Vol. 6 | Issue: 3

Journey from Arunachal to Himachal nursing a dream

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Learning among books at Penguin **Random House** – Page 3

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

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Shoolini researcher discovers new insect species

Modus Operandi: Simple pitfall traps in Himri and Nankhari villages, utilising overnight-buried plastic cups.

SNL TEAM

by the Government of India. SHIVANI DEVI, a PhD student from the Faculty of Science at genus and species of 'harvest-Shoolini University, under the men', a remarkable addition to mentorship of Prof JM Julka, the scientific community's has made a groundbreaking disunderstanding of these unique covery in the field of arachnolcreatures. 'Harvestmen', comogy. Hailing from Una in monly mistaken for spiders, are Himachal Pradesh, she was suppart of the order Opiliones. They ported by the National Mission are often referred to as "daddyon Himalayan Studies (NMHS) longlegs" in the United States, of the Ministry of Environment, which can lead to confusion with Forest and Climate Change. This cellar spiders. However, these



newly discovered species stand out for their distinctive characteristics This discovery not only adds

to the biodiversity of the region but also highlights the potential for further scientific exploration.

The research conducted by Shivani Devi and Prof Julka showcases the rich and diverse ecosystem, waiting to be explored and understood. What sparked this remarkable

discovery? The journey began

with a mission that went beyond mere curiosity - it was a mission of conservation. The discovery emerged from a larger project named 'Returning Taxus to the Forests and the People: A Study in Shimla and Kullu Districts of the Indian Himalayan Region', funded by the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS). This project aimed to investigate the invertebrates and soil fauna associated with Taxus contorta, also known as the West Himalayan Yew, an endangered tree species in the region.

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The research was conducted in the villages of Himri and Nankhari in Shimla district,

where pitfall traps were employed to collect arthropods. These traps, made of plastic cups buried in the soil and filled with a soap solution, were left out for 24 hours to capture specimens.

Upon initial collection, the newly discovered 'harvestmen' species was suspected to be unique. To confirm this, samples were sent to Jochen Martens, a German zoologist, for examination. His analysis confirmed that the specimen represented a new genus and species of 'harvestmen' from the temperate Himalayas

The newly discovered genus and species was named

'Himachalus Pradeshicus' in honour of Himachal Pradesh, the Indian state where it was found. This significant finding was published in a renowned Swiss journal, contributing to our understanding of the Himalayan region's biodiversity.

Shivani Devi said, "Tapping into the vast biodiversity of the Himalayas to discover 'Himachalus Pradeshicus' has been thrilling. This will enhance our understanding of the unique environments. I'm grateful for the unwavering support and resources provided by Shoolini University, which made this research possible."

Shoolini University ranks among the world's best for three

subjects in the QS World University Rankings 2024.

Shoolini outshines in sciences : QS World **Rankings 2024**

SAPNA MAURYA

noolini University has once again affirmed its \bigcup position as a beacon of academic excellence, securing prestigious ranks in the latest edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024

The University has been named as one of the world's top universities for the study of three subjects in the latest edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject.

It has been ranked in the 401–450 band in Environmental Sciences globally and number one private university in India (13th overall), 551-600 in Chemistry globally, number five joint private university in India (22nd joint overall), and 601-650 in Biological Sciences globally, and number five joint private university in India (18th education in environmental sciences, chemistry, and biological sciences"

Prof. Atul Khosla, Vice Chancellor, Shoolini University, said, that he was "proud of our institution's exceptional performance in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024. The remarkable achievements in environmental sciences, chemistry, and biological sciences underscore our unwavering commitment to sustainability, environment, water and

energy" The QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024 provides an independent assessment of over 16,400 university programs across 55 academic disciplines and five faculty areas, offering invaluable insights into the global landscape of higher education.

QS utilises a comprehensive set of metrics, including reputation indicators, citations per paper, and H-Index, to compile the rankings, ensuring a rigorous and transparent evaluation process.



A cultural event, 'Unity in Diversity', by students from the North East, proved to be a big hit. It was PIC BY: PREM BHATTI organised by Dean Students Welfare Office

MoU inked with UK univ

RIYA JHA

SHOOLINI University and the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, United Kingdom, officially stamped their commitment to academic collaboration through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU, signed a significant step towards direct engagement and cooperation between the two institutions.

Under the terms of the MOU, both universities pledge to encourage exchange and collaboration among faculty, administrative staff, and research institutions.

The agreement outlines various avenues for cooperation, including student exchange programs, staff and graduate student visits for research and teaching, joint research initiatives, and hosting

joint conferences or symposia on topics of mutual interest.

This collaboration between Shoolini University and the University of Newcastle represents a shared commitment to academic excellence and global engagement.

Through joint efforts in research, teaching, and student

SILB celebrates 21st foundation day

DEEKSHA

SHOOLINI INSTITUTE of Life Sciences and Business Management (SILB) celebrated its 21st foundation day with great enthusiasm and pride on the Baisakhi day. The foundation day was celebrated with a series of events over three days, beginning with a Havan ceremony attended by all foundation members and other visitors. followed by the opening of the House Plant Festival.

