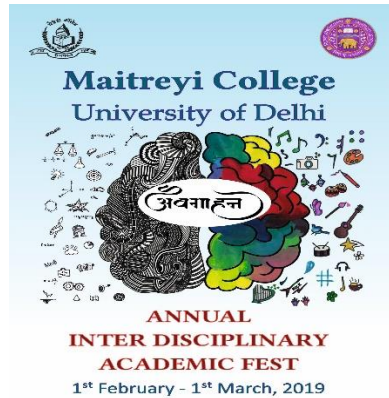# Report on Avgaahan -2019

Date: 1 February – 1 March 2019
Organized by: Maitreyi College
Convener: Dr. Veena Ghuriani
Number of Participants: 182

Avgaahan, a Sanskrit word that means to immerse oneself and investigate, captures the spirit of the interdisciplinary academic fest. *Avgahaan*, was organized by Maitreyi College from February 1, 2019 to March 1, 2019. It provided the students with an opportunity to engage in various disciplines and arts through a range of imaginative and innovative activities. This unique initiative with interdisciplinary orientation was met with a tremendous response from the students at the national and international level.

The logo of the academic fest depicts the two hemispheres of the human brain. The left side is responsible for logic, science, and mathematics, while the right side is the source of the creative and artistic energies. Together they symbolize the interdisciplinary essence of this enterprise that promotes and celebrates the fusion of the various knowledge systems that tend to exist in silos in the academic sphere. The name, *Avgaahan,* was a result of the creative collaboration of the Department of Hindi and Sanskrit. Bhavya Tyagi, a student of Economics (H) 2nd year and Apoorva Dayal, Botany (H) 2nd year conceptualized and designed the logo of *Avgaahan.*

This event is one of the many initiatives undertaken by the college towards an innovate and inclusive pedagogy that enhances the engagement of the students and teachers alike making it a more enriching and rewarding experience. The Computer Science department along with organizing events as part of *Avgaahan,* served as a nodal point that coordinated with all the 15 departments of college. It offered a combination of academic and competitive events that ranged from e-poster making, creative writing, quiz, presentation, debate etc. The activities were met with an overwhelming response from the students which is a source of delight to us. The collaboration between the various departments was also instrumental in its professional and sound execution.

Technology has forever transformed our encounter with knowledge and people. Its omnipresence radically affects our perception of the world and the self. One of the most striking aspects of the entire event was its resourceful engagement with and utilization of technology. The activities were held in a combination of online and offline phases to better facilitate the process. Its immense potential was utilized to bring the various disciplines closer in their pursuit of knowledge. The fest received 2024 registrations and the total participation was 182.

The Department of Botany organized "Botanical Sketching" which is an art of depicting the form, structure and other details of plant species using live plants or herbarium specimens in a sketch. The event started with an online screening round on 15th February 2019 and for the final rounds, the participants were invited to the college on 26th February 2019. A total of 118 participants from different academic streams and various Universities were registered. The photographs of two plants - Hibiscus and Salvia - clicked by the members of "Vista"- Photography Society of Maitreyi College were uploaded on the college website's Techfest portal for the event.

The Department of Chemistry organized an "Online and Offline Quiz." The online quiz was held on February 18, 2019 for which the online portal was open for one hour. 137 students registered for the online quiz from different institutes all over India. The next round was an offline quiz which comprised of five rounds that tested their knowledge. The event was very well organized and was a huge success. It was a treat for all the students.

The Department of Commerce conducted a "GreenBiz Plan" competition which was held in two rounds - online and offline. The preliminary round was held through online submission and for the final offline round, participants had to present the plan on 28th February 2019 within 15 minutes. Every business plan was expected to have an eco-friendly element. The aim of the exercise was to encourage socially responsible entrepreneurs who can achieve minimum negative impact on the environment. The presentations were followed by an insightful question and answer round.

The Department of Computer Science held a "Coding Competition" event which received an overwhelming response with 84 registrations for the event. The preliminary round of the event, "Pseudo Code Writing", was held online. The contestants were shortlisted on the basis of their technical knowledge, creativity, and presentation skills. The final round was an offline coding competition that tested the mettle of the participants.

The Department of Economics organized an inter-college "Case Study Competition" for undergraduate students. The event received an enthusiastic response from students, garnering 189 registrations from across the globe. The competition was conducted in two rounds - a preliminary online round and a final offline round. The case studies spanned diverse issues and economic fields such as development economics, econometrics, international trade, macroeconomics, and finance. In the final round, 12 selected teams were invited to the college premises to present a comprehensive analysis of their case studies. This was an endeavour to extend learning beyond the classroom and enable students to apply the academic concepts in real-world situations.

The Department of English hosted a "Micro Fiction writing competition." Through a two-tier process of evaluation spread over two weeks, registrations and participation from undergraduate students of various colleges and universities were received. The enthusiastic participation of the students proved that in the present age of social media and minimalism, the economic and creative usage of words has found expression in micro fiction writing.

The Department of Hindi through its event "Hindi Adhyayan Pariksha" conducted a series of online and offline events. The first round enabled the participants to unleash their creativity through picture based creative writing. The final round that was held offline tested them in a quiz through multiple choice questions. It was an immensely fruitful experience for everyone who was a part of this.

The Department of History organized a "History Quiz." Out of 147 registered candidates, nine teams, with two members each, were shortlisted after the preliminary round that was held online. The final round was held offline in the college. The first round of the quiz aimed at testing their knowledge of ancient, medieval, modern and world history through a series of fifteen multiple choice questions. The second round comprised of questions that pertained to visual cues of tools, art, architecture, monuments and eminent historical personalities. The next two rounds further tested the knowledge of the participants.

The teams as well as the audience actively participated in the quiz and made it a lively and enriching experience.

