

INDRAPRASTHA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
-GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR-
(2016-2017)
EVENTS REPORT

The Department Of Political Science held a number of activities throughout the session 2016-2017. These included lectures, workshops, a national conference and movie screenings.

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE COLLEGE:

A lecture on the topic “Your Laws, Your Rights” was held on 9 August, 2016. The speaker was Professor Ujjwal Kumar Singh from the Department of Political Science, University Of Delhi. The lecture focused on the importance of knowing our laws in order to know our rights. The audience was made familiar with many provisions within the Indian Constitution and the rights that have been entailed within.

On 30 August, 2016, a lecture on “What does it mean to be a woman?” by Dr. Alana Golmei was held. Dr. Golmei is the General Secretary of the Northeast Support Centre. She spoke with the audiences about the challenges faced by women on a daily basis. She also spoke about the challenges she faced personally and how she overcame them. The audience took part in an interactive question-answer session with the speaker on the topic.

The next event held was a 2-day National Conference held on the topic “Women, State and Power: Reflections on Democracy”. The Conference went on from 15 September, 2016 to 16 September, 2016 and it was a celebration of the Golden Jubilee or the completion of 50 years of the Department Of Political Science, Indraprastha College for Women. Eminent speakers from all over the country were a part of this conference. The speakers spoke on different topics during the course of various sessions within the main event. The event was divided into 5 sessions through the course of the 2 days, including the inauguration of the Conference. The **first session** was the **Inauguration** of the Conference which was done by Ms. Lalitha Kumaramangalam, Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, who was the Chief Guest and Ms. Indu Agnihotri, Director and Professor of History at the Centre for Women’s Development Studies, Delhi, who was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. The **second session** was “**State and the Institutions of Democratization**” which was chaired by Ms. Vrinda Grover, a lawyer, researcher and human rights activist. Under this session, lectures on topics like- “Assertion of Women and the State” by Jagmati Sangwan, National General Secretary of All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) and “State, Democracy and Legitimacy in India” by Prof. Ujjwal Kumar Singh, Professor and former Head of the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, were held. The **third session** was “**Politics of Culture and Identity**” which was chaired by Dr. Babli Moitra Saraf, Principal of Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi. Within this session lectures on the following topics were held- “Strength and

Limitations of Ethnic Identities in Women's Empowerment” by Prof. Madhu Purnima Kishwar, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) and the founder of Manushi Sangathan and Manushi Journal and “Women, Culture and the Politics of Representation” by Prof. Mary E. John, Professor and Senior Fellow at the Centre for Women's Development Studies, Delhi. The **fourth session** was on the topic “**Gender Perspective in Development and Ecology**” and was chaired by Ms. Anupama Roy, Professor at the Centre for Political Studies, in Jawaharlal Nehru University. Under this session, lectures on “Gender, Knowledge, Medicine: Recipe and Formulation, Song and Text” by Madhulika Banerjee, Professor at the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, “Gender and Environment in India Today” by Nandini Sundar, Professor of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi and “Hill Women’s perceptions and articulations about climate change: The case of Henvallvani Community Radio, Uttarakhand” by Aparna Moitra, Doctoral Candidate and a Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Development Communication and Extension, Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi, were held. The fifth and the **final session** of the conference was on the topic “**State and the Structures of Violence**”, chaired by Ms. Swati Parashar, Senior Lecturer, Politics and International Relations at the School of Social Sciences, Monash University, Australia. In this session, Ms. Parveena Ahanger, Founder and Chairperson of Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons in Indian Administered Kashmir and Laxmi, an acid attack survivor and campaigner against acid violence, who works with Stop Acid Attacks, spoke.

A lecture on the topic- “The Khasi: A Study in Matriliney and Customary Property Rights” by Ms. Ianosha Majaw from Seng Khasi College, Shillong was held on 24 September, 2016. Ms. Majaw talked about the traditions, rights, customs and societal laws that exist in the Khasi society and how these have evolved over time. She also stressed on the need to change some repressive customs but at the same time try to help these societies maintain their culture.

