

Gokulashtami 2026
11 September 2026

Competition Guidelines

S.no	Event	Event Criteria	Rules and Regulations
1	Light Music solo	Prelims Maximum duration: 4 minutes Students have to sing songs from the light music category. No film songs. Any language song fine.Synopsis of the song should be submitted with lyrics in English and singer, composer details. Finals Maximum Duration: 6 Minutes .2 minutes stage set-up. No karaoke and Back tracking	Major Departments : Max. 10 Entries each Minor Departments: Max. 6 Entries each Shruti box allowed . Karaoke and backing track not allowed

2	Classical-Music Solo	Prelims Maximum Duration: 4 minutes. Students may sing either Carnatic or Hindustani composition/ compositional formats. Manodharma is allowed No backing tracks; (Sruthi Box allowed) Finals Maximum Duration : 8 minutes.2 minutes for the set-up. Students may sing either Carnatic or Hindustani composition/ compositional formats. Some elements of manodharma (Alap, Swara or neraval would be appreciated).	Major Departments: Max. 10 Entries each Minor Departments : Max. 6 Entries each Marking criteria: Vocal Quality, Pronunciation, Pitch perfection, Thalam, Ragam, Knowledge of the Ragam and Thalam Accompanists to play the Instrument : 2 (optional) Manodharmam (Improvisation)
3	Group Music Indian	Prelims Maximum Duration : 5 minutes Songs presented can be non-films or can be folk or patriotic Songs in any regional language Backing tracks is not allowed. The maximum number of singers is 6 Accompanists – 3 (Optional) Finals Maximum Duration : 8 minutes. Songs presented can be non-film or folk or patriotic Songs in any regional language Backing tracks is not allowed. The maximum number of singers is 6 and accompanists is 3. (From the same department/School)	Major Departments : Max. 5 Teams each Minor Departments : Max. 3 Teams each

4	Dance Solo - Classical	Prelims Performance at least 2 mts. Dance style should fall under the category of Classical dance- Bharathnatyam, Kuchipudi, Mohinyattam, Kathak ..etc. For the prelims dance costumes not needed. But reference of costume should be shared with faculty coordinator at the venue. Finals Max. Duration including set up: 10 mts including 2 minutes stage setup. Any Indian Classical dance form relating to Krishna theme is highly recommended.	Major Departments: Max. 10 Entries each Minor Departments: Max. 6 Entries each Costumes, music and dance form should pertain to Gokulashtami theme. No costume required for prelims but details required.
5	Dance Solo - Semi Classical	Prelims performance at least 2 mts. Finals Max. Duration including set up : 8-10 mts. Any Indian Semi Classical dance form relating to Krishna theme.	Major Departments: Max. 10 Entries each Minor Departments: Max. 6 Entries each Costumes, music and dance form should pertain to Gokulashtami theme. No costume required for prelims but references required.

