

DAY 1

# THE CHEMUN CHATTER XVI



**CHEMUN XVI**  
**Cohesion and Divergence**  
**November 4-6, 2022**

## IN THIS ISSUE...

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- Opening Ceremony
- The Nightmare Planet
- Committee Reports
- Millennials and Gen Z
- Interviews
- Dia de los Muertos
- Poem: The Fishers of Kanagawa
- Need a Snack?

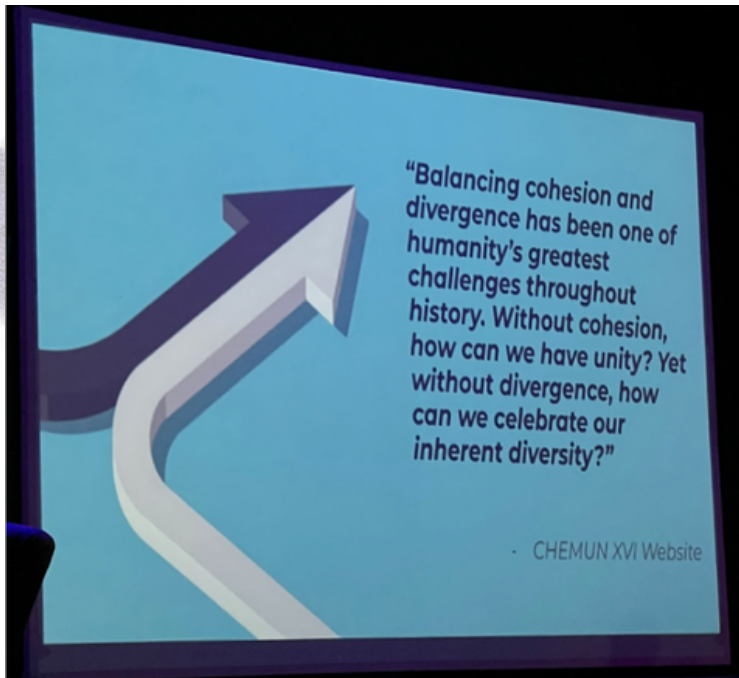
## Opening Ceremony

By Felina Lange and Aparna Anand

AISCs traditional lighting ceremony symbolised the beginning of CHEMUN XVI. The lamps were lit by head of school Joelle Basnight; high school principal Michael Malone; arts, sports and activities program director Monicka Davi; MUN Coordinator and advisor Pepper McFarland and a member of the Board of Directors. The lighting ceremony symbolises knowledge sharing between the people and culture of Chennai.



AISC's Head of School, Joelle Basnight, introduced this year's CHEMUN theme, cohesion and divergence. To further the audience's understanding of the theme, Ms. Basnight discussed fallacies about bias. The theme of divergence and cohesion is vital for understanding the relationships between several different members of our international community. People all around the world have their own unique traits but are all united by our humanity.



A balance of cohesion and divergence is required to maintain individual identity yet gain the ability to empathize with multiple identities. Raj Cherubal, an advocate for SmartCities and environmental economy was the guest speaker for the opening ceremony. Mr Cheruba spoke about what smart cities are and plans for turning Chennai into a smart city.







CHEMUN co-Secretary Generals Shanmugan Ganesan and Nicole Ahn discussed examples of cohesion and divergence in the world, specifically talking about the Indian caste system and how there's pros and cons to the system. Nicole furthered Shanmugan's speech, adding themes of gender equality to fully develop their argument.



