

R.A. Podar College of Commerce & Economics (Autonomous)
Group Discussion Cell: Annual Report 2019-2020

Faculty-in-Charge: Mrs. Karishma Khadiwala

Student Secretary: Mr. Dhruvil Kanadia

Student Joint Secretaries: Ms. Durgeshri Patil & Ms. Radhika Mehra

Student Treasurers: Ms. Maithili More & Ms. Sanya Khisty

On August 6th, 2019, the Group Discussion Cell & Speakers' Academy conducted their orientation session for the academic year 2019-2020 jointly. It marks the continuation of a long-standing tradition of guiding the newly inducted undergraduate and junior college students in the art of public speaking and informing them of the various public speaking opportunities that Podar provides to them.

The session was graced by Mr. Jeetendra Khilnani, an alumnus of Podar and our guest speaker for the day. Among the dignitaries were Dr. (Mrs.) Shobhana Vasudevan (Principal), Mrs. Kavita Jajoo (Vice-Principal), Mrs. Karishma Khadiwala (Faculty-In-Charge of GDC) and Mr. Suryakant Pagare (Faculty-In-Charge of Speakers' Academy).

Our Hon. Principal, Dr. (Mrs.) Shobhana Vasudevan, gave a heartfelt speech to the new students guiding them about the challenges that they will face in life and how the art of public speaking is the need of the hour for students. She also briefed them about Podar's long history of producing outstanding orators who have won laurels for Podar.

The Group Discussion Cell continued the newly established tradition of providing the students with a platform to hone their skills in the art of group discussions through GD Week. The GD Week was conducted from 16th September 2019 to 19th September 2019 in the college premises. Students from the degree as well as the junior college actively participated in the group discussions. The theme for the GD Week was '*Breaking Boundaries*' keeping in mind the aspiration to provide the students with a platform to deliberate on insightful ideas and topics while retaining their ability to grasp contrasting perceptions.

On 6th February, 2020, The Group Discussion Cell & Speakers' Academy jointly organized Rostrum Spectrum 2019-2020 for the academic year. Rostrum Spectrum is an intercollegiate literary extravaganza and the flagship literary fest of R.A. Podar College of Commerce & Economics. Rostrum Spectrum is prominent among the literary aficionados and records participation from acclaimed colleges in Mumbai. Rostrum Spectrum has recorded increasing rolling footfall with each passing year as students flock to prove their superior public speaking skills and win the coveted event.

The theme for this year's Rostrum Spectrum was '**Igniting Minds**'. Rostrum Spectrum 2019-2020 comprised of three events: 1) Debate (Rostrum) 2) Group Discussion (Spectrum) 3) JAM (Just-A-Minute). The festival saw the arrival of participants from approximately ten colleges in Mumbai.