PLAKSHA UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT

PART 1

2024-25

ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

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Plaksha is the name of a ficus tree, which grows in India. Indian scriptures state that the River Saraswati, synonymous with learning, originated from a 'world-tree' called Plaksha, which grew at the foothills of the Sivaliks.

The name 'Plaksha' therefore reflects the idea of the university as a tree, from which a river of learning flows endlessly, constantly renewing itself and nurturing everything that it touches.

FROM THE DESK OF THE
CHAIR OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
(on behalf of all Founders)

The world is poised for a change, brought on by many factors. I will touch upon two. The shift away from the rules-based system and technology's relentless march forward with deep tech moving from promise to practice and artificial intelligence permeating every sector imaginable.

India too, stands at an inflection point. It doesn't just respond to global developments, it is now positioned to shape them. Against this backdrop, Plaksha is committed to being an active participant in India's transformation – not merely preparing students for a rapidly evolving world but equipping them to build the world as it should be.

Our young graduates – the founding cohort, the pioneers who took a leap of faith four years ago – stand as a testament that interdisciplinary education, when combined with an entrepreneurial mindset and exposure to real-world challenges, produces leaders capable of navigating complexity with both humanistic values and technical depth. Their experience and success in the real world underscores that India needs institutions that can move with the velocity of technological change while remaining anchored in rigorous academic excellence.

At Plaksha, we recognize that building a world-class university is not a destination but a continuous journey of improvement and adaptation. A powerful parallel was shared by Dr V Narayanan, Chairman of ISRO, the chief guest at our first convocation in August 2025. The journey from the Wright brothers' first flight at Kitty Hawk to humanity's landing on the moon in 1969 took about 65 years. Progress accelerated through persistence and institutional courage. It has been 55 years since ISRO started its journey as a fledgling organization and has now grown into one of the world's most innovative space programmes – still evolving yet marked by remarkable firsts.

The journey ahead for Plaksha is ambitious, but so too is our vision. We are evolving as a living laboratory for educational innovation. Our research centers are gaining momentum, our collaborations with global institutions are deepening, and our commitment to executional excellence remains unwavering.

We will continue striving to serve as an exemplar for academic institutions globally, setting new benchmarks for intellectual leadership and shaping the technology narrative for generations to come.

Neeraj Aggarwal

Plaksha is a young institution built on the conviction that higher education and pedagogy must be reimagined in the 21st century. From the outset, this vision involved experimenting with new models of learning that integrate design, entrepreneurship, leadership and emerging technologies to address real-world challenges.

This iterative and responsive approach, rooted in continuous experimentation, feedback and refinement of curriculum and pedagogy, challenged the traditional linear, waterfall model of education and continues to shape how we teach, learn, and evolve.

We live in a time of accelerating scientific invention and innovation. Artificial intelligence and machine learning are changing how societies function and how services are delivered. Advances in genetic engineering are reshaping agriculture, biotechnology and healthcare, while digital technologies are redefining how we access information and knowledge. Together, these shifts mark a profound transformation in the way the world works.

India is well positioned to play a defining role in this phase of global growth, where intelligence is increasingly integrated into the physical world. Designing systems that are certifiable, understandable and secure will be critical, particularly in sectors such as manufacturing, healthcare and agri-bio technologies that remain underexposed to the full potential of AI.

The opportunities this moment presents are truly monumental. At Plaksha, we have pivoted quickly to engage with these advancements. The Binny Bansal Institute for Inventing the Future and the Harish and Bina Shah School of AI & Computer Science place emerging technologies, particularly AI, at the heart of our academic and research agenda, ensuring that students and alumni remain connected to the leading advances shaping the future.

This is a time of incredible promise, as well as intense societal complexity. When future-ready engineers from Plaksha approach these challenges with a steady moral compass, a sense of compassion, and technical rigor, they will not only invent the future but also serve society and the world.

Prof S Shankar Sastry

FROM THE DESK OF THE
FOUNDING
CHANCELLOR

When the idea of Plaksha was first articulated, it was grounded in the conviction that India needed a different kind of institution – one that teaches technology while shaping leaders who understand complexity and apply knowledge to real-world problems. That conviction has guided how Plaksha has been imagined and built from the outset – an academic approach that breaks traditional disciplinary boundaries, is embedded in interdisciplinarity and research that aim to solve real-world challenges

The year 2025 is a defining milestone for Plaksha – graduation of the first undergraduate cohort. These believers are now pursuing advanced studies, have joined leading companies, and embarked on entrepreneurial journeys. They step out into the world as compassionate and empathetic world citizens.

Our commitment to research in frontier technologies is reflected in the setting up of Harish and Bina Shah School of AI & Computer Science, the Binny Bansal Institute for Inventing the Future, and the Axis Bank FutureTech Building. Anchored by partnerships with University of Pennsylvania and UC Berkeley, these initiatives place artificial intelligence at the heart of our academic and research agenda.

These academic and research efforts are complemented by a vibrant campus culture defined by curiosity, dialogue and entrepreneurship. Students debate ideas, work alongside global researchers, and learn through building, experimentation and iteration. As you explore this report, you will see a university that is young but determined, experimental yet deeply rooted in purpose.

Looking ahead, Plaksha will continue to strengthen its research capability while nurturing a student ecosystem where learning is shaped as much by real-world contexts as by the classroom.

We invite you to be a part of this journey.

Prof Rudra Pratap

FROM THE DESK OF THE
FOUNDING
VICE CHANCELLOR

ABOUT
PLAKSHA UNIVERSITY

Plaksha is founded by more than 130 tech entrepreneurs, business leaders and corporates across the globe to reimagine technology education and research for India and the world. The idea germinated in 2015 in a conversation among a few friends about how and why technology education needs to change and rest, as they say, is history. This group, most of them entrepreneurs and business leaders, decided to transform the landscape of engineering and technology education.

To convert the idea into reality, Reimagining Higher Education Foundation (RHEF), a Section 8 not-for-profit company, was established in 2017 and it is the sponsoring body of Plaksha University. In 2018 the location – Mohali – was finalized and in February 2019, the groundbreaking took place. The 50-acre campus opened in November 2021 and undergraduate classes commenced.

Plaksha collapses the traditional boundaries of engineering and promotes interdisciplinary learning by combining technology, design thinking and entrepreneurship. The university has forged strong partnerships with UC Berkeley SCET, Cornell University, Purdue University, Penn Engineering, UC San Diego and IISc Bengaluru, among others, to cultivate an ecosystem of research and innovation.

MISSION

To create ethical problem solvers and fearless leaders who transform the world through advances in science and technology.

To be an institution of choice for exceptional students and faculty for its environment of interdisciplinary academic pursuits and cutting-edge research within a framework of humanistic values.

3 PILLARS
underpin the mission

Reimagining technology education

Plaksha brings together an interdisciplinary technology education that integrates social sciences, design, communication and ethical leadership. Experiential learning and self-reflection prepare students to build humane and empathetic solutions through technology.

Interdisciplinary engineering curriculum
- Dismantles the walls between engineering disciplines
- Enables students to connect the dots

Hands on pedagogy, blended learning
- Learn by creating
- Flipped classrooms, online tools
- Industry projects, experiential learning

Integrating the social sciences and design
- Social science and design courses across curriculum
- Humane and empathetic outcomes through technology

Self and leadership
- Personal awareness and leadership
- Communication, critical thinking, creativity and collaboration

PILLAR 02

Enabling a research innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem

Plaksha envisions to foster industry innovation and research through applied research centers, building an entrepreneurial mindset, mentoring startups, having more practitioner faculty, and resource mobility with industry and government.

PILLAR 03

Addressing grand challenges in India and the world

Plaksha envisions developing a technology education that focuses on addressing the grand challenges in areas such as digital agriculture, clean energy, mobility, cyber security, etc. Plaksha has also established cutting-edge centers inspired by UN SDGs, that conduct applied research to study these grand challenges.

VALUES

Every student, faculty and executive at Plaksha embodies the key values of Curious, Rigorous, Enterprising, Authentic, Thankful and Exemplary.

These are called **CREATE.**

CURIOUS

Be open to explore, to be in awe of the world and its possibilities, to go where no person has gone before.

RIGOROUS

Be complete, consistent and thorough in plans and action, leaving no stone unturned.

ENTERPRISING

Be creative, agile and inventive in thought and action, without being constrained by circumstances.

AUTHENTIC

Be true to oneself, colleagues and organization, in ways that are enterprising.

THANKFUL

Be appreciative and seek out opportunities to acknowledge the good around us, and positively deal with situations of discomfort.

EXEMPLARY

Embody all the values of being Curious, Rigorous, Enterprising, Authentic and Thankful, and be a role model in one or more.

Student body

637
BTech

459
HSP

28
PhD

330+
Alumni

50
Acre campus

8
Lakh square feet built up area

Programs

1. High School
2. Undergraduate
3. Doctoral

4 **Research Centers**

9 **Spaces and Labs**
for tinkering, experiential learning, research and innovation

Financial aid & scholarships

69%
BTech students on **financial aid and scholarships***

29%
BTech students on **full tuition waiver***

₹69.5 CR
disbursed in financial aid**

*Across all BTech cohorts   **Cumulative across all programs

18+
Partnerships inked and deepened with academic institutions

61
Faculty

50
Full-time

11
Visiting

₹1500+ CR
Commitment raised

100+
Founders

30+
Corporate Donors

3
Continents

ACADEMIC
PROGRAMS

FROM THE DESK OF DEAN ACADEMICS

The Fourth Industrial Revolution, driven by the rapid advancement of technologies such as IoT, AI, robotics, and data science, continues to reshape our societies, industries, and economies in unprecedented ways. The workforce of the 21st century is evolving rapidly – skills that were once central are now becoming obsolete, while entirely new roles are emerging at remarkable speed.

While global technological innovation has accelerated over the past decades, higher education systems have not always kept pace with these shifts. Industry bodies, including NASSCOM, have consistently highlighted the employability gaps in engineering education across India and urged institutions to act on the recommendations outlined in the National Education Policy.

At Plaksha, we embrace this challenge with a deep sense of purpose. We are committed to reimagining technology education and preparing the next generation of tech leaders who can navigate complexity, innovate responsibly, and solve the pressing global challenges of our time. As a young and forward-looking institution, we have the opportunity – and the responsibility – to define what it means to be a future-ready engineer. This includes identifying the competencies, knowledge systems, and mindsets necessary for lifelong adaptability in a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

Plaksha's Freshmore, an innovative three-semester transdisciplinary curriculum, remains at the heart of our undergraduate program. It builds rigorous foundations in mathematics, computing, and data science, complemented by courses that bridge disciplines and broaden perspectives. Courses like Nature's Machines explore the engineering principles embedded in biological systems, while Foundations of the Physical World covers topics ranging from mechanics and thermodynamics to quantum theory. Students also engage deeply with economics, design, innovation, communication, and the humanities. Every element of the Freshmore curriculum is crafted to nurture curiosity, creativity, analytical thinking, and a research-driven mindset.

Plaksha will be launching a new master's in AI program in the upcoming academic year, aimed at developing advanced talent in cutting-edge domains and strengthening our ecosystem of research, innovation, and industry collaboration. These programs will build on our strong undergraduate foundation and reflect our commitment to shaping leaders who can engineer solutions with global impact.

Even as a young institution, we remain confident in the transformative nature of our programs – both undergraduate and graduate. They reflect Plaksha's bold vision, our commitment to excellence, and our belief that education must continuously evolve to meet the needs of the world. Our students' achievements and their inspiring journeys continue to be our greatest source of motivation.

Together, we look forward to another year of learning, innovation and progress.

Prof Srikant Srinivasan

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

The undergraduate program at Plaksha builds on three key elements:

1. Rigorous and relevant curriculum
2. Transformative and student-centric pedagogy
3. Empowering and aspirational entrepreneurship ecosystem

1 Rigorous and relevant curriculum

Mathematics, computing and data, the core of emerging technologies such as AI, integrated sensing and communication, built on an underlying understanding of physical, mechanical and biological systems, form the digital, deep tech foundation of Plaksha's undergraduate program. The traditional sequence of mathematics courses that are ubiquitous in most engineering institutions have been replaced with courses in differential equations, linear algebra, probability and optimization that blend theory with computations. While programming is part of the curriculum, the computing and data science courses foster computational and algorithmic thinking, and data acumen.

Recognizing the nexus between technology and society, elements of design thinking, social sciences and the humanities are integrated into the technology courses. The curriculum is designed to be transdisciplinary, allowing students opportunities to apply concepts and skills from a number of disciplines to solve complex, unstructured problems.

FRESHMORE

Plaksha's Freshmore is a three-semester, innovative and transdisciplinary coursework, that is compulsory for all students. It begins with a rigorous foundation in mathematics, computing and data science and goes to subjects like Nature's Machines that provides a unique window into the relationship between engineering and biological systems. Other subjects include Foundations of the Physical World, Economics, Design and Innovation and Communication. The Freshmore curriculum and pedagogy are designed to encourage curiosity and creativity and instill a research and innovation mindset among students.

MAJORS

Plaksha offers **4 interdisciplinary BTech majors**

Biological Systems Engineering

Biological Systems Engineering (BSE) major equips students with a robust foundation in both biological sciences and engineering principles. The BSE curriculum gives a deep understanding of the fundamental principles underlying biological systems, from genetics and molecular biology to cellular processes and organismal interactions. This biological knowledge is integrated with technological and engineering advancements, such as AI-driven approaches, microfluidics, and sensing technologies. The major inspires students to harness the capabilities of modern bioengineering and drive forward the creation of innovative technologies. Students are trained with the skills to design and construct bioengineering solutions that integrate biological components at scales ranging from nano to macro, with applications in healthcare and biotech. BSE also emphasizes real-world learning through the development of advanced experimental skills, hands-on student projects, and internships. By focusing on innovation, BSE prepares undergraduates to master techniques for understanding and manipulating biological functions. These experiences enable them to apply their skills in practical settings and contribute to cutting-edge research and development in bioengineering.

Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence

Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence (CSAI) introduces the design of algorithms, systems and machines with powerful computational, sensory, cognitive and inferential abilities to address challenges at the interface of human and artificial intelligence. The CSAI core has matured into a well-rounded major combining traditional computer science and artificial intelligence. The curriculum includes a set of courses that lay the foundations of computational thinking, the data structures needed for programming, design and analysis of algorithms, systems programming and networks. On the AI front, students start from classical algorithms for symbolic search and reasoning and gently ease into contemporary areas of machine learning, computer vision, game theory, deep learning and reinforcement learning. Besides these courses, based on their interests, the students can also choose from a list of electives such as Scalable LLMs, Geospatial Data Science, and Computational Social Science. These courses ensure that students are equally equipped to embark upon a career in industry, research or entrepreneurship.

Data Science, Economics & Business

The Data Science, Economics & Business (DSEB) major combines theoretical foundations of data science with tools from economics and finance to create data-driven tech solutions for business, policy and society. Students develop expertise in the theoretical and methodological foundations for data science and economics. The curriculum combines new knowledge from data science and economics to advance frontiers of business, policy and academic research. Students gain an understanding of the complementarities of economics and data science and apply interdisciplinary approaches for business and policy. DSEB trains students to formulate new data-driven solutions using economic theory and data science that address real-world problems for social good applying principles of responsible data science, environmental, health, development and personnel economics

Robotics & Autonomous Systems

Solutions to grand challenges increasingly require reaching across the boundaries of the cyber, physical and human worlds. Robotics & Autonomous Systems (RAS) major has been designed to target the growing and unmet needs at the intersection of computing, mechatronics and artificial intelligence. It enables students to design intelligent engineering systems that interact with humans and the environment. The curriculum equips students with a strong technical foundation and hands-on experience across robotics, control systems, IoT, computer science, and AI, integrating practical knowledge from multiple disciplines. Innovation and critical thinking are fostered through cutting-edge research collaborations with industry and research institutions, focusing on designing and testing robotic and autonomous systems. Students also develop ethical awareness and societal responsibility in technology, preparing them for careers with a deep understanding of automation's impacts on safety, privacy and the environment. The RAS major seeks to nurture interdisciplinary creativity and leadership skills to cultivate world-class tech leaders capable of addressing real-world challenges with ethical considerations.

