



AERC NEWSLETTER

Virtual AERC | March-Oct 2020 | AMITY EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE | <https://www.facebook.com/AERCResourceCenter/>

Global learning continues

In 2004, when I laid the foundation of Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC) I had a mission and vision to create a global learning hub for all my students that would enrich and internationalise the academic curriculum. The aim of the centre was to nurture global citizenship with values and to provide exposure and skills to operate in a global environment. Sixteen years later, I am happy and proud to see that AERC has endeavoured to build a gateway to the world at Amity, a world where respect for diversities, quest for learning without boundaries and success rooted in human values is the way of life.

With *Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam* as its driving force, AERC has partnered with over 30 countries across the world including USA, Japan, Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, Denmark, Slovakia, Slovenia, Netherlands, Finland, Russia, Korea, Maldives, China, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, etc. It carries out extensive research, conceptualises, designs, coordinates and launches new innovative projects through collaboration and partnerships with international schools, universities, UNESCO, UNEP, UNODC, United Nations Information Center, European Union, foreign embassies, Education Ministries, Cultural and Educational Centres of different countries, NGOs,



Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson

etc. In its quest to blend the best of east meets the west, the centre has created some signature programmes like AIMUN, MUN Summer Club, Nurturing Leadership Program, Amity International Debate Club, Amity Global Alumni Meet, Entrepreneurship and Start Workshop, Leadership Workshop, etc, which bestow world class exposure, cultural understanding, thinking and innovation skills woven with values to young minds.

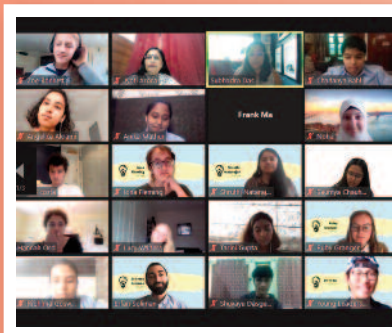
As it nurtures young changemakers, AERC itself became an insignia of change in a difficult time like that of pandemic, when learning across the globe went virtual. While the existing programmes launched by the department like AIMUN, YRoNS, Summer MUN

Camp, Wharton Global Youth Program- The Saturn Parable, Inter Amity Debate, Harvard India MUN, etc., continued the same way and with same passion on virtual platforms. This period also saw the launch of many new programmes like Debate Workshop by Indian Schools Debating Society, GRUEN (online Project)- Green Urban Environment in collaboration with Goethe Institute, Hongkong, Entrepreneurship and Start-up workshop by Amity Alumni, Harvard Online Leadership Workshop, Young leaders Digital Summit-Oxford, to nurture global citizens with human values. In fact the outreach increased more and brought the world much closer virtually. Sweet sixteen, unstoppable and bubbling with the energy to foster leadership with love and building a happy world as one big family with diversity as its soul, the centre truly achieved new vistas to be conquered. And with more cultural and educational exchange projects, internships and language enrichment projects, etc. planned, there are many new prospects to be conquered, taking Amity to the world. This special newsletter brings to you a glimpse of the many events that AERC organised virtually while the schools were closed as well as the ones to be held as it continues with its journey to fulfill the motto 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam', meaning the world is one.

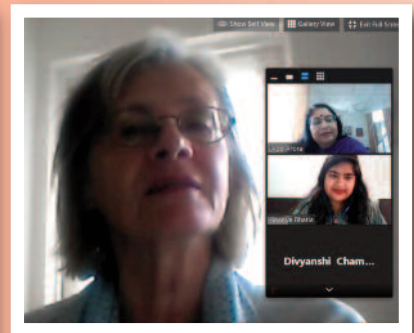
What's inside?



Training young diplomats



Learning to lead



A tribute to Anne Frank



The light of learning

It has been more than seven months since the World Health Organisation officially declared 'COVID-19' a pandemic. With the world suddenly screeching to a halt, it was a huge challenge for learning and education across the world. Amity, under the leadership of Chairperson Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, rose to challenge with zeal and resilience. Empowered with technology, it embraced many opportunities to not just keep the channels of learning open, but to innovate and embrace new forms of learning.

Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC) was established more than fifteen years ago by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, to take learning beyond the classroom and foster creative global citizens, empowered with the skills and knowledge they require to become leaders of tomorrow. In the last seven months,



**Jyoti Arora, Director, Amity Educational Resource Centre
Amity Group of Schools**

AERC has maintained a steady pace on its journey to achieve this. Since March 2020, AERC has adapted its international programmes to the demands of the virtual world to continue to bring new resources to Amitians. Programmes such as school exchanges, workshops on leadership skills and debate tournaments were conducted successfully, and we continued to bring the world to Amity through webinars, interactions with global thought leaders,

and collaboration with our knowledge partners like the European Union, International cultural centres, foreign universities and international schools. With the launch of 8 to 10 new programmes every year, we are determined to keep the lamp of learning burning bright in young minds.

AERC's flagship annual programme is Amity International Model United Nations , which has in the past few years gone global through the launch of AIMUN

Singapore and Dubai. It has evolved into a platform for healthy debate, negotiation, and discourse, and has become a stage for celebrating cultures, embracing diversity by transcending borders. As you read these words, AIMUN is hosting it's 13th edition, which also happens to be the first ever virtual AIMUN, or e-AIMUN. This mega international event of Amity Group of Schools is set to grow bigger and better, through engagement with Amity's rich Alumni network and collaboration with eminent diplomats from around the world.

Since its inception, AERC has built a community of innovative and enterprising Amitians. The virtual events held in the last seven months are a tribute to their growth, innovation and potential.

Thank you and regards,

Jyoti Arora

Amity International Model United Nations (AIMUN) is an academic simulation of the United Nations, tasked to nurture students in a way they learn to discuss and resolve real-time issues plaguing the world at large, and gain in-depth knowledge of international relations, diplomacy, and the overall United Nations agenda. Providing the young delegates with an opportunity to interact, comprehend, and appreciate different cultures and view points during its three-day session, AIMUN justly imbibes the meaning of its insignia "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" – "the

world is one family", and believes in proselytising world citizens who are patriotic yet global, flexible yet assertive, with good leadership and public speaking skills and eternal light of their own.

As AIMUN steps into its 13th edition this year, overcoming all the challenges 2020 posed

for the world, it yet again establishes itself as a quintessential example of experiential learning; and as it chooses the virtual path, it bears testimony to the trails it traversed in its 13-year long jour-

ney thus far, becoming more enhanced and enriching each passing year.

Unfailingly keeping up with the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations: "To practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours," AIMUN'20 would witness a

total of 27 international participants from 3 countries including France, Finland and Slovakia, and about 210 national participants. It would entail a total of 6 committees this year, each with an agenda

of its own, including World Health Organization(COVID-19 response), United Nations Security Council (Security situation in South and East China Sea), National Security Council of India (Open Agenda), UNESCO (Educational gaps and technological disparities in times of online teaching), United Nations Environment program (Promoting the Development and Accelerated Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies for Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Development to Developing Countries), and All India Political Parties Meet (Economic slowdown and Chinese aggression).



YRoNS, the new way

Brilliant Young Scientists Share Their Learning Online



Chairperson addresses the delegates from different countries



Students from diverse countries come together for the event

Nine nations, 48 students including 11 Amitians from different branches of Amity Group of Schools, Delhi/NCR, participated in the 13th *YRoNS (Young Researchers of Natural Science) held virtually on June 2, 9 & 16, 2020 under the aegis of Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC). The unique platform of scientific and cultural exchange that saw participation from nations like Hungary, Germany, Norway, France, Slovenia, Netherlands, Russia, Brazil and India, proved to be undeterred by COVID-19. Organised virtually, the programme kept the learning flowing during transformed times. Each participating school's projects and presentations on a different theme were showcased online, under the guidance of their mentor teachers and proved to be enriching for all. The theme for the first day 'The world during the COVID-19 pe-

riod' entailed an introductory round where the representatives exhibited how their world was keeping abreast with the COVID affected times. The guest speaker, Professor Daniel Soares, Federal Professor at Institute of Education, Sao Paulo, Brazil, opined maintaining equilibrium in lives and contemporary issues impacting all.

