



| CCADR

1ST CNLU ARBITRAL AWARD WRITING & PRESENTATION COMPETITION, 2027

BROCHURE - CUM - RULEBOOK

ABOUT CNLU

Chanakya National Law University (CNLU), Patna, is one of India's premier National Law Universities, established under the Chanakya National Law University Act, 2006 (Bihar Act No. 24 of 2006), and recognised under Sections 2(f) and 12(B) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956. The University was founded on July 15, 2006, with a clear and visionary mandate: to provide quality legal education of the highest standard, raise national legal standards to a competitive international level, and promote legal awareness within the broader community in furtherance of the constitutional goals of justice, equality, and the rule of law.

CNLU is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure to facilitate the highest standards of legal education. A number of retired Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, Senior Advocates, and eminent educationalists have offered their expertise to assist CNLU in its teaching and research programmes, making education at CNLU a distinctive and enriching experience. Debating, Mooting, ADR competitions and co-curricular activities form an integral part of the CNLU student experience, giving students the opportunity to put their academic knowledge to practical use.



ABOUT CCADR



The Chanakya Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (CCADR), established in 2021 at Chanakya National Law University, Patna, serves as a hub for academic research, practical skill-building, and professional engagement in dispute resolution. The Centre promotes an interdisciplinary study of conflicts ranging from commercial and institutional to state-level disputes, with a focus on frameworks including the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and international standards such as the UNCITRAL Model Law.

CCADR aims to foster a congenial environment within CNLU and beyond for students, researchers, and practitioners to pursue their interest in ADR and compete at national and international levels. The Centre organises national and intra-college ADR competitions, panel discussions, workshops, training sessions, lectures, and interactive engagements with practitioners, academicians, and industry experts.

Its flagship initiatives include the CNLU National Mediation Competition (NMC), National Client Counselling Competition (NCC), bimonthly newsletter Samvaad, ADR blog Untangled, ADR Radio, ADR'o Clock, and the Arbitral Award Writing & Presentation Competition, 2026–27. CCADR has collaborated with leading law firms, ADR institutions, and organisations including Kochhar & Co., Singhanian & Partners, TT&A, HSA Advocates, PSL Advocates & Solicitors, King Stubb & Kasiva, Poovayya & Co., Dentons Link Legal, JSA Advocates & Solicitors, MCIA, IAMC Hyderabad, Manupatra, SCC Online, LiveLaw, Bihar Tourism, and international ADR organisations such as TiradoADR and McPhilamy ADR.

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMPETITION



The Chanakya Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (CCADR), Chanakya National Law University, Patna, is pleased to invite registrations for the First Edition of the CNLU Arbitral Award Writing & Presentation Competition, 2026-27, designed to provide participants with an opportunity to engage with the adjudicatory process of arbitration and the practical aspects of drafting a well-reasoned arbitral award.

The competition seeks to immerse participants in the resolution of complex disputes, requiring them to analyse factual and legal issues, assess evidence, interpret contractual and statutory provisions, and apply relevant principles of substantive and procedural law. It places emphasis on clarity of reasoning, legal analysis, evidentiary assessment, procedural fairness, and the formulation of a reasoned and enforceable award.

By simulating the arbitral decision-making process, the competition aims to develop precision in legal drafting, analytical acuity, and impartial decision-making, while providing participants with practical exposure to the functioning of arbitration and the craft of arbitral adjudication.

ELIGIBILITY

- Students pursuing Five-Year/Three-Year LL.B. discipline;
- Students pursuing One-Year/Two-Year LL.M. discipline;
- Students pursuing any other undergraduate or postgraduate law degree from any recognised university.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

- Submissions shall be made in .doc/.docx and PDF format.
- All submissions are to be made via a Google Form.
- Complete details regarding the theme, registration, detailed rules, formatting requirements, and evaluation criteria shall be released shortly through the formal Competition Brochure.

