



UNIVERSITY LAW COLLEGE,
UTKAL UNIVERSITY, BHUBANESWAR



PRESENTS

3RD VISHWANATH PASAYAT MEMORIAL
NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2025

RULEBOOK

NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION RULES, 2025

The Moot Court Society of University Law College, Utkal University, hereby makes the following rules, namely:-

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[A] INTRODUCTION

1. SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT:

These rules may be called '**NMCC Rules, 2025**'.

- (a) They shall come into force on August 1, 2025 or from the date of publication on the official website of University Law College, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar (www.ulc.ac.in), whichever is earlier.
- (b) The rules are reviewed annually and are subject to change. Reliance should be placed only on 'NMCC Rules, 2025' and not on any previously applicable rules.

2. DEFINITIONS:

In these rules, unless otherwise stated, a reference to a rule is a reference to that specific rule in 'NMCC Rules, 2025'. In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires: -

- (a) '*Bench*' refers to the members duly invited by the institute to adjudge any of the rounds collectively;
- (b) '*Clarifications*' means an explanation published by the institute on the moot problem, at any point of time of the competition or a query posed by any competing team within the given deadline;
- (c) '*Competition*' means the '3rd Vishwanath Pasayat Memorial National Moot Court Competition 2025';
- (d) '*Governing Council*' means the student-faculty-staff body of the Moot Court Society appointed for the administration and smooth conduct of the competition of University Law College, Utkal University;
- (e) '*Institution*' means and includes 'University Law College, Utkal University', a constituent of Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha;
- (f) '*Moot Problem*' means a set of facts published by the institution for the Competition;
- (g) '*Oral Round*' refers to the oral pleadings made by the teams before the Bench during any of the rounds of assessment, including time given for rebuttal;
- (h) '*Team Code*' means a unique code assigned by the institution to the applied and registered team;

- (i) 'Team' means and includes only bona-fide students of any law college recognised by the Bar Council of India and who have applied and registered for the competition by complying with the procedure prescribed in these present rules.

3. INTERPRETATION:

The Governing Council reserves the right to interpret the rules as it deems fit in order to ensure fairness and equality in the competition. Any such interpretation shall be conclusive, and the decision of the Governing Council for the application of the rules shall be final and binding.

The Governing Council may amend, modify, change or repeal any rule from 'NMCC Rules, 2025'; the same shall be communicated to the teams in due time.

In case of any conflict, the decision of the Governing Council shall be final and binding.

4. LANGUAGE:

All oral and written submissions along with the communications for the competition are required to be made in **English**, which shall be the official language of the Competition.

5. ANONYMITY OF TEAMS:

- (a) The teams shall not reveal their identity in any form during the Competition, except by means of their Team Code allotted by the Governing Council.
- (b) Teams must not reveal the names of the participants, anywhere in the memorials or during the course of the oral arguments.
- (c) Any material presented to the Panel, including but not limited to a compendium, should be devoid of any identification mark(s)/seal(s) of the Team. If any such mark(s)/seal(s) exist, it must be rendered unrecognizable before being presented to the judges.
- (d) Any violation of Rules 5(a) - 5(c) of this chapter shall attract severe penalty or disqualification as determined by the Governing Council. The decision of the Governing Council in this regard shall be final and binding; not subject to challenge.
- (e) While submitting the memorial, there should be no reference to the name of the institution, and it should only contain the team code.

[B] FUNDAMENTALS

1. ELIGIBILITY:

- (a) Students duly enrolled and pursuing a five-year integrated BA LLB / BBA LLB / BSc LLB course or three-year LLB course in any University / Institute recognised by the Bar Council of India and UGC to impart law degrees may apply to participate in the 3rd Vishwanath Pasayat Memorial National Moot Court Competition 2025.
- (b) Students from any other course or any other University / Department / Institute other than as specified above shall not be eligible to apply.
- (c) Only one team per institution is allowed to participate in the competition.

2. TEAM COMPOSITION:

- (a) Each team shall consist of at least two members and maximum three members:
 - a. The two-members team shall comprise only of two orators and NO researcher;
 - b. The three-members team shall comprise of two orators and one researcher.
- (b) Once a team has been registered and allotted a team code, there cannot be any alteration or change in the team at any circumstances.

