

BILLABONG HIGH
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL, MALAD

ISSUE # 2

ACCESSIBILITY



**MINDS IN
MOTION**

AUGUST 8TH, 2021

BHISMUN 21



Dear Delegates,

With immense pride and pleasure we, the International Press team present to you the 2nd issue of our BHISMUN 2021 conference newsletter; Minds in Motion for 8th August, Sunday 2021.

Over the stretch of these two days, we've seen our delegates come out of their shells and leaving as determined, well spoken individuals. The committees began as unfamiliar spaces but as the event progressed the delegates made new friends and connections through networking. The chairs in particular were thrilled to see the changes in their attitude and verbally lauded them for it. The points raised and debates housed in the committees were truly fantastic to witness. We hope to see you next year as well, back with firm resolves and even better discussions.

We'd like to thank the brilliant secretariat, ever enthusiastic organising committee, the incredibly capable executive board and the supportive school faculty for being the backbone of this event and putting up such a rewarding conference for all our learners.

Through this issue we offer you an unbiased and thorough outlook on the proceedings of the conference. We hope you enjoy reading this and have the opportunity to relive the event vicariously through our words.

Happy Reading!

- Alexia D'souza,
IP Head

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UNGA: Myanmar: Economic welfare or Messiah complex?

By Aishwarya Kumar

As the second day of BHISMUN 2021 began, the Chair, Co-Chair and Vice Chair greeted the delegates and once again helped them navigate through the Rules Of Procedure (ROP). The chairs then lauded the delegates on their well-prepared enthusiastic approach on their Working Papers. The Working Paper presented by the European bloc, addressing the agenda, “The situation in Myanmar” was a brilliantly curated paper, which gave an in-depth insight on the agenda. The chair was impressed by the unanimous and united front presented by the countries’ delegates. We then rounded back to the General Speakers List (GSL).

As we delved deeper into the GSL, strong remarks were made by the delegates of Cambodia and the UK. The delegate of Cambodia in a strong rebuttal to the UK, declared as to how “Western media is one-sided”. The UK takes offence to this declaration, and went on to state how Cambodia doesn’t itself support a free media in its policy and allies with China who has direly stringent media rules. The delegate of the UK demanded a formal apology from the delegate of Cambodia as their comments about western media hurt its sentiments. As the fierce discussion ensued between Cambodia and the UK, China demands a formal apology by the delegate of the UK for commenting on how the media in China was widely state-controlled.

In a moment of fun and frolic for the delegates, the delegate of the UK goes on to sing a song for the delegate of Cambodia as their apology. On this note, formal debate is suspended and the committee then moves into a Moderated caucus. A motion was then passed discussing: “The impact of the military coup on freedom of speech, expression and assembly in Myanmar”.

In a war of words, several opposing statements were made on Myanmar’s speech ban. Once again, Myanmar defends its policy by citing the speech ban as a boon to its economy. Following this, the delegates disperse into an Unmoderated caucus with their respective blocs to work on their draft resolutions.

Post the unmoderated caucus; the delegates then gather for the final session of the MUN. This is followed by the GSL, which showcases the delegates putting their best foot forward, and actively participating in all discussions. The chair and the co-chair conclude the GSL by providing deep insight into the delegates’ performances. The blocs then moved to present their draft resolutions. The European bloc and the Asian-African bloc after much deliberation join hands to present their resolution, “Resolution GA 1”. The resolution was passed with an astounding majority, albeit the exception of Myanmar and Italy.

As we concluded the penultimate session of the conference, the delegates gave a warm round of applause to the Chair, Co-chair and Vice Chair for their amicable participation in the conference and tirelessly guiding the delegates through every nook and cranny. The Chairs heartily praised their delegates, calling this one of the best MUNs they have ever attended and hosted.





RAJYA SABHA: Farm Bills 2020: Who GAINS and At Whose COST?

By Soumya Sinha

Committee proceedings of Rajya Sabha on the second day started on a dynamic note with the Executive Board(EB) opening the floor and the highly enthusiastic delegates raising various motions from which the one raised by the delegate of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on the topic 'How will contract farming affect the farmers?' passed with a clear majority. During this the delegate of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) unwittingly said that small farmers will agree to any price regardless of the contract and they can be manipulated easily to which the delegate of Indian Union Muslim League(IUML) agreed and the delegate of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) said 'Farmers are uneducated bookwise, not dumb'.

