



Connecting Thinkers...



For many of us, the idea of an M.Phil or a Ph.D course does not correspond with structured learning, and regular classes. These research degrees are mostly about independent work, interaction with the supervisors, and mostly finding or making your own way. Hence the sense of achievement of being conferred such degrees is so much more than the Bachelor's or Master's degrees.

However, as we near the end of our coursework for the 2019 batch of research scholars, we reflect on the advantages of structured teaching and learning environments, even in research degrees. One of the main intentions behind such a learning environment is to open up the scholars to thinking about research, and a 'researcher's way' of doing things. The Research Methodology course provides an overview of the various ways in which research can be proceeded with, and a whole lot of choices which the researcher might have to make along the way. The next advantage is that of being able to discuss various issues with fellow scholars who may be from different subjects, varied disciplines, and in various stages of their careers, hence the advantage of learning from different experiences.

Though the research courses are less structured than the other University courses, there are a lot of broad concepts that are introduced and discussed, with guided in-depth learning. Most of all, the teaching-learning process is more learner centric, than curriculum bound. At JAIN, we ensure that two specialisation papers are tailor-made for each research scholar. The course work in the first year sets the path for how the research scholars will plan their next few years.

When we meet scholars after they have finished the coursework, or even as alumni, they always remember the class interactions, workshop activities, and peer-learning. A long journey of four-five years always starts together, in a classroom, with a structured learning environment. And we must confess that though the scholars say they have learnt a lot during the classroom interactions, it is actually us, facilitators, who take back much more knowledge and experience year after year, thanks to YOU!

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Guide's Column

Forensic Microbiology: Seeing the unseen facts

“Every contact leaves a trace”

According to this principle proposed by Edmond Locard, whenever there is a contact between two items, there will be an exchange. Over the past few decades, the field of Forensic Science has made tremendous progress in crime scene investigation. Forensic Science, being a multidisciplinary subject, deals with the principles and applications of biological, chemical and physical sciences, together with concepts of medical sciences and engineering. In recent years, microbial forensics has emerged as a special division for detection of bioterrorism. Forensic Microbiology includes the examination of microorganisms or their toxins which may be involved in epidemiological studies and as potential agents of bio-warfare.



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The human body harbours a diverse microflora living both on the surface and inside. Besides the normal flora, every human being carries a unique consortium of microorganisms, which is determined by multiple factors such as age, gender, medical conditions, diet intake, habits and lifestyle patterns. Body fluids like saliva, tears, blood, semen, cervical fluid and urine can be important to criminal investigations and the information derived from them may aid in successful resolution of judicial processes. Forensic studies have demonstrated that the use of saliva, which is deposited in prints, bite marks, cigarette butts, stamps and other objects, may assist in individual identification. The use of saliva as a forensic evidence offers numerous advantages such as ease of access, low cost in acquiring samples, ease of handling and non-invasive collection techniques.

Additionally, the occurrence of various proteins in human saliva, together with their comparison in healthy population, has been advocated as possible method of biomarker detection in different individuals. The salivary biomarkers are classified into proteomic, genomic and microbial biomarkers.

The oral microbiome comprises of members of various bacterial and fungal genera along with certain viral populations unique to this environment. Saliva also provides genetic material which can be used even if it is stored suboptimally. Identification of these salivary biomarkers can aid in disease diagnosis and crime detection. Our ongoing research work in the department focusses on selective isolation and enumeration of bacterial and fungal biomarkers in human saliva. Comparative analysis of enzymatic and molecular markers in saliva samples obtained from different human populations is also being investigated. The expected outcome of the present study may be of social relevance helping us to decipher the role of saliva as an important tool in forensic identification.

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What Can Organisations Do to Elevate the Next Generation of Young Leaders?

The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The leader adjusts the sails. – John Maxwell

What does it say when the world's youngest TED & Keynote speaker, Google Developer Expert for Machine Learning, and IBM Champion for Cloud is just 16 years old? The world's known climate activist is again just 16 years old? A group of high school students from Florida take forward the dialogue on gun control in America?

