



MANIPAL UNIVERSITY
JAIPUR

SMC CHRONICLE

Department of Journalism & Mass Communication
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The SMC Chronicle, the official quarterly newsletter of the School of Media and Communication (SMC) at Manipal University Jaipur, led by Dr. Avneesh Kumar and his dedicated editorial team, continues to showcase the vibrant life of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication through student achievements, faculty research, and creative initiatives.

The first quarter of the year has been filled with energy and achievement at the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication. This edition of SMC Chronicle brings you highlights from the past few months — including exclusive faculty interviews, notable student and faculty achievements, and a powerful review of a recent stage play.

We also cover a range of department activities, from workshops and field visits to student-led events, all reflecting our commitment to learning beyond the classroom.

As always, SMC Chronicle is more than a newsletter — it's a window into the vibrant life of our department. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

Celebrating Growth and Excellence in Journalism and Mass Communication

MEET THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Avneesh Kumar

Student Editors

Dheekshitha A S
Shreya Arora
Garima Sablani
Nalin Sharma

Designed By

Anarghya Singh



Hopefully, this issue inspires readers to take pride in what has been achieved by the department, and at the same time they look forward to the future possibilities.

It is our pleasure to present this issue of the newsletter of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, School of Arts, Manipal University Jaipur. This newsletter is more than just a compilation of updates. It is a collective record of the energy, ideas, and aspirations that the department continues to nurture. It documents the activities and achievements of our students, while also providing glimpses of the department's steady academic growth.

Journalism and mass communication as a field demands not only technical expertise but also critical inquiry, social awareness and an ethical sense of responsibility. Keeping this in mind, the newsletter aims to highlight the initiatives of our students who constantly push themselves to question, to innovate and to engage meaningfully with both classroom learning and the world outside it.

Additionally, this issue carries special interviews with our Dean and the Associate Dean. These interviews offer deeper insights into academic leadership and vision. Alongside, this issue also brings together glimpses of faculty engagements, collaborative projects and student achievements that have enriched the intellectual and cultural environment of the department over the past months.

My sincere appreciation goes to the editorial team and all contributors who have shaped this issue with diligence, creativity and imagination. Through their editorial acumen and choices, they capture the meaningful expression of the department's spirit. Hopefully, this issue inspires readers to take pride in what has been achieved by the department.

Editorial Board

Department of Journalism and Mass Communication,
Manipal University Jaipur

Dr. Sharma on Practical Learning & Media's Future

Garima Sablani

On behalf of the Department of Media, Communication and Fine Arts, I, Garima Sablani, along with my peer Shreya Arora, had the privilege to interview Dr. Trishu Sharma, Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication and Associate Dean of the School of Arts at Manipal University Jaipur. Having over 18 years of rich experience across academia and the media industry, he shared his valuable insights on practical learning, the department's vision, and the future of media education.

A doctorate in Journalism and Mass Communication, Dr. Sharma initially worked as an Assistant News Producer in English news channel before moving into research and academics. Over the years, he has published more than 30 research papers and has guided postgraduate and doctoral scholars, established community radio stations in multiple universities, and served as Station Director of a community radio as well. His career journey truly reflects a unique blend of industry practice and academic leadership.

Speaking about the department's role in strengthening practical learning, he emphasized that 'Media studies is all about practical and experiential learning.' To support this vision, the department has established a 24/7 licensed community radio station and an audio-video production studio, where learners are encouraged to produce their own shows and content in order to become compatible in the real world.

Further, When asked about the initiatives undertaken between January and April to promote innovation and excellence, Dr. Sharma highlighted two key aspects. First, several senior students undertook internships that provided them with real industry exposure. Second, the department organized a series of expert sessions where senior editors and professionals from leading media houses interacted with students, offering them deeper insights into the functioning of the field.

Delving deeper into the discussion with sir on how the faculties are preparing students to meet the demands of today's fast-paced media industry, he explained that the curriculum has been carefully structured to balance theoretical knowledge with practical exposure. Through constant mentorship and expert-led sessions, the faculties ensure that students are aligned with industry standards.

When asked about his vision for the next five years, he stated that the true achievement of the department lies in the success of its students-whether in higher studies, reputed media organizations, or entrepreneurship.

Alongside this, he stressed the need to strengthen infrastructure, invite more industry experts, and enhance platforms for practical exposure, ensuring the department continues to shape distinguished alumni.

Concluding the interaction with Dr. Trishu Sharma he advised the aspiring students of media and

communication to stay updated with current affairs through newspapers and magazines, while also paying close attention to subject-specific guidance from their faculty. Whether aspiring to work in television, social media, filmmaking, or scriptwriting, he urged them to sharpen their skills and stay dedicated. "If students follow the right path and dedicate themselves to building their careers, it will not only be their achievement but also the department's pride," he concluded.



Dr. Trishu Sharma
Associate Dean
School of Arts

Need for a Multi-Disciplinary Approach

Dheekshitha A S

The Department of Journalism & Mass Communication recently held an exclusive interaction with

Dr. Brajesh Kumar, Dean of the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Arts (FoMCA), Manipal

University Jaipur. In this conversation, Dr. Kumar spoke about his vision for multidisciplinary

learning, the integration of media with other fields, and his message for students.

Q: As Dean of FoMCA, what vision do you bring to the faculty?

