



CHRONICLES OF AMERICAN CORNER

2021-22



INTRODUCTION



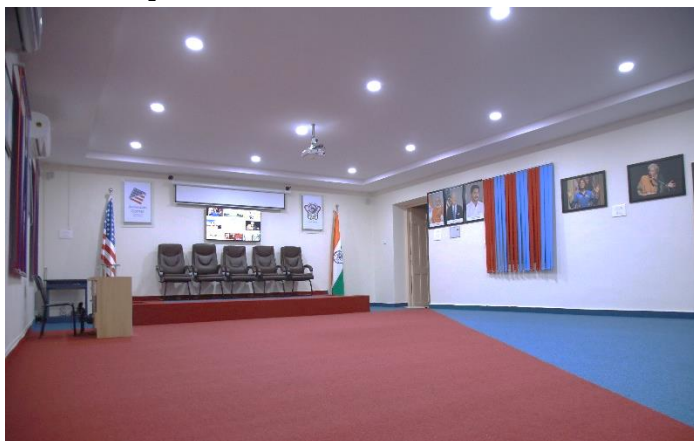
Across the globe, American Corners are established with the sole objective of connecting the local young population with the United States. The corners indeed play a vital role as American outposts to help, foster, and strengthen bilateral ties. Moreover, the corners act as catalysts to promote partnerships between American and local institutions in various fields including education, business, research, innovation, and civil society.



ABOUT AMERICAN CORNER



American Corner in Visakhapatnam, which has the third stand-alone is the cultural outreach center in India and it was established with state-of-the-art facilities, to host discussion groups, seminars, digital video conferencing (DVCs), poster exhibits and meetings with U.S. and local specialists on a wide range of American-focused topics. Through the Corner, young researchers will have access to several American journals and magazines. As well, they will also have access to engage with their counterparts not just in the United States but also across the world. The Corner is aimed at organizing virtual programs that would help youth, researchers, entrepreneurs, scientists and policymakers to engage with their counterparts across the world.



It also facilitates the visitors with American-themed books, videos, and educational materials along with internet access. This can be certainly the first place to visit for accurate and up-to- date information about political, economic, cultural, and educational, trends in the U.S.

INAUGURATION

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, the greatest Visionary of our epoch, Sri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy virtually inaugurated the American Corner in Andhra University from Amravati, on Thursday, 23rd September 2021. The Inaugural was gracious with the presence of the eminent personalities like the U.S Consul General from Hyd, Mr. Joel Reifman, USAID Mission Director in India, Ms. Veena Reddy, Public Affairs Officer, Mr. David Moyer, from U.S. Consulate, Hyderabad, AU Vice- Chancellor P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy, AU Registrar Prof. V. Krishna Mohan, and AU Executive Council Member and mentor of American Corner Dr. James Stephen.



The Honourable Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Sri. Y. S Jagan Mohan Reddy in his inaugural speech gave his heartfelt and copious thanks to the U.S government and he expressed his great delight for choosing Andhra University (AU) in Andhra Pradesh to establish the third American Corner in India and congratulated on the initiative taken by the American Consulate in collaboration with AU. And the Honourable CM hoped that the Corner would go a long way in bridging the skill gaps of the students and will certainly play an important role in enabling the students to study abroad and also referred to the manifold opportunities nationally and globally through the initiation and the establishment of the American Corner. And he wholeheartedly thanked everyone for the initiative steps and encouraged everyone to take the Corner further for catering to the needs of the students of all categories. He later formally pressed the button on the laptop for the virtual launch of the American Corner, which was followed by a video presentation on American Corner at AU.



The Honourable Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University, Professor P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy was extremely happy in saying that by setting up the Corner, Andhra university has crossed one more milestone and taken a further active step toward becoming “A world-class University” and he also opined that with a strong alumni presence across the globe, the Corner will soon have connections with the global community.



Ms. Veena Reddy and District Collector A. Mallikarjuna also spoke on the occasion, mentioning of the educational benefits through American Corner. The Honourable Minister for Industries, Commerce and I.T., M. Goutham Reddy was also present with the CM at Amravati.





He said that the main idea of setting up the Corner is to focus on the development of the English language, women empowerment and to enable students to get the latest information on U.S. education for bridging the gap between the U.S.A. and A.P.



He said that the Corner in Visakhapatnam would certainly pave the way for bettering the working relationship between both the countries, keeping in mind the Indo-

Pacific region. Mr. Reifman also said that the students would profusely get benefited from the Education U.S.A. program and learn more about higher education in the US at the American Corner. He also said that it was purposely made conducive for public gatherings for various important discussions.



After the formal speeches being given by the guests. A Press meet was held immediately after the inaugural had been concluded. The Honourable Vice-Chancellor along with Mr. David Moyer addressed the print and electronic media and told them about the prospect of the American Corner.

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To engage students and young professionals of Andhra Pradesh through workshops, lectures, and outreach activities, which focus on STEM,

entrepreneurship, American culture and American higher education.



- ❖ To work with the young population across the state to empower them to contribute to Andhra-America bilateral relations
- ❖ To focus on the English language and to train forty women teachers on helping them train their students for English Language Tests.
- ❖ To train thirty women trainers each through two of these workshops on the 'Current trends in STEM' in the United States and help them advise their students to plan their careers in a better way.
- ❖ To focus on helping forty young women faculty members and young researchers through one workshop on 'Writing proposals, which will facilitate international research collaboration'.
- ❖ To empower forty young faculty members and researchers through one workshop on 'Clean Energy'.
- ❖ To focus on special lectures with visiting American experts, alumni of Department of State sponsored exchange programs (including the Fulbright, International Visitors Leadership Program), and American diplomats besides the funded workshops.
- ❖ To engage the youth in Andhra Pradesh with American diplomats and experts on a range of issues including commemorative days in the United States, American culture, and American policies.

- ❖ To make students interact with American Corners host representatives from American Universities who wish to interact with local faculty, researchers, and students. For facilitating the institutional linkages.
- ❖ To organize regular programs and (weekly) sessions, which focus on providing students the most accurate, unbiased, free advice on studying in the United States and make students in Andhra Pradesh informed regarding their studies in the United States
- ❖ To conduct book reading sessions exclusively on American literature to make students and faculty familiarised with the tenets of American literature.
- ❖ To focus on regular chat with diplomats on various current topics so as to make students to have understanding on national and global issues.

