

HARITHKRAM MODEL UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY 2017



INFORMATION HANDBOOK

A TWO DAY YOUTH ASSEMBLY FOR BUDDING ENVIRONMENTALISTS

FOCAL THEME

MAKING CITIES SUSTAINABLE

VENUE:

Seminar Room

21-22 September

Shaheed Bhagat Singh College
Sheikh Sarai, Phase-2, New Delhi- 110017

MESSAGE FROM THE PATRON



It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you to *Harithkram – The Environment Society* of Shaheed Bhagat Singh College and to introduce you to a place of transformation for potential blossoming environmentalists across India. Through meticulous hard work put in by our students of Harithkram society, we are presenting the third edition of the two-day Youth event, **Harithkram Model United Nations Environment Assembly 2017** (HMUNEA '17) to be held on 21st -22nd September, 2017.

I hope that you will appreciate this nascent step of our students in nurturing and integrating the expertise across the world, with an aim to educate participants about current events, topics in international relations, diplomacy and the United Nations agenda relating to the environment. Indeed, this innovative assembly will provide a unique platform to all the young minds that have a passion for understanding the intricacies of environment and a willingness to work towards its betterment. The focal theme of the conference this year is "Making cities sustainable" which presents a stage for the young minds to discuss and deliberate on the crucial Sustainable Development Goal-11, set forward by the United Nations in 2015.

As an institution, we are committed towards shaping the future global citizens and promoting the faith and confidence of all the participants. I take this opportunity to congratulate all the members of the Harithkram- Environment society, young green brigade, for this noble initiative under the mentorship of Dr. V.A.V. Raman.

With warm regards and best wishes,

Dr. P. K. Khurana
Principal

MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF-ADVISOR



Greetings from the Steering Committee of Harithkram- The Environment Society, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi. Tomorrow's leaders need to be equipped for future challenges. The youth of today must adequately be trained for the future and be made to commit to facilitating environmental education in a sustainably educated world of tomorrow.

While participating in the activities of Harithkram and its scholastic conference, the novice student's mind may focus on devising innovative ways to find solutions to problems of environment, and execute them optimally. It is therefore a matter of great honour to announce the two-day event **Harithkram Model United Nations Environment Assembly** (H-MUNEA'17) to be held on 21st -22nd September, 2017 : a revolutionary platform for emerging environmentalists. H-MUNEA, will serve as an academic exemplar with an aim to educate participants about the current critical scenario regarding sustainable cities and how to achieve it. Keeping the environmental historicity in mind while crafting this particular event, the young minds have taken a pivotal stage in transfiguring and tutoring the international community with the common vision of global sustainability.

I am thankful to my students for advancing this innovative step in order to make a positive contribution to the community. I also hope that the society's website (www.harithkram.org) will be able to provide a wealth of information and resources on key environmental issues at hand.

Best Wishes,

Dr. V.A.V. Raman
Staff Advisor
Harithkram- The Environment Society

MESSAGE FROM THE CONVENER



Greetings from the Steering Committee of Harithkram-The Environment Society, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University Of Delhi. It's a great privilege to commence the two day event Harithkram Model United Nations Environment Assembly (H-MUNEA'17) to be held on 21st -22nd September, 2017, providing a platform for young environmentalists to showcase their revolutionary ideas. H-MUNEA, is held with an aim to edify participants (delegates of various nations) about the current critical scenario regarding sustainable cities and the means to achieve it.

On 1st January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit- officially came into force. The current focal theme "*making cities sustainable*" is taken from the 11th goal of SDGs. Cities are hubs for ideas, commerce, culture, science, productivity, social development and much more. They have enabled people to advance socially and economically. However, many challenges in making sustainable cities that exist include congestion, lack of funds to provide basic services, a shortage of adequate housing and declining infrastructure. The challenges cities face, could be undertaken in ways that allow them to continue to thrive and grow, while improving resource use and reducing pollution and poverty. The future we want includes cities of opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, housing, transportation and more. I believe that, youth of the nation have the talent, energy and zeal to prevent conflicts, defend human rights, secure peace and realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Building healthy and well-functioning cities and communities that continue to thrive for generations i.e. sustainable and resilient cities should be the foremost goal of young environmentalists. Environment Assembly on 21st -22nd September, 2017, is going to be held for the third time in University of Delhi and in India. This simulation of UNEA of the UNEP offers opportunity for young minds to interact and help bringing out innovative ideas that caters to the challenges for sustainability.

