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Shoolini University NEWSLETTER



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ADMISSIONS HELPLINE

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SPRING FEST 2024:

Shoolini lit with festive energy



BHAVNA SHARMA

SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY campus turned into a riot of colours and was surcharged with energy of speakers and students during the 3-day Spring Fest which culminated on March 17.

The fest included a plethora of events including Literature fest, Flower fest, Moksh and Tech fest named Glitch. The campus buzzed with enthusiasm as various events took place simultaneously.

Ms. Sanjana Goyal, President of the Indian Association of Muscular Dystrophy, was the chief guest at the inauguration setting the tone for an inspiring series of engagements. The 4th edition of Shoolini Literature Fest, witnessed participation of luminaries such as author Sharmistha Mukherjee, poet Ashok Chakradhar and humorist Surinder Sharma who captivated audiences with their profound insights and poetic brilliance.

In the sessions that followed, cricket icon Yuvraj Singh, joined online with former Indian Cricket team Manager, Sohail Mathur and former IAS officer Vivek Atray among others.

Among the other authors and speakers were Tuhin Sinha, Rami Desai, Shastri Ramachandran, Maj Gen Neeraj Bali, Atul Lal, Shruti Seth, Jupinderjit Singh and Neeraj Kulkarni.

All three days of the Fest witnessed boisterous evenings with a variety of music and cultural programmes besides ramp walk,

fashion show and performances by Shahid Mallia, Rahul Dua and an EDM night with DJ Aerreo.

The winners of the Mr. Moksh were Ange from MBA felicitated by the Director of Shoolini Mrs. Nishtha Anand and Mrs. Sidhi from MSc Yoga felicitated by Mrs. Mehta. Halisha from the B. tech Biotech was awarded as the best performer as well. The singing competition was won by Ahana Nath, folk art competition was won by Sneha Tomar and sketching competition was won by Denenson. Hasiba was declared the winner of the "Women of Substance" competition.

The flower fest too proved to be a big hit. Thousands of flowers were on display with approximately 30 species of flowers including Ranunculus, which is a seasonal flower with shiny petals. The university also provided opportunities to the school students to visit the flower fest. The visitors could also take-home handmade paintings, wooden flower pots with intricate design.

Glitch, the tech fest had multiple competitions where students from different departments participated to win the prizes. The competitions included esports, Robowars, hack-athon, CTF More than 100 students participated in the Glitch.



Photos by: PREM BHATTI



Applications open for dual-degree with UoM

ANGU SANCHU

UNDER THE groundbreaking dual-degree partnership, Shoolini University, India's top-ranked private university, which has teamed up with the prestigious University of Melbourne to offer unparalleled opportunities for international education to Indian students, shall start admissions from April 1.

With Shoolini University recognised as India's No.1 private university and the country's second-ranked university overall by the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings, and the University of Melbourne's standing as Australia's foremost university, ranked number one in the country and 14th worldwide (QS Global Rankings 2024), this partnership has set new standards for academic excellence and innovation.

The two universities had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) last year to provide cutting edge education to students from India who would be taught and mentored by top class faculty for the first two years at Shoolini University and for a similar period at University of Melbourne.

The dual degree programme, starting with the Bachelor of Science Advanced (Honours), provides students with a world-class curriculum and opens doors to a truly global education experience. Under this landmark agreement, Indian students gain a unique advantage, allowing them to pursue undergraduate science studies at Shoolini and the University of Melbourne.

The transformative journey begins with two years at Shoolini University and the remaining two years at Melbourne.

Continued on Page 2

VC appointed as a member IIMC Society

SNL TEAM

IN A notable acknowledgment of educational excellence and leadership, Prof. Atul Khosla Vice Chancellor, Shoolini University, has been appointed as a member of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) Society by the Government of India.

The nomination was officially announced in a notification by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

As an alumnus of two of India's premier institutions, IIT Kanpur and JBIMS, Mumbai, Prof. Atul Khosla's academic and professional journey is a blend of technical proficiency and management acumen. Prof. Khosla's nomination falls under the category of Representatives of Universities, Educational Institutions, and Departments of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Chancellor Shoolini University, Prof. P.K. Khosla,



thanked the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for recognising Prof. Atul Khosla's contributions in educational sector. He said the honour not only celebrates Prof. Atul Khosla's achievements but also provides a valuable platform for him to share his global insights and expertise with the IIMC, further enriching the institute's legacy in media and communication education.

Another milestone for Shoolini : 100+ granted patents

RIYA JHA

SHOOLINI University researchers have reached the milestone of 100 patents granted by the Indian Patent Office which is part of the central government's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

Achieving this milestone in just 14 years since its establishment underscores the university's dedication to excellence and cutting-edge research across multiple fields, including Bioengineering, Biotechnology, Biology, Chemistry, Engineering, Pharmacy, and Physics. Leading the way, the Chemistry and Physics departments have secured 23 and 29 patents respectively, showcasing university's stronghold in scientific research. The Engineering and Pharmacy departments have

also made significant contributions, with 15 and 12 patents, respectively, highlighting the university's commitment to technological advancements. Additionally, the Biotechnology, Bioengineering, and Biology departments have contributed 9, 8, and 4 patents respectively, showcasing Shoolini's interdisciplinary research approach.

