

REPORT FOR DISCUSSION FORUM (2016-2017)

The Discussion Forum was very active throughout the entire academic session of 2016-2017. Following events were organised –

- **“What Ails Indian Sports” by Novy Kapadia**

The first lecture organised by the Discussion Forum for the session 2016-2017 was on 23rd August, 2016 on the topic “What Ails Indian Sports” by eminent Indian football expert Novy Kapadia, who is also a professor of English at SGTB Khalsa College, University of Delhi. The lecture was held right after the Olympics, and Mr. Kapadia provided detailed insights on India’s performance in the games. He also talked about the nepotism that surrounds the Indian sports culture and the lack of infrastructure which hampers the realisation of our potential and identification of talented sportspersons in India.

- **“Rights of Women in Islam” by Dr. Syeda Hameed**

The lecture was organised on 28th September, 2016 and Dr. Syeda Hameed, a well renowned social and women’s rights activist, writer, educationist and a former member of the Planning Commission, was the guest speaker. The main aim of the lecture was to sensitise the audience to the misuse of Islamic principles by certain groups as a means of subverting the rights of Muslim women. A short puppet film “Ujale ki Or” was also showcased at the event. In order to educate the audience better, an informal discussion on the same topic was held for the students in advance.

- **“Constructed Identity, Contested Category: Case of Dalits and Mahadalits in Uttar Pradesh by Professor Badri Narayan**

The lecture was organised on 21st October, 2016 with Professor Badri Narayan, who is known for his extensive research on the Dalits and Mahadalits of Uttar Pradesh. The lecture was conducted in order to enlighten the students regarding the complex caste realities of modern day Uttar Pradesh, the impact of caste on the lives of these individuals, and the usage of caste cleavages by political parties for garnering votes. The lecture was organised keeping in mind the upcoming elections in Uttar Pradesh at the time.

- **“Jal, Thal, Mal aur Kal” by Sopan Joshi**

This lecture was organised on the 6th of February, 2017 with Sopan Joshi, journalist, activist and author of “Jal, Thal, Mal” as the key speaker. An effort was made to make the lecture more inclusive for Hindi medium students and hence the lecture was delivered in Hindi. Mr. Joshi delivered a hard hitting lecture wherein he talked about the dire sanitation situation in India, the problems with the ‘Swachha Bharat Abhiyan’, the urgent need to address this issue on a larger scale as well as some possible solutions for the same. The lecture was extremely illuminating for all the students and faculty present.

- **“Trump: Aage Kya? Bharat- America Sambandh” by Naghma Sahar**

The final lecture of the Discussion Forum for the academic session 2016-17 was held in the light of US President Donald Trump’s formal accession to office. The speaker was well known journalist of NDTV India Ms. Naghma Sahar, who delivered an illuminating talk on the impact on Indo-US ties in the light of this development. There was also an extremely fruitful session with the audience wherein the speaker discussed issues like Trump’s position on India, the impact on the Indian diaspora in the US, and what this new presidency could mean for Indian interests. The lecture was delivered in Hindi as well as English, keeping in mind both the English and Hindi medium students. The lecture was well received by the entire audience present.

Academic Session 2017-18

- **“1942: History’s Hinge?” By Mukul Kesavan**

This event was held in collaboration with History Society on August 30 2017. Mukul Kesavan focused on the Quit India Movement and its relevance in Modern Indian History.

- **“Global Megatrends” By Dr Deepak Vohra**

Dr Deepak Vohra has a long and distinguished career as a diplomat. He is serving as ‘special advisor’ to Prime Ministers of three countries. He particularly focused on India’s status as an emerging giant through its economic development on 18 September 2017.