

# **SLS MIRROR**

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# *Editorial*



## *Let's Talk*

### **ETHICS IN RESEARCH: THE BACKBONE OF ACADEMIA**



When we deliberate on the importance of academia, research invariably forms the crux of that discussion. To put it in simple terms, any academic institution thrives on the quality of its research endeavours. After all, what is the purpose of any academic institution if it does not play a role in the collective progress of humanity through research! That said, there is another paradigm that we hardly talk about. While research is primordial to academics, research ethics is primordial to research. By design, research is supposed to be an ethical process. However, in the hullabaloo around enhancing the sheer quantity of research projects, researchers often resort to unethical means and thereby compromise the very purpose of the research process. It is high time that academic institutions make stringent laws to curb unethical research practices. As unapologetic of

constituents of the academic fraternity, it is a sine-qua-non to remind ourselves of some of the fundamental ethical parameters in research:

1. **Consent and Choice:** All the research participants should be informed about the purpose of a research study. As in social life, consent and choice are the twin keys.
2. **The Non-Maleficence Principle:** Researchers should ensure that during the study, the subjects are not harmed. Neither the process associated with the research, nor the data collected through research should violate this principle.
3. **Data Fabrication to be Considered a Crime:** If a researcher fabricates the data available through a research study to be in consonance with expectations, the results can be disastrous to say the least. Imagine what might happen if a medical research study hobnobs with the data while developing a new cancer medication.
4. **Conflict of Interest:** One of the primary issues that often afflict research is the presence of a conflicting interest. When a researcher personally stands to benefit from a study, there is a significant possibility that the study will not be conducted in an objective fashion. Therefore, a researcher needs to declare upfront about the possibility of a conflict of interest when a study is undertaken.
5. **Abuse of Power:** At times, senior academics take advantage of their positions of power and exploit junior academics and scholars. The exploitation can take place in several forms – the primary being the falsification of credits. There have been many instances when researchers have falsely claimed credit for a study when the work has been done by someone else. Any academic institution should have a very clear policy such that such unethical practices are punishable.



6. **Research Should Always be for the Public Good:** The fundamental purpose of research is the progress of human civilization. Therefore, ensuring public good is paramount. Any study that is detrimental to human civilization should be avoided like wicked weeds. Let us take an example to understand the implication of this statement. Research aimed at developing lethal drugs to create social havoc is highly unethical even though it might involve cutting-edge technologies and medical knowhow.
7. **The Concept of Justice:** Above everything else, the concept of justice should stand tall whenever any study is being undertaken. The principle of natural justice should be the founding pillar on which any study stands.

Talking about research ethics, the larger domain of Liberal Arts intricately depends on ethical principles to survive. Liberal Arts practitioners need to be doubly aware about the existing ethical parameters while dealing with any study. It is always important to remember that Liberal Arts deals with the human civilization at large and as such must set the right example for other academic disciplines to follow suit. To end the discourse, it would suffice to say that unethical research is an oxymoron.

Signing off for now!

Stay safe, happy, and healthy!

Cheers!

Dr. Amrita Chakraborty

Editor

*SLS Mirror*





# *Key Events of SLS*



## Two-Day Workshop on Understanding Translation Theories and Practices

By Dr. Umesh Kumar, Banaras Hindu University

Rapporteur: Akshita Sinha, Hitaishi Nandwani, and Meet Vijaywargi

Number of Participants: 25

**March 14-15, 2024:** A two-day workshop was organised by the Department of Language, Literature and Aesthetics, SLS, PDEU on *Understanding Translation Theories & Practices*. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Umesh Kumar from Banaras Hindu University. Dr. Kumar is a practicing translator. He works with Hindi, English and Marathi languages. He has been trained at the leading translation schools of the world. Moreover, his essays and translations have been accepted and published in several noteworthy publications.

The workshop began with participants sharing their linguistic autobiographies, building the base for an insightful discussion about India's social reality of multilingual diversity. Several aspects such as translation as a practice, the role of a translator, the journey of translation, the stances taken by a translator, and the nuanced reality of the translation and publication industry were discussed. Over the course of the two days, the workshop was divided into sections focusing on translating fiction, translating poetry, comparing translations and more. A hands-on approach was undertaken to analyse several translated texts including Premchand's short story *Sawa Ser Gehun*, Rajinder Singh Bedi's short story *Quarantine*, excerpts from Daya Pawar's *Baluta*, Vinod Kumar Shukla's poem *Hatasha Se Ek Vyakti Baith Gaya Tha*, and Ramdarsh Mishra's poem *Aag Ki Hassi*, Geetanjali Shree's *Ret Samadhi*, among other texts. Dr. Umesh Kumar presented his own translated drafts of these texts and invited discussion. A first hand and detailed dissection of these texts enabled participants a deeper exposure to the world of translation practices. A collaborative attempt was made by the participants to try their hands at translation with other participants aiding in the process shared in the classroom. The workshop ended with Dr. Kumar sharing reflections on the works of Indian playwright Vijay Tendulkar.

Event organizers name and their department: Dr. Niyati Shah, Dr. Annie Royson, and Ms. Nidhi Makwana

Key speaker: Dr. Umesh Kumar, Banaras Hindu University

Key points discussed in the event:

- Translation in practice
- The translator's subjectivity
- The politics of translation
- Translation and publication industries
- Back translation
- Translation testing
- Literary translation







The workshop was attended by UG PG and doctoral students of English at SLS. The participants expressed appreciation for the well-paced and structured workshop. The discussions were lively and collaborative, contributing to the enriching nature of the workshop. The workshop provided the participants with an extensive insight to the field of translation studies. Overall, the workshop was a commendable undertaking by the Department of Language, Literature and Aesthetics, SLS, PDEU.





