

Annual Society Report of the Informal Discussion Group (IDG) for the Academic Year 2023-2024

Society Overview

The Informal Discussion Group (IDG) is dedicated to fostering open, intellectual discussions, enriching students' perspectives and encouraging critical thinking. The year saw a range of events, from leadership insights to discussions on international relations and public service, with distinguished speakers from varied fields. This academic year, IDG organized three flagship events, each with unique themes and invaluable insights for participants.

Event 1: Orientation

Date: 23rd September 2023

Venue: OCLT

Participants: 72

Description: The Orientation kicked off the academic year, welcoming freshers and new members to the Informal Discussion Group (IDG) with an introduction to the society's mission and activities. Beyond an overview of IDG's objectives, the session was a lively and interactive space where students were given an insider's look into college life and College history.

Event 2: Inaugural Talk with General (Dr.) VK Singh

Topic: *From a General to a Minister: Leadership of Different Genres*

Date: 25th October 2023

Venue: Seminar Room

Guest Speaker: General (Dr.) VK Singh

Participants: 43

Description: The inaugural talk session for the academic year featured General (Dr.) VK Singh, who shared his profound experiences transitioning from military leadership to a ministerial role in the government. With his dual expertise, General Singh highlighted the challenges and parallels between the structured leadership required in the armed forces and the adaptability necessary for political leadership. His talk emphasized the critical skills of strategic thinking and communication, enriched by personal anecdotes and practical strategies for handling complex, multidisciplinary teams.

Event 3: Talk Session with Mr. Shah Faesal, IAS

Topic: *From the Field: Anecdotes and Anomalies from a Bureaucrat's Career*

Date: 5th February 2024

Venue: Room AS3

Guest Speaker: Mr. Shah Faesal (IAS)

Participants: 86

Description: This engaging talk session hosted Mr. Shah Faesal, an accomplished bureaucrat, who shared unique insights into his journey in the Indian Administrative Service. Mr. Faesal discussed his views on life, power, and the ethical complexities encountered in public service.

Event 4: Interactive Session with Dr. Kanwal Sibbal

Topic: *Challenges and Opportunities for India in the Emerging Global Order*

Date: 12th February 2024

Venue: Seminar Room

Guest Speaker: Dr. Kanwal Sibbal

Participants: 56

Description: Dr. Kanwal Sibbal, a distinguished former Foreign Secretary of India, addressed the critical shifts in global power dynamics and the strategic role India plays in this landscape. With his rich expertise, he offered a deep dive into India's diplomatic challenges and opportunities, addressing key questions around security, global alliances, and economic policy.

The Informal Discussion Group's events this year succeeded in bringing high-calibre discourse to campus, offering students unique opportunities to interact with leaders and experts across various fields. Through these events, IDG continues to fulfil its mission of fostering critical thinking, encouraging intellectual curiosity, and creating a collaborative platform for discussion.