

4TH CNLU NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION 2026

Brochure cum Rulebook



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ABOUT CNLU

Chanakya National Law University came into being on 15th July 2006 under the Chanakya National Law University Act, 2006 (Bihar Act No. 24 of 2006) and included in sections 2(f) & 12 B of the UGC Act, 1956. No Educational Institution is complete without adequate facilities for its Students, Faculties, and employees. CNLU provides a wide range of facilities on its campus. In addition to general practice services, CNLU provides a range of specialist clinics and visiting practitioners. Regular career fairs, training workshops, and one-to-one guidance for students are organized at the University from time to time. Apart from being academically oriented CNLU also provides Counselling Service, which aims to enable students to achieve their academic and personal goals by providing confidential counselling and support for any difficulties encountered while at CNLU. Debating, Mooting, ADR Competitions, and Co-Curricular Activities are part of the normal routine of CNLU students, giving them the opportunity to put their academic knowledge to practical use. A number of retired Judges of the Supreme Court, High Courts, and lower Judiciary as well as Senior Advocates & and educationalists have offered to assist the CNLU in its teaching and research programs making education at CNLU a rare and exciting experience for the students. CNLU admired the example of maintaining financial autonomy along with greater accountability. It is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure for the successful imparting of legal education of the highest standards. The faculty at CNLU comprises highly acclaimed and experienced academicians who are proactively involved in grooming the younger generations to take CNLU to greater heights.



ABOUT CCADR

The Chanakya Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (CCADR) was established at Chanakya National Law University, Patna, in the year 2021, with the objective of promoting academic research on themes pertaining to the resolution of disputes. Alternative Dispute Resolution is a new and emerging interdisciplinary field that is concerned with, *inter alia*, the following themes: (a) the study of the causative structural factors and the subjective motives of the actors giving rise to disputes; (b) the study of the formal and informal institutions dedicated to the resolution of disputes; and (c) the study of the laws and regulations to produce fair outcomes of disputes. With the establishment of this research centre, we aim to develop a congenial environment for students and researchers to further their interest in ADR, which enables skill development and helps us compete at the national and international levels. CCADR will strive to promote Lok Adalat as an indigenous means of the dispute resolution process, involved in the policy framework related to ADR, and encourage law students to take up activities in the field of ADR by conducting competitions, workshops, and encouraging research. We strive to collaborate with governmental authorities as well as both national (NLUs) and international universities, colleges, and centres to encourage research and innovation in the field of ADR. In the future, CCADR will conduct certification, online training, diploma/degree programs, and specialized courses in the field of ADR.



ABOUT THE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

FIRST EDITION

The first edition of the CNLU National Mediation Competition, 2023 was inaugurated virtually on 21 January 2023 under the aegis of the Chanakya Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution. The Centre aims to promote ADR culture among students through such initiatives. The ceremony was graced by Chief Guest Tariq Khan (Registrar, IAMC Hyderabad), Vice-Chancellor Justice Mridula Mishra (Retd.), Registrar Manoranjan Prasad Srivastava, and other faculty members. Esteemed judges including Justice Mohit Shah, Justice Dr. Anushman, Mr. Varun Pathak, Ms. Ankit Khushu, and Mr. Rama Subramanian judged the final rounds. The competition concluded with a valedictory ceremony in the presence of Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, then Chief Justice of the Patna High Court.

SECOND EDITION

The second edition of the CNLU National Mediation Competition, 2024, was inaugurated virtually on 17 February 2024. Hosted by the Chanakya Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, the event aimed to further promote ADR awareness and engagement among students. The ceremony was graced by Ms. Alix Povey (COO, Mediation Chambers), Mr. Param Bhamra (Founding Partner, Mediate Guru), Ms. Mahak Rathee (Founder, ADR HOC), Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Faizan Mustafa, Registrar Prof. (Dr.) S.P. Singh, and other faculty members. Eminent experts, including Mr. Rama Subramanian and Ms. Vagisha, adjudicated the final rounds, followed by the Valedictory Ceremony.

