



VESLit Report 20-21

INTRODUCTION

The 2020-21 academic year saw all the events organized on an online platform due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, this did not prevent VESLit from conducting exciting events for the students of VESIT. The council as a whole had a very productive year. Multiple online meets and late night calls replaced post-lecture classroom meets as the medium of discussion and planning. We held a bunch of creative and formal literature based events in both the semesters of this academic year.

We kickstarted the year with announcing the newly formed council on our Instagram page. This was followed with some interactive interactions on Instagram to boost our reach amongst the students. Each division then carefully planned some small scale event to set the tone for the academic year. There was a brief collaboration between VESLit Circle and the other Student Councils of VESIT for “Invincia”, held shortly after the Diwali break. The even semester consisted of multiple events organized for the newly inculcated First Year students. There was also the biggest literature fest held in VESIT, the trademark of the VESLit Circle - The VESLit Week.

The complete detail and report on the activities and events held by the VESLit Circle in the academic year 20-21 is given below:

Faculty In-Charge

Dr. Pooja Kundu

Dr. Sushil Dhuldhhar

VESLit Circle members for the academic year 20-21 :-

Student Head - C.V Ananya (D19A)

Deputy Student Head - Avinash Tripathy (D14B)

Debate Division

Head - Adith Nair (D19B)

Deputy - Atharva Gadkari (D13)

Senior Member - Salonee Velonde (D12B)

Junior Members - Sneha Karthik (D7C)

Tanya Dubey (D9B)

Films Division

Head - Aditya Bhoir (D11B)

Deputy - Varun Pillai (D11B)

Junior Members - Tarun Mishra (D7C)

Prithvi Kumar (D7A)

Aditya Bedekar (D6)

MUN Division

Head - Shlok Jagushte (D11B)

Deputy - Arnab Saha (D14B)

Senior Member - Paridhi Harpalani (D12B)

Junior Members - Kaushal Jagasia (D7C)

Aishwarya Krishnamurthy (D7A)

Mihir Pamnani (D7C)

Quiz Division

Head - Pranav Bindra (D19B)

Deputy - Rohan Ghosalkar (D12C)

Senior Members - Namrata Tolani (D12A)

Manoj Aiyappan (D12B)

Arnav Bagchi (D12C)

Junior Member - Krishik Rao (D9B)



VESLit Circle members for the academic year 20-21.

FILMS DIVISION

Our first call to action came in the form of VESLit's intro videos. We worked hard to create unique and captivating videos to showcase each member and their role in VESLit. Credit where credit is due, Aditya Bhoir held most of the responsibility, in that he edited each video with painstaking effort and precision, while the remaining members supported him with photo edits. The end result was a set of introduction videos that were short, sweet, and unmatched by the other councils.

We held a meet, in order to discuss VESLit week and the events we would propose. After much deliberation, we settled on two online and two offline events. They were as follows:

- An event similar to Editor's Cut held last year with the following changes
 - A song to be given as theme for the clip
 - An alternate genre to be given for a film
- An Online Poster making competition
- A Script Writing competition which would provide alternate endings to popular movies
- A traditional Short Film competition where participants are encouraged to take up any other topic other than corruption

The last item on the agenda was an outreach program. Each division of VESLit would hold small-scale, social media based events, in order to gain publicity.

The Films division decided on a B-Roll competition, where each participant would produce a B-Roll video, with a maximum length of 30 seconds. This would allow the videos to be uploaded to Instagram Reels, which would make the participants more comfortable with the format.

Out of the numerous participants, we had a stand-out winner in Abhiram Phadnis.

Soon after the social media events, it was decided that VESLit week would not take place in the odd semester. Instead, it would be held in the even semester, which was when we hoped college would reopen.

Finally, we held an ad-making competition: AD-Venture, held during Invincia. Each team would have to make a 1 minute ad representing any one of ten brands supplied to them.



Poster for Ad Venture



Poster for the B-Roll Face Off

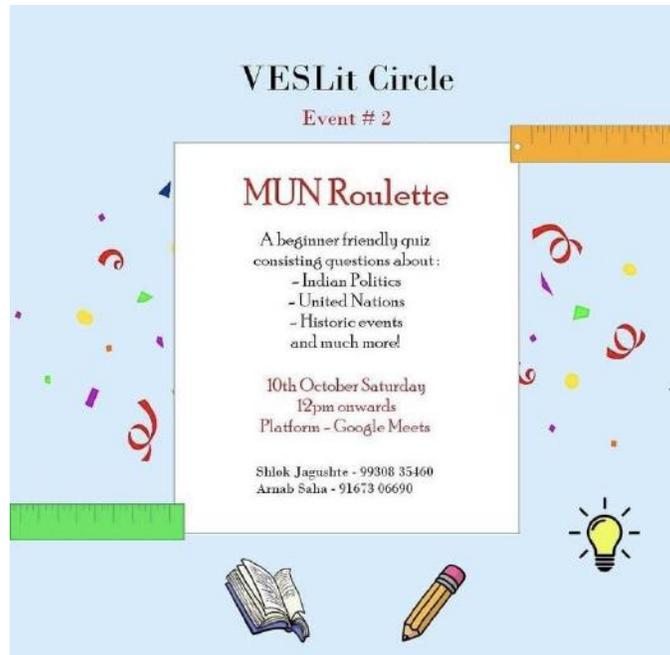
MUN DIVISION

The Model United Nations (MUN) branch created quite a buzz amongst the students by contributing with exciting politically correct events ranging from the introductory quiz to the ultimate Invincia blockbuster in collaboration under the banner of Student Council.