BTech in numbers

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028	Class of 2029
83	94	131	182	230
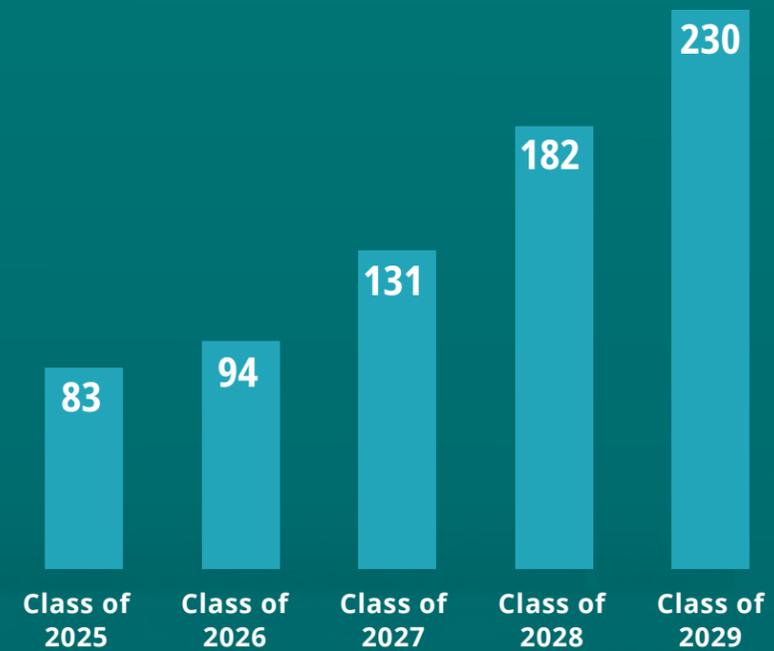
MINORS

Minors give future engineers a chance to shape their journey by allowing them to explore a second field without switching streams, connect ideas across disciplines, and train to solve complex challenges from multiple vantage points.

Students may select a maximum of one minor in addition to their major. All minors run across multiple semesters, usually from semester 4 to semester 7.

Six minors are offered at Plaksha

- Minor in **Artificial Intelligence** with rigorous training in machine learning, deep learning and pattern recognition, complemented by NLP, knowledge representation, search and ML systems. The minor emphasizes building, deploying and scaling intelligent models, working with complex and multimodal data, and designing AI solutions for real-world, dynamic environments.

- **Computational Systems Biology** is advancing toward AI-enabled integration of multi-omics and clinical data to build predictive models and biological 'digital twins,' reshaping precision medicine and data-driven healthcare. The Minor has been created to meet this shift- guiding students from molecular foundations through computational analysis, quantitative modeling, network reasoning and translational application, enabling a seamless progression from fundamental biology to systems-level problem solving.

- Minor in **Computer Science** provides a strong theoretical and systems-oriented foundation. The coursework covers algorithms, computation and discrete mathematics, alongside operating systems, networks, databases, security and cloud infrastructure, equipping students with the analytical and practical skills required to design, analyze and build robust computing systems.

- The **Economics** Minor invites students to explore how markets, policies and incentives impact the world around us. To earn the minor, students complete at least 16 credits in Economics courses from Semester 4 onwards, including at least one core pillar such as Econometrics, Macroeconomics, or Microeconomics. The pathway opens into a rich menu of DSEB electives. Together, the curriculum blends theory, data, and real-world policy questions, shaping students who can think deeply, measure carefully and design effectively.

- The Minor in **Robotics** offers two pathways - a course-based track with a curated basket of RAS courses that builds rigorous foundations in kinematics, control, perception, motion planning, embedded systems, and learning-based autonomy; and a project-driven track where students apply these foundations through multi-semester builds from ideation to integrated deployment. Together, the minor combines analytical depth with hands-on system integration, preparing students for research, graduate study, and careers in robotics, automation, and AI-enabled systems.

- The Minor in **Tech Entrepreneurship** is an interdisciplinary minor built to shape the mindset, skills and experience needed to thrive as an entrepreneur in a rapidly evolving world. Open to all majors, this minor is grounded in experiential learning. It combines academic rigor with hands-on venture development, empowering students to move from identifying meaningful problems to building and scaling impactful solutions.

2 Transformative and student-centric pedagogy

Fostering curiosity, creativity and instilling the joy of learning requires a student-centric approach to teaching and assessment. Experiential learning that builds on the transdisciplinary, integrated curriculum is enabled through real-life group projects, the integration of research in teaching, and peer-learning. Learning assessments are also designed to move students away from rote learning and memorization to more active learning strategies.

CENTER FOR THINKING, LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

The focus of the Center for Thinking, Language and Communication (CTLC), is on transforming how engineers express themselves, helping them pair technical knowledge with clarity, confidence and impact. Communication is not viewed as a peripheral skill, but as a central part of technical education.

For undergraduate students the Center conducts academic courses and sessions. Last year over 400 personalized group-tutorials along with a course on Foundations in English Language for selected first-year students and the elective course Science Communication for Public Audiences for a few final-year students were conducted. The Center also taught two courses on Research Design and Research Publishing for PhD scholars. In a step towards evidence-based skill development, a Diagnostic for Communication Competency Review, designed in collaboration with PLaCE, Purdue University, was conducted for 230 students of the BTech Class of 2029.

75 science communication articles by students were published in mainstream print media. Over 100 digital science communication pieces and as many as 23 research papers were accepted at prestigious conferences such as FIE, ASEE, AIED and THEC involving 44 undergraduate student co-authors.

The CTLC also extended its impact through collaborations and communication training for 528 students of Kotak Kanya Foundation, 100 students of Nabha Power (L&T), and 60 students of Full Circle, an NGO based in Punjab.

These efforts shape engineers who are not only technically adept but also capable of leading conversations, influencing communities, and creating meaningful change through the power of communication.

MAKERSPACE

The Makerspace continues to be a cornerstone of the university's commitment to transformative and student-centric pedagogy, fostering an environment where students learn through experimentation, creativity and hands-on problem-solving. With access to tools, technologies and expert mentoring, students routinely translate abstract ideas into functional prototypes and gain confidence as creators and innovators.

Throughout the year, the Makerspace strengthened experiential learning in key academic courses such as Design & Innovation, Elements of Design, and ILGC, enabling students to build, test, iterate and reflect – an essential cycle of engineering and design education. Guided sessions, open lab hours and prototyping support helped embed practical learning deeply into the academic ecosystem.

The Makerspace also advanced socially responsible pedagogy by conducting teacher training sessions and hosting STEM activity sessions for students from underserved schools, offering hands-on exposure that builds curiosity and confidence among young learners while instilling empathy and social awareness among Plaksha students.

INNOVATION LAB AND GRAND CHALLENGES STUDIO

The Innovation Lab and Grand Challenges (ILGC) Studio is Plaksha's flagship course designed to allow students to understand societal challenges and recognize the critical role technology can play in developing innovative solutions. ILGC provides an integrated, project-based curriculum consisting of two three-semester cycles. The first semester of the first cycle focuses on experiencing societal challenges that link to global sustainable development goals. Students go on fieldtrips to understand the diversity and complexity of the challenges faced by the communities around them. In the second semester, they work collaboratively in teams with a focus question to make participatory and non-participatory observations and take open-ended interviews. Through this process, the students learn to gather primary data effectively and utilize tools such as empathy maps, personas and observational maps to chart their experience and comprehend challenges that are faced by society. In the third semester, students brainstorm possible solutions and evaluate their social and financial value propositions. During the second cycle, students have the option of working in teams with Plaksha's four research centers, external agencies, or with faculty. Students may also choose to work on entrepreneurial ventures or design projects.

Students have undertaken projects such as

Teachbox - Plaksha alumni Suhani Shrivastav, Nikita Thomas and Malhar Arora, along with faculty at Plaksha, Dr Rucha Joshi and Dr Ankur Nahar, presented their ILGC project TeachBox through a research paper titled '*AI at the Chalkface: A Multi-Agent RAG Assistant for Active Learning in STEM*' at the 11th International Conference on Pattern Recognition and Machine Intelligence (PReMI), organized by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi in collaboration with Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata. Building on this work, Dr Shashank Tamaskar and Dr Joshi extended TeachBox into a dedicated AI-powered chatbot for engineering educators: https://teachbox-rag.onrender.com/

Nautilus One – Abhinav Lodha, Anshuman Sharma, Nikhil Henry and Subham Jalan from BTech Class of 2026 developed a low-cost, intelligent autonomous underwater vehicle which focuses on affordability and intelligence.

LARS – Ananya Shukla, Jia Bhargava, Tanay Srinivasa and Tanmay Nanda from BTech Class of 2026 built the Low Altitude Remote Sensing (LARS) UAV for crop health monitoring. It is an intelligent autonomous ecosystem that can detect stress zones, identify early symptoms of diseases and estimate yield and crop health in a few seconds.

Hydrovisionaries – Amog Rao, Arman Ghosh, Liza Wahi and Pranjal Rastogi from BTech Class of 2026 assessed water bodies from satellite images addressing the challenge of verifying water restoration claims, in areas such as cloudy or forested regions, where traditional tools fail.

3 Empowering and aspirational entrepreneurship ecosystem

Creating an entrepreneurial mindset and nurturing a culture of research and innovation are core tenets of Plaksha's vision. The enabling ecosystem provides students access to a global network of mentors and thought leaders, including Plaksha founders.

HARISH AND BINA SHAH SCHOOL OF AI & COMPUTER SCIENCE

The School of AI & Computer Science offers cutting-edge and novel academic courses as well as specialized AI minors and electives in partnership with Penn Engineering. This is a first-of-its-kind school, realized through the support of the Harish and Bina Shah Foundation, to harness the potential of AI in academic excellence and achieve breakthroughs. It is being built to

- ◉ Nurture the next generation of AI leaders, by education in AI core competencies.
- ◉ Drive interdisciplinary AI research excellence in diverse fields such as transportation, computation and telecom, business, health care, and other core infrastructure.
- ◉ Advance social, ethics and equity underpinnings of AI, with special attention to privacy, security and the ethical development of Human AI systems.

Harish Shah and Amira Shah Chhabra at the launch event in Mumbai of the Harish and Bina Shah School of AI & Computer Science, Plaksha University.

DOCTORAL PROGRAM

Plaksha's doctoral program has established itself as a distinctive and impactful platform for advanced research and innovation. With 28 research scholars (as of Sept 2025), the program is dedicated to nurturing the next generation of research leaders.

The program has continued to strengthen a vibrant ecosystem that blends deep domain expertise, rigorous research training and essential professional skills – empowering scholars to tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges. The Plaksha Doctoral Program scholars made significant strides in research, publication and international engagement, solidifying the university's reputation as a leading research university.

This vibrant research community is supported by a robust and expanding fellowship model, ensuring scholars can focus on their groundbreaking work.

▶▶ Highlights & impact

Pioneering research with global recognition

PhD scholars published research in high-impact international journals, contributing to fields from AI and agriculture to healthcare and sustainability. Some of their notable publications are

- **Rajiv Ranjan** published in IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters (IF: 4.4) on unsupervised crop mapping.

- **Akshita Thakur** published two papers, including one in Discover Nano (IF: 5.5), on advanced antimicrobial therapies.

- **Priya Bansal** published on the risks of CRISPR gene-edited crops, influencing a critical global dialogue.

Leadership on the international stage

Scholars presented their work at 15+ premier international conferences, including IEEE IGARSS (Greece), NeurIPS (Canada) and IWA (Netherlands), positioning Plaksha at the forefront of global research discussions.

Expanding global research footprint

As part of the international fellowship experience, 5 scholars conducted research at top global institutions

- Purdue University, USA (Rajiv Ranjan)
- Imperial College London, UK (Sarvnipun Kaur)
- University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany (Neelam Sarmah)
- Erasmus University, Netherlands (Sruthi VS)
- Goethe Institute, Germany (Sandeep Kumar)

Robust and growing fellowship support

To attract the best and brightest minds, Plaksha offers significant financial support. There are 21 Plaksha-funded scholars and 4 externally funded researchers ensuring a diverse and vibrant research community. This year, 5 new PhD fellowships (₹80,000+/month) were added under the Harish and Bina Shah School of AI & Computer Science.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Plaksha offers transformative learning experiences for high schoolers (classes 9-12) who are curious, ambitious and eager to engage with the world of technology, data and innovation. The aim of this program is to ignite imagination and challenge intellect in high school students.

Two tracks were offered during the period.

Young Technology Scholars

A two-week immersive summer track nurturing tinkerers, makers and problem solvers, gave students the opportunity to

- Learn advanced technologies like AI, robotics, 3D printing and electronics.
- Build projects and working prototypes.
- Solve real-life problems using tech.
- Access to masterclasses by industry experts.

A one-week track at the intersection of data science, economics and finance. YDS gave students the opportunity to

- Learn machine learning, econometrics and financial concepts.
- Analyze real-world datasets and understand how data informs business and policy.
- Work on case-based projects with expert guidance.

▶▶ Highlights

	YTS 2024	YTS 2025
Students	241	290
Schools	120	122
Cities	55+	55+
Girl students	28%	34%

Young Creators League

Young Creators League (YCL) is a platform for high school students where they have an opportunity to convert their ideas into such solutions that bring a positive change to their surroundings. Under this challenge, students submit a solution, in the form of prototype (or proof-of-concept), to a problem they identify with. The solution should be such that it makes a significant impact on their surroundings.

▶▶ Highlights

330+
prototypes submitted to tackle real-world challenges.

59
prototypes showcased at the Grand Exhibition.

11
all-girls teams presented their projects.

ADMISSIONS

Plaksha adopts a holistic admissions process that goes beyond academic scores. It values diverse backgrounds and looks for students with a builder-creator mindset. The belief is that qualities like innovation, collaboration and resilience cannot be measured by marks alone. For BTech admissions there is no entrance exam, though scores of JEE Main, SAT or ACT can strengthen the application. Moreover, a two-stage process identifies these qualities through a detailed application and virtual interactions.

Scholarships and financial aid

Plaksha offers generous financial aid and scholarships to ensure that deserving students can access its programs regardless of their financial background. Tuition waivers range from 25% to 100%, making the program accessible to a wide range of applicants.

Financial aid is awarded on need, allowing students with strong academic or leadership potential, as well as those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, to benefit. Special provisions are in place for students from low-income households, reinforcing the university's commitment to inclusivity and equity. Additionally, Plaksha adheres to UGC guidelines for fee refunds, ensuring transparency and fairness in its financial policies.

Merit scholarships are awarded to students who demonstrate high academic performance in boards and competitive exams, along with achievements in extracurricular and co-curricular activities. They receive tuition waivers ranging from 25% to 100%.

₹53 crore*
disbursed in scholarship and financial aid to BTech students

69%*
BTech students on financial aid and scholarships

Till date. Across all BTech cohorts.

Distinguished scholarships and financial aid

Bharti Scholarship

Bharti Scholarship is a highly prestigious scholarship awarded to exceptional students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds to pursue full-time undergraduate studies at Plaksha. Set up by the Bharti Airtel Foundation, the vision of Bharti Scholarship is to nurture bright young individuals, particularly girls, and empower them to become trailblazers of tomorrow.

Axis Bank Scholarship

Axis Bank Scholarship supports deserving candidates from diverse socio-economic, gender and geographical backgrounds, pursuing full-time undergraduate program. Since 2021, the Axis Bank Scholarship has supported many undergraduate scholars.

EClerx Scholarship

The eClerx Scholarship has significantly expanded access to high-quality education at Plaksha, enabling numerous meritorious students from underserved backgrounds to pursue undergraduate studies with substantial financial support. By reducing financial barriers, the scholarship is creating sustained pathways to academic excellence, professional success, and long-term social mobility.

HUB FOR EMERGING TECH

Over ₹250 crore Investment in AI and frontier technologies in Plaksha

Plaksha is committed to redefining the future of technology education in India with the setting up of three initiatives – the Axis Bank FutureTech Building, the Harish and Bina Shah School of AI & Computer Science, and the Binny Bansal Institute for Inventing the Future. These initiatives supported by Axis Bank, Harish and Bina Shah Foundation, and Binny Bansal will not only fund the development of cutting-edge research centers and labs but will also support scholarships for meritorious students, ensuing unhindered access to world-class education.

> *As artificial intelligence becomes central to our lives, building strong institutions in AI and computer science is essential to preparing leaders who can develop and apply technology responsibly.*
> **Harish Shah**

Harish and Bina Shah School of AI & Computer Science

The Harish & Bina Shah School of AI & Computer Science will serve as a global hub for interdisciplinary AI research and education. With a commitment of ₹100 crore, the school will focus on AI applications in healthcare, sustainability and ethics, while fostering entrepreneurship and robotics. Partnership with Penn Engineering will foster international exposure for students and hands-on experience with real-world challenges. A master's program is also on the anvil.

