DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, SONEPAT

## CENTRE FOR LAW AND TECHNOLOGY

*In collaboration with*

## BRIDGE COUNSELS LLP

# 1ST INTRA-UNIVERSITY DPDP COMPLIANCE COMPETITION, 2026



# ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat holds a distinguished position among the law universities of the country. Established by the State Government of Haryana in 2012, the University was renamed in 2014 in honour of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The University is situated in the Rajiv Gandhi Educational City, Rai, Sonepat, one of India's premier educational hubs.

The University also supports a multi-disciplinary curriculum, elective courses and opportunities for specialisation across diverse areas of law. The university also harbours a distinguished faculty, an evolving research system, moot courts and legal clinical programmes and wide range of academic and co-curricular activities.

True to this mission, the University encourages its students to learn beyond the classroom, throug competitions and interaction with practitioners. The Competition is organized in that spirit, and the University provides the Centre with the platform, the venue, and the support needed to hold it.

# COLLABORATING PARTNER

BRIDGE COUNSELS

Bridge Counsels LLP (the Firm) is a legal advisory firm that specializes in Fractional General Counsel and External General Counsel services, which give businesses strategic legal support without the need for a full-time in-house legal team. Its practice spans strategic legal advisory, contract management, employment law, regulatory compliance, data protection and privacy, dispute resolution, litigation management, risk management, intellectual property management, and tender advisory. Its work in data protection and regulatory compliance bears directly on the subject of the Competition.

The Firm advises businesses on what is workable as well as what is lawful, which matches the aim of the Competition to balance statutory mandates with business sustainability. It works with the Centre in framing the Proposition, assessing the submissions, serving on the jury, delivering the guest lecture, and offering internships, as set out in Section 8. The Centre provides the academic structure and administration of the Competition, and the Firm provides professional expertise and assessment.

# MESSAGE FROM VICE CHANCELLOR'S DESK

## VICE-CHANCELLOR



**Prof. (Dr.) Devinder singh**

**Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor**
**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat**

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my warm greetings to all participants, distinguished guests, and members of the organising team on the occasion of the First Intra-University DPDP Compliance Competition, organised by the Centre for Law and Technology, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat, in collaboration with Bridge Counsels.

In an era where digital technologies increasingly shape our everyday lives, the protection of personal data has emerged as a significant legal and governance concern. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, represents an important step in India's evolving data protection framework, highlighting the need for responsible data handling, individual privacy, and institutional accountability. Its effective implementation requires not only legal understanding but also practical knowledge of compliance obligations.

I am confident that this competition will provide students with a valuable opportunity to engage with contemporary challenges in data protection, develop analytical and problem-solving abilities, and understand the practical dimensions of regulatory compliance. Such initiatives bridge the gap between theoretical learning and professional practice while encouraging meaningful engagement with emerging intersections of law and technology.

I congratulate the Centre for Law and Technology and Bridge Counsels for this commendable initiative and appreciate the efforts of the organising team. I wish all participants the very best and hope that the competition proves to be an intellectually enriching and rewarding experience.

# MESSAGE FROM THE REGISTRAR

## REGISTRAR

**Prof. (Dr.) Ashutosh Mishra**
**Hon'ble Registrar**
**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat**



It gives me immense pleasure to extend my warm greetings to all participants, distinguished guests, and members of the organising team on the occasion of the First Intra-University DPDP Compliance Competition, organised by the Centre for Law and Technology, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat, in collaboration with Bridge Counsels.

With the growing use of digital platforms in our everyday lives, the protection of personal data has become an important concern. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, marks a significant step towards safeguarding individual privacy and promoting responsible handling of personal information. However, understanding these legal provisions and translating them into effective compliance practices is equally important.

I believe that this competition will provide students with a valuable opportunity to explore the practical aspects of data protection law, think critically about emerging challenges, and understand the responsibilities involved in ensuring data privacy. Such initiatives encourage students to look beyond textbooks and gain insights into the real-world application of law and technology.

I congratulate the Centre for Law and Technology and Bridge Counsels for bringing this initiative forward and appreciate the efforts of the organising team. I wish all participants the very best and hope that this competition will be a meaningful learning experience, inspiring them to engage more deeply with the evolving field of data protection and digital governance.

# FROM THE FACULTY CONVENOR

## FACULTY CONVENOR

**Dr. Divya**
**Assistant Professor of Law**
**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat**



It gives me immense pleasure to welcome all participants, guests, and members of the organising team to the First Intra-University DPDP Compliance Competition, organised by the Centre for Law and Technology, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat, in collaboration with Bridge Counsels.

