



AKSHAR ARBOL
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Nurturing Young Minds

The HMMUN Experience

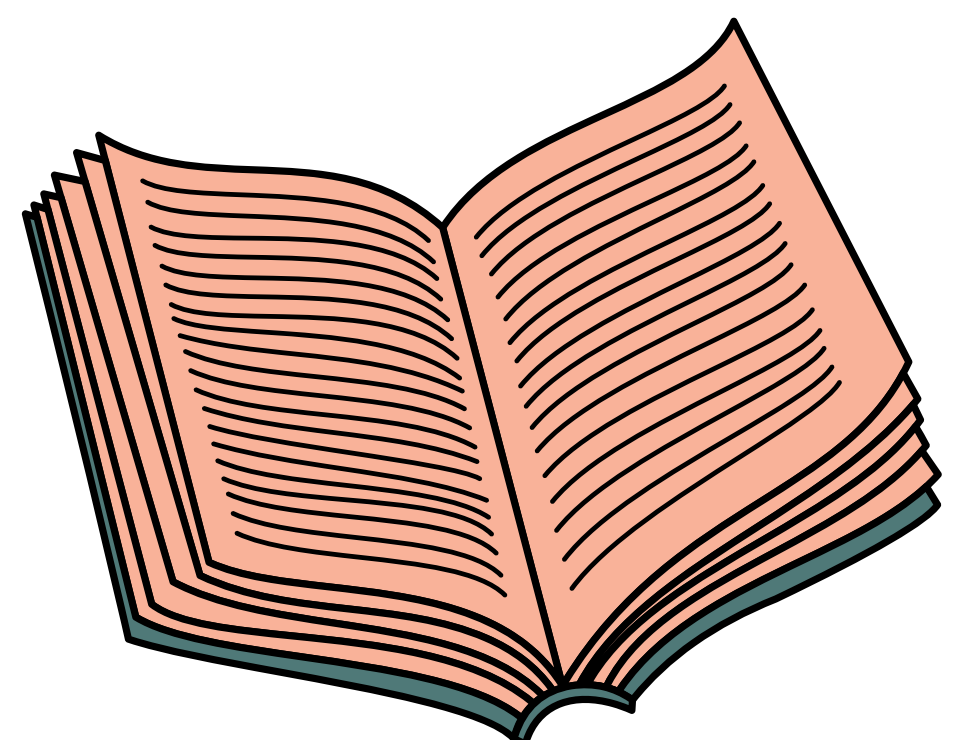
ONLINE

EDITOR'S NOTE

For an Editor, more often than not, the tediousness of the work comes from the intense scrutiny and the critical lens that he/she puts the language under, thus taking the pleasure out of reading.

This work however turned out to be a pleasant surprise as what I had was the delightfulness of compiling not just a stock of events but vivid snippets from the learning, experiences, and subsequent reflections that these students underwent during the past 30 odd days. I extend my sincere thanks to all the nine students who readily came up with ideas, patiently put up with my multiple edit requests, compiled a lot of information and design to present to you this work.

In case you are patiently reading this note still, I won't keep you waiting anymore with my ramblings. I conclude with a sincere hope that you reader finds reading this work both gratifying and inspirational!



“The environment and the economy are really both two sides of the same coin. If we cannot sustain the environment, we cannot sustain ourselves” - Wangari Maathai

HMUN(*Harvard Model United Nations*) India 2020 - a platform for students to share their knowledge on a multitude of topics around the world, and debate upon them, to form concrete solutions by the end of a 4 - day conference. Virtual platforms, being the new norm, forced the organizers to move it into a zoom conference where in, latest upgraded features were used to make it as realistic as possible.

Yes, it was here this month that we had the opportunity to participate in the conference. Lets know a little more of MUNs and how it helped me and also how it can encourage young minds to think, research and arrive at solutions for many issues that are plaguing the world currently and if continued, we may see an end to this beautiful world.



Having been a regular participant in such MUN's, it has helped me do some intense research, analyse and approach a situation by keeping many factors around us and the world. This time it was the futuristic general assembly wherein the topic was of sustainable development goals, which directly correlates to my interests and future career plans of becoming an international economist.

These conferences not only help you gain knowledge on subjects, but also give you an opportunity to know many other participants, to work as a team, collaborate ideas and last but not the least to experience a lot of competition, creativity and different thought processes. Over the course of this 4 day conference, we came up with ideas and solutions that could possibly be used to create a better world for all our future. It is interesting and important that we start from now to see a better future with sustainable solutions. We had delegates from various countries battling out for solutions to stop the rising sea levels, reduce carbon emission and many more. I had to work, assess, project and come up with sustainable solutions to save Maldives from sinking soon, due to rise in sea levels.

