

MORE THAN A DEGREE

A Convocation About Purpose and Responsibility

Akash Dubey

The fifth convocation ceremony of D Y Patil International University was not just a formal academic milestone, but a moment that asked graduating students to pause, reflect and look ahead with responsibility.

A key highlight of the ceremony was the presence of the Chief Guest, Dr V. Narayanan, Chairman of the Space Commission and Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation, and Secretary of the Department of Space, Government of India.

His address, preceded by a documentary on his professional journey, focused on learning beyond the classroom, resilience in the face of setbacks and the responsibility graduates carry towards society.

The convocation also included the conferment of an honorary doctorate on Dr. Pramod Choudhari, Founder Chairman of Praj Industries, in recognition of his contributions to industry and sustainable development. As he was unable to attend the event due to health reasons, the honour was conferred on him in absentia, with a documentary highlighting his work and impact.

Throughout the ceremony, one message stood out clearly: a degree is not merely a certificate, but a commitment. As the graduating batch stepped forward, they did so as ambassadors of knowledge, ethics and purpose, ready to contribute to society beyond the campus gates.

Learning Should Never Stop: Chief Guest's Message to Graduates

Delivering the convocation address at the fifth convocation ceremony of D Y Patil International University, Chief Guest Dr V. Narayanan, Chairman of the Space Commission, Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation, and Secretary of the Department of Space, Government of India, shared insights drawn from his long professional journey, focusing on learning and resilience.

Addressing the graduating students, he said that earning a degree is not the end of education. 'Learning should be a

sion.

Dr. Narayanan also highlighted the role of ethics, teamwork and humility in long-term success. He reminded graduates that a degree is never achieved alone and carries the efforts of parents, teachers and society. 'Your success is built on the sup



continuous process', he added, reminding students that professional growth depends on curiosity and the willingness to keep improving beyond formal studies.

Reflecting on challenges faced during major scientific missions such as Chandrayaan-2, he spoke about the importance of viewing setbacks as opportunities. He said that difficulties should not be seen as failures, but as moments to learn, adapt and perform better the next time. This mindset, he explained, is essential not only in science and technology but in every profes-

port of many people,' he said, urging students to respect every contribution, from faculty members to cleaning staff.

Concluding his address, he encouraged graduates to dream big, remain disciplined and give back to society. He urged them to use their education not just for personal achievement, but to contribute meaningfully to the nation's development and public service.

Building for Tomorrow: The University's Academic and Research Vision

During the fifth convocation

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DYPIU 5TH CONVOCATION

Sleep Less, Dream Bigger: Dr V Narayanan

Sanjukta Kulkarni

It has been 43 years and 6 months since V. Narayan started his career around 1982.

He quotes "No doubt, today ISRO is a very successful organization and we are providing a lot of service to the common man of the country. But in ISRO's activities, there is no such thing as partial success; it is either zero or one."

Speaking about the Chandrayaan journey, the chairman said " Take the Chandrayaan mission as an example. In 2019 (Chandrayaan-2), we were supposed to soft-land near the South Pole of the Moon. Unfortunately, it was a hard landing. We took that as a great opportunity to learn lessons. A committee was formed to understand the reasons and give recommendations within 30 days. Analyzing a satellite with 30 to 34 subsystems and submitting a report in 34 days is not like a PhD thesis where you just submit something. If we don't find the correct reason or give the right recommendation, the next mission will also fail. Our team did a fantastic job. Almost 500 people, sleeping only 3 to 4 hours a day, submitted the report 5 hours before the deadline. Today, over 100 recommendations have been implemented. Chandrayaan-3 was a grand success, making India the only and first country to soft-land on the Lunar South Pole. I was lucky and blessed to be the Chairperson of that committee. "

Dr. Narayan also brought in a highlight regarding India's growth after Independence. He quotes " Economically, we have bypassed the UK and Japan to become the 4th largest economy. In education, literacy has risen from 12% to almost 80%. In health, the average life expectancy has jumped from 32 years to 72 years. Even during COVID-19, while developed nations struggled, India produced its own vaccines right here in Pune."

Furthermore, the chairman also spoke about the evolution of India in space technology. The following are the details of it :

Commercial Success

On December 24, 2025, we launched a 6,100kg satellite for



the USA on a purely commercial basis.