As technology continues to become an integral part of our lives, questions surrounding data privacy, personal information, and digital accountability are becoming increasingly important. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, has brought these concerns into sharper focus, making it essential for aspiring legal professionals to understand not only the provisions of the law but also their practical application.

This competition is an effort to provide students with an opportunity to engage with these evolving challenges beyond the boundaries of classroom learning. It encourages them to approach legal problems with a practical perspective, develop critical thinking, and understand the importance of effective data protection compliance in today's digital environment. I believe that such experiences play an important role in shaping informed and responsible legal professionals.

I sincerely appreciate the efforts of the organising team and the collaboration with Bridge Counsels in bringing this initiative to fruition. I wish all participants the very best and hope that this competition proves to be an engaging and enriching learning experience for everyone.

# CENTRE FOR LAW AND TECHNOLOGY

The Centre for Law and Technology at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat, serves as both a research institution and an academic forum committed to examining the fast shifting relationship between law and technological progress. At a time when digital systems increasingly shape economic activity, governance structures, and individual freedoms, the Centre seeks to foster rigorous research, stimulate interdisciplinary dialogue, and contribute to the evolution of informed legal and regulatory frameworks.

Its core areas of engagement include digital privacy, cybersecurity, financial technologies, platform governance, and emerging digital infrastructures, assessed across both national and global landscapes. Through collaboration with policymakers, academic institutions, industry, and civil society, the Centre aspires to offer clear, research grounded perspectives on complex legal and technological issues.

The Centre envisions growing into a youth-led institution that meaningfully contributes to the future of technology regulation in India. Its mission is to bridge the divide between law, technological innovation, and public policy by producing impactful scholarship, deepening academic participation, and nurturing a community of students and professionals dedicated to shaping a responsible digital future.

# EVENT SCHEDULE

**Commencement of Registration**

**31 October 2026**





**03 November 2026**

**Release of the Proposition**

**Guest Lecture by Bridge Counsels LLP**

**04 November 2026**



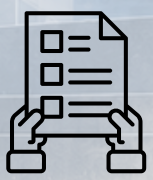


**05 November 2026**

**Last date for Registration**

**Last date for Written Submission**

**12 November 2026**





**16 November 2026**

**Announcements of Results**

**The dates are tentative and the Organizing Committee may revise the schedule by notice.**

# ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The Competition is a simulation of a real-world regulatory and consulting engagement. Participants act as Data Privacy Consultants and Legal Advisors to a fictional client, and they must prepare advice in alignment with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025.

The participants must examine a business's data practices, identify where they fall short of the law, and recommend what the business should do about it.

The Act requires businesses to give notice, obtain valid consent, safeguard personal data, and answer to the people whose data they hold. These duties protect individuals only when they are turned into working practice. The Competition therefore bridges the gap between classroom legal learning and practical corporate compliance. Participants design legal solutions that balance statutory mandate.

# FRAMEWORK OF THE COMPETITION

## INTRODUCTION

The Competition is designed as a consulting engagement and not as a debate or a moot. A fictional client approaches the participants for advice on compliance with the Act and the DPDP Rules. Teams act as Data Privacy Consultants and Legal Advisors, and they must deliver documents that the client could put to use. The Competition therefore rewards accuracy in law, realism in advice, and clarity in communication.

## ABOUT THE PROPOSITION

- The Proposition is a hypothetical problem released jointly by the Centre and the Firm. The legal experts of the Firm lead on its legal content, and the Centre leads on its format, timing, and release.
- It simulates a live enterprise ecosystem, meaning a fictional business with its own customers, systems, vendors, and data practices.
- Within these areas it may raise issues such as the personal data of children, the move of older offline records into digital systems, third-party vendors and tracking tools that operate without proper consent, and the transfer of data to servers outside India.
- The Proposition is a work of fiction and uses no real client data. It is pitched at undergraduate level, so it tests how well a team applies the law to facts and does not require specialist technical knowledge.
- Every clarification released by the Organizing Committee forms part of the Proposition.

