

**Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution,
Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab
&
Dr PC Markanda Chair on Alternative Dispute Resolution**

5th RGNUL NATIONAL NEGOTIATION COMPETITION, 2025

NOVEMBER 7-9, 2025



CADR @ RGNUL

Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), Punjab, is a premier law university, established in 2006. Known for its excellence in legal education, RGNUL offers a comprehensive curriculum that balances theoretical knowledge with practical skills. The university provides students with opportunities to participate in various competitions, including those focused on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), helping them develop crucial negotiation and mediation skills. With a modern campus, experienced faculty, and a strong emphasis on research, RGNUL prepares its students for successful careers in the legal field, fostering both academic and professional growth.

The Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (CADR) at RGNUL, Punjab, is dedicated to advancing the study and practice of ADR methods. Established to foster interest among students and researchers, CADR promotes ADR as a tool for achieving socio-economic and political justice. The Centre aims to strengthen ADR mechanisms in India by providing a platform for students to explore and deepen their understanding of alternative dispute resolution. Through workshops, seminars, and research initiatives, CADR supports the development of future legal professionals skilled in ADR, contributing to a more effective and equitable legal system.

Dr. PC Markanda Chair on ADR

Late Advocate Dr. P.C. Markanda was one of the leading arbitration lawyers in India. He was popularly known as the Father of Indian Arbitration. His career spanning several decades saw him contributing immensely to the working and jurisprudence of arbitration in the country. Starting off as a civil engineer, he went on to earn a Doctor of Laws (LLD), and wrote several books on the law of arbitration, partnership, building and engineering contracts, for laypersons and experts. Dr. Markanda was also a honoured recipient of a posthumous degree of LL.D. (post-doctoral) from Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL). To carry forward his legacy and vision, RGNUL has set up Dr. P.C. Markanda Chair on ADR.

The objective of the Chair is to set up RGNUL as a hub of Arbitration and to render training and technical assistance by way of setting up training institutes for Arbitration and Mediation, to conduct meaningful research in the areas of ADR and provide consultancy by way of introducing legal start-ups and collaborations in the country and further it aims to impart basic education by way of initiating new degree, diploma and certificate courses by uplifting the core principles and ethics behind ADR.

Previous Editions

The **Inaugural** RGNUL National Negotiation Competition was organized by CADR, RGNUL and was held online from October 8–10, 2021. Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas acted as the Chief Knowledge Partner, with CAMP as Supporting Partner, Justice Kuldip Prakash Bhandari Foundation, Chandigarh as Knowledge Partner, and SCC Online as Media Partner. The three-day event attracted 34 teams from premier law universities.

The **Second Edition** of the Competition took place physically from November 12–14, 2022, organized by CADR, RGNUL, and the Dr. P.C. Markanda Chair on ADR, RGNUL, Punjab. Knowledge partners and sponsors included Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, Justice Kuldip Prakash Bhandari, and the Indian Dispute Resolution Centre. Media partners were Live Law, Lawoctopus, and Latest Laws, while Young Negotiators Club (YNC) India and Probono Club RGNUL served as Supporting Partners.

The **Third Edition** of the RGNUL National Negotiation Competition was hosted by the Centre from November 3–5, 2023. Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co. continued its association as the Chief Knowledge Partner. With SCC Online as Media Partner, the event saw collaborations with Justice Kuldip Prakash Bhandari Foundation, Chandigarh, Eastern Book Company and Dr. P.C. Markanda Chair on ADR.

The **Fourth Edition** of the RGNUL National Negotiation Competition was held online from February 7–9, 2025, organized by CADR, RGNUL with Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co. as the Chief Knowledge Partner, Justice Kuldip Prakash Bhandari Foundation, Chandigarh, as a key collaborator, Manupatra as the Knowledge Partner, and LiveLaw as the Media Partner.

Our Collaborators

**Shardul Amarchand
Mangaldas & Co.**

Principle Knowledge Partner



Markanda Advocates

Knowledge Partner



**Justice KP Bhandari
Foundation**

Chief Advisory Partner



SCC Times

Media Partner



**Centre for Trade and
Investment Law**

Expert Partner



**Kovise Foundation Conflict
Resolution International**

Supporting Partner



Our Collaborators

Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co.



Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co (SAM), is one of India's leading law firms rated by International Organisations, Law Directories and Professional Journals. As a full-service law firm, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas and Co. is renowned in the business community for its ability to enable business, its innovative solutions, responsiveness and collaboration with its clients. The firm has over 700 lawyers, including over 150 Partners, offering legal services through their offices in New Delhi, Mumbai, Gurugram, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Chennai.



