

The 11th Annual Public Lecture, endowed by Indraprastha Girls' School, was held on 28th March 2016. The speaker invited was Mr. Yogendra Yadav, an Indian politician, psephologist and academic.

Mr. Yadav started the session with some interesting anecdotes on Indian education and proceeded to discuss the current condition and future of education in our country. Towards the beginning of the lecture, he raised some vital questions which piqued the audience's interest. The three important questions raised by him were:

1. Should education in our universities be Indianised?
2. Should there be a limit to freedom of expression or not? If yes, then what should be the limit?
3. Should we encourage politics in our universities?

After raising these intriguing questions, he moved on to sharing his views on these questions. Keeping in perspective the political upheaval in JNU, Mr. Yadav took a moderate view of nationalism in India. He pointed out that no single perspective can be considered the ultimate truth; that all perspectives are nothing but fragments of reality. He made the audience think about the education system in our country - how it has changed over the years, how far we've come and how far we are yet to go. He spoke about how universities today have become fora for debate in today's time.

He went with a definitive yes when it came to the issue of the Indianisation of education. He felt that we should work towards Indianising education not only because we are Indians, but also because the world needs this light. He said that we should not try to copy the West as copying modernity only makes it shallow, and shared Rabindranath Tagore's similar views on the same issue as well. The fact that a lot of students in the University of Delhi write their semester exams in Hindi was applauded as an exemplary paradigm. He also supported politics in universities but mentioned that the politics must be good and clean. He concluded this by stating that tradition and progress need to go hand in hand and we need to pick the best from both the worlds.

All in all, it was an enriching session which made the students put on their thinking caps, and reflect on and explore the world beyond their books.