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Let's Talk

PEER LEARNING: THE GAME CHANGER IN ACADEMICS



For many of us who have left the realm of formal education quite a while back, it is always nostalgic to revisit our campus stints. In fact, it would not be an exaggeration to iterate that our personal and professional selves were somewhat shaped by our campus experiences. A significant component of our composite experiences at various higher-educational institutions is composed of our interactions with peers – co-learners, seniors, and juniors. While our teachers have delivered valuable academic lessons within the confines of the classrooms, we have always learnt the life hacks from our peers. We have invariably acquired the ways of life from our academic contemporaries. From learning new languages to mastering the all-encompassing Indian concept of Jugaad (a quick fix for anything and everything under the Sun), and from understanding how

to practice empathy to figuring out the ways to convert an interview into a final employment offer – our peers have enriched us in ways from than one.

The global academic community, thus, has started to appreciate the immense importance of peer learning – a relatively novel construct that is only going to become more important in the years to come. In fact, many renowned universities have made peer learning an integral part of their academic structures. At a time when collaboration is slowly but gradually replacing competition, academic institutions from across the globe would be banking on the power of peer learning to push the cause of education to the next logical level.

While, the philosophy of peer learning can be discussed in greater detail, let us look at some of its practical applications:

- 1. Sharing of Ideas: History tells us that most of the important student innovations had their geneses in the hostel rooms or the corners by the last classrooms. When peers discuss their ideas with each other without the fear of being judged or evaluated, the possibility of newer ideas cropping up is way greater. Therefore, universities should make it a point to foster such informal discussions and give students enough time to indulge with each other. Cramming classes just to fill up the slots has never been the greatest of ideas.
- 2. Cross-cultural Connections: Often, we are constricted by our own cultural biases and prejudices. Interactions with people from across the cultural spectrum help us look at life from multiple other perspectives. This process in turn broadens our horizon and makes us open to new ideas and thought processes. In an essentially diverse country like India, such intercultural and cross-cultural connects are required for the very sustenance of democracy and furtherance of national bonhomie.



- 3. Development of Camaraderie: Students learn to coexist with differences when peer interactions happen. From an I-based perspective, a student graduates to a We-based perspective through peer interactions. Wonderful things happen when people learn to work in groups. Peer interactions and peer learning helps people think and act in groups. As a growing and powerful democracy, India stands to benefit substantially if people understand the value of camaraderie and group excellence.
- **4. Democratization of Learning:** The traditional teacher-student model of learning has run its natural course. In the age of instant information, nobody has a monopoly on wisdom. Therefore, there is a greater focus on creativity and innovation. From a data-based approach to a solution-based approach, the world of academics has changed in the right direction. Academic democracy is thus not just an idea, it is a living and thriving practice. Peer learning can go a long way in ensuring academic democracy.

For peer learning to gain momentum, academic institutions need to adopt a more pragmatic approach towards ensuring more interactions among peers. However, all such interactions should happen within the ambit of common sense and decency. If properly channelized, peer learning will be the next buzzword in academics.

Signing off for now!

Stay safe, happy, and healthy!

Cheers!
Dr. Amrita Chakraborty
Editor
SLS Mirror





WORKSHOP ON DATA ANALYSIS AND REPORT WRITING

Rapporteur: Dr. Ashwin Parwani

Number of Participants: 150

January 17, 2024: The UG Dissertation Coordination Committee at the School of Liberal Studies organized a one-day workshop on Data Analysis and Report Writing for undergraduate final semester students on January 17th, 2024. The workshop was successfully planned and executed by the faculty coordinators: Dr. Ashwin Parwani (Dept. of Bus. Admin. and Commerce), Dr. Rajesh Desai (Dept. of Bus. Admin. and Commerce), and Dr. Shraddha Sharma (Dept. of Social Science). The aim of the workshop was to orient students about the quantitative as well as qualitative tools and techniques of data analysis. Furthermore, students were also made aware of essential components to write a dissertation report. The workshop covered an overview of synopsis writing as well as library resources and plagiarism detection.

The workshop began with an opening address by the Director of SLS, Prof. (Dr.) Nigam Dave, and the Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Vishvesh Badheka. Furthermore, valuable experience and useful insights about research dissertations were shared with students by the Dean of FoLS, Dr. Ritu Sharma.

Dr. Ambati Nageswara Rao (Assistant Professor, GNLU) conducted a session on Qualitative Data Analysis and Interpretation. Dr. Manoj Sahoo (SLS, PDEU) taught Data Collection Tools and Techniques (for primary and secondary). Dr. Ankita Sharma (Assistant Professor, SLS) gave an overview of Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods.

Dr. Ashwin Parwani (Dept. of Business Admin & Commerce, Assistant Professor, SLS), Dr. Venkat Krishnan (IR, Assistant Professor, SLS), Dr. Nausheen Nizami (Economics, Associate Professor, SLS), Dr. Urmi Satyan (English, Assistant Professor, SLS), Dr. Amrita Chakraboty (Mass Com., Assistant Professor, SLS), Prof. Pradeep Mallik (Mass Com., Professor, SLS), Dr. Shraddha Sharma (Psychology, Assistant Professor, SLS), Dr. Anurag Srivastav (Pub. Administration, Assistant Professor, SLS) conducted a session on Quantitative Data Analysis and Interpretation.

Dr. Ritu Sharma (Dean, SLS) acquainted students with how to draft a dissertation report along with its essential elements. With a live demonstration, Dr. Rajesh Desai (Assistant Professor, SLS) discussed how to convert a Dissertation Report into a Research Paper. Dr. Shraddha Sharma (Assistant Professor, SLS) explained to students about Plagiarism and Synopsis Submission. The session concluded with a plagiarism check and ways to control it.

































PLEDGES AND PRACTICES OF PRO PLANET PEOPLE #PDEU #VIBRANT GUJARAT 2024 5-P CAMPAIGN

Rapporteur: Dr. Amrita Chakraborty

The Faculty Members of the School of Liberal Studies took the Vibrant Gujarat pledge on January 18th, 2024

ઉચ્ય શિક્ષણ કમિશનરશ્રીની કચેરી

મફેકમ શાખા, બ્લોક નં. ૧૨, બીજો માળ,ડૉ. જીવરાજ મફેતા ભવન, ગાંધીનગર, ગુજરાત રાજ્ય.

કમાંક: ઉશિક/મકમ-૮/5PYતિજ્ઞા/૨૦૨૪/318 Vice - દુભલોદ

41.08/09/2058

પ્રતિ.

આયાર્યશ્રી.

સરકારી કોલેજ તમામ.

અનુદાનિત કોલેજ તમામ,

યુનિવર્સિટી તમામ,

ગુજરાત રાજ્ય

વિષય:- Vibrant Gujarat 2024 5 P Campaign અન્વયે પ્રતિજ્ઞા લેવા બાબત

શ્રીમાન.

ઉપરોક્ત વિષય પરત્વે જણાવવાનું કે <u>Vibrant Gujarat 2024 5 P Campaign</u> અંતર્ગત વિદ્યાર્થિઓમા પર્યાવરણ પ્રત્યે જાગુતી કેળવાય તે હેતુ માટે GEDA ની સુચના મુજબ ગુજરાત રાજ્યની તમામ શૈક્ષણિક સંસ્થાઓમા તા: 0૯/૦૧/૨૦૨૪ ના રોજ વિદ્યાર્થિઓને પ્રતિજ્ઞા લેવાની છે, જે પ્રતિજ્ઞા પત્રનો નમુનો આ સાથે સામેલ છે જે પ્રતિજ્ઞા લેવડાવી તેના ફોટોગ્રાફ્સ નીચે આપેલ લિંક ઉપર અપલોડ કરવાના રહેશે.

LINK: https://forms.gle/VsJ3enVt5eW2JnnA6

નાયમ નિયામક(મરુંકમ) ઉચ્ચ શિક્ષણ કમિશનરની કચેરી ગુ.રા., ગાંધીનગર.

બિડાણઃ પ્રતિજ્ઞા પત્ર (અંગેજી તથા ગુજરાતી)

શ્રેયાન અધિક્ષકનું ઈ—મેઈલ આઈ ડી :- <u>ssesta-che@gujgov.edu.in</u> નાયબ નિયામકના ફોન નંબર :- ૦૭૯–૨૩<mark>૨૫૩</mark>૯૯૪.



Vibrant Gujarat 5 P Campaign

Pledges and Practices of Pro-Planet People

"I pledge to undertake an environment-friendly lifestyle and practice the philosophy of *Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam*

I pledge to consume products responsibly, taking only what I need, and repurposing and recycling whatever is left

I pledge to minimize waste, reduce carbon footprint and improve ecological handprint

I pledge to live sustainably, promote equitable utilization of resources and reduce overconsumption

I pledge to show compassion for all living beings and promote the idea of conservation and living in harmony with nature

I pledge to continuously motivate my friends, family and others to adopt such an environment-friendly and climate-positive lifestyle"



Vibrant Gujarat 5 P Campaign

Pledges and Practices of Pro-Planet People

"હું પર્યાવરણ-મૈત્રીપૂર્ણ જીવનશૈલી હાથ ધરવા અને વસુધૈવ કુટુમ્બકમના ફિલસૂફીનો અભ્યાસ કરવાનો સંકલ્પ કરું છું.

ઠું જવાબદારીપૂર્વક ઉત્પાદનોનો વપરાશ કરવાની પ્રતિજ્ઞા લઉં છું, મને જે જોઈએ છે તે જ લેવાનું અને જે કંઈ બચ્ચું છે તેનો પુનઃઉપયોગ અને રિસાયક્લિંગ કરું છું

હું કચરો ધટાડવા, કાર્બન ફ્રટપ્રિન્ટ ધટાડવા અને ઇકોલોજીકલ હેન્ડપ્રિન્ટ સુધારવાની પ્રતિજ્ઞા લઉં છું

હું ટકાઉ જીવન, સંસાધનોના સમાન ઉપયોગને પ્રોત્સાફન આપવા અને વધુ પડતો વપરાશ ઘટાડવાનો સંકલ્પ કરું છું

ફું તમામ જીવો પ્રત્યે કરુણા દર્શાવવા અને સંરક્ષણ અને પ્રકૃતિ સાથે સુમેળમાં રફેવાના વિયારને પ્રોત્સાહન આપવાનું વયન આપું છું.