Master Chef India Season 8 and Mrs. Neerja Sharma who works as a District Revenue

Officer. The House Plants festival featured a unique collection of over 100 indoor plants, including exotics, palms, succulents,

THE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN NAMED AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOP **UNIVERSITIES FOR THE STUDY OF THREE** SUBJECTS IN THE LATEST EDITION OF THE QS WORLD **UNIVERSITY RANKINGS**

> BY SUBJECT. while chemistry is listed for the second time, climbing rank from

601-630 to 551-600. Chancellor Shoolini University, Prof. P.K. Khosla, said this remarkable achievement is the result of the hard work put in by "our faculty, researchers, and students, who continually strive for excellence in their respective fields.



radical work was commissioned

Shivani has identified a new

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by Prof. Atul Khosla, Vice Chancellor of Shoolini University and Professor Chris Day, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, marks

exchange, both institutions aim to create meaningful opportunities for learning and innovation while fostering crosscultural understanding and collaboration.



Later SILB students participated in cultural activities, including the major attraction, "Shaam-e-Ghazal."

On the second day of the celebrations, an alumni meet was held to greet and celebrate SILB graduates. SILB alumni have made their mark at the national and international levels. These include Dr. Lokender Kumar who is a well-known physicist; Nidhi Sharma who was a finalist on

bonsai, terrariums, and grooming scent plants that can be cultivated in pots anywhere in the home

The festival also included carved and driftwood, wood painting, stone paint, and bamboo artwork, as well as food stalls for visitors' conve-

nience SILB, founded in 2004 by Mrs. Saroj Khosla, Prof. PK Khosla, Mr. Ramesh Mehan, Mr. Satish Anand, Mr. Ashok Anand, Mr. Vishal Anand, Prof. Atul Khosla, Mr. Ashish Khosla, Mrs. Manorma Anand, and Mr. Gagan Anand, has gone a long way over the last two decades.

Continued on Page 2

This innovative product, developed by Dr Brij Bhushan Sharma, promises to reduce accidents and save lives, positioning the university at the forefront of public safety research

Game-changing tech to detect drunk drivers



BHAVNA SHARMA

IN AN innovative stride toward enhancing road safety, Dr Brij Bhushan Sharma of Shoolini University has developed and patented a state-of-the-art drunken driver detection system. This groundbreaking technology, which utilises an Arduino Uno R3 microcontroller and an MQ-3 gas sensor module, is designed to detect alcohol levels near the

driver and provide immediate alerts through LED indicators.

Despite rigorous laws and periodic police checks, the menace of drunk driving continues to escalate, contributing to 41 per cent of traffic-related fatalities, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Traditional methods of detection, which often involve manual checks or medical examinations, have proved insufficient in effectively curbing this dangerous

behaviour. Dr Sharma's system offers a

proactive solution by automatically detecting alcohol concentrations of 1000ppm or higher around the driver. Once detected, the sensor's output triggers the Arduino controller, which activates an LED light indication, signalling that the driver may be under the influence of alcohol

Technology Lowdown on Road Safety

Developer: Dr Brij Bhushan **Technology Overview:**

safety

This patented system uses an Arduino Uno R3 microcontroller and MQ-3 gas sensor to detect alcohol levels around the driver, with LED alerts for high concentrations (1000ppm or more).

Impact on Road Safety: It aims to reduce drunk driving incidents by providing automatic and immediate detection of alcohol levels, offering a proactive approach to enhancing road torina

Support from Shoolini: The University champions this innovation in automotive safety, reflecting a commitment to turning academic research into valuable real-world applications.

The inspiration for this device struck Dr Sharma during a routine drive, where he encountered a police checkpoint. Observing

the inefficiencies of the manual checking process, he envisioned a built-in vehicle system that could streamline the detection

process, thereby enhancing efficiency and reducing roadblocks. "This system is designed not

just to detect but also to alert surrounding road users, thereby acting as a deterrent to drunk driving," stated Dr Sharma. With no existing products in the market, this invention could revolutionise how vehicle safety and driver sobriety are monitored, potentially saving countless lives and enhancing road safety standards globally.

The university distinguishes itself through remarkable contributions to research and development in India. The university's innovative 'One Student One Patent' policy has led to over 1,500 patents filed, positioning it as the third highest patent filer in the nation. This is supported by its 11 Centres of Excellence, which focus on vital areas such as nanotechnology, OMICS, and biodiversity research.

joint overall).

Shoolini University has made its debut in two more subjects this year, that is, environmental sciences and biological sciences,

Pro Chancellor Mr. Vishal Anand said "our faculty, researchers, and students are putting great efforts and hard work in advancing research and





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alcohol checks at police roadblocks Unique Feature: This system detects and alerts surrounding drivers, acting as a deterrent to drunk driving

Inspiration for Invention:

Dr Sharma was inspired to devel-

op this technology after observ-

ing the inefficiencies in manual

Market Gap: There are no existing products with similar capabilities which present a potential revolution in vehicle safety and driver sobriety moni-

'Critical thinking vital for overall development'

SAPNA MAURYA

s a part of our series PrincipalSpeaks, we interviewed Dr. Kunal Anand, Principal of Delhi Public School, Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir, on his views on the state of education in the country. Excerpts from the interview:

Please tell me about your academic journey and about your school

My academic journey has been different from others. I come from a corporate background and have pursued a Master's in Mass Communication and Economic Honours from Delhi University. I began my career as a banker with American Express Bank. Throughout my journey, I've been deeply passionate about training, learning new educational ideas, and understanding education at its core. After nearly five to six years working in the corporate sector, I joined Lee College, London as an associate. That was my initial exposure to the field of education, and it sparked my interest in enhancing education in our country. Before joining my current school, I worked at an IB board school, and then in 2018, I became the principal of my present school, Delhi Public School,

