BABU BANARASI DAS UNIVERSITY

# BABU BANARASI DAS UNIVERSITY

## SCHOOL OF LEGAL STUDIES

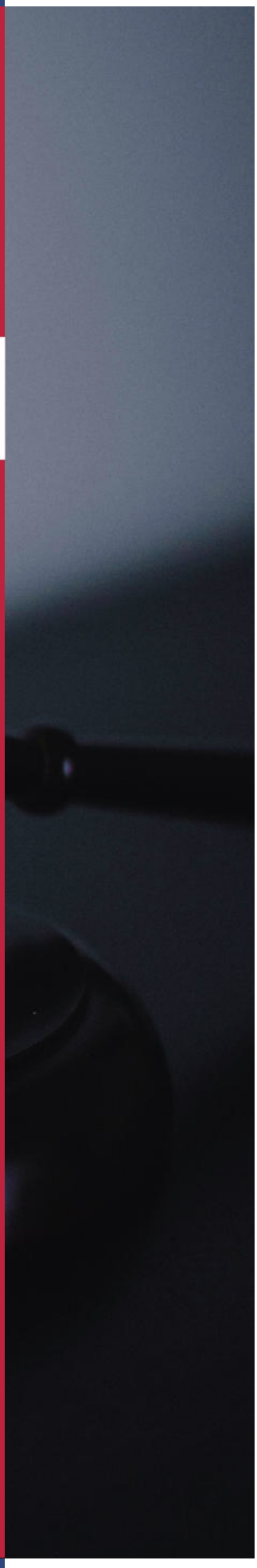
ORGANIZES

# 1st JUSTICE D.P. GUPTA MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

17th - 18th July, 2026 (HYBRID MODE)

solsmootcourtcommittee@bbdu.ac.in

https://bbdu.ac.in/



# 1st JUSTICE D.P. GUPTA

MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

## ABOUT BABU BANARASI DAS UNIVERSITY

Babu Banarasi Das University aims to transform the way people think by teaching problem-solving, leadership, and teamwork skills, as well as the value of commitment to quality, ethical behaviour, and respect for others. Learning and working at BBD University will foster quick, well-rounded minds, well-equipped to succeed in our fast- changing world. BBD University strives to educate students in a way that transforms them into leaders who can make a difference in the world. We aim to impart futuristic and high-quality technical, management and medical education to young and talented students. We strive to become the frontrunner in the field of education in India by attracting and nurturing the best talent and providing them a platform where they can strengthen and grow their core competencies and build their careers as world- class professionals. We provide a lifetime of experience outside the classroom by setting up world-class infrastructure and facilities for sports, recreation, culture, and personality development, which are vital to producing well-rounded individuals who can excel in both their personal and professional lives.

# ABOUT SCHOOL OF LEGAL STUDIES

The School of Legal Studies at Babu Banarasi Das University (BBDU), Lucknow, serves as a center of legal education dedicated to academic excellence, professional competence, and ethical responsibility. Established to nurture skilled legal professionals, the department offers comprehensive undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, including integrated five-year law courses and postgraduate and Ph.D. legal studies designed in accordance with contemporary legal education standards. The curriculum is structured to provide a strong foundation in core legal subjects while also integrating emerging areas of law, thereby ensuring that students develop both theoretical understanding and practical insight.

The School of Legal Studies places significant emphasis on experiential learning through moot court exercises, legal aid and legal literacy programmes; drafting and pleading training, internships, seminars, workshops, and guest lectures by members of the judiciary, senior advocates, academicians, and legal professionals. This practical orientation enables students to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world legal practice. The department also encourages research and critical legal inquiry by promoting participation in conferences, publication of research papers, and engagement with contemporary legal and socio-economic issues.

