



HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES DIGEST

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 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 MEMBER

The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences welcomes Dr. Indumathy. J. She holds a Ph.D. in Applied Psychology from Pondicherry University, a M.Phil in Psychology from Madras School of Social Work, and a M.Sc. in Counselling Psychology from RGNIYD, along with a B.Sc. in Psychology from Avinashilingam Institute for Women, Tamil Nadu.

She has four years of teaching experience at the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Tamilnadu and Christ University, Bangalore.



Her research focuses on interpersonal relationships, statistics, psychometry, family psychology, and counselling psychology. She has published in reputed Scopus-indexed journals and books.

She has received two funded projects—one from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on cyber security behaviour among adults, and another from the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) on work-life balance among working women.

SPRINGER NATURE Link

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Home > Posthumanism and Literary Insights: A Critical Introduction > Chapter

Archiving Memory in *Blade Runner 2049*: The Role of Memory in Posthuman Identity

Chapter | First Online: 30 August 2025

pp 189–199 | Cite this chapter

Sourav Ghosh

Sourav Ghosh's work "Archiving Memory in *Blade Runner 2049*: The Role of Memory in Posthuman Identity" was published on 30th August, 2025 in Springer Nature.

https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-96-6807-6_22

Rabiya Fatima and Prof. Ahmed Sameer published a research paper entitled "Exploring the role of locus of control and flourishing in suicidal ideation among Indian engineering students" in *Health Problems of Civilization*.

<https://doi.org/10.5114/hpc.2025.155224>

Health Problems of Civilization Physical activity: diseases and issues recognized by the WHO

Original paper
EXPLORING THE ROLE OF LOCUS OF CONTROL AND FLOURISHING IN SUICIDAL IDEATION AMONG INDIAN ENGINEERING STUDENTS
 Rabiya Fatima, Ahmed Sameer
 Health Prob Civil.
 Online publish date: 2025-10-17
DOI : <https://doi.org/10.5114/hpc.2025.155224>
 Abstract Full text (PDF)

NEW REVIEW OF HYPERMEDIA AND MULTIMEDIA
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13614568.2025.2557808>



Narrating nature in the digital age: exploring Indian eco-electronic literature

Simran Bhimjyani, Mehul Kumar Desai and T. Shanmugapriya

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Dhanbad, India

ABSTRACT

Traditional Indian literature has often celebrated human-nature relationships, reflecting nature's prominence in Indian culture, yet electronic literature's multimodal storytelling has the potential to foster a deeper ecological consciousness in the readers. This paper seeks to explore Indian eco-electronic literary works by applying an ecophenomenological and ecocritique approach, calibrating Indian digital narratives' potential to foster an empathetic understanding of contemporary Indian environmental concerns. The study involves a critical analysis of three Indian electronic literary works: Simran Bhimjyani's *Blue is My Favourite Colour*, Priya Pandurangam's *Meghadutam*, and Shanmugapriya T's *Lost Water Remains*. All three works are centred around nature and have been created by women artists. These works depict a shifting perception towards nature, from reverence to commodification and extinction. This study addresses key questions like, "How do Indian eco-electronic literary works raise environmental consciousness?" and "How do eco-electronic literary works create an interactive, immersive environment where the reader/player becomes intertwined with nature?" This study seeks to answer these questions by demonstrating how the integration of kinetic images, visualisation, sound, and haptics provides an immersive experience akin to the Keatsian Negative Capability. This paper also aims to contribute to the discourse on the emerging scholarship on electronic literature in India.

