



POORNIMA UNIVERSITY

16th October' 2015

Report on “The Great Debate” Competition held at Poornima University

The British High Commission, in partnership with British Council, hosted an Inter University Debate Competition called, **The GREAT Debate 2015**, on the **15th October' 2015** at Poornima University, Sitapura, Jaipur. This Rajasthan leg of the **All India Inter-University Debate** is in continuation of the series of Great Debate Competitions scheduled to be held this year in ten cities like Bhubaneswar, Bangalore, Chennai, Ahmadabad, Hyderabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chandigarh and Jaipur. As many as 12 universities and colleges across the state of Rajasthan participated in the Competition, which was attended by Mr. David Lelliott, the first British High Commissioner, Chandigarh, Ms. Gill Caldicott; Director, India Operations; British Council, Malti Jain Regional Advisor, Rajasthan, British Deputy High Commission, Chandigarh, Mr. Akhilesh Singh, Senior Editor from the Times of India, Mr. Mahendra Surana, a retired IAS officer, Mr. Shashikant Singhi, Director, PF, Dr. K.K.S.Bhatia, President PU, and Mr. Rahul Singhi, Assistant Director, PF.

The GREAT DEBATE Competition, in its third year now, is a unique opportunity to celebrate the UK and India's shared culture of vibrant discussion and debate. The topic of the debate was-- **“The House believes that it is sometimes right for the Government to restrict the freedom of speech”**. The competition was judged by Mr. David Lelliott, Ms. Gill Caldicott and Mr. Akhilesh Singh and was moderated by Mr. Mahendra Surana. The winner of the competition was SMSMC, Jaipur; which was represented by Vasuki Tikkiwal and Chhavi Singh, the first runner up was NLU, Jodhpur; and the third position was secured by Manipal University, Jaipur, among the 12 participating colleges and universities, like, JECRC, SKIT, BANASTHALI VIDYAPEETH, JIET, JODHPUR, VGU, JAIPUR, POORNIMA UNIVERSITY, JKLU, JAIPUR, COMMERCE COLLEGE, RU AND ICFAI besides, SMSMC, NLU and Manipal University. The rules of the competition were straightforward. The topic of the debate will be revealed closer to the event. One student per team will speak for the motion and one against. Each speaker will be asked two questions; one from the panel of speakers and one from the distinguished panel of judges.

Before the Competition took place, the participating teams were required to register themselves at the reception desk and were provided with the specially designed T-Shirts meant to be worn only by the participants, as procured by the British High Commission. They were also given the badges and the refreshments while they were preparing their topic in the cafeteria. The event began at 09:30 hrs with the tree plantation ceremony, which took place just after the arrival of the guests at the porch of the university campus. The saplings were planted by the Chief Guests of the event Mr. David Lelliott, Ms. Gill Caldicott. It was followed by the felicitation of the Chief Guests, Mr. Akhilesh Singh, Mr. Mahendra Surana and Ms. Malti Jain. They were welcomed at the reception by the students of PCE, with Tilak and Garlanding. The Guests then went on to perform the Saraswati Vandana by lighting the lamp in the University Seminar Hall at the Ground Floor. The students of PCE performed the Ganesh Vandana, followed by the Welcome of Guests by Mr. Mahendra Surana, the Moderator of the competition. The introduction of the PF and PU was given by Mr. Rahul

Singhi, Assistant Director, Poornima Foundation. The Introduction of the Great Debate Competition was done by Mr. David Lelliot, followed by the remarks made by British Council representative, Ms. Gill Cladicott. The debate began at 10:30 hrs and each team was given 8 minutes to present their argument for and against the topic. Immediately when all the teams finished their presentation, the high tea break was announced, followed by the Valedictory Ceremony (Distribution of Awards, Felicitation of Guests, Vote of Thanks).

The winning team (SMSMC) of the Rajasthan leg will now compete with the other winning teams of the 9 other legs of the Great Debate, being held at in ten cities--Bhubaneswar, Bangalore, Chennai, Ahmadabad, Hyderabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chandigarh, besides Jaipur, in January 2016. The winning team of the Great Debate will be awarded a week-long, all-expenses-paid trip to the UK, and will get a chance to visit the various institutions and places across the UK as a part of a study and educational tour.

This was a great opportunity for Poornima University to associate as a Partner University for the Rajasthan event and shall entail wide visibility (branding, collaterals etc) besides the social media (websites, Face book, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, storify, blogs etc) besides press coverage. The GREAT Debate is a unique opportunity to celebrate and promote the UK and India's shared culture of vibrant discussion and intellectual debate.

