IILM

CAMPUS CHRONICLES

EXPRESSION. DELIBERATION. ARTICULATION.

JANUARY'26 HIGHLIGHT

HackVeda'26, the national-level Hackathon, was successfully organized by the School of Computer Science and Engineering (SCSE), IILM University, Greater Noida, in collaboration with IBM and AWS on 29th and 30th January 2026. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across the country, with 265 teams registered, out of which 29 teams competed in the final round.The hackathon provided a dynamic platform for innovation in key domains such as Agentic Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, Cybersecurity, and Data Science.

Coffee thaws frosty hands—
Newsletter arrives, crisp pages
Rejoice, dear Readers!

Hidden throughout this newsletter are tiny surprises 💡 see how many you can spot.

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EDITORIAL

MASTERING CURIOSITY

Jack of all trades, master of none but oftentimes better than master of one.

So goes the popular saying that we have all heard at least once in our entire lives. But how true is it really?

In this day and age, with resources and audiences at our fingertips; with more hobbies and skill sets to be cultivated than one could count; do we, the next generation, commit to mastering one path or embrace learning across many?

A lot has been said about exploring new avenues. "Curiosity killed the cat, but satisfaction brought it back." An all-time favourite that I shall employ to make a point in favour of inviting new experiences and exploring new horizons. Of course, the risk of leaving familiarity; be it work, hobbies or lifestyles, is daunting. It's uncomfortable, perhaps even risky and dangerous, but it's new. It's unknown, it's unpredictable, and it's life in its majesty.

People may argue that mastering one hobby, one skill set, is the best. That's the most admirable, impressive, success-prone, and palatable choice. But, contrarily, why must life be lived in a way that is admirable or palatable, when neither word quite translates to "fun"?

In a world that rewards measurable excellence, specialization feels like the modus operandi for life. Institutions, employers, and even families encourage sticking to one lane, perfecting one craft, and building an identity around that singular axis. Depth is more tangible than curiosity, and mastery seems easier to celebrate than experimentation.

A ship in harbor is safe, but that's not what ships are built for.

A life of familiarity is calm, but that's not what living is meant to be.

I believe there's more to life than routine perfection and predictable success. If each moment of curiosity results in death, then perhaps each moment of consuming knowledge and experience leads to a kind of rebirth. And limiting life to a yellow brick road toward a predefined destination seems almost ungrateful. An affront to the nature and calling of freedom.

This is not an attack on the art of being masterful. My aim is not to take rightful accomplishment away from the process and position of being at the top of any domain, but to assign a bit of understanding and perhaps celebration to the utter humanity and beauty of curiosity.

So, I would like to call upon the curious child in all of us, that does not understand consequences, regrets, and failures, to come sit with us once in a while and help us be unapologetically imperfect and courageously diverse.

Anya Goel
Editorial Coordination
BSc Honours Psychology
IILM University, Greater Noida

FACULTY INSIGHTS

BROWN ENGLISHMEN: HOW ONE 1835 MEMO STILL DECIDES WHO GETS HIRED IN INDIA

On February 2, 1835, Thomas Babington Macaulay submitted a brief policy note that would reshape Indian identity for centuries. His "Minute on Education" argued for English-medium instruction to create "a class of persons Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinions, in morals and in intellect." The British needed intermediaries- colonial subjects who could administer an empire without fully belonging to it.

Nearly two centuries later, Macaulay's ghost haunts every job interview, every school admission, every anxious parent choosing "English-medium" over vernacular education. The language you speak still determines your salary, your social mobility, your perceived intelligence. A brilliant engineer from a Tamil-medium school loses opportunities to a mediocre English-speaking graduate. Corporate India demands "good communication skills" a code for anglicized accents and idioms.

The 2020 National Education Policy's push for mother-tongue instruction sparked fierce resistance, revealing our internalized colonial hierarchy. Parents fear vernacular education will handicap their children. Regional politicians cry linguistic imperialism when Hindi is imposed, yet embrace English as "neutral." We've replaced British rulers with a new elite, those who code-switch effortlessly, who don't carry the shame of "vernacular medium" on their resumes.

Macaulay succeeded beyond his imagination. He didn't just create an administrative class; he engineered a permanent linguistic anxiety, a cultural cringe that equates English fluency with merit and vernacular roots with backwardness.

The question isn't whether English is useful- it demonstrably is in a globalized world. The question is: can we decouple language from worth? Can we build a India where your mother tongue doesn't determine your ceiling? Until then, we remain what Macaulay intended perpetually translating ourselves for validation.

What's your experience with language and opportunity? The debate continues.

Dr Pallavi Mohanan
Assistant Professor
Department of Liberal Arts
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
IILM University, Greater Noida

THE BULLETIN BOARD

HACKVEDA' 26 SHOWCASES STUDENT INNOVATION AT GREATER NOIDA CAMPUS

HackVeda' '26, a prestigious national-level hackathon organised by the School of Computer Science and Engineering (SCSE) in collaboration with IBM and Amazon Web Services (AWS), was successfully held on January 29 and 30, 2026, at the Greater Noida branch of the university. The two-day event brought together student innovators from institutions across the country to develop technology-driven solutions to real-world challenges.