REGISTRATION LINK

Interested participants may register by filling out the form through the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOBsTzY23ECrRBAgqb9VVuURrSsivzm1mPhOx0wioB2bDxzQ/viewform?usp=dialog>



IMPORTANT DATES

Event	Date
Release of Pre-Invite	15th September 2026
Release of Brochure cum Rulebook & Beginning of Registration	19th October 2026
Release of Problem	23th November 2026
Last Date for Registration	30th November 2026
Last Date for Submission of Final Award	15th December 2026
Release of Results for Advanced Rounds	15th January 2027
Offline Presentation Rounds (Top 8) at CNLU, Patna	13th February 2027



OUR PAST PARTNERS



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 for the Offline Presentation Rounds shall be business formal.

1.3. Mode: The Competition shall be conducted in Hybrid mode. Registration, release of the Problem, submission of awards and evaluation of the written awards shall take place online. The Offline Presentation Rounds shall take place in physical mode at the CNLU campus.

1.4. Code of Conduct: The Competition Administrator reserves the right to disqualify any participant or team for any kind of misconduct 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 i.e www.ccadr.cnlu.ac.in. The participants are liable for not being aware of the changes being made to the competition, if any.

1.7. Time Zone: All timings and deadlines mentioned in the Competition Rules and in any communication from the Competition Administrator shall be in Indian Standard Time (IST, UTC+5:30), unless stated otherwise. Participants from outside India are responsible for converting the timings to their local time zone.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1. “Arbitration Problem” or “Problem” means the common set of facts, the arbitration agreement, the relevant contractual documents, the pleadings and the evidence, together with the procedural orders, if any, released by the Competition Administrator to all registered participants.

2.2. “Award” means the reasoned final arbitral award drafted by a Participating Entry on the basis of the Arbitration Problem.

2.3. “Author” means a registered participant who drafts an Award, whether individually or as a co-author.

2.4. “Co-Authorship” means participation in a team of two Authors.

2.5. “Competition” means the 1st CNLU Arbitral Award Writing & Presentation Competition, 2027

2.6. “Competition Administrator(s)” means Chanakya Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, CNLU.

2.7. “Competition Rules” means the rules and guidelines mentioned herein.

2.8. “Team Code” means the unique code allotted by the Competition Administrator to each Participating Entry after completion of registration, by which the Award shall be identified during evaluation.

2.9. “Evaluator” or “Judge” means a lawyer, arbitrator, retired judge or academician nominated and/or selected by the Competition Administrator who evaluates and scores the Awards and/or the presentations in accordance with the Competition Rules.

2.10. “Final Submission” means the final version of the Award, submitted in the prescribed formats through the designated Google Form on or before the last date for submission.

2.11. “Written Round” or “Preliminary Round” means the round in which the Awards submitted by all Participating Entries are evaluated.

2.12. “Advanced Rounds” refer to the Offline Presentation Rounds in which the Top 8 Participating Entries present their Awards.

2.13. “Offline Presentation Rounds” refer to the Advanced Rounds that will be conducted physically at the Chanakya National Law University campus on 13th February 2027.

2.14. “Participating Entry” refers to an individual Author or a team of two Authors whose registration has been approved by the Competition Administrator.

2.15. “Qualifying Entries” refers to the Top 8 Participating Entries selected for the Offline Presentation Rounds.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

3.1. The Competition is open to bonafide students, from India and abroad, pursuing any of the following degree programmes in the current academic year: (a) Five-Year/Three-Year LL.B.; (b) One-Year/Two-Year LL.M.; or (c) any other undergraduate or postgraduate law degree from any recognised university.

3.2. Participants must be enrolled in a law school, college or university recognised by the competent authority of the relevant jurisdiction (in India, the Bar Council of India and/or the University Grants Commission, as applicable).

3.3. The Competition Administrator may, at any stage, require a participant to submit proof of enrolment, such as a valid College/University Identity Card or a bonafide certificate. Any participant found ineligible shall be disqualified.

