

The Philosophy Club – Annual Report

FLAME University, 2022-23

With the objective of hosting and promoting intellectual and thoughtful discussion around the fundamental questions of human existence, the Philosophy Club at FLAME University is a community for students – newcomers and knowledgeable alike – to think, talk, discuss and debate. Our club activities are mostly in the form of open discussions, but also involve some more engaging formats like debates, games, and lectures.

For the first fully offline academic year after the lockdown period, the Phil Club successfully hosted multiple events around campus for students interested in philosophy at any level. We engaged people in thoughts, discussions and debates regarding a range of topics that students our age relate to and understand well, instead of teaching textbook philosophy that may not be as relevant to the modern generation. Along similar lines, we also built extensively upon our social media presence (mainly Instagram and WhatsApp), providing philosophy enthusiasts a place to engage with each other outside organized club activities. This has only been possible with the help of our outstanding Executive Committee, and the members of our Content, Design and Social Media Team.

Instagram: www.instagram.com/thephilclub

Executive Committee

Madhav Gupta, UG-3, President

Sona Agrawal, UG-2, Vice-President

Aman Arora, UG-3, Treasurer

Dhairya Bansal, UG-2, Secretary



PRESIDENT

Madhav Gupta



VICE PRESIDENT

Sona Agrawal



SECRETARY

Dhairya Bansal



TREASURER

Aman Arora



Club Activities

1. Deconstructing Offense

When: 20th September 2022

Where: Learning Commons, Chandragupta

Who: 30-40 students in total, including Executive and Core Committee members, club members, and newcomers.

What: An open discussion event regarding the word 'offended': What does it mean to be offended? What is offense? When do we have the right to be offended? Can humor be offensive? The scope of this discussion was greater than expected and the meeting went on for almost two hours. Surely, everyone took home different perspectives of looking at one thing.



2. Townhall: Uncut

When: 10th October 2022

Where: Chanakya 001

Who: 15-20 club members

What: A discussion among passionate students that involved contemplating the philosophy behind campus policies, especially in relation to the then-latest Town Hall held by the management, which struck as controversial to a part of the student body. Various issues that were mentioned - and those that were not mentioned - in the Town Hall were brought up for discussion and debate. A fresh perspective was gained.



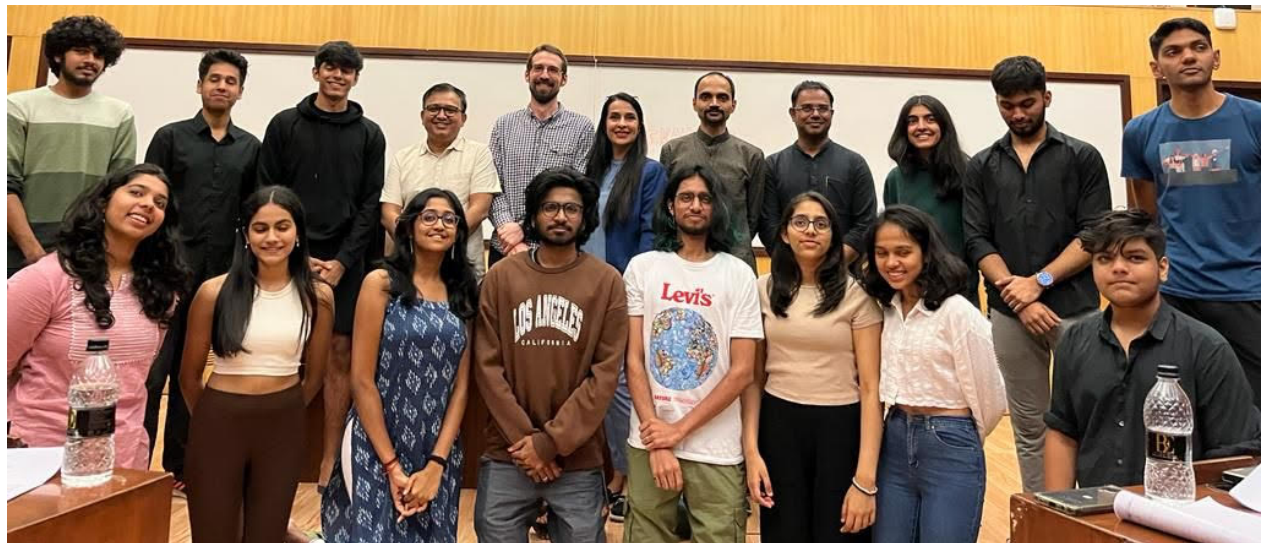
3. Inter-House Debate (in collaboration with The Debate Society)

When: 26th October 2022

Where: Chanakya 001 and 101

Who: 50-60 attendees including members from the Executive and Core Committees of the Philosophy Club and the Debate Society, the Cultural Committee, the four Houses (mainly the House Captains and participants), four judges (professors at FLAME), and other spectators (students and faculty).

What: An Inter-House Philosophy Debate regarding topics of morality, held between the four houses in two rounds, in collaboration with the Debate Society and the Cultural Committee. The judges were Prof. Michael Hatcher, Prof. Jayant Pande, Prof. Amit Anurag, and Prof. Sandip Roy from FLAME University. The winning house was Aryabhata, and the winners were Tarini Ravikumar and Lakshaya Kumar.