- **NASA-ISRO Collaboration** On July 30, 2024, the NISAR satellite (worth \$13,500\$ Crores) was built in India and placed in orbit by an Indian launch vehicle.
- **Breaking World Records In 1969**, while Neil Armstrong was on the moon, we were moving rocket parts on bicycles and bullock carts. Today, we are Number 1 in many areas. Chandrayaan-1: First to find water molecules on the Moon.
- **Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan)** First country to succeed on the very first attempt.

Satellite Records: India holds the record for placing 104 satellites using a single rocket."

Speaking about the future projects of the Indian Space Research Organization, the chairman emphasised the following points :

- Chandrayaan-4 and 5 (Sample return missions).
- Next Generation Launchers (NGLV): Capable of carrying 30,000 kgs.
- Gaganyaan: Sending our own citizens to space and bringing them back safely.
- Space Station: We are conceiving a 40-storey tall structure in space.

Closing Remarks

"I have no doubt India will be a Developed Nation before we celebrate 100 years of independence. Don't underestimate anyone from the directors to the cleaning staff. I rate a sincere canteen worker higher than an insincere director. Respect everyone, including your primary school teachers and the villagers. As our elders said: 'Righteous-

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ceremony, the University Report was presented by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Manish Bhalla, outlining the institution's journey, achievements and future roadmap.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Bhalla said the convocation marked more than academic success. "Today, we celebrate not only academic achievements, but also the passion, perseverance, discipline and spirit of innovation that define our students", he said, addressing the graduating class.

He shared that D Y Patil International University, established in 2018 under the State Private University Act of Maharashtra, has grown from four schools to eight, offering seventeen programmes across disciplines. He highlighted that the university is recognised by national and international bodies and continues to see strong student demand, reflecting growing trust in its academic ecosystem.

The Vice Chancellor emphasised the university's focus on future-ready education through AI-enabled classrooms and advanced laboratories in areas such as semiconductors, robotics, bio-engineering, electric vehicles and high-end computing. He also noted strong placement outcomes, with more than 70 per cent of students placed across diverse sectors, alongside opportunities for higher studies and entrepreneurship through the Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship.

Highlighting research and global engagement, Prof. Bhalla spoke about active doctoral programmes, published research and academic collaborations with international universities. Looking ahead, he outlined plans to introduce new schools, strengthen accreditation efforts and establish additional centres of excellence.

Concluding his address, he reminded graduates of their larger responsibility. 'As graduates, you are the brand ambassadors of DYPIU,' he said, encouraging them to pursue lifelong learning, lead with integrity and contribute to society. ■

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ness in the heart leads to beauty in the character, which brings order in the nation. I suggest to the management: keep education as a service, not a business. May you all shine like stars. Thank you. Jai Hind!" ■

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CIIE conducts two events

The Centre for Innovation, Incubation, and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) at DYPIU organised two sessions.



Both the events witnessed enthusiastic participation from 300+ students across colleges.

"Even on a Sunday, the response was extremely encouraging", said Dr. Sandhya Ingale, CIIE Coordinator & IIC President at DYPIU.

Due to the large turnout, sessions were conducted in the seminar hall and nearby classrooms, with live streaming arranged to ensure smooth participation for all.



Event Highlights:

Session 1: MIC Driven Activity – Atmanirbhar Bharat: HEI Pre-Summit Engagements towards IndiaAI Impact Summit 2026, on the theme "AI Across Domains", conducted by Dr. Meena Jadhav, Global Health Professional, Researcher & Social Entrepreneur.

Session 2: A 6-hour Hackathon, hosted in collaboration with IIIT Delhi, concluded successfully. The shortlisted students will now participate in the National-level Grand Finale at IIIT Delhi.

DYPIU Book Expo Fuels Campus Reading Enthusiasm

Aiman Ali & Kriti Kumari

D Y Patil International University (DYPIU) Pune hosted a lively Book Expo on the sixth floor of 'J' Block building. The event attracted students and faculty to explore new book arrivals across various domains, from fiction and non-fiction to academics. Dr. Manik Rajopadhye, Librarian DYPIU, provided key insights, emphasizing its role in improving the Learning Resource Centre through community recommendations.

The event showcased new market titles in different genres, including competitive exam guides, interview preparation books, communication skills resources, fiction, and non-fiction. It offered something for both leisure and learning. Dr. Rajopadhye highlighted how the expo gives students the chance to see the new arrivals in the market across domains. We aim to enrich our Learning Resource Centre with recommendations from both students and faculty so that we can make the best use of it, she said.