- **MUN Roulette**

Date: 10th-11th October 2020

Platform: Google Meet



Poster for MUN Roulette

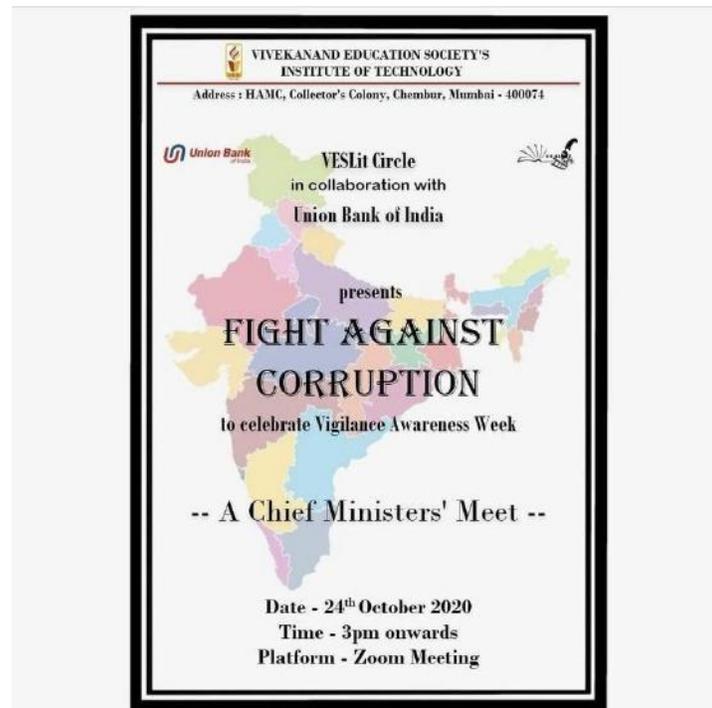
The MUN division carefully curated a quiz that would help students to understand the kind of topics that are generally discussed in a MUN or a Youth Parliament. The preliminary round was conducted in morning and afternoon sessions with the participants randomly divided into groups of four. The format for this round was MCQs followed by a pictorial round and was concluded with a rapid fire round. The three preliminary rounds were conducted by Mihir Pamnani (D7C), Kaushal Jagasia (D7C), Aishwarya Krishnamurthy (D7A) and Paridhi Harpilani (D12B).

The top eight scoring students qualified for the semifinals of the event. Staying true to the event name *MUN Roulette*, the semifinals and finals had a Gambling Round. Participants placed a bet with their points, if their answer was correct then twice as many points were added to their total but in case of their answer being wrong the points were subtracted. The semi finals were also conducted in groups of four with VESLit Student Head C.V Ananya (D19A) and MUN Division Head Shlok Jagushte (D11B) conducting the rounds simultaneously. Lastly, the final gamble was between the top four participants which concluded after a series of twists and turns and Gaurav Govilkar (D8) emerged victorious with the whole session being live streamed via Google Meet.

- **Mock Chief Ministers' Meet**

Date: 21st October 2020

Platform: Zoom Meeting



Poster for Mock Chief Ministers' Meet

This event was in collaboration with the Union Bank of India: a Youth Parliament in light of the Vigilance Awareness Week. Keeping the theme for this year 'Vigilant India, Prosperous India' in mind, the MUN Division decided to simulate a Mock Chief Ministers' Meet with the agenda as India's Fight Against Corruption. The three-hour long event was streamed live on YouTube. UBI officials all across the country were a part of the event as they watched it live online.

The formal proceedings began with opening statements where participants presented their stance to their respective peers and helped establish their point of view on the agenda in hand. They were followed by a Formal session where the participants could state views on a sub-agenda, which they felt was the most relevant to the agenda. The participants also engaged in a question and answer session with each other. Soon after the Formal Session, Shlok Jagusthe (D11B) and Arnab Saha (D14B), who were the moderators for the event, guided the Committee to an Informal Session.

After an extensive round of formal and informal discussions which showed the depth of research that the participants had carried out, it was time for the Closing Statements. The participants put forward their concluding remarks, summarising the constructive points raised during the session and reiterating the important points with respect to Corruption.

Mr. Sanjeev Sahay and **Mr. Umesh Kumar Singh** from the Union Bank of India gave their closing remarks and announced the winners :-

Malavika Anoop (D14A) - Best Parliamentarian

Rudrakshi Deshpande (D14A) - High Commendation

Rajesh Muni (D6) - Special Mention

- **Fandom Buzz**

Date: 19th November 2020

Platform: Google Meet

Fandom Buzz was a unique platform to explore, discuss and present the most hyped fandoms of all times with an unconventional MUN twist. It was conducted in collaboration with the Cultural Council. The fandoms were assorted committees representing ten prominent members from each fandom discussing one mind-boggling agenda. The three-committee invitations were sent out for the wizards from Harry Potter, detectives from Brooklyn 99 and actors from Bollywood.



Poster for Fandom Buzz

“Should Harry Potter have destroyed the elder wand?” was the perplexing viewpoint thrown at wizards to contemplate. The agenda for B99 Committee was - Captain Madeline Wuntch was seeking to downsize the 99th precinct in the NYPD’, while the police force for the same precinct tried to put forward their case, to turn over Wuntch’s evil motives. The ever-controversial Bollywood was to put their perspectives forward on the raging conversation around nepotism. All committees witnessed a banter-full discussion and concluded with a variety of hot takes around the introduced agendas.

The winners for the three committees were as follows :

Harry Potter Committee: Moderator - Neeraj Patil (D11B)

1. Vineet Bhole (D6) - Albus Dumbledore
 2. Nihar Abhyankar (D20) - Dolores Umbridge
- Best Dressed: Sristi Sharma (D10B) - Hermoine Granger

Brooklyn 99 Committee: Moderator - Arnab Saha (D14B)

1. Bhuvana Raisinghani (D14A) - Gina Linetti
2. Sahil Salian (D14B) - Captain Holt

Best Dressed: Muskan Hassanandani (D7A) - Amy Santiago

Bollywood Committee: Moderator - Shlok Jagauste (D11B)

1. Siddhi Bhosale (D7A) - Karan Johar
2. Advait Bansode (D7B) - Alia Bhatt

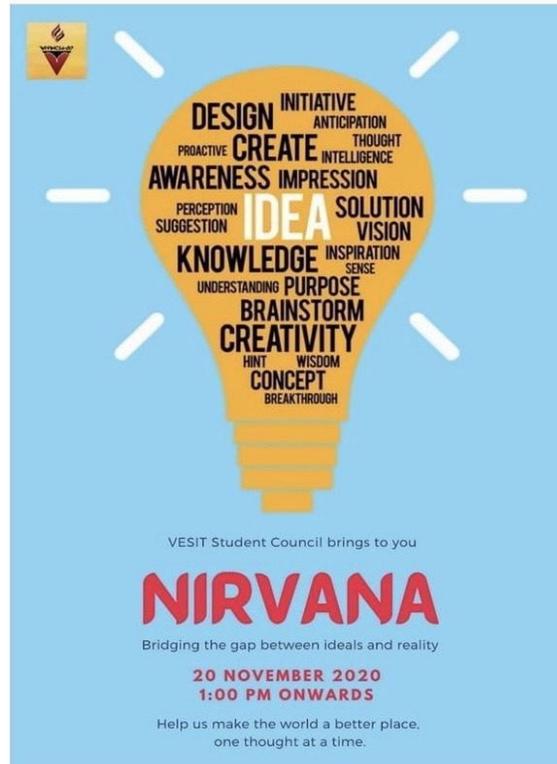
Best Dressed: Akshita Upadhyay (D7B) - Kangana Ranaut

- **Nirvana**

Date: 20th November 2020

Platform: Google Meet

To further the spirit of rational discourse, Nirvana' was introduced - an event where young minds from our college were asked to narrow down any one social justice domain, research its most prominent problems, troubleshoot and offer viable solutions for the same in a five-minute presentation. The event was hosted by Mihir Pamnani (D7C) and Venkatesh Reddy (D10A). Topics ranging from LGBTQ+ Rights to Climate Change were all put on the table for participating teams to intrigue some thought-provoking conversations. The event was judged by **Mrs Vinita Mishra** (Assistant Professor at the Department of Information Technology) and **Ms Vismaya Kulkarni**, a clinical psychology graduate who works with a chain of NGOs for animal welfare and advocates for veganism.