The second day opened up with a discussion and informative session on the topic, 'Our country during COVI-19'. Highlight of this day was the address by Karoly Gyorgi, International Secretary at Hungarian Trade Union Confederation who spoke about how working and schooling online has become the new normal and how the entire humanity has risen to the occasion.



Guest speaker



Founder, YRoNS



Keynote speaker

The third and last day of the conference based on the theme 'Science and cultural presentations' showcased avant-garde abilities of young scientists. Innovations like super absorbent material 'Hydratronic', making apple wine using yeast, plant health monitoring app, inventing a battery run vehicle for contactless deliveries, planting vegetable gardens in urban spaces with self-tilting solar panels, etc., were shared and discussed with peers around the globe. The young minds also deliberated on issues such as why lycra masks were beneficial, importance of home-schooling amidst transformed times, etc. The three days symposium proved to be a platform for exchanging scientific ideas and developing cultural understanding

Amitians at YRoNS'20

• Suhani Chauhan, AIS Pushp Vihar
• Bhuvi Pandey, AIS Saket
• Niamat Gill, AIS Noida
• Sarah Chawla, AIS Gurugram 43
• Sudiksha Sarcar, AIS Gurugram 46
• Alok Pratap Singh Jadon, AIS Gwalior
• Shivanshi Sharma, AIS Mayur Vihar
• Anika Joshi, AIS Vasundhara I
• Mahi Gangal, AIS Vasundhara G
• Sia Gandhi, AGS Gurugram
• Gauri Rathor, AGS Noida

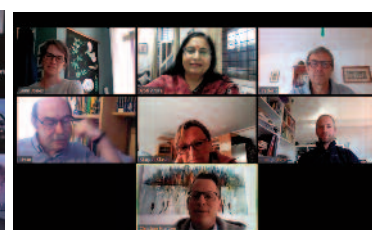
between the nations.

About the programme

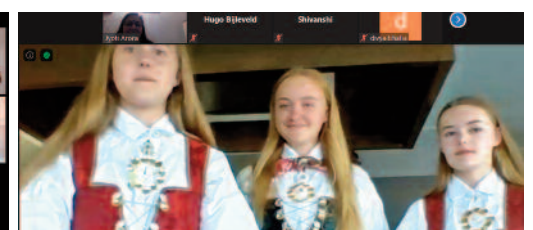
YRoNS is a scientific student programme that offers students an opportunity to showcase their potential through natural science researching projects. Under this initiative students from different countries, exchange experiences between themselves.



Live hawan being organised for the event



Faculty advisors come together



Delegates from Norway present their culture

Race for water to Moon

'The Saturn Parable' Heroes



Amitians engage in the virtual game 'The Saturn Parable'

Three Amitians participated, two of whom won the overall first position in the virtual game, 'The Saturn Parable' organised by Wharton Global Youth Program & Wharton Interactive, University of Pennsylvania, USA held from July 11-12, 2020. The proud winners of the highly engaging multiplayer game are Dakshesh Bharal (XII) from AIS Pushp Vihar and Pooja Chandna (XI) from AIS Saket who beat 130 participants worldwide as team Saturnus. Saumya Chauhan (X) from AIS PV also participated immersively in the game. Participation of Amity in this one of its kind, Alternate Re-

ality based competition was coordinated by Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC). In the game, team Saturnus set out in a virtual expedition based in the year 2087. Students assumed the roles of the members of the Enceladus Expedition, the first commercial space mission to Saturn's moon Enceladus. The South Pole of this moon is the only reliable source of liquid water beyond Earth and the team to land there first was to gain exclusive mining rights for water. During the game, all 130 participants interacted with each other in real time and, Professor Ethan Mollick from Wharton Global Youth Program &



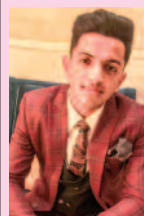
"I have learnt so many life lessons and leadership skills through The Saturn Parable. The game puts us in several real life stressful situations and tests our abilities. It also gives us a taste of what leading a team is actually like and allows us to learn through these experiences."

Saumya Chauhan



"The competition required us to solve cryptographs, figure out drone paths and read landing maps within the given time. Though we did have a few disagreements, we were able to discuss and reach consensus quite easily. I will forever be indebted to Amity and AERC for this wonderful experience."

Pooja Chandna



"The immense feeling of pride that filled us when they announced us as the winners was beyond compare. From negotiation to quick and efficient decision making to studying probability and mapping locations, this competition has truly given me an amazing learning experience."

Dakshesh Bharal

Wharton Interactive delivered online live lectures.

About the programme

The Saturn parable is a multiplayer virtual game that aims at teaching students how to effectively lead and collaborate on teams using the very latest evi-

dence-based leadership and teamwork approaches taught in Wharton's leadership, strategy, and organisation classes. Each player is required to navigate real-world challenges in a fictional setting, receiving continuous, adaptive performance feedback via gaming interface.

Lil' environment warrior

National Winner at WWF Quiz 2020

Making her alma mater proud, Swasti Sharma (III) from AIS Vasundhara 6 bagged second position nationwide in the primary category of WWF's Wild Wisdom Quiz 2020. Held in collaboration with CBSE, it was scheduled for its prelims and finals on August 9 and August 16-17, respectively. Coordinated by AERC, the quiz, in its first ever digital avatar this year, had 'Reimagine our planet' as its theme, with MCQs



Swasti Sharma

based on topics including the lesser known plants and animals, adaptations in species, innovative solutions for conservation, and revolutionary conservationists around the world, etc., to name a few. For her exemplary feat, Swasti was featured on the India News channel, and will also be awarded with an e-certificate signed by Sir David Attenborough, along with a chance to interact with the International Chess Master, Vishwanathan Anand soon.



A snapshot of Swasti on India News

About the programme

Wild Wisdom Quiz is an initiative of the World Wide Fund (WWF) in partnership with CBSE, which is conducted for the primary school (III-V) and middle school (VI-VIII) students in India, every year. As India's only international wildlife quiz, it aims to instil sensitivity in the young towards the environment and helps them create solutions to ensure absolute harmony between the world and the wild.

Towards a greener future

Amitians Make Amity Proud At The GRUEN Project

AIS Noida, under the aegis of Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC), garnered applause and accolades at the 'GRUEN: Green Urban Environments' workshop, an initiative of the Hong Kong Baptist University, co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the EU.

The Goethe Institute, in collaboration with GRUEN, presented a gripping challenge in front of the participating students - to design their version of a sustainable urban future.

During the course of the workshop, which spanned over a couple of months, students from schools in Asia, along with partner schools in Europe, joined hands and worked together to develop their own idea of a sustainable future. The GRUEN project, which used a special Moodle workshop, was divided into 2 cycles and saw students engage in meaningful conversations and discussions and share their thoughts and perspectives about the vision of a sustainable future.

On May 31, 2020, during the first round of the competition, the participating teams got the opportunity to give their presentation on an international Zoom meeting. After the declaration of the results of the first round, two students from Class XI of AIS Noida, Urja Kohli and Manasa Bangaru, qualified for the next level.

For the second round, out of the 23 participating groups, 12 were selected to attend an e-conference which was originally scheduled to be held at Hong Kong Baptist University.



