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Editorial Musings

A WARM WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF THE SLS MIRROR

From the Desk of the Editor

Dear Readers,

It is with heartfelt gratitude, excitement, and a sense of responsibility that we present the latest edition of the *SLS Mirror*, the School of Liberal Studies Magazine and Newsletter. The *SLS Mirror* continues to stand as a beacon of creativity, growth, and academic excellence. Its current stature is a testament to the incredible efforts and dedication of the innovative team behind it. As we turn the page to a new chapter, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Dr. Amrita**, our outgoing Editor, and the talented **student editorial and design team**. Their creativity, vision, and hard work have shaped the *SLS Mirror* into a vibrant platform for showcasing the spirit and excellence of our institution.



We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Dr. Nigam Dave**, our outgoing Patron, and **Dr. Ritu Sharma**, our outgoing Advisor. Their steadfast support and invaluable mentorship have guided the *SLS Mirror* from its inception to its current stature, fostering a vibrant platform that celebrates the spirit of our institution.

With equal excitement, we are thrilled to welcome **Dr. A. K. Suryavanshi**, Director, SLS, as our new Patron and **Dr. Sitakanta Mishra**, Dean, SLS, as our new Advisor. Their expertise and enthusiasm promise to take the *SLS Mirror* to even greater heights, continuing to reflect the dynamic and ever-evolving essence of the School of Liberal Studies.

This edition, covering the months of May to October, is imbued with the vibrant spirit of India's festivals—times that remind us of unity, love, gratitude, and community—values that are at the heart of our school's ethos. These festivals are not merely cultural observances; they embody the essence of what binds us together as a community.

For years, the *SLS Mirror* has been a platform to highlight the many accomplishments of our school, from ground-breaking research presented at international conferences to the impressive participation of students in various events. This edition continues that tradition, shining a light on the collective efforts of our community in advancing knowledge, fostering professional excellence, and contributing to the broader academic and cultural landscape of our institution.



You will find updates on exciting academic events—conferences, workshops, and publications—that showcase the intellectual vibrancy of our faculty and students. It's not just about participation; it's about contribution also. Our scholars have enriched these platforms with innovative research, thought-provoking discussions, and impactful fieldwork that are setting new standards of excellence.

As the newly appointed editor, I am particularly excited to share some fresh changes in both content and format. Our goal is to keep the *SLS Mirror* dynamic, engaging, and relevant to the evolving needs of our school while preserving the high standards set by those who have held this role before me. The changes you will notice are aimed at making the magazine visually stimulating, interactive, and closely connected to your interests. We welcome your feedback on these updates, as it is important to me that this platform remains a true reflection of our community's vibrancy and aspirations.

We remain committed to delivering content that celebrates both academic achievement and the creative spirit that defines our school. We look forward to hearing from you as we embark on this exciting new chapter, ensuring that the *SLS Mirror* continues to be a space for meaningful reflection, dialogue, and exchange.

Thank you, for your unwavering support. I hope you find this edition not only informative but also inspiring—filled with the joy of festival celebrations, the pride of academic achievements, and the stories that make our School of Liberal Studies truly exceptional.

Happy reading!

Warm regards,

Dr Rachna Arora Editor, SLS Mirror School of Liberal Studies





Editorial Musings

Greetings, Readers!!

Welcome to this edition of SLS Mirror! It has been a remarkable journey putting together this issue, and as a joint editor, I am thrilled to see the incredible talent, creativity, and dedication of our student community showcased on these pages. This magazine is a true reflection of our school's vibrant spirit and diverse voices, capturing stories, achievements, and insights that make our institution unique.

SLS Mirror aims to be a source of inspiration and positivity. This edition is dedicated to celebrating the voices of our students, Faculties, and Staff and giving a platform to each unique initiative, action and achievement.



A special thanks to our contributors, teachers, and the editorial team, whose hard work has brought this magazine to life. And, of course, we owe immense gratitude to our readers—you make this effort truly worthwhile.

Happy reading, and thank you for being a part of our journey!

Warm regards,

Dr.Shweta Bambuwala, Co-editor, SLS Mirror



Editorial Musings

Guiding the Narrative and Aesthetics: Editorial & Design Excellence



Hello, Readers!

A warm welcome to this new edition of our magazine. I'm the newly appointed sub-editor and I'm thrilled to be a part of this journey with my mentors, team, peers, and most importantly, our readers. I'm a fourth-year Psychology major and English Literature minor, with an active interest in reading, cinema, editing and a warm cup of chai after a nap. This has been a new and wonderful experience. I hope the result that we present reflects our collective hard work!

Warm regards, Poshita Khare Sub-Editor, SLS Mirror

To Our Readers,

Welcome to SLS Mirror's newest edition!

It's lovely to be back with our amazing team and I'm excited to embark on the role of Design Editor for SLS Mirror. We are all set to bring you the stories and events from SLS with you. In addition, we've updated the magazine, and are eager to share with you all these recent developments. I'm looking forward to the journey ahead and hope you enjoy the revamped SLS Mirror experience!

Warm regards, Anushka Singh Design Editor, SLS Mirror









LIVE SCREENING OF THE UNION BUDGET 2024-25 SPEECH

Rapporteur: Dr Nausheen Nizami

No. of Participants: 68

July 23, 2024: Area of Economics, Department of Social Science and School of Liberal Studies, PDEU organized a "*Live Screening of the Union Budget 2024-25*" intending to raise awareness and understand the intricacies of the Union Budget speech.

The event was attended by all interested students including Economics Major-Minor, MA and PhD scholars. Faculty of Economics Area Dr Nausheen Nizami, Dr Himani Joshi Baxi and Dr Dhyani Mehta deliberated and discussed the implications of the budget in an open interactive session that followed the budget speech. We are thankful to our Director Prof. (dr.) Nigam Dave and our Dean Prof. Ritu Sharma for the support and necessary approvals granted for the smooth conduct of the event.



Pic: Photo Collage of the Live Screening of Union Budget Speech





BAHIKHATA: PANEL DISCUSSION ON UNION BUDGET 2024-25

Rapporteur: Team Anirveda and Bulls and Bears

No. of Participants: 40

July 23, 2024: Area of Economics, Department of Social Science, School of Liberal Studies, collaborating with The Techno-Economic Club, Anirveda and Bulls and Bears PDEU organized an insightful session on the Budget 2024-25. This event brought together a diverse range of speakers from the SLS department (Dr. Himani Baxi and Dr. Rajesh Desai) and also two invited speakers (Dr. Tulika Tripathi and Mr. Kshtij Shah) who provided valuable insights into the intricacies of the budget, its implications, and its impact on various sectors of the economy.



Pic 1: R-L: Mr. Kshitij Shah, Dr. Tulika Tripathi, Dr. Sitakanta Mishra (Dean-SLS), Prof Suryavanshi (Director-SLS), Dr. Himani Baxi and Dr. Rajesh Desai

The session commenced with a warm welcome to the esteemed speakers, followed by a series of thought-provoking presentations and discussions that delved deep into the key aspects of the budget. The speakers shared their expertise, comprehensively analysing the economic policies and their potential outcomes.

In addition to the intellectual discourse, the event was marked by camaraderie and collaboration among the attendees. As a token of appreciation, goodies were presented to the speakers, acknowledging their contributions to the success of the session. Furthermore, refreshments were arranged for all participants, club members, and speakers, fostering a relaxed and engaging atmosphere for networking and discussions.





The joint effort by the clubs and the department not only enriched the understanding of Budget 2024 among the participants but also strengthened the ties between the clubs and the academic community. The session was a testament to the commitment of the organizing bodies in promoting informed discussions on critical economic issues.



Pic 2: Dr Dhyani Mehta giving Vote of Thanks

The event on Budget 2024 achieved several significant outcomes:

- 1.Enhanced Understanding: Participants gained a deeper insight into the budget's key components, its economic implications, and the potential impact on various sectors. The detailed analyses provided by the speakers enriched the knowledge base of all attendees.
- 2. Expert Engagement: The event successfully facilitated direct interaction between students and experts, allowing for real-time queries, discussions, and a more nuanced understanding of complex economic issues.
- 3.Interdisciplinary Collaboration: The joint effort between the Techno-Economic Club, Anirveda, the Stock Market Club (Bulls and Bears), and the Department of Economics fostered a spirit of collaboration, bridging gaps between different academic disciplines and creating a holistic learning experience.
- 4. Networking Opportunities: The event provided a platform for participants to connect with professionals, peers, and faculty members, strengthening academic and professional networks.
- 5.Positive Reception: The thoughtful arrangement of goodies for the speakers and refreshments for all attendees contributed to a welcoming and engaging atmosphere, enhancing the overall experience and positive reception of the event.