Poster for Nirvana

The event began with a presentation providing an innovative insight to increase accessibility to primary education for rural India. Following each presentation, a two-minute session was organized inviting constructive scrutiny from the judges and other fellow teams. The teams were graded on for the efficiency of solutions, presentation skills and depth of research. Applauding the efforts made by the students, the judges concluded the event with few words of wisdom. Following that, Ananya Venugopal (D19A) delivered a vote of thanks and brought the event to a close.

Winners:

1. Ninad Rao (D10A) and V Krishnasubramaniam (D10A)
2. Hrutika Pakhale (D8) and Shikha Negi (D8)
3. Sristi Sharma (D10B) and Adarsh Kadam (D10B)
4. Daksh Ramchandani (D12C)
5. Prasanna Sridharan (D10A) and Rahul Nailwal (D10A)

QUIZ DIVISION

The Quiz Department of the VESLit Circle planned two main events for the Odd Semester: IPL QUIZ 2020 and ZOOMNISCIENT.

- **IPL QUIZ 2020**

Date: 3rd-4th October 2020

Platform: Google Meets

The IPL themed Quiz was full of questions revolving around legendary players, cricket stadiums and memorable matches in the history of IPL. The main rounds of the Quiz were:

1. Elimination Round
2. Semi - Finals
3. Grand Finale

The quiz was open to all the students of VESIT and saw a total participation of **156 students**.



12 P.M ONWARDS

Poster for the IPL Quiz

1. Elimination Round

The elimination round was conducted on 3rd October, Saturday from 12:00 to 12:30 PM. Eliminations were conducted using the online **Kahoot** interface. Two sessions each of 78 students were carried out simultaneously. **Top 25** students from each session qualified to the next round. The list of questions is given below.

All (14)		Difficult questions (6)		Search	
Question	Type	Correct/incorrect			
1 Who is organising the IPL Quiz 2020?	Quiz	56%			
2 In which IPL team's logo would you see the 'Sudarshan Chakra'	Quiz	42%			
3 What's the date of the first IPL match of 2020?	Quiz	60%			
4 Which IPL Team's Home Ground Is Named After Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi?	Quiz	42%			
5 In which year did Virat Kohli score all his IPL centuries?	Quiz	55%			
6 Who has the best strike rate in the IPL?	Quiz	55%			
7 Who was the most expensive auctioned player in the history of the IPL?	Quiz	22%			
8 How many Indians have won the Most Valuable Player Award?	Quiz	16%			
9 Where was the final venue for IPL in 2019?	Quiz	31%			
10 Which Player has the highest Batting Average In the IPL?	Quiz	5%			
11 Which team has the highest no of sixes in the IPL ?	Quiz	29%			
12 What is the total number of matches that will be played in the 2020 season?	Quiz	27%			
13 Which is the only player to score 37 runs in an over in IPL?	Quiz	55%			
14 Did you like the Quiz? :)	Quiz	71%			

List of questions for Eliminations

2. Semi-Finals

The 50 students who qualified from the Eliminations then moved to the Semi-Final round. This round was conducted on 3rd October, Sunday from 11:00 to 12:00 PM. The online quiz portal **Sporcle** was used for the same. This round consisted of 10 sessions of 5 players each. The **Top 12** players qualified to the Grand Finale.

3. Grand Finale

The Grand Finale was conducted on 3rd of October from 4:00 PM onwards. It was segregated into 3 distinct rounds:

Round 1: Multiple Choice Questions

Round 2: Guess the Player

Round 3: Gambling Round

Top 8 players from MCQ round qualified to Round 2 and Top 4 from Round 2 entered the Gambling Round. The 4 players who entered the Gambling Round were Yogesh Inamdar (165), Anish Inamdar (165), Sarthak Thakur (150) and Vighnesh Verma (125). At this stage, the Finalists were each given an IPL team with 5 questions each. Every participant had to bet certain points from their earned before answering the question. Correct answer was awarded with double the betted points whereas a wrong answer led to deduction of the betted points.

The final tally was Sarthak leading with 250 points followed by Anish with 220 points. Vighnesh and Yogesh had 212 and 200 points respectively. Finally Sarthak Thakur was declared as the winner for the IPL Quiz 2020. This was followed by a short speech from Ananya Venugopal , Head of the VESLIT Circle and the event was brought to an end.

Winner - Sarthak Thakur (D12C)

- **ZOOMNISCIENT**

Date: 18th November

Platform: Google Meets

This quiz based event was in collaboration with the VESIT Student Council under the banner of Invincia. The game ran via a series of rounds where the team with the most considerable number of points at the end of all rounds was declared the winner.

The quiz consisted of six main rounds:

1. Elimination Round

The elimination round was conducted on **Kahoot**, an online platform to conduct live quizzes. The questions and options were being displayed on the screen and the participants had to select the colour corresponding to the correct answer. 5 points were allotted for each correct answer, according to which **Top 20 Teams** were selected in this round.

2. Riddle Round

The Riddle round was played by the above selected 20 teams to compete for the **Top 16** positions. Here the participants were provided with three riddles, the answers to which was the password to a protected PDF file. The PDF file consisted of a google meet link wherein the 16 teams to join first were selected.

3. Scattergories

In the second round, the game of **Scattergories** was played by these top 16 teams. These teams had to fight for the **Top 12** positions. This game consisted of two wheels, which spun to give a category and a letter respectively. The teams had to name as many words directly or indirectly related to the category starting with that letter in 30 secs. Each team played this round twice and were allotted points according to the number of words the teams were able to mention in the given time limit.

4. Guess the Personality

Round 3 or **Guess the Personality** round: In this round, the top 12 teams were given one question in the beginning, the answer to which was a notable personality. The teams had to guess 2 personalities in total. 20 points were allotted if the team guessed it without any hints, 15 with one, 10 with two and 5 with three hints. **Top 8** teams were selected based on cumulative scores from earlier rounds.

5. Marketing Event

Round 4 consisted of a marketing event wherein the teams were given a product which had to be marketed as if it belonged to some other company. The teams were given 1 minute to pitch their idea to the judges after which points were allotted according to their pitch.

