



काशी हिन्दू  
विश्वविद्यालय



BANARAS HINDU  
UNIVERSITY



Institute Of Science

**YOUTH FEST**

# **AAKANKSHA**

## **2026**

**REVERBERATING TALENTS SINCE 1995**

**29-JAN TO 19-FEB**

**MUSIC • DANCE • LITERARY • THEATRE • FINE ARTS**

**REGISTRATION STARTS ONLY ON 'AAKANKSHA.ORG' WEBSITE**

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SCAN QR CODE TO  
REGISTRATION

## About BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY

**Banaras Hindu University (BHU)**, located in the sacred city of Varanasi, internationally renowned center of education. Established in 1916 by the eminent nationalist leader Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, with support from influential figures like Dr. Annie Besant, it was envisioned as the “University of India.” The institution was founded under the **B.H.U. Act 1915**, a legislative act of the Indian Parliament. BHU played a pivotal role in India’s independence movement and has grown into one of the most esteemed hubs of knowledge in the country. Today, it comprises **3 Institutes, 14 Faculties, 140 Departments, 4 Interdisciplinary Centers**, a women’s college, and **3 constituent schools**. It offers an extensive range of disciplines, including **humanities, social sciences, technology, medicine, science, fine arts and performing arts**.

## About INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

**Institute of Science** comprises thirteen departments that span nearly all branches of modern science. It offers **B.Sc. (Hons) and M.Sc.** courses in most disciplines, **M.Sc. (Tech.) in Geophysics, MCA**, and runs research programs across various fields. The Institute has also introduced two vocational courses at the U.G. level: **Industrial Microbiology** and **Electronics Instrumentation and Maintenance**. The departments possess expertise in several related areas and are actively involved in cutting-edge research. The Institute maintains a dynamic academic environment, organizing regular activities such as **seminars, workshops, and conferences**. It is equipped with advanced and sophisticated laboratories, and faculty members collaborate with renowned research

## About AAKANKSHA

institutions both in India and abroad.

**AAKANKSHA** is the annual youth festival of the Institute of Science, Banaras Hindu University, celebrated for many years. It offers a break from routine academic schedule and serves as platform for the students of Institute of Science to showcase and nurture their extracurricular talents. Moreover, it enhances social interaction and foster the exchange of ideas and thoughts. AAKANKSHA is more than just a festival; it is a celebration of student’s aspiration by the institute. It is the largest festival at BHU in terms of number of events. This year there are **48+ events**, covering a wide range of genres including **Literary, Cinematic, Theater, Music, Dance & Fine Arts**, alongside exciting activities like **Mini Marathon and Treasure Hunt**. Our Tagline is...

# Spread the Colors of Diversity!

SCHEDULE OF AAKANKSHA 2026



## SCHEDULE

29 Jan	Essay	10 Feb	Quiz (Final) & Poetry
30 Jan	Short Story	11 Feb	Music
31 Jan	Mehandi & Rangoli	12 Feb	Elocution & Debate
02 Feb	Painting & Sketching	13 Feb	Elocution & Debate
03 Feb	Cartooning & Collage	14 Feb	Dance
04 Feb	Treasure Hunt (Pre)	16 Feb	Drama, Standup & Mime
05 Feb	Quiz (Pre)	18 Feb	Final I & Carnival
06 Feb	On The Spot Photography	19 Feb	Final II & Prize Distribution
09 Feb	Treasure Hunt (Final)/ Turncoat		



Scan QR to register

VENUE : Lecture Theatre Complex, Institute of Science, BHU  
The mentioned dates are for audition rounds.

