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Shoolini University NEWSLETTER

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Inside

THE #1 in India

ASIA UNIVERSITY RANKINGS–2024

SAPNA MAURYA

In yet another spectacular achievement, the 14-year-old Shoolini University has been ranked as the number one private university and fifth overall in the country, with the venerable Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, taking the lead in the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University rankings for 2024.

The rankings, which were announced last week, placed Shoolini University at the 150th rank in Asia, while IISC Bangalore was placed at the 32nd rank on the continent.

Additionally, Shoolini University has topped among all universities, including public sector universities in the country, in the parameters for International Outlook and has been ranked second in Research Quality. THE Asia University Rankings use the same 18 performance indicators as the

SHOOLINI HAS TOPPED ALL UNIVERSITIES IN THE COUNTRY IN PARAMETERS FOR INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK AND HAS RANKED SECOND IN RESEARCH QUALITY

THE World University Rankings, but they are recalibrated to reflect the attributes of Asia's institutions. The 2024 ranking includes 739 universities from 31 territories. With 119 universities, Japan remains the most-represented nation this year, followed by India with 91 institutions.

Chancellor Prof PK Khosla said that the university had been focusing on quality research and had been working on its international outlook through overseas faculty members and students. Pro Chancellor Mr. Vishal Anand complimented the researchers and faculty members of the university for achieving the top rankings this year. He said the university would continue to encourage research.

Vice Chancellor Prof Atul Khosla lauded the dedication and relentless pursuit of excellence of researchers to propel Shoolini University to even greater heights.

SCIMAGO-2024 : #1 IN CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

Shoolini University has demonstrated exceptional performance in the SCIMAGO Institutions Rankings 2024, showcasing an impressive commitment to academic excellence. The university has secured top spots in Chemistry, Physics, and Astronomy, underscoring its national prominence in these fields. This remarkable achievement is a testation of the tireless dedication of both faculty and students in advancing the frontiers of knowledge and innovation.

The latest rankings signify a notable advancement in the university's global standing, with an overall rank of 1492, marking a significant rise from its position at 1561 in 2023. In the Asian region, Shoolini has ascended to 496th place from 540th, consolidating its status as a premier educational institution. Additionally, the university has made significant progress in the BRICS region, climbing to 332nd place from 384th, further enhancing its impact on the global stage. Notably, in India, Shoolini University has secured the 29th rank in the overall global standings.

In the category of Global research, Shoolini University has demonstrated remarkable progress, securing a global research rank of 739, a substantial improvement from 890 in the previous year. In India, the university continues to lead the way, maintaining its position at 7th place in research excellence. Furthermore, the university has exhibited expertise in various subject areas, with outstanding performances in Mechanical Engineering, Environmental Science, and Energy, among others.

In the category of Innovation, Shoolini has garnered global recognition, securing the 2920th place globally, and notable positions in the Asian, BRICS, and Indian regions.

...AND IN THE YOUNG UNIVERSITY RANKINGS-2024 TOO

Shoolini University has achieved a remarkable milestone, securing the 121st position globally in the Times Higher Education (THE) Young University Rankings 2024. This accolade positions it as the top private university in India and the 5th overall in the country.

The THE Young University Rankings focus on institutions less than 50 years old, highlighting emerging leaders in higher education. This year, 673 universities were ranked, up from 605 in 2023, with an additional 499 institutions receiving "reporter" status for their significant contributions despite not meeting the formal eligibility criteria.

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, retained the top spot for the second consecutive year. Among countries, Turkey leads with 58 ranked institutions, followed by India with 55, and Iran with 46. Shoolini University's commendable score of 48.2 reflects its exceptional performance in Research Quality and International Outlook. However, areas for improvement include Industry Engagement, Research Environment, and Teaching. By focusing on these parameters, Shoolini University aims to enhance its standing and strive to break into the top 100 universities globally.

The office of Dean Students Welfare launched a special campaign to spread awareness among students and staff about the importance of voting in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.   Photo : PREM BHATTI

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH DENEFSA FOR CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

SNL TEAM

SHOOLINI University and Denefsa, a Non-Profit Company Kft, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for knowledge exchange and collaboration for corporate partnership between the two institutions.

The MoU was signed by Pro Chancellor Shoolini University Mr. Vishal Anand and Mr. Jay Caziraky, Founder and Chairman, Denefsa Non-Profit Company Kft.

