

Report of Department of Political Science (2022-23)



**Mehr Chand Mahajan
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Sector-36/A, Chandigarh**

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1. Panjab University Topper 2021-22

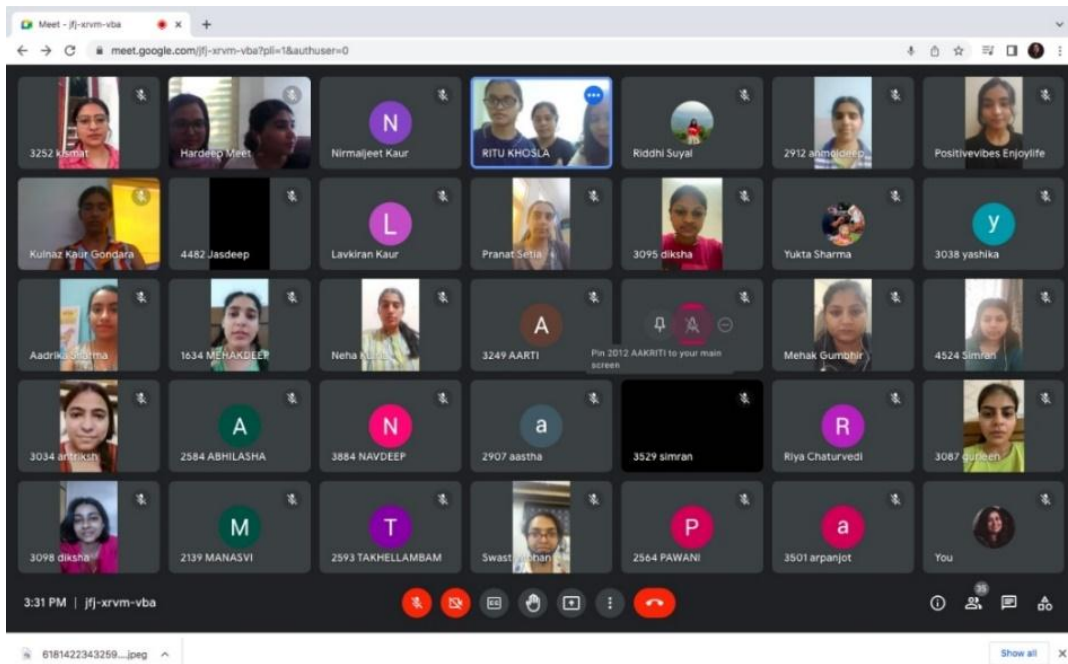
Guneet Waraich bagged First Position in BA III Political Science Honours Panjab University Examination 2021-22.



2. Department Activities

The Department organized a Three-day workshop from 5-7 September 2022 on the theme 'Understanding Electoral Democracy in India'. Dr. Suraj Thapa, Deputy Nodal Officer-ELC, Chandigarh and Asst. Professor in PGGC-11, Chandigarh; and Ms Richa, Ms Ashima and Ms. Hardeep Kaur from Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College For Women were the resource persons. 56 students attended the workshop.





To mark the celebration of Constitution Day, the Department of Political Science in collaboration with NSS Units of Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, Chandigarh organized an event on 26th November 2022 where the 'Preamble of the Indian Constitution' was read out among the students and staff of the college. The objective of this event was to reiterate the values and principles enshrined in the Indian constitution.



Department of Political Science in collaboration with Electoral Literacy Club conducted Poster Making Competition on the theme 'Elections and Indian Democracy' on 24 November 2022. 10 students participated in the competition. Ramandeep of BA II won First position; Janvi Goyal of BA I and Mansi of BA III bagged Second and Third positions respectively.



Online Essay Writing Competition was also conducted by the Department on the theme 'India-Mother of Democracy' on 24 November 2022. 11 students participated in the competition. Jaisika Saini of BA III, Diksha of BA II and Gurleen Kaur of BA II bagged First, Second and Third Positions respectively.

