

## Report on Academic Event: Debate and Declamation Competitions

**\*Date: 26th September 2024\***

**\*Venue: [Centre of Excellence, Sanjauli]\***

On 26th September 2024, the Department of Public administration organized an academic event that featured a debate competition and a declamation contest, attracting enthusiastic participation from students across various disciplines. The event was graced by distinguished guests—teachers from the Department of Sociology, who brought their expertise and insights to enrich the discussions. Department teachers **Dr. Naresh Verma, Dr. Purnima Thapar and Dr. Santosh Kumar** graced the event with their presence.

### **\*Debate Competition: Topic - "Reservation System in India"\***

The debate competition revolved around the highly relevant and often contentious topic of the **\*Reservation System in India\***. Participants were divided into two teams: **\*For\*** and **\*Against\*** the motion. The discussion touched upon the historical origins of reservations, their impact on marginalized communities, and their role in shaping modern India. While one side argued that reservations are essential for creating a level playing field for historically disadvantaged groups, the opposing side questioned whether the current system is promoting fairness or perpetuating divisions.

The debaters made compelling arguments, addressing the complexities of caste-based reservations, meritocracy, and the socio-economic inequalities that persist in the country. The jury, comprising sociology professors **Dr Prashant Thakur and Dr Ravinder Kumar**, evaluated the participants on the basis of their clarity of thought, presentation style, and ability to address counter-arguments. The debate concluded with the judges emphasizing the need for nuanced policy discussions that address both equity and efficiency in the context of India's evolving socio-economic landscape. **Team A** was selected as the winner and **Nidhi** won the **best speaker award**.

### **Declamation Competition: Topic - Education and Religion**

The declamation contest followed, with participants speaking on the topic

### **Education and Religion**

This topic encouraged students to explore the intersections of faith and learning in both historical and contemporary contexts. Participants discussed how religion has influenced education systems globally, whether positively or negatively, and how secularism should be balanced with religious teachings in educational institutions.

Speakers presented diverse perspectives, from advocating for the inclusion of ethical and moral teachings rooted in religion, to emphasizing the importance of keeping education free from religious bias in order to maintain inclusivity and critical thinking. The audience was captivated by the eloquence and depth of understanding exhibited by the speakers. The guests from the Department of Sociology appreciated the thought-provoking reflections on how religion can both enrich and challenge educational spaces. At the end, **Swati Verma** won the contest.

### **Conclusion**

The event was a resounding success, fostering intellectual exchange and encouraging students to engage with complex societal issues. The insightful remarks from the sociology faculty added depth to the discussions, providing academic context and stimulating further thought. The winners of both the debate and declamation competitions were awarded certificates and prizes, marking the conclusion of a highly stimulating and enlightening academic event.