3.4. Dates of the Competition are as stated in the schedule of Important Dates, with the Offline Presentation Rounds scheduled for 13th February 2027.



4. MODE & AUTHORSHIP

- 4.1.** Participation shall be either individually (Single Author) or in a team of two (Co-Authorship). Teams of more than two Authors shall not be permitted.
- 4.2.** Co-Authors may be from the same or different institutions, provided that each of them satisfies the eligibility criteria in Rule 3.
- 4.3.** An Author may be part of only one Participating Entry. An Author who has registered individually cannot be added as a co-author to another entry, and vice-versa.
- 4.4.** The composition of a Participating Entry shall remain the same as at the time of registration throughout the Competition. In case of any change, the Competition Administrator must be informed at the earliest, and all decisions made on the same shall be final. Non-compliance with this shall lead to disqualification.
- 4.5.** The Award must be the original work of the Author(s) named in the registration. No person other than the registered Author(s) may contribute to the drafting of the Award.
- 4.6.** The Competition shall be conducted in Hybrid mode. Only the Top 8 Participating Entries shall be invited to the University for the Offline Presentation Rounds.
- 4.6.1.** In case any of the Top 8 Participating Entries are unable to present physically in the Offline Presentation Rounds, they shall stand disqualified and the next best ranked entry shall be invited for the Offline Presentation Rounds.

5. REGISTRATION

- 5.1.** Registration shall begin on 3rd October 2026 with the release of this Brochure cum Rulebook. The last date for registration is 30th November 2026. Registration shall be completed by filling out the Google Form available through the Registration Link above, and by paying the applicable registration fee.

5.2. The Registration Fees for the Preliminary Rounds are as follows:

5.2.1. Indian Participants: Rs. 800/- for Single Author submissions and Rs. 1,500/- for Co-Author submissions.

5.2.2. International Participants: USD 10 for Single Author submissions and USD 20 for Co-Author submissions. Co-Authors may pay separately at USD 10 per participant.

5.3. Participants who are selected among the Top 8 for the Offline Presentation Rounds shall pay separate food and accommodation charges, as follows:

5.3.1. Indian Participants: Rs. 2,500/- per participant.

5.3.2. International Participants: an additional USD 30 per participant for the Offline Presentation Rounds, inclusive of food and accommodation.

Please Note: In case of any difficulty of the team to participate in the Offline Rounds an Online Presentation option may be granted by the Competition Authority on request however the payment for advanced rounds is mandatory for all qualifying teams. In case any teams do not opt for Accommodation provided by the Competition Authority, the advanced round fee remains mandatory fee to be paid.

5.4. Fees shall be transferred to the following account, and proof of payment (a screenshot or transaction receipt showing the transaction reference number) shall be uploaded in the registration form or sent to events.ccadr@cnlu.ac.in:

Account Details are as follows:

Account Name: Chanakya National Law University

Bank Name: State Bank of India

Branch Name: CNLU, Patna

Account Number: 40831092400

IFSC Code: SBIN0015996

UPI ID: cnlu40831092400@sbi

5.5. Registration shall be treated as complete only upon receipt of the duly filled form and the applicable fee. Fees once paid shall not be refunded.

5.6. A Team Code shall be allotted to each Participating Entry after completion of registration. All communication regarding the Competition shall be made through the email address provided at the time of registration.

5.7. All participants shall carry their College/University Identity Cards while travelling to the University as well as at all times thereafter, during the Offline Presentation Rounds. International participants shall additionally carry their valid passports.

5.8. International participants qualifying for the Offline Presentation Rounds shall be solely responsible for obtaining the necessary visas and travel documents. The Competition Administrator shall, on request, provide an invitation letter to qualifying participants to support their visa applications.