Supported by a dedicated and qualified faculty, the School of Legal Studies at BBDU fosters a student-centric academic environment that values discipline, professionalism, and intellectual growth. The availability of modern infrastructure, a well-stocked law library, digital legal databases, and institutional support further strengthens the learning experience. Through its focus on legal scholarship, advocacy skills, research orientation, and social justice, the School of Legal Studies aims to produce competent lawyers, judicial aspirants, academicians, and policymakers who can contribute meaningfully to the legal system and uphold the rule of law in India.

# 1st JUSTICE D.P. GUPTA

MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

## ABOUT THE MOOT COURT COMPETITION

The 1st Justice D.P. Gupta Moot Court Competition is being organised by the School of Legal Studies, Babu Banarasi Das University, Lucknow, to promote practical legal education and develop advocacy skills among law students. The competition is dedicated to the memory and legacy of Justice D. P. Gupta, former Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court, whose contributions to the Indian judiciary and legal scholarship have inspired several generations of legal professionals.

Moot court competitions form an integral part of legal education, as they provide students with an opportunity to experience simulated court proceedings and develop essential skills such as legal research, drafting of memorials, oral advocacy, and interpretation of laws. Through this competition, students will engage with complex legal issues and present arguments before panels comprising experienced academicians, advocates, and members of the legal fraternity.

The competition seeks to bring together students from various law universities and institutions across the country, creating a platform for academic exchange and professional interaction. Participants will work in teams to analyse hypothetical legal problems, prepare written submissions, and argue their cases in a structured courtroom setting that closely resembles real judicial proceedings.

The 1st Justice D.P. Gupta Moot Court Competition also aims to encourage critical thinking, ethical advocacy, and a more deeper understanding of constitutional and legal principles among budding lawyers. By organising this event, Babu Banarasi Das University's School of Legal Studies reaffirms its belief in excellence in legal education and its dedication to nurturing competent and socially responsible lawyers.

This competition not only honours the distinguished legacy of Justice D. P. Gupta but also strengthens the mooting culture within legal academia, inspiring students to pursue the ideals of justice, integrity, and professionalism in the legal field.

# 1st JUSTICE D.P. GUPTA

MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

## GENESIS

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dwarka Prasad Gupta**
**Former Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court**

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dwarka Prasad Gupta was born on 21 July 1926 at Nasirabad, Ajmer, Rajasthan, in the family of Late Shri Madho Prasad Gupta. He completed his B.Sc. from Maharaja College, Jaipur in 1944 and later obtained his LL.B. degree from Agra College, Agra in 1946. After completing his legal education, he enrolled as an Advocate in the Rajasthan High Court in 1950 at Jaipur and began his legal practice under Shri C. L. Agarwal, Senior Advocate. When the Jaipur Bench of the Rajasthan High Court was abolished in 1958, he shifted to Jodhpur and joined the chamber of Shri R. K. Rastogi, Advocate, and later started independent practice in the Rajasthan High Court at Jodhpur in 1961.

In recognition of his distinguished legal practice and professional excellence, Justice Dwarka Prasad Gupta was elevated as a Judge of the Rajasthan High Court on 24 September 1973. During his judicial career, he also served as Lokayukt of Rajasthan (Additional Duty) on 28 August 1978. He was appointed Acting Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court from 8 October 1980 to 30 October 1980, and again served as Acting Chief Justice from 8 August 1981 to 5 March 1982. In 1985, he assumed office as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court. Later, on 4 November 1985, he also served as the Governor of Rajasthan. After a distinguished judicial career marked by integrity and dedication to justice, Justice Dwarka Prasad Gupta retired on 31 July 1986 as Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.

# 1st JUSTICE D.P. GUPTA
## MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

## GENESIS

**Late Babu Banarasi Das Ji**
**(1912 – 1985)**
**Ex Chief Minister**
**Govt. of Uttar Pradesh**

"To provide an open opportunity to the young generation for evolving their core competencies and to build their careers as world-class professionals with a broad-based foundation, in-depth knowledge & versatile personality to meet the challenges of the global economy…" – Babuji's Vision.

Babu Banarasi Das Ji, a born nationalist, in his early youth, joined hands with Mahatma Gandhi and Jawahar Lal Nehru in the movement to free India from the clutches of British rule.