Attendees browsed interactive stalls in the spacious venue, sparking discussions about both practical and recreational reading interests. Dr. Rajopadhye's recommendations for 'books for competitive exams' alongside general reads like 'interview preparation and communication skills' guided selections, blending personal enrichment with professional growth.

Students and faculty praised the variety, noting better access to relevant materials amid campus life in Pune. The collaborative feedback loop ensures that library updates meet community needs. The expo helped foster a reading culture, offering tangible inspiration across all genres to counter digital distractions.

Overall, it marked a success, gathering input for future acquisitions and positioning the sixth floor as a literary hub. DYPIU plans to host more events to keep this momentum going, supporting student pursuits across various disciplines.

Social Outreach Activity Conducted at PCMC Primary School



A social outreach activity was successfully conducted at a PCMC Primary School with the active participation of faculty and students. The School of Biosciences and Bioengineering organized nutrition awareness sessions to educate students about healthy food habits and balanced nutrition. In addition, the School of Commerce and Management donated educational study materials to support students' academic learning.

The initiative aimed to promote health awareness and strengthen educational support at the grassroots level, reflecting the institution's commitment to social responsibility and community development.

Dr. Ajit Dalvi, Faculty of SCM, with Dr. Praful and Dr. Babuskin coordinated the activities. Dr. Dalvi said, "I believe such outreach activities are essential for nurturing social responsibility among students while creating a positive impact on the community."

These initiatives contribute significantly to the holistic development of both students and society, he said.

DYPIU Faculty's paper in a renowned journal

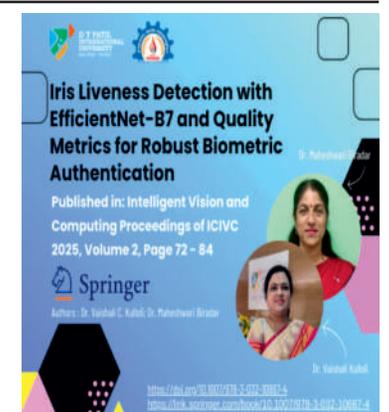
A paper, authored by Dr Ramendra Pandey, Deputy Dean (Research), has been accepted and published in Diseases Journal.

"Our emphasis in this paper is on microbiome analysis, which, together with major technological advances, has accelerated microbiome research in recent years and improved understanding of the role of host genetics, immune responses, and environmental factors," he said.

Besides, a research project by Dr Pandey has been approved by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH), Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India, with a total budget of approximately 30 Lakh. There were four rounds of presentation by the



review committee. Finally approved to work in collaboration with CCRH this time.



DYPIU students bag First Prize



DYPIU's M.Sc. Medical Biotechnology first-year students bagged the First Prize in an inter-college quiz competition named Buzz Bio-tech during the Abhoday Bio Fest 2026 organized by Dr. D.Y. Patil Arts, Commerce, and Science College, Pimpri, Pune.

Bronze Medal for DYPIU's Badminton Men's Team



The Badminton Men's Team of D Y Patil International University has secured the Third Position (Bronze Medal) at the recently concluded 18th National Inter-University MIT-WPU Summit 2026.

Despite a gruelling schedule of back-to-back tournaments, our team displayed incredible grit and sportsmanship. In a nail-biting, high-intensity semi-final clash, our boys defeated SPPU, Pune. with a score of 3-2 to clinch the Bronze.

Our Starring Doubles Duo:

- Kavindra S. (BCA SY)
- Om Vinchurkar (BTech CSE FIY)

Rising Heat, Rising Concerns: Expert Highlights the Reality of Climatic Extremes

Rakhee Agarwal & Shravani Sable

AN informative guest lecture on the topic "Weather, Climatic Extremes and Its Forecasting" was organized at D Y Patil International University. The lecture was delivered by Prof. Rajeev Bhatla from the Department of Geophysics, Banaras Hindu University, who shared valuable insights into the growing challenges of climate change and extreme weather events.

SDG Focus of the talk was Climate Action (SDG-13)/ Quality Education (SDG-04).

During the lecture, Prof. Bhatla explained the concept of climatic extremes and discussed their major causes, including global warming, environmental degradation, and rapid urbanization. He emphasized how rising global temperatures have led to an increase in heatwaves, floods, droughts, and unpredictable rainfall patterns across the world.

