

**VIVEKANANDA SCHOOL OF LAW AND LEGAL STUDIES, VIPS-TC**

*in collaboration with*

**MAADHYAM, INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

*presents*

**6th MAADHYAM-VIPS**

**NATIONAL ARBITRATION AND  
NEGOTIATION COMPETITION, 2024**



## **BROCHURE AND RULEBOOK**



**QUALIFYING ROUNDS**

**21st April, 2024 ONLINE**

**ADVANCED ROUNDS**

**18th May, 2024 OFFLINE**

- An Innovative Competition
- Prominent Modes of ADR
- Orientation By Experts

Awards and  
Cash Prizes  
for Best  
Performers

*Coordinated by* : **CENTRE FOR ADR, VSLLS**

In case of query, kindly contact: [vipsdrcc@gmail.com](mailto:vipsdrcc@gmail.com)

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## **About VIPS- TC, VSLLS**

Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies, affiliated to GGSIP University was established in the year 2000 with the vision to impart world-class quality professional education and promote excellence in education. In this pursuit, VIPS provides innovative pedagogies to encapsulate the prescribed curriculum along with consistency, thereby focusing on the holistic growth of every student at VIPS. The Institute is committed to realizing the words of Swami Vivekananda: "Man Making, Character Building and Nation Building". In recognition of its robust initiatives in legal education, VIPS-TC is recognized by The Bar Council of India, UGC under Section 2(f) and has been accredited by an 'A++' grade by NAAC.

Vivekananda School of Law and Legal Studies (VSLLS) makes progressive efforts to equip its law students to face the world by developing conceptual clarity and focus on the creation of research aptitude and critical approaches amongst students to prepare them to be competitive professionals. Our esteemed alumni include 24 Gold Medalists, over 30 AORs as well as around 70 judicial officers.

In addition, VSLLS has collaborations with foreign and national universities to provide exposure to students at international and national levels along with engaging students in multiple training programs namely, moot courts, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, research, legal aid, debates etc.

## **About MAADHYAM, International Council for Conflict Resolution**

Maadhyam, International Council for Conflict Resolution, founded by highly accomplished professionals, comprises many renowned, experienced and internationally accredited mediators. It has been at the forefront of developing and implementing training programmes for imparting and promoting conflict resolution skills for ADR practitioners, in line with contemporary global trends.

With a global outlook and focus on capacity building, Maadhyam has to its credit various International collaborators including the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University, California, U.S.A. and SAGE Mediation, Singapore, besides many National Universities and Bar Associations across the country. In recognition of its contribution to the development of Mediation, Maadhyam was invited to attend the signing of the Singapore Convention. Its office bearers were also part of the Draft Committee appointed for the Mediation Bill.

Through its Peer Mediation and Youth Forum, Maadhyam has been engaging with and empowering India's immense young talent to be leaders of tomorrow in peacebuilding and has also sponsored many international and domestic moot competitions. In keeping with its motto of continued learning, Maadhyam is happy to take forward its collaboration with VIPS-TC, in the 6th Maadhyam-VIPS National Arbitration and Negotiation Competition and hopes that the event will help, enrich and empower the young minds - tomorrow's leaders in ADR.

## **About Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (CADR)**

The motto of Alternative Dispute Resolution is 'to be hard on the problem and soft on the people'. Consonantly, the Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (CADR), VSLLS, VIPS-TC is a platform that provides training and recognition to students participating in alternative dispute resolution activities including mediation, negotiation, client counselling and arbitration, etc.



# About 6th Maadhyam-VIPS National Arbitration and Negotiation Competition, 2024

Arbitration-Negotiation is a distinct hybrid format of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism which aims at developing the future members of the legal fraternity with efficient methods of resolving disputes in the legal arena. The underlying reason for organizing the Arbitration-Negotiation Competition is deep-rooted in the fact that the structure is developed to promote excellence in negotiation skills and arbitration advocacy by providing law students with the knowledge of arbitration-negotiation education and training. The competition promises to serve as a premier platform to recognize and portray the practical skills of participants from various law schools across the country.

VSLLS, VIPS-TC, through its Centre– CADR in collaboration with Maadhyam, cordially invites law students from all across the nation to participate in its **6th Maadhyam-VIPS National Arbitration and Negotiation Competition** to be conducted on **21<sup>st</sup> April 2024 and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024**.

