

Departmental Annual Report - 3

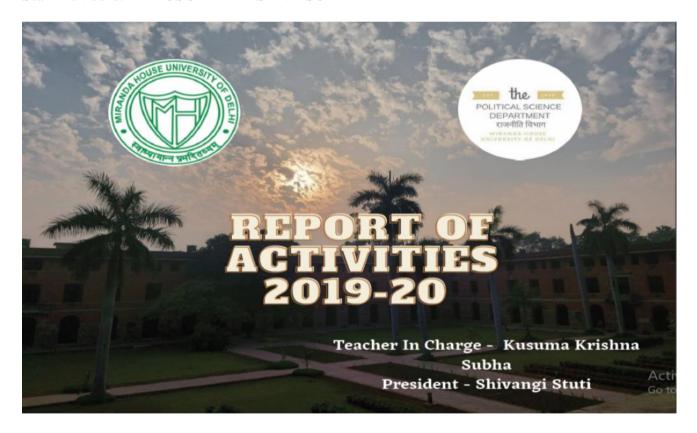
Departmental Activities: Curriculum and Beyond

Department: Political Science

Year: 2019-2020

Department Society and its Office Bearers:

Staff Advisors: Dr KUSUMA KRISHNA SUBHA



Part B.1

Seminars/conferences/workshops conducted by the Department

Role of Women in Indian Society

August 2019 began with an interactive workshop with the students and faculty of University of York on the topic "Role of Women in Indian Society". The speaker for the event was Prof. Anupama Roy with Dr.



Bijayalaxmi Nanda, Acting Principal, Miranda House chairing the session. The session culminated with a number of questions by students of both University of York and Miranda House college and a discussion with the panelists to develop a better understanding of the topic



The British Rule in India



The second session in continuation with The University of York began with the address by Dr. Rakesh Batabyal on the topic "The British Rule in India", which was then followed by Prof. Ashok Acharya on the topic "Gandhi's life and teachings".

Why Constitutional Democracy Matters



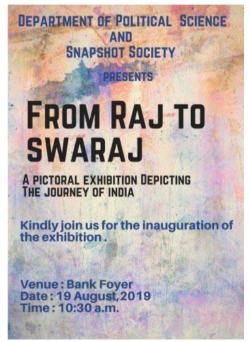
8th August 2019: The Department of Political Science organised the first lecture of the public lecture series - "Why Constitutional Democracy Matters?" with Prof. Ujjwal Kumar Singh as the speaker. Sir talked about how democracy is a structure through which we can maximise our capacities. The lecture also included how constitutionalism is important to check arbitrary power. The room was left with the resonating lesson that questioning isn't opposing, it is a quest for knowledge.





From Raj to Swaraj

19^{t h} August 2019: The Department of Political Science in collaboration with Snapshots Society set up an exhibition on the topic "From Raj to Swaraj", a pictorial exhibition depicting the journey of India.







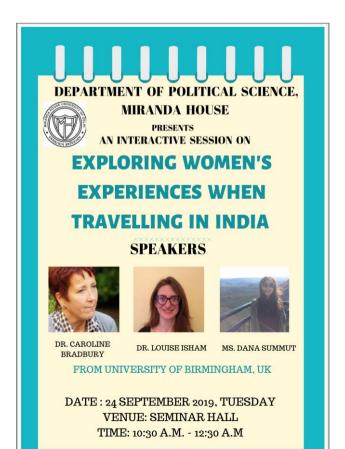


Legal Literacy Workshop

From 23^{r d} September 2019 to 4^{t h} October 2019, the Department of Political Science in collaboration with B.A. Programme organized the 'Legal Literacy 'Workshop, wherein several lawyers and judges were invited in collaboration with Delhi State Legal Services Authority to help students be aware of nuances of various laws. It was an engaging workshop for all students, who kept the session alive with multiple and interesting questions.

Exploring Women's Experiences While Travelling in India

On 24th September 2019, the Department of Political Science organized a seminar on the topic "Exploring Women's Experiences While Travelling in India". The speakers included Dr. Caroline Bradbury, Dr. Louise Ishan and Ms. Dana Summut from University of Birmingham, along with Ms. Rashmi Singh from Manas Foundation; mediated by Dr. Bijayalaxmi Nanda, Acting Principal, Miranda House. This engaging and thought-provoking seminar focused on the various challenges that emerge when it comes to the mobility of women in India. The session ended with an interactive session with the guests, wherein not only questions were raised, but also experiences and concerns were voiced out. Thus, the session proved to be an extremely engaging endeavor.

