



MOOT COURT COMMITTEE
XAVIER LAW SCHOOL, XIM UNIVERSITY, BHUBANESWAR

In collaboration with

**Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI), Jaipur
Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)
Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India**

In association with

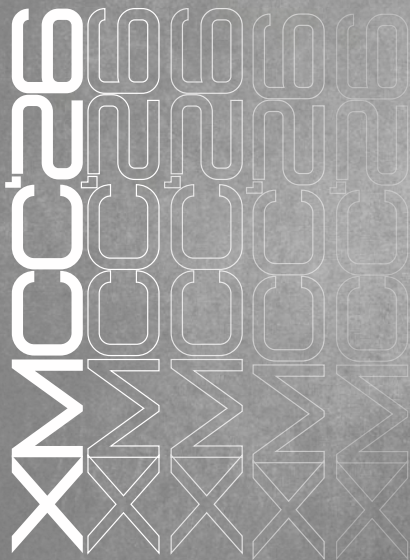
SRA Law Chambers

Presents



4TH XAVIER MOOT COURT COMPETITION

12th, 13th & 14th FEBRUARY 2026



ON CRIMINAL AND FORENSIC LAW

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XIM UNIVERSITY



The identity of XIM University is distinguished by its philosophy of “Inspiring Futures’ by nurturing and educating young minds and by not just walking the well-trodden path but striking out and exploring new paths. XIM University is driven by a resolute commitment to be a trailblazer in responding to societal needs and fostering the creation of sustainable communities, serving as a catalyst for change at the state and national levels.

The university stands prominently in its mission to inspire future generations of students seeking excellent quality higher education. Offering a comprehensive range of programs in Business Management, Human Resource Management, Rural Management, Sustainability Management, Law, Communications, Computer Science and Engineering, Economics, Commerce, Humanities, Compassion Studies, Human Settlement, and Governance, XIM University continually introduces new programs to groom visionary, competent, committed, compassionate, and value-based leaders. The university empowers students by imparting knowledge, skills, and a long-term vision that fuels innovation, societal service, and personal growth. Encouraging students to explore learning opportunities beyond the classroom through various Student Forums, XIM University's academic programs are designed around a "learning by doing" model. This approach fosters extensive interaction with all components of the university's ecosystem, serving as a catalyst for evolving leadership philosophy and resilient business practices.

In addition to academic pursuits, co-curricular activities, sports, cultural events, and community engagement are integral aspects of student life. Upholding its vision of faith and spiritual inspiration, XIM University is dedicated to building a just and humane society. It actively supports the poor in their quest for justice, advocates for the rights of displaced persons, promotes compassion and ethics, and prioritizes environmental stewardship as a path to achieving global peace and sustainability.





XAVIER LAW SCHOOL



Xavier Law School, recognized by the Bar Council of India, stands as a modern marvel with its outstanding infrastructure, encompassing physical, digital, and intellectual assets. Positioned as a premier new-generation law school, it is committed to providing comprehensive legal education. Nestled in the lush greenery of suburban Bhubaneswar, Xavier Law School aims to educate, train, and nurture exceptionally talented individuals into socially responsible legal professionals. The institution is dedicated to academic excellence, achieved through a steadfast commitment to rigorous teaching, scholarly research, and the innovative application of knowledge.

As part of its innovative approach, Xavier Law School boasts a digitally enabled Moot Court Hall and a Legal Aid Clinic, along with access to top-tier e-resources such as SCC Online, Manupatra, Lexis Advance, and a comprehensive collection of legal classics, books, and journals, facilitating capacity building among students. Xavier Law School's state-of-the-art infrastructure and digitally enabled resources are geared towards providing a superior education. The institution also strives to make education accessible by offering scholarships to meritorious students, as well as those from Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, and economically backward/minority backgrounds, assisting them in meeting their educational expenses.

In addition to its academic focus, Xavier Law School provides a diverse and enriching experience through various student committees, fostering leadership roles, collaboration with diverse peers, and building strong networks. Four active committees - Moot Court Committee, Legal Aid Committee, Alternate Dispute Resolution Committee, and Literary and Cultural Committee - contribute to the holistic development of students. Furthermore, the institution is committed to supporting students in building competencies for placement in various legal practices, including top-tier law firms, public sector undertakings (PSUs), corporations, chambers, and in-house positions. Xavier Law School goes the extra mile by offering dedicated assistance through training workshops, ensuring that students are well-prepared for successful careers in law.





MOOT COURT COMMITTEE



The Moot Court Committee at Xavier Law School is a vibrant hub for passionate law students eager to sharpen their advocacy skills, immerse themselves in simulated courtroom experiences, and engage in persuasive argumentation. Students are required to gain sufficient experience in moot court environments before entering an actual courtroom upon graduation. The moot court experience is designed to equip students with analytical, argumentative, observational, and drafting skills, providing exposure to litigation in various legal forums, both national and international.

Moot court serves as a simulation of actual courtroom proceedings, where teams of law students present their cases in front of a bench of judges in a simulated environment. Prior to the rounds, students research a given problem, engaging in a comprehensive preparation process. It has conducted its inaugural National Moot Court Competition in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission, Competition Commission of India, ICSI IIP and has also organized intra-semester competitions to facilitate practice mooting with experienced panels of judges. The institution also hosts workshops on mooting, fostering an inclusive mooting culture, and enhancing students' research skills.





XIM UNIVERSITY



Dr. Fr. K. S. Casimir sj
VICE CHANCELLOR
XIM UNIVERSITY

Fr. S. ANTONY RAJ S.J.
REGISTRAR
XIM UNIVERSITY





**PROF.(DR.)NARAYAN CHANDRA
SARANGI**

**DEAN
XAVIER LAW SCHOOL**

As Dean of Xavier Law School, I am honored to welcome all participants and stakeholders to the 4th Xavier Moot Court Competition, organized in prestigious collaboration with CDTI Jaipur. This edition marks a significant milestone in our journey, bridging the gap between academic theory and the evolving demands of investigative and legal excellence. I am certain that this competition will ignite intellectual discourse and equip our future advocates with the resilience needed for the legal profession. My heartfelt gratitude goes to the CDTI Jaipur for their intellectual collaboration to making this event a reality.



XAVIER LAW SCHOOL



DR. BIRANCHI NARAYAN PANDA
FACULTY CONVENOR
MOOT COURT COMMITTEE



Xavier Law School, XIM University presents the 4th Xavier Moot Court Competition 2026 in collaboration with CDTI JAIPUR. This competition fosters excellence, bridging academia with law and insolvency practice. Moot Court Competitions shape legal acumen, honing advocacy skills, critical thinking, and teamwork. Our collaboration reflects our commitment to excellence, providing a realistic and challenging environment for participants. I extend gratitude to participants, stakeholders, and the organizing team. The competition promises to be exciting and enriching, demonstrating knowledge, argumentation, and problem-solving skills.



DR. MANISHA CHAKRABORTY,
FACULTY CO-CONVENOR,
MOOT COURT COMMITTEE

I extend my heartfelt best wishes for the successful conduct of the 4th Xavier Moot Court Competition 2026 in collaboration with CDTI, Jaipur. It is a matter of great pride to witness the dedication and hard work of the Organizing Committee in conceptualizing and executing this prestigious academic event.

Moot court competitions play a pivotal role in nurturing advocacy skills, legal research, and professional ethics among budding legal minds. This competition stands as a testament to the institution's commitment to fostering excellence in legal education and providing a platform for intellectual exchange and healthy competition.



XAVIER LAW SCHOOL



Dr. Arun Sasi
Associate Professor



Dr. Zahid Parwez
Assistant Professor



Dr. Seemasmiti Pattjoshi
Assistant Professor



Dr. Fr. Benjamin Lakra
Assistant Professor



Prof. Sneha
Assistant Professor



Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI)



The Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI), Jaipur is a premier law enforcement training institution functioning under the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Established on 16 January 2012, CDTI Jaipur is one of several such institutes across the country mandated to enhance the quality and sophistication of criminal investigation and policing in India.

Located at Dehmi Kalan on Ajmer Road, Jaipur, the institute was inaugurated at its permanent campus on 28 August 2020 by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, underscoring the Government's commitment to modern and practical training for police personnel.

CDTI Jaipur's primary objective is to equip in-service police officers, prosecutors, judicial officers, and related stakeholders with advanced knowledge and skills in crime detection, investigation, and smart policing techniques. It conducts both long-term and short-term courses on subjects that reflect contemporary challenges, including cybercrime, forensic science, criminal law procedures, investigation of digital and bank frauds, and crimes against vulnerable sections of society. Courses are regularly updated to incorporate new technological developments, investigative methodologies, and evolving legal frameworks.

Through its training programs, CDTI Jaipur strives to familiarise law enforcement professionals with scientific aids to investigation, interrogation methods, and analytical tools that significantly enhance their operational effectiveness. The institute draws participants from various Indian states, Central Armed Police Forces, and other agencies, creating a collaborative environment for shared learning and cross-jurisdictional best practices.