Further debate on the topic led to an unexpected turn of events with Janata Dal (United) (JDU) defending a delegate of IUML and changing alliances by commenting against National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in favour of United Progressive Alliance (UPA) followed by a moment of fickleness when the delegate of JD(U) went back to siding with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) thus clearing JD(U)'s stance.

After a much needed break, The committee had an Unmoderated caucus and then entered the Question hour which was immensely engaging with the opposition actively questioning the BJP- who confidently answered. Subsequently, the committee moved forward to reviewing and voting on the Working Papers proposed by the BJP- the ruling party; and the opposition which were both passed with an undoubtable majority. Next, the committee entered another unmoderated caucus to constitute the draft resolution with their allies. Finally, after an intense discussion about the paperwork, a consensus was achieved and the resolution passed. In spite of its lethargic beginning on the previous day; Rajya Sabha ended in high spirits with it's delegates feeling satisfied and content with their performance.



UNFCCC: Clash of Carbons! Controversy and Contention

By Devanshi Mehrotra

The day started off with a briefing by the Co-chairs about Working Papers and Draft Resolutions. The countries had formed two blocs- Canada Bloc and Russia Bloc. The committee then continued with General Speaker's List (GSL) on the motion from the previous day, 'Initiatives taken by the countries to reduce carbon emissions'.

The Delegate of Singapore found himself in a pickle when the chair questioned him on his statement that, "Government of Singapore says that effects of climate change aren't directly felt by citizens". Upon being cross-questioned, the delegate was stuck in a foot in mouth situation and ended up saying that Singaporean Government is in the wrong, and apologising for being factually incorrect, while assuring the committee of adhering to new measures. Post an Unmoderated Caucus with the blocs, the Delegate of Ukraine targeted the Mexican government with accusations of not doing enough to regulate carbon emissions. Delegate of Mexico debunked the accusations and received a formal apology from Delegate of Ukraine.

Furthermore, the Delegates of Belgium and Estonia locked horns over their countries' waste production. The Delegate of Estonia countered by stating Belgium's high waste production rate, while insinuating self-reflection on Delegate of Belgium's end. This dispute was settled by Co-Chair's intervention.

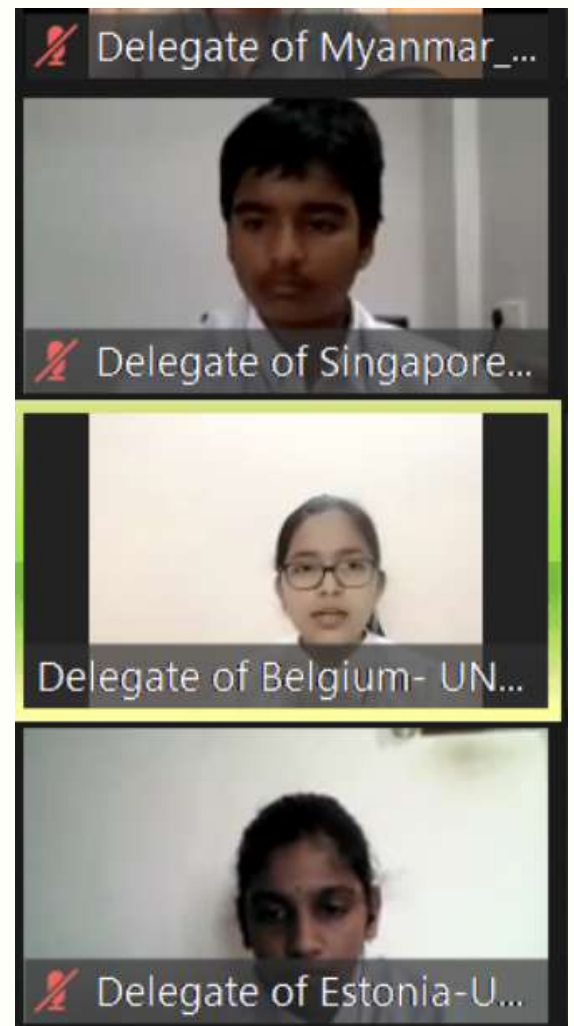


BY AVNI AGARWAL

Seeing how the delegates seemed tired, the committee had an early lunch, post this, the delegates were sent to breakout rooms to discuss Working Papers. As the Co-chairs weren't pleased with the individual Working Papers they suggested the blocs to merge them.

After a rigorous discussion, the delegates introduced their resolution and voting commenced.

