

Report on Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Debate (CRMD) 2025

Key Highlights:

- 1. Prestigious Participation:** 32 premier teams from across India participated in the debate.
- 2. Thought-Provoking Theme:** "The Grand Chessboard: Moves of the Modern Empire" sparked insightful discussions.
- 3. Excellence in Debating:** Winners were SRM University (Januja P and Swayam Krishnan) and Best Speaker was Swayam Krishnan.
- 4. Distinguished Guests:** Eminent journalists Mr. Sanjay Jog, Ms. Poorvi Bhavi, and Mr. Adit Ganguly graced the finale.
- 5. Contribution to SDGs:** CRMD 2025 advanced UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4, 5, 10, 16, and 17.
- 6. Seamless Execution:** The event was successfully organized by FRCRCE's Students' Council, with faculty mentorship and volunteer support.
- 7. Feedback of the event :** A google form feedback was sent across to everyone who was the part of this event.
- 8. Glimpse of event :** Pictures right from inauguration to the grand finale.

Introduction

The Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Debate (CRMD) 2025, the flagship national-level debate competition of Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering (FRCRCE), Bandra, was successfully held on the 22nd and 23rd of August 2025. The event reaffirmed CRMD's position as one of India's most prestigious debating platforms, drawing participation from 32 premier teams across the country.

The theme for this year's debate was "The Grand Chessboard: Moves of the Modern Empire." This metaphorical framework encouraged participants to explore pressing issues of geopolitics, diplomacy, power struggles, and global strategy, thereby elevating discussions beyond the academic into contemporary world affairs.

Debate Format and Rules

The competition was conducted in the Oxford Debate format, following strict rules and structured rounds:

- Each debate consisted of two teams, one proposing and one opposing the motion.
- Each team presented opening and closing speeches, followed by a refutation round.
- Time limits were strictly observed: 4 minutes each for league and quarterfinal speeches, 5 minutes for semifinal and final speeches, with refutation rounds of 10–25 minutes depending on the stage.
- Judges evaluated participants on analysis, confidence, organization, argumentation, engagement, and teamwork.
- Personal comments and use of internet resources (during prep) were prohibited, ensuring fairness.

This structured approach ensured a fair and competitive atmosphere, enabling students to demonstrate logical reasoning, clarity, and eloquence.

Proceedings of the Event

The two-day event began with an Inaugural Ceremony, setting the stage for an intellectually stimulating experience.

Day 1 (22nd August):

- League Rounds (1, 2, and 3) were conducted simultaneously across multiple venues. Teams debated on challenging motions designed to test their versatility and preparedness. The energy was vibrant as participants argued passionately, while adjudicators evaluated with precision.
- The Quarterfinals followed, where the top-performing teams advanced. Debaters engaged in sharp rebuttals and showcased strong content knowledge, clarity of speech, and teamwork.

Day 2 (23rd August):

- The Semifinals heightened the competition, with teams displaying high-quality research, persuasive delivery, and quick thinking.
- The Grand Finale took place at Samvaad Auditorium at 2:00 PM, before an eager audience of students, faculty, and distinguished guests.

Chief Guest and Guests of Honour

The finale was graced by eminent personalities from the field of journalism:

- Mr. Sanjay Jog, Senior Journalist with 37 years of experience.
- Ms. Poorvi Bhawe, News Anchor at ABP Majha.

- Mr. Adit Ganguly, Senior Editor with 17 years of experience.

Their presence enriched the event, and their feedback on debating skills, articulation, and the role of critical thinking in media and society left a lasting impression on the students.

Results and Recognition

At the conclusion of the finals, the results of CRMD 2025 were announced:

- Winners: SRM University – Ms. Januja P and Mr. Swayam Krishnan (₹40,000 prize).
- Runners-Up: IIT Nagpur – Mr. Saadullah Khwaja and Mr. Shlok Shah (₹25,000 prize).
- Best Speaker: Mr. Swayam Krishnan (₹7,500 prize).
- Best Adjudicator: Ms. Sanjyot Umbrajkar (₹7,500 prize).

Acknowledgements

The seamless execution of CRMD 2025 was made possible by the unwavering support of the Management and Principal Dr. S.S Rathod, whose encouragement and vision provided a strong foundation for the event's success. The dedicated efforts of the Students' Council, under the leadership of Ms. Shreeya Kalbhor, Literary and Cultural Secretary, with constant mentorship from Dr. Joseph Rodrigues, CRMD Coordinator, further ensured excellence in every detail. From hospitality and logistics to time management and anchoring, every aspect was managed with utmost professionalism. Faculty members, volunteers, and student anchors also played an instrumental role, making CRMD 2025 a truly memorable and impactful event.

