

**6<sup>th</sup> SURANA & SURANA AND ARMY  
INSTITUTE OF LAW  
FAMILY LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION  
2024-25**

**Hybrid**

**Virtual : Feb 21<sup>st</sup> & Feb 22, 2025 ; On Campus : Mar 29<sup>th</sup> & Mar 30, 2025**

**RULES**

**Joint Organizer**



**Surana & Surana International Attorneys  
Chennai**

**Host & Joint Organizer**



**Army Institute of Law  
Mohali**

**[Venue \(Hybrid\)](#)**

**[Virtual \(Online - Google Meet\)](#)**

**[On Campus](#)**

**Army Institute of Law  
Sector 68. Mohali, Punjab, India 160062**

Email: [ailsurana2025@gmail.com](mailto:ailsurana2025@gmail.com)

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **I. AIM & PURPOSE**

The Surana & Surana and Army Institute of Law National Family Law Moot Court Competition has been conceived with the aim to

- i Create awareness on Family Law in a systematic / scientific manner and train participants for effective practice
- ii Facilitate the evolution of Family Law through the jurisprudential analysis of the existing law and consequential emergence of new laws besides developing cutting edge skills in research, writing and advocacy.

### **II. VENUE AND DATE**

The **6<sup>th</sup> Surana & Surana and Army Institute of Law Family Law Moot Court Competition** shall be held from **Feb 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> (Friday & Saturday - Virtually)** and **Mar 29<sup>th</sup> & Mar 30, 2025 (Saturday & Sunday - On Campus)**.

**The competition shall be in the English language.**

### **IV. ELIGIBILITY**

The competition is open for students who are pursuing LLB three year / five year course during the current academic year.

### **V. TEAM COMPOSITION**

- a. Each team should consist of a minimum of 2 and maximum of 3 members. This number cannot be modified under any circumstances.
- b. There shall be 2 speakers and 1 researcher designated for each team. The researcher shall be allowed to argue with prior permission of the court and National Administrator in case of illness of the designated speakers.
- c. Each team will **be provided a team code** prior to the submission of memorials via e-mail. This team code is only for the memorials. Teams should not disclose the identity of their institution in their memorials; such disclosure shall invite penalties including disqualification. The decision for the same shall be at the discretion of the National Administrator.

## **VI. REGISTRATION**

- a. Online registrations are open from **18<sup>th</sup> January 2025**. The teams must register online by **14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025**. Teams will have to register online at [www.moot.in](http://www.moot.in).
- b. No temporary registration requests will be entertained. Kindly refrain from sending such requests to Surana & Surana or Army Institute of Law (AIL).
- c. Participants will receive an automated system generated acknowledgement on successful submission of registration. Participants will receive an approval as acceptance of their request for participation by **15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025** or earlier.

### **d. *Registration Process***

**Option 1** - The Registration form cum Approval letter as provided in the rules duly signed & sealed by your university / college / moot society.

**Option 2** - Upload both (i) & (ii) together **as a single PDF**

- i. The Registration form cum Approval letter (without seal & signature) as provided in the rules duly filled along with
- ii. Scanned copy of authorisation letter with sign and seal from your university / college / moot society

**or**

An email communication from the official id (to be filled as notification email id during online registration process) of the institution, from your university / college / moot society to complete the registration process.

**Note :**

1. Signatories on the registration form should be any of the following :- Faculty- in-charge of MCA / MCS / MCC, Registrar, Dean, Principal, Director, Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor
  2. Registration without the scanned copy of the approval letter / an email communication from the college/institution/university or duly attested registration form will not be valid.
- e. Soft copy of the registration and approval letter/ an email communication as a **single**

**PDF** to be sent by email to : [ailsurana2025@gmail.com](mailto:ailsurana2025@gmail.com) marked as 6<sup>th</sup> SURANA & SURANA AND ARMY INSTITUTE OF LAW FAMILY LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION REGISTRATION as subject of the mail latest by **14<sup>th</sup> February 2025**.  
**The provisional team code shall be allotted to the registered teams by Host University soon after receiving of registration particulars.**

