



NEWSLETTER

University School of Liberal Arts

Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University



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गुरु गोविंद सिंह इंद्रप्रस्थ विश्वविद्यालय

सेक्टर - १६ सी, द्वारका, नई दिल्ली - ११००७८

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MESSAGE

In a world that is getting rapidly interlinked, there is a need to think across boundaries, understand diverse perspectives and adapt to complex challenges. Education must offer more than survival. To be truly educated, we must cultivate minds beyond the transactional. Learning cannot just conform to market demands, and thus programme out any active imagination or demands for creativity.

The University's newly opened School of Liberal Arts (USLA), established in 2023, is a positive step towards embracing the transformative potential of liberal arts to shape minds for the future. The USLA is a commitment to our endeavour to foster interdisciplinary learning, critical thinking and creativity amongst students. It shall provide a dynamic space where knowledge meets imagination and where learning transcends traditional silos, expanding and opening minds. This is also in sync with the university's deep rooted belief in the all round development of students, preparing them to navigate complex challenges and thrive in diverse professional and personal contexts.

I am indeed delighted to see USLA taking shape. I am sure USLA would emerge as a hub for debate and discovery, focusing on the creative imagination of our students.

I applaud and appreciate the faculty and staff at USLA. I encourage you all to continue helping the students and expand their minds to be able to look at different perspectives.

Prof. (Dr.) Mahesh Verma

From the Desk of the In-charge, University School of Liberal Arts

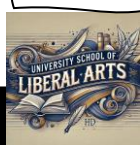


I applaud the initiative of the faculty members and students of the USLA for coming out with the newsletter. The journey started in 2022 after numerous brainstorming sessions within the university on the school's vision. The NEP 2020 was also in the process of being implemented in the University, and the USLA seemed appropriate for breaking the closed boundaries within the disciplines and bringing a synergy between the STEM courses with the disciplines of humanities, social sciences and various art forms.

USLA is a step in that direction, wherein students of liberal arts collaborate with other University Schools of Studies students to understand the efficacies of diverse disciplines. Such intersections are necessary in today's context, where creative ideas and imagination are intrinsic to the growth of technical know-how. Machines alone cannot play a role. Human presence, values, ethics, the implications of the digital and AI world, and its impact on society and human sociability must be understood. The conviviality of a community or social group is not dependent on technology alone. The Arts, culture, heritage, architecture, politics of governance, international relations in an increasingly interconnected world, the pressures on the human mind and the challenges of modernity with ever-evolving changes must be contextualized.

A young mind is constantly exploring and evolving. The interdisciplinary approach that the USLA continually endeavors to develop in the students will enhance their cognitive and critical abilities. A student's creativity, imagination, and thinking capacity need cultivation and nurturing. Students are not mere cogs in the wheel in pursuit of a livelihood. Human beings, as social beings, require more than just a living. They have talent, creativity, dreams and aspirations – embodying wholesome personality development. USLA strives in that direction.

Prof. Queeny Pradhan
In-Charge, USLA; Dean USLLS



What is Liberal Arts?

- **Liberal Arts** is an interdisciplinary field of study which synthesizes multiple disciplines in the forms of major and minors along the lines of NEP 2020.
- Liberal Arts deals with complexities of human body and the society to understand the individual and the nature in a better way so as to equip us to contribute in the holistic development of all.
- It deals with both past and present, inner self and outside world, theory and practice to create knowledge about culture, ideas, economy, polity and the environment.

