

## **Transgender Persons: Identity, Recognition and Social Acceptance**

Date: 2nd April 2026 • Time: 1:30 PM • Venue: Seminar Hall, Aryabhata College

The Gender Sensitization Committee of Aryabhata College organised a lecture titled “Transgender Persons: Identity, Recognition and Social Acceptance” on 2nd April 2026 at the Seminar Hall, Aryabhata College. The programme aimed to create awareness and foster meaningful dialogue around gender diversity, the lived realities of transgender persons, and their recognition under Indian law. The event was organised under the gracious presence of the Convener of the Gender Sensitization Committee Dr. Rashmi Rai and the faculty members of the committee Dr. Shiv Pujan Prasad Pathak, Dr. Preeti Gachhe, Dr. Rajeev Ranjan, Dr. Promila, Dr. Varsha.



*Dr. Reshma Prasad (centre) with faculty members*

The committee was privileged to host Dr. Reshma Prasad as the keynote speaker. Dr. Prasad is a Member of the Public Utility Service Bench at the Permanent Lok Adalat, Civil Court, Patna, and a prominent transgender social activist from Bihar. A poet and writer by calling, she has dedicated her life to advocacy and the empowerment of the transgender community, using literature and personal testimony as instruments of social change. Prior

to the lecture, Dr. Prasad was felicitated by the faculty members of the Gender Sensitization Committee as a token of respect and appreciation for her outstanding contributions to transgender rights and social justice.

Dr. Prasad began by situating gender diversity within India's historical and cultural fabric. She traced ancient Indian recognition of gender plurality through Sanskrit texts, triple chromosomes (Yonang), and community identities such as Chakka and Kinnar prevalent in Bihar. Drawing on religious traditions — figures like Ardhanarishvara and Natraj — she argued that Indian civilisation never pathologised gender diversity, and that a person is simply self-perceiving: self-determination, not societal assignment, is the bedrock of gender identity. She also cited Judith Butler's "Gender Trouble" (1990) to underline that gender is performed and expressed, not innately fixed, and walked students through the distinctions between transgender, transsexual, non-binary, and cisgender identities.

A significant part of the lecture addressed the colonial dismantling of this acceptance. Dr. Prasad described how British rule classified transgender persons as "yunak vyakti" and subjected them to mass persecution in places like Saharanpur and Gaya, killing people solely for their identities. Abrahamic frameworks of strict binary gender were imposed through law, turning previously fluid social practices into criminalised behaviours. She also noted that in the Mughal era, transgender persons held recognised roles in administration — a history that colonial rule deliberately erased. Clothing, language, naming conventions, and schooling, she observed, are all gendered systems that have historically served to restrict rather than liberate individual expression.



Dr. Prasad offered a pointed critique of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act. She highlighted that the Amendment Bill retains only four socio-cultural identities — Hijra, Kinnar, Aravani, and Jogta — leaving out communities such as the Thirunangai of Tamil Nadu, the Nupi Manbi and Nupa Manba of the Northeast, and the Khwaja Sira from Muslim trans communities. This narrow enumeration, she argued, risks legally erasing the identities of millions of Indians. She further criticised the medicalisation of identity under the Act, calling it fundamentally at odds with the NALSA judgment of 2014. Gender, she

insisted, is an expression — not a diagnosis — and transgender persons must be included in the very process of drafting laws that govern their lives. She also called for a review of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act of 1956, and demanded land rights, voting rights, and freedom from all discrimination for transgender persons.

Sharing her own story, Dr. Prasad described how 110 people filed FIRs against her when she first began her activism — a stark illustration of the criminalisation that transgender advocates face. Inspired by her mother, she persevered, eventually becoming an expert member of NALSA and a member of the Permanent Lok Adalat bench in Patna. She recounted her work establishing a hostel in Bihar for transgender persons and her experience of hostility from police, lawyers, and institutions. Her message to the audience was emphatic: self-identity and self-expression cannot be bounded by social constructs. “A person is a person,” she said, and gender must simply be free.

