



## SOCIETY ACTIVITY REPORT 2017-18

### THE ECONOMICS SOCIETY

The Economics Society strives to inculcate an academic culture of seeking knowledge in the vast, multi-faceted discipline of economics. Through events like quizzes, debates, market simulations, policy case competitions, and committee simulations, we aim to discuss economics in non-conventional ways. The following is a list of events that we hosted around the year:

#### ODD SEMESTER EVENTS

##### 1. Orientation

The Economics Society kickstarted the year with its Orientation which saw a bunch of enthusiastic first years attend the session in the seminar room.





## 2. Talk by Dr. Arvind Subramanian - 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017

The first lecture of the academic year proved to be a fruitful one. Dr. Subramanian delivered an interesting lecture on economic literature before a packed audience. The question-answer session was even more interesting as it encompassed extremely politically relevant questions.



## 3. Vinod Chowdhury Memorial Lecture & Debate

### • Vinod Chowdhury Memorial Lecture by Mrs. Devaki Jain - 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017

This lecture was one of its kind for the topic was both crucial and novel in today's world. Mrs. Jain spoke about the intersectionality between economics and feminism and the need for a more nuanced understanding of the economics of gender relations in India today. The lecture was attended by over 50 students from across the city.

### • Vinod Chowdhury Memorial Debate - 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017

The Vinod Chowdhury Memorial Debate was held in two rounds. The topic for the conventional debate was "In the context of India, UBI succeeds ideologically, but will be an economic failure." Four teams proceeded to the semi-finals that were in the parliamentary debate format. The tournament witnessed some extremely engaging debates and the final was held between SRCC and St. Stephen's College.

Winners - Sushant Kher & Bhavya Singh (Shri Ram College of Commerce), Runners up - Arshad Muhammad & Svarit Uniya Mishra (St. Stephen's College)





#### **5. Research Methodology Workshop by Dr. Partha Sen - 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Dr. Partha Sen, having undertaken research at the highest level, was able to give interesting insights into the research process. He highlighted the importance of picking the correct research question and subsequently the ethical issues that a researcher must keep in mind while carrying out his/her research. The workshop proved to be extremely helpful for attending students, evident from the large number of questions Dr. Sen had to answer in the Q&A portion of the workshop.

#### **6. Panel Discussion on "The Economics of Gender" - 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017**

**Guests - Jayati Ghosh, Rangeet Ghosh & Deepanshu Mohan**

This discussion was on the topic, "The Economics of Gender: Evaluating women's welfare schemes and rethinking the inclusion of women's work in economic aggregates." The discussion was very intellectually



stimulating as the speakers brought to the fore several important issues of the inefficacy of women-targeted schemes, the need for rethinking the way GDP is computed, and confronting the hypocrisy of society when it comes to gender. The audience took back some refreshing insights from this discussion and at least sparked many students to think in this direction.

### 7. Policy Paper Presentation - 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017

The topic for this year's Policy Paper Competition was "The Economics of Welfare: Rethinking the Indian strategy." The competition saw over 50 submissions from students across the country. While there could only be one winner, the strategies proposed by several of the authors were interesting ones and could definitely be worked on after minor tweaking. Winner - Mahika Mehra (Shri Ram College of Commerce)







### **8. Committee Simulation - NITI Aayog - 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017**

The agenda discussed at this committee was "Policy measures to control the effect of disruptive technologies on labor markets." With unprecedented participation levels, the committee proved to be extremely engaging. The level of preparedness showcased was very refreshing indeed. The arguments made during the committee were both sound and reality-oriented. All in all, the committee turned out to be a learning experience for all involved--both the participants and the organizers.

Winner - Advik Aggarwal (Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies), Runner up - Shared by Bhavna Narula (SSCBS) & Meghna Chakravarty (St. Stephen's College)



### **9. Ecquizzite - 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

This year's Ecquizzite saw participation from over 250 students across the country. An online preliminary round was held from which the top 8 teams qualified for the final round. Both rounds saw an interesting mix of themes such as business, economic theory, and economic history.

Winners - Ankit & Rishi Aneja (Delhi Technological University), Runner up - Antony Paul (St. Stephen's College)



**Utilite - 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

This event was a breath of fresh air for anyone with a passion for the subject. We simulated the issues of resource crunch and trade to encourage participants to apply simple economic concepts in real-life scenarios. With the participation of almost 100 students, this event received much praise.