Over the years, CDTI Jaipur has built a reputation as an emerging Centre of Excellence for New Age Crimes, reflecting its role in preparing investigators to meet emerging threats with professionalism, intellectual rigor, and integrity.



MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI)



Amandeep Singh Kapoor
Director
Central Detective Training Institute, Jaipur

Director's Message

It gives me immense pleasure to associate with the Xavier Moot Court Competition 2026, organised by Xavier Law School, XIM University, Bhubaneswar. National moot court competitions such as this play a crucial role in bridging the gap between theoretical legal education and its practical application within the justice delivery system.

Mooting inculcates essential skills among law students, including legal research, structured reasoning, advocacy, and the ability to analyse complex legal and factual issues. These skills are fundamental for aspiring legal professionals who seek to contribute meaningfully to the legal system in various capacities.

The Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI), Jaipur, functioning under the Bureau of Police Research & Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, remains committed to promoting professional excellence in criminal investigation, law enforcement training, and justice administration. Our association with this competition reflects a shared commitment to nurturing analytical thinking, ethical practice, and informed engagement with the law among future members of the legal fraternity.

I commend Xavier Law School for its initiative in organising the Xavier Moot Court Competition and for providing a platform that encourages intellectual rigour, healthy competition, and experiential learning. Such academic endeavours play a significant role in shaping competent and socially responsible legal professionals.

I extend my best wishes to all participating teams and trust that the Xavier Moot Court Competition 2026 will be an enriching and rewarding experience for everyone involved.

Amandeep Singh Kapoor
Director
Central Detective Training Institute, Jaipur



CORE ORGANISING TEAM OF XAVIER LAW SCHOOL



ADITYA SHARMA
CO- CONVENOR



GURNOOR GULATI
CONVENOR



ISHIKA RANA
CO- CONVENOR



SMRUTI MOHAPATRA
TREASURER



AAYUSHI ARYA
**DEPUTY JOINT
CONVENOR**



SARMISTA SENAPATI
**DEPUTY JOINT
CONVENOR**



**SHWETANKA OJHA
SINHA**
**DEPUTY JOINT
CONVENOR**



VANSHIKA KHATOR
SECRETARY



RITUPARNA PANDA
SECRETARY



NASHRAH KHAN
SECRETARY



UTKALIKA DAS
SECRETARY



PRATEEK MEHER
SECRETARY



CORE ORGANISING TEAM OF XAVIER LAW SCHOOL



MEMBERS





COMPETITION RULEBOOK



1. INTRODUCTION

1. Short Title

This shall be called the Rules for the Xavier Moot Court Competition 2026.

2. General Information

- The Competition is being conducted by Xavier Law School, XIM University, Bhubaneswar.
 - The Competition shall be held from 12th February 2026 to 14th February 2026 physically/offline at Xavier Law School, XIM University, Bhubaneswar (New Campus).
 - The Xavier Moot Court Competition 2026 shall consist of the Preliminary Round, the Advanced Rounds and the Researcher's Test.
- a. Preliminary Oral Round: - This round will be open to all teams who have successfully registered for the Competition. The Competition shall have one Preliminary Oral Round. Based on the merit of the score in the Preliminary Round, 8 teams shall qualify for the Advanced Rounds.
- b. Advanced Oral Rounds: - The Advanced Oral Rounds shall consist of Quarter Final Round (8 teams), Semi-Final Round (4 teams), and the Final Round (2 teams).
- The Competition shall be conducted in accordance with the rules mentioned hereunder. Participants are required to adhere to the rules and guidelines prescribed herein

2. DEFINITION

- “Administrator” shall mean Xavier Law School, XIM University, Bhubaneswar.
- “Bench” means the members duly invited to adjudicate the Oral rounds, individually or collectively.
- “Clarification” means the procedural order (s) and/ or any explanation (s) published by the organizers concerning a query posed by any participating team in the competition within the given deadline.
- “Competition” denotes the Xavier Moot Court Competition, 2026 of Xavier Law School, XIM University, Bhubaneswar.
- “Draws of Lots” means the match-up between the teams in oral rounds to determine court-room fixtures.
- “Identity” means any fact pertaining to the identity of the Team, its members, or the Institution/College/University represented by the Team and the state or region where such Institution/College/University is located and includes any identification marks/seal of the Team



COMPETITION RULEBOOK



- “**Moot Proposition**” means the Moot Problem of the Competition released by the Organizers.
- “**Oral Submissions**” means the oral pleadings before the Bench.
- “**Organizers**” means the Moot Court Committee of the Xavier Law School, XIM University, Bhubaneswar.
- “**Participating Institution**” shall be presumed to be the parent institution of the participating teams.
- “**Participating Team**” means the team which is eligible to participate in the competition after completion of the registration procedure.

3. GENERAL RULES

1. Date & Venue of the Competition

- The Xavier Moot Court Competition 2026 shall be held from 12th February to 14th February at Xavier Law School, XIM University (new campus), Plot No:12(A), Nijigada, Kurki, Harirajpur-752050, District-Puri, Odisha, India.

2. Team Eligibility

- All students duly enrolled and pursuing a full-time 3-years LL.B. program or a 5-years integrated LL.B. program from the Institution/University recognized by the Bar Council of India or equally competent authority shall be eligible to participate in the competition.
- Maximum two teams from a particular college can register for participation.
- In case of any ambiguity, the Organizers reserve the right to decide thereto, which shall be final and binding

3. Team Composition

- Each team shall comprise a maximum number of three members (two speakers and one researcher) or a minimum number of two members (one speaker and one speaker-cum-researcher).

4. Official Language

- The official language of the competition shall be English, for written as well as oral submissions.



COMPETITION RULEBOOK



3.1. GENERAL RULES

5. Rules Regarding Registration

- Interested teams are required to register for the Competition by completing the Registration Form. Registration shall not be accepted through any means other than the Registration Form.
- The link to the registration form is provided here.

<https://forms.gle/zajBAPS7C4aDh2Si8>

- The deadline for registration is 18.01.2026 (11:59 P.M. IST).
- Prior payment of INR 3000/- (Three Thousand only) as Registration Fees, per team is required to fill the Registration Form. The registration fee shall be inclusive of accommodation and food.
- The confirmation of Registration for the competition will be notified to the teams by the organizers after the completion and verification of all the registration formalities.
- Thereafter, the teams will be provided with a Team Code. At any stage of the competition, a team must be identified only by the allotted team code. All team members must refrain from disclosing the identity of their institution at any time in any manner during their participation in the competition. Non-compliance with this rule shall lead to severe penalty or disqualification, as determined by the Organizers.

i. Payment of Registration Fee:

- All the teams shall be required to make a payment of INR 3000/- (Three Thousand only) via Bank Transfer before 15.01.2026 (11:59 P.M. IST) to register for the Competition.
- Pay online using our secure payment gateway:

<https://rzp.io/rzp/PzMki9o4>



COMPETITION RULEBOOK



3.2. GENERAL RULES

ii. In the Registration Form, the participating team shall indicate which member shall be an official point of contact for the organizers and such person shall be responsible for all official communication between the Organizers and the participating team.

iii. **The attachments of the Registration form shall contain the following:**

Scanned copy or screenshot of the Receipt generated on completion of the electronic transfer of registration fee showing successful transfer in the name of the beneficiary.

Scanned copies of the Bonafide Certificate issued by the Institution of the participating team with the signature of the Dean/Head of the Institution and seal of the Institution.

iv. In the event a team notifies the Organizers of its withdrawal or absence from participation in the competition, such team **SHALL NOT** be entitled to the refund of the registration fee or any amount which has been paid in the registration process.

v. Submissions of incomplete forms and/or registration via email will not amount to successful registration and shall not be considered. In any such event, the decisions of the organizers regarding the mode of submission in such cases shall be final.

6. Allotment of Team Code

i. After successful registration, each team shall be allotted a Team Code, which shall be communicated to them via email of the Point of Contact.

ii. Teams are required to use the Team Code in their memorials and oral submissions to identify themselves.

iii. Revealing personal identification details in written or oral submissions is strictly prohibited at any stage of the competition. Any such disclosure may result in the immediate disqualification of the team from the competition.

7. Dress Code

i. Participants shall be in advocate's attire throughout the conduct of the Competition (Inaugural Ceremony, Oral Rounds, Valedictory Ceremony and Prize Distribution) in the manner provided below:

a. **For Men-** Formals (White formal shirt with black formal trousers, black tie, a black blazer and formal black shoes); and

b. **For Women-** Formals (White formal shirt with black formal trousers/skirt, a black blazer and formal black shoes)



COMPETITION RULEBOOK



4. CLARIFICATION

- i. The teams seeking clarifications regarding the moot problem shall send in their queries through email to: mcc@xim.edu.in on or before 24.01.2026 , 11:59 P.M. IST. The subject of the clarification email must be “Seeking Clarification – XMCC 2026”.
- ii. No requests for any clarification shall be entertained post this deadline unless, the Organizers deem it appropriate to address any such query.
- iii. All clarifications will be released by 27.01.2026 and shall be released via email for the perusal of all teams.
- iv. In case of any delay or change in the responses to the clarifications, the Organizers shall inform the team member who is the official point of contact.
- v. No queries regarding the moot problem shall be addressed by any organizing member or student volunteer personally.