Participants share viewpoints on creating green urban spaces

Through the medium of Zoom, the e-conference began with opening remarks of GRUEN project leader Dr Tushar Chaudhari, followed by an inspiring speech from Kathleen Ferrier, chair Dutch UNESCO commission. The conference was also graced by

Paul Zimmerman, CEO Designing Hong Kong.

The selected groups were given the opportunity to present their ideas virtually to the GRUEN community attendees from across the globe.

On the basis of their performance, 6 groups were further shortlisted for the



GRUEN: Green Urban Environments presents: EU-ASIA SCHOOLS E-CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND URBAN INNOVATION



Urja Kohli



Manasa Bangaru

Q/A round which took place on the Sept 12, 2020. After an enlightening round of Q&A, Urja Kohli, as the group head, led her team to find a place in the top three positions in the Gruen International Competition for which they were awarded prize money of €400. The Goethe Green Award, a special award given by the Goethe Institute, was won by Manasa Bangaru along with prize money

of €100.

Through this innovative initiative, students got the ultimate opportunity to envision a future whose main aim was to uphold the ideals of sustainability.

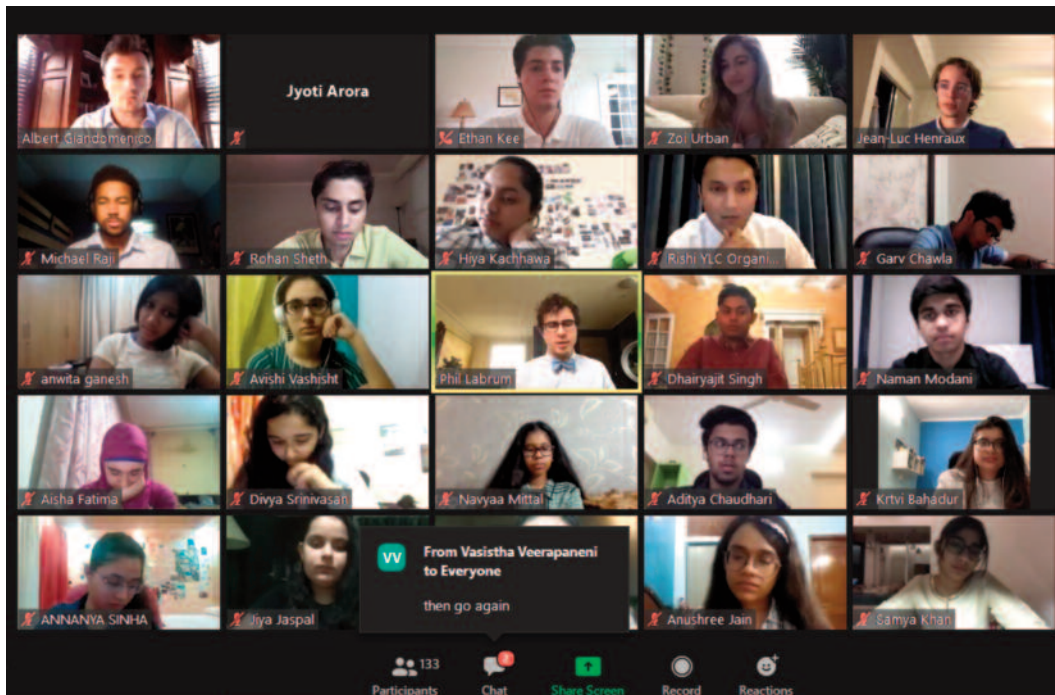
Prizes	Amount	Name of student	School
Goethe GRUEN Award	€100	Manasa Bangaru (XI)	AIS Noida
Originality Award	€75 per person	Nalin Jayaswal (XI) Divyansh Jain (XI) Ahaan Bhandari (XI)	AIS Pushp Vihar
Bagged position in top 3	€100	Urja Kohli (XI)	AIS Noida
Best E-tools	€75	Vyakhya Gupta (XI)	AIS Gurugram 46

About the programme

The GRUEN project is an initiative of the Hong Kong Baptist University, co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the EU. With an aim to encourage students to build their own sustainable future, this workshop presents students with a platform to gain insight into the objectives of the EU's 7th European Union Government Action Programme 2020.

Harvard YLC

Learners Of Today To Become The Leaders Of Tomorrow



Students from all around the world come together for the prestigious programme

Diti Sharma, Class X student of Amity International School Noida, did Amity proud by qualifying for participation in *Harvard YLC (Youth Lead the Change) India, held virtually from June 25 - July 1, 2020. Total 120 youth from all over India were selected for the conference which saw around 3,000 applicants from India. This unique opportunity which hones the leadership skills was organised under the aegis of Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC).

All the participants were divided into different groups comprising 11-12 participants each, supervised by a counsellor (students of Harvard).

On the first day of YLC, all participants interacted with each other and were asked to find 10 things that everyone in the group had in common. Later on, they learnt to define leadership and were also given key pointers for becoming a leader and practicing leadership roles. They were taught to identify



Diti Sharma

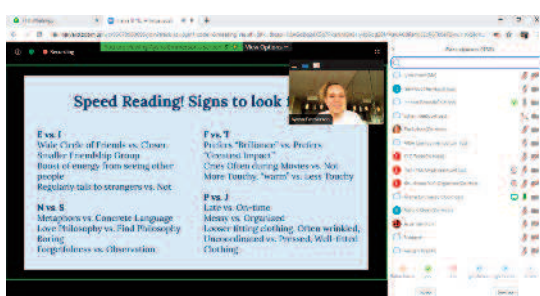
their leadership style through an activity and were told about how to make SMART Goals and use them for better problem solving. They

were then asked to choose a project that they would like to work on for the next one year. Diti's group worked on the project 'Educational facilities for mental disabilities' and made a plan based on SMART Goals. They analysed leadership style (of a few leaders) from some videos and delivered

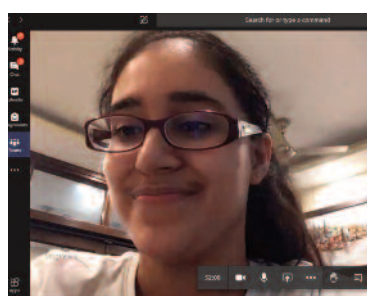
extempore speeches. They were also given 'life hacks' by the counsellors and learnt about Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Test. There was also a session on college admissions and the project during which the participants asked questions regarding college life and admission process at Harvard. On the last day of the conference, project plans were presented, reviews were shared and all the participants were conferred with e-certificates. Diti and her team formed during the conference are currently working on the project under the mentorship of the counsellors from Harvard. Her team has already made a website, social media accounts and plan to reach out to NGOs and schools to work collaboratively for enhancing the educational facilities for mentally disabled children. For, true leadership in Amity leads to serve others above the self.

About the programme

Youth Lead the Change is a social impact conference developed by the Leadership Institute at Harvard College that empowers students to develop tangible solutions to confront the problems faced by our local and global communities.