The session also focused on the importance of weather observation and modern forecasting techniques.

DYPIU Shines at State-Level: Boys' Badminton Team Clinches Silver

Shruti Sharma



In a display of sheer grit and sportsmanship, the D Y Patil International University (DYPIU) Men's Badminton team secured the Silver Medal at the prestigious State-Level Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj Krida Mahotsav 2026, held at AISSMS, Pune.

The Road to the Podium

The road to the finals was a gruelling test of stamina. The DYPIU squad delivered a masterclass in consistency, winning five consecutive matches to reach the summit clash. What makes this achievement even more remarkable is that two key players competed while still recovering from injuries sustained during the National

Championships.

The Winning Streak:

Vs COEP: 3-0 (W)

Vs MIT-WPU: 3-1 (W)

Vs JSPM University: 3-1 (W)

Vs Christ University (Lavasa): 3-0 (W)

Vs Warana University:

3-0 (W)

Finals Vs Vishwakarma University:

2-3 (L) – A hard-fought battle that went down to the wire.

Meet the Champions

The silver-medal-winning squad featured a talented mix of experience and rising stars:

Kavindra S (BCA - SY)

- Om Vinchurkar (BTech CSE - FY)
- Aryan Joseph (BTech Civil - FY)
- Shaan Jewas (BTech CSE - FY)
- Aditya Pimple (BTech Mech - FY)

A Foundation of Support

The team attributed their success to the rigorous Coach Mentor-ship program and the unwavering motivation provided by the university leadership. The players extended their heartfelt gratitude to Vice-Chancellor Prof. Manish Bhalla and Registrar Dr. Beeran Moidin BM for their constant encouragement and for fostering a vibrant sports culture on campus.

"Our boys showed incredible dedication. Playing six back-to-back matches is no small feat, and their notch," said a team representative.

SoCSEA (DYPIU) x InnoIQ Collaboration

This milestone is a direct result of the refined R&D efforts of Dr. Sanjay Mohite.

What this means: Growth: Internal and external research projects secured by Dr. Mohite
Protection: A signed NDA ensures our research data and IP remain secure and professional.

Impact: This work reinforces our commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals specifically focusing on SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being), alongside SDGs 4, 9, and 17

B.Tech & MBA students' tour to GIFT City



A total of 70 students from B.Tech and MBA programmes successfully participated in a Study Tour at Deakin University, GIFT City, Gujarat.

THE visit focused on contemporary and industry-relevant topics, namely Cyber Security for B.Tech students and Business Analytics for MBA students.

The study tour provided students with valuable academic exposure, practical insights, and an understanding of global educational standards, career services, and professional skill development.

The interactive sessions and campus experience significantly enriched the students' learning beyond the classroom.

DYPIU Hosts Industry–Academia Advisory Board Meeting

D Y Patil International University, Akurdi, Pune successfully conducted the industry–Academia Advisory Board (IAAB) in the presence of Shri Tejas Patil, Dr. Manish B. Bhalla (Vice Chancellor), and Rear Admiral Amit Vikram (Retd.), Campus Director.



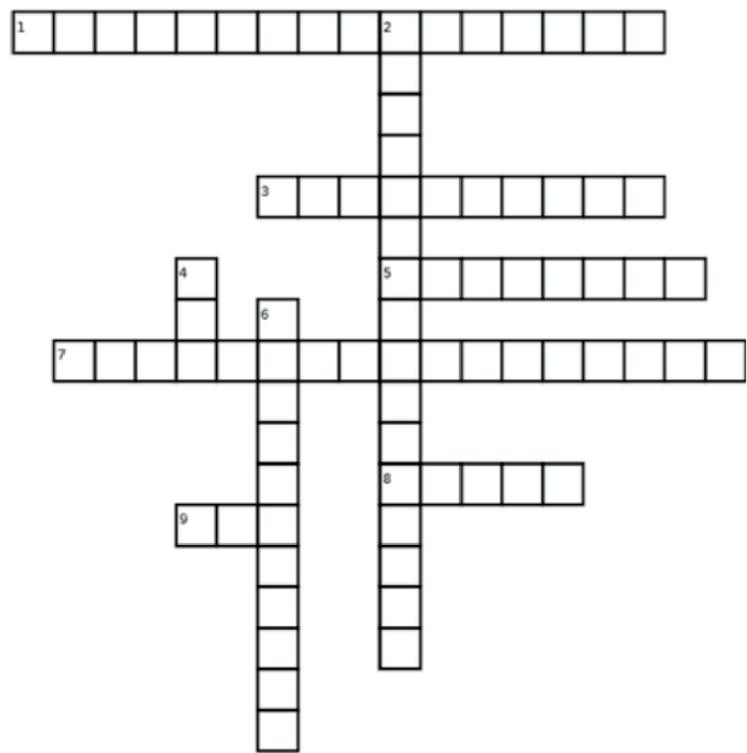
The meeting brought together eminent industry leaders and domain experts to discuss bridging skill gaps, aligning curriculum with industry needs, strengthening practical exposure for students, and integrating emerging