- f. On receiving the provisional team code from Moot Court Society of AIL you may proceed to pay the registration fees.
- g. **A registration fee of Rs. 1,500/- is to be paid online by 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at: <https://www.onlinesbi.sbi/sbicollect/icollecthome.htm?corpID=593474>**  
Receipt of the online payment to be sent by email to: [ailsurana2025@gmail.com](mailto:ailsurana2025@gmail.com)  
**Fee once paid will not be refunded.**

## **VII. CLARIFICATIONS**

Clarifications on the moot proposition may be sought before **14<sup>th</sup> February 2025** with an email to [ai@lawidia.com](mailto:ai@lawidia.com) & copy to [ailsurana2025@gmail.com](mailto:ailsurana2025@gmail.com)

## **VIII. ORIENTATION**

There will be an Orientation Program for all the participants on **21<sup>st</sup> February 2025**. It will be followed by a draw of lots and exchange of memorials for the Preliminary Rounds.  
**Competition team codes and side will be allotted during the orientation only.**

## **IX. ROUNDS**

There will be two Preliminary Rounds of arguments, an Octa final, a Quarter Final, a Semi-Final and a Final round. The organisers reserve the right to amend the schedule / rounds as per the number of participating teams.

**Octa final** will be conducted if the participation **exceeds 24 teams**

**Quarter final** will be conducted if the participation **exceeds 16 teams**

### **Preliminary Round**

- a. There will be two preliminary rounds of arguments per team, once for Applicant & another for Respondent.
- b. No team will face each other more than once in the preliminary rounds.

- c. Each team will face a different two-judge bench in their second round of arguments.
- d. Preliminary Rounds I, II will be held **Virtually** on **22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 (Saturday)**.
- e. Top sixteen / eight teams from the Preliminary Rounds will advance to the Octa / Quarter final rounds. Preliminary rounds will be decided on
  - a. Win points
  - b. Win points + Aggregate raw points
  - c. Win points + Aggregate raw points (in case of tie minus memorial marks)NB: Aggregate raw points = oral scores + memorial score.  
Memorial marks will be added to the scores of the preliminary round only.
- f. The dress code shall be advocate's attire during the rounds of the competition.
- g. The oral arguments need not be confined to the issues presented in the memorials

**Octa Final / Quarter Final / Semi Final Round / Final Round:**

- a. Draw of lots/ Power match will decide the side of the arguments in Quarterfinals, Semifinals & Finals. The Octa Final / Quarter Final / Semi Final are knockout rounds.
- b. The Octa Final will be held (**Virtually**) on **22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025**
- c. The Quarter Final & Semi Final will be held **On Campus** on **29<sup>th</sup> March 2025**
- d. The Finals will be held **On Campus** on **30<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**X. Results (Announcement)**

Results will be announced within 30 minutes after the full completion of the respective Preliminary / Octa Final / Quarter Final / Semi Final rounds. The Final result and the winners of the various categories will be announced only during the valediction / prize distribution ceremony.

**XI. Memorials**

The following requirements for memorials must be strictly followed. Non-conformities will be penalised:

- a. Each team must prepare memorials for both parties to the dispute (Applicant and Respondent).

- b. The soft copy of the Memorials for the Applicant / and the Respondent should be mailed to [ailsurana2025@gmail.com](mailto:ailsurana2025@gmail.com) with copy to [ai@lawindia.com](mailto:ai@lawindia.com) on or before **16<sup>th</sup> February 2025 latest by 05.00pm.**
- c. Late submission will be penalized by four point each per memorial per day.
- d. Once the soft copy of the memorials has been submitted, **no revisions, supplements, or additions will be allowed.**
- e. The teams are requested to carry along **5 copies** from each side of the Memorials with them and submit the same during Registration on **28<sup>th</sup> March 2025**. **The participants should mention their Competition code only on the hard copy of the memorials.**
- f. The memorials must contain:
- The table of contents
  - The index of authorities
  - The statement of jurisdiction
  - The statement of facts (1 page only and argumentative statement of facts would attract penalties)
  - The statement of issues
  - The summary of arguments (not more than 1 page)
  - The arguments advanced (not more than 15 pages)
  - The prayer
- g. The font size should be 12 (one & half space) and for footnotes it should be 10 (single space) & double space between two-foot notes. Footnoting must conform to the Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA), 4th Edition.
- h. The memorial must have a margin measuring one inch on all sides of each page
- i. The page numbering should be on the top right side of each page.
- j. Covers must be placed on briefs as follows:  
**Petitioner : Light Blue Color; Respondent: Light Red Color.**
- k. The cover page of the memorial must state the following :
- i) Team code (on the top right corner)
  - ii) The cause title
  - iii) Identify brief as Applicants & Respondents as is applicable
- l. Identity of the institution shall not be revealed anywhere in the memorial. Violation of this provision shall result in penalties including disqualification. The Chief Administrator's decision shall be final.

