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Let's Talk

UGC MOVE TO ALLOW FOUR-YEAR UG DEGREE HOLDERS TO PURSUE PH.D. SET TO BE A GAMECHANGER



The *National Education Policy 2020* (NEP 2020) has practically opened the floodgates in the Indian higher education realm. Besides proposing sweeping changes in curricula development, the policy plans to make higher education more challenging and rewarding at the same time.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration if we were to note that higher education had practically stagnated before the announcement of the policy Not only were there gaping policy holes, redundancy and non-updation of decades-old academic structures posed a serious challenge to intellectual development. Thankfully, many of the earlier issues have been addressed through NEP 2020.

However, this discourse pertains to one specific development that has the potential to change the higher educational ecosystem in the country. What is it that I am talking about? Well, just so that we are on the same page, recently the University Grants Commission (UGC) mooted a unique plan that would empower holders of four-year-long graduation degree to pursue Ph.D. This has been done with a two-pronged strategy in mind. While research would get a thrust, students would be saved from spending an extra year to garner the requisite eligibility.

It is very important to note that India has so far suffered subject to its limited output in terms of quality research – both in science and humanities. This was primarily due to the non-institutionalization of research in most of the institutes doling out higher education. Also, it was believed that research doesn't have the potential to build a student's career. However, developments from across the words have established beyond doubt that research could be an extremely fruitful vocation not just for the advancement of mankind but for the career of a student as well. This is exactly where the new draft policy could come in extremely handy.

The Gandhinagar, Gujarat-based Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU) understood the future of four-year-long degree programmes long time back and introduced it for the students of liberal studies. Today, the institute stands vindicated for its visionary approach. It can be said with some confidence that PDEU will be one of the pioneers in guiding this change in policy in India.





Now, to shift to the original discourse, it is equally important to mention that the Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) degree that has been the centre of many an academic discussions would not be continued henceforth. One of the primary reasons for the same is the limited research scope of the programme. While M.Phil. degrees given until the declaration of this policy would continue to remain valid, no new intakes will be done for the concerned programme going ahead.

The world is going through a very critical time. Humanity is at the cusp of a major change. The trajectory that it takes would largely depend on how the research scene pans out. The current draft policy truly takes this into consideration.

However, problems still persist. One of the biggest problems for Indian researchers is a substantial shortage of organized funding. While there are government and private organizations doling out research grants, the number of such grants is still abysmally low. In the days ahead, this area needs a fillip not just from the government but from the private sector as well. It is important to understand that developments in the realm of academics would translate to business developments as well. Newer technologies and methods would go a long way in making many businesses profitable. Therefore, privately-sponsored specific research projects constitute the need of the hour.

Some of the Indian institutes of eminence would definitely feature in the top 100 if research is made the priority. A change in mindset is also required. Bright students should be encouraged to adopt research as their career and the results could be game changing.

Stay safe, happy and healthy!

Cheers!
Dr. Amrita Chakraborty
Editor
SLS Mirror



SLS Events Calendar



SLS EVENTS CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2022

SLS SCHOOL OF LIBERAL STUDIES	February 2022	School of Liberal Studies, PDEU		
SI. No.	Date of the Event/Activity	Name of the Event/Activity	Number of Participants	Department
1	February 2, 2022	Webinar on 'Translator's Task - Transition, Transmission or ?'	200 +	Languages, Literature and Aesthetics
2	February 11, 2022	Analyzing Economic Survey 2021-22	35	Social Sciences
3	February 23, 2022	Workshop on Interpretation and Qualitative Methods	15	Office of Ph.D. Program



Key Events of SLS

ANALYZING ECONOMIC SURVEY 2021-22

Rapporteur: Sumana Lahiri and Dr. Nausheen Nizami

11 Feb. 2022: The seminar on 'Analyzing Economic Survey 2021-22' was an initiative by the Economics Area, Department of Social Science, SLS, PDEU. The session was moderated by Dr. Nausheen Nizami, Associate Professor (Economics), PDEU. The seminar was conducted in two sessions by Ms. Sharmistha Sinha, Deputy Director, NITI Aayog, and Ms. Neha Chauhan, Deputy Director, Ministry of Finance respectively.



(Ms. Sumana Lahiri introducing the Speaker Ms. Sharmistha Sinha to the audience)

The seminar introduced the concept of Economic Survey, its drafting process, the subject matter, and its linkage to the Union Budget in the first session and discussion of data along with its interpretations in the second session.



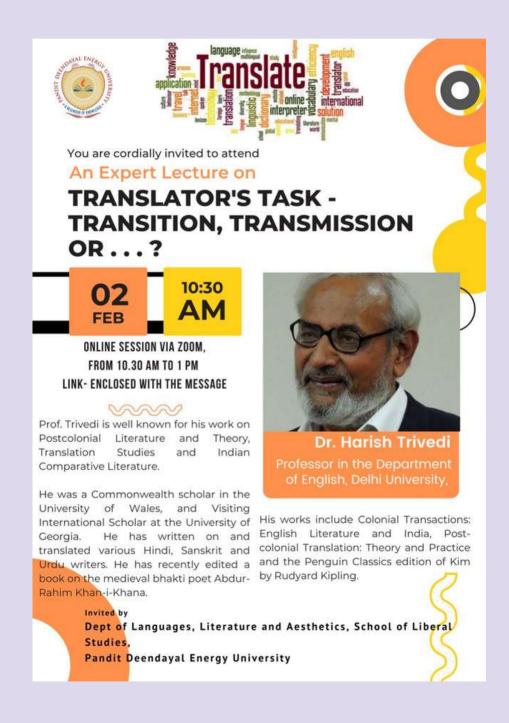
(Ms. Neha Chauhan from Ministry of Finance interacting online with the participants)

It was an informative and interactive event, which helped the students to better understand the relevance of the recently released Economic Survey 2021-22.

WEBINAR ON 'TRANSLATOR'S TASK - TRANSITION, TRANSMISSION OR . .?

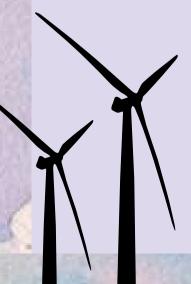
Rapporteur: Dr. Urmi Satyan

2 Feb. 2022: The Department of Languages, Literature and Aesthetics organised a National Webinar on the topic 'Translator's Task - Transition, Transmission or . . . ?' volunteered by Mr. Somanand Saraswatee (Ph.D. Scholar, English) and Vatsal Somaiya (SLS, B.A. Semester 6) who managed the registration and ecertificate distribution tasks. Prof. Harish Trivedi (Retd. Prof. Delhi University) was invited to share his expertise on the said topic.



Registrations from across India and abroad were done through a Google Doc form. To make the webinar more focused and interactive, the webinar coordinator Dr. Urmi Satyan mailed the topic-related questions which were collected through the same registration form to the speaker. The series of questions showed that most of the participants wanted to know about the predicament that is attached to the task of a translator. The event received a warm response from various Indian and foreign universities. More than 400 forms were received from prestigious institutes from India and abroad. Students of PDEU registered in high numbers as well. All in all, the webinar was a huge success.

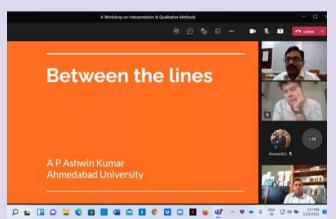


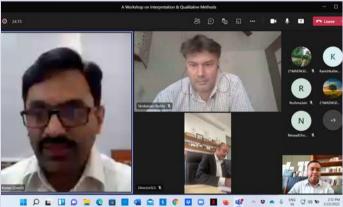


WORKSHOP ON INTERPRETATION AND QUALITATIVE METHODS

Rapporteur: Dr. Vaibhav Shah

23 Feb. 2022: Office of Ph.D. Program, School of Liberal Studies organized a workshop on 'Between the Lines: A Workshop on Interpretation and Qualitative Methods' on February 23, 2022 from 2.00 - 5.00 pm on the MS Teams platform. The resource person was Dr. Ashwin Kumar who is the Director of the Centre for Learning Futures and Associate Professor at the Amrut Modi School of Management of Ahmedabad University, Gujarat. The Workshop was attended by research scholars and PG students across the disciplines of Humanities and Social Sciences. The workshop showcased and analyzed cases of exemplary qualitative analysis and highlighted challenges and possibilities in using qualitative data in research.







Between the Lines: A Workshop on Interpretation & Qualitative Methods



As researchers, we often encounter material which cannot be parameterized beforehand. It comes mostly in the shape of opinions, texts, concepts, and images, conveniently called qualitative data. While by its very nature such data is ambiguous and subject to interpretation, our interpretations could be more or less effective, more or less appropriate depending on the rigour and skill with which we handle it. In this workshop, you will learn the skills and methods to handle qualitative data appropriately and effectively for your specific research purposes.

This workshop will showcase and analyse cases of exemplary qualitative analysis and highlight challenges and possibilities in using qualitative data in our research.



Dr A P Ashwin Kumar Director, Centre for Learning Futures Associate Professor, Amrut Mody School of Management, Ahmedabad University

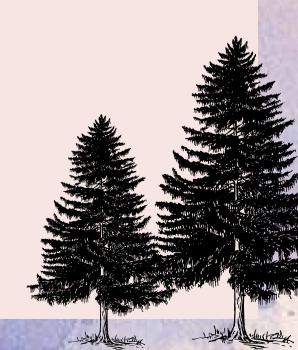


23 February, 2022 Mode: MS Teams 2.00 PM - 5.00 PM

Organised by: Office of Ph.D Program, School of Liberal Studies



Study in India Programme







Rapporteur: Dr. Udayprakash Sharma, SLS

24 Feb. 2022: As part of *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava* celebrations of the 75 years of India's independence, EdCIL Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking in India under the administrative control of the Ministry of Education, India, organised 'Study in India' - Diplomatic Conclave for showcasing the education sector of India, particularly the policies and schemes for providing education opportunities to foreign students. The event was held at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi on February 24, 2022 with the participation of diplomats from about 20 countries.

Diplomats from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iraq, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Oman, Philippines, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe participated in this conclave. It was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Education Rajkumar Ranjan Singh.

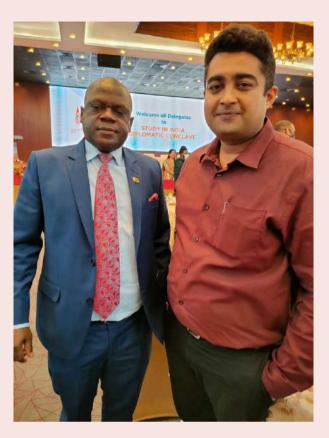
Dr. Udayprakash Sharma, Assistant Professor in Politics and International Relations, Department of Social Sciences, School of Liberal Studies, PDEU, along with Mr. Tarun Bhatara, University Manager of Office of International Affairs, PDEU, had represented PDEU at the Study in India – Diplomatic Conclave.

The Conclave Meet was productive as it broadened the University network with many Diplomats, Consuls, and Ambassadors of different Foreign Embassies in India such as Dr. Udayprakash Sharma and Mr. Tarun Bhatara introduced PDEU to many Diplomats, Consuls, and Ambassadors of different Foreign Embassies in India. PDEU has already sent invitations to the Diplomats, Consuls, and Ambassadors to welcome them on the University campus for delivering special lectures on the topic of diplomacy, security, and foreign policy in international relations and to facilitate a meeting with the University students which will also enrich their knowledge on current affairs and global politics.

















2ND RESEARCH POSTER SYMPOSIUM AT PDEU

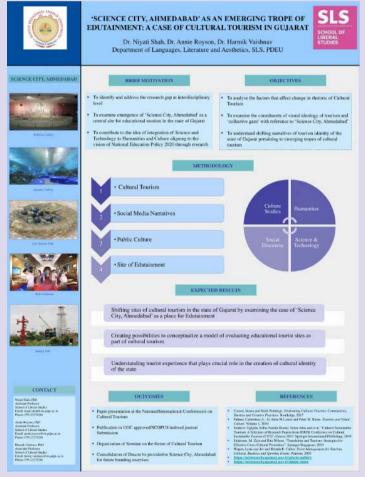
Rapporteur: Dr. Amrita Chakraborty

17 Feb. 2022: The Office of Dean Research and Development Cell, PDEU organised a one-day Faculty Research Symposium in the university for the School of Liberal Studies (SLS) to enrich the interdisciplinary research culture. The symposium was also conducted for the School of Petroleum Technology (SPT) and School of Petroleum Management (SPM) on the same day. The event was conceptualised under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) S. Sundar Manoharan, the Director General of PDEU.

This platform observed enthusiastic participation by SLS faculty members with a wide range of poster presentations inspired by research project work, consultancy, and research papers undertaken by the SLS faculty members. This experience allowed the faculty members memorable experiences full of enriching research discussions, discoveries, and knowledge sharing and learning. A panel was formed by the organising team to evaluate the best poster for the symposium.









STATUS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME: A STUDY OF AHMEDABAD, SURAT, DAHOD AND BANASKANTHA DISTRICTS

hakrahory, Dr. Naucheon Nizuni and Dr. Seirem Diri (Pandi D Energy University, Gualilinegae) Dr. Sanayon Bhasacharjee (Adamas University, Kolkata)



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EXPECTED RESULTS

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Electorate's Interpretation of Signs and Symbols in **Political Communication**

PRADEEPMALLIK, PhD: SCHOOL OF LIBERAL STUDIES, PDEU

BRIEFMOTIVATION

OBJECTIVES

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INTRODUCTION

This study aimed at studying Modi's use of signs and symbols in his election campaign speeches to connect to the Indian people. The research was conducted under the framework of the semetic approach to the study of communication. It was funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research.

OBJECTIVES

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BIBLIOGRAPHY REFERENCES

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RESULTS

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METHODOLOGY



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CONCLUSION

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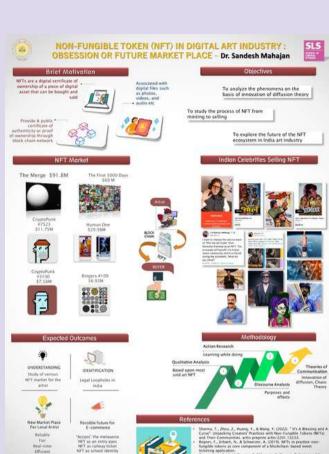




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OBJECTIVE

Distribution.

CONCLUSION

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STORING VALUE





Marital Rape: A Study of "Criminal justice: Behind the closed doors" by Apurav Asrani oy Apurav Asrant Dr. Rachna A. Vasudev Department of Language Literature and Aesthetics

SLS

Brief Motivation To uncover the aftermath facets of marital rape on won

- est reasted on reading a recent news in Times of India regarding the succide of scites is wife who in her succide note mentioned about her marrial rape. proceed study Secures on the non-criminalized act of Marrial rape, single year and secured to smoover the admental factors of Marrial rape that only share a women's identity but also transmatters a women's

Objecti



Analysis









Abstract

- The global community is talking about women empowement and that we are able to provide equal rights to women to a greater extent. In 21 century people think that gender biasness is conduited. But if we look into the ground reality the condition is same. Surveys and data shows that 70% of women in India are going through domestic violence, manifal rape, unequal salary and growth opportunities and freedom of thought and many more sooic economical personal and professional dispartities.

 The present paper tries to draw the attention and concern towards one such some which I feed is left out or ignored when we talk about equal rights for women or we talk about momen empowerment in Indian contests. The issue of marital rape. As in India marriage means full sexual freedom to a man. Sexual acts after marriage is something which is legally permitted.

 Women's body or women is considered one of the assisted target to be averaged.

 Indian history has witnessed so many battles where first strategy used to capture a state or to punish a kingdom was to rape or abdect the women of the kingdom.

 It's alterning that such acts are not history it still prevails as herstory.

 The study through the critical analysis of a Host star series. 'Criminal Justice behind the Closed doors' tries to un cover the aftermath facets of marital Rape and tries to delineate how a women can delegitimize the culture of silence forced on them by vocalizing their experiences.

Conclusion

thought and decision making the dependency of the technological decision making. Empowement of women is empowering her digitity. If a woman is not given the dise respect all action no matter how noble it may be, remains unfirtuitle, and action no matter how noble it may be, remains unfirtuitle, and action to matter how noble it may be, remains unfirtuitle, and action of the decision of the decis

Bibliography/References

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Responsible Consumption and Choice: Analysis of Material Footprints of 'Conspicuous Consumers' and Solutions for Strategic Intervention

Nassheen Nizami, Vasibhov Shah and Amrita Chakraborty (Pandit Deendayal Energy University) Rajat Verma (Centre for Social and Economic Progress, New Delhi)



EXPECTED RESULTS

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OUTCOMES

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EXPOSURE TO NCC YOGA (2021-2025)



The School of Liberal Studies offers a program of Exposure to NCC. Two sessions for the same were conducted on the topic of Yoga for the batch of 2021. The subject was divided into two sessions which were conducted on February 4, 2022 and February 11, 2022 respectively. The session was hosted and managed by the volunteers of the Audit Team. Over 150 students were a part of the session.

The first session was a presentation where the Exposure to NCC Team hosted an interactive session where a piece of detailed information about yoga was shared with the students. The students were briefed about the history of yoga, the benefits it provides to the body, and how yoga can prevent major lifestyle problems. Students were taught how practicing yoga regularly can make a positive difference in their lives and help them develop a healthy and happy lifestyle. The session was quite interesting and informative.

The second session was a guest lecture. It was conducted on February 11, 2022 by Dr. Jahnvi Patel who is an orthopaedic and sports physiotherapist. She is also a yoga teacher with experience of over 5 years with a global clientele. This session included the practical knowledge and experience shared by a professional. She answered students' queries about the type of diet to be followed, other exercises one can do, ways to be active throughout the day, and other related questions. She also gave numerous tips for a healthy lifestyle and busted myths about weight loss and spot reduction. Students had fun learning about yoga and each student actively participated in the session. IT was interactive not only for the students but also for the volunteers. It concluded with feedback and testimonials for and by the students.

The Exposure to NCC session was held with the efforts of the Audit Team:

FACULTY COORDINATORS

Dr. Neeta Khurana	Lt. Khushali Purohit

STUDENT MENTORS

Jigar Sarang (19BABBA179)	Chirasvi Desai (19BABBA019)
Palak Rajput (19BABBA071)	Muskan Sharma (19BABBA049)

VOLUNTEERS

Shivali Patel (20BABBA216)	Helly Gajjar (20BABBA031)
Keyanshi Desai (20BABBA006)	Priyanshi Thacker (20BABBA19)
Harshit Malhotra (20BABBA169)	Tanya Sutaria (20BABBA022)
Prushti Mistry (19BABBA030)	



Student Testimonials:

Devanshi Patel (21BABBA339): It was a great session. I learned a lot about the benefits that Yoga provides and not only general benefits but also that Yoga could help a person get mental peace. Yoga is very much beneficial for our health. In today's times, yoga helps to reduce the stress level, keep your mind calm and keep your body fit and healthy. It prevents us from any disease. I found the session to be very fascinating.

Khushi Bhensjalia (20BABBA282): I am very fascinated by yoga and meditation. This session was quite insightful and contributed much more to my knowledge. I learned about various postures and the pros and cons of yoga. Overall the session was quite insightful.

Riya Sharma (21BABBA374): I never knew that Yoga has these many benefits. Learning about Yoga added a lot to my knowledge and it even encouraged me to start doing it to gain a healthy lifestyle.











BLOCK PRINTING & JAPANESE ART (2021-2025)

What is an Audit Course?

The School of Liberal Studies (SLS) offers an Audit course, especially for its first-year students. Due to the present scenario of COVID-19, the pandemic has gotten every aspirant diverted into a new technology-based learning and new experience. With the utmost discipline and confidence along with the guidance of the respected faculty members, student mentors, and volunteers running the Audit and Exposure to NCC session on the online portal and maintaining a cordial positive environment with exploration and fun.

The Audit course is managed and overseen by the efforts of the faculty coordinators, student mentors, and volunteers of the Audit Team.

FACULTY COORDINATORS

Dr. Neeta Khurana	Lt. Khushali Purohit

STUDENT MENTORS

Jigar Sarang (19BABBA179)	Chirasvi Desai (19BABBA019)
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Harshit Malhotra (20BABBA169)	
	Tanya Sutaria (20BABBA022)
Prushti Mistry (19BABBA030)	

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BLOCK PRINT ART

What is Block Printing Art?

It is a process that requires steady movement and careful hand-eye coordination. This traditional technique of fabric printing involves the use of carved wooden blocks that are dipped in dye to recreate gorgeous designs. Block-printed fabrics usually showcase a palette of colors that bring these designs to life.

Session

The School of Liberal Studies offers an Audit Course for which two sessions were conducted on the topic of Block Printing on February 5, 2022, and February 6, 2022, respectively. The session was organized for the batch of 2021, where over 150 students attended both sessions respectively. The session was commenced by Seema Agrawal and was overseen by the Audit Team. It commenced with a theoretical presentation followed by a practical session. The students were taught the importance of the artwork along with the portrayal of different methods by which they could perform numerous designs viz. using a potato slice to draw different shapes, unique ways of how a cookie cutter can be used to draw various designs, different methods of how to use the block provided, and a lot more! Everyone was provided with their art kits, which they used and began with their work. The session was conducted in a positive and cordial environment. Students learned a new form of art and also performed it practically.

Student Testimonials:

Kashish Tiwari (21BABBA233): Today's session was interesting. I learned a lot about Block printing. The practical part was fun doing and I enjoyed the session thoroughly. Especially I loved the part where we had to cut the potato and use it as a tool to paint. For me, it was a very new experience and it was amazing.

Aastha Trivedi (21BABBA172): The most amazing part of the session was the practical part but I even had fun learning the history of Block Printing. As well as the unique ways that were taught in which a single block could be used to portray numerous designs. Overall, the session was interesting and informative.















JAPANESE ART



What is Japanese Art?

Japanese art covers a wide range of art styles and media, including ancient pottery, sculpture, ink painting and calligraphy on silk and paper, ukiyo-e paintings and woodblock prints, ceramics, origami, and more recently manga and anime.

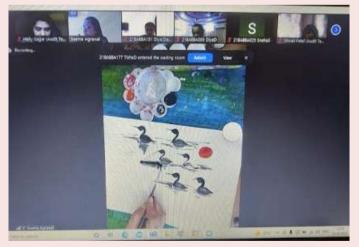
Session

The School of Liberal Studies offers an audit course for which a session on the topic of Japanese art was conducted for the batch of 2021. Over 150 students from 21 batches were a part of the session concerning their assigned groups. The session was divided into two days, where on February 19, 2022, students from groups 1-2 were the attendees, and on February 20, students from groups 3-4 were the attendees. Seema Agrawal held the session and was overseen by the Audit Team. The session began with a presentation that briefed the students about the history, origin, and importance of Japanese art. They were also given step-by-step explanations of the art. They were also guided with personal attention. After the practice session, they began with their artwork on the material provided to them. The session ended with the filling of feedback forms and the submission of the artwork.

Student Testimonials:

Kashish Tiwari (21BABBA233): Today's artwork was very interesting and difficult. However, we were able to perform it because of the guidance given by ma'am. The artwork was a little difficult to do using the watercolours. I had fun learning new artwork and it was an interesting session.

Avani Firke (21BABBA114): I got to learn about Japanese Art in-depth. I was amazed how a stroke could be turned into leaves, flowers, and birds! The session was interesting and I enjoyed learning it.













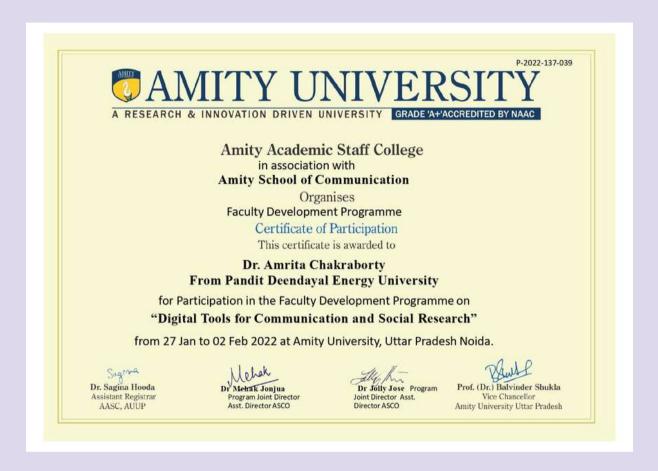






DR. AMRITA CHAKRABORTY

Dr. Amrita Chakraborty successfully completed a one-week Faculty Development Programme (FDP) by Amity University on 'Digital Tools for Communication and Social Research' from January 27, 2022 to February 2, 2022.



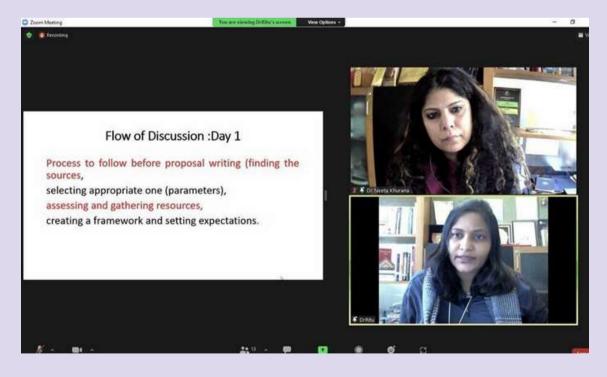




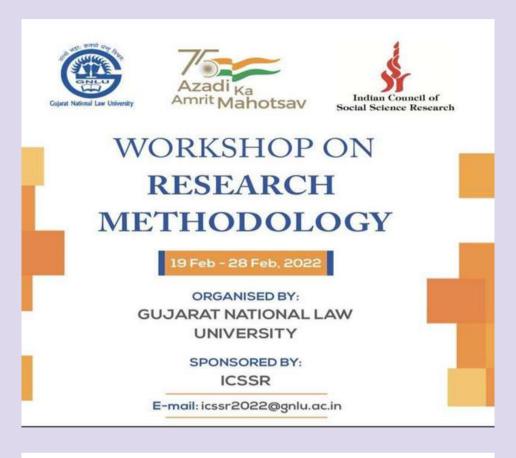
DR. RITU SHARMA

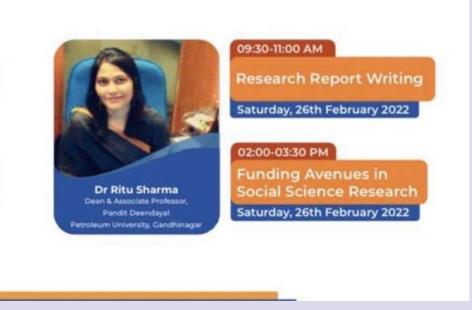
Dr. Sharma was invited as a resource person for the masterclass on Winning proposals by MICA CDMC on February 18 and February 19, 2022.





She was also invited as a resource person for an ICSSR Sponsored workshop on research methodology organized by GNLU on the topic of research report writing and funding avenues in social sciences on February 26, 2022.



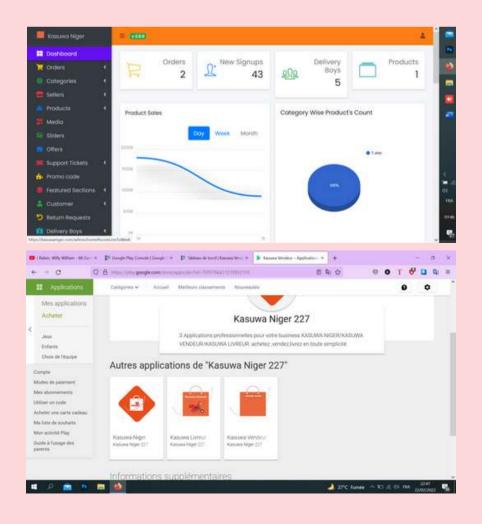


Students' Achievements

ABDOUL-KADER HASSANE HAMADOU

Abdoul-Kader Hassane Hamadou, a second-year student at SLS, PDEU, launched the first multi-vendor sales application in his country, Niger. He manages and controls his apps online, whilst dealing with fields like those of designing and advertising, contracts, communications, and promotions. First launched on March 2, 2022, Abdoul's Applications have more than 100 downloads. His applications are available on Playstore. They are as follows,

Kasuwa Niger	This is the main application where one can place orders. It is also the first electronic online sales application in Niger.	
Kasuwa Vendeur	This application allows any seller to add and sell their products. The added products will be available from the KASUWA NIGER app, for customers.	
Kasuwa Livreur	Under this application, any person or delivery company can deliver the products of the KASUWA NIGER app.	





DIYA DESAI

Diya Desai, a student of BBA Hons, is goal-driven and a multitasker. She has research aptitude and content writing, both technical and creative as her strengths. Hence, to put her skills to the test, she participated in 'PAWRITO' of the 'Young Economist Students' organized by Jadavpur University, Kolkata. She submitted a 1500-word research article on one of the two given topics 'Does Globalization carry a threat to the survival of the cultural identity of minority ethnic groups? She put her positive stand strongly emphasizing that cultural globalization has adversely impacted the survival of minority ethnic groups and their culture. She competed with seniors across colleges PAN India and achieved the second position for which she was awarded the Certificate of Merit.





MAUSAM SHETH

Mausam ShethMausam Sheth, a student of BABBA, co-founded a start-up "MIRELLA" based on Sustainability, Healthy, Eco-friendly products. The start-up provides Customized Gifting based on zero plastic and healthy snacks. Her business journey started one and a half years ago. She was very clear about the business products being Healthy & Sustainable. Mausam wanted to inculcate 'Health' in Gifting because she believed that in the end, we all want our loved ones to be healthy at any cost and in every situation. Her entire family being active in one or the other businesses, they received many gifts on festivals and occasions and most of them contained sweets, junk food, stationary, showpieces, etc which she felt were harmful at some level. She wanted to replace that tradition by sending healthy goodies to loved ones. Mausam believes that by making Sustainable goodies she is saving a bit of planet Earth, and to save it she thought of avoiding plastic while making gift articles.

The journey has grown from 'I' to now 'We', the team Mirella are full fledged working by creating their own e-commerce website as well as working with Amazon and Flipkart. Thousands of Healthy gift hampers are curated and distributed across India and soon Mausam and her team are expanding internationally.

Website address: http://www.mirellagifts.com/









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