



**MANIPAL**  
UNIVERSITY JAIPUR

University under Section 21ff of the UGC Act

Department of Languages,  
Literatures and Cultural Studies



# Verbivore





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# Director's Message

I am glad to learn that the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, Manipal University Jaipur, is bringing out the April-June 2024 Issue of the e-newsletter, *Verbivore*. This newsletter will provide its readers a conducive material to enhance their knowledge and information about the events, activities, achievements, and research activities in the Department.

It gives me immense pleasure in conveying my heartiest congratulations to the entire editorial and designing team and their mentors for this effort in giving a shape to this issue of *Verbivore*. I wish the entire team of Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies all the success in their endeavours.

Best wishes!

Prof (Dr.) Trishu Sharma

Journalism

Director, SHSS



# HOD's Message

I take this opportunity to release the e-newsletter *Verbivore* April-June 2024 Issue of the e-Newsletter. This e-newsletter is published by the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies. It generates awareness about the teaching-learning and research activities organised at the Department. I am confident that this e-newsletter will further inspire the students, the faculty members, and the research scholars to engage themselves into research. Apart from providing a space for the students to share their views and perspectives, this e-newsletter will also give an insight into meaningful activities. The highly qualified faculty members of the Department are committed to impart quality education, hone the skills of the 21st century learners, and meet their expectations. I am thankful to the contributors for their articles, poems, literary insights, and other achievements which have significantly added to the quality of this e-newsletter.

I sincerely congratulate 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 acknowledge my heartfelt thanks to the Leadership, Manipal University Jaipur, Dean, Faculty of Arts, and Director SHSS for guiding us 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,

After the successful reception of the first issue of *Verbivore* – Newsletter of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultural Studies, I, along with my student editors, am thrilled to present its second issue. Before you lie a testament to the incessant effort, commitment, vibrant spirit, creativity, and intellect that thrives within the Department. *Verbivore* refers to one who has an enjoyment of words and wordplay; as people of literature, we cannot relate to any other term more deeply. Words are, indeed, our favorite toys!

In these pages, you will find a kaleidoscopic experience of the semester we've had – our events, achievements, new additions, and articles by students ranging from thought-provoking essays to captivating poems that transport you to different worlds. There is something here for everyone.

This semester has been a rollercoaster of challenges and triumphs, and we aimed to capture the essence of this journey. This newsletter has served as a platform for our students to express themselves, share their experiences, and showcase their achievements. It is a celebration of the hard work, passion, and dedication that permeates every corner of our department.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the student editors and contributors – both students and faculty members – who have poured their time and energy into making this newsletter a reality. Your commitment and enthusiasm have been instrumental in bringing these pages to life!

We hope that you will find a part of yourselves in the pages that follow. We encourage you to read, reflect, and join the conversation in upcoming issues.

Happy reading!

Warm regards,

Dr. Sneha Thakur

Chief Editor, *Verbivore*



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# Inspiring Talk Series

## *Interdisciplinary Research & Funding Opportunities In Humanities and Social Sciences*

Professor Pankaj Jain from Flame University, Pune, visited Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, Manipal University Jaipur on April 1, 2024 for an invited talk.

The objective was to engage with the audience and address specific queries or interest. Additionally, he gave practical tips for integrating diverse methodologies, importance of inter disciplinary approaches in addressing complex society issues and many more.



Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies  
Faculty of Arts

### Inspiring Talk Series

**INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH & FUNDING  
OPPORTUNITIES IN HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**



01 April 2024, Monday 10 AM-12 PM



Dr Pankaj Jain, Ph.D., पंकज जैन  
Professor & HoD, Humanities & Languages  
Chair, The India Centre  
FLAME University

Dr Pankaj Jain enriched the session with exchange of insights and collaboration opportunities. An interaction was held which focused on crucial agenda like importance of interdisciplinary approaches in addressing complex social challenges.

He also gave an overview of current trends and emerging areas in humanities and discussed strategies for identifying funding sources and writing successful grant proposals. He then helped in engaging Q&A session with the audience.