## DEFINITIONS

“**Advanced Rounds**” means the Semi-Final and Final Rounds held as part of the National Arbitration-Negotiation Competition, 2024.

“**CADR** ” refers to the Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, VSLLS, VIPS-TC.

“**Clarifications**” refers to procedural order(s) and/or any clarification(s) issued by CADR.

“**Competition**” refers to the 6th Maadhyam-VIPS National Arbitration and Negotiation Competition, 2024.

“**Competition Room**” refers to the room that shall be used for conducting the Competition rounds.

“**Oral Rounds**” refers to a team’s pleadings submitted by both speakers before the panel of arbitrators/arbitral tribunal on behalf of one of the parties against the opposing party.

“**Organizing Committee**” refers to the team of CADR and Maadhyam, International Council for Conflict Resolution.

“**Penalty**” refers to the deductions imposed on the participating team/individual in breach of any rules at the discretion of the Judges and the Organizing Committee.

“**Proof of Enrolment**” shall mean to include a College Identity Card, Bonafide Certifications, and similar documents.

“**Qualifying Rounds**” refers to the preliminary and quarter-final rounds which will take place before the Advanced Rounds of the Competition and determine the scores and ranks of the participants in both negotiation and arbitration to determine which teams advance to the Advanced Rounds.

“**Registration Fees**” refers to the one-time amount payable by all teams participating in the Competition.

“**Scouting**” refers to the act of a person observing the sessions/oral rounds of a team other than the team he/she is a part of.

## **ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION**

The Competition is open to all bonafide students pursuing undergraduate degrees (five and three-year law programmes) in Law Schools/Colleges/Institutions/Universities recognized by the Bar Council of India.

Each Participating Institution is permitted to send a **maximum number of two teams** to the Competition. If more teams are registered, that would be subject to only two teams being selected on a First Come First Serve basis. All participants must be registered with their respective institutions as students for the academic year 2024-2025.

## **COMPETITION STRUCTURE**

### **TEAM COMPOSITION**

1. Each team shall comprise **two students** out of which one team member will be the COUNSEL and the other team member will be acting as the CLIENT (referred to as the “Negotiating Team”) for the Negotiation Session.
2. Both the participants in the Team shall act as COUNSELS during the Arbitral Proceedings.
3. The composition of the team is not subject to any change after the registration (unless in the case of any serious ailment or any other unavoidable circumstance). Prior notice should be provided to the Organizing Committee regarding any change in the composition.
4. No team shall be accompanied by a Coach/Instructor.
5. In case, if more than two teams register from the same college, then the selection will be done on first-cum-first serve basis.

### **RELEASE OF PROBLEMS**

6. The problems for the pre-round will be released on **14<sup>th</sup> April 2024**.
7. The problem areas will be Commercial Laws, Intellectual Property Laws, Labour Laws, International Trade Law, etc.

### **ROUNDS**

8. The Qualifying Rounds shall be conducted on Zoom. The meeting credentials and the detailed schedule for all the rounds will be sent via email to all the teams.
9. For the Arbitral Proceedings, One Team will be the ‘Claimant’ and the other team will be the ‘Respondent’. Further, One Team among the Two Negotiating Pairs will be the Requesting and the other will be the Responding Parties. The side for each Session (both Arbitral Proceedings and Negotiation Session) and their roles shall be decided by draw of lots.

### **DRAW OF LOTS**

10. The draw of lots for the preliminary rounds shall be conducted on **19<sup>th</sup> April 2024**.

- **QUALIFYING ROUNDS**  
**PRELIMINARY ROUNDS**

11. The preliminary rounds shall be conducted on **21<sup>st</sup> April 2024** in online mode.
12. The team in the competition will have one preliminary round for **70 minutes**, which will begin with **40 minutes** for **Arbitral Proceedings** followed by **30 minutes** for the **Negotiation Session**. The problem for the Arbitral Proceedings and the Negotiation Session shall be the same.
13. The **30 minutes** of the **Negotiation Session** are further divided into **15 minutes for each team** to present their oral submissions. Further, the **40 minutes** for the **Arbitral Proceedings** shall be divided into **20 minutes for each team** to submit their oral arguments.