> *Technology has a much more transformative effect in developing countries than in developed ones. The problem statements are very different in these countries compared to the West. You pick large problems and look at researching and applying technologies to solve them. The Institute for Inventing the Future is envisioned as a hub that attracts the best researchers, founders and students to come together and create magic.*
> **Binny Bansal**

Binny Bansal Institute for Inventing the Future

The Binny Bansal Institute for Inventing the Future (IIF) will go beyond teaching AI. It will focus on developing innovative solutions to tackle global challenges using frontier technologies like AI, blockchain and robotics. Binny Bansal, Co-founder Flipkart and Founder Xto10x, has given a startup funding of ₹70 crore to set up IIF. The Institute will leverage Plaksha's long-standing partnership with University of California, Berkeley.

> *The FutureTech Building is more than just bricks and mortar, it is a symbol of Axis Bank's commitment to nurturing innovation, fostering collaboration, and investing in the future of India's tech talent.*
> **Amitabh Chaudhary**

Axis Bank FutureTech Building

The Axis Bank FutureTech Building was inaugurated by Amitabh Chaudhry, MD & CEO of Axis Bank, and senior officials from Axis Bank including Vijay Mulbagal, Sameer Shetty and Reynold D'Souza. Axis Bank has committed over ₹80 crore to advance frontier research and education at Plaksha. This new infrastructure will house the Institute for Inventing the Future and the School of AI & Computer Science, as well as other advanced labs.

UNDERGRADUATE
**LEARNING
JOURNEY**
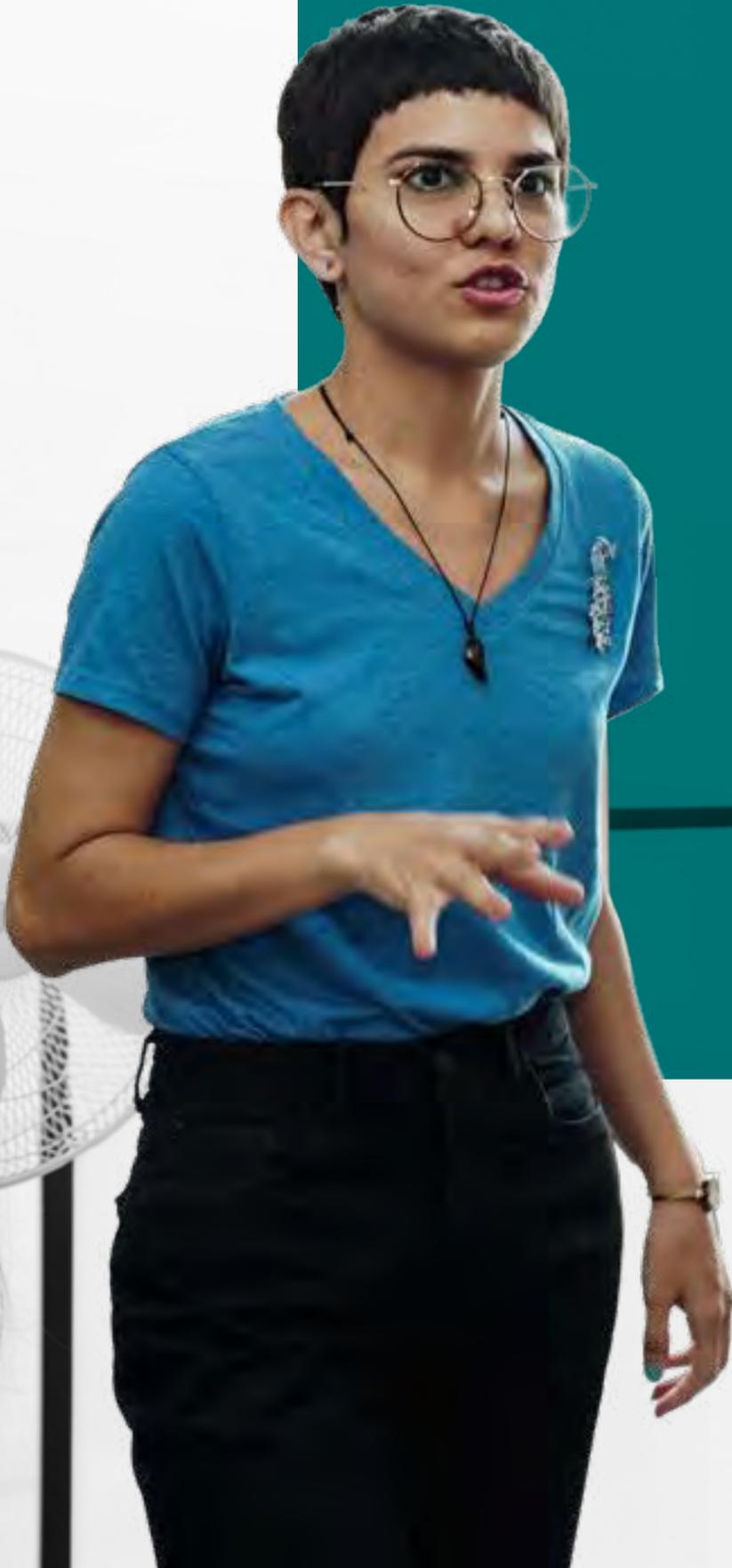
Undergraduates joining Plaksha are curious tinkerers. They are also gold medalists, National Olympiad winners, authors and young entrepreneurs. A holistic two-stage admissions process ensures all selected students are passionate about technology, have a creator-builder mindset, explore all facets of technology and innovation, and aspire to be tech leaders, entrepreneurs, researchers and problem solvers.

When they graduate from Plaksha, they have the skills to

SOLVE
complex engineering problems using deep technology and interdisciplinary skills

CREATE
new knowledge and technologies

EMPOWER & LEAD
diverse teams towards a shared vision

EMPATHIZE & RESPOND
to the needs of humanity and a sustainable planet

ASPIRE
to keep growing and reinventing oneself
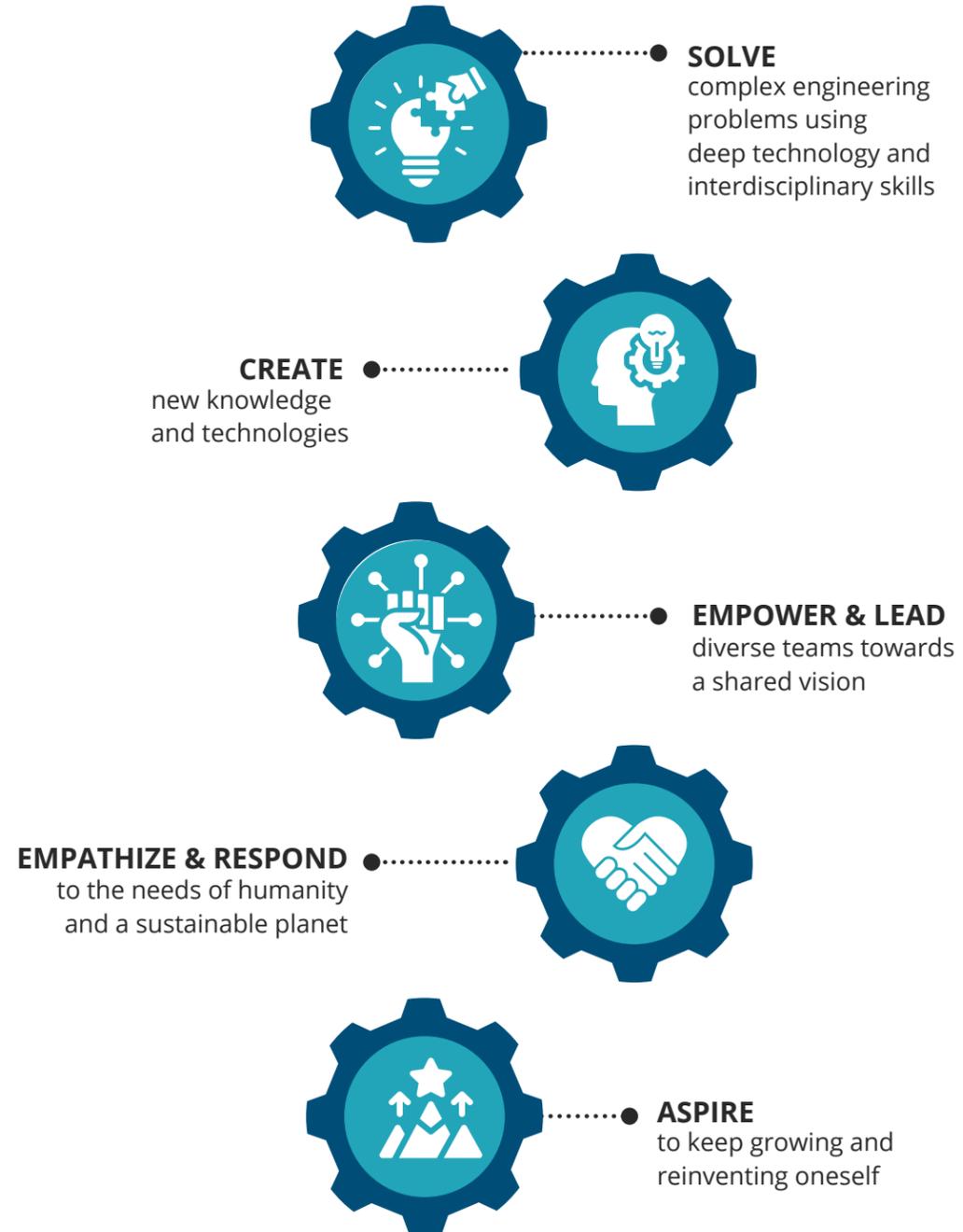
CAREER PATHWAYS

Plaksha nurtures a new kind of engineer who can address the challenges of an ever-evolving world. This is visible in the diverse career trajectories of graduates.

This is enabled and supported by strong offices for careers and corporate partnerships, global engagements and entrepreneurship.

8%
students opted to pursue entrepreneurship/competitive exams

27%
students opted to pursue higher education / research

81
graduates of the Class of 2025

65%
students opted for and secured roles in industries
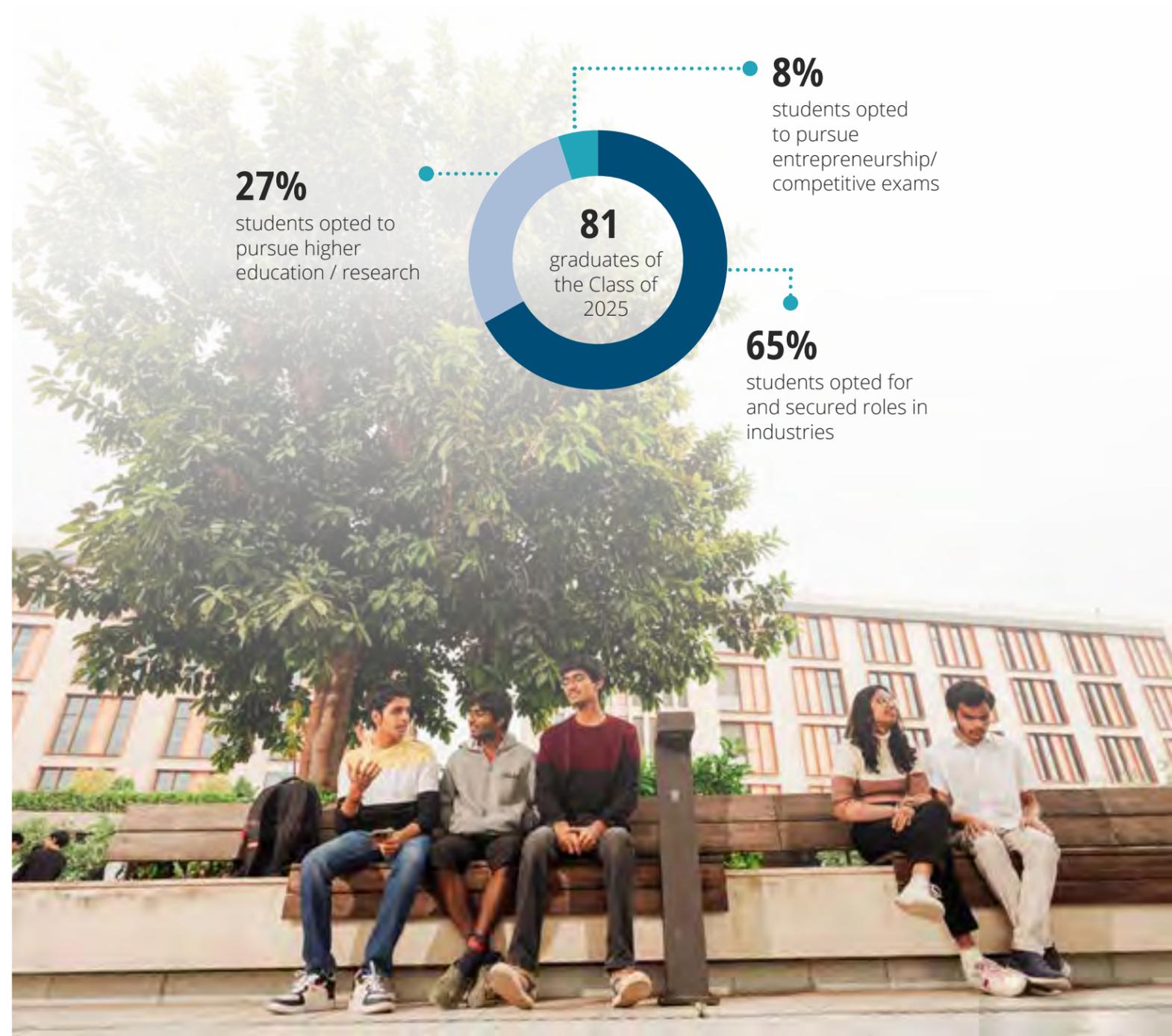
OFFICE OF CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS AND CAREERS

The Office of Corporate Partnerships and Careers fosters long term, multi-dimensional and mutually value-adding partnerships with corporates and ensures superlative career outcomes for students.

Corporate placement support

Guest sessions

Corporate networking

Mentorship & career guidance

Alumni engagements

Profile building
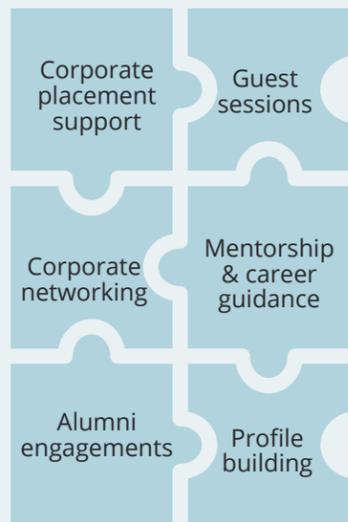
HIGHER EDUCATION**

Carnegie Mellon University

King's College London

Monash University

Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence

New York University

University of California San Diego

University of Chicago

University of Pennsylvania

Wake Forest University

HIRING COMPANIES**

BCG

McKinsey

Flipkart

Wayfair

Wayground

Arcesium

D.E. Shaw

Fractal Analytics

Jefferies

Nagarro

Policybazaar

Info Edge

ROLE DISTRIBUTION*

16% Business Analyst

14% AI-ML Engineer

6% Founder's Office

16% Data Scientist

3% Others

6% Product Manager

25% Software Engineer

14% Strategy/Consulting

₹20 LPA Average CTC

₹8-65 LPA CTC range
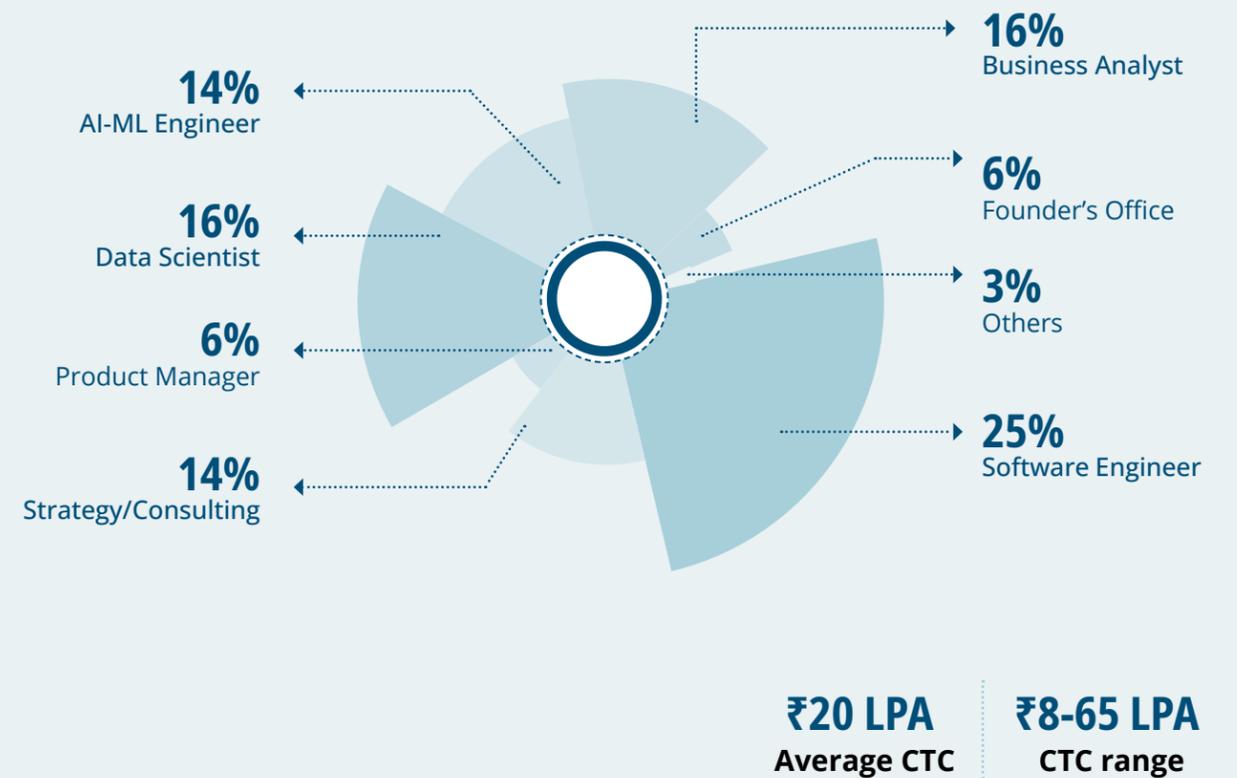
*For those who joined companies   **non-exhaustive list