The MOU is a significant step towards enhancing academic partnership through various channels including the exchange of students and faculty, curriculum enhancement, joint research endeavors, and consultancy services.

Mr. Anand said the partnership "shows our dedication to promoting education and research".

He added that working with Denefsa Non-Profit Company Kft. will make big changes for students at Shoolini University.

Shoolini's dual degree tie-up with UK varsity

AHANA NATH

ROYAL HOLLOWAY UNIVERSITY AND SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY PARTNER TO PROVIDE BEST OF EDUCATION IN THE TWO UNIVERSITIES

ROYAL HOLLOWAY University and Shoolini University finalised an educational partnership aimed at facilitating academic exchange and collaboration.

The agreement provides for a carved route of opportunities for the students from Shoolini University to pursue quality education at Royal Holloway University. The Memorandum of Agreement outlines a framework for a 2+2 programme, allowing students enrolled in Bachelor's degree programmes at Shoolini University to get admission in Royal Holloway University after completing two years of their undergraduate curriculum. Upon completion of the programme, students will be awarded a dual degree from Royal Holloway and Shoolini University.

Speaking to media persons, delegates from Royal Holloway University emphasised on the exposure to a diverse range of facilities, including scholarships, internships, and innovative teaching pedagogies, to students who enrol for the dual degree.

They expressed confidence that the dual-degree structure would offer students invaluable academic and cultural experiences.

The agreement also stipulates that Shoolini University will oversee promotion, recruitment, and admissions for the programme, while Royal Holloway will provide support and information.

Delegates from Royal Holloway University included Dr. Lucy Gill-Simmen, Vice Dean of Education and Senior Lecturer, Business and Management; Dr. James McEvoy, Head of Biological Sciences; Dr. Argyrios Deligkas, Senior Lecturer, Computer Science; Lucy Thomas, Global Engagement Director; Akhil Bagga, Regional Manager, South Asia. Shoolini University Chancellor Prof. P. K. Khosla, Dean of Research and Development Prof. Sourabh Kulshreshtha, along with other deans and directors, were present at the occasion.

Cutting-edge AR/VR lab launched at Shoghi Museum

MEENAKSHI JOSHI

IN A significant milestone for education and exploration, an Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) lab was inaugurated at Himachal Pradesh Government's Shoghi museum which is managed by Shoolini University.

The laboratory was inaugurated by Mr. Prabodh Saxena, Chief Secretary of the Government of Himachal

Pradesh, and attended by key figures such as Mr. DC Rana, Director of DEST and CC cum Member Secretary of HIMCOSTE, Mr. N Ramdas Iyer, Director of NCSM, Delhi, and Dr. Suresh C. Attri from JMC HIMCOSTE.

The state-of-the-art AR/VR lab is equipped with advanced technologies including Oculus Quest 2, IRUSU Player, AR VR Headset with SenseXR, 3D Card Studio, 3D Glasses, TECHXR, and smartphones equipped with 3D models. These tools are designed to provide transformative educational experiences.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Mr. Prabodh Saxena highlighted the potential of AR and VR technologies to revolutionise education. He explained that AR, which blends digital elements with physical surroundings, and VR, which immerses users in simulated environments, offer unique opportunities for enhanced learning and exploration.

Innovative dual-algorithm approach by Shoolini researchers uses machine learning to enhance accuracy and accessibility in rural and developing communities.

New technique for early detection of breast cancer

IDEAS FROM SHOOLINI

BHAVNA SHARMA

T is a growing concern worldwide, which is why early detection plays a crucial role in successful treatment and survival rates. Shoolini University researchers Assistant Professor-cum-System Analyst Bharti Thakur and Assistant Professor Sushil Kumar have made significant strides in this area, filing a patent for their innovative dual-algorithm approach for early breast cancer screening. This method, designed to benefit rural and developing communities, uses Machine Learning to enhance accuracy and efficiency in detecting the disease.

Their invention uses advanced computer techniques to analyse medical data, achieving an impressive accuracy rate of 50 per cent to 90 per cent. This significant improvement over traditional methods allows for earlier detection and timely treatment, improving patient outcomes considerably. By analysing genetic data, the researchers can identify cancer-causing genes in women, offering a proactive approach to breast cancer prevention and treatment.