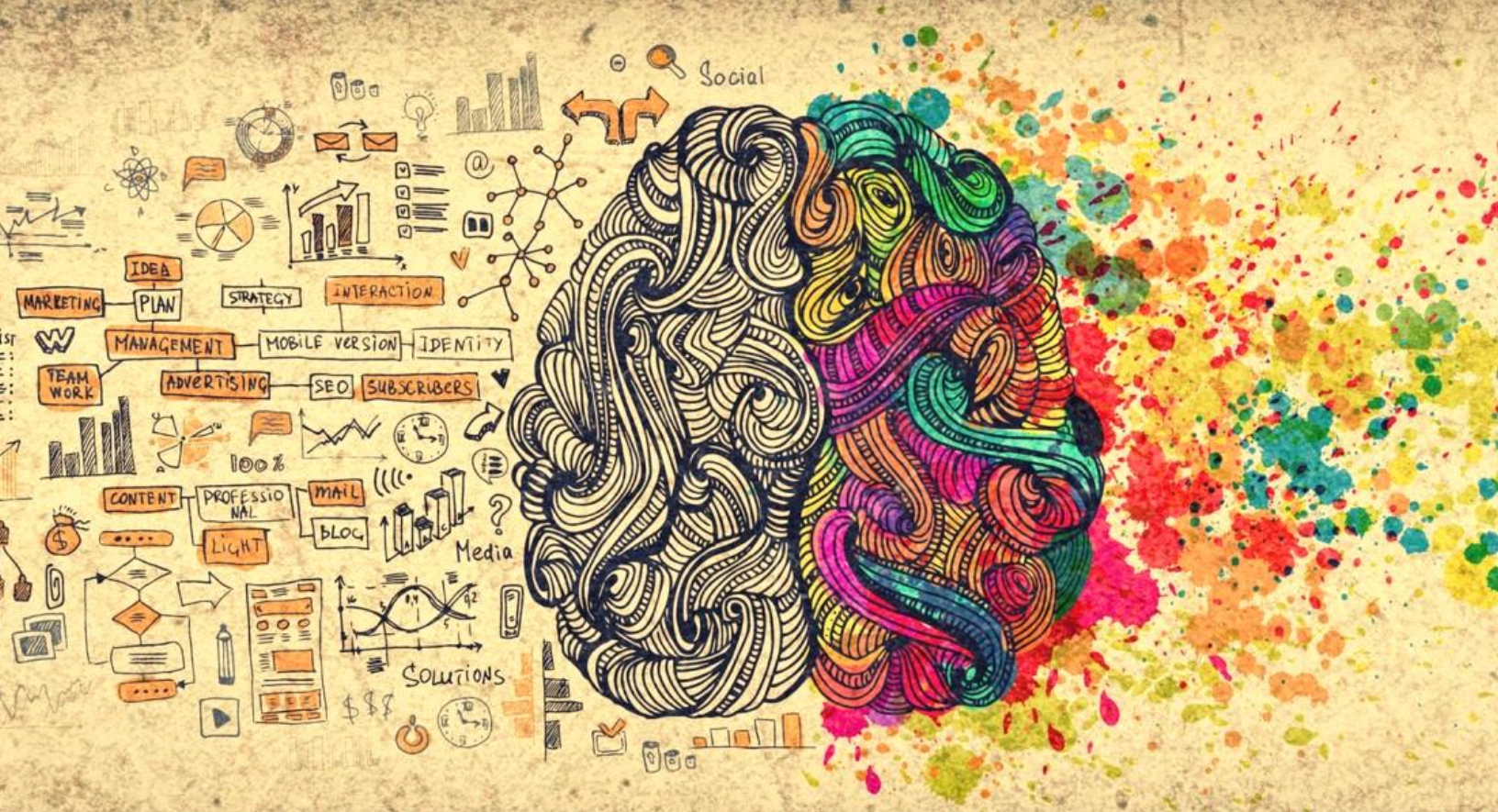
Why study Liberal Arts?

- Liberal Arts is both global and local in its approach and builds critical cognitive abilities needed by students once they go out in the job market in both government and corporate sector.
- The social skills, communication abilities, analytical and writing skills which these subjects develop in students are in high demand in different professions throughout the world.
- The school is going to offer Major in Psychology from the next Academic Session. Subjects like Arts Appreciation, Heritage and Architecture and Indian Knowledge Systems are also part of the curriculum.
- It makes the young people confident and informed citizens which help them to pursue, careers in higher education and research, civil services, public policy, art critics, museum curation, law, management, journalism, development sector, etc.

Why Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU)?