The hackathon witnessed participation from 30 competitive teams working in emerging and high-impact domains such as agentic ai, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, cybersecurity, data science, internet of things, and full-stack development. Teams were required to ideate, design, and build functional solutions within a limited timeframe, encouraging the practical application of theoretical knowledge in a simulated industry environment.

A key highlight of HackVeda' 26 was the strong industry engagement. Nearly 50 software

engineers and domain experts from IBM and AWS actively mentored and evaluated participants throughout the event. Their guidance on cloud architecture, scalability, innovation strategies, and industry best practises added significant value to the learning experience. Participants worked continuously, including overnight development sessions, reflecting the intensity of real-world product development cycles.

The event concluded with final project presentations before a panel comprising academic and industry experts. Teams were evaluated on innovation,

technical implementation, problem relevance, usability, and presentation quality. The top ten teams were awarded prizes, certificates, and recognition from IBM and AWS.

Notably, students from SCSE at the Greater Noida campus were among the winners, highlighting the institution's strong academic and practical training framework.

Overall, HackVeda' '26 strengthened the connection between academia and industry while fostering teamwork, leadership, and innovation, making it a significant milestone for the Greater Noida campus.

ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC AWARENESS PROGRAMME

The Transport Department organised a Road Safety and Traffic Awareness Programme on January 14, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. in the Auditorium of IILM University, Gurugram. The programme, managed by Maruti Suzuki, was attended by students and faculty members, including Dr Sujata Bali, Dean of the Law Department, IILM University. The initiative aimed to create awareness among students about traffic rules, discipline and responsible road behaviour.

During the session, a video of the official road safety anthem was screened. The anthem, written by Prasoon Joshi and sung by Shankar Mahadevan, highlighted the importance of road safety. Students were encouraged to share their observations after the screening, making the session interactive. The speakers engaged with students by asking fundamental questions such as what safety and road safety mean and discussed the serious consequences of violating traffic rules.

The programme concluded with a talk show in which a student from the college volunteered and actively participated, bringing the session to an interactive close with the message, "Sadak Suraksha, Jeevan Raksha"

Gorisha Bagga
BJMC
IILM University, Gurugram

WHO OWNS THE SMART CITY?

The School of Computer Science and Engineering, IILM University, Gurugram, organized a Guest Lecture and Research Discussion by Dr Sanjay Misra on 29 January 2026 at Room No. 94 and the 3rd Floor Board Room. Dr Misra, Senior Scientist at the Institute for Energy Technology, Halden, Norway, and a leading technology researcher, addressed the theme "Who Owns the Smart City? Surveillance, Privacy, and Digital Sovereignty."

He examined smart city infrastructure, digital surveillance, data ownership, and digital sovereignty, highlighting ethical, legal, and technological challenges in modern urban systems. The lecture emphasized balancing technological innovation with privacy protection and citizen rights.

The session was followed by a research discussion with faculty and scholars on international collaborations, interdisciplinary funding, high-impact publishing, and aligning research with global sustainability frameworks. The event was coordinated by Dr Akshat Agrawal, Prof. Law Kumar Singh, and Dr Megha Rana.

Gorisha Bagga
BJMC
IILM University, Gurugram

SKILL SURGE

- School of Law Hosted Moot Court Workshop Ahead of 3rd All India IILM Moot Court Competition

- School of Computer Science and Engineering Hosted Expert Lecture on Women Entrepreneurship by IBA Vice President Dr Khushbhoo Singh

- School of Humanitites and Social Sciences Hosted Seminar on Oral History and Fieldwork by Dr Sumallaya Mukhopadhyay

PRESIDENTIAL-STYLE DEBATE AT IILM GURUGRAM SPARKS DISCUSSION ON A 'NEW COLD WAR'

The Debating and Discussion Forum of the School of Law, IILM University, Gurugram, organised its first Presidential-Style Debate on 28 January 2026 at 1:30 PM, marking the formal launch of its Fortnightly Debate Series. The motion, "This House believes that the world is moving towards a new Cold War," drew on contemporary geopolitical developments and encouraged critical engagement with global power politics.

The debate saw the participation of 18 students speaking for and against the motion, presenting arguments on bloc politics, strategic rivalry, economic nationalism, and technological competition. Conducted in the presidential style format, the session emphasised persuasive advocacy, clarity, leadership, and audience engagement. Ms. Shiny Sharma (BALLB (H), Batch 2024–29) emerged as the winner, with Ms. Jigisha Yadav (BALLB (H), Batch 2024–29) as runner-up. Active audience interaction and post-debate discussions further enriched the session, reinforcing the Forum's aim of promoting informed dialogue and critical reasoning on contemporary issues.

Abhikarsa Sarkar
BACC
IILM University, Gurugram

SCHOOL OF LAW CONDUCTS LEGAL AWARENESS VISIT IN BAHLOLPUR VILLAGE, NOIDA

The Legal Aid Clinic under the Centre for Legal Aid, School of Law at IILM University, Greater Noida branch, conducted a legal awareness visit to Bahlolpur village in Sector 63, Noida, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority. The initiative aimed to promote legal literacy and provide basic legal assistance to members of the local community.

