

SLS MIRROR

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The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of red umbrellas. Each umbrella is a simple silhouette with a curved handle. Above each umbrella are three small, light blue teardrop shapes representing rain. The pattern is scattered across the page, with some umbrellas partially cut off at the edges.

Editorial



Let's Talk

RESEARCH IN SOCIAL SCIENCES: CHALLENGING THE DOMINANT NARRATIVE



For a change, let us try to visualize what we know as research! What is it that comes to our mind when we have research in our mind? Invariably, we imagine some apron-clad, masked, and spectacled women/ men holding test tubes with myriad chemicals inside an apparently claustrophobic laboratory. Well, our imagination is not faulty! However, there is more to research than scientists inventing new gazettes, novel medicines, and unknown compounds. While the importance of applied scientific research is infinitesimally high, research has other paradigms as well. In this editorial, I shall talk about one such unpopular yet significant paradigm. Just in case you are still trying to figure out as to what I am deliberating on, I am indeed talking about research in social sciences. At the outset, social science research might seem like an oxymoron. However,

as you would appreciate at the end of this article, social science research is as important as medicinal research or technological research.

Let us consider a few examples to set the tone of this discussion. How does one figure out the importance of news in enhancing social awareness? What is the psychological impact of social media platforms on late teenagers? What are the semiotic elements that a filmmaker uses in creating a fiction film? How has misinformation, disinformation, and mal-information impaired the informational order? How does Netflix retain its captive audience? How can storytelling inside a classroom create interest and intrigue among learners? How can literature be effectively used in high schools? How can circular economy create a more sustainable world order? These are only some of many questions that social science researchers address through their studies. Existing and new research models are used to impart empiricism to these studies.

In this context, it is important to talk about the essential approaches to social science research. While we often get restricted to methodologies, it is a sine-qua-non that a significant amount of thought is dedicated to the approaches as well. Let me talk about some of those approaches.

1. **Social Orientation:** The researcher needs to be curious about what is happening around her/ him. In very simple terms, the researcher needs to be socially conscious. While social consciousness goes a long way, social empathy is what clinches it for any researcher.
2. **A Curious and Unbiased Bent of Mind:** Pre-conceived notions are a strict no when it comes to research studies in social sciences. A problem needs to be taken up by a researcher without much baggage. One's social, political, economic, and cultural inclinations should not impact the overall study.

3. **Propensity to Dig Deeper:** By its very definition, social science research demands an unflinching tenacity to dig very deep into a problem area. Moving aimlessly on the surface kills the very essence of the study. Even if the entire process requires a lifetime, so be it.

An Interdisciplinary Mindset: Interdisciplinarity is at the core of all new innovations in social sciences. One cannot be restricted to one's own domain while doing a study in social sciences. Everything is linked together, and one needs to have a larger vision to make a study path-breaking.

5. **Readiness to Work in Teams:** At times, an individual's singular effort is not sufficient to go deep into a problem. Therefore, it is very important for social science researchers to work in teams and not think about individual glory. Most of the significant studies in social sciences have resulted from group efforts.

At a time when *Artificial Intelligence (AI)* is intellectually challenging human beings, it is important for aspiring professionals in social sciences to stay ahead of the game. One way to do it is to ensure research orientation.

Signing off for now!

Stay safe, happy, and healthy!

Cheers!

Dr. Amrita Chakraborty

Editor

SLS Mirror





Key Events of SLS

PARTICIPATION IN G20 ENERGY TRANSITION WORKING GROUP EVENT

Rapporteur: Dr. Sitakanta Mishra

Number of Participants: 29

3 April, 2023: At the Mahatma Mandir Conference Centre, Gandhinagar, the G20 Energy Transition Working Group was held. PDEU as a premier university, specializing in Energy-related discourse, got an invitation to be part of the deliberations. Around 30 students (UG, PG and PhD) and faculty from SLS participated in the event. Dr Sitakanta Mishra and Dr Urmi Satyan coordinated the event participation in collaboration with the organizers.

The programme was conducted by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) in collaboration with the Government of India in which senior government officials, G20 country delegates, officials from international organisations, industry, academia, and media participated. The central theme of the deliberation was 'Diversifying Renewables and Critical Minerals Supply Chains to Advance Energy Transition'. The event featured two panels on 'Securing renewable energy supply chains' and 'Strengthening the minerals value chain by increasing production and infusing circularity'. Eminent scholars in the domain deliberated on the various aspects of the issue area followed by brainstorming discussions.

Students got first-hand experience of the G20 event as well as the contours of the debate and policy orientation involving renewable energy discourse to meet India's energy transition goals. Also, the students got a chance to interact with the experts and resource persons present. It was an enriching experience for all and the main takeaway was that everyone got sensitized on India's energy security concerns and the necessity of renewable energy for rising India.





SUBJECTIVE SELF: WORKSHOP ON INDIVIDUAL AWARENESS

Rapporteur: Nidhi Sharma

Number of Participants: 50

April 3-4, 2023: A two-day workshop was conducted by PDEU's School of Liberal Studies (SLS), on April 3&4, 2023. The Workshop was conducted by Mr. Gaurang Mistry, an Image Consultant at, the Indian Institute of Image Consultants.

The workshop started off with an introduction and debrief by Dr Ritu Sharma. Following that Ms. Saumya Das engaged the participants in a fun icebreaker exercise. With the students' minds relaxed and uplifted, Mr. Gaurang Mistry took the stage to address the common distractions of lives, especially with the new technological developments. He introduced the students to the concept of understanding the self in the context of emotions, thoughts and beliefs. The talk consisted of 4 chapters including self and life, family first, ethics and etiquettes, acceptance and understanding.

The focus of the workshop was to help the students identify their 'subjective self' and strive towards becoming a S.A.F.E. individual, SAFE stands for Security, Awareness, Freedom and Entertainment. There is an innate need for security in all humans, whether it be physical security, financial security, emotional security, etc. Awareness in this context refers to the desire for learning about life and oneself. Freedom refers to the freedom of choice that individuals are privileged to have. Entertainment is a major part of everyone's life in various forms such as movies, books, dance, etc.

A clear understanding of one's self-interest and gaining control over life is the first step towards success followed by discipline, accountability and decisiveness. Self-interest develops from curiosity and willingness to explore various arenas. The role of destiny vs one's subjective responsibility of self over life events was discussed. Achieving domain-specific knowledge leads to confidence and better leadership. Making mistakes is a sign that one is trying something new, getting out of one's comfort zone and helping in achieving self-dependency. Understanding the why behind one's beliefs, emotions and actions leads to immense clarity in life. Lack of clarity can lead to anger, frustration and helplessness. Which in turn affects one's mental health and emotional health.

In conclusion, this 2-day workshop has been a one-of-a-kind experience. It was fun, engaging, informative and overall a learning experience. This was especially helpful for individuals transitioning from students to young professionals. Students learned about the importance of their individuality, goals, values and motivations in life.





A VISIT TO NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE UNIVERSITY (NFSU), GANDHINAGAR

Rapporteur: Liza Zubin Abadan

Number of Participants: 20 Students (April 05, 2023), 35 Students (April 18, 2023)

April 05, 2023 & April 18, 2023: Students visited Cyber Security and Digital Forensic Laboratory where they were briefed about overall security measures taken and the preventative measures that may counter cyber-attacks, including steps to repair systems weaknesses, prevent repeat occurrences, and collect and examine digital evidence using a variety of digital and mobile forensics tools and technology. After that, students visited the Ballistics Research & Testing Centre where defence material testing is done for assurance of safety and usage. They could get the chance to see the testing procedure of the defence jacket. The centre focuses on checking the quality and security level of the products being used in the army force.

Another department that visited was Odontology Laboratory where Dr. Dhvani gave them insight as to how Dentistry is linked with Forensic Science and how it plays a major role in solving the cases. In the end, students visited Psychology Laboratory where they were exposed to a wide range of psychological testing like, Brain Electrical Oscillation Signature Profiling (BEOS), Hand-writing Analysis, Visual Stress Analysis, Layered Voice Analysis, Automated Polygraph Eye Detector Test etc. The expert there educated students on how these tests can be of great contribution to forensics and crime investigation. It was a very advanced laboratory where all students were engrossed in knowing and functioning the techniques and equipment used. Apart from the laboratories, students enjoyed the enormous campus and the hospitality they received from the university. It was indeed a day with a bag full of learnings and hearts full of experience.





