

School of Law & Public Policy

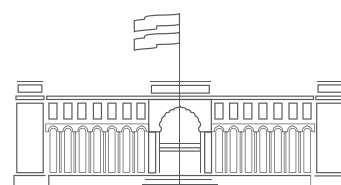
Avantika's Nyayshastra **3rd** PAN-India Moot Court **Competition 2026**

Date:

22nd & 23rd October, 2026
[Virtual Mode]

05th November, 2026
[Offline Mode]

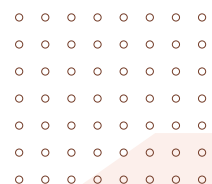
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About **Avantika University**

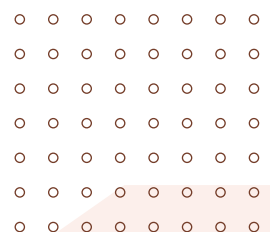
Avantika University in Ujjain is a renowned institution dedicated to providing transformative education in design, law, public policy, management, and engineering. Situated in the culturally rich city of Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, Avantika University is known for its innovative and interdisciplinary approach to education, which fosters holistic development and nurtures future leaders. Avantika aims to nurture and cultivate young minds who will serve as enlightened citizens, bringing positive change to society.





About School of Law and Public Policy

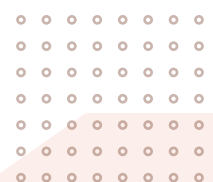
The School of Law and Public Policy at Avantika University in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, offers a transformative education in law and public policy. The school empowers students to become adept legal professionals and policymakers, shaping future leaders who understand societal needs, ethical values, and critical thinking skills. By fostering critical thinking, research excellence, and social responsibility, the school prepares students to become competent legal professionals and policymakers who can significantly impact society.



About the Competition

Avantika University and the School of Law and Public Policy proudly present Avantika's Nyayashastra 03rd PAN India Moot Court Competition, 2026, a prestigious national-level event that reflects the University's commitment to academic excellence and the advancement of legal education. Bringing together students from leading law schools and universities across India, the competition provides an exceptional platform to strengthen advocacy, legal research, analytical reasoning, and courtroom skills through intellectually challenging moot court proceedings before an esteemed panel of judges.

More than a competitive event, the competition offers participants invaluable practical exposure to the application of legal principles and the complexities of contemporary legal issues. By engaging with a carefully drafted moot proposition, participants enhance their critical thinking, legal writing, and oral advocacy abilities, preparing themselves for the demands of the legal profession. Avantika's Nyayashastra stands as a celebration of legal scholarship and a testament to the University's dedication to nurturing competent, ethical, and future-ready legal professionals.



Message From the Desk of **Vice-Chancellor**



Dear Participants and Esteemed Guests,

I am delighted to welcome you to Avantika's Nyayashastra 3rd PAN India Moot Court Competition, 2026 organized by the School of Law and Public Policy at Avantika University. This event marks a significant milestone in our commitment to fostering legal education and advocacy skills among students.

Moot court competitions are invaluable for law students, providing them with the opportunity to engage in practical legal scenarios that simulate real courtroom experiences. This competition will not only challenge participants to navigate complex legal issues but also enhance their research, drafting, and oral advocacy skills—essential tools for their future careers in law.

As we embark on this journey, I encourage all participants to embrace the challenges ahead and approach them with enthusiasm and dedication. The organizing team has worked diligently to create an enriching and intellectually stimulating environment, ensuring that this competition will be a memorable experience for everyone involved.

I extend my best wishes to all participants as you showcase your talents and passion for the law. I am confident that this inaugural Moot Court Competition will serve as a platform for learning, growth, and collaboration among future legal professionals.

We look forward to witnessing your exceptional performances and hope that this event inspires you to continue striving for excellence in your legal pursuits.

Warm regards,
Dr. Nitin Rane
Vice Chancellor
Avantika University

Message From the Desk of Dean Incharge



Dear Participants,

With great enthusiasm and delight, I welcome you to our Avantika's Nyayashastra 3rd PAN India Moot Court Competition, 2026, an event that showcases our commitment to providing a platform for aspiring legal professionals to hone their skills and showcase their talents.

Moot court competitions are an integral part of legal education, as they bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. By engaging in simulated court proceedings, you will have the opportunity to delve into complex legal issues, research extensively, and develop persuasive arguments that challenge your critical thinking abilities.

As you embark on this journey, I encourage you to approach this competition with an open mind, a willingness to learn, and a spirit of camaraderie. Remember, the true essence of this event lies not only in winning but also in the process of learning and growth.

I wish all of you the very best in this competition. May this event be a testament to your hard work, dedication, and passion for the law. Remember, the path to success is paved with challenges, but it is through these challenges that we grow and become stronger.

We all look forward to witnessing your exceptional performances and celebrating your achievements at the end of this competition.

Best regards,

Dr. Sumit Maheshwari

Dean-Incharge, School of Law and Public Policy
Avantika University

Important Dates

Particulars	Date
Release of Moot Proposition	27-08-2026
Last Date of Registration and Payment of Registration Fee	20-10-2026
Allotment of Team Codes	21-10-2026
Last date of clarifications on Moot Proposition	20-10-2026
Last date for submitting the softcopy of the memorial	21-10-2026 [11:59 pm IST]
Researcher's Test [Online]	21-10-2026 [11:00 am IST]
Draw of Lots for Preliminary Round I & II [Online]	21-10-2026 [12:00 am IST]
Preliminary Round I & II (Inaugural Ceremony) [Online]	22-10-2026 [10:00 am IST]
Result of Preliminary Round I & II: Declaration of List of Qualifying Teams	22-10-2026 [07:30 pm IST]
Quarter Final Round [Online]	23-10-2026 [11:00 am IST]
Result of Quarter Final Round: Declaration of List of Qualifying Teams	23-10-2026 [05:00 pm IST]
Semi-Final Round [On Campus]	05-11-2026 [10:30 am - 01:00 pm IST]
Result of Semi-Final Round: Declaration of Finalist Teams	05-11-2026 [01:00 pm IST]
Final Round + Valedictory Ceremony [On Campus]	05-11-2026 [02:30- 05:30 pm IST]