ARTICLE HISTORY

Received 12 March 2025
 Accepted 3 September 2025

KEYWORDS
 Ecophenomenology;
 ecocriticism; electronic
 literature; negative
 capability; Anthropocene

Introduction

Can literature act as a powerful tool for raising ecological awareness and strengthening our connection with nature? Indian fiction, both in English and regional languages, such as *Roots of the Earth* (1950) by Bibhutibhusan Bandopadhyay in Bengali, *Puri Pariksha* (1957) by Phaniashwar Nath Renz in Hindi, *Dweepa* (1970) by N.A. D'Souza in Kannada, *Archev* (1977) by Pundalik Naik in Konkani, *Buddhikunda* (1994) by Mahaweta Devi in Bengali, *Tatvamasi* (1998) by Dhruv Bhatt in Gujarati, *Soffly Dies a Lake* (2014) by Akkineni Kutumburao in Telugu, and Amitav Ghosh's *The Nutmeg's Curse* (2021) and *The Living Mountain* (2022) in English, among

Simran Bhimjyani, Mehul kumar Desai, and Dr. Shanmugapriya have published their paper titled 'Narrating Nature in the Digital Age: Exploring Indian Eco-Electronic Literature' in the *New Review of Hypermedia and Multimedia*, Taylor & Francis.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13614568.2025.2557808>

PUBLICATIONS



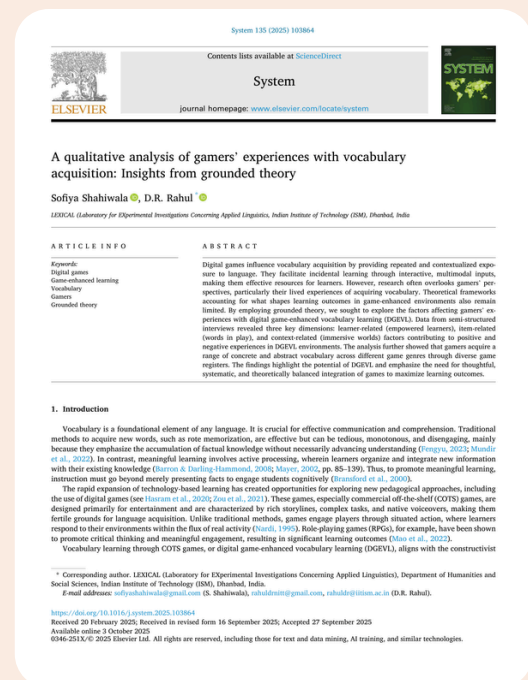
Dr. Sucharita Maji, along with Piyasa Maity, Ankita Chakraborty, Pranjal Raj & Nakul Saha published a research paper titled "Factors influencing mental health among engineering students in India" in the 'European Journal of Engineering Education'. This study investigates key factors affecting mental health among engineering students in India, highlighting academic stress, peer support and institutional culture as significant influences.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/03043797.2025.2575120>

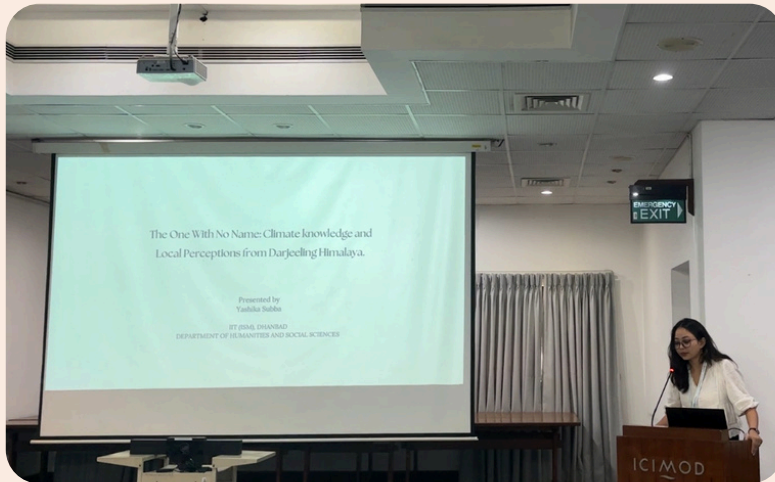


Sofiya Shahiwala and Prof. Rahul D R published a paper titled "A qualitative analysis of gamers' experiences with vocabulary acquisition: Insights from grounded theory" in System.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.system.2025.103864>