# Diaspora Identity and Transnational Assimilation in Indian American Literature

Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee graced us with his presence on April 8, 2024 and delivered his talk on the topic diasporic identity and transnational assimilation in Indian American literature. The lecture was based on Indo-American literature, diaspora and identities. The objective of the event was to understand the historical and cultural context that have shaped the Indo - American literature, the speaker also explored the diverse themes, styles and genres within the Indo American literary works.



 **MANIPAL UNIVERSITY  
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**Department of Languages, Literatures  
and Cultural Studies**  
**Faculty of Arts**

**DIASPORIC IDENTITY AND  
TRANSNATIONAL ASSIMILATION IN  
INDIAN -AMERICAN LITERATURE**

**DR. RATAN  
BHATTACHARJEE**

ASSOCIATE FACULTY OF ENGLISH  
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH  
UNIVERSITY & PRESIDENT  
INDIAN AMERICAN SOCIETY CUM  
MULTILINGUAL COLUMNIST &  
POET

**JOIN US**  
**APRIL 8TH, 2024**  
**10 AM -12 NOON**  
**VENUE- CONFERENCE  
ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, 3 AB**

 **DR. SNEHA THAKUR**  
ASST. PROFESSOR  
DOLLCS  
CONVENOR

 **PROF. KOMAL  
AUDHICYA**  
DEAN, FACULTY OF ARTS

 **DR. RABINORA VERMA**  
HOD, DOLLCS

To encourage participants to explore potential interdisciplinary possibilities along with language, teaching, translation and much more to examine how Indo-American literature reflects the intersection and blending of Indian and American culture.

Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee is a faculty of English at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond formally associate professor and chair graduate department of English Dum Dum Motijheel College writer. He is a Trilingual columnist cum poet.



A founding member in international advisory board, International Theodore, he is a winner of many educational Excellence awards, also author of Six Feet Distance : Looking Back to Lockdown. He has been twice invited to Fairleigh Dickinson University, USA as international visiting faculty and gave public talk to classes and participated in all events during his stay over there. He has, to his credit, more than 2000 articles in print and online media.



The event held at conference hall, second floor, 3AB, commenced with warm welcome and introduction of Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee by the Dean and the HOD and Dr. Sneha Thakur , convener of the event .

The speaker delved deep into the themes and nuances of despotic identity and transnational assimilation as depicted in Indian American literature, providing valuable insights into experiences of Indian immigrants in America and their struggles

The lecture was followed by a question answer session where the audience had the opportunity to interact with Dr. Bhattacharjee into sharing their perspective on the topic. The session was lively and insightful, reflecting the audience's keen interest in the subject matter and reaching the audience's understanding of the topic.

The lecture not only showcase the depth and complexity of Indian American literature, but also the significance of understanding diasporic experiences in today's globalized world



# Cross-Cultural Dialogue

## *Advancing Business French and French Culture For University Students*

The poster is for an International Guest Lecture. It features the logos of Mansarovar University Jaipur and the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies. The event is jointly organized by the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies and the Department of Business Administration. The title of the lecture is 'Cross-Cultural Dialogue: Advancing Business French and French Culture for University Students'. The date is 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024, and the time is 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. The location is Dr. TMA Pal Auditorium, 2A8. The poster includes portraits of the guest speaker, Ms. Sylvie Fournier, and the organizers: Prof. Narender Singh Bhati, Prof. Nandini Anandhiya, Dr. N. L. Bhat, Dr. Siddhanta K. Jena, and Dr. Jyoti Singh Khatun.

The Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, in collaboration with the Department of Business Administration, hosted an International Guest Lecture on “Cross-Cultural Dialogue: Advancing Business French and French Culture for University Students” on April 15, 2024.

This event aimed to enhance language proficiency, cultural understanding, and cross-cultural communication, equipping Indian BBA students with insights into French business practices and etiquette. The initiative focused on promoting inclusive education and supporting students in their career and higher education aspirations.

