



MAR GREGORIOS COLLEGE OF LAW
MAR IVANIOS VIDYANAGAR, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
AFFILIATED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF KERALA & APPROVED BY THE BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA
FIRST NAAC ACCREDITED LAW COLLEGE IN KERALA



*MOOT COURT SOCIETY IN ASSOCIATION
WITH IQAC PRESENTS*

1ST NATIONAL MEMORIAL DRAFTING COMPETITION, 2026



MAR GREGORIOS COLLEGE OF LAW IS PLEASED TO ORGANIZE ITS 1ST NATIONAL MEMORIAL DRAFTING COMPETITION (VIRTUAL), A PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL-LEVEL ACADEMIC INITIATIVE AIMED AT FOSTERING EXCELLENCE IN LEGAL RESEARCH, WRITTEN ADVOCACY, AND MEMORIAL DRAFTING. THE COMPETITION PROVIDES LAW STUDENTS WITH A UNIQUE PLATFORM TO DEVELOP AND DEMONSTRATE THEIR ANALYTICAL REASONING, LEGAL INTERPRETATION, DRAFTING PRECISION, AND RESEARCH APTITUDE THROUGH THE PREPARATION OF COMPREHENSIVE MEMORIALS BASED ON A CONTEMPORARY LEGAL PROPOSITION. DESIGNED TO REPLICATE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF LITIGATION DRAFTING, THE COMPETITION ENCOURAGES PARTICIPANTS TO CRITICALLY ENGAGE WITH COMPLEX AND EVOLVING LEGAL ISSUES WHILE ENHANCING THEIR LEGAL WRITING AND ARGUMENTATION SKILLS. THROUGH THIS VIRTUAL PLATFORM, THE EVENT SEEKS TO CULTIVATE A CULTURE OF SCHOLARLY LEGAL RESEARCH, STRUCTURED ADVOCACY, AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, WHILE PROMOTING MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT AMONG STUDENTS FROM LAW INSTITUTIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

About the Institution

Nestled amid the picturesque environs of Mar Ivanios Vidya Nagar, the inclusive yet vibrant Mar Gregorios College of Law aspires to be a wellspring of academic excellence in legal education. Although our institution was established as recently as 2012, we strive to build upon the proud legacy of this campus, which was founded in 1949 by the esteemed Archbishop Geevarghese Mar Ivanios. The institution was conceived and made a reality by His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos, the head of the Malankara Catholic Church. It is our privilege to be named after Archbishop Benedict Mar Gregorios, a profound humanist, accomplished linguist, economist, and educationalist, whose spirit of love and compassion we seek to embody.

Since our inception more than a decade ago, we have diligently evolved into a centre of educational excellence, attaining the distinction of being Kerala's first NAAC-accredited law college. We offer five-year integrated B.A. LL.B., B.B.A., LL.B., and B.Com. LL.B. courses at the undergraduate level, and a specialized LL.M. in Constitutional Law and Maritime Law at the postgraduate level. Though we have been honoured with accolades such as the SILF-MILAT National Institutional Excellence Award, our true reward is shaping bright legal minds and contributing meaningfully to the field of law. Beyond academics, we strive to spark creativity and inquiry across diverse realms, providing a holistic educational experience.

About the Moot Court Society

The Moot Court Society of Mar Gregorios College of Law is a dedicated body of students and faculty, aiming to enhance the advocacy and legal research skills of the students by promoting participation in Mooting, Client Counselling, ADR, and Trial Advocacy Competitions. The Moot Court Society is steered by the Internal Competitions Committee, the External Competitions Committee, the Training Committee, and the Technical Committee, the functioning of which is further supervised by the Core Committee.

The Moot Court Society was at the helm of the Commonwealth Legal Education Association Mooting Competition (South Asian Rounds) in 2022, successfully hosted by our institution. Additionally, the Society annually conducts External, Internal, and Novice Mooting Competitions. In order to promote a mooting culture, the Society regularly organizes various training sessions and demonstrative workshops that assist the student body in getting accustomed to the nuances of mooting. Under the aegis of the Society, members have secured various accolades in National and International Moot Court Competitions across the country.

Eligibility

The competition is open to students currently pursuing:

- Undergraduate Law Programmes (3-Year LL.B. / 5-Year Integrated Law Courses)
- Postgraduate Law Programmes (LL.M.)

Team Composition

Participation may be either:

- Individual Participation; or
- Team Participation consisting of a maximum of two (2) members.

