

# EVERLASTING FLAME

A Newsletter from the  
Vice-Chancellor's Desk

**Vol. 16.0**

# THIS IS THE SPIRIT OF EVERLASTING

The pioneer of interdisciplinary education in India  
With a mission to be at the leading edge of knowledge

A student community of doers  
Supported by a faculty community of experts

Imbibing interdisciplinarity  
Yet encouraging self-discovery

A nurturing and creative environment  
In a world-class campus for diverse interests

A research-oriented approach  
Driving change at the grassroots

Learning beyond the classroom  
Providing real-world outlook & imparting life-long skills

Rooted in Indian context  
Yet global in nature

An experiential journey  
A lifelong association

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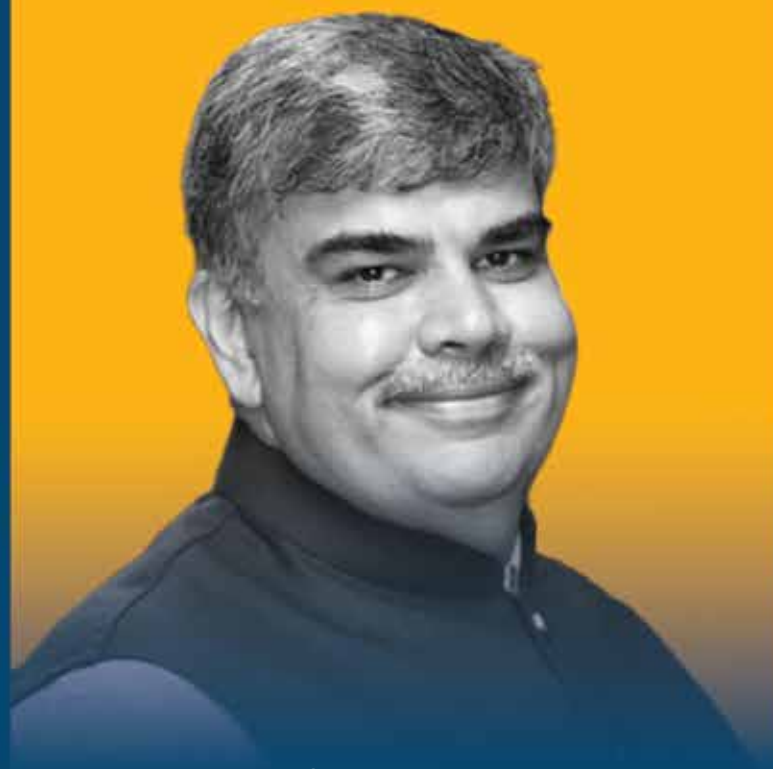
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"We remain committed to fostering a culture of excellence that encourages inquiry, innovation, integrity, and purposeful leadership."

## A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dear Reader,

I am pleased to present the 16th edition of Everlasting FLAME, a reflection of the intellectual vitality, academic achievements and vibrant campus life that define FLAME University. This edition captures our community's continued commitment to interdisciplinary learning, intellectual curiosity, personal growth and global engagement.

Over the past year, our faculty have advanced scholarship through research published in leading journals and edited volumes while also contributing their expertise to public discourse through various media platforms. Our campus remained a hub of intellectual exchange, hosting distinguished speakers and thought leaders from diverse fields who engaged our students in conversations that bridged ideas, practice and public life. A notable highlight was the National Conference of Psychology 2026, themed Bridging Theory and Practice: Psychology at the Workplace, which brought together scholars, practitioners and industry leaders from across the country.

Our students continued to excel across academic, creative and co-curricular domains. Their accomplishments included research presentations at national and international conferences, contributions to public discourse through media engagement and outstanding performances in sports, cultural events and global forums.

Entrepreneurship and experiential learning remained central to the FLAME experience. Through the Incubation Program 2026, the Centre for Entrepreneurship & Innovation provided a platform for aspiring entrepreneurs to refine and present their ventures. Beyond the campus, FLAME strengthened its engagement with broader society through initiatives such as the second edition of the India in Transition Conclave which also marked the release of Mapping the Republic: A Visual Story of India's States and Districts.

The year culminated in our 17th Convocation Ceremony, where Shri Harsh Mariwala, Chairman and Founder of Marico Limited, inspired the graduating Class of 2026 as they embarked on the next chapter of their journeys.

These accomplishments are a testament to the dedication, talent and collective efforts of our faculty, students, staff, alumni and partners. As we welcome new members to the FLAME community, we remain committed to fostering a culture of excellence that encourages inquiry, innovation, integrity and purposeful leadership.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition and learning more about the many achievements and initiatives that continue to shape FLAME University's journey.

Best regards,  
Dr. Dishan Kamdar

# FACULTY COMMUNITY

Research

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In the Media

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Other Achievements

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New Faculty Members



**LEADING WITH  
INTELLECT,  
INSPIRING THROUGH  
ACTION**



# RESEARCH

FLAME faculty is a vibrant community of accomplished scholars who actively engage in cutting-edge research. As thought leaders, they constantly strive to push the boundaries of knowledge. Their remarkable publications are a reflection of their intellectual rigour and scholarly accomplishments. These contributions are the foundation of nurturing an environment of inquiry and innovation.



## Trace conditioning: Insights from invertebrate models on bridging the temporal gap

Published in: Biology Letters

[KNOW MORE](#)

**Prof. Anuradha Batabyal**  
Faculty of Environmental Studies

## Stress is not one-size-fits-all: stressor-specific effects on learning and memory in a molluscan model

Published in: Animal Behaviour

[KNOW MORE](#)

## Exploring the role of stress sensitivity in memory formation: why do some animals learn while others do not? Lessons from *Lymnaea stagnalis*

Published in: Open Biology

[KNOW MORE](#)



## Navigating pain and pleasure: trauma and alcohol use among urban women in India

Published in: BMC Psychiatry

[KNOW MORE](#)

**Prof. Ketoki Mazumdar**  
Faculty of Psychology

## The interpersonal intricacies of hope

Published in: Current Psychology

[KNOW MORE](#)



**Prof. Vinod Kumar**  
Faculty of Digital Marketing and Communications

## From purpose to purchase: how sustainable advertising builds brand trust and corporate reputation

Published in: International Journal of Advertising

[KNOW MORE](#)

## Exploring the relationship between GenAI-CRM and market effectiveness: the moderating role of top management support and technology turbulence

Published in: European Journal of Innovation Management

[KNOW MORE](#)

## Investigating switching intentions of patients to healthcare robots: A push-pull-mooring theory perspective

Published in: The Bottom Line

[KNOW MORE](#)



**Prof. Reshmi Sengupta**  
Faculty of Economics

**Prof. Debasis Roj**  
Faculty of Economics

## The digital boost: how digital payments shape home-buying sentiments in India

Published in: Journal of Housing and the Built Environment

[KNOW MORE](#)



### Assessing geographic variation in women's decision-making power across 720 districts in India, 2016–2021.

Published in: BMC Women's Health

**Prof. Sunil Rajpal**  
Faculty of Economics

[KNOW MORE](#)



### Impact of OGG1 and PARP1 Variants on Lead and Cadmium Induced DNA Damage in Metal Handicraft Workers of Jodhpur

Published in: Biological Trace Element Research

**Prof. Shweta Rana**  
Faculty of Environmental Studies

[KNOW MORE](#)



### Identifying and prioritizing determinants of employer branding

Published in: Acta Psychologica

[KNOW MORE](#)

**Prof. Naman Dubey**  
Faculty of Human Resources



### Breaking the boredom-fatigue cycle: How algorithmic awareness protects against social media exhaustion

Published in: Acta Psychologica

[KNOW MORE](#)

**Prof. Aakash Kamble**  
Faculty of Marketing



### Contemporary art in Sri Lanka – past, present and possible futures? A dialogue with art writer and curator Pramodha Weerasekera

Published in: Journal of Visual Art Practice

**Prof. Kunal Ray**  
Faculty of Literary and Cultural Studies

[KNOW MORE](#)



### Caste, class, city and choice: Unraveling caste-based school segregation in urban India

Published in: Urban Studies

**Prof. Shamsher Singh**  
Faculty of Sociology

[KNOW MORE](#)



### Sustainable travel behavior: insights from consumption values, reasoned action, and responsible practices in food waste management

Published in: Asia Pacific Journal of Tourism Research

[KNOW MORE](#)

**Prof. Neha Yadav**  
Faculty of Marketing

**Prof. Gitesh Chavan**  
Faculty of Marketing



### DH in India: Public History Before and Beyond the Archive

Published in: Journal of Asian Studies

**Prof. Maya Dodd**  
Faculty of Humanities and Languages

[KNOW MORE](#)



### What drives smartphone users to click on in-app advertisements? An S-O-R model approach.

Published in: Journal of Marketing Theory and Practice

**Prof. Parth Salunke**  
Faculty of Marketing

[KNOW MORE](#)



### From branding to voice: how employees co-create the employer brand

Published in: International Journal of Manpower

[KNOW MORE](#)

**Prof. Muhammad Vasil**  
Faculty of Advertising and Branding

**Prof. Naman Dubey**  
Faculty of Human Resources



### Asymmetric wage and employment dynamics in segmented labour markets

Published in: Economic Modelling

**Prof. Srinivasan Murali**  
Faculty of Economics

[KNOW MORE](#)



### From Scroll to Soul: Spirituality as a Moderator Between Social Media Addiction, Emotional Eating, and Quality of Life Among Young Adults in Poland

Published in: Journal of Religion and Health

**Prof. Pawel Atroszko**  
Faculty of Psychology

[KNOW MORE](#)

# IN THE MEDIA

FLAME faculty’s expertise extends beyond academia, as they actively contribute to media publications, sharing their knowledge and insights with a broader audience. Regular engagement with the media allows the faculty to disseminate their perspectives, making a significant impact on public discourse and shaping the narratives surrounding critical issues. The faculty community, esteemed as visionary thought leaders in their respective fields, utilizes their expertise to catalyze meaningful change, shaping societal narratives and leaving an indelible impact on critical issues.



