

NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2026 - ANDHRA UNIVERSITY

1. Organization:

- **Venue:** Dr. B.R. Ambedkar College of Law, Andhra University (Visakhapatnam).
- **Duration:** The three-day competition concluded on March 30, 2026 (Monday).
- **Participants:** 20 law schools and universities from across the country.

2. Key Themes:

The competition involved discussions on contemporary legal challenges:

- **AI and Criminal Liability:** Criminal responsibility in the context of Artificial Intelligence.
- **Data Privacy:** Protection of information.
- **Energy Law:** Laws relating to the energy sector.

3. Winners:

- **Winner:** Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University (DSNLU), Sabbavaram.
- **Runner-up:** NBM Law College, Visakhapatnam.

4. Individual Awards:

- **Best Mooter:** Geetha Potina (NVP Law College).
- **Best Researcher:** Likhitha Sannapaneni (GITAM University).

Highlights for Competitive Exams:

- **DSNLU:** It is the only National Law University in Andhra Pradesh (located in Sabbavaram, Visakhapatnam district).
- **Moot Court:** An educational process where law students simulate a court environment and present arguments on a hypothetical case.
- **AI & Law:** The primary objective of this competition was to increase awareness regarding the impact of AI on the current legal system and its legal implications.

QR-CODED RICE BAGS SCHEME - ANDHRA PRADESH

1. Background & Objective of the Scheme:

- **Launch:** March 2026 (Announced during the Nellore district review meeting).
- **Goal:** To provide recognition and respect to the farmers who cultivate the crop.
- **Method:** By printing a QR Code on every rice bag, consumers can identify who grew the crop and where it was harvested.

2. Implementation & Highlights:

- **First in the Country:** Andhra Pradesh is the first state in India to implement such an innovative model.
- **Distribution:** Rice collected from the Nellore district will be supplied to approximately 41,000 schools and over 400 welfare hostels across the state.
- **Student Participation:** This technology is designed to help students who benefit from the Mid-day Meal scheme recognize the farmer behind the food they consume.

3. Grain Procurement Statistics (Nellore District):

- **Current Season Target:** 2 lakh tonnes.
- **Procurement:** 60,000 tonnes of grain have already been collected.
- **Cumulative Total:** Since the alliance government took office, a total of 75,000 tonnes of grain has been procured to date.

4. Key Highlights for Competitive Exams (Quick Revision):

- **QR Code Technology:** This technology is being utilized to enhance transparency and ensure the traceability of agricultural products back to their source.
- **Benchmark:** The government believes this scheme will serve as a benchmark for other states in the country.
- **Social Perspective:** The primary social objective of this scheme is to bridge the gap between the farmer and the consumer while giving due recognition to the farmer's hard work.

DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES - KEY POINTS

1. Constitutional Provisions:

- **Article 81:** Specifies that Lok Sabha seats should be allocated to states based on population. The ratio between the population of a state and the number of seats should be nearly the same across all states.

- **84th Constitutional Amendment Act (2002):** To encourage states that follow family planning, a freeze was imposed until 2026 on the number of seats based on the 1971 Census.

2. Current Situation (In the context of the 2026 Census):

- The Delimitation Commission (DC) will be established after the first census conducted after 2024–2026.
- **The Challenge:** Southern states that successfully controlled their population risk losing their share of seats, while Northern states with population growth are likely to see an increase in seats.

3. Demographic Performance (DemPer) Principle:

To ensure no injustice is done to states during delimitation, a method followed by the Finance Commission (FC) can be proposed:

- **Existing 543 Seats:** No changes should be made to these seats.
- **Additional Seats:** The 'Demographic Performance' (excellence in population control) principle should be applied only to the additional seats increased beyond 543.
- **Weightage:**
 - 10% weightage for states that achieved a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.1 before 2005.
 - 90% weightage for the rate of TFR decline between 2005 and 2021.

4. Key Points & Analysis:

- **TFR (Total Fertility Rate):** The TFR required for population stabilization is 2.1. By 2021, all states except Bihar, U.P., Jharkhand, Meghalaya, and Manipur achieved this.
- **Lok Sabha Size:** To ensure democratic discussions, the number of Lok Sabha seats should not exceed 700.
- **Federal Fairness:** Delimitation is not just about arithmetic (numbers); it should promote the political identity and good governance of the states.

Quick Revision Points for Exams:

- **Delimitation Commission (DC):** Its orders have the force of law and cannot be challenged in any court.
- **Population Stabilization:** 'Fair Federalism' means providing adequate representation to states that followed population control without penalizing them.
- **Constitutional Amendments:** The 42nd Amendment (1976) initially froze the seats until the year 2000, which was later extended to 2026 by the 84th Amendment.

KARNATAKA FREEDOM OF CHOICE IN MARRIAGE AND PREVENTION AND PROHIBITION OF CRIMES IN THE NAME OF HONOUR AND TRADITION BILL, 2026

1. Background Behind the Bill's Name:

- The bill is subtitled "**Eva Nammava, Eva Nammava.**"
- This is derived from a *Vachana* written by the 12th-century social reformer **Basavanna**. It means, "Do not ask who he is... say he is one of us." it symbolizes the establishment of a caste-free egalitarian society.

2. Key Provisions:

- **Consent:** Once two individuals are adults and decide to marry, the consent of their parents, family, or caste is not required.
- **Punishments:** Crimes committed in the name of "honour" (honour killings) will attract a minimum of 5 years of imprisonment.
- **Social Boycott:** Social boycotts following inter-caste marriages will be treated as a criminal offense.

3. Protection and Rehabilitation Mechanism:

- **Police Protection:** Police protection must be provided to couples within 6 hours of filing a complaint requesting safety.
- **Safe Houses:** Government-funded safe houses must be established in every district.
- **Helpline:** A 24-hour helpline called the "**Eva Nammava Vedika**" will be set up to assist with marriage registration and counseling.
- **Special Cell:** A special unit will be established in every district to prevent honour killings.

4. Context:

- The demand for this law intensified following an incident in December 2025 in Hubballi Taluk, North Karnataka, where a pregnant woman was murdered by her father for marrying a Dalit man.
- According to Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara, 15 such crimes occurred in the state over the last 5 years.

Analysis for Competitive Exams (Comparative Analysis):

- **Gujarat vs. Karnataka:** While the Gujarat government proposed making parental ID cards and their permission mandatory for marriage registration, the Karnataka Bill prioritizes the **Right to Choose (Personal Liberty)** and explicitly states that parental permission is not required.
- **Constitutional Connection:** This bill strengthens **Article 21** of the Indian Constitution (Right to Life and Personal Liberty). The Supreme Court previously ruled in the **Shakti Vahini vs. Union of India** case that couples entering inter-caste marriages must be protected.

Limitations:

- Although this bill supports inter-caste marriages in Karnataka, the **Anti-conversion Act (2022)** introduced by the previous government is still in effect. Analysts believe this may still pose an obstacle for **Inter-faith marriages**.

IT RULES, 2021 - LATEST AMENDMENT PROPOSALS (MARCH 2026)

1. Key Change:

- **Control over Individual Users:** Previously, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B Ministry) held the authority to issue 'Content Takedown' notices only to online news organizations.
- **Proposal:** According to the latest amendments, the I&B Ministry will now have the power to directly issue notices even to ordinary individual users who post content regarding news and current affairs on social media.

2. Safe Harbour Provision:

- **Definition:** Under Section 79 of the IT Act, 2000, social media platforms (such as Meta, X, etc.) are considered mere 'Intermediaries.' These organizations are not held

responsible for the content posted by their users. This legal protection is known as 'Safe Harbour.'

- **Impact of Amendment:** If platforms fail to comply with government orders within the stipulated time, they will lose their 'Safe Harbour' status. This means the organizations can also be held legally liable in court for user-generated posts.
- **Time Limit:** Per the amendments made in February, controversial content must be removed within 2 to 3 hours of receiving a notice (this was previously 24 to 36 hours).

3. Expansion of Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC) Powers:

- The IDC has been granted additional powers to hear appeals arising from the resolution of Level I or Level II grievances.
- The scope has been widened by removing the restrictive "Code of Ethics violation" clause, allowing the committee to investigate any 'Matter' referred to by the Ministry.

4. Legal Aspects & Criticisms:

- **Section 69A:** This section is utilized to legally block content.
- **Court Stays:** The Bombay and Madras High Courts previously placed stays on certain parts of the IT Rules. The Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF) has criticized the latest amendments, stating they appear to circumvent these court orders.
- **Government's Stance:** IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw stated that the primary objective is to curb Fake News and Deepfakes created through AI.

Quick Revision Points for Competitive Exams:

- **Nodal Ministries:** MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) for technology and I&B (Ministry of Information and Broadcasting) for content monitoring.
- **IDC Expansion:** Aimed at further strengthening the grievance redressal and monitoring mechanism.
- **Constitutional Challenge:** Rights organizations argue that these rules infringe upon **Article 19(1)(a)** of the Indian Constitution (Freedom of Speech and Expression).

INDIA-RUSSIA BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS (MARCH 2026)

1. Background & Context:

- **West Asian Tensions:** This meeting took place against the backdrop of ongoing wartime tensions between the US-Israel and Iran.
- **Annual Summit:** The primary objective of this meeting was to prepare preliminary plans for the 'India-Russia Annual Summit' to be held in Russia later this year.

2. Key Representatives:

- **Indian Side:** Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.
- **Russian Side:** Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko.
- Following the consultations, Rudenko met with Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to discuss regional and global developments.

3. Key Discussion Points:

- **Special Strategic Partnership:** Both sides reviewed the 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership' existing between the two nations.
- **Multilateral Platforms:** In the evolving 'Multipolar World,' it was decided to strengthen cooperation through BRICS, SCO, G20, and the United Nations.

4. BRICS Challenges – West Asian Impact:

- **India's Presidency:** India is currently holding the presidency of the BRICS alliance.
- **Membership Complexity:** Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE are newly joined member states of BRICS. Tensions arising due to the war in West Asia among these nations have become a challenge for consensus within the BRICS alliance.
- **Impact:** Threats to energy interests and military bases in the Gulf region due to Iranian strikes are affecting the economic interests of BRICS nations.

Quick Revision Points for Competitive Exams:

- **Special & Privileged Strategic Partnership:** India holds this unique status of partnership exclusively with Russia.
- **SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation):** Both India and Russia are permanent member states of this organization.
- **Multipolar World:** This is a geopolitical theory asserting that the world should not be controlled by a single superpower (USA) but should instead have multiple centers of power, including India, Russia, and China.

DELIVERY OF GRSE WARSHIPS TO THE INDIAN NAVY - 2026

A HISTORIC MILESTONE IN INDIGENOUS DEFENSE PRODUCTION

As part of the Government of India's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' initiatives, the Kolkata-based **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE)** has achieved a historic feat by delivering three key warships to the Navy simultaneously. This is the first time in GRSE's history that three major vessels have been released from a single platform at once, proving the accelerated growth of India's warship construction capabilities and project management.

DETAILS AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DELIVERED WARSHIPS

Warship Name	Type / Class	Key Analysis
INS Dunagiri	Project 17A (P17A) Stealth Frigate	This is the 5th ship in the Nilgiri class . It features ' Stealth ' technology to remain undetected by enemy radars. It is a multi-mission platform equipped with BrahMos missiles and advanced sensors.
INS Sanshodhak	Survey Vessel Large (SVL)	This is the 4th and final ship in this project. It is used to conduct Hydrographic Surveys of ports and sea routes and to collect sub-surface maritime data.
INS Agray	ASW SWC	A ship specifically designed for Anti-Submarine Warfare to counter submarines in coastal areas (Shallow Waters).

DEFENSE SECTOR - INDIGENISATION

- **Indigenous Content:** Approximately **75% to 80%** of the components used in the construction of these warships are indigenous. This significantly reduces dependence on foreign imports in the defense sector.

- **Economic Impact:** These projects have provided employment and technological advancement opportunities to over **200 MSMEs**, strengthening the domestic industrial ecosystem.
- **Reduced Construction Time:** The build period for warships has been significantly reduced. For instance, the construction time for *Dunagiri* was limited to **80 months**.

STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE

These indigenous warships are essential for India to emerge as a '**Net Security Provider**' in the Indian Ocean Region. These vessels will play a pivotal role in achieving the goal of a '**Blue Water Navy**' and implementing the '**SAGAR**' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision.

Quick Revision Points for Exams:

- **GRSE:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (Kolkata).
- **P17A:** Advanced stealth frigates following the Shivalik class.
- **Indigenisation:** Moving toward 80% local content in naval construction.

NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS (IND AS) IN THE INDIAN INSURANCE SECTOR - 2026

IRDAI'S NEW REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has approved the implementation of **Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS)**, bringing radical changes to the preparation of financial statements by insurance companies. These amendments are set to come into effect from **April 1, 2026**. This is a crucial step in modernizing the Indian insurance sector in alignment with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

IMPLEMENTATION OF IND AS - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Effective Date:** These regulations will be implemented starting from **April 1, 2026**.
- **Applicable Entities:** These rules apply to all types of insurance organizations:
 - Life Insurance
 - General Insurance
 - Standalone Health Insurers

- Reinsurers
- **Regulatory Framework:** The amendments prescribe the standards for **Recognition, Measurement, Presentation, and Disclosure** of financial statements.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW STANDARDS

IRDAI has set the following goals to enhance transparency in the insurance sector:

- **Consistency:** Ensuring that all insurance companies follow uniform accounting practices.
- **Transparency:** Increasing clarity in financial reports to build confidence among investors and the public.
- **Comparability:** Aligning with global standards to enable the comparison of Indian insurance companies' financial performance with international firms.
- **Accountability:** Strengthening the investment and financial functions of insurance companies through the **IRDAI (Actuarial, Finance, and Investment Functions of Insurers) Amendment Regulations, 2026**.

ANALYSIS FOR UPSC/APPSC ASPIRANTS

- **Prelims Perspective:** Candidates should remember the implementation date (**April 1, 2026**) and the specific types of insurance entities it covers. It is also important to note that **IRDAI is a Statutory Body**.
- **Mains Perspective:** These changes can be cited as examples under topics like '**Corporate Governance**' and '**Financial Reforms**' in the Indian economy. This information is useful for analyzing how transparency in financial reporting helps in attracting **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**.

Quick Revision Points:

- **Ind AS:** Indian version of IFRS.
- **Scope:** Covers Life, General, Health, and Reinsurance.
- **Governance:** Linked to the 2026 Amendment Regulations for Actuarial and Finance functions.