

वाणी

No. 09

November 2021

Department of English

Maharaja Ganga Singh University

Bikaner – 334004 (Rajasthan)



Newsletter



Prof. Vinod Kumar Singh
Vice-Chancellor

महाराजा गंगा सिंह विश्वविद्यालय
Maharaja Ganga Singh University

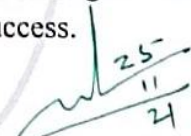
बीकानेर-334 004 (राजस्थान) / Bikaner-334 004 (Rajasthan)
Email: vc@mgsbikaner.ac.in; Website: www.mgsbikaner.ac.in
Ph. + 91-151-2970064

MESSAGE

I am glad to know that the University Department of English despite the deadly pandemic which has affected human ecology severely has maintained its vibrancy and dynamism.

On this occasion, I would like to suggest the University Department of English to take the initiative to make Project-Based Tasks/Case Studies and Activity based Exercises an inherent part of the Curriculum to promote creativity, original thinking and contemplation of new ideas. I would like to appeal the Teachers to make maximum use of the modern teaching techniques and aids to make teaching-learning more effective, interesting and result-oriented.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Department of English and wish all the Faculty Members, Researchers and Students a grand success.


(Prof. Vinod Kumar Singh)
Vice Chancellor

EDITORIAL

Isn't Communication an Underrated Skill even today?

The Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) have travelled a long cumbersome journey from Chalkboard to Screen Board. The difficult times of COVID-19 have further strengthened the shift, for IT being the only connect between the teacher and the taught, the trainer and the trainee, etc. This shift however has undermined the significance of interpersonal communication skills which can cut years off your learning curve. Ronnie Screwvala in his seminal work *Skill It, Kill It* shares personal stories and observations from his failures and successes as to why CEOs, leaders and recruiters talk endlessly about soft skills.

I think lifelong learning is an integral element for growth in this era's hyper - competitive environment. A strong element of focus is needed to make a mark. If you want to be in the top 20-25 percentile of your organisation, you have to come out of your comfort zone, upgrade again, specialise and continue this cycle till you have achieved your goal. While talking to students, I saw a serious gap in their soft skills; these skills cannot be restricted to a degree, diploma or even certifications. I believe that equipping yourself with the right interpersonal skills is important and, without it, people are often left behind, despite having the qualifications for the job. We tend to focus on our grades and rank, and do not invest any effort in acquiring skills such as communicating effectively or inculcating the art of storytelling. We have realized that communication is a severely underrated skill, especially in this digital remote work era most people assume that communication is only oratory skills or command of the language. Actually, it is so many things including listening, absorbing and knowing when to stop. If one possesses the art of communicating through storytelling, one will be able to influence and impact people by shaping their minds. Stories help us connect with the audience and foster empathy. Storytelling is a lifelong skill that ought to be honed. The process of acquiring communication skills is 'Listen, Observe and Learn.' We, at the Department have equipped ourselves from this point of view by installing Smart Board facilities in this session. Multilingual language lab shall also be a part of our repository.

Besides, NEP-2020 promises significant parameters of change especially in the field of English language /literature teaching and learning, aiming at the inclusion of Indian Classics into our curricula and shifting emphasis to Translation and Interpretation with an absolute intention to produce skilled employable youth who also understand the significance of values in shaping a human being. The Department in all set to implement this to make the Youth employable by enhancing their communicative, interpretative and translating skills.

We wish the forthcoming year brings us hopes and opportunities to implement our cherished mission of making our learners equipped with right communication skills imbued with our cultural ethos, and pray to the Almighty that the Mankind no more undergoes any 'disaster' as it has experienced in the last academic session.

Towards Student - Centric Education

As an initiative to make the teaching learning framework better and enhance the student learning outcomes, the Eleven University Departments including the Department of English has taken a thoughtful step by introducing the concept of LOCF (Learning Outcome Based Curriculum Framework) under the guidance of the vibrant University IQAC.

The idea behind the implementation of LOCF in the University Departments is to pre-determine what outcomes need to be achieved planning, mapping and measuring the student outcomes. It is different from Outcome Based Education (OBE), for unlike OBE, LOCF is implemented for the Choice Based Credit Systems (CBCS) for the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes. The student learning outcomes are defined in terms of their knowledge, skills, understanding, graduate attributes, values, employability.