Chancellor Prof. P.K. Khosla and Vice Chancellor Prof. Atul Khosla have commended the researchers for reaching this milestone and expressed their commitment to further promoting research and innovation at the university. Shoolini University's Intellectual Property Rights Office (SIPRO), established in 2015, has diligently pursued patent acquisition, intensifying efforts in recent years to support researchers in filing patents.

'Eighty-four @ Eighty-four' book released at well-attended event

TANIYA ACHERJEE

THE LATEST book by Prof. Prem Kumar Khosla, Chancellor of Shoolini University and a visionary in the field of biotechnology and management sciences, titled, "Eighty-Four Memoirs@Eighty-Four," was launched at an event in Chandigarh on March 11.

A comprehensive compilation reflecting his life's journey and insights gained through experience, the book was launched in the presence of notable dignitaries, including Major General Neeraj Bali and amidst an

enlightening conversation with Motivational Speaker and former IAS officer, Mr. Vivek Atray.

Prof. Khosla shared his compelling journey encapsulated in this new book.

Noted author and speaker, Major General Neeraj Bali remarked, "Prof. Khosla's book is not just a book; it's a beacon of knowledge and experience, illuminating the path for future generations."

Mr. Vivek Atray said in any conversation with Prof. Khosla, "one can't help but be inspired. His memoirs are a testament to a life dedicated to the pursuit of

wisdom through both education and action."

Throughout the conversation, Khosla articulated his motivations behind the book, by saying, "As I journeyed through the process of writing these memoirs, I found myself traversing the vast landscape of my mind, both archived and contemporary. The act of compiling these memoirs is my way of sharing the essence of my life's wisdom with anyone looking to ponder the deeper meanings and stories that shape our existence."

Prof. Khosla described the book as a journey through the landscapes of his mind, each

memoir serving as a stepping stone towards understanding the broader tapestry of life. He emphasised that the book transcends traditional autobiographies, offering readers a unique perspective on the multifaceted nature of human experiences.



At the book launch (from left to right) Mr. Vivek Atray, Mr. Ashish Khosla, Prof. P.K. Khosla, Mrs. Saroj Khosla, Maj Gen Neeraj Bali, Prof. Atul Khosla

The tendency to jump red light signals is common on Indian roads which lead to the loss of several precious lives

Putting breaks on red lights jumping



BHAVNA SHARMA

Jumping red lights is a major menace on Indian roads which leads to loss of several precious lives. Yet despite almost daily news reports about

such deaths, most road users flout the rules either impunity.

A 2020 report by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways found a shocking 79 per cent increase in road accident deaths caused by this violation compared to 2019. While the total number of accidents decreased that year, fatalities due to red light jumping jumped from 266 to 476, highlighting the severity of this reckless behaviour. This disregard for traffic signals puts countless lives at risk and is a major contributor to India's troubling road safety record.

To tackle this issue, Adit Rana and Ranjan Chauhan, both Assistant Professors at the School of Mechanical and Civil



Engineering, have developed a "piezoelectric unauthorised red-light crossing system". This innovative solution, utilising high tensile magnetic hooks, tackles the problem head-on, showcasing Shoolini's commitment to fostering creative ideas that enhance road safety.

This invention is basically a

piezo-electric sensor type unit which is placed in front of the zebra crossing that will identify the presence of a vehicle and signal to actualising the unit of hydraulic hook. The hook is telescopic type and will then absorb high energy if vehicle is moving at some speed. When the yellow light or red light is active then the position of hidden hooks will become like a speed breaker.

The aim, idea, objective, and approach to this invention is to prevent accidents from taking place and in any emergency, ambulances have way to go.

There are other inventions to prevent accidents caused by red lights jumping but none close

enough. They are easy to deactivate as well by just stepping on it. This one is different as it has magnetic hooks and has automation. It can detect if the vehicle coming is a two-wheeler or four-wheeler.

The frontal area will rise and act a speed breaker when there is red light. The mechanism is such that the invention can detect with the light if an ambulance is in the lane, if so, then it will deactivate to give way to the ambulance.

Adit says that he hopes that the aim is fulfilled, and accidents are minimised due to this. First step of receiving the patent is completed and next will be soon.

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Authors, poets, writers illuminate Shoolini Litfest

AHANA NATH

THE 4TH edition of the Shoolini Litfest proved to be a grand success with a wide range of authors, poets and writers participating in various discussions spread over two days.

The fest opened with rendition of poetry by the well-known Ashok Chakradhar who also discussed poetry and literature with the Litfest coordinator Dr Ashoo Khosla.

Ashok Chakradhar elucidated on the evolution of Hindi language and its intrinsic resonance, remarking, "Just as Lord Krishna's arrival heralds the spring season, the development of Hindi... has been gradual and multifaceted."

Sharmistha Mukherjee, daughter of the late Pranab Mukherjee Former President of India, who has written a book based on her father's diaries, delved on the legacy of her father, in a conversation with Ambassador Sanjiv Arora and Dr Anurita Saxena.