## VISIT TO BHASKARACHARYA INSTITUTE FOR SPACE APPLICATIONS AND GEO-INFORMATICS (BISAG)

**Rapporteur:** Dr. Sandesh Mahajan

**Number of Participants:** 30

**March 15, 2024:** The students of both the sixth-semester undergraduate program in mass communication and the second semester of the master's program visited the facilities at the Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG), situated in Gandhinagar. BISAG-N is distinguished for its specialised services and solutions for the implementation of map-based Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Its spectrum of services encompasses deploying enterprise-level GIS systems, comprising GIS database design and development, cartographic production and refinement, data migration and format conversion, software engineering and customization, systems integration, and technical advisory.

Accompanied by their professors, Dr. Pradeep Mallik and Dr. Sandesh Mahajan, the visit began with a presentation highlighting the importance of BISAG's role in government projects. The workspace was organized into different teams, each focused on specific goals. The interns presented their ongoing projects and explained their strategies for achieving them.

During the tour, the students observed the studio and control rooms used for regional broadcasts. Equipped with green screens, mixers, and advanced cameras, the studio demonstrated modern broadcasting technology. They also received an explanation of how supercomputers function in the server room.

Overall, the visit provided valuable insights into the practical applications of GIS technology and the operations of broadcast facilities. The educational aims of the visit were comprehensively met, as students gained first-hand exposure to the practical applications of GIS technologies and the operational dynamics of broadcast facilities.





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

**Rapporteur:** Tanisha J Khanchandani

**Number of Participants:** 26

**March 18, 2024:** Field trips are always exciting opportunities for students to step out of the confines of their classrooms and delve into real-world experiences that complement their learning. A field trip to the National Forensic Science University (NFSU) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat was planned to give a practical exposure of the World of Forensic Psychology to MA (Psychology) Semester 4 students. As the students embark on their journey to the NFSU, anticipation fills the air.

The students were then taken to the auditorium and welcomed by knowledgeable guides who began with a short film about the university marking as key information for students. The first stop on the itinerary was the Centre of Excellence in Investigative Forensic Psychology laboratory. Here, the students witness firsthand the advanced technologies and methodologies employed in crime scene investigation, forensic analysis, and evidence processing. They observe forensic scientists meticulously examining the deception of the suspect with the help of various tools like BEOS, voice change recogniser, polygraphy test etc, their lab was an insightful exploration of the cutting-edge tools and techniques employed in Forensic Psychological Investigation.

It is pivotal for media professionals to understand the intricacies of forensic psychology, enhancing the accuracy and depth of investigative reporting. Collaborations like this bridge the gap between academia and industry, fostering mutual learning and advancement in the field. Next, the students were led to the Centre for Happiness and Well-being, the centre had various counselling departments catering to different fields of psychological counselling, the centre also offers internships every month making it a hallmark for those wanting to escalate careers in the field. The tour continued to the Ballistics Research and Testing Centre, where students witnessed live testing of the safety amours and discovered the intricate processes involved in analysing substances.

In addition to the academic aspects of the trip, it marked an unforgettable day at the National Forensic Science University. The students reflected on the wealth of knowledge they had gained and the memories they had created. With minds buzzing with excitement and inspiration, they boarded the bus, eager to share their experiences and continue their journey into the captivating world of Forensic Psychology.









## UG DISSERTATION PRESENTATION- 2024

**Rapporteur:** UG Dissertation Committee

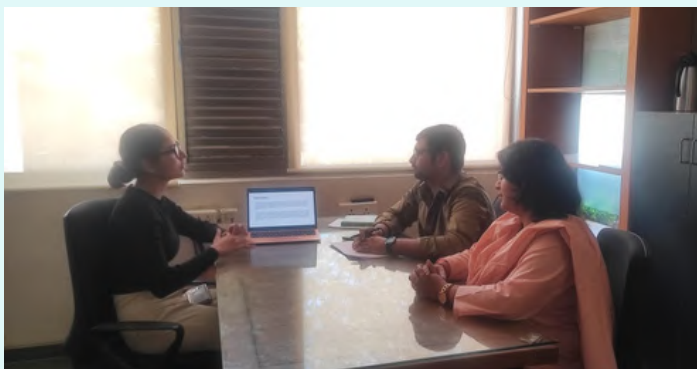
**Number of Participants:** 427

**April 3-4, 2024:** The UG Dissertation final presentation was scheduled for the 3rd and 4th of April 2024 for BA/BBA and B. Com Semester 8 students. The purpose of this exercise was to give students a platform to share their research findings with the experts and take their feedback on the research conducted by them as a part of their undergraduate program. 427 students' dissertation presentations were scheduled and 17 panels were made. Each panel constituted 2 members including the supervisor. Students from 8 different areas presented their research and panelists gave their inputs on the topics. Students covered a wide range of topics.

In Psychology, the major areas were social psychology, industrial and organizational psychology, cognitive psychology, media psychology, clinical psychology, counseling, etc. The major themes in International Relations were political violence, state conflict, international security, human rights awareness, etc. The themes from Public Administration included privatization and commercialization, non-government organization role in society, the effectiveness of local governance, etc. The area of English covered themes such as cultural myths about women, the role of OTT in cultural communication, ethical dilemmas in fiction, etc. The Economics area focused on themes such as labor market transition, social mobility, SME entrepreneurship in the Indian market, etc. The Mass Communication area covered the themes of fake news, media democracy, religion and cinema, the portrayal of human lives in cinema, etc.

Students of B. Com and BBA picked themes from diverse sections of the market and society including strategies and branding, financial literacy, digital payment success in India, labor union and HR in traditional companies/businesses, promotion of sustainable business, etc.