5. MEMORIAL AND MARKING EVALUATION

I. Strict adherence to the Rules:

The Teams are expected to strictly adhere to the rules regarding the submission of Memorials. Non-adherence to the same will attract penalties as provided under the Rules.

2. Memorials to be submitted from both sides:

Each team must prepare Memorials for both sides of the dispute and submit it the Google Form.

Each side of Memorial should be renamed to <Appellant/Respondent_TeamCoad>

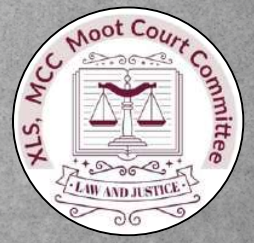
Google Form Link for Memorial Submission: <https://forms.gle/nQjtCrrrtH4WUR4v5>

3. General Conditions for Memorial:

The Memorial 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 Memorial, it shall result in instant disqualification of the participating team.



COMPETITION RULEBOOK



4. Specific Guidelines for Memorial Submission:

- The Memorial has to be submitted in both soft copy and hard copy.
- The teams shall submit the soft copy of the Memorial, in “pdf” form only on or before 03.02.2026 by 11:59 P.M. IST through the Memorial Submission Google Form Link mentioned above. Each Team has to send 2 (two) separate pdf file attachments, one attachment containing the written submissions from each side.
- The name of the Memorial should be according to the Team Code and the side for which the Written Submission is prepared. The Team Code must be ascribed on the top right corner of the cover page and succeeded by the first letter of the side for which the Memorial is prepared, i.e., TC (team code) A or TC (team code) R.
- Teams appearing for Oral Rounds must submit 4 (four) hard copies of memorials, i.e., 2 (two) hard copies of the memorial for each side, at the time of reporting the venue of the Competition.
- Registration for the Oral Rounds shall be deemed complete only on submission of the 4 (four) hardcopies of Memorials on 11.02.2026 at the Competition venue.

5. Guidelines for Formatting

i. Memorial Structure:

The Memorial must contain the following contents in the order as stated below:

- **Cover Page:** The Cover Page must be **BLUE** for Appellant and **RED** for Respondent. A penalty of 1 (One) mark per side shall be levied in case the team uses the wrong cover page in their Memorial.

The Cover Page of the Memorial must contain the following information:

- (a) The ‘Team Code’ in the top right corner.
- (b) The ‘Name’ and ‘Year’ of the Competition.
- (c) The name of the Case (Case Title).
- (d) The ‘Side’ for which the Memorial has been prepared.
- (e) The name of the ‘Forum’ resolving the dispute.

- **List of Abbreviations.**
- **Index of Authorities:** The Index of Authorities must list all the authorities cited in the memorial.



COMPETITION RULEBOOK



- **Statement of Jurisdiction;**
- **Statement of Facts:** The Statement of Facts must contain a concise statement of the relevant facts to 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.
- **Issues Raised;**
- **Summary of Arguments:** The summary of arguments should contain a summary of the substance of the arguments, and should not merely be the production of the various headings and sub-headings of arguments.
- **Pleadings/Arguments Advanced:** All legal arguments must be limited to the Pleadings/Arguments Advanced section of the Memorial.
- **Prayer:** The Prayer shall not exceed 1 page.

ii. Team Code:

The Team Code must be ascribed to the top right corner of the cover page.

iii. Margin:

The Memorial must maintain an equal margin of 1 inch on all sides.

iv. Basic compliance for Memorial:

The Memorial (including the preliminary pages and excluding the cover page) shall adhere to the following mandatory specifications:

- Paper size: A4
- Font type: Times New Roman
- Font size: 12,
- Line spacing: 1.5,
- Text alignment: Justified.

v. Plagiarism

A similarity index of more than 20% considering the standard exclusions, is not acceptable.

6. Marking criteria for the Memorial(s) submitted by the Teams:

Memorial from each side shall carry a total of 100 marks. The written submissions shall be marked on the parameters which are laid down as under:



COMPETITION RULEBOOK



Sr. No	MARKING CRITERIA	MARKS
1.	Evidence of Original Thought	25
2.	Knowledge of Law and Facts	25
3.	Proper and Articulate Analysis	10
4.	Structure, Language and Grammar	10
5.	Extent and Use of Research	20
6.	Correct Format and Citation	10
	TOTAL	100

7. Compendium

i. All relevant case laws, statutory material, and other evidence based on which the participants will present and substantiate their arguments may be submitted in the form of a **'Compendium'**.

ii. 1 (one) hard copy of the 'Compendium' shall be submitted along with the hard copies of the memorials on 11.02.2026, during the time of registration at the venue.

[Note: Submission of 'Compendium' is at the discretion of the teams, the same is not mandatory to be submitted by all the participating teams.]

iii. Participants shall ensure that anonymity is not violated while passing on any material to the Bench. If any mark, name, seal, symbol or logo of their institution/college/university is present, participants must ensure that the same is rendered unrecognizable.

8. Exchange of Memorials

i. The Exchange of Memorial for the Preliminary Round will be on 12th February 2026.

The memorial exchange for the advanced rounds of the Competition shall take place prior to the commencement of the advanced rounds (Quarter-Finals, Semi Finals, and Finals) wherein hardcopies of the respective memorials shall be provided.



COMPETITION RULEBOOK



ii. Teams are prohibited from making any remarks on the opponent's Memorial, i.e. the exchanged memorial. Teams are also prohibited from making any copies of the opponent's Memorial, electronically or otherwise.

6. RESEARCHER'S TEST

i. The Researcher's Test for the Competition will be conducted on 12.02.2026.

ii. The Researcher's test will be conducted in offline mode. The venue for the test shall be the same as the venue of the competition, i.e., Xavier Law School, XIM University, Bhubaneswar.

iii. It shall be a test of 100 marks. It is mandatory for the Researcher of each participating team to give the Researcher's Test. If any team fails to appear for the researcher's test, they shall be awarded with zero marks.

7. ORAL SUBMISSIONS AND MARKING EVALUATION

i. General Rules:

- Teams are not permitted to raise issues in the Oral Rounds that have not been submitted in the Written Submissions.
- The language to be used during the Oral Pleading Rounds shall only be English.
- 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.
- Participants may use their own bare acts, print outs and commentaries provided that anonymity is not violated during the Rounds.
- The Researcher shall not be permitted to address the Court during the Oral Rounds.
- The Researcher shall not be permitted to pass notes to the Speakers at any stage of the Competition.
- Teams are prohibited from communicating among themselves during the Oral Rounds in any form or manner.
- The decision of the Judges as to the marks allotted to each team shall be final and binding.



COMPETITION RULEBOOK



2. Structure of Rounds:

i. The Competition shall consist of the following rounds:

Preliminary Round; and

Advanced Rounds including the Quarter-Finals; Semi-Finals; and the Final Round.

ii. During each of the above-mentioned rounds, the order in which the teams shall present their arguments is as follows:

Appellant Speaker 1

Appellant Speaker 2 ;

Respondent Speaker 1;

Respondent Speaker 2;

Rebuttal: Appellant - Any one of the two Speakers; and Sur-rebuttal: Respondent - Any one of the two Speakers.

3. Time Division between Speakers

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.

Teams exceeding the time limit for the oral rounds shall be awarded with a deduction of 2 (two) marks every minute.

4. Preliminary Rounds

There shall be one Preliminary Round, open for all the participating teams. Each team shall argue once from either side, i.e., Appellant or Respondent, which shall be decided by way of draw of lots to be conducted by the Organizers.

The qualification of the participating teams to the Advanced Rounds shall be determined based on the scores of the Preliminary Round. In the event of a tie, the scores obtained for the Memorial of each participating team shall be considered to determine the qualification of the teams to the Advanced Rounds.

In the event of the tie subsisting, the Organizers shall have the authority to decide the same which shall be final and binding. Best Speaker shall be determined based on the individual score of the Speakers in the Preliminary Round.

5. Advanced Rounds

Every Team shall argue once in each of the Advanced Rounds. The side to be argued shall be determined on the basis of Draw of Lots after the declaration of the results of Preliminary Round. The qualification of the teams to the subsequent rounds shall be on a knock-out basis for each of the Advanced Rounds.

In the event of a tie, the scores obtained for the Memorial of each participating team shall be considered to determine the qualification of the teams to the Advanced Rounds.