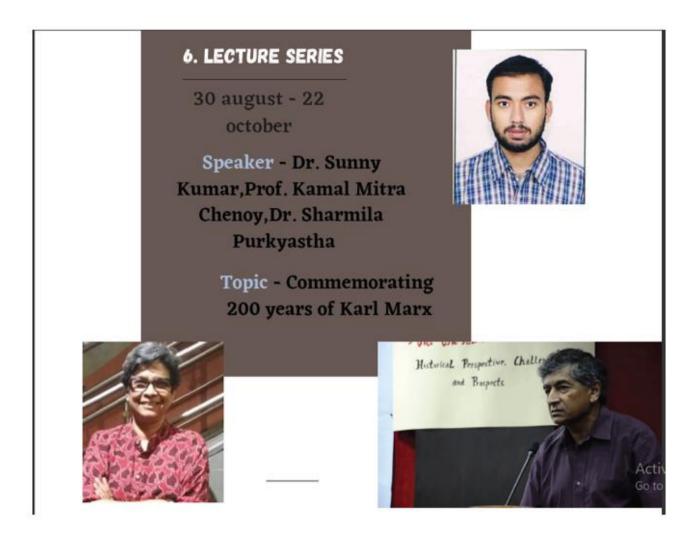




Women's Struggles for Equality: Epic and Everyday

22^{n d} and 23^{r d} October 2019, the Department of Political Science in collaboration with Women Development Cell, Miranda House conducted a grassroots comic workshop around the theme "Women's Struggles for Equality: Epic and Everyday" by Sharad Sharma of World Comics India. The workshop provided the students an opportunity to acquire skill and become part of a publication, and to receive a certificate of participation from World Comics India and Centre for Women Development Studies.

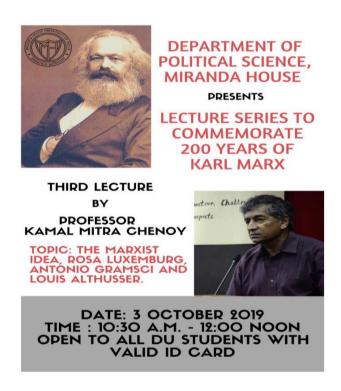
Commemorating 200 years of Karl Marx: Lecture Series





Marx on Identity and Discourse of Rights

30th August 2019: The Department of Political Science organized the second lecture of the lecture series to commemorate 200 years of Karl Marx by Dr. Sunny Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Miranda House on the topic "Marx on Identity and Discourse of Rights". The lecture included the importance of Marx's method of critique and what was Marx's perception of identity in relation to the contemporaries of his time. The seminar served the crucial purpose of bringing forth the key issues that everyone must keep in mind.



The Marxist Idea, Rosa Luxemburg, Antonio Gramsci and Louis Althusse

3^{r d} October, 2019, the Department of Political Science organized the third lecture of the lecture series to commemorate 200 years of Karl Marx by Prof. Kamal Mitra Chenoy, on the topic "The Marxist Idea, Rosa Luxemburg, Antonio Gramsci and Louis Althusser." Prof Chenoy analyzed Marx and his political thought by individually focusing on various aspects of his theory and by focusing on Luxemburg and Gramsci's ideas as well. Overall, the session was quite helpful in providing a new perspective on Marx and his ideas and was a memorable and enriching experience for both the present faculty and student fraternity



Gender and the problem of praxis: An examination of Marxist Leninist Movements of the 1970s

On 22nd October 2019, the Department of Political Science organized the fourth lecture of the lecture series to commemorate 200 years of Karl Marx. The session began with Dr. Sharmila Purkayastha's lecture on the topic "Gender and the problem of praxis: An examination of Marxist-Leninist Movements of the 1970s" and was followed by a question and answer round.

Author Speak Lecture Series

Rethinking Everything-

Questioning Eurocentric Renditions of the Human Prospect

3^{r d} September 2019, the Department of Political Science organized the first lecture of the series - 'Authors Speak 'by Prof. R. Kanth, Economist, Philosopher, Social Thinker, Harvard University (2007-2017). The lecture was on the topic "Rethinking Everything-Questioning Eurocentric Renditions of the Human Prospect". The lecture introduced the students to the broader aspects of Eurocentrism, its harmful effects and his ideas of "Euro Modernism". It was also discussed as in how it is a critical contemporary need to focus on larger issues of climate change. The session transcended into an interactive session in which even the faculty felt willing to participate.



Women and Gift Economy

16th September 2019, the Department of Political Science conducted the second lecture of the "AuthorSpeak" series by Ms. Genevive Vaughan, a semiotician, peace activist, feminist and philanthropist on the topic "Women and Gift Economy". The lecture enlightened the students about the meaning and



practice of gift economy and how it emerges as an immensely important alternative to capitalism. The session ended with a question and answer round wherein the students engaged with the resource person to understand the system's application and feasibility.

Secularism and the Nature of the State



On 29th January 2020, the Department of Political Science conducted the third session of the "Authors Speak" series. In this extremely engaging session, Prof. Vidhu Verma, Jawaharlal Nehru University, came to talk to the students about her work on Secularism and the Nature of the State and the approach she has taken towards these concepts in her books and research articles. The session was chaired by Prof. Amitabh Mattoo, the Chairperson of the Governing Body of Miranda House College. The session ended with an interactive session in which the students got an opportunity to engage with Prof. Verma not only about these concepts, but also in terms of research analogy.