- GGSIPU offers the most updated and innovative course structure on liberal arts in this country, which is completely non-conventional and in accordance to latest global standards. It fully adheres to the National Education Policy (NEP) (2020) of the Government of India and provides a holistic, multidisciplinary and skill-based curriculum in History, Political Science and Sociology.
- GGSIPU is the first University to go against the traditional syllabi and outdated modes of teaching although it continues to uphold the gems of the classical knowledge produced by earlier generations of scholars. But it also blends it imaginatively with the most recent trends of research and scholarship happening in the field of arts throughout the world.
- A young and up-to-date faculty with cutting edge research in their fields leads this school of the University which promises a very effective academic training of students and opens up a plethora of career options and opportunities for them.





The University School of Liberal Arts (USLA) was established in the year 2022, at the Dwarka campus of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University and became operation with the 2023-23 academic session. The school envisioned under the New Education Policy (2020) embodies a transformative approach to higher education, aimed at cultivating critical thinking, interdisciplinary knowledge, and holistic personality development.

In accordance with NEP 2020, the USLA has weaved experiential learning in its teaching pedagogy, with the objective of creating problem identifying and solving skills among the students who are going to lead the country in the future.

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Report: 1st Annual Debate Competition

Date: 8th November 2024
Venue: Moot Court Room, C Block, GGSIPU,
Dwarka

The University School of Liberal Arts Department organized a lively debate competition on 8th November, Friday, bringing together students from the 1st and 3rd semesters. The topic for the debate was **“From Struggle to Strength: Examining India’s Transformation, Challenges, and Way Forward.”** This thought-provoking theme gave participants an opportunity to reflect on India’s progress, its current challenges, and the way forward.

The event began with a warm welcome by host- Renee & Praniti, who introduced the topic and emphasized its relevance in understanding India’s journey forward with innovation and wisdom. The competition aimed to encourage critical thinking and the exchange of ideas among students, helping them explore India’s growth story from different perspectives. Participants presented their views with great enthusiasm and confidence.



Topics were assigned to each team a day before the event to allow adequate preparation time.



Time: Each speaker had 3 minutes for opening remarks, followed by 2 minutes for concluding statements, totaling 5 minutes for their full presentation.



Interjections: After each speech, 3 minutes were allocated for interjections. Each speaker might receive a maximum of 2 interjections.



Cross Interjections: Cross interjections were not permitted, so each team member would respond only to questions directed to them.

“For good ideas and true innovation, you need human interaction, conflict, argument, debate.”



The esteemed panel of judges included **Prof. Queeny Pradhan**, in-charge of the USLA, **Dr. Devika Sharma**, Associate Professor in Political Science at the School of Liberal Education, Galgotias University, Greater Noida, **Dr. Kshipra Sharma**, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the USLA, and **Dr. Harshvardhan Tripathy**, Assistant Professor of Sociology at USLA. Their presence inspired participants to present their best arguments.

The faculty organizers deserve heartfelt appreciation for their vision and efforts in creating a platform that encouraged students to explore and discuss important national issues. The organizers of the annual debate were Dr Lakshita Bhagat and Dr Sanjukta Nath.



Students from both semesters shared well-researched arguments. Some focused on the success stories of India's transformation, in favor of the motion, highlighting achievements like:

- **Technological Growth:** How programs like Digital India and Make in India have brought the country closer to becoming a global tech hub.
- **Economic Progress:** India's steady rise as one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, and its increasing role in global trade and diplomacy.
- **Global Leadership:** The country's achievements in space exploration, hosting global summits, and being a voice for developing nations.

Participants also drew attention to the persistent challenge that India faces, against the motion, such as:

- **Poverty and Unemployment:** The struggle to ensure basic needs and jobs for all.
- **Social Inequalities:** Issues like caste discrimination, gender inequality, and lack of access to quality education and healthcare.
- **Environmental Concerns:** The growing threat of climate change and the need for sustainable development.

In the interjection round, participants passionately countered each other's points as well as audiences', sparking a dynamic and engaging discussion. First-semester students brought fresh ideas and focused on India's historical struggle emphasizing its tough journey towards a better tomorrow. Third-semester participants used their knowledge of sociology, history, and political science to discuss deeper issues like governance, social equity, and cultural diversity.





The event concluded with a vote of thanks by judges, faculty organizers who appreciated the students' efforts and encouraged them to keep participating in such discussions. The special thanks to the volunteers, without whom the event could not be organized and routed steadily.