Inspired by her personal experience and commitment to women's health, Bharti Thakur stated, "As a woman, I wanted to create something that would help others detect breast cancer early and increase their chances of a cure."

One of the key advantages of this invention is its accessibility for people in areas with limited healthcare resources. Traditional cancer screening methods are often too expensive or unavailable in rural and developing regions. This new, cost-effective method empowers local community health workers to perform screenings, ensuring that even the most marginalised populations can access life-saving tests. It also reduces the financial burden on patients and healthcare systems.

Designed with sustainability in mind, the invention utilises energy-efficient algorithms and cloud computing to minimise resource consumption and environmental impact. Additionally, the method includes educational components to raise awareness about breast cancer and promote proactive health behaviours in communities.

This dual-algorithm approach for early breast cancer detection represents a major advancement in public health. By offering a sustainable and accessible solution, it has the potential to save countless lives and improve the overall well-being of women worldwide.

BENEFITS OF EARLY DETECTION
Higher Survival Rates: Boosts chances of successful treatment.
Less Aggressive Treatment: Reduces side effects and recovery time.
Increased Cure Rates: More likely to be completely cured.
Better Prognosis: Improved outcomes with early-stage detection.
Lower Costs: Less expensive treatment options.
Better Quality of Life: Prevents cancer spread and maintains health.
Peace of Mind: Provides reassurance and control over health.
Prevents Metastasis: Stops cancer from spreading.
More Treatment Options: Allows for less invasive treatments.
Community Awareness: Encourages proactive health management.

'Students must focus on both knowledge and skills'

SAPNA MAURYA

As part of our PrincipalSpeaks column, we interviewed Ms. Puneet Kaur, principal of Army Public School, Jammu Cantt, on her views on the state of education in the country. Excerpts from the interview.

Please tell me about your academic journey and about your school?

I am from Srinagar Valley, where I completed my basic schooling. Later, I moved to Jammu and studied at Bakshi Nagar Government School. I graduated from Jammu and pursued my post-graduation from Jammu University. Additionally, I am a certified life coach. As a theatre artist, I have participated in TV dramas for Srinagar Doordarshan. I aspired to be a drama director, but growing up in the 90s with limited resources, I had to set aside that dream and pursued a B. Ed. instead. Now, I have discovered a passion for teaching.

Currently, I am serving as the principal of Army Public School in Jammu Cantt., a position I have held for five years. Army Public Schools are a chain of educational institutions under the regional commands of the Indian Army, established to provide education to the children of Indian armed forces personnel. My experience as a principal here has been incredibly enriching. The administration and hierarchy are exemplary, ensuring accountability and responsibility for every aspect of the school, from the well-being of each child to the performance of every teacher.

What is your take on the future of online education?

As a CBSE-affiliated school, we support online education and are committed to the development of our institution. Army Public School has joined the CBSE initiative for hybrid learning, which will commence at our school in July this year.

According to you, what is one thing that students should definitely focus on in schools, but they don't really give it importance?

In my view, students should focus on acquiring both knowledge and skills. These are crucial because with knowledge, they become unbeatable, and with skills, they can excel in any field. Additionally, students should embrace basic values, such as being grateful.

PRINCIPALSPEAKS

Ms PUNEET KAUR
Principal, Army Public School,
Jammu Cantt

What strategies do you use to ensure a supportive learning environment for both students and staff?

At Army Public School, the welfare of teachers is a top priority, and students are at the core of our mission. We ensure a positive environment and provide comprehensive health facilities, both mental and physical. Our school has counselors available, and we actively seek feedback from students and parents to understand and address their needs. Their suggestions are valued and considered. We also conduct happy hours for both students and teachers, offering them time to sing, dance, or engage in activities they enjoy.

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

The biggest challenge we face is preserving our cultural values in the midst of globalisation and rapid advancements in technology, such as AI. As education evolves exponentially, it becomes crucial to integrate traditional and cultural values into the learning process. Additionally, ensuring that students remain emotionally and physically balanced is an ongoing challenge.

Do you think the government should exercise control over private schools?

I believe in maintaining control, but there should also be quality checks in both government and private schools. Private schools often have better infrastructure and provide higher quality education. The government should take necessary steps to ensure that public schools offer facilities comparable to those of private schools.

