



# Work Report

## “Speaking Arts”

April - October

### Targets for the semester:

1. Increase the presence of Speaking Arts on campus through events such as Pro-Am tournament, Hostel workshops, IIT Bombay National Debate, Debate workshops, Poetry meets, and regular debate practices
2. Retention of sophomores and induction of freshmen into We Speak and Vaani club through various workshops, meets and practices.
3. Expanding the We Speak club to include activities other than Debating like Standup Comedy, MUN and English Poetry.
4. Successful conduction of Union Debate, IITB National Debate and Hindi Utsav
5. Expanding the Vaani Club to include more activities and conducting workshops for students interested in the club's activities.

## **Initiatives:**

### **Standup Comedy:**

- Conceptualized and executed Standup Comedy Cultural School taken by a professional in the autumn semester with 8 classes attended by 20+ people
- Organized IIT Bombay Open Mic in each semester which provided 40+ UGs and PGs with a platform to showcase their talent before renowned Standup Comedians

### **Indian Languages:**

- Organized the Urdu Cultural School to teach people to speak and write in Urdu with 10+ classes attended regularly by 20 students and an examination at the end
- Organized the Marathi Speaking Cultural School in the spring semester with 8+ classes registered by 25+ students
- Conceptualized and executed the Punjabi Literature workshop, attended by 50+ staff and students which was received a positive feedback from all the attendees

### **Nominee for Indian Languages:**

- Ideated and expanded the sphere of Vaani Club from Hindi Language to all Indian Languages
- Revamped the structure of Institute Cultural Council by pushing for the creation of Indian Languages Nominee who will cater to all the Indian languages

### **Hindi Cell budget – Chattra Kavi Sammelan:**

- Introduced a budget of Rs.10,000/- from the Hindi Cell for a poetry competition in Hindi, Urdu and Marathi languages during Hindi Utsav after approval from the Director, IIT Bombay and the Hindi Officer in a Senate meeting
- Led to a surge in participation from 10 to 35+ performers with a vast improvement in quality of participation at Chattra Kavi Sammelan with participants from all across Mumbai and a famous screenwriter judging the competition

### **Debate Mentorship Program:**

- Ideated and executed a mentorship program over a period of one month by allocating six sets of a senior mentor assigned to a group of 4-5 freshmen
- Mentors provided feedback to mentees on their speeches, helped with case construction, discussed and analyzed several debate motions to help students prepare for major tournaments and other debating events

### **Workshops & Merchandise:**

- Organized an Introduction to Debate workshop attended by 70+ freshmen to help them understand Parliamentary Debating and its rules
- Organized two Debate workshops in Hostel 3 and Hostel 7 for 2 groups of hostels
- Introduced the 'IIT Bombay Debate Society' Hoodie for the first time ever which was purchased by 40+ students and alumni

### **Debate Archive & Reading:**

- Founded an online IIT Bombay Debsoc Reading group where students can read and share new informative articles with other debaters to help one another with debate preparation
- Created a debate archive of all the reading material and videos that beginner and intermediate level debaters can use for building their skills

### **Vaani PG Orientation:**

- Conceptualized and ideated the first-ever Vaani PG Orientation catering specifically to PGs so as to increase the retention of PGs into the club
- Attended by 25+ exceptionally talented PG freshmen who were introduced to club activities

### **Social Initiative & Subsidy:**

- Organized a debating tournament for over 40+ school students free of cost over a weekend where they were adjudicated and mentored by experienced IITB debaters
- Provided free registration to 6 students at IIT Bombay National Debate, 18 students at ILS Pune Debate, 2 students at COEP BP Debate, Pune and 6 students at NM Law Debate

### **Model United Nations**

- Ideated and organized the MUN Arcade which attracted participation from 52 freshmen out of which the top 3 teams were provided with LYP of 50% subsidy for Techfest World MUN
- Increased the number of MUN workshops in a year and arranged a contingent of IITB students for the Gnaritas MUN in Mithibai College

## **Major Events & Flagships**

### **IIT Bombay National Debate:**

Oversaw a participation of 64 teams and 60 adjudicators which is the biggest turnout ever seen at any IIT Bombay Debate tournament. Accommodation was provided to 100 people, an equity team was made and there were Core Adjudicators from Oxford and Cornell universities. This event saw international participation from countries like Israel, Malaysia etc. 4 IITB teams also reached semifinals at the tournament.

