



**The Morung Debate**  
*Imagine, Engage, Inspire*  
**Dimapur: Nagaland**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Particulars	Page no.
Introduction	
1. Location	3
2. Date	3
3. Debate Format	3
4. Debate Topics	4
5. Team Composition	4-5
6. Team Registration	5-6
7. Team selection	6
8. Fixture	7-8
9. In Case of a Draw	9-10
10. Timing/Sequence & Role of Speakers	10-11
11. The Moderator	12
12. Judges	12-13
13. Marking Standards	13-14
14. Code of Conduct	14-15
15. Breach of code of Conduct	15-16
16. Awards	16
Fixture	Attachment A
Registration Form	Attachment B

## **The Morung Debate Guidelines**

### ***Introduction***

The MORUNG DEBATE, an initiative of *The Morung Express*, is being organized with the objective of creating a public debate platform for young people from 18-25 years of age. It is designed as a form of expression to examine socio-political, economic, cultural and religious issues which are prevalent in today's context. The participants can be part of developing a critical consciousness that informs the social discourse and challenges the status quo through delving deeply and exploring common solutions. We are organizing this debate as one form of dialogue for examining these difficult issues.

*The Morung Express* wants to help facilitate reversing the current notion in the society where, the Old ways are dying while the New is struggling to be born. With this in mind, public debates are one means of involving youth in birthing new ideas, distilling positive values of the old and deconstructing existing issues and uprooting their causes and impact. The young debaters will become a resource for the 'new' while providing a new shared understanding across generations.

As the Fourth Pillar of Democracy, media, including *The Morung Express*, has the responsibility to create democratic spaces and stimulate, even catalyze public opinion. These public debates are one means for accomplishing this. These debates are designed to be dynamic means of expression using a more contemplative, reflective approach that is critical and creative. Although the process encourages healthy competition, it embraces an exchange of ideas through deep critical thinking which respects differing viewpoints.

**1. Location**

**Dimapur** – To be announced at an appropriate time. Details of the venue will be provided to the participants well before the event.

**2. Date**

Team Screening & Orientation	August 5-6, 2019
Preliminary Round	August 16-17, 2019
Quarter Finals	August 24, 2019
Semi-Finals	August 31, 2019
Finals	September 7, 2019

The dates are tentative and subject to change in case of situations such as bandh, strikes, natural calamities and other unforeseen circumstances. Teams will be informed of any such changes.

**3. Debate Format**

- a) **Language** – All debates will be conducted in English.
  
- b) **Debates** – Every debate will have 2 teams – one for the motion and one against the motion. Hereinafter, the team for the motion will be referred to as “TEAM A” and the team against the motion will be referred to as “TEAM B”.
  
- c) **Team Speakers** – Each team will have 3 speakers. **(See Role of Speakers in Pt. 10.)**

Before the debate begins, each team must inform the Moderator of the team member’s names and the order in which they will be speaking. Please note that only these speakers will be allowed to speak at their designated time.

- d) Each speaker must adhere to the time as allotted (**See Timing of Speeches in Pt. 10**)
- e) All participating teams on the allocated date(s) must be at their designated seats 10 minutes prior to when the debate officially begins. All teams are to maintain punctuality to avoid point penalties/walkover.
- f) **Judges** – The debates will be judged by an odd-numbered panel or a minimum of 3 judges.

#### **4. Debate Topics**

The topics for the competition will be based on relevant social, political, cultural and economic themes and issues. Teams will be notified on the topics beforehand, giving them sufficient time to prepare for the debate

#### **5. Team Composition**

- a) Each team will be comprised of 5 members; a manager/coach, 3 speakers and one substitute speaker.
- b) The manager/coach cannot participate as a speaker or interfere in the debate proceedings. The team manager/coach will be the point of contact for every team. In case of any issues that may arise during the event, he/she will represent the team when submitting the complaint(s) to the Moderator.
- c) **Age Requirement** – All team members must be between the ages of 18 to 25 years at the time of registration.
- d) **Team Name** – Each team will submit a team name at the time of registration.

