



SANKALP HSS Newsletter

Volume 1, 2022

**Department of Humanities & Social
Sciences**

**Jaypee Institute of Information
Technology, Noida**

**(Deemed to be University under
section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| MESSAGE FROM THE HON. PRO-CHANCELLOR | 3 |
| MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR | 4 |
| MESSAGE FROM DEAN AND HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF HSS | 5 |
| FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD | 7 |
| DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES | 9 |
| WORKSHOP/WEBINAR/FDP SEMINAR/CONFERENCE ATTENDED | 11 |
| WEBINAR AND GUEST LECTURE ORGANIZED BY HSS DEPARTMENT | 14 |
| JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS SUMMARY (JAN 2021 - TILL DATE) | 15 |
| IT'S OUR EARTH | 18 |
| KALAKRITI | 20 |
| ICREATE HUB | 22 |
| THE THESPIAN CIRCLE: THEATRE HUB OF JIIT | 23 |
| NSS @ JIIT | 27 |
| EMPLOYEE FRIENDLY WORKPLACES: OPTIONAL OR NECESSITY? | 29 |
| FINANCE FUNDA QUIZ | 31 |
| PATENT IN HSS DEPT. | 32 |
| FINANCE EDUCATION FOR BUDDING ENGINEERS | 33 |
| A LONE WOLF | 35 |
| FINDING THYSELF | 43 |
| UPCOMING EVENTS | 44 |

MESSAGE FROM THE HON. PRO-CHANCELLOR



The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences has acted as the nurturing ground of human values, ideals and life skills for our students at JIIT since the inception of the institute. The successful technocrats and managers that Jaypee Institute of Information & Technology, Noida continues to produce, have a distinct mark of being true ambassadors of humanity in every sphere that they choose to work in. The Department of HSS has played a pivotal role in this through its courses and its involvement in various hub activities, shaping young minds and moulding them into good humans. The various compulsory courses and the electives offered by the department make our budding engineers truly humane and sensitive citizens ready to become harbingers of change in society.

Today, when it brings out its first issue of newsletter, I hope the Department of HSS will continue to fulfil its mission of imbibing pluralistic values, democratic and egalitarian doctrines of society at large. This newsletter could further sensitize the readers to the broader social, cultural, economic, ethical and humane issues of the world around us. In days to come, this newsletter could become the mouthpiece of JIIT as a powerful influence in bringing the much-needed social change in the world around us by imparting values, ethics and giving a platform to our students and faculty to explore their creativity.

I wish them success in this venture.

Prof. S.C. Saxena

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



I am delighted to know that the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences has come up with its first newsletter, *Sankalp* that will exhibit minutely the coordinated efforts and the achievements apart from the creative facet of the faculty and the students. The department has played a pivotal role in Jaypee Institute of Information Technology by honing the creative talents of the students and helping them emerge as finer leaders and efficient decision makers. I hope that this newsletter will provide a platform for all the humanistic aspects of technology and the technocrats.

I congratulate the editorial team for this initiative and wish them success!

Prof. Yog Raj Sood

MESSAGE FROM DEAN AND HEAD

DEPARTMENT OF HSS



Greetings to One and All!

As has been well said, man is a social animal and is gifted with the unique powers to think and feel. The Department of Humanities & Social Sciences at Jaypee Institute of Information Technology, Noida endeavours to create real humans, thinking souls, sensitive beings and not mere engineers and managers working mechanically in this cut-throat world of existential crisis today. This department is a source of change-facilitators who serve to complement the existing and emerging educational programs by imparting professional and behavioural competencies, thereby transforming our students to become new-age leaders in their chosen professions. This is done through various courses offered across the semesters ranging from psychology, sociology, economics, literature, political sciences, finance, marketing, entrepreneurship, culture and knowledge management. The department is actively involved in enriching the social and cultural ethos of the institute through its involvement in NSS and activities of various hubs led by our faculty members.

Today, we embark onto a new journey towards fulfilling our goals further, through our newsletter. This newsletter will give a platform to all of us to explore our potentials of creativity, take on new learnings from one another and put forth our views on various issues concerning man and society at large.

I hope that the articles that will be penned by our teachers and students can sensitize our readers to the broader social, cultural, economic, ethical and humane issues involved in social change, apart from chronicling the activities and achievements of our department.

I wish all the success to the editorial team and hope that this newsletter will provide the impetus to all our students and readers to gain newer insights into life and society and help us grow as sensitive humans.

Best Wishes

Prof Alka Sharma

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavantu **लोकः समस्ताः सुखिनो भवन्तु** is not only a Sanskrit mantra but an emotion for us. ‘May all beings everywhere be happy and free, and may the thoughts, words, and actions of my own life contribute in some way to that happiness and to that freedom for all. With this hope and commitment, the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences is introducing the inaugural issue of Newsletter ‘Sankalp’. This newsletter is the joint effort of our dear students and faculty members. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Members:

Dr. Ankita Das

Dr. Debjani Sarkar

Dr. Ekta Srivastava

Dr. Monali Bhattacharya

Dr. Nilu Choudhary

Dr. Praveen Sharma

Dr. Priyanka Chhaparia

Ms. Puneet Pannu

*A Glance at the
Department of Humanities
and Social Sciences*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Vision

To be a centre of excellence in preparing professionals by imbibing human values and to carry out contemporary and futuristic research in humanities and social sciences.

