



HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES DIGEST

Dec 2025-Feb 2026

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
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CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY: HSS AT IIT (ISM)'S LANDMARK YEAR

The Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad commemorated its historic centenary milestone (1926–2026) with a week-long celebration of academic, cultural, and outreach events held from 3rd to 9th December 2025. Founded in 1926 on the model of the Royal School of Mines, the institute has transformed over the decades into a distinguished multidisciplinary IIT recognized for its commitment to research, innovation, and meaningful industry engagement. The centenary festivities were graced by eminent dignitaries including Dr. P.K. Mishra (Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India), Shri Gautam Adani (Chairman, Adani Group), Shri Saryu Roy (MLA, Jamshedpur West), Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari (IAS), and Prof. J.S. Rajput (Padma Shri). During the broader centenary year, the institute was further honoured by the presence of the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, along with several national leaders at the Convocation ceremony.



Among the many commemorative events, the academic exhibition emerged as a vibrant platform for departments to reflect on their intellectual contributions and future aspirations. The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) presented a thoughtfully curated showcase highlighting its interdisciplinary scholarship across english psychology, sociology, digital humanities, linguistics, and philosophy.

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One of the key attractions at the HSS showcase was a series of interactive displays included visual illusions such as the Checker Shadow Illusion and the Japanese Moving Snakes illusion, alongside activities on face perception, change blindness, and inattention blindness, highlighting the constructive and selective nature of human perception. An audio-visual task further illustrated how contextual cues shape semantic interpretation. The department also presented a Yogic Well-being Survey, enabling participants to assess their well-being and receive instant feedback.



The Laboratory of Experimental Investigations Concerning Applied Linguistics (LEXICAL), presented its work on digital game-based language learning during the Centenary Week celebration. The laboratory showcased interactive games developed as part of its research, including a remixed Duck game designed to facilitate incidental learning of German vocabulary. The Indian Digital Humanities Lab (IDHL) also participated in the celebrations by showcasing a curated selection of Indian eco-electronic literature. The presentation highlighted the intersection of technology, art, and ecology, encouraging public engagement with themes of environmental preservation.



INAUGURATION OF THE CENTRE FOR INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

The Centre for Indian Knowledge System was inaugurated on 6 December 2025 at 11:30 AM on the 2nd floor of the Central Library, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Shri D. S. Mishra, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, who formally inaugurated the Centre.

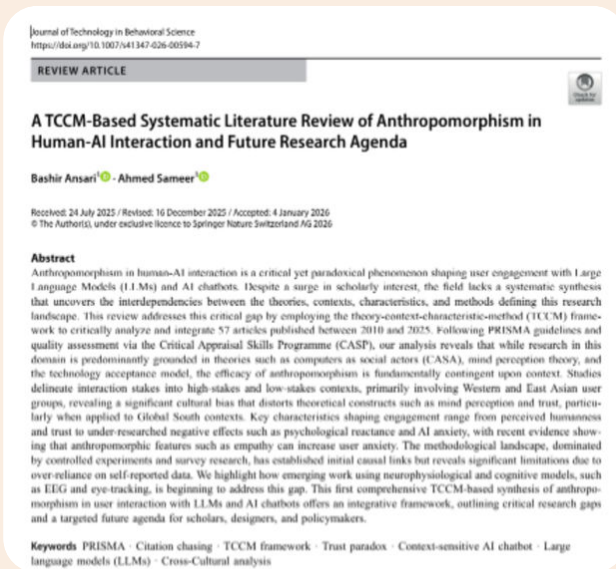
The event was held in the presence of Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, Prof. Dheeraj Kumar, Deputy Director, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, and Prof. Gyan Prakash, Head, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Centre for Indian Knowledge System aims to serve as a comprehensive resource hub for faculty members, students, and external researchers interested in exploring India's rich intellectual and philosophical traditions.



The Centre envisions establishing a specialized library, digital archives, and collaborative networks with other IKS centres across the country and abroad.

It will also facilitate seminars, workshops, and conferences to foster interdisciplinary dialogue among scholars from diverse academic backgrounds. Furthermore, the Centre is committed to publishing research findings in reputed academic journals and making its courses and learning resources accessible to the wider academic community. Through these initiatives, the Centre seeks to contribute meaningfully to the national and global discourse on Indian Knowledge Systems.

PUBLICATIONS



Bashir Ansari (with Ahmed Sameer) has published a new review in the Journal of Technology in Behavioral Science titled “A TCCM-Based Systematic Literature Review of Anthropomorphism in Human-AI Interaction and Future Research Agenda.” The paper synthesizes 57 empirical studies (2010–2025) using a TCCM framework to map theories, contexts, characteristics, and methods—and outlines a focused research agenda for designers, policymakers, and scholars working with LLMs and AI chatbots.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41347-026-00594-7>

D S V R Anurag, a PhD Scholar in Sociology published a "Book Review: Circular Economy Realities: Critical Perspectives on Sustainability" in "Reviews in Anthropology" journal published by Taylor & Francis.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00938157.2025.2604810>



An article by Kaushiki Chowdhury titled "Death of the Author...Again: Chatbots as Authors" was published by Historica.