> Plaksha has provided a unique platform to explore the intersection of research, technology and entrepreneurship. The hands-on, interdisciplinary environment enabled me to work on impactful real-world problems, sharpen my skills in AI and software development, and pursue diverse career opportunities across startups, research and venture ecosystems.
>
> **Spandan Panda**
> BTech Class of 2025
> Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence
> Placed: Software Engineer,
> Arcesium India Private Limited

> Plaksha was a new university when I joined, and choosing to be part of its first undergraduate cohort as the only international student in 2021 was a bold decision. That choice tested my confidence, resilience and adaptability, and it shaped how I approached challenges throughout my time there.
>
> **Alli Ajagbe**
> BTech Class of 2025,
> Data Science, Economics & Business
> Pursuing master's degree,
> WakeForest University School of Business

> Plaksha was where I found both a community and a calling. The incredible people I met there shaped me in ways I'll always carry, while the experiences equipped me with the skills to navigate uncertainty with confidence. Most importantly, Plaksha is where I fell in love with AI. As I begin my Master's in AI and Innovation at Carnegie Mellon University, I know those roots will stay with me always.
>
> **Vedika Agarwal**
> BTech Class of 2025
> Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence

> The spirit of being an engineer is the ability to take any problem, break it down and solve it. Plaksha is the embodiment of this spirit.
>
> **Rishi Laddha**
> BTech Class of 2025
> Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence
> Placed: Founder's Office,
> LAT Aerospace

> Plaksha gave me the freedom to explore and the rigor to excel – from publishing interdisciplinary research and representing the university in sports to internships at Fractal and Flipkart.
>
> **Avishi Rajgarhia**
> BTech Class of 2025
> Data Science, Economics & Business
> Placed: Business Analyst,
> McKinsey & Company

> As I head to MBZUAI (Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence) at Abu Dhabi, UAE, for a fully funded masters in Computer Vision, I have reflected on what it meant to grow alongside a university still under construction – where unfinished spaces weren't obstacles, but invitations to build.
>
> **Amol Harsh**
> BTech Class of 2025
> Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence

OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Office of Global Engagements is Plaksha's conduit to the world, championing high-impact research and academic exchange through a growing network of strategic partnerships. The office curates meaningful international opportunities for students and spearheads initiatives that welcome visiting scholars and global faculty to India's vibrant research ecosystem.

ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

GLOBAL

University of Pennsylvania

Purdue University

Cornell University

UC San Diego

Sutardja Center for Entrepreneurship, UC Berkeley

Brigham and Women's Hospital

UW-Madison

Illinois Institute of Technology

UCBM

Barcelona School of Economics

JHU Carey Business School

DOMESTIC

IIT Bombay

IIT Kanpur

IISER Mohali

PGIMER Chandigarh

IIT Madras

IIIT Hyderabad

IISc Bengaluru

OUTCOMES

11
International academic partnerships

7
Domestic academic partnerships

4
Masters progressions (4+1)

33
Student mobility (short term)

INFO EDGE CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Info Edge Center for Entrepreneurship (CfE) is a dynamic launchpad for turning student ideas into real ventures through a full-spectrum support system: from cultivating an entrepreneurial mindset among Plakshans that will help them excel in all walks of life to incubation and funding support. A committed team, globally renowned founders, and marquee industry experts, enable the transformation of ideas into scalable businesses. CfE is a key driver of Plaksha's innovation pillar helping future founders take risks, solve real problems and turn ideas into impact.

▶ Highlights

23 alumni startups and 15+ active student ideas on campus

- ◉ Thinklude, a startup by Prerit Rathi and Pranjal Rastogi (BTech Class of 2026) won ₹5 lakhs at the Saksham Demo Day, as part of TIECON Chandigarh 2025.
- ◉ Sanchit Gupta (BTech Class of 2028) secured ₹5 lakhs pre-seed funding from Trident for his smart irrigation startup AgriGuru.
- ◉ Two student startups – Swipester and AgriGuru – reached Top 10 in the TiEU Chapter Finale.

LIFE AT
PLAKSHA

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

At Plaksha, students are encouraged to become tech leaders, entrepreneurs and follow their passion. In 2024-25, students were recognized through the Deans List Award, Spirit of Plaksha and other felicitations for exemplary achievements.

DEANS LIST

Curiosity and rigor lie at the core of Plaksha's academic mission and programs. The innovative curriculum and pedagogy have been designed to create authentic future tech leaders. They encourage curiosity and creativity among students. While Plaksha recognizes every student's contribution as unique to Plaksha and urges them to follow their passion and dreams, this year's Deans List acknowledged students who demonstrated Plaksha's values through their outstanding academic performance.

The Deans List is the annual award for the top 5% undergraduate students in each cohort. They are recognized for their performance during the previous academic year for setting an example for their peers and the cohorts to come.

Class of **2025**	Class of **2026**	Class of **2027**
Sanidhya Singh	Satvik Bajpai	Mudasir Rasheed
Vedika Agarwal	Subham Jalan	Niyati Singh
Kaustubh Singh	Abhinav Lodha	Tisha K Bhavsar
Amol Harsh	Utkarsh Agarwal	Raghav Sarna
Avishi Rajgharia	Aman Paliwal	Akshat Gupta
		Avishkar Rawal
		Uday P Sodhi

SPIRIT OF PLAKSHA

Vikas Kumar (Class of 2025)	Aman Jaiswal (Class of 2027)	Avishkar Rawal (Class of 2027)

PROJECT AT UC SAN DIEGO

At the Halicioglu Data Science Institute, UC San Diego (Aug 2024 - Jan 2025), Kaustubh Singh co-developed a Reinforcement Learning framework for socially compliant robotic navigation using NVIDIA Isaac Sim. Kaustubh worked on using robotics for healthcare, focusing on intervention techniques to stop the spread of cough aerosol in closed environments. His team developed real-time algorithms and a PM sensor network for cough detection and air filtration optimization. He led educational studies using Virtual Reality (VR) to teach airborne illness transmission and modeled cough aerosol flow in closed rooms to identify effective intervention strategies, including smart HVAC systems and mobile air purifiers.

IIT GANDHINAGAR HACKATHON

Two teams from Plaksha won two intense challenges at 'Hack the Future' hackathon, hosted by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India and Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar.

They competed against 700 teams from India for 36 hours, showcasing innovation and technical excellence in their AI-ML-driven solutions in official statistics. Team 404 (Vijeta Raghuvanshi, Anirudh Chauhan, Ayush Sharma, Japsahaj Kaur and Rishav Kumar) won the AI-ML-based Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) Estimation challenge by building a stacking model for highly accurate predictions and an interactive dashboard for dynamic analysis.

In the category of 'AI-based Legacy Data Extraction and Processing Tool', team The Waffle (Jiya Agrawal, Chaitanya Modi, Arnav Rustagi, Arbaaz Shafiq and Pranjal Rastogi) showcased innovation in public data applications to secure the top spot.

STUDENT LIFE

This period at Plaksha has been characterized by a dynamic campus life, fueled by an enthusiastic student body. Students actively participated in various events, sports and club activities, which enriched the vibrancy of the campus and fostered a strong sense of community. Plaksha sportspersons participated in numerous intra- and inter-university tournaments.

The campus has multiple indoor and outdoor sports and activities. Other facilities like dance room, yoga studio, music room and wellness center are also available.

CLUBS AND INITIATIVES

Many student-led clubs and initiatives on campus encourage students to pursue their interests and passion. Clubs organize events and activities throughout the year, engaging students and enhancing their university experience.

- CyDef – Cyber Defense Club of Plaksha
- Entrepreneurship Cell
- Geek Room Plaksha
- Girls and Women in STEM
- Kartavya
- LEAP

- Mental Wellbeing Club
- One-O-One
- Plaksha Baking Club
- Plaksha Consulting Club
- Plaksha e-Sports Club
- Plaksha Finance Cell
- Plaksha MUN Club

- Plaksha Music Club
- Rangrez – Plaksha's Art Club
- The Spine – Literature Club
- Kalki – Robotics club
- Makerforce
- Spotlight: The Theatre and Performing Arts Club

STUDENT-LED EVENTS

During this period the student clubs organized three events on campus

FitoorXPrayaas 2024 – The first two-day techno-cultural fest saw 120 participants from universities and institutes across the country and 236 participants from Plaksha. Over 15 events including hackathon, treasure hunt, fashion show, dance showcase, art and craft competition, and CTF-style coding competition among others were organized by the student clubs.

Eklavya 2025 – The second edition of Plaksha's annual sports fest organized by student-club Athleda saw over 300+ participation from 15 universities. This 3-day event saw teams battling it out in the fields and courts to win the top prize in football, basketball, badminton, and chess among others.

Prarambh

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is a body that looks after student affairs and ensures that the campus remains a vibrant and engaging space. The Student Council for 2024-25 restructured student-facing communities, addressed day-to-day issues and concerns, and organized multiple campus events. The Council also played an important role in ensuring transparency between students and university leadership.

DIVERSITY
EQUITY AND
INCLUSION

Committed to inclusion & diversity

As part of Plaksha's value system, higher education is made equitable by celebrating inclusive and diverse perspectives.

| Attract Diverse Talent | Champion Inclusivity | Build Equitable Systems |

33%**
female employees

32%*
female BTech students

15%*
first generation learners

49%*
BTech students from tier 2/3/4 towns

*Till date. Across all BTech cohorts. | **as of September 30, 2025.*

STUDENT WELLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

The university emphasizes holistic student wellbeing by implementing targeted wellness and mental health initiatives. These programs aim to normalize conversations around mental health, enhance self-care capabilities and ensure accessible psychological support systems.

Key activities included

Emotional wellbeing workshops: Sessions were organized to help students understand emotional well-being, identify early signs of stress, anxiety and depression, reduce stigma, and encourage supportive peer environments.

Stress management and resilience training: This were supported through evidence-based workshops teaching mindfulness, time management and techniques to build emotional resilience.

Faculty and staff sensitization: Training faculty and residential staff to identify and sensitively refer students facing mental health challenges were organized. This ensures a consistent, caring response across campus. All requisite statutory and regulatory committees related to student and employee welfare remained functional throughout the year.
No incidents were reported during the academic year 2024–25.

Prevention of sexual harassment (POSH): The university reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining an environment free from sexual harassment, adhering to the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013. During the year mandatory training programs sensitized students, faculty and staff about the legal framework and university policy.

Awareness workshops informed the community about the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) and reporting mechanisms.
The ICC remained functional throughout the year, with no reported incidents.

Anti-ragging initiatives: The university maintained a ragging-free environment by adhering to UGC guidelines and proactive student engagement. The Anti-Ragging Committee was constituted as per UGC regulations and remained vigilant throughout the year. As part of the mandatory undertaking, all new students submitted an Anti-Ragging Affidavit. Comprehensive orientation programs, helpline information, committee contacts and campus-wide signage reinforced the zero-tolerance policy.
No incidents of ragging were reported in the academic year 2024–25.

Drug Abuse Awareness and Prevention: The university promoted a safe and drug-free campus through workshops, awareness campaigns and confidential support mechanisms.
The Anti-Drug Committee remained functional throughout the year, with no incidents reported.

All requisite statutory and regulatory committees pertaining to student and employee welfare remained active throughout the year, and no incidents were reported during the academic year 2024-25

CENTER FOR
STUDENT WELLBEING

Wellbeing affects how we think, feel and act.

To equip students with skills to make sense of new experiences and explore their socio-emotional journey Life skill courses such as 'Universal Human Values', 'Science of Being Human' and 'Introduction to Psychology' are part of the Plaksha curriculum.

For students, faculty and executives, Wellbeing at Plaksha offers a comprehensive support system with

- A wellbeing team of two full-time psychologists on campus.
- Individual therapy sessions to discuss challenges, process distressing experiences and develop healthy coping mechanisms.

958 sessions organized

661 sessions for BTech students

297 sessions for executives

▶▶ Highlights

In addition to these efforts, the center has organized several engaging activities to promote wellbeing. These include

- Collaborative partnerships with YourDost and RoundGlass.
- An elective course on happiness, emotions and dealing with failure 'Science of Being Human' introduced.
- Annual Student Emotional Wellbeing Survey was organized to gather data to assess the mental health needs of the student body and inform targeted interventions.
- Creative art-based reflection, Character Strength Rock Painting and informal conversations such as 'Check Up from the Neck Up' normalize mental health discussions.
- Sessions for employees, faculty, parents and students to strengthening the university's mental health support network.
- Digital wellbeing initiatives such as Mindful Tech Pause and DEAR Time were organized to help students consciously reflect on their relationship with technology.
- Extending the wellbeing mission beyond campus, a mental health session was conducted exclusively with teachers from Government High School, Saneta.

DS BRAR CENTER FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN IN STEM

The DS Brar Center for Girls and Women in STEM (GWiST), supported by the Mphasis F1 Foundation, is focused on building an ecosystem where women can thrive across STEM fields – from classrooms to boardrooms – through four integrated pillars.

Inspire curiosity and ambition by showcasing women role models who are redefining what is possible in STEM.

Educate through high-quality programs and mentorship that build technical skills, confidence and real-world readiness.

Enable access to opportunities across education, research, entrepreneurship and careers through targeted support and pathways.

Influence mindsets and policy through data, research and powerful storytelling to drive long-term, systemic change.

Highlights

- 200+ university students benefited from structured knowledge-sharing sessions, exposure visits and career mentorship across campuses.

- High-impact workshops spanned GenAI and prompt engineering, LEGO-based learning, deep-tech drug delivery, and policy–academia–industry dialogues advancing women in STEM.

- She Innovates engaged 40 women entrepreneurs, with 30% in deep tech and AI, through workshops, masterclasses, webinars and ecosystem outreach to support founders from idea to early traction.

- SheLeadsTech reached 50+ women STEM students through hands-on deep-tech and AI workshops; the next cohort of 100 students is planned.

- Future initiatives (Q4 2025) include the TrackShift mobility and sport-tech hackathon (150 students, mentored by the Haas F1 Team, with a UK facility visit for the winning team) and the launch of SheBuildsAI, a digital platform spotlighting women in AI and deep tech.

RESEARCH
ECOSYSTEM

FROM THE DESK OF DEAN RESEARCH

At Plaksha University, research is driven by a clear conviction: meaningful impact emerges when scientific discovery translates into real-world solutions. This translational focus brings together basic sciences, engineering, technology, healthcare and allied disciplines to address complex societal challenges through purposeful collaboration. In 2025, our research enterprise entered a phase of steady, strategic growth. Faculty and students expanded interdisciplinary inquiry while securing competitive funding from national agencies, global foundations and industry partners. With over 60 crores committed toward research in the coming years – and a strong pipeline of proposals under review – Plaksha continues to build a foundation that is both ambitious and sustainable.