The debate competition was a great success, as it allowed students to express their opinions and learn from each other. It also highlighted the importance of addressing India's challenges while celebrating its achievements. Overall, the event was a meaningful and enriching experience for everyone involved.

The judge praised the participants for their research, clarity of thought, and presentation skills. They noted that the debate showcased not only the students' knowledge but also their ability to critically analyze complex issues. Judge Dr. Kshipra Sharma and Dr. Harsh Vardhan guided the participants on considering the sources of their content and prefer authentic sources in academics.

And the Winners are...

Best Team

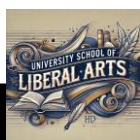
1. Pranav Roy and Sambhav Malhotra (3rd Semester)
2. Annanya Kaul and Naisha Jain (1st Semester)
3. Tanushree Sharma & Mahi Vijayran (3rd Semester)

Best Speaker

- 1- Annanya Kaul (1st Semester)
- 2- Tanushree Sharma (3rd Semester)
- 3- Pranav Roy (3rd Semester)

Best Interjector:

- 1- Pariniti Bhargava
- 2- Aseesh Oberoi



Report on Lecture: “Why Reading Indian Intellectual Tradition Is Important for Social Change”

Speaker: Prof. Mahindra Nath Thakur,
Centre for Political Studies, JNU
Date: 11 November 2024

The lecture delivered by Prof. Mahindra Nath Thakur centered on the relevance of Indian intellectual traditions in addressing contemporary societal crises. Drawing from historical, philosophical, and cultural contexts, Prof. Thakur emphasized how these traditions can offer insights into justice, liberty, and collective well-being while critiquing modern issues like capitalism, technology, and cognitive dissonance. The session was chaired by Prof. Queeny Pradhan who also concluded the event with a vote of thanks.



Key Themes Discussed

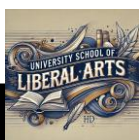
1. *The Common Good: Justice and Liberty:*

Prof. Thakur began by stressing the importance of fighting for justice and liberty as essential elements of the common good. He connected these ideals with Indian philosophical traditions, highlighting their potential to inspire collective social change and resist the individualistic tendencies of modernity.

2. *Crises in Contemporary Society*

Prof. Thakur outlined several crises that afflict modern life: **2008 Economic Crisis:** Described as the “Ozzal Crisis,” it marked the structural failures of capitalism, exposing how economic systems prioritize profits over people. **Crisis of Technology:** He addressed the growing job crisis caused by automation and AI, suggesting that unchecked technological advancement often marginalizes workers. **Crisis of Relationships:** Prof. Thakur pointed out a breakdown of trust in personal and social relationships, which he sees as a fundamental challenge to community cohesion. **Crisis of Cognitive Thinking:** He proposed that the “right to cognition” should be a fundamental right, advocating for methods to ensure individuals can critically assess their thoughts and knowledge systems.

“Knowledge is not just information but a means to transform the self and society”



Key Themes Discussed

3. *Universal Knowledge and the Psychology of Production*

Prof. Thakur argued that knowledge must be universal, transcending cultural and societal boundaries. He criticized the “psychology of production,” which treats human beings as mere factories for output, leading to a dehumanizing approach to work and life.

4. *Indigenous Concepts of Common Property and the Naya Philosophy*

Drawing from tribal societies, Prof. Thakur discussed the concept of common property, emphasizing its potential to counteract the exploitative tendencies of capitalism. He also invoked the Naya philosophy, which stresses the interconnectedness of mind and body, proposing it as a holistic framework for understanding human existence and social harmony.

5. *The Crisis of Capitalism:*

Throughout the lecture, Prof. Thakur highlighted the inherent flaws of capitalism, which exacerbates inequalities, commodifies human labor, and prioritizes profit over communal well-being.

Conclusion of the Session

The session concluded at 1:30 PM, following a felicitation of Prof. Thakur by Prof. Queeny Pradhan. Prof. Pradhan praised the lecture for its depth and relevance, thanking Prof. Thakur for providing a fresh perspective on contemporary issues. The event ended with an interactive Q&A session where students and faculty engaged with the speaker, discussing the implications of his ideas for academic and social reform.