Well known humorist Surinder Sharma regaled the audience with his wit. The others who shared the stage with him were Nilotpal Mrinal, Aash Karan Atal and Ved Parkash Ved.



A session dedicated to women's empowerment saw Ms. Sunaina Sharma, Vibha Rani, and Shilpa Jha discuss the potential and strength of women in society, advocating for a shift in societal mindsets.

In the Session on Shimla: The Authors' Muse with Mr Atul Lal and Mr. Siddharth Pandey talked about the tales of Shimla.

Yuvraj Singh, former Indian cricketer, connected online, engaging cricket enthusiasts in a spirited conversation about the Indian cricket fever. Moderated by Vivek Atray, the session with Amrit Mathur, former Indian Cricket team Manager, Sohail Mathur, cricket writer, proved a big hit.

The fest also delved into diverse subjects ranging from literature to science. Prof. Narender Chimmule led a session on "Genes and Homo sapiens," exploring the intersection of science and creativity.

In a session titled "Thinking outside the cubicle," Jigs Ashar, Ms. Shalini P. Sawkar, and Ms.



Geeta Dua deliberated on innovative approaches to professional life.

The second day of the fest started with an enlightening session titled 'The Rise of Seven Sisters: Transformation of North East India.' Prof. Vipin Pubby, Director of the School of Media and Communications and former Resident Editor of The Indian

Express, moderated a panel discussion featuring author and national BJP spokesperson Mr. Tuhin A. Sinha and Ms. Rami Desai, an anthropologist specialising in North East India.

A culinary extravaganza unfolded in the session 'Dastaan-e-Dastarkhan,' where Masterchef Shipra Khanna and Master Chef Nidhi Sharma shared their exper-

tise. Prof. Ekta Singh and Mr. Neeraj Chaudhury conducted this session, providing insights into the chefs' culinary philosophies and global aspirations.

Poetry took centre-stage with 'Smoked Frames: Poetry from the Heart,' featuring Ms. Indu Negi, Assistant Prof at Shoolini University, in conversation with Dr. Diwakar Goel and Ms.

Rupasa. Renowned poet and motivational speaker, Mr. Diwakar Goel, enthralled the audience with his inspiring words.

The fest delved into the realm of music with 'The Life and Death of a Legend: Sidhu Moosewala,' in conversation with Mr. Jupinderjit Singh and Mrs. Nishtha Shukla Anand, on

the journey of Punjabi music icon Sidhu Moosewala.

Literary enthusiasts were treated to engaging sessions like the book reading session with Ms. Rsvika Tripathi in conversation with Dr. Nasser Dasht Peyma, and Reels to Real: Mindfulness, session featuring actress Shruti Seth. Moderated by Manju Ramamnan, this session provided valuable insights into the importance of mindfulness.

Shruti Seth emphasised the acceptance of failures as part of growth, urging attendees to learn from them.

Recognising literary excellence, three distinguished authors were honored for their contributions to literature and mythology. Dr. Harshali Singh, Siddharth Pandey, and Mona Verma received accolades for their focus on the Himalayas and its rich cultural legacy.

Insightful discussions unfolded on topics such as 'India and China: Can the Twain Meet?' with Prof. Vipin Pubby, author Mr. Shastri Ramachandran and Col. D.S Cheema, and 'Echoes of Valour: The Tales of the Indian Defence Forces' with Mr. Probal Das Gupta, Maj Gen Neeraj Bali and Siddharth Dadhwal.

During the literature fest, an enlightening session titled "Reverence Renewed: Lord Ram - The Icon of Modern India" captivated attendees. Led by Mr. Nilesh Kulkarni, the author of "In the Footsteps of Rama," the session delved into the profound journey that inspired his latest literary venture. In an engaging interview with Dr. Purnima Bali, Kulkarni unveiled the intricacies of his book, providing readers with a meticulous examination of Lord Rama's journey from Ayodhya to Sri Lanka during his vanvasa.

The two day long Shoolini Literature Fest concluded with the realm of Hindi cinema lyrics titled 'Bol Likhe Hai: The Magic of Lyrics in Hindi Cinema.' Led by Mr. Raj Shekhar Jha in conversation with Ashoo Khosla, the session delved into the profound impact of lyrics on the cinematic experience.

Chancellor Prof. P.K Khosla, President of SILB Mrs. Saroj Khosla, Pro Chancellor Mr. Vishal Anand, Director of Innovation and Learning Mr. Ashish Khosla, Chief Learning Officer Mrs. Ashoo Khosla and Trustee of Shoolini University Ms. Nishtha Shukla Anand were among those present at the event.

FROM PAGE 1



Applications open for dual-degree with UoM

Students can choose from diverse multidisciplinary majors in the third and fourth years, including Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Cell and Development Biology, Chemistry, Climate and Weather, Ecosystem Science, Food Science, Geography, Physics

And Plant Science.

Vice Chancellor Prof Atul Khosla said the "collaboration with the University of Melbourne underscores the global standing of Shoolini

University as a world-class institution. Furthermore, it opens the doors to many more opportunities for our students."

