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Department of English
MAHARAJA GANGA SINGH UNIVERSITY

BIKANER – 334004(RAJASTHAN)



Newsletter

EDITORIAL

Sense to Sensitization

The versions, adaptations, movements, translations, transferences, transcriptions, inspirations, recreations, fusion and finally such worn and taken cultural diversions have a long tradition of establishing an authentic cobweb of relations and artistic covering even to the extent from Poetry to Sculpture as in *The Flowers of the Evil* of Baudelaire and *The Thinker* of Rodin. Literature agglutinates space and time, image and word, reality and fiction, knowledge and feelings. Besides, literature is also an authentic "empire of senses." You can see and hear on it, and its capacity of re-memorizing makes you can also smell it, you taste it, and finally you feel it. Literature swamps - it penetrates in our soul and allows the lame person to dance, to paint the quadriplegic, to sing the dumb one, etc. In brief, it walks through "sense" to "sensitization".

The word "sense" refers to "general wisdom". The words "sensitivity" and "sensation" refer to the "quality of being able to appreciate and respond to complex emotional or aesthetic influences" and "Physical feeling or perception from something that comes into contact with body". The University Department of English has journeyed from "Sensitivity" to "sensation" leading to "sensitization" by conducting literary events such as skits, poster writing, quiz and asking the students to react on the issues of contemporary relevance. The Department also witnessed its extension in various ways. This mission of "Sense" to "Sensitization" shall be further strengthened through the inclusion of Culture Studies in the forthcoming years.

Dr. S.K. Agrawal

Revisiting Ramayana: National Seminar

THE UNTRODDEN PATH, WE TOOK



With its mission to initiate a wave of change and to let the transformation occur throughout the country by spotting cultural studies at the centre, the University Department of English organized a National Seminar on Revisiting Ramayana. This certainly shall pave way to the learning of invaluable skills in writing, thinking, expression, and in building bridges across cultures.

Therefore we decided to tread the untrodden path; something revolutionary in the history of the University Departments of English by organizing a two days' National Seminar (17-18 January, 2019) on Revisiting Ramayana, an area which is so dear to everyone belonging to South Asian region including India. The overwhelming participation in the Seminar made us realize that we were not mistaken. The view that emerged in the Seminar was that Ramayana is neither mythology nor Scripture but a Nation's history written in an organic way; it being a dialectic text remains and shall remain relevant throughout the ages. Ramayana is a narration of Sanatan Gyan dealing with the concept of Infinity, a unique Indian concept. The scholarship has suffered from Dhitrashtra syndrome while labelling Ramayana as a masculine treatise. Ramayana's design is perfect, for if one reads it thoroughly and reflects on things happening in the current world, we can see the Ramayana unfolding in front of us.

During the Seminar we have had blessings from the Saint Samvit Somgiri ji (popularly known as Vivekananda in the region), and enlightened discourses from the luminaries such as Prof. P.K. Dashora, Ex-Vice Chancellor, University of Kota, Kota, Prof. Dev Kothari, Ex Chairman, Rajasthan Bhasha Sanskriti evum Sahita Academy, Dr. S .P. Shukla, Delhi University, Dr. Rajul Bhargava Ex-Professor, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, Dr. N.K. Acharya, Ex-Professor, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad, B.L. Bhadani Ex-Professor, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Dr. Kalpana Purohit Professor, J.N.V. University, Jodhpur, Rev. Hanuman Singh, Prof. Anup Beniwal, Ex-Vice Chancellor, Indraprasth University, Delhi, Prof. Rekha, University of Delhi, Delhi, Prof. Kusumlata, University of Delhi, Delhi, Dr. Sarita Prabhakar, Associate Professor, Dept. of English, Dausa, Dr. Kshamata Choudhary, Assistant Professor, VMOU, Kota, Dr. Vinita Shukla, Associate Professor, Dept. of English, Kota. The seminar may be considered a way to opening up of new horizons of Cultural Studies in the University Departments of English.



SURVEY CONNECTS ACADEMICS WITH CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

We, at the Department, work on the motto that employability strengthens marketability. Whichever profession, a student chooses; it is very likely that s/he will have to write a report at some point. Realising this, the Department undertook a survey on the subject “Karni Mata Temple and the related problems” and asked the students to prepare a report on it. On the last day of the Survey i.e. 9 October, 2018, the whole Department visited the temple and examined the Survey work done by the students. On the occasion, the Head of the Department Prof. S.K. Agrawal briefed the students on the fundamentals of writing a report. He said “When writing reports, you will be required to plan methodically, analyse information, develop your own ideals and draw conclusion. In doing so, you will develop problem solving and analytical skills which are the hallmark of a capable student of English Studies.”