- e) **Substitution** – If due to unforeseen circumstances, an individual team member is unable to continue participating, the designated substitute will take their place. The team manager will notify the Moderator of any changes before the debate commences.

**Note: The substitute can be brought in only after informing the Moderator of the change. A valid reason must be provided for the change and only after it has been approved by the Moderator can the designated team include the substitute to replace the speaker who has withdrawn.**

**The Moderator must be informed whether the substitute is only for a specific match(es), or all subsequent matches.**

## 6. Team Registration

- a) **Registration Fee** – The Morung Debate is a team-based event with no registration fee.
- b) **Team Registration** – Interested persons must register as a team and not as individual participants.
- c) **Registration Form** – The registration form will be e-mailed as an attachment along with the Guidelines. The same is to be downloaded in A4 size, filled as required and submitted at *The Morung Express* Office, Duncan Basti, Dimapur.

Online Registration can be done at: <https://forms.gle/vK7ARjyKEycupJnG7>

The registration requirements are the same whether submitting in person or online.

d) **Registration Deadline** – The final date for registering is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

e) **For further information/queries,**

Contact/Whatsapp : +91 6009181407 / 7085176895 or

E-mail : [morung.debate@gmail.com](mailto:morung.debate@gmail.com)

**Note: Registration forms with incomplete details will not be accepted.**

## **7. Team Selection**

a) **Total Number of Teams** – Only 16 teams will be selected to compete in the event.

b) **Team screening** – All registered teams will be screened by an independent 3-member panel conducted on **August 5-6, 2019**. The screening test will be a formal interaction between the panel and teams. The panel's decision will be final and binding. The venue and timing of the screening will be announced after registration.

c) **Team Announcement** – The 16 teams selected for the Morung Debate will be communicated directly to the teams' managers and also announced in *The Morung Express* newspaper.

d) **Team Orientation** – A brief orientation will be held for selected teams about the debate process. The orientation will be held on the dates stated in Item 2.

**Note: The Draw of Lots for the Preliminary Round including the fixture will be conducted on the day of the Orientation**

## 8. Fixture

### i. Preliminary Round

There will be a total of 16 teams based on the screening mentioned above.

There will be a total of 8 matches in the preliminary round.

Matches will be marked as P1, P2, P3 - P8, etc. **(Ref. Fixture in Attachment-A)**

A total of 8 matches will be conducted over 2 days, with 4 matches per day.

**Drawing Lots** – The teams will compete based on drawing lots, which will take place on the orientation day and will be conducted by the organizers in the presence of all the selected teams.

**The Draw of Lots will be conducted on the Orientation day.** It will contain the topic of debate with the sequence number of the debate and also marked FOR THE MOTION AND AGAINST THE MOTION for the selection of team roles.

**Note: This is an elimination match and only the winning teams will move on to the next round.**

**Draw of Lots for the Quarter-Finals will be conducted on the same day for the winners, for the selection of team roles in the next round. The topic of the debate will be announced beforehand.**

### ii. Quarter-Finals (QF)

8 teams will enter into the Quarter-Finals for a total of 4 matches. Matches will be marked as QF1, QF2, QF3 and QF4 and will be posted at the debate venue **(Ref. Fixture in Attachment-A)**

Matches will be scheduled based on the fixture :

**QF1 : Winner of P1 -vs- Winner of P2**  
**QF2 : Winner of P3 -vs- Winner of P4**  
**QF 3: Winner of P5 -vs- Winner of P6**  
**QF4 : Winner of P7 -vs- Winner of P8**

***Note:* This is an elimination match and only the winning teams will move on to the next round**

**Draw of Lots for the Semi-finals will be conducted on the same day for the winners for the selection of team roles. The topic of Debate will be placed according to the table beforehand.**

**iii. Semi-Finals (SF)**

There will be 4 teams in the semi-finals with a total of 2 matches only, marked as SF1 and SF2. **(Ref. Fixture in Attachment-A)**

Matches will be scheduled based on the fixture:

**SF1 : Winner of QF1 –vs- Winner of QF2**  
**SF2 : Winner of QF3 -vs- Winner of QF4**

**Note:** Draw of Lots for the Semi-Finals will be conducted on the same day for the winners for the selection of team roles. The topic of Debate will be placed according to the table beforehand.