I am thankful to my young environmentalists "*The Green Bhasicols*" for realizing the dreams of a sustainable future through the innovative concept of HMUNEA'17. I hope that all the participants and the members would benefit and imbibe the knowledge and experience form this event.

Best Wishes,

Dr. Krishnanand

Convener

Harithkram- The Environment Society

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, named after the great son of India, Shaheed-e- Azam, Sardar Bhagat Singh, was established as a co-educational college in 1967. It is one of the leading colleges of the University of Delhi imparting higher education in commerce, humanities and social sciences for over four decades. It acquired postgraduate status in a record time of 9 years. The college takes pride in its accomplished faculty.

The college campus is equipped with a fully furnished air-conditioned Seminar Room, computerized library, computer labs, geography lab, impressive infrastructure including a sports ground; with a cricket pitch, a volley-ball court, a basket-ball court, a lawn tennis court which meet international standards.

The college proudly completed its Golden Jubilee in 2017. As a part of Golden Jubilee celebration, different conferences and seminars were being organized in the Golden Jubilee year. Over a period of 50 years, the college has distinguished itself academically and professionally by providing a vibrant and intellectually stimulating academic culture and promoting independence of thought and vision.

Thus, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College apart from distinguishing itself academically is actively involved in various cultural activities, including dance, music and visual and performing arts. Students are encouraged to participate in activities organized both, by the college as well as other colleges in the city, and is noted for sustaining a high level of performance across all fields at all levels. The college has always been proud of its tradition of encouraging student initiatives and alternative forms of creative expression outside the classroom.

The dynamism of the institution is displayed in all its aspects, particularly in the manner in which Shaheed Bhagat Singh College has evolved in response to societal needs and aspirations.

The well-known alumni of the college have meaningfully contributed towards business, culture and the society at large.

HARITHKRAM- THE ENVIRONMENT SOCIETY

Harithkram, The Environment Society of Shaheed Bhagat Singh College was inaugurated by the eminent Environmentalist and Writer Padma Shri Sunita Narain on September 7, 2012. Its mission is to create Environmental Awareness and promote green and sustainable activities in and around the college. It develops and channelizes the creative ideas of the young and potential environmentalists towards a greener world via team building.

The society focuses primarily on sensitizing the students on environmental issues. Our aim is that an increasing number of students showcase deep interest towards the environment and make Harithkram not just any other society, but a forum for constructive discussions and debates on any and every green cause. The society has been actively involved in participating in eco-campaigns organized by the Delhi Government.

Harithkram conducted India's first Model United Nations Environmental Assembly based on UNEP's United Nations Environmental Assembly in the year 2014 named Harithkram Model United Nations Environmental Assembly (H-MUNEA'14). The society also organized a two day youth conference Delhi University Sustainable Forum (DUSF) on 28th- 29th September, 2016 at India International centre. The focal theme of the conference was "Sustainable Development Goals-The Way Forward" and provided a great platform for the young environmentalists to discuss and deliberate on key environmental issues. The society's effort has also resulted in establishment of Herbal Garden in the college premises. The society continued its effort on generating awareness regarding the environmental issues among the youth through celebrating various international movements (like Earth Hour, World Environment Day, etc.). The students of the society also represented college in the Inter University Competition on Water Resources Management (IUWRM) organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and TERI-University. It has also showcased its committed action to environmental sustainability (Ground Water recharging wells in College Campus, Recycling papers used during the DUSU elections, Water and Electricity Audit) in the Annual University Festival of University of Delhi- "Antardhvani'15" and various other platforms.

This society is guided by the core conviction that young people are a powerful and untapped force that can bring about a positive change in their communities and nations. Such a force is essential to bring about a paradigm change in our society. It is a medium for us to direct our unbounded zeal and energy towards making a healthy and stable society.

HMUNEA 2017

Model UNEA or M-UNEA is an academic simulation of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environmental Programme that aims to educate participants about current events, topics in international relations, diplomacy and the United Nations agenda pertaining to the environment.

The first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of United Nations Environment Program had convened at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi with more than 1,200 participants, including Environment Ministers, Government delegates, representatives of major group and stakeholders. UNEA is a result of the call made by world leaders at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Brazil in June 2012, to strengthen and upgrade UNEP as leading global environmental authority that would set the global environment agenda and establish universal membership in its Governing Council. Subsequently, at the first universal session of the UNEP Governing Council held in February 2013, Member states suggested the UN General Assembly that the Governing Council, the governing body of UNEP in place since 1972, constituting of 58 member states, be renamed as the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Program with a universal membership. In March 2013, the General Assembly adopted the resolution A/RES/67/251, formally changing the designation of the governing Council to the “United Nations Environment Assembly”. The first ever UNEA session took place from the 23rd to the 27th June 2014, with a view to adopting an outcome that would spell out concrete actions to address key environmental challenges at hand.