As an added advantage, eligible students may opt to extend their studies for an additional year, completing a Master's of Science at the University of Melbourne. Moreover, students who meet the Australian government criteria can apply for post-study work rights upon completion of their studies in Australia.

Director Admissions Avnee Khosla said that only 30 seats

would be available for dual degree admissions this year. She said it was rare and one of the finest opportunities for a high-quality pathway degree program from India to the top ranked University of Melbourne.

Dr Rozy Dhanta, Deputy Director International said fostering collaboration with the University of Melbourne "is not just about building partnerships, but creating bridges of knowledge exchange that transcend borders, enriching both our institutions and the global community."

MoU inked with New Mexico State Univ

SNL TEAM

SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with New Mexico State University (NMSU), USA. This significant partnership aims to enrich the educational experiences and research opportunities for students and faculty members of both universities.

The collaboration was cemented during a recent visit by Prof Manoj Shukla from New Mexico State University to Shoolini University. Prof Shukla's visit was marked by a series of productive discussions with officials from Shoolini University, including the Chancellor Prof P. K Khosla, Prof Ashish Khosla President of Innovation and Technology, Prof R. P. Dwivedi, Director International Affairs, Shoolini University said the partnership opens the door to numerous opportunities in the USA for both students and faculty members of Shoolini University.

A highlight of this partner-

THIS SIGNIFICANT PARTNERSHIP AIMS TO ENRICH THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS OF BOTH UNIVERSITIES.

ship is the agreement in process to launch a one-year professional master's programme at NMSU, tailored specifically for aspiring professionals. The discussions explored potential avenues for joint research initiatives and split PhD programmes, aligning with government regulations, to nurture a global academic community.

Prof R. P. Dwivedi, Director International Affairs, Shoolini University said the partnership opens the door to numerous opportunities in the USA for both students and faculty members of Shoolini University.



Workshop on new criminal laws held

SNL TEAM

THE FACULTY of Legal Sciences at Shoolini University organised a five-day workshop and Faculty Development Program (FDP) on New Criminal Laws.

The initiative was aimed to enrich the understanding of recent amendments and advancements in the criminal law system of India among faculty members, students of law, and professionals.

The workshop was inaugurated in the presence of luminaries from the legal fraternity. Mr Soumesh Goyal, Ex Director General of Police, Himachal Pradesh, was the chief guest for day one. In his inaugural address, Mr. Goyal provided profound insights into the implementation of new criminal laws and the police perspective on the associated challenges.

Dr. Ajay Ranga, Professor at the University Institute of Legal Studies, Punjab

University, was the key speaker for day two. He contributed to the discourse with a thought-provoking lecture on the evolution of criminal laws in India, emphasising the societal benefits and the path ahead.

Adding the more legal aspects to the workshop, the third day's session featured Advocate Dr. Pinky Anand, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, who emphasised the transformative potential of the new criminal legal framework and the importance of adapting our legal system to the challenges of the modern world, including the integration of social media platforms into legal practices.

Dr. Pinky Anand, who is a former Additional Solicitor General of India, was the key speaker for the workshop session. Dr. Pinky further shared her inspirational thoughts on the power of dreams and the role of law as a tool for social justice. Her statement, "If we don't dream, we can't achieve,"

underscored the importance of ambition in achieving social and legal reforms. The workshop also saw the launch of a book titled 'Raising the BAR' written by Dr. Pinky Anand and Saudamini Sharma, marking a significant contribution to the field of legal studies.

Dr. Anand also inaugurated a merchandise stall situated in the Shoolini University Campus.

Pro Chancellor Mr. Vishal Anand expressed his vision for Shoolini University, stating, "Students make this university the No. 1 University in the world. We are diligently working towards becoming a global university."

On the occasion Prof. P K Khosla highlighted the importance of quality over quantity and the need for an educational overhaul starting from the school level and should be inspired by the rich Indian culture.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Nandan Sharma Associate Dean Faculty of Legal Sciences.

Rs 1.07 cr grant for first-of-its-kind E-Yuva Centre

SNL TEAM

SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY has secured a Rs 1.07 crore government grant to establish a first-of-its-kind E-Yuva Centre (EYC) on the campus.

This grant for the first EYC in Himachal Pradesh and adjoining

areas was issued on March 1 by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Department of Biotechnology, Govt of India.

The grant was awarded to Shoolini University after a rigorous evaluation of its proposal and presentation for establishing

E-Yuva Centres (EYCs). The proposal impressed the selection panel, and the grant was secured following recommendations from an expert committee.

The initiative is led by Prof Deepak Kumar from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Shoolini University. He is the

Principal Key Investigator and Project Coordinator.

The EYC scheme, implemented through such dedicated hubs, targets students at various academic levels, including undergraduates, postgraduates, and post-doctoral scholars. It offers two categories of support:

BIRAC's Innovation Fellows for postgraduates and above, and BIRAC's E-Yuva Fellows for undergraduate students.

Shoolini Founder Chancellor Prof PK Khosla congratulated the coordinator, faculty members, and students for this remarkable achievement.



