

# वाणी

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Department of English

Maharaja Ganga Singh University

Bikaner – 334004 (Rajasthan)



# Newsletter

## EDITORIAL

"Nothing endures but change!"

Folklorists approach the cultural production that is lore as a dialogue between conservative and dynamic impulses.

It is true that something of proven cultural value may beg to be preserved and passed down in its original form, but with the passage a time new contingencies may arise that call for change and adaptation. For instance, the basic structure of folktale type may survive across boundaries of time and geography but adapt to socio-cultural contexts in the specifics of its treatment in individual tellings.

The same applies to heritage. Whether tangible or intangible, object or custom, what is deemed worthy of being passed down from one generation to the next will hold onto what identifies it as a unique cultural expression while accommodating the changes that are driven by the passage of time.

The relationship of curricula with heritage and change is eternal. You will be able to learn how the humanities is adapting its traditional foci to make our teaching programs skill-oriented so as to establish relevance in the changing society; how our ancestors have left community structures in place to continue good work; how sifting through achieves can illuminate the present and future; and more.

This journey of change must continue to keep ourselves fit, relevant, pleasing, reliable and dependable. We hope to do so with the assistance of the university academics, administrators, alumni, industrialists and students.

**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 2022-23:

**1. Gurupurnima Celebration:** We, at the Department, celebrate those festivals also which are associated with the teachers' glory and their dedication to the students. This year the students celebrated Gurupurnima on 13th July. The celebration started with lighting a lamp before goddess Saraswati. The students presented flowers and gifts to the teachers and sought their blessings. Speaking on the occasion Prof. Agrawal reminded the students of the Vyas Guru Parampara which put *Guru* above God in esteem.



**2. Plantation:** The Students and the Faculty Members of the Department planted trees on 30 August, 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.



**3. Teachers Day:** Teachers Day was celebrated in the Department on 7<sup>th</sup> September (5<sup>th</sup> September being a holiday). The students of the Department welcomed the teachers by offering flowers and gave exquisite Dance and Drama performances. They also made teachers play some interesting games. Addressing the students on this occasion Professor S.K. Agrawal cited examples from Indian history to emphasise the importance of teacher in one's life.



**4. Poetry Recitation Competition:** An Interdepartmental Poetry recitation Competition was organized by the Department on the eve of Rastriya Hindi Diwas on 14 September, 2022 to enhance the creative faculty of the students. Students from all the Departments of the University participated in this Competition and recited either self composed or poems written by renowned poets on patriotic theme.



**5. Release of Newsletter:** The Departmental Newsletter *Vaani* was released on 1 October, 2022 by the hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Vinod Kumar Singh Sir. On this occasion the Head of the Department Prof. S.K. Agrawal and faculty members Dr. Seema Sharma and Dr. Pragti Sobti were also present. The hon'ble Vice Chancellor appreciated the endeavour of department in bringing out the Newsletter.



**6. Abhinandan:** Abhinandan (Freshers' party) was hosted on 14 November, 2022 by the students of M.A. (Semester III and IV) to accord a warm welcome to the students of M.A. (Semester I) and P. G. Diploma in Translation. The programme began with a welcome session in which the seniors welcomed the freshers' by applying a *tilak* on their forehead, this was followed by an icebreaking session in which the newcomers' introduced themselves and the seniors shared their experiences about the Department. The seniors invited the fresher students for cultural performances and on the basis of their performances Tarushi Nangal and Sawan Sharma were crowned Ms and Mr. Fresher respectively.



**6. National Youth Day:** Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. Speaking on the occasion, the Head of the Department of English, Prof. S.K. Agrawal advised the students to read the literature written by Vivekananda. Prateek Yadav from Semester-I expressed his views on Swami Vivekanand's message for the youth of the nation and its contemporary relevance.



**7. Farewell:** The students of M.A. Semester-I and II bade farewell to the outgoing batch of M.A. Semester IV and students of P.G. Diploma in Translation on 21 January, 2023. 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 students of the outgoing batch expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the teachers by offering flowers. 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.