Ms. Sylvie Fournier, a French Language and Culture Expert from the French Education Department, was the guest speaker. The event featured French songs, poetry, and dance performances by BBA Semester 4 students, showcasing their enthusiasm for French culture. University officials, including Dr. Narender Singh Bhati, Head of the Department of Business Administration, emphasised the University’s commitment to internationalisation. With over 350 attendees, feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and students expressed eagerness for future interactions with Ms. Fournier.





# Expert Talk

## *Research Writing and Publication*



Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies  
Faculty of Arts

Invites for an Interactive Expert Talk  
on  
**RESEARCH WRITING & PUBLICATION**

**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
**Time:** 11:15 AM  
**Venue:** Conference Room, II Floor, 3 AB

**Resource Person**  
Prof. (Dr.) Nagendra Kumar  
Professor, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences  
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee



Prof. (Dr.) Priscilla Chaudhary  
Coordinator



Dr. Rashmi Kumar Verma  
Head, DLI, CA



Prof. (Dr.) Rosal Anshika  
Head, Faculty of Arts

An expert lecture on Research Writing & Publication was held on May 14, 2024, in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultural Studies. The lecture, delivered by Professor(Dr.) Nagendra Kumar, Professor of English in the Department of Humanities

and Social Sciences at IIT, Roorkee, focused on the importance of high-quality research in achieving SDG goal 4 of quality education and lifelong learning opportunities.



The event aims to provide valuable insights on research planning, writing, and documentation skills, research problem formulation, primary evidence use, documentation techniques, academic writing steps, interdisciplinary possibilities, and identifying sources for responsible research and scholarship.

It also encourages interdisciplinary research, sharpens analytical skills, and uses various sources for responsible research and scholarship. The event also addresses challenges faced by researchers.

This session discussed research writing topics, academic writing and publication processes, topic selection, conducting a literature reviews, identifying research gaps, using critical theories, and selecting suitable journals. The event was interactive, allowing researchers to ask related questions and gain valuable insights. The event was attended by PhD Research Scholars from the Faculty of Arts, Faculty Members of SHSS, and School of Media and Communication.



## PhD Awarded



- 1. Ms. Neha Meena successfully defended her PhD thesis in English under the supervision of Dr. Keshav Nath on May 16, 2024.**
- 2. Ms. Varsha Sharma successfully defended her PhD thesis in English under the supervision of Dr. Keshav Nath and Dr. Arun Kumar Poonia on June 10, 2024.**
- 3. Ms. Shelly Bohra successfully defended her PhD thesis in English under the supervision of Dr. Tanuja Yadav on June 17, 2024.**
- 4. Ms. Sneha Choudhry successfully defended her PhD thesis in English under the supervision of Dr. Priyanka Chaudhary on May 14, 2024.**
- 5. Mr. Abhishek Verma successfully defended his PhD thesis in English under the supervision of Dr. Rabindra Verma on June 10, 2024.**





Students' Corner





# BETWEEN DREAMS AND DUTIES

Priyanshi Vijayvargiya

BA (Hons) English V sem

I was born from a love story, a tender bloom in a couple's  
heart.

Their care shaped my behaviour; their wisdom nurtured my  
mind.

Teachers ignited my intellect; mentors sculpted my wisdom.  
My talents became their pride, a reflection of their hopes.  
But amidst these blessings, where was I?

As a child, I followed the path my parents paved.

As an elder, I'd heed my children's needs.

As an adult, I'd bow to society's expectations.

Perhaps my teenage years were the only time I was truly  
alive.

I dreamed of riverbank homes, sun-kissed mountains,  
and birds dancing across endless skies.

Wanting a letter from Hogwarts  
but being silly like Shin-chan.

Senior year slipped away, but prom remained a fantasy  
dream.

College seemed like a magical escape,  
but each semester is a battle for survival.

With each passing day, my teenage spirit fades.

The future looms large, filled with uncertainty.