Legitimate demands of farmers must be accepted: Students

From concerns about agricultural reforms to the demands for Minimum Support Price (MSP), students from various academic backgrounds share their insights, shedding light on the challenges faced by farmers and the broader implications for India's agricultural sector. Excerpts :



I oppose the farmer's protest because some of the reasons behind the protest are absurd. I do support their demand of Minimum Support Price. I think it's their right as farmers to want a good income for their hard work. However, some of the demands are unreasonable. The government should not be blamed for the deaths of farmers or their relatives during the recent protests. Instead, efforts should focus on ensuring proper healthcare for all individuals, including those who faced medical issues during the protests.

Amey Sandilya,
BTech. Micro Research



The recent demonstrations by farmers have underscored the significance of agriculture in India's economy and society. It's essential to prioritise the well-being of the millions of individuals who rely on farming for their livelihoods. The government's support is crucial, particularly because farmers often face financial challenges and advocate for debt forgiveness and fair pricing for their produce. Striking the right balance between industry reforms and safeguarding farmers' welfare is vital for the sustainability and long-term growth of the agricultural sector.

Vipin Kumar, BTech. CSE



The ongoing farmers protests show that farmers are still struggling with the same issues. Despite promises of better prices and loan forgiveness, their situation hasn't improved, leading to more protests. It can put pressure on the government and damage its image. Farmers are asking for fair prices and help with their loans because they want to be financially secure. But it's tough for the government to balance the needs of farmers, consumers and the necessity for agricultural reforms.

Shikha Jha, MSc, Biotech



The current protests underscore that the fundamental issues regarding farmers' income and security remain unresolved, prompting questions about the effectiveness of government initiatives. These protests also emphasise the necessity for comprehensive reforms within the agricultural sector. Issues such as escalating debt, inadequate irrigation infrastructure, and fluctuating market prices must be tackled for sustainable improvement.

Purnima,
MSc, Micro Biotech



The protests of 2020-21 succeeded in overturning the controversial farm Acts, yet farmers remain dissatisfied with the government's failure to meet their demands, particularly regarding MSP. This failure underscores the deep-rooted issues within Indian agriculture. Many farmers are burdened by significant debt, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation. Measures such as loan waivers or improved access to credit could alleviate their plight.

Pawan Kalyan,
BJMC, Sem 4



The resurgence of farmer protests may seem repetitive to some, with the perception that farmers are always asking for more. However, it's crucial to recognise the validity of their demands. Unlike many other sectors, farmers have seen little to no increase in their income over the years. Their call for a minimum income is rooted in the necessity to sustain themselves and maintain a basic standard of living. Their legitimate concerns should be addressed.

Bhavna Sharma,
BJMC, Sem 6



The ongoing farmer protests against the three agricultural laws passed by the government since September 2020 deserve serious attention from the nation. These laws, particularly concerning MSP deregulation and fears of corporate exploitation, directly impact farmers' livelihoods. It's crucial for both the government and those dismissing the protests to show empathy and address the legitimate grievances of the farming community.

Ahana Nath,
MJMC, Sem 2



Farmers are demanding MSP for all crops based on the MS Swaminathan Commission's formula. The government proposed offering MSP for five crops over five years through a contract system, but farmers rejected this offer as the government rightly cited limitations under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), which covers only rice and wheat procurement for distribution among the poor, making it unable to guarantee MSP for all crops.

Meghna Thakur,
MAJMC, Sem 6

'Practical lessons outside classroom are equally important'

ANKIT SHARMA

Dean Students Welfare Mrs Poonam Nanda is regarded as the mother figure among students of Shoolini University. In an interview she shared her thoughts on her over a decade long association with the University. Excerpts from the interview:

Do you think students learn more outside the classroom rather than inside the classroom ?
In my view, while academic knowledge obtained inside the classroom is undoubtedly valuable, the practical lessons learned outside the confines of a classroom are equally, if not more, important. While books provide a foundation of theoretical understanding, real-life experiences offer opportunities to apply that knowledge in dynamic and unpredictable situations.

Skills such as decision-making, teamwork, creativity, and empathy are often honed through real-world interactions rather than solely through academic study. For instance, navigating interpersonal dynamics within a team or adapting to unexpected challenges requires a level of adaptability and problem-solving that can only be developed through firsthand experience. Moreover, real-life situations provide context and depth to theoretical concepts, allowing individuals to better grasp their practical implications. While academic learning provides a structured approach to acquiring knowledge, it is the application of that knowledge in real-world scenarios that solidifies understanding and fosters personal growth. In essence, while both classroom learning and real-life experiences are valuable in their own right, it is the combination of the two that enables individuals to truly flourish and succeed in today's complex and dynamic world.

What kind of extra curricular activities are organised in the university?
The management team at Shoolini University plays a pivotal role in orchestrating a wide array of events and activities. With over 11 years of experience at the institution, I've witnessed significant improvements in the organisation and execution of cultural events. Currently, we host four festivals combined into one major event called Moksh, allowing students ample opportunities to participate and attend seminars aligned with their inter-

ests. This comprehensive approach ensures that students can engage in activities beyond their academic pursuits. For instance, those not inclined towards cultural events can explore literature or technology seminars, while others can immerse themselves in nature-themed activities like the flower festival. Additionally, initiatives are undertaken to cater to diverse interests and needs, such as incorporating child-friendly activities and commemorating special occasions like International Women's Day with engaging and interactive events instead of traditional lectures. Through strategic planning and coordination, Shoolini University's management team fosters an inclusive and enriching environment where students can not only excel academically but also explore their passions and broaden their horizons through various extracurricular activities and events.

