

**Vidyasagar College for Women Department of philosophy**

**Academic Report of the Periodical Lecture held on 12.12.23 & 15.12.23**

**(With financial assistance from ICPR )**

**Department of Philosophy has organized a series of lectures on the theme of Philosophical Contribution of Contemporary Thinkers under the scheme Periodical lectures with financial support of ICPR on 12th and 15th December 2023.**

At the onset of the event Dr Sutapa Ray, Principal of the college, delivered welcome address to the audience gathered in the venue of Bhagawati Debi Sabhaghar in the college. Apart from the invited dignitaries, there were students from the host college and from other nearby colleges, faculties and scholars from different colleges and Universities, who participated in the program. Total number of participants was 189 considering two days. The welcome address was followed by the speech of Dr Tapan Roy, Coordinator of IQAC, He appreciates the endeavor and inspires the department to organize such events in future.

The speaker of the first day (12.12.23) was Dr Nirmalya Narayan Chakrabarti, Professor in the Department of Philosophy of Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata. The title of his lecture was “The Nature of Philosophical Knowledge: Radhakrishnan”. In his long and intricate analysis of Radhakrishnan’s thoughts on the very nature of philosophical knowledge as distinct and different from the knowledge of science he elaborates the enriched philosophical thoughts of ancient philosophies of Indian schools and explains how Radhakrishnan was deeply influenced by thoughts of Vedanta and Upanishads. He elucidates that it is the intuitive knowledge, which is neither sensibility nor reasoning, unfolds the true nature of the world. It is hard to translate such knowledge in ordinary language. This is how the reality as understood by ordinary people is altogether different from the person having intuitive knowledge. According to Radhakrishnan Philosophy is awareness of the real in the intuitive individuality. Human mind can unite with the object and subject-object duality can be meaningless and one starts living in reality. Dr Chakrabarti mentioned the names of Burgeson and Croach to clarify how thought reveals reality. The knowledge of the world uplifts to the self- knowledge. He concludes that if we want to know humanism we have to know the nature of intuitive knowledge, but it has less use in the world.

On the next day (15.12.23) there were three speakers. The first speaker was Dr Pralayankar Bhattacharya, Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy, University of Calcutta. The

topic of his lecture is Situating Social Justice: Scope and Objective In his talk Dr Pralayankar Bhattacharya illustrates various facets of Social justice. In his discussion he raised many basic questions to rethink such as, why justice is important in social life? How is justice possible? Why society should be just? He tries to find out the junction point of Law, morality, justice and society. He focused on the ideas of John Rawls and Amartya Sen and designed his lecture in the backdrop of Indian societies in the realm of Past, present and future. He talks about primary goods, freedom and impartiality. He also talks about different kinds of impartiality as open and closed. He also mentioned the names of Kant, Hebermas, Gayatri Sphiva to discuss the relevant ideas of equality, cooperation, faith and obligation of citizens.

The next speaker was Dr Priyambada Sarkar, Ex Professor in Philosophy , University of Calcutta and her topic was A religious point of view: Rabindranath Tagore. In her lecture as well as with her digital presentation she tries to chalk out the very meaning of Religion as different from popular meaning of it. She referred to the childhood days of the poet to explain how he had been highly influenced by Vedanta philosophy and Upanisads in one hand and by the progressive English culture on the other. She designed her lecture including some important articles, letters and songs of Tagore and also included his works at Shantiniketan. She emphasized on the ideas of love and fraternity as the ideal of Humanistic Religion. Religions teach to discover the unity in diversity, not to diversification and alienation. Just as a mother finds joy and happiness and fulfilment in her child , human beings may realize their own happiness in others' happiness. Hence religion of man is to love others and resolving oneness between myself and others. She mentioned the names of other contemporary thinkers and compared their thoughts with that of Tagore. Tagore was a man who defined freedom in relationships. Tagore is unique as he removes the demarcation between man and nature and opens the eternal source of knowledge, love, compassion, patience and many other virtues from nature. Religion of man is to know the self and to serve others unconditionally.

The third and last speaker was Dr Tarun Goswami, eminent journalist in Bengal, and he spoke on Relevance on Swamiji's thought in modern day world. In his lecture he considered Swamiji as a major force in the revival of Hinduism and the spread of its spiritual and philosophical teachings in the modern world which transcends all earthly rituals and focuses on the man. His teachings and thoughts continue to be relevant for people of all ages and backgrounds, particularly for the youth of today, as Dr Goswami claimed.

Swamiji had a significant impact on people during his visit to Chicago in 1893, because he was the first who represented our country India in front of such delegates. In his speech, Vivekananda spoke about the universality of spiritual truths and the need for tolerance and mutual understanding among people of different religions. He also spoke about the importance of the practical application of spiritual principles in daily life. He said, "Religion is not in books, nor in theories,

nor in dogmas, nor in talking, not even in reasoning. It is being and becoming". Aren't these words still relevant? Vivekananda's message resonated with many people in the audience, and he received a standing ovation after his speech. He was subsequently invited to speak at several other venues in Chicago and around the United States, including at universities and religious institutions. Another important messages that Swami Vivekananda imparted was the power of self-reliance and the importance of individual effort. He believed that true success and happiness can only be achieved by developing one's own abilities and talents, rather than relying on external factors such as wealth or social status. He encouraged people to develop their own inner strength and to take responsibility for their own lives, rather than depending on others for guidance and support. These are important guidance for the audience gathered in the hall.