Moot Proposition

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
CIVIL APPEAL NOS. 1842–1843 OF 2026
MEERA SHARMA, NATURAL GUARDIAN OF IRA SHARMA
... APPELLANT
VERSUS
SAROJ KAPUR & ORS.
... RESPONDENTS
WITH CONNECTED CIVIL APPEAL

I. STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION

The Supreme Court of India granted leave under Article 136 of the Constitution of India against the common judgment of the Full Bench of the High Court of Madhyadesh dated 18 December 2025. The connected civil appeals have been consolidated. The Court has also permitted the Appropriate Authority under the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021 ("ART Act") and Janani Institute of Reproductive Medicine ("Janani Clinic") to intervene on questions of statutory interpretation. The grant of leave does not determine the maintainability of any surviving claim or the standing of any substituted party.

II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Aadi Kapur was born in 1992 into a Hindu family in Nandipur, Madhyadesh, and was assigned female at birth. From 2015 onward, Aadi publicly identified and lived as a man. In 2019, before undergoing gender-affirming medical treatment, Aadi cryopreserved twelve oocytes at Janani Clinic. The clinic recorded that the material was preserved “for Aadi Kapur’s future personal reproductive use.”
2. On 14 December 2020, the District Magistrate issued Aadi a certificate of identity as a transgender person under section 6 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 (“Transgender Persons Act”). In 2021, after gender-affirming surgery, Aadi applied for a revised certificate under section 7 recording his gender as male. The District Magistrate returned the first application for a missing hospital seal.
3. Aadi resubmitted the completed application on 2 May 2022. On 16 May 2022, while that application remained pending, Aadi and Meera Sharma, a cisgender Hindu woman, solemnised a marriage in Nandipur according to customary Hindu rites, including saptapadi. Aadi was 30 and Meera was 29. The marriage register described Aadi as “bridegroom” and Meera as “bride.” Both families attended; Saroj Kapur, Aadi’s mother, signed as a witness.
4. On 25 May 2022, the District Magistrate issued Aadi a revised certificate recording his gender as male. The certificate stated that it was “valid from the date of issue.” Aadi’s passport, Aadhaar record, employment record and the Hindu Marriage Register were thereafter updated. No objection was lodged by any person at that time.
5. Meera had bilateral tubal blockage. Aadi did not produce sperm and, following surgery, could not gestate. In January 2023 they approached Janani Clinic to create an embryo using one of Aadi’s cryopreserved oocytes and sperm sourced from an anonymous bank donor, and to transfer the embryo to Meera’s uterus. The clinic’s medical board certified that a proven medical condition prevented the couple from conceiving without ART. 2
6. The Appropriate Authority had, in 2022, permitted registered clinics to continue storing and using reproductive material lawfully cryopreserved before the ART Act, subject to fresh consent under the Act. No party challenges that general permission.
7. On 3 April 2023, Aadi and Meera signed Janani Clinic’s “Joint Consent and Embryo Disposition Directive.” The form identified them as a “commissioning

couple"; Aadi as "commissioning spouse / provider of cryopreserved oocyte"; Meera as "commissioning spouse / intended gestational parent"; and the sperm provider by bank code only. It authorised creation, storage and transfer of embryos. Material portions appear in Annexure B.

8. The form stated that either commissioning spouse could withdraw consent before transfer by a signed writing delivered personally or sent to consent@jananiclinic.in. It also stated that, if the couple separated or a dispute arose, no transfer would occur without renewed joint instructions or an order of a competent court. The clinic did not seek independent advice on whether Aadi was legally a "donor" because he supplied an oocyte while legally recorded as male.

9. Two embryos were created on 12 April 2023. One was selected for a transfer scheduled for 19 August 2023; the other remained cryopreserved. The anonymous sperm donor executed the statutory relinquishment of parental rights. Neither the donor's identity nor the validity of that relinquishment is in dispute.

10. By July 2023, the marriage had deteriorated. Aadi moved to a serviced apartment on 15 August 2023. Meera says this was a temporary separation; Saroj says Aadi had permanently ended the relationship. There was no judicial separation, divorce petition or injunction in force on 19 August 2023.

11. At 8:12 a.m. on 19 August 2023, Aadi sent a digitally signed email from his registered address to consent@jananiclinic.in, with the subject "WITHDRAWAL BEFORE TRANSFER." The clinic's server accepted the message at 8:12:19 a.m. but automatically placed it in a quarantine folder because the attached digital-signature file was executable by the clinic's filter. The clinic's designated consent officer did not see it until the following morning. Annexure C contains the admitted email and server extract.

12. At 9:07 a.m., Aadi sent Meera a message stating: "I cannot be part of this now. I will not control your body. Do what you think is right." Meera replied: "I am proceeding today." Aadi did not respond. The authenticity of these messages is admitted; their legal meaning is disputed.

13. At 9:40 a.m., Meera attended the Janani Clinic alone. She told the duty coordinator that Aadi was "not coming, but knows I am proceeding." The coordinator telephoned Aadi once; the call was unanswered. The clinic did not

check the quarantine folder, contact the designated consent officer, or ask Meera to produce renewed joint instructions.

14. At 11:26 a.m., the clinic transferred the selected embryo to Meera. Pregnancy was confirmed two weeks later. When the consent officer opened the email on 20 August, the clinic informed both parties that the transfer had already occurred and commenced an internal incident review. The Appropriate Authority later imposed an administrative penalty on the clinic for deficient consent controls. The clinic has challenged neither the penalty nor the finding of deficient controls.

15. Aadi wrote to Meera on 22 August 2023: "I withdrew before transfer. I cannot accept being made a parent after saying no." Meera responded that Aadi's email could bind the clinic but could not erase his genetic relationship or the rights of a child already conceived. The parties did not resume cohabitation.