The time has come when not just business houses but all formats of leading organizations and institutions need to be duty-bound to acquire and equip young talent with the required skill – sets. They should create opportunities for young talent in order to work towards a positive change to build a better world. The experienced leaders should share their knowledge with the new leaders as this will enable them to gain deeper insights.

It is coming to light that, in today's time young individuals are more alarmed about the on-going challenges faced by the world they're living in and are motivated to stand up for the cause they believe in. Their motto is obvious and their resolve is strong. But they need the required push and backing that will further channelise their thought process in bringing the desired positive change.

How can we bring in the desired change?

Technologies like artificial intelligence, big data, machine learning and more, are rapidly changing the future, both in and out of the workplace. They are transforming the skill-sets needed to succeed. Earning the trust of the younger generation is pivotal and the organisations which are motivated by a greater societal purpose will prove to be more successful over time.

Young leaders today already have the basic understanding of leading the way forward but a strong backing in the form of direction from a senior leader or a team will lead to an unimaginable outcome There are umpteen ways for organisations to showcase that they have a purpose beyond profit which ultimately is to improve their goodwill and reputation. Societal issues like climate change and inequality should definitely be on every leader's agenda but at the same time, the organisations should aim at preparing young people for the leadership roles they'll assume one day and ensure they have the tools necessary to succeed.

This is possible if the younger generation can be taught through leadership rather than just instilling the ingredients of leadership in them. Young leaders today already have the basic understanding of leading the way forward but a strong backing in the form of direction from a senior leader or a team will lead to an unimaginable outcome. The senior leaders must be purposeful in their approach, diligent about nurturing the next generation, open to accept their differences with an aim to develop a culture, which will create an ecosystem to build young leaders.

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The Review's Purview

Often, research scholars are left with more number of questions than they can handle; particularly in the initial stages. The abstractness of the initial conceptualising process, the multiplicity of angles to be considered for decision-making, etc. add many layers making the process complicated. A boon to cut across such daunting questions would be to review the relevant literature in the chosen topic. The best guiding principles of *Review of Literature* or ROL as it is popularly referred to are: Recency and Relevance.

Why 'Recency'? Any new results uncovered by research are absorbed as ROL by subsequent studies guiding them through the light of such discoveries to explore further questions. So, choosing older work does not endorse 'recency' as they are already absorbed by previous studies.

What is 'Relevant'? This involves carefully shortlisting those peer-reviewed research papers which are most close and suitably aligned to one's research topic and the topic's direction. Such papers can help the scholar understand research methodology applied, differences in approaches of such methodology across regions, etc. amongst others. For example: If the research topic is 'Emotional Intelligence and Finance Professionals', shortlisting articles related to IQ, SQ etc. will not be most suitable.

*The best guiding principles of
Review of Literature:
Recency and Relevance*

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Who are we ?

We are standing here,
From a quite long time as humans know,
Who said us to do so,
From time immemorial who knows?
Humans are making action,
Our is just reactions,
We do not know its equal or opposite action,
Bound to make living in a
Confined space, foods need to be constructed
Before consumption.
We are supposed to breath
In nights, where everyone is asleep,
An open sky, who is blue during the day,
Dark studded with stars in the night,
Clouds make their way but,
We are asked to stay away
From such thoughts,
Thinking yet how long to stand here,
If any animal can give me mobile stature,
I can take the revolution and rotation,
Of gaseous nations and universe, if they are called so.
We are asked to stand here,
Who are we?

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From an Ardent Reader of Thinklet– My Gratitude in Writing!!