## **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 Khajuwala, 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

Me  
Ambiguity is a mirror  
That depicts real me  
Reality  
Strangulates me  
Gives a new life; to me,  
To fantasy.

Fantasy,  
Born with me  
Born out of me  
True companion  
Sworn on me  
To be the enemy  
Of reality.

Reality is incarnation  
Of karna,  
Of Krishna's basuri  
But the melody  
That blessed every soul  
Is now a fantasy.

Fantasy,  
Bloomed in barren fields  
Withered in greenery  
Ancestor of timidity  
Slave of bravery  
Given in dowry  
Of reality.

Reality,  
An emperor  
Ruled on me  
On the jarl poesy  
On the king philosophy  
Defeated by vengeful fantasy.

Subhash Chander  
M.A.Semester IV

## The Role of Teachers in the Freedom Struggle of India

Teachers or *Gurus* are architects of a Nation. They shape the personality and character of their students and through them the fate and future of the Nation. In India, Gurus are revered and held in very high esteem. In fact Gurus are accorded higher place than God. Guru/teacher should be defined in broader sense. Anyone who inspires, motivates, moulds and shapes the character of others is a teacher. Meaning of teachers should not be restricted to only those, who teach in formal academic institutions. In this broader sense Jija Bai was the mother teacher of Veer Shiva ji, who infused valour and other good qualities in him. In Sikhism Guru has an important role. All the ten Sikh Gurus inculcated the value of nationalism, patriotism, selfless service and sacrifice among their followers and inspired Sikhs to resist the tyranny of Mughals.

India has long tradition of Gurus who subleased resistance to autocratic and oppressive regimes and shaped the destiny of Nation. In British period were many Gurus/teachers who inspired their disciples/students to the service of the society and Nation. While talking about the role of teachers in Freedom struggle, the first name which occurs to mind is the name of Anglo-Indian Henry Vivian Derozio, the famous teacher of Hindu College of Kolkata, who started Young Bengal Movement because of his radicalism, he was dismissed from Hindu College. His followers were known as Derozians, who questioned socio-religious orthodoxy and established norms. Young Bengal Movement and Derozians were fore-runners of Bengali Renaissance. Many Derozians later joined Brahma Samaj.

Ishwar Chander Vidyasagar was a famous teacher of Bengal, who is well known for his social reforms and contribution to Bangla language and literature. He was a great advocate of women's rights, particularly their education and widow remarriage. Widow Remarriage Act was passed because his advocacy. He standardized Bangla letters, which are being used even today. Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, a great educationist and the founder of Banaras Hindu University was a great teacher who led BHU as its Vice Chancellor for many years. He later handed over the charge of BHU to another great teacher Dr. Radhkrishan, whose birthday we celebrate as Teachers' Day. Malviya ji and his institution BHU played a key role in the revival of Indian culture, philosophy and religion. Malviya ji actively participated in freedom movement and was thrice elected President of Congress Party. Malviya ji was also instrumental in the signing of Poona Pact. He persuaded Ambedkar to give up his demand of separate electorate for Dalits and agreed to larger number of seats for Dalits to be elected from common electorate which was formalised through Poona Pact and saved the Hindu society from further fragmentation.

Savitri Bai Phule was a great champion of education particularly women education and education of under privileged castes. Along with her husband Jyotiba Phule she played key role in instilling confidence among the underprivileged castes through education. Both were educationist and social reformers and tried to free the Hindu society from many social evils. To remember Savitri Bai Phule's contribution, Pune University has been named after her. Bal Gangadhar Tilak was the famous teacher of Mathematics and was one of the founders of famous Fergusan College of Pune. Tilak had multiple identity and roles. He was a teacher, an educationist, an author, a lawyer, a journalist and above all a great nationalist and patriot. Surya Sen, a legendary figure in the national movement was a teacher. He is popularly known as Master Da. Sen led famous Chittagong armoury raid and looted British arms for freedom fighters. He was arrested, tried and executed by the British government but his services to the nation as teacher and revolutionary will always be remembered. Pritilata Waddedar was an associate of Surya Sen. Just like Surya Sen, she

was also a school teacher and was assigned the responsibility by Surya Sen to lead a group of revolutionaries to raid a British Club. She was injured in that raid and swallowed cyanide to save her from being captured by British Police. Her sacrifice for the nation inspired many youth of her times and she is remembered as a great revolutionary who made supreme sacrifice for the nation.

