

**World Philosophy Day Seminar
20th March, 2025**

Theme: “Indian Value System as a Living Tradition: Applications of Bhāratīya Concepts and Paradigms in Contemporary World.”

Event Report

Institution	AISS (Philosophy), Amity University, Noida
Seminar Topic	“Indian Value System as a Living Tradition: Applications of Bhāratīya Concepts and Paradigms in Contemporary World.”
Day, Date	Date: 20th March, 2025, Thursday
Time Venue	Time: 10:30 am to 1:15 pm Venue: C Block Auditorium, Amity University, Noida Campus
Patron	Prof. (Dr.) Balvinder Shukla
Chair	Prof. (Dr.) Nirupama Prakash
Convenor	Dr. Aastha Mishra
Name and mode of presence of Esteemed Speakers:	Prof. (Dr.) Bindu Puri (Offline) Prof. (Dr.) Sampadananda Mishra (Offline) Prof. (Dr.) Pushpraj Singh (Offline)

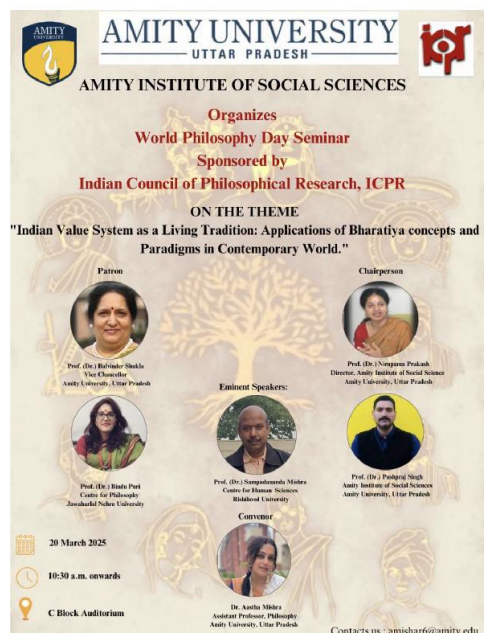


Image: Seminar Poster

Speaker-wise discussion points (as per program flow):

The session started with an inaugural session with a welcome note by Dr. Suyasha Singh Isser, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, AISS, Amity University, Noida. This was followed by a seminar overview presented by Dr. Aastha Mishra, Assistant Professor & Programme Leader, Department of Philosophy, Amity Institute of Social Sciences, Amity University, Noida. She explained how the seminar seeks to reflect on the relevance and continuity of Indian values (both traditional and modern) and how can we understand the importance of these values in addressing modern-day problems. She explained how the seminar aims to foster a dialogue between Indian wisdom and the pursuit of individual and collective wellbeing. Additionally, she added that the seminar will also be accompanied by the development of new philosophical, scientific and critical knowledge in such a way that ancient knowledge gets fully channelized and utilized for the building up of new knowledge that is required for breaking the boundaries of past/ traditional and present/modern philosophical discourses.

This followed three lectures presented by eminent personalities in the domain. The first speaker, Prof. (Dr.) Bindu Puri, Jawaharlal Nehru University gave her views on Gandhi and how virtues and truth. She highlighted how truth matters and how truth can be engaged with virtues in the daily life and how they are relevant even in the Western world. She explained how Gandhi motivated us to practice certain virtues to get away from egoistic attitudes and practice cardinal virtues, like practice duty towards our neighbours. Vow become important by introducing the concept of Vrata, take a vow first and then include that in daily life and become a virtuous person. Vows are related to the virtues. She also expanded the classical concept of yama-niyama in light of his conception of virtues- Truth is the end and also a virtue that reforms our life. Emphasising the idea “Truth is God” she delved into 3 aspects. Practice of these virtues by taking a vow will help us to achieve truth. Most important were Aparigraha and Asteya after Non- violence and these things are connected with Brahmacharya. Asteya is connected with Aparigraha (Non-possession). The only way to achieve the truth is to love with humility and kindness. She also explained how Means and ends are interchangeable. Tapa shouldn't be taken in a literal sense but willing to accept some pain for others like satyagraha. She elaborated that these become the part of non-violence and Tapa is the basis of using fasting as a way to help others and allowing suffering for yourself and will make the mind stronger and helps to rectify the moral error in our ways. She concluded by explaining how Indian values inform Gandhi's life and actions and how small steps can inculcate traditional values in our daily life.

