



DECCAN EDUCATION SOCIETY'S

## **Shri. Navalmal Firodia Law College, Pune**

(Permanently Affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University ID No.PU/PN/LAW/207/2004)

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### **Late Gopal Ganesh Agarkar Smruti Karandak.**

Late Gopal Ganesh Agarkar Smruti Karandak, held on first and second of September 2023 (**15th edition**) was a remarkable showcase of intellectual prowess, rigorous argumentation, and persuasive communication. The event attracted a diverse pool of over two hundred participants from all over India, each contributing to the richness of perspectives and argumentation. The competition was meticulously organized by the Mimansa Debate Forum of Deccan Education Society's Shri Navalmal Firodia Law College, known for its commitment to fostering critical thinking and effective communication.

#### **Day 1**

On the first Day, the inauguration of the Debate Forum commenced at 9:30 AM with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the illumination of knowledge and wisdom. This traditional gesture set the stage for an exciting day ahead. Followed by the lamp lighting ceremony, the Officiating Principal of the college Adv Sunita Adhav Ma'am extended a warm welcome to all the students and participants. Ma'am emphasized the importance of constructive dialogue and wished luck to the participants for the forthcoming debate competition.

This was followed by the introduction of the 'Mimansa Debate Forum', highlighting its role in promoting critical thinking, communication skills, and healthy intellectual discourse among the students. The forum's objectives and activities were briefly outlined.

The event then moved on to honour the distinguished chief guest. Shri Dhanajay Kulkarni Sir was warmly welcomed with beautiful plant saplings and token of appreciation. His presence added significance to the occasion.

Shri Dhanajay Kulkarni Sir delivered insightful speech, sharing their thoughts on the importance of debates in shaping young minds and fostering a culture of dialogue. He also praised the initiative and encouraged students to engage in meaningful discussions.

College Development Committee Chairman Adv. Ashok Palande Sir took the stage to deliver a motivating address. He commended the Debate Forum's efforts for organizing such a marvellous event.

The Faculty Coordinator Asst. Prof Saurabh Jadhav delivered the Vote of thanks, with heartfelt gratitude to the chief guest, President, Principal, participants for their valuable contributions.

With this the participants shifted from the Amphitheatre to the Main building of Shri Navalmal Firodia Law College, where the participants were once again briefed about the schedule, rules, and guidelines for the day's debate competitions. This ensured clarity and fairness in the upcoming contests.

The topics for the competition were-

- 1. Same Sex marriage - Should It Be Legal?**
- 2. Green Hydrogen: Are We Heading Towards Zero Carbon Future?**
- 3. There Is No Place For Morality In Today's Politics.**
- 4. Age of marriage for women should be increased.**

These topics challenged the participants to think critically and articulate their positions effectively. The debates were conducted in three languages i.e. Hindi English and Marathi. Each debate consisted of opening statements, rebuttals and closing arguments.

The quality of debates was exceptionally high, reflecting the dedication and hard work put in by the students and their coaches. Participants demonstrated strong research skills, clear communication, and the ability to engage in respectful and constructive discourse. The debaters covered the huge spectrum as their

research consisted the ancient mythology of ‘Lord Shiva being attracted to Lord Vishnu’s Mohini Avatar’ to ‘Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India SC verdict of 2018’. The debaters also stated strong points against the topic such as “God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve.” and “When a same Sex couple adopts a child who is the mother and who is the father? For proper upbringing/growth one needs a father and a mother both.” Few also questioned the Sex education in the system in India.

The participants made impactful statements like ‘Being moral is difficult while being rational’, “Where there is politics there is no morality”, “Politics is not about Left and Right, it is about Top and Bottom”. Participants also exhibited reference to Gandhi’s ‘Antyodaya’, current events of devastating violence and incidents in Manipur. One also stated a quote from the then PM of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s speech before facing the no-confidence vote in 1996, “Sarkaare ayengi, jaayengi, paristitiya banengi, bigdengi magar ye desh rehana chahiye”.

A panel of experienced judges, consisting of professors, professionals, and experts in various fields, evaluated the debates. There were eight debate rooms for each language with a panel of two Judges in each room. Their responsibilities included evaluating the debaters' content, delivery, and overall persuasiveness.

Panel of Judges for English Language:

- 1. Judge 1: Amruta Shirpurkar**
- 2. Judge 2: Bhumika Rathore**
- 3. Judge 3: Harpreet Kaur**
- 4. Judge 4: Megha Deshmukh**
- 5. Judge 5: Prama Kelkar**
- 6. Judge 6: Pritam Jain**
- 7. Judge 7: Shweta Gupta**
- 8. Judge 8: Vedant Kulkarni**

Panel of Judges for Marathi Language:

- 1. Judge 1: Amit Gogawale**
- 2. Judge 2: Bharat Patil**
- 3. Judge 3: Sushma Kadam**
- 4. Judge 4: Swami Raj Bhise**

Panel of Judges for Hindi Language:

- 1. Judge 1: Akshay Ugale**
- 2. Judge 2: Santosh Dhotre**
- 3. Judge 3: Vaishnavi Desai**
- 4. Judge 4: Vikramaditya Rathore**

Their expertise ensured fair and unbiased assessments of each team's performance. The judges provided valuable feedback to the participants, which helped them refine their debating skills.

