

REPORT ON THE PATWARDHAN DEBATE

The Patwardhan Debate stands as a hallmark event within the esteemed Pune-Mumbai Debate Circuit, drawing participants from schools across the region. With a legacy spanning three decades, this annual debate remains a fiercely contested intellectual battleground.

Venue and Format

The 30th Edition of the Patwardhan Debate took place at the illustrious Lorna Roberts Hall within The Bishop's School Camp. This historic event unfolded over two days, on August 1st and 2nd, 2023. The participating 16 schools were divided into two pools, Pool-A and Pool-B, each consisting of eight schools. Each team comprised two participants – one advocating for the motion and the other against, culminating in a total of 32 participants.

Preparation and Execution

Pool-A:

On August 1st, 2023, the proceedings commenced in an organized manner. The teams in Pool-A gathered in the basement of Lorna Roberts Hall at 8:30 a.m. for registration and to determine the speaking order through a chit-based selection process. At 10:00 a.m., the participants were escorted into the library, where Mr. Shayne Mcpherson, our Principal, revealed the debate topic: 'Online Activism is not as effective as traditional activism in bringing about social change.' A meticulous arrangement ensured that participants had access to ample reference materials, excluding electronic devices, to support their arguments.

By 11:15 a.m., the participants assembled in the Lorna Roberts Auditorium, ready to engage in a spirited exchange of ideas. The esteemed panel of judges, consisting of Dr. A.S. Varekan, Mrs. Michelle Nahalani, and Mrs. Patricia James, presided over the debate.

Debate Proceedings

The discourse unfolded over an arduous 90-minute span, with each participant granted three minutes to present their perspective, followed by a one-minute allowance for rebuttals – limited to one per speaker. The prohibition on reading from pre-prepared texts upheld the spirit of spontaneous and well-reasoned discourse.

As the clock wound down on the rigorous debate, participants were granted a respite, partaking in a nourishing lunch before regrouping at 7:00 p.m. for the announcement of the qualifying teams. Three teams were slated to advance from each pool, solidifying their positions in the next phase of this intellectual journey.

Pool-B:

Within the vibrant tapestry of the Patwardhan Debate's 30th Edition, the teams of Pool-B infused their unique fervor into the event. Assembling in the basement of the Lorna Roberts Hall at 2:00 p.m., the participants engaged in registrations and determined the speaking order through a chit-based selection process. This process, fraught with anticipation, forged a sense of unity among the aspiring debaters.

At 3:00 p.m., the participants were led into the repository of knowledge – the library – where Mr. Shayne Mcpherson, our principal, unveiled the intellectually stimulating debate topic: 'The early bird doesn't always get the worm, but the talented one does.' Submerged in meticulously arranged reference materials, the participants embarked on a journey of preparation, driven by the desire to contribute meaningfully to the forthcoming exchange of perspectives.

By 3:15 p.m., a procession of determined debaters filled the Lorna Roberts Auditorium, poised for a spirited exchange. The esteemed adjudication panel, comprised of Dr. A.S. Varekan, Mrs. Michelle Nahalani, and Mrs. Patricia James, assumed their roles as discerning evaluators.

Unfolding Discourse: The Debate Unleashed

Over the subsequent 90 minutes, the discourse unfolded as a captivating symposium of ideas. Each participant was allocated a three-minute window to present their perspective, followed by a one-minute allowance for rebuttals – an intense opportunity for verbal sparring that tested agility and conviction.

As the clock signaled the conclusion of the intellectual duel, participants took respite during lunch, recharging for the evening's climactic moment. Reconvening at 7:00 p.m., the anticipation in the air was palpable as the unveiling of the qualifying teams loomed.



The Disclosure of the Qualifying Teams:

The participants of all the 16 schools assembled in the Lorna Roberts Hall at 7:00 p.m. anticipating the results. Before it, a short and fun games session was anchored by Mr. Clinton Fernandes which included the students and the teachers. Following this, the names of the schools of the six qualifying teams were announced (3 from each Pool). The six schools which qualified were: The Bishop's School Camp, Caelum High School, Christ Church

Bombay, The Bishop's School Kalyaninagar, St Mary's, Wisdom World Wakad. After this, dinner was served and we all departed by 8:15 p.m.



The Final Showdown: A Battle of Ideas on August 2nd, 2023

On the much-anticipated morning of August 2nd, 2023, the atmosphere was charged with excitement and determination as the six qualifying teams gathered at 9:00 a.m. in the library. The heart of the intellectual arena, the library, was the chosen battleground for the final clash of perspectives. The speaking order was determined through the timeless tradition of chit-based selection, preserving the element of surprise and spontaneity that defines true debate.

The Stage Is Set - A New Topic Unveiled

Just as the participants had embraced the challenge before, they now stood ready to tackle a new thought-provoking topic: 'Over-dependence on technology is raising unemployment rates.' The resonance of this subject echoed through the minds of the debaters, fueling their eagerness to engage in a thought-provoking discourse.



Embracing the Challenge: A Flow of Intellectual Discourse

With a prohibition on electronic devices, the participants were once again tasked with harnessing the power of their intellect and knowledge. As the clock started ticking, the auditorium came alive with the eloquence and fervor of well-prepared arguments.

The discourse unfurled in a structured manner, with each participant granted a three-minute window to present their perspective. These presentations were marked by meticulous research and passionate delivery, showcasing the

dedication each participant had invested. As their voices resonated through the auditorium, it was evident that the debaters had immersed themselves in the depths of the topic.

Watching over this intellectual duel were three distinguished evaluators: Dr. Kalindi Bhat, Mrs. Michelle Nahalani, and Mrs. Deepika Parab. Their discerning gazes bore witness to the participants' depth of understanding, rhetorical skill, and ability to articulate complex ideas with clarity.

Honoring a Stalwart: The Chief Guest

Adding to the significance of the occasion, Mr. Michael Guzdar, the former headmaster of the school, graced the event as the esteemed chief guest. His presence underscored the enduring legacy of the Patwardhan Debate and the impact it has on fostering intellectual growth and camaraderie.



Acknowledging the Facilitators of Discourse

Special recognition goes to the anchors, Tanush Ghai and Anish Suryawanshi, who seamlessly guided the proceedings with their charisma and wit. Mrs. Solomon, the adept moderator, expertly steered the discussions, ensuring a fair and balanced exchange of ideas. The vigilant timekeeper, Mitheel Gajare, ensured that every moment counted, while the Mic Rover, Adwait Oak, ensured that every voice was heard loud and clear.

A Pause for Anticipation: The Winning Teams Await

As the debate concluded and the participants left the stage, an air of anticipation hung over the auditorium. The winning teams were yet to be unveiled, and the room was filled with a mixture of excitement and curiosity. The Patwardhan Debate had once again lived up to its reputation as a platform for intellectual excellence and camaraderie.

The Awardees were:

Most Promising Speaker: Yukta Gupte. Runner Up Speaker: Neil Dubale.

Best Speaker: Aditya Kamat.

Honourable Mention for the Most Promising Team: The Bishop's School Kalyaninagar. Runner Up Team: St. Mary's School.

Winning Team: The Bishop's School Camp.

With the conclusion of this intellectually charged event, the Patwardhan Debate reaffirmed its place as an annual celebration of ideas, knowledge, and the unyielding pursuit of intellectual growth.


