

Anmol, Arpit and Nilesh won the first prize in a Short-story Writing Competition at IRA 2020 "Literary Fest" held at G.G.D.S.D. College on Feb. 17, 2020



**Well Done!**

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## A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL...



We are living in the times where work-related stress is not considered an anomaly. In fact, by many, and sadly, it is considered as an indicator of hard work and diligence. There is no denying the truth that hard work is pertinent to the growth of an individual and that of the nation, but depleting physical and mental health has been having adverse effects that are becoming more apparent now than ever before. I believe that the stake-holders of society, especially the young work-force and students, need to bring balance into their lives in order to tackle the problem and reverse the damage done.

We all see the damage unfolding in front of us every day when we hear about student suicides, workplace pressures resulting in stunted professional growth and stagnant careers. Along with the professionalism of corporate life, the stress amongst young workers has also percolated into the work culture. Stress-related health issues are at an all-time high amongst the professionals of all fields. The alarming part is that it is true about even the students. Student life is meant to give a shape to not just an individual's career but also their character and personality. All this could be undone if stress pervades their minds and bodies at such a delicate age.

It is also pertinent to discuss the issue of the lifestyle of the young generation. In the digital age, the young generation has fallen victim to the mobile culture and overuse of social networking. This has resulted in the misdirection of energies that could be tapped in so many useful ways. Digital well-being is the need of the hour as it is related to overall well-being. We as educationists need to involve students more in activities that provide them with ample opportunities to channelize their energies in a positive direction.

I believe and hope that the education system in our country sees a form of reformation that seeks to tackle stress at the elementary level itself to encourage students to work hard and yet not let stress pin them down. A healthy mind along with a healthy body is a key to overall well-being. It is this form of well-being that will light the path of growth of the nation.

**Prof. Rosy Walia Joshi**



**A thousand words will not leave so deep an impression as one deed.**  
-Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll's House*

## NOTES FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Greetings to all! As we move on to the next edition of our newsletter, we are absolutely delighted to have lined up an array of interesting and informative stories, snippets and updates that could serve as an exciting online resource for our readers. The year gone by has been a period full of a variety of activities and changes that kept us on our toes. The start of the semester was challenging. Through effective use of academic technologies and by keeping the focus on all the topics and activities that were most essential for our students to learn, we did our best to ensure that our students' time at PGGC-46 is well spent.

The Department also welcomed two faculty members about whom you will read in the 'Faculty Spotlight' column. These new faculty arrivals worked hard with the students, made them learn to embrace their challenges and failures and also tried to ensure that the students' classroom experiences are second to none.

So, without any further ado, it's time that you start exploring this edition and make the best out of it in an effective and efficient manner.

Happy Reading!

### KNOW YOUR AUTHOR



Born in July 1978, Jokha Alharthi is an Omani writer and academic. She won the Man Booker International prize, 2018 for her novel 'Celestial Bodies' (Sayyidat el-Qamar). 'Celestial Bodies' (Sayyidat el-Qamar ) was the first work by an Arabic-language writer to be awarded the Man Booker International Prize, and the first novel by an Omani woman to appear in English translation. The Man Booker International Prize judges heralded the book as "A richly imagined, engaging and poetic insight into a society in transition and into lives previously obscured".

Her works have been translated into English, Serbian, Korean, Italian, and German and published in Banipal magazine. She was also one of eight participants in the 2011 IPAF Nadwa (Writers' Workshop) and has also won the Sultan Qaboos Award for Culture, Arts and Literature, for her novel *Narinjah* (Bitter Orange) in 2016.



Her other literary works published include a children's book "The Cloud Wishes", a collection of poems *Diwan Ahmed b. Abdullah*, gathered and edited by Jokha Alharthi, a study "Mulahaqat al-shumus: manhaj al-talif al-adabi fi "Kharidat al-qasr" and a novel "Manamat".

Alharthi's view on writing, which will hopefully be known widely and in greater detail in the Anglophone world over the coming days, seems to be summed up by a quote from Virginia Woolf, pasted on the home page of her website: "But there is no gate, no lock, no bolt that you can set upon the freedom of my mind." The extraordinary talent and sophistication that her writings possess have indeed opened new doors to literature in translation.



## ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE



**A**n Orientation Programme was conducted for the newly admitted students of BA Sem-I, Functional English on July 30, 2019, to familiarize the new entrants with the subject, syllabus and the pattern of examination.

**A** Calligraphy Competition was organized on Aug. 20, 2019 for the students of BA Sem-V to encourage the students to exhibit their writing skills. About 127 students participated in it. Hemant, Taranpreet Kaur and Preeti secured the first, second and third positions.