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

Regarding the education system in India, I believe that all students should receive quality education. It is essential for parents to be actively involved in the educational process and to understand the needs of their children. Students should be taught to show gratitude towards their parents and teachers. Education should encompass not only academic excellence but also values, cultural understanding, and skill development. Additionally, I emphasise that regardless of the type of school, the main focus should be on providing a strong foundation in primary education, particularly up to grades 4 and 5.

CUTTING-EDGE AR/VR LAB LAUNCHED

Prof. Atul Khosla, Vice Chancellor of Shoolini University, emphasised the educational benefits of AR/VR, stating that these technologies make learning more dynamic and engaging. They allow students to explore interactive 3D models, participate in virtual field trips, and engage in simulations that enhance their understanding of complex concepts.

Prof. P.K. Khosla, Chancellor of Shoolini University, along with the university management, expressed enthusiasm for integrating AR/VR into educational frameworks. They recognised the potential of these technologies to redefine traditional teaching methods and open new pathways for experiential learning.

The AR/VR lab at Shoghi Museum was coordinated by Prof. Pankaj Vaidya, Head of the School of AI at Shoolini University, and Associate

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Agreement signed with iHub-Data, IIIT, Hyderabad for research

SNL TEAM

IN A SIGNIFICANT step towards advancing research and skill development in higher education, Shoolini University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with iHub-Data (TIH), Indian Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad (IIITH).

The collaboration aims to enhance the capabilities and resources of both institutions in the realms of data analytics and technology innovation.

The MoU was signed by Chancellor Shoolini University, Prof. P.K. Khosla, and the Chief Executive Officer of iHub-Data. The agreement underscores a mutual commitment to foster translational research and develop practical solutions to address societal needs.

Prof. Khosla highlighted the importance of the partnership in bridging the gap in translational research.

Prof Khosla said, this collaboration with iHub-Data will enhance our ability to translate research findings into practical applications, which is crucial in today's fast-evolving technological landscape.

iHub-Data, under the auspices of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) at IIITH, has been making remarkable strides in data analytics.

Dean School of Engineering at Shoolini University, Prof. Virender Rihani, highlighted the various skill-development activities planned under this MoU. "We look forward to facilitating faculty and staff exchanges, short-term training programmes, and workshops that will enhance the skills and knowledge of our academic community. This partnership will create a robust platform for innovation and learning," he stated.

`Key faculty members from Shoolini University, including Prof. Pankaj Vaidya and Dr. Arvind Sharma from the Yogananda School of Artificial Intelligence, Computers, and Data Science, expressed their gratitude to the Director of IIITH, the CEO of iHub-Data, and Mr. C.K. Raju, Head of the Education Programme at iHub-Data, for their unwavering support in making this collaboration a reality.

Workshop on acupressure organised

SAHIL

SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY'S Yogananda School of Spirituality and Happiness (YSSH) hosted a 5-day Acupressure workshop that transformed the lives of over 40 students and faculty members.

Participants learned about connections between the human body, vital nerves and practiced hands-on healing techniques. They experienced quick relief from their ailments during daily treatment sessions and appreciated the engaging teaching methodology. The workshop aimed to enhance knowledge of

yoga students and promote awareness of acupressure as a subtle and effective treatment. A special foreign participant Alejander Stockhoder from Mexico also volunteered for the same.

The event was attended by Chancellor Prof. P K Khosla, Mrs. Saroj Khosla, and President Innovation and Learning, Mr. Ashish Khosla. Expert facilitators from Orissa Swãsthya Seva Sangh (OSSS), Mr. Saumitra Das, Mr. Bikash Kumar Sahoo, Mrs Leena Sahoo and Miss. Shreya Singh conducted the workshop, which combined theory and practical sessions on acupressure techniques to eliminate various health issues.

Dr. Saamdu Chetri, Director of Yogananda School of Spirituality and Happiness (YSSH), gave his insights on three subject. He also expressed plans to organise another workshop in January for faculty and staff, extending its benefits to the Himalayan region, particularly in Himachal Pradesh.

SHOOLINI TIES UP WITH LEADING UNIVS

AHANA NATH

SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY has taken a notable stride in expanding its global academic footprint through strategic collaborations with three well-known international universities.

