



The Inaugural IIT Bombay National Debate Sept 25th to 27th

Competitive debating hits IIT Bombay!

We will be hosting the first ever IIT Bombay National Debate this weekend, from the 25th to the 27th of September. **34 of the best teams** from across the country will be participating in this event, which will see **92 debates over the three days**, with up to **17 debates running simultaneously!** This event is being organised by the Institute Cultural Council and Mood Indigo.

The chief judge at the debate will be **Sharmila Parmanand from the Philippines**, who is a three times All-Asian Debate Championship winner and Finals Adjudicator at the 2009 World Championships. This is an **incredible opportunity to witness top class competitive debating**, and **all debates are open to audience**. The schedule and venues are given, and a few common questions about the event are answered below.

FAQ

What kind of madman has 92 debates in 3 days?

Ah well, that's because the style of debate that is followed is addictive, fun, and very cool :)

Can I watch these debates?

Absolutely! **Debate is a spectator sport**, and big competitions around the world easily fill up huge auditoriums whose capacity is in the thousands. **Sunday is the best day to watch the debates, with the quarters, semis and finals all happening that day.** There will be great debates on Friday and Saturday too, and all debates are open for audience. Refer the schedule and venues for more details.

Ok, what's the topic of the debate?

The topic for the debate is given just 20 minutes before the debate starts!

So teams have to think on the spot to prepare their arguments and be extremely well-informed about a wide variety of issues. Giving the topic on the spot promotes intelligent analysis, spontaneity and quick thinking.

There are 5 rounds of debate initially. Since we have 34 teams in the tournament, 17 debates go on simultaneously. Crazy, I know. The topic for each round of debate is different. At the end of these 5 rounds, the top 8 teams 'make the break,' i.e. they qualify for the quarterfinals. From this point on, it's a knockout – lose a debate and you're out!

Some example topics that have been used in the past –

THW make voting compulsory.

TH believes that the European Football Leagues should operate with a salary cap.

This house would punish parents for accidents caused by underage drivers.

Is this like one of those things in school where people make boring speeches, quote dead Greeks, and are judged by old professors?

Firstly, we love our professors, young and old. But the answer is no, no, and no. The speeches are delivered to an audience, to try and logically convince an audience. **Logic is the ultimate decider in this style of debate, quotations don't mean squat.** This isn't like school debating at all.

On judging, **students judge the debates.** These judges are often experienced debaters themselves. Judges are expected to give the reasons for their decision as well. Why students as judges? Because any reasonable, logical person who has some general knowledge, can judge a debate.

In fact, even the judges are judged by the teams! So only the top judges, i.e. those who are most logical, judge the top debates. The competition is just as much for the judges as for the teams.

For further information on the debate, feel free to contact

Pranay Bhatia - 09323899150
IITB Debating Secretary
debate.iitb@gmail.com
pranaybhatia02@gmail.com

Sailesh Mohapatra - 09769904367
Core Group Member Competitions, Mood Indigo
sailesh@moodi.org
sailesh.mohapatra@gmail.com

Schedule:

Friday
6.30pm - Round 1
9pm - Round 2

Saturday
11am - Round 3
2pm - Round 4
5pm - Round 5

Venues for Friday and Saturday:

MB, IC and GG classrooms, IRCC, SAC Conf Room

Sunday

11am – Quarterfinals at IRCC, IC1, IC2, and IC3
2pm – Semifinals at IRCC and IC1
5.30pm – Finals at LT
8pm - Closing Ceremony