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6TH RGNUL NATIONAL NEGOTIATION COMPETITION, 2026

GENERAL INFORMATION

QUARTER-FINAL ROUND

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QUARTER-FINAL ROUND: GENERAL INFORMATION

'REMAINS TO BE SEEN: THE LUNAR MEMORIAL DISPUTE'

BRIEF ON THE PARTIES

GADA AEROSPACE LTD.

1. Gada Aerospace Ltd. **("Gada")** is a private space transportation company incorporated in the Republic of Meridian in 2018. Its operations are licensed and supervised by the Meridian Authority for Space Activities **("MASA")**, the statutory regulator established under Meridian's Space Activities Act, 2022, to supervise private space activities in accordance with Meridian's obligations under the Outer Space Treaty, 1967. Its Chief Executive Officer is Mr. Jetha Muskwala Gada.
2. TMKOC-3 is Gada's third lunar mission and its first mission designed to operate on a substantially commercial basis. It is an uncrewed robotic mission involving the transportation of commercial cargo, and a government-funded lunar navigation beacon. The beacon is designed to assist navigation and future operations at the designated lunar landing area.

MEHTA MEMORIALS PVT. LTD.

3. Mehta Memorials Pvt. Ltd. **("Mehta")** is a memorial-services company incorporated in Akasharashtra in 2023. Founded and headed by its Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Daya Kangnaut Mehta, it offers traditional memorial services and the "Chaand Tak Saath" programme, through which customers may arrange lunar placement of sealed capsules containing cremated remains.
4. Mehta also offers the premium "Legacy Capsule", containing cremated remains and preserved biological material, such as hair or tissue containing DNA. It markets the service as preserving part of a person "beyond a lifetime". The programme has attracted supporters of the Daya Jeevan Society, an Akasharashtra-based movement that sees preserved remains as sustaining a spiritual connection beyond death. Some supporters believe future science may enable human reconstruction, although Mehta does not promise cloning or revival.

BACKGROUND OF FACTS

5. In August 2026, Gada was preparing for the launch of TMKOC-3 from Meridian's Gokuldham Orbital Launch Complex on 2 December 2026, with its lunar landing scheduled for 11 December 2026. As approximately 12 kilograms of payload capacity remained unallocated, Gada sought additional commercial customers to improve the mission's profitability. On 10 August 2026, Mehta approached Gada to book space for its Chaand Tak Saath memorial programme.
6. During the commercial discussions, Mehta shared its promotional brochure with Gada's commercial team through an email dated 17 August 2026 **[ANNEXURE II]**. The brochure described the Standard Lunar Memorial and the Legacy Capsule as separate products, expressly referring to the latter as containing "preserved memorial biological material". Gada's commercial team acknowledged receipt of the brochure, and discussions concerning the proposed consignment continued.
7. On 2 September 2026, the parties entered into a Lunar Payload Services Agreement **("Agreement")** under which Gada agreed to carry 200 sealed memorial capsules, weighing approximately 10.2 kilograms in total, for Meridian Credits **("MRC")** 40 million. Mehta paid MRC 24 million upon execution, with the remaining MRC 16 million payable five days before the scheduled launch, subject to final acceptance of the payload. The Agreement described the consignment as:

> *"sealed memorial capsules containing cremated remains and associated memorial material."*

8. The Agreement was governed by Meridian law and required both parties to comply with applicable regulatory requirements. It imposed disclosure obligations upon Mehta while allowing Gada to rely upon the information supplied for its regulatory filings. It also contained provisions governing partial acceptance of the payload, customer representations and public statements concerning contractual or regulatory disputes. However, the Agreement did not expressly allocate the costs arising from subsequent regulatory restrictions or changes to the approved landing location **[ANNEXURE I]**.
9. On 4 October 2026, Mehta submitted its final commercial payload manifest to Gada. Of the 200 capsules, 140 were classified as Standard Lunar Memorials containing cremated remains, while 60 were classified as Legacy Capsules containing cremated remains and "associated memorial material". The manifest declared the consignment to be non-hazardous but did not

specify the preservation methods used for the Legacy Capsules. As required under the Agreement, all capsules were to remain sealed within a compartment attached to the lunar lander, without any deliberate release of their contents onto the lunar surface **[ANNEXURE III]**.