Presentation being made on the topic



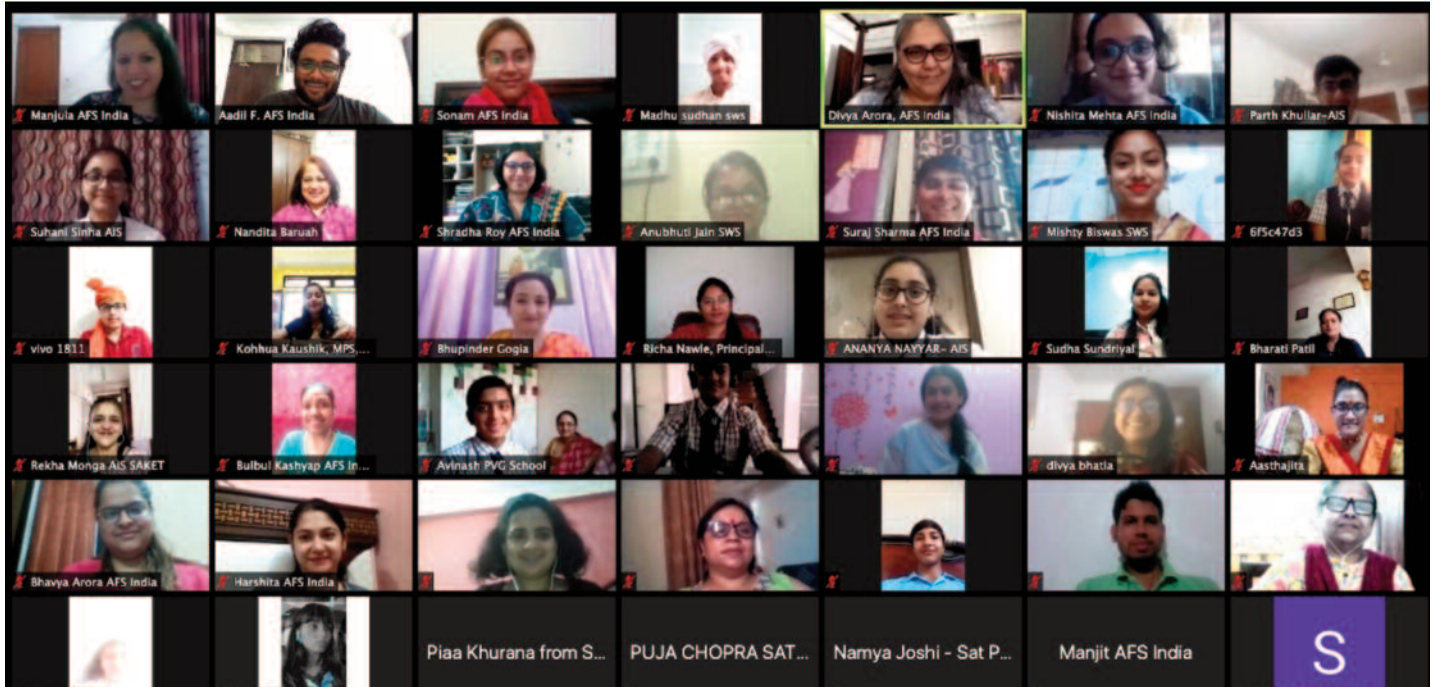
Diti Sharma takes part in the event



Youth Lead the Change conference in progress

AFS Virtual Exchange

Celebrating The Rich Cultural Diversity Of The Country

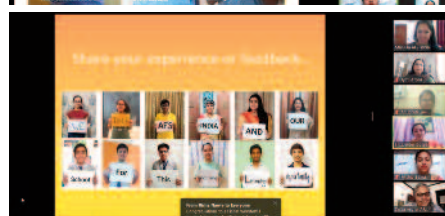
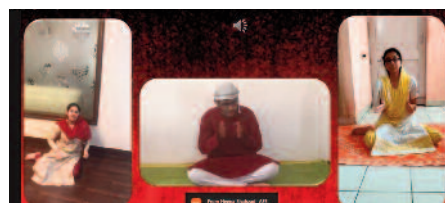


Participants from across the country show their engagement in the virtual exchange programme

On the occasion of World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, American Field Service (AFS), in collaboration with Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC) organised Domestic Cultural Exchange Programme with 5 virtual sessions between May 8-21, 2020. The online event was organised with the aim to bridge the gap between cultures and to harbinger peace, stability and development in the society.

Facilitating cultural interactions through new-fangled ways like PowerPoint presentations, zoom calls and telephonic conversations, the marvellous event saw immense participation from schools from various states like Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Assam, all of whom were adept in showcasing the peculiarity of their states, despite the annual event going virtual this year. The exciting aspects of the event were workshops on music, dance, art, cookery, etc., conducted by the students themselves. In a first, this event also welcomed parents and family members to be part of it.

Ananya Nayyar, Parth Khullar and Suhani Sinha from AIS Saket, enthusiastically participated in the event with absolute zeal in every



Cultural depiction by various schools

possible way. Making the best out of the opportunity, the team members enthusiastically brainstormed presentations on Indian cultural

diversity, with guidance from their teachers.

The programme was highly educational, as all the participating schools put their best foot forward in representing their chosen states with utmost elegance. The stunning presentation and Bihu dance performed by Maria's Public School, Assam, to the informative performances by the Springfield World School, Vidisha, and PVG's Dr. Kalkasaheb Deodhar English School, depicted the spell-binding diversity of Indian culture.

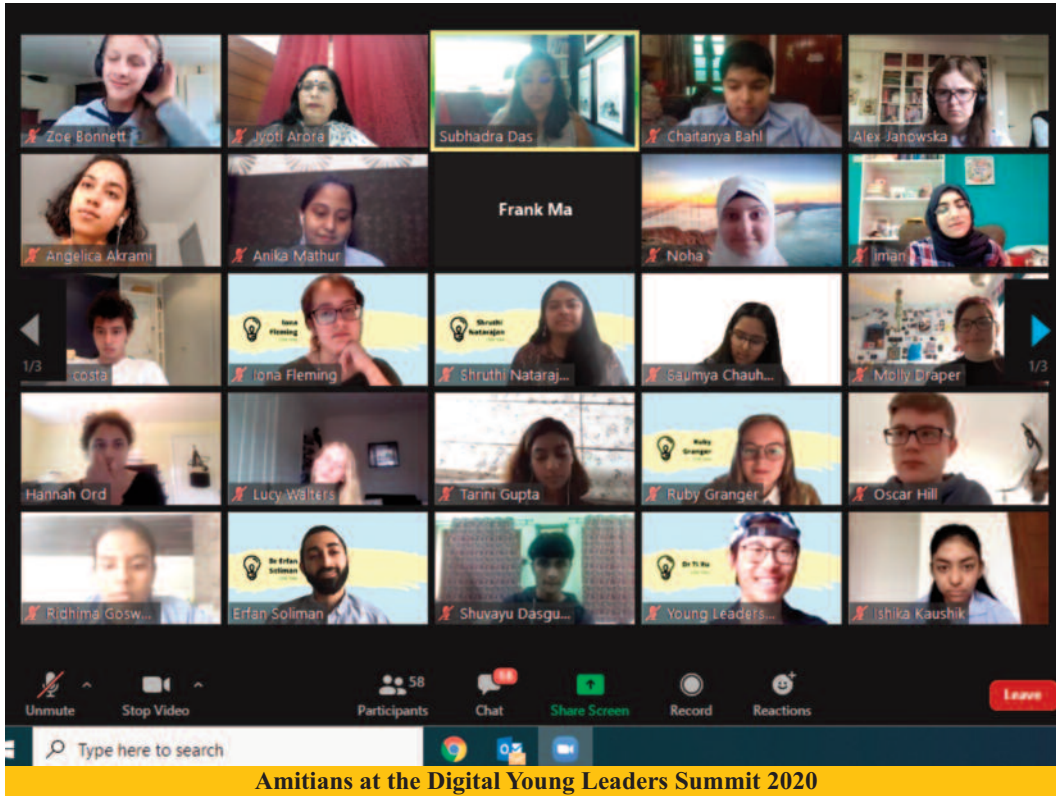
Although the event was internet bound, the online meetings were successfully carried out for all the activities like presentations, group discussions and the final programme. With the pandemic taking a toll on all the significant annual events this year, technology aided in carrying out the same digitally this year.

About the programme

AFS Domestic Exchange Program aims to give regional cultural learning to students of different schools across India. The programme is designed in a way that can encourage the youth to indulge in intercultural learning through various extracurricular activities.

