

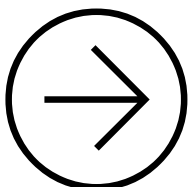
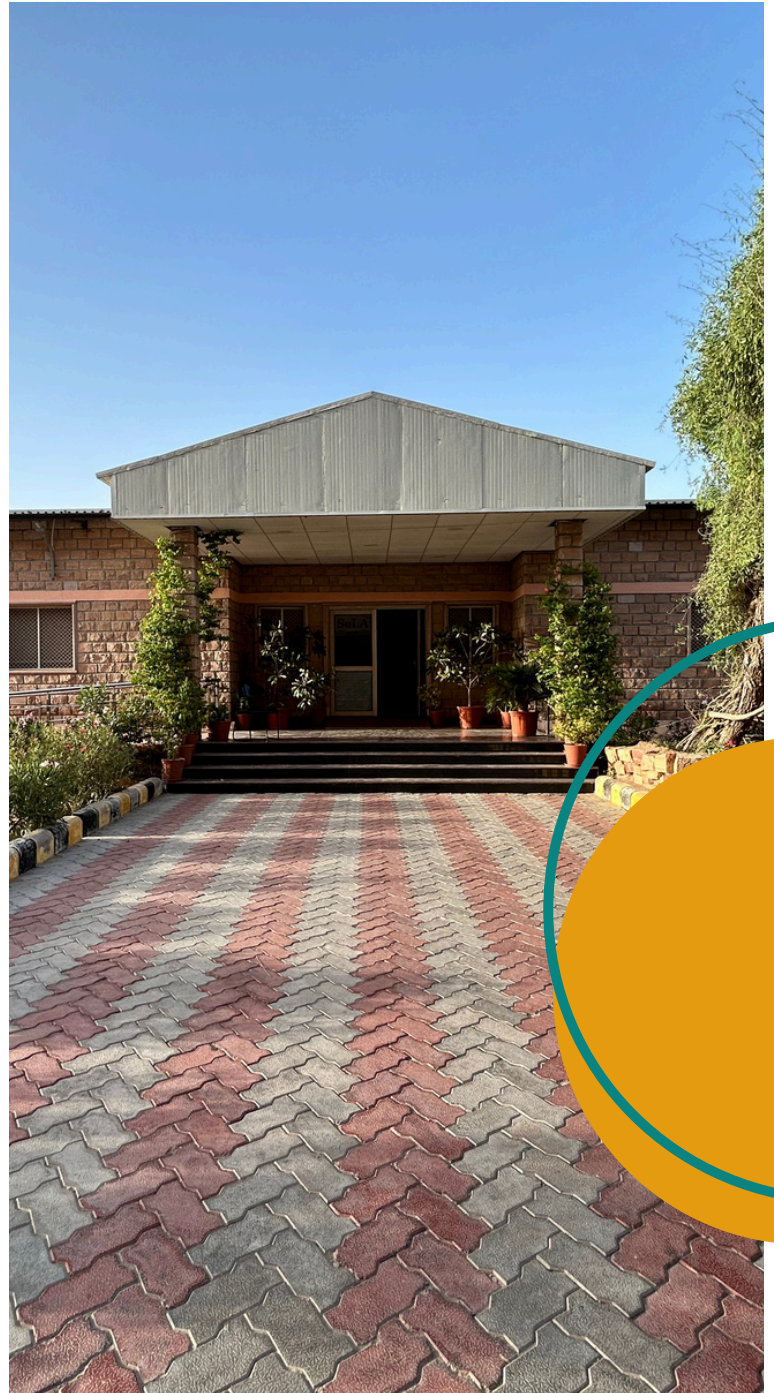
# INSIGHTS

## NEWSLETTER

### SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS, IIT JODHPUR

Welcome to the School of Liberal Arts at Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur, a dynamic hub of interdisciplinary exploration and academic excellence. It aims to cultivate well-rounded individuals with a passion for arts, humanities, and social sciences.

Through a diverse range of activities, our faculty engages students in thought-provoking discussions, fostering critical thinking and global awareness. But it is not just about academics; our vibrant school offers a plethora of activities, promoting holistic development and social interaction. Join us in a community where learning is both rigorous and exciting, where every day brings new opportunities for intellectual growth and personal discovery.