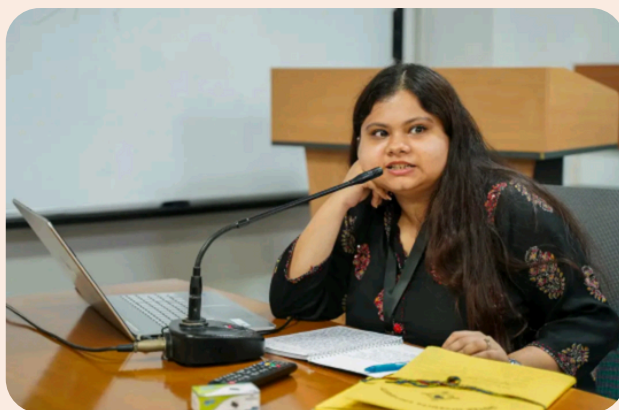


PAPER PRESENTATIONS



Yashika Subba presented a paper titled "The One with No Name: Climate knowledge and local perceptions from Darjeeling Himalaya" at The Second Inter-Polar Conference: Connecting the Arctic with the Third Pole HKH – Cryosphere, People, and Climate Change held at ICIMOD, Kathamandu, Nepal, 3rd -5th September 2025. <https://www.arcticcentre.org/EN/Inter-Polar-Conference>

Keshav Sawarn presented a paper titled "Territorial Inequalities and Community Resistance: Ethnographic Insights into Structural Health Disparities in Rural Jharkhand" at the Medical Anthropology Europe (MAE) 2025 Conference, held from 16-19 September 2025 in Vienna, Austria, hosted by the University of Vienna. He delivered the presentation online and was awarded a registration fee waiver in recognition of his contribution, enabling his participation in this global academic forum.

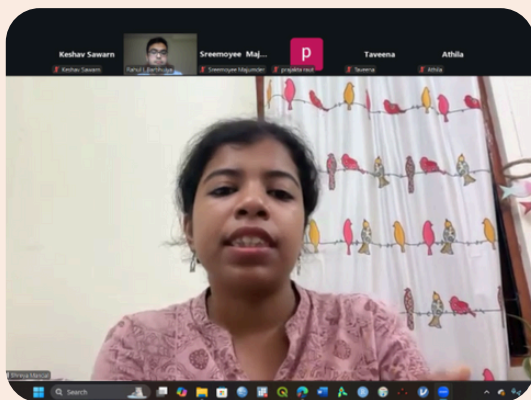


Rupsha Chakraborty presented a paper titled, "From Khoai Forest to Cultural Stage: Environmental Transformation and Digital Tourism in Santiniketan's Sonajhuri Haat" at the Young Scholars Workshop and National Conference on Gender, Environment and Development in the Digital Age, held from 9th to 11th October 2025, by the Department of Sociology, Sister Nivedita University, Kolkata.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS



Nantu Shaw presented a poster titled "A Yogic Framework of Enhanced Judgement and Decision Making : Insights from Long Term Yoga Practitioners" at 2025 Applied Behaviour and Decision Making Conference , IIT Mandi, H.P. India.



Shreya Mandal presented her work titled "A Qualitative Exploration of Self-Compassion among Female Mental Health Professionals in India" at the Canada India Research Centre for Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) Graduate South Asia Virtual Conference 2025, hosted by the University of Guelph on 23 October 2025. Her presentation was part of the panel titled "Gender, Caste and Social Justice,"

which entailed discussions on the intersections of social hierarchies, lived experiences, and critical scholarship emerging from South Asia.

Anju Ruchika Ekka presented a paper titled "Environmental Justice in India: Advancing Equitable Policy through Empirical Research" in the 7th Research Colloquium on Harmonising Doctrine and Data: Advancing Empiricism in Legal Scholarship, RGSOIPL, IIT Kharagpur (October 24 to 26, 2025). She also **secured 3rd position** for her paper presentation.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS



Keshav Sawarn presented his work titled "Healthcare Disparities in Rural Jharkhand" at the Canada India Research Centre for Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) Graduate South Asia Virtual Conference 2025, hosted by the University of Guelph on 23 October 2025. His presentation was part of the panel titled "Social Movements and Marginalised Voices."



