

**VIDHIKTA 2.0**  
an exclusive legal aid fest

# **MOCK LOK ADALAT COMPETITION**

in association with **SAMA LIVE**

## **PROBLEM STATEMENT**



Vidhikta 2.0

# PROBLEM STATEMENT

Mrs. Priya is a dedicated homemaker with two children aged 10 and 5. As someone who prioritizes health and fitness, she diligently exercises and ensures that her family follows a healthy lifestyle. During one of her shopping trips at a local supermarket in Mumbai, she stumbled upon a health mix named “Swasthya,” manufactured by the Indian firm Ahaar Foods Pvt Ltd. This product claimed to be a potent mix of traditional grains including oats, ragi, and some regional pulses, marketing itself as a natural immunity booster for both kids and adults.

The product's packaging recommended it only for children above the age of 5 and suggested mixing a tablespoon of it with milk or warm water. Seeing the product's claims and concerned about her children's frequent illnesses - they caught a cold or flu nearly every two months - Mrs. Priya decided to give it a try. The very next morning, she prepared a glass of milk mixed with “Swasthya” for each child.

However, within a short period of consuming the drink, both her children began to feel lethargic. Their energy levels dropped significantly, and they fainted. As she tried to revive them with water, they began vomiting violently. Both children developed high fevers, and a series of red rashes erupted all over their bodies. Panic-stricken, Mrs. Priya immediately took them to Apollo Hospital in Mumbai.

Upon examination, the doctors discovered that her children had a severe allergic reaction to a chemical compound present in the health mix. This alarming incident resulted in both children being hospitalized for a week, undergoing various treatments and tests. Infuriated by the misleading product and its devastating consequences, Mrs. Priya resolved to file a case against Ahaar Foods Pvt Ltd for false advertising and selling adulterated food products. She demanded compensation of Rs. 5 lakh to cover the medical expenses and the emotional distress caused.

The court, aiming for a resolution outside litigation, directs both parties to mediation. Both come equipped with their respective legal advisors and are overseen by two court-appointed Panel Members in Lok Adalat.

# ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The Lok Adalat Competition, 2023, shall be held from the 6th to the 8th of October, 2023, by the CNLU, Patna, in a physical mode on the University campus.

The Competition is an academic event seeking to promote and foster the culture of Lok Adalat as a form of alternative dispute resolution amongst students from Universities across India through the provision of simulations of real-world disputes amenable to Lok Adalat procedures. The Competition shall be governed by the Rules set out herein.

Lok Adalat, which translates to "People's Court", is a unique alternative dispute resolution system (ADR) in India. It offers an informal forum for resolving disputes amicably. The system is based on the traditional Indian concept of resolving disputes through understanding and compromise. In Lok Adalats, disputes can be filed at any stage of the Case but before the final decision of the Hon'ble Court.

The Mock Lok Adalat Competition will provide an opportunity for the participants to engage in mock Lok Adalat/counselling sessions, where they can understand the practicality of Alternative Dispute Resolution practices, such as Lok Adalat, as an essential component of the legal profession. We invite students across colleges and universities to nurture their skills and enhance their negotiation, communication, and problem-solving skills in real-world legal scenarios.

All the Participants in the Tournament must abide by the Rules, and in case of any violation of the same, appropriate action as deemed by the Organising Committee (hereinafter 'OC') shall be taken against the violator(s). In case of any conflict on the interpretation of rules, the decision of the OC shall be final and binding on all participants.

## 1. Team Composition:

Each Team will consist of three members. One acts as a (Neutral) Panel Member, while the others act as the client and counsel,

## 2. Rounds:

The competition comprises preliminary rounds, semi-finals, and a final round. The role of the participants– that of Client, Counsel and Panel Member– must remain consistent throughout all rounds of the competition. Each round shall comprise a client, a counsel pair from each side and 2 Panel Members.

## 3. Participating universities:

The OC shall invite Universities to participate in the Competition, based on which an application may be submitted. No cross-University teams are allowed. The teams are deemed to have agreed to the tournament's rules, terms, and conditions by submitting their applications. The composition of the teams and selection of roles with teams are left to the discretion of the participating universities.