હું મારા મિત્રો, કુટુંબીજનો અને અન્ય લોકોને આવી પર્યાવરણ-મૈત્રીપૂર્ણ અને આબોહવા માટે સકારાત્મક જીવનશૈલી અપનાવવા માટે સતત પ્રેરિત કરવાનો સંકલ્પ કરું છું"





WORKSHOP ON ROLE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS IN CONTENT MARKETING

Rapporteur: Steffi Joseph

Number of Participants: 43

January 19, 2024: The Mass Communication Area of the Department of Languages, Literature, and Aesthetics hosted a full-day workshop on 'Role of Public Relations in Content Marketing' on January 19th, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The workshop was delivered by Mr. Kausik Misra, Non-Fiction Content Head of Zee Television.

With an illustrious career spanning over 13 years in the industry, Mr. Misra stands as a seasoned media professional renowned for his prowess in public relations, brand management, digital marketing, and content development. This event was organized by Dr. Amrita Chakraborty, Assistant Professor of Mass Communication in SLS. The workshop brought together the undergraduate and postgraduate students of Mass Communication eager to glean insights from Mr. Misra's wealth of knowledge and experience.

The event commenced with a warm welcome and the presentation of a memento to the distinguished speaker by our Dean, Dr. Ritu Sharma, and Head of Department, Professor (Dr.) Pradeep Mallik. Emphasizing the collaborative nature of the workshop, the phrase "We are here to co-learn" set the tone for an interactive and engaging session.

At the onset, Mr. Misra highlighted the importance of building relationships in the realm of Public Relations. His emphasis on "*Play, Pause, Rewind,*" underscored the significance of revisiting and nurturing relationships, constituting the core of effective PR strategies. The participants were then prompted to encapsulate PR in one word, yielding diverse responses such as sales, connections, brands, communications, credibility, and reputation management. The consensus was that PR professionals are essentially story-builders leveraging the power of storytelling to engage audiences.

Moving ahead, Mr. Misra delved into the importance of trends in crafting effective communications and tressed that brand building is fundamentally about engagement. The importance of curiosity in human nature was explored, with insights into how intrigue and authenticity contribute to brand building. Creative strategies, trend spotting, and trend setting were discussed, capturing the essence of the contemporary PR scenario.



Post-lunch, an interactive exercise challenged participants to speak for one minute on a chosen topic, sparking conversations and honing personal branding skills. The speaker shared the nuances of creating a brand for an individual or a product. Participants gained insights into the strategic steps involved in not only building a compelling brand narrative but also harnessing its potential to generate revenue in the competitive landscape. Case studies, including the '#ChangeHerNot' campaign by Zee TV and Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 2023 initiatives, added real-world context to theoretical discussions. A dynamic Q&A session followed, which contributed to a comprehensive understanding of the concepts covered.

As the event drew to a close, Dr. Amrita Chakraborty expressed her gratitude to Mr. Kausik Misra for the valuable learning experience. She reiterated the department's commitment to organizing such enriching events that bridge the gap between academic learning and industry insight. The workshop unfolded as a platform for participants to explore the symbiotic relationship between PR and content marketing in a jargon-free and lucid manner, recognizing the pivotal role it plays in crafting and maintaining a favorable image in the ever-evolving digital landscape.







While Teaching



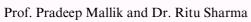




Attendees









Interaction



Group Photo



FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY DAY CELEBRATION

Rapporteur: Shakshi Srivastava

Number of Participants: 8

January 21, 2024: Eight students of M.A. (Psychology) Semester 4, accompanied by Dr. Shraddha Sharma, eagerly participated in the Forensic Psychology Day event at Gujarat University. The Directorate of Forensic Science, Home Department, Government of Gujarat, organized a noteworthy event to commemorate Forensic Psychology Day. The theme for this year's event was the 'Use of Digitalization and its Psychological Effects in a Changing World.' Distinguished guests, renowned experts, and professionals in the field gathered to discuss and shed light on the evolving landscape of forensic psychology in the era of digitalization.

The event commenced with the honourable Gujarat High Court Judge, Nikhil Kariel, serving as the chief guest. Judge Kariel provided valuable insights into the recent trends of criminal activities and the emergence of new case complexities. His address set the stage for a comprehensive exploration of the challenges faced by forensic psychologists in the ever-evolving world of crime.

The first speaker, Professor Dr. C.R. Mukundan, a renowned neuroscientist, delved into the topic of Generation Z's internet usage and its psychological impact. He highlighted the behavioural patterns and cognitive shifts observed in young individuals due to extensive internet exposure, providing a valuable perspective for forensic psychologists dealing with modern cases.

Mr. Niraj Badgujar, IPS Additional Police Commissioner (Crime), took the stage as the second speaker. He shared insights into the challenges faced in dealing with cybercrime and cases related to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. He also provided a glimpse into the strategies employed by law enforcement agencies to combat these crimes effectively.

The third speaker, Mr. Chetan Mukundan, an expert in Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP), focused on the use of NLP techniques in criminal investigations. He discussed how understanding and applying NLP principles can aid in uncovering deception and decoding the intricacies of criminal behaviour.

Dr. Nimrat Singh, a clinical psychologist with extensive counselling experience, presented on psychosocial factors contributing to vulnerability to crime. She explored the role of parenting styles, attachment patterns, and early experiences in shaping an individual's propensity for criminal activities.



Dr. Kalrav Mistry, a multi-disciplinary expert in sexology, psychiatry, and addiction, addressed the evolution of criminal minds under the effects of narcotic drugs. Dr. Mistry's speech was not only informative but also raised awareness about the complexities involved in addressing criminal activities. His comprehensive overview covered social, psychological, biological, and lifestyle factors influencing criminal behaviour under the influence of drugs.

The final speaker, Senior Advocate Tejas Barot from the Gujarat High Court, discussed anachronistic laws and the inadequacy of existing machinery in combating cybercrime. Barot emphasized the need for legal reforms and technological advancements to effectively counter the growing menace of cyber threats.

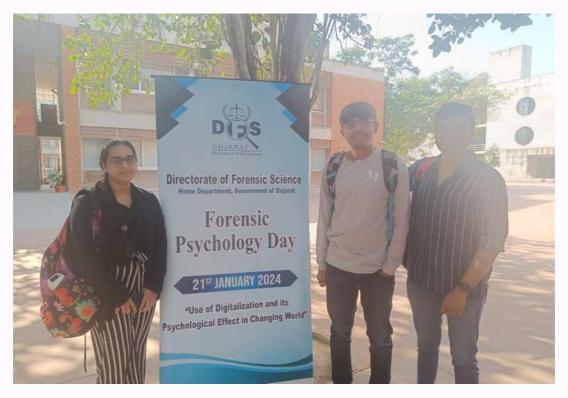
In conclusion, the Forensic Psychology Day at Gujarat University provided a holistic understanding of the recent trends and challenges faced by forensic psychologists. The speakers collectively illuminated the psychological effects of digitalization on criminal behaviour, offering valuable insights for professionals working in the field. The event served as a platform for interdisciplinary discussions, fostering collaboration between legal, psychological, and technological perspectives to address the evolving nature of crime in the digital age.













UNVEILING THE FINANCIAL CANVAS: LIVE SCREENING OF THE BUDGET

Rapporteur: Priyanshu Chavda and Vritti Lohana

Number of Participants: 40

February 01, 2024: To bridge the gap between theory and real-world implications, the Economics Area, Department of Social Science, SLS PDEU, hosted a riveting event, the Live Screening and Discussion of the Union Budget 2024-25. The event aimed to provide students with an immersive experience of witnessing the unveiling of the national budget, unraveling the intricate layers of economic policy-making. The event drew an enthusiastic audience eager to gain insights into the fiscal roadmap of the country.



Invitation poster for the event

Event Highlights

Halwa Ceremony

The event kicked off with a symbolic Halwa Ceremony, mirroring the official ritual observed at the national level. 'Gajjar ka Halwa' was prepared and shared with all participants. This momentous tradition set the stage for the unveiling of the budget, connecting the event with the rich cultural heritage surrounding the national budget announcement.



Real-time Budget Unveiling

With the Halwa Ceremony and Hi-Tea setting the tone, the live screening commenced, projecting the official budget presentation. Participants engaged attentively with the proceedings, making the experience educational and enjoyable.





Participants listening to the Speech by the Honorable Finance Minister

Post-budget discussion

Following the budget presentation, a series of in-class discussions were organized. Students actively participated, offering their insights and analysis of the budget's strengths and shortcomings. The engaging discussions facilitated a deeper understanding of the economic forces at play. Faculties of Economics Area, Dr. Nausheen Nizami, and Dr. Dhyani Mehta shed light on the comparative differences in the budget from previous years and the effects it would have on financial markets and the economy in the upcoming year. Students from different branches joined the event providing multidisciplinary views while contributing to the analysis of the budget.



EXPOSURE TO NATIONAL SEMINAR ON UNFOLDING MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS AND WAY FORWARD IN 21ST CENTURY

Rapporteur: Anjali Mehta

Number of Participants: 36

February 2 - 4, 2024: BA and MA students of Psychology Area, School of Liberal Studies, PDEU, along with Dr. Gitanjali Kapoor, attended a three day National Seminar at Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat. The B. M. Institute of Mental Health organised this seminar to unfold the layers of mental health related burning issues and to understand present mechanisms to prevent and protect lives falling in this situation and develop strategy to address the problem with a multidisciplinary approach.

