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S. D. Arts & Shah B. R. Commerce College

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The Guest Lecture in Department of English

**(Speaker: Dr. Nirja Arun: Founder-Co-coordinator: Study Abroad Program
(SAP) Gujarat University, Ahmedabad)**

The Department of English organized a Guest Lecture and invited, on 6th January, 2020, Dr. Nirja Arun Gupta, an eminent international scholar and the principal of Bhavan's College, Ahmedabad, to speak on "Indian Aesthetics" keeping in view the significance of Indian ethos of creativity as well as critical tradition today. The principal of the college Dr. Hasyada Pandya welcomed the Guest Speaker Dr. Nirja with a bouquet and delivered a welcome speech. Dr. A.K. Patel, the Head of the English Department, presented a brief outline of the departmental activities chiefly focusing on student-centric departmental approach and research conducted by the faculty. Dr. Tushar Vyas anchored the program and introduced the Guest Speaker to the students and made a prefatory note on the relevance of Indian Aestheticism in English Departments of Indian Universities. After the speeches by the host members, Dr. Nirja Arun delivered her lecture on "Indian Aesthetics". She emphasized the need for Indian texts in the syllabi of English to develop orientation of the young students towards Indian Aestheticism. Dr. Nirja explained the aesthetic core of Bharat Muni's "Natyasastra" and then explored and explicated the theory of Rasa in Indian aesthetic tradition. Interestingly, Dr. Nirja viewed the Rasa theory from the viewpoint of medical science and also explicated in detail the healing effect of the Indian aesthetic experience which even the medical science of today approves and seconds. Compared to period-centric literary tradition in Europe, Dr. Nirja emphasized the significance of continuity in the Indian aesthetic tradition. Her lecture interested the young students pursuing graduation and post-graduation in English literature. Dr. B.M. Vaghela gave Vote of Thanks enumerating the focal points in the lecture of Dr. Nirja. On the whole, the program was very successful and fruitful both in terms of faculty development and the orientation of students towards Indian Aesthetic tradition.

Report by Dr. Tushar Vyas