It is always a pleasure to wait for Thinklet magazine to drop into our inbox every month. Each time I begin reading Thinklet, it gives me a deep sense of enlightenment and energy to confidently and religiously pursue my research and teaching goals. Thinklet becomes my energy-booster! When any member of the JAIN family (junior or senior researchers, guides etc.) share their achievements or the stories of their research journey, they turn out to be an encouragement to me, and I say to myself- “Yes! I can! Yes, I have also gone through the same pains or pleasures, I am also going to achieve my Doctorate soon!” or sometimes, even the other way round “Oh my...I need to work faster now!” I have to say a big Thank You for all the positive reinforcements and motivation shared by my fellow researchers. On the other hand, we have a super- efficient team at JAIN that keeps us on our toes, ensuring that our research journey begins and also ends smoothly without impediments. The efforts of the Team to bring out the newsletter every month at the right time is a herculean task! I run short of words to express my gratitude for the unconditional support provided by all the faculty and mentors, associated in helping us receive our research degrees at JAIN. I do hope that we as research scholars belonging to the JAIN family succeed in contributing to our mentors’ vision in enhancing the quality of the research culture. Finally, I would like to thank everyone for providing a wonderful learning platform by way of THINKLET!

Thinklet becomes my energy-booster!

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My Tryst with Indian Railways as a Research Interest

‘Railways’ is a subject which not many people talk about. However, I have a different narrative to this less acknowledged domain. My interest for railways started during my childhood, by being fascinated by photos of trains. As I progressed along, my quest for knowing more about railways grew, though on humble lines with trying to distinguish between diesel and electric locomotives, and may be a skewed idea of actually understanding tracks and coaches. It was in my high school days that I took a step forward and started exploring the history of railways. I pursued it with zeal, and during my junior college days, received an acknowledgement to my interest from none other than the former director of Doordarshan, Mr. Sirhatti, who acknowledged the knowledge that I modestly built, while exhibiting a project on Railways, during a Social Science Fest. This drove my passion to introspect on Railways from a policy perspective and I

My interest for railways started since childhood, by being fascinated by photos of trains started following the news from close quarters, starting a blog to deliberate on the Railway policies, and in due course being followed by the Google handle of former Railway minister Suresh Prabhu, which was to be one of the first milestones.

Along the way, I also received support from my teachers, and made my first presentation in 2015 hosted by my alma-mater, which received a positive response from the audience and jury. This also opened up the opportunity of being invited by different departments for delivering guest lectures on railways and attracting attention of the campus news channel, which interviewed me on my passion. In 2017, I presented yet another paper on “Narrating Railways through Films” at a National Conference for which I received the Best Paper award. It was during this time that I was working on my Masters’ dissertation on High-Speed railways, which today is one of the most read dissertations across research platforms, including being listed as amongst the ‘most read’ by *Academia*.

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Reflections on Research Coursework from International Scholars

Mekuriaw Chanie

Today, I find myself thinking of what Vladimir Lenin said “There are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen.” At our coursework at JAIN, every week, there is no lost minute; and a lot of learning which happens in a systematic manner with practical examples. The social environment starting from the administrative staff, to the faculty members, are all humble, cheerful and cooperative. Seeing this, I feel the need to reciprocate, and I feel I must make an effort to learn the local languages (Kannada and Hindi), so that I can interact more, and deep-dive into understanding Indian culture.

Aschalew Asefa Teka

In the specialisation course which is provided by my supervisor, I got an opportunity to know how to review journals and articles. In this process, there are many things to keep in mind, such as grasping the central idea of the article, finding limitations of the author’s argument, and bringing up one’s own arguments. Citing and referencing are among the common challenges that we all face, but the course taught me to overcome that as well. Writing many concepts in one sentence was something I used to do, but I got to know that there should be a single concept for a single sentence.

Gemechu Getahun

In my past experience, Research Methods are often taught by way of a ‘lecture-discussion’ format, with perhaps a research proposal or a few exercises included, which result in ‘Book-Smart’ students (we are very knowledgeable, but have difficulty applying that knowledge to solve actual problems). But, in our coursework, skill-based practical tools are applied by experienced faculty members for each topic, which makes a naturally complex subject clear and simple to me. I would like to thank all the research methodology teachers for their effort for our effective learning, which makes the class enjoyable, as well as motivates us. Everyone’s participation in class makes us feel that we have understood and benefitted from all discussions.

