



Deccan Education Society's
Shri. Navalmal Firodia Law College, Pune

MIMANSA DEBATE FORUM

Organizes

LATE GOPAL GANESH AGARKAR SMRUTI KARANDAK

**INTERNATIONAL INTER-COLLEGIATE DEBATE
COMPETITION (JOURNEY OF 17 GLORIOUS
YEARS)**

Date:- 12th and 13th September 2025
**Venue:- DES's Shri Navalmal Firodia Law
College, Fergusson College Campus, Pune.**

CONVENERS

Adv. Ashok Palande
Vice Chairman GB &
Council, DES and Chairman
CDC, DES SNFLC

Dr. Sunita Adhav
Principal, DES SNFLC

TOPICS FOR PRELIMINARY ROUND

ENGLISH

- Is India's gig economy empowering or exploiting the youth?
- Simultaneous Elections: Reformatory or Regressive?
- Is climate change more of a Political Problem than an Environmental one?
- Should transgender Athletes be allowed to compete in their gender-identified category?
- "In the struggle for Nation-Building, What Should Precede: Social Reform or Political Independence?" The Tilak-Agarkar Dilemma".

हिन्दी

- क्या भारत की गिग इकॉनमी युवाओं को सशक्त बना रही है या उनका शोषण कर रही है?
- एक देश एक चुनाव: सुधारात्मक या प्रतिगामी?
- क्या जलवायु परिवर्तन पर्यावरणीय समस्या से अधिक एक राजनीतिक समस्या है?
- क्या तृतीयपंथी खिलाड़ियों को उनके पहचाने गए लिंग की श्रेणी में प्रतिस्पर्धा करने की अनुमति दी जानी चाहिए?
- "राष्ट्र-निर्माण के संघर्ष में पहले क्या होना चाहिए: सामाजिक सुधार या राजनीतिक स्वतंत्रता? – तिलक- आगरकर दुविधा"

मराठी

- भारताची गिग इकॉनॉमी तरुणांना सक्षम करत आहे की त्यांचे शोषण ?
- एक देश एक निवडणूक : सुधारणा की प्रतिगमन?
- हवामान बदल ही पर्यावरणीय समस्या की राजकीय समस्या ?
- तृतीयपंथी खेळाडूंना त्यांच्या लिंग-ओळखलेल्या श्रेणीमध्ये स्पर्धा करण्याची परवानगी द्यावी का?
- "राष्ट्रनिर्मितीच्या संघर्षात प्रथम काय असावे: सामाजिक सुधारणा की राजकीय स्वातंत्र्य? – टिळक-आगरकर द्वंद्व"

TOPIC FOR FINAL ROUND

- Globalisation vs. Protectionism: Is embracing free trade the only path to prosperity?
- वैश्वीकरण बनाम संरक्षणवाद: क्या मुक्त व्यापार को अपनाना ही समृद्धि का एकमात्र मार्ग है?
- जागतिकीकरण विरुद्ध संरक्षणवाद: मुक्त व्यापार स्वीकारणे हाच समृद्धीचा एकमेव मार्ग आहे का?



PRIZES

WINNER

Prize Money ₹
15000/-
Trophy, Certificate
of Merit



RUNNER-UP

Prize Money ₹
10000/-
Trophy, Certificate
of Merit

2ND RUNNER-UP

Prize Money ₹ 7000/-
Trophy, Certificate of
Merit

BEST SPEAKER

Prize Money ₹ 5000/-
Trophy, Certificate of
Merit
(One from each
language)

SPECIAL APPRECIATION

Prize Money ₹ 3000/-,
Trophy, Certificate of Merit
(One from each language)

