

# Debating our way to the top of the world...

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Marking the eleven year success journey of PSBB's Debating Society and the tenth year anniversary of Indian Schools Debating Society is the historic win of Team India in the world's most prestigious school level debating tournament, Worlds Schools Debating Championship 2019. It has been a golden year for Indian debating. With 12 straight wins, 47/48 ballots and two speakers ranking in the list of top 10 speakers, **Tejas Subramaiaam of PSBB K K Nagar AS the BEST SPEAKER IN THE WORLD**, team India saw resounding success in this year's WSDC. The path to this grand achievement began a year ago as ISDS began the search for team India starting with city level selections. After competitive zonal level and national level trials five students, Manya Gupta from Jaipur, Bhavya Shah from Mumbai, Prithvi Arun from Sri Sankara Adayar, Chennai and finally Saranya Ravindran and Tejas Subramaniam from PSBB K.K.Nagar, formed the team that was to represent India at WSDC 2019.

Hosted by Thailand, WSDC 2019 had 66 participating countries. India gallantly breezed through the preliminaries against, Argentina, Thailand, Peru, England, Canada, South Africa and Denmark losing only one ballot in the process (a historic achievement!!!!). they debated interesting motions like "THW ban the practice of 'importing brides'", " In art and popular culture THBT creating new lead characters for minorities (eg Hannock, Black Panther) is better than recasting already played by other actors/communities(eg. ghost busters, the little mermaid etc) and "THBT that the UN security council should notify software manufacturers of all zero day vulnerabilities in order for them to patch the defect".

At the end of the preliminaries, when tabs were released, India didn't just qualify but also ranked first on the list with USA breaking second. In the Octo finals, Team India was up against Team Bangladesh as opposition on the motion "TH prefers a world where adult children take in their elderly parents instead of supporting them to live separately". After a unanimous decision in the Octo finals India proceeded to the quarter finals to debate against Pakistan. Team India opposed the motion " THS China's attempts to become a dominant global power". Emerging victorious, Team India moved on to the semi finals. Here the team faced Team China, the team they lost to in WSDC 2018 final, however, Team India redeemed themselves by securing yet another unanimous win.

All of the team's efforts led up to the grand final against Team Canada, a strong team with several achievements in WSDC. The motion for the final debate was "TH regrets the glorification of soldiers as heroes". After an exhilarating debate the moment of glory came Team India's way. Adding to the glory, was the announcement of the the list of best speakers. In the

English second language speakers ranking as well as general speakers list, two team India speakers placed in the top 10, **with Tejas at number one in both.**

The tournament ended with team India celebrating an unparalleled victory, thanks to the stupendous and passionate efforts of the students, support of the school management, coaches, teachers and RAMCO systems who spearhead ISDS. MAY THEIR TRIBE INCREASE!



(left to right: Saranya Ravindran, Bhavya Shah, Manya Gupta. Centre: Tejas Subramaniam)

## Roving Reporters

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