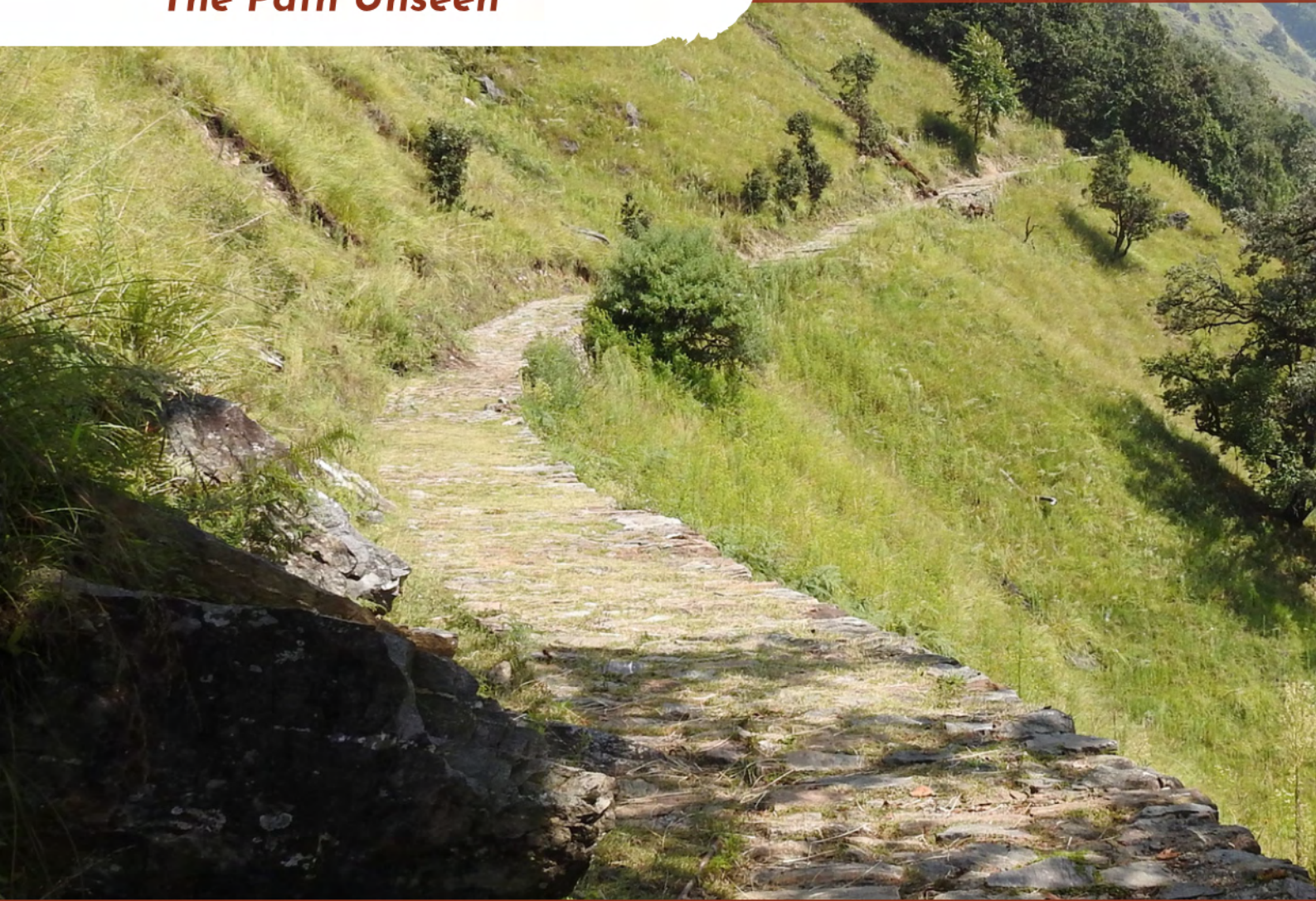


Pagdandi



The Path Unseen



Newsletter of the MA in Rural Management Program
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi NCR

Vol. 2, No. 1, January-June 2026

उत्तिष्ठत जाग्रत प्राप्य वरान्निबोधत।
क्षुरस्य धारा निशिता दुरत्यया
दुर्ग पथस्तत्कवयो वदन्ति॥
Katha Upanishad, Verse 1.3.14

**Arise, mindful and alert, learn from those who have been there
For, sharp as a razors edge, hard to traverse, difficult is that path,
say the poets, who have seen.**

Pagdandi is a Hindi word that literally means a winding village mud path. In spiritual terms it connotes for us-the razor's edge, a road less travelled, walking on which we undertake the challenging journey of breaking with the mainstream and forging something transformative, something so much more beautiful, inclusive and lasting.

Note from the Chair



MIHIR SHAH

Distinguished Professor and Chair
MA in Rural Management Program
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence

When the MA in Rural Management Program came up for approval before the Board of Management in 2022, the Chancellor raised 5 extremely pertinent questions:

1. Will there be an interest among young people to seek admission for the program?
2. Are there not many similar programs already running across the country? What would be our USP?
3. If we are seeking students from disadvantaged regions and communities, how will they pay the fees?
4. If they are unable to do so, will there be enough donor support for the program?
5. And will there be interest among potential employers to hire students graduating from the program?

Nearly 3 years since the launch of the program in September 2023, I am delighted to report great success on each of these matters of legitimate concern. The main reason we were confident of success was our assessment that there is an enormous felt need among

employers for well-rounded professionals who understand the unique challenges and opportunities of rural India. These employers, in fact, helped us co-design the program. We also had enough feedback from a multitude of stakeholders that there were innumerable young men and women in the country, with huge potential and a burning desire in their hearts, to lead the process of rural transformation. What they were looking for was an opportunity and some support to be able to play that role. It was also very clear that the existing programs were neither being able to attract the desired profile of students nor were they meeting the specific requirements of potential employers.

And what we have found in our experience with the first 4 batches is something that in many respects far exceeds our initial expectations. From the very first batch we have had hundreds of applications for the program and the number has grown exponentially with every passing year as word has gone out far and wide. I am reliably informed that you will not find a comparable classroom with the richness of diversity that we have at the SNU RM program. Our students are some of the most outstanding I have had the pleasure of teaching in my several decades long teaching career. The major selection criteria for our students have been their understanding of the challenges of rural India and their unique experience of life in that context. More than anything else, their selection is a testament to their potential to be leaders of a transformative process of change in rural India.

In our first four batches, we have had 170 students, of which 95 are women. 75 students

belong to Adivasi communities, 39 are OBCs, 27 Dalits and 11 Muslims. They come from 16 States, covering the most deprived districts of the country. What has been most gratifying is the kind of classroom we have, where both faculty and students learn from each other's knowledge and experiences.

The final proof of the pudding, of course, came at the time of the placement of our first 2 batches. We were truly amazed at how each and every one of our students got placed within a matter of days, with some students being vigorously sought after by several competing employers, among the top civil society organisations in the country.

Several organisations reported being impressed by their clarity, conviction, and field-readiness, with some going so far as to revise their compensation structures in order to hire our students.

As we prepare to welcome our fourth batch of 49 students, I am delighted to share the highlights of the first half of 2026 with you!