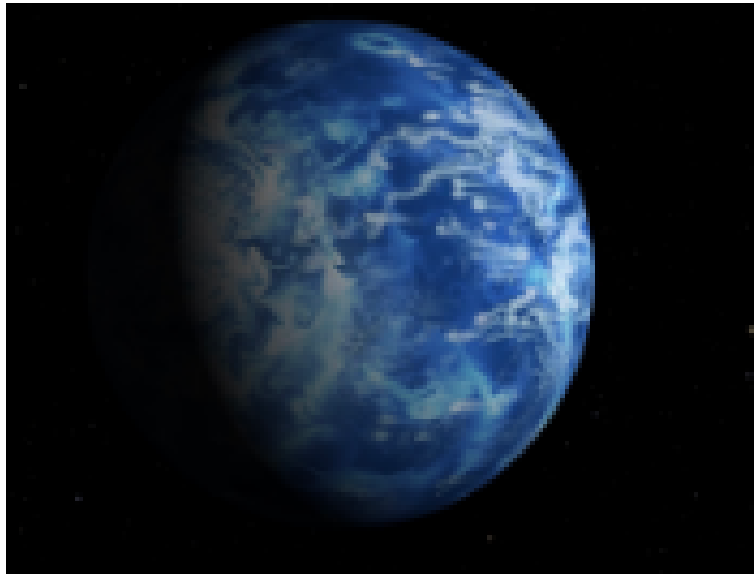
Rishi Bharadwaj, a MUN head chair sang a traditional classical music song, also known as Carnatic music, for the opening ceremony. Most of Carnatic music is devotional, and addressed to Hindu deities. Usually, vocalists are accompanied by instruments such as the veena, although Rishi sang without instrumental accompaniment.

The Ceremony promised a weekend of spirited debate and discourse, leaving all attending eager to move forward!









## The Nightmare Planet

By Pettula Jeyakumar

What seems like a blue dot in the solar system in Vulpecula, planet *HD 189733 b* has a striking blue color similar to Earth's, but don't be fooled by its alluring appearance; it is one of the most *deadly* planets known to mankind. It was discovered in 2005

Using Doppler spectroscopy; the gas giant is approximately 64 light years away from earth, takes 2.2 days to orbit its star *and* had scientists hook, line and sinker-thinking its beautiful atmosphere was friendly and habitable.

On the contrary, 'the nightmare planet' -as dubbed by NASA- has scorching temperatures that could melt the flesh off your bones; the spitzer space telescope was used to map the temperature emissions, [2]clocking up to 1,000° Celsius on the side facing its star. HD 189733 b is an exoplanet (planet orbiting a star that's not the sun) and is considered a 'hot Jupiter' because of its similar size to the planet and its close orbit towards its star.

As a result of its close orbit (12 times closer than Mercury) it's tidally locked, leaving the planet in a permanent day and night; one side continuously facing the sun while the other is left in eternal darkness. The temperature fluctuations and orbital path cause fierce, howling winds that would sweep up any travelers into its spiral at speeds up to 4,500 mph. About 7 times the speed of sound.

One might be thinking, why does this planet look so much like earth? Instead of getting its color from the reflections of tropical oceans like our blue home, HD 189733 b's glass rain reflects mainly blue light back to us, creating

that luscious cobalt blue atmosphere we know and fear. Coaxing hundreds into its deadly grasps - the 'Nightmare Planet' is inhospitable for all known living beings. Want to find out more about deadly planets? Visit NASA's Galaxy of Horrors exoplanet exploration site.





# Committee Reports

by Associated Press

Committees exploded into action, with delegates taking to the dais to state the needs of their countries and vie for the topic of most importance to their constituency. Filled with lobbying, debating and negotiating, the conference quickly picked up speed exploring varied applications of cohesion and divergence. Check out the updates!

Day 1, **DISEC** started off with their opening speeches with various countries participating such as Australia, Japan, Vietnam, the United States and plenty more. For example Brazil discussed the problems involving the Mexican drug cartel that produced cocaine, morphine and influenced the production and distribution of cannabis and their severe impact on the economy and how it influenced huge amounts of money laundering across South America. Ireland addressed the Mexican drug cartel and acknowledged the 250,000 murders since 2000 caused by the drug war. Ireland chooses to oppose the drug cartel. South Africa went on to discuss various crimes such as substance abuse, vandalism, corruption, and assault as well as the mass amount of complaints that the Iranian government received of cybercrime. Many other countries discussed their topics and DISEC debates will be addressed later on!





The **Human Rights Committee** started off great with opening speeches. Brazil talked about improving transgender and poverty rights and their mistreatment. Many Delegates mentioned their aim to bring more gender equality in their countries. For example, Chad, signed and rectified various treaties about the subject. Chile elaborated about it's discrimination against migrant workers, implementing a program so that legal migrants are provided education and healthcare. Along with Denmark, a 'haven for migrant workers', who should be provided with adequate healthcare and minimum wages, no less. Côte D'Ivoire is attempting to work on the abolition of inequality for the LGBTQ+ community; improving their accessibility to healthcare and reducing the number of hate crimes. Much more was added but we're most looking forward to seeing the HRC debates later on!