Encouragement of Critical Thinking: The discussions and presentations encouraged participants to think critically about economic policies and their broader implications, promoting a culture of informed and analytical discourse within the academic community.



Pic 3: The Vote of Thanks was given by Dr Dhyani Mehta and the event closed with a group photograph





CREATING DOCUMENTARY

Rapporteur: Dr Rachna Arora

Number of participants: 30

August 7, 2024: An expert talk on "Creating Documentary" was organized by Dr Rachna Arora for BA VI semester students enrolled in the Gender Studies course. The session featured Dr Sandesh Mahajan, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mass Communication, School of Liberal Studies, as the resource person. A total of 30 students from Gender Studies and Mass Communication attended the session, designed to offer an indepth understanding of documentary filmmaking, with a specific focus on creating documentaries that explore gender issues. Dr Mahajan's presentation was comprehensive, covering both the technical and creative aspects of the documentary-making process. His insightful and student-centred approach ensured that attendees gained a solid grasp of theoretical concepts as well as practical insights into the filmmaking process.

The expert talk delivered by Dr Sandesh Mahajan was a resounding success. It not only enriched the academic experience of the 7th-semester BA Gender Studies students but also sparked enthusiasm and creativity among them. The students are now more motivated and better prepared to undertake documentary projects that explore and challenge gender norms.









WORLD ENTREPRENEURS' DAY CELEBRATION WITH 'WE SPIRIT' WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS EXHIBITION

Rapporteur: Department of Business Administration and Commerce

Number of participants: 50+ women entrepreneurs, 1000+ students, faculties and staff

August 20, 2024: The Department of Business Administration and Commerce at Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU) marked World Entrepreneurs Day by hosting the 'WE Spirit' Exhibition, an event dedicated to fostering entrepreneurship and innovation within the university community. This exclusive exhibition, open to faculty, staff, and students, showcased the work of over 50 small-scale women entrepreneurs, receiving an enthusiastic response from attendees.

The event commenced with an inspiring inauguration by PDEU's Director General, Dr S. Sundar Manoharan, whose support highlighted the university's commitment to nurturing entrepreneurial talent. Throughout the day, visitors enjoyed an array of creative displays, culminating in a heartfelt valedictory ceremony. This closing event was honoured by the presence of Shrimati Binaa Hasmukh Patel, a state award-winning Warli artist and founder of Binaa Soul Foundation. Her presence added a unique touch to the event's conclusion, celebrating the convergence of art and entrepreneurship.

The 'WE Spirit' Exhibition featured a diverse collection of works, including Hand Casting, Lipan Art, Handmade Jewellery, Epoxy Art, as well as various food and festival items. Each display showcased the innovation and dedication of these talented women, many of whom have transformed their creative skills into thriving small businesses.

The success of the exhibition was evident in the strong turnout and the enthusiastic participation from the PDEU community, emphasizing the importance of a supportive environment for creativity and entrepreneurship.

As the exhibition drew to a close, it was clear that the 'WE Spirit' Exhibition had achieved its goal of promoting innovation and entrepreneurship within the PDEU community. The Department of Business Administration and Commerce remains committed to providing platforms for growth, ensuring that the entrepreneurial spirit thrives at Pandit Deendayal Energy University.

Coordinators: Dr Ankita Srivastava and Dr Tejas Dave













World Entrepreneurs Day celebrated at PDEU



The School of Liberal Studies at PanditDeendayal Energy University (PDEU) proudly hosted the 'WE Spirit' Exhibition, an exclusive event for the university's faculty, staff, and students to celebrate World Entrepreneurs Day, on campus. Featuring the innovative work of over 50 small-scale women entrepreneurs, the exhibition was a grand success, receiving an enthusiastic response from the university community. The exhibition showcased a diverse array of creative wo including hand casting, lipanart, handmade jewellery, epoxy art, with variety of food items.





CONNECTING WITH NATURE

Rapporteur: Dr Nausheen Nizami

Number of participants: 34

August 23, 2024: A talk on 'Connecting with Nature' was organized at the School of Liberal Studies, PDEU. The inaugural remarks were given by SLS Dean Dr Sitakanta Mishra.



Mr Prashant Shah sharing interesting facts about flora in the collage with the audience. The collage had photos of flora and fauna found in PDEU Campus

The purpose of the talk was to raise environmental consciousness among the stakeholders of the university and support Mission Life. The talk was open to all interested participants.



Dr. Dhaval Vargiya and Mr Prashant Shah were invited as external speakers and they shared the simple ways in which it is possible as well as important to connect with nature. Their talk reminded each one present in the audience about the consciousness needed while planting saplings as depending on the type of plants/shrubs/trees, we may enable the surroundings to attract bees, butterflies, birds, and insects and save the diversity around us. They shared their experience on what and what not to plant as well as the beautiful and relaxing nature around us that can automatically ensure calming our minds. "The talk reminded us that Life on Earth would be sustained when we understand the ways we can cohabit with Nature and take steps towards it."





MISLEADING ADVERTISEMENTS

Number of participants: 65+ Students (Semester VII BBA and B. Com)

September 3, 2024: An expert session was successfully organized for Semester VII BBA and B. Com Marketing students as part of their Integrated Marketing Communication course. The session, held from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, featured Ms Anusha Iyer, an esteemed expert from the Consumer Education Research Centre, Ahmedabad

.

The session focused on 'Identifying Misleading Advertisements', offering students invaluable insights into advertising ethics and consumer protection. Ms. Iyer's expertise provided a comprehensive understanding of the various tactics used in misleading advertisements and the ethical considerations involved in marketing practices.

The interactive session engaged students in discussions, enabling them to critically analyse real-world examples of advertising and to better understand the regulations and guidelines that protect consumers. The event was well-received, with students expressing a deeper appreciation for the importance of ethical advertising in today's competitive market.

This session was a significant addition to the course, enriching the academic experience of the students and aligning with the educational goals of the university.

Coordinator: Dr Ankita Srivastava









GROUP FIELD VISIT FOR CORPORATE COMMUNICATION

Rapporteur: Dr. Harmik Vaishnav

Number of Participants: 30

September 6, 2024: Students from Semester 5 and 7 of the Corporate Communication cluster, Department of Languages, Literature, and Aesthetics, visited AMUL Dairy and IDMC in Anand. Course Coordinator Dr. Harmik Vaishnav and Mr. Kapil Kella, a visiting faculty member, accompanied the students on this tour.

During the visit, students interacted with AMUL's PR team, learning about the organization's history, various operational practices, challenges, marketing, branding, and other key aspects. They also toured IDMC, where they observed the manufacturing of dairy industry machinery. The students engaged with the plant head and engineers to gain insights into industrial operations and the challenges of organizational management.

This experience enabled students to combine their theoretical knowledge with practical exposure, enriching their understanding of industry practices.









TREEWALK @ PDEU CAMPUS

Rapporteur: Dr Nausheen Nizami

No. of Participants: 20

September 6, 2024: School of Liberal Studies organized a 'Tree Walk' to sensitize the interested participants about the presence of different trees in the campus, their health and environmental benefits and how connecting with trees on a regular basis helps in the long run. "Tree Walk", a guided walk amidst trees around us, was undertaken under the able guidance of the noted urban ecologist Dr Lokendra Balasaria and Rupal madam on September 6th, 2024.



Pic 1: Dr Lokendra Balasaria introducing the idea and meaning of 'Tree Walk'





Organized by Dr Ankita Srivastava and Dr Nausheen Nizami, the Tree Walk at PDEU campus began with an informal gathering of interested participants near the school building (Block-D).



Pic 2: Lokendra sir explaining the benefits of a tree to the audience

The speaker introduced the motive for the walk and then began a guided description of the trees in the surrounding. Participants got to know about the medicinal benefits of the majestic 'Matchstick tree/Maha Neem' between the university blocks C and D, lemongrass, Arica Palm, Champa flowers, Barahmaasi, Mogra, Jetropha, Lily, Pink Cassia flower tree, etc. Lokendra ji introduced the method of making organic carbon in the soil, discussed the disadvantages of using cocopeat, made the participants aware of the benefits of mulching soil for saving plants and also explained how the roots of the trees beneath the ground complement the flora around.

Overall, it was a very enlightening walk and we are very grateful to our Dean Dr Sitakanta Mishra for sharing his valuable time with us throughout the walk and our director Dr A K S Suryavanshi for overall encouraging support.





OPEN TALK ON SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

Rapporteur: Palak Pathela

No. of participants: 90

September 10, 2024: The School of Liberal Studies, PDEU organized an open talk session on Suicide Prevention Day observed on September 10th, 2024. The session was coordinated by Prof. Ritu Sharma and Dr. Shraddha Sharma.

