



**MANIPAL**  
UNIVERSITY JAIPUR

*University under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act*

*Department of Languages,  
Literatures and Cultural Studies*



# *Verbiivore*



# INDEX



1. Director's Message
2. HoD's Message
3. Editor's Message
4. Editorial Board
5. News and Events Organized
6. Faculty Publication
7. Students' Achievement
8. PhD Awarded
9. Students' Corner

# Director's Message

I am pleased that the editorial team, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, Manipal University Jaipur, is bringing out the July-September 2024 Issue of the e-newsletter, *Verbivore*. I am very happy that this e-newsletter showcases the activities and events taken up by the Department with sincerity and dedication of the students through their efforts in their constant pursuance of academic excellence.

Keep it up!

Prof (Dr.) Trishu Sharma  
Journalism  
Director, SHSS



# HOD's Message

I take this opportunity to release the e-newsletter *Verbivore* July-September 2024 Issue. This e-newsletter exemplifies our dedication in advancing educational opportunities for our students and embracing diversity. As we continue this remarkable journey, I wholeheartedly support to the efforts of the Editorial Team in fostering best practices and envisioning a future of possibilities for the Department. The dedication of our students is the key to unlock endless possibilities. The Department wishes to the students and the Editorial Team's continued success in bringing out this e-newsletter.

My heartfelt congratulations to the Editorial Team for the relentless efforts, and enthusiasm to bring out the Newsletter of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies. It is really a splendid work. I am thankful to the Leadership, Manipal University Jaipur, Dean, Faculty of Arts, and Director SHSS for allowing the Department to bring out this issue of the Newsletter *Verbivore*.

Best Wishes!

Dr. Rabindra Kumar Verma

HoD (I/C)

Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies

# Editor's Message

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the third issue of *Verbivore*, the newsletter that captures the dynamic pulse of our Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultural Studies. With each issue, our journey grows more vibrant, and this edition is no exception.

This time, we dive deeper into the tapestry of creativity and scholarship that defines our department. From exhilarating events and inspiring milestones to literary pieces that stir the soul, these pages hold a celebration of our collective spirit. Every word penned reflects the thoughtfulness and zeal of our student editors and contributors.

As we turn the page on another chapter, I invite you to immerse yourself in this issue, to reflect, connect, and let it inspire you to participate in our ever-growing dialogue of words.

Here's to celebrating the written word and the vibrant community behind it!

Warm regards,

Dr. Sneha Thakur

Chief Editor, *Verbivore*





# Editorial Board

## **CHIEF EDITOR:**

Dr. Sneha Thakur

## **Associate Editors:**

Anushka Gurha (BA V Sem)

Lakshita Kalra (BA V Sem)

## **Graphic Team:**

Carol Alona Jonathan (BA  
V Sem)

Dhwani Talreja (BA III Sem)

## **Proofreading and Editing Team:**

Gurjot Kaur (MA I Sem)

Priyanshi Vijayvargiya (BA V Sem)


Sara Jain (BA V Sem)

Kavya Bhalotia (BA V Sem)

Navya Mendiratta (BA V Sem)

Krati Goyal (BA III Sem)

Gauri Agarwal (BA III Sem)





# NEWS AND EVENTS

## ORGANIZED:

### Digital Humanities

#### *Five days Faculty Development program*

A five-day Faculty Development Program on Digital Humanities was held from July 29, 2024 to August 2, 2024. It explored Digital Humanities applications in academia. The program aimed to enhance skills and promote interdisciplinary approaches.



The program aimed to introduce Digital Humanities in the Indian academic context, equip participants with its skills, facilitate networking among Digital Humanities scholars and highlight its trends ultimately fostering the integration of digital technologies in humanities scholarship.

#### **Day 1**

The Digital Humanities Program (FDP) featured Dr. Souvik Mukherjee, a renowned expert in the field. The first session provided a comprehensive overview of Digital Humanities (DH) in India, tracing its development from its early days. Dr. Mukherjee highlighted the potential of DH to revolutionize research methodologies and scholarly practices. In the second session, the focus shifted to practical applications of DH tools. Dr. Mukherjee emphasized the importance of efficient research management and introduced Zotero, a powerful tool for collecting, organizing, citing, and sharing research materials.



The FDP was deemed a success, as it effectively introduced participants to the world of DH, inspiring them to explore its potential in their own research endeavors.