WORKSHOP ON DATA VISUALIZATION USING TABLEAU

Rapporteur: Priyanshu Chavda and Mandar Bhatt

April 08, 2023: The Economics Area, Department of Social Science, of School of Liberal Studies, organized a “*Hands-on workshop on Data Visualization using Tableau*”, where Mr. Nicky Johnson, Research Associate (IIM-A) and a Visiting Faculty at SLS, PDEU, was invited to share his expertise of Tableau, with the participants. The Workshop was attended by multi-disciplinary students, from Bachelor’s, Master’s as well as PhD Programmes.



Workshop on Data Visualization using Tableau

Tableau is an analytics and visualization platform where users quickly create and visualize their data. With Tableau, one can create graphs, charts, tables, dashboards, and many more, within minutes. With the growing demand for Data Analysis and data being termed as “New Oil of the 21st century” it was a good step forward by the organizers to enhance the skill of students with new tools.





Students working on the Tableau hands-on assignment during the event

The Workshop started with welcoming the speaker, with kind words by Dr Nausheen Nizami, Associate Professor at Economics Area, and Department of Social Science-SLS, one of the organizers of the event. The event proceeded with welcoming Mr Nicky Johnson with a token of gratitude from Mandar Bhatt, Professor of MA Economics. The session began by Mr Nicky, who initially shared the theoretical introduction of Tableau, and its need in the job market and thereby gradually moving into the practical use case of software. The speaker familiarized the students with Tableau's interface and basic skills, such as opening Excel files and CSV files. Students also solved multiple business problems, where they were first trained to understand what was asked and then make the calculations relating to it. They also learnt how they could create calculated fields under it, and then create charts and graphs with the available information. Topics such as Joint, Union, blending of data, live data & extracting the specific data and many others were also included. Participants were also trained to understand, how big the data is, and why such software is the need of the hour, and the skill to operate such software's being highly required.



Nicky Johnson explains the advantages of using Tableau versus other software

The speaker also gave a background introduction to Tableau Desktop, as well as Tableau Prep Builder, for our workshop with publishing our results into Tableau Public. The workshop was designed considering the needs of students. Each workshop session was highly interactive and thoroughly enjoyed by the participants.



WORKSHOP ON REAL-LIFE EFFECTIVENESS OF COUNSELING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY TO PROMOTE HOLISTIC WELL-BEING

Rapporteur: Bhavyaa Dave

Number of Participants: 80

April 10-11, 2023: The Department of Social Sciences, SLS, PDEU organized a two-day workshop on the '*Real-life Effectiveness of Counseling and Psychotherapy to promote Holistic Well-Being*' on 16th and 17th April 2023. The workshop was mentored by Dr. Ritu Sharma and coordinated by Dr. Shraddha Sharma. The workshop was designed to provide practical exposure to the students regarding the relevance and effectiveness of the therapeutic techniques which are a part of their academic curriculum. The workshop exposed the students to the expertise of Dr. Apoorva Shah, a Psychologist based in the USA, Dr. Suhas Doshi, Director and Psychiatrist, GIPS, Ahmedabad, and Ms. Rupangi Shah, an RCI-Licensed practising Clinical Psychologist based in Ahmedabad.

In the opening session, Antarah Narayana (M.A. Sem 2) gave a warm welcome to experts and the audience. Director-SLS and Dean SLS addressed the students and motivated them to be interactive, ask questions and raise queries during the sessions.

The first session of the workshop was conducted by Ms. Rupangi Shah, where she taught students how to take a case history and the points to keep in mind. This whole session was imbued with fun and interactive sessions ranging from quizzes, improvised role plays and analytical discussions. Ms. Rupangi continued the session with a focus on interview skills in counselling. She also reflected on the idea of how counseling and psychotherapy can be used to promote well-being.

In the second half, Dr. Suhas Doshi taught role-play, psychodrama and case studies. When Dr. Doshi asked students to volunteer in psychodrama, they eagerly participated and enjoyed the psycho-drama which was a fun learning experience for students.

On the second day of the workshop, again Ms. Rupangi conducted a session on crisis management. That session was insightful learning for students. The last session of the workshop was conducted by Dr. Apoorva Shah, on psychoanalysis and its application. Dr. Shah discussed many interesting case studies and answered all the questions of the students. Through simulations, brainstorming, effective case study discussions and in-depth analysis, the workshop successfully encouraged the participants to develop, enhance and hone the skills required for effective counseling. The students found the workshop to be an extremely enlightening experience that provided them with an intellectual foresight into the field and equipped them with the skills essential for bringing effectiveness to their craft.

In the closing session of the workshop, Director-SLS and Dean-SLS congratulated the students and gave their best wishes. Before the certificate ceremony, a feedback session was held and Anatarah Narayan (M.A. Sem 2) thanked the Director-SLS, Dean-SLS, experts and the participants.





TALK ON "LABOUR LAWS FOR INFORMAL SECTOR IN INDIA"

Rapporteur: Vatsala Gupta

April 13, 2023: The Economics Area, Department of Social Science, School of Liberal Studies, in collaboration with IQAC, organized a talk on 'Labour Laws in Informal Sector' for two hours, especially for the students of Masters in Economics. The talk was also open to students from other programs, such as bachelor's students and Ph.D. scholars. The speaker for the event - Dr. Misha Vyas, In-charge Informal Sector and Labour Issues, Mahatma Gandhi Labour Institute, Ahmedabad, was invited to share her expertise and experience on the Informal Labour Market Laws. Approximately twenty participants attended the talk.



This theme was directly a part of the MA Economics course structure of “Economics of Informal Sector (19MEC209)”. The session began with the welcome and introduction of the speakers by Dr. Nausheen Nizami, Associate Professor (Economics), SLS. After that, the session started with - Dr. Misha Vyas giving an overall view and familiarity with the concept of Informality or the Unorganised sector, along with the workers engaged in this sector. She explained that it is an essential theme of policy concern as a significant part (approximately 90%) of India’s workforce continues to be a part of the Informal Sector.

Factories Act, Labour Laws, Labour Codes, Informalisation in the Formal Sector, and Applicability of Labour Laws in the Informal Sector were the talk's highlights. It is important to note that the Informal Sector is currently the policy focus of the Decent Work Country Programme 2023 of the ILO Head Office, India.

Dr. Misha Vyas made sure that the fundamentals of the concepts relating to the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Workers Population Ratio (WPR), and the concepts related to informality are understood by providing a detailed explanation of the current situation of the informal sector in India supported by the most recent statistics. She spoke extensively about the Legal Protection provided to the Unorganised Sector through the following Acts such as '*The Unorganised Workers Social Security Act-2008*', '*The Minimum Wage Act-1948*', and '*The Factories Act-1948*', with a particular focus on the four '*Labour Codes*.'



The session was kept open for an Interactive Q&A session. After that, the session ended with a Vote of Thanks and encouraging words from Dr. Nausheen Nizami. The speaker was felicitated with a Memento, and a group photograph was taken.



MEMORY STUDIES AND MASCULINITIES STUDIES: THE COMPLEX CONVERGENCES

Rapporteurs: Manaswini Pillai and Shakti Nirmal

Number of Participants: 40

April 13, 2023: The English area of the Department of Languages, Literature and Aesthetics organised an expert talk on ‘Memory Studies and Masculinity Studies: The Complex Convergences’ on April 13, 2023, by Dr. Niyati Shah. The session was delivered by Professor Avishek Parui, Associate Professor of English and Memory Studies at IIT-Madras and Associate Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy. Prof. Parui is the author of *Postmodern Literatures* (2018) and *Culture and the Literary: Matter, Metaphor, Memory* (2022). He is also the Principal Investigator of the Centre for Memory Studies (CMS) at IIT Madras and the founding chairperson of the Indian Network for Memory Studies (INMS).

This talk explored the convergences between memory studies and masculinity studies by drawing on the two disciplines theoretically and through a selection of literary texts. Prof. Parui first introduced students to the basic concepts of memory studies by explaining how the process of encoding, consolidation, and retrieval takes place in memory and how that extends to the complexities of embodiment at neural as well as social/discursive levels. The talk explained how the discipline of Memory Studies primarily deals with the politics of remembering and forgetting, and that memory can be viewed as an interplay or entanglement of these two processes. Prof. Parui deliberated on how ‘remembering’ and ‘forgetting’ are often viewed as ontological opposites but how they are cognitive components that enable each other. Memory then must be viewed as a process of becoming, unbecoming, and rebecoming that has a performative quality to itself and hence, it is less of a noun and more a verb. Similarly, the idea of masculinity and femininity is also performative and can be best understood as a complex interplay of entanglement; not as a binary.

