

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Presents

International Conference and Students' Meet

DE NOVO '26

A Better World To Live In

ADVANCING JUSTICE: TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESPONSES TO CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL CHALLENGES

8, 9 & 10 December 2026

De Paul Institute of Science & Technology (Autonomous), Angamaly in collaboration with James Cook University, Australia and Institute of Health & Management,Australia

COMPETITION RULE BOOK

DiST® Timeless Values; Timely Vision

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

IHM Australia Powered by Arizona State University®

De Paul Institute of Science & Technology (Autonomous), De Paul Nagar, Angamaly South, Ernakulam, Kerala, India – 683 573

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SECTION I: GENERAL GUIDELINES & REGISTRATION POLICY

1. Mode of Registration

- Online registration is available and strongly recommended for all competitive events.
- Spot (on-site) registration is strictly restricted to individual events.
- All delegates must complete the general Students' Meet registration prior to enrolling in specific competitions. The general registration fee of ₹500 per delegate includes event entry privileges, food, and basic accommodation.

2. Multi-Event Participation

- Participants competing in more than one event must carefully verify the schedule prior to registration. The Organizing Committee shall bear no responsibility for overlapping event schedules or simultaneous round conduct.

3. Institutional Contingent & Group Event Regulations

- Institutional Representation: Maximum of two (2) teams per institution are permitted to register for each group event.
- All members of the team must be enrolled in the same institution. Inter-institutional or composite teams are strictly prohibited.

4. Participant Eligibility

- Participation is open to all bona fide Undergraduate (UG) and Postgraduate (PG) students across recognized academic institutions, subject to the event-specific criteria outlined herein.
- Physical possession and presentation of a valid institutional Identity Card (College ID) is mandatory for credential verification at registration desk and throughout all competition rounds.

5. General Operational Rules

- Overall Championship will be awarded based on the cumulative scores from all competitions, excluding Best Social Worker. The college with the highest score will be declared the Overall Champion.

- Participants must report to their respective event venues at the designated reporting time (at least 30 minutes prior for individual events and 1 hour prior for group events).
- Strict compliance with the rules, time limits, and instructions specified for each competition is mandatory.
- All pre-recorded audio tracks and digital multimedia files must be submitted on or before 25 November 2026 and physically verified at the technical registration desk.
- Any breach of rules, malpractice, or breach of academic decorum will result in immediate disqualification.
- The decisions of the judging panel and the Organizing Committee are final, definitive, and binding on all participants.
- The Organizing Committee reserves the exclusive right to modify schedules, operational guidelines, or event conduct should circumstances necessitate.

SECTION II: INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

BEST SOCIAL WORKER

"Voice of Justice"

Registration Fee: ₹500 per participant

First Prize: ₹5,000

Student Coordinator: Ms. Parvathy R. Nair (+91 80759 09737)

Rules and Guidelines

- Only individual registrations are permitted. The competition is strictly open to Social Work students (BSW and MSW).
- There is no restriction on the maximum number of individual participants from an institution.
- All participants must carry a valid College ID and produce it upon request.
- Participants must report to the designated venue at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- The order of performance will be determined transparently through a draw of lots.
- The official medium of communication throughout all rounds of the competition is strictly English.
- The competition comprises three sequential rounds: Round 1 (Screening Test) will be conducted on Day 1 of the Students' Meet, while Rounds 2 and 3 will be conducted on the Final Day.
- Elimination Process: A progressive, score-based elimination process will determine qualification for successive rounds.
- The use of mobile phones, smartwatches, earphones, or any unauthorized electronic devices is strictly prohibited during all competition rounds.
- Any malpractice, misconduct, or violation of rules will result in immediate disqualification.
- The decision of the judges and event coordinators shall be final and binding.

Competition Structure

- The competition will be conducted in three rounds, with each round designed to

assess the participants on different competencies.

- Elimination will take place at the end of every round, and only those who meet the qualifying criteria will advance to the next stage.
- The third round will be the Grand Finale, where the shortlisted finalists will compete for the final positions.