## Day 2

The Digital Humanities Program (FDP) delved into various aspects of digital humanities, focusing on the intersection of technology and human studies.

Session 1 introduced the concept of digital subjectivity, exploring how digital technologies influence our understanding of self and society. Dr. Guin stressed the importance of equitable access to technology to bridge the digital divide in DH research. Session 2 shifted focus to the application of digital tools in cartography. It highlighted the differences between traditional and digital mapping techniques and their significance in contemporary research. Participants learned how to use digital tools to analyze and interpret spatial data. Session 3 explored the methods of cultural studies, emphasizing the importance of ethnographic research. Dr. Guin discussed how digital ethnography can be used to study societies in the digital age, highlighting the need for flexibility and adaptability in fieldwork. Overall, the FDP provided valuable insights into the diverse applications of digital humanities, inspiring participants to incorporate digital tools into their research.

## Day 3

The Digital Humanities Program (FDP) offered a comprehensive exploration of diverse digital humanities applications. Session 1, led by Dr. Souvik Mukherjee, delved into interactive narrative tools and game writing. The session explored innovative approaches to game narrative design and how different game genres blend elements to create unique experiences. Session 2 continued with Dr. Mukherjee, focusing on digital archiving and collaborative projects.



The session highlighted the transformative power of digital archiving in preserving knowledge and culture. Dr. Mukherjee showcased successful crowdsourcing projects that engage the public in historical document transcription, fostering community involvement in preserving their heritage.

Session 3, conducted by Dr. Preeti Sharma, explored the intersection of digital humanities and traditional disciplines like humanities and literature.

The session discussed various digital tools and methodologies, emphasizing the importance of knowledge sharing and open access in digital humanities



## Day 4



Dr. Natasa Thoudam's session delved into the transformative impact of digital technologies on storytelling and publishing. She emphasized the role of platforms like Storyweaver and Pressbooks in revolutionizing digital publishing in India.

Storyweaver, in particular, has made a significant contribution by offering thousands of children's storybooks in diverse languages, expanding access to literature and promoting literacy.



## Day 5

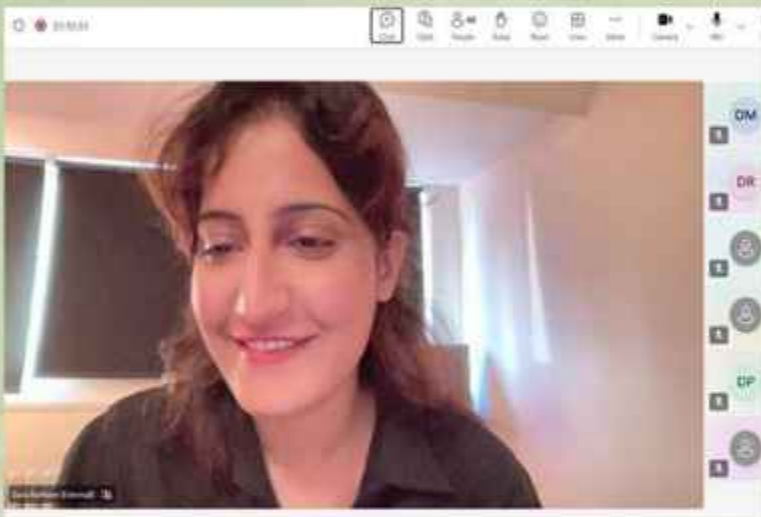
Dr. Natasa Thoudam's sessions focused on the critical theme of decolonizing digital humanities, particularly in the context of Northeast India. She emphasized the importance of centering local frameworks, celebrating diversity, and adopting decolonial perspectives in digital archiving practices.

Dr. Thoudam drew inspiration from Roopika Risam's theories to advocate for decolonizing the digital humanities. She highlighted the challenges and opportunities in the Northeast, emphasizing the need to integrate digital methods with local cultural contexts. By addressing the risks of dominant narratives and promoting inclusive and representative practices, Dr. Thoudam aims to foster culturally sensitive and equitable approaches in digital humanities scholarship, particularly in regions with rich cultural heritage.



# The Student Induction Program

The Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultural Studies organized an online Student Induction Program for newly admitted students from the 2nd to the 11th of September 2024. The event aimed to familiarize students with the faculty, introduce them to university policies, and support their transition into academic life. The objectives included bridging the gap between past and current academic experiences, fostering meaningful social connections, promoting extracurricular activities, and encouraging personal growth.