**A**n Intra-college Declamation Contest was organized on Aug. 30, 2019 on the topic 'Abrogation of Article 370: An Unending Rhetoric.' The competition received an overwhelming response from 23 students and Aditi Sharma of BCom Sem-I, Richika Kumari of BA Sem-II and Nilesh of BA Sem-I were adjudged first, second and third respectively.

**T**he students of Functional English BA Sem-III visited the office of the All India Radio, Sector-34, Chandigarh on Nov.15, 2019. Chief Engineer Mr. Rajeev Kharbanda introduced them with the functioning of a radio station and also discussed the concept of using different frequency bands for external services provided over 108 countries in 27 different languages.

In collaboration with the LEAPS Society of the college, a group of students attended 'Literati: Chandigarh Literature Festival' on Nov.23, 2019 and gained firsthand experience of a literary event where they met famous writers and other special invitees. This was an enriching experience for the young students.

**A**n Essay Writing Competition on 'Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy' was organized on Jan.17, 2020. Many students participated in it. Arshdeep Singh of BA Sem-VI, Khushi of BA Sem-IV and Eshant of BCom Sem-VI, respectively were declared the winners.

**A** Powerpoint Presentation Competition on 'Notable Idioms in English' was organized for the students of BA Sem-II on Feb. 01, 2020. The competition aimed at making the students understand the importance of idioms and their close identification with the English language. Richika Kumari and Simranjeet Kaur squared off by presenting the content in the most informative and engaging manner.

**A** Powerpoint Presentation Competition was organized on August 27, 2019 for the students of BA Sem-IV on 'Mass Communication'. Near about 20 students participated in it.

**H**indi movie, 'The Guide' (1965) an adaptation of R.K. Narayan's English novel "The Guide" (1958) was screened on Feb.07, 2020 for the students of BA Sem-VI(Elective English). The screening was followed by a discussion on how in the process of adaptation, every film director recreates or gives a new dimension to the original story.

Using Kahoot - A Game-based learning platform, Quiz was organized for the students of BA Semester-VI, Elective English on Feb. 19, 2020.

**M**astering all the aspects of documentary planning, production and post-production, a short documentary film 'Bezubaan' was prepared by the students of BA-II under the guidance of Ms Sudha Sharma.

HAVE YOUR SAY



***An ounce of action is worth a ton of theory***

***~Ralph Waldo Emerson***

With stressful life, incremental technology dependence, forcing lifestyle changes and constant peer pressure the crisis that the world is facing today is that of well-being. There are gadgets and gizmos that are micro-managing almost every sphere of our lives and we are unable to find a quick fix to cope up with the stress that is creeping in and affecting our well-being. The paradigm of well-being has multiple meanings for all, especially the Generation Z. In the wake of an immersive environment and the rise of the athleisure way of life, a dipstick survey was conducted to uncover the differences in the generations' attitude towards well-being. Let's see what our students have to say:

It is an emotional stability and spiritual strength that makes me feel content with thoughts and actions.

***-Anmol, BA-III***

Feeling happy, socially connected and purposeful.

***-Jatin, BA-I***

It is a feeling of contentment with life that may result from a synergy between various physical and psychological attributes of a person.

***-Arpit Kanwar, BBA- II***

An experience of good health, happiness and prosperity.

***-Priya Singh, BA-I***

We may encounter defeats, but we must not feel defeated-that's what life-our inner being.

***-Arshdeep, BA-III***

It is my physical, mental and spiritual health.

***- Bawanpreet Kaur, BA-I***

To my mind, well-being is a state when I am in harmony with myself.

***-Amisha Bisht, BA-I***

Self-care, discipline and self-love.

***-Nandani, BA-I***

## SNIGLETS

Comedian Rich Hall introduced sniglets -"any word that doesn't appear in the dictionary but should"—in 1982 on the HBO comedy news show *Not Necessarily the News*. People these days continue to define and redefine language and the urban dictionary is proof of continuation of these sniglets because of their creative and hilarious use of language. Have a look:

- **Bathquake:** The violent quake that rattles the entire house when the water faucet is turned to a certain point.
- **Foodwinking:** The practice of giving exotic names to otherwise mundane products.
- **Furbling:** Having to wander through a maze of ropes at an airport or bank even when you are the only person in line.
- **Idiotbox:** The part of the envelope that tells a person where to place the stamp.
- **Kedophobia:** The fear of having one's sneakers eaten by the teeth on the escalator.
- **Keybored:** The act of aimlessly surfing the Web when you should be working
- **Sushpect:** Any one who makes a noise telling you to be quiet, but doesn't have the guts to verbally ask you.
- **Wikiholic:** Person with a tragic addiction to Wikipedia.

