Thiru. K. Subramania Nadar – Vadivoo Ammal Educational Trust

**S. THANGAPAZHAM LAW COLLEGE**

Affiliated to the Tamilnadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai

Approved by Bar Council of India, New Delhi

Vasudevanallur

# 1st National Online Memorial Drafting Competition - 2K26

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## 2K26

## About the Institution

**S. Thangapazham Group of Institutions, situated amidst the lush greenery of the picturesque village of Vasudevanallur in Tenkasi District, in the southern region of Tamil Nadu, is a multidisciplinary educational group committed to providing quality and accessible education across diverse fields. The Group offers education in Medicine, Agriculture, Law, Engineering, Pharmacy, Nursing, and School Education, fostering academic excellence, professional competence, ethical values, and holistic development. With a vision to empower students through knowledge, skills, and practical learning, the Group strives to prepare them to meet evolving professional challenges and contribute meaningfully to society at national and global levels.**

## About S. THANGAPAZHAM LAW COLLEGE

**S.Thangapazham Law College was established in 2022–23 under the Thiru K. Subramania Nadar– Vadivoo Ammal Educational Trust and is approved by the Bar Council of India and affiliated with the Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai. The College is committed to providing quality, inclusive, and globally oriented legal education through a student-centric approach, with emphasis on academic excellence, practical legal training, research, advocacy, critical thinking, and professional skills. It promotes ethical values, constitutional principles, justice, and the rule of law while providing opportunities for experiential learning through moot courts, internships, seminars, conferences, court visits, and legal awareness programmes. With a special focus on empowering students from rural and diverse backgrounds, the College strives to integrate contemporary legal developments and emerging areas of law into its academic environment. It aims to prepare competent, ethical, socially responsible, and globally capable legal professionals who can meet the evolving demands of the legal profession and contribute meaningfully to society at both national and international levels.**

## About the Competition

**A Moot Memorial Drafting Competition is an academic exercise in which law students draft written pleadings, or memorials, addressing a hypothetical legal problem from the standpoint of either the petitioner/appellant or the respondent. The competition centers on legal research, drafting proficiency, and the ability to construct a well-structured, persuasive written argument. It seeks to sharpen students' research and drafting skills, acquaint them with the format and conventions of court pleadings, foster analytical application of statutory and case law to hypothetical facts, and offer a national platform for participants to demonstrate their abilities alongside peers from across the country.**

## Rules of the Competition

### Definitions

- **Competition refers to STLC 1st National Online Memorial Drafting Competition, 2026.**
- **Organizing Committee means the committee, including any authorized persons, appointed for the administration and conduct of the competition and of all events leading to the competition.**
- **Moot Proposition means the official hypothetical problem which has been drafted and published for use in the Competition.**

### Mode and Language

**The competition will be held online, and all submissions must be in English.**

### Eligibility

- **Students currently enrolled in a three-year or five-year law degree course at any recognised University, Law college, or Institution may participate.**
- **There is no limit on the number of entries from any one College or University.**

### Team Composition

- **A team may have one or two members, each meeting the eligibility criteria.**
- **Institutions may register multiple teams, including from different Universities, Law Schools, Colleges, or Departments.**

**Registration**

**Registration fee (non-refundable and non-transferable in all circumstances):**

**Team - Max upto 2 Participants**

**Fee:**

**Individual : Rs. 250/-**

**Team of two : Rs. 400/-**

**Registration link: https://forms.gle/bUR1VfwhjUGxfVjR8**

**Payment Options**

- **UPI ID:**
- **QR Code:**

Or Pay to UPI ID
sthangapalamlawcollegeevents@tmb

**After paying, participants must upload a screenshot of the payment in the registration Google Form.**

**Important Dates**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Registration Opens** | **: 25.09.2026** |
| **Last date for registration** | **: 21.10.2026 (11:59 pm)** |
| **Last date to seek clarifications** | **: 24.10.2026 (5:00 pm)** |
| **Memorial Submission Deadline** | **: 28.10.2026 (11:59 pm)** |
| **Announcement of results** | **: 04.11.2026** |

## Submission of Memorials

1. Each participant or team must prepare one memorial, on behalf of both the Petitioner/Appellant and the Respondent.
2. Memorials must be submitted through the designated E-mail Id: stlcmootevents@gmail.com.

- Use the subject line "Team Code – Submission of Memorial".
- Attach both the Word and PDF versions in the same e-mail.
- Name the files with the Team Code only.
- Send one e-mail per team.
- The organisers acknowledge receipt by reply.

3. Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances.

## Formatting Guidelines

1. Submit the memorial in both Word (.doc/.docx) and PDF (.pdf) formats.
2. Body text: A4 page, Times New Roman, size 12, 1.5-line spacing, 1-inch margins on all sides justified.
3. Footnotes: Times New Roman, size 10, single spacing, justified.
4. Citations: Every source or authority must be cited in accordance with the Bluebook Citation (20th ed)
5. Required components, in order:
   A. Cover Page
   B. Table of Contents
   C. List of Abbreviations
   D. Index of Authorities
   E. Statement of Jurisdiction
   F. Statement of Facts
   G. Issues Raised
   H. Summary of Arguments
   I. Arguments Advanced
   J. Prayer
   K. Annexures (optional)

6. **Length: The memorial must not exceed 40 pages, and the Arguments Advanced must not exceed 25 pages.**
7. **Cover page colour: Blue for the Petitioner and Red for the Respondent.**
8. **The Team Code must appear in the upper right corner of the cover page.**
9. **The cover page must also state: (a) Team Code, (b) Name of the Court/Forum, (c) Jurisdiction, (d) Cause Title, and (e) the party on whose behalf the memorial is filed.**
10. **The List of Abbreviations may include only abbreviations actually used in the memorial. Each unused abbreviation attracts a penalty of 1 mark. The Index of Authorities must give the page number(s) where each authority is cited.**
11. **Memorials will be accepted only through the Email ID: stlcmootevents@gmail.com.**
12. **Any identifying information about the participants anywhere in the memorial will result in immediate disqualification.**
13. **Penalties for violation of the rules and regulations of the competition will be decided by the organizing committee.**
14. **The submission must maintain a plagiarism and AI detection score of less than 10%.**

**Evaluation:**

**Memorials will be marked out of 100**

**Criterion & Marks**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Knowledge of law and facts** | **: 10 Marks** |
| **Jurisdiction** | **: 20 Marks** |
| **Identification and Interpretation of application of law** | **: 20 Marks** |
| **Research and use of relevant precedent** | **: 20 Marks** |
| **Clarity and organisation** | **: 20 Marks** |
| **Structure, Drafting, Citation, and overall presentation of the memorial** | **: 10 Marks** |
| **Total** | **: 100 Marks** |

## General Rules

1. **The judges' decision on results is final.**
2. **No additional documentation will be permitted.**
3. **In any situation not covered by these rules, the organisers' decision is final and binding.**
4. **The organisers may amend the rules, but participating teams will be given due notice.**
5. **Participants must comply with all rules set by the Organising Committee. Non-compliance may result in a deduction of marks.**
6. **All certificates will be digital, digitally signed, and emailed to the address given in the registration form.**
7. **Participants should check their email regularly for updates.**

## Prizes

- **Winner : Rs. 10,000/- + Certificate of Merit**
- **First Runner-Up : Rs. 7,000/- + Certificate of Merit**
- **Second Runner-Up : Rs. 5,000/- + Certificate of Merit**
- **All participants shall be given a certificate of participation**

## Contact (for any queries)

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## MOOT PROPOSITION

***Disclaimer***

***The laws of the Republic of Indusia are identical to and in pari materia with the laws of the Republic of India. Indusia is a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic with a written constitution identical to that of India. All relevant laws, procedures, and judicial precedents of Indusia are identical to those of India. All characters, locations, entities, and events in this moot proposition are fictitious.***

**The State of Vindhya, one of the states of the Republic of Indusia, built and operated the Bhadra Smart Dam on the Narmada River through its State Water Resources Department. The dam was constructed to provide irrigation to agriculture and to generate hydroelectric power. The said dam's overall statutory ownership and ultimate control vested in the State. In 2024, the day to day technical operations, network maintenance, and SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) programming of the dam were outsourced under a multi-year service agreement to the Apex Cyber-Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd., a private technology enterprise. On January 10, 2026, the Federal Critical Infrastructure Protection Agency (FCIPA) issued an emergency directive to all major power and water utilities across the country mandating the immediate installation of a security update known as Patch 4.1.2 to seal a critical buffer-overflow vulnerability found in older SCADA systems.**

