

KTSPMS

HUATMA RAJGURU MAHAVIDYALAYA

Rajgurunagar, Tal – Khed, Dist – Pune 410505

Name of Department – Geography**Name of Activity –****Debate Competition****Topic: “Urbanization – A Curse or a Boon?”**

The Department of Geography, **Huatma Rajguru Mahavidyalaya, Rajgurunagar**, organized a **Debate Competition** on the topic “**Urbanization – A Curse or a Boon?**” on **Wednesday, 16 September 2026**, from **10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.** The activity was organized with the objective of developing students’ understanding of urbanization and its geographical, social, economic and environmental implications. The debate provided an academic platform for students to express their views, present arguments, critically examine different dimensions of urbanization and develop effective communication and presentation skills.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of **Prof.Dr. D. D. Muluk, Head, Department of Geography**. The faculty members of the department, **Dr. D. M. Markad and Prof. M. L. Muluk**, actively coordinated and guided the students throughout the activity. A total of **25 Third Year students** participated in the debate competition. The participation of senior students made the activity highly interactive and academically enriching.

The debate topic, “**Urbanization – A Curse or a Boon?**”, was selected because urbanization is one of the most significant geographical processes influencing contemporary society. The rapid growth of towns and cities has brought major changes in population distribution, land use, employment, infrastructure, transportation, housing and social life. At the same time, unplanned and rapid urban growth can create challenges such as overcrowding, traffic congestion, housing shortages, environmental pollution, waste generation, pressure on water resources, loss of agricultural land and inequality. The topic therefore encouraged students to examine both the positive and negative dimensions of urbanization rather than considering it from a single perspective.

During the competition, students presented arguments both **in favour of and against the proposition that urbanization is a boon or a curse**. Students supporting urbanization as a boon discussed its contribution to economic development, industrialization, employment generation, improved educational opportunities, healthcare facilities, transportation, communication, technological development and access to various services. They highlighted the role of cities as centres of trade, commerce, administration, innovation, education and

cultural exchange. Students also discussed how planned urban development can improve living standards and create opportunities for social and economic mobility.

Students presenting the negative aspects of urbanization focused on the problems associated with **rapid and unplanned urban growth**. They discussed issues such as population concentration, inadequate housing, development of slums, traffic congestion, air and water pollution, noise pollution, solid waste management, shortage of water, pressure on public infrastructure and increasing demand for land and other natural resources. The participants also discussed the conversion of agricultural and open land into residential, commercial and industrial areas and its possible effects on the environment.

The debate also provided an opportunity to discuss the relationship between **urbanization and environmental sustainability**. Students explained how increasing urban populations can put pressure on natural resources and contribute to environmental degradation when urban development is not properly planned. At the same time, they highlighted the potential of sustainable urban planning, public transportation, green spaces, waste management, renewable energy, water conservation and environmentally sensitive infrastructure to reduce the negative effects of urban growth.

The participants demonstrated considerable interest in the geographical dimensions of urbanization. They referred to concepts such as **urban population growth, migration, urban expansion, land-use change, urban hierarchy, infrastructure development and urban environmental problems**. Through their arguments, students were able to connect the theoretical concepts studied in Geography with contemporary urban issues. The activity thus served as an effective extension of classroom teaching through participatory and experiential learning.

The competition also contributed significantly to the development of **communication and soft skills** among the students. Participants had to organize their ideas, collect relevant information, construct logical arguments and present their views clearly within the allotted time. The activity encouraged students to listen carefully to opposing viewpoints and respond appropriately. It helped develop confidence, public speaking ability, critical thinking, reasoning, teamwork and the ability to participate in constructive academic discussions.

The faculty members guided the participants in maintaining an academic approach throughout the competition. Students were encouraged to support their arguments with geographical concepts, examples and logical reasoning. The activity emphasized that urbanization cannot simply be classified as entirely beneficial or harmful; its effects depend considerably on the nature, speed, scale and planning of urban development. This helped students develop a more comprehensive understanding of the topic.

The debate was also useful from the perspective of **value-based and responsible citizenship education**. Discussions regarding urban problems, environmental protection, infrastructure,

sustainable development and quality of life helped students recognize the responsibilities of individuals, communities and institutions in addressing urban challenges. Students were encouraged to think about how cities can be developed in a manner that balances economic development, social needs and environmental sustainability.

The participation of **25 Third Year students** reflected their enthusiasm and academic interest in contemporary geographical issues. The students actively engaged in the discussion and demonstrated their ability to present diverse perspectives on urbanization. The interaction between participants and faculty members made the activity informative, engaging and intellectually stimulating.

Overall, the **Debate Competition on “Urbanization – A Curse or a Boon?”** was successfully conducted by the Department of Geography, Hutatma Rajguru Mahavidyalaya, Rajgurunagar. The activity provided students with a valuable opportunity to examine urbanization from geographical, economic, social and environmental perspectives. It strengthened their subject knowledge while simultaneously developing communication, critical thinking, analytical reasoning and public speaking skills. The programme successfully fulfilled its academic objective of encouraging students to understand contemporary geographical issues through discussion and active participation. The activity was therefore a meaningful and enriching academic initiative of the Department of Geography.


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HUTATMA RAJGURU MAHAVIDYALAYA, RAJGURUNAGAR
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
TYBA GEOGRAPHY STUDENT LIST 2026-2027

8 Name of Function/Event Urbanization debate
Date 16/09/26

Sn	Student Name	Roll No.	Signature
1	Aherkar Vaishnavi Santosh	05	V.S. Aherkar
2	Bhalerao Gauri Sambhaji	13	G.S. Bhalerao
3	Date Payal Dinesh		
4	Gadage Sayali Subhash		S.S. Gadage
5	Gangavane Akshada Bapu		
6	Gawade Surekha Dadabhau	35	S.D. Gawade
7	Gawade Mayur Suryakant	36	M. Gawade
8	Gawade Pranav Vitthal		
9	Gawade Vaishnavi Santosh	38	Gawade
10	Ghawate Aniket Darku	41	Ghawate
11	Gogawale Kunal Ashok	49	Gogawale
12	Gogawale Shubham Sunil	50	Gogawale
13	Jadhav Apeksha Ramdas	53	A.R.J
14	Jadhav Rohan Dadarav		
15	Kaduskar Aishwarya Sampat	61	Kaduskar
16	Karale Pratiksha Kailas	65	Karale
17	Kedari Nitin Jijaba		
18	Kengale Payal Balu	71	Kengale
19	Khandagale Vishal Vishavas	73	Khandagale
20	Khandage Pratik Dattatray	74	Khandage
21	Khandave Onkar Mohan	75	Khandave
22	Kothawale Sayli Jaysing		
23	More Pallavi Madhukar		
24	Muthe Varsha Sunil	97	Muthe
25	Nangare Kunal Ankush		Nangare
26	Ovhal Shreya Aabasaheb	104	Ovhal
27	Pardhi Atish Namdev	111	Pardhi
28	Rajbhar Kajal Chhannulal		
29	Sawant Akash Manik		

30	Sawant Samiksha Sanjay		
31	Shendage Trupti Jagannath	132	<i>Supri</i>
32	Shinde Swati Shamrao	135	<i>S.S. Shinde</i>
33	Thokal Samiksha Barku	138	<i>Samiksha</i>
34	Walunj Ayush Dattatrey		