MENTOR:

Prof. James Stephen Meka is a Professor of Computer Science & Engineering and is the Principal of WISTM Engineering College, Visakhapatnam. He is an Executive Council member of Andhra University and serves on various institution boards. James also acts as the Mentor of American Corner, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam.

James was also a member of the Indian Higher Education Knowledge Delegation that traveled to the United States of America in 2018. He visited some of the premier institutions in the USA like MIT, Harvard, New York University, the University of Connecticut, and University of Pennsylvania. He won the full scholarship award for



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Duke's Research workshop at Duke University, USA. He recently visited Purdue University, where he represented Andhra University Management as part of the MoU between A.U. & Purdue. He gets frequent speaking opportunities on various platforms in India and abroad. He delivered keynote addresses at various conferences at different international platforms, including Brunel University, London Metropolitan University, U.K.

James is known as a passionate teacher, researcher, administrator and also as a social worker with a strong dedication towards community growth.



COORDINATORS:

Two coordinators, Dr. B. Lakshmaiah and Dr. N. Ravi Vincent from the Department of English are appointed to work at the Corner. These two enthusiastic individuals have a keen interest in promoting bilateral relations and are instrumental in connecting Andhra Pradesh to U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad through activities, which

are intent on promoting American culture and Indian-American cooperation, awareness on business, education, culture, and politics and responsibility of participation in the local and global community.

The American Corner coordinators report both to the Andhra University administration and to the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Consulate General in Hyderabad.

American Corner has successfully organized and participated in 29 events during the last six months, which include five workshops, eight chat with diplomats, eight panel discussions, four book reading sessions and four discussions on diverse topics through which hundreds of students, scholars and faculty have been enriched with diverse offshoots of knowledge.



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INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION CURRENT TRENDS



MARCH
18 & 19 2022



A two-day workshop on 'International Collaboration – Current Trends' was organized by American Corner, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam on March 18–19, 2022. The participants of the programme were thirty young women faculty and researchers working at Andhra University and its affiliated colleges who had been selected for the programme on the basis of an invitation.



The session was formally and grandly inaugurated by by Prof. K. Samatha, Rector of Andhra University, and the members of Executive Council of AU, Prof. T. Shoba Sri, Prof. AKM Pawar and Prof. James Stephen. In this inaugural session, the guests conspicuously spoke on the

goals of American Corners across the globe and the most significant activities, which are carried out by the American Corner in collaboration with the US Consulate, Hyderabad, to help students, research scholars and faculty better understand the opportunities for research and collaboration with American universities.



Prof. K. Samatha highlighted the importance of International Collaboration and Current Trends in light of the pre-COVID and post-COVID eras and also the benefits of the exchange of knowledge and experience with the developments in US universities and research centers.

In the first session, Prof. D. M. Mamatha, Registrar, Sri Padmavathi Manila University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, who was a Fulbright Fellow, shared her experiences with the audience through a webinar about international partnerships and its benefits for both students and faculty. And she also spoke about how researchers and the world at large can be benefited by the international partnerships

and how one should go about establishing collaboration with ‘Vision and Innovation’



She also highlighted the importance of going through the Scopus Index to publish qualitative papers in various UGC-approved journals, and then she clearly explained how to develop ‘A project proposal’ or ‘A research proposal’ and about the methodology and structure. In this connection, she made a very clear note of manifold types of proposals such as bilateral fellowships, unilateral fellowships, split—slight fellowship, which means doing research in many countries simultaneously and postdoctoral fellowships.

She also made a mention of Pro Fellow Website, which is one of the most important websites initiated by Wiky Johnson and further spoke on the most important issues of American politics and the educational connections between India and the USA such as USIEF, which means the United States—India Educational Foundation; Fulbright Fellowship; Raman Fellowship; RELO (Regional English Language Office), in Delhi, and ‘Import fellowships’ like predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships.

In the third session, Dr. Vijay Babu spoke about Indian collaboration and scientific research such as UGC, ICR, ISRO, Nehru Fulbright ASRC, and RUSA. And he stressed on inter and multidisciplinary research like application-based research, outcome-based research, action-based research, and society -based research such as

slums in America and slums in India. And he also said about the most crucial points like IPR (intellectual property rights), economic growth and social responsibility.



In the second session, Dr. A.K. Hanuman elaborately lectured on how to connect India and USA, about the plenty of opportunities available over the Atlantic in a

detailed manner and various prominent issues like popular culture, pop music, one of the most popular metaphor, 'Melting Pot' or 'Salad Bowl', which means multiculturalism and about education, which is always the most connecting point. While speaking about Indo-American or India-USA partnerships, he mentioned of the quintessential example of Kamal Harris, who is the Vice President of America; other bilateral and unilateral relationships and consensus between India and America. He also spoke about the great influences of soft power such as yoga, Ayurveda, and films and he highlighted how this soft power has been influencing countries in various ways.



He also elucidated on some of the most important competitive tests for aspirants, who wish to go to foreign countries such as TOEFL, IELTS and GMAT and the easiest methods and the most important tips for preparing for exams.

In his concluding words, he clearly stated about the founder of William Fullbright, who had found Fullbright Scholarship in 1946 and how the students can avail themselves of these benefits.

In the fourth session, Dr. Sudharshan Das clearly spoke about UESIEF and its benefits across India and he also said how the students many benefits of this project due to ignorance and further he spoke about the project, which has been helping the students for decades and the measures to be taken to bring awareness to make students benefited from it.

In the fifth session, Mr. K.V. R. Murthy widely explained how to get various projects; about teaching pedagogical techniques; MOU and many important societal issues. In this connection, he mentioned of an international water management institution in Sri Lanka.



In the sixth session, Dr. Joe Christopher spoke on ‘American Spaces Fostering Research Ties’ across Borders. In this regard, he stated that the people of Andhra Pradesh are extremely fortunate to have an



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American Corner at Andhra University in Visakhapatnam, and gave his heartfelt thanks to the enthusiastic support of the Honourable Vice Chancellor, Sri P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy and the dynamic mentor Dr. M. James Stephen. He also vividly explained how American spaces greatly cater to the needs of students, researchers and faculty in terms of research and study abroad.



