

Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Debate 2021

In order to succeed , your desire of success should be greater than your fear of failure. Overcoming all the challenges posed by the Covid-19, Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering has successfully hosted its Flagship event, Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Debate (CRMD), from 8th to 10th of October , 2021. Again the event was held online but that did not take away the enthusiasm professed by the debaters or the judges who partook in this prestigious event.

Identifying the indifference between the set of practices and moral values prevalent in the modern world , the theme for CRMD 2021 was – *“The Emanation of Unbecoming Comportment”*

CRMD is an intermediate Oxford-style debate competition and has always been praised by people who have witnessed it. Teams from all over India eagerly anticipate bagging the esteemed trophy with their debating intrepidity. The event was hosted on two popular video conferencing platforms, Google Meet and Zoom. The Semi-finals and Final debates were live on YouTube as well to ensure an immersive experience for all our viewers.

The much-anticipated debate had 32 laudable teams from all over the nation, grappling with their words for the first prize of Rs. 50,000, second prize for 30,000 and Rs. 10,000 for the best speaker and the best adjudicator. Teams from more than 15 states competed hard through the league rounds to acquire their positions in the quarter-finals.

Not only centring on the strengths and weaknesses of an argument but also providing frank but constructive feedback to each team to help them better, our Judges, who included experts from the field of Communication, Education, and Corporate world, judged every debate with immense grace and eloquence.

Weighing every argument with equanimity, and deciding rankings in the house, an Adjudicator plays a vital role. Our Adjudicators consciously noted down all considerable points put forth by the debaters and provided them with productive feedback for the same.

With astute arguments, the top 8 teams battled their way in quarters, putting forth excellent points. 4 teams emerged victoriously from the war of words and were qualified for the semifinals.

The panel of Judges for the semi-finals included -

Dr. Khushbu Trehan, is an Assistant Professor (Communication Skills), an Employability Trainer at D. J. Shanghvi College of Engineering Mumbai, India.

Miss Meera Bharwani, is a senior faculty of Communication Skills at VJTI. She has taught at VJTI, Sardar Patel Institute of Technology, Xavier Institute of Engineering, Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS), Champlain College (Vermont, USA), Mumbai Campus, Thakur College of Engineering and Technology, and Ramnarain Ruia College among others.

Mr. Anirudh Srinivasan is currently a Marketing Manager with Fujitsu, a Japanese Digital Transformation company, where he focuses on Emerging Technology solutions such as Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing and Blockchain.

Dr. Arpita Pal Choudary is the Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Engineering Sciences at Ramrao Adik Institute of Technology, D.Y Patil Deemed to be University and have More than 25 years of experience in teaching and research.

Dr. Suma Shreedhar is currently working for AP Shah Institute of technology as Assistant Professor since 2016 and has Completed doctorate in English from JJTU and MS in counselling and psychotherapy from Chittor university having more than 16 years of teaching experience.

Mr. Sashankh Kale comes from a research and consulting background having close to 18 years of work experience and is currently in a corporate strategy role at Gainwell Technologies, a US healthcare IT solutions company.

The teams competed flawlessly in the semi-final rounds, proving their skills for the dialectic dispute. The finest 2 teams made their way to the finals.

Articulating the roots of beliefs and opinions, the 2 teams in the final round showcased their endowment of deploying lucid and logical arguments following the given motion -

“This house being the assembly of 1947 decides to pursue Ambedkar's vision of a completely urban model for Indian development via elimination of the rural social order and pursuit of urban systems of progress..”

Rtd. Brigadier Ajit Srivastav was the chief guest for the final round of CRMD' 21. After 38 years of meritorious service in Indian Army, Brigadier Ajit Srivastav is now the PRESIDENT of POORVI SAINIK SEVA PARISHAD of MUMBAI, THANE and KONKAN District and simultaneously nurturing his hobbies of painting, wood work and travelling and social work.

Following were the Judges for the Finals of CRMD' 21 -

Dr. Abha Jha, is presently teaching Business Communication and Ethics in THADOMAL Shahani Engineering college, Bandra. She has taught in FRCRCE between 2008-2011.

Mr. Jagjyot Singh is businessman by profession and has participated in this debate competition for 4 years and have won all four years consecutively and also won best speaker in all four years . He has had a very close relationship with the institute and it's professors and students over the years.

Mr. Mihir Karkare is an alumni of this college and have successfully completed computer engineering in the 2007 batch and has also been part of the CRCE debate team in his final year . He believes that the debating skills he developed during those days have served as a strong underpinning in his life and career.

In every battle there comes a time when both sides consider themselves beaten, then he who continues the attack wins. Side Opposition, Team CMD03 (NMIMS MPSTME) emerged triumphant in the prestigious battle of CRMD this year.

Offering an arduous debate, Side Proposition, Team CMD19 (Gujarat National Law University) were declared as the runners-up for CRMD'21.

Ms. Chahna Charles received the best Speaker award and Mr. Purav Bhardwaj received the best Adjudicator award.

The power of real debate is in the language and intellectual honesty of the debaters, alongside the engagement of spectators. The debates were lively, proposing and countering a plethora of ideologies. Providing a forum for today's youth to engage in various affairs experienced in daily life, CRMD was an indulgent treat for the debaters and the audience alike. A virtual debate experience was one of its kind and proved to be a boon as for the first time ever, our viewership was spread across the length and breadth of the country. This online affair in no way diminished the pleasure of the enticing war of words.

Every prosperous event is a result of the commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort of everyone planning the event. My deepest appreciation to my professors in charge – Mrs. Garima Tripathi and Mrs. Parshvi Shah, and the professors who assisted me, Dr. Joseph Rodrigues, Mrs. Sundary Prabhavarthy and Miss Prahelika Pal, for their constant support and guidance. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the organizing committee, the diligent Students' Council who strived to not only organize but also make it a transcendent experience. I would also like to thank our Local Superior Fr. Peter D'Souza, Director Fr. Valerian D'Souza, Principal Dr. Srija Unnikrishnan for all the love and support we received pre and post the event.

I extend, in abundance, my most exuberant appreciation to all the helping hands, who left no stone unturned to make this debate fruitful. Without all of your love, support, and dedication, CRMD 2021 would not have seen the success that it did.

Alisha Rao

Editorial Secretary

Student's Council, CRCE.

Few

Photographs:



