

Speech and Debate India students advance Globally!

This is the first in a multi-part series, celebrating the achievements of Speech and Debate India's students on a global stage.



Maharashtra, Mumbai, Apr 24, 2021 (Issuewire.com) - “It was a Fairy Tale Beginning!” To rewind, [Speech and Debate India's](#) Founder, [Mr. Rajiv Kacholia](#) described the journey, “As we were completing our first year, I wanted our students to start experiencing the excitement of international debate events. The potential for challenge and development was more imperative than the inevitable losses at a global level against veteran programs. On January 2nd, 2021, the **Global Chronicles 2.0** course was launched, with a unique pedagogical approach to train gifted students for international debating formats, in-depth topic analysis, and developing robust affirmative and negative cases.”

The greatest surprise? Mr. Kacholia added, “My goal was for our teams to become globally competitive in 5 years. So, it was a deeply proud moment, after just 5 weekends of coaching, as we all

gathered online after each round at the **Stanford University** Debate Tournament in February to hear that some of our teams were already starting to win international tournament rounds. And now in 3 months, one of our High School teams won 5 of 6 preliminary rounds. We were thrilled! They then powered through Doubles, Octa finals, and Quarterfinals, all the way to **Semifinals at the Georgetown University** Debate Tournament – that was incredible, an unexpected early milestone!”

Advancing Indian debate. In its first 3 months, Speech and Debate India’s Global Chronicles students have rapidly advanced India on the global debate map. Middle School and High School Global Chronicles teams have been recognized as finalists by reaching elimination rounds at each of its first four tournaments. These have included **Stanford University**, **Harvard University**, and the recent **Georgetown University** Debate Tournaments.

Student perspectives? Here are four of Speech and Debate India’s **outstanding Middle School and High School debaters** on their experience at the Georgetown University tournament. More student views are available at <https://www.speechdebateindia.com/students>

A research-backed approach. Speech and Debate India’s debate courses are taught live by U.S. faculty to advance student leadership skills and train for Regional, National, International tournaments. [Mr. Rajiv Kacholia](#) is a former U.S. State Debate Champion, an alumnus of Stanford University and Goldman Sachs, and a Founder of Speech and Debate India, empowering students across India. Mr. Kacholia’s unique pedagogy is research-backed with collaborative formats that are rigorous and exciting. Courses and tournament experience help introverts and extroverts gain confidence, develop critical thinking skills, and nurture creativity, key 21st-century skills. Learn more at <https://www.speechdebateindia.com/academy>



**SHIVANI
SHRIVARI**

For someone who was unable to confidently and coherently express their thoughts just a year ago, I can certainly say that debate impacted tournaments such as these has improved my self-esteem and my overall sense of identity. The support and assistance provided to us before and during the tournament by our debate academy really helped us learn from our mistakes and improve each round. Hence, any victory we had was a result of the unique pedagogical approach equipped by our coaches to train us.



**PRAGHAT
MADHU**

On Sunday, after two rigorous days of debate at the Georgetown University tournament, I sat down and reflected on the months of knowledge I had been subject to. The exposure I had gained, and the journey I had undertaken. For every single research paper, every single session courtesy of Mr. Rajiv, they'd distributed into what I could never dream of. As quite an outspoken ninth grader from the small town of Maripal, I could never dream of doing something like this.



**AAHANA
KHEMANI**

The Georgetown University Debate was an absolutely amazing experience. My partner and I were completely astonished that we made it to the elimination rounds, and were extremely nervous however, we won the first round and regained our confidence. We were over the moon after that round!



**AYRAAH
LODHA**

I got so engrossed in our own and was extremely passionate about them, that they were after hours and hours of debating through the night, I still wanted to do more. Overall, this experience was something that taught me how to be passionate about debating and just have fun, and I could not have asked for it to go better.

Media Contact

Speech Debate India

speechdebate@helpjournalists.com

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