The students were evaluated by the panels and were guided to submit the final work in hard copy after incorporating the suggestions given by the experts. Panelists also motivated the students to publish their respective dissertations in the form of Research papers in reputed research journals.











## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT ON ECOMANIA

**Rapporteur:** Dr. Nausheen Nizami

**Number of Participants:** 35

**April 5, 2024:** Economics Area, Department of Social Science, in association with the Anirveda Club, organized a speaker session on the term '*Homo Economicus*' as part of the Ecomania event on April 5th, 2024.

Dr. Dhyani Mehta (Assistant Professor, Economics Area) led the speaker session. He began by introducing the concepts of rational and irrational thinking, prompting the audience to brainstorm their understanding. He even used the *Bhagavad Gita* as an example. Homo economicus is a theoretical model assuming rationality, self-interest, and utility maximization in decision-making.

A lively discussion ensued as participants shared their perspectives on '*Homo Economicus*' and its relevance in today's complex economic landscape. Dr. Dhyani further explained insights from behavioural economics through these key aspects:

- **Insight into Decision-Making Processes:** By examining factors like emotions, biases, and social pressures, participants gained a deeper appreciation for the complexities involved in decision-making.
- **Clarity on Terminology:** The session clarified terms like "rational" and "irrational" thinking, central to the Homo economicus concept.
- **Application to Economic Theory:** Participants learned how these concepts are applied in areas like consumer behaviour, market dynamics, and public policy.
- **Practical Understanding:** Practical exercises and case studies helped participants apply these concepts to real-world scenarios.
- **Enhanced Critical Thinking:** The event encouraged critical thinking about the assumptions underlying economic theory and the limitations of the Homo economicus model.







## SEMINAR ON 'CHOICE OVERLOAD'

**Rapporteur:** Dr. Nausheen Nizami

**Number of Participants:** 25

**April 6, 2024:** Economics Area in association with the Anirveda club organized an event on '*Choice Overload*'. The '*Choice Overload*' seminar provided an insightful exploration into the realms of behavioral economics, dissecting the intricate process of decision-making amidst a plethora of choices. Hosted by renowned experts in the field, the event served as a platform to unravel the complex interplay of cognitive biases, emotions, and social influences that shape our economic behaviors. Through engaging discussions and interactive sessions, participants were equipped with a deeper understanding of how individuals navigate decision-making in diverse contexts. The audience comprised approximately 25 students across schools.



Participants learning about the basics of Behavioural Economics





## Motive of the Event:

The Choice Overload seminar was aimed at exploring how having too many options affects decision-making. With today's abundance of choices, people often feel overwhelmed, leading to decision fatigue and poor choices. The event provided insights to help attendees make better decisions in their personal and professional lives. It also aimed to inspire new strategies for businesses, policymakers, and individuals by understanding human behavior better. The event helped the audience from diverse schools of PDEU in various aspects such as:

Enhanced Understanding: Attendees gained insights into decision-making processes, including cognitive biases and emotional triggers, enabling clearer decision-making.

Practical Applications: The seminar provided actionable strategies to mitigate choice overload, enhancing decision-making across various areas of life.

Networking and Collaboration: Professionals, academics, and enthusiasts connected, fostering collaborations to address real-world challenges in behavioral economics.

Impactful Insights: Engaging presentations and discussions generated novel perspectives on decision-making dynamics, equipping attendees with practical tools for navigating choice overload.



Interactive session





# WORKSHOP ON COUNSELLING INTERVIEW AND PSYCHOTHERAPIES

**Rapporteur:** Munish Keswani

**Number of Participants:** 45

**April 8, 2024:** The two-day workshop, hosted by the Psychology Area, Department of Social Science, School of Liberal Studies, PDEU on the 8th and 9th of April. The workshop was designed to enrich students' understanding of various therapeutic approaches. Coordinated by Dr. Gitanjali Kapoor and mentored by Dr. Ritu Sharma, the workshop featured esteemed clinical psychologists, Ms. Revati Bhagchandani and Ms. Rupangi Shah.

The workshop commenced with Ms. Revati Bhagchandani's session, where she delved into the significance and objectives of counselling interviews. Students were introduced to the procedural aspects of conducting sessions, including the vital component of the Mental Status Examination. Ms. Bhagchandani explained the basics of counselling and shed light on the humanistic approach to psychotherapy, providing students with a holistic understanding of therapeutic interventions.

A highlight was the engaging role-playing therapy session, where students actively participated in simulated counselling scenarios. This hands-on activity fostered a deeper comprehension of counselling dynamics by allowing them to apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations. The subsequent question-and-answer segment facilitated clarifications and further discussions, enriching the learning experience. Dr. Ritu Sharma, Head of the School of Liberal Studies, expressed gratitude to Ms. Bhagchandani for her enlightening session, acknowledging her invaluable contribution to the students' professional development.

On the second day, Ms. Rupangi Shah led an insightful session on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), explaining its underlying principles and mechanisms. Students gained insights into the components of CBT and its application in addressing cognitive distortions. Ms. Shah provided a glimpse into the structure of a typical CBT session, offering a practical understanding of the therapeutic process.

The session featured extensive role-playing activities, where students immersed themselves in case studies to identify problems and formulate suitable interventions within the framework of CBT. This interactive approach facilitated active learning and honed students' problem-solving skills in a therapeutic context. In addition to CBT, Ms. Shah introduced students to the fundamentals of Gestalt therapy, broadening their awareness of alternative therapeutic approaches. The session concluded with expressions of gratitude from Dr. Ritu Sharma, acknowledging Ms. Shah's invaluable contributions to the workshop.