### **QUARTER-FINAL ROUNDS**

14. The quarter-finals shall be conducted on **21<sup>st</sup> April 2024** in online mode.
15. Eight teams selected from the preliminary rounds on a “**Scoring basis**” will qualify for the quarter-finals which will be for a total period of **70 minutes**, which will begin with **40 minutes** for **Arbitral Proceedings** followed by **30 minutes** for the **Negotiation Session**. The problem for the Arbitral Proceedings and the Negotiation Session shall be the same.
16. The **30 minutes** of the **Negotiation Session** are further divided into **15 minutes for each team** to present their oral submissions. Further, the **40 minutes** for the **Arbitral Proceedings** shall be divided into **20 minutes for each team** to submit their oral arguments.
17. The Draw of Lots will be conducted after the declaration of the results of the Preliminary Round.

- **ADVANCED ROUNDS**  
**SEMI-FINAL ROUNDS**

18. The Semi-Final Rounds shall be conducted on **18<sup>th</sup> May 2024** in offline mode.
19. The four teams qualifying for the Semi-Finals will be selected on a “**Scoring Basis**” from the quarter-final rounds. The Round will be for a total period of **90 minutes**, which will begin with **50 minutes** for **Arbitral Proceedings** followed by **40 minutes** for the **Negotiation Session**. The problem for the Arbitral Proceedings and the Negotiation Session shall be the same.
20. The **50 minutes** for the **Arbitral Proceedings** shall be divided into **25 minutes for each team** to submit their oral arguments. Further, the **40 minutes** of the **Negotiation Session** are further divided into **20 minutes for each team** to present their oral submissions.
21. The Draw of Lots will be conducted **1 hour** before the commencement of the Semi-Final Rounds.



## FINAL ROUND

22. The Final Round shall be conducted on **18<sup>th</sup> May 2024** in offline mode.
23. The two teams qualifying for the Finals will be selected on a “**Knock-Out**” basis from the semi-final rounds. The Round will be for a total period of **90 minutes**, which will begin with **40 minutes** for the **Negotiation Session** followed by **50 minutes** for **Arbitral Proceedings**. The problem for the Arbitral Proceedings and the Negotiation Session shall be the same.
24. The **40 minutes** of the **Negotiation Session** are further divided into **20 minutes for each team** to present their oral submissions. Further, the **50 minutes** for the **Arbitral Proceedings** shall be divided into **25 minutes for each team** to submit their oral arguments.
25. The Draw of Lots will be conducted after the declaration of the results of the Semi-Final Round.

***NOTE-** The **Confidential information** shall be given to all the Teams **30 minutes** prior to the commencement of the Negotiation Session.*

*All the Teams are required to keep their oral submissions precise and adhere to the time limit of the Competition, failing which will attract negative marks.*

## VALEDICTORY CEREMONY

26. The Valedictory Ceremony shall be held on **18<sup>th</sup> May 2024** at VIPS-TC, New Delhi.
27. The Awards and the Certificate of Merit shall be distributed during the Ceremony.

## CLARIFICATIONS

Clarifications shall be sent to [vipsdrcc@gmail.com](mailto:vipsdrcc@gmail.com) on or before **11:59 PM IST on April 2024**.

Clar  
17<sup>th</sup>

28. The subject line should be **Clarifications: Problems or Rules**

## LANGUAGE

29. The language for the duration of the entire Competition shall be **English** only. All participants are required to use English for all communication during the competition.

## DRESS CODE

30. The dress code for the competition will be **business formal**. All the participants are required to adhere to the dress code, failing which would attract negative marking at the discretion of the judges.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

The Teams will be evaluated on the following parameters: -

### JUDGING CRITERIA FOR NEGOTIATORS

SCORING CRITERIA	MAXIMUM MARKS
Preparation and Strategy	10 Marks
Communication Skills	10 Marks
Information Gathering	10 Marks
Problem-Solving and Creativity	10 Marks
Teamwork	10 Marks
Generating and Selecting Creative Options	10 Marks
Negotiation Tactics and Techniques	10 Marks
Professionalism	10 Marks
Adaptability and Flexibility	10 Marks
Outcome and Consequences	10 Marks
<b>TOTAL MARKS</b>	<b>100 MARKS</b>

