



VIT  
CHENNAI

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VIT CHENNAI



VITSOL DEBATE SOCIETY,  
VIT SCHOOL OF LAW, VIT CHENNAI  
PRESENTS

# RATIO ET ORATIO

REASON. SPEECH. JUSTICE

NATIONAL LEVEL LEGAL DEBATE COMPETITION, 2026

TOTAL CASH  
PRIZE WORTH

₹ 70,000 /-



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## ABOUT VIT CHENNAI

Established with the aim of providing quality higher education on par with international standards, VIT persistently seeks and adopts innovative methods to consistently improve the quality of education. The campus has a cosmopolitan atmosphere with students from all corners of the globe with experienced and learned teachers to nurture students. The global standards set at VIT in the field of teaching and research forward our relentless pursuit of excellence, to the point of becoming our way of life. The highly motivated students on campus are a constant source of pride. Our Memorandum of Understanding with various international universities provides for an exchange of students and faculty, encouraging joint research projects for the mutual benefit of both universities. Many of our students, who pursue their research projects in foreign universities, bring high quality to their work and have done us proud. With steady steps, we continue our march forward.



## ABOUT VIT SCHOOL OF LAW

The VIT School of Law (VITSOL), the progeny of VIT University is one of the best Law Colleges in Chennai. It entered the legal arena in 2014, aiming at high goals to be achieved. The Law School aims to impart quality legal education to equip the young minds with knowledge of law, teach them the nuances of the legal profession and make them aware of the nitty gritty of the profession. As one of the best Law Colleges in Chennai, VITSOL believes in continuous and active learning simultaneously with practical training.

Studying law at VITSOL is a unique experience, true to its reputation as one of the best Law Colleges in Chennai. It offers the blend of all features of quality education. The school offers two undergraduate honours programmes viz. B.A., LL. B (Hon's) and B.B.A., LL. B (Hon's). It also offers LL.M in three branches of law – International Law and Development, Corporate Laws and Intellectual Property Laws. Further the School offers a doctoral program.

All the law courses follow a carefully framed curriculum that is on par with the global standards. The school has over 1000 students across the courses. To improve the advocacy skills the school runs moot court and debate societies. Through these societies various International / National level programs are conducted. The school regularly organises Moot Court Competitions, both in national and international law, National level debate competitions, International / National Conferences, Seminars and Workshops, and Legal Aid programme, positioning us among the best Law Colleges.

## ABOUT VITSOL DEBATE SOCIETY

The VITSOL Debate Society is an initiative of the VIT School of Law (VITSOL) with the aim to provide recognition and support for law students who participate in legal debates and allied competitions. The main object of the society is to nurture a rule-based debating culture among law students. Although debate society focuses primarily on issues related to law, its activities include cross-cutting issues of law from the perspective of cultural, law and economic, law and political standpoints.

Since 2023, the debate society has enlarged its scope into Alternative Dispute Resolution Competitions as well. The Debate Society selects students and provides them training for participating in these competitions and organizes debate circles on ADR related issues. Over the course of years, the students of VITSOL have participated and won trophies in various International and National Debate and ADR competitions and brought glory to the institute. The society conducts intramural debate and mediation competitions for students every year and based on the ranking sends students for competitions representing the institution.



## ABOUT RATIO ET ORATIO

The *Ratio et Oratio*: National Level Legal Debate Competition, 2026 is a premier undergraduate competition organized by the VITSOL Debate Society, VIT School of Law, VIT Chennai. Designed to cultivate rigorous argumentation, reasoned dialogue, and ethical persuasion, the tournament adopts the innovative debating Format, an evolution of classical Mace-style debating infused with structural clarity, analytical depth, and competitive fairness.



### RATIO ET ORATIO.

Ratio, si non Oratio suppetit æquè:  
terà par brutis iam fit asellus homo.

Red und Vernunfft dem Menschen nim̄,  
Zum Esel spann, zeucht gleich mit ihm.

