

IFAM MOOT COURT COMPETITION

1ST EDITION



INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR ADVOCACY AND MOOTING

6th – 8th February, 2026

WHO WE ARE

International Forum for Advocacy and Mooting (IFAM) stands as a premier institution devoted to cultivating excellence in legal advocacy, mooting, and dispute resolution among law students across India and beyond. Serving as a nexus of legal brilliance and passionate advocacy, IFAM is committed to providing an advanced platform for law students to refine their advocacy skills, gain exposure to global legal practices, and engage with experts from the legal fraternity.

With participation from National Law Universities and other esteemed law institutions, IFAM fosters a culture of intellectual rigor and professional integrity. Through its various initiatives ranging from moot court competitions and training programs to mentorship and international collaborations IFAM empowers students to transform their legal acumen into practical expertise.

By bridging the gap between academic knowledge and real-world application, IFAM stands as a catalyst for nurturing future litigators, arbitrators, and policy-makers who are well-equipped to navigate the evolving dimensions of global justice.

WHERE LEGAL MINDS CLASH AND CHAMPIONS ARE FORGED

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to foster advocacy excellence through premier moot court competitions, specialized training programs, and cross-border collaborations with universities and institutions worldwide. We are committed to equipping law students with the skills necessary for mooting, arbitration, negotiation, and mediation, thereby promoting advocacy as an integral part of legal education.

By offering mentorship and global exposure, IFAM aims to cultivate a new generation of competent advocates, well-versed in legal reasoning and professional ethics, who can confidently navigate both national and international legal forums.

OUR VISION

To build a world where aspiring legal professionals have equitable access to transformative opportunities in mooting, advocacy, and legal education, preparing them to lead the future of justice globally.

The International Forum for Advocacy and Mooting envisions becoming a leading institution dedicated to nurturing and enhancing mooting and dispute-resolution practices through hands-on training, academic collaboration, and international exposure. IFAM strives to elevate the quality and accessibility of mooting in India, ensuring that every law student gains practical insight into the art of legal argumentation and dispute resolution.

MOOT PROPOSITION

1. Suraj News Network Pvt. Ltd. (“SNN”), established in 1994, is a newswire service in the Republic of Aryavarta that publishes real-time news alerts, political updates, investigative reports, and video bulletins to subscribers within the country and internationally. Over the years, SNN has developed a digital repository known as the “Surajvaani Archives,” which contains photographs, field reports, and transcripts dating back to 1996. Access to these archives is governed by subscription agreements that prohibit unauthorised reproduction, extraction, or use for machine-learning purposes. SNN considers the archives commercially valuable due to the investment made in personnel and newsgathering operations. Its corporate headquarters are located in the State of Dilli, with satellite offices in various States, including Vindhya Pradesh. SNN had earlier expressed concerns about online scraping of its content, but did not pursue litigation until concerns arose regarding potential use of its material for artificial intelligence technologies.

2. DelabyteAI Inc. (“DelabyteAI”), headquartered in Delaware, United States, is a developer of Large Language Models (LLMs). According to its public statements, its models are trained on large datasets composed of publicly accessible text, licensed materials, and content that it considers permissible under fair-use-type principles. In 2023, DelabyteAI launched a model specific to Aryavarta, called “DelabyteGPT-Bharat,” designed to generate Aryavartan legal summaries, cultural explanations, and real-time news-related outputs. The company also incorporated DelabyteAI Aryavarta Pvt. Ltd. in Bengaluru, which, according to DelabyteAI, handles marketing, user interface development, and administrative tasks but has no involvement in data collection or model training. DelabyteAI states that all training activities occurred in the United States.

MOOT PROPOSITION

3. DelabyteAI procured a dataset titled the “Global Real-Time News Dataset” (GRND) from a Singapore-based vendor, NewsPulse Aggregators Ltd., which represented that all included content was either lawfully licensed or publicly available. DelabyteAI maintains that it relied on these representations and denies accessing any subscription-restricted material, including SNN’s archives.

4. In early 2024, journalists and subscribers in Aryavarta reported that some responses generated by DelabyteGPT-Bharat were closely similar to SNN’s subscription-only bulletins. In one instance, an online commentator requested a summary of anticipated State Election results, and the AI output appeared similar to an SNN bulletin issued approximately twenty minutes earlier. Users also observed that certain outputs reproduced distinctive typographical or stylistic features associated with SNN content, including patterns resembling SNN’s internal templates or watermark-style spacing. SNN editors documented multiple examples of outputs that appeared to reproduce the structure and phrasing of SNN reports. An internal technical assessment by SNN suggested that these similarities indicated the use of SNN’s proprietary material during model training.