### JUDGING CRITERIA FOR COUNSELS TO ARBITRATION

SCORING CRITERIA	MAXIMUM MARKS
Understanding of Facts	10 Marks
Application of Law	10 Marks
Quality of Legal Arguments	10 Marks
Use of Authorities and Precedents	10 Marks
Clarity and Organization	10 Marks
Response to Questions	10 Marks
Oratory Skills and Presentation	10 Marks
Teamwork and Division of Roles	10 Marks
Professionalism and Arbitral Proceedings	10 Marks
Overall Persuasiveness	10 Marks
<b>TOTAL MARKS</b>	<b>100 MARKS</b>



## **RULES FOR TIE-BREAKER**

31. In case 2 or more teams have scored the same marks, the winner shall be decided on the following basis:
- a. The team with the highest marks in 'teamwork' in the Negotiation Round will be adjudged as the winner.
  - b. In case the tie continues, the team with the highest marks in 'quality of legal arguments' in the Arbitration Round will be adjudged as the winner.

## **RESULTS AND AWARDS**

32. The results for the qualifying rounds will be declared on **21st April 2024** and the results of the semi-final rounds will be declared on **18th May 2024**. The results of the final round will be declared on **18th May 2024**. Following is the list of the awards: -

- **Best Team**

Cash Prize: Rs. 15,000/- and Certificate of Merit.

- **Runners up Team**

Cash Prize: Rs. 10,000/- and Certificate of Merit.

- **Best Counsel (based on scores of the preliminary rounds)**

Cash Prize: Rs. 7500/- and Certificate of Merit.

- **Best Negotiator (based on scores of the preliminary rounds)**

Cash Prize: Rs. 7500/- and Certificate of Merit.

- **Quarter-finalists, Semi-Finalists and Finalists**

Certificate of Merit.

- **Certificate of Participation shall be given to all the Participants**

**NOTE:** *The timing and the link for the meeting for the announcement of results for the qualifying round will be provided to all the teams in advance. All participants are requested to join the same 10 minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting.*

## **REGISTRATION PROCEDURE**

### **PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION**

33. Provisional Registration by interested universities must be done by way of filling the Google Form, on or before **11:59 p.m. IST on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024**.
34. The Link for Provisional Registration:- <https://forms.gle/Q5aA5HTgEg3fz33L8>
35. The Organizing Committee shall send a confirmation mail to all the teams once they have provisionally registered for the Competition.

### **FINAL REGISTRATION**

36. The Teams shall pay a registration fee of **Rs.2000/- (non-refundable)** for the Competition.
37. The link for Final Registration:- <https://forms.gle/yz14gmwg4DqiXyWC7>
38. The teams are required to register for the Competition and submit proof of payment via the Registration Form provided. The bank details for the transfer of registration fees are as follows: -  
  
<https://forms.edugfix.com/eventfee/add>
39. Proof of Enrollment for each team member is required for Registration. The proof(s) are to be submitted via the Registration Form.
40. The deadline for payment and final registration is **15<sup>th</sup> April 2024**.
41. The confirmation of Registration will be notified to the teams by the Organizing Committee after the completion and verification of all the registration formalities. A Team Code will be assigned post-confirmation of registration.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE SESSIONS**

42. For the Online Rounds, each team member may join the web platform from a maximum of two devices to ensure the smooth functioning of the event in case any device stops functioning during the competition. One device shall be in the waiting room at all times while the other device is functioning. In case the device being used stops, the other device can be connected, for which time will be given as per the discretion of judges or 5 minutes will be given, which will not be included in the allotted time.
43. For the online rounds, all participants are expected to keep their videos on during the entire course of the competition and ensure that their microphone and camera are working, failing which the team will not be allowed to participate in the oral rounds. It is the responsibility of the teams to ensure a good and stable internet connection.

44. For the Advanced Rounds, all the Teams need to adhere to the Detailed Schedule and be present at the venue well in advance, **one hour** before the commencement of the Draw of Lots.
45. If any team fails to be present in the Competition Room for the negotiation Session/Arbitration Proceeding, for more than **10 minutes** even after the commencement of the session, shall attract a negative marking and they may not be allowed to appear for that round at the discretion of the judges.
46. Participants shall not reveal their identities or that of their University to any judge or participant during the competition. Any attempt to obtain the Confidential Information shall render a team liable for immediate disqualification.