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## List of Different Events

Solo Events		Group Events	
S. No.	Event Name	S. No.	Event Name
1	Solo Vocal Music: Folk	36	Group Vocal Music: Indian
2	Solo Vocal Music: Classical	37	Group Vocal Music: Western
3	Solo Vocal Music: Bollywood	38	Group Dance: Tribal/Folk
4	Solo Vocal Music: Western	39	Group Dance: Film
5	Instrumental Music: Percussion	40	Choreography
6	Instrumental Music: Non Percussion	41	Quiz
7	Solo Dance: Classical	42	Debate Hindi
8	Solo Dance: Film	43	Debate English
9	Solo Dance: Western	44	Debate Sanskrit
10	Creative Dance	45	Drama
11	Essay Writing Hindi	46	Mime
12	Essay Writing English	47	Expression
13	Essay Writing Sanskrit	48	Skit
14	Poetry Hindi	49	Treasure Hunt
15	Poetry English		
16	Poetry Sanskrit		
17	Short Story Writing Hindi		
18	Short Story Writing English		
19	Turncoat Hindi		
20	Turncoat English		
21	Elocution/Extempore Hindi		
22	Elocution/Extempore English		
23	Elocution/Extempore Sanskrit		
24	Mimicry		
25	Monoacting		
26	Standup Comedy		
27	On the Spot Painting		
28	Sketching		
29	Mehndi		
30	Rangoli		
31	On the Spot Photography		
32	Collage		
33	Poster Making		
34	Cartooning		
35	Face of the Fest		

Note: Face of the Fest is an online competition where participants share their self-portraits through our Instagram page [iscaakanksha](https://www.instagram.com/iscaakanksha)

## Features and General Instructions

- ✚ There are 35 Solo events and 14 Group events. Therefore, a total of 49 events to help you realize your interest and potential.
- ✚ Participants are free to participate in any of the events.
- ✚ Exact time of different events will be declared in due course of time. Notification about the events shall be sent on Aakanksha Website. Participants are advised to check the notice board, Instagram page, and Aakanksha website regularly for updates.
- ✚ Audition round of all the events will take place at New Lecture Theater Complex, I.Sc, BHU.
- ✚ Only participants will be responsible for the safety and safely handling their makeup bag, costumes, or any other luggage and electronics devices they bring to the venue of the event.
- ✚ Participants are required to report to the venue of the event at least 30 minutes in advance along with their Identity card or student's passbook in order to avoid all sorts of inconvenience in their participation.
- ✚ **NOTE: In case of group events, the I-card/student's passbook of the Group leader is not enough. Each participant must bring his/her I-card/student's passbook with him/her.**
- ✚ In case of Group events, only the allowed number of Group members should be included; otherwise, all the extra inclusion will be cancelled, and those participants will not be allowed to participate.
- ✚ One must read carefully guiding rules and evaluation parameters of the events in which he/she is participating to help themselves get better prepared for the competition.
- ✚ In case of any queries; one can contact the members or send an email to [isc.aakanksha@bhu.ac.in](mailto:isc.aakanksha@bhu.ac.in)
- ✚ **Use of any explosive, fire and harmful substances is strictly prohibited.**
- ✚ **Overacting, vulgarity, and any kind of misconduct are not permissible at any cost.** Participants observed to be involved in such conduct will be disqualified, and strict action will be taken against them

## Allotted Time and Number of participants for Event

S. No.	Events	Participants	Accompanists	Total	Time
<b>Music</b>					
1	Solo Vocal: Classical	1	3	4	10
2	Solo Vocal: Film	1	3	4	6
3	Solo Vocal: Light Vocal	1	3	4	10
4	Solo Vocal Western	1	3	4	6
5	Group Vocal Music: Indian	6	4	10	10
6	Group Vocal Music: Western	6	4	10	10
7	Instrumental Music: Percussion	1	3	4	10
8	Instrumental Music: Non-Percussion	1	3	4	10
<b>Dance</b>					
9	Solo Dance: Classical	1	4	5	15
10	Solo Dance: Film	1	3	4	6
11	Solo Dance: Western	1	3	4	6
12	Group Dance: Tribal/Folk	10	5	15	10
13	Group Dance: Film	10	3	13	6
14	Choreography	10	3	13	10
15	Creative Dance	1	3	4	10
<b>Literary Events</b>					
16	Essay Writing Hindi	1		1	60
17	Essay Writing English	1		1	60
18	Essay Writing Sanskrit	1		1	60
19	Poetry Hindi	1		1	5
20	Poetry English	1		1	5
21	Poetry Sanskrit	1		1	5
22	Short Story Writing Hindi	1		1	60
23	Short Story Writing English	1		1	60
24	Turncoat Hindi	1		1	3
25	Turncoat English	1		1	3
26	Elocution/Extempore Hindi	1		1	5
27	Elocution/Extempore English	1		1	5
28	Elocution/Extempore Sanskrit	1		1	5
29	Debate Hindi	2		2	5
30	Debate English	2		2	5
31	Debate Sanskrit	2		2	5
32	Quiz	3		3	