Learning to lead

Amitians Interact With The Global Experts At DYLS 2020



Amitians at the Digital Young Leaders Summit 2020

In a continued endeavour of Amity to hone the leadership skills of young minds, 18 Amitians, for the first time, participated in Digital Young Leaders Summit 2020 held from July 20-22, 2020. An initiative by AERC, it was based on the theme '2020 Vision: Future Changemakers'. Students from various nations like the UK, Greece, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, China and India, participated in the global event aimed at nurturing global

leaders of tomorrow. Saumya Chauhan (X) from AIS PV gave an enthralling presentation about Amity Group highlighting life and times of Dr Ashok K. Chauhan, Founder President, Amity University, Amity's philosophy, AU, Amity Group of Schools, AERC, The Global Times, Amitasha and Atulasha during the cultural immersion session.

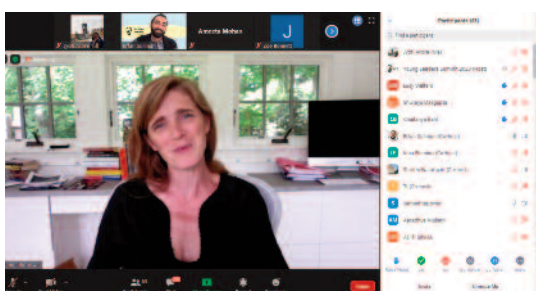
For three days, students imbibed various learnings from eminent global experts on an array of top-

ics. Simon Bucknall, an eminent motivational speaker and storyteller, gave a session on how to be an effective presenter. Samantha Power, 28th US Ambassador to the UN, emphasised on the role of storytelling for journalism as a career. Isaac Sesi, who has created a social entrepreneurial business to help solve food and agriculture problems of Africa, demonstrated how engineering and technology is facilitating to alleviate the problem of food scarcity in Africa. Ruby

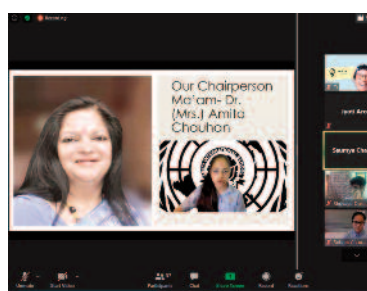
Granger, famous content creator of Study Tube, shared how children can become better learners by following a proper routine and focusing on productivity at the same time. Eminent writer, historian and comedian Subhadra Das gave a presentation on 'Science is fun' and engaged students in activities through which even those with no background in Science can learn it easily. The forum presented a good learning opportunity for the students who got the chance to interact with experts around the globe on a range of topics like creativity, sustainability, personal storytelling, and methods and processes of innovative thinking.

About the programme

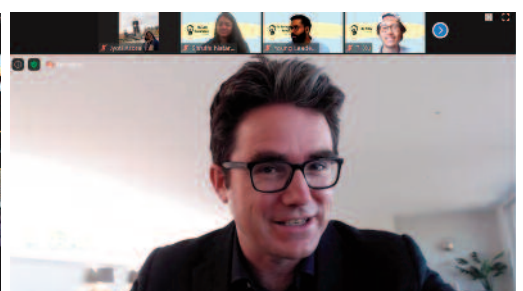
Digital Young Leaders Summit is an annual summit for secondary school students held by a core team of fellows from the University of Oxford, in collaboration with Knowledge Collective. They aim to teach skill and design thinking for creative and practical real-world problem solving. They provide mentors from University of Oxford and industry experts from various domains to create a collaborative learning environment and help the young global leaders tackle the pressing challenges of tomorrow.



Samantha Power apprises the students



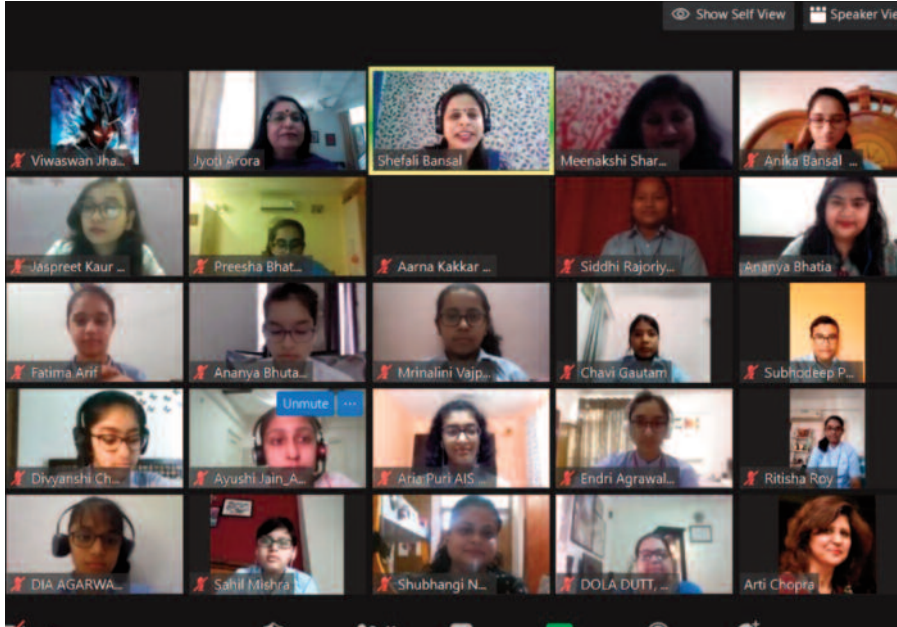
Presentation by Samara Chauhan



Simon Bucknall addresses the youth

A tribute to Anne Frank

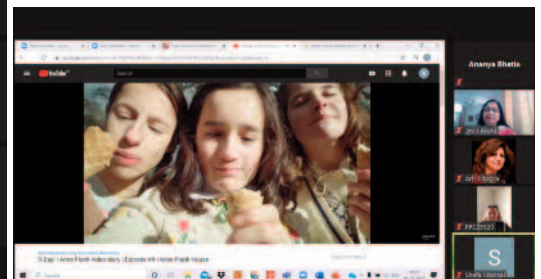
Knowing The Struggles of Survival During World War II



Students from various Amity International Schools attend the event



Anneke Adema promotes the event on Twitter



A depiction of Anne Frank's video diary

Since the beginning, the vision of Amity has been to motivate students towards structuring a better society, a society that nurtures social responsibility in the youth. Keeping up with this vision, under the guidance of Jyoti Arora (Director, AERC) and Arti Chopra, Principal, Amity Gurugram 46, and in collaboration with the Embassy of Netherlands, AIS Gurugram 46 got the opportunity to present a three-day project, the Anne Frank Video Diary E-Project. Students from 11 schools of Amity in Delhi NCR and Gwalior took part in this online event, which was held from June 4-6, 2020.

During the three-day session, the

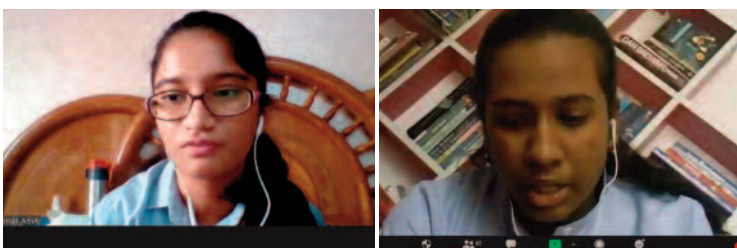
participating students were introduced to the situations one has to face when hiding during a war. The students could relate to Anne Frank's life with their own, during the COVID-19 pandemic. They looked at the same situation in different ways, from different vantage points including the perspective of a teenager.

