



JULY 2021 | VOL.1

# NEWSLETTER

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN EUROPEAN AND  
OTHER FOREIGN LANGUAGES

HEMVATI NANDAN BAHUGUNA GARHWAL UNIVERSITY  
A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

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# MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR



**Prof. Annpurna Nautiyal**

This year has been incredibly challenging, with the continuing pandemic, impelling our conversations in and out of classrooms. But I am extremely proud of the commitment and of different ways the faculty of the Department of English, Modern European and Other Foreign languages have sought to engage students in cultivating a sense of community. I wish to congratulate them for bringing out their first ever E-Newsletter. It is indeed a commendable effort that will bring quality to the columns and showcase the upcoming events. I am sure this initiative by the department will achieve the goal of bridging the gap between Education, Research and innovation as per the mandate of the National Education Policy, 2020. Also, it would emphasize multidisciplinary approaches, centralising those aspects that link the local to the global. The beautiful amalgamation of Literature with languages and their relationship with culture and society will harness the creative energies of the academic community and distil the essence of their inspired imagination in the most brilliant way possible. I am looking forward to the linguistic research-related projects that the newly established language lab will be taking forward and also the introduction of other Foreign Languages in the university. My best wishes to the new faculty of English, Modern European and other Foreign Languages department in this endeavour to make the case for the humanities on the ground here at HNBGU, to renew and affirm the significance of studying and writing about English literature and other Languages.

**Prof. Annpurna Nautiyal**

Vice Chancellor

HNB Garhwal University

# INTRODUCTION

The Department of English, Modern European and Other Foreign Languages was established to enable the ethnic society of the Uttarakhand region to avoid cultural jingoism by a syncretistic adaptation of Western learning; teaching of foreign languages designed to mix different religions, philosophies and ideas of humanistic nature to cut through the deadwood of obscurantist layers usually found in multi-ethnic societies. Such a view manages to combine philanthropic support of loyal alumni with growing support from State and Central governments for the more esoteric and hitherto unexplored branches of scholarships.

The department is spread across three campuses of Srinagar, Tehri and Pauri, and offers courses at undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD levels.

## BCC, SRINAGAR

**Prof. Surekha Dangwal**  
(On Leave)

**Dr. Shakuntala Rauthan**  
**Professor**  
Head  
Convenor of Board of  
Studies

**Dr. Monika Gupta**  
**Professor**

**Dr. Deepak Kumar**  
**Professor**

**Dr. Savita Bhandari**  
**Assistant Professor**

**Dr. Nitesh Baunthiyal**  
**Assistant Professor**

**Dr. Arushi Uniyal**  
**Assistant Professor**

**Ms. Kunzang Angmo**  
**Assistant Professor**

## SRT, TEHRI

**Dr. D. S. Kaintura**  
**Professor**  
Head

**Dr. Arun Pant**  
**Professor**

**Mr. Ashutosh K. Prabhakar**  
**Assistant Professor**

**Ms. Muskaan Kapoor**  
**Assistant Professor**

## BGR, PAURI

**Dr. Poonam Bisht Rawat**  
**Associate Professor**  
Head

**Mr. Vinay Kumar Varma**  
**Associate Professor**

**Mr. Dharmendra Kumar**  
**Assistant Professor**

# ABOUT THE E-NEWSLETTER

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The E-newsletter is a quarterly publication that aims at gathering fresh perspectives and research abstractions. Students, research scholars and faculty are encouraged to contribute articles and research papers to create new horizons for interactive ideas.

## Cover Image

Damaru is a sonic-cosmic philosophy delivered in the very shape and the rhythms of the instrument itself. Its sonic dimensions restore us to the grammar of cosmic perspective into the harmonies of life and its vicissitudes, whereby cultural memories are configured. Memories, taken as ancient as the instrument itself, which are units of cultural consciousness found in the respective rhythms of the instrument.

But before pulling us into brief references of cultural belonging, our stories of recognitions and resolutions, it always invokes us with the sound of awakening. That awakening is the theme of the cover picture and the journey ahead. The image aims for a cultural call to get back to our stories. Stories that replicate laws of nature to nurture our meanings of existence.

Picture Credit - Mr. Ashutosh K. Prabhakar

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# MEET THE NEW FACULTY



## Dr. Savita Bhandari

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Dr Savita Singh Bhandari, is currently an Asst. Prof. in the Department of English, Modern European and other Foreign Languages, HNBGU Srinagar Garhwal. Her area of specialisation is Indian Women Diaspora and South Asian Literature. She worked on Bharati Mukherjee for her doctoral thesis and consequently, as lead by her research, she authored a reference book titled "Bharati Mukherjee: Mosaic to Melting Pot" which emphasises the nostalgic feelings of the Indian based diasporic writers. She has also had a long but brief experience in teaching and exploring pedagogical modes to commensurate to the unique socio-cultural personalities of university students who come from different rural backgrounds.

