



**SLS**  
MIRROR

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Of bleeding blue and deafening cheers,  
Of celebrating in vibrancy and smiles to the ears,  
Abhorring the perpetrating oblivion,  
Replete with memories, we look back-  
To a mélange, a mania that was March,  
Au revoir au mois !

Every month adds a fresh perspective to a persisting thought process, both individually and as a mass, and the past month provided that in abundance. The power of the media blazed as news fuelled nationwide debates and a strong public opinion. As for our state, Gujarat, Holi spirits were hot and cold as we still battled and feared the lethal pandemic, swine flu, earlier this March. And in the same week itself, BBC released “India’s Daughter”, a documentary based on the 2012 Nirbhaya case that coincided with International Women’s Day. As ironic and unreasonable as it could be, the Indian government obtained court’s order to block its broadcast, just a few days before BBC was set to air it worldwide. And so, on March 8, the entire world saw the documentary on the unspeakable brutality in the rape and murder of the 23 year old female student, Nirbhaya, while the people of India were debarred from its viewing both, on television and on YouTube. The ban stirred many a forum; activists,

politicians and media-persons spoke for their stance but there was no uplifting of the former for national viewing. Of what was born in India, remained unseen by its own people while the rest of the world including the United Nations condemned the heinous act and vehemently decried violence against women. There was an urge and call to all the men, to involve themselves and act, to shun patriarchy and bring a halt to crime and violence plaguing the world. It is only with an open, loud and clear condemnation of such acts, every time they occur, that the country can expect to recede the filth women are subjected to.

If anything, we hope Women’s Day raised important issues like women’s rights and safety, their empowerment, and gender equality, brought them to the forefront rather than just marking a day to celebrate womanhood. Talking about gender, March end saw eleven men in blue giving the Indian public a reason to cheer as they led the country to the 2015 Cricket World Cup semi final, and Saina Nehwal making it to the top in badminton. At SLS, events and activities engaged the students and this issue offers a glimpse of the same. We hope you go through the March issue and enjoy it as much as we have, compiling it.

## Interview with Ms. Anju Musafir



**SM: What should be the role of education?**

AM: The role of education should be to know your purpose in life. The ways in which we can ensure that such kind of education is accessible to all the people in the Indian society are: Firstly, we need to move away from content driven education. All the content is on the internet. We have to come back to skill based and meaningful education. Secondly, models of schools have to change. We should have lots of small neighbourhood schools rather than many big schools. The schools should be regularly upgraded. The teacher – student ratio is something that has to be always taken care of. The teacher training model should be done through experiential learning, and lastly, education should be built around children’s interests.

**SM: Do you think interdisciplinary approach towards knowledge is important?**

AM: Interdisciplinary approach towards knowledge is definitely important; if you don’t have connections you will not be able to invent anything. One will always have a narrow way of thinking. They are removing boundaries. Boundaries enclose us as much as they keep other people out. We should not fence ourselves. It helps the society to become truly humanitarian , compassionate and



composite.

**SM: What according to you is the role of textbooks in today's world ?**

AM: Well, I don't believe in textbooks . Knowledge is everywhere. If I were to interview an artist and read a book on the same, I would be exposed to two different views. The textbooks are based on a curriculum that is politically decided; thus textbooks are a political choice. The content is changing in a blink of an eye and the textbooks can't match the pace of the change. From Newtonian physics we have gone to quantum physics and now we are talking about string theory. We should rather have a conceptual framework of curriculum.

**SM: What are your views on media playing its role in gender inequalities?**

AM: Gender inequality comes from social structures, media is manipulating for its own ends. It is entirely culturally rooted. The scenario is changing. Once there is equal participation, things will surely change.

**SM: How difficult was it for you to set up a school like Mahatma Gandhi International School (MGIS)?**

AM: MGIS has made pioneering efforts in several fields: inclusion of socio-economically underprivileged children, no uniforms, no bells, no exams till 10th grade, use of Apple technology among many other efforts. The school is a public –private partnership and is in collaboration with Ahmedabad Municipal Cooperation. My husband Pascal Chazot, who is French, and I together started this venture. I understand where they come from, I have no anger towards these groups who were in opposition because they have such a strong colonial past that they necessarily saw every foreigner as an exploiter, but then one should also understand that every foreigner does not come to India for the same purpose. There was a lot of opposition from mainstream society but there were people who supported us equally too. I think various ideologically diverse views came together and opposed the project. Some were against the idea of an international school. Some said, “ why an English medium school?” Some said, “How can you mix the castes, the rich and the poor?” We had a lot of agitation against the project like blood signature campaigns and bus burning to name a few, and they continued for nine months. But towards the end, we won.