During his long political career, he worked as a minister, speaker and member of Parliament (both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha). He also held the position of chief minister of Uttar Pradesh. His entire life was devoted to securing the dignity of individuals through selfless service to mankind. He was a humanitarian who enabled people to realise their goals. He never believed in surrendering to any forces. Even in the face of death, he would not give in. "Man doth not yield himself to angels, not even unto death, utterly, except by the weakness of his feeble will." Babuji always led and inspired people through his example, leaving behind a legacy for future generations. We are privileged to inherit that legacy and perpetuate his memory.

# FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

**Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta Ji**
**(1961-2017)**
**Ex-Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)**
**Hon'ble Founder Ex-Chairman,**
**BBD Educational Society**

"We not only make technocrats at BBD, but we also churn out citizens of the world, perfect in all respects, be it leadership, competence, confidence, communication, morals or knowledge…" – Akhilesh Das Gupta's Vision.

Dr. Akhilesh Das, a distinguished political leader, philanthropist, educator, and social worker, is the pride of Lucknow city. He has established himself as a worthy son of his illustrious father, the late Babu Banarasi Das Ji.

He has obtained an MBA, LLB, and Ph.D. in human resource management. Dr. Akhilesh Das decided to follow in his father's footsteps by choosing social service as his primary goal, focusing on initiatives that improve education, healthcare, and community development in his constituency. In his distinguished public life spanning well over three decades, Dr. Akhilesh Das was first elected mayor of Lucknow in 1993 and became one of the youngest mayors in the world. Subsequently, he was elected as a Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) in November 1996 and was re-elected for a second term from November 2002 until November 2008.

As a social thinker, Dr. Akhilesh Das recognised the need for quality technical and professional education for the overall growth, upliftment of the masses, and development of Uttar Pradesh. In response, he founded the Babu Banarasi Das Educational Society (BBDES), igniting the flame for higher professional education in Lucknow, the UP capital. In 1998, he established the first institution in the series, the Babu Banarasi Das Institute of Technology & Management (BBDNITM).

# HON'BLE CHANCELLOR

**Mrs. Alka Das**
**Hon'ble Chancellor, BBD University**

Mrs. Alka Das is a distinguished leader in the fields of education, law, and sports management. With a combination of an LLB and an MBA, she brings a rare blend of legal expertise and business acumen that has driven her exceptional achievements across diverse domains.

As the Chancellor of BBD University (BBDU) and Chairperson of the BBD Group, Mrs. Das serves as the driving force behind the strategic vision of the institution while upholding its commitment to academic excellence. BBDU offers an extensive array of programs across disciplines, including Management, Law, Engineering (B.Tech. ), Business Administration (BBA or MBA), Education (B.Ed.), Hotel Management, Journalism, Basic Sciences, Architecture, Pharmacy, Dental Studies, and more. Serving a vibrant student community of 25,000 across its campuses, including 6,000 students in Delhi, the university takes pride in its thriving network of over 1.5 lakh alumni.

Under Mrs. Das's visionary leadership, the BBD Group has expanded its influence and impact within the higher education landscape. Her efforts have fostered a culture of innovation, growth, and excellence, positioning the institution as a beacon of progress and opportunity.

# 1st JUSTICE D.P. GUPTA
MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

## HON'BLE PRO-CHANCELLOR

**Mr. Viraj Sagar Das**
**Hon'ble Pro-Chancellor, BBD University**

"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world." – Nelson Mandela

Babu Banarasi Das University has its roots lying deep in quality education practices that equip each student with a broader outlook to prepare them for this futuristic world. We are committed to providing education that fulfils the needs of today's world. Today, education is not limited to textbook courses and their practical implementation.

Education has changed a lot; in addition to the syllabus, students must learn skills like critical thinking, communication, and teamwork to succeed. We encourage our students to perform well in their academics and also to take active participation in all the co-curricular activities to develop interpersonal skills, take up challenges, be self-dependent and, most importantly, have a good time while learning.