In addition to this, Prof. Parui explained how certain aspects of memory and masculinity are liminal, which refer to the unconscious spaces in one's mind. The talk mentioned that individual or collective memory has selective nature. Collective memory is maintained by different communities based on what is chosen to commemorate, making the verb ‘memory’ a deliberate and political act. For instance, the novel ‘Robinson Crusoe’ is a meta-text of the capital; a lesson on how to build an empire. Since the entire novel is a flashback, the very act of narrating is a practice of memory. What the text chooses to include (white, supremacist, capitalist, masculine exploits) and exclude (the narrator's wife, who occupies half a sentence at the end of the novel).

Prof. Parui discussed aspects of spectrality, masculinity crisis, neurosis, anxiety, and the nature of storytelling with reference to *Mrs. Dalloway*, *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*, and *Heart of Darkness* to understand the complex divergence of memory and masculinity studies.



Students understood how the characters in *Mrs. Dalloway* were consumed by their lives before the war and how these memories caused them to struggle to move forward; how the narrative of *Heart of Darkness* resists interpretation while presenting Marlow's tale, including stories within the story, through the perspective of another first-person listener; and how in *The Love of J. Alfred Prufrock*, too much time spent in indulging the memories of the past and anxiety over the future can negatively affect the present.

The talk was followed by a Q&A that saw some insightful deliberations on the connection between genre and memory, the role of human agency within the framework of memory studies, the discipline of humanities and STEM studies.

The talk on “Memory Studies and Masculinity Studies: The Complex Convergences” was a well-received talk that ended on a note that how we remember is not only retrospective but also anticipatory.



EXPRESSIVE PSYCHOTHERAPIES: RESTORATION THROUGH CREATIVITY

Rapporteur: Aakanksha Patel

Number of Participants: 15

April 18, 2023: Department of Social Sciences- Psychology, School of Liberal Studies, conducted a tripartite workshop on theories of creativity, art therapy, and experiential aspect of art therapy. The Workshop was conducted by Ms. Kinjal Gandhi, who is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in Art Therapy.

The first part reviewed the three major theories of understanding creativity.

1. Stages of Creative Development: Lowenfield's theory indicates the importance of creativity and the various stages of development associated with learning how to draw. The stages are the Scribbling stage (random and controlled), the Pre-Schematic stage, the Schematic stage, the Dawning Realism stage, Pseudo Realism, and the Period of Decision. There can be an overlap between these stages, and culture plays a vital role in differentiating and diverging from stages.
2. Aesthetic Attitude and Empathy: A person's *perspective* determines how one perceives art. Franklin's viewpoint maintains that *releasing judgment, immersing oneself in the artwork*, and letting empathy drive one's perception is the way to look at art.
3. Visual Thinking Strategies: This theory, developed by Curtis, 2011, states that the interpretation of art is a *process of discussion and questioning* which leads to a clearer picture of what the artist wants to depict and convey. It encourages people to ask guided questions to understand the image presented to them.

Upon the conclusion of the theories, students were instructed to create a name placard using various art materials of their choice to describe themselves best.

The second part of the workshop defined and expanded on Art Therapy. It helped us understand the goals of art therapy and the scope of assessment and treatment across all verticals—moreover, an essential differentiation between art therapy, art as therapy, and an art activity. Further, we were imbibed with the elements involved in an art therapy session- Media, Material, Client's artistic space, Therapist's artistic space, Therapeutic alliance, Art & healing, and the intersection of these elements.



The role of Art Therapists was elaborated upon. One crucial function is Processing the Artwork, which includes comparing the content and the aesthetic, and incongruences and inconsistencies are spotted to lower subjective interpretation. Two exciting videos on prisoners' embroidery process with benefits and Corona Quilt Project (where various individuals came together to build decorative quilt work during the pandemic) were shown to solidify the content imparted.

The final leg of the workshop consisted of involving students in a practical session of art therapy. Observing Kinaesthetic sand and discussing the emotions that arise was a portion of it. The other activity, titled 'Mango Memory,' consisted of viewing a picture of ripe mangos as well as a live mango and letting your senses be filled by it and using those images and sensory inputs and connections to allow yourself to create artwork inspired by it. It was a freeing and relaxing session for all the students involved. Group sharing of everyone's artwork and the meaning behind it was facilitated.

In conclusion, we learned about various theories of creativity associated with art and then dove deep into understanding Art therapy and how it differs from other art practices. The implications and implementation of art therapies with clients and finally, the students experienced a hands-on session of what an Art therapy session could look like.



RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY IN PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING ALONG WITH STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Rapporteur: Ruben Joseph

Number of Participants: 30

April 18, 2023: The School of liberal studies, PDEU, organized a one-day workshop on 18th April 2023. This workshop was mentored by Dr. Ritu Sharma and co-coordinated by Dr. Shraddha Sharma. The resource person for the workshop, Dr. Shachi Barot, was given a warm welcome by Antarah Narayan (MA Sem 2) at the beginning of the workshop.

During the course of the workshop, Dr. Shachi gave a brief introduction to the concepts of reliability and validity in psychological testing, moved on to demonstrate fundamental statistical analysis using Microsoft Excel and lastly, ended with a deep dive into the concepts of reliability and validity along with their types and relevance.

The workshop attendees were curious to know how Dr. Shachi went about collecting data for her PhD, so she happily shared the process which she undertook to collect the data and also discussed the data analysis part she employed. The attendees learnt the various types and implications of reliability and validity and which type is more useful and relevant in a given situation in research.

Dr. Shachi made sure everyone was on the same page with bits of humour every once in a while and at the end of the session, she asked the attendees to pull up their (collected) research data on their laptops and interacted with the attendees one on one to solve their doubts regarding the initial data analysis on Excel.

Students found the workshop to be quite helpful and hands-on. In the concluding session, Dr. Ritu Sharma, Dean-SLS addressed and congratulated the students for their successful participation. Antarah Narayan (MA Sem 2) thanked Dr. Shachi on behalf of all the attendees, which marked the end of the workshop.



WORKSHOP ON KNOW YOUR MAJOR-MINOR

Rapporteurs: Dr. Amrita Chakraborty

April 19-20, 2023: The School of Liberal Studies (SLS) organized a two-day workshop on '*Know your Major-Minor*' for the Fourth Semester students of SLS who are going to select their Major and Minor subjects in the Fifth Semester. The workshop was primarily supervised by Dr. Ritu Sharma, Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Studies (FoLS).

The workshop gave a holistic view of all the subjects to the students along with the career opportunities so that the students can make a conscious choice about their career path. Faculty members across all disciplines delivered presentations on the core area of the subjects. Every presentation was followed by a question-answer session.

The first day of the workshop went with subject-specific presentation and the last day of the workshop was for a panel discussion on two newly launched subjects which are Digital Humanities and Indic Studies.



NAAC A++ ACCREDITED

SLS SCHOOL OF LIBERAL STUDIES

PANDIT DEENDAYAL ENERGY UNIVERSITY
Formerly Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDEU)

**WORKSHOP
ON
KNOW YOUR MAJOR
FOR BATCH 2021**

THE BEST WAY TO PREDICT THE FUTURE IS TO CREATE IT.


APRIL 19 & 20, 2023
PDEU AUDITORIUM
10 AM ONWARDS



The schedule for the two-day event is given below:

PANDIT DEENDAYAL ENERGY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LIBERAL STUDIES WORKSHOP ON KNOW YOUR MAJOR For BA (Hons.), BBA (Hons.), B.Com. (Hons.) April 19 and 20, 2023 (Wednesday and Thursday)			
Session/ Area	Program	Date	Time
<i>Day 1 (April 19, 2023)</i>			
<i>Registration</i>	All Programmes	19.4.23	9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
<i>Opening session</i>	All Programmes	19.4.23	10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
<i>Break</i>		19.4.23	10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
<i>Mass Communication</i>	All Programmes	19.4.23	11:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.
<i>English</i>	All Programmes	19.4.23	12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
<i>Lunch Hour</i>		19.4.23	1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
<i>Psychology</i>	All Programmes	19.4.23	2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
<i>Public Administration</i>	All Programmes	19.4.23	3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.