REGISTRATION FEES: ₹ 1000/- per team

RULE SHEET

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Registration will be taken through Google Forms. In the google form the participants have to upload the Screenshot of transaction of their payment. Registration fees for the competition is Rs. 1000/- (Including GST) per team (2 Members). (Bank details mentioned in Google Form.)
- Students of undergraduate or postgraduate (regular or external) affiliated to any university including open university, any stream or course, can participate in the competition. Age of the participant should not exceed 25 years.
- Participants must confirm their registration before 10th September 2025.
- The winners will be provided with a separate Certificate.
- Each participant will be given an ID at the time of registration on the day of the competition. During the competition participants should not disclose their identity, he/she will be addressed by a specific team code no. given at the time of registration.
- No Travelling Allowance will be provided by the organizers.
- During competition participants are not allowed to refer any notes or material.
- Preliminary Round of each language will start at a same time for all the participants. Out of the Hindi and Marathi Languages 2 Teams each will be selected for final round. However for English a total of 6 Teams will be selected for the Final round. It means total 10 entries will appear for final round on the next day.
- From Preliminary round 1 Best Speaker per language will be selected by the judges (total 3 best speakers). Apart from it judges will have right to select 1 special appreciation prize per language (total 3). Winner team, runner up and consolation will be selected out of 10 entries from the Final Round.

RULE SHEET

- Participants coming from outside of Pune will be provided with accommodation for the days of competition.
- Participants shall inform the coordinators if they want to avail accommodation.
- All participants at the time of registration on the day of the Competition, will be provided with a docket consisting of a notepad, pen, itinerary for the competition and food coupons for the day of competition.
- All participants should attend both the days of the competition along with the Valedictory Function.
- Organizers may change any of the rules mentioned herein as and when necessary, without prior notice.
- Organizers reserve the right regarding conduct of competition & their decision will be final & binding.
- The decision of the judges shall be final and binding.

RULES FOR COMPETITION

- Participants can choose English, Marathi or Hindi as a language of expression.
- Teams cannot change the language later on. Team can select only one topic out of the given topics for preliminary round.
- College may send maximum 3 teams. 1 for English, 1 for Marathi and 1 for Hindi.
- Time allotted for each participant in preliminary round is $4+2=6$ Minutes

RULE SHEET

- 10 teams from preliminary round will be selected for final round.
- Results of preliminary round will be declared on the same day i.e. 12th September 2025.
- Details about rules of final round will be briefed after the declaration of results of preliminary round.
- Teams will get to know about their respective sides through the draw of lots. Therefore, teams should be prepared for both the sides of motion for the final round.
- For final round, time allotted to each team will be 16 minutes. (10 min. for argument and 6 mins for rebuttal).
- Detailed discussion about the rules and norms for final round and explanation regarding queries will be after completion of preliminary round.
- In the final round judges may ask questions to the participants.

For more details and inquiry, Please Contact: -

Saurabh Jadhav (Faculty) : - 95270 02006

Scan QR to Register:





DECCAN EDUCATION SOCIETY'S

Shri. Navalmal Firodia Law College, Pune

(Permanently Affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University ID No.PU/PN/LAW/207/2004)

Recognised u/s "2 (f) & 12 (B) of UGC Act 1956 "

(Approved by Bar Council of India) NAAC Accredited : B++ ,ISO 9001:2015 certified

Report

**Late Shri Gopal Ganesh Agarkar Smruti Karandak International Intercollegiate
Debate Competition
Held on 12th – 13th September 2025**

Introduction

The *Late Shri Gopal Ganesh Agarkar Smruti Karandak International Intercollegiate Debate Competition* has long been a hallmark of academic excellence in Pune. Hosted by **Deccan Education Society's Shri Navalmal Firodia Law College (DES SNFLC)**, the competition pays homage to *Late Shri Gopal Ganesh Agarkar*—an eminent educationist, reformer, social thinker, and one of the most powerful voices of reason in 19th-century India. His fearless commitment to truth, reform, and education forms the foundation on which this competition thrives.

5 The 2025 edition of the competition achieved a **historic milestone** as it expanded into an *international arena*. The response was overwhelming, with **74 teams registering**, including ~~six~~ **international teams** from *Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, and Sri Lanka*. This diverse representation added a unique richness to the competition, as it brought together not just India's brightest debaters, but also voices from across the globe, weaving together a tapestry of perspectives on law, society, politics, and contemporary issues.