“CREATIVITY IS MORE THAN JUST BEING DIFFERENT. ANYBODY CAN PLAN WEIRD; THAT’S EASY. WHAT’S HARD IS TO BE AS SIMPLE AS BACH. MAKING THE SIMPLE, AWESOMELY SIMPLE, THAT’S CREATIVITY.”

– Charles Mingus

# MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

## FARHAT NAZ

Dear All,

As we step in for the summer break, I welcome you all to the fourth issue of SoLA's Newsletter. As ever, lots happened at SoLA in this semester, which has just concluded. During the first quarter of 2024, we welcomed our new cohort of PhD scholars with an orientation and an informal gathering. We also had the second edition of M. Sc CSS Winter School, Frontiers of Computational Social Sciences, wherein we had experts from Government of India, industry, and academia.

We actively took part in this year's Industry Day, and organised various events and activities throughout the semester such as seminar series, and sports activities. Please check out our SoLA Stories, which highlights students' extracurricular activities. And my colleagues' active participation in workshops, conferences, and publications. I am also happy to share that the First batch of MSc CSS is graduating.

The relevance of humanities and social sciences courses in the IIT ecosystem has increased over the recent years and its significance in imparting holistic education is widely acknowledged. I invite you all to check out the media coverage on SoLA and how it has been significantly contributing to the IIT system along with other Humanities and Social Science departments in other IITs.

IITs focus on Humanities courses to promote synergistic thinking among students:

<https://www.educationtimes.com/article/campus-beat-college-life/99735273/iits-focus-on-humanities-courses-to-promote-synergistic-thinking-among-students>

SoLA continues to strive for excellence and make its presence felt in the IITJ ecosystem. We look forward to meaningful interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary conversations in the light of NEP 2020. And we put our endeavours to work for 'Viksit Bharat' through our academics and research at SoLA.

On behalf of the SoLA, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our New Director Prof. Avinash Kumar Agarwal and look forward to his vision and mentoring of SoLA.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter.  
Best wishes.

**Dr. FARHAT NAZ**

Associate Professor of Sociology  
Head, School of Liberal Arts





## WHAT'S INSIDE THIS EDITION OF INSIGHTS?



We are back with the latest issue of 'Insights'- the biannual newsletter of School of Liberal Arts, IIT Jodhpur.

This issue will give you a glimpse of the academic activities, social gatherings, and extracurricular engagements of the school in the last six months. The following pages will take you through various events, research and scholarly achievements of faculty and students, and their creative endeavours.

- **Message from the Head**
- **Events**
- **Faculty Achievements**
- **Student Achievements**
- **SoLA Stories**
- **Contact Us**



### Editorial Team

Dr. Sreedevi D

Achyut N Sapkal

Sumit K Singh

Dr. Sumana Som

Aryamaan Mohapatra

# Events

## PhD ORIENTATION



We welcomed our new cohort of PhD scholars with an orientation and an informal interaction with the faculty on 4 January 2024. The Department Research Committee (DRC) initiated the orientation by introducing the programme structure to the new batch of research scholars in detail followed by an interaction with the faculty.

## Winter School





School of Liberal Arts (SoLA) organised the second edition of its winter school, Frontiers of Computational Social Sciences, on January 12-13, 2024. Eminent speakers like Mr. Antony Cyriac, Additional Economic Advisor to the Government of India, Dr. Sachin Gulati from American Express, Dr. Siddhartha Sarkar and Mr. Suman Kumar, Behavioural Business and Social Science, TCS, Dr. Lloyd Johannes Blum, Ecological Solutions in Rural Development, Virginia Dare Extract Co., USA (joined online), Prof. Rowena Robinson and Prof. Anush Kapadia from IIT Bombay, and Prof. Muhammad Azeem Khan from IIM Indore, discussed the major challenges and questions related to the discipline. The two-day event had a series of engaging sessions.



## Industry Day

School of Liberal Arts actively took part in the 4th edition of IIT Jodhpur's Industry Day held on 1-2, February 2024. School received appreciation for its diverse research activities and its masters programme, MSc in Computational Social Sciences from industry professionals. The unique industry relevance of the MSc CSS program met with considerable interest. In addition, ongoing interdisciplinary research projects by the faculty and specific projects undertaken by MSc CSS students were received with interest. The active participation and presentation by the students were also appreciated at the Institute level.



