



# वार्ता



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## Maharaja Ganga Singh University

Bikaner – 334004 (Rajasthan)



**Prof. Vinod Kumar Singh**  
Vice-Chancellor

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### Message

I am glad to learn that the Department of English is all set to bring out its Annual Newsletter for the Academic Session 2021-22. It has given me satisfaction to see that the participation of students has also been ensured. Further, the Feedback Corner is very impressive and appealing.

I wish the Department a great success in their endeavour.

(Prof. Vinod Kumar Singh)  
Vice Chancellor

Editorial...✍

## NEP-2020: Critical Thinking in Classroom...and Beyond!

With its vision to improve the overall quality of education, NEP-2020 released on July 29, 2020 after a gap of thirty years brings paradigm shift in the education system of India. The NEP-2020 has sought to overhaul the whole spectrum of Indian Education System by restructuring the contours of higher education. The Policy aims at fostering creativity, critical thinking and the spirit of innovation among students. Creativity and Critical thinking play a vital role in bringing about transformation by generating new knowledge in varied areas. Critical thinking is a way to improve thinking; the art of critical thinking involves an approach to thinking- more significantly learning- that embraces changing how one thinks about thinking. Critical thinking incorporates how learners develop and apply thoughts to understand how thinking can be improved. The basic idea undergirding the discipline of critical thinking is- to determine strengths and weaknesses in one's thinking to maintain the strengths and make improvements by targeting the weaknesses. The word 'Critical' does not connote a negative approach to thinking; it rather implies evaluation of thoughts, ideas or judgments with awareness, creativity and refinement in these processes as needed.

NEP-2020 with its focus on critical thinking intends to develop among our learners the capacity to test their first impressions, make important discussions among choices and base their conclusion on evidence rather than their own feelings. Sensitive to their own limitations and predispositions, the learners double check the logic of their thinking and the workability of their solutions, identify imperfections and complications, anticipate negative responses, and generally refine their ideas. Our learners must learn to focus. They do not experience fewer distractions than others do; they simply deal with them more quickly and more effectively than ineffective thinkers do. They practice their skills much like any other learned skills.

Critical thinking relates to acknowledging personal

limitations, seeing problems as exciting challenges, using evidence to make judgments, thinking before acting, avoiding emotionalism, keeping an open mind, engaging in active listening, having comprehension as a goal. The critical thinkers are interested in others' ideas, and are skeptical of extreme views. Contrarily, those who do not possess critical thinking see a limited number of critical perspectives, sometimes just one. Critical thinking is applicable whenever people are called to make a decision or resolve a problem. Working people make decisions. Good decisions move the business forward and increase profits. On the other hand, poor decisions hurt the business and reduce profits. Our learners who enter the field of Management and become upper-level executives shall not be having the responsibility of making decisions only; rather it shall accompany the problem solving also. Each person in an organization, no matter what their position is, makes hundreds of decisions every day, and each one has an opportunity for success or failure.

Critical thinking brings new ideas and processes both to the classroom and the workplace. Critical thinking skills learned in the classroom definitely have an impact on future learning at the workplace. Once learned, these skills enable students (in whatever capacity they are working) to think deeply and critically about problems and issues and their individual role in their resolution. In brief, critical thinking is the life blood of the most essential work place skills including problem solving, decision making, good judgment and sound analysis. NEP-2020 encourages the students to bring forth critical thinking and creative skills. The PM Modi has rightly said, "the education system for the future required skilling, reskilling and upskilling and the new NEP which has been rolled out is addressing these requirements." Modi also advised the students to work out of the box ideas in diverse areas. As a matter of fact, critical thinking in NEP-2020 is directly related to developing innovative, progressive and prosperous *Atmanirbhar Bharat*.