In the seventh session, Prof. Patric McNamara touched on many gripping topics and cultural issues such as Gandhian Thought Action in Gujarat, trusteeship, his life experiences at Sabarmati Ashram and international water disputes and their conflict resolution in rural villages of Gujarat.

He later enumerated the proposal writing of seven steps such as 1) goals; 2) team; 3) output and impact; 4) funders; 5) fellow directions; 6) adequate time 7) and celebration. He also spoke about the two important foundations, one is the Foundation Directory and the other one is the Bill Gates Foundation and he finally pin-pointedly said how

trust and transparency are two important characteristics of any individual in any project. At the end of the program, Professor M. James Stephen, mentor of American Corner summed up the whole programme and gave a detailed report to the Honourable Vice-Chancellor.



In valedictory address, the Honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof. P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy appreciated the whole programme and wished it to be continued more actively and made a comparison between Harvard University and Andhra University.



He wished that as Silicon Valley has increased in trade and commerce leaps and bounds because of Harvard University, Likewise, because of Andhra University and its excellency, Andhra Pradesh should also increase And he applauded the relentless efforts of the Honourable Chief Minister, Sri. Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.



WOMEN AND S.T.E.M. CURRENT TRENDS

MARCH
21 & 22, 2022




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Day 1, Session 1

In the first session, Dr. Cliff Zintgraff, Director of Sant Antonio Museum of Science and Technology gave the keynote address on STEM-Related Projects and internships to all the female staff and answered all the queries like how American universities are known for research? And what are important requirements to the foreign students to get admissions into American universities?. He also discussed the right time to get internships and the importance of exposure to the research fields.



Session 2

In this session, Dr. Ryan Apolin Periera, Regional Officer, US—India Educational Foundation discussed opportunities in STEM in the USA and the application process starting from the test-taking and their periods with the deadlines and various STEM programs in US universities. He also gave a brief explanation about the availability of scholarships, internships, postdoctoral fellowships and professional training opportunities that provide vibrant campus life. The session was so helpful in finding ‘funding resources’..



Session 3

In the third session, Dr. Joe Christopher, Emerging Voices specialist, United States Consulate General, Hyderabad discussed the importance of American Corner and STEM programs. This session has clearly dealt with the fellowships and the collaborative work.

Day 2, Session 4

In the fourth session, Prof. Vallabh Shah-Professor and Senior Fellow-New Mexico Health Disparity Center

School of Medicine spoke about how to move from building-centered care to an outcome-oriented, frictionless care approach in the Native American population. This session dealt with community health workers, health disparities in Native Americans. He also stated about harmony and better understanding among community members; the health; social service system and linkage of the community clinical continuum

Session 5

In the fifth session, Dr. Sujata Y spoke regarding women in STEM , which has dealt with artificial intelligence, machine learning and robotics. She discussed the topics such as robotic process automation technology, edge computing, quantum computing, virtual reality, augmented reality, block chain technology, Internet of things (IOT), 5G technology and cyber security.



Session 6

The Resource Speaker explained about ‘Research collaborations in STEM’ and one of the speakers, Miss Manisha Dwa, Astrophotographer, Nepal, stressed on how empower women to create space and a workforce in

Nepal. Another Resource Speaker Ms. Zilla Mary, chief product officer at Ezygeric, gave a talk on information technology, product management and data science.

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Session 7

In the last session, Prof Praveen Mamidala, Joint Secretary, Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institution Society elaborately spoke on current trends in STEM and this session has exclusively dealt with workflow in omic, gene editing, biomanufacturing; shocking statistics about STEM and various opportunities for women.

The program was so effective and fruitful and there was a very positive response from the participants. And they said that they have made up their minds to attend without fail to any program of this sort at American Corner.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTS

MARCH
25 & 26, 2022




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The workshop was inaugurated with a welcoming note by Dr. N. Solomon Benny, Convenor and Prof. M. James Stephen, Mentor, American Corner, was invited to preside over the function. The Chief Guest of the program, Prof. P. Rajendra Karmarkar, Principal, Colleges of Arts & Commerce, Andhra University, has spoken about the differences between American and British English. He humorously said that the participants would come with luggage and go out of the two-day workshop with the baggage of knowledge. Dr. A.N.R. Hanuman, Head, HSS, College of Engineering, Andhra University, Guest of Honour, has emphasized the importance of language and moving towards learning, which should be a continuous process for an individual. Prof. Sobha Sree, Member, Executive Council, Andhra University, also spoke about the continuous encouragement being shown by American Corner in equipping the young women faculty to keep up with the changing scenario in the world.



The keynote address was virtually delivered by Dr. Deborah Rosario, an Education adviser, USIEF, Mumbai. She spoke about how students could be educated for applying to various US universities. She emphasised on looking out for research options like going beyond university ranking, narrowing down the choices, looking into the depth of information and particularising interest. She also spoke about how the students should prepare their budgets, identify the sources of funding and means of financial aid before applying.



The resource persons for the first session of the second-day workshop were Dr. Suma Kondandaram, Senior Language Tester, and Mr. Keerthi Azad, Senior Language Tester, who gave an overview of writing skills.



They were of the opinion that the writing habit has been lost due to technical advancement. One of the resource persons also shared the kinds of tasks used in a classroom, like summary writing , letter writing, note-making, essay writing and short stories, which would improve the writing skills of the students.



In the first session they gave an overview of the importance of speaking without grammatical errors in order to crack the GRE or TOEFL examinations. They have given insights into approach tips like speaking at a normal pace, speaking with brevity and speaking with the right pronunciation.

In the second session, they spoke on reading skill and gave some interesting reading skill activities to the participants and elicited information from the participants about

different activities that they can adopt in teaching their students.



In the third session, they spoke about listening skills, which is the most neglected skill of all the language skills. The experts opined that great importance should be given to listening skills. And they also encouraged participants to improve the other skills of the language. In the fourth session, they clearly gave an overview of the different tools of language testing and said that the teachers should be aware of all the tools so that they can make the students take the tests with a lot of confidence.