Competitions also at times lead to demotivation. How should one deal with it?

Yes it's common for people to experience feelings of demotivation and self-doubt, especially when faced with competition. Success and failure are natural aspects of life, yet while people often embrace success readily, they struggle with accepting failure. At Shoolini University, we strive to mitigate these feelings by providing opportunities for everyone to participate. For instance, through initiatives like the sprint programme, we encourage those with stage fright to overcome their fears and take the stage. However, in larger events like Moksh, not everyone may have the chance to participate due to the competitive nature of the program. It's crucial for individuals to understand that not every opportunity will be within reach, but they should view failure as a stepping stone toward growth and improvement. By accepting failure as part of the journey, individuals can use it as motivation to return stronger and more resilient. At Shoolini, we emphasise the importance of perseverance and learning from setbacks, ultimately empowering individuals to overcome challenges and thrive in the face of competition.

Are the students showing greater interest in extra curricular activities than in the past?

It is true that earlier students were not much inclined for such activities. However, in recent times, there has been a notable shift in attitudes towards these activi-



ties, with students showing a greater interest and eagerness to engage. This transformation can be attributed to several factors.

Firstly, the demographic makeup of the student body has changed over the years. Initially, the university primarily enrolled students from Himachal Pradesh, but now it attracts students from all across the country and even international students. This influx of diverse talent has contributed to a richer pool of skills and interests among the student community. Moreover, advancements in technology, particularly the widespread availability of online resources like YouTube, have democratised access to learning various skills such as dance, singing, and acting. Unlike before when students had to invest significant amounts of money to acquire such skills, nowadays they can learn for free or at minimal cost through online platforms. This accessibility has empowered students to explore their interests and develop their talents independently. Additionally, the exposure to a wider range of opportunities and experiences has played a crucial role in shaping students' attitudes towards extracurricular activities. As students interact with peers from diverse backgrounds and engage in a variety of cultural and recreational activities, they become more inclined to participate and contribute to the vibrant campus community. Overall, the evolving demographics, technological

advancements, and increased exposure to diverse experiences have collectively contributed to the growing enthusiasm for extracurricular activities among students at Shoolini University.

How can a student approach you or any counsellor if they need guidance ?

Students can approach me for guidance or support at any time. While I may not be a professional counsellor, I am available to lend a listening ear and provide advice based on my own life experiences. My office door is always open, and students are welcome to drop by whenever they need someone to talk to. I strive to create a non-judgmental space where students feel comfortable sharing their concerns, and I am committed to helping them find solutions to their problems. Additionally, our university has professional counselors available in the psychology department who are trained to provide support and guidance to students. These counselors offer confidential sessions free of cost, and students can schedule appointments to discuss any issues they may be facing. They are approachable and dedicated to helping students navigate through challenges and overcome obstacles in their lives.

Any suggestions you would like to give to the youth ?

The prevalence of technology in the lives of today's youth has indeed altered the dynamics of human connections. Many of us, myself included, find ourselves constantly drawn to our devices, even in the presence of loved ones. This phenomenon can lead to a sense of disconnection and detachment from real-life interactions.

Recognizing this issue, I've personally made efforts to reduce my dependency on technology during personal time, ensuring that I prioritise genuine human connections over digital distractions. Many students at our university share similar sentiments, as observed when groups of friends gather yet remain engrossed in their phones.

While there's speculation about AI potentially replacing teachers in the future, I firmly believe that the essence of human connection cannot be replicated by machines. While AI may have its place in education, the role of a teacher extends far beyond the dissemination of information. Teachers offer mentorship, guidance, and emotional support that are deeply rooted in human empathy and under-

standing.

Even if robotic teachers were to become a reality, the irreplaceable value of human connections in education cannot be overstated. The ability to empathise, inspire, and forge meaningful relationships with students is a unique trait of human educators that cannot be replicated by AI. Thus, while technology may continue to advance, the fundamental importance of human connection in education and beyond remains steadfast.

Nowadays people are afraid of judgement how to deal with it ?

Dealing with the fear of judgment can be challenging, but it's essential to adopt a healthy mindset to overcome it. Firstly, it's crucial to understand the distinction between criticism and feedback. Constructive feedback from genuine sources can provide valuable insights for improvement, and it's essential to focus on such feedback to grow personally and professionally. However, it's also important to recognize that not all criticism is constructive. Some people may criticize simply out of spite or negativity, and it's essential to learn to differentiate between genuine feedback and baseless criticism. In such cases, it's best to ignore the negative comments and not let them affect your self-esteem or confidence. It's also important to acknowledge that everyone faces judgment to some extent, regardless of where they are or what they do. As the saying goes, "In every institute or place in the world, you will always find PhDs - Pull Him Down and Pull Her Down people." Understanding this reality can help put judgment into perspective and reduce its impact on your life. Moreover, focusing on aspects of your life that you can control and improve upon is crucial. While some aspects, like physical appearance, may be beyond your control, you can always work on developing your skills, pursuing your passions, and achieving your goals. Embracing what you love and focusing on your personal and professional growth can help build confidence and resilience in the face of judgment. Ultimately, it's essential to prioritize your own well-being and aspirations over the opinions of others. Rather than dwelling on judgment, focus on your own journey and continue striving towards your dreams and ambitions. Remember, people will always judge, but it's your response to that judgment that truly matters.