The psychology workshop at Pandit Deendayal Energy University was a resounding success, equipping students with practical knowledge and skills essential for their future careers in psychology. Engaging sessions led by experienced clinical psychologists provided the students with insights into counselling techniques, therapeutic modalities, and their practical applications. The hands-on role-playing activities facilitated active learning and enabled students to apply theoretical concepts in real-world scenarios. The workshop not only enhanced students' understanding of various therapeutic approaches but also fostered their professional growth and development. The enthusiastic participation and positive feedback underscored the workshop's effectiveness in providing a platform for experiential learning and skill enhancement.



Group photo



Students working in groups for role play preparation







## STANDARDIZATION OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TEST: A PRACTICAL EXPOSURE

Rapporteur: Krisha Patel

**Number of Participants:** 33

**April 12, 2024:** The school of liberal studies, PDEU, organized a one-day workshop on April 12, 2024. The workshop was coordinated by Dr Ritu Sharma and Dr Shraddha Sharma. Three important topics in psychometrics were covered in this workshop. During the workshop, Dr. Shachi gave a brief introduction to the concepts of validity and norm establishment in psychometric tests. After that, she moved on to demonstrate statistical analysis using Microsoft Excel, and lastly, she ended with a deep dive into the concepts of validity along with their types and relevance. Dr. Shachi gave a detailed demonstration of how to calculate the percentile norms for different groups.

For the second session, the expert Dr. Lokesh Gupta was invited. He taught the concept of reliability and its calculation for psychometric tests. The students learned the various types and calculations of reliability.

Dr. Lokesh demonstrated the use of SPSS in reliability calculations. During the session, every student calculated the reliability of their psychological test, which they developed as a part of the course. Students found the workshop to be quite helpful and hands-on. In the concluding session, students' queries were addressed, and experts were thanked for their valuable time.







## ONE-DAY WORKSHOP ON UGC-NET (ENGLISH)

**Rapporteur:** Abhignya Sajja

**Number of Participants:** 70

**April 12, 2024:** The department of Languages, Literature, and Aesthetics (English Area), SLS, organized a one day workshop on paper-2 English of the NTA-UGC NET exam for students of M.A in English. PG Students from CUG, Gandhinagar, St. Xavier's College, Gujarat University, Bhavan's College amongst others participated with great zeal. Mr. Jayesh Acharya, Miss Shrishti Kushwah, and Miss Abhignya Sajja, PhD scholars of English Literature donned the role of speakers; they shared various tips that should help one ace the exam and spoke of their experience taking the NET exam. The sessions were moderated by Dr Vaibhav Shah. A panel discussion was held where the speakers discussed strategy, syllabus, note-making, and exam pattern. Each speaker also made a presentation to disseminate information pertaining to the test (cut off, Junior Research Fellowship, marking system, opportunities after the exam and so on), followed by a quiz session. The last part of the workshop involved a team-based activity and game wherein groups of the participants gathered previous years questions, asked other groups, and thus, effectively came into the possession of a substantial question bank. The event was graced by Professor Nigam Dave, Professor Ritu Sharma, Professor Pradeep Malik, and Dr Harmik Vaishnav who addressed the keen participants and wished them luck.

The workshop helped set a healthy yardstick for the students who wished to embark upon journeys in research and teaching. They also found a network and connected to fellow students who could now be a part of their NET support groups. The students, undeterred by the oppressive heat, spent the day formulating their strategy to crack the elusive NET exam.











## MAJOR –MINOR WORKSHOP FOR THE UNDER GRADUATE BATCH 2022

**Rapporteur:** Prof. (Dr.) Ritu Sharma

**April 23, 2024:** The School of Liberal Studies (SLS) conducted a Major-Minor workshop for the undergraduate Batch of 2022. The one-day workshop observed expert input from Prof. (Dr.) Nigam Dave, Director SLS, Prof. (Dr.) Ritu Sharma, Dean FOLS and all the Area Chairs along with the faculty members of respective disciplines.

The workshop focussed on developing an understanding of various subjects and their respective career opportunities to allow students in order to take an informed decision about the courses offered by SLS from Semester 5 to Semester 8 while pursuing their four-year undergraduate programme. The area faculty members discussed about their major and minor papers along with the career and internship opportunities. Further, they discussed their domain-specific salient features.

Know your Major Workshop 2024 (23.4.24) for Batch 2022		
Date	Time	Session/Area
23.4.24	09:30 - 10:10	Opening Remark by Director SLS and Dean FOLS
23.4.24	10:10 - 10:50	Business and Commerce by Area Chair
23.4.24	10:50 - 11:30	Mass Communication by Area Chair
23.4.24	11:30 - 12:10	Psychology by Area Chair
23.4.24	12:10 - 12:50	English by Area Chair
23.4.24	12:50 - 01:30	Public Administration by Area Chair





23.4.24	01:30 - 02:10	Lunch Hour
23.4.24	02:10 - 02:50	Economics by Area Chair
23.4.24	02:50 - 03:30	International Relations by Area Chair
23.4.24	03:30 - 03:50	Environmental Studies as Minor by Area Chair
23.4.24	03:50 - 04:30	Digital Humanities by Area Chair
23.4.24	04.30 - 05:10	Indic Studies by Area Chair
23.4.24	05.10-05:50	Instructions for registration by SLS Admin



Students Attending the Major-Minor Workshop



Prof. Nigam Dave addressing the students





Prof. Ritu Sharma addressing the students



Student volunteers anchoring the event



English Area Chair along with faculty members



Mass Communication Area Chair along with faculty members



Psychology Area Chair along with faculty members



International Relations Area Chair along with faculty members





## DETAILS OF FIELD TRIP TO MEHSANA DISTRICT, GUJARAT FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND ENGLISH STUDENTS

**Rapporteur:** Brijeshsinh Rathod

**Number of Participants:** 32

**April 25, 2024:** A unique experience where theories meet real-world implications was organised on the 25th of April, 2024. This visit was helpful to our students in connecting their theoretical understanding with empirical realities. It was helpful for them to realise the multifaceted objectives of development and identify the constraints and challenges of development. It engaged the students with development and administration at the very grassroots level.