In the event of the tie subsisting, the Organizers shall have the authority to decide the same which shall be final and binding.

Best Speaker shall be determined based on the individual score of the Speakers in the Preliminary Round.



COMPETITION RULEBOOK



A) Quarter-Finals:

The top 8 (eight) teams of the Preliminary Rounds shall qualify for the Quarter-Final rounds. The Quarter-Final round shall be a 'knock-out' round.

The teams shall be required to plead only once, either from the side of the Appellant or the Respondent, as the case may be. The team with the higher score of each courtroom fixture i.e., a total of 4 (four) teams, shall proceed to the Semi-Final Round.

B) Semi-Finals:

The 4 (four) Teams from the Quarter Final Round shall qualify for the Semi-Final Round. It shall be a knockout round. The teams shall be required to plead only once, either from the side of the Appellant or the Respondent, as the case may be. The team with the higher score of each courtroom fixture i.e., a total of 2 (two) teams, shall proceed to the Final Round.

6. Marking criteria for Oral Submissions/Arguments

Oral Submissions/Arguments from each side shall carry a total of 100 marks. The following will be the marking criteria for the oral arguments/pleadings for the Speakers:

S. NO.	MARKING CRITERIA	MARKS ALLOTTED
1.	Appreciation and application of facts	10
2.	Application of legal principles	10
3.	Use of authorities and precedents	10
4.	Presentation skills	10
5.	Clarity of thoughts and structure of arguments	10
6.	Poise and demeanour	10
7.	Court Mannerism	10
8.	Strategy & Time Management	10
9.	Knowledge of laws	10
10.	Response to Forum questions	10
	TOTAL	100



COMPETITION RULEBOOK



8. DELAY IN APPEARENCE / PRESENTATION

If a team scheduled to participate in the oral submissions of an Oral Round does not appear for 10 minutes after the scheduled time of commencement of the Oral Round, the other team shall have to make oral submissions ex-parte.

9. SCOUTING

- i. Scouting is strictly prohibited. Teams shall not be allowed to observe the oral rounds of another team, unless they have been officially knocked-out of the competition.
- ii. Scouting by any team shall entail instant disqualification.

10. ACCOMODATION AND FOOD

- i. Accommodation shall be provided by the Organizers to the designated category of Participants of each team for the three nights and three days of the competition, i.e. from the morning of 11th February 2026 to the afternoon of 14th February 2026. Any changes in this rule will be duly notified.
- ii. Accommodation shall be provided on a sharing basis, and no independent accommodation will be made available.
- iii. All facilities shall be provided only to the registered members of a team and no additional members, parents, observers, coaches or faculty advisors shall be accommodated at any cost.
- iv. The Organizers shall arrange Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner only for 3 days of the competition, i.e., from 12.02.2026 to 14.02.2026 for all the participants, as applicable.

11. MISCELLANEOUS

1. General Etiquette

- Teams are expected to behave in a dignified manner and not to cause any inconvenience to the Administrators, Organizers, the Judges and any of the other participants to the Competition.
- The Organizers reserve the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional or immoral conduct.
- The Rules shall be strictly adhered to. The Organizers, reserve the right to disqualify Team(s) for deviating from these Rules. The Organizers will resolve any contingencies that may arise and will be the final arbitrators regarding any doubts/grievances. The decision taken by the Organizers shall be final. These Rules are not exhaustive.



COMPETITION RULEBOOK

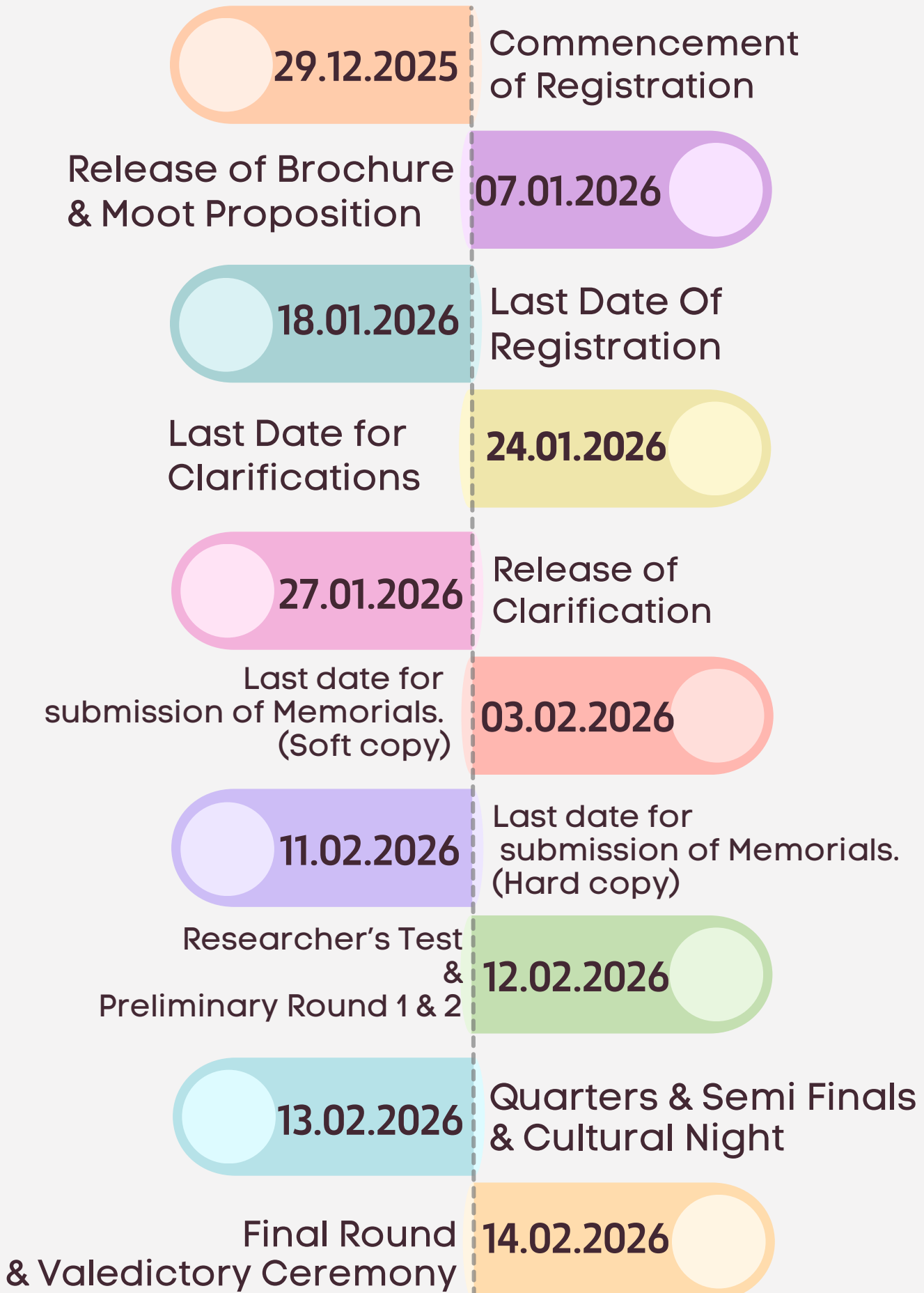


2. Interpretation of Rules & Regulations

- All interpretations in case of any ambiguity, as well as any waivers, consents or other decisions in the administration of the Competition, are at the complete discretion of the Organizers.
- The Organizers reserve the right to amend, change or delete any rules and regulations of the Competition at any stage as it deems appropriate. Any decision made by the Organizers shall be final and binding on all participating teams.



TIMELINE





PRIZES & AWARDS CATEGORY



- *Trophies will be awarded for the following categories:*



WINNER

Award Prize of INR 50,000/-
(Fifty Thousand Only)



RUNNERS UP

Award Prize of INR 30,000/-
(Thirty Thousand Only)



BEST MEMORIAL

Award Prize of INR 10,000/-
(Ten Thousand Only)



BEST RESEARCHER

Award Prize of INR 5,000/-
(Five Thousand Only)



BEST MOOTER

Award Prize of INR 5,000/-
(Five Thousand Only)

**Certificate of Participation shall be provided to all the participants along with other exciting prizes*

**Best Advocate will be based on performance of the participants in the Preliminary Rounds.*



PRIZES & AWARDS CATEGORY



Rewards from our *Knowledge Partner*



One month access to the SCC Online Web Edition to all participants valued at Rs. 3100 each. E-mail ids of the participants to be provided to SCC Online to activate the subscriptions.

One-hour Online training session on SCC Online for all the participants

Three (3) one-year complimentary subscriptions to SCC Online Web Edition, each worth Rs. 32,000, to be distributed to the winning team. The total value of this amounts to Rs. 96,000.



