CCADR

5TH CNLU INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2027

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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., Singhania & 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.

OUR JOURNEY SO FAR

FIRST EDITION

The first CNLU National Mediation Competition, 2023, was inaugurated virtually on 21 January 2023 under the aegis of CCADR, in the presence of Mr. Tariq Khan (Registrar, IAMC-Hyderabad), Vice-Chancellor Justice Mridula Mishra (Retd.), Registrar Mr. Manoranjan Prasad Srivastava, and faculty members. The final rounds were judged by Justice Mohit Shah, Justice Dr. Anushman, Mr. Varun Pathak, Ms. Ankit Khushu, Mr. Rama Subramanian, among others, followed by a valedictory ceremony graced by Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, then Chief Justice of Patna High Court.



SECOND EDITION



The second edition of the CNLU National Mediation Competition, 2024, was inaugurated in a virtual ceremony on 17 February 2024. The Inaugural 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. Renowned experts such as Mr. Rama Subramanian and Ms. Vagisha, among others, adjudicated the final rounds, which concluded with a 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 Inaugural was attended by Keynote Speaker Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Guest Speakers Mr. Param Bhamra and Ms. Mahak Rathee, Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Faizan Mustafa, Registrar Prof. (Dr.) S.P. Singh, and faculty members. Renowned experts such as Mr. Mayank Mishra, Mr. Vikash Kumar Jha, and Mr. Diwakar Maheshwari adjudicated the final rounds, which concluded with a Valedictory Ceremony.



FOURTH EDITION



The fourth CNLU National Mediation Competition, 2026, was successfully hosted in a hybrid format in collaboration with ADP Law Offices, HSA Advocates, and Panag, Babu & Sarangi. The inaugural ceremony on 10 January 2026 featured Mr. Sukhsimranjit Singh, Ph.D. (JAMS) as Chief Guest, Mr. Siddharth Jha (SIMC) as Guest of Honour, and a mediation training session by Dr. Ashu Dhiman (MediateGuru).

The final rounds were adjudged by Mrs. Nivedita Nirvkar, Mr. Amaresh Kumar Singh, Mr. Shodhan Babu, Mr. W. Patrick McPhilamy III, and Mr. Joe Tirado. The competition concluded with a Valedictory Ceremony at CNLU, addressed by Registrar Prof. (Dr.) S.P. Singh and Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Faizan Mustafa, alongside the dignitaries.

FIFTH EDITION

INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2027

Building on the resounding success of its four preceding editions, CCADR is pleased to announce a significant milestone, unveiling the first-ever International Mediation Competition (IMC), 2027. While this marks the fifth occasion on which CCADR has organised this Competition, it represents the Centre's inaugural undertaking on a global platform, promising a grander and more enriching experience for all participants.

The 2026-27 edition shall once again adopt a hybrid format, this time welcoming the participation of institutions, peers and practitioners from India and abroad. The Online Rounds are scheduled for 16th-17th January 2027, with the results for the Top 8 Teams to be released between 17th-18th January 2027, followed by the Offline Rounds, to be held at the CNLU campus, on 13th- 14th February 2027.

The Mediation Competition aims to cultivate a comprehensive understanding of the mediation process through engagement with experienced practitioners, distinguished experts, and academicians. As its first international edition, the Competition seeks participation from prestigious institutions across India and abroad, further establishing its legacy as a premier ADR competition of international standing.

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

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdCQACE4ymYxlh3AMZPrBowxAP9yvDmMALD3FwifDHXskDyBA/viewform?usp=dialog



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Event	Date
Release of Pre-Invite	15th September 2026
Release of Brochure cum Rulebook & Beginning of Registration	19th October 2026
Last Date for Provisional Registration	31st November 2026
Last Date for Final Registration	20th December 2026
Release of Preliminary Rounds Problem	25th December 2026
Release of Quarter-Finals Problem	3rd January 2027
Online Rounds (Preliminary & Quarter-Final)	16th – 17th January 2027
Release of Results for Top 8 Teams	17th – 18th January 2027
Release of Semi-Finals Problem	25th January 2027
Release of Final Problem	2nd February 2027
Offline Rounds (Semi-Final & Final) at CNLU, Patna	13th – 14th 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 of the Competition shall be business formal. For Counsels – Black and White Formals.