3. REGISTRATION:

- (a) GENERAL:
 - (i) Each team shall register for the 3rd Vishwanath Pasayat Memorial National Moot Court Competition 2025 by filling the online registration form ([Google Form](#)) on or before 11:59 PM of 21st September 2025 (Sunday).
 - (ii) Registration after the given deadline shall not be accepted under any circumstances.
 - (iii) After the deadline for the registration expires, the Governing Council shall respond to each registered team acknowledging the receipt and allocating a team code, which shall be used to identify the teams during the competition.
 - (iv) Registration to the 3rd Vishwanath Pasayat Memorial National Moot Court Competition 2025 shall be on a first come first serve basis wherein only the first twenty-two (22) teams shall be eligible to participate.

(b) **REGISTRATION FEE:**

- (i) The registration fees to participate in the 3rd Vishwanath Pasayat Memorial National Moot Court Competition 2025 shall be **Rs. 3,000/-** (Three thousand rupees only) per team.
- (ii) The aforementioned fees shall be inclusive of the fees for accommodation for the teams opting for accommodation, and food for competition days, library and any other facilities provided by the institute at its discretion.
- (iii) Accommodation shall be given to the participants from 12 noon of 7th October 2025 till 9am of 10th October 2025.
- (iv) Mode of payment (Payment to bank account):

Details of the bank:

Account Holder Name- **PRINCIPAL UNIVERSITY LAW COLLEGE**

Account No- **80152200000440**

Branch Name- **Canara Bank, DDCE, Bhubaneswar Branch- 751004**

IFSC Code- **CNRB0018015**

Attach the successful payment receipt in the registration link.

4. CLARIFICATIONS:

- (a) Clarifications can be sought on any part of the moot proposition and must be clear. These clarifications are to be sent to the governing council by filling the Clarification Form.
- (b) The clarification e-mails are to be sent on or before 11:59 PM of 18th September 2025 (Thursday). It is at the discretion of the Governing Council to decide whether a clarification sought for is valid and to be clarified.

[C] MEMORIAL

1. MEMORIAL CONSTRUCTION:

(a) GENERAL:

Each team shall research into the domain of the moot problem, and prepare memorials from both sides, namely, Plaintiff/ Petitioner/ Appellant **and** Defendant/Respondent as the case may be.

(b) FORMAT OF MEMORIAL:

- (i) The memorials are to be submitted in the format prescribed in this Rule. If a team fails to comply with the given format, it may be penalized in the form of deductions from the memorial marks.
- (ii) The memorials shall contain all of, and only, the following heads, namely-
 - a. Cover Page
 - i. It shall include the team code of the team along with the initial of the representing side on the upper right- hand corner, viz. “TC - 01 P”,
 - ii. the cause title,
 - iii. parties on behalf of whom written submissions are made,
 - iv. name of the forum approached for dispute resolution and year.
 - v. The Cover page of the memorial on behalf of the **Plaintiff/ Petitioner/ Appellant** shall be in **BLUE**, and the **Defendant/ Respondent** shall be in **RED**.
 - b. Table of Contents
 - c. List of Abbreviations
 - d. Index of Authorities
 - e. Statement of Jurisdiction (Page Limit: **1**)
 - f. Statement of Facts (Page Limit: **2**)
 - g. Issues Raised (Page Limit: **1**)
 - h. Summary of Arguments (Page Limit: **2**)
 - i. Arguments Advanced (Page Limit: **20**)
 - j. Prayer (Page Limit: **1**)

(c) FONT AND SPACING:

(i) All written submissions shall be typed on **A4** size paper in the following format:

- Headings & Body: in **Times New Roman** (font type), in **12 points** (font size), with line spacing of **1.5**, paragraphs **Justified**;
- Footnotes: in **Times New Roman** (font type), in **10 points** (font size), with line spacing of **1.0**, paragraphs **Justified**.

(ii) Each page shall have a 1-inch margin from each side.

(iii) The memorial shall be spiral bound only.

(d) CITATIONS:

All teams shall give footnotes by adhering to Blue Book: A Uniform System of Citation (21st Edition).

(e) PLAGIARISM:

The Governing Council reserves the right to disqualify a team, at any stage of the competition, if the memorial or any other part thereof, is found to be plagiarized.

2. SUBMISSION OF MEMORIALS:

(a) All teams shall submit a **soft copy**, **both** in Microsoft Word format and PDF format (**.docx and .pdf**) of the memorials from both sides [here \(Google Forms\)](#) on or before **11:59 PM of 1st October 2025 (Wednesday)**.

(b) The file name should be the team code followed by an underscore and the party for which it is prepared.

For example, the memorial for the petitioner of TC 01 shall be "**TC01_P**". Similarly, the memorial for respondent of TC 01 shall be "**TC01_R**".