This was followed by a 4-day Movie Festival held by the department. The festival went on from October 4, 2016 to October 7, 2016. 4 movies were screened during this festival, they were- “Mirch Masala”, “Offside”, “The Lady” and “Charulata”. All 4 movies were centered around the theme of women. The movie “Mirch Masala” explored the problems that women of villages and rural areas faced during the British Raj. “Offside” showed how some teenage girls who are passionate about football try to break the regressive norms against women in Iran in order to watch an international football match. The movie “The Lady” is based on the life of Aung San Su Kyi and showed her life struggle fighting for democracy in Myanmar. The last film “Charulata” showed the unhappy life of the wife of a rich and successful businessman. It portrayed the dissatisfaction she felt due to her unrecognized position as a woman in a man’s world, even when she had true talent. All movie screenings were followed by discussions amongst the audience.

The Department Paper Presentations by students were held on the topic “Women in Politics”. The presentations were held on 26 October, 2016. Students chose various sub-topics exploring different dimensions within the main topic itself. There were a total of 11 presentations spread through the course of 3 sessions.

The first session “Gender, Institution and Participation” was chaired by Ms. Shruti Dubey and Mr. Rajat Roy. The papers in this session were:

- “Identity, Representation and Power” by Prerna Mishra

- “Ideological and Psychological Hindrances in Women’s Political Participation” by Kajal Choudhary and Kajol Tanwar
- “Education as a tool for Women Empowerment: A Study of India and Australia” by Deepti Ojha and Mitthat Hora
- “Women Empowerment through Representation: Real or Notional?” by Ojasvi

The second session “Gender, Politics and Leadership in India”, was chaired by Ms. Pragya Parmita and Mr. Abdul Rahman. The papers in this session were:

- “Gender constructions in Militant Movements: The case of women in LTTE” by Chandrawali and Radhika Modi
- “Fighting Within and Without: A Study of Challenges faced by Women leaders of South Asia” by Khushboo Choudhary
- “Women in Local Governance: Issues, Challenges and the Way Forward” by Varnika and Shiwani
- “Mahilaon Ki Rajneetik Sabhagita” by Raksha

The third and final session “Gender And/Or Nation” was chaired by Ms. Shruti and Mr. Ardhendu. The papers in this session were:

- “Women as ‘Companion’ to Men in National Movement: A Study on the life of Kasturba Gandhi” by Aishwarya and Himanshi
- “Women’s Stand in National Movement: Kamala Dev Chattopadhyay” by Mahima Chaudhary
- “Gender or Nation: A Study of Rani Gaidinliu” by Tina Vaipei and Lalruatsangi

The last event of the first half of the 2016-2017 session was a Radio Programme held on 5 December, 2016. The programme was a On-Air discussion on the topic “Women Leaders of the World”. This event was organized by the Delhi University Community Radio (DUCR). Many students from the Department of Political Science took part in this discussion, airing their views, opinions and ideas on the topic.

The second half of the 2016-2017 session began with a 3-day Faculty Development Program, held from 12 January, 2017 to 14 January, 2017. This Program was on “Public Opinion and Survey Research” and was organised by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell and the Department Of Political Science, Indraprastha College For Women. Participants included faculty members, research scholars and researchers from research institutions and NGOs. Participants were familiarised with importance of the study of Public Opinion and were exposed to the different methods of Survey and Research.

On 2 February, 2017, a lecture was held, on the topic- “Citizenship: Classical Themes, Contemporary Challenges” by Professor Ashok Acharya from the Department Of Political Science, University Of Delhi. In his lecture, Prof. Acharya introduced to the audience the classical approaches to citizenship, what the idea of citizenship entailed. He then went on to talk about what citizenship means in today’s globalizing world and what new challenges, problems and obstacles it faces in the volatile and ever-changing society that exists today.

The next event was a lecture on “Tradition, Modernity and Swaraj in Ideas” by Professor Manindra Nath Thakur from CPS, Jawaharlal Nehru University. The lecture was held on February 3, 2017.

