

VIKALP-2017 REPORT

The second edition of Vikalp - Songs, Stories and Conversations was held from November 17-19, 2017 at Xavier City campus. It was hosted by the Xavier School of Communications, Xavier University Bhubaneswar. The essence of the festival was to celebrate plurality, diversity and tolerance through its attempt to revitalize the long-lost art forms. The logo of Vikalp, an ancient banyan tree symbolizes the 'connection' of the centre with the fringe, the tradition with the modern, the amalgamation of the old with that of the new.

Unlike last year, Vikalp 2017 was held at the mini auditorium of the Xavier City Campus. Although it was proposed to hold the evening sessions at the outdoor stage, it could not be executed on day-one because of the untimely cyclonic depression.

Day - I November 17, 2017

Audience: Defying the daunting weather conditions, Vikalp 2017 boasts of having around a good number of audience present to encourage the artists.

Inauguration – 9.30am- 10.00am

The opening ceremony was held at 9.30 am. It was attended by the Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Deans from other Schools, the press, alumni, dignitaries and students from across Schools. In the welcome the Fr. Lourduraj SJ, Dean of Xavier School of Communications, stressed on the importance of "mainstreaming the marginalized". Fr. Dr. Paul Fernandes SJ, Vice- Chancellor, XUB addressed the inaugural session soon after which the event was declared open with the lighting of the lamp. The event was live steamed.



Hind Swaraj (10pm- 11pm)



Followed by the opening ceremony, Prof. Apoorvanand Jha, Head, Department of Hindi, Delhi University, delivered the Keynote address on "How Do we Read Hind Swaraj in Today's Time? "Gandhian non-violence being a predominant theme of the festival added on to its distinct status. Fr. S. Anthony Raj SJ, introduced Prof. Jha who was felicitated by Prof. Kajri Mishra, Dean, Xavier School of Rural Management. Prof. Jha, an erudite speaker explained the relevance of the Mahatma's vision in Hind

Swaraj in the present day scenario. A thought provoking and inspirational interaction took place on throwing the house open. Both faculty members and students participated with equal zeal in furthering the discussion.

Dastaangoi (11.30pm-1.30pm)

After a recess, the audience were enchanted with Dastaangoi, the ancient art of storytelling in the courts of the kings and rulers. On a magic 'kaaleen,' they were transported to the exotic where jins, fairies, and princesses came to life. Emanating from his studies on Sabarmati, his performance revolved around the Mahatma and the contextuality of his beliefs today which he could successfully communicate to a younger audience. Interestingly, the artist's garb resembled that of a courtier which connected him with his audience who



by then had settled on their "gaddas" on the floor experiencing "Dastaangoi" as it should be traditionally. Mesmerizing as it was, the audience were left spellbound, cheering encore for a "mushaira." Prof. Bibhuti Ranjan Mishra from the School of Economics felicitated the eminent 'Dastaangoi'.

Indigo Workshop (2.30pm- 5.30pm)



"The Story on Indigo," a workshop and discussion on indigo dyeing was conducted post lunch by "rangrez" Brij Ballabh Udaiwal who hails from the "Rajputana", the pink city of Jaipur. The workshop was set up at the amphitheater of the UG Hostel where guests, faculties and students enthusiastically participated. The National Award winner, Udaiwal talked about the colonial oppression of the indigo farmers in Champaran, which spearheaded the Mahatma's Satyagraha. Natural indigo dyeing, modern day industrial

procedures, present artisans of the indigo industry were some of the pertinent issues raised. "Rang kopyaarkijiye", in other words, love the colour, was his motto. Leheri, stripes, checks were a few designs that the participants actually made for themselves right from the beginning of the workshop.

Dance Workshop- 16th November (16-17th November, 2017)

Although the performance of the dancers choreographed by Ranjana Daveji took place on the second day of Vikalp, the workshop kept running in full sway from a day ahead of the inauguration. Ranjanaji tutored seven classical dancers, from XCOMM and other Schools. The students went through rigorous training exercises for an unique composition tempered with traditional "mudras".

Student's Performance (6pm- 6.30pm)



The evening session started with performance of students who participated from across Schools of Xavier University. Ankur Biplab from BSc first year (XCOMM) performed Hindustani classical music followed by Aditya Mahopatra's band (BSc first year XCOMM along with other Schools) who added a contemporary approach to Indian music. The performers were felicitated by Fr. Anthony Raj SJ.