To quote Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, "Learning gives creativity, creativity leads to thinking, thinking provides knowledge, and knowledge makes you outstanding."

# HON'BLE VICE-PRESIDENT

**Ms. Sonakshi Das**
**Hon'ble Vice-President,**
**BBD Educational Group**

Sonakshi Das brings a wealth of experience and a visionary approach to her role as Vice President of the BBD Educational Group. With a master's in educational leadership, organisations and entrepreneurship from Harvard University, she combines deep insights into global educational practices with a passion for innovation in the Indian academic landscape.

Sonakshi Das's academic journey also includes a bachelor's degree in management from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a master's in entrepreneurship from Cambridge University. These prestigious credentials equip her with a dynamic skill set, blending strategic management, entrepreneurial vision, and a diverse perspective to drive transformative educational initiatives.

As Vice President of BBD Educational Group, Sonakshi Das is committed to elevating Babu Banarasi Das University (BBDU) into a globally ranked institution. Her leadership focuses on bridging the gap between theoretical and practical education by introducing cutting-edge pedagogies with a strong emphasis on integrating educational technology, such as online learning platforms and interactive tools, to enhance student engagement and learning outcomes.

# 1st JUSTICE D.P. GUPTA

MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

## HON'BLE VICE CHANCELLOR

**Prof. (Dr.) Sri Krishna Srivastava**
**Vice-Chancellor**

Professor Sri Krishna Srivastava is a distinguished academician and visionary leader with extensive experience in higher education administration. He assumed charge as the vice chancellor of Babu Banarasi Das University, Lucknow, in August 2025, bringing a dynamic and innovative leadership approach. Earlier, he served as Vice Chancellor of North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong (2015–2021), where he provided strategic leadership and chaired key statutory bodies, including the Executive Council, Academic Council, Finance Committee, IQAC, and UGC-HRDC. He is presently a member of the Board of Governors, IIT Guwahati, and a council nominee at IISER Pune, appointed by the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Prof. Srivastava earned his M.Sc. and Ph.D. from IIT Kanpur and has served as a professor of chemistry at Manipur University since 1995. He pursued postdoctoral research at the University of Bristol (UK) as a Commonwealth Fellow. His research spans materials chemistry and nanotechnology, with publications in leading journals of the American Chemical Society and the Royal Society of Chemistry, and he received the CRSI Bronze Medal (2015) for contributions to chemical research.

An accomplished institution builder, he played a key role in establishing the Assam Energy Institute, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Community College, and the ASEAN Study Centre at NEHU. He has led major policy initiatives, collaborations, and MoUs and contributed to vision documents, including CUAP Vision–2047. Under his leadership, BBD University aims to strengthen academic excellence, research, innovation, entrepreneurship, skill development, industry–academia linkages, and collaborations. A strong advocate of inclusion, student support, and societal impact, Prof. Srivastava is committed to repositioning BBD University as a leading institution in the service of the nation's higher education goals.

# 1st JUSTICE D.P. GUPTA
MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

## HON'BLE PRO. VICE CHANCELLOR

**Prof. (Dr.) Satish Chander Sharma**
**Pro. Vice-Chancellor**

Dr. Sharma has more than 32 years of experience in teaching, administration, and consulting. Currently, he is working as Pro Vice-Chancellor at Babu Banarasi Das University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

He served as the Director of Approvals and Recognition and also held the position of Director of IQAC, achieving NAAC A+ grade as a Health University manual and UGC 12-B status during his tenure at SGT University, Gurugram, NCR, Delhi. He feels proud to be a Professor of OB/HR in the field of management, which is a part of his academic journey. He has a master's degree in Applied Industrial Psychology and an M.Phil. in Organisational Behaviour from Delhi University. Then he pursued an MBA (HR) and completed a doctoral degree, a PhD, in the field of Business Administration. He had worked as a faculty member, Dean, and Director with many academic institutions: IMS Ghaziabad; IMR Ghaziabad; IMT-CDL Ghaziabad; SASIIT, Mohali-Punjab Technical University; MCM, Udaipur-Rajasthan Technical University; and BMU, Baba Mastnath University, Rohtak.