Significance of the Lecture

This thought-provoking lecture underscored the necessity of revisiting Indian intellectual traditions to address modern challenges. By advocating for justice, liberty, and the right to cognition, Prof. Thakur reminded the audience of the enduring relevance of these ideas in fostering a more equitable and compassionate society.





Report on Round Table Discussion on the theme: “India & the Current West Asia Crisis”

The University School of Liberal Arts organised a Round Table Discussion on 9th October 2024, on ‘**India and the Current West Asia Crisis**’. The discussion aimed to address India’s geopolitical interests in the region, the historical context of the conflict and the implications for both regional and global stability. The discussant of the session was Dr. Shrestha Chakraborty, Assistant Professor at School of Law, Bennet University.

West Asia or the Middle East is a region of significant geopolitical importance, rich in oil and natural resources. It has been a hotspot of religious, ethnic and colonial conflicts for centuries. The current crisis, highlighted by the October 7, 2023 Israel-Palestine conflict, has drawn global attention. The attacks by Hamas on Israel led to massive retaliation, sparking further instability in the region. Compounding the situation is the influence of Iran, proxy wars in Syria, Iraq and Yemen and competition for power and resources among global powers.

India has historically taken a balanced approach in West Asia, maintaining diplomatic relations with both Israel and Arab nations. As a major importer of oil and home to over 8 million expatriates in the Gulf, India’s economic and strategic interests are closely tied to the stability of the region. The discussion highlighted the potential for India to act as a mediator in the de-escalation process, leveraging its neutral stance and growing global influence.

However, this balancing act also involves managing its relations with both Iran, a major oil supplier and Israel, a key defence partner. For Asian countries like India and China, West Asia is vital for energy security, with major oil supply routes like the Strait of Hormuz passing through the region. Any disruption to oil supplies could have a severe impact on Asian economies.



The discussion also focused on the roots of the crisis which can be traced back to 19th-century anti-Semitism in Europe and the subsequent Zionist movement, which culminated in the establishment of Israel in 1948. The Balfour Declaration of 1917 and conflicting promises made by Britain during WWI to Jews and Arabs set the stage for decades of conflict. These unresolved historical grievances continue to fuel tensions in the region today, particularly between Israel and Palestine. Iran's geographical position and control over key trade routes like the Strait of Hormuz and India's relations with Iran, particularly regarding the Chabahar Port were discussed as key to maintaining influence in the region. India's dependence on West Asian oil and its large expatriate population in the Gulf make it vulnerable to disruptions in the region. The discussion emphasized the importance of ensuring energy security, maintaining diplomatic neutrality and playing a constructive role in de-escalating tensions.

However, balancing relations between Israel and Iran remains a challenge. The round table raised concerns about India's response to the crises, the possibility of the current crisis escalating into a wider global conflict and the violation of human rights of the civilians who would be most impacted if war takes place. There were also discussions about India's position in the event of a two-front war involving China and Pakistan, the potential impact on India's national security and the relevance of UN in mitigating the crises. India must navigate the complex dynamics of West Asia with caution, balancing its strategic interests with a commitment to peace and stability. As a potential mediator, India can play a key role in the de-escalation process, but must be prepared for any escalation of conflict in the region. The discussion concluded that India's future stance should focus on diplomacy, safeguarding its economic interests and prioritizing regional stability





Report on the Educational Trip to Rakhigarhi

On 16th November 2024, USLA organized an educational trip to Rakhigarhi, one of the most significant archaeological sites of the Harappan Civilization. Located in Haryana's Hisar district,

Rakhigarhi is among the largest known sites of the ancient Indus Valley civilization, offering a wealth of insights into the life, culture, and urban planning of one of the earliest human civilizations. The trip was an enriching experience, providing us with a deeper understanding of ancient history through firsthand observation of the site and its artefacts.

Background of Rakhigarhi

Rakhigarhi holds immense historical significance as it dates back to 2600–1900 BCE. It spans nearly 550 hectares, making it larger than other prominent Harappan sites like Mohenjo-daro. Excavations at Rakhigarhi have unearthed numerous artefacts and structural remains that highlight the advanced urban planning and lifestyle of the Harappan people. The site has been a focal point for archaeologists seeking to understand the cultural and economic systems of the Indus Valley civilization.

