ICFAI LAW SCHOOL | ICFAI UNIVERSITY | IQAC Internal quality assurance cell

THE ICFAI UNIVERSITY, DEHRADUN
ICFAI LAW SCHOOL
Centre for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (CHRHL)

Presents

INTER-UNIVERSITY
DEBATE COMPETITION 2026

OXFORD-STYLE DEBATE FORMAT
Open to UG and PG students of UGC-recognised institutions

TOPIC: CAN HUMAN RIGHTS SURVIVE WAR?

"Sovereignty, Power Politics, and Accountability in Today's Conflicts"

DATE: 18 NOVEMBER 2026 (VIRTUAL)
27 NOVEMBER 2026 (ON CAMPUS) | **HYBRID MODE**

VENUE: THE ICFAI UNIVERSITY, DEHRADUN

PRIZES:
WINNER: ₹8,000 • RUNNER-UP: ₹6,000 • BEST SPEAKER: ₹3,000

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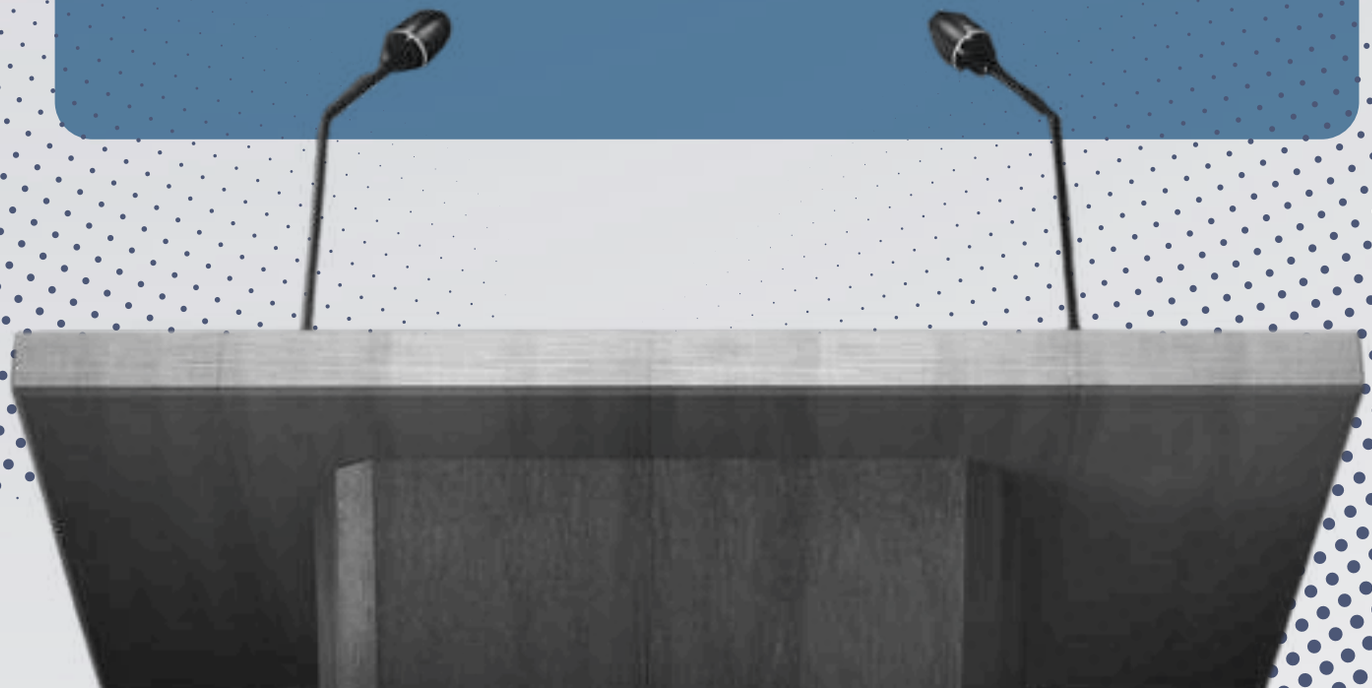