The session was led by Dr Krishna Dave, a consultant psychiatrist, focused on addressing the critical issues of rising suicide rates and the need for collective awareness and intervention. Dr Dave emphasized the importance of understanding the underlying causes of suicidal thoughts and behaviours and highlighted strategies to help individuals at risk.

The workshop underscored the urgency of suicide prevention and the role of early intervention. With suicide claiming one life every 40 seconds globally, it is critical to address mental health challenges through awareness, community involvement, and access to mental health services. Dr Krishna Dave concluded the session by reminding participants that suicide is preventable and urged everyone to play an active role in supporting those in distress.

Dr Dave also talked about common myths related to suicide. She encouraged students to start a conversation around the same. Dr Dave discussed case studies to understand how deeply the problem is rooted within and how can it be tackled. A very detailed approach to how the tensions arise and later broaden. The talk session covered all important aspects.

Various helpline numbers that are active throughout the state were shared, one being Tele Manas, which provides 24x7 support, a central govt. helpline number: 14416 a toll-free number.

The session was loved by the audience and the insights gained added a lot of value.









ALUMNI TALK ON "CORPORATE INSIGHTS: ALUMNI PERSPECTIVES ON INDUSTRY SUCCESS"

No. of participants: 60+ Students (Semester VII BBA and B. Com)

September 10, 2024: An engaging Alumni Talk was organized for Semester VII BBA and B. Com Marketing students as part of their Integrated Marketing Communication course. The session, held from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, featured Ms Shweta Mittal, a distinguished alumna from the Batch of 2020 who is currently working with Zomato.

The talk, titled 'Corporate Insights: Alumni Perspectives on Industry Success', provided students with valuable insights into the corporate strategies employed by successful companies like Zomato. Ms. Mittal shared her experiences and knowledge, focusing on how companies differentiate themselves in a competitive market. She also offered practical advice and motivation for students as they prepare to transition into corporate life.

Students had the opportunity to interact with Ms. Mittal, asking questions and gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the industry. The session was highly beneficial, inspiring students to think critically about their future careers and the corporate culture they will soon be a part of.

This Alumni Talk was a significant contribution to the students' educational journey, providing them with real-world perspectives that complement their academic learning. Coordinator: Dr Ankita Srivastava









SEMINAR ON 'INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES - UNITED STATES AND CANADA'

Rapporteur: Dr. Ashwin Parwani

No. of participants: 80

September 12, 2024: The experts meticulously highlighted key aspects of pursuing higher education abroad, emphasizing both personal and professional growth. They debunked the misconception, which had gained traction during the COVID-19 pandemic, that foreign institutions were offering extensive waivers and exemptions from various assessments and requirements. It was communicated to the students that, in the post-pandemic era, most of these waivers have been phased out. As a result, students are now urged to start preparing early for entrance exams such as IELTS, GRE, SAT, and TOEFL. Early preparation not only enhances the chances of securing higher scores but also broadens the range of opportunities, including the potential for scholarships, which have become increasingly scarce. The sessions were highly interactive, providing students with a wealth of options to help them achieve their educational goals.









BAKOR TRIP

Rapporteur: Department of Mass Communication

No. of participants: 25

September 13 – September 14, 2024: The students of the School of Liberal Studies, pursuing a B.A. and M.A. in Mass Communication, embarked on an enriching outdoor photography trip to Bakor village on September 13th and 14th, 2024. Accompanied by their faculty—Dr. Pradeep Mallik, Dr Sandesh Mahajan, Dr Niharika Bhaumik, and Ronak Sir—the two-day journey began with a visit to a historic stepwell adorned with captivating stories and mythological carvings.

Under Dr. Sandesh Mahajan's guidance, students learned how to capture visual narratives, experiment with different angles, and understand the importance of adding or eliminating elements within their images. In the evening, they went on a hike, exploring colour schemes, patterns, leading lines, and contrasts while honing their skills in portrait and landscape photography. On the second day, a morning hike focused on mastering light with diffusers and reflectors, teaching students how to achieve the perfect exposure in their shots. This hands-on experience made complex concepts much clearer.

The trip concluded with spontaneous moments captured during lunch and various activities, creating lasting memories of their adventure in Bakor village.









REPORT ON THE INDUSTRIAL VISIT TO MUNDRA PORT

Number of participants: 82 students (Semester VII BBA and B. Com) and 3 faculty/staff member

September 26, 2024- September 27, 2024: The Industrial Visit to Mundra Port, organized primarily for the Marketing students of Semester VII BBA and B. Com, took place on September 26th and 27th, 2024. The visit was coordinated by Dr Ankita Srivastava, where a total of 82 students accompanied by three faculty/staff members, Dr Ankita Srivastava, Dr Ashwin Parwani and Ms Ashwini Raisinghani participated. Although the visit was designed for marketing students, a few students from other domains were allowed to join, given their keen interest.

Itinerary:

- Departure: The group began their journey at 3:30 AM on September 26th, filled with excitement and curiosity about the experience ahead.
- Return: The visit concluded with the group returning at 1:30 AM on September 28th, after an insightful and educational two days.

Key Industrial Sites Visited:

- Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone (SEZ): Students gained first-hand knowledge of operations at India's largest commercial port. The visit highlighted logistics, port infrastructure, and the strategic importance of Mundra Port in global trade.
- Adani Wilmar Ltd.: This visit provided insight into the manufacturing processes of edible oils. Students learned about FMCG production lines and market distribution strategies, witnessing large-scale operations in action.
- Adani Solar & Windtech: Students explored the renewable energy sector and learned about its critical role in driving sustainable energy development in India.
- Adani Power Ltd.: The visit to this power facility gave students an understanding of thermal power generation and the significant role Adani Power plays in meeting the country's energy demands.

Learning Outcomes:

The visit was an invaluable educational experience for students, offering them a practical perspective on large-scale industrial operations. Through exposure to diverse sectors like logistics, FMCG, renewable energy, and power generation, students were able to directly connect theoretical concepts from their marketing and management studies to real-world industry practices.





The visit also provided a deeper understanding of the complexity and integration of operations in large business conglomerates. Students saw first-hand how marketing, logistics, and sustainability are managed on a massive scale, enriching their academic knowledge and preparing them for future careers in business.

Conclusion:

The industrial visit to Mundra Port was highly successful and proved to be a transformative experience for all the students. The seamless coordination by Dr Ankita Srivastava, Dr Ashwin Parwani, and Ms. Ashwini Raisinghani ensured the visit's success. Students returned with a wealth of knowledge, eager to apply their learnings to their future endeavours. The visit not only provided academic enrichment but also offered valuable exposure to real-world industrial challenges and opportunities.









FIELD VISIT TO SEWA COOPERATIVE INSIGHTS INTO WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO INFORMAL SECTOR OF INDIA

Rapporteur: Ms Vritti Lohana, Semester III, MA Economics

Number of participants: 15

September 27, 2024: The Department of Economics, School of Liberal Studies, PDEU organized a field visit to the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) Cooperative Federation in Ahmedabad. The visit was organized by Dr Nausheen Nizami and Dr Himani Baxi.



Pic 1: Introductory session at SEWA Office

Founded in 1972 by Ela Bhatt, SEWA is dedicated to empowering women in the informal sector by providing them with access to rights, financial inclusion, and sustainable employment opportunities. The organization focuses on capacity building, business development, market linkages, and research, promoting financial independence through initiatives like SEWA Bank and Self-Help Groups (SHGs). This approach ensures that women have control over their earnings and fosters self-reliance through cooperative formations. SEWA also addresses knowledge gaps by providing education to experienced workers while offering practical experience to those who are educated, creating a robust support system for women.







Pic 2: Group photo at SEWA Office

Upon arrival at SEWA, Students were welcomed by the facilitator Alpa Ma'am, a capacity-building trainer. Students watched a film that chronicled the organization's journey, highlighting the challenges faced by women in the informal sector, including the lack of labour laws and limited access to financial services. The film discussed SEWA's key initiatives such as developing new cooperatives, promoting financial inclusion through SEWA Bank, and enhancing business development efforts. It also emphasized the organization's commitment to technology adoption and digitization following the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside capital investment via loans.



Pic 3: Felicitation of an expert at the SEWA Office

An interactive session ensued, led by Veena Ma'am, a capacity-building trainer, and Jaya Ma'am, a senior trainer with 25 years of experience. Students engaged with the facilitators by asking questions about SEWA's fundraising strategies, profitability challenges, and sustained growth. The facilitators explained SEWA's philosophy of supporting while fostering self-reliance, where assistance is provided but women are encouraged to make key business decisions independently. They highlighted the importance of both soft and technical skills development, sometimes facilitated by domain experts.







