

Planning Forum and Economics Association



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The Planning Forum & Economics Association has been a platform for innovative ideas and stimulating discussions that have urged students to think out of the box and follow their creative spark. The informative content posted on the forum's social media handles and the events organised, rightfully acknowledge this purpose.

In the very first event of the academic year 2021-22, the forum hosted an Online **Intra-Collegiate Essay Writing Competition** which sought students across various levels in college to put their knowledge of current affairs to use. They were asked to put their thoughts into words through an essay on one of the following topics:

1. *Is social isolation making us more social?*
2. *Can the art and the artist truly be separated? (With special reference to the cancel culture)*
3. *Is any Billionaire ethically made?*
4. *Sustainable fashion - Is it really feasible, or just woke?*

The competition was judged by Mr. Zoheb Sirguroh; an Alumnus of R. A. Podar College of Commerce and Economics, who provided the participants with valuable feedback and tips to follow in their future endeavours. The results of the competition were announced on the Forum's Instagram handle and the winners are as follows:

First Podium: Nimisha Kamble (FYBCom) and Sanyukta Kamath (TYBCom)

Second Podium: Swastika Saha (SYBCom)

Third Podium: Akanksha Sanjay Gaud (FYBCom)

Consolation Prize: Om Prasad Mukane (SYBCom)

Furthermore, Nimisha Kamble and Sanyukta Kamath's essays have been published in Youth Incorporated's Online Magazine, and the other three have been published in Podar Pageant 2021.

While the students were speculating whether it would be an offline year or online again, the Planning Forum decided to make the most out of the available medium and thus, a string of posts that were just as educating as much as entertaining was posted on the social media handles.

In collaboration with the English Literary Circle of our College, the Forum launched the first-ever edition of **Quote Unquote - An Open Mic Event** on 5th January, 2022. Hosted on the virtual platform MS Teams, the theme for the first edition was 'First Times' where the performances of Poets, Storytellers and Musicians not just from Podar, but also from Colleges across Mumbai highlighted the magic of various first times in their lives. The Chief Guest for the event was Ms. Sanjana Devarajan, an acclaimed singer, songwriter and an alumna of our very own College, who gave valuable tips to the participants. The event was also graced by our Principal, Dr. (Mrs.) Shobana Vasudevan, Vice Principal - Degree College, Mrs. Kavita Jajoo and the students and teachers of Colleges from across Mumbai. The initiative was well appreciated by all and an enthusiastic response was seen for more such events in the future.

The most awaited flagship event of the forum, TEDxRAPodarCollege was conducted on the 6th of February, 2022 on Zoom. In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDxRAPodarCollege has always aimed at stirring conversations by giving a platform to ideas and perspectives that matter. The motive has been to ripple the effect of ideas and possibilities through young minds along with the people who surround us and create further ripples for communities across the globe. The speakers for this edition were people who had impressed their mark in their respective fields and thus, were indeed a privilege to be heard. The ensemble of speakers comprised of:

1. Mr. Archit Gokhale –

An Amateur Astronomer, Aspiring CA & Student of R. A. Podar College of Commerce and Economics (Autonomous), who demystified the myths about the sky and its celestial inhabitants, that majority of us grew up hearing in the form of bedtime stories.

2. Ms. Rhea Mehta –

A Luxury Lighting Designer & Entrepreneur, whose chosen line of career is a novelty in itself, enlightened the audience about the efficacy of light as we have seen it. Aptly titled, it was indeed a sensorial journey hearing the talk and absorbing the content.

3. Mr. Pavitra Krishna Bhat –

Being a Bharatanatyam Dancer & a Teacher, he is an excellent speaker and a really graceful performer. But for some this introduction must have sounded fundamentally wrong since “graceful” can’t really be associated with a male. His talk persuaded the listeners to believe otherwise.

Apart from these engaging discussions, to keep the conversation flowing, various engagement activities were conducted to help the audience to grasp and understand the ideas even better. TEDxRAPodarCollege 2022 was indeed a success with around 200 people tuning in to listen and showering positive responses. The team effort put in by the members was evident. The talks have been uploaded on the official TEDx YouTube Channel and viewed and appreciated by a global audience.

The members of the Forum also participated enthusiastically in various inter-collegiate events, like

- Know Your Indian Economy organised by VES College,
- Intercollegiate National Level Online ECO Quiz organised by Bharat College of Arts & Commerce Department of Economics,
- World Famous Economists Poster Making Competition organised by Department of Business Economics and Friday School of Economics of KES Shroff College.
- NM’s Arthashastra’s Model United Nations - An Unconventional Money heist MUN organised by Narsee Monjee College