TABLE OF CONTENTS

01 Invitation Letter

02 About ICFAI

03 About ICFAI Law School

04 About CHRHL

05 Our Guests

06 Our Media Partners

07 Registration Process

08 Important dates

09 Theme and Background

10 Topics of All Rounds

11 Eligibility

12 Team Composition

13 Language

14 Dress Code

15 Structure

16 Code of Conduct

17 Judging Criteria

18 Awards

19 Social Evening

20 Organising Committee

21 Student Organising Body

Invitation

The ICFAI Law School, The ICFAI University, Dehradun, through its Centre for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (CHRHL), is pleased to announce the Inter-University Debate Competition 2026, scheduled for 18 and 27 November 2026 at The ICFAI University, Dehradun. The Preliminary and Quarter-Final rounds will be conducted virtually, while the Semi-Final and Final rounds will be held on campus.

The competition aims to promote academic excellence, critical thinking, legal reasoning, advocacy, and meaningful engagement with contemporary human rights and international humanitarian law issues. Under the overarching theme, "Can Human Rights Survive War? Sovereignty, Power Politics, and Accountability in Today's Conflicts," participants will critically examine the complex relationship between state sovereignty, human rights, international law, and accountability during armed conflicts.

The event will provide students with a platform to develop and demonstrate their legal research, public speaking, argumentation, rebuttal, and analytical skills while engaging with diverse perspectives on humanitarian intervention, international criminal accountability, war crimes, and the role of law in contemporary conflicts.

The competition will follow Oxford Style Debate Format, with each team comprising two participants from the same university or institution. It will consist of four rounds: Preliminary, Quarter-Final, Semi-Final, and Final.

We cordially invite the esteemed faculty members and committee members of CHRHL to grace this academic occasion with their presence and valuable support. Your guidance and encouragement will contribute significantly to the success of the competition and inspire students to engage in informed and constructive discourse on contemporary human rights and international legal issues.

We sincerely look forward to your esteemed presence and support in making the Inter-University Debate Competition 2026 a meaningful academic initiative and a valuable platform for the intellectual and professional development of participating students.

About the University

The ICFAI University, Dehradun, Uttarakhand (hereinafter referred to as the "University") was established under The ICFAI University Act, 2003 (Act No. 16 of 2003), passed by the Uttaranchal Legislative Assembly and assented to by the Governor on 8 July 2003. Since its establishment, the University has been committed to providing quality education and fostering academic excellence, professional development, and the holistic growth of its students.

The University has gained recognition for its academic and educational initiatives at both national and international levels. In the World Universities with Real Impact (WURI) Rankings 2020, released by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the University secured 44th position globally. ICFAI was also recognised as the only non-governmental institution among the two Indian universities featured on the list.

Further reflecting its commitment to innovation and digital education, the University has been awarded the certificate for E-Learning Excellence of Academic Digitization (e-LEAD). Through its focus on contemporary education, technological advancement, and professional learning, The ICFAI University, Dehradun, continues to provide an intellectually stimulating environment for students and contribute to the development of future professionals and responsible citizens.



ICFAI
LAW SCHOOL

About ICFAI Law School

The ICFAI Law School, a constituent of The ICFAI University, Dehradun, was established to develop a new generation of legal professionals through a comprehensive and contemporary body of knowledge integrating law with management and the humanities. The Bar Council of India has approved the three-year and five-year law courses offered by The ICFAI University, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The ICFAI Law School offers B.B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), LL.B., and B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) programmes, as well as a one-year LL.M. programme in Corporate Law, Constitutional Law, and Cyber Law, along with full-time and part-time Ph.D. programmes.

In the India Today 2023 rankings, the University was ranked 36th in India and 2nd in Uttarakhand in the “Top General (Private) Universities in India” category. It was also placed 1st among the “Top Private Universities in Uttarakhand” and 8th among the “Top Private Universities in the North India Zone” by the Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) 2023.



ABOUT
CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW
(CHRHL)

The ICFAI Law School, The ICFAI University, Dehradun, established the Centre for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (CHRHL) in 2020. The Centre focuses on providing students, academics, and the wider community with intellectual and practical resources to engage critically with the ways in which law affects some of the most compelling social problems of our time.

The Centre aims to provide legal assistance to vulnerable groups that have been legally, socially, or economically exploited and discriminated against. It also seeks to train law students and the wider community to address the existing challenges of a pluralistic society, including rising conflicts and tensions arising from competing loyalties based on caste, religion, region, and culture.

