7th KERALA LAW ACADEMY A.D.R (Hybrid) COMPETITION 2026

Hosted by,

THE KERALA LAW ACADEMY LAW COLLEGE,

Peroorkada, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Prelims: 18th September 2026 { Virtual }

Semi Finals: 19th September 2026

Finals: 9th October 2026 **{ Kerala Law Academy }**

RULE BOOK

DATE:

The prelims and semifinals of the 7th *Kerala Law Academy ADR Competition*, (a National-Level Competition) hosted by the Kerala Law Academy Law College, will be held virtually through the online platform ZOOM on September 18th &19th 2026 from the Kerala Law Academy Campus, Peroorkada, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The finals will be held in the Kerala Law Academy Campus on 9th October, 2026 (Hybrid mode) .

TEAM COMPOSITION:

a) The Competition is open to all Law Colleges / Law Schools and Universities; Departments of Law in India (hereafter "participating institutions") recognized by the Bar Council of India. Students doing post-graduation in law and students undergoing correspondence courses are not eligible to participate in the Competition.
b) There is no bar on the number of teams from the same institution. Multiple entries are possible from the same institution only with the permission of the same institution. The team should be a team comprising of two-members and a Rapporteur.

REGISTRATION PROCESS:

- Provisional Registration - Institutions/Teams interested in participating in the Competition can provisionally register by sending an e-mail to klaadr@keralalawacademy.in **on or before 20th August 2026, Thursday (20.08.2026)**
- Direct Registration - The team intending to participate must register **on or before 31st August 2026, Monday (31.08.2026)** by submitting the duly filled Proforma provided in the Kerala Law Academy website; https://www.thekeralalawacademy.in/

  And making an online payment of Rs 3,250/- (Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Only), as registration fee through the link provided https://forms.gle/tqETWiE2Weht3AiH9

  Registration Fees: Rs 3,250/- per team.

- Team codes will be allotted on **02nd September 2026, Wednesday (2.09.2026)**

DRESS CODE:

The dress code for the participants during the sessions shall be as follows:

- **Female participant**: Black or white salwar kameez for the parties. The Rapporteur should wear a black coat.

- **Male participants**: White or black pants and a white shirt for the parties. The rapporteur should wear a black coat and tie.

COMPETITION PROCEDURE:

- Hypothetical problems with legal subject matter and disputes which may be assimilated and developed into the role-play format through imagination and individual skill of the participants.
- Separate problems shall be provided for each round. Problem No.1 is for the preliminary round. Problem No.2 is for the semi-finals, and Problem No.3 is for the finals.
- In all rounds, the rapporteurs of the competing teams will be exchanged.
- Role play should be based on a real situation performance by the complainant/claimant, respondent and rapporteur respectively according to the opted ADR methodology. Congenial methodology shall be selected.
- Parties are to draw a conciliated settlement agreement.
- Parties are to draw a mediated settlement agreement.
- Parties are to draw an arbitral award.
- Indian laws are applicable in Pari Materia.

PRESENTATION

For the preliminary round, the time allotted for each team is 30 minutes.

In the semi-final rounds and final round, the time allotted for the session is 40 minutes.

CAUCUS SESSION

If any party to the dispute wishes to share any confidential or private details regarding the dispute with the rapporteur alone, he/she can do so by calling for a Caucus Session.

The total time allotted for the Caucus Session is 5 minutes. This 5-minute allotment is not extra time; it will be from the total time allotted for the session.

During the caucus session, the opposite party will be removed from the meeting to a secret room till the Caucus Session is over.

For example,

If the claimant calls for a Caucus Session, then the respondent will be moved to a secret room and won't be allowed to listen to the conversation between the rapporteur and the claimant.

If the respondent calls for a Caucus Session, then the claimant will be moved to the secret room.
No extra time will be allotted for the Caucus Session. Once the 5 minutes are over, the opposite party, who's in the secret room, will automatically be readmitted to the main session.