**Eco-Frontline is an environmental action group led by Tara Menon, a 26-year-old marine biologist and self-taught programmer. For over two years, Tara Menon who campaigned against the Bhadra Dam asserting that blocking the flow of the river completely dried out the downstream wetlands would cause the endangered Vindhyan River Dolphin to extinction. On May 26, 2025, Tara Menon had sent a letter to the authorities concerned requesting that the issues regarding the blocking the flow of the river to be addressed. In this respect, no response was ever received from the authorities to this letter. On July 14, 2026, during heavy monsoon rains, the reservoir of the Bhadra Dam reached 92% of its capacity. At 23:30 hours, having discovered the unpatched vulnerability, Tara Menon and her associates bypassed the network security thus gained remote administrative access to the dam's control terminal.**

**Concurrently, Tara published a manifesto on the social media platform AgoraX: "We have no intention to hurt anyone or to damage state property. Our sole purpose is an urgent, non-violent ecological intervention. We are going to execute a controlled 10% release through the spillway gates to restore the base flow of the downstream wetlands in order to save the river dolphins from dying." At 01:45 hours on July 15, 2026, Tara Menon entered the software command for a "10% Gate Aperture." However, as the system lacked Patch 4.1.2, the legacy software experienced an unhandled buffer overflow and suffered a complete logic crash. Instead of a controlled 10% opening, all six primary spillway gates swung open to 100% at 02:00 hours.**

**A massive volume of water surged down the riverbed:**

- **In the State of Vindhya: By 04:00 hours, the flood submerged the downstream town of Jalpur, drowning 120 residents, destroying 400 homes, and damaging crops and infrastructure.**

- **In the Neighboring State of Revanchal: The surging waters crossed the inter-state border into the downstream State of Revanchal. The sudden saturation loosened the hills around the town of Devgiri, thus triggering a massive landslide that buried residential settlements, causing 165 deaths and wiped out highways and bridges.**

**On July 16, 2026, Tara Menon voluntarily surrendered before the Cyber Crime Police Station in Cyberabad (the capital of Vindhya), and she stated: "I never intended to cause loss of life or to hurt any person. I acted purely out of necessity to prevent the imminent destruction of an entire ecosystem. The deaths and devastation occurred solely because the private company and the authorities failed to maintain the safe software."**

**FIR No. 45/2026: Registered on July 18, 2026, against Tara Menon and her associates for murder, cyber terrorism, and for the act of threatening the Sovereignty and Integrity of Indusia.**

**FIR No. 48/2026: Registered on July 22, 2026, upon a complaint by the Jalpur Disaster Victims Welfare Trust against the Directors of Apex Cyber-Tech and the State Dam Engineers for causing death by negligence, a culpable homicide not amounting to murder, and violations of applicable dam safety regulations.**

**During the custodial interrogation of Tara Menon, the officials of Apex Cyber-Tech, and the State Irrigation engineers, the Cyber Crime Police recorded detailed statements:**

- **Tara Menon consistently maintained that the code she used was strictly designed to input a 10% aperture, and the forensic digital seizure of her laptop verified that no command for a full discharge was ever written or queued by her.**

- **The Apex Cyber-Tech executives initially claimed that their cybersecurity systems were fully compliant and blamed the disaster exclusively on the external cyber intrusion.**

- **However, during the questioning of technical personnel, a senior Lead Systems Engineer of Apex Cyber-Tech turned whistleblower who formally handed over a verified copy of an internal memo dated February 15, 2026, written by the company's Chief Operating Officer (COO). The memo stated: "Installing Patch 4.1.2 necessitates shutting down the dam's power plant for 48 hours, creating a direct loss of ₹12 crores in commercial power transmission revenue. Postpone all patching work until the dry season in the State of Vindhya."**

- **The engineer's statement and the memo confirmed that the company executives had deliberately suppressed the mandatory security patch for financial reasons, keeping state authorities unaware of the deferral.**

**Following the cross-border destruction and casualties, the High Court of Vindhya initiated a suo motu proceedings in the public interest. The Jalpur Disaster Victims Welfare Trust filed an application to join the case, the Court allowed their application.**
**The High Court of Revanchal initiated a separate suo motu proceedings regarding the landslide and deaths in Devgiri. A local group called the Devgiri Citizens Action Forum filed a petition seeking to hold the State of Vindhya, the Apex Cyber-Tech, and Tara Menon liable. The Court clubbed the petitions together.**

**To manage the inter-state disaster, both the High Courts issued the directions to create a specialized forum: the Inter-State Cyber Terrorism Special Court. By administrative notification, this Court was vested with plenary authority to decide all related civil claims, to fix financial and operational liability, to determine compensation against the State and Private entities, and to conduct criminal trials for offenses concerning national security and cyber terrorism.**