At first, we visited the Mehsana Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), where farmers from around the district come to sell their produce. The students had a unique experience of interacting with the local farmers and also got to see the process of how their produce is sold through the auctioning process at the APMC. During the interactions, they got insights into the challenges faced by farmers and how the APMC plays a pivotal role in safeguarding their interests. Students also interacted with officials and staff members of the APMC including Mr. Pravin Bhai Patel who facilitated the field visit for us.

Then, we visited the Dudhsagar dairy, Mehsana. Here, the dairy facilitated us with an official to give us a tour. During the tour of the dairy, the students got to see the workings of a dairy, how the majority of the process has been mechanised and what roles the employees play. The dairy promotes women's empowerment and it was seen that the majority of the staff consisted of female employees. However, the students noticed that the majority of the supervisory positions were male employees who were assisted by female employees as their subordinates.

Then, we visited the Modhera Sun Temple which has been included in the tentative list of World Heritage Sites of UNESCO in 2022. We interacted with the local guide Mr. Chirag Goswami who shared a brief history of the temple. It was built around 1026 AD during the reign of Bhima-I of Solanki dynasty. It was demolished in the invasion of Mohammad Ghazni. No worship is offered here now. The temple is the Monument of National Importance and is maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India. The temple's complex is completely operated by solar energy and the Modhera village is Asia's first solar village which has transitioned completely to solar energy for fulfilling its energy needs.

We extend our gratitude to Mr. Raman Bhai Patel (Chairman, Mehsana APMC), Mr. Pravinbhai Patel (Mehsana APMC), and Mr. Dashrathbhai Patel (H.R Manager, Dudhsagar Dairy, Mehsana) for accommodating us for this visit. We are thankful to Dr. Anurag Kumar Srivastava (Associate Professor, Department of Public Policy and Administration, SLS), Dr. Udayprakash Sharma







(Assistant Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations, SLS), and Dr. Urmi Satyan (Assistant Professor, Department of Languages, Literature and Aesthetics, SLS) for coordinating and successfully organising the field visit.



SLS students at APMC Mehsana interacting with local farmers



Students and Faculties at Dudhsagar Dairy, Mehsana



SLS students at Modhera Sun Temple





## WEBINAR ON ‘MULTIDISCIPLINARITY IN RESEARCH IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT’

**Rapporteur:** Dr. Vaibhav Shah

**Number of Participants:** 30

**April 29, 2024:** The PhD Office SLS organised a webinar on ‘Multidisciplinarity in Research in the Present Context’ on April 29 th , 2024, for the orientation of PhD aspirants from across the country. The event was graced by professors from SLS, PDEU who addressed the students and introduced them to the nuances of the PhD program at the institute. Dr. Nigam Dave stressed the nuances of interdisciplinary research and the expert mentorship scholars available at PDEU. He encouraged the students to read widely and prepare diligently for their PhD entrances and competitive exams. Dr. Ritu Sharma highlighted the various facets of the PhD program at the institute and encouraged the students to delve deeper into the domains they choose with a keen eye for detail. She spoke of the privilege of being amongst a select few from the country who enroll in a PhD program and the dedication one ought to inculcate to fare well. Dr. Vaibhav Shah explained to the participants about the admission process, the system of merit and ranking, stipend, travel grant, and other aspects of PhD at PDEU. After that, PhD scholars from different areas shared their experiences as PhD scholars at the School of Liberal Studies, PDEU. The departments represented were English (department of languages, literature, and aesthetics), Mass Communication, Economics, International Relations, Public Administration and Public Policy, Psychology, Business Administration, and Commerce. The webinar ended with a session of questions and answers about PhD program and its process.

The participants brought forth several questions and were eager to understand the ropes of a PhD degree and the PhD program at SLS, PDEU. Professors and scholars from various arenas helped clear misconceptions and doubts the students had about a career in academia.

**PDEU** PANDIT DEENDAYAL ENERGY UNIVERSITY  
UGC RECOGNIZED Formerly Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDPU)

**SLS** SCHOOL OF LIBERAL STUDIES

**WEBINAR ON**  
**Multidisciplinarity in Research in the Present Context**

**DATE : 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 TIME: 6 pm to 7 pm**

**SPEAKERS**

- PROFESSOR NIGAM DAVE**  
Director, School of Liberal Studies
- DR. RITU SHARMA**  
Dean, School of Liberal Studies
- DR. VAIBHAV SHAH**  
Convenor, Ph.D. Programme, SLS

Please register: <https://forms.gle/n8uInJPBUkWva2Cb7>







Screenshot of a Zoom meeting interface. The main window displays a presentation slide titled "About Me" with the following text:

- Name: Amjad Suleiman
- Nationality: Nigeria
- Field of Study: PhD in English Language and Literature
- Current Status in the Ph.D. Programme: Ongoing
- Relevant Background and Experience that Influenced My Decision to Pursue PhD: (Study Fellowship).

The right sidebar shows a list of participants under the heading "People". The "IN MEETING" section lists 29 contributors, including Abhignya Sajja (You), Abhishek Shrivastav, Amrapali Vyas, and Anjal malik. The bottom status bar indicates the time is 6:53 PM and the meeting ID is xff-clpk-uwo.

