



SOCIETY ACTIVITY REPORT 2016-17

THE ECONOMICS SOCIETY

As the departmental society of the Economics Department, The Economics Society dedicates itself to creating avenues to extend theoretical concepts beyond the classroom. We strive to create a platform to actively engage with the subject – using economic concepts to model real world scenarios, hosting public lectures, panel discussions and frequent informal discussions on various domains of the discipline. The society has six major verticals: Quiz, Committee Simulation, Excel Simulation, Economics Research Group, VC Debate and Lecture, Editorial Board. The academic year 2016-17 witnessed a number of events organized by the society divided over the course of the two semesters. The list of events is as follows:

ODD SEMESTER EVENTS

1. The Fresher's Quiz - 17th August 2016

This year saw the first edition of the Inter-Freshers' Quiz. The business and economics quiz saw participation from students from across the university, in a melee of facts and a frenzy of trivia. The event was a massive success; the same was reflected in both the exceptional quality of questions and the appreciation of the finalists. The event was conducted over three rounds with a total registration of 114 teams.



2. Vinod Chowdhury Memorial Debate and Lecture -7th and 8th September 2016

The Vinod Chowdhury lecture and debate is organized in the fond memory of Professor Vinod Chowdhury, a former Head of Economics Department of St. Stephen's College who was an excellent debater himself. The VC lecture 2016 was delivered by Ms. Rukmini Banerji, CEO of Pratham, on "Assumptions and Realities: The Challenges of School Education in India" where she addressed the lack of quality education which quantitative analysis cannot measure.

The VC debate had 52 teams participating, the highest in the history of the debate. The preliminary round was of conventional debate format where the theme was Brexit. The semifinals and finals were of the parliamentary debate format with topics ranging from Donald Trump's economic policies and tradable carbon credits, to the impact of organizing the Rio Olympics on Brazil's economy.



3. Utilité - 31st August 2016

Utilité 2016 was an Excel based simulation of the world economy. The effect of government intervention in international trade on a nation's welfare was tested by putting tariffs on some countries and allowing free trade in the others. The country which achieved maximum welfare through trade won. A total of 102 teams participated in Utilité 2016.



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ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE

Presents



To Register: <http://tinyurl.com/utilise16>

(Prices worth ₹6000 to be won, Special Prize for Best Fresher Team)

For Details: www.facebook/ecosoc.ssc

Jubin: +91-9971880221

Merin: +91-8447559420

4. Academic Summit - 20th-22nd October 2016

- **Panel Discussion:** The Panel Discussion of the 2016 Academic Summit was on 'Labor Law Reforms: Rewriting India's Growth Story post 1991'. Chief Statistician of India, Dr. TCA Anant, delivered the keynote address and was a part of the panel along with Dr. Nitin Desai (IEG), Dr. Praveen Jha (JNU) and Dr. Sandip Sarkar (IHD). The panelists covered various interesting aspects of labor reforms and laws in their arguments.
- **Committee Simulation:** The UNGA ECOFIN simulation saw participation from delegates assuming roles of countries critical to the agenda, 'Fiscal consequences of tax mitigation and corporate & government corruption', from among the larger body of the General Assembly. The committee saw debate being steered through many relevant issues, such as government involvement, money laundering, tax havens, amongst others. The event was tailor-made to maintain parity between both academic quality and lobbying abilities of the representative countries and saw most delegates gain equal ground in all deliberations.
- **Policy Paper Competition:** The Policy Paper Competition is a pioneering effort by The Economics Society to push for multi-disciplinary studies into complex policy areas by undergraduate students. The Paper Competition, for its 2nd Edition, focused on Labor Laws in India in context of the 25 years since liberalization.
- **Paper Writing Workshop:** As a part of its Academic Summit, The Economics Society organized a research paper writing workshop for undergraduate students. The workshop, conducted by Perna Prabhakar from NCAER, aimed at elucidating the process of paper writing and simplifying some of the obstacles faced by students at every step.



5. Ecquizzite - 5th October 2016

Ecquizzite is a sophisticated quizzing event which attracts the best minds from the circuit. The event is known for its quality of the questions and the unique mix of quizzing with economics. The second edition



of the event was conducted in two rounds. The online preliminary round received registrations from 196 teams. 8 teams made it to the offline round held in college.