16. During the pregnancy, Aadi did not attend routine appointments and made no voluntary maintenance payment. When Meera was admitted with severe pre-eclampsia, however, Aadi authorised payment of ₹4,80,000 from the couple's joint emergency account. In the payment note he wrote, "for Meera and the baby—without prejudice to my rights."

17. Ira Sharma was born on 7 April 2024. A DNA report, obtained by consent during the litigation, establishes that Ira developed from Aadi's oocyte and the anonymous donor's sperm. Meera gestated and gave birth to Ira. The birth registrar initially recorded Meera as mother and Aadi as father on the basis of the joint ART discharge certificate. Aadi did not sign the birth-registration form.

18. Aadi visited Ira twice in neonatal intensive care and was photographed holding her. He later asked the registrar to remove his name, citing withdrawal under section 22(4) of the ART Act. Meera objected and applied to the Family Court for declarations of marital status, parentage, sole interim custody, child maintenance, and restraint against alteration of the birth record.

19. Aadi counterclaimed for a declaration that the marriage was void because, on the date of solemnisation, the revised certificate recording him as male had not yet been issued. Alternatively, he sought judicial separation and a declaration that valid pre-transfer withdrawal prevented section 31 of the ART Act from treating Ira as the child of a commissioning couple. He accepted that the clinic might face regulatory consequences but denied civil parentage and maintenance.

20. Saroj supported Aadi's challenge to parentage but had earlier participated in

the wedding and addressed Meera as her daughter-in-law. She stated that her position changed only after learning of the withdrawal email. Meera contends that Saroj is estopped from challenging the marriage; Saroj answers that personal status cannot arise by estoppel.

21. On 9 September 2024, the Family Court held the marriage valid, declared Ira the legal child of both Aadi and Meera under section 31 of the ART Act, confirmed Meera's custody, and directed Aadi to pay child maintenance. It reasoned that the revised certificate recognised an existing gender identity; that receipt at the designated email address amounted to withdrawal as against the clinic; but that a clinic's breach could not strip a child of status or statutory rights. It granted judicial separation.

22. Aadi appealed. While the appeal was pending, he died intestate in a road accident on 11 February 2025. At death, every current official document recorded him as male. He left a self-acquired apartment valued at ₹3.2 crore, securities valued at ₹1.1 crore, and no debt of consequence. The apartment and securities were acquired after the revised certificate. No testamentary instrument or nomination governs the estate.

23. Saroj was substituted as Aadi's legal representative for the surviving declaratory and property issues, without prejudice to objections concerning maintainability. Meera, acting for herself and as Ira's natural guardian, claimed that she, Ira and Saroj were Class I heirs under sections 8 to 10 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 ("HSA"), each entitled to one-third.

24. Saroj contended that the matrimonial challenge survived because the alleged marriage controlled succession. She argued, in the alternative, that if Ira was not Aadi's child, she and Meera could claim only in whatever capacities the law recognised. She further submitted that Parliament had enacted separate schemes for "male Hindus" and "female Hindus," but had prescribed no rule for selecting a scheme after gender transition. She asked the court either to apply section 15 by reference to sex assigned at birth or to hold that the gap required legislative resolution.

25. The High Court referred the appeal to a Full Bench. The Union of India and the Appropriate Authority were heard. All parties agreed that Ira's welfare was relevant; they disagreed whether welfare could create a status that section 22(4) allegedly prevented.

III. PROCEEDINGS BELOW

By a 2:1 judgment dated 18 December 2025, the Full Bench partly allowed the appeal. The complete operative order is reproduced in Annexure D. In summary:

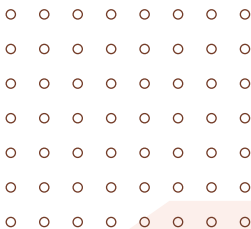
26.The marriage was valid. The majority treated Aadi’s section 6 certificate, self-identified gender and pending section 7 application as sufficient to place the marriage within the heterosexual structure of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 (“HMA”). The later revised certificate was confirmatory for this purpose.

27.Aadi’s email was an effective withdrawal when the clinic’s designated server received it. The transfer therefore contravened section 22(4) of the ART Act.

28.The majority held that the section 31 parentage fiction could not be invoked against a person who had validly withdrawn before transfer. It declared Meera Ira’s sole legal parent, directed removal of Aadi’s name from the birth record, and vacated prospective maintenance against Aadi’s estate. It protected sums already spent for Ira from recovery.

29.For succession, the majority applied sections 8 to 13 HSA because Aadi’s legal gender was male when succession opened. Since it excluded Ira as Aadi’s child, it treated Meera and Saroj as Class I heirs, each entitled to one-half.

30.The dissent would have affirmed the Family Court in full. It considered section 31 child-centred and status-conferring once a child was born to an eligible commissioning couple. In the dissent’s view, withdrawal regulated the clinic’s authority but did not convert the resulting child into a legal stranger to a genetic commissioning spouse. It would have divided the estate equally among Meera, Ira and Saroj under section 8 HSA. Meera, representing Ira, appeals the ruling on parentage, birth registration and succession shares. Saroj files the connected appeal challenging the validity of the marriage and the application of the male-intestate scheme; she supports the majority’s conclusion that Ira cannot inherit from Aadi. Janani Clinic is an intervenor limited to the operation of section 22, and the Appropriate Authority is an intervenor on the ART Act. The Union of India is before the Court to assist on the interpretation of the central enactments.



IV. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Whether the challenge to the parties' marital status survives Aadi's death and may be maintained by Saroj; and whether the Hindu marriage solemnised on 16 May 2022 was valid when Aadi held a section 6 certificate as a transgender person but received the revised section 7 certificate recording him as male nine days later.
2. Whether Aadi's email constituted an effective withdrawal of consent under section 22(4) of the ART Act before embryo transfer, and what legal consequences follow from a transfer performed after such withdrawal.
3. Whether Ira is, notwithstanding the withdrawal and the clinic's breach, the legal child of Aadi under section 31 of the ART Act or any other applicable principle; including whether Aadi was a member of the "commissioning couple," a "gamete donor," both, or neither, and whether the child's rights and best interests affect that determination.
4. Whether Aadi's intestate estate devolves under sections 8 to 13 or sections 15 to 16 of the HSA, what role legal gender, sex assigned at birth and constitutional equality play in selecting the statutory scheme, and what shares—if any—Meera, Ira and Saroj receive.

