## Department of Philosophy Janki Devi Memorial College University of Delhi 2020-21

#### Webinars

#### Department of Philosophy in association with Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR

Topic: A Convergence of Science and Faith- Why Yoga Offers a Perfect Path To Well Being

Speakers: Prof. R.C. Sinha, Prof. Balaganapathi Devarakonda, Dr. T.P. Sashi Kumar, Prof. N.C. Panda, Dr. Jagannath Patil, Ms. Vidhu Chaudhary, Dr. Sushim Dubey

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 at 10 a.m.

Objective: In view of Covid-19, a pandemic spread across the world the Department of Philosophy of JDMC had organized a webinar to address the various issues that are arising due to social distancing and the lockdown imposed by nations to control the spread of the pandemic. Yoga as the plausible step towards well-being of humankind. The aim is to spread the yoga philosophy and its benefits across the masses. We are undergoing a very difficult time. It is through yoga we can improve our immunity, and able to manage our physical and mental health during Covid -19. One such tool that can help in dealing with stress, anxiety and health problems arising due to Covid-19, is Yoga.

An international webinar was organized by Department of Philosophy, Janki Devi Memorial College in association with Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 on 'A Convergence of Science and Faith- Why Yoga Offers a Perfect Path to Well Being'. The Webinar started at 10:00 am with an introduction given by Dr. Ruplekha Khullar, followed by the Principal Dr. Swati Pal's address to the gathering. Dr. Jayanti P. Sahoo, Coordinator of the programme, thereafter introduced the key speakers.Prof. R.C Sinha, respected Chairman at ICPR, presented how man being a psychological as well as spiritual being can work for the betterment of the society, if empowered by the elements of self-realization and compassion provided by yoga.

Prof. Devarakonda, Department of Philosophy, University of Delhi, discussed the plausible convergence of enlightened faith and science. He emphasized that Yoga puts all the components of self, whether physical, emotional or spiritual, in harmony with each other. Dr. Shashi Kumar, Space- Scientist and Educationist, enlightened everyone with the diluted nature of yoga which is commercialized and marketed for maximum profit. Prof. N. C. Panda, presented Yoga as the path towards self- realization which has transformative powers to lead mankind to lberation, with reference to texts of Indian Philosophy. Dr. Jagannath Patil, a well-established Professor at MEXT, Tokya Japan, emphasized the need for main

streaming and accreditation of Yoga programmes into Higher Education. Ms. Vidhu Chaudhary and Dr. Sushim Dubey further elaborated on relevance of Yoga in promoting the overall well being, at these trying times.

More than 200 Faculty members and students across the globe attended the program. Questions raised by the attendee were addressed by the speakers.

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Poster for Webinar on "A Convergence of Science and Faith- Why Yoga Offers a Perfect Path To Well Being"

#### **INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR**

Topic: Religion and Politics: Implications for Peace and Conflict

Speakers: Dr. T.P Sashi Kumar, Prof. Balaram Singh, Prof. R.C. Sinha, Dr.Sushim Dubey

Date: August, 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020; 5:15 pm to 7:45 pm.

Objective: The aim of the webinar conducted by the Department of Philosophy, Janki Devi Memorial College, was to address the intertwining of Religion and Politics in the contemporary world stressing upon its impacts over peace and conflict.

The Program:

An International Webinar was organised by the Department of Philosophy, Janki Devi Memorial College, in association with Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi on August 31<sup>st,</sup> 2020, on "Religion and Politics: Implications for Peace and Conflict."

The Webinar began at 5:15 pmwith an elucidation of the rules of the webinar by the President of the student union of the Department, Simran Gambhir followed by the introduction of its theme by Dr.Ruplekha Khullar. The Principal and patron, Dr. Swati Paladdressed how various aspects of religion nuanced upon man as a social and political being. Thereafter, Dr. Jayanti P. Sahoo,Program Convenor, introduced the distinguished speakers while briefing the general objectives of Religion.

Professor R.C. Sinha, Chairman, ICPR, New Delhi emphasised upon the diverse understandings of religion playing both positive and negative functions within the framework

of politics. He precisely expressed the idea behind Secularism while quoting M.K. Gandhi. Dr. T.P Sasi Kumar, Space Scientist and Educationist, Hyderabad, rightfully explained how there is an inherent politics in Religion and no conflict is inherent. Conflict arises only when one gets metaphorically blind and indulges towards a practice of discrimination. Prof. Bal Ram Singh, Executive Mentor at School of Indic Studies, Institute of Advanced Sciences and Professor, Director of Botulinum Research Centre detailed upon a variety of aspects such as Politics, Spirituality, the Holy Trinity, the Constitution and Yoga shaping the understanding of Religion. Dr. Sushim Dubey, Programme Officer, ICPR discussed conflict being in one's own Dharana Kshamta and reflected upon ways of separating religion and politics. He stated how conflicts between religions occur based on a confused state of mind and may be avoided with the help of depended analysis of religious state of affairs.

