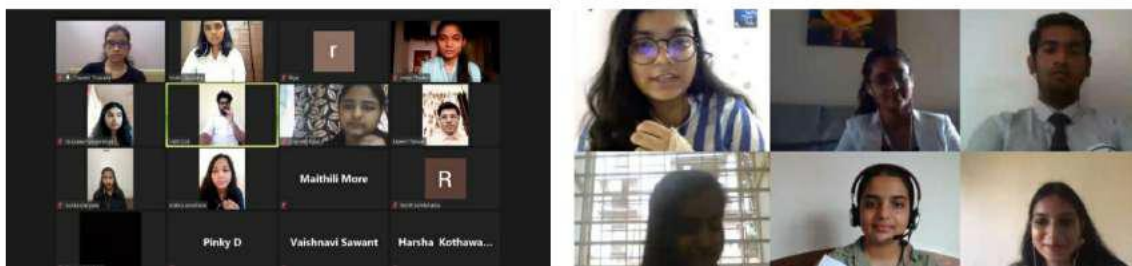


## Speaker's Academy



**Faculty in-charge** - Mr. Suryakant Pagare

**Student Secretary** - Mr. Akash Malatpure

**Student Joint Secretary** - Sanya Khisty and Sanika Gawali

**Student Treasurer** - Krishi Ketan Solanki and Deepika Murali Iyer

**Executive Members** - Aryan Mangesh Dhamankar, Lekha Narkar, Vishaka Swaminathan, Yukta More, Arya Karande, Chitra Kurup, Gargi Jawlekar, Aryan Pardeshi, Asmita Gadhade, Rutuja Vijay Aher

The Orientation Program of the forum was held on 3rd October 2020 in association with Group Discussion Cell. It was the first event of the forum and was carried on a virtual digital platform. It was attended by many students from the degree as well as Junior college. The students were introduced to public speaking through mock elocution and a round of mock debate which was quite fruitful in arousing their interest in oratory skills.

Intra-collegiate eliminations for the esteemed A. D. Shroff Memorial Elocution Competition had been a regular event of college in the past several years. However, due to the Pandemic, this most awaited event could not be conducted during the year.

‘Bullfights’ is the annual feature of Speakers’ Academy wherein the debates are conducted among the speakers on burning social, environmental, and other issues of public importance. Speakers’ Academy and Mudra Marathi Vangmay Mandal together organized the debates in not only English but also in the Marathi Language for the first time. The Bullfights were judged by two distinguished judges. The judges for Bullfights were Mr. Milind Sant, who is a German language teacher and is well versed in the subject matter of languages, including Marathi. The other eminent judge was Mr. Pauras Deshpande, a diversely qualified personality; an actor, producer, social activist, and above all a young and vibrant teacher in economics and other subjects, with experience of eight years. Both the Judges with profound knowledge, abundant experience, and equally proficient in both the languages judged the event and helped participants with their useful tips and feedback. The endeavor of conducting debates in different languages was to encourage the strengthening of public speaking skills of every participant and to give a platform to voice their opinion in the language of their choice. The Bullfights were hosted on a digital platform and were a two-day event with Preliminary rounds on 8th February 2021 and the Final round on 9th February 2021.

Topics for this event were as follows

Topics in English:

1. Is Indian Cinema ready to compete on an international level?
2. Is it feasible for India to become a cashless economy?
3. Will the New Education Policy enhance the standards of the Indian education system?

Topics in मराठी:

1. भारतीय चि चित्र पट आंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तरावर स्पर्धा स्पर्धा करणु यास तयार आहेका?
2. राष्ट्रीयशैक्षणिक धोरण २०२०, भारतीय शिक्षण प्रणालीचेमानक वाढवेल का?
3. कॅशलेस अर्थव्यवस्था बनणेभारताला शक्य आहेकाय?

It was not only interesting to peep into the young minds and understand their views on these contemporary issues, but was also a soothing experience to witness the abilities of the young generation to address the issue and weigh it up judiciously on its pros and cons in both the languages eloquently.

The flagship event of Speakers' Academy and Group Discussion Cell – Rostrum Spectrum was conducted on 12th April 2020. This is an intercollegiate Debate, Group Discussion, and JAM (Just a Min) competition organized by the two forums. The theme for this year was 'Future of Possibilities' where we anticipate the unforeseen and think of the impossible as it may become the reality. The event was conducted on a digital platform and regardless of the limitations the event was a major success with up to 35 participants in all from 14 different colleges participating throughout Mumbai.

The event was Judged by three Judges. The first Judge was Mr. Mihir Sharma who has participated in many public speaking competitions and has secured a winning position in AD Shroff national elocution competition in the past. Mr. Mihir Sharma, a qualified Chartered Accountant has judged various public speaking competitions and currently deputed in a distinguished MNC Bank. Mr. Mihir judged the preliminary rounds. The other judges for the event were Ms. Nancy Shah and Dr. Himani Shah. Ms. Nancy is a professional public speaker and conducts 30 hours workshops on public speaking. She has also built a community named Speakers' circle which guides people to improve their Public speaking skills. Dr. Himani Shah, with a Ph.D. in education and diploma in French language, is a trainer for English and French language. All the Judges with such distinguishing expertise judged each event in an utmost professional manner and were delighted with the performance of the participants and gave valuable feedback to each participant to help each of them improve.

Irrespective of the limits of a digital platform all the events were carried out smoothly. The participants were able to enjoy the thrill of a real competition and competed enthusiastically, the event also received praise from all the judges for the overall experience of the event.

Rostrum Spectrum was pleasantly perceived by everyone involved and turned out to be a great success.