

## Seminars & Workshops conducted by the Department:

### Report on Periodical Lecture - 2017

Professor Raghunath Ghosh, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, University of North Bengal, has delivered a lecture on 'The Concept of Philosophy: An Indian Perspective' in Maynaguri College on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and Dr. Koushik Joardar, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of North Bengal has delivered a lecture on 'Copernican Revolution in Philosophy' in Maynaguri College on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017 with the financial assistance of Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi. At the outset Dr. Deb Kumar Mukherjee, Principal, Maynaguri College, has delivered welcome address after due felicitation of the guests and a brief introduction of Professor Ghosh and Dr Joardar given by Dr. Purnima Das, Head of the Department of Philosophy. The lecture was attended by large number of students and teachers of the college. Most of them have raised many interesting questions and philosophical problems which have made the lectures more lively.

Professor Raghunath Ghosh has discussed on the nature of philosophy or *darshana* and its utility in our present day life. Philosophy deals with reasoning and argumentation which removes superstitions and blind faith from our life. Moreover, philosophy helps us to raise morality, humanity and value based ideas in our life. For this reason in the age of erosion of human values, environmental values, ethical values philosophy can help us to stop such erosion leading to bringing environmental balance and human values in the society. It helps us to create a good human being who will think of wellbeing of all people in this world resulting in establishment of universal brotherhood, fraternity and friendliness among all social being, which is very much relevant today. Though the term '*darshana*' means 'seeing', it is not seeing in the gross eye but seeing through the eye of logic, reasoning, sympathy, forgiveness and other human values. Such seeing is also seeing through our inner eye or sixth sense which is called intuition. Hence intuitive perception is needed when we appreciate literature, paintings, music, drama and other hidden qualities of human beings. On account of this philosophical method is common to all disciplines including humanities, science and technology. That is why; philosophy is justifiably called art of all arts and science of all sciences.

Dr Koushik Joardar of the Department of Philosophy, University of North Bengal has chosen this topic because it would cover a large portion of the UG syllabus. He started his lecture by explaining the importance of Copernican revolution in Astronomy. Renaissance initiated a shift which is philosophically very important: a shift from the divine at the center to human reason at the center. Astronomy makes a shift in the same spirit. Most of the traditional astronomers maintained a geocentric view regarding the movement of the planets. Even Aristotle and Ptolemy held the same view which has also been endorsed by Church for it does not contradict the Biblical model of creation. Copernicus overthrew Ptolemaic earth-centered theory and offered heliocentric theory that earth revolves on its own axis around the sun, along with other planets. Descartes brings a similar kind of change in philosophy without any

reference to Copernicus. However, Kant has shown that both the rationalist and empiricist projects lead to unwarranted idealism or skepticism. Kant proposes a different kind of idealism, and that is transcendental idealism. According to Kant, the fault with the previous philosophers is that they have treated nature as primary and mind has to conform with the nature in order that there is a valid knowledge. That is, for them, nature is the judge of knowledge. Kant reverses the order and says that it is mind that sets conditions for knowledge of nature. Knowledge is a construct of sensory data from the world and a priori forms of intuition and categories of understanding together. Thus, mind in place of nature becomes the judge of knowledge and this shift is known as the Copernican revolution in philosophy. Dr Koushik Joardar has added that Kant's moral philosophy can also be looked at from this point of view. Kant denies that there are some already universal moral laws like the laws of nature. Morality arises when humans act from the idea of law.

Both the lectures were so interesting the teachers and students could not resist their temptation to raise questions and clarifications, which proves the lucidity in presentation and depth of the subject of the speakers. The undergraduate students overwhelmed with the beauty of philosophical thought embedded in the lectures of these two veteran teachers of the University of North Bengal.







**A Brief Report of the ICPR Sponsored Periodical Lecture Scheme Organized by Maynaguri College, Maynaguri, Jalpaiguri held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

Professor Raghunath Ghosh, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, University of North Bengal, has delivered a lecture on 'The Concept of Lakṣaṇā In Nyāya Philosophy' in Maynaguri College on the 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 and Professor Kantilal Das, Professor of Philosophy, University of North Bengal has delivered a lecture on 'Role of Language in Logic' in Maynaguri College on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 with the financial assistance of Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi. At the outset Prof. Susmita Pandit Teacher-in Charge, Maynaguri College, has delivered her welcome address after due felicitation of the guests and a brief introduction of Professor Ghosh and Professor Das given by Dr. Purnima Das, Head of the Department of Philosophy. The lecture was attended by large number of students and teachers of the college. Most of them have raised many interesting questions and philosophical problems which have made the lectures more lively.

Professor Raghunath Ghosh has discussed on the value of implied meaning of a word or a sentence and its utility in our life and day to day communication. He actually has concentrated to the concept in so far as the Nyāya system of Indian Philosophy is concerned. When the direct meaning (*śakyārtha*) is failed due to the unintelligibility of the intention of the speaker (*tātparyānuvāpatti*), the implied meaning is to be resorted to. Such implied meaning is of various types. When the primary meaning is completely left out, it is called *jahatsvārthā*. When the *śakyārtha* is extended after keeping direct meaning, it is called *ajahatsvārthā*. When there is both rejection and acceptance of the primary meaning, it is called *jahat-ajahat-svārthā*. Apart from these any figurative expression is regarded as implied meaning. If it is said- 'The boy is lion', it indicates the quality of a boy and hence it is called *gaunī*. In this way the importance of figurative expressions has been shown by Professor Ghosh after citing various poems and figurative expressions in our day to day life, which generated interest among the audience. Moreover, it is also emphasized that unlike Ānandavardhanano suggestive meaning is admitted as a separate form of meaning as it can be incorporated in implied meaning.

Professor Kantilal Das, Professor of Philosophy, University of North Bengal has chosen this topic because it covers a large portion of the syllabus of Philosophy and also serves interest of the students of literature. He started his lecture by explaining the importance of language in logic or rather a deep relation between logic and language. To him logical thought cannot operate till we have made sure of logically satisfactory language. Each linguistic symbol should fulfill its single, clear, precise, constant function so that we should be able to know what lies in the deep. It is really appreciative that logic is blind without language which should be non-ambiguous and pin-pointing to the object. Following Professor Jackson Professor Das argues that a satisfactory theory of language is a precondition of satisfactory philosophical and logical thinking. Apart from this Professor Das has justified his position after referring to Wittgenstein and other Western thinkers.

Both the lectures were so interesting the teachers and students could not resist their temptation to raise questions and clarifications, which proves the lucidity in presentation and depth of the subject of the speakers. The undergraduate students overwhelmed with the beauty of philosophical thought embedded in the lectures of these two veteran teachers of the University of North Bengal. It is very much worth-mentioning that teachers from other departments like English, Bengali, History, Sanskrit etc, teachers from the neighbouring colleges and librarians of our college and other colleges attended the lectures and took part in discussion.

*Susmita Pandit*  
19.03.18

(Prof. Susmita Pandit)  
**Teacher-in-charge**  
**Maynaguri College**  
Teacher in-Charge  
Maynaguri College



*P. Das*

(Dr. Purnima Das)  
**Head of the Department**  
**Department of Philosophy**  
**Maynaguri College**

Head  
Department of Philosophy  
Maynaguri College