6. Talk by Dr. Tarun Gupta - 28th October 2016

The Economics Society, in collaboration with the Mathematics Society, hosted Dr. Tarun Gupta, an alumnus of St. Stephen's College. Dr Gupta is the Vice President of AQR Capital Management, one of the world's renowned Asset Management firms. He delivered a talk on the theme 'Quantitative Investment Strategies'.

EVEN SEMESTER EVENTS

7. National Economics Festival - 13th-14th January 2017

NEF, society's flagship event, received participation from colleges across the country. The Fest is as diverse in its events as it is massive. The events range from excel simulations of the underground economy and casinos to academically intense research paper presentation competitions. An inter-college quiz, a committee simulation and an economics and journalism based event are some of the other events organized. NEF 2017 also hosted exemplary speakers such as Dr. Arvind Panagariya and Dr. Abhijit Banerjee for its Opening and Closing Lectures respectively. A pan India registration of 8 contingents, accounting for 150+ participants, took place. The individual participant registration for the festival was over 800. The events under National Economics Festival were:

- **Inaugural Lecture (13th January 2017): Dy. Arvind Panagariya**

The Inaugural Lecture for National Economics Festival 2017 was delivered by Dr. Arvind Panagariya, Vice-Chairman, Niti Ayog on the topic "Indian Economy: Retrospect and Prospect". The Economics Society journal, Towards Equilibrium, was released during the lecture by Dr. Panagariya. The journal was distributed to all participants of the two day event.

- **Prometheus: The Eco Biz Quiz (13th January 2017)**

Renamed Prometheus for its second edition, the National Economics Festival's Eco Biz Quiz has been a major hit in the quizzing circuit due to the quality of questions and the participants. The event witnessed a registration of 170 teams from across India.



- **Tito in Vegas (13th January 2017)**

Tito in Vegas is a one of its kind Casino Simulation event in Delhi University. The event involves creating excel based games by the society members. The aim of the game is to maximize the team's earnings from their decisions to play a particular game within the given time period. The event is a major crowd puller for NEF and witnessed participation from 200+ teams.

- **NC Ray Paper Presentation (14th January 2016)**

The N.C. Ray Paper Presentation Competition is a prestigious event that has, in the past, attracted the best minds from across the country to put forth their work on any topic related to the field of economics. The event caters to student interest in research during their undergraduate years. The papers were allowed to be on any topic pertaining to economics. Top 10 papers were selected out of the 55 entries that were received.

- **Italiano Mafioso (14th January 2017)**

Italiano Mafioso was an excel simulation that delved into the mysteries of the ancient mafia families from the great islands of Sicily, through a thrilling simulation of the underground economy. The aim of the event was to maximize profits of the family business and to not get caught in the process. It received participation from more than 178 teams.

- **Committee Simulation (14th January 2017)**

The agenda for Committee Simulation as part of NEF 2017 was Global Financial and Monetary Stakeholders' Summit that discussed the measures for regulating crypto currency. With a 25+ member matrix, given the technicality of the agenda, the event experienced high standards of academic quality and lobbying by the participants.

- **Eco-Mediathon (14th January 2017)**

It is an event that links economics and journalism. The 2017 edition saw a revamped version of Eco-Mediathon with increased number of rounds and more linkages to journalism. The event was conducted over 3 rounds with a registration from 110+ teams. The first round being an online quiz, the second and final round were held on campus as a group discussion and interview round respectively.



- **Filler Events (14th January 2017)**

National Economics Festival 2017 edition witnessed Filler Events for the first time. They were introduced as events conducted during breaks and event transitions. As part of filler events, short quizzes and photography challenges were conducted.

- **Closing Lecture (14th January 2017): Abhijit Banerji**

This year a closing lecture was held on the second day of the event. The lecture was delivered by Abhijit Banerji, the author of Poor Economics, on the topic “Entrepreneurship for the Poor”.





8. Economics Research Group

The Economics Research Group is a vertical of the society that has been focusing on development of the research acumen of the interested students. It has been conducting workshops on different aspects of primary and secondary research throughout the year.



9. Excel Sessions and Question Making Sessions

As part of event specific background work, the Excel and the Quiz verticals have also conducted multiple sessions with the students willing to work for the vertical. Excel Sessions, started with basic use of excel, have focused on the process of converting an idea into a simulation based event. On the other hand, the Quiz vertical has conducted sessions and multiple practice exercises with students to teach them the art of question making.