

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Namaskar! Warm greetings to all virtually present here! I would like to welcome our honorable Chief Guest, Prof C. Rajkumar, Vice Chancellor, O.P. Jindal University, our distinguished Guest of Honour, Lt General Madhuri Kanitkar, AVSM, VSM. I also take this opportunity to welcome our Governing Body Chairperson, Mrs Suman Chauhan, Treasurer Mr. Anwar Shahid and other respected GB Members, invited guests, media personnel, teaching faculty, our superannuated staff, non-teaching staff, support staff, and my very dear students.

To begin with I express my concern for the well being of all during this Covid-19 pandemic situation. Even so, the world around is not what it used to be, we, at Kamala Nehru College have decided to resist pessimism and foster new hope by continuing with our long standing tradition of celebrating our College Day virtually today.

In this Annual Report, I would like to present a brief account of our achievements and accomplishments on the academic, co-curricular and the extra-curricular front over the last calendar year, 2019.

### **Our Distinct Achievements**

It is an honour to report that Kamala Nehru College has been selected as the Mentor Institution under the 'Paramarsh' scheme of UGC following the 'Quality mandate' in higher education. Kamala Nehru College is one of the four colleges in Delhi University to be awarded 'Paramarsh' for mentoring the mentee institutions to enable them to get NAAC accreditation by 2022. Our Mentee institutions are Aryabhata College, Satyawati College (E), Motilal Nehru College (E) and Indian Institute of Design and Craft, Jaipur. It proves that our College as a well performing institution is rendering high order service to promote Quality Assurance in Higher Education.

This year is marked with excellence in research projects when Kamala Nehru College in collaboration with Department of Philosophy, DU has been awarded with SPARC (Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration) by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Govt. of India and IIT Kharagpur for 2019-2021 on *Yoga Consciousness in Mahābhārata and Bhagavadgītā: The Ethical Value for Societal/Political Wellbeing*. Dr Geetesh Nirban is the Co-Principal Investigator and the amount sanctioned is over 73

Lakhs towards the same. For the first time KNC co-hosted a seven-day international Residential Seminar on *Happiness and Good Life: Philosophical Reflections through Cultures* for which Dr. Nirban received a funding of 3 Lakhs from the Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR) and MHRD, Govt of India. Kamala Nehru College bagged two prestigious projects under IMPRESS scheme of ICSSR awarded to Dr. Pravati Dalua in July, 2019 on “Gender, mobility and informal entrepreneurship in contemporary handicraft industries” and “‘Green’ Consumption in India: A study of changing organic food consumption patterns in Delhi and Bhubaneswar”. Dr. Nupur Ray along with Dr. Bijoylaxmi Nanda has secured the ICSSR awarded Research Programme, ‘Declining Child Sex-Ratio and Violence Against Women: Examining Girl-Child Discrimination in India’.

This is an appropriate moment to proudly acknowledge the higher academic pursuits and accomplishments of our faculty members. Dr. Carmel Christy successfully completed fellowship at the International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, the Netherlands, from December 2018- October 2019. She also successfully completed fellowship at CEM- FMSH, Paris, from October to November 2019. Dr. Carmel Christy was invited as the jury member of the Dissertation Prize Judging Committee of International Convention of Asian Scholars 2021 (Kyoto). She organised an International Workshop in Paris on October 25, 2019 on the topic “Making of the Southwest Indian Littoral: Trade, Religion and Marginality”. Dr. Rupali Khanna successfully completed her post doctoral research fellowship from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, ranked 11th in the world in the 2020 QS University rankings. Her three projects focused on energy poverty, clean energy and green spaces, culminating in the publication of two papers in international journals and one international policy document.

In terms of our international presence, Shivpreet Pannu secured the first position in Asian Youth Championship 2019 in female junior Speed Climbing. Kirti Gupta won Gold medal in junior category at the 9th Asian Shotgun Championship held at Kazakhstan. She also won team Silver and mixed team Bronze medal at the 9th Asian Shotgun Championship held at Kazakhstan in 2019. In September 2019, KNC hosted the 2nd Indo-German Film Festival on ‘Active Ageing’ organized by the Sociology Department in collaboration with the German Embassy.

It is a matter of pride for KNC that our very able and bright cadets CHM Khushi Bharadwaj, Cadet Poonam and Cadet Angel represented the Delhi Directorate in Republic Day Camp in January 2019, which was held at Rajpath, New Delhi. CHM Khushi Bharadwaj was awarded with the All India Junior Under Officer Rank in the camp. On 8th September, 2019 the members of Green Beans, the environment society of KNC participated in the UN dialogue with Deputy Secretary General Amina J. Mohammed on Sustainable Development Agenda and the need for Climate Action. 15 volunteers of NSS, KNC shared space with innovators, artists, change-makers and social entrepreneurs at Indian Habitat Centre on 5th August 2019 for the #Charcha For Change: Climate Chapter discussion hosted by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and to discuss ideas, innovations and solutions to combat the climate crisis.

In November 2019, the student convenors of Luminoso, the Fine Arts Society Anoushka Gogoi and Shagun Dhir, represented our college at the India International Science Festival, held in Kolkata. They participated in the exhibition of handmade art & crafts products prepared by our fine arts team. This has been a part of encouraging students to take up their creative abilities at professional level, designated as "Passion to Profession". These products were highly appreciated by the visitors.

## Lectures

The culture of invited lectures and discussions at KNC is a long-standing one, which has thrived over years in the academic environment of the college. The 15<sup>th</sup> Dr. K.K. Gorowara Annual Memorial Lecture 2019 was delivered by the award winning writer Ms. Githa Hariharan on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2019 on the topic: "Becoming the Tide: The writer as Citizen." The speaker for the "Dr. Radhakrishnan Memorial Lecture Series" held on 05 September, 2019 was Prof. Heeraman Tiwari, Dean, Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Management and Entrepreneurship, JNU, who spoke on "Matilal, Memory and Indian Theory of Knowledge".

The annual Plural Eco Lecture was delivered by Professor Arun Kumar on the topic, "Two Circles of growth in India." In the month of January, the English Department welcomed the Cypriot poet, critic and academic Stephanos Stephanides. The English Literary Society collaborated with the Book Club of KNC to organize a lecture-demonstration on 'Daryaganj's Parallel Book History'. In March 2019, the Book Club collaborated with the History

department to organise a Dastangoi performance with Fouzia Dastango and Saneya Dastango. The History Department invited Prof. Raziuddin Aquil, who spoke on “Akbar and Aurangzeb: Religion and Political Culture in Early Modern India”. The Mathematics Department organized an interactive session with Mr. Ayaan Chawla founder and CEO of Asian Fox Developments who delivered a talk on the start-up culture in India. Dr. Geetha Venkataraman, Professor, Ambedkar University gave a lecture on ‘Groups and Symmetry’. The Political Science Department organized a talk in August 2019 by the representatives from Amnesty International, India on ‘Decoders: A Session on Troll Patrol India’. The Department also organized a book discussion on the book *The Line on Fire* authored by Prof. Happymon Jacob. In the month of March, 2019 the BA Programme Committee organized a first of its kind Youth Conclave on the theme of 'Education'.

### **Seminars and Panel Discussions**

Seminars, workshops, panel discussions and academic talks are a routine feature of the KNC intellectual climate. The Sanskrit Department organized a ten-day Sanskrit Sambhashan Karyashala in the month of August 2019. Another National Seminar on “Ambhovaad Vimarsh” was organised by Sanskrit department in collaboration with Sri Shankar Shikshayatan on 21 September, 2019. In the month of September, the Hindi Department organized a two-day UGC sponsored National Seminar on the topic: " Ikkisvi Sadi ka Hindi Katha Sahitya: Chintan ki Vividh Dishayein" wherein Late Dr.Ganga Prasad Vimal delivered the Keynote address.

The Sociology Department organized a two-day ICSSR sponsored National Seminar on “Environmental crisis, ethics and social justice: A critical perspective”. The Psychology Department organized a seminar on ‘Community Mental Health’ by Ms Achira Chatterjee an expert on the issue of mental health, and in October, 2019 the Department also organized a panel discussion with diverse perspectives on Suicide Prevention. This was in continuation of the ‘Yellow Silent March’ organized to raise awareness about mental health issues. Ms Saniya Bedi, the college counsellor held an interactive session on self-love. The session included some activities on self-love, self-esteem and self-awareness. The Consumer Club of KNC organized a Seminar on “Consumer Rights and Protection Awareness” in August 2019. Dr Jayshree Gupta, Director, Consumer India and Dr. Sushila, Project Director from National Law University, Delhi spoke on the occasion.

## **Workshops**

The culture of academic discussions and lectures is further reinforced by workshops conducted for the students and the faculty. The Geography Department organized a month long distance-learning programme in October, 2019 on Geographical Information Systems (GIS) in collaboration with IIRS (Indian Institute of Remote Sensing), Dehradun. The Commerce Department organized a one-day workshop on 'Principles of Marketing' in September 2019, and another on "Cyber Space, Crimes and Security". Mr Anyesh Roy, DCP Cyber Crime Cell and other prominent speakers addressed the students. The Economics Department organized a GRETL Software Workshop conducted by Ms. Nupur Kataria. A Print Production Workshop was organized for the final year students of Journalism in August 2019 conducted by Ms. Ruchika Mahajan, Faculty member of NISCORT, New Delhi. The Physical Education Department organized a Fitness Workshop on 'Health and Wellness' under Fit India Movement for NSO students conducted by Dr. Sarita Tyagi from Indira Gandhi College of Physical Education and Sports Sciences. The Geography department organized a one-day faculty development workshop on data analysis with R, using STATCRAFT. In September 2019, the members of Snapshots, the Photography Society conducted a peer workshop on technicalities of photography.

## **Educational Field Trips**

Like workshops, educational field trips also provide a hands-on experience to students. An industrial visit to Parle was organized by the Commerce Department. The members of the English Department visited the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art for a curated walkthrough of their collection and an exhibition called 'Common Course'. The History Department organized a multi-disciplinary walk to Rashtrapati Bhawan. The final year Journalism students of the DSE Photography course were taken on a study trip to the Museo Camera Centre for the Photographic Arts, a vintage camera museum in Gurugram in November 2019. The Sociology Department organized a field visit to Kiran Nadar Museum of Art to sociologically engage with the work display of Dr. Ishita Dey and Dr. Mohammed Saeed entitled 'Smells of the city: Scents, Stench and Stink'.

## **Co-curricular and Extra-curricular Activities**

At KNC co-curricular and extra-curricular activities are encouraged with a view towards holistic development. There are more than a dozen cultural and performing arts societies in the College like classical music, western music, dance, fashion, dramatics, choreography, Hindi and English debate, quiz, fine arts etc. KNC follows the best practice of providing training to the members of such societies every semester through weekend workshops, where students get the opportunity to interact with distinguished trainers and experts. Glitz, the KNC Fashion Society won the best fashion team in Vogue at IIT Mumbai festival Mood Indigo as well as at Maitreyi College and Shaheed Bhagat Singh College. It secured second position at Hindu, Shivaji and the College of Vocational Studies. At the individual level too, the members won several trophies for 'Best model' at Hindu, Maitreyi, Lady Irwin, Ramanujan, Shivaji, College of Vocational Studies, Institute of Home Economics, Institute of Management Studies and Shaheed Bhagat Singh College.

Another landmark event at KNC is 'Munaazrah' organized by 'Crossfire', the English Debating Society. In March 2019, it hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Asian Parliamentary Debating Tournament in which over 36 teams participated from various institutions across India such as IIT-Delhi, St. Stephen's, Delhi College of Economics and JNU, among many other reputed institutions.

