



**ashoka**  
UNIVERSITY

# Convocation 2018

Ashoka University  
18 May, 2018

## **About the Convocation**

The graduation event for Ashoka University's Class of 2018 is an opportunity to celebrate the academic and non-academic achievements of the students who have completed three years of the required undergraduate studies towards a Bachelor's degree at the University. It marks the culmination of the students' academic, residential, emotional and cultural journey.

This year the Founding Batch of the Ashoka Scholars Programme 2018 will also be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Studies and Research.

## **Convocation Robe**

The convocation robe reflects the Ashoka colours and the spirit of the University logo. The classic silhouette represents both the nature of our graduates as 'Global Citizens' and the University's ethos and values.

## **Convocation Song**

The convocation song is written, composed and sung by the students of Ashoka University at the Convocation ceremony. The song captures the spirit that marks the valediction of the years of learning, cohabiting, and growing together.

The Academic Procession

Lighting of the Lamp

Convocation Song

Welcome Address

Rudrangshu Mukherjee, Chancellor

Annual Review

Pratap Bhanu Mehta, Vice-Chancellor

Address by Chief Guest

Nirupama Rao,  
Former Foreign Secretary and Ambassador

Music performance by students

Remarks by Keynote Speaker

Sheldon Pollock,  
Professor of South Asian Studies, Columbia University

Award of Undergraduate Degrees

Award of ASP Diplomas

University Oath

Vote of Thanks

Sankar Krishnan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor

National Anthem

High Tea

3.00 p.m.  
to  
6.30 p.m.

## Chief Guest



### Nirupama Rao

Nirupama Menon Rao is a retired Indian diplomat, Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. She was educated in India and joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1973. During her four-decade-long diplomatic career she held several important assignments. She was India's first woman spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, and the first woman High Commissioner from her country to Sri Lanka, and the first Indian woman Ambassador to the People's Republic of China. She served as India's Foreign Secretary from 2009-2011. At the end of that term, she was appointed India's Ambassador to the United States where she served from 2011-2013.

On her retirement from active diplomatic service, Ambassador Rao entered the world of academics with an appointment as Meera and Vikram Gandhi Fellow at the India Initiative at Brown University. She has continued to pursue her academic interests and has taught an undergraduate seminar at Brown University titled "India in the World".

Ambassador Rao holds an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Pondicherry University in India. She is currently working on a book on India's China relationship, entitled *The Politics of History: India and China, 1949-1962*.

## Keynote Speaker

### Sheldon Pollock

Sheldon Pollock is the Arvind Raghunathan Professor of South Asian Studies at Columbia University. Earlier he served as the George V. Bobrinskoy Distinguished Service Professor of Sanskrit and Indic Studies at the University of Chicago, where he taught from 1989-2005. He was educated at Harvard University, receiving his undergraduate degree in Classics (Greek) *magna cum laude* in 1971 before earning an MA (1973) and Ph.D. (1975) in Sanskrit and Indian Studies. His areas of specialization are Sanskrit philology, Indian intellectual and literary history, and comparative history.

He is the author and editor of many books, including *The Language of the Gods in the World of Men: Sanskrit, Culture, and Power in Pre-modern India*; *A Rasa Reader: Classical Indian Aesthetics*; *What China and India Once Were: The Pasts That May Shape the Global Future*; *World Philology*; *Literary Cultures in History: Reconstructions from South Asia*.

He is the Founding General Editor of “The Murty Classical Library of India” (Harvard University Press) and of “Historical Sourcebooks in Classical Indian Thought” (Columbia University Press). He was an Associate and then General Editor of the “Clay Sanskrit Library,” for which he also edited and translated a number of volumes, and the founding editor of “South Asia across the Disciplines” (University of California Press, University of Chicago Press, and Columbia University Press).

