



MIRANDA HOUSE University of Delhi

SPIC MACAY Society Annual Report 2023-2024



STAFF ADVISORS:

CONVENOR

Dr. Nirmala Saini (Department of Physics)

MEMBERS

Dr. Mamta Sethi (Department of Chemistry)

Dr. Geeta Rani (Department of Physics)

Mr. Kanhaiya Kumar Yadav (Department of History)

UNION MEMBERS:

Himani Savitri Ahirwar (PRESIDENT)

Aliza Hameed (VICE PRESIDENT)

Rajsmitta (TREASURER)

Bhumika Gupta (GENERAL SECRETARY)

UNION ELECTIONS

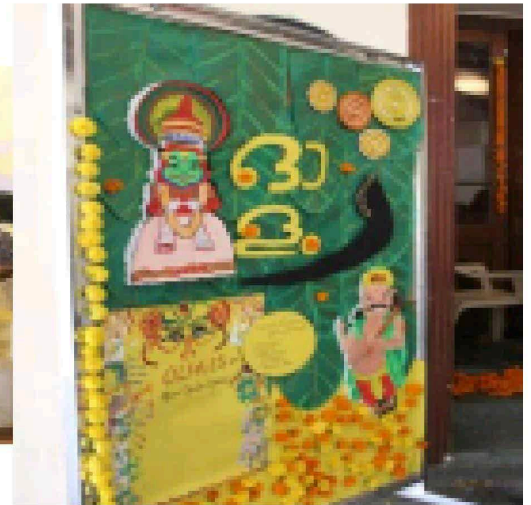
The Union of *SPIC MACAY* Miranda House Chapter is headed by Himani Ahirwar as President, Aliza as Vice-President, Rajsmitta as Treasurer and Bhumika Gupta as General Secretary.

Further, for smooth functioning of the society, the extended council was formed with Nandini and Treya serving as the Content and Research Heads, Mohini and Ramanshi as the Graphics and PR Heads, Tanushree and Sneha as the Hospitality Heads, Prabhnoor as the Logistics Head, Darshana and Shivangi as the Creative and Compering Heads, Navya as the Photography Head and Arshika as the Sponsorship Head.

DEPARTMENTAL ORIENTATION

Departmental Orientation was conducted in each department via online mode after in which the office bearers and the extended council members were introduced and the functioning and duties of each department was discussed.

OLAM CULTURAL EVENT



Date : 12th September, 2023

Number of Audience : 300+ participants

Olam'23, the annual cultural extravaganza in collaboration with Spic Macay, took place on September 12th, 2023, at college auditorium, showcasing an array of cultural events that celebrated diversity, creativity, and talent. The event attracted participants and spectators of students from different departments, making it a resounding success.

The day of Olam'23 was dedicated to showcasing talent across various domains, including dance, music, and fashion show. It was a day filled with electrifying performances like Nadanpattu, Individual performances, Fashion show, Vanchipattu or the boat song, Thiruvathirakali, Onapattu.

The event fulfilled its goal of promoting diversity and fostering artistic expression, leaving attendees inspired and culturally enriched. The organizing committee, volunteers, and participants deserve commendation for making Olam'23 a memorable and culturally enriching experience.

CARNATIC VIOLIN RECITAL



Date : 16th October, 2023

Number of Audience : 250 people



On October 16, 2023, an enchanting Carnatic classical music violin recital was organized at the Miranda House Auditorium. The event featured the immensely talented Lal Gudi duo, GJR Krishnan and Vijaylakshmi Krishnan, accompanied by Sri MV Chandrashekhar on the mridangam.

The recital began with a captivating alapana, where the violinist explored various ragas, setting the mood for the evening. The first showcase included Varna (the vibrant raga) of Garudh Dhvani. Next, the artists played Rudra Pratam (Raga: Saraswati). The third Purandra Dasa, Raga: Narayana, is followed by Raga Kalyani, which helps in the improvisation of the tunes played. They played "Vaishnav Dhan toh Dene kahiye." This ended with the melodious and enchanting tunes of Sundari Bharaivi (a tune used in the Carnatic dance form performance Bharatnatyam).

The Carnatic classical music violin recital was a mesmerizing and soulful musical experience that showcased the rich heritage of Indian classical music.

‘SHATRANJ KE KHILADHI’ - CINEMA CLASSICS SCREENING



Date : 19th October, 2023

Number of Audience : 30+ participants

SPICMACAY Miranda House Chapter screened Satyajit Ray's film 'Shatranj Ke Khiladi', based on Premchand's story of the same name on the 19th of October 2023. With Amitabh Bachchan's voice giving us the background of Premchand's story, we enter Awadh and the game of chess being played on the fields of Lucknow by the British, and in the house of Mirza Sajjad Ali. The music composed by Satyajit Ray and the dances choreographed by Pandit Birju Maharaj add to the evocative layers of the narrative.