10. Gada subsequently submitted its payload information to MASA, describing Mehta's consignment as "sealed non-hazardous memorial capsules". On 20 October 2026, MASA granted the necessary mission approval, subject to conditions concerning the approved lunar landing area, containment of payload material and notification of any material changes to the declared cargo. The approved landing location was situated within the Amara Plain, an area also identified for future scientific research involving the collection of lunar material.
11. The government-funded navigation beacon aboard TMKOC-3 had been configured for deployment at the approved landing location. Separately, on 28 October 2026, the Meridian Civil Aviation Authority **("MCAA")** approved the airspace closure required for the 2 December launch after coordinating traffic along the heavily used Gauripur-Meridian aviation corridor. The approval applied to the designated launch window, and any substantial postponement would have required fresh aviation clearance.
12. On 6 November 2026, Mehta delivered the 200 capsules to Gada's payload integration facility. Gada verified their number, total weight and external seals without opening them, and issued an acknowledgement recording their receipt for integration, subject to final mission clearance. Around the same period, Mehta issued Lunar Resting Certificates to several customers, identifying the intended memorial placement area on the Amara Plain.
13. On 15 November 2026, *The Popatlal Planetary Times*, an Akasharashtra newspaper, published a report revealing that TMKOC-3 would carry human remains and preserved biological samples to the Moon. The report described the project as a "commercial graveyard on the Moon" **[ANNEXURE V]**. The controversy attracted criticism from the Bhide Lunar Stewardship Forum, a Meridian-based association of scientists, cultural organisations and religious groups whose cultural and religious members objected to turning the Moon into a commercial burial ground. Supporters of the Daya Jeevan Society, meanwhile, defended the memorial programme and criticised the objections as interference with their cultural and spiritual practices.
14. The following day, the Bhide Lunar Stewardship Forum petitioned MASA to examine the memorial payload, raising concerns about its proximity to an area intended for future scientific sampling. The petition referred to the possibility that damage or deterioration of sealed capsules

over time could introduce terrestrial biological material into the surrounding environment and affect the integrity of future research.

15. On 17 November 2026, MASA issued a notice directing Gada to furnish further information regarding the precise contents of the Legacy Capsules, their preservation methods, containment arrangements and the accuracy of the earlier payload declaration. MASA did not suspend TMKOC-3 or impose a general prohibition on preserved human biological material. However, it indicated that additional conditions could be imposed following review, including enhanced verification, restrictions on part of the memorial payload or relocation to an alternative lunar landing area. Gada was directed to respond by 24 November 2026. **[ANNEXURE IV]**
16. On 18 November 2026, Gada forwarded MASA's notice to Mehta and requested information concerning the contents, preservation methods and containment arrangements of the Legacy Capsules. Pending regulatory clearance, Gada proposed proceeding with the 140 Standard Lunar Memorials while withholding final acceptance of the 60 Legacy Capsules. Mr. Jetha Muskwala Gada, speaking for Gada, offered to carry the withheld capsules on a future mission, but Ms. Daya Kangnaut Mehta rejected the proposal. Any change in the lunar landing location would also require revisions to TMKOC-3's mission plan, including the arrangements for the government-funded navigation beacon.
17. Later that day, Gada published a statement on its official website asserting that the presence of preserved human biological material had not been adequately disclosed. The statement was issued without first providing Mehta an opportunity to respond. On 19 November 2026, Mehta publicly rejected the allegation and referred to the promotional material previously shared with Gada.
18. Following Gada's proposed exclusion of the Legacy Capsules, a group of Mehta's customers issued a collective demand on 19 November 2026, seeking confirmation of their memorial placement aboard TMKOC-3 or appropriate compensation. Some customers associated with the Daya Jeevan Society also objected to postponement, stating that monetary refunds alone could not compensate for the spiritual significance of the planned memorial placement. Several customers also questioned whether any change in landing location would affect the Lunar Resting Certificates they had already received.
19. On 20 November 2026, the parties exchanged formal legal notices concerning the proposed partial carriage of the consignment, the public statements and the allocation of regulatory costs.