I believe that it is imperative for us to start now to learn and respect our surroundings and therefore be able to bring a change faster than we ever did before. I definitely urge all young minds to take these opportunities of participating in such MUN conferences, which gives you a wider thought process and a holistic knowledge on many aspects around us and the world.

Being part of the **Akshar Arbol International School** community, has helped me learn and grow from where I was. I take this opportunity to thank our **Head Of School**, our ever supporting **teachers** and **Intermind Global** particularly **Mr. Ashwin** who put in efforts training us, which gave us a better understanding on key approaches on specified research development, lobbying skills and negotiation with other countries in such conferences. He also supported us by providing us with a lot of research material, and most importantly guided the first timers, to get rid of nervousness and overall was very encouraging.

I am always in for all future MUN's and can guide you if you need my help. Thank you.

Ayush Samuel Kumar - IBDP1, Akshar Arbol International School

AAIS HMUN India 2020 Year Book



Nithiyasri Chakravarthy:
Just chill, all is well, You're only going to remember the moments in which you smiled and laughed and the experiences, memories, and friends you made. Be the best you can be and the problems themselves will flee.



Tanishk Nimit V

Desai:

Diplomacy is the most dangerous type of warfare and we are all indebted to Ashwin Sir for teaching us it's art.

ARFAN KHAN

JEELANY:

It's not about the destination, it's about the journey. I realised that throughout my experience at HMUN, but especially at the end of it all.





Adarsh Koshy:
I finally found out
that people are
prisoners of their
own phones. that's
why it's called a
"cell" phone!

**Shreyas
Iyengar:**
If one does not
do MUN or
debates, he will
not know how
to speak in life.





Sharan

Narayanan:

If you come looking for wise words, I shall try but I ask you to turn them into action. You can't stop change any more than you can stop the suns from setting.... DO OR DO NOT. THERE IS NO TRY.

**Krishnan Atreya
Chandrasekar:**

Munning is something to be cherished.





Ayush Samuel Kumar:
If you want peace, work for justice. GenZ is the first generation to witness the first hand effects of climate change, but the last generation to have the potential and responsibility to fix it.

Shreya Kaundinya:
When life gives me lemons, I make orange juice because it's unexpected.



HARVARD MUN 2020

Training Sessions Hosted By InterMind Global

HARVARD MODEL
UNITED NATIONS INDIA
ONLINE



WHAT I LOVED MOST:

Interactivity
Efficiency
The Sessions On The
Whole!

MY EXPERIENCE AT HMUN 2020: TRAINING SESSIONS

By Arfan Khan Jeelany, Grade 9

When the mail first came from the school, I was a bit (OK, very) hesitant to sign up. I had always wanted to experience a MUN, but I wasn't sure how I would have the same experience on a virtual platform. But once the real MUN ended, I was infinitely glad that I did. And a huge part of that was because we had additional training sessions.

There were 12 sessions in total, ranging from the second week of July, to the second week of August. In total, there were 9 of us, and most of the students had already attended at least 2 MUNs before. There were only 3 or 4 first-timers, and I was one of them. The sessions were thought by Ashwin sir, who was a really, really great teacher!! He taught us, among other things, how to compose a winning speech, how to draft a resolution, how to lobby, and the skills we needed to debate and get our point across to everyone. Without these training sessions, I would have never done as well as I did in the MUN. They were really helpful, especially for a first-timer (no longer!) like me. So thank you to Ashwin sir, Preesha ma'am, and my other fellow 'delegates'! :D And a huge thanks to our school and everyone there who worked really hard for this!



Topic: Gratitude

Committee: AAIS

Sponsors: Tanishq Desai,

Ms. Preesha

**Signatories: Ayush, Sharan,
Krishnan, Nithiya, Shreya, Shreyas,
Aadarsh and Arfaan**

1. As we have now reached the end of the sessions and since we cannot find adequate words for thanking you, we have put together this whole presentation to express our gratitude and share our learning experiences

2. So first let's talk about what we learned from these classes.

a. We first learned all the procedures of MUN.

b. Secondly, we learned how to apply our research skills.

c. Finally, we learned how to control our stage fright

3. In these classes we had fun which we cannot dream of having in online classes, that too amidst a pandemic.

4. Since we were also a part of the training sessions before the HMUN, we are going to miss a lot of other things as well! For eg:

a. All those jokes that were cracked by my fellow delegates throughout the classes.

b. How Mr. Ashwin made the classes interactive and informative while also being patient with us.

c. Last but definitely not the least we will also be missing all those fun-learning activities we had over the course of our training which made the whole process enjoyable

5. Now coming to the actual Hmun Conference, we had put to test our various skills that Mr. Ashwin had taught us. They are as follows:

a. Speaking skills and how to not stammer.

b. how to do your fair amount of contribution to the group that Mr Ashwin taught us specifically and reinforced it many times due to which I got the Diplomatic Commendation Award

c. The biggest lesson that we learnt is how to make our presence felt in each of the committee sessions.

