DINAKRUSHNA COLLEGE, JALESWAR

Balasore, Odisha

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

DEPARTMENT PROFILE

Academic Session 2026–27

Question • Reason • Reflect • Understand

An academic profile presenting the vision, mission, programmes, curriculum areas, faculty, facilities, research, student activities, community engagement, career opportunities, values, best practices, and future development roadmap of the Department of Philosophy.

1. ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The **Department of Philosophy, Dinakrushna College, Jaleswar**, is an integral part of the Humanities and Social Sciences education of the institution. The department is committed to developing philosophical reflection, critical thinking, logical reasoning, ethical awareness, intellectual independence, and social responsibility among students.

Philosophy encourages students to examine fundamental questions concerning **reality, knowledge, truth, values, morality, society, human existence, religion, science, and the environment**. The department provides students with a comprehensive understanding of major Indian and Western philosophical traditions while encouraging them to relate philosophical ideas to contemporary social, ethical, scientific, political, and environmental issues.

Through classroom teaching, interactive discussions, seminars, debates, student presentations, assignments, quizzes, workshops, and other academic activities, the department seeks to create an intellectually stimulating environment. Students are encouraged not merely to learn what philosophers have said, but also to understand **how to think philosophically, critically, rationally, and independently**.

The department believes that philosophical education has an important role in developing thoughtful individuals capable of making reasoned judgments and responding responsibly to the challenges of contemporary society.

2. VISION

To develop intellectually mature, rational, ethical, and socially responsible individuals who can critically examine the fundamental questions of human life and contribute meaningfully to society through philosophical understanding and humanistic values.

3. MISSION

- Provide quality education in Indian and Western Philosophy through systematic, inclusive, and student-centred teaching.
- Develop critical thinking, logical reasoning, analytical ability, and independent judgment among students.
- Introduce students to major philosophical traditions, thinkers, arguments, concepts, and methods.
- Develop an understanding of major areas including Epistemology, Metaphysics, Logic, Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Science, and Environmental Philosophy.
- Encourage students to critically examine contemporary issues from philosophical perspectives.
- Cultivate ethical consciousness, democratic values, tolerance, rationality, dialogue, and respect for diverse viewpoints.
- Connect philosophical knowledge with everyday life, social responsibilities, professional development, and human well-being.
- Encourage students to pursue higher education, research, competitive examinations, teaching, and other academic and professional careers.
- Promote an academic culture based on inquiry, discussion, reflection, evidence, and reasoned argument.
- Encourage students to understand philosophy as a living discipline relevant to contemporary individual and social life.

4. DEPARTMENTAL OBJECTIVES

- Impart sound knowledge of fundamental philosophical concepts and traditions.
- Promote rational and independent thinking.
- Develop the ability to analyse arguments and distinguish valid reasoning from fallacious reasoning.

- Develop ethical sensitivity and responsible citizenship.
- Encourage students to engage in philosophical dialogue and debate.
- Connect philosophical theories with contemporary social and environmental problems.
- Develop reading, writing, presentation, communication, and research skills.
- Prepare students for higher studies and competitive examinations.
- Encourage interdisciplinary learning and research.
- Promote human values, social harmony, environmental responsibility, and intellectual freedom.

5. PROGRAMMES OFFERED

5.1 Undergraduate Programme — B.A. in Philosophy

The Department offers undergraduate education in Philosophy, providing students with a comprehensive introduction to major areas of philosophical inquiry.

The programme broadly covers:

- Indian Philosophy
- Western Philosophy
- Logic
- Epistemology
- Metaphysics
- Ethics
- Social and Political Philosophy
- Philosophy of Religion
- Philosophy of Science
- Environmental Philosophy
- Contemporary Philosophy
- Philosophy of Human Values
- Applied Philosophy

The programme combines theoretical understanding with critical analysis and encourages students to apply philosophical concepts to contemporary life and social problems.

6. ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

In addition to regular classroom teaching, the department encourages various academic and skill-development activities, including:

- Philosophy seminars
- Student presentations
- Group discussions
- Debate competitions
- Essay-writing competitions
- Quiz programmes

- Workshops on logical reasoning
- Critical-thinking activities
- Value-education programmes
- Special lectures by scholars and academicians
- Environmental awareness programmes
- Academic paper presentations
- Interdisciplinary discussions

These activities help students develop **communication skills, confidence, reasoning ability, leadership qualities, and academic curiosity**.