## **GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT**

47. Participants are required to maintain dignified conduct during the span of the entire competition. Reckless or irresponsible behaviour by any of the team members of an institution may result in the disqualification of the entire team.
48. All or any grievances are to be presented only to the organizing committee of the Competition and the decision of the Organizing Committee will be final.
49. Scouting is strictly prohibited. Violation of this rule shall result in disqualification after an immediate enquiry. Participants shall not attend any of the sessions of other teams or individuals during the competition or receive information from any person who has attended any previous rounds.
50. The Organizing Committee shall serve as the final authority for the implementation and interpretation of these Rules and of any Supplementary Rules or clarifications.
51. If there is any situation which is not contemplated in the rules, the Organizing Committee's decision on the same shall be final and binding.
52. Participants are instructed to maintain mutual respect and decorum while contacting other participants or any members of the organizing committee. Please refrain from using derogatory, disrespectful, or sexist language and remarks. All forms of sexual harassment are prohibited and shall be dealt with strictly. Any such conduct will amount to disqualification from the Competition.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

53. All communications to the Organizing Committee shall be via email, addressed to [vipsdrcc@gmail.com](mailto:vipsdrcc@gmail.com).
54. Any information communicated to one member of a team shall be considered as communicated to the whole team.



## IMPORTANT DATES

PARTICULARS	DATE
COMMENCEMENT OF PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION	26/03/2024
RELEASE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS	02/04/2024
DEADLINE FOR PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION	13/04/2024
RELEASE OF PROBLEMS	14/04/2024
CLOSING OF FINAL REGISTRATION	15/04/2024
LAST DATE FOR SEEKING CLARIFICATIONS	17/04/2024
ORIENTATION SESSION (ONLINE)	TO BE NOTIFIED
DRAW OF LOTS FOR PRELIMINARY ROUND	19/04/2024
PRELIMINARY ROUNDS (ONLINE)	21/04/2024
DRAW OF LOTS FOR QUARTER-FINAL ROUNDS (ONLINE)	21/04/2024
QUARTER-FINAL ROUNDS (ONLINE)	21/04/2024
DRAW OF LOTS FOR SEMI-FINAL ROUNDS (OFFLINE)	18/05/2024
SEMI-FINAL ROUNDS (OFFLINE)	18/05/2024
FINAL ROUND (OFFLINE)	18/05/2024
VALEDICTORY CEREMONY	18/05/2024

## PATRON-IN-CHIEF

**Dr. S.C. Vats**  
Chairman, VIPS-TC

**Mr. Amarjit Singh Chandhiok**  
President, MAADHYAM

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

### MAADHYAM

**Mr. J.P Sengh**  
President-Elect

**Ms. Sadhana Ramachandran**  
Senior Vice President

**Ms. Neelam Rathore**  
Vice President

**Ms. Sarika Gandhi**  
Secretary General

**Ms. Jasbir Kaur**  
Treasurer and Director Projects

**Ms. Puja Anand**  
Joint Secretary

**Mr. Atul Batra**  
Joint Secretary

**Ms. Sakshi Vijay**  
Joint Secretary

**Ms. Neha Jain Singhal**  
Joint Secretary

### VIPS-TC

**Mr. Suneet Vats**  
Vice Chairman, VIPS-TC

**Prof. (Dr.) T.V. Subba Rao**  
Chairperson VSLLS, VIPS-TC

**Prof. (Dr.) Rashmi Salpekar**  
Dean, VSLLS, VIPS – TC

**Dr. J. Ravindran**  
Associate Dean, VSLLS, VIPS-TC

### Faculty Members

**Dr. Deepali Vashist**  
Convenor, CADR

**Dr. Leena Moudgil**  
Member, CADR

**Ms. Amita**  
Member, CADR

**Ms. Avneek Kaur Sethi**  
Member, CADR

**Dr. Ashu Dhiman**  
Member, CADR

**Dr. Anjali**  
Member, CADR

## **Student Executive Members, CADR**

Laqshyaa Saluja

Hemant Meena

Aayushi Sharma

Pritha Khanna

Raghav Bansal

Aayushi Singh

Shivam Gupta

Tavleen Kaur

Palak Goel

Kashvi Gupta

Khushi Nagrath

Geetanshi Dang

Manya Modi

Yashasvi

Ananya Gupta

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**In case of any query, Contact the undersigned: -**

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