The visit was organised under the guidance of Prof. (Dr) Babita Singh Parasain, Director, School of Law, and coordinated by Prof. (Dr) Sushma Singh, Head, Legal Aid Clinic, along with faculty and student volunteers. The team interacted closely with villagers, offering legal awareness, listening to grievances, and addressing everyday legal concerns.

Volunteers also engaged with students from a nearby government school, sensitising them on child rights, education policies, and girls' safety. The visit provided participants with valuable ground-level exposure, enhancing skills in client interaction, mediation, public communication, and handling sensitive legal matters, while reinforcing the social responsibility of legal education.

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'COCREATE' LAUNCHES AT IILM UNIVERSITY, STRENGTHENING COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENT

IILM University successfully launched CoCreate, a collaborative initiative uniting students, parents, alumni, faculty, and industry professionals on a shared platform. The event marked a significant step toward fostering dialogue, mentorship, and collective growth within the university ecosystem, with strong participation and media coverage underscoring its impact.

A key highlight was CoCreate Circles, a panel discussion moderated by Dr Shivani Sharma, featuring Tajinder Singh (Director, Forensic Corporate Intelligence, Deloitte India), Jigar Rathod (Digital Marketer, Adidas), Vrinda Gokhale Philip (Founder, Paperjewelz), Lydia Glory Jose (Assistant Professor), and Samaira Choudhary (Student, IILM). The discussion explored leadership, collaboration, and learning beyond classrooms.

The event also included Leadership Stories by Rajat Verma (CA and Finance Director, Gurugram Metro) and Jigar Rathod, who shared insights on resilience and professional growth. A symbolic balloon release concluded the launch, reflecting shared aspirations and CoCreate's vision of sustained community engagement.

Gorisha Bagga
BJMC
IILM University, Gurugram

IILM UNIVERSITY SIGNS MOU WITH STEMLORE INNOVATORS TO STRENGTHEN INDUSTRY-INTEGRATED LEARNING

The School of Computer Science and Engineering (SCSE) at IILM University, Greater Noida branch, announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with STEMLORE Innovators LLP on 5 January 2026. STEMLORE Innovators LLP is the national channel partner for Qualcomm and Arduino Education.
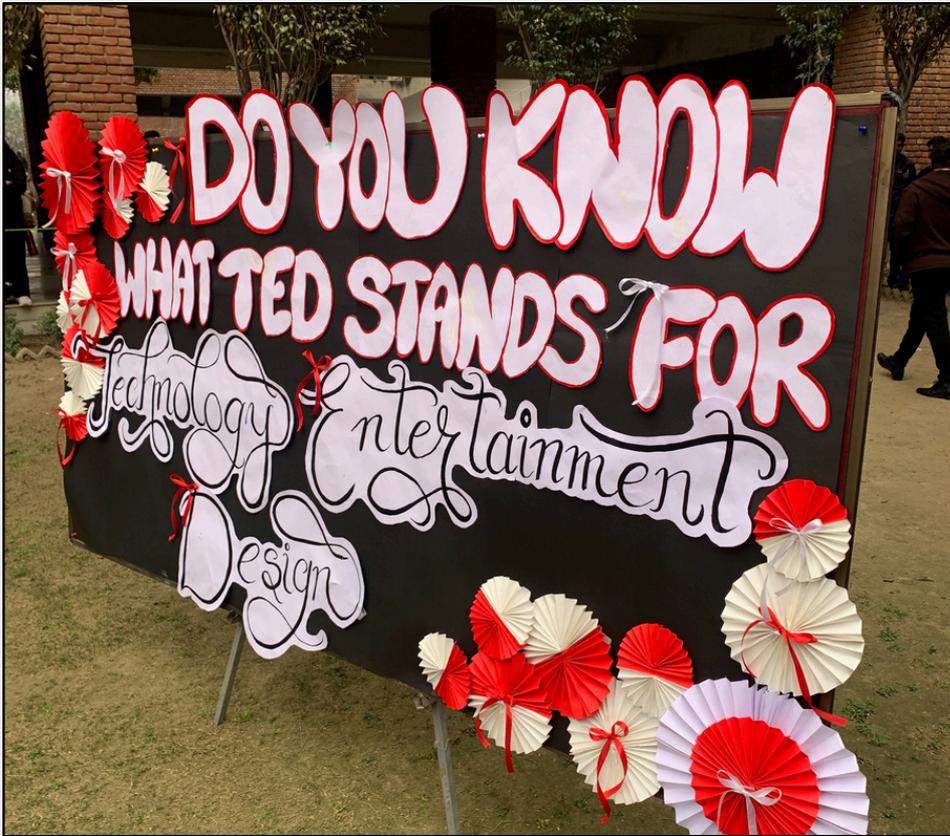
The collaboration aims to advance industry-integrated education through curriculum co-design aligned with industry requirements, faculty development and certification programs, student skill enhancement, internships, and placement opportunities. A strong emphasis will be placed on hands-on learning using Arduino platforms and other emerging technologies, alongside innovation-driven initiatives such as projects, hackathons, and maker events.

The MoU represents a significant step towards bridging the gap between academia and industry, equipping students with future-ready skills. The university acknowledged the support of its leadership and expressed gratitude to representatives from STEMLORE and Arduino Education for their role in enabling this partnership.