Scope: The constitutional validity of the HMA, the ART Act, the HSA and the Transgender Persons Act is not directly challenged. Parties may rely on Articles 14, 15 and 21 and other constitutional principles for interpretation and remedies within the issues presented.

V. APPLICABLE LAW

1. The Constitution of India, including Articles 14, 15, 21, 136 and 142.
2. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, particularly sections 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 16, 21 and 26.
3. The Hindu Succession Act, 1956, particularly sections 2, 3, 8–16 and the Schedule.
4. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, particularly sections 2(k), 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 20, and applicable Rules.
5. The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021, particularly sections 2, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 31, 33 and 34, and applicable Rules and Regulations.
6. The Family Courts Act, 1984; the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890; and the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, to the extent relevant.
7. Indian law in force on 1 August 2026. Authorities from foreign jurisdiction

be cited only as persuasive authority.

The State of Madhyadesh and the city of Nandipur are fictional. All central enactments, constitutional provisions and binding precedents are those of India. State rules concerning marriage and birth registration are assumed to be materially identical to the corresponding central framework and do not create an independent issue.

VI. ANNEXURES

Annexure A — Extract of Identity Certificates

DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, NANDIPUR — CERTIFICATE UNDER SECTION 6

Name: Aadi Kapur | Date of issue: 14 December 2020

Certified identity: Transgender person

This certificate is proof of recognition of the holder's identity under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

REVISED CERTIFICATE UNDER SECTION 7

Name: Aadi Kapur | Date of issue: 25 May 2022

Gender recorded: Male | Valid from: Date of issue

The holder is entitled to change the first name and gender entry in official documents in accordance with law.

Annexure B — Joint Consent and Embryo Disposition Directive (Extract)

TERM	AGREED EXTRACT
Parties	Aadi Kapur — commissioning spouse / provider of cryopreserved oocyte; Meera Sharma — commissioning spouse / intended gestational parent.
Procedure	Creation of embryo(s) using Aadi Kapur's cryopreserved oocyte (s) and sperm obtained through a registered ART bank; transfer to Meera Sharma.
Parentage acknowledgement	We understand that a child born through ART is governed by section 31 of the ART Act and other applicable law.

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Procedure	Creation of embryo(s) using Aadi Kapur's cryopreserved oocyte (s) and sperm obtained through a registered ART bank; transfer to Meera Sharma.
Parentage acknowledgement	We understand that a child born through ART is governed by section 31 of the ART Act and other applicable law.
Withdrawal	Either commissioning spouse may withdraw consent at any time before transfer. Withdrawal must be in a signed writing delivered personally to the Clinic or sent from the registered email address to consent@jananiclinic.in.
Dispute / separation	If the Clinic is notified of separation or any dispute between the commissioning spouses, no embryo shall be transferred without
Clinic acknowledgement	The Clinic shall record the date and time at which a withdrawal is received and shall take reasonable steps to stop any procedure not yet performed.
Signatures	Aadi Kapur — digitally and physically signed, 3 April 2023. Meera Sharma — digitally and physically signed, 3 April 2023.

Annexure B — Joint Consent & Embryo Disposition Directive (Extract)

Annexure C — Withdrawal Email & Server Extract

From: aadi.kapur@protonmail.example

To: consent@jananiclinic.in

Date: 19 August 2023, 08:12 IST

Subject: WITHDRAWAL BEFORE TRANSFER

Digital signature: Valid; certificate matched the signature specimen held by Janani Clinic.

I withdraw my consent to the transfer scheduled today and to any later transfer of either embryo. Do not proceed. This withdrawal is made under clause 8 of our Directive and section 22(4) of the ART Act. Please confirm immediately.

SERVER AUDIT EXTRACT

08:12:19 Message accepted at consent@jananiclinic.in

08:12:20 Attachment policy triggered: .p7s signature object

08:12:20 Message moved to quarantine; no alert sent to consent officer

20 Aug 2023, 07:51 Message released and opened by consent officer

Annexure D — Operative Order of the High Court (Extract)

1. The declaration that the marriage solemnised on 16 May 2022 is valid is affirmed.
2. The email of 19 August 2023 constituted withdrawal under section 22(4) when received by the Clinic's designated server at 8:12:19 a.m.
3. The embryo transfer at 11:26 a.m. was unauthorized. Ira shall not be deemed the child of Aadi Kapur under section 31(1) as against his estate. Meera Sharma is declared Ira's sole legal parent.
4. The birth registrar shall remove Aadi Kapur's name. Maintenance accruing after his death is vacated; amounts already applied to Ira's care shall not be recovered.
5. Aadi Kapur's estate shall devolve under sections 8 to 10 HSA. On the finding that Ira is not his child, Meera Sharma and Saroj Kapur shall each take one-half.
6. Operation of paragraphs 3–5 is stayed for twelve weeks. Ira's existing birth record shall not be altered during the stay.

VII. OFFICIAL CLARIFICATIONS

1. The names and events are fictional. No adverse inference may be drawn from resemblance to any person or pending case.
2. All parties are Indian citizens, domiciled in Madhyadesh, and Hindu within the meaning of the HMA and HSA. No issue of conversion, foreign law, prohibited relationship, sapinda relationship, age, mental capacity or adequacy of marriage ceremonies arises.
3. Aadi's section 6 and section 7 certificates were lawfully issued. Fraud, suppression and medical validity are not in issue. The legal effect and timing of

those certificates remain open within Issue 1.

4. Janani Clinic and the ART bank were registered. The sperm was lawfully sourced. The sperm donor's identity and relinquishment are not in issue.

5. Aadi's oocytes were lawfully cryopreserved in 2019 and lawfully retained after the ART Act commenced. The general permission described in paragraph 6 is not under challenge.

6. The withdrawal email, digital signature, server timestamps and text-message exchange are authentic and admissible. Participants may contest their legal effect, but not their authenticity.