Markanda Advocates

Markanda Advocates, a top law firm in Delhi and a leading Arbitration Law Firm in India, specializes in handling significant claims. It serves as legal counsel in various domestic and international arbitrations, including investor-state arbitrations and construction disputes. The firm also assists in dispute resolution through negotiations and mediation, with lawyers often acting as arbitrators. Collaborating closely with clients' in-house legal teams, they offer expertise in resolving disputes and frequently partner with co counsel seeking a team that respects existing client relationships.

Our Collaborators

Justice KP Bhandari Foundation



Justice Kuldip Prakash Bhandari
Foundation, Chandigarh

The JKPBF was founded by Mrs. Prabha Bhandari, Mr. Pradip Bhandari, and Ms. Varuna Bhandari Gugnani in 2017 in memory of the late Justice Kuldip Prakash Bhandari, who served as a judge on the Punjab and Haryana High Court, as the Advocate General for the State of Punjab, as the Chairman of the Punjab State Law Commission, and as a distinguished Senior Advocate on the Supreme Court of India. JKPBF is a trust dedicated to spreading knowledge, promoting education in institutions, awarding fellowships, instilling a sense of responsibility to serve society, and educating students and researchers about their role in "National Development."

SCC[®] TIMES
ONLINE

SCC Times

The Supreme Court Cases, or SCC, is the law report that was started in 1969 and currently has over 400 volumes. The Supreme Court of India and other courts in India, along with all other standard works of the law, cite it 67% of the time. Other apex courts, including the House of Lords, the South African Constitutional Court, the VSSC, the Pakistan Supreme Court, the Bay Supreme Court, and Malaysian courts, also cite it.

Our Collaborators

Centre for Trade and Investment Law



The Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL), established under the Ministry of Commerce, is India's premier institution for research, capacity building, and policy support in international trade and investment law. Recognised for its scholarship, advisory work, and training, CTIL engages with WTO law, FTAs, investment treaties, and dispute settlement to strengthen India's global expertise. With a team of legal experts and active collaboration worldwide, CTIL bridges policy, practice, and academia while nurturing the next generation of trade law professionals. Its work ensures India's active and informed participation in shaping global economic governance.



Kovise Foundation Conflict Resolution International

Kovise Foundation Conflict Resolution International (KFCRI), established in 2016, is a global hub for ADR accreditation, research, and training. It promotes dialogue-driven dispute resolution with world-class infrastructure, tailored rules, and skilled professionals, while offering arbitration, mediation, and negotiation services, training, and awareness programmes worldwide.

FORMAT

The **5th NegComp** will be held in an **online mode**.

There shall be two preliminary rounds followed by quarter finals, semi-finals, and finals. The two-member Negotiating Team will comprise of a client and a counsel who will mandatorily have to play both roles atleast once during preliminary rounds.

Universities interested in sending more than one team are requested to express their intention by reaching out to the organizing committee. It should be noted that the allocation of slots to any university will be a decision made solely by CADR-RGNUL, and shall be final and binding.

Any student enrolled in Undergraduate or Postgraduate Law degree programme in any University recognised by the Bar Council of India as on 1st September 2025, is eligible to participate.

Each University must be represented by two students, i.e. one Client and one Counsel. The composition of the team will not be permitted to change once the same has been communicated to the Organising Committee.

The Registration Fee for the competition is **INR 6500/-** per team (exclusive of GST). The fee is non-refundable.

TIMELINE

(TENTATIVE)

**Provisional Registration
Opens
18/09/2025**

**Release of GI
12/10/2025**

**Release of Clarifications
23/10/2025**

**Dates of the Competition
7/11/2025 - 9/11/2025**

**Provisional Registration
Deadline
05/10/2025**

**Last Date to submit
Clarifications
20/10/2025**

**Last Date to submit
Negotiation Plan
28/10/2025**

REGISTRATION LINK

AWARDS

WINNERS

The team with the highest marks in the final round of the competition shall be the Winners of the Competition.

RUNNER-UP

The team with the lower marks in the final round of the competition shall be the Runners-up.

BEST NEGOTIATOR

The participant with the highest individual score in the Preliminary Rounds will be awarded the Best Negotiator.

BEST NEGOTIATING PLAN

The team with the highest average score of the two Negotiation Plans in the Preliminary Rounds will be awarded the Best Negotiating Plan award.

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

All participating teams will receive a certificate of participation.

*Exciting cash prizes and internship opportunities will be conferred, with specific information to be released in due course.

Contact Details

PATRON-IN-CHIEF

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PATRON

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