

**Discussion Forum
Indraprastha College for Women**

**Report
(July 2019 to June 2020)**

As part of its 'Lecture Series' 'Idea(s) of India', initiated by the Discussion Forum in 2018, third lecture was delivered by Prof Amiya P Sen on 'Swami Vivekananda's Vision of India' on 24 September 2019. Prof Sen highlighted the complex and layered thought and personality of Swami Vivekananda. Away from a hagiographic portrayal, the speaker provided insights into the ambiguities and contradictions present in the ideas of Swami. The lecture was very well attended and the students enthusiastically participated in interactive session which followed the lecture. The event was chaired by the Principal of IPCW, Prof. Babli Moitra Saraf.



The Discussion Forum has also initiated an 'Informal Discussion Group' (IDG) which seeks to organize discussions and dialogues structured in variety of ways including reading sessions, student panel discussions, informal roundtables, interactive sessions and so on. An informal interactive session, moderated by the advisor of the forum Dr. Praveen Dhanda, was organised on 11 November 2019 on 'Debating Development: Bigger is Better or Small is Beautiful'. The discussion was based on a selected reading which was deliberated upon in detail.



Discussion Forum in association with Department of Political Science invited Prof. Ujjwal K. Singh (University of Delhi) on 22 January 2020 to deliver a lecture on 'Constitutional Morality in India'. Prof Singh's lecture unpacked the history of the phrase 'constitutional morality' and elaborated how this phrase was invoked by Dr B R Ambedkar in his speech 'The Draft Constitution' in the constituent assembly on 4 November 1948. By clarifying the meaning of the term 'constitutional morality' Prof Singh elaborated on the possible implications of the wide usage of this phrase. The event was well received by students.



An 'in-house' interactive session on the topic 'We the People: The Preamble of the Constitution of India' was held by the Discussion Forum on 26 February 2020. Approximately 30 students participated in this session. A short on-line video lecture of the academic and legal scholar Prof Faizan Mustafa set the context of the interaction and discussion. The session, moderated by the advisor of the Discussion Forum Dr Praveen Dhanda, by delving into interpretations of its key terms, discussed how the preamble is a blueprint of the hopes and aspirations of the people of the country.

