

REDE

THE IIT KHARAGPUR PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

REDE, The IIT Kharagpur Parliamentary Debate conducted as a part of 'The E Summit 09' from 9th to 11th January will follow a 3 on 3 Parliamentary style of Debating. Details of the event are given below.

THE DEBATE | AN OVERVIEW

The competition shall be conducted in two main phases :

PHASE 1 : the 'Preliminary Rounds' will, depending on the number of teams participating, incorporate a maximum of 5 rounds. The draw for the first preliminary round will be randomly assigned. For subsequent match-ups, from round two onwards, the ties will be 'power-matched'. Therefore, following round 1, winning teams will meet other similarly placed winning teams.

PHASE 2 : the 'Knock-out Rounds', shall have the winning team in each tie advance to the next round, and will culminate in the finals. Round 1 of Phase 2 will be the quarter-/semi-finals (depending on the number of teams participating,) with the top-ranked team from Phase 1 facing the team ranked five/three, the second-ranked team will face the team ranked sixth/fourth, and so on.

Demo Round : Phase 1 will be preceded by one 'demo round', consisting of two volunteer teams from IIT Kharagpur, and its results will not affect, in any way, the results of Phase 1 or the draw for round 1 of Phase 1 of the competition. All debaters and adjudicators shall attend the demo round, which will also serve as the initial basis for the adjudicator selection process.

Note : Points from Phase 1 will not be carried forward to Phase 2.

THE FINAL AUTHORITY ON ALL ASPECTS CONCERNING THE DEBATE VESTS WITH THE CHIEF ADJUDICATORS.



1 | THE FORMAT OF THE DEBATE

1.1 THE TEAMS

Each debating match will consist of two teams; one to propose the motion and one to oppose it. The team proposing may be known as 'The Proposition', 'The Affirmative' or 'The Government'. The team opposing may be known as 'The Opposition' or 'The Negative'.

1.2 | THE ADJUDICATORS

Each debate shall be adjudged by a panel comprising of an odd number of adjudicators. One of these shall be designated as Chairperson. Under exceptional circumstances, and only in Phase 1, a debate may be adjudicated by a single experienced adjudicator.

1.3 | TIMEKEEPING

Each debate shall be timed by a timekeeper. In the absence of a timekeeper, a member of the adjudication panel will time the speeches.

1.4 | TEAM MEMBERS

Teams will comprise the following members :

1.4.1 | THE AFFIRMATIVE

- [1] Prime Minister or First Affirmative.
- [2] Deputy Prime Minister or Second Affirmative.
- [3] Government Whip or Third Affirmative

1.4.2 | THE NEGATIVE

- [1] Leader of the Opposition or First Negative.
- [2] Deputy Leader of the Opposition or Second Negative.
- [3] Opposition Whip or Third Negative

1.5 | SPEAKING ORDER

The Debaters will speak in the following order :

- [1] Prime Minister, or 1st Affirmative.
- [2] Leader of Opposition, or 1st Negative.
- [3] Deputy Prime Minister, or 2nd Affirmative.
- [4] Deputy Leader of Opposition, or 2nd Negative.
- [5] Government Whip, or 3rd Affirmative.
- [6] Opposition Whip, or 3rd Negative.
- [7] Opposition Reply Speech, given by either the 1st or 2nd Negative speaker.
- [8] Government Reply Speech, given by either the 1st or 2nd Affirmative speaker.



1.6 | BEHAVIOUR DURING THE DEBATE

Speakers not 'holding the floor' may not rise, during a speech unless it is to offer a 'Point of Information' (refer to '5 | POINTS OF INFORMATION'). Speakers doing so, or considered to be heckling, barracking or whose behaviour is interfering with the acceptable course of a debate will be declared 'out of order' or will be 'called to order' by the Chairperson.



2 | THE MOTIONS

2.1 | THE THEMES

The motions for each round will reflect a specific and well-known theme, and each round of the competition will comprise of an odd number of choices of motions, usually three.

2.2 | SELECTING THE MOTION FOR A MATCH-UP

On release of the motions, both teams of a match-up will rank their preferred motions. The least preferred (third) option of both teams will, immediately, be dropped. If there remains a clear favourite, that motion shall be selected directly.

In case of an undecided tie between the two remaining motions, the motion for that round and match-up will be decided on the basis of the toss of a coin.

It is the responsibility of the timekeeper to oversee the choice and selection of the motion.



3 | PREPARATION FOR EACH MATCH-UP

3.1 | MATCH-UPS AND VENUES

Match-ups and venues will be announced before motions are revealed.