1. A participant/team shall submit the memorial from both the sides.
2. Cross-institutional teams shall be permitted, and participants from different recognised institutions may jointly participate as a team in the competition.
3. All participants must possess a valid institutional identity card or proof of enrolment, which may be required at the time of online registration.
4. Each team may consist of one or two members, with no limit on the number of teams registering from the same institution.

Memorial Guidelines

1. Each Team registered shall submit a soft copy of the memorials, i.e., one for the Petitioner side and one for the Respondent side, in both .pdf and .docx formats on or before September 10th, 2026, 11.59 PM IST.
2. No change to the memorials shall be permitted thereafter.
3. Format of Memorials:
 - (a) Font: Times New Roman
 - (b) Line spacing: 1.5 Pts
 - (c) Standard International A4 Size Page
 - (d) Paragraph: Justified
 - (e) Font Size: 12 Pts
4. Format of Footnotes:
 - (a) Font: Times New Roman
 - (b) Line Spacing: 1 Pts
 - (c) Paragraph : Justified
 - (d) Font Size: 10 Pts
5. The language of the competition shall be English.

6. Quotations comprising fifty (50) words or more in any part of the Memorial shall be presented as block quotations (i.e., indented from both the left and right margins) and shall be single-spaced.
7. The Memorial shall not contain details identifying the participants or their institution.
8. The Petitioner and Respondent memorials must be differentiated by **Blue** and **Red** colour cover pages, respectively.
9. Each Memorial shall have the following information on its cover page:
 - a. The Team Code on the upper right corner of the cover page.
 - b. The name and place of the Forum.
 - c. The relevant legal provision under which it is prepared.
 - d. Name of the parties and their status on whose behalf the Memorial is Prepared.
10. Memorials for both sides should contain the following in order:
 - (a) Title Page
 - (b) Table of Contents
 - (c) Table of Abbreviations.
 - (d) Index of Authorities
 - (e) Statement of Jurisdiction
 - (f) Statement of Facts
 - (g) Issues Raised
 - (h) Summary of Arguments/Pleadings
 - (i) Arguments Advanced
 - (j) Prayer
11. The Arguments Advanced shall not exceed more than twenty (20) pages. The Memorial shall not exceed more than forty (40) pages. The following contents are included within the stipulated page limit:
 - (a) Pleadings
 - (b) Conclusions
 - (c) Annexures, if any
 - (d) Appendices and Footnotes
12. The file names of the electronic copies of the Memorials shall contain only the Team Code and the side being represented, in the following format: for example, for Team Code 15, the file names shall be MGMDC-15P or MGMDC-15R, where "P" denotes the Petitioner Memorial and "R" denotes the Respondent Memorial, and so forth.
13. Any delay in submission of memorials, use of incorrect font or font size, inconsistent formatting, improper line spacing, failure to include all mandatory components, inclusion of unpermitted sections, presentation of substantive legal arguments beyond the prescribed sections, improper formatting of the index of authorities, exceeding the prescribed page or word limit, omission of required information on the memorial cover, or inclusion of any identifying mark, character, or text shall attract penalties in accordance with the rules of the Competition.

14. The Memorial for each side should be submitted as one single file and not in multiple files. ANY VIOLATION OF THIS RULE SHALL INVITE PENALTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE RULES.
15. A Committee of Judges shall assess the Memorials. Every memorial shall be marked out of one hundred (100) marks, and the total memorial score shall be the sum of both sides (Petitioner/Respondent).
16. Memorial should be free from any error of grammar, spelling, punctuations etc. Only 20% plagiarism allowed. Use of AI is strictly prohibited.
17. Teams shall cite authorities in the Memorial using footnotes following the Harvard Bluebook 21st Edition. Explanatory or illustrative footnotes are not allowed.
18. Submissions shall be done through mgclmemoraldrafting2026@gmail.com
19. Payment shall be done through payment gateway [Click here for Payment method](#): website> General> Online Payments> 1st National Memorial Drafting Competition (Individual/ Team).
20. Payment Link: www.mgcl.ac.in

Marking Criteria (Total 100 Marks)

Criteria	Marks
Knowledge of Facts & Law	20
Proper analysis of Articulation	20
Extent & use of research	20
Clarity & Organization	20
Grammar, Legal Writing & Formatting	10
Citation of sourcing	10
Total	100

Awards & Recognition

Awards	Prize
Winner	₹5,000 and a certificate of merit
Runner Up	₹3,000 and a certificate of merit
Second Runner Up	₹2,000 and a certificate of merit

E-certificate of participation will be provided to all participants

Registration

Students are required to fill and submit the Google form. Further details will be shared via email.

