



HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES DIGEST

AUGUST 2025

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (ISM)
DHANBAD

From the HOD's Desk



Dear Colleagues, Alumni, Research Scholars, Students, Staff and all well-wishers,

With great pleasure, we present the Departmental Newsletters, which serve as a platform to engage, enlighten, and strengthen our commitment to fostering an environment that encourages critical thinking, scholarly inquiry, and interdisciplinary dialogue. Through focused research and innovative pedagogy, we aim to deepen our understanding of human society, culture, and the arts.

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Our faculty and researchers continue to traverse beyond the conventional boundaries of research, engaging with challenges through the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary lenses of history, philosophy, literature, education, sociology, psychology, and more. This year, we have launched several new research initiatives and projects highlighting the relevance of the humanities and social sciences in today's rapidly changing world. These initiatives reflect our commitment to academic excellence and demonstrate our desire to connect our work with real-world impact. We are particularly proud of the strides we've made in fostering a more inclusive and diverse academic environment, a crucial aspect of maintaining the vitality of our disciplines.

Thank You.

Prof. Gyan Prakash
HoD, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology (ISM), Dhanbad
Jharkhand. 826004

INTRODUCING OUR NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences welcomes Dr. Shamini Warda. She holds a PhD in Cognitive Psychology from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Bombay. Prior to her PhD, she earned a Master's degree in Cognitive Sciences from the Centre for Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences, University of Allahabad, and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala.

Following her PhD, she served as an Institute of Eminence Postdoctoral Fellow affiliated with the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering at IIT Bombay. She has also held an Academic Research Visitor position at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience at King's College London (KCL). She is a recipient of the Kuppuraj-Bishop Study Visit Award from the esteemed Experimental Psychology Society.

Dr. Shamini's research interests lie at the intersection of cognition and action, with a particular emphasis on human timing and time perception. Her PhD work investigated how different predictive processes influence the human perception of time. During her subsequent postdoctoral tenure, she integrated her knowledge from experimental psychology with motor control research to investigate the bidirectional relationship between timing and whole-body movement. As a visiting postdoctoral fellow at KCL, she employed latent variable modeling to explore heterogeneity in time perception and examined the relationship between dissociative tendencies and temporal discrimination.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



We are pleased to welcome Dr. Debashrita Dey as Assistant Professor of English at the Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad.

Dr. Dey earned her Ph.D. in English from IIT Patna (2024), with her thesis focusing on narrativizing female ageing and subjective embodiment in Indian literary and cinematic narratives. She holds an M.A. in English Literature from Banaras Hindu University and a B.A. (Hons.) in English from St. Xavier's College, University of Calcutta.

Her research interests span feminist studies, ageing studies, care narratives, and health humanities, with a strong interdisciplinary approach across literature, cultural studies, and medical humanities.

Before joining IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, Dr. Dey worked as Assistant Professor at Symbiosis Law School, Pune, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, and as a Teaching Assistant at IIT Patna.

She has published extensively in leading journals, including Educational Gerontology, Journal of Aging Studies, Journal of Postcolonial Writing, and National Identities.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



We are delighted to welcome Dr. Shonkholen Mate as Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad.

Dr. Mate holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy of Science from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Bombay, and was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the same department from 2023 to 2024.

His research focuses on the History and Philosophy of Science, with particular interests in epistemology of science, Bayesian epistemology, virtue and social

epistemology, roles of values in science, philosophy of artificial intelligence, and philosophy of physics. His work is deeply shaped by naturalistically and empirically informed approaches to philosophy.

We look forward to Dr. Mate's contributions in enriching the department's teaching and research in philosophy of science.

DEPARTMENTAL CONFERENCE

The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, successfully conducted a two-day Janjatiya Gaurav (Tribal Pride) National Seminar on Reclaiming Indigeneity: The Adivasi Questions, Janjati Movements and Tribal Studies in Contemporary India on 8th and 9th August 2025, in collaboration with ICSSR. The seminar was organized to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Birsa Munda.



The inaugural session was graced by Prof. Sarat Kumar Das, Dean Faculty, Prof. Gyan Prakash, Head of the Department of HSS, Prof. Sangay Tamang, Convenor, Prof. Nirban Manna, Co-convenor, and keynote speaker Prof. T.B. Subba, former Vice-Chancellor of Sikkim University. The dignitaries shared their valuable insights on indigenous scholarship, after which the seminar was formally inaugurated with the National Anthem.