Mission

MISSION 1: To provide socially relevant and high-quality professional education in a wide range of inter-disciplinary areas of humanities and social sciences.

MISSION 2: To conduct quality research in different areas of humanities and social sciences.

MISSION 3: To imbibe pluralistic values, democratic and equalitarian doctrines of society at large.

Academic Engagements

WORKSHOP/WEBINAR/FDP

SEMINAR/CONFERENCE ATTENDED

| S. N. | Title of the professional development programme | Organizer | From Date |
|-------|---|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | Dr. Mukta Mani attended FDP on “Instructional Design for Effective Teaching” | AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy at BML Munjal University | 05.07.2021-09.07.2021 |
| 2 | Dr. Sakshi Varshney attended 5 Days National Level Quality Improvement Programme on “Upskilling Security Market Operations” | Christ University, Bangalore | 26.08.21-31.08.21 |
| 3 | Dr. Sakshi Varshney attended One Week Online FDP on “Data Analysis using Statistical Tools” | Jaypee Business School | 13.09.21-18.09.21 |
| 4 | Dr. Sakshi Varshney attended “Two-week Capacity Building Programme on Data Analysis and Research Methodology in Social Sciences” | Alagappa University, Tamil Nadu | 03.09.21-14.09.21 |
| 5 | Ms. Puneet Pannu attended FDP on CPD: Practising, Researching and Publishing | NIT Tiruchirappalli | 12.07.2021-24.07.2021 |
| 6 | Dr. Akarsh Arora attended Staff Development Program (SDP) on ‘Improving Workplace Productivity and building staff morale during Pandemic times’ | Jaypee Business School, NOIDA | 28.06.2021-02.07.2021 |

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|----|---|---|--------------------------|
| 7 | Dr. Akarsh Arora attended FDP on “Data Analysis using Statistical Tools” | Jaypee Business School, NOIDA | 13.09.2021 - 18.09.2021 |
| 8 | Mr. Manas Ranjan Behera attended Faculty Development Programme on “Food and Agriculture Biotechnology” | JIIT Noida | 02.08.2021 - 07.08.2021 |
| 9 | Dr. Chandrima Chaudhuri Bhartiye Bhasayein: Dasha vs. Disha | Deshbandhu College, Delhi university along with Mahatma Hansraj Faculty Development Centre, Hansraj College, Delhi University | 26.10.2021 - 01.11. 2021 |
| 10 | Dr. Sakshi Varshney attended A Virtual Workshop on Investing in Stock Markets-Latest Trends | GITAM Hyderabad Business School and NSE Bombay | 20.08.2021- 21.08.2021 |
| 11 | Dr. Sakshi Varshney attended National Hands on Training Workshop on “Open Data” | Janki Devi Memorial College, Delhi University | 18.08.2021 |
| 12 | Dr. Sakshi Varshney attended Online Webinar on Moocs and E content Development | Sambalpur University | 20.08.2021 |
| 13 | Dr. Sakshi Varshney attended Two days Webinar Series on Work and Working Population | Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, University of Delhi | 25.10.2021- 26.10.2021 |
| 14 | Dr. Sakshi Varshney attended 3 Days Business Communication Workshop: The People Principle: Effective Communication for Everyone | Jaypee Business School | 7.10.2021-9.10. 2021 |
| 15 | Dr. Akarsh Arora attended Rural Economy & Contemporary India | Department of Economics, Karmaveer Ramraoji Aher | 9.07.2021 |

| | | | |
|----|---|---|---------------------------|
| | | Arts, Science & Commerce College, Deola, Nashik, Maharashtra | |
| 16 | Dr. Akarsh Arora attended Virtual Workshop & Hands on Training on Bioinformatics Approaches for Data Analysis & Research | JIIT Noida | 12.08.2021- 14.08.2021 |
| 17 | Mr. Manas Ranjan Behera attended Virtual Workshop & Hands on Training on Bioinformatics Approaches for Data Analysis & Research | JIIT Noida | 12.08.2021- 14.08.2021 |
| 18 | Mr. Manas Ranjan Behera attended Panel Discussion: Building Personal and Organizational Resilience | JIIT Noida | 15.07.2021 |

WEBINAR AND GUEST LECTURE ORGANIZED BY HSS DEPARTMENT

| S.No | Activity | Organized on |
|-------------|---|---------------------|
| 1 | Webinar on Women Cancers: Prevention & Lifestyle Choices | 13.11.21 |
| 2 | Talk on Conduct Rules for Teachers and Staff | 22.11.21 |
| 3 | Guest Lecture on Changing the Future of Supply Chain with CRM – A post pandemic thought | 24.11.21 |
| 4 | Webinar on Global Economic Slowdown | 30.11.21 |
| 5 | Integrity Pledge taking by HSS department | 26.10.21 |
| 6 | Webinar on “Counselling Session on Mental Health” | 29.10.21 |
| 7 | Talk on Role of a Counsellor in grooming young minds | 30.10.21 |
| 8 | Webinar on Gender Equality, Women Safety and Rights | 18.09.21 |
| 9 | Webinar on “How to do well in Personal Interview” | 24.09.21 |
| 10 | Webinar on “Pandemic uncertainty and Dynamics of happiness” | 27.09.21 |

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS SUMMARY (JAN 2021 - TILL DATE)