technologies and digital competencies.

The session reinforced DYP-IU’s commitment to industry-relevant education and laid the foundation for stronger future collaborations.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Business & Management Crossword



1. Financial planning technique for long-term projects
3. Skills that define workplace behaviour and teamwork
5. Platform used for professional networking
7. Analysis of data to support business decisions
8. Tool widely used for data analysis and reporting
9. India’s real-time digital payment system

2. Marketing approach focused on online channels
4. Measure used to track business performance
6. Process of matching candidates with job roles

MBA Students to Benefit from 40-Hour Career Enhancement Training



The University has introduced a 40-Hour Value Addition Training Program on Career Enhancement for MBA students as part of its ongoing academic and professional development initiatives. The training program is being conducted in collaboration with Campus Credentials.

This structured training initiative aims to enhance students’ career readiness, professional

skills, and overall employability through focused learning modules and practical exposure. The program is designed to equip MBA students with industry-relevant competencies required to succeed in today’s competitive business environment.

Upon successful completion of the training program, participants will receive a joint participation certificate issued by

Campus Credentials in association with D Y Patil International University (DYPIU).

The launch of this training program underscores the University’s commitment to bridging the gap between academic learning and industry expectations by providing value-added skill development opportunities for management students.

Business Riddles

1. I measure risk and return before money is invested. What am I?
2. I reduce costs when production increases. What concept am I?
3. I help companies understand customer journey digitally. What tool am I?
4. I am revenue earned after deducting expenses. Who am I?
5. I guide a company’s long-term direction. What am I?

Dr Rajopadhye in Library Conference



The University’s Librarian, Dr Manik Rajopadhye, was invited as a panellist to one Library Conference-Pune Chapter. She shared the view on Ethical Research Practices in the event.

Case Study Challenge

Case: Tata Neu – Building a

Super App Ecosystem

Tata Group launched Tata Neu to integrate groceries, electronics, fashion, travel, and finance under one digital platform.

The goal:

Create a unified digital ecosystem combining trust, loyalty rewards, and cross-category convenience.

Question:

As the Digital Strategy Head, how would you increase app engagement and retention?

Options:

- A) Offer heavy discounts only.
- B) Integrate personalized AI-based recommendations.
- C) Focus only on one product category.
- D) Remove loyalty rewards to reduce costs.

SOMJ celebrates World Radio Day

The School of Media and Journalism celebrated World Radio Day, observed on 13th February. In her opening remarks, the event coordinator, Ms Doyel Dutta, said that radio has come a long way over the past 100 years. She also mentioned that we recently commemorated the centenary of Radio Ceylon, the first South Asian radio station.

Mr Maan Bardhan Kanth, Mr

Kumud Das, and Dr Arvind Kumar shared their experiences associated with radio. On the occasion, a documentary titled Radio in India was screened, showcasing the rich legacy of the medium. For the faculty members, it was a walk down memory lane, while for the students, it was a unique experience to hear voices from the past.

Quick Career Tip

In interviews, recruiters don’t just test knowledge — they test clarity.

When answering:

- Structure your answer (Situation → Action → Result).
 - Use real examples from internships, projects, or case studies.
 - Quantify impact (numbers = credibility).
 - Maintain eye contact and confident body language.
- Remember: Confidence + Preparation > Perfect English.

Did You Know?

1. India is the 3rd largest startup ecosystem globally.
2. Over 90% of Indian internet users access via mobile-first platforms.
3. Data analytics roles are among the fastest-growing MBA careers.
4. ESG investments are becoming major decision drivers in global finance.
5. UPI processes billions of transactions monthly in India.

Sanskriti Auti's work in Top 100 pics



Sanskriti Auti, a Second Year student of the School of Applied Arts & Crafts (Photography), has been selected among the Top 100 photographs at the National Level Photography Competition. This remarkable achievement brings great pride to DYPIU.

SoCSEA in MOU with OS-SCI, Netherlands

SoCSEA has signed an MOU with OS-SCI, Netherlands.

This global partnership is designed to equip our students with industry-leading open-source IT skills through a flexible, modular curriculum.

Key Highlights for Students:

Global Curriculum: Access to specialized IT modules and Bachelor-progression pathways.

Real-World Experience: Work on live open-source projects (Lomiri, Nextcloud, OCA modules).

Joint Certification: Earn an "Excellence Certificate" jointly issued by DYPIU and OS-SCI.

Practical Learning: Monthly masterclasses, workshops, and hackathons with industry experts.

Career Support: Guidance for global internships and industry certifications.

Educational Tour for Students of School of Applied Arts and Crafts



Students of the DYPIU School of Applied Arts and Crafts recently participated in an educational tour to Kerala to explore its rich traditions, culture, colours, nature, and vibrant atmosphere. During the tour, students observed and presented artworks from their own perspectives, including sketches, landscapes, reels, illustrations, and photography. The exhibition and

program were inaugurated by our Vice Chancellor Dr. Manish Bhalla and Dean Academics, Dr A V Patil. The entire tour was organised under the guidance of the University's Academic Coordinator, Dr Rahul Weldodoe, with the support of the Director- Mr. Prakash Kalwale. The tour was coordinated by Ms. Samata Bendre and Ms. Vijaylaxmi Pinjan.

Chemical Engg students' industrial visit

The FY Chemical Engineering students visited Deepak Fertilisers and Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd at Taloja, Mumbai.

The visit started with a corporate presentation on company operations, safety systems, and advanced technologies, followed by a guided plant tour.

Students explored the manufacturing processes of Ammonia, Nitric Acid, Ammonium Nitrate, NPK Fertilizers, Industrial Chemicals, and Specialty Chemicals, understanding their applications in agriculture, pharmaceuti-

als, infrastructure, and various industrial sectors.

The visit provided valuable practical exposure to large-scale chemical process operations and strengthened their understanding of real-time industrial practices.

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DYPIU conducts Workshop on Podcasting Power

Siya Soral



Dr. Meenu Khare, Renowned Radio Broadcaster & Former Program Head, All India Radio, held a day-long workshop on Podcasting Power. The event was organised by School of Skill Development in association with School of Media & Journalism.

During the workshop, Dr. Khare imparted a hands-on training on podcast to all the three-year students of BAJMC.

Moreover, she explained beautifully various types of podcasts and their theoretical aspects. On the conclusion of the workshop, the students prepared ready-to-publish content and posted them after getting themselves registered on podcast.

The introductory speech for the event was delivered by SoMJ Director, Dr. Arvind Kumar. He said podcast has reinvented the

radio. With the coming of digital technologies podcast is always available on demand and is free from time constraint, he added.

The welcome speech was given by the Joint Director of Centre of Skill Development, Dr Sathish D. Vote of thanks was given by the Assistant Professor of the department and Coordinator of the workshop, Prof Amit Kumar Om.

Building Global Pathways: An Awareness Session on Education and Careers in Japan with JETRO

Sneha P Kelzarkar



As an outcome of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Manish Bhalla's recent visit to Japan for the India-Japan Higher Education Mission 2026, an awareness session on international education, career pathways, and internship opportunities in Japan was held at Shantai Auditorium. The event was hosted jointly by the Centre for Skill Development, The Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship, and the Office of International

Relations to inform students about global career prospects and strengthen academic and professional ties between India and Japan.

Representatives from the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Mumbai addressed the gathering and shared insights into Japan's education system, work culture, and employment opportunities. The session highlighted how Japan offers a unique combination of advanced tech-

nology, disciplined work ethics, and global exposure for young professionals.

The speakers included Mr. Masahiro Shinoda, Director, JETRO Mumbai, who spoke about Indo-Japanese cooperation and opportunities for Indian students, and Mrs. Neelam Bhatia (Assistant Director, JETRO), who discussed initiatives such as Invest Japan and career promotion programmes aimed at Indian students and job seekers.