<i>Economics</i>	All Programmes	19.4.23	4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
<i>International Relations</i>	All Programmes	19.4.23	5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
<i>Day 2 (April 20, 2023)</i>			
<i>Business and Commerce</i>	All Programmes	20.4. 23	9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
<i>Break</i>		20.4. 23	10.30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
<i>Panel Discussion on Digital Humanities</i>	All Programmes	20.4. 23	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
<i>Lunch Hour</i>		20.4. 23	1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
<i>Panel Discussion on Indic Studies</i>	All Programmes	20.4. 23	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
<i>Instructions for Major/Minor Registration</i>	All Programmes	20.4.23	4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

16TH NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICES DAY CELEBRATION

Rapporteur: Diya Desai

Number of Participants: 350+

April 21, 2023: Area of Public Policy and Administration, SLS, PDEU celebrated 16th National Civil Services Day by organizing student poster presentations on the ‘Role of Civil Servants in the present-day Administration and Governance.’ Ms. Nipuna M Torawane, IPS, Secretary, Home Department, Govt of Gujarat, graced the event. The event was presided over by Director General, PDEU, Prof. Sundar Manoharan. Ms. Nipuna, while interacting with students, spoke on the digitalization of Gujarat police services and steps taken by the government to strengthen police services for the betterment of citizen services.

The students of the BABBA 21 batch, Semester 4, presented posters on the theme ‘*Role of Civil Servants: Bringing Citizens and Government Closer*’ at B Block Foyer from 3 pm onwards on April 21 2023. The poster presentation event was received very well, with nearly 120 entries. While some posters exhibited the work of some of the exemplary Indian civil servants, some portrayed the importance of civil servants and how India would look without them. The respective faculties evaluated and graded the posters based on their presentation, creativity, and content. The students of Sem 4 had put a lot of thought and creativity into their signs, which was evident from the outcomes.

Event organizer’s name and department:

Dr. Venkatram Reddy

Dr. Sriram Divi

Dr. Anurag Srivastava

Key speakers. Ms. Nipuna M Torawane, IPS

Key points discussed in the event. The event was then graced by the insightful and inspiring speech of Ms. Nipuna M Torawane, ma’am. She first informed the reason behind celebrating National Civil Services Day on April 21; it was because Shri Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the first batch of civil servants on this day. She further stressed the emerging role of ‘Minimum Government and Maximum Governance.’ Through her digital presentation and speech, the audience was made aware of the integration of technology with policing and how it’s increasing the reach and accessibility of police services to the general public. Some initiatives mentioned were Pocket Cop, eGujCop, Trinetra (i3C), One Nation One Challan, etc. The audience has also displayed the website and various functions of the eGujCop website.



A SPECIAL INTERACTIVE SESSION ON CAREERS IN ECONOMICS

Rapporteur: Saumya Jhaveri

Number of Participants: 15

April 21, 2023: The Economics Area, Department of Social Science, School of Liberal Studies, in collaboration with IQAC, organized a special interactive session on 'Careers in Economics' to provide students with valuable insights into various career paths in the field of economics. Approximately 15 Economics students from undergraduate and postgraduate domains of Economics attended this two-hour session. Faculties of Economics Area- Dr. Himani Baxi and Dr. Dhyan Mehta were also present during the event.



Ms. Arni introduced the guest Dr. Hitesh Thakkar.

The event was anchored by two Economics Major students, Ms. Arni and Ms. Anshika, studying B.A. (H) Economics at the School of Liberal Studies. The hosts provided an overview of the session and introduced the main speaker for the event, Dr. Hitesh Thakkar. The inaugural speech was delivered by Dr. Ritu Sharma, Dean-SLS, who emphasized the importance of understanding the various career opportunities in economics and exploring them before making any final decisions.



Dr. Ritu Sharma, Dean-SLS, shared her inaugural remarks during the event.



Dr. Thakkar began the session by sharing his personal experiences and insights on various career paths in Economics. He explained the roles and responsibilities of the Indian Economic Service (IES), RBI, SEBI, and other jobs available in the government sector. He discussed the entrance exams and strategies to clear them. He also shared his journey and how he went to appear for IES, couldn't make it, but then joined GNLU. Dr. Thakkar also talked about law and economics courses like Graduate in Insolvency, Chicago Law and Economics, Harvard Law and Economics, Gokhale School of Economics, and opportunities like VIDHI, GNLU, etc. He recommended some excellent articles about career paths, how to pursue a career in economics, and movie references to explain economics. Dr. Thakkar stressed the importance of economics in business and world politics and shared how conferences and paper submissions can help. He suggested some amazing internships and universities for economics and law and discussed the opportunities available in the private sector. Additionally, he talked about personal branding and cleared doubts regarding academic careers, private job careers, and PhDs.

The interactive session was attended by students, faculty members, who actively participated in the session and had the opportunity to ask questions and clarify their doubts. The event concluded with a high tea.



Dr. Hitesh Thakkar shares his ideas on career options in Economics.

Overall, the event was a great success and provided valuable insights to students on the various career opportunities in economics. The event ended with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Nausheen Nizami.

URJA ABHIYAN: EARTH DAY AND CLIMATE CLOCK INSTALLATION CELEBRATION

Rapporteur: Dr. Ankita Srivastava

Number of Participants: 100

April 21, 2023: PDEU, celebrated Urja Abhiyan: Earth Day, followed by the release of Climate Clock to raise awareness about the urgent issue of climate change. The event was organized to serve as a constant reminder that we need to act fast to protect our planet. The pressing need to take action towards a sustainable future was highlighted during the event.

To mark the occasion, PDEU organized an event (In two phases), the first phase included online energy literacy training for students, faculty, and staff in association with Energy Swaraj Foundation under India's G20 presidency. The Phase II of the event was a major attraction, with a talk by urban ecologist Mr. Lokendra Balasaria, followed by a Q&A session. The event was presided over by Director General, PDEU, Prof. S. Sundar Manoharan.

The event was not just about education, but it also recognized the efforts of the best-dressed students who received gift hampers on the theme dressing. It is hoped that the event will inspire young minds to take responsibility for their energy consumption and become more aware of their impact on the environment.

The installation of the Climate Clock is a reminder of the urgency of the issue, and it is hoped that the clock will serve as a constant reminder to the PDEU community of the need to take action towards a sustainable future. The clock symbolizes the time we have left to act and make a difference.

The event was coordinated by Dr Ankita Srivastava, (SLS), Dr. Kaushal Kishore, (SoM), Dr. Nausheen Nizami, (SLS), Dr. Rachna Arora, (SoT), Dr. Sheetal Rawat, (SoET).

Key points:

- **Raising awareness about climate change:** The event and Climate Clock installation serve as a reminder of the urgent need to take action towards a sustainable future, thereby raising awareness about climate change.
- **Promoting energy literacy:** The online energy literacy training organized by PDEU in association with Energy Swaraj Foundation helps students, faculty, and staff become more knowledgeable about energy consumption and its impact on the environment.
- **Inspiring young minds:** The event recognizes the efforts of best-dressed students and aims to inspire young minds to take responsibility for their energy consumption and become more aware of their impact on the environment.
- **Encouraging collective action:** PDEU's call for everyone to come together to make a difference and create a sustainable future for generations to come promotes collective action towards a common goal.



In conclusion, the PDEU's Urja Abhiyan: Earth Day event and Climate Clock installation on April 21, 2023 has been a success in promoting awareness, education, and collective action towards a sustainable future. The event inspired young minds to take responsibility for their energy consumption and become more aware of their impact on the environment. The online energy literacy training organized in association with Energy Swaraj Foundation further contributed to promoting energy literacy. PDEU calls for everyone to come together to create a sustainable future for generations to come. The event and Climate Clock installation serve as a constant reminder of the urgent need to take action towards a sustainable future and inspire everyone to make a positive impact on the environment.



REPORT ON POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH DISSERTATION

Rapporteur: Dr. Sriram Divi

April 25-28, 2023: The Fourth semester Postgraduate 2021 batch of the School of Liberal Studies (SLS) presented their second dissertation (Fourth Semester) viva in the month of April 2023 and submitted the thesis in May 2023 to their respective supervisors. The entire activity was coordinated by Dr. Sriram Divi, Associate Professor of the School of Liberal Studies. The students presented the viva, and a faculty panel evaluated the research work.