**AAKANKSHA 2026 (ANNUAL YOUTH FEST, I.SC., BHU)**

<b>Theatre</b>					
33	Mimicry	1		1	5
34	Monoacting	1	3	4	5
35	Stand-Up Comedy	1		1	7
36	Drama	10	3	13	30
37	Expression	9	3	12	10
38	Mime	7	3	10	5
39	Skit	7	3	10	10
<b>Fine Arts</b>					
40	On the Spot Painting	1		1	135
41	Sketching	1		1	135
42	Mehndi	1		1	135
43	Rangoli	1		1	135
44	Collage	1		1	135
45	Poster Making	1		1	135
46	Cartooning	1		1	135
47	On the Spot Photography	1		1	135
<b>Miscellaneous</b>					
48	Face of the Fest	1		1	
49	Treasure Hunt	3		3	

Note: The timings mentioned are maximum in minutes.



## Guiding Rules and Evaluation Parameters

### Solo Events

#### Music

##### ❖ Classical Vocal Solo

- Cinema songs are not allowed under this item.
- Judgement will be based on qualities like taal, selection of raga, composition and general impression.
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##### ❖ Film Solo Song

- No remix songs are permitted.
- Participants can use karaoke mode USB drives (No CDs).
- Accompanists will be available only in final round.
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##### ❖ Instrumental Non- Percussion

- Participants must bring their own instrument.
- Time for stage/instrument setting is maximum 5 minutes.
- Keyboard/Synthesizer not allowed.
- Judgement will be based on taal, rhythm, composition and general impression
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##### ❖ Instrumental Percussion

- Participants must bring their own instrument.
- Time for stage/instrument setting is maximum 5 minutes.
- Judgement will be based on taal, rhythm, composition and general impression.
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##### ❖ Light Vocal Solo

- Only non-film Songs/Geet/Ghazal/Bhajan/Shabad and Abhangas can be presented.
- Judgement will be based on qualities like taal, selection of raga, composition and general impression.
- Karaoke is not allowed in final rounds.
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### ❖ Western Vocal Solo

- Language of song should only be English.
- Time for stage/instrument setting is 2 minutes.
- Judgement will be based on qualities like rhythm, coordination, and general impression.
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## Dance

### ❖ Classical Dance Solo

- USB Drives (No CDs) are allowed for the purpose of music.
- Classical Dance based on films are not allowed.
- Three copies of a brief note on the description of dance story involved in it, if any, and of the accompanying song, with its meaning in Hindi or English must be submitted at the time of registration.
- Judgement will be based on qualities like taal, technique, rhythm, expression, costumes, makeup, footwork, and general impression.
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### ❖ Bollywood Dance Solo

- Dance based on remixes are permitted.
- Participant has to bring his/her own USB Drive (No CDs).
- Judgement will be based on qualities like costumes, movements, and expression.
- Dance based on classical film songs are not permitted.
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### ❖ Western Dance Solo

- Recorded music from Western films, albums, tracks, remixes or live music from accompanists are allowed.
- USB Drives (No CDs) are allowed for the purpose of music.
- Judgement will be passed based on qualities like costumes, movement, and expression.
- Dance based on Indian films/albums/remixes are not allowed.
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### ❖ Creative Dance

- The Dance should be based on some theme. Props are allowed.
- Recorded music is permitted; however **songs/words not allowed**.
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## Literary

### ❖ Elocution English

- Medium of expression will be **only English and No Hindi words** should be used.
- Topic will be announced 24 hours in advance (Through website or Social Media Platforms).
- The item can be prose/poetry but not a song.
- Paper reading is not allowed. The sequence of speakers may be decided by a draw of lots.
- Judgement will be based on content and database, language and grammar, pronunciation and presentation.
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### ❖ Elocution Hindi