Observations and Key Highlights

1. Site Overview

Upon arrival, we were struck by the vast expanse of the site, spread across several mounds. The site is divided into seven distinct mounds, each with its unique findings. Our guide explained that these mounds represent different aspects of Harappan life, including residential areas, industrial zones, and burial sites. The layout reflected meticulous planning, with a grid-like street pattern, sophisticated drainage systems, and separate areas for living and working.

2. Artefacts Found at Rakhigarhi

a. Pottery: One of the first things we observed was a collection of small pots. These pots, varying in size and design, were made of terracotta and displayed intricate patterns. They were believed to serve various purposes, including storage, cooking, and ritualistic use. The fine craftsmanship highlighted the Harappans' skill in pottery-making, with some pots still bearing faint traces of decorative motifs.

b. Stone Tools: Another fascinating discovery was the stone tools, including blades and other implements. These stones, sharpened to fine edges, were likely used for cutting, scraping, and other daily tasks. The precision of these tools demonstrated the advanced knowledge of tool-making and their reliance on locally available resources.

c. Beads and Ornaments: Although not a major focus of this trip, some of the displayed artefacts included semi-precious stones fashioned into beads. These beads, often found at such sites, indicate the Harappans' expertise in crafting ornaments and their participation in trade networks to acquire raw materials.



3. Harappan House Structures

We also explored the remains of residential structures at the site. The houses, made from baked bricks, followed a uniform architectural style. Many homes had multiple rooms, courtyards, and bathrooms connected to the drainage system. The uniformity in construction suggested standardized building practices. These houses were designed to cater to the practical needs of the residents while also ensuring privacy and hygiene, as evidenced by the well-maintained drainage channels.

4. Burial Practices and the Skeleton

One of the most intriguing findings at Rakhigarhi was a well-preserved human skeleton discovered during excavations. The skeleton was believed to belong to a young female and provided significant insights into the burial practices of the Harappan civilization. The burial was accompanied by pottery and other grave goods, indicating a belief in the afterlife. The discovery also allowed researchers to study the physical attributes, health, and dietary habits of the Harappan people through genetic and osteological analysis.

The trip highlighted the advanced urban planning of the Harappans. Their structured cities, complete with drainage systems, public wells, and designated living areas, showcased a society that prioritized organization, hygiene, and functionality. Observing the artefacts revealed the technological advancements and artistic achievements of the civilization. From crafting durable tools to producing ornate pottery, the Harappans demonstrated innovation and skill. The burial site and associated goods offered insights into the cultural and spiritual beliefs of the Harappan people, emphasizing their practices and rituals surrounding death. The trip underscored the importance of archaeological sites like Rakhigarhi in reconstructing human history. It also emphasized the need to preserve these sites for future generations.

Challenges Observed at the Site:

During the visit, we noted several challenges facing Rakhigarhi:

- **Preservation Issues:** Exposure to natural elements and human activities posed threats to the site's integrity.
- **Lack of Infrastructure:** The site lacked adequate visitor facilities, making it difficult for tourists and researchers to explore comfortably.
- **Limited Awareness:** Many people are unaware of the site's importance, underscoring the need for greater educational outreach.



Conclusion

The trip to Rakhigarhi was a memorable and enlightening experience. It brought to life the history and achievements of the Harappan civilization, allowing us to connect with the past in a tangible way. By studying the artefacts, structures, and burial practices, we gained a deeper appreciation for the ingenuity and sophistication of this ancient society. It is imperative that we continue to protect and study sites like Rakhigarhi to preserve their legacy and inspire future generations. The visit not only deepened our understanding of history but also reinforced the importance of archaeology in piecing together humanity's shared story.



A skeleton with a story

Rakhigarhi, a quiet village in Haryana, India, became a place of wonder when archaeologists found an ancient skeleton in 2016. This skeleton was over 4,500 years old and belonged to someone who lived during the time of the Indus Valley Civilization. This discovery gave us a special chance to learn about the life of people from one of the world's earliest urban societies. The skeleton, called "Rakhigarhi Woman," was found carefully buried in the ground. She was lying on her back with her hands placed gently by her side and her legs slightly bent, almost as if she was peacefully sleeping. Around her, archaeologists found pottery and jewelry, which were probably part of a burial ritual. These objects show that the people who buried her believed in honoring their dead and may have thought about life after death (afterlife).