6	Dance Group - Classical	Prelims Performance for at least 5 minutes. Theme : Krishna Finals Duration : 10 minutes including 2 minutes set up Dress code : Decent, adhering to the classical style of the dance Dance Style : Any Indian classical form	Major Departments: Max. 5 Entries each Minor Departments: Max. 3 Entries each Costumes, music and dance form should pertain to Gokulashtami theme. No costume required for prelims but details required. The minimum number of members in a group is 5 and maximum is 8 Two accompanist are permitted to help on stage (optional) Must be a classical Indian dance form – Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Kathak, Odissi, Mohiniyattam, Manipuri, or other recognized classical forms. No cinematic dance are encouraged. <u>Finals Guidelines:</u> Apart from the above, other guidelines Classical dance costumes relevant to the chosen style must be used. Costume approval must be taken from the Faculty Coordinator. Makeup should enhance expressions (bhava) and follow tradition. Fusion with semi-classical/non-classical styles is not allowed. Lyrics/music should be classical or devotional. Performances should reflect devotional, mythological, or cultural themes, especially those related to Lord Krishna or Gokulashtami.
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7	Dance Group – Semi Classical	Prelims performance for atleast 5 minutes. Theme : Krishna Finals Duration : 8 to 10 minutes Dress code : Decent, adhering to the semi-classical style of the dance Dance Style : Any Indian semi-classical form	Major Departments: Max. 5 Entries each • Minor Departments: Max. 3 Entries each Should be semi-classical, i.e., a blend of Indian classical forms (like Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi) with folk or creative styles. Pure classical or western or cinematic dance moves are not allowed. Must reflect Indian cultural/spiritual ethos, preferably related to Krishna, bhakti, or Gokulashtami themes. <u>Finals Guidelines:</u> Apart from the style and theme mentioned above other guidelines are: Costumes must be culturally appropriate. Costume approval to be taken from faculty coordinator Props allowed but must be safe and manageable (no hazardous materials). No-fire, sand and powders. Maximum 8 in a group vulgar moves, disrespectful gestures, or deviation from the semi-classical genre may result in disqualification.
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8	Quiz	Team of 2 members.	Prelims will be in the form of a written test. Max. 30 Teams from Major Departments Max. 15 Teams from Minor Departments Finals will have audio-visual Questions
9	Short Film	Maximum duration :6 minutes Short Film Concept: Values and Virtues: Highlight values like love, devotion, duty, and righteousness through Krishna's stories. Duration: Films should be between 5 to 8 minutes including credits and titles. Submission on or before 7th September 5.00 PM	Direct Finals Max. 5 Teams from the Major departments. Max. 3 Teams each from minor departments. Language: Films can be in any language, but non-English films must have English subtitles. Originality: Films must be original and not previously submitted in any other competition. Content: Films should adhere to the chosen theme and be appropriate for all audiences. Toxic violence, vulgar language, and obscene presentations are strictly prohibited. Submission Format: Films should be submitted in a digital format (MP4). Link will be provided for the submissions Team Size: Each team can have a maximum of 10 members as key role players as Director, Asst.Directors,Script/Story, Cinematography, Edit/VFX, Makeup, and music Use of Music: Only royalty-free music or original compositions can be used. Judging Criteria: Films will be judged on creativity, relevance to theme, storytelling, direction, cinematography, and overall impact

			Registration: The team leader has to initiate the registration. He/she also have to mention other team member's names. Team members should be from the same department or teamed departments. For eg: Civil & School of Architecture may have the team ready including students from both departments as members. Deadline: All entries must be submitted by 07.8.2026 6 p.m. No time extension. Teams that fail to meet the deadline will be considered disqualified. Only registered teams are allowed to do the submission. The best 2 films will be published in the YouTube channel of OSA. Copyright: Participants must ensure that their work does not infringe on any copyrights. They should provide credits for any external resources used. Disqualification: Any film that contains offensive or inappropriate content will be disqualified.
10	Creative Writing	Duration 1 hour Topic: On the spot topic will be given Theme: Related to Gokulashtami.	English = Major - 18 Minor – 13 Hindi = Major - 6 Minor – 4 Tamil = Major - 6 Minor – 4 Telugu= Major-6 Minor-4 Malayalam=Major-6 Minor-4

11	Instrumental Music Solo Percussion	Note: clarity, Command over the instrument, Perfection, improvisation, thalam (Rhythm).	Max. 10 Entries from the Major departments. Max. 6 Entries from minor departments. Two accompanists are allowed (not mandatory) No track or BGM allowed Max. 6 minutes including set-up time
12	Instrumental Music Solo Non-Percussion	Max. 10 Entries from the Major departments. Max. 6 Entries from minor departments.	Two accompanists live are permitted (optional) No recording/Tracks/BGM allowed Rhythmic Precision: Accuracy in tempo, beats, and overall rhythm integrity. Creativity & Improvisation: Innovative rhythmic patterns, originality, and improvisation skills. Clarity & Articulation: Clear enunciation (especially in vocal percussion), audible and precise beats. Cultural Relevance: Alignment with Indian tradition/spirituality or Gokulashtami theme (optional). Overall Impact: The performance's lasting impression and uniqueness.
13	Debate	Minor Departments – 8 teams (2 in a team, for and against) Major Departments – 15 teams (2 in a team, for and against) Individual participation only. Competition Structure: The competition consists of two rounds: Prelims and Finals. The topic for the Prelims will be announced on the spot.	Prelims Topic: Given on the spot just before the participant's turn Preparation Time: 2 minutes Speech Time: 4 minutes ○ Warning bell: at 3 minutes ○ Final bell: at 4 minutes Judging Criteria Content Relevance: 25% Clarity and Articulation: 25% Persuasiveness: 25% Adherence to Time: 15% Overall Impact: 10%

			Finals Topic: Announced to all finalists before the round begins. Preparation Time: 5 minutes Speech Time: 5 minutes Warning bell: at 4 minutes Final bell: at 5 minutes Rebuttal Time: 2 minutes Judging Criteria Content Relevance: 20% Clarity and Articulation: 20% Persuasiveness: 20% Adherence to Time: 15% Rebuttal Capability: 15% Overall Impact: 10%
14	Skit	Minor Departments – 3 teams (Max 10 in a team) Major Departments –5 teams (Max 10 in a team)	Theme Relevance: Alignment with Krishna Leela / Bhakti / Indian values / Gokulashtami spirit. In a team maximum 10 members. Script & Content: Originality, clarity of message, creativity in storytelling and dialogues. Acting & Expressions: Natural expressions, voice modulation, body language, and emotional portrayal. Team Coordination & Timing: Smooth transitions, timing, and teamwork among performers. For the prelims costume no need to be taken for rent.

15	Photography		Major Departments : Max. 20 Entries each Minor Departments : Max. 10 Entries each Individual Event. Theme: Will be announced one hour before in the registration desk Submissions will not be accepted once the deadline lapses. Photos submitted Images should be no larger than 4MB. Photos must be in JPEG format. You are required to provide a unique title & description for each image submitted. All submitted photos must contain the original EXIF metadata information. However, there must be no border(s), logo(s), copyright marks, identifying marks, or any other visible references and/or marks on the image. Basic editing, including color enhancement, the use of filters, and cropping of the Photo(s) is acceptable, provided any such editing does not affect the authenticity and/or genuineness of the Photo(s). Advanced editing used to create illusions, deceptions, and/or manipulations, and the adding and removing of significant elements within the frame is prohibited. Objectionable pictures portraying nudity, pictures with the potential threat to communal harmony, OR pictures outraging the modesty of women or children shall be considered for disqualification without any intimation to the participants. Competition is restricted to Students at Amrita university Ettimadai and Agriculture Campus only.
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16	Rangoli	Group Event Max. 2 member in a team	Direct Finals Major Departments: Max. 15 entries each Minor Departments: Max. 10 entries each Only color powders should be used. Theme : On-the-spot. Participants are to bring the necessary items (Colour Powders, Chalks,,)allocated area to be cleaned if spilled with powder). Duration: One hour & 30 min
17	Chenda	Judging Criteria: Judging is typically based on a variety of factors including rhythm accuracy, synchronization, creativity, adherence to tradition, and overall presentation.	Major and Minor Departments : 1 Team each Performance Duration: Each performance should be between 5 and 6 minutes. Composition and Style: Performers are expected to adhere to traditional compositions and styles specific to Chenda playing. Top selected 4 teams from the prelims will be competed in the finals. Team Composition: The total number of participants is limited to 25 in a team including chenda and other supportive instrument players. Uniform and Presentation: Performers are expected to wear traditional attire to maintain cultural authenticity (Dhoti/Saree with a matching shirt or blouse).
18	Elocution - English	The topic for Elocution prelims will be announced on the spot. For the finals, Topic will be announced one hour in advance on the intranet. Max 2 mins for prelims, 5 mins for final.	Major Departments : Max.8 Entries each Minor Departments : Max. 4 Entries each Individual event Content Relevance & Depth: Appropriateness to the theme, depth of message, and originality. Language & Clarity: Use of rich vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and clarity of speech. Reading from paper and mobile is not permitted

19	Mime	Major Departments: Max. 5 Teams each Minor Departments: Max. 3 Teams each	Eight members in a Team Should relate to Gokulashtami, Krishna Leela, social values, spirituality, or Indian culture. Avoid sensitive political or religious satire. No spoken words or background narration. Only gestures, body language, and expressions to be used. Simple props allowed if they support the act. Teams must bring their own costumes and makeup. No flammable, dangerous, or messy materials. Non-verbal background music or sound effects permitted. Teams must submit their track in advance (preferably in .mp3 format).
20	Reels	One reel submission per participant The reel should present a unique and creative take on the theme. The content should respect the cultural and religious sentiments associated with Gokulashtami and avoid any offensive or inappropriate visuals. Any content which is against the rule will be disqualified.	Major Departments : Max. 30 Entries each Minor Departments : Max. 15 Entries each Individual Event The content must be original, without any direct copying or plagiarism from other sources. The video and audio should be clear and of high quality Duration: 30 seconds to maximum of 90 seconds The reel should capture and hold the audience's attention from start to finish and watchable for all type of audience. Selected reels will be uploaded on university social media pages. Reels content should be based on 2025 Gokulashtami. Time and date should be reflected in the video. Format: MP4 Ratio: 9:16 - Insta reel format