Prof. S K Agrawal

## Literary and Cultural Activities

The Literary Forum organizes literary, dramatic, creative and other cultural events in the Department at regular intervals. The Forum conducts Classroom Seminars at weekends under the guidance of the Head of the Department and the Convenor, Literary Forum. Every year the Literary Forum organises Literary Fest under which the events such as Literary Quiz, Poetry Recital Sessions, and Poster Making Competition are organised. The following cultural and literary events were celebrated/organized in the session 2021-22:

**1. A Lecture on Case Study:** A lecture on "The Concept of Case Study" was organised under the aegis of Literary Forum on 24 February, 2022. The Head of the Department Prof. S.K. Agrawal acquainted the students with the basics



of writing a Case Study. The lecture catered to the students' need as the new LOCF based syllabi demands proficiency in writing a Case Study. The Faculty Members were also present in the lecture.

**2. Abhinandan:** Abhinandan (Freshers' party) was hosted on 7 March, 2022 by the students of M.A. (Semester III) to accord a warm welcome to the students of M.A. (Semester I) and P. G. Diploma in Translation. The programme began with an icebreaking session in which the newcomers'



introduced themselves and the seniors shared their experiences about the Department. The seniors welcomed the newcomers with mesmerizing dance performance and made them play some games.

**3. Plantation:** The Students and the Faculty Members of the Department planted trees on 7th March, 2022 in the park in front of *Vashishtha Bhavan* in the University Campus. Speaking on this occasion Prof. S.K. Agrawal said



that trees are important for they play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life, and therefore they need our unconditional care and protection.

**4. Essay Writing Competition:** An Essay writing competition was organized by the Department on 21 April, 2022 to enhance the creative faculty of the students. The students were asked to write an essay on "The role of Teachers in the Freedom Struggle of India" as a part of *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*. All the students actively participated in this competition. The Head of the Department Prof. S.K. Agrawal evaluated the essays written



by the students and appreciated their efforts. All the students of the Department participated in this competition. Twinlke Kansal of M.A. Semester I was the winner of this competition.

## Remembering the Role of Translation in the Indian Freedom Struggle

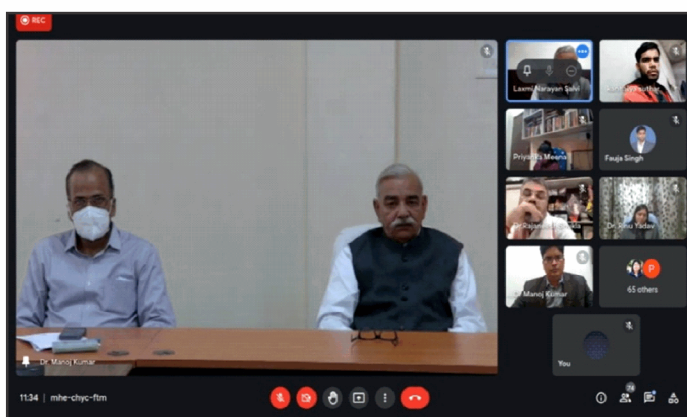
An International Webinar on **Remembering the Role of Translation in the Indian Freedom Struggle** was organised on 26-27 November, 2021 jointly by the Department of English, Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Bikaner and the Department of English and Foreign Languages University, Haryana as one of the mega-events as part of *Aazadi ka Amrit Mahotsava*. In the Inaugural Session the Vice

Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi Antrarastriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya Prof. Rajaneesh Shukla, Prof. Neeraja A. Gupta and Prof. P.K. Dashora talked about the changes translation underwent during the British regime. Prof. S.K. Agrawal introduced the Webinar to the august gathering both online and offline.

related to translation and brought out the conspiracy employed by the British in the deployment of *Anuvad* in this country.

Besides, two parallel Technical Sessions were also organized in which the students, researchers and lecturers participated. In total 220 participants were registered for the event. Speaking as Chief-Guest in the Valedictory Session the Vice Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi Antrarastriya Vishwavidyalaya, Vardha Prof. Rajaneesh Shukla emphasised that Translation is a Cultural, Political and Linguistic Practice. Differentiating between the Bharatiya Parampara of *Anuvad* and 'Translation', he said that Translation is a textual practice and more appropriately coloniser's political tool to ensure the subjugation of the subjects and prove the superiority of their own. As a result, the element of accuracy became significant and the concept of *Anuvad* as creation of another text or retelling was replaced by the notion of translation as transference of text. Speaking on the occasion Prof. S.D. Sharma, Ex-Vice Chancellor, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla said that the colonizers brought not only English language but also English culture. The very English became anti-colonial tool in the hands of our Freedom Fighters. Another eminent Speaker the Pro-Vice Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi Antrarastriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Vardha, Prof. H.P. Shukla described the journey travelled by *Anuvad* vis-a-vis Translation as a process which is in constant progression.

The Patron and Vice Chancellor of Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Prof. V.K. Singh said that the time has come to change the character of the University Department/s of English and Foreign Languages with *Anuvad* as a significant and primary area of Teaching and Learning. He also suggested that every University Department of English must initiate this process of change by establishing Translation Start Ups. Delivering the Presidential Address, the Vice Chancellor of Central University of Haryana Prof. Tankeshwar Kumar expressed his gratitude to the Department of English, Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Bikaner for having collaborated with the Central University of Haryana. In the beginning of the Valedictory Session, the Webinar Director and Head, Department of English, Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Prof. S.K. Agrawal presented the report.



The Plenary speakers who spoke during these two days included Prof. S.K. Sharma from Allahabad University, Prof. Dhananjay Singh from JNU, Prof. Ravi Bhushan, from Women University, Khanpur, Prof. Sunita Agrawal, Prof. Deepa Mathur - both from the University of Rajasthan, Prof. Nivedita Maitra from Sagar University, Prof. Umed Singh, CDLU, SIRSA, Prof. Sanjeev Kumar from Central University of Haryana, Prof. Atanu Mahapatra from Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, Prof. Kalpana Purohit from JNV University, Jodhpur, Prof. Vandana Sharma from Central University, Jammu, Dr. Kshamata Choudhary from VMOU, Kota, Dr. Sriniket from MGAHV, Vardha, Dr. Atul Kumar Ojha from National University of Ireland, Galway, Dr. Manoj Kumar Yadav from Prince Satlam Bin Abdulaziz University, Al-Kharj, Saudi Arabia, Aminur Rahman from Dhaka, Bangladesh, Sh. Khagendra Acharya from Kathmandu, Nepal and Prof. B.L. Bhadani from Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. These speakers undertook issues

## National Symposium on Literature and Human Rights

National Symposium on **Literature and Human Rights** was organized on the occasion of Human Rights Day on 10 December, 2021 jointly by Department of English and School of Law, Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Bikaner. The function was presided over by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. V.K. Singh and Human Rights activist Prof. Prabha Bhargava was the Key note Speaker.

Presiding over the function the Vice Chancellor, Prof. V.K.



Singh said that there existed no problem of Human Rights in ancient Indian society as such; the problem began during the middle ages when the British took over the reins of the Empire. Citing the examples from history, he said that Human Rights have been an inherent characteristic of Indian society. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Prabha Bhargava said that we are overloaded with information

today. The need therefore, is to strengthen our consciousness. By strengthening our consciousness about Human Rights, each one of us shall be rendering a sacred service to the motherland and the humanity as a whole. Sharing her experiences as an activist, she said that the positive change has come over, in the Police and the affiliated Government machinery, for everybody is prompt to render the desired help and initiate action at their end. She concluded by saying that the mankind has travelled a long journey but the basic objective of retaining humanity remains to be achieved.