Her bones tell us a lot about her life. She was a young woman, likely in her early twenties, and lived in a busy town where people worked hard and built a strong community. She might have been a farmer's daughter, helping in the fields, or someone who worked with crafts, like weaving or pottery. Every morning, she might have walked to the well to fetch water or cooked food while children played around her and the thriving civilization continued with its hustle-bustle, with no clue of their importance, this feeling that this trip truly highlighted in me and my batchmates.

The ornaments found near her suggested wearing jewelry was probably a tradition for men and women alike. Beads and shells were found close to her, showing that her people were skilled at making such items. Rakhigarhi was a big center for bead-making, so it's possible she wore beads made by her own community. These small details make her feel less like an archeological artifact and more like a real person with her own likes and habits, just like us. It humanizes her to an extent that we could almost visualize life in those times.

The Rakhigarhi Woman was not alone. Many other graves were found at the site, each with its own story to tell. But her skeleton became very important because it helped us understand more about how these ancient people lived. Even though she lived thousands of years ago, her story reminds us that history is about real people, not just dates or ruins. Through her, we can see a piece of our shared human past, and she helps us remember that the people of the Indus Valley were more similar to us than we would like to imagine.



Report on Delhi Art Gallery Visit

The university school of liberal arts (USLA) organized an educational trip to the DAG (Delhi Art Gallery Janapath, Delhi), on 7th October 2024 to attend the exhibition on, 'Histories in the making' an photography exhibition. The exhibition was curated by Sudeshna Guha. The faculty members comprised of; Dr. Abhimanyu Kumar, Dr. Prabal Saran Agarwal, Dr. Kshipra Sharma, Dr. Sanjukta Nath, Dr. Harshvardhan Tripathy, and Dr. Pavel Tomar.

The students learned about the Indian historical monuments and landmark photographed in nineteenth century (1855 - 1920). The exhibition draws on the rich collection of early photographs, serving as archives and as a foreground to its role in shaping the understanding of Indian history as well as preserving it. The visit was followed by an enthusiastic discussion among the faculty members and the students providing a new lens to view history.

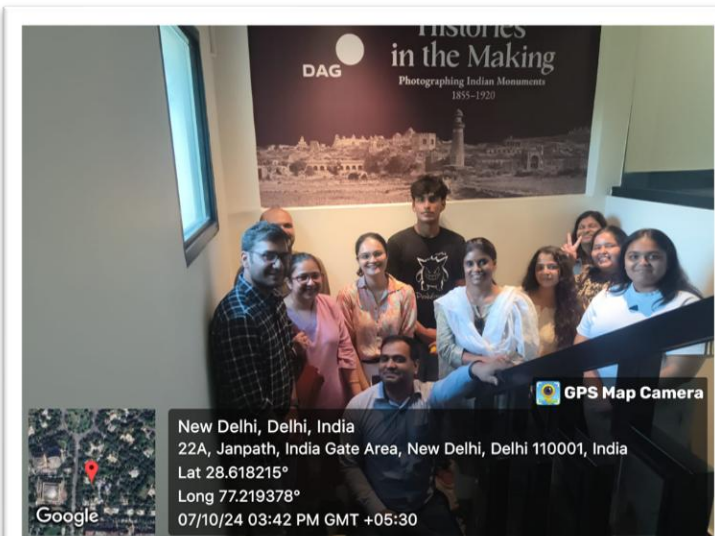


Photo Essay: Rakhigarhi Visit

On the 16th of November 2024, the students of BA Liberal Arts went to an archeological site in a small village of Haryana, in Hisar. Rakhigarhi is the largest found site of the Indus valley Civilization. To get a chance to visit that site was a blessing. We had a lot of fun there, exploring and understanding the ways of living and daily activities of the people who lived there 5000 years ago. It was really fascinating to see, touch and get a closer look at things that we saw only in our textbook. We saw 2-3 mounds that were open at the site, we also visited a small museum of the artifacts that had been excavated from the site. The most memorable part of the trip was when we saw the artifacts that were with locals and they showed us those valuable items in our hands! There were many artifacts which were mostly taken out from the burial sites. There were toys, jewelry, bangles, terracotta cakes, make-up (Surme-daani), pots, jars etc.