- S. Srivastava, B. Bajaj, B., and S. Dev., “Human Resource Information System Use, Satisfaction, and Success” International Journal of Enterprise Information systems, Vol 17 No 1, pp. 106-124, 2021
- R Gera, P Chadha & S. Alavi. “A Comprehensive Synthesis of Theories of Mobile Shopping Adoption and Narrative View”. International Journal of Cyber Behaviour Psychology and Learning (IJCBLP). Vol 11 No 2, pp. 52-74,2021.
- J.S Dixit, S. Alavi & V. Ahuja. “Studying Consumer Brand Relationship and Segmenting Consumers of Green Apparel Brands”. International Journal of Advances in Engineering and Management (IJAEM), 3(6), 237-248,2021.
- P. Srivastava and S. Varshney, “Investment pattern of domestic institutional investors. International Journal of Business Innovation and Research,” doi.org/10.1504/IJBIR.2021.10038350
- P. Srivastava and S. Varshney, “Domestic Institutional Investors and Sectoral Indices of India: A Toda Yamamoto Approach,” Iranian Economic Review, doi: 10.22059/ier.2021.81924
- M. Gupta and S. Varshney, “Exchange rate volatility and India-U.S. export at commodity level: Evidence from an Autoregressive Distributed Lag approach,” doi: <https://dx.doi.org/10.22059/ier.2021.81585>
- M. Gupta and S. Varshney “21Shatabdi ke Badlav Aiwam Samaj Vigyan ka Bhavishya,” Bhartiya Samajshastra Sameeksha, Vol 8, no 1, pp 118–126, 2021
- S. Dev, and S. Sharma, “Employee Satisfaction and Gender: A Study of Indian Banks”. International Journal of Service Science, Management, Engineering, and Technology (IJSSMET), 12(1), 1-16. Jan-Feb 2021
- G. Roy and S. Sharma, “Analyzing one-day tour trends during COVID 19 disruption – applying push and pull theory and text mining approach” Tourism recreation Research, Vol 46(2) pp 1-16, April 2021

- A. Malik and S. Sharma, “Antecedents of Wallet App Adoption”, International Journal of Web Based Learning and Teaching Technologies, vol 16(2), March April 2021
- J.S Dixit, S. Alavi & V. Ahuja, “Why apparel companies go green?” International Journal of Green Economics, Vol15 No. 1, pp. 20-32, September 2021
- M. Gupta, and S. Varshney. “Exchange Rate Volatility and Import Trade Flow Evidence from India-U.S. at Industry Level.” International Journal of Asian Business and Information Management, Vol.12, no.3 2021: pp.1-21.
- Soni, and K.M. Bakhru, 'Personality traits and entrepreneurial intention among Chartered Accountancy students. Problems and Perspectives in Management, Vol. 19, no3, pp 136-147, 2021
- G.Roy.and S. Sharma, “Measuring the role of factors on website effectiveness using vector autoregressive model”. Journal of Retailing and consumer Services, Humanities and Social Sciences, 62, 102656.2021
- N. Sinha and A. Sharma, “A Cross-Sectional Study on Gender Differences and Influence of Social Media Engagement on Breast Cancer Knowledge among Delhi-NCR Population in India”, Indian Journal of Community Health, Vol.33, no.1, pp. 198-201, Jan-Mar 2021.ISSN: 09717587
- N. Sinha and A. Sharma, “Understanding Social Media Usage and Engagement among Women to inform Breast Cancer Knowledge and Prevention Practices: Cross sectional study in Delhi-NCR of India”, Indian Journal of Community Medicine, Vol. 46, no.3, July-September 2021. ISSN:09700218

Hubs headed by HSS

IT'S OUR EARTH

“No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main”- John Donne

Humans are dependent beings and for our growth, it is important to strive for inclusivity through mutual support and respect for all communities around us. Jaypee Institute of Information Technology believes in education with a holistic perspective which focuses on each student's intellectual, emotional, social, physical, artistic, creative and spiritual development.

The students of Jaypee Institute of Information Technology are committed to advancing education, environment, health and safety and other programs and initiatives that are important to improving the quality of life. Through various activities and initiatives, they strive hard to promote awareness on mindful living and the need for protecting the environment

To further this cause and to give impetus to such social initiatives, JIIT created in 2017 a student hub called “It's Our Earth”. The young JIITians under this student hub commit themselves to maintaining an environment that fosters student empowerment for social and environmental development. For the past two years the students have been organizing events like Tree Plantation, Say No to Drugs, Donation camps for the underprivileged, etc.