6. Let us now talk about what we learned from the Harvard Model United Nations India Edition 2020

***Collaboration:* A skill that helps you efficiently work in a team while also creating opportunities that are favorable to you.**

***Leadership:* A skill that enables us to take initiative, make decisions, help others, and create a bright future.**

7. Our experiences in the HMUN have to count as they are the main criteria:

a. I'm sure we all loved the crisis committees which needed us to think on our feet and come up with tangible solutions.

b. The way we got to know about other people and their problems thus cultivating empathy

8. Now that we have looked at several aspects of our learning in this HMUN India Conference 2020, let us conclude this for now and hope to see each other next time on another HMUN platform

A TRIP DOWN THE MEMORY LANE

Exhibit A.



Guess who registered late for the MUN conference after realizing that it was a golden opportunity? You're right, it was me! And because of this very silliness, I had missed two training sessions. Like, can you imagine how it would feel when you are doing a proper MUN for the first time and end up missing the introductory sessions that are equally important as others?! Well, anyways I caught up with all that in a jiffy when I had a private session with Mr. Ashwin to catch up. I must say that having the session with him really cleared my doubts and he explained the rules of procedure are the usual jargon or as some may call it the boring stuff. But as I mentioned before, I am the anxious type so when he asked me how I was feeling, I replied saying that I'm nervous and am not very confident.

What he said next not only motivated me but one part of it also left me startled and made me laugh at his ridiculous statement. He told me that when he used to do MUN's when he was younger, he also experienced similar feelings where he wasn't very confident but then he just went for it and gave it his best shot. Well, he gave a mini-speech along those lines which helped boost my confidence and shut out my anxiety and he also supported me which was helpful.

The one thing he told me got me bursting out in laughter that I ended up tearing because I laughed so much. When the committee session begins the Chair will ask the following, "Are there any motions on the floor?" and all the delegates willing to make motions will raise their placard and will make their motion. What our dear Ashwin sir said here was shocking and totally unexpected, yet very very funny. He said, "Eww, that's smelly." Well, you can imagine, the whole committee and all the delegates also laughed hard at his statement. This incident really helped lighten up the mood and kind of helped the stressful situation.



The training sessions were also really awesome in a way where we all joked and laughed. Sarcasm has been something I have always enjoyed indulging in and is a part of me. Teasing people in a jovial manner always brightens up the mood and brings around joy and liveliness. On many occasions, certain people with a good sense of humor would comment on something which made us all laugh and Ashwin sir would rebut them with his witty and sarcastic comments. We all would say “oooof” because of the sharp comebacks Sir would always have up his sleeve. It’s one of the many things I admire about Mr. Ashwin, apart from him being motivational, supportive, clear while explaining something, fun, and much more! I must mention that some statements he makes in Tamil are on point and can’t get any better. Having this fun aspect during the sessions made the whole experience a wonderful and memorable one that I bet all of us enjoyed. At the end of the day, none of this was taken seriously so that was a relief. Phew!

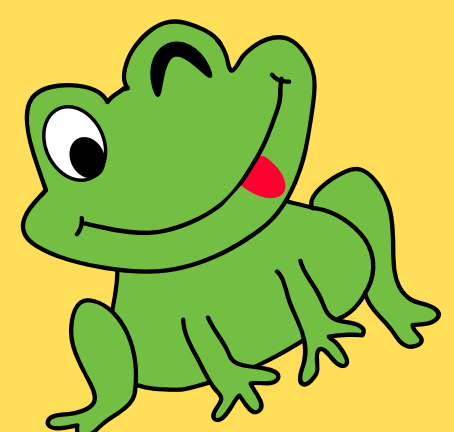
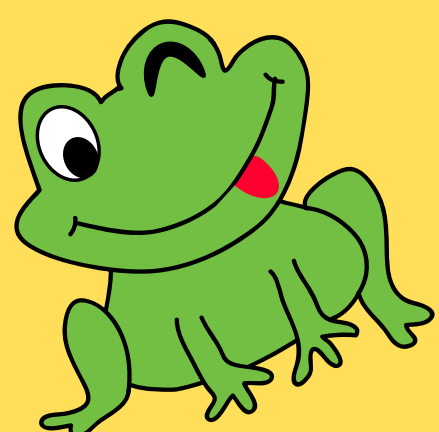
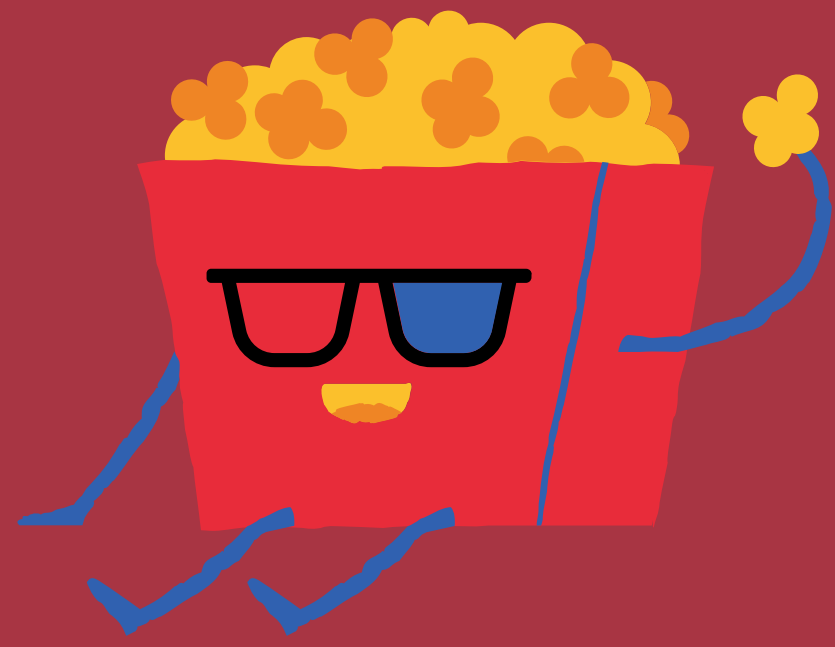