There are 62 dissertations completed by the students under seven subjects – Public Administration, Mass Communication, Economics, English and Political Science & International Relations and Finance.

The research was done in the following broad areas as per subjects:

Public Administration: Execution and Implementation of Fast Tag, Growth of Modern Agriculture, Self Help Groups, Effect of E-Governance, Farmer Soil Health Management. Citizens Perspective.

Mass Communication: Building Successful brand through Instagram. An Intensive study on the Crisis Management and CSR Activities of HUL. An Empirical Study on the ISKCOM's Branding and Marketing Strategy. Descriptive Study on Relationship between Social Media Usage and Procrastination.

Economics: Impact of COVID 19 on Financial Intra-Markets in India. Impact of Business Cyclicity on Government Expenditure and Investments: A Panel Study of G7 and Emerging Asian Countries. Nexus between CO2 emission and economics growth. Credit Accessibility and Gender Gap: A study of G20 Countries.

English: Human Value at the peril of racism in a Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry. Reimagining Bharat Mata in Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's *Anandamath* And Debi Choudhury. Optimism in Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and *Sula*. Gender Analysis of the novel *The Last Color*.

Political Science & International Relations: Understanding the Influence of Extremist Group in Africa: A study on DRC and Libya. Economic Security in the developing world: Role of multilateral institution. Somalia as a failed state. Foreign Direct Investment (2008 – 2018): A Trend Analysis.

Psychology: Interpersonal Support and Resilience, Social media Impact, Emotional Maturity and Youth Problems, Internet Dependency, Sadism and Aggression, Mindfulness and Difficulty, Correlation Study of Gratitude and Wellbeing, Perceived Peer Pressure and Eating Disorder among Young Adults. Cartoons and Children's Personalities.

Finance: A study of perception of investors towards mutual funds in Ahmedabad.

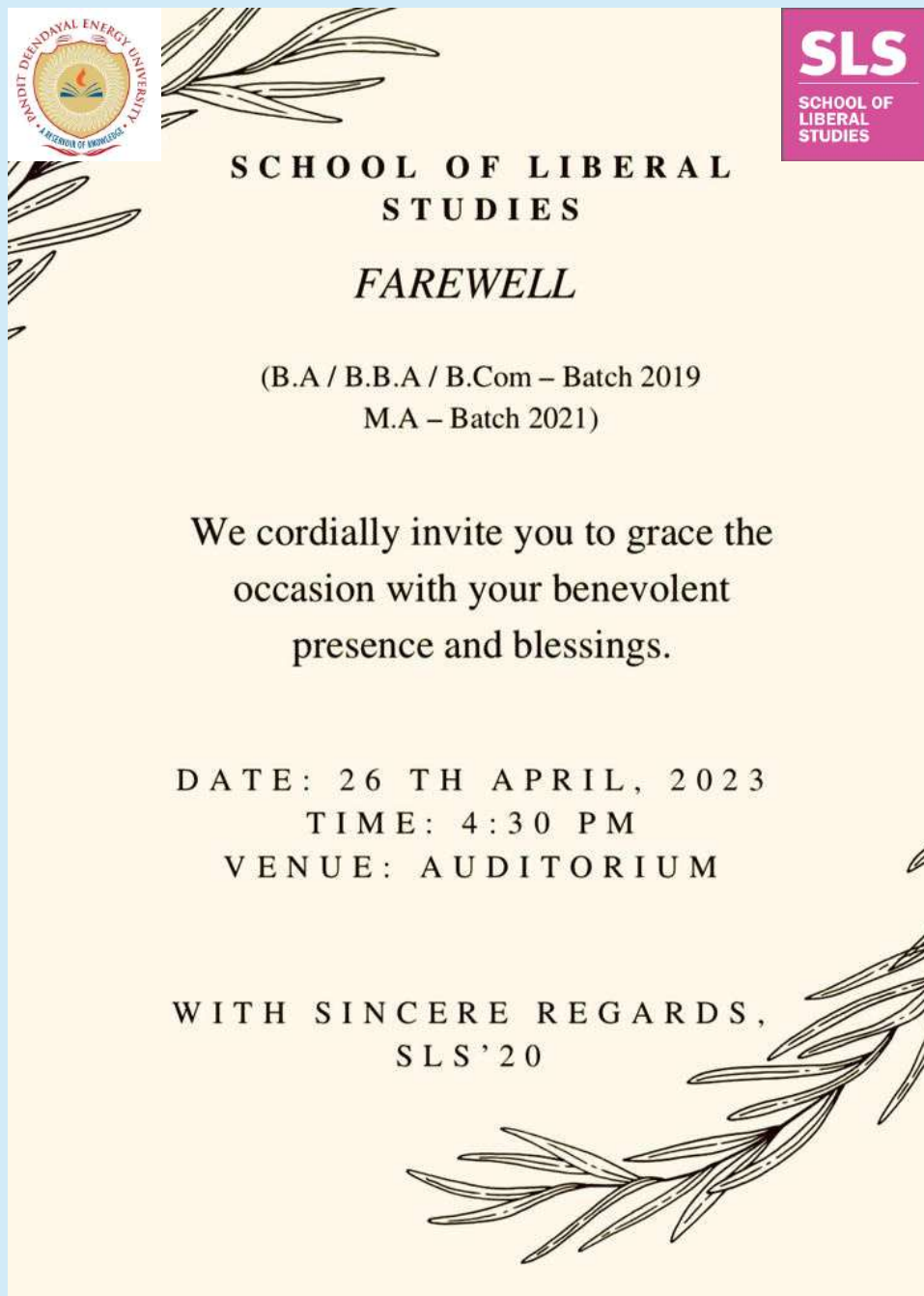




FAREWELL TO SLS STUDENTS

Rapporteur: Dr. Amrita Chakraborty

April 26, 2023: The School of Liberal Studies (SLS) organized a formal farewell event for all the Postgraduate Batches of 2021 and Undergraduate Batches of 2019 SLS students passing in June 2023. The event was scheduled from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the PDEU Auditorium, followed by a formal photo session in the Convocation Ground.









REPORT ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DISSERTATION PRESENTATIONS

Rapporteur: Dr. Rajesh Desai

Number of Participants: 405

April 27, 2023: Undergraduate students of SLS are required to undertake a research dissertation and submit a detailed report of the same as a part of the academic requirement for an Honors degree. All UG final semester students are required to present their plan/proposal of the research and make final presentations when their research gets completed.

The whole activity of planning and successfully executing the dissertation work is coordinated by the members of the UG Dissertation Committee. Apart from administrating overall activity, the committee conducts various workshops to orient students to the dissertation process. The first workshop has been conducted for two days i.e., October 13 & 14, 2022 on Planning and Preparing for Research Dissertation. The respective department faculty members in coordination with the UG Dissertation coordinators, Dr. Chaitanya Vyas, Dr. Rajesh Desai, and Dr. Shraddha Sharma, have guided students on the above-mentioned aspects under the departments of Social Science, Language, Literature, and Aesthetics, and Business Administration and Commerce. Another workshop titled Data Analysis and Report Writing was conducted on February 14 & 15, 2023 to orient the students about the quantitative as well as qualitative tools and techniques of data analysis, components to write a dissertation report, an overview of synopsis writing, library resources, and plagiarism detection.

The final presentation of Research Dissertations was conducted on April 27, 2023, when the students presented their research to the respective panels. A total of 18 panels comprising 36 faculty members have reviewed the dissertation reports of UG students through presentation and students were given feedback and comments upon the same. Students from different specializations have presented their work and come up with various multidisciplinary research themes.

Major research themes are summarized as follows:

Psychology: Sensory processing sensitivity and perfectionism, Job stress and Burnout, Attachment Style, Emotional Regulation Strategies, Learning and Motivation, Emotional Intelligence and Job Satisfaction, Self-concept, Social Comparison and Loneliness, Effect of music on relaxation, Self-concept, Childhood Trauma and Aggression in College Students, Analysis of Narcissism and Family Relations, Impulsive buying and anxiety, Need to belong, Fear of Missing out and Social Media, Interpersonal Violence against men, Work-life Balance and Employee Turnover, Sleep Quality and Mood, Coping mechanism, decision-making style, imagery, and self-talk, etc.

International Relations: India-Afghanistan Relations, Tanzanian Diplomacy, Strategic Contention in Northeast Passage, Cyber threats and state security, etc.