(c) Submissions made after the specified deadline may lead to penalties in the form of deductions from the memorial marks.

a. **Deduction of 0.5 marks per hour of delay to a maximum of 20 marks.**

b. No submission shall be entertained after 12 noon of 3rd October 2025 (Friday) and the team shall be at a loss of 100 marks.

- (d) The teams are requested to submit **5 sets** of spiral bound **hard copies** of their memorial from both sides (total 10 copies) during the on-site registration on **7th October 2025 (Tuesday)**.
- (e) The softcopy submitted through Google Forms and the hardcopy submitted during the registration have to be identical. Any discrepancies observed may lead to a severe penalty that may include but is not limited to, the disqualification of the team.

3. ASSESSMENT OF MEMORIALS:

Each side of the memorials shall be assessed out of 100 marks, by a team of experts on the predetermined criterion, as specified hereunder:

- (i) Logical progression of ideas (10 marks)
- (ii) Originality in analysis and arguments (10 marks)
- (iii) Understanding essential legal issues presented (10 marks)
- (iv) Clear, concise and unambiguous writing style (10 marks)
- (v) Persuasive presentation (10 marks)
- (vi) Integration of facts into legal arguments (10 marks)
- (vii) Understanding and analysis of authority (10 marks)
- (viii) Proper use of citations and citation format (10 marks)
- (ix) Effective use of authority to support arguments (10 marks)
- (x) Neatness, legibility and formatting (10 marks)

4. PENALTIES ON MEMORIALS:

Non-compliance with Written Submission formatting/submission rules will result in a deduction from the total allocated marks.

However, except in special circumstances including but not limited to the use of AI, no more than 20 marks shall be deducted for each Written Submission for non-compliance with procedural requirements, irrespective of the total penalties incurred.

- The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in any form for the preparation, creation and submission of memorials is strictly prohibited and any such use of AI in any form shall lead to a penalty of direct deduction of 50 marks above the standard deductions/penalties as applicable or disqualification of the team as the Governing Council may deem fit according to the extent of usage of AI.

The extent of penalties on memorials are as follows:

- (a) Late Submission – as explained in Rule 7 (b) in Page 8;
- (b) Wrong file name – 1 mark per memorial;
- (c) Exceeding page limit – 2 marks per exceeding page;
- (d) Failure to include the required information on the cover page – 1 mark per violation;
- (e) Failure to use the correct colour coding – 2 marks per memorial;
- (f) Failure to include all sections of the memorials – 5 marks for every missing section;
- (g) Use of incorrect formatting guidelines – 1 mark per violation;
- (h) Disclosure of identity of the team in the memorials – Disqualification;

5. RIGHTS OVER MEMORIALS:

The administrating authority of the competition reserves the right to disseminate and produce the memorials as and when deemed necessary for the purpose of the competition. Submission of the memorials will constitute the team's consent to do the same. The Governing Council will not take any responsibility for the mistakes found in the final submission of the memorials.

6. COMPENDIUM:

- (a) A brief compilation of principle heads, general principles, case laws and any other academic resource relevant to the memorandum to be physically submitted by the respective teams in absolute confidentiality.
- (b) It is not mandatory to submit a compendium, but if a team chooses to do so, it is mandatory to do so in a hard copy 10 mins before the beginning of the rounds.
- (c) Every resource in the compendium shall contain the first page of the resource, followed by the preceding page of the relevant page, the relevant page and the succeeding page of the relevant page along with the last page of the resource.
- (d) The responsibility of making a coherent, accessible compendium folder lies with the teams. Teams are also expected to make an index for their compilation.

DATE SHEET

| <u>SL. NO.</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>EVENT</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. | 05.09.2025 (Friday) | Release of Moot Proposition |
| 2. | 22.09.2025 (Monday) | Registration close & Team Code allotment |
| 3. | 18.09.2025 (Thursday) | Last date to seek clarification |
| 4. | 22.09.2025 (Monday) | Release of clarification |
| 5. | 01.10.2025 (Wednesday) | Last date to memorial submission |
| 6. | 07.10.2025 (Tuesday) | Participant Reporting & Memorial Submission |
| | | Researcher's Test |
| | | Inaugural Ceremony |
| 7. | 08.10.2025 (Wednesday) | Preliminary Round 1 |
| | | Preliminary Round 2 |
| | | Result of Prelims & Draw of Lots |
| | | Lunch |
| | | Quarter-Final Round |
| | | Result of Quarter-Final & Draw of Lots |
| 8. | 09.10.2025 (Thursday) | Semi Final Round |
| | | Result & Memorial Exchange |
| | | Final Round |

[D] FRAMEWORK OF THE COMPETITION

1. DRESS CODE:

- (a) The participants shall adhere to the following dress code while in the courtrooms:
 - (i) Ladies: White salwar and kurta or white shirt and black trousers along with a black blazer and black shoes.
 - (ii) Gentlemen: White shirt, black trousers, a black tie, a black blazer and black shoes.
- (b) The above-mentioned dress code extends to all the rounds and the Valedictory Ceremony as well.

2. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION:

- (a) GENERAL:
 - (i) The competition will be held for two days, i.e., 8th and 9th October 2025. The two Preliminary Rounds along with Quarter-Final Rounds shall be conducted on 8th October 2025 (Wednesday), followed by the Semi-Final Round and Final Round on 9th October 2025 (Thursday).
 - (ii) The competition shall have two Preliminary Rounds, one Semi-Final Round and the Final Round.
 - (iii) The structure of every oral pleading round shall be as follows: the Petitioners/ Appellants shall present their arguments first, followed by the Respondents. After the conclusion of the Respondents' pleadings, Petitioners/ Appellants may proceed with the Rebuttal, followed by Sur-rebuttal by the Respondents.
 - (iv) Case compendium or any other relevant material to be submitted to the panel shall be submitted only through court masters.
 - (v) In no case, would the researcher be allowed to plead; however, he/ she is allowed to pass notes to the orator.
 - (vi) No team is allowed to carry laptops, iPads, mobile phones or any other electronic devices inside the courtroom for research or any other purpose.

- (vii) The participants are allowed to bring Bare Acts and Hard Copies of the Memorials inside the Courtroom.

(b) PRELIMINARY ROUNDS:

- (i) Each team shall argue once from each side, i.e., once as Plaintiff/ Petitioner/ Appellant and once as Defendant/ Respondent.
- (ii) The opposing teams for both the rounds shall be allotted separately to the teams via the draw of lots conducted while the Researchers' Test is going on. The memorials of the opposing team shall be made available to the teams during the draw of lots.
- (iii) In the Preliminary Round 1, the teams with team codes numbered less than 50% of the total number of teams registered in the Competition shall represent the Plaintiff/ Petitioner/ Appellant and the rest of the teams shall represent the Defendant/ Respondent.
- (iv) In Preliminary Round 2, the representing side shall reverse as per the Preliminary Round 1. For example, if TC 01 represented Plaintiff/ Petitioner/ Appellant in Preliminary Round 1, then it will represent Defendant/ Respondent in Preliminary Round 2.
- (v) No team shall plead against the same team in the subsequent preliminary round. It shall be the duty of the governing council to ensure that the opposing teams in the subsequent rounds are distinct.
- (vi) For the Preliminary Rounds, each team shall strictly get a total time of 30 minutes to argue, subject to a minimum of 10 minutes per orator. The speaking time is inclusive of a maximum of 2 minutes for the Rebuttals and a maximum of 2 minutes for the sur-rebuttal, as the case may be. Any grant of extension shall be at the discretion of the judge, which shall not exceed 5 minutes per team.

(c) QUARTER-FINAL ROUND:

- (i) Top eight (8) teams from the Preliminary Rounds on the basis of highest cumulative marks scored shall qualify for the Quarter-Final round which shall be a knock-out round.

- (ii) In the event of a tie, the memorial marks awarded to the teams shall be considered to decide the teams furthering to the Quarter-Final round.
 - (iii) The opposing teams as well as the representing sides of each team shall be decided by the draw of lots.
 - (iv) Each team shall get a total time of 30 minutes to argue, subject to a minimum of 10 minutes per orator inclusive of a maximum of 3 minutes for the rebuttals or sur-rebuttal, as the case may be. Any grant of extension shall be at the discretion of the judges, which shall not exceed 5 minutes per team.
- (d) SEMI-FINAL ROUND:
- (i) The top four (4) teams from the Quarter-Final Round shall qualify for the Semi-Final round, wherein the winning team of each courtroom in the Quarter-Final round shall proceed to the Final round.
 - (ii) In the event of a tie, the memorial marks awarded to the teams shall be considered to decide the teams furthering to the Semi-Final round.
 - (iii) The opposing teams as well as the representing sides of each team shall be decided by the draw of lots.
 - (iv) Each team shall get a total time of 40 minutes to argue, subject to a minimum of 15 minutes per orator inclusive of a maximum of 3 minutes for the rebuttals or sur-rebuttal, as the case may be. Any grant of extension shall be at the discretion of the judges, which shall not exceed 5 minutes per team.
- (e) FINAL ROUND:
- (i) The top two (2) teams from the Semi-Final Round shall qualify for the Final round, wherein the winning team of each courtroom in the Semi-Final round shall proceed to the Final round.
 - (ii) The representing sides of the finalists shall be decided by way of a draw of lots.
 - (iii) Each team shall get a total of 50 minutes to argue subject to a minimum of 20 minutes per orator, including a maximum of 3 minutes for rebuttals and sur-rebuttals, as the case may be.