**iv. Finals**

**Winner of SF1 -vs- Winner of SF2**

***Note:* During the finals, the organizers may include 2 guest judges in the panel. The teams will be informed accordingly.**



## 9. In Case of a Draw

In the event of draw, there will be a sudden-death playoff match between the two teams where a topic will be given and each team will have 5 minutes to discuss and prepare for the final match. Each team must appoint a speaker who will be given 2 minutes to present their case.

The topic will given by the panel of judges.

A coin will be tossed by the Moderator to decide which team will speak first.

## 10. Timing/Sequence of Speeches and role of Speakers:

### i) Opening Statement

The first opening statement will be delivered by the first speaker from TEAM A, followed by the first speaker from TEAM B. The opening statement should define the topic, formulate the issues and highlight the team's stand on the topic.

The first speakers from each team is allotted 3 minutes to make the opening statement.

*\*\* The timekeeper will:*

- sound the bell at the beginning of the allotted time.
- sound the warning bell 30 seconds before the allotted time is up.
- also ring the bell when the 3 minutes are up.

**Note: Points will be deducted if the speaker continues to speak after the allotted time has ended.**

### ii) Second Statement

The Second Statement will be made by the second speaker of TEAM B first, followed by the second speaker of TEAM A. During this time, the speakers may

counter the argument of the opposite team and/or continue to highlight the team's stand on the topic.

The second speaker from each team is allotted 2 minutes to speak on behalf of his/her respective team.

**\*\* The timekeeper will:**

- sound the bell at the beginning of the allotted time.
- sound the warning bell 30 seconds before the allotted time is up.
- also ring the bell when the 2 minutes is up.

**Note: Points will be deducted if the speaker continues to speak after the allotted time is up.**

### **iii) Question Round**

After the Second Statements, 1 minute will be allotted to each team to formulate 2 questions.

**\*\* The timekeeper will:**

- sound the bell at the beginning of the allotted time.
- will ring the bell when the 1 minute is up.

TEAM B shall ask the first question and 1 minute is allotted to TEAM A to address the question put forward.

TEAM A will thereafter put forward their question for which TEAM B is allotted 1 minute to address the question.

TEAM A will put forward their second question, for which TEAM B is allotted 1 minute to answer and vice-versa.

**\*\* The timekeeper will:**

- sound the bell at the beginning of the allotted time.
- will ring the bell at the end of the allotted response time of 1 minute.

**Note: Points will be deducted if the speaker continues to speak after the allotted time is up.**

**iv) Third Statement**

The third speaker from TEAM B will make the Third Statement first and vice-versa. The Third speaker from each team is allotted 2 minutes to make the Third Statement.

*\*\* The timekeeper will:*

- sound the bell at the beginning of the allotted time.
- sound the warning bell 30 seconds before the allotted time is up.
- also ring the bell when the 2 minutes is up.

**Note: Points will be deducted if the speaker continues to speak after the allotted time is up.**

**v) Closing Statement**

A speaker from Team B will make the Closing Statement first and vice-versa. The closing statement must be a final submission of the respective team's proposition and clearly justify their stands on the topic.

The speaker from each team is allotted 2 minutes to make the Closing Statement.

*\*\* The timekeeper will:*

- sound the bell at the beginning of the allotted time.
- sound the warning bell 30 seconds before the allotted time is up.
- also ring the bell when the 2 minutes is up.

