

A Child knows no Borders and Signs for No Wars. Yet when the Sky Fractures, it is always the Crib that Burns First - Slogan on a Poster!



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Students Highlight the Human Cost of War Through Powerful Plays and Posters at Hyderabad Peace Event

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Hyderabad: Around 500 students from 45 schools and colleges came together to present a powerful message on the devastating human impact of war through thought-provoking one-act plays and posters. The event focused on the far-reaching consequences of the US-Israel and Iran conflict, including rising fuel prices, LPG shortages, inflation, and the increasing cost of living that have placed immense pressure on ordinary families across the world.

Through their performances, students portrayed how the poor are being pushed towards hunger while middle-class families struggle to afford basic necessities such as food, children's education, and healthcare. Several plays sensitively depicted the stark contrast in the lives of families before and after the outbreak of war, while others illustrated how violence destroys homes, relationships, and livelihoods.

One of the most impactful messages presented during the event was: **"WAR means WORLD AT RISK."** The performances underscored the idea that the consequences of war extend far beyond the battlefield, affecting millions of innocent civilians.

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FOR LOCAL TO GLOBAL NEWS

COVA competition showcases students' views on poverty and war

By [Telangana Today](#)

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Over 500 students from 45 schools in Hyderabad participated in plays and poster competitions organised by COVA to commemorate the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. The event, themed on the impact of US-Israel and Iran, highlighted poverty, war, and social struggles.

Hyderabad: Over 500 students from 45 schools showcased their talent through Plays and Posters in an inter-collegiate competition held to commemorate Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear bombings, by Confederation of Voluntary Organisations (COVA) in Hyderabad.

Titled as 'Swami Agnivesh-Praful Bidwai-B Kuttu Memorial Sambandh-2026', with the theme 'Impact of US-Israel and Iran, students through posters depicted how middle-class in the country is being pushed towards poverty, as they are unable to meet the basic needs of food, education for children and healthcare, a press release from COVA on Thursday said.

While some plays portrayed with sensitivity the living standards of a family before and after war, others showed how families are destroyed by the violence of war.

The poster competition was equally compelling, with more than 400 entries featuring poignant artwork and powerful slogans highlighting the suffering caused by armed conflicts. One of the most striking messages read:

“A child knows no borders and signs for no war – but when the sky fractures, it is always the crib that burns first.”

Mazher Hussain, Executive Director of COVA Peace Network and the main organizer of the event, said the outstanding performances and creative expressions by the students powerfully captured the *pain, struggles, and hardships endured by ordinary families during times of war*.

In the competition results, **Birla Open Minds International School** won the first prize in the college category, while **Unique School** was adjudged the best entry in the school category.

All the Plays and Posters succeeded remarkably in bringing out the sufferings and struggle of families and common people due to these wars and have potential to sensitize society at large to the devastation caused by them, COVA, Executive Director, Mazher Hussain on Thursday said.

Birla Open Minds International School won the first prize in the category of Colleges and Unique School was adjudged as the best entry for schools.

The programme was inaugurated by Rev Br Santosh Kumar, Director, Boys Town Group and Vithal Rao Arya spoke about Swami Agnivesh and his inspiring life dedicated to social transformation.



The programme was part of the **24th Annual Sambandh Inter-School and Inter-Collegiate Competitions**, organized every year to commemorate Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The event also celebrated the lives and contributions of **Swami Agnivesh**, renowned faith leader and social reformer; **Praful Bidwai**, a leading campaigner against nuclear weapons; and **B. M. Kuty of Pakistan**, who dedicated his life to promoting peace in South Asia, particularly between India and Pakistan.

The primary objective of the Sambandh initiative is to sensitize students and society to various forms of violence and their impact on individuals, families, and communities.

The programme was inaugurated by **Rev. Br. Santosh Kumar**, Director of Boys Town Group. On the occasion, **Mr. Vithal Rao Arya** spoke about the inspiring life and enduring legacy of Swami Agnivesh and his contribution to social transformation.



Students Spotlight War's Human Toll at Hyderabad Peace Event

Over 500 Hyderabad students used plays and posters at COVA's Sambandh-2026 to expose how the US-Israel-Iran conflict drives poverty, inflation and family ruin, commemorating Hiroshima while urging peace.

More than 500 students from 45 schools and colleges transformed a city stage into a powerful classroom on the human cost of conflict during the 24th annual Sambandh inter-school and inter-collegiate competitions organised by the Confederation of Voluntary Associations (COVA) Peace Network.

Held to mark the anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear bombings, the Swami Agnivesh-Praful Bidwai-B.M. Kutty Memorial Sambandh-2026 focused on the impact of the US-Israel and Iran conflict. Through one-act plays and posters, young participants showed how distant wars translate into empty kitchens, unpaid school fees and shattered homes in ordinary Indian families.

Rising Costs and Families Under Siege

Students depicted the cascade of consequences with striking clarity. Rising fuel prices, LPG shortages and broader inflation have pushed middle-class households towards poverty, making basic needs – food, children's education and healthcare – unaffordable. Plays contrasted life before and after the outbreak of conflict, illustrating how violence dismantles livelihoods, relationships and security.

