



CHHATRAPATI SHAHU JI MAHARAJ UNIVERSITY, KANPUR

ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE SCHOOL OF LEGAL STUDIES



1st Atal Bihari Vajpayee State
Debate competition, 2026

22nd August 2026

SAMVAD : VOICES THAT QUESTION, MINDS THAT LEAD



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ABOUT CSJMU



Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University (CSJMU), formerly known as Kanpur University, established in 1966, stands as one of the premier State Universities in North India, renowned for its academic excellence, research orientation, and commitment to holistic development.

Accredited with an A++ Grade by NAAC and recognized as a Category-I University, CSJMU has consistently fostered an ecosystem that promotes innovation, interdisciplinary learning, and academic rigor. Spread across a vast campus, the University offers a wide spectrum of undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes across disciplines including Law, Sciences, Humanities, Management, Engineering, and Social Sciences.

The University has played a pivotal role in fostering intellectual, cultural, and professional development by encouraging student participation in academic forums, research initiatives, sports, and co-curricular activities such as NSS and NCC. Its emphasis on skill development, leadership, and societal responsibility ensures that students evolve into well-rounded individuals.

With State-of-the-art infrastructure, ICT-enabled classrooms, digital learning platforms, and a rich repository of academic resources, CSJMU continues to create a dynamic and future-ready learning environment. Through National and International collaborations, research programmes, and innovation-driven initiatives, the University remains a hub of progressive education and excellence.





ABOUT ABVSLS

The Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Legal Studies (ABVSLS) established under the aegis of CSJMU, is a distinguished institution committed to nurturing excellence in legal education, research, and advocacy.

The institution offers a comprehensive academic portfolio including B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), BBA LL.B. (Hons.), LL.B., and LL.M. programmes, designed to develop a strong foundation in legal principles while equipping students with practical and analytical skills essential for the legal profession.

ABVSLS places a strong emphasis on experiential and participatory learning through activities such as moot courts, debates, judgment analysis sessions, seminars, and workshops, students are trained to think critically and articulate effectively. The department has also successfully organized impactful academic initiatives such as “Abhivyakti” – Youth Parliament, which provides students a platform to engage in legislative simulations, policy discussions, and democratic deliberation, thereby bridging the gap between theoretical learning and real-world governance.

With modern infrastructure including smart classrooms, well-equipped moot court halls, and a resourceful library, ABVSLS ensures a conducive academic environment. Regular interaction with legal luminaries, academicians, and professionals from the Bar and Bench further enhances students’ exposure and practical understanding.

Through its commitment to innovation, ethics, and professional excellence, ABVSLS continues to shape competent, socially responsible, and practice-ready legal professionals.



Message from the Vice chancellor

Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak

It is with immense pleasure and pride that I welcome you all to the 1st State Debate Competition, organised by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Legal Studies. This prestigious initiative reflects the School's commitment to strengthening experiential legal education and nurturing essential public speaking and critical reasoning skills among aspiring legal practitioners.

Oratory and structured debate lie at the heart of effective legal practice and democratic governance. The ability to construct compelling arguments, analyze complex issues critically, communicate perspectives clearly, and respect diverse viewpoints is fundamental to the legal profession. Through this competition, students are provided a valuable platform to engage with contemporary legal and national debates, develop persuasive advocacy approaches, and gain practical exposure to the dynamics of competitive argumentation.

In an evolving legal and social landscape, future legal professionals must be not only knowledgeable in law but also articulate, critically sharp, and socially responsible. This competition is designed not merely to test speaking skills, but to instil intellectual rigor, professional decorum, and a deep commitment to truth and justice. I encourage participants to view this experience as an opportunity for self-development and intellectual exchange rather than competition alone.

I extend my best wishes to all participating students and commend the efforts of the organising committee and faculty members for their dedication in making this event possible. I am confident that this competition will be a meaningful and enriching experience, contributing positively to the intellectual growth of every participant.





