

NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2026

23rd and 24th March, 2026



**Department of Laws
Himachal Pradesh University
Summerhill, Shimla (H.P.) India**

**DEPARTMENT OF LAWS
HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY, SHIMLA
NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2026
[March 23 & 24, 2026]**

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Himachal Pradesh University was established by an Act of the Legislative Assembly of Himachal Pradesh on 22 July 1970 as a response to the needs and aspirations of the Union Territory, poised for full statehood in the Union of India on 25 January 1971. It is the multi-faculty residential and affiliating university in the State that provides higher education to urban, rural and tribal areas through formal and distant modes. The headquarters of the University is located at Summer Hill, the picturesque suburb of Shimla. The University has a total area of 241.11 bighas with stately buildings set among rhododendron, silver oak, pine and deodar trees. It affords a salubrious climate and congenial atmosphere for reflection, study and research. The prime objective of the University is to disseminate knowledge, advance learning and understanding through research, training and extension programmes. It instills in its students and teachers a conscious awareness regarding the social and economic needs, cultural ethos, and future requirements of the state and the country.

Himachal Pradesh University is a multi-faculty and affiliating university. It stands for knowledge, learning, progress, humanity, tolerance, intellect, morality, determination, thought, and discernment. It is a grade 'A' accredited University by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council.

The teachers of the University are rich in intellect, skills and professional expertise. HPU organises conferences, and workshops in collaboration with national and international organisations. Its UGC–Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre is acknowledged as one of the best academic staff colleges in the country. HPU is the first University to offer post-graduation through the distant mode. Students of the University perform commendably at the national level in sports and cultural activities. Every year ample number of students qualify the NET, SET, JRF, and other competitive examinations. The University has garnered achievements in NSS and Youth Welfare Programmes at the national level. Tuition fee is waived for girl students and disabled students are given free education. Two supernumerary seats are reserved for the single girl child in all courses. Students come to study here not only from the state but also from other parts of the country and abroad. The University is thus playing a seminal role in all spheres for the bright future of the students.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF LAWS

The Department of Laws came into existence in 1970 when the University was established. Initially it was housed in D.A.V. School, Middle Bazar. Later it was shifted to Ava Lodge, Chaura Maidan where it remained functional for some years. The Department was relocated in the University campus in 1984 and finally shifted to its own building in 1993. Since its inception the department has been actively engaged in imparting legal education, training and legal research benefiting students desirous of pursuing their career in law. The Department has a distinction of producing best professionals, statesmen and officers rendering useful service to the nation. Its Alumni include Judges of High Courts, Union Cabinet Ministers, State Cabinet Ministers, Senior Bureaucrats, Police Officers, officers of subordinate judiciary, law officers, civil servants and members of the legal profession. Law graduates from this department are serving all over the country in the lower courts, High Courts and Supreme Court.

RULES REGULATING THE COMPETITION

1. ELIGIBILITY

Students enrolled in a full-time or part-time Bachelors' law programme at the time of the competition are eligible to compete in the Competition. Each College/Law School or University may enter one team ONLY.

2. TEAM COMPOSITION

A team consisting of three members that satisfies the eligibility Criteria can participate. Each team shall comprise of two speakers and one Researcher. A team of two speakers may also be allowed.

3. ROUNDS

The competition shall be of FOUR rounds, namely- Preliminary, Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals and Final round. There shall be no researcher's test. Following shall be the rules for Oral Presentation in each round.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

There shall be only one Preliminary round and each team shall argue for ONE SIDE ONLY. Matching of each team shall be done by the Draw of Lots. Each team will be allotted 20minutes for the arguments. Each speaker shall speak for at least 5 minutes and in total 15 minutes for both the speakers and 5 minutes are to be reserved for Rebuttal and Sur-rebuttal. The division of time is at the discretion of the team members. The division of time must be communicated to the court clerks before commencing arguments.

If any speaker continues to speak after the completion of the allocated time, the additional time which he or she speak for will be deducted from the time allocated to his or her co-speaker, as the case may be. Time may be exceeded at the discretion of the judges.

Each speaker must introduce himself or herself to the court using only his team code given to him/her at the time of memorial submission. Non-adherence to the rule shall cause an immediate inquiry that might lead to disqualification.

Top eight teams from the preliminary round will qualify for the quarter final round based on the score of the Preliminary Round.

QUARTER FINAL ROUND

Total of eight teams from the preliminary round will qualify for the quarter final round based on the score of the Preliminary Round. Matching of each team shall be done by the Draw of Lots. Each team will be allotted 25 minutes forthe arguments. Each speaker shall speak for at least 7 minutes and in total 20 minutes for both the speakers and 5 minutes are to be reserved for Rebuttal and Sur- rebuttal. The division of time is at the discretion of the team members. The division of time must be communicated to the court clerks before commencing arguments.