It is the discretion of the team whether to incorporate a Caucus Session or not; it is not a mandatory requirement.

SETTLEMENT DEED:

A Settlement Deed should be prepared for all three rounds. The Settlement Deed should consist of a maximum of 20 pages (A4 size paper). The Settlement Deed should consist of:

- Identification of problem
- Parties involved
- Laws involved
- Evidence (if any)
- Settlement

Soft copies of the Settlement Deed in Word and PDF Format should be mailed to klaadr@keralalawacademy.in **on or before 09th September, 2026 Wednesday (09.09.2026)**

FIXTURE OF COMPETITION AND EVALUATION:
The fixture of the competition will be shaped through a draw of lots well before the commencement of the various sessions. The college reserves the right to make any necessary alterations.

Competition rounds	**Basis**	**Criteria**
Preliminary rounds	League	Aggregate total
Semi Finals	Knock out	Aggregate total

EVALUATION:

Individual prizes are awarded on the basis of the total marks secured by each participant in all the rounds, and their performance shall be adjudged separately.

Team prizes are awarded on the basis of the selection round and total outlay marks in all the rounds. If a person participates in more than one round, his/her average marks shall be counted for adjudging their position.

There shall be a Quorum of judges selected for each forum from among a panel of judges constituted for the purpose. The panel includes eminent Judges, Lawyers, and Law Teachers from all over India. They will assign marks for oral arguments to each individual participant of the team. Marks will be awarded to the memorials by a separate Committee of Judges.

Each participant's marks for oral arguments will be added to their Settlement Deed marks to make the individual's marks out of **100**.

The division of marks for each individual participant is as follows:

- Settlement Deed **- 20 marks**
- Oral Presentation **-80 marks**

PLAGIARISM:

The organizers reserve the right to impose a penalty on a team, at any stage of the competition, if the problem memo or any other part thereof is found to be plagiarized.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Secrecy of Identity: During the course of the Oral Submissions, the speaker should neither reveal his/her identity nor the identity of their College/University by any means whatsoever. Such actions on the part of any member of the team will lead to the disqualification of the team from the competition.
- Scouting: Scouting is strictly prohibited. Teams found scouting will be disqualified immediately.
- The organizers reserve the right to make changes to any rules and regulations of this competition
- Be respectful: Participants should behave respectfully towards the other participants and the organizers. Failure of the same will lead to disqualification.

ONLINE PLATFORM:

The competition will be conducted through the online platform ZOOM on 18.09.2026 (Prelims) and 19.09.2026 (Semi-Finals). The Meeting ID, Password and Link will be communicated to the teams via email 15 to 25 minutes before each round in which they are participating. All the participating teams should have good access to the internet and be able to access the aforementioned online platform with a good camera. This is a mandatory requirement for participation.

HYBRID MODE

The Finals of the competition will be held in the Kerala Law Academy campus on 9th October 2026.

AWARDS:

Cash prizes for the winners. Every participant will be awarded with a certificate of participation. Honours in this competition include:

1. **Best Team – Rs 20,000/-**
2. **Second Best Team - Certificate of Honour**
3. **Best Rapporteur - Certificate of Honour**

APPEAL COMMITTEE:

The organizers are entitled to change the format of the competition without prior intimation. In case of complaints/disputes, the same should be submitted to the appeal committee, which shall consist of Prof. Hareendran K (Professor & Principal, KLA) as its President and two other faculty members of the host institution. *The decision of the Appeal committee shall be final*.