- Medium of expression will be **only Hindi and No English words** should be used.
- Topic will be announced 24 hours in advance (Through website or Social Media Platforms).
- The item can be prose/poetry but not a song.
- Paper reading is not allowed. The sequence of speakers may be decided by a draw of lots.
- Judgement will be based on content and database, language and grammar, pronunciation and presentation.
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### ❖ Elocution Sanskrit

- Medium of expression will be **only Sanskrit and No Hindi/English words** should be used.
- Topic will be announced 24 hours in advance (Through website or Social Media Platforms).
- The item can be prose/poetry but not a song.
- Paper reading is not allowed. The sequence of speakers may be decided by a draw of lots.

- Judgement will be based on content and database, language and grammar, pronunciation and presentation.

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### ❖ **Essay Writing English**

- Medium should be English and Hindi words should not be used.
- Essay will have to be written on prescribed sheets.
- Any involvement in any type of unfair means will lead to cancellation of candidate.
- Mobile phone is not allowed.
- Topic will be given on spot.
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- Medium should be Hindi and English words should not be used.
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- Mobile phone is not allowed.
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- Medium should be Sanskrit and English/Hindi words should not be used.
- Essay will have to be written on prescribed sheets.
- Any involvement in any type of unfair means will lead to cancellation of candidate.
- Mobile phone is not allowed.
- Topic will be given on spot.
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### ❖ **Poetry English**

- Medium shall be English and Hindi words should not be used.
- Different judgement will be on Hindi, English and Sanskrit.
- Topic of poetry will be declared 24 hours in advance.
- Preference will be given to original self-written poems.
- Participants shall recite their poetry on any of THREE topics announced.
- Judgement will be based on context, expression, and presentation.
- The participant would be required to submit the contents of the poem in writing to the JUDGES at the time of participation.
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### ❖ Poetry Hindi

- Medium shall be Hindi and English/Sanskrit words should not be used.
- Different judgement will be on Hindi, English and Sanskrit.
- Topic of poetry will be declared 24 hours in advance.
- Preference will be given to original self-written poems.
- Participants shall recite their poetry on any of THREE topics announced.
- Judgement will be based on context, expression, and presentation.
- The participant would be required to submit the contents of the poem in writing to the JUDGES at the time of participation.
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### ❖ Poetry Sanskrit

- Medium shall be Sanskrit and English/Hindi words should not be used.
- Different judgement will be on Hindi, English and Sanskrit.
- Topic of poetry will be declared 24 hours in advance.
- Preference will be given to original self-written poems.
- Participants shall recite their poetry on any of THREE topics announced.
- Judgement will be based on context, expression, and presentation.
- The participant would be required to submit the contents of the poem in writing to the JUDGES at the time of participation.
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### ❖ Short Story Writing (Hindi or English)

- Medium shall be either English or Hindi only but not mixed.
- Word limit: minimum 3000 words.
- Topic will be announced 48 hours in advance (Through Website or Social Media Platforms).
- Story will have to be written on prescribed sheets.
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### ❖ Turncoat

- Participants may use Hindi or English language but not both.
- Participants have to speak FOR and AGAINST the motion.
- Topic will be given 10 minutes before on the spot.
- Judgement will be based on content and database, language and grammar, contrast of presentation, and presentation skill, etc.
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## Theatre

### ❖ Mimicry

- Participants may mimic sound of machines, speeches of well-known persons, animals or sounds heard in nature.
- It should be necessarily a cultured and pleasant piece of art.
- Medium of expression can be Hindi or English or both.
- Judgement will be based on qualities like skill in imitating, variety of sound and voices imitated, and presentation.
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### ❖ Stand-Up

- Participants must perform original stand-up material.
- Medium of expression can be Hindi or English or both.
- Time limit for each performance is 5 to 7 minutes.
- Participants are required to refrain from using offensive or inappropriate language.
- Judgement will be based on humor, originality, delivery, timing, and audience engagement.
- No props, music, or background assistance is allowed during the performance.
- Participants must ensure their content is culturally appropriate and respectful.
- Participant must arrive 15 minutes before their performance slot for stage preparation.
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### ❖ Monoacting

- Stage properties are allowed.
- **No extra time** for setting will be given
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## Fine Arts

Note: Use of Mobile Phone will be strictly prohibited in all Fine Arts event except 'On the Spot Photography'.