THIRD EDITION

The third edition of the CNLU National Mediation Competition, 2025, was inaugurated in a virtual ceremony on 24 January 2025. The competition was organised under the aegis of the Chanakya Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution. The Inaugural Ceremony was attended by the esteemed Keynote Speaker Dr. Rajesh Sharma, along with distinguished Guest Speakers Mr. Param Bhamra and Ms. Mahak Rathee, Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof. (Dr.) Faizan Mustafa, Registrar Prof. (Dr.) S.P. Singh, and other faculty members. Renowned experts such as Mayank Mishra, Vikash Kumar Jha and Diwakar Maheshwari adjudicated the final rounds, which concluded with a Valedictory Ceremony.

ABOUT THE FOURTH EDITION

Building on the resounding success of its previous editions, the Chanakya Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution is proud to announce the Fourth Edition of the flagship CNLU National Mediation Competition, which promises to be a grander and more enriching experience.

The 2026 edition will adopt a hybrid format, with the inaugural ceremony scheduled to be held on January 10, 2026 the preliminary rounds and quarter final rounds on January 11, 2026, followed by the semi-final and final rounds to take place on January 25, 2026, on the CNLU Campus.

The very objective of organizing this Mediation Competition is to inculcate a deep sense of understanding of the complexities and intricacies of the mediation process by enabling students to learn and interact with experienced practitioners, distinguished luminaries, and esteemed academicians in the field. This national-level event is expected to witness enthusiastic participation from prestigious universities and colleges across India, furthering its legacy as a premier ADR competition.



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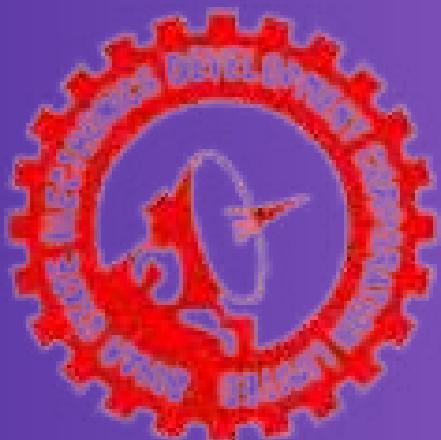


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COMPETITION RULES

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1.1. Language:** The Official Language of the competition, for all purposes, shall be English. All written and oral submissions shall be made in English.
- 1.2. Dress Code:** The Dress Code of the Competition shall be business formal.
- 1.3. Platform:** The Preliminary & Quarter-Final rounds of the competition shall be held virtually, through Zoom. The Semi-Final and Final Rounds shall take place in physical mode.
- 1.4. Code of Conduct:** Competition Administrator reserves the right to disqualify any team for any kind of misconduct on the part of any member of the team, during the Competition.
- 1.5.** In case of any doubt, the decision of the Competition Administrator shall be final and binding upon all the interested parties.
- 1.6.** In case of any changes in the Competition, such changes shall be available on the website of CCADR (www.ccadr.cnlu.ac.in). The participants are liable for not being aware of the changes being made to the competition, if any.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1.** "Caucus" shall refer to a private meeting between the Mediators and a Team. During the Caucus, the overall time of the Mediation Session continues to run.
- 2.2.** "Competition" means the CNLU 4th National Mediation Competition, 2026.
- 2.3.** "Competition Administrator(s)" means Chanakya Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, CNLU.
- 2.4.** "Competition Rules" means the rules and guidelines mentioned herein.
- 2.5.** "Confidential Information" means factual information, given exclusively to one Negotiating Team, in accordance with the rules of the competition.
- 2.6.** "Cross-Caucus" refers to a separate meeting between the Mediator and both Counsels or a separate meeting between the Mediator and both Clients.

2.7. “General Information” is the factual information provided to all the registered participants.

2.8. “Judge” means a lawyer or an academician nominated and/or selected by the Competition Administrator who evaluates and scores the performance of the Participating Team during a Mediation Session in accordance with the Competition Rules.

2.9. “Negotiating Team” refers to two participants out of a team of three, acting in the capacity of client and counsel for the purposes of the competition.

2.10. “Mediator” refers to a member of a team of three who shall be acting individually in the capacity of a mediator for the purposes of the competition.

2.11. “Mediation Room” refers to the virtual/physical mediation table set-up where the competition shall take place.

2.12. “Offline Rounds” refer to the Semifinal and Final Rounds that will be conducted physically at the Chanakya National Law University campus.

2.13. “Participating Team” refers to a team whose registration has been approved by the Competition Administrator.