21	Mural Painting	Judgement Criteria Creativity and Originality (The uniqueness of the concept and its execution) Artistic Merit (The style choice, technical skill demonstrated in the use of colors, composition, and perspective) Relevance to the Theme (How well the mural aligns with the competition's theme) Visual Impact (The overall aesthetic appeal and ability to capture attention)	Major Departments : Max. 10 Entries each Minor Departments : Max. 6 Entries each Individual Event The theme will be provided the previous evening The canvas/chart will be specified/provided You are allowed to choose your own technique Bring your own materials Two hours from the start are allowed to complete the painting
22	Acrylic Painting	Medium: Participants will be provided acrylic sheets for painting. Tools: Participants are required to bring their own drawing tools	Direct Finals Major Departments : Max.5 Entries each Minor Departments : Max.3 Entries each Individual Event Theme: Spot theme will be provided. Technique: Layering technique must be used. Duration: 2 hours Creativity & Originality: Novelty of the concept, unique interpretation, avoidance of clichés or copies. Relevance to Theme: How well the painting reflects the given theme. Composition & Design: Balance, arrangement of elements, perspective, and use of space. Color Usage: Harmony, contrast, and emotional impact of color choices.

23	Cartooning	Submission Format: A4 or A3 sheet (will be provided) Details: Name, age group, and contact details must be clearly mentioned	Direct Finals Individual Event Major Departments : Max. 10 Entries each Minor Departments : Max. 06 Entries each Theme: Cartoons must be based on themes provided on the spot. Duration: 2 hours Creativity & Originality: Uniqueness of concept, fresh interpretation of Krishna themes. Relevance to Theme: Alignment with Gokulashtami and Krishna's stories. Artistic Skill: Drawing/illustration quality, use of colors, visual balance. Expression & Impact: Emotional appeal, storytelling through cartoon. Overall Presentation: Neatness, clarity, finishing
24	Bhajan Connect	Bhajan Connect aims to provide a devotional, inclusive, and engaging platform for singers and bhajan groups to share their talent and connect audiences through devotional music. Audition Guidelines Participant Eligibility • All participants should register within the prescribed deadline. • Participants should report at the venue at the allotted time. • Each participant/group must follow the event's time limit. Song Selection • Performances should be devotional/bhajan-oriented. • Songs may be presented in Indian languages, subject to the event guidelines.	Major Departments: Max. 3 Team (Max.15 members including Accompanist) Minor Departments: Max. 2 Team (Max.15 members including Accompanist) Final Performance Guidelines Performance Duration • Each performance should strictly remain within the allotted time. Team Will be getting 20 minutes Slot • Participants should plan their introduction, song, and conclusion within the time limit. • Exceeding the allotted time may affect the evaluation. • Short listed top 4 teams from the prelims will be performed in the finals

	• Participants are encouraged to select songs that demonstrate musical ability, devotional expression, and audience appeal. • Avoid songs containing inappropriate, offensive, or non-devotional content. Audition Performance Team will get 6 minutes to perform maximums. Judges can intervene anytime if find overall presentation is lacking quality. • Participants should be prepared to perform without lengthy introductions. • The audition piece should showcase the participant's strongest vocal and musical qualities. • Participants must bring required instruments or equipment unless otherwise informed. Selection for the Final • The selection panel's decision will be final. • Selected participants will be informed of the final-round requirements and performance schedule.	Stage Presentation • Maintain a respectful and devotional stage presence. • Costumes should be modest, culturally appropriate, and suitable for a devotional event. Judging Criteria for Finals <table><tr><td> Criteria</td><td> Suggested Weightage </td></tr><tr><td> -----</td><td> -----: </td></tr><tr><td> Vocal quality & pitch</td><td> 20% </td></tr><tr><td> Rhythm & musicality</td><td> 25% </td></tr><tr><td> Bhava / devotional expression</td><td> 25% </td></tr><tr><td> Pronunciation & clarity</td><td> 10% </td></tr><tr><td> Stage presence</td><td> 10% </td></tr><tr><td> Audience connection</td><td> 10% </td></tr></table>	Criteria	Suggested Weightage	-----	-----:	Vocal quality & pitch	20%	Rhythm & musicality	25%	Bhava / devotional expression	25%	Pronunciation & clarity	10%	Stage presence	10%	Audience connection	10%
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