5. On April 21, 2024, SNN issued a legal notice to DelabyteAI requesting information regarding the datasets used to train DelabyteGPT-Bharat. SNN sought a list of all datasets, details of licensing arrangements, and an undertaking that its content would not be used in future. It also claimed financial loss on the basis that certain clients had discontinued subscriptions after relying on AI-generated summaries.

MOOT PROPOSITION

6. DelabyteAI responded that its models do not store human-readable copies of training data but rely on statistical parameters. It stated that any resemblance to SNN content may be attributed to the factual nature of news reporting or to widely available information. It declined to disclose dataset details on the grounds of trade-secret protection and cybersecurity considerations, and reiterated that it had not accessed SNN archives. DelabyteAI also stated that it did not know whether the third-party vendor had included SNN material in GRND.

7. On July 15, 2024, SNN filed a civil suit before the High Court of Vindhya Pradesh against DelabyteAI Inc., DelabyteAI Aryavarta Pvt. Ltd., and NewsPulse Aggregators Ltd. The choice of forum was based on the generation of allegedly infringing AI outputs in Vindhya Pradesh by SNN-affiliated journalists and the presence of an SNN satellite office in the State. SNN argued that these factors satisfied Section 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. The reliefs sought included a permanent injunction against the use of SNN content, suspension of the model in Aryavarta, disclosure of training datasets and logs, orders directing “data purification,” and damages of ₹150 crores for business losses. SNN relied on various provisions of the Copyright Act, 1957, asserting that use of its material for AI training constituted reproduction and that the outputs constituted infringing derivative works.

8. DelabyteAI challenged the maintainability of the suit and the territorial jurisdiction of the High Court. It argued that the alleged infringing act—model training—occurred entirely outside Aryavarta, and that its local subsidiary was not involved in training activities.

MOOT PROPOSITION

DelabyteAI contended that adjudicating the matter would require scrutiny of actions carried out by a foreign corporation abroad, and that compelling disclosure of datasets or algorithms could have extraterritorial consequences and implications for trade-secrets protection. It therefore sought dismissal on grounds including lack of territorial jurisdiction, absence of a cause of action within the State, and potential constitutional concerns under Article 19(1)(g).

9. On the substantive issues, DelabyteAI argued that training an LLM does not involve reproducing works in a manner that infringes copyright, as the model stores parameters rather than expressive content. It characterised any memorisation of phrases as incidental and technically unavoidable. DelabyteAI further submitted that much of SNN's reporting consists of facts, government statements, and other material not subject to copyright. It argued that AI outputs are generated probabilistically and should be considered transformative. It also contended that Section 52 of the Copyright Act should be interpreted in a technologically neutral way to support innovation and research.

10. The Union Government sought to intervene, stating that the issues raised have broader implications for national technological policy and international investment. The Government submitted that mandatory disclosure of datasets or algorithms could affect trade-secret interests and possibly discourage foreign investment. It informed the Court that a committee was examining regulatory approaches to AI systems, including data-training practices, and suggested caution in issuing wide-ranging directions.

MOOT PROPOSITION

SNN responded that judicial intervention was necessary in the absence of regulation to prevent economic harm to domestic media organisations. It argued that fundamental rights under Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(g) would be undermined if foreign corporations could use journalistic labour without accountability.

ISSUES FOR ADJUDICATION

Issue 1: Whether the High Court of Vindhya Pradesh has territorial jurisdiction to entertain the suit and whether the suit is maintainable in view of the foreign location of model training, the alleged absence of infringing acts within the State, and the constitutional implications of compelling foreign corporations to disclose trade-secret information ?

Issue 2: Whether the use of Suraj News Network's copyrighted news reports, photographs, and bulletins for training the DelabyteAI Large Language Model amounts to infringement under the Copyright Act, 1957?

Issue 3: Whether AI-generated outputs that resemble or reproduce SNN's news bulletins constitute infringement or derivative works under the Copyright Act, or whether they fall within any exception under Section 52 ?

Note:

The laws of the Republic of Aryavarta are pari materia to the laws of the Republic of India.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. AIM

The Competition is instituted to provide participants with an appellate forum offering an opportunity to refine their skills in legal research, drafting, advocacy, and judicial decorum. It is open to all bona fide students pursuing undergraduate or postgraduate law programmes in India.

2. STRUCTURE

The Competition shall be conducted in virtual mode and will consist of the following rounds:

- Preliminary Rounds
- Quarter-Final Rounds
- Semi-Final Rounds
- Final Round

3. TEAM COMPOSITION

3.1 Each team shall comprise a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 members.

3.2 Roles:

- Two (2) members must be designated as Speakers (Mooters).
- Up to two (2) members may be designated as Researchers (optional).

3.3 All members must be bona fide students enrolled in a full-time 5-year or 3-year LL.B. programme or an LL.M. programme at a BCI-recognized university.