2.14. “Qualifying Teams” refers to the teams and mediators qualifying for Semi-final Rounds.

2.15. “Requesting Party” stands for the party, in the proposition, at whose behest the option of mediation was exercised.

2.16. “Responding Party” stands for the party other than the requesting party in the mediation proceedings.

2.17. “Virtual Rounds” refer to the Preliminary and Quarterfinal Rounds that will be conducted virtually on the January 10-11, 2026.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

3.1. Only Law Colleges/Universities recognized by the Bar Council of India are eligible to participate.

3.2. Only bonafide students pursuing L.L.B. three/five-year degree programs in the aforementioned institutions (refer to Rule 3.1.), during the current academic year are eligible to participate.

3.3. Dates of the Competition are January 10-11, 2026 for the Virtual Rounds (Preliminary and Quarterfinal) and January 25, 2026, for the Offline Rounds (Semi-Final and Final).

4. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

4.1. Each team shall consist of three (03) participants, comprising of one mediator and one client-counsel pair (Negotiating Team). However, the roles of the mediator and the client-counsel pair can not be interchanged, in any rounds.

4.2. All teams shall be participating in the Preliminary rounds, however only the teams and Mediators that qualify for the Semi Final Rounds shall be invited to the University for the physical rounds.

4.2.1. In case any of the top four Negotiating Pairs or Mediators are unable to physically compete for subsequent rounds, they shall stand disqualified and the next best rank holder shall be invited for physical rounds.

5. REGISTRATION

5.1. The Competition shall be first open for provisional registration for Universities, through which each University can book a maximum of two slots.

5.1.1. There is a maximum registration capacity of 40 teams, first preference shall be given to the provisionally registered Universities for a specified time, after which the slots shall be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis.

5.1.2. The first round of registration for provisionally registered Universities shall end on December 10, 2025. Participants/Universities are requested to adhere to the deadline and mail us in advance if an extension is required owing to the allotment process of their respective universities.

5.1.3. The composition of the team shall remain the same as at the time of registration, throughout the competition. In case of any changes, the Competition Administrator must be informed at the earliest, and all decisions made on the same shall be final. Non-compliance with this without prior information shall lead to an automatic disqualification.

5.2. Post provisional registration, teams must complete the process of final registration within the specified time period. The last date for final registration is December 22, 2025.

For final registration, please click on this [here](#).

5.3. Participants will be required to participate in a virtual mode on January 10-11, 2026. The teams and mediators who qualify shall be required to report physically to CNLU, Patna campus for the Semi-Final and Final Rounds scheduled on January 25, 2026.

5.4. Teams will be required to transfer the registration fees amounting to Rs. 7500, per team for the Online Rounds to the below-mentioned account details. The qualifying teams and mediators travelling to the University for the Offline Rounds, shall be required to pay an additional Rs. 5000 per Negotiating Team and Rs. 2500 per Mediator, proof of which has to reach the organizers via email at events.ccadr@cnlu.ac.in, by January 17, 2026. Account details are:

Account Name: Chanakya National Law University

Bank: State Bank of India

Branch: CNLU, Patna

Account Number: 40831092400

IFSC Code: SBIN0015996

UPI ID: cnu40831092400@sbi



5.5. Team Codes will be allotted post-completion of all final registrations. Allocation of sides for the preliminary rounds will be sent shortly post the allotment of team codes.

5.6. All the participants shall carry their College/University Identity Cards while traveling to the University as well as at all times thereafter, during the Competition. Participants are advised to carry photocopies of the authorization letter from their University, and identity cards that have been submitted to the organizers during registration.

6. ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

- 6.1.** The orientation program will be held on January 10, 2026, the timing of the same shall be conveyed to the participants via email.
- 6.2.** The orientation shall be followed by Mediation Training, which shall be mandatory for all participants to attend.

7. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 7.1.** Each member of the Participating Team shall be dressed in Business Formals (Indian or Western) for the duration of the Competition.
- 7.2.** Friendly and healthy interaction among the participating teams and with the students of Host College is encouraged and respected.
- 7.3.** Use of Mobile Phones is strictly prohibited during the time of the Competition.
- 7.4.** Participants shall not reveal the Identity of their College/University at any point of time during the Competition.
- 7.5.** Scouting or any other unethical/unprofessional conduct is strictly prohibited and shall lead to immediate disqualification of the team.

