

The Economics Society

The Economics Society Activity Report 2023-24

During the academic year 2023-24, The Economics Society, St. Stephen's College conducted a series of intellectually stimulating events.

The academic year started with the 16th Vinod Chowdhury Memorial Lecture and Debate, which is held annually in memory of our former Head of Department, in September 2023. Dr. Ashwini Deshpande, Head, Department of Economics, and Founding Director, Centre for Economic Data and Analysis (CEDA) at Ashoka University, addressed the challenges of low female labour force participation in India for the lecture. The debate was organised from September 16th to 18th, engaging participants in spirited discussions on global economic themes. This was followed by Ecquizzite, held on 27th September, which has established itself as one of Delhi University's most challenging quizzes. It tested participants' knowledge across economic theory, business, pop culture, and current affairs. Event X for the odd semester was 'Trials of Theseus', which was held in October and offered a unique intellectual decathlon inspired by mythological challenges. Trials of Theseus incorporated game theory, fallacies, and trade-offs in the various stalls. In November, the last event of the semester, Retronomics, was held. It was a market simulation competition with time-travel-themed trading sessions spanning different historical eras.

The Even Semester began with the society's flagship event, The National Economics Festival (NEF) 2024, held on the 2nd and 3rd of March. It featured lectures by Dr. Renu Kohli, who has previously worked with the RBI, the IMF, and think tanks including ICRIER and the Institute of Economic Growth, on 'India's Growth Drivers' and Ms. Yamini Aiyar, former director, and CEO of Centre for Policy Research, on 'Unpacking the contours of new welfarism'. The festival also included the NC Ray Paper Presentation competition, where undergraduate students had put forth their research on any topic related to the field of economics. Another event that was a part of the festival was 'Ignite: The Business Case Study Competition', which was based on the Generative Artificial Intelligence Industry. The last two events of NEF were Prometheus and Codeception. Prometheus is the flagship business and economics quiz, which challenges participants' knowledge of economic theory and current affairs. Codeception was the 'Event X' of NEF, which featured a monopoly-themed competition and a password-cracking challenge.

In April, the Society hosted a reading circle on information processing of low probability-high consequence events and the Ranjan Ray Memorial Lecture 2024. The speaker for the lecture was Dr. Bhaskar Dutta, Distinguished University Professor at Ashoka University, on 'How should we measure development?'. The academic year concluded with The Tides of Trade, a maritime-themed market simulation testing trading skills amidst dynamic economic challenges that was held on 23rd April 2024.

Lastly, we hosted 2 workshops this academic year: one was a guesstimate while the other a market simulation.

After an eventful year, the Society has achieved its primary goal of fostering a dynamic and supportive environment that encourages both academic and professional growth.

Additionally, we successfully hosted two quizzes, two market simulations, a business case study competition, several lectures, a debate, and a paper presentation competition as planned at the beginning of the academic year. Furthermore, we saw an increase in the number of registrations for our events. We look forward to fostering such an environment and conducting more such events in the current academic year.