- m. The teams may share a separate paper book (compendium) of not more than 50 pages, which will carry all the annexure & case laws that have been referred to in the memorial. The paper book will have a white cover. The Competition code allotted during the Orientation through draw of lots should be visible on top right corner. The teams may submit through screen sharing with judges or submitted during virtual registration before commencement of the Competition as advised by the organisers. Any identifying marks/seal of the college/university shall attract severe penalties including disqualification. **For the On Campus rounds a hard copy will be required.**

## **XII. ORAL ROUND**

### **Preliminary Rounds, Octa Finals & Quarter Finals**

- a. Each team will get a total of 30 minutes to present their case.
- b. This time will include rebuttal and sur-rebuttal time
- c. The division of time is at the discretion of the team members, subject to a minimum of 10 minutes per speaker (excluding the rebuttal time) Division of time shall be informed to the court officer before arguments begin.
- d. The oral arguments need not be confined to the contents that are presented in the submitted memorials, subject to the issues be covered within the case data.
- e. Passing of notes to the speakers by the researcher during the rounds is allowed subject to the discretion of the Judges.
- f. The attendance of the researcher at the time of the oral pleading rounds is compulsory.

### **Semi Final & Final**

- a. Each team will get 45 minutes to present their case which will include rebuttal and sur-rebuttal time
- b. The division of time is at the discretion of the team, with a minimum of 20 minutes & maximum of 25 minutes per speaker.
- c. The oral arguments need not be confined to the contents that are presented in the submitted memorials, subject to the issues be covered within the case data

## **XIII. Scouting**

Teams will not be allowed to observe the orals of any other teams. Scouting is strictly prohibited. Scouting by any of the team members shall result in disqualification.

#### **XIV. Scoring**

##### **A. Orals**

The parameters for judging the oral presentation on a scale of 0 – 100 points are:

- a. Knowledge of facts
- b. Logic and reasoning
- c. Organisation and clarity
- d. Persuasiveness
- e. Deference to the court
- f. Proper and articulate analysis of the issues arising out of facts
- g. Understanding of the legal principles directly applicable to the issues
- h. Ability to explain clearly the legal principles in general keeping to the time allotted
- i. Knowledge and use of legal sources and authorities and general principles of law
- j. Ingenuity (ability to argue by analogy from related aspects of law)

##### **B. Written Submissions (Memorials)**

The memorials shall be marked on a scale of 1-100 points each.

- a. Any revisions, supplements or additions to the memorials after submission shall attract severe penalties subject to the discretion of the Chief Administrator.
- c. Award of the points shall be based on the following parameters:
  - a. Neatness, legibility, no typographical errors or format errors
  - b. Logical progression of ideas
  - c. Effective use of headings to outline arguments
  - d. Understanding essential legal issues presented
  - e. Focus on essential (not collateral) issues
  - f. Clear, concise and unambiguous writing style
  - g. Forceful and persuasive presentation
  - h. Integration of facts into legal argument
  - i. Understanding of strengths and weaknesses of case
  - j. Discussion of viable alternative arguments
  - k. Understanding and analysis of authority
  - l. Proper use of citations and citation form
  - m. Effective use of authority to support arguments
  - n. Ability to distinguish adverse cases



## **XV. AWARDS**

- |                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| i. Winning team:          | Rs. 30,000/- |
| ii. Runner up team:       | Rs. 24,000/- |
| iii. Best Memorial:       | Rs. 15,000/- |
| iv. Second Best Memorial  | Rs. 9,000/-  |
| v. Best Student Advocate: | Rs. 10,000/- |

In addition to the above awards, plaques and certificates will be given to other categories of winners. All participants will be awarded participation certificates.