Business Administration and Commerce: ESG Investing and market performance; 'Buy Now Pay Later' Services in India, Financial Literacy and Investor welfare; Brand placement in Movies and web series; Consumer preference towards green products; Adoption of E-vehicles etc.

Mass Communication: Social Media, Audience Perception of Non-superhero, Effect of Advertising, Journalism and its social roles, etc.

Public Administration: State of public health in Gujarat, Impact of selected determinants of Migration in India, UK, and USA, etc.

English: Fashion and Literature, Search for Identity, Role of Women in Literature, Symbolism in English Literature, etc.

Economics: Impact of Governance and Economics Growth on Merchandise Export, Tax Structure, and Economic Growth, Cost Benefit Analysis of Green Hydrogen and Other Cleaner Fuels, Impact of Tourism, Trade, and Capital Formation on the GDP growth rate of Bhutan, etc.





Y20 GUJARAT SAMVAAD

Rapporteur: Nirmal Jikaria

Number of Participants: 19

April 27, 2023: The students at the School of Liberal Studies and School of Technology, Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, had the golden opportunity to attend a talk on the theme of Youth 20 (Y20) – Gujarat Samvaad, and meet the Hon. Minister of State - Home, Gujarat – Shri Harsh Sanghvi. The event was organized by the Swami Vivekananda Gujarat Youth Board under the aegis of G20. The Event Conveners were Professor Nigam Dave, Director, of SLS and Dr. Ritu Sharma, Dean, of SLS. The Event Faculty Coordinators were Dr. Udayprakash Sharma and Dr. Venkata Krishnan from SLS.

PDEU students reached the event venue at 5.45 pm from the PDEU Campus. The event venue was Zoology Garden at Gujarat University, Ahmedabad. When the students reached the venue, they were welcomed by RJ Mit who was engaging the audience through an interaction activities session. The event was initiated by the lightening of lamps by the dignitaries present which was followed by the opening address given by the Chancellor of Gujarat University, Professor Himanshu Pandya. Professor Pandya talked about and appreciated the work done by the Hon. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, through various programs like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, GST implementation, and currency demonetization. The next talk was about the G20 and India receiving the presidency of G20, which was delivered by Mr. Chetan Dhanani, Film Writer. Mr. Dhanani talked about the relevance of G20 and the Youth in India.

Shri Harsh Sanghvi, Hon. Minister for State – Home, Gujarat, was the Chief Guest of the event. He talked to students about the importance of education, sports, skills, use of technology. He shared his views on skills and creativity and stated that a degree should be considered as one of the important tools but nevertheless one should also give more importance to skill development and creativity. Polishing one's skills daily helps everyone to live a better life. He interacted with the students and asked them questions like, “What is that one skill that everyone should know in this technical world according to them?”. He added that this was the first Y20 Samvaad to happen in Gujarat and likewise, there will be more than 350 talks under the event that would be organized by the present Government administration all over the State of Gujarat during the G20 presidency.

After the talk, all the PDEU students got an opportunity to click photographs with the Hon. Minister and other important delegates present at the event. Dr. Udayprakash Sharma and Dr. Venkata Krishnan, Faculty Coordinators of the event, presented a Gujarati-translated booklet on G20 background to Shri Harsh Sanghvi and the Chancellor of Gujarat University, Professor Himanshu Pandya. The Hon. Minister appreciated the gesture. The event proved to be informative and interactive in nature. The Hon. Minister revoiced the important role that the youth has to play in India at present and in future. The talk was motivating and the PDEU student gained new insights.





The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of red umbrellas. Each umbrella is a simple silhouette with a curved handle. Above the top of each umbrella are three small, light blue teardrop shapes representing rain. The umbrellas are scattered across the page in a non-uniform but repeating pattern.

Audit Course

AUDIT COURSE 2022-26

What is an Audit Course?

The School of Liberal Studies (SLS) offers an Audit course, especially for its first-year students. The course is a step toward one of the main objectives of SLS, to enhance a student's creative thinking and foster a scholarly teaching and learning culture based on reflective and creative independence. With the utmost discipline, confidence, and guidance of the respected faculty members Dr. Neeta Khurana and Capt Khushali Purohit, the Mentors and Interns of the Audit Team and Exposure to NCC, conduct sessions maintaining a friendly, positive environment with exploration and fun.

MADHUBANI ART

What is Madhubani Art?

Madhubani - Mithila Painting (also called Madhubani art or Mithila painting) is practised in the Mithila region of India and Nepal. Painting is done with fingers, twigs, brushes, nib-pens, and matchsticks, using natural dyes and pigments, and is characterized by eye-catching geometrical patterns. There is ritual content for particular occasions, such as birth or marriage, and festivals, such as Holi, Surya Shasti, Kali Puja, Upanayana, and Durga Puja.

SESSION:

The School of Liberal Studies conducts a compulsory Audit course program for first-year students for which a session on Madhubani Art was conducted on March 25 & 26, 2023, which was attended by groups 2 and 4, respectively, and April 8 & 9, 2023 which was attended by groups 1 and 3 respectively.

The session began with a presentation on Madhubani Art, where the students were taught about its origin and how the art has evolved over the years and has not lost its authenticity. Followed by that, the students were made aware of the usage of art in primitive times. Followed by the theoretical session, the practical session began when the students were first given a sheet of paper where they practised different motifs. The students were shown previous years artwork too, which gave them a clearer idea about the artwork and helped them decide on their figures.

Post-lunch, the students were given a diary on which they had to draw the final product. They also used colours to highlight their work. All the students drew beautiful art pieces.

The session ended with capturing photographs of the students with their incredible artwork. Everyone learned a new form of art today. Being the last session, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the session.

SESSION DATES AND GROUPS:

The first-year students were divided into four groups and had their session on the following dates.

25th March 2023: Group 2 (22BABBA126-22BABBA250)

26th March 2023: Group 4 (22BABBA381-22BABBA415 & 22BCO001-22BCO092)

8th April 2023: Group 1 (22BABBA001-22BABBA125)

9th April 2023: Group 3 (22BABBA251-22BABBA380)

Testimonials

Krusha Sherasiya (22BABBA128): The interactive session taught me a new art form. I worked on it and made a beautiful art piece with Seema Ma'am's and the team's assistance.

Aayushi Thakkar (22BABBA201): Firstly, it's great that the Audit team organized a session on Madhubani art. It's a beautiful and unique art form that only a few people are familiar with, so it's an excellent opportunity for us to learn about it and try it out ourselves. Thank you for providing us with such an experience, and looking forward to more sessions.

Shivam Singh (22BABBA254): It was a great way to spend the weekend. It was very interactive and creative for all of us. I enjoyed every part of the process. Best support by the interns and the faculty.

SESSION PHOTOS:



MATA NI PACHEDI (Vegetable Painting)

What is Mata ni Pachedi?

The art form is also known as ‘Kalamkari of Gujarat’ due to its resemblance to the Kalamkari of South India, which is the same method of painting, namely using a pen (kalam) made out of bamboo. Mata ni pachedi, which means “behind the idol of the Goddess,” is a cloth enshrined with painting narratives of Goddess Durga in her various incarnations. The pachedis are essentially an expression of the divine cosmic energy of the mother goddess and the unified manifestation of the creative and destructive principles in her person. It is believed that Gujarat's nomadic Devipujak community (Vaghari) belonged to a lower caste and were labelled as ‘untouchables,’ d,’ soy were barred from entering temples and other religious places. They found an ingenious solution to overcome this vile restrictive practice and created their own shrines of worship.

The Audit Team of The School of Liberal Studies organized a session for the students of the 2022 batch under the topic “Mata ni Pachedi.” The session was led by Kiritbhai Chitara and his team and was managed and overseen by the team Audit Course. The session was held on 25th-26th March 2023 for the students of groups 1 & 3, respectively, and on 8th-9th April for the students of groups 2 & 4. The students were enthusiastic about learning such a unique art form.

The session began with a brief explanation which was first theoretically provided to the students by the artisans and then practically shown to them. The process starts with removing the starch from the cloth, and then the fabric is treated with digestive enzymes like herda-berda powder which turns the material yellowish. After that, students traced the figures of goddesses and animals with the help of tracing papers. A mixture of rusted iron and jaggery was used to highlight the borders. Later, students painted the figures with natural colours made from dhavdi flowers, hibiscus, alizarin, and other natural dyes. The next step was to wash the cloth under running water and boil it to lock the natural colours.

