

COVA Peace Network

Swami Agnivesh - Praful Bidwai- B.M. Kutty Memorial

22nd Annual Sambandh, Inter School & Intercollegiate Competitions

Students Produce 90 Second Video Messages on 14 Social Issues to Spread Awareness

Report



Schools, colleges live up to challenge of 'a message in 90 seconds'

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COVA Peace Network conducted Sambandh-2024 -an inter-school and inter-college competitions. Students with the help of teachers produced reels and videos, which are under 90 seconds, to convey a social message. Winners were presented with awards on Tuesday (August 6, 2024). | Photo Credit: By Arrangement

Using social media to convey a social message, and saying it quickly, was the challenge COVA Peace Network – confederation of voluntary organisations, threw at various schools and colleges in Hyderabad.

As part of Sambandh-2024, the network conducted inter-school and inter-college competitions, to commemorate the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The annual event also remembers the contributions of noted social activists Praful Bidwai, B.M. Kutty and Swami Agnivesh.

On Tuesday (August 6, 2024), the network adjudged some of the best reels and videos which are under 90 seconds, produced by students with the help of their teachers. In all, 61 entries were received from 31 schools. According to COVA executive director Mazher Hussain, the idea was to orient and motivate students and youth to go beyond using social media for entertainment and spread social awareness and help transform society.

Videos were sent on wide themes of poverty, drug abuse, child labour, environment, gender justice, transgender people, care of elders, unemployment, corruption, mobile addiction, differently-abled people, communal violence, and suicide prevention.

Secretary of COVA, Thomas Chakkalackala, executive member Shobha, former president of NAREDCO Sunil Chandra Reddy, and others gave away the prizes and cash awards to the winning teams. They encouraged the children to dream big, to believe in one's abilities, and practise inclusiveness in daily life.

A mime on mobile phone addiction, girl education inspired by Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai, by Telangana Minorities Residential Junior College (TMRJC), Yakutpura, a video on gender justice by Birla Open Minds school, were among other winners.



Videos: Female Foeticide and Mobile Addiction

Selected plays were screened at a Program on 6th August 2024 at Hyderabad and Cash Prizes, Mementos and Certificates were awarded.

COVA Peace Network organised Sambandh 2024, 22nd Annual Inter-School and Inter-Collegiate Competitions on 6th August 2024 to Commemorate Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Students of 31 schools and colleges produce 61 Reels, Shots and Videos of around 90 Seconds to communicate creative and effective messages. Please Click the Link to View the Videos:

<https://www.covanetwork.org/sambandh-2024/#1722767707817-0ca59041-5c02>

Mr. Vithal Rao Arya of Arya Pratinidhi Sabha introduced students to the life and invaluable contributions of Swami Agnivesh and urged students to follow his example and strive for social transformation till the last breath.

Mr. Samiuddin Shaik, State Head CII, Telangana appreciated the conscious engagement of the students with social media for positive transformations. He urged students to initiate campaigns against Online frauds that are multiplying and causing great financial loss to common people.

DECCAN
Chronicle

SHORT TAKES

REELS MADE TO VOICE AGAINST SOCIAL ISSUES

**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 6**

Students of 31 schools and colleges produced 61 reels, shorts and videos of 90 seconds or less at an event to communicate messages effectively on issues such as poverty, drug abuse, child labour and environment.

The event, Sambandh, was organised by the Confederation of Voluntary Associations (Cova) Peace Network to in memory of those who died in the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bomb attack.

The objective of the programme was to orient and motivate students and youth to go beyond using social media for entertainment and to harness its potential to spread social awareness and transform society, a statement said.

Selected plays were screened and prizes given to the winners.

Mr. C. S. Reddy, Director APMAS stressed that we are now in a global village where everyone is affected by all others. The best strategy is to be socially responsible and think of others. The moment we start thinking of others, others will think of us!

Mr. Sunil Chander Reddy, former President NAREDA gave examples of Malala Yousuf Zai and Greta Thumberg to show how youth can challenge and address ills of society through social media.

Dr. Shobha Gurajada, Executive Committee Member of COVA raised the issue of interpersonal bonding and how social media can be a very effective medium and **Mr. Asim Khan** of Myron Homes urged students to ban the term "Impossible" from their dictionaries and life and work to make everything possible.

Students spoke at the event and appreciated the concept of the program that they found challenging but also very inspiring. They promised to produce and circulate short videos on different social problems to transform society.



