



# Sat Paul Mittal Inter-University Debate 2024

March 1-2, 2024, at the IAPPD Auditorium, New Delhi

The Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, New Delhi (IAPPD), commemorates its Founder Chairman, Mr. Sat Paul Mittal, MP, by organizing the Sat Paul Mittal Inter-University Debate 2024. This event, aimed at strengthening youth skills and capacities, fostering awareness, and generating a better understanding among the youth in the realms of population development and environment, unfolded over March 1-2, 2024.



The Inter-college Debate was conducted across twenty universities nationwide. Out of these, sixteen universities were qualified to participate in the National Debate, where each institution was represented by a pair of contestants. One member of the team argued 'For' the motion, while the other took the stance 'Against' it. This selection process ensured a diverse and competitive representation, fostering a rich exchange of ideas and perspectives on a national level.

The distinguished occasion was presided over by Prof. P.J. Kurien, Chairman of IAPPD. The Chief Guest, Ms. Andrea Wojnar, Resident Representative UNFPA India and Country Director of Bhutan, graced the event alongside the Special Guest, Prof. Dipendra Nath Das, Rector of Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary of IAPPD, extended a warm welcome to the participants, expressing delight in witnessing the enthusiasm of the students. He expressed optimism for a meaningful and impactful debate.

Ms. Andrea Wojnar, in her address, shed light on the UNFPA's initiatives, emphasizing the organization's commitment to ensuring every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled. She also touched upon the significance of Sexual



*The Inaugural Session*



*The Dignitaries and Judges*



and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR). She said that since the first country programme began almost 50 years ago in 1974, UNFPA has been working in India to improve reproductive health and rights and to achieve gender equality, including working to eliminate gender-based violence.



Prof. Dipendra Nath Das, while addressing the contestants, emphasized the importance of integrating population education into school and college curricula. Stressing the need for comprehensive awareness, he shared insights into the vital role of population education.



Prof. P.J. Kurien extended a warm welcome to the participating students and officially initiated the debate proceedings. Prof. P.J. Kurien extended a warm welcome to the participating students and officially initiated the debate proceedings. Remembering Shri Sat Paul Mittal, Prof. Kurien said that he was a great visionary, an excellent orator, and a keen debater. He used this skill in promoting health and population-related issues.



The Sat Paul Mittal Inter-University Debate 2024 stands as a platform not only for intellectual discourse but also for nurturing a generation that is well-informed and proactive in addressing critical issues related to population and development. The IAPPD remains committed to fostering a culture of informed debate and dialogue among the youth of the nation.



A panel of judges was formed to assess the contestants, comprising six members, namely Prof. Sudesh Nangia; Prof. Anuradha Banerjee from JNU; Dr. Suresh Sharma from the Institute of Economic Growth; Mrs. Gita Narayan, formerly associated with UNFPA; and Ms. Geetali Trivedi and Ms. Amrita Singh from UNICEF; and Prof. Dewaram A. Nagdeve from IIPS, Mumbai. Prof. P.P. Talwar and Prof. J.S. Yadav, members of the



*The Audience*

TAC (Technical Advisory Committee), assumed the role of Super Judges for the debate.

In total, the debate witnessed active participation from 30 students. Following the conclusion of the debate, prizes were conferred upon the victorious teams and individual contestants in a ceremony that highlighted the culmination of the intellectual competition.

The Valedictory Session, a distinguished affair held on March 2, 2024, was graced by the esteemed presence of Mr. Avinash Rai Khanna, Vice Chairman, IAPPD. Mr. P.D.T. Achary, former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha, was the Chief Guest. Adding to the significance of the occasion, Mr. Naveed Trumboo, Joint Commissioner of Income Tax, honored the event as the Special Guest. Noteworthy is Mr. Trumboo's personal connection to the debate, as he himself actively participated in one of the earlier debates back in 2011.

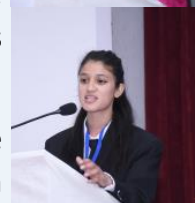
In his remarks, Mr. Avinash Rai Khanna emphasized the importance of 'family' and advised participants to prioritize spending time with their families, encouraging them to share at least a daily dinner together. Addressing the challenges associated with aging, he shed light on the rising issues faced by the elderly in the country.

Expressing gratitude to IAPPD for the invitation to the debate, Mr. Naveed Trumboo reflected on the excitement of transitioning from being a contestant in a previous debate to a speaker in the current one. He delved into the transformative power of opportunities and shared insights on how students can derive benefits from them. Providing illustrative examples, he urged students to approach opportunities and challenges with a serious mindset.

In his address, Mr. P.D.T. Achary expressed gratitude to Prof. P.J. Kurien for providing the opportunity to address the debate contestants. He described Shri Sat Paul Mittal as a man of very strong willpower who was passionately involved in activities related to population and development. He delved into the critical issue of malnutrition among pregnant women and children below 5 years in the country, presenting alarming statistics. Notably, he highlighted that almost 45 per cent of children below 5 years are malnourished, leading to stunting. Additionally, he pointed out that a large number of women and adolescent girls are underweight, with a significant portion suffering from anaemia. Stressing the far-reaching impact of these nutrition deficiencies on both women and their children, he concluded by emphasizing the urgent need for government intervention to address these pressing problems.



*The Guests for Valedictory Session*



*The Audience*



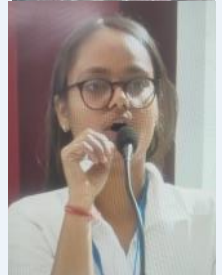
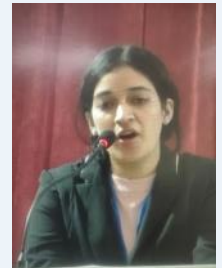
In his concluding remarks, Prof. P.J. Kurien expressed his gratitude to all the participating contestants, their supervisors/faculty, and the universities for their enthusiastic involvement in the event. Acknowledging the inherent nature of winning and losing in any debate or competition, he encouraged participants not to be disheartened by defeat. Prof. Kurien extended his thanks to the Jury members, with a special mention of Prof. Sudesh Nangia, for orchestrating such a remarkable event.

Concluding his address, Prof. Kurien expressed hope for continued student participation in future debates, fostering a culture of intellectual exchange and collaborative learning.

The coordination of the debate was skillfully managed by Prof. Sudesh Nangia, adding a layer of academic finesse to the entire event. His expertise and dedication ensured the smooth execution of the debate, contributing to its overall success. The Valedictory Session, marked by the presence of distinguished guests and the acknowledgment of outstanding participants, served as a fitting conclusion to the Sat Paul Mittal Inter-University Debate 2024.



*Prof. Sudesh Nangia  
Coordinator*



*The Valedictory Session*