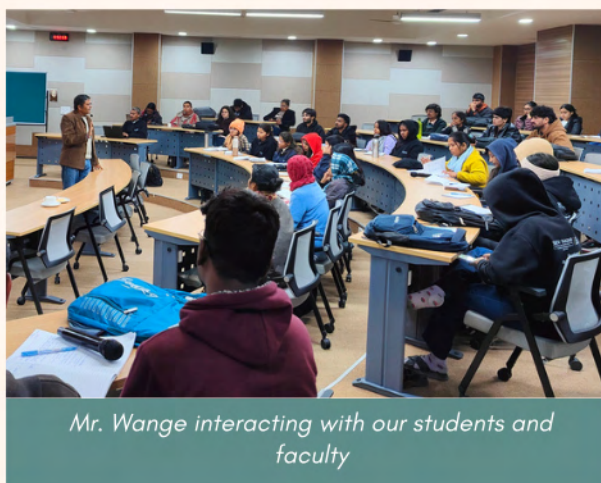
Prof. Mihir Shah
Chair, MA-RM Program

Swades Foundation comes to SNU

On 13th January 2026, our Program hosted Mr. Mangesh Wange, CEO and board Member of Swades Foundation at the University. The Swades Foundation is a community driven non-profit organisation that is committed to uplifting a million lives out of poverty every five years in rural India. It believes that every single person has the potential to transform their society and country. It follows a model of holistic development and empowers communities to take charge of their own development. Currently, it focuses on areas of Health and Sanitation, Water, Education and Livelihoods.



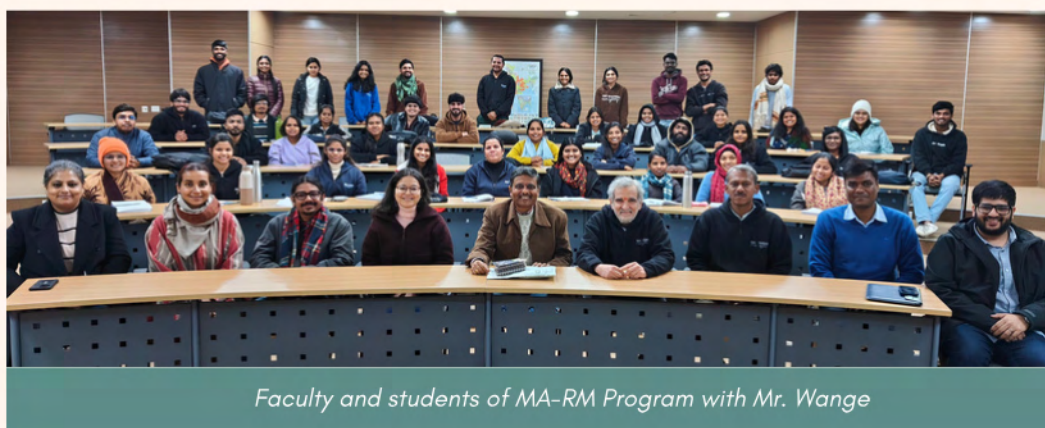
Dr. Shah welcoming Mr. Wange during the interactive session



Mr. Wange interacting with our students and faculty

Mr. Wange met and interacted with our faculty and students which sparked meaningful and inspiring conversations surrounding rural development in the country. Our students engaged in long discussions surrounding the development sector, the work of the Foundation, Mr. Wange's own journey and the future of rural development. The visit has led to the opening up a new dialogue between the Foundation and the Program wherein Swades Foundation took part in our placement process this year and has shown keen interest in

offering internship opportunities to future batches of the Program as part of our Internship semester. This, we believe, could be the beginning of a lasting and meaningful engagement between Swades Foundation and the MA-RM Program.



Faculty and students of MA-RM Program with Mr. Wange

Empowering Future Women Rural Leaders

Establishment of the S M Sehgal Foundation Scholarship

On 16 March 2026, a delegation from the S M Sehgal Foundation, which included its Chairperson, Mr. Jay Sehgal visited SNU to engage with the RM faculty and students.

During the visit, the delegation held productive discussions with faculty members on opportunities for collaboration in education, innovation, and community engagement. The interaction with students provided a valuable platform for sharing insights on contemporary rural development challenges and emerging opportunities for leadership and impact. The delegation also met with the Vice Chancellor to discuss avenues for strengthening institutional partnerships and advancing shared goals in education and rural transformation.



The delegation with the Vice Chancellor, Chair and faculty of the MA-RM Program

A significant outcome of the visit was the announcement by the S M Sehgal Foundation of the establishment of the "S M Sehgal Foundation Scholarship." The scholarship reflects the Foundation's continued commitment to promoting education, leadership, and capacity building in the field of rural development.

The Foundation will support deserving women students enrolled in the MA in Rural Management Program at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. As an initial commitment, the Foundation will provide 100% financial support to one eligible woman student from the 2026-28 batch of the program.

The scholarship aims to encourage talented women who demonstrate a strong commitment to working with rural communities and contributing to inclusive and sustainable rural development.

The Program and the University warmly welcome this generous initiative and values its association with the S M Sehgal Foundation.

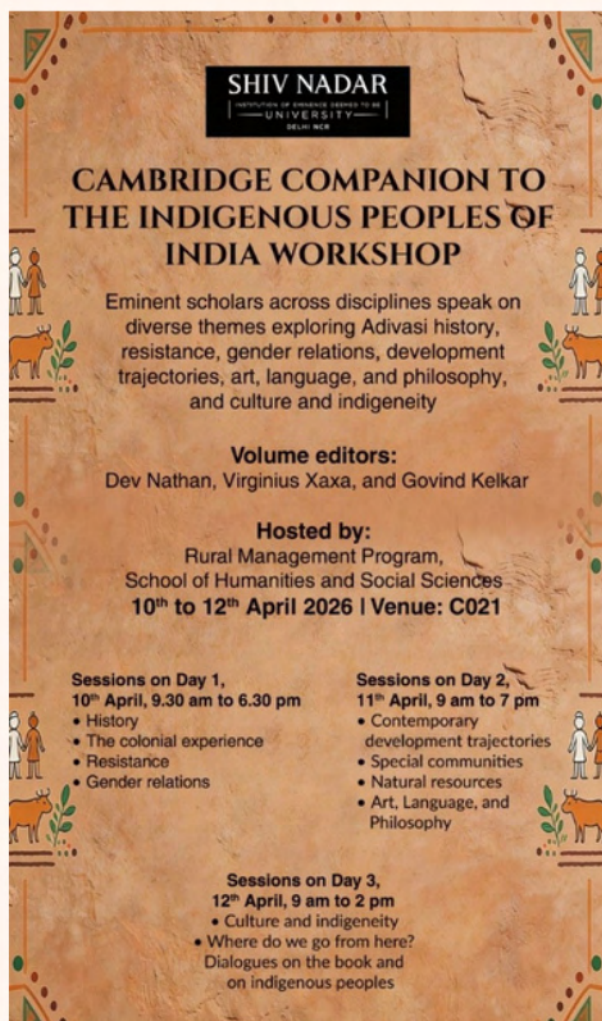


The delegation with Dr. Mukherjee and Dr. Shah during the visit



Mr. Jay Sehgal interacting with the students of the Program

MA-RM program hosts the 'Cambridge Companion to the Indigenous Peoples of India' Workshop



The MA-RM Program hosted the three-day 'Cambridge Companion to the Indigenous Peoples of India' Workshop at the University. The workshop that was held from 10 to 12 April 2026, acted as a meeting and discussion ground for contributing authors of the upcoming 'Cambridge Companion to the Indigenous Peoples of India' volume that is being co-edited by Prof. Dev Nathan, Prof. Virginius Xaxa and Prof. Govind Kelkar and published by Cambridge University Press.