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Department of Political Science
is organizing
An Online Essay Writing Competition



to mark the celebration of
Constitution Day
Topic: India-Mother of DEMOCRACY

Guidelines of the Competition:

- Participants can send their entries on mcmpolsc2021@gmail.com on or before 24 November 2022.
- Participants can send one entry in Hindi (Unicode Font) or English (Arial Font). Handwritten entries will not be accepted. Adhere to one language only.
- Plagiarism is strictly prohibited
- Participants are required to mention their name, phone number and their College/ University affiliation.
- The write-up shall be between 1000-1500 words.
- The content will be judged on the ground of novelty, reasoning, use of language and coherence.
- Certificate of merit and participation will be provided to all the participants who make a valid submission in line with the Submission Guidelines mentioned herein.

Ms. Richa & Dr Ritu Khosla
Coordinators

Dr Nisha Bhargava
Convener and Principal

**Mehr Chand Mahajan
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Department of Political Science & Electoral Literacy Club
is organizing
Poster Making Competition
to mark the celebration of

24TH
NOVEMBER
Constitution Day
Topic: Elections & Indian Democracy



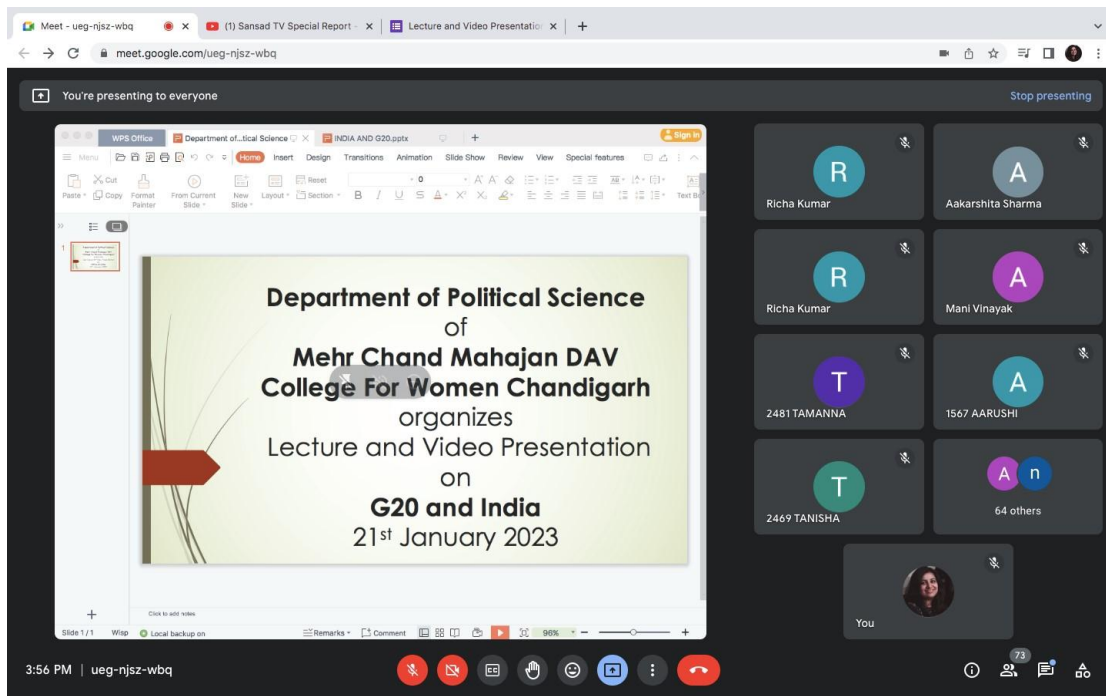
Guidelines of the Competition:

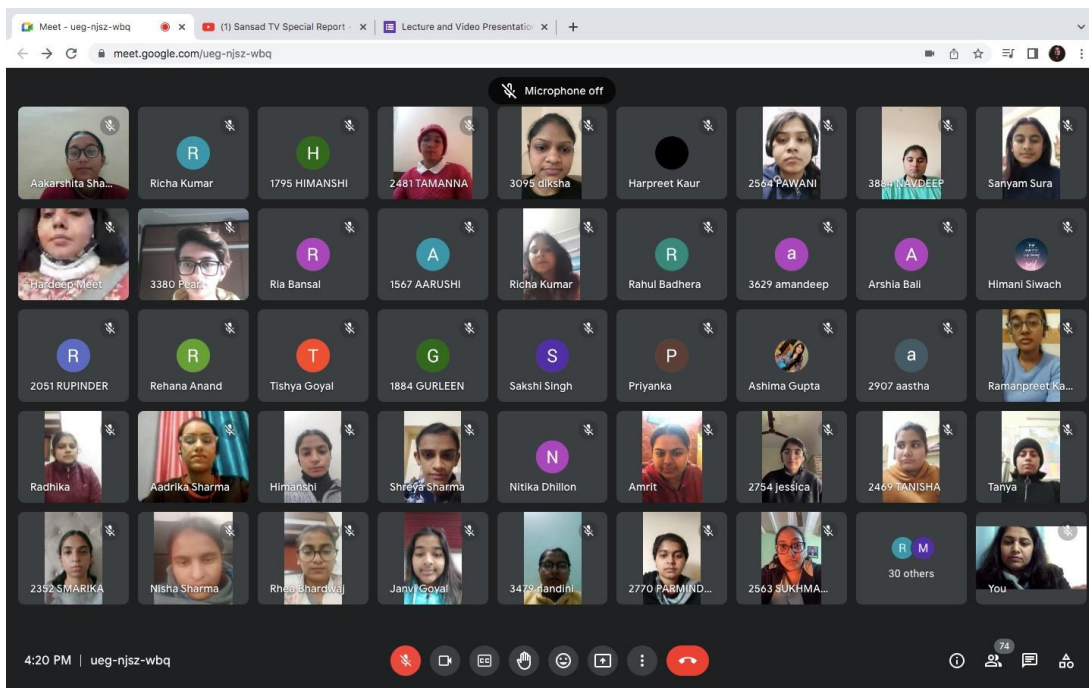
- The competition is open for the students of all streams and classes.
- Interested students shall submit their posters on the above theme in the Political Science Department Room by 24 November 2022 (by 1.30 PM).
- Each Participant can submit only one Poster.
- The poster shall be made on A3 or A4 size sheet.
- Poster can be made using pencil, crayon, watercolour, oil paint, etc. It should be original and hand made.
- Each participant shall write her Name, Roll No., Class, and contact no at the back of the poster.
- Certificate of merit and participation will be provided to all the participants who make a valid submission in line with the Submission Guidelines mentioned herein.

Ms. Richa & Dr Ritu Khosla
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Department of Political Science conducted activities and competitions to create awareness of G20 and India's G20 Presidency- "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam". On 21 January 2023 'Online Lecture on G20 and India' was conducted. Dr Ritu Khosla was the resource person and she discussed the functioning of G20 and made the audience aware of the major agendas that would be taken by India during its Presidency. The lecture was followed by a Screening of Video on G20 and its Legacy. 74 students participated in the event.





The Department conducted a Quiz on 'G20' on 23 January 2023. First Position was bagged by Tanveen Kaur of BA II, Second by Shruti Pathania of BA II and Third by Gurleen Kaur of BA II. 31 students participated in the competition.



On 25 January 2023, Poster Making competition on 'India and G20' was held. 9 students participated in the competition. Milli of BA III got First Position; Second Position was bagged by Iлина Prashere of BA II and Third Position by Ruzal Mehta of BAI



Online Essay Writing Competition was conducted by the Department of Political Science on the theme 'Tradition of Local Self Governance' on 24th February 2023. 7 students participated in the competition. First position was bagged by Jessica Saini of BA III, Second position by Angelina of BA I and Pawani of BA II.

TRADITION OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNANCE IN INDIA

There is still a truth in the saying that India lives in her villages. Therefore, in the Indian context, true democracy can sustain itself and function effectively if democracy at the village level itself. This is because village communities have been the basic units wherein individual's happiness, freedom and independence were realized since ancient times. In the words of S. K. Dey, "If we were to rebuild India work must be started from the villages."