## Distinguished Lecture

This year's Distinguished lecture was delivered by Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia on 17th January 2024 at Jodhpur Club. The lecture, "Development Challenges Ahead", invoked many pertinent questions related to India's economy and development. The lecture has invited wide participation from the IITJ community.



## Film Screening

Screening of the film, '*Family*' was held on March 1, 2024 followed by an interactive session with the filmmaker Don Palathara.



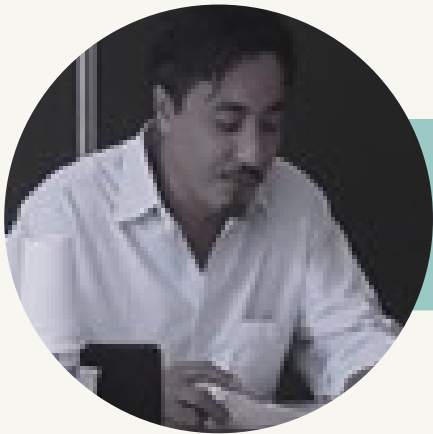


# SoLA Seminar Series

**Dr. Meera Mary Sunny**, Associate Professor, IIT Gandhinagar, spoke on "How we do what we do: Idealism and pragmatism in measurement" (online) on January 22, 2024



**Prof. Pravesh Jung Golay**, Professor, IIT Bombay delivered an online lecture titled, 'On the Cusp of Rupture: Ontology of Freedom through Kant and Nietzsche' on March 26, 2024.



**Dr. Satinder Singh Rekhi's** lecture titled "Who's running your life – you or your monkey brain?" held on 25 January 2024 at LHB 105.



Lecture Demonstration by **Ms. Suhasini Seelin**, titled, 'AI as an Actor: Experiments with Embodied AI in Theatre', held on 23 February 2024 at LHB 308.



# FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

## Ankita Sharma

**Publication:**

Kaman, S., Sharma, A., Banerjee, R. Cortical Circuits of Context Adaptability: Understanding the Neurobehavioral Mechanisms Underlying Flexible Behavior. In: Maji, P., Huang, T., Pal, N.R., Chaudhury, S., De, R.K. (eds) Pattern Recognition and Machine Intelligence. PReMI 2023. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 14301. Springer, p 289-298.

**Expert session:**

'Past and present of Human Rights. Where do the Indian Constitutional provisions stand?' in the collaborative training program organised by the National Human Rights Commission and IIT Jodhpur, 9 Dec 2023.

**International workshop organized:**

Changing Paradigms: Digital Twins and Buddhist Heritage in the Global Age on 22 Jan 2024 at IIC, New Delhi, as part of the Indo-Swiss project, 'Digital Twins: Negotiating Identity and Translocated Heritage in the Global Age', funded by ICSSR and IHDS.

**Conference presentation:**

Sharma, A. Wisdom for the metamorphosing world: Lessons for wise leaders, at 33rd Annual Convention of National Academy of Psychology (NAoP) organised by GITAM University, Vishakhapatnam, 14-16 Feb 2024.

Pathak, D., Kaman, S., Saikia, P., Sharma, J., & Sharma, A Youth and Environmental Sustainability: How to Develop Pro-Environmental Citizens, at 33rd Annual Convention of National Academy of Psychology (NAoP) organised by GITAM University, Vishakhapatnam, 14-16 Feb 2024.

Sharma, J., Sharma, A., & Tribhuvan, P. A cyber-psychological perspective on psychological wellbeing and communal harmony - A case study from Kotra, Rajasthan at 33rd Annual Convention of National Academy of Psychology (NAoP) organised by GITAM University, Vishakhapatnam, 14-16 Feb 2024.

Chaired a session on Building Resilience during the 33rd Annual Convention of the National Academy of Psychology (NAoP) organized by GITAM University, Vishakhapatnam, 2024.

## Anupama Mohan

**Awards:**

2024 Landhaus Fellow, Rachel Carson Centre for Environment and Society, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, April-September 2024.

**Project:**

'Translations in Colonial India 1800-1947: Paradigms Networks and Practices.' SPARC, MoE, GoI 2024; Co-PI; PI: Prof. Suddhaseel Sen (IIT Bombay).

Invited to the Mathrubhumi Literature Festival, Thiruvananthapuram, for book talk on Where Mayflies Live Forever, 8 - 11 Feb 2024.