Exhibit B.

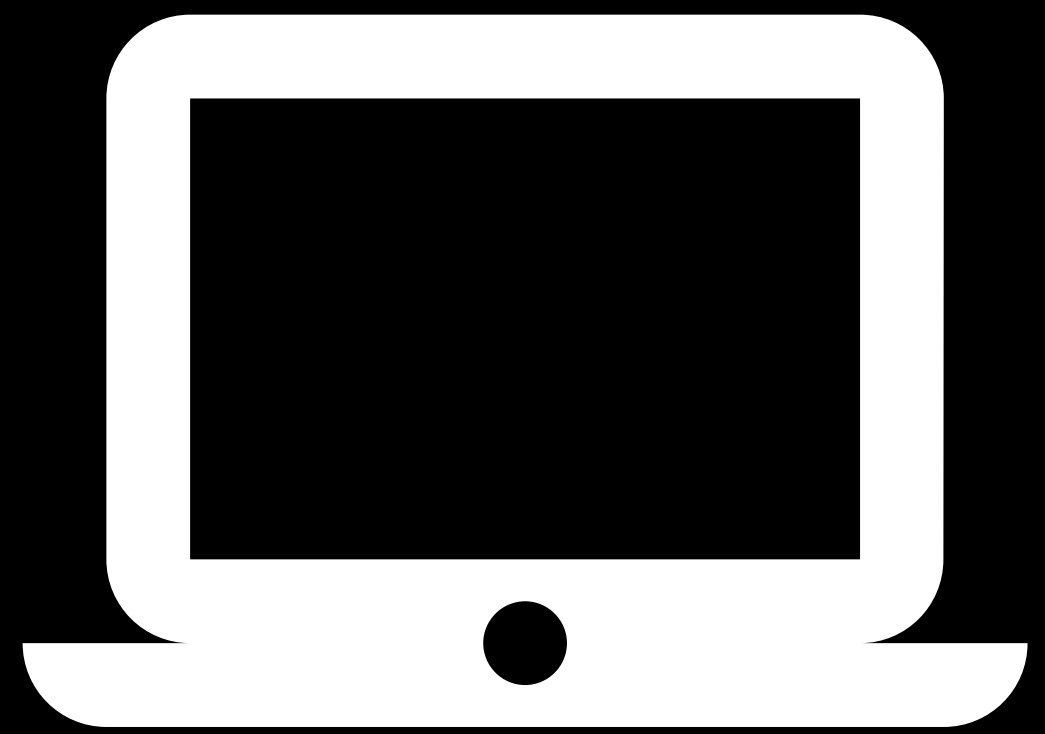


I bet every MUN conference will have a point of entertainment raised on the last day. I mean are you telling me that you haven't waited for this throughout the committee sessions? Don't worry, I bet a lot of people do feel the same way too, I included! Before we go into the deets, I want to introduce Anish. He was one of the ADs on call for this conference and to me, he seemed like a very funny, approachable, and a peppy guy maybe? And he truly was a sport when people ripped him apart by teasing him loads. He is so talented, I mean, he sings, he plays the piano, he plays the flute and even knows how to use the nunchucks, and who knows what more in store, yet to be revealed. But anyway, coming back to the point, this very sweet AD was ragged by my fellow delegates on different levels and it sure was funny and a little sad haha! He did get pretty burned though so, OUCH! But Anish was such a sport and took things lightly although he did that after he put on a little drama by acting like he was hurt and offended. Maybe he did theatre too, I mean, his acting skills were on point I must say. He did attempt to roast others too, but almost 20 against 1. It sure was a tough competition.

