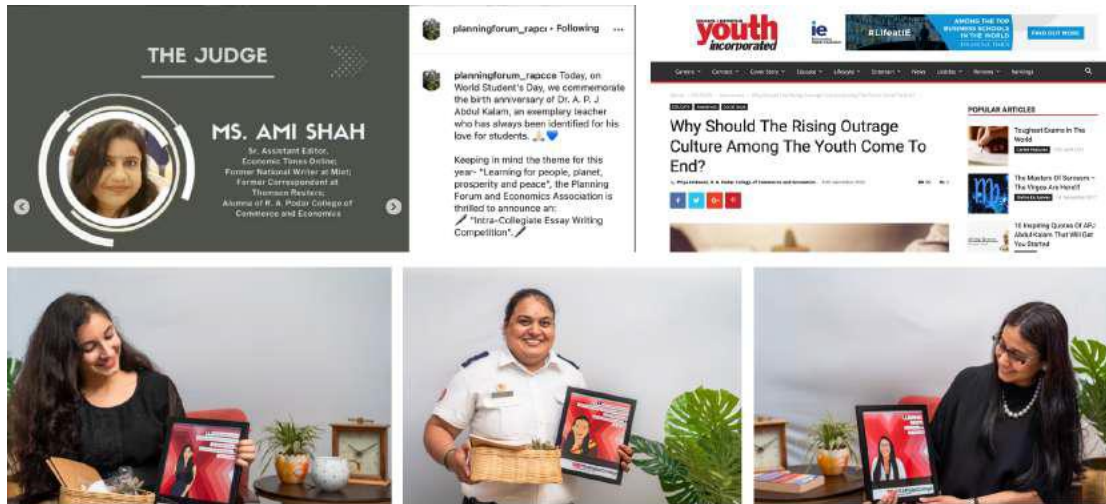


Planning Forum and Economics Association



Faculty in-charge - Mrs. Sudarshana Saikia

Student Secretary - Ms. Sneha Semaleesan

Student Joint Secretary - Ms. Janani Ravishankar and Ms. Anjali Iyer

Student Treasurer - Ms. Riya Tanksali

Executive Members - Ms. Sanya Khisty, Ms. Vaishnavi Rao

The Planning Forum & Economics Association has always strived to initiate multi-disciplinary discussions, connect with students and ignite creativity by motivating them to think out of the box. The forum fundamentally achieves the same by conducting various events and competitions and through its social media channels.

With the onset of the academic year 2020-21, the forum decided to provide a platform to the students for voicing their opinions on topics of current affairs. In their first event, an Online Intra-Collegiate Essay Writing Competition, students from Junior, Undergraduate and Graduate College were asked to submit their thoughts via e-mail on one of the following topics:

Section 1: Socio-cultural Issues

1. NEP: Education at what cost?
2. Outrage Culture due to Press Freedom: Do we need to cancel it?
3. Is tragedy a prerequisite to awareness? With special reference to Noble Professions in 2020

Section 2: Finance and Economy

1. India's role in Global Health (Pre and Post Covid-19)
2. Small Businesses and the Moratorium Policy: Are we really #VocalForLocal?

The forum had invited- Ms. Ami Shah, the Sr. Assistant Editor of Economic Times Online, Former National Writer at Mint, Former Correspondent at Thomson Reuters and an Alumna of R. A. Podar College of Commerce and Economics (Autonomous). The esteemed judge went on to announce the following students as the winners of the competition:

Section 1: Socio-cultural Issues (Joint Winners declared)

1. Ms. Priya Hotwani
2. Mr. Utkarsh Pohankar

Section 2: Finance and Economy

1. Mr. Kautuk Doshi

The winning essay on- ‘Why Should The Rising Outrage Culture Among The Youth Come To End?’ by Ms. Priya Hotwani was published by ‘Youth Incorporated Magazine’ on their website and social media handles. Furthermore, the winning essay on ‘Small businesses and the Moratorium Policy: Are we really #vocalforlocal?’ by Mr. Kautuk Doshi was published by the Podar Pageant in their edition for 2020 named, ‘Podar Pageant 2020 - Alohomora’.

The digital versions of both are available.

Since everything in 2020-21 was primarily done online, the Planning Forum and Economics Association decided to change the way students perceive the digital space. For every occasion, the forum shared infotainment through a series of posts and stories on their social media platforms. The posts included education as well as awareness-based information, which was well-received by many.

The members of the forum worked for over 6 months towards their flagship event:

TEDxRAPodarCollege which was conducted on the 11th of April, 2021 from 04:00 p.m. to 05:30 p.m using Zoom as the streaming platform. TEDx talks are independently organized events with the sole motto of promoting 'Ideas worth spreading.' Through this event, the team was looking for ideas that provide new values and food for thought to people across the world.

The event comprised of an all-women’s ensemble as speakers who shared a spectrum of ideas:

1. Ms. Isha Damle-

Para swimmer, HSC Board topper, a student of R. A. Podar College of Commerce and Economics (Autonomous): She is one of us. A simple college-going student, and a few extra-curricular activities on the sides, she just seems to be moving around in the mundanity. But then, something propelled her to achieve the extraordinary and what led her to redefine the word: “Normal”.

2. Ms. Shalini Kedia-

Founder and chairperson, Fragile X Society, India: Where many people think that they have hit the end, she considers it her job to show them the beginning. Being one of the very few people to

raise awareness about the Fragile X syndrome and the person who founded the Fragile X Society in India, her journey has not been an easy one, but has created large ripples.

3. Ms. Shubhangi Bhor-

One of the first female firefighters of the Mumbai division: Putting out kitchen fires is easy, yet for a woman, putting out fires as a trained professional seems like an unimaginable idea to many. A talk that looks forward to exploring more into exactly what is burning as an award-winning female firefighter in Mumbai, India.

The event also comprised activities that kept the audience engaged and helped them understand the idea behind the talks better. TEDxRAPodarCollege 2021 was the result of the team effort of over 30 team members and was attended by over 120 participants who have shared positive feedback with the team and we're eager to further the motive of the event.

The forum is now awaiting the upload of these talks on the official TEDx YouTube Channel. The members of the Forum also participated various intra-collegiate events, a few of which have been listed below -

1. Ms. Sneha Semaleesan and Ms. Sanya Khisty participated in Epsilon Research Paper Competition 2021, hosted by the Economics Association of Narsee Monjee College.

2. Ms. Druti Panchal and Ms. Janani Ravishankar participated in the 'On the Billboard' Poster Making Competition hosted by Arthiki - A Forum for Economics, Wilson College on the topic, 'Economic Disasters that changed the way we look at the world' and secured the First and Second Position respectively.