**Prof. M. A. Venkataramanan**  
Pro Vice-Chancellor

**Budget 2026 Reactions Live Updates: Money, Markets and the Industry Mood**

Insights published in: Forbes India

[KNOW MORE](#)

**Liberal Arts is India’s smartest bet for a complex world**

Insights published in: New Indian Express

[KNOW MORE](#)

**Education As A National Capability Builder**

Insights published in: Business World

[KNOW MORE](#)



**Prof. Kunal Ray**  
Faculty of Literary & Cultural Studies

**Kochi Muziris Biennale: What Stayed After the Biennale**

Published in: Open the Magazine

[KNOW MORE](#)

**Beyond the Megastar: Why Mammootty’s Padma Bhushan is a victory for India’s ‘fearless’ Cinema**

Published in: Hindustan Times

[KNOW MORE](#)



**Prof. Reshmi Sengupta**  
Faculty of Economics

**Prof. Debasis Rooj**  
Faculty of Economics

**How Are Digital Wallets Shaping Health Insurance Choices in India**

Published in: Policy Edge

[KNOW MORE](#)



**Prof. Divya Balan**  
Faculty of International Studies

**Kerala likely to see 20% drop in remittances as West Asia war drags on**

Insights published in: The Hindu

[KNOW MORE](#)



**Prof. Priya Joshi**  
Academic Specialist - Dance

**Decoding the history of Chaap: The viral traditional Balochi war dance in Dhurandhar**

Published in: Indian Express

[KNOW MORE](#)



**Prof. Moitrayee Das**  
Faculty of Psychology

**Walking into the Void: When Even a Penguin Appears to Withdraw**

Published in: Economic Times - Education

[KNOW MORE](#)

**India's Labour Transition: From Abundance to Capability**

Published in: Sights In Plus

[KNOW MORE](#)

**When Entry-Level Work Disappears: Artificial Intelligence and the Fragile Future of Leadership**

Published in: NE Now

[KNOW MORE](#)



**Prof. Pankaj Jain**  
Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies

**When textbooks change, who decides what matters?**

Published in: Times of India

[KNOW MORE](#)

**From Zoroaster to Dharma: Ancient Persian and Indian ethics in an age of war**

Published in: Times of India

[KNOW MORE](#)

**A Hindu-inspired eco-village reimagines sustainable, spiritual life in North Carolina**

Insights published in: Religion News

[KNOW MORE](#)



**Prof. Sanjal Shastri**  
Faculty of International Studies

**From Balochistan to Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan’s on the boil**

Published in: Money Control

[KNOW MORE](#)



**Prof. Saswata Guha Thakurata**  
Faculty of Economics

**Why Inequality Looks Both Different and Similar in India and China**

Published in: The Wire

[KNOW MORE](#)



### Cities, hills, beaches at risk: Why your vacation won't feel the same

Published in: India Today

[KNOW MORE](#)

**Prof. Barun Kumar Thakur**  
Faculty of Economics

### Opinion: Clean energy push or green pause?

Published in: Telangana Today

[KNOW MORE](#)



### Can India overtake Bangladesh in textile exports to the European Union?

Published in: The Hindu

[KNOW MORE](#)

**Prof. Arnab Chakrabarti**  
Faculty of Economics

**Prof. Anwesha Basu**  
Faculty of Economics



### FLAME University maps India's ever-changing state and district borders

Insights published in: Indian Express

[KNOW MORE](#)

**Prof. Shivakumar Jolad**  
Faculty of Public Policy

# OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

FLAME faculty garner international recognition and act as significant contributors and esteemed professionals in their disciplines. Their expertise, insights, and editorial contributions help shape the direction of research, influence scholarly debates, and foster collaborations among experts from around the world.



## Outstanding Woman Researcher in Operations Research Award

Prof. Aditi Joshi, Faculty of Operations, was awarded the Outstanding Woman Researcher in Operations Research Award at VIWA 2026 (Venus International Women Awards 2026), organized by the Venus International Foundation, Chennai, recognizing her significant contributions to the field of Operations Research.



## TEDx talk at BHIS Kanpur

Prof. Anuradha Batabyal, Faculty of Environmental Studies, delivered an insightful TEDx talk titled 'Intelligence Everywhere: Rethinking Minds Beyond Brains' at TEDxBHIS Kanpur Youth, inviting audiences to rethink how we understand intelligence beyond human cognition.

She shared insights on how cognition is not confined to brains but emerges wherever living systems communicate, adapt, and make decisions. Drawing from her research on organisms like pond snails and insights from biological sciences, she showed how even systems without neurons can learn, remember, and solve problems.



## Invited by the Maharashtra State Faculty Development Association

Prof. Suniti Vadalkar, Faculty of Design, Art and Performance at FLAME University, was invited by the Maharashtra State Faculty Development Association to conduct a faculty development session on the theme "Art as a Pedagogy."

The session brought together 35 faculty members from institutions across Maharashtra, representing disciplines such as humanities, engineering, computer science,

social sciences, medicine, and allied health sciences. Prof. Vadalkar delved into the potent role of visual art in knowledge construction, utilizing perspectives from cognition, epistemology, interdisciplinary thinking, and systems thinking.



## Panelist at FICCI's Ladies Organization (FLO), Kanpur

Prof. Moitrayee Das, Faculty of Psychology participated as a panelist at 'The Evolving Landscape of Education,' hosted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)'s Ladies Organization (FLO) Kanpur chapter.

The session brought together educators across stages and sectors to reflect on how learning is transforming alongside changing knowledge systems, technology, and the growing role of AI. In the discussion, Prof. Das highlighted that the landscape of knowledge, skills, and tools may change, but empathy and emotional intelligence remain constant in shaping education.



## Invited to Loka Kerala Sabha

Prof. Divya Balan, Faculty of International Studies was invited to Loka Kerala Sabha, a flagship diaspora forum constituted by the Government of Kerala, as a delegate representing Malayali Non-Resident Keralites in Maharashtra.

In the session she contributed to thematic discussions in the 'Women Migration' panel and the 'Maharashtra Region' panel, offering scholarly insights on the gendered dimensions of international and interstate migration. Her intervention highlighted labor market vulnerabilities, skill recognition gaps, mobility challenges, and the reintegration needs of women returnees.



## Session for Advanced Teacher Training Seminar Series

Prof. Moitrayee Das, Faculty of Psychology, was invited to the Advanced Teacher Training Seminar Series at PineGrove School. She delivered an expert-led session on mental health and emotional well-being in educational environments, bringing together educators to reflect on the evolving emotional landscapes shaping students' experiences.



### Invited as a speaker at the International Conference

Prof. Mayurakshi Chaudhuri, Faculty of Sociology, was invited as an expert speaker at the two-day interdisciplinary international conference “Navigating Contemporary Global Conflicts: India–Europe Perspectives on Security, Diplomacy, Social Justice & Global Governance,” organized by Savitribai Phule Pune University.

She delivered a plenary address dedicated to the Phule–Ambedkar legacy, which interrogates the Indian

social fabric through the lenses of caste, class, gender, and other axes of inequality. In her talk, she highlighted that the intellectual foundations of intersectional thinking long predate its formal naming within Indian social and political thought and emphasized the need to reimagine inclusive modes of policy-making attentive to the complex intersections embedded in contextual social fabrics.



### Session for Cummins Technologies

Prof. Shamit Shrivastav, Faculty of Design, conducted a session on “Institutionalizing Design Thinking and Innovation Practice” for the senior functional leadership team at Cummins Emission Solutions, part of the Cummins Technologies India Pvt. Limited.

The session addressed the challenges faced by legacy organizations seeking innovation-led growth while navigating organizational inertia and reliance on established practices.



**Prof. Pranav Ambardekar**  
Faculty of Philosophy and Critical Thinking

### Research Paper published in Southwest Philosophical Studies

The paper ‘Why Knowledge Might Not Entail Belief’ offers a case that improves upon Radford’s case of the unconfident examinee. It states that the agent’s evidence is intuitively sufficient for knowledge; one does not need to posit dispositional belief to make the case empirically plausible. The counterexample in the paper involves cautious believers, a distinctive type of agent that cares more about avoiding false belief. It highlights that with sufficient evidence to justify some proposition *p*, cautious believers suspend judgment about *p* and remain behaviourally sensitive to the evidence in a mental state that falls short of belief.



### Success of theatre production ‘Something Like Truth’ and Marathi film AWAKASH

Prof. Ashwini Giri, Faculty of Theatre performed in the theatre production ‘Something Like Truth,’ a compelling play that brings together powerful storytelling and contemporary socio-political reflection.

Written by Ms. Shanta Gokhale and directed by Ms. Parna Pethe, the play explores the four pillars of democracy through a series of monologues, offering nuanced perspectives on truth, power, and public discourse.

The play has been selected at several prestigious theater festivals, including the Serendipity Arts Festival, Minerva Theatre Festival, International Theatre Festival of Kerala, Ranga Shankara Festival, Bengaluru Hubba Festival, Bharat Rang Mahotsav, Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, and Natya Sattak Theatre Festival. The play has also been recognized among the Top Ten Plays at the Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards.

Marathi film AWAKASH by Prof. Giri was selected for several prestigious international film festivals. Produced and directed by her, the film embodies a compelling and multifaceted creative vision, earning recognition across global platforms and affirming her remarkable artistic achievement. The film had its world premiere at the New York Indian Film Festival 2021, where it earned a nomination for Best Actress, and went on to receive several awards. It was also showcased at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2021 and other prestigious film festivals.



**Prof. Parth Salunke**  
Faculty of Marketing

### Academic achievement in the field of marketing

Prof. Salunke served as the session chair for the “Consumption, Markets, and Culture” track at the 2026 American Marketing Association (AMA) Winter Academic Conference. His track focused on how cultural contexts, digital mediations, and consumer practices intersect to shape markets and marketing scholarship.

He also presented his paper, “Dark Sides of Conversational Artificial Intelligence and Consumer Experiences,” which examines the adverse dimensions of AI-driven conversational interfaces and their implications for consumer behavior and experience.

He has also joined the ‘Editorial Review Board’ and was a part of the ‘Selection Committee Panel of the Lalita A. Manrai Best Paper Award (2025)’ of the Journal of Global Marketing.



**Prof. Anuradha Batabyal**  
Faculty of Environmental Studies

### Research grant awarded for Climate Study on Indian Agamids

Prof. Batabyal, was awarded the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) – Advanced Research Grant (ARG) for a collaborative research project with Indian Institute of Science.

