

The Spirit of India

Aug. 13th, 2011

Vivekananda Samiti, IIT Kanpur

Vivekananda Samiti, under Students' Gymkhana, IIT Kanpur celebrated the **Indian Independence** by organizing the event, **"THE SPIRIT OF INDIA"** on **Aug. 13th, 2011**. The objective of the event was to take inspiration from our glorious past and motivate ourselves towards building a better and stronger India. We wanted to enlighten the campus community of the essential spirit of India- Unity in Diversity. Despite the fact that our nation houses the maximum diversity in almost every sphere – geography, climate, religion, languages, politics, economics, lifestyles, food habits, literacy levels – what unites all of us are the basic human values which are the roots of our culture. Swami Vivekananda said that it is these values which bind this vast nation; it is the spirituality which is the life blood of this nation.

To discover and celebrate this Spirit of India, Vivekananda Samiti organized a host of interesting events as follows:

Venue: L-15, Lecture Hall Complex

Date and Time: 13th Aug., 2011 5-8:30 pm

- 1) **A Quiz on India:** About 40 live questions featuring various aspects of India.

Timings: 5-6 pm

- 2) An invited talk on **"Swami Vivekananda and Nation Building"** by Swami Bhaktirupananda, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Kanpur.

Timings: 6-7:20 pm

- 3) A Discovery documentary movie, **"INDIA REVEALED"** showcasing the unity in diversity of India, highlighting the true spirit of India which binds together all the diversity.

Timings: 7:25-8:30 pm

- 4) An offline **Essay Writing Competition:** 1200-1500 words essays were invited on either of the following two topics: **1) Efficacy of Ahimsa, 2) Satyam Eva Jayate.**

The program was attended by about 50-60 people. The quiz session was very entertaining. One goody was given to each distinct individual giving a correct answer. The talk by Swami Bhaktirupanandaji was quite insightful. We came to know how Swami Vivekananda's ideas

inspired the freedom fighters to raise their voices against the British and helped in salvaging Indian independence. The Discovery documentary movie was very refreshing and admired by the audience.

In the essay writing competition, we received 22 entries – 14 entries for Topic 1 and 8 entries for Topic 2. A thorough and rigorous evaluation was done by Mrs. Archana T. and Mrs. Anjali Kulkarni. The evaluation criteria were content and analysis, research and presentation. After over a month long evaluation process, results were announced on Oct. 9th, 2011 which are as following:

TOPIC 1: EFFICACY OF AHIMSA

First Prize: Prashant Shukla (10518 MSE)

Second Prizes: Pushkal Bajpai (Y8380 BSBE) & E. Bhavani Shankar (11973 MSc PHY)

Third Prize: Viraj Jorapur (10323 MSc. MTH)

Consolation Prizes:

Vashishtha Vidyarthi (Y9643 ME)

Shashank (Y9539 CHE)

Prarthna P. (Y9426 ECO)

TOPIC 2: SATYAMEVA JAYATE

First Prize: Shubhadip Mitra (10111064 CSE)

Consolation Prize: Sandeep Sharma (MBA IME)

Wonderful prizes and certificates were awarded to the winners and the participants of the quiz and the essay competitions with the aid of the **Alumni Association, IIT Kanpur**. The prizes included books like “Lectures from Columbo to Almora” by Swami Vivekananda, “Human Excellence” by Swami Srikantanandaji, Personality Development and Call to the Nation by Swami Vivekananda. In addition, the quiz winners were also given chocolates and the essay winners, a unique table calendar bearing 365 pictures and quotations of Swami Vivekananda (specially ordered from Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Pune). Vivekananda Samiti extends its heartfelt gratitude towards the **Alumni Association** for this act of generosity. We are specially thankful to **Dr. S.Khandekar, Dr. Y.M.Joshi** and our faculty advisor **Prof. C.S.Upadhyay**.

As a part of the celebration of the 150th Birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, Vivekananda Samiti undertook this program. We plan to organize many such events in the future and thereby continue inspire our talented youth towards a better living, informed by human values and filled with the ideas of social service.

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