**Note: Points will be deducted if the speaker continues to speak after the allotted time is up.**

## **11. The Moderator**

- a. will not be a part of the organizing team; begins and concludes each debate; and will be the chief adjudicator of every debate.
- b. will conduct objectively and impartially, and refrain from showing any favouritism or bias throughout the debates.
- c. will read the rules and regulations relevant to the debate before the commencement of every debate
- d. has the right to intervene during the course of any debate in case there is any breach of the rules and regulations/code of conduct.
- e. will collect the score sheets from the judges, summarize the results from the score sheets, and announce the results. The tallying of the scores will be done by the Moderator with the assistance of the time-keeper and a member of the organizing committee.
- f. will be responsible for handling any complaint during the course of the event.

## **12. Timekeeper**

A timekeeper shall be present at all the debates and is responsible for keeping time in accordance with the timing and sequence of the speeches/speakers. (*Ref. Pt. 12.*)

## **13. Judges**

The debates will be judged by an odd-numbered panel or a minimum of 3 judges. There will be one in-house judge from *The Morung Express*.

- a. Judges should be free from bias, favouritism and prejudices of any nature.
- b. A judge should not mentor or coach any team or individual participating in the competition.
- c. Judges should adhere to the rules and regulations and score according to the Marking Standard procedure.

- d. Judges will be seated separately in the interest of fair competition. They shall score independently, not discuss scores and shall not be privy to each other's score sheet.
- e. Judges cannot give oral critiques or feedback to the debaters at any point when the debate(s) is in session.
- f. **Scoring Sheet** – Each judge will be given a new scoring sheet for each debate. The scoring criteria is described in **Marking Standards (See Pt. 14)**

**Note: During the finals, the organizers may include 2 guest judges in the panel. The teams will be informed accordingly.**

#### **14. Marking Standards**

**Each speaker's speech is marked out of 50:**

10 for content; 10 for Style/Delivery/Behaviour; 10 for Comprehension and Knowledge of the issues; 10 for Timing; and 10 for Command of the Language.

##### **a) Content**

The content should be precise, relevant, and clearly address the given topic and be free from racial, communal, religious or gender bias, or other prejudicial statements. The content forms the basis of each team's stance on the topic and the projection of their case.

##### **b) Style/Delivery/Behaviour**

Style is the manner in which the speaker presents his/her speech.

*For instance:* Speakers are encouraged not to read directly from prepared notes, as this may affect the scores. However, referring to notes is allowed and should not negatively affect the scoring.

**c) Strategy/Comprehension**

Strategy involves the structure of the speeches made. It should possess an understanding and familiarity of the issues being presented, and should have a clear sequence or natural progression such as a beginning, middle and end. Strategy also involves the time constraints within which teams must make their point through their speeches that is compelling, cohesive (holds together), meaningful and successfully conveys their positions.

**d) Timing**

As explained in Timing and Sequence of Speeches/Speakers (**See Pt. 10.**), teams must strictly adhere to the time limits in order to avoid penalties in the form of score deductions. Teams should use the allocated time to present, explain and justify their stance.

**e) Command of the Language**

Every debate will be conducted in English. Every speaker should speak in a manner that is fluent, have clear pronunciation and be free from poor language (English) skills, and grammatical errors.

Mother Tongue Influence (MTI) on one's accent will not be a factor in scoring the command of the language.

**15. Code of Conduct:**

- a) No interruptions or noise are allowed (with the intention of disrupting proceedings) when a speaker is presenting.
- b) Respect opponent and refrain from personal attacks.
- c) No swearing or use of obscene language or gestures, no sexual comments, no insults, sexist or otherwise derogatory innuendos.