Parallel to this growth, we have strengthened the structures that enable excellence. Updated policies, governance mechanisms, and advisory frameworks are supporting high impact research, while early and sustained student engagement ensures that inquiry remains innovative, relevant and solution-oriented from the undergraduate level onward.
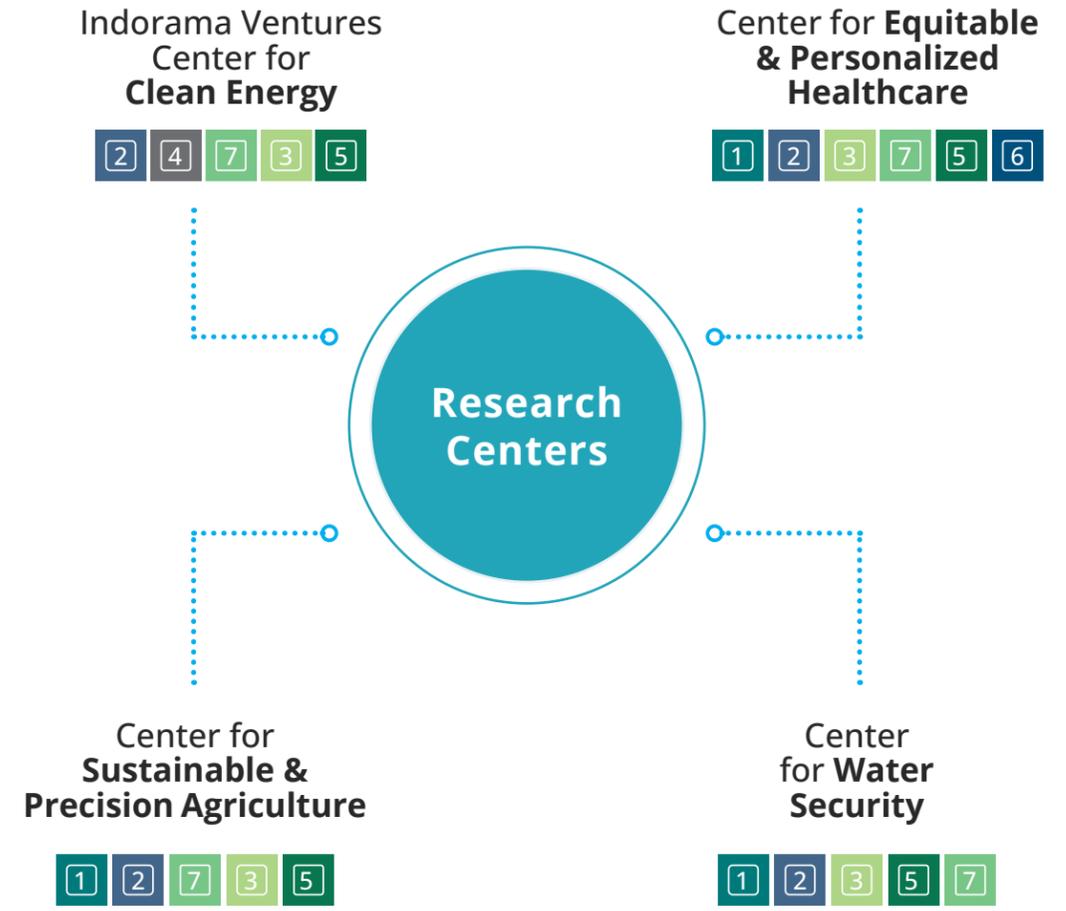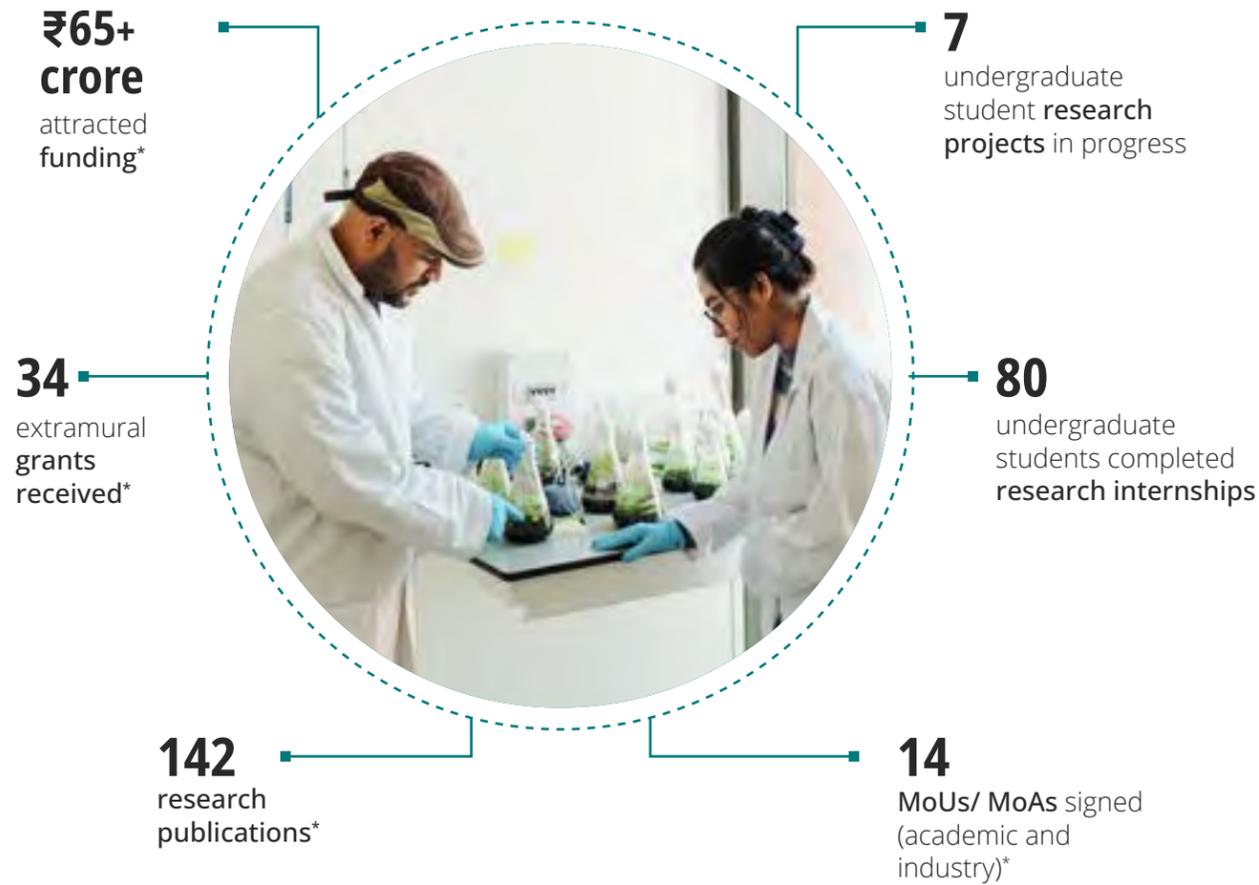
Looking ahead, our priorities include deeper participation in multi-institutional consortia, broader dissemination of research outcomes, and expanded partnerships across sectors and geographies.

Anchored in interdisciplinarity and hands-on innovation, our 50-acre campus operates as a living laboratory where ideas are developed, tested and refined in real-world contexts. Research at Plaksha is not an isolated activity – it is an institutional mindset. By integrating scholarship, mentorship and collaboration across domains, we remain committed to generating knowledge that is globally benchmarked, locally grounded, and designed to address the pressing challenges of our time.

Prof Sunita Chauhan

RESEARCH CENTERS

Plaksha's vision is firmly rooted in interdisciplinary research to address global problems. There are four research centers dedicated to addressing global grand challenges and UN's sustainable development goals of clean energy, water security, equitable health and sustainable agriculture, supported by state-of-the-art research laboratories.

₹65+ crore
attracted **funding***

7
undergraduate student **research projects** in progress

34
extramural grants received*

80
undergraduate students completed **research internships**

142
research publications*

14
MoUs/ MoAs signed (academic and industry)*

Cumulative till September 2025

Indorama Ventures Center for **Clean Energy**
2 4 7 3 5

Center for **Equitable & Personalized Healthcare**
1 2 3 7 5 6

Research Centers

Center for **Sustainable & Precision Agriculture**
1 2 7 3 5

Center for **Water Security**
1 2 3 5 7

Core Labs supporting research centers

1 Molbio Invitro Diagnostic Lab	**2** Water Technology Research Lab	**3** Advanced Analytical Characterization Facility
4 Microclimate and Clean Energy Laboratory	**5** Dixon IoT Lab	**6** Digital Twin Technologies Lab
7 Robotics Lab	**8** Lab for Economic Behaviour in Organizations	**9** Human Technology Interaction Lab

INDORAMA VENTURES CENTER FOR CLEAN ENERGY

Access to affordable, reliable and clean energy and the development of sustainable cities are among the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals. These goals reflect the urgent action and holistic approach needed to address climate change.

The research at Indorama Ventures Center for Clean Energy (IVCCE) responds to these challenges by going beyond technological innovation – it integrates economic viability, cultural adaptability and policy alignment to ensure real-world impact. Additionally, IVCCE is committed to capacity building exemplified through specialized courses, equipping the next generation of students and professionals with the knowledge and skills to advance the clean energy transition.

VISION

Envisioning a future where India's energy sector is characterized by decarbonization, self-reliance and grid security, providing clean and secure energy to all.

MISSION

To support India's transition to a net zero-carbon, self-reliant and energy-secure future and contribute to the global effort in reducing carbon emissions through interdisciplinary research, industry and government partnerships, and public awareness campaigns on clean energy.

RESEARCH AREAS

1 Urban Microclimate

2 Decarbonizing Residential Cooling

3 Smart Buildings

4 Smart Microgrids

▶▶ IMPACT

1. 'Roof of Hope' Community Project was undertaken in an urban poor settlement in West Delhi, installing cool roof across 100 homes. More than 95% of households surveyed reported positive outcomes, with improvements in thermal comfort, sleep and self-reported health. The results underscore the potential of low-cost, community-driven climate adaptation strategies in enhancing urban resilience.

2. The team have been providing technical support for policy development of cool roofs in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh. These efforts aim to scale cool roof adoption and inform long-term strategies for energy savings, emission reduction, and job creation. The team has also supported in drafting two chapters of Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code 2024 (ECSBC), developed by the Ministry of Power, Government of India, and Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

3. The team proposed a new, energy-performance-oriented climate classification for India that addresses the limitations of classifications last updated in the 1980s. Developed using updated weather datasets and advanced analytical methods, this classification has been published in leading peer-reviewed journals and aims to support improved building codes, policies, and climate-responsive design strategies.

4. An open environmental wind tunnel has been developed in-house at IVCCE, featuring a 2' x 2' x 2' test section with arrays of variable-speed DC fans on two sides, enabling controlled velocity shear profiles to simulate atmospheric conditions. The facility supports research on urban wind flows, pollutant dispersion, natural ventilation, vegetation aerodynamics, and thermal stratification.

5. Project Sidewalk – the team has created automated pipelines that estimate walkability demand based on land-use patterns and assess existing infrastructure using satellite and street view imagery. These methods enable city agencies to identify priority locations for pedestrian infrastructure and evaluate its performance across urban areas.

6. IVCCE established India's largest academic research testbed for district cooling and thermal energy storage. It features a 5600-kWh thermal energy storage system, designed to support the air conditioning needs of a 220-room hostel at Plaksha. It is now being used to conduct a range of innovative experiments.

7. Conducted two capacity-building courses for students and professionals and organized numerous energy-related workshops and seminars at Plaksha. The team also presented its research at national and international platforms, contributing to broader knowledge exchange in cooling, energy, and urban sustainability.

CENTER FOR WATER SECURITY

India scores 4.11/5 on the global water stress chart indicating the large gap between our water supplies and ever-increasing demand. The challenge further escalates due to both ground and surface water contamination from domestic, agricultural and industrial sources.

The Center for Water Security (CWS) is a transdisciplinary research center dedicated to ensuring sustainable access to clean water in urban contexts. The focus is on tackling the challenge of polluted urban streams that are a critical component of city ecosystems. CWS combines fundamental and applied research to develop solutions in advanced water quality monitoring and resource-efficient wastewater treatment. By working with various stakeholders, the center strives to deliver comprehensive solutions that are both actionable and scalable.

VISION

Supporting sustainable access to clean water for all social, economic and environmental activities in India for the next 50 years.

MISSION

To provide affordable and scalable solutions for water quality monitoring and treatment.

RESEARCH AREAS

1 Advanced water quality monitoring

2 Resource-efficient wastewater treatment and circular water technologies

IMPACT

1. A course titled 'Global Food, Energy, and Water Nexus – Engage the US, China, and India for Sustainable Future' offered by six departments at Cornell University was extended for undergraduate students. Sixteen students studied the food, energy and water nexus and its implications for nutrition security, one health, environmental sustainability, climate change and economic development.

2. A study on the urban stream N-Choe that discharges into the Ghaggar River was conducted between May 2024-Sept 2025. A mixed-methodology approach integrating community-level qualitative surveys, field observations and year-long spatio-temporal water quality monitoring was used along a 15 km stretch of the N-Choe in Chandigarh-Mohali. This stretch has an approximate population of 15,000 residents and around 125 residents were interviewed to understand the link between the N-Choe water quality with community activities, infrastructure and waste management practices. The center aims to develop a template to create comprehensive city-level datasets that would offer actionable evidence to inform targeted interventions for urban streams in rapidly urbanizing Indian cities.

CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE AND PRECISION AGRICULTURE

Feeding a growing population while preserving natural resources is one of the most pressing global challenges, particularly for agriculture-dependent economies like India. Climate variability, declining soil health, water scarcity, and inefficient input-use threaten productivity and sustainability. The Center for Sustainable and Precision Agriculture (CSPA) develops affordable precision agriculture technologies to empower Indian agriculture with data driven farming. CSPA envisions increasing farm yields while ensuring agricultural sustainability. Combining satellite and drone-based geospatial technology solutions with cutting edge AI, the center serves to enhance food security and reduce operational costs for farmers. This will be achieved by generating timely advisories in local language and context, building robotic systems for monitoring and weeding services, developing environmentally friendly bio-pesticides and bio-sensors and commodity price prediction enabling farmers to identify the right time to harvest for maximum economic benefit. CSPA is built to transform the Indian agriculture ecosystem, enhancing farm yields, and striving to impact countless farmers.

VISION
Empowering Indian agriculture with affordable precision agriculture technologies and data driven farming, aiming to increase farm yields while ensuring agricultural sustainability.

MISSION
To transform the current Indian agriculture ecosystem by enhancing food security, improving agricultural sustainability and reducing operational costs.

RESEARCH AREAS

1. Precision agriculture to improve yield and productivity

2. Sustainable alternatives to stubble burning

3. Curb overuse of agrochemicals in Punjab

IMPACT

1. Organized multiple educational initiatives. GIS workshop for 200 high school students. Awareness session for more than 50 students of Punjabi University, Patiala on drone based technologies for precision agriculture.

2. Presented workshop for 50 students and researchers on 'Use of drones for crop monitoring' at ICA 2024 and facilitated 10 student led projects (approximately 40 students) on use of AI-ML technology for precision agriculture.

3. Organized a teacher training session for 100+ faculty on use of AI-ML techniques in the area of precision agriculture.

4. Research collaborations with PAU, IIT Ropar, Punjab Government, NSI Kanpur, Purdue and Georgia Tech.

5. Incubated an Agtech startup 'Sugee' for collaboration in the area of fintech and sugarcane.

6. Smart farm on the Plaksha University campus in Mohali being used for research initiatives related to bio-pesticide development, and soil carbon sequestration.

7. PoC testing for drone and satellite-based crop yield and stress monitoring. Additionally, developed a low cost indigenous IoT sensor for monitoring sucrose content in sugarcane.

CENTER FOR EQUITABLE AND PERSONALIZED HEALTHCARE

Non-communicable diseases account for nearly two-thirds of all deaths in India and were projected to impose an economic burden exceeding USD 4.5 trillion by 2030, driven by healthcare costs, productivity loss and premature mortality. Despite advances in biomedical science, access to early diagnosis, individualized care and affordable therapeutics remains uneven across populations. The Center for Equitable & Personalized Healthcare (CEPH) addresses this gap by developing scalable, affordable diagnostic and therapeutic solutions for chronic illnesses tailored to Indian and other low- and middle-income country contexts. From biomarker identification to next-generation diagnostic measurements and AI-powered point-of-care tools, the center aims to deliver accessible and personalized healthcare solutions at scale.

VISION

Initiating the next epoch in bio-informed technologies and developing cutting edge tools to elucidate individualized disease susceptibility and enable personalized treatment decisions.

MISSION

To develop advanced medical diagnostics and therapeutics for improved healthcare of millions suffering from non-communicable diseases.