Election Commission of India

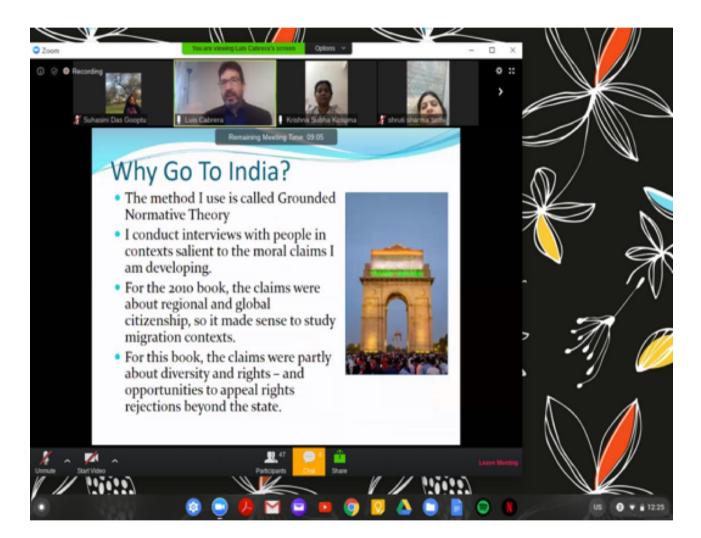
24th April 2020: The Department of Political Science conducted its first Webinar continuing the AuthorSpeak series with Prof. Ujjwal Kumar Singh and Prof. Anupama Roy. The discussion took place about their book 'Election Commission of India'. It was quite an engaging session with students and faculty questioning different dynamics about the commission.



The Humble Cosmopolitan: Rights, Diversity and Trans-State Democracy'

1^{s t} May 2020: The Department of Political Science organized the second webinar as part of the "AuthorSpeak" series with Dr Luis Cabrera. The session focused on his work 'The Humble Cosmopolitan: Rights, Diversity and Trans-State Democracy'. The book has highlighted Dr B R Ambedkar as a 'humble cosmopolitan' who has offered powerful resources to address diversity objections against institutional global citizenship. While discussing the limitations of cosmopolitanism, Ambedkar's contributing ideas from 'Disposition of Political Humility' and the concept of social endosmosis also come to light.





Vigilance Awareness Week

Vigilance Awareness Week was celebrated from 30th October 2019 in Miranda House and this was anchored by the Department of Political Science in collaboration with Tula, Miranda House Consumer Club. The event started with the Program Coordinator Dr. Jayashree Pillai's address to the audience where she urged them to make integrity as a way of life.

Thereafter, the Acting Principal, Dr. Bijayalaxmi Nanda administered the 'Integrity Pledge', where the students vowed to work together to eradicate corruption by performing all tasks in an honest and transparent manner, acting in public interest and exhibiting integrity in personal behavior, by reporting all incidents to the appropriate agency. The pledge was followed by a Flash Mob that assembled to take



forward the cause of vigilance and accountability through catchy slogans, urging people to make India corruption free. Mr. Rajit Punhani, Chief Vigilance Officer (NTPC) was the keynote speaker. Further, a Quiz Competition and Elocution were held in which many students participated.



VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK, 2019



MIRANDA HOUSE

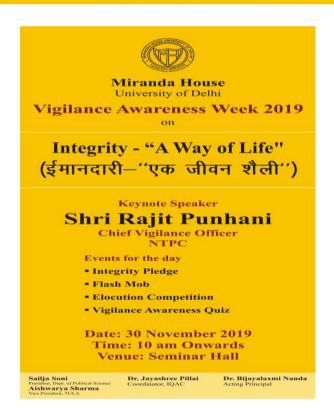
Integrity - "A Way of Life" (ईमानदारी-"एक जीवन शैली")

Keynote Speaker

Shri Rajit Punhani

Chief Vigilance Officer NTPC

Date: 30 November 2019 Time: 10 am Onwards Venue: Seminar Hall





Hazaron Khwahishein- A decade defined by Youth

On 24th and 25th February, 2020, the department of Political Science had its annual fest Ecclesia on the theme- 'Hazaron Khwahishein- A decade defined by Youth'. As a part of it, the department organized a T-Shirt painting competition, debate competition, slam poetry competition and photography competition. Prof. Neera Chandoke was invited to be the keynote speaker to talk on the topic "The Role of Youth in Civil Society" and Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty was invited for the valedictory address on the topic "Youth and Democratic Polity". There was also a Round Table Discussion on the theme "Role of Youth in Environmental Protection and Activism" by John Paul Jose, climate change activist, writer and global peace ambassador. The department also invited two catering groups of the Somali and Afghani refugee women called Ilham and Macquul respectively and various other stalls.





Milestones- On 4th February 2020, the Department of Political Science inaugurated the Public Policy and Gender Research Lab in Miranda House.