These partnerships include those with the Islamic University of Lebanon, Narxoz University in Kazakhstan, and the University of Jordan Aljubeiha in Amman.

The newly inked Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) underscore Shoolini University's dedication to nurturing cross cultural ties by advancing research endeavours and facilitating transformative student exchange programmes, according to Dr. Rozy Dhanta, Deputy Director (International) at Shoolini University.

Importance of traditional medicines highlighted

SAPNA MAURYA

SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY recently hosted a national seminar on "Exploring the History of Traditional Medicine in the Himalayas," which highlighted the importance of medicinal plants and traditional knowledge, particularly within the Himalayan region.

Dr. Amit Chawla, Principal Scientist at CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Palampur, delivered a presentation on the conservation of threatened medicinal plants. He emphasised on their vital role in the ecosystem and the urgent need to protect these species from extinction.

Dr. Radha, Assistant Professor at the School of Basic Sciences, Shoolini University, provided deep insights into traditional medicinal knowledge in the cold desert of the Northwestern Himalayan region. Her presentation high-

lighted Saussurea obvallata, a sacred plant revered for its purity and healing properties.

Prof. Saurabh Kulshreshtha spoke on the remarkable benefits of Moringa oleifera, widely known as "The Miracle Tree." He detailed the tree's nutrient-rich leaves and their various health applications, as well as the seeds' ability to purify contaminated water, reinforcing the plant's multifaceted utility.

Dr. Akshay Sharma spoke on the global resurgence of Ayurveda, an ancient system of medicine known for its holistic approach to health and wellness.

Dr. Ashoo Khosla, Chief Learning Officer at Shoolini University and the seminar convenor, delivered a vote of thanks.

Dr. Ekta Singh, Seminar Coordinator and faculty member at the Liberal Arts School of Shoolini University, said that discussions were held on the integration of technology and management with the unique cultural and ecological heritage of the Himalayan region.

Workshop on digital media held

SAHIL

SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY'S School of Media and Communications hosted a session on Digital Media, featuring media expert Mr. Varun Bhansali as the keynote speaker. Throughout the lecture and workshops, Mr. Bhansali shared his extensive knowledge and practical expertise, inspiring students to embrace adaptability and innovation in the rapidly evolving media landscape.

His emphasis on staying ahead of technological advance-

ments to craft compelling narratives resonated strongly with the young audience.

Assistant Professor Mr. Paarth Sharma coordinated the event, providing a valuable platform for aspiring journalists to learn from Mr. Bhansali's vast 21 years' experience in the industry. With a background in promotions, reporting, producing, and writing, Mr. Bhansali has made significant contributions to prominent media platforms like NDTV, Zee News, and Republic Channel. Additionally, he is running his own production house, "Mishi Media", in Jaipur for over seven years, which has grown to become the third-largest digital agency in Rajasthan.

Mr. Bhansali's insightful expertise and valuable guidance left a lasting impact on the students, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to navigate the dynamic world of digital media.

Humanising Technology: The vital role of liberal arts in the age of AI

NASSER DASHT PEYMA*

STEVE JOBS once articulated the profound synergy between technology, liberal arts, and humanities, emphasising their combined impact on yielding deeply fulfilling outcomes. Similarly, Mike White poetically likened Heaven to a liberal arts school, highlighting the enduring value of such education.

In his seminal publication The Fourth Industrial Revolution(2017), Klaus Schwab accentuates the pivotal role of liberal arts education amidst unprecedented technological advancements, particularly in artificial intelligence (AI). Schwab's perspective underscores the ongoing significance of disciplines like philosophy, literature, and social sciences in navigating the complexities of the digital era. He asserts that emotional intelligence, as recognised in academic literature, empowers leaders to innovate and catalyse change. Schwab introduces the concepts of "Inspired intelligence - the soul" and "Physical intelligence - the body," framing them within the context of a new cultural renaissance.

As AI and automation reshape industries and redefine work dynamics, liberal arts education emerges as a bastion of human intellect. It champions enduring skills such as critical thinking, creativity, and empathy, vital for individuals to thrive amidst technological disruptions. Therefore, exploring the convergence of liberal arts and the digital age becomes essential to comprehend how humanistic values can inform and enrich technological progress.