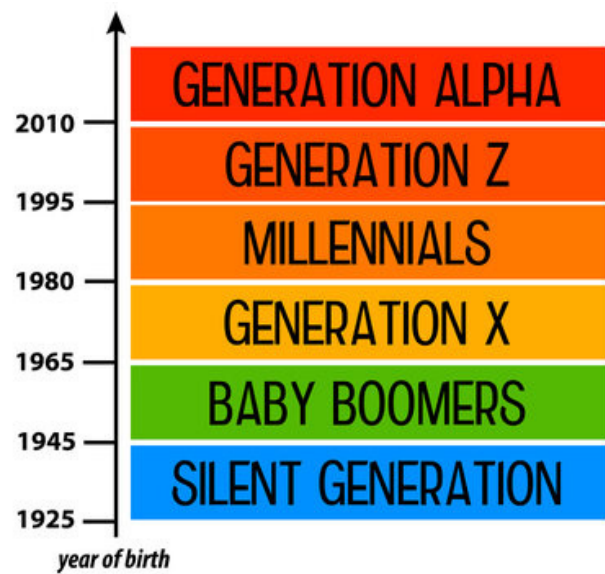
The **Advisory Panel** assists the directors in decisions and this year their focus was on technology. This included topics such as nanotechnology, Space militarization, and NFTs. They came up with solutions to battle space debris, and keep peace in space. Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials (nano) is a growing industry which creates an array of economic and social benefits, while potential risks to human health and the environment are, to date, not fully known. With numerous nano-containing products available in the market, there is a need to prepare appropriate regulations and safety standards. NFTs have an upwards trending growth in the market, and NFTs are unique digital identifiers that cannot be copied, substituted, or subdivided, that are recorded in a blockchain, and that are used to certify authenticity and ownership. These technological trends in the market and in space militarization are focused upon by this committee.





# The Different Mindsets of “Boomers”, Millennials and Gen Z

by Aparna Anand



The contrast between the different generations is huge. People argue every day about who's ideals are correct: Gen Y, Gen Z, or Boomers. Of course, there's no definitive answer. Older generations state that Gen Z has “gone soft”, while Gen Z defends that they merely have narrow views. There's also the newer generation, Generation Alpha, which includes kids born in

2010 and after. What will they grow up to be, having been influenced by the newest technology since the moment they were born? Coming to the question; what does the future look like for the different generations?

Gen Z is known to the other generations for its strange trends and addiction to social media, but they are also known to be very inclusive of races, religions, sexuality, etc, which makes them see the older generations as narrow-minded. While this is true, Gen Z definitely has its faults, as do all the other generations. Millennials are stereotyped as narcissistic and lazy but are also the first generation to have grown up with access to technology, making them more active on social media and also seen as “native speakers of the digital language of computers”. Boomers, the oldest generation out of these three,

are observed to be hardworking, and more centered on traditional views, making them seem the least inclusive. Gen Z usually makes fun of their strong opinions on controversial topics.

These differences are what made the generations require separate labels. The differences also have led to many disputes, such as which generation should govern. An article in the New York Times called “Why are We Governed by Baby Boomers and the Remarkably Old” discusses the advantages and disadvantages of different generations





taking up leadership roles in the government. Another such debate is the idea of “Gen Z Saving the World”, or “Will Gen Z Save Us” which talks about if Gen Z will make our society a better place. Another article in the New York Times explores this debate, showing that Gen Z’s activism also goes the other way, such as the unfiltered extremist content that circulates on the internet and social media. For example, Kiwifarms, an internet forum dedicated to doxing and stalking, who recently doxxed a trans political activist Clara Sorrenti, also known as Keffals.

To conclude, no one knows what will happen in the future and how the generations will handle the new challenges that develop with the further growth of technology and other scientific advancements, and the new generations that will precede us. We can only hope that these diverse generations can find cohesion in their perspectives and collectively work to stabilize and better the future.