The first speaker- Dr. Jayakumar C., additional professor, NIMHANS, spoke about '20th century frameworks for psychosocial support and how it has evolved since then'. He highlighted the psychosocial impacts of wars, and briefed on the crisis with examples of Mumbai Riots, Marathwada earthquake and Bengaluru circus. This session was followed by the next speaker- Dr. S. L. Vaya, Clinical Psychologist and a pioneer in forensic psychology in India, who spoke about 'Psychological care and rehabilitation of disorders'. She talked about how normal it has been to focus on an individual's disorders, disabilities and the deviance rather than their strengths. She then put forward some interesting points about how labelling clients should be refrained upon. The third speaker of the day was Mr. Mike Brearley, Psychoanalyst and former captain of England Cricket Team, who focused primarily on Sports Psychology and the profound impact of sports on not just sportsmen but also their audience. He also briefly opened up about his experience as a psychoanalyst.

On the Second day, Dr. Saroj Arya- Professor (Retd.), National Institute of Personas with Intellectual Disability (NIPID), started the session with a detailed talk on mental health and psychological wellbeing among the youth. She emphasised upon how the youth should not 'find' but 'create' their lives since it is the time of self-discovery for them and adolescents represent an upheaval between how they cling to the past and constantly worry about the future. The fifth speaker was Dr. Asha Srivastava- Professor and Dean, School of Behavioural Forensic, National Forensic Science University, Gandhinagar. She discussed Clinical and Forensic Psychology in detail while sharing interesting case studies to elaborate on her topic. She also highlighted the interdisciplinary nature of the two fields, and dived deep into the complexity of the job roles of these fields to establish treatment and rehabilitation for victims as well as criminals. Dr. Punita Grover- consulting psychiatrist, Gujarat Institute of Psychological Services and Hospital (GIPS), took the session over post lunch to discuss the history of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, and how it can be used to help clients unlearn the behaviours that need to be eliminated or modified.



On the third Day, Dr. Rajesh Maniar- Senior Psychiatrist, (GIPS), shed light over the disparity between the increasing number of people who require psychological services and the scarcity in the number of mental health professionals available to provide said services. The last speaker, Ms. Alison Macdonald- British Psychotherapist and Clinical Psychologist, London, conducted a very elaborate and informative session on 'Cognitive Analytical Therapy'. The seminar ended with a brief closing ceremony post this session. The seminar was a great learning experience for BA and MA students as it focused on the mental health landscape with some multidisciplinary insights, as well as introduced them to innovative approaches in therapy models and technology integration. Moreover, the students got the opportunity to interact with and learn from highly qualified professionals from around the world.







PDEU YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2024

Rapporteur: Navya Mody

Number of Participants: 230 delegates

February 2-4, 2024: The PDEU Youth Parliament 2024 was hosted from 2nd and 4th February, 2024 by the School of Liberal Studies at PDEU University in Gandhinagar. Over 200 students from across India participated as delegates. They engaged in stimulating discussions and debates on issues of national importance across committees modelled after the Lok Sabha.

The event collaborated with several partners like the Election Commission of Gujarat, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Blind People Association, and Kitaab aur Kalam Foundation. The election commission facilitated voting simulations to give delegates first-hand experience. Partnerships with Swachh Bharat, the Blind Association and Kitaab aur Kalam stressed social accountability, inclusiveness and unique perspectives.

The delegates showed political acumen, leadership skill and social consciousness while deliberating on 'Electoral reforms', 'Gender rights', and 'Pivotal policies'. They received praise from eminent speakers and the executive board. Exemplary performers were rewarded for public speaking and political aptitude. Many young individuals also received certificates for demonstrating courage and commitment to civic participation.

The event aimed to guide the students towards becoming India's next generation of decision makers. PDEU hopes to make it an annual occasion for encouraging youth participation in the Indian political arena. Overall, the pioneering PDEU Youth Parliament 2024 was a resounding success. The event was hosted by the School of Liberal Studies, PDEU. And our esteemed faculty and students from all departments of PDEU.

The event featured insights from eminent speakers and in their addresses, they highlighted pivotal issues facing the country including electoral reforms, gender rights and the feasibility of the proposed 'One Nation One Election' policy. They emphasized the need for electoral reform to reduce corruption and enhance representation and focused their talk on advancing gender rights and equality across society. Additionally, the possibility of simultaneous state and national elections under the ambitious One Nation One Election initiative was deliberated, weighing the costs and benefits of such an approach. The students enriched these conversations by analyzing concerns around efficacy, inclusion and practical challenges that could accompany such reforms. Overall, the discussions were stimulating, meaningful and eye-opening for all participants involved.



The PDEU Youth Parliament 2024 witnessed passionate youth perspectives on critical governance challenges. It succeeded in its goals of encouraging leadership, political engagement and social consciousness amongst students. PDEU hopes to nurture the next generation of political decision makers in India through this annual event.













VISIT TO RADIO STATION: RADIO CITY AHMEDABAD, 91.1

Rapporteur: Dr. Sandesh Mahajan

February 5, 2024: Accompanied by their faculty members, Dr. Pradeep Mallik, Dr. Sandesh Mahajan, and Mr. Kapil Kella, the Mass Communication students of the School of Liberal Studies embarked on a study trip to the Radio City radio station in Sarkhej, Ahmedabad, renowned for broadcasting on the 91.1 frequency and holding the distinction of being India's first private FM station, marking a pivotal moment in the country's broadcasting landscape.

Upon arrival, the students were greeted by a professionally equipped environment at the station, which reflected Radio City's commitment to state-of-the-art broadcasting technology and operational excellence. Rajiv Patel, Vice President of Programming and Zonal Programming Director for Gujarat and Rajasthan, along with Regional Programming Director Nishant Gadhavi, RJ Saurabh Shukla, and their team of experienced voice artists, guided the students. Under their supervision, the students gained insights into the dynamic world of radio production and the meticulous efforts required to create captivating radio content.

Throughout the tour, the students were introduced to radio controllers and the RCS Zeta application, essential tools for radio operation, and were provided with an overview of the administrative processes involved in station management. The studio tour proved to be an enlightening experience for the students, allowing them to engage with industry professionals and explore the latest advancements in radio technology.

During the visit, the students had the opportunity to gain access to two voice recording studios, two live studios, and the administrative office area, gaining a comprehensive understanding of the operational dynamics of the station. Furthermore, they learned about the challenges faced by producers, particularly amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and were briefed on Radio City's internal operations, competitive landscape, and regulatory framework.

Overall, the visit successfully met its educational objectives, offering students valuable insights into the multifaceted world of radio broadcasting.







SEMINAR ON 'IP IMPLICATIONS ON MEDIA CONTENT'

Rapporteur: Khushi Arora

Number of Participants: 47

February 6, 2024: The Mass Communication Area of the Department of Languages, Literature and Aesthetics organised an Educational Seminar on IP Implications on Media Content. The department hosted Advocate Darshi Mankad, Senior Associate, Y.J. Trivedi & Co. as the resource person of the seminar. On this Tuesday morning, Bachelors' and Masters' students of Mass Communication assembled to navigate the complex web of intellectual property and its implications in the realm of media content. With a wealth of legal acumen, Advocate Darshi steered the seminar with finesse and expertise, unravelling the blacks, whites and greys of intellectual property. The event was organized and coordinated by Dr. Amrita Chakraborty, Assistant Professor of Mass Communication under SLS.

To break the ice and get the minds of the audience churning, the resource person opened the session with a quick run-through of the students' thoughts on the term 'Intellectual Property'. Advocate Mankad, in setting the stage for the seminar, provided a glimpse into the topics she would cover ahead, following which, she untangled the differences between 'Passing Off' and 'Infringement'. The audience were engaged right from the get-go because of the contemporary case studies that she used to press on the nuances of the concepts.

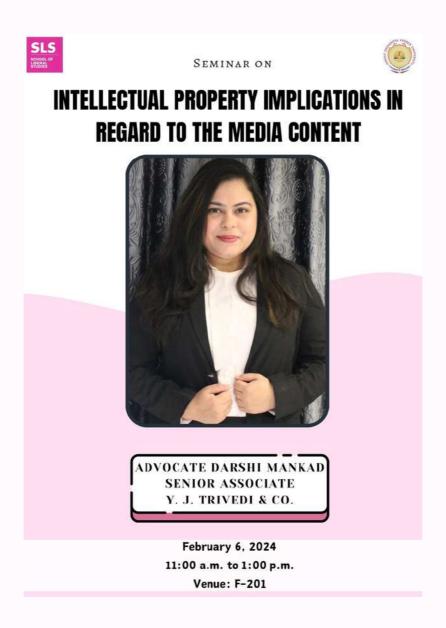
Moving seamlessly, she enlightened the audiences about the intricacies of brand identity, that companies must weigh in areas such as colour combination, design and logos. A dynamic discussion sprung regarding the classification of fair use, drawing from contemporary cases like the Spotify and Zee dispute, the Humans of Bombay case, and the iconic Monkey Selfie case. The real-world examples captivated the students' interest, transforming the seminar into an engaging exploration. Advocate Mankad then elucidated the relevant statutory provisions concerning copyright and infringement.

The seminar took a captivating turn as Ms. Darshi presented intriguing case studies, including the Marico Limited vs. Abhijeet Bhansali dispute, while also delving into the complex landscape of meme marketing and mimicry. The implications of copyright and intellectual property in these realms sparked animated discussions, briefly transforming the room into a lively moot court. Subsequently, Advocate Darshi hinted towards a valuable insight: When it comes to copyright cases around social media platforms, these platforms seldom exhibit interference or participation in the resolution or curtailment of the cases. She expressed that she hoped for a better tomorrow, wherein social media companies would extend a helping hand in such matters.



In her closing remarks, Advocate Mankad encapsulated the essence of the evolving digital era and its impact on the way we communicate. She emphasised the imperative nature of understanding intellectual property boundaries in the changing landscape of social media and creative expression. She also observed, "Intellectual Property is the currency of the future."