Moreover, Lawrence S. Bacow, the 29th president of Harvard University from 2018 to 2023, echoes the sentiment, emphasising the invaluable role of liberal arts education in fostering a deep understanding of human values and societal dynamics. Bacow argues that in an era dominated by AI, where algorithms hold significant sway, the ability to critically assess ethical implications and navigate complex socio-cultural landscapes is essential.

Graduates of liberal arts programmes possess a distinct advantage in addressing the ethical, social, and economic complexities arising from AI. Their interdisciplinary training provides them with the skills to analyse, interpret, and address the multi faceted challenges presented by technological progress, enabling informed decision-making and ethical leadership in the digital age.

In line with this viewpoint, the renowned futurist and author Yuval Noah Harari underscores the significance of merging liberal arts with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education. Harari suggests that the convergence of technology and liberal arts extends beyond shaping well-rounded individuals; it aims to cultivate a cadre of thinkers capable of imbuing humanity into technology, aligning it with human values and aspirations. This integration empowers individuals to transcend the technical dimensions of innovation and contemplate its broader implications for society, ethics, and culture. By amalgamating the analytical precision of STEM fields with the critical thinking and empathy fostered in liberal arts education, students can navigate the intricacies of the digital age with a comprehensive understanding of its ramifications for human civilization. This interdisciplinary approach not only enriches technological progress but also ensures its alignment with collective welfare and the advancement of humanity.

In conclusion, as AI increasingly pervades our lives, the value of liberal arts education cannot be overstated. By fostering critical thinking, ethical reasoning, interdisciplinary collaboration, and adaptability, liberal arts instill individuals with indispensable skills for thriving in the digital era. They act as a guiding force, navigating us through the complexities of technological progress and ensuring that innovation remains rooted in humanity's best interests. Klaus Schwab, the visionary behind the World Economic Forum and a prominent advocate of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, emphasizes the importance of liberal arts education in the AI era. He argues that while technical proficiency is vital, the ability for critical thinking, effective communication, and a deep understanding of human behavior is equally essential. By providing a solid grounding in these areas, a liberal arts education prepares individuals to navigate the evolving landscape of an increasingly automated workforce. Schwab suggests that integrating liberal arts into the digital age is not merely a choice but a necessity for shaping a future where technology drives progress and empowerment, rather than division or dehumanisation.

(The writer is Senior Research Scholar and Professor, English Department, Chitrakoot School of Liberal Arts, Shoolini University)

'We are aligned with the latest industry advancements'

MEENAKSHI JOSHI

Deepak Nand Kapoor, Dean of the School of Pharmacy, Shoolini University, has more than 15 years of teaching, research and industrial experience. His key areas of research are development and optimisation of novel drug delivery systems such as nanoparticles, nanoemulsions, niosomes, liposomes, ethosomes, implantable systems, topical and transdermal systems. Here are excerpts from an interview:

How do you incorporate emerging technologies and advancements in pharmaceutical sciences into your teaching methods?

Our distinguished board of directors, featuring luminaries from both academia and industry, provide invaluable insights into cutting-edge technologies currently revolutionising the field. We meticulously incorporate their expert advice into our curriculum, ensuring it remains at the forefront of innovation. This dynamic process guarantees that our educational offerings are perpetually aligned with the latest industry advancements.

Could you provide examples of innovative instructional techniques you have used to engage students and promote active learning in pharmacy classroom?

We have a comprehensive and evolving approach to education, extending beyond traditional examinations. Our assessment framework includes two major sessional examinations: the midterm and the end-term exams. In addition to these examinations, students are assigned various tasks and projects related to the topics being taught. Regular class tests and quizzes, including surprise quizzes, are also conducted to ensure continuous evaluation.

Furthermore, we have implemented an additional instructional session known as the tutorial class. This occurs after every three lectures, with the fourth session dedicated to tutorials. During these tutorial classes, students have the opportunity to ask questions and clarify doubts related to the week's lectures. These sessions foster greater interaction between the teacher and students, making the tutorial class significantly more interactive than regular

DEEPAK NAND KAPOOR, DEAN of the School of Pharmacy, Shoolini University

lectures. This structure ensures that students receive continuous support and engagement throughout their learning process.

How do you stay connected with developments in pharmacy practice and academia, and how do you integrate this knowledge into your teaching and research?