7. The Clinic's administrative penalty establishes deficient consent controls; it does not predetermine civil parentage, succession, damages, mens rea or the remedy in these appeals.

8. No damages claimed by or against Janani Clinic are before the Court. The remaining cryopreserved embryo will not be used or destroyed pending final judgment and is not the subject of a separate prayer.

9. Meera's custody and day-to-day care of Ira are not challenged. The dispute concerns legal parentage, the birth record, financial obligations and succession.

10. The DNA report is conclusive for the limited fact that Ira developed from Aadi's oocyte and the anonymous donor's sperm. Genetic connection does not, by stipulation, resolve legal parentage.

11. Aadi died intestate. The estate assets are self-acquired, were acquired after the revised certificate, and are sufficient to meet any order. There are no other claimants, heirs, nominations, debts or coparcenary claims.

12. The substitution order did not decide whether a personal-status challenge survives death or whether Saroj has standing. That question is expressly open.

13. No party seeks a declaration that any impugned statute is void. The Supreme Court may mould relief within its constitutional and appellate powers.

14. Pronouns used for Aadi reflect his affirmed gender and are not an admission on any legal issue concerning statutory interpretation.

15. Memorial format, citation style, team anonymity, scoring and oral-round rules will be governed by the separate Competition Rules.



RULES OF THE COMPETITION

GENERAL INFORMATION

- This document comprises the Rules and Regulations for the Avantika's Nyayashastra 3rd PAN-India Moot Court Competition, 2026.
- The Nyayashastra 3rd PAN-India Moot Court Competition is organized by the School of Law and Public Policy, Avantika University, Ujjain (M.P.).
- The Competition is scheduled to be held in two phases online and offline:
 - The Researcher's Test, Draw of Lots for Preliminary Round I & II, Preliminary Round I & II & Quarter Final Rounds: [Online] To be held on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd of October, 2026 respectively.
 - Draw of Lots for Semi-Final Round: To be held in November 2026.
 - The Semi-Final and Final Rounds [On Campus] To be held on the 05th of November, 2026.
- The Organizers shall be responsible for all administrative matters concerning the competition and shall publish and disseminate all necessary information to the participating teams.
- The official email address for all the correspondence is-mootcourt@avantika.edu.in

INTERPRETATION

Unless otherwise stated, the following shall be construed herein:

- "Organizer" shall mean School of Law and Public Policy, Avantika University, Ujjain.
- "Competition" means 3rd PAN-India Moot Court Competition, 2026.
- "Campus" means the campus of Avantika University. Ujjain.
- The address of the Campus is- Avantika University, Vishwanathpuram, Lekoda, Ujjain - 456006, (M.P.),
- "Participating Team" means the team that has registered itself for the Avantika's Nyayashastra 3rd PAN-India Moot Court Competition, 2026 as per the rules given below.
- "Moot Court Committee" means the Moot Court Committee of the School of Law and Public Policy, Avantika University, Ujjain.
- "Participating College/ University/ Institution" shall be presumed to be the parent institution of the Participating Team.

- All the rules are only inclusive and not exhaustive for the competition.
- The Competition shall be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations mentioned hereunder. Participants are required to comply with the rules and regulations prescribed herein. Any deviation thereof would attract disqualification or other penalties mentioned subsequently.
- For all purposes and in any dispute, the decision of the Moot Court Committee of the School of Law and Public Policy, Avantika University shall be final and binding.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- All students enrolled in an undergraduate i.e., 3 years and 5 years law program conducted by any college or university shall be eligible for participation in the competition.
- Each College/ University/ Institution shall be allowed to register only one team in the competition.
- The participating team shall comprise a minimum of two and a maximum of three members. In a team of two members, both members shall be designated as Speakers. In a team of three members, two members shall be designated as Speakers and the third member of the team shall be designated as a Researcher.
- Any change in the composition of the team will not be entertained once the memorials have been submitted except as per the discretion of the Organizer.
- No additional student member is allowed to accompany the team. However, a team coach (Law Faculty) from the participating College/ University/ Institution may accompany the team.

REGISTRATION

- The teams may register themselves by filling out the following Google Form, latest by 20 October 2026 (23:59 IST).
- Teams are required to duly fill out the registration form. Before filling out the registration form, the payment of ₹ 3000/- shall be made to the UPI QR code provided in the form and a screenshot shall be uploaded in the Google form.

- Each team shall join the WhatsApp group for the moot court competition, the link to the group will be provided after registration.
- After successful registration and payment, the team will receive a confirmation mail. All further communication between the organizers and the team shall be done via email.
- The amount specified in the 2nd clause of this section shall be applicable to one team comprising 2/3 members.
- The registration amount for each participating team shall be: 3000/- INR
- Participants and participating teams must adhere to the timeline with respect to registration and payments.
- The Registration fee is non-refundable.

STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

The Moot Court Competition shall consist of the following FOUR (04) Oral Pleading Rounds and the Researcher's Test.

- **DRAW OF LOTS, MEMORIAL EXCHANGE AND RESEARCHER TEST ROUND**
To be conducted online via the Cisco WebEx platform on 21st October 2026.
- **PRELIMINARY ROUND I & II**
To be conducted online via the Cisco WebEx platform on 22nd October 2026.
- **QUARTERFINAL ROUND**
To be conducted online via the Cisco WebEx platform on 23rd October 2026.
- **SEMI-FINAL ROUND**
To be conducted offline at the Campus of Avantika University, Ujjain (M.P.) on 05th November, 2026.
- **FINAL ROUND**
To be conducted offline at the Campus of Avantika University, Ujjain (M.P.) on 05th November, 2026.

ANONYMITY OF TEAMS

- All teams that have duly registered will be allotted a team code after the expiry of the last date for the registration.
- No team shall reveal their identity except by means of their team code during the course of the competition.
- The memorials or any other materials (compendium, etc.) to be submitted shall not contain any sign, logo, name, etc., revealing the identity of the college/

- institution/ university/ team members.
- Any violation with regard to anonymity shall be penalized in accordance with Rule Q. The decision of the Organizers shall be final and binding.