Message from the Director

Dr. Smriti Roy



It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you to the 1st State Debate Competition, hosted by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Legal Studies, Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur. This landmark event represents a significant milestone for our institution, reflecting our commitment to fostering dynamic advocacy skills and nurturing the next generation of confident, articulate legal professionals.

Debate competitions provide students with a vital platform to develop essential competencies such as public speaking, sharp legal and policy analysis, and persuasive articulation, preparing them for real-world legal and public forums.

As we embark on this exciting initiative, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the distinguished panel of judges, faculty members, and supporting staff whose guidance and encouragement have made this event possible. I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of the organising committee, whose careful planning ensures that the competition will run smoothly and offer a stimulating intellectual environment for all participants. This event is not merely a contest; it is a step towards establishing a culture of fearless, reasoned, and constructive legal discourse that will benefit generations of law students.

To all participants, I extend my best wishes. I encourage you to engage wholeheartedly, approach each round with professionalism and sportsmanship, and embrace the rigorous learning opportunities that come with each stage of the competition. May this experience sharpen your argumentative prowess, expand your perspective on contemporary issues, and enhance your readiness to advocate with competence and conviction.

I am confident that the 1st State Debate Competition will set a benchmark for future editions and inspire students to pursue excellence in both the art of rhetoric and the ethics of legal advocacy.





ABOUT THE EVENT



SAMVAD: STATE DEBATE COMPETITION 2026

The Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Legal Studies, proudly presents “SAMVAD: 1st Atal Bihari Vajpayee State Debate Competition 2026”, a prestigious platform dedicated to the art of argumentation, critical inquiry and intellectual exchange of thoughts.

In an era where dialogue defines democracy and ideas influence policy, the literary committee of ABVSLS, through Samvad, seeks informed debate and reasoned discourse. The competition brings together some of the brightest minds from across the nation to deliberate on contemporary legal, constitutional, and socio-political issues, encouraging participants to engage with complexity, diversity of thought, and constructive disagreement.

Designed to test both substance and style, the competition evaluates participants on “depth of research, clarity of thought, logical reasoning, and persuasive delivery”. Judged by esteemed academicians and legal professionals, the event promises a rigorous and enriching experience.



Objectives

- To promote critical thinking and analytical reasoning
- To foster articulate advocacy and public speaking skills
- To create a national forum for intellectual engagement
- To encourage democratic values through dialogue and debate

Why should you participate ?

- Engage with top debaters from across the country.
- Gain exposure to high-level legal and policy discussions.
- Enhance confidence, articulation, and courtroom skills.
- Network with academicians, professionals, and peers.

SAMVAD

“Where intellect meets expression, and dialogue shapes the future.”



THEME

VIKSIT BHARAT @ 2047

SUB THEMES

The topics for the debate will be related to, but not limited to, the following sub-themes:

- Economic Development and Atmanirbhar Bharat
- Gender Justice and Social Equity
- Digital Transformation and Inclusive Growth
- Federalism
- Governance and Centre-State Relations
- Robotics and Automation
- Cyber Security
- Digital Governance

NOTE : The above-mentioned are indicative sub-themes only. The exact topics for the debate will be intimated to the registered candidates via email. Candidates are therefore requested to keep a regular check on their registered email IDs for further updates and communication regarding the competition, and 'candidates will be responsible for providing their correct email ids for communication'.



1ST ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE STATE DEBATE COMPETITION, 2026



SAMVAD : VOICES THAT QUESTION MIND THAT LEADS

“ संवादे सत्यं वर्धते ”



SAMVAD 2026 emerges as a confluence of ideas, where dialogue is not confined by discipline, ideology, or background. It aspires to cultivate a space where dissent is valued, perspectives are contested, and conversations lead to deeper understanding. Bringing together participants from diverse academic and intellectual spheres, Samvad encourages engagement that is reflective, critical, and constructive. It is not merely a platform to speak, but a forum to listen, question, and evolve—where every voice contributes to shaping a more informed and aware discourse.





Rules & Regulations



1. Eligibility

The competition is open to students enrolled in any recognized Undergraduate or postgraduate programme. Each institution may nominate any number of participants (or specify a limit if desired). Only individual participation is permitted.