3.4 Multiple teams from the same institution are permitted.

4. DRESS CODE

4.1 Participants shall appear in formal court attire: white full-sleeved shirts, black trousers/skirt, black tie (optional for women), and a black coat or blazer (mandatory).

4.2 Non-compliance may invite disqualification at the discretion of the Bench.

4.3 Participants must be visible from the waist up, against a plain, neutral background with adequate lighting.

5. MEMORIAL RULES

5.1 Submission Obligation

Each team shall submit one memorial each for the Petitioner/Appellant and the Respondent.

5.2 Mode & Format

- Submissions shall be made through the designated Google Form and via email to ifammoots@gmail.com.
- File names must follow the format:
 - PETITIONER_[TEAM CODE].pdf
 - RESPONDENT_[TEAM CODE].pdf
 - (Example: PETITIONER_X01.pdf, RESPONDENT_Y02.pdf)
- No institutional identifiers are permitted.
- Breach of anonymity will result in disqualification.

5.3 Formatting Guidelines

- Font: Times New Roman
- Font Size: 12 pt (body), 10 pt (footnotes)
- Line Spacing: 1.5 (body), single (footnotes)
- Margins: 1 inch uniformly
- Page Limit: 35 pages (including cover page, index, and prayer)
- Citation Style: Bluebook (21st Edition)

5.4 Originality

- Plagiarism exceeding 15% (verified via Turnitin) will result in disqualification.
- The use of AI-generated content is strictly prohibited. Any team found using AI-generated material (written or oral) will be disqualified immediately.

5.5 Penalties for Delay

- 1 mark deducted per hour beyond the submission deadline (maximum 10 marks).
- Submissions delayed beyond 24 hours from the deadline will not be accepted.

5.6 Mandatory Contents

- Cover Page (side + team code only)
- Table of Contents
- Index of Authorities
- Statement of Jurisdiction
- Statement of Facts
- Summary of Arguments
- Arguments Advanced
- Prayer

6. RULES OF ORAL ROUNDS

6.1 Platform

All rounds will be conducted via Zoom/Microsoft Teams. The link will be shared 48 hours prior.

6.2 Participation

- Only the two designated Speakers may address the Bench.
- Researchers may assist in preparation but shall not speak.

6.3 Time Allocation (Inclusive of Rebuttal / Sur-Rebuttal)

- Preliminary – 20 minutes to each team
- Quarter-Final – 25 minutes to each team
- Semi-Final – 35 minutes to each team
- Final – 45 minutes to each team

6.4 Rebuttals

- Petitioner: Rebuttal (first)
- Respondent: Sur-Rebuttal (last)

6.5 Prohibited Conduct

- Scouting
- External aid
- Visible notes
- Third-party presence
- Violation will result in immediate disqualification.

6.6 Technical Protocol

- Stable internet, functional webcam, and clear microphone are mandatory.
- Participants must keep videos on at all times and microphones muted when not speaking.
- Technical failure will not be a ground for adjournment unless certified by the Organisers.

7. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Winning Team: Trophy + INR 10,000 + Certificate of Merit
- Runners-Up: Trophy + INR 7,000 + Certificate of Merit
- First Best Speaker: Trophy + INR 2,000 + Certificate of Merit
- Second Best Speaker: Trophy + INR 2,000 + Certificate of Merit
- E-certificates of participation for all participants.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

8.1 The Organisers reserve the right to interpret and amend the rules.

8.2 Decisions of the Organisers and Benches shall be final and binding.

8.3 Force Majeure: In case of platform failure, rounds may be rescheduled.

8.4 Recording: Rounds may be recorded for internal evaluation. Participants are deemed to consent. Those unwilling may withdraw by informing the Organisers via email.

Email: ifammoots@gmail.com

9. CLARIFICATIONS

Participating teams may seek clarifications regarding the Moot Problem via email at ifammoots@gmail.com with the subject line: "Problem Clarification".

The last date to seek clarifications is 11:59 PM, 15/01/2026. Clarifications will be released on 20/01/2026.

For general clarifications relating to registration, memorial submissions, or technical difficulties, teams may email at ifammoots@gmail.com with the subject line: "General Clarification".




TIMELINE

Pre Competition Deadlines



Registration Closes	10th January, 2026
Clarification Last Date	15th January, 2026
Memorial Submission Closes	22nd January, 2026

Oral Rounds & Finals



Preliminary Rounds	6th February , 2026
Quarter and Semi-Final Rounds	7th February , 2026
Final Rounds	8th February , 2026

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

FOR ANY QUERIES CONTACT:

- **MR. BHAWANI SINGH RAJPUROHIT: 7073762578**
- **EMAIL: IFAMMOOTS@GMAIL.COM**



SCAN FOR PAYMENT



**SCAN FOR MORE
INFORMATION**



SCAN TO REGISTER