RESEARCH AREAS

1 Oncology and Diabetes management

2 Neurodegenerative disorders, and protein chemistry

3 Cardiovascular and rare diseases (diagnosis and prognosis)

4 Sensor and diagnostics platforms for early disease detection

5 Multimodal imaging and multiomics

6 Bio and nanomaterial processing

7 Biomechanics and drug delivery

8 Automation assistance in healthcare (AI tools for medical imaging, slide analysis, and real time surgical assistance)

9 Bioinformatics and disease modelling.

▶▶ IMPACT

1. Funded for an In-vitro Diagnostics Laboratory (IVD Lab) by Molbio Diagnostics Pvt Ltd. Research is also supported by DBT, DST and ANRF grants.

2. Ongoing collaborations with Molbio Diagnostics Pvt Ltd, Bengaluru (industry partner), Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital & Research Centre, Punjab (clinical partner), Massachusetts General Hospital, USA (clinical partner), Tyndall National Institute, Ireland via INFRACHIP program (European Research Infrastructure on Semiconductor Chips), Purdue University - Weldon School of BME, USA Harvard University/Brigham Women's Hospital, USA, Tufts University, USA, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, INST Mohali, NIPER, Mohali, PGIMER Chandigarh, and ICAAR Rajasthan.

BINNY BANSAL INSTITUTE FOR INVENTING THE FUTURE

Plaksha has launched the Binny Bansal Institute for Inventing the Future (IIF). This pioneering research institute, backed by Binny Bansal, Co-founder Flipkart and Founder Xto10x, is focused on developing innovative solutions to tackle global challenges using frontier technologies like AI, blockchain and robotics. Binny Bansal has given a startup funding of ₹70 crore to set up IIF.
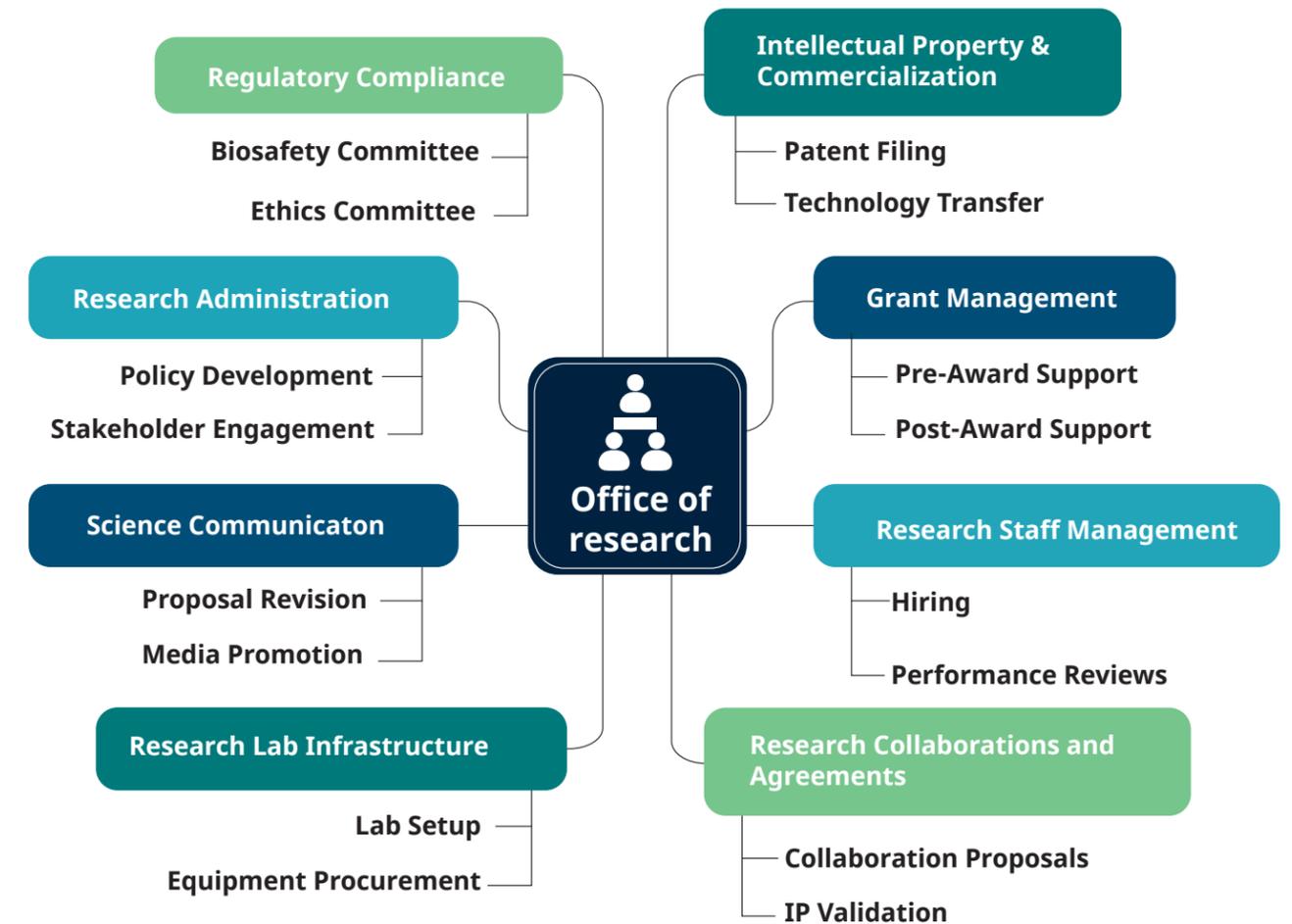
IIF will also leverage Plaksha's long-standing partnership with University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley Artificial Intelligence Research (BAIR) Lab is the world's most advanced academic AI research lab. Joint research projects, faculty and student exchanges, and best practices in AI education and research methodologies will be undertaken as a part of this collaboration.
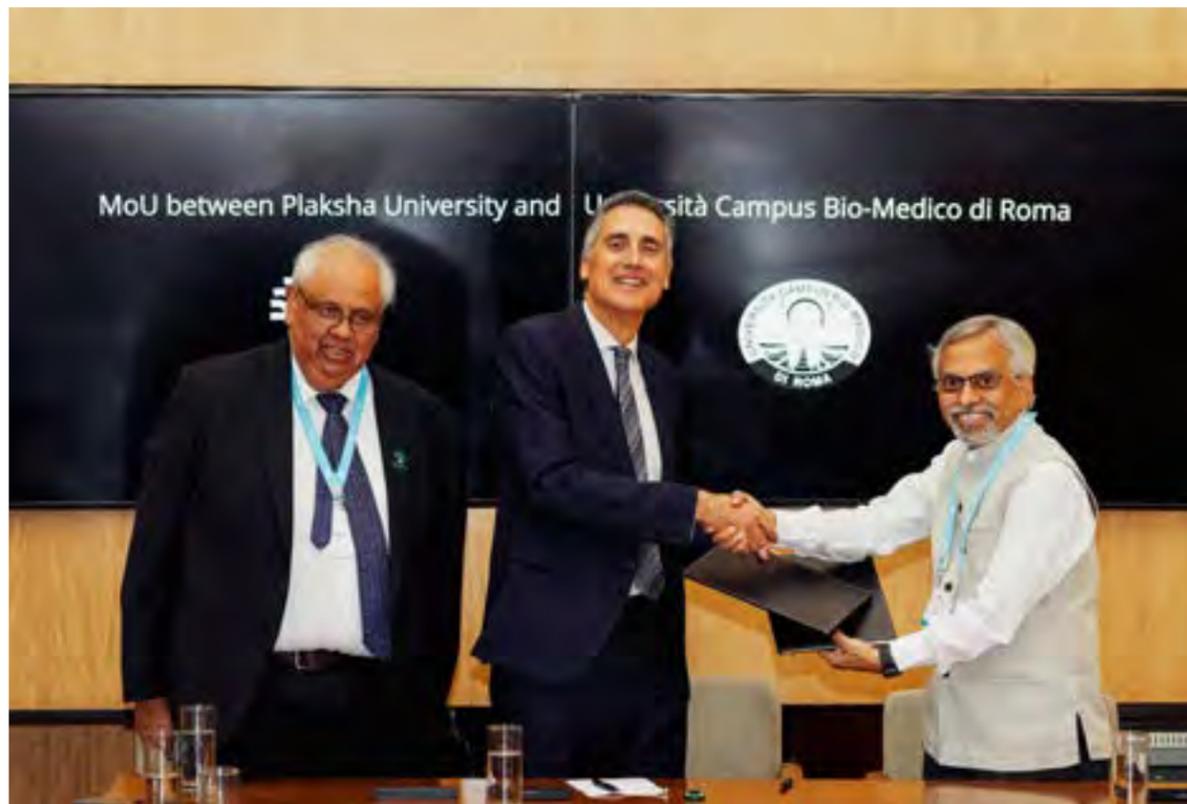
In August 2025, Plaksha signed an MoU with Università Campus Bio-Medico di Roma (UCBM) to foster joint research, education and innovation. This Memorandum of Understanding was formalized by Prof Shankar Sastry and Prof Rudra Pratap of Plaksha, and Prof Eugenio Guglielmelli, Rector of UCBM and Alessandra Lanzara, Professor of Physics at UC Berkeley and Strategic advisor to the Chancellor at Campus Biomedico. It marked the beginning of a partnership rooted in shared academic values and global aspirations.

OFFICE OF RESEARCH

The Office of Research (OoR) at Plaksha is an enabler for integrating research, innovation and technology development, supporting national missions, addressing societal needs, and providing transformative solutions to global challenges. OoR creates a conducive environment for research productivity, encouraging collaboration across industry, government and community-based organizations at all levels through resource mobilization, funding and process support. In alignment with the University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, OoR serves as Plaksha's Research Development Cell (RDC).

Office of research

Regulatory Compliance
- Biosafety Committee
- Ethics Committee

Intellectual Property & Commercialization
- Patent Filing
- Technology Transfer

Research Administration
- Policy Development
- Stakeholder Engagement

Grant Management
- Pre-Award Support
- Post-Award Support

Science Communicaton
- Proposal Revision
- Media Promotion

Research Staff Management
- Hiring
- Performance Reviews

Research Lab Infrastructure
- Lab Setup
- Equipment Procurement

Research Collaborations and Agreements
- Collaboration Proposals
- IP Validation

PUBLICATIONS (2024)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Mondal, S., Neogi, S., & Chakraborty, S. (2024). Optimization of reactor parameters for amplifying synergy in enzymatic co-hydrolysis and microbial co-fermentation of lignocellulosic agro-residues. *Renewable Energy, 230*, Article 120281. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.renene.2024.120281

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Ghosh, G., Daile, S. B., Chakraborty, S., & Atta, A. (2024). Influence of super-optimal light intensity on the acetic acid uptake and microalgal growth in mixotrophic culture of *Chlorella sorokiniana* in bubblecolumn photobioreactors. *Bioresource Technology*, 393, Article 130152.

Thakur, D., & Srinivasan, S. (2024). AI-PUCMDL: Artificial intelligence assisted plant counting through unmanned aerial vehicles in India's mountainous regions. *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, 196*(4), Article 389.

Sun, K., Ray, S., Gupta, N., Aldworth, Z., & Stopfer, M. (2024). Olfactory system structure and function in newly hatched and adult locusts. *Scientific Reports, 14*(1), Article 2987.

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Tomar, S. K., Deshpande, A., Dhiman, S., Singh, R. K., & Balakrishnan, M. (2024). Impact of feeding regimes on the performance of anaerobic sequencing batch membrane bioreactor treating wastewater from an urban drain. *Water Science & Technology, 90*(2), 549–562.

Reginato, G., Dello Stritto, M. R., Wang, Y., Hao, J., Pavani, R., Schmitz, M., & Cejka, P. (2024). HLTF disrupts Cas9-DNA post-cleavage complexes to allow DNA break processing. *Nature Communications, 15*(1), Article 5789.

Ghosh, G., Atta, A., & Chakraborty, S. (2024). Multiscale effects of radial mixing on mixotrophic microalgal growth and macromolecular synthesis in tubular bubble-column photobioreactors. *Algal Research, 80*, Article 103518.

Pillai, R., Lekshmi, I. C., & Belagur Krishnamurthy, V. (2024). Advancing catechol detection via hierarchically structured NiO/graphite nanocomposite modified glassy carbon electrode: Progress towards sensor miniaturisation. *International Journal of Environmental Analytical Chemistry*, 1–14. https://doi.org/10.1080/03067319.2024.2391013

Lalwani, V., Sobti, A., & Garg, V. (2024). What's up on the roof: Tracking cool roofs in India with satellite imaging. ACM *Journal on Computing and Sustainable Societies, 2*(4), 1–26.

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Bansal, P., & Kaur, N. (2024). Assessing risks associated with large-scale adoption of CRISPR gene-edited crops. *Journal of Crop Science and Biotechnology*. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12892-024-00273-0

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Nahar, A., Bhardwaj, N., Das, D., & Das, S. K. (2024). A hypergraph approach to deep learning–based routing in software-defined vehicular networks. *IEEE Transactions on Mobile Computing*.

Du, R., Muthirayan, D., Khargonekar, P. P., & Shen, Y. (2024). Long-term fairness for real-time decision making: A constrained online optimization approach. *IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems*.

Paramanick, A., Roy, K., Paul, S., Kumar, A., Ashok, A., Pratap, R., & Singh, M. S. (2024). Seeing beyond: The future of photoacoustic imaging with single-element, low-frequency thin-film PMUT. *IEEE Sensors Letters*, 1–4. https://doi.org/10.1109/LSENS.2024.3358105

PREPRINTS

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CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Prince, B., Siddharth, S., & Keshav, R. (2024, June). Appraising the impact of dialogical pedagogy and curriculum co-design: A conversation between the humanities and engineering. In *Proceedings of the 2024 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition*.

Prince, B., Siddharth, S., & Keshav, R. (2024, June). Evaluating the efficacy of project-based approach for teaching humanities courses to engineering students. In *Proceedings of the 2024 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition*.

Prince, B., Ambasta, S., & Joshi, V. K. (2024, June). Assessing the effectiveness of "research design" as a pedagogical tool for promoting decision-making skills toward leadership development in engineering students. In Proceedings of the 2024 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition.

Gerardo, H., Prince, B., & Ngura, B. L. (2024, June). Defining the essence of the self in exploring the notion of altruism and establishing trust in human–robot interaction. In *Proceedings of the 2024 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition*.

Khader, S. A., Ramakrishnan, V., Mansur, A., Yang, C.-F. J., Schumacher, L., & Manjanna, S. (2024). Medical surgery stream segmentation to detect and track robotic tools. In *Proceedings of the IEEE First International Conference on Artificial Intelligence for Medicine, Health and Care* (pp. 194–200). https://doi.org/10.1109/AIMHC59811.2024.00043

Yellakonda, K. V. R., Ruthwik, M., Garg, V., & Hussain, A. M. (2024, January). Appliance control using smart ceiling tiles and localization of energy harvesting switches. In *Proceedings of the IEEE Applied Sensing Conference* (pp. 1–4).

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Shikhar, S., Ranjan, R., Sa, A., Srivastava, A., Srivastava, Y., Kumar, D., & Sobti, A. (2024, July). Evaluation of computer vision pipeline for farm-level analytics: A case study in sugarcane. In *Proceedings of the 7th ACM SIGCAS/SIGCHI Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies* (pp. 238–247).

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EDITED BOOK CHAPTERS

Prince, B., Siddharth, S., Joshi, V., & Keshav, R. (2024). Investigating the effect of personal emotional score display on classroom learning. In M. E. Auer et al. (Eds.), *Smart technologies for a sustainable future* (Vol. 1028). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-61905-2_5

Monga, D., Jain, R., Chand, S. N., & Joshi, R. (2024). Decoding the entrepreneurial mindset of engineering education in India: A qualitative lens. In *Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems* (pp. 152–164). https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-53382-2_15

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Chatterjee, S., & Pandit, T. (2025). Revisiting generic conversion from non-adaptive to adaptively secure IBS: Tightness and an extension. In *Progress in Cryptology – INDOCRYPT 2024* (Vol. 15495). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-80308-6_13

Kumar, V., Monga, D., & Joshi, D. R. (2024). Unveiling the pathways to entrepreneurial mindset: Exploring aspirations, challenges, and socio-cultural dynamics among North Indian engineering students. In *Proceedings of the IEEE TALE Conference* (pp. 1–6). https://doi.org/10.1109/TALE62452.2024.10834332

BOOKS/MONOGRAPHS

Malik, A. (2024). *The plain sense of things: Time, history, and the dream*. In *Between life and thought: Existential anthropology and the study of religion*.

Joshi, R. (2025). Biomedical applications of silk fibroin. In *Engineering natural silk*. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-7901-7_8

Linkenbach, A., & Malik, A. (2024). *Realizing justice?: Normative orders and the realities of justice in India*.