Notable guests included Prema Tolani (PhD Scholar, NIT Trichy), Sara Rathore (Erasmus Scholar and Research Fellow, Smithsonian), Prof. Ashu Bhardwaj (Founder, Arnaii Foundation), and Shri Sudhir Dua (Director, Neopower Electronics).

These speakers shared insights into holistic development and career opportunities. The program featured interactive sessions on registration, timetables, exams, and emphasized the importance of literature and language in enhancing communication skills, critical thinking, and empathy. Students were encouraged to engage with texts for self-discovery and emotional growth.

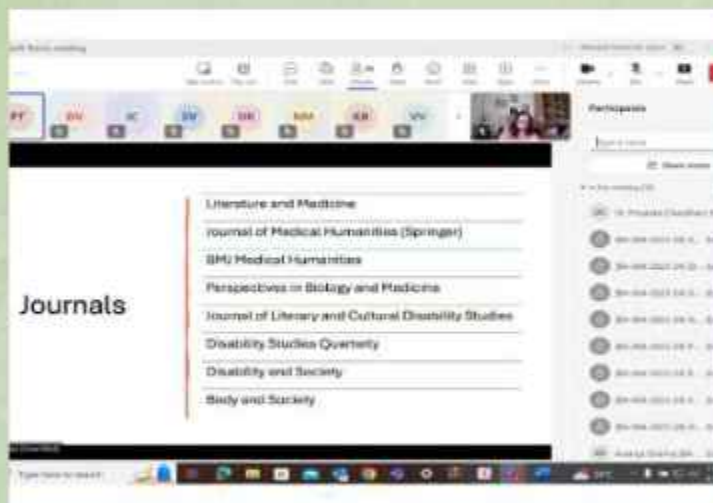
In conclusion, the Student Induction Program successfully achieved its objectives of helping students transition smoothly into university life, equipping them with the knowledge and support they need to thrive academically and personally. The program fostered a sense of belonging and readiness, setting a strong foundation for the students' future success.



# Alumni Talk

## *Literature and Medicine: The Confluence of Narrative and Well Being*

The Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultural Studies at Manipal University Jaipur organized an online alumni talk on September 10, 2024, featuring Ms Perna Tolani, a PhD scholar at NIT Trichy. The event aimed to connect current students with alumni, fostering professional growth and exploring the emerging field of Medical Humanities.



The talk focused on the intersection of literature and medicine, discussing medicinal novels, journals, and research methodologies. Ms Tolani shared insights into the field, emphasizing its societal significance and the skills required for success.

The interactive session allowed participants to ask questions and engage in discussions, creating a valuable learning experience.

The event successfully achieved its objectives, benefiting both students and alumni. Students gained practical advice, learned about resources, and were inspired to pursue careers in Medical Humanities. Alumni strengthened their connection to the university and benefited from networking opportunities. Overall, the event was a significant contribution to the academic and professional development of the participants.



# Industry Expert Lecture

## *Polish Your Skills- Set Silver Jobs*

On September 11, 2024, Prof. Ashu Bhardwaj, an English professor at IIT Roorkee, delivered an Industry Expert lecture on research problem, questions, objectives, purpose, sources, abstract, organization, databases, findings, citation, revising, proof-reading, and plagiarism.



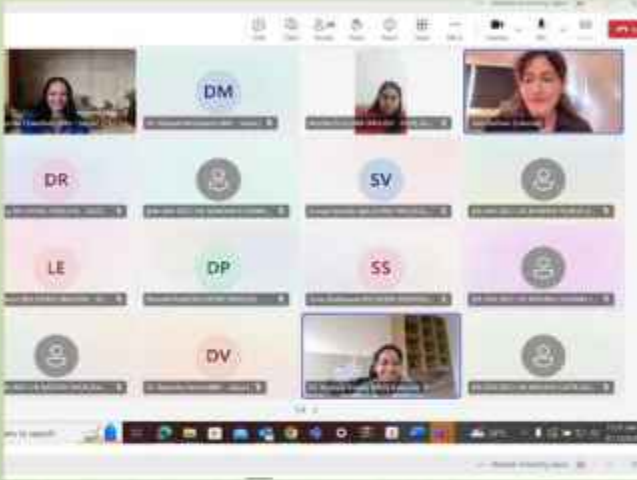
The event explored the emerging opportunities in ageing industries while focusing on key skills for competitiveness, highlighting rapidly expanding industries with Silver jobs, and encouraging critical career thinking and lifelong learning for relevance in a dynamic workforce.

The Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultural Studies at Manipal University Jaipur organized the aforementioned online industry lecture titled "POLISH YOUR SKILLS – SET FOR SILVER JOBS". Dr. Ashu Bhardwaj, an expert in Soft Skills training, emphasized the importance of up-skilling and re-skilling in the rapidly growing 'Silver jobs' sector, which focuses on services and industries catering to an ageing population. The lecture also highlighted the importance of up-skilling and re-skilling to remain competitive and relevant in the sectors, such as healthcare, financial services, and lifestyle management for senior citizens. The key takeaways from the lecture included an in-depth understanding of current and future job demands in the 'silver economy', the necessity for strategic career planning, and how students can prepare themselves to meet the requirements of this growing field. The lecture was highly interactive, with students engaging in Q&A sessions. The event was a success, with over a hundred participants, including Dr. Priyanka Chaudhary and Dr. Rabindra Kumar Verma, Head of DOLLCS.



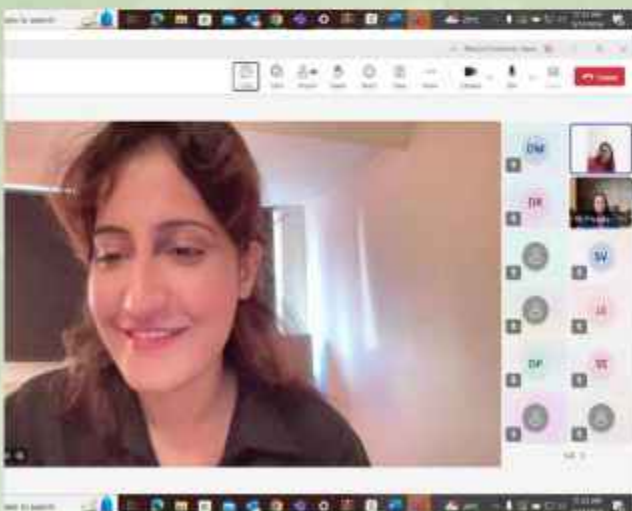
# Alumni Talk

## *Career Pathway After Majoring in English Literature*



The Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultural Studies at Manipal University Jaipur organized an online alumni talk on September 11, 2024, featuring Sara Rathore a renowned scholar and researcher. The event aimed to guide students towards diverse career paths after majoring in English Literature.

The talk explored various career opportunities, including writing, editing, publishing, media, public relations, education, and digital marketing. Sara Rathore highlighted the transferable skills gained from studying literature, such as critical thinking, communication, and research, and how they can be applied to various industries. The session also emphasized the importance of internships, networking, and upskilling.



The event successfully achieved its objectives, providing students with valuable insights into career options and strategies. The interactive Q&A session allowed students to seek clarification and discuss their specific concerns. Overall, the talk was a valuable resource for students, inspiring them to confidently pursue their career goals.



# Expert Lecture

## *Feminist Research Methodologies*

An expert lecture on Feminist Research Methodology by Dr. Priyanka Tripathi at the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies. The event familiarized the participants with feminist research concepts, challenged conventional research

practices, demonstrated application in diverse fields, and inspired the integration of feminist values in research.

BA and MA English students, PhD research scholars, faculty members of DoLLCS, and School of Media and Communication were some of the attendees.



Additionally, Dr. Priyanka Tripathi, Associate Professor of English at IIT-Patna, was the resource person for the event. The event included a thought-provoking discussion, encouraged interaction, and emphasized the practical application of feminist research across disciplines.

Throughout the event, interaction was encouraged, and all research scholars had the opportunity to address their queries by asking related questions. Dr. Divya Jyot served as the master of ceremonies.