He has a passion for teaching and learning new skills. He had published 12 books, 10 chapters, 5 patents and more than 60 research articles in Scopus, Web of Science and reputed national and international journals and magazines. He has delivered many talks and lectures as a keynote speaker at national- and international-level events. He is associated as a member with many reputed organisations, like AOM-USA, ISTD, and HRD Network and as an editor with many journals and magazines. He has been awarded many times in the field of education as a higher education leader.

# 1st JUSTICE D.P. GUPTA
MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

## HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

**Prof. (Dr.) Arun Verma**
**Head, School of Legal Studies**

Dear Participants, Judges, Faculty, and Honoured Guests,

I feel deeply honoured and privileged to extend my warm greetings to you for this year's moot court competition. This event is significant in our academic calendar, as it demonstrates our dedication to promoting quality in legal education and advocacy. Moot court contests provide students with a unique chance to use their legal expertise in a hands-on and dynamic setting. They encourage you to engage in critical thinking, articulate arguments convincingly, and cultivate the composure and self-assurance essential for a prosperous legal profession. These skills are vital for your career and for justice and law enforcement.

We express our gratitude to our renowned judges for their kind support. We highly value your knowledge and input, as you play a crucial role in our students' growth and progress. We appreciate your active involvement.

The organisers, faculty, and others who worked hard to make this event a success deserve my sincere thanks. Your efforts guarantee that this competition will be a rewarding experience for all participants.

I wish all the participants the best of luck. May this competition catalyse your intellectual growth, driving you to reach unprecedented levels of legal comprehension and persuasive skills.

# 1st JUSTICE D.P. GUPTA

MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

## HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

**Prof. (Dr.) Sudhir Kumar**
**Head, School of Legal Studies**

The School of Legal Studies at Babu Banarasi Das University is an outstanding center of legal scholarship, distinguished by the values of academic excellence, inclusiveness, and professional dignity. As the head of the School of Legal Studies, I am honoured to lead an institution with a strong tradition of excellence, accessibility, and diversity in legal education. Our top priority is student success, and we are committed to providing high-quality, affordable legal training that empowers students to become ethical leaders and agents of positive change in their communities.

Our distinguished faculty, educated at premier law schools, bring academic rigour and practical experience to the classroom, fostering close student-faculty relationships through innovative teaching and mentoring. With a vibrant and diverse student body, a strong network of accomplished alumni, and a curriculum enriched by practical skill-building, externships, and community-serving clinics, we prepare our graduates to thrive in various legal careers without the burden of unreasonable debt. We continue to cultivate a culture of equity, inclusion, and public service, ensuring our students are well-equipped to uphold justice and lead with integrity.

I warmly invite you to be part of our journey and contribute to a legacy defined by excellence, integrity, and service.

BABU BANARASI DAS UNIVERSITY

# 1st JUSTICE D.P. GUPTA

MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

## IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|---|---|
| *8th MAY 2026 (FRIDAY)* | Release of Moot Proposition & Start of Registration |
| *20th JUNE 2026 (SATURDAY)* | Last Date of Registration |
| *25th JUNE 2026 (THURSDAY)* | Last Date for seeking Clarification |
| *26th JUNE 2026 (FRIDAY)* | Release of Clarification |
| *28th JUNE 2026 (SUNDAY)* | Last Date of Memorial Submission (Softcopy) |
| *1st JULY 2026 (WEDNESDAY)* | Inaugural Ceremony, Exchange of Memorial & Researcher Test |
| *2nd JULY 2026 (THURSDAY)* | Preliminary Round 1 & Round 2 |
| *3rd JULY 2026 (FRIDAY)* | Octa Round & Quarter Round |
| *17th JULY 2026 (FRIDAY)* | Semi- Final & Finals Round |
| *18th JULY 2026 (SATURDAY)* | Valedictory Ceremony |