The campaign is a connect between the academic accountability and corporate social responsibility. The reports thus prepared are sent to the State Policy makers to draw their attention towards the problems looming large in the area. The move is being appreciated by the residents of the town. The print media attached a considerable significance to this innovation of the Department by giving it a good coverage in the Dailies.



THE DEPARTMENT VISITS THE UNIVERSITY ADOPTED VILLAGE

The Faculty Members and the students of the Department of English, Maharaja Ganga Singh University visited, Nal Badi, the village adopted by Maharaja Ganga Singh University on 28 March, 2019 and gave the villagers, teachers and students the tips of Soft Skills. The participants comprising school students, villagers and teachers were divided into four groups and each group was then briefed about Soft Skills comprising good manners, good and bad habits, communication Skills, time and stress management strategies, etc. The villagers appreciated the programme and demanded that such programme be organized again and again. The Soft Skills sessions were conducted in the village school. Before this, the villagers were updated on banking system as to how to open an account, withdraw and deposit money in the bank. The villagers were also advised not to disclose their bank details to any stranger. Some of the problems related to banking transactions were resolved on the spot. On this occasion, the Agriculture Officer and the Agriculture Supervisor furnished information regarding the various government schemes related to agriculture and horticulture. The students, the Faculty Members comprising the HOD of English Prof. S.K. Agrawal and the Assistant Professors Dr. Seema Sharma, Dr. Pragti Sobti, Ms. S.K. Shekhawat, and the Nodal Officer of the University adopted village Dr. A.K. Dular remained present in the village for the whole day.



DEPARTMENT PAID TRIBUTES TO PULWAMA MARTYRS

The Department paid glowing tributes on 22 February, 2019 to the martyrs of Pulwama attack who laid down their lives for the sake of the nation. They died so that we may live in a terror free country. The mishap, had taken the lives of 40 Central Reserve Police Force personnel on 14 February, 2019. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. S.K. Agrawal said, “Our first duty is to serve our nation; self is only secondary”. All the students and faculty members were present on the occasion.



IN MEMORIAM: DIGNITARIES WHO SAID THEIR LAST GOODBYE IN 2018-19

Atal Bihari Vajpai: Former Prime Minister

Gopal Das Neeraj: Renowned Poet

George Fernandes: Former Defence Minister

Manohar Parikar: Chief Minister of Goa

Kader Khan: Bollywood Actor

Somnath Chatterjee: Former Lok Sabha Speaker

Kofi Annan: Former UN Secretary-General

The Department pays heartfelt tribute to all the departed souls.

COURSES RUN BY THE DEPARTMENT

M. A.

M. Phil.

P.G. Diploma in Translation

Ph. D

LITERARY AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

CLASSROOM SEMINARS: Classroom seminars are conducted with a view to ensure an interface between the textbook culture and the outside world. In these seminars, the students make presentations on selected topics given to them; the students compare the text with their own world and learn to appreciate and develop a sense of literary criticism. These classroom seminars are held at regular intervals. All the faculty members also attend these seminars, listen to the presentations and render their suggestions.



STUDENTS' CLUB: The Students' Club is set up to enhance the overall learning experience of students, both inside and outside the classroom. The main aim of the Students' Club is to encourage participative learning and develop teamwork among the students. This Club has provided the students a platform to interact with each other and discuss the problems related to their courses.



LITERARY FORUM: 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. Every year the Literary Forum organises literary work under which the events such as Literary Quiz, Poetry Recital Sessions, Poster Making Competition are organised. The following cultural and literary events were celebrated/ organized in the academic session 2018-19:

1. ABHINANDAN: Abhinandan (Freshers' party) was hosted on 13th September, 2018 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 party started with an icebreaking session in which the newcomers introduced themselves and thereafter the senior students gave a number of performances to welcome the newcomers. At the end, the newcomers thanked their seniors for organising this wonderful event.



2. GURUPURNIMA: Students of the Department celebrated Gurupurnima on 27th July in traditional way by lighting a lamp before goddess Saraswati. The students presented handmade greeting cards to the teachers. The students showcased their talent by reciting self composed poems dedicated to their teachers. The teachers gifted books and pens to all the students.



3. INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY: International Translation Day was celebrated on 30th September. On the occasion, the teachers and students duly recognized the services rendered by the translators in connecting the people. Speaking on the occasion, the Head of the Department Prof. S.K. Agrawal emphasized that “translation is a means to bridge the gap. Translation professionals play a crucial role in connecting nations and fostering peace, understanding and development.” To mark the day the students translated some typical Marwari proverbs into English. 30th September was declared the International Translation Day on 24th May, 2017 by the UNO through its resolution 71/288.