**Publication:****Reviews:**

Mohan, A. Rev. of India's Forests, Real and Imagined: Writing the Modern Nation by Alan Johnson, 2024. The Book Review. 2024, Vol. 48, Iss. 2.

## Ayla Joncheere

**Invited Talks:**

Masterclass lecture for the Refresher Course in History and Culture at University of Rajasthan, Jaipur on 1 Feb 2024.

Lecture for the Heartbeat of Rajasthan Conference in Pushkar on 7 Mar 2024.

Lecture titled "Women in the Contemporary Socio-Cultural Context", for The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), in collaboration with the Embassy of Belgium on 11 Apr 2024.

ADA Expert Lecture for Foundation program of NIFT Jodhpur on 17 Apr 2024.





# FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

## Farhat Naz

### Publications:

Nizamuddin Auliya: The Saint of Basti Nizamuddin, New Delhi, India,' In Anna-Daan, Food Charity in India- Preaching and Practices, (eds.) K.V.Raju and S. Manasi, Routledge: London and New York, 2024, pp. 604-610.

'Ajmer Dargah Sharif: Khawja Gharib Nawaz - (benefactor of the poor) Ajmer, Rajasthan, India,' In Anna-Daan, Food Charity in India- Preaching and Practices, (eds.) K.V.Raju and S. Manasi, Routledge: London and New York, 2024, pp. 612-616, (co-author Kritika Mishra)

### Book review:

'Sulabh Sanitation in India: Issues, Challenges and Prospects', of Sumit Saurabh Srivastava, 2022; Indian Anthropologist, Jan- Dec 2023, Vol. 53, number 1 and 2, pp. 186-188.

### Invited Talks:

New Approaches to Economy and Society: Exploring Popular Economy as a Research Agenda,' a two-day workshop organized by School of HSS, IIT Mandi & Dept of HSS, IISER Mohali in collaboration with The New Political Economy Initiative, IIT Bombay, on 20-21 Apr 2024.

Moderated a session on Climate Change-Mitigating Climate Change through Knowledge Transfer and Capacity Building at a distinguished platform: Indo-German Conference - Innovation and Global Cooperation for Sustainability, New Delhi, on 14 March 2024.

'Community Engagement and Social Resilience' - in Navigating Change: Adapting to Hydroclimatic Extremes, One Day Seminar, organised by Department of Civil & Infrastructure Engineering, IIT Jodhpur, 11 Mar 2024.

'Research and Development', in the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme: National Education Policy Orientation and Sensitization, organised by IUCAA - Astronomy Centre for Educators, 6 Feb 2024.

'Waterscape: A Viewpoint from Thar Desert, Rajasthan, India, at the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) Jan 2024.

'Ethics of Research: Data Sharing, Research Funding, and Publication', in the CEP course on 'Formulating Research Proposal', organised by the Department of HSS, IIT Kharagpur, 9 Dec 2023.

## Natasa Thoudam

### Invited Talk:

"From Theory to Practice: Meitei Folk Studies"—an invited lecture delivered at "In Theory and Practice": A Two-Day Symposium organized by Dept of HSS, IIT Ropar, on 3-4, Feb 2024.

### Conference Chairs:

"Engendering Humour"—a panel of the IACLALS Annual Conference 2024 on 'Wit, Humour and the Carnavalesque in Literature and Performance' to be co-hosted by the Dept of HSS, BITS Pilani, Goa, on 15 -17 February 2024.

Panel#3 of "In Theory and Practice": A Two-Day Symposium organized by Dept of HSS, IIT Ropar, on 3 - 4 February 2024.

### Conference Presentations:

"The Meitei-Kuki Conflict in (Political) Cartoons of The Sangai Express (Meiteilon Edition)"—a paper presented at the IACLALS Annual Conference 2024 on 'Wit, Humour and the Carnavalesque in Literature and Performance' to be co-hosted by the Dept of HSS, BITS Pilani, Goa, on 15-17 February 2024.

"Silent Screams' and Songs of Mothers: Heisnam Kanhailal's Pebet and Bertolt Brecht's Mother Courage"—in "Non-Anglophone European and Modern Indian Drama: Cross-cultural Encounters and Adaptations" at the 2024 MLA Convention, in Philadelphia, USA, 4 - 7 January 2024 (online).

### Recognition:

Floor judge: CD Narasimhaiah Prize for the Best Paper read at IACLALS annual conference, 2024.

