

Department of English
Govt. College Jukhala, Bilaspur H.P.

A Report
on
Student Presentations on the Folk Literature and Cultural
Traditions of Himachal Pradesh

December 5, 6, 7, and 9, 2024

Focus Area: Bilaspur District, Himachal Pradesh

Introduction

The Department of English successfully organized a series of student presentations from December 5 to December 9, 2024, under the broad theme of “Folk Literature and Cultural Traditions of Himachal Pradesh,” with a specific focus on District Bilaspur. The event was designed to promote regional cultural literacy and academic inquiry among students by engaging them in fieldwork, research, and interdisciplinary presentations.

Participants showcased various aspects of Bilaspur’s rich cultural fabric, including folk literature, dance, songs, festivals, cuisines, historical heritage, and traditional arts and crafts. The presentations were well-received by faculty and students and served as a vibrant platform for cultural appreciation and literary exploration.

Objectives

- To explore the folk and oral traditions of Bilaspur district.
- To enhance students’ research, analytical, and presentation skills.
- To integrate local culture into academic discussions.
- To promote awareness about the preservation of regional heritage.

Overview of Presentations