Dr. N. Solomon Benny, Convenor, made the valedictory address and Prof. M. James Stephen, Mentor, American Corner, presided over the function, gave his closing remarks and informed the gathering about the proceedings of the workshop. And the delegates have given feedback and thanked the organizers for conducting the two-day workshop, which has equipped them to prepare their students, who would like to write the language tests. Dr. S. Prasanna Sree, Professor of English, the guest of

honour, spoke about the prominent role of women and how each can prepare their students for the language tests.

Dr. Peri Srinivas Rao, Principal of the College of Engineering, the Chief Guest of valedictory, congratulated the entire team on the successful completion of the two-day workshop. He also wished that this kind of workshop would certainly help the young teachers to instil confidence in their students. The participation certificates were distributed to the delegates and the guests of honour were felicitated by the coordinators, Dr.B. Lakshamaiah and Dr.N. Ravi Vincent of American Corner. Prof. M. James Stephen, Mentor, American Corner, has proposed formal vote of thanks with his concluding words.

The program ended with a happy note and the participants were very glad for they partook of the program and shared their views regarding the programme and everyone applauded the Honourable Vice Chancellor for his initiation in materialising the American Corner in Andhra University and remembered his relentless hard work and dynamism in steering the university in a better way .



BOOK READING SESSION



APRIL
18, 2022



A book reading session was held on 18th April on the topic “Jazz in American Culture”. Dr Lakshmiah, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Andhra University, who is also one of the coordinators at the corner, was the resource person for this book reading session. The book Jazz in American Culture by Peter Townsend was taken up for discussion. In this book, the author treats jazz as both music and as a culture within American context and explores facts, which have affected American art and society.

Dr. Lakshmiah explained on the origin and the development of Jazz music in Africa, and how it has influenced American culture and became the part of American life.



JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH CHAT WITH A DIPLOMAT

APRIL
20, 2022



On 20th April, 2022, a webinar was conducted by the American Corner, Visakhapatnam with collaboration of American Corner, Hyderabad at Andhra University to celebrate the Jazz Appreciation Month.

The Deputy Consular Chief Ms. Rebekah Drame was the speaker.

Miss Rebekah spoke about Jazz music and its evolution in the current trends and also made the participants listen to some of her favourite jazz tracks.

It was an interactive session, in which the students of Andhra University got the opportunity to know more about Jazz and its beginnings. She also shared many of

CHAT WITH A DIPLOMAT

The participants
shared their
feedback about
the webinar,
it was.....

- ✓ Informative
- ✓ Interactive
- ✓ Fun Filled

her stories from her childhood, which have in-depth knowledge and inspiration.,



The students were literally inspired by her stories and enjoyed some of the soundtracks that were shared by the diplomat. They also had a discussion with the speaker. The session lasted for ninety minutes and the participants posed a few questions at the end, which were answered by Miss Rebekah.



CHAT WITH A DIPLOMAT

APRIL
25, 2022




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On the 25th of April 2022 Mr and Mrs Mark Burrell along with Ms Anjana Sharma visited American Corner, Visakhapatnam. In the morning session, a VT 100 training course was given to the coordinators of the corner in which insights on managing American spaces along with the usage of different e-tools were effectively taught to the coordinators.





In the afternoon, Mr. Mark Burrell interacted with few students from different colleges and students from Andhra University and he gave a lot of information regarding the United States education system and clarified several queries related to studies in the States, which have been posed by the students.

After the session, Mr. Burrell and Mrs. Anjana Sharma visited the Honourable Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University along with Dr. Joe Christopher and American Corner Mentor, Dr. M James Stephen.



CELEBRATING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

APRIL
28, 2022



American Corner, Visakhapatnam, has participated in celebrating religious freedom with a panel discussion on promoting communal harmony, which was organized on 28 April 2022 by the American Corner, Hyderabad in collaboration with American Corners of Visakhapatnam, Malaysia, Philippines, Jaffna and Ahmedabad. This program was moderated by Mr. William Robertson, US Consulate General Hyderabad, with the panel members, Dr. Haseeb Jafferri, Senior Manager, ICICI Lombard General Insurance, Hyderabad, Mahdar Tahir, Director & Founder, Crescent Collective – NGO, Malaysia, Fatima Javines-Evora, Human Resources Professional, U.S. Embassy, Philippines, M.H. Mohamed Hisham, CEO, ZamZam Foundation, Sri Lanka.

The panel members profoundly discussed and openly debated on how to promote communal harmony and the discussion ended with Q&A session.

CHAT WITH A DIPLOMAT



APRIL
29, 2022



On the 29th of April 2022, Mr. Frankie Sturm visited the American Corner Visakhapatnam and gave a seminar on the topic, 21st century media. The seminar was very effective and informative and Mr. Sturm explained in detailed manner about the present day media and its evolution and the impact of social media in the present day and age. And 35 students and some faculty members



have take part in this seminar from the department of Journalism and Mass communication.

COMMEMORATING INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE PRESS FREEDOM



American Corner, Visakhapatnam has virtually joined in commemorating International Day of Press Freedom with a panel discussion on Press freedom, which was organized by American Corner, Hyderabad, with the collaboration of American Corner in Visakhapatnam, Jaffna and Ahmedabad on 05th May 2022 at 05.00pm.

This program was moderated by Frankie Sturm, Assistant Public Officer, U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad, with the panel members Dr. Deepthi Krishna, Council for Social Development, Hyderabad and Mr. Mahesh Langa, Senior Assistant Editor, The Hindu, Ahmedabad.

The panel members discussed many issues and shared their views and opinions on press freedom. And the students from Andhra University, from different departments, participated in this online program and this program was concluded with the Q&A session.

CHAT WITH A DIPLOMAT



MAY
10, 2022



American Corner, Visakhapatnam jointly organized 'A chat with a Diplomat' with American Corner, Hyderabad. on 10th May 2022, to commemorate the Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage month online at 03.00pm.

The Diplomat, Mr. Kevin Fisher, Deputy NIV Chief, U.S Consulate General Hyderabad, spoke on the common heritage that is shared by the Asian and American continents. He also explained about the importance of the heritage of the Pacific islands.