Through the project, the students learnt about the outcomes of WW2 along with the chain of events that led up to it. The sessions highlighted the life of Anne Frank along with the lives of the other residents of the Annex and shed a sobering light into their living conditions and the situations they faced. The students were given an

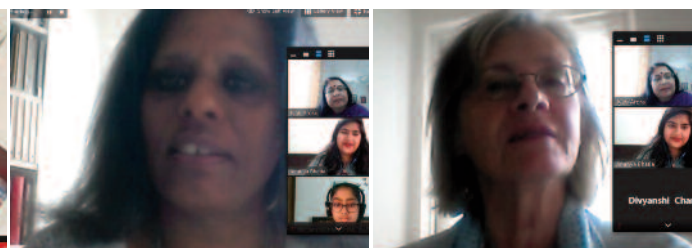
insight into the Holocaust and the plight of the Jews during World War 2. They could sense the extreme terror of hiding in a tiny space, surrounded by continuous bombings and gun fire, where every day posed a new challenge. During the course of the project, the participants were presented with the opportunity to interact with Anneke Adema, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Netherlands. She further enlightened the students about the Holocaust. Special guests from the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, Loes Singels and Priya Machado, Project Managers of the Taskforce in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, of the International

Department of the Anne Frank House, also addressed the virtual gathering and apprised the students about the Anne Frank House. During the virtual session, students were encouraged to maintain a journal of their own just like Anne Frank.

As the project concluded, the students were left to ponder about the atrocities of war and persecution of communities, about the fighting spirit in human beings and the resilience of a teenage girl hiding in a secret annex in Amsterdam. The Anne Frank Video Diary E-Project was indeed a successful endeavour, and it proved to be an enriching experience for all the participating students.



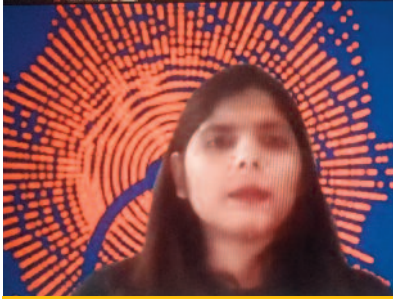
Amitians share their viewpoints on the project



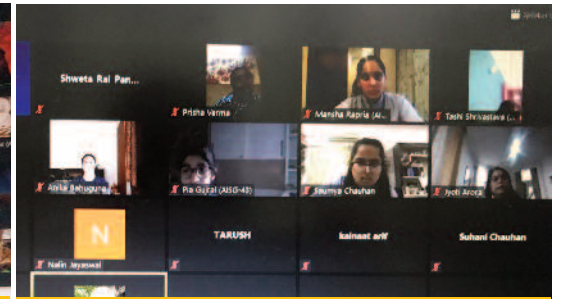
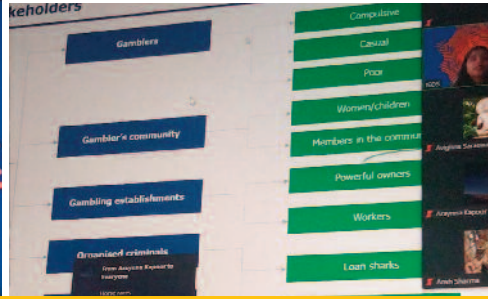
Priya Machado & Loes Singels address the virtual gathering

Debating masterclasses

Learning How To Construct Impactful & Strong Speeches



The proceedings of the debating masterclasses session



Participants attend the session

With the motive of training the students to approve 'a debating motion' and present logically backed arguments, Amity Educational Resource Centre, along with Indian Schools Debating Society, held debating masterclasses from June 18-20, 2020. The students were educated about the two stages of debate drafting – Argumentation and Refutation, and also taught the basics of ap-

proaching a debating motion, building a model around it, constructing arguments, identifying and delivering rebuttals. A special session was conducted solely on Military Interventions which briefed students about the same. The detailed explanation and demonstration of each step with examples instilled in students a better understanding of the topic and the confidence to be able to try the same during activities in-

terspersed within the sessions. three day experience was novel and full of revelation for the students as they were encouraged to spend quality time in their research and creating solid foundation for their debates.

In all the sessions, students' keen interest and enthusiasm was ably reflected in their extensive use of the chat window for posing questions and their eager display of the completed activities.

This experience is sure to stay with the students for a long time and has definitely given them an edge over other students in drafting debates.

About the programme

Indian Schools Debating Society is a not-for-profit organisation powered by the Ramco Group of Companies that aims to take competitive debating to students across India.

Masters of diplomacy

Amitians Reach For The High Stars At HMUN 2020

A team of twenty students from Amity International Schools across Delhi NCR participated in a Special Online Edition of HMUN India which took place from August 13-16 2020.

Over 1400 high school students from more than 150 schools and 13 countries around the world participated in the event co-hosted by Harvard University's International Relations Council (IRC) and Worldview.

This special edition of HMUN saw raging debates on topics



such as 'Combating Anti-Microbial Resistance & Public health and Recreational Drug Use' in WHO; Lethal Autonomous Weapons systems' in Legal Committee, etc.

Dhruv Bhargava from AIS Gur 46 and Sanjali Sharma from AIS Noida, students of Class X, won the title of Best Delegate and

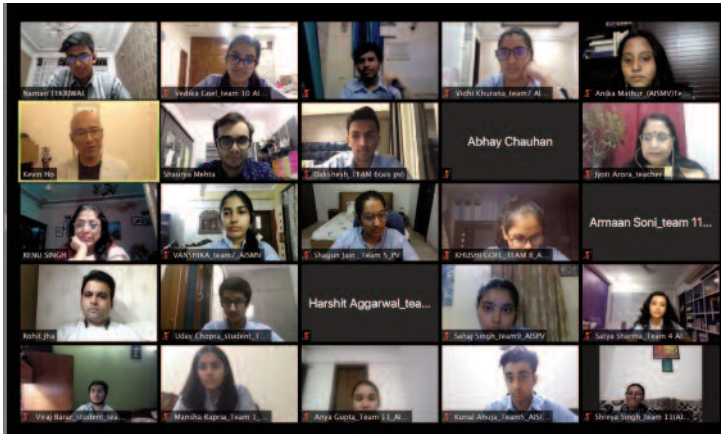
Outstanding Delegate, in Legal Committee and UNGA respectively. Dhruv represented the country of Palau, and Sanjali represented Cyprus. Furthermore, Lakshita Aggarwal of Class VIII, AIS Saket, won Diplomatic Commendation in UNEP and Archisha Veda of Class XII, AIS Gur 46 won Hon-

orable Mention in UNCSW. A Special Appreciation Award was presented to Somesh Taori of Class XII, AIS Gur 46, who played the role of Assistant Director in Legal Committee.

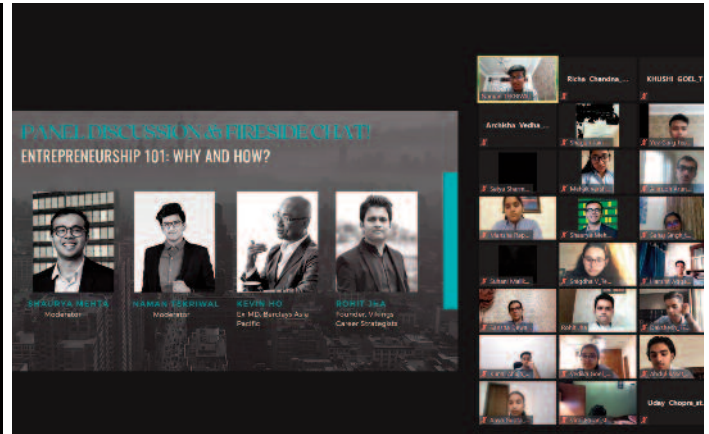
Held on an online platform, this virtual edition of HMUN saw the same amount of grit, zing and electricity from the participants. This amazing opportunity by the AERC gave students of Amity the chance to showcase their talents at diplomacy on a global level and learn from students like them across the world.