Anyhow, do you know why I liked this little roast session? I mean apart from the very obvious reason that it was a ROAST SESSION and of course it was fun and interesting and we all had a fair share of fun, but I noticed something more, on a little different level, perhaps something insightful. Doing any MUN is a big deal, and this conference is organized by Harvard only made it more intimidating, (at least for me.) Being formal and diplomatic is highly looked upon, respected, valued, and most importantly reflects on you and the school/ organization you represent. (Afterall, it is a MUN conference.) During this fun, interactive and lively time in the end, on the last day of our committee session, I noticed that most of the delegates were free and joyous and really enjoyed this time as I did too, and those bursts of laughter, the snarky comments and jokes made, the ragging and burns shot across, just reflected that we all are just kids and teenagers at the end of the day and we all do need and have fun and relish such moments, where a small part of our self is truly revealed in the simplest form, and that, is truly beautiful. And to think that in all our complexities, there is still a part in all of us that is simple and childish, and to think that nature encompasses this is something I admire and find fascinating!



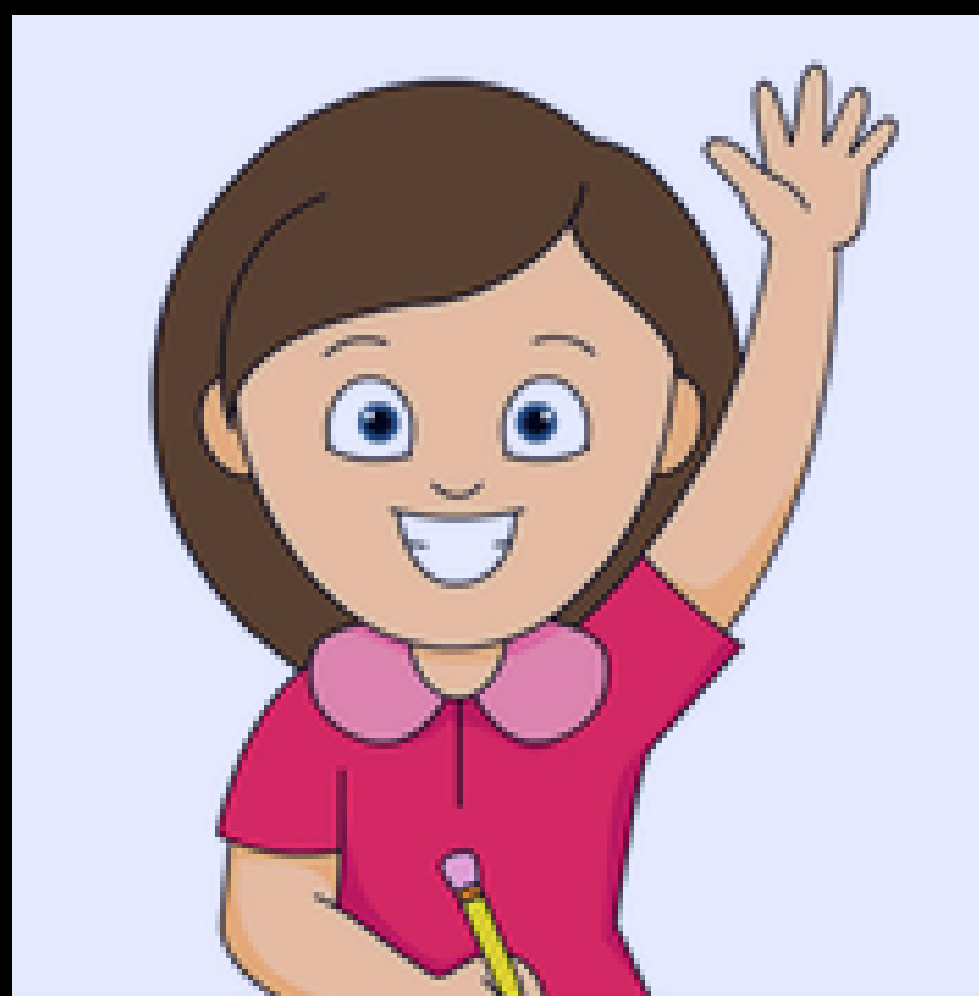
Exhibit C



Have you ever felt the yearning for wanting to be recognized to give out your speeches or GSLs? But at the same time, you do raise your placard, (rather the “raise your hand” feature on Zoom as everything was virtual,) so many times and want to get recognized, but don’t get chosen to be in the speakers list for maybe even plenty of times? Well, I could say that I had a very similar experience. I am a very shy person and lack confidence when it comes to performing something in front of an audience, although that did change now and I am a lot more confident now. But I’m not the kind of person who does public speaking or debating so participating in the HMUN was a big deal for me personally. Even though I had this fear and anxiety before I spoke or did anything in front of many people, as a matter of fact, I still pushed myself out of my comfort zone and tried my best to be recognized. I do realize that it is hard primarily because it is on a virtual platform and trying to recognize people on the same is challenging.

