



TAIVAS DEBATE CLUB
×
IIT BOMBAY DEBATE SOCIETY

present

**NATIONAL
SPEECH &
DEBATE**

CHAMPIONSHIP

◆ EDITION I • OCTOBER 2026 ◆

TRAINING

3–4 Oct

Live, online

ONLINE QUALIFIERS

11 Oct

Online

GRAND FINALE

25 Oct

IIT Bombay, Powai

CONVENTIONAL DEBATE • IMPROMPTU • 1v1

GRADES 3–12
THREE GRADE TRACKS

NATIONAL JURY
EXPERT ADJUDICATORS

IIT BOMBAY
GRAND FINALE ON CAMPUS



THINK SHARPER. SPEAK LOUDER. WIN BIGGER.

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*One speaker. One opponent.
One question each.
Three stages to a national title.*



Introduction

Taivas Debate Club, in collaboration with the IIT Bombay Debate Society, presents the National Speech and Debate Championship: a three-stage competition that takes a student from their first training session to a knockout final on the IIT Bombay campus.

Every student is coached before they compete. The championship opens with two days of live training in the competition format, moves to a full day of online qualifying rounds judged by national and international adjudicators, and closes with **in-person knockout rounds at IIT Bombay, Powai.**

The competition is run in **Conventional Debate**, an impromptu one-against-one format. Every debater speaks alone, argues alone and is scored alone: no team to carry a student through, and no teammate to find before entering.

Three grade tracks. Grades 3–5, Grades 6–8 and Grades 9–12. Students compete only within their own track, against peers of the same or an adjacent grade, with motions set at a level appropriate to each.

Three stages. One national title. A stage worth competing for.

Founded by Tatsam Lamba. **25,000+ students** trained across **50+ partner schools**, with alumni breaking at Stanford, winning at Harvard and competing at Oxford World Schools.

The Format

Conventional Debate — impromptu, one against one

TWO SPEECHES, THEN TWO QUESTIONS

FOR

One side of the motion.

VS

AGAINST

The other side, alone.

ONE MOTION • TWO DEBATERS • ONE WINNER

Conventional Debate places two debaters on opposite sides of a single motion. Each carries the whole case alone — the opening, the arguments, the rebuttal and the conclusion — and then puts one question directly to the other, which must be answered.

1

ONE MOTION

One debater speaks For, one speaks Against. Two debaters, opposite sides of a single motion.

2

CARRY IT ALONE

Each debater owns the opening, the arguments, the rebuttal and the conclusion. There is no teammate.

3

CROSS-QUESTIONING

After both speeches, each debater puts one question to the other. The question must be answered.

4

LEARNED ONCE

The same format runs in every round, online and in person. A student learns it once and competes in it throughout.

The same format is used in **every round of the championship, online and in person.**

Anatomy of a Round

Twenty minutes to think. Ten minutes to speak. Two and a half minutes of direct clash.

1

20 MINUTES • NO INTERNET

Preparation

The motion is released. No research and no script — a debater builds the whole case from what they already know and believe.

2

5 MINUTES EACH SIDE

The Speeches

One speaks For, one speaks Against. Each delivers the whole case alone: opening, arguments, rebuttal and conclusion.

3

2½ MINUTES OF CLASH

Cross-Questioning

Each debater puts one question directly to the other — and every question must be answered.

4

SAME ROUND

Adjudication & Feedback

Scored on Content, Style and Strategy, with oral feedback to both debaters.

THE QUESTION CANNOT BE REFUSED

Whatever is asked inside 15 seconds must be answered inside 60. Debaters are rewarded for asking the question their opponent least wants to face — and for answering the one they least expected.

The Three Stages

One entry covers all three. Trained first, tested second, decided on campus.

1

STAGE 1 • TRAINING

Trained First

3–4 October 2026 • live, online

Two days of coaching in the competition format itself: how a round runs, how to build a case in 20 minutes without research, how to rebut, and how to use cross-questioning to win a close round.



2

STAGE 2 • ONLINE QUALIFIERS

Compete to Qualify

11 October 2026 • online, one full day

Three rounds in a single day, each on a fresh motion, judged by national and international adjudicators on the Content, Style and Strategy rubric. Oral feedback every round; results the same day.