Right from the course curriculum to the assessment pattern, the faculty decides everything. The LOCF has tremendous potential to break the traditional teaching - learning barriers and make the education system student - centric. Learning outcomes are determined in sync with what students are expected to understand of the end of their Study Programme. The learning cycle of LOCF has been divided into Planning Phase, Execution Phase and Attainment Phase. The outcomes have been set at the level of Course Outcomes, (COS), Programme Specific Outcomes (PSOS) and Programme Outcomes (POs). The introduction of LOCF intends to achieve the following

- Improvement in flexibility of learning
- Teaching-learning innovation
- Continuous teaching - learning improvements
- Assessment of students at various levels
- Periodic Review of Student Performance
- Evaluating Programme Learning Outcomes (POs)
- Evaluating Course Learning Outcomes (COS)
- Maintain highest standards of education
- Create an environment of Global competitiveness

Prof. S.K. Agrawal

Schools/Department of Languages must Promote Intercultural Communication through Translation

Translation as an inter-lingual transfer and as an intercultural communication is an inter-discipline which touches on other diverse fields of knowledge, including Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies, Gender Studies, Computer Science, History, Linguistics, Philosophy, Rhetoric and Semiotics.

The translation skills have become ever more important and desirable. It enables a global economy. Looking ahead, whilst English is the world's most prominent language at the moment, it may not always be. When a market emerges and grows rapidly, like the Chinese market has in recent years, the demand for translation to and from its native language also

increases. Translation is the only medium through which people come to know different works that expand their knowledge.

We at the Department have well recognized the fact and have encouraged both the Faculty Members and the Students to be translation practitioners. This year, the Department has completed the English Translation Version of Rajasthani - Hindi- English Dictionary. Prof. S.K. Agrawal the HOD of the Department was the Chief Translation Editor; he was assisted by Jamil Usta, Associate Professor (Retd.) and Dr. Atul Goswami, HOD, Department of English Bikaner Technical University. This has been brought out by Kendriya Hindi Sansthan (A Central Government Undertaking), Agra. It is notable here that Prof. S.K. Agrawal was the Translation Editor of the Volume on Rajasthani Languages, published by Orient Blackswan. Besides, a Translation Project of Kumaraswami's works is also going on. These projects have received acclaim from the top academics of the world.

This has proved a milestone in promoting intercultural communication.

Curricular Initiative

The Department has introduced a Certificate Course in Communicative Skill in English from the Session 2021-22. This Course helps improve Professional communication in English for successful Office/Business interactions. The Course focuses on the area of communication in English; writing emails, speaking at meetings and interviews, giving presentation, internal and external office communication, and networking online.

Quick Facts about the Course

- The Course level is Certificate.
- The Course duration is 1 year.
- The Course offers Annual Examination System.
- The selection criterion for admission is merit/ first come first basis.
- The applicants seeking admission must be 10+2 from any stream.
- Limited seats (30)
- Reasonable Fee
- After having completed the Course, the candidate/s shall be proficient in secretarial jobs such as that of the LDC, UDC, OA, OS, Personal Assistant, Private Secretary, Deputy Registrar, Assistant Registrar, Statistical Analyst and several other secretarial assignments.
- All Government, NGO and other Private Organization offer ample job opportunities to a Certificate holder.

Contents and Pedagogy about the Course

Internal and External Office Communication, Speaking and Writing English proficiently: in person, Online and on the Phone, building Professional e portfolio in English.

Stimulating Teaching and Training sessions will be conducted. **The Course shall include a hand - on - Project.** The Candidate will need to successfully finish the Project to complete the course and earn his /her Certificate. The Candidate can share this certificate with their prospective employers and the professional network.

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.

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 for 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 Affair Ministry of India.

Departmental Cells

Guidance for Competitive Exams Cell

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 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.



Teacher-Student interface during the Remedial Coaching Session

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.



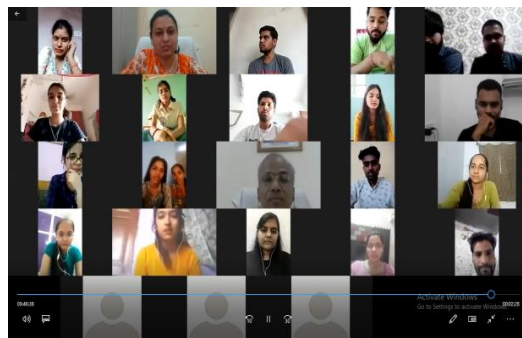
Teacher- Students interaction during Career Counselling Session

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.