6. Grand Finale

The final round was a rapid-fire round where the **Top 4 teams** were given +10 for every correct answer and -5 for an incorrect answer. The teams were made to choose one of the following domains: Sports, Music, Science and Technology, History and Indian advertising. Neeraj Patil (D11B) and Manas Maskar (D11B) mastered this event with a whopping 155 points and were declared as winners, followed closely by Shreeja Nanda (D12B) and Shreyas Udupa (D12B) with 151 points. “This was one of the most enthralling events out of all the quiz events I had participated in earlier, as the competition was neck to neck. Round 4 was particularly very interesting as my team had to market a product ‘airbag’ by the company ‘Lays’, which challenged me and my teammate to come up with a pitch in just under 1 minute”, said Shreeja Nanda (D12B).

Winners:

Rank 1: Neeraj Patil (D11B) and Manas Maskar (D11B)

Rank 2: Shreeja Nanda (D12B) and Shreyas Udupa (D12B)

Rank 3: Aditya Gurnani (D12A) and Krish Amesur (D12A) tied with Shivani Shenai (D12B) and Kunal Kotkar (D12B)

DEBATE DIVISION

Multiple meets, endless discussions and late night calls is the perfect way to summarize the debate team's work this semester. This Semester we conducted 2 major events, the details being provided below:

- **Among Us Debate**

Date: 18th October

Platform: Google Meet

Since formal debates seem to be intimidating at first, this innovative event was aimed at providing students with a platform to freely showcase their speaking and debating skills. The event was beginner friendly with a touch of the trending game 'Among Us'

The debate was conducted between two teams consisting of five members each. The participants had registered individually. They were split into two teams by the council members. The distribution of team members and the selection of the imposter in each team was done randomly. The topic of the debate was '*Is an audience necessary in sports?*' The participants had been informed about the topic and the teams a day before the event. The teams were also informed whether they would be ruling for or against the motion.

Each team consisted of four crewmates and one imposter. The participant was informed about being an imposter just a few minutes before the event began. The task of the imposter was to kill maximum crewmates without being caught. The imposters had to use a specific word in their arguments to kill a crewmate. The words were chosen by the council members. Every time the imposters decided to kill someone, they had to give prior notification to the assigned council member through Whatsapp. Once the imposters used the given words, the council would declare the selected crewmate to be dead after ten seconds. The dead crewmates would switch off their camera and mute themselves. The task of the crewmates included providing convincing arguments and also to figure out the imposter.

After killing a crewmate, the imposter was restricted from killing another for the next 5 minutes. Each team was allowed to have 2 emergency meetings to figure out the imposter. The teams had 1 minute for each emergency meeting. The teams could either vote out a member or skip the vote in an emergency meeting. Two separate breakout rooms were created for the emergency meetings. Sneha Kartik (D7C) and Aditya Dubey (D10A) moderated one breakout room while Tanya Dubey (D9B) and Salonee Velonde (D12B) moderated the other.

All the participants were asked to join the meet by 4:30 pm. The council began by briefing the participants with the rules and regulations of the event. Before starting the debate, the teams were given 10 minutes to discuss among themselves in the separate breakout rooms. The debate commenced at 5:20 pm. The total duration of the debate was 30 minutes. Atharva Gadkari (D13) was the timekeeper for the event. The debate began with an introduction from both the teams followed by a rebuttal. Both the teams had to conclude their arguments in the last 1 minute.

Adith Nair (D19B), Debate Division Head, was the judge for the evening. The participants were awarded points based on their debating skills. Bonus points were awarded to the team which was successful in identifying the imposter. Both the teams presented excellent arguments. However, the 'For' Team identified the imposter in the second emergency meeting and hence were entitled to the bonus points.

The 'For' team was declared as the winning team after the final calculation of points. The winning team included Jasmine Sawra (D7C), Rajesh Muni (D6), Pooja Gopalprasad Gupta (D13), Saritha Ponnambalan Tharakan (D6) and Rakshit Deshmukh (D7A). Rakshit was the imposter in the 'Against' Team. The winners were declared on the Instagram story of VESLit's Instagram page. The winners will be rewarded with coupons and certificates.



VESLit Debate Division and the participants posing after conclusion of the event.

- **The Invincia Debate**

Date: 20th November 2020

Platform: Zoom Meeting

This was a Parliamentary Debate that consisted of multiple rounds. It was held in collaboration with the VESIT Student Council under the banner of Invincia. The first round was a knockout between 8 teams with the topics consisting of various social issues. The second round included 4 teams and then finals. The debates were judged by Aditya Rao, Rahul Motwani and Adith Nair. Other members of the debate division helped with moderation and smooth flow.



Poster for Invincia Debate.