Pic 4: Felicitation of an expert at the SEWA Office

Jaya Ma'am urged students as youths to take forward the lineage advocating women's representation in the informal sector giving due regard to their work and identity. She emphasized SEWA's integrated approach to the holistic development of women. The organization also runs health and social awareness campaigns and fosters a supportive work environment. The organization values male involvement and supports enriching the family-oriented work culture.

The visit included a tour of the Abodana Cooperative, which produces handcrafted goods under the Kalakruti brand. Located in SEWA ni Haveli—a historic building over 120 years old—the cooperative employs more than 400 artisans and primarily earns through retail exhibitions. Despite facing challenges from cheaper manufacturing products, it was revived in 2019. Students witnessed firsthand how SEWA has helped women artisans build self-confidence and achieve financial independence; many even purchased handicrafts from the cooperative.



Pic 5: Discussion at SEWA Cooperative, Astodia

This visit deepened students' understanding of SEWA's role in empowering women within the Informal sector through capacity building, financial inclusion, and market linkages. The experience underscored SEWA's holistic approach to bridging the gap between education and experience, ensuring sustainable growth and financial independence for women.





MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS: A JOURNEY THROUGH NOSTALGIC ACTIVITIES

Rapporteur: Mayuri Nayak

Number of participants: 120

October 7, 2024: In observance of Mental Health Day, the Department of Psychology organized 'mental health awareness stalls' to engage participants in activities that addressed stress and its impact on mental well-being. Various stalls were set up, each offering different activities aimed at spreading awareness about mental health and highlighting how simple actions can promote emotional release and stress management. Designed with mental health in focus, the event provided interactive ways for participants to de-stress while fostering a supportive and open atmosphere for mental health conversations.

Kicking off with the first stall, "Spill the Stress," participants wrote down their stressors and pinned them to a board. This activity not only encouraged emotional release but also allowed individuals to visually acknowledge their burdens. It helped participants realize that others were experiencing similar challenges, fostering a sense of community around shared struggles and promoting solidarity in addressing mental health.

Running alongside was the second stall, "Veiled Venture" - a nostalgic character guessing game where participants acted out combinations of characters while others tried to guess who they were. This playful game encouraged participants to reconnect with positive childhood memories, offering a fun distraction from everyday stress. By engaging in lighthearted nostalgia, participants could momentarily escape their worries, which helped improve their mood and strengthen social connections.

The third stall, "Junior Hoop," involved a ball-toss game where participants threw balls into cups to earn points, but only after answering stress-related questions found inside the cups. This activity combined physical movement with self-reflection, prompting participants to think about their stress management strategies while staying active. The combination of physical and mental engagement made stress management both fun and educational.

Together, these activities helped participants recognize that addressing mental health doesn't have to be a daunting process. By combining emotional release, nostalgic joy, and physical movement, the event offered a holistic approach to stress management, reinforcing the idea that mental well-being can be nurtured through small, enjoyable moments in everyday life. The event successfully created a safe and supportive space for participants to reflect on their mental health while engaging in enjoyable, stress-relieving activities.













TRANSLATING THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Rapporteur: Vaishnavi Pratishtha and Arpita Das

Number of participants: 14

October 8, 2024: A group of 11 students and three faculty from the Department of Languages, Literature, and Aesthetics visited Vadodara, Gujarat, to attend a public lecture. The Forum on Contemporary Theory (FCT) hosted the public lecture titled 'Translating the Global South', delivered by Professor Dilip Rajan Pattanaik from Banaras Hindu University (BHU). Professor Pattanaik is a distinguished member of BHU's English faculty and an accomplished translator. He is well known as a bilingual writer and a literary critic, highly regarded for his expertise in Odia and English. His excentive body of work has been published in several prominent publications, earning him prestigious honors including the Odia Sahitya Academy Award, National Katha Award, Jhankara Award and the Fakir Mohan Sahiyasree Award for his translation.

The lecture begins by tracing several aspects of translation such as the evaluation of translation studies from colonial to postcolonial contexts, emphasizing how societies consume translation theories rather than producing them. He argued that this situation occurred due to the disruptions caused by wars and conflicts. Dr. Pattanaik went on to present the historical backdrop of the study of translation as an ideological act, intricately, connected to society, economic, and historical factors. The lecture highlighted the dominance of global language especially English, leading to the decline of vernacular languages and the extinction of lesser-known dialects. He has also pointed out the idea of privileging languages with greater status and demand.

Walter Benjamin's concept of the 'afterlife', 'pure language' and the idea of translatability were discussed, emphasizing the complex interaction between culture and translation. The lecture also examined geography as playing a pivotal role in the race and fall of languages how post colonial studies align with dominant culture trends and recognized precolonial texts as important culture and historical repositories. The distinctions between literary texts and knowledge text was discussed each holding unique significance in the history of translation.

Event organiser name: Dr Annie Raylson and Dr Niyati Shah

Key points discussed in the event:

- Translation as a compensatory gesture in South Asian context
- Translation as warfare
- The alternative history of translation -histography of Odia
- The idea of 'translation-friendly' texts





The public lecture was attended by UG and PG students of English from SLS, and was arranged as a part of "Translation studies" elective offered to Master's students of English. The participant were overwhelmed by the well-paced and structured event the discussion were collaborative and lively contributing to the enrichment of students. Overall, the event was a praiseworthy endeavor by the Forum on Contemporary Theory (FCT). The visit was well-coordinated by the SLS team.







MILITARY PSYCHOLOGY: AN EMERGING FIELD

Rapporteur: Parth Darji

Number of participants: 60

October 10, 2024: The Department of Psychology, School of Liberal Studies (SLS), Pandit Deendayal Energy University(PDEU), organized an expert lecture on 'Military Psychology: An Emerging Field.' The lecture was delivered by Dr Updesh Kumar, Former Scientist 'G' and Head of Mental Health Division, DIPR, DRDO, Ministry of Defense, Delhi. The session was coordinated by Prof. Ritu Sharma and Dr Shraddha Sharma, Department of psychology SLS, PDEU. The session witnessed the participation of 60 students. Ms Khadija Ali welcomed the expert and requested to proceed with the session.

Dr Kumar started the session with the emergence of military psychology in India. He outlined the formulation of the Naval Psychological Research Unit, the creation of the directorate of psychological Research, and the eventual merger with the Defense Research and Psychological Research(DRP) in 1967. His detail explanation of this selection system's phrases (Phase 1 and Phase 2) and the psychological techniques employed at each stage gave students a comprehensive understanding of the rigorous process soldiers undergo. In the Indian context, Dr Kumar shared his insights on behavioral training and the mental health and well-being of soldiers, highlighting how psychological research in India has evolved to tackle challenges like combat stress, trauma, and suicidal ideation among personnel. He also discussed the additional duties of army psychologists, including their role in promoting mental wellness, providing psychological support in critical situations, and designing behavioral training programs to enhance soldiers overall performance and moral. Dr Kumar emphasized the importance of R&D efforts in psychology to create effective mental health interventions tailored to the Indian culture and societal contexts. In addition to the technical aspects of military psychology. Dr Kumar spoke about career opportunities for psychology students in the defense sector. He outlined various entry schemes into military psychology, including direct entry, lateral entry, and the ROSSA scheme, encouraging students to explore these pathways for contributing to nation's defense mechanisms.

This session concluded with an interactive Q&A segment, where Dr Kumar addressed questions from participants about career prospects in military psychology and shared their experiences working in high-stakes when environment. The session was sagacious to spark inclination in every student's head towards pursing military psychology as a career. Ms Khadija Ali gave the vote of thanks and concluded the event.





WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Rapporteur: Khushali Parekh

Number of participants: 120

October 10, 2024: PDEU's School of Liberal Studies celebrated world mental health day on October 10th, 2024. The event was organised by the psychology Department of the School of Liberal Studies. The event was planned with a motive to create a space where students can know the importance of mental health in their lives. It aims to raise awareness about mental health issues globally and mobilise efforts in support of mental health.

In the event an "Open Mike" session was organised on the topic "Self care rituals to promote mental health." Ms. Stuti Upadhyay and Ms. Kirtna moderated the seeion. The session started with the opening remarks of Professor Ritu Sharma. She emphasised on mental health and ways to promote awareness for the same. Students were asked to share their self care rituals to promote their mental health, Various students shared insights from their daily routine and how they prioritise mental well being by making small adjustment. They emphasize the importance of detoxifying from negative influences and reducing screen time to achieve peace and happiness in the long run. Some students highlighted the benefits of physical activity such as yoga and walking as a refreshing way to start the day while others emphasize the significance of giving 8 10 hours of quality sleep for a rejuvenated feeling. The concept of manifestation was also explored as a means to train the subsequent mind and show love and care towards oneself. Faculty members also shared their self care rituals such as gardening, watching colors, and spending time with family members and friends. Additionally, interactive posters were created to encourage participants to express their feelings and shares self-care tips for enhancing mental health. The session concluded with the inputs given by faculty members of the Department of psychology and they emphasize the collective efforts to work on the promotion of mental health.









