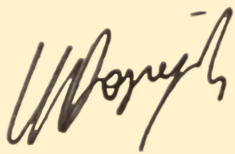**Minutes - TH Regrets the Decline of Communism in South Asia | The Cambridge Majlis 23-24 | Michaelmas Term**

On 15th October 2023, the Cambridge Majlis hosted its first Sunday debate of the Michaelmas 2023 term - TH regrets the decline of communism in South Asia, chaired by Majlis Debates Officer Ayush Jain. The proposition - Pratap Chandra Sen, Aditya Rao and Saad Siddiqui - posited arguments based on what they asserted were the theoretical, historical and practical benefits of communism to modern day South Asia. In relation to India, communism was seen as the answer to a right-wing BJP government, as well as focusing on the proposed benefits of Marxist thought in India and the assertion that, fundamentally, "any perspective that differs from the dominating perspective must be protected". The opposition - Shivansh Pandey, A.S. Ahluwalia and Rida Fatima - set out a first argument focused on economic arguments for liberalism, before turning the attendees' thoughts to historical examples of the way that communism had brought suffering to South Asia. They argued based on what was described as India's historical adoption of the ill-fitting Soviet model of communism that India's had not been a communism by or for the Indian people, with arguments also asserting that communist influence turned Pakistan into a geopolitical football between each side of the Iron Curtain, argued that its decline could not be regretted when it never stood a chance. The floor speeches provided informed and thought-provoking discussion which questioned the label of "decline" in relation to South Asian communism and, following a marked emphasis on India from many of the initial speakers, included a striking reflection on the violent history of communism in Sri Lanka from Majlis Treasurer Serika Siriwardhana. The final vote was in favour of the Opposition, with much of the floor swayed by the historical examples given by opposition speakers.

Keirit Kaur Dosanjh - Vice-President (Internal)
The Cambridge Majlis 2023-4