Dr. Mihir Shah delivering the welcome address



Prof. Ananya Mukherjee addressing the workshop



Prof. Dev Nathan, Prof. Virginius Xaxa and Prof. Govind Kelkar, the editors of the volume, during the inaugural session of the workshop



Dr. Shah, Prof. Kelkar and Prof. Xaxa during a session of the workshop.



Prof. Aloka Parasher Sen, Patricia Mukhim and Dr. Bhangya Bhukya during a session of the workshop.



Dr. Subir Bhowmick, Dr. Venkat Ramanujam and Christina Kujur during a session of the workshop



Audience interaction with authors during a session of the workshop

The workshop that saw participation from some of the leading scholars of tribal and Adivasi studies in India delved in immersive and critical discussions surrounding a diverse range of chapters that touched on a wide range of issues concerning the Indigenous communities of India. The three-day workshop began with welcoming addresses by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ananya Mukherjee and Prof. Mihir Shah, followed by an introductory session by the editors of the volume wherein the scope, aims and importance of the volume in the current context was established. This was followed by sessions on the culture, language and history of Indigenous peoples, their trajectories with development and resources, the varied resistances that they have waged and continue to engage in, the gender relations among them, among others spanned over three days. Each chapter in these sessions was widely and rigorously discussed, giving authors critical feedback to work and think upon. What also remains interesting was how the sessions brought out issues of rapid and continuing change of Indigenous people in a globalised and yet polarising world and how they are now reimagining development for themselves and their communities.

The sessions also brought out how issues surrounding the Indigenous peoples in India should be seen in dialogue with issues concerning Indigenous communities across the world.

The Companion that includes chapters covering a wide diversity of Adivasi communities spanning across a dynamic range of geographies – from Northeast India to Central Indian Adivasi belt – will prove to be a great resource for anyone interested in knowing about Indigenous communities in the country.

The workshop that was attended by faculty and students of the Program along with other faculties of the University proved a fertile ground for giving critical feedback to the contributing authors and the editors which will prove vital in bettering the volume further.

In addition, RM students also set up an exhibition stall on millet seeds, where they explained their importance in sustainable agriculture, nutritional security, and rural livelihoods. This initiative effectively bridged academic discussions with grounded, real-world perspectives, reinforcing the relevance of traditional knowledge systems.



Students displaying various types of indigenous varieties of seeds during the exhibition

Rural Management Students Excel at BMU Policy Conclave



MA-RM students won various competitive events organised as part of the Conclave

The Rural Management Program marked another proud milestone when Prof. Mihir Shah was invited to deliver the keynote address at the BML Munjal University Policy Conclave 2026 on 17 April 2026. His lecture, titled "Public Policy in Practice: Navigating the Real World," brought the Program's distinctive field-based approach to public policy to an audience of students, faculty, and policy practitioners.

The visit also provided Rural Management students with an opportunity to participate in the conclave's inter-university policy competitions, designed to test analytical thinking, negotiation, creativity, and collaborative problem-solving. The flagship Policy Assembly challenged teams to simulate democratic policy making by representing diverse stakeholders, negotiating competing interests, and collectively developing a viable public policy framework through deliberation and consensus. Alongside this, students also participated in the Policy Jam, an individual competition that encouraged participants to creatively communicate solutions to contemporary public policy challenges.

Competing against students from universities across the country, the Rural Management students demonstrated the strengths that define the Program—grounded thinking, practical understanding of governance, and the ability to bridge field realities with policy design. Their outstanding performance culminated in a winning finish, bringing laurels to the Program and underscoring the value of its immersive and practice-oriented pedagogy.

Beyond the competition, the conclave offered students a valuable platform to engage with scholars, policymakers, and peers from diverse academic backgrounds. The experience reinforced classroom learning while exposing students to contemporary debates in public policy and democratic governance.

Prof. Shah's keynote address, combined with the students' success at the conclave, reflected the growing recognition of the Rural Management Program as a space where rigorous academic inquiry is complemented by practical engagement with the complex realities of development and public policy.

Rural Management Program at Shiv Nadar University Hosts the Ministry of Home Affairs' Tribal Youth Exchange Program

On 23 February 2026, the Rural Management Program had the privilege of welcoming 200 young participants from the Tribal Youth Exchange Program (TYEP) to Shiv Nadar University. Organised under the My Bharat Initiative of the Government of India by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the program aims to broaden the horizons of youth from tribal regions through exposure to educational institutions and opportunities across the country.



Dr. Mihir Shah interacting with the visiting students and dignitaries

The visiting students, aged 18–23 years, represented districts including Bastar, Kanker, and Narayanpur (Chhattisgarh); West Singhbhum (Jharkhand); Balaghat (Madhya Pradesh); Kandhamal and Kalahandi (Odisha); and Gadchiroli (Maharashtra). Bringing together young people from diverse tribal communities, the visit created a vibrant space for dialogue, learning, and mutual exchange.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Mihir Shah spoke about the transformative potential of rural leadership and the critical role of grassroots institutions in building inclusive and sustainable development. Brig. (Retd.) Steve Ismail, Dean of Students, reflected on leadership as an act of service, encouraging the participants to see themselves as active contributors to nation-building and agents of positive change.

The formal sessions culminated in an engaging interaction between the visiting youth and Rural Management students. Questions ranged from higher education and career pathways to governance, livelihoods, rural entrepreneurship, and community leadership. The conversations

reflected not only the participants' curiosity but also their deep aspiration to contribute meaningfully to the development of their communities.

More than an institutional visit, the program became a platform for building bridges across regions, experiences, and aspirations. It reaffirmed the importance of creating opportunities for young people from diverse backgrounds to interact, learn from one another, and imagine new possibilities for themselves and their communities.

The Rural Management Program is grateful to its faculty, students, volunteers, and administrative staff of SNU for ensuring the success of the visit, and to the participating students and accompanying officers for making the interaction so enriching. Such engagements continue to strengthen the Program's commitment to fostering dialogue, inclusion, and leadership among the next generation of rural change-makers.



Dr. Mihir Shah interacting with the visiting students and dignitaries

Learning from and with Communities

Field-visit to the Raika Pastoralists



Students interacting with Raika pastoralists

On 2nd April 2026, our third batch students made a field-trip to Sonapat, Haryana to interact with and learn from two groups of Raika pastoralists. The field-visits were carefully and meticulously arranged and supervised by RM Visiting Faculty (Agriculture, Livestock and Forests course) Ramesh Bhati and Sayan Biswas from the Centre for Pastoralism and Ankita Barwaha, an independent researcher.

Through immersive and first-hand interactions, the students learnt a variety of issues surrounding pastoral economy and lifestyle from two Raika pastoral groups – one nomadic and the other semi-nomadic. The interactions gave them critical insights surrounding entanglement of pastoral livelihoods and culture with the environment and the impact on each due to climate crises. The students learnt extensively on experiences of pastoral life, particularly surrounding gendered division of labour and control over mobility even within pastoral economy and lifestyle. The impact and changes brought about through growing connection with the market economy was something that was amply highlighted in the students' discussion with the pastoral communities.