THE DISPUTE AND THE CALL FOR NEGOTIATION

20. Following the exchange of legal notices, Gada alleged that Mehta had breached its contractual disclosure obligations by failing to adequately identify the contents of the Legacy Capsules. It sought to withhold final acceptance of those capsules pending regulatory clearance. Mehta denied the allegations, relying on its earlier promotional disclosures and Gada's opportunity to seek clarification before making its regulatory filings. It demanded carriage of the complete consignment or appropriate financial adjustments concerning the MRC 24 million already paid and the outstanding MRC 16 million, which remained subject to final acceptance.
21. The parties also disagreed over the allocation of additional regulatory and mission-planning costs. Gada maintained that Mehta should bear costs attributable to the alleged disclosure failure, including any expenses arising if MASA required a change in landing location. Mehta disputed this allocation, arguing that the original landing location and government-funded navigation beacon formed part of Gada's own mission arrangements. Any relocation could also affect the Lunar Resting Certificates already issued to customers and expose Mehta to further claims.
22. The parties also raised competing claims concerning public statements and resulting reputational losses. Mehta alleged that Gada's statement assigning responsibility for inadequate disclosure violated the Agreement's Public Statements clause and sought its withdrawal and compensation for the resulting harm. Gada disputed liability and the extent of the alleged losses, pointing to the controversy that had preceded its statement. It also maintained that Mehta remained responsible for representations independently made to its customers beyond Gada's contractual obligations. Mehta disputed responsibility for customer claims arising from Gada's proposed exclusion of the Legacy Capsules.
23. Neither party wished to terminate the arrangement. With MASA's response deadline approaching and the scheduled launch at risk, Gada Aerospace Ltd. invited Mehta Memorials Pvt. Ltd. to a negotiation session on 21 November 2026 to resolve their outstanding claims concerning the memorial payload. Gada would be represented by its Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Jetha Muskwala Gada, and legal adviser, while Mehta would be represented by its founder and Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Daya Kangnaut Mehta, and legal adviser.

ANNEXURE I

LUNAR PAYLOAD SERVICES AGREEMENT

This Lunar Payload Services Agreement **("Agreement")** was entered into on 2 September 2026 between Gada Aerospace Ltd. **("Gada")** and Mehta Memorials Pvt. Ltd. **("Mehta")** in relation to the carriage of memorial capsules aboard the TMKOC-3 lunar mission.

1. Payload Services

1.1 Gada shall provide payload capacity aboard TMKOC-3 for 200 sealed memorial capsules supplied by Mehta.

1.2 The payload is described in this Agreement as "sealed memorial capsules containing cremated remains and associated memorial material".

1.3 The capsules shall remain sealed throughout the mission and, following landing, shall remain within the designated memorial compartment attached to the lunar lander. No material contained within the capsules shall be intentionally released onto the lunar surface.

2. Consideration and Payment

2.1 The total consideration payable by Mehta is MRC 40 million.

2.2 Sixty per cent (60%) is payable upon execution of this Agreement. The remaining forty per cent (40%) is payable no later than five days before the scheduled launch, subject to Gada's final acceptance of the memorial payload for carriage aboard TMKOC-3.

2.3 Where Gada accepts only part of the memorial payload for carriage, the parties shall consult in good faith regarding any adjustment to the outstanding amount, without prejudice to either party's rights or claims under this Agreement.

3. Payload Disclosure

3.1 Mehta shall provide Gada with an accurate description of the nature and contents of all capsules intended to be carried.

3.2 Mehta shall not include any hazardous, prohibited or materially different substance without prior written disclosure to Gada.

3.3 Gada may rely upon the information supplied by Mehta while making regulatory declarations concerning the payload and shall raise any material concerns identified during its review within a reasonable time.

3.4 Acceptance or inspection of the payload by Gada shall not, by itself, relieve Mehta of its disclosure obligations under this Clause.

4. Regulatory Compliance

4.1 Each party shall comply with all applicable national and international space and aviation regulations.

4.2 Both parties shall reasonably cooperate in providing information required by the Meridian Authority for Space Activities ("MASA") or any other competent authority in relation to the payload.

5. Representations to Customers

Mehta shall remain responsible for representations or promises independently made by it to its customers beyond the services expressly undertaken by Gada under this Agreement, including representations concerning the permanence or future use of the memorial service.

6. Public Statements

Neither party shall make any public statement assigning fault to the other in relation to a regulatory or contractual dispute under this Agreement without first giving the other party a reasonable opportunity to respond. This Clause does not prevent disclosures required by law or made to MASA or another competent authority.

7. Governing Law and Good-Faith Resolution

This Agreement is governed by the law of the Republic of Meridian. All disputes about performance of this Agreement are to be first referred to authorized representatives of Gada and Mehta for good-faith negotiations before any legal action.

