

Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Debate '20



“No wonder films don’t always do well. After seeing a debate like this where so many intellectual young minds fight it out who would want to go to a movie theatre?”
-Mahesh Bhatt

“Way beyond my expectations. Never expected a technical college to hold such a non-technical Debate!”
-Dolly Thakore



“The debate was well-organised and the participants were well aware. You people reminded me of the smart youth our country is famous for”
- Madhur Bhandarkar

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About

The National level Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Debate is a prestigious Debate Competition in Mumbai, hosted annually by Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering, Bandra. Inaugurated in the year 1999 as a debate competition for colleges within Mumbai, it became a National level Competition in 2012. It has been a reputed platform for students all across the country for 8 years now. It is a 2 day event usually held in the month of September organized by the Students' Council, CRCE but this year, in the face of COVID-19, we are organizing a 3 day virtual event on the 6th, 7th and 8th November. The debate aims to provide a forum for today's youth to articulate views and engage in a dialogue on various affairs that affect the life of the common man, directly or otherwise while also showcasing the power of deploying rational, reasoned arguments and compelling evidence in action.

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Theme

Immanent Critique of Social Adiaphora

Immanent critique is a method of discussing culture which aims to find contradictions in society's rules and systems. It explores the ideological basis of the issues in addition to the direct problems. Adiaphora is a concept of morality being subjective and it being something which neither mandates or forbids.

In layman terms, the essence of the motion is social critique in a world which naturally neither means to debar or permit our actions while also exploring the personal virtues of an individual and how their ideas compare to the set practices. We identify the positive features of the prevailing social and political world order and open up intellectual space to challenge this world's "immanent contradictions" for the purpose of empowering a wider range of societal actors. Social critique is limited to a certain domain of potential objects - namely, practices, institutions, customs and collective actions. Those who engage in social critique evaluate these entities on the basis of a standard - thereby pointing out all that fails to live up to that standard.

This theme encompasses everything from socio-economic status of the world due to COVID-19 to political expediency, as well as discourses over abstract and hypothetical ideas.

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Format

The debate follows intermediate oxford format. The following are the details about the format, the rules, regulations and instructions for the teams for the debates.

- A debate will have one team proposing the motion and one team opposing the motion
- Opening speech by proposition and then by opposition.
- Refutation round.
- Closing speech by opposition and then proposition.

Rules and Regulations:

- One speaker of the team makes the opening speech while the other makes the closing speech.
- The proposition starts the debate; the proposition gives the first opening speech, followed by the opposition's opening speech.
- The opposition raises the first point in the refutation round.
- The last thirty seconds of Refutation Round at any stage of the competition is reserved for 'The Concluding Statement'.
- It is a concise and precise statement that sums up a team's argument.
- The debate is concluded by the closing speech, first from the opposition and then the proposition.
- No new points may be introduced in the closing speech.

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- If a certain team does bring up a new point; the opposition may request the moderator an opportunity to point out the new points at the end of the closing speech which will lead to negative marking.
- For the debates when topics are being given to the teams 15 minutes prior to their debate, they are strictly prohibited to use the internet or any other reading material.
- Personal comments of any kind directed against the opposite team are strictly prohibited.
- Participants cannot comment on the opposite team's stance or statements made in previous debates of the competition.
- Negative marking for exceeding time limit.
- Participants will be judged on the following criteria: Analysis, confidence, engagement with opposition, organization of points, argumentation level and rapport established with partner.
- Discrepancies of any sort during the debate will be resolved at the moderator's discretion. The decision will be final and binding.

***Note:** The topic for the first round of debate (League round 1) will be given three days prior to the debate. In the next rounds (League round 2 & 3), the topics will be given 20 minutes prior to the debate. For the quarters, semi-finals and the finals the topics will be given one hour in advance.