Flute Recital (7pm- 8pm)

Srinivas Satpathy Ji took over the stage. Apart from his usual accomplishments, Satpathy Ji was trained under Pandit Raghunath Panigrahi and Pandit Rajendra Prasanna of the Banaras Gharana and holds to his credits several accolades including the Bismillah Khan YuvaPuruskar by SangeetNatak Academy. The recital set the tone of Vikalp through its challenging and inventive compositions.

Sarod Performance 8.30pm to 10pm by Supratik Sengupta accompanied by Tabla artist Sandip Ghosh had to be called off.

Day 2: 18th November 2017 (Saturday)

Time: 10:00-11: 30 am

Talk and Conversation Violence in the name of history with Prof. Ram Punyani

Prof. Ram Punyani talks about Indian historiography and connects contemporary Indian political situation. He also pointed out the role of media to reinforce already existing stereotypes associated with religions. He further pointed out the role of new media to counter the current political position.

Observations:

- The session was engaging and thought-provoking.
- The session was started late at 10:25am.
- There were only few students who have attended the lecture.



Time: 11:45-13-00

Panel Discussion and Open House



The panel discussion was on “Not in my Name” protest, is a demonstration scheduled in Delhi and several other cities across the country and world by citizens against the incidents of lynching of Muslims and Dalits. To discuss, the nuances and intricacies of the movement, the panel members were Mr. Rahul Roy (Documentary Film maker), Prof. Apoorva Anand (Prof. Hindi Department, Delhi University), Prof. Ram Punyani (critic of communal forces), Mr. Satyajit Puhani (Moderator: founder of CHS, Bhubaneswar), Mr. Sandeep Sikhar (Theatre artist).

Observations:

- Saba Dewan who started the campaign “Not in My Name” was supposed to attend the session. But she did not come.
- So, confusion occurred whether Rahul Roy would screen his film (The Factory) or there would be panel discussion.
- In our brochure, only film screening was mentioned but it was mentioned by the organizer that both film screening and panel discussion would happen.
- The discussion went on till 2:15 pm.
- Audience left in-between for lunch.
- The discussion became dull after some time as there were lot of repetitions and no new insight.
- Overall, the session did not go well.
- As the session went on for a longer period of time, next two other sessions (Workshop by Chanakya Vyas and Sandeep Sikhar and Film Screening, The Factory by Rahul Roy) were cancelled.

Evening Open-air Performances

Here we got the audience from nearby villages. There were approximately 400 viewers who gathered to watch the programme. We provided snacks for them.

16:15-17:00

Dance performance by students with Ranjana Dave

Through different dance movements, she explored the idea



of resistance.

Observations:

- Though the dance performance was supposed to be started from 4:15pm but it was started at 5pm.
- They didn't get the stage to perform as Kabir Café was setting up equipment for their performance.
- The concept and the way it was executed were brilliant.
- She was not honored on the stage as suggested by organizer.

5:15-6:15

Sitar performance by Sandeep Ghosh and Supratik Sengupta

Observation

- The performance started late at 6:00pm.
- They were honored by Prof. Tathagata Chatterjee.

18:30-19:30

Tala Vadya by Guru Satchidananda Das & Party

Observation

- The programme started at 7:00 pm.
- The artists were felicitated by school teacher of nearby village.

20:00-22:30

Performance by Cabir Café

Observation:

- Before the performance, Fr. Lourdraj delivered vote of thanks.
- The performance was well appreciated by the audience.
- Father Donald felicitated the artists.
- The programme got over at 9:30pm.

Day 3: November 18, 2017, Saturday

09:30-14:00

Indigo Dyeing Workshop by Brij Ballabh Udaiwal



Some of the students and few artists participated in this workshop. Most of the participants brought their own cloths to dye. The programme started at 9:30am. It went on till 1:30pm. Apart from dyeing, Brijji displayed some of the apparels what he was carrying from Rajasthan.

Theatre Workshop (9.30am- 2pm)

Art, Performance and Resistance were some of the other ideas that the students of Xavier University could explore in the Theatre Workshop orchestrated by stalwarts such as Chanakya Vyas Ji and Sandeep Shikhar Ji. Mostly students from XCOMM participated in the workshop to learn about the perseverance of art in the face of violence.

Apart from the regular sessions, as a part of **“LEGEND”** series, the interviews of the following artists/ performers were conducted at the XCOMM Studios.

1. Prof. Ram Punyani
2. Prof. Apoorvanand Jha
3. Mr. Rahul Roy
4. Ankit Chadha, the Dastaango
5. Ranjana Dave Ji