ANNEXURE II

MEHTA'S PROMOTIONAL BROCHURE

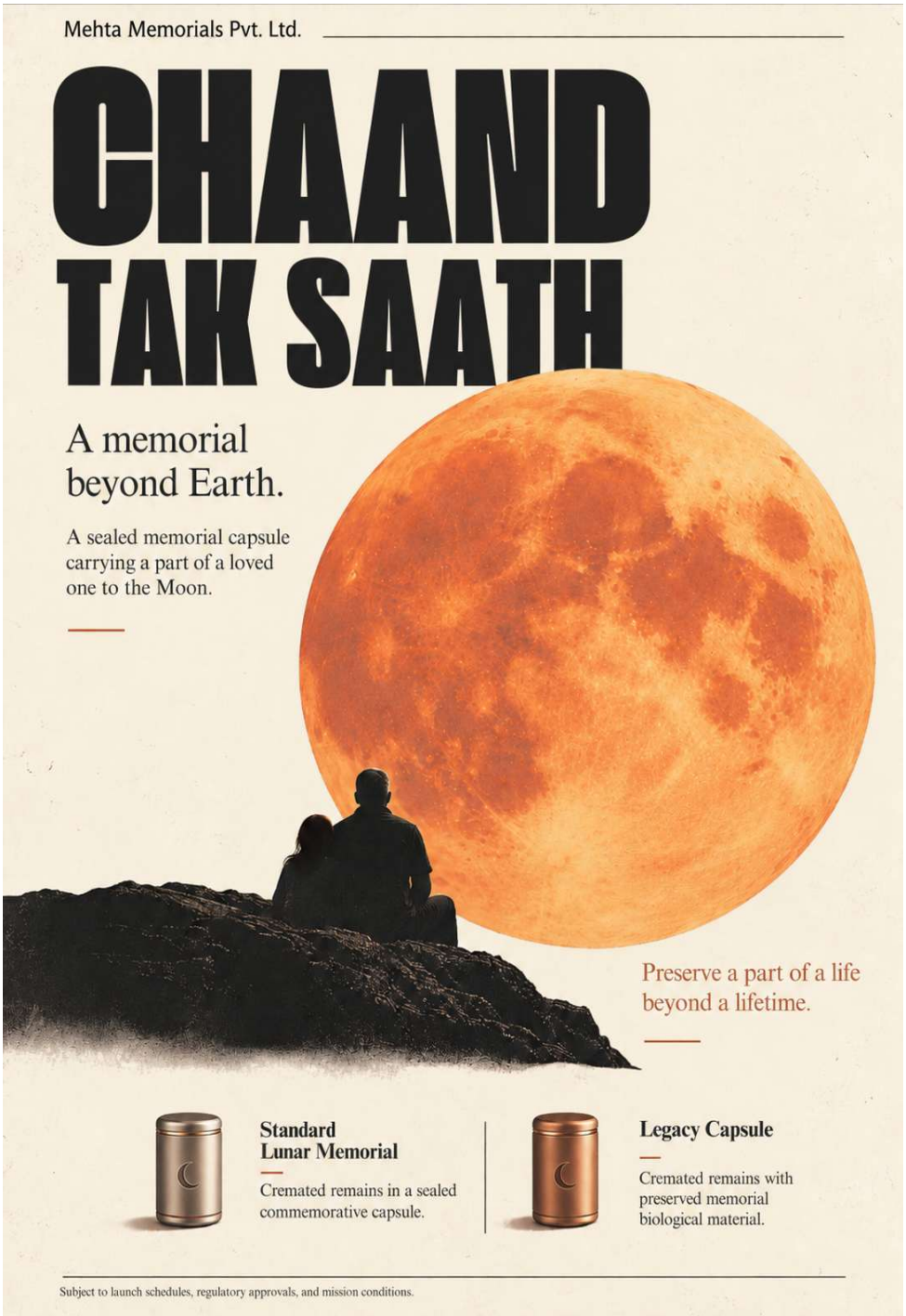


Figure 1: Attachment to the email by Mehta to Gada's commercial team, dated 17 August 2026.