1.3. Platform: The Preliminary rounds of the competition shall be held online, through Zoom. The Quarter Final, Semi-Final and Final Rounds shall take place in physical mode at the CNLU campus.

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 at *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 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 joining from outside India are responsible for converting the timings to their local time zone.



2. ELIGIBILITIY CRITERIA

2.1. Law Colleges/Universities in India recognised by the Bar Council of India, and law schools, colleges and universities outside India recognised by the competent regulatory or accrediting authority of their respective jurisdictions, are eligible to participate.

2.2. Only bonafide students pursuing L.L.B. three/five-year degree programmes (or an equivalent undergraduate or first professional law degree, such as the J.D. or L.L.B. (Hons.), in the case of institutions outside India) in the aforementioned institutions (refer to Rule 3.1.), during the current academic year are eligible to participate.



3.3. DEFINITIONS

3.1. "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. No Caucus will be allowed in starting 5 minutes of the round and ending 5 minutes of the round.

3.2. "Competition" means the 5th CNLU International Mediation Competition, 2027.
3.3. "Competition Administrator(s)" means Chanakya Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, CNLU.

3.4. "Competition Rules" means the rules and guidelines mentioned herein.

3.5. "Confidential Information" means factual information, given exclusively to one Negotiating Team, in accordance with the rules of the competition.

3.6. "Cross-Caucus" refers to a separate meeting between the Mediator and both Counsels or a separate meeting between the Mediator and both Clients.

3.7. "General Information" is the factual information provided to all the registered participants.

3.8. "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 in accordance with the Competition Rules.

3.9. "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.

3.10. "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.

3.11. "Mediation Room" refers to the virtual/physical mediation table set-up where the competition shall take place.

3.12. "Offline Rounds" refer to the Quarter- Finals, Semi-Final and Final Rounds that will be conducted physically at the CNLU campus on 13th-14th February 2027.

3.13. "Participating Team" refers to a team whose registration has been approved by the Competition Administrator.

3.14. "Qualifying Team" refers to the team qualifying for Quarter-Final Rounds.

3.15. "Requesting Party" stands for the party, in the proposition, at whose behest the option of mediation was exercised.

3.16. "Responding Party" stands for the party other than the requesting party in the mediation proceedings.

3.17. "Online Rounds" refer to the Preliminary Rounds that will be conducted online on 16th-17th January 2027.

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 cannot 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 Quarter-Final Rounds shall be invited to the University for the physical rounds.

4.2.1. In case any of the top eight 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 last date for provisional registration is 31st October 2026. 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 20th December 2026.

For final registration, please click on this:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYMb4LenIelQRunW6YeJgbf86nPJACLf6qWtsS7UHBPq_C1w/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=117412885659285581622

5.3. Participants will be required to participate in an online mode on 16th-17th January 2027. The teams and mediators who qualify shall be required to report physically to CNLU, Patna campus for the Quarter-Final, Semi-Final and Final Rounds scheduled on 13th-14th February 2027.

5.4. Registration Fees and Payment

5.4.1. Indian Teams: INR 7,500 per team for the Online Rounds. Qualifying teams and mediators attending the Offline Rounds shall pay an additional INR 5,000 per Negotiating Pair and INR 2,500 per Mediator.

5.4.2. International Teams: USD 100 per team for the Online Rounds. Qualifying teams and mediators attending the Offline Rounds shall pay an additional USD 66 per Negotiating Pair and USD 33 per Mediator.

5.4.3. The Offline Rounds registration fee includes accommodation and meals. All registration fees must be transferred to the account details mentioned below, and proof of payment must be emailed to events.ccadr@cnlu.ac.in by 20th December 2026.

Please Note: If any teams want to book separate accommodations or does not stay in the accommodation as decided by the Competition Authority, the advanced round fee is mandatory to be paid and it will not be cancelled or reduced in the above- stated circumstances.

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: cnlu40831092400@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. International participants shall additionally carry their valid passports.

5.7. International participants qualifying for the Offline 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 teams to support their visa applications.

6. ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

6.1. The Inaugural Ceremony and Orientation Programme will be held on 16th January 2027, 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, Western or equivalent national formal attire) 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

Award Category	Prize and Recognition
Winning Negotiating Team	Trophy, cash prize of **₹25,000** and an internship opportunity
Runner-up Negotiating Team	Trophy, cash prize of **₹15,000** and an internship opportunity
Winning Mediator	Trophy, cash prize of **₹12,500** and an internship opportunity
Runner-up Mediator	Trophy, cash prize of **₹7,500** and an internship opportunity
Best Mediator (Preliminary Rounds)	Certificate of Merit, cash prize of **₹10,000** and an internship opportunity
Best Negotiating Pair (Preliminary Rounds)	Certificate of Merit, cash prize of **₹5,000** and an internship opportunity

All the participating teams shall receive a Certificate of Participation.



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/Rapido).

9.2. The University will provide accommodation for the teams from 12th February 2027 (12:00 PM onwards) to 14th February 2027 (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 the Online 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.

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

9.4. Travel to and from Patna (including international and domestic airfare) shall be arranged and borne by the participating teams.

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.

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 results for the Top 8 Teams shall be released between 17th-18th January 2027. 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 14, 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 14, 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 PROBLEM & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

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

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

11.3. 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.

11.4. 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.

12. MEDIATION PROCEDURE

12.1. 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.

12.2. 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. The Mediation Problems shall be released on the following dates: Preliminary Rounds – 25th December 2026; Quarter-Final Round – 3rd January 2027; Semi-Final Rounds – 25th January 2027; Final Round – 2nd February 2027.

12.3. The Preliminary and Quarter-Final Rounds will be of 40 minutes each followed by 5 minutes of feedback, and the Semi-Final and Final Rounds will be of 60 minutes each followed by 5 minutes of feedback.

12.4. 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.

12.5. 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.



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, skilful 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
5	**Use of Services of Mediator** *(Timely use of mediators, Beneficial use of mediators, Listening to the mediators)*	10
6	**Effective Use of Confidential Information** *(Decision on disclosure of confidential information, Timely and appropriate disclosure of confidential information, Incorporating confidential information in Negotiation Strategy)*	10

7	**Body Language** *(Display of appropriate emotions by the client, Display of professionalism, Listening skills, Demeanour)*	**10**
8	**Mutually Generating Creative Options** *(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)*	**10**
9	**Negotiation Strategy** *(Overall strategy developed to deal with the dispute, time spent on relation building, information gathering, and slowly moving into negotiation; change of approach, adaptability)*	**10**
10	**Time Management** *(Ensuring judicious use of time in conference, adherence to the time divisions stipulated in the Rules)*	**10**
	TOTAL	**100**

14.2. MEDIATOR

S. No.	Criteria	Marks Allotted
1	**Opening Statement** *(Conveying the importance of the process, Tactics adopted to calm parties, Effective explanation of the process with special reference to his/her role)*	**15**
2	**Creating an Appropriate Environment** *(Laying down ground rules, nature of the approach, Making the parties comfortable, establishing 'negotiation' environment, Building trust with parties)*	**10**

3	**Control Over the Session** *(Laying down of effective agenda, Adherence to ground rules, assisting parties to move forward in the session, Timely intervention)*	**10**
4	**Ability to Work as a Team** *(Teamwork and Cooperation with co-mediator)*	**10**
5	**Eliciting Information from Mediating Pair** *(Framing of questions, Manner of asking uncomfortable questions, collecting information while maintaining an unbiased image, Optimum use of time by asking only relevant questions)*	**10**
6	**Conduct and Demeanour** *(Body language, listening skills, Professionalism, display of patience)*	**10**
7	**Facilitating Option Generation** *(Approach adopted in assisting option generation, Steps taken to keep options realistic, Encouraging the parties to generate win-win options)*	**10**
8	**Closing Statement** *(Summarising the mediation session, Effective ending to the session)*	**10**
9	**Time Management** *(Ensuring judicious use of time in conference and caucus, Adherence to the time divisions stipulated in the Rules)*	**15**
	TOTAL	**100**

CONTACT US

We look forward to your participation, collaboration and support in making the fifth 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.