Judging Criteria

- Theoretical and applied knowledge of Social Work principles
- Articulation, fluency, persuasive delivery, and clarity
- Analytical depth, problem resolution, and situational agility
- Commitment to human rights, empathy, and professional integrity
- Confidence, body language, and stage decorum
- Coherence, consistency, and executive maturity across all rounds

Code of Conduct

- Maintain the highest standards of academic integrity, discipline, and professional etiquette throughout the event.
- Accord due respect to judges, organizers, student volunteers, and fellow competitors.
- Refrain from any form of discriminatory, offensive, or disruptive behavior.
- Strictly adhere to all directives issued by the Organizing Committee and event coordinators.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

"Lens of Justice"

Registration Fee: ₹300 per participant

First Prize: ₹3,000 Second Prize: ₹1,500

Student Coordinator: Ms. Sivanandhana P. R. (+91 85903 28671)

Competition Guidelines

- Only individual registrations are permitted. Each participant may submit exactly one photograph.
- The photograph must strictly align with and interpret the official theme.
- Only photographs captured using a mobile phone camera are permitted. The use of DSLRs, mirrorless cameras, drones, or other professional equipment is strictly prohibited.
- Basic post-processing adjustments (exposure, contrast, saturation, cropping, and color balance) are permissible.
- AI-generated imagery, heavy digital manipulation, photomontages, composites, and addition/removal of visual elements are strictly forbidden.
- Entries must be submitted in JPEG/JPG format with a minimum resolution of 3000 × 2000 pixels.
- The participant's full name, college name, and photograph title must be provided at registration.

Submission Protocols

- Submissions must be uploaded/submitted strictly prior to the stipulated deadline. Late entries will be rejected without evaluation.
- Files must be named according to the standardized format: 'Reg. No. JPEG/JPG'.
- Participants must preserve the original unedited image, as the organizers may request it for verification.

Rules and Regulations

- The photograph must be 100% original work of the participant. Plagiarism or copyright infringement will result in immediate disqualification.
- Watermarks, signatures, timestamps, borders, or identifying logos on the image are strictly prohibited.
- Offensive, violent, voyeuristic, or ethically inappropriate content will not be accepted.
- The Organizing Committee reserves the right to exhibit and publish submitted photographs for promotional, academic, and non-commercial documentation, with due credit accorded to the photographer.
- The decision of the judging panel is final, definitive, and binding.

Judging Criteria

- Alignment with and conceptual depth regarding the theme
- Originality of perspective, visual aesthetics, and framing
- Exposure, lighting balance, sharpness, focus, and composition
- Emotional resonance, storytelling strength, and overall visual impact

Code of Conduct

- Maintain strict honesty and ethical standards during capture and submission.
- Respect the privacy, dignity, and consent of subjects photographed.
- Under no circumstances should participants create, stage, or enter hazardous environments to capture photographs.
- Fully cooperate with event coordinators and follow all procedural instructions.

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PICTURE JAM

"Image of Justice"

Registration Fee: ₹300 per participant

First Prize: ₹3,000 Second Prize: ₹1,500

Student Coordinator: Ms. Subhadra Prasad (+91 62380 28823) & Ms. Joshna Joby (+91 99468 25881)

Competition Guidelines

- Only individual registrations are permitted. All participants must carry a valid College ID.
- Participants must report to the designated venue at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- The speaking order will be determined transparently through a draw of lots.
- A visual prompt (photograph/illustration) will be displayed on the screen for the participant.
- Each participant will be granted a preparation time of exactly 30 seconds upon viewing the image.
- Participants must speak on the displayed image for a duration of exactly 1 minute (60 seconds).
- The interpretation may explore social issues, philosophical perspectives, creative storytelling, current affairs, or analytical observations.
- The official medium of expression is strictly English.
- The use of electronic devices, written notes, cue cards, or external reference materials is strictly prohibited during the event.
- Any malpractice, indiscipline, or breach of rules will result in immediate disqualification.

Judging Criteria

- Freshness of interpretation and imaginative insight
- Direct correlation and depth of connection to the displayed visual prompt

- Structured reasoning, fluency, and seamless logical flow
  Vocabulary, grammar, voice modulation, and rhetorical clarity
- Poise, body language, audience connection, and stage presence
- Precision in adhering to the 1-minute time constraint without under-running or exceeding

Code of Conduct

- Maintain utmost decorum, professionalism, and mutual respect throughout the competition.
- Pre-memorized speeches disconnected from the displayed prompt or generic monologues are discouraged and will be disqualified.
- Strict adherence to instructions issued by session coordinators and moderators is required.