His honours include the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Presidential Certificate of Honour for Sanskrit and the Padma Shri, both from the Government of India. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



# DEGREE AWARDEES 2018

A. Eeshwari Rao  
Aadarsh Gangwar  
Aaina Singh  
Aakanksha Jadhav  
Aarushi Aggarwal  
Aastha Gandhi  
Aastha Girotra  
Aastha Singh  
Aayushi Deshpande  
Abhinav Verma  
Abhipri Gupta  
Adhiraj Mathur  
Adit Whorra  
Aditi Dash  
Aditi Khare  
Aditi Revankar  
Aditya Chauhan  
Aditya Khemka  
Aditya P  
Aditya Vardhan  
Akbar Surani  
Akhil Vohra  
Akhilesh Ghewde  
Akshat Vachher  
Akshay Malhotra  
Amalta Gupta  
Amruthavarshini Manjunath

Anand Menon  
Aniket Agarwal  
Anirudh Rao  
Anodya Mishra  
Anuka Bachawat  
Anusha Bhagat  
Anushka Kapur  
Anvita Gupta  
Aqsa Pervez  
Aradhita Gupta  
Arjun Khanna  
Arushi Jain  
Ashish Sharma  
Ashmeen Bains  
Ashna Kedia  
Athreya Ramakrishna  
Avantika Kolluru  
Ayesha Pattnaik  
Ayush Agarwal  
Ayush Nath  
Ayush Papreja  
Ayush Uchil  
  
Brinda Bhargava  
  
Chahat Rana  
Chetana Pai

*This list is provisional as on 16 May 2018*

Dhruv Chakraverti  
Dhruv Raman  
Dhruvatara Sharma  
Dibyendu Mishra

Elisha Chowdhary

Garima Tyagi  
Gauri Bansal  
Gauri Jhangiani  
Gautam Kathuria

Harish Sai  
Harshvardhan Upadhyaya

Iman Barua  
Ira Sen  
Ishan Bhattacharya  
Ishita Gupta

Jatin Bhatnagar  
Jayanti Jha  
Jibraan Mansoor  
Jiya Dewan  
Johann Fernandes

K C Sachin  
Kaagni Harekal

Kairvy Grewal  
Karuna Banerjee  
Kavya Narain  
Kavya Singhal  
Koushik Varma Kalidindi  
Kriti Jain  
Krittika Bhagi

Mahima Sabherwal  
Malvika Dwarkadas  
Manasi Rao  
Manisha Koppala  
Mayank Adlakha  
Mayukh Nair  
Mihika Bhaumik  
Mili Anand  
Mohammad Hamza  
Monika Bhalvani

Naman Khandelwal  
Nara Shivani  
Neha Mehrotra  
Nikkhita Kohli  
Nishant Kauntia  
Nishka Dasgupta  
Nishtha Jaiswal

Ojasvin Nagpal

# DEGREE AWARDEES 2018

Palomi Vatsyayan  
Parth Athley  
Pavni Kansal  
Poojitha Selvam  
Pranav D Kuriakose  
Pranav Ragupathy  
Prateek Pillai  
Pratosh Bharanidharan  
Prithvi Iyer  
Priyanka Sethi  
Priyansha Bajoria

Rachit Rawat  
Raghav Mittal  
Raghu Malhotra  
Raka De  
Rhea Narayan  
Rhythm Banerjee  
Ridhima Jain  
Rishika Basu  
Ritwik Mohanty  
Riya Sagar  
Rudradeep Guha  
Ruheena Tankariwala  
  
Sabah Merchant  
Sachin Mehra

Sadaf Bandeali  
Sahil Bhargava  
Saloni Agrawal  
Samarth Nanda  
Sanchit Bansal  
Saniya Jain  
Sanjana Badrinath  
Saranya Subramanian  
Sejal Gangwal  
Shaarvari Shreenath  
Shaesta Mallick  
Shakul Raj Sonker  
Shashwat Ghatiwala  
Shifa Riaz  
Shireen Bhariok  
Shiv Ramann  
Shivam Sai  
Shivangi Kejrewal  
Shivani Mangal  
Shivani Ramachandran  
Shourya Shukla  
Shravi Jain  
Shreya Gautam  
Shreya Suresh  
Shrishti Kajaria  
Shriya Rao  
Shrutisagar