The lecture was followed by an engaged question-and-answer session. Students raised questions on the difference between transgender and transsexual identities, transgender participation in sports, blood donation rights and hospital access, the socio-cultural gaps in the Trans Bill, and whether gender-affirming surgeries should be state-subsidised. One particularly incisive question asked whether the Bill’s narrow enumeration of four identities risked legally erasing millions of transgender Indians, and what amendments could prevent excluded communities from being denied protection. Dr. Prasad addressed each question with depth and clarity, reaffirming her call for inclusive legislative reform.

The Gender Sensitization Committee expressed its heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Reshma Prasad for her inspiring and thought-provoking address. The programme successfully fulfilled its objective of building awareness around transgender rights and fostering a campus culture of empathy, inclusion, and informed advocacy.

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*Report by Sauhardi Uniyal*



Gender sensitization forum.

Name	Attendance	Roll no.
1. Satyendra Nath	x	BAP/25/079
2) Ayush singh		B.POL/25/013
3) Riya Mehta		POL/25/091
4) Ishita Ranjan		POL/25/035
5) Abhinav Raj		BMS/23/3
6) Saurabh		BMS/23/62
7) Sarthak		BMS/23/127
10) Pragyanke Agarwal		BAP/25/043
11) Archita Mishra		BAP/25/063
12) Rashmi Uadhan		Pol/25/088
13) Ankita		Pol-23-08
14) Shobhita		Pol/23/90
15) Prateek Tripathi		ECO/24/36
16) Karan		Pol/24/53
17) Aayushi Sinha		Pol/25/002
18) Kajayui Arora		Pol/25/044
19) Prashant		Pol/25/078
20) Ritika NATH		Pol/25/90
21) MANSI CHAWLA		Pol/25/130
22) Bobby		Pol/23/22
23) Nitesh Kumar		Pol/23/121
24) Vijay kishor Yadav		Pol/23/105
25) Shrayansh Khom		POL/23/86
26) Riya Gugnani		Pol/24/77
27) Ishika Chaudhary		Pol/24/22
28) Anushka Bose		Pol/24/17

29) Ritika	POD/24/03
30) Jincy Zaidi	POL/24/45
31) Sawabh kumar.	BMS/23/64.
32) Talap Saii	BBE/24/111
33) Saahadi Uniyal	BAP/24/174
34) Nauman Raza	POI/24/69
35) Gaurav kumar Thakur	BAP/23/87
36) Jiwari Nirali bhairondra	CSE/25/048
37) Samarath	POL/22/46
38) Karthikay Nashiya	CSC/22/21
39) Tara Garia	POL/24/23
40) Pritishmita Baro	POL/23/66
41) Mannat	CSC/25/23
42) Shreyansh Rai	CSC/25/035
43) Mirai Perma	ENG/25/065
44) Bhumika Jadan	ENG/25/028
45) Sara Paween	ENG/25/099
46) Aishwarya E	ENG/25/012
47) Aviral Chakraborty	ENG/24/17
48) Rajmandani	POL/23/68
49) Nikhita verma	POL/23/58
50) Rumi	POL/23/115
51) Bidhankumari	POL/23/21
52) Ansh	POL/23/9
53) Pritishmita	POL/23/66.
54) Shivani	POL/23/89.
55) Neha	POL/23/55
56) Gunjan	POL/23/91

57)	Nidhi	Pol/23/56
58)	Lakshay	Pol/23/111
59)	Brahm	Pol/23/62
60.	Vidushi	Pol/23/104
61	Ashritha	Pol/23/01
62.	Kavya Rama	Pol/23/36
63.	Satendra Singh	Pol/23/124
64.	Ankit Chauhan	Pol/23/06
65.	Pallav	Pol/23/112
66.	Bidhan	Pol/23/21
67.	Tanishq	Pol/23/100
68.	Grayatri	BMS/25/139
69	Taruna	
70	Priyanshi	Pol/25/109
71	Prayanshu Parmar	Pol/25/023
72.	Meher Milan	Pol/23/65
73	Bonshika Das	Pol/23/53
74	Ananya	Pol/24/27
75	Sanskruti	Pol/24/09
76	Samra Singh	Pol/23/80
78	Ravi priyadarshi	Pol/24/99
79	Manish Gupta	Pol/23/71
80	Vash	Pol/23/50
		Pol/23/106