

BHARATHEEYA ABHIBHASHAKA PARISHAD
KERALA HIGH COURT UNIT

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA JAYANTHI CELEBRATIONS -
YOUNG LAWYER'S CONCLAVE 2K26

“ BREAKING NEWS, BREAKING JUSTICE”

National Youth Day, celebrated every **January 12th**, is one of India's most significant observances, dedicated to the energy, aspirations, and potential of the younger generation. The day marks the birth anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda** (born January 12, 1863), a visionary spiritual leader and philosopher. In **1984**, the Government of India declared this day as National Youth Day, stating that the philosophy and ideals for which Vivekananda lived are a "great source of inspiration" for Indian youth. The Bharatheeya Abhibhashaka Parishad has been conducting Young Lawyers' Conference at the High Court Auditorium in the past three years, wherein eminent jurists on and off the dais had been interacting with the young lawyers, giving them life lessons for improving their professional acumen. This year, the BAP High Court Unit had decided to conduct a competition for the young lawyers, giving them an opportunity to test their oratory skills in a debate competition wherein amazing prizes, including hefty cash prizes await the winning teams.

1. About the Competition

1.1. The programme features a debate between 4 teams shortlisted through applications, arguing about the topics allotted to them for a duration of just 5 minutes each. Two members from each group will be given 5 minutes each to speak for, and against the specific motion provided to them. The teams will be evaluated by a panel of judges based on parameters including the best and most innovative points/ideas, originality, among other parameters and the best two teams will be presented with cash prizes.

2. Team Composition

2.1. Each team will comprise of two speakers, one researcher, and one Team Mentor. The speakers and researches shall be lawyers practicing before any Courts in Kerala and having an active membership with any Bar Association.

2.2. The teams have the option to exclude the researcher. However, the minimum team composition shall be TWO SPEAKERS and ONE MENTOR. Certificate of participation will be provided to all the successful registering teams.

2.3. The speakers and researchers shall be below 35 years of age. The Team Mentor shall be a practicing lawyer, having not less than 15 years of active practice. There shall not be any relaxation in age limit, active practice criterion, bar association membership, or experience criteria. The violation of any of these criteria shall result in summary rejection of the application.

3. Registration

3.1. Each team shall submit the application in the prescribed format through Google Form and the same shall be open till 5 P.M. on 12.01.2026.

3.2. The teams shall also upload a write up on the motions/topic along with the application form for registration.

4. Shortlisting of Applications

4.1. The team shall submit a brief write up outlining their ideas on the topics provided. The team shall have to provide the write up not exceeding 1000 words, conveying their ideas/points for and against the motion. The write up will be examined to ensure that the same is not created/generated through chat Gpt or any other AI software. The non-original ideas will be summarily rejected.

4.2. The write up must be submitted along with the application form through Google Form. The teams must prepare themselves to talk for or against any of the two motions provided in the list and the organizers reserves the right to allot the team with any of the motions.

4.3. The shortlisted teams will be intimated the same via email on or before 15.01.2026 and they have to reach the venue of competition on the date prescribed. Any teams not able to attend the competition at Ernakulam are not encouraged to apply. There shall not be any Travelling allowance provided by the organizers to take part in the competition. The teams must familiarise themselves with all the topics provided and they may be asked to present their arguments in any of the motions provided to them. The organizers reserve the right to prescribe any topic from the list and shall be at liberty to shortlist/exclude any points put forward by the teams, in the best interest of the competition.

4.4. THE COMPETITION IS INTENDED TO BE A SPARRING SESSION AND ANY CONTROVERSIAL OR FACT/PENDING CASE ORIENTED REMARKS ARE TO BE STRICTLY EXCLUDED.

4.5. THE TEAMS MUST ENSURE THAT THEIR COMMENTS/POINTS DOES NOT REFLECT OR OPINE ON ANY

ACTIVE/PENDING COURT CASES, AND THE MODERATOR WILL BE HAVING FULL DISCRETION TO INTERRUPT THE TEAMS, IN CASE THEY FAIL TO ADHERE TO THIS GUIDELINE.

5. Scheme of Competition

- 5.1. The competition is intended to enlighten and encourage the inquisitorial and analytical minds of the lawyer community with the intend to improve the enforcement of fundamental rights.
- 5.2. The first speaker shall speak for five minutes for the motion allotted.
- 5.3. The second speaker shall speak for five minutes against the motion allotted.
- 5.4. The researcher shall assist the team in answering any questions put forth by the audience or the moderator, or the judges. The Mentor shall not be permitted to sit with the team at the final competition.
- 5.5. There shall not be any switching up of roles between the speakers and researcher at any point of time in the competition.
- 5.6. In case a team does not have a researcher, the Mentor shall NOT be permitted to sit with the team at the competition.
- 5.7. The best team and runner up will be decided by the panel of judges present at the final round. The decision of the panel of judges will be final and binding on all the parties.
- 5.8. The teams can reserve up to 3 minutes for answering the queries put forth by the judges, moderator or audience on the arguments presented by them.
- 5.9. THE ORAL PRESENTATION SHALL NOT REFER TO ANY PENDING INVESTIGATION, TRIAL OR APPEAL BEFORE ANY COURT OF SESSION, NOR SHALL IT REFER TO ANY CONTROVERSIAL NEWS OR INCIDENT CURRENTLY UNDER PUBLIC ATTENTION.

