



The Journal

BY
FOR THE YOUTH



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Quotes

What are your personal views on the agenda?

I think we should ban the refugees

- Parth, BJP

I feel that we should take in only those refugees that do not pose a threat to our county

- Rishika, BJP

I do t think we should allow refugees

- Rohan, BJP

I think it's a great agenda and it should be passed

- Dyaus, TDP

It's a topic which requires great knowledge of the Indian constitution

- Aayush, Shiv Sena

I think that it is good as it will provide protection to refugees

- Mehul, Shiv Sena

It's a very good agenda as it helps the current global situation

- Aditya, AAP

I think that the agenda is very relevant and can solve a lot of global and national problems

- Chiraj, AAP

From the Editor's Desk

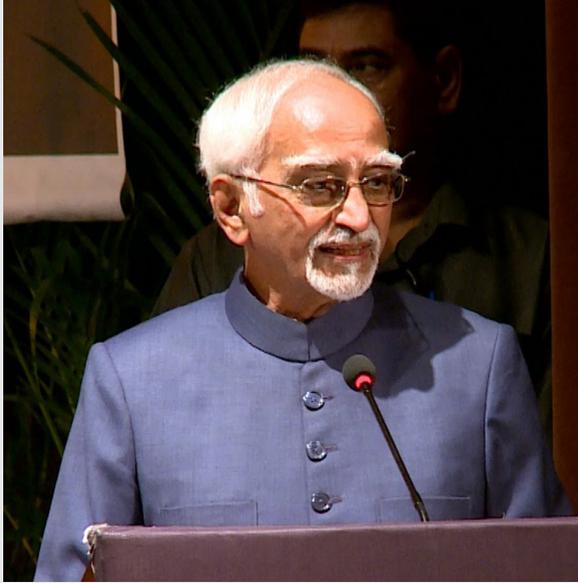
I-Parliament is an initiative that brings together students from schools across India to discuss, debate, design and enact law in a simulated parliamentary session.

I-Parliament is different from the traditional 'Model Lok Sabha' and 'Mock Parliament', it started in 2016 with ten members in the organizing committee. In the second session we had an idea of having a Press segment to play the role of the fourth pillar of Democracy. The delegates were divided into four media houses and produced one newspaper each as well as conducted the 'free2speak' debates. The delegates not only fulfilled their jobs as writers, reporters & editors but also as debaters & anchors.

To further our foray into the world of Media & Journalism, we were driven by the idea of starting our own Journal. The I-Parliament Journal is a publication which not only covers issues that are discussed in the sessions but also deals with issues that India's youth is engaged with. The Journal will also publish articles on the progress of the Democracy Clubs and other I-Parliament initiatives. Through 'The Journal', the youth will get to read about the views of intellectuals and scholar's. With regard to the I-Parliament sessions, the publication aims to bring out the views of students on relevant issues and further the depth of debate to enhance the interests of participants.

As the Editorial Board of The Journal, It is a honour and privilege for us to present to you the final Issue for Session five. I hope you have a great time reading this as well as our further issues. Your feedback is always welcome at iparliament2016@gmail.com.

Introducing our Chief Guest



Dr. Hamid Ansari was born and brought up in Calcutta. He was schooled at St. Edwards in Shimla and graduated from St. Xaviers College Calcutta. He went on to complete his BA and MA degrees at The Aligarh Muslim University. In 1961 he joined the Indian Foreign Services where he served for nearly four decades, as an Indian Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia. In between his foreign posting he was also designated as the Chief of Protocol for the Indian government in 1980. He received a Padma Shri in 1984 and went on to serve as the Vice President of the nation from 2001 to 2017. Sir stepped down as vice president on the 10th of August 2017. His vice-presidential departure was marked with words of concern about plurality and insecurity amongst the muslim community. With his many years of diplomatic postings in the Middle East, Dr. Ansari developed a reputation as a scholar of that region. He wrote in particular on the Palestinian issue. He is the author of *Travelling Through Conflict: Essays on the Politics of West Asia (2008)* and the editor of *Iran Today: Twenty Five Years After the Islamic Revolution (2005)*.

My experience with I-Parliament

By Malvika Singh

For me, even a marginal participation in I Parliament has been an extraordinary experience. To watch how a small, dedicated group of school boys and girls invent, organise and manage this event is mind boggling and gives me, as another older generation, huge hope that India has a robust, energetic and intellectually active future. Drawn from different cities and schools, these young people create a virtual reality theatre, as it were, of the Indian Parliament with all its shenanigans thrown in!

A speaker is elected as also other office bearers, and more. Lobbying happens. Transactions are made. Allegiances shift. The understanding the young have of our democratic processes is salutary, and their frustration about fundamental failures makes one sit up and reflect on how we have failed to deliver the basics. I have left the venue inspired each time. The enthusiasm and clarity is palpable. All parliamentarians should be silent spectators at IParliament to realize that they and their commitment to their mandate is being scrutinized by a young generation of activists with legitimate demands. Over 5 days this make belief Parliament discusses one major issue thread bare and recommendations made for change. Three Cheers to the organizing committee and to all the delegates.

Conformity and Commitment

By Alina Guha

I find it interesting to what extent our values are shaped by religion in India,

Even without believing, one cannot escape traditions that we are.

Social conformity plays a huge role in at least my father's case

*But let's not get carried away with generalizations, oversimplification of
mystic experiences we should never chase.*

Moving on to the maternal,

She's always told me god is eternal.

Whether we feel him in our hearts or at church,

His comforting presence is always better than any store-bought merch.

Personal commitment from me is what she aspires for,

Having strong faith and love for the almighty! oh! how she would adore.

Would be even more appreciated if I could go to Sunday mass,

Unfortunately for her, all these religion things I believe I surpass

As for me, I do not know...

*How can I claim to be adhering to society, when I have been given so much
freedom to grow.*

Although it is true, I have no real personal commitment to any religion,

It is not only conformity that would coerce me to put an interest in.

Message from The Secretariat

Here at I-Parliament, we aspire to create a simulation of what is described as the greatest experiment in the history of mankind: Indian democracy. The results of I-Parliament, though imperfect, motivate us to question and look for better solutions to pressing issues. We have learnt from this experiment, the gravity of dialogue in a political system, how we must be willing to share our opinions and learn from those with different points of view; fostering insight and trying to find common ground. We must be open to exploring new ideas and perspectives, and bringing unexamined assumptions into the open.

Having released four bills since the inception of I-Parliament, we got a sense of how good democratic politics has positive outcomes. With only about twenty-two hours these past four days (less than a tenth of the time wasted in the Indian parliament in a term) the student-delegates formulated a refugee law for India. We received and deliberated upon over 250 amendment propositions by parliamentarians and it was inspiring to see such willingness to bring about betterment from delegates coming from across the country. The distinguished guest speakers Shashi Tharoor, Sushmita Dev, Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia, Gaurav Gogoi, Sanjay Jha, Manish Tiwary and Hamid Ansari exposed us students to new ideas and answered the delegates' questions.

It has been an honour for all of us to help out in organising an event promoting political awareness amongst our peers. Looking forward to the next session!