Registration Link:

<https://forms.gle/Bte4dhgAk1WwG8rH8>

For registration details contact:

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Registration Fees

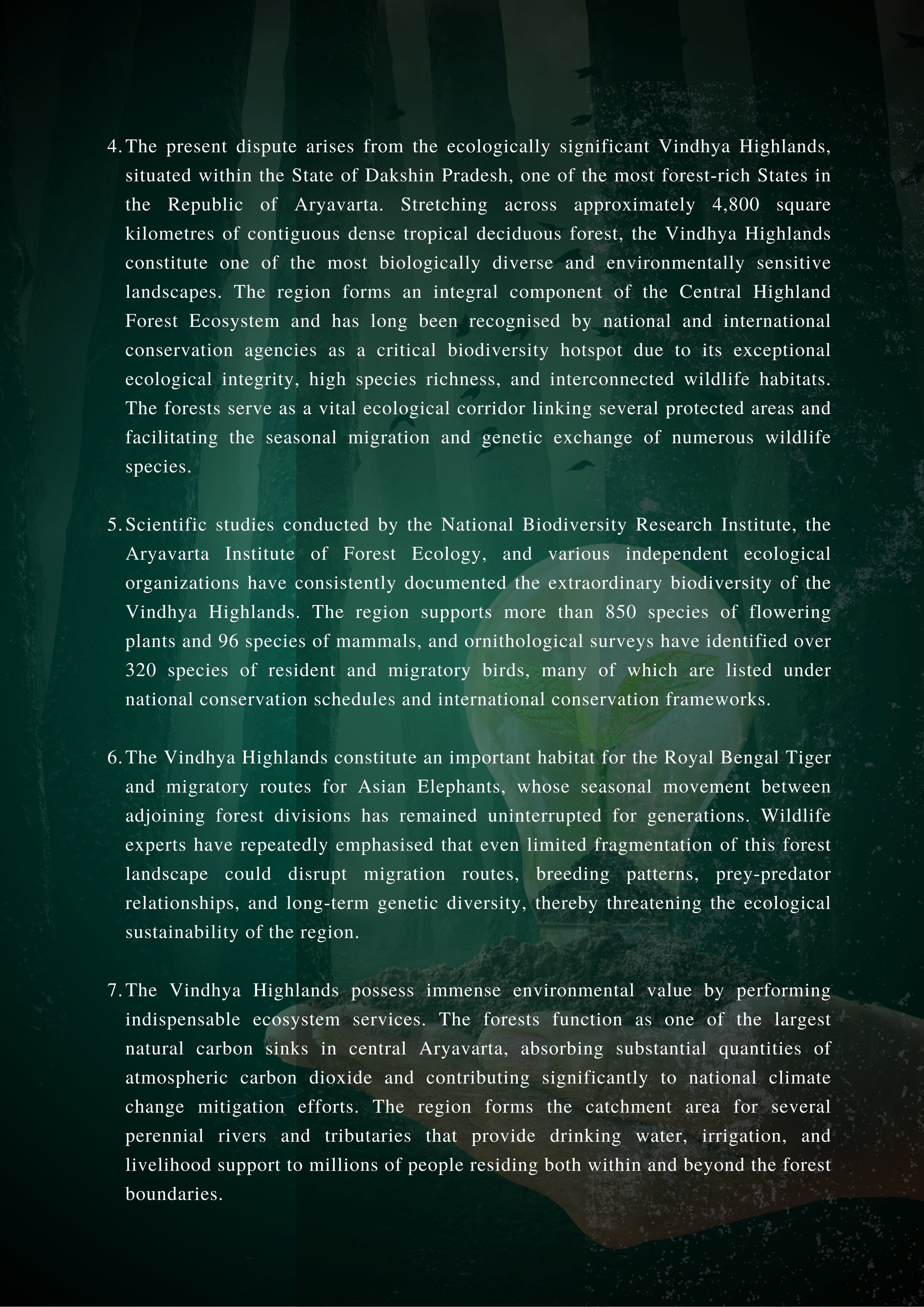
Individual Participant: INR 600

Team (2 Participant): INR 800

Note - Maximum upto 2 Individuals are allowed in a team.