Sangeetika, the Indian music society secured the first position at Indraprastha College and the second position at Gargi, Swami Shraddhanand College and DCAC. The achievements of the societies are too many to be recounted here.

Spenta Jassawala, a second year Journalism honours' student and member of Snapshots, the photography society secured the first position in an online photography competition organized by the Global Youth Mumbai on the theme 'Life under Water.'

The annual cultural festival, Ullas'19 was held on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Renowned Kathak dancer and film maker, Ms. Arushi Nishank inaugurated the event, and mesmerized the audience with her powerful speech on women's empowerment and environmental concerns. The professional band performance by 'Antariksh' and the much-awaited celebrity event with the popular playback

singer, Darshan Raval, the Indian playback singer were the highlights of the festival Ullas.

### **Gender Awareness and Sensitization**

Gender sensitization is an ongoing discourse at KNC. In January 2019, the Placement Cell of KNC organized a panel discussion on “Women in Leadership: Career and Growth Prospects” in collaboration with Change.org, wherein eminent women leaders, Ms. Sushmita Dev, Member of Parliament, Congress and Ms Shweta Shalini, Spokesperson, Bharatiya Janata Party discussed the role of women and career opportunities in politics.

In November, 2019 as part of the History Lecture Series, Prof. Kumkum Roy and Dr. Charu Gupta spoke on the gender perspective in Ancient and Modern India. The newly introduced Young Economist Lecture and Discussion Series (YELD) under the aegis of the Economics Department hosted Professor Jayati Ghosh, who spoke on “Gender and Economics.” The Journalism Department organized a bilingual panel discussion in which Ms. Purvi Gupta from ‘She the People’, and Laxmi Sharma from ‘Khabar Lehariya’ discussed the issues of representation of minorities and challenges faced by women reporters. The Psychology Department held a seminar on ‘Women’s Health’ addressed by Dr. Rahul Manchanda, Gynae Endoscopic Surgeon. The NSS unit of Kamala Nehru College organised a workshop on POCSO (Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences) and gender equality conducted by Sakshi NGO.

### **Institutional Social Responsibility**

In the domain of co-curricular activities, NCC and NSS shouldered wider social responsibility as an integral part of education. Our cadets have successfully executed various extension activities in collaboration with industry, community and non-government organisations during the past year, like Swachh Bharat Rally in collaboration with Andrews Ganj MCD School; Food distribution at Lajpat Nagar ; Cleanathon conducted in Sarojini Nagar, followed by a Plantation Drive at Gulmohar Park. The NSS unit of KNC organized cleanliness drives in the month of August 2019 in four phases to mark the Swacchta Pakhwada under the guidance of the Programme officer, Ms. Namita Paul. Kendriya Vidyalaya, Sadiq Nagar and the Green Park Market were cleaned as part of this drive. On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the NSS Unit of KNC organised a cleanliness drive in the college campus to contribute to Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to commemorate Gandhiji’s 150th birth anniversary. The NSS

mobilized the College community to curb Single Use Plastic under Swacchta Hi Sewa Abhiyan. NSS KNC was also honoured to be a part of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, organised on 4th November, 2019 at Dhyanchand National Stadium by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

Our extension activities have contributed to the nation building exercise, Khushi Kapoor, an NSS member from Psychology (Hons) was appointed as the SVEEP College Campus Ambassador, to increase voter awareness and facilitate the registration of voters in the electoral rolls in collaboration with the Election Commission of India. The college makes a significant contribution in nation-building by providing infrastructural support to elections of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha, as the college ground and building are used for months altogether as Training Centre for the elections. The College observed the second anniversary of the Surgical Strike and also celebrated Kargil Diwas on 26th July 2019 with Colonel Vijendra Thapar, father of Kargil hero Lt Vijayant Thapar as the Chief Guest, and the National Constitution Day on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November. On the occasion of National Unity Day on 31st October, the NSS unit of KNC took the unity pledge.