He also spoke about the role played by the US Government in protecting the rich heritage of the Pacific islands. The students from the Department of English and from the Department of Anthropology have participated in the event and enthusiastically interacted with Mr. Fisher. Mr. Fisher has answered the questions posed by the students of both corners.

SOCIAL IMPACTS OF ESPORTS



The Corner has joined in a panel discussion on “Changing the Game – Social Impacts of Esports” that was virtually organized by American Corner, Hyderabad on 11th May at 10.00 AM.

This program was moderated by Mark Burrell, American Diplomat, US Consulate Delhi, with the panelists Ms. Constance Steinkuehler, Professor, Department of Informatics, School of Education, University of California – Irvine, and Mr. Zach Wigal, Founder, Gamers Outreach.

The panelists spoke about the importance of Esports in the present day and age and how young students are engaging themselves in Esports. They also discussed how Esports provides equal opportunities to everyone from all corners of the globe and connects them. The pros and cons of Esports are also discussed.

BOOK READING SESSION



MAY
12, 2022

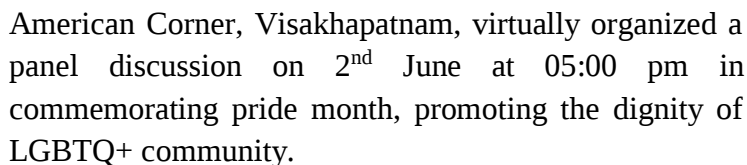


American Corner, Visakhapatnam organized a book reading session on American literature on May 12th, 2022. Dr. V. Sudheer, Assistant Professor from Dr. V.S. Krishna Govt. Degree College took up this session and explained the most famous poem, Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening by Robert Frost.

Dr. Sudheer expounded on the deep meaning of the poem and also displayed a video related to the poem to make the students understand it fully and also briefly told about the history of American literature.



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This program was moderated by Jason Dray, U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad, with panel members as Ms. Mona Lisa D. Pangan, Campus Minister, Xavier University, Atenco de Cagayan, Philippines and Mr. Ven Tashi Choedup, Practicing Buddhist Monk & Project Fellow, Anveshi Research Centre for Women's Studies, Hyderabad.

The panel members discussed many issues and shared their views and opinions on LGBTQ+ community. The students from Andhra University have participated in this online program and have been enriched with new topics.

CHAT WITH A DIPLOMAT



JUNE
08, 2022



A Chat with a Diplomat program was conducted on June 8, 2022, at American Corner, Visakhapatnam, in collaboration with American Corner, Hyderabad. This program was led by the coordinators Dr. N. Ravi Vincent and Dr. B. Lakshmaiah (Andhra University, Visakhapatnam), and Mr. Ravi Kumar from American Corner Hyderabad.

The keynote speaker was Katherine Von Offenheim, who lectured on U.S college campus experiences and international relations. In this context, she has very clearly explained American campuses and the many advantages of studying on those campuses.



This speech was followed by many questions asked by the students. Few of the questions were: What makes American education unique from others? How to get H1 Visa?

The session was concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Ravi Kumar (Hyderabad).



BOOK READING SESSION



JUNE
14, 2022



A book reading session was conducted at American Corner, Visakhapatnam, on June 14, 2022, on Kurt Vonnegut's fiction, an American novelist. The program started with the opening remarks of Dr. N. Ravi Vincent, coordinator of the American Corner. The keynote speaker for this session was Dr. N. Solomon Benny, Head of the Department of English, Andhra University.

Dr. Benny said that Kurt Vonnegut had written 5 plays, 14 novels, and a few poems, of which "Slaughter House Five" was the masterpiece. Kurt Vonnegut touched on different areas in his writings. Dr. Benny explained about different themes from Kurt Vonnegut's novels, like anti-war, mechanization, dehumanization, and the after-effects of the war.

In his speech, Dr. Benny said that Kurt Vonnegut had a direct experience of war and how he expressed his bitter and traumatic experiences in prison in his novels. Though he was an engineering graduate, his passion for writing led him to create science fiction in American literature. His contribution to American literature is very significant.

In the conclusion, Dr. Benny, referring to Vonnegut, said that a writer should be a creator. And 30 students and 5 scholars have attended the program and richly got benefited. They expressed their delight in participating in 'A book reading session' at American Corner, Visakhapatnam.

The program was concluded by a formal vote of thanks by Dr. B. Lakshmaiah. He expressed his gratitude towards the Honourable Vice- Chancellor, Prof. P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy and Prof. M. James Stephen, mentor of American Corner, Visakhapatnam, for facilitating the students with a variety and numerous programs.



JUNETEENTH DAY



To commemorate Juneteenth Day, a program was organized on June 21, 2022, with a discussion on the Harlem movement and its roots in Juneteenth. It was a collaborative program led by American Corner, Visakhapatnam and American Corner Hyderabad. Dr. I. Vijaya Babu, Principal of Dr. V.S. Krishna Govt Degree College in Visakhapatnam, was invited to be the resource person of this program.

This program started with the opening remarks of Dr. B. Lakshmaiah, coordinator of American Corner, Visakhapatnam. He introduced the resource person to the audience both offline and online. Dr. Vijaya Babu spoke on the significance of Juneteenth Day. He extensively talked about the emancipation of blacks in America.

He said that Abraham Lincoln, the president, announced this emancipation in 1863 and greatly admired Lincoln's courage in proclaiming black emancipation. He also talked about the radical differences in the USA and the

problems faced by African Americans in the northern and southern parts of America.

He also spoke of the role of the Harlem Renaissance and its significance in celebrating Juneteenth Day. He explained how Martin Luther King Jr. fought for the civil rights of blacks and praised his speech "I have a dream". He quoted many African-American authors like Langston Hughes, Du Bois, Philip Larkin, and others.

His inspiring lecture was followed by the Q@A session and many intricate questions posed by the students were patiently and aptly answered by the speaker. The program was closed by Dr. N. Ravi Vincent with a formal vote of thanks.



JULY 4TH & ITS IMPACT ON INDIA



JULY
6, 2022



A program was held on 6th July, 2022 at American Corner, Visakhapatnam, in collaboration with American Corner, Hyderabad, to commemorate American Independence Day with a discussion on "July 4th and its Impact on India".

