

The International Relations Club

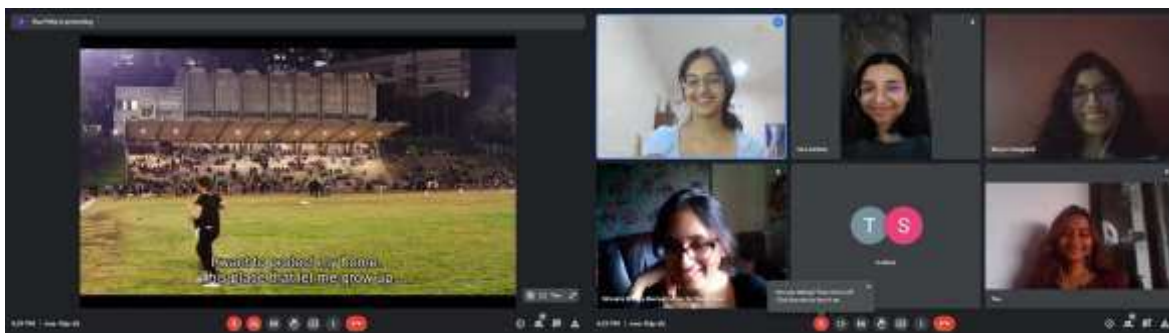
[2021-2022]



Annual Club Report

The academic year of 2021-2022 for the International Relations Club commenced with Executive interviews. Applications were opened on 14 July 2021. We received 10 applications. Interviews were scheduled for 26 July 2021. Regarding interviews, only 9 applicants showed up except Khushi Kumar. The interviews of Yugabratah Sarmah, Ankita Shah & Anusha Bajaj were rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts. Following the interviews, a written assignment of 200 words on the assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse was expected to be submitted by 30 July 2021. Written assignments were only submitted by Yugabratah Sarmah, Samruddhi Srivastava, Rhea Kothrashetti & Sagarika Chetty. Taking into account interview performances as well the written assignment, Samruddhi Srivastava, Rhea Kothrashetti & Sagarika Chetty were selected as Executives. They were added into the respective WhatsApp groups on 31 July 2021.

Our first event, a documentary screening of Anders Hammer's 'Do Not Split', was followed by a discussion on 13th August 2021 in lieu of Indian Independence Day. In addition to that, the Club opened Membership registrations on 28th August 2021 to SY & TY students of Senior College and SY students of Junior College. Our Membership count as per the registration form Excel stands at 142. In addition to these, minor developments include preparation of a short video for Glimpses and assisting in Teacher's Day celebrations.

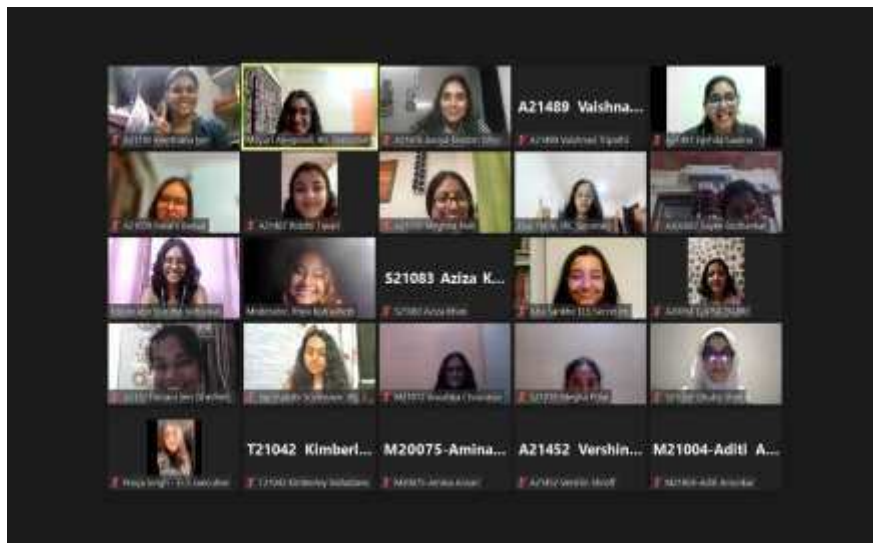


Glimpses was held on 18th August 2021 which marked FYs getting acquainted with IRC for the first time. An online orientation session for FYs was held on 20th August 2021 and was attended by over 100+ first year students. Member registrations were reopened to FYs on 20th September 2021 and were closed on 27th September 2021 with total count at 268. As the initial WhatsApp Member Group had exceeded its limit of 257, two fresh groups were created [133+135] to accommodate all registered Members. In addition to this, FY Executive Applications were opened on 28th September 2021 and closed on 20th September 2021 with total no. of applications received being 26.

Event scheduling for September was particularly difficult due to unavailability of Executives who had to attend credit courses on certain weekdays and Saturday slots being taken by other clubs. However, a VIVAAD was hosted on 25th August 2021 on the question topic "*Is Populism Taking Over The Global South?*".



FY Executive Applications, which were opened on 28th September 2021, closed on 4th October 2021 with total no. of applications received being 26. Interviews for FY Executives were held from 4th to 6th October. All applicants showed up for interviews except Ajitha Karolin Mary, Ayushi Kumari and Aditi Rai. The interviews of Jasmine Alappat, Mitali Agle, Rituparna Shekhar and Fatema Chinwala were rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts. Following the interviews, a written assignment of 200 words on the Pandora Papers leak was expected to be submitted by select applicants by 8th October 2021. In terms of events, a book discussion event on George Orwell's 1984 was held in collaboration with the English Literary Society on 8th October 2021.