The Resolution was passed unanimously, resulting in the committee being dissolved. A motion of entertainment was passed to brighten up the mood. The second day of UNFCCC was anticlimactic as first, but progressed into something very intriguing!





UNSC: THE GREY SIDE: MISTAKES, LEARNING AND AN OUTCOME.

By Ujjwal Sharma

Day 2 started off on a much different note as compared to how day one had ended, and while a resolution was reached, there was a lot more that had to be put into making it happen than ideal.

With all that happened, the highlight of the committee remains a curious one: Ethiopia agreeing to the fact that their actions also included war crimes and actions against the civilians in certain cases, in a moment of discomposure.

Understanding that time is of the essence, the delegates came in the next day with a Working Paper, sponsored by the UK and France. While the committee stayed on one page during the following Moderated caucuses, there were glimpses of the friction from the events of the day before, and even a few newer internal disputes.

There were a few suggestions for creating a peace treaty, following a major slip up on Ethiopia's part as it accidentally suggested having partaken in war crimes, be it rationalized as a response to the rebels. This was met with much criticism within the committee, voiced most strongly by France, UK and Djibouti.

By this time, focus had shifted towards getting viable solutions and figuring out what to do next, post the aftermath. The resolution had started shaping up by this time in the committee, which was a multilateral one.

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This was surprising considering the starkly different country policies towards which they had a dutiful obligation. Most of the resolution consisted of how the sponsors felt about the situation, and collaboration from other committees and funding, which was queer considering that no action was taken directly by the committee.

Following this, amendments were voted upon and changed, and finally, everyone came together to vote upon whether the Resolution should be passed or not. The only vote against the passing of the resolution was Ethiopia; and hence it passed. It was quite heartening to see all the countries coming together as one after the disagreements that took place on the previous day.

The UNSC committee, which is known for its high standards, and well-thought resolutions, lacked some of its sophistication this year, which can be largely attributed to a few violations of country policies. Despite this, there was never a dull moment in the committee, and the excitement persisted throughout both days of committee sessions.



ITU: US suggests Monitoring of Citizens.

By Khushii Mathur

Day two in the committee commenced with the delegates going to their respective breakout rooms for the Unmoderated Caucus. The committee then continued with the General Speakers List (GSL).

One of the main questions discussed during it was 'Should a court order be required to access the data of the citizens?' Countries had conflicting thoughts on this, but the most controversial statement was made by the Delegate of the USA, who stated that tracking an individual's data and whereabouts are necessary to prevent rebellions against the administration; thus admitting to tracking its citizens and going against the first amendment of the constitution of the USA. The delegate then tried to defend the country by saying that the citizens were aware of the same; to this, the delegate of South Korea quoted from her source that the citizens stated they felt "Concerned, Confused and Felt Lack of Control Over Their Personal Information."

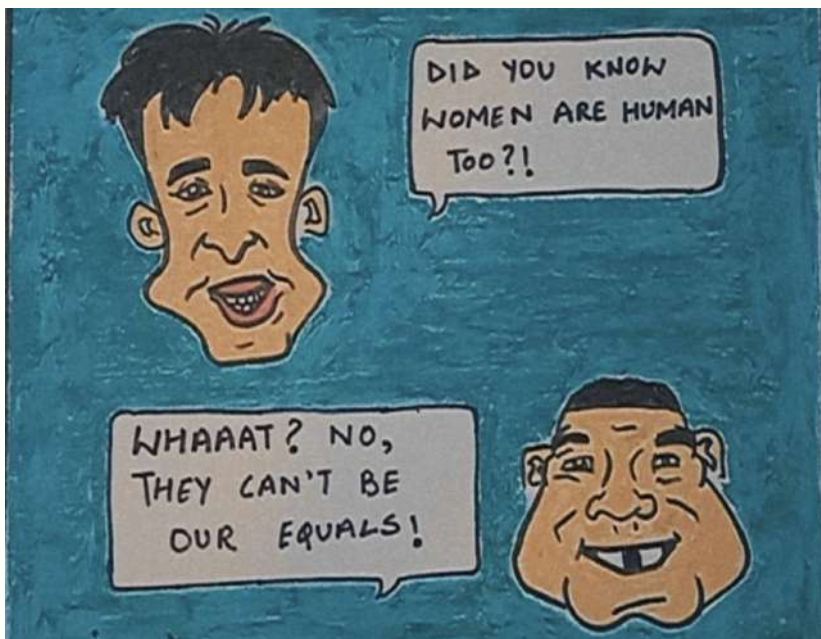
The delegate was dumbfounded and unable to defend the country.