Literary and Cultural Activities

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 Literary Forum. Every year the Literary Forum organises Literary Programme 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 2020-21:

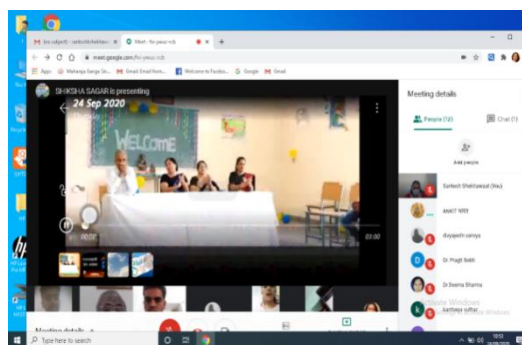
1. Abhinandan: Abhinandan (Freshers' party) was hosted online on 25 February, 2021 by the students of M.A. (Semester III) to accord a warm welcome to the students of M.A. (Semester I) and P. G. Diploma in Translation. The online meet began with an icebreaking session with the newcomers' fascinating introduction. The senior students welcomed the newcomers with welcome song and made them play some online games.



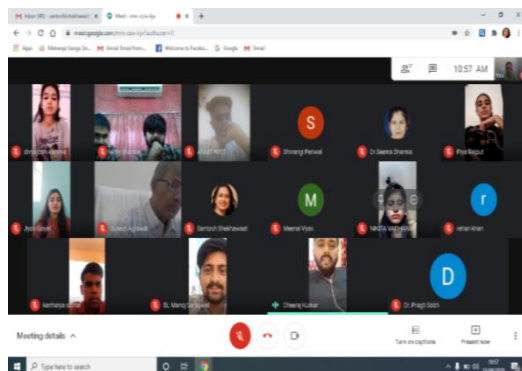
2. Plantation: The Faculty Members of the Department planted *Neem*, *Peepal* and *Sheesham* trees on 15th August, 2021 in the park in front of Vashishtha Bhavan in the University Campus. Speaking on this occasion Professor S.K. Agrawal said that Covid 19 has brought with it many lessons for us, amongst which, keeping harmony with nature is the most important one. Each one plant one should be the slogan of the year.



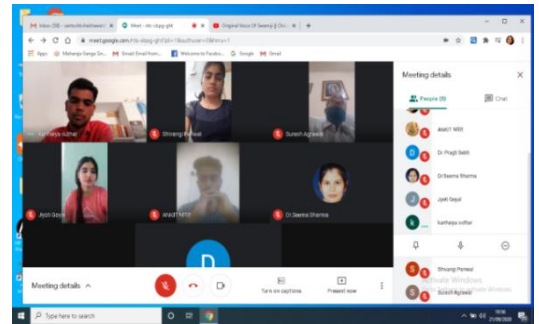
3. Teachers' Day: On 5th September, 2020 Teachers' Day was celebrated on online platform Google meet. Students recited poems to pay their regards to the teachers. The students also played a beautiful video presentation prepared in honour of the teachers. Addressing the students on this occasion Professor S.K. Agrawal offered valuable inputs to the students on how to cope up with Covid crises.



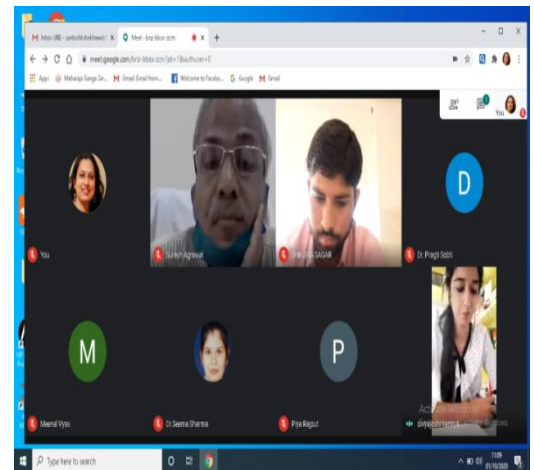
4. Vinoba Jayanti and Chicago Speech Anniversary: On 11 September, 2020 the Department organised an online meet to celebrate Vinoba Jayanti and 127th anniversary of ground breaking speech of Swami Vivekanand at the World's Parliament of Religions in 1893 at Chicago. Kanhaiyal from M.A Semester II deliberated upon the important excerpts from the speech. The online meet was convened by Divya Joshi, President of the Literary Forum.