BABU BANARASI DAS UNIVERSITY

# 1st JUSTICE D.P. GUPTA
## MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

## REGISTRATION PROCESS

### 1 Payment Submission

Payment of Registration Fee of **₹3,000/-per team** to:

Bank Name: **PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK**

**Account Name: BABU BANARASI DAS EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY ( BBDES)**

Account No.: **60270021000000941**

IFSC: **PUNB0602700**

### 2 Filling out the Google Form

- After making the payment for the registration, **fill out the Google Form and attach the proof of payment so made** along with the **Authorization Letter** at: https://forms.gle/9wqyGJwwqKDJGupC9

### 3 A confirmation email will be received by the applicants within 3–4 working days.

**Note** The Registration fee once paid shall be **non-refundable** and **non-transferable** under any circumstances.

# 1st JUSTICE D.P. GUPTA
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## FORMAT OF AUTHORIZATION LETTER

**Date:**

**AUTHORIZATION LETTER**
**(Please fill in capital letters.)**

**Undertaking:**

**1. We hereby state that our participation complies with the rules and regulations of the competition.**

**2. We certify that the materials submitted or to be submitted are prepared by us and agree to indemnify the organisers, i.e., the School of Legal Studies, Babu Banarasi Das University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India, against any claim or dispute arising out of the further use or exhibition of these materials.**

**(All particulars must be given.)**

**Name & Address of the participating Institution:**

**Official Email ID:**
**Regd. Mobile:**

| Name of the participant | Gender | Course | Year/ Semester | Signature |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Team's Primary Email ID / Telephone Number for Communication | | | | |

BABU BANARASI DAS UNIVERSITY

# 1st JUSTICE D.P. GUPTA

MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

## REGISTRATION PROCESS

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER OR CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW**

**REGISTER HERE!**

BABU BANARASI DAS UNIVERSITY

# 1st JUSTICE D.P. GUPTA

MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

## AWARDS AND PRIZES

- **Rs. 51,000/- Cash Prize and Trophy to the Winners**
- **Rs. 31,000/- Cash Prize and Trophy to the Runner-ups**
- **Rs. 5,100/- Cash Prize and Trophy to the Best Speaker**
- **Rs. 5,100/- Cash Prize and Trophy to the Best Memorial**
- **Rs. 5,100/- Cash Prize and Trophy to the Best Researcher**

BABU BANARASI DAS UNIVERSITY

# 1st JUSTICE D.P. GUPTA

MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

## MOOT PROPOSITION & RULEBOOK

SCAN HERE

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS THE MOOT PROPOSITION AND RULEBOOK OR CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW**

**CLICK HERE**

# 1st JUSTICE D.P. GUPTA
## MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

**PROF. (DR.) ARUN VERMA**
**HEAD,**
**SCHOOL OF LEGAL STUDIES, BBDU**

**PROF. (DR.) SUDHIR KUMAR**
**HEAD,**
**SCHOOL OF LEGAL STUDIES, BBDU**

**DR. TRISHLA SINGH**
**DEPARTMENT IN-CHARGE,**
**SCHOOL OF LEGAL STUDIES, BBDU**

# 1st JUSTICE D.P. GUPTA
MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

**DR. RAJENDRA KUMAR**
**FACULTY CO-ORDINATOR,**
**MOOT COURT COMMITTEE**
**SCHOOL OF LEGAL STUDIES, BBDU**

**MR. VINAY KUMAR YADAV**
**FACULTY CONVENOR,**
**MOOT COURT COMMITTEE**
**SCHOOL OF LEGAL STUDIES, BBDU**

**MS. MUDITA TRIPATHI**
**FACULTY ADVISOR,**
**SCHOOL OF LEGAL STUDIES, BBDU**

**DR. SHALINI NAGPAL AHUJA**
**FACULTY ADVISOR,**
**SCHOOL OF LEGAL STUDIES, BBDU**

BABU BANARASI DAS UNIVERSITY

# 1st JUSTICE D.P. GUPTA

MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

## FACULTY MEMBERS

DR. RAJESH KUMAR VERMA
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SCHOOL OF LEGAL STUDIES, BBDU

DR. VATSLA SHARMA
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
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MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