We took feedback from participants, judges, and adjudicators of CRMD 2025, and the responses were truly heartening. Many praised the seamless organisation, hospitality, professionalism, and the high debating standards. There were also valuable suggestions on adjudication transparency, motion balance, and rules clarity which we'll carefully consider to make CRMD even better next year. Overall, the feedback reflected the spirit of CRMD : excellence, growth, and constant improvement.

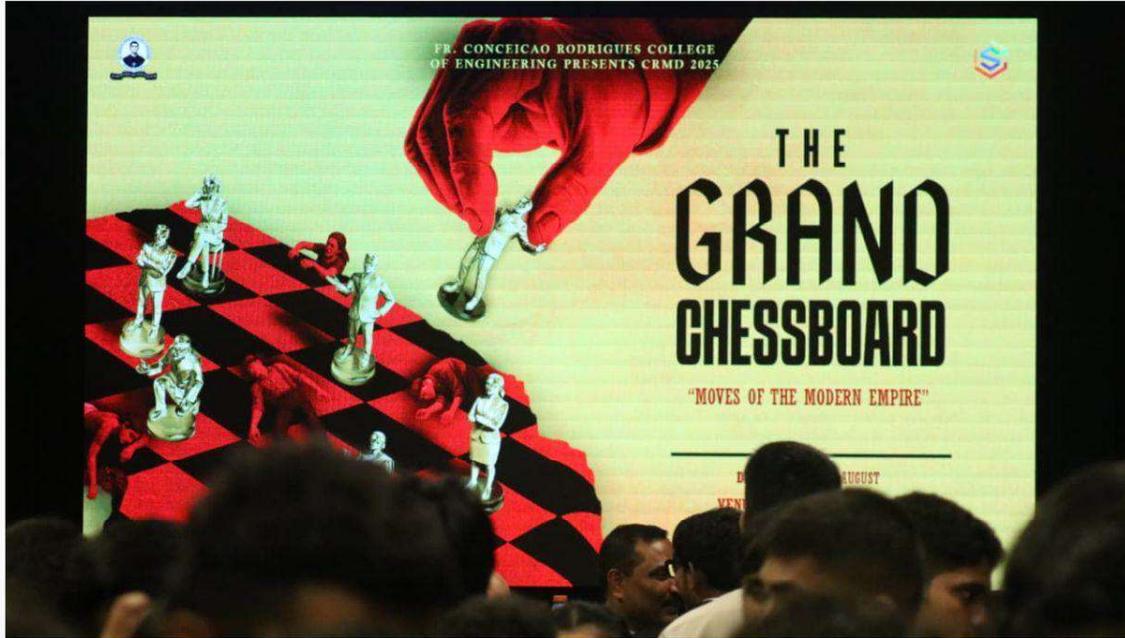
Conclusion

The Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Debate 2025 was not merely a competition but a celebration of ideas, dialogue, and intellectual growth. It fostered skills essential for future leaders: critical thinking, persuasive communication, and respect for diverse perspectives.

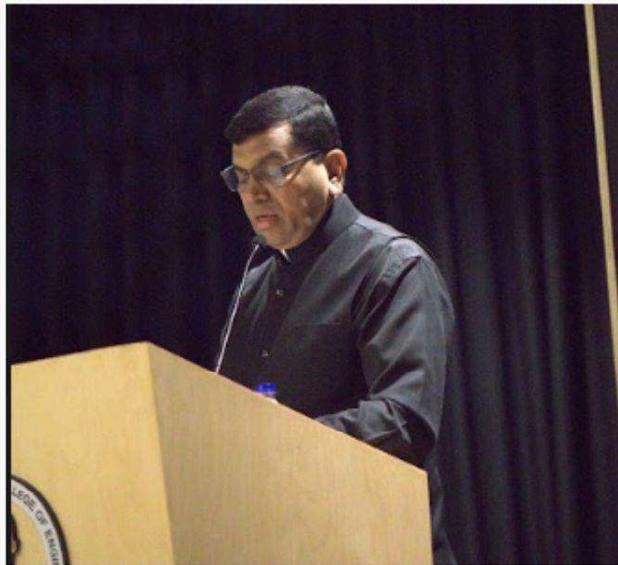
Importantly, the CRMD debate event contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It advances SDG 4 (Quality Education) by enhancing critical thinking, communication, and experiential learning; SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by promoting inclusive participation and representation; SDG 16 (Peace, Justice

and Strong Institutions) by encouraging peaceful dialogue and civic responsibility; and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by fostering collaboration among institutions, judges, and experts. Thus, CRMD nurtures intellectual development while also with the enthusiastic participation of top institutes, the inspiring presence of distinguished guests, and the flawless organization by FRCRCE, CRMD 2025 has once again set a benchmark for excellence in debating culture. It remains a proud milestone in the cultural and literary journey of the college.

Pictures of the event continued in the next page.



Inauguration





influence on global power
militar

League Rounds



Quarter Finals



Semi Finals



THE GRAND FINALE