Other issues discussed were the Rikunabi Scandal of Japan, the Yemen Phone App incident which leaked the data of multiple Yemenis, and the data breach case in Cambodia that disclosed vulnerable data to China.

Following this, there was an Unmoderated Caucus for the delegates to discuss their Working Paper 'Not a Funny Name.'

Lunch ensued, and once the delegates were back, the chairs explained how a Resolution works. Following an Unmoderated Caucus, the delegates then introduced their resolution 'Where's the Hyphen?' The resolution was passed unanimously and the committee was dissolved.





BY AVNI AGARWAL

UNCSW: Fun Fact: Women are Human Beings too.

By Tara Kharat

Determined smiles and excitement to begin Day 2 of the committee were explicitly painted on each delegate's face. Day 2 began with the same intensity and passion as yesterday, if not more, with the delegates restless to get back into their intense discussions. The committee followed suit with the General Speakers' List(GSL). The delegates launch into an Unmoderated caucus, fearlessly putting forth their opinions and not hesitating to challenge the others. The committee then moves into a Moderated caucus on "Increasing community engagement and dialogue within the tribes and those fighting against Female Genital Mutilation(FGM)."

After a stimulating Moderated caucus with the delegates presenting radical points, the committee then made a motion to discuss their Working Papers which passes by the discretion of the chair. The Secretary-General made an entrance and guided the delegates on various tips to keep in mind when taking part in a MUN. The committee then moves on to examine the resolutions set by the delegates of Bloc 1, followed by five minutes of an Unmoderated caucus. The delegates discuss and challenge the resolutions presented by the other Bloc and then vote on the amendments.



The committee comes to an end with the resolutions passing with 19 votes. The Chair and Co-Chair then praise the delegates as rational, dynamic and outspoken they were, this was highlighted by the fact that a majority of the delegates were first-timers. The delegates expressed their gratitude and were honoured to have such considerate chairs, and it was a touching moment with the committee brought to tears.

The first-timers glowed with confidence when praised by the chair, and we think it's safe to say that we can expect great things in the future from this committee. Well done, delegates!



By Tripti Ladha

UNHRC: Israel and Palestine: Will they compromise or not?

By Mrinali Rao

Day 2 at UNHRC was an eventful one.

The delegates seemed well-versed with their research and spoke confidently. The executive board began the session with a brief explanation of the format of a draft resolution. The committee soon moved into General Speakers List(GSL).The committee next participated in an Unmoderated caucus followed by a Moderated caucus on the topic: “Discrimination faced by the Israelis from other countries”. After this A moderated caucus was raised by the Delegate of USA: “Reforms in the Palestinian Territory”, which was passed by the committee.

The Executive Board(EB) encouraged the delegates to vote for this motion and even gave them a five minute Unmoderated caucus to discuss the topic.

A controversial statement made by the Delegate of Israel sparked conversation and the delegate was subject to questioning by other delegates, the EB and the Secretary General.

This was followed by the lunch break.

The Palestine Bloc’s Draft Resolution was discussed next where the EB suggested a few amendments. The Draft Resolution of Israel bloc seemed to have major logistical loopholes about medical, political and legal procedures. The committee was then given time to draft their final resolution. However, lady luck seemed to be against them, as the Chairs denied the resolution once again. The committee then moved into an Unmoderated caucus and an hour later managed to present a resolution that was approved by the chairs. After a heated debate between the Delegates of USA and Palestine speaking ‘for’ the draft and the Delegates of Israel speaking ‘against’ the resolution, it was passed by majority votes.

In comparison to yesterday, the delegates seemed to have stronger research and hence spoke a lot more confidently. The session was quite active and the committee was able to find a solution to the sensitive issue. It has been an incredibly fruitful and memorable experience for the delegates as part of the UNHRC committee.



Press Conference

The press conferences were conducted by the IP Head, Ms. Alexia D'souza following the reports given by fellow IP reporters. It was a great success since it provided further insight into what the delegates were thinking as they made statements- consistent and contradictory both! It also was a platform for some to defend their stance and gain better standing in the committee.

UNHRC

The questions asked in UNHRC were apropos to the opinions of the Palestine and Israel blocs on each other's resolution and with reference to controversial remarks made by delegates.

