

## Report of Activities (2016-17)

The department organised various activities during the last year. In August, two workshops were organized. The first was for students, in which a resource-person from the Interns-India Foundation conducted a Workshop for students interested in pursuing internships. For the faculty, a day long Workshop on 'Research Methods in Social Sciences' attended by 30 faculty members from various disciplines, was held. The sessions were conducted by Dr. Divya Vaid from the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, JNU, and Professor Sanjay Kumar, Director, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies.

Through the year, several lectures were organized on a variety of subjects to acquaint students with diverse perspectives on contemporary social and political issues. In March, Prof. Shanta N. Varma of the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, delivered a lecture on 'India and the US: the Dynamics of Engagement'. In August, on the anniversary of the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Prof. Achin Vanaik delivered a lecture on 'Nuclear Politics' followed by a lively interactive session. In September, Prof. N. Sukumar delivered a lecture on Ambedkar on the 'Women's Question' which made students aware of the socio-economic, political and cultural aspects of caste and patriarchy in India and Ambedkar's critique of caste and his attempts to ensure substantive equality for all. Another lecture in September by Mr. Ajit Roy, a former IPS and now IAS officer on 'How to File an FIR' was organized keeping in mind the requirements of the AECC Paper titled 'Your Laws, Your Rights.' In an interactive session, the speaker highlighted the important information that all citizens, especially women, should be aware of in their dealings with the law. In October, Prof. Ajay Gudaverthy, from Centre for Political Studies, JNU, addressed the students on "Study of Political Philosophy in India: Problems and Prospects." In November, Dr. Dhananjay Rai delivered a lecture on "Gandhi on Peace and Non-violence" for students studying the AECC Paper, 'Peace and Conflict Resolution.' In December, an In House lecture by Dr. Jyoti Raghavan was organized. Dr. Raghavan spoke on Media and Legislation with special reference to India.

In February, the Canadian High Commission of India in association with the Department of Political Science, Kamala Nehru College organized an interactive panel discussion on 'Economic Independence and Skilled Empowerment: Is it the Way Forward?' The panel comprised the Premier of the state of Ontario, Canada, Ms. Kathleen Wynne and women parliamentarians from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India. The panel discussion gave a valuable opportunity to students of Delhi University to interact and exchange views with women parliamentarians on some of the common concerns and challenges around economic empowerment of women in the South Asian region.

In March, the Department of Political Science in association with Expressions (English Creative Writing Society) organized an interaction with Palestinian Writers – Laila El-Haddad and Tamim Al-Barghouti. Laila El-Haddad is an award-winning Palestinian writer and public speaker from Gaza City. She is the author of *Gaza Mama: Politics and Parenting in Palestine*, and co-author of the critically acclaimed *The Gaza Kitchen: A Palestinian Culinary Journey*, and co-editor of *Gaza Unsilenced*. Tamim Al-Barghouti is a Palestinian poet, columnist and political scientist. Currently, he is Consultant to the United Nations Economic and Social Committee for West Asia.

In light of the elections in the United States of America, an interactive session, 'Chat with a Diplomat', was organised in collaboration with the US Embassy in which Mr. Mark Azua interacted

with the students. In September, the department screened the classic film *The Great Dictator* for the students.