The field visit helped bridge gaps between classroom discussions and lived realities. The experience helped students understand and empathise with pastoral communities' ways of life, their struggles, internal politics, knowledge systems and ways of navigating a market based and ecologically vulnerable world. One of the most meaningful moments of the visit came towards the end of the day, when students gathered under the shade of nearby trees to reflect collectively and exchange observations and question their assumptions. The visit also helped students to ground their classroom learnings, question and critique some of them and also finessed their learnings surrounding research methods and ethics of interacting and engaging with communities.

The field-visit that is annually conducted as part of the 'Livestock' classes of the Agriculture, Livestock and Forests course is a testament to the Program's commitment in fostering learning-by-doing principles and pedagogies and learning from communities and their lived epistemes.



Students with a few Raika women pastoralists



Students learning-by-doing the Raika pastoral way of life



The reflection and discussion session at the end of the day to observe, reflect, understand and discuss the day's learnings and unlearnings.

MA-RM program screens 'Sama in the Forest' and hosts workshop-cum-discussion with Prof. Coralynn Davis

On 4th April 2026, the MA-RM Program screened the film, 'Sama in the Forest', directed by Prof. Coralynn Davis, which was followed by a discussion-cum-workshop with Prof. Davis. Prof. Davis is currently serving as the Presidential Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at the Bucknell University, Pennsylvania, United States. The screening cum workshop was organised and co-facilitated by MA-RM Faculty Dr. Sandali Thakur.

This ethnographic film by Prof. Davis explores how women and girls in Maithil society in Northern India and Nepal use collective art forms such as storytelling, folktale performances and painting to reflect on changes and continuities in norms and conventions that dictate women's lives over time. To do this, it particularly focuses on varied narrations of women telling the tale of 'Sama', a young princess who wanders into the forest and befriends a young man, only to be slandered by a muckraking confidante of the king and subsequently cursed and banished by her father. The film is a collaborative community project that particularly involves girls and women from the Mithila Art Institute, a small school for young aspiring artists. Involving community members across varied castes, gender and generations, it brings out varied versions of the folktale and how gender and caste and Maithil identity are all enmeshed together in the varied versions, showing a complex picture of Maithil society.



Prof. Davis, along with Dr. Sandali Thakur, interacting with students, post the screening of the film

The film was most thought-provoking and inspiring for our students, particularly in its portrayal of how women exercise and uphold their agency through story-telling. It shows the power of storytelling for voicing out gendered lived experiences of women, across castes and generations in a deeply patriarchal society. The screening was followed by a workshop and long discussion with Prof. Davis where our students engaged in understanding various facets of not just the film or the social lifeworld that it depicted but also the story and journey of Prof. Davis herself.



Students took deep interest in the discussions that followed the screening, engaging extensively with Prof. Davis and her work.

An important theme that emerged during the discussions was the varied impact of education on women's lives across different contexts, and how women continuously negotiate societal power dynamics to carve out their own identities. The session also highlighted the role of Madhubani painting as a deeply personal yet collective form of expression. Students reflected on how art can embody both vulnerability and resistance, and how spaces like the Mithila Art Institute enable women to learn, share, and grow together. The screening and the rich, immersive discussion helped our students with interdisciplinary, critical and dialogic learning that is always encouraged as part of the Program.

‘The river teaches us!’ – MA-RM program screens ‘Morisika: The Story of the Boatman’ followed by a discussion with film-makers Vandana Menon and Debashish Nandi

Morisika: The Story of the Boatman

PAST | ARTS & CULTURE



On 20th April 2026, we screened the film ‘Morisika: The Story of the Boatman’ that is directed by Debashish Nandi and Vandana Menon. Debashish Nandi is a filmmaker from North Lakhimpur, Assam and has travelled the length and breadth of the country filming different communities. Vandana Menon is a filmmaker from Bangalore and has travelled across the sub-continent, London, Germany and South Africa working on several multidisciplinary collaborations. The film-makers came to SNU at the invitation of Dr. Bhargabi Das, Faculty, MA-RM Program.

The film explores stories of three communities – pastoral Buffalo herders living in shifting river-islands or chars in the Brahmaputra, a fishing community and a folk music and theatre community – all living along the Brahmaputra river in Assam. Through recording these communities’ memories, history, culture, their relationship with the river and changes in current times, the film

sketches a biography of the river, riverine ecologies and the riverine communities. This ethnographic film is made collaboratively wherein Nandi and Menon involved their participants, the river and its many non-human actors as co-creators of the film. The film beautifully captures how communities in marginalised ecologies are impacted further by ‘development’ activities on the river such as building dams, bridges, embankments among others that have been leading to violent flooding and rapid erosion. The film is part of a larger community-based project led by Nandi and Menon called ‘The River Project’, who along with the community are building an archive and mapping the Brahmaputra river and its basin.



Vandana and Debashish interacting with the students post the screening of the film

The screening was followed by over an hour-long discussion with the film-makers wherein students engaged in deep, immersive and critical discussion surrounding varied facets and issues that the film opened up for them. The discussion proved extremely fruitful for the students as they were able to connect issues surrounding pastoral communities across the country, witness the lifeworld of riverine communities in Northeast India and understand the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on rivers and communities. Students also learnt about the politics and ethics of collaborative ethnographic filmmaking.

Learning from the Ground, on the Ground

Final year MA-RM students complete their immersive internships

The final semester of the program involves each student interning with one organisation in an area of their interest. This year we had a total of 34 organisations with whom our second batch students interned with field-sites located across 13 states of India. The Internship semester involved three months (January to March 2026) of rigorous fieldwork-based research on an objective that is mutually arrived at and is guided by both the student's interest and the interning organisation's requirements. The next one month (April 2026) was spent by the students analysing the data collected and writing a final report that was submitted to the program to fulfill their

graduation requirements.

Additionally, each student was assigned a faculty supervisor who supported and guided the students throughout the fieldwork and writing of research reports as part of the Internship process. Students worked on a variety of topics including lactating and pregnant women's health and nutrition conditions, quality of education in Adivasi Ashramshalas, working condition of informal labourers, strategies to address violence against women, developing techniques for crop-residue management, building of a community-led seed bank storing indigenous seed varieties, among others.



Nisrat Nisha (student, MA-RM, fifth from left in the photo) conducting a Focus Group Discussion with participants at Maliya village in Gujarat. Nisrat's project, as part of her internship with ANANDI, Gujarat, tried to identify factors for low education levels of Miyana Muslim girls and further plan intervention strategies to address those barriers.

This year we witnessed a great variety in Internship organisations and consequently, a diverse range of focus areas, research topics and project objectives that the students engaged in. This year also saw the engagement of students in greater diverse geographical locations which spanned from Rajasthan to Nagaland and Telangana to Himachal Pradesh. This also meant that they had the opportunity to engage with diverse communities and gain greater in-depth understanding of many contexts and socio-political and economic lifeworlds.



Hanna Daimari (student, MA-RM, on the left), interacting with a participant during her fieldwork as part of her internship with NEIDA, Nagaland. Hanna was looking at the effectiveness of the community led governance system for springshed management in Terogvunyu village in Nagaland.

The rigorous field exposure also helped them cement their learnings regarding a variety of research methods and the ethics and politics surrounding the usage of each. Being an individual student-led project, the internships also equipped our students with the skills and training for conducting independent research, bettering their understanding surrounding research design, data collection and analysis. The three-month long field-based internship was also a deeply reflective period for them as development practitioners and leaders and helped them to learn the importance of collaborative work, while seeing up-close the working of an organisation on the ground, with communities.



Sushma Ivane (student, MA-RM) conducting an activity with primary school students in Kanker, Chhattisgarh as part of her internship with Pratham. Her project evaluated Pratham's Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) interventions in improving learning amongst primary school students in Kanker.