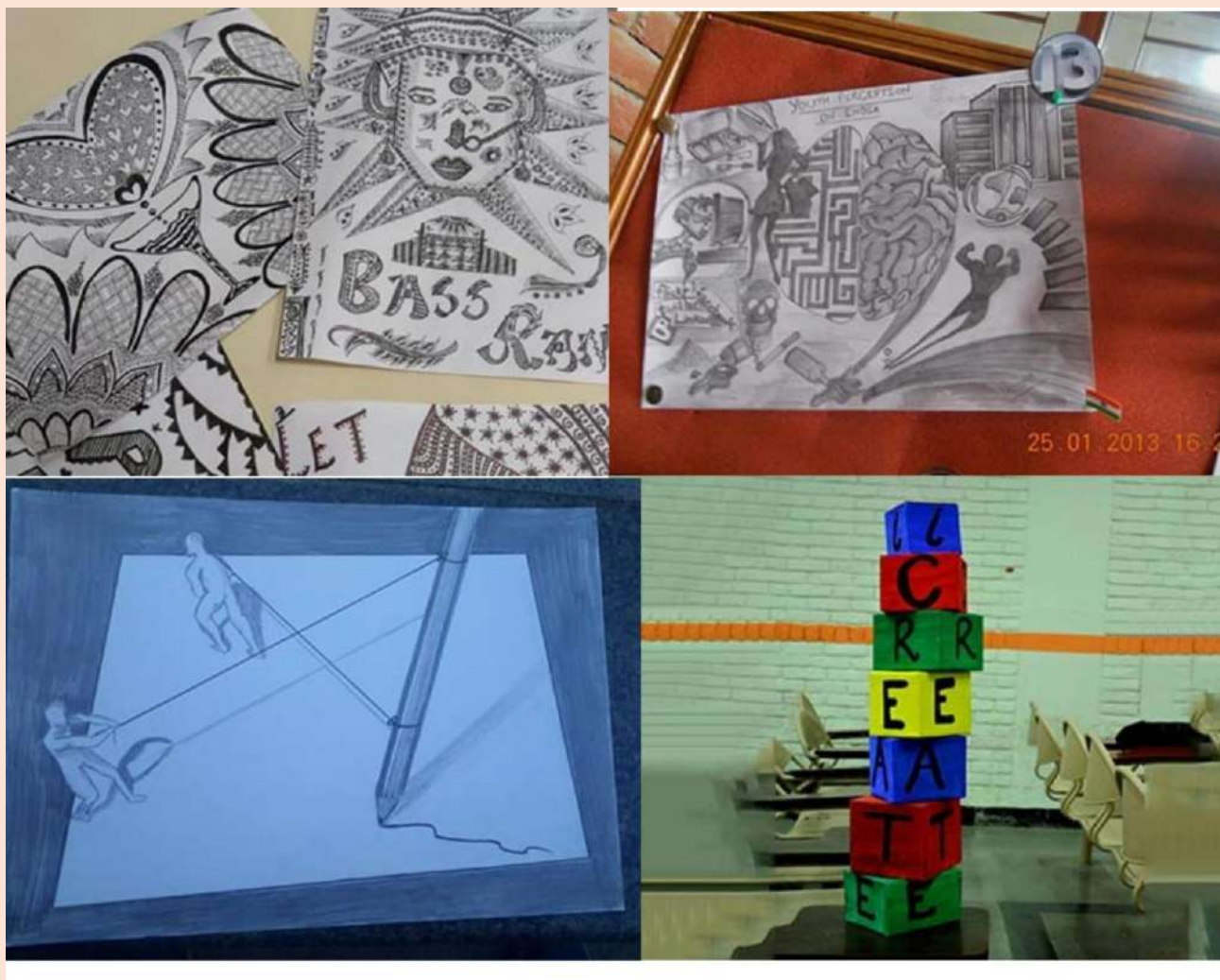




KALAKRITI

“Creativity is contagious, Pass it on”! - Albert Einstein

Kalakriti provides a platform for young engineers to showcase their creativity and artistic skills. This hub foregrounds the artistic and creative ideas of students by organizing various competitive and leisure activities throughout the year. It provides the students an opportunity to follow their artistic pursuits and release their stress. With activities like Sand art, Rangoli, Junk Rangoli, Poster making, Graffiti etc the young engineers not only learn and showcase new art forms but also find it a pleasant break from monotonous routine life.





ICREATE HUB

ICREATE sketching hub was established by faculty in charge Dr. Kanupriya Misra Bakhru and came into existence in 2011. From 2020 onwards, Dr. Chandrima Chaudhuri has taken charge of the hub. Under the hard work and persistence of students it has organized many successful events since its inception. ICREATE sketching hub is not just a hub where the students with great sketching skills can only participate but this hub supports and guides all those who want to develop skills in sketching. ICREATE also provides the opportunity to those students who once used to sketch and were good sketchers but due to heavy workload and schedules are now not in touch with their passion. With time the hub has gained popularity for conducting workshops which often hosts renowned artists. The hub has also organized art galleries and exhibitions to motivate the sketchers of JIIT. Some of the events organized by ICREATE are Google Doodles, Better Half, Sketch the Set, Collage Making, Lamp Shadezz, Scribble Art, Model Your Town, Bollycally, Zentangle, and The Mystery Build to name a few.



THE THESPIAN CIRCLE: THEATRE HUB OF JIT

“Stars have airs, actors have egos And artistes....they are God’s own instruments to create & spread beauty & art”.

The Thespian Circle was born out of labour, many hours of sweat and mostly from the love of art. Passion is the key if there is no passion the stage must be abandoned







THE NSS CHAPTER

NSS @ JIIT

NSS JIIT is a voluntary organization founded on September 14, 2019 with the aim of sensitizing youths to the various social and environmental concerns of the society and to have a committed volunteer base to serve the society through various events both in and around university campus. NSS JIIT collaborates with various NGOs to further their mission to serve the society.

At JIIT there are 3 sanctioned NSS units which are self-financed. Each unit has 100 volunteers. The student volunteers uphold the spirit of NSS: NOT ME BUT YOU by volunteering enthusiastically towards social service and works for the betterment of society.