The month of November was inactive for the Club in terms of hosting events or being active on social media. This is partly due to no work being assigned in lieu of Diwali Break from 26th October till 15th November 2021. The rest of the month was utilized for onboarding First Year Executives and acquainting them with all aspects related to social media, event management and administration as well as planning the event and social media schedule for December.

After discussions with the Core, Sagarika Chetty was removed as an Executive due to her inactive status and lack of communication since mid-August. Two events were held this month which included a documentary screening and a VIVAAD. A documentary screening of Episode 2 of the Series ‘World’s Most Wanted’ which covered the story of Félicien Kabuga, a financier of the Rwandan Genocide was hosted on 11th December 2021. A VIVAAD was hosted on 15th December 2021 on the question topic “*The Climate Agenda: Who Does It Benefit?*”. Our previously inactive story campaign Akhbaar, which gave a brief rundown of current headlines, was revived on a monthly basis and started on 21st December 2021. The Club will be on hiatus from 24th August 2021 to 2nd January 2022 in lieu of Winter Break.



The first half of January was relatively inactive due to the majority of the team being sick due to COVID. However, two events were held this month which included a collaboration with the Students Social Reform Initiative [SSRI] and a VIVAAD.

A collaborative event on ‘*Naxalism in Eastern India: An Insight Into Armed Peasant Uprisings*’ with SSRI was hosted on 25th January 2022. The resource person for this event was Dr. Rajat Ganguly, a political scientist who teaches at the School of Management and Governance at Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia. The event commenced with Executive Samruddhi Srivastava introducing the resource person, Dr. Rajat Ganguly, who is a Professor at the School of Management and Governance, Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia.



A VIVAAD was hosted on 31st January 2022 on the question topic “*How Have Women’s Rights Movements in East Asia Shaped Up in the 21st Century?*”. This edition of VIVAAD saw the lowest audience turnout for any event hosted by IRC. This is attributed to the event not qualifying for ECC hours.

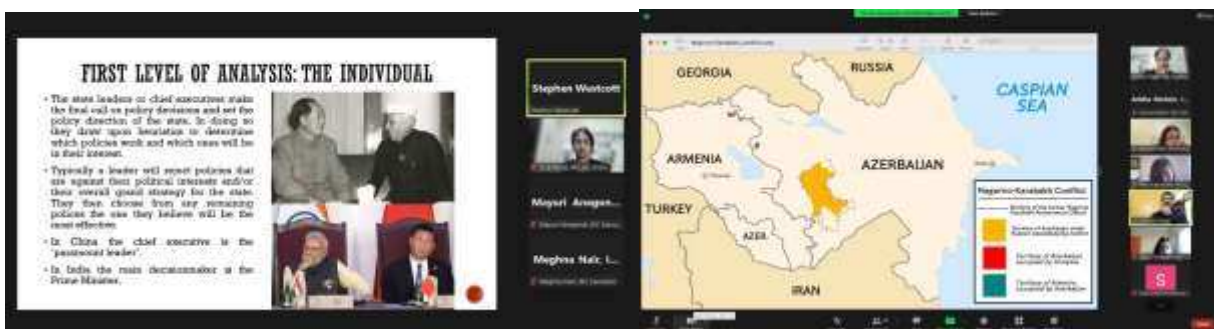


The month of February was an active one in terms of events with IRC hosting a collaboration with ELS and its own two-day Flagship event.

A book discussion event on Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible* was held in collaboration with the English Literary Society on 11th February 2022. The event was moderated by IRC Executive, Rhea Kothrashetti, & ELS Executive, Haritha Vattolikal. Participants were sent a PDF of the book along with an audiobook version and an introductory article on McCarthyism.



IRC's flagship event was a two-day panel on International Territorial Conflicts featuring academics who would discuss the role of major stakeholders, status of negotiations and themes of international security and regional conflict. Day 1, which looked at the Sino-Indian Border conflict, commenced with opening remarks from Secretary Elsa Philip and Executive Samruddhi Srivastava introducing the resource person, Dr. Stephen Westcott, who is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geopolitics and International Relations at Manipal Academy of Higher Education. Day 2, which explored the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict between Armenia & Azerbaijan, commenced with opening remarks from Secretary Elsa Philip and Executive Samruddhi Srivastava introducing the resource person, Dr. Amitabh Singh, who is an Associate Professor in the Center for Russian & Central Asian Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University.



In addition to the above events, applications for the position of Secretary for the academic year 2022-2023 opened on 10th February 2022 and closed on 17th February 2022. Applicants were expected to send across their resume, available marksheets, statement of purpose and agendas for the forthcoming year [factoring in that 2022-23 could adopt a hybrid mode of college]. Executive

Meghna Nair was the sole applicant for the position. Her interview was conducted on 26th February 2022 following which she was granted candidature for the position. Following the designated period of campaigning, she was elected Club Secretary of IRC for the next academic year.



Elsa Mary Philip

Club Secretary, International Relations Club, 2021-2022
TYBA History Single Major

Elsa Mary Philip