Udhampur branch

DPS stands as a leading brand both nationally and internationally, operating under the Delhi Public School Society in New Delhi. Top-notch education, with the growth of students, teachers, administrative staff, infrastructure, and facilities, is our priority. At our institution, we aim to cultivate a unique experience for every child. Our motto, "Success becomes a habit," embodies our commitment to nurturing each child's success in their respective domains. Beyond academics, we focus on the development of skill

sets, aligning closely with the new

education policy's principles. What are your views on the future of online education? Online education is currently the most revolutionary concept, particularly in the wake of COVID-19. What was once a distant dream has now become a breathproblems effectively. taking reality. The future of online education in India and globally appears incredibly promising, offering unparalleled flexibility in study hours and course comple-

tion. As a principal, I've personally benefited from online courses, enabling skill development within my time constraints. The emergence of hybrid learning signifies a significant shift in educational

paradigms, emphasising practical understanding over rote learning. Online education streamlines the learning process, making it more convenient, efficient, and accessible.

What according to you, is one thing that students should focus on in schools but they don't notice its importance? Critical thinking is often overlooked by students, yet it's essential for their overall development. While memorisation aids exam performance, the ability to think critically is vital for problem-solving, decision-making, and lifelong learning. Encouraging students to question, analyse, and evaluate information enhances not only academic performance but also prepares them for success in their careers and personal lives. Critical thinking is perhaps the most crucial tool for solving a myriad of

What according to you is the biggest challenge to a fully educated India?

One of the greatest challenges to achieving comprehensive education in India is ensuring equal access to quality education across all segments of society. Disparities in educational opportunities persist due to factors such as socio-

PRINCIPALSPEAKS

Dr Kunal Anand, Principal, **Delhi Public School,** Udhampur, J&K

economic status, gender, geography, and caste. Addressing these inequalities demands comprehensive efforts, including improving infrastructure, enhancing teacher training and recruitment, refining educational policies, and implementing affirmative action programmes. Addressing issues like child labour, early marriage, and cultural biases against education for certain groups is crucial for ensuring that every individual in India has the opportunity to receive a complete education.

Are you satisfied with the current education system in India? In my opinion, assessing the level of satisfaction with the current education system in India is a complex task that varies depending on different perspectives and experiences. From my standpoint, there are mixed opinions regarding the current state of the education system in India. While some individuals are content with the progress made in recent years, I believe that significant reforms are still needed to address systemic issues. These issues include the quality of education, disparities in access, outdated curricula, and

inadequate teacher training. Overall, I believe that the education system in India has made strides, but there is still much room for improvement. It's essential to ensure that the system meets the diverse needs of learners and effectively prepares them for the challenges of the modern world.

Is RTE a good policy? What other reforms would you suggest to improve the education system in India?

Improving the education system in India requires comprehensive reforms across various areas Some key reforms that could enhance the quality and accessi-

bility of education are Curriculum Revision, which includes, updating the curriculum to make it more relevant, modern, and aligned with 21st-century needs. This includes integrating critical thinking, problem-solving, digital literacy, and practical skills. Teacher Training and Professional Development which includes providing continuous training opportunities for teachers to enhance their pedagogical skills, subject knowledge, and classroom management techniques and Equitable Access, implementing measures to ensure equal access to education for all segments of society. This may involve improving transportation networks, providing scholarships, and addressing socioeconomic barriers.

Do you think government should exercise control over private schools?

In my opinion, while the government should ensure that private schools adhere to certain standards and regulations to maintain quality education, excessive control may hinder innovation and flexibility within these institutions. Striking a balance is crucial, where the government provides oversight to ensure accountability and equity while allowing private schools the

Journey from Arunachal to

enced by recommendations

from friends and her own

ration. She finds solace and

enrichment in books, where

she can delve into various sub-

jects and immerse herself in

different worlds. She likes

cive to focused study.

autonomy to implement diverse educational approaches and cater to specific needs. This approach fosters a healthy educational ecosystem where both public and private schools can thrive, ultimately benefiting students and society.

Would you like to make any other point regarding school education in India?

School education in India presents a diverse landscape with both strengths and challenges Significant strides have been made to improve access, including efforts to increase enrolment rates and reduce gender disparities. However, concerns persist regarding the quality of education. Issues such as inadequate infrastructure, teacher shortages, outdated teaching methods, and opportunity disparities prevail, particularly in rural and economically disadvantaged areas. Efforts to address these challenges include initiatives to improve teacher training, upgrade infrastructure, and revise the curriculum to align with 21st-century skills. Integration of technology and promotion of experiential learning aims to enhance education quality and prepare students better for the future.



Two-day Principals' Conclave-2024 organised in the campus

SNL TEAM

SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY organised a two-day school Principals'Conclave in the campus which was over 30 principals

Chairperson of the Foundation of Life Sciences and Business Management, Mrs. Saroj Khosla congratulated the Principals for making the 2-day certification programme a great

Principal JK Public School, Kunjwani Jammu; Maria Swati, Principal Carmel Convent School, Jammu; Vivek Arora, Principal DPS Kathua; Vikram Handa, Director Tiny Tots Hr

School, Udhampur; Seema Sambyal, Vice Principal Holy Presentation Convent School, Kathua: Meenakshi Jamwal. Principal DAC Collegiate Sr Sec School, Kathua; Arun Sharma, Principal Shivalik Heights Public School; Mahi Paul Sharma, Principal Minerva Public School; Sheetal Sharma, Minerva Public School; Rajesh Sharma, Principal JK Police Public School; Neeraj Mohan Puri, Principal Modern Sandeepani School; Romila Chand, St Thomas Sr Sec School; Vinita Mahajan, JK International School; Preety, Air Force School; Adamya, JK Kids; Anugrahika, JK Public Hr Sec School.