# **Interview With the Head chair UN4MUN committee: Nandini Bhatkal**



## **What is the Biggest Misconception About CHEMUN?**

I feel like the biggest misconception about CHEMUN is that you have to garner the most points and you have to argue a lot against delegates. But CHEMUN, as the speakers and as a lot of the Secretariat have entailed, CHEMUN is about making connections and maintaining and forging diplomatic relations.

## **How much time was put in to prepare for CHEMUN?**

I wrote my applications for my chairman position and my MUN position back in March of 2022, so months of preparation have gone into this. We wrote the research reports over the summer break, and have been preparing since then to set up everything else.

## **What are skills that one gains by participating in MUN?**

I believe that anyone will gain a lot of critical life skills such as learning to be an effective communicator. You will learn how to be concise as well and you will learn a lot of the principles of diplomacy and dedication, by exploring many different topics and applying them to your own committee to forge relations with other delegates.



# Dia de los Muertos

by Gaia Flavia Ania Mezaib Boti



The Day of the Dead (known in Spanish as “El Dia de Los Muertos”) takes place every year between the 1st and 2nd November and is one of the most important celebrations in Mexico and Central America. During El Dia de Los Muertos, families come together to celebrate and honor their ancestors. It is a joyful occasion, and contrary to what

people believe El Dia de Los Muertos does not correspond to a Mexican Halloween - which is a common misconception. The idea behind commemorating the dead has its roots in Aztec culture. In fact, for Aztecs and Mexicas, death was transitory and the souls of the dead could return to visit the living. The Aztecs believed in an afterlife where spirits of the dead would return to life in the form of monarch butterflies. In reality, images carved in the ancient monuments reveal the linkages between spirits and the Monarch butterfly, furthermore highlighting the emblematic meaning of these insects in the festival. Additionally, yellow marigolds (in Spanish, “La flor de cempasúchil”), known as the flower of the dead, and other fragrant flowers are used to communicate to the spirits the richness of the offerings set out for returning souls (called “ofrendas”). Inside the homes, altars with portraits of the deceased are fundamental, often decorated with “Calacas” - the popular handmade skeleton figurines. Families occasionally open their doors to anyone

interested in viewing the altar, and it is very common to offer pan de muerto, a traditional Mexican pastry, and atole, a drink made from corn.

Finally, “Catrinas” are the elegantly dressed skeleton figures symbolizing the Day of the Dead. These elements, as well as many others, remain at the heart of this holiday and the festive acceptance of the inevitability of death, where death is celebrated rather than feared!





# Interview With the Head chair of ICJ committee: Maya Raghuraman

## What did you like or dislike the most about zoom conferences?

I always really dislike virtual conferences because I feel there's not that high level of engagement which is really important in such an environment, in such conferences like CHEMUN. So because you're not actually there, a lot of people don't feel that group confidence, because if one person speaks, others will be more encouraged and I feel that atmosphere was missing in virtual conferences. I think this kind of made the debates feel really slow. I've been to a lot of virtual conferences and I feel I was actively engaged in very few of them.

## How does CHEMUN differ from other MUNs in different regions?

I think one of my favorite things about CHEMUN is that we have such a wide variety of committees, and we have a dedicated secretary and admin staff. We also always have refreshments available for everyone. Our procedure is always really comfortable and the way that we approach and teach is very helpful towards everyone on the committee.

## What is better: watermelons or strawberries?

When it comes to the actual fruit itself, I would say watermelon because I don't like the texture of strawberries. When it comes to the taste, I would also say watermelon because I think the strawberry flavour is way too sweet. But I like strawberries in baked goods more because watermelon isn't really used in baked goods. I think this is actually a really tough question.



## What is the hardest part about of MUN?

Definitely the preparation. There's a lot of writing, there's a lot of research. You need to have a certain amount of confidence to go up to a stage and speak your mind when a bunch of people are telling you things like, "You're wrong!" or "your idea shouldn't exist!". It is not easy. But it's all about having confidence and preparing yourself adequately.





PICTURE PERFECT!