### ❖ On the Spot Painting

- It will be conducted on the spot and participants will need to do painting on the subject given by the in-charge.
- Size of the paper will be 12 X 18 – inch paper.

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- Painting can be done by oil, water, poster, or pastel color.
- Only paper will be provided.
- Participants will have to bring their own paint and brush.
- No wording except caption will be allowed.
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#### ❖ **On the Spot Sketching**

- Theme will be given on the spot.
- Size of the paper will be 12 X 18 – inch paper.
- Only one sheet of paper will be provided.
- No wording except caption will be allowed.
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#### ❖ **Mehndi**

- Participants must bring their own material.
- Participants can bring one assistant on whom palm he /she can draw mehndi.
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#### ❖ **Rangoli**

- Participant must bring their own materials.
- Only one of the medium shall be used – poster color, flower petals, sawdust, pulses, or colored rice.
- Rangoli should be prepared within the space provided by the in-charge.
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#### ❖ **On the Spot Photography**

- The participant has to bring his/her own digital camera along with data transfer cable.
- The digital camera should have a memory card which will be formatted by judges before the commencement of the contest.
- The participant has to capture 5 photographs on the theme announced on the spot by the judges.
- **Mixing, matching or morphing of photos will not be permitted.**
- **Photo enhancing software such as Photoshop etc are not permitted.**
- The organizers will have all rights for the use of these pictures as and when they deem fit.
- Digital images will be evaluated on the basis of impact, composition, technical quality, suitability for the specific theme.

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➤ Additional instructions, if any, will be announced on the spot.

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### ❖ **Collage**

➤ Item will be conducted on the spot on the given topic/subject, sheet size will be 15 X 22 – inches.

➤ Participants must bring their own scissors, pasting and other material required for the contest.

➤ Collage has to be prepared from old magazines; Sheet/paper will be provided.

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### ❖ **Poster Making**

➤ Item will be conducted on the spot and participants will be requested to create poster on the given theme/subject.

➤ The participants must bring their own material. Only the drawing sheet/paper 22 X 15 – inches will be provided.

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### ❖ **Cartooning**

➤ Item will be conducted on the spot on the given subject/theme.

➤ The participants must bring their own material. Only the drawing sheet/paper 22 X 15 – inches will be provide.

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## **Miscellaneous**

### ❖ **Face of the Fest**

➤ Only the students of Institute of Science, BHU can take part in this online contest.

➤ Only one photo is allowed for submission.

➤ Photo submission must be original photos created by the Contestant and must not contain any elements that are protected by someone else's copyright or otherwise subject to third party proprietary rights, including privacy and publicity rights (cropping is permitted, as is modest darkening or lightening of parts of the image).

➤ Photo submission must not contain obscenity, explicit sexual material, graphic nudity, profanity, graphic violence, calls or incitement to violence, commercial solicitation, or commercial promotion. The content of all Photo submission must be suitable for a global public audience.

- Judges reserve the right to disqualify, or delete at their sole and absolute discretion, any submission that does not adhere to these criteria and to the intent and substance of our Contest Rules.
- The person submitting the photo will be considered the Contestant and will be the only person eligible to compete for the prize.
- In order to be eligible to win the prize, the contestant must provide accurate and complete information (Name, Class, and Department).
- In the events of any question regarding compliance with these Contest Requirements or other provisions of the Contest Rules, Judges reserve the exclusive right to resolve such questions or differences of the view at their sole discretion.
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## **Group Events**

### **Music**

#### **❖ Group Song Indian**

- Group song should be taken from Indian songs, which may be in regional language.
- Film songs are not allowed (except patriotic songs).
- A team has to present two songs, out of which one should be patriotic.
- Judgement will be based on the quality of singing only not on makeup, costumes, and action of the team.
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#### **❖ Group Song Western**