The project, titled “Climate vulnerability and adaptive boundaries in Indian agamids,” is a four-year study in

collaboration with Dr. Maria Thaker, Centre for Ecological Sciences. It will examine how climate change impacts agamid species in India, with a focus on understanding their adaptive limits and ecological responses.

# WELCOMING NEW EDUCATORS INTO OUR FACULTY COMMUNITY



**Prof. Rajeev Kumar Goel**

**Faculty of Economics**

Doctorate Degree in Economics  
from the University of Houston



**Prof. Faizul Haque**

**Faculty of Operations and Analytics**

Pursuing Doctorate Degree in  
Operations Management at the  
Indian Institute of Management  
Calcutta



**Prof. Muhammad Vasil M**

**Faculty of Advertising and Branding**

Pursuing Doctorate Degree in  
Marketing from Indian Institute  
of Management Shillong



**Prof. Rahul Goswami**

**Faculty of Marketing**

Doctorate Degree in Marketing from  
Indian Institute of Technology,  
Kharagpur

# EVENTS

Guest Lectures

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Webinars, Workshops & Conferences



**MOMENTS THAT SPARK  
DIALOGUE, DISCOVERY,  
AND LASTING IMPACT**

# GUEST LECTURES

FLAME offers a unique experience that is full of constant inspiration. The campus hosts avant-garde thinkers, artists, and business leaders who deliver lectures and engage in interactions that are unlike anything else. This exchange creates an open forum for students to ask questions, gain insights, and listen to inspiring stories.



## **The Practice of Visual Ethnography: Reflections from Working with Vulnerable Communities across India**

The session conducted by Prof. Deepanshu Mohan, Faculty of Economics and Dean, IDEAS, Office of Interdisciplinary Studies, at O.P. Jindal Global University, examined visual ethnography as a rigorous and powerful methodology for analyzing vulnerable communities and underrepresented systemic environments. Drawing on extensive fieldwork in industrial hubs such as Kapashera and Wazirpur, Prof. Mohan demonstrated how tools such as photography, film, data visualization, and spatial analysis can strengthen evidence-based inquiry while enhancing the public accessibility of research.



## **India's Foreign Policy: Emerging Priorities and Policy Continuity**

Expert talk in partnership with the Organisation for Research on China and Asia (ORCA), offering students valuable exposure to contemporary foreign policy debates and strategic thinking and deepening their understanding of evolving geopolitical dynamics through expert insights.

The session, "India's Foreign Policy: Emerging Priorities and Policy Continuity," was delivered by Mr. Vijay Gokhale, Former Foreign Secretary of India. During the session, he analyzed how India's foreign policy is responding to global uncertainty and shifting power dynamics, highlighting emerging strategic priorities, major power relations including the United States and China, and the importance of continuity in advancing long-term national interests.



## **Contemporary Dance from a South Asian Perspective**

Mr. Hrishikesh Pawar, Artistic Director of the Centre for Contemporary Dance, Pune, and a trained Kathak dancer, conducted a session that explored the artistic dialogue between India and the West in shaping modern dance traditions. Mr. Pawar connected the works of pioneers of Indian modern dance, such as Uday Shankar and Chandralekha, with influential Western dancers, including Anna Pavlova, Ted Shawn, and Ruth St. Denis.

# WEBINARS, WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

From thought-provoking conferences and engaging webinars to enriching discussions, FLAME University fosters an environment that encourages critical thinking and collaboration. The university attracts a lineup of guest speakers who are thought leaders and experts in their respective domains. These distinguished guest speakers provide students with unique insights into cutting-edge research and industry trends, inspiring them to explore new ideas and pursue innovative paths.

## The India Centre Webinar



**Dr. Jatin Mohan**  
Assistant Professor at  
IILM University,  
Gurugram

### The In-Between Notes: Understanding the Subtle Sounds of Hindustani Classical Music

The session explored how nuanced shifts in swaras bring musical phrases to life and shape emotion. Approaching microtonality through performance and Raag practice, the talk draws from Yaman, Bhairav, Multani, Miyan-ki-Todi, and Marwa to show how ornamentation and melodic curves define a Raag's 'swarup'.



**Borayin Maitreya Larios**  
Assistant Professor of Modern  
South Asian Studies at the  
University of Vienna

### Beyond Sound: The Material Lives of Mantras in Contemporary South Asia

The session, explored how mantras circulate across visual, material, and digital forms in contemporary religious life. Drawing on recent fieldwork in Varanasi and research from the MANTRAMS project, the talk examined how printed objects, devotional artifacts, notebooks for 'likhita japa', and viral digital imagery reshape the meaning, authority, and everyday practice of mantras across South Asia.



**Dr. Melanie Barbato**  
Lecturer at RWTH Aachen  
University, Germany

### Thinking Interreligious Studies from an Indian Vantage Point

The session explored how interreligious studies might be reimagined when the Indian experience is placed at the center, not merely as an object of study, but as a conceptual vantage point. Drawing attention to India's historical absence of a singular notion of "religion" alongside its rich traditions of dialogue, debate, and plural engagement, the talk reflected on how ideas of inter-religiosity, dialogue, and research can be understood differently from within the Indian context.

## National Conference of Psychology 2026

The conference was centered on the theme "Bridging Theory and Practice: Psychology at the Workplace." The two-day conference brought together academicians, researchers, practitioners, industry experts, and students from across India to examine how psychological research can inform contemporary workplace practices and public policy in an evolving world of work.

It featured keynote sessions by Prof. Pooja Purang, Professor of Psychology at IIT Bombay, and Ms. Seemantinee Khot, Independent Director at Suzlon Group and sustainable development professional, alongside a masterclass on negotiation by Prof. Dishan Kamdar, Vice-Chancellor at FLAME University, offering applied insights into leadership and organizational dynamics.

The conference included participants from 10 cities across 7 states, including students, research scholars, faculty, academics, and industry professionals, with six oral presentation sessions and a poster session.

Discussions explored themes such as work stress, coping, and burnout; leadership and organizational culture; the role of technology in shaping workplace experiences; and questions of gender, identity, and well-being.



## Second edition of India In Transition Conclave

The FLAME Centre for Legislative Education and Research and the India State Stories team hosted the India in Transition Conclave – Second Edition, marking a significant milestone in the India State Stories Project.

The conclave brought together distinguished public officials, scholars, and policy experts to reflect on India's evolving federal landscape and the dynamic processes of territorial reorganization since independence.

Highlight of the conclave was the release of "Mapping the Republic: A Visual Story of India's States and Districts (1950–2025)", a visually rich coffee table book, with over 440 curated Maps and 252 illustrations documenting the evolution of India's administrative boundaries. The event also showcased "Federalism -State Pullouts", prepared in collaboration with the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, highlighting both historical trajectories and contemporary challenges in Indian federalism.

The conclave featured discussions enriched by insights from:

- Shri Mahesh Bhagwat, IPS, Additional Director General of Police, Telangana
- Contributors from the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy
- Members of the India State Stories research team

Together, they offered perspectives that blended administrative experience, legal analysis, and research-driven storytelling, making the conclave a unique forum for understanding India's federal journey and its future.



## National Workshop on Qualitative Research Methods

The workshop, was a five-day intensive program designed to strengthen qualitative research capacity among social scientists in India. Organized by the FLAME Centre for Research in Wellbeing and Happiness and the Indian Health Economics and Policy Association (IHEPA), The workshop blended classroom learning with field-based practice. Participants gained hands-on training in interviews, focus groups, observation, transcription, coding, and thematic analysis using tools like QualCoder.



## AD-MAD Show Competition

The Career Services Office hosted the AD-MAD Show Competition, bringing together creativity, strategy, and performance in a dynamic showcase of talent. The event challenged student teams to pitch a product or service of their choice through a creative advertisement, blending storytelling, acting, branding, and strategy within a limited time frame.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Postgraduate students and provided valuable industry exposure through real-time feedback from an esteemed jury panel comprising Mr. Siddesh Jayakar, Strategy Head at Rustomjee; Ms. Sonam Srivastava, Director of Brand Management at Seagull Advertising; and Mr. Rohan Bhoite (RJ Ronnie), Radio Jockey at 98.3 Radio Mirchi, Pune.



## Session on Data-Driven Haptics in Virtual Environments

Prof. Amit Bharadwaj, Faculty of Electrical Engineering at IIT Jodhpur, conducted a workshop organized by the Q Centre. The session explored how data-driven modeling and rendering offer a powerful alternative to conventional physics-based approaches in haptic and visual research.



## Book talk on “The Oxford Handbook of Modern Indian Literatures”

This session explored the book, focusing on editorial choices, methodologies, canon, and literary studies.



## FLAME Undergraduate Research Day 2026

The event brought together students, researchers, and experts to engage with the theme “Reimagining Futures: Research in an Age of Opportunities.” It featured panel discussions and research evaluations to student-led presentations, spanning technology, policy, psychology, sustainability, and more, showcased through oral and poster presentations and evaluated by an esteemed academic panel.



## The Young Designers’ Conclave

The Young Designers’ Conclave “Pop Up Circle” program created a platform for professionals and students to learn, share industry perspectives, and collaboratively envision the future of design. Participants engaged in interactive workshops and sessions, including sculpting, LEGO Serious Play, wellness activities, and collaborative problem-solving exercises, encouraging creativity, reflection, and innovation. The conclave focused on building a collaborative ecosystem, identifying emerging industry trends and challenges, and enabling young designers to contribute more effectively to the evolving design landscape.



# STUDENT COMMUNITY

Academics

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Research Paper Publication

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Research Paper Presentation

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In the Media

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Experiential Learning

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Sports & Extracurricular Activities

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FirstCut, Kurukshetra, FLAME Fest



**MARKING MILESTONES OF  
EXCELLENCE,  
FROM CLASSROOMS TO  
ARENAS AND BEYOND**

# ACADEMICS

FLAME University students exemplify academic rigor, intellectual curiosity, and a spirit of inquiry. Supported by an interdisciplinary curriculum and faculty mentorship, they continue to expand the frontiers of knowledge.



**Saumitra Dhere**  
Doctoral Scholar

## Grant received for PhD project

Saumitra received an independent grant for his PhD project from The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB). The SICB Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel (FGST) will cover the field work for his PhD.