COMMITTEE LOGO



OUR GUESTS



DR. ANJUM PARVEZ

Professor |
Uttaranchal University



DR. SUKHWINDER SINGH

Assistant Professor |
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat



DR. SANDHYA VERMA

Assistant Professor |
Faculty of Law, University of Allahabad

Our media partners

LAWCTOPUS

Lawctopus is one of India's most popular and trusted platforms for law students and young lawyers, launched in 2010. It provides legal career resources, including internship opportunities, job openings, legal events, and academic guidance. Through its platform, Lawctopus promotes legal education and professional development, reaching nearly 5 lakh readers monthly.

LAWBHOOMI

LawBhoomi is a student-first legal platform founded by NLU graduates, supporting over 5 lakh law students across India. It provides verified internships, job opportunities, legal notes, case summaries, practical courses, mentorship, and career guidance, making legal education and professional development accessible to students from diverse backgrounds.

LATEST LAWS

LatestLaws.com is a non-commercial legal journalism platform dedicated to simplifying law and promoting legal literacy. It provides legal news, articles, blogs, videos, case laws, judgments, statutory updates, judicial service question papers, and free legal resources. Through accurate and accessible legal reporting, LatestLaws aims to enhance legal awareness and make legal knowledge accessible to everyone.

LAWOF

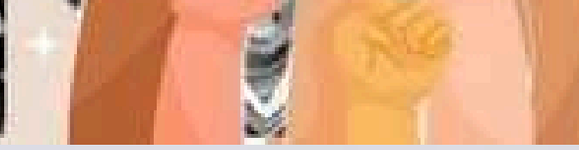
LawOF is a legal web portal established in December 2015, dedicated to empowering law students and teachers across the globe. It provides academic and professional opportunities, including internships, conferences, moot courts, workshops, research publications, competitions, courses, and career guidance. With a reach of over 3.5 lakh law students and teachers worldwide, LawOF aims to make legal knowledge and opportunities accessible to the legal community.

LAW JURIST

Law Jurist is a registered, ISO-certified legal education and AI technology company committed to promoting legal education, research, and professional development. With a community of 80,000+ law students, academicians, advocates, and legal professionals, we have an extensive outreach network across India and beyond.

LEGAL VIDHIYA

Legal Vidhiya is a one-stop legal education platform dedicated to empowering law students through academic resources, workshops, webinars, internships, and publication opportunities. It provides a platform for students to publish articles, research papers, and case commentaries, while promoting legal research, knowledge-sharing, and professional development.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

1. Complete the Registration Form – Fill in the online registration form with the details of both speakers and their institution.

2. Upload Identity Proof – Upload a valid identity card or bonafide certificate for each speaker.

3. Assign Team Roles – Nominate a First Speaker, a Second Speaker, and a Team Leader. Either speaker may serve as the Team Leader.

4. Pay the Registration Fee – Pay the applicable registration fee and enter the transaction ID in the registration form.

5. Receive Confirmation – The Organising Committee will confirm the registration by email and issue a Team Code to the Team Leader.

6. Complete Registration – Registration will be considered complete only after the confirmation email has been received and the Team Code has been issued.

SCAN FOR REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION LINK

Registration URL:
https://forms.gle/QijxCJbyW94ZodJj8

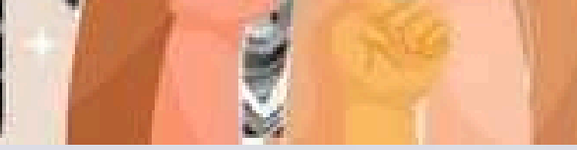




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REGISTRATION PROCESS

Category	Fee (per team)
Team from an external institution (both speakers from the same institution)	₹1,500
Team from ICFAI University other than Law Department (both speakers from ICFAI University)	₹800

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 16 NOVEMBER

NOTES:

- The registration fee is non-refundable once paid.
- The registration fee does not include accommodation. Assistance with accommodation may be provided upon request.
- Breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be provided on 27 November during the on-campus rounds.
- Students from the Law Department of The ICFAI University, Dehradun, are not eligible to participate in this competition.