One recurring message captured the scale of the threat: "WAR means WORLD AT RISK." Performances emphasised that the fallout never stays confined to battlefields. Ordinary people in civil life, especially the poor, bear the heaviest burden as they slide into hunger while the middle class struggles to stay afloat.

The poster competition drew more than 400 entries. Artists paired stark imagery with slogans that refused to look away. One of the most poignant read: "A child knows no borders and signs for no war – but when the sky fractures, it is always the crib that burns first." The visual and verbal force of these works reinforced the central theme that children and families pay first and longest.

Voices from the Stage and Organisers

Mazher Hussain, Executive Director of COVA Peace Network, said the plays and posters "powerfully captured the pain, struggles and hardships endured by ordinary families during times of war." He noted that the entries succeeded in bringing out the long-term devastation caused by conflict and held real potential to sensitise wider society.

In the results, Birla Open Minds International School took first prize in the college category, while Unique School was adjudged the best entry among schools.

The programme was inaugurated by Rev. Br. Santosh Kumar, Director of the Boys Town Group. Vithal Rao Arya spoke about the life and legacy of Swami Agnivesh, highlighting his lifelong commitment to social transformation. The event also paid tribute to Praful Bidwai, a leading campaigner against nuclear weapons, and B.M. Kutty of Pakistan, who worked tirelessly for peace in South Asia, especially between India and Pakistan.

Bro Thomas Chakkalackala, President COVA Presided. Dr. Mazher Hussain, Executive Director of COVA Welcomes and spoke about the sterling contributions of Praful Bidwai and B. Kutty to campaigns against nuclear weapons and promotion of peace in Southasia.

Guests of Honour Mr. Sajid Ali Founder and Principal Iqra Mission High School, Lion D. Jhansi Rani of New St, Maria High School, Mr. Ignixious Xaviour, Ahimsa Artist and Judge for Poster, Mr. Bharatesh Kidambi & Fr. Shailender, India Social Institute, Bengaluru Judge for One Act Plays gave prizes and addressed to inspire the students.

A Two-Decade Tradition of Peace Education

Sambandh has been organised by COVA almost every August since the early 2000s to commemorate the nuclear holocaust of 1945 and to keep alive the memory of peace activists. Past editions have explored themes such as the impact of war and violence on families, different forms of violence in society, and the need for students to check communal, caste and gender-based conflict.

The annual platform typically draws hundreds of students into debates, essays, quizzes, plays and poster-making. Its consistent aim is to move participants beyond textbooks, building empathy and a sense of responsibility for a less violent world. COVA's broader work includes the Compassionate Citizenship Programme, now integrated into Telangana's school curriculum, which encourages students to research social issues, engage communities and advocate practical solutions.

This year's focus on the economic and social fallout of the US-Israel-Iran tensions connected local classroom concerns – fuel prices, household budgets, disrupted education – with global geopolitics. Students demonstrated an ability to translate abstract news into lived experience, showing how conflicts thousands of kilometres away tighten belts and empty plates in Hyderabad homes.

Why Student Voices Matter

The event underscored a simple but urgent truth: wars do not end when the guns fall silent. Their economic aftershocks and psychological scars linger for years, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable. By placing students at the centre of the conversation, COVA created space for a generation that will inherit the consequences of today's decisions to articulate those costs in their own words and images.

Organisers hope the award-winning plays will reach wider audiences through social media and community screenings, extending the sensitisation beyond the competition hall. In a city that has long grappled with questions of communal harmony and social equity, the sight of schoolchildren staging the destruction of family life and painting the first victims of fractured skies carried particular resonance.

The 2026 Sambandh closed with the same quiet determination that has marked two decades of the programme: the belief that informed, compassionate young people remain one of the strongest barriers against the next cycle of violence and the poverty it breeds.

As the students packed away costumes and posters, their message stayed clear – peace is not an abstract ideal but a practical necessity for the survival of ordinary families.

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యుద్ధం అనర్థాలపై చిట్టిచేతుల్లో చక్కటి చిత్రాలు

యూఎస్-ఇజ్రాయెల్, ఇరాన్ మధ్య యుద్ధం వల్ల ప్రపంచ దేశాల ప్రజలు ఎదుర్కొంటున్న ఇబ్బందులపై విద్యార్థులు ఆలోచింపజేసే ప్రదర్శనలు ఇచ్చారు. కోవా పీస్ నెట్వర్క్ సంస్థ ఆధ్వర్యంలో పాతబస్తీలోని బాయ్స్ టౌన్ స్కూల్లో గురువారం చిత్రలేఖనం, పోస్టర్ డిజైన్, రూపకాలు, నాటికలు నిర్వహించారు. 50 పాఠశాలలు, కళాశాలలకు చెందిన 450 మంది ఇందులో పాల్గొని, వారి సృజనాత్మకతను చాటారు. కళాశాలల విభాగంలో బీర్లా ఓపెన్ మైండ్స్ ఇంటర్నేషనల్ స్కూల్ మొదటి బహుమతి గెలుచుకుంది. -ఈనాడు, హైదరాబాద్



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