



RAYAT COLLEGE OF LAW

THE LITERARY SOCIETY

Presents the Annual Intra-College Debate Championship



JUSTITIA ET LITERATURA

1v1 Lincoln-Douglas Debate Tournament 2026

"Fostering Philosophical Rigor, Critical Expression & Socio-Legal Literacy"

✦ COMMEMORATING INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY ✦



DATE

September
8, 2026
(Tuesday)



VENUE

Moot Court
Hall



FORMAT

Lincoln-Douglas
(1v1)

1. THE LITERARY SOCIETY & INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

About The Literary Society, Rayat College of Law

The **Literary Society of Rayat College of Law** is the premier intellectual, forensic, and cultural student organization of the institution. Dedicated to cultivating eloquence, critical inquiry, literary appreciation, and public discourse, the Society provides students with an empowering platform to refine their analytical and oratorical capabilities.

By organizing regular parliamentary debates, switch-side competitions, declamation contests, and creative writing workshops, the Society equips student speakers with persuasive clarity and intellectual discipline.

Commemorating International Literacy Day 2026

Observed worldwide on **September 8**, UNESCO's International Literacy Day celebrates literacy as a cornerstone of human dignity, social justice, and democratic empowerment.

In the modern era, literacy extends beyond basic reading to encompass **digital literacy, critical media discernment, and socio-legal awareness**. *Justitia Et Literatura 2026* is convened to explore how access to information, educational structures, and emerging technologies shape equity across society.

Core Objectives of the Championship

- To instill structured value-based reasoning and ethical argumentation in student debaters.
- To master spontaneous interrogation, active listening, and refutation through 1v1 cross-examination.
- To dissect pressing contemporary topics covering academic paywalls, legal awareness, and artificial intelligence.



2. DECONSTRUCTING THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS (LD) FORMAT

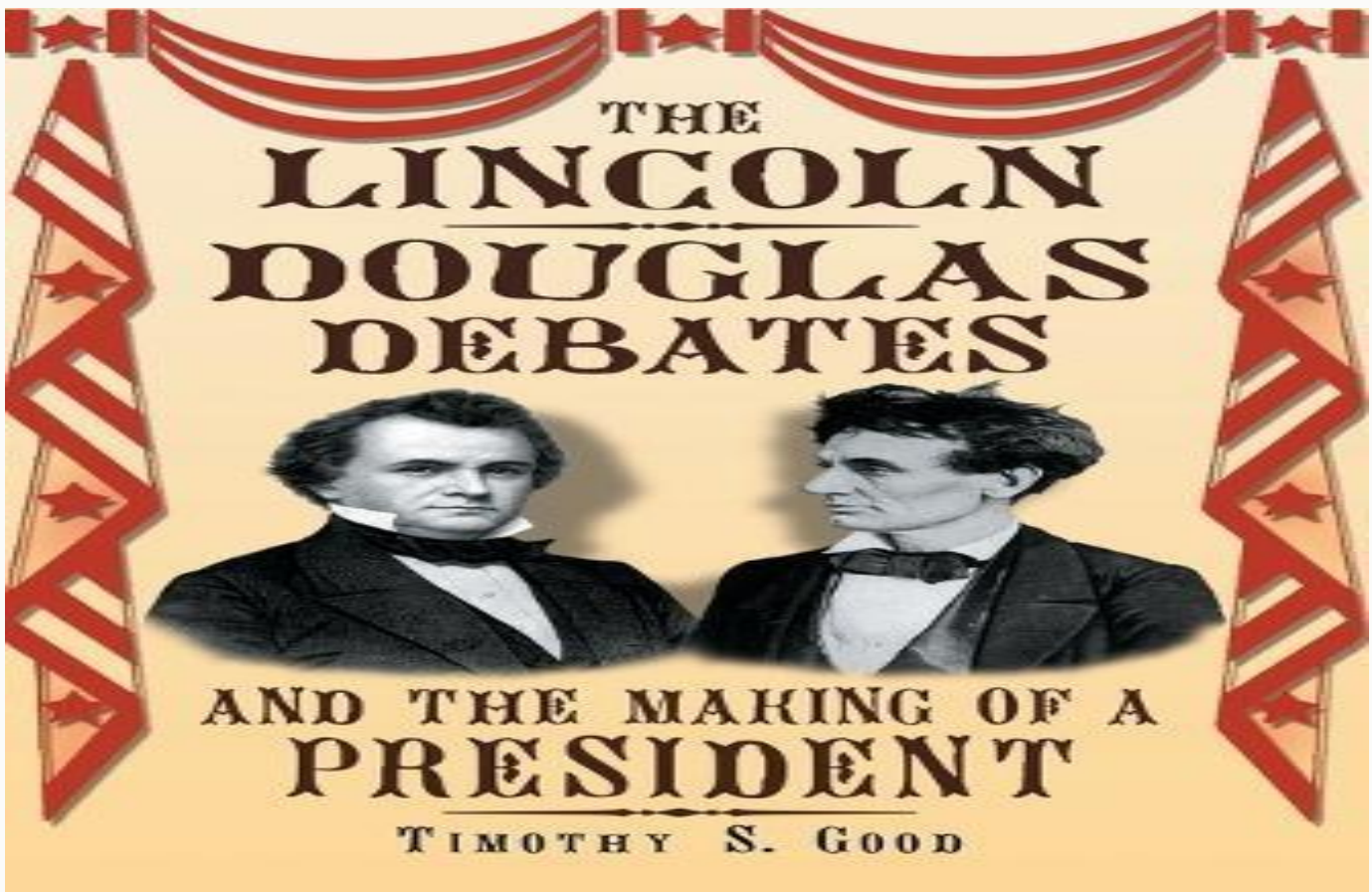
Inspired by the historic 1858 debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas, the **Lincoln-Douglas (LD) format** is a values-driven, 1-on-1 debate model. Unlike policy debate formats that demand administrative plan implementation, Lincoln-Douglas debate examines the **ethical, philosophical, and moral justifications** underlying a proposition.