The event aimed to create awareness about Japan as a viable destination for education and employment. It concluded with an interactive discussion, leaving students encouraged to explore international opportunities and global career pathways.

The Leadership Meet focused on exploring strategic collaborations, fostering institutional partnerships, promoting industry-academia engagement, and identifying opportunities for joint initiatives between Indian and Japanese institutions and industries.

The Call of the Ghoda

Pranjali Ahire

Led by Ms. Sri Gayathri Vedula and Prof. Aziz Poonawala, from the School of Design, the Designers Club carried out its first educational journey to Kala Ghoda—Mumbai's crowning art and design district.



FROM the beginning, the whole activity or rather the field trip was not a pre-arranged lesson but a sudden phenomenon happening at the core of Mumbai. The motive was—move out from the classroom and enter a world of art, design and culture.

Students could really see the difference the moment they arrived. Murals, weird little galleries, stalls selling handmade things, tiny one-off shops—there was never a dull moment, and they knew it. They didn't just wander around either. Students browsed the stalls, spoke to artists about what they do, bought things... all designs made by local people, and placed directly into their everyday lives.

Well to be truthful, it is how accomplished the people were (public, artists, students, vendors). They were so friendly and most of the time, you could get a story or two from everyone. The students were absorbing so much about the culture of the creative space and the music scene there. All the people and happy and easy-going personalities, which created a friendly environment for everyone to participate.

The faculty members, remained near and at hand, providing guidance, and new understanding for students during the exploration. They directed attention towards elements of design that were unnoticed—the way things were displayed, the way space became a narrative of its own, and how the visual appeal of the space influenced the experience of it. They drew attention to the details of the environment yet urged individuals to take their time enjoying the experience.



For many students this was the highlight of the trip in combining a lot of fun with a lot of learning.

The exuberance of the streets, the teeming street art, the opportunity to meet individuals making a living through design—all made an impact. It was an experience that showed how design is being practiced outside of the classroom.

This was the inception of everything for the Designers club. The fact that this was our

first trip meant that it was to be the best. It was our foray into hands-on learning and an experiential tourism which gives us the opportunity to interact with each other and the culture around us! The excitement generated by this trip has kept everyone eager!

Ultimately, everyone was inspired and bursting with ideas after visiting the Ghoda. It really showed me just how much you can learn by simply stepping out into the real world and interacting with these creative groups.



The BFA Exhibit at Kala Ghoda

SCHOOL OF DESIGN

Design Meets Nature

Pranjali Ahire



The School of Design organized an experiential study tour for 35 students—spanning first-years to third-years—to trek up the historic Tikona Fort. Led by faculty members Sri Gayathri Vedula and Aziz Poonawala, this educational excursion was designed to blend physical activity with creative learning beyond the classroom walls.

THE trek served multiple purposes: students had the opportunity to observe vernacular architecture, study the fort's geometric patterns and spatial design, and draw inspiration from natural forms and landscapes.

Away from their usual design studios and digital workstations, participants engaged with textures, colors, and compositions in the natural and built environment—translating those observations into their design vocabulary.

Right from the start, there was a buzz. Students from every year mixed freely—chatting, singing, even dancing on the way. It didn't matter if you were new or about to graduate; by the time the bus stopped, you felt part of something bigger than your own batch.

The trek itself had tough stretches, but it was worth it. Each step up the winding trail pulled everyone further from routine—more birdsong, fewer notification pings. People looked out for one another, cracked jokes, and made sure no one fell behind.

Sri Gayathri Vedula and Aziz Poonawala didn't stand on the sidelines. They hiked alongside the students, checking in, sharing smiles, and keeping everyone safe. Out there, the gap between faculty and students felt smaller. It's not every day you see your teacher cheering you up a steep hill.

Wellness was at the heart of it. So much of college life happens in front of a screen; this was a chance to unplug, breathe deeply, and be present. You could see stress lift as everyone took in the views and simply enjoyed the moment.



By the end, everyone returned tired but happy, carrying a quiet sense of achievement and plenty of stories. The trek didn't just break routine—it strengthened friendships, cleared minds, and deepened community. It was a reminder that learning isn't only about books or screens. Sometimes, all you need is a mountain, a group of friends, and a little adventure to rediscover what you're capable of.