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SECTION III: GROUP COMPETITIONS

NEWSROOM

"Records of Truth"

Registration Fee: ₹500 per team

First Prize: ₹5,000 Second Prize: ₹3,000

Student Coordinator: Ms. Litty Cyriac (+91 85905 64353)

Rules and Guidelines

- A maximum of two (2) teams per institution may participate. Members may belong to different academic departments, provided they are enrolled in the same institution.
- Each team shall consist of exactly five (5) members.
- All participants must carry and produce valid College ID cards at registration.
- Teams must report to the designated venue at least one (1) hour prior to the scheduled event.
- The performance sequence will be determined through a draw of lots.
- The official medium of communication throughout the presentation is strictly English.
- The competition comprises a single competitive round.
- A social issue or breaking news topic will be allotted to the team twenty (20) minutes prior to their presentation for preparation.
- Mobile phones and digital devices may be utilized strictly during the 20-minute preparation window for intra-team research. Discussions must remain confined strictly within the registered team.
- Upon expiration of the 20-minute preparation time, all electronic devices must be surrendered/stowed away. Any further device usage or external consultation will attract immediate on-the-spot disqualification.
- The maximum on-stage presentation time for the team is ten (10) minutes, with each member speaking/performing for approximately two (2) minutes.
- Every team member must actively perform a distinct assigned newsroom role (e.g., Prime Anchor, Field Reporter, Subject Expert, Eyewitness, Panel Analyst).

- Presentations must uphold ethical journalism, objective reportage, factual rigor, and professional newsroom aesthetics.
- Use of defamatory, profane, politically derogatory, or plagiarized material is strictly prohibited.
- The decision of the judges and event coordinators shall be final and binding.

Judging Criteria

- Authenticity of studio/field format, anchor authority, and broadcast atmosphere
- Originality of narrative framing, compelling reportage, and innovative reporting techniques
- Seamless handoffs, role execution, balance, and collective synergy
- Diction, articulation, vocal pacing, and communicative impact
- Depth of factual analysis, journalistic objectivity, and critical insight
- Poise, body language, composure under simulated breaking news, and stage discipline
  Strict adherence to the 10-minute time limit

Code of Conduct

- Maintain professional decorum and adhere to high ethical standards of journalism throughout the simulation.
- Treat adjudicators, student coordinators, and opposing teams with utmost courtesy.

Any deployment of unfair means, plagiarism, or indiscipline will result in immediate disqualification

DE NOVO

RAMP WALK

"Walk the Verdict"

Registration Fee: ₹2,000 per team

First Prize: ₹25,000 Second Prize: ₹15,000

Student Coordinator: Ms. Litty Cyriac (+91 85905 64353)

Rules and Guidelines

- A maximum of two (2) teams per college may participate. Inter-departmental combinations within the same college are permitted.
- Each team shall comprise of 8 to 12 participants, inclusive of any backstage stylists or assistants.
- All participants must carry and present valid College ID cards.
- Participating teams must report backstage at least one (1) hour prior to the scheduled commencement.
- The performance sequence will be finalized through a draw of lots.
- The entire presentation; including costume design, styling, music, choreography, and walk dynamics, must explicitly manifest the designated theme.
- Costumes and attire must adhere strictly to academic propriety and cultural decorum. Offensive or culturally insensitive attire is strictly prohibited.
- The use of hazardous substances, fire, pyrotechnics, sharp implements, liquids, or items posing a safety hazard is strictly forbidden.
- Exceeding the stipulated performance time limit will attract proportional mark deductions.
- Any unseemly conduct, obscene gestures, or rule infringement will lead to immediate team disqualification.
- The decision of the judges and event coordinators shall be final and binding.

Performance Dynamics & Specifications

- The on-stage performance duration must strictly be between eight (8) and ten (10) minutes.

Models must demonstrate poise, confident carriage, coordinated walking rhythm, and impactful stage positioning.

Teams may incorporate tasteful theatrical poses, synchronized formations, and dramatic nuances to reinforce the thematic concept.

- Performers must maintain professional stage etiquette and prevent obstruction of coperformers during transitions.

Music & Technical Requirements

- Audio files must be high-fidelity single tracks labeled strictly as: 'TeamName_College_RampWalk.mp3'.
- The finalized audio track must be submitted prior to the deadline and physically tested with the sound engineer at the technical desk at least 1 hour prior to the event.
- Teams are required to maintain a backup copy of the audio track on a clean USB flash drive.
- The Organizing Committee shall not be held liable for playback disruptions resulting from corrupted or improperly formatted audio submissions.