# FORMAT OF RATIO ET ORATIO

The *Ratio et Oratio* Format is a unique hybrid design inspired by classical Mace debating. It consists of uninterrupted speeches, a silent reflection window, structured rebuttals, and a joint team synthesis. The aim is to promote clarity, reasoned persuasion, and collaborative closing analysis.

Each debate features two teams, each with two speakers. The sides are: Proposition (For the Motion) and Opposition (Against the Motion).

No interjections, Point of Information's (POIs), crossfires, or judge involvement occur during speaking time.

The debate proceeds in five phases:

## 1. Opening Constructives (10 mins)

- Proposition Speaker 1 presents the case framework and primary arguments. (5 mins)
- Opposition Speaker 1 responds with counter-framework and direct clash. (5 mins)

## 2. Analytical Development (10 mins)

- Proposition Speaker 2 extends the case, answers objections, and deepens analysis. (5 mins)
- Opposition Speaker 2 expands the counter-case and dismantles the Proposition's claims. (5 mins)

### **3. Silent Reflection Window (2 mins)**

Both teams sit silently while judges take structured notes. No communication is allowed between team members during this interval. This encourages clarity and well-developed arguments earlier on.

### **4. The Rebuttal Arc (8 mins)**

Each speaker gives a short rebuttal speech in reverse order of original speaking:

1. Opposition Speaker 2 (2 mins)
2. Proposition Speaker 2 (2 mins)
3. Opposition Speaker 1 (2 mins)
4. Proposition Speaker 1 (2 mins)

These are crisp and focused, creating four sequential layers of clash.

### **5. Synthesis Statements (3 mins)**

Each team gives one combined 90-second synthesis statement, delivered jointly by both speakers standing together.

They cannot introduce new arguments but may present:

- strategic weighting,
- comparative analysis,
- the “why we win” narrative.

This final joint articulation is the signature element of the format.

# RULES & REGULATIONS

## 1. Eligibility

- The competition is open to all law students currently enrolled in undergraduate LL.B. programmes (5-year or 3-year) in colleges/universities affiliated with the Bar Council of India.
- Each team shall consist of two members/speakers.
- Multiple teams from the same institution are permitted.
- Cross-institution teams are strictly prohibited.

## 2. Registration

- All participants must complete their provisional registration on or before 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and final registration on or before 22 February, 2026 through the University portal.
- The provisional registration shall be done by filling out the google form:<https://forms.gle/peL9dZnJUB4NuzGB8>
- Upon the confirmation of provisional registration, the details of the final registration shall be communicated via mail.
- A registration fee of ₹3,000 Plus GST per team shall be paid at the time of final registration.
- The registration fee is non-refundable.
- Registration shall be considered confirmed only upon successful payment of the registration fee. Late or incomplete registrations shall not be accepted.

## 3. Language and Dress Code

- The official language of the competition for all purposes shall be English.
- The dress code for all participants shall be business formals.

#### **4. Competition Structure and Format**

- The competition shall consist of an Online Screening Round, Qualifying Round, Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Finals.
- The selection from the online screening round to the qualifying round shall be on the basis of the scores.
- The qualifying round, quarter-finals, semi-finals, and finals shall be conducted at VIT School of Law, Chennai Campus.
- The top 8 teams from the qualifying round shall advance to the quarter-finals.
- In case of a tie, the team with higher scores for team effort shall qualify for the next round.
- Selection from the quarter-finals, semi-finals, and finals shall be on a knock-out basis.

#### **5. Motions and Preparation Rules**

- Motions shall relate to law, policy, society, ethics, governance, and contemporary affairs.
- Motions for each round shall be released 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the debate.
- No Points of Information (POIs), interruptions, or interjections shall be permitted.

- During the Silent Reflection Window, no verbal or written communication between team members is allowed.
- Participants may use printed notes or handwritten materials during the rounds.
- Internet access is strictly prohibited during throughout the rounds.