PAST EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



1ST NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2022

Xavier Law School, XIM University, proudly hosted the 1st National Human Rights Moot Court Competition from December 16-18, 2022. Conducted in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission of India and the Chambers of Abhinav Mishra Advocates & Solicitors, this prestigious event brought together 17 teams from esteemed institutions across India. The competition featured a challenging hypothetical case focused on Human Rights, necessitating in-depth analysis and application of complex legal doctrines. Eminent judges provided expert feedback, elevating the academic standards of the event. The Valedictory Ceremony was graced by distinguished dignitaries, including Hon'ble Justice Shri Bijaya Krushna Patel. The event celebrated the achievements of winners and participants, underscoring our commitment to fostering academic excellence and professional development.



NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2024 In collaboration with COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA

The Xavier Law School, XIM University, Bhubaneswar, successfully hosted the National Moot Court Competition 2024 in collaboration with the Competition Commission of India (CCI) from February 16th to 18th. This event showcased the institution's dedication to fostering legal excellence and practical education, aiming to shape the next generation of legal leaders. With 26 teams from prestigious institutions, including nine National Law Universities (NLUs), participating, the competition provided an engaging platform for law students to enhance their advocacy, research, and analytical skills, centered around pressing issues in competition law. A distinguished panel of 40 judges, comprising seasoned legal practitioners and academics, provided insightful feedback and mentorship to participants. The event demonstrated the importance of academic-industry partnerships, underscoring the value of collaboration between Xavier Law School and the CCI, and sets a promising foundation for future partnerships aimed at advancing legal education and fostering excellence.



PAST EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



INSTITUTE OF INSOLVENCY PROFESSIONALS
(Subsidiary of ICSI and Insolvency Professional Agency of IBBI)

The Xavier Law School, XIM University, Bhubaneswar, successfully hosted the 3rd Edition of the National Moot Court Competition from 6th to 8th March 2025, in collaboration with the Institute of Insolvency Professionals of ICSI (IIP-ICSI). The competition reflected the institution's commitment to promoting legal excellence and experiential learning in the evolving domain of insolvency and bankruptcy law. Bringing together teams from leading law schools across the country, the event provided a dynamic platform for students to develop their advocacy, research, and analytical skills while engaging with contemporary challenges under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. A distinguished panel of judges comprising insolvency professionals, legal practitioners, and academicians offered valuable insights and guidance to the participants. The collaboration highlighted the significance of academic-professional partnerships and laid a strong foundation for continued engagement between Xavier Law School and IIP-ICSI in advancing legal education and professional competence.

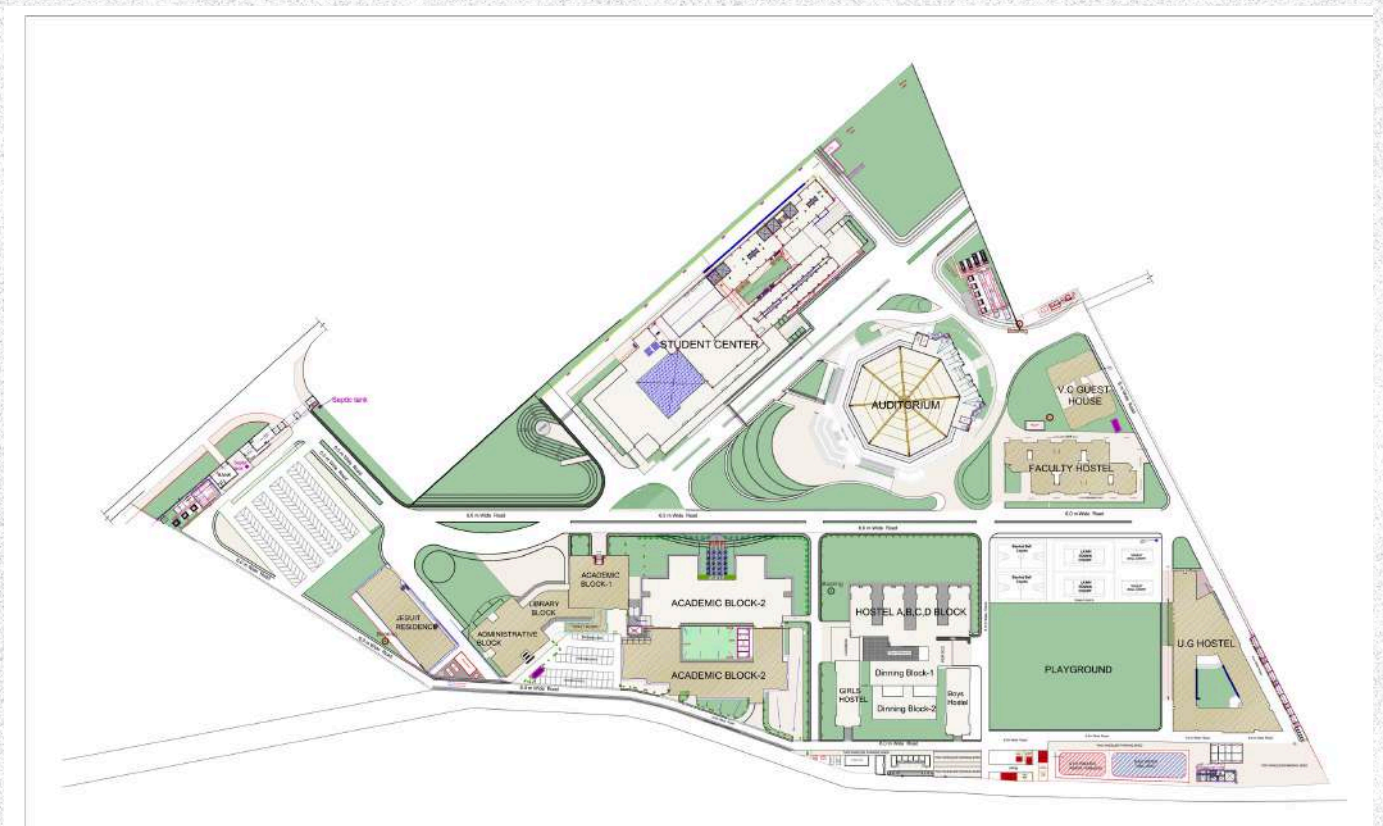


AMENITIES IN XIM UNIVERSITY



XIM University is a beacon of excellence in the realm of education and management in India. Renowned for our commitment to academic rigor, ethical values, and holistic development, XIM University stands as a premier institution in the country. The institute has consistently carved a niche for itself in the field of education, producing visionary leaders and professionals.

We believe in the principle of 'Cura Personalis' i.e 'care for the whole person', education for moral character, adaptability, word affirmation and faith that serves justice are all hallmarks of this philosophy. The emphasis on practical insights, industry exposure, and global perspectives through collaborations with renowned international institutions sets XIM University apart. The state-of-the-art campus fosters innovation and critical thinking, providing students with a conducive atmosphere for growth and exploration.





AMENITIES IN XIM UNIVERSITY



Canteens and Leisure:-

The University boasts canteens that transcend the conventional dining experience. The Ug Mess near the UG Residence, PG Mess near the PG Residence and the IC Mess in the IC Residence offer a diverse range of dining options and snacks. Also, the A la Carte` service, with a diverse menu catering to various tastes, is a culinary delight. Moreover, the vendors located directly behind the UG Residence provide for a quick refreshment with quick bites, hot and cold beverages. Kin & Ken, a café right behind the IC Residence, charms with its inviting ambiance, diverse menu, and a vibrant atmosphere, creating a delightful student hangout.

In Campus accommodation:-

With academic activities round-the-clock, students are required to live on the campus. There are separate Residences for gents and ladies, namely the UG Residence, The IC Residence and the PG residence. All rooms offer 24/7 Internet via Wi-Fi. Amenities in Residences encompass washing machines, water coolers, geysers and lifts. Also, the residence have a common hall namely the Multi-Purpose Hall for recreational purposes. Uninterrupted power supply is guaranteed during outages.

Medical and security Facilities:-

A dispensary is set up on the university campus. An ambulance is available for 24×7 for any emergency. Two fulltime nurses are available to help the residents for consulting any health concerns.

The gated campus has security guards to safeguard and to stop any unauthorized outsiders entering into the residences. CCTVs have been fixed in administrative building, Library building, academic building and students' residences to monitor any irregularities and anti-social elements.