Besides that, she has also taught remedial classes for SC, ST and Minority cell of the university to strengthen language skills and academic aspirations. She believes teaching proves itself instrumental in converging range of potentialities of the young minds towards progressive and productive ideas of their relation to society. Striving for a richer dialogical learning aims for a better resolutions and new horizons of engagements between students and the teachers. She is also of the opinion that incorporation of the regional aspects, i.e. the cultural traditions and practices, in her case Garhwali, is essential in order to assimilate local with the global. In addition, she finds it necessary that for proper augmentation of the students' literary skills, creative writing work-shops and likewise activities should be given more impetus. She is enthusiastic about imparting her knowledge regarding English Literature and regional language sensibility.



## Dr. Nitesh Kumar Baunthiyal

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Dr Nitesh Kumar Baunthiyal has been working as Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Modern European and Other Foreign Languages, School of Arts, Communication and Language in HNBGU Srinagar Garhwal since March 2021. Prior to that, he has been associated as a faculty at various institutions for 8 years where he taught English to the students of literature, Engineering and Management. He has been actively engaged in academic and extracurricular activities including responsibilities as a member of exam cell and literary committees during his tenure. So far, English literature, Diaspora Literature, Professional Communication & fundamental Phonetics have been his favourite areas in teaching.

He has worked on diaspora literature and explored diasporic consciousness in V S Naipaul's for his doctoral thesis. He earned his DPhil from HNB Garhwal University and also taught Professional Communication in the Engineering Program of the University. On the level of academic achievements, he has presented papers in international and national conferences, participated in workshops and has also published papers in the journals recognised by the UGC. In literature and language, he is interested in exploring pedagogical modes for a better assessment of academic growth and taking up research projects with a multidisciplinary approach, which he believes would enhance and create a comprehensive network connecting the people of diverse cultures and societies.



## Dr. Arushi Uniyal

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Dr. Arushi Uniyal is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Modern European and Other Foreign Languages; School of Arts, Communication and Languages at Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University. She pursued her undergraduate studies from Banasthali Vidyapith, Jaipur and her Masters, MPhil, and PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her PhD research is a first of its kind, aimed at developing an English - Garhwali Statistical Machine Translation (SMT) System through application of the latest developments in language technology. Leveraging English language studies and developments in computational linguistics, this study is hoped to contribute towards preservation of Garhwali language which has been classified as “vulnerable” by UNESCO. She describes herself as a language enthusiast with research experience in English, Hindi and Garhwali languages and a diploma in the French language.

Dr. Uniyal has an extensive research experience in the fields of translation studies, multilingualism, Indian English, vernacular literature, language resource development, sociolinguistics, and language technology. She is an active researcher and has worked with prominent national and international institutions like Microsoft Research India; Centre for Language Studies -Radboud University, Netherlands; Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India; ezDI - India; Doon Library and Research Centre - Dehradun etc. She describes her pedagogical approach is interdisciplinary, interactive, applied, and innovative; and welcomes students and researchers towards engaging in a dialogue aimed at exploring new and fresh research possibilities at the department.





## Ashutosh Kant Prabhakar

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Currently acting as an Asst. Prof. in Department of English, Modern European and Other Foreign Languages, School of Arts, Communication and Languages in SRT Campus, HNBGU Tehri. Also pursuing his doctoral project under Dept. of English, School Of Letters, Ambedkar University Delhi, which deals with devtas in Garhwal Himalaya, the traditions of story telling along rituals and performances. The title itself reflects on his key domains of engagements, i.e. "Devtas of Garhwal Himalaya: Memory, Performance and Tales for Justice."

After completing undergrad and postgrad from University Of Delhi, he worked in the field of review writing for Delhi centred theatre productions. The reviewed plays would usually be those from NSD and other active theatre groups, such as Theatre Worms and Asmita. To him, exposure to theatre in undergrad years like 'Shakespeare Society of India' and Street Theatre were decisive in carving out an academic profile and envisioning his pursuits through inter-disciplinary perspectives. However, his intimate engagement in the field of performances and stories, both told and lived, found home in the village traditions/ practices of Garhwal. Taking ethnography as method, he briefly stayed on the practices around 'devtas' where, as he puts, "found plots in social-cultural memories and shared implications of songs and possessions." For academic achievements, he has read papers in international and national conferences, participated in international workshops, and has also acquired publications in the respective domains.



## Dharmendra Kumar

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Dharmendra Kumar has been teaching English Literature at the Department of English, Modern European and Other Foreign Languages, School of Arts, Communication and Languages, HNB Garhwal University, BGR Campus, Pauri, since march 2021. He is also pursuing Ph.D. from Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Banaras Hindu University, titled "Contemporary Mythopoeic: A Comparative Study of the Fiction of Amish Tripathi and Rick Riordan". The research project, which is on the verge of completion, looks at the reworking of mythological subject matter through mythopoeic modes of expression, an effective strategy that connects one to the cultural past on one hand and helps to assert the present cultural and socio-political identity on the other.