The Three Structural Pillars of an LD Case

1. **The Value Premise (The Supreme Virtue):** The core societal, moral, or philosophical value advocated as paramount in the round (e.g., *Justice, Human Dignity, Equality of Opportunity, Societal Welfare, Autonomy*).
2. **The Value Criterion (The Measuring Standard):** The analytical test or philosophical framework used to judge whether the Value Premise is achieved (e.g., *Rawlsian Distributive Justice, Deontological Rights Protection, Utilitarian Maximization, Proportionality*).
3. **Substantive Contentions:** Cohesive, evidence-backed arguments grounded in logic, real-world examples, and academic studies proving how the debater's position satisfies the criterion.

The Dynamics of 1v1 Cross-Examination (CX)

Rather than passive listening, the Lincoln-Douglas format incorporates dedicated, high-energy ****Cross-Examination periods****. In CX, the questioning participant directly probes the opposing participant to expose logical fallacies, test definitions, clarify evidence, and extract strategic concessions under strict time control.



3. TOURNAMENT PROGRESSION & 12-MINUTE SPEECH MATRIX

The championship follows a **Three-Stage Knockout System** conducted in the **Moot Court Hall** on September 8, 2026.

Stage	Matchup Setup	Motion Determination	Advancement Rule
Stage 1: Prelims	Parallel 1v1 rounds across all registered debaters.	Drawn from pre-notified official motions via lots.	Top 4 scoring debaters advance to Semi-Finals.
Stage 2: Semi-Finals	2 Parallel 1v1 clashes (Rank 1 vs 4, Rank 2 vs 3).	Motion drawn 20 minutes prior to the round.	Knockout; 2 winners advance to the Grand Final.
Stage 3: Grand Final	Single championship clash before the full bench.	Championship motion in the Moot Court Hall.	Determines the Champion Debater & Runner-Up.

SPEECH SEQUENCE & ROLE ALLOTMENT

4. OFFICIAL 12-MINUTE SPEECH SCHEDULE

#	Speech Segment	Speaker / Role	Duration	Core Function & Scope
1	Affirmative Constructive (AC)	Affirmative Debater	3.0 Mins	Presents value framework, definitions & main contentions.
2	Cross-Examination 1 (CX 1)	Negative asks, Aff answers	1.5 Mins	Negative questions Affirmative's definitions & logic.
3	Negative Constructive & Refute (NC)	Negative Debater	3.5 Mins	Presents Negative case & directly attacks Affirmative claims.
4	Cross-Examination 2 (CX 2)	Aff asks, Neg answers	1.5 Mins	Affirmative questions Negative counter-premises.
5	Affirmative Rebuttal (1AR)	Affirmative Debater	1.5 Mins	Rebuilds Affirmative case, collapses minor points & clashes.
6	Negative Final Summary (NR)	Negative Debater	1.0 Min	Delivers final voting issues; summarizes why Negative wins.

 **Timekeeping & Prep Protocol:** Single warning bell at ****30 seconds remaining****. Double bell at time expiration. A 10-second sentence conclusion grace is allowed. Beyond grace, ****2 marks deducted per 15 seconds overrun****. Each debater receives ****30 seconds of running prep time**** per round.

5. OFFICIAL RULES & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES

Eligibility & Solo Registration

- **Eligibility:** Open to all bona fide students enrolled in **BA.LL.B (Hons.), B.Com.LL.B (Hons.), and LL.B** programs at Rayat College of Law.
- **Individual Participation:** Strict **1v1 solo participation**. No team entries or proxy speakers are allowed.
- **Draw of Lots:** Matchup courtroom allocations and assigned sides (Affirmative/Negative) are drawn transparently on the morning of September 8, 2026.

