



Since 1898

# COLOMBO YOUNG MEN'S BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION

*(An approved charity incorporated by Act of Parliament)*

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30.01.2026

Dear Principal/ Sir/Madam,

## **COLOMBO YOUNG MEN'S BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION** **THE LIGHT OF ASIA CONTEST - 2026**

The Light of Asia oratory contest generally known as "*Light of Asia Contest*" an annual major event organized by the Colombo Young Men's Buddhist Association since 1824. This year to the contest is organized for groups and divisions mentioned hereinafter. The candidates for the contest are to be within the prescribed age limits as at 01/01/2026.

2. The candidates should recite the number of lines from the "**LIGHT OF ASIA**" book by **Sir Edwin Arnold** as required in their age groups. The participants will be judged on (a) the Accuracy of the text (b) Pronunciation (c) Audibility and Clarity of Voice (d) Vocal and Facial Expressions (e) Understanding of the Text. Candidates will be questioned by the judges and they to be prepared to explain the meaning of the passage recited in two to three minutes as to what the candidate understood from the lines recited.

3. The groups and divisions are:

### **a) Colombo District Dhamma Schools and Schools**

#### **GROUP**

<b>i) Senior Division</b>	Both Genders	Over 17 years and under 21 years of age (02.01.2005) - (01.01.2009) <b>*Reciting lines 30</b>
<b>ii) Junior Division</b>	Girls Boys	Over 13 years and under 17 years of age (02.01.2009) - (01.01.2013) <b>*Reciting lines 25</b>
<b>iii) Primary Division</b>	Girls Boys	Over 11 years and under 13 years of age (02.01.2013) - (01.01.2015) <b>*Reciting lines 20</b>
<b>iv) Basic Division</b>	Girls Boys	Over 9 years and under 11 years of age (02.01.2015) - (01.01.2017) <b>*Reciting lines 12</b>

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**Address**  
COLOMBO YMBA,  
70, D. S. Senanayake Mawatha,  
Colombo 08,  
Sri Lanka

**Hon. President**  
Mr. Mahendra Jayasekera  
  
**Hon. Vice Presidents**  
Mr. Kusumabandu Samarakrama  
Mr. Nalin J. Abeysekere  
Mr. Daya Weerasekara  
Mr. Sunil S. Sirisena  
Mr. D. Gamini Wimalasuriya

**Hon. General Secretary**  
Mr. Prasantha Abeykoon  
  
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**b) Outstation Dhamma Schools and Schools**

**GROUP**

i) <b>Senior Division</b>	Both Genders	Over 17 years and under 21 years of age (02.01.2005) - (01.01.2009) <b>*Reciting lines 30</b>
ii) <b>Junior Division</b>	Both Genders	Over 13 years and under 17 years of age (02.01.2009) - (01.01.2013) <b>*Reciting lines 25</b>
iii) <b>Primary Division</b>	Both Genders	Over 11 years and under 13 years of age (02.01.2013) - (01.01.2015) <b>*Reciting lines 20</b>
iv) <b>Basic Division</b>	Both Genders	Over 9 years and under 11 years of age (02.01.2015) - (01.01.2017) <b>*Reciting lines 12</b>

**c) Piriven Students Groups**

4. This category is open exclusively to Piriven students (monks) to contest under the following conditions.

**GROUP**

i) <b>Group 1</b>	Piriven Grade 01 to 03 <b>*Reciting lines 10</b>
ii) <b>Group 2</b>	Piriven Grade 04 to 05 <b>*Reciting lines 15</b>

5. Candidate who have previously won the first prize at the "Light of Asia" Contest are not eligible to partake in the Same Division again.

6. Applications for the contest will be uploaded and placed in the YMBA website. Applications to reach undersigned not later than 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

7. Preliminary rounds are scheduled to be held in Kandy, Kurunegala, Galle, Matara and Colombo under the supervision of the association and the panel of judges appointed by YMBA commence from May 2026 as mentioned in the admission card. Any eligible candidate who does not receive an admission card should contact this office on 011-2698083/2695786. The date of the finals will be intimated to the selected contestants.

8. All candidates are advised that they should be dressed in white and to refrain from wearing identifiable marks or colours when they present themselves at the contest.

9. Prizes and Awards :

a) Colombo district Dhamma Schools and Schools:

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>AWARDS</u>
i) Senior Division 1 <sup>st</sup> Place  2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Places	<b>Challenge Cup</b> Prize, memento and Certificate Prizes and Certificates
ii) Junior Division (Girls) 1 <sup>st</sup> Place  2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Places	<b>Challenge Cup</b> Prize, memento and Certificate Prizes and Certificates
iii) Boys 1 <sup>st</sup> Place  2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Places	<b>Challenge Cup</b> Prize, memento and Certificate Prizes and Certificates
iv) Primary Division (Girls) 1 <sup>st</sup> Place  2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Places	<b>Challenge Cup</b> Prize, memento and Certificate Prizes and Certificates
v) Boys 1 <sup>st</sup> Place  2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Places	<b>Challenge Cup</b> Prize, memento and Certificate Prizes and Certificates
vi) Basic Division (Girls) 1 <sup>st</sup> Place  2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Places	<b>Challenge Cup</b> Prize, memento and Certificate Prizes and Certificates
vii) Boys 1 <sup>st</sup> Place  2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Places	<b>Challenge Cup</b> Prize, memento and Certificate Prizes and Certificates

b) Outstation Dhamma Schools and Schools:

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>AWARDS</u>
i) Senior Division (Girls & Boys) 1 <sup>st</sup> Place  2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Places	<b>Challenge Cup</b> Prize, memento and Certificate Prizes and Certificates
ii) Junior Division (Girls & Boys) 1 <sup>st</sup> Place  2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Places	<b>Challenge Cup</b> Prize, memento and Certificate Prizes and Certificates

**iii) Primary Division (Girls & Boys)**

1<sup>st</sup> Place

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Places

**Challenge Cup**

Prize, memento and Certificate

Prizes and Certificates

**viii) Basic Division (Girls & Boys)**

1<sup>st</sup> Place

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Places

**Challenge Cup**

Prize, memento and Certificate

Prizes and Certificates

**c) Piriven Students Groups**

**GROUP**

**AWARDS**

**i) Group 1**

1<sup>st</sup> Place

**Memento**

Prize and Certificate

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Places

Prizes and Certificates

**ii) Group 2**

1<sup>st</sup> Place

**Memento**

Prize and Certificate

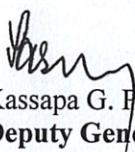
2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Places

Prizes and Certificates

10. Best Overall winner will be awarded late Mr. D. N. W. De Silva Memorial Cup along with a cash prize.

11. Vouchers from leading bookshops and books along with certificates will be awarded to all other winners of the individual categories.

12. Please Confirm.

  
Kassapa G. Paul  
Deputy General Manager

**Enclosure:**

Application