Karthika S presented her paper titled "Visual Memory and Mythic Ecology: Scenographic Strategies in Representing Egle and Cleopatra" at The Fourth Annual International Conference of the Indian Network of Memory Studies (INMS), Memory, Narrative Designs and Strategies of Preservation hosted by IIT Madras from 27-29 October.

INVITED TALKS & WORKSHOPS



Prof. Rahul D R delivered a talk on "Gamification in ELT: Enhancing Motivation Through Technology" at a 14-Day International Online Faculty Development Programme on "Foresights into English Language Teaching and Research - FELTR 2.0", Organized by the Department of English, Saveetha Engineering College, Anna University, Chennai.

Dr. Sangay Tamang delivered a plenary lecture at the International Conference on "Sighting Anthropocene: Culture, Politics and Literature" organised by the Department of English, Sister Nivideta University, Kolkata on 7th and 8th November 2025.



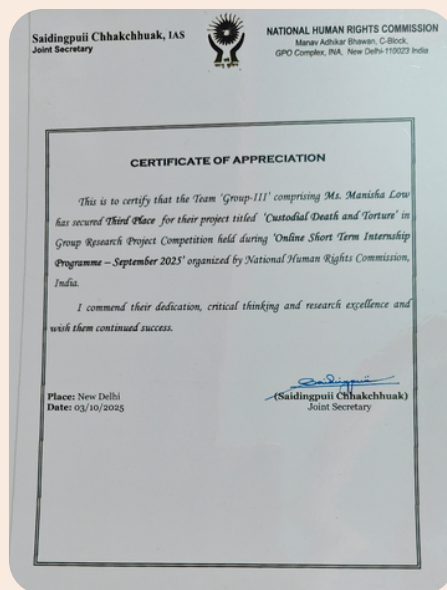
Prof. Shanmugapriya T is invited as a resource person for a symposium on Digital Humanities DREAM: Digital Research Empowerment and Advancement in Humanities at IIIT Raipur on 21-22 November 2025.

<https://www.iiitnr.ac.in/#>

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Mr. Nantu Shaw is selected for the Sandwich PhD Program to conduct research at **Stony Brook University, New York, USA.**



Manisha Low and her group achieved **3rd position** for their project titled “Custodial Death and Torture” in the internal group competition conducted by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) from 22nd September 2025 to 3rd October 2025

STUDENT ACTIVITIES



The students of the course **Privacy, Morality, and Law** organized an engaging discussion session on 31st October 2025 in the Seminar Hall of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad. The session aimed to explore the dynamic relationship between ethical values, individual privacy, and legal frameworks in the context of contemporary digital society.

The animated film *Appa and his Invisible Mundu* served as a thought-provoking medium to examine issues of data protection, consent, and surveillance, emphasizing how privacy, though often perceived as secure, remains vulnerable in modern society. The film's message prompted reflection on the ethical trade-offs between safety and autonomy, and the need to view privacy as a fundamental right.



The event provided a platform for meaningful academic dialogue and critical thinking, encouraging participants to actively engage with real-world dilemmas where moral judgment, personal rights, and law converge, fostering awareness of responsible digital citizenship.

MASTER'S STUDENT ACTIVITIES



Simanta Nandi participated in a Workshop on "Exploring Digital Archives: Strategies, Technologies, and Preservation for Future Practices" on September 9 and 10, 2025, funded by the British Library's Endangered Archives Programme (EAP 1745) project, and organized by the School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University.

Simanta Nandi along with Suman Kumar, Chandan Upadhyay and Aditya Kumar participated in a three-day hybrid workshop on 'Public Policy in Practice' on 30th October to 1st November, organised by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), Indian Institute of Technology, Tirupati, in collaboration with Centre for Research in Schemes and Policies (CRISP).

Chandan Upadhyay participated in a One-Day hybrid workshop on "Aircraft Design Technology Workshop" on 19 October 2025, organised by Bharat Space Education Research Centre under Vikshit Bharat Programme.

Aditya Kumar, Suman Kumar and Manisha Low completed an online Short-Term Internship Programme with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) from 22nd September 2025 to 3rd October 2025, which provided in-depth knowledge of key human rights issues and offered an opportunity to gain insight into the functioning of the Commission.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Editorial Board

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