A Mother Teresa in the making from Harare

ACROSS THE BORDER



SHANELLE CHIWANZA hails from Harare, the capital city of Zimbabwe, where she was born and raised. She is currently in her first year, pursuing B. Tech in Computer Science and Engineering at Shoolini University. She com-

pleted her high school from Zimbabwe itself.

Shanelle is an enthusiastic communicator who actively engages with people. Her desire to connect with people reflects her in passion for public speaking. And beyond her verbal prowess, she also finds joy in the written word, spending her leisure time immersed in books and expressing her creativity through poetry. Her top recommendation for others to read is "Beloved" by Toni Morrison, a book she cherishes deeply.

Upon her sister's recommendation, she enrolled at Shoolini University. Shanelle appreciates

SHANELLE APPRECIATES THE TRANQUILLITY, BEAUTY, AND SERENITY OF SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY. SHE ALSO FINDS JOY IN EXPLORING THE PEACEFUL SURROUNDINGS, INDULGING IN HIKES, AND DISCOVERING NEW PLACES.

the tranquillity, beauty, and serenity of Shoolini University. She also finds joy in exploring the peaceful surroundings, indulging in hikes, and discovering new places. In her recent exploration, Shanelle and her friends landed in Shiv Dhar, a visit that quickly became one of her cherished experiences. Despite the captivating atmo-

sphere at Shoolini, Shanelle does miss the simple pleasures of her homeland, particularly spending time with friends at the kid's park. She longs for meaningful conversations in her native language and craves the comfort of home-cooked meals, especially relishing the taste of home-made dishes with meat.

But even with that, she often finds solace in the company of her African community as she spends most of her time with them. Over the time, Shanelle has formed numerous new friendships, one being Jessica, who became one of her closest companions. Eager to expand her social circle, she looks forward to making more friends.

Among the faculty at Shoolini, Maya Taba, her practical teacher, stands out to be Shanelle's favourite. With her being very gentle in her approach to handling students and appreciative of the nurtur-

ing environment she creates in the classroom, she looks forward to learning more from her in the coming days.

Shanelle holds immense love for Jesus Christ, and every morning she wakes up with the belief that someone is supporting and rooting for her despite of her being far from home.

Harbouring profound compassion for underprivileged children, she envisions herself as the future Mother Teresa in the years to come. Her aspiration is to contribute to improve the lives of street kids, aspiring to create a better and more hopeful future for them.

A psychological journey to Himalayas to find solace



SANGEETA KAKKAR*

My passion is to understand the human mind and behaviour and so I decided to pursue a career in psychology. Solan district, with its serene surroundings and tranquil atmosphere where Shoolini University is located, seemed like the perfect place for me to embark on this new chapter of my life.

Solan, a lovely hill station in the state of Himachal Pradesh, has always been on my travel bucket list. So, when I finally got the chance to visit this picturesque town, I was brimming with excitement. As a first-time traveler to Solan, I had a lot of questions and concerns. But after my trip, I can confidently say that it was the best experience of my life.

The journey to Solan was an adventure in itself. The cool breeze and the fresh air were a welcome change from the hustle and bustle of the city. The journey took around 8 hours from Delhi, and I reached Solan in the morning.

The sun shone brightly over the Solan Valley as I stepped out of my car. I had come to take admission for my PhD in Psychology, and I could feel a mixture of excitement and trepidation. Because, of my close

personal loss, a hard time in my life, and then a determined effort to make a life for myself, I was finally here.

A day after my arrival in the town, I visited the Shoolini Mata temple which is located on a hilltop and offers a stunning view of the town.

The natural beauty of Solan played a significant role in healing my soul. The lush green valleys, majestic mountains, and soothing waterfalls provided a much-needed respite from the chaos and stress of daily life. I would often find myself sitting by a stream, listen-

THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF SOLAN PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN HEALING MY SOUL.



ing to the sound of flowing water and letting go of all my worries. Nature has a unique way of rejuvenating the mind.

I distinctly remember the day when I received a call from Shoolini University offering me a position as an Assistant Professor. I was overjoyed! My family felt so proud of me and it is only with their support, I am here. I felt a sense of accomplishment.

Although I was happy and content, I still had moments when I was stuck in the past. I was thankful this place had given me a new start and a fresh perspective. I had chosen to explore the Taste of the Mountains and I was glad I had made the right decision.

The mountains, the fresh air, and the peaceful ambience – all helped me to find solace in my new life. I made friends in Solan who gave me the courage and support I looked for to move on. The lessons I learned and the experiences I had allowed me to realize that it was possible to live a happy life, even after facing such adversity.