Prince, B. (2025). *Mearcstapa: Border-walker*. Rupa Publications India. ISBN 978-93-6156-607-3.

PUBLICATIONS (2025)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Yadav, A., Kumar, S., Kıbrıs, C., & Akarsu, Ö. (2025). ΛsCDM cosmology: Alleviating major cosmological tensions by predicting standard neutrino properties. *Journal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics, 2025*(01), Article 042.

Singh, S., Arya, G., Mishra, R., Singla, S., Pratap, A., Upadhayay, K., … Chaba, R. (2025). Molecular mechanisms underlying allosteric behavior of *Escherichia coli* DgoR, a GntR/FadR family transcriptional regulator. *Nucleic Acids Research, 53*(1), gkae1299.

Gupta, R., Mathur, J., & Garg, V. (2024). A criteria-based climate classification approach considering clustering and building thermal performance: Case of India. *Building and Environment,* Article 112512.

Mishra, K. K., Lone, A. H., Srinivasan, S., Fariborzi, H., & Setti, G. (2025). Magnetic skyrmion: From fundamental physics to pioneering applications. *Applied Physics Reviews, 12*(1).

Majilla, T. (2025). Shadow education, intra-household financial resource allocation, and educational achievements. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, 233*, Article 106993.

Paladugu, S. H., Roy, K., Ashok, A., Nayak, B., Rangarajan, A., & Pratap, R. (2025). Boosting quality factor of resonant sensors in fluids. *Applied Physics Reviews, 12*(2).

Kaur, N., Navaneeth Chand, S., & Khunyakari, R. (2025). Situated problem-solving mediated through a pedagogic module on biomimicry for engineering students. *International Journal of Technology and Design Education*.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS & EXTENDED ABSTRACTS

Gadhvi, R., Petkar, S., Desai, P., Ramachandran, S., & Siddharth, S. (2025). AdaptAI: A personalized solution to sense your stress, fix your mess, and boost productivity. In *Proceedings of the Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '25)*. ACM.

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Yaragoppa, A., & Siddharth, S. (2025). Saliency-guided emotion modeling: Predicting viewer reactions from video stimuli. In *Proceedings of the Iberian Conference on Pattern Recognition and Image Analysis (IbPRIA 2025)*.

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Rao, C., Chopra, V., Soni, M., & Mishra, P. (2025). LifeSaver: Predictive load limit estimation for transport vehicles in hilly areas. In *Proceedings of the IEEE International Students' Conference on Electrical, Electronics, and Computer Science*.

Prince, B., Siddharth, S., Jalan, S., Muhammad, H. I., & Modi, C. (2025). AI-driven multimodal system for enhancing nonverbal communication in public speaking. In *Proceedings of the ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition*.

Prince, B., Panda, S., Goel, S., & Chowdhary, T. R. (2025). Project-based learning (PBL) for developing critical thinking skills in engineering students. In *Proceedings of the ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition*.

Prince, B., Humtsoe, M. E., Nune, S. S., Singla, A., Adhikari, T., Goyal, N., Blowria, Y., & Jhamb, P. (2025). Contextualizing engineering education by incorporating Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in the curriculum design. In *Proceedings of the ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition*.

LIST OF CURRENT SPONSORED PROJECTS*

SPONSORED RESEARCH PROJECTS: EXTRAMURAL GRANT

FY 2024-25

◉ Post-translational modifications of MRE11 at stalled replication forks –Dr. Swagata Halder (ANRF)

FY 2025-26 (Till 30th September 2025)

◉ Underrepresentation of Women in Leadership Positions in Indian Higher Education: A Critical Study on Perspectives of Achievers, Unsuccessful Aspirants, and Other Stakeholders- Dr. Rucha Joshi (Association of Indian University- AIU)

◉ Enhancing farmer incomes and improving environmental health via soil carbon sequestration – Dr. Navjot Kaur (Narotam Sekhsaria Foundation-NSF)

◉ Coupling Conformational Dynamics and Ligand Binding of Transporters to Investigate Blood-Brain Barrier Regulation within the Neurovascular – Dr. Monika Sharma (Department of Biotechnology)

◉ General Purpose Artificial Intelligence (AI) Models for Robotics – Dr. Deepan Muthirayan (ANRF)

SPONSORED RESEARCH PROJECTS: CSR

FY 2024-25

◉ Transforming Science Education Through Palm-Top Experimental Kits – Dr. Dhiraj Sinha (Murty trust)

◉ MolBio In-Vitro Diagnostics Lab – Dr. Chaitanya Lekshmi Indira (MoLBio Diagnostics)

RESEARCH CONSULTANCY

FY 2024-25

◉ Design, Development and Delivery training program (CTLC) - Dr. Brainerd Prince (Kotak Foundation)

◉ Quantitative assessment of improvement in soil health with biochar application – Dr. Navjot Kaur (Menterra Venture)

◉ The Development of Substation Dashboard and AI-based Predictive Analytics for Transformers at BYPL – Prof Vishal Garg (IIIT Hyderabad)

As of September 30, 2025

FUNDRAISE

Fundraising initiatives of Plaksha are led by the Institutional Advancement team to advance philanthropic interests with strategic growth and institutional priorities. Plaksha is built on the model of collective philanthropy. Philanthropic contributions have been made by 100+ individuals from around the globe, as well as Indian corporates through their CSR initiatives, and a handful of foundations, forming a diverse global founding community.

The university has secured financial commitments exceeding ₹1500+ crore till date. These funds have been allocated to advance institutional development, endow faculty chairs positions, and promote research and innovation through the establishment of research centers, labs and groups. Additionally, these commitments facilitate scholarships and support to ensure equal opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds.

Individuals and organizations who have contributed to the funding, above a certain threshold, are honored as Founders & Distinguished Trustees of the university. Contributions from others are recognized as Founders and Trustees, Founders and Changemakers.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES*

The Board of Trustees is the apex decision making body of RHEF. Along with the academic leadership of Plaksha, the Board of Trustees has been involved in envisioning and making key decisions for the university.

CORPORATES

Many corporates have partnered with Plaksha for the construction of infrastructure, research centers and laboratories. They support scholarships, fellowships for students, faculty development, creation of faculty chair positions as well as actively contribute their time and expertise to build an institution of excellence.

Bharti Airtel Foundation · HARISH & BINA SHAH FOUNDATION · AXIS BANK · HAVELLS
motilal oswal Foundation · H T Parekh FOUNDATION · INDORAMA VENTURES · Mphasis
infoedge INFO EDGE (INDIA) LIMITED · indegene · Dixon The brand behind brands · Jefferies
Aakash Medical IIT-JEE Foundation · nagarro · APL APOLLO STEEL PIPES · ate CHANDRA FOUNDATION
IndusInd Bank · Anthem BioSciences · eClerx · incedo
molbio INNOVATE · IMPACT · INSPIRE · DSP · MCKS TRUST FUND · indus TOWERS
V MART · BCG

SPACES TO THRIVE AND GROW

The 50-acre campus in the Chandigarh tri-city is tech-enabled and has been designed as a living lab – a space that fosters creativity.

BHARTI ACADEMIC BUILDING

- Center for Thinking, Language & Communication
- Boardroom
- Teaching Studio

HAVELLS RESEARCH BUILDING

- Makerspace
- Indorama Ventures Center for Clean Energy
- Dixon IoT Lab
- Molbio IVD Lab
- Jefferies Finhub
- Anthem Biosciences Nature's Machines Lab

HDFC LIMITED INNOVATION HUB

- ⊙ Info Edge Center for Entrepreneurship
- ⊙ ARK Foundation Robotics Lab
- ⊙ DS Brar Center for Girls and Women in STEM (Powered by Mphasis)

AXIS BANK FUTURETECH BUILDING

- ⊙ Binny Bansal Institute for Inventing the Future
- ⊙ Harish and Bina Shah School for AI & Computer Science

AGRAWAL-OSWAL STUDENT RESIDENCE

- ⊙ Student Activity Lounge
- ⊙ Student and Warden Rooms
- ⊙ 450+ student capacity

COMMUNITY SPACES

- ⊙ Usha Hasteer Auditorium
- ⊙ Asha Mukul Agrawal Library
- ⊙ Kamala Devi Murlidhar Kela Dining Hall
- ⊙ MCKS Thrive Room
- ⊙ Sports Facilities

AGRAWAL-OSWAL STUDENT RESIDENCE

A home away from home, the Agrawal-Oswal Student Residence is a place where lifelong bonds and deep, meaningful connections are made, where strangers become friends and where conversation and fights become cherished memories. Supported by the Motilal Oswal Foundation, this student residence is spread over 11 floors housing 450+ beds.
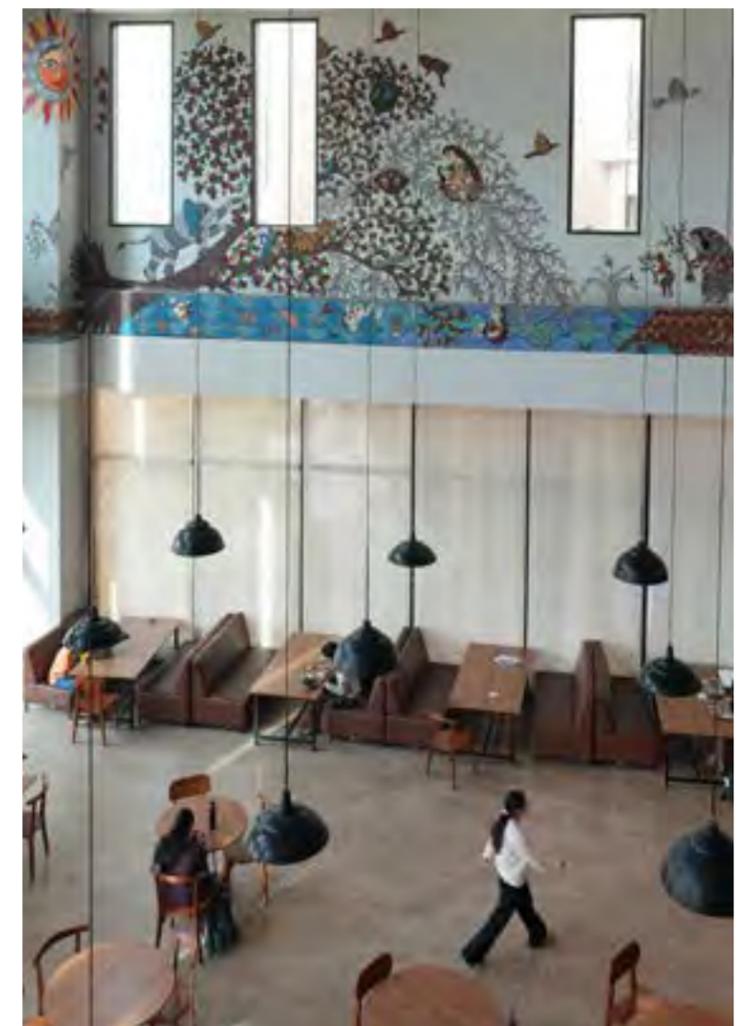
APL APOLLO FITNESS STUDIO

The APL Apollo Fitness Studio is a signature space for students, faculty and teams passionate about fitness and well-being. This state-of-the-art facility has a weight room, a functional exercise area and a cardio zone. Each of these areas features the latest gym equipment suited for improving endurance, building strength or engaging in functional workouts. The fitness studio also has a dedicated instructor to provide personalized guidance and training, ensuring a tailored regime for everyone.

ARK FOUNDATION ROBOTICS LAB

The robotics lab is a nation-building initiative by Plaksha's Distinguished Trustee, Ashish Rameshchandra Kacholia.

This thriving center is a space for innovation in robotics by facilitating hands-on learning and bridging the gap between academia and industry. The lab is focused on cutting-edge research in computer vision, AI and machine learning to develop flexible autonomous robotic systems. It allows to foster innovation in drone technology, UAVs, underwater marine robots, and sustainable solutions ensuring young engineers can advance India's position as a global leader in cutting-edge technologies.

ASHA MUKUL AGRAWAL LIBRARY

The Asha Mukul Agrawal Library is a grand space for research, reading and learning. It is well-stocked with books and learning resources for students and faculty. The library gives students a chance to discuss innovative ideas, collaborate on interdisciplinary project work, and benefit from multimedia tools and digital resources. It also ignites students' desire to connect with books and further their knowledge.

CULTURAL ARTS STUDIO

The Cultural Arts Studio is a vibrant hub dedicated to the artistic expression of the soul. This inspiring space is designed for students to discover, hone and master their talents in dance and music.
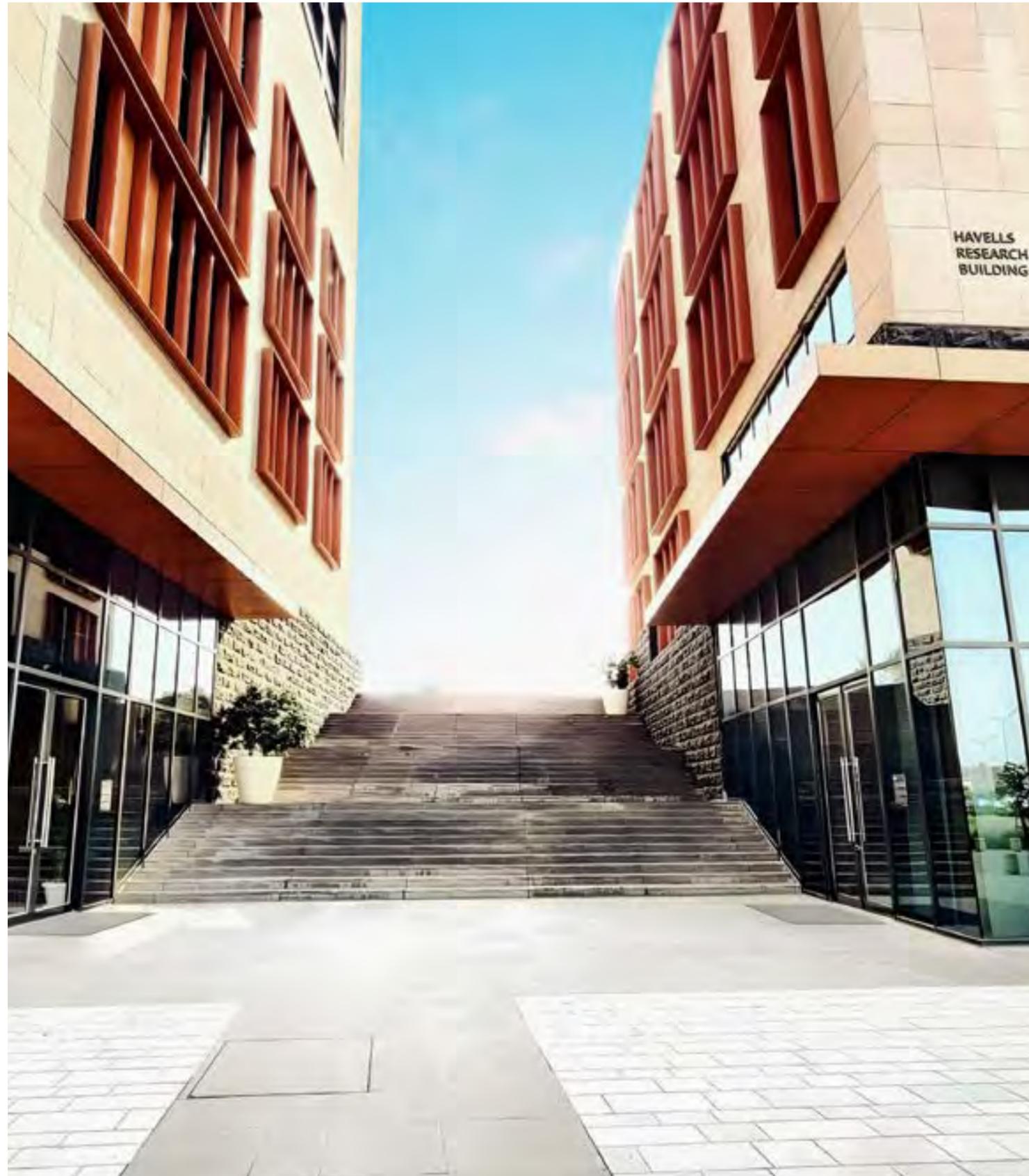
The studio is perfect for shoots, programs and recordings, offering an environment that nurtures creativity and artistic growth. Throughout the year, the studio hosts workshops in a variety of dance and music genres, providing opportunities for continuous learning and exploration. Here, dance and melody come together, creating a rich, immersive experience that enhances the artistic journey of every student.