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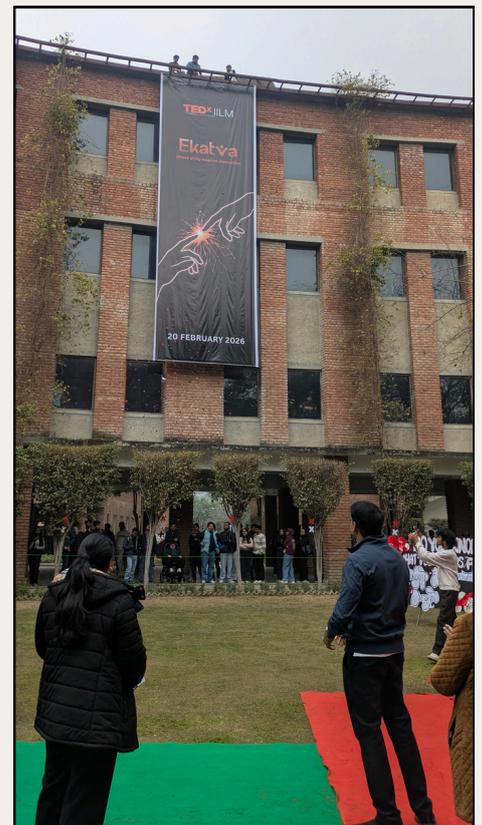
INAUGURAL SESSION OF TEDXIILM - SECOND EDITION

The inauguration of TEDxIILM 2026 was held on 28 January at the IGSM Ground, marking the official commencement of the TEDx journey on campus. The event began at 12:45 PM with a soulful singing performance that set an energetic and welcoming tone, followed by the first banner reveal, unveiling TEDxIILM 2026 through a handmade poster symbolising collective effort and collaboration.
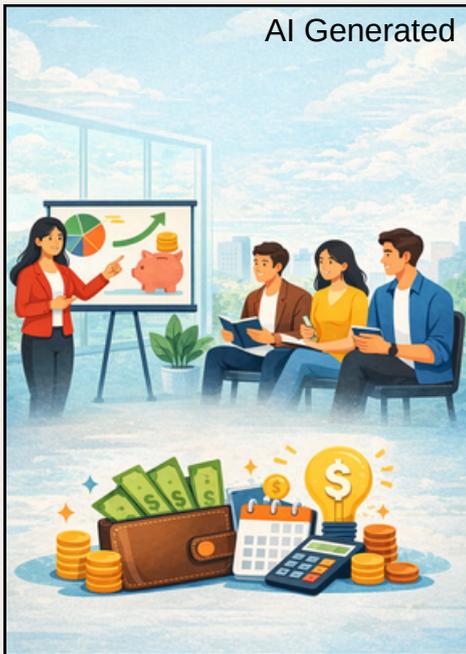
Freestyle dance and soulful singing performances added depth to the ceremony, after which the second banner reveal officially introduced the TEDx theme "Ekatva" along with the event date, 20 February, establishing the TEDx identity at IILM. The venue was thoughtfully decorated in the TEDx colour palette of red, black, and white, with a simple stage setup and technical arrangements in place. The inauguration featured addresses by Dr Nihar Amoncar, Vice Chancellor & Director, School of Management, who emphasized the power of ideas, leadership, and student-driven initiatives; Dr Aswani R. S., Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, who inspired students with reflections on innovation, expression, and confidence; and Dr Neeta Mathur, Dean, School of Management, who highlighted teamwork and the significance of hosting TEDx at IILM.

The ceremony concluded at 1:30 PM with a cultural dance performance, leaving the audience energized and motivated. Later in the day, committee photographs were conducted around 4:30 PM, followed by an evening Bonfire and Jamming Session at 5:30 PM, organized by the Swaraag Music Club in collaboration with an external performer from the Daastan Band. The open-mic musical jamming fostered a warm interactive atmosphere, encouraging student participation and strengthening bonds among the TEDx core team and attendees, making the inauguration a memorable and unifying experience.

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LEGAL AID HEADLINE: STUDENTS EMPOWERED WITH FINANCIAL LITERACY IN EXPERT SESSION BY CIEL HR

AI Generated

In a significant move to equip students with vital real-world capabilities, Ms. Nitya Aggarwal, Corporate Trainer at CIEL HR, recently led an expert session focused on financial planning and money management. The workshop was designed to empower students with the practical knowledge necessary to navigate future economic challenges with confidence.

During the session, Ms. Aggarwal provided actionable insights into wealth creation and informed decision-making. She emphasized the importance of early financial literacy, guiding attendees on how to bridge the gap between theoretical academic learning and practical application. Her instruction offered students the tools required to manage personal finances effectively upon entering the workforce.

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'PRAKRIYA' ORGANISES INDUSTRIAL VISIT TO EPACK PREFAB

Prakriya, the Operations Club of IILM University, organised an industrial visit to EPACK Prefab Technologies Limited in Greater Noida on January 29, 2026. The visit involved 30 MBA and BBA students and was led by Dr Mohd Mehdi, with the objective of linking classroom concepts of operations management to real-world industrial practice.

The visit began with an orientation by EPACK's HR team, outlining the company's business model, manufacturing capabilities, and large-scale project execution. A key highlight was an industry perspective session by Mr. Narender Kumar, who offered candid insights into

organisational decision-making, team dynamics, and evolving operational realities.