### **Professional-Amateur Tournament:**

Invited experienced debaters from other institutions in Mumbai, like Government Law College and MNLU to take part in Pro-Am tournament for the first time ever. With over 50 freshmen (highest ever turnout), 20 seniors and 10 experienced debaters from colleges outside IIT, this event turned out to be a huge success in breaking the ice between freshers and seniors, as well as providing freshers with an avenue to learn from the best debaters in the country. This also helped in building supportive relationships with other debating societies for further cooperation in future debate practices and events.

**Freshmen Debate Open:**

Attended by 20+ freshmen, with 4 rounds of debate over the course of a weekend where they were adjudicated by the seniors. Served as selections for NLS Debate 2018 and also preparation for sophies planning to debate at SMC PD.

**Chattra Kavi Sammelan (March):**

Chief guests were Sarim Momin, a renowned lyricist, scriptwriter and director, and Dr. Sachin Gapaat, a professor at Mumbai University in Hindi and Sanskrit. Was attended by 80+ students out of which many performed and received feedback by the guests. Trophies were given to the top three performers as well.

**Standup Comedy Cult School:**

For the first time ever, Standup Comedy Cult School was organized with We Speak in collaboration with Fourth Wall. Over 25 students are attending the Cult School sessions which are being taken by Abhishek Kulkarni, an established comedian. The sessions are being well received by the students who want an extension of the classes to be taken in the second semester as well.

**Debate Cult School:**

Attended by over a 100 students with lectures being taken by experienced debaters over broad issues of debate like Religion, Ethics, Feminism as well as specific topics including how to debate on Ban motions and Regret motions. Practice sessions were taken after each class on the topic which had been taught earlier.

**Urdu Speaking Cult School:**

Organized for the first time in the Speaking Arts genre with over 9 classes and 1 test being conducted over the course of the semester. The classes were conducted at just INR 300 with 3 student instructors who have an advanced level degree in Urdu writing, conducting the classes free of cost.

**Marathi Speaking Cult School:**

Organized for the first time in the Speaking Arts genre with over 8+ classes. The classes were conducted at just INR 200 by 3 students instructors who have an advanced level degree in Marathi language, conducting the classes free of cost.

**Vaani PG Baithak:**

Organized for the first time ever, with the aim to cater to the PGs of the institute and find out poetry enthusiasts inside the PG Community. This was attended by over 25 PGs and really helped in the retention of many PGs into the Vaani Club as they also came for future club meets and events.

**Hostel Debate and GD workshops:**

Taken in groups of hostels together with Hostel Speaking Arts secretaries. Hostels 2, 3 and 4 have had GD sessions and so have Hostels 6, 7 and 9. This saw a good turnout by sophomores as well as fourth year students applying for placements with a good review by all the attendees of the session. The session was taken with the aim of helping people at Group Discussions and how to excel at them.

**MUN Arcade:**

For the first time ever, there was an event of MUN in the Institute for students beyond just a workshop. 2 MUN Workshops were held on explaining the rules of MUN followed by the MUN Arcade, which saw massive participation of over 28 teams (56 freshmen) representing various countries across the globe on the debate motion assessing the situation of Rohingyas in Myanmar.

**Debate Training Sessions:**

We had over 2 debate practices per week for freshmen which involved comprehensive feedback by seniors and 1 debate practice per week for seniors conducted throughout the semester. The result from these practice sessions was clearly excellent as IITB teams performed extraordinarily at IIT Bombay National Debate and Asian British Parliamentary Debate, Krabi.

**Summer Debate Training Sessions:**

Regular Debate sessions (once a week) involving both juniors and seniors were conducted to keep club members engaged throughout the summers in debating and to practice for the Asian Championships and other national tournaments. Several experienced debaters were invited from outside IIT to give feedback to IIT students on how to improve their debating skills. The response was quite good with many students taking part in these sessions.

**DB 101 English**

Attended by over 100 freshmen who were taught the rules and format of Parliamentary Debating after which freshers were divided into groups of 6 each and then allotted a senior with whom they could discuss debate motions. This was followed by debate practice involving the freshers, after which they received feedback by seniors on how to improve at debating.