Living in Solan provided me with countless opportunities for personal growth. Whether it was participating in community service initiatives, attending workshops and seminars, or engaging in profound talks with fellow scholars, Solan became the catalyst for my self-discovery and self-improvement. The town's serene environment and the support from its residents created the perfect space for me to heal and grow.

My experience has shown that it is never too late to start fresh and to make something of my life. I am grateful for the Taste of the Mountains that Solan has given me and the beauty it has brought to my life.

*(The writer is Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology)



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Glimpses from Spring Fest



Talent on display at Moksh-2024

GAUTAM SUKHIIJA

SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY'S flagship variety event for students, Moksh, unfolded over three dazzling days from March 15 captivating audiences with its spectacle of talent and celebrations.

Moksh-2024 kicked off with a myriad of events and enthralling performances by Harmony of Pines and the esteemed Police Band from Himachal Pradesh, setting the stage for the festivities to come.

As the festivities continued into the second day, students took centre stage, showcasing the remarkable talent from various colleges. Adhikala, the prestigious inter-college competition, saw Degree College Solan emerge victorious in the Nati competition, while Ahana Nath's melodious voice secured her the top spot in the singing competition. Sneha Tomar's mastery of folk art and Denenson's skillful sketches earned them well-deserved recognition. Additionally, the Women of Substance awards celebrated the contributions of Vidya and Hasiba, highlighting their outstanding achievements. The evening reached a crescendo with a mesmerizing performance by Bollywood playback singer Shahid Mallya, leaving the audience spellbound with his soulful melodies.

On the final day of Moksh, the spotlight shone brightly on the students and teachers who had dedicated their time and efforts to make the event a success. DSW Poonam Nanda felicitated them for their invaluable contributions, while Adhikala winners were honoured with trophies, adding to the pride and joy of their respective colleges.

The event concluded on a high note with standout performances by stand-up comedian Rahul Dua and the electrifying Aerreo EDM band, leaving attendees with memories to cherish for years to come.

Inaugural Tech Fest 'Glitch' proves to be a grand success

SALONI VERMA

The inaugural 'Glitch' - a science and technology festival - was a significant part of the Shoolini SpringFest 2024.

'Glitch' aimed to encourage a culture of technological excellence and kindle the spirit of invention among the students by hosting a wide variety of events. Four main events that attracted participants from different academic areas were Robowars, Hackathon, eSports, and Capture the Flag (CTF) at the festival.

'Glitch' was conceived by two creative students, Vikas Chauhan from B.Tech CSE and Khushi Pandey from B.Sc. Food Technology.

There were 17 teams competing in the eSports event, which was a massive multiplayer gaming spectacle. The winning team, along with the runners-up and second runners-up, secured a portion of the Rs 25,000 prize pool amid heated rivalry, showcasing the intense gameplay and expertise on exhibit.

In the meantime, technical expertise of four competing teams was on display at Metal Mayhem, a Robowars spectacle hosted in the G and H blocks.



The winners and runner-up received substantial rewards, highlighting the event's high-stakes action-packed bouts and technical brilliance.

Over 90 computer programmers came together for a code-fest called the Hackathon, which served as a forum for creativity and teamwork. The best participants received a share of the 25,000 rupee prize pool as they demonstrated their coding prowess by solving real-world issue statements.

Capture the Flag (CTF), a cybersecurity game, tested 170 participants' skills and knowledge by asking them to find concealed words in programs that were susceptible to attack. The runner-up and the winners received the appropriate recognition for their knowledge and analytical abilities, solidifying the standing of 'Glitch' as a place for intellectual development.

'Glitch' was a model of the collaborative spirit and academic rigor that are synonymous with Shoolini University. It was led by Mr. Ashish Khosla, Director of Innovation, and supported by Drs. Brij Bushan Sharma, Pankaj Vaidya, Anurag Rana, and Gaurav Gupta, as well as Professors Nitesh Sharma and Piyush Sewal and other distinguished faculty coordinators.

Riot of colours at Flowerfest

ARISHA GHAZAL

THE BASKETBALL courts in the university campus turned into a riot of colours as the traditional and well-known Shoolini FlowerFest brimmed with a wide variety of flowers and plants.

The FlowerFest, which was part of the Shoolini SpringFest, saw a collection of more than a hundred best varieties of flowers which could be grown in the Solan region.

The exhibition included 50 to 60 varieties of annual flowering species like dog flower, ballis, begonias, pansy and pitunia grown in various designed flower pots.

Some of the special preennial varieties which were centre of attraction included calla lilly, lillium ranunkulas and azelias.

On display were also pots created from wastage materials which were appreciated by lots by visitors.

More than a thousand people visited in the Flowerfest, according to Suresh, deputy director (operations), who had organised the Flowerfest.

Visitors were captivated by the beautiful wooden handicrafts and fountain peices. The university also provided opportunities to students from nearby schools to visit the flowerfest.



The visitors could also take home handmade paintings with beautiful colors, wooden flower pots with intricate design, providing insights into the diverse flora native to the region.

The Flower Fest not only added charm to the campus but also nurtured a spirit of creativity and enthusiasm among the young participants.