3.2 | PROCEDURE

Once the match-ups are announced, the teams must immediately proceed to their venues, where the motions will be revealed and decided upon. From the time of selection of the motion, teams will have 20 minutes preparation time until the commencement of the debate in that round. Teams failing to arrive in time for their match-up, up to a maximum of 25 MINUTES from the beginning of their preparation time, will forfeit that particular round.

3.3 | PLACE OF PREPARATION

The Affirmative have the right to prepare in chambers (venue).

3.4 | PREPARATION

3.4.1 | Printed and prepared materials may be used during the preparation period. No access to electronic media or electronic storage or retrieval devices is permitted after motions have been released. This includes but is not limited to, all kinds of computers, electronic databanks, cellular phones, et cetera.

PRINTED AND PREPARED MATERIALS MAY BE ACCESSED DURING A DEBATE, BUT MAY NOT BE USED BY A SPEAKER HOLDING THE FLOOR.

3.4.2 | Teams must prepare alone. Once motions have been released, there must be no contact between debaters in a particular team and coaches, trainers, friends, observers or any other individual for the purposes of assistance in the context of the debate. Such contact and assistance is deemed as 'cheating' and will be punished strictly.



4 | SPEECH TIMINGS

4.1 | TIMEKEEPING

It is the duty of the timekeeper to time all the speeches in each round.

4.2 | TIMES FOR SPEECHES

CONSTRUCTIVE SPEECHES :

Phase 1 | 5 + 1 minutes

Phase 2 | 5 + 1 minutes

Finals | 7 + 1 minutes

REPLY SPEECHES :

All Rounds | 3 + 1 minutes

4.4 | TIME INDICATION

Time signals will be given in the following manner :

PHASE 1 :

End of the FIRST minute | Single ring of the bell

End of the FIFTH minute | Single ring of the bell

End of the SIXTH minute | Double ring of the bell

SEMI-FINALS :

End of the FIRST minute | Single ring of the bell

End of the FIFTH minute | Single ring of the bell

End of the SIXTH minute | Double ring of the bell

FINALS :

End of the FIRST minute | Single ring of the bell

End of the SEVENTH minute | Single ring of the bell

End of the EIGHTH minute | Double ring of the bell

REPLY SPEECHES :

End of the THIRD minute | Single ring of the bell

End of the FOURTH minute | Double ring of the bell



4.5 | Once the double ring of the bell has sounded, speakers have a 20-SECOND 'GRACE PERIOD', during which they should conclude their speech. After this grace period has elapsed, there will be a continuous knocking of the gavel, and ADJUDICATORS MUST DISREGARD THE REST OF THAT PARTICULAR SPEECH. Speakers continuing after the 'grace period' may also be penalized by the adjudicators in the Method category.

4.6 | If the speaker concludes his/her speech before the second single ring of the bell, he/she should be penalized under Method and possibly also under Matter. The latter, assuming that less matter was advanced, or that it was clearly underdeveloped. (Refer to parts 9, 10 & 11 of this document for more on Matter, Manner and Method)



5 | POINTS OF INFORMATION | POIs

5.1 | WHEN POIS MAY BE OFFERED

PoIs may be offered DURING THE CONSTRUCTIVE SPEECHES ONLY, after the first single ring of the bell and up to the second single ring of the bell. PoIs may not be offered during the first and last minutes of constructive speeches. If a PoI is offered in the first or the last minute of a constructive speech, it is the duty of the speaker holding the floor to reject the same as being out of order. Only if the speaker holding the floor fails to do the same, the chair of the adjudicator panel may very briefly intervene and call the house to order. Consecutive PoIs must have at least 30 SECONDS between them.

5.2 | MODE OF OFFERING A POI

A PoI must be indicated by a member of an opposing team rising from his/her seat, placing one hand on top of his/her head and extending the other towards the member holding the floor. A member offering a PoI may draw attention to the offer by saying “On that point, Sir/Madam”, or by short headlining tags.

5.3 | RESPONDING TO A POI

A member holding the floor must respond to an opposing member, offering PoIs, in one of the following ways:

- [1] A clear gesture or hand signal rejecting the offer, or
- [2] A verbal rejection of the offer, or
- [3] A verbal acceptance of the offer.

5.4 | HOW TO PHRASE A POI

If a PoI is accepted, the point should be phrased as a question, or clarification, or comment, and ideally made in no more than 15 SECONDS.

POINTS OF INFORMATION SHOULD BE SUCH THAT THEY ALLOW THE MEMBER HOLDING THE FLOOR SOME CHANCE OF RESPONDING.