STAGE 3 • IN-PERSON KNOCKOUTS

Win on Campus

25 October 2026 • IIT Bombay, Powai

Every qualified student enters at the Quarter Finals and debates through to the Semi-Finals and the Grand Final — same format, same rubric, decided in person and closing with the awards ceremony.



Three grade tracks throughout: Grades 3 to 5, Grades 6 to 8 and Grades 9 to 12. Students are grouped with peers of the same or an adjacent grade and receive motions pitched to their track.

Stage 2: Online Qualifiers

Three rounds. Three motions. One day. Results the same evening.



HOW THE DAY RUNS

- 1** **Three rounds of Conventional Debate**, completed in a single day on 11 October 2026.
- 2** A **fresh motion for every round**, released at the start of that round's preparation time.
- 3** Motions are pitched to the grade track, so a Grade 4 and a Grade 11 debater never face the same brief.
- 4** The judge allocates sides in each round, so debaters must be **ready to argue either way**.
- 5** Every round is scored on the same rubric: **Content, Style and Strategy**.
- 6** Judges give **oral feedback** to both debaters after every round; results are announced the same day.

WHAT EVERY STUDENT TAKES AWAY

Three separate expert assessments in one day — and the **top 50 in each grade track** qualify for the in-person knockouts at IIT Bombay.

Stage 3: In-Person Knockouts

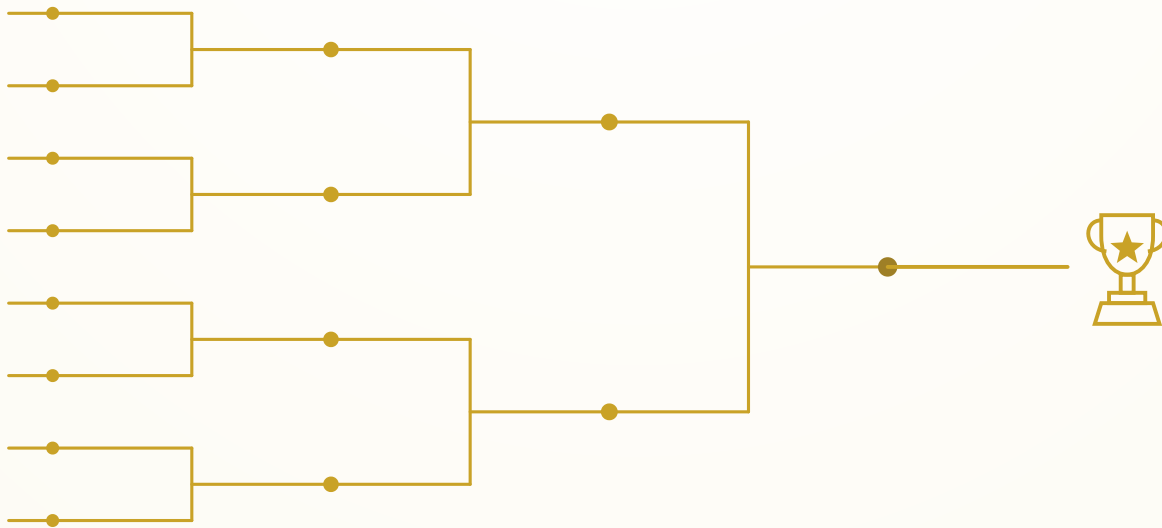
IIT Bombay, Powai. 25 October 2026. Win the round or go home.

QUARTER-FINALS

SEMI-FINALS

GRAND FINAL

CHAMPION



Nothing about the debating changes on campus — the same Conventional Debate with cross-questioning, 20 minutes of preparation without internet, 5-minute speeches and the Content, Style and Strategy rubric. What changes is the room: **a live audience, a physical stage and a panel of national and international adjudicators** in front of the debater. Every round is elimination: win and you keep going, all the way to the **Grand Final in each grade track** and the awards ceremony.

A debate on a real stage, in front of a live panel — in the exact format they have trained in since day one.

Judging and the Rubric

Every round, online and in person, is scored on the same three criteria.

1

CONTENT

The substance of the case: arguments, evidence, reasoning and rebuttal. Is the case true and well supported?