Keeping this historical event in mind where environment had taken centre stage in the international community and with the common objective of setting up a path for global sustainability, Harithkram, the environment society of Shaheed Bhagat Singh College embarks on holding **Harithkram Model United Nations Environment Assembly on 21st-22nd September, 2017**, the third time in University of Delhi and in India. This simulation of UNEA of UNEP will offer a room for varied brainwaves to collide and help in coming up with a richer the discourse in addressing the key issues at hand.

For all those care-takers of the environment, who have always desired to ensure inviolability of environment intact, to those who have longed themselves to become a mouthpiece of environment, this will be a splendid opportunity.

It will provide an extra-ordinary platform to those young ignited minds, who are passionate to make their grey cells to work upon some of the pressing and intriguing issues pertaining to environment, energy and sustainability that confront the world today and deliberate on global environment issues. Together they will engage in a lively debate, searching for solutions to the complex conundrums of the contemporary international environmental politics and in doing so, hone and perfect their skills of diplomacy and debate.

Each delegate will represent a member state of the United Nations and he will present the position of his country in light of the given agenda with an ultimate aim of passing a resolution that is broad and comprehensive enough to provide an adequate solution to the issue at hand, while at the same time being acceptable to as many members states as possible.

In the interest of making the simulation realistic and credible, all delegates are expected to set aside, for the duration of the conference, their personal views on the issues, and to adopt the stance and attitude of the country they are representing. If, thus, realism is one pillar of UNEA simulation, then compromise is certainly our second guiding principle.

During the sessions, great emphasis will be laid on conducting discussion as authentically as possible. The procedural rules governing debate are thus closely modelled on the lines of the actual United Nations Assembly with a few changes with being made as per the requirement of the H-MUNEA.

Thus, in a small way, HMUNEA will keep up the spirit of the guiding principles set out by the founders of the United Nations in the Preamble of the Charter: *“to produce tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours”*.

This year **Harithkram Model United Nations Environment Assembly** will be convened under the focal theme of **“Making Cities Sustainable”**. The Conference consists of one technical session.

AWARDS

- ❖ Best Delegate Award
- ❖ Book Delegate Award
- ❖ Honourable Mention (2)
- ❖ Best Press Coverage

CONCEPT NOTE

A sustainable city implies a city that is well-planned, eco-friendly, where development is not at the cost of environment. Such compact cities are more efficient, inclusive and sustainable. There are better services, better facilities, and a better and eco-efficient living.

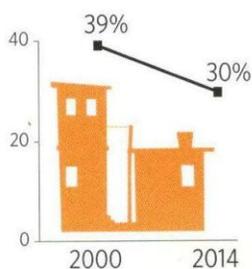
However, to the world at large this concept of making cities sustainable is a major challenge. A majority of the countries are still incompetent to rule out and manage the maps of these urban futures. As a result climate change, ecological imbalance, food insecurity, energy inefficiency and economic instability are still prevalent and have already become an alarming threat to the world.

An estimation of the United Nations has reported that by 2050, 70% of the world's population would be living in urban areas. Would the cities that provide the socio-economic benefits endure to sustain such major proportion of the population? The question that pertains is whether the present layout of cities is sufficient or reliable for the future. The cities that head towards an economic growth are they not also affecting ecological growth?

Making cities sustainable has now become a need. It is very much important to raise this agenda and welcome a change from concrete infrastructure to an environmentally safe one. This *safe* is in terms of a well-planned and well-executed layout of cities that is adaptive to the environment.

Social development, Economic development, Environment management and urban governance are the four pillars defined by the United Nations for achieving sustainable cities. Clearly, a better picture must be framed today that sustains a better tomorrow.

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Proportion of global urban population living in slums

Goal 11 aims to renew and plan cities and other human settlements in a way that fosters community cohesion and personal security while stimulating innovation and employment.

- ▶ In 2014, 880 million people lived in urban slums, or 30 per cent of the global urban population, compared to 39 per cent in 2000.
- ▶ In many burgeoning cities around the world, populations are moving outwards, far beyond administrative boundaries.
- ▶ In 2014, about half the urban population globally was exposed to air pollution levels at least 2.5 times above the standard of safety set by the World Health Organization.
- ▶ As of 2015, 142 countries were developing national-level urban policies; of these, 82 countries were already in the process of implementation and 23 had reached the monitoring and evaluation stage.