Over two days — **12th and 13th September 2025** — the competition provided a dynamic platform for students to display their **eloquence, analytical ability, research, teamwork, and quick-witted rebuttals**. It was also a celebration of the power of debate as a tool to nurture leadership, respect for diverse opinions, and democratic spirit.

Day One Proceedings (12th September 2025)

Breakfast and Registrations

The first day began early with **hospitality arrangements**, where participants, faculty members, and judges were warmly welcomed with **breakfast** including tea/coffee. This informal setting provided a warm beginning, allowing participants to interact casually and ease into the day.

The **registration desk**, managed by the student organizing committee, was a hub of activity. Volunteers efficiently distributed participation kits that included **team codes, debate schedules and rule sheet**. The enthusiasm was palpable as students from reputed colleges across India and abroad signed and exchanged greetings.

Inaugural Ceremony

The **inaugural ceremony** was held in the Kundanmal Firodia Auditorium, decorated elegantly with fresh flowers, banners, and portraits of Late Shri Gopal Ganesh Agarkar. The event began with a **traditional lamp-lighting ceremony** accompanied by *Saraswati Vandana*, invoking the blessings of knowledge and wisdom.

The *Guest of Honour* for the ceremony was **Shri Anant Joshi**, *Member, Governing Body and Council, DES*. The *Chief Guest* was **Shri Ravindra Shinganapurkar**, *Member, Management Council, Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU), Pune*.

The **Principal of SNFLC** Dr. Sunita Adhav maam extended a warm welcome, contextualizing the importance of debate in legal education and connecting it with Agarkar's legacy of fearless speech.

In his address, **Shri Anant Joshi** reflected on the glorious history of DES, which has nurtured generations of leaders, freedom fighters, and reformers. He emphasized that debate is not merely about winning or losing, but about fostering the courage to question, the humility to listen, and the wisdom to respond.

Shri Ravindra Shinganapurkar, in his keynote, spoke passionately about the *role of debating in shaping the professional competence of law students*. He highlighted how debating develops skills essential for the legal profession — clarity of thought, persuasion, argumentation, and confidence. He commended SNFLC for elevating the event to an *international level* and welcomed international teams with open arms, calling it “a true reflection of the globalized legal education India envisions.”

Vice Chairman DES and Chairman CDC Adv. Ashok Palande Sir in his Presidential Speech highlighted the role that the institute has played through various initiatives in different sectors — be it Judicial Internship or Debating.

The ceremony ended with a **vote of thanks**, followed by the playing of Vande Mataram. A formal **group photograph** was taken with dignitaries, capturing the spirit of the inauguration.



Preliminary Debate Rounds

Post-inauguration, the participants shifted to SNFLC building, where the **preliminary rounds** began. Topics were-

1. Is India's gig economy empowering or exploiting the youth?
2. Simultaneous Elections: Reformatory or Regressive?
3. Is climate change more of a Political Problem than an Environmental one?
4. Should transgender Athletes be allowed to compete in their gender-identified category?
5. "In the struggle for Nation-Building, What Should Precede: Social Reform or Political Independence?" The Tilak-Agarkar Dilemma.

The Competition was conducted in all languages- English, Hindi and Marathi.

Each debate witnessed **spirited exchanges**. Teams engaged in meticulously structured arguments, sharp rebuttals, and persuasive conclusions. Judges, comprising senior academicians, evaluated the participants on content, delivery, logic, and teamwork.

The international teams, in particular, brought fascinating perspectives, offering global insights into issues such as climate change, gender and sports, and international trade. Their engagement with Indian participants led to unique dialogues that transcended borders.

Lunch, Tea, and Day One Results

A **lavish lunch** was arranged for all participants and dignitaries. This provided an excellent networking opportunity, with students mingling with peers from different states.

The debates resumed after lunch, and by evening, participants were served **tea and snacks** as judges compiled their evaluations. Finally, the **results of Day One** were announced with much anticipation. Teams selected for the finals were cheered with enthusiasm, while others were congratulated for their participation.

The first day concluded with students leaving the venue with a mixture of relief, excitement, and eagerness for the decisive rounds on Day Two.