SCHEDULE OF THE COMPETITION:

- Provisional Registration**- On or before 20th August 2026, Thursday (20.08.2026)**
- Final Registration – **On or before 31st August 2026, Monday (31.08.2026)**
- Allotment of Team Code – **2nd September 2026, Wednesday (02.09.2026)**

- Submission of Settlement Deed – **09th September 2026, Wednesday (09.09.2026)**
- Inaugural Session – **17th September 2026, Thursday (17.09.2026)**

- Preliminary Round – **18th September 2026, Friday (18.09.2026)**
- Semi Final Round – **19th September 2026, Saturday (19.09.2026)**
- Final Round – **09th October 2026, Friday (09.10.2026)**
- Valedictory Session **- 09th October 2026, Friday (09.10.2026)**

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR ONLINE ARGUMENTS:

1. The prelims and the semi-finals of the competition will be held on Zoom. All the Participants are required to have the respective app on their Desktop or Laptop.
2. During the competition, participants are required to use Desktops or laptops. Mobile phones can cause technical issues and therefore are not permitted for video conference, to participate in the competition.
3. A sound internet connection is a mandatory requirement. The organizers will not be responsible for any such connection errors from the side of the participants.
4. In each panel or section, there will be a technical assistant who will be helping the participants and judges to deal with the technical issues.
5. The organizing team will take all the responsibility in case of any technical error on the part of the organizers.
6. Screen Sharing or any kind of malpractice is not allowed, and if found, such a team will be disqualified.
7. When the competition starts, the team members are asked to switch on their videos till the end of the session. With respect to the microphone, the team member has to unmute it while they are speaking and mute when they are not speaking in order to avoid disturbances, failing which, points may be deducted from the score by the judges at their discretion.
8. Team members are requested to participate in the competition in a closed or disturbance-free area for the smooth conduct of the competition.
9. Link, passcode, or entry for the particular slot will be sent to the WhatsApp group created by the Participant Management Committee, before the rounds. The teams are supposed to join the slot 20 minutes prior to the actual time.
10. Every participant should use earphones during the rounds, except in cases of medical conditions, which should be intimated to the organizers in advance.
11. There should be a distance of 1 meter between the webcam and the participants.
12. There should not be anyone present in the room with the participants; in case of any malpractices, the team will be disqualified.

PROBLEMS

PRELIMS- *CONCILIATION*

Astera Pharmaceuticals Ltd., a leading pharmaceutical manufacturer based in Hyderabad, entered into a five-year Distribution Agreement with LifeCare Medical Distributors Pvt. Ltd., a Kerala-based company engaged in the wholesale distribution of medicines and healthcare products across South India. Under the agreement, LifeCare was appointed the exclusive distributor for Astera's newly launched range of diabetic and cardiovascular medicines in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. For the first two years, the arrangement proved commercially successful, with LifeCare consistently achieving the minimum annual sales targets prescribed under the agreement. Encouraged by the growing demand, LifeCare invested substantial resources in establishing regional warehouses, expanding its logistics network, appointing additional sales representatives, and conducting awareness programmes for medical practitioners. During the third year, Astera introduced a revised marketing strategy under which several premium hospitals and pharmacy chains were permitted to purchase medicines directly from the manufacturer through a centralized digital procurement platform. LifeCare alleged that these direct sales substantially reduced its customer base and defeated the very purpose of the exclusive distribution arrangement. It further claimed that the revised policy had been implemented without prior consultation despite the significant investments made by the distributor in reliance upon the agreement. Astera maintained that the revised distribution model was introduced to improve supply chain efficiency and ensure uninterrupted availability of essential medicines to patients. According to the company, the agreement permitted modifications to its sales strategy in response to changing market conditions and did not guarantee absolute exclusivity in all circumstances. It also contended that LifeCare had failed to achieve certain quarterly performance indicators during the previous financial year. The commercial relationship deteriorated further when LifeCare withheld payment for several consignments, alleging loss of business arising from Astera's direct sales. In response, Astera suspended further supplies until the outstanding payments were cleared. As a consequence, several hospitals and retail pharmacies experienced shortages of certain medicines, resulting in complaints from healthcare providers and patients. Both parties exchanged legal notices alleging breach of contractual obligations and claiming substantial financial losses. However, recognising their long-standing commercial relationship, the importance of uninterrupted medicine supply, and the adverse impact prolonged litigation could have on patients and healthcare services, they mutually agreed to refer the dispute to conciliation under the dispute resolution clause contained in their agreement, with the objective of restoring commercial cooperation through a mutually acceptable settlement.