## WRITTEN SUBMISSION

**EACH TEAM STUDIES THE PROPOSITION AND SUBMITS ONE WRITTEN SUBMISSION CONSISTING SOLELY OF A SINGLE DOCUMENT, I.E., *THE COMPLIANCE REPORT*:**

- **THE COMPLIANCE REPORT:** The Compliance Report is the legal advice. It identifies the compliance gaps in the client's present practices, classifies the roles of the parties as Data Fiduciary and Data Processor, sets out the obligations of the Data Fiduciary and the rights and duties of Data Principals, ranks the statutory risks, and proposes a practical plan of action.
- **ANONYMITY & EVALUATION**: The Written Submissions are *anonymous*. The designated associates of the Firm assess them to decide the final ranking and winners.

## GUEST LECTURE & RESULT ANNOUNCEMENT

A specialized guest lecture by the speakers and associates of the Firm is organized on **04 November 2026** to guide participants on data protection compliance and corporate practice. Results are announced following evaluation as per the Firm's discretion (tentatively scheduled for 16-17 November 2026).

## STANDARD OF WORK

Teams must comply strictly with the Act and the DPDP Rules in force on the date of release of the Proposition. The work must be original, and the limits on **PLAGIARISM** and the use of **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** , **NOT** exceeding more than **15%** and **0%** respectively.

# ASSESSMENT

- **LEGAL GROUNDING: *'Legal grounding'*** *means correct use of the Act and the DPDP Rules and correct allocation of roles.*
- **OPERATIONAL FEASABILITY: *'Operational feasibility'*** *means that the advice is proportionate and realistic for the client, and does not ask for an unrealistic and expensive rebuild of its business.*
- **DRAFTING AND DESIGN: *'Drafting and design'*** *means how clearly the report is structured and articulated, including any technical safeguards, risk rankings, and compliance workflows it proposes.*

**FAIRNESS is secured by *three* features:** Every team answers the **Same Proposition**, the written round is **Anonymous**, and the assessment is carried out by **Practitioners**. The detailed marking schemes and penalties are provided in the Rules and Regulations**.**

# EXPECTED OUTCOMES

**A participant who completes the Competition should be able to read the Act and the DPDP Rules together and apply them to a set of facts, prepare an enterprise compliance report, find and rank statutory compliance risks, and advise a client in proportion to its resources.**

# IMPORTANT LINKS

- **Registration Form:- Click here to access**
- **Rule Book:- Click here to access**
- **Clarification Form:- Click here to access**
- **Submission Form:- Click here to access**

# ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

1. **WHO MAY PARTICIPATE**

- The Competition is open to *undergraduate students* currently enrolled in the B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) or B.B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) programme of the University.
- Students of postgraduate and doctoral programmes are **NOT** eligible.
- Members of the Organizing Committee, and students who have helped frame the Proposition, are not eligible.

2. **TEAM COMPOSITION**

- Each team shall consist of **two (2) members**. **Individual participation (one participant)** is also allowed.
- Members from *different batches* may form a team, and such teams are encouraged to promote interdisciplinary collaboration.
- A student may belong to ONLY one team.

3. **REGISTRATION**

- Registration commences alongside the release of the official brochure on **01 NOVEMBER 2026.** Teams register through the official *Google Form*, and each team nominates one contact person for all communication with the Organising Committee. Registered teams are identified ONLY by their ***Team Codes*** from that point onward.

4. **FURTHER PROVISIONS**

- The detailed provisions on eligibility, registration, team identity, and conduct are in the Rules and Regulations.

# AWARDS

**Awards for the top three teams: Each of the top three teams, as decided by the final ranking, shall receive the following:**

- **CASH PRIZE:** The three cash prizes total **Rs. 9,000** collectively, distributed as [Rs. 4,000 for the *first* position, Rs. 3,000 for the *second* position, and Rs. 2,000 for the *third* position]. The Centre provides the cash prizes.

- **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT:** Every member of each of the three teams receives a certificate of merit from the Centre.

- **INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY:** Each of the three teams is offered an ***internship*** opportunity at ***Bridge Counsels LLP***. The Firm provides the internship, subject to its confirmation and its own terms.

**EVERY PARTICIPANT WHO SUBMITS A VALID WRITTEN SUBMISSION RECEIVES A CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION FROM THE CENTRE.**

# CONTACT US

**lawandtech@dbranlu.ac.in**

All communication(s), queries, and update(s) to be communicated through the official mail ID.

## STUDENT COORDINATORS:

**Piyush**
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**Anushka Goel**
Student Co-Convenor
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**Navin Dudi**
Secretary
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DBRANLU, Sonepat

**Divya**
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Centre for Law and Technology
DBRANLU, Sonepat

**Nischchal Bisaria**
PRO
Centre for Law and Technology
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**Ishika**
Student Member
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## CORE MEMBERS

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