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Day Two Proceedings (13th September 2025)

Final Rounds

The morning of Day Two carried a sense of intensity and anticipation. The **final rounds** saw the best teams face off, engaging in **highly intellectual and energetic debates**. The topic for the final was - **Globalisation vs. Protectionism: Is embracing free trade the only path to prosperity?**

The atmosphere in the Debate room was electric — participants spoke with conviction, judges listened intently, and the audience was fully engaged. The finalists displayed remarkable **clarity, depth, and confidence**, proving themselves worthy of the stage.

Valedictory Ceremony

The much-awaited **valedictory ceremony** marked the grand finale of the competition. The *Guest of Honour* was **Dr. Payal Thaorey**, representing *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar School of Law, Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University*. The *Chief Guest* was **Dr. Prabhakar Desai**, *Director of Examination and Evaluation, SPPU, Pune*.

The program began with floral welcomes, followed by addresses from the dignitaries.

- **Dr. Payal Thaorey** applauded the *commitment of young debaters* and spoke on how debating sharpens both legal and civic responsibility. She emphasized that competitions like this empower students to use their voices for constructive social change.
- **Dr. Prabhakar Desai**, in his keynote, underlined the *values of humility, resilience, and teamwork*. He mentioned Vijay Tendulkars Drama – “Shantata, Court Chalu ahe” to guide students. He reminded participants that every debate is an opportunity for growth, and that even in defeat lies the seed of future success. His words resonated strongly with the young audience.

Declaration of Results and Prize Distribution

The moment of glory arrived as the **winners were declared**:

- **First Prize** – *S.P. College, Pune*
- **Second Prize** – *ILS Law College, Pune*
- **Third Prize** – *Manikchand Pahade Law College, Pune*

The **individual prize winners** were also recognized for their outstanding performances. The winners received trophies, certificates, and cash awards, while participation certificates were distributed to all teams.

Individual prices –

Hindi Debate Room:

Best Speaker – Sarang Tayde (TC- 49A, Manikchand Pahade Law College)

Special Appreciation – Omisha Priya (TC- 49B, Manikchand Pahade Law College)

Marathi Debate Room:

Best Speaker – Anushka Birajdar (TC- 63A, SP College, Pune)

Special Appreciation – Riddhima Sanket Bapat (TC- 63B, SP College, Pune)

English I Debate Room:

Best Speaker – Sarika Rath (TC- 11B, Ness Wadia College of Commerce)

English II Debate Room:

Special Appreciation – Shrinija Dandavate (TC- 41A, ILS Law College)

Concluding Session and Lunch

The **Principal of SNFLC** Dr Sunita Adhav declared the results.

A **vote of thanks** formally ended the session. The event concluded with a **farewell lunch**, where participants interacted freely, exchanged contacts, and reflected on their experience.

Photographic and Media Documentation

The event was extensively documented through **photographs**. Key moments captured include:

- Registration desk activity and breakfast gatherings
- Lamp-lighting at the inaugural ceremony

- Enthusiastic participation in preliminary and final rounds
- Judges evaluating with seriousness
- Networking during breaks and lunch
- Final round tension and excitement
- Prize distribution at the valedictory ceremony

These photographs serve as a lasting memory of the event and will be featured in the college's annual magazine and official website.

Conclusion

The **Late Shri Gopal Ganesh Agarkar Smruti Karandak International Intercollegiate Debate Competition 2025** was not just an academic event but a celebration of intellect, dialogue, and democratic spirit. With **74 teams, including six international delegations**, the competition truly achieved global recognition. 

