

CULTURAL CLUBS, DOS, IHA
&
SPIC MACAY PROGRAMME
AT
JNU

“Culture is the widening of the mind and of the spirit.”

- Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru

The above words by Pandit Nehru reminds us about the importance of culture in our life. Jawaharlal Nehru University, which has always been a site of cross-fertilization of ideas, cultures, traditions and knowledge celebrates wholeheartedly the diversity and richness of Indian culture.

The university recently collaborated with SPIC MACAY and organized a SPIC MACAY orientation programme on 18th August 2017. This event did not only lay the foundation of SPIC MACAY JNU Chapter but can also be seen as a major milestone on the university's way to cultural rejuvenation on the campus. It marked a welcome to all the freshers on the campus & encouraged them to participate in the cultural enhancement of themselves. Presentation by JNU cultural clubs' & SPIC MACAY along with a beautiful Koodiyattam performance marked the event.

The evening started with the welcome address by Prof. Meeta Narain, Cultural Coordinator, JNU who appraised the audience of the nine major cultural clubs present on the University – Literary, Photography, Fine Arts, Debate, Nature & Wildlife, Music & Dance, UNESCO, Drama and Film Club and their objectives. She along with her faculty colleagues of different clubs – Dr. Sudesh Yadav, Dr. Ishtiaque Ahmed, Dr. Gautam Jha and Dr. Sheetal Sharma welcomed the SPIC MACAY team on the campus – Shri Arun Sahay (National Chairperson) & Ms. Usha Ravichandaran (Chairperson, Delhi & NCR) spoke of the aim of SPIC MACAY. A brief presentation was done by students of ten cultural clubs that are in operation in JNU campus, highlighting particularly the events that had taken place during last semester. The SPIC MACAY team of volunteers gave a presentation of their activities. This was followed by high tea.

Now was the time for the biggest attraction of the evening, a wonderful Koodiyattam performance by an internationally renowned artist, Mr. Sooraj Nambiar. A recipient of Ustad Bismillah Khan, YuvaPuraskar of Sangeet Natak Akademi, the artist initiated Koodiyattam at the age of 10 and has performed in countries like Japan, South Korea, Sweden, the Netherlands, Finland, Germany and Switzerland. Mr. Sooraj was accompanied by other eminent artists like Mr. Kalamandalam Rajeev and Mr. Kalamandalam Narayanan Nambiar, who play the instrument- Mizhavu and the make-up artist, Mr Ganesh Krishna. A form of Sanskrit theatre, Koodiyattam, which literally means 'dancing together' is a 2000 year old dance form and is officially recognized by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. The audience was left mesmerized by the stunning dance form, full of graceful hand movements and spell- bounding facial expressions by a man wrapped in colourful costumes and ornaments. The performance was highly appreciated by one and all present in the audience.

The programme concluded by vote of thanks by Prof. Meeta Narain. The Vice-chancellor, JNU - Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Prof. Satish Chandra Garkoti, Rector II, JNU and Prof. R. P. Singh, Rector III, JNU felicitated the artists. The cultural committee extended its gratitude to the Vice-chancellor of JNU for initiating the SPIC MACAY chapter on JNU, which not only unveiled different art forms to a larger public but also offered an opportunity to the country's youth to get exposed to the richness of Indian classical music and dance and to be able, therefore, to develop an admiration and appreciation for this invaluable intangible heritage of our nation. The JNU Cultural Clubs Committee is highly thankful to all those who extended their support for making this event a success. The University undoubtedly looks forward for many more events of a similar kind on its way.

- APOORVA KAUSHIK