- d) Respect officials and their decisions.
- e) No throwing of objects at opponents, judges, onto the floor or at the audience.
- f) Use of electronic devices like mobile phones, tablets etc., by participants is prohibited during the debate (s). Furthermore, Debate team members cannot have any device on their person during the debates. This includes i-watches, cell phones, tablets, etc.
- g) No substance abuse, use of drugs, alcohol, intoxicants during the debate.
- h) No unlawful activities which might affect the proceedings.
- i) No bribery or requests to officials, organizers, judges for special favours.
- j) Maintain decorum at all times and abide by the rules and regulations.
- k) Participants are expected to be dressed appropriately (no torn jeans, skimpy clothing, clothes with explicit graphic content in words or images, etc.) and avoid clothing that might act as a distraction. Teams are given the freedom to wear their team jersey/uniform throughout the event.
- l) Maintain punctuality. Not adhering to the scheduled set timings might result in point deductions or a walkover being awarded to the team over the time-offender.

#### **16. Breach of Code of Conduct/Rules and Regulations**

If at any point during the competition, it is found that a breach has been made pertaining to the Code of Conduct, the matter shall be forwarded to the Moderator to be dealt with in accordance with the Organizing Committee.

- a) Complaints should be brought to the Moderator's attention in writing through the team manager/coach
- b) Any appropriate action taken will depend on the specific offence committed will be initiated and dealt according to the guidelines, if necessary.
- c) Points will be deducted. Serious offences might even lead to disqualification and expulsion from the entire event, if necessary.

- d) **Walkover** – A walkover is a bye or victory awarded to a team when the opponent fails to participate in the debate on the scheduled time and day. Walkovers will happen if/when an opponent fails to turn up or is more than 30 minutes late or if there has been a breach of Code of Conduct/ Rules & Regulations. A walkover will result in immediate disqualification from the entire competition.

In case a team is unable to participate on the scheduled day due to unforeseen circumstances which might result in a walkover, the organizing committee may review whether a walkover may be granted or not. However, this consideration/review will only be for the rarest of rare cases and is time-bound.

In case of such circumstances participants are advised to contact: +91 6009 181 407 / 7085 176 895

**Note: Final action will be based on the discretion of the organizers.**

## **17. AWARDS**

- a) Winner : **Rs. 50,000/- (Fifty Thousand)**
- b) Runners-up : **Rs. 30,000/- (Thirty Thousand)**
- c) Semi-Finalists (2 nos) : **Rs. 10,000/- (Ten Thousand)**
- d) Best Speaker (2 nos) : **Rs. 5,000/- (Five Thousand)**
- e) Most Promising Team : **Rs. 5,000/- (Five Thousand)**
- f) There will be a running trophy.
- g) Certificates of Participation will be awarded to all the participants.