5.5 | MARKING OF POIS

Points of Information are marked for their strategic use under Method, and for their content under Matter. (Refer to parts 9, 10 & 11 of this document for more on Matter, Manner and Method)



6 | THE ADJUDICATION

6.1 | THE PANEL

Debates are adjudicated by a panel comprising of an odd number, usually three, of adjudicators, or, where this is not possible, by a single, senior adjudicator. Larger panels, comprising of five or seven members) shall adjudicate the semi-finals and the finals.

The BEST SPEAKER of the competition shall be determined on the basis of overall individual points in Phase 1 of the Competition.

6.2 | PROCEDURE FOR THE ADJUDICATORS

During the debate, the Adjudicators are NOT supposed to confer between themselves, barring exceptional circumstances. Each speaker will be called to the floor by the Chair. The Adjudicators are otherwise not to interrupt the proceedings, again, barring exceptional circumstances whence only the Chair may intervene.

6.3 | THE DECISION PROCESS

After the Debate is over, the Speakers will leave the venue. The Adjudicators will then INDIVIDUALLY arrive at their decisions, regarding the Matter/Manner/Method, and also the Best Speaker. They may confer, to an extent, during their decision on the winning team; however, while this is not expressly forbidden, it is discouraged. All decisions are to be handed over to the Runner/Timekeeper within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the debate. AFTER handing over the results, the Adjudicators may discuss their results & their impressions before announcing the results. These discussions are to be short, and are not to last more than 10 minutes.

6.4 | FEEDBACK

The rounds will be declared as Open Rounds or Closed Rounds, prior to their commencement.

OPEN ADJUDICATION | After the decision for each debate is announced, the adjudicators will give reasons for their decision and other feedback to the teams. However, the adjudication sheets will not be shown to debaters or other participants.

CLOSED ADJUDICATION | The results of the debates will not be announced to the teams nor will be open adjudication.

THE FINALS | They shall follow the Closed Adjudication format, except, *of course*, that the results shall be announced.



6.5 | PROCEDURE FOR THE DEBATERS

All the debaters must leave the chambers following the completion of all speeches. At the time of Open Adjudication, the Debaters must not indulge in, and Adjudicators must not entertain, argumentation or cross-questioning. Open Adjudication is followed only so that the Debaters may have a better understanding of the Adjudication process. The Adjudicators are NOT to be challenged on their decisions. ANY SERIOUS GRIEVANCES DURING THE COURSE OF THE COMPETITION MAY BE COMMUNICATED IN-WRITING TO THE CHIEF ADJUDICATORS. (under **16 | GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL**)



7 | DEFINING THE MOTION

7.1 | The definition is the interpretation of the motion as put forward by the Prime Minister, or First Affirmative, in his opening remarks. THE ONUS FOR ESTABLISHING HOW THE DEFINITION TIES IN WITH THE GIVEN MOTION LIES COMPLETELY UPON THE PRIME MINISTER. All subsequent speakers have a purely clarifactory role (if any) in this regard.

7.2 | The definition should be reasonable.

7.3 | The definition should state the issue or issues arising out of the motion to be debated, state the meanings of any terms in the motion requiring clarification and display clear and logical links to the wording and spirit of the motion.

7.4 | The definition should not be :

[1] A TRUISM | A matter stated as fact.

[2] A TAUTOLOGY | A definition which, in development, proves itself.

[3] A PLACE SET | setting an unnaturally restrictive geographical or spatial location as its major parameter.

[4] A TIME SET | setting an unnaturally restrictive chronological duration as its main parameter.

[5] A SQUIRREL | displaying no clear or logical or flawed links to the motion, also when deviating from the assigned theme for that round, if any.

[6] OUT OF THEME | Definition displaying no clear relation with the provided theme of the respective round.

7.5 | The Negative may only challenge the definition advanced by the Affirmative on the basis of one of the above-mentioned conditions, and must clearly state which individual condition based upon which it is challenging the definition.

7.6 | The Negative may not challenge a definition supplied by the Affirmative on the basis that :

[1] Its own definition is MORE reasonable.

[2] A better debate will result.

Nor may the Negative re-define terms or words contained in the motion so that a completely different debate is thereby set up. However, a Negative may contend with the specific or general approach to terminology supplied by the definition of the Affirmative.

7.7 | Definitions should not require members of the house to have access to, or possess, specific or expert knowledge.



8 | CHALLENGING THE DEFINITION

8.1 | The definitional challenge must be made in the speech of the Leader of the Opposition, following a clear statement that the definition is being rejected. The onus for establishing the definitional challenge lies completely upon the Leader of the Opposition. Subsequent speakers are strictly permitted a purely clarifactory role (if any) in this regard.

