

# **AWAAZ: The English Debating Society**

“Debating is a skill; Arguing politely is an art”

Going by the above quote we at Awaaz not only believe in just polishing our debating skill but also strive to learn this art of arguing politely and powerfully. Awaaz: The English Debating society has been a prominent part of ECA and cultural society of Ram Lal Anand College. It is one of the most active and highly functional society. We started with this session (2019-20) in the month of August by conducting the auditions (22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2019) and welcoming new members to the society. We had an overwhelming response for the audition with 60+ registrations. The audition was judged by the Convener Dr. N.K. Pandey and Teacher in-charge Dr. Urvashi Kuhad and Mrs. Nidhi Yadhav. A total of 15 students were selected in the audition, hence making us a family of 25 members.

The society is headed by:

1. Anukriti Prakash (President),
2. Shubham Malhotra (Vice President)
3. Yash Gupta (Vice President)
4. Adhiraj Gupta (Secretary)

The society has conducted two inter-college debate competitions in this session. The first competition was conducted in the odd semester in the month of October. The name of the event was Elocution'19. It was a Turncoat Debate Competition which was held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in Amphitheater within the college campus. The Chief guest for the competition was Ms. Parul Mehta, founder of Researcho, she was also one of the three judges of the competition. Other judges on the panel were Mr. Taha Yasin from the English department and Ms. Nupur from the Computer Science department. We hosted 30 participants in total, coming from various colleges in Delhi NCR. The winners of the competition were awarded with cash prize and certificate of excellence. The first position was backed by Jatin Jha of Hindu College winning a cash prize of Rs. 2000, the first and second runner's up were Tanmay Mehra of MSIT and Diksha of LSR respectively. Both were given a cash prize of Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,000 respectively. Other participants received a participation certificate for displaying such profound debating skills. In all the competition was a huge success and all the everything went down smoothly.

The other competition was organized under the banner of Splendor'20- the Annual Cultural fest. The event was named Verbatim'20. It was a two-level debate competition. We saw a total of 20 participants and the competition was judged by Mr. Taha Yasin and Dr. Deepti Bharadwaj. The first round of the competition was a conventional debate for which the topic was given to the participants 24hrs, before the competition. Selected 8 participants advanced to the next round, which was a turncoat debate. The topic for this round was given on the spot, with each participant getting a unique topic. Each participant was given 20 minutes to prepare for the debate. The participants showed exceptional debating skills and the competition was very

fierce in a healthy way. The winners for the competition were Vinayak Gupta backing the first position and Aura Bhandari coming second. In all it was a great experience and the society was grateful to host participants from colleges across Delhi NCR.

The society not only organized competition, but also participated in various competitions organized in the debating circle like Parliamentary Debate, MUN's conventional debates, memorial debates etc. The members had a first hand experience to the fierce and powerful debating competitions organized in and around Delhi. The members also represented the society and college in prestigious competitions like Debutant'19- PD organized by IIT Delhi, many of the members participated and chaired in various MUN's like in Hindu and St. Stephens. Various meetings were conducted within the society to polish on the debating skills. The members indulged in mock sessions to sharpen up their skills and help each other grow in their art.

The society also visioned on organizing the first MUN in Ram Lal Anand College. The preparations were already in progress when the great pandemic hit us all, because of which the event was put on hold. Though it made us sad, we determine to not lose hope and get back on fulfilling this dream as soon as we get past these dark times.

Keeping this hope and determination high we promise to work hard and grow in our skill with the developing time to achieve greater accomplishments and be a guiding light for future debaters of the society.

**Anukriti Prakash**  
**(President)**