SEMI FINALS-*MEDIATION*

Aarav Hospitality Pvt. Ltd., a prominent hospitality company headquartered in Bengaluru, entered into a two-year service agreement with Epicure Events LLP, an event management firm, for the exclusive planning and execution of weddings, corporate conferences, and promotional events at its chain of luxury resorts across South India. The agreement provided that Epicure Events would receive a fixed annual service fee along with a percentage of the revenue generated from each event successfully conducted at the resorts. For the first year, the arrangement proved highly successful, resulting in increased bookings and positive publicity for both organizations. Encouraged by the success, Aarav Hospitality began requesting additional services, including digital marketing campaigns, celebrity event coordination, destination wedding consultations, and customized décor concepts, many of which were outside the original scope of the agreement. Although these requests were accepted and executed by Epicure Events, no formal amendment was made to the contract regarding additional remuneration. During the second year, differences emerged between the parties regarding payment obligations and quality expectations. Aarav Hospitality alleged that several premium clients had complained about delays in event execution and inconsistencies in service standards, resulting in cancellation of bookings and financial losses. Epicure Events denied these allegations, asserting that any delays were caused by the resort management's failure to provide timely approvals, inadequate staffing during peak seasons, and frequent last-minute changes demanded by Aarav Hospitality. The relationship deteriorated further when Aarav Hospitality withheld the final quarterly payment and informed Epicure Events that the agreement would not be renewed. Shortly thereafter, Epicure Events issued public statements through social media platforms claiming that Aarav Hospitality had failed to honour its contractual commitments and had exploited service providers by refusing to compensate them for additional work. Aarav Hospitality maintained that these statements had adversely affected its reputation among corporate clients and business partners. Both parties initially exchanged legal notices alleging breach of contract and reputational harm. However, considering their successful professional association over the previous two years, the possibility of future collaborations, and the commercial costs associated with prolonged litigation, they mutually agreed to submit the dispute to mediation before an accredited mediation centre in an effort to reach a mutually acceptable resolution.

FINALS- INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

Ocean Wind Energy India Ltd., an Indian renewable energy company, entered into an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Agreement with NordTech Marine Solutions A/S, a corporation incorporated in Denmark, for the design, manufacture, supply, installation, and commissioning of offshore wind turbines along India's western coastline. The project, valued at approximately USD 420 million, was financed through an international consortium of lenders and contained an arbitration clause providing that disputes would be resolved through international commercial arbitration seated in Singapore under institutional arbitration rules. Following commencement of the project, NordTech encountered delays in exporting specialised turbine components due to newly introduced export control regulations in its home jurisdiction, disruptions in global shipping routes, and shortages of specialised marine equipment. These delays postponed the delivery schedule by nearly eight months. OceanWind alleged that NordTech had failed to adopt reasonable contingency measures despite being aware of potential supply chain disruptions and claimed that the delayed commissioning of the wind farm caused substantial commercial losses, including penalties payable under power purchase agreements. Invoking the contractual provisions, OceanWind imposed liquidated damages amounting to USD 45 million and withheld milestone payments due to NordTech. NordTech denied liability, asserting that the delays resulted from circumstances beyond its reasonable control and therefore constituted force majeure under the contract. It further alleged that OceanWind had wrongfully withheld payments, creating severe financial strain and forcing the suspension of further deliveries until outstanding invoices were settled. Negotiations between senior representatives of both companies failed to resolve the dispute. OceanWind thereafter commenced international arbitration in accordance with the arbitration clause, seeking recovery of damages for delayed completion, while NordTech filed counterclaims seeking payment of outstanding contractual dues, reimbursement of additional operational costs, and declarations that the force majeure provisions relieved it from liability for the delays.

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