All the students were given personal attention and step-wise guidance throughout the session.

Everyone enjoyed working with natural products and was creative enough to make unique designs independently. All the motifs turned out to be extremely beautiful. The session was concluded by capturing wonderful photographs of the artwork.

SESSION DATES & GROUPS:

First-year students who attended sessions on respective dates are divided into four groups.

25th March 2023: Group 1 (22BABBA001-22BABBA125)

26th March 2023: Group 3 (22BABBA251-22BABBA380)

8th April 2023: Group 2 (22BABBA126-22BABBA250)

9th April 2023: Group 4 (22BABBA381-22BABBA415 & 22BCO001-22BCO092)



SESSION PHOTOS:



Testimonials

Vansh Gandhi (22BABBA073): The Audit course conducted today regarding Vegetable art was terrific. It taught us a lot about how Vegetable colours are made and how they can be used to make artwork. The basic concept of today's work was to make us realize how this art is used in creating authentic yet unique drawings about various objects like the sun, King, warrior, Vajantri, horse, tiger, elephant, etc., which keeps Indian culture rich as always. Thank you for this fantastic opportunity.

The Audit course sessions are held and managed under the:

DIRECTOR SLS	
Prof. Nigam Dave	
FACULTY COORDINATORS	
Dr. Neeta Khurana	Capt. Khushali Purohit
MENTORS	
Helly Gajjar (20BABBA031)	Keyanshi Desai (20BABBA006)
Shivali Patel (20BABBA216)	
VOLUNTEERS	
Ansh Acharya (21BABBA368)	Diya Kalavadia (21BABBA244)
Harshita Trilokani (21BABBA298)	Hetvi Trivedi (21BABBA167)
Krishna Pathak (21BABBA186)	Natik Desai (21BABBA225)
Tejasvini Nargund (21BABBA343)	



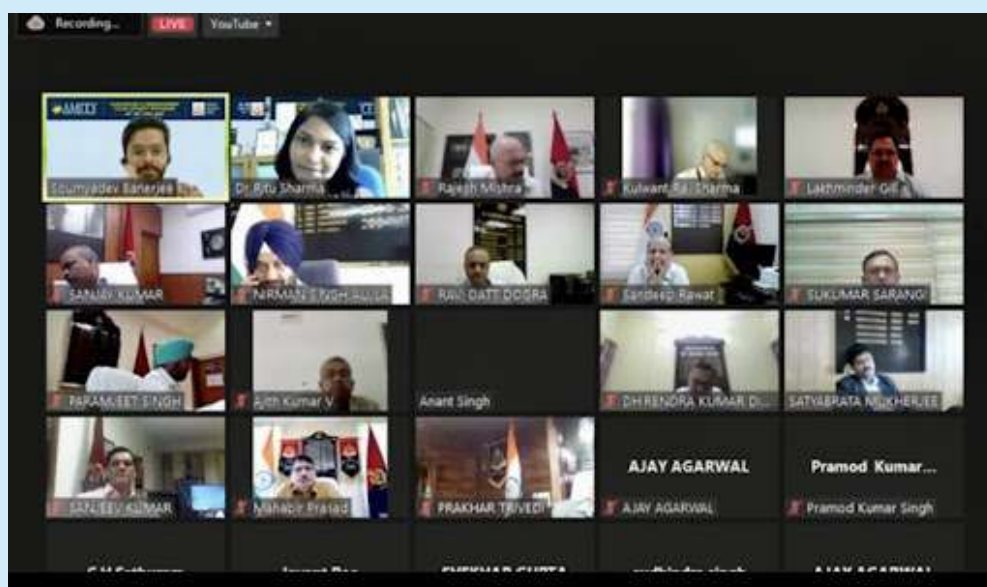
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Achievements of Faculty and Staff Members

DR. RITU SHARMA

Dr Ritu Sharma was invited for conducting an expert talk on personality mapping and leadership for organisational effectiveness; a 5 day online MDP on Leadership and Management Development Programme for DIGs (BSF) organised by AITD on April 27, 2023.

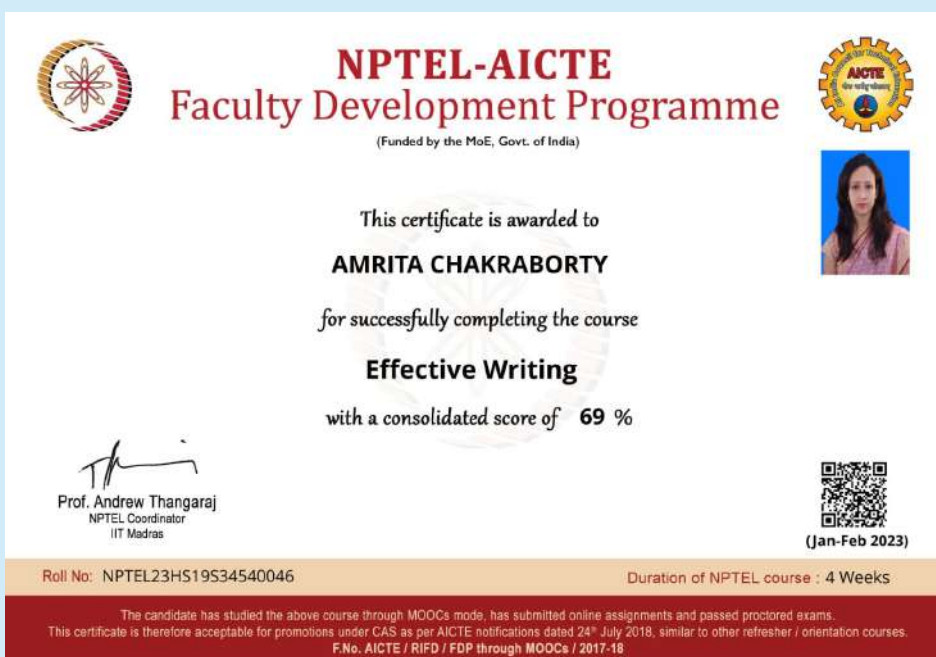
She was also invited for conducting an expert talk on Anger Management and Coping Skills as a part of BSF core leadership and Management Development Program for Commandants; a 12 day online MDP organised by AITD on June 17, 2023.



DR. AMRITA CHAKRABORTY



Dr. Amrita Chakraborty was invited for a panel discussion by Ahmedabad Management Institute (AMA) on World Intellectual Property Day 2023 under the theme 'Women and IP: Accelerating Women and Creativity'. The event was held on April 29, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.



Dr. Chakraborty completed a course on ‘Effective Writing’ as a part of the Faculty Development Programme under Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) and obtained a score of 69%. The course was conducted in January and February 2023 and the examination was held on March 26, 2023.

DR. HARMIK VAISHNAV

Dr. Harmik Vaishnav was invited as one of the experts in a panel talk themed on education and careers. The programme called 'Career Café' was live on DD Girnar on May 30, 2023. Dr Vaishnav talked about the concept and offerings of Liberal Studies as an emerging educational domain and various career opportunities with it. There were certain live questions from the audience which were replied in the live show.



DR. RACHNA ARORA



Dr. Rachna Arora, Assistant professor in the Department of Languages Literature and Aesthetics at the School of Liberal Studies, Pandit Deendayal Energy University, chaired two sessions at the two-day National Conference on ‘*Women, Narrative & Agency: Enhancing Women’s Empowerment in India by Probing Violence, Gender Discrimination and Recuperation & Voices Unheard: An Approach to Indigenous Indian Literature*’ organized by the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT Roorkee, in association with the Ministry of Women Empowerment & Child Development, Uttarakhand, and Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi on April 12-13, 2023.

The first session was chaired on April 12, 2023, on the “Body Politics” theme. The session was dedicated to women's narratives about gendered discrimination, sexual violence, rape culture, and gender rights alike.


The second session was chaired on April 13, 2023. The session explored indigenous Indian literature and topics related to homogeneity, regional narratives, folk tales, and storytelling tradition.

SHANTI CHOUDHARY

Mr. Shanti Chaudhary published a research paper in the Scopus Indexed journal titled *Global research performance on social media security: a bibliometric visualization analysis*. The name of the journal is *Information Discovery and Delivery*. The publisher for the same is Emerald.

