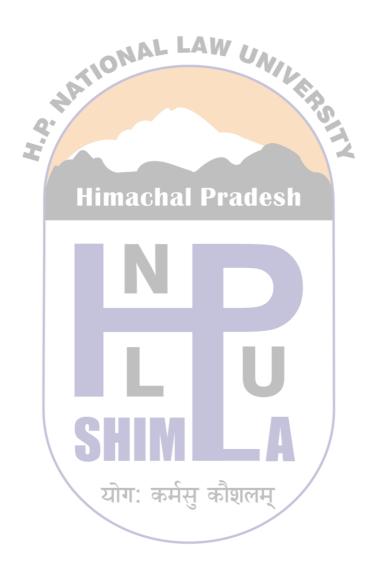
- Aryavarta claiming that Union could not issue such a direction. Suit was filed in the month of November 2019 and the Supreme Court issued notice to the Union.
- 9. Governor of Delta Pradesh wrote to the President of Aryavarta on 01st January 2020 that no tangible steps have been taken by the State till date to conduct elections in compliance with the direction of the Union and that the state is using dill-delaying tactics under the garb of preparation/revision of electoral rolls pursuance delimitation of constituencies.
- 10. In the meantime, on 01st February 2020, President of Union of Aryavarta issued a Proclamation under Article 356(1) declaring that government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the Constitution as the State has failed to comply with the constitutional mandate and there is non-compliance with the directions of the Union. The Proclamation has been approved by both House of Parliament of Aryavarta.
- 11. The Proclamation has been challenged by the chief Minister, Mr. Satya Prakash (who was serving on the date of issuance of Proclamation) in the Supreme Court. He has also challenged the constitutionality of the direction issued by the Union to the State on 11th October 2019. He claims that after the Proclamation under Article 356(1), the State is under President's Rule and that there would be conflict of interest in the matter filed in November 2019 by Delta Pradesh against Union of Aryavarta owing to the fact that both the Union and State would be governed/ruled by the Union (as President acts under the aid and advice of council of Ministers). He has, accordingly, prayed that earlier suit filed by the State in month of November 2019 be clubbed with this matter. Notice has been issued by the Supreme Court to the Union.

NOTE:

- i. Constitution of Aryavarta is analogous the Constitution of India.
- ii. Delta Pradesh Municipal Act, 1911 is analogous to Punjab Municipal Act, 1911.
- iii. Delta Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 is analogous to Punjab Panchayati Raj Act, 1994.
- iv. Delta Pradesh Municipal Corporation Act, 1976 is analogous to Punjab Municipal Corporation Act, 1976

[All names, incidents, terminology referred in the moot proposition are purely fictitious and have been used for research and academic purposes only. The author/organising University is NOT responsible for any coincidental similarity discovered with any person living or dead. Also, the author/organising university DO NOT intend to/attempt/ or attribute any

remark, comment which could be possibly drawn from the interpretation of the incidents/laws mentioned herein. The proposition shall be valid till the completion of the competition only.]



RULES & REGULATIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Short Title:

These Rules shall be called the '1st HPNLU National Moot Court Competition Rules, 2020'.

2. Definitions:

Unless otherwise stated following shall be construed herein under as-

- i."Administrator" shall mean Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla.
- ii. "Appellant" shall include Plaintiff, Petitioner, Complainant, Prosecution, Informant, etc.
- iii. "Competition" means 1st HPNLU National Moot Court Competition, 2020.
- iv. "Moot Proposition" means the Proposition released by the organisers on the date specified in Rule II (2) and shall include any subsequent clarification(s) as and when issued by the organisers.
- v."**Participating Team**" means the team which is eligible to participate in the competition after completion of registration procedure.
- vi. "Participating Institution" shall be presumed to be the parent institution of the participating teams.
- vii. "Respondent" shall include Defendant, Defence, etc.
- viii. "Rules" means the 1st HPNLU National Moot Court Competition Rules, 2020.
- ix."**Organisers**" means the Moot Court Committee, Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla.

II. GENERAL RULES

1. Date and Venue of the Competition:

The 1st HPNLU National Virtual Moot Court Competition, 2020 will be held from 28th - 29th November, 2020 at the campus of Himachal Pradesh National Law University, 16 Miles, Shimla-Mandi National Highway Ghandal, District Shimla, HP-171014 via Google Meet. The respective teams shall participate from their preferred physical venues.

2. Date of Release of Moot Proposition:

The Moot Proposition will be released on 12thOctober, 2020.

3. Team Eligibility and Composition:

- i. Participation is strictly restricted to *bonafide* law students pursuing the three years or five years LL.B. degree programme in any recognized institution/University in India.
- ii. Only one team is permitted to participate from each participating institution.
- participating team. In a team consisting of three members, two members shall be designated as 'Speakers' and the third member shall be designated as 'Researcher'.