The four areas towards which they contribute are:

- *Gyan Vigyan*: This is a field of service wherein we deal with awareness and knowledge enhancement about science and technology. We have campaigns under which we offer services to educate underprivileged students through NGOs. The volunteers organize campus visits, online sessions and face to face interactions to explain basic scientific concepts.
- *Prakriti aur Swasthya*: Emphasizes on the responsibility of taking good care of the environment and of people around us. NSS JIIT regularly conducts events on health, sanitation, hygiene, environment conservation, plantation drives, awareness on stubble burning, segregation of waste and cleanliness drives to restore Prakriti and Swasthaya.
- *Lok Chetna*: We aim to spread constructive awareness among the members of the society. Events such as consumer rights awareness campaign, Drug free India Campaign, women empowerment, road safety campaign, and awareness on other social issues, rights and responsibilities mark our efforts for creating Lok Chetna.
- *Samvedna*: It refers to compassion towards fellow human beings. Compassion gives us the ability to understand someone else's situation and the desire to act to improve their lives. It is the quality that allows us to step outside of ourselves and see the circumstances of others. NSS organized events like blood donation camp, menstrual hygiene awareness campaigns, donation drives, free medical camps, cultural and social interaction with special children are to instill Samvedna for society among youths.

- *Dr. Swati Sharma, Associate Professor, HSS*

PENNED BY FACULTY

EMPLOYEE FRIENDLY WORKPLACES: OPTIONAL OR NECESSITY?

"Treating employees benevolently shouldn't be viewed as an added cost that cuts into profits, but as a powerful energizer that can grow the enterprise into something far greater than one leader could envision."

- Harold Schultz - founder and former CEO of Starbucks

Workplaces are increasingly being re-defined in the backdrop of sophisticated technology, enhanced globalization, and now also due to COVID-19 pandemic. This has also led to the change in employee-employer relationship. The jury is still out on whether these re-definitions of physical and social spaces are for the good.

The pandemic induced lockdown and its aftermath has seen mixed response from the organizations. Mostly, organizations worldwide have taken note of the mental exhaustion that the pandemic brought with itself. The dip in productivity was also widely registered. There are companies and leaders which have taken concrete steps to ensure the well-being of their employees while also ensuring their productivity.

From work-from-home to hybrid models, from four days a week to six days a week, the experiments are still underway. Though the best of these models is yet to be announced, the need to have employee-friendly workplaces cannot be debated further. Organizations which fail to take note of the changes might be losing out on long-term gains.

Creating employee friendly workplaces can take many forms. A simple Google search will open the Pandora box of what employee-friendly policies can look alike. All of these have one element in common: making your employees valued. Now there are also a plethora of ways in which employees can be made to feel otherwise. People leave organizations in search of an environment where they feel valued and appreciated; they are looking for employers who would offer support

in times of crisis, employers who would ensure that employees have resources for their personal as well as professional growth.

Whose responsibility is it to create a conducive environment for employees' satisfaction and growth? Leadership definitely has the most crucial role to play. Designing and execution of well laid out policies cannot be stressed enough. Towards this goal, the voices of employees are equally important. The management needs to tune into the needs and aspirations of employees-- the ones who are still with the organization, the ones who have left, and the ones who are actively looking to leave. The people at different levels also shoulder the responsibility towards creating a positive environment; one in which the growth of peers as well that of organizations' is assured.

- *Dr. Priyanka Chhaparia, Assistant Professor,
HSS*

FINANCE FUNDA QUIZ

True or False

1. If you buy shares of a company, you have lent money to the company.
2. Companies are required by law to pay a specified dividend to their equity shareholders each year.
3. Buying a single company's stock usually provides a riskier return than a stock mutual fund.
4. The expense ratio of equity mutual funds will generally be lower than for index mutual funds.
5. It will take 6 years to double your money if it grows at 12% annually.
6. If you have Rs 50,000 of outstanding debts and the market value of your assets is Rs 30,000, your “net worth” is positive Rs 20,000.
7. If you invest Rs 1 lac in a pension fund at 7% p.a. rate of interest today, the fund can give you a pension of Rs 7000 per year forever, starting from next year.
8. Imagine that the interest rate on your savings is 4% per year, and inflation is 5% per year. After a year, you'd be able to buy more goods than what you can buy today for Rs 1,000.
9. An *endowment* policy is a combination of insurance and investment while *term plans* are pure insurance plans.
10. One should have a life insurance cover of at least 10 times of his annual income.

Answers:

False- Buying a share is buying a portion of ownership of the company.

False- Equity dividend is a distribution of profit, so it depends on the profits of company.

True- Mutual funds invest in diversified portfolio to reduce the risk.

False- Index funds are passively managed funds thus bear lower expense ratio.

True- As a thumb rule, Doubling period = $72/\text{Interest rate}$.

False- Net-worth = Assets - Liabilities

True- Pension (every year, forever) = Present value \times interest rate ($7000 = 100000 \times 0.07$)

False- High inflation will reduce the purchasing power at a faster rate.

True- Endowment policy provide both death and maturity benefit while term plans provide only death benefit.

True- As a thumb rule, Insurance cover should be at least 10 times the annual income.

Dr. Mukta Mani, Associate Professor, HSS

PATENT IN HSS DEPT.