DEPARTMENTAL CONFERENCE

The keynote address by Prof. T.B. Subba set the tone for the two-day discussions, underlining the importance and urgency of reclaiming indigeneity in contemporary scholarship. In the course of the seminar, 30 speakers from across the country and various institutes such as IIT Guwahati, IIT Roorkee, IIT Mandi, Delhi University, Jadavpur University, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali, GITAM, Ranchi University, University of British Columbia, etc., presented their research and perspectives. Their presentations spanned diverse themes such as Adivasi questions, tribal discourse, resistance and mobilization, policy and politics, indigenous studies, land and identity, religion and secularism, and environment and climate change.



The event also witnessed enthusiastic participation from the department's professors, research scholars, and MA students, who not only attended in large numbers but also volunteered actively to ensure the seminar's smooth conduct. The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks by the convenor, Prof. Sangay Tamang, followed by the National Anthem.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT



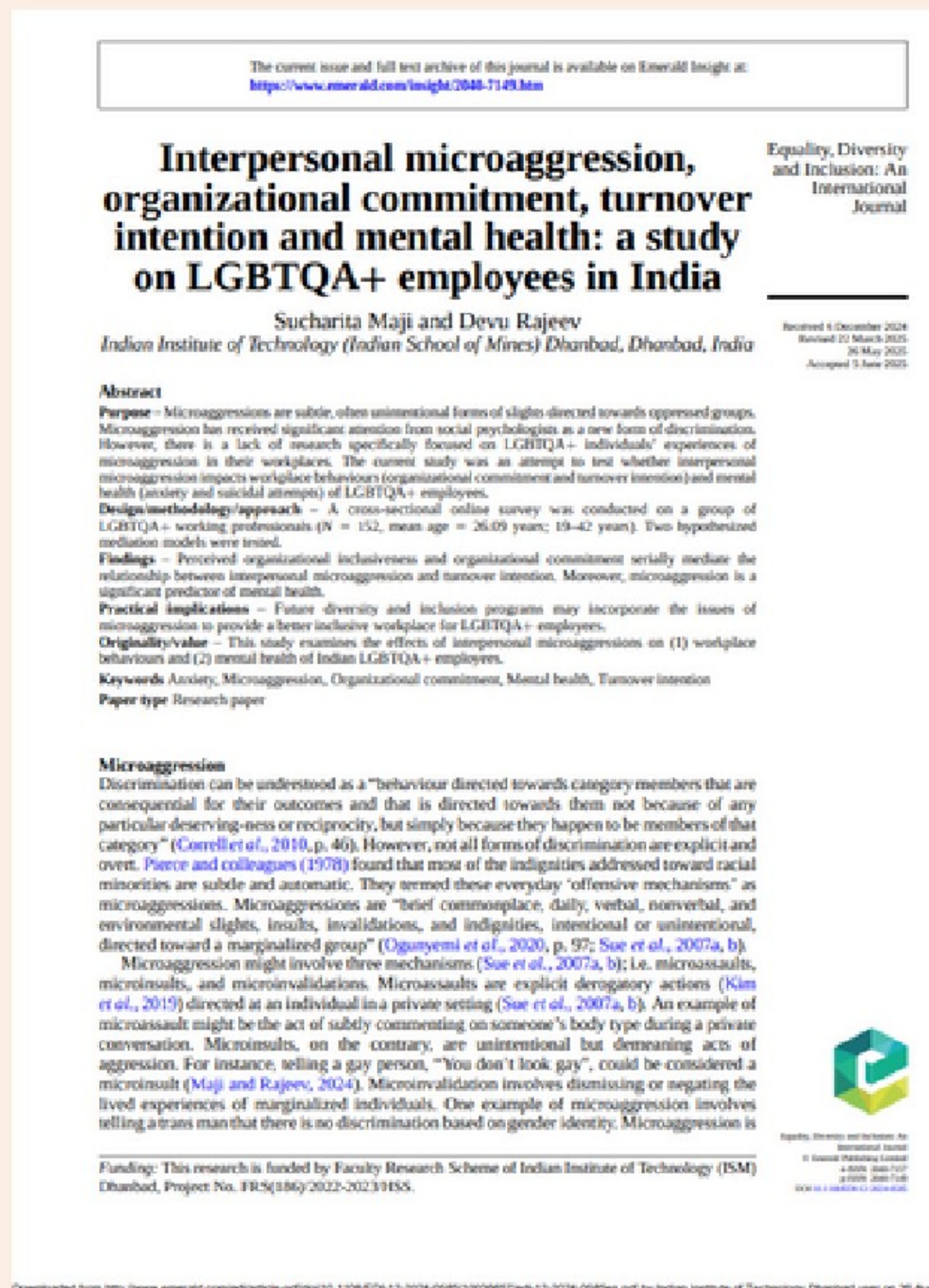
Prof. Gyan Prakash has been invited to join the Center for Advanced Studies at the University of Hildesheim as a Fellow. His fellowship is part of the project *Philosophising in a Globalised World*, which is funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation – DFG). This prestigious appointment recognizes Prof. Prakash’s contributions to the field and provides a platform for interdisciplinary collaboration within this international research initiative.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT



Shanmugapriya T visited Lancaster University as part of her British Academy Visiting Fellowship from May to August 2025 and a talk on 'Developing computational models to formalize concepts and fuzzy toponyms in British India colonial corpus' on 18th July.

She was also appointed as part of the program committee in the next ADHO Digital Humanities Conference 2026, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea.



Dr. Sucharita Maji and Devu Rajeev published a paper titled "Interpersonal microaggression, organizational commitment, turnover intention and mental health: a study on LGBTQA+ employees in India" in the journal 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion'.
<https://doi.org/10.1108/EDI-12-2024-0585>

An article titled "Insights into Moral Reasoning of AI: A Comparative Study between Humans and Large Language Models," authored by Srajal Bajpai and Prof. Ahmed Sameer, has been accepted in the Journal of Media Ethics



PUBLICATIONS



Saba Siddiqi and Prof. Sathya Narayana Sharma published a paper titled "Impulsivity, approach and inhibition motivational systems and procrastination: the mediating role of mind-wandering" in the journal *Current Psychology*.

Prof. Sangay Tamang has co-authored the article "Indigenous Religions in the Eastern Himalayas: Spirit Worship and Healing," published in *Religions* (August 2025). The study highlights how Indigenous communities in Assam and the Darjeeling Hills sustain spiritual and ecological balance through everyday rituals of spirit worship (<https://doi.org/10.3390/rel16091123>).

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Shanmugapriya T presented a collaborative paper with Prof. Fotis Jannadis from University of Würzburg, 'Attitudes towards information technology in Indian English and German novels since 2000' at NOVA, Lisbon Portugal as part of ADHO Digital Humanities Conference 2025. (Online)

Keshav Sawarn has been awarded a travel grant of 700 Euros along with a conference fee waiver to attend and present his paper at the Medical Anthropology Europe Conference 2025, to be held in Vienna, Austria, from September 16–19, 2025.