*This list is provisional as on 16 May 2018*

Shubhangi Karia  
Siddhant Bhargava  
Siddharth Ratra  
Siddharth Salian  
Simran Bhuria  
Simran Patnaik  
Simran Rathi  
Sita Sanjivini  
Sriranga Samanvith  
Srishti Das  
Srishti Gupta  
Suhaavi Kochhar  
Suhasini Patni  
Sumer Sharma  
Sunny Singhal  
Susovan Mahapatra  
Swagam Dasgupta  
Swasti Acharya  
Swetha Krishnan  
  
Tanisha Sabnis  
Tanvi Mehta  
Tanya Rohatgi  
Tarini Khurana  
  
Udeshi Basu

Vaaruni Mahajan  
Vaishnavi Bazaz  
Vaishnavi Sreenivas  
Vallari Saxena  
Vansh Chaudhary  
Varsha Ramachandran  
Vatsala Peshawaria  
Vedika Shastri  
Vibhav Gupta  
Vibhuti Gour  
Vidhushri Singhal  
Vidisha Bhatt  
Vidur Suri  
Vinayak Agarwal  
Vinayak Dewan  
Vineet Nandkishore  
Vitika Agrawal  
  
Yash Dhuldhoya  
Yash Gaddhyan  
Yashi Jain  
Yashna Nijhawan  
Yuganshi Singh  
  
Zahida War  
Zoheb Bedi

# ASHOKA SCHOLARS CLASS OF 2018

Aaishwarya Jain

Aania Lnu

Aashna Lal

Abhinav Srikant

Aditya Prakash

Ahan Bezbaroa

Akashmegh Sharma

Amrita Singh

Anavi Kajla

Anirban Kundu

Anirudh Saigal

Ankita Nanda

Ansh Baid

Anushka Kelkar

Apuroop Sethupathy

Aritra Sutradhar

Arpit Kumbhat

Ayan Tandon

Ayushree Gangal

Baba Prasad Nath

Bhavana S.R.

Bhavye Mittal

Chaitanyashareef Kulkarni

Chakshu Chhabra

Darshana Devarajan

Dhairyya Singh

Gauri Saxena

Gia Singh Arora

Goutam Piduri

Govind Narayan

Himanshu Shekhar

Ishanika Sharma

Ishika Ray

Jahnvi Dutta

Jasmine Kaur

Jishnu Ghose

Kalpa Viswanadhan

Koishore Roy

Krathika Parchani

Kriti Garg

Kshitij Kapoor

Labonie Roy

Laksh Banthia

*This list is provisional as on 16 May 2018*

Maatangi Krishna  
 Mahira Budhraj  
 Manisha Koppala  
 Manisha Sah  
 Manjari Sahay  
 Mathura Samaram  
 Megha Devraj  
 Mihika Sood  
 Mohit Sharma  
 Nainika Dinesh

Narmada Varadarajan  
 Nayani Kushal Goyal  
 Nitya Kuthiala

Paras Bhattra  
 Paul Mathew  
 Phurbu Dolma  
 Pooja Srivatsav  
 Priya Rathod  
 Purvai Aranya

Rehan Rather  
 Rhea Shroff  
 Ribhav Dhingra  
 Ritikaa TL  
 Ruaab Monga

Samridh Kudesia  
 Sanat Sogani  
 Sarayu Krishnan  
 Shivangi Tikekar  
 Shreyas Shende  
 Shreyash Krishna  
 Shubhvun Anan Chakravarty  
 Simran Nandrajog  
 Simrin Sirur  
 Sourya Reddy  
 Sreya Muthukumar

Tanvi Reddy Gotham  
 Trina Biswas

Urvn Soneta  
 Uttara Chaudhuri  
 Vaishnavi Agarwal  
 Vijay Lingam  
 Vikrant Zutshi  
 Deva Surya Vivek Madala

Yash Joshi  
 Yaswanth Sanagapalli

# Academic Awards

These awards are granted to students who have maintained a high CGPA (out of a maximum of 4.0) for courses taken at Ashoka University over the three years.