If any speaker continues to speak after the completion of the allocated time, the additional time which he or she speak for will be deducted from the time allocated to his or her co-speaker, as the case may be. Time may be exceeded at the discretion of judges.

The quarter final round will be a Knock-out round where the winner of each quarter-Final Round pairings will advance to the Semi-Final Round. In case of tie, total scores allotted in Understanding of Law and Procedure will be considered to decide the winner.

Other rules governing preliminary round shall apply here.

SEMI-FINAL

Total of four teams from the quarter final round will qualify for the Semi-Final round. Matching of each team shall be done by the Draw of Lots. Each team will be allotted 30 minutes for the arguments (each speaker to speak for not less than 10 minutes) and in total 25 minutes and 5 minutes for Rebuttal and Sur-rebuttal. The Semi-Final Round will be a “Knock-out” Round where the winner of each Semi-Final Round pairings will advance to the Final Round.

In case of tie, total scores allotted in Understanding of Law and Procedure will be considered to decide the winner.

Other rules governing preliminary round shall apply here.

FINAL

Winners of each Semi-Final round will qualify for the final round. Each team will be allotted 45 minutes for the arguments (each speaker to speak for not less than 15 minutes) and in total 35 minutes and 10 minutes for Rebuttal and Sur-rebuttal. The time may be exceeded at the discretion of judges.

EX-PARTE PROCEEDING

At the outset, if a team fails to appear within 15 minutes of the scheduled time (in any of the four rounds) or in case of odd number of teams, then the oral round of the attending party may proceed Ex parte. In case failure of appearance of teams within stipulated time period, the attending party is Respondent, the party will be declared winner.

4. MEMORIALS

Each participating team shall prepare both memorials in English.

All teams are to submit their hard copies of the memorials to the organisers before the deadline specified by the organizing committee. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from the competition.

Memorials from each side should not contain more than 30 pages (which constitute summary of facts & arguments, arguments advanced and prayer) and there is no limit for minimum pages.

The memorial shall consist of following:

(i.) Cover Page (ii.) Table of Contents (iii.) Index of Authorities (iv.) Statement of Jurisdiction (v.) Summary of Issues raised/questions presented (vi.) Summary of Arguments/Pleadings (vii.) Arguments Advanced/Pleadings (viii.) Prayer for Relief (ix.) Annexure (optional)

All citations must adhere to Blue Book 20th Edition and fulfill the following requirements: - Font type Times New Roman, Font size 12, Footnotes Font type Times New Roman, Footnotes Font 10, Font Spacing 1.5, Footnote spacing 0. Memorials that do not follow the above mentioned specifications will be subject to marks deduction.

Memorial cover page shall follow the following Colour Scheme:

Petitioner – Red and Respondent – Blue

All participants must submit FOUR (4) copies of the Memorial for both sides.

The soft copy of the memorial shall also be sent through e-mail given below latest by March 20, 2026 before 5:00 pm. The memorial should be sent as an email attachment in Word format and PDF-file.

Subject of the email shall “Memorial for “team code”. Please name the memorial using your team’s Code and “P” for Petitioner or “R” for Respondent. For example, if you are assigned team number 555 the file name should be 555P.doc or 555R.doc.

The submission of hard copies should be done latest by March 20, 2026 to the Organisers.

ANONYMITY

Each team will be awarded a code number after registration and that number alone shall be marked on the memorials. Identity of the team or the names of the participants must not be revealed in the Memorial in any manner what so ever. Name of the school/University shall not be mentioned on any compendium or material to be presented to the bench. Failure of compliance will lead to disqualification of such compendium or material from presentation.

5. SCORING

Following schematics will be followed in the competition for the scoring of the teams.

SCORING OF ORAL ARGUMENTS

Each speaker shall be marked on total of 100 marks by each Bench Judge. The following will be the Marking Criteria and the Marks Allocated to each category:

- (i) Understanding of Law and Procedure –30 marks
- (ii) Application of Facts – 20 marks
- (iii) Ingenuity and Ability to Answer Questions – 20 marks
- (iv) Reference to Memorials – 20 marks
- (v) Advocacy Skills, Court Craft and Demeanour – 10 marks

Total 100 Marks and marks allotted by the judges shall be final.

SCORING OF MEMORIAL

- (i) Knowledge of Law and Extent of Research – 30 marks
- (ii) Proper and Articulate Analysis, Clarity and Organization – 20 marks
- (iii) Knowledge of Facts – 20 marks
- (iv) Evidence of Original Thought and Grammar – 20 marks
- (v) Correct Format and Citation – 10 marks

Total 100 Marks and marks allotted by the judges shall be final.

6. DRESS CODE shall be strict formal wear.

Ladies - Black and white salwar/sari or pant/suit with black tie and black coat.