Payment

Payment URL:
https://www.iudehradun.edu.in/DehradunConference/inter-college-debate.aspx

Payment Link



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Important Dates

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

NOV 18 | PRELIMINARY ROUND + QUARTER-FINAL

(Virtual)

NOV 27 | SEMI FINAL + FINAL

(On Campus)

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THEME AND BACKGROUND OF THE COMPETITION

BACKGROUND:

International law promises that people keep certain rights even in the middle of war. Yet in many present-day conflicts, states rely on sovereignty and national security to resist outside scrutiny, powerful states are accused of acting or holding back according to their own interests, and international courts are accused of applying the law unevenly. Whether the promise holds, and who is to answer when it does not, are open questions on which thoughtful people disagree. That disagreement is what makes the theme suitable for debate.

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM SPEAKERS:

1. Arguments should be based on international law, state practice, and credible evidence, so that the debate is decided on reasoning rather than loyalty to any side of a conflict.

2. Speakers should treat victims, communities, and states with respect, as the subject concerns real human suffering.

3. The Competition takes no position on any conflict, state, or government. Every view expressed belongs to the speaker alone.

Topics of All Rounds



Theme:

"Can Human Rights Survive War? Sovereignty, Power Politics, and Accountability in Today's Conflicts."

1. Preliminary Round	This house believes that state sovereignty should not override international human rights obligations during armed conflict.
2. Quarter-Final Round	This House believes that humanitarian intervention is driven more by political interests than by genuine humanitarian concern.
3. Semi-Final Round	This house believes that international institutions like the ICC are effective in deterring war crimes.
4. Final Round	Confidential until the Semi-Final results.

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Eligibility

1. The competition is open to students pursuing undergraduate (UG) or postgraduate (PG) courses in any discipline at a UGC recognised university or college. Students from all institutions are eligible to participate in this Inter-University Debate Competition, subject to the specific exclusion stated below.

2. Each team shall consist of two speakers from the same university or institution.

3. Students from the Law Department of The ICFAI University, Dehradun, are not eligible to participate. Students from other departments of The ICFAI University, Dehradun, may participate, provided that both speakers are from The ICFAI University, Dehradun.

4. Multiple teams from the same university or institution may participate in the competition.

5. Each team member must possess a valid student identity card to verify their student status.

6. Participants must fulfil all registration requirements and comply with the rules of the competition.

7. The Organising Committee reserves the right to verify the eligibility of any participant at any stage of the competition.

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Team Composition

1. Two Speakers per Team – Each team shall consist of two students from the same university or institution.

2. Speaker Roles – Each team must designate a First Speaker and a Second Speaker.

3. Team Leader – The First Speaker shall be designated as the Team Leader and will receive all official communications from the Organising Committee.

4. Multiple Teams – There is no limit on the number of teams that may represent a university or institution.



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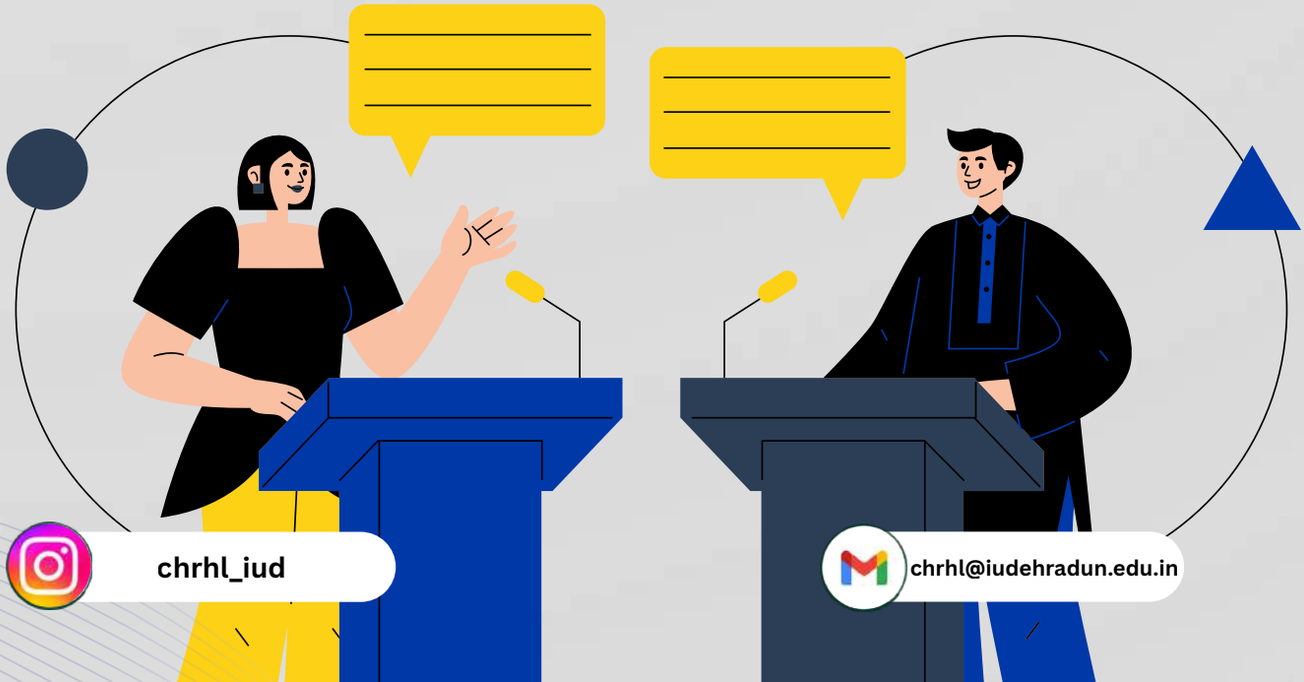
Language