6. RELEASE OF PROBLEM & CLARIFICATIONS

6.1. The Arbitration Problem shall be released on 10th November 2026 to all registered participants by email and on the CCADR website. Depending on the response from the problem drafter, the Problem may be released earlier, and registered participants shall be informed accordingly. Participants who register after the release of the Problem shall be provided with the Problem upon completion of registration.

6.2. The Problem shall be common to all participants. The Award must be drafted on the basis of the facts, documents and evidence contained in the Problem.

6.3. Queries and requests for clarification on the Problem may be sent to events.ccadr@cnlu.ac.in on or before 5th December, 2026. The Competition Administrator may, in consultation with the problem drafter, issue clarifications, which shall be circulated to all registered participants and shall form part of the Problem.

6.4. The creation of extraneous facts is not permitted and may be penalised. However, Authors may reasonably interpret the Problem to draw reasonable conclusions and make reasoned findings of fact on the basis of the record.

6.5. Participants shall not contact the problem drafter or any Evaluator in connection with the Problem. Any such contact shall be grounds for disqualification.

7. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES & FORMAT

7.1. The Final Submission shall be made on or before 15th December 2026 through the Google Form at <https://forms.gle/pU4teJhdjiJromJy6> . Submissions made by any other mode shall not be considered.

7.2. The Award shall be submitted in both .doc/.docx and PDF formats. Both files must be identical in content.

7.3. The Award shall be drafted as a reasoned final award of an arbitral tribunal and shall ordinarily contain the following: (a) caption, parties, and details of the arbitration agreement, seat and tribunal; (b) procedural history; (c) a summary of the

facts; (d) a summary of the contentions of the parties; (e) issues for determination; (f) analysis and reasoning on jurisdiction, applicable law, liability and quantum; (g) findings on evidence; (h) relief, interest and costs; and (i) the operative portion, with the place and date of the award and signature block.

7.4. The Award shall not exceed 25 pages, excluding the caption, table of contents (if any), footnotes and annexures. Awards exceeding the word limit may be penalised.

7.5. The Award shall be typed in Times New Roman, font size 12 for the main text and 10 for footnotes, with 1.5 Line spacing on A4 size pages with 1-inch margins. Any consistent citation style (such as OSCOLA or Bluebook) may be used.

7.6. The Award, and the name of the file, shall not contain the name, institution, or any other identifying information of the Author(s). The Award shall bear only the Team Code, and the files shall be named using the Team Code alone.

7.7. Late submissions shall not be accepted, unless the deadline is extended by the Competition Administrator by a notice to all registered participants. Submissions that do not comply with Rules 7.2, 7.5 and 7.6 may be penalised or rejected at the discretion of the Competition Administrator

8. ORIGINALITY & ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

8.1. The Award must be the original work of the Author(s). Plagiarism of any kind, including copying from published awards, judgments, articles or the work of other participants, shall lead to disqualification. Authorities must be properly attributed.

8.2. The Competition Administrator may subject the submissions to plagiarism and AI checks. Awards with similarity beyond 20% similarity percentage (excluding the text of the Problem and properly cited authorities) and AI usage percentage of 10% may be penalised or disqualified.

8.3. The Award shall not be generated by generative artificial intelligence tools. Authors may use such tools only for limited language or grammar assistance, and shall remain fully responsible for the analysis, reasoning and contents of the Award.

8.4. The Authors shall retain the copyright in their Awards. By participating, the Authors grant CCADR a non-exclusive licence to publish the Awards of the Top 8 Participating Entries, with due attribution, on its platforms and publications.



9. CODE OF CONDUCT

9.1. Participants shall not reveal the identity of their College/University or Author(s) in the Award or in any communication with the Evaluators during the Written Round.

9.2. Participants shall not discuss the Problem, share their Award, or seek or receive assistance in drafting the Award from any person other than the registered Author(s).

9.3. Each participant shall be dressed in Business Formals (Indian, Western or equivalent national formal attire) during the Offline Presentation Rounds.

9.4. Use of mobile phones is strictly prohibited during the presentations in the Offline Presentation Rounds.

9.5. Friendly and healthy interaction among the participants and with the students of the Host College is encouraged and respected.

9.6. Any unethical or unprofessional conduct, including any attempt to influence the Evaluators or the outcome of the Competition, is strictly prohibited and shall lead to immediate disqualification.

10. COMPETITION ROUNDS

10.1. The Competition shall be conducted in two stages, namely - the Written Round (evaluation of the Awards) and the Offline Presentation Rounds (Advanced Rounds).

10.2. In the Written Round, each Award shall be anonymised and evaluated by a Panel of Evaluators independently on the basis of the Marking Criteria in Rule 15.1. The score of an Award shall be the average of the scores awarded by the Evaluators.

10.3. The Top 8 Participating Entries on the basis of the scores in the Written Round shall qualify for the Offline Presentation Rounds. The results shall be released by 15th January 2027 and communicated to the qualifying entries by email.

10.4. The Top 8 Participating Entries shall present their Awards before a panel of Evaluators in the Offline Presentation Rounds on 13th February 2027 at the CNLU campus. The schedule of presentations shall be communicated to the qualifying entries in advance.

10.5. The final ranking shall be determined on the basis of the combined score of the Written Round 50% and the Offline Presentation Round 50%.

10.6. In case of a tie in the Written Round, the entry with the higher marks in Legal Analysis and Reasoning shall be given preference, followed by Evidentiary Assessment and Findings of Fact. In case of a tie in the final ranking, the entry with the higher marks in the Offline Presentation Round shall be given preference. If a tie still persists, the same shall be resolved by the Competition Administrator by a lottery system.

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

11. OFFLINE PRESENTATION ROUNDS

11.1. Each of the Top 8 Participating Entries shall present its Award before a panel of Evaluators. The presentation shall be followed by a question-and-answer session with the panel.

11.2. Each presentation shall be of 10 minutes, followed by 5 minutes for questions from the panel. Time limits shall be strictly enforced.

11.3. In presenting the Award, the Author(s) shall explain the issues, the reasoning and the findings of the Award, and shall be prepared to defend the same. The Author(s) shall present the Award in the capacity of an arbitrator and shall maintain an impartial tone.

11.4. In the case of Co-Authorship, both Co-Authors shall present and respond to the questions of the panel.

11.5. The Author(s) may use presentation slides, subject to a maximum of 20 slides. The slides shall be submitted to the Competition Administrator in advance in the manner and by the date communicated to the qualifying entries. The Award submitted in the Final Submission shall not be altered or substituted.

11.6. The panel of Evaluators for the Offline Presentation Rounds shall be different from the panel that evaluated the Written Round, as far as practicable.

11.7. Participants shall report to the venue at the time communicated by the Competition Administrator. Entries failing to present at their allotted time may be disqualified.

12. TRANSPORTATION & ACCOMMODATION

12.1. 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/Rapido).

12.2. The University will provide accommodation for the Qualifying Entries from 12th February 2027 (12:00 PM onwards) to 14th February 2027 (till 12:00 PM). Qualifying Entries are required to mention the time at which they will arrive in the travel form, which shall be shared along with the results of the Advanced Rounds.

Please Note: The teams can keep their travel luggage safely in the CNLU Campus on 14th February after 12:00 P.M. We will be happy to accommodate any further requests on the basis of possibility of the same. If any team requires an extra accommodation after 14th February, 2027. An additional amount is payable by the team. The amount will be further communicated to the requesting teams.

12.3. Transportation from the place of accommodation for the participants during the days of the Offline Presentation Rounds will be arranged by the organizers, against the food and accommodation charges specified in Rule 5.3.

12.4. Travel to and from Patna (including international and domestic airfare) shall be arranged and borne by the participants.