8. AWARDS

- 8.1.** Trophy for the Winner of the Mediation Competition (Negotiating Team) Competition along with a cash prize of Rs. 20,000 and an Internship Opportunity.
- 8.2.** Trophy for the Runners-up of the Mediation Competition (Negotiating Team) Competition along with a cash prize of Rs. 10,000 and an Internship Opportunity.
- 8.3.** Trophy for the Winning Mediator along with a cash prize of Rs. 12,000 and an Internship Opportunity.
- 8.4.** Trophy for the Runner-up Mediator along with a cash prize of Rs. 6,000 and an Internship Opportunity.
- 8.5.** Certificate of Merit for the Best Mediator (Preliminary Rounds) along with a cash prize of Rs. 5,000 and an Internship Opportunity.
- 8.6.** Certificate of Merit for the Best Negotiating Pair (Preliminary Rounds) along with a cash prize of Rs. 10,000 and an Internship Opportunity.

9. TRANSPORTATION & ACCOMODATION

9.1. Chanakya National Law University, Patna is located near Jakkanpur Police Station, Nyaya Nagar, Mithapur, Patna-800001, Bihar, India. The University is easily accessible both from the Railway station and the Airport by Auto-Rickshaws or Cabs (Uber/Ola).

9.2. The University will provide accommodation for the teams from January 24th, 2026 (12:00 PM onwards) to January 26, 2026 (till 12:00 PM). Teams are mandatorily required to mention the time at which they will arrive in the travel form, which shall be shared post-quarter-final rounds.

9.3. Refreshments and transportation from the place of accommodation for the participants during the days of the Competition will be arranged by the organizers.

10. COMPETITION ROUNDS

10.1. The event shall be conducted in four rounds, namely – Preliminary Round, Quarter-Final Round, Semi-Final Round, and Final Round.

10.2. Preliminary rounds will consist of two rounds. Each round shall be conducted for 40 minutes followed by 5 minutes for Judges' feedback.

10.3. The top 8 teams from the Preliminary Rounds shall qualify for the Quarter-Final Round based on the cumulative team score of both Preliminary Rounds. The top 4 teams from the Quarter-Final Rounds shall qualify for the Semi-Final Rounds. The Semi-Finals shall be held simultaneously in different rooms and judged by a different panel of judges.

10.4. The top two teams from the Semi-Final Rounds shall go to the Finals based on the cumulative team scores in the Semi-Final Rounds.

10.5. In case of a tie, for a Negotiating Team, the team with the higher marks in the Opening Statement criteria of marking given in Rule 15, shall be given preference. If a tie still persists, then the score under Team Work and Coordination shall be considered. If a tie still persists, then the same shall be resolved by virtue of a lottery system.

10.6. In case of a tie for Mediators, the Mediator with the higher marks in the Opening Statement criteria of marking given in Rule 15, shall be given preference. If a tie still persists, then the score under Time Management shall be considered. If a tie still persists, then the same shall be resolved by virtue of a lottery system.

10.7. All decisions taken by the Competition Administrator in case of a tie shall be binding and final.

11. MEDIATION PROCEDURE

11.1. A Mediation Session will consist of two opposing client-counsel pairs who will try to resolve a dispute in the presence of two mediators. Each of the two mediators will be marked individually. The client-counsel pair shall be marked as a Negotiating team.

11.2. For each round, there will be one set of common facts (“Mediation Problem”) and different confidential information for each of the opposing Negotiating Teams which will be given before the start of the round.

11.3. The Preliminary and Quarter-Final Rounds will be of 45 minutes each, and the Semi-Final and Final Rounds will be of 60 minutes each.

11.4. A maximum number of two (2) caucuses may be called. However, the cumulative time provided for caucuses is 5 minutes for the Preliminary Rounds, Quarter-Final, and Semi-Final Rounds and 10 minutes for the Final Round.

11.5. The creation of extraneous facts is not permitted and teams shall be penalized for the same. However, teams may reasonably interpret the problem to draw reasonable conclusions.

12. MEDIATION PROBLEM & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

12.1. During the Preliminary Rounds, the party that a team shall represent during a round will be informed to them beforehand.