Judging Criteria

- Creative interpretation, narrative clarity, and thematic fidelity
- Originality of formations, synchronicity, stage utilization, and pacing
- Design ingenuity, craftsmanship, elegance, and contextual appropriateness
- Posture, gait, expressions, self-assurance, and ramp charisma
- Aesthetic coherence, production value, and cumulative visual impact

Code of Conduct

- Maintain high discipline, respect, and mutual courtesy across all backstage and stage areas.
- Perform with artistic dignity; refrain from any discriminatory or culturally derogatory representations.

- Full cooperation with stage managers, sound technicians, and student coordinators is mandatory.

TABLEAU

"Long Live Truth"

Registration Fee: ₹800 per team

First Prize: ₹5,000 Second Prize: ₹3,000

Student Coordinator: Mr. Albin George (+91 85068 03562)

Rules and Guidelines

- A maximum of two (2) teams per college may participate. Inter-departmental representation within the same college is permitted.
- Each team shall consist of 8 to 12 members, inclusive of any backstage support personnel.
- All participants must carry and present valid College ID cards.
- Teams must report to the venue at least one (1) hour prior to the scheduled time.
- Performance sequence will be finalized through a draw of lots.
- The presentation must communicate a powerful, lucid social message intricately woven around the announced theme.
- Dangerous substances; including fire, pyrotechnics, explosives, chemical reagents, water, glass, or sharp weapons, are strictly prohibited.
- Teams are entirely responsible for the rapid setup and immediate post-performance clearance of their props.
- Any physical damage caused to the stage surface, light fixtures, or venue infrastructure will result in team penalties and financial liability.
- The decision of the judges and organizing committee shall be final and binding.

Performance Details & Technical Parameters

- Total allotted time is strictly 5 to 7 minutes, which includes stage entry, tableau setup, freeze presentation, and complete stage clearance. Overtime will attract negative marking.

- The tableau must center upon static or dynamic living pictures (poses). It may incorporate pre-recorded voiceover narration, atmospheric soundscapes, musical scoring, or stylized slow-motion movements. Live dialogue delivery is strictly prohibited. Only lightweight, modular, and portable props that can be positioned and cleared swiftly without mechanical rigging are permitted.
- Pre-recorded background audio is permitted. Live acoustic or amplified instrumentation is strictly prohibited. Teams must furnish their audio track on a USB flash drive to the sound booth during pre-event verification.
- Audio files must be high-fidelity single tracks labeled strictly as: 'TeamName_College_Tableau.mp3'.

Judging Criteria

- Clarity, moral depth, and social relevance of the underlying message
- Aesthetic composition, depth of visual layers, and spatial balance
- Physical discipline, facial emoting, stillness, and character embodiment during freezes
- Appropriateness, craftsmanship, and innovative deployment of props and costumes
- Precision of background score, narration quality, and lighting coordination

Emotional resonance, message clarity, and overall dramatic impact

Code of Conduct

- Maintain strict academic decorum and mutual respect throughout the competition.
- Defamatory language, hate speech, or disrespect toward any community, religion, or gender is strictly prohibited.
- Plagiarism or blatant copying of proprietary conceptual designs will result in disqualification.

DE NOVO

STREET PLAY

"Echoes of Justice"

Registration Fee: ₹800 per team

First Prize: ₹5,000 Second Prize: ₹3,000

Student Coordinator: Ms. Annmol K Itteera (+91 90373 89559)

Rules and Guidelines

- A maximum of two (2) teams per college may participate. Inter-departmental representation within the same institution is allowed.
- Each team shall consist of 8 to 12 participants, inclusive of any accompanying support members.
- All participants must carry and produce valid institutional Identity Cards.
- Teams must report to the performance area at least one (1) hour prior to the scheduled event.
- The performance sequence will be finalized through a draw of lots.
- The performance must strictly revolve around the official theme and communicate its socio-cultural message effectively through acting, vocal projection, chorus work, dynamic movement, and audience interaction.
- Plagiarism, hate speech, obscenity, personal defamation, or discriminatory dialogue will result in instant disqualification.
- Stunts involving physical risk, open flames, crackers, liquids, colored powders, smoke, or sharp objects are strictly prohibited.
- Performance time must be between 8 and 10 minutes. A maximum buffer of 3 minutes is permitted for arena setup and clearance. Exceeding the allotted time will attract penalty deductions.
- The performance must be suitable for a general, diverse audience.
- The decision of the judges and organizing committee shall be final and binding.