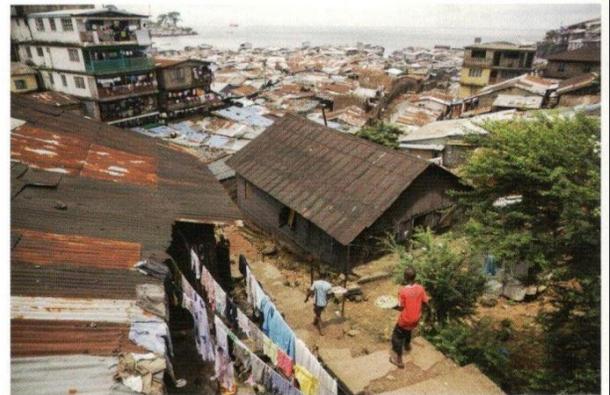
Almost half the global urban population is exposed to ambient air pollution levels at least 2.5 times the maximum recommended level

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

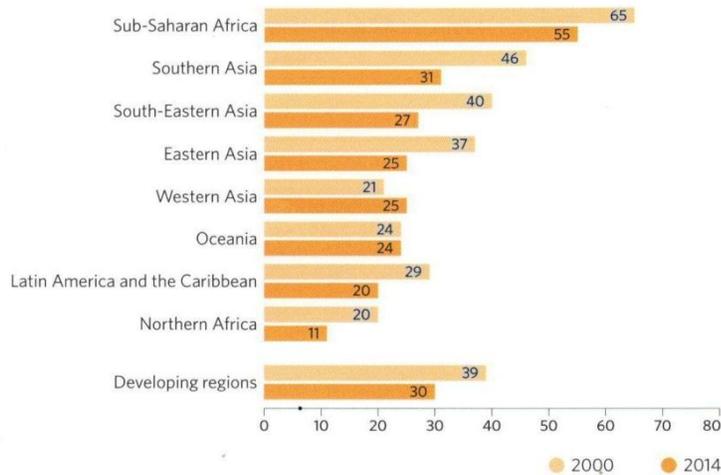


Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Today, more than half the world's population live in cities. By 2030, it is projected that 6 in 10 people will be urban dwellers. Despite numerous planning challenges, cities offer more efficient economies of scale on many levels, including the provision of goods, services and transportation. With sound, risk-informed planning and management, cities can become incubators for innovation and growth and drivers of sustainable development.



Proportion of urban population living in slums, 2000 and 2014 (percentage)



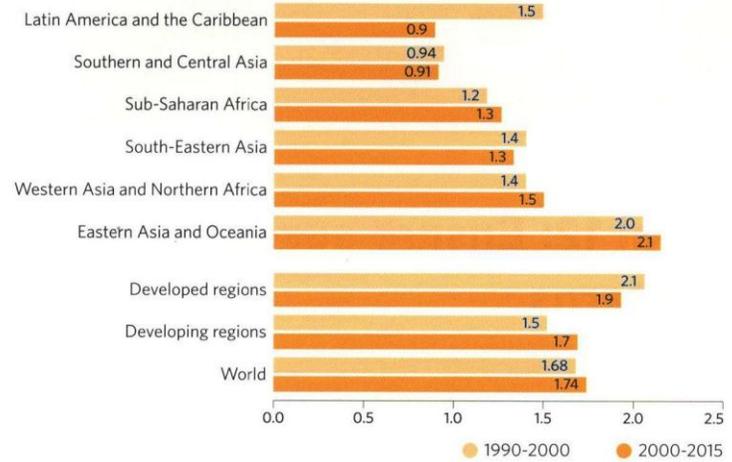
Almost a third of the urban population in developing regions still live in slums

In 2014, 30 per cent of the urban population in developing regions lived in conditions categorized as slums. In sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion was 55 per cent—the highest of any region. Though the percentage of city dwellers living in such conditions declined over the last decade, more than 880 million people around the world were still living in slums in 2014. Concerted action will be needed to address this challenge and enhance resilience because cities remain magnets for people seeking greater opportunities and a better life.