Winners - Shristi Verma & Sonali Jawa (Shri Ram College of Commerce)







## EVEN SEMESTER EVENTS

### 10. National Economics Festival - 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 - 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018



- **Inaugural Lecture - 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018**  
**Speaker - Prof. JJ Thomas**

This interesting talk on "Can India reap its Demographic Dividend?" captivated the audience as the speaker covered many aspects of developmental economics. The seminar room was completely packed for this lecture.

- **Release of Annual Journal- Towards Equilibrium - 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

The annual journal saw some brilliant submissions this year. The top six papers of the NC Ray Paper competition were also featured in the journal.





- **Mediathon - 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Mediathon, which is a novel confluence of economics and journalism, reached new heights this year with two interesting rounds that tested participants' writing, debating, and economics skills. Winners - Yashawini Shekhawat, Ojaswini Shekhawat (St. Stephen's College), Runners up - Vidhi Singh, Dhawni Kachru (Lady Shri Ram College)

- **NC Ray Paper Presentation Competition - 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

The NC Ray Paper Presentation Competition is an extraordinary event that attracts economics enthusiasts from across the country to participate in a rigorous academic environment. This year we had over 50 submissions and six were shortlisted for the final presentation. Winners - Ankit Som, Sreyan Basu, Atmadhi Sarkar, Sunipa Dey, Megha Bhattacharya (Maulana Azad College)

- **Consilium - 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Consilium was an attempt to put macroeconomic theory into application. In this event, we used MS Excel to model macroeconomic phenomena and participants had to apply their knowledge in order to master the game. With over 120 registrations, this event was a feast for all passionate students from across the country. Winners - Arshad Muhammed, Harshit Kapoor (St. Stephen's College), Runners up - Apoorva Khandelwal, Swapnil Goyal (IIT Kanpur)

- **Committee Simulation - United States Congress Joint Economic Committee - 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

The agenda simulated this year was "Costs of Mass Incarceration, its Privatization, and the Rights of Inmates." The discussion proved to be intellectually stimulating with the delegates bringing up several thought-provoking arguments. With a mix of school and college students as participants, the committee got to see great diversity in terms of ideas. Best delegate - Arshad Muhammed (St. Stephen's College), High Commendation - Bhavya Narula (Shaheed Sukhdev College)

- **Closing Lecture - 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018**  
**Speaker - Ms. Shobhini Mukerji**

This interactive lecture gave us deep insight into the working of J-Pal and was a treat for everyone who is interested in development economics. More than 60 students attended this lecture and took back interesting learnings.

- **Prometheus - 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

The annual Eco-Biz Quiz proved to be a stellar event once again with over 100 registrations. The nailbiting finals enthralled participants and audience members alike. Quiz questions ranged from Current Affairs to economic theory and pop culture. Winners - Brahmdeep Singh, Ankit (Delhi Technological



University), Runners up - Antony Paul ( St.Stephen's College, Abhijeet Singh(Punjab National University)

- **Veritas - 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

In its very first edition, Veritas was able to generate a considerable amount of interest amongst participants. Veritas made use of a dynamic model which had participants tackle market rumors, technological breakthroughs, and corporate leaks in order to maximize their valuations through the purchase of gold, real estate, antiques, and jewels.

Winners - Shristi Varma, Sonali Jawa (Shri Ram College of Commerce)

### **11. Ranjan Ray Memorial Lecture - 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

#### **Speaker - Mr. Paranjoy Guha Thakurta**

The last talk of the academic year was held in collaboration with the Centre for Economics Research in memory of Prof. Ranjan Ray. The speaker touched upon extremely relevant issues of crony capitalism in India while revealing intriguing details of the linkages between governments and private enterprises. The lecture was attended by almost 60-70 people and proved to be a great way to end this academic year.

### **12. Talk - Making of the Budget in the External Affairs Ministry - 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

#### **Speaker - Dr. Sumeet Jerath**

This lecture gave us insights into the working of the Ministry of External Affairs. The speaker gave us an overview of the steps involved in making the budget, the challenges, and the economic implications of the same.