CLARIFICATION OF THE MOOT PROPOSITION

- Participating Teams may request clarifications to the official moot problem only by sending an email to mootcourt@avantika.edu.in on or before 20th October 2026 (23:59 IST).
- Requests for clarification sent after the provided deadline shall not be entertained.
- The clarifications, if any, will be reverted to the participant via email only.
- Participants and teams must adhere to the guidelines provided for the clarification of the moot problem.

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD, AND TRANSPORTATION

- The Qualifying teams for the Semi-Final and Final rounds shall be provided with a transportation facility from Ujjain Junction Railway station.
- The organizers shall arrange meals for all qualifying teams on the day of the competition.
- Participants whose teams qualify for the Semi-final and Final rounds will be required to attend the offline rounds on campus. The University will provide accommodation and transportation facilities at a cost of ₹2000 per participant. This amount will cover shared accommodation, as well as breakfast, lunch, dinner, and hi-tea.
- Pick and Drop facility on demand and chargeable.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

- The official language of the Competition shall be English. All the oral rounds, including the written submissions i.e. memorials shall be in English only.

WRITTEN SUBMISSION

- Each team is required to prepare the Memorandums (memorials) for both sides, i.e., the Claimant/Appellant/ Petitioner and the Respondent/Defendant.
- The soft copy of the memorials shall be submitted in PDF format as well as in Word format via email at mootcourt@avantika.edu.in on or before 21st october 2026 [23:59 IST]. Any submission made after the official date will be subjected to a penalty as per Rule Q.
- For the purpose of softcopy submission of memorials in PDF and Word format, the teams shall name the file in the following manner-
 - The file of the memorial on behalf of the Respondent as R accompanied by the team code and the file of the memorial on behalf of the Appellant as A accompanied by the team code. For example, for a team assigned a code 05, the PDF and Word files for the respondent should be named "R05" and the PDF and Word files for the Appellant should be named "A05".
 - Memorials for both sides (PDF and Word copies) must be submitted in the same email. The subject line should indicate team code only. For example, the subject line for Team 05 will read as follows: 'Team 05 Memorials'. No other information revealing the identity should be included in the email.
 - The cover page of the memorials, for both the soft and hard copies, shall clearly mention the word "A" for memorials on behalf of the Appellant, and the word "R" for memorials on behalf of the Respondent, followed by the team code for both the instances. It shall be clearly inscribed on the top right- hand corner of the cover page of the memorials. For example, if a team had been assigned a code of 05, the memorials submitted by such a team shall have "A05" and "R05" (Format of the Team Code) clearly marked on the top right-hand corner of the cover page of the respective memorials. Use of any other format (for example "Team 05A" or "Team 05R" or "T05A" or "T05P") will be penalized.
- The teams shall not disclose the identity of their University/ Institution anywhere on the memorial. Violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification.
- The memorials shall contain the following

- Cover page
 - Table of Contents
 - Index of Authorities
 - Statement of Jurisdiction
 - Statement of Facts (not exceeding two pages)
 - Statement of Issues
 - Summary of Arguments (not exceeding four pages)
 - Arguments Advanced (not exceeding twenty pages)
 - Relief/ Prayer (not exceeding one page)
- No memorial shall exceed the maximum limit of 50 pages including the Arguments Advanced which shall not exceed twenty (20) pages. (No extension is allowed for the number of pages.)
 - The formatting requirements for the memorial shall be as follows:
 - Typed on Standard A4 Size Paper
 - Font Type (including footnotes): Times New Roman
 - Font Size: 12
 - Spacing: 1.5
 - Font Size for Footnotes: 10
 - Spacing for Footnotes: 1.0
 - Margin: 1-inch margin on each side of the A4 Size page
 - The citations shall comply with the Bluebook method of citation (21st Edition).
 - The footnotes shall include only relevant citations and any other explanatory or illustrative footnotes supporting the arguments shall not be included.
 - The numbering shall be on the bottom center of each page.
 - Each Memorial shall have only the following on its Cover Page:
 - The team code on the top right-hand corner of the cover page
 - The name and place of the forum
 - The relevant legal provision under which it is filed
 - Name of parties and their status
 - On whose behalf the Memorial is filed

- It is the responsibility of each Team to ensure that the soft copies of the memorials:
 - Shall be opened and read with Adobe Acrobat Reader and Microsoft Word (through the use of compatibility mode) and must not contain any viruses;
 - Shall be submitted as four (4) separate file attachments: two (2) as the memorials for the Appellant(s) (one each in PDF and Microsoft Word (.docx/.doc) format) and two (2) as memorials for the Respondent(s) (one each in PDF and Microsoft Word (.docx/.doc) format);
 - Shall be named according to the Team Code and the side for which the memorial is prepared. (For instance, Team 01 will name its Written Submission for the Appellant(s) as "A01" and Written Submission for the Respondent(s) as "R01".) Use of any other format (for example "Team 01A" or "Team 01R") will be penalized.
- Hard Copy presentation of the Written Submission
 - The hard copy of the memorials shall be spiral-bound only.
 - The print shall be taken only on one side of the A4 sheet.
 - The cover page of the soft copies and hard copies of the memorials shall comply with the following color scheme:
Applicant(s)/Appellant(s)/Petitioner(s)–Blue Respondent(s)/Defendant(s) – Red
 - Teams are required to send the soft copies of the memorials well in time, taking all contingencies into account.
 - Teams qualifying for the offline rounds must bring five (05) hard copies of each side of their memorials along with them for submissions.
 - The hard copies of the memorials must be identical to the soft copies of the memorials submitted by the Team. Any violation of this rule shall attract a penalty as determined by the Moot Court Committee.
 - Teams shall carry their own hard copies of their memorials for their personal use. No hard copies of memorials submitted by the Team to the Moot Court Committee shall be provided to such Team for their personal use.