A: From the beginning, my aim has been to bring the best possible options to the table for our

students. I encourage change and seek to involve people from diverse walks of life in our faculty. This

diversity enriches the classroom experience and broadens the scope of learning.

Q: How does this reflect in the teaching ecosystem at MUJ?

A: We strive to ensure students are guided by experienced faculty from varied backgrounds. Since my appointment, we have brought in professors from IITs, NITs, and central universities. Their

perspectives add great value to the MUJ ecosystem.

Q: You've often spoken about interactive learning. Could you elaborate?

A: Yes, interactive learning is central to our approach. For example, in management courses, we have introduced **Harvard case study reviews and discussions**. This pushes students to apply theory to real-world scenarios rather than learning passively.

Q: Why do you emphasize a multidisciplinary approach to education?

A: Because the boundaries that once existed between disciplines are dissolving. The future of education—and India itself—lies in cross-communication between departments. Students should not confine themselves to a single area of study. Exposure to electives across departments prepares them for the complexity of today's professional world.

Q: Are there specific initiatives planned for media and journalism students?

A: Absolutely. We are planning electives that directly benefit media students, such as Business Journalism, along with a fintech lab powered by Bloomberg. These will allow journalism students to deepen their understanding of finance and economics while honing their reporting skills. Beyond this, we are also planning to enhance the infrastructure, bringing in more



Dr. Brajesh Kumar
Dean, School of Arts

practical knowledge for the media students.

Q: What steps are being taken to promote research and collaboration within FoMCA?

A: Our faculty is dedicated to encouraging research. We want to bring together PhD scholars, teachers, and students, instead of having isolated research efforts. Conferences and seminars are also being planned to create platforms for knowledge sharing across different domains.

Q: How do you plan to strengthen the industry connect for journalism and communication students?

A: Industry connect is vital. Beyond guest lectures and visiting faculty, we are working to expand internship and placement opportunities. Our goal is to ensure that both undergraduate and postgraduate students enter the media industry with confidence and practical readiness.

Q: How do you plan to strengthen the industry connect for journalism and communication students?

A: Industry connect is vital. Beyond guest lectures and visiting faculty, we are working to expand internship and placement opportunities. Our goal is to ensure that both undergraduate and postgraduate students enter the media industry with confidence and practical readiness.

Q: Finally, what is your message for the students of FoMCA?

A: My message is simple: learn more and do not confine yourself to one area. The world is vast, and the opportunities are endless. Explore knowledge beyond your discipline, collaborate across fields, and you will be better prepared for the future.

Maharana Kika- The Battle Within: A Historic Tale Comes Alive on Stage

Shreya Arora



On January 24, 2025, the Dharmansh Foundation affiliated with the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication staged a historic tale titled- “Maharana Kika- The Battle Within.” The play was directed by Priyanshu Brajwasi, a MA (Journalism & Mass Communication) student from Cinewasi. It was based upon Dr. Omendra Ratnu’s book ‘Maharanas – a thousand-year war for dharma’ and explored the life, struggles, and inner turmoil of the legendary warrior Maharana Kika.

The book reveals the truth of the Greatest Dynasty, not just the greatest Hindu Dynasty, not just the Greatest Dynasty of Bharat but the Greatest Dynasty of the World: The Sisodiyas of Mewar. For over thousands of years, these warriors fought relentlessly, endured countless hardships and stood steadfast even when surrounded by enemies. They lived as nomads, yet never surrendered their lands. The continuous act of resilience and sacrifice is the reason why the Kesari flag still flies proudly on the sacred soil of Bharat.

The performance held at Smt. Vasanti Pai Auditorium in the evening and attracted

faculty, students and history enthusiasts alike. Along with Priyanshu, Gitik Mudgal, a second-year student, took part in the play portraying Uday Pratap Singh. Through powerful acting, expressive dialogue, and immersive storytelling, the play brought to life the themes of valor, leadership, personal conflict, and sacrifice, giving the audience a deeper understanding of Maharana Kika’s journey.

This original stage work questions how the real achievements and struggles of the Maharanas have been ignored, especially Maharana Pratap Singh. It tells their true story of bravery and determination to protect their land. This cultural initiative by the department continues to keep history alive in the hearts and minds of people. By bringing such a powerful story to stage not only educates but also inspires the students and audience to connect with their heritage, appreciate the sacrifices of the past and carry forward the same courage and resilience for generations to come- as the play’s tagline beautifully stated- “हर पीढ़ी अपने संघर्ष स्वयं चुनती है”— Every generation chooses its own battle.



ACHIEVEMENTS



Aditya Kumar Ravi wins Best Representative at the LNMIIT Conference 2025

Aditya Kumar Ravi, 4th semester student of BA(J&MC), bagged the “Best Representative” award for representing the portfolio of Rahul Gandhi in the AIPPM committee, at the LNMIIT Conference held on 25th & 26th January 2025.

Nalin Sharma wins High Commendation at the LNMIIT Conference 2025

Nalin Sharma, 4th semester student of BA(J&MC) bagged the “High Commendation” award for representing the portfolio of The United States of America in the UNSC committee, at the LNMIIT Conference held on 25th & 26th January 2025.



Riddhi Balchandani breaks through as Winner at the GHS Carnival

Riddhi Balchandani, 2nd semester student of BA(J&MC) was declared as the WINNER in the dance contest held at the Good Host Spaces Carnival in February 2025.