Root Proposition

1. The Republic of Aryavarta is a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic governed by a written Constitution whose constitutional philosophy, environmental jurisprudence, statutory framework, and institutional mechanisms are substantially identical to those of the Republic of India. The Republic of Aryavarta follows a federal system of governance, wherein legislative and executive powers relating to forests, environment, biodiversity conservation, tribal welfare, and natural resource management are shared between the Union Government and the constituent States. The Supreme Court of Aryavarta serves as the final interpreter of the Constitution and has evolved as a rich body of environmental jurisprudence emphasising ecological sustainability, intergenerational equity, and the protection of natural resources as part of the constitutional guarantee of the right to life.
2. Aryavarta is internationally recognised as one of the world's seventeen megadiverse nations, possessing extraordinary ecological wealth and biological diversity. Approximately twenty-three percent of the country's geographical area is classified as recorded forest land, including Reserved Forests, Protected Forests, Village Forests, wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, conservation reserves, and community-managed forests. These forests provide invaluable ecosystem services by regulating climate, conserving biodiversity, maintaining hydrological cycles, preventing soil erosion, sequestering atmospheric carbon, and sustaining the livelihoods, cultural traditions, and spiritual practices of millions of indigenous and forest-dependent communities.
3. Aryavarta has emerged as a leading participant in global climate governance and sustainable development initiatives. In furtherance of its commitments under international Environmental agreements, the Union Government announced an ambitious roadmap to achieve Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by the year 2030. The Government simultaneously committed itself to substantially increasing renewable energy capacity, reducing dependence on fossil fuels, promoting electric mobility, developing domestic manufacturing of clean energy technologies and securing a reliable supply of critical minerals necessary for the transition towards a low-carbon economy.

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4. The present dispute arises from the ecologically significant Vindhya Highlands, situated within the State of Dakshin Pradesh, one of the most forest-rich States in the Republic of Aryavarta. Stretching across approximately 4,800 square kilometres of contiguous dense tropical deciduous forest, the Vindhya Highlands constitute one of the most biologically diverse and environmentally sensitive landscapes. The region forms an integral component of the Central Highland Forest Ecosystem and has long been recognised by national and international conservation agencies as a critical biodiversity hotspot due to its exceptional ecological integrity, high species richness, and interconnected wildlife habitats. The forests serve as a vital ecological corridor linking several protected areas and facilitating the seasonal migration and genetic exchange of numerous wildlife species.
5. Scientific studies conducted by the National Biodiversity Research Institute, the Aryavarta Institute of Forest Ecology, and various independent ecological organizations have consistently documented the extraordinary biodiversity of the Vindhya Highlands. The region supports more than 850 species of flowering plants and 96 species of mammals, and ornithological surveys have identified over 320 species of resident and migratory birds, many of which are listed under national conservation schedules and international conservation frameworks.
6. The Vindhya Highlands constitute an important habitat for the Royal Bengal Tiger and migratory routes for Asian Elephants, whose seasonal movement between adjoining forest divisions has remained uninterrupted for generations. Wildlife experts have repeatedly emphasised that even limited fragmentation of this forest landscape could disrupt migration routes, breeding patterns, prey-predator relationships, and long-term genetic diversity, thereby threatening the ecological sustainability of the region.
7. The Vindhya Highlands possess immense environmental value by performing indispensable ecosystem services. The forests function as one of the largest natural carbon sinks in central Aryavarta, absorbing substantial quantities of atmospheric carbon dioxide and contributing significantly to national climate change mitigation efforts. The region forms the catchment area for several perennial rivers and tributaries that provide drinking water, irrigation, and livelihood support to millions of people residing both within and beyond the forest boundaries.

8. The forests have also been home for centuries to five Scheduled Tribes, namely the Bhil, Gond, Korwa, Baiga, and Sahariya communities, who have traditionally inhabited the region in harmony with nature. These indigenous communities possess deep cultural, spiritual, and economic ties with the forests, relying upon them for food, medicine, grazing, water resources, and traditional occupations. Their customary practices, sacred groves, burial grounds, places of worship, and community institutions are intrinsically connected with the surrounding forests. Successive ethnographic studies have recognised these communities as traditional custodians of biodiversity, whose conservation practices have contributed significantly to preserving the ecological integrity of the region over several generations.
9. Geological surveys undertaken over the past decade have revealed that the Vindhya Highlands also contain one of the largest untapped deposits of critical and rare earth minerals within Aryavarta. Detailed exploration conducted by the Geological Survey Authority identified commercially viable reserves of lithium, cobalt, graphite, and other strategic minerals, which are indispensable components in the manufacture of rechargeable batteries, electric vehicles, renewable energy storage systems, solar photovoltaic cells, wind energy technologies, advanced electronics, defence equipment, and high-performance communication infrastructure. The Government suggests that these reserves possess the potential to substantially reduce Aryavarta's dependence upon imported critical minerals, strengthen domestic manufacturing, enhance energy security, and accelerate the country's transition towards a low-carbon economy.
10. Pursuant to the discovery of commercially viable deposits of lithium, cobalt, graphite and other critical minerals, the Union Government entrusted Bharat Rare Earth Corporation Ltd. (BRECL), a Government-owned enterprise, with the development of an integrated strategic mineral extraction project in the Vindhya Highlands. The project proposed underground mining operations together with associated infrastructure, including mineral processing facilities, railway connectivity, highways, transmission corridors, and ancillary industrial installations for transportation and processing of extracted minerals. Owing to the diversion of forest land required for these activities, the project became subject to the statutory environmental clearance process, including the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The assessment was prepared by an accredited environmental consultancy after conducting baseline environmental studies, biodiversity assessments, hydrological analysis, and socio-economic surveys in the proposed project area.