The College has been working towards extension activities and institutional social responsibility through its cultural societies too, like the Equal Opportunity Cell, Gandhi Study Circle, Consumer Club and Green Beans. The Equal Opportunity Cell of KNC signed an MoU with 'inside Me', an NGO wherein our students regularly visit their schools to help them in art and craft. The society also marked the 'International Cane Day' in College premises to sensitize people about the importance of white cane in the life of the visually impaired. A community outreach programme was also organised in two blind schools of Delhi, wherein the members interacted with blind students, listening to their thoughts and stories and sharing the same with them. Under the aegis of Consumer Club, Kamala Nehru College became the proud partner of The Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation Consumer Campaign, run by the celebrated Children Rights activist and the Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Shri Kailash Satyarthi. The Gandhi Study Circle of the College celebrated various activities throughout the year to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Gandhi ji, like the annual 'Charkha Utsav' first celebrated in 2017. An 'Ahimsa Silk Exhibition' was put up by NSDTI, Madhya Pradesh, as part of Gandhi Vandan, the annual event organized to remember Gandhi ji on 30<sup>th</sup> January

2019. Dr. Neena Bansal, faculty member of KNC received an award for ‘Best Contribution as Convenor of Gandhi Study Circle’ towards “Spreading Gandhian Values among College Youth and Fraternity” at Gandhi Bhawan, and that speaks volumes about our commitment to Gandhian ideology.

Also worth applause is the Green Beans’ commitment to sustainable development. In November 2019, the College canteen composting plant was inaugurated and a short training programme for the students and the canteen staff was conducted by Mr. TRN Rao, who has been associated with Swarn Vasudha, an organization working on household composting. Mr Rao demonstrated the process of composting using the biodegradable waste from the College canteen and also vertical gardens for growing organic vegetables on terraces. In a unique initiative of Green Beans Society, the students calculated the water footprint of a representative sample of 800 students at Kamala Nehru College. The survey was conducted using the water footprint calculator developed by the researchers at UNESCO-IHE from [waterfootprint.org](http://waterfootprint.org). The water footprint of 74 % of the students lies between 400-1899 cubic meter per year. The study was conducted to make students aware about the judicious use of water by reducing their personal water footprint for a sustainable future. Here it is worth mentioning that India is the country with the largest water footprint in the world.

Active social engagement is also the vision of the Placement Cell of KNC. Our students have been placed in companies like KPMG, EY, Wipro, Tresvista and others. The Cell provided internship and live project opportunities to our students. Major recruiters included the Yes Foundation, Consumers India, Glinks International, Decathlon, among the 30+ companies that approached the College. The Placement Cell continued with its ‘Career Guidance Series’ and the sessions were conducted by Mr Jitin Chawla, a prominent placement expert. The Placement Cell introduced a new platform named ‘Government Jobs and Scholarship Opportunities’ in the year 2019-20, whereby it has successfully oriented students towards highlighting opportunities in sectors like Judiciary, Indian Forest Services, Delhi Police, SBI, LIC, RBI and many more.

## **Sports**

Sports is yet another field of excellence at KNC. Amongst the numerous laurels, I would like to mention that Medha Saini won Gold Medal in the 1<sup>st</sup> Champions Open National Taekwondo Championship held at Talkatora Indoor Stadium and

also at the Delhi State Taekwondo Championship, held at Tyagraj Stadium. Priya won Gold Medal in 100 mtrs Hurdle in Delhi State Athletics meet held at JLNS. Our football and basketball teams secured top positions in intervarsity and state level tournaments.

### **Superannuated Members of KNC**

The College bid farewell to two members of the non-teaching staff in 2019, Shri Shankar (Security staff) and Smt Dayawati (Sanitary staff). At this juncture, I would take the opportunity to acknowledge Dr. Manju Gupta, a retired faculty member from the Hindi Department, for her generous donation of 2.5 lakh for student scholarships.