 Provided if a team consists of two members then such team shall designate both the members as speakers and no member in the team shall be allowed to be represented as a Researcher.
- iv. Teams will be selected on the basis of screening of memorials which will be selected by an expert team.

4. Registration Procedure:

- i. Registration: Click Here for Registration
- ii. Allotment of Team Code: Every team which has successfully completed the Registration requisites under the Rules shall be allotted a unique code. Once the Code is allotted, every team must use only the team code for any further communication with the Organizers during the course of the competition.
- **Change in Team Composition:** Any change in team composition must be intimated to the Organizers at the earliest. Any change must be accompanied with a freshly filled registration form and an authority letter duly signed by the head of the institution.

iv. Registration Fees: The participating team is required to pay INR 1,000/- as registration fee. The fee should be paid by clicking on the link https://www.onlinesbi.com/sbicollect/icollecthome.htm

5. Dress Code

- i. Participants shall be appropriately attired for the rounds of the competition. Robes and collar bands are not permitted.
- ii. The Dress Code for the Inauguration, Oral Rounds and Valedictory & PrizeDistribution shall strictly be:
 - a. **For Gentlemen-**Western Formals (White formal shirt with black formal pants and a black blazer); and
 - b. **For Ladies** Western Formals (White formal shirt with black formal pants/black formal skirt and a black blazer) or Indian Formals.

III. CLARIFICATIONS

Clarifications to the Moot Proposition shall be sought by sending an e-mail to mcc@hpnlu.ac.in on or before 28th October, 2020. Clarifications sent after this date shall not be entertained. Clarifications will be sent to the respective teams on their personal mail ID only.

IV. WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

- 1. Strict Adherence to Rules Regarding Written Submissions: All requirements have to be strictly followed. Non adherence to the same will attract penalties as provided under the Rules.
- 2. Written Submissions to be prepared from Both Sides: Each team must prepare Written Submissions for both sides to the dispute.
- 3. Submission of Soft Copy of Written Submissions:
 - i. The soft copies of the written submission from each side should reach the Organizers on mcc@hpnlu.ac.in in ".pdf and .doc" format on or before 12th November, 2020.
 - ii. Written Submissions from both sides shall be sent in a single e-mail.
 - iii. A <u>penalty of 1mark</u> shall be levied in case the written submission is submitted in any other format or as a multiple file by the team.
 - iv. The team submitting the Memorial 2 days after the last date of the submission of shall stand disqualified from the competition.

4. Penalty for Late Submission:

A penalty of <u>1 mark per side</u> shall be levied in case of delay in submission of Memorials beginning from the last date of submission up to 48 hours after which the team shall be disqualified from competition.

5. General Conditions for Written Submissions

- i. The Written Submissions shall not contain any form of identification apart from the team code. If any such identification or mark, symbol, etc. which has the effect of identifying the team is found on the written submission, then it shall result in instant disqualification of the participating team.
- ii. Appellant's Written Submissions are required to have a blue cover and Respondent's Written Submissions are required to have a Red cover.
- iii. A penalty of 1 mark per side shall be levied in case the team uses wrong cover of written submission.

6. Guidelines for Formatting:

- i. Written Submissions Structure: The Written Submissions must contain following contents:
 - a. Cover Page—The cover page shall contain the case title, side of the written submission, year of competition, name of the forum and team Code on top right corner;
 - b. Table of Contents;
 - c. List of Abbreviations;
 - d. Index of Authorities: The Index of Authorities must list all the authorities cited in the written submission. The Index must indicate the page number(s)and/ or the paragraph number(s)of the Written submission in which the authority is cited;

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- e. Statement of Jurisdiction;
- f. Statement of Facts: The Statement of Facts must contain a concise statement of the relevant facts of the dispute. As far as may be, the Statement of Facts should be limited to the stipulated facts and legitimate inferences which can be drawn from those facts. Argumentative facts are prohibited. Statement of Facts shall not exceed 2 pages.

Non- compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark for each exceeded page;