11. The report concluded that the anticipated forest fragmentation would be minimal owing to the adoption of modern underground mining techniques and scientifically designed transportation corridors. The report also asserted that ecological losses resulting from diversion of forest land could be effectively compensated through compensatory afforestation on identified degraded revenue lands, coupled with biodiversity conservation programmes and wildlife management initiatives. Additionally, the EIA projected substantial socio-economic benefits, including the creation of direct and indirect employment opportunities, development of local infrastructure, enhancement of healthcare and educational facilities, improved transportation networks, increased revenue generation for the State, and overall improvement in the quality of life of local communities.
12. A consortium comprising ecologists and environmental scientists from three nationally reputed research institutions undertook an independent review of the project and concluded that the EIA had substantially underestimated the environmental consequences of the proposed activities. Their studies suggested that the diversion of such an extensive forest landscape would result in irreversible habitat fragmentation, permanently disrupting ecological connectivity essential for the survival of several wildlife species. In particular, they observed that the proposed railway lines, highways, mining zones, transmission corridors, and industrial facilities intersected one of the principal migratory routes used by Asian elephants for seasonal movement between adjoining forest divisions.
13. Serious concerns arose regarding the rights of indigenous forest-dwelling communities residing within the proposed project area. Approximately thirty-eight villages, predominantly inhabited by Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers, asserted both individual and community rights over the forests under the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. These communities contended that they had inhabited, protected, and sustainably managed these forests for generations and that their livelihoods, cultural identity, customary practices, sacred sites, and traditional knowledge systems were intrinsically connected with the surrounding ecosystem.
14. In accordance with the statutory framework governing diversion of forest land, several Gram Sabhas convened meetings and passed unanimous resolutions opposing the proposed diversion of forests for mining and infrastructure development, expressing apprehension regarding displacement, loss of livelihood, destruction of cultural heritage, and irreversible environmental degradation.

15. Despite these objections, the State Government certified that consultations with the affected Gram Sabhas had substantially complied with all statutory requirements and recommended the diversion of forest land for the project. This certification was challenged by numerous village communities, which alleged that the consultation process suffered from serious procedural irregularities and violations of statutory safeguards. According to the Gram Sabhas, several consultation meetings were conducted exclusively in English and the official State language, despite the fact that a majority of tribal residents were conversant only with their indigenous dialects. It was further alleged that attendance registers had been manipulated to falsely indicate a quorum and consent, women members were either excluded from the meetings or denied meaningful participation, and several resolutions passed by the Gram Sabhas opposing the project were either altered or deliberately omitted from the official records forwarded to the competent authorities. The affected communities therefore contended that the requirement of obtaining informed and meaningful consent from the Gram Sabhas had been reduced to a mere procedural formality, thereby defeating the objectives of the Forest Rights Act and violating their constitutional rights.

16. As part of the environmental clearance conditions, Bharat Rare Earth Corporation Ltd. proposed to undertake compensatory afforestation over approximately 32,000 hectares of degraded revenue land situated nearly 600 kilometres away from the diverted forest area in another district of the State. The project asserted that the proposed afforestation programme would not only satisfy the statutory requirements prescribed under the applicable forest conservation laws but would also result in a net increase in green cover through scientific plantation techniques, assisted natural regeneration, and long-term monitoring programmes. However, this proposal was severely criticised by environmental scientists, conservation biologists, and former forest administrators, who argued that ecologically mature old-growth forests represent highly complex ecosystems that evolve over centuries and cannot be recreated merely by planting trees on degraded land. According to the experts, compensatory afforestation may increase tree cover but cannot restore the biodiversity, ecological resilience, wildlife habitats, or cultural significance of ancient natural forests. The Government authorities, however, maintained that the proposal fully complied with the statutory requirements governing compensatory afforestation and therefore satisfied all legal obligations arising from diversion of forest land.