## Rajdeep Konar

CSR project grant by Bharat Serums & Vaccines Ltd. in collaboration Anyadesh, the blind theatre group, to conduct theatre workshops for adolescent blind girl students in three Blind Schools across Bengal, 2023 - 2024.

# FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

## Parichay Patra

### Invited talks:

'Beyond the Novelistic: Kanchenjunga at the Crossroads' at the ongoing program 'An Eye for the World: The Cinema of Satyajit Ray' on Jan 11, 2024, at the Deutsches Filminstitut & Filmmuseum, Germany.

'Transnational as Method: Locating Indian Cine-Practice beyond India' at the year-long research seminar 'India as Method', on Jan 12, 2024, at the Institute for Theatre, Film and Media, Goethe University, Germany.

'Beyond the Nest of the Gentry: When the One-Eyed Goddess Affects the Canon' at the 'Indian Folk Studies in Theory and Practice' symposium, Dept of HSS, IIT Ropar, on Feb 4, 2024.

'In Search of Methodology: Reading Global South Cinemas', (online) at the School of Social Sciences and Humanities, VIT-AP University, on Mar 5, 2024.

## Tonisha Guin

### Presentations:

Open Access Interactive Storytelling Project on the Manasamangal Kavya Teaching Political Ecology as Queer- Feminist Praxis" at 'Sustainability, Global Diversity, Inclusion, and Culture: Interdisciplinary Perspectives' organised by Dept of Education, University of Calcutta, funded by ICSSR, in collaboration with National Library of India, Ministry of Culture, Govt of India, 18th & 19th Jan 2024.

"Decolonising the Anthropocene" A Political Ecological Reading of Sy Montgomery's Spell of the Tiger: The Man-Eaters of Sundarbans" in 'Global Anthro-scene: Rethinking Sustainability and Cultural Preservations' organised by the Dept of English, Jadavpur University, 30-31 Jan 2024.

Open Access Interactive Storytelling Project on the Manasamangal Kavya: Digital Pedagogical Tools on Environmental Crises & Local Stakeholders, Intangible Heritage Conservation, and Minimal and Green Computing Tools for Insider/Outsider Engagement with the Sundarbans in India" panel discussion in the ELO (Un)conference 'Access Works' on Jan 18-19, 2024.

Participated in and moderated a session at the Translation Training Program, organised by the Department of Comparative Indian Language & Literature, University of Calcutta in collaboration with RUSA 2.0. 19-23 Dec 2023.

## Rachel Philip

### Invited Talks:

'Social Inequalities and Education' at Graduate School of Information Production Systems, Waseda University, Japan, 19 Dec 2023.

'SMART Pedagogy and Technology-enhanced learning' as part of the CETE-DH International Seminar on Innovation and Inclusion in Education through Technology-enhanced learning', IIT Jodhpur, 13 Feb 2024.

### Presentations:

Philip, R & Upadhyay, U. 'Access, Excellence and Scale in India's National Programme for Technology-Enabled Learning (NPTEL): Identifying the Hidden Gaps' and Session Chair for 'Educational Data Mining', the IEEE International Conference on Teaching, Assessment and Learning for Engineering (TALE), Auckland, New Zealand, on 1 Dec, 2023.

Upadhyay, U. & Philip, R. 'Redefining Access: The Transformative Journey of NPTEL and Local Chapters in Expanding Higher Education Horizons' at the 13th Annual International Conference of the Comparative Education Society of India (CESI), Tezpur, Assam, 3 Dec, 2023.

The Science in the Search: the Construction of India's National Talent Search Examination' in Two Centuries of Education Policies in India(1823-2023) (Part II), organised by the Max Weber Forum for South Asian Studies; Institute of Educational Studies Humboldt University & Zakir Hussain Center for Educational Studies, JNU, New Delhi on 29 February-1 March, 2024.

## Suman Dhaka

### Funded Project:

Optimization and efficacy of non-invasive brain stimulation on cognitive and motor function in stroke patients - A randomized control trial study. Funding Agency : ICMR (2024 - 2027)  
Co-PI: Dr. Suman Dhaka, Collaborator: AIIMS, Deoghar, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong.

### Publication:

Mishra, B., & Dhaka, S. Effect of loneliness on mental health and cognition: A study on middle-aged and older adults in India. International Social Science Journal, 2024, vol 74 (251), 203-218.