Mr. Jafer Hussain Quadri and Mr. Bharatesh Kidambi, the Judges appreciated the efforts of the students. They also gave excellent Power Point Presentations to guide students on producing good short videos with powerful social impact.

Bro. Thomas Chakkalachala, Secretary of COVA, in his Presidential Remarks stated that social media could

be made a great opportunity to work on igniting social transformation and spreading harmony and peace in society.

Sambandh Program is organized annually to honour the memories and celebrate the contributions of **Praful Bidwai**- an internationally renowned Anti Nuclear Activist; **B.M. Kutty** an eminent trade union leader of Pakistan who dedicated his life to peace between India and Pakistan and **Swami Agnivesh**, who made path breaking contributions for elimination of bonded labour and to promote communal harmony in India and peace globally.

Dr. Mazher Hussain, Executive Director of COVA introduced the audience to the life and contributions of these remarkable social transformers. All the three Eminent Personalities have been closely associated with COVA Peace Network since its inception and helped in shaping its Mission.

Telangana Today

FOR LOCAL TO GLOBAL NEWS

COVA Peace Network invites entries for Sambandh 2024

Students of schools and colleges of Telangana are invited to produce reels, shots and videos of 90 seconds or less to create awareness and transform social perspectives.

Hyderabad: COVA Peace Network has invited entries for Sambandh 2024, the 22nd Annual Inter-School and Inter-Collegiate Competitions on August 6 to commemorate Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Students of schools and colleges of Telangana are invited to produce reels, shots and videos of 90 seconds or less to create awareness and transform social perspectives on any of the 10 issues of poverty, drug abuse, child labour, environment, gender, justice, care of elders, unemployment, differently-abled, communal violence and responsible citizenship in English, Telugu or Hindi / Urdu.

The last date for registration is July 15 and there is no registration fee for students of government schools and colleges and a nominal charge for private schools and colleges, a press release said. The selected entries will be screened on August 6 at Hyderabad and cash prizes, mementos and certificates will be awarded.

Sambandh is organized annually to honour the memory and celebrate the contributions of Praful Bidwai, B.M. Kutty and Swami Agnivesh, renowned activists and social transformers. For more information please call

Team COVA

For more information, please call 99595 17766 or visit: www.covanetwork.org



Swami Agnivesh- Praful Bidwai- B. M. Kutty Memorial
21st Annual Sambandh Inter-School and Inter-Collegiate

One Act Play Competitions on:

Impact of War and Violence on a Family

Telugu, Hindi and Urdu

22nd and 24th August 2023-

Birla Planetarium and Science Museum, Hyderabad

Organised by COVA Peace Network,

In Association With: NASIM Foundation USA, CNDP, Dwani, ICAN and Youth TRAC.

Media Partner: SITI Vision Digital Network and

Event Sponsors: Drapes & More and Fanzart

Sambandh Competitions are organised annually to commemorate Hiroshima and Nagasaki and celebrate the memories and contributions of Swami Agnivesh and Praful Bidwai of India and B. M. Kutty of Pakistan to honour their invaluable contributions for peace.

Theme for Sambandh 2023: Impact of War and Violence on a Family

Objective: Sensitise society to long term devastation of individuals and families from different forms of violence.

52 Plays were performed by schools and colleges on suffering of common people:

- Because of wars and armed conflicts
- From loss of life, property and curfews due to caste, communal and sectarian violence;
- Discrimination against castes, minorities
- Plight of unmarried woman and orphaned children
- Perils of being poor
- Partisan behaviour of some law enforcers
- Sufferings of families of martyred Soldiers
- Nuclear bombs, Hiroshima, disease and death

Twenty Award Winning Plays will be posted on different social media platforms for mass circulation in the next 2 months.

All the Plays succeeded remarkably in bringing out the sufferings and struggle of families and common people due to these conflicts and have potential to sensitize society at large to the devastations caused by different social conflicts.

312 performers from fifty two schools were awarded medals, certificates and Mementos for their acts and cash prizes were presented to 6 schools and 3 colleges for securing 1st, 2nd and 3rd Places. Consolation Prizes were awarded to 2 colleges and 9 schools.

