

Arts and Culture Society 2019

Convenor: Dr. Anuradha Marwah

The Arts and Culture Society is a thriving body of students committed to the practice, development and propagation of performing arts. It is one of the most active student groups in the University of Delhi, winning various competitions every year and its members performing extraordinarily well individually. The society is headed by Dr. Anuradha Marwah Associate Professor, Department of English. She is an eminent theatre personality as well as a renowned international scholar. The student secretary for the year 2018-2019 is Mr. Raja Dutt. The Arts and Culture Society has a group of accomplished and dedicated faculty members to supervise the functioning of its six sub-societies.

The six sub societies of the Arts and Culture Society are *Aman*-the Theatre Society; *Dhanak*-the Western Dance Society, *Dhwanik*-the Indian Classical Music Society; *Suchitra*- the Fine Arts Society; *Nrityathi*-the Classical Dance Society; and *Illume*- the Western Music Society. *Suchitra*, *Nrityathi*, and *Illume* were established in the current year. All these sub societies have not only performed but have also excelled in various competitions.

Aman : The Theatre Society of Zakir Husain Delhi College was established in 2015 and has subsequently made significant contributions to the New Delhi theatre circuit. The society has

brought laurels to the college by winning numerous competitions at Collegiate, State and National levels. It has been invited to perform by organisations such as Shakespeare Society of India, the British Council, Ashoka University, Kirori Mal College, among many other prestigious institutions. Through its incessant hard-work and unwavering commitment Aman has been able to win the National Drama Competition of the Shakespeare Society of India for a record five times in a row.

In the session 2018-19, Aman Theatre Society performed Asghar Wajahat's *Godse@Gandhi.Com*, directed by Sumit Bera, at many national and state level competitions winning accolades at institutions like IIT Ropar and IIT Roorkee. The play was also performed at the famous Kamani Auditorium as a part of SahityaKalaParishad's "Mahavidyalaya Naatya Samaaroh." Aman was selected to perform the play at the prestigious Old World Collegiate Theatre Festival organised at the India Habitat Centre. It had two houseful ticketed shows thus adding another feather in its cap. Ms. Hridyanshi Toor won the Best Actor award for her performance in the play at IIT Ropar.

Aman performed its second production, 'Liyaaat', an adaptation of Shakespeare's tragedy King Lear, directed by Zeeshan Khan at the Shakespeare Society of India's National Drama Competition. The performance won award for the Best Production, while Alyasa Abbas won the Best Actor award and Nikhita Khurana won the award for Best Supporting Actor. It also received two rolling trophies for winning the competition a record five times. The Department of English of our college invited Aman to stage the play at their International Students' Conference. The members of the society participated and rendered commendable performances in other events as well. Mr. Vishava Prakash won special mention for mono-acting at PGDAV(E)'s fest; Ms. Lalita Patel bagged first prize at IIT Roorkee and third at IIT Bombay at National Level Competitions in Freestyle Solo Dancing.

Dhanak: The Western Dance Society of Zakir Husain Delhi College is amongst the most well-known societies in the University of Delhi. The objective of the society is to provide platform to dynamic students to showcase and polish their talents.

This year, Dhanak prepared three different group performances choreographed by Mohit Gupta. These groups participated in different national level competitions including prestigious institutions such as IIT Roorkee and IIT Bombay. Their performance won the second prize at IIT Roorkee. The performances were also given at various colleges of University of Delhi, successfully making it to the finals of many competitions and winning at colleges like B.R. Ambedkar College and Zakir Husain Delhi College (Evening). The team also debuted at the Delhi Dance Fever making it to the final round, a rare feat for a debutant team.

Continuing the success, the group members obtained individual prizes in inter-college as well as national level competitions. Ms. Nishtha secured first position at Ambedkar University, in addition to podium finishes at PGDAV college and Ram Lal Anand College. She also made it to the core team of Mental Health Festival organized at AIIMS. Ms. Shailja secured third position at PGDAV college, and gave her Kathak dance performance at the Kamani Auditorium. Mr. Ashwin and Ms. Nishtha performed at the Red Festival organized by a queer youth alliance and social advocacy group 'Nazariya'. Ms. Nishtha and Ms. Shailja won multiple prizes at the University of Delhi colleges as well as Mental Health Festival (AIIMS).

Dhwanik: The Classical Music Society of Zakir Husain Delhi College is one of the oldest and most admirable societies of the college and enjoys considerable reputation in the music circles in University of Delhi.

This year Dhwanik composed four classical ragas- RaagBhupali, RaagDesi, RaagSurMalhar, and RaagMiyaMalhar. The group participated in the national competition at IIT Kanpur in addition to

other inter-college contests in University of Delhi. The outstanding performances of Mr. Nabeel, a skilled Sarangi player and Mr. Daksh, a gifted classical singer brought remarkable recognition to the society. They won as many as twenty-four prizes at the college together with state and national level competitions. Mr. Devesh Bisht and Mr. Sargam Boruah gave individual performances in University of Delhi colleges.

Suchitra: The Fine Arts Society, founded this year, has already made its presence felt in the fine arts community of the University. In addition to making regular contributions in various college events like NSS events the society participated in various intra-college projects coupled with engagements at IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur and IIT Bombay. The members of the society were nurtured and inspired by this extensive exposure. Mr. Amit Gupta, Mr. Ankur Raman, Ms. Monika Rawat, Ms. Javi Gautam, Mr. Nitish Kumar Bharti and Mr. Tejas have won prizes in competitions as diverse as 'making art out of waste', 'wall painting,' 'dress making out of waste' among many others.

Nrityathi : The Classical Dance Society is another new addition to Arts and Culture Society of the college. The Society currently consists of six committed classical dancers of varied backgrounds including Odissi, Kathak, Mohiniyattam, Bharatanatyam and Kuchuppudi, working under the guidance of Ms. Shabana Azami and the society coordinators from the Arts and Culture core group. Nrityarathi's first performance was at the Independence Day celebrations of our college. It went on to perform at the Mental Health Festival at Jawahar Lal Nehru Auditorium, AIIMS, and IIT Roorkee. Ms. Lakshmi Priya (Bharatanatyam), Ms. Chandhana S. Anand (Kuchipudi), Ms. Ayushi Kashyap (Bharatanatyam), Ms. Anisha Mukherjee (Odissi) and Ms. Abhirami have performed at various University of Delhi college fests.

Illume : The Western Music Society is the third new addition that was made in this session. The name is short for 'Illuminate'. Though still in its nascent stage, the society has experimented with

numerous styles of western music viz. Rap, Rock and Pop, Western Classical, Jazz and Acapella, thus providing the much-needed diversity on the musical front. The members of the society performed at IIT Roorkee, Gargi College, IIT Delhi and Aryabhata College.