Students later undertook a guided plant tour, observing raw material handling, plasma cutting, crane operations, and shop-floor coordination. The visit enabled participants to critically understand process optimisation, real-time decision-making, and operational efficiency, reinforcing the value of experiential learning at the Greater Noida campus.

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IEEE SIGHT HOSTS CAMPUS-TO-CORPORATE SESSION AT IILM UNIVERSITY, GREATER NOIDA

Greater Noida, January 19, 2026: IEEE SIGHT, in collaboration with the IEEE Student Branch, IILM University, successfully organized a Campus to Corporate session at the SVH Seminar Hall. The session aimed to bridge the gap between academic learning and corporate expectations, providing students with practical exposure to the professional world.

The session was delivered by Mr. Atin Agrawal, Transformation Leader at Kyndryl, who shared insightful perspectives on industry readiness, essential workplace skills, and career growth. Through real world examples and an interactive approach, he highlighted the importance of adaptability, continuous learning, and professionalism in today's competitive corporate landscape. The session was highly engaging and beneficial for students preparing to enter the industry.

The organizers expressed sincere gratitude to Director Prof. (Dr) Munish Sabharwal and Dean Sir Alok Aggarwal of IILM University, Greater Noida, for their constant support, which made the successful conduct of this informative session possible.

Tanishka Bhatia
Bsc Psychology
IILM University, Greater Noida

INNOVATEX - THE STARTUP & PITCH FEST

InnovateX – Startup and Pitch Fest was organized by the School of Computer Science and Engineering, IILM University, Gurugram, on 28 January 2026 at the Law Building Auditorium. The event promoted innovation and entrepreneurial thinking by providing students a platform to pitch startup solutions to real-world problems before an expert panel comprising Dr Rashmi Tandon, Dr Saurabh Shanu, Dr Amar Shukla, and Dr Anurag Jain.

The fest covered themes including Artificial Intelligence, Smart Automation, Sustainable Innovation, HealthTech, EdTech, Cyber Security, FinTech, Web3, and Social Innovation. A total of 29 teams presented patent- and startup-oriented ideas demonstrating practical and scalable solutions.

The winning team received a Patent Grant with full filing support from the university. The second prize went to "True Feel," an AI-powered smart glass for visually impaired individuals. Consolation prizes included E-Ink Smart Nail Polish. The event concluded with positive feedback from participants.

Gorisha Bagga
BJMC
IILM University, Gurugram

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IILM UNIVERSITY SIGNS MOU WITH SHRISTI TO ADVANCE MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION

The Department of Psychology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences at IILM University, Greater Noida branch, marked a significant academic development with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Shristi Institute for Child and Adolescent Mental Health on 14 January 2026. The collaboration aims to strengthen mental health education, inclusive practices, and community-focused psychological services.

The MoU was formally signed by Brig. S. S. Gill and the Director and Founder of SHRISTI, establishing a structured academic–clinical partnership focused on training, research, and capacity building in psychology. The initiative was undertaken under the leadership of Dr Nihar Amoncar, whose vision emphasizes experiential learning and social impact.

The signing ceremony was attended by Dr Anupama Srivastava along with faculty members from the Psychology Department. The partnership will facilitate clinical internships, supervised practice, research collaborations, outreach programs, and professional development activities, reinforcing the university's commitment to skill-based, ethical, and inclusive mental health education.
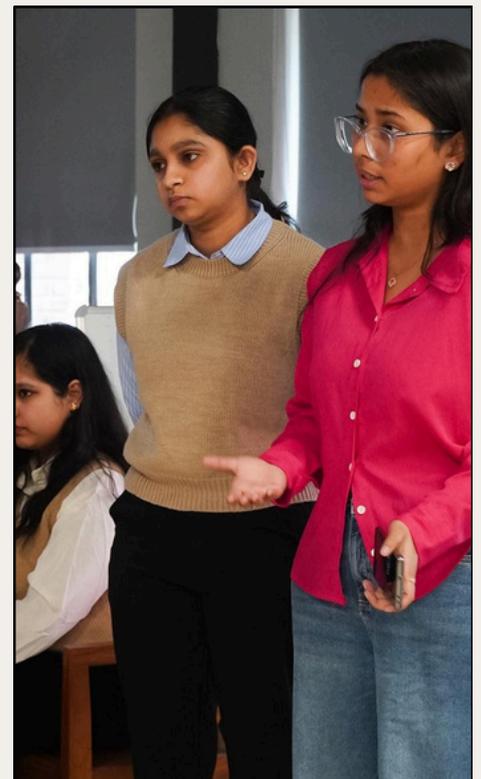
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IILM SCHOOL OF LAW INAUGURATES FORTNIGHTLY DEBATE SERIES WITH INTERACTIVE MOOT COURT SESSION

The IILM School of Law organised a Workshop on Presidential Style Debating on 22 January 2026 at the Moot Court, formally inaugurating the Fortnightly Debate Series under the Debating and Discussion Forum. The session aimed to enhance advocacy, communication, and critical reasoning skills among law students through a blend of training and practice.