1st Prizes were awarded to:

1. Unique High School and
2. St Georges Degree College for Women

2nd Prizes were bagged by

1. New Modal High School,
2. Birla Open Minds International School
3. Gyanam Jr College Girls

3rd Prizes were secured by:

1. TMRJC Charminar Girls-1 – College,
2. Javid Mission High School Global High School,
3. St Marks Boys town High School
4. Global High School

Best Performers:

Rishika Roy of Birla Open Minds International School and Shaik Mohammed Moinudddin of Unique High School

Best Anchors: Gungan of Sharada Vidyalaya High School and Sri Ram Shanmukh of St. Andrews High School

Eleven Consolation Prizes were presented to:

1. Hyderabad Mission High School
2. Oshin High School
3. Scholar's Model High school
4. Brilliant Mission High school
5. Mamta High School
6. St Andrews High School
7. Javid Mission High school
8. Iqra Mission High School - (Girls)
9. Sharada Vidyalaya High School
10. Iqra Junior College
11. Asian Grammar Junior College

Mr. Santosh Mehra, IPS, former Director General of Police inaugurated the Program on 22nd August 2023 and spoke about the need to combat stereotypes and discrimination that some Plays portrayed so effectively.

Delivering the Valedictory Address on 24th August 2023 Mr. Gareth Wynn Owen, The British Deputy High Commissioner of Hyderabad complimented the students for the mesmerizing performances and the powerful messages conveyed.

Other Guests who delivered inspiring messages and presented awards on the Inaugural Day and at the Valedictory Program were Mr. K. Venkateshwarlu, former Resident Editor, the Hindu, Mr. Vithal Rao Arya of Arya Pratinidhi Samaj, Mr. Jaywant Naidu, President Hyderabad Management Associations, Ms Mateen Ansari, Founder of DOBARA, Mr. Vijay Bharatiya, SAPA; Ms. Maria Arifuddin, Educationist, Ms Amina Niloufer Hussain, Kaam4U, Mr. Anwar Khan, Educationist, Mr. Salauddin Masood Builder and Philanthropist, Mr. Amirudddin Mohammed Business Person and Philanthropist, Mr. P Vijay Singh, Teachers and Lecturers Union; Mr. Abbas Ali Akhil Consultant Renewable Energy and Ms. Roshan Shaik, Social Media Professional from and USA Mr. Syed Saad Mohammed Aadil, Banker from UAE.

Bro. Varghese Theckaneth, President of COVA Presided at the Inaugural Function, Ms. Aparna Adhikari, Secretary COVA conducted the Concluding Session and Dr. Mazher Hussain, Executive Director of COVA welcomed the gathering and introduced Sambandh Program. M. Ajay of COVA proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Judges for the One Act Plays were Capt. Chitta Srinivas, Mr. T. Vijaya Raghava and Mr. Bharat Kidambi.

15 Students of the Dhvani Groups of St. Anns College, Mehdiapatnam, Hyderabad provided invaluable voluntary services that greatly contributed to the success of the Program. We are especially beholden to Ms. Bhamarashree and Ms. Padma, Faculty of St. Anns College who coordinated the participation of the volunteers.

Annexure 1

Prize Winners: Schools and Play Titles

1. Unique High School - Nation and Diversity
2. St.George's Degree College - Kya Pata Kal Ho Na Ho
3. Birla Open Minds International School - Adhuri Udaan
4. New Model High School - Change: Ek Koshish
5. Gyanam Junior College (Girls Block) -Domestic and Physical Abuse
6. Javid Mission High school - Zimadar Kaun?
7. Global High School - Impact of War and Violence on a Family
8. St. Marks Boys Town High School - Desh Ki Khani Meri Zubani
9. TMRJC Charminar Girls-1 - Freedom for People in Independent India
10. Hyderabad Mission High School - A Shop Keeper
11. Oshin High School - Impact of wars in the world on a family
12. Scholar's Model High school - Effect of Curfew on a Family
13. Brilliant Mission High school - Bhed Bhav (casteism)
14. Sharada Vidyalaya High School - बुरे वकत का अनुभव
15. Iqra Mission High School (Girls) - Jung Aur Khaandani Jaddo Jahad
16. St Andrews High School – Kashtephali
17. Javid Mission High school - Working Lady
18. Mamta High School - Kuttumbam Pai Himsa Yudam vati Prabhavam
19. Asian Grammar Junior College – Impact of War
20. Iqra Junior College – Aman Ki Talaash

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**COVA Peace Network
Swami Agnivesh and Praful Bidwai Memorial**

**20th Sambandh Annual Inter School & Intercollegiate Competitions
On 30th August 2022 at Hyderabad**

Theme; “How can Students Check Different Forms of Violence in Society”

COVA Peace Network has been successfully organizing Sambandh Interschool and Intercollegiate Competitions in August for 20 years since 2003 to commemorate the Nuclear Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. In recent years over 2000 students have been participating in these One Day Competitions on issues of war, violence and peace.