**Kashish Nathwani**  
Postgraduate Student

## Recognized at the national-level article writing competition organized by IIM Amritsar

Kashish was recognized among the top 10 participants at Ops-Udbhav, a national-level article writing competition on Operations and Supply Chain, organized by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Amritsar. Her article on 'Operations Analytics: Using Prescriptive Analytics for Proactive Decision-Making' demonstrated sharp analytical acumen and a nuanced understanding of operations and supply chain practices.



**Shriyans Chaudhari**  
Postgraduate Student

## Second place at Voyager of the year 2026, IIM Kashipur

Shriyans secured second place at the "Voyager of the Year 2026" Travel Article Writing Competition organized by the Indian Institute of Management Kashipur. The competition saw participation from 349 entrants across the country. Shriyans' article, "Across Familiar Skies," reflects on a powerful real-life moment at the Ganges River in Rishikesh.



**Harsh Mittal**  
Postgraduate Student

**Kushank Siyal**  
Postgraduate Student

**Trupti Agarwal**  
Postgraduate Student

## Third position at IIM Indore

Harsh, Kushank and Trupti secured 3rd Rank from across India in the Finance Simulation Case Competition – "Mantrana", organized by IIM Indore. They were required to design and implement the best investment practices in a simulated business environment, applying financial theories to real-world scenarios and making strategic decisions as a team.



**Priyanshu Agarwal**  
Postgraduate Student

**Smit Purohit**  
Postgraduate Student

**Atharva Pimputkar**  
Postgraduate Student

## 8th place in case competition hosted by IIM Shillong

Priyanshu, Smit and Atharva secured 8th place in "The Decision Nexus," a case competition at Khlurthma 14.0, the annual management fest hosted by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong.



**Kareena Jain**  
Postgraduate Student

**Shriyans Chaudhari**  
Postgraduate Student

**Devansh Dalal**  
Postgraduate Student

## First place in SMART TANK 2026

Kareena, Shriyans and Devansh participated as a team in SMART TANK 2026, a national-level case competition organized by FLAME University's Centre for Case Development and secured first place. The competition witnessed participation from 687 teams across leading institutions such as IIMs, NITs, and SRCC Delhi.



### Best Paper Award at research conference

Undergraduate Students Sanaa Chandra and Khushi Arora, won the 17th Young Psychologist Competition (YPC) & UG Research Conference, organized by the School of Psychological Sciences at Christ University, Bengaluru.

Their paper, “Impact of Delivery Platform Speeds on Impulse Buying Behaviour and Post-Purchase Regret,” co-authored with Prof. Abhishek Sahai, Faculty of Psychology was presented under the theme “Psychology in Action: Insights for a Better Tomorrow.” The research highlights the application of behavioural science to evolving digital consumer environments.



### Attending the Making India Employable Conference & Awards (MIECA 2026)

Postgraduate Students along with Prof. Shernaz Bodhanwala, Faculty of Finance, attended the Making India Employable Conference & Awards (MIECA 2026), held at the Pune International Centre, engaging with thought leaders from academia and industry on key challenges shaping the future of employability in India. A key highlight of the event was the panel discussion on “Income inequality should not mean access inequality,” which explored the need to bridge gaps in education, skills, and opportunities for underserved communities.



### Multiple wins across academic competitions

Ayush Mittal, Postgraduate Student, secured first position at Case Marathon 4.0, conducted by the Bhopal School of Social Sciences (BSSS), Bhopal, for his work on “Case Solution – Analysis and Negotiation,” a competition focused on international relations and foreign trade. He also achieved first prize at the Startup Conclave organized by the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR), Hyderabad, where he presented a comprehensive startup blueprint and successfully navigated a live pitch and jury interaction. Additionally, he secured the first runner-up position at SaudaKar 2026, a national business competition organized by the National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM), Pune.



### First place in Impact Case Challenge at Harvard HPAIR 2026

Aditi Khamkar, Undergraduate Student, represented the university at the Harvard Project for Asia and International Relations (HPAIR) Conference 2026 at Harvard University. Centered around the theme “Emerging Horizons: Truth at Dawn, Hope at Dusk,” the conference brought together a diverse cohort of students, policymakers, and industry leaders from across the world. During the conference, Aditi participated in the Red Bull Impact Case Challenge, competing alongside 17 teams and securing first place with her team.

# Research Papers Published



**Shreenidhi Manigandann**  
Undergraduate Student

**Ananya Berani**  
Undergraduate Student

**Numa Fathima**  
Undergraduate Student

**Tia Arora**  
FLAME Alumna

**Krati Gupta**  
FLAME Alumna

**Prof. Sairaj Patki**  
Faculty of Psychology

## Emotional Response in the Context of Homicide News as a Function of Headline Framing

Published in: Sage Journals

The paper examines how the framing of news headlines influences readers’ emotional responses to homicide-related coverage. The study offers valuable insights into media psychology, audience perception, and the broader implications of journalistic framing in news consumption.

KNOW MORE



**Ritvikka Sarathi**  
Undergraduate Student

## Human Trafficking: An Evaluation of India and Kuwait’s Compliance with the Palermo Protocol

Published in: IE International Policy Review

The paper undertakes a comparative analysis of India and Kuwait's domestic anti-trafficking legislation against the standards set by the UN Palermo Protocol, with a particular focus on the protection of migrant domestic workers. Drawing on domestic legislation and relevant case law, the research highlights critical gaps in enforcement, witness protection, and victim rehabilitation in India, alongside Kuwait's prosecution-heavy approach and its conflation of human trafficking with migrant smuggling under Law No. 91 of 2013.

KNOW MORE



**Siddharth Ramkumar**  
Undergraduate Student

## Military Security in the Indo-Pacific: India’s Counter-Space Strategy to China’s Expansionary Capabilities

Published in: IE International Policy Review

This paper examines how the growing security tensions within the Indo-Pacific region has developed primarily owing to China’s pragmatism in space policy. It explores subsequent efforts by India and states that accelerated militarisation is increasingly falling outside the scope of the Outer Space Treaty (OST). The paper also lists potential policy options through a generic outcome matrix to incorporate the principles of the OST to resolve the increasing tensions in the Indo-Pacific.

KNOW MORE

# Research Papers Presented



## Cities of Care Conference, IIT Madras

Undergraduate Students Sruti Malladi, Advika Udumula Ranjali Chhaged, and Kinjalkini Gautam, presented their research paper, “Warangal’s Reservoir Revival: A Study of Water-System Policy Impact,” examined the historical cheruvu (reservoir) system of the Warangal region, originally built by the Kakatiya dynasty, and assessed how urbanization and the state government’s Mission Kakatiya have reshaped its significance. Drawing on in-depth fieldwork, including 34 interviews across six cheruvulu, the study highlights complex ground-level impacts on water access, agricultural practices, and waste flows, along with unintended consequences such as shifts in cropping patterns and rising environmental pressures.



## International Conference on Indian Cinema: Social Realities & Managerial Insights

Saishshreya Tantravahi and Ankita Desai, Undergraduate Students presented their research at the International Conference on Indian Cinema: Social Realities & Managerial Insights, held at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ranchi.

Their papers were mentored by Prof. Aditi Joshi, Faculty of Operations and explored evolving audience engagement, narrative shifts, and authenticity in contemporary cinema.

Saishshreya's paper, "Revisiting the Marvel Cinematic Universe: A Case Study on Indian Gen Z's Shifting Engagement Post Endgame (2019)", examines how Indian Gen Z audiences perceive and emotionally engage with the MCU in the years following Avengers: Endgame, exploring how character attachment, narrative structure, and shifting audience expectations shape engagement with large media franchises. The paper also received the Best Paper Award under its track.

Ankita's paper, "The Evolution of Antiheroes in Indian Film and OTT", traces how the antihero protagonist has shifted from the margins to the mainstream of Indian storytelling, reflecting the country’s evolving socio-political and economic realities.

Together, they co-presented "The Consumer Search for Authenticity: Emotional Realism and Character Credibility in Contemporary Media. Using Paatal Lok, Panchayat, and 12th Fail as case studies, they mapped emotional realism across key storytelling dimensions and proposed a layered model for deeper audience immersion and connection.



### Indian Society for History of Indian Economic Thought Conference (ISHET), IIT Delhi

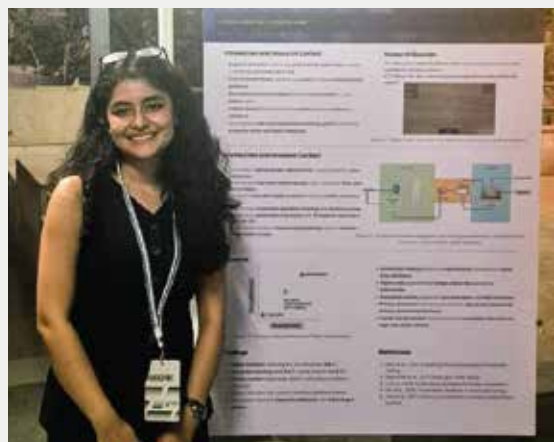
Undergraduate Students Tuhina Bawa and Siddharth Balakrishnan presented their research paper "The Persistence of Limits: Malthus and the Environmental Crises of Today." The paper advances a sustainability-centered political economy framework, reinterpreting "Malthusian" thought to examine how demographic pressures and finite resources continue to shape contemporary environmental challenges. The study highlights issues such as climate change, groundwater depletion, soil stress, and institutional resilience. The paper explores how development pathways, while enabling growth, can also create new ecological vulnerabilities when institutions fail to guide innovation toward long-term resilience.



### International Conference on Indian Cinema, IIM Ranchi

Niyati Vira, Undergraduate Student, presented her research paper at the International Conference on Indian Cinema held at the Indian Institute of Management, Ranchi. The paper is co-authored with Prof. Manjula Srinivas, Faculty of Media & Journalism; Prof. Ninad Patwardhan, Faculty of Psychology; and Undergraduate Student Siya Mittal.

The paper "Reimagining Single Screens: Strategy, Insights, and a Business Model for Urban India" examines the decline of single-screen cinemas over the past two decades, revealing a persistent gap between audience expectations and the experiences provided by single screens.