## Sunil Lohar

Time and Space in Indian Folk Narrative Paintings: An Analysis of Pabuji ki Phad and Cheriyal Scroll Paintings", and Chaired a session on "Indian Aesthetics: New Interpretations" at 1st South Asian Exchanges International Conference on Indian Arts and Literature, 9-10, March 2024, (Online)



# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

## Nisha Paliwal

**Presentations:**

"Ontologies of 'Green' and 'Clean': Decolonising 'Wastelands' for Just Energy Transition" at Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference organised by the University of Kentucky, US, 22-24 Feb 2024.

## Rachayita Bhattacharyya

**Presentations:**

"HaikuJam! Learning Haiku!" in the Electronic Literature Organisation's (ELO) International (Un)conference: Access Works , 18-19 Jan, 2024.'

'Digital H(AI)ku: An Introduction', at CHRIST ( Deemed to be University), Lavasa Campus, organised by the Department of Languages, School of Arts and Humanities on 8 Apr 2024.

## Samya Brata Roy

**Publication (Creative):**

Electronic Literature: The city that wasn't!. In: Menon, N., Shanmugapriya, T., Joseph, J. and Sutton, D. (eds.) Indian Electronic Literature Anthology: Dec 2023, Volume I. Pp. 49-54. India: IITI KSHIP.

**Conferences:**

'Theorizing material inequalities in electronic literatures' at the 55th NeMLA Convention organised by Tufts University and University of Buffalo 7-10 Mar 2024.

'Of Porous Boundaries and Materials: A case study of Electronic Literatures' at Anviksha: A Research Scholars' Conference organized by the Dept of HSS, IIT Kanpur, 3-4 Feb 2024.

Co-chair of ELO (Un)conference: Access Works Conference (also conducted a workshop on "Publishing ELit Research") (virtual), 18-19 Jan, 2024.

"Sahitya Akademi and Electronic LiteratureS: Disciplines, Institutions and Disciplining" at the Digital Area Studies Lab hosted by the Department for Interdisciplinary and Multiscalar Area Studies, University of Regensburg, April 2024.

"Digital Humanities Publishing" for the Faculty of Arts DH Lecture Series hosted by the University of Calabar, February 2024.

"Introductions to DH/ Introduction to DHs" at the English Department, The Heritage College, Kolkata. December 2023.

## Sonal Sinha

**Presentations:**

'Second Person Pronominals: A Case Study of Angika, Magahi, Bhojpuri, Maithili and Thethi' at '45th International Conference of the Linguistic Society of India (ICOLSI 45)', at Dept. of Linguistics, Aligarh Muslim University, on 20-22 Nov 2023.

'Propaganda in Hindi Newspapers and Periodicals: A Comparative Study of Indian Media Outlets' at the Student's Conference of Linguistics in India (SCONLI-14)', at Dept. of HSS Linguistics, IIT KHARAGPUR on 21 - 23 Feb 2024.

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

## Subhaji Maji

Cleared UGC NET and JRF in Sociology in December 2023.

## Swarnima Banerjee

### Presentations:

"Reading Environment in the Bangla Crimate Fictions of Suchitra Bhattacharya and Buddhadeb Guha" at the 55th NeMLA Convention organised by Tufts University and University of Buffalo, 10 Mar 2024.

"Multiple 'Others' in South Asian Speculative Fiction: Case Studies from India and Pakistan" at the 55th NeMLA Convention organised by Tufts University and University of Buffalo, 7-10, Mar 2024.

"Beyond Nationness"- Reading Environment in the Selected Crimate Fictions of Suchitra Bhattacharya and Buddhadeb Guha" at ACLA conference, Montreal, 14-17, Mar 2024.

## Uma Mehta

'From Reservation to Empowerment: Women's Agency in Local Governance ' at Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development: A Comparative Study of Meghalaya and Haryana, funded by ICSSR organised by the Dept of Sociology, Central University of Haryana in collaboration University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya and Tripura Bamboo and Cane Department, March 27-28, 2024.



# SoLA Stories



SoLA's participation in the extracurricular activities organised by the board of departmental society, IITJ. Students of SoLA actively participated in both arts and sports activities and competitions showcasing their talents and camaraderie .



Painting : Pradarshika Biswas from SoLA



# Contact Us



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