The Department of Mathematics organized "LaTeX and HTML quiz." The event which received enthusiastic participation with 72 registrations consisted of two rounds. The preliminary round was conducted on 19th February 2019 which was an online quiz. The result of the preliminary round was announced on 20th February 2019 and the final round commenced on 26th February 2019.

The Department of Physics organized an e-poster competition revolving around the theme, "Nanotechnology: Current Scenario". The event received as many as 119 entries. The presentations highlighted various aspects of nanotechnology which are currently being researched. The students got answers to many of their questions such as, "Why nanoscale is so different from other scales? What properties change at the nanoscale? Why is it the most promising field of study? How nanotechnology can revolutionize the world?" These presentations helped students explore one of the most researched areas in present times.

The Department of Political Science conducted an "Essay Writing" competition. It met with an overwhelming response with 275 registrations. The preliminary round was conducted online and the students were asked to write an essay either for or against the motion "Media as the Conscience Keeper of our Democracy". The second round was held offline in which the finalists were asked to present their essays in a seven minutes speech. This was followed by an insightful round of questions and answers. The talk by the Chief Guest, Professor Sangit Kumar Ragi, enlightened the audience on how media functions in a democracy and era of liberalisation.

The Department of Punjabi organized a "Punjabi Adhyayan Pariksha" through online and offline competitions. It was open to undergraduate students and met with a positive response with 66 registrations for the activity. The preliminary round consisted of an online photo-based creative writing competition, which was conducted from 13th to 15th February while the final round included a quiz that happened offline on February 25th. It was a joy to see the enthusiasm and creativity of the students.
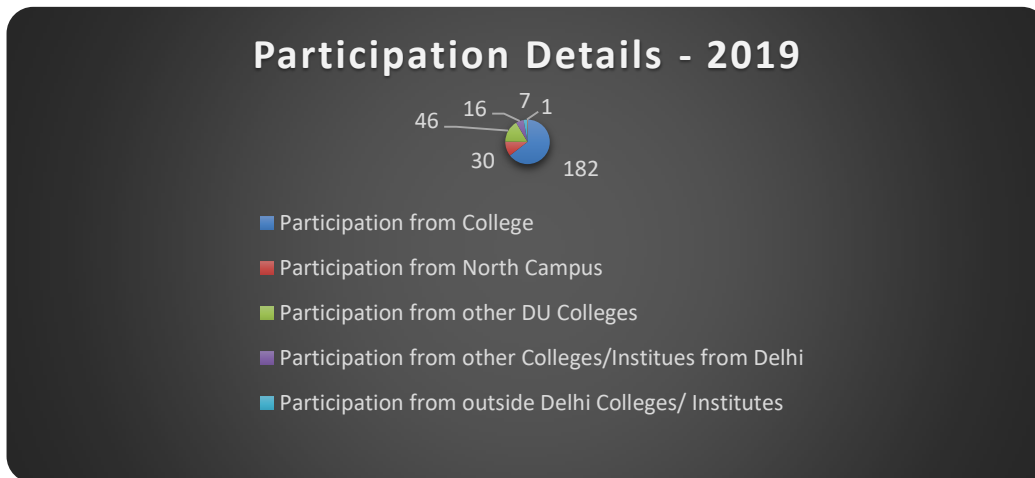
The Department of Sanskrit organized "Sanskrit Manthan" as part of *Avgaahan*. The topic chosen for the competition was "Science and Technology in Sanskrit". 72 participants registered themselves for the event. The preliminary round was held online on February 13th in the form of 50 multiple choice questions on the topic. The second round was held offline and consisted of a written test on the topic. The theme chosen shows the capacity of the language to engage with issues both old and new.

The Department of Sociology organized an "Online Photography and Photo Essay" competition. We live in an age in which visuals are all-pervasive and play a significant role in creating and representing social realities of the day. 169 students from across colleges and disciplines registered themselves for it. The preliminary round was conducted online and consisted of online photography on "India as I see it". The second round, a photo essay competition based on the

theme "India through my eyes: Syncretic cultures of India", was conducted online as well. The contest explored the visual culture and engaged with the ideas of plurality and syncretism that form the core of Indian culture.

The Department of Zoology organized a debate competition. It was met with a very positive response as a total of 164 students from different colleges registered themselves for this fest. The event consisted of two rounds. The preliminary round, which was online, was based on the topic "Antibiotics: Useful or Harmful." The next round was a debate that was conducted offline on the aforementioned topic. Antibiotic resistance is a serious crisis in health and thus the debate was both informative and relevant.

Total there were 182 participations. The 58 winners of various events such as micro fiction, botanical sketching, business plan presentation, quiz etc. were awarded prizes in the **valedictory session** which was held on 1st March. The Chief Guest for the event was Dr. Payal Mago, the Principal of Shahid Rajguru College and the occasion was graced by the Senior Assistant Editor of Forbes India, Mr. Rajeev Singh and the Chairperson of the Governing Body, Mr. Sanjay Kansal. Dr. Mago and Mr. Singh began by saluting the valor and spirit of the Indian Defence Forces and encouraged the students to do the same. Dr. Mago congratulated the college for organizing a first of its kind techfest which involved all the departments. Mr. Kansal spoke about the potential of the youth and how their perseverance, passion and zeal can make them attain great heights. The Principal, Dr. Haritma Chopra congratulated the faculty, administrative staff, students and all those students who participated in the events for making 'Avgaahan' a grand success.

We are delighted that the initiative was a great success and enjoyed such a tremendous response. We now look forward to the next edition of *Avgaahan* with anticipation.

Google drive link of e-certificates:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Cfb1T4uos1ExCTQSnnwEnCSkQdMCM8x?usp=sharing

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2018-19