### EMERGE Conference 2026, IIT Bombay

Abhipsha Luitel, Undergraduate Student, presented a research poster, "Multimodal Fitness Mirror," at the EMERGE Conference 2026 held at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. Co-authored with Prof. Rahul Kumar Ray, Faculty of Computer Sciences, the poster explores a computer vision-based fitness system designed to assist users in tracking workouts and improving form through interactive feedback. Integrating wearable technology, haptic responses, and a custom dashboard interface, the project reflects an interdisciplinary approach at the intersection of fitness and technology.



### Eleventh Conference of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality (ECINEQ) at the World Bank, Washington, D.C. and 2025 World Congress of the Econometric Society, Seoul, South Korea

Tara Awasthi, Undergraduate Student presented her research paper, "Two Wheels, Many Goals: Estimating the Impact of Bihar's Cycle Yojna on Child Marriage Among Girls," it investigates the socio-economic outcomes of a government-led bicycle distribution program in Bihar, India. It evaluates how access to mobility influences educational participation and delays in child marriage among young girls, offering evidence-based insights into the intersection of gender equity, public policy, and development economics. Tara also received a World Bank Travel Grant.



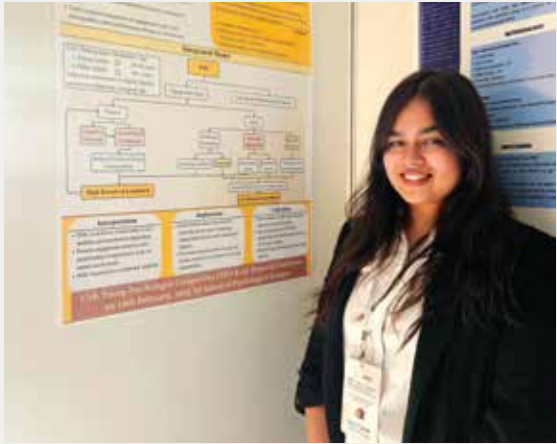
### 9th Regulating for Decent Work Conference (RDW), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Geneva, Switzerland

Tara Awasthi, Undergraduate Student presented her research paper "Green Clauses in Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs): A Cross-Continental Analysis." The paper co-authored by Prof. Rupa Korde, Faculty of Public Policy examines the limited presence of green clauses in CBAs across 67 countries, highlighting gaps in worker-focused environmental protections and emphasizing the need for stronger, more inclusive policies that support workers in the transition to a green economy.



### 66th Indian Society of Labour Economics Conference, Symbiosis International (Deemed University) (SIU), Pune

FLAME Scholars Program Student Basamma Biradar and Prof. Neha Bailwal, Faculty of Economics presented their research paper, "Workforce Crisis: Skills Mismatch & Unemployment in India," talks about the growing disconnect between educational attainment and labor market requirements at a critical demographic moment. The study measures patterns of overqualification and underqualification across gender, social groups, and rural-urban populations.



**17th Young Psychologist Competition & UG Research Conference 2026 held at Christ University, Bangalore**

Nikita Chaana, Undergraduate Student, presented her research “The Modern-Day Paradox: Social Media Engagement & Loneliness Epidemic,” co-authored with Prof. Moulika Mandal, Faculty of Psychology. It explores the complex relationship between increasing social media engagement and the rising experience of loneliness in contemporary society.



**Sai Abhijeet RV Ratnaparke**  
Undergraduate Student

**13th International Conference on Spirituality: A Tested Paradigm for Global Well-Being, Sustainability, and Digital Mindfulness at School of Management Sciences, Varanasi**

Sai Abhijeet presented his research paper, titled “Exploring Interfaith Harmony and Collective Empathy in the Pursuit of Peace” along with Prof. Moitrayee Das, Faculty of Psychology. The paper synthesized literature examining intergroup relations across diverse cultural settings suggesting that positive intergroup contact is associated with reduced prejudice, with empathy emerging as a key mediating factor. It states that research on collective empathy fosters solidarity and cooperative engagement across group boundaries. The paper provides an integrative understanding of how interfaith harmony and collective empathy interact as mechanisms that support peaceful coexistence.

**BOOK CHAPTER PUBLICATION**



**Trupti Agarwal**  
Postgraduate Student

**Prof. Bhavya Pande**  
Faculty of Operations

**Tech-Enabled Circular Economy Models**

Published in: Bloomsbury publication Smart Management for a Sustainable

The chapter examines how technology-driven innovation is reshaping circular economy practices across industries. By integrating digital tools, data-driven decision-making, and sustainable operations frameworks, the authors highlight pathways through which organizations can reduce waste, optimize resources, and build regenerative business models. The study situates these insights within the Natural Resource-Based View (NRBV), showing how technology-enabled circular economy models strengthen firms’ resource-based capabilities and generate competitive advantage.

# IN THE MEDIA

FLAME University takes immense pride in the exceptional academic contributions demonstrated by its students, exemplified through their extensively covered articles in prominent media outlets. These articles co-authored by esteemed FLAME faculty members, stand as a testament to our commitment to nurturing student potential, underscoring our collaborative approach to academia.



**Faculty co-author: Prof. Moitrayee Das,**  
Faculty of Psychology



**Rhea Srivastava**  
Undergraduate Student

**Psychological Safety in Classrooms: Why Feeling Safe Matters for Student Learning**

Published in: NE Now

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**Union Budget 2026–27: Will a New NIMHANS Bridge India’s Mental Health Gap?**

Published in: NE Now

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**Sai Abhijeet RV Ratnaparke**  
Undergraduate Student

**India’s labour Codes – Can Reform Be Both Pro – Growth and Pro – Worker?**

Published in: NE Now

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**Prisha Khanna**  
Undergraduate Student

**The Art of Appearing Productive**

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**Are We Empowering Women, or Just Saying That We Are?**

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**Vedika Kabra**  
Undergraduate Student

**Architecture of Recovery: Why Mental Health Facilities Must Treat Design as Medicine**

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**Shravani Shahane**  
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**Hurry Sickness in Digital Age: How Social Media Is Rewiring Our Sense of Time**

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**Vidhi Mantry**  
Undergraduate Student

**Psycholinguistic Shift: How Therapy-Speak Rewires the Modern Soul**

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Undergraduate Student

**Cognitive Contamination in the Information Age**

Published in: NE Now

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**Faculty co-author: Prof. Pankaj Jain,**  
Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies



**Aarushi Raikar**  
Undergraduate Student

**Jaisila Menon**  
Undergraduate Student

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**Forest, dharma, and the ecological imagination: Lessons from India’s epics**

Published in: Policy Circle



**Ankita Saunke**  
Undergraduate Student

**India doesn’t need new climate wisdom-It needs to remember Narmada Parikrama**

Published in: Times of India

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**Faculty co-author: Prof. Garima Rajan,**  
Faculty of Psychology



**Aditi Bamb**  
Undergraduate Student

**Why has being alone become Gen Z’s new comfort zone?**

Published in: Sugar Mint

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**Yashika Seth**  
Undergraduate Student

**Opinion: Scrolling vs Sketching - Redefining a mindful break**

Published in: Telangana Today

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**Ishani Kanchan**  
Undergraduate Student

**Keerthana Bhashyam**  
Undergraduate Student

**Sunayna Andrade**  
Undergraduate Student

**Prof. Moulika Mandal**  
Faculty of Psychology

**Do mental health labels hurt more than they help?**

Published in: The Hindu

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**Faculty co-author: Prof. Barun Kumar Thakur,  
Faculty of Economics**



**Budget 2026: Tier II cities push  
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Published in: Policy Circle

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**Yashwant Rai**  
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**Nikita Suri**  
Undergraduate  
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**Tourism: From  
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Published in: Governance Now

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**Plantation crops  
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**Harshit Kumar**  
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**Will AI usher in a  
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**Yaana Postwala**  
Undergraduate Student



**Railway  
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**Vidyali Reddy**  
Undergraduate  
Student



**Krish Doshi**  
Undergraduate  
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**Prof. Rituparna  
Kaushik**  
Faculty of Economics

**RoDTEP scheme  
after Budget 2026:  
Fiscal tightening,  
strategic risks**

Published in: Policy Circle

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**Amirthaa G. R.**  
Undergraduate  
Student

**Prof. Ketoki  
Mazumdar**  
Faculty of Psychology

**Inclusion in the  
toys aisle**

Published in: Deccan Herald

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**Sai Jitha  
Vaishnavi  
Ganda**  
Undergraduate  
Student

**Prof. Manasvi  
Sharma**  
Faculty of Economics

**The Cost of Delhi's  
Air: Lives, Livelihoods,  
and Lost Futures**

Published in: Counter Currents

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# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

The pedagogy at FLAME integrates experiential learning opportunities which expose students to ground realities and enable them to make connections between academic work and the real-world. These opportunities are credit-bearing, which are an integral part of the FLAME experience, and are seamlessly integrated into the curriculum.



## Incubation Program 2026

The Incubation Program organized by the FLAME Centre for Entrepreneurship & Innovation is aimed at nurturing young entrepreneurs and provides students with a platform to refine their entrepreneurial concepts, receive mentorship, and shape their ideas into viable business models.

The culmination of the program featured student presentations across diverse categories, including consumer products, platforms, and impact-driven solutions. They showcased their first hands-on experience of building ventures, refining business models, shaping buyer personas, mapping markets, benchmarking competitors, and testing MVPs with real customers to explore product-market fit.

Under the mentorship of Prof. Vishal Shah, Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship & Innovation and Faculty of Entrepreneurship at FLAME University, students gained the essential skills to navigate the entrepreneurial landscape.

FLAME alumnus Advait Makhija, Head of Marketing at UrbanPiper, joined the session as a guest speaker, sharing insights from his journey of building and scaling ventures such as Eatabl and driving global growth at UrbanPiper.



## Sociology Guided Food Walk

Students from the Sociology area participated in a food-walk organized as part of the course 'Contemporary Sociological Discourses.'

The field engagement, accompanied by Prof. Shamsheer Singh, Faculty of Sociology provided students with structured exposure to local food cultures, community practices, and the stories embedded within everyday culinary spaces.



## Developmental Activities Program (DAP) NGO Mela

As part of the Developmental Activities program, DAP committee hosted the annual NGO Mela, convening 22 social impact organizations to foster student engagement and strengthen community collaboration.