ORAL ROUNDS

1. General Rules-

- The competition shall be held in two phases- (Hybrid Mode)

Phase-I: Researcher's Test, Preliminary Round I & II & Quarter Final Round [ONLINE] via Cisco WebEx platform on 21st, 22nd and 23rd October, 2026 respectively.

Phase-II: Will be conducted on 05th November, 2026 and comprises two rounds- [OFFLINE] on the campus of Avantika University, Ujjain

Semi-Final Round

Final Round

- The right of the teams to present rebuttals and sur-rebuttals is at the sole discretion of the bench.
- For rebuttal and sur-rebuttal, only one speaker shall be allowed to present. The time reserved for rebuttal and sur-rebuttal cannot be divided between the speakers. Rebuttal time shall not be reserved beyond three (03) minutes in the Preliminary Round, five (05) minutes in the Quarter Final, seven (07) minutes in the Semi-final Round, and ten (10) minutes in the Final Round.
- The researcher shall sit with the speakers during the oral rounds and at no point of time shall the researcher be allowed to speak or address the bench.
- The speakers can provide copies of the compendium, only if the same is permitted by the panel of judges in their respective courtrooms.
- Use of any electronic device during the course of the proceedings shall not be allowed, violation of the same shall attract a penalty as per Rule Q.

PRELIMINARY ROUND I and II- [Online]

- The Preliminary I & II and Quarter-Final rounds will be conducted online. The meeting link, timings, and other protocols with respect to the online rounds will be shared with the participants via email/WhatsApp.
- Each team shall appear from either the Applicant's side or the Respondent's side in the preliminary round but the memorials shall be prepared for both sides. The arguing side of the participant's team will be informed prior to the competition via email.

Rules of the Oral Submissions- [Preliminary]

- Each team will get a total of 20 minutes to present their case. This time will include rebuttal and sur-rebuttal time. Exceeding the stipulated time will result in the deduction of marks.
- The division of time per speaker is left to the discretion of the team subject to a lower limit of 5 minutes per speaker and an upper limit of 10 minutes per speaker.
- The top eight teams decided on the basis of the cumulative score of oral rounds of preliminary round I & II shall qualify for the Quarter Final Round. In case two or more teams have the same cumulative score, their memorials scores shall be taken into consideration.

QUARTER-FINAL ROUND [Online]

- The Quarter Final Round shall be a knock-out round.
- The organizers shall determine through a draw of lots which two teams would face each other, as well as the side that shall be represented by each team.
- In case of a tie, the team with the higher memorial score will stand qualified for the semi-final round.

Rules of the Oral Submissions- [Quarter-Final]

- Each team shall get a total of 30 minutes in the Quarter Final Round to present their case. This time will include rebuttal and sur-rebuttal time. Exceeding the stipulated time will result in the deduction of marks.
- The division of time per speaker is left to the discretion of the team subject to a lower limit of 10 minutes per speaker and an upper limit of 20 minutes per speaker in the Quarter Final Round.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND-[Offline-On Campus]

- The Semi-Final Round shall be a knock-out round.
- The organizers shall determine through a draw of lots which two teams would face each other, as well as the side that shall be represented by each team.
- In case of a tie, the team with the higher memorial score will stand qualified for the semi-final round.

Rules of the Oral Submissions- [Semi-Final]

- Each team shall get a total of 40 minutes in the Semi-Final Round to present their case. This time will include rebuttal and sur-rebuttal time. Exceeding the stipulated time will result in the deduction of marks.
- The division of time per speaker is left to the discretion of the team subject to a lower limit of 15 minutes per speaker and an upper limit of 25 minutes per speaker in the Semi-Final Round.

FINAL ROUND-

- The two teams qualifying from the Semi-Final Round shall compete in the final round.

Rules of the Oral Submissions- [Final Round]

- Each team will get a total of 60 minutes to present their case. This time will include rebuttal and sur-rebuttal time. Exceeding the stipulated time will result in the deduction of marks.
- The division of time per speaker is left to the discretion of the team subject to a lower limit of 25 minutes per speaker and an upper limit of 35 minutes per speaker.

L. MEMORIAL EVALUATION

The Memorials shall be evaluated on the following criteria:

CRITERIA	MARKS
Application of facts	20
Structuring and presentation of arguments	20
Application of legal principles, authorities, and Precedents	20
Ingenuity and logical reasoning	20
Lucidity and writing skills	10
Footnoting and formatting	10
Total	100

EXCHANGE OF MEMORIALS

- There shall be an exchange of memorials between the respective opposing teams, in accordance with the fixtures as determined by the draw of lots, prior to all the rounds of the Competition.
- For the purpose of the Preliminary and Quarter Final Rounds, the memorial of the opposing team will be sent to all the respective opposing teams via email.
- The participants are prohibited from making any marks on the exchanged Memorials.
- The participants are prohibited from making any copies of the exchanged Memorials.
- At the conclusion of their respective rounds, the participants are required to return the exchanged Memorials to the Organizers(Offline round).

EVALUATION OF THE ORAL ROUNDS

- The oral rounds shall be judged on the following criteria:

CRITERIA	MARKS
Knowledge of Law- Application of Legal Principles, Use of Authorities & Precedents	35
Application of Law to Facts	25
Ingenuity and Ability to Answer Questions	25
Style, Poise, Courtesy & Demeanour	10
Time Management & Organization	10
Total	100

- The evaluation of the total marks for each speaker shall be the average of the total marks awarded by all the judges on the bench.

COMPENDIUM

- No Compendium is allowed in the Preliminary and Quarter-Final rounds.
- For the purpose of all the other rounds i.e. Semi-Final and Final, the Compendium (if any) shall not reveal the name of the participating University/Institution. These compendiums shall be provided to the judges before each hearing only if the judges allow.

SCOUTING

- Scouting shall be deemed to have happened if the speakers, researchers, or any other person affiliated with a team is found:
 - Witnessing, hearing, observing, etc. the oral submissions in a round, except where the round is one in which the team with which he/ she is affiliated is participating; or Reading a Memorial of a team except where it is of the team to which he/she is affiliated; or the Memorials have been obtained on account of an exchange of Memorials before a round of the team to which he/ she is affiliated.
 - The participants shall not be allowed to observe the oral rounds of another team. Scouting is strictly prohibited.
 - Scouting by any participant shall entail instant disqualification.