**GCs:**

Organized 4 General Championships – MUN, English Debate, Hindi Debate, and Hindi Poetry. Feedback was provided for the first time ever to all the teams in Hindi Debate GC Eliminations and a cap was introduced to keep a quality check

**We Speak Club Orientation:**

Highest ever turnout with over 200 PG and UG freshmen attending the orientation, where seniors shared their experience as part of the club and also discuss 2 debate motions with the freshmen, after which there was a Mock Debate by experienced seniors. The Mock Debate was very well received by the freshers and motivated many of them to join the We Speak in the future. The orientation informed the freshmen in brief about the club's various activities.

**Vaani Club Orientation:**

A very high turnout of over 60 UG freshmen was seen at the orientation with freshers being introduced to the club's various activities like Poetry, Writing, Word games, Quizzes and also the various languages being propagated by the Club like Hindi, Urdu, Marathi and other vernacular languages.

**Introductory Workshop to Debating:**

Organized for the first time ever with over 100 freshmen attended the session taken in 2 separate LT classrooms by seniors to teach freshmen the basics of debating over a range of debate motions. This was also meant to inspire freshers to pursue the activity of parliamentary debating in the future.

**Vaani Poetry Club Meets:**

Organized several club meets which was attended by over 30 members of Vaani including a few alumnus with food and refreshments being served. There was participation by everyone in various activities of the club like Poetry writing and recitation.

**DB 101 Hindi:**

Freshmen were taught the rules and format of Parliamentary Debating after which they discussed debate motions with seniors. This was followed by debate practice involving the freshers, after which they received feedback by seniors on how to improve at debating.

**Freshiezza Events:**

Over 4 events were organized under Speaking Arts for Freshiezza which included Hindi Poetry, Hindi Debate, Love Letter Writing, and English Debate. The overall turnout for these events was quite high, especially for English Debate and Hindi Poetry competitions.

**Summer School of Cult Public Speaking Classes:**

Eight sessions of two hours each were conducted by proficient instructors from the Creative Expressions Academy. The goal was to enhance their communication skills, fluency, body language and tone of speaking of the students as much as possible. The event was well received by the students as classes were kept interactive which showed real time benefits to them.

**Rukhsat Vaani:** Ensured the successful conduction of Rukhsat for Vaani club, the farewell event for club seniors.

**Rukhsat We Speak:** Ensured the successful conduction of Rukhsat for We Speak club, the farewell event for club seniors.

**Cult Online:**

To ensure involvement of club members and other enthusiasts during the summer months. The event had two competitions "Hindi Poetry" and "English Poetry". The response for the event competition wasn't a lot but the entries were of very high quality from highly proficient poets.

**UG/PG Orientation:**

The Vaani and We Speak clubs were introduced to the freshmen and exhibitions were displayed to all the PG and UG freshmen, attracting over 200+ registrations in both the clubs by PGs and UGs.

## Infrastructure and Online Ventures

**Vaani Blog:** There were submissions taken from over 30 people of a poem/ short story which were self written. These entries were uploaded on the new Vaani Blog and shared by everyone through the Vaani facebook page. This has increased the visibility of the Vaani facebook page and group while providing members an opportunity to showcase their talent. These entries have also been added to the Vaani Digital Library.

**Debate Archive & Matter File:** A resource has been compiled for the beginner level of debaters with inputs from the debating society to help freshmen get familiar with parliamentary debating and read up on highly informative articles on major world issues, problems and ethics. This also includes calendar of all the upcoming Debating Tournaments and MUNs.

**Kshitij magazine:** Entries for the annual Kshitij Magazine will be taken from the Vaani Blog entries and printed by the Hindi Cell after editing. The copies for this will be distributed to Hostels and on various events of Vaani. The works by our students in the magazine will also be discussed in future Vaani meets.

**Debate\Lit Room:** The room has been repainted and provision for further infrastructure including cabinets, cupboards will be made to the room for use by students after this is allotted to the room.

**Cult Online:** There was little participation by students in the poetry competitions but the quality of the submissions was really good. In order to cultivate this, we've decided to continue taking submissions from people reciting their poetry, which will then be uploaded on the Vaani YouTube channel as well as added to the Kshitij magazine.

### To be continued next year:

**NSO Debate:** A senate meeting will either be held for finalizing NSO Debate, or a letter from the Dean with his signature will be submitted to the Sports Officer so that this can be approved for next year well in advance. A database has been prepared for institutions which can conduct NSO Debate and these institutions may be contacted for NSO next year onwards.

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