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**ADITI TIWARI || CONVENOR ||**

**SAMRIDHI SRIVASTAVA || CONVENOR**

**ROHAN VERMA || CONVENOR ||**

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## STUDENT MEMBERS

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**OJASWITA SWAMI || SECRETARY**

**AMRITANSHU || DRAFTING & RESEARCH**

**PRANAV DWIVEDI || REPRESENTATIVE**

**SATYAM ANAND || REPRESENTATIVE**

**AVNI KAUSHAL || REPRESENTATIVE**

**SHREYA SINGH || REPRESENTATIVE**

**HARSH AGRAWAL || REPRESENTATIVE**

**YASH MOHAN SAXENA || REPRESENTATIVE**

**ANIMESH SRIVASTAVA || REPRESENTATIVE**

**YASH GUPTA || REPRESENTATIVE**

**RISHIKA CHANDRA || SECRETARY**

**PRACHI SAHANI || DRAFTING & RESEARCH**

**ISHIKA SRIVASTAVA || REPRESENTATIVE**

**ANANYA SINGH|| REPRESENTATIVE**

**SNEHA YADAV || REPRESENTATIVE**

**SACHIN SRIVASTAVA || REPRESENTATIVE**

**JAHANVI TIWARI || REPRESENTATIVE**

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**MISTHI SHRESTHA || REPRESENTATIVE**

**SOUMYA SHARMA || REPRESENTATIVE**

**UMANSHI PANDEY || REPRESENTATIVE**

# MOOT PROPOSITION

***FOREST PROTECTION GROUP***

***V.***

***UNION OF VAKANDA & ORS.***

The Republic of Vakanda, a federal democratic nation modelled on constitutional principles akin to those of India, has long grappled with the challenge of balancing economic development with environmental sustainability. Over the past decade, the nation has witnessed an accelerated push toward industrial growth, driven by increasing energy demands, urbanization, and infrastructural expansion. Coal continues to remain the backbone of Vakanda's energy sector, accounting for nearly 60% of its electricity generation. In this context, the Union Government through its Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Environment, Forest and climate affairs (MEFCA) introduced the National Energy Expansion Policy, 2021, which emphasized the exploration and utilization of domestic coal reserves to reduce dependency on imports and ensure long-term energy security.

Within this developmental framework lies the Forever green Forest Region covers approximately 170,000, a vast contiguous stretch of dense forest located in the central belt of Vakanda. The region is ecologically significant, characterized by rich biodiversity, perennial river systems, and dense canopy cover that plays a crucial role in regulating climate patterns and maintaining ecological balance. It has historically been designated as an ecologically sensitive zone, and earlier governmental and expert committee reports had categorized large portions of it as "inviolate" or "No-Go Areas" for mining activities.

The Forever green forests are also home to several indigenous tribal communities, including the Koyra, Madvi, and Dharai tribes, who have resided in the region for centuries. These communities possess a symbiotic relationship with the forest, relying on it for sustenance, cultural practices, and traditional livelihoods. Their rights over forest land and resources are protected under statutory frameworks analogous to the Vakanda Forest Rights Act, 2006, which recognizes both individual and community rights, including the right to protect and manage forest resources.

The Geological Survey conducted between 2018-2021 revealed significant coal reserves beneath the forest land, leading to its inclusion in the commercial coal auction list. In 2022, following geological surveys indicating the presence of substantial coal reserves beneath the Forever green region, the Union Government initiated the process of auctioning coal blocks for commercial mining. Subsequently, mining leases were granted to private entities, including Trident Natural Resources Ltd. and Eastern Core Mining Pvt. Ltd. These corporations proposed large-scale open-cast mining operations, projected to significantly

boost coal output and contribute to national economic growth.

