

## A Note from Head of the Department

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It is both a pleasure and privilege to present this issue of किराIITH, whose theme is "Liberal Arts and Research". As the department's chair, I am proud to state that Liberal Arts at IIT Hyderabad has, since its inception, been involved in cutting-edge research in various domains of the humanities and social sciences while also advancing powerful practice-based teaching and learning in various areas of performing and creative arts. With a strong focus on training scholars, the department has been very successful in graduating doctoral scholars who are now eminent academics and practitioners. The department, likewise, runs master's programs in Development Studies and Health, Gender and Society and has been producing well-trained students who have moved into research, social work, and even developing independent start-ups.

The Department of Liberal Arts houses scholars and experts in Anthropology/Sociology, Cultural Studies, Economics, Development Studies, English, Cognitive Science, Psychology, Political Ecology, and Linguistics who variously engage in research, teaching, advocacy, and policy-making while also facilitating local and global collaborations. The department has been powerfully addressing matters of health and hygiene, gender equality, climate change and political ecology, economic policies, international finance, literary and media studies, queer studies, labour and poverty, the human mind and cognition, brain and memory, psychological well-being, medical anthropology, race and caste, and reproductive justice, to name a few.



Strikingly, this rich diversity of topics helps the Department of Liberal Arts not only create powerful networks of interdisciplinary pedagogy and research but also enables the department to contribute to policy-making, jurisprudence, and advocacy in meaningful ways that enhance the quality of modern life. Noted for its excellent publication record in terms of journal articles and books, its vibrant conferences and workshops, its long list of sponsored projects, and its regular outreach activities, Liberal Arts at IIT Hyderabad is already recognized as one of the leading centres of humanities and social science research in India and aspires to soon make its mark globally. Through this newsletter, I wish to reach out to all our readers, inviting them to join hands with us for possible collaborations, teaching, joint projects, and other related activities.

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**Departmental Gatherings**

