

The GNLU Debate 2019

Gandhinagar, Aug 31, 2019: The seventh edition of the GNLU Debate kicked off with an inauguration ceremony presided over by the Director of Gujarat National Law University, Dr. S. Shanthakumar this morning.

The GNLU Debate has, over the last seven years, established itself as one of the best British Parliamentary debating tournaments in the country, and it is set to host approximately 150 participants as debaters and adjudicators this year. The debaters represent 27 premier engineering, law, arts, management and hospitality institutes across the country including IIT Delhi, St. Stephen's College, NUJS, NLU Jodhpur, Symbiosis Law School, Nirma University and Christ University.

Following the format of British Parliamentary debate, the GNLU Debate takes place in rounds comprised of four teams of two members each, who are given a motion to debate upon. The motions are interesting propositions which often relate to the most burning issues of our time, and the teams are expected to debate for or against the motion. Of the four teams in one round, two represent the Government which argue for the motion, and two represent the Opposition which argue against the motion. All teams are allowed a preparation time of 15 minutes after the motion is released, and each speaker gets 7 minutes 20 seconds to speak. The rounds are judged by a panel of adjudicators, who also compete for a prize in adjudication. The GNLU Debate has registered 48 teams and 41 adjudicators, who will compete in preliminary rounds on Saturday and Sunday, after which the teams and adjudicators who advance to the quarter-final rounds on Monday will be announced.

The GNLU Debate 2019 has invited four core adjudicators this year: Abhishek Nevatia, Ribhu Mukherjee, Pratyaksha Jha and Kartik Bansal, who are highly experienced and possess excellent adjudicating as well as speaking credentials.

In his inaugural speech, GNLU Director Dr Shanthakumar said, "there is a debater in each one of us. Platforms such as this Debate provide an opportunity to hone our debating skills and bring out the debater within us."

In his address, Prof Sanjeev Choudhary, the Faculty Convenor of the GNLU Debate Organising Committee, spoke about the importance of debating in the life of any law student. While stressing on the importance of debating, he said, "the Supreme Court of India even today refers to the Constituent Assembly Debates to ascertain the true intention of the Constituent Assembly."

The preliminary rounds are scheduled to take place over Saturday and Sunday, and the Quarter-Final and Semi-Final Rounds are scheduled on Monday morning. The final rounds of the GNLU Debate will take place at 3 PM on Monday, 2 September, 2019.



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