Screenshot of a Zoom meeting grid view. The grid shows 9 participants in a 3x3 layout:

- Top row: Vipul Nakum, Ritu Sharma, Amrapali Vyas
- Middle row: Rushali Vaishnav, Nigam Dave, Nilesh Helalya
- Bottom row: Nisha Gulabani, 23 others, Valbhav Shah

The bottom status bar shows the time is 6:24 PM and the meeting ID is xff-clpk-uwo.

Screenshot of a Zoom meeting grid view. The grid shows 9 participants in a 3x3 layout:

- Top row: Valbhav Shah, Nigam Dave, Amrapali Vyas
- Middle row: Rushali Vaishnav, Ritu Sharma, Nilesh Helalya
- Bottom row: Nisha Gulabani, 20 others, Abhignya Sajja

The bottom status bar shows the time is 6:24 PM and the meeting ID is xff-clpk-uwo.





# *Rural Internship*





## ON-CAMPUS SESSIONS FOR RURAL INTERNSHIP 2023-24 (PHASE 3)

**Rapporteur:** Moksha Shah

**Number of Participants:** 180

**March 14 2024 - March 19 2024:** To complement the affective and practical learnings acquired by the participants during the 10-day Rural Internship (2023-2024) program, the on-campus sessions were conducted over two days. These sessions featured a series of insightful presentations by experts on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The primary objective of these sessions was to enhance the participants' understanding of the 12 SDGs, providing them with comprehensive knowledge and practical insights into sustainable development.

The primary aim was to deepen participants' comprehension of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through expert presentations. By offering holistic insights into the 12 SDGs, these sessions sought to empower participants with the knowledge and skills essential for meaningful contributions towards society and future generations.

The guest speakers for the on-campus sessions for the Rural Internship 2023-24 included some prominent and esteemed experts like Mr. Lokendra Balasariya, Ms. Ruzan Khambatta, Mr. Mohit Gupta, Wing Commander Mr. Punit Chadha, Dr. Devanshi Joshi, Wing Commander Mr. Dharmendra, Pandey Sir, Dr. Saurabh Anand and Professor Pranab Mahapatra.

**On Day 1: March 14, 2024,** phase 3 of the rural internship was inaugurated with the first guest speaker **Mr. Lokendra Balasariya**. Renowned as an architect and urban planner, Mr. Lokendra elucidated upon the 17 SDGs, accentuating their intricate interconnectedness and underscoring the necessity for holistic development across social, economic, and environmental domains. Key highlights encompassed discussions on the Paris Agreement, the ambitious endeavour to attain 75% global healthy soils by 2030, and the exemplary model of Sikkim's transformation into India's inaugural 100% organic state.

**Miss Ruzan Khambatta** was the second guest, revered as a successful entrepreneur and committed social activist, Ruzan dedicated her session to the empowerment of women. She shared her journey and the groundbreaking impact of the HEART (Help Emergency Alert Rescue Terminal) technology, instrumental in rescuing women in distressing situations.





The third speaker was **Mr. Mohit Gupta**: Hailing from Gujarat Maritime University, Mr. Gupta delved into SDG 14, "*Life Below Water*," accentuating pressing concerns such as marine pollution and advocating for sustainable ocean management practices. Additionally, he expounded upon the significance of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in fostering marine conservation efforts.

The last guest speaker for the day was **Mr. Wing Commander Mr. Punit Chadhha**. Notable for his emphasis on voluntarism and effective leadership, Wing Commander Mr. Punit Chadhha prompted participants to introspect on their rural internship encounters, urging them to glean valuable insights and lessons.

**On Day 2, March 15, 2024**, proceedings commenced with a comprehensive guidance session led by Dr. Geetanjali Kapoor, focusing on the intricacies of poster creation and report writing tasks. Additionally, an engaging component of the evaluation process entailed the administration of an online quiz, aligning with the knowledge garnered throughout the two days of on-campus sessions. Dr. Kapoor provided detailed instructions regarding the quiz's format and logistics, clarifying its scheduling for the evening of March 15, following the culmination of all scheduled lectures.

The commencement of the lectures was heralded by the esteemed presence of **Dr. Devanshi Joshi**, a luminary renowned for her profound expertise in sustainability. Dr. Joshi embarked upon an extensive exploration of diverse sustainability concepts, meticulously dissecting topics such as Earth Overshoot Day, carbon footprinting, and biocapacity. Through her erudite discourse, she fervently emphasized the urgent necessity of confronting pivotal sustainability challenges with unwavering resolve and immediate action.

Wing Commander **Mr. Dharmendra**, the founder of the ARC Foundation, delivered a compelling address centred on the promotion of responsible citizenship. His discourse underscored the critical importance of addressing pressing issues such as waste segregation and environmental conservation with utmost diligence and foresight.

Next up was **Pandey Sir** from Gujarat Disaster Management University. He provided valuable insights into disaster management strategies, emphasizing the quintessential role of societal resilience in effectively combating calamities.

**Dr. Saurabh Anand**: Addressed the theme of social inclusivity, and delved into pertinent issues such as social disparities, gender inequality, and the paramount importance of fostering inclusive societal frameworks.

Next up was **Professor Pranab Mahopatra**, a leading authority on rural development strategies. He discussed methodologies such as participatory rural appraisal and the NSL Chart, shedding light on effective interventions to address rural development challenges.

As the second day drew to a close, an online quiz was conducted to assess the knowledge gained by the students from the various expert lectures they attended throughout the two days.





### Day 3: March 19, 2024

On the morning of the third day of the on-campus sessions of the rural internship, all participants demonstrated their acquired knowledge through group poster presentations and comprehensive reports summarizing their engagements over the 12-day program. Expert evaluators meticulously examined the presentations, recognizing the exceptional creativity and diverse expressions showcased. Collectively, these presentations highlighted the overarching theme of Sustainable Development Goals, illustrating innovative and unique approaches to addressing relevant global challenges.