Summa Cum Laude: CGPA 3.9 and above

Magna Cum Laude: CGPA 3.75 and above

Cum Laude: CGPA 3.6 and above

**Summa Cum Laude**

Aradhita Gupta

**Magna Cum Laude**

Aadarsh Gangwar

Abhinav Verma

Aditya Khemka

Anushka Kapur

Ayesha Pattnaik

Dhruv Raman

Ira Sen

Kaagni Harekal

Mohammad Hamza

Nishka Dasgupta

Palomi Vatsyayan

Simran Bhuria

Tanya Rohatgi

Varsha Ramachandran

Vibhuti Gour

**Cum Laude**

Aastha Girotra

Aaina Singh

Adit Whorra

Aditi Revankar

Amruthavarshini Manjunath

Aqsa Pervez

Gauri Bansal

Harish Sai

K C Sachin

Kriti Jain

Nara Shivani

Neha Mehrotra

Pavni Kansal

Prateek Pillai

Prithvi Iyer

Rhea Narayan

Sadaf Bandeali

Saloni Agrawal

Shivangi Kejrewal

Shreya Suresh

Shrishti Kajaria

Simran Rathi

Sumer Sharma

Tanisha Sabnis

Vedika Shastri

Vinayak Dewan

## Computer Science

### Academic Achievement Award

**Simran Bhuria** (Highest Major CGPA)

**Deva Surya Vivek Madala** (Highest Major CGPA in DipASR)

This award is presented to computer science graduating students with the highest major CGPA.

### Service Award

**Nishka Dasgupta**

This award is presented to computer science graduating students in recognition of their good academic standing and service to computer science community and to the University as a whole.

### Best Undergraduate Thesis Award

**Deva Surya Vivek Madala**

This award is presented to computer science graduating students in recognition of good research work done in their Capstone project/thesis.

## Creative Writing

### The Creative Writing Thesis Prize

**Purvai Aranya**

The Creative Writing Thesis Prize recognizes the best creative writing thesis written by a third or fourth-year Creative Writing student; the thesis presents literary work of publishable quality that is as informed by deep reading as it is expressive of a unique voice.

## Economics

### Award for Outstanding Student

**Aditya Khemka**

Awarded for outstanding academic performance and contribution to the Economics programme.

## Award for Academic Achievement

**Anushka Kapur, Abhinav Verma and Pavni Kansal**

Awarded for the highest academic achievement in the Economics programme.

## Award for Excellence in Critical Thinking

**Aqsa Pervez, Ishita Gupta and Ojasvin Nagpal**

Awarded for demonstrating a high degree of intellectual curiosity and a passion for Economics.

## Peer Recognition Award

**Aditya Khemka**

Awarded for demonstrating outstanding leadership and commitment towards fostering learning and camaraderie among his or her peers.

## English

### English Prize

**Harish Sai and Udeshi Basu**

The English Prize recognizes all-round Excellence by a third-year English student in and out of the classroom; the prize-winners are already producing written work of postgraduate standard that is as intellectually creative as it is theoretically rigorous. The English Prize winners are the torch bearers for what makes English at Ashoka University distinctive: thinking across boundaries of culture, language, historical period, and discipline.

## English Inter-disciplinary Prize

**Ira Sen**

The English Inter-disciplinary Prize recognizes extraordinary accomplishment by a third-year student in English and another discipline;

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the prize-winner has invigorated the study of English through his or her trans-disciplinary academic and practical engagements.

### **English Essay Prize**

**Neha Mehrotra and Vibhuti Gour**

The English Essay Prize recognizes superior performance in academic writing by a third-year English student, honouring an essay written for an English course, the prize-winners have set a benchmark for theoretically engaged argumentation that thinks outside the box, connecting close reading with pressing questions of the world.

### **English Thesis Prize (Academic)**

**Govind Narayan and Uttara Chaudhuri**

The English Thesis Prize (Academic) recognizes the best academic thesis written by a fourth-year English student; the thesis intervenes in an academic conversation with informed breadth and theoretical nuance, and makes a genuinely new, publishable contribution in the field.

### **English Thesis Prize (Creative)**

**Darshana Devarajan**

The English Thesis Prize (Creative) recognizes the best creative thesis written by a fourth-year English student; the thesis combines creative experimentation with intellectual rigour, representing the best of the liberal arts ethos in its inter-disciplinarity and making a publishable contribution to public discourse.