A short discussion followed the screening of this film. Students talked about their favourite aspect of the film, the music, the metaphors they found in the game of chess as shown in the movie, and the historical background.

HERITAGE WALK (QUTUB MINAR COMPLEX)



Date : 28th November 2023

No. of volunteers : 30+ participants



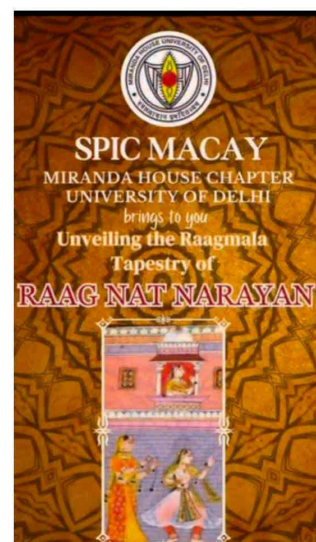
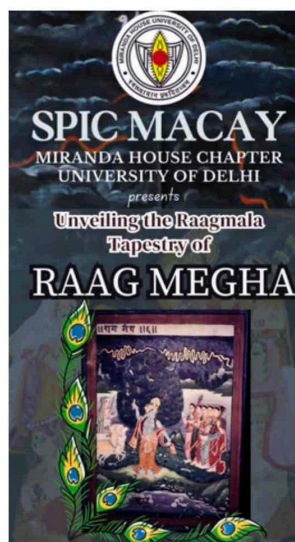
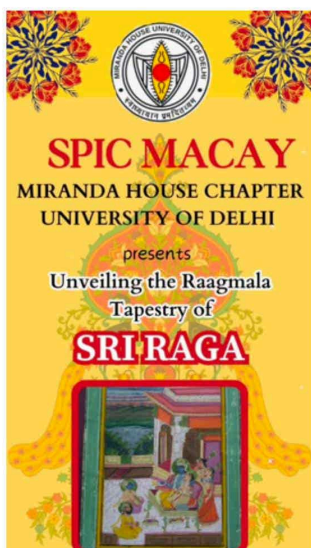
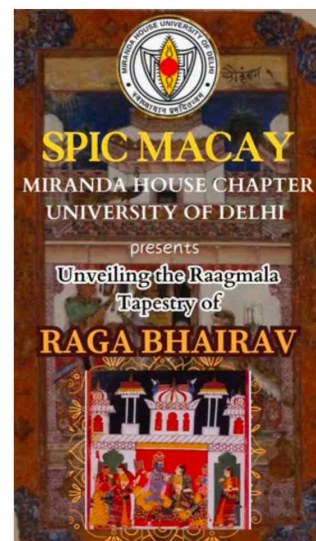
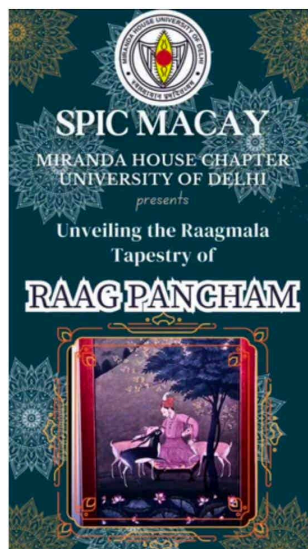
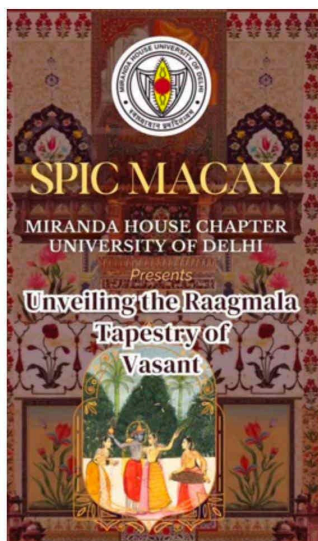
On 28 November 2023, SPIC MACAY, Miranda House Chapter organised a heritage walk to Qutub Minar Complex conducted by historian guide, Dr Aradhana Sinha. The student volunteers of SPIC MACAY as well as students of Miranda House from different courses and fields had the pleasure of participating in a heritage walk to Qutub Minar, and the experience was truly enriching. Led by an amiable guide, the tour not only delved into the historical significance of the monument but also wove in captivating tales and stories, making it a memorable exploration.

