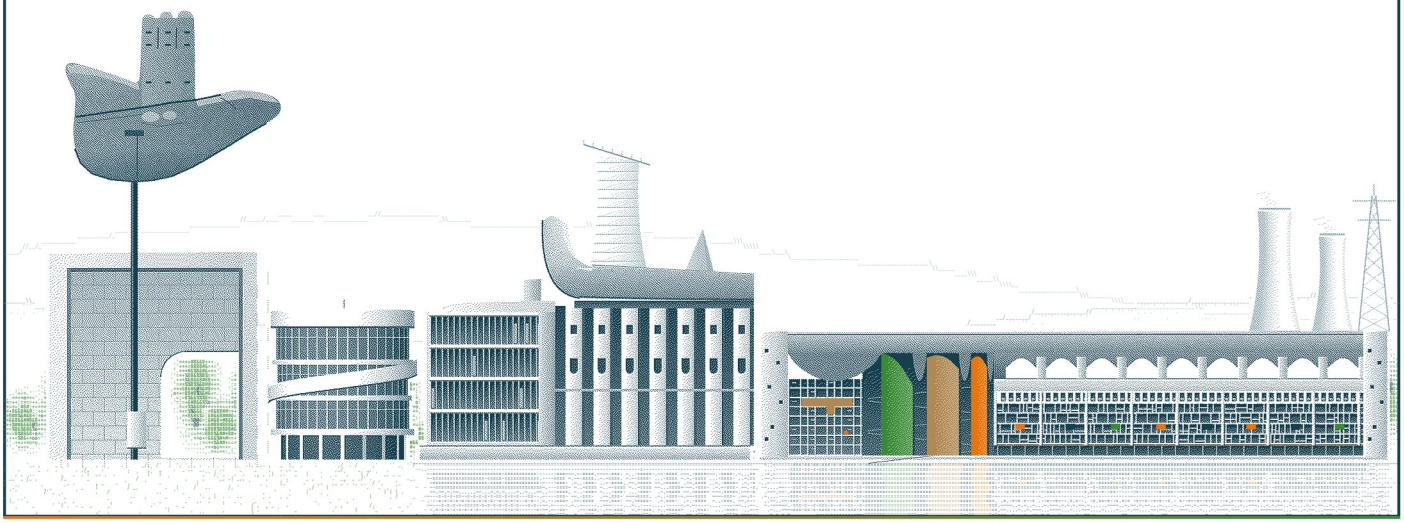
India International Disputes Week
2027

# THE RULES

## India International Disputes Week 2027
## International Commercial Arbitration Moot

Chandigarh, India

Oral Hearings
10 January-12 January, 2027



# INTRODUCTION

## I. The India International Disputes Week Moot

1. **The Moot:** The India International Disputes Week 2027 International Commercial Arbitration Moot (the "**Moot**") is a competition for teams of law students, held as part of the India International Disputes Week 2027. Teams argue a single international commercial arbitration problem, first in written Memoranda and then in oral hearings before arbitral tribunals.

2. **Goals:** The Moot is an educational programme in the form of a competition. It aims to train students in the law and practice of international commercial arbitration, in legal research and drafting, and in oral advocacy before an arbitral tribunal.

3. **Interpretation in light of the goals:** These Rules, and every decision taken under them, are to be read in light of those goals.

## II. Organisation of the Moot

4. **Organisers.** The Moot is organised as part of the India International Disputes Week 2027. In these Rules, the "Organisers" means the organisers of the Moot.

5. **Venue.** The Oral Hearings take place in person in Chandigarh, India. The dates of the Oral Hearings are **10 January – 12 January, 2027**.

6. **Stages.** The Moot has two stages.

   For Indian Teams:
   In the Memorandum Qualifier, every registered team files written Memoranda, and the best 24 teams qualify. The Oral Hearings, for those 24 teams, comprise Preliminary Rounds, Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and a Final.
   For International Teams:
   There is no Memorandum Qualifier round for the International teams and will directly proceed to the Oral Rounds.

7. **Language.** The Moot is conducted in English. All submissions and hearings are in English.

8. **Online portal.** Registration, Requests for Clarification, the submission of Memoranda and notices from the Organisers are all made through the Moot's online portal at www.disputesweek.com.

# RULES

9. **These Rules.** These Rules govern the Moot. The Organisers may amend them by notice on the online portal; an amendment takes effect on notification.

10. **Dates.** All dates in the calendar of the Moot are **To Be Announced**. The Organisers will publish them on the online portal. The stages of the Moot are listed in Appendix 1.