'Her Story, Her Health' workshop organised

SNL TEAM

SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY took a step forward in breaking societal taboos surrounding women's health by organising a workshop titled "Her Story, Her Health: Tackling Menstrual Wellness, UTIs, and Mental Wellbeing Together".

The workshop was organised in collaboration with the women empowerment organisation 'Lajja'.

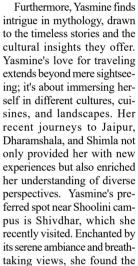
The workshop, facilitated by 'Lajja', featured panel comprising Disha Sareen, co-founder at Lajja and founder of Hyper Lab (AI), Aastha Sharma, managing director at Lajja and a seasoned Australian registered nurse,

Dr. Piyush Juneja, an Avurvedic medicine practitioner with 17 years of experience and Shreya Batra, an Australian registered psychologist. Each pan-



YASMINE LONKU harbours a strong aspiration to establish her own mental health clinic in the future, envisioning a space where she can offer support to both children and adults. Her passion lies in addressing their psychological well-being, nurturing a dream of creating an environment where individuals of all ages can find solace and support in their journey towards mental wellness.

Born and raised in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, Yasmine



research on the Internet. She was attracted to Shoolini's tranexperience truly captivating. She dedicates most of her quil atmosphere and smaller time to reading, with her top student population, as she sought an environment condupick being "Fire and Blood" by George RR Martin. Fyodor Yasmine possesses a wide Dostoyevsky is her favourite array of interests, reflecting her author. Also in her leisure time, curiosity and passion for explo-Yasmine finds joy in watching

of the leading institutions of Jammu and Kashmir participated.

The two-day Certification programme for Directors/ School Principals was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Atul Khosla by highlighting the research based education introduced in the University. Prof Khosla appreciated the active participation of the principals of reputed institutions in coming forward to understand the concept-based research programmes introduced for various courses available in the university. He said new initiatives at Shoolini include partnerships with industry and top global universities, starting new innovative academic programmes, transforming a traditional system to new methodologies of pedagogy, initiating a skillsbased curriculum and building one of India's most dynamic and cutting-edge education technology platforms.

Prof. PK khosla, Chancellor Shoolini University showcased the journey of the university. success and purposeful. Setting the context Ms Avnee

Khosla, Vice President, Shoolini University the 2-day certification programme was aimed at making the learning of various session interactive. She added that Shoolini

Sec School, Sainik Colony, Jammu; Rajesh Sharma, Principal Sun Shine Public School, R S Pura: K D Khajuria. Principal NP Brilliant School, Bishnah; Raj Kumar Verma, Principal DPS Nagbani; Naresh Kumar, Principal Learning

REINVENTING EDUCATION THROUGH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FORTE OF THE UNIVERSITY : **CHANCELLOR PROF P K KHOSLA**

University since its inception in 2009 has become a wellrecognised name in research, student output and innovation.

School: Vikrant Sharma, The principals who attended Principal Shastri Public School: the conclave were Ritesh Kapoor, Director A.S.N.Hr.Sec. Riti Prakash Singh, Principal Nav Adarsh Hr Sec School. School, Channi Himmat; Manmet Kour, Vice Principal Kathua: Madan Mohan Sharma, APS Jammu Cantt; Girish Principal Nav Jagriti Niketan Hr Kumar, Principal Jodhamal Sec School, Kathua; Pooja Public School Jammu; Akash Rajput, Vice Principal Blooming Dale Public School, Jammu; G Pradhan, Principal Heritage School, Jammu; Amarendra N Var, President Private Schools Mishra, Principal K C Public Association Kashmir; Anju Jain, School; Rajesh Rathore, Principal JK Public Hr Sec

Various sessions were con-Temple School Kathua; G R ducted for the two-day certifica-Mehta, Principal Kailash tion programme. These includ-Shiksha Academy; Ankur Arora, ed Innovative teaching and Principal Vir Savarkar Hr Sec learning by Prof Munish Sehrawat and Summit Research programme on biotechnology by Dr Saurabh Kulshreshtha. The programme included a visit of the campus, RC Oswal Nano lab, Food testing lab, Patent wall, Multi-floor Library made on European concept, Temple, Tree plantation campaign inside the campus by the Principals was followed by Gala dinner. The two day certification pro-

ellist brought a unique perspective and wealth of experience to the discussion, enriching the dialogue on menstrual wellness, UTIs, and mental wellbeing.

Aastha Sharma, with her 8 years of nursing school experience, shed light on the integration of physical and mental health, emphasising women's well-being across diverse cultural contexts.

FROM PAGE 1 **SILB celebrates**

Mrs. Saroi Khosla, chairperson SILB, shared the proud tale of the organisation's inception and acknowledged all of its founders. She complimented all the students and staff for their extraordinary contributions and support over the past 20 years. She also acknowledged the staff and professors for completing 20 years of service at SILB. Dr. Shalini Sharma, Director

is a diligent psychology student. She completed her schooling in Nirjuli, Arunachal Pradesh, and pursued her bachelor's degree at Modi University of Science and

Technology in Rajasthan. Currently in her first year, Yasmine is pursuing a master's degree in Clinical Psychology. Her decision to go for Shoolini University was influ-

of the Institute, presented vote

of thanks and congratulated all

the founders, organising com-

mittees, and student volunteers

for the successful conduct of the

SILB is approved by AICTE

and affiliated with Himachal

Pradesh University and offers

courses in MSc Botany, MSc

Chemistry, MSc Microbiology,

MSc Biotechnology, BSc

event

going for adventures, constantly seeking out new places to discover and experience. Her fascination with archaeology speaks of her appreciation for history and the tangible remnants of ancient civilisations.

movies and web series. Among her all-time favourites are "Lord of the Rings," "Harry Potter," and "Game of Thrones.