We have a committee similar to a school academic committee. Initially, faculty members discuss potential additions and necessary changes to the curriculum. Key subjects related to industry and research are identified, and their syllabi are sent to industry experts for feedback. These experts, being well-versed in current developments, review and suggest relevant subjects and topics to be included. Subsequently, the revised proposals are presented to the board of studies, who are also experts and provide further suggestions. Using all the gathered data and recommendations, we update our curriculum to ensure students remain abreast of the latest industry advancements.

Can you share your approach to mentoring and advising pharmacy students, particularly in terms of career development and research opportunities?

Our department has implemented a mentor-mentee system in which each student is assigned a mentor upon joining. Students regularly meet with their faculty mentors to discuss both personal and academic issues. During these meetings, mentors review feedback on students' daily classes, academic performance, and attendance. Mentors provide comprehensive support to the students. To prepare students

for placements, we organise pre-placement talks with industry experts and placement coordinators, who provide insights into the companies visiting us for recruitment and the types of job profiles available. Additionally, we offer a SPRINT programme focused on personal development.

What's the USP of the pharma programmes in the university?

The pharmacy programme is ranked 41st in the NIRF and is the only institution in the state ranked under NIRF in pharmacy. We have maintained this rank for the past seven consecutive years. Our department is research-focused, requiring both bachelor's and master's students to complete research projects under the guidance of a supervisor, providing them with an additional advancement. In the seventh semester, students focus on pharmacy practice, learning about various drugs and their uses.

Which major companies pick up Pharma students for placements.

Our students secure positions with some of the most renowned multinational companies in the industry. Esteemed organisations such as Abbott, Mankind, Zydus Cadila, and Cipla regularly recruit from our campus, recognising the high caliber of our graduates. These partnerships highlight the strong industry connections we maintain and the quality of education our students receive.
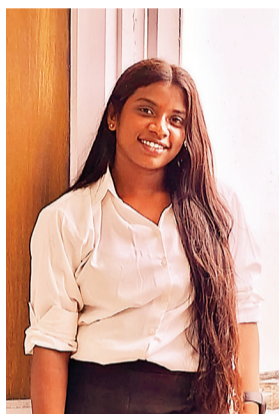

With dreams of becoming a software engg from TN

STUTI SHARMA

BRINDHA M. has a passion to become a successful software engineer. She is a state-level shot-put player and excels in both classical and western forms of dance. Her dance performances are well captured at events held at Shoolini University. Along with the heart of a dancer, she loves traveling in the mountains, which made her fall in love with the location of Shoolini University. Some of the places she recently visited were Shimla and Kufri, along with some of her friends.

Determined to bring her dreams into reality, she is diligently pursuing her studies at Shoolini University with the aim to become a software engineer.

She completed her schooling at Kalaimagal Matriculation High Secondary School and higher schooling at St. John's Matriculation High Secondary School, both located in Thiruninravur.

Brindha is pursuing a BCA in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning at Shoolini University. Her life revolves around her research work and numerous practical-based classes, which provide her with valuable insights into the field and opportunities to grow. She is immensely intrigued by her commerce lectures. She appreciates her teachers' approach to teaching and the depth of knowledge they possess.

She mentions that her teachers always ensure that students are well supported and encouraged to grow by providing a safe environment.

Both of Brindha's parents are working professionals. Her mother is in the police, and her father works at Tata Steel. With the support and guidance of both her parents and teachers, she is actively moving ahead in life to fulfill her dreams.

She is an active member of the Shoolini South Indian Community, which supports students from South India and helped her make a lot of friends. At first, she was not confident about how she would manage in the university with Hindi, but her faculty members and friends helped her get comfortable with the language. Now, she enjoys spending her time with her friends on the campus of the university.

'My stint at Newslaundry was transformative'

AARSHI RAI

SOME CONNECTIONS and life experiences act as significant catalysts, shaping one's character. Attending Shoolini University was one such pivotal moment for me. I am glad that our curriculum gives us the time and opportunity to experience work-life and real-world problems before committing to it fully. The fourth semester of my Master of Journalism degree called for an internship at an organisation I had always aspired to be a part of. I reached out to Newslaundry, an exceptional reader-supported, independent news media company, independently, and I am grateful I could pursue it further through an internship.