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## III. Registration

11. **Eligibility.** The Moot is open to students enrolled in a first degree in law (a 3-year or 5-year LL.B., or a foreign equivalent) in the 2026–27 academic year who are not yet admitted to practice.

12. **Two phases.** Registration takes place in two phases: Phase I, before the Memorandum Qualifier, open to all eligible teams; and Phase II, open only to the 24 teams that qualify for the Oral Hearings.

13. **Phase I registration.** Teams register for the Memorandum Qualifier on the online portal and pay the Phase I registration fee of **Rs. 3,000 for Indian teams and 50 USD for International teams**, with a bona fide certificate from the institution for each member. The deadline for Phase I registration is **November 20, 2026.**

14. **Phase II registration.** Phase II registration is open only to the 24 teams that qualify through the Memorandum Qualifier. The Organisers will communicate the Phase II registration fee and procedure to those teams by e-mail. The deadline for Phase II registration is **To Be Announced**. (by e-mail to qualifying teams)

15. **Fees non-refundable.** Registration fees, in either phase, are non-refundable.

16. **Team Code.** Each team is allotted a Team Code on Phase I registration. The Team Code is the team's only identifier in every submission, communication and round.

## IV. The Problem

17. **The Problem.** The Problem is *Selvaran Basin Water Authority v. Robus Compute Aldoria Ltd.*

18. **The Record.** The Record consists of the Problem (55 pages) and Procedural Order No. 2. Nothing else is evidence.

19. **Facts.** Teams may draw reasonable inferences from the Record. They may not invent facts. A fact outside the Record attracts the penalty in Appendix 3.

20. **Issues.** The four Issues set out in PO1 ¶4 are the only questions before the Tribunal:

    a) Issue I: joinder of Robus Intelligence Inc. as an additional party under Rule 9 of the arbitration rules applicable under PO1 ¶2;

    b) Issue II: interim measures, and inspection of Patch 4.2, the Water Guard configuration, the facility controller and the Gateway and Reservoir Interface credential records;

    c) Issue III: agentic AI, namely the attribution of the 4 May and 11 May actions, and human oversight; and

    d) Issue IV: the Water Use ceiling, excuse, and the recoverability of emergency costs.

21. **Matters out of scope.** Quantum, which is reserved to a later phase, and whether Aldoria or Selvara complied with the Veyra River Basin Treaty (Clause 6(3)) are outside the scope of the Moot. Submissions on either earn no credit.

22. **Stipulations.** The stipulations in PO1 ¶5 bind both sides and may not be contested.

23. **Requests for Clarification.** Teams may submit Requests for Clarification on the online portal. Each team may ask at most ten questions, each tagged to one of the nine categories

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in PO1 ¶7. Questions that seek legal conclusions, or that reveal a team's identity, will not be answered. The deadline for Requests for Clarification is **November 22, 2026**.

24. **Procedural Order No. 2.** The answers to the Requests for Clarification issue as Procedural Order No. 2, which forms part of the Record. The date of issue of Procedural Order No. 2 is **November 23, 2026**

### V. Teams

25. **Composition.** A team has two or three members: two speakers and an optional researcher. Roles may change between rounds, but only registered members may take part.

26. **One team per institution.** Each institution may register one team, unless the Organisers permit otherwise.

27. **Changes in team members.** After Phase I registration, a member may be substituted only with the Organisers' written approval.

28. **Sides.** Teams appear for the Claimant (SBWA) or the Respondent (RCAL). No team appears for Robus Intelligence Inc. The Respondent may address the position of Robus Intelligence Inc. on Issues I and II, within the limits of those Issues (PO1 ¶6).

## WRITTEN MEMORANDA

### VI. Memoranda

29. **Two Memoranda.** Every team files a Memorandum for the Claimant and a Memorandum for the Respondent. Each Memorandum must address all four Issues (PO1 ¶6).

30. **Contents.** Each Memorandum contains the following parts, in this order:

a) Cover Page;
b) Table of Contents;
c) List of Abbreviations;
d) Index of Authorities;
e) Statement of Facts;
f) Summary of Arguments;
g) Arguments; and
h) Request for Relief.

### VII. Formatting of Memoranda

31. **Cover Page.** The Cover Page shows the Team Code (top right), the side, the name of the Moot, the case name and number, and the words "Memorandum for the Claimant" or "Memorandum for the Respondent". The cover is light blue for the Claimant and light red for the Respondent.

32. **Page.** A4, with margins of 1 inch (2.54 cm) on all sides and page numbers at the bottom centre.