The workshop introduced students to the philosophy and mechanics of presidential-style debating, emphasising persuasion, clarity, and leadership over adversarial confrontation. Participants were trained in structured argumentation, effective openings and conclusions,
.

rebuttal techniques, audience engagement, and practical tools such as the Claim–Logic–Example (CLA) method, Points of Information, and time management

This was followed by a mock presidential-style debate on whether Indian cinema reinforces harmful gender norms through aggressive masculinity and the silencing of women's anger. Students engaged with complex socio-cultural themes, applying the techniques discussed. Faculty moderators offered detailed feedback, reinforcing the link between debating skills and professional legal advocacy.

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PHOTO ESSAY

Republic Day 2026 'Celebration of Constitutional Values'

On 26 January 2026, India marked another year of its democratic journey, celebrating unity in diversity, constitutional strength, and collective progress. The day stands as a reminder of the ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity that prevail.

Did You Know?

• The Constitution of India came into effect on 26 January 1950.

• It is the longest written Constitution of any sovereign nation.

• Republic Day celebrations at Kartavya Path showcase India's cultural and military diversity.

Closing Reflection

Republic Day is not only a commemoration of history but a reminder of our responsibility toward the nation. It calls us to uphold the values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity in the Constitution. As we honour the makers of our Republic, we reaffirm our commitment to responsible citizenship and collective progress.

Photo Courtesy: Shivansh Kumar
BJMC, IILM University, Gurugram

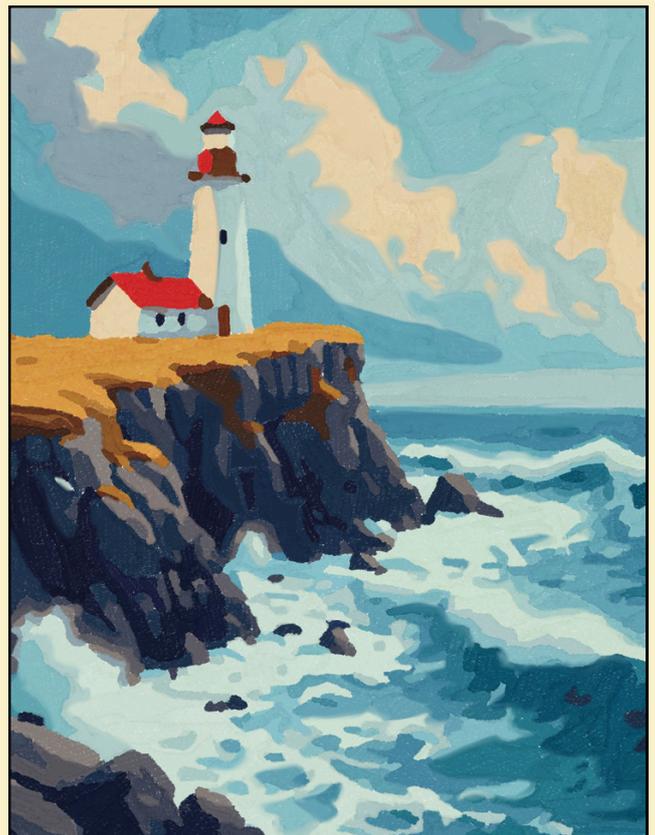Content: Editorial Board
Campus Chronicles

CAMPUS CANVAS

DIGITAL ART TIP OF THE MONTH

Use layers generously. Keeping sketches, colors, and details on separate layers makes editing and experimenting much easier. Once you're satisfied with a layer, lock it to prevent accidental edits. Naming layers early helps avoid confusion later, especially in complex pieces. Also be mindful of which layer you're drawing on — working on the wrong layer is one of the most common (and most annoying) beginner mistakes.

Alice Soumya Toppo
Btech Food Technology
IILM, Greater Noida
Software: Procreate

Dhvani
BA Psychology
IILM, Greater Noida
Software: Procreate

Divya
Biotech
IILM, Greater Noida
Medium: Watercolor

ART TIP OF THE MONTH

Watercolor Tip:

Let the water do the work. Instead of over-brushing, apply paint and allow it to spread naturally on wet paper. Watercolor is at its best when it's given space to flow and mix on its own.

Too much touching or reworking can dull colors and create muddy textures. Try to place your strokes with intention, then step back and observe. Patience, layering, and controlled restraint often create the most luminous and beautiful effects

Divya
Biotech
IILM, Greater Noida
Medium: Watercolor

Anushka Gill
IILM, Gurugram

Chetan
IILM, Gurugram

Hazel Kapoor
IILM, Gurugram

PHOTOGRAPHY TIP OF THE MONTH

The background should be as simple and clutter free as possible so that it doesn't pull the viewer's attention away from the main subject of the photo.

Muted colors and plain patterns tend to work well, because you don't want viewers to end up being more interested in the colorful building or church tower in the background than your model.

Aaditya Goel
IILM, Gurugram

Tanisha Gutgutia
IILM, Gurugram

PROMPT CRAFTING

PROMPT FOR IMAGE GENERATION

A realistic guinea pig standing on its hind legs making a tiny snowman, snowy ground and winter forest background, gentle snowfall, detailed fur, cold winter lighting, shallow depth of field, ultra-realistic wildlife photography style.

Note: The image was generated with the aforementioned prompt using Nano Banana Pro, Google Gemini.