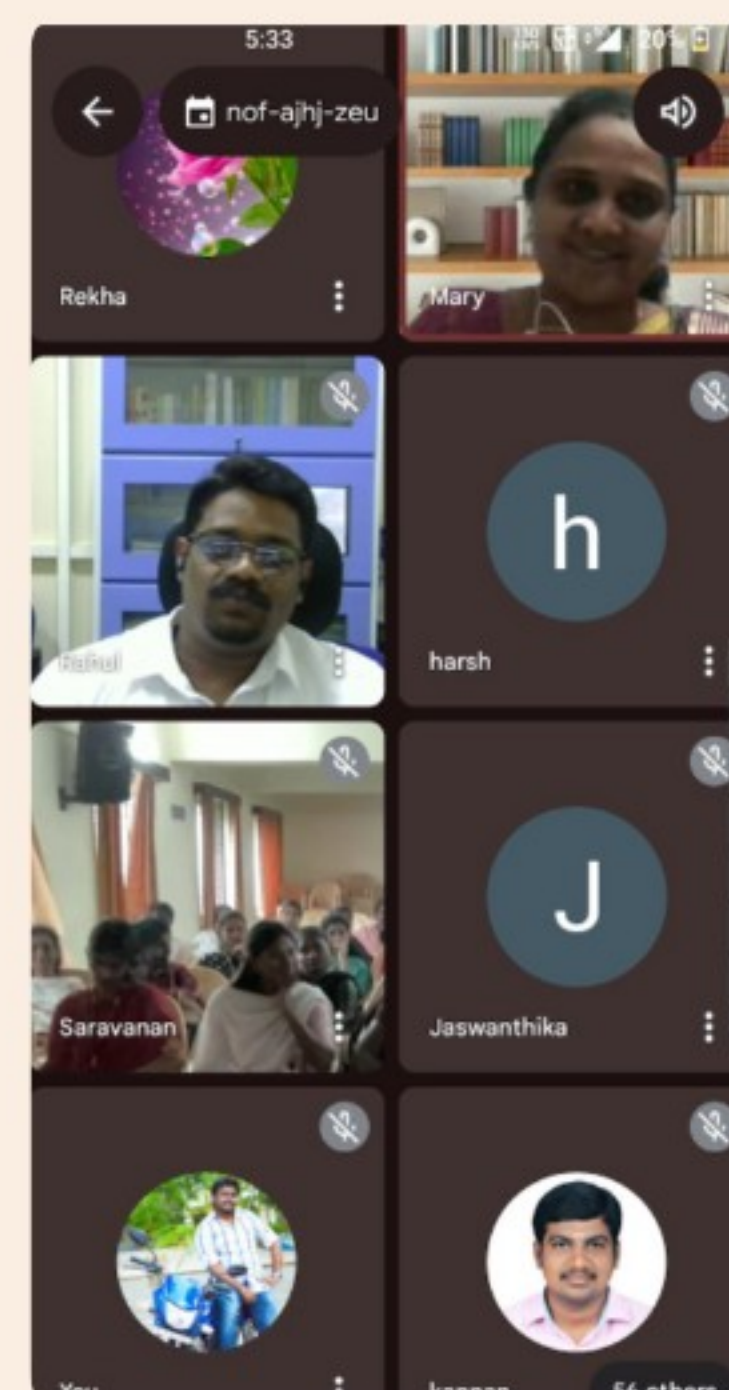
Ms. Madhvi Kumari (22DR0118) presented a paper titled 'Financial Inclusion: A policy framework for Sustainable Livelihood among Mithla Artisans at the RDW 2025 Conference held at ILO Headquarters, Geneva. (July 02-04 2025)



INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

Prof. Rahul D R delivered a talk on "Manuscript Preparation and Submission" at a National Webinar Organized by Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur, Tamil Nadu.

Dr. Sruti Kanungo delivered a talk titled: From Ethnographic Field To Sociological Frameworks: Emerging Frontiers In Labour Sociology at the Indian Statistical Institute, Giridih as an invited speaker for the lecture series on “Emerging Trajectories in Anthropological and Sociological Theories and Methods,” held on August 18, 2025



Shanmugapriya T was invited as a Resource Person to be part of FDP on Digital Humanities on 28 th August 2025, SRM University, Chennai (Online)

Shreya Mandal- Attended a webinar series as part of the Research Methodology Course 2025, organised by the Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT) of Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) in partnership with NAHE, HEC and United Board Philippines, from June 11 to July 8, 2025.

Keshav Sawarn - Attended a webinar series as part of the Research Methodology Course 2025, organised by the Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT) of Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) in partnership with NAHE, HEC and United Board Philippines, from June 11 to July 8, 2025.

ACHIEVEMENT OF MASTERS STUDENTS



Ravi Ranjan Kumar, Master's student in Digital Humanities, has completed a research internship with JEEViKA Bihar Rural Development. He was also selected as a participant at the DH Summer School in Erlangen, Germany, where he was also awarded a **travel bursary**.

He led a project to translate Voyant Tools' skin-related terms into various Indian languages, contributing to greater accessibility in the field. His achievements highlight his active engagement in both national and international platforms as well as his dedication to advancing research and practice in Digital Humanities.

Liwash Kumar Mahto, Master's student, has successfully completed a 6-week Vocational Training in the CSR Department, HQ BCCL Dhanbad (06.06.2025 to 26.07.2025). The training enriched his understanding of Corporate Social Responsibility, stakeholder engagement, and sustainable development practices.



DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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