Url: <https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/IDD-04-2022-0029>



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Students' Achievements

ISHIKA SHAH (22MAMC01)

Ishika Shah , a second-year master's student, is an entrepreneur, singer and Zumba instructor. She judged and organised a Zumba workshop, in “BNI Kids Got Talent”, in April 2023, where BNI is a business networking group recognised globally, which in Gujarat, is managed by Yash Vasant.

Ishika further organised an exhibition for her own brand ‘Homemade Treats by Ishika’ where she baked exclusive homemade dips & desserts and did a short commercial ad with actor Malhar Thakar.



YAHYA ABDELRAHMAN

20BABBA406

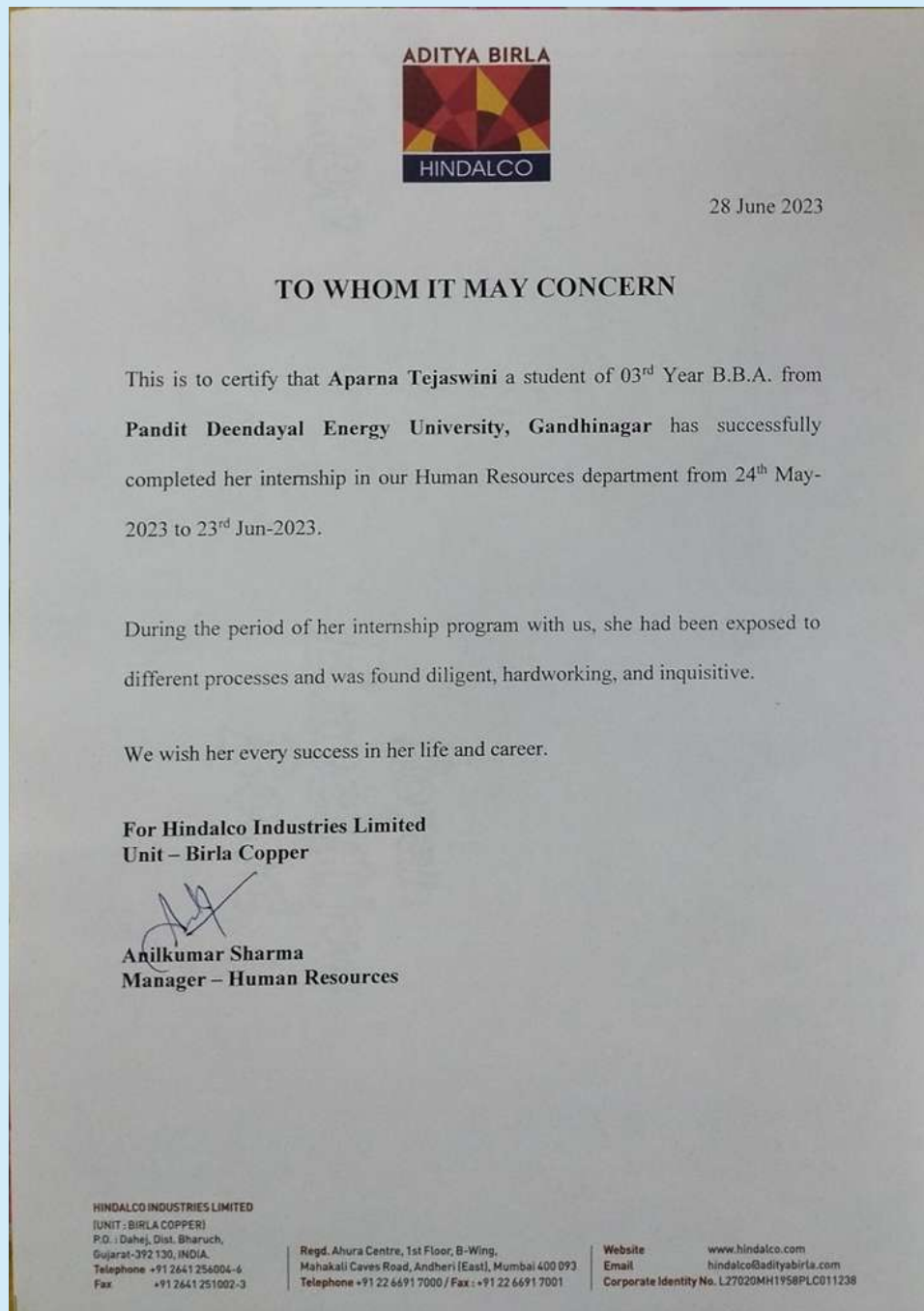
Yahya Abdelrahman joined the U20 Mayoral Summit from July 7-8, 2023 and worked as the Liaison Officer for the delegates of Saudi Arabia.



APARNA TEJASWINI

20BABBA214

Aparna completed an HR internship focused on Employee Relations in Hindalco Industries Ltd of Aditya Birla group in Birla Copper, Dahej.




VISHVA GANDHI

22BABBA021

Vishva Gandhi worked as a liaison officer in the U20 mayoral summit where she was responsible for facilitating communication between the corporation and the delegates assigned to her. She got the opportunity to communicate with the mayor of Kitchener, Canada and his Chief Commercial Officer. The internship taught her patience, management, better communication skills as well as problem solving.



The background of the entire page is a light pink color. It is decorated with a repeating pattern of red umbrellas. Each umbrella is a simple, stylized shape with a curved handle. Above each umbrella are three small, light blue teardrop shapes representing rain. The umbrellas are scattered across the page, some partially cut off by the edges.

Media Coverage



AHMEDABAD MIRROR

05-05-2023



From last resort to first choice, humanities witness renaissance

Liberal Arts Command Same Or Higher Fees Than Engg In A'bad

Sharan.Yagnik@timesgroup.com

Ahmedabad: Once a last choice on the wishlist of students, the humanities are seeing a remarkable resurgence in popularity, and how! The courses command fees that are as high if not higher than engineering courses, which along with medicine, forms the traditional top billing for students.

Reflecting the trend, Karnavati University's annual fee structure for BTech courses



Karnavati University's annual fee structure for BTech is Rs 90,000, while that for BA exceeds Rs 2 lakh

se is Rs 90,000, while that for BA exceeds Rs 2 lakh – more than double the cost.

Several premier institu-

tes in Ahmedabad are witnessing this shift due to the growing recognition of the vast career opportunities that humanities offer. The Pandit Deendayal Energy University charges annual fees of Rs 2.4 lakh for both BTech and BA courses. The Ahmedabad University (AU) has placed a higher tag of Rs 4 lakh on humanities courses compared to Rs 3 lakh for technical programmes.

► Continued on P 4

'Appeal of liberal studies lies in its range of career choices'

► Continued from P1

Highlighting the changing dynamics, Ritesh Hada, the president of Karnavati University, said the BTech and BA courses have 120 seats each.

"Over the past few years, the varsity has received more applications for the BA course. The appeal of liberal studies lies in its expansive range of career choices, including several emerging applied fields. This, coupled with the increasing demand from both students and the industry, has contributed to

the surge in popularity," he added.

Education experts said the curriculum for liberal studies equips students with critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills, empowering them to excel in various sectors. The field opens doors to careers in journalism, public policy, social sciences, entrepreneurship, and numerous other domains.

Traditional universities

like Gujarat University have also witnessed a significant shift. Engineering courses



were in high demand in the past, while arts courses experienced steady or declining enrolment numbers. However, the tables have turned, with arts courses experiencing increased interest. "In 2018-19, 1,823 of 14,500 BA seats remained vacant. In contrast, the vacancy reduced to just 370 seats in 2022-23, with the number of seats increa-

sing to 15,800," said Jayesh Solanki, coordinator (admissions) at GU.

Pointing to the growing competition for humanities and management seats, PDEU registrar, Tarun Shah, said, "We got 5,000 applications for 1,260 engineering seats. In contrast, we got over 2,000 applications for 420 humanities and management courses seats."

Prof Nigam Dave, director of the School of Liberal Studies (SLS) at PDEU, said, "The increasing popularity of humanities can be attributed to several factors. The courses

often align with the syllabus of competitive exams and international university curricula, giving students an advantage. Additionally, emerging fields like international relations require expertise in the humanities, creating opportunities for students.

Prof Dave emphasizes the significance of applied humanities, citing the example of psychology after the COVID pandemic. "The flexibility and subject knowledge gained from humanities studies provide students with valuable skills for various industries headed.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त बन्दी

G2 Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता

TIMES OF INDIA

25-05-2023





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