AMENITIES IN XIM UNIVERSITY



Clean Campus:-

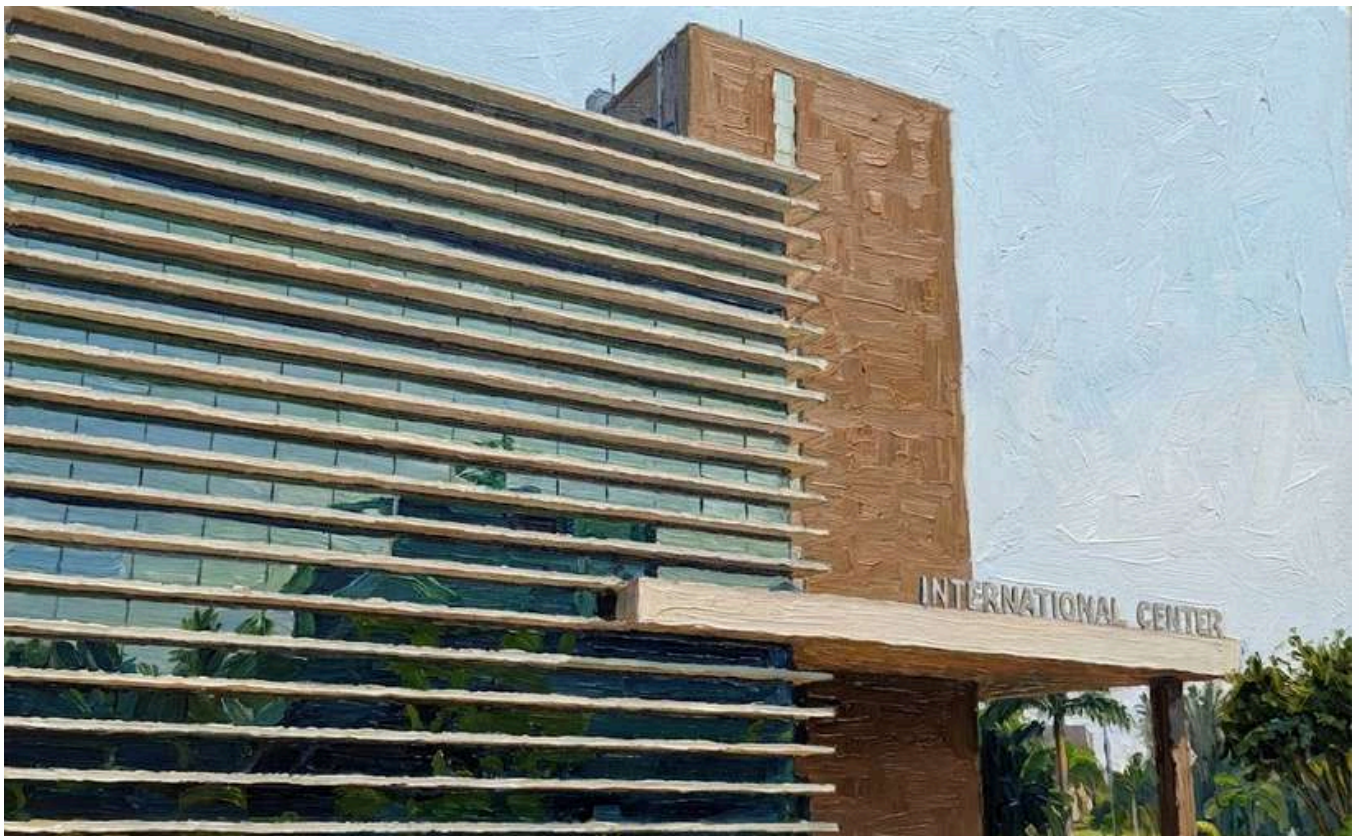
XIM University stands out for its impeccably clean campus, reflecting a commitment to environmental stewardship and student well-being. The pristine surroundings create a conducive learning environment, showcasing the institution's dedication to maintaining a hygienic and aesthetically pleasing space for all members of the academic community. The entire campus is a Zero Plastic Zone and dustbins have been implemented quite strategically, that are also segregated before disposal.

Eco space (First Open-Air Butterfly Garden):-

The open-air butterfly garden in the university is a captivating haven where nature and learning converge. Nestled amidst the lush campus, this enchanting space is meticulously designed to foster biodiversity and offer a unique educational experience. As students stroll through the garden, they encounter a kaleidoscope of butterflies, each contributing to the vibrant ecosystem.

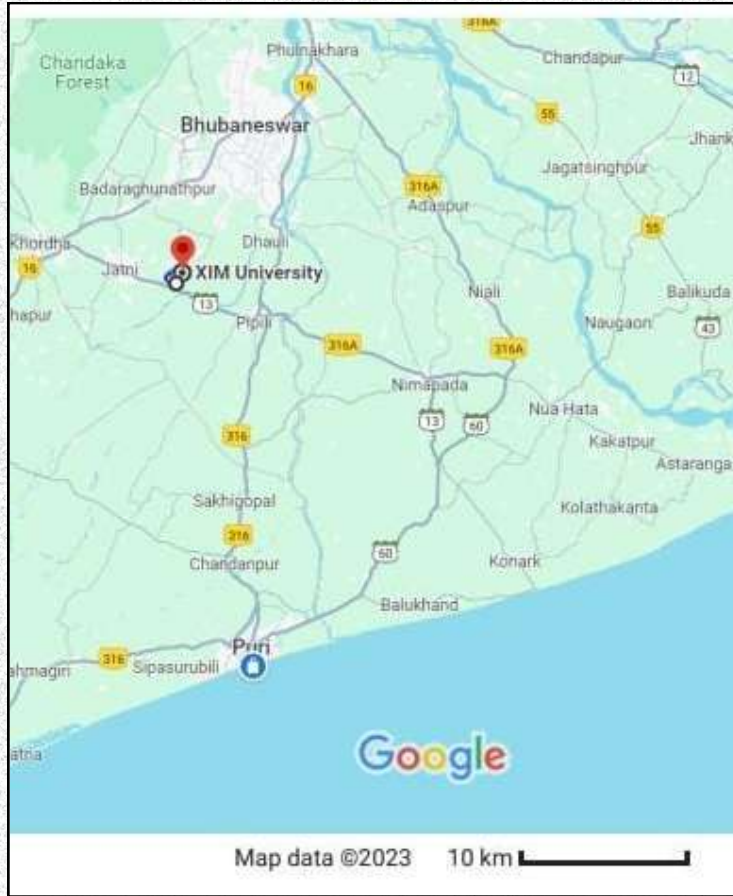
Sports and Fitness Facilities:-

XIM University readies students for the corporate world with top-notch sports facilities. Fitness enthusiasts can find body-mind balance in a well-equipped gym and jogging tracks. Popular sports like basketball, badminton, cricket, football, tennis, table tennis, and volleyball thrive on campus. The sports committee organizes regular events for physical relaxation and mental rejuvenation. In addition to sports, the Student Executive Council (SEC) initiates cultural and intellectual programs, adding a holistic dimension to student life.



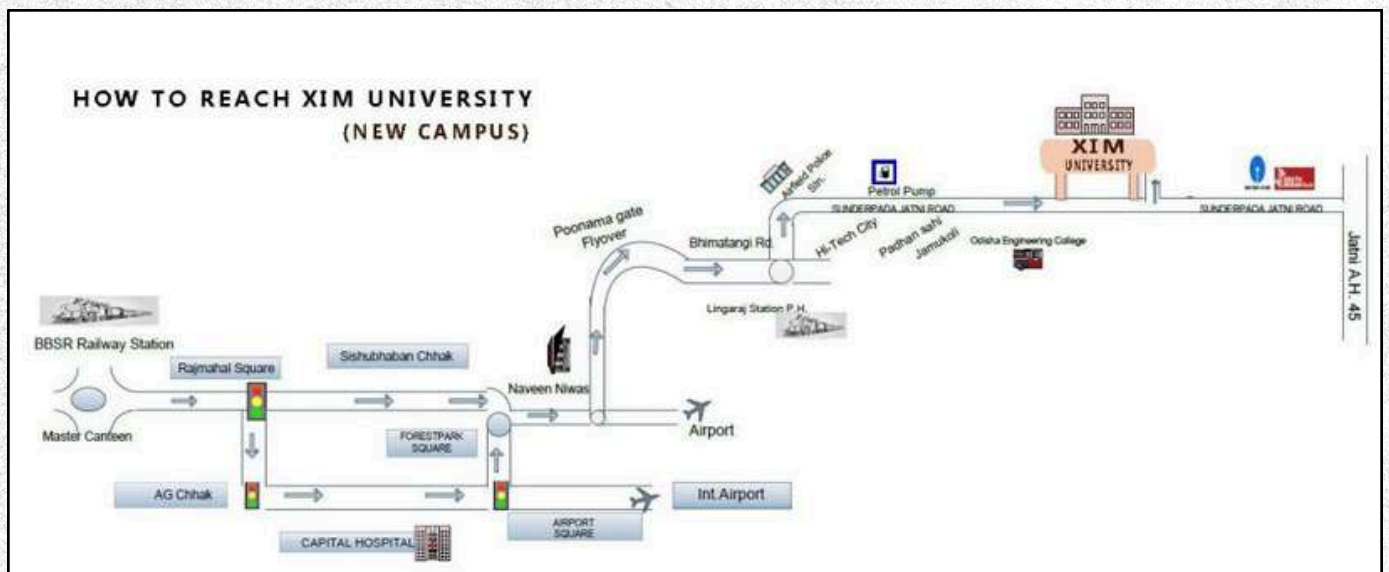


MAPS AND DIRECTIONS



Nearest Airport : BBI
(14kms)
Nearest Railway: BBS
(16kms)

SCAN FOR MAP ROUTE FROM
BIJU PATNAIK
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO
XIM UNIVERSITY,
BHUBANESWAR





ODISHA
INDIA'S BEST KEPT SECRET.