33. **Body text.** Times New Roman, 12 pt, 1.5 line spacing, justified.

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34. **Footnotes.** Times New Roman, 10 pt, single spacing. Footnotes contain citations only, and no argument.

35. **Citation.** Bluebook (21st ed.) applied consistently.

36. **Length.** The Statement of Facts to the Request for Relief may not exceed 35 pages in total (This page limit will include the Statement of Facts, Pleadings, Summary of Arguments, Request for Relief). Any Annexures, if included, shall be excluded from the prescribed page limit.

## VIII. Submission of Memoranda

37. **Time for submission.** Both Memoranda are submitted on the online portal by 23:59 IST on the deadline for Memoranda for the Memorandum Qualifier, which is **December 5, 2026**

38. **Files.** Each Memorandum is submitted as a searchable PDF and as a .docx file (for the similarity check). The files are named TeamCode_C and TeamCode_R. Names must be removed from the file metadata. Hard copies are required only if the Organisers ask for them.

39. **Final once filed.** No corrected version of a Memorandum is accepted after submission.

40. **Penalties.** The Organisers apply the Memorandum penalties in Appendix 3.

## IX. Scoring of Memoranda

41. **Evaluation.** Each Memorandum is marked out of 100 by two evaluators, and the two marks are averaged. If the two marks differ by more than 15, a third evaluator marks it and the two closest marks are averaged. The criteria are set out in Appendix 2.

42. **Feedback.** Every team receives its Memorandum scores and the evaluators' remarks after the competition.

## X. The Memorandum Qualifier

43. **Qualification for the Oral Hearings.** The Memoranda serve as the qualifying round of the Moot (the "Memorandum Qualifier"). The 24 teams with the highest average of the marks for their two Memoranda qualify for the Oral Hearings.

44. **Results.** The Organisers will inform the qualifying teams by e-mail. The date of the results of the Memorandum Qualifier is **December 10, 2026**.

45. **Participation in the Oral Hearings.** Only the qualifying teams that complete Phase II registration take part in the Oral Hearings.

# ORAL HEARINGS

## XI. Format of the Oral Hearings

46. **Tribunal.** Each round is heard by three arbitrators where possible, and by at least two in the Preliminary Rounds. The Final bench may have five arbitrators.

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47. **Duration of oral presentation.** Each team's time includes its rebuttal or surrebuttal. The time allowed in each round is:

| Round | Time per team | Rebuttal / surrebuttal (max) | Each speaker (min–max) | Extension the Tribunal may grant |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Preliminary Rounds | 25 min | 3 min | 8–14 min | Up to 1 min |
| Quarter-Finals | 30 min | 4 min | 10–16 min | Up to 2 min |
| Semi-Finals | 40 min | 5 min | 15–20 min | Up to 2 min |
| Final | 45 min | 5 min | 15–25 min | Up to 3 min |

48. **Questions by the Tribunal.** The clock does not stop for the Tribunal's questions.

49. **Order of presentation.** The order of presentation in each round is:

a) Claimant, Speaker 1;

b) Claimant, Speaker 2;

c) Respondent, Speaker 1;

d) Respondent, Speaker 2;

e) Claimant, rebuttal; and

f) Respondent, surrebuttal.

50. **Time slip.** Before the round, each team hands the Court Clerk its split of time between Speaker 1, Speaker 2 and rebuttal or surrebuttal, within the limits in paragraph 47. The split is fixed once the round begins.

51. **Arguments.** Between its two speakers, each team must address all four Issues. The team chooses who argues which Issue, and in what order (PO1 ¶4).

52. **Rebuttal and surrebuttal.** Rebuttal answers only the Respondent's oral submissions; surrebuttal answers only the rebuttal. If the Claimant waives rebuttal, there is no surrebuttal. Either speaker may deliver it.

53. **Unused time.** Unused time lapses. It does not pass to the co-speaker or to the rebuttal or surrebuttal.

54. **Extensions.** Only the Presiding Arbitrator may grant an extension, on counsel's request, up to the limit in paragraph 47. Time within an extension is not penalised. Rebuttal and surrebuttal are never extended.

55. **Timekeeping.** The official timekeeper shows cards at 5, 2 and 1 minute(s) remaining, and then "Time up". For rebuttal and surrebuttal, the timekeeper shows a card at 1 minute, and then "Time up". At "Time up" counsel must stop or ask for an extension. The timekeeper's record is final.

## XII. Conduct in the Hearing Room

56. **Form of address.** The Tribunal is an arbitral tribunal, not a court. Counsel address the Presiding Arbitrator as "Madam President" or "Mr President", and the bench as "Members of the Tribunal".