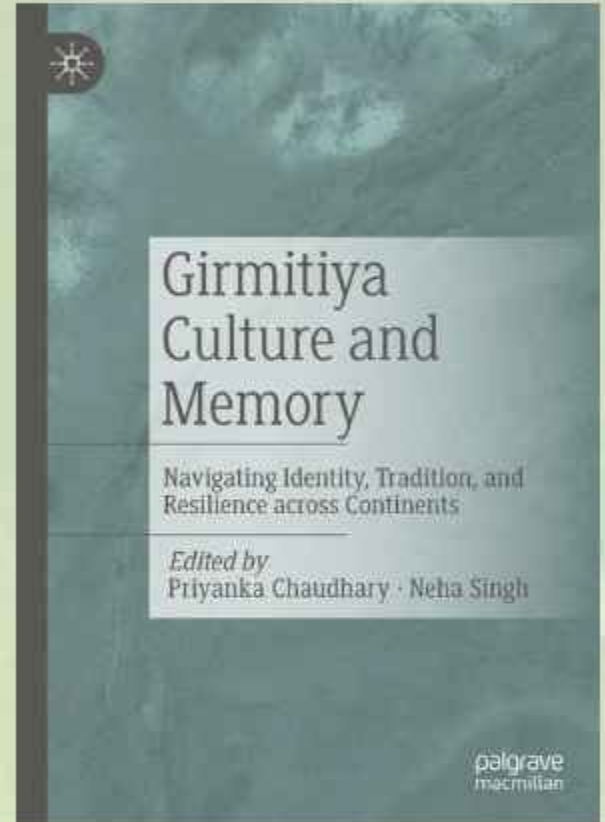


# Faculty Publication

Published by Palgrave Macmillan Cham in September 2024, this first edition explores themes of cultural heritage, memory, and identity formation within a diaspora context. Spanning over 326 pages and featuring both black and white and color illustrations, the book utilizes an interdisciplinary approach to examine the lives and legacies of Indian indentured laborers transported across continents during the British colonial period.

The editors, with their vast expertise, aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the Girmitiyas' struggles, triumphs, and enduring cultural practices.

This publication offers valuable insights for scholars and students interested in Asian culture, diaspora studies, and memory studies.





## PhD Awarded



1. Ms. Priyanka Joshi successfully defended her PhD in English under the supervision of Dr. Arpit Kothari and Dr. Gulab Chand on September 16, 2024.
2. Ms. Purnima Sarsar successfully defended her PhD in English under the supervision of Dr. Arun Kumar Poonia on September 27, 2024.



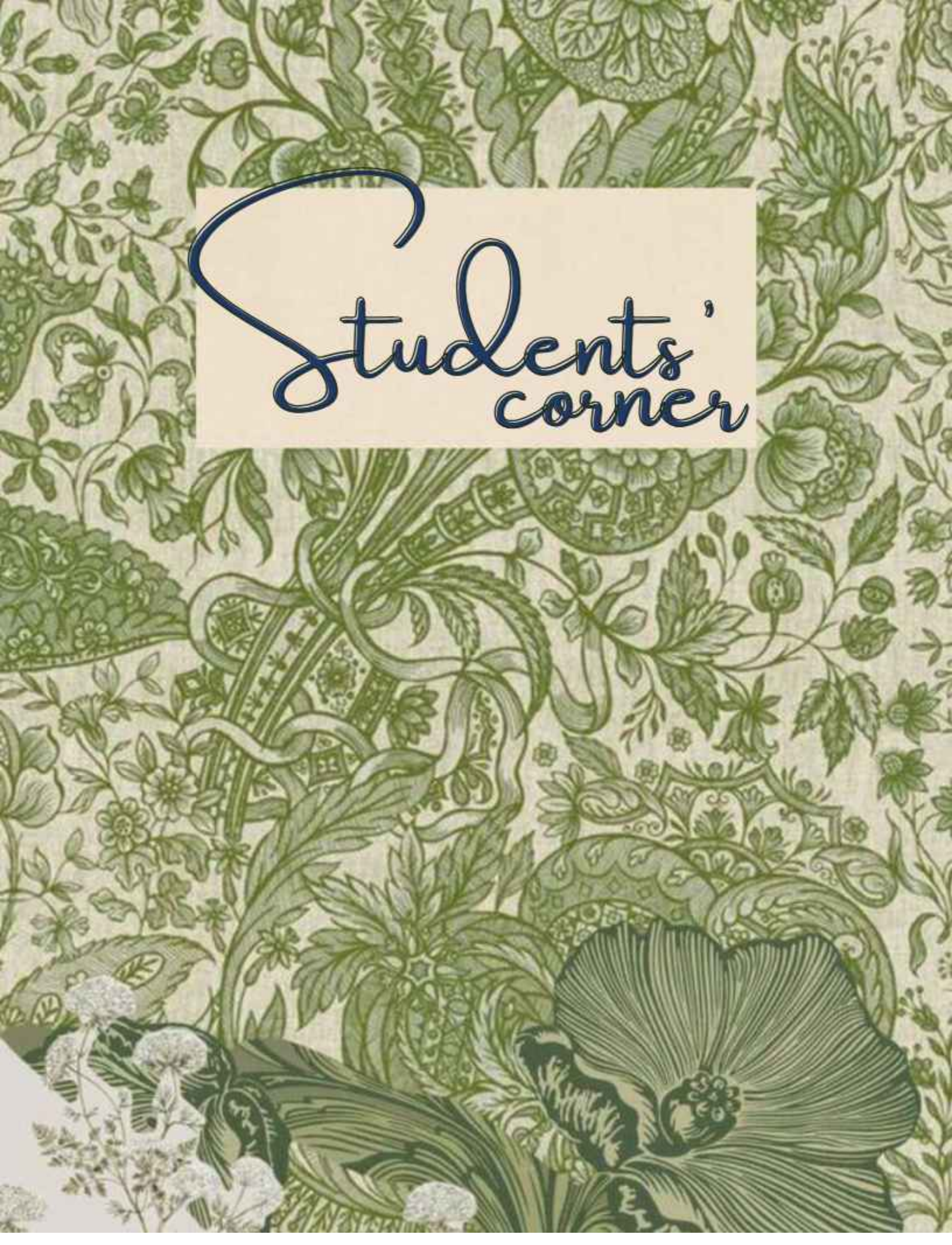
# Nationwide Recognition with the Guru Dronacharya Awards 2024