The student volunteers and coordinators played a vital role in creating an effortless, flawless and vibrant atmosphere for the participants and the Judges.

It is also important to note that the Volunteers and the participants were provided with delicious and nutritious Breakfast, Lunch and High Tea ensuring that their energy levels remained high throughout the day, and they were well nourished for the demanding debates.

The day concluded with the Results for Preliminary Rounds. Out of the impressive 108 participating teams, only 8 teams were qualified for the final rounds marking a very tough competition. These teams displayed exceptional skills and knowledge, earning their well-deserved spots in the finals.

## **Day 2**

On the second day, the event began with a hearty and nutritious breakfast, providing participants and volunteers with the energy they needed for the day ahead.

After breakfast, the participants were gathered in the Amphitheatre for an introduction to the day's proceedings and a comprehensive briefing, ensuring that everyone was well prepared for the upcoming debates.

Without further delay the competition commenced with the English Final Round, the topic for the Final Rounds was "**Artificial Intelligence is the new ASUR**" where the top teams engaged in fierce debates, displaying their language and argumentation skills. Following the English Final Round, the event transitioned to the Hindi Final Round, where participants continued to impress with their proficiency in another language. The Marathi Final Round was indeed the most heated debate in the competition marking a well versed knowledge and Excellent Research of the participants.

Several teams and individuals exhibited exceptional skills throughout the competition. Their ability to construct persuasive arguments, refute opposing viewpoints, and maintain decorum was truly commendable. Notable performers included the students of Indira Gandhi National Open University who also happened to secure the first Prize. The students of Fergusson College who also happened to be the 1st runner ups for the competition.

The judging panel consisted of esteemed academics, experts in relevant fields, and experienced debaters –

- 1. Dr. Sanjyot Apte maam.**
- 2. Dr. Vishram Dhole Sir.**
- 3. Dr. Manisha Mittal ma'am.**

Their impartiality, expertise, and constructive feedback contributed significantly to the overall quality of the competition.

This was followed by the valedictory ceremony of the competition, where achievements and contributions were celebrated. It was a moment of reflection on a day filled with vibrant debates. After that the distinguished Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, and Judges were introduced and felicitated, acknowledging their invaluable presence and contributions to the event. The Guest of Honour also addressed the gathering, offering words of wisdom and motivation to the participants. College Development Committee Chairman, Adv Ashok Palande Sir and the Judges provided valuable feedback to the participants, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement, which was crucial for their growth. The Student coordinators shared experiences and insights, expressing their gratitude to everyone involved and the lessons learned throughout the event.

The much-anticipated moment arrived as the winners and finalists were declared, celebrating their hard work and dedication.

The Winners of this competition were the students of –

**IGNOU - Indira Gandhi National Open University-** Parag Badrike and Mugdha Thorat.

First Runner up spot was secured by-

**Fergusson College-** Komansu Herwani and Aparna Jaichand Patle.

Second Runner up spot was secured by-

**Savitribai Phule Pune University –** Chaitanya Bankar and Deeksha.

**Individual best speaker and special appreciation awards were also given.**

**Best Speaker – Hindi**

Shivansh Narayan Tripathi.

**Special Appreciation- Hindi**

Sanika Choure.

**Best speaker Marathi**

Parag Badrike.

**Special appreciation – Marathi**

Chaitanya Bankar.

**Best Speaker – English**

Naman Rawal.

**Special Appreciation – English**

Shaunak Prasad Shirgaonkar.

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing appreciation to all participants, volunteers and organizers who made the Debate Forum a grand success. Followed by the traditional "Pasaydan" creating a calm and soothing effect and inducing a sense of peace, tranquillity, and relaxation among the students.

The Debate Forum event was a dynamic and intellectually stimulating occasion that displayed the talent and dedication of participants while fostering an atmosphere of healthy debate and exchange of ideas.

Overall the 15<sup>th</sup> Late Gopal Ganesh Agarkar Smruti Karandak also known as Agarkar Karandak Debate Competition was a resounding success, fostering critical thinking, public speaking skills, and a sense of camaraderie among students from different colleges. It provided a platform for young minds to engage in meaningful discourse and tackle complex issues. The event would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the organizing committee, participating schools, debaters, and judges. It is expected that this competition will continue to be a highlight of the academic calendar for years to come, nurturing the next generation of articulate and informed individuals.