- g. Issues Raised;
- h. Summary of Arguments: The Summary of Arguments should contain a summary of the substance of the arguments, and should not merely be are production of the various headings and sub-headings of arguments. The Summary of Arguments shall not exceed 2 pages. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark for each exceeded page;
 - i. Pleadings/Arguments Advanced:
 - a. All legal arguments must be limited to the Pleadings/Arguments Advanced section of the written submission.
 - b. The Pleadings/Arguments Advanced and Prayer must not exceed 20pages.
 - j. Prayer.
- ii. Team Code: The team code must be ascribed on the top right corner of the cover page. The codemust be succeeded by the side for which the written submission is prepared. The teams must use "P" Petitioner and "R" for Respondent. For example: in case the Team Code is TC-100 the team must write "TC-100P" in case of written submission for Petitioner and "TC-100R" in case of written submission for Respondent.
- iii. Margin: The Written submission must maintain an equal margin of 1 inch on all sides.
- iv. Font, size and line spacing: The text font should be 'Times New Roman' or 'Garamond', size 12 and must be in 1.5 line spacing. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 02 marks per side of the written submission.
- v. Footnotes: The foot notes must be in font Times New Roman, size 10 and singly spaced. A Uniform Style of Citation (Bluebook, 20th Edition) is required be followed in the written submission throughout. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per page.
- vi. **Header and Footer:** The font used for the header/footer, if any, shall be Times New Roman, size10, 1 spacing.
- vii. Page Limit: Maximum page limit is of 30 (thirty pages).
- viii The written submissions shall be marked on the parameters which are laid down as under:

Sr. No.	MARKING CRITERIA	MARKS ALLOTTED
1	Evidence of Original Thought	20
2	Knowledge of Law and Facts	20
3	Proper and Articulate Analysis	20
4	Structure, Language and Grammar	15
5	Extent and Use of Research	15
6	Correct Format and Citation	10
	Total	100

- The Competition shall consist of the following rounds:
 - a. Preliminary Rounds; and
 - b. Advanced Rounds:
 - 1) Quarter-finals;
 - 2) Semi-finals;
 - 3) Finals.
- iv. During each of the abovementioned rounds, the order in which the teams shall present their arguments is as follows:

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- a. Appellant Speaker-1
- b. Appellant Speaker -2
- c. Respondent Speaker-1
- d. Respondent Speaker-2
- e. Rebuttal (Appellant) Any one of the two Speakers
- f. Sur-rebuttal (Respondent) Any one of the two speakers.

Sur-rebuttal may be permitted only at the discretion of the Judges.

- v. The Best Speaker Award shall be determined on the basis of the individual aggregate score of the speaker taken only from the Preliminary Rounds. Individual Aggregate Score shall be determined as the sum of the following:
 - a) Score of Speaker in Preliminary Round I;
 - b) Half of Written Submission Score.
- vi. Teams are not permitted to raise issues in the Oral Rounds that have not been submitted in the Written Submissions.
- vii. The use of mobile phones, laptops, or any other electronic gadgets is strictly

- prohibited during the Oral Rounds, subject to the discretion of the judges.
- **viii.** Participants may use their own bare acts, print outs and commentaries provided that anonymity is not violated during the Rounds.
- **ix.** The decision of the Judges as to the marks allotted to each team shall be final and binding.

2. Splitting of Time between Speakers:

- i. Teams shall notify the Court clerks of the division of time between the 2 Speakers (including time reserved for Rebuttal & Sur-rebuttal) 10 minutes prior to the commencement of the Rounds.
- ii. If Speaker 1 exceeds his/her reserved time, the additional time taken shall be deducted from the time reserved by Speaker 2. Similarly, if Speaker 2 exceeds his/her reserved time, the additional time taken shall be deducted from the time reserved for Rebuttals/Sur- Rebuttals as the case may be. This rule may not be followed if the additional time is awarded at the discretion of the Judges to not be deducted from the time of the subsequent Speaker.
- iii. While granting additional time, if the additional number of minutes granted is not specified by the Judges, it shall be presumed that the additional time granted is 2 minutes.
- iv. The finality of the decision as to the time structure and the right to Rebuttal or Surrebuttal shall vest with Judges.

3. Compendium

- i. All relevant case laws and statutory material and other evidences on the basis of which the parties are going to present and substantiate their arguments which will be laid before the Judges during the Oral Rounds are required to be submitted in the form of a Compendium along with the soft copy of the memorial itself i.e. on 12th November, 2020.
- ii. Participants shall ensure that anonymity is not violated while passing on any material to the Judges. If any mark, name, seal, symbol or logo of the institution/college/university is present, participants must ensure that the same is rendered unrecognizable.

4. Exchange of Written Submissions

- i. The exchange of Written Submissions shall take place prior to the Oral Pleading Rounds.
- ii. Teams are prohibited from making any marks on the opponent's Written Submissions

thus exchanged. Teams a real so prohibited from making any copies of the opponent's Written Submission, electronically or otherwise.