The keynote speaker for this program was Dr. Rajashekhar Geddada, Assistant Professor in English, Dr. V.S Krishna Degree, and P.G College, Visakhapatnam. This program formally began with the introduction of the speaker by the coordinator, Dr. B. Lakshmaiah.

Dr. Rajashekar spoke on the relevance of American Independence to India. In his speech, he said that the struggle for American independence was influenced by famous philosophers like John Locke, Thomas Paine, Montesquieu and other philosophers. The freedom fight was completely ideological but not economical.

And he also said that Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the father of the Indian Constitution, who studied at Columbia

University in America, the father of modern India, influenced the democratic way of life and their freedom of life. This is the reason why Dr. Ambedkar incorporated the fundamental rights of every citizen in our Indian constitution, he stated.



He mentioned that Ralph Waldo Emerson and his lecture on "American Scholar" was given at the Phi Beta Kappa Literary Society in 1836, which was considered the declaration of American Intellectual Independence. According to Emerson, every scholar must be creative and self-reliant. Dr. Rajashekar brought similarities between Emerson and Dr. Ambedkar. Both of them fought for their nations and contributed to their societies.

The speaker interacted with the audience from both corners and clarified many questions raised by the students. Some of the questions asked were:

- ❖ *How is Independence Day celebrated in America?*
- ❖ *Is Transcendentalism a literary movement or a revolutionary movement?*



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- ❖ *Do we have the same powers in India as we do in America if the constitutional aspects were taken from the American constitution?*

This program was formally concluded by a formal vote of thanks by Dr. B. Lakshmaiah.



CHAT WITH A DIPLOMAT

JULY
14, 2022




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A program, “A highlighting American Campuses” was conducted on July 14, 2022, at American Corner, Visakhapatnam, in collaboration with American Corner, Hyderabad. The keynote speakers for this program were Mr. Jack Moyer, Political Economics section, U.S. Consulate General, and Ariel Gleasman, resident student, Texas State University, U.S. consulate general, Hyderabad, India.

This program formally began with the introduction of the speaker by the coordinator, Mr. Ravi Kumar, American Corner, Hyderabad. They spoke on the highlights of American campuses and the nature of education in America. Ms. Ariel Gleasman explained the education system at Texas State University.

In the Q&A they answered all the questions posed by the participants, both from Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam. Twenty participants from the American Corner of Visakhapatnam have participated including foreign

students and scholars from Nepal and Iraq. In the end of program, the coordinators, Dr. Lakshmaiah and Dr. Ravi Vincent, have expressed their heartfelt thanks to the speakers for enlightening the students.



COMMEMORATING 32nd ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

**JULY
22, 2022**

Commemorating
Thirty Second Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act
with a Panel Discussion

Moderated by

Ms. Mala Arora
Consultant
Special Educational Needs &
Disabilities Professional
Ahmedabad, India

Engr. Emer Rojas
Executive Director
National Council on Disability Affairs
Manila,
Philippines

Dr. Ramamuni Reddy
Assistant Professor
English & Foreign Languages
University
Hyderabad, India

Theodore T. Senasu
Vice Consul
U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad
U.S. Department of State

American Corner, Visakhapatnam has virtually participated in the program “Commemorating Thirty Second Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act” organized by the American Corner, Hyderabad, with the collaboration of American corners / spaces in Jaffna, Ahmedabad, Philippines, Malaysia, and Visakhapatnam on 22nd July 2022 at 05.00 PM.

The program was moderated by Theodore T. Senasu, Vice Consul, U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad, with the panel members, Ms. Mala Arora, Consultant, Special Education needs and Disabilities Professional, Ahmedabad, India, Engr. Emer Rojas, Executive Director, National Council on Disability affairs, Manila, Philippines, and Dr. Ramamuni Reddy, Assistant Professor, English & Foreign Languages University Hyderabad, India. The students from various departments of Andhra University have participated in the discussion and came to know about new frontiers of knowledge.

COUNTERING DISINFORMATION FOR TELUGU T.V. REPORTERS



AUGUST
01, 2022



Professor K. Stevenson, Head, the Department of Journalism, from Osmania University, gave opening remarks. The editor of the Times of India, investigations, Mr. Sudhakar Reddy addressed the students of journalism on many challenges that journalists confront regarding disinformation.

He elaborately spoke about issues and important points to be searched such as Cyber Security, Fake news, Fact-checking, Upskilling, Digital Fact Checker, Two types of fakes, Cheap fake, Deep fake, Twitter, Facebook, snapshots, political agenda, morphing, Yandex for Russia, Bibu in China, Baidu, DuckDuckGo, Surfaceweb, Dark web, Tor Website, Cyber hurdle, Bullion operators, Punctuation Marks, Hashtags, Refined Web Search, Common sense, Leakpeek, Manipulation, Pwned, Deformation Act, Criminal information, Disaster management act, and other acts.

Many renowned TV reporters from across the state of Andhra Pradesh joined the event, shared their experiences and spoke on disinformation and its unlawful practices.

In Second Session Professor D.V.R Murthy, Head, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication was the Guest of honour. He spoke on various repercussions due to surging disinformation.

He opined that the duty of a statement man is not to disclose but the duty of a journalist is to disclose, He referred to Pulitzer Joseph who quoted: “How prominent accuracy in the headlines; accuracy in the introduction; and accuracy in the body are in the 21st century. The original concept of journalism is to spread the news, he also said.



Mr. David Moyer from US Consulate General Hyderabad was the chief guest of the event and he gave his remarks on journalism and discussed precautions to be taken for countering disinformation. He also said about US perspective, Indian perspective, a few Proliferation of misinformation, and how several countries have seen a lot adverse results.



In the third session, Professor Stevenson from Osmania University said that if the information is not shared, it is dead. He mentioned Weirder Man, one of the seminal books on journalism and he continued that 34 crores of people who have been using social media are unfortunately passive consumers of information.



Even active consumers of information are not critically examining post-truth, and then he gave his observations on the misinformation on health, Unscientific spread of news about COVID-19. Medical misinformation in the media is due to possible reasons such as lack of verification, Inconsistency.