17. Aggrieved by the forest diversion approvals and the alleged procedural irregularities, Vindhya Highlands Protection Coalition (VHPC), comprising tribal organisations, environmental non-governmental organisations, wildlife researchers, conservation scientists, retired forest officers, and public-spirited citizens instituted a Public Interest Litigation before the High Court of Dakshin Pradesh. The petition challenged, inter alia, the legality of the diversion of forest land, the validity of the Environmental Impact Assessment and environmental clearance, the legality of the Gram Sabha consultation process under the Forest Rights Act, and the adequacy of the proposed compensatory afforestation programme.
18. The Union Government treated this project as strategically significant for mineral security and national infrastructure development and accordingly considered it eligible for the strategic infrastructure exemption introduced under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 2023, a position that was later challenged by the petitioners. Upon hearing the parties, the High Court dismissed the Public Interest Litigation, holding that decisions relating to environmental policy, infrastructure development, and resource utilisation primarily fall within the domain of the executive and that judicial review should remain limited in matters involving complex policy choices unless clear illegality or constitutional violation is established. Dissatisfied with the judgment of the High Court, the petitioners approached the Supreme Court of Aryavarta by filing a Special Leave Petition under Article 136 of the Constitution, giving rise to the present proceedings.
19. During the pendency of the appeal before the Supreme Court, several developments significantly altered the factual landscape of the dispute. Satellite imagery obtained from independent remote sensing agencies revealed that approximately 3,400 hectares of forest land had already been cleared for mining operations, road construction, railway alignment, and associated infrastructure, during the pendency of judicial proceedings. Furthermore, an independent expert committee constituted by the National Green Tribunal conducted field inspections and submitted a detailed report indicating that elephant movement through the region had reduced considerably due to habitat fragmentation and incidents of human-wildlife conflict had affected nearby villages. The report concluded that several environmental mitigation measures proposed in the Environmental Impact Assessment had either not been implemented or had proved inadequate to prevent ecological degradation.

20. In response to these allegations, the Union Government argued that the project represented a critical component of the nation's long-term developmental and climate strategy. It submitted before the Supreme Court that any suspension or cancellation of the project would seriously jeopardise Aryavarta's commitments towards achieving Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions, discourage domestic and foreign investment, and result in enormous financial losses. Conversely, the petitioners contended that irreversible ecological damage and violations of constitutional and statutory protections could not be justified in the name of developmental imperatives. These competing claims concerning environmental protection, constitutional rights, statutory interpretation, indigenous participation, and developmental necessity have consequently given rise to substantial questions of constitutional and environmental law requiring authoritative determination by the Supreme Court of Aryavarta.

NB- The laws of Aryavarta are in pari materia with the laws of India.

Important Dates



**17TH
JULY**

**ANNOUNCEMENT &
COMMENCEMENT OF
REGISTRATION**

**15TH
AUGUST**

**LAST DATE FOR
REGISTRATION &
PAYMENT**

**20TH
AUGUST**

**LAST DATE FOR
RECEIVING
CLARIFICATION**

**25TH
AUGUST**

**RELEASE OF
CLARIFICATION**

**10TH
SEPTEMBER**

**LAST DATE OF
SUBMISSION**

**20TH
SEPTEMBER**

**DECLARATION OF
RESULT**

Organizing Committee

**His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios
Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos**

*Major Archbishop-Catholics of the Malankara Catholic
Church*

*Patron & Manager, Mar Gregorios College of Law,
Thiruvananthapuram*

Fr. Adarsh Kumbalath
Director

Prof. Dr.R.Bijukumar
Principal

Prof.V. Ramachandran Nair
Vice Principal

Prof. Ushakumari K G
Vice Principal

Dr. Meera Mathew
Head of Department

FACULTY CO-ORDINATORS

Prof. Manoj Krishna A

Ms. Sushma George Mathew

Dr. Shazila Shajahan

Ms. Arya Rajan J R

STUDENT CO-ORDINATORS

Jia Jose (Vice- President)

Neethu M Abraham (External Competitions Co-ordinator)

Bhadra Manoharan (Internal Competitions Co-ordinator)

Raichel Saji (Training Co-ordinator)