The Delegate of Israel was interrogated on his statement about Israel “denying most of the accusations and allegations made against Israel”.

On being questioned, the delegate repeatedly laid emphasis on the point of “some information being true, and some being false”. The Delegate of Palestine was also asked whether Palestine was in agreement with the draft resolution made by the Pro-Israel bloc. The Delegate of Palestine denied, stating that their draft had completely ignored the opinions and feelings of the Palestinians and mentioned that the opposition was not willing to compromise.

The Delegates seemed to be well-versed with their content and answered all the questions quite admirably.

- Mrinali Rao

UNSC

The questions asked to the delegates comprised of their conflicting facts and their comments which sometimes conflicted with their country's stance.

The delegate of Russia for one was asked about their comment on military service not being something that should be forced, despite having military service as a mandate themselves. The UK was asked next about whether their dynamic with Russia would improve soon, to which, after beating around the bush, they answered a painfully truthful and prophetic, “no”.

The committee, as a whole, was questioned towards the end of the conference about whether they believe they can reach a viable resolution, to which they collective responded as a big Yes!

- Ujjwal Sharma



Press Conference

UNCSW

The questions majorly pertained to the degree of success of their discussions and the passing of resolutions.

Delegate of Kenya declares the discussion to be very fruitful and even though they were yet to pass resolutions, the discussion sessions of yesterday and today majorly helped. The delegate of France says that the solutions have been reached with everyone agreeing after tedious debating to reach common ground with an example that included how in an unmoderated caucus, there was a debate on how education would reduce practising FGM.

The delegate of Australia calls the solutions 'effective' in nature, and 'heated discussions and moderated caucuses helped build the foundation for these solutions to eliminate these practices.'

- Tara Kharat

UNFCCC

The questions pertained to certain contradictory statements, accusations and allegations made by the delegates.

The Delegate of Singapore was questioned on his statement that the "Citizens of Singapore aren't directly affected by the climate changes" or the "Carbon emissions", to which he eventually admitted that the Government is in the wrong.

The Delegate of Mexico was asked to debunk the accusations made by the Delegate of Ukraine stating that the Mexican Government remains inactive when it comes to combatting the climate change crisis, to which they elaborately proved them wrong.

The Delegates of Estonia and Belgium were questioned about their argument about their countries' rate of waste production. They were asked about their countries' approach to the issue of high waste production.

The press conference was concluded as the delegates eloquently answers the questions and declared their stance on the query raised.

- Devanshi Mehrotra

Press Conference

RAJYA SABHA

The first question was to the delegate of JD(U) asking about the delegate changing their alliances from the NDA to the IUML to which JD(U) replied that there was some friction with the BJP due to which the delegate sided with UPA but moving forward, it resolved and the delegate of JD(U) was invited to join alliances with NDA once again which was advantageous for both parties. When asked why the delegate supports BJP, the Delegate said that JD(U) delegation agrees with BJP on its positive view towards Farmers Contract.

The second question was for the delegate of BJP asking the delegate to justify their statement 'MSP is a complete fail and it would demolish on its own to which he confidently supported their statement replied, 'big farmers used to take advantage of MSP by taking their produce to market first which resulted in the small farmers having to sell their produce for a price lesser than MSP due to more demand and less productive and since the farmers didn't have an option MSP is bound to fail'.

When asked on how the experience in the committee was;

The delegate of AITC 1 expressed how there had been numerous constructive debates and everyone had learnt new things like how to have a formal debate and be respectful while putting forward one's point when asked a question about the committee's view on the session being productive in order to come up with good solutions and coming to solutions the delegate said that it's a necessity to bring more awareness on the development of the agricultural sector by investing more on the same.

The committee was also asked about the concept of bringing various guest delegates to enhance the committee to which the delegate of IUML responded by saying that having guest delegates who were more experienced made the committee more challenging and fun at the same time.