I really hoped that I could have been recognized more because I know that I “raised my hand” most of the time but at least I got to speak once. That feeling when I got recognized by the Chair or by any member of the Electing Board for that matter gave this sudden gush of nervousness in me but also gave me a shock of excitement and I got the chance to speak.

Actually, I got to speak one time during the GSL and one time during a moderated caucus. Something that really gave me a gigantic surprise was that I made a speech literally five minutes before I spoke. It was spontaneous and I was jubilant that I made a speech on the spot and I was proud of myself. Even though I made pretty good speeches, especially for one of my moderated caucus topics, I didn't get the chance to read it out but I can always try another time.

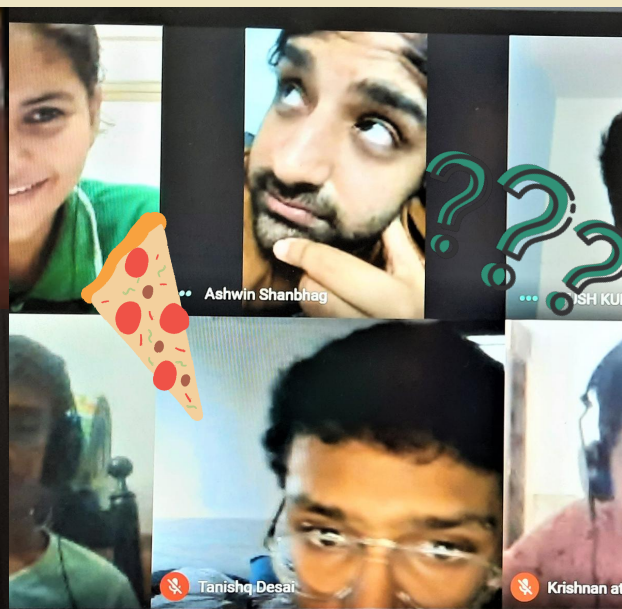
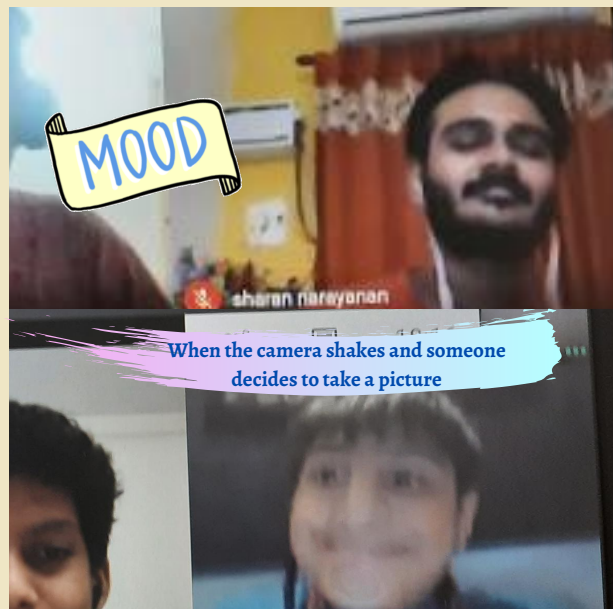
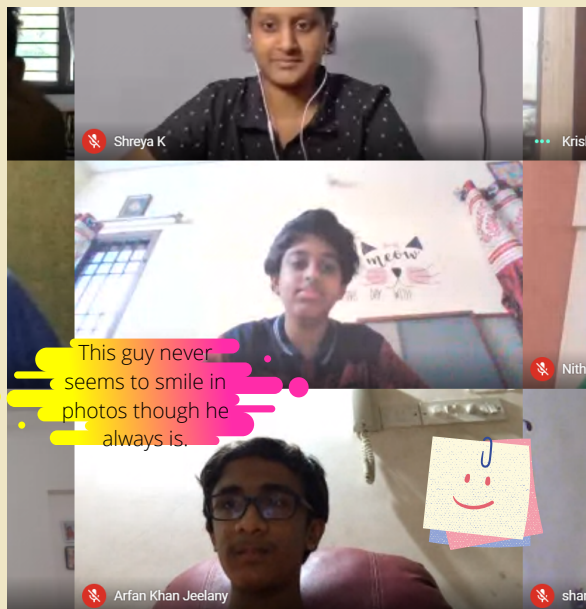
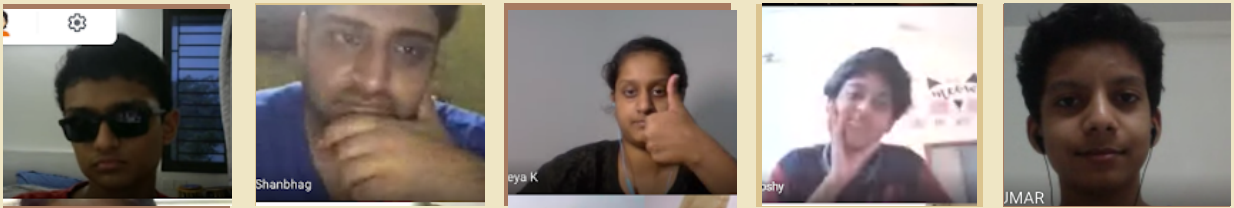
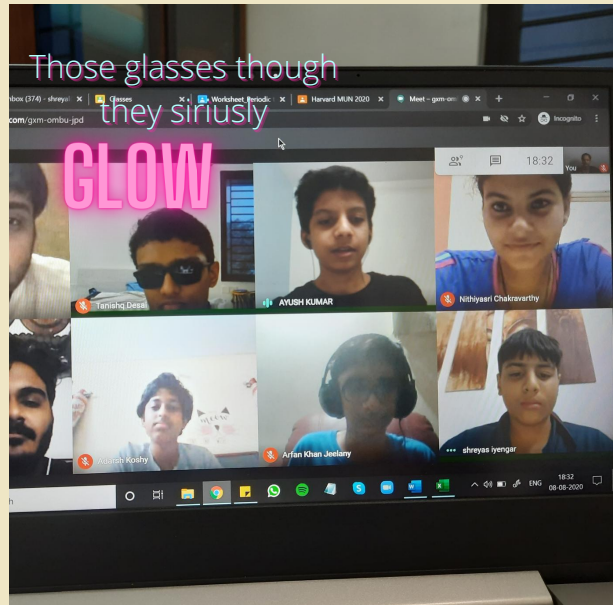
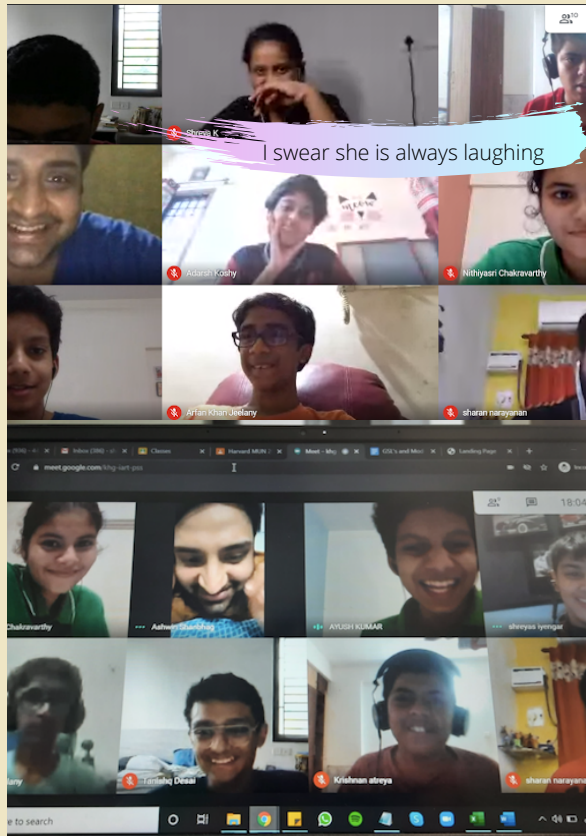