“ ବନ୍ଦେ ଉତ୍କଳ ଜନନୀ! ”

“I bow to thee Mother Utkala”

Odisha, a state in eastern India, stands as a testament to rich cultural heritage, natural beauty, and resilience. The land of temples, Odisha boasts a plethora of architectural marvels, including the iconic Konark Sun Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Lingaraja Temple, showcasing the finesse of Kalinga architecture. The vibrant festivals like Rath Yatra, where the grand chariots carry deities through the streets of Puri, attract millions of devotees and tourists alike, fostering a sense of unity and celebration.

Odisha's diverse geography is a treasure trove of natural wonders. The pristine beaches of Puri and Gopalpur offer tranquility and breathtaking views of the Bay of Bengal. The dense forests of Simlipal National Park harbor a variety of wildlife, making it a haven for nature enthusiasts and wildlife photographers. The majestic Chilika Lake, Asia's largest brackish water lagoon, is a UNESCO-designated Ramsar site, serving as a crucial habitat for migratory birds.

Beyond its natural and architectural splendors, Odisha is known for its warm and hospitable people. The state's commitment to preserving its unique art forms, such as Odissi dance and Pattachitra painting, reflects a deep-seated cultural pride. Additionally, Odisha has made strides in economic development, education, and healthcare, showcasing its progressive outlook.

The state is known as the “City of Temples”, housing one of the bigger Char Dham known as the Jagannath Dham. The religious generosity it has added to this state a splendor and joyous acronyms to its name while culminating the spirituality it reflects.

Odisha, with its amalgamation of ancient traditions and modern aspirations, stands as a jewel in the tapestry of India, inviting visitors to explore its wonders and experience the warmth of its culture.





MOOT PROPOSITION



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF YUKTARASHTRA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
CRIMINAL APPEAL (BY SPECIAL LEAVE) NO. ___ OF 2026
WITH
INTERLOCUTORY APPLICATION NO. ___ OF 2026

AARAV MALHOTRA ... APPELLANT
VERSUS
STATE OF VINDHYA PRADESH ... RESPONDENT

PREFATORY NOTE

The Republic of Yuktarashtra is a sovereign democratic polity governed by a written Constitution *pari materia* with the Constitution of India. Until 30 June 2024, substantive criminal law, criminal procedure, and evidentiary principles were governed respectively by the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. With effect from 1 July 2024, these enactments stood repealed and were replaced by the Yuktarashtra Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Yuktarashtra Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and the Yuktarashtra Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023.

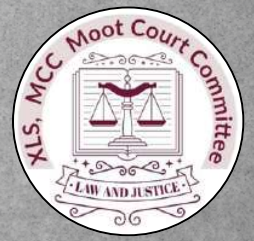
The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 continues to operate. Judicial precedents of the Supreme Court of India shall have persuasive value. The facts stated herein are exhaustive and final. No facts beyond the record may be assumed or introduced. The present appeal challenges both conviction and sentence.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Mangalkot is a district headquarters town in the State of Vindhya Pradesh which, over the past decade, has come to symbolise the uneasy coexistence of accelerated urbanisation, precarious civic infrastructure, and a visibly strained criminal justice apparatus. Between 2021 and 2023, the district witnessed repeated public demonstrations in response to allegations of investigative failures in cases involving crimes against women. These demonstrations were accompanied by sustained media scrutiny and explicit political commentary. Senior elected functionaries of the State speaking both within and outside the legislature publicly expressed dissatisfaction with the functioning of the police machinery and assured the citizenry that henceforth crimes characterised by “exceptional brutality” would invite swift arrests and uncompromising punishment. Such assurances were circulated through official press briefings and government-linked digital platforms.



MOOT PROPOSITION



2. Ward No. 17 of Mangalkot is a densely populated residential cluster comprising single-room tenements constructed incrementally over several decades. The locality is architecturally marked by shared access corridors, narrow staircases, common courtyards, and communal water points. The area is devoid of CCTV surveillance. Electricity supply is erratic with frequent and prolonged outages. Movement of residents, visitors, delivery personnel, and casual labourers within the premises is continuous and largely undocumented. As a result, any precise reconstruction of ingress, egress, or duration of presence is inherently speculative.
3. The prosecutrix, hereinafter referred to as “K”, resided with her mother, Smt. R, in a ground-floor tenement in Ward No. 17. Smt. R is a domestic worker who migrated to Mangalkot from a rural district several years earlier and continued to adhere to conservative social practices prevalent in her native community. From at least 2021 onwards, evidence on record indicates that she held deeply entrenched beliefs favouring early marriage of girls and repeatedly articulated the view that prolonged education and urban exposure resulted in moral “deviation” and social disgrace. Multiple neighbours and acquaintances stated that she was actively exploring matrimonial alliances for K and had conveyed anxiety that delay in marriage would irreversibly compromise familial honour.
4. The prosecution asserts that K was below eighteen years of age at the relevant time, relying primarily upon a school transfer certificate issued in March 2023 shortly prior to the incident. The appellant disputes this assertion relying upon delayed birth registration records, inconsistencies across educational documents generated between 2016 and 2023, and a medical opinion based on ossification studies placing K’s age within a range of seventeen to nineteen years. It is not disputed that no contemporaneous age determination exercise was undertaken by the Child Welfare Committee nor was K produced before any statutory authority at any point prior to her death. The Investigating agency stated that no referral was made to the Child Welfare Committee owing to the absence of any contemporaneous dispute regarding age at the initial stage of investigation and because reliance was placed on educational records customarily accepted in the district for age verification.
5. In addition to educational and medical records, the investigation revealed that K maintained multiple active social media accounts across widely used platforms. Archived versions of these profiles, retrieved during digital forensic analysis, reflected K’s self-declared age as seventeen years at various points during 2022 and early 2023. The prosecution contends that such declarations corroborate the assertion of minority, while the defence argues that age declarations on social media are routinely altered, unverifiable, and often configured to access platform features, and therefore lack probative value for statutory age determination. No independent verification of the date of creation or subsequent modification of these age entries was undertaken by the investigating agency.



MOOT PROPOSITION



6. Notwithstanding the absence of a contemporaneous and conclusive age determination exercise, the investigating agency proceeded to frame charges under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 in the charge-sheet. The defence contends that the invocation of aggravated statutory provisions without first establishing the foundational jurisdictional fact of minority reflects investigative haste and non-application of mind, while the prosecution maintains that the materials available at the time were sufficient to prima facie attract the provisions of the Act. No supplementary charge-sheet was filed to revisit the applicability of the POCSO Act after inconsistencies regarding age emerged during investigation.
7. Between late 2022 and early 2023, K was engaged in frequent telephonic and electronic communication with an unidentified individual. Messages later recovered from her mobile device reflect emotional intimacy, discussions regarding private meetings, and sustained resistance to familial pressure concerning marriage. Certain deleted messages retrieved during forensic extraction suggest that K feared being compelled into marriage against her wishes and was contemplating leaving the household temporarily. The identity of the individual with whom K was communicating was never conclusively established, notwithstanding partial digital footprints indicating the use of multiple SIM cards and encrypted messaging platforms.
8. Witnesses residing in the vicinity deposed that verbal altercations between K and her mother intensified during this period. Raised voices and crying were heard on multiple occasions, often late in the evening. On at least one occasion, a neighbour overheard Smt. R stating that “it is better to marry her off than allow disgrace”, and on another occasion remarking that a girl who disobeys her family invites misfortune upon herself. No complaint was lodged with any authority, nor was any intervention sought.
9. The appellant, Aarav Malhotra, was aged twenty-six years in 2023. He was a long-standing acquaintance of the family and had known K since childhood. He was regarded by Smt. R as a trusted family friend. He frequently visited the residence, assisted Smt. R with errands, and occasionally helped K with school-related tasks. Neighbours described his presence in the household as routine and unremarkable. The appellant had no prior criminal antecedents.
10. The appellant was intermittently employed as a delivery executive for online platforms and was also associated with a local youth organisation affiliated with a regional political party. While he held no formal office, his association was publicly visible. Following the incident, photographs depicting the appellant’s participation in political events were circulated on social media accompanied by allegations that the police were shielding individuals with political connections. These posts were subsequently removed.