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Stipulations

League and Quarters

- 4 minutes opening and closing speech.
- Warning bell after 3 minutes 45 seconds (1 bell).
- No new points can be introduced after the warning bell for the opening speaker.
A contestant can however complete his current point and summarize.
- 2 bells after 4 minutes are completed.
- Contestants are expected to conclude in the next 15 seconds.
He/she would not be allowed to speak after 4 min 15 seconds.
- The time for the refutation rounds is 10 minutes.

Semi-Finals and Final

- 5 minutes opening and closing speech.
- Warning bell after 4 minutes 45 seconds (1 bell).
- No new points can be introduced after the warning bell for the opening speaker.
A contestant can however complete his current point and summarize.
- 2 bells after 5 minutes are completed.
- Contestants are expected to conclude in the next 15 seconds. He/she would not be allowed to speak after 5 min 15 seconds.
- The time for the refutation rounds is 15 minutes for the semi-finals and 20 minutes for the final.

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Structure of the Debate Competition:

The debate will comprise of the following rounds:

3 League rounds

Quarter Finals

Semi-Finals and Final

Structure of the Rounds:

All the rounds of the debate will be oxford style and will comprise of formal debating with the following format specifics

League Rounds:

- Opening proposition speaker : 4 minutes
- Opening opposition speaker : 4 minutes
- Refutation Round : 10 minutes
- Concluding proposition speaker : 4 minutes
- Concluding opposition speaker : 4 minutes

Quarters

- Opening proposition speaker : 4 minutes
- Opening opposition speaker : 4 minutes
- Refutation Round : 10 minutes
- Concluding proposition speaker : 4 minutes
- Concluding opposition speaker : 4 minutes

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Semi-Finals

- Opening proposition speaker : 5 minutes
- Opening opposition speaker : 5 minutes
- Refutation Round : 15 minutes
- Concluding proposition speaker : 5 minutes
- Concluding opposition speaker : 5 minutes

Finals

- Opening proposition speaker : 5 minutes
- Opening opposition speaker : 5 minutes
- Refutation Round : 25 minutes
- Concluding proposition speaker : 5 minutes
- Concluding opposition speaker : 5 minutes

Prize Money

1. First Place Rs. 40,000
2. Second Place Rs. 20,000
3. Best Speaker Rs. 7,500
4. Best Adjudicator Rs 7,500

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Directives

1. Rules applicable to all Colleges
2. There will be no participation fees.
3. Participants will register on the web application of CRMD.
4. Each team will be assigned a code and a login password which will be sent via email.
5. One participant from each team can login to the web application on the day of the event where the status of the team, meet links, motion of the debates as well as the timings.

There will be a buffer time for joining the Google meet/zoom links as given :

- League rounds, Quarters : 9 mins
- Semis, Finals : 10 mins

Any further delay will cause disqualification.

6. Changes in the name of the participants from your college will be entertained only after clarification with the General Secretary or Cultural Secretary of your college.
7. Participants will be expected to fill a Google form with ID proof a day prior to the event.
8. Every team will be provided with a team in-charge. Please keep him/her informed about your whereabouts at all times. Every college can send only one team consisting of two members.

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9. Decision of management is final as far as management and debate is concerned.
10. Please confirm as soon as possible since entry is given on a 'first come first serve' basis and the same is limited to 32 colleges.
11. The participants are requested to be present in formal attire.
12. Smooth and uninterrupted Internet connectivity is essential.
13. Participants will not be permitted to use earphones,
14. Any kind of issue regarding internet connectivity is the responsibility of the participants, not the organizers.
15. League rounds will be conducted on Google Meet.
16. Quarters, Semifinals and Finals will be conducted on Zoom
17. It is mandatory for all participants to have Google Meet and Zoom ID's as their respective team codes - as received in mail.
(teamcode_speakernumber, Eg : CRMD001_01/02)
18. Speaker numbers will also be sent in mail along with the team codes.
19. The language to be followed for the debate is English.
20. Any misconduct throughout the course of the competition will result in disqualification.