6. Evaluation

- 6.1. The performance of the teams shall be evaluated by a panel of judges comprising of one serving/retired Judge of the High Court, one designated Senior Advocate, one non-designated senior having not less than 20 years of active practice before the High Court of Kerala.
- 6.2. Each candidate will be assessed for 50 marks and each team will be assessed for 100 marks. The evaluation criteria will be as follows:

Criteria	Marks
1. Originality in Ideas and Thought	10 marks

2. Language and presentation skills	10 marks
3. Depth of knowledge and ability to comprehend and present the issues	10 marks
4. Quality of research and reliance on precedents	5 marks
5. Clarity, brevity and structure of presentation	5 marks
6. Adherence to time limit	5 marks
7. Response to questions	5 marks
TOTAL MARKS	50 marks

6.3. The individual speakers will be assessed as per the criteria above and the total score secured by a team comprising of two speakers shall constitute the team score. The best team and runner up team will be decided as per the score awarded by the judges. The decision of judges shall be final.

7. Awards and Certificates

7.1. All teams that successfully register for the competition shall be presented with an e-certificate of participation. In order to consider the registration successful, their application and written submission must reach the organizers before the deadline.

7.2. The Winner and Runner Up team, comprising of two speakers, one mentor, one researcher(optional) will be presented with a memento, certificate and cash prize at the venue of the competition itself.

7.3. First Prize - Rs. 25,000/- for the winning team.

7.4. Second Prize - Rs. 15,000/- for the Runner up team.

7.5. The 2nd and 3rd runner up teams will be presented with mementos and certificates of participation at the venue of the competition itself. The 2nd and 3rd Runner up teams will not be provided any cash prizes.

7.6. BEST SPEAKER PRIZE: The Judging panel may choose one speaker among the final four teams participating in the final round of competition and he/she may be presented with an additional memento/prize, to be decided by the organizers.

8. Topics for the presentation:

8.1. The overreach of media during investigations and trials and its effect on the "presumption of innocence."

8.2. The legal tug-of-war between Freedom of Speech (19) and the Right to a Fair Trial (21).

9. Venue of Competition

Date: 22.01.2026.

Time: 5 PM
Venue: Kerala High Court Auditorium (tentative venue)
Reporting Time: 4 PM on 22.01.2026

10. Organizing Committee

The interested participants/teams may contact any of the following persons for getting clarity about any of their doubts/queries.

Adv. Vivek A.V.	-	+91 87143 10160,
Adv. Amal Parthasaradhy	-	+91 96568 02375
Adv. Rahul Venugopal	-	+91 94474 04183
Adv. Sagith Kumar	-	+91 97455 16101

Link for Google Form: <https://forms.gle/JDgmY97ikdBs7NUv9>

IMPORTANT DATES

12.01.2026 @ 5 PM - Last date for submission of application and write up

15.01.2026 - Declaration of shortlisted teams for taking part in
final rounds of competition

22.01.2026 - Final Round of Competition

IMPORTANT NOTE

TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO UPLOAD THE WRITE UP AND THE APPLICATION FORM TO THE GOOGLE FORM LINK PROVIDED.

EACH TEAM HAS TO TAKE PRINTOUT OF THE APPLICATION FORM FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANT, I.E., SPEAKER I, SPEAKER II, AND RESEARCHER, AND THE APPLICATION FOR TEAM MENTOR, FILL UP THE SAME AND UPLOAD THE SAME AS ONE PDF DOCUMENT. THE UPLOADED APPLICATION MUST BE IN THE ORDER OF PREFERENCE AS FOLLOWS:

SPEAKER 1, SPEAKER II, RESEARCHER, TEAM MENTOR.

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REGISTRATION FORM SPEAKER _____ / RESEARCHER

(Strike out whichever is not applicable. If speaker, specify I or II)

Name of the Lawyer :

Age & Date of Birth :

Enrolment Number :

Bar Association :

Date of Enrolment :

Duration of Active practice :

Office Address :

Residence Address :

Mobile Number :

Email Address :

Whether you agree to reach Kerala High Court Auditorium or any alternative venue prescribed by the organisers for the final round of competition, in case you are shortlisted?

YES

I do undertake that all what is stated above is true and correct.

Sign:

BHARATHEEYA ABHIBHASHAKA PARISHAD
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REGISTRATION FORM TEAM MENTOR

Name of the Lawyer :

Age & Date of Birth :

Enrolment Number :

Bar Association :

Date of Enrolment :

Duration of Active practice :

Office Address :

Residence Address :

Mobile Number :

Email Address :

I do undertake that all what is stated above is true and correct.

Sign: