



THE BISHOP'S CO-ED SCHOOL KALYANI NAGAR, PUNE

INTERSCHOOL PATWARDHAN DEBATE

The 30th edition of the prestigious Interschool Patwardhan Debate Competition 2023 – 2024 was held on 1st and 2nd August 2023 at The Bishop's School, Camp. The competition instituted in honour of S.S. Laxmi Baisaheb Rani of Miraj was a showcase of the best and brightest young minds debating on issues relevant to our modern times.

The competition spread over two days brought together debaters from sixteen well-known schools across Pune City and Mumbai. The first day of the event, 1st August 2023 was the preliminary round. The school teams were divided into two pools, each pool featuring eight teams. Both the groups contested for a different motion. The elimination round led to a

shortlisting of six teams (the three best teams from each pool) as finalists for the Grand Finale conducted on 2nd August 2023.

The team from The Bishop's Co-Ed School, Kalyani Nagar was represented by Nitya Pillai and Bhavya Gangwal of Class 9.

The event commenced with a short prayer led by Headmaster, Mr. Christopher Gaylor. This was followed by a brief introduction and welcome of the judges. Mrs. Patricia James, Mrs. Michelle Nihalani, and Dr. A.S. Varekan constituted the panel of judges for the elimination round. Mrs. Shashi Solomon took the participants and the audience through the programme as the moderator for the debate.





As an extempore debate, the students in both the sessions were given the topic an hour prior to the competition. The motion before the house for the first session was – ‘Online Activism is not as Effective as Traditional Activism in Bringing about Social Change’. The post-lunch session had students debating on the topic ‘The Early Bird Does Not Catch the Worm, The Talented One Does’.

The participants were visibly nervous, but well-prepared. Every contestant presented a strong case for their side of the argument and were able to engage the audience. They also defended their arguments in the rebuttals, in keeping with the spirit of healthy debating.

The final scores were tallied as the judges shared their thoughts with the students. The results of the elimination round were announced after a get-together of games and fun for the students and teachers of the participating schools. The Bishop’s School, Camp, The Bishop’s Co-Ed School, Kalyani Nagar, Wisdom World School, Wakad, St. Mary’s School, Camp, Caelum High, and Christ Church School, Mumbai qualified for the finals. The evening’s proceedings were brought to a satisfying end with a scrumptious dinner.

Day two of the Interschool Patwardhan Debate kicked off with the same excitement and competitiveness as the preceding one. The debate was once again moderated by Mrs. Shashi Solomon. Mrs. Deepika Parab, Mrs. Michelle Nihalani, and Dr. Kalindi Bhat graced the occasion as the judges. The contestants spoke their mind on one of the most pressing issues of the time, of whether technology in its myriad forms was responsible for raising the unemployment rate. Each of the contestants was articulate in their delivery as they thoughtfully and confidently listed their arguments.

Prior to the announcement of the results, one of the students from the host school put up a brilliant monologue performance, commemorating 350 years of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj’s Coronation. The Bishop’s School Camp won the 30th Patwardhan Interschool Debate Competition while St. Mary’s School, Camp was adjudged the Runners Up. The Bishop’s Co-Ed School, Kalyani Nagar was awarded the trophy for the ‘Most Promising Team’.

All in all, the 30th Patwardhan Interschool Debate Competition proved to be a truly enriching experience.

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