To facilitate these projects, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Affairs (MEFCA) granted environmental and forest clearances, asserting that all statutory requirements had been fulfilled. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports were submitted, public hearings were purportedly conducted, and compensatory afforestation plans were proposed. The EIA reports allegedly did not adequately assess cumulative environmental impacts, wildlife disruption, and long-term ecological consequences. Public hearings, as part of the EIA process, were conducted in limited locations and allegedly excluded several directly affected villages. The government maintained that the projects adhered to the principles of sustainable development and included adequate safeguards for environmental protection and rehabilitation of affected communities. The forest clearance was granted subject to compensatory afforestation measures to be carried out in non-forest areas identified by the State.

The approval process soon became the subject of intense controversy. Several civil society groups, environmental activists, and local representatives alleged that the clearances were granted in a hurried and opaque manner. It was contended that the EIA reports were superficial, failed to adequately assess cumulative environmental impacts, and underestimated the extent of ecological degradation likely to result from mining operations. Furthermore, allegations emerged that the mandatory consent of Gram Sabhas, village assemblies empowered under law to safeguard community rights, was either improperly obtained or manipulated through coercion and misinformation.

The proposed mining activities threatened to lead to large-scale deforestation, fragmentation of wildlife habitats, and disruption of crucial ecological corridors, particularly affecting endangered species. Additionally, the displacement of thousands of tribal inhabitants raised serious concerns regarding violation of their fundamental rights, loss of livelihood, and erosion of cultural identity. Several Gram Sabhas reportedly passed resolutions opposing the mining projects, which were allegedly ignored by authorities.

Amid growing protests and resistance movements led by local communities, the Forest Protection Group, a collective representing affected villagers and environmental groups, emerged as the primary petitioner. The Samiti organized peaceful demonstrations, filed representations before administrative authorities, and sought intervention from regulatory bodies, including the National Green Tribunal. However, the Tribunal declined to grant an interim stay on the project, observing that prima facie procedural compliance had been demonstrated.

Left with no alternative remedy, the Petitioners approached the Supreme Court of Vakanda under its writ jurisdiction, invoking the violation of fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution, particularly the right to life and livelihood. They challenged the legality and constitutionality of the environmental and forest clearances, arguing that the State had failed in its duty as a trustee of natural resources and had

prioritized economic interests over ecological integrity and human rights.

The case now presents a complex constitutional dilemma involving the intersection of environmental law, tribal rights, administrative decision-making, and the doctrine of sustainable development. It calls upon the judiciary to determine the extent to which economic policies can impinge upon fundamental rights and whether procedural compliance alone suffices in matters with far-reaching ecological and social consequences.

The matter is presently pending adjudication before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Vakanda.

**ISSUES FOR ADJUDICATION**

**Issue I:** Whether the Writ Petition filed by the Forest Protection Group is maintainable before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Vakanda, given the existence of an alternative statutory remedy and the National Green Tribunal's prior observation on procedural compliance.

**Issue II:** Whether the grant of Environmental and Forest Clearances by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Affairs (MEFCA) is vitiated by administrative arbitrariness and a failure to apply the 'Precautionary Principle'.

**Issue III:** Whether the inclusion of the Forever Green Forest Region in commercial coal auctions violates the Constitutional and Statutory rights of the indigenous tribal communities.

**Issue IV:** Whether the mandatory requirement of 'Prior Informed Consent' from the Gram Sabhas was substantively bypassed, and if such an omission renders the mining leases granted to Trident Natural Resources Ltd. and Eastern Core Mining Pvt. Ltd. void *ab initio*.

**Issue V:** Whether the National Energy Expansion Policy, 2021, and the subsequent coal mining projects strike a constitutionally valid balance between the 'Right to Development' and the 'Right to a Healthy Environment'.