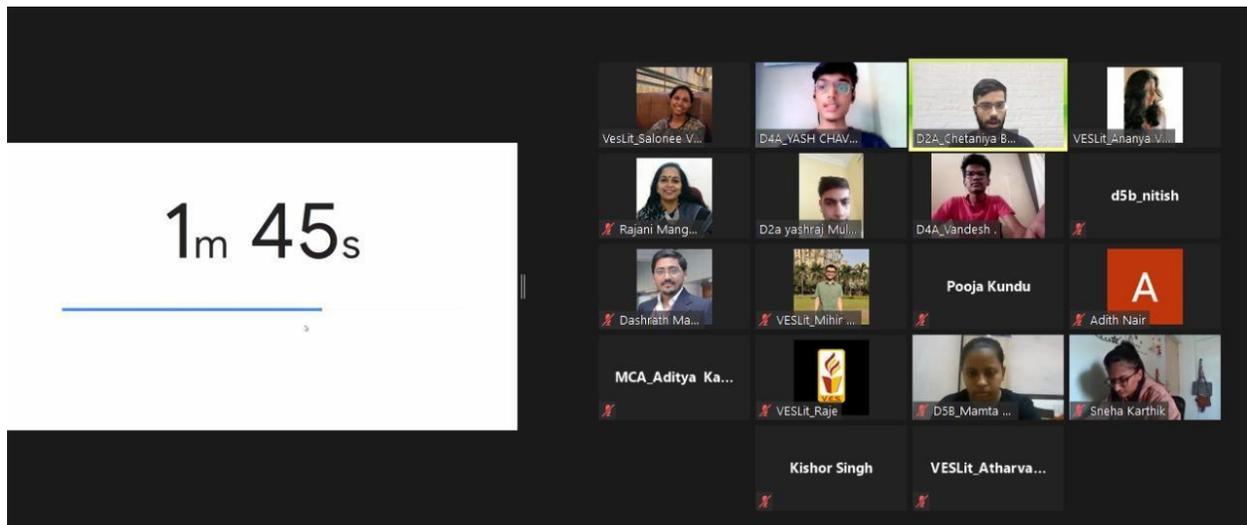
- **National Science Day Debate**

Date: 27th-28th February 2021

Platform: Zoom Meeting

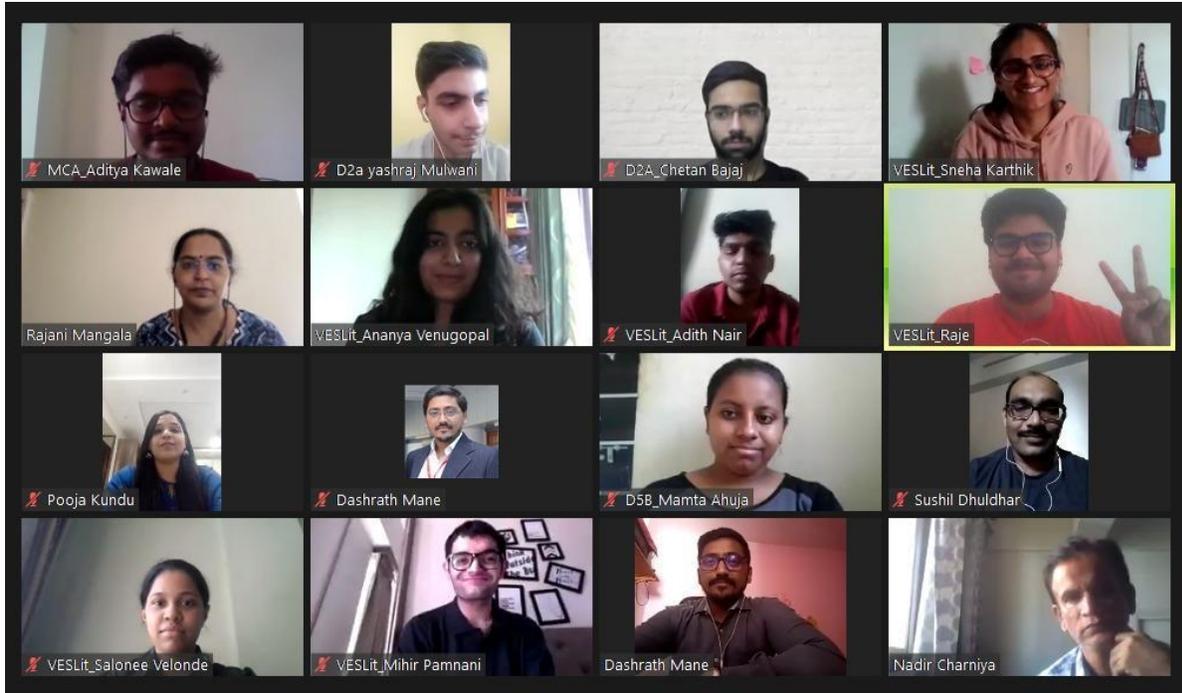
National Science Day is celebrated every year on February 28. This day recalls the notable discovery "Raman Effect" by India's greatest scientist C V Raman, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for this discovery. To celebrate this day, the VESLit Circle in association with VESIT IIC organized a debate competition. This competition was exclusively held for first-year students and each class had to send a team of two students. The eliminations were held on the 27th of February, with the topic being 'Is AI a boon or bane?'. The following four teams made it to the final event which was held on 28th of February on Zoom:

- Yash Chavan and Vandesh Swant (D4A)
- Kishor Sharma and Aditya Kawale (MCA-B)
- Mamta Ahuja and Nitish Jaiswal (D5B)
- Chetaniya Bajaj and Yashraj Mulwani (D2A)



Proceedings of the semi-final debate.

The topics for the semi-finals as well as the finals were provided one day prior to the event. The judges for the debate were Mr. Dashrath Mane, Assistant Professor, Department of MCA and Dr. T. Rajani Mangala, Associate Professor, Department of Electronics. The topic for the semi-finals was 'Should animal testing be banned?'. The first semi-final took place between team D2A as the proposition and team D4A as the opposition. In the second semi-final debate, team D5B was up against team MCA-B. Team MCA-B defended the motion whereas team D5B opposed it. Both the debates had an introduction time of two minutes for each team, followed by a rebuttal of five minutes and a concluding statement of two minutes each. All the four teams put forth concrete arguments backed by facts and figures supporting their stance, with team D2A and team MCA-B making it to the grand finale. The debates were moderated by CV Ananya (D19A) and Salonee Velonde (D12B). The topic for the final debate was 'The house believes that exploration of outer space is a waste of economical resources'. Team D2A was in favor of the motion while team MCA-B opposed it. The debate was closely fought with both the teams coming up with strong points to support their stance. Chetaniya Bajaj and Yashraj Mulwani from D2A were declared as the winners of the National Science Day debate. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Sneha Karthik (D7C).



VESLit members along with the judges and participants.

GENERAL EVENTS

- **SADHBHAWNA DIWAS**

Date: 5th September 2020

Platform: Online Submission via Google Form

The Sadbhawna Diwas celebration included a Poster making competition and an Essay writing competition. The winners for each are mentioned below:-

A. Essay Writing Competition

1st place - Sumit Jadhav

2nd place - Isha Chawan

B. Poster Making Competition

1st place - Hruthika Pakhale

2nd place - Isha Chawan

- **DIWALI SABHA**

Date: 13th November 2020

Platform: Google Meet

This event was held in collaboration with the VESIT Music Council to celebrate one of the biggest Indian festivals: Diwali. The event started out with a segment of performances by students and members of the Music Council which was followed by a quiz in which teams consisting of a homogenous mixture of teachers and students took part. The quiz was based on Indian mythology, and the teams battled it out to the very end to win. The quiz had four rounds, including MCQ, Pictogram and rapid fire. There were five teams in total as mentioned below.

Team A: Neeraj Patil, Tanmai Govindan, Mr. Vijay Shejwalkar and Mr. Prashant Kanade

Team B: Kirti Patil, Vaishnavi Iyer, Mr. Sunny Nahar, Dr. Maya Bhatt

Team C: Meghana, Smruti, Mr. Abhay Kshirsagar sir and Mr. Gaurav Tawde

Team D: Praneel Rastogi, Aayushi Pamnani, Mr. Vivek Umrikar and Dr. (Mrs.) Manisha Tewari

Team E : Aarushi Sharma, Saurabh Maurya, Mrs. Rohini Temkar and Dr. (Mrs.) Shashwati Mujumdar.