4. PLANTATION: The students and faculty members of the Department planted Neem trees on *Haryali Teej* on 13th August, 2018 in the park in front of Vashishtha Bhavan in the University Campus. The students took an oath to take care of the trees planted by them and water them regularly. The Department organises Plantation Day every year. As a result, the campus has become lush-green.



5. TEACHERS' DAY: On 5th September Teachers' Day was celebrated in the Department. Students welcomed the teachers with flowers and performed a short skit in honour of the teachers. This memorable and joyful event overwhelmed the teachers. On this occasion, the students and teachers were seen in reverse roles.



6. GANDHI JAYANTI: Students and faculty members of the Department celebrated the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October. Speaking on this occasion Prof. S.K. Agrawal narrated inspirational tales of Gandhi's life. The students took a vow to follow the path of *satya* and *ahimsa* shown by Gandhiji.



7. CHILDREN'S DAY: The Department celebrated the birth anniversary of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru on 14th November. Sweets and chocolates were distributed to the students. Surprise games were also planned by the teachers for the students. The teachers made this day memorable for the students by reciting poems and singing songs.



8. LITERARY BONANZA: The Literary Fest was celebrated under the aegis of Literary Forum of the Department of English from 3-6 December, 2018. The theme of the Fest was "Remembering Gandhi" and was a tribute to Mahatma on his 150th Birth Anniversary. A large number of students from across the University Departments, Centre etc. participated in these events. The Fest was inaugurated by the Head Prof. S.K. Agrawal. On this occasion Dr. Agrawal exhorted the students to serve Literature by incorporating the neglected strains into it. He said that "positivity has almost disappeared in the emerging trends of Literature. It is therefore the duty of younger generation to make positivity a part of literary strands if it doesn't happen, we would be known by the coming generations as a nation who couldn't do anything better to the mankind."



EVENTS ORGANISED DURING THE LITERARY FEST:



➤ **SKIT COMPETITION:** Six teams from various departments participated in this competition. Scripts were given to each team and they were given forty minutes to enact the same. Department of English team B won the first prize; Department of Computer science stood second and team A of Department of English grabbed the third prize.



➤ **POETRY RECITATION COMPETITION:** The students were encouraged to recite their self-composed poems both in Hindi and English on the theme "Gandhi's Thoughts". Neha Rajpurohit and Aditi Vyas from English grabbed first and second prize respectively; third prize was shared by Bharti Bhati from English and Laxmi Soni from History.



➤ **POSTER COMPETITION:** For this event the students' were asked to prepare posters on the theme "Gandhi's Swaraj". More than 50 entries were received from different Departments. Divya Tanwar of Microbiology stood first. Priya Acharya of Microbiology and Ankit Rao of English stood second. Third prize was jointly won by Poonam from English and Nisha from Computer Science Department.



➤ **STORY WRITING COMPETITION:** The theme of the story writing competition was "Impact of Gandhian Ethics". The students showed great enthusiasm and took part in this event in large number. The story of Sfurti Varma from English was selected for first prize and Shruti Chandak of Computer Science stood second. The third prize fell to the share of Renuka Goyal.



➤ **LITERARY QUIZ:** The Literary Quiz was organized in four rounds. Teams from all the Departments participated in this event. Team A and B from the Department of English stood first and second respectively. Team from the Department of Environment Science won third prize.

➤ **ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION:** The theme of the essay competition was "Gandhian Values in Building India". The students showed great interest in this competition. Devanshi Singh from Department of History stood first, Pramila Solanki of Environment Science won second prize and Ankit Rao of English and Praveen Tripathi of Computer Science jointly stood third.



On the final day the results of these events were declared. Those who stood first, second and third were awarded on the Republic Day. The events were convened by Dr. Pragti Sobti (Poster Presentation, Poetry Recitation, Essay Writing and Story Writing), Dr. Seema Sharma (Quiz), Ms.Santosh K. Shekhawat (Skit). Dr.Seema Sharma, Ms.Santosh K. Shekhawat, Dr.Ambika Dhaka, Dr.Leela Kaur. Dr. Dharmesh Harwani,Ms. Jyoti Lakhan, served as judges on the occasion.

9. NATIONAL YOUTH DAY CELEBRATED: The Students of the Department conducted a special



assembly to mark the 156th birth anniversary of the Maker of Modern India, Swami Vivekananda also known as National Youth Day. On this occasion, the portrait of Vivekananda decorated with flowers had the famous inspirational quote by him which says "arrive, awake and stop not till the goal is reached." Speaking on the occasion, Prof. S.K. Agrawal said "Swami Vivekananda was a key figure in the introduction of the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western World and is credited with

raising interfaith awareness. His contribution to the concept of nationalism in colonial India can hardly be exaggerated". The Assistant Professor Ms. Santosh K. Shekhawat said "Vivekananda is regarded a patriotic saint. The philosophies and ideals of Swamiji reflect in the youth of our country till date." The students were enlightened with the moral ideas of Swamiji. Starting from early childhood till his demise, each stage of his life was depicted through skits, PPT presentation and songs. Swamiji's iconic speech given in the Parliament of Religions was also delivered by a student. His teachings and philosophy enlightened the students and showed them the right path to explore their potential.