Jewelry beads that were worn by the people of Harappan Culture



Terracotta Toy



Terracotta toys and broken beads



Well inside a house and the remains of house structure of the Indus valley civilization



Terracotta cake, used as decoration on floors and also used for controlling the temperature of the fire furnace

Report on Counselling session for students of University School of Liberal Arts Tuesday, 24th September 2024

A counselling session was held for the 1st and 2nd-year students of the B.A. Liberal Arts program on 24th September 2024. The session, facilitated by Dr. Geetanjali Kumar, aimed to familiarize students with the counselling services available at the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University-Dwarka campus and address common academic and personal challenges faced by students. The session primarily focused on addressing the academic and personal challenges students frequently encounter, such as low concentration, anxiety over grades, and academic pressures.

Dr. Kumar discussed strategies to cope with these challenges, highlighting the detrimental effects of smartphone addiction and its role in creating distractions. Moreover, Dr. Kumar emphasized the importance of a well-rounded personality, encouraging students to balance academic pursuits with the development of essential life skills, such as teamwork, leadership, and social etiquette.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion, and a vote of thanks was extended. The students found the session insightful and expressed a desire for continued support in navigating academic and personal challenges.

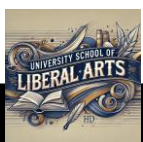


Story of Science A Reflection

It was an eye-opening experience, not just in terms of scientific knowledge but also in understanding the interconnectedness of all disciplines. The concept of Indra's Net, introduced at the beginning of the course, became a recurring theme in our journey symbolizing how everything in the universe is woven together in an intricate web, where each node reflects and influences the others. Science provides us with the fundamental principles governing the universe, while the social sciences help us interpret and apply them to human life. This course taught us to challenge stereotypes such as the notion that science students are "nerds" or that humanities students are "laid-back"—to foster mutual respect between disciplines. We learned about the two types of understanding, “classical understanding” and “romantic understanding”. We realized that people process the world predominantly one way or the other, and they think those who don't understand the world like they do are insane, while the truth is we need both ...we need cars that work and look beautiful, we need both logic and intuition, we need instruction manuals and poetry. Also, our “Anthropomorphic” sense of scale can impede our comprehension of the cosmos. People would benefit greatly from a better grasp of Nature's true dimensions. People like Rachel Carson, who are brave enough to raise their voice and make a difference against what is natural, are true inspiration for us and the generations to come.

By performing group activities, we realized that, knowledge is best understood through discussion, observation, and application. Be it through the interdisciplinary learning by C.P. Snow's "Two Cultures" or The Beauty of Science through Microscopy also from in fact recognizing the contribution of women in science while indeed Breaking Superstitions, never the less, thinking probabilistically (The Birthday Paradox) and last but not the least, measuring and plotting data to observe the Normal Distribution (The Bell Curve).

When viewed from space, the Earth appears as nothing more than a tiny speck in the immense universe, emphasizing the fragility, unity, and insignificance of human conflicts in the grand scheme of existence. It teaches humility, urging us to rise above divisions and self-centered pursuits. It highlights the necessity of bridging the gap between science and social sciences, recognizing that both are essential in understanding and improving the human experience. By working together we can solve global challenges, inspire progress, and create a more harmonious world. The pursuit of knowledge, compassion, and unity is what truly defines our fleeting moment on this tiny blue world.



Achievements of Students



Research Scholar Anupama of USLA won 1st Prize in Paper Presentation held on 12th-13th November, 2024. Gargi College, University of Delhi.

Student's Selected for Winter Internships 2024



Sidhant Pahuja
Tech Mahindra Foundation



Shreshth Vohra
Indian Culinary Agenda



Akshara Manchada
IAWRT



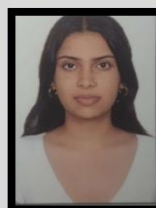
Disha Dua
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Pranav Roy and Hanshika Lakra, 3rd Semester, USLA won 2nd Prize in Indian Foreign Policy Quiz, 12th November 2024