The Mela created a dynamic platform for students to connect with NGOs for their upcoming DAP internships, gain insight into grassroots development realities, and explore pathways for sustained social impact. The event was inaugurated by Bal Bhavan children and featured cultural performances by students from UPAY and Avasara Academy.



### Guided Heritage Walk

Undergraduate Students from the Urban Sociology course participated in a guided heritage walk through Pune's historic precincts. The visit was led by Prof. Anup Tripathi, Faculty of Sociology, supported by urban experts Mr. Dhruv Kalita and Ms. Samyukta Parchure from Western Routes, Pune.

The field engagement provided students with structured exposure to urban diversity, socio-spatial dynamics, architectural character, and planning frameworks within the old city.

### Industry Immersion Program

The Industry Immersion Program at FLAME University is an integral part of the experiential learning approach, bridging academic inquiry with real-world industry practice.

As part of the Career Academies, MBA and MBA (Communications Management) students engaged with leading organizations across industries, gaining first-hand exposure to how business, technology, and strategy operate in practice.

Students explored applications of data intelligence, enterprise AI transformation, and agentic AI in financial markets; gained insights into brokerage operations, investment banking, capital raising, and private equity; understood workforce strategy, leadership development, organizational culture, and operational excellence; and examined the intersection of branding, performance marketing, consulting, and data-driven decision-making.

#### Data Analytics & AI

Companies visited: Persistent Systems, Signpost India Limited, Harmony India

#### Capital Markets

Companies visited: Bajaj Broking, DAM Capital Advisors, Multiples Equity

#### People and Talent Management and Strategy & Consulting

Companies visited: Encube Ethicals, Cybage

#### Business & Consumer Marketing

Companies visited: EisnerAmper India, Square One Media Solutions, Hurix Digital Solutions

#### Branding and Communication

Companies visited: LokusDesign, ABND



# SPORTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

FLAME students excel in sports and extracurricular activities, showcasing their holistic growth and diverse talents. Their achievements reflect dedication and a commitment to success. These experiences foster holistic development, enhancing resilience, creativity, and interpersonal skills, preparing them to excel in all aspects of life.



## First place in poetry competition

Aarav Navani, Undergraduate Student, secured first place in the On-the-Spot Poetry Competition, Alfaazon ka Safar at Symagine, hosted by Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce.



## Swimming team shines at ZEST '26

The team delivered an outstanding performance at ZEST '26, hosted by COEP Technological University, Pune. Demonstrating exceptional skill and teamwork, the athletes secured multiple podium finishes across events.

Ira Bhagwat won gold in the 50m Backstroke and silver in the 50m Breaststroke. The FLAME Girls' Swimming Team secured gold in both the 4x50m Freestyle Relay and 4x50m Medley Relay. The FLAME Boys' Swimming Team secured silver in the 4x50m Freestyle Relay and 4x50m Medley Relay.



## Outstanding performance at FIDE-Rated Tournament

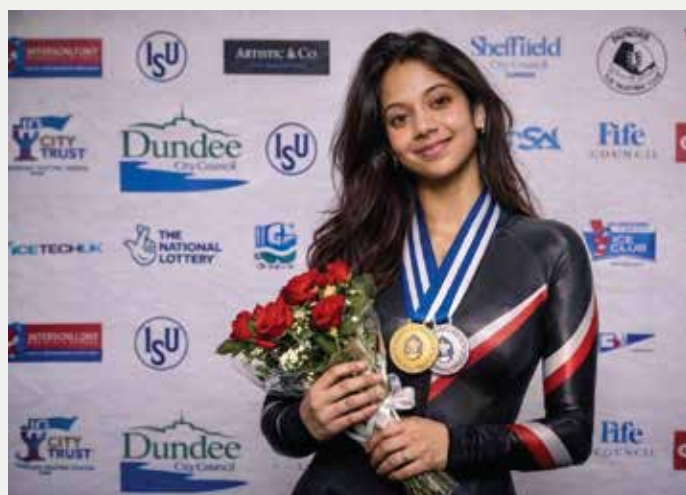
Late Shikshanmaharshi Shivajirao Konde Memorial FIDE Rapid Rating Chess Tournament 2026, was a FIDE-rated tournament where FLAME Scholars Program Student Prithvi Dhyani scored 4 points, including two wins against FIDE-rated players, and earned his first FIDE Rating. With this achievement, he has officially become an Internationally Rated Player and was awarded a certificate in recognition of his success.

Bhargav Bhootra, Undergraduate Student delivered an outstanding performance, scoring 5 points and gaining +14 FIDE rating points. He secured Third Place in the Below 1500 Rating Category and was awarded a trophy and certificate for his achievement.



## Women's handball team wins gold at ZEST '26

The team clinched the gold medal at ZEST '26, hosted by COEP Technological University, Pune.



### International achievement in ice skating

Asmi Malushte, Undergraduate Student, represented FLAME University at the Dundee City Ice Skating Championships held in Scotland, UK. Competing in the Adult Women's Speed Skating category, she secured a gold medal in the 1000m race and a silver medal in the 500m race.



### Women's volleyball team wins at TROIKA VOLTRIX '26

The team emerged victorious at the TROIKA VOLTRIX Tournament, held at Brihan Maharashtra College of Commerce (BMCC), Pune, demonstrating strong teamwork and competitive excellence.

### Swimming team excels at National Level Inter-Collegiate Championship 2026

The Undergraduate Students dominated across events at MIT World Peace University, Pune.

- Ira Bhagwat – Girls Under 19 Age Group won gold medals in the 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 50m breaststroke, 100m breaststroke, 50m backstroke, 100m backstroke, 50m butterfly, and the 4x50m freestyle relay. She was also awarded the Individual Championship in the Girls Under 19 Age Group.
- Rashi Mulani (Vice captain) – Girls Under 19 Age Group won gold in the 100m butterfly and 4x50m freestyle relay. Silver medal in 50m butterfly and 50m freestyle and bronze in 50m breaststroke and 50m freestyle.
- Zoya Singh (Captain) – Girls Open Age Group won gold in the 4x50m freestyle relay. Silver medal in 100m breaststroke and 100m freestyle; bronze in 50m breaststroke, 50m freestyle, and 50m backstroke.
- Gunika Dhingra – Girls Open Age Group won a gold medal in the 4x50m freestyle relay and a bronze medal in the 50m butterfly.



### Recognition at IMC National Sports Conclave

Soham Rasal, Undergraduate Student, represented the university at the National Sports Conclave "Yuva Kshamata," organized by the IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He was awarded National Gold and recognised as the Best Student Speaker for his insights during the panel discussion on "Education and Career in Sports: Game Beyond the Game," highlighting the broader impact of sports beyond competition.



### Women's basketball team wins LAWSKETS 2026

The team secured the championship title at LAWSKETS 2026, an inter-collegiate tournament organized by Deccan Education Society's Shri Navalmal Firodia Law College, Pune.



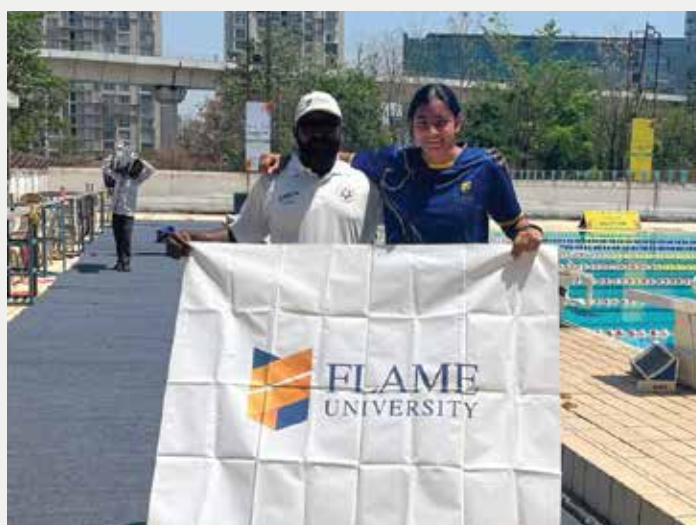
### Success at NMIMS Fury Squash Tournament

Undergraduate Students Priyaan Thakker and Dhvani Balchandani delivered an impressive performance at the NMIMS Mumbai Fury Squash Tournament. Priyaan Thakker secured first place, while Dhvani Balchandani finished as the runner-up.



### Top positions at Orion Competition

Undergraduate Student secured top positions at the Orion Competition hosted by Symbiosis Institute of Management Studies, Khadki, Pune. In the Mono Act category, Parmoi Chiru secured first place, while Nayanika Biswas secured second place, reflecting strong creative expression and performance skills.



### Representation at Khelo India Asmita Women's Swimming League

Rashi Mulani, Undergraduate Student, represented FLAME University at the Khelo India Asmita Women's Swimming League 2026 (West Zone), held at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Pune. Her participation at the zonal level reflects continued engagement in competitive sport at a national platform.



### Dance teams shine at Adhikosh

FLAME's dance teams delivered notable performances at Adhikosh, hosted at NIBM, Pune. Offbeat Crew secured first place, while Team Nrityanjali secured third place.



### Frisbee team at National Championship

The team competed at the National College Ultimate Championship 2026, organized by India Ultimate and hosted at BITS Pilani, Goa. Competing against teams from across the country, the team reached the quarterfinals and secured an overall 8th position.



### Achievement at Pune Mayor Cup State

Tamanna Handa, Undergraduate Student won a bronze medal in the Pole Bending Speed event of the Pune Mayor Cup State Equestrian Competition organized at SP College Ground, Pune. This marked her debut at a state-level championship, competing in the Young Riders category across events.

# FIRSTCUT

FirstCut 2026 witnessed an impressive response with over 500 film submissions from more than 65 countries, reflecting its growing global reach and reputation.

A notable highlight of the festival was the strong involvement of FLAME alumni, who returned to campus as jury members and workshop instructors, creating a meaningful bridge between student learning and industry practice. Workshops and sessions enriched the experience through practical insights and professional expertise. Fiction, Non-Fiction, Animation, and Nano films were screened during the finale and evaluated by a distinguished panel of jury members from the film and media industry who brought diverse professional experience across filmmaking, writing, acting, animation, and media production to the evaluation process.