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57. **Attire.** Formal business attire. No gowns, bands or robes.

58. **Anonymity.** Counsel may give their names, but never their institution, city or country.

59. **Counsel table.** Only the two speakers and the researcher sit at the counsel table. They communicate by silent written notes only, and with no one else during the round.

60. **Devices.** No phones, laptops or tablets are allowed at the counsel table. A stopwatch with no connectivity is allowed.

61. **Exhibits and compendium.** A team may hand up one compendium per round: up to 25 pages of extracts from the Record and authorities, indexed and tabbed, with no argument or notes. The team gives the Court Clerk one copy per arbitrator and one for the opposing team before the round begins.

62. **No scouting.** Members, coaches and associates of a team still in the competition may not watch another team's round, or have anyone watch on their behalf. Eliminated teams may watch any round. The Final is open to all.

63. **Contact with arbitrators and evaluators.** No team may contact an arbitrator or evaluator about the Moot before the results are declared. Benches may give oral feedback after a round but never disclose scores or results.

64. **Non-appearance.** A team not present 10 minutes after the scheduled start forfeits the round. Its opponent argues and is scored.

65. **Recording of arguments.** Only the Organisers may record a round.

## XIII. Scoring of the Oral Hearings

66. **Oral scores.** Each arbitrator marks each speaker out of 100, using the criteria in Appendix 2. Rebuttal and surrebuttal count within the delivering speaker's marks.

67. **Preliminary Round score.** The Preliminary Rounds are decided on a weighting of 70 per cent oral and 30 per cent Memorandum. The Oral score is both speakers' marks (out of 200), averaged across the bench. The Memorandum score is the team's mark for the side it argues. The Round Score is:

$$\text{Round Score} = 0.35 \times \text{Oral (out of 200)} + 0.30 \times \text{Memorandum (out of 100)}$$

The team with the higher Round Score wins. On a tie, the higher oral mark wins; if the teams are still tied, the bench decides by majority.

68. **Knockout rounds.** The Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Final are decided on oral advocacy alone and go to the team that wins a majority of the bench. Each arbitrator votes for the team with the higher total on their own sheet and must break any tie on it. Memoranda do not count.

69. **Oral penalties.** Each arbitrator applies the oral penalties in Appendix 3 on their own sheet.

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## XIV. Advancement and Pairings

70. **Preliminary Rounds.** Each of the 24 qualifying teams argues two Preliminary Rounds, once for the Claimant and once for the Respondent. Pairings are drawn by lot, and no two teams meet twice.

71. **Ranking.** After the Preliminary Rounds, teams are ranked by the following criteria, applied in this order:

    a) number of wins;

    b) total of both Round Scores;

    c) total of both Memorandum marks;

    d) highest single speaker mark; and

    e) draw of lots.

72. **Quarter-Final Round.** The top eight teams advance to the Quarter-Finals. They are seeded 1 to 8, and the bracket is fixed, with no re-seeding:

    a) Quarter-Final 1: Seed 1 v Seed 8;

    b) Quarter-Final 2: Seed 4 v Seed 5;

    c) Quarter-Final 3: Seed 2 v Seed 7; and

    d) Quarter-Final 4: Seed 3 v Seed 6.

73. **Semi-Final Round.** The winners of Quarter-Finals 1 and 2 meet in Semi-Final 1, and the winners of Quarter-Finals 3 and 4 meet in Semi-Final 2. Seeds 1 and 2 can therefore meet only in the Final.

74. **Final Round.** The winners of the two Semi-Finals meet in the Final.

75. **Determination as to which team is Claimant and which is Respondent.** In the Quarter-Finals the higher seed chooses its side. In the Semi-Finals and the Final, sides are decided by toss 30 minutes before the round.

76. **Winning Team.** The winner of the Final is the winning team of the Moot.

# ASSISTANCE

77. **Written Memoranda.** Memoranda must be the team's own work. Faculty and coaches may discuss general law, but may not draft, edit or review a Memorandum.

78. **Allowed use of artificial intelligence (AI).** Generative AI may be used for research and proofreading only.

79. **Prohibited use of AI.** No AI-generated argument text may appear in a Memorandum.

80. **AI disclosure.** Each team declares its AI use when it submits its Memoranda.

81. **Oral Hearings.** Oral submissions must be the team's own.