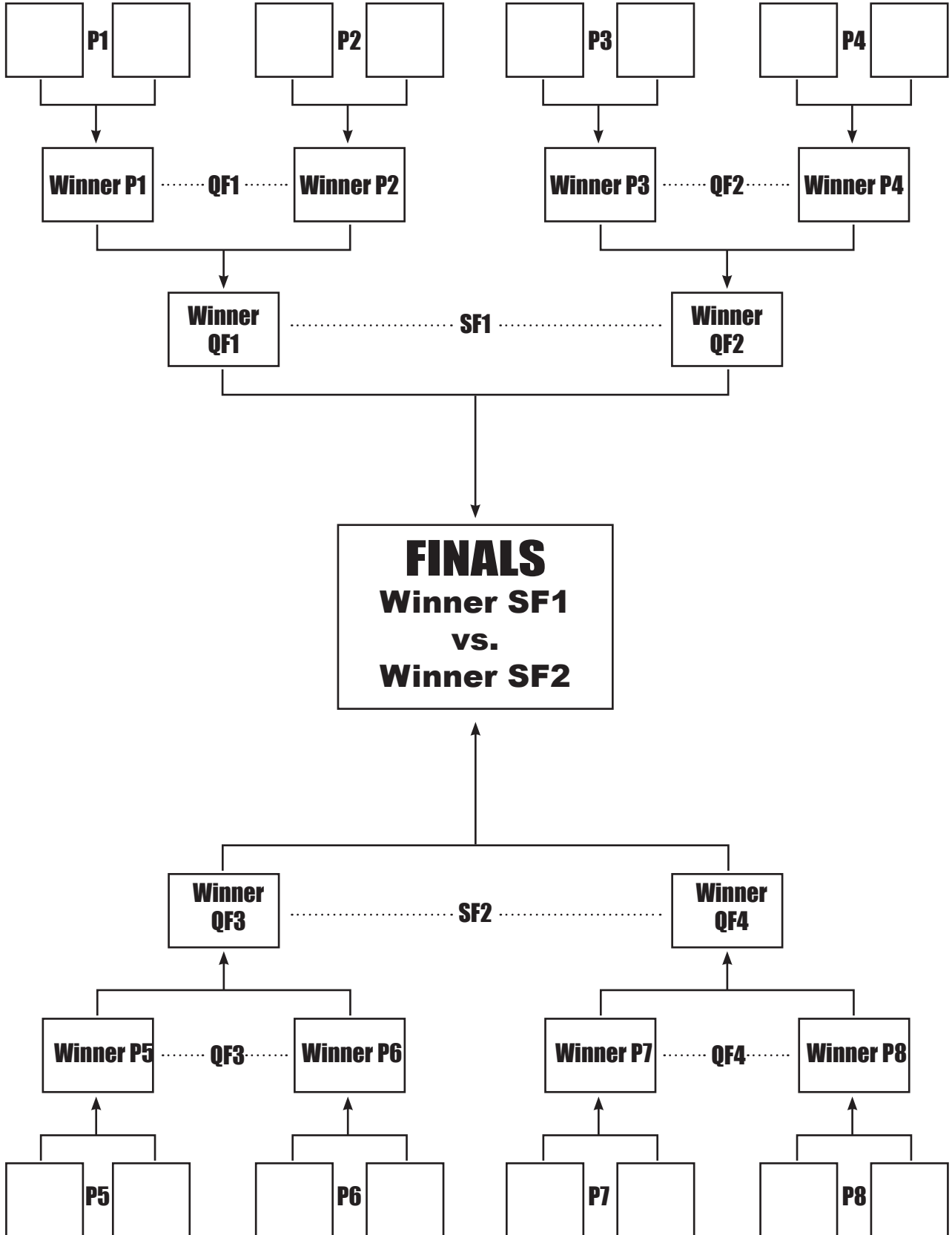
**NOTE: The Morung Debate Guidelines will be upheld in accordance to the letter and spirit of the competition. If and when any item(s) of the Guidelines requires amendments, the Organizing Committee will be the final authority.**



**ATTACHMENT A**



**P** - Preliminary Round  
**QF** - Quarter-Finals  
**SF** - Semi-Finals





## ATTACHMENT B

**THE MORUNG DEBATE**  
*“Imagine, Engage, Inspire”*  
**Dimapur: Nagaland**  
**REGISTRATION FORM**

\*\* (All details must be filled in block letters)

1. NAME OF THE TEAM:

2. DETAILS OF TEAM MEMBERS:

i) Name:  
Date of Birth:  
Phone Number:  
Email ID:  
Address:

ii) Name:  
Date of Birth:  
Phone Number:  
Email ID:  
Address:

iii) Name:  
Date of Birth:  
Phone Number:  
Email ID:  
Address:

3. DETAILS OF TEAM MANAGER:

i) Name:  
ii) Date of Birth:  
iii) Phone Number:  
iv) Email ID:  
v) Address:



## **ATTACHMENT B**

### 4. DETAILS OF SUBSTITUTE:

- i) Name:
- ii) Date of Birth:
- iii) Phone Number:
- iv) Email ID:
- v) Address:

### **DECLARATION**

We have read the terms and conditions of the Morung Debate Guidelines and agree to abide by the same.

Team Members: (Kindly sign against your names)

1.

2.

3.

Team Manager:

Substitute:

Date: