

किर IITH

the crowning glory

A Quarterly e-Newsletter of IIT Hyderabad

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భారతీయ సాంకేతిక విజ్ఞాన సంస్థ హైదరాబాద్
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हैदराबाद
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad

Research @ IITH in Liberal Arts

Knowledge in digital age



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Dear Readers,

We hope this message finds you well!

As we present this edition of किराIITH, we'd like to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude to you—our valued readers. Your unwavering support and engagement are the driving force behind everything we do, and we deeply appreciate each and every one of you.

Your passion, insightful feedback, and consistent interest in our content motivate us to push boundaries and continue sharing stories and insights from IIT Hyderabad. Knowing that our efforts resonate with you makes it all truly rewarding.

As always, this edition is dedicated to one of IITH's key thrust research areas, "*LiberalArts&research@IITHHyderabad*" - Vol - 6, Issue-2, Apr-Jun 2024 (Issue - 19). Liberal Arts Research has emerged as a vital thrust area at IIT Hyderabad. This field offers a dynamic platform that encourages interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary collaborations, enriching academic exploration at IITH.

In today's complex and interconnected world, research in Liberal Arts plays a crucial role in

addressing societal challenges, fostering critical thinking, and enhancing cultural understanding. By integrating diverse perspectives, it empowers individuals to navigate global issues with empathy, creativity, and informed insights, shaping a more inclusive and thoughtful future.

Our aim in this issue is to explore the diverse and dynamic realm of Liberal Arts research, highlighting its influence on society, culture, and human understanding. We believe that gaining insights into Liberal Arts research is essential for comprehending its broader impact on social progress, critical thinking, and global connectivity. We hope this issue offers meaningful perspectives and encourages engaging conversations.

We will be back next quarter with another significant research area in which IITH making a mark to Invent and Innovate in Technology for Humanity. Your support encourages us to return with an enhanced and enriching experience with exciting editions of "किराIITH".

We wish everyone a safe and healthy stay.
Happy Reading & Stay connected...



Prof Mahendrakumar Madhavan
(Dean – Alumni & Corporate Relations)
{Editor-in-Chief}



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*"Knowledge is power.
Information is liberating.
Education is the premise of progress."*

— Kofi Annan

Dear friends,

I hope you are all in good health and high spirits.

As we navigate through another exciting quarter, I want to take a moment to connect with each of you and share some reflections on our journey of IIT Hyderabad.

As we delve into this edition of our newsletter, "किरIITH" (KirIITH) – The Crowning Glory, I am excited to share with you the latest advancements and milestones in our Liberal Arts research efforts. Our commitment to innovation and excellence in this critical field continues to drive us forward, and I am immensely proud of the progress we are making.

On this elated occasion of disseminating KirIITH, I am thrilled to announce that IIT Hyderabad received 816 newly sanctioned R&D projects with 250 Cr+ INR external funding in a single F.Y. 2023-24, it is a significant milestone in the growth journey of @IITHHyderabad

IIT Hyderabad, renowned for its excellence in research contributions, continues to make significant strides in fostering innovation and advancing knowledge by deploying a 3D-printed bridge on the campus of IIT Hyderabad (IITH). The concept and design were developed and evaluated by Prof. K.V.L. Subramaniam and his research group, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Hyderabad. The bridge was off-site printed by Simpliforge Creations, a startup company specializing in providing 3D concrete printing solutions. Designed as a pedestrian bridge, a full-scale 7.50 m bridge was field deployed after load testing a smaller prototype bridge.

As a leading institution, it actively drives impactful projects and collaborations, further solidifying its position at the forefront of academic and technological advancements. A high-profile delegation from the University of Magdeburg and other esteemed German institutes convened at IIT Hyderabad (IITH) for a virtual meeting aimed at bolstering academic collaboration between India and Germany. The gathering, hosted by IITH, witnessed fruitful discussions and insightful deliberations among key stakeholders from both nations in the areas of Research Collaboration, Exchange of Faculty and Students, Joint Supervision & Joint Degree Programs, Identifying Mutual Areas of Interest in

Research, Joint Workshops and Virtual Brainstorming Sessions. To connect with the industries and showcase the innovative products and prototypes of the various DICs to the industries and investors, the Design Innovation Centre (DIC) at IIT Hyderabad (IITH) has organized the 4th All India DIC Meet-2024 and an Exhibition, where 80 institutions from across the country participated. The meet has facilitated interaction and bridged the gap between industries and DICs regarding the outreach of innovations. 20 DIC Hubs across India presented their work progress along with their Spoke institutes in the form of consolidated presentations in an interactive session to showcase how design thinking and grassroots development with technological interventions have been promoted by them infusing innovations in various facets of the entire ecosystems.

IITH marked World Environment Day with great enthusiasm, reinforcing its commitment to creating a sustainable and eco-friendly campus. With initiatives like energy-efficient buildings, monthly plantation drives, efficient e-waste management system, and solar-powered infrastructure, IITH continues to lead the way in sustainable development, inspiring future generations to embrace environmentally responsible practices.

Ensuring the health and well-being of the IITH fraternity, IIT Hyderabad, celebrated the 10th International Yoga Day (IDY 2024) with great enthusiasm. The event was organized under the guidelines of the Ministry of AYUSH, promoting the significance of yoga for physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. Through this celebration, IITH reaffirms its dedication to promoting a balanced and healthy lifestyle among its fraternity, in alignment with the vision of a fit and resilient nation.

As we continue our journey towards excellence, it is heartening to see the unwavering dedication of the IITH fraternity in embracing innovation, sustainability, and well-being.

On this note, I extend my best wishes for a time filled with happiness, fulfillment, and endless possibilities. May we continue to inspire, innovate, and excel in all our endeavors.

~ B S Murty
Director
IIT Hyderabad

A Note from Head of the Department

KID: 20240201

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.

Dr Srirupa Chatterjee
Associate Professor
HoD, Department of Liberal Arts



Departmental Gatherings



विभागाध्यक्ष का नोट



KID: 20240202

किराIITH के इस अंक को प्रस्तुत करना मेरे लिए खुशी और सम्मान की बात है, जिसका विषय "लिबरल आर्ट्स एवं अनुसंधान" है। विभाग के अध्यक्ष के रूप में, मुझे यह बताते हुए गर्व हो रहा है कि आईआईटी हैदराबाद में लिबरल आर्ट्स अपनी स्थापना के बाद से ही मानविकी और सामाजिक विज्ञान के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में अत्याधुनिक शोध में शामिल रहा है, साथ ही प्रदर्शन और रचनात्मक कला के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में शक्तिशाली अभ्यास-आधारित शिक्षण और सीखने को आगे बढ़ा रहा है। विद्वानों को प्रशिक्षित करने पर विशेष ध्यान देने के साथ, विभाग डॉक्टरेट विद्वानों को स्नातक करने में बहुत सफल रहा है जो अब प्रख्यात शिक्षाविद और व्यवसायी हैं। इसी तरह, विभाग विकास अध्ययन और स्वास्थ्य, लिंग और समाज में स्नातकोत्तर पाठ्यक्रम चलाता है और अच्छी तरह से प्रशिक्षित छात्रों को तैयार करता रहा है जो अनुसंधान, सामाजिक कार्य और यहां तक कि स्वतंत्र स्टार्ट-अप विकसित करने में आगे बढ़े हैं।

लिबरल आर्ट्स विभाग में मानव विज्ञान/समाजशास्त्र, सांस्कृतिक अध्ययन, अर्थशास्त्र, विकास अध्ययन, अंग्रेजी, संज्ञानात्मक विज्ञान, मनोविज्ञान, राजनीतिक पारिस्थितिकी और भाषा विज्ञान के विद्वान और विशेषज्ञ हैं जो विभिन्न प्रकार से अनुसंधान, शिक्षण, वकालत और नीति-निर्माण में संलग्न हैं और साथ ही स्थानीय और वैश्विक सहयोग को भी सुविधाजनक बनाते हैं। विभाग स्वास्थ्य और स्वच्छता, लैंगिक समानता, जलवायु परिवर्तन और राजनीतिक पारिस्थितिकी, आर्थिक नीतियों, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वित्त, साहित्यिक और मीडिया अध्ययन, समलैंगिक अध्ययन, श्रम और गरीबी, मानव मन और अनुभूति, मस्तिष्क और स्मृति, मनोवैज्ञानिक कल्याण, चिकित्सा मानवविज्ञान, नस्ल और जाति, और प्रजननात्मक न्याय जैसे कुछ मामलों को सशक्त ढंग से संबोधित कर रहा है।

आश्चर्यजनक रूप से, विषयों की यह समृद्ध विविधता लिबरल आर्ट्स विभाग को न केवल अंतःविषय शिक्षण और अनुसंधान के शक्तिशाली नेटवर्क बनाने में मदद करती है, बल्कि विभाग को आधुनिक जीवन की गुणवत्ता को बढ़ाने वाले सार्थक तरीकों से नीति-निर्माण, न्यायशास्त्र और वकालत में योगदान करने में भी सक्षम बनाती है। जर्नल लेखों और पुस्तकों, इसके जीवंत सम्मेलनों और कार्यशालाओं, प्रायोजित परियोजनाओं की अपनी लंबी सूची और इसकी नियमित आउटरीच गतिविधियों के संदर्भ में अपने उत्कृष्ट प्रकाशन रिकॉर्ड के लिए विख्यात, IIT हैदराबाद में लिबरल आर्ट्स को पहले से ही भारत में मानविकी और सामाजिक विज्ञान अनुसंधान के अग्रणी केंद्रों में से एक के रूप में मान्यता प्राप्त है और जल्द ही विश्व स्तर पर अपनी पहचान बनाने की इच्छा रखता है। इस न्यूज़लेटर के माध्यम से, मैं अपने सभी पाठकों तक पहुंचना चाहती हूँ और उन्हें संभावित सहयोग, शिक्षण, संयुक्त परियोजनाओं और अन्य संबंधित गतिविधियों के लिए हमारे साथ जुड़ने के लिए आमंत्रित करना चाहती हूँ।

श्रीरूपा चटर्जी

एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर

विभागाध्यक्ष, उदार कला विभाग



विभागीय सभाएँ



GVC Trade Integration as a Path for Viksit Bharat@2047



KID: 20240203

The performance of GVC related trade is significantly better during the NDA government in comparison to the UPA government. Thus, to achieve the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, it is imperative for the Government of India to enhance deeper participation of GVC through competitiveness, attracting more FDI and fostering innovation.

In first week of March, 2025, a World Bank report stated that India needs to target an average growth rate of 7.8 percent for next 22 years to achieve developed nation status by 2047.

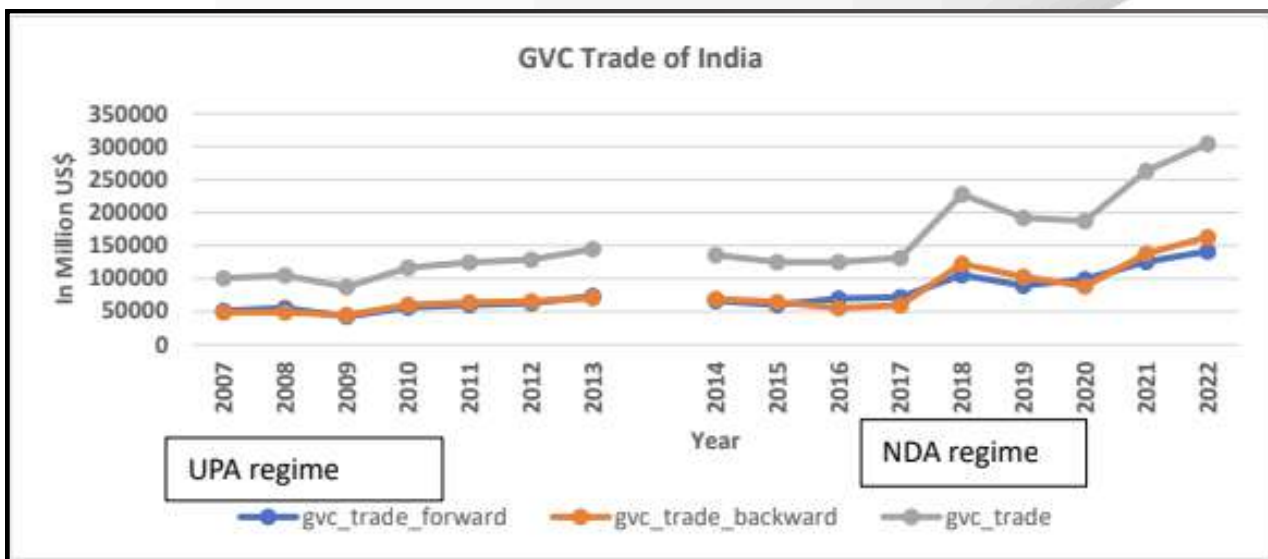
Though the World Bank recommends various areas including structural transformation, I pick India's global value chains (GVC) trade integration as a key path to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

The fragmentation of trade in the form of global value chains (GVCs) has played an important role, which could potentially benefit the country through competitiveness and fostering innovation.

The interconnection of production structure between countries through both backward and forward GVCs participation would not only increase trade integration but also bolster economic growth with stability.

Despite India's supply chain disruptions due to lingering effects of COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions, and volatility in foreign exchange market, still the country is significantly performing better in GVC trade under the leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Figure 1: India's GVC trade



Source: Asian Development Bank (ADB) database.

Fig.1 demonstrates the GVC trade of India from 2007 to 2022. Further GVC trade has decomposed into forward and backward participation of GVC trade. In case of forward participation of GVC, India can produce and shipping inputs that are further re-exported.

Similarly, in case of backward GVC participation, India can use imported inputs to produce goods that are exported abroad. Fig.1 shows the trends of GVC trade between UPA and NDA government tenures.

The figure indicates that the forward and backward participation of GVC trade in NDA regime is higher than UPA regime.

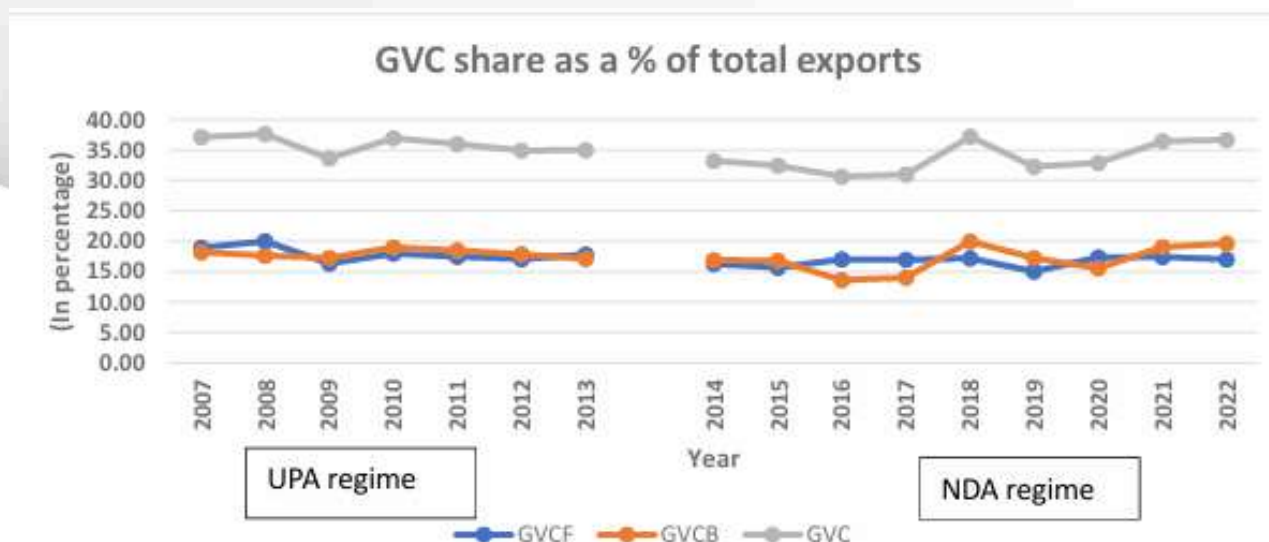
Table 1: Growth rates of exports based on GVC participation in India

Regime	Exports	GVC_Forward	GVC_Backward	GVC_Trade
UPA led government (2007-2014)	7.61	7.66	6.97	7.23
UPA led government (2007-2014)	9.11	9.02	14.87	11.38

Source: Author’s calculation based on ADB database

Table 1 shows the growth rates of exports, forward GVC exports, backward GVC exports and total GVC trade. All figures clearly indicate that the performance of GVC related trade is significantly better during NDA government in comparison to UPA government. It is further noticed that during UPA tenure, the average growth of forward participation of trade (7.66%) was higher than the average growth of backward participation of trade (6.97%). However, during NDA regime, the average growth of backward participation of trade (14.87%) has upsurged than average growth of forward participation of trade (9.02%).

Figure 2: India’s GVC trade



Source: Author’s calculation based on ADB database.

Fig. 2 presents the GVC share as a percentage to total exports. The figure clearly demonstrates that India’s GVC participation share to its total exports is almost stagnant around 35% over the period 2007 to 2022. In the UPA regime, the share of both forward and backward GVC trade was almost the same from 2009 to 2014. However, there is slight variation between share of forward and backward participation of GVC during the NDA regime. It is also observed that the share of backward GVC trade is growing and higher than forward GVC participation particularly from the post COVID-19 pandemic period. The sectoral GVC participation further reveals that India is performing well in terms of forward GVC participation in agriculture, mining and quarrying, and service sectors, whereas, in the case of manufacturing sector, the backward GVC participation of trade is performing well.

As India strives to achieve the vision of ‘Viksit Bharat’ by 2047, it is imperative for the Government of India to enhance deeper participation of GVC through competitiveness, attracting more FDI and fostering innovation.

Since India aims to be recognised as a global manufacturing hub, thus, to unlock this potential, the government should strategically reduce the import tariffs and non-tariff barriers particularly for those intermediate goods that are being used in the form of backward participation of GVC.

Similarly, the government should also ensure helping those export promoting firms and industries that are actively engaged in forward GVC participation.

Prof Badri Narayan Rath
 Professor
 Department of Liberal Arts

Beyond Two Cultures

KID: 20240204

I am a researcher in the field of STS (Science and Technology Studies, or sometimes also referred to as Science, Technology, and Society Studies). Broadly, the field focuses on ways that science, technology, and society shape each other. STS researchers could focus on how societal priorities shape what scientific questions and technological developments are pursued and funded, for example. Or they could examine how the relative risks and benefits of scientific and technological advancements are distributed and how these can be governed fairly. Science and technology infuse and fundamentally shape contemporary society in myriad ways and across domains – biomedical, digital, environmental, and many more. And importantly for me, the STS scholarship has time and again highlighted the importance of developing technology that is attuned and responsive to its contexts. Since first emerging as an interdisciplinary field of inquiry in the 1980s, STS has steadily expanded its conceptual and methodological toolkits to understand the various intersections of science, technology, and society.

My own research in recent years has focused on understanding emerging vulnerabilities and possible adaptations to climate change in urban India. My work has focused on population groups such as slum dwellers who are at heightened risk from rising temperatures in Hyderabad. In our work, we have demonstrated how the use of particular building materials and housing designs, prevailing socio-cultural norms, lack of reliable access to vital urban infrastructures of electricity, sanitation, and water supply, and lack of secure land tenure all together render slum-dwelling populations at much greater risk to rising ambient heat than other urban citizens.



Nonetheless, while there is significant policy attention to the question of heat and its unequal impacts in India, we show that existing policies remain largely disconnected from the everyday realities of slum dwellings and other vulnerable population groups.

The numerous ways these populations are adapting to the challenge of rising temperatures relying on local knowledge, skills and community networks is also largely invisible in existing policy formulations. The focus on the everyday conditions and habits that are productive of both, heightened vulnerabilities and adaptive possibilities, provide a different, and more fine-grained, understanding of how climate risk is configured than purely technologically led views, deriving from sensors and satellites, for example, would provide. This is not to discount valuable insights gained from remote sensing and GIS technologies, but rather to say that these necessarily need to be complemented with in situ, qualitative understandings of lived experience. Indeed, in our work, we have found it productive for insights gained from everyday experiences—knowledge of particular building materials and dwelling habits, for example, and a sense of what kinds of solutions might be acceptable and appropriate—as useful starting points to model and simulate heat gains in the built environment and possible interventions to minimize them. Much more can be said about this work, of course (further information is available at <https://heatingcities.in>); for now, I simply note how research in the Liberal Arts can (and should) complement STEM research. Not as an afterthought or something that happens after the science is done in terms of policy or outreach, but rather as something that can shape scientific inquiry through and through to ask better questions and arrive at better solutions.



Dr Aalok Khandekar
Associate Professor, Dept of Liberal Arts

Understanding socio-cultural perspectives empirically

KID: 20240205

Anthropological research in and on contemporary India is concerned with the following questions, amongst others- how does a country or society strive for equality for all its citizens be it in health, education and infrastructure? How do we sift through the larger discourse on growth and development and look at how these ideas actually take shape in practice? What meanings and understandings can we gain by looking at the role played by social and cultural factors in our notions about what health and well-being should be or what kind of education our young people should pursue? Differences in class, gender, caste etc, must be taken into account for us to understand the issues thoroughly. As a discipline, anthropology is engaged in asking difficult and challenging questions, keeping at the forefront the people, called 'interlocutors', amongst and with whom research is conducted. It is their voices that are brought to the fore in the 'ethnographic' methods used and in writing. Through immersive fieldwork lasting long periods of time, scholars gain significant knowledge of the ground realities. Ethnographic research methods like 'participant observation' allow for an in-depth understanding of local dynamics.

One of the key requirements of such research is knowing the local language, norms and practices. Research is conducted in a wide variety of settings reflecting the country's diversity. Fieldwork therefore takes place in remote areas, villages, cities, towns, offices, hospitals and schools. Long periods of stay in the field also help in understanding the landscape, and relations with nearby areas. No single 'fieldsite' is seen in isolation. To get a strong and deep sense of the issues involved, it is also important to pay attention to people's interactions with government and non-governmental institutions. In that sense, almost all research is 'multi-sited'. Below we illustrate a few ongoing studies using anthropological theories and methods, and borrowing from other disciplines in the social sciences and humanities, making the work inter-disciplinary. A study undertaken by Tekumal Santosh looks at maternal and infant mortality among the Gutti Koya, a Gond Adivasi community. Currently, there are 50,000 Gutti Koya who have moved from Chattisgarh after 2005 to Telangana.



They have poor health indicators due to displacement, land acquisition, unemployment, inadequate health infrastructure and dependency on self-proclaimed 'healers'. Based on 15 months of fieldwork in Kothagudem district, and interviews and observations with women, and other family members, front line health workers (ASHAs and ANMs), 'traditional' health healers (vadda), and Primary Health Care (PHC) staff, this study explored the problems Gutti Koya face in accessing health care due to lack of documents, their beliefs and practices surrounding pregnancy, and health care policies for vulnerable populations. This is reflected in the high rates of mortality among mothers and infants. Challenging the conventional view that 'infertility' is primarily a women's issue, research by Venkatesh Boddu highlights a topic rarely discussed in public discourse, that of men's 'quest for fatherhood' (to paraphrase Marcia Inhorn). Through data collected in fifteen months of fieldwork in rural Telangana, supplemented by insights from biomedical professionals in Hyderabad, the study examines male perceptions of infertility delving into its socio-cultural dimensions—stigma, traditional healing practices, financial hardships, and social exclusion. We investigate how men navigate these challenges, countering the assumption that they are in denial. By exploring the intersection of biomedical treatments and traditional healing, this work provides a holistic understanding of the impact a diagnosis of infertility can have on notions of masculinity, family relationships, and community dynamics in India. Exploring the aspirational imaginaries of young people in Telangana, Shankar Guguloth conducted fieldwork among students from marginalised backgrounds enrolled in government residential schools.

Drawing on 18 months of multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork from 2022 to 2024, this study engaged Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) methods, including drawing, storytelling, photovoice, and photography, alongside participant observation. The findings suggest that 'aspiration' translates into different things, depending on the kind of school a student is enrolled in, distance from the city, gender, and family's socio-economic conditions. While these students internalize neoliberal ideals of self-making and success, they retain an ethical responsibility for community development and social justice, shaped by their lived experiences of exclusion and systemic disadvantage. All of these studies aim to document our lived experiences in the here and now, concentrating on the social and cultural dynamics underpinning human behaviour. The larger aim is to contribute to efforts made by policy-makers to improve people's lives by providing information from the grassroots, and in their own voice.

Dr Haripriya Narasimhan
Associate Professor, Dept of Liberal Arts

Nation and Culture

KID: 20240206

I have been working on two important areas called gender and community in the Indian context. I teach courses and do research on how the questions related to women and community were historically debated and circulated from colonial times onwards, the development that took place over time and their relevance to the current times. I have been researching/teaching on areas like social reform, modern law, colonial policies, native orthodoxy and the ideological battles between them.

One of the main questions I am interested in and encourage my students to think about is: why is it difficult to bring a pro-women/human change in society, and why is there a taboo on female sexuality? For instance, even today, our civil society easily accepts a lot of obscenity in films, but laws that protect women in the cinema field from dark practices like the casting couch are scant. Our new-age films like Kapoor and His Sons (Hindi) and Krishna and His Leela (Telugu) have debated Indian patriarchy, tradition and body politics in the most liberal ways. But when it comes to the rights related to the body there are too many restrictions in our society. For example, during colonial times, laws prohibiting widow immolation had enjoyed more acceptance from society than the issue of widow re-marriage.



In the same way, one of our Supreme Court benches has recently (in 2023) concluded that it is not in their hands to legalize same-sex marriages and shifted the responsibility onto the parliament. This was a kind of backlash to the LGBTQ movement in our nation. But one important point to be noted here is that though our Supreme Court has refused to (of course softly) legalize the issue at hand, the bench at least did not criminalize it.



In this way, our nation is much more democratic than some of our neighbouring countries (for instance, Indonesia), which do not tolerate any claims or self-assertions of non-heterosexual communities. So basically, I do research on these areas and direct my students towards gender sensitization.

I also study political philosophy and its evaluation from ancient times to modern times and thus research on the writings of ancient philosophers like Plato and Aristotle to the writings of the modern philosophers like Friedrich Nietzsche, Michael Foucault and Jacques Derrida.

My research interests are centred around three entities: nation, community and gender and the political confluences that they create or shun creating and the struggles involved in this process. I have written two books (yet to be published) and one of them is on Telugu films and the other is a poetry volume on postcolonial Indian nation.

My book on Telugu films explores the long historical intersections between the entities of community and woman and the study starts from our first Indian films directed by Phalke in 1913 to the current Gen-Z films. In my poetry volume, I have introduced a new genre of writing poetry after the fashion of an academic article.

“ why is it difficult to bring a pro-women/human change in society, and why is there a taboo on female sexuality?”



Dr Indira Jalli
Associate Professor, Dept of Liberal Arts

Unifying Linguistic Theories of Syntax and Semantics

KID: 20240207

My current research is structured along two parallel lines. One is aimed at unifying two major theoretical paradigms in linguistic meaning and the other one is targeted at unifying some theories of human language syntax. Human language meaning has properties of both (embodied) cognitive representations and formal/mathematical structures. While cognitive/conceptual representations are ultimately rooted in sensory-motor systems, formal-logical structures of linguistic meaning are abstractions detached from and independent of the actualized world. Hence, it is not clear how these two types of representations of linguistic meaning can be reconciled. How properties of cognitive representations and formal/mathematical structures of natural language meaning can be united remains one of the puzzles in cognitive science.

A number of my recent papers sketch out the foundations of how representations of linguistic meaning in terms of cognitive/conceptual structures in Cognitive/Conceptual Semantics can be (potentially) unified with those in terms of formal-logical structures in Formal Semantics. Recently, I've consolidated this work on unifying two paradigms in linguistic semantics—formal semantics, concerned with a mathematically formalized model of linguistic meanings and cognitive semantics, concerned with the mental or cognitive representations that underlie linguistic meanings.

Clearly, these two paradigms are incompatible, and the tensions between them go far beyond the scope of formal linguistics. In my current book entitled 'The Cognitive Variation of Semantic Structures' (London: Routledge, 2024) and a series of journal papers, I've formulated the equations for the unification that can be utilized for the exploration of the cognitive constraints and principles underlying different kinds of semantic structures across languages that may help secure a firmer basis for a kind of cognitively-oriented semantic typology.

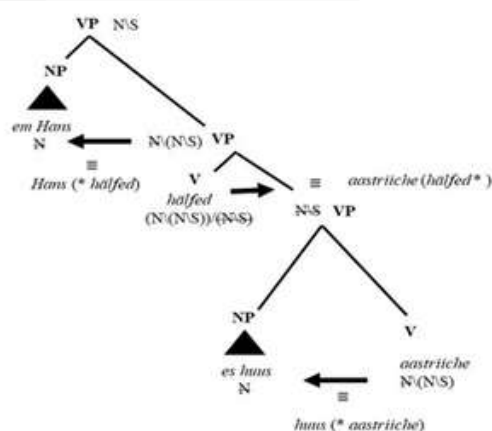
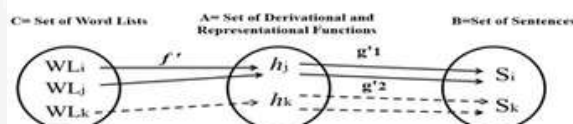
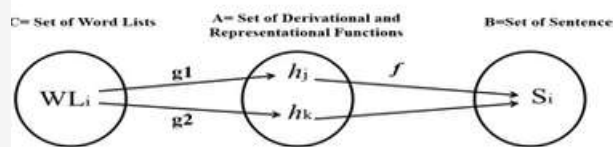
Most importantly, this work proposes to do this by unifying the formal properties of linguistic meaning (as in formal semantics) with the cognitive properties (as in cognitive/conceptual semantics) because formal and cognitive properties of linguistic meaning have long been considered to be incompatible in current theorizing on linguistic semantics. A number of my recent papers explore themes on the unification of the formal and cognitive approaches to linguistic meaning further.

Further, my PhD scholar KNSR Ratna and I have worked together on a topic that I'm most excited about at present.



I've formulated a number of mathematical principles that can help unify the formal representations of linguistic structures in three important formalisms in linguistic theory, namely Phrase Structure Grammar (PSG), Dependency Grammar (DG) and Categorical Grammar (CG). Hence, we have formulated a number of mathematical derivations that can help unify the formal representations in all three grammar formalisms that have been considered both conceptually divergent and also incompatible in their empirical coverage for decades.

The goal is not to unify PSG, DG and CG, but rather to sketch out a way of representing discontinuity by uniting constituency relations (as in PSG), head-dependent relations (as in DG) and functor-argument relations (as in CG) for the encoding of discontinuous expressions in natural languages. This work is now published in conference proceedings papers and a journal, and further research is also underway.



Dr Prakash Mondal
Associate Professor, Dept of Liberal Arts

Intersectional Feminisms: Gender Studies and Feminist Theory

KID: 20240208

I research and teach in the interdisciplinary areas of Humanities and Social Sciences, with a particular emphasis on gender, caste, governance, and citizenship. My work is situated at the intersections of these fields, aiming to critically engage with the socio-political structures that shape lived experiences. My areas of research broadly include Gender Studies, Dalit Feminism, Intersectionality, and Feminist Standpoint Theory. Through my scholarship, I seek to explore how gender interacts with multiple axes of power—such as caste, class, religion, and nationality—creating complex and differentiated experiences of marginalization, agency, and resistance among women and other gendered subjects. My work on the project funded by ICSSR-India and NSTC Taiwan regarding women’s reservation in electoral politics in India focuses on women’s participation in governance at the grassroots level. I engage with contemporary debates surrounding difference and intersectionality, particularly in relation to caste, class, and religion, to critically examine the socio-political structures that shape gendered experiences. My recent exploration of the passing of the women’s reservation bill in India reflects my commitment to addressing pressing societal issues that have far-reaching implications for representation and governance.

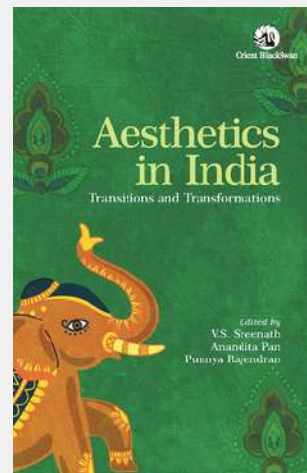


A significant milestone in my academic journey has been the publication of my book *Mapping Dalit Feminism* (Sage-Stree, 2020), which contributes to the theoretical, political framework of Dalit feminism.

Through this work, I critically engage with the intersectional contours of caste and gender, offering nuanced perspectives on the ways in which systemic oppression operates across multiple axes of identity. My current research aims to extend the concept of intersectionality to include citizenship and partition, broadening the scope of analysis to encompass historical and contemporary dimensions of exclusion and belonging.



Additionally, I am delving into the complexities of women’s reservation in India, interrogating the implications of policy and political representation from an intersectional feminist standpoint. In recognition of my contributions to the field, I was honoured with the President’s Award from the Indian Association for Women’s Studies (IAWS) in 2020,



an acknowledgement that underscores the significance of my work in advancing understanding of caste, gender, and citizenship.

My interdisciplinary approach is further reflected in my contribution to the edited volume *Aesthetics in India* (Orient Blackswan, 2023), where I examine the intricate relationship between aesthetics and contemporary politics. My scholarly engagement extends beyond books and monographs, as I have also published extensively in internationally recognized journals, ensuring that my research reaches a broader academic audience. Beyond my research, I am deeply committed to teaching and mentoring students in gender studies and feminist theory. My pedagogical philosophy is rooted in fostering critical inquiry and encouraging students to engage with complex social issues through an intersectional lens. My dedication to public education is also evident in the online courses I have developed for platforms such as NPTEL and Swayam, which aim to make discussions on gender equality and feminist thought more accessible to diverse learners. Through my research, teaching, and public engagement, I strive to contribute meaningfully to the ongoing discourse on gender justice, social equity, and transformative politics.



Dr Anandita Pan
Assistant Professor, Dept of Liberal Arts

Indian Urban Expansion: A Path to Women’s Empowerment?



KID: 20240209

India is on the brink of an unprecedented urban transformation, with its urban population expected to grow by 416 million between 2018 and 2050. According to the World Urbanization Prospects Report (2019), around 34% of India’s population currently resides in cities, a figure projected to rise to over 53% by mid-century.

This dramatic demographic shift brings both opportunities and challenges, particularly in the context of Sustainable Development Goal 11, which aims to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.” One of the critical questions arising from this urban expansion is: Is rapid urbanization empowering women, or is it deepening existing gender inequalities?

In a recent study (Dhamija et al. 2025), we examine the short-term implications of urbanization on women’s empowerment in India. The study leverages district-level satellite data on nighttime lights to measure urbanization. Extant literature documents that light intensity per unit area correspond to a reasonable measure of the degree of urbanization. Using data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) for 2015-16 and 2019-21, the study explores key indicators of women’s empowerment, including participation in the labor market, physical mobility, financial autonomy, intra-household decision-making power, access to information, attitudes and exposure toward intimate partner violence (IPV).

The findings present a complex reality. On the one hand, urbanization is positively associated with improved mobility for women — suggesting that women in urban areas experience greater freedom of movement. However, beyond this single improvement, the study finds no significant relationship between urbanization and other key indicators of empowerment such as labor market participation, intra-household decision-making power, access to information, financial autonomy, and gender beliefs.

Even more concerning is the study’s revelation that urbanization is associated with an increased risk of IPV against women.

At first glance, the coexistence of improved mobility and heightened IPV risk may seem contradictory. However, the study suggests two possible explanations. One is the male backlash effect. As women gain mobility and visibility in public spaces, some men may perceive this as a threat to traditional gender norms, leading to an increase in controlling behaviors and even violence.

Another factor could be rising stress levels in urban environments. While cities offer opportunities, they also bring higher stress levels due to economic pressures, job insecurity, and housing constraints. These stressors could, in turn, exacerbate household conflicts and fuel IPV incidents.

These findings suggest that rather than bridging gender disparities, urbanization might, in some cases, worsen existing inequalities. If policymakers do not take proactive measures, India’s rapid urban expansion could further marginalize women instead of empowering them.

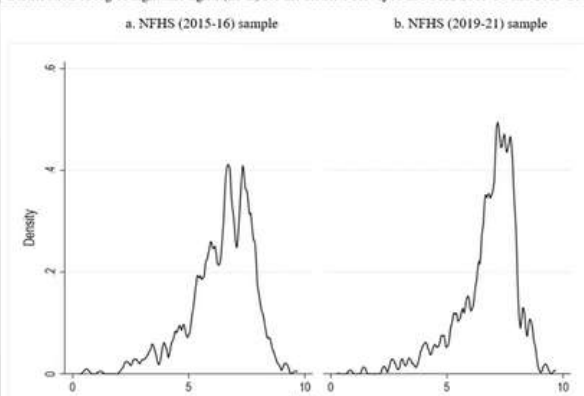
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Distribution of log of nighttime lights (LNL) for the districts surveyed in NFHS 2015-16 and 2019-21.



“ While cities offer opportunities, they also bring higher stress levels due to economic pressures, job insecurity, and housing constraints. ”

Dr Gaurav Dhamija
Assistant Professor, Dept of Liberal Arts

Embodiment and Gender in Literature and Culture

KID: 20240210

If human embodiment within contemporary neoliberal consumerist cultures is fraught with several complexities and vulnerabilities, it is also rife with possibilities and promises. Chatterjee’s research currently focuses on discourses surrounding human embodiment, viewing it through the lens of feminist theory, body image, gender studies, masculinity studies, vulnerability studies, and more. She views embodiment as a complex phenomenon wherein while the female body is susceptible to gendered violence, gendered marginalization, beauty norms, ideals of sanctity and sacrifice, and body shaming; the male body is expected to remain macho, professionally successful, is meant to sport indefatigable muscularity, and exude emotional resilience.

The queer body is susceptible to social othering and stigma, compelling it to often remain closeted despite legal norms accommodating alternate sexual identities, and the trans body suffers multiple marginalities, despite global and vocal voices insisting on inclusivity.

The list goes on with the impoverished body remaining underfed and unsheltered while the child’s body being open to harm and danger from all possible channels. And finally, bodies defined by their so-called inferior caste and race have historically been vulnerable to forces of oppression from those in positions of power owing to their so-called superior race and caste.

Human embodiment in our times is therefore precarious; being human means being vulnerable. And not just in the body but also in the mind and emotions.

It is with such discourses in mind that Chatterjee has been working on books such as *Female Body Image and Beauty Politics in Contemporary Indian Literature and Culture*; *Gendered Violence in Public Spaces: Women’s Narratives of Travel in Neoliberal India*; and *Body Image in Contemporary American Young Adult Literature*.



Female Body Image and Beauty Politics in Contemporary Indian Literature and Culture

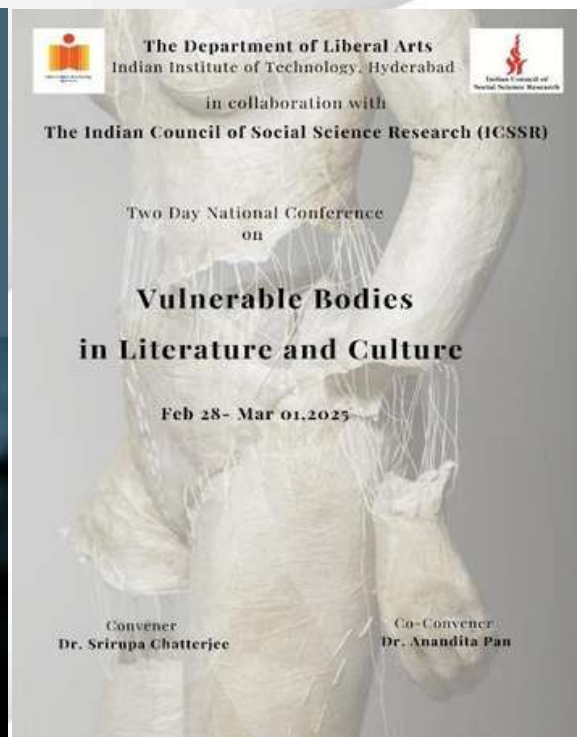
EDITED BY SRIRUPA CHATTERJEE AND SHWETA RAO GARG



GENDERED VIOLENCE IN PUBLIC SPACES

WOMEN’S NARRATIVES OF TRAVEL IN NEOLIBERAL INDIA

EDITED BY SWATHI KRISHNA S. AND SRIRUPA CHATTERJEE
FOREWORD BY SHILPA PHADKE



The Department of Liberal Arts
Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad
in collaboration with
The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)

Two Day National Conference
on

Vulnerable Bodies
in Literature and Culture

Feb 28- Mar 01, 2025

Convener
Dr. Srirupa Chatterjee

Co-Convener
Dr. Anandita Pan

The aging body, likewise, gets shamed for the decay and degeneration it purportedly represents while the maternal body is either glorified or stigmatized for the natural and biological changes it undergoes.

The disabled body, of course, lies at the intersections of several marginalities, stigma and pity, negotiating often with mere tokens of inclusivity.

She has also been engaging with grants obtained from the Indian Council of Social Science Research for projects like “Body Image and Female Identity: Popular Perceptions, Theoretical Interventions and Possible Implications” and conferences such as “Vulnerable Bodies in Literature and Culture.” Her research, likewise, focuses on many of these concerns with the help of literary and cultural texts and contexts.

Dr Srirupa Chatterjee
Associate Professor, Dept of Liberal Arts

Different Bodies & Different Minds: Disability Studies & Neurodiversity Research

KID: 20240211

Disability Studies and Neurodiversity scholarship in India is emerging and evolving. Our team has focused on the themes of care, autism, learning disabilities, women with disabilities, advocacy, and accessibility through qualitative research. Dr. Shubha's research on care and autism advocacy has explored the experiences of mothers of autistic children that highlight the everyday practicalities of parental advocacy, and more specifically, during the COVID-19 pandemic, capturing the interdependence between autistic adults and their parents. Her research has also entailed a critical inquiry into the curative practices in autism and narratives of families involved in such processes. Further, her research with autistic self-advocates has underscored the concepts of masking, vocabularies of expressions, and the nitty-gritty of doing advocacy.

Dr. Shubha organized an international conference on 'Rethinking Questions around Neurodiversity, Intellectual Disability and Care' in 2024 at IIT Hyderabad. More recently, she organized and curated a one-of-a-kind inclusive art exhibition- "Accessible Aesthetics: Art for All," at the State Gallery of Art in collaboration with Maqaam Foundation in March 2025. This was part of the project 'Inclusion and access in the context of disability art: A nexus between research, praxis and advocacy in India' supported by the Fall 2024 Researchers in the Global South Grant from the Society of the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI). This exhibition was unique in its integration of art, accessibility, and research through patchwork ethnography that aimed to understand the mechanics of enabling 'access' at different levels and the diverse expectations and connotations associated with the term 'inclusion' for disabled artists, the public, viewers, and different kinds of participants.



Chetan's ongoing doctoral research focuses on the experiences of young adults with learning disabilities (dyslexia/dysgraphia/dyscalculia/dyspraxia) in the higher education context and how HEIs with disability centers support students with diverse learning needs.

It also includes comics-based research where the themes are conveyed through single-panel comics and additionally incorporates a participatory framework with workshops involving dyslexic self-advocates. Chetan's project "How do you see us? and how can you see us? A creative participatory research dissemination project on disability and neurodivergence in India" received the Fall 2024 Researchers in the Global South Grant from SPSSI, Division 9 of APA.

Illustrating the experiences of students with learning disabilities in higher education: Comics-based representation of fieldwork findings

Snippets from a comics-based representation of research article by Chetan S V published in Anthropology and Education Quarterly in 2024.

S. V. Chetan (he/him/his)

Department of Liberal Arts, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, Hyderabad, India

Correspondence: S. V. Chetan, Department of Liberal Arts, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, Hyderabad, India

Abstract
Comics-based /arts-based research is increasingly employed in anthropology and other social science disciplines. As part of my ongoing doctoral research



ILLUSTRATION 1: Dealing with the inaccessibility of learning assistance. This scene is drawn based on a personal experience of a college student in taking a course (2021) with a support class showing the time (10:30) to the main class at 9:30 AM. A request is approaching the college authority, who is a staff with a disability in providing learning support and working with the student case. The response is not helpful for the student. Hence, the student is frustrated. The main response is "I am sorry, but I can't do anything. Please have drawing to a sketch to the teacher. Your disability is not a problem."

ILLUSTRATION 2: Making the invisible more visible through education, awareness, and social alternative to relate to illustration 1. In this image, the college authority is asking to take (10) to a digital space showing time (10:30) in the college exam center. He appears calm and is holding the "The student case." He, then is in my business certificate for the exam, and the officer made all possible arrangements for extra time and question paper reader. Can you know if you are the best? To which the student says, "Thank you." Below are a few questions: Can you let me see your college more inclusive? and what does support mean to you?



This involves the co-production of 'zines' with participants about the research findings and lived experiences in English, Hindi, Telugu, and Kannada, aimed at increasing awareness about learning disability. Priyasha's master's research explored the lived experiences of disabled mothers in India, examining the balancing act they perform- proving their capacity as mothers in an ableist society while simultaneously redefining motherhood on their own terms. Priyasha is also a Research Assistant for a University of Amsterdam-funded project exploring the anthropology of intellectual disability in the Global South. In all, our research on disability and neurodivergence embraces critical, intersectional, and social-justice lenses to foreground different realities through qualitative methodologies. Our research hopes to shape our sensibilities and policies informed by disabled and neurodivergent voices. More importantly, our research practices embody care, self-care, kindness, and an acknowledgment of crip-space time.

FALL 2024 RESEARCHERS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH GRANT RECIPIENTS



- Left to right:
- Annet Shaju (CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore, India)
 - Elizabeth Thomas (CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore, India)
 - Chetan SV (Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, India)
 - Sabrina Paiwand (London School of Economics)
 - Shubha Ranganathan (Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, India)



Neurodiversity in the Majority World

Meet our speakers

Vocabularies of inclusion: How Autistic voices in India are reframing personhood

Shubha Ranganathan is an Associate Professor in the Department of Liberal Arts, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad. Her background is eclectic and interdisciplinary, having been trained in psychology but drawing on ethnographic approaches to questions around health, gender, and disability.



How do Neurodivergent Therapists Engage with Social Justice?

Anna Maria Jacob is a public mental health researcher and writer with OCD, based in Bangalore, India. As a researcher, she is engaged with projects studying the rehospitalisation of psychiatric patients, impact of arts based interventions for gender violence prevention, and suicide prevention among young people.



Sheffield Hallam University

Dr. Shubha was invited to speak at the Neurodiversity in the Majority World organized by Afro-Asian Critical Psychology and Sheffield Hallam University in July 2024

- [1] Dr Shubha Ranganathan, Associate Professor
- [2] Chetan S V, PhD Scholar
- [3] Priyasha Choudhary, Alumna (Batch 2021-23), MA Development Studies, Dept of Liberal Arts



Image from the Exhibition of the Madhubani Paintings

Psychosocial oncology research: Making change happen



KID: 20240212

Health and medical psychology research examines the mental, social and behavioural factors that are related to health and illness. Within this area, the team of research scholars led by Prof. Mahati Chittem in the Department of Liberal Arts at IITH explores topics linked to chronic disease management and health behaviour change.

Our primary area of work is in psycho-oncology wherein we examine the psychosocial, cultural, biological and behavioural aspects influencing the cancer journey from diagnosis to survivorship. We explore three broad domains within psycho-oncology.

First, we study cancer communication, i.e., non-disclosure of cancer diagnosis and prognosis (Chittem, 2017; Chittem et al., 2021), doctor-patient-caregiver communication needs and empowerment (Chawak et al., 2022), culturally adapting existing models of communication to the Indian cancer setting (Chawak et al., 2020), and public health messages regarding cancer prevention and early detection in under-represented communities (e.g., Nagaland) (Pongener, 2024).

An example of our more current research in this space is exploring the cultural fit of a sexual health communication model called the Permission, Limited Information, Specific Suggestions, and Intensive Therapy (PLISSIT) in cervical cancer survivorship. For this, we conducted large qualitative studies (i.e., in-depth, individual, audio-recorded interviews) exploring perspectives, needs, and experiences of sexual health conversations among cervical cancer survivors, oncologists and nurses.

Our findings shed light on how to design communication skills training for Indian healthcare workers (doctors and nurses), which uses a culturally adapted version of the PLISSIT model to ease conversations about sensitive topics such as sexual health, thus improving patients' psychological and relational wellness.

Our second domain in psycho-oncology research examines the supportive care needs of Indian cancer patients and their caregivers (Chittem et al., 2022).

Supportive care needs are broadly classified as psychological, health system and information, physical and daily living, patient care and support, and sexuality.



Using mixed methods (i.e., quantitative and qualitative methods), we study what are the needs that are met, unmet and under-met as per the patients'/caregivers' experience (Namjoshi, 2024).

When a healthcare facility/provider is aware of these needs (and their status in terms of being met), then they can consider resource allocation more effectively and efficiently. For instance, our research showed that parents of children with cancers had 5 main unmet needs, including trying to maintain a 'normal' life, being able to access treatment for their child locally, feeling scared and guilty (about neglecting other children/family) and distress at seeing their child in pain.



We can derive from these findings that healthcare providers need to inquire about caregivers' emotional well-being and the public health system needs additional focus reducing unmet needs among families. So far, we have documented supportive care needs for oral cancer survivors, parents of children with retinoblastoma, parents of children with any type of cancer, adults with any type of cancer, and geriatric patients with cancer.

Ever wondered how groundbreaking medical technology (MedTech) transitions from advanced science and engineering to devices that patients and doctors trust comfortably? That's where our team comes in. Another domain of our work involves collaborative projects with the Departments of Physics, Artificial Intelligence, and Biotechnology at IITH. Here, we focus on psychosocial aspects of developing and integrating medical devices into clinical settings.

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We explore the challenges and concerns faced by all stakeholders of the technology/product (e.g., patients, nurses, doctors), beliefs and difficulties of specific medical procedures (e.g., blood draws) for which the technology is being developed, provide insights to the technology team that guide the design of devices (e.g., scanners for venous cannulation), and improve/skill the stakeholders' utilization of the product/research. In MedTech in oncology, we work closely with the team led by Prof. Vandana Sharma in the Department of Physics who focuses on product development and deployment. More recently, we collaborated on the team's development of a 3D vein viewer for administering oncological treatment. Our psycho-oncology work translates into medical practice (i.e., improving care provision), training (i.e., helping doctors, nurses, patients and caregivers to communicate better), academic programmes (i.e., workshops in psycho-oncology research and therapy), and more research!



[1] Prof Mahati Chittem
[2] Hiba Siddiqui,
[3] Shraddha Namjoshi, and
[4] Yuvraj Singh
(Research Scholars), Dept of Liberal Arts

Labour Supply Chains in the Construction Industry in Bengaluru: Evolving Employment and Welfare Dynamics



KID: 20240213

This collaborative study was conducted along with Prof. Carol Upadhyya of the National Institute of Advanced Studies and draws on fieldwork from two research projects supported by grants from the Azim Premji University Bengaluru (APU) and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). The study explored the types of relationships and contracts, at different scales that govern labour supply and the labour process at selected construction sites in Bengaluru, using qualitative methods. We investigated the modalities of surplus extraction and distribution amongst different actors in the labour value chain – from real estate and construction companies at the top to workers at the bottom, who are connected through diverse and shifting types of intermediaries and contracts.

We also explored the implementation and outcomes of recent initiatives in India for the social protection of migrant workers. Although the construction industry in India is now dominated by a few big companies, it continues to rely on a largely unregulated and fluid migrant labour market and on informal contracting to fulfill its labour requirements. In booming cities such as Bengaluru, large-scale construction projects utilize large numbers of short-term, long-distance migrant workers.

The central government and several state governments have also introduced a range of new schemes and initiatives aimed at the protection and support of (especially inter-state) migrant workers and the provision of social welfare measures for this group, in the post-Covid context. The study identifies some roadblocks in the current policy framework for the support of migrant workers and its emphasis on digitalization. First, the efficacy of welfare schemes is hampered by poor design of platforms and software; inadequate technical literacy of government workers; insufficient staff and resources; non-portability of benefits; and the inability of many migrant workers to access the documents and technologies used by these schemes.

Second, the implementation of welfare schemes and compliance with labour regulations are both heavily reliant on NGOs and other intermediaries, magnifying the scope for slippages or errors in data collection and entry. Third, digital registration in the relevant database has emerged as a proxy for welfare itself, diluting the required focus on increasing the delivery of benefits. Finally, workers often find themselves lost amidst a plethora of ‘labour cards’, with scant awareness about their utility, or unable to claim benefits.



Labour camps in construction sites



Labour camps in construction sites



Labour contractor and his site supervisor settling weekly accounts

Dr Aardra Surendran
Assistant Professor, Dept of Liberal Arts

Doing Humanities: Prose, Practice, Partnerships

KID: 20240214

Academic research in our department straddles a vast range of disciplines and approaches, often inelegantly combining differing variations of empirical research and theoretical intervention, quantitative analysis and creative production, ethical neutrality and empathetic subjectivity. Located in a technological school, Liberal Arts often awkwardly strains backwards and leapfrogs forwards in an attempt to gesture relevance, centrality, and promise.

As a humanities scholar, I have enjoyed the insulation and privilege that a public research university offers across my graduate school and early teaching years when my fieldwork in the social sector and scholarly contributions within nineteenth-century research could exist in a diffuse but meaningful continuum. However, what has emerged over the years is the necessity to demonstrate the crucially public-facing work with which several of us engage from within humanities disciplines—disciplines that otherwise appear self-enclosed, specialized, and abstract. In more concrete ways than is clear to the wider audience, the field of literature and the arts contributes to the wider domains of social thought, public governance, education, policy, science, and law. In a fluent and unacknowledged way, English and Cultural Studies majors have always graduated to find ready jobs across a range of professions, or entrance into a variety of programs, in the domains of journalism, law, public policy, education, and social work. Much of the crucial work in funded projects that culminate in policy advisory documents for ministries or laboratories is undertaken by humanities scholars.

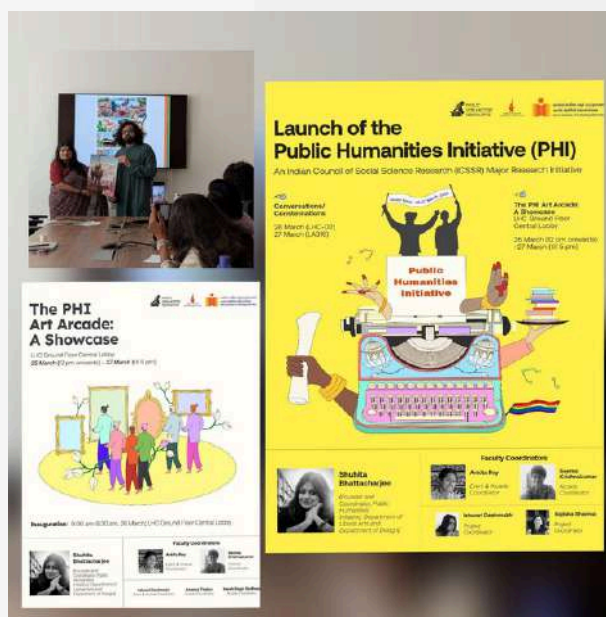
Similarly, creative arts and design speak in concrete and socio-politically impactful ways—whether through graphitis, art galleries, website/application interfaces, advertising campaigns, or corporate marketing designs.



As such, March will see the launch of the Public Humanities Initiative (PHI) from the Department of Liberal Arts at IIT Hyderabad. The PHI will be a hub of public-facing humanities, arts, and design research that will highlight and facilitate significant scholarly ventures directed at a more inclusive and just public sphere.



At this centre, students and faculty from humanities (and social sciences) and design will explore projects along the vectors of gender, health, pedagogy, medicine, and law that will be aimed at crucial and tangible socio-institutional changes. The PHI launch event will consist of two days of rigorous talks by established academics, graphic artists, and civil society actors, rich panel discussions (including a Liberal Arts students' panel), and an art installation that showcases students' community-facing art/designs which facilitate socio-political change.



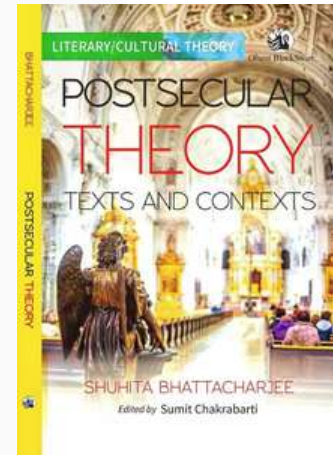
One of the first big international events organized by the PHI will be a UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)-funded Nineteenth-Century Studies symposium in 2026 with eminent keynote speakers and participants from across borders.

The symposium will look in particular at the nineteenth-century colonial encounter from a public humanities perspective—studying how nineteenth-century colonialist structures impact modern societal/legal/technological approaches to, and exclusions within, the field of health, cultural heritage, climate, social justice, or religion.

Scholars will present from medical humanities, environmental humanities, postsecular humanities perspectives—looking, for example, at how nineteenth-century formats of resource extraction impact our climate policies, nineteenth-century discourses of science/medicine shape our current understanding of illnesses, and nineteenth-century perceptions of religiosity produce our modern policies on religion/secularism.



This will bring together my scholarship in nineteenth-century studies (Postsecular Theory: Texts and Contexts, Orient Blackswan 2023) and my long research arc in gender studies as part of which I am currently working with schoolchildren to develop picture books for sexuality education.



Dr Shuhita Bhattacharjee
Assistant Professor, Dept of Liberal Arts

People and Wildlife of the Indian Himalaya



KID: 20240215

My work lies at the intersection of environmental and social sciences, focusing on two key areas. First, I examine the role of pastoral communities—those who depend on livestock for their livelihoods—in biodiversity conservation, particularly in the Indian Himalayan region. Second, I explore the complexities of human-wildlife relations and coexistence in India.

Did you know that close to half of the Earth's surface is composed of rangelands, and the primary inhabitants of these landscapes are pastoralists? These communities, who keep a great variety of animals for their livelihoods, play a crucial role in combating climate change, maintaining ecosystem balance, and keeping CO₂ emissions in check. Given their deep knowledge and adaptive strategies in dealing with all kinds of social-ecological uncertainties, they are true masters of navigating unpredictable environments.

Recognizing their critical role in climate change mitigation, CO₂ regulation, and ensuring future food security, the United Nations declared 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. Through my research, I challenge the prevailing notion that biodiversity conservation in the Himalayas can only be achieved through exclusionary approaches that restrict indigenous and tribal communities from accessing protected areas. Instead, my work highlights the crucial role of local knowledge, voices, and presence in shaping effective conservation policies and practices.

My recent publication on human-wildlife relations explored the multiple paradoxical relationships between humans and elephants in the Western Ghats. It identified that past memories play a key role in shaping negative human attitudes toward elephants and highlighted the role of simple technologies in reducing human-wildlife conflicts.

Currently, my research focuses on climate variability in the Himalaya and the adaptation strategies employed by pastoral communities in response to broader socio-economic and demographic changes. By examining how pastoralists navigate these shifting conditions, my work contributes to a deeper understanding of resilience and sustainability in mountain ecosystems.



Parallel to my research, I offer courses on Environment and Society, as well as electives on Himalaya; Conservation, and Society and Wildlife; Conservation in contemporary India. Through these courses, I aim to equip students with a critical understanding of environmental governance, conservation challenges, and the dynamic relationships between people and nature and also encourage young engineering minds to find solutions to contemporary Himalayan challenges and contribute to better human-wildlife coexistence



Dr Rashmi Singh,
Assistant Professor, Dept of Liberal Arts

Financial Vulnerability and Policy Effectiveness in Emerging Market Economies

KID: 20240216

Dr K P Prabheesh is a Professor of Economics at IIT Hyderabad, specializing in macroeconomics, monetary economics, international finance, and applied econometrics. His research spans global monetary policy, financial cycles, financial vulnerability, early warning systems (EWS), exchange rates, macroprudential policies, and international reserves. His recent work on global monetary policy and EMEs examines the impact of US monetary policy on foreign currency debt and credit growth in emerging markets, highlighting risk transmission channels (Emerging Markets Finance and Trade, 2024). Another study explores how financial markets react to asset purchase programs in emerging economies, providing empirical evidence from the COVID-19 period (Journal of Asian Economics, 2024). His research also shows that macroprudential policies enhance monetary policy transmission, allowing EMEs to optimize policy trilemma choices (Singapore Economic Review, 2021).

Dr Prabheesh has also explored climate risk and sustainable finance, focusing on how climate risks influence financial markets in Asia and the need for sustainable investment strategies (Journal of Environmental Assessment Policy and Management, 2024). He further assesses ASEAN economies' role in global semiconductor trade networks, analyzing supply chain disruptions due to COVID-19 (ERIA Discussion Paper, 2024).

A crucial part of his research involves early warning systems (EWS) for financial crises, where he has developed models for predicting financial distress in emerging markets. His work evaluates how central banks can detect systemic risks using macro-financial indicators (Bulletin of Monetary Economics and Banking, 2020). He has led capacity-building workshops on EWS at the Reserve Bank of India and delivered expert lectures on financial stability frameworks.

His studies on exchange rates and international reserves highlight that India's current account balance is significantly affected by volatile capital flows (Journal of Asian Economics, 2018) and that India's reserve accumulation is driven by precautionary and mercantilist motives, exceeding the optimal level (Macroeconomics and Finance in Emerging Market Economies, 2009).

Beyond research, Dr Prabheesh plays an active role in policy advisory and central bank training programs. He has served as a consultant for central banks, including Bank Indonesia, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Nepal Rastra Bank, Maldives Monetary Authority, and the Reserve Bank of Fiji.



His capacity-building initiatives focus on macro-financial risk management, monetary policy frameworks, and financial stability analysis.

His research provides critical insights into monetary policy, financial stability, climate risk, capital flows, exchange rates, and macro-financial linkages in EMEs.

His work has strong policy implications, guiding global monetary spillover management, macroprudential policy implementation, financial risk assessment, and sustainable finance frameworks.

Through extensive collaborations with central banks, international financial institutions, and policy think tanks, his research continues to shape economic policymaking in emerging markets.



“ Through extensive collaborations with central banks, international financial institutions, and policy think tanks, his research continues to shape economic policymaking in emerging markets. ”

Prof K P Prabheesh,
Assistant Professor, Dept of Liberal Arts

Culturing Radiance: Nationalism, Nuclear Energy, and Popular Culture in 21st-Century India

KID: 20240217

In my research, I investigate how sociopolitical focus on science and technology, nuclear energy, weapons, technologies, infrastructures and personnel have had and continue to have a transformative effect on modern Indian nation-thinking. In the twenty-first century, the topic of nuclear technologies has emerged from within elite debates into national, popular discourse. My research thus analyses the depiction of nuclear technologies in imaginative cultural texts—fiction, cinema, webshows, and poetry—to understand how such texts are symptomatic of the way popular culture in India imagines and thinks about science, technology, and nuclear energy.

My work responds to the concept of nuclearity—explained by Gabrielle Hecht as the quality of “being nuclear”, i.e. how and when an object, or a phenomenon, or a biological condition starts being considered “nuclear”. I show how nuclear issues have animated public debates that swirls through Indian life. Before beginning this dissertation and during the process of research, I was particularly struck by the discursive gap that existed in the field of postcolonial nuclear studies in India when it came to literary-cultural narratives—barring interventions by Raminder Kaur and Dibyadyuti Roy in a field otherwise dominated by the disciplines of International Relations, Anthropology, and Sociology.

With a few notable exceptions, there genuinely seems to be an aversion to discussing how literary-cultural texts proliferating since the turn of the millennium reflects the immense subtext of nuclearity and radiance that layers life in modern India.



Aiming to fill this void in existing research, my dissertation shows how the imagination of science, technology, and nuclear energy in India is informed by, and in turn, informs four “great themes”. One finds powerful cultural representations of post-independence geopolitical identity crisis, the intersections between geostrategies and nuclear policies, a focus on the revered figure of the nuclear scientist, and a recurrent interest in espionage. Beyond my dissertation, my published research articles, conference presentations, and public talks have focused on understanding the relationship between scientific modernity and popular culture in India.

Therefore, with my positioning as a postcolonial studies scholar, my project attempts to decolonize what has mainly been an American and Eurocentric (and to an extent Japanese-centric) nuclear criticism and bring to light globally neglected rich nuclear culture(s) in India.

I also fill an absence in Indian literary studies as well as Indian science and technology studies by examining the interesting relationship between postcolonial imaginative art and postcolonial scientific infrastructures.



Mr Souvik Kar
Research Scholar in English
Dept of Liberal Arts

CBDC: A Step into the Future of Money



KID: 20240218

Since the dawn of civilization, money has played a crucial role in economic activities. Its importance is captured in the mnemonic: Money is a matter of functions four: a medium, a measure, a standard, a store. It facilitates exchange, determines value, enables future payments, and preserves worth. Over time, money evolved from cowrie shells to gold, paper, and plastic. Just when its transformation seemed complete, cryptocurrency emerged. In 2008, Satoshi Nakamoto introduced Bitcoin, a peer-to-peer digital currency based on blockchain. While David Chaum had earlier explored digital money, Nakamoto’s push for decentralization fueled Bitcoin’s rise, inspiring platforms like Ethereum and Polkadot. However, private cryptocurrencies pose risks—high volatility threatens investors, anonymity enables illegal activities, and decentralization challenges national monetary control. To balance these risks with blockchain’s benefits, central banks are now developing Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs).

CBDCs are digital versions of currency issued by central banks, offering the same functions as physical notes with added speed and cost efficiency. According to the Bank of International Settlements (BIS), CBDCs should coexist with cash without disrupting financial stability. Key features include: (1) sovereign issuance aligned with monetary policy,

CBDCs may be remunerative (interest-bearing) or non-remunerative (non-interest-bearing). While a non-interest-bearing CBDC prevents disruptions in banking and financial disintermediation, it may weaken monetary policy transmission. In contrast, an interest-bearing CBDC improves rate transmission but could reduce credit availability. To balance this, policymakers can impose conversion limits between cash and CBDC or offer lower interest rates on CBDC compared to bank deposits. CBDC holds significant potential to revolutionize the country’s payment system. Its timely and well-planned adoption can reduce financial risks posed by private cryptocurrencies while integrating the nation into a fast, secure, and efficient payment network.



- (2) central bank liability,
- (3) universal acceptance as legal tender and a store of value,
- (4) free convertibility with cash and bank money,
- (5) usability without a bank account, and
- (6) reduced costs of money issuance and transactions.

Various countries are promoting the adoption of CBDCs for different reasons. For example, in Sweden, the dwindling use of paper currency prompted the government to push for digital currency. In the Caribbean Islands, the physical barrier of moving currencies between various islands and atolls popularized the use of CBDCs. Additionally, central banks aim to counter the usage of private cryptocurrencies. CBDCs also introduce competition in the digital payment space, fostering innovations and advancements in fintech. However, the extent of these benefits depends on the type of CBDC implemented.

The design of a CBDC varies based on a country’s specific needs, with no universal model. There are two main types: Retail (CBDC-R), accessible to the public, and Wholesale (CBDC-W), limited to financial institutions. CBDCs can be issued through a Direct model, where the central bank handles everything, or an Intermediate model, where service providers assist in distribution.



Mr Ujjwal Sharma
 Research Scholar in Economics
 Dept of Liberal Arts

Men and masculinities in times of chronicity



KID: 20240219

The Bollywood movie *Mard*, in the 80s, concretised the idea of an invincible and indestructible man, which is deeply entrenched in our Indian psyche and society. These complex norms, challenging to begin with, start crumbling under the weight of chronicity, which by its virtue digs into the core of self-perception and societal roles. I envisage my research set in East Delhi to explore how middle-aged men navigate the tensions between perceived and practiced masculinity when faced with comorbid conditions of Diabetes and Hypertension. A clinical ethnography, in nature, attempts to examine their health-seeking behaviours, coping mechanisms, medical device usage and the social pressures endured. I aim to entangle disability and masculinity studies along with health studies to understand how illness disrupts traditional notions of masculinity, reshaping everyday life and the self. The interviews are majorly set in a physician’s private clinic followed by GB Pant Hospital, both based in Delhi. The process of data collection, by its virtue, was enriching and highlighted the need for constant fluidity while indulging with human participants.



Private Physician Clinic

However, for men in my sample, work and financial responsibilities took precedence over their health, delaying accessing care and medical adherence. For them, their identities as caregivers and breadwinners won the race customarily. The research delves into three key themes: masculinity and vulnerability, coping mechanisms, and the renegotiation of masculinity within familial spaces. Methodologically, the study employs semi-structured interviews with patients, clinical observations, and WHO’s Quality of Life scale to capture the lived experiences of men grappling with chronic illness. By situating this research within the anthropological lens, I aim to highlight the practical, everyday challenges men face.



GB pant hospital, department of pathology

The dynamicity amplifies further in a clinical setting where participants are all patients in waiting charged with doubts and sickness. This process developed a new aspect of everyday field interactions in my work, where the compounder and doctor became key informants and made me find a space in their work setting.

A critical aspect that evolved further was understanding how men interact with clinical spaces and the medical apparatus that becomes a part of their daily lives. Delhi’s infamous air pollution, clubbed with its lack of green spaces and sedentary lifestyles, creates a perfect recipe for metabolic disorders like Hypertension and diabetes. These “silent killers” often go undetected until severe complications arise. From a medical humanities space, devices like sphygmomanometers and glucometers, viewed as the first point of care beyond a medical necessity, become a site of tension. The male self-perceptions of strength and self-reliance clash with the clinic’s demand for routine check-ups and regular monitoring.



Private Physician Clinic

The challenges range from managing medication and financial stress to negotiating their roles in a society which values men at work. This research attempts to rethink how we understand masculinity in the context of health. With 1 in 5 men aged 30–35 reporting hypertension (NFHS-5), the stakes are high. By shedding light on the intersection of chronic illness, masculinity, and urban living, this study contributes to broader conversations about gender, health, and systemic neglect in cities like Delhi. It challenges us to move beyond the myth of the “Mard” and embrace a more nuanced understanding of masculinity—one that acknowledges vulnerability as a fundamental human experience.



GB pant hospital, department of pathology

Ms Riya Gogia
MA HGS student, Dept of Liberal Arts

Financial Inclusion in Emerging Economies: challenges and impacts



KID: 20240220

Financial Inclusion is one of the key policy agendas for policymakers and academicians in developing and emerging countries. According to World Bank Findex (2021), just 50% of people aged 15 and older worldwide had a bank account in 2011, with a meagre rise to 76% in 2021.

Despite advancements, the level of financial inclusion in developing and emerging economies is still below the world average, which restricts the participation of households and businesses in the formal financial system.

“Financial Inclusion is the process of accessing and using formal financial services for poor people, low-income, vulnerable, and marginalized people who were previously unbanked at affordable cost. Financial services include deposit, insurance, credit, pension, remittance, etc.” (Rangarajan Committee, 2008). Financial inclusion is a multidimensional concept that includes access, availability, and usage of formal financial services by previously excluded individuals and firms.

Financial exclusion causes people to depend on informal money lenders, family, and friends to borrow money (Banerjee and Duflo, 2007). Financial exclusion is a condition where some sections of people are voluntarily or involuntarily unable to access and utilize formal banking services like saving, credit, remittance etc. People also keep saving in physical assets forms like gold, jewellery, land, and livestock in the village area.

However, Financial Inclusion helps to smooth consumption during economic shocks by saving and credit facilities from financial institutions. Studies have shown that it also increases economic growth by increasing production, economic activities and generate employment (Van et al. 2021). It helps people come out of poverty by providing credit at an affordable rate, which can be used in the productive sector to generate employment and income for the people (Sethi and Acharya, 2018).

“Financial Inclusion is the process of accessing and using formal financial services for poor people, low-income, vulnerable, and marginalized people who were previously unbanked at affordable cost

“Demand-side barriers include low income for people to save and borrow from financial institutions and low financial literacy about financial products and services

Moreover, Financial inclusion also helps to reduce income inequality among the population as poor people can access and use banking services, which helps to grow the standard of living over time (Kim, 2016). Financial Inclusion also helps micro and small businesses to grow by accessing loans from financial institutions at an affordable rate (Lapuka, 2019).

It helps women's empowerment via micro-credit to Self Help Group (SHG) (Banerjee et al 2015). Universal financial access also effects environment sustainability. Past studies have shown a nonlinear relationship between financial inclusion and CO2 emission.

Credit availability at cheaper rates leads to more consumption of energy-intensive goods like AC, etc which increase CO2 emission (Le et al. 2020; Wang et al. 2022). Access to financial services also helps to adopt new technology, which reduces CO2 emissions.

Financial Inclusion has significantly increased in the last decades in emerging and developing countries. However, there is a growing Demand-side and supply-side barriers to financial inclusion (Barik and Lenka, 2022). Demand-side barriers include low income for people to save and borrow from financial institutions and low financial literacy about financial products and services.

The supply side barriers include physical barriers like lack of bank branches in hilly areas, high fees for financial services, absence of documentation, etc. The public policy should reduce demand side and supply side barriers based on need of the region.

Mr Alekha Meher
PhD Scholar in Economics
Dept of Liberal Arts

The Hidden Cost of Financial Inclusion



KID: 20240221

Financial inclusion is often considered a crucial step toward women’s economic empowerment. Globally, women’s access to banking, credit, payment, and savings has been widely proclaimed as a means to enhance their financial autonomy and ability to save, invest, and make independent financial decisions. In India, the launch of initiatives like ‘Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana’ (PMJDY) and ‘UPI for Her’ has helped in enhancing women’s bank account ownership and access to digital financial services. However, whether greater financial inclusion reduces women’s vulnerability to intimate partner violence (IPV) or increases their risk within their homes remains an unsolved puzzle. Recent work from my dissertation uses the latest round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) to investigate this question.

Why Would Financial Inclusion Decrease or Increase IPV?

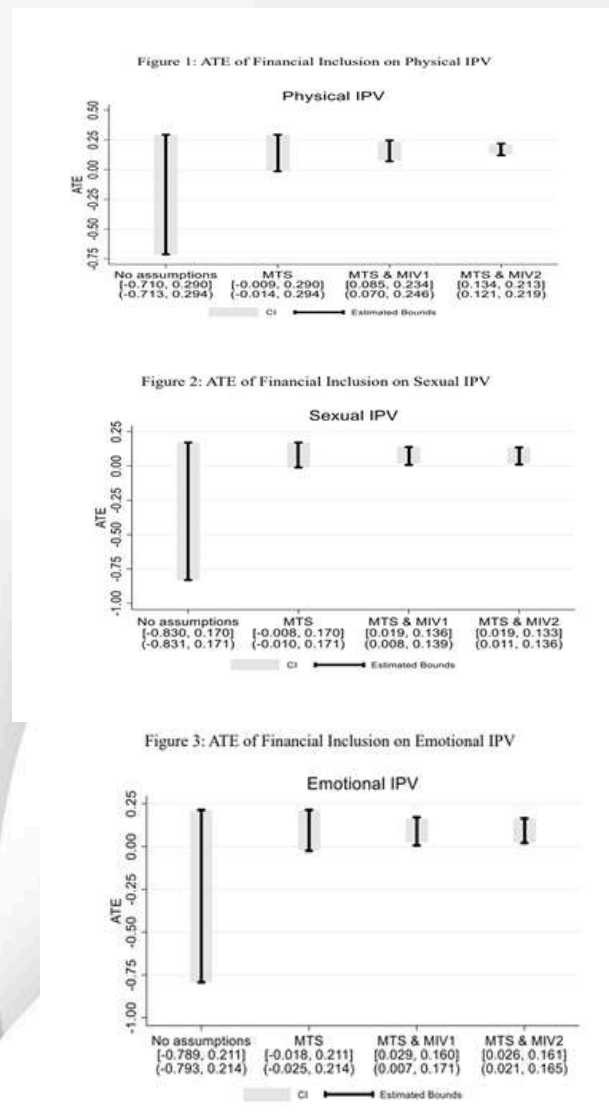
The link between financial inclusion and IPV isn’t as straightforward as one might think. Women’s utilization of financial resources should provide them economic security, increase their bargaining power at home, and give them an option to exit from abusive relationships. However, in patriarchal societies, women’s financial inclusion can lead to the disruption of existing power dynamics within the household, triggering a male backlash. Social conditioning, in such societies, has long defined a woman’s role as that of a caregiver and homemaker, and when she gains financial independence, she may feel the pressure to overcompensate in other ways. Thus, many women battle internalized guilt for deviating from traditional gender expectations. In addition to this, financial inclusion can expose women to instrumental use of violence, where husbands use violence as a tool to extract money or restrict women’s labor market opportunities.

What the Data Tells Us

Our study estimates the causal impact of women’s financial inclusion on their exposure to physical, sexual, and emotional IPV. The findings are alarming. Women who are financially included—meaning women’s utilization of bank accounts, mobile money, or coverage by health insurance—are more exposed to IPV than those who are financially excluded. To be specific, financially included women are at least 8.5 percentage points (p.p.) more likely to experience physical IPV, 1.9 p.p. more likely to face sexual IPV, and 2.9 p.p. more likely to face emotional IPV than financially excluded women. Our findings also suggest that this increase is driven by violations of patriarchal gender norms, women’s internalized guilt, and husbands’ instrumental use of violence.

Rethinking Financial Inclusion: The Way Forward

Financial inclusion should not come at the cost of women’s safety. To ensure that financial empowerment truly benefits women, targeted interventions must address the social norms and gender biases that perpetuate IPV. Gender-sensitive financial literacy programs that include men in conversations about shifting traditional gender roles, adolescent education programs that challenge gender biases from an early age, media-based interventions that promote gender-equitable messaging, and positive female role models can help reshape the deep-seated patriarchal beliefs that normalize violence against women. Only then can financial inclusion be the tool for empowerment that it is meant to be.



Ms Shreemoyee
 Research Scholar in Development Studies
 Dept of Liberal Arts

A study on meanings encoded by reduplication in language

KID: 20240222

I am curious about how language (any language used by humans) encodes meaning. Specifically, I work on the semantics of reduplication. Reduplication involves repetition of form and is a phenomenon observed across languages. Some of the examples are fifty-fifty 'equal in share or proportion' and mishmash 'a poorly organised mixture' in English, chalte chalte 'while walking', cai-vai 'tea and the like' and rim-jhim 'pattering sound of rain' in Hindi, karukaruththa 'very dark' in Malayalam and pao-pao 'run a little' in Mandarin. Reduplication is peculiar considering the enormous diversity of meanings it captures crosslinguistically.

A glimpse of the meanings encoded by reduplication would appear as follows: 'plurality', 'intensification', 'iteration', 'continuation', 'similarity', 'association', 'diminution', 'simultaneity', 'exclusiveness', 'change of word category', 'affection', 'pretension', among many others. My research aims to come up with some constraints whereby one gets to have a clear picture of the restrictive patterns which are fundamental to the above-mentioned meaning variations.

Ms Greeshma Govindarajan
Research scholar in Linguistics
Dept of Liberal Arts



Illustrating Change: Feminist Intervention and Creative Activism in Anglophone Graphic Narratives

KID: 20240223

My work focuses on a selection of Anglophone graphic narratives (post 1990s) to examine how they emerge as an unconventional template for global feminist activism, representing the horrors of gender-based violence and inscribing alternative formats of female agency into contemporary socio-political discourse. I suggest that these texts function collectively to interrogate hierarchies and generate a new wave of visual activism, following the unprecedented rise in feminist vocabularies of protests and (audio) visual mediums of activist discourse in the decade beginning from 2010. The rise of women's rights movements such as those in Tunisia and Egypt, the #MeToo movement, or the struggle for abortion rights have captured attention globally. In India, the 2012 Nirbhaya incident resulted in widespread protests against gendered violence. Using these movement S as backdrop, I will focus on graphic narratives such as Emily Carrington's *Our Little Secret* (2022), Una's *Becoming Unbecoming* (2015), Priya's *Shakti* (2014-20), *Angry Maushi* (2014-2020), anthologies like *Drawing the Line* (2015), *Drawing Power: Women's Stories of Sexual Violence, Harassment, and Survival* (2019),

and others to demonstrate how this new wave of texts mark the ascent of the graphic narrative industry into feminist representational politics. I argue how the multivariate usage of the format of comics in these texts help them serve as resistance narratives and etch a powerful creative path to intersectional feminism. The global graphic novel industry has largely been male dominated, with skewed representation for women, both in terms of creators and content. By focusing on gender based violence in a selection of graphic texts, I intend to read a feminist representational oeuvre that undoes what Lynn Higgins and Brenda R. Silver note as "the obsessive inscription – and the obsessive erasure – of sexual violence against women" in literature and pop culture. These graphic texts perform the "critical act of reading the violence and the sexuality back into texts where it has been deflected, either by the text itself or by the critics". By reading these texts I argue how this visual-verbal reclamation of power through the comics medium is a disruption in the feminist literature on sexual abuse, both in terms of form and content, and how they explore possibilities of social change.



Ms Deblina Rout
Research Scholar in English
Dept of Liberal Arts

How ICT Transformed Payment Banking in India After COVID-19

KID: 20240224

The COVID-19 pandemic has tremendously enhanced the adoption of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in almost all sectors of the economy, including payment banking in India. The pandemic-motivated lockdowns and other social distancing measures initiated a transition towards an age of digital transactions, transforming the structure of payment banking in India.

Prior the Covid pandemic, India was already on a path towards digitalization, with initiatives like Digital India and Demonetization forcing for a cashless economy. However, the pandemic act as a catalyst, provoking the adoption and development of digital payment methods at a significant rate. In that path ICT acted as crucial role by initiating secure, efficient, and comfortable digital transactions.

The pandemic saw a significant rise in the use of digital payment system such as Unified Payments Interface (UPI), mobile wallets, and internet banking. UPI, in particular, witnessed tremendous growth, with transactions reaching record highs in the country. The total annual value of UPI transactions in 2023 reached ₹182 lakh crore, reflecting a 59% increase in transaction volume and a 45% rise in transaction value from the previous year.

The convenience of UPI, endowed with its interoperability across different banks and payment platforms, made it a preferred choice for masses. By November 2022, UPI had amassed over 300 million monthly active users, underscoring its widespread adoption.

Mobile wallets like Paytm, PhonePe, and GooglePay also saw increased adoption, providing users with a seamless and contactless payment experience. In January 2024, UPI processed over 12.2 billion transactions valued at ₹18.41 lakh crore, marking a 41.72% increase in transaction value compared to January 2023.

ICT has also played a significant role in promoting financial inclusion in India. Digital payment platforms have made banking services accessible to a major chunk of population, including those in remote areas. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana initiative, which aimed to provide every household with a bank account, saw a boost with the integration of digital payment methods.

This integration allowed beneficiaries to receive government subsidies and financial benefits directly into their bank accounts, reducing the dependency on cash transactions.



While the adoption of ICT in payment banking has brought numerous benefits, it also presents several challenges. Cybersecurity threats, digital literacy, and infrastructure bottleneck are some of the obstacles that need to be addressed. However, these challenges also present opportunities for further innovation and development.

For example, the implementation of blockchain technology can enhance the security and transparency of digital transactions. Additionally, initiatives to improve digital literacy and expand internet connectivity can help bridge the digital divide among the different regions of the country.

The post-pandemic era is likely to see significant rise in the adoption of ICT in payment banking. The RBI has been proactive in initiating digital payments, introducing measures such as the Payment Infrastructure Development Fund to support the development of digital payment infrastructure in underserved areas.

Furthermore, the government initiatives towards a cashless economy and the increasing use of smartphones and internet connectivity are expected to drive the growth of digital payments in the coming years. In conclusion, the COVID-19 pandemic has signified the importance of ICT in payment banking in India.

The rapid adoption of digital payment methods has not only facilitated seamless transactions but also promoted financial inclusion and economic resilience. As the country continues to navigate the post-pandemic landscape, the role of ICT in payment banking will remain vital in structuring the future of India's financial ecosystem.

“ The rapid adoption of digital payment methods has not only facilitated seamless transactions but also promoted financial inclusion and economic resilience

Mr Subal Danta
Research Scholar in Economics
Dept of Liberal Arts

The Divergent Mind in 20th Century Transatlantic Poetry



KID: 20240225

My research critically examines the neurocentric model of identity as it appears in contemporary neurodiversity studies and seeks to complicate it through insights from literature—specifically, twentieth-century transnational poetry. The rise of neurodiversity as a movement was shaped by both scientific and political developments, including advances in neurology that foregrounded conditions like autism, ADHD, and dyslexia as neurologically distinct ways of being, as well as advocacy from identity-based movements such as queer and disability rights activism. These same materialist assumptions about the brain’s role in identity can be traced in poetic developments of the period, where poets engaged with scientific discourse and reimagined embodiment through formal experimentation.

Twentieth-century poetry has a distinct relationship with language, one that values ambiguity, texture, and resistance over seamless expression. This makes it particularly well suited to be revisited through a contemporary lens like neurodiversity, which enables us to read its gaps, interstices, polysemantic allusions, and playfulness not as aesthetic failures but as deliberate, sustained engagements with cognitive divergence. Poets of this period experimented with new, scientifically inflected prosodic forms that were intimately tied to notions of embodiment, both as a means of expanding poetic form and as a way of interrogating the cultural implications of scientific progress.

The increasing dominance of physicalist theories of mind—encapsulated in the assertion that “the mind is as the brain does”—found an aesthetic counterpart in the way poetic form foregrounded materiality over meaning.

In contrast to the affective and rhetorical excess of late Victorian poetry, this is a poetry of objectivity and formal constraints. Its embodied quality allows for a reading through the lens of disability studies, with the poem as a linguistic body. Constraints, here, become impairments, and the perceived inaccessibility of “difficult” poetry serves as a textual analogue for the supposed arhetoricity of the “disabled” or neurodivergent subject.

Another key parallel that allows for such analogous readings is how twentieth-century poetry privileged the material aspects of language—its ‘gestural’ properties like sounds, rhythms, and line breaks—over its semantic or referential dimensions, just as materialist interpretations of the mind privileged the neurological basis of identity.

The concept of “cerebral subjectivation,” as articulated by Fernando Vidal and Francisco Ortega, underscores how the brain came to be understood as synonymous with the Self, reinforcing a neurocentric model of personhood that poetry both engaged with and challenged.

I am currently examining the neurodivergent resonances in the works of modernist poets Gertrude Stein and Mina Loy, as well as postmodernist poets John Ashbery and Tom Raworth.

Their poetry does not merely reflect the scientific discourses of their time but also disrupts and reconfigures them, offering alternative models of cognition and embodiment. I intend for my research to contribute to the field of literary neurodiversity studies while offering a novel perspective on twentieth-century poetry.



*Pictures by Mina Loy



Ms Parvathi Manojkumar Nair
 Research Scholar in English
 Dept of Liberal Arts

Body Image and Normative Femininity in Contemporary American Women's Literature

KID: 20240226

My research interest lies at the intersection of body image studies and literature. I critically examine the neoliberal beauty imperative vis-a-vis female embodiment by underscoring skin color bias, fat stigma, ageism, and also body enhancement practices that afflict women across cultures globally.

With fast-evolving techniques in body enhancement and the ever-growing market for beauty, a critical study of literary texts that portray the body image crisis in a consumerist society like America deserves major scholarly attention. Although there are some scholarly works on body image issues from psychology and socio-anthropology perspectives, the interplay between body image, beauty politics, and female embodiment, as represented in literary texts, remains relatively unexplored. I intend to fill this lacuna in existing scholarship and contribute to ongoing discussions on female body image.

The research work primarily contributes to understanding body precarity and also records women's embodied experiences in the context of neoliberal beauty culture.



In my present research, I choose to explore beauty bias in contemporary American society, given the political hegemony and cultural superpower the country exerts on a global scale. I am intrigued by how the world's most dominant power, with its multicultural backdrop, approaches a critical issue like body image. My research is an attempt to study body normativity and the discourses of 'Otherness' often produced under the global hegemony of the Eurocentric body. For this purpose, I particularly look into ethnic American women's embodied experiences who often encounter cultural othering if they fail to benefit normative beauty standards. This research takes into account some lesser known literary texts by contemporary multiethnic American women writers and attempts a narrative analysis to foreground the plurality of body image crisis. I explore the theme of beauty imperative by drawing upon works from philosophers, cultural studies, and feminist thinkers who set the ground for further theoretical underpinning of female body image in literature. Precisely, my research work adds to the discursive void in body image studies while focusing on literary articulation of female embodiment in a precarious body conscious world.

Ms Piya Hore
Research scholar in English
Dept of Liberal Arts

Environmental Macroeconomics: A New Paradigm for Climate-Responsive Policy

KID: 20240227

Environmental Macroeconomics: A new approach to tackle Climate Change problem. Climate Change as a problem is challenging and worsened in the current scenario. There were a number of years recorded as hottest in the last decade however, 2020 tied with 2016 as the warmest year (NASA, 2021). The increasing trend of the global temperatures is in effect due to the rise in the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere which is primarily driven by anthropogenic activities such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation among others.

To detail on climate, India's northern states, notably Rajasthan, bore the brunt of record-breaking temperatures exceeding 50°C (The Hindu, April 23, 2023). Cities like Delhi sweltered under a 47°C April sun, straining and disrupting daily life. Agriculture suffered, with crops withering and posing a threat to food security. This thermal onslaught served as a potent reminder of the human cost of unchecked climate change. Monsoon rains, typically life-bringing, turned into a destructive force in states like



Assam, with torrential downpours exceeding 1,000 mm triggering devastating floods, displacing millions (Indian Express, July 15, 2023). Kerala faced its worst floods in a century, highlighting the vulnerability of infrastructure to extreme weather. While some areas drowned in floods, others, like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, faced their worst droughts in decades. These parched landscapes showcased the long-term ecological and socioeconomic consequences of a changing climate.

In light of these issues, both in a global context and specifically concerning India, economics as a discipline and environmental economics, in particular, have played significant roles in attempting to manage climate change and promote sustainability. However, their effectiveness is hampered by inherent limitations. Against this backdrop, the paper delves into the shortcomings of existing approaches within the realm of economics, focusing specifically on the limitations inherent in environmental economics.

While environmental economics has undoubtedly served as the cornerstone for analyzing and addressing environmental challenges, its reliance on market principles and perfect competition assumptions often falters in the face of real-world imperfections. This article argues that the increasing pressure of environmental issues necessitates a paradigm shift, urging us to move beyond the limitations of microeconomic approaches and embrace a macroeconomic perspective on environmental challenges. The conventional tools of environmental economics, rooted in the neo-classical concepts of optimization and allocation of resources in the market mechanism, have played a significant role in shaping impactful policy instruments such as taxes (pigouvian), property rights (coase's) and tradable permits (Bird, 1982). However, as Carson (2010) aptly points out, these instruments rely on the dubious assumption of perfect markets, often overlooking the pervasive reality of market failures and imperfect competition. The fundamental goal of internalizing externalities through these market-based interventions or minimizing them through regulation (Samuelson and Nordhaus, 2009), while seemingly logical, fails to fully account for the dynamic and intricate nature of environmental problems.

Environmental issues often transcend mere allocative distortions within markets. The notion that correcting externalities can address environmental challenges overlooks the inherent limitations of such interventions. Residual externalities linger, accumulating over time and manifesting in tangible consequences like the persistent brown cloud plaguing Southeast Asia. These examples serve as stark reminders of the inadequacy of traditional microeconomic perspectives in comprehending the full scope of environmental issues.

Furthermore, microeconomic frameworks largely prioritize the efficiency of individual agents within the market, neglecting the broader macroeconomic context. This narrow focus often sidelines environmental concerns, relegating them to the realm of long-term structural considerations with little bearing on immediate economic scenarios. However, the interplay between short-term economic decisions and environmental consequences is undeniable. Macroeconomic policies, particularly since the 1980s, have largely prioritized short-term objectives, neglecting critical structural challenges like energy, climate change, and public health. Recognizing these limitations, Barbier (1990) calls for a "new macroeconomics" that surpasses the confines of traditional Keynesian and rational expectations paradigms.

This new framework would prioritize interconnected challenges like climate and energy security, and ecology. Moving beyond a sole focus on the old macroeconomics, this new macroeconomic science would pave the way for sustainable development trajectories. To be clear, the microeconomic framework considers the dependency and complementarity between the economy and environment only in terms of the market distortion and allocation of resources.

While macroeconomics supersedes the individualistic approach with consideration of the overall volume of exchanges and acknowledges the optimal scale optimal distribution of the economy. (Daly, 1991). It appreciates that the indefinite economic expansion is not viable owing to the resource constraints and environmental challenges. In addition, it advocates for the compositional shift in the economic output aligned with sustainability goals. The contemporary global warming and climate change issue stated above highlights that economic expansion has surpassed the optimal limit.

In the context of India, India's environmental policy landscape has long been dominated by a micro-level gaze, fixated on individual polluters (polluter pay principle) through instruments like Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates, Water Pollution Cess and Delhi's Odd-Even Vehicle Rationing. While these regulations served their purpose, their effectiveness was limited from full economic internalisation and, additionally, enforcement challenges, bureaucratic hurdles, and resource constraints limit their overall effectiveness. Recent years, however, have witnessed a crucial shift in focus, with green and climate finance signaling a nascent understanding of the limitations inherent in purely microeconomic tools. This evolution is a welcome acknowledgement that tackling environmental challenges, particularly the looming specter of climate change, demands a broader perspective.

For India, this shift necessitates a bold embrace of green GDP. The traditional paradigm of economic growth, measured solely through metrics like gross domestic product (GDP), fails to account for the vital role played by natural capital. Forests, rivers, fertile soil – these are not mere environmental concerns; they are the very foundation of our economic prosperity and long-term well-being. Integrating natural capital into GDP models compels us to move beyond the short-sighted pursuit of mere numerical growth and towards a more holistic understanding of what constitutes true progress.

Embracing green GDP is not an option; it's an imperative. India's future – its food security, water security, economic stability – hinges on recognizing the intrinsic value of natural capital and factoring it into the very fabric of our economic discourse.

By integrating the environmental costs into our growth equation, we can steer development towards a sustainable path, one that safeguards not just the present but also the generations to come.

The road ahead might be challenging, but the choice is clear: cling to outdated, inadequate tools and risk jeopardizing our very existence, or embrace a new paradigm that ensures a thriving future for India and our planet.

Ms Pragnya Dash
Research Scholar in Economics
Dept of Liberal Arts

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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Thu, 20 Jun-24; Times Of India - Hyderabad; Size : 115 sq.
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IITH, Simpliforge instal India's first 3D printed bridge



3D printed bridge installed on IIT Hyderabad campus

Hyderabad: The Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad and Simpliforge Creations have collaborated to install India's first pedestrian bridge using indigenous 3D printing technology. The concept and design were developed and assessed by KVL Subramaniam and his research team at the department of civil engineering. Simpliforge Creations, a city-based start-up, handled the printing of the bridge.

"The potential of 3D printing technology to revolutionise the construction industry is immense. Its application demands innovative solutions that advance material processing, design methodologies, and production procedures aligned with additive manufacturing principles," Subramaniam said. Originally designed for pedestrian use, a full-scale 7.50 m bridge was deployed following the successful load testing of a smaller prototype.

BS Murty, director of IITH, highlighted the necessity for technology-driven solutions in construction to meet infrastructure demands, stating, "Developing indigenous capabilities for efficient construction integrating digital tech marks a significant step towards realizing our vision of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat." **TNN**

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German delegation visits IIT-H

STATE BUREAU
Sangareddy

A high-profile delegation from the University of Magdeburg and other German institutions recently visited IIT Hyderabad (IIT-H).

The visit was aimed at bolstering academic collaboration between India and Germany. The gathering, hosted by IIT-H, witnessed fruitful discussions and insightful deliberations among key stakeholders from both nations. The visit of the delegation to IIT-H focused on achieving several outcomes, including research collaboration and students between Indian and German universities, and on establishing joint supervision mechanisms and designing joint degree programmes. It also discussed organisation of joint workshops.

DECCAN Chronicle

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IIT HYDERABAD SECURES \$9.6 M FUNDING

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 20

IIT Hyderabad has received \$9.6 million funding from Sushant Kumar, founder of Tanushree Foundation and Eskeyn Ventures. The investment aims to empower the Centre for Healthcare Entrepreneurship (CHE) at IIT-H to preneurship (CHE) at IIT-H to enhance development and adoption of innovative healthcare solutions as well as indigenous technology.

The CHE, a nationally recognised healthcare technology business incubator, focuses on pioneering advanced solutions that can address the gaps in healthcare services.

"The infusion of these funds will allow us to accelerate our initiatives in medical devices and diagnostics," said Prof. B.S. Murty, IIT-H Director. He emphasised that medical devices and diagnostics are areas where significant supply and training gaps exist, which CHE aims to bridge through focused programmes.

Several innovations emerged from CHE, IIT Hyderabad said.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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Circulation:123000; Page : 4

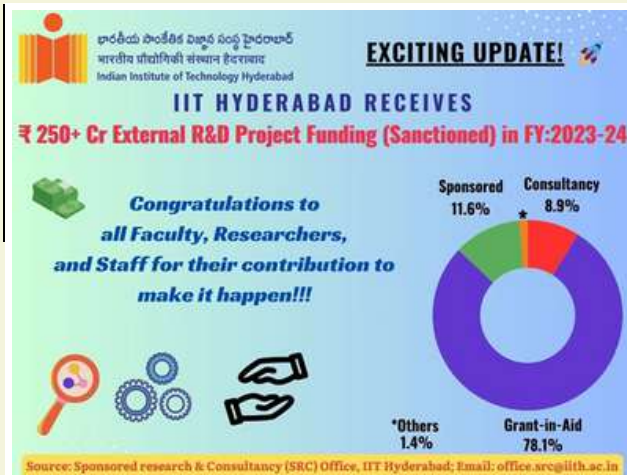
L&T Tech, IITH to work on safer mobility

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: L&T Technology Services Limited (L&TTS) said it has joined hands with a collaboration with the NMICPS TIRHAN Foundation of the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) to boost industry and academia collaboration in the ADAS (advanced driver assistance systems) and CV2X (cellular vehicle-to-everything) communication domains.

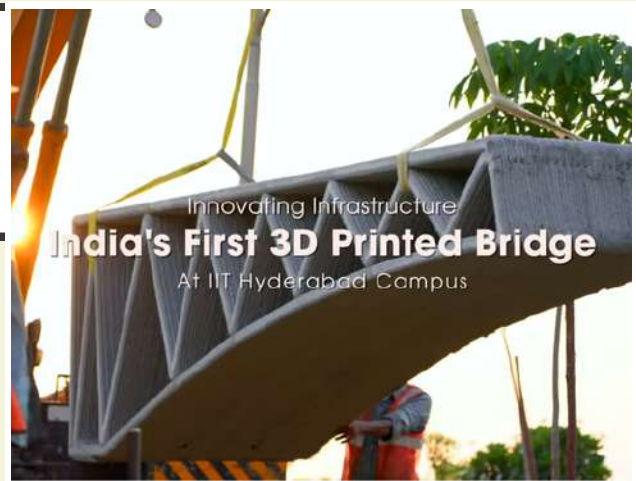
The partnership will work on bringing cutting-edge to ADAS and CV2X technologies and facilitate research and application of these domains with a focus on elevating road safety, efficiency and the overall driving experience. L&TTS & TIRHAN IITH said "It (partnership) seeks to harness combined expertise of both entities to drive innovation and bring about transformative developments in connected vehicle ecosystems," they said.

The project will also focus on the integration of AI-driven algorithms and sensor technologies to enhance real-time hazard recognition and response capabilities.



IIT Hyderabad received 816 newly sanctioned R&D projects with 250 Cr+ INR external funding in a single F.Y. 2023-24. A significant milestone in the growth journey of @IITHyderabad

IIT Hyderabad and Simpliforge Creations installed India's first Pedestrian Bridge using Indigenous 3D Printing Technology



Campus Corner
Highlights



The Design Innovation Centre (DIC) at IIT Hyderabad organized the 4th ALL INDIA DIC MEET 2024 and an Exhibition at the Convention Centre, IITH

A panel discussion was conducted with the PIs of all the partnering institute of the 4th All India DIC Meet, focusing on "Synergy between Hubs and Spokes for Future" to pave the way forward for the DICs





IITH hosted fruitful hybrid meetings with University of Magdeburg and German institutes, fostering Indo-German academic collaboration.



Under YuvaSangam 44 student delegates from Bihar visited the IIT Hyderabad campus



The Department of Biotechnology and Biomedical Engineering conducted the Hyderabad Science (HiSci 2024) conference



IITH hosted H.E. Hiroshi Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan to India. This significant visit included insightful discussions on the potential for academic collaboration between Japan and India



IIT Hyderabad has celebrated the World Environment Day!



The Department of Sports, IIT Hyderabad, has celebrated the 10th International Yoga Day IDY2024, under the guidelines of the Ministry of AYUSH.



Workshop on Prototype/Process Design and Development by Mr Niklesh Chillangya, Director of Account Management at Microsoft India.



Entrepreneurship Talk Series on Self Discovery: The way to build teams at workplace by Mr Venkat Barla, Founder, International Institute of Technology and Management, Hyderabad



Entrepreneurship Talk Series on BIRAC – Promoting Biotech Startup Innovation Ecosystem by Dr Shilpi Gupta, Deputy General Manager - Technical at Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)



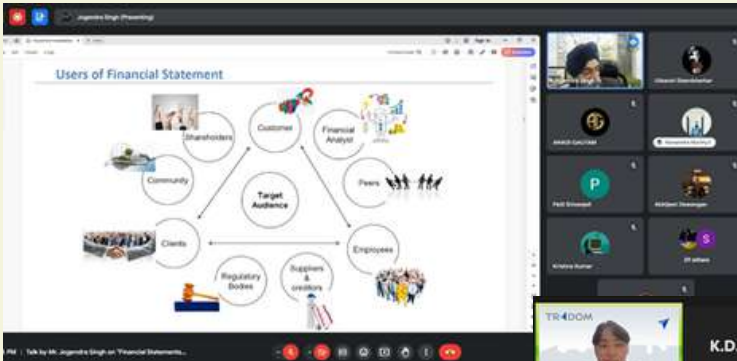
The Talk Series on World Intellectual Property Day by Sbri G Nagasbiresba, IP Analytics Team Leader at GE Aerospace



Workshop on National Technology Day by Mr Murali Krishna Magbam, Consultant · Experienced Manager in leading Global teams.



IITH-KRC (Library) in collaboration with IEEE organized an AUTHOR WORKSHOP on “Enhance your Research with IEEE Publications and Writing Quality Technical Papers”



Workshop on Business Model Canvas by Mr Jogendra Singh, President & CFO Group, Hero Enterprises



Entrepreneurship Talk Series on Hard Things and Mental Toughness in Startups by Dr Sbin Sakane, CEO & CSMO GFIT Inc. Japan



IIT Hyderabad, with the support of MoE (HE), Govt. of India, through two SPARC projects, has started a Hands-on training program to create competent Human Resources in the field of Semiconductor manufacturing



IIT Hyderabad hosted its first ESG Confluence - Industry-Academia Partnership on June 28, 2024



IIT Hyderabad organized an insightful awareness program on 25th June 2024 on the Introduction of Three New Criminal Laws by the Govt. of India effective from 1st July 2024



Lipedema Awareness Camp at IIT Hyderabad Addressing a Misunderstood Disorder



Dr Gangadharan Raju
Associate Professor
Department of Mechanical and
Aerospace Engineering
*invited to join the Editorial Board
Member of The ISSS Journal of
Micro and Smart Systems*



**Prof Chandra Shekhar
Sharma**
Department of Chemical
Engineering
*was elected as a Co-Chair of the
Global Young Academy (GYA) for the
year 2024-25*



**Prof Sai Santosh Kumar
Raavi**
Department of Physics
*was elected as
Fellow of the Telangana Academy of
Sciences (FTAS)
for the year 2023 under the category of
Physical Sciences*



**Prof Rajakumara
Eerappa**
Department of Biotechnology
*was elected as
Fellow of the Telangana Academy
of Sciences (FTAS), 2023*



Dr Sudarsanam Putla
Assistant Professor,
Department of Chemistry
*was elected as the Associate Fellow of the
Telangana Academy of Sciences (FTAS),
2023*



**Prof Vineet
Balasubramanian**
Computer Science &
Engineering
*was elected as an INSA Associate
Fellow-2024*



Mr Sunil Venkanna Poggu
PhD Scholar, Department of
Biomedical Engineering
*received the Best Paper Award held at
IEEE International Conference co-
sponsored by DST-SERB - IEEE
5NANO 2024*



Ms Rupali Srivastava
PhD Scholar, Department of
Biomedical Engineering
*received the Best Paper Award held at
IEEE International Conference co-
sponsored by DST-SERB - IEEE
5NANO 2024*



Mr D Srinivasan
ICME student
Department of MSME
*received the World Championship title
in the 18th Version of SteelChallenge
organized by the World Steel
Association at London*



**Dr Ganesh Sambhaji
Ghalme**
Assistant Professor
Department of Artificial
Intelligence
*received the Bill & Melinda Gate
Foundation Grant*



Dr Nagarajan Ganapathy
Assistant Professor,
Department of Biomedical
Engineering
*received the Bill & Melinda Gate
Foundation Grant*



Mr Manimaran V
Full-Time Research Scholar,
Department of
Entrepreneurship and
Management
*received the Best Thesis Proposal Award
for his presentation, at ICETAO - 2024*



Mr Rishab Prasad Soni
Full-Time Research Scholar,
Department of Liberal Arts
*received the Best Methodology Award
for presentation of his paper at Goa
Institute of Management*



Dr Mudrika Khandelwal
Associate Professor
Department of MSME
*elected for the 3rd Batch INSA-NCGG
Leadership in Science & Technology
(LEADS) Programme*



Prof P Rajalakshmi
Department of Electrical
Engineering
*elected for the 3rd Batch INSA-NCGG
Leadership in Science & Technology
(LEADS) Programme*



Dr Anusmita Das

*Assistant Professor
Department of Design*

Anusmita is an alumna of the Department of Design, IIT Guwahati, where she pursued her Master's and PhD in Design. As one of the founding members of the National Institute of Design Madhya Pradesh, she played a crucial role in establishing the Foundation Studies Department of the institute. Anusmita has also worked extensively with Tech startups as a User Experience Designer, designing software applications that focus on user needs. Owing to her diverse experience in academics and industry, her interests lie in domains that allow her to explore design and research inquiries at the intersection of technology and socio-cultural issues rooted in the Indian context. She is currently working in the domain of Digital Literacy, AI and emerging technologies, focussing on unique aspects of Indian users while leveraging technology to provide potential solutions.

Life @IITH:

My experience at IIT Hyderabad has been immensely enriching, offering ample opportunities for research and professional development. The Department of Design has been especially welcoming and supportive, playing a crucial role in helping me navigate this new chapter. This period marks an exciting phase in my career, where I can clearly envision a future that is both professionally rewarding and personally fulfilling.



Dr Savita Devi

*Assistant Professor
Department of Biotechnology*

Dr Savita Devi has been appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biotechnology, IIT Hyderabad. Prior to joining IITH in 2024, she was a Postdoctoral Scientist and later promoted to Project scientist at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre, Los Angeles, USA. Dr. Savita did her Master's and PhD from University of Hyderabad, Telangana. Her research interests are in the fields of innate immunity, inflammation and Inflammasomes.



Dr Sonali Srivastav

*Assistant Professor
Department of Design*

Dr Sonali is a media practitioner and researcher. Trained in communication, media and films, she has worked in the industry prior to joining academics in various capacities such as a camera person, scriptwriter, editor and producer for documentaries, TV shows and news. For her Ph.D., she worked in the area of web narratology and market dynamics of OTT platforms in India and attended the Summer Doctoral Program at the Oxford Internet Institute, Oxfordshire on scholarship. A Gold Medallist in M.A. Mass Communication from AJK MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia, she attended Indraprastha College for Women, Delhi University for her Bachelors in Mass Media and Mass Communication. Currently she is exploring the areas pertaining to audio visual art forms and building narratives.

Life @IITH:

My experience at IIT Hyderabad has been nothing short than exhilarating. In the span of less than 1 year, I have been able to interact with colleagues who are working in areas similar to as well as vastly different from mine. This particularly has been an extremely enriching experience. Currently, I am in the process of making space for myself and probing the ways I can expand my research.



Dr G Thulsiram

*Assistant Professor
Department of Mechanical
and Aerospace Engineering*

Dr G Thulsiram has been appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, IIT Hyderabad. Prior to joining IITH in 2024, Thulsiram was a post-doctoral researcher in IIT Madras from 2023 and completed PhD in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Madras.

Dr Thulsiram did his BTech from NIT Tiruchirappalli, Trichy and obtained his M.Tech. from IIT Kanpur. Before joining the Ph.D., he worked for four years in two MNCs Larsen and Toubro, Mumbai and Rolls Royce, Bangalore. His research interests are in the fields of Nondestructive Evaluation, Materials Characterization, Wave Propagation, Ultrasonic Imaging, and Applied Machine Learning.



Dr Ankush Kumar Jaiswal

*Assistant Professor
Department of Mechanical
and Aerospace Engineering*

Dr Ankush Kumar Jaiswal has been appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, IIT Hyderabad. Prior to joining IITH in 2024, Ankush was a postdoctoral scholar in Arizona State University and Purdue University from 2023. Ankush did his B.Tech. from AKGEC, Ghaziabad and obtained his M.E. and Ph.D. degrees from IISc Bangalore and IIT Kanpur. His research interests are in the fields of human exposure to extreme heat, thermal comfort, desalination, and thermal systems.



Dr Tarali Devi

*Assistant Professor
Department of Chemistry*

Dr Tarali Devi has been appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry at IIT Hyderabad. Prior to joining IITH in June 2024, Tarali was working as a Ramanujan Fellow in the Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry, IISc Bangalore from February 2023. Before working at IISc Bangalore, she was a AvH- Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Chemistry at Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany. Tarali did her B.Sc. from B. Borooah College and M.Sc. from Gauhati University, Assam. She obtained her Ph.D. degree from Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea. Her research interests are in the fields of bioinspired bioinorganic chemistry for modelling small molecule activation, spectroscopic trapping/isolation of reactive-intermediates and catalysis.



Dr Anup Bhunia

*Assistant Professor
Department of Chemistry*

Dr Anup Bhunia has been appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry, IIT Hyderabad. Prior to joining IITH in 2024, Anup was a Ramanujan Fellow in IISER Kolkata from 2021. Before working at IISER Kolkata, he was a postdoctoral fellow at University of Münster, Germany and at Dept. of Organisch-Chemisches Institut. Anup did his B.Sc. from Midnapore College, West Bengal and obtained his M.Sc. from IIT Guwahati and Ph.D. degree from National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) Pune. His research interests are in the fields of organic synthesis, electrochemistry, and mechanochemistry.



Mr Gopal Manthuri
*Junior Assistant
Department of Design*

Mr Gopal Manthuri has done MCA from JNTU Hyderabad. After completing his Education, he worked with an Educational Institute, later selected as a Junior Assistant in the Department of Design at IITH. He has extensive experience in Administration and Academic matters of the School Education System. He has gained valuable insights and skills in various aspects including mail handling, cash transactions, treasurer responsibilities, and serving as a School In charge.

Life @IITH:

It has been a grateful opportunity to work at IITH. I had the privilege of working in a dynamic and intellectually stimulating environment. I will contribute my best skills and knowledge by using available resources to develop IITH and my personal growth. Thanks to IITH for allowing me to work with this Institution.



**Ms Mubarakapuram
Vyshnavi**
*Junior Assistant
HR & MS Section*

MS Vyshnavi graduated from JNTU Hyderabad with a Dual Degree program (B.Tech and MBA). Following that, she joined the banking sector as an Assistant Manager, where she worked for over three years. Later, she was selected as a Junior Assistant at IIT Hyderabad. During her tenure as Assistant Manager, I played a significant role in the bank's growth, particularly in terms of business development and enhancing its digital profile, including involvement in various digital initiatives. I also gained experience in handling accounts and administrative tasks.

Life@IITH:

Being at IIT Hyderabad has been a truly refreshing experience. I'm thrilled to be part of this supportive and inclusive community, and I feel fortunate to be a member of one of the premier educational institutions. It has given me an incredible opportunity to explore my potential, gain knowledge in establishment matters and contribute to the growth of the institute.



Mr M Rajashekar
*Junior Assistant
Stores & Purchase*

Mr Rajashekar holds a B.Tech degree from Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies, Basar. He began his professional journey as a Staff Assistant at DCCB Medak Ltd, gaining valuable experience over a period of 10 months. He then joined Canara Bank as a Probationary Officer, where he dedicated eight years to the banking sector. Currently, he serves as a Junior Assistant at IITH, bringing with him nine years of expertise in banking and administration.

Life@IITH:

IIT Hyderabad is an exceptional place to work, driven by cutting-edge technology, innovation, and a team of dedicated faculty and staff. The beautiful campus, equipped with world-class amenities, creates an outstanding work environment. I feel privileged to be a part of this esteemed institute of national importance.



Mr Bolla Ramesh
*Accountant
Finance and Accounts*

Mr Bolla Ramesh completed his Master of Commerce (M.Com) from Osmania University and an MBA in Finance from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad. After completing his education, he joined S&P Global Market Intelligence in Hyderabad as a Data Researcher. Later, he worked as an Accounts Executive at the Bangalore branch of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) for 3.6 years. He has more than 9 years of experience in the field of Finance & Accounts.

Life@IITH:

It is truly a privilege to be a part of IITH, one of India's premier institutions. I am committed to contributing my skills and knowledge to the development of IITH, while also developing my own professional and personal growth. By collaborating with highly skilled and passionate individuals whose expertise in their fields inspires me, I look forward to playing an active role in the institute's progress and contributing to its bright and promising future.



Mr Dumpala Raju

*Junior Assistant
Department of Mathematics*

Mr Raju holds a BTech degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering from Indur Institute of Engineering and Technology. He began his professional career as a Scale 1 Officer at AP Grameena Vikas Bank, where he later progressed to the role of Scale 2 Officer. Over the span of seven years, he contributed significantly to the banking sector. Currently, Mr Raju is serving as a Junior Assistant at IIT Hyderabad, bringing with him eight years of experience in banking and administration.

Life@IITH:

Working at IIT Hyderabad has been a truly enriching experience. The institute fosters a culture of innovation, collaboration, and continuous learning. Surrounded by a vibrant academic community and supported by state-of-the-art infrastructure, I have found both personal and professional growth. Being part of such a prestigious institution motivates me to contribute meaningfully to its mission of excellence in education and research.



Mr Santhoshkumar S

*Technical Superintendent
Department of EE*

Mr Santhoshkumar S received his BE degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from UCEA (Anna University), India, in 2013 and his MTech degree in Power Electronics from NIT Puducherry, India, in 2020. He worked as a Power Electronics Engineer in the R&D department at ESAB India Ltd. Before joining IITH, he worked as a Senior Power Electronics Hardware Engineer at Bosch Global Software Technologies, Bangalore. His research interests include power electronics for renewable energy, electric vehicles, motor drives, and wind and solar power systems.

Life@IITH:

IITH has provided me with numerous opportunities from the very beginning, ranging from academics to research. The exposure to cutting-edge technologies, collaborative projects, and hands-on experience have been invaluable in shaping my career and professional growth. Working with the talented individuals at IITH has been a great pleasure. The support from the faculty, along with the opportunity to engage in research, has played a crucial role in my personal and professional development.



Lankalapalli Naga V

Lakshmi Manikanta
*Accountant
Finance and Accounts*

Mr Manikanta is a BCom graduate from Andhra University, a semi-qualified CA & CMA, and hold a postgraduate degree in Philosophy. With over a decade of experience in accountancy, taxation, auditing, and oration, he has developed strong expertise in financial management and compliance. He has also served as the Secretary of the Rotary Club of Narasapur, contributing to community service and leadership initiatives. Beyond his profession, he is also passionate about Telugu literature, excelling in poetry and storytelling. He also has a unique talent for whistle singing and enjoy traveling, which enriches his experiences and perspectives. With a blend of financial expertise, leadership, and creative expression, he strives to make meaningful contributions in every field he engage with.

Life @IITH:

Joining IITH was my first experience in a non-private job, something I had never considered before. However, it completely changed my misconceptions about government jobs. The work culture here is independent, efficient, and responsibility-driven, with most colleagues committed to their appointed duties. Beyond work, I have thoroughly enjoyed the world-class facilities at SNCC & KRC for both body and mind, as well as the cultural programs organized by SPIC MACAY. Memorable moments this year include celebrating the Ganesh festival with IITH staff and the annual family get-together with the IITH fraternity, strengthening our sense of community.



Dasari Kirankumar

*Junior Technician
Department of Chemical
Engineering*

Mr Dasari Kiran Kumar Commenced employment at IIT Hyderabad as a Junior Technician in the Department of Chemical Engineering on June 24, 2024. He completed a Diploma in Chemical Engineering (Oil Technology) from the Government Institute of Chemical Engineering, Visakhapatnam, a BTech in Chemical Engineering from Bapatla Engineering College, Bapatla, and an MTech in Chemical Engineering from Andhra University, Visakhapatnam. Upon completing his education, he assumed the role of Assistant Professor at B V Raju Institute of Technology. He has 3.4 years of experience in the teaching field. His research has mostly concentrated on adsorption, wastewater treatment, and nanotechnology, resulting in six publications in esteemed journals. He possessed experience in teaching, research, and administrative tasks.

Life@IITH:

IIT Hyderabad has been a really fulfilling experience for me. I have had the chance to cooperate with renowned academics and students and work with state-of-the-art research facilities as a Junior Technician. My abilities have been greatly improved by the practical experience with cutting-edge lab equipment, process optimization, and technical support for numerous research projects. IIT Hyderabad's vibrant, research-focused atmosphere inspires me to keep learning and making contributions to the chemical engineering community. Being a part of an organization that encourages creativity and achievement is an honor.

Kuchipudi



Kuchipudi



Art of String Quartet



Department Social Gathering



NIT Warangal Delegation at IITH



Heritage Walk



Heritage Walk



Exhibition of Madhubani Paintings



Art of String Quartet



Exhibition of Madhubani Paintings





భారతీయ సాంకేతిక విజ్ఞాన సంస్థ హైదరాబాద్
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हैदराबाद
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad

“It is not so very important for a person to learn facts. For that he does not really need college. He can learn them from books. The value of an education in a liberal arts college is not learning of many facts but the training of the mind to think something that cannot be learned from textbooks.”

- Albert Einstein.

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