- Language should only be English.
- Judgement will be based on the quality of singing only not on makeup, costumes, and action of the team.
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### **Dance**

#### **❖ Folk/Tribal Dance**

- Dance can either be primitive or a folk dance (Indian one) but not a classical one.
- Tracks from films having folk/tribal songs are not allowed.
- Three copies of a brief note giving the theme and the text of the song, if any, are to be submitted before the start of the event.
- Time for sets/instrument setting is maximum 5 minutes.

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➤ Judgement will be based on rhythm, expression, costumes, and makeup.

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### ❖ **Group Dance Film**

➤ No remix songs are permitted.

➤ Participants can use karaoke mode Pen-Drives (No CDs/DVDs).

➤ Accompanists will be available only in the final round.

➤ Duet performance are also allowed.

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### ❖ **Choreography**

➤ It must reflect some theme and should be based on assorted music/song piece from **non-film/medleys or on the spot music.**

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## Literary

### ❖ **Debate English**

➤ Participation is allowed only on pair, one candidate speaking for the motion and the other against the motion.

➤ Participants are supposed to stick to English language only no Hindi words should be used.

➤ Topic will be announced 24 hours in advance (Through Website or Social Media Platforms).

➤ Judgement will be based on qualities like content and database, language and grammar, contrast between the pair, pronunciation, body language, and presentation of both the candidates.

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### ❖ **Debate Hindi**

➤ Participation is allowed only on pair, one candidate speaking for the motion and the other against the motion.

➤ Participants are supposed to stick to Hindi language only no English words should be used.

➤ Topic will be announced 24 hours in advance (Through Website or Social Media Platforms).

- Judgement will be based on qualities like content and database, language and grammar, contrast between the pair, pronunciation, body language, and presentation of both the candidates.

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### ❖ **Debate Sanskrit**

- Participation is allowed only on pair, one candidate speaking for the motion and the other against the motion.
- Participants are supposed to stick to Sanskrit language only no English/Hindi words should be used.
- Topic will be announced 24 hours in advance (Through Website or Social Media Platforms).
- Judgement will be based on qualities like content and database, language and grammar, contrast between the pair, pronunciation, body language, and presentation of both the candidates.

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### ❖ **Quiz**

- There will be written preliminary round and teams will be selected for the finals.
- Final round will be oral with audio-visual questions.
- The specific rules regarding evaluation procedure, time to reply a particular question and types of round will be given before the start of competition.

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## **Theatre**

### ❖ **Drama**

- Participating team shall bring their own set/stage property, makeup material, etc.
- General furniture may be provided.
- Use of makeup, drapery, and background music allowed.
- Maximum time to set the stage will be 5 minutes per team, which will be in addition to the 30 minutes provided.
- Participating team should submit three copies of the synopsis of the theme of the play before the play.
- Judgement will be based on qualities of the play like theme, acting, stagecraft, music and overall impression.

- Accompanists can speak from background or will play musical instruments for background music. They shall never appear on stage.

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### ❖ **Mime**

- Judgement will be based on qualities like idea, creativity of presentation, use of make-up, music and general impression.
- **Dialogues/conversation are not allowed.**

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### ❖ **Expression**

- Theme will be given one day before the event.
- **Dialogues/conversation are not allowed.**

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### ❖ **Skit**

- Use of make-up, drapery and background music is allowed.
- Judgement will be based on qualities like theme work on acting, stagecraft, design and general impression.
- **Personal remarks, aspersions, character assassination are not allowed.** Vulgarity and bitter insinuation in presentation are to be avoided. Only innocent satire or humor is expected.

➤ [REGISTER HERE!](#)

## **Miscellaneous**

### ❖ **Treasure Hunt**

- There will be two round: 1 prelim and 1 final.
- In the prelims round, there will be MCQ and Short Answer Type questions, and the shortlisted team will go to the final round.
- Rules for the final round will be informed on the spot.
- [REGISTER HERE!](#)

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