8.2 | In the event of a challenge, the Leader of the Opposition must justify his/her rejection by supplying the grounds on which the original definition has been rejected. Furthermore, A SUBSTITUTE DEFINITION MUST BE SUPPLIED, WHICH THE OPPOSITION BENCHES MUST THEN GO ON TO NEGATE.

8.3 | If the Leader of the Opposition does not challenge the definition, no other speaker may do so.

8.4 | The onus to prove that a definition is unreasonable is on the Opposition, and should not be presumed by the adjudicators.

8.5 | Adjudicators should not indicate during the debate whether the definitional challenge has succeeded. They cannot indicate which definition they find to be (more) acceptable. The final decision as to whether a definitional challenge has succeeded must take into consideration all 8 speeches in any debate, subject to conformity with sections 7.1 & 8.1.

8.6 | Neither team should abandon either the definitions or the challenges of its opening speakers.

8.7 | If a definitional challenge is upheld, the team making the challenge wins by the largest possible margin. If the definitional challenge fails, then the team making such a challenge loses by the largest possible margin.

8.8 | A definitional challenge should take place in the rarest of rare cases.



9 | MATTER

9.1 | 'Matter' relates to the issues in debate, the case being presented and the material used to substantiate argumentation.

9.2 | The issues under debate should be correctly prioritized (by teams) and ordered (by individuals), dealing with the most important/pertinent first. This guideline may be departed from, in order to preserve logical continuity and coherence.

9.3 | Matter should be logical and well reasoned.

9.4 | Matter should be relevant, both to the issue in contention and the cases being advanced.

9.5 | Matter should be persuasive.

9.6 | Matter will be assessed from the viewpoint of 'the average reasonable person'. Adjudicators must disregard any specialist knowledge they have, even though pertinent to the issues under debate.

9.7 | Bias will not affect an adjudicator's assessment (objective) or evaluation (subjective) of a debate. Debaters must not be discriminated against on the basis of religion, sex, race, nationality, sexual preference, age, social status, accent or any disability.

9.8 | A debater should ideally take at least two points of information during a speech.

9.9 | Neither the Proposition Whip, nor the Opposition Whip may introduce new matter in to the debate. Similarly, no new matter may be introduced in both Reply speeches.



10 | MANNER

10.1 | Manner refers to the presentation and delivery style of a speaker.

10.2 | The following list represents some of the elements which are, or may be subsumed, under Manner. The list is intended as a guide, rather than as a number of marking categories. It is the combination of these elements (rather than the accomplishment of each), in various proportions that contributes to an individual speaker's style. The major influence on an adjudicator must be: 'Is the speaker's manner EFFECTIVE in advancing the case?'

[1] Vocal style, volume, clarity, pronunciation, pace, intonation, fluency, confidence, and authority.

[2] Language; conversational.

[3] Use of notes; should not distract, should not be read.

[4] Eye Contact; with audience.

[5] Gesture; natural, appropriate.

[6] Stance.

[7] Dress; only an issue if really inappropriate to the place or occasion.

[8] Sincerity; believability.

[9] Personal Attacks.

[10] Humour; effective and appropriate.

10.3 | Debaters and adjudicators in the competition must be aware that they will experience many different debating styles from different colleges and countries. There is no single 'correct' or 'right' style to adopt in this competition. Nor should a speaker's style be dismissed as inappropriate in the national or regional context of the adjudicators or debaters who witness it.

10.4 | As with Matter, personal bias must not be allowed to influence an adjudicator's assessment of Manner.



11 | METHOD

11.1 | There are three major elements in the context of Method. These are:

[1] Individual Method.

[2] Team Method.

[3] Overall response to the dynamics of the debate.

11.2 | Individual Method pertains to the structure and organization of an individual speech. This may be evident in a reasonably clear outline of the responsibilities of the speaker and the order of the issues to be dealt with in his/her speech. It may also be apparent in the degree of fluency with which a speech moves from one point to another in a clearly logical sequence. Similarly, a speaker may 'signpost' his/her transitions from one phase to another.

11.3 | Individual Method pertains to the 'balance' of a speech. Whereby, an equable division of speaking time is made to allow each of the phases of the speech a reasonable time for development (opening remarks, rebuttal, own points, summary, etc).

11.4 | Individual Method pertains to good time management and good time keeping.

11.5 | Team Method pertains to the effectiveness of the team's case organization and structure as a whole.

