

Conferences and Seminars, Lectures by Department of History 2017-2018

Panel Discussion on 'Imaging Gender in the matrix of Power, Love & Hate'

TATHASTU, the History Department's Maiden Festival was held on 27th and 28th October, 2017 which focussed primarily on academics and culture. The two-day Festival was inaugurated by the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Govt., Mr Manish Sisodia, Chairperson, Dr Kusum Krishna and the Principal Dr Swati Pal.

The Inaugural Session began with a Panel Discussion on the theme- ' Imaging Gender in the matrix of Power, Love & Hate. The distinguished panelists were Prof Vijaya Ramaswamy, Prof Kumkum Roy, Prof Anshu Malhotra, Dr Smita Sahgal and Dr Tara Sheemar.

The Inaugural session also featured the formal release of Dr Tara Sheemars book titled "Plunging the Ocean".

Vijay Nath Memorial Lecture, 12th October, 2017

HERITAGE, HISTORY ASSOCIATION organized its Dr. Vijay Nath Memorial Lecture Series on the 12th of October 2017 in memory of Late Dr. Vijay Nath. The theme of the lecture series was "Reconstructing Buddha through the prism of 'Tripitakas' and 'Jatakas'."

The speakers were Prof. Hira Paul Gangnegi (Ex-HOD, Dept of Buddhist Studies, DU) and Prof. Hari Shankar Prasad (HOD, Dept of Philosophy, DU). The event was

also graced by Late Dr. Vijay Nath's son-in-law Mr. Sai Srinivas. The Principal Dr. Swati Pal stressed on the need to adopt Buddha's way of living and the relevance of it in present times.

Prof. Gangnegi introduced the students to the complex theme of Reconstructing Buddha. He began with explaining the etymological definition of Buddha itself i.e. wisdom. Prof. Gangnegi highlighted the need to address suffering which Buddha mentioned repeatedly and the essence of which has been captured in the Tripitikas. Bodhi-chitta he stressed is the most important element to be kept in mind.

Prof. Hari Shankar Prasad weaved the philosophy of Buddha from funny anecdotes from his life. He stressed on Buddha's philosophy which requires one to address the problem of cognition through knowledge Vidyacaran. Hence, by questioning everything our existence is reduced to the mind which should be combined with compassion.



Talk on Delhi: Cities and Settlements, 2nd of Aug. 2017

The Department of History, Janki Devi Memorial College organized a talk 'Delhi: Cities and Settlements' by Dr. Swapna Liddle on the 2nd of August 2017 at the College Library Hall. Ms. Smita Mitra, Teacher-in-Charge of the Department gave the Inaugural Speech in which she briefly sketched the historical significance of Delhi.

Dr. Liddle spoke on the heritage of Delhi, it's physical landscape and the impact it has had on the cultural and intellectual life through the Ages. Delhi, because of its

strategic location between the Himalayas and the Doab region has acted as a corridor throughout History. It has been at the centre of trade routes. Hence, the city itself as a settlement can be analysed in layers starting from the Prehistoric Age to the coming in of the British.

With the coming of the British, the temporary capital of Delhi was established in the Civil Lines (1911). Hence, Delhi continued to be a symbol of seat of power. Dr. Liddle concluded her speech by stressing on the need to understand the many layers of the physical landscape of Delhi itself. The talk was followed by a question answer session and a vote of thanks.