1. Official Language – English is the only language permitted during the Competition.

2. Speeches and Rebuttals – All speeches, rebuttals, and responses to the judges must be delivered in English.

3. Use of Other Languages – A short phrase in another language or a legal maxim may be used.

4. Clarity – Participants will be judged on the clarity of their arguments, not on their accent.



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Dress Code

All participants are required to maintain a formal and professional appearance throughout the Competition, reflecting the decorum expected in an academic and legal setting.

Participants shall adhere to the following dress code:

- Formal shirt
- Formal trousers
- Formal blazer

Participants must ensure that their attire is neat, professional, and appropriate for the formal nature of the Competition.

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STRUCTURE

The Competition shall consist of the following stages:

ROUND	TEAMS	DATE AND MODE	OUTCOME
I – Preliminary	All registered teams, two per debate	18 Nov 2026, virtual	Top 8 winning teams
II – Quarter-Final	8 teams, knockout	18 Nov 2026, virtual	4 teams advance
III – Semi-Final	4 teams, knockout	27 Nov 2026, on campus	2 teams advance
IV – Final	2 teams	27 Nov 2026, on campus	Winner and Runner-up

Speech Order and Timing:

Order	Speech	Speaker	Time
1	Opening Statement – For	First Speaker, For	4 minutes
2	Opening Statement – Against	First Speaker, Against	4 minutes
3	Supporting Arguments – For	Second Speaker, For	4 minutes
4	Supporting Arguments – Against	Second Speaker, Against	4 minutes
5	Rebuttal Round	Both sides	3 minutes
6	Judges' Questions	Both sides	7 minutes
7	Audience Interaction (Final Round only)	Finalists	5 minutes

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. All participants shall maintain professional, respectful, and dignified conduct throughout the Competition.

2. Participants shall respect the judges, organisers, fellow participants, faculty members, and audience.

3. Personal remarks, offensive language, discriminatory statements, or any form of harassment shall not be permitted.

4. Arguments shall remain relevant to the motion and shall be based on sound reasoning, research, and evidence.

5. Participants shall not interrupt or deliberately disrupt the opposing team's speeches.

6. Participants shall strictly adhere to the time limits prescribed for each round.

7. Plagiarism, fabrication of evidence, or misrepresentation of sources may result in disqualification.

8. Participants shall comply with all instructions issued by the Organising Committee and the judges.

9. Any misconduct or violation of the rules may lead to penalties or disqualification, as determined by the Organising Committee.

10. The decisions of the judges and the Organising Committee regarding the conduct of the Competition shall be final.

NOTE : The Organising Committee reserves the right to amend, modify, or introduce new rules and regulations for the debate competition at any time, and its decisions shall be final and binding on all participants.

