

## **Harvard Model United Nations India,**

**August 12-16, 2016**

With the dawn of August 12<sup>th</sup> came the promise of four intellectually stimulating, albeit challenging days. The sun was shining bright and high, and so were we. Our delegation of 17 just managed to board the airplane with merely a few seconds left to spare - red-faced and panting. After two hours in the airplane, we finally set foot on the beautiful land of Hyderabad.

Our delegation included Rohan Dabas, Zoya Achanta, Ananya Jain, Tanvi Pathak, Saatvik Jha, Jyotsna Raje, Ananya Roy, Ayushman Jain, Shreya Singh, Mihir Chaurvedi, Shanaya Vohra, Abhisri Nath, Anoushka Chandra, Ananya Sen, Arshia Roy, Priyanc Passi and Utkarsh Dwivedi, along with Jaya ma'am and Manisha ma'am.

Before we knew it, the sixth edition of the renowned conference was well underway. We were in equal parts exhilarated and absolutely terrified. Over a thousand students trickled into the Hyderabad Convention Centre from all sides.

Fuelled with passion and the aspiration to make Sanskriti proud, we plunged headlong into the activities at Harvard Model United Nations. Now no longer high school students, we were international diplomats; people of considerable stature and responsibility; people whose words and opinions mattered. We engaged ourselves not only in issues plaguing the international community today, but also got the opportunity to retrace our steps and make amendments in past decisions that have had a detrimental impact on today's society.

There is something highly empowering about being part of an environment that appreciates your passion for international affairs and the intricacies of the intriguing world around us; an environment conducive to learning. At the sixth edition of HMUN India, we met people from different parts of the world who came from all walks of life. They spoke differently, acted differently and thought differently. Interacting with them gave us a glimpse into life from their perspective, if only for four days. Over the course of the conference, we learnt both about international affairs as well as the virtues of diplomacy, integrity, persuasiveness, collaboration and above all, camaraderie.

At the closing ceremony, Ananya Roy, Ananya Jain and Abhisri Nath were awarded with Honourable Mentions, while Ayushman Jain and Shreya Singh – who were a double delegation – received the Outstanding Delegates award.

Each one of us exited the premises of the conference with a feeling of accomplishment – which, surprisingly, had nothing to do with the certificates we held or did not hold in our hands. Rather, it came from the fact that, in our own little ways, each one of us felt as though we had somehow managed to leave our footprints in the halls of a Convention Centre that were walked on by over 1500 students. Our opinions were voiced, heard and recognised – which, for seemingly insignificant teenagers who are oddly passionate about such things, is the biggest form of appreciation. At HMUN India, sky was not the limit.

As a much deserved treat, we feasted on scrumptious Hyderabadi biryani and kebabs for dinner that day. The next morning, we visited the celebrated Golkunda Fort of Hyderabad and learnt about its fascinating history. After another palatable meal of biryani and Boti kebabs, we headed for the airport with smiles on our faces and joy in our hearts.

As cliché as this conclusion may sound, HMUN India '16 was truly an experience none of us are likely to forget anytime soon. From the power that came with deliberating in the committee rooms and the late night research to the pillow fights and inside jokes we developed; with every breath we took those five days, everlasting memories were created.





# HARVARD MODEL UNITED NATIONS INDIA 2016

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