Starting a start-up

Moulding Young Minds Into Successful Entrepreneurs



A snapshot of the student participants



The esteemed jury panel

Amity makes every effort to provide its young leaders with a platform to hone their entrepreneurial and leadership skills. The three-days' workshop, from September 28-30, on Amity Entrepreneurship and Start-Up Programme, conducted by two Amity alumni - Shaurya Mehta, Junior at Stanford University & Naman Tekriwal, Sophomore at Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, and organised under the aegis of Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC), aimed at just that.

The workshop that saw a total of 45 students from all branches of Amity schools participate in it, commenced with a brief insight into the conceptualisation of the Start-up programme followed by a brief introduction of the guests. The workshop provided all with

an end-to-end knowledge of the entrepreneurship cycle, from its initial phase of evaluating a business idea to the actual business launch. Participants were further introduced to the realities of entrepreneurship and the misconceptions surrounding it using various case studies like those of BYJU'S, Unacademy, Apple, Airbnb, etc., to name a few.

Various other activities were conducted by dividing students into breakout rooms for them to work in teams with randomly chosen members and develop their ideas. Concepts like 'Target Market', 'Competition Analysis', 'Venture Capital', 'Customer Discovery', 'SWOT' Analysis & 'Lean Business Canvas' were all part of the three-day session, that concluded with 11 teams delivering powerful presentations, each

with a unique business idea of their own, judged by Kevin Ho, Ex Managing Director, Barclays Asia Pacific, Hong Kong and Rohit Jha, Founder, Vikings Career Strategists, India.

The Best Pitch Award went to Team 6 for their idea 'Patient House' and they were also declared the winners of the competition for the same; Team 3 bagged second position with their idea 'Who's cookin'; third prize was awarded to Team 7 for their idea 'Liaison Hub', with the Special Mention Award going to Team 8 for their idea 'Mood Elevato'.

With renowned guest speakers Yatin K Thakur, Chairman of Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN), Asia & Managing Director of GEN, India and Kieran Fung, Venture Partner at

Kineticone, Intensive Accelerator, Hong Kong, sharing their journey, the programme as a whole gave students a realistic picture of the start-up world, which is precisely what is needed today!

About the programme

Amity Entrepreneurship and Start-Up Programme is an initiative of Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC) that aims to provide a unique opportunity to the young leaders of Amity to explore and develop their talents and become successful entrepreneurs. This programme includes an annual workshop conducted by leading entrepreneurs from across the globe, that gives young minds an insight into the A to Z of entrepreneurship and the working of a start-up.



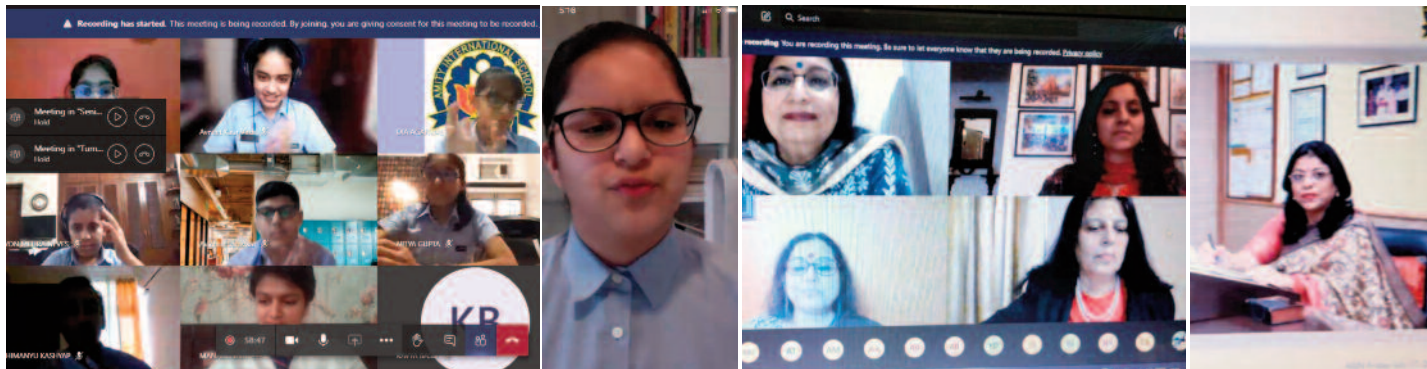
Honourable Chairperson at the workshop



Guest speaker Kieran Fung addresses the students

The talking minds

Inter Amity Debate Competition Spurs A Wind Of Change



AERC in collaboration with AIS Noida organised inter-Amity debate competition on a virtual platform

On July 17, 2020, Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC) organised the virtual inter-Amity Debate competition which was hosted by AIS Noida. The entire programme had three events organised for the students of Class VIII-XII. All the three events ran simultaneously and successfully wherein all the principals, teachers and students from across all Amity schools were able to join easily and maneuver through the various channels easily using the links provided. The programme commenced with a warm welcome to all by director AERC to everyone present in the event, followed by host school principal greetings and emphasising on the importance of public speaking and debating.

In the first event JAM Corner

(Just A Minute), 22 Class VIII students competed against each other for the award of 'Best Speaker' in the categories 'Against the motion' and 'For the motion'. Debjani Das, AIS Saket; Ananya Bhatia, AIS Gur 46 and Shweta Tomar, AIS Vas 6 judged the students on the topics 'Competition is a necessary part of the education process', 'Academics and co-curricular go hand in hand', 'Celebrity endorsements are unethical' and 'The lockdown induced lethargy'. In the category 'For the motion', Chavi Gautam (AIS MV) won the first prize. Second position was shared by Aarna Banyal and Prisha Verma (AIS Noida) while Nitya Gupta (AIS PV) bagged the third prize. For 'Against the motion' category, Avneet Kaur (AIS PV) bagged the first prize, Dia Agarwal (AIS

Gwalior) won second position while the third prize was shared by Suhani Chauhan (AIS PV) and Maanya Jain (AIS Noida).

For the second event 'Turncoat View', 22 Class IX students debated against each other and debated articulately on the topics 'Celebrities are not our role models', 'Women reservation is a necessity for women empowerment' and 'Boycott Chinese products'. Judges Archana Upadhyay, AIS MV; Anvesha Singh, AIS Gwalior and Praveen Ravindran, AIS Noida judged the students on various debating aspects for the award of the 'Best speaker'. Mansha Rapria (AIS Gur 43) bagged first position. Second prize was won by Ahana Kohli (AIS Saket) while the third position was shared by Gouri Srivastava (AIS VKC Lucknow) and Yeshita Jeet

Tripathi (AIS Noida).

The third event 'Debate Connect' saw participation from students of Class X-XII. 27 students took part in the event wherein they spoke on the topics 'Atmanirbhar Bharat-A viable reality', 'Covid lockdown-a nightmare' and 'Social media is doing more harm than benefit to society'. Judges Preeti Khullar, AIS Noida; Vira Sharma, Managing Editor, The Global Times and Lily Pant, AGS Noida, expressed their admiration at the quality of the speakers and provided precious pearls of wisdom as advice to the students. Samiksha Dubey (AIS Noida) bagged the first position while the second prize was tied between Sheen Sarup (AIS Vas 6) and Angad Singh Ahuja (AIS PV). Third prize was won by Anika Bahuguna (AGS Gur).

The event ended on a very high note of happiness, satisfaction, gratitude and fulfillment.