12.2. The confidential information for a round shall be released 30 minutes before the round.

12.3. The confidential information for the Semi-Final Rounds shall be released 45 minutes before the round, whereas, the confidential information for the Final Rounds shall be released 60 minutes before the commencement of the round.

12.4. The teams shall not disclose their confidential information to any other participant throughout the competition. Disclosure of confidential information by any team before or after their round shall be grounds for immediate disqualification from the competition.

13. GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

13.1. An Equity Committee of 5 CCADR Members shall be established to address the grievances arising during the course of the Competition. All decisions taken by the Committee shall be final and binding.

14. MARKING CRITERIA

14.1. Negotiating Team

S. No.	Criteria	Marks Allotted
1.	Opening Statement (Expressing confidence in the process, skillful articulation of facts to put forth the case, persuasive comments to influence the other party)	10
2.	Constructive Approach (Willingness to collaborate, taking initiative to build a problem solving approach, strategically sacrificing interests to build a relationship)	10
3.	Advocating Interests (Assessment of one's own strengths and weaknesses, identifying and developing client's real needs and interests, identifying common and conflicting interests)	10
4.	Team Work and Coordination (Effectiveness of collaboration, reliance and faith on each other's ability, working together as a team, communicating with each other, sharing of responsibility, providing mutual support)	10

S. No.	Criteria	Marks Allotted
5.	<p style="text-align: center;">Use of Services of Mediator</p> <p>(Timely use of mediators, Beneficial use of mediators, Listening to the mediators)</p>	10
6.	<p style="text-align: center;">Effective Use of Confidential Information</p> <p>(Decision on disclosure of confidential information, Timely and appropriate disclosure of confidential information, Incorporating confidential information in Negotiation Strategy)</p>	10
7.	<p style="text-align: center;">Body Language</p> <p>(Display of appropriate emotions by the client, Display of professionalism, Listening skills, Demeanour)</p>	10
8.	<p style="text-align: center;">Mutually Generating Creative Options</p> <p>(Generating options to satisfy one's needs and interests, efforts made to satisfy other's interests, non-judgmental approach, objective evaluation of options generated by other party)</p>	10
9.	<p style="text-align: center;">Negotiation Strategy</p> <p>(Overall strategy developed to deal with the dispute, time spent on relation building, information gathering, and slowly moving into negotiation; change of approach, adaptability)</p>	10
10.	<p style="text-align: center;">Time Management</p> <p>(Ensuring judicial use of time in conference, adherence to the time divisions stipulated in the Rules)</p>	10
	TOTAL	100

14.2. Mediator

S. No.	Criteria	Marks Allotted
1.	<p style="text-align: center;">Opening Statement</p> <p>(Conveying the importance of the process, Tactics adopted to calm parties, Effective explanation of the process with special reference to his/her role)</p>	15
2.	<p style="text-align: center;">Creating an Appropriate Environment</p> <p>(Laying down ground rules, nature of the approach, Making the parties comfortable, establishing 'negotiation' environment, Building trust with parties)</p>	10
3.	<p style="text-align: center;">Control Over the Session</p> <p>(Laying down of effective agenda, Adherence to ground rules, assisting parties to move forward in the session, Timely intervention)</p>	10
4.	<p style="text-align: center;">Ability to Work as a Team</p> <p>(Teamwork and Cooperation with co-mediator)</p>	10
5.	<p style="text-align: center;">Eliciting Information from Mediating Pair</p> <p>(Framing of questions, Manner of asking uncomfortable questions, collecting information while maintaining an unbiased image, Optimum use of time by asking only relevant questions)</p>	10
6.	<p style="text-align: center;">Conduct and Demeanour</p> <p>(Body language, listening skills, Professionalism, display of patience)</p>	10
7.	<p style="text-align: center;">Facilitating Option Generation</p> <p>(Approach adopted in assisting option generation, Steps taken to keep options realistic, Encouraging the parties to generate win-win options)</p>	10

S. No.	Criteria	Marks Allotted
8.	<p style="text-align: center;">Closing Statement</p> <p>(Summarising the mediation session, Effective ending to the session)</p>	10
9.	<p style="text-align: center;">Time Management</p> <p>(Ensuring judicial use of time in conference and caucus, Adherence to the time divisions stipulated in the Rules)</p>	15
	TOTAL	100



Chanakya Centre for
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