She draws inspiration from the wealth of knowledge surrounding her, particularly revelling in fascinating, unusual, and even in creepy subjects. Additionally, she holds a keen interest in exploring the concept of past lives.



Microbiology, BSc Biotechnology, BBA, and BCA. SILB has a proud history of producing academic toppers, with students having won 20

gold medals and over 250 merit positions in various disciplines. The institute's students are placed in top companies and are serving in India and abroad.

'Why we all must exercise our right to vote and be responsible citizens'



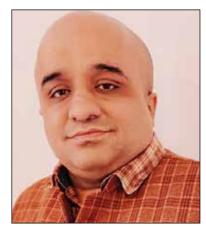
DR. KUNWAR SIDDARTH DADHWAL*

INDIA is all set and heading for yet another general election for choosing a democratically elected government. Voting for the 18th Lok Sabha will begin from April 19 and the counting of votes would be done

on June 4..

It is a good time to do your homework and be all sure when you get your finger inked as a sign of a conscious voter of a healthy democracy. Youth of any democratic society are considered to be the backbone of its economic growth in a highly competitive global economy. Youth of our nation needs to understand the importance of their vote. A vote that will define your future in terms of the kind of roads, infrastructure, education, healthcare you will have in times to come.

Remember that we are a Parliamentary democracy. We elect our member of parliament from our respective consistency. Always check the list of candidates contesting from vour constituency. Check for their past track record in terms of the kind of work they have done in past. Check if they have or had any



criminal cases against them. According to report published by Association of democratic reform, our 17th Lok Sabha had highest number MPs facing criminal charges. A total of 43 per cent MPs are facing criminal charges in the outgoing Lok Sabha.

Before going to vote, do read the manifesto of all political parties and ask pointed questions to your respective candidates through different social media platform. Question regarding development, employment, healthcare and infrastructure or whatever you expect from your MP to deliver for your constituency.

We need to get over our fantasy for a particular leader or political party. We need to look at the work of every political party and political leader while casting our vote. Do check how active your candidates have been in the parliament in terms of raising relevant issue concerning society.

Remember voting in the name of religion, caste or culture takes our right away to ask questions to our government regarding development, good and affordable educational institution, reasonable healthcare system etc. Remember there is an old saying that 'We get what we ask for'.

Political awareness and staving conscious of your socio-political surrounding is very crucial regardless of your profession or field of career path. Remember every aspect of our life is directly or indirectly touched upon by routine local, national and global politics. We can see the effects of the practices of politics on a daily basis.

A vibrant constitutional democratic nation is always defined by a vigilant, conscious, curious citizen. Voting in a election is not a privilege or a matter of choice but it is our responsibility and top priority. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi "Be the change you want to see in the world".

If we as citizens genuinely expect our nation to progress in the truest sense of the practices of democracy then we have to take that bold step toward the change by imbibing the same to our self. One of the important steps going ahead is to ask critical questions to those in power and seek accountability towards policy decisions made by them during the term of the government.

It also important to seek responsibility from political parties in the opposition for the kind of issues raised which concerns the citizens directly or indirectly. It is important to remember that an aware and enlighten citizen is the hallmark of an effective constitutional democracy.

*(The writer is Assistant Professor (Political Science), Chitrakoot School of Liberal Arts, Shoolini University

Empowering budding legal minds in letter and spirit of law



AHANA NATH

of. Nandan Sharma is the Associate Dean for the Faculty of Legal Sciences, Shoolini University, holding over 15 years of experience in the field. In a recent interview, he shared his views on how the School is adapting and growing with the emerging trends and interdisciplinary approaches in the domain of Legal Sciences Excerpts from the interview:

What inspired you to take up a career in academia especially in the field of law?

It has been a long journey since I completed my graduation in one of the most reputed institution which is Himachal Pradesh University of Shimla, and at that point of time I didn't have this thought of getting into academia but being a meritorious student I decided to pursue my masters from Himachal Pradesh University with specialisation in Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and thereafter got an opportunity for teaching as an Assistant Professor in LR Institute of Law in 2007. As my career progressed, I worked with several universities like IEC University and Maharaja Agrasen University for a span of 15 years before joining Shoolini University when the law department was set up in 2017. I was one of the founding faculty members where my passion for teaching and research grew and I look forward to contributing towards the society and this university through my expertise in the field of Legal Sciences.

How is Shoolini University's School of Law dif-

ferent from other legal institutions? Shoolini University is a distinctive institution for students who want real time experiences and practical knowledge. The holistic approach and pedagogy of this university is not only leading nationwide but also in global realm as it has been recently ranked no.1 in the subject ranking of QS in April 2024. Thus Shoolini has created a benchmark in all the arenas. School of Law was initially started in 2017 when there were two undergraduate courses, BA.LLB five year programme which is for 10+2 students who want to pursue a career in Law. This degree was started under the guidance of Mr. N. R Madhava Menon and today, lakhs of students prefer this course after clearing their Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) and the second programme which is a traditional LLB course of three years was introduced for the graduates from any stream. So, both of these programmes were running very effectively in Shoolini. In 2020, we added two new courses. Our concentrated LLM programme that offers specialisations catering to the needs of today's society and the other course is Phd in Legal Sciences which can be opted by students who are keen to do research in the law sector. The entire curriculum is based under the guidance of Bar Council of India(BCI) that regulates legal education in the entire country as it is operated by the finest of lawyers and honourable judges of India. So, keeping all these pointers in mind we can surely say that Shoolini is one of the finest institutes for students who want to pursue their career in Legal Sciences.

