

Discussion Forum

(July 2018-May 2019)

Initiation of Lecture Series - 'Idea(s) of India'

With the aim to unearth Idea(s) of India, Discussion Forum initiated a Lecture Series to explore original minds from the modern Indian intellectual tradition. Along with iconic names, the aim is to focus on some hitherto under-explored thinkers. The diversity and depth of thought articulated by these men and women, is also in good part an index of the diversity and complexity of Indian society. An engagement with this rich tradition can be productive, not only to have an understanding of our proximate past but also to make better sense of our present and future. Thus this exercise, essentially, becomes an expedition in search of the 'Being and Becoming' of India. It should help us to see how the past, in a way, becomes an essential part of the present.

Inaugural Lecture of the Lecture Series

Discussion Forum invited Prof. (retd) Anand Kumar on 07 September 2018 to deliver the inaugural lecture of its 'Lecture Series' on 'Idea(s) of India'. The lecture on 'Jayaprakash Narayan's Vision and Our Time' discussed the ideas of Jayaprakash Narayan and tried to explore the relevance of his ideas in contemporary times. Lecture was chaired by Dr. Babli Moitra Saraf, Principal, Indraprastha College for Women.



Lecture on ‘What the Contemporary Dalit Movement can learn from Gandhi-Ambedkar Debate’ by Dr. Nishikant Kolge

Discussion Forum, in association with Gandhi Study Circle of the college, invited Dr. Nishikant Kolge of Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) to deliver a lecture on "What the Contemporary Dalit Movement can learn from Gandhi-Ambedkar Debate" on 31 October 2018. Dr. Kolge focussed on the constructive aspect of the celebrated ‘Gandhi-Ambedkar debate’ and focused on the relevance of this debate for the contemporary Dalit movement.



Lecture 2 of Lecture Series

As part of the 'Lecture Series' on 'Idea(s) of India', Discussion Forum invited Prof. Aditya Nigam of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) to speak on 'In Search of Indian Renaissance: M.N. Roy's Turn to Philosophy'. This was the second lecture in the lecture series and the event was held on Tuesday, 29 January 2019. Prof. Nigam focussed on evolution and the key aspects of M N Roy's ideas. The lecture was chaired by Dr. Babli Moitra Saraf, Principal, Indraprastha College for Women.



In-house Discussion on ‘Redesigning Affirmative Action’

A focussed discussion (in-house) was held on 3 April 2019 on the topic ‘Redesigning Affirmative Action’. A reading (Deshpande, Sathish and Yogendra Yadav (2006) ‘Redesigning Affirmative Action’ *Economic and Political Weekly*, June 17) was circulated beforehand which served as an entry point to explore and critically engage with the concept of equality. Students participated enthusiastically in this exercise. The discussion was moderated by Dr Praveen Dhanda.