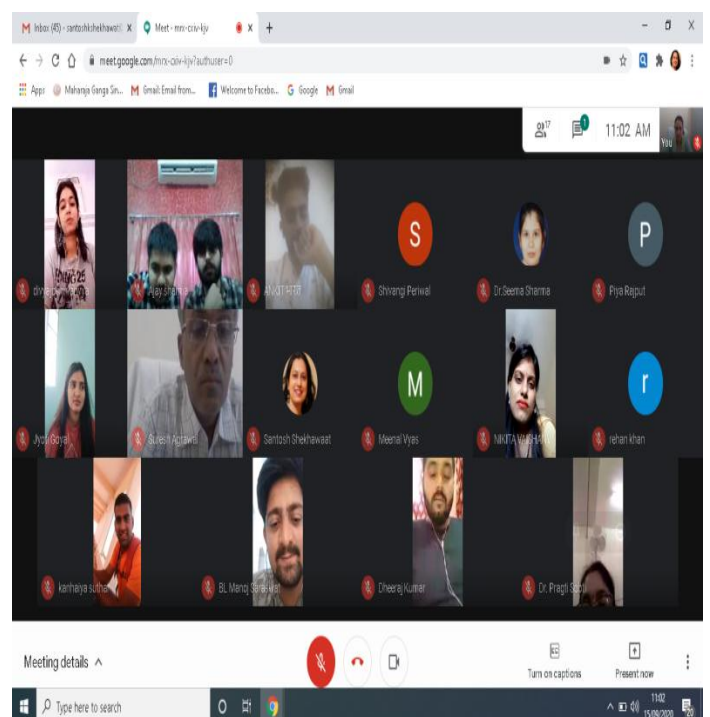
5. Hindi Divas: On 14 September, 2020 Hindi Divas was celebrated online. All the students of the department recited self composed poems. The head of the Department Professor S.K. Agrawal appreciated the creative endeavours of the students and advised them to get their poems published in newspapers and magazines.



6. Bhagat ek Veer: Bhagat Singh Jayanti was celebrated online on 1 October, 2020. After having paid rich tribute to legendary figure Bhagat Singh, the Head of the Department Professor Agrawal lamented the fact that we could not properly critique even our own literature, and accepted the views which came either from the West or a particular 'scholarship'. As a result authenticity has disappeared from our teaching/learning spectrum. Citing the example of Bhagat Singh's essay he said that the essay if invigorated thoroughly brings out Bhagat Singh's admittance that I am on my journey to find theisms. Calling Bhagat Singh an ardent proponent of equality he said that his eating the meal prepared by Bodha on the former's insistence speaks volume of this fact. It is sad, said Dr. Agrawal that we could not even trace a connect between Mulk Raj Anand's *Untouchable* and Bhagat Singh's *Bodha*. He exhorted the Faculty Member to interpret Historicism/New Historicisms in their own context and thereby enable the students develop their imaginative faculty so that they can own up the literature written in the Second Language.



7. World Students Day Celebrated: World Students Day was celebrated online on 15 October, 2020 to commemorate the birth anniversary of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, a great scientist and teacher. Addressing the students on this occasion, the Head of the Department Prof. S.K. Agrawal called Kalam the 'People's President' who was loved by all citizens and that "he always loved to teach and had said he'd like best to be remembered as a teacher." Prof. Agrawal also focused on the theme "Learning for People, Planet, Prosperity and Peace" of World Students' Day this Year. The students and teachers elaborated on the motivational quotes by A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Some of them are as follows –



- "Dream, Dream, Dream
Dream transforms into action
And thoughts result in action"
- "Man needs difficulties in life because they are necessary to enjoy the success"
- "He who knows other is learned, but the wise one is the one who knows himself.
Learning without Wisdom is of no use."
- "I am not handsome but I can give my hand to someone who needs help. Because beauty is required in heart, not in face."
- "Dream is not that which you see while sleeping it is something that does not let you sleep."
- "We should not give up and we should not allow the problem to defeat us."
- When your hopes and dreams and goals are dashed, search among the wreckage, you may find a golden opportunity hidden in the ruins."
- "If you want to leave your footprints on the sands of time, do not drag your feet."

