

Skeptics-Philosophy Association Report 2017-18

The Philosophy Association 'Skeptics' began its yearly activities with electing the office bearers of the association on 17th August 2017. The following members were elected:

President: Preeti Joshi B.A. (H) 3rd year

Vice President: Mansi Rana B.A. (H) 2nd year

General Secretary: Ananya Pandey B.A. (H) 2nd year

Cultural Secretary: Arundhati Dubey B.A. (H) 1st year

Treasurer: Priyanka Batla B.A. (H) 3rd year

Skeptics started the new academic year by extending a warm welcome to the freshers to the first year students on 24th August 2017. The 2nd and 3rd year philosophy students organised a fun filled cultural program for the newcomers.

Prof. Bharat Gupta, Eminent scholar and Executive Member, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts was invited to deliver a lecture on “**Approaches to Aesthetics: Greece and India**” on 30th August 2017. The lecture helped students in developing an understanding of the meaning and approaches towards Aesthetics from the perspective of ancient Greek and Indian philosophy. The interaction with the speaker brought forth certain similarities and differences between the two geographically distant yet philosophically close systems of thought.

The Association organised another interactive session with Dr. Stuart Gray, Professor of Politics at Washington and Lee University on “**Political Philosophy in the Epic Mahabharata**” on 18th January, 2018. Dr. Gray brought forth the significance of the notion of Dharma as a social and political principle, which guides all of us. Our Principal, Dr. Savita Roy shared her accumulative knowledge and vision on the concept of duty, as laid down in the epic. She emphasised how duty governs all the spheres of our lives including personal and professional. Principal Madam, Faculty members, students and the speaker enthusiastically interacted on a variety of issues, like, the nature of the characters of Mahabharata, the answers one seeks from the text, duty depending on one's position in life, political and philosophical ideas in Mahabharata and several others. Dr. Gray acknowledged that this mutual sharing of ideas has benefited him in understanding several pertinent dimensions of the great epic.

The Association organised its annual festival **Darśana** on 19th February 2018. Prof. Bijoy H. Boruah, Department of Philosophy, Humanities and Social Sciences delivered a talk on “**Reality, Appearance/Phenomena, and Consciousness**”. Many inter-college competitions were organised to provide students an opportunity to enhance their creativity. The following competitions were held: Picture Interpretation, Debate Competition on the topic- “Freedom of art is hammered out on the anvil of discussion, dissent and debate”, T-shirt Painting Competition on the theme- “Beautiful thing is never perfect”, Open Mic Competition on the theme- “Beauty in things exists in the mind, which contemplates them.” All the events were well participated and attended by the students.

The Association organised a talk by Prof. Roy W. Perrett, Research Associate, School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, University of Melbourne, Australia and Visiting Professor of Indian Philosophy at Ashoka University on 7th April, 2018. Prof. Perrett gave a lecture on **“Indian Theories on the Nature of the Self.”** Students and faculty were immensely benefitted by the in-depth discussion on the nature of self by various schools of classical Indian philosophy. Several questions were answered by Prof. Perrett during the interactive session which followed the lecture.

Dr. V. Sujata Raju

Association In-charge, 2017-18