What are your views on the emerging trends and challenges in legal education and how is School of Law adapting to it?

In this country most of the undergraduate students who pursue law have a goal to opt for higher education in the budding branches of law specialisations like Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Business laws, Arbitration, Alternative Dispute Redressal (ADR), Criminal laws and the traditional constitutional laws. These are some of the areas in which we have our faculty expertise. In Shoolini, we are known to have good publications and scopus indexed journals where our researchers are publishing in reputed journals not only in India but in global sphere as



Prof. NANDAN SHARMA Associate Dean for the Faculty of Legal Sciences, Shoolini University,

well. Our undergraduates are trained in a way that follows all types of latest teaching pedagogies because our vision and mission lies on developing and encouraging our students for the real challenges of the outside world. In this competitive edge of life our students are interested in trending topics like Generative Artificial Intelligence, Automation, ADRs and IPRs so we try to provide them the best of the lot in the curriculum. Our university provides internships and research programmes in renowned law firms, District Courts and High Courts of the country to accommodate the students with practical learning and industrial knowledge of Legal Sciences.

How does School of Law help students in their career development and post graduation? There is a large number of students who aspires to make a career in law for which they appear for the

CLAT exam because in the recent years, finding a career in Legal Sciences has taken a leverage in India

We have allied fields, traditional advocacy and judiciary in which our students take demo classes along with the main curriculum in Shoolini University. It is a dream of every law student to work for any reputed law firm in corporate sectors. They are provided with several internship opportunities under reputed firms like National Human Rights Commission, Women Commission of India and they even get opportunities to work under renowned judges of this country. Recently, one of our student did an internship under the honourable Chief Justice of Delhi High Court. So these are the areas through which our students get an idea of the practical learning and it helps them to grow in the future aspects. So, judiciary, advocacy and corporate are three areas of expertise that we provide in Shoolini University.

What would be initial insights for those keen to join the LLB course in Shoolini University? I believe that after completing 10+2, students look forward to join a university which can be their safe house filled with knowledge and experience for developing, growing and shining in a specific field of studies and this is where Shoolini University comes up as a helping hand for all those who dream big in their life. We support our students in bringing the best out of them from the very initial stage of their course.

What opportunities does Shoolini provide its law students to gain practical knowledge and experience of the field?

Guest lecturers who have been legal practitioners and advocates of High Courts are often invited to share their field experience and expertise on various legal affairs. The main purpose of conducting these seminars and lectures is to give our students an idea of the practical world and real time challenges so that they have a clear vision of what their contribution will be as a legal officer after graduating from this university in 3-5 years. We always keep in consideration the mindset of the student for suggesting them the perfect area of specialisation according to their skillsets, be it drafting, pleading or any other segment of legal

studies. We also have the concept of legal aid clinic which is given under the constitution as in every law institutions of the country. This is a mandatory measure of the curriculum and every institute is bound to provide a free legal aid to the society. Our students are members of that legal aid club which is open to neighbouring communities. This legal aid clinic is run in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority which is located in the District Court, Solan. So, Shoolini University's legal aid club works under the supervision and the guidelines of this authoritative body. There is also a concept of summer school where a law student interns with any local police station, prisons, High Courts or any judiciary body of their locality. In this journey of five years, a student has to complete minimum 12 weeks of internship for LLB and 20 weeks of internship for B.A.LLB under the guideline of Bar Council Of India. We have our own moot court society and our law students are prepared and sent to numerous moot court competitions nationwide. Every semester around 10 to 12 students are sent to moot court competitions happening all over India. Other than the main curriculum, we have three more mandatory courses : Professional and Legal Ethics, Alternative Dispute Redressal, Drafting and Pleading.

How does School of Law arrange interdisciplinary collaboration within the university and beyond? Is there any global ties with any other international universities where students can opt for exchange programmes and curriculum? We have varied number of collaboration with Manav Rachna Vidyanatariksha (MRU), Human Rights Commission, Central Detective Training Institute- Chandigarh, Institute Of Correctional Administration (ICA) who are our knowledge partners. Also we conduct several seminars, group discussions, development programmes and workshops on sensitive issues like Human Rights, Women and Children Abuse, Human Trafficking etc.

Additionally, I would like to say that a lot of students are aspiring to be in the law field as opportunities are endless today. In Shoolini, we try to train our students with the perception of serving the country rightfully as the future leaders.

Learning among books at Penguin Random



ANGU SANCHU*

LIFE IS all about unexpected turns and this experience has been one for me. The reader in me would have never imagined getting to work in a publishing house, let alone in Penguin Random House.

My experience here has been nothing but an overwhelming process of learning. From the

process of applying to getting accepted, I have learnt to be more patient about trusting God's timing.