10. WARM SEND OFF: The students of outgoing batch of M.A. Semester IV received a warm and affectionate send off from their juniors- the students of M.A. Semester II on 25th April. The students of outgoing batch shared their experiences and the memorable occasion they have had in the department. The juniors, on this occasion, attributed titles to their revered seniors keeping in mind their meritorious qualities. The outgoing batch expressed gratitude to all the faculty members for having trained them in such a way so that they may face the real life challenges efficiently.

The head of the Department Prof. S.K. Agrawal, the Assistant Professors Dr. Pragti Sobti and Ms. Santosh K Shekhawat also spoke on the occasion and expressed their best wishes to the students of outgoing batch. The juniors expressed their reverence to their seniors by reading out titles representing their attributes. These titles were so striking, appealing and sentimental that everyone present was surprised at the hidden talent of the students. The students also gave literary and cultural performances. The outgoing batch expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the teachers by offering them an enveloped title which the teacher himself/herself was supposed to read. Speaking on the occasion Prof. S.K. Agrawal asked the outgoing batch to be the ambassadors of the Department. All the Faculty Members were present on the occasion.





INSPIRATION THE BUTTERFLY (STRUGGLES)



A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Until it suddenly stopped making any progress and looked like it was stuck. So the man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily, although it had a swollen body and small, shrivelled wings. The man didn't think anything of it and sat there and waiting for the wings to enlarge to support the butterfly. But that didn't happen. The butterfly spent the rest of its life unable to fly, crawling around with tiny wings and a swollen body. Despite the kind heart of the man, he didn't understand that the restricting cocoon and the struggle needed by the butterfly to get itself through the small opening; were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings, To prepare itself for flying once it was out of the cocoon.

Moral - Our struggles in life develop our strengths. Without struggles, we never grow and never get stronger, so it's important for us to tackle challenges on our own, and not be relying on help from others.
(<https://wealthygorilla.com>)

EXPREPTS' EXPRESSIONS

Great Work, Congratulations!

*Prof. Mukta Sharma
JRNU, Udaipur*

Congratulations! I was tempted to put my name in place of yours

*Prof. S.K. Sharma
University of Allahabad, Allahabad*

Nicely prepared covering milestone of the year. Congratulation.

*Dr. Kamlesh Bhatt
Patan University, Gujarat*

Congratulations Sir. That is a fantastic achievement.

*Prof. Nivedita Maitre
H.S. Gaur University, Sagar
Madhya Pradesh*

Congratulations!!

*Prof. K.C. Sodni, V.C.
GGTU, Banswara*

It is a very good effort.

*Dr. Manoj Kumar Associate
Professor
Central University of Haryana*

Very good Newsletter.

*Dr. Sanjay M Vakil,
Principal
Shah Commerce College,
Ahmadabad, Gujarat*

Sir, good innovative start.....regards.

*Dr. M.S. Khargawat
Director
Rajasthan State Archives
Bikaner*

Thanks Agrawal Sahab. I Liked the newsletter - A well prepared document.

*Prof. S.K. Sharma
Gurukul Kangri University,
Haridwar*

Our Toppers

Master of Arts



Gitanjali Solanki

Master of Philosophy



Jyoti Joshi

STUDENTS' EXPRESSIONS (OUTGOING BATCH)

I CAN ALSO SAY...

The Department is a nursery for nurturing the talent of the students.

Aditi Vyas, M.A. Sem IV

The Department is an ideal place of learning. The teachers as well as the Non-teaching Staff helped us grow to a considerable extent.

Sfurti Varma, M.A. Sem IV

The Department has opened new knowledge windows which have posed challenges to us to explore new areas of research at local and global level.

Shivdayal Sharma, M.A. Sem IV

Apart from teaching- learning, the department provides a platform to the budding talent to showcase their creative potential.

Neha Rajpurohit, M.A. Sem IV

The Department has helped me grow as a student, a scholar and as an individual in these two years that I spent here..

Kirti Tanwar, M.A. Sem IV

The Department has equipped me to face the challenges as I step out to compete with others in job market.

Bhumeswar Ojha, P G Diploma in Translation

To.....

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University Department of English, Vashistha Bhawan (Academic Block-II)

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