Dr Shirin Alavi in collaboration with faculty of different institutions published a patent titled “IoT based solar assisted. inexpensive ceramic. based water purification for natural rain water harvesting, India, Patent Number is 202131025800, Published on July 9, 2021.

FINANCE EDUCATION FOR BUDDING ENGINEERS

Financial education at the college level is consistently used to imply money related preparation and money related awareness. Imparting financial education immensely helps students to gain monetary proficiency. Financial capability accepts a critical part for individuals in recognizing and isolating various providers, things and organizations to achieve financial success. Individuals, especially students, when they enter the workforce, have limited means and therefore, face difficulty in making sound financial decisions such as buying a house, car, and other major investments including retirement plans. Financial understanding enables the cognizance to stand up and wisely tackle money related crisis, financing of new enterprises, determining cost of capital and the best remedies to defeat the problems arising out of shortage of funds. The more people share this understanding, the better it is for the economy. Financial knowledge helps tackle all sorts of financial challenges, whether it comes in hay days or crisis periods. The community spread of COVID-19 has affected all sections of society irrespective of caste and creed. It has rendered people jobless and depleted their financial resources. This difficult period has made people ponder about the best investment's portfolio for future consumption. As a matter of fact, even those with agreeable financial capacity may have to fight to make ends meet. Understandably, it ought to be worse for those with limited financial resources. Students are guided to settle on right choices and differentiate between farfetched commitments to dire commitment.

-Dr. Sakshi Varshney, Associate Professor, HSS

STUDENTS' CORNER

A LONE WOLF

Evening was beginning to fall. Shapes were slowly fading into the darkness of the night, where the shining eyes of a wolf shone like two stars, tears of guilt rolling down his whiskers. Ved was one of his kind, an abnormal in the eyes of other wolves, including his own brother Neil. But it wasn't always the case. His life flashed before his eyes, as if it was his last moment. He relived the memories from where it all began.

It was an ecstatic day for the Jambari Wolf tribe. Ved and Neil were finally 6 months old and it was their first day of hunting with the tribe, after all one of them was going to lead the wolf tribe after their father Rudra.

"C'mon brother the pack's going to leave soon. Mother ain't going anywhere", woofed Neil. Ved was hesitant to leave his mother's cozy fur.

"You should probably go now, or your dad would be furious" smiled Kamala, waving off his son.

"I won't let you down, mother. I will make you feel proud!"

"That's my boy! Now off you go"

Ved scurried away from the cave to catch up with his friends.

"It's a given that I'll win the hunt" Neil was boasting about his skills to Noori, a female cub from the pack.

"That seems so fun! Can I also join you guys??" enquired Noori.

Noori's mother came in with a gloomy face – "No Noori, you cannot participate in the hunt. We're supposed to be here to guard the caves."

"But Aunt, why can we not include her in the hunt?" interrupted Ved upon overhearing the conversation.

"It's a rule made by Dad brother, everyone from the pack follows it" replied Neil.

"What a silly rule" giggled Ved. The three of them started laughing as if completely forgetting the point of the conversation.

“At least we can take her with us, right Aunt?”

Noori’s mother was a bit hesitant but then agreed to it. She smiled and waved them off.

"Alright cubs! This is your first task. You have to hunt that hare down. Remember to hunt in groups. And try not to cross the boundary. Zimbawa and his pack are always sneaking out there. Now Go!" growled Rudra while directing the cubs towards the hare. The group of cubs sprinted off on their claws chasing she-hare at their wildest speed. Ved being more agile and fast outran other wolves and went down to chase the hare alone. It seemed like the outcome was very obvious. Ved might be the next leader of Jambari tribe, at least everyone thought so. The only thought that kept him going was his desire to make his mother proud and so he kept chasing the hare at his top speed. It was unnatural for a wolf to go alone hunting, they usually hunted in packs, but Ved went lone to kill the hare. He followed the she-hare to her burrow and finally landed her under his claws. Finally! He had caught the hare in his first attempt. Just when he was about to bite the head off the hare as he saw his father do, his gaze fell upon a few baby hares hiding in the corner of the burrow, scared and crying. The mother hare had gone out to get the food for her babies. Ved saw tears in her eyes. The hare escaped from his loosened grasp and ran to her babies to feed them the carrots she had brought from a farm mile away. He saw a mother feeding her babies just like his mother used to do when he was two months old. He was so mesmerized by that beautiful scene that it eventually made him cry. He couldn't stand the thought of hunting down a mother of innocent baby hares because he knew the unconditional love of a mother. He could not even fathom the pain it would cause to him if Kamala were to die. Ved was in a dilemma. If this kept happening he would not be able to hunt down animals. Was it even necessary for him to hunt them down? Neil arrived at the scene and did not even flinch before biting the hare's head off. Ved paused for a second and instantly turned towards the baby hares. Their tears were filled with sadness and anger. Who would look after them now? Ved could not stand the scene and fled off to his cave.

It was a disgrace that such great leadership was wasted. Rudra after knowing what had happened, thought it was just a phase that Ved was going through. He made him realize that it was okay to kill for it is a cycle of life and tried to teach him to kill, but unnaturally Ved had developed an aversion towards killing. Rudra was disheartened as the one cub he had high hopes for, had let him down. But somewhere deep down he thought, was it really Ved’s fault?