Please Note: Teams are expected to reach the accommodation place on their own by Cab, Auto, Bike etc as suitable to the team. Services like Rapido, Uber are easily accessible.



13. AWARDS

Award Category	Prize and Recognition
Winner	Trophy, internship opportunity, cash prize of ₹13,000 , Certificate of Merit, and publication in the CCADR Blog after incorporating the reviewer's comments.
Runner-up	Trophy, internship opportunity, cash prize of ₹7,000 , Certificate of Merit, and publication in the CCADR Blog after incorporating the reviewer's comments.
Second Runner-up	Trophy, cash prize of ₹5,000 , Certificate of Merit, and publication in the CCADR Blog after incorporating the reviewer's comments.
Top 8 Participating Entries	Certificate of Merit for all Top 8 entries.

All participants who make a valid Final Submission, shall receive a Certificate of Participation.

14. GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

14.1. 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.

14.2. Grievances regarding the evaluation of Awards shall be raised by email to events.ccadr@cnlu.ac.in within 20 days of the release of results. The scores awarded by the Evaluators shall not be open to challenge on merits.

15. MARKING CRITERIA

15.1. WRITTEN AWARD (WRITTEN ROUND)

S. No.	Criteria	Marks
1	Structure, Format and Form of the Award <i>(Compliance with the structure of a reasoned award: caption, parties, tribunal, seat, procedural history, issues, reasoning, operative portion, signature and date)</i>	10
2	Statement of Facts and Procedural History <i>(Accurate, concise and neutral narration of the facts and procedural steps, without introducing extraneous facts)</i>	10
3	Identification and Framing of Issues <i>(Correct identification of all issues arising for determination, including jurisdiction, liability and quantum; logical sequencing of issues)</i>	10
4	Jurisdiction, Applicable Law and Procedural Fairness <i>(Treatment of the arbitration agreement, jurisdictional objections, governing law and procedural rules; equal treatment of parties and opportunity to present their case)</i>	10
5	Legal Analysis and Reasoning <i>(Depth, coherence and persuasiveness of reasoning; interpretation of contractual and statutory provisions; application of law to facts; correct use of authorities)</i>	25
6	Evidentiary Assessment and Findings of Fact <i>(Evaluation of documentary and other evidence, burden and standard of proof, reasoned findings on disputed facts)</i>	15
7	Relief, Quantification and Costs <i>(Reasoned determination of claims and counterclaims, quantification of loss, interest, and allocation of costs, as the Problem requires)</i>	10

8	Operative Portion and Enforceability (Clarity, completeness and enforceability of the dispositive part; consistency between reasoning and orders)	5
9	Language, Clarity and Citation (Precision and economy of language, consistency of citation style, absence of ambiguity)	5
	TOTAL	100

15.2. PRESENTATION (OFFLINE PRESENTATION ROUND)

S. No.	Criteria	Marks
1	Structure and Clarity of Presentation (Logical organisation, clear opening and conclusion, effective use of time)	15
2	Articulation of Reasoning and Key Findings (Ability to explain the issues, the tribunal's reasoning and the operative findings in a persuasive and accessible manner)	25
3	Responses to Questions from the Panel (Accuracy, composure and depth in answering questions; ability to defend the reasoning of the award)	25
4	Command over Facts, Law and the Award (Familiarity with the Problem, the record, the authorities relied upon and the content of the submitted award)	20
5	Professionalism, Demeanour and Time Management (Conduct, body language, impartial tone befitting an arbitrator, adherence to time limits)	15
	TOTAL	100

CONTACT US

We look forward to your participation, collaboration and support in making the first edition of this Competition a resounding success. For any queries or clarifications, please reach out to:

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Or write to us at events.ccadr@cnlu.ac.in.

For further updates, follow CCADR at ccadr.cnlu.ac.in and on our social media handles.

Complete details regarding registration, eligibility, rules, and evaluation criteria shall be released shortly through the formal Competition Brochure.