Introducing the theme of the Symposium, the Head, Department of English and Director, School of Law Prof. S.K. Agrawal talked about the relationship that has existed between literature, philosophy and Human Rights. Philosophy has taken care of the human tenets, Literature has thrown light on human behaviour and Human Rights have ensured the execution of the proper human behaviour. He said that Literature has served the purpose to defend Human Rights from the beginning. Citing examples from Ramcharit Manas, Mahabharata and the other Indian Scriptures, he illustrated how inherent Human Rights have been in every literary text. Even in the post independence India, the poets such as Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, Maithili Sharan Gupt, Suryakanth Tripathi Nirala, Bhartendu and others talked about both the humanity and the Human Rights.

## Associations and Systems

### Mentoring System

The Department has a Mentoring System with all the Faculty Members acting as Mentors. The Mentors carry out the following tasks:

- Keep the mentees updated on the curricular and co-curricular matters.
- Acquaint the mentees with the current issues.
- Equip the mentees with the presentation and communication skills.
- Encourage and prepare them for participation in University/State/National/International level events.
- Guide the mentees in fulfilling the admission and examination related process such as filing of admission and examination forms.
- Report to the mentee's parents about his/her progress and further updates.
- Work for the improvement /betterment of the mentee's emotional intelligence.
- Equip the mentees for the forthcoming competitive examinations such as UGC NET and the examinations conducted by the UPSC, RPSC and other PSCs of the country.
- Acquaint the mentees with various fellowship and scholarship schemes.
- Motivate and prepare the mentees for participation in national/international level Seminars /Conferences/ Workshops, etc.
- Involve them in one or the other Extension Activities or

Activities/Events of Social Corporate Responsibility which contribute towards the growth of the nation and society at large.

### **Tutorial System**

The Department has a Vibrant Tutorial System to guide the students on the academic issues related to the Courses and Programs that the students are engaged in. The Tutorial System performs the function of utilizing the students' strengths to eradicate their weaknesses. Under the Tutorial System, the whole Class of a Semester is divided into groups (a group of maximum 10 students) and each group is allocated a teacher to guide and supervise them. The Tutorial System remains functional even during the times of calamity such as pandemic or holidays. During such days of difficulty, the teacher guides the students Online and instills in them confidence so that the students may reach near perfection.

### **Alumni Association**

The Alumni Association has been established in the Department to promote and foster mutually beneficial interaction between the Alumni and the current batch of Students. It provides a Forum to the Alumni for exchange of ideas on academic, cultural and social issues by organizing and coordinating reunion activities of the Alumni. Besides this, the Association keeps an updated record of all Alumni and their pertinent data. The Alumni Association regularly organizes get together events that enable students both old and new to connect with each other as well as the Faculty Members. Every year is organised an Alumni Meet. The Department in a shorter span of time has produced some significant alumni, to name a few Sarita Chouhan, former Pradhan of Khajuwal, Prafull Hatila, Ward Member, Bikaner and Shubham Ramawat, Translator and Interpreter, External Affairs Ministry of India.

## **Departmental Cells**

### **Guidance Cell for Competitive Exams**

Guidance for Competitive Exam is a regular feature of the Department. The current times are the times of competition when the students appear for a number of Competitive Examinations. The students are to be encouraged and guided to prepare for such challenging examinations. Taking into consideration the need of the day, the Department has established the Competitive Exam Guidance Cell. Through this Cell, the Department organizes various activities for the development of the students. The Cell conducts special lectures and different competitions for the students. A large number of students have been benefitted by the activities conducted by this Cell. They learn how to plan and prepare tactfully for the examinations. Through varied types of interaction, the students are made aware of their potentials so that they can get success in Competitive Examinations.

### **Remedial Coaching Cell**

Remedial Coaching Cell functions with the spirit to bring teaching and learning to near perfection. The Coaching Cell becomes functional in the last one and a half month of every Semester. The objectives of the Cell are to conduct the diagnostic test to find out the strengths and weaknesses of teaching and learning, so as to utilize the strengths to make teaching learning process more effective and to evolve a process to eradicate the weaknesses of teaching and learning.