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## AWARDS

82. The awards given in the Moot are:

a) **Winning Team:** the winner of the Final;

b) **Runner-Up Team:** the other finalist;

c) **Best Memorandum:** the team securing the highest marks in the Claimant Memorandum and the team securing the highest marks in the Respondent Memorandum shall be awarded the respective Best Memorandum Awards;

d) **Best Oralist, Preliminary Rounds:** the speaker with the highest average speaker mark, who must have argued in both Preliminary Rounds; and

e) **Best Oralist, Final:** chosen by the Final bench.

83. **Prizes.**

a) **Winning Team** shall be awarded **a Cash Prize of Rs. 2,10,000** along with a paid internship opportunity.

b) **Runner-Up Team** shall be awarded **a Cash Prize of Rs. 1,00,000** along with a paid internship opportunity.

c) **Best Memorandum** shall be awarded **a Cash Prize of Rs. 25,000 each** along with a paid internship opportunity.

d) **Best Oralist, Preliminary Rounds** shall be awarded **a Cash Prize of Rs. 25,000** along with a paid internship opportunity.

e) **Best Oralist, Final** shall be awarded **a Cash Prize of Rs. 25,000** along with a paid internship opportunity.

84. **Certificates.** Every participant receives a certificate of participation. Quarter-finalists and semi-finalists receive certificates of merit.

## INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES

85. **Interpretation.** The Organisers interpret these Rules and decide any matter they do not cover. Their decision is final.

86. **Complaints.** A team may lodge a written complaint with the Organisers within 30 minutes of the round concerned. Only procedural or calculation errors are reviewable, never an arbitrator's marks. Complaints are decided before the next round where possible, and the decision is final.

87. **Conduct.** Discourteous or dishonest conduct may lead to penalties or disqualification.

## CONTACT DETAILS

88. **Communication.** All communication with the Organisers is made through the online portal or by e-mail to moot@disputesweek.com, quoting the Team Code.

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# APPENDIX 1

## *Calendar of the Moot*

All dates are **To Be Announced**. The Organisers will publish them on the online portal.

| Stage | Paragraph | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Release of the Problem | 17 | **November 2, 2026** |
| Phase I registration closes (Rs. 3000 for Indian teams and 50 USD for International teams) | 13 | **November 20, 2026** |
| Requests for Clarification close | 23 | **November 22, 2026** |
| Procedural Order No. 2 issued | 24 | **November 23, 2026** |
| Memoranda due for the Memorandum Qualifier (both sides), 23:59 IST | 37 | **December 5, 2026** |
| Results of the Memorandum Qualifier | 44 | **December 10, 2026** |
| Phase II registration closes (24 qualifying teams) | 14 | **To Be Announced** (by e-mail to qualifying teams) |
| Oral Hearings, Chandigarh | 5 | **January 10 - January 12, 2027** |

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# APPENDIX 2

*Scoring Criteria*

## A. Memoranda (paragraph 41)

| Memorandum criterion | Marks |
|---|---|
| Command of the Record | 20 |
| Legal analysis: Indian law on the arbitration agreement, the applicable arbitration rules, UNIDROIT Principles, Model Law on Automated Contracting, AI Act | 30 |
| Research and use of authority | 20 |
| Structure, clarity and persuasiveness | 20 |
| Citation, formatting and language | 10 |
| **Total** | **100** |

## B. Oral Hearings (paragraph 66)

| Oral criterion | Marks |
|---|---|
| Command of the Record and the Issues | 20 |
| Legal reasoning and use of authority | 25 |
| Answers to the Tribunal's questions | 25 |
| Structure and time management | 15 |
| Advocacy and conduct | 15 |
| **Total** | **100** |

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# APPENDIX 3

## *Schedule of Penalties*

The Organisers apply the Memorandum penalties. Each arbitrator applies the oral penalties on their own sheet.

| Breach | Penalty |
|---|---|
| **A. Memoranda** | |
| Late submission | −3 marks per 24 hours or part; disqualification after 72 hours |
| Over the page limit | −2 marks per page |
| Missing mandatory section | −2 marks per section |
| Format or citation breach | −1 mark each, up to −5 |
| Identifying information, including file metadata | −10 marks; disqualification if deliberate |
| Plagiarism or undeclared AI-drafted text | Disqualification |
| **B. Oral Hearings** | |
| Over time without an extension (after a 30-second grace) | −2 marks per minute or part, from that speaker |
| Fact outside the Record | Up to −5 marks per instance, at the arbitrator's discretion |
| Disclosing institution, city or country | −10 marks from the team's oral total |
| Device use or outside communication | −10 marks to disqualification |
| Scouting | Disqualification |
| Absent 10 minutes after the scheduled start | Round forfeited |

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