**About the programme*

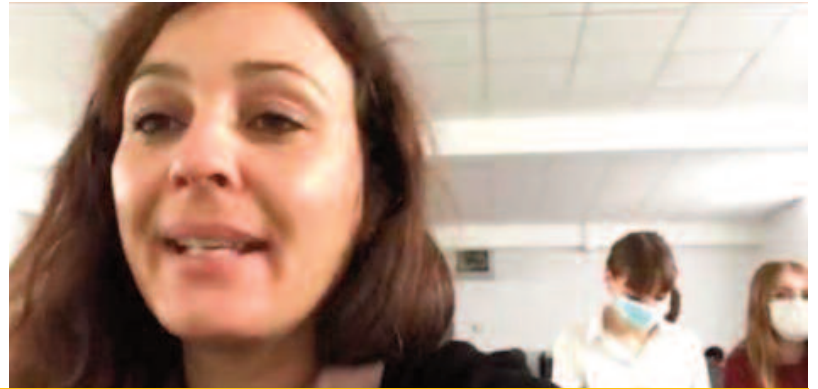
AERC organises various inter-Amity programmes on a regular basis for the students with the sheer motive of growth for the students, debate competition being one of them.



Online inter-Amity debate competition in progress

Prepping for E-AIMUN 2020

Delegates Zealously Gear Up For The Virtual Conference



Online AIMUN training session being conducted for delegates from France

To train the national and international delegates participating in E-AIMUN 2020, three extensive online training sessions were organised under the guidance and supervision of AERC. For the esteemed foreign delegates from France, a training session on Zoom was conducted by AIS Noida on September 25 and September 29, 2020. This session was effective in briefing the 20 delegates and their teacher in-charge, Ms Pauline, regarding the event and its specialities. The session focused on basic MUN training, ROPs, position papers etc., and was conducted by Anandi Ganguly, Antra Rajpoot and Sanjali Sharma. The delegates happily took part in the session, and were even welcomed by Jyoti Arora, Director, AERC, at the very beginning with words of encouragement and an explanation of the true vi-

sion of this international conference.

To guide the national delegates, another session was organised on Zoom for the 18 student delegates and their teacher in-charges from AIS Lucknow, AIS Gwalior and DPS Lucknow. The forum, which was conducted by Anandi Ganguly, Siddharth Johar and Sanjali Sharma, briefed them about ROPs, discussion on agendas, documentation process and how to research. Delegates from Amitasha, Amity's wing for less-privileged girl children, were also vigorously trained for the event in a session discussion planned on September 9, 2020, which was conducted by Siddharth Johar, Sanjali Sharma and Divik Dodeja. It extensively guided the students on ROPs for AIPPM, research methodologies, documentation process, and diplomacy guidelines.

Feedback from all the delegations were taken at the end of the sessions where they thanked AERC for conducting sessions that helped them understand the event better and made them feel welcomed at AIMUN.

About the programme

Amity International Model United Nations is the Amity wing of MUN. It is an academic simulation of the United Nations, which aims to educate participants about current events, topics in international relations, diplomacy and the United National agenda. It provides a platform for delegates to interact, comprehend, and appreciate different cultures and viewpoints. It enables students to learn to resolve issues. It is the platform for the young ambassadors to display their act of diplomacy.



National and international delegates attend the online training session ahead of E-AIMUN 2020

Training young diplomats

Nurturing Global Leaders At E-MUN Summer Workshop



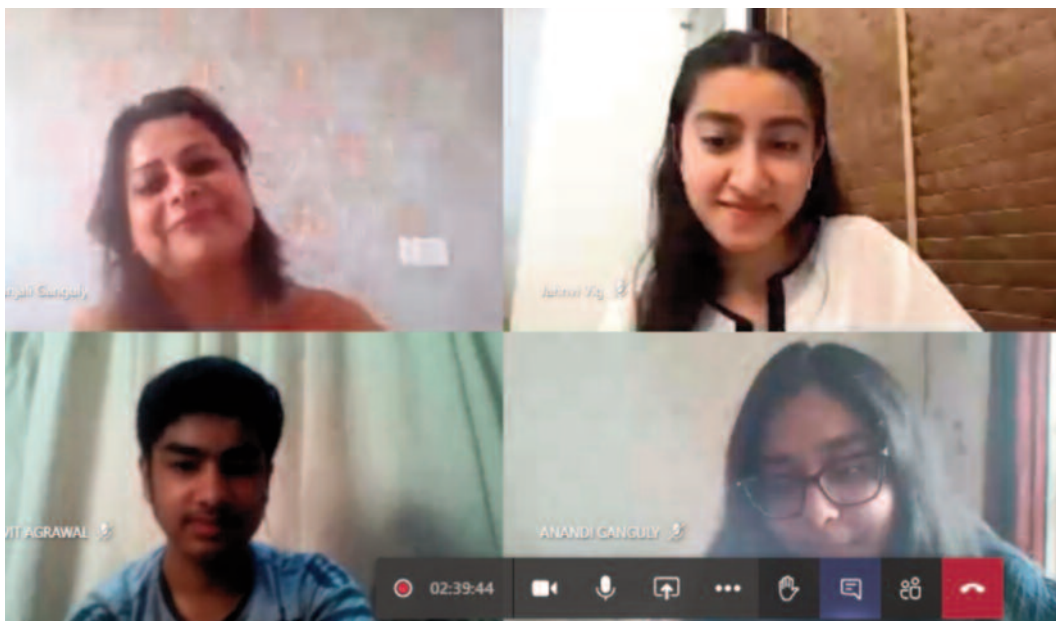
HE Ashok Sajjanhar enlightens the audience



A student shares points on MUNs



Brig Nalin Bhatia opines his view



Participants from various Amity schools partake in the workshop

A five day E-MUN workshop was organised by Amity Educational Resource Center (AERC) from May 25-29, 2020, for the students of Class VI-IX. A first of its kind virtual summer camp, the event was aimed at enhancing the understanding of MUN concepts, procedures and encouraging young minds to keep themselves engaged with global and local issues constructively. Total 55 students from 11 branches of Amity Group of Schools participated in the online workshop. Various training sessions were conducted over a span of five days, with Sumedh Kapoor of AIS Saket introducing the con-

cept of UN and MUNS. Kusum Kapoor from AIS Gur 46 and Pradyuman Singh an alumnus of the same school spoke on topics like flow of debate, rules of procedures, conventional-unconventional committees and argumentation. Debanjali Ganguli of AIS Noida and student Anandi Ganguli from the same school discussed diplomacy and resolution making process. Jhanavi and Vansundhara, alumnus from AIS Noida conducted a session on joint crisis committee and AIPPM. The workshop was enriched with sessions by eminent guest speakers HE Ashok Sajjanhar former ambassador for India in various coun-

tries and Brig Nalin Bhatia, an expert in foreign intelligence affairs. HE Ashok Sajjanhar spoke about the 'Role of WHO and international bodies in times of crisis like Covid-19'. He apprised students on the humanitarian works done by the government during the pandemic and urged them to be optimistic and develop patience to deal

with the situation. Brig Nalin Bhatia shared his view points on the developments taking place in Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan and their impact on India. They both engaged students in a very interactive question and answer session. During last two days of the workshop, mock MUN sessions were conducted by Sonsie Khatri and Raghav Agarwal, Class XII students of AIS Saket. Students got to simulate a MUN and also imbibed rich insights about the proceedings of MUN. They also honed their innate skills to become critically thinking global leaders of tomorrow.

*About the programme

Model United Nations (MUN) is an academic simulation of the United Nations where students play the role of delegates from different countries and attempt to solve real world issues with the policies and perspectives of their assigned country.

Upcoming programs of AERC

- 1st Virtual AIMUN 2020, India (October 14-16, 2020)
- Ritsumeikan Super Global Forum, Japan (November 10-14, 2020)
- SPEAKER SERIES in collaboration with Oxford University, UK (Nov onwards)
- Inter Amity Debate (December 5, 2020)
- KWHS (Knowledge @Wharton High School), USA (ongoing 2020-2021)