# KURUKSHETRA

Kurukshetra 2026 was a vibrant celebration of talent, determination, and the spirit of FLAME University. Across five action-packed days, participants showcased their skills in numerous sports tournaments, management competitions as well as cultural tournaments.

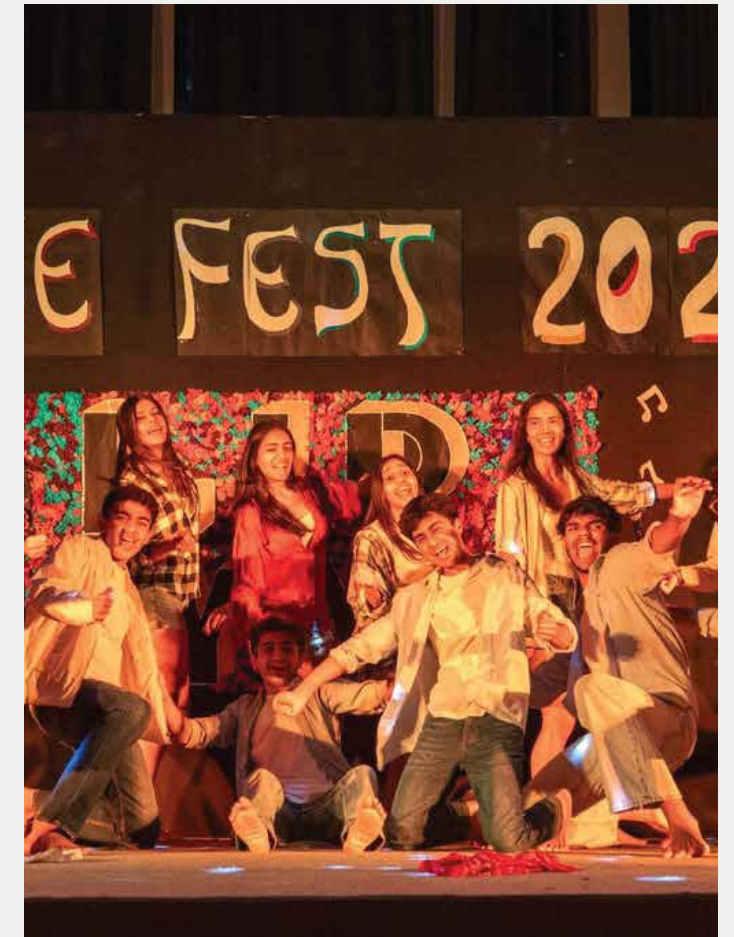
Participants competed across multiple sports like cricket, volleyball, handball, football, tennis, etc. showcasing exceptional skill and sportsmanship. Case Conquest delivered an impressive display of strategy, management, and problem-solving. The stage came alive with stunning performances during Footloose, the solo dance competition and the Group Dance Competition, and students expressed their creativity through art, photography, poetry and music competitions. The event also featured a Zumba Masterclass and a performance by MH43, a Mumbai-based Rock band, adding an exciting dimension to the celebrations.



# FLAME FEST

FLAME University's cultural fest was a vibrant celebration of talent and creativity, offering a wide array of competitions that captivated participants and audiences alike.

Throughout the fest, students had the unique opportunity to showcase their skills and represent their teams across various competitions of art, dance, music, photography, theatre etc. This spirited competition fostered a sense of community and camaraderie, making it an unforgettable highlight of the university's cultural calendar.



# ALUMNI COMMUNITY

Alumni Achievements

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Research Papers Published

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Book Chapter Publication

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In the Media

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Alumni Interaction Series



**EMBODYING THE VALUES OF  
FLAME ACROSS BORDERS  
AND INDUSTRIES**

# ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

FLAME alumni make their mark across diverse industries. Their achievements and contributions inspire change and shape industry trends, reflecting the spirit of excellence cultivated at FLAME.



## Gold award at the 'Afaqs! Communicon 2026' Awards for campaign

Riya Dawalbhakta along with her team, recently won a Gold award for the campaign “Zindagi Ko YAS Bol” for Yas Island. She and her team had earlier won a Gold award for the same campaign at the ET Shark Awards 2025 in the Travel and Tourism category.



**Muskan Shah**  
FLAME Alumna

## Research Paper presentation at International Conference

Muskan presented her paper titled “Belief or Buffer: Exploring the Role of Intrinsic and Extrinsic Spirituality in Burnout” at the 13th International Conference on “Spirituality: A Tested Paradigm for Global Well-Being, Sustainability, and Digital Mindfulness,” hosted by the School of Management Sciences, Varanasi.

The study examines the relationship between spirituality and burnout, identifying key themes such as meaning-making, resilience, and the role of workplace spiritual environments. It highlights how both intrinsic and extrinsic dimensions of spirituality contribute to lower burnout levels and improved professional well-being.



**Radhika Mulay**  
FLAME Alumna

## Book Chapter Published: The Heads and Tails of the Ganga

The book offers a comprehensive perspective on the Ganga river system, tracing its journey from the Himalayas to the delta while addressing critical themes such as climate change, biodiversity, and river basin management. It contributes to understanding the ecological and socio-environmental challenges surrounding one of India's most significant river systems.

## Research Papers Published



**Unnati Shah**  
FLAME Alumna

## Study on Neuromarketing Analysis of Consumer Cognitive Perception of Packaging and Labelling

Published in: Journal of Technoarete Transactions on Entrepreneurship and International Business

The study explores how neuromarketing techniques influence consumers' cognitive and emotional responses to packaging. It highlights the role of subconscious cues—such as color, typography, and material, in shaping attention, trust, and purchase decisions. Drawing on insights from tools like eye-tracking and EEG, the research demonstrates how thoughtful packaging design strengthens emotional connection and brand loyalty.

[KNOW MORE](#)



**Shivangi Singhal**  
FLAME Alumna

**Prof. Juhi Sidharth**  
Faculty of Public Policy

**Prof. Chaitanya Ravi**  
Faculty of Public Policy

## Navigating Gendered Barriers: A Qualitative Study of Women Leaders in India's FinTech Sector

Published in: Gender in Management: An International Journal

The paper examines the structural and cultural challenges faced by women leaders in the industry. It provides nuanced insights into leadership experiences, contributing to broader conversations on gender equity and inclusion in emerging sectors.

KNOW MORE



**Madhav Gupta**  
FLAME Alumnus

**Mitali Balki**  
FLAME Alumna

**Prof. Sairaj Patki**  
Faculty of Psychology

**Prof. Jayaraman V. K.**  
Faculty of Computing and Data Sciences

## Detecting depression: Employing word-embeddings and sentence transformers

Published in: The Journal of Computational Social Science

The study explores the use of advanced natural language processing techniques to identify indicators of depression in textual data. By leveraging word embeddings and sentence transformers, the research demonstrates how computational approaches can enhance early detection and support mental health analysis at scale.

KNOW MORE

# IN THE MEDIA

FLAME University takes immense pride in the exceptional academic contributions demonstrated by its alumni, exemplified through their extensively covered articles in prominent media outlets. These articles co-authored by esteemed FLAME faculty members, stand as a testament to our commitment to nurturing student potential, underscoring our collaborative approach to academia.



## Faculty co-author: Prof. Moitrayee Das, Faculty of Psychology



**Khushi Shah**  
FLAME Alumna

## How do different cultures celebrate mistakes? What can children learn from 'failing better'

Published in: NE Now

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## Psychology of Feeling Unloved: Why It Hurts So Deeply and How It Shapes Us

Published in: NE Now

KNOW MORE



**Muskan Shah**  
FLAME Alumna

## Going Nuclear: The Downfall Of Joint Families In India

Published in: NE Now

KNOW MORE



**Aparajita Vaid**  
FLAME Alumna

## Before the Breakdown: The Case for Preventive Psychology

Published in: NE Now

KNOW MORE



**Dishita Swaika**  
FLAME Alumna

## Can Pain Lead To Strength? Psychologists Explain The Surprising Power Of Post-Traumatic Growth

Insights published in: News 18

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# ALUMNI INTERACTION SERIES

Alumni Interaction Series connects students with alumni who share real-world insights, career guidance, and industry trends. These sessions provide invaluable networking, mentorship, and inspiration, helping students prepare for real-world challenges. Strengthening the bond between alumni and current students creates a supportive network and enhances the learning experience.

## Reality check: An honest ask me anything

The session, provided postgraduate students a platform for open and candid discussions around careers, professional pressures, and decision-making. The session featured FLAME Alumni Aakash Pahwa, Executive Director at Pahwa MetalTech Pvt Ltd.; Amol Shah, Managing Director at Rainbow Stock Vision Pvt Ltd.; Asit Shah, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Bhogilal & Co.®; Darshna Bairagi, Marketing Operations Manager at Triliad; Divyesh Vaghani, Manager at EY; and Rohan Wekhande, Founder at The Tribe, who shared practical insights and reflections based on their professional journeys.



## Evolving role of Human Resources

Monika Nehe, Human Resources Business Partner at Snowflake, engaged with students in an insightful session, offering a practical and industry-grounded understanding of the evolving role of Human Resources in organizations. Organized by the Department of Human Resource Management, the session explored the transition of Human Resources from traditional administrative functions to strategic, business-facing roles. Drawing from her professional journey across multiple roles and industries, she connected textbook concepts with real-world practices.



## Practical workings of financial advisory

Amol Shah, Managing Director at Rainbow Stock Vision Pvt Ltd., offered valuable insights into the practical workings of a client-centric financial advisory firm.

The session introduced students to the evolution of financial advisory practices, key service offerings, client segments, and the underlying advisory philosophy guiding professional decision-making. It focused on data-driven financial planning, holistic wealth management, and the importance of building long-term client relationships rather than focusing solely on product sales.



## Gudworld's journey and the Shark Tank experience

Sayali Shinde, co-founder of Gudworld, engaged with students in an insightful session, offering valuable insights into entrepreneurship, product innovation, and brand building.

The session traced Gudworld's journey of modernizing traditional jaggery by addressing critical aspects such as hygiene, packaging, positioning, and pricing, while carefully preserving its Indian roots. Through her presentation, Sayali highlighted how strategic decision-making and purposeful branding can transform a traditional product into a contemporary FMCG offering.