- (iv) In case of a tie in Final Round, the team with a higher score in Memorial and Researchers' Test shall be awarded as Winner.

3. ASSESSMENT CRITERION FOR ORAL PLEADINGS:

Team performance of the orators shall be judged in all rounds on the basis of the following criterion-

- (i) Appreciation and Application of Facts (10 marks)
- (ii) Identification and Articulation of Issues (10 marks)
- (iii) Application of Legal Principles (10 marks)
- (iv) Use of authorities and precedents (10 marks)
- (v) Response to questions (10 marks)
- (vi) Presentation Skills (10 marks)
- (vii) Clarity of Thoughts and Logical Structure of arguments (10 marks)
- (viii) Court Mannerisms (10 marks)
- (ix) Strategy (10 marks)
- (x) Ingenuity (10 marks)

4. RULES FOR QUALIFICATION:

- (a) Each preliminary round shall be decided on the basis of allocation of a total of 300 marks, which includes 100 marks from the memorial and 100 marks for each orator in the oral pleadings.

The average of the total marks obtained by the team in both preliminary rounds will be the sole decisive criterion. In case of a tie in the average of total marks, the team with higher memorial marks shall be placed higher in the ranking. Even then, if the tie persists, the team with the higher marks in Researchers' Test shall be placed higher in the ranking.

All the teams shall be ranked on the basis of the marks calculated as above and the top 4 teams shall qualify to the Semi-Final Round.

- (b) In the Semi-Final round, sum total marks obtained by both the orators of a team out of 100 each in the oral pleadings will be the sole decisive factor for determining which team will qualify for the Final Round.
- In case of a tie in the oral pleading marks, the memorial marks will determine the qualifying team.
 - Even then, if the tie persists, the team with the highest individual orator score shall qualify for the Final round.
- (c) In the Final Round, sum total marks obtained by both the orators of a team out of 100 each in the oral pleadings will be the sole decisive factor in determining the team that has won the competition.
- In case of a tie in the oral pleading marks, the sum total marks obtained in the Memorial Marking and the Researchers' Test will determine the winner of the competition.
 - Even then if the tie persists, the team with the highest individual orator score shall win the round.

5. SCOUTING:

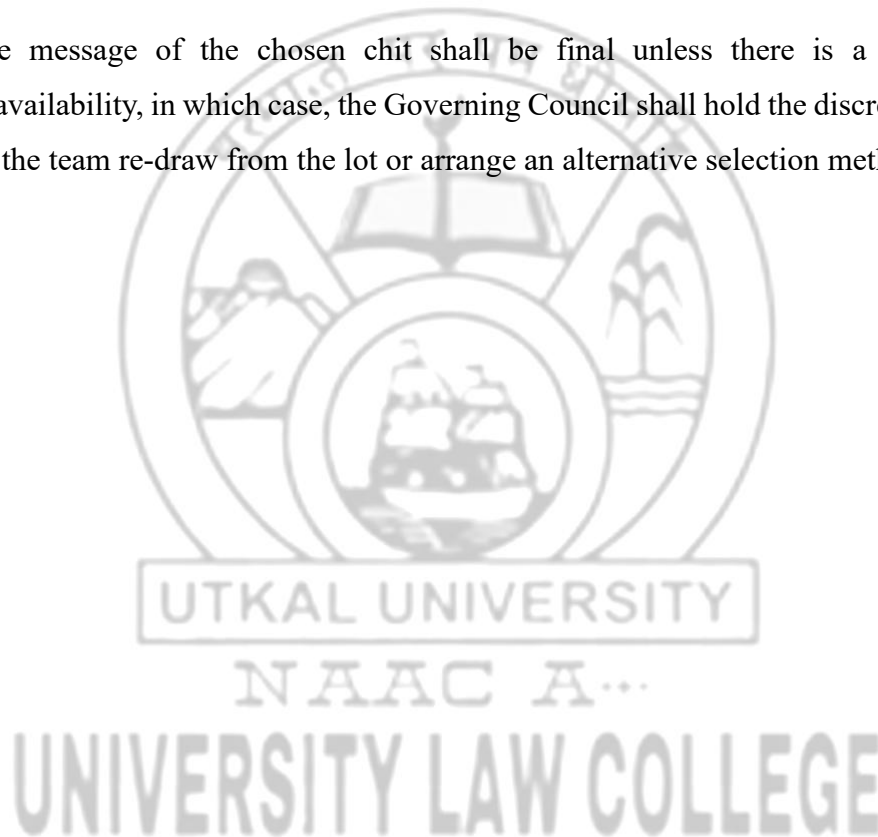
No member of any team will be permitted to witness the arguments in any courtroom in which that team is not one of the participating teams whilst that team is a part of the competition. If this rule is violated, the Governing Council shall take strict actions, which may include but may not be limited to, the expulsion of the said team from the competition.

