

Loyola College (Autonomous)

Chennai – 600 034.

Department of History

UGC Special Lecture on

“Politics, Violence and Non-Violence in Ancient India”

The UGC sponsored lecture on “Politics, Violence and Non-Violence in Ancient India” was delivered by Prof. Upinder Singh, Head, Department of History, University of Delhi at the Lawrence Sundaram Hall on 14 March 2017. Dr. L .Selvanathan, Head, Department of History welcomed the Chief Guest, invitees and students on behalf of the management and department of history. Our beloved Principal Rev. Dr. M. Arockiasamy Xavier, S.J., delivered the felicitation address and introduced the theme.



Rev. Dr. Arockiasamy Xavier S.J welcoming the chief speaker with a bouquet



Honouring the chief guest
Dr.Vincent, Dean of Research

Dr A.Arputha Selvi

An eminent scholar and researcher of Ancient Indian History, Dr. Upinder Singh lectured on the ideology which surrounds the concept of violence in Ancient India. The ancient Indian states were governed by oligarchies and monarchies where violence had become an intrinsic part. She highlighted that though emphasis was laid on non-violence or Ahimsa the practice of non-Violence or ahimsa is a duty of the citizens irrespective of their caste identity such practice is *samanyadharm*. Ancient Indian society and rulers were seldom non-violent. Referring to various instances from mythological texts such as Ramayana and Mahabharata, she emphasized that in Ramayana, Ram is considered an embodiment of compassion whereas in Mahabharata it was violence or force. In times more precisely the king had to use his force when it is necessary.



Ancient Indian texts such as Arthashastra and Nitisara gives a detail account on the impact of war, Nitisara describes about 16 types of war that one should not fought. She opines that the ancient Indian rulers always maintained a balance between Kingship and pacific qualities. She pointed out that the literature of the era was just a reflection of the social and political conditions in Ancient India. She brought out that though the rulers and people preferred peaceful solutions, political disputes were often resolved only through the use of force. She concluded her lecture by asking us take draw examples of ancient Indian history to solve present political unrests across the world. The session was concluded with a very fruitful interaction with the participants. The speaker was very receptive in getting questions and responded well to the satisfaction of the students and faculty.

Interaction with city college faculty: Madras Christian College, Women's Christian College, Stella Maris College, Ethiraj College, Vaishnav College for Women, Chrompet, Bharathi Women's College and Presidency College.



Loyola Team