Gentlemen – White shirt with black tie, black trousers, black coat and black shoes.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

All participants are expected to maintain the decorum in the court during the competition and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the legal profession. The Competition committee reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional and wrongful conduct during the entire period of the Moot Court competition. Upon completion of the competition, the competition committee reserves the exclusive right to use the memorials submitted to them, as they deem appropriate. Participating teams should carry with them required study or reference materials for their own use during the oral rounds of competition. Team found attempting to approach and influencing Judges/Administrators/Organisers shall be disqualified. No member of any team will be permitted to hear the arguments in any court rooms in which that team is one of the contesting teams whilst that team is still in the competition.

Rules are subject to change by the organisers.

8. IMPORTANT DATES

Last date for seeking clarification – March 13, 2026

Last date of registration (Soft Copy) – March 16, 2026

Last date of registration (Hard Copy) – March 19, 2026

Last date for submission of memorials (Soft Copy) – March 20, 2026

Last date for submission of memorials (Hard Copy) – March 20, 2026

Request for clarification regarding the proposition shall be made on or before March 13, 2026 via email to nationalmootcourthpu2026@gmail.com. Clarifications can be requested only for ambiguous or possible errors, but not to inquire about further information, as the proposition is self-contained.

9. AWARDS

There shall be a prize trophy, cash prize and certificate for the Winner, runners up, best memorial, and best mooter. Other awards and prizes may be declared during the prize distribution of the Competition. Certificate of Participation shall be given to all the participants.

Cash Prizes:

Winner: Rs. 7,000/-

Runner Up: Rs. 5,000/-

Best Speaker: Rs. 2,100/-

Best Memorial: Rs. 2,100/-

10. ACCOMODATION

The accommodation for all the participating teams shall be provided from 12 noon of March 23, 2026 till 12 noon of the March 24, 2026.

Travel of the teams from outstation and to/from venue of the Competition must be at team's own expense.

The maximum of three members are allowed to participate in the Competition. No team coaches shall be allowed to accompany the teams or to witness their rounds.

No internet facility shall be provided to the teams at their respective accommodation.

Himachal Pradesh University is a no smoking campus. No participating team shall indulge in smoking, drinking or any other objectionable activities. Indulgence in such activities shall invite disciplinary action and instant disqualification.

The participants will be responsible for the care of their own baggage and luggage

11. REGISTRATION AND FEES

The registration fee is Rs 3500/-.

It must be paid on or before March 16, 2026. The amount shall be transferred to:

Account Number: 43840693102

Bank Name: State Bank of India (SBI)

Branch Name: Summer Hill, Shimla (H.P.)

IFSC Number: SBIN0002490

The screenshot/scanned receipt of the successful payment page shall be shared as an email attachment with the registration form for the purpose of registration. Similarly, print out of the successful payment shall be shared with the hard copy submission of the registration form.

Any Query regarding payment can be made at nationalmootcourthpu2026@gmail.com

12. CONTACT

Registration form (soft copy) and Soft copy of memorials must be sent to-

nationalmootcourthpu2026@gmail.com

Registration form (hard copy) and memorials (hard copy) must be sent to-

The Chairman

Department of Laws,

Himachal Pradesh University

Summer Hill, Shimla-171005.

Please specify "Moot Court Committee" at the side of envelope.

Chief Patron

Prof. (Dr.) Mahavir Singh

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla

Patron

Prof. (Dr.) Rajinder Verma

Hon'ble ProVice Chancellor cum Dean and Chairman, Department of Laws, Himachal Pradesh
University, Shimla

Convenor

Dr. Ramesh Verma

Organising Committee

Prof.(Dr.) Lalit Dadwal
Prof.(Dr.) Shiv Kumar Dogra
Prof.(Dr.) Umesh Kumar
Dr. Shalini Kasmiria

Advisory Committee

Prof. Sanjay Sindhu
Prof. Runa Mehta Thakur

Joint Organising Committee

Dr. Sasha Chauhan
Dr. Abhishek Singh Negi
Dr. Geetika Sood
Dr. Vandana Thakur

Student Conveners

Mr. Pushpdeep
Mr. R.S. Mishra
Mr. S. D. Bhandari
Mr. Abhinav
Ms. Sheetal Chauhan

Ms. Shashi Poonam
Mr. Manoj Kumar
Ms. Sakshi Chandel
Ms. Sakshi
Mr. Sanidhya

DEPARTMENT OF LAWS
HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY
NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2026