Ms. Rehana, an NTV reporter gave a presentation on the social bearing tool, which plays a vital role in confronting disinformation and she also said that Twitter analytics should be assiduously studied. The reporters from other new channels gave informative presentations on disinformation and shared their direct experiences in the field of journalism.



VISIT OF USS FRANK CABLE SAILORS (AS-40)



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AUGUST
03, 2022



The USS Frank Cable Crew visited American Corner, Visakhapatnam, on 3rd August, while India was commemorating 75 years of Independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. The young female students of Andhra University were inspired to pursue a career in defense after an inspiring and memorable interaction with the crew of the USS Frank Cable (AS-40).



The female students of Andhra University thought of taking up a career in defense, particularly in the Indian

Navy, as their profession and they thanked American female audacious sailors for encouraging experiences. The sailors were part of a submarine support ship of the United States Navy.



The students, who had taken up NCC and NSS as their activities along with their studies, were given an opportunity to interact with the sailors at American Corner on the premises of Andhra University.



It was a 90 minute long, detailed discussion between these two groups, which ignited Indian students in joining the Indian navy. They formally visited the Honourable Vice-Chancellor, Prof. PVGD Prasad Reddy and joyously took part in a tree plantation program.



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The Vice-Chancellor has described the interaction and visit as quite memorable. During the informal discussion with a group of female NCC and NSS cadets, the sailor boys and girls have explained to the



students how they could choose the Navy as their profession.

The Vice-Chancellor has described the interaction and visit as quite memorable. During the informal discussion with a group of female NCC and NSS cadets, the sailor boys and girls have explained to the students how they could choose the Navy as their profession.

They explained the exciting things they experienced during their journey by ship. They also said that they had already visited Japan, Malaysia, and Indonesia and they shared how wonderful it is to travel to so many countries.



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VIZAG - INFLUENCERS MEET



AUGUST
17, 2022



On 17 August, The American Corner, Visakhapatnam had the privilege of having Mr. Salil Kader, Advisor, Cultural Affairs Section, U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad, and Dr. Joe Christopher, from the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad. They have interacted with some of the entrepreneurs, project leaders and a few eminent and the most accomplished musicians, who are creating an indelible impact on society. The students from various details and have attended this session along with a few students.

Mr. Salil Kader, along with Mr. Joe Christopher, gave all the participants their suggestions and advised them to make use of American corner for any useful event or professional discussion that can cater to the needs of the public. The participants shared their views and journeys on how they came to a zenith point in their careers. Some of the influencers' Instagram profiles:

- -Pick a book @pickabooks1
@ragulantharmakulasingham
- -Throne Productions @throne_productions

- -Data logging from GPS NEO 6M Receiver- A project by @daniel_richard_chilla
- (Avionics Placement Incharge -JNTUK)
- -Tara Mandal -A start-up by @vj._judson (Student of Andhra University)
- -Starry Stories @starrystories_24 @satyam_ram
- -Edumoon-Represented by @mahidhar_p



Dr. Krishna Manjari, Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacy also has participated in the event. She having observed all the discussion of the participants, posed a few questions, to which all the participants answered aptly. She also gave invaluable suggestions. This event was followed by another panel discussion on Press Freedom.

In the morning, Mr. Salil Kader and Dr. Joe had a discussion with the Coordinators and explained them on how to fill SF 270 document. He was also well pleased with the series of the beneficial activities, which have been taking place at American Corner, Visakhapatnam.

COMMEMORATING INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE PRESS FREEDOM



AUGUST
17, 2022

Commemorating International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples with a Panel Discussion on Preserving and Protecting the Communities & the Rights

Prof. Juvanni Caballero
Mindanao State University -
Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT)
Manila, Philippines

Ms. Mittal Maulik Patel
Founder, VSSM
Vicharta Samuday Samarthan Manch
Ahmedabad, India

Mr. Kadey Soren
Professional Social Worker
Secretary, All Odisha Adivasi Forum
Bhubaneswar, India

Mr. Maulik Patel
Co-Founder, VSSM
Vicharta Samuday Samarthan Manch
Ahmedabad, India

17 August 2022
5 PM IST | 7:30 PM PHT

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<http://www.facebook.com/americancornerahmedabad>
<https://www.facebook.com/amspacph>
<https://www.facebook.com/American-Corner-Visakhapatnam>

American Corner, Visakhapatnam, participated in commemorating “International Day of Worlds Indigenous peoples” with a panel discussion on preserving and protecting the communities and the rights. This was virtually organized by American Corner, Hyderabad, with the collaboration of American corners in Ahmedabad, Philippines, and Visakhapatnam on 17th, August, 2022 at 05.00 pm

The panelists are Prof. Juvanni Caballero, Mindanao State University – Lligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT), Manila Philippines, Ms. Mittal Maulik Patel, Founder, Vicharta Samuday Samarthan Manch (VSSM), Ahmedabad, India, Mr. Kadey Soren, Professional Social Worker, Secretary, All Odisha Adivasi Forum, Bhubaneswar, India, Mr. Maulik Patel, Co-founder, VSSM, Ahmedabad, India. Many students have virtually joined the discussion and they expressed their joy in learning new things.

CHAT WITH A DIPLOMAT

**AUGUST
24, 2022**



American Corner Hyderabad American Corner Visakhapatnam

**Jointly organize
Chat with a Diplomat**

**ANDREW
EDLEFSEN**



PRINCIPAL COMMERCIAL OFFICER
U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL
HYDERABAD

on Student Mobility to the United States

24 August 2022
3 PM IST



Webinar ID: 885 9223 1747
Passcode: 711425



A chat with a diplomat on student mobility to the United States was jointly organized by the American Corner, Hyderabad, and American Corner, Visakhapatnam on 24th, August, 2022 at 03.00 PM. The resource person for the program was Mr. Andrew Edlefsen who is the Principal Commercial officer at the U.S Consulate General, Hyderabad.

The students from both corners have virtually joined the program, where Mr. Edlefsen explained how to select a college or university and the five-step process and then he educated the students ‘On various websites’ that could be very useful for selecting the best universities.

The students have asked many questions and Mr. Edlefsen has aptly answered all the queries, to which the students have expressed their gratitude for organizing such programs.