The Program ended with a discussion over pertinent questions raised by students and other participants of webinar. Over 170 participants attended the webinar over Google Meet platform and many followed the You Tube online broadcasting.

Access webinar at:<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBU-zqlyqXA&feature=youtu.be</u>

Religion and Politics: Implications for Peace and Conflict Click Here



### Philo Con- World Philosophy Day Celebration

Date & Time: 19th November, 2020; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Venue: Zoom and Google Meet

Objective: To amalgamate the world of Art into Philosophy, by giving the participants a stage to recite, act and sketch.

Philo Con, a one-day event celebrating the World Philosophy Day was organized by the Department of Philosophy on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020. It included a National Webinar, Sketching competition and an Open-Mic competition.

The event began at 10:30 am with the welcome addressal and elucidation of the rules of the webinar by the President of Department, Simran Gambhir, followed by Prof. Jayanti P. Sahoo's introduction of the speaker and the topic.

Swami Atmashraddhananda Ji was the distinguished speaker for the National Webinar. He examined the contours of Indian Philosophy, giving his valuable insight on "Vedanta as a Way of Life". This was followed by an enlightening question and answer session addressing the intricacies of the subject such as the dichotomy of Vedanta as a world renouncing

discipline and as a way of life, the apparent patriarchy entrenched in the language of Philosophical texts.

Thereafter, Querencia – The Open Mic Competition – begun at 12:30 p.m., with Mr. Ankan Dhar, Department of English and Ms. Debahuti Brahmachari, Department of Political Science were the judges. The competition gave voice to more than sixteen students from all over the country expressing their thoughts on a variety of topics, ranging from romantic love to self-love, from knowing the real Self to putting on a masquerade, from the reality of existence to the virtuality of a façade, from dawn to night, from religion to patriotism; and from being a man to societal double standards of "not being man enough".

Aakriti – The Sketching Competition – which was running parallel to the Open Mic Competition, helped the artists explore their imaginative skills to sketch something on as crucial a theme as Hope. It was judged by Ms. Himanshu B. Jagatdeb, Dr. Sudnya N. Kulkarni, Department of Philosophy and Ms. Smita Mitra, Department of History.

The Event was attended by numerous scholars, faculty members and students across India and turned out to be a huge success, fulfilling all expectations and objectives.



Posters for PhiloCon

#### National Webinar

#### **Topic: Buddhism**

Speakers: Prof. R.C Sinha, Dr. Rajnish Kumar Mishra, Prof. Kumar Ratnam

Date and Time: 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2021 at 4:00pm

Platform: Google meet

A national webinar was organized by the Department of Philosophy, Janki Devi Memorial College in association with Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR) on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2021 over the Google meet platform. Students, faculty members and scholars from all over the country participated in the programme.

Prof. R.C Sinha, Chairman, ICPR and Prof. Kumar Ratnam, Member Secretary, ICPR, graced the occasion with their presence. Dr. Rajnish Kumar Mishra, Professor, JNU, specialized in Sanskrit and Indic studies, author of the renowned book Buddhist Theory of Meaning and Analysis was the keynote speaker.

Dr. Mishra began by describing the significance of Buddhism in Indian Philosophy and the appropriate way to understand its essence. He emphasized the perennial quest for the self with reference to the concepts and stories from Sarvadarshan Sangrah of Madhavacharya followed by Buddha's insight towards the golden mean in response to multiple streams of thoughts. He brilliantly unveiled the dogmas of the transcendental soul. This followed by fruitful question and answer session where participants resolved their doubts.

Kindly follow the link to access the recorded webinar: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-xq6kAIEGo&feature=youtu.be</u>



# **Topic: Some reflections on Higher Education, New Education Policy and Space of Philosophy**

Speakers:

Prof. R.C. Sinha (Chairman, ICPR)

Prof. Rakesh Chandra (University of Lucknow)

Prof. Kumar Ratnam (Member Secretary, ICPR)

Date & Time: 8th February, 2021 at 2:00 pm.

Platform: Zoom meeting

A webinar was organised by the department of philosophy, Janki Devi Memorial College on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 over a zoom meeting. Notable scholars from all over India were invited to

share the thoughts on Higher Education, New Education policy and the recognition of philosophy all over world.

The key speaker for the day Prof. Rakesh Chandra has been the Head, Department of Philosophy, University of Lucknow. He has also been a consultant with UNICEF on Primary Education and Child Labor.

He began his presentation by stating the importance of higher education for a sustainable, stable and motivated society; and emphasizing the need of higher education in unreserved categories too. He believes New Education Policy is immensely beneficial for the country and reflects the importance of philosophical spaces.

The speech was followed by a fruitful question and answer session, wherein the queries of participants were addressed.