MOOT PROPOSITION

1. Republic of Dravida, the world's largest democracy, embarked on a historic nation building journey after gaining independence from British colonial rule in 1947. The transition to democracy marked a new era in Dravidian history, characterized by social, political, and economic transformations.
2. The framers of Dravidian Constitution meticulously crafted a visionary document that enshrined democratic principles and ideals adopted on January 26, 1950, and established Dravida as a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic. It provided a framework for governance that safeguarded fundamental rights, enshrined the principles of equality and justice, and outlined the separation of powers among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.
3. The Founding Fathers of the Constitution laid a federal structure as a foundation to integrate Dravida as a united Dravida. Besides many provisions under the Constitution there is a provision under article 368 to amend the Dravidian Constitution. In exercise of the said powers under article 368, Dravidian Parliament has given effect to many constitutional amendments to meet out the changing needs, requirements and aspiration of the dynamic Dravidian society. Many times the constitutional amendments have been challenged under Article 32/226 before the Supreme Court and High Courts in Dravida on the ground of violating the Fundamental Rights/Constitutional rights enshrined under the Constitution.
4. Women have been an integral part of Dravidian culture and society since ancient times. The status of women in Dravida has been subject to many changes over the span of recorded Dravidian history. Their position in society deteriorated with the passage of time. Dravida was invaded by many invaders in the past and has witnessed many rulers of different religion which added to the misery of the women of Dravida and deteriorated their status.
5. The Dravidian Parliament for the empowerment of women passed the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments in 1993, which introduced panchayats and municipalities in the Constitution, providing reservation of one-third of seats for women in these bodies. The Constitution also provides for reservation of seats in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in proportion to their number in the population. The Constitution does not provide for reservation of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. In 2015, the Report on the Status of Women in Dravida noted that the representation of women in State

Legislative Assemblies and Parliament continues to be dismal. Bills amending the Constitution to reserve seats for women in Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies have been introduced in 1996, 1998, 1999 and 2008. The first three Bills lapsed with dissolution of their respective Lok Sabha. The 2008 Bill was introduced in and passed by Rajya Sabha but it also lapsed with the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha.

6. The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023 was introduced in Lok Sabha on September 19, 2023. The Bill seeks to reserve one-third of the total number of seats in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for women. Both Houses of the Parliament passed the 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill to provide 1/3 reservation of the total number of seats in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for women on 20th September, 2023 by Lok Sabha and on 21st September, 2023 by Rajya Sabha and assented to on 28th September, 2023 and published for public information in the Gazette of Dravida on 28th September, 2023 as The Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023.

7. **Key features of the Act**

- **Reservation for women:** The Act reserves, as nearly as may be, one-third of all seats for women in Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies and the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Siribad. This will also apply to the seats reserved for SCs and STs in Lok Sabha and States Legislatures.
- **Commencement of reservation:** The reservation will be effective after the census conducted after the commencement of this Act has been published. Based on the census, delimitation will be undertaken to reserve seats for women. The reservation will be provided for a period of 15 years. However, it shall continue till such date as determined by a law made by Parliament.
- **Rotation of seats:** Seats reserved for women will be rotated after each delimitation, as determined by a law made by Parliament.

8. The Central Government of Dravida by way of notification in the Official Gazette notified that The Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023 will come into force from 1st January, 2024. But the present factual situation is that the Central Government of Dravida in pursuance of this Act has not taken any constructive measures for fresh census which is due since 2021 and delimitation thereafter.

Mr. X challenged the Constitutional validity of The Constitutional (106th Amendment) Act, 2023 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Dravida under Article 32 of the Dravidian Constitution claiming that, it violates the basic structure of the Constitution.

ISSUES

1. Whether reservation of seats for women only in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies and not in Rajya Sabha and State Legislative Councils is against the principle of equality?
2. Whether the "Post Census" and "Post Delimitation" conditions under the Act are unconstitutional?
3. Does the exclusion of specific quota for other backward classes (OBC) women – while including SC/ST quotas – violate equality principles and social justice?
4. Whether the mandatory rotation of seats after every delimitation exercise is arbitrary and violates the rights of the women candidates to develop their constituencies?

NOTE: -

1. The Constitution and all the other laws of Dravida are parametria to the Constitution of India and other statutes enforced within the territory of India.
2. The participants are allowed to use any relevant statutory laws and case laws of India in their submissions.
3. All the characters, events, and names mentioned in the Moot Problem are not real and are created only for academic purposes. Any resemblance to real-life events or persons, living or dead, is unintentional.

**DEPARTMENT OF LAWS
HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY
NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2026**

REGISTRATION FORM

Name of the Institution:

Address of the Institution:

Name and designation of the faculty-in-charge:

Phone no. of Faculty-in-charge:

Institution E-mail:

Team details-(Affix a photo of each participant alongside name)

Name of Speaker 1:

Course and Semester:

Contact and E-mail:

Name of Speaker 2:

Course and Semester:

Contact and E-mail:

Researcher:

Course and Semester:

Contact and E-mail:

Sign and Seal of Head of the Institution



**Department of Laws
H.P. University, Summerhill
Shimla (H.P.)
India**

For Moot Court Related Queries Please Contact:

Dr. Ramesh Verma - 9418041999
Office Law Department-01772830935