JUDGING CRITERIA

01. CONTENT AND RESEARCH DEPTH

Accuracy and depth of legal and factual analysis; relevant use of treaties, cases, resolutions, and state practice; up-to-date knowledge of current conflicts; credible sources; and relevance to the motion. Content carries the greatest weight because a debate is only as strong as the material on which it is based.

25 MARKS

02. LEGAL ANALYSIS AND CONCEPT CLARITY

A sound understanding of concepts such as sovereignty, the use of force, international humanitarian law, derogation, jurisdiction, and accountability; the ability to apply the law to the motion; and the ability to distinguish legal arguments from political ones.

20 MARKS

03. ARGUMENTATION AND LOGICAL STRUCTURE

A clear position; logical progression from claim to evidence to conclusion; consistency between the two speakers; and a strong closing statement.

15 MARKS

04. REBUTTAL AND RESPONSIVENESS

Directly addressing the opposing team's arguments; identifying weaknesses; providing clear and relevant answers to the Panel's questions; and avoiding new arguments during rebuttal.

15 MARKS

05. DELIVERY AND COURTROOM PRESENCE

Clarity, fluency, pace, and tone; persuasive delivery and confidence; respectful conduct and appropriate language; effective use of notes; and on-camera presence during virtual rounds.

15 MARKS

06. TEAM COORDINATION

A balanced division of the case; consistency; smooth handover; and effective participation by both speakers in answering questions.

05 MARKS

07. TIME MANAGEMENT

Effective use of the allotted time without exceeding the limit; and an appropriate balance between constructive speeches and rebuttals.

05 MARKS

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AWARDS

1. Winner – Cash prize of ₹8,000, a trophy, and a certificate of merit.

2. Runner-Up – Cash prize of ₹6,000, a trophy, and a certificate of merit.

3. Best Speaker – Cash prize of ₹3,000, a trophy, and a certificate of merit.

4. E-certificates of participation will be provided to all participants.



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Social Evening

Where Debates End and Celebrations Begin

After a day of spirited arguments, ideas, and intellectual exchange, unwind with an evening of music, laughter, and togetherness.

Join us for a vibrant Social Evening featuring delicious snacks, soulful live singing, heartfelt shayari, and the warmth of a bonfire under the evening sky. As the night unfolds, let the conversations turn into celebrations with an energetic DJ evening, bringing everyone together to sing, dance, and create memories beyond the debating floor.

Eat. Sing. Feel. Dance. Celebrate.





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ORGANISING COMMITTEE



PROF. (DR.) RAM KARAN SINGH
Vice Chancellor, IUD



PROF. (DR.) SANJEEV MALAVIYA
Registrar, IUD



PROF. (DR.) ARUN KUMAR SINGH
Dean, ICFAI Law School



DR. GAURAV BHANDARI
Director, IQAC, IUD



DR. MONICA KHAROLA
Associate Dean, ICFAI Law School



DR. VIVEK KUMAR
Faculty Convener



MR. DEV YADAV
Faculty Co-Convener



MS. MEGHA CHANDOK
Faculty Co-Convener

STUDENT ORGANISING COMMITTEE

CONVENERS



Shreyas Rastogi



Rupesh Kumar

SECRETARY



Paridhi Saxena

TREASURER



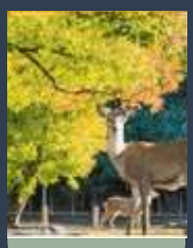
Vighnesh



Soumya Agrawal









Dehradun, the capital of Uttarakhand, is a beautiful city nestled in the Doon Valley and surrounded by the Himalayan foothills. Known for its pleasant climate, rich culture, and educational institutions, it is also a gateway to some of Uttarakhand's most scenic destinations. With attractions like Robber's Cave, Sahastradhara, Forest Research Institute, and Tapkeshwar Temple, Dehradun beautifully combines nature, heritage, and tourism, making it a truly charming destination.

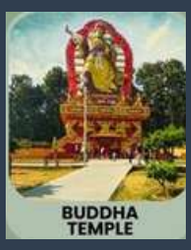


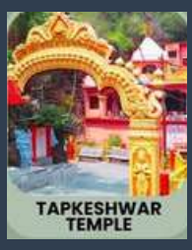
















DEBATING ISN'T ABOUT WINNING

it´s about learning, respecting, and communicating ideas better.