Dr. Aradhana Sinha's extensive knowledge about Qutub Minar's history was commendable. Her ability to seamlessly blend facts with intriguing narratives added a layer of depth to the walk. Beyond dates and architectural details, the guide shared captivating anecdotes that breathed life into the monument's past. This storytelling approach made the historical journey more relatable and engaging. Her willingness to answer questions and interact with participants added a personal touch to the experience. The heritage walk to Qutub Minar exceeded expectations. The combination of a knowledgeable and friendly guide, coupled with the incorporation of intriguing tales, made this excursion both educational and enjoyable.

RAAGMALA SERIES



SPICMACAY MH Chapter embarked on a vibrant journey through the Raagmala series starting on February 19, 2023 exploring the captivating convergence of music, art, and seasons. It delved into the six major paintings, uncovering the intricate connections between ragas, art, and the changing seasons.



‘THE STALWARTS OF CINEMA’ - CINEMA CLASSICS SERIES

SPICMACAY Miranda House Chapter organized a captivating cinema classics event, "Stalwarts of Cinema", featuring three iconic films - "Bicycle Thieves", "Rashomon", and "Jalsaghar" - on consecutive days (26th, 27th, and 28th February, 2024).

No. of Audience : 60 + people

DAY I



Day I started with the screening of "Bicycle Thieves" accompanied with the presence of SPICMACAY's National Convener Rajiv Sir, the poignant narrative directed by Vittorio De Sica unfolded against the post-World War II backdrop, exploring the struggles of an impoverished father desperately searching for his stolen bicycle, crucial for his livelihood. The emotional resonance of the characters resonated with the audience, evoking empathy and reflection on societal disparities. The cinematography showcased the gritty reality of post-war Italy, enhancing the film's impact.

Post-screening discussions delved into the film's timeless themes, sparking conversations on poverty, morality, and the human condition. Attendees appreciated the choice of this neorealist classic, acknowledging its enduring relevance. The event not only entertained but also stimulated intellectual engagement, reaffirming the society's commitment to promoting meaningful cinematic experiences.

DAY 2



Day 2 saw the screening of the first Japanese film to receive international accolades: Kurosawa's classic film *Rashomon*. This film has several intertwining themes of poverty, the condition of women – and how different people have different perspectives about the same situation, now known as the 'Rashomon effect'. This shows how eyewitnesses can also be unreliable. The cinematography is crucial in the portrayal of the condition of people living at that time. The movie starts with despair in the forest scene where light rarely penetrates, depicting the darkness in which people were living, in a place where truth remains unraveled.

The audience discussed the themes of the movie as well as how sensitive issues such as the condition of women and how they were 'supposed to behave' was brought out. There was also a discussion on how poverty causes inhumanity, and simultaneously how there are some people who restore faith in humanity – as shown at the end of the movie.

DAY 3



Day 3, the final day, wrapped up the series with the screening of Satyajit Ray's classic film - *Jalsaghar*. Based on Tarasankar Bandhopadhyay's short story, it deals with post-independence India and the abolition of the zamindari system by the government.

There is a twofold message that the film conveys, first the persona and type of the zamindars, with a certain way of life replete with customary etiquette, and dos and don'ts - including organising jalsas or celebrations of music and dance, even at the cost of family fortunes. And secondly, a depiction of the cultured patronage that the zamindars provided to the arts, so that they continued to flourish and develop with a high standard of aesthetics.

The audience participated in the discussion and took up these strands of the movie, of how 'the Jalsaghar' is the most important thing in the Zamindar's life and what he holds on to, even when everything else is gone.

VIRASAT 2024 SERIES

VIRASAT, a manifestation of culture, tradition and rituals, passed through generations to add substance of thought to their living. With this spirit, SPIC MACAY Miranda House Chapter celebrated their annual fest VIRASAT on 9, 12, 13, and 14th March 2024.

Heritage Walk (Purana Qila)



Date : 9th March, 2024

Number of Audience : 17-20 participants

SPICMACAY Miranda House Chapter organised a heritage walk to Purana Qila as a part of its annual festival Virasat. The walk was led by Dr. Aradhna Sinha who guided the students through the history of the Qila.

The walk started at the Bada Darwaza, where Dr. Aradhna pointed out the details in the architecture of the gate including specific materials used and construction features of the arch. She also explained the history of important structures in the Qila such as the Qila-i-Kuhna Mosque, which was built by Sher Shah Suri. With 5 mihrabs, ornate jharokas, it is currently one of the better preserved monuments with ornate marble inlays, and calligraphic quotes from the Quran.

Then there is the Sher Mandal, which was used by Humayun as a personal observatory and is often known as Humayun's library. Humayun is said to have died while hurrying down the stairs when he heard the call for the evening prayers - namaz. There is also a Baoli in the Qila which gives us an insight into the effective water supply systems of the time. At the time of partition, Purana Qila was one of the biggest refugee camps housing several hundred men, women and children.