Local self-government means that residents in towns, villages and rural settlements are the people who elect local councils and their heads authorizing them to solve the important issues. It is a form of democratic governance where participation of even the bedrock level of society is encouraged and included. In December 1992, Parliament passed the 73rd and 74th amendments, which instituted panchayats and municipalities, respectively. These amendments mandated that State governments constitute panchayats (at the village, block and district levels) and municipalities (in the form of municipal corporations, municipal councils and nagar panchayats) in every region. They sought to institute a third-tier of governance in the federal framework through the devolution of functions, funds, and functionaries to local governments. They are given recognition as well as protection.

The governing structure in India is made up of three tiers – the central government, the state government, and the local self-government. The local self-government is made up of democratically elected representatives of the local people. Two major forms of local self-government exist in India - one in the urban areas, that is, in cities and towns, local self-government is carried out by municipalities and corporations and the other in the rural areas, that is, in villages, Zila Parishad, block samitis, and panchayats carry out the functions of local self-government.

The local self government system is considered one of the major governance processes India has seen. It is a functional institution that governs most of the villages in India at foundational level. A few major committees played a vital role in the evolution of local self government in our country. It functions locally as it is not feasible for the state level government.

THE TRADITION OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNANCE IN INDIA

A young Indian girl residing in USA had plethora of opportunities in front of her. She could have easily lived a life of comfort and serenity. However, her heart wasn't at peace since she had visited her village Barkhedi Abdullah, which despite being a 25-minute drive away from the capital city of Bhopal, was cut off from basic facilities in many ways. Today, this village has carved its own place on the map as an Adarsh Gram. All this could be made possible due to the efforts of a young woman Bhakti Sharma who after countless interactions with the villagers about the pathetic plight of the village stepped up to contest for the position of Sarpanch of the village. This is the beauty of democracy which is so accommodative that it makes possible for every layman to be 'the change'. The example of Bhakti Sharma shows that how powerful and accessible the local self-governance system is in India. India celebrated the 30th anniversary of the local governance reforms in December 2022 which were implemented through 72nd and 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act. In this context many questions may pop up in one's mind such as how did the idea of local self-governance evolve in India? What are the various challenges the local bodies face today? Do the local bodies require another set of reforms?

SELF GOVERNANCE: INDIA'S LEGACY

The quest of local self-governance is not something which emerged recently neither it is an alien concept to India. Local self-government at the village level had its origin in Ancient India. References to Gram Sanghas (village bodies) are found in the Manusmriti, Kautilya's Arthashastra (400 B.C.) and the Mahabharata. The Shanti Parva of Mahabharata refers to a Sabha named 'Sansad' also. This consisted of the common people and was, therefore, called the 'Jan Sansad'. Valmiki's Ramayana speaks of the Ganapada, which was a sort of federation of village republics. Only those persons could become the members who had the general welfare of the people in their hearts. Even in Rigveda terms such as 'sabha', 'samiti', 'gana' are mentioned which indicate existence of some sort of local self-governance.

However, these informal institutions were disrupted by frequent invasions from North-West and were almost vanished during medieval times. Villages were penetrated only for purposes of collection of revenue, never that much for administrative purposes. During colonial rule, the British, in order to effectively govern carried administrative reforms which included establishment of local self-governing institutions. However, the existence of these institutions was namesake. The British rulers for the first time thought of reversing the trend of centralisation only in 1882 when the

22 students of the Department attended Panjab University G 20 Youth International Seminar on 4th March, 2023. the students were familiarized with the history and the main objectives of the organization. In addition to this, they were also made aware of the future prospects of the organization and its relevance with reference to India.



To create awareness among students regarding G-20, the Department of Political Science of our College organized a student-initiated talk on 'G20' on 29th March 2023. The resource person of the event was Ms. Jessica Saini of BA III Political Science Honours. She deliberated on the evolution, objectives, organizational structure' and the journey of India in G20 since its Presidency. 32 students attended the event.



3. Wall Magazine:

The Department comes out with its monthly edition of Wall Magazine wherein the students display well-researched articles on various themes. The theme of September 2022 'International Day of Democracy'; October 2022 'United Nations Day'; November 'Emergence of New Leadership in UK'; January 2023 'National Voters Day', February 2023 'G20'