## 4. Attendance & Punctuality:

In case a team arrives after the completion of the registration process, they may be held back from participating in the Competition and the concerned University being blacklisted from future editions of the competitions. Teams are expected to be on time for all scheduled competition events. Teams who arrive late for the releasing of Confidential Information or their Rounds are subject to penalties, up to and including disqualification from the competition.

## 5. Eligibility:

The competition is intended for law students rather than practitioners. Students pursuing post-graduate studies, such as a master's degree or practical legal training, are ineligible.

## 6. General Procedure:

The OC shall assign teams and sides in the Preliminary Rounds through an anonymised Draw of Lots.

The total scores for all the Client and Counsel teams and the Panel Members shall be calculated at the end of the Preliminary Rounds, based on which the top 8 Client-Counsel pairs and top 4 Panel Members shall advance to the Semi-Finals.

There will be no Knockouts during the Preliminary Rounds, that is, no winning or losing Client-Counsel pair or Panel Member in a room.

Thereafter, the qualification of teams to the Finals shall be conducted based on Knockouts during the Semi-Finals, with the best teams (i.e., The best Client-Counsel pair and the best Panel Member) in each room qualifying for the Finals.

## **7. Duration:**

Participants are accountable for keeping track of time and adhering to set time limits. Each Round shall be of a total of 60 minutes. The time will continue to run during the caucuses as well.

After the completion of each Round, the judges will be provided with 15 minutes to ask both Teams and Panel Members questions regarding the strategies employed by them. The question-and-answer session will not be scored but will be used to help the judges score the Teams better on existing criteria.

A maximum of 10 minutes will be reserved for post-counselling feedback given by the judges after the question-and-answer session and the awarding of marks. The judges have the discretion to refrain from providing detailed feedback to the teams. The timings will also be indicated by the Bailiffs present during each round.

## **8. Admitted Material during the counselling Session**

Each Team may bring General Information, Confidential Information, and any personal notes for the counselling session to help them during the Round. Teams are also permitted to make and refer to personal notes during the counselling Session. Each Team may also bring and use a calculator and a watch (or equivalent: stopwatch, timer, etc.) if they wish to do so.

Use of any other electronic devices, such as mobile phones of any type or tablets, laptops, etc., is not permitted in the room where the Counselling Session takes place.

## **9. Observing and Scouting**

Competing team members shall not be allowed to observe any of the Preliminary Rounds.

Scouting by either the team members or the Visitors shall be absolutely prohibited, and the teams observed to be involved in or benefiting from any such practices shall be subject to disqualification.

During the Semi-finals and Finals, the members that have failed to qualify for the respective rounds may observe the rounds subject to the discretion of the OC.

Audio or video recording is strictly forbidden during the Counselling Session. The OC shall record the Finals and make the recording available later.

## 10. Caucuses and Breaks

A Caucus can occur between one Panel Member and both members of the Requesting Party or the Responding Party. During each Counselling Session, the Panel Member and the competing Teams have the right to call for a caucus in accordance with the following provisions:

The maximum time limit for a caucus is 12 minutes (6 minutes per team) out of 60 minutes during the Rounds.

The Caucus can be requested by either the Panel Member(s) or the Client or Counsel of either Team.

The Teams have the right to reject the call for a Caucus initiated by the Panel Member for any reason they deem fit. However, the Panel Member(s) must adhere to the request of the Teams if called for a Caucus.

Each competing Team or Panel Member may request only one Caucus during each Round.

Team members not participating in a Caucus will be asked to leave the room and may not talk to any other Teams, use any electronic devices or contact any third parties outside the room during a Caucus. Violation of this rule may lead to Penalties.

## 11. Breaks

A Break can be initiated by the competing Teams at any stage during the Round in accordance with the following provisions:

The maximum time limit for a break is 6 minutes (3 minutes per Team) out of 60 minutes during the Rounds.

Only Teams are allowed to call for breaks and not Panel Members.

The maximum number of breaks permissible in the Preliminary Rounds is 1, and the Semi-Finals and Finals is 2.

The team requesting the Break must acquire the assent of the other Team since Break time will apply to both Teams equally.

Both Team members are not permitted to talk to anyone other than each other or use any electronic devices during the Break. No Team shall leave the room (space will be provided within the room to discuss strategy with each other).

