

BE HEARD IN AUSTRALIA

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“BE HEARD IN AUSTRALIA”, was a public speaking competition powered by Indo-Australian Association and Hindustan College of Arts and Science, and open to students of class 9-12th across Chennai.

The competition gave all the participants an excellent platform to broaden their knowledge of national and international affairs, and to develop their presentation and public speaking skills on a unique forum. It also gave us a fantastic opportunity to improve research and communication skills, and to meet and form friendships with other students across Chennai. Through the presentation of a prepared speech and answering impromptu questions, the participants got an opportunity to explore topics of global significance as we all tried to persuade, entertain, and inspire the audience.

All of us were screened through three rounds, where out of a total of 663 contestants from different parts of Chennai, 11 made their way to the podium for the finals.

The first round was at the school level, where the students were required to demonstrate impromptu style of speaking. 23 students from our school, who qualified for the second round, were invited for a workshop at Hindustan College of Arts and Science at Pudur, where experts in the field gave us inputs and taught us nuances about public speaking.

The second round, was among 200 students, where we were judged on a speech of 3 minutes. The event was held on 14th October, at the Hindustan International School, Guindy, Chennai. The topic was “Friendships are beyond geography.”



The third and the final round, in which, I had the honour of being selected was held on 21st October, in the NIFT auditorium, Taramani. We had to speak on the topic, “Australia and India are great partners for growth,” for five minutes. The event was judged by an eminent panel consisting of Mr. Sanjay Pinto and Air Marshal S. Varthaman.

Australian Consul-General Sean Kelly was also present at the event. The eleven finalists put forth their best foot forward, to impress the judges not on with their content, but also their style of speaking and their body language. The participants covered a range of issues in their

speeches, such as education and cultural exchange to food production, workforce training, natural resources, joint ventures, colonial history of India and Australia, and of course cricket.

I was (and always be) extremely proud to represent PSBB, K.K Nagar, and was ranked fifth among the list of the contenders. “The roots of all goodness lie in the soil of appreciation for goodness.” I am extremely thankful to the heads of the school and the entire management for giving me this wonderful opportunity. I extend my deepest gratitude to all the teachers for being the pillars of support and helping the students reach where they stand today. Last but not the least, I would like to thank all my classmates and friends who participated along with me, for all the encouragement and support.

Roving Reporters - KKN