BOOK READING SESSION



AUGUST
30, 2022



A book reading session on Walt Whitman's poems was held on 30th, August, 2022. This session began with the opening remarks by Dr. B. Lakshmaiah and he introduced the speaker of the session, Dr. Benny, to the participants. And Dr. Solomon Benny, Head, Department of English, beautifully described the significance of Walt Whitman's poems.



And he has particularly dealt with "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking" and other important themes in Whitman's poems. The students from American Corner,

Hyderabad also participated, and the coordinator, Mr. Ravi Kumar, from Hyderabad, shared his views on 'A book reading session' and appreciated the session as it was very inspiring for the young students.



The students who participated were very excited and they posed many questions regarding poetry. Dr. Solomon Benny answered the questions and gave an explanation of free verse and the greatness of Walt Whitman. The concluding remarks were given by Dr. Ravi Vincent.



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CHAT WITH A DIPLOMAT



SEPTEMBER
1, 2022



On the 1st of September, A chat with a diplomat was held at the American Corner, Visakhapatnam, Mr. Jonathan Orr and Dr. Joe Christopher from US Consulate General Hyderabad, had a discussion with faculty and students from various colleges from the city.

Dr. Christopher has given the opening remarks and Mr. Orr has spoken about the US education system and the opportunities available in USA.



Out of his vast experience, he suggested the students to study abroad and advised students to follow their passion; he shared his story of becoming a naval officer, which inspired the students and the faculty. They both later answered all the questions posed by the participants along with Mr. Ravi Eswarapu, CEO of Andhra University Incubation Ecosystem.



As the Incubation Managers training was going on in the American Corner, this event was held in the adjoining seminar Hall.



INCUBATOR MANAGERS TRAINING



SEPTEMBER
1&2, 2022



The Incubator Manager Training Program was held on 1st and 2nd of September at American Corner, Visakhapatnam. The NEXUS team from Delhi and Dr. Joe Christopher from the US consulate, Hyderabad have attended. The training program began with inaugural speech of the Honourable Vice-Chancellor Prof. PVGD Prasad Reddy. He spoke on the importance of start-up companies, which is the order of the day.



Prof. V Krishna Mohan, Registrar, Andhra University, and Mr. Erik Azulay the founder of ACIR were also present and on this great occasion, an MoU was signed between Andhra University and ACIR to improve the

incubation ecosystem at Andhra University. Mr. Ravi Eswarapu, the CEO of Andhra University Incubation Ecosystem was also present.



Twenty participants from three Indian states (Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa) have participated in the training program and have shared and exchanged their views on entrepreneurship.



A lot of interesting interaction took place on entrepreneurship and the concept of 'Train the trainer' was extensively discussed.

Many novel and innovative ideas have been exchanged, which is beneficial for society. Mr. Joel Wiggins has spoken about the several issues such as government, universities, investors, National labs, corporations, Service Providers, entrepreneurs, Jobs, taxes, diversification, education for faculty, and students, return on investment, technology commercialization, in-license, out-license and new business.



COMMEMORATING INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY



The poster is for a Facebook Live event titled "Commemorating International Day of Democracy with a Panel Discussion". It features logos for American Corner in Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and the Philippines, along with the U.S. flag. The event is moderated by Jason Dray, Regional Security Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Hyderabad. Two panelists are listed: Mr. Gladstone A. Cuateros, National Coordinator of Lasallian Justice and Peace Commission in De La Salle Philippines, and Mr. Michael Gullakunta, Academic Fellow at TSWREIS and Co-founder of FIT India Foundation, a Gandhi-King Academic Exchange Fellow in Hyderabad. The event is scheduled for 14 September 2022 at 5 PM IST / 7:30 PM PHT. Facebook Live links are provided for the event.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

Commemorating International Day of Democracy
with a Panel Discussion

Moderated by
Jason Dray
Regional Security Officer
U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad

Mr. Gladstone A. Cuateros
National Coordinator
Lasallian Justice and Peace Commission
De La Salle Philippines

Mr. Michael Gullakunta
Academic Fellow TSWREIS
Co-founder, FIT India Foundation
Gandhi-King Academic Exchange Fellow, Hyderabad

14 September 2022
5 PM IST | 7:30 PM PHT

facebook LIVE

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<https://www.facebook.com/amspacphil>
<https://www.facebook.com/American-Corner-Visakhapatnam>



American Corner, Visakhapatnam, has participated in ‘commemorating International Day of Democracy’. This panel discussion was virtually organized by American Corner, Hyderabad, with the collaboration of American corners in Ahmedabad, Philippines, and Visakhapatnam on 14th September 2022 at 05.00 PM. This program was moderated by Jason Dray, Regional Security Officer, U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad, with the panel members Mr. Gladstone A Cuateros, National Coordinator, Lasallian Justice, and Peace Commission, De La Salle, Philippines, and Mr. Michael Gullakunta, Academic Fellow, TSWREIS, Co-founder, FIT India Foundation, Gandhi-King Academic Exchange Fellow, Hyderabad.

The panel members have discussed the importance of democracy and the students, who have participated were made aware of many aspects of democracy and its different facets. The students have actively responded and posed many questions regarding democracy, plutocracy, aristocracy and anarchy, which were aptly answered by the panelists.

CHAT WITH A DIPLOMAT



SEPTEMBER
21, 2022



A chat with a diplomat on Hispanic Heritage Month was virtually organized on 21st, September 2022 at 3 PM by American Corner, Hyderabad in collaboration with American Corner, Visakhapatnam.

The keynote speaker for this chat was Mr. Sean Ruthe, Chief, Political-Economic Section, US Consulate General, Hyderabad. The students from both



the corners have participated in the webinar. Mr. Sean Ruthe has delivered a talk on the significance of Hispanic heritage month and mentioned of many Hispanic authors and their seminal writings about culture. The students have interacted and asked a variety of questions not only on Hispanic heritage but also on diverse issues like multiculturalism, studying in USA and getting scholarships.

Chronicles of American Corner showcases the events that have sequentially taken place during 2021-22 and how twenty-nine wonderful programs have been organized, which include workshops; chat with diplomats; panel discussions; book reading sessions; discussions on diverse topics. These programs have indeed made an indelible impact on the public and benefitted hundreds of participants.



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