AI Generated

PROMPT WRITING TIP OF THE MONTH

Think in layers when building your prompt. Start with the main subject, then enrich the scene by describing environment, atmosphere, and important details. Clear structure helps the AI interpret your idea more reliably.

Use concrete visual cues instead of vague descriptions. Words like soft morning light, weathered textures, or dramatic shadows produce more consistent results than general adjectives.

If the output isn't what you expect, refine rather than rewrite completely. Small adjustments to style, perspective, or mood often lead to better images.

Well-crafted prompts are iterative - clarity and specificity improve results over time.

VOICES IN PRINT

THE QUIET PRESSURE: MENTAL HEALTH REALITIES AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS HERE

University life is often portrayed as a time of freedom, growth, and new experiences. While these elements are real, there is a quieter side to campus life that often goes unnoticed. Many students carry an unspoken pressure shaped by expectations, comparisons, and the constant need to perform.

The transition to university brings sudden independence and multiple responsibilities. Academic pressure is one of the most common stressors, with grades increasingly tied to self-worth. Fear of failure, intense competition, and uncertainty about future careers contribute to anxiety and self-doubt. Alongside this, social expectations create additional strain. Students are expected to fit in, build lasting friendships, and appear confident, which can be particularly exhausting for those who struggle socially. Social media further amplifies this pressure by encouraging constant comparison with carefully curated images of success and happiness.

Emotional isolation is another significant but overlooked challenge. Many students feel lonely despite being surrounded by peers, especially when adjusting to new environments away from family support. Due to lingering stigma around mental health, these struggles are often endured in silence.

The effects of this quiet pressure are visible in rising stress, burnout, and emotional fatigue. Addressing this reality requires open conversations, accessible support systems, and a campus culture that values well-being as much as achievement. Universities must become spaces that nurture not only academic success, but also emotional resilience.

Khushi Sahani
BA Honours Psychology
IILM University, Greater Noida

COURTS, CONSOLES, AND CAMARADERIE

Between the lectures, the deadlines, the screens and the hustle-bustle of campus life students often forget one thing - play. Play that energises the body, that sharpens the mind, that turns strangers into friends and that reminds us that real lessons are not only taught in classrooms.

Sports remind us that sometimes the most important lessons are learnt on courts, boards or fields. This idea came alive at INVICTUS 2026, the high energy extravaganza organised by the AIKYAM sports club at IILM University, Greater Noida, transforming the evenings into one of camaraderie.

From the swishing of the badminton and table tennis racquets as it slices through the air to the tactical drive of chess and carrom to the adrenaline spike due to pickleball and BGMI, the hours turned into a celebration of skills and sportsmanship. The event brought together students from multiple schools and departments through a diverse range of indoor and recreational games, including Badminton, Table Tennis, Pickleball, Chess, Carrom, and BGMI.

On the courts and consoles, titles, majors, and academic hierarchies faded into the background, replaced by strategy, skill, and teamwork. INVICTUS reflected this spirit as students from diverse programs came together, forming connections that might never have happened in classrooms.More than a tournament, it was a reminder of why sports matter and why college is as much about experiences as it is about education.

In the rallies, overlapping shouts and shared laughs, the campus found it's rhythm and with every serve and cheer students found their confidence. As the students walked away from the courts, they carried more than medals - they carried their newfound strength, connection, growth and perspective.

In rediscovering play, students rediscovered a part of themself which was beyond assignments and work. Because sometimes, the most important lessons aren't taught in classrooms they're learned while playing the game.

Palak Khanna
BA (Hons) Journalism and Mass Communication
IILM, Greater Noida

LEARNING TO UNLEARN

Everyone talks about learning new skills, new experiences, new knowledge. But no one tells you how hard unlearning is "UNLEARNING " is often underrated. No one talks about how it feels to let go of something your mind once swore was true. We see things, we hear things, we believe them and slowly, they become a part of us. Our identity starts to wrap around those beliefs, those perceptions, those stories we told ourselves. And then one day, something shifts. You see the truth differently. You realize that maybe what you thought was right, wasn't. What you believed was love, wasn't. What you trusted blindly, wasn't.
And that realization breaks you a little.

Unlearning is painful it's like tearing down walls you built to feel safe. It's the silence after your ego shatters, the confusion after you realize your version of the world was incomplete. It's losing the comfort of being sure. But somewhere in that chaos, you begin to rebuild slowly, honestly, this time. You learn to see with softer eyes. You learn that not everything you once held onto deserves to stay. And maybe, that's what real growth looks like not just learning more, but finally unlearning what no longer serves your peace.

Poulomi Das
MA Psychology
IILM University, , Greater Noida

DREAMS

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.

-Langston Hughes
American Poet & Social Activist
(1901 - 1967)

ODE TO HAPPINESS

Oh happiness, my elusive love.

How I longed for you, but never enough,
Through different ways I tried to seek,
But in my grasp, you refused to peek.

Oh happiness, you never loved me back,
As I sat by the fire, sipping tea, feeling the lack.
In weather as chilling as my insides could be,
Your love for me remained forever out of reach.

Through each puff of smoke, through each sip of wine,
With different melodies and riffs, I tried to make you mine,
But you never looked my way, my heart left to ache,
In unrequited love, my soul forever to break.

Oh happiness, my unattainable desire.
You were the dream that set my heart on fire,
But alas, you remained forever out of my reach,
Leaving my heart forever longing, my soul forever to beseech.

Arpita Tiwari
BTech
IILM University, Greater Noida

MIDNIGHT MOCK

The clock strikes, and it's midnight
My emotions start to climb,
And I don't have anywhere else to go, beside the god I badmouthed in the morning
As I reach his door, the emotions start to tire,
Leaving me there alone to retire
To choose between isolation and identification
Or so I think?
I know he waits, waits for me to knock
But for me it's nothing but an awaited mock

Mehak Kukeja
Ba Psycholgy
IILM University, Greater Noida

"The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool."

- William Shakespeare
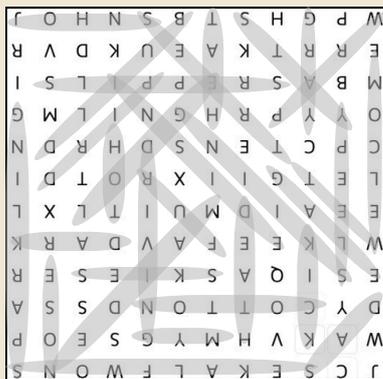English Playwright & Poet
(1564 - 1616)

BRAIN IN VAIN

WORD SEARCH

J	C	S	E	K	A	L	F	W	O	N	S
W	A	K	V	H	M	Y	G	S	E	O	P
D	Y	C	O	T	T	O	N	D	S	S	A
E	S	I	Q	A	S	K	I	E	S	E	R
W	L	K	E	E	F	A	V	D	A	R	K
E	E	A	I	D	M	U	I	T	L	X	L
L	E	T	G	I	I	X	R	O	T	D	I
C	P	C	T	E	N	S	D	H	R	D	N
O	Y	Y	P	R	H	G	N	I	L	M	G
M	B	A	S	R	E	P	P	I	L	S	I
E	R	R	T	K	A	E	U	K	D	V	R
W	P	G	H	S	T	B	S	N	H	O	J

- DRIVING
- SKIING
- NOSE
- WELCOME
- TREES
- SNOWFLAKES
- KICK
- DARK
- SAD
- BUILD
- SKIES
- GYM
- STAY
- FUR
- DEATH
- DRIP
- MAIDEN
- HOT
- WET
- WRAP
- GALE
- SLIPPERS
- INSIDE
- SLEEPY
- JOHNS
- HEAT
- LODGE
- SPARKLING
- COTTON
- GRAY

SOLUTIONS!

SUDOKU

			4	2		1		
4		1	8	3			5	6
8				5				
1	3		6			9	2	
5	8						3	7
	7	2			3		8	1
				9				2
3	1			7	4	5		9
		7		6	5			

DOODLES & DIALOGUES
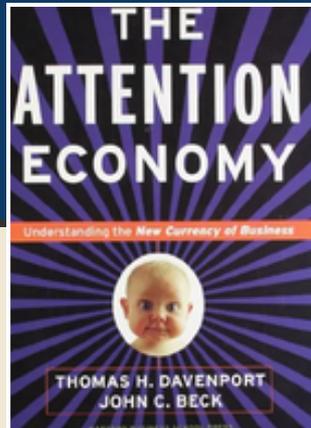
MIND & MEDIA

BOOK REVIEW

THE ATTENTION ECONOMY

★★★★
4/5

MOVIE REVIEW

HAQ

★★★★
4/5

In 2001, as email inboxes overflowed and BlackBerrys buzzed nonstop, Thomas H. Davenport and John C. Beck dropped a bombshell: attention is the new gold. Their book, The Attention Economy: Understanding the New Currency of Business, argued that in a world drowning in data, human focus isn't just scarce—it's the ultimate business asset. Fast-forward to 2026, with TikTok scrolls and AI notifications, and their thesis feels more urgent than ever.

Davenport and Beck cut through the noise with a simple premise: capital, labor, and even ideas abound, but attention doesn't. Companies that master it thrive! They break it down into four pillars—measuring where attention goes, understanding its psychology, deploying tech to protect it, and stealing tricks from advertisers. Real-world cases, from e-commerce giants to knowledge firms, show how firms turned focus into loyalty and profits.

The book guides managers, marketers, or anyone fighting inbox fatigue by learning to "earn and spend" attention wisely.

Dr Prachi D.
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The film Haq serves as a profound academic catalyst, bridging the gap between Bollywood's narrative power and the rigorous debates of political science. By dramatising the landmark 1985 case of Shah Bano v. Mohammad Ahmad Khan, the film provides a visceral look at the clash between secular jurisprudence and religious personal laws. While Yami Gautam's performance masterfully humanises the "marginalised citizen" and Emraan Hashmi adds a grounded strength to the legal drama, the film's true value lies in its exploration of Article 44 and the Uniform Civil Code. It highlights a pivotal moment in Indian history: Ultimately, Haq serves as a crucial case study on gendered citizenship and the delicate balance of constitutional freedoms, prompting us to examine whose rights are prioritized when faith and state intersect is often a conflict between the political pragmatism of the state and the progressive vision of the judiciary.

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