Temesgen Mendo

Having completed my higher education in different countries, my thoughts on attending the coursework at JAIN University is that in every class, I have acquired advanced knowledge, skills and experience. I have got confidence for reflecting on my own ideas, and the class is open for everyone to explore his/her ideas. I have developed an understanding of how to refer to articles, organise, interpret and analyse arguments, and find the key points of the article. The classroom activities, presentations, question and answers, etc. gives a new space to generate new ideas and get responses to our ideas. Learning is not restricted to the classroom but we have external guests and invited presentations as well. I can say from experience that other Universities can take lessons from JAIN.

Worku Sendek

My favourite parts of class are the presentations, and group discussions. The questions asked by all the scholars and teachers, help to clarify a lot of things. The examples help us to gain more insight. The extensive debate and discussions on various topics have contributed to my understanding of political economy, law and research methods.

“Those people who develop the ability to continuously acquire new and better forms of knowledge that they can apply to their work and to their lives, will be the movers and shakers in our society for the indefinite future.” - Brian Tracy

Report on IIHS Sixth Annual Ph.D Workshop, January 13th- 15th, 2020

Last year in the month of October, I was informed by my supervisor, regarding the upcoming Sixth Annual Ph.D. Workshop, 2020 to be organised by Indian Institute of Human Settlements (IIHS), Bengaluru from January 13 to 15, 2020. Consequently, I applied for the same and got shortlisted along with 17 other scholars from different universities across the globe. The three-days workshop was a fruitful experience, which gave an opportunity to meet various scholars from different fields and also provided a platform to interact and learn the whereabouts of research in other universities.

The first day started with an introduction to the workshop, followed by a session on ‘Research Method and Research Design’ and its significance in laying the foundation of one’s research. After this, all the 18 scholars were divided into groups, based on their progress in the research. In these groups, we were asked to present our work. The presentations were followed by a series of questions, suggestions, and feedbacks which we all worked on and made a second presentation on the last day. The evening session was left for one-on-one faculty discussion on one’s work, where I got a chance to discuss my work and get valuable inputs.

The second day had two very intense sessions, one on ‘Research Ethics’ and the other on ‘Navigating the Publishing World’, exposing the researchers to some of the basic yet momentous issues of doing research. The day ended with one-on-one interaction with faculty members. The third day started off with a session on ‘Theorising the Urban’, which opened up new horizons to two important questions – first, are we talking of theorising the urban, second, are we urbanising the theory, followed by a round of discussions, questions, and comments by research scholars. Finally, at the end of the third day scholars made their final presentation incorporating the suggestions given by faculty from IIHS and outside.



In a nutshell, the time spent at the Ph.D. workshop was intellectually stimulating and enabled us to uncover the deeper questions regarding our research work. The students' presentations and one to one interaction with the faculty was definitely a unique exercise and helped us to imbibe alternative perspectives offered by the experts.

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Report on National Conference organized by the Department of Performing Arts – Music and Dance, 17th - 18th January, 2020



On the first day of the National Conference on 'Research in Indian Music and Dance', Mr. Arun Sreenivasan welcomed the gathering. The Inaugural Address was given by Prof. K.R. Sridhara Murthy, Director- Academics, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University). Prof. Murthy stressed upon carrying out research with an objective and scientific spirit. Dr. Sandeep Shastri, Pro Vice-Chancellor, JAIN, in a recorded message, spoke about the research activities at JAIN with specific reference to Performing Arts. In his Keynote Address, Shatavadhani Dr. R. Ganesh, eminent scholar and polyglot, spoke about aesthetics in music and dance, aspects of textual criticism and making Arts research more accountable and objective. The inauguration concluded with the book release of Dr. Shobha Shashikumar, Adjunct Faculty member,

Department of Performing Arts, JAIN. The book titled *Natyaayana*, discusses vital aspects of technique and aesthetics of dance, and is a publication of Noopura Bhramari Research Organization.

