

Manipal University and Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Sansthan

The Living Philosophies and Cultures of India

A two-week Summer School

Dates: July 24 to August 7, 2014

Venue: Chinmaya International Foundation

Inauguration

The two-week Summer School began on July 24, 2014 with 22 participants from different parts of the country and world. Participants were from Universities of Harvard, Rutgers, Krakau, Tokyo, Delhi, JNU, Pune, Jadavpur, IIT Delhi and other regions.

The Director of Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Sansthan (CIFSS) - Dr Dilip Kumar Rana welcomed the gathering during the inauguration. Both the Course Directors - Prof Arindam Chakrabarti and Prof Shrinivasa Varakhedi spoke on the objectives of the Summer School and the outcomes of the program. Prof N P Unni, the Chairman of CIFSS introduced the Centre and its activities. Svami Advayananda Ji, the president of Chinmaya International Foundation (CIF) thanked Manipal University (MU) and CIFSS, and the course directors for conducting such an event at the need of the hour. Dr Neeta Inamdar, the Director of Manipal Centre for European Studies (MCES) briefed about the journey of Summer School from Manipal to Veliyanad and thanked everyone who stood by this initiative. All participants introduced themselves at the end of the occasion. Ms Manisha Makhecha (CIF member) emceed the ceremony and Dr Ambika C P invoked with a prayer at the beginning.

Presentation by participants

On the eve of valedictory, the participants were allowed to present on what they have understood from the Summer School. Every participant was allowed to present for 5-7 minutes. Few of them used slides as well to explain. They presented on different topics that were discussed during the two-week Summer School under the guidance of resource persons and course directors. The presentations helped the course directors and the organisers to assess the success of the Summer School.

Valedictory

On the occasion of valedictory, Mr Srinivasa Kumar N Acharya, an Assistant Professor at Manipal University welcomed the audience. Dr D K Rana said that the active participation of all the participants illustrates that how attractively the program is designed and added that he would be happy to welcome again for the next year during his presidential address. The participants expressed that they look forward to meet again for the next year and said that the Summer School was amazingly educative informative which introduced the journey of Indian philosophical schools conceptually and historically. They appreciated the efforts of all the resource persons for trying to explain illustriously and lucidly the scholarly complex ideas bearing everyone in mind.

Both the course directors expressed their happiness over the Summer School as the presentations by the participants explained them how effectively the Summer School was organised and they said that they are grateful to the participants for presenting what they have understood and thanked organisers for this grand feat.

The Path of Proofs – Pramanapaddhati of Sri Jayatirtha, the English translation of the scholarly work on Dvaita epistemology, which carried the signatures of scholars Prof Prahaldachar, Prof Chakrabarti and Prof Varakhedi (author of the book), was given to each participant along with the certificates. The Yoga instructor Mr Santosh More, San Francisco, had personally acknowledged the regular comers by distributing Yoga mats personally.

Svamini Niranjananda Ji and Svami Sharadananda Ji expressed they are bound with extreme happiness and said this remarkable event lays stone for the foundation of the academic discussions on the Indian philosophical schools and help the younger generation to understand its significance and relevance. Dr Sheeba thanked MU, CIF and CIFSS authorities and staff members and the course directors, resource persons and participants who were the key to the success of the event. Mr Srinivasa Kumar N Acharya emceed the ceremony. Ms Heera Kulkarni (San Francisco) and Ms Meera H R (NIAS, Bangalore) offered melodious prayers at the beginning and the end of the valedictory.

Finally, the Summer School fared well emotionally. All the participants and resource persons including both the members of organising teams were overwhelmed with joy of the success of the event.