The journey began by moving to Delhi from Solan for my internship. I packed up all the memories that I had made with my lovely batch of MA Journalism girls. A little in awe and a lot more nervous I reached Delhi, a city that runs at an equal pace with Mumbai, my hometown. Even though my time here seemed difficult, the fast-paced energy of Delhi was a stark contrast to the serene atmosphere of the university campus, but Solan had also taught me to take things one day at a time.

After arriving in Delhi, I jumped directly into work as it was the peak of assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram and Chhattisgarh. New videos and articles would come almost every day and I was either expected to subtitle it or asked to conduct more research based on the data.

This led to me having very little time to do any catching up, which in retrospect was the best thing that happened to me. This pressure and deadlines to meet were things I was already prepared for with all the News Bulletins and article editing I had done in the university.

During my time at Newslaundry, I was part of the Research and Events and Partnership team. My responsibilities included creating multiple decks for potential sponsors and reaching out to them. I also collaborated on various events such as The Elections Online, potential media festivals, and more. My research involved contributing to TV Newsance, a satirical show critiquing the sensationalism and biases of Indian TV news channels. Additionally, I worked on NL Tippani, providing detailed analysis and commentary on current events and societal issues. Notably, I experienced a surge in workload during the year-end show Ramnath Roenka Awards 2023, a satirical take on the Ramnath Goenka Awards, and the preparations for the 2024 General Election.

I helped execute and organise the first event Digital Dialogues for DIGIPUB News India Foundation, focusing on proposed changes to India's digital and media landscape, including bills like the Telecom Bill, 2022, and the Broadcasting Regulation Bill, 2023 and featured prominent speakers like Ritu Kapur, Apar Gupta, Shreya Singhal, and Abhinandan Sekhri.

Such events and key responsibilities helped foster discussions on nation-building and gain insights into event management. They were enriching and involved critical thinking and understanding the nuances of Indian Media and Newsrooms and more importantly its ethics.

Concluding my internship at Newslaundry, I can't help but reflect on the profound impact it had on me, both professionally and personally. From the tranquil hills of Solan to the vibrant hustle of Delhi, the journey was nothing short of transformative.

I transitioned from a student to a professional, immersed in the fast-paced world of journalism during one of the most crucial times of the political movement. My time at Newslaundry was an incredible learning curve, I also understood clearly what kind of life I wish to lead professionally and what changes I am supposed to make for the change but this particular experience helped me prepare to step into the professional world, I carry with me the experiences, lessons, and memories from Newslaundry and Shoolini University.

Students share mixed opinions on 'One Nation, One Election'

The 'One Nation, One Election' policy has sparked much debate in recent times. We asked a group of students to share their thoughts. Here are their opinions:

I support the 'One Nation, One Election' policy because it would let the government focus more on governance rather than constantly preparing for elections. Holding all national and state elections at once would reduce the time spent on campaigns and allow more time for creating and implementing policies. This could lead to better management of the country and improved development.

Mota Revanth, MBA

I am against the one nation-one election policy because it might cause problems like cheating and voting mistakes if all elections are organised together at one time. It would also overload the government and the election machinery, making it hard to manage everything properly. I believe having elections at different times keeps things fair and organised.

Avinash Ekka, BBA

I oppose the policy because it would be unfair to smaller political parties. Big parties with lots of money would have an advantage, making it hard for smaller parties to compete. This would eventually hurt our democracy by creating an uneven playing field. Holding elections at different times helps keep things fair and provide a level playing ground for all political parties.

Nivedita Manan, BSc Nutrition

I support the policy because having all elections at once is a smart idea. It would save a lot of money, which could be spent on other important things like schools and hospitals. This could help our country grow and improve as politicians would have more time and resources to address important issues without frequent election distractions.

Kirti Saroha, BSc Biotech

I favour the policy because having all elections together can increase voter turnout. Voters get fatigued with frequent elections. It's easier for everyone to participate, which is crucial for our democracy. Politicians are also more likely to work for the benefit of the whole country since everyone is voting at the same time rather than having prepare for different kind of elections.

Heena Bakolia, BSc Biotech

I am against the policy because it would be expensive to implement initially. We would require purchasing of a huge number of new voting machines, update voter lists, and prepare for large, country-wide elections. Although the idea is to save money over time, the initial costs would be very high. For that the government has to arrange for funding and prepare an action plan.

Tejaswinijeet Singh, BBA

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