

### *International Philosophy Olympiad | May, 2025*

- 1 of 2 selected to represent India internationally (0.3% acceptance rate); Mentored by Professor Meera Baidur
- Secured an Honourable Mention (only Indian) for my essay on the Arendtian nature of authority. Situating my work within the frameworks of Heidegger's *aletheia* and Illich's conviviality, I argued that for a more relational and morally accountable understanding of authority.
- Ranked #1 in National Selection; Graded by 3 Professors
  - Authored six essays on Sartre's Existentialism, Kant's Deontological Ethics, Husserlian Phenomenology/Western and Indian Hermeneutical Traditions, Berkeley's Idealism, Consequentialism and Determinism



IPO, 2025 Cohort



### *Independent Philosophy (Self-taught): 2018-Present*

- Started by reading Sophie's World, The Dark Materials trilogy, The Bicentennial Man
- Areas of Philosophy covered: Epistemology (Gettier Problems, Mary's Room Hypothesis, Ship of Theseus, Externalism, Ancient/Cartesian/Humean Skepticism); Existentialism (Sartre's Bad Faith, Camus' absurd hero, Nietzsche's Parable of the Madman, Beauvoir); Religious Philosophy (*Via Negativa* and *Via Positiva*, St. Augustine on divine perfection, Mencius and Buddhist moral ontology, Skeptical Theism, Free-Will Defense, and Soul-Making Theodicies); Continental Philosophy (Husserl's phenomenology, Heidegger, Berkeley's idealism); Moral Philosophy (Kantian deontology, Consequentialism, Determinism, and A.J. Ayer's emotivism); Philosophy of Mind and Metaphysics (Mind-body dualism, Consciousness and Intentionality, Quantum indeterminacy, and the concept of the Infinite); Political Philosophy (Arendt, Hobbes' Leviathan and the social contract, Rousseau's *General Will*, Aquinas on natural law, and

Diogenes of Sinope's cosmopolitanism); Philosophy of Art (Aesthetic experience, Rasa Theory, and the relation between form, meaning, and moral imagination)

#### *International Ethics Olympiad | July, 2025*

- The Neerja Modi School was the one of three institutions from India to participate, competing on cases from robot love and assisted dying to copyright, data, and prenatal scanning. Out of 150+ teams worldwide, we placed 7th internationally, ranking in the top 5%.
- Currently training the next cohort of senior students, who have qualified for the national selection round, as well as 5 middle school teams that placed 1st and 2nd at the regionals and advanced to the national round in January 2026.

#### *Philosophize Direct*

- Student-led, peer-reviewed journal that advances philosophical literacy and public reasoning among high school and undergraduate students.
- Each submission undergoes a rigorous double-review process, including peer feedback and formal review by two university-affiliated professors, ensuring both academic integrity and accessibility for young thinkers.
- 3 issues published - including argumentative essays, conceptual reflections, and cross-disciplinary analyses.
- Organised workshops, book discussions, interactive lectures, and video explainers on core philosophical problems and their intersections with fields such as political science, literature, and the sciences.
- Established Philosophize Canvas aimed at introducing high-school students (800 in 8 schools) to short, engaging lessons in aesthetic philosophy and phenomenology to morality, and then guided them in translating these ideas into tangible works of art (1,500 produced).
- Post-session surveys show a 37% increase in participation in art classes. Featured artworks can be found on our website:  
<https://philosophizedirect.com/philosophical-canvas/>

#### *Baltic Sea Philosophy Essay Event, 2024 (Honorary Mention)*

- In this essay, I argued that genuine freedom is ontologically incompatible with societal conformity; drawing on Marcuse's *repressive tolerance* and Sartre's *bad faith*, I contended that true autonomy emerges only through resisting the normative structures that create the illusion of choice.

#### *John Locke Essay Competition, 2024*

- Theology (High Commendation): In this essay, I argued that the '*spiritual but not religious*' worldview is philosophically untenable, demonstrating through a constructivist framework, drawing on William James, Charles Taylor, and Adam Tyson, that spirituality and religion are epistemologically and culturally co-constituted rather than isolable frameworks.

- Philosophy (Commendation): In this essay, I argued that moral responsibility presupposes conscious awareness, contending, drawing on Descartes, Fodor, and Freud, that only conscious belief-states, not subconscious or unconscious ones, constitute genuine agency.
- History (Commendation)