Several papers were presented in the conference by delegates from institutions such as Sikkim University, Gangtok, Central University of Tamil Nadu, University of Madras, Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University, Bangalore University, University of Hyderabad, Music Academy Research Centre, Central University, Hyderabad, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Bengaluru, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham University, Bengaluru and JAIN. The papers presented covered myriad topics such as historical manuscript and text-based research in music and dance, use of modern technology such as Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality in music pedagogy, comparative studies of music composers, dance criticism, aspects of literature and its application in practice, Aesthetics, Post-Performance analysis and the like. The resource persons who chaired the sessions and also participated in the panel discussion on the second day were Dr. T.S. Sathyavathi, Eminent Scholar and Musician, Dr. K. Varadarangan, musician and scientist, Dr. V. Premalatha, Dean, School of Performing Arts and Fine Arts, Central University, Tamil Nadu, Dr. Rajshri Ramakrishna, Chairperson, Performing Arts, University of Madras, Dr. Manorama BN, Eminent Dance Historian and President, Noopura Bhramari Research Organization, Dr. Shobha Shashikumar, Adjunct Faculty member, JAIN and Dr. Meera Rajaram Pranesh, Adjunct Faculty member, JAIN.



At the end of the first day, a colourful cultural programme was put together by the Master's students of our Music and Dance department. They performed several compositions by eminent composers, accompanied by Smt. Prema Vivek on the violin and Sri Sunil Subrahmanya on the Mridangam, and there was also a dance drama production titled, *KaniKathaamani*, based on the Koravanji traditions of Karnataka, a primary research conducted by Dr. Manorama BN.



On the second day, in the panel discussion moderated by Dr. Arati Rao, there were deliberations on research in performing arts. The importance of being passionate towards a particular area of research while choosing a research topic was stressed upon. The panellists felt that research in performing arts is not only about discovering new things, but also about evolving a new perspective. Methodologies for research in performing arts have to evolve for each research project specifically and fine-tuned to the needs of the project. At the end of the panel discussion, the floor was open to the audience and the experts answered questions from them.

As part of the valedictory function at the end of the second day, six delegates were awarded prizes for their papers, Sharnya Govindaraj, Abhijith Shenoy, Krithika Sreenivasan, Srilatha K, Arjun Bharadwaj and Shruti Mahadevan, by the Director, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Major Dr. Rekha Sinha. In her address, Dr. Sinha spoke about the positive impact of music and dance and said that art could be an antidote to problems in society. The vote of thanks was given by Dr. Arati Rao.



One of the highlights of the conference- appreciated by the invited guests and delegates was the eco-friendly food coupons, which were hand made by the student- volunteers. The conference kits were sourced from Suruchi Foundation, Bengaluru, which supports underprivileged women. The goodies which were given as part of the conference kit were also prepared by the students. The department received many compliments and was informed (both in conversation and through feedback forms) that the delegates and the resource persons are waiting for the next conference, next year. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to make this a successful event.

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GRAD SCHOOL ENERGY LEVELS



JORGE CHAN © 2011

Achievements and Publications



Dr. Arati Rao, Coordinator– Music, Dept. of Performing Arts– Music and Dance, JAIN, received a prestigious National Award called the 'Musicologist Award' from the Music Academy of Madras, Chennai on 1st January, 2020.

Dr. Arati Rao also delivered lectures on '*Musical Compositions of Haridāsa-s of the 15th and 16th centuries*' at Rasika Ranjani Sabha, Chennai on Dec 13th, 2019, '*Rāga-s of Early Haridāsa-s*' at Music Academy of Madras, Chennai on Dec 18th, 2019, and '*Teaching Indian Classical Music Theory - Relevance and Challenges*' at Indiranagar Sangeetha Sabha, Bengaluru on Jan 7th, 2020. This lecture is available to watch online at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQjx1DXoXIw&t=1749s>

Dr. Madhavi R, Associate Prof. and Dr. Easwaran Iyer, Dean - Dept. of Commerce co-authored and published a research paper titled '*Creating Customer Value Through WhatsApp*' in the December issue of *Think India Journal*, a UGC Care Listed Journal with Impact Factor of 6.2.

Dr. Bhargavi D. Hemmige, Associate Professor, Dept. of Media Studies, Centre for Management Studies (CMS), along with D C Nanjunda, associate professor, Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, University of Mysore have taken up a major research project, a study on 'Tribal Education' imparted on tribal students in Ashram schools across Karnataka. and the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has sanctioned Rs 5 lakh for the project.