Each student's project was rigorously evaluated through individual student presentations and a long-form detailed report that went through multiple rounds of feedback. The long evaluation process helped students to better their analytical and writing skills, understand or critique concepts better while reflecting back on their fieldwork and their relationship with their participants.

Second Batch, Strong Impact

100% Placements Reinforce Employer Confidence

The Rural Management Program reached another significant milestone with the second batch (2024-26) achieving 100% placements, as all students secured positions with some of India's most respected grassroots development organisations. Building on the success of the inaugural batch, the placement season reflected the growing recognition of the Program's distinctive approach to nurturing development professionals who combine academic rigor with deep field immersion and an unwavering commitment to rural transformation.

The placement process was intentionally rigorous, with students undergoing written assessments, thematic group discussions, and multiple rounds of interviews. Recruiters consistently highlighted that what distinguished SNU Rural Management graduates was not merely their technical competence, but their resilience, lived understanding of rural realities, and clarity of purpose. Several organisations extended their interview process to spend more time interacting with candidates, while others acknowledged the exceptional quality of the cohort and strengthened their engagement with the Program.

"We were truly impressed by the students' strong motivation and willingness to engage with rural communities, even when the challenges and complexities of field realities were clearly articulated to them. Their openness and commitment to such demanding contexts stood out to us."

- Sandipa Emanuel, Head-HR, Development Support Centre

"Our prior placement experiences across institutions have rarely revealed the depth of lived experiences and grounded insights that were so clearly reflected in your students' applications. It was this distinct quality that prompted us to extend our engagement beyond scheduled timelines, allowing for more in-depth interviews with each student applicant, as well as interacting with the current batch."

- Chetan Jha, Head-Operations, Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)

"Your student selection process is truly commendable; the quality of students, especially their depth, resilience, and clarity of purpose, stand out. It is evident that the RM admissions process is both thoughtful and rigorous."

- Dr. Sanket Thakur, SHAPE Foundation

SHAPE Foundation emerged as the largest recruiter, hiring 13 graduates, followed by Development Support Centre and Samaj Pragati Sahayog (6 each), Gram Vikas (4), Aga Khan Rural Support Program and Foundation for Ecological Security (3 each), alongside Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation, BAIF Development Research Foundation, Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan, SRIJAN, Kala Mandir, Vishakha, and ACT. These organisations are at the forefront of work in natural resource management, livelihoods, climate resilience, rural governance, women's empowerment, and

institution building, offering graduates opportunities to contribute directly to transformative change in India's rural landscapes.

For many students, these appointments are not simply jobs but the beginning of a long-term journey in public service and social transformation. Several consciously chose organisations known for intensive grassroots engagement, recognising that early-career immersion in challenging field contexts offers unparalleled opportunities for learning, leadership, and professional growth.

With two consecutive batches achieving 100% placements, the Rural Management Program has established itself as a trusted source of committed, field-ready development professionals. The confidence reposed by leading employers is a testament not only to the quality of our graduates but also to the Program's enduring vision of preparing a new generation of rural leaders who are equipped to work alongside communities and strengthen institutions that advance equitable and sustainable development in rural areas.

‘49 stronger!’ MA-RM program selects its fourth batch: Batch 2026-28

Through a rigorous selection process involving application screening, reading and writing test, group discussions and personal interviews that spanned over 4 days (26 to 29 May 2026), the MA-RM Program selected its fourth batch of students. Besides the in-house faculty, the selection committee also included reputed experts from the development sector and academics who are also part of the Program’s Advisory group.

The Batch 2026-28 comprising of 49 students is extremely diverse with students belonging to a total of 12 states of India. 31 of the total students are women and a majority of the class belong to Adivasi communities. For the first time, the Program has students from Gujarat. The batch, once again, is a dynamic one with students coming from diverse contexts, disciplines, skills, work and life experiences. The one thing that binds them all is their passion and commitment to leading the narrative of transformation in rural India.

We are eager to begin another journey of co-learning, co-creating and unlearning with another dedicated batch of the Program.

Faculty Highlights

Dr. Mihir Shah Delivers Valedictory Address at Maharashtra Rural Livelihoods Summit 2026

Dr. Mihir Shah was invited as the Chief Guest for the Valedictory Session of the Maharashtra Rural Livelihoods Summit 2026, organised by Action for Agricultural Renewal in Maharashtra (AFARM) at YASHADA, Pune, on 29 January 2026.

In his address, Dr. Shah reflected on the interconnected challenges of rural livelihoods in the context of climate change, water governance, agriculture, and social inclusion.

Emphasising the need to address these as "wicked problems," he advocated for multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder, and community-centred approaches, highlighting participatory resource governance, region-specific strategies, and the principle of subsidiarity as essential for building climate-resilient and inclusive rural futures.

The organisers expressed their deep appreciation for Dr. Shah's thought-provoking keynote, noting that his insights provided both intellectual depth and practical direction to the Summit's deliberations. AFARM has also indicated that the ideas shared during his address will inform the Summit Proceedings and Outcomes Report and expressed its commitment to continued collaboration on the agenda for sustainable rural livelihoods.



Dr. Mihir Shah Participates in National Conclave on Natural Farming

Dr. Mihir Shah was invited by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, to participate as a Resource Person and Panelist at the National Conclave on Natural Farming: Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship Development through Regenerative Agriculture, held from 21-24 January 2026 in Bengaluru. The invitation recognised his role as Chairperson of the National Coalition for Natural Farming (NCNF) and his contributions to advancing community-led agroecological initiatives.

Dr. Shah was a distinguished panelist in the inaugural technical session on "National Policy Pathways for Regenerative Agriculture (Natural & Organic Farming) and Rural Economic Transformation through Green Entrepreneurship and Trade." Sharing the platform with leading policymakers and experts from NITI Aayog, ICAR, NABARD, APEDA, and the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, he contributed to discussions on scaling regenerative agriculture, strengthening rural livelihoods, and shaping policy pathways for sustainable agricultural transformation in India. The conclave, convened by the Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with GIZ India and other national partners, aimed to develop a shared national vision for natural farming and promote climate-resilient, community-led agricultural systems.

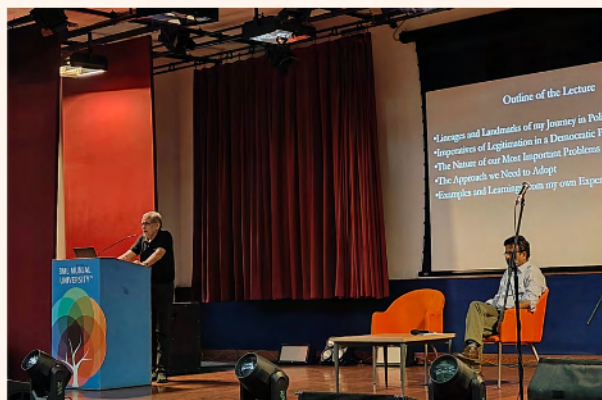
Dr. Mihir Shah Delivers Keynote at BML Munjal University Policy Conclave 2026

Dr. Mihir Shah delivered the keynote lecture at the Policy Conclave 2026 organised by the Centre for Public Policy & Governance, School of Liberal Studies, BML Munjal University, on 17 April 2026.

His keynote, titled "Public Policy in Practice: Navigating the Real World," addressed the challenges of translating public policy into effective action, drawing on his extensive experience in governance and policymaking.