## **XVI. ANONYMITY**

- Student counsel may introduce her/himself to the court in the usual manner and may also state her/his names. However, the team's college / institution affiliation may not be mentioned at any time before the Valedictory.
- Further, all team members, coaches, advisors, and observers shall refrain from identifying a team's school at any time and in any manner, including, but not limited to, wearing any identifying items, such as school clothing, ties, patches, or pins or carrying identifying material (such as a books with a college logo, or college seal).

## **XVII. POLICY FOR VIRTUAL ROUNDS**

- The Oral Rounds for the competition will take place virtually via **Google Meet** platform.
- It would be the responsibility of every team to ensure a stable internet connection. The audio and video of every member of the team should be clear. Every team must ensure a proper background. The Moot Court Committee will under no circumstances be obligated to provide the participants with any such facility
- All participants should mandatorily join with their laptops or desktops and in no circumstance join with any other device.
- The link or the ID and password for the room on Google Meet will be conveyed to the participating teams before the oral rounds.**
- Each participating member of every team is advised to install the Google Meet platform on their devices well in time.

- f) Each team is required to join the room at least fifteen minutes before the scheduled time of commencement of the oral rounds.
- g) The participants' camera and microphone shall be firmly positioned throughout the oral rounds so as to show speakers and to ensure their voices are clearly audible.
- h) All participants must keep their cameras on at all times during the rounds.
- i) At the time when one participant is speaking, others are expected to keep their microphones on mute. In case a participant is found disturbing the other pleader anyway, he/she or the entire team to which such participant belongs may be disqualified upon the discretion of the bench.
- j) Each participant is responsible for finding a suitable venue and background to participate. The venue must be a quiet location and one which has adequate and reliable internet connectivity and has a desk and chairs for the oralist. Locations in open spaces or hallways or cybercafes or similar areas are NOT permitted.
- k) Strict adherence to the dress code is required. The teams are required to be properly attired for the rounds. The participants are required to wear black trousers/skirts and a white shirt, black blazers, and a black necktie.
- l) Participants are cautioned to ensure that all equipment has a power supply sufficient to last for at least two hours without interruption.
- m) In case of a loss in internet connection, each team will be given a reasonable time to reconnect. If the problem still persists the decision made by the committee shall be final and binding.
- n) In the event where one or both of the speaker could not join due to connectivity issue, the team may be disqualified from the competition and at no circumstances can other member of the team be allowed to switch roles.
- o) Where a team does not appear within 10 minutes of the scheduled time for the round, the round shall proceed as ex-parte.
- p) If a team wishes to refer to any compiled Research Material (Compendium) such material shall be mailed to [ailsurana2025@gmail.com](mailto:ailsurana2025@gmail.com) for further which instructions would be provided during Orientation.
- q) Any compiled Research Material (Compendium) or other supplementary documents may be, as per the discretion of the bench, presented by the team by using the "screen sharing" option given they have fulfilled the preceding sub-clause.
- r) Participants will not be allowed to use the feature of personal chat on Google Meet to

communicate with their team members or members of the opposing team.

- s) Teams shall not use phones, internet or any other devices during the rounds for anything, except participating in the rounds.
- t) Participants are expected to cooperate with the Committee and the judges, in case anyone faces any issue.
- u) The organizers shall take best available measures to resolve or mitigate any connectivity issues that may arise. However, in cases where that is not possible, the organizer cannot be held responsible for the unforeseen issues which includes (but are not limited to) – Software failure and connectivity issues.

The decision of the Organizers in consultation with the judges shall be final and binding.

## **XVIII. LIVE STREAMING OF THE FINALS**

The organisers will arrange for the live streaming of only the finals of the competition thru the YouTube links be provided by Surana & Surana.

## **XIX. DECISION OF THE JUDGES WILL BE FINAL**

## **XX. COPYRIGHT**

- a. The copyright over the memorials submitted for participation in the competition is assigned by participants and shall also vest completely and fully in, Army Institute of Law, Mohali and Surana & Surana International Attorneys, Chennai. The participants shall certify in writing the originality of materials contained therein and shall be responsible for any claim or dispute arising out of the further use and exhibition of these materials.
- b. Further use and exhibition of these materials, electronically or otherwise, shall be the exclusive right of Surana & Surana International Attorneys, Chennai and Army Institute of Law, Mohali, and they shall not be responsible for any liability to any person for any loss caused by errors or omissions in this collection of information, or for the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in these materials.
- c. Distribution of these materials in print or on affiliated websites such as [www.moot.in](http://www.moot.in) and other platforms by Surana & Surana does not constitute consent to any use of this

material for commercial redistribution either via the Internet or using some other form of hypertext distribution. Links to the collection or individual pages in it are welcome.