Apart from presenting research papers at various national and international conferences, he has also earned publications in journals recognised by UGC. He has covered training programs, summer schools and workshops; orientation courses and faculty development programs on areas like translation studies, greek culture, women's studies and multi-modality, multi-mediality in literature, cinema and the allied arts from institutions like Central Institute of Indian Languages (Mysore), Jawahar Lal Nehru University, Banaras Hindu University and Delhi University. He has research interests in the areas of contemporary mythopoeic literature, gender studies, marginalised narratives and postcolonial literature. Besides teaching canonical english texts, he is passionate about making attempts at creating and establishing critical and meaningful dialogues among the students.



## Muskaan Kapoor

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Muskaan Kapoor is an Assistant professor in the department of English, Modern European and Other Foreign Languages at Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal (Central) University. She is currently posted at SRT Campus of the university. She is pursuing her PhD in the Department of Indian and World Literatures at The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. Her research interest lies in the genre of Revisionist myth fiction from the perspective of Gender Studies. She aims to study and trace the ways in which the phenomenon of reiterating the past in the contemporary times affect the socio-political realities and how manipulation of myths reconceptualise the gender roles in society. Her work engages with tropes that challenge the prevailing ambivalent stereotypes and analyse 'retelling' as a smart strategy to subvert the ancient mythological representation system.

One of her published papers, titled "The Present Day Medusa: Foregrounding L'écriture Feminism in Select Retellings" highlights the representation of 'new' female subjectivities that break the orthodox notion of gender performativity and emphasize autonomy. Another paper, titled "The Myth of Good Woman: A Revisionist Reading of *The Penelopiad* and *Yagnaseni*" which is included as a chapter in the book, "Art and Aesthetics of Modern Mythopoeia" (vol.2) explores how manipulation of myths reconceptualise gender roles which is common to both Eastern (Indian) and Western (Greek) mythic traditions. Being academically inclined, she has actively participated and presented papers in several National and International conferences. She also presented her work for the panel "Madwomen in Social, Justice Movements, Literatures and Art" at The North Eastern Modern Languages Association, hosted in Boston, USA.

Although her research associates with "the madwoman" concept, to honour the legacy of feminist and queer disobedience, reclaiming and redefining the term, "madwoman" from being a pejorative term to something that empowers women in solidarity, her academic interest is not limited to this genre. She is also interested in other fields of literatures, such as Postcolonial theory, Resistance Literature, Greek mythology, Cultural Studies, Fiction, Indian writings in English and also has a Certificate of Proficiency in Spanish.



## Kunzang Angmo

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Kunzang Angmo is an assistant professor in the Department of English, Modern European and Other Foreign Languages, HNB Garhwal University. Her undergraduate and graduate degrees were both earned at the University of Delhi. She cleared her Net exam in 2019.

Ms. Angmo is currently working on her research proposal for PhD study. Her field of research concerns Tibetan Buddhism and its history, literature, development in the Indian Himalayan regions. The study aims to understand the tradition of the sectarian dynamics within Tibetan Buddhism and its role in impacting the Buddhist Himalayan regions. She has worked as a research assistant to anthropologist Dr Elizabeth Williams, Assistant Professor, University of Copenhagen, on spiritual tourism regarding Tibetan Buddhism. But her academic interests extend beyond this field of research to Women studies and Buddhism and literature studies.

She has also worked for Mr. Alex Hedley, Editor at HarperCollins Publisher, New Zealand on a book project dealing with the disappearing nomadic tradition of the nomads of the higher regions of Ladakh in the face of modernity. Besides, she has a fair knowledge of building basic websites online, having worked as a social media content creator in the past. She is fluent in English, Hindi, Ladakhi and Tibetan languages.

# THANK-YOU NOTE

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The Department of English, Modern European and Other Foreign Languages would like to take an opportunity to express its sincere gratitude towards the Honorable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Annpurna Nautiyal, who is the force behind this newsletter. We consider it an exceptional honor to receive her steadfast faith in the Department's abilities and it would be our continuous endeavor to materialize her vision of continual innovation in education and research.

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

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For last few decades, knowledge systems have only seen successive incorporation of advancements in various realms. And likewise our pedagogical models only looked ahead. But the pandemic, as it has shown, pushed us into rethinking and reconfiguring our pedagogical philosophies and developments. This paradigm shift, along all its uncertainties, is still unrolling itself while communities across the globe tussle with Covid.

Considering the challenges it has posed since its advent, and also keeping in mind the academic wellbeing and safety of our students, we have shifted to an interim online mode to ensure that the concerns are well placed.

As we make progress in winning over the pandemic, the balance to offline modes will be restored.

Stay tuned for more announcements !

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Webinar

Coming Soon