The Theme for Swami Agnivesh and Praful Bidwai Memorial Annual Sambandh Competitions organized on Tuesday, 30th August 2022, at Hyderabad was “**How can Students Check Different Forms of Violence in Society**”. Over 1500 students from 59 schools and colleges participated.

THE HINDU

Students show concern over communal divide

Sambandh competitions held

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD**

COVA Peace Network organised Sambandh annual inter-school & inter-collegiate competitions in the city on Tuesday. The theme for Swami Agnivesh and Praful Bidwai Memorial Annual Sambandh competitions was ‘How can Students Check Different Forms of Violence in Society?’

About 1,500 students from 59 schools and colleges have participated in the competitions.

Events included debates, declamation, quiz, essay writing, one act plays, posters with slogans and the topics were different types

of violence in society and their impact, the major conflicts in India and how can they be addressed.

The most common refrain that emerged from all the presentations and deliberations of students was concern about growing differences about over communal, caste, gender issues within society and decrease in interactions within different communities, groups and classes. The students took a pledge to interact with and befriend at least one person from another community and contribute to better understanding for a harmonious and peaceful society.

Events included Debates, Declamation, Quiz, Essay Writing, One Act Plays, Posters with Slogans and the **Topics** were:

1. *Different types of violence in society and their impact;*
2. *Violence faced by Women and how can they be protected;*
3. *What are the major conflicts in India and how can they be addressed*

4. *Why is there war in Ukraine and its impact on the world*

The students wrote essays on major conflicts in India and how to address them and the impact of war in Ukraine on the world, drew posters and created slogans on violence faced by women and impact of different types of violence on society. Debated about how different conflicts in India can be solved and mounted moving One Act Plays on different forms of violence faced by women.

The most common refrain that emerged from all the presentations and deliberations of students was concern about growing differences about communal, caste, gender issues within society and decrease in interactions within different communities, groups and classes. The only way is to reach out to, understand the view point and befriend members of other groups and communities.

The students took a pledge to interact with and befriend at least one person from another community and contribute to better understanding for a harmonious and peaceful and society.

The objective of this annual event is to sensitize students and youth to different issues with focus on violence in society and war and to motivate them to address social issues proactively for promotion of harmony and peace.

Speaking at the Inaugural Program Mr. Vithal Rao , President, Arya Prathinidhi Sabha recalled the spirited contributions of Swami Agnivesh for liberation of bonded labour, abolition of child labour and spoke of his exemplary contributions for communal harmony and peace.

Prof. Channa Basavaiah introduced Praful Bidwai, the renowned journalist and his lifelong struggles across the globe for denuclearization and for abolition of war.

Mr. T. Muralidharan, Chairperson of TMI Groups spoke about the range of initiatives by his group to promote education with quality and concerns for social issues. He stressed that a peaceful society is necessary for growth of business and ensure prosperity for all.

Mr. Shakeel Sultan, formerly of Zahid Group of Saudia Arabia warned the students about the impact of communal violence on all. He narrated how he had to get married during curfew as communal violence had broken out to shouts of concern and disbelief from the audience.

In his Presidential Remarks, Bro. Varghese Theckaneth spoke about how Hindu and Muslim children go to different schools leading to furthering the communal divides and how he started a number of schools that encourage students from all communities to join and this is greatly helping better social integration in the neighbourhoods.

Delivering his Presidential Address at the Valedictory Function, Mr. S.A. Huda, IPS, former Director General of Police, Government of Andhra Pradesh lauded the spirited performances by the students and their remarkable understanding of issues. He appreciated the presence of large number of girls in the gathering and encouraged them to do their best for themselves and for society. He felt that the students can and should come forward to mend the growing divides in society and create a better future for all. Echoing the sentiments of Mr. Huda, the Secretary of Exhibition Society appreciated the speeches and performances of the students that he could hear through the day and offered that facilities of Exhibition Club are always available for these programs that can lead to a better and harmonious society.

Ms. Rama Rahimtula Founder of Happiness Udaipur mentioned that this is the first such program she is attending in Hyderabad and is pleased with the large gathering. She appreciated the topics of the program and urged the students to dedicate themselves to work for making society better. Mr. Zain Rahimtula, Director of Rahimtula Group of Companies was all praise for the enthusiasm of the students and urged that we should not consider colour, religion, caste etc but work for all and especially for women and children.