## **XXI. ACCOMMODATION & TRANSPORT**

- a. Accommodation will be arranged by **Army Institute of Law** during the period of competition i.e., **28<sup>th</sup> March 2025 (12: 00 PM IST) till 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025 (05:00 PM IST)**.
- b. Each Team participant opting for accommodation shall be required to pay a fee of **₹ 7,500.00 (Rupees Seven Thousand Five Hundred Only)**.
- c. Link for the Payment of accommodation fee :  
<https://www.onlinesbi.sbi/sbicollect/icollecthome.htm?corpID=593474>  
The accommodation fee is non-refundable. The fee has to be paid by **05.00 PM, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025**.
- d. The name and mobile number of the student volunteers in charge of transport / accommodation will also be made available after finalization. Teams should fill in their travel plan in the sheet available on **ANNEXURE B** positively to reach the scanned copy by **5.00 PM** on **1<sup>st</sup> March 2025** via email to [ailsurana2025@gmail.com](mailto:ailsurana2025@gmail.com)
- e. To facilitate convenient travel, shuttle services will be provided to transport participants between their designated accommodation and the college campus. The specific schedule and pick-up/drop-off locations for the shuttle services will be communicated to registered participants closer to the competition date.
- f. Extra members over and above the prescribed number will not be entertained and accommodated under any circumstances.

***Misbehavior of any sort by the participants will be dealt very seriously and will lead to disqualification***

## **XXII. ORGANISING TEAM**

**Prof. (Dr.) Tejinder Kaur, Principal, AIL, Mohali, will be the Chief Administrator.**

**Any clarifications for the competition can be sought from:**

Regarding Case / Submission of Memorials / etc.

**Faculty coordinators-**

**Dr. Bajirao Rajwade**

bajirao.rajwade@ail.ac.in

Cell # +91 99888 13531

**Dr. Inderpreet Kaur**

inderpreet.kaur@ail.ac.in

Cell # +91 80540 11277

**Regarding online registration:**

**A. D. Johnson Christy**

Manager - Special Projects (Dispute Resolution & Academic Initiatives)

Surana & Surana International Attorneys

Email: [ai@lawindia.com](mailto:ai@lawindia.com)

Ph: 044 - 2812 0000

**Student Co-ordinators**

**Ms. Kanishka Chopra**

Cell # +91 70099 18350

**Mr. Aman Singh**

Cell # +91 95213 51266

**IMPORTANT DATES**

<b>Start of Online Registration &amp; release of Case Record</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b>
<b>Last date for Online Registration</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>
<b>Last date for receiving copies of Registration form / Approval of letter by AIL</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>
<b>Last date for Payment of Registration Fees</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>
<b>Last date for seeking Clarification to the case</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>
<b>Release of Clarifications</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>
<b>Last Date for Submission of Memorials (both Applicant and Respondent), Soft Copy by email with temporary Team Code</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>
<b>Orientation, Draw of Lots, Exchange of Memorial</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> February 2025</b>
<b>Preliminary Rounds I &amp; II / Octa Finals</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025</b>
<b>Last date for submission of Travel Plans &amp; Payment of Accommodation Fees</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> March 2025</b>
<b>Submission of Memorials 5 (five) Hard copies (both Applicant &amp; Respondent), No markings, Competition Code to be mentioned</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b>
<b>Quarter Finals &amp; Semi Finals</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b>
<b>Finals and Valedictory</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b>

**Registration Fee Payment Link:**

<https://www.onlinesbi.sbi/sbicollect/icollecthome.htm?corpID=593474>

Date:

**Registration form/ Approval letter**

(Please fill in capital letters)

**Undertaking**

1. We hereby state that our participation complies with the rules and regulations of the competition.
2. We certify that the materials submitted/to be submitted are prepared by us and agree to indemnify the organizers, i.e. the Surana & Surana International Attorneys, Chennai and the Army Institute of Law, Mohali for any claim or dispute arising out of the further use and exhibition of these materials.

