

PLANNING FORUM AND ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION

Faculty In-charge: Mrs. Sudarshana Saikia

Student Secretary: Ms. Smruti Samant

Joint Secretary: Ms. Sneha Semaleesan and Ms. Vaishnavi Rao

Treasurer: Ms. Aditi Bhabhe

The Planning Forum & Economics Association has always aimed at recognising creative talents and sparking discussions, to give rise to smarter individuals with their own thought processes.

With this vision in mind, the forum conducted its first event for the academic year 2019-20, an Online Essay Writing Competition, in the month of August. Students from Junior College as well as Degree College were asked to submit their thoughts via e-mail on one of the following topics:

1. Plan your work and work your plan?
2. Earth 2050
3. Do movements like 'PRIDE MONTH' really help change social perceptions?
4. "Okay, I will destroy humans." – Sophia, AI.
Would this be the future of mankind?
5. Being a developing country, was it wise for India to spend 978 crores on a space mission?

The entries were judged by our very own alumnus, Mr. Zoheb Khan who also provided excellent feedback for each entry to help the students frame their ideas and thoughts better.

Among all entries submitted, the following students secured the top 3 ranks -

1st Place – Shivani Doiphode (FYBCom – B)

2nd Place – Varun Sanil (SYBCOM - G)

3rd Place – Reva Dighe (FYBCom - B)

The forum hosted the annual Intra-Collegiate Model Youth Parliament on Monday, 9th September, 2019. This event was conducted to create awareness about parliamentary proceedings as well as hone the students' public speaking skills.

Students were asked to discuss and debate on the following bills:

- National Education Policy, 2019
- DNA Technology (Use & Application) Regulation Bill, 2019.

Both the proceedings were judged by Dr. Harshad Bhosale from the Department of Political Science of Kirti M. Dongursee College, who trains students for the Inter- University Model Youth Parliament Competition.

Winners of the Model Youth Parliament were as follows –

- Bill A – National Education Policy, 2019

1st place: Riya Abrol (FYBCom A)

2nd place: Nidhi Shah (TYBCom E)

- Bill B – DNA Technology (Use & Application) Regulation Bill, 2019

1st place: Sanya Khisty (SYBCom G)

2nd place: Tanvi Dombé (SYBCom G)

To further our purpose of creating a growth positive and interactive space for young minds of all ages, the forum held the first edition of RAPCMUN – R. A. Podar College's

Model United Nations on 24th January, 2020. The conference took place over 3 days, from 24th to 26th, and welcomed over 50 participants, from high school till students pursuing masters, in this educational simulation of the United Nations. Additionally, a training session was conducted to help inexperienced participants understand the competition and perform better.

For the first edition, the committees and their agendas were as follows –

- UNGA: Regulation on the proliferation of UAVs
- UNHRC: Addressing economic and social issues of the forced displacement and exploitation of refugees
- ECOSOC: Responsible usage of resources located in the Arctic

With 4 sessions of simulated international discussions, the conference was a huge success for its first edition.

On 30th and 31st May, 2020, the Planning Forum and Economics Association launched its very first edition of 'The Platform – Faces. Voices. Stories.', as an initiative under the student engagement programme and to provide a platform where people could tell their inspiring stories. Prior to this event, the forum hosted an Instagram challenge called "#theworldisyourplatform" where students were asked to send in a photo or a video of any art they had learnt or created during the lockdown. All the entries were compiled into one video featured on both days of the event.

The first edition of this event featured two webinars hosted on the Official College Facebook page. The first speaker, Ms. Nikkita Banawalikar, gave the audience a glimpse of her journey as a performing artist and how she overcame all the hurdles life threw at her. The second speaker, Ms. Hemlata Tiwari threw light on her experience of forming Swaradhar and how she aims to give a platform to underprivileged people to showcase their talents. This new initiative received a great response from the attendees and helped change the perspectives of many.

The forum also participated in 'Arhotsav' – an intercollegiate competition organized by N. K. College conducted on 9th August, 2019. The team secured the following prizes –

1. Overall winners securing the 'Best College' trophy
2. 1st place in the PowerPoint Presentation competition – Ms. Smruti Samant & Ms. Sneha Semaleesan
3. 2nd place in Elocution – Ms. Sneha Semaleesan
4. 1st place in Debate – Ms. Smruti Samant & Ms. Sneha Semaleesan
5. Consolation in Debate - Ms. Vishaka Swaminathan & Ms. Tanvi Dombé
6. 1st place in Poster Making – Ms. Vaishnavi Dukhande