2. Debate Format

The debate shall be conducted in the Conventional Debate Format. Every participant must be prepared to speak both FOR and AGAINST the motion. The side (For/Against) shall be allotted through a random draw immediately before the debate.

The order of speaking shall be decided by the Organising Committee and shall be final.

Preliminary and Semi- Final round shall be conducted in online mode. The final round shall be conducted in offline mode in University campus.

3. Time Limit and rounds

Pre Round (Online) - Time allotted: 3 minutes per participant.

Semi Final (online) - Time allotted: 3 minutes per participant.

Finals - Time allotted: 4 minutes per participant.

A warning bell shall be given 1 minute before the end of the allotted time. Final bell shall be given at the completion of the allotted time. Participants exceeding the prescribed time may incur deduction of marks.

4. Language

Participants may present their arguments in:

- English
- Hindi
- Bilingual (Hindi & English)



Rules & Regulations



5. General Rules -

- Participants must report at the venue before the reporting time.
- Participants must carry a valid College/University Identity Card.
- No participant shall be permitted to change the allotted side.
- No books, notes, mobile phones, electronic gadgets, cue cards or written material shall be allowed during the speech.
- Use of offensive, defamatory or discriminatory language is strictly prohibited.
- Participants shall maintain decorum throughout the competition.
- Interruptions while another participant is speaking shall not be permitted.
- The Organising Committee reserves the right to modify the schedule, if required.
- The decision of the Judges shall be final and binding

General Guidelines

1. The final round of the competition will be held in offline mode at the venue mentioned; therefore, participants should ensure their physical presence at the venue before the commencement of the event. Failure to present in due time would result in disqualification of the individual from the competition.
2. Every participant should ensure punctuality on their behalf, and be present for the competition at least 15 (fifteen) minutes before the competition starts. If the participant is late for his turn in the competition, then the organizer reserves the right to decide unilaterally to disqualify the participant(s) from the competition.
3. During the competition, participants are expected to maintain the decorum of the house and any disturbance caused may lead to disqualification.



General Guidelines



4. Participants should not disclose their identity except the identity provided at time of registration at the venue. However, Student ID cards are mandatory at the time of registration at venue along with duly filled Registration form. Disclosure of Identity may lead to disqualification.
5. During the competitions, the registered participants cannot be represented by anyone else or otherwise will be disqualified.
6. During presentation of debate, strict adherence of the time limits shall be observed. There shall be deduction of 2 marks for extending every single minute.
7. Use of defamatory language or shouting shall lead to disqualification.
8. No religious & cultural sentiment should be hurt . It would otherwise lead to disqualification.
9. Use of Unfair Means would lead to disqualification of team. Furthermore, all prizes would be forfeited.
10. Paper reading is strictly prohibited. However, reference to paper material is allowed.
11. No objections shall be entertained as the decision of Judge shall be final and binding.

Participation will be on a first come, first served basis, as the number of seats is limited.

Note: No accommodation or food will be provided to the participants.

Registration Details

Registration Fees :-

No Registration Fees / Participation Fees

Registration Link :-

- Form - <https://forms.gle/FC3ZUPGkCqw7jokN9>
- Scan the QR code for registration link
- Duly filled Registration Form is mandatory for participation.



Eligibility :-

- Open to all Undergraduate (UG) and Postgraduate (PG) students from any recognized institution.
 - Valid possession of Student ID Card is mandatory at the time of registration.
- Individual participation allowed; no team entries shall be permitted.
- Registrations shall be accepted strictly on a first-come, first-served basis. Limited seats available.
- Early registration is strongly recommended to secure your seat.
- No entries shall be entertained post deadline or once seats are filled, whichever is earlier.