Book Release

A book of short stories *Rise: Covid Stories of Hemang Rastra* written by Professor S.K. Agrawal was released on 18 January, 2021. Renowned educationalist and social activist Dr Mahesh Chandra Sharma was the Chief Guest and former Vice Chancellor of Kota University Professor P.K. Dashora was the Guest of Honour during the online book release ceremony. The ceremony was chaired by honorable Vice Chancellor Professor V.K. Singh. Written against the backdrop of covid crisis that has left the globe topsy turvy, the stories in this collection are a wholesome tonic of positivity for the depressed souls. The ceremony was attended by academicians and scholars across the country.



National Webinar on “NEP-2020 and the Future of English Studies in India” organised on 18-19 February, 2021

NEP-2020 replaces the pseudoism in which the Departments of English are too much entrenched. NEP envisages English as an Indian language by making it an instrument of projecting Indian culture. NEP-2020 enables one to locate oneself in one's own culture. Today, the educated are the most dissatisfied ones. NEP portends a sea-change in the mental makeup of the people. With its mission to initiate a wave of change in accordance with NEP-2020, the University Department of English organized a National Seminar on “**NEP-2020 and the Future of English Studies in India**”. The enlightening discussions suggest that NEP-2020 certainly constitutes a polemic on the three Ms - Men, Methods and Materials - and is an assurance that English be not taught to Project *angrejiyat* but our rich cultural heritage so that the World may know about the cultural ethos that the country enjoyed. NEP is a proclamation of the proliferation of English Studies with certain shifts and twists.

The Webinar Director Prof. S.K. Agrawal introduced the theme of the conference. The Vice Chancellor of Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Bikaner, Prof. V.K. Singh delivered the Presidential Address. Prof. Kapil Kapoor delivered the key-note address, Prof. Kapoor The District Collector and District Magistrate of Alwar Sh. N.M. Pahadia and Prof. N.K. Pandey and Ex-Chairman- Hindi Sansthan, Agra were the Guest of Honour. The Chief Guest in the Valedictory session was Prof. S.D. Sharma, Ex-Vice Chancellor of Himachal Pradesh University and the Guest of Honour was Prof. Nivedita Maitra, H.S. Gaur Central University, Sagar.

During the Webinar we had enlightened discourses from the luminaries such as Prof. S.P. Shukla (Retd.) from University of Delhi, Prof. Kalpana Purohit from Jain Narayan Vyas University, Prof. Saryug Vadav from Regional Institute, Ajmer, Prof. Krishna Rathore Tomar, Principal, Govt. Dungar College, Prof. Divya Joshi Govt. Dungar College, Prof. Anu Shukla , Choudhary Devilal University, Sirsa, Prof Umed Singh from Choudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa, Prof S.K. Sharma from University of Allahabad and Dr. Manoj Kumar. Besides, more than 70 papers were received but due to the time constraints they could not be accorded space on the conference.

Doctorate Awarded

Santosh K Shekhawat, Assistant Professor in Department of English, was awarded the Doctorate Degree by Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Bikaner on 12 August, 2021. Her Doctoral Dissertation is on “Revisiting the Roots: Myriad Patterns and Dimensions of Storytelling Traditions of Rajasthan”.

Courses Attended by the Faculty Members

- ❖ Dr. Seema Sharma, Assistant Professor of English participated in the Refresher Course in English (online) conducted by the UGC-HRDC Kumaun University, Nainital from 17 August, 2021 to 1 September, 2021.
- ❖ Dr. Santosh Kanwar Shekhawat, Assistant Professor of English participated in the Refresher Course “Gender, Media and Social Transformation” (online) conducted by the UGC-HRDC University of Rajasthan, Jaipur from 17-30 September, 2021.
- ❖ Dr. Pragti Sobti, Assistant Professor of English participated in the Refresher Course “Class, Caste and Gender” in Indian Writing in English (online) conducted by the UGC-HRDC University of Mumbai from 18-30 October, 2021.