5. Preliminary Rounds

- i. Every team shall argue twice in the Preliminary Rounds, once for the Appellant and once for the Respondent.
- ii. No two teams shall face each other more than once in the Preliminary Rounds.
- iii. **Draw of Lots:** The match up of teams in Preliminary Rounds shall be determined on the basis of draw of lots. Draw of lots shall take place on 27th November, 2020 and the team's allocation will be uploaded on the university website on 27th of evening itself at 4.00 PM (IST).
- iv. Each side shall get a maximum time of 30 minutes to present their arguments of which no Speaker shall be permitted to address the Court for more than 18 minutes. The time limit is inclusive of the time for Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal respectively. The maximum time for Rebuttal is 2 minutes and the maximum time for Sur-rebuttal is 1 minute. Each speaker is required to speak for a minimum of 12 minutes exclusive of time taken for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals.

v. Scoring in the Preliminary Rounds

- a. The qualification of teams to the Advanced Rounds shall be determined on the basis of win or loss of the team in each Preliminary Round.
- b. Win or loss of a team shall be determined on the basis of aggregate score. The team with higher aggregate score shall win the round.
- c. The aggregate score of a team shall be computed as the total of Oral Score of Speaker 1, Oral Score of Speaker 2 and half the score of the Written Submissions.
- vi. The top eight teams shall qualify to the Advanced Rounds on the basis of the maximum number of wins per team in the Preliminary Rounds.
- vii. In the event of a tie, the following methods shall be used to determine the rank of the team:
 - a. The aggregate score of the team in their Oral Round One shall be considered, the team with higher score will be allotted a higher rank;
 - b. If the tie subsists, the team with the higher speaker score will be allotted the higher rank;
 - c. If the tie still subsists, the team with the highest individual speaker score out

- of speakers of tied teams will be allotted the higher rank;
- d. If the tie still subsists, the team with the higher written submission score will be allotted higher rank;
- e. If the tie still subsists, then the rank shall be determined by toss of coin.
- viii. The BestSpeaker Award will be awarded on the basis of the scores awarded to the Speaker in the Preliminary Rounds.

6. Advanced Rounds

- i. Every team shall argue once in each of the Advanced Rounds.
- ii. The side to be argued shall be determined on a Draw of Lots after the declaration of results of Preliminary Rounds.
- The qualification of teams to subsequent rounds shall be on a knock-out basis for each of the Advanced Rounds. In the event to a tie, the team with higher written submission marks will be given a higher rank.

1. **Quarter-Finals:**

- a. The maximum time for arguments per side shall be the same as in the Preliminary
- **b.** The winners of Quarter-final round shall advance to the Semi-final round.

2. Semi-Finals:

- a. Each side shall get a maximum time of 45 minutes to present their arguments of which no Speaker shall be permitted to address the Court for more than 25 minutes. The time limit is inclusive of the time for Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal respectively. The maximum time for Rebuttal is 5 minutes and the maximum time for Sur-rebuttal is 2 minutes. Each speaker is required to speak for a minimum of 20 minutes exclusive of time taken for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals.
- **b.** The Winners of the Semi-finals shall advance to the Final Rounds.

3. Final Round

- **a.** The maximum time for arguments presides shall be the same as in the Semi-finals.
- **b.** The Winner of the Final Round shall be declared the Winner of the Competition.

7. Scouting:

- **a.** Scouting is strictly prohibited.
- **b.** Any person may submit a complaint regarding Scouting to the Organizers.
- **c.** Teams found scouting shall be disqualified immediately.

8. Delays in Appearance/Presentation:

If a team scheduled to take part in a Round does not appear within 10 minutes of the scheduled time, the other team present shall be allowed to submit ex-parte.

VI. AWARDS

The following awards shall be awarded in the Competition:

- **1. Best Team**: Team winning the final round of the Competition shall be given a cash prize of INR 10,000/- (INR Ten Thousand Only).
- 2. Runners Up: The runners up team in the final round of the Competition shall be given a cash prize of INR 7,500/- (INR Seven Thousand Five Hundred Only).
- 3. Best Speaker: The speaker having the highest score in the preliminary rounds shall be given A cash prize of INR3,000/- (INR Three Thousand Only).
- **4. Best Memorial**: The team having the highest average written submission score from both sides shall be given a cash prize of INR 3,000 /- (INR Three Thousand Only)
- **5. E-Certificates** of merit shall be given to all the teams qualifying for the Advanced Rounds.
- **6. E-Certificate** of participation shall be given to all the participating teams.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

1. General Etiquette

- i. Participants are expected to behave in a dignified manner and not to cause any inconvenience to the Organizers, the Judges of the Competition or any of the other participants.
- ii. The Organizers reserves the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional or immoral conduct.

2. Interpretation of Rules & Regulations

- i. All interpretations, as well as any waivers, consents or other decisions in the administration of the Competition are at the complete discretion of the Organizers.
- ii. Any decision made by the Organizers shall be final and binding on all participating teams.

3. Correspondence

Any and all clarifications and queries regarding the Moot Proposition and Rules & Regulations shall be sought only via e-mail to <u>mcc@hpnlu.ac.in</u>