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No. 13

June 2025

Department of English

**Maharaja Ganga Singh University**

Bikaner – 334004 (Rajasthan)



# Newsletter

## EDITORIAL

*The Digital Shift: Navigating Technology's Transformative Impact on Education*

The landscape of education is experiencing a profound and irreversible shift, driven by the relentless march of technological innovation. From traditional lecture halls to dynamic digital platforms, technology is reshaping every facet of the learning experience, creating unprecedented opportunities and presenting new challenges. In this editorial, we explore the multifaceted impact of this digital revolution on university education and our collective path forward.

One of the most significant impacts is enhanced accessibility and flexibility. The rise of online learning, fueled by platforms and digital resources, has democratized education. It has broken down geographical barriers, allowing students from remote areas to access world-class education and enabling lifelong learners to balance their studies with personal and professional commitments. Higher Education institutes have embraced this through expanding suite of online courses and hybrid models, ensuring education remains a pursuit for all.

Furthermore, technology is personalizing the learning journey. No longer is a single teaching approach expected to fit every student. Adaptive learning technologies and data analytics allow educators to tailor content to individual student needs and learning styles. This bespoke approach helps identify knowledge gaps earlier, provides targeted support, and allows advanced students to accelerate their pace. The result is a more engaged, effective, and efficient learning process.

The classroom itself is evolving into an interactive hub. Digital whiteboards, educational apps, and virtual reality (VR) simulations are transforming passive listening into immersive and interactive experiences. Complex scientific concepts can be visualized in 3D, historical events experienced first-hand, and collaborative projects conducted across continents. These tools do more than just present information; they foster critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills essential for the 21st century.

However, this transformation is not without its complexities. The rapid integration of technology raises important questions about the digital divide, ensuring equitable access to high-speed internet and necessary devices for all students. We must also address the need for digital literacy training for both students and faculty to utilize these tools effectively.

Crucially, as we embrace artificial intelligence and automated systems, we must also prioritize the enduring value of human interaction, critical analysis, and ethical reasoning. Technology should be a tool to enhance these core educational values, not replace them.

As a university community, our challenge and opportunity lie in navigating this new terrain with thoughtful intention. The future of education is a blended reality, one that leverages the power of technology while upholding the fundamental principles of inquiry, mentorship, and intellectual growth. By embracing innovation responsibly, we can ensure that our department remains at the forefront of preparing students for a dynamic and technologically driven future.

Dr. Santosh Kanwar Shekhawat

# 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 events such as Literary Quiz, Poetry Recital Sessions, and Poster Making Competition. The following cultural and literary events were celebrated/ organized in the session 2024-25:

**Plantation:** On 5 August, 2024 the Department of English organized a plantation session in the park opposite Maharishi Vashisht Bhawan. Teachers and students actively participated by planting various types of plants and trees suitable for desert soil. The initiative aimed at enhancing greenery. The session was a great success, reflecting the department's commitment towards environmental conservation.



**Fresher's Party:** On 27 August, 2024 the senior students of the Department of English hosted a fresher's party to welcome their juniors. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, creating a lively and joyous atmosphere. Teachers graced the occasion with inspiring speeches, encouraging the newcomers for their academic journey and future endeavours. Ajay was crowned Mr. Fresher, while Vidhya won the title of Miss Fresher, adding excitement to the celebration.



**Farewell Party:** On 22 October, 2024 the junior students of the English Department organized a heartfelt farewell party for their seniors. The event saw active participation from students as they bid an emotional goodbye to the outgoing batch. Teachers encouraged the seniors with motivational words for their future endeavours. Prateek was crowned Mr. Farewell, while Tarushi won the title of Miss Farewell. The event was memorable, leaving everyone nostalgic.



**Literary Quiz:** On 18 December, 2024 a literary quiz was organized by the students in the Department of English. The quiz saw active participation, fostering enthusiasm and curiosity among students. It significantly enhanced their literary knowledge, introducing them to fascinating facts about literary terms and history. The session concluded with an engaging activity conducted by the teachers, making it an enjoyable and enriching experience for everyone.



**One day trip to Punrasar Balaji:** On 21 December, 2024 a trip to Punrasar was organized, which saw enthusiastic participation from both students and teachers. The journey began with a visit to the main Punrasar temple, where students learned about the spiritual significance of the site. Following this, the group proceeded to the Anjani Mata temple, where refreshments were arranged. The students engaged in various fun activities and games, adding a lively touch to the outing. The trip offered a perfect blend of spirituality and recreation, providing students with an opportunity to connect with their cultural roots.



**National Girl Child Day Celebration:** On 24th January 2025, National Girl Child Day was celebrated in the Department with great enthusiasm. The event aimed at spreading awareness about the rights and importance of the girl child in the society. Dr. Seema Sharma, Dr. Pragti Sobti, and Dr. Santosh Kanwar Shekhawat addressed the students and highlighted the significance of educating and empowering girls. Lavika Verma and Vedansha Sharma of Sem III also delivered impactful speeches, sharing their views on gender equality and the value of supporting the girl child. The celebration was both inspiring and thought-provoking for everyone present.



**Basant Panchami Celebration and Academic Interaction:** On 3rd February 2025, the Department celebrated Basant Panchami with great enthusiasm. On this auspicious occasion, Prof. Divya Joshi from Government Dungar College, Bikaner and Prof. Anu Shukla from Chaudhary Devi Lal University (CDLU), Sirsa, visited the department and interacted with the students. The esteemed professors offered valuable academic insights and encouraged students to remain dedicated to their studies.



**Guest Lecture and Student Motivation Session:** On 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2025 esteemed guests, Prof. Kalpana Purohit, Prof. Sonu Shiva from Dungar College, Bikaner, and Prof. Avinash Jodha from M.S. College, Bikaner visited the Department. They addressed the students, offering valuable guidance for their future academic and career paths. Their motivational words inspired the students to remain focused and confident in their journey ahead. The session was insightful and greatly appreciated by all present.



## **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.

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

I am incredibly grateful to the University Department of English for the outstanding exposure to literature. The department's robust program, which features excursions, workshops, seminars, and various extra-curricular activities, not only solidified my knowledge but also gave my confidence a substantial boost.

**Lavika Verma**  
**M.A. Sem IV**

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

**Vedansha Sharma**  
**M.A. Sem IV**

Initially, as a mild, under confident student, I harboured doubts about finding my place among my peers, whom I perceived as superior. However, those initial concerns were quickly dispelled. I was proven wrong, and my time in this department has unfolded as the most enriching and fulfilling two years of my college life.

**Hemant**  
**M.A. Sem IV**

I am deeply grateful to the Department and Faculty Members for providing me with an exceptional learning environment. I now feel confident and well-equipped with the proven life skills necessary to navigate my future endeavours successfully.

**Ajay Soni**  
**M.A. Sem II**

The department's consistent lineup of workshops, seminars, and extra-curricular activities, alongside the core curriculum, has significantly enhanced my confidence and public speaking skills. It's a truly holistic education.

**Monit Depawat**  
**M.A. Sem II**

Our faculty doesn't just teach; they mentor. The personalized feedback I received on my essays helped me evolve my writing style dramatically and prepared me for a professional career in editing.

**Vinita Gaur**  
**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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