The explorer in me withers, dies,  
Replaced by rules I must abide.

The World's a book I yearn to read,  
But life demands a binding creed.

Every change costs a version of me that is left behind.

From a little princess, I'm growing to be  
A strong woman, wild and free.





# Diet Coke Can

Manvi Malani

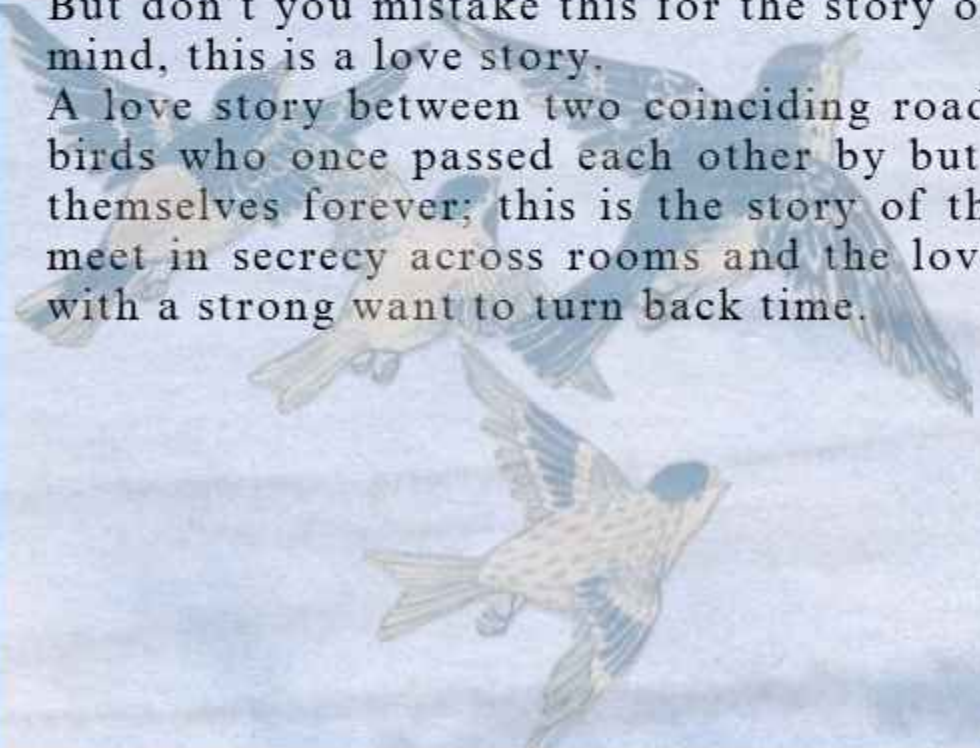
BA (Hons) English I sem

And to be without shackles is to shout out loud. To be a bird is to fly high. To be a prisoner in an open field is to have air in your lungs and speed in your steps. Perhaps a plea of freedom is sweet sounding when it comes from the lips of a soldier but if a woman in her thirties stands before Jesus every day to plead for death, selfish is what comes to mind.

A woman is not a human, it is a machine. Mother used to say that one day my body will be used, abused and tossed around in the game of men. But I married a man I trusted, I was not a woman but a girl; a product of love and faith. I once yearned and pined for a man who now loses his mind when I forget a pinch of salt. And what more is there to give?

I hide away from the world like an Ostrich with blindfolds on my eyes. Days pass by in a vulnerable fashion, caught in 4K, bright in golden light; my eyes catch the letters written on a pre-designed obituary, handing out cheers to my life. Life is a long disease, longer when you have eye bags under your eyes. But don't you mistake this for the story of how a girl lost her mind, this is a love story.

A love story between two coinciding roads, the love story of birds who once passed each other by but then lost a part of themselves forever; this is the story of the hopeful eyes that meet in secrecy across rooms and the love story of teenagers with a strong want to turn back time.