Dr. Priyanka Yadav, Assistant Professor of Hindi at Manipal University Jaipur, was honored with the Guru Dronacharya National Award 2024 on September 15, 2024, at YDAJ University, Ranchi. The award ceremony, organized by the Brijlok Sahitya Kala Sanskriti Academy, took place in Rihawali near Fatehabad, Uttar Pradesh. Dr. Yadav received this prestigious award in recognition of her exceptional contributions to research and education, her tireless efforts to promote social empowerment, and her dedicated work in advancing women's empowerment initiatives.

The event was graced by Mir Dr. Mukesh Kumar Ashi Verma, the Academy President and Founder, along with Dr. Vikas Shami, Program Coordinator. They praised Dr. Yadav for her tremendous contributions and felt immense pride in honouring her achievements.

The academy has extended its hearty blessings to wish her all the very best of progress and success, health, and long-lasting life. The award really speaks of how much of an impact Dr. Yadav's works induce in education, cultural values, and overall societal development.





*S*  
Students'  
corner



# Wild Flowers

Krati Goyal  
BA (Hons) English III sem

Just like Neelakurinji,  
Flowers that bloom once every twelve years,  
In southern India or the Himalayan lily,  
'Never lose hope.'

Just when you think it's over,  
God sends you a miracle.

I packed my bags and moved six hundred kilometres  
away.

Just to be as happy as before,  
A new day, a new beginning,  
Time will heal the wounds, I don't speak about.  
As sweet as honey and buzzing as bees.

Hard as rock you were to the world,  
but I saw the real you.

Found love in literature,  
But everything was changing; I was wild and free.  
The new beginning, the new memories,  
Afraid that I would lose you.

What we had, what we were,  
But I won't look back.

I was the chapter in your life, but you were the whole  
book in mine...

Cherry and berry kept me sane.  
While I tossed and turned with fear of new beginnings.  
But I am my own person and,  
I won't look back.



# Timeless Ties and Fading Skies



Somya Vasudev  
BA (Hons) English V sem

I remember those times,  
When I used to chase butterflies.  
Times when I was young and fragile,  
Soft and tender at heart, easy to smile.  
I miss those times,  
Those sunsets and skies.  
I miss the days I lived,  
Happy and cheerful as a child.  
The time has gone.  
But I'm still standing there as a stone.  
To walk hand in hand,  
With my parents, through the land,  
To feel their warmth, their love so true,  
If only my time machine could renew.  
Oh, to be that girl once more,  
To dance through life, my spirit to soar,  
In innocence's glow, forever adored,  
Lost in the echoes where joy is stored.







