

Indo German colloquium Between East and West: Cross-Cultural Philosophical Encounters.

In a unique way the colloquium was jointly organized by the Department of Philosophy at SIES college in collaboration with The Institute of Philosophy , Bonn and Department of Philosophy Jhunjhun wala college on 22nd and 23rd Nov 2010. Four scholars namely Prof. Markus Gabriel, Dr Jens Rometsch, Dr Stephan Zimmermann, Dr Sebastian visited India for the first time as though reaffirming the earlier ties between countries built by Prof Daussein , Mr.Maxmuller and so on . They presented their intellectually inspiring research papers which were very well discussed and received by scholars and students.

The Colloquium was inaugurated by the German Consulate ,Dr. Leopold-Theodor Heldman. He enlightened the audience with his vast knowledge on Indian and western Philosophy . Apart from the foreign scholars the other Indian research scholars who spoke on various themes were, Dr. Kanchana Mahadevan, Ms. Biraj Metha, Dr Amita Valmikli, Dr.Vibha Suvarna, Ms .Shehnaz Nalwala and Dr Uma Shankar.

In the Valedictory function , Mr Dr. Gieve Patel a Physician, Artist and Writer, spoke on Indian and German Literature in the 20th Century.

Some of the prominent guests were , Mr. Rajendra Singh (Secretary, Jhunjhunwala College), Dr Usha Mukundan, Principal Jhunjhunwala college, Dr Shubada Joshi, Dr Harsha Metha, Principal SIES College,Sion(W) and Mr. Seshadri, former Vice Principal, G.N. Khalsa College.

There was a need to explore and assess the overlaps in themes of idealism, ethics and philosophical psychology from both German and Indian points of view. Such an encounter between two philosophical traditions poses questions regarding the relation between culture and philosophy. These were some of the issues that were explored at this colloquium, which focused on the relation between Indian and German thought. This kind of Colloquium was being organized for the first time in Mumbai and also in an undergraduate college. The uniqueness of such an academic endeavor was well appreciated by the delegates who were research scholars, students of Philosophy , German , Ancient History & culture and so on .