2

STYLE

The delivery: clarity, structure, presence and control of language. Is it heard, followed and believed?

3

STRATEGY

The choices: prioritisation, timing, and the questions asked and answered. Is the debate won where it matters?

THE PANEL

Rounds are adjudicated by **accomplished national and international judges** drawn from the competitive debating circuit, alongside the IIT Bombay Debate Society at the in-person stage. The same panel standard applies online and on campus.

FEEDBACK ON EVERY ROUND

Adjudication is not only a score. After every round of the Online Qualifiers, judges give both debaters **oral feedback** on what worked, what did not and what to change in the next round. A student competing across the championship receives expert assessment on every single debate they enter.

ONE RUBRIC • ONE STANDARD • ONLINE AND ON CAMPUS

Why Solo Debate

No teammate to find. No teammate to carry. No teammate to hide behind.

1

NO PARTNER REQUIRED

A student can enter alone. No need to find a teammate, coordinate a school entry, or drop out because a partner did.

2

FULL SPEAKING TIME

Five minutes of the floor in every debate, plus the cross-questioning. Nobody speaks less because a teammate spoke longer.

3

ENTIRELY YOUR OWN

Wins and losses are earned individually. A strong performance is never diluted by a partner's weak one.

4

IMPROMPTU BUILDS THINKING

Twenty minutes, no internet, no script. Students learn to construct an argument from what they already know and believe.

5

CROSS-QUESTIONING FORCES ENGAGEMENT

Because every question must be answered, debaters cannot avoid the hardest point against them. Confidence under pressure is built here.

6

ONE FORMAT, LEARNED ONCE

The same rules apply in training, the qualifiers and the campus knockouts. Students spend their time improving, not relearning.

Awards and Recognition



What you take home
Recognition that goes beyond the room



CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

Every participant receives a Taivas Education certificate of participation for the Championship.



CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

The top speakers in each grade track earn a merit certificate for outstanding performance.



LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Top speakers receive a personalised LOR highlighting their debate skill, leadership and growth.



SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The top speaker in each grade track earns a one-month free online class with Taivas.



NATIONAL CHAMPION TROPHY

The champion in each grade track is crowned National Champion at IIT Bombay — a national result, earned individually.

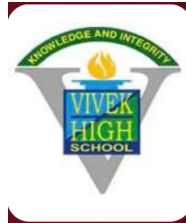
STUDENT RESULTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

TRACK RECORD

WHERE OUR STUDENTS HAVE GONE.

School Partners

AND MANY MORE!



University Partners

INTERNATIONAL

- Broke at Stanford Debating
- WSC Global Rounds, Azerbaijan 2024
- ISDS India National Team Camp Selection
- Won the Harvard Summer Debate
- Top 10, Oxford World Schools Championship

NATIONAL & REGIONAL

- Champion Teams 1, 2 and 3, WSC Delhi Round
- Maha Behes 2023, 2024, 2025, Winners and Best Speakers
- Champion, Behes Indirapuram & South Delhi
- Quarterfinalists, ISDC 2024
- Champion, Dwarka Expressway

**GLOBAL
CIRCUITS**

**NATIONAL
CHAMPS**

50+
PARTNER
SCHOOLS

25K+
STUDENTS
TRAINED

Registration

Process

- ◆ **Early Bird: ₹2,499 per student • save ₹500 • till 20 September**
- ◆ **Regular: ₹2,999 per student**
- ◆ **Payment: UPI / Card / Net Banking via Razorpay**

One registration covers all three stages: two days of training, the full day of Online Qualifiers and, on qualification, the in-person knockouts at IIT Bombay. Seats per batch are limited; early registration recommended.

3–4 Oct

TRAINING • ONLINE

11 Oct

QUALIFIERS • ONLINE

25 Oct

GRAND FINALE • IIT
BOMBAY

1

Scan the QR code or tap the registration link

2

Register your child and choose their grade track

3

Pay securely via Razorpay, and your seat is confirmed instantly



SCAN OR TAP TO
REGISTER

Questions? Call or WhatsApp

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Finals Venue

IIT Bombay, Powai, Mumbai 400076

[View on Google Maps ›](#)