I was just really proud of myself that I made a speech right before talking and that counts. I'm proud of myself that I finally had the confidence and courage in me to speak in front of an audience. I am proud of myself to have done something out of my comfort zone and this has pushed me to do better and the IBDP is something that requires this quality. We can always learn from our past experiences and this one has been a very memorable one.

**Shreya Lakshmi
Kaundinya**

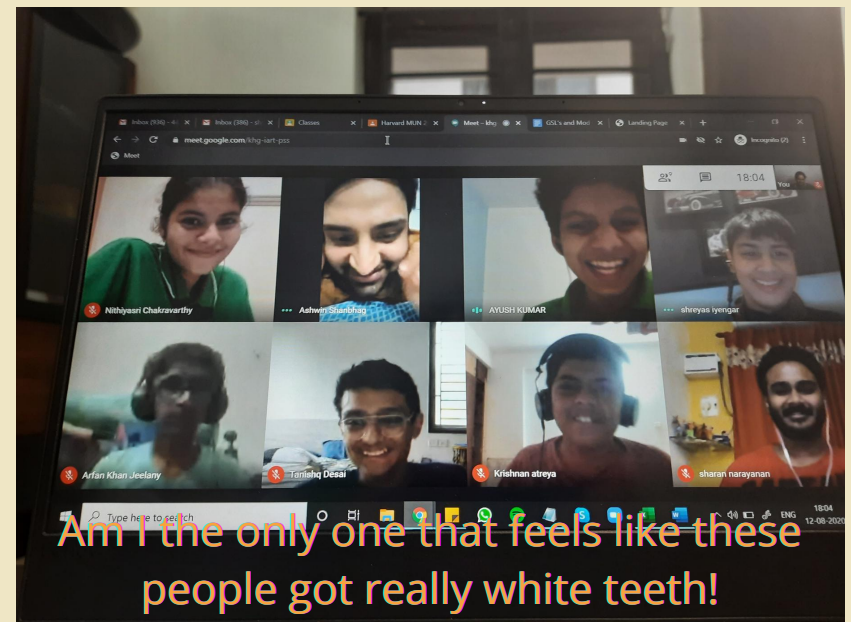
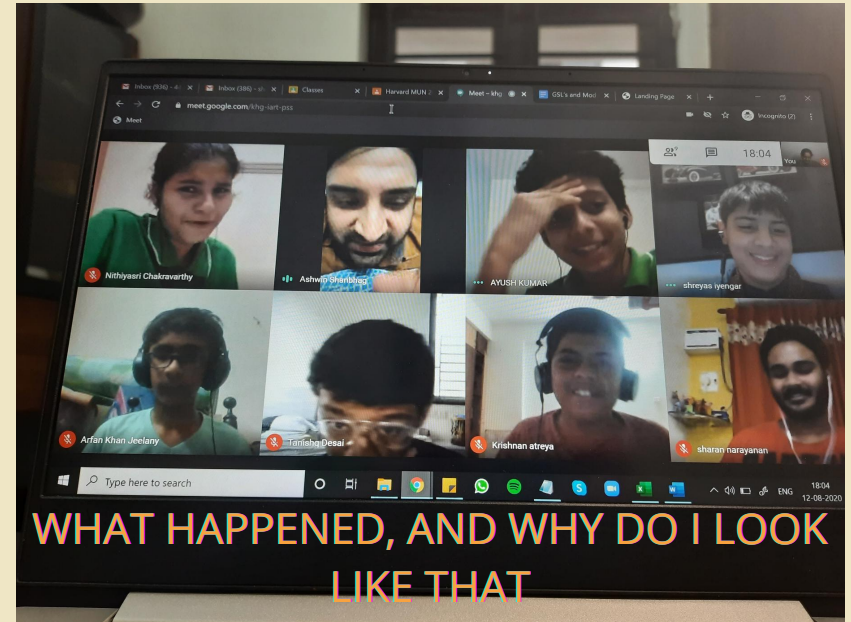
IBDP 1





Thank y'all so soo much!

You don't have to love debating to enjoy this event because at the end you will have learned so much more and done so much more. I personally do love debating though, nothing like a good debate to make people remember you for the rest of your life. We have worked so hard and truly given our best, I know for a fact that many of us were up all night when we had work to complete but, still we didn't and wouldn't regret our decision. All of us that participated have grown so much and our confidence has developed. We were part of a journey and that journey taught us to be calm and to put ourselves out there and fight for what we want. I personally did some things I thought I would never ever do, I repeat ever. For some of us we learned to talk without our hearts beating in our heads and others learned to be diplomatic and think with a cool head. We have made jokes and memories that we will cherish and remember. I thank the others for the team we built brick by brick, we learned to work together and work with each other. We would also like to thank our school since we couldn't have had this opportunity without them. Our school has taken yet another step to enable students to present their talents and skills for that we thank you. Apart from the opportunity itself, we were able to feel confident going on a platform as reputed as the Harvard MUN and speaking in front of a spectacular crowd and all credits for this goes to Mr Ashwin from InterMind Global who patiently helped us enhance our skills and understanding So for a pictorial representation I have put together a group of photos that you will probably never be able to live down. Enjoy! Once again thanks from the heart (I know I am cheesy, so just let it be).



DIPLOMATIC COMMENDATION

South Korea

Akshar Abrol International School

We are delighted to share with you that Tanishk Desai of Grade 9 won the *Diplomatic Commendation Award* in his very first year of participation in the MUN. The Diplomatic Commendation is given to the delegate who was able to negotiate efficiently with a wide variety of delegates.



The Harvard Model United Nations (HMUN) held their 10th edition of the India chapter virtually in August 2020. HMUN India is a four-day international relations simulation for high school students where the delegates gain insight into the nuances of the United Nations and the dynamics of international relations.

In Akshar Arbol International School's very first foray into the conference, we had 9 students participating from Grades 9-12 wherein they represented South Korea and engaged open dialogue on complex global issues with students nationally and globally. This flip book is a creative reflection on their learning and we hope that it inspires more students to participate in such conferences in the future.

