

Department of Economics

Annual Report (Academic Year 2023-24)

Introduction

The Indian economy has emerged as the fifth-largest economy in the world. It is noteworthy and encouraging that students of Economics are receiving attractive employment packages from multinational companies, sometimes even surpassing opportunities available in the IT sector. This achievement is particularly significant during the 125th Birth Anniversary (Post-Centenary Silver Jubilee Year) of Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh.

The United Nations celebrated this year as the International Year of Millets to promote the sustainable use of water, land, and forest resources. The Government of India has also undertaken extensive awareness campaigns regarding “Shree Anna” (millets). As a tribute to Bhausaheb Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh, the Department of Economics and Shri Shivaji Education Society published a Coffee Table Book on Millets.

During the academic year 2023–24, the department organized various activities including subject orientation programs, expert lectures, exhibitions, educational visits, and research-oriented field studies. The details of these activities are as follows:

1. College and Subject Orientation Program (25 July 2023):

A welcome and orientation program was organized for newly admitted students. The program introduced students to the history, culture, values, and vision of the college. Information regarding the Arts Faculty subjects, future career opportunities, and the contributions of social reformers was also provided. The objective was to develop among students a sense of social responsibility and awareness of the institution and its academic offerings.

2. World Population Day (11 July 2023):

Recognizing the importance of population studies in understanding development, World Population Day was celebrated on 11 July 2023.

The program was presided over by Principal Dr. Omraj Deshmukh, while Prof. Shashikant Patil served as the chief speaker. Dr. Vanita Pochhi and Dr. Ganesh Malte were present. The introductory remarks were delivered by Prof. Satish Kale, the program was anchored by Dr. Sunita Kalakhe, and the vote of thanks was proposed by Prof. Pratibha Chikhale.

3. Teachers' Day Celebration (05 September 2023):

Teachers' Day was celebrated on the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

On this occasion, Principal Dr. P. S. Vayal, Approved Member of Shri Shivaji Education Society, addressed the students and explained the importance of Teachers' Day. He expressed his aspiration that the educational legacy of Shri Shivaji Education Society should reach global standards, extending even to Cambridge.

The program was chaired by Principal Dr. Meena Nikam. The introductory speech was delivered by Prof. Shrikant Talekar, the program was conducted by Ms. Suvarna Bankar, and the vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Swapnil Kale.

4. World Food Day (16 October 2023):

On the occasion of World Food Day, Dr. Mahadev Rithe addressed the students and highlighted the significant contribution of Dr. Punjabrao (Bhausaheb) Deshmukh in making India self-sufficient in food grain production through his work in the agricultural sector.

The program was chaired by Principal Dr. Meena Nikam, and Dr. Vanita Pochhi was present. The program was anchored by Dr. Sunita Kalakhe, and the vote of thanks was proposed by Prof. Shrikant Talekar.

5. District-Level Economics Aptitude Test (23 December 2023):

To commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Punjabrao (Bhausaheb) Deshmukh, the Department of Economics organized a District-Level Aptitude Test based on his life and contributions.

A total of 191 students from across the district participated in the competition. First, second, and third prizes were awarded to the winners.

The competition was organized by Dr. Sunita Kalakhe and Prof. Dilip Gavande.

6. District-Level Millet and Food Decoration Competition & Workshop (24 December 2023):

On the occasion of the International Year of Millets and the birth anniversary of Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh, a district-level millet-based food decoration competition and workshop was organized.

The event was inaugurated by Mr. Rajendrasingh Jadhav, Sub-Divisional Officer, Buldhana.

Participants competed in a Thali Decoration Competition, and first, second, and third prizes were awarded. The workshop was presided over by Principal Dr. Meena Nikam. Other dignitaries present included Dr. Vanita Pochhi, Dr. Ganesh Malte, and Dr. Imtiaz Jukkalkar.

The program was anchored by Dr. Sunita Kalakhe, and the vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Minal Deshmukh.

7. Financial Literacy Workshop (01 February 2024):

A Financial Literacy Workshop was organized under the chairmanship of Principal Dr. Meena Nikam. The chief speaker, Ms. Apeksha Bhand, Manager of Canara Bank, provided students with information regarding routine banking operations and financial management principles. The second speaker, Mr. Tushar Patil, also guided students on financial awareness and management.

The introductory speech was delivered by Prof. Satish Kale, the program was anchored by Prof. Shashikant Patil, and the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Sunita Kalakhe.

8. Cultural Festival and Self-Help Group District Sales Market (21 February 2024):

As part of the Maha Sanskriti Mahotsav organized by the Department of Culture, Government of Maharashtra, a district-level sales exhibition of products manufactured by women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) was held at the Sports Complex, Chikhli from 1 February to 3 February 2024.

Students of the Department of Economics visited the exhibition to study the functioning of Self-Help Groups and their economic activities.

Principal Dr. Meena Nikam, Dr. Sunita Kalakhe, and Prof. Minal Deshmukh participated in the visit along with the students.

9. Research Project:

A research project titled "Economic Development of Women through Self-Help Groups" was undertaken.

With the assistance of 31 students, a survey was conducted involving 180 women from 25 major Self-Help Groups in Buldhana District. The functioning and impact of these groups were studied, and a research project report was prepared based on the findings.

10. Participation in State-Level Elocution Competition (21 October 2023):

A State-Level Elocution Competition was organized at Jijamata College, Buldhana on the occasion of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Education Maharshi Dr. Punjabrao (Bhausahab) Deshmukh.

Ms. Komal Bhagat and Mr. Vishal Ingale represented the Department of Economics and participated in the competition.

11. Achievement in University Merit List:

Ms. Nikita Prahlad Gade secured 7th Rank in the Merit List of the Faculty of Arts published by Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, bringing honour to the institution.

Conclusion

The Department of Economics successfully organized various academic, research, extension, and awareness activities during the academic year 2023–24. These programs enhanced students' knowledge of economics, financial literacy, social responsibility, research methodology, and community engagement. The department remains committed to providing quality education and fostering holistic development among students.

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