7. MAJOR AREAS OF ACADEMIC STUDY

7.1 Indian Philosophy

Students are introduced to major Indian philosophical traditions, including:

- Vedic and Upanishadic Philosophy
- Bhagavad Gita
- Buddhism
- Jainism
- Charvaka
- Nyaya
- Vaisesika
- Samkhya
- Yoga
- Mimamsa
- Vedanta

Important philosophical concepts include: **Dharma, Karma, Moksha, Atman, Brahman, Purushartha, Jnana, Vijnana, Swadharma, ethical action, liberation, and the nature of knowledge.**

7.2 Western Philosophy

The department introduces students to major periods, thinkers, and philosophical traditions, including:

Ancient Greek Philosophy: Pre-Socratic Philosophy, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Stoicism and other major traditions.

Modern Western Philosophy: Rationalism, Empiricism, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant.

Modern and Contemporary Philosophy: Hegel, G. E. Moore, Bertrand Russell, Wittgenstein, and contemporary philosophical traditions.

The study of Western Philosophy enables students to understand the historical development of philosophical thought and the evolution of major philosophical problems.

8. LOGIC AND REASONING

Logic forms an important component of philosophical education. Students are introduced to the principles and methods of correct reasoning.

Major areas include:

- Arguments
- Deductive reasoning
- Inductive reasoning
- Propositions
- Syllogism
- Classification of propositions
- Formal and material truth
- Validity
- Fallacies
- Analogy
- Symbolic logic
- Problem of induction
- Primary and secondary induction
- Scientific reasoning

The study of logic enables students to develop **clarity of thought, precision of expression, analytical ability, and rational decision-making**.

9. EPISTEMOLOGY

The department introduces students to philosophical questions concerning knowledge, belief, truth, and justification.

Major areas include:

- Nature and definition of knowledge
- Sources of knowledge
- Justification
- Truth and belief
- Perception
- Inference
- Testimony
- Rationalism and Empiricism
- The problem of knowledge
- Gettier problem
- Knowing-that and knowing-how
- Indian theories of knowledge

Students are encouraged to critically examine the question:

“What does it mean to know something?”

10. ETHICS AND HUMAN VALUES

The department develops an understanding of moral philosophy and ethical reasoning.

Major areas include:

- Nature and scope of ethics
- Moral judgment
- Moral responsibility
- Virtue and character
- Duty and obligation
- Consequentialism
- Deontological ethics
- Kantian ethics
- Applied ethics
- Professional ethics
- Environmental ethics
- Human values

The department seeks to connect ethical theory with everyday moral decisions and social responsibilities.

11. PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

Students examine philosophical questions concerning religion, faith, reason, God, and religious experience.

Major areas include:

- Nature of religious belief
- Faith and reason
- Arguments for the existence of God
- Ontological Argument
- Cosmological Argument
- Teleological Argument
- Moral Argument
- Problem of Evil
- Religious experience
- Religious language
- Falsification theory
- Language-game theory

The study encourages students to approach religious questions through **reasoned, critical, and balanced philosophical inquiry**.

12. ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

Recognising the growing importance of environmental concerns, the department introduces philosophical approaches to human–nature relationships.

Major areas include:

- Anthropocentrism
- Biocentrism
- Ecocentrism
- Deep Ecology
- Shallow Ecology
- Environmental ethics
- Human responsibility towards nature
- Sustainable development
- Ecological responsibility
- Intergenerational justice

The department seeks to promote environmental consciousness and responsible attitudes towards nature.

13. SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Students are encouraged to philosophically examine society, political institutions, rights, justice, and human relationships.

Major areas include:

- Individual and society
- Liberty
- Equality
- Justice
- Rights
- Democracy
- Human dignity
- Social responsibility
- Political obligation
- Social harmony
- Human rights

These studies help students understand their responsibilities as citizens in a democratic society.

14. FACULTY PROFILE

The department is supported by qualified and dedicated faculty members who contribute to teaching, student mentoring, academic development, research, and departmental activities.