*“During the two days of lectures, it felt as though we were delving into the darker recesses of human progress—air thick with pollution, landscapes scarred by landfills, dump sites, and waters poisoned by contamination. Yet, amidst this stark revelation, a light shone brightly on the imperative of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, kindling within us a profound awakening and a renewed commitment to fostering a sustainable future.”*







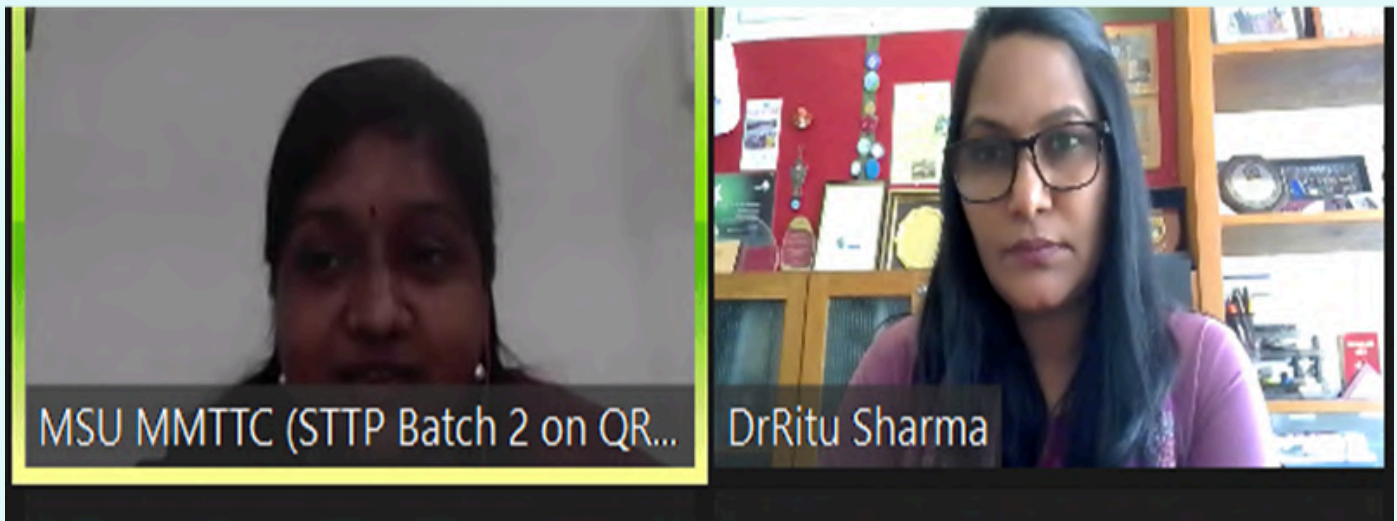
# *Achievements of Faculty Members and Staff*





## PROF. (DR.) RITU SHARMA

Prof. (Dr.) Ritu Sharma was invite by **UGC MMTTC STTP** to deliver an expert talk on **Qualitative Research-Phenomenological research in social sciences** organized by Faculty of Education and Psychology, MS University, Baroda.