Creative Corner

Delightful World

*Earth, our abode wants a free and delightful world,
Where people reject the Barbarism and accept the Civilization.
Where the mind is fearless
Where the world is full of colours
Where Beast enjoy the pleasures of life
Where the light of love spreads around the world.*

The Earth our abode wants a free and delightful world,
Where the dawn starts with determination and it ends with satisfaction.
Where the night provides a divine power
And the day dazzles with positivity
Dear GOD! bestow such power to every human and beast of this world.

Kanhaiya Suthar

Life

Life is so strange
Nothing stays the same
Everything changes
But whom to blame

Life is like a game
Where you have to lose
Before you can gain
To win you have to face the fearful rain
In Life.. They always say
Don't use your heart
Only use your brain

In life there is love
But the more is hate
No one decide
They all hesitate
And who knows the fate
The closest people you need go away
When you need them the most
You find them lost

Day after day
Days go by
Some people are born while others die
Year after year
No one understands
Nothing is clear
Nothing in our hearts except fear

Today you walk & talk
Tomorrow you lay in your grave
And nothing it gave
The money that you save
And no use of your gold
When it won't be sold
Stop doing the wrong
Stay strong
Never lie
Be ready for your last goodbye.

Dr Seema Sharma
Assistant Professor

Girl

Like others she is a gifted soul
Not a latent one in a hole
She wishes for a life full of love & joy
Not to become any one's toy
She aspires to touch the sky
To spread wings like a butterfly
But is never motivated to pursue her dreams
Disenchanted and broken she screams
She faces indifference everywhere
Alas! Not a soul to cheer.

Dr Pragti Sobti
Assistant Professor

To the Saviour

When 2020 knocked at our doors,
We welcomed it with extended arms.
In ambush stood a train of misfortunes
Unperceived they entered our lives
Soon begun to ruin our Paradise
Patiently we bore them all.
But one of them a pandemic
Erupted like a nuclear bomb
Chain reaction engulfed the globe.
Like Draupadi's unbounded robe,
It seems to have no close.
Trahimam Trahimam,
Reverberates all around.

When Uttara's stillborn child
Was targeted with Bhahmashtra
You took it on your body to save the clan.
When the life of Deities was threatened,
By Raktabija, the duplicating demon.
As Kali, you devoured the demon,
Annihilated evil, restored calm.
Be the breast Mother for us all
Feed us with your ambrosial milk
Boost our immunity to fight the ill.
Cursed now, the mankind is in peril.
Be the vaccine
Shield us against the invisible enemy.
We are on tenterhooks,
As Time, roll on with 2021.

Dr Santosh Kanwar Shekhawat
Assistant Professor

Voicing Opinion

Let me speak.....

Our teachers rightly recognised our potential and encouraged us to grow. Coming from a rural background I constantly felt that I have learned a lot after joining the Department of English, Maharaja Ganga Singh University.

Kanhaiyalal Suthar

M.A. Sem III

Our teachers helped us to face the covid crises and helped us to adjust to the online mode of learning. We could therefore sustain through this tough period and continue our studies despite the covid imposed limitations.

Divya Joshi

M.A. Sem III

Our teachers have enabled us to imagine and visualise literature rather than simply read it, now the world has become our classroom.

Meenal Vyas

M.A. Sem III

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

Shivangi Periwal

M.A. Sem III

The Department has been a kind of second home for me with caring teachers and a very congenial and student friendly environment. I take back from here memories to cherish lifelong.

Poonam Mertia

M.A. Sem III

The Department has prepared us to face the challenges of life in a better way. We have not only grown academically but also as a person. Thanks to the teachers of the Department.

Shitanshu Bhardwaj

P G Diploma in Translation

We were really disappointed as the pandemic hit the globe. Our teachers helped us with our studies and personally as well.

Renuka Joshi

P G Diploma in Translation

Courses and Programs being run by the Department

**Master of Arts
Master of Philosophy
Post Graduate Diploma in Translation
Ph. D.**

To,

University Department of English
Vashistha Bhavan
(Academic Block-II)
**Maharaja Ganga Singh University,
NH-15, Jaisalmer Road, Bikaner - 334004**

**Editorial Board
Chief Editor
Dr. S.K. Agrawal
Professor and Head**

**Executive Editor
Dr. Santosh K. Shekhawat
Assistant Professor**