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

**Dr Chingangbam Anupama** joined the Department as an Assistant Professor in September 2019. She brings extraordinary distinction in experience and mentorship in teaching English to the students of Kalindi College, University of Delhi, for seven years before joining this institution. She was awarded her PhD titled “Themes and Issues in Modern Manipuri Poetry in English Translation: A Study of Selected Poets from Manipur” in December 2016. She has published reviews, chapters in books, and research papers in several journals and research publications. She wrote a chapter titled “The Legend of Khamba and Thoibi” which was published in Folklore and the Alternative Modernities, Volume I, Author's Press Publication; a review of “Theatre: A Play by Ratan Thiyam” which was published in Journal of Drama Studies; An International Journal of Research on World Drama in English; a paper titled “Role of Women and Their Impact on Manipur's Society” which was published in Sangharsh, e-journal of Dalit Literary Studies and a paper titled “An Eco-Critical Approach: A Study of Selected North East Indian Poets” which was published in The Criterion-An International Journal in English in April 2014.

Her remarkable positive momentum as evident from her research work not only engages the readers but also our students, who look forward to learn from her as she moves ahead to dedicate herself to empower the students in achieving success inside as well as outside the classroom.

**Dr Ranjeet Singh** is the newly appointed Assistant Professor of English. He has been into teaching and research field for nine years. A bilingual poet and translator, Dr Ranjeet has published poems in Hindi and English language in several recognized journals. The focal point of his research is the exploration of poetry, literary theory, cultural studies, popular culture, Indian Writings and Children's Literature.

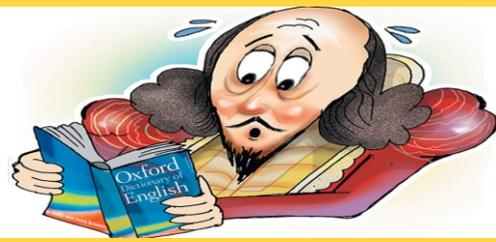
Recipient of Maulana Azad National Scholarship for research, Dr Ranjeet was awarded a PhD on “Comics as emerging literary art form, tracing its evolution and transformation in the Indian context” in 2016 from Panjab University, Chandigarh. He is actively associated with several poetry clubs for poetry readings since then and has also presented papers at various national and international conferences and seminars on quite a lot of subjects pertinent to English language and literature.

Currently, he is working on a translation project and challenges our students to recognize the various shades of English literature so that they may grow and expand their capacity for independent lifelong learning.



## FASCINATING DICTIONARY

### FACTS



- A dictionary is often taken as a comprehensive digest containing everything from A to Z, but early English dictionaries didn't contain any simple, common words. In the 16th and 17th centuries, English vocabulary got doubled and new words were incorporated from other languages. The first English dictionary 'Robert Cawdrey's Table Alphabeticall' was published in 1604. It was an attempt to explain 'hard' words - i.e. those unfamiliar to the general public, though it didn't have words beginning with J, K, U, W, X or Y...Samuel Johnson's A Dictionary of the English Language was first published on April 15, 1755. It was the first dictionary to use citations for the words it listed, with quotations from Shakespeare, Spenser and numerous other literary sources. The famous definition supplied by Johnson is that of OATS- 'a grain, which in England is generally given to horses.'
- Hoping to help create a distinct American lexicon, with Americanized spelling and pronunciation of words, Noah Webster wrote An American Dictionary of the English Language. He learned 26 languages, including Sanskrit and Old English, to write his dictionary. Published in 1828, it contained 70,000 entries and included the first definitions of "American" words such as chowder and skunk. After the death of Webster, George and Charles Merriam bought the rights to it and in due course it was renamed Merriam -Webster, Inc. in 1982. Merriam - Webster continues to publish popular print and electronic dictionaries today as well.
- The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) appeared in 1928 and since then it has been considered the most reliable dictionary. At present, the OED consists of the definitions of about 600,000 words. It took almost 50 years to create it and despite the fact that it was estimated to take 10 years for the first edition to be made available in print, it took 70.
- J.R.R. Tolkien, who had served during the World War I took up the job as an editor's assistant on the OED to research the etymologies of certain words that started with the letter w. He composed multiple drafts of definitions for words such as waggle, walnut, walrus, and waistcoat. Although the most recognized dictionaries include Webster and the OED, there are plenty of unintelligible or weird dictionaries, say, the rhyming dictionaries and reverse dictionaries in which entries are organized by a theme rather than in an alphabetical order.
- Urban Dictionary, the online most fashionable and favourite dictionary of today's youth aged between 15 and 24, rolls out millions of slangs, cultural words & phrases that have multiple definitions and may not sound appealing to all. Operating under the motto "Define Your World" their website was founded in 1999 by Aaron Peckham. In February 2019, this crowd sourced online dictionary had over 1,500 words to define.

#### Department of English Newsletter

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#### WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The department would appreciate receiving news items for the next English Newsletter, 2020-21. Please mail your contributions at [litcare46@gmail.com](mailto:litcare46@gmail.com)