- Soumya Sinha



CLOSING CEREMONY



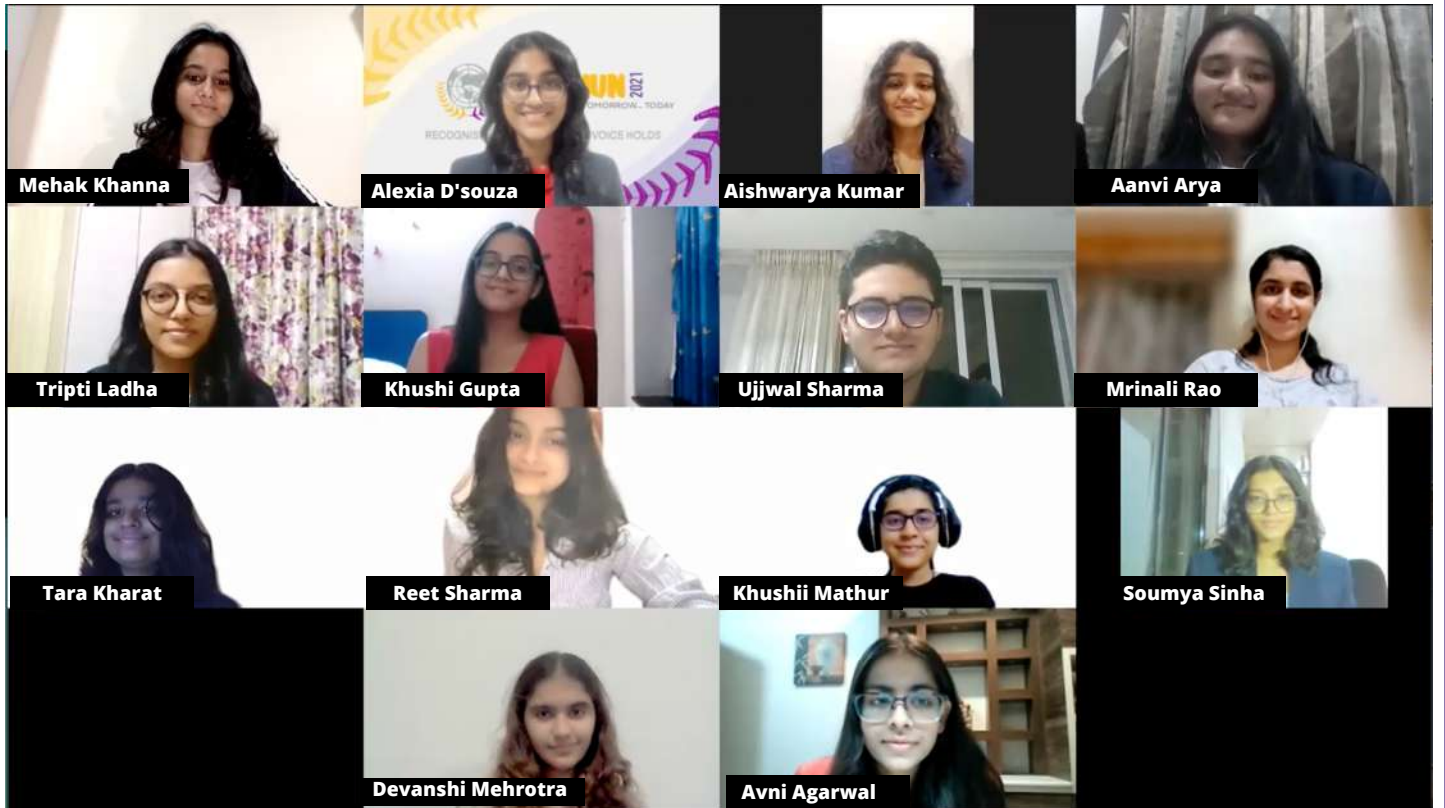
The excited and exhausted delegates were warmly welcomed by the Vice Presidents of BHIS Malad. They briefed the delegates upon the flow of the ceremony and then invited the Secretariat to adjourn the event. This was followed by a phenomenal skit by Mr. Praful Panchal from the Earthing group. It depicted the differences between rural and city life highlighting factors like family, marriage and education. Next, the beloved character- chachaji, came in to interact with the students and educated them on how it is important to bring in the change that they wish to see. He also put forward a thought provoking question: “What if rural areas and cities are united?”. This question was thrown to the student body to which they answered raptly. Next, the executive board took the audience through the award ceremony where they congratulated the delegates on their commendable performance through the event. They reminded the delegates not to feel disheartened as each one had outdone themselves through the course of the conference ending the ceremony on a celebratory note.

By Aanvi Arya



Mr Praful Panchal and Ms Maitri Dave in character for the skit.

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**We hope you enjoyed
reading this issue and
were engaged and
entertained
throughout!**

**IP HEAD
ALEXIA D'SOUZA**

**THANKS FOR THIS
ISSUE**