My first day at work was quite a day to be remembered, as I was too nervous and conscious about messing up, I ended up surviving on a bar of chocolate for the entire day just because I was too nervous to eat in the office. I remember

getting all excited seeing the colourful books on the shelf and with the aroma of coffee lurking in the office, it felt more like I was in a fancy book cafe than an office

I have learnt a lot of things about which I had no idea and I'm definitely a little more confident to face what's ahead but



humble enough to know that there is so much more to learn. I am truly grateful for the kind of people that I got to meet, it makes the whole learning process a lot more comfortable. After hearing all the negative side of corporate life, I was so

nervous about the kind of people that I would have to come across but fortunately my first experience as an intern turned out to be pretty good. My work there as an intern required me to create newsletters, look for and reach out to media platforms/influencers for potential collaborations, share innovative marketing execution ideas, create media pitches of new titles, map Amazon rankings of the books.

Every day it was like a new task for me and to learn some-

enjoy new beginnings.

In all this process, I also want to remember my professors who were with me from the very start, be it from the time I was confused about where to go, to helping and encouraging me during my interviews, I will always be grateful for the kind of guidance that I always get from them. There is no guarantee of what will happen in life, but I am sure that I will be always positive about what life has to offer and to see all this as a learning process.

*(The writer is a final semester student of MA in Journalism and is currently undergoing internship at Penguin Random House New Delhi)

Studying entrepreneurship, all the way from Ethiopia



MEET WET MARIO, a determined student hailing from Ethiopia, who embarked on an enriching journey to India to pursue his academic dreams at Shoolini University, For Mario, studying abroad isn't just about earning a degree: it's about



embracing new cultures, expanding horizons, and gaining invaluable insights that shape both personal and academic growth. Currently enrolled in a dual

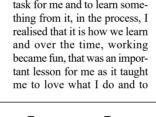
degree programme in Business Administration (BBA) and Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), Mario's

decision stems from his fervent passion for entrepreneurship. With aspirations of leading a successful business venture or securing funding for its expansion in the next five years, he eagerly immerses himself in his

Despite the rigours of academic life, Mario finds solace in literature, particularly admiring the works of Chinua Achebe, acclaimed for his novel "Things Fall Apart." In his spare time, he indulges in exploring India's rich cultural heritage, attending local festivals, savoring regional cuisine, and soaking up the vibrant street life



Students express mixed



views on CAA



Debate is still raging in the country over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and opinions are sharply divided. We asked a cross section of students on their views about the Act. Here's what they had to say :

ANMOL THAKUR



In my opinion, this law was designed to simplify the citizenship process for non-Muslim migrants who arrived in India from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan before 2014. It aims to grant them Indian citizenship. However, there are some misunderstandings and opposition parties have wrongly portrayed it as discriminatory against Muslims. This led to unnecessary debates in India, with Muslim leaders expressing concerns about their rights Manpreet Khosla, MBA



The law mentions discrimination, violence forced conversions, and other types of persecution as reasons why certain communities seek refuge in India. The law rightly acknowledges the historical injustices faced by these religious minorities in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The aim of the law is to establish a legal framework to grant them citizenship and the opportunity for a better life in India, where they can live without fear of persecution.

Abhijeet Kumar, MSc Biotech Research



The Citizenship Amendment Act is a crucial legislation for our country. It addresses the citizenship of minorities who sought refuge in India or faced persecution in neighboring countries due to religious reasons. For these individuals, the act is beneficial as it offers them Indian citizenship. However, there are misconceptions surrounding the act that have sparked controversy. It's important to clarify these misconceptions among the local citizens of India.

Siddhant Gautam, MSc Biotech Research

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Student reporters publish fortnightly Shoolini Newsletter, showcasing campus news. Students engage in various tasks like story editing, page designing, photography, and printing at the Indian Express press. Real-life reporting ce empowers students to act as professional journalists.

Take the Spotlight with Shoolini TV

Students are trained as TV anchors and reporters for weekly Shoolini Samvad (Hindi) and Shoolini TV (English). They gain hands on experience in podcasting, video editing, graphic designing, and animation. Access to stote-of-the-art studio facilities enables students to produce complete news bulletins

Captivate the Airwaves with Radio Shoolini

"Radio Shoolini" provides a platform for students to demonstrate their skills as Radio Jockeys. Students interview faculty members and campus guests, showcasing their communication abilities. General entertainment format allows students to engage in lively conversations and engage with listeners

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In my opinion, there is a need to make some

amendments to the Citizenship Amendment Act and the government should clearly define all the terms that will be applied in the Act. Additionally, there should be a focus on educating people who are unaware of the rules of the act. Overall, the CAA has the potential to benefit the Indian population in the future

Rishabh Rana, PhD Cancer Biology



The Citizenship Amendment Act is viewed as a positive move for minorities in neighboring countries. However, its implementatn requires careful oversight to prevent the exclusion of deserving individuals or communities. It's important to address concerns raised by certain groups to foster better understanding and acceptance of the law across all segments of socie

Rakshit, Btech CSE AI



Although the intentions behind the CAA may be noble, its emphasis on particular religious communities raises concerns about discrimination and undermines India's secular identity. Citizenship laws ought to be inclusive and unbiased, guaranteeing fair treatment for all individuals seeking refuge or citizenship in the country, irrespective of their religious affiliation.