The conclave brought together students, scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to deliberate on contemporary public policy issues under the theme "Rethinking Policy for the Public."

The event also featured a Policy Assembly on democratic policymaking and a PolicyJam competition, providing participants with opportunities to engage in collaborative policy design and public communication. Dr. Shah's keynote set the tone for the day's discussions by emphasising the importance of evidence-based, participatory, and practice-oriented approaches to public policy.



Dr. Mihir Shah Invited to Address IAS Probationers at LBSNAA



Dr. Mihir Shah was invited by the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie, to deliver a special session for the 2025 Batch of IAS Officer Trainees during their Phase-I Professional Course in February 2026.

The Academy invited Dr. Shah to interact with IAS probationers in recognition of his distinguished expertise in water resources management, rural development, sustainable governance, and inclusive policymaking. The session was designed to provide young civil servants with practical insights into the challenges of public administration and policy implementation as they prepare to assume leadership roles in government.

The invitation reflects the continued recognition of Dr. Shah's contributions to public policy and governance, and his role in mentoring the next generation of India's civil servants.

Dr. Himanshu Kulkarni delivers the 10th Prakash Gole Memorial lecture

Dr. Himanshu Kulkarni, Founder trustee, ACWADAM and Professor of Practice, MA-RM Program continues his dedicated work around groundwater through his public engagements. He delivered the 10th Prakash Gole Memorial lecture titled, 'Aquifers & Ecosystems: The Interconnections' on 20th December 2025 at the Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, Pune.

Dr. Himanshu Kulkarni was a special invitee at the Annual Partners Meet for the IWMI-TATA Water Partnership Program

On 4th December 2025, Dr. Kulkarni was invited for giving plenary inputs and sharing his experiences from the last two decades at the Annual Partners Meet for the IWMI-TATA Water Partnership Program.

Dr. Himanshu Kulkarni delivers a series of talks and lectures on India's groundwater and ecosystems

On 12th January 2026, Dr. Kulkarni led a presentation for the plenary of the Jayanta Bandopadhyay Endowment Lecture at the INSEE Conference IIT-Mandi on the topic *Groundwater, Society and Ecosystems – Dealing with Complex Tradeoffs*

On 18th February, 2026, he delivered the introductory lecture on *Groundwater Assessment: An Introduction To India's Groundwater*, for the staff of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, one of India's premier urban think tanks, shaping the urban narrative since its establishment in 1976.

On 23rd March 2026, he gave a Masterclass on *Groundwater as a Commons: Aquifer Based Participatory Groundwater Management in India* for the Revitalisation of Rainfed Agriculture Network (RRA-N).

On 9th June 2026 he was invited for a talk by the International Water Association on *Groundwater – The Hidden System With Lessons From India*.

10th Prakash Gole Memorial Lecture

ecological society

Aquifers & Ecosystems

The Interconnections

A reflection by

Date : 20th December, 2025

Time : 5 PM – 7 PM

Location :
Floor 5, New Administration Building, Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, BMCC Road, Pune

Dr. Himanshu Kulkarni
Scientist Emeritus and Founder Trustee ACWADAM & Professor of Practice, Rural Management, SNIoE

Other Attractions

- Documentary Screening: 'Sustainable Coastal Tourism'
- Report Release: 'Coastal Project 2.0'
- Exhibition on Intertidal Biodiversity
- Photo Display: Moths of Pune Region

RSVP on +91 82630 86142

Dr. Himanshu Kulkarni conducts IWRM training for water management professionals in Kenya

On 28th April 2026, Dr. Kulkarni conducted the **IWRM Training** by FrankWater Projects for water management professionals in Kenya with inclusion of participants from other developing regions and also from India. He took two sessions on:

1. *Aquifer Mechanics*
2. *Groundwater, Drainage Units And Recharge*

Mr. P.S. Vijayshankar presents important work on sustainable agriculture & food systems

Mr. Vijayshankar, Professor of Practice, MA-RM Program participated as a panelist in the Food Systems Dialogue that was organised at Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad from 21st to 22nd March, 2026.

On 9th April, 2026, he also participated in an event on Sustainable Agroecological Transitions in Agriculture that was organised by BML Munjal University, Delhi.

Dr. Sandali Thakur delivers key invited lectures

Dr. Sandali Thakur was invited to deliver a lecture titled, 'Imagining Authenticity, Imaging Resistance: Dalit Art & Mithila's Visual Canon' as part of the Seminar Series of the Department of Sociology on 23rd April, 2026.

Dr. Thakur delivered another Special Lecture, 'Imag(in)ing Resistance: Dalit Art in Mithila's Visual Canon,' for faculty and research scholars of English Departments of various Indian colleges and universities, organized by Interlocutor- journal team of the English department of The Bhawanipur Education Society College, Kolkata on 26 July, 2025. This was later published in the journal-

https://interlocutor.co.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2_Special-Lecture-Series-1-11_edited.pdf

The poster is for a lecture by Dr. Sandali Thakur. At the top, it says 'SHIV NADAR UNIVERSITY' and 'SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES'. Below that, 'DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY' and 'Sociology Thursday Seminar Series'. The title of the lecture is 'IMAGINING AUTHENTICITY, IMAGING RESISTANCE: DALIT ART AND MITHILA'S VISUAL CANON'. There is a photo of Dr. Sandali Thakur, a woman with glasses and a purple top. Below the photo, it says 'Speaker Dr. Sandali Thakur Associate Professor, Rural Management Program, SHSS, Shiv Nadar University'. The date and time are '23 APRIL 2026 | 12.00 PM'. At the bottom, the venue is 'VENUE: G102B-SHIV NADAR UNIVERSITY, DELHI NCR'. There is also an abstract and a speaker's bio on the poster.

Abstract: Whose art is "authentic" art? How does art acquire authenticity? What are the institutional policies, processes, practices, and discourses that contribute to the making of authentic art? The construction of authentic subjectivities: art, culture, and people: rests on the creation of the inauthentic. This talk interrogates the production of the categories of 'Mithila Art' and 'Mithila Paintings' to unravel the marginalization of Dalit visual art in Mithila. It uses Dalit visual art of Mithila as a disruptive trope that defies neat categorizations and pries open cultural hegemonies. It argues that the canonisation of Mithila art enables the postcolonial state to produce a gendered and caste-marked tradition. By constructing the visual practices of Mahuli Brahmin and Kari Kayastha women as timeless heritage, state and cultural institutions relegate Dalit iconography and stylistic innovations developed by Dalit artists in Mithila to unstable, peripheral categories. Their political significance lies not in overt rupture but in forms of negotiated resistance emerging through engagements with state welfare and bureaucracy and enabled by non-state individual and institutional patronage. How might we understand this dynamic at the intersections of two seemingly contradictory impulses: an interest in experimenting with the form, style and pictorial vocabulary of the art practice on the one hand, and efforts to preserve, promote, and patent the tradition on the other?

Following the presentation, there will be a screening of the short documentary "Umla Devi" (16 minutes). The film offers an intimate look at the intersections of Dalit identity and women's leadership, serving as a catalyst for the concluding discussion.

Speaker's Bio: Dr. Sandali Thakur is an Associate Professor in Rural Management at SNU. Her academic work is informed by two decades of engagement with anti-caste and feminist movements. A former faculty member at TISS Mumbai, Azim Premji University, and the University of Pune, she also helped establish the Women's Studies Department at Patna University. Her research explores how gender and caste are contested within cultural structures, while her policy work focuses on state interventions regarding gender-based violence.