7. RESEARCHERS' TEST:

- (a) There shall be a written quiz for the Researcher of each team during the competition which shall be known as the "Researchers' Test".
- (b) The test will focus on assessing the Researchers' legal acumen and their extent of research on the relevant legal issues related to the moot proposition.
- (c) The test shall be held offline in the college campus itself on 7th October 2025 at 10 am either through Google forms or pen-and-paper mode.
- (d) The format of the test will be strictly multiple choice-based questions. There will be 30 questions to be answered in 30 minutes. Each correct answer will fetch 1 mark to the team and incorrect answers will not amount to any negative marks.

8. DRAW OF LOTS:

- (a) Draw of lots is a selection method where one member of each team upon being called shall come forward and choose a chit containing a message.
- (b) The message may contain the representing side for the oral round and/or the opponent team for the oral round.
- (c) Each team shall be given at least one chance to choose and pick up the chit during the draw of lots for the Preliminary Rounds.
- (d) The message of the chosen chit shall be final unless there is a repetition or unavailability, in which case, the Governing Council shall hold the discretion to either let the team re-draw from the lot or arrange an alternative selection method/criterion.



[E] PRIZES AND AWARDS:

- The team that scores the highest in the Final Round shall be declared as the "**Winner**" and shall be awarded a **Trophy** and Certificate of Merit along with a cash prize of **Rs. 20,000/-** (Twenty thousand Rupees only).
- The opposing team that qualifies for the Final Round shall be declared as the "**Runners-Up**" and shall be awarded a **Trophy** and Certificate of Merit along with a cash prize of **Rs. 15,000/-** (Fifteen thousand Rupees only).
- "**Best Memorial**" shall be determined on the basis of the highest marks obtained in the memorial round, and shall be awarded a trophy and a certificate of merit along with a cash prize of **Rs. 10,000/-** (Ten thousand Rupees only).
- "**Best Orator**" shall be determined on the basis of the highest average marks obtained in the preliminary rounds, and shall be awarded a Trophy and a Certificate of Merit along with a cash prize of **Rs. 5,000/-** (Five thousand Rupees only).
- "**Best Researcher**" shall be determined on the basis of the highest marks obtained in the Researchers' Test, and shall be awarded a Trophy and a Certificate of Merit along with a cash prize of **Rs. 5,000/-** (Five thousand Rupees only).
- Every participating team shall be awarded a '**Certificate of Participation**'.

[F] MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS:

- 1 No team shall indulge in any act of misconduct in or outside of the courtroom, undermining the credibility of judges or that of the competition. Any action to the contrary may lead to immediate disqualification from the competition without any scope of appeal.
- 2 All the teams shall be bound to follow the code of conduct and the rules laid down by the Bar Council of India and the University Law College, Utkal University.
- 3 Carrying, possessing or/and 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 behaviour of indiscipline with the Governing Council or any other staff member or student volunteer shall be dealt with strictly and may lead to immediate disqualification from the competition without scope of appeal.
- 5 No audio or videotaping of oral pleadings is permitted.
- 6 No team shall ask for feedback immediately on the completion of any round. However, at the end of all the rounds the participants may talk to the judges, with the minimum inconvenience caused to them.
- 7 Any attempt to approach the framer of the moot problem or the panel of judges of the competition, prior to the competition shall be dealt with strictly and may lead to immediate disqualification from the competition without any scope of appeal.