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Dr. Amrita Chakraborty and the presentation of a token of gratitude to Advocate Darshi Mankad by Dr. Pradeep Mallik, the Head of Department, marking the culmination of an intellectually enriching event. The seminar served as a beacon, illuminating the path for attendees to navigate the intricate nexus between intellectual property and media domains.























WORKSHOP ON CAREER IN PUBLIC POLICY

Rapporteur: Rahul Tejannavar

Number of Participants: 220

February 9, 2024: The School of Liberal Studies, in collaboration with the Alumni Association of PDEU, organized a *'Careers in Public Policy'* workshop on February 9th, 2024 at Pandit Deendayal Energy University. The esteemed panelists who were present are as follows:

- 1. Mr Diwakar Jhurani Global Response at Meta
- 2. Mr. Yash Agarwal Founder Proficy, PPI
- 3. Mr. Arindam Upamanyu Consultant at Deloitte
- 4. Mr. Shivang Uniyal Electioneering and Governance Consultant

The workshop began with a brief introduction to the Department of Public Policy and Administration and showcased our proud alumni network. Later, each panelist addressed the gathering and shared their experience, knowledge, and wisdom.

The panel discussion began with enthusiasm to gain unique insights into Public Policy through the lenses of the panelists. Fourth-year undergraduate student Rahul Tejannavar moderated the panel discussion. Each panelist had a different experience, which provided a broadened understanding of various careers in Public Policy. The discussions were related to their work role, the impact and importance of public policy in the corporate sector, the democratization of public policy, and the skill sets and attributes required to pursue public policy as a career. The guests also interacted with the students by asking about their fields of interest.

The guests later met with Dr Sundar Manoharan, Director General of PDEU, and Col. Rakesh Sharma, Registrar of PDEU, and had delightful conversations. The guests, also proud alumni of the university, reminisced about the campus, met with the faculty, and spent quality time enjoying the oncampus activities.











CREATE AND REVIVE: EXPRESSIVE PSYCHOTHERAPIES

Rapporteur: Bhavyaa Dave

Number of Participants: 27

February 13, 2024: The Department of Social Sciences, Psychology Area, School of Liberal Studies, PDEU organized a workshop on '*Create and Revive: Expressive Psychotherapies*' on February 13th, 2024. The expert speaker for the day was Ms. Kinjal Gandhi, a certified art therapist from MIT, Pune.

The session commenced with Dr. Ritu Sharma, Dean, SLS addressing the students and introducing the topics for the workshop. In the first part of the session Ms Kinjal Gandhi introduced the students to the basics of art-based therapies, highlighting the differences between art activities and their usage as therapeutic tools. She further elaborated on various theories that form the basis of art therapies and introduced the students to the various techniques and materials that could be effectively harvested for the induction of art based therapeutic techniques.

The second part of the session commenced with an introduction to the use of art in building the therapeutic alliance between the client and the therapist. Ms Gandhi highlighted the skills required for the accurate interpretation of the clients' artworks. She further involved the students into an activity-based session tracing the evolution of their artistic skills over the years and the significance these hold in the process of therapy. The session ended with a memory-based activity and its role in eliciting emotions.

The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Gitanjali Kapoor, faculty member of the Psychology Department. A vote of thanks was given to Ms. Gandhi by Insiya Safri and Isha Mansuri, students from the Psychology Department, for organising an insightful workshop and providing valuable knowledge for budding psychologists who desire to amalgamate art as a therapeutic tool to their practice. The students gained in-depth practical information, helping them broaden their horizons.











ICSSR FUNDED A ONE-DAY WORKSHOP ON A CONFLUENCE OF IDEAS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY AND POLICIES IN GUJARAT

WITH REFERENCE TO

ENERGY MAPPING AND FORECASTING OF SOLAR PV AND EMPOWERMENT OF GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE AND RESIDENTIAL SECTOR OF SELECTED DISTRICT OF GUJARAT STATE

Rapporteur: Dr. Akhilesh Shukla



Number of participants: 50

February 16, 2024: The workshop titled 'A Confluence of Ideas on Renewable Energy and Policies of Gujarat State,' held on 16 February 2024, at PDEU, Gandhinagar, marked a significant step towards fostering collaboration and innovation within the renewable energy sector. This event was part of the ICSSR-funded project on Energy Mapping and Forecasting of Solar PV, spearheaded by an esteemed team including Dr. Akhilesh Shukla, Dr. Mayank Gupta, Dr. Kocherlakota Pritam S., and Dr. Shreekant Varshney. Aimed at empowering various sectors in selected districts of Gujarat State, the workshop aligned with the 'Make in India' campaign to underscore the importance of domestic manufacturing in the renewable energy sector.



Kicking off the workshop, Professor Anurag Agarwal from IIM Ahmedabad provided an extensive overview of the energy sector, emphasizing the Make in India initiative's role in revolutionizing the energy landscape by 2030 and beyond. He highlighted the historical evolution of renewable energy policies and underscored the significance of shaping effective policies to achieve self-reliance, reflecting on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision. Professor Agarwal also discussed Gujarat's Solar Rooftop – Kishan Suryodaya Yojana, illustrating the state's commitment to providing day-time electricity to farmers for irrigation and farming purposes.

Dr. Sunanda Sinha, faculty from MNIT – Jaipur delved into the potential of solar energy, especially Solar PV, and its growth in India and Gujarat. She outlined the impact of the Government of India's decision to impose a 40% customs duty on solar modules and a 25% duty on solar cells to boost local manufacturing and reduce import dependence. This strategic move aligns with India's ambitious goal of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based power capacity by 2030.

Dr. Vivek Tiwari from IIT Kanpur shed light on the critical role of DISCOMs in energy generation, transmission, and distribution in Gujarat. He emphasized their contribution to the state's sustainable and resilient energy future through renewable energy generation, efficient transmission, and storage solutions exploration.

Dr. Harish Puppala from SRM University provided insights into the methodology and secondary data analysis, highlighting how solar PV installations can uplift the socio-economic status of the middle class in Gujarat.

Mr. Chirag Gor, an industry expert and solar panel installer, discussed the challenges and opportunities in Gujarat's solar energy landscape, including bureaucratic hurdles and the importance of promoting awareness and adoption of solar energy among residents.

The workshop facilitated dynamic discussions, merging academia, research, and industry insights to foster a comprehensive understanding of the renewable energy sector. This collaborative effort laid a solid foundation for future initiatives, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary goals for self-reliance in the renewable energy sector. The 'Make in India' initiative's emphasis on domestic production of essential components like solar panels and wind turbines reduces import dependence, creates job opportunities, and promotes technological advancement. Gujarat's proactive role in this agenda, coupled with strategic policy alignment, investments, and research efforts, paves the way for a sustainable and self-reliant future in the renewable energy sector. This workshop not only shared knowledge and recommendations but also outlined a strategic roadmap for collective progress towards a greener, more sustainable energy landscape in Gujarat and India.



Event organizers names and their department:

Dr. Akhilesh Shukla (PI, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Bus. Adm & Comr., SLS)

Dr. Mayank Gupta (Co-PI, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Physics, SOET)
Dr. Kocherlakota Pritam (Co-PI, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Mathematics, SOT)
Dr. Shreekant Varshney (Co-PI, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Mathematics, SOT)

Mr. Manish Adwani (Field Investigator, ICSSR Project, SLS, PDEU)

Key speakers:

Prof. Anurag Agarwal, Professor, IIM Ahmedabad

Dr. Sunanda Sinha, Assistant Professor, MNIT – Jaipur

Dr. Vivek Tiwari, PDF and Researcher, IIT Kanpur

Dr. Harish Puppala Assistant Professor, SRM University

Mr. Chirag Gor, Founder & Chief Executive Officer at Shree Gor Solar – Industry Expert

Key points discussed in the event:

The key points discussed in the 'A Confluence of Ideas on Renewable Energy and Policies of Gujarat State' workshop include:

- Collaboration and Innovation Promotion: The workshop, as part of the ICSSR-funded project on Energy Mapping and Forecasting of Solar PV, aimed to foster collaboration and innovation within the renewable energy sector, emphasizing domestic manufacturing's role.
- Make in India Initiative: Professor Anurag Agarwal highlighted the initiative's impact on revolutionizing the energy sector by 2030, focusing on self-reliance and effective policy shaping, alongside discussing Gujarat's Solar Rooftop Kishan Suryodaya Yojana for farmer support.
- Solar PV and Local Manufacturing: Dr. Sunanda Sinha discussed the potential and growth of solar energy in India, particularly Gujarat, and the implications of the Government of India's customs duties on solar modules and cells to encourage local manufacturing.
- Role of DISCOMs: Dr. Vivek Tiwari emphasized the significant role of DISCOMs in Gujarat's energy generation, transmission, and distribution, highlighting their contribution to a sustainable and resilient energy future.
- Socio-Economic Impact of Solar PV: Dr. Harish Puppala provided insights into how solar PV installations can uplift the socio-economic status of the middle class in Gujarat through the methodology and secondary data analysis.
- Challenges and Opportunities in Solar Energy: Mr. Chirag Gor, a solar panel installer, discussed the practical challenges and opportunities in Gujarat's solar energy landscape, including bureaucratic hurdles and the need for awareness and adoption.
- Comprehensive Understanding and Strategic Roadmap: The workshop resulted in a dynamic discussion that merged academia, research, and industry insights, establishing a solid foundation for future initiatives towards a sustainable and self-reliant energy future in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision.
- Sustainable and Self-Reliant Energy Future: The emphasis was on reducing import dependence, creating job opportunities, and promoting technological advancement through the 'Make in India' initiative, aligning policies, investments, and research efforts towards a greener energy landscape.



