

## Department of Philosophy and Research Centre of Philosophy

The Department of Philosophy in the academic year 2014-15 opened up to new arenas with varied activities and developments taking place. With a BA in Philosophy, last year the department started its Post-graduate course i.e., MA in Philosophy, a milestone in the history of our Department.

### Various activities:

- An Inter-Collegiate Paper Presentation Competition was organized for Post – Graduate Philosophy Students on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2014. In all 28 students from different colleges participated in the competition who

helped students to get accustomed to the new credit based rating system of the examination.

- A special lecture for both the MA Part I and Part II students was conducted on the topic of Plato's Dialogue and his concept of Virtue in the month of September 2014. Principal Dr. Shakuntala A. Singh, Late Dr. Shobha Doshi, and Prof. Sacchidananda Singh addressed the students.
- The course on Gandhian Studies was conducted by the department for the second consecutive year (13-14).
- A Film screening was organized by the department for all the students of Philosophy on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015. The film screened was Charlie Chaplin's "CITY LIGHTS", and the topic of discussion that followed the screening was "Humor and Aesthetics". Principal Dr. Shakuntala A. Singh and Prof. Sudhindra Maganahalli had a dialogue with the students on the topic. It was well attended and appreciated by students.
- A guest lecture on the topic "The Character of Krishna in Mahabharata" was conducted by Prof. Vivek Pachpande, on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2015
- A one day study tour to Ram Krishna Mission and Math, Sakwar, Palghar, was organized for all the Philosophy students on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015. In all 31 students participated. The purpose of the tour was to get acquainted with the Mission work and Philosophy. Swami Avadhootananda addressed the students on the topic of the 'Gospel of Bhagavad Gita'.
- On behalf of the Department of Philosophy and the Counselling Cell a workshop for teachers was organized on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015 under the aegis of IQAC on the theme on 'Teaching Counselling and Mentoring : Speculations. Dr. S. Bhelke (Ex. HOD Department of Philosophy University of Pune) and Dr. Neelakshi Lavakare, (Ex. HOD Department of Counselling SNDT University, Mumbai) were the resource persons for the workshop. All Degree, Junior and Self financing section teachers attended the workshop. It was well appreciated by the teachers.
- A guidance lecture by Prof. Vatsala Pai (HOD Ramnarain Ruia College) for TYBA students was organized on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. The topic of the lecture was 'Facing University Examination: techniques and strategies'.

presented their papers on various topics. To name a few like Buddhism, Gandhi on Civil Disobedience, Yoga, Ambedkar on Justice, Euthanasia, Pornography etc.

- In the month of July a parent – teacher meet of the TYBA students was conducted by the department with the intention to facilitate the performance of the students.
- A special guidance lecture for the students on 'How to prepare for Examination' was conducted by Prof. Sacchidananda in the month of August. The lecture

The Department of Philosophy had time and again made an effort to bring together students of Philosophy from First year BA, Second year BA and Third year BA with that of MA Part I and II to develop a cohesive group of young philosophers letting the Wisdom flow throughout. Keeping up with the spirit a series of activities have taken place in the academic year 2014-15 which are mentioned below:

- A short group discussion of both BA and MA students was conducted.
- Through out the year informal discussions were held on various topics like Edmund Husserl's Phenomenology, Vedanta Philosophy with special emphasis on Shankaracharya, Mahabharata and Bhagavad Gita, and general discussions on Family.

### Profile of the Departmental colleagues

#### Dr. (Mrs.) Shakuntala A. Singh (Head of the Department)

- Invited as a guest speaker in the discussion panel for the one day workshop organized by IQAC of B.N. Bandodkar College of Science, Thane on "The Role of IQAC in Quality Enhancement".
- Invited for assessment and accreditation by NAAC - 06 various Universities across the Country.
- Appointed as an expert in the Subject of Foundation Course on the selection committee for Faculty Improvement Programme (F.I.P.) by Dnyanasadhana College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Thane.
- Appointed as member of Syllabus Committee for the innovative Programme for subject of BA/B Sc. Human Science by University of Mumbai.
- Nominated as Subject Expert on the Screening Cum Evaluation Committee for Career Advancement Scheme to be constituted by the Birla College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Kalyan on 14th January 2014.
- Invited by K.J. Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce as member of the subject Board on 1st March 2014.
- Invited as Guest of Honor for Exhibition 'Vidyullata 2014' in Thane. 'Vidyullata' Project is A tribute to achievements of women photographers, in the form of photo story Exhibition.
- Invited by Birla College as a resource person for One day Awareness Programme on " NAAC Assessment and Accreditation for Non Accredited College".
- Actively participated in the One Day 'Exploratory

Workshop on Quality Grade and Graduate Attributes', held at KET's V.G. Vaze College.

- Appointed as an expert in Local Inquiry Committee (University of Mumbai) to visit Ishwardas Chunilal Yogic Health Centre, Kaivalyadhama to enroll students for Ph. D (Arts) degree Course in the subject of Yoga from the academic year 2014-15.
- Appointed as a convener of Local Inquiry Committee, by University of Mumbai to visit Suyash College of Arts, Commerce and Science – Murbad and Sonubhau Baswant Arts and Commerce College – Shahapur.

**Prof. (Mrs.) Suchitra A. Naik**

- Submitted Ph.D thesis on 'Philosophy of Education' to University of Mumbai
- Invited by Kendriya Vidyalaya to talk on "Emotional Management", with students
- Invited by "Saraswati Classes" to guide students on preparation for 10th std. Examination
- Presented a research paper in the 'International Conference on 'Women's Quest for Equality in India-Promises, Problems and Prospects' held in Joshi Bedekar College, titled 'Bandhini to Queen: A Guest for Authenticity, Equality and Modernity'.

- Participated and presented in the International Seminar – Contemporary Buddhism : Debates and Applications organized by Mumbai University, on the theme of 'Use of Zen Buddhism in Counselling'.

**Prof. Avinash Waghmare**

- Participated and presented in the International Seminar – Contemporary Buddhism : Debates and Applications organized by Mumbai University. On the theme of 'Relevance of Buddha and Not Buddhism'.

**Prof. Supriya More**

- Qualified NET exam in June 2014
- Cleared Two Levels of Japanese Language proficiency test (JLPT)

**Prof. Sneha Sharma**

- Qualified NET exam in June 2014
- Aspiring for UPSC examination

With all the current on going happenings in the department, it is further planning to enhance the Post-graduate and Research wing.

**Prin. Dr. Mrs. Shakuntala A. Singh**  
Head of the Department