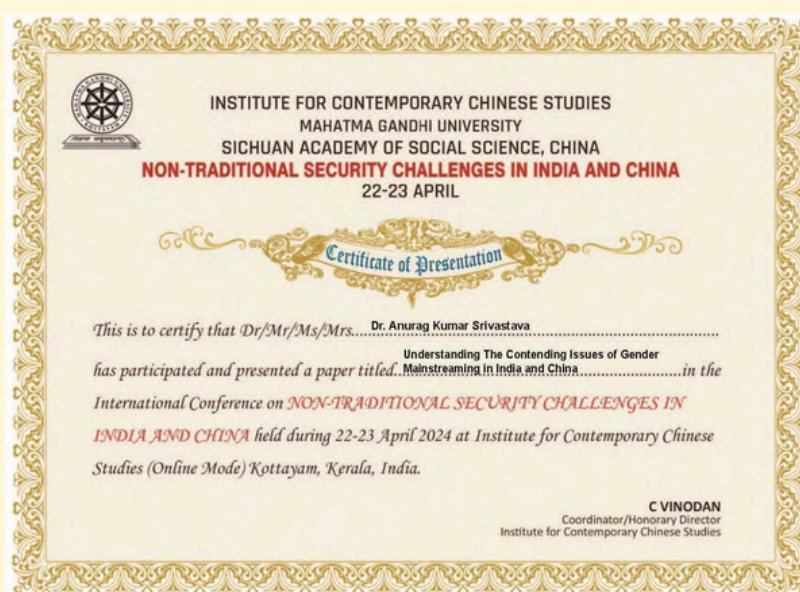




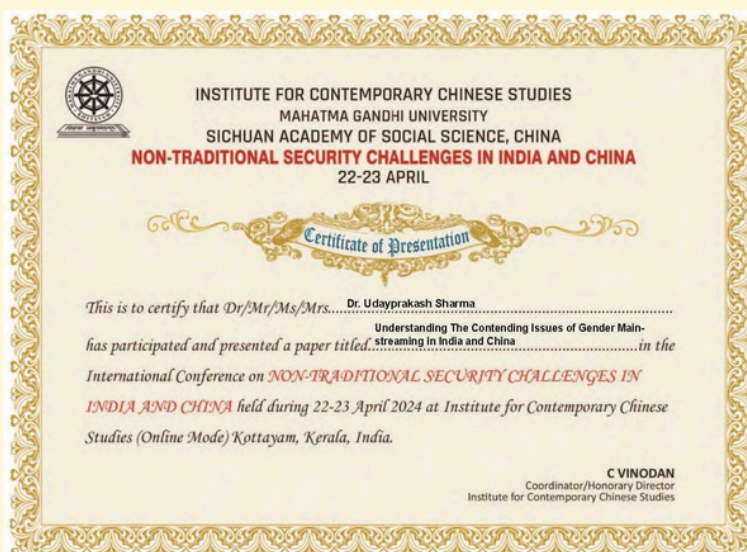
## DR. ANURAG KUMAR SRIVASTAVA & DR. UDAYPRAKASH SHARMA

Dr. Anurag Kumar Srivastava and Dr. Udayprakash Sharma participated in an International Conference based on the theme: Non-Traditional Security Challenges in India and China, jointly organized by Institute for Contemporary Chinese Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, India and Sichuan Academy of Social Science, China, from April 22-23, 2024 through online mode.

Dr. Srivastava and Dr. Sharma presented a paper titled: '*Understanding the Contending Issues of Gender Mainstreaming in India and China*', at the International Conference and the paper received great appreciation.



Certificate\_DR. Anurag Kumar Sirvastava



Certificate\_DR. Udayprakash Sharma





## DR. ANKITA SRIVASTAVA

Dr. Ankita Srivastava attended the '*Teaching with Cases*' Seminar, jointly organized by the IIM Ahmedabad Case Centre and Harvard Business Publishing on April 12-13, 2024. This seminar offered valuable insights and practical tools to enhance teaching skills through the case method pedagogy. Sessions focused on conducting dynamic case discussions, fostering student engagement, and evaluating participation effectively.







## SHANTI P CHAUDHARY, PH.D.

The following papers of Dr. Shanti P Chaudhary were published in Scopus Indexed journals: The first paper named '*Mapping of Global Research Performance on Molecular Docking: A Bibliometric Study*' in the journal Current Trends in Biotechnology and Pharmacy, published by The Association of Biotechnology and Pharmacy (ABAP).

Url: <https://www.abap.co.in/index.php/home/article/view/1347>

The second paper is titled '*A Bibliometric Analysis of Scholarly Publication on Protein Folding From 2018 to 2022*', published in Current Trends in Biotechnology and Pharmacy by The Association of Biotechnology and Pharmacy (ABAP).

Url: <https://www.abap.co.in/index.php/home/article/view/957>





# *Students' Achievements*





## SAKSHI SANGHVI

23MAPSY12

Sakshi Sanghvi from the MA 2023 batch developed a start-up business '*In a Safe Headspace*', which is a mental health and well-being organization. It provides a holistic approach to managing mental health. They have developed a range of products professionally curated by a team of psychologists along with therapy services and interactive unconventional workshops for community engagement.

The products include self-help mental health management toolboxes, Spill the Beans (a fun interactive game to get unconventional conversations flowing) and a scented candle. They also design and conduct corporate workshops for workplace mental health management




Spill the Beans



Jitter Box Contents





The background is an abstract, textured composition. The top half is dominated by various shades of blue and cyan, with visible brushstrokes and a slightly grainy texture. The bottom half transitions into a vibrant mix of red, pink, and magenta, also with a textured, painterly appearance. The overall effect is a dynamic, colorful gradient with organic, hand-painted qualities.

# *Media Coverage*





## SOUL launches 'Pinnacle Voices Leadership Series'



The School of Ultimate Leadership (SOUL), launched the 'Pinnacle Voices Leadership Series' in strategic collaboration with leading educational institutions of India. The inaugural session was held at the Pandit Deendayal Energy University auditorium and had MD of Torrent Power, Jinal Mehta as one of the keynote speakers. As per the VC of SOUL Board, Dr Hasmukh Adhia, the role of leaders has turned complex in the multi-dimensional and challenging world of today. Thus, the Series, he said, is designed to cultivate ethical leadership to build a strong foundation for the future, showcasing influential leaders who have shaped industries, contributed to nation building and redefined leadership paradigms. Mehta's session on 'Values-Driven Growth: Nurturing Ethics in Business' highlighted the core values that form the foundation of Torrent Power and shared multiple instances when the leaders chose to do what was right, abiding by integrity and transparency as a core business value.

**AHMEDABAD MIRROR**

05-04-2024





## પીડીઈયુ ખાતે યુજીસી- નેટ વિષય પર એક દિવસનો વર્કશોપ યોજવામાં આવ્યો



ગાંધીનગર | પંડિત દિનદયાળ એનર્જી યુનિવર્સિટી ખાતે સ્કૂલ ઓફ લીબરલ સ્ટડીઝના ડીપાર્ટમેન્ટ ઓફ લેન્ગ્વેજ, લીટરેચર એન્ડ એસથેટિક્સ દ્વારા યુજીસી- નેટ વિષય પર એક દિવસના વર્કશોપનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. અમદાવાદ- ગાંધીનગરની વિવિધ કોલેજ અને યુનિવર્સિટીના પોસ્ટ ગ્રેજ્યુએટ સ્ટુડન્ટ્સે આ વર્કશોપમાં ભાગ લીધો હતો. યુજીસી- નેટની પરીક્ષા, તેનો કાર્ઈટેરીયા, પરીક્ષાની પદ્ધતિ, પરીક્ષાની તૈયારી માટેની સ્ટ્રેટેજી વગેરે બાબતો અંગે આ વર્કશોપમાં માર્ગદર્શન આપવામાં આવ્યું હતું. વર્કશોપનું આયોજન ડો. વૈભવ શાહ, સૃષ્ટિ કુશવાહ, અભિજ્ઞ સજ્જા અને જયેશ આચાર્ય દ્વારા કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું.

**DIVYA BHASKAR**

15-04-2024







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