Concluding paragraph

The 'A Confluence of Ideas on Renewable Energy and Policies of Gujarat State' workshop served as a pivotal platform for uniting experts from academia, research, and industry to deliberate on the future of renewable energy in Gujarat and beyond. By fostering a collaborative environment, the workshop not only highlighted the significant potential for innovation and self-reliance within the sector but also outlined a strategic roadmap towards achieving a sustainable and self-reliant energy future. The discussions underscored the importance of the 'Make in India' initiative, the role of DISCOMs, and the socio-economic benefits of solar PV, setting the stage for transformative growth in the renewable energy landscape. This event marks a step forward in aligning efforts towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of an 'Atma-Nirbhar Bharat', empowering stakeholders to drive forward the agenda of sustainability and self-sufficiency in the energy sector.







EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO THE BOMBAY STOCK EXCHANGE (BSE) – GIFT CITY AND THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTRE (IFSC) – GIFT CITY

Rapporteur: Dr. Ashwin Parwani

Number of Participants: 31

February 16, 2024: Educational Visit organized by the Department of Business Administration and Commerce, under the guidance of Dr. Ashwin Parwani and Dr. Rajesh Desai, Semester VIII Finance Students of the School of Liberal Studies, PDEU embarked on an educational visit to the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) located in GIFT City. The purpose of the visit was to provide students with real-world exposure to financial markets and international financial services.

At BSE - GIFT City, students witnessed firsthand the functioning of one of India's premier stock exchanges. They gained insights into trading mechanisms, market operations, and the role of technology in modern trading platforms. Additionally, students had the opportunity to interact with professionals and learn about various investment strategies and risk management techniques.

Subsequently, the visit to IFSC - GIFT City offered students a glimpse into the global financial landscape. They learned about the regulatory framework governing international financial services and explored the diverse range of financial products and services offered in a global financial hub.

Overall, the visit provided students with valuable experiential learning, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. It enhanced their understanding of financial markets, investment instruments, and the dynamics of international finance, preparing them for successful careers in the finance industry.











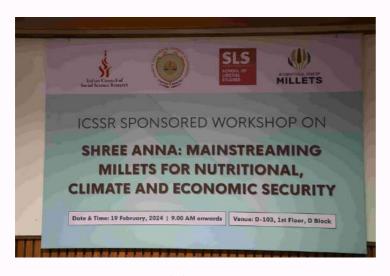
ICSSR SPONSORED ONE-DAY NATIONAL WORKSHOP REPORT ON 'SHREE ANNA: MAINSTREAMING MILLETS FOR NUTRITIONAL, CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC SECURITY'

Rapporteur: Dr. Nausheen Nizami

February 19, 2024: A one-day ICSSR sponsored workshop on 'Shree Anna: Mainstreaming millets for nutritional, climate and economic security' was organised by Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Gandhinagar on February 19th, 2024. It was part of the ICSSR sponsored research project under the 'Year of Millets 2023' scheme and the research team comprising of Dr Nausheen Nizami (Economics faculty, School of Liberal Studies) and her collaborators Dr Vijeta Banwari and Dr Ankita Gupta (IGNOU, New Delhi) and Dr Joel Basumatary (Bharathidasan college, Puducherry) presented their main findings. The project investigated the behavioural economics and socio-geographic factors that are limiting Millet Consumption in urban areas of India. The number of participants was 62 during the day-long event.



Millet Rangoli



Workshop Banner



Rangoli near Lamp

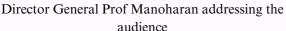


International Student at the Selfie Point



Pre-Inaugural highlights: The student volunteers prepared a Millet Rangoli at the entrance of the Venue using Sorghum millet, Pearl millet, finger millet, Barnyard millet and Fox-tail millet. A selfie point with the message 'I love millets' was also created. The breakfast included Finger-millet Utthapam.







Dignitaries on the Dias

Inaugural Ceremony: The workshop was inaugurated by the Director General of the University Prof S. Sundar Manoharan, Registrar-Col (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Shrivastava, Director-School of Liberal Studies Prof Nigam Dave and Dr Ritu Sharma, Dean, School of Liberal Studies. The workshop began with the auspicious lighting of the lamp around which Millet Rangoli was made with Finger Millet and Pearl Millet.

Keynote Speech: Prof Raman Gami was invited as the Keynote Speaker of the event. He is the Associate Research Scientist and Head (Plant Breeding), Centre for Millets Research, S.D. Agricultural University, Deesa. His speech covered various aspects linked to the workshop including the linkage of millets with climate and economic security and the need for Government support to farmers for encouraging millet production.

Research Design and Research Journey on Household Consumption of Millets Found in National Urban Survey: The ontological, and epistemological aspects of research along with the research strategy and underlying philosophy was introduced by Dr Nausheen Nizami, the Project Coordinator. The session discussed the research design in detail and the objective of the session was to share a methodology of research with the panellists and participants.

Panel Discussion on Key Findings, Role of Participants, Implementation of Policy Initiatives, Critical Observations and Policy Analysis: In this session, the objective-wise findings were shared by the research team comprising Dr Nausheen Nizami, Dr Vijeta Banwari, Dr Ankita Gupta and Dr Joel Basumatary. The panellists Dr Himani Baxi and Dr Laxmi Rani Dubey shared their critical appreciation for the project findings. Panellists discussed the importance of further research in this area and the need to address the psychological biases among target beneficiaries.







Dr Dhyani Mehta sharing behavioural economics insights

Dr Himani Baxi sharing her review comments

Millet Lunch: A millet-rich lunch was served to all participants, guests of honour and dignitaries. The objective of the millet lunch was to raise awareness about the different kinds of recipes which are palatable and healthy. The menu consisted of Sorghum kadi, Sorghum bhakhri, Amaranth Halwa, Amaranth puri, Finger millet kheer, and Pearl millet khichdi.



Millet lunch

Session on Nutritional Aspects of Millets and Health Lifestyle: This session was conducted by Dr Ankita Gupta, the Project Co-Director and Assistant Professor, Department of Nutrition Sciences at IGNOU to raise awareness about the health benefits of different types of millets and she also shared useful tips on how to include millets in daily lifestyle.





Dr Ankita Gupta sharing nutritional insights

Millet Quiz: One of the key highlights of the event was the Millet Quiz which was conducted among the participants of the workshop to check their current knowledge on Millets and to assess the awareness gained about millets during the earlier sessions of the workshop. Twenty questions were asked as part of the quiz and six winners were declared who were given Millet Gift Hampers and certificates.



Millet Quiz being conducted

Session on Behavioural Economics Perspectives to Dietary Habits: Dr Dhyani Mehta (Faculty, Economics Area, PDEU) and Dr Vijeta Banwari (Co-Project Director) discussed the role of heuristics, psychological biases and nudges in affecting millet consumption among urban households.



Dr Laxmi Rani Dubey sharing her review comments



Valedictory Ceremony: The valedictory ceremony was attended by the Keynote Speaker, Special Guest, and the Research Team consisting of the Project Coordinator and Project Co-Directors as well as participants. The valedictory address by Prof Raman Gami and Dr Laxmi Rani discussed few aspects such as:

- a) Karnataka can be included in further primary surveys owing to high millet consumption in that region.
- b) Policy action needs to be taken to address the availability gap and consumption gaps.
- c) In order to control the price rise of millets, high-yielding varieties of millets need to be developed.
- d) There is scope for more initiative in the commercialization of millets and to make them more palatable to target beneficiaries.
- e) Awareness efforts need to intensify in the Northeastern states of India.

Group Photograph and High Tea: The workshop ended with a group photograph and high tea. The high tea consisted of little millet (Moraiya) balls and Barnyard millet cutlets.



Workshop Research Team, participants and Speakers



VISIT TO NEWS18- A GUJARATI NEWS CHANNEL

Rapporteur: Dr. Sandesh Mahajan

Number of Participants: 35

February 20, 2024: The students majoring in Mass Communication, in their sixth semester of bachelor's and second semester of master's, visited the office and studio of News18 Gujarati on Satellite Road, Ahmedabad. News18 Gujarati operates a successful news channel on television and multiple social media platforms. They maintain a presence across all major viewing platforms and monitor them diligently. The students were accompanied by their faculty members, Prof. Pradeep Mallik and Dr. Sandesh Mahajan. The workspace was professionally divided into different departments, each equipped with up-to-date technology necessary for smooth operation. Department heads introduced themselves and elucidated the nature of their roles for the students.

They explained the procedures involved in bringing news from the scene to the screen, emphasizing their interdependence and the levels of gatekeeping involved. The students were introduced to teleprompters, professional cameras, set screens, and touch-sensitive screens. They also had the opportunity to grasp the technicalities of setting up a control room with mixing boards and complex networking systems. Their interaction with the staff was enlightening. The students were informed about the experiences, motivations, challenges, decision-making criteria, and time management strategies of the staff, who shared how they maintain their position as the number one news channel in the Gujarat market within office hours. They were shown two live studios, a makeup room, and various office segments. The visit successfully achieved its learning objectives





DISTINGUISHED TALK ON GEOPOLITICS OF ENERGY TRANSITION BY MR. SOUVIK BHATTACHARIYA

Rapporteur: Dr. Sanjay Pradhan

Number of Participants: 40

February 21, 2024: The geopolitics of energy transition is an intriguing and concerning topic that explores the global dynamics of renewable energy and its impact on international relations. The Distinguished Talk on Geopolitics of Energy Transition at SLS PDEU delved into the conflicts and challenges surrounding resource access in the context of transitioning to clean energy sources, the implications of renewable energy reliance on economies and international organisations and protocols that are driving energy transition. These conflicts arise due to the competition for limited resources and the strategic importance of energy in shaping geopolitical relationships. The speaker and guest Mr. Souvik Bhattacharjya, Senior fellow of TERI: The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi, focused on important aspects of shift towards renewable energy sources and the potential to reshape the balance of power, the four aspects of geopolitics of energy transition, and how nations decide and aim to be 'net zero' under different international situations.

The participants found the importance of geopolitics of energy transition crucial for comprehending the complexities of our future energy and the implications it has on global politics. The event ended with a new area in the canvas of international relations, energy and economics being opened, a fascinating area of study that highlighted the interplay between energy, resources, and international relations.