Kamala on the other hand accepted her son the way he is, after all she loved him unconditionally. Word spread through the pack that Ved was an abnormal wolf. It was challenging for Rudra to pay no heed to the awful rumors that wolves circulated about his son. No cub now played with Ved, and everyone tried to avoid him. It seemed as if the pack had already deserted him. But Ved did not care, all he needed to live for was her mother's constant support and love. Many months passed away and no one was able to tell what went around Rudra's head, he appeared gloomy most times of the day. The pack thought that their leader had lost it as well and his time had come. The pain of his beloved son turning out to be like this was still a hard pill to swallow for Rudra. Due to this, Neil, a caring and loving brother, started feeling alienated. He did not feel bad that his brother turned out to be like this, but the fact his father wouldn't appreciate his skills is what hurt him. As an obvious consequence he started envying Ved, for he believed his brother was the cause of their father's condition. Months passed by and Ved stayed around the caves protecting females of the pack. Rudra was still in miserable condition and was counting his last breaths while Kamala was looking after him. Many wolves left the pack due to its wretched condition and so Neil was made the new leader. It was a joyous occasion, but no one seemed happy in his family except Ved.

Rudra was on his deathbed and after months of unending pain he finally understood how much Ved loved him. He realized how foolish it was of him to desert his son from fatherly love that he deserved. Somewhere he knew his son was special. He called out Ved in his weak voice.

"I-I'm sorry son, for being such a bad father. I've been so uncaring to you, yet still you are the one looking after me. A son who is still by his father's side"

Ved replied - "Because you are my father. No matter how many times you scold me or desert me, my love and respect for you and mother will never vanish. I will still look at you as an idol. You will always be a super wolf to me!"

Tears ran down his father's whiskers. Was it normal for a wolf to feel such emotions?

Rudra breathed his last breath the following day but with a smile on his face, as if he was relieved of the stress and burden he had faced all these months.

Noori, who was now one of the best hunters in the pack, always fought for the independence of female wolves, something the male wolf tribe did not care about. She naturally started growing her affection towards Ved as he constantly supported the lady wolves and helped them out by

staying at the caves. He gave them respect they deserved, something the dogmatic male wolf tribe lacked.

"I wonder why you weren't made the leader of the tribe. You're one of the best hunters in our tribe, and in fact you outran Neil that one day as well."

"You think so?" asked Noori to Ved while having a soulful conversation with him under the crystal sky.

"I'm sure the she-cubs would look up to you and get the hope of becoming pack leaders as well if you led our pack" replied Ved.

Noori saw in Ved, a wolf who saw her the way she is. Someone who appreciated her abilities and strength and gave her the respect she deserved. Ved wasn't a bad wolf after all, just a misfit, she thought. They started growing a liking towards each other.

After months of having such conversations, Noori and Ved were finally engaged. Ved had a happy family now, a loving mother, a caring brother and a partner to spend his remaining lifetime with. He asked for nothing more.

Neil on the other hand was succumbing to the greed of the throne. A cunning wolf incepted in his head the thought of Noori taking over his throne, as she was now a part of the royal family, now that she even has the support of their mother. He came up with a plot.

"Brother, with all due respect, I like that you help and protect the ladies of the pack here but now that there are only a handful of wolves left, I don't think we will be able to fend for the pack if a male wolf stays at the cave."

"But Neil beta, he has always been staying at the caves, and he helps us o-" said Kamala.

"Mother, please. I think you are old enough to take care of yourself. Plus, I think it would be good for brother to be alone out in the neighbourhood. His wolf instincts might even get awakened there. He will surely be a valuable part of the pack if that were to happen" smirked Ved.

"I- but what about mother? Who will take care of her?" enquired Ved.

"Your brother isn't dead, Ved bhai. She need not worry about enemies, no one has ever won a fight against me and no one ever will. I think it'll be best for all of us if you leave right away" declared Neil.

"O-Okay. Okay I will. But I just have one request"

"Sure, tell me what it is brother?"

"I'd like to visit mother once every month. I know that might be too much to ask, but I'd really like to feel mother's fur and listen to her lullabies every now and then. She has always been there for me and has always loved me. It will help me know if she's doing fine by paying her a visit every once in a while"

"Sure, you can visit her once every month."

"Thank you" said Ved and left with Noori the very next day. It was a tearful goodbye for both Kamala and Ved. Noori knew very well that it was Neil's vicious plan to send them just so he could thrive on the throne.

"This might even be the first time you'll be away from mother. Right Ved?"

"Yeah. It's almost impossible for me to live without my mother's shade on me. I can't even sleep unless it's her soft fur that I could caress and her sweet and melodic lullabies. I wanted to serve her as she is now a bit old. Especially after father's demise, she has started to feel a bit alone. I don't know how she is going to manage all alone. I really hope Neil will take good care of her"

"But then why would you accept Neil's order if it's so hard for both of you."

"Besides being my young brother, he is also the leader of the pack. And I think he felt that he needed to spend more time with mother. Seeing me around mother all day might've made him crave for motherly love I guess" chuckled Ved

"This is not funny Ved. I feel this is some plot Neil and his wicked ministers cooked up just to get rid of us" suspected Noori.

"It could be Noori. But there is no reason for me to hate my own brother with whom I've spent my entire childhood playing and wrestling. With whom I've shared many moments of my childhood and teen years. He might've become a bit cold now, but I think he still loves me and mother just like he did when he was a cub. I think spending time with mother would help him relive those memories."