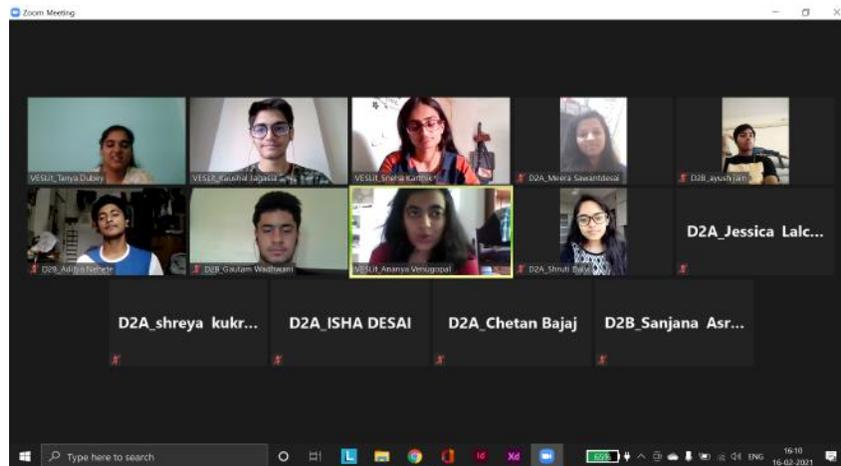
Team D was declared winner with **Team C** being runners up. All in all, it was an evening dedicated to celebrating our culture and Indian roots.

- **F.E. INDUCTION**

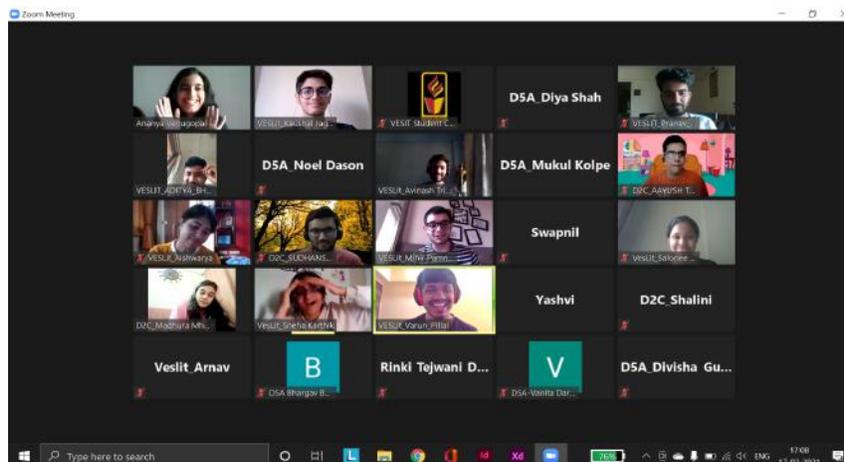
Date: 15th-18th, 22nd February 2021

Platform: Zoom Meeting

Due to the late joining of the first year students in this academic year, their induction had to be held in the even semester. Starting on 15th February, 2021 we held a meeting with two or three classes each day, where we played some fun games with them and engaged them in discussions to help initiate them into their college lives. The entire experience was rewarding for the council members and the students as it helped us build bridges even in the restrictive online format. The induction ended on 22nd February with the MCA classes.



VESLit Members interacting with the freshers.



The Induction Program was held on Zoom.

- **INSTAGRAM ACTIVITIES**

As a precursor to our events, we decided to have a showcase for our major formal events as a lot of people hesitate to take part in these due to lack of knowledge of procedure and expected standards. To help ease people into these events, people of VESLit themselves participated in small mock sessions of debate and MUN that were held over Instagram Live. These sessions gathered good viewership. Also, we launched 4 separate segments that would be put out every week. One was Two Truths And A Lie: Facts Edition where every Monday we put out 3 statements, and the students had to reply which of the statements was false. Every Wednesday, we put out a segment called Pun-dits, which had some of our council members coming up with the wittiest wordplay. Fridays were for pictograms, where we often put out pictures like Amul advertisements and asked students to guess the event they were based on. Sundays saw a special edition of 'Tharaurus' - a Thesaurus inspired by Shashi Tharoor, where we started going into word origins. All in all, we have more than doubled our followers since the beginning of the academic year.

THE THARAURUS

Tharoor Thesaurus

Word - Sesquipedalian

Meaning - 1. given to use long words
2. (of a word) containing many syllables.



The 'Tharaurus' was a big hit on Instagram.

VESLit WEEK 2021

This year, VESLit Week had to be held online as offline college has been in indefinite suspension since the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic. We, as a council, had to come up with new and ingenious ways to keep our audience engaged, and we rose to the occasion. Some of our flagship events like the Play Offs couldn't be held and so we came up with some new events and kept some old ones, but all in all, we transitioned to the online medium remarkably well. Following is an account of all the events we held during the Week:-

Day 1: 30th March, 2021

- **Kaun Banega Crorepati**

Kaun banega crorepati (KBC) was held by the Quiz Division. True to its reputation, the event generated a tremendous response. It was meticulously planned and was played out in 3 stages.

1. Qualification Round

A quiz in the form of a google form was sent out to the participants and the top 30 were selected through this method. Groups of 6 were made and these groups qualified for a Fastest Finger First to get a chance to be on the hotseat.

2. Fastest Finger First

Each of these groups played a fun kahoot round, the stakes being the winner of each group gets a chance at the hotseat.

3. Final Round

Each member of the quiz division hosted a round of the KBC and with a poetic continuity, the VESLit heads served as counsels of sound advice to the participants this time. A total of 6 rounds were played between 6 winners of the Fastest Finger First. To make the round more interesting the participants were given three lifelines being : Call a Friend, Expert Advice and 50/50. Ms. Ananya Chetlur and Mr. Avinash Tripathy, heads of VESLiT Circle, served as the expert panel.

The event was executed smoothly and the winners chosen on the basis of who answered the most questions and if that was a tie it was determined on the basis of who had more lifelines. The winners were Arnav Singhal (D1AD), Ashutosh Mishra (D2C), Tanmayee Bochare (D4B). The event received rave reviews from the participants and made a strong start to a very eventful VESlit week.

Day 2: 31 March, 2021

- **Spell Bee**

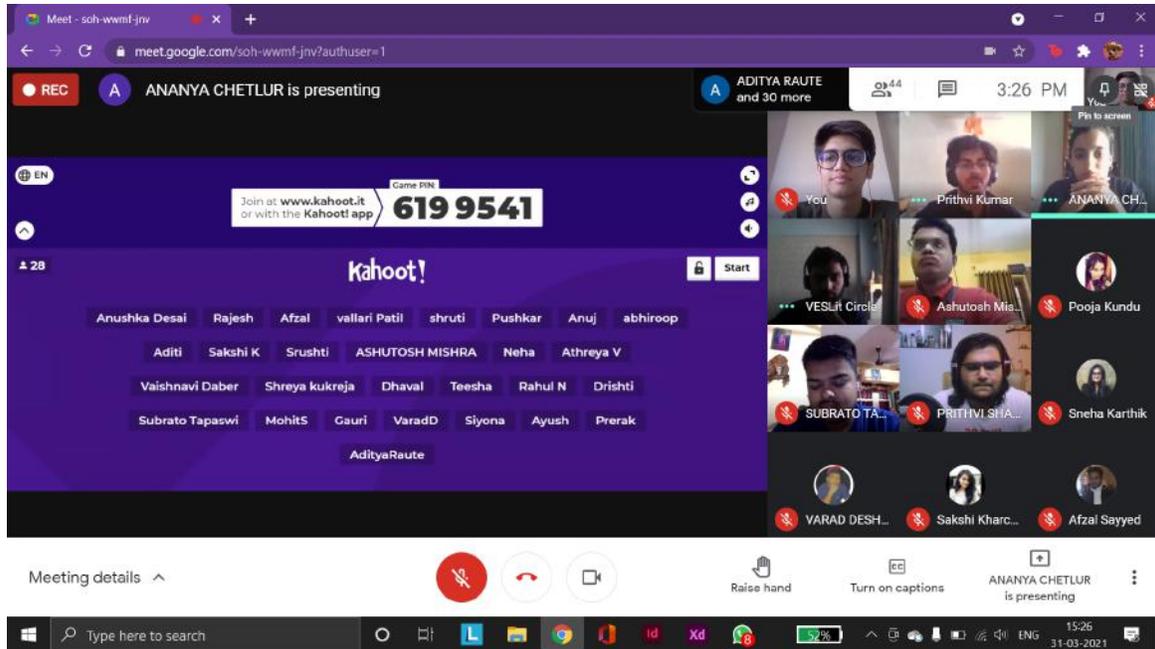
The Spell Bee was conducted on the 31st of March, moderated by C.V. Ananya (D19) and Prithvi Kumar (D7A).

To adapt to the online mode, an initial elimination round was held on the kahoot platform. The top 10 performers would advance to the next round.

The first round was **The Faceoff**.

Here, the participants would be paired in tournament seed format, i.e rank 1 would face rank 10, rank 2 would face rank 9, and so on.

The round required participants to submit a list of words to the moderators for a quality check. After approval, the participants would ask their paired competitor to spell the list, as they dictated each word. Once both sides completed their lists, the person with the higher point total would advance.



The elimination round was held on Kahoot.

Thus, the pool was winnowed down to 5 people, who would participate in **The Gauntlet**.

To change up the regular monotonous spell bee format, we introduced the gauntlet, which made use of interesting word games.

The Gauntlet consisted of four sub rounds:

1. **Frescorers** - A string of letters would be given, with three blanks in the middle. The objective is to fill those three letters, such that the first segment of the word and the last segment of the word (counting the three letters), would form two different words.
For example: Fre__rers - SCO gives Frescoreres, i.e Fresco and Scorers
2. **Anagrams** - A jumbled string of letters would be given, and the participant would have to unscramble it to produce a valid English word.
3. **Homophones** - A sentence would be given, with two words missing. These words would be homophones, and would have to be guessed based on the context of the sentence.
4. **Addagrams** - A three letter word would be given, and the participant would have to find one 4,5,6,7, and 8 letter word that contains this word

From the 5 who participated in the gauntlet, the three with the highest scores would proceed to the final round, **Rapid Fire**.

Here, each participant would have 1 minute to spell the words asked by the moderator, who had a list of ten words.

Finally, the person with the highest score would be declared the winner of the VESLit Week Spell Bee.

Dhaval Mistry (D13) was the participant who earned this title, with Athreya Vijayaraghavan (D14A) coming in at second place, followed by Prerak Moolchandani (D7A) in third.

Day 3: 1st April, 2021

- **The Mystery Of Tracy Johnson**

This event was entirely organised and conducted by the Second Year Council. It was designed to be a murder mystery event, and was one of the events with maximum participation in VESLit Week.

All the participants were given a plotline to find out the killer. On the 31st of March the character sketch and the story of the entire kingdom was given out. Every team was given a set of 10 questions on the morning of 1st April. The event started at 3:30PM with the hosts introducing the event to everyone. The floor was then open to questions after which the participants were free to visit any of the suspects and ask them questions about the murder. However a team was allowed to ask no more than 3 questions to every suspect. After a 1 hour discussion the participants were given time till 11:59 PM to write their respective articles.



Participants clearing their doubts before the start of the Murder Mystery event.

This event saw more than 30+registrations and every participant put up a great performance coming up with ideas and crafting a story. The event was judged by Faaiz Dastagir and Manoj Ayyapan. The Winners of the event were:

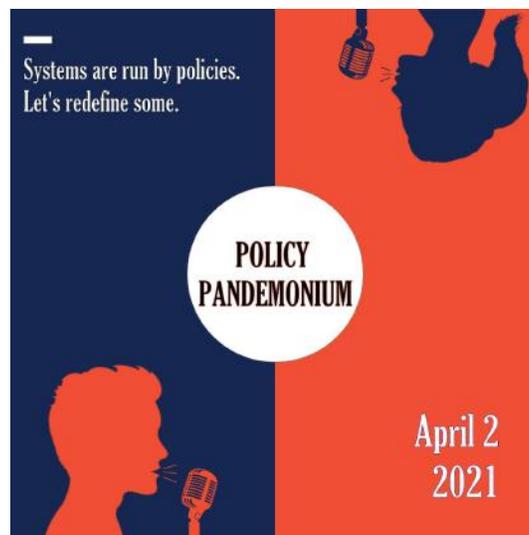
1. Anuj Bagad (D2C) and Atharva Joshi (D2C)
2. Akshiti Kachhawah (D1AD) and Sarthak Bansod (D1AD)
3. Aditi Mishra (D1E) and Shrushti Devlekar (D1E)

Day 4: 2nd April, 2021

● Policy Pandemonium

“Can you sway crowds? Can you run propagandas? Do you want to play a role in redefining adversities by designing and implementing groundbreaking policies?” is what the poster inviting participants for Policy Pandemonium read.

The event was an attempt to encourage critical discussions and help the teams think beyond conventional solutions. As discussed in MUN-Division meetings, the participating teams were divided into three groups of five teams each. The five teams in each group were provided with Rules Of Procedure explaining the event flow and a problem statement concerning the state in highlight and possible causes and consequences. The teams were asked to study and research for the brief assigned and prepare a policy document which was to be submitted a few days before the event (31st March). The teams in a group had to review the policies of other teams and try tracing possible logical fallacies and inaccuracies in the documents to fruitfully further the discussions in the main event.



Poster of Policy Pandemonium.

