

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Name of the Event: Purusha and Prakriti in Sāṅkhya Philosophy

Category: Extension Lecture

Date: 6th February 2026

Time: 1.45 pm

Venue: Room No. 14, RKSMVV

Name of resource person: Soma Chakravarti, Associate Professor, ECGC

Brief Description of the event:

On 3 February 2026, an extension lecture was organized by the Department of Philosophy at Room No. 14 of RKSMVV on the theme Purusha and Prakriti. The session was conducted by Soma Chakravarti, who offered a detailed exposition of these foundational concepts in Sankhya philosophy. The lecture drew participation from students, faculty members, and research scholars, creating an engaging academic environment.

She talked in details about:

- **Concept of Purusha:** The speaker explained Purusha as pure consciousness, eternal, passive, and beyond change. It is the witness principle that enables experience but does not itself act.
- **Nature of Prakriti:** Prakriti was described as primordial matter, dynamic and composed of the three gunas—sattva, rajas, and tamas. It is the source of all material manifestation.
- **Interaction of Purusha and Prakriti:** The lecture emphasized that the apparent bondage of Purusha arises from its association with Prakriti, leading to the evolution of the cosmos. Liberation (moksha) occurs when Purusha realizes its distinctness from Prakriti.

- Philosophical Significance: Soma Chakravarti highlighted how this dualism provides a framework for understanding human existence, suffering, and the path to freedom.

Programme Outcome:

There was an interactive session where the following issues were discussed:

- The parallels between Sāṅkhya's Puruṣa–Prakṛiti distinction and modern mind–body debates.
- The role of guṇas in shaping personality and ethical choices.
- The compatibility of Sāṅkhya with Yoga practices.

The speaker responded with clarity, linking classical insights to contemporary philosophical and psychological concerns. The lecture offered a lucid and comprehensive understanding of Puruṣa and Prakṛiti, enriching the audience's grasp of Sāṅkhya philosophy. Soma Chakravarti's presentation successfully bridged traditional concepts with modern relevance, leaving participants inspired to explore further.