Noori had never seen such a humble wolf. She felt happy that she got to spend her lifetime with a wolf like him. The pack might call him abnormal, but for her he was a special wolf, one of a kind.

Several days passed and Kamala lived alone in her caves. Neil would spend all day hunting and gambling with other wolves. Many of the few friends she had, joined the other pack due to the authoritative powers Neil introduced. She had become forlorn. Ved on the other hand was waiting for the month to end just so he could visit his mother and break the news that He and Noori were expecting soon.

The month finally ended and Ved started preparing himself to get back to his hometown.

"I'll hunt a deer today, and will save it for you when you come back home. Please send my regards to mother" said Noori.

"Yes, I will, she will be very happy to hear that you are going to have a cub soon. Will you be able to manage here alone? I have asked the other pack and they have offered to fend our needs if we need any-"

"Yes Ved! I will manage, you surely know how to make friends." Said Noori with a smidgen of pride.

"Okay! Please take care, I'll try be back by tomorrow morning"

"Alright! Have a safe journey"

And Ved drifted away, at his maximum speed. He was finally going to meet his mother after so many days.

Around evening he reached his cave, only to find no one there.

"She might've gone somewhere to hunt" thought Ved.

Ved accidentally stepped on a runny, only to find it was a pool of blood. He ran towards his cave, worried. He saw his mother lying there, unconscious, bleeding profusely.

"W-What? N-No! Wake up! Wake up mother! Please don't leave me mother! I've been waiting all these days to meet you! I have so many things to tell you! Please don't go!" cried Ved.

But there was no reply. He couldn't agree to what had happened there. It was shocking for him, he had never thought he would have to see this day. Just then his nose caught a hyena's scent.

"Zimbawa!?"

Zimbawa was the head of the hyena pack. Hyenas had always been arch rivals of the Jambari wolf pack. Since the death of Rudra, the wolf tribe had grown weaker due to the dictatorship and fascist policies implemented by Neil. This was a great opportunity for Zimbawa to fulfil the wishes of his ancestors and put an end to the Jambari tribe forever.

Just when Ved whiffed the hyena's scent, he transformed into a real wild wolf. Vendetta was all that his mind was wrapped around now. He ran into the forest towards the dark caves beyond the boundary alone. Just when he reached the Hyena's den he called out for Zimbawa. Zimbawa came surprised as he thought he had killed every one of the Jambari wolves. He saw Ved's eyes burning with anger and revenge.

"How are you still alive? I just killed your entire pack, there's your leader" gesturing towards the Hyena's crowd feeding off his brother's corpse. Ved had lost it, he was broke, and his instincts made him go on a killing spree, biting through his canines anyone who came his way. Finally, he fought Zimbawa and killed him. He had killed the entire hyena pack. There he was, standing on a pile of corpses. A wolf who vowed never to hurt an animal had laid down a pile of animal corpses. He could see the guilt Neil's injured face had. Just then his gaze fell upon hyena cubs and he relived the memory when he first saw the hare cubs. Tears of guilt rolled down his whiskers. He had killed the entire family of those cubs. He had become what he was afraid of becoming. Just when his eyes got fuzzy due to tears, he saw a distorted white light shining in front of him.

"Mother!" He started crying and howling loudly,

"What should I do now mother!? I- I killed the parents of these innocent little cubs. I-I have committed a grave sin. Who would look after- Do you think you can forgive me?"

His mother's translucent apparition smiled and answered

"You have committed a mistake Ved" the appearance said.

"But that doesn't mean you cannot mend it." his hallucination said while it started disappearing.

"Mother, do you still love me?"

"I have always loved both of you." smiled the image and it went hopping towards the sky to other two wolves that were waiting for her. Ved smiled through his tears.

"All three of you will live in my heart, till eternity. Thank you, dad and Neil, for being there for me when no one was. And thank you mother, for everything."

Ved adopted the Hyena cubs and explained everything to Noori after reaching home. Noori wept at the news of Kamala and Neil's demise. She was also a bit uncomfortable with Ved's decision to adopt the cubs.

"What are we going to tell these cubs when they grow up?" She enquired.

"We'll tell them the truth. They deserve to know"

"B-But what if they try to kill us or harm us in any way?" worried Noori.

Ved looked up at the sky and only one star peeked back at him through the dense clouds. He smiled and said - "I am the bearer of my sins and I will accept what comes my way. But till my time arrives, I'll live by your side.

- Anujesh Bansal

FINDING THYSELF

There is something bothering me
What is it that I miss?
Is finding really worth the risk?
Spending eternity trying hard
Gaining triumph, falling apart
Fragile state of mind
Encompassed with loss and guilt.
Rethinking,
What is it that I miss?
Anxiety hitting me hard
Perseverance escaping
Clouded judgement
Numbing and dumbing me
Engrossed in chaos
Pining for tranquility.
Ebbbed emotions
Disdained and Desolate.
I finally realize
I miss being me
Now that I know
I am determined
to
Brew myself afresh!

-Ishita Garg

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Conference:

- International Conference on Peaceful and Prosperous South Asia (ICSA-2)

Workshop:

- The Science & Art of Well-being
- Effective Communication Strategies and Teaching Pedagogy