

# PHILOSOPHY

The BA (Programme) in Philosophy starts with an introduction to the major branches of philosophy - metaphysics, epistemology and ethics and introduces the major issues dealt with in these branches. As the Programme progresses, the student is engaged with the more specific content. Thus the Programme offers various core papers covering diverse philosophical themes like Socio-Political Philosophy, Ethics, Western Philosophy, Indian Philosophy and Contemporary Philosophy. In addition, the BA Programme offers skill courses like Logic and Yoga so as to make the student understand and develop her mind and body to full potential for a harmonious development of her being. Further, the BA Programme also offers Generic Electives to students from non philosophy background so as to make them inculcate a philosophical bent of mind which is going to help them in whatever academic field they have chosen to study. All in all, the BA Programme in Philosophy offers a systematic and robust engagement with one of the most ancient of human sciences and makes the student awaken to the enormous benefits – both academic as well as non academic- of studying philosophy

The extent of Philosophy, aptly called the mother of all sciences, is as wide the domain of human knowledge itself. One of the most ancient of all the discourses, almost every independent discipline of the modern age was at one point of time subsumed under the realm of philosophy. Thus the seeds of most natural sciences (e.g. Physics, Chemistry or Zoology) as well as social sciences (e.g. Political Science, Sociology, Economics or Psychology) were sown, implicitly or explicitly, by one or the other philosophers in the fertile ground of philosophy. Although the modern trend of ‘specialization’ ensured that many such disciplines branched out of their ‘parent’ discipline, any serious and research level study of these or other disciplines is incomplete without a training in Philosophy. This is because the foundational aim of philosophy - *to ever increase the bounds of human knowledge and well being by rigorous use of thought in a systematic and logical way* - is shared by almost all disciplines of knowledge. The B.A. Programme in philosophy is designed to inculcate in the student all the essential qualities of a sound philosophical mind - critical thinking, threadbare analysis of problems, opening up of mental horizons and bringing to question each and every belief system that we take for granted in our unreflective common sense attitude towards the world. To inculcate all these qualities, the B.A. Programme in Philosophy offers courses as diverse as Western Philosophy, Indian Philosophy, Social and Political Philosophy, Logic and Ethics. Though many of the issues which the student encounters in a course of philosophy are raised in other disciplines also (Sociology or Political Science, for example), it is the approach and methodology of the discipline of philosophy which gives altogether different perspective of approaching the same content material. In addition, there are certain contents which are in a way explicit to the domain of philosophy (Metaphysics or Epistemology, for example). All these contents combined together under the umbrella of LOCF makes the B.A. Programme in

philosophy a robust, thought provoking and life changing endeavor for any student who seriously pursues the Programme.

## **Programme Learning Outcomes in B A (Programme) Philosophy**

The following are the learning outcomes for B.A.(Programme) in Philosophy:

- Understanding of various philosophical theories and having a critical opinion on these theories.
- Understanding the points of convergence and divergence among various philosophers.
- Understanding the enormous extent to which the present world has been shaped by the thoughts of great philosophers since antiquity.
- Inculcation of various philosophical skills like critical thinking, analytical ability and ability to synthesize information.
- Building up of fresh perspectives on various domains of existence- individual, social, political, religious and the like.
- Using the knowledge and skills acquired through BA Programme in Philosophy to come up with novel solutions to real world problems.