The main event - 'Assembly' was conducted on 2nd April' 21 via Google Meet. For each group, two moderators from the council were assigned to ensure a smooth functioning. Each team had to deliver a speech explaining the statement and their policies which was followed by a Q&A session with fellow teams. The discussions brought numerous innovative and feasible solutions to the table for analysis. The event had certainly put the research, problem solving and debating skills of teams to the test. The moderators also provided the participating teams with feedback and suggestions. The event was concluded with enlightening words delivered by the Head and Deputy Head of the MUN Division. The teams were judged on the basis of appeal of introductory speech, feasibility of policies and participation in policy-analysis.

The winners for the event were :

Group A: Yashraj Mulwani (D2A) and Ananya PandeY (D2C)

Group B: Karthik Avhad (D9A) and Sumit Jadhav (D9A)

Group C: Pooja Gupta (D13) and V. Anuparvathy (D9A)

From bringing well-researched policy opinions to the table to engaging in interactive discussions, this event certainly helped the teams to effectively develop a multitude of skills through its course. The event introduced variations of MUN procedures via the tasks and encouraged people to actively take part in civil discourse.

- **Cut The Music**

As a part of VESLit week, the Films Division organised two events, as follows:

- a. Video Editing Workshop - This was an extremely successful event, garnering the attention of around 140 students. Aditya Bhoir and Tarun Mishra hosted this workshop, effectively imparting their extensive knowledge of Premiere Pro to the attendees. They covered all that one would need to set out on the journey that is video editing. Spanning the course of two days, this workshop was well received by all who attended.
- b. Cut The Music - A submission based event, Cut The Music encouraged participants to apply their creativity and editing skills to create a music video for any song of their choice. The usage of original footage was encouraged, to elevate their filmography skills. After a tough decision, team D2A was declared the overall winner.

D2A members: Manasi Shah, Vansh Pahuja, Shreya Kukreja, Yashraj Mulwani and Shrey Panchamia.



Poster for Cut the Music.

Day 5: 3rd April, 2021

- **Debate**

Is an audience really necessary for sports or is the Covaxin safe as they claim it to be? No matter the topic, everyone's got varying opinions. So VESLit was here to present the perfect platform for enthusiastic debaters to put forth their thoughts and debate in a constructive way. Interested participants were required to register before the 26th of March 2021 at midnight.

22 teams of two participants registered for the debate competition. The eliminations were held on the 27th of March 2021. The topics were released at 3 pm while the eliminations began at 6 pm. The eliminations were scheduled in the evening to avoid any clashes with the students' lectures. The topics for the eliminations were 'betting and gambling should be considered legitimate sources of income and should be legalized' and 'Indian justice system leans towards the rich.'

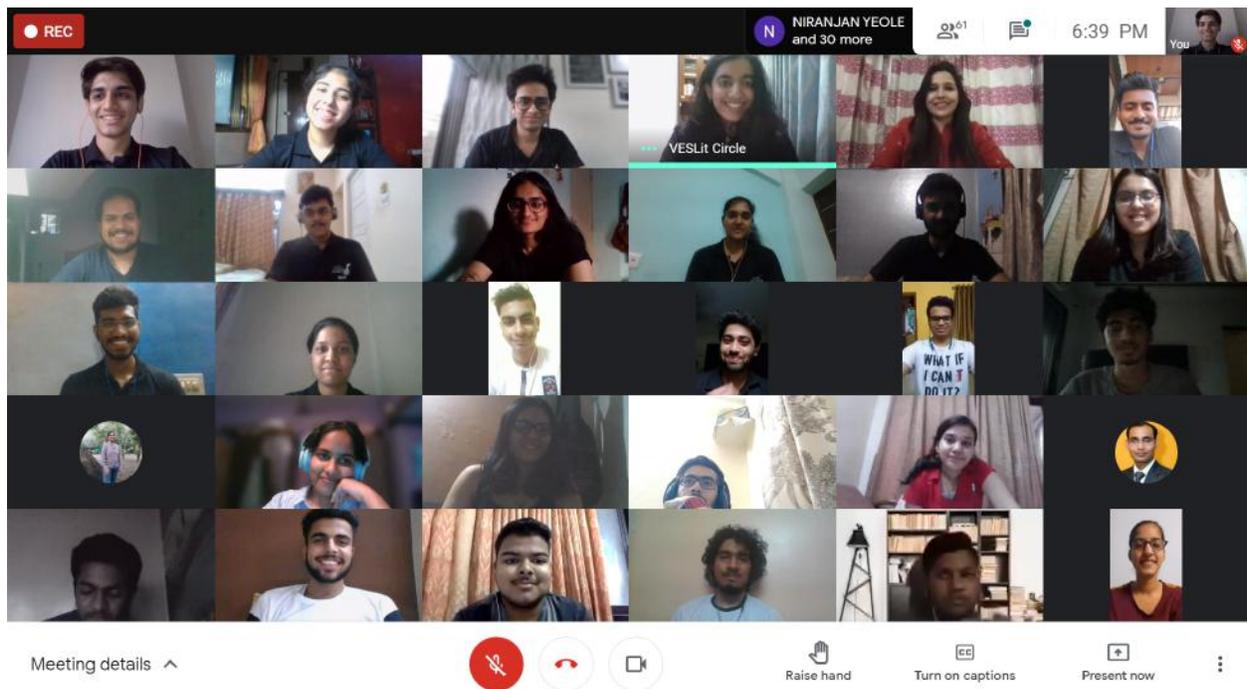
The format for the debate was 1-3-1, that is, 1-minute introduction, 3 minutes rebuttal, and 1-minute conclusion.

The top ten teams were selected for the quarter-finals, which were held on the 29th of March, 2021. The topic for the debate was ‘the pandemic has had a debilitating effect on humankind, from which it may not rise’. The eliminations and quarter-finals were judged by the VESLit student head, deputy head, Debate division head, and deputy head.

Out of these 10 excellent teams, the top 4 teams were selected for the semi finals and then the best 2 teams for the finals. Both the semi finals and the finals were conducted on the 3rd of April. The winners and Runners up for this event were:

Winners - Pooja Gupta (D13) and V Anuparvathi (D9A)

Runners up - Tanuja Upadhyay (D13) and Kartiki Pande (D13)



A Closing Ceremony was held to announce the results and declare the winners of VESLit Week 2021.

CONCLUSION

This has been a report of our activities for this academic year. It has taken some adjusting to while transitioning online but we have tried to make the best out of it by tailoring our events to suit an online platform. The entire council has worked very hard, and we have tried to keep our focus on initiating more and more students into literature based activities. So while we had our major formal events such as Debate and MUN, we also had several smaller informal events to build our engagement with the students. VESLit Week has seen some record participation this year, and our activities have been well appreciated and recognised by the students.