Urban sprawl is found in many cities around the world

In many burgeoning cities around the world, growing populations are moving outwards, far beyond administrative boundaries. Urban sprawl is found in many regions: Eastern Asia and Oceania had the highest ratio of land consumption to population growth in the world from 2000 to 2015, developed regions were second. Only Latin America and the Caribbean and Southern and Central Asia saw a ratio of less than 1.0, meaning that cities in these regions became more densely populated. Unfortunately, a low value for this ratio is not necessarily an indication that urban dwellers are faring well because it can indicate a prevalence of overcrowded slums. Unplanned urban sprawl is associated with increased per capita emissions of carbon dioxide and hazardous pollution and often drives housing prices up, all of which hamper sustainable development.

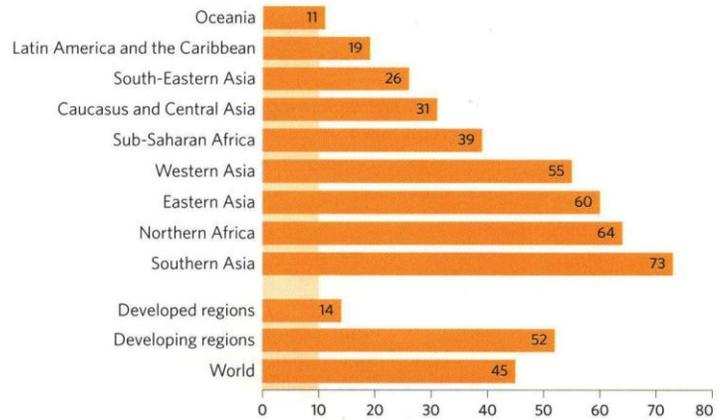
Average ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate, 1990-2000 and 2000-2015, based on a stratified sample of 194 cities



Cities in every part of the world have dangerously high levels of air pollution

Air pollution is a major environmental risk to health. Globally, ambient (outdoor) air pollution in both cities and rural areas is estimated to have caused 3.7 million premature deaths in 2012. In 2014, about half the urban population worldwide was exposed to air pollution levels at least 2.5 times above the safety standard set by the World Health Organization (WHO). No region had annual average mean concentrations of particulate matter below the maximum level set by WHO of 10 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$).

Average annual mean of particulate matter of 2.5 microns in diameter or smaller (PM_{2.5}) concentration levels in urban areas ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), 2014



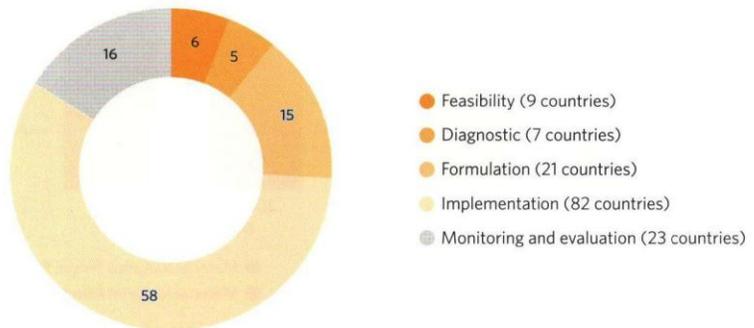
WHO maximum recommended air pollution level: 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Note: Data reported only for WHO member States.

Nearly three-quarters of countries have implemented or are working to implement national-level urban policies

National policies and regional development plans that take into account the specific needs and characteristics of urban areas are essential to sustainable development. As of 2015, 142 countries were developing national-level urban policies; of these, 82 countries were already in the process of implementation and 23 had reached the monitoring and evaluation stage. The vast majority of these urban policies can be further aligned with SDGs and can be disaggregated by key themes of the sustainability agenda. They are a way to connect national policy to local action.

Proportion and number of countries that are implementing national urban policies by stage of implementation, 2015 (percentage)



CHIEF GUEST FOR INAUGURAL SESSION



“Distinguished Environmentalist, Scholar, Eco-feminist and Founder, NAVDANYA”

Dr. Vandana Shiva, born on 5th November, 1952 is an Indian Scholar, Environmental Activist, and anti-globalization author. Shiva, currently based in Delhi, has authored more than twenty books.

She is one of the leaders and board members of the International Forum on Globalization (along with Jerry Mander, Edward Goldsmith, Ralph Nader, Jeremy Rifkin, etc.), and a figure of the global solidarity movement known as the alter-globalization movement.

Vandana Shiva plays a major role in the global *Ecofeminist* movement. According to her 2004 article *Empowering Women*, Shiva suggests that a more sustainable and productive approach to agriculture can be achieved through reinstating the system of farming in India that is more centered on engaging women. She believes that ecological destruction and industrial catastrophes threaten daily life, and the maintenance of these problems have become the responsibility of women.