# Interview With Deputy Secretary General: Lokeswar Gopikrishna

## **What was the main reason why you joined MUN?**

I joined MUN back in 9th grade because I enjoyed debating and I wanted to try things, explore global issues and develop my point of view. Essentially, I wanted to express myself and believed that MUN was an outlet for me to do that.

## **What are the best and funniest moments in MUN?**

I have been in CHEMUN since 9th grade, when I was a Delegate. In both 10th and 11th grade I became a Chair. And this year, I am part of the secretariat. The funniest moment is probably hard to think. But I will say that the best moment was definitely this year. Organizing the conference was really hard, but it made us increase our bonds among team members. It was really fun as well and I enjoyed seeing everything in action - after six months of planning coming together and culminating this big event is just heartwarming.

## **What is the main reason you joined MUN?**

I joined MUN back in 9th grade because I enjoyed debating and I wanted to try things, explore global issues and develop my point of view. Essentially, I wanted to express myself and believed that MUN was an outlet for me to do that.

## **What part of the conference are you most looking forward to?**

I think just seeing how the chairs do in their committees, as my job as Deputy Secretary General was training the chairs and making sure they knew everything they were doing. I think it'd be exciting to see how what I've taught them is going to play out.





# The Fishers of Kanagawa

*There once was a beautiful coast called Kanagawa,  
Beautiful beaches, colourful fish and clear blue  
waters lay there.*

*Fishermen swarmed of this coast,  
For here swam the famous fish of Kanagawa.*

*The fish lived far out in the ocean,  
In the deep blue sea but only came out in spring.*

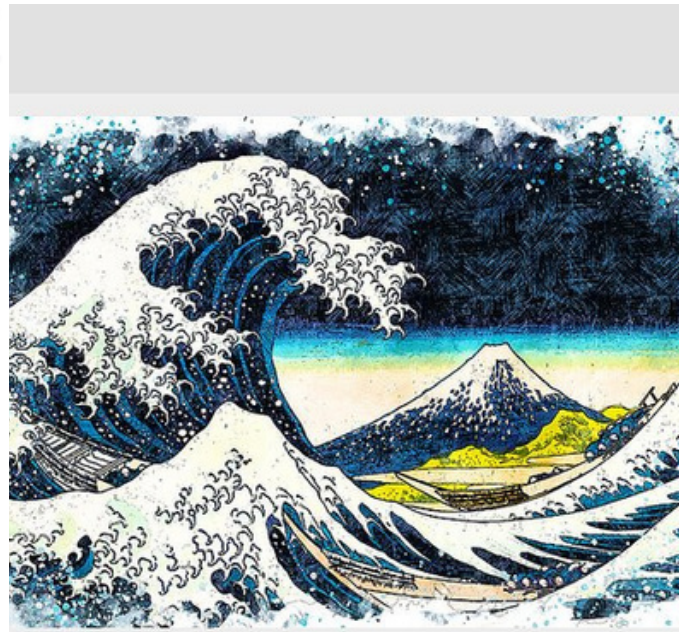
*But spring is a dangerous time in the sea of  
Kanagawa,*

*'Cause then the waters rise to monstrous heights,  
Swallowing everything in sight.*

*Waters tumbling down on the fishers boats,  
Which are weak compared to the feared waves of  
Kanagawa.*

*Waves so strong,*

*Even Mount Fuji can be heard grumbling deep inside.*



"the Great wave of Kanagawa  
by Katsushika Hokusai

"The Great Wave off Kanagawa" inspired Poem

## NEED A SNACK?

Try this recipe from [simply-delicious-food.com](http://simply-delicious-food.com) for pizza toast!



### Ingredients

- 4-8 slices bread of your choice toasted
- 1 cup Pizza sauce
- 1-2 cups grated mozzarella
- toppings of your choice
- 1 teaspoon oregano

### Instructions

- Pre-heat the grill of your oven.
- Place the toast on a baking sheet and add a generous spoonful of pizza sauce. Spread with the back of the spoon to the corners.
- Top with a handful of grated mozzarella followed by the toppings of your choice.
- Sprinkle over a little oregano.
- Place in the oven and allow to cook until the cheese has melted.
- Remove from the oven and allow to cool for a few minutes before serving.



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# COMMITTEE NOTES

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