HDFC LIMITED INNOVATION HUB

Supported by the HT Parekh Foundation, the HDFC Limited Innovation Hub is a beacon of cutting-edge education and entrepreneurial support. It has been designed as a center to drive widespread impact by creating, developing and integrating technologies and experiences to address grand challenges with an emerging market focus. The innovation ecosystem in this space emphasizes on design, hands-on learning, critique and reflection.

Spread over two floors, it covers an area of 25,500 square feet and houses the Robotics Lab, the InfoEdge Center for Entrepreneurship, and the DS Brar Center for Girls and Women in STEM.

JEFFERIES FINHUB

Jefferies Finhub is a learning space to develop expertise in data science, analytics and technology in the domain of finance. At Plaksha, this is done via capstone, research projects and internships. There are multiple Refinitiv terminals that create a simulated trading environment.

KAMALA DEVI MURLIDHAR KELA DINING HALL

The dining hall can seat over 150 students, faculty and team. This space was built with the support of Plaksha's Founder & Distinguished Trustee, Madhusudan Kela with the belief that "You are what you eat". Operational for all meals and snacks, it caters to all taste buds with an array of choices.

MULTIPURPOSE HALL

This is a state-of-the-art indoor recreation area. Supported by Plaksha's corporate donor V Mart, the facility has three wooden badminton courts and one wooden basketball court on the ground floor. Practice and training sessions by a coach are held daily for students. The Multipurpose Hall is being developed and designed as a vibrant urban space for yoga, chess and a host of other activities and games.

USHA HASTEER AUDITORIUM

The Usha Hasteer Auditorium is a gift from Gagan Hasteer, Founder & Distinguished Trustee, Plaksha University, to the tech leaders who will shape tomorrow. Designed as a space that nurtures learning, creativity and community, it has already become a landmark on campus. The very first undergraduate convocation of Plaksha was held here – a moment that marked history, celebrated student journeys, and set the tone for the many milestones this auditorium will continue to witness. It stands as a symbol of belief in young talent and the transformative power of education.

FOUNDERS ON CAMPUS

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Investing in environments that encourage students to connect deeply is as important as investing in curriculum. These bonds shape how individuals think, build and collaborate.

Madhusudan Kela

By giving students the freedom to question, explore and think independently, Plaksha nurtures thinkers, not just careers.

Mukul Agrawal

We feel that the best way to give back to society is through education and innovation in the education sector. Dixon is thankful to have become a part of Plaksha's journey with the IoT lab.

Atul B Lall

Higher education grounded in hard work and dedication creates pathways to purpose and fulfilment. The Usha Hasteer Auditorium at Plaksha is a space where ideas can be shared, perspectives broadened and a strong academic community can come together.

Gagan Hasteer

Through support for early-stage women tech entrepreneurs, immersive AI exposure for high-school students, and skill-building programs for undergraduate women, the DS Brar Center for Girls and Women in STEM is helping shape a more inclusive and future-ready technology ecosystem.

Nitin Rakesh

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"

At Plaksha, we look beyond technical skills to instill the critical judgment and adaptability required for an increasingly complex global economy. Institutions grounded in these principles are positioned to create enduring impact.

Jai Rajpal

A student's education extends far beyond the classroom. I have stayed in various hostels for 9 years and have experienced that hostel are where character is shaped, deep friendships are formed, and values are tested every day. At Plaksha, we hope to create an environment where young people learn to grow together.

Motilal Oswal

By integrating holistic wellbeing into the student experience, Plaksha is nurturing leaders who are not only equipped to solve complex challenges, but are balanced and prepared to thrive.

Sunny Singh

Some of the most powerful ideas and enduring entrepreneurial journeys begin in hostels. The student residences at Plaksha will hopefully be the place where future founders, innovators and leaders are born.

Raamdeo Agrawal

By blending disciplines, from biological sciences and computing to economics and data science and grounding students in our common Freshmore curriculum, we develop technologists who do more than build or code. They understand context, policy and societal impact. Plaksha's futuristic curriculum promotes cross disciplinary thinking, a rare yet essential foundation for creative problem solving.

Hitesh Oberoi

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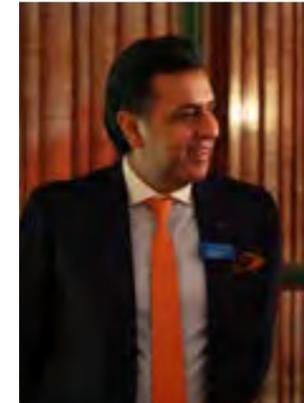
The Axis Bank FutureTech initiative will go beyond scholarships and create a long-term innovation ecosystem.

Vijay Mulbagal

Almost a decade back, a small group of us made a pact to set up an engineering oriented university to reimagine the way that engineering was being taught, both in India and in elite institutions around the world. The dream saw the first step in that journey with the inaugural batch's convocation. But, as Robert Frost said, "There are miles to go before we sleep."

Ambarish Raghuvanshi

Building India's future in advanced technologies requires spaces where young engineers can experiment, build and learn by doing. The ARK Foundation Robotics Lab at Plaksha has been created to encourage hands-on engineering, curiosity and close engagement with real-world challenges.

Ashish R Kacholia

Building strong institutions requires the discipline to translate ideas into reliable systems and solutions that work at scale. Plaksha plays a critical role in developing this mindset.

Sangeeta Sriram

Plaksha is enhancing educational accessibility and fostering the next generation of innovators and bioscientists.

Ajay Bhardwaj

The spirit of innovation is anchored in societal context, institutional purpose and responsible stewardship.

Deepak S Parekh

The coming decades in India, and indeed the world, will see a tectonic shift, driven by future technologies. We have only scratched the surface of Artificial Intelligence's promise in sectors like climate action, agriculture and manufacturing. At this critical juncture, I hope to see India emerge as a global knowledge hub – our nation has always had the minds, it is now time for us to harness this talent dividend.

Rakesh Bharti Mittal

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GOVERNANCE

GOVERNING BODY

The Governing Board is the apex decision-making body of the university and is headed by the Chancellor and comprises the Vice Chancellor, external experts, government representatives and nominees of RHEF. The university management is done by the Governing Body, the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor (both of whom are senior academicians). The Chancellor is the Chair of the Governing Body and the Vice Chancellor is akin to the CEO of the university taking all day-to-day decisions.

S Shankar Sastry
Chairperson

Rudra Pratap

Neeraj Aggarwal

Hitesh Oberoi

Rakesh Bharti Mittal

Sumita Ambasta

Manas Human

SK Jain

Ashish Gupta

The Administrative Secretary to Govt of Punjab, Department of Higher Education or his representative not below the rank of Joint Secretary

Two eminent educationists nominated by the Secretary to the Government of Punjab in consultation with the Chancellor

One expert from the finance department is nominated by Secretary Finance or their nominee.

Director Higher Education or their Nominee

Abhay Sharma (Member Secretary)

Arvind Agrawal (Permanent Invitee)

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The university also has a Board of Management (BoM) chaired by the Chancellor and comprising Deans, senior members of university leadership and some nominees of RHEF.

S Shankar Sastry
Chairperson

Rudra Pratap

Arvind Agrawal

Alok Mittal

Ambarish Raghuvanshi

Meeta Malhotra

Mohit Thukral

Mukul Agrawal

Pallavi Jain

Vikrant Bhargava

Vishal Garg

Gaurav Verma

Brainerd Prince

Suresh Kumar

Srikant Srinivasan

Rucha Joshi

Director of Higher Education, Punjab as representative of the State Government

Abhay Sharma (Member Secretary)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee is responsible for the approval of the annual budget of the university. It tenders advice to the Vice Chancellor on financial matters. The chief accounts and finance officer is responsible for the preparation of the annual budget and the preparation of the accounts of annual income and expenditure of the university.

Rudra Pratap
Chairperson

Srikant Srinivasan

Abhay Sharma

Arvind Agrawal

Ambarish Raghuvanshi

Lalit Agarwal

Nominee of the State Government nominated by the Secretary Finance

Director, Higher Education or their nominee

Umesh Sharma (Member Secretary)

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

The university also has an Academic Council which is the principle academic body of the university. It regulates, coordinates and exercises general supervision over the academic policies of the university.

Rudra Pratap
Chairperson

Srikant Srinivasan

Sunita Chauhan

Suresh Kumar

TV Ramanathan

Rajesh Sharma

Manoj Kannan

Monika Sharma

Sandeep Manjanna

Amrutur Bharadwaj

Navakanta Bhat

Naveen Garg

Ravi Jasuja

One eminent academician nominated by the State Government

Abhay Sharma (Member Secretary)

Arvind Agrawal (Permanent Invitee)

REGULATORY COMMITTEES*

SC/ST/OBC/OTHER MINORITY-BASED COMMITTEE FOR PREVENTION OF CASTE-BASED DISCRIMINATION

This committee ensures no discrimination occurs based on caste, creed, religion, or community. Awareness initiatives and grievance redressal mechanisms are actively maintained.

Brainerd Prince
Chairperson

Vartika Bharti (Convenor)

Shalini Sharma

Praveen Kumar Tomar

Soorya KS

Samyaka Patil

Narasimha P

All committees remained functional throughout the year, and no incidents or grievances were reported.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CELL

This committee meets to promote equality and inclusivity across all university activities. Awareness programs and interactive sessions highlights policies and provisions for equal opportunity.

Samuel Wright
Chairperson

Prakarsh Singh

Nimrata Kapoor

Pamil Preet Kaur (Convenor)

Gulafshan Khan

Saher Mohammed

Agamvir Singh

Ashmith KP

INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

The Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) is for the prevention of sexual harassment in the university. It is headed by the Chairperson and includes faculty, executives and students as members.

Monika Sharma
Chairperson

Vartika Bharti (Convenor)

Shashank Tamaskar

Manoj Kannan

Kriti Khanna

Nina Mehta

Sahil Mittal

Prerna Kalra

Latika Thukral

Vansh Kohli

Esraaj Gupta

Kuhuk Katiyar

Anvita Ghosh

SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED GROUPS (SEDG) CELL

The SEDG Cell actively supports students from socio-economically weaker and historically marginalized backgrounds, ensuring access to resources and guidance to overcome barriers and succeed academically.

TV Ramanathan
Chairperson

Prakarsh Singh

Monika Sharma

Gaurav Kumar

Praveen Kumar Tomar

Akash Gupta

Varun KN

Gaganpreet

Anurag Gour (Member Secretary)

ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD

Plaksha's academic vision and programs are guided by a distinguished Academic Advisory Board. They are eminent academicians and thought leaders from across the globe – each at the forefront of transforming education in their respective institutions.

Dr Anant Agarwal
MIT

Dr Arvind Raman
Purdue University

Dr Ashish Nanda
Harvard Business School

Dr BN Jain
IIT Delhi

Dr Frances Ligler
Texas A&M University

Dr Howard Griffiths
University of Cambridge

Dr James Holloway
University of New Mexico

Dr Jennifer Cochran
Stanford University

Dr Julie Ross
Virginia Tech

Dr Kaushik Basu
Cornell University

Dr Krishna Palepu
Harvard Business School

Dr Pankaj Jalote
IIIT Delhi

Dr Rajesh K Gupta
UC San Diego

Dr Sanjay Sarma
MIT

Dr S Shankar Sastry
UC Berkeley

Dr Sharad Malik
Princeton University

Dr Sriram Rajamani
Microsoft Research India Lab

Dr Venkatesh Narayanmurthi
Harvard University

Dr Vijay Kumar
University of Pennsylvania

Dr Yannis C Yortsos
University of Southern California

FULL-TIME FACULTY

Abhishek Dureja
Aditya Malik
Alok Ranjan
Amit Sheth
Amith Shastri K
Amruta Ranjan Behera
Anil Kumar Roy
Andy Lee Ruina
Ankur Nahar
Anish Roychowdhury
Anupam Sobti
Arshdeep Sidhu
Ashish Kumar Pandey
Brainerd Prince
Chaitanya Lekshmi Indira
Deepak Khemani
Deepan Muthirayan
Dhiraj Sinha

Karan Babbar
Kriti Khanna
M Balakrishnan
Malini Balakrishnan
Manoj Kannan
Mayank Ratan Bhardwaj
Monika Sharma
Navjot Kaur
Pankaj Pansari
Prakarsh Singh
Prashanth Suresh Kumar
Praveen Kumar
Rajesh Sharma
Rajiv Ratn Shah
Rucha Vinay Joshi
Rudra Pratap
Saeed Salehi
Sagar Chandrakant

Pandhare
Samuel Wright
Sandeep Manjanna
Shashank Tamaskar
Shashikant Pawar
Siddharth
Srikant Srinivasan
Sunita Chauhan
Suresh Kumar
Swagata Halder
Tapas Pandit
Thekke Variyam Ramanathan
Vasudha Chopra
Vishal Garg
Vivek Deulkar

VISITING FACULTY

Abhilasha Sinha
Anuj Kapoor
Anuraj Soni
Bhavish Sood
Jitesh Panchal
Ken Singer

Mark Searle
Rajkumar Sureshchandra Pant
Sandeep Bhushan
Somveer Anand
Vikrama Dhiman

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

Shankar Sastry
Founding Chancellor

Rudra Pratap
Founding Vice Chancellor

Abhay Sharma
Registrar

Academic Leadership

Sunita Chauhan
Professor
Dean of Research

Srikant Srinivasan
Professor
Dean of Academics

M Balakrishnan
Distinguished Professor
Advisor, Faculty Affairs

Manoj Kannan
Associate Professor
Associate Dean,
Student Affairs

Suresh Kumar
Professor
Director, Office of
Graduate Studies

Rajesh Sharma
Professor
UG Program Chair,
Computer Science
& Artificial Intelligence

Prakarsh Singh
Chair Professor
UG Program Chair, Data
Science Economics
& Business

Monika Sharma
Associate Professor
UG Program Chair, Biological
Systems Engineering

Shashank Tamaskar
Associate Professor
Director, Center for
Sustainable & Precision
Agriculture UG Program
Chair, Robotics &
Autonomous Systems

Vishal Garg
Professor
Director, Indorama Ventures
Center for Clean Energy

Malini Balakrishnan
Professor
Director, Center for Water
Security

Chaitanya Lekshmi Indira
Associate Professor
Director, Center for
Equitable & Personalized
Healthcare

Brainerd Prince
Associate Professor
Director, Center for
Thinking, Language and
Communication

Navjot Kaur
Assistant Professor
Assistant Dean, UG Outreach
& Admissions

Executive Leadership

Arvind Agrawal
Pro-Vice Chancellor

Umesh Sharma
Chief Finance and Accounts
Officer

Jitin Sahni
Chief Operating Officer

Nimrata Kapoor
Chief Human Resource Officer
Lead for Center for
Entrepreneurship

Sarika Gupta Bhattacharyya
Vice President, Institutional
Advancement (RHEF)

Rajiv Khosla
Vice President, External
Engagement

Arun Sharma
Director, Projects

Kanchi Khanna
Senior Director, Admissions and
Financial Aid

Srabani Ghosh
Director, Office of Corporate
Partnerships and Careers

Nina Mehta
Director, Brand and
Communications

Pawan Kumar
Director, Growth Enablement

Vikram Patel
Director, Outreach

Plaksha University launches Binny Bansal Institute for Inventing the Future

STEM still has miles to go for gender equality

This article is authored by Rudra Pratap, founding vice chancellor, Plaksha University and former deputy director, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.

Gene editing of crops can be one way of tackling climate change, says Plaksha varsity's Navjot Kaur

Her research team is working on developing diagnostics therapeutics for agricultural ecosystems

Engineers need communication skills as a powerful tool for innovation

Plaksha University Begins School Of AI & Computer Science

Amid geopolitical tensions, new-age Indian universities emerge as alternatives to foreign undergraduate education

Universities such as Ashoka, Plaksha, and Masters Union have taken steps to make it easier for students with admits in foreign universities to apply to their institution. Others note increasing inquiries from students and parents who either face visa rejections or are apprehensive of going abroad.

Plaksha University Marks Foundation Day with INR 1500 Cr Fundraise, Unveils School of AI & Computer Science

Digitally responsible teens? Challenges of parental controls in digital literacy

Parental controls help shield teens from online dangers, but over-reliance can hinder their digital literacy and critical thinking skills. Finding the right balance between protection and empowerment is the

From Shining Buildings To Shining Careers: Dr Rudra Pratap On The True Role Of Education

Varsity students develop software to bridge communication gap for hearing impaired

ACUTE SHORTAGE OF INTERPRETERS.

Programme on STEM held for govt school teachers

YOURSTORY
THE BILLION-DOLLAR MINDS
BETTING BIG ON EDUCATION!