Sunil Kumar R., Ph.D Scholar in Management, published a paper titled '*Driving Performance Through Positive Leadership*' in the *Journal of Positive Management*. The same can be accessed at: <https://apcz.umk.pl/czasopisma/index.php/JPM/issue/view/1750/showToc>

Sundar M. N., Ph.D Scholar in Physics, has been selected for the 'Vatican Observatory Summer School' to be held at the Vatican, during the month of June, 2020.

Muzameel Ahmed, Ph.D Scholar in Computer Science and Engineering, published a paper titled '*2D Shape Recognition and Retrieval Using Shape Contour Based on the 8-Neighborhood Patterns Matching Technique*' in the *International Journal of Synthetic Emotions*, Volume 10, Issue 2, July-December 2019.

Michael Chhandama, Ph.D Scholar in Biotechnology, was selected for the *Asia Pacific Youth Exchange Thailand 2020*. He is one among more than 100 applicants to make it for this prestigious program. He will be receiving full funding for this program.

Shabana Parveen M., Ph.D Scholar in Biotechnology, was awarded with Prof. M.O.P. Iyengar Algologists Award for the Best Oral Presentation entitled '*Anti– Angiogenesis and Apoptogenic Potential of the Brown Marine Alga, Chnoospora Minima*' in the Prof. T.V. Desikachary Birth Centenary International Symposium on Biodiversity, Biology and Biotechnology of Algae (ISBBBA-2020) held at the CAS in Botany, University of Madras, Chennai from 8th-10th January 2020.

Chitresh Shrivastva, M.Phil Scholar in Public Policy, presented his paper titled '*Does Privatisation of Indian Railways Harmonize People and Profits? A case study on sustainability of largest network of services*' co-authored by Megha Doshi and Dr Elangovan N. at the *International Conference on 'Harmonizing People, Planet and Profits- Sustainable Strategies and Ethical Considerations in the 21st Century*' organised by Department of Commerce, CHRIST (Deemed-to-be University) in collaboration with IMA (Institute of Management Accountants), USA on 20th-21st January, 2020.

Alumni Page

Already ALUMNI??

It seems like only yesterday I decided to pursue my Ph.D. at JAIN University and today I am here already writing as an alumni. Time really flies. I always wanted to be in academia for the opportunity it offers to be a learner forever. I am happy to share with you all that I am working as a post doctoral fellow at Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium since April 2019. My work focuses on using quartz crystal microbalance (QCM) to investigate the properties of catalysts. Along with my research I actively participate in various activities like sports, cultural, academic, etc. I am also an active member of activities organisation team of my institute (IMCN).

As I walk down the memory lane and recall my time spent as a Ph.D. student, I feel satisfied with my choice. Research was not an easy option; it required a lot of dedication and arduous work. Without a doubt, my Ph.D. tenure was the most transformative, influential, and memorable period of my education. I was fortunate enough to carry my research work at Centre for Nano and Material Sciences, Jain Global Campus. A beautiful campus far from the hustle of the city and ensured the right research environment. The research methodology classes were fun to attend and were also beneficial in research. Along with my research, I was fortunate to play few sports like frisbee, badminton, basketball, running, etc. (perks of staying at Global campus) which really helped me to stay active, energetic and focused towards my work. I positively encourage each one of you to stay fit and healthy. For this beautiful phase of my life, I am forever grateful to my guide Dr. Nagaraja, my centre CNMS and all those hands that came forward to help me achieve my goal. *Never stop dreaming and believing.*

Itika Kainthla

Awarded Ph.D in Nanotechnology

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Alumni Achievements and Publications

Dr. Soumya R S, alumna of JAIN in Management, published in GE - International Journal of Management Research (GE-IJMR) on the topic Leadership Development is an Absolute Requirement in Taking the Organization to the Next Level : HR Transformation is Essential to Achieve the Target Oriented Results in Business Environment. The same can be accessed at <http://aarf.asia/geer.php>

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