The attendees were riveted by the many facets of the Qila and its history, and asked several questions. A wonderful beginning to Virasat through a walk through a very significant of our architectural heritage.

VIRASAT 2024 SERIES

Bharatanatyam Dance Recital



Date : 12th March, 2024

Number of Audience : 400+ people

On 12 March 2024, SPIC MACAY Miranda House Chapter's annual fest "VIRASAT" presented a captivating Bharatnatyam dance recital, graced by esteemed artists Vidushi Geeta Chandran, Venkatesh Kuppuswamy, Varun Rajasekharan, R. Keshavan, and G. Raghavendra Prasath. The principal of Miranda House Dr. Bijayalakshmi Nanda also shared some words of encouragement to the audience in which she emphasised the importance of dedication and discipline in our culture and the requirement of today's era for upliftment of tradition and culture to which the SPIC MACAY is completely devoted to. This encouraged our convenor prof. Saraswati to appreciate the legacy the SPIC MACAY is marking by their thoughtful contribution to this cause.

"Classics are like a language that needs to be learnt with grammar which is to be learnt under the feet of the guru." The words marked the beginning of the one hour journey of dissemination of knowledge and collaborative learning. Her performance started with a dance on Shloka that voiced the vibrancy of women. It showed her strength, her anger, her resilience and also her love, care and purity. The series of amazement continued with the performance that depicted the passion, hard work, dedication with which Meera loved Shri Krishna and never wanted to be parted with him and to achieve this she was not even hesitated to make a sacrifice. Vidushi Geeta Chandran with her shishya Ms. Madhura Bhrushundi gave a glimpse of what are basics of Bharatnatyam like bhumi pranam and the exercise, effort and dedication it takes to learn this art. It was the beneficence of Vidushi Geeta Chandran to grace our event with her captivating performance, which we cannot forget, and for this we would be forever grateful.

VIRASAT 2024 SERIES

Hindustani Classical Vocal Recital



Date : 13th March, 2024

Number of Audience : 300+ people

On 13 March 2024, SPIC MACAY Miranda House Chapter's annual fest "VIRASAT" featured a mesmerizing Hindustani classical vocal recital by the renowned vocalist Pandit Bhuvnesh Komkali Ji. Accompanied by Shri Chetan Nigam Ji on harmonium and Shri Shambhunath Bhattacharjee on tabla, the performance took place in the auditorium of Miranda House College.

Experienced a rich musical legacy with Bhuvanesh Komkali ji, the grandson of the legendary singer Pandit Kumar Gandharva and son of eminent vocalist Mukul Shivputra. Komkali Ji has received numerous awards, including the Mallikarjun Mansur Yuva Puraskaar from the Government of Karnataka in 2010 and Sangeet Natak Akademi's prestigious Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar in 2012.

The artist known for their ability to create and convey heavenly music that soothes the mind, body and soul, displayed a unique presentation portraying a distinctive amalgamation of Indian classical music (namely bhola re banna). At the end of the event, Komkaliji interacted with the students and satiated their queries by sharing interesting facts & valuable inputs. The programme, which was an opportunity to learn the true essence of Indian classical music, was attended by a large number of students, faculty members.

VIRASAT 2024 SERIES

'Teesri Kasam' -

Cinema Classics Screening



Date : 14th March, 2024

Number of Audience : 30+ participants

On 14th March 2024, the screening of the classic Hindi film "Teesri Kasam" was organised by SPICMACAY MIRANDA HOUSE CHAPTER, eliciting a profound analysis from Dr. Sangeeta Gupta, an esteemed alumni of Miranda House. Around 30 students from different colleges took delight in this classic event.

"Teesri Kasam" is a classic movie featuring Raj Kapoor and Waheeda Rehman directed by Basu Bhattacharya and produced by renowned lyricist Shailendra. After the screening Dr. Gupta provided insightful commentary on the film's portrayal of societal nuances. She highlighted the subtle nuances overlooked by mainstream interpretation. Starting from analysing the title "Teesri Kasam" she delved into the realm of cinematography, lyrics, societal norms, emphasis on work and much more. She took everyone on a tour of the 1960s talking about prominence of "Nautanki", rural setup, major beliefs and even real life stories of the casts and crews. She even untangled the lyrics and scrutinised the cinematic metaphors from the movie.

To crown the whole, Dr. Gupta's thought provoking analysis added another dimension to the audience's perspective. The event indeed was a success, leaving the attendees inspired by the cinematic masterpiece and intensified their respect for Indian cinema.