**SM: Do you think we should carry forward all the old models of education?**

AM: Historically in the last 200- 300 years, we have been a colony and thus the model of education that we got as far as schooling is concerned is the one from the prison . Michel Foucault, the French philosopher compared the army, prison, schools and hospital. Everything comes from the prison timetable, uniforms and bells to name a few. Well, then, it was the need of the hour, but today, is there any need to carry this forward? No. We are a free country, society, and even national boundaries no longer matter. It is important that we learn to adapt to the learning systems according to the world we live in.

**SM: How do you see technology aiding education? Do you think the use of technology should be restricted beyond a point ?**

AM: With every stage of human evolution, technology has also evolved, and thus it would be wrong to think that technology is evil. It is like saying that the invention of a hammer is evil because

you can hit somebody's head with it, but you can also drive a nail in the wall! Technology is a fantastic tool; it's just amazing. In fact, we also use a lot of technology in the school. I don't think that in today's world we can divorce any learning from technology.

**SM: Which qualities of SLS students attracted you the most ?**

AM: I enjoyed my class with the students of PDPU . I found the group highly engaged, responsive and open minded . There was a constant participation from the group with active discussion . I also appreciated that some members of the faculty sat through my session and contributed by providing valuable insights. i appreciate the inter disciplinary approach of the college and also its liberal education which provides a holistic understanding of knowledge body from diverse perspectives. I look forward to more such interactions.

- **Jasmine J. Pereira**  
**SLS '12**

# Audit Course - Warli Art

School Of Liberal Studies organized an audit course on the Warli Art, a Maharashtrian art form for the first year students on 7th and 8th March, 2015. The session was held by the faculty of Ideal Institute, Ms. Asha Mandapa and Ms. Seema.

The session began at 11 am with the history of Warli art, from where it originated and its present status in the world of handicraft. This information was provided with the help of a power point presentation. Further, the students were taught the basic figures of the art and how it is to be performed. Later, the students were provided with a butter paper wherein they could show their creativity, and paint whatever they could imagine about. Students made beautiful framed and turned into beautiful wall-



On day two, the students had to do Warli art on small 3.5 x 3.5 inches papers and make coasters out of it by laminating those beautiful pieces of art. The students were very enthusiastic about learning the new art form and how they can use these paintings in the day to day life like the wall clock and the coaster. To know that such art could be applied in the frequently used items in our life was much appreciated.

The students learned the new art form passionately and made it lively by adding a tinge of their individual uniqueness.

**-Helee Dave  
SLS '14**

# Audit Course - Block Printing



School of Liberal Studies organized a workshop on block printing as a part of the Audit Course for the first year students, from 7th to 8th March, 2015. This programme was headed and carried out by Mr. Jayantibhai Chitara and his team who are renowned artisans specialising in traditional art forms like Kalamkaari, block printing and natural dye making.

The introductory session saw the artisans brief the students about “Block Printing” as an art form and demonstrate the process of carving motifs out of the Sanghwaan wood using iron implements. The students got a chance to design their own blocks, carve them and witness the preparation of the dyes using the binder and pigments. Mr. Chitara and his team taught the students various techniques to compose their artwork, create symmetric patterns and perfect the method of stamping the blocks onto the cloth.

On the second day, the students were asked to design their compositions using different colours and motifs. The students enthusiastically composed their frames, and results achieved at the end of the session were truly beautiful.

This workshop gave us the opportunity to know our heritage better, value it and respect the artisans who toil hard to preserve the traditional art forms which are fast dying due to lack of awareness.

**Moksha Pillai**  
-SLS '14

## VISIT to LBSNAA



The department of public administration recently visited the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie as part of their educational trip. LBSNAA is a research and training institute that functions under the surveillance of union government. The main purpose of the academy is to cultivate young minds into professional civil servants of the three All India Services: Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service, and also for Indian Forest Service and the Indian Foresting Service.

On entering the premises, the academy; we were shown the academy along with one of the possesses a huge library which copy of the Indian Constitution ing committee members. The lection of books relating to var-government reports, articles,

We were shown the executive where the officers would gath-

debates. The trainees in the academy were provided with the facilities of various sports including horse riding, rope climbing and a well equipped gym. We also visited the photo gallery of LBSNAA portraying the evolution of the training of a civil servant over the years and showing the real requirement of such institutions to build officials of the highest rank in the nation.



guide helped us in exploring the main auditorium of the classrooms. The academy also has the original second which was signed by all draft-library not only had large col-ious subjects, but also many research papers, journals etc.

lounge of the academy er for various discussions and

**Disha Joshi**  
-SLS '12



# Train The Trainer Workshop



“Train The Trainer” was a five day workshop held at School of Liberal Studies from 9th to 13th March, 2015. The facilitator of the workshop was Dr. Yogesh Pahuja, the founder of The Human Matrix, Ahmedabad .