10TH STUDY IN INDIA SHORT TERM PROGRAM (PAN INDIA) – AHMEDABAD, GANDHINAGAR, VARANASI AND PUDUCHERRY IN INDIAN PSYCHOLOGY JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 12, 2024

Rapporteur: Kanishka Varyani, Ananya Bhaguna, Diya Shah, Ratnapriya Tanisha, Kanan Pathak, Mihika and Hetvi Patel



January 29, 2024: The School of Liberal Studies (SLS) under Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU) organized its 10th Study in India short-term pan India program from 29th January to 12th February 2024. The aim of the program focused on the module of Indian Psychology. This Study in India Exposure Program offered Psychology students from ECU Australia and Indian students from SLS, PDEU the opportunity to be immersed in Indian culture and see how the culture has influenced the discipline of Psychology in India. The program focused on comparing the delivery of psychological services in India and Australia. The study tour provided students with a program of cultural exchange and unattainable study opportunities during the normal course of their study in Psychology in Perth. The understanding gained about the Indian culture, Indian people, Indian Psychology, and how psychology is applied in the Indian context can prove invaluable to ECU students majoring in Psychology. Students also had the opportunity to interact with PDEU students, particularly the student buddies. The inaugural ceremony of the 10th Study in India Program was held on the PDEU campus on January 30, 2024 in the PDEU boardroom, where the ECU delegation was hosted with warmth.





The program started with a virtual lightening of the lamp, followed by a formal welcome speech. Thereafter, the ceremony was taken over by the Program Chair and Dean of SLS, Dr. Ritu Sharma, who welcomed and introduced the dignitaries and officials. She briefed about the program and focused on the collective program outcomes. The attendees were honored by the honorable presence of Director General PDEU Prof. S. S. Manoharan, Registrar Col. R. Srivastava, Director of SLS, Director, and Deans from other schools, PDEU faculty alongside other esteemed officials, organizers, and participants. Col (Dr) Rakesh Kumar Shrivastawa, Registrar shared his insights on Indian Perspective on Safety and Security. Research Ecosystem India was discussed by Dr. Bhawanisingh Desai, Dean R &D.

A session on the do's and don'ts for the program, along with a campus tour and ice-breaking interactions was conducted by student buddies (Kanishka Varyani, Ananya Bhaguna, Diya Shah, Ratnapriya, Tanisha, Kanan Pathak, Mihika and Hetvi Patel) post lunch. Dinner was held at Rajwadu, Ahmedabad, where the royal ambiance, activities, and cuisine were highly appreciated by the delegates. Honorable delegates were welcomed to PDEU with more knowledge and informative sessions on Indian psychology. The delegates were as enthusiastic and curious as the day went on. The lecture on 'Stress Management' was conducted by Professor D.M. Pestonjee. Students were engaged in understanding how stress can affect different aspects of mental health and coping with stress by Indian Psychology.

Director of School of Liberal Studies Prof (Dr.) Nigam Dave presented a lecture on 'Perspective on Psychology of Death from Bhagwad Gita' as India wholeheartedly accepts life and death, and embraces it, which ultimately leads to nirvana. Panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Ritu Sharma on Indian Psychology with insights by Dr. Neeta Sinha, Dr Shraddha Shraddha Sharma, Dr Prateek Singh, and Dr Gitanjali Kapoor, highlighting different aspects of Indian psychology. Delegates were exposed to Indian arts and crafts by Students of PDEU (Brahmjyot) and they were also made to learn about the same which gave them time to interact with students and exposure to different arts and crafts of India.



The delegates were then taken back to the hotel after interactive and informative sessions from PDEU. After an amazing Day 2, it was time for Day 3. The student delegates arrived at Kanoria Hospital at 9:30 AM where they were welcomed by the hospital staff and authority. At 10:15 AM, Dr. Rajendra Anand delivered an insightful lecture on mental health first aid in the Indian context, discussing prevalent issues and strategies for intervention. The student delegates comprised healthcare professionals and representatives from various organizations interested in mental health, substance abuse, and community welfare. After a very informative lecture, the student delegates visited the Substance Abuse/Disabled Child Centre at Kanoria Hospital to gain practical insights into the challenges faced and the services provided. For the later part after lunch, the student delegates visited Akshay Patra, a renowned organization known for its innovative technology and efficient management in providing nutritious meals. They observed the processes involved and learned about the organization's impact on community welfare. The student delegates explored Law Garden, experiencing the vibrant culture of Ahmedabad through its diverse food stalls, handicrafts, and street performances. The academic visit and cultural exposure in Ahmedabad provided the student delegates with valuable insights into mental health initiatives, substance abuse interventions, and community welfare programs. The interactions with experts and on-ground experiences will contribute to their knowledge and potentially influence their professional endeavors positively.

Day 4 was meticulously planned to immerse the student delegates in the profound legacy of India's struggle for freedom by exploring the historic Gandhi Ashram. As the day unfolded, the echoes of the past resonated within each delegate, igniting a newfound appreciation for the sacrifices made by countless individuals in pursuit of a free and sovereign India. The visit to Gandhi Ashram was not merely a historical excursion but a transformative experience that left an indelible imprint on the hearts and minds of all who had the privilege to partake in it. This was followed by delicious Indian cuisine for lunch. At around 1:00 PM, the delegates left for the airport to board their flight to Varanasi at 3:10 PM. The student delegates reached Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh by 7:00 PM where they had some free time to freshen up and recharge themselves for another exciting day ahead. After traveling to Varanasi and relaxing on Day 4, the delegates were taken to Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The delegates were welcomed to BHU by the Department of Psychology, BHU, Varanasi.

Dr Ritu Sharma and Prof Sandeep gave an overview of Indian Psychology which was then followed by the first academic lecture in Varanasi, 'Current Trends in Industrial/Organizational Psychology Research and Practice in India' by Professor Sandeep Kumar explaining the emergence and importance of industrial and organizational psychology and its practices. The cultural underpinnings of psychological knowledge systems by Dr. Tushar Singh explained how psychology and culture are interconnected and their representation in the context of Indian Psychology. Delegates were taken to the beautiful campus visit of Banaras Hindu University including the Department of Psychology. After lunch, the delegates were taken back to the Department of Psychology, Banaras Hindu University for an academic session of 'Multidimensional Perspectives of Psychology in India' by Prof. Rakesh Pandey, Prof. Kishore Patwardhan and Prof. Yogesh Kumar Arya in a Panel Discussion about various perspectives of psychology in India.



An academic session after high tea of 'Indian Psychology: The Roots, Challenges, and Applications' by Professor Dhananjay Kumar explained the emergence and journey of evolution of Indian psychology in India. After a long day of enthusiastic interactions, delegates were taken to watch Ganga Aarti enjoy the late evening with a serene and beautiful view of Aarti from the Boat. The group embarked on a visit to Mumukshu Bhawan, Asi Ghat, and Varanasi, engaging in meaningful discussions and observations as part of their field visit later around 1:00 pm. The afternoon was dedicated to exploring Sarnath, BHEL, and Hast Kala Sankul, they absorbed the cultural richness and historical significance of these sites. By 5 pm, wrapping up, they bid adieu to the sites and headed back to the hotel reflecting on their experiences and insights gained throughout the day.

The student delegates embarked on a day filled with personal time and travel where the morning allowed the delegates personal time to explore and immerse themselves in the vibrant atmosphere of Varanasi. They took advantage of this opportunity to delve into the rich culture and heritage of the city, experiencing its bustling streets and iconic landmarks.

With fond memories of Varanasi, the delegates bid farewell to the city as they departed for the airport. They enjoyed a quick lunch at the airport before boarding their flight. Following dinner around 8 o'clock, the delegation made their way to the hotel in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, where they rested and recharged for the exciting engagements planned for the following days. The day encapsulated a blend of personal exploration, travel, and cultural exchange, marking the beginning of a memorable journey for the student delegates as they continued their educational pursuits and cultural exchange initiatives. After reaching Pondicherry University, the delegates visited the Applied Psychology Department.

Dr Ritu Sharma gave brief insights about the lectures which were followed by the first lecture by the head of the Department of Applied Psychology, Prof. Sibnath Deb on Child protection. He spoke about the rights of children and how the behavior of parents in early childhood affects the child.

Then it was time for the second lecture. This was conducted by Dr. Rejoyson Thangal. He addressed the problems with Psychology's WEIRD problem and social psychology. He pointed out the problems with data collection and the outcome of the analysis of the data. Pondicherry University organized a healthy lunch including many South Indian dishes. After lunch, the delegates sat again for a lecture on Cross-Cultural Psychology by Dr. Barani Kanth. He spoke about what is cultural psychology and how it differs due to the different cultural backgrounds.

After a short high tea break, it was time for the final lecture of the day. It was conducted by Dr. Surendra Kumar Sia on the elderly and psychological well-being. The delegates had a relaxed morning and prepared for their eventful day ahead. They first visited the Maitri Mandir; it was a beautiful walk.



After the walk and visiting the mandir, the delegates had lunch at a restaurant. Then they headed to Sri Aurobindo Society. A presentation on psychology from Sri Aurobindo's perspective and teachings was shown and then a discussion on psychology by multiple speakers from different backgrounds. After the session, the delegates walked to the Auroville Ashram. With their phones switched off and no verbal communication, the delegates meditated for a while and then headed back to the hotel to rest. The art and craft village in Pondicherry is located in Murungapakkam, around 5 km from the White Town. The Pondicherry Tourism Department developed it to promote Pondicherry's arts and crafts artisans. The delegates spent time studying the crafts and the artisans and were intrigued by the art. The delegates arrived back at Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Gandhinagar. The valedictory ceremony of the 10th SIP served as a touching conclusion to a period of shared endeavors and accomplishments. Amidst a backdrop of nostalgia and gratitude, attendees gathered in the boardroom once again to reflect on the journey they embarked upon together.

