



RAMAKRISHNA MISSION ASHRAMA

Sector 15-B, Madhya Marg, CHANDIGARH - 160015

YOUTH SYMPOSIUM - 2023

ESSAY & ELOCUTION CONTEST ON

India's Message of Universal Tolerance and Acceptance

सहिष्णुता और सार्वभौमिक स्वीकृति पर भारत का संदेश

MONDAY, 11th SEPTEMBER, 2023 (9.00 AM to 1.00 PM)

Dear Young Participants,

We appreciate your interest in this event which we are organising to celebrate Swami Vivekananda's appearance at the Parliament of Religions, Chicago and also to reignite the spirit of his eternal message.

The world knows well how his short but eloquent appeal to shun sectarianism, bigotry and religious persecution became the key-note of the Parliament of Religions. Unequivocally he echoed India's eternal message of Universal Tolerance, Universal Brotherhood, Universal Acceptance and Oneness of Goal. Nearer home and all across the globe the world seems to have forgotten his message and forsaken ways of harmonious living. All around us we see fanaticism, religious intolerance, bigotry, faith-hate crimes and religious persecutions. His message has to resonate again in our Collective Consciousness and the spirit of message needs to be rekindled.

Swami Vivekananda had immense faith in the potential of the youth and this event throws an opportunity for you to expand and amplify the message India has to offer on Universal Tolerance and Universal Acceptance.

So here is a great opportunity for you to express your views on the topic and share it eloquently in this event to be organized on September 11, 2023. **The most interesting part is each short-listed entry will get one or the other prize.** While winners get their prizes and certificates, all remaining participants will also get their participation certificates along with Swami Vivekananda's Literature.

With best wishes,

Swami Anupamananda
Secretary

CONTEST DETAILS :

- **This contest is open to all students of recognized Colleges/Universities and Professional Colleges in Chandigarh, Mohali, Panchkula and New Chandigarh.**
- **The participants have to follow the following steps to participate:**
 1. **Write an essay (between 1500-2000 words) on the Topic in Hindi or English or Punjabi.**
 2. **Having neatly written/ typed your essay submit the same to the Ashrama along with:**
 - **Duly filled Participation Form**
 - **Copy of your Student ID card**
 - **Entry fee of Rs.50/-**
 - **Participation Form, Information Brochure and Books for Reference are available at the Ashrama website <http://chandigarh.rkmm.org/events>, print outs of these documents can be taken by the candidates on their own.**
 3. **Submission Process: (Entries will be accepted:)**
 - **Directly or Via Post** at Ashrama Office/Book-Stall during office hours (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) on **ALL DAYS OF THE WEEK.**

Address: Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Sector 15-B, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh – 160015.
 - **Via Email attachment (Scan your Essay and send it in single Pdf File)**
Email ID: rkmchdevents@gmail.com
 4. **Participation Fees of Rs.50/- to be paid in cash or through QR Code available at the Ashrama website. Please attach the Screen-shot of the online payment done through email.**
 5. **Essay Submission Deadline: Essays along with Participation Form and Fee of Rs.50/- must be submitted on or before **6.00 p.m., 4th September, 2022.****
 6. **Prepare a 5-to-7-minute eloquent Presentation** based on the Essay submitted for the contest. **Please keep a copy of your submitted Essay for your reference.**
 7. **Report on September 11, 2023 at 9:00 am** at Vivekananda Auditorium (Assembly Hall), at Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Sector 15-B, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh and inquire about the short-listing result.
 8. **If you are one among the short-listed candidates wait for your turn to deliver your eloquent presentation.**

Essay guidelines:

- **Word Limit:** Essay should contain **1500 to 2000 words**.
- **Language:** Essay can be submitted in any one of the following languages – **Hindi, English or Punjabi**.
- **Handwritten essays** should be **Neatly Written and Legible**. (No overwriting and rewritings).
- In case of **Typed essay**, it should be prepared on **A4 Size Paper** with **Font Size of 14 or 16**.
- **The number of words in the essay should be mentioned by the participant on the Participation form.**
- You should **read the famous Chicago Addresses, provided on the website**. Having read that try to expand on the inspirational message of Swami Vivekananda and add on what more India has to offer in the today's scenario. You can liberally quote from the address to rekindle the spirit of the eternal message of India.

Deadline for submission of essay is 4th September, 2023, 6.00 pm.

Essays will be shortlisted based on the following criteria:

- ✓ Originality of ideas.
- ✓ Relevance to the topic.
- ✓ Language.
- ✓ Overall impact.

Elocution Guidelines:

- * **Shortlisted candidates will be asked to present their essay before the audience and Judges on the day of the Symposium (11th September, 2023, starting at 9.00 am).**
- * Duration of the presentation would be **5-7 Minutes**. To observe Time limit present only the highlights of your Essay.

The **evaluation** of your **Eloquent Presentation** will primarily be based on your:

- ✓ Original Content
- ✓ Expressions and Voice Modulation
- ✓ Audience Connect
- ✓ Confidence and Overall Presentation

The decision of Judges would be final and binding.

Prizes:

Participants have the opportunity to win following 15 Prizes:

1st Prize (1)	Rs. 5,000/-	+ BOOKS
2nd Prize (2)	Rs. 3,000/- each	+ BOOKS
3rd Prize (3)	Rs. 2,000/- each	+ BOOKS
Consolation Prize (9)	Rs. 1,000/- each	+ BOOKS

Important:

- ***Deadline for submission of essays 4th September, 2023, 6.00 pm.***
- ***All Participants should keep the scanned copy of their **Duly filled Participation Form** and **Essay** before submitting to us and bring the scanned copies on the day of Symposium to be held at **Vivekananda Auditorium, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Chandigarh** on 11th September, 2023. 1st***
- ***All the Participants should be present at the venue by **9.00 am** and stay till **1.00 pm**.***
- ***All participants who send their entries for Essay Contest and **attend the Symposium** on 11th September, 2023, will be awarded a **Certificate of Participation**.***
- ***Certificates and Prizes shall be given on the day of Symposium only.***

Apart from the e-books available on the website, Participants can also purchase topic related material at the Ashrama Book-Stall, open from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm on ALL DAYS OF THE WEEK.

- **For more details or any clarification please contact:**

E-mail: rkmchdevents@gmail.com | Phone: 0172-5009781 | Mobile: 7347468636

- ❖ ***I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance. We believe not only in universal toleration, but we accept all religions as true."***
- ❖ ***"As the different streams having their sources in different places all mingle their water in the sea, so, O Lord, the different paths which men take through different tendencies, various though they appear, crooked or straight, all lead to Thee."***
- ❖ ***"The Christian is not to become a Hindu or a Buddhist, nor a Hindu or a Buddhist to become a Christian. But each must assimilate the spirit of the others and yet preserve his individuality and grow according to his own law of growth."***
- ❖ ***"...That upon the banner of every religion will soon be written, in spite of resistance: "Help and not Fight," "Assimilation and not Destruction," "Harmony and Peace and not Dissension."***

Quotations from Swami Vivekananda's address at Chicago Parliament of Religions...