She has argued for the wisdom of many traditional practices, as is evident from her interview in the book *Vedic Ecology* (by Ranchor Prime) that draws upon India's Vedic heritage. She is a member of the scientific committee of the Fundacion IDEAS, Spain's Socialist Party's think tank. She is also a member of the International Organization for a Participatory Society. She received the Right Livelihood Award in 1993, and numerous other prizes.

CHIEF GUEST FOR CLOSING SESSION



“Associate Director, Climate Change & Energy, WWF-India”

Dr. Suchismita Mukhopadhyay works with the Climate & Energy programme at WWF-India. Her work spreads across clean energy access, climate and energy aspects in cities, climate innovation, low carbon development, renewable energy scale-up and climate policy. Suchismita holds a Ph.D. in Environment Management from Forest Research Institute, Dehradun.

EXECUTIVE BOARD (CPR)



President: **Atishay Jain** is currently pursuing Btech in Computer Science from K.R. MANAGALAM UNIVERSITY. Being an ardent debater and public speaker, he is passionate about MUNning. He is known for thinking on his feet and quick decision-making. He has enjoyed MUNning right since the beginning and believes that it instills within those participating great diplomatic skills and confidence. It is also a great platform where one gets to meet a number of people. He believes that through DEBATE, DIPLOMACY and DECORUM one can easily get buy in the MUN universe. He is a fun lover and promises the best motions of entertainment.



Vice-Chairperson: **Rohit Arora**, an Alumnus of Manav Rachna International School has done a number of MUNs as a delegate and is a renowned name in the executive board panel and secretariat of the Indian MUN Circuit. He is a very hardworking man and leaves no stone unturned to make any conference a huge success. He believes MUNs can act as an opportunity for students to add to their skill set and enhance them.



Vice-Chairperson: **Shivam Gupta** is Indian and currently is a freshman doing Political Science Honours from University of Delhi. He started doing MUNs in 2013 and has more than 50 MUNs in power of several stakeholders with an experience of mostly all major committees. His special interest and attachment are in the committees with an economic and financial background. He observes MUNs not only as a medium of advancing knowledge through interaction but also an emerging "political forum" where the 'Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression' is fully open without any regional restrictions. Additionally, he has several other hobbies apart from debating, like composing poems, swimming and painting.



Rapporteur: **Sista Srinivas** is currently pursuing Political Science Honours from Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, and his hobbies are to play monopoly and sleeping. He believes that MUNs are a great platform to majorly improve confidence level and give an insight into the working of the UN. He hopes everyone participating, takes their roles seriously and delegates should not be hesitant to speak up since in the end this is a public speaking event.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS



Head & Editor-in-Chief, International Press: **Anushka Goel** is a third year Sociology Hons student at Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi. Having an experience of 11 MUNs a Delegate, Report, Editor as well as Editor-in-Chief, she has also worked in the field of Content Writing with companies like Being Indian and UrbanClap. Apart from MUN, her interest lie in music and fandoms.

STUDENT COORDINATORS

STUDENT CONVENER (s)



Muskan Bansal



Shubham Saket

DEPARTMENT COORDINATOR (s)

Sponsorship

Tushar Singh

Rhythm Patel

Public Relations

Aakriti Agarwal

Stuti Belwal

Marketing

Anshu Pawa

Sanna Mahajan

Logistics & Technical

Akash Priyadarshi

Arghadeep Das

OUR PARTNERS



PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

VENUE: SEMINAR ROOM (C-5)

Day 1 September 21, 2017 (Thursday)

08:30 hrs.: Reporting time for delegates to HMUNEA

08:30 - 10:00

Registration

10:00 - 11:30

Inauguration

(Chief Guest: Dr. Vandana Shiva, Navdanya)

11:30 - 12:00

High Tea

12:00 - 13:00

Introductory Session

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch

14:00 - 17:00

HMUNEA'17- Session 1

Day 2 September 22, 2017 (Friday)

08:30 hrs.: Reporting time for delegates to HMUNEA

09:00 - 13:00

HMUNEA'17- Session 2

13:00 - 13:30

Lunch

13:30 - 16:00

HMUNEA'17- Session 3

16:00 - 17:00

Closing Session and Prize Distribution

**(Chief Guest: Dr. Suchismita Mukhopadhyay
WWF-India)**

17:00 onwards

Tea

HARITHKRAM THE ENVIRONMENT SOCIETY



**Shaheed Bhagat Singh College
(University of Delhi)
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www.harithkram.org