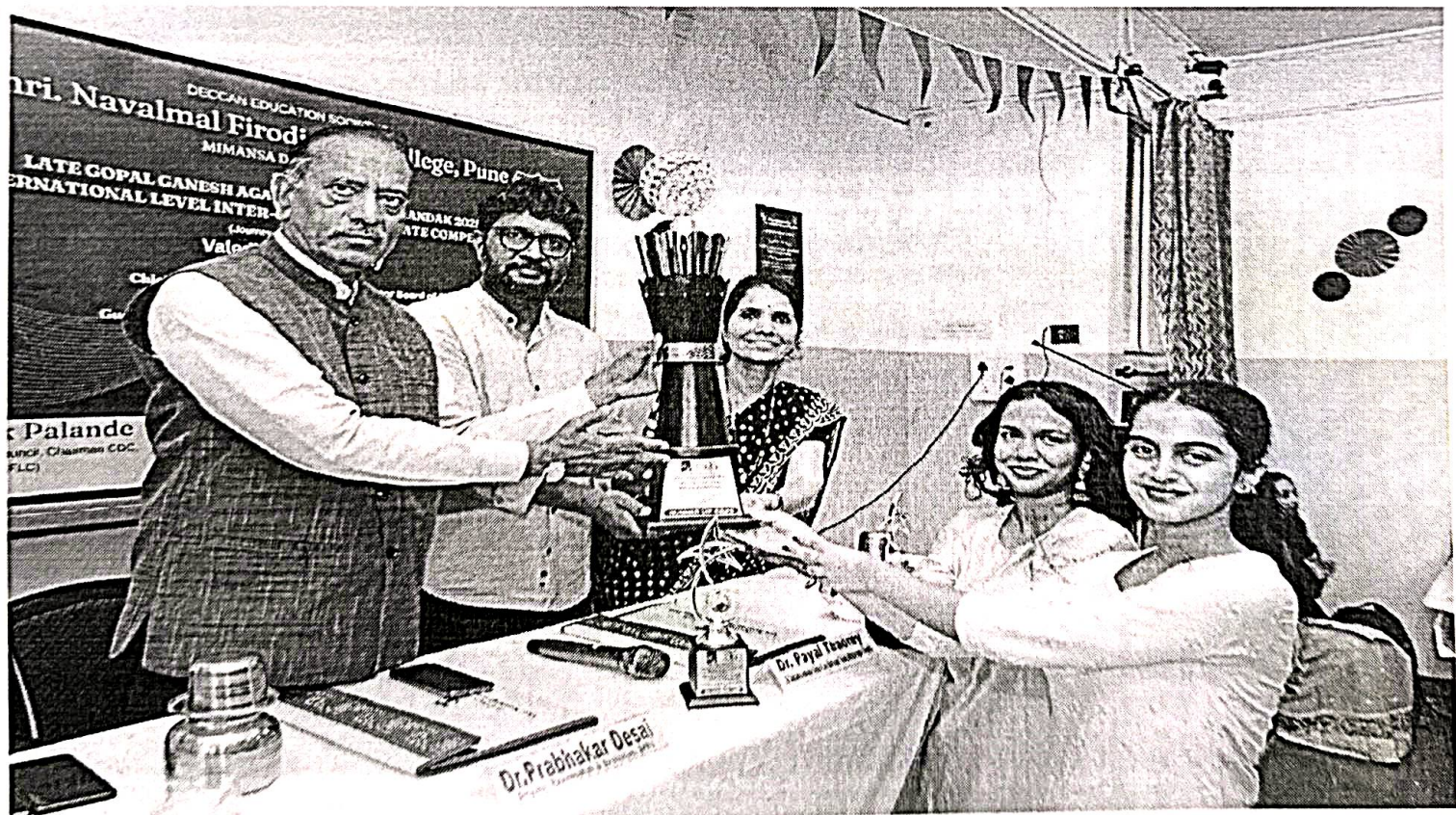
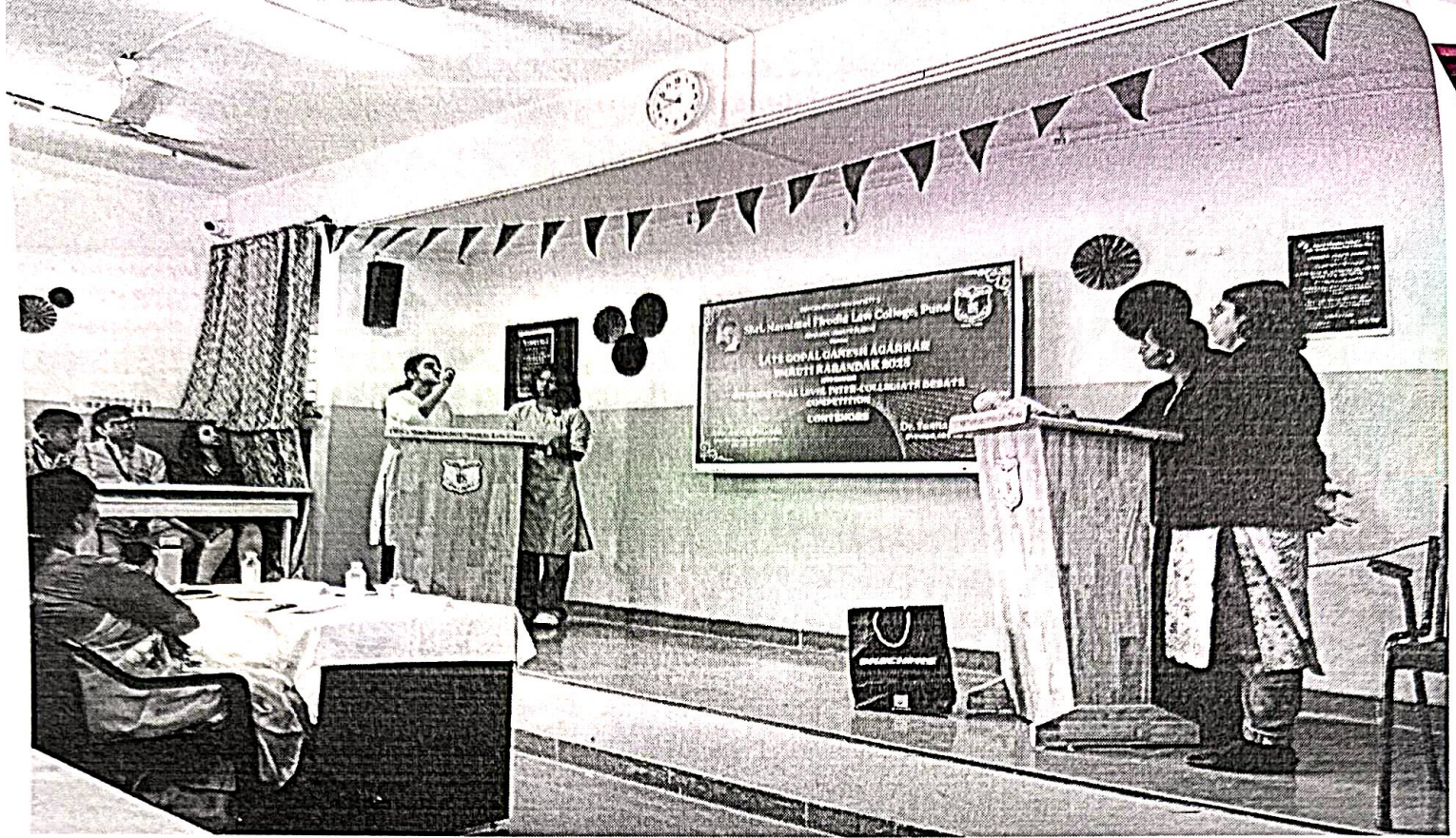
The success of the event lay not only in the smooth organization and high-quality debates but also in its ability to inspire students to think critically, speak fearlessly, and respect diverse viewpoints. It upheld the legacy of *Late Shri Gopal Ganesh Agarkar*, who believed that education and fearless reasoning are the pillars of a progressive society.

As the curtains drew on this landmark event, DES SNFLC expressed pride in carrying forward this tradition and looks forward to hosting an even grander edition in the years ahead.





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Dr. Sunita Adhav
Principal

Dr. Aishwarya Yadav
Debate Committee Member

Asst. Prof. Saurabh Jadhav
Debate Committee Member

Asst. Prof. Kaveri Deo
Debate Committee Member

Asst. Prof. Sumit Tak
Debate Committee Member