Proceeding further, the next speaker, Prof. (Dr.) Sampadananda Mishra, Director, Rishihood University, spoke on “The Bhagavad Gita and the Art of Detachment”. He began by discussing the profound wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita, highlighting the key concepts such as: -Action performed without attachment to results (Nishkama Karma). -Freedom from being controlled or unduly influenced by worldly things (Anaasakti). -Maintaining composure and balance amidst life's challenges (Samatva). He averred that indeed, Gita's teachings on detachment and selfless action offer a powerful framework for facing the world full of anxieties and uncertainties that define much of our contemporary life. He explained how by inculcating a sense of detachment from outcomes, individuals can foster greater resilience, reduce stress, and act with greater clarity and effectiveness. He also discussed how these ancient principles can be applied to modern challenges, promoting a more balanced and fulfilling existence.

Our last speaker, Prof. (Dr.) Pushpraj Singh, Amity University spoke about the historical roots of The Indian value system, how it is rooted in ancient wisdom, and how it offers a framework for navigating contemporary challenges. He discussed the core principles of the Indian value system, such as dharma (righteousness), karma (cause and effect), ahimsa (non-violence), satya (truth), and seva (selfless service), are not only spiritually significant but also applicable to global issues like environmental sustainability, corporate ethics, and conflict resolution. He explained how Satya emphasizes truth in thought, speech, and action, and seva, selfless service, advocates for contributing to society without expecting personal gain, aligning with the modern concept of corporate social responsibility (CSR). He talked about concepts like *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (the world is one family) and *Prakriti* (nature) and how they advocate for harmony with the environment. He ended up by explaining how Gandhian philosophy plays a key role in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

Each speaker was given 40 minutes for the presentation, which was followed by question-and-answer session for 20 minutes. The session was structured to foster discussion between participants.

The session ended with a vote of thanks which was given by Dr. Aastha Mishra, co-coordinator of the session and convenor of the seminar.

This was followed by post seminar lunch.

Transcript of the session by Rapporteur:

By delving around the theme of the Seminar, the seminar intended to bring together eminent resource persons across the philosophical discipline, in academia, for reflecting on the continuity and relevance of the unique philosophy, culture, and world-view that constitutes our country's rich heritage and pride.

S.No.	Outcomes
1.	To compare and contrast the Indian and Western values systems
2.	To explore the cultural and intellectual variations of the different Indian value systems
3.	To understand the relation between personal and universal values
4.	To unravel and imbibe the role of Indian values in modern-day context- social justice, duty, leadership, etc.
5.	To understand the Indian value system and the idea of being Bhāratīya
6.	To understand the role of human values in education and development
7.	To discover the contributions of Indian value systems towards animal ethics
8.	To explore the relevance of Indian value systems in legal, medical and political frameworks
9.	To understand the relation between Indian values and spiritual wellbeing
10.	To comprehend the alignment between the SDGs and Indian value system

Photographs of the Seminar:



Image: Inaugural Session & Saraswati Vandana



Image: Welcome Address by Dr. Suyasha Singh Isser



Image: Concept note Address by Dr. Aastha Mishra



Image: Speaker One: Prof. Bindu Puri

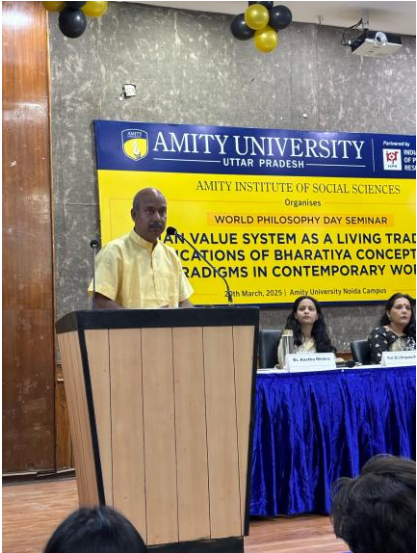


Image: Speaker Two: Prof. Sampadananda Mishra



Image: Speaker Three: Prof. Pushpraj Singh



Image: Q &A Round



Image: A Group Picture with Student Volunteers



Image: Lunch

Thank You!