The Cell operates in a systematic way. Slow and

advanced learners of every area are identified, and thereafter the advanced learners are asked to guide the slow learners. The faculty members concerned guides the slow learners and enable them identify their weaknesses and suggest the ways to eradicate them. All the Faculty Members are Office Bearers of this cell. The Head of the Department is the Director of the Cell and all the Faculty Members serve as Members. Owing to the vibrant functioning of the Remedial Coaching Cell, the Department has given cent percent results since its establishment.

### **Career Counselling Cell**

To ensure the overall development of the students and to equip them with the information that helps them to be better placed, the Department has constituted a Career Counselling Cell. All the Faculty Members are the Members on the Cell with one Faculty Member serving as Co-ordinator. The objectives of the Cell are to educate the students on the current issues which are not the part of students' curriculum, to update them on the current vacant job positions, to suggest them the devices and ways which can make them good human beings and better citizens of the country, and to generate awareness about the socio-economic concerns amongst them which impact the society in some or the other way. The vibrant Career Counselling Cell holds collective as well as individual meeting with the students so as to find out the remedies of the problems the students have or are likely to face in near future. The micro and macro analysis of the problems is done, and solutions are arrived at.

## Creative Corner

### TEAMWORK

Teamwork is a group's ability and capability to work together effectively, interact well, define roles and leadership, share resources, and actively pay attention to each other. Teamwork is a fusion of three elements, that is, collaboration, compromise, and cooperation, these elements work collectively to improve teamwork that can lead to benefits in one another, creating momentum which leads the people to optimal performance. There are some factors for team effectiveness such as reinforcing a shared purpose, providing role clarity, promoting enabling processes, being aware of emotional security, encouraging a collaborative spirit, pushing for growth orientation, and many more.

Teamwork is important as it encourages people to work together and benefit each other. It teaches people to help others and to work with others in different situations and learn from each other's experiences when aiming at the same target. Teamwork also improves personality, focuses on one's identity and creative working skills, and builds-up a competitive spirit. Trust is an important feature of teamwork. Trusting one another gives each and every member the benefit of the doubt while eliminating the conflict of interest. In some situations, trust is noteworthy because sometimes people may rely on someone else to do a part or whole which they may not be able to do themselves. Having trust makes things easier when all the members take part in getting things done properly. It is a bit easier to rely on others and increases confidence among group members as it relates to their abilities. Working as a team helps people learn from each other's experiences. The concept has a connection to the preceding point of trust. Trusting someone to do their role in a team confirms that they have a unique place and that they are needed within the group. In teamwork effective communication is essential because it encourages diversity of ideas, it allows each member to understand and to be understood, and the team develops a balance between understanding what needs to be done and actions to carry out during a crisis if occurs. Getting things finished the best way possible depends on how well each member of the team receives and shares information with each other. Team members may get confused or frustrated if communication isn't on point which will make their work more complicated. Effective teamwork includes action from all members. As the team continues to work together effectively and

effortlessly, they work to reach a common goal. The goal benefits the team as a whole and as a unit, but each member has a role in how the outcome is reached. Problems may arise when working as a team if people don't take time to listen to each other's concerns or focus on completing tasks allotted to them. Trusting in self and others' skills and believing in each other, and having confidence while working with others will help the teammates to attain the final objective.

Teamwork can promote innovation, creativity, and imaginative power, increase job satisfaction; find solutions to resolve problems and develop excellent soft skills. Teamwork helps to promote deep learning that follows through interaction, problem-solving, dialogue, cooperation, and collaboration. Team members must be flexible enough to adjust to cooperative working environments where goals are achieved through collaboration and social interdependence rather than individualized, competitive goals. Teamwork has been a critical aspect of the progress, evolution, and survival of humanity.