On 8 February, 2017, a lecture on “Women, State and Power: Experiences from Afghanistan” by an alumna of the department itself, Ms. Naheed Sarabi who is currently working in the Ministry of Finance, Government of Afghanistan, was held. Ms. Sarabi talked about her experiences in Afghanistan, the hardships she had to face in order to get education. She talked about the opportunities she got after coming to India to study. She pointed out that position of women in the politics of Afghanistan has changed a lot and now there are more opportunities for women there. She also encouraged the women in the audience to work hard in order to assert their rights in the society.

A lecture was held on 14 February, 2017, on the topic- “China’s Policy towards India: A Critical Assessment” by Professor Varaprasad S.Dolla from the Centre for Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Prof. Dolla, in his lecture, talked about the dynamics of India and China’s relationship. He examined how this relationship has changed over time and how China’s policy towards India has been through time. He also put forth recent examples of strained relations between the two countries and critically assessed as to what the future course of action China might take towards India.

On 1 March, 2017, a lecture was held by the department’s alumna Ms. Spriha Srivastava, Lead Financial Blogger and Market Correspondent, CNBC International. Ms. Srivastava spoke on the topic- “Which Way to Go? Choosing The Right Path For A Successful Career”. She talked about her personal experiences as a student and the difficulties she faced in making decisions regarding her own career. She told the audience to not get stressed out over career choices, instead, make decisions with a clear mind. She encouraged students to follow their passions and to explore uncharted courses as well.

A 2-Day Cartoon Making workshop was held on 7 & 8 March, 2017. The workshop was held by Mr. Sharad with the World Comics India organization. The workshop was centered around political cartoons, especially revolving around women. Participants of the workshop were taught the basic features that every cartoon holds. They were also taught how to draw with freehand and how to incorporate their ideas into drawings. Many students took part in the workshop and the resultant cartoons were much appreciated.

On 28 March, 2017, a lecture on the topic “Intersectionality: Women, Violence and Politics” was held. The speaker was Prof. Karenjot Bhangoo Randhawa who teaches at the University Of California, Berkeley and works on International and Area Studies. Prof. Randhawa talked to the audience about violence against women and the security of women in countries like Saudi Arabia. She also talked about the different laws that exist regarding women in different countries as well as the gender norms in different cultures. She ended the lecture by sharing her personal experiences and encouraging the audience to look for brighter avenues.

The activities of the even semester of 2016-2017 session ended with Department Paper Presentations on the theme- “Intersectionality and the Feminist Movement”. A total of 9 papers were presented on sub-themes chosen by the students. These were:

- “Role of Meira Paibis as a women’s movement in Manipur” by Anubhuti Bhattacharya and Channya Kapoor (2nd Year)
- “Critical review of Memoirs of a Geisha and Umrao Jaan” by Anveshi Bisht (2nd Year)
- “Devdasi: Transcending Casteism into submission” by Dhriti Mishra and Anisha Pathak (2nd Year)
- “Voting patterns in Delhi: A Gendered Perspective” by Mahima Sharma (3rd Year)
- “LGBT, Feminism and the question of Gender” by Nidhi Singh and Sadaf Nausheen (1st Year)
- “Fluid Frames: Politics of Recognition of Transgenders in India” by Arartrica Kashyap (2nd Year)
- “Women Manual Scavengers: The Dalits of the Dalits” by Aastha Choudhary (2nd Year)
- “Dharmik manyatae mahilayon ke adhikar ka hannan karti hai” by Raksha (3rd Year)
- “Climate Change: Degradation of Environment and Women's Issues” by Taniya Bannerjee (3rd Year)

ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE COLLEGE:

- A lecture on “Indo-US Relations” was attended by the students of the Department Of Political Science, which was at the American Centre, New Delhi. It was a discussion on how the India-USA partnership has evolved over a period of time and what is the present scenario. The future of partnership between the 2 countries was also discussed.
- A Round Table Conference on “Developing Citizen’s Action Plan towards Deepening Democracy, Disarming, Investing in Women’s Rights and Ensuring Diversity in India” was held on 22 September, 2016 by the Control Arms Foundation India. This conference was attended by Dr. Lian along with a number of students from the Department as well.