# Two Threads of Knowledge

Dhruv Garg

BA (Hons) English V sem

Two threads bound knowledge that many may acknowledge, one virtual and another real, an ancient and a modern way, creating a world in which many have struggled. They have lightened up countless places, and many have left their hazy traces. One is moving straight ahead, and another is being left behind. Knowledge is bound in one and transferred in another, the thread binding a book, and the internet binding an electronic notebook.

Knowledge was expensive but now it is inexpensive. Nature is shown to everyone, and laws are proven to everyone. Texts are like a river now when they were only for the rich to show. The sacred place has become a deserted palace, but it is still an oasis to some, and a love-hotel to one! Books are found in libraries only; the ones in cities have become deserted and lonely. The ones in universities are not for study but for people to hang out with their buddies. But the places have changed, and many may not have tread, as various are the spaces where people may get their grace, and people can't imagine in what way someone is illumined. The smell of books has become thicker, but forever gone are those who bicker. Empty chairs and clouded windowpanes shadow the people who are considered not to be sane, but opinions are like a shower and literacy is like a flourishing flower.

Texts have become diversified and battles have intensified, but people are arguing in the virtual and forgetting the real. Faces are shown in pixels, and they flicker with every signal. Gone are the old days when people argued face to face, but people still maintain the golden ways they retain. But they are like the Olympics, and by days they become nostalgic. The two threads interweave and a new way they heave.





The bound book and the electronic notebook are seen engaging in the intense argument that people are exchanging. In various places, people are located, by the threads they are connected. Books and notebooks are just media that make people's thoughts firm. Long time has eroded many books; that's why people need electronic books.

Now I conclude in which I include, that people are reading in whichever way they are treading. Knowledge is being spread to every head either by real or virtual threads. Some ways are being forgotten and some are re-trodden, the knowledge is being shouldered and the world is moving forward.





# 10 Things I Hate About My Job

Lakshita Kalra

BA (Hons) English V sem

If you've cared enough to read the first line of this article that gives away that I am a cube dweller, you're probably one too. If not, this makes things interesting. It is an established conjecture that a human mind is derived to getting tricked into happiness when it finds another with the same structure. Therefore, I present to you an argument as to why my job is worse than yours.

To have at my background, I'd say I am exactly what every Hollywood movie gives their female protagonist - some Franz Kafka that makes them look intellectual, some caffeine addiction, some high amounts of cynicism, and maybe the pursuit of proving everybody wrong.

Because 'why should I live up to other people's expectations instead of my own?'. Except the part where I am in real life without a Miranda Priestly and a high paying job.

Which brings me to my first argument. For a writer who has to read before they breathe, there is not enough money. I don't even need to convince the jury on that, for many parents aren't very thrilled about their children studying literature. Furthermore, on the subject, it turns out, you don't get recognition even amongst your contemporaries.

Of course, the people with fancy degrees are eventually going to come around to try and take your job because writing is their passion and they do not care about the three unities of a plot. But then again, even Shakespeare didn't and there exists the modernists too. Even so, they're still busting their brains more than you because they know software(s) more than you. I'd put my friends on the stand to prove that statement incorrect but I have a sense of boundaries.





Another trifling issue that needs to be addressed is the objective misconception that Literature majors eat Oxford dictionary for breakfast. Nobody questions Business majors when they take a fool's gold for a deal, because the stakes are high. But God forbid, we do not know the meaning of floccinaucinihilipilification.

But as I have previously instituted through Kat Stratford, societal expectations don't have much on me. Maybe that is why I, like those very business majors, am rooting for the fool's gold.

A major drawback of this job is inspiration. There has to be something wrong with a writer if they are inspired to write when their car breaks down in the middle of the road at 2:50 a.m. For context, I went on a spontaneous night out because the ghost of 'you only live once' took over me. Hypothetically speaking, would it be too unhinged to say that I detest you, but I cannot resist your charm. Just like Kat Stratford hated the way she did not hate Patrick Verona.

My argument concludes with Scott Fitzgerald, "Writing is agony. I hate it. Yet for all that, I love it".