Permissible Materials (Strict Enforcement)

STRICTLY ONLY HANDY / HANDWRITTEN NOTES ARE ALLOWED at the podium.

- Printed books, bulky folders, dossiers, and ring binders are **strictly barred** inside the debate hall during active rounds.
- Debaters must synthesize their arguments into concise handwritten note cards/sheets prior to their round.

Electronic Devices & Fair Play

- Mobile phones, smartwatches, tablets, and laptops are strictly prohibited during active debate rounds.
- Any participant accessing digital aids or internet resources during a round will face ****immediate disqualification****.

Debate Decorum & Attire

- **Dress Code:** Formal attire is mandatory (White formal shirt, black trousers/skirt, blazer/coat, and formal shoes).
- **Forensic Decorum:** Unparliamentary remarks, personal attacks, or disrespectful conduct toward opponents or judges will result in instant match forfeiture.

6. ADJUDICATION RUBRIC & SCORING MATRIX (100 MARKS)

Adjudicators will evaluate participating debaters across five distinct forensic parameters totaling **100 Marks**:

Assessment Parameter	Max Marks	Key Evaluation Indicators
Philosophical & Value Framework	25 Marks	Clarity of Value Premise and Criterion; ethical depth, structural cohesion, and philosophical grounding.
Substantive Argumentation	25 Marks	Logical consistency, empirical/conceptual backing, factual accuracy, and depth of analysis.
Cross-Examination (CX) Skill	20 Marks	Incisiveness of questions, control of exchange, composure under pressure, and direct, non-evasive answers.
Refutation & Crystallization	20 Marks	Systematic dismantling of opponent's points, case rebuilding under pressure, and clear crystallization of voting issues.
Oratory, Decorum & Time Adherence	10 Marks	Diction, rhetorical clarity, poise, adherence to 12-minute time limits, and overall speaking demeanor.

Awards, Accolades & Recognition

- **Winner (Best Debater Award):** Prestigious Rolling Trophy, Certificate of Excellence.
- **Runner-Up:** Trophy & Certificate of Merit.
- **Certificate of Participation:** Awarded to all verified competing debaters.

7. OFFICIAL MOTIONS FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP



Motion 1 • Access to Knowledge, Academic Paywalls & Equity

"Resolved: The strict enforcement of academic copyright and proprietary paywalls by educational databases constitutes an unjust barrier to societal development."



Key Value Clash: Universal Right to Knowledge & Educational Equity *versus* Intellectual Property Protection & Commercial Incentive Theory.



Motion 2 • Presumption of Law & Socio-Legal Literacy

"Resolved: The legal maxim 'ignorantia juris non excusat' (ignorance of law is no excuse) is morally and procedurally indefensible in a society with pervasive socio-legal illiteracy."



Key Value Clash: Substantive Natural Justice & Fairness *versus* Strict Rule of Law, Legal Certainty & Administrative Order.



Motion 3 • Educational Autonomy & Artificial Intelligence

"Resolved: The integration of Generative AI into higher education undermines foundational literacy and critical intellectual inquiry."



Key Value Clash: Human Cognitive Autonomy & Rigorous Inquiry *versus* Technological Adaptation & Modern Pedagogical Utility.



Motion Allotment Policy: All participants must prepare both Affirmative and Negative cases for all three motions. The assigned motion and side for Preliminary rounds will be drawn 30 minutes prior to the start of Round 1.

8. REGISTRATION DETAILS & ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Online Registration Timeline

- **Registration Link:** Click of this Registration **LINK** for registration.
- **Registration Deadline: September 5, 2026 (5:00 PM Sharp).** Strictly no spot entries allowed.
- **Mandatory Briefing:** September 7, 2026 at 3:00 PM in the Moot Court Hall.

LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZING BOARD

THE ORGANIZING BOARD • THE LITERARY SOCIETY

FACULTY CONVENER

Ms. Manjeet Kaur

Faculty In-Charge, The Literary Society
Rayat College of Law

PRESIDENT

Anmol Sharma

President, The Literary Society

 Contact / WhatsApp: **+91-7888622167**

VICE PRESIDENT

Bryan Jot Kaur

Vice President, The Literary Society
Rayat College of Law

STUDENT MEMBER

Sakshi Dhawan

Student Member

STUDENT MEMBER

Amritpreet Kaur Rayat

Student Member

Rayat College of Law, Railmajra, SBS Nagar, Punjab

Official Inquiries: litsoc.rcl@gmail.com | Contact Desk: +91-7888622167