<https://www.historica.org/blog/death-of-the-author-again-chatbots-as-authors>

PUBLICATIONS



Kadambari P S and Prof. Rahul D R have published "Task Complexity in Language Pedagogy: A Scientometric Review Protocol" in Research Synthesis in Applied Linguistics.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/29984475.2026.2616685>

Saba Siddiqi and Prof. Sathya Narayana Sharma published a paper titled "The Effect of Spontaneous and Deliberate Mind Wandering on Decision-Making Styles" in the Journal of Psychology (Taylor and Francis).

<https://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00223980.2026.2626533>



The research team's other research article titled "Mind-Wandering Enhances Learning under Uncertainty: Insights from Iowa Gambling Task" has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Consciousness and Cognition.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Prof. Shonkholen Mate presented a paper titled "Towards a Pragmatic Framework for Understanding Cases of Modest Evidentialism in Science" at the Centenary Session of the Indian Philosophical Congress held at HSS Department, IIT Bombay, on the 10th December, 2025.



Prof. Deepika Sharma presented a paper titled "Reaching the “hard-to-reach” community: Addressing vulnerability and navigating ethical dilemmas through critical reflexivity" at the European Congress of Qualitative Inquiry held at the University of Athens, Greece, from 13th to 16th January, 2026.

Prof. Rahul D R presented a paper titled "A Scientometric Analysis of Incidental Vocabulary Learning" at the 45th Thailand TESOL International Conference 2026 held at Bangkok, Thailand, from 30th-31st January, 2026.



PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Rupsha Chakraborty presented a paper titled "The making of an Ethnoscape: Tourism and Cultural Flows at Santiniketan's Sonajhuri Haat" at the 50th All India Sociological Conference 2025 on Mobilities and Inequalities: Shifting Contexts; Changing Paradigms at SRM University-AP, Amravati, from 28th to 30th December, 2025



Dipannita Das presented a paper titled "Social Currents in Changing Environment: Navigating Anthropocene and Human Vulnerability in Amitav Ghosh's The Hungry Tide and Gun Island" at International Conference on Sighting Anthropocene: Culture, Politics and Literature at Sister Nivedita University, Kolkata, from 7th to 8th November 2025

Yashika Subba presented her short ethnographic film 'Stewards in Silence', which captures how indigenous communities navigate changing ties to land, culture and lived environmental struggles in the Himalaya at the Shared Futures Conclave 2025, organised by Reading Himalaya in Gangtok, Sikkim in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi, and Sikkim University. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSg6y5yUoAE&t=5s>

PAPER PRESENTATIONS



D S V R Anurag, a PhD Scholar in Sociology presented a paper titled "A case for Circularity from 'below' in India: A Systematic Review" at the 50th All India Sociological Conference 2025 on Mobilities and Inequalities: Shifting Contexts; Changing Paradigms at SRM University-AP, Amravati, from 28th to 30th December, 2025

Atolanto Ghoshal presented his research paper at the International Conference Breaking Barriers: Reimagining Centre-Margin Dynamics from Interdisciplinary Perspectives hosted by the Department of Literature and Languages, Easwari School of Liberal Arts, SRM University AP, from 17th to 18th December, 2025.



INVITED TALKS & WORKSHOPS



Prof. Shanmugapriya was invited to be part of Board of Studies of new MA program at BIT Misera. She delivered an invited talk titled "Network Analysis and Projects from Pedagogy and Research" on 27th January 2026 at DH Methods Bootcamp: Text, Data, and Archives, 2026 at IIT Indore. She was also invited to be part of roundtable discussion on "Locating Politics of Labour in digital futures and archival records" to be held at BITS-Pilani Hyderabad Campus on 26th February.



Disha Pramanik, a second-year Master's student, attended a workshop organized by the JPN Centre of Excellence in Humanities at IIT Indore, where she also presented her project proposal titled "Digital Humanities Approaches to City Narratives and Emotions: A Study of Translated Bengali Novels."

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Neha Yeshvi was awarded 1st and 3rd prizes in the Debate and Essay Writing Competition, respectively, on Republic Day, 2026 by the Director of IIT(ISM), Prof Sukumar Mishra. The competition was held in the last week of September during the Hindi Pakhwara Celebration - 2025



Simran Bhimjyani received the Best Presentation Award at the Research Project Colloquium titled “DH Methods Bootcamp: Text, Data, and Archives, 2026,” and also attended the workshop organized by JPN National Centre of Excellence in the Humanities at Indian Institute of Technology Indore, for which she also received a travel bursary.



Nantu Shaw was a part of Short-Term Programme on “Indian Knowledge System” organised by Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, IIT(ISM) Dhanbad.

MASTER'S STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Simanta Nandi presented a research project proposal titled "Celluloid Nation: Tracing Indian Identity Through Computational Analysis of Early Cinema Magazines (1930-1955)" got also got travel bursary for this and successfully participated in the Two-Day Workshop and Research Project Colloquium titled DH Methods Bootcamp: Text, Data, and archives, 2026 organized by Indian Institute of Technology, Indore, JPN National Centre of Excellence in the Humanities.

He also presented a paper titled "AI Moderation and Algorithmic Bias in Combating Digital Gender Violence" in the "International Symposium: Reflect, Resist, Resolve: Gender-Based Violence" organized by IIT Jodhpur, India & Federation University, Australia on 8th-9th December, 2025



Kaushiki Chowdhury presented a paper "You Are a Cosmic Dream: Reimagining Theory Through Interactive Narrative" at the Second World Colloquium on Existential Posthumanism: Posthuman Renaissance(s) – Making Self, Making World at Presidency University, Kolkata, held from 14-16 Jan.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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