**Before the Court began the recording of evidence, the State Government of Vindhya and the Apex Cyber-Tech filed a petition in the High Court of Vindhya, arguing that constitutional courts could not create a special court to try capital penal offenses in order to bypass regular civil and criminal courts. The High Court initially granted an ex-parte interim stay on the Court's proceedings. However, following an urgent hearing, the High Court vacated the stay, holding that the Court possessed full authority to adjudicate both the claims for damages and the penal charges under the emergency circumstances of the disaster.**

**The Special Court delivered a unified verdict: relying on the whistleblower's testimony and upon the February 15 internal memo, the Court ruled that according to law the liability lay squarely on both the State of Vindhya and the Apex Cyber-Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd. It rejected the argument of unforeseen cyber intervention ordering them to pay ₹1,500 crores in compensation to victims of both the states. The Court rejected the defence of necessity ruling that tampering with critical national infrastructure shall not be excused by ecological claims. Having found Tara Menon guilty of cyber terrorism and murder, the Court sentenced her to double life imprisonment.**

**Special Court found the accused - Directors of Apex Cyber-Tech and the State Dam Engineers guilty of causing death by negligence, culpable homicide not amounting to murder, and violation of the applicable dam safety regulations, and sentenced them to imprisonment and fine in accordance with the applicable law.**

**Tara appealed to the High Court, asserting:**

- **A Special Court was created merely by judicial order couldn't assume jurisdiction to conduct a criminal trial for terrorism offenses and impose such punishment thereof.**

- **She had no criminal intention to cause human loss or flood damage, and acted under the statutory defence of necessity to save a river ecosystem.**

- **The catastrophic discharge was proximately caused by the Apex Cyber-Tech's deliberate failure to patch the vulnerability, as established by the company's internal memo.**

**The High Court upheld the creation and penal jurisdiction of the Special Court. However, having taken note of Tara Menon's non-violent intent, absence of any prior criminal record, and the newly uncovered evidence of the corporate postponement of the patch, the High Court commuted her sentence from double life imprisonment to a single life imprisonment, along with a fine of ₹50 lakhs.**

**The High Court dismissed the appeals filed by the State of Vindhya and the Apex Cyber-Tech affirming that legal liability for the dam failure and the resulting losses lay with them. The Hon'ble High Court, upon hearing the appeal, thus confirmed the judgment of the Special Court.**

**Following the High Court's decision:**

**1.Tara Menon filed a Criminal Appeal before the Supreme Court of Indusia, challenging her conviction, the legality of the trial by the special court, and the rejection of the defence of necessity.**

**2.The State of Vindhya and the Apex Cyber-Tech filed Special Leave Petitions arguing that legal liability shall not be fastened onto them for damages triggered by an unauthorized criminal cyber breach.**

**3.The State of Revanchal filed an Original Suit under the provisions of the Constitution against the State of Vindhya seeking inter-state damages and indemnification for the deaths and destruction caused in Devgiri.**

**The Hon'ble Supreme Court of Indusia tagged all the petitions and the suits together for a final consolidated hearing.**

**Issues**

**Issue 1: Whether the Honble' High Courts possessed constitutional authority to create a Special Court empowered to conduct criminal trials, adjudicate offenses of cyber terrorism, and award punishment, and whether such a procedure violates established criminal procedure and fundamental rights under the Constitution.**

**Issue 2: Whether an unauthorized cyber intrusion into critical infrastructure to carry out for ecological preservation and protection, where system collapse and mass casualties were triggered by an unpatched vulnerability, satisfies the legal ingredients of cyber terrorism and murder.**

**Issue 3: Whether the sentence of single life imprisonment along with a fine of ₹50 lakhs, as imposed by the High Court on the commutation of the Special Court's original sentence of double life imprisonment, was lawful, just, and proportionate under the sentencing principles of penal law.**

**Issue 4: In light of the internal memo and the third-party digital breach, whether legal liability for the flood and landslide damage lies with the State of Vindhya and the Apex Cyber-Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd.**

**Issue 5: Whether the State of Revanchal is entitled to maintain an original suit under the provisions of the Indusian Constitution and to claim damages from the upstream State of Vindhya for trans-boundary devastation resulting from the management of a shared river.**

# ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

**Chief Patron : Mr. S. Thangapazham**
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**Patron: Mr. T. Murugesan**
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***Together, let us foster excellence in legal research, advocacy, and professional learning.***