ANNEXURE III

TMKOC-3 COMMERCIAL PAYLOAD MANIFEST

Date of Submission: 4 October 2026

Mehta Memorials Pvt. Ltd.'s "Chaand Tak Saath" Consignment

Payload Category	Number of Capsules	Declared Contents	Approx. Weight
Standard Lunar Memorial	140	Cremated human remains contained within sealed commemorative capsules	6.3 kg
Legacy Capsule	60	Cremated human remains and associated memorial material contained within sealed commemorative capsules	3.9 kg
Total	200	-	10.2 kg

Payload Declaration

1. All capsules are individually sealed and are not intended to be opened during the mission.
2. No contents are intended to be dispersed or otherwise released onto the lunar surface.
3. The complete memorial consignment is intended to remain within the designated compartment attached to the TMKOC-3 lander.
4. The payload was declared by Mehta as non-hazardous.
5. For purposes of Gada's payload documentation and regulatory submission, the consignment may be described as:
   "*Sealed non-hazardous memorial capsules containing cremated remains and associated memorial material.*"

Submitted by: Mehta Memorials Pvt. Ltd.

Payload: Chaand Tak Saath Memorial Consignment

Mission: TMKOC-3

ANNEXURE IV

NOTICE SEEKING ADDITIONAL PAYLOAD INFORMATION

Date: 17 November 2026

To: Gada Aerospace Ltd.

Subject: TMKOC-3 Mission – Memorial Payload Carried on Behalf of Mehta Memorials Pvt. Ltd.

MASA has taken note of recent information concerning the memorial payload proposed to be carried aboard the TMKOC-3 lunar mission, including reports that certain capsules may contain preserved human biological material in addition to cremated remains.

The payload was previously described to MASA as comprising: "*sealed non-hazardous memorial capsules.*"

In view of the additional information now available, Gada is directed to provide the following by 24 November 2026:

1. the exact nature and composition of each category of memorial capsule;
2. confirmation of the number of capsules containing preserved biological material, if any;
3. details of the containment and sealing arrangements applicable to the memorial payload;
4. clarification of whether the information previously submitted to MASA accurately and completely described the nature of the payload; and
5. Gada's assessment of any operational changes required should MASA determine that the memorial payload should be placed at an alternative lunar landing location.

Status of Existing Approval

MASA clarifies that, as of the date of this Notice, the TMKOC-3 mission licence has not been suspended or cancelled. However, final carriage of the memorial payload shall remain subject to MASA's review of the information requested above. Following such review, MASA may:

a. permit the payload to proceed as presently proposed;
b. impose additional conditions relating to its carriage or placement;
c. require modification of the proposed landing location; or
d. restrict carriage of any part of the payload where considered necessary under the applicable licence.

No determination has presently been made as to whether Gada or Mehta failed to comply with any regulatory obligation.

Failure to provide the requested information within the stipulated period may affect MASA's ability to permit the memorial payload to proceed as scheduled.

For the Meridian Authority for Space Activities
Authorised Officer
Payload and Mission Supervision Division

ANNEXURE V

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE



MONSTER STORM BEARS DOWN
COASTS BRACE FOR IMPACT PAGE 6

VIRAT OUT ON A ZERO AGAIN
FANS STUNNED PAGE 14

THE POPATLAL PLANETARY TIMES

EST. 1932 AKASHARASHTRA'S FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER GAURIPUR | SUN 15 NOV 2026 | ₹10

GRAVEYARD ON THE MOON?

TMKOC-3 mission faces questions over 200 memorial capsules carrying human remains and preserved biological material.

GAURIPUR, 15 NOVEMBER – The upcoming TMKOC-3 lunar mission, operated by Gada Aerospace Ltd., has attracted controversy following reports that it will carry 200 memorial capsules supplied by Akasharashtra-based Mehta Memorials Pvt. Ltd. Some Legacy Capsules reportedly contain preserved human biological material in addition to cremated remains.

The proposed placement has drawn objections from the Bhide Lunar Stewardship Forum in Meridian, which has raised concerns over possible contamination of future scientific sampling areas. Supporters of the Daya Jeevan Society in Akasharashtra have defended the programme as an expression of cultural and spiritual remembrance.

WHAT IS A LEGACY CAPSULE?

- Premium memorial product offered under Mehta's Chaand Tak Saath programme.
- Includes cremated remains and preserved biological material, such as DNA samples, hair or other personal material.
- Marketed as a long-term legacy offering, allowing families to keep a part of their loved ones on the Moon.

CALLS FOR REGULATORY REVIEW

Scientific and cultural concerns have prompted calls for MASA to examine the memorial payload and its proposed lunar placement.

Figure 2: News report published by The Popatlal Planetary Times, dated 15 November 2026.