Dr. Sandali Thakur delivers a masterclass and a session on ‘Gender and WASH’ organised by CREA

Dr. Thakur was invited by CREA as a subject expert at the Global Sanitation Graduate School (GSGS) Convening on inclusive WASH education, where she delivered a session on Gender and WASH for faculty from institutions including IIT Roorkee, BITS, TISS, and IIHS. Subsequently, CREA recorded a 30-minute Masterclass by Dr. Thakur on Gender and WASH, which will be used as a teaching resource across partner universities.

Dr. Sandali Thakur invited as panel speaker at Jan Nyay Samvaad 2026

Dr. Thakur was invited as a panel speaker at Jan Nyay Samvaad 2026. The Jan Nyay Samvaad 2026 was a Bihar State Consultation on Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection, convened by Janman People’s Foundation through its Jan Nyay Abhiyan, together with the Gender Resource Centre at Chanakya National Law University (CNLU) and UNFPA, on 27 June 2026 at CNLU, Patna. It brought together the judiciary, the police and prison administration, legal-services authorities, academics, civil society and frontline practitioners from across the State. Dr. Thakur presented on “Patterns, Risks and Early Warning Signs in Intimate Partner and Marital Violence”.

Dr. Bhargabi Das delivers key lectures at Centre for Sciences and Humaines (CSH), Delhi and ‘Doing Sociology’

On 9th February, Dr. Bhargabi Das was invited to deliver a lecture titled, ‘Writing Ethnography’ for ‘Doing Sociology’, an independent, non-profit, primarily women-led digital resource platform in India. The platform that is run by leading scholars of Sociology is one of the few digital sociological academic platforms in India that makes knowledge freely available to all.



**A SESSION ON
WRITING ETHNOGRAPHY**

Bhargabi Das

Bhargabi Das is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Rural Management, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi, India. She completed her Ph.D. in Anthropology at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth in 2023. In the past, she has been an Irish Research Council Awardee and a Hume Doctoral Scholar Awardee. Her research interests are water, environment, citizenship, infrastructure, bureaucracy, state, minority, migration, and Northeast India.

9 February 2026
7:30 pm IST

Register
here →



On 16th February, Dr. Das delivered a lecture titled, 'Erosion of Land and Citizenship: Dispossession and eviction of Muslim lives, stories from Assam's char-lands' at the Centre de Sciences and Humaines, New Delhi (CSH). The lecture was delivered as part of CSH's monthly seminar series where Prof. Anupama Roy acted as the discussant.

Dr. Bhargabi Das joins WARAA! Annual gathering in Kathmandu, forms the all-women's network – Brahmaputra Basin network of WARAA!

As part of forwarding action-based research, Dr. Das participated in an annual gathering of the Brahmaputra Basin branch of the Women and Rivers Action Alliance (WARAA!) that was brought together by International Rivers. The all

women gathering took place in Kathmandu from 27 April to 1 May 2026, bringing together activists, journalists, lawyers, development professionals and academics from and working in the transnational Brahmaputra basin. The gathering led to the formation of the Brahmaputra Basin network, an all-women's network that would actively work with communities towards preserving the river, the basin and the many communities living in it.

Dr. Bhargabi Das invited to present her paper at European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) Conference in Poznan, Poland

Dr. Das has also been invited for the biennial European Association of Social Anthropologists Conference (EASA) that is taking place at Poznan, Poland from 21 to 24 July 2026. She will be presenting her paper titled, '*Boats, fluvial char-dwelling world and a land-favoring majoritarian state: Stories of the mobile char-dwellers from the char-lands of western Assam*' as part of the conference.

CSH SEMINAR

EROSION OF LAND AND CITIZENSHIP

DISPOSSESSION AND EVICTION OF MUSLIM LIVES. STORIES FROM ASSAM'S CHAR-LANDS



Since June 2025, the majoritarian state in Assam have brutally evicted more than 4000 families, most of whom are Bengali Muslim families. So then, who are these evictees? And what is their story? This talk, based on my long-term ethnographic fieldwork, will look at this story of violence, doubt, allegations of 'illegal Bangladeshis' and continued non-belongingness through the char-lands in western Assam, India. It will examine how continuous erosion and increasingly devastating floods are directly contributing to the citizenship crisis of the Bengali Muslim char-dwellers by making them landless and forcing them to migrate to nearby grazing reserves or cities where they provide cheap labour and keep the capitalist economy running while their own socio-economic and political rights remain precarious. Through the tropes of eviction and embankment politics and politics of the majoritarian state, this talk will show how Muslim bodies are devalued. I will argue how a historically migratory community has been systematically turned landless, deskilled and made politically precarious by the majoritarian state using environmental factors wherein old histories and memories of migration of char-dwellers have been systematically destroyed to be replaced by new ones. It is in this context that the continued recent-spate of violence (particularly evictions) by the majoritarian state in Assam against migrant Bengali Muslims will be explored too.

Speaker
Bhargabi Das
Assistant Professor,
Shiv Nadar University

Discussant
Anupama Roy
Professor, Jawaharlal
Nehru University

MON, 16 FEB 2026
5 PM - 6:30 PM IST
CSH DELHI & ZOOM

communication@csd-delhi.com www.csh-delhi.com follow us:     

Dr. Venkat Ramanujam delivers several key lectures on Adivasis, Forests Rights and the environment

Given Dr. Ramanujam's expertise on Adivasis and forests of India, he was invited to deliver a lecture entitled '*Adivasi mobility and aspiration in Central India*' as part of the undergraduate course on Youth, Class, and Mobility taught by Dr. Saidalavi PC at the Department of Sociology in the University. The lecture was held on 11th February 2026. He delivered another lecture on 9th March 2026 entitled, '*Environmental and social change in colonial India*' as part of the undergraduate course, 'Social Change in South Asia' taught by Dr. Divya Kannan at the Department of History and Archaeology of the University.

Furthermore, on 3rd April, he delivered an online lecture entitled '*Intertwining biodiversity conservation with human rights: An overview of the Forest Rights Act, 2006*' as part of an undergraduate course on Conservation in India taught by Dr. Monica Kaushik at the Azim Premji University, Bengaluru.

Dr. Venkat Ramanujam invited as 'Partner' for The Habitats Trust's Partners' Meet at SNU, Chennai and serves as Sub-Jury for the Trust's roundtable in Noida

Dr. Ramanujam was invited in the capacity of a "Partner" for The Habitats Trust's Partners' Meet which was held at Shiv Nadar University, Chennai, on 7th and 8th March 2026. The Habitats Trust is

an Indian grant-making biodiversity conservation organisation that aims at conserving lesser-known species and threatened habitats in a manner that also ensures the well-being of people.

Dr. Venkat Ramanujam invited as discussant for Sagar Tewari's newly launched book.

He acted as the discussant for a talk on the book *Islands against civilisation: anthropology, nationalism, and the politics of scheduling, 1918-1950* (Orient Blackswan) by Sagar Tewari. The event was organised by the Department of History and Archaeology of the University as part of the Department's Seminar Series.

