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## No mock session this

**Stella Maris College conducted a one of a kind parliamentary debate this week**

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

 The country's politicians may not be debating in parliament but students across universities and law schools — 32 teams to be precise are. In a mock session organised by the Stella Maris College for Women, college going women came and debated their heart out for two days.

Why a parliamentary debate session? "Well, first of all, this was not a mock parliament. These sessions were all about debating for the love of debating.

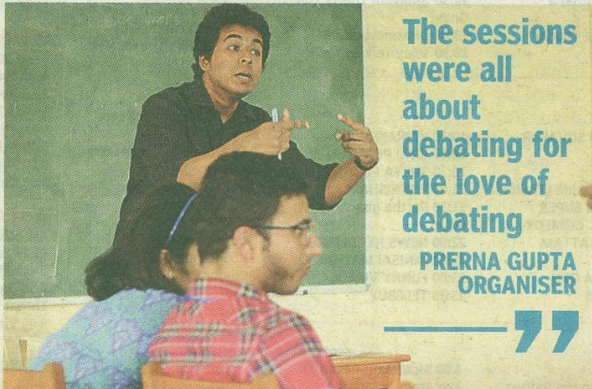
It was about experiencing the joy of winning an argument based purely on facts", says Prerna Gupta, the brain behind the sessions.

The parliamentary debate session was held according to British guidelines. In such a system, there are 2 parties, the government and the opposition. Two teams are part of each system and they argue for and against a motion.

A wide range of topics were discussed. Replying to one such topic, "Should tax deductions be made on amounts donated to charity?", Leela Murali, a participant argued, "Taxes are probably the most important method by which the Government raises money. This money is used for the



Students participate in the parliamentary debate session



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PRERNA GUPTA  
ORGANISER



Discussion and space for debate is the spinal cord of democracy.

When two parties talk, discuss and argue in an organised manner, it is easier to sift through issues and arguments that make sense. This identification of what is right is what the people of this country need. Seeing young minds engaged in the battle of wits was heartening and Stella's effort is indeed laudable.

welfare of the people. When individuals or corporates donate to charity, it serves as a tax-deductible expense. Therefore, the money, which the Government accumulates directly, benefits charities,

which use the money in the most effective manner." However, the question that the Aam Aadmi is asking is whether the government is diverting money to the people who actually need it.