MOOT PROPOSITION



11. On 14 April 2023, at approximately 4:00 p.m., Smt. R left the residence for work. Multiple witnesses later stated that the appellant was seen conversing briefly with K in the common corridor earlier that afternoon. The appellant admits to visiting the locality but disputes the duration and nature of the interaction, maintaining that it was incidental and fleeting.
12. Between approximately 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., several residents reported hearing intermittent sounds emanating from within the residential block. Accounts varied considerably. Some described raised voices; others reported dull thuds or sounds of objects falling; several stated that such disturbances were commonplace and did not necessarily signify violence. At approximately 6:10 p.m. a power outage plunged the locality into darkness for nearly twenty-five minutes. During this interval, multiple residents reported movement in corridors and stairwells though none could identify individuals with certainty.
13. When Smt. R returned to the residence at approximately 7:00 p.m., she found the house unoccupied. K was not present. Certain personal items ordinarily used by K, including clothing and a small bag, were missing. Despite neighbours advising her to approach the police, Smt. R did not lodge a missing-person report. She later stated that she believed K may have left voluntarily following their recent disagreements.
14. Call detail records reveal that between 7:15 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Smt. R made multiple telephone calls including to a distant relative in another district and to an unregistered prepaid number which was never conclusively identified. The contents of these conversations could not be retrieved. Smt. R stated that she was “seeking advice” regarding K’s absence.
15. At approximately 10:40 p.m., residents discovered an unconscious female body lying near a disused stone quarry on the outskirts of Mangalkot approximately three kilometres from Ward No. 17. The body was partially clothed and bore visible injuries. The prosecutrix was identified and admitted to hospital shortly before midnight.
16. Medical examination revealed severe cranio-cerebral trauma, irregular and discontinuous ligature marks around the neck, extensive genital injuries, and signs of prolonged hypoxia. Treating physicians noted injuries of varying ages and were unable to conclusively determine whether all injuries were inflicted at a single location. K remained in a comatose state and succumbed to her injuries on 23 April 2023.



MOOT PROPOSITION



17. An FIR was registered on 15 April 2023 under the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. Upon K's death, the case was converted to include offences of murder and aggravated sexual assault. Prior to completion of investigation, senior political leaders publicly characterised the incident as a "rarest of rare crime" warranting capital punishment. During cross-examination, the Investigating Officer acknowledged that the case was categorised as a "high-sensitivity matter" requiring periodic status updates to senior officials though he denied that such classification influenced investigative decisions.
18. The post-mortem examination conducted by a medical board, recorded multiple blunt-force injuries to the skull, a fractured hyoid bone, irregular ligature marks, extensive genital trauma, and evidence of prolonged hypoxia. While the majority opinion attributed death to a combination of strangulation and blunt-force injury, one member of the board recorded a dissent, observing that the sequencing of injuries, the precise locus of assault and the possibility of more than one assailant could not be conclusively ruled out. The majority further opined that the pattern of injuries was consistent with sustained assault by a single assailant though they clarified that the precise sequence and location of infliction could not be definitively reconstructed.
19. The medical board further noted that several injuries were ante-mortem and indicative of sustained assault over a prolonged duration, and that the nature of injuries reflected extreme violence disproportionate to any plausible objective other than deliberate infliction of fatal harm.
20. During trial, the prosecution relied upon the opinion of medical and forensic experts to establish the cause of death, nature of injuries, and the sequence of events, treating such opinions as relevant expert evidence. The defence contested the reliability and conclusiveness of these opinions, pointing to internal dissent within the medical board, inconsistencies across expert reports, and the absence of corroborative forensic linkage. The Trial Court held that expert opinion, though advisory in nature, could be relied upon when supported by surrounding circumstances, and preferred the majority medical opinion over the dissenting view.
21. Between April 2023 and June 2024, the investigation was conducted under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. During this period, neither the residential premises nor the quarry site was promptly sealed. Forensic personnel were requisitioned after substantial delay. No contamination log, scene-access register, or contemporaneous scene chronology was maintained. Signs of recent cleaning were noted at the residence, including damp flooring and traces of disinfectant. Smt. R stated that she routinely cleaned the house every evening and denied any unusual activity. During investigation, the wearing apparel of Smt. R seized on 15 April 2023 did not reveal the presence of bloodstains or biological material attributable to the prosecutrix.



MOOT PROPOSITION



22. A medical examination conducted the same day did not record any fresh injuries, abrasions, or signs of physical exertion inconsistent with routine domestic activity. Two neighbours deposed that Smt. R habitually cleaned the tenement every evening upon returning from work including mopping floors with disinfectant owing to persistent sanitation concerns in the locality.
23. Biological samples revealed mixed DNA profiles. A partial profile consistent with the prosecutrix was isolated, along with genetic material attributable to an unidentified male contributor. No definitive DNA linkage with the appellant was established. No elimination or comparison testing of Smt. R was conducted. Three chance fingerprints lifted from movable surfaces inside the residence were reported to match the appellant. No elimination fingerprints of Smt. R or other frequent visitors were obtained. The Fingerprint Bureau stated that the time and context of impression could not be determined.
24. The prosecutrix's mobile phone, recovered near the quarry in damaged condition, was accessed prior to the generation of cryptographic hash values. Data extraction revealed deleted messages, location anomalies, and indications that the device had been powered on after the estimated time of assault. Smt. R denied accessing the device after K left the house.
25. On 1 July 2024, the Yuktarashtra Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Yuktarashtra Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and the Yuktarashtra Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 came into force. At that stage, the trial was pending. During proceedings conducted thereafter, the prosecution invoked provisions of the new enactments to tender forensic and electronic evidence collected earlier and to justify investigative practices retrospectively. In particular, the prosecution relied upon provisions of the Yuktarashtra Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 to tender electronic records extracted from the prosecutrix's mobile device without producing contemporaneous certification equivalent to that mandated under the repealed Indian Evidence Act, 1872. The defence objected, contending that evidentiary safeguards governing admissibility could not be retrospectively diluted, especially where the collection itself pre-dated the statutory transition. The Trial Court overruled the objection, holding that the change was procedural and did not occasion prejudice.
26. An internal forensic audit later noted delayed scene processing, cognitive contamination, and failure to explore alternative hypotheses, including the conduct of individuals with proximate access to the prosecutrix. No supplementary charge-sheet was filed.



MOOT PROPOSITION



27. The facts as recorded herein are derived from the charge-sheet, general diary entries, forensic reports, and records of trial proceedings. No adverse inference may be drawn from the absence of live witness testimony or cross-examination beyond what is reflected in the record.
28. The Trial Court convicted the appellant and sentenced him to death. The High Court affirmed the conviction and sentence in 2025, holding that statutory transition did not occasion prejudice and that alternative hypotheses were speculative.
29. The appellant has remained incarcerated since April 2023 and now approaches this Hon'ble Court.
30. The appellant contends that the conviction and sentence suffer from constitutional, procedural, and evidentiary infirmities and seeks setting aside of the conviction and sentence. The respondent State seeks affirmation of the conviction and sentence.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

The parties shall address a minimum of four (4) of the following issues. The Court clarifies that these issues are not confined to the facts of the present case but raise questions of law bearing upon the future administration of criminal justice.

- I. Whether the retrospective application of the Yuktarashtra Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Yuktarashtra Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and the Yuktarashtra Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, to investigations initiated under the repealed penal and procedural regime accords with the guarantees under Articles 20(1) and 21 of the Constitution, and whether criminal jurisprudence permits such transition to be justified in the name of procedural efficiency and public interest.
- II. Whether a criminal conviction, particularly one culminating in the imposition of the death penalty can be sustained where the forensic investigation is marked by methodological infirmities, selective scientific reliance, and compromised evidentiary integrity, including breaks in chain of custody and selective reliance upon expert opinion, and whether constitutional due process under Article 21 mandates a higher forensic threshold in cases implicating irreversible punishment, notwithstanding societal demand for deterrence and public retribution.
- III. Whether the failure of the investigating agency to pursue alternative and plausible hypotheses arising from the conduct, proximity, and post-occurrence behaviour of persons exercising intimate and custodial control over the prosecutrix amounts to a violation of the guarantee of equal protection and non-arbitrariness under Article 14, and whether such investigative tunnel vision undermines public confidence in the criminal justice system.



MOOT PROPOSITION



IV. Whether, in the absence of a contemporaneous and conclusive age-determination exercise establishing minority as a foundational jurisdictional fact, the framing and sustainment of charges under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 violates the principle of legality and due process, particularly where such invocation results in aggravated penal consequences.

V. Whether the confirmation of the death sentence, in a prosecution marked by contested forensic integrity, unresolved alternative hypotheses, and statutory transition mid-process, satisfies the constitutional requirement of heightened reliability under Article 21, institutional fallibility in capital adjudication, and whether the doctrine of “rarest of rare” must be reconceptualised to account not only for the brutality of the crime, but also for the epistemic certainty of the adjudicatory process.



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XAVIER MOOT COURT COMPETITION



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