Warm sentiments and heartfelt reflections permeated the atmosphere as the delegates shared their experience of traveling across the 4 cities. Not only that, their impression of India had also changed as highlighted in their shared experiences. The address of the senior dignitaries resonated deeply, inspiring all present to carry forward the spirit of collaboration and excellence into their future endeavors. Recognition of the efforts put in by everyone characterized the event. Soon the participants and organizers were felicitated. Dr. Ritu Sharma and Dr. Eyal Gringart expressed heartfelt thanks to participants, volunteers, sponsors, and partners, a sense of camaraderie and mutual appreciation filled the room.

Later, a small Garba session was put up by the students of PDEU to show the international students how our spins and movements can make anyone sway to the beats of music. The delegates were then taken to the Sun Temple of Modhera which is a Hindu temple dedicated to the solar deity, Surya, located at Modhera village of Mehsana district, Gujarat, India, as an opportunity to get exposure to the cultural beliefs of the people of India. Everyone wandered around and spent time learning about the rituals that people invested their time into. After a very wholesome field visit and lunch, the delegates were taken to Adalaj ki Vav at 2 PM, where they were taught about the place in detail about the flamboyant 15th-century stepwell, which has lost only little of its grandeur over the last few centuries. The delegates were fascinated by the architecture and the facts about the place. After their first day in Ahmedabad, the delegation went for a Heritage Walk in the old city of Ahmedabad. After a wonderful day of historical knowledge, the delegates were allowed to spend their time shopping and buying beautiful Indian jewelry and dresses. With optimism and enthusiasm, the delegation departed India to Perth, Australia, carrying cherished memories and friendships with them, and a renewed commitment to making a difference in the various fields of Psychology.













































RURAL INTERNSHIP (2023-24) PHASE II

Rapporteur: Shauryaveer Singh

Number of Participants: 180

January 23 – February 5, 2024: The First-Year undergraduate students of BA/BBA and B.Com programs at the school of liberal studies embarked on a journey far from the routine classroom of community and society through the Phase – II of the Rural Internship program 2023-24. The Phase II of Rural Internship which consists of field exposure activities with NGOs, was scheduled from 23rd January to 5th February 2024. Around 180 students across all the programs and all the years of undergraduate programme of SLS participated in the rural internship.

During this phase SLS collaborated with three NGOs which are involved in grassroots level development activities and are dedicated to the upliftment of the underprivileged. These NGOs include Indian Recycle, Jeevantirth Foundation and Centre for environment education (CEE). Phase II of the internship emphasized active students' participation in various community engagement activities, such as teaching in primary schools, conducting field surveys in urban slums, and organizing collection drives for clothes and other essential materials. These experiences were integral to their learning and development.

The greatest learning for students during this community engagement was observing and realizing the stark inequality between haves and haves not. On the last day of Rural Internship Dr. Urmi Satyen, faculty of SLS and Capt. Khushali Purohit visited all the NGOs to appreciate students' efforts and express the gratitude to all NGOs for providing learning opportunities for SLS students.













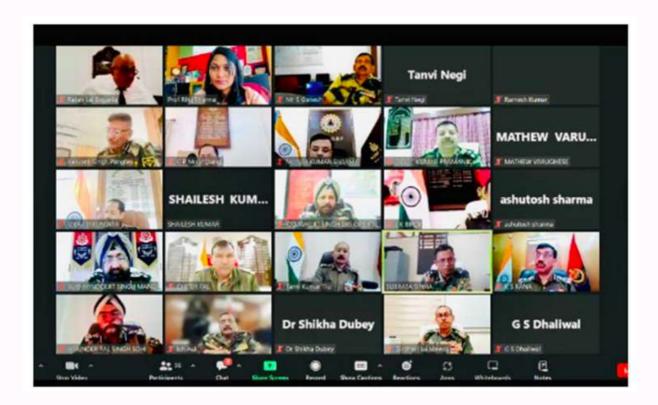






DR. RITU SHARMA

Dr. Ritu Sharma conducted training for an expert lecture on *Stress Management and Coping Skills* as a part of 5 days' Leadership and Management Development Programme for DIGs organized by AITD on February 9, 2024.



As a vice president of IACBT and Co- organizing secretary, Dr. Sharma successfully concluded *Eighth Asian CBT Congress 2024* organized and hosted by Indian Association of Cognitive Behaviour Therapy and world Confederation of CBT and co-hosted by the AIIMS, New Delhi.

Dr. Sharma also delivered an invited talk on Cognitive Behavioral Approach in Organizational Settings for Non-Clinical Population at 8th Asian CBT Congress Stress Management Congress at AIIMS, New Delhi February 28 to March 3, 2024.















Dr Ritu Sharma was invited to talk on *the National Education Policy 2020* panel discussion as a part of the International Seminar organized by Rai University sponsored by ICCR on February 1, 2024.



DR NAUSHEEN NIZAMI

Dr. Nausheen Nizami was invited as a Session Chair for Technical Session on 'Law and Economic Analysis of Public Policy' for the 7th International Conference on Economic Analysis of Law, Governance and Public Policy 2024 at Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar on 20th January 2024. Evaluated five research papers on the theme of the session.



She was also invited as a Speaker and Panellist to *Arthgyaan'24*, the 12th Annual fest of Economics Association of Gargi College, University of Delhi on 29th February 2024 on the theme of *'Empowering Women, Empowering Economies'*. Delivered keynote speech on 'Understanding the Decision to Work' in the context of declining female labor force participation rate in India.



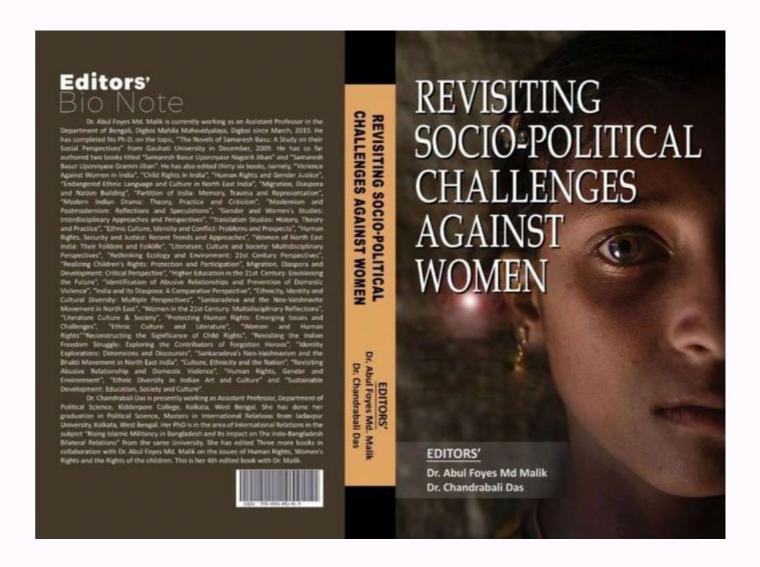
Dr. Nizami is appointed as a Member of the Research Advisory Group, Institution of Occupational Safety and Health, Leicestershire, UK in January 2024.



DR. UDAYPRAKASH SHARMA & DR. ANURAG SRIVASTAVA

A Book Chapter titled: 'Gender that Matters', authored by Dr. Udayprakash Sharma and Dr. Anurag Srivastava was published in an edited book titled: Revisiting Socio-Political Challenges against Women: Vol. Part I (I, pp. 372–380), Editors: Dr. Abul Foyes Md Mallik and Dr. Chandrabali Das, Publisher: Sun Beam Press, Assam. ISBN: 978-93-93092-55-7

The book chapter discusses various contemporary challenges against women due to the mainstream structures of patriarchy and masculinity and they affect our understanding of gender justice and feminism.





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Gender that Matters

Dr. Udayprakash Sharma Dr. Anurag Kumar Srivastava

In the 21st century world, we are witnessing great tides of change in different aspects of life, including the socio-political dynamics which affect us, and influence us. In these changing times, the political concept of feminism and gender justice have not remained unaffected. Despite many efforts of the feminist thinkers and activists, feminism has remained excluded from the mainstream politics, whether the mainstream politics of the private or the public life. The modernization and development in communication technology has been essentially beneficial to the mainstream politics. We witness that the issues of feminism and gender justice have become passe.1 It has become a thing of the past since most individuals talk about feminism or read about its related issues in the mass media. Some believe that in the modern times feminism and gender justice have lost their relevance and are no longer the contending issue in politics. But this understanding per se is based on male stream thinking. In this paper, we would like to bring forth the issue of continued growth of feminism and gender justice, which is stronger than ever before in the realm of the political. Feminism was never included in the mainstream body of knowledge and politics and reaction to that, today we witness its increased proliferation than it was in the previous decade. The project of the mainstream has become more successful in silencing feminism and issues of gender justice due to modernity and development in technology,

372 Revisiting Socio-Political Challenges against Women



DR. ASHWIN PARWANI

Dr. Ashwin Parwani presented a Research Paper titled 'The impact of Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) performance on firm success: An Accounting and Market-Centric Analysis' at 7th International Conference on Green Economy and Sustainable Growth through Strategic Change' held on 22nd and 23rd February, 2024, at MAHE, Dubai campus. The two-day International Conference was organized by the School of Business, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Dubai campus, Dubai. Dr. Parwani was also invited as Session Chair at this conference.









DR. HIREN A SOLANKI

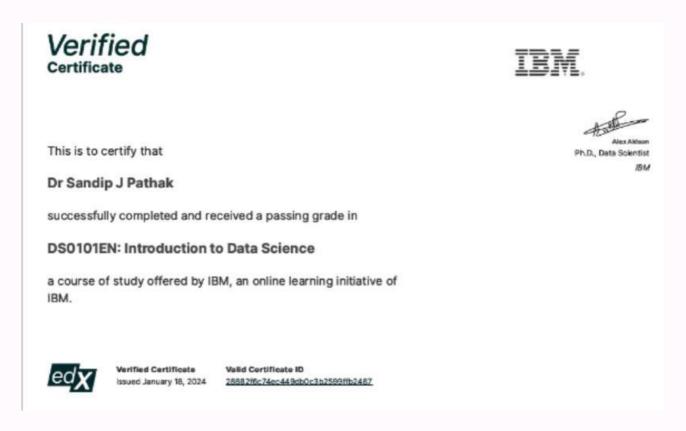
Dr. Hiren A Solanki completed the 'Super - Earths and Life' certificate course at HarvardX (EDX Platform).