4. Nihilism 101

When: 19th January 2023

Where: Learning Commons, Chandragupta

Who: 20-25 club members

What: A discussion about the philosophical concept of Nihilism, and how students feel about the concept. Do they agree with it or not? What is their take on life? Throughout the discussion, students drew examples from their own life, which led to a very relatable and relevant discussion.



5. The Philo Talk Series by Dr. Patwardhan

When: 13th, 14th and 15th March 2023

Where: Chanakya 101

Who: 20-30 attendees including students and faculty

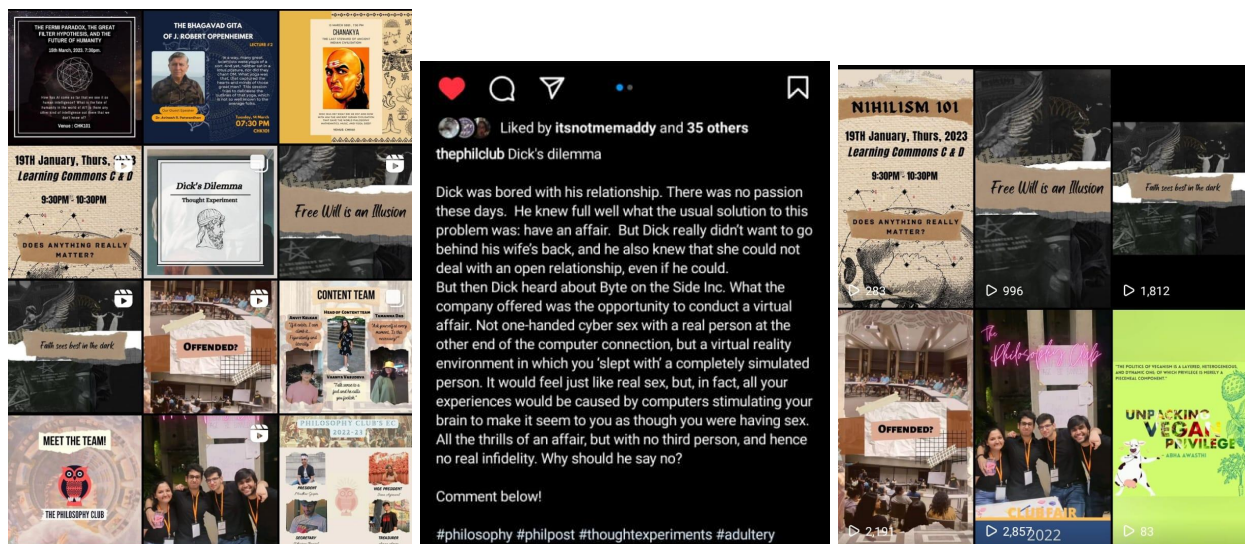
What: A series of three guest lectures given by Dr. Avinash R. Patwardhan, organized with the help of Shree sir. The three interconnected lectures focused on Indian philosophy and its relevance to the past, the present, and the future. They were titled: “Chanakya”, the last steward of the ancient Indian civilization’, ‘The Bhagavad Gita of J. Robert Oppenheimer’, and ‘Fermi Paradox, the great filter hypothesis, and the future of humanity’.



Social Media Activities:

This year, the club also strived to maintain a notable online presence in the form of a WhatsApp group and an Instagram page. The WhatsApp group was used not only for the promotion of events, but also to have discussions about various topics related to philosophy.

Our Instagram activities can be characterized by a single word: experimentation. We did not just document and post upcoming and ongoing events as part of Club PR, but also used Instagram as a channel to facilitate discussion. Passionate committee members posted creative philosophy-related content, which was open to discussion from the viewers, in the form of posts, reels, stories and polls. This also resulted in significant growth of our online presence from before.



Club Members

The committee members of the Phil Club each belong to one of three teams:

Content Team

- Vaanya Vasudeva (Head)
- Kinjalkini Gautam
- Sai Madhuri Khandrika
- Tamanna Das
- Anvit Kelkar
- Daksh Nagpal

Design Team

- Vaasavi Rao (Head)
- Tanisha Palan
- Sai Surya Gautam Kodukula
- Anushka Ramesh

Social Media Team

- Anika Pandey
- Saanvi Bhattar
- Niyanta Chirawala

Philosophy Club 2023-24

As an amazing year of the Philosophy Club comes to an end, we are all incredibly thankful for all the discussions and debates we have had, and it has been a real honor to work with such a passionate group of people.

This club has been a huge learning opportunity for my teammates and myself, and we have all gained invaluable experience here. Most of all, it was an amazing opportunity to provide the students of FLAME University with the place of philosophical discussion that I would have wished for.

I am thrilled to announce that our club will now be led by our new president **Shruti Bhat (UG-3)**, who I know shares my passion for philosophy and commitment to the club, and I am sure will do an excellent job in upholding this club's legacy.



With the end of the year, I would like to thank Dr. Vahideh Razmi and the FLAME Cultural Committee for the constant help and support in all of our efforts to entertain the students, our faculty mentor Prof. Michael Hatcher for always being there when we needed him, the executive and core committee members whose hard-work made all of our activities and undertakings possible, and the students who simply showed up and proved that there is a shared passion and curiosity for philosophy in this university.

Signing off,

Madhav Gupta