

The Third Annual Debate Championship at **St Xavier's High School, Aditya World City**, reached its crescendo with an extraordinary confluence of young minds, compelling ideas and the intellectual courage to question, reason and persuade. More than a competition, it was a celebration of thought—where disagreement became an opportunity for deeper understanding and every argument opened the door to another perspective.

The flagship began in 2024 with 24 participating schools and an ambitious vision: to create a debating platform that would go beyond competition and cultivate rigorous thinking, articulate expression and respectful disagreement. The second edition grew to 35 schools, while the third welcomed 45 schools, marking a remarkable evolution in both scale and intellectual ambition. Across three editions, the championship has emerged as a distinctive platform where young voices encounter diverse perspectives and discover that a compelling argument is built not merely on confidence, but on substance.

Debate as a Life Skill

Under the leadership of school director Shilona Aggarwal and principal Prashant Sharma, the championship reflects a broader commitment to preparing students not simply to perform, but to think independently, communicate with precision and approach complex issues with intel-

lectual maturity.

Preparing Young Debaters

The preparation of the young debaters was strengthened by Ishaani Aggarwal, trainer and former debater with Debaters of India. The championship was adjudicated by an accomplished eight-member judging panel from Aspirant Learning Team in Round 1 and Round 2, bringing together diverse perspectives and considerable expertise. For the finals, among the distinguished adjudicators were Abhipshit, a politics and public policy professional; Mainak Roy, CEO and Co-founder of Simple Education Foundation; and Gaurav Yadav, Founder of Indian Principals' Network and mentor for the debate.

Raising the Intellectual Stakes

The Modified Oxford format further raised the intellectual stakes. Students were required to



Pacific World School lifts the winning trophy

formulate arguments, respond to opposing perspectives and think on their feet. The strongest performances demonstrated that persuasion is most powerful when grounded in reasoning rather than rhetoric.

Pacific World School lifted the winners' trophy, while Indirapuram Public School were the runners-up, emerging at the top of a highly competitive field of 45 participating



During thought-provoking discourse

schools. Their performances exemplified the spirit of meaningful debate—clarity without complacency, conviction without arrogance and persuasion anchored in reason.

A Platform with a Larger Purpose

The championship's growth—from 24 schools in its inaugural edition to 35 in the second and 45 in the third—reflects its expanding reach and growing relevance. What began as an ambitious initiative has evolved into a distinctive platform where young voices encounter diverse perspectives and discover the value of informed, respectful disagreement.

Ultimately, the Third Annual Debate Championship stood for something larger than competition. It created a space where students could question assumptions, examine evidence, engage with unfamiliar perspectives and develop the confidence to express their ideas thoughtfully. Every argument became an opportunity to listen, learn and reconsider.

The championship reinforced a larger educational message: young people must be prepared not only to speak, but also to listen; not only to defend their ideas, but also to question them; and not merely to persuade, but to understand. In giving students the space to question, reason and engage respectfully, St Xavier's High School continues to nurture thoughtful, articulate and intellectually courageous young citizens.