RE-IMAGINING LITERARY STUDIES: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

Rapporteur: Dr. Urmi Satyan

Number of participants: 30

October 14, 2024: The Department of Language, Literature, and Aesthetics (School of Liberal Studies) at Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU) organized a workshop titled *Re-imagining Literary Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach* on October 14th, 2024. Dr. Chitra Sreedharan, a professor in the English department of Fergusson College (Autonomous), Pune, led the session. The Dean of the School of Liberal Studies, Dr. Sitakanta Mishra, presented her with a sapling as a welcome present, signifying the university's commitment to sustainability.

Dr. Sreedharan began the discussion by examining how, from Plato's time, the function and understanding of writing have changed, culminating in contemporary literary theories from the 20th century. She highlighted significant shifts in our understanding of literature by citing a variety of critics and poets, including Roman Jakobson. She pointed out that whereas Science and Literature were intimately related during the Renaissance, the Industrial Revolution steadily widened the gap because of advances in technology. This sparked an interesting conversation about how two disciplines of Literature and Science separated for a while before eventually coming together again.

Throughout the session, Dr. Sreedharan referenced notable works, including *Gulliver's Travels, The Time Machine*, and modern works such as *The Vestigial Heart*, to illustrate the intricate relationship between literature and science. Students were actively engaged through discussions on various short stories like "Story of Your Life" by Ted Chiang, which helped them better understand the interplay between Literature and Science. The workshop also delved into how literature responds to scientific innovations, particularly in the contemporary era, and how Artificial Intelligence is shaping the quality and nature of literary production. The session concluded with a warm gesture of appreciation for Dr. Chitra Sreedharan. She was felicitated with a memento by Dr. Harmik Vaishnav, the Head of the Department of Language, Literature, and Aesthetics at the School of Liberal Studies, PDEU, in recognition of her insightful and enriching contributions to the workshop. The event ended on a high note with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by the students, who expressed their gratitude for the valuable knowledge and new perspectives gained during the session.





The workshop, Re-imagining Literary Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach, provided a fresh and insightful perspective on how literature and science, once interconnected, have evolved and can once again complement each other. Dr. Chitra Sreedharan's engaging approach, supported by examples from both classical and modern texts, encouraged participants to think beyond traditional literary boundaries. The conversation about technology's impact, particularly with regard to AI, enhanced the meeting even more. All things considered, the workshop encouraged students to investigate interdisciplinary approaches in their literary studies, developing a more profound comprehension of the work's applicability in the modern world.











AWARENESS SESSION ON COMMODITY DERIVATIVES BY MCX

Rapporteur: Neha Pillai

Number of participants: 55

October 14, 2024: The Department of Economics, SLS, Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU), Gandhinagar, organized an awareness session on 'Commodity Derivatives by Multi-Commodity Exchange (MCX)' coinciding with the World Investors Week (October 14th-20th, 2024).

The event focused on understanding the importance of financial literacy and strategic investing and was attended by 55 students. The seminar began with the memento presentation, by the students of PDEU, to the Dean, Dr Sitakanta Mishra and Chief Guest, Mr. Ashutosh Vasisht, Asst. Vice President, Training and Education, multi-commodity Exchange, Mumbai. The Dean's welcome speech acknowledged the Chief Guest's presence and thanked him for taking out his precious time to educate the students on the concept of 'Commodity Derivative'.



Pic 1: Felicitation of Mr Ashutosh Vasisht, MCX by SLS Student

Mr. Vasisht's interaction began on an interactive note asking students what they looked for before investing. He emphasized on the role of market forces, company financials, and global factors that could plausibly be affecting the investment decisions. He then talked about the detrimental effects of geo-political events like Russia-Ukraine war on stock markets and personal financing decisions. Thus, making students realize how the global economics were interconnected with the local economies.









Pic 2: Photo collage of the event

He highlighted how delving deep into the company's financial health was crucial before making investment decisions. Drawing examples from daily activities, he then explained how commodity prices affect consumers, from fuel prices to basic goods.

Further, he focused on the intricacies of commodity derivatives and futures, emphasizing on how they can be used as tools for price risk management.



Pic 3: Expert explaining how loss in derivatives is cancelled out by profits in commodity markets

Delving deep into the session, Mr. Vasisht introduced students to the concept of market anonymity and the role of exchanges, sharing insights into different types of markets, market timings and how commodity markets have extended trading hours due to the existence of international commodities.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by the faculty member, Dr. Himani Baxi, followed by high tea and an interactive Q & A session where students got to engage directly with the Chief Guest. In summary, the event was a great success.





Pic 4: Group photo towards the closing of the session



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: 51

October 17, 2024: Educational Visit organized by the Department of Business Administration and Commerce, under the guidance of Dr Ashwin Parwani, Dr Akhilesh Shukla 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.





DIPLOMAT'S TALK SERIES EVENT

Rapporteur: Snigdha Mehta

Number of Participants: More than 70

October 18, 2024: The inaugural event for "Diplomat's Talk Series" organized by the Department of International Relations was held on October 18th, 2024. It was a well-received event that started with welcoming dignitaries, faculty members and the students of PDEU. More than 70 students attended both the sessions. The guest speaker was Amb. Anil Kumar Trigunayat, is a distinguished former Indian Foreign Service officer known for his extensive service in diplomacy and expertise in regions such as West Asia, Africa, and Russia.

The event began with an introductory speech by Dr. Sanjay Kumar Pradhan, Head of Department, Department of International Relations, followed by a welcome address by Dr. Sitakanta Mishra, Dean, SLS. The guest was felicitated by the Dean, SLS and a memento was presented by the HoD, Department of International Relations.





A special segment of the event was a book release titled 'Paradiplomacy: Global Practices and Lessons Learn (2024)' authored by Dr Devanshi Shah, an alumnus of PDEU. This accomplishment was celebrated by faculty and students alike and served as an inspiration to current students of international relations.









After a brief introduction, the Ambassador delivered an insightful presentation on the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. His speech highlighted the complex security dynamics in the region, the historical influences shaping current relations and the geopolitical implications for global powers and NATO. The ambassador's analyses gave insight to the audience about the factors that lead to the conflict and potential paths forward for international relations.

Following the keynote address, the Ambassador had engaged with the audience in a Q&A session. This helped the audience to know more about Russia's geopolitical stance, Western involvement and the reconfiguration of global power dynamics. This interactive segment fostered an engaging and participatory environment not only for the students of International Relations but also for the students of the School of Management and the School of Technology.

After lunch, the second session, the focus was on the Arab-Israeli conflict, specifically addressing security concerns, statehood challenges, and the role of external powers in the region. The ambassador provided in-depth knowledge about the prevailing regional complexities and the challenges in achieving sustainable peace. His anecdotes and experiences as an ambassador in the region added a lively and engaging touch to the talk. The audience once again had the opportunity to interact directly with the speaker, deepening their understanding of West Asia's geopolitical landscape.



Dr. Udayprakash Sharma, a faculty in the Department of International Relations, presented the vote of thanks along with a summary of the Ambassador's talk including the key takeaways. He extended gratitude to the Ambassador, Director-SLS, Dean-SLS, and HOD and to all attendees for their participation.







UNVEILING PERSPECTIVES: PDEU'S PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION CAPTURES HEARTS AND STORIES

Rapporteur: Department of Mass Communication

October 21, 2024: The Department of Mass Communication at PDEU held an inspiring photography exhibition at the D Block Foyer, captivating everyone who attended. Inaugurated by the Director General of PDEU, the event was a testament to the creativity, dedication, and hard work of the university's photography students. This exhibition was more than just a display of images—it was a compelling narrative journey that reflected weeks of preparation, empathy, and artistic passion.

Adding depth and professional insight to the event, renowned senior photojournalist Amit Dave shared his expertise with the students. His guidance provided invaluable perspectives, encouraging students to elevate their work and see photography as a medium for impactful storytelling.

One of the most touching collections was "That Age-Old Smile," which captured portraits of elderly individuals with sensitivity and compassion. Students visited old age homes, spending time with their subjects, listening to life stories, and preserving memories in heartfelt portraits. Accompanied by mini-stories, these images provided a glimpse into the rich lives of these individuals. For the students, this experience went beyond technical learning—it was a journey of connection, reshaping their perspectives on ageing and life's memories.

"The Unseen Heroes," another impactful series, honoured daily wage workers who form the backbone of society yet often go unrecognized. Through respectful, candid portraits, students highlighted the strength and resilience of these individuals, capturing their challenges and triumphs. The series brought forth the human side of labour, reminding viewers of the vital contributions these workers make to society.

In a creative blend of fashion and fine art, "Recreate the Maestro" invited students to reimagine famous paintings through modern photography. This project required close study of classical artworks, costume creation, and set design to capture the essence of each masterpiece while adding a contemporary flair. The result was a refreshing take on iconic art, showcasing students' creativity and technical skill in recreating classical works through a modern lens.

"The Journey of Trash" saw students documenting the journey of discarded items, turning their cameras toward environmental awareness. This photojournalistic series raised awareness about sustainability and the impact of waste, prompting viewers to reflect on consumption and environmental responsibility.





Lastly, "Reflection: Monochrome" featured a series of powerful self-portraits where students expressed their inner worlds through black-and-white photography. Each portrait offered a personal exploration of identity, allowing students to share their emotions and perspectives in a raw, intimate manner.

The success of this exhibition was rooted not only in the quality of the images but also in the commitment, empathy, and creativity each student brought to their work. The support and guidance of Dr. Sandesh Mahajan were instrumental in helping students refine their concepts and execute them with precision. From visiting old age homes and interacting with workers to documenting the journey of waste, the students went beyond classroom assignments, creating thoughtful and impactful work.

Special acknowledgement goes to Prof. A.K.S. Suryavanshi, Director of SLS, for his unwavering support, and to Prof. Pradeep Mallik for his mentorship, both of whom were integral to the success of this exhibition.

This exhibition showcased the spirit of PDEU's Mass Communication Department—a place where art meets purpose and young minds learn to see the world through empathetic perspectives. The students demonstrated that photography is not only about capturing moments; it's about storytelling that resonates on a personal level. This exhibition was an experience that touched hearts, broadened minds, and marked the beginning of these young photographers' journeys in meaningful storytelling.















GUEST LECTURE ON MEDIA PSYCHOLOGY

Rapporteur: Dhruvi Shah and Femi Gada

No. of participants: 36

The Department of Psychology, School of liberal studies, PDEU organised a series of 4 guest lectures from October 22nd, 2024 to October 23rd, 2024, to help the students understand the 'multitude facets of media psychology' and its real-world implications. Dr. Neeta Sinha coordinated the sessions.

Dr.Binita Parikh is a journalist with about 32 years of work experience as a coach and facilitator. She has worked in various areas with communication as core and across various mediums, including newspapers, radio, and magazines. She conducted a series of four sessions with the students for the Masters of Psychology program. She focused on the topics of media psychology like crisis communication.

The workshop underscored the various aspects of media psychology in modern times with a practical approach and integration with social media and subsequent challenges. She opted for a practical approach and used various case studies like that of Godhra Kand and COVID-19. She explained the role of media in communal riots in 2002, and various other aspects like political, communal and journalism.

In the case of COVID-19, she explained the role of media in various phases of the pandemic, like in the initial stages, to create awareness and debunk myths during the peak era, where the main goal was to avoid panic and bring about hope and positivity.

One of the sessions focused on hands-on experience in brainstorming techniques and a presentation on the topic of crisis. She explained the 5W and 1H techniques. The students were given about an hour to discuss among themselves, and later, they presented their opinions on the same.

She provided an insightful analysis of the growing menace of misinformation and disinformation in the digital age. The speaker delved into the social, political, and cultural contexts of the same. To combat fake news, the lecturer provided a framework for individuals and organisations to verify the authenticity of information, which includes fact-checking platforms, google reverse image search, digital education and literacy.

The session provided great insights, adding a lot of value to the students' perspectives and was well received by the students.















SIGNING OF MOU BETWEEN PDEU AND AERC

Rapporteur: Dr. Himani Baxi

October 23, 2024: A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was formally signed between Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU) and the Agro Economic Research Center (AERC) of Sardar Patel University on October 23rd, 2024. This marked the beginning of a strategic collaboration aimed at advancing research and development in agricultural economics, energy management, and rural sustainability. The MOU was initiated by the Department of Economics from the School of Liberal Studies.

The signing ceremony, held at PDEU, was attended by the Director General of PDEU, Prof. Dr S. Sundar Manoharan; Registrar of PDEU, (Col) Dr Rakesh Kumar Shrivastawa; Dr A.K.S.Suryavanshi, Director of SLS; Prof. Dr Bhawanisingh Desai, Dean of Research and Development; Dr Anirbid Sircar, Director of SoET; Dr Sitakanta Mishra, Dean of SLS; Dr Nausheen Nizami, Head of the Economics Department; Dr Himani Baxi; and Dr Dhyani Mehta, Coordinators of MOU initiatives.

Representing AERC and Sardar Patel University were Vice-Chancellor Dr Niranjal Patel, Registrar of SPU Dr Bhailalbhai Patel, Director of AERC Dr S.S. Kalamka, Dr Saurabh Soni, and Dr Anju P. Kunjadiya from Applied and Interdisciplinary Sciences.

The MOU signifies a commitment to jointly undertake projects that integrate agricultural economics with sustainable energy solutions, focusing on issues pertinent to rural economies and agricultural sustainability. Under this partnership, AERC and PDEU will collaborate on research initiatives, knowledge sharing, policy development and capacity-building programs. This collaboration is expected to yield research outputs that could influence policy and provide practical solutions to energy challenges in rural agriculture.

Additionally, the partnership includes provisions for organizing workshops, seminars, and training programs for students and professionals, fostering a knowledge-exchange environment that benefits both institutions. The agreement aligns with the mission of both organizations to contribute to the sustainable development of the agriculture and energy sectors.

This MOU marks an important step toward addressing agricultural and energy challenges through collaborative research and innovation, leveraging the strengths of both AERC and PDEU















WORKSHOP ON "COMMUNITY THEATRE IN CONTEMPORARY TIMES"

Rapporteur: Mr Yashgiri Goswami & Ms Sruti Jain

Number of participants: 25

October 24, 2024: The Department of Languages, Literature, and Aesthetics, School of Liberal Studies, Pandit Deendayal Energy University, organized a one-day workshop on "Community Theatre in Contemporary Times" for the students of English literature as an extension of their existing course on Literature and the Theatre Arts. Mr. Atish Indrekar, an eminent theatre actor, director, and writer, conducted the workshop through various interactive exercises, short performances, and discussions on the significance of 'community theatre' in contemporary times. The workshop started with group activities designed to foster concentration, observation, and teamwork, which helped students become aware of their. bodily and psychological inhabitations. The exercises were designed for voice modulation, body movements, body composition, memory exercises, image theatre, and playback theatre. The workshop allowed students to gradually open up and move out of their comfort zones. While preparing for short scenes, students not only realized various theatrical challenges but also became aware of their socio-cultural biases towards certain communities around them. This realization further led to the discussion of the Chhara community, one of the denotified nomadic tribes in Ahmedabad and other tribes across India.

Mr. Atish Indrekar, a member of the Chhara community himself, shared the community's experiences of historical stigmatization, cultural violence, and societal discrimination at various levels, and the community's continuous struggle for social justice. He introduced 'Budhan Theatre,' a model for community theatre that voices against injustice through performances. He explained how theatre has been a powerful medium to express their personal and collective stories. The workshop allowed participants to be aware of the existence of the Chhara community, their identities as performers and not as 'habitual offenders,' and their efforts to reach out to other nomadic and denotified tribes for community development. The workshop created a safe space for the participants to engage in open conversation, discuss the harsh realities of the Chhara community and their livelihood, and understand some aspects of their lives as recorded in a docu-film. By the end of the workshop, students also came up with two small performances based on their learning from the workshop. One of the students mentioned that "the workshop was wholesome as I explored my Chhara community more, and I'm proud of my community." The other students wrote that the workshop helped them to "know about the inception of Budhan Theatre, and the struggles DNTs faced," and "the discussion about language as a form of identity helped me to reconnect with my native language."

Event Organizer: Dr. Niyati Shah



















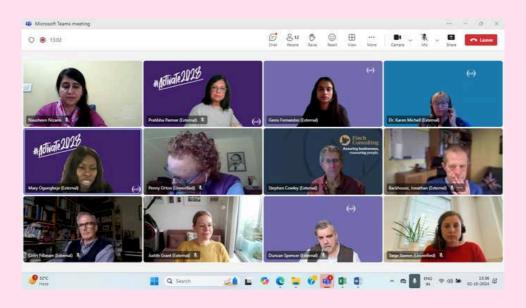


DR. NAUSHEEN NIZAMI

Dr Nausheen Nizami was invited to participate in an in-person meeting of the members of the Research Advisory Group, 'IOSH', Leicestershire, UK from 'July 17th, 2024 - July 18th, 2024'. Dr Nausheen has been an appointed member of this group for a period of three years since January 2024.



She also attended the online meeting of the members of 'Research Advisory Group, IOSH' on October 2nd, 2024.





DR. RACHNA ARORA

Dr Rachna Arora, a dedicated educator at the School of Liberal Studies, has completed the eight-week NPTEL course titled *The English Novel: Interdisciplinary Approaches*, conducted from July 22nd to September 13th, 2024. Demonstrating exceptional commitment to professional development, Dr Arora scored among the top achievers with a score of 88% in this rigorous program, which delved into the English novel from a multifaceted perspective, enriching her understanding and teaching of literature.

This accomplishment reflects Dr Rachna's continuous pursuit of academic excellence and passion for literature.







SITAKANTA MISHRA

- 1.TV Appearance: Interviewed by Kalinga TV (Odiya News channel) on the issue of 'Gray Zone Tactics: China Coast Guard activities and the redefinition of conflict in Taiwan Strait', on June 22nd, 2024, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hEfIJrgSgaY
- 2. Article: 'India's Diplomatic Manoeuvring for Building a Resilient Semiconductor Ecosystem', World Focus, July 2024.
- 3. Invited as a Panellist on the theme Borders and International Relations in the national conference 'VIJIGISHU 2024' organised by Amity Institute of International Studies (AIIS), Amity University, NOIDA, on September 20th, 2024.
- 4. Invited as a Resource Person in the Research Conclave 2024 organised by Ganpat University, Gujarat, on September 26th, 2024.









POSHITA KHARE 21BABBA196

Poshita Khare interned at the Hospital for Mental Health, Ahmedabad, from June 20th, 2024, to July 20th, 2024. She is very thankful for this opportunity and the exposure it brought, which further affirmed her professional aspirations. During her internship, she had the chance to observe patients in the clinical and psychiatric OPDs, as well as in various wards, including male and female general wards and male and female chronic and acute wards, under the guidance of multiple healthcare and medical professionals.



KASHVI SHAH 24BABBA220

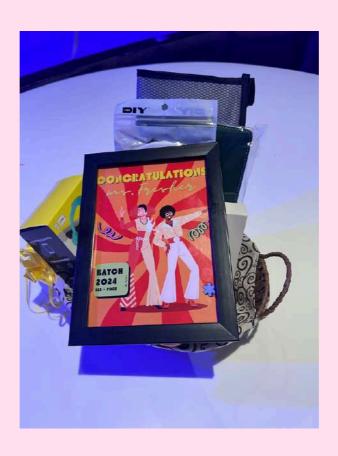
The certificate of Climate Responsibility was issued to Kashvi Shah.







PARINI SONI 24MAPSY15



BHARGAV DHOKIYA 23BABBA318

Bhargav Dhokiya participated in the MyGov Quiz competition and achieved an impressive 5th rank at the national level on October 23rd, 2024, representing Gujarat. This remarkable accomplishment earned him a fully sponsored trip by ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation), providing an opportunity to witness the launchpad and control centre firsthand.

Bhargav received an invitation from ISRO that covered all travel expenses, allowing him to explore the facilities, and gain valuable insights into India's space missions by engaging with top ISRO scientists.

This experience was not only inspiring but also provided him with a profound understanding of India's advancements in space technology. This achievement underscores his commitment to learning, growth, and contributing to India's scientific community.





HET TAMAKUWALA 21BABBA117



Shubham Soni and Het Tamakuwala are the founders of PSJ Jewels, a brand renowned for its elegance and artistry in silver jewellery. Their expertise shines through a collection of 925 sterling silver pieces, each Hallmarked for authenticity and crafted to endure. PSJ Jewels offers a range of refined silver watches, bracelets, and necklaces that elevate any style and occasion.

Some of their products are as follows:



Glamour Drop Necklace



Sapphire Royale



Lucky Charm Bracelet





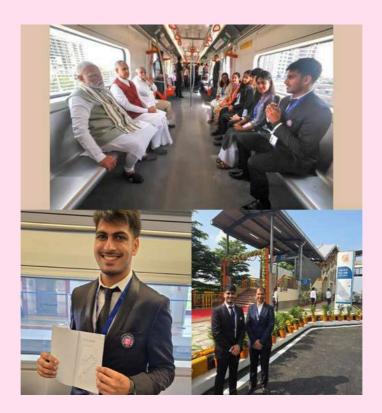
DHRUV RAWAL 21BCO027

As a proud campus ambassador of Pandit Deendayal Energy University, on September 16th, 2024, Dhruv Rawal had the distinct honour of representing the university at the prestigious inauguration of the Gandhinagar Metro Rail. This momentous occasion provided him with the extraordinary opportunity to personally interact with the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

During this encounter, he was privileged to engage in an in-depth discussion about his significant achievements in the field of karate and the podcasts he hosts, featuring renowned Olympians and other inspiring figures. He also discussed the invaluable role that PDEU has played in fostering his athletic pursuits.

Beyond his personal accomplishments, he also had the chance to shed light on PDEU's substantial contributions to the renewable energy sector. He emphasized the university's commitment to nurturing "energy soldiers," individuals equipped with the knowledge and skills to drive India's sustainable energy future. PDEU's pioneering initiatives in solar energy research, development, and implementation have positioned it as a leading institution in the field.

This unforgettable experience has not only reinforced his pride in representing PDEU but has also ignited a deeper passion for contributing to India's progress. He is grateful for the opportunity to have shared his experiences and the university's vision with the Hon'ble Prime Minister, and he remains committed to continuing his endeavours in both karate and sustainable energy.







MAHEK DAVE 21BABBA119

Mahek Dave completed a one-month internship at the Hospital of Mental Health in Shahi Baug, Ahmedabad, from June 20th to July 20th, 2024. As a psychology major, this opportunity was invaluable. The internship provided a great learning experience, allowing her to have hands-on participation as well as observe and communicate with patients directly. She toured each ward of the hospital and interacted with the patients residing there. Her time at HMH Shahi Baug significantly deepened her understanding of patient care, enhanced her communication skills, and fostered a greater empathy for individuals facing mental health challenges.



RISHABH SOLANKI 23BABBA381







KRISH PARTAZI 21BABBA369

KRISH PARTAZI

21BABBA369



Ernst & Young LLP 6th & 7th floor, 67, Institutional Area, Sector- 44, Gorugram, Hancara, 122000 Tat: +91-124-454 4000

Internship Certificate

15-Jul-2024

Dear Krish ,

This is to confirm the successful completion of Krish Partazi's internship with us from 15-May-2024 to 15-Jul-2024.

During the internable period, Krish worked on the project stiled, Internal Audit, and was assigned to the CNS - RISK - INTERNAL AUDIT function in Business Consulting Risk.

He showed willingness to expand his knowledge and worked enthusiastically on the project

We wish Krish continued success in his academic pursuits and professional journey.

Warm Regards,

Anand Parab





PRIYANSHI SRIVASTAVA 21BABBA105

Priyanshi Shrivastava, a semester 7 student majoring in Human resource management and minoring in Public Administration, presented her research, 'Parental leaves in the Indian workforce and decent work,' at the Sustainable Human Resource Management conference held at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, on June 18, 2024.











PIYA BABARIYA 23BABBA074



CAPTAIN PUNEET CHADHA 23MAMC02

Group Captain Puneet Chadha is a serving Indian Air Force pilot pursuing an MA in Mass Communication, third semester at SLS, PDEU. He appeared for the UGC NET exam for History and successfully cleared it. Previously, he had qualified for the UGC NET exam for Defense and Strategic Studies.





CHARU JAIN 21BABBA438

October 17, 2024: Six months ago, Charu was selected as the National Head of Outgoing Social Sector at AIESEC in India. Having been part of AIESEC at the local level from February 2022 to early 2024, she applied for this national role and was appointed in April.

Role Responsibilities

As National Head, her key responsibilities include:

- Overseeing 1,000+ exchange experiences, ensuring alignment with AIESEC's vision.
- Building global partnerships across 100+ countries.
- Leading a team of 20+ Vice Presidents, providing strategic direction.
- Managing key projects and ensuring effective portfolio delivery.
- Coordinating national conferences with 350+ delegates.
- Guiding local committees and conducting impactful presentations to large audiences.

After a transition period that lasted until June 30th, 2024, she officially assumed full responsibilities on July 1st, 2024.

Contributions (July - September 2024)

In the past three months, she has:

- Supervised 100+ local exchanges, generating ₹24+ lakh in revenue.
- Established relations with five new international partners across Asia-Pacific and Europe.
- Created tools and trackers for better accountability and team performance.
- Curated a conference agenda for 300+ participants, focused on productivity and competency building.
- Ensured continuous productivity improvements, resulting in 134% growth over the previous year.
- Hosted workshops and summits to equip local teams for success.

Key Achievements

- Board Meeting 2024: Attended a prestigious board meeting with key industry leader including:
 - Ms. Kisha Gupta (Director Global Academic Relations & Corporate Marketing, Infosys)
 - Mr. Yezdi Nagporewalla (CEO, KPMG)
 - Mr. Burjis Godrej (Executive Director, Godrej Agrovet)
 - Prof. Rishikesha Krishnan (Director & Professor of Strategy, IIM Bangalore)
 - Mr Sourav Roy (CEO, Tata Steel Foundation, Chief of CSR, Tata Steel)





Asia-Pacific Recognition: Ranked #1 in my portfolio within the region. Global Ranking: Improved our portfolio's global rank from 8th to 3rd.

Financial Impact: Led a 134% revenue growth on the local level, reaching ₹24+ lakh.

Key Learnings:

This role has offered profound insights into organizational psychology and leadership. She learned the value of strategic planning, especially in managing international relations and cross-cultural teams. Her experience in portfolio management taught her the importance of tracking performance metrics to drive accountability. The exposure to high-level decision-making at conferences and board meetings refined her understanding of stakeholder management and effective communication in large-scale settings. In addition to this, there are other soft and hard skills like Sheets, Public speaking, Leadership, Team management and Problem Solving that she has developed through this experience.









DHRUV RAWAL 21BCO027

Dhruv Rawal successfully completed a 30-day summer internship as a Marketing - Retail Operations intern at Pantaloons, a prestigious subsidiary of Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited. His internship period spanned from June 17th, 2024 to July 17th, 2024 at the Chandkheda store.

During his internship, he actively contributed to various tasks, including:

- EOSS Preparation and Sales Boosting: He played a vital role in preparing for the Endof-Season Sale (EOSS) by assisting in inventory management, promotional activities, and customer engagement strategies.
- Inventory Inwards and Management: He gained hands-on experience in managing inventory levels, ensuring accurate stock counts, and optimizing storage.
- Consumer Awareness: He actively reached out to consumers to inform them about ongoing offers and promotions, enhancing customer engagement.
- *POS Operations and Billing: He proficiently operated the Point-of-Sale (POS) system, processed transactions, and handled billing procedures with precision.

He is grateful for the opportunity to have interned at Pantaloons. This experience has not only enriched his knowledge and skills but has also instilled in him a passion for the retail industry. He is confident that the skills and experience gained during this internship will be invaluable as he embarks on his future career.









DIYA KALAVADIA 21BABBA244

During this internship, Diya had the opportunity to immerse herself in various aspects of the finance sector. This experience allowed her to network with professionals across different areas of finance, enabling her to gain insights and knowledge beyond her initial expectations. Her interactions with industry experts provided her with valuable guidance, and she was able to strengthen her professional network, which she believes will be beneficial for her future career













Exciting New Initiative: Career Section in Our Current Edition

We are excited to introduce a brand new Career Section in this edition of our school newsletter. In this section, we will feature an expert interview in every issue, providing valuable insights into various fields, their relevance, key specializations, and the career opportunities they present in today's dynamic job market.

To further support our readers, we will also share important updates on upcoming application dates for competitive exams such as NET, SET, UPSC, CAT, MAT, and others, ensuring that our students have all the information they need to stay ahead in their academic and professional journeys.

We look forward to guiding our readers with expert advice, career insights, and timely exam updates in this exciting new section, starting with this edition!



KNOW YOUR FIELD:

Chapter 01 Mass Communication





Dr Sandesh Mahajan is a professor of Mass Communication at the School of Liberal Studies. He is currently heading the department where he teaches subjects like frame film appreciation, cinema, audiovisual communication production, etc. All the subjects are skill-based.

"Decoding Mass Communication: Expert Insights into the Dynamic World of Media and Communication"

Q. What is Mass Communication as a field, and what does it encompass?

A. Mass Communication is a vast and interdisciplinary field that tells you how information, ideas, and narratives are shared from an individual to the masses. It gives you the freedom to express your ideas to a larger audience. All of these come under the umbrella of Mass Communication: Radio, Cinema, social media, and electronic media.

Q. What key skills are essential for a successful career in Mass Communication, and who should consider pursuing this path?

A. The primary skill of this field is *communication*, every student needs to have a good communication skill.

Second is *creativity*, where every student needs creativity, as survival is difficult without creativity.

Third is *critical thinking*, going out of the box and beyond the curtains to think about why this happened. For example, don't just watch your film as an audience, but instead as a maker of the film.

Fourth is *adaptability*, a significant skill as it's a very dynamic field.

Fifth is *passion*, as without passion, you cannot survive.

Last but not least is *persistence*, the students will need to be persistent with their ideas, aims and goals.





Q. What are the various career options available to graduates with a degree in Mass Communication?

A. Mass Communication is a very dynamic field, you never know where you might land. For example, Ayushman Khurana was a Mass Communication student. He started with reality shows, worked as an RJ, did some content writing, etc., and now he is one of the highest-paid actors in the industry. There are many gates open for Mass Communication students, like traditional journalism [print media], filmmaking, digital media, PR, Advertising, social media management, etc. All you need is the right skill.

Q. Does the university have partnerships to connect students with industry professionals for mentorship, internships, or job placements?

A. Mass Communication faculty tries to fetch as many partners and contacts as they can. They even apply their contacts to place the students in some kind of internship. The aim is to get the students hands-on experiences and align them with the professional world.

Q. What kind of practical exposure does the university offer, such as field visits, and projects, to prepare students for careers in Mass Communication?

A. To expose students to the practical world while still being part of the university, the faculty organizes visits to places like news studios, radio studios, production houses, research centres, and newspaper houses. These visits are designed to help students gain insights into the industry and derive meaningful narratives from society.

Q. Are students trained in industry-standard tools and software, like the Adobe Suite and DaVinci Resolve?

A. Technical software is an integral part of the curriculum. For this subject, gaining technical skills is essential, whether it's using Adobe Premiere Pro, Photoshop, Da Vinci Resolve, or other applications. The university provides a fully equipped lab where students learn video editing, the shooting process, and creating their digital media content. All of this helps students grow within the classroom environment. The faculty conducts all classes in the lab itself.

Q. What exams and programs would you recommend for Mass Communication students aiming to excel in areas like video production, photography, and writing?

A. Students are encouraged to participate in entrance examinations for various government-centric courses, such as FTII (Film and Television Institute of India), SRFTI (Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute), and IIMC (Indian Institute of Mass Communication), which are institutions offering postgraduate programs. Additionally, students interested in research are guided to prepare for exams like the GRE and NET. They also work on building a strong portfolio, which, along with the admission process, supports their applications to universities abroad.



Q. What advice do you have for students considering pursuing a master's degree in Mass Communication, particularly regarding their future career goals?

A. One of the most important subjects in the curriculum is critical thinking. It emphasizes not assuming that the audience understands what goes on behind the scenes. Additionally, students are taught the importance of clear and impactful visual communication—ensuring that when they speak, their words or expressions captivate and leave a lasting impression.

Q. Are there any key points or skills you believe every student in this field should focus on to enhance their chances of success?

A. Students should always uphold strong ethics and never compromise their principles for a price. They should be hardworking, passionate, enthusiastic, and full of energy.

Q. What inspired you about this field and state any of your favourite lines regarding this subject?

A. When asked about his inspiration for choosing this field, he shared that he always wanted to be a black sheep. For him, choosing media was an unconventional choice, especially when other students were pursuing typical courses like BBA or science. He decided to take a different path by choosing media and even a technical course, as he firmly believed in being unique. "People will choose you if you stand out; you have to be the odd one out," he said.

As he delved deeper into the subject, his love for it began to bloom. He went on to complete his PhD in marketing, establishing contacts with numerous national and international organizations and curating many documentaries.

He concluded with his favourite quote, saying, "Be a black sheep."

Q. Any movies would you like to suggest, that you would like your readers to watch now?

- A. He suggested five movies:
- 1) Life is Beautiful (1997), dir. Roberto Benigni
- 2) The Pursuit of Happyness (2006), dir. Gabriele Muccino
- 3) Anand (1971), dir. Hrishikesh Mukherjee
- 4) It's a Wonderful Life (1946), dir. Frank Capra
- 5) The Song of Sparrows (2008), dir. Majid Majidi





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