The first President of the country Rajendra Prasad was also a teacher. After completing his studies, He taught at Calcutta City College and Langat Singh College in Muzaffarpur, Bihar. Shyama Prasad Mukherji was a teacher and the Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University. His contribution to the nation before and after independence is well known. For one nation, one flag and one constitution he sacrificed his life in Srinagar jail post independence. Madhav Rao Sadashiv Rao Golwalkar popularly known as Guruji was a teacher in Banaras Hindu University. He left teaching and devoted his life to social service by joining RSS. Guruji played an important role in organising fragmented and disunited Hindus and mobilised them into Freedom struggle.

Gopal Krishan Gokhale was Guru of Mahatma Gandhi, who shaped his personality and vision. It was Gokhale who was instrumental in bringing Gandhiji to Bharat from South Africa. Gokhale advised Gandhiji to first undertake the tour of India to familiarise himself with the socio-political conditions of India and then enter into freedom movement. Gandhiji himself was the Guru of many freedom fighters, who on his call participated in mass *Satyagrah* and various marches led by him. Gandhiji had so much influence on his followers that many times despite disagreeing with him, they eventually went with his advice. For example despite disagreement, his followers and party accepted his decision to suspend non-cooperation movement after the incident of Chauri-Chaura in 1922. All the top leaders of freedom movement such as Nehru, Patel, Rajaji, Rajendra Prasad, etc. accepted Gandhiji as their Guru and leader.

The list of teachers given above is just illustrative to appreciate the contribution of teachers in the struggle for Independence. It is not difficult but rather impossible to enumerate all the teachers who participated in the struggle for Independence. However, the freedom we are enjoying today is the gift of our great teachers. On this Occasion of Amrit Mahotsav of our Independence, we must salute the great teachers of our Independence movement. It is ironical that history records the contribution of farmers, workers, journalists and even industrialists too in great detail but contribution of teachers has either been ignored or if discussed, historians have given little space to teachers while writing the history of freedom struggle.

**Rakesh Kumar**  
(MA Semester II)

### **IN MEMORIAM: DIGNITARIES WHO SAID THEIR LAST GOODBYE IN 2022-23**

*Raju Srivastav: a renowned comedian, actor, and politician*

*Mulayam Singh Yadav: a renowned politician, socialist, and activist.*

*Vikram Gokhale: a renowned Marathi and Hindi theatre artist and film star*

*The Department pays heartfelt tribute to all the departed souls.*

## **Students Stories.....**

I liked all the classroom activities such as group discussions, memory games, vocabulary exercises, quiz competitions, paper presentation etc which were conducted every weekend. I feel more confident and mature as I step out of the Department.

**Rajkumar Sharma**  
**M.A. Sem IV**

Department's keen and consistent interest in organizing events that unfolds and introduces newer possibilities of world of English Language is truly motivational and inspiring.

**Shubhash Chander**  
**M.A. Sem IV**

Coming with the background of a mild, under confident student, I was not sure if I would fit into a new environment with the likes of other students I found superior to me, only to later be proven wrong and realise that it would be the best 2 years of my college life.

**Priyanks Jaiswal**  
**M.A. Sem IV**

These two years at the Department have been the best years of my life. I shall carry from here some of the best memories of my life to cherish them lifelong. The Department has equipped me to face the challenges as I step out to compete with others in the job market.

**Tanuj**  
**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.

**Divya Joshi**  
**P G Diploma in Translation**

Our teachers rightly recognised our potential and encouraged us to grow. What impressed me most was the regularity in the conduction of classes and their dedication to teaching profession.

**Shivangi Periwal**  
**P G Diploma in Translation**

**Courses and Programs being run by the Department**

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

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*University Department of English*

*Vashistha Bhavan  
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