This message is particularly relevant for our students, who are often under pressure to satisfy social expectations and to chase success in life in terms of high salaried job. In a world where the emphasis is often on instant gratification and external validation, Swami Vivekananda's message of self-reliance and inner strength can serve as a powerful reminder of the importance of developing one's own character and confidence.

The session ends with vote of thanks conveyed by Professor Soumen Adhikary, Head of the Department, Vidyasagar College for Women.

**ICPR Sponsored Periodical Lectures**  
on  
**Philosophical Contribution of Contemporary Thinkers**

Organized by  
Department of Philosophy  
Vidyasagar College For Women  
(NAAC Accredited College, Affiliated to University of Calcutta)

**Date & Time :**  
**12.12.23 & 15.12.23**  
**10.30 am**

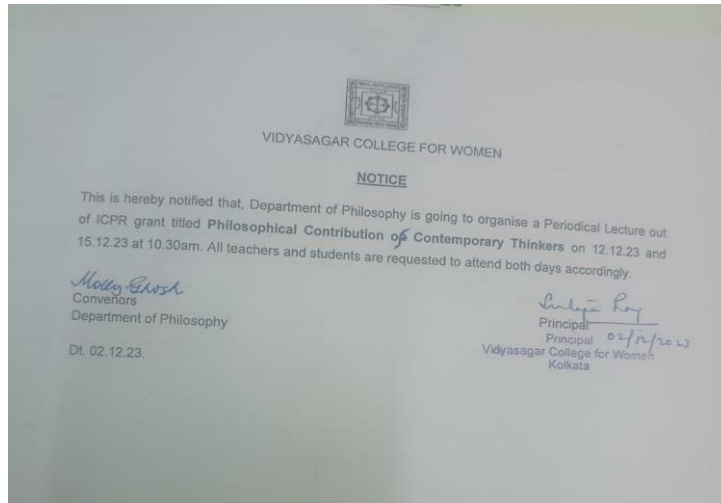
<p><b>Speakers:</b> Prof. Nirmalya Narayan Chakborty Professor Rabindra Bharati University <b>Topic: Radhakrishnan on the Nature of Philosophical Knowledge (12.12.23)</b> Dr. Pralayankar Bhattacharya Associate Professor University of Calcutta <b>Topic: Situating Social Justice: The Scope and Objective (15.12.23)</b></p> <p><b>Conveners:</b> Dr. Patrali Ghosh (Associate Professor) Dr. Molly Ghosh (Associate Professor) <b>Contact:</b> vcfwphilosophy@gmail.com 98303 04258 98303 15257</p>	<p><b>Speakers:</b> Professor Priyambada Sarkar Retired Professor University of Calcutta (15.12.23) <b>Topic: A Religious Point of View: Rabindranath Tagore (15.12.23)</b> Shri Tarun Goswami Eminent Journalist <b>Topic: Relevance of Swamiji's Thought in Modern Day World (15.12.23)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Venue:</b> <b>College Auditorium</b> <b>Vidyasagar College For Women</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Registration link:</b> <a href="https://forms.gle/XvqJKcOUdHj1Mfz1334">https://forms.gle/XvqJKcOUdHj1Mfz1334</a></p>
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**Department of philosophy**  
**Organizes**  
**Periodical Lectures**  
**Sponsored by ICPR**  
**On**  
**12.12.2023 & 15.12.2023**  
**Programme Schedule**

**12.12.2023**  
10:30 - Welcome address by Principal, Dr. Sutapa Ray  
10:45 - Address by NAAC Convener, Dr. Tapas Ray  
11:00 - A Lecture titled, Radhakrishnan on the nature of philosophical Knowledge  
By Dr. Nirmalya Narayan Chakborty, Professor, Rabindra Bharati University  
12:15 - Refreshment

**15.12.2023**  
10:30 - Welcome address by Principal Dr. Sutapa Ray  
10:45 - Address by NAAC Convener, Dr. Tapas Ray  
11:00 - A Lecture on Relevance of Swami Vivekananda  
By Dr. Pralayankar Bhattacharya  
12:00 - A Lecture titled, A Religious Point of View: Rabindranath Tagore  
By Dr. Priyambada Sarkar  
13:00 - A Lecture on Relevance of Swamiji's Thoughts in Modern Day world  
By Shri Tarun Goswami  
13:45 - Vote of thanks by Soumen Adhikary, Head of the Department  
14:00 - Refreshment

**Fig: Flyer of Seminar and programme schedule**



**Fig: Notice of the Seminar**