Faculty Members

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Specialization	Email
1	**Sannyasi Charan Patra**	Head of the Department (HoD)	Logic; Western Metaphysics; Ethics	—
2	**Jagannath Prasad Mohanty**	Faculty Member	Western Epistemology; Philosophy of Mind; Nyaya Philosophy; Vedanta Philosophy	—
3	**Kunal Kumar Khatua**	Faculty Member	Analytic Philosophy; Philosophy of Language; Virtue Epistemology; Buddhism	—

15. TEACHING–LEARNING PRACTICES

The department adopts a variety of teaching-learning approaches to make philosophical education engaging and effective.

These include:

- Interactive lectures
- Student-centred teaching
- Group discussions
- Question-and-answer sessions
- Classroom debates
- Student presentations
- Case-based discussions
- Textual analysis
- Digital presentations
- Multimedia resources
- Assignments and project work
- Continuous assessment
- Peer learning

Special emphasis is given to encouraging students to **ask questions, challenge assumptions, formulate arguments, and express their views logically and respectfully**.

16. FACILITIES AND LEARNING RESOURCES

16.1 Departmental Classroom

The department provides a suitable academic environment for lectures, philosophical discussions, presentations, group activities, and student interaction.

16.2 Library and Learning Resources

Students are encouraged to use philosophical texts, reference books, journals, research materials, and other academic resources related to Indian and Western Philosophy.

16.3 ICT-Enabled Learning

Modern teaching-learning methods, including digital presentations, multimedia resources, online academic materials, and other ICT tools, may be used to make philosophical concepts more accessible and engaging.

16.4 Digital Learning

- Digital libraries
- E-books
- Online lectures
- Academic databases
- Open educational resources
- Online journals
- Digital research materials

17. RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Philosophy promotes a research-oriented academic environment and encourages faculty members and students to engage with contemporary philosophical questions.

Potential areas of research include:

- Indian Philosophy
- Western Philosophy
- Philosophy of Bhagavad Gita
- Buddhist Philosophy
- Nyaya Philosophy
- Vedanta
- Ethics and Applied Ethics
- Philosophy of Religion
- Epistemology
- Logic and Argumentation
- Philosophy of Science
- Environmental Philosophy
- Philosophy of Education
- Social and Political Philosophy
- Human Values
- Contemporary Philosophy
- Philosophy and Sustainable Development

Faculty members and students are encouraged to participate in:

- Seminars
- Conferences
- Workshops
- Research discussions
- Paper presentations
- Academic publications

- Interdisciplinary programmes

18. STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The department promotes active student participation beyond conventional classroom teaching.

Academic Activities

- Student seminars
- Paper presentations
- Group discussions
- Philosophy quizzes
- Essay-writing competitions
- Debate competitions
- Poster presentations
- Special lectures
- Workshops
- Student conferences

Philosophical Discussion Forum

Students may participate in discussions on fundamental philosophical questions such as:

- What is knowledge?
- What is truth?
- What is reality?
- What makes an action morally right?
- Does God exist?
- What is the nature of the self?
- What is freedom?
- Can science explain everything?
- What is the relationship between human beings and nature?
- What makes human life meaningful?

Such activities encourage **reasoned argument, communication skills, intellectual confidence, and independent thinking**.

19. EXTENSION AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The department encourages students to understand the relevance of philosophy to society and everyday life.

Possible extension activities include:

- Ethical-values awareness programmes
- Environmental awareness campaigns
- Human-rights awareness programmes
- Value-education programmes
- Gender-equality awareness

- Social-responsibility programmes
- Peace and harmony programmes
- Discussions on contemporary social issues
- Community-awareness activities

The department believes that **philosophy should not remain confined to textbooks** but should contribute to the development of responsible individuals and a just, peaceful, and harmonious society.

20. CAREER AND HIGHER-EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

A degree in Philosophy develops transferable intellectual and professional skills that are useful in diverse fields.

Students may pursue:

- M.A. in Philosophy
- Ph.D. and research
- Teaching and academic careers
- Civil Services and other competitive examinations
- Law
- Journalism and media
- Public administration
- Social work
- Education
- Research and policy-related fields
- Content development
- Human resources
- NGOs and social organisations

Philosophical training particularly strengthens: **Critical reasoning • Reading • Writing • Argumentation • Communication • Problem-solving • Analytical thinking • Ethical decision-making**.

21. DEPARTMENTAL VALUES

The Department of Philosophy promotes the following core values:

Rationality • Critical Thinking • Truth • Ethics • Tolerance • Dialogue • Freedom of Thought • Human Dignity • Social Responsibility • Environmental Responsibility

The department believes that philosophical education should help students become not only academically competent but also **thoughtful, ethical, rational, compassionate, and responsible human beings**.