Mr. Ignatius Xavier, the Peace Artist had judged the Poster and Slogan event and also the One Act Plays. He appreciated the outstanding performances in both events and made a special mention of a girl from the Poster and Slogan event who had also raised the issue of violence against men by some women. He said that there is a need to curb violence in all form in society.

Ms. Aziz Sultana, educationist and Joint Secretary of COVA Peace Network urged that there should be no difference men and women and all are equal and should live and interact accordingly.

Dr, Mazher Hussain elaborated about the Compassionate Citizenship and Responsible Activism Program of COVA of which Sambandh is a component. The objective of this program is to sensitise students to social issues to enable them to develop compassion for others and become better human beings. He informed that discussion is on with Education Department of the Government of Telangana to include Compassionate Citizenship Program in school curriculum and the Program is expected to start in 100 schools of Telangana shortly.

194 prizes were distributed to winners of different events and participation certificates were given to all those who participated.

The Program honours the memories of Swami Agnivesh for his work for Bonded and Child labour and contributions to peace and harmony in society and of the renowned journalist and anti- nuclear activist Praful Bidwai.

The Hans Sambandh Report



‘క్విజ్ పోటీలతో మేధోశక్తి పెంపొందుతోంది’

గోషామహల్, ఆగస్టు 30(ఆంధ్రజ్యోతి): పాఠశాల విద్యార్థులకు చదువుతో పాటు క్విజ్ పోటీలను నిర్వహించడంతో వారిలో దాగి ఉన్న మేధోశక్తి మరింత పెంపొందుతుందని ఏపీ మాజీ డీజీపీ ఎస్.హుదా పేర్కొన్నారు. మంగళవారం నాంపల్లి ఎగ్జిబిషన్ మైదానంలో కోవా స్వచ్ఛంద సంస్థ ఆధ్వర్యంలో మజ్జర్ హుస్సేన్ అధ్యక్షతన వార్షిక ఇంటర్ స్కూల్ సంబంధన్ క్విజ్ పోటీలను నిర్వహించారు. ఈ పోటీలకు ఎస్.ఎ.హుదా, కోవా డైరెక్టర్ డాక్టర్ మజ్జర్ హుస్సేన్, స్వామి అగ్నివేష్, పకీల్ సుల్తాన్, టి.మురళీధరం, ఎగ్జిబిషన్ సొసైటీ సెక్రటరీ ఆదిత్య మార్గం, బ్రహ్మశ్రీ, రామ్ రహీంతుల్లా హాజరై జ్యోతి ప్రజ్వలన చేసి కార్యక్రమాన్ని ప్రారంభించారు. ఐదు విభాగాల్లో విద్యార్థులకు క్విజ్ పోటీలు నిర్వహించారు. సంబంధన్ క్విజ్ పోటీలకు నగరంలోని 57 పాఠశాలలకు చెందిన 1500 విద్యార్థులు పాల్గొన్నారని కోవా సంస్థ ఈడీ మజ్జర్ హుస్సేన్ తెలిపారు. పోటీల్లో గెలుపొందిన 190మంది విద్యార్థిని, విద్యార్థులకు బహుమతులు అందజేశారు.

Telangana

Hyderabad: COVA to conduct inter-school, inter-collegiate examinations

BY TELANGANA TODAY PUBLISHED: PUBLISHED DATE - 06:32 PM, MON - 29 AUGUST 22

Telangana Today
FOR LOCAL TO GLOBAL NEWS

Hyderabad: The COVA Peace Network is organising 'Swami Agnivesh and Praful Bidwai Memorial 20th Annual Sambandh Inter School and Inter Collegiate Competitions: "How can Students Check Different Forms of Violence in Society" from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm on Tuesday at [Nampally exhibition grounds](#).

The events to be organised include debates, declamation, quiz, essay writing, one act plays and posters with slogans on the Theme: "How can Students Check Different Forms of Violence in Society".

ALSO READ

- [Hyderabad: 126-year-old Swami Sivananda holds yoga session at SportsExpo](#)

Topics for the events this year include:

Different types of violence in society and their impact,

Violence faced by Women and how can they be protected;

What are the major conflicts in India and how can they be addressed,

Why is there war in Ukraine and its impact on the world .

Over 2000 students from 100 schools and colleges participate in this program every year, Mazher Hussain, Executive Director, COVA Peace Network, said.