The Department of History and Archaeology invites you to a

A BOOK TALK

Islands Against Civilisation: Anthropology, Nationalism, and the Politics of Scheduling, 1918-1950 (Orient Blackswan 2025)

ABSTRACT

This book provides a history of the late-colonial discussions around the future of tribal communities in South Asia. In this debate were first, the British anthropologists and administrators, who believed that the introduction of modern electoral democracy would harm the tribal people. They wished to 'exclude' or 'partially exclude' all tribal majority areas from the powers of elected assemblies. Against them stood the Indian nationalists, who were opposed to such a policy of territorial separation, seeing it as another instrument of the British policy of divide and rule. Through the history of scheduling, this book brings to life the intellectual debates, political mobilisation, and cultural assertiveness that lay behind the creation of the category of 'Scheduled Tribes'. Showing the connections between colonial and independent India that remain alive even today, it offers us an understanding of the forces and frameworks that continue to shape the tribal situation in current times.

DATE 16th April, 2026
TIME 12:30 PM noon
VENUE G104B, Shiv Nadar IoE

SPEAKER

Sagar Tewari
Associate Professor
Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat

DISCUSSANT

Venkat Ramanujam Ramani
Assistant Professor
School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiv Nadar University

Sagar Tewari is a historian of modern India. He is an Associate Professor at the Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat. Currently, a Fellow at PMML, New Delhi, he has also held visiting fellowships from the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi and the British Academy.

Venkat Ramanujam Ramani is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Rural Management, SNU. His research examines rural transformation in indigenous/ Adivasi communities, particularly in central India. He has also been closely engaged with the recognition of forest rights of Adivasi communities in eastern Madhya Pradesh and Bastar, Chhattisgarh.

Dr. Ajmal Khan publishes several important works surrounding climate change and the environment



Dr. Khan has published some important original and review work surrounding climate change, mobility and the environment in leading academic journals. Two of his published articles are:

a) 'Staying in place: Immobility of Adivasi communities in the Coal Mining Regions of Jharkhand, India' published in the Regional Environmental Change Journal with Nikas and Archana.

b) A review article of the book "In Praise of Floods: The Untamed River and the Life It Brings" by James C. Scott in The Journal of Peasant Studies.

Dr. Khan also jointly published an op-ed article 'The hidden climate cost of everyday life in India' in the Hindu newspaper on 23rd June, 2026.

Dr. Ajmal Khan awarded Government of Canada's major collaborative research grant

He has also been awarded a major collaborative research grant from the Government of Canada's Indo-Pacific Scholarships and Fellowships for Canadians (IPSFC) program for the project on 'Climate Mitigation and Vulnerability: Understanding Indigenous Community Responses in India' with the University of Victoria, Canada.

Dr. Ajmal Khan to attend DSA, UK's annual conference at University College Dublin and spoke at University of Westminster, London



Dr. Khan has been awarded a travel grant by the Journal of Development Studies to attend the Development Studies Association UK annual conference at University College Dublin, Ireland which is taking place from July 8-10, 2026. During his time in the UK, he also spoke at the workshop "Health in the Climate Crisis: Indigenous Perspectives, Entangled Systems, and Emerging Futures" at the University of Westminster, London, UK, from 25-26 June, 2026.

Dr. Gurkirat Kaur delivers several invited lectures and presents in national and international conferences

Dr. Gurkirat Kaur's research at the intersection of food systems, nutrition, and Science and Technology Studies continued to receive recognition across a range of academic platforms during the year, leading to invited lectures, conference presentations, and scholarly engagements with national and international audiences.

She presented a paper entitled "Beyond Calories and Micronutrients: Advancing Alternative Theories of Food and Nutrition" at the international workshop Food Systems Policies and Health Inequalities: Lessons from the UK and India, jointly organised by Jawaharlal Nehru University and Royal Holloway, University of London under the Academy of Medical Sciences (UK) networking project.

She further delivered an invited webinar entitled "Rethinking Nutrition Beyond Metabolic Metrics: Agro-Pastoral Dietetics, Food Systems, and Dietary Health in India," organised by the Alumni Association of the Centre for Social Medicine and Community Health (CSMCH), Jawaharlal Nehru University. The webinar examined agro-pastoral food systems through the lens of Science and Technology Studies, foregrounding community knowledge systems while challenging reductionist understandings of nutrition based solely on metabolic and nutritional metrics.

Dr. Kaur also participated in the national conference Pastoralism in India: Changes and Continuity, organised by the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad on 8-9 May 2026, engaging with contemporary scholarship on pastoralism, agrarian change, and rural livelihoods.

Alumni Association of CSMCH, JNU, invites you to a webinar on

RETHINKING NUTRITION BEYOND METABOLIC METRICS: AGRO-PASTORAL DIETETICS, FOOD SYSTEMS, AND DIETARY HEALTH IN INDIA

19 May 2026, 6:00PM - 7:30PM

The Green Revolution reshaped India's food systems by institutionalising rice and wheat as dominant staples and redefining nutrition through measurable indicators such as calories per body and yield per hectare. Yet India continues to face a double burden of malnutrition, with persistent undernutrition alongside rising obesity and non-communicable diseases.

Drawing on historical and ethnographic research in the Thar Desert, this presentation examines the revival of millets and A2 milk through the language of "tradition," Ayurveda, and biomedicine. It argues that the Green Revolution produced not only a metabolic but also an epistemic rift, and asks whether Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) can offer alternative frameworks for rethinking nutrition from the Global South.

To Join the Webinar
Scan Here

For YouTube Live
Scan Here

Dr Gurkirat Kaur
Speaker
Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence
Dr Kaur's scholarship examines the intersections among the sociology of food, health, medicine, and agriculture through the lens of science and technology studies (STS), foregrounding epistemic pluralism and the politics of knowledge. She currently serves at the Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, where she works with MA students in Rural Management.

Prof Rajib Dasgupta
Discussant
Jawaharlal Nehru University
Dr. Rajib Dasgupta, MBBS, MPH, PhD served a decade (1993-2003) with the Epidemiology Division of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and joined JNU in 2003 where he is currently Professor at the Center of Social Medicine & Community Health, JNU.

Dr. Gurkirat Kaur develops and delivers a session as part of BIHUN Collective's workshop 'FoodStudies: An Introduction to Research Methods'

Dr. Kaur co-developed and served as a resource person for the international virtual workshop FoodStudies: An Introduction to Research Methods, organised by the BIHUN Collective. Alongside eminent scholars including Prof. Krishnendu Ray (New York University), Prof. Madhumita Sengupta (IIT Gandhinagar), Dr. Sanchita Das, and Dr. Pooja Kalita, she delivered a session on Historical Ethnography as a Research Method, introducing participants to interdisciplinary approaches for studying food systems through historical and ethnographic inquiry. The workshop brought together researchers and students from across institutions to engage in contemporary methodologies in Food Studies.

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

FOOD STUDIES: AN INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS

APRIL 4TH - 26TH 2026

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS (11:00 AM - 02:00 PM)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE 28 MARCH 2026



Pooja Kalita
Visiting Fellow,
Colombo
Institute for
Human Sciences
(CI), Sri Lanka

Krishnendu Ray
Professor
Nutrition & Food
Studies
NYU

Madhumita Sengupta
Associate
Professor,
Humanities and
Social Sciences
IIT Gandhinagar

Gurkirat Kaur
Faculty at School
of Humanities &
Social Sciences
Shiv Nadar
University

Sanchita Das
Visiting Faculty
Jadavpur
University

What do you learn?

- Research, its various methods, and their philosophical foundations
- Techniques that are most effective for studying food, and how do we utilize them

SCAN FOR MORE DETAILS



Many thanks to Piyuli Ghosh of BRLF for her labour of love in designing this newsletter.