PENALTIES AND VIOLATIONS

- Penalties for Violation of Personal Identity Disclosure:
 - Any team member revealing their personal identity or the identity of their college/ university during the competition may face penalties.
 - Penalties may include the deduction of marks, disqualification of the team from the current round, or even disqualification from the entire competition.
- Penalties for Solicitation of Other Teams:
 - Any attempt by a team to solicit or influence other teams, either directly or indirectly, may result in penalties.
 - Penalties may include deduction of marks, disqualification from the current round, or even disqualification from the entire competition.

- **Penalties for Using Unfair Means or Violating Competition Rules:**
 - Any team found using unfair means or violating any rule of the competition may face penalties.
 - Penalties may include deduction of marks, disqualification from the current round, or disqualification from the entire competition, depending on the severity of the violation.
- **Penalties for Procedural, Oral Rounds, and Memorial Submission**
 - Failure to adhere to the prescribed time limits for oral arguments may result in negative markings for the team.
 - Unauthorized interruptions, such as speaking out of turn, may lead to negative marking.
 - Breach of the prescribed courtroom decorum, including disrespectful behavior towards the judges, opponents, or co-counsel, may result in penalties in the form of negative marking for the whole team or may also lead to disqualification.
 - Failure to follow the prescribed formatting or submission guidelines for written memorials may lead to mark deductions.
- **Penalties for Inadequate Legal knowledge:**
 - Presenting misleading or false information, misquoting legal authorities, or misrepresenting facts may lead to negative marking.
 - Failure to respond to questions from the judges or inadequate knowledge of the case law or legal principles may lead to marks deduction.
 - Lack of clarity, disorganized arguments, or failure to present a coherent legal analysis may result in point deductions.
 - Violation of any ethical or professional conduct rules, such as using offensive language or disrespectful remarks, may lead to marks deduction or disqualification.
- **Overall Performance Evaluation:**
 - Judges may consider the overall quality of arguments, including legal research, presentation skills, persuasiveness, and professionalism.
 - Penalties or negative markings may vary depending on the severity and frequency of the violations.
 - The organizing committee reserves the right to disqualify a team in case of serious or repeated violations of the rules.

▪ Discretion of the Organizers and Judges:

- The competition organizers and judges have the authority to impose negative markings, or disqualifications in case of any violation by a team.
- Their decisions regarding negative marking or disqualification are final and binding.

▪ Negative Marking Scheme for Written Submission:

Sr. No.	VIOLATIONS	PENALTIES
1	Disclosure of team identity by any means	05 Marks
2	Exceeding the page limit	01 Mark per page
3	Violation of formatting rules	0.25 mark for each violation
4	Delay in submission of memorial	02 marks for the first hour of delay, followed by 01 mark for every next hour. No memorial shall be accepted after 24 Hours of the deadline for memorial submission.

▪ Negative Marking Scheme for Oral Submission:

Sr. No.	VIOLATIONS	PENALTIES
1	Use of any internet sources/ inadequate legal citation during the Oral Rounds	02 Marks for each source/ citation
2	Using unfair means/ breach in courtroom decorum/ disruptive behavior during Oral Rounds	Disqualification
3	Scouting/ Soliciting	Disqualification
4	Violation of Time Limits	02 marks for the first minute followed by 1 mark for each following minute.
5	Using any language other than English for arguments during Oral Rounds	01 mark

■ MISCELLANEOUS

- The time split between the speakers must be communicated to the timekeepers/ court masters/ court clerks before the commencement of each round. Once so informed, these timings shall not be changed.
- The participants shall not disclose, in any manner whatsoever, for the entire duration of the Rounds, either their own individual identities or the identity of the institution that they represent, even if asked by the judges.
- The participants can pass on the compendium of the sources cited in their Memorials if permitted by the judges. The participants are required to inform the court clerks about the same in advance.
- A delay in appearance for a round exceeding five minutes will render disqualification of the team for that round. In such a case, their opponent shall make their oral submissions ex- parte.
- If any one of the members of a team is notified or informed of any detail or information concerning the Competition, it shall be deemed as if the said team as a whole team has been duly notified or informed
- The dress code to be adhered to for the duration of the Competition is- Ladies: Black & White Western or Indian formals; Gentlemen: Black & White Western formals.
- The moot proposition neither intends nor attempts to resemble any incident or any person, living or dead. Any such resemblance is purely coincidental. The proposition is a fictitious factual account prepared for the purpose of the present competition only and it does not attempt to influence or predict the outcome of any matter/ case whatsoever.
- The Organizers reserve the right to alter the rules and regulations during the course of the competition, which shall be promptly communicated to the participating teams.
- The Organizers shall have the copyright on the memorials. The Organizers shall not be responsible for any loss caused to any person or institution by virtue of any content in the memorials.
- The right of audio and videotaping including any other form of such reproduction, or any part thereof, of the oral submissions in all rounds of the competition shall vest with the Organizers
- Any complaints concerning any participating team or the conduct of the competition shall be made to the Organizers in written form via e-mail provided
- The Organizers reserve the right to interpret the Rules and Regulations of the competition, and such interpretation shall be final and binding.

- The Organizers shall have the discretion to decide with regard to any subject that has not been covered under the Rules and any such decision shall be final and binding.
- The E-certificates for all the online participating teams shall be posted via e-mail within 2 weeks from the completion of the competition at their university's email address. The Certificates of the other qualifying teams who will be visiting the campus for Semi-final and Final rounds shall be presented to them at the Valedictory Ceremony.

▪ PRIZE

Winner Team	Cash Prize of 17,500/-
Runner-up Team	Cash Prize of 10,000/-
Participants	All the Participants will get the E-Certificate of Participation
Best Mooter	Cash Prize of 4000/-
Best Memorial	Cash Prize of 6000/-
Best Researcher	Cash Prize of 2,500/-

▪ OUR PARTNERS



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