### **Administrative Accomplishments**

Adopting the welfare approach, many students and staff friendly facilities have been furnished. Four sanitary vending machines have been installed in Rest rooms and common room. State bank of India's mobile ATM van has been made available daily for the ease of staff and students. The tactile paths have been laid out in the college and ramps constructed in New Seminar Room in order to make the college infrastructure accessible for all. An e-resources section for the students has been set up in the library with 12 work stations. The teachers' Research room in the library has been renovated and equipped with laptops on all the desks with wi-fi connectivity. The area around bamboo rooms has been landscaped as 'Nature Square' with lotus pond murals painted on the walls in miniature style by the Fine Arts Society students. A real time temperature and humidity display has been installed on the boundary wall overlooking the busy intersection of Siri Fort road and August Kranti Marg, for the benefit of people passing by the college. Another worth appreciation initiative taken by Environment Club is about installing the e-waste bin in the lobby with MoU signed with Chintan, an NGO working on waste management for responsible disposal of electronic-waste by licensed recycling units. Another MoU has been signed with the NGO, Family of Disabled (FOD), whereby old newspapers are provided for making pencils out of recycled paper to generate employment for the differently-abled people. With the aim of strengthening the alumnae network, the alumnae association, Madhursmriti has started an online registration portal that was formally declared open at the Annual Alumnae Meet of 2019. The first annual general body meeting (AGM) was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2019. The election of the office bearers of the Students' Union

was combined with the election of student representatives of Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) in a smooth manner. KNC has been selected as centre for conducting many reputed entrance exams by outsourced test agencies.

### **Awards and Recognition**

Last but not the least, I would like to showcase the individual achievements of the members of the faculty. Dr. Kalpana Bhakuni received a National Award, Bhugol Shastra Bhushan from the Deccan Geographical Society of India in September 2019. Dr. Renu Bali was the recipient of the Award for College Lecturers given by Directorate of Higher Education, Delhi Government for the year 2019. Dr. Sushma Choudhary of the Sanskrit department received the Krantidhara Antrarashtriya Sahitya Sadhak Samman-2019 at Meerut Literary Festival, and various other awards for her academic and cultural contribution. Ms. Homolata Borah received the 'Mary Fran Myers Scholarship Award' from Natural Hazards Centre, University of Colorado, USA in 2019. Ms. Shikha Gupta of the Commerce department won the award for best paper presentation at an International Conference organised by Global Research Foundation.

### **Faculty Achievements**

In 2019, two of our faculty members were awarded PhD: Dr. Divya Padalia from JNU and Dr. Vaishali Narula from National Institute of Education Planning and Administration.

Dr. Nupur Ray from the Political Science jointly edited a volume, *Discourse on Rights in India: Debates and Dilemmas* published by Routledge in 2019. Dr. Chetna Sharma co-edited the book titled *Comparative Government and Politics* published by Sage in 2019. Dr. Pragati Gautam of Mathematics Department has authored two text books in 2019 for UG students, *Practical Mathematica* and *Numerical Methods*. Dr. Shweta Suri published a book on Sports Injuries. Mr. Ramesh Aroli's poems have been translated into Spanish language and published in a special Indian issue of "LUVINA-97", a literary magazine published by the University of Guadalajara, México in 2019.

A large number of faculty members have attended, as well as presented papers at international and national forums, the details of which are included in the relevant sections of the Annual Report. Many others have contributed 'Chapters' to books, and published articles in peer-reviewed international, national and e-journals of repute. Various members have been invited as

Speakers at International Conferences, Workshop Resource Persons and as Guest Editors of journals, as well as chaired sessions. The members of the faculty are also actively involved in syllabi conceptualization and revision, spearheading committees across levels in the University of Delhi.

Time constraint prevents me from mentioning the numerous other achievements of the College. They, however, find a place in the detailed College Report. On this congratulatory note, I would like to conclude by once again extending my gratitude to the Dignitaries present here, and all those associated with KNC, who have believed in our progressive vision. Long live KNC!

Thank you

Dr. Kalpana Bhakuni  
Principal

27.6.2020