## 12. Anonymity

At any stage of the Tournament, the participants shall not disclose the name of their institution to the judges and shall have to use their assigned team Code.

Non-compliance with this Rule will result in immediate disqualification of the team.

### **13. Competition Problem**

There shall be one problem for the entire tournament, with different sets of Confidential Information being released to the teams for each round. The Confidential Information provided for each subsequent round shall be distinct but connected to previous Round(s). Since Team Sides may change with each following Round, the Confidential Information of both Sides shall be made public once each Round has ended.

The General and Confidential Information shall be self-contained, and teams shall be prohibited from deviating from the facts provided in the Problem in any manner possible, including creating a background story, misrepresenting facts, or creating new facts. While Teams are allowed to interpret the problem in order to come to reasonable conclusions; in case of any conflict, the Judges and OC have complete discretion on whether the inferences drawn are reasonable or not.

### **14. Disclosure of the Confidential Information**

The Confidential Information for the rounds shall be disclosed to the teams 60 minutes (1 hour) prior to the start of their respective rounds. The Teams are prohibited from disclosing the Confidential Information to their Panel Member or any other participant in the Competition. The Panel Members participating shall at no time prior to their Rounds have access to the Confidential Information for either party for the respective Round, and neither competing Client nor Counsel Pair shall have access to the Confidential Information of the Opposing Party at any time before their respective Round. The violation of this Rule may lead to the disqualification of the team concerned at the discretion of the OC.

### **15. Designation of Member Roles**

Each team shall send in their designated member roles for each team member (either as a Counsel, Client or Panel Member) prior to the beginning of the Competition, which shall be the specific team member's designated role for the entire duration of the Competition. The designated role of the team members shall be intimated to the OC at the time of the team registration. Non-adherence to Member Roles shall lead to the application of Penalties.

## 16. Penalties

Suppose a violation of the Rules is considered to have been committed by a Team or one of its members. In that case, the OC may, in its own absolute discretion, upon its own initiative or a recommendation from one or more Judges, as the case may be, impose a Penalty or disqualify a member of a Team or a whole Team.

The breach of Rules 8, 10, 11 or 13 may lead to a maximum 20-point reduction.

A breach of Rules 9, 14 or 15 may lead to disqualification from the Competition.

## 17. Timeline;

S. No.	Timeline	Event
1.	25th Sep, 2023	Last day of registration
2.	20th Sep, 2023	Release of Proposition
3.	25th Sep, 2023	Last date for clarification(if any)
4..	30th Sep, 2023	Release of Mock video
5.	6th Oct, 2023	Preliminary Round
6.	7th Oct, 2023	Semi- Final
7.	8th Oct, 2023	Final round & Valedictory ceremony



## **18. Cash Prizes**

**Winners – Rs. 20,000 + Certificate of Merit + Trophy.**

**Runners Up – Rs.15,000 + Certificate of Merit + Trophy.**

**Best Panel Member – Rs. 5,000 + Certificate of Merit + Trophy.**

## **19. Internships**

**Winners of the Competition will also be awarded internship opportunities at Sama.**

## **20. Judging Criteria**

**There are two judges for each Round. The judges will score independently of each other. Judges are provided with all of the information provided to the teams. Students may not at any time confer with the judges until their ballots have been turned in.**

**Thereafter, the judges may provide brief feedback.**

**The judging criteria for the counselling plans, preliminary rounds, and final rounds are laid out in the Scoresheets. These will be provided to the judges before the round. Further, the judges will be duly briefed about the contents of the scoresheet to ensure consistency in marking.**

## **21. Power of OC**

**In case of any changes to the Rules, the OC shall communicate the details to the participants.**

**All discretionary power concerning the interpretation of Rules and the outcomes of the Competition rounds vests with the OC.**

**The decision of the OC shall be final and binding.**

## **NOTE:**

**The problem statement has been drafted by Ajitesh Priyadarshi (Case Manager at SAMA LIVE). Any Communication with the drafters in reference to the problem statement or the competition shall be considered a valid ground for disqualification.**

**For any other clarification mail us at: [legalaidcell.cnl.u.ac.in](mailto:legalaidcell.cnl.u.ac.in)**

**VIDHIKTA 2.0's**

**MOCK LOK ADALAT  
COMPETITION**

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