### **Environmental Studies**

#### **Student of the Year Award**

**Shrishti Kajaria**

### **Entrepreneurship**

#### **Spirit of Entrepreneurship Award**

**From ASP - Anirban Kundu**

**From UG'18 - Anushka Kapur**

Awarded to the student who demonstrated the ability to think outside the box, challenge the rules and most importantly, made entrepreneurship a way of life.

#### **Award for Academic Excellence**

**Pooja Srivastav and Johann Fernandes**

Awarded to the student who demonstrated academic excellence along with embodying an entrepreneurial mindset.

### **History**

#### **Winner of the Ashoka History Prize**

##### **Essay**

**Kartikeya Bhatotia**

#### **Award for the Best Undergraduate Research Thesis/Project in History**

**Sadaf Bandeali**

#### **Award for the Best History Major Student**

**Kaagni Harekal**

#### **Award for the Best History-IR Inter-disciplinary Major Student**

**Gauri Bansal**

### **Media Studies**

#### **Best Student in Media Studies**

**Chahat Rana**

### **Performing Arts**

#### **Award for Outstanding Contribution**

**Nainika Dinesh and Sarayu Krishnan**



## **Political Science**

### **Political Science Department Outstanding Student Award**

**Aadarsh Gangwar**

This award recognises the outstanding academic achievement and the all-round merit of one member of the political science department's graduating class. This award recognises not only academic performance but also the valuable contribution of the awardee in building a sound community of peers.

## **Philosophy**

### **Excellence in the teaching of Philosophy**

**Aaron Mascarenhas (MLS Student)**

**Megha Devraj**

**Mathura Samaram**

### **Excellence in Philosophical Discussion**

**Rhea Narayan**

### **Excellence in Philosophy**

**Arjun Khanna and Nishant Kauntia**



## **Philosophy and Community Engagement**

**Dhruv Raman**

## **Psychology**

### **Builders Award**

**Saloni Agarwal and Suhaavi Kochhar**

### **M.A. Srivatsa Award for Academic Excellence in Psychology**

**Dhruv Raman and Aradhita Gupta**

### **Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis Award**

**Dhairyya Singh and Maatangi Krishna**

## **Sociology and Anthropology**

### **Best Outgoing Student**

**Mohammad Hamza Farooqui**

## **Visual Arts**

### **Award for Outstanding Contribution**

**Kriti Garg and Labonie Roy**

## University Oath

*The ancient Indian king after whom this University is named asked the question:*

*What is dhamma?*

*He answered:*

*It is having few faults and many good deeds; mercy, charity, truthfulness and integrity.*

*I commit myself to these values, and through them, move from the unreal to the real, from darkness to light and from death to immortality.*



## About Ashoka University

Ashoka University is a pioneer in its focus on providing a multi-disciplinary, liberal education at par with the best in the world. The aim at Ashoka University is to help students become well-rounded individuals who can think critically about issues from multiple perspectives, communicate effectively and become leaders with a commitment to public service. It prepares students to be ethical



leaders in a diverse and complex world, the kind envisioned by Emperor Ashoka 2000 years ago.

This has been made possible through an unusual act of collective public philanthropy in India. Ashoka University has been founded by some of the most diverse entrepreneurs and professionals of the time who have a sound understanding of challenges and needs

of the higher education sector in India. They believe that innovative models of higher education can play a significant role in the development of thinkers, leaders, entrepreneurs and institution builders across different fields - something that India urgently needs.

The University has been named after Emperor Ashoka, who represents India's highest values and ideals. Emperor Ashoka's edicts and symbols reflect leadership, humanitarianism and nation building. These ideals are deep-rooted in Indian culture, and have transcended generations.

## About the Ashoka Logo

Ashoka University's multi-disciplinary offering is depicted through myriad intersecting facets of form and counter-form that create a multi-dimensional experience. Every field of study is but one of many ways of partitioning knowledge - a part of a much greater whole. The symbol is based on the idea that Ashoka University offers a holistic education that creates coherence and integrity in one's intellectual experience while being dynamic.

We believe that each and every individual is interesting and has much to offer.

We support one another as we challenge each other's assumptions and strengthen our common values.

We welcome differences in backgrounds, perspectives and experiences.

We encourage expression of opinions, development of talents, and the collective pursuit of passions.





**ASHOKA**  
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