Kaustubh, MBA

Rab di Awaaz screened at Shoolini University

NIHIT SRIVASTAVA

THE FIRST multi-inclusive film of India, Rabb Di Awaj, was screened at Shoolini University's APJ Abdul Kalam Hall by the university's Cinedicate Club in association with the Shoolini University School of Media and Communications earlier this month

With its depiction of the challenges experienced by young people and those with disabilities, "Rabb Di Awaj" strikes a deep chord. It tackles relevant topics like mental health, loneliness, and despair in today's fractured society. At the movie's screening, every member of the lead cast was there with the National Award winner producer Ojaswwee Sharma. Among them were Bhasker Pandey, Abhinav Sharma, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Sandeep Kumar, Mohit Verma, Sarvpriva Nirmohi, Shridhar Gupta, Rita Dutt, and Varun Narang.

The movie's lead actor, Shiv Kumar Sharma, emphasised the value of inner change and urged society to acknowledge and harness its potential for everyone's benefit. Ojaswwee Sharma dwelt on the five-year process of making the movie and the ground-breaking choice to cast visually impaired people in important parts to represent the community on screen. The cast members discussed their preparation for the part in a panel

discussion that followed the film. Prof. PK Khosla, Chancellor of Shoolini University, noted the film's singular contribution to cinema and expressed thanks for the chance to see such a revolutionary work. The film's societal relevance was emphasised by Prof. Vipin Pubby, Director of the School of Media and Communication, as he extended a warm welcome to the attendees. The dean of students' welfare, Mrs.

Poonam Nanda, spoke on how the movie helped people become more conscious of social issues.

As the country's first multiinclusive movie, "Rabb Di Awaj" combines education and entertainment, and is accessible to all viewers with audio descriptions, subtitles, and Indian sign language. The film, which received a 'U' certification from the CBFC, raises the bar for diversity in Indian filmmaking.

Workshop held on digital photography techniques

SNL TEAM

THE SCHOOL of Media and Communications at Shoolini University recently hosted a captivating workshop on Digital Photography Techniques.

The guest speaker of session was Mr. Nitin Kumar Mengi, with over 15 years of experience in both academia and professional photography. His expertise brought a fresh perspective to the realm of digital imaging. His accolades include the Punjab Lalit Kala Academy State Award in 2011, showcasing his exemplary skills in fine arts photography.

tal and mirror DSLR cameras, During the interactive ses-Mr. Nitin Kumar Mengi elucision, Mr. Nitin Kumar Mengi emphasised the pivotal role of light in photography, describing it as the essence behind every captivating image. He articulated, "Photography is essentially drawing with light,"



valuable insights to aspiring encapsulating the profound connection between light and photographers the art of capturing moments.

Mr. Nitin Kumar Mengi urged participants to cultivate keen observation skills and advocated beginning photography journeys with beginnerfriendly devices. His words resonated with attendees, inspiring them to embark on a journey of continuous learning and experimentation in the vibrant world of digital photography.

Alopa wins Shoolini extempore competition

SNL TEAM

THE Young Communicators Club (YCC) of Shoolini University organised an extempore on the spot competition 'Shoolini Snap Speak' competition on Tuesday in which a large number of students participated. The competitors were given

themes on the basis of which they had to speak on the spot.

The winner of the extempore competition was Alopa Verma. a student of the School of Media and Communications. She spoke on the topic Manifestation, which she curated out of her theme - Magic.

She was given the winning certificate along with Rs 500 Amazon voucher. The second prize was won by two students, Stuti Sharma and Sherry Singla while the third prize was won by Saloni Thakur.

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dated technical nuances, shedding light on factors influencing file size variations. Addressing queries regarding file size discrepancies, he elucidated how the efficiency of the processor impacts the final output, offering

Distinguishing between digi-

partnership with PGIMER from the students and faculty impact of collaborative vice. It is inspiring to witness Chandigarh, organised a blood donation drive aimed at fostering community health and solidarity.

SNL TEAM

members of Shoolini University, who enthusiastically volunteered to contribute to this

dedicated team of eight doctors, units of blood were donated,

SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY, in the event witnessed the support underscoring the invaluable humanity and community ser-

Blood donation camp with PGIMER held

efforts in addressing critical healthcare needs Mrs. Poonam Nanda, Dean

Headed by Dr. Ekta and a noble cause. Approximately 65 Students Welfare stated that this

individuals coming together to make a tangible difference in the lives of others

initiative embodies the spirit of

Meet on trauma management and happy relationships organised



STUTI SHARMA

THE CENTRE of Psychology and Behavioural Sciences along with speaking club conducted the fourth virtual conference on mindfulness trauma management. The University of Venda, South Africa also actively participated in this event making it a huge milestone in mental health.

The conference featured Mrs. Madhu Bhatt, Uttrakhand State Minister who shared her insights on women empowerment and

THE CONFERENCE FACILITATED THE CREATIVE TEAM'S EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION WITH THE "AWARD OF EXCELLENCE". ADVOCATE PANKAJ CHETRI AND CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON FROM UTTRAKHAND SHED LIGHTS ON IMPACTS OF DRUG ABUSE.

mental health dynamics. Dr. The conference facilitated the Saamdu Chetri, Director and creative team's exceptional con-Mentor at Yogananda School of Spirituality and Happiness, discussed topics like mindfulness

tribution with the "Award of excellence" Advocate Pankaj Chetri and

power and childhood trauma. congress spokesperson from Uttrakhand shed lights on impacts of drug abuse.

Noble figures in the event included Mrs. Gurmeet Sharda, a psychologist and play therapist, Dr.Deepika, Dr.Anil Prakash Joshi who is Padma shri and Padma Bhushan awardee and Prof.Prem Kumar Khosla

The conference facilitated 25 collaborations, including 23 national and 2 international partnerships, showcasing global cooperation in addressing mental health challenges.

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