Twinkle Kansal (M.A Semester I)



### TIME

*We always praise 'those good old days'  
But never wish to go back  
We can't forget ' what old people says'  
Time's journey is not a hack*

*Learn from the past 'how we should cast'  
Make the move smart and true  
Otherwise you will get a blast  
Or let the life decide 'what to do'*

*Decide and act, choice is yours'  
Wrong deeds can't be undone  
Tomorrow brings what we sing today  
The pleasure of the journey is step right ahead*

Dr. Seema Sharma  
Assistant Professor

## कर्म पथिक

कर्म पथिक आगे बढ़ आओ,  
मत देखो पीछे क्या बीता?  
यदि चार कदम भी बढ़े हुए हो,  
सोचो कि तुमने जग जीता।

कौन हैं जग में जिसने  
बिन कर्मों के मंजिल पाई है।  
बिना दृढ़ता बिन साहस के  
एक अलग राह बनाई है।

कर्मों की महिमा का वर्णन,  
करते हैं रामायण गीता।  
कर्म पथिक आगे बढ़ आओ  
मत देखो पीछे क्या बीता?

डॉ प्रगति सोबती, असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर



## CALL FROM EARTH

*Of her verdant attire disrobed,  
Of all her riches robbed.  
Of her eternal bounty bereft,  
Her arms amputated, feet cleft.  
She calls on thee!  
Of her dewy vitality drained,  
Her flawless beauty strained.  
Her wavy tresses tangled,  
Her throat strangled.  
She calls on thee!  
Dug deeper to the core  
Her body inflicted with sore.  
Pricked, poisoned, bruised and bleeding,  
Behold her with folded hands pleading.  
She calls on thee!  
Alas! She weeps with wounds infinite,  
Awake unwise! Or else get doomed.*

**Dr. Santosh Kanwar Shekhawat**

Assistant Professor

## IN MEMORIAM: DIGNITARIES WHO SAID THEIR LAST GOODBYE IN 2022

**PROF. N KRISHNASWAMY:** Author, Linguist and formerly Professor at CIEFL Hydrabad

**PROF. R.P. BHATNAGAR:** Renowned Linguist and formerly Professor at UOR, Jaipur

**PROF. SUPRIYA AGARWAL:** Professor, CUR, Kishangarh

**LATA MANGESHKAR:** Melody Queen of India

**T. RAMA RAO:** Indian Filmmaker

**PANDIT BIRJU MAHARAJ:** Renowned Kathak Dancer

**PANDIT SHIVKUMAR SHARMA:** Classical Musician and Santoor Player

**BAPPI LAHIRI:** Singer and Composer

**KRISHNAKUMAR KUNNATH (K K):** Playback Singer

The Department pays heartfelt tribute to all the departed souls.

**STUDENTS SAY.....**

I wanted to gain a more critical approach to the world around me and acquire skills to allow me to be a more active participant in the society. I feel more confident and mature as I step out of the Department.

*Kanhaiyalal Suthar, M.A. Sem IV*

Here at the Department I found a balance between academia and creativity that's stimulating, eye-opening and fun.

*Divya Joshi, M.A. Sem IV*

I am grateful to the Department and the Faculty Members for now I think that I would be able to acquire the proven life skills.

*Preeti, M.Phil.*

Besides academics, the cultural ethos cherished and propagated by the Department of English of English impressed me most. I hope that I shall now be able to become citizen with *Bhartiya* ethos.

*Jagdish Saini, M.Phil.*

The Department is an ideal place of learning. The environment here is student-friendly.

*Rajkumar, M.A. Sem II*

As someone who enjoys nuances and creativity, the program (M.A.) feels like it is meant for me.

*Twinkle Kasera, M.A. Sem I*

I am learning to be expressive, confident, and creative.

*Kavita Bhati, P G Diploma in Translation*

A rare blend of academics and life skills, the Department of English has proved to be a second home to me.

*Purkaif Usta, Ph. D. Scholar*

- Courses and Programs being run by the Department
  - Master of Arts ● Master of Philosophy
  - Post Graduate Diploma in Translation
    - Ph. D.

To

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## *University Department of English*

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