Important Dates :-

- Registration Opens: **05th August, 2026**
- Event Date: **22nd August, 2026**

Venue :-

Senanayak Tatyatope Senate Hall , CSJM University , Kanpur





Criteria for Evaluation



Criteria	Marks
Knowledge and understanding of the topic.	25
Quality of arguments and logical reasoning.	25
Content, research and use of facts.	15
Organisation and clarity of presentation.	10
Communication skills, confidence and delivery.	15
Persuasiveness and Convincing Ability	05
Time management	05
Total	100

Penalties

Valuations	Consequences
Exceeding time limit	Deduction of marks
Use of offensive language	Warning or disqualification
Use of notes and electronic devices	Disqualification
Misconduct and indiscipline	Disqualification



Rewards & Prizes



WINNER

Trophy
+
Merit Certificate



RUNNER UP

Trophy
+
Merit Certificate



**BEST SPEAKER
(FOR)**

Trophy
+
Merit Certificate



**BEST SPEAKER
(AGAINST)**

Trophy
+
Merit Certificate

Glimpses

(Our Past Events)



THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Patron-in-Chief

Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak
Vice Chancellor

Patrons

Prof. Sudhir Kumar Awasthi
Pro-Vice Chancellor

Shri Rakesh Kumar Mishra
Registrar

Shri Ashok Kumar Tripathi
Finance Officer

Co- Patrons

Dr. Smriti Roy
Director, ABVSLS

Dr. Shashi Kant Tripathi
Chief Proctor

Faculty Convenors

Ms. Akriti Daksh
Ms. Shatakshi Dixit
Ms. Aparna
Mrs. Pragya Srivastava

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Dr. Pankaj Dwivedi

Dr. Rahul Tiwari

Dr. Pramod Kumar

Dr. Samiuddin

Dr. Divyansh Shukla

Dr. Vishnu Pati Tripathi

Dr. Nitesh Kumar Chaturvedi

Dr. Mayuri Singh

Mr. Ashok Kumar

Mr. Prerit Narayan Mishra

Mr. Mohit Awasthi

Mr. Rishi Srivastava

Mr. Prabhat Kumar Mishra

Ms. Kaushiki Trivedi

Ms. Vidhi Katiyar

Ms. Meghna Bajpai

Ms. Hemlata Ninoriya

Ms. Shailja Sachan

Ms. Minakshi

Ms. Sharwani Pandey

Ms. Pia Shukla

STUDENT ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Samridhi Tiwari

Student Convenor

Vidushi Shukla

Student Co-Convenor

Sharyanshi

Secretary

Student Co-ordinators

Akshay Tiwari

Anushka Swaroop

Aradhya Verma

Bushra Rehman

Dhawal Gupta

Divyansh Patel

Faizullah Khan

Imran

Khushi Srivastava

Mohak Chopra

Nancy Singh Chandel

Shalini Singh

Shivani Sharma

Yashasvi Sharma

Bushra Rehman

Jahnavi Dubey

Invitation

We cordially invite you to participate in our 1st Atal Bihari Vajpayee State debate competition.

We look forward to your enthusiastic participation in this prestigious event. May your arguments be sharp, your reasoning sound, and your confidence unwavering.

Wishing you the very best!

Contact

For Any Queries, Please Contact:

Faculty Co-ordinator

Ms. Akriti Daksh - 9910482891

Student Co-ordinator

Samridhi Tiwari - 9129692392

Vidushi Shukla - 8400476377

Sharyanshi - 7986716737

We await your gracious participation!

VENUE : SENANAYAK TATYATOPE SENATE HALL, CSJM UNIVERSITY

Get In Touch



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[https://csjmu.ac.in/departments/a
tal-bihari-Vajpayee-school-of-
legal-studies/](https://csjmu.ac.in/departments/atal-bihari-Vajpayee-school-of-legal-studies/)



[@vidhiverse.abvsls](https://www.instagram.com/vidhiverse.abvsls)

How to Reach the Venue:

The University is located about 10 km away (30 minutes approx.) from Kanpur Central Railway Station and about 20 km away (45 minutes approx.) from Kanpur Airport. Cabs and Taxis can be easily booked across the city.

Once you reach the front gate of the University, walk 50-100 m straight then turn left for the parking area , walk 100 m straight , you'll find Senate Hall adjacent to the parking area on your right hand side.