A key highlight of the session was a candid narration of her experience on the show Shark Tank India, including the credibility and visibility it brought to the brand.



## The Gen Z consumer journey: From content to choice to checkout

Shruti Upadhyay, Client Partner at Hovers, conducted two sessions for Undergraduate Students, engaging them in a structured, application-oriented discussion on evolving consumer behavior.

The session, titled “The Gen Z Consumer Journey: From Content to Choice to Checkout”, focused on how brands can understand and influence Gen Z consumers across the funnel, from discovery to conversion.

Shruti contextualized key concepts within contemporary culture and market realities, alongside case discussions on consumer brands Nishorama and Indiewild. These examples enabled students to connect theoretical frameworks with real-world brand strategies and the consumer behavior shifts shaping Gen Z decision-making.



## Navigating sales personnel: Motivating and compensating sales personnel

Darshna Bairagi, Marketing Operations Manager at Trilliad, conducted a session titled Navigating Sales Personnel: Motivating and Compensating Sales Personnel, for Postgraduate students. The session highlighted the unique realities of sales, like being performance-driven, target-oriented, and resilient to manage rejection, uncertainty, and challenges. Drawing on established motivational frameworks, Darshna connected Maslow's Hierarchy with compensation alignment, emphasized Herzberg's distinction between hygiene factors and true motivators, and explained how Expectancy Theory links effort, performance, and reward. She noted that high-achievement-oriented salespeople thrive on recognition, challenge, and measurable success.



## So what can you do with Psychology?

The session featured Shreya Avirneni, Pranati Maloo, Abhramika Choudhuri, and Unnati Nihalani, who shared their perspectives on building careers within and beyond the field of psychology. Shreya Avirneni is a User Researcher in Hyderabad, Pranati Maloo is a Counselling Psychologist based in Delhi, Abhramika Choudhuri is an Executive Recruitment Consultant in Mumbai, and Unnati Nihalani is privately practising Counselling Psychology in Ahmednagar. Bringing diverse professional experiences, the session explored psychology beyond the classroom, highlighting career pathways, higher education opportunities, and real-world applications of the discipline.



## From admission to aspiration

Khushi Indani, Technology Consulting Analyst recent graduate from Indian Institute of Management Indore, and Ishita Vora, Global Marketing Capability Manager at Unilever, conducted a session on Human Resources for Undergraduate Students.

The session focused on Human Resource Management and its career prospects. Through a collaborative discussion, they explained how businesses function through a combination of front-end and back-end roles and highlighted the critical role HR plays. The discussion covered key HR domains, including recruitment, training and development, succession planning, compensation, and employee engagement.

Khushi shared perspectives on pursuing higher education after a bachelor's degree, while Ishita provided insights into transitioning directly into the corporate sector. They also offered practical guidance on navigating college and professional life.



## Decoding brand meaning: Archetypes & associations in practice

Ira Shah, branding partner at Please See//, conducted a session delivering a comprehensive understanding of modern branding practices. Ira shared insights from her professional journey, emphasising that branding extends beyond logos and visual identity to focus on crafting meaningful narratives and building strong emotional connections with consumers. She introduced the concept of brand archetypes as a framework to create consistent and relatable brand identities, illustrating her discussion with examples such as Gully Labs, Starbucks, and Apple. Drawing from her consultancy experience, she offered a behind-the-scenes perspective on how branding strategies are developed and executed.



## Shaping careers for a changing planet

The session featured Radhika Mulay, Niharika Sharma, Shimul Bijoor, Sanjana Suresh, and Karan Palod. They shared insights from their professional journeys and reflected on how their academic experiences at FLAME have shaped their career paths. Organised for Undergraduate Students pursuing Environmental Studies, the session provided a platform to explore emerging opportunities and evolving career trajectories within the environmental sector. The conversation focused on connecting classroom learning with real-world applications, while highlighting the importance of adaptability, interdisciplinary thinking, and purpose-driven work.



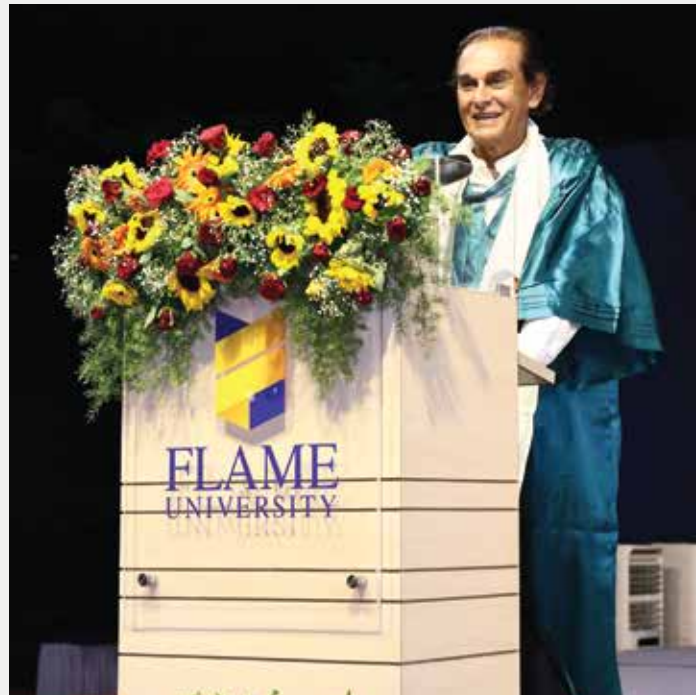
# OTHER IMPACT STORIES



REFLECTING ENDURING  
IMPACT SHAPED BY VALUES,  
VISION, AND INITIATIVE

# 17TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY

17th Convocation Ceremony 2026 was hosted on May 16th, 2026, and was graced by Shri Harsh Mariwala, Chairman and Founder of Marico Limited. He addressed the graduating Class of 2026, bringing with him decades of entrepreneurial insight, leadership, and vision. Radiating joy and pride, the graduates celebrated their academic achievements, ready to embark on new journeys and make their mark on the world.



Students shine in academics

Students’ dedication and perseverance earned them well-deserved awards, conferred by the Chief Guest.

Undergraduate Program

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)



Aneesh Parnerkar  
Gold



Nandhini Somasundaram  
Silver



Suhani Mathur  
Bronze

Bachelor of Science (Honours)



Prajas Naik  
Gold



Aadit Shah  
Silver

Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours)



Sneh Pahuja  
Gold



Shwetha Lakshmi Ramesh  
Silver



B S Nirupama  
Bronze

Bachelor of Business Administration  
(Communications Management) (Honours)



Deshpande Shreshtha Tushar  
Gold

Bachelor of Arts



Krish Doshi  
Gold



Tamanna Rathore  
Silver



Pampattiwar Saeed Milind  
Bronze

Bachelor of Business Administration



Suhani Sikaria  
Gold



Khushi Oza  
Silver



Ishita Katya  
Bronze

Bachelor of Business Administration (Communications Management)



Ishaan Vohra  
Gold



Vira Niyati Ketan  
Silver



Anuja Vivek Wagle  
Bronze

Bachelor of Science



Aditi Kedia  
Gold

Postgraduate Program

Master of Business Administration



Meghna Venkatesh  
Gold

Postgraduate Diploma in Interdisciplinary Studies and Research



Ankita Anand  
Gold

Extraordinary All-round Performance

Postgraduate Program



Shriyans Chaudhari  
Gold

FLAME Scholars Program

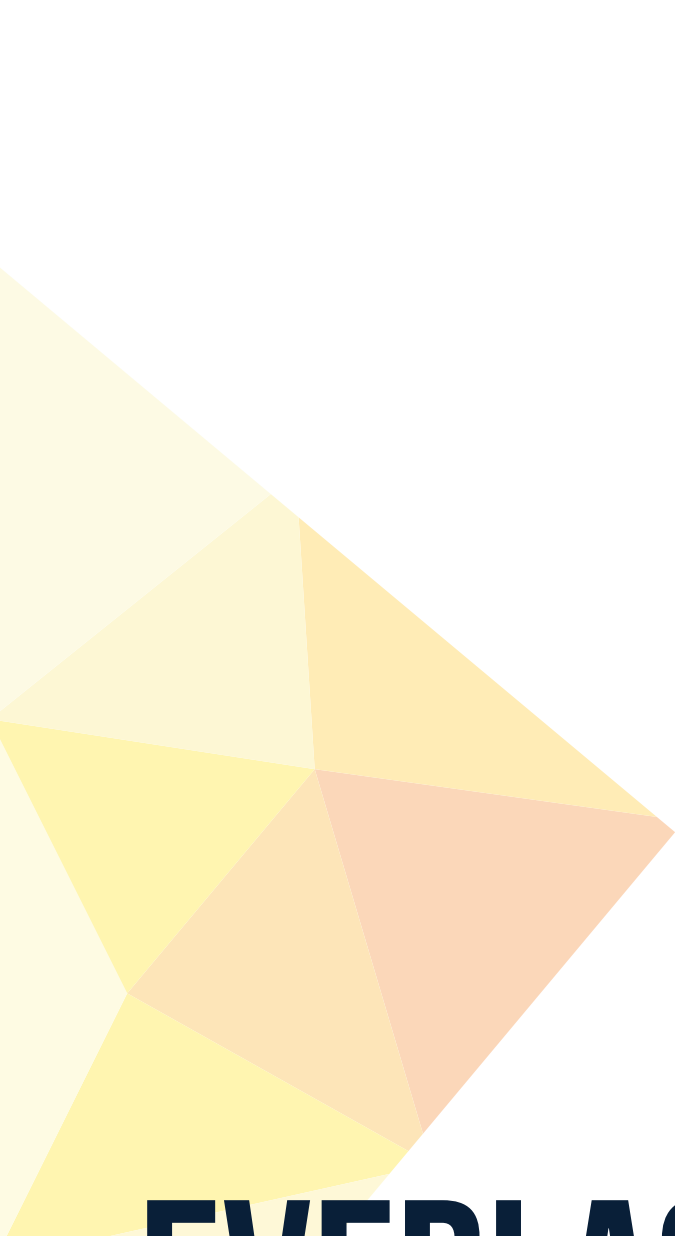


Misha Sharma  
Gold

Undergraduate Program



Suneesh Batabyal  
Gold



# EVERLASTING

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