# Merging Worlds

Anushka Gurha

BA (Hons) English V sem

**Is it possible to blend global influences without entirely losing your local identity?**

In today's world, especially here in India, we find ourselves at a cultural crossroads. On one hand, we've got global trends sweeping through our cities, and on the other, we're trying to hold on to the things that make India, well, India. This tug-of-war between embracing what's new and keeping what's ours presents both challenges and opportunities.

One big change we're seeing is cultural homogenization, where local traditions start blending with more dominant global cultures, usually Western ones. Look around, and you'll see Western fashion is everywhere. Jeans, t-shirts, sneakers—you name it.

Fast food joints like McDonald's and KFC are on every corner, and English is becoming the go-to language, especially for younger folks.

These shifts are changing not just how we dress or eat but even how we celebrate.

Take our festivals. In urban areas, Valentine's Day and Halloween—things that were once pretty foreign—are becoming mainstream, especially with the youth. And, of course, Bollywood is starting to follow Hollywood's lead when it comes to storytelling, visuals, and music, trying to please both Indian and global audiences. While this opens up global connections, it also makes you wonder: what happens to our more traditional festivals, our folk stories, and our unique style of filmmaking?

Another clear sign of homogenization is the dominance of English. In many Indian homes, especially in cities, kids are way more comfortable speaking English than their native languages. Sure, this opens doors internationally, but it also makes you worry about what's happening to our regional languages.



Are we slowly letting them fade? With English taking center stage, languages like Bengali, Tamil, or even Hindi, in some cases, might get pushed to the side.

But here's where it gets interesting—India's always had a talent for cultural hybridization. We've been mixing global influences with our own traditions for centuries, from the Mughals to the British. And we still do it today. It's not about one culture taking over another; it's about creating something new, something that feels Indian even if it borrows from the outside.

Take our food, for example. You don't have to go far to find street vendors serving up things like paneer pizza, chicken tikka burgers, or masala pasta. It's this awesome mix of global and local flavors that shows how Indian cuisine can evolve while staying true to its roots. You can taste the global influence, but at its heart, it's still Indian.

The same goes for music and fashion. Look at Bollywood again! The songs we're jamming to today blend traditional Indian rhythms with Western genres like hip-hop and EDM. The fusion of Punjabi beats with electronic sounds has created something totally new, and it's not just loved here—it's going global. Fashion follows the same path. Designers like Sabyasachi and Manish Malhotra are blending Indian textiles and embroidery with Western cuts, creating outfits that are traditional at heart but modern enough to be worn anywhere in the world. It's this fusion that keeps Indian fashion unique.

India's real strength lies in this balancing act between the old and the new. Homogenization might pose a challenge, but hybridization is where India really shines. We're evolving, yes, but without losing what makes us Indian. The government, grassroots organizations, and even social media play a role in keeping our traditions alive. You see young Indians proudly showing off their regional crafts, languages, and customs on social media, even as they embrace global trends.

This push and pull between global influence and local tradition isn't a bad thing. It's just a reflection of India's evolving identity. We can't ignore the impact of Western culture, but India's ability to take what's new, blend it with its traditions, and create something uniquely Indian ensures that our culture stays vibrant, resilient, and dynamic.

The future of Indian culture doesn't mean choosing between the modern and the traditional. It's about finding that sweet spot where both can coexist. That's how India will keep thriving in a globalized world—by holding on to our rich heritage while still moving forward.



# My Life is a Movie

Gauri Agarwal  
BA (Hons) English III sem

Everything I do feels rehearsed and fake,  
My conversations, smiles, and laughter all staged,  
Like reading lines from a forgotten script,  
The life I once lived now drifting adrift.

It's like filming each passing breath,  
The moments stifled and made perfect lose their depth.  
Moments that should've been candid and free,  
Rewound again and again, still imprisoning me.

Their stares make me conscious,  
Acting every emotion now feels tedious.  
I can't leap when joy takes hold  
What if I seem foolish, not fit to the mold?

I measure each word, each step I take,  
Crafted to seem polished, with no room for mistake.  
Yet still, I fade, unnoticed, unseen  
As if they were all actors in my well-scripted scene.