## **6. Venue and Reporting Time**

- Participants must report to their respective venues at least 20 minutes prior to the commencement of each round.

## **7. Food and Accommodation**

- Accommodation, including food and refreshments, shall be provided to participants who request for the same only on the days of the competition, subject to additional payment.
- Business lunch shall be provided to all participants on the days of the competition.

## **8. Code of Conduct and Anonymity**

- Participants must maintain academic decorum and professional conduct throughout the competition.
- Any attempt to influence judges or disrupt proceedings shall result in immediate disqualification.
- Teams shall not disclose their names or institutional affiliations to the judges during the session.
- Scouting is strictly prohibited, and any violation shall lead to disqualification.

## **9. Disqualification and Authority**

- The Competition Administrator reserves the right to disqualify any team for misconduct by any team member.
- All decisions of the judging panel shall be final and binding.
- In case of any ambiguity or contingency not covered under these rules, the decision of the Organizing Committee shall be final and binding.

## **10. Clarifications**

- All requests for clarifications regarding the rules or propositions must be sent via email to:
- [lexvit.debate@vit.ac.in](mailto:lexvit.debate@vit.ac.in)

## **PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION LINK**

**Provisional Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/peL9dZnJUB4NuzGB8>**

## JUDGING CRITERIA

Each speaker in a team is graded individually and as a team.

Individual scores are as follows:

<b>Criterion</b>	
Content & Argument Quality	10
Clash / Responsiveness	10
Strategy & Structure	10
Delivery & Clarity	10
<b>Total ( per speaker )</b>	<b>40</b>

Team effort scores are as follows:

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Marks</b>
Team Coordination & Consistency	10
Joint Synthesis Statement ( final combined speech )	10
<b>Total Team Effort Score</b>	<b>20</b>

Thus, the total score of a team will be 100 marks (Speaker 1 score + speaker 2 score + team effort score)

# SCHEDULE



## PRIZES AND RECOGNITION

The *Ratio Et Oratio* – National Level Legal Debate Competition, 2026 celebrates excellence in advocacy, clarity of thought, and collaborative dialogue.

📄 Participation Certificates shall be awarded to all participants.

To honour outstanding performances, the following awards will be conferred at the Valedictory Ceremony:

➤ Champion Team

(Cash Prize + Trophy)

➤ First Runner-Up Team

(Cash Prize + Trophy)

➤ Best Speaker of the Competition

(Awarded to the speaker securing the highest cumulative score across all rounds)

(Cash Prize + Trophy)

➤ Second Best Speaker of the Competition

(Awarded to the speaker securing the second-highest cumulative score across all rounds)

(Cash Prize + Trophy)

➤ Best Novice Speaker

(Awarded to a first-year student securing the highest score in the Screening Round)

(Cash Prize)

💰 Total Cash Prizes Worth ₹70,000

## **FACULTY CONVENOR**

**Dr. Kesavamoorthy R,**  
Professor and Assistant Dean

## **FACULTY COORDINATORS**

**Prof. Aswathy Sukumaran,**  
Assistant Professor

**Prof. Mrudul M Shenoy,**  
Assistant Professor

## **FACULTY COMMITTEE**

**Dr. Lalith Kumar J,**  
Assistant Professor

**Dr. K. Nidhi Mohan,**  
Assistant Professor

**Prof. Esakki Ammal K,**  
Assistant Professor

**Prof. Santhosh V,**  
Assistant Professor

**Prof. Kavi Shankar,**  
Assistant Professor

## **STUDENT COORDINATOR**

**R Yajur Kartik**

## **STUDENT COMMITTEE**

**Hirshitha Deenthayalan**

**Arjun Raghav**

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## REACH OUT ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES



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**vitsol.debsoc**



**vitsol vitalex**

TOTAL CASH  
PRIZE WORTH

₹ 70,000 /-

**We look forward to your presence!**