The objective of this workshop was to help the students learn the techniques of ‘Training’ and develop an understanding of ‘Training and Development (T&D) as a subject, and the skills as a trainer through experiential learning. The objective was met with by activities like group tasks, simulation, team games and role plays to name a few. The students were taught various phases of T&D like organization development, T&D, training need analysis, training design, and training evaluation. Each group delivered a one hour workshop and towards the end of the workshop, every student was awarded with a certificate.

**Jasmine J. Pereira**  
-SLS ‘12

# Faculty Reflections

## Net Neutrality in India – Are We Losing Our “Right to Internet”?

Net neutrality is the buzzword of this month. All across Indian social media, this new term has sparked a huge internet based protest against TRAI (Telecom Regulation Authority of India).

Net neutrality can sound confusing with all the debates around it, but it is relatively simple to understand.

The internet is a super highway for information. It uses the hardware provided by telecom companies to reach the end users. The telecom companies charge the users for the data utilized by the services. No one owns the internet, everyone simply connects to it. Everyone has equal access at equal cost, and the internet is being called the 'great equalizer', offering equal opportunities to all. Historically, it is the most democratic low-cost equal-opportunity platform of all time. This equality gives rise to the term 'net neutrality'

The e-commerce market is growing exponentially, and has journeyed beyond the \$ 1 trillion mark in recent years. Definitely a very large number; but internet industry has not even slowed down to notice that how quickly it whizzed past this milestone. Buoyed by ideas, innovations and large sums of venture capital, it continues its sky rocketing journey.

Does this story sound too good to be true? In that case, it probably is.

While no one owns the internet, the telecom companies have realized that they do control the most important part of the internet – the connectivity. They are feeling slightly left out as they can only charge for the data (the cost of which keeps reducing with time and competition), while entrepreneurs and businesses ride their networks to make huge profits with relatively low investments.

In this case, telecom companies are tying up with successful internet companies with deep pockets. These are the early movers such as Facebook or Flipkart, who pay extra money to the telecom company to provide their services for free, and charge extra for access to other websites and services. In other words, you might get videos on Facebook for free but end up paying a bomb for accessing Vimeo.

This snatches the power from the user to access all sites equally, while also limiting entrepreneurship by making the playfield lopsided for wealthy corporations. Taking a cue from the Monopoly board game, it's the wealthy corporations buying all the Green cards and the Red Cards and constructing hotels to then overcharge you for a visit to the same destination; and attempting to monopolize the internet.

Net neutrality is already accepted by governments in USA, Brazil, Chile, The Netherlands, and Mexico. However, in India it's currently in danger and under debate. We hope that the government of the world's largest democracy will heed to the concerns about democratization in access to information and to business opportunities, and will pave the way for net neutrality to remain a core value of the nation's telecom governing body.

-Mr. Phalgun Kumar (Manager, SLS, Office of Administration)

# SLS Reaches Out to Academia



Dr. Ritu Sharma

## Dr. Ritu Sharma - Faculty, Psychology

- Nominated as Article Editor for SAGE open for Social and behavioral Sciences.
- Presented a research paper titled 'Cognitive Behavior Approach in Mentoring College Students for Personal Effectiveness: An Empirical Study' at the International Conference on Cognitive Behaviour Interventions, AIIMS 2015 on 2nd March 2015 organized by All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi between 28th February — 3rd March 2015.
- Received certification for following workshop modules organized by All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi between 28th February — 3rd March 2015.
- 8 training hours on Evidence Based Formulation in Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) approved by Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)
- International — 8 training hours on Cognitive Behaviour Therapy for Psychosis approved by Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)
- International — Study Designs: Planning an Interventions Study on Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT)-National

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## Dr. Bindiya Soni and Dr. Jigna Trivedi

(Co-Authors) presented a research paper: An Empirical Study on Farmers Club: An Innovative Initiative by NABARD, National Seminar on “A Strategic Perspective on Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship Development in India”, Anand Institute of Management, Anand, 10th March, 2015. The paper also received the Best Paper Award in the conference.

## Create-Witty



Khushali Shah

**SLS'13**



## Upcoming Events

Flare 2015

Guest lecture by Mr. Niladri Chatterjee

Guest lecture by Dr. Ranjana Harish



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