11.6 | Team Method pertains to the equable division of roles (speakers) and responsibilities during a debate and the effective discharge of those roles and responsibilities.

11.7 | Response to the Dynamics of the Debate pertains to the reactive abilities of speakers and teams to the ongoing strategies being employed by both sides, and the shifts in the balance of power from one side to another.

11.8 | Teams and speakers should respond to clear strategic issues, not minor 'slips of the tongue' or insignificant points.

11.9 | Dynamic response could also be reflected in Matter marks for a speaker in cases where the identification of a vital point, the cogent analysis of this point in the context of the debate, and a balanced attack on the same, is developed in an ensuing speech.

11.10 | Team members may keep time and signal members holding the floor. Time signals may not be spoken aloud. Speakers may also keep their own time.



SOME TERMS

POINTS OF CLASH

The main point(s) that the opposition realizes is/are debatable. Should be clarified very explicitly by the Leader of the Opposition.

BURDEN OF PROOF

The onus on either side of the house to prove logically and conclusively that the case statement stands/falls, for the reasons they've given.

TEAM SPLIT

Structure of the debate, breakup of each speaker's role in the debate, should be given by the respective leaders.

INSUFFICIENT WARNING

If either the PM or the LO fail to flag new lines of thought/argument in their succeeding speakers' speeches, it counts as insufficient warning to the other side as they have no time to rebut that point. In a 3 x 3 debate, therefore, any new line of argument(s) brought out by the respective whips will be discounted as new matter/insufficient warning to the other side.

POINT OF ORDER

May be raised when a team believes that new matter has been introduced during the whip/reply speeches. Should only be raised after the conclusion of the debate, when the Chair offers to receive the Points of Order. A Point of Order may not be offered during the time of Feedback (refer to **6.4 | FEEDBACK**).

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Should be raised only after the completion of an ongoing speech. May be raised,
[1] If a debater feels he/she has been deeply insulted on a personal level by another competitor, or
[2] In the case of a personal emergency.
Adjudicators are generally aware of unparliamentary behaviour during a debate and will mark down the respective debater for any violation; so there generally shouldn't be any necessity for the immediately preceding points.



12 | MARKING THE DEBATE

12.1 | At the end of every debate, each adjudicator must complete their adjudication forms.

12.2 | There are NO DRAWS in competitive debating!

12.3 | TEAMS FAILING TO TURN UP FOR THE DEBATE ON TIME, AND WITH NO VALID REASON, WILL LOSE THE DEBATE BY THE WIDEST POSSIBLE MARGIN. The other team will then face-off against a stand-by Swing Team [non-competitive for the purposes of the competition] constituting the hosts.

12.4 | Adjudicators must write the key arguments of the debate in the space provided.

12.5 | Each attribute of a speech viz. matter, manner and method for a constructive speech and manner and effectiveness for a reply speech shall be marked independently.

12.6 | Marks shall be awarded to speakers on the following basis :

[1] Marks for MATTER may range from -4 to +4.

[2] Marks for MANNER may range from -3 to +3.

[3] Marks for METHOD may range from -3 to +3.

[4] An 'average' speech as per the adjudicator's judgment shall be awarded zero.

[5] A 'below average' speech as per the adjudicator's judgment shall be awarded negative marks.

[6] An 'above average' speech as per the adjudicator's judgment shall be awarded positive marks.



13 | MARKING THE WIN/LOSS MARGIN

13.1 | At the conclusion of a debate, Adjudicators must determine [INDEPENDENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL SPEAKER SCORES] whether the overall margin of win/loss separating the teams was close, clear or thrashing, on a scale of 1 to 12.

- [1] Close win = 1 to 4 points.
- [2] Clear win = 5 to 8 points.
- [3] Thrashing = 9 to 12 points.

13.2 The following Win/Loss Margins are not permitted.

- [1] Lower than 1.
- [2] Higher than 12.
- [3] In decimals.

14 | BASIS FOR RANKING OF TEAMS

Following the Preliminary Rounds [Phase 1], the top-ranked teams break into Phase 2. The criteria for power-matching and ranking, during Phase 1, are as follows :

- [1] Win versus Loss record.
- [2] Adjudicator points.
- [3] Points differential (all win/loss margins added together).
- [4] Overall points (to decide between teams with the same number of wins and also the same overall average margin of victory).

15 | CHANGE OF RULES

15.1 | Any or all of the above rules, regulations, and guidelines are subject to change at the discretion of the chief adjudicators.

15.2 | The rules are non-negotiable.

16 | GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

Any serious grievances during the course of the competition may be communicated In-Writing to the Chief Adjudicators.