Acoustic & Venue Requirements

- Electronic microphones, lapels, collar mics, sound systems, synthetic amplifiers, and pre-recorded audio tracks are strictly banned. Sound delivery must rely entirely on natural human vocal projection, rhythmic clapping, chorus chanting, and live acoustic percussion.

  Teams are permitted to use portable, non-electronic traditional acoustic instruments (e.g., dholak, dafli, tambourine, manjira, shakers), limited to a maximum of 2 to 3 instruments per team.
- Heavy furniture, stage sets, smoke machines, or messy substances are banned to preserve public performance spaces. Minimalist handheld items such as dupattas, placards, fabric streamers, or small handheld banners are permitted.

Judging Criteria

- Relevance, depth, and socio-political poignancy of the script
- Vocal power, dialogue delivery, diction, and expressive acting
- Precision of choral verses, rhythmic harmony, and collective movement
- Ability to captivate, involve, and energize the surrounding audience
- Innovative 360-degree spatial choreography, circular transitions, and prop utility
- Emotional resonance, intellectual clarity, and social message delivery

Code of Conduct

- Uphold absolute discipline, sportsmanship, and mutual courtesy before, during, and after the performance.
- Treat adjudicators, fellow performers, volunteers, and the public with dignity and respect.
- Follow all procedural instructions issued by the event committee.

DE NOVO

THEME DANCE "Rhythm of Hope"

Registration Fee: ₹1,500 per team

First Prize: ₹15,000 Second Prize: ₹10,000

Student Coordinator: Ms. Parvathy R. Nair (+91 80759 09737)

Rules and Guidelines

- A maximum of two (2) teams per college may participate. Members may be from different academic departments within the same college.
- Each team shall consist of 8 to 10 dancing members.
- All participants must carry and present valid College ID cards.
- Teams must report backstage at least one (1) hour prior to the scheduled event.
- The performance sequence will be finalized through a draw of lots.
- The dance choreography, music selection, costumes, and overall presentation must strictly embody the chosen theme.
- Costumes, choreography, and expressions must adhere strictly to academic decorum and cultural propriety. Obscene or suggestive movements are strictly prohibited.
- Dangerous acrobatics without safety margins, open flames, sharp props, glass, liquids, colored powders, and hazardous materials are strictly prohibited.
- Total on-stage dance performance duration must be between 5 and 8 minutes. A maximum of 3 minutes is permitted for stage setup and clearance. Overtime will result in mark deductions.
- Any malpractice, indiscipline, or breach of rules will result in immediate disqualification.
- The decision of the judges and organizing committee shall be final and binding.

Choreography & Technical Requirements

- Teams may incorporate single or multiple dance genres (classical, semi-classical, contemporary, folk, or cinematic fusion), provided they form a cohesive narrative conveying the central theme.

- Props are permitted only if they are safe, lightweight, non-hazardous, and cause no abrasion or damage to the stage surface.
- Audio tracks must be submitted in MP3 format labeled as 'TeamName_College_ThemeDance.mp3' prior to the deadline and verified at the technical booth 1 hour before the event. Teams must also keep a USB flash drive backup.

Judging Criteria

- Thematic clarity, conceptual narrative, and aesthetic storytelling
- Choreographic complexity, musicality, and creative innovation
- Precision of movement, timing, unison, and group harmony
- Facial expressions (Abhinaya/Bhava), energy levels, and stage presence
- Visual appeal, color palette, cultural authenticity, and thematic alignment of costumes
- Smoothness of transitions, creative floor patterns, and space utilization Overall production value, aesthetic finish, and thematic impact

Code of Conduct

- Maintain high discipline, respect, and professionalism throughout the festival.
- Respect fellow participants, adjudicators, student coordinators, and technical staff.
- Any form of backstage misconduct, vandalism, or offensive behavior will lead to immediate institutional disqualification.

SECTION IV: GENERAL DISQUALIFICATION & GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

To ensure a fair, transparent, and professionally managed competitive environment, the De Novo 2026 Organizing Committee enforces the following overarching policies:

- Any participant or team found violating the eligibility criteria, submitting falsified identity credentials, employing unfair technological or external aids, or exhibiting indiscipline toward judges, volunteers, or co-participants will face instant disqualification from all registered events.
- Participating institutions are solely responsible for safeguarding their personal belongings, musical instruments, costumes, and props. The host institution and Organizing Committee shall not be liable for any damage, loss, or theft.
- The De Novo 2026 Organizing Committee reserves the sole authority to interpret, amend, or supplement these rules in the interest of safety, fairness, and academic excellence.