(All particulars must be given)

**Name & Address of the participating Institution:**

Name of the Participant	Gender	Course	Year	Signature
<b>Primary Email id and Contact number</b>				

Seal & signature of the  
Head of the Institution

Duly filled, sealed & signed soft copy of the Registration form should be sent by E-mail: [ailsurana2025@gmail.com](mailto:ailsurana2025@gmail.com) by **14<sup>th</sup> February 2025**. The subject of the email must be "6<sup>th</sup> SURANA & SURANA AND ARMY INSTITUTE OF LAW FAMILY LAW MOOT - REGISTRATION"

**TRAVEL PLAN (ANNEXURE B)**

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1. Name of Institution -

2. Team Code -

3. Arrival Details -

a. Mode of Arrival: Train / Air / Bus \_\_\_\_\_

b. Train No./Bus No./Flight No. \_\_\_\_\_

c. Estimated Time of Arrival \_\_\_\_\_

4. Departure Details -

a. Mode of Arrival: Train / Air / Bus \_\_\_\_\_

b. Train No./Bus No./Flight No. \_\_\_\_\_

c. Estimated Time of Departure \_\_\_\_\_

5. Any other details:

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***NOTE: This travel form should be mailed at [ailsurana2025@gmail.com](mailto:ailsurana2025@gmail.com) by 05:00 PM IST on / before 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025***



## **Moot Proposition**

1. Rina Sorabjee is a resident of Mumbai. She got her degree in architecture in 2020 and started working as a part time apprentice in a firm dealing with town and country planning. Her parents were an established Parsi family from Mumbai. Rina also had a younger sister Tanya who is studying commerce in a local college. As Rina was a very hard-working, soon she was promoted and earning a good pay package.
2. At a common friend's new year party at Mumbai in 2021 Rina met Rajesh who is a US citizen. He is also from Mumbai but had shifted to America in 2015. Rajesh is a computer expert and had found a lucrative position in an American company in San Francisco. He was also planning to start his own IT firm, but was lacking the required finances. Rajesh had no own family in India as both his parents and younger sister died in a car crash in 2013. He has a distant uncle in Mumbai who helped him go to America.
3. Rina and Rajesh had a nice evening together and decided to meet again the following day. What Rina liked about Rajesh was that he was very grounded and did not talk about money at all. In fact, both realised that they had a lot of common interests. In the days to follow they met many times and soon became very good friends.
4. Soon around the third week of January 2022, it was time for Rajesh to leave for the US. Both of them decided to keep in touch and spoke practically 2-3 times a day after he left. Their relationship got serious and Rajesh was delighted to hear that Rina was planning a trip to the US in September of 2022.
5. Rina got a Visa and arrived in the US on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022. She was staying with Rajesh. Rajesh and Rina were having a wonderful time. They visited various tourist places and were having a wonderful time together. Soon time came for Rina to return to India as her leave was coming to an end. She decided to fly back on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022.
6. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of October when they had finished dinner at a fancy restaurant, Rajesh proposed to Rina. This came as a total surprise to Rina. She accepted but said that she had to inform and ask her parents. The next day she left for India and decided to speak to her parents about her decision about Rajesh.
7. Rina's parents were delighted to hear about Rajesh and happily gave their consent for their alliance. Rina called Rajesh to inform him and both were on cloud nine about the future. They decided to have an early wedding. Rajesh said that it would be very difficult for him

to come to India, so Rina and her parents decided to go to the US in December 2022. Rina resigned from her job and the family got busy with the preparations for the wedding.

8. On 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022 Rina and Rajesh got married in the US according to the customs of Hindu and Parsi communities. All the rituals were performed and the event seemed as though it was happening in India. Rajesh's American friends were delighted to see Indian customs and traditions that were followed at a wedding. Everything went off well and the couple left for Italy for a few days after the wedding. Rina's parents returned to India.
9. Rina and Rajesh started their new life. Rina applied for her papers. She was a career minded girl and wanted to work. Rajesh on the other hand started the new venture which he had planned, with a little financial help from his uncle from Mumbai. They also decided to come to India in June of 2023 to get their marriage registered.
10. In April of 2023 Rajesh and Rina were at a shopping mall in the US. As they were window shopping, a lady with a child named Brian hugged Rajesh on seeing him. Rajesh got very uncomfortable and asked Rina to continue shopping while he spoke to lady named Alice whom he introduced as a colleague from a previous office. Rina found this strange, so she stayed on and introduced herself as Rajesh's wife. This shocked Alice and she started crying. Things got really ugly when Alice confronted Rajesh. Rajesh in firm voice told Alice to leave, as there is no point creating a scene in front of the small child. Rajesh convinced Rina that he would clarify everything at home.
11. Rajesh tried his best to pacify her and told her that he had met Alice in Atlanta where he had gone for a training in 2016. Rajesh soon became friendly with Alice. At that time Rajesh was eager to get US citizenship at the earliest. He saw a wonderful opportunity after meeting Alice and decided to enter into a paper marriage with Alice which would help him achieve his American dream. Alice agreed and the two decided to get married on paper.
12. In June of 2017 Rajesh received his green card which is a step to become permanent citizen. After getting green card Rajesh attitude toward Alice changed. Rajesh started spending time outside the house. His training finished and he went back to San Francisco. In Nov 2017 Alice gave birth to a baby boy. Alice asked Rajesh to send her money to look after both of them. Rajesh started sending money every month to her. Rajesh wanted to get out of this. Both decided to file papers for separation. Rajesh never met Alice even once after their separation.
13. Rajesh confessed to Rina that he swore on his parents that he is dedicated to Rina and would never leave her side for another women. He and Alice had applied for termination of the

contract in 2018, and that the order is expected soon. When Rina further asked him about the details about the terms settled, Rajesh only said that the copy of the agreement is not with him at present. Rajesh said as this happened many years ago, so he did not share it with Rina. He truly thought that the thing was over as so many years had passed.

14. Rina was distraught and wanted to leave for India. Rajesh tried to convince her telling her that things between them would soon be fine. He said that the Alice incident was way back in the past and he would never meet her again and that chapter was over. He felt nothing for Alice and Brian. Rina was not convinced and told him that Rajesh had based their marriage on a falsehood, for which she would never forgive him. Rina reluctantly agreed but there was tension between them.
15. Soon Rina realised that she was in the family way. She gave birth to a baby girl in October 2023. Though things between them were a little better, but Rina was still depressed and felt cheated. She was carrying on with her life, looking after their daughter Ria and other household chores, but without enthusiasm. One day while clearing the cupboards, she found a picture of Rajesh, Alice and the child. This angered her again and she decided to leave. Rina decided to fly back to India with Ria. Rajesh tried to persuade her to change her mind, but to no avail. She returned on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024.
16. Back in India Rina was quite upset. She used to remain quiet and depressed. The family decided to take her to a doctor. She was put on medication and was being looked after her parents. Ria was the only hope in her life. Ria was being looked after by Tanya. Ria was very happy in her company. Rajesh called a few times and once came to meet them and to try and take them back to America. He told them that he is doing very well in the US and they could start afresh. Rina refused blatantly. Rina's family also supported her decision.
17. Rina's condition did not improve. She used to go for regular counselling sessions, where she was advised that she should try to move ahead in life. The counsellor was of the opinion that once the relationship will be over, Rina would be mentally at peace and will feel better.
18. Rina was getting herself prepared to file a case to end the relations and get the custody of the child. Unfortunately, in September 2024 Rina suddenly had a massive heart attack and passed away. Ria and Rina's parents were unable to fathom the loss.
19. Tanya started looking after Ria and they became very close. Tanya who is a school teacher she decides to take care of Ria as she does not want to marry after seeing Rina's life. Tanya's parents were happy with this decision.

20. Rajesh came to India and calls up Rina's parents and inform that he will come and take Ria with him.
21. Tanya files a case for legally adopting Ria under The Juvenile Justice Act. Rajesh defends the claim on the ground that he is the biological father of Ria and she is an American citizen.

Argue from both sides

The matter before the relevant Court involves the following:

- Whether the marriage between Rajesh and Rina was valid?
- Whether the child can be given in adoption to Tanya under the JJ Act?