DR. SANDIP PATHAK

Dr. Sandeep Pathak completed the I.B.M. online 'Introduction to Data Science' course through the edX online Platform. He learned various modules in this course, like defining data science and what data scientists do, Big Data and Data Mining, and Data Science applications domains. He earned an 83 grade on the final exam.



Dr. Patak also attended the DELNET one-day regional workshop entitled 'Transforming and Empowering Libraries, L.I.S. Professionals and Users: Emerging Trends' at Navrachana University, Vadodara, on January 22, 2024. In this workshop, the various sessions give information about the DELPLUS software support for Library Automation, Academic integrity: How to stop plagiarism in an Academic environment, and the use of DrillBit. I am honored to receive the Certificate from Dr Sangeeta Kaul, Director of DELNET.















KRISHNA MAHESHWARI

23BCOBA071

Krishna Maheshwari, a first-year student at the School of Liberal Studies (SLS) clinched the Gold Medal at the AIU South West (National) Karate (Kumite) Tournament hosted by LNCT Bhopal University. Out of 96 participating Universities from 10 states, PDEU emerged as the gold Medal winner.





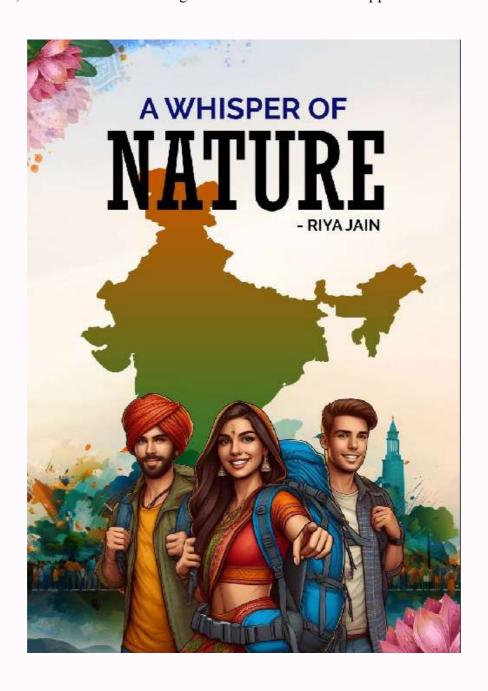




RIYA JAIN

Batch: 2018-2022

Riya Jain has published a book titled 'A Whisper of Nature' which delves into traveling throughout India and understanding its history and cultures. This project has been a culmination of research and her willingness to learn. Riya is going to contribute some portion of the earnings that she will get through the book, to social work including the NGOs she wants to support.







PDEU launches its 'Alumni Association'



The Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU) launched its 'Alumni Association' marking a historic moment during the PDEU alumni meet. Alumni gathered to celebrate the university's rich legacy and embark on a new chapter of collaboration and growth. The newly formed association is poised to foster a robust network among the university's graduates, providing a platform for lifelong connections, professional advancement and a shared commitment to excellence.

AHMEDABAD MIRROR

01-01-2024

ઉદ્યોગપતિ મુકેશ અંબાણીએ PDEU કેમ્પસની ટૂંકી-યાદગાર મુલાકાત લઇને ફેક્લ્ટી અને એડમિન સાથે વાર્તાલાપ કર્યો

અમિતાભ-શાહરૂખ જેવા સ્ટારની માફક પ્રોફેસરો પણ સ્ટાર તરીકે ઊભરે : મુકેશ અંબાણી

■ વાઇલન્ટ ગુજરાત સમિટ ઇલ્પાટન સમારોતમાં ગુજરાત આવેલા જાણીતા ઇવોગવીત મુકેશા અભાવીએ 17 કરોડના અર્ચ બનેલા સ્પોટર્સ કોમ્પલેશની મુલાકાત લીધી હતી અને કેમ્પલમાં પટેબા ચનતા વિદ્યાર્થિઓની પણ સંવાદ સાથે ધરાસા પણ (વ્યાપાયનના પશ સવાક સાથ ધરાસા પણ કર્યું તહીં, દર્વાધ્યાન પીઠત હીનદાયમાં સેનાઇં પુનિવર્સિટી (PDEE) કેમ્પલની ખુલાકાત અંતર્ગત કેઠલી અને અને એપ્રીધન સાથે વાર્તાલાપ પણ કર્યો હતો, જેમાં તેઓએ સામના અને ટેન્નનોલીઇંગ્લ ફિસ્સિયાં આટલે અને સુર્યેન્દ્રીને પણ સ્થાન ધવવું લોઇએ તેવો. ખત વ્યક્ત કર્યો હતો.

વાઇશ્વર સમિદ અંતર્ગત ગુજરાતમાં આવેલા મુક્કા અંબાણીએ બુધ્યારે પૈકિઇમું કેમ્પ્રતાની ખુતાકત લઇને વિશાવીઓ અને કેક્ડરી મળ્યા હતા. તેઓએ કેક્કરી સાથે પૃત્વિપિર્સટીની અત્યાર સુધીની પ્રમાિત અને ભવિષ્ય અંત્રે પણ ચર્ચા કરી હતી. તેમણે કર્યું કે છબ્બે ઘાટ કર્યું ત્યારે પણ લોકોએ અંત્રર એસ્પ્રિયેટ થયો હતા. પરંતુ દેખા હતી અને ગંભીસભાઈ કામગીરી શરૂ કરીને હજાકો રાંભીરતાથી કામગીરી શરૂ કરીને હજારે ઇંજનેરની ભરતી કરી હતી. 2016માં જ્યાં અંગે કોઇ જાલતું પણ નહોતું. 2017માં જ્યાં હોન્ય કર્યા પછી આજે દેશની નંબર | ડેટા



હત્ય કરવા પાત્ર વાર કરતા વાર કરતા વાર કરતા. કંપની થઈ માઈ છે, જેમ દેશના દર મિલિયન છે. આજે જીએ પાસે સોક્ટવેર અને હાર્વરેની પોલાઇડ કરવાની ભરપૂર તક છે. તેમજે જીએ ઊભા કરશે, જે ભારતને એક નવી કરતાં કહ્યું કે કોઇવલ કંપની શરૂ કરો ત્યારે લોકોનો સહકાર તો છે જ પરંતુ સાથે સાથે સંયુધ્ધ એન્ય ઇપલભ્ય છે. ડિન્સિયામાં ઇનોરોગન વિશાસીઓને છે તે આવનારા દિવસોમાં અનેક તેમજો કેક્ક્ટી અને વિશાસીઓને સંબોપન તેને ક્યા જોવા દેચ્છે છે તે સહવ્યનું છે.

સાયન્સ-ટેકનોલોજીના रिसर्थमां आरर्स-ह्यमेनिटीने પણ સ્થાન મળે તે જરૂરી

પીડીઇયુના વિદ્યાર્થીઓમાં એવી તાકાત છે કે આવનારા દિવસોમાં દેશમાં અનેક જીઓ પેદા થશે

કરી જે તમારી આવડતને બતાર શાવે અને

આવનારા દિવસોમાં પથદર્શક બની રહે. આરત હાદમાં ઇનોવેશન એન્જિન છે, જે આવનારા દિવસો સૌથ એન્જિન બનશે. પીડીઇમું મદદરૂપ થશે તો ખતું જલાદી આ શક્ય બનશે. મને આશા કે તમારામોથી જ કોઇ નવી જીઓ કંપનીઓ બનાવશે. દેશમાં અધિતાભ અને શાહરૂખ જેવા સ્ટાર તો ઘણા થઇ ગયા હવે કેક્ક્ડિઅને પ્રોકેસર સ્ટાર બને તે જરૂરી છે, તેમણે એવો આશાવાદ વ્યક્ત કર્યો કે આવનારા દિવસોમાં આપણે વિદેશથી કેક્ક્ડી શાવવાની જરૂર નહીં પો. અમે તમામ રીતે વીડીવુઇના વિદ્યાર્થી કેક્ક્ટીને સાથ-સહકાર આપવા તૈયાર છીએ.

NAV GUJARAT SAMAYCHAR

11-01-2024



'Let's make faculty our real stars'

Ambani at PDEU: When you become great, students learn to become great

Mukesh Ambani (centre) and Parimal Nathwani (second from right) at PDEU where the former paid a 30-minute visit after attending the Vibrant Gujarat Summit

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mbani's brief 30-minute visit to PDEU included appreciating the Solar PV Module Assembly Line and encouraging. students. He stressed the integration of science, technology, and humanities in education. Reflecting on Jio's journey, he said, "We started with 2,000 engineers... In 2024, we are the number one data company in the world. This is the power of young Indians."



Mukesh Ambani meets students performing garba at PDEU

Ambani urged the faculty to inspire greatness, saying, "It is not only Amitabh Bachchan and Shahrukh Khan... when you become great, the students learn to become great."

Neer Ranka, was the only PDEU student who could shake hands with Ambani during his visit. "I was standing nearby when he walked through and I asked him how he was. He shook hands with me and said hello," she said. Nish Shah, a student garba performer said, "We performed before Ambani sir. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

@ QUOTABLE QUOTES FROM AMBANI

ON GUJARAT AND INDIA: I have come from the City of the Gateway of India to the Gateway of Modern India's Growth - Gujarat... When foreigners think of New India, they think of a New Gujarat. ON PM MODI: The most successful Prime Minister in India's history.

ON GUJARAT'S SIGNIFICANCE: Reliance was, is and will always remain a Gujarati company... more than one third [of company investments] has been in Gujarat alone. AT PDEU: There are enough stars like Amitabh and Shah Rukh in India. Now it's time we make our faculties and professors stars.

AHMEDABAD MIRROR

11-01-2024



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