22. BEST PRACTICES

22.1 Philosophy Discussion Forum

A regular forum where students can discuss philosophical, social, ethical, scientific, and contemporary issues.

22.2 Philosophy of Everyday Life

Connecting philosophical concepts with practical issues and everyday experiences.

22.3 Student-Centred Philosophical Dialogue

Encouraging students to formulate questions, defend arguments, examine opposing views, and arrive at reasoned conclusions.

22.4 Ethics and Value Education

Organising activities focusing on integrity, responsibility, tolerance, human dignity, and social harmony.

22.5 Environmental Philosophy Initiative

Creating awareness about environmental responsibility through philosophical reflection and community activities.

23. FUTURE PLANS AND DEVELOPMENT ROADMAP

- Establishment of a Philosophy Discussion and Research Forum.
- Organisation of regular seminars, workshops, conferences, and guest lectures.
- Development of a dedicated collection of philosophical books and reference materials.
- Promotion of student research and paper presentations.
- Organisation of inter-college philosophy quizzes and debates.
- Conducting programmes on ethics, human values, environmental responsibility, and critical thinking.
- Encouraging faculty and students to participate in national and international conferences.
- Developing stronger digital learning resources for Philosophy.
- Establishing academic collaborations with other colleges and institutions.
- Encouraging students to pursue postgraduate education and research.
- Promoting interdisciplinary studies involving Philosophy, Science, Environment, Education, Politics, and Society.
- Exploring possibilities for advanced and postgraduate-level programmes in Philosophy in the future.

24. DEPARTMENTAL DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

For systematic academic development, the department may periodically document:

- Student enrolment
- Student attendance
- Examination results
- Student progression to higher education
- Competitive-examination achievements
- Seminars and workshops organised
- Student presentations
- Research publications
- Faculty participation in conferences
- Extension activities
- Awards and achievements
- Alumni progression
- Academic collaborations

These indicators can help the department assess its progress and identify areas for further improvement.

25. ALUMNI AND STUDENT PROGRESSION

The department recognises the importance of maintaining meaningful engagement with its alumni.

Efforts may include:

- Maintaining alumni records
- Tracking higher education progression
- Documenting career achievements
- Inviting alumni for interaction with students
- Alumni lectures and mentoring
- Career guidance programmes
- Alumni participation in departmental activities

Such engagement can provide current students with academic, professional, and career guidance.

26. QUALITY ASSURANCE AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The department is committed to continuous improvement in teaching, learning, academic activities, and student development.

The department may periodically review:

- Curriculum implementation
- Teaching-learning methods
- Student feedback
- Academic performance
- Student participation
- Departmental activities
- Learning resources
- Research and publication activities

Feedback from students and other stakeholders may be used constructively to improve departmental functioning.

27. DEPARTMENTAL COMMITMENT

The Department of Philosophy is committed to creating an inclusive and intellectually stimulating environment where every student gets an opportunity to **question, reason, discuss, reflect, and learn**.

The department seeks to foster an academic culture in which disagreement is treated as an opportunity for dialogue rather than conflict, and where philosophical inquiry is guided by **reason, evidence, openness, and intellectual honesty**.

28. CONCLUSION

The **Department of Philosophy, Dinakrushna College, Jaleswar**, remains committed to creating an intellectually vibrant academic environment where students can question, reason, analyse, reflect, and understand.

Through the study of Indian and Western philosophical traditions and engagement with contemporary ethical, social, scientific, religious, political, and environmental questions, the department seeks to develop students who

are intellectually independent and socially responsible.

The department firmly believes that **philosophy is not merely the study of philosophical doctrines; it is a disciplined way of thinking about life, knowledge, reality, values, and human existence.**

Its ultimate objective is to nurture **rational minds, ethical character, critical consciousness, intellectual independence, and responsible citizenship**, enabling students to face academic, professional, and social challenges with confidence, wisdom, and humanity.

> *"The aim of philosophical education is not merely to know what to think, but to learn how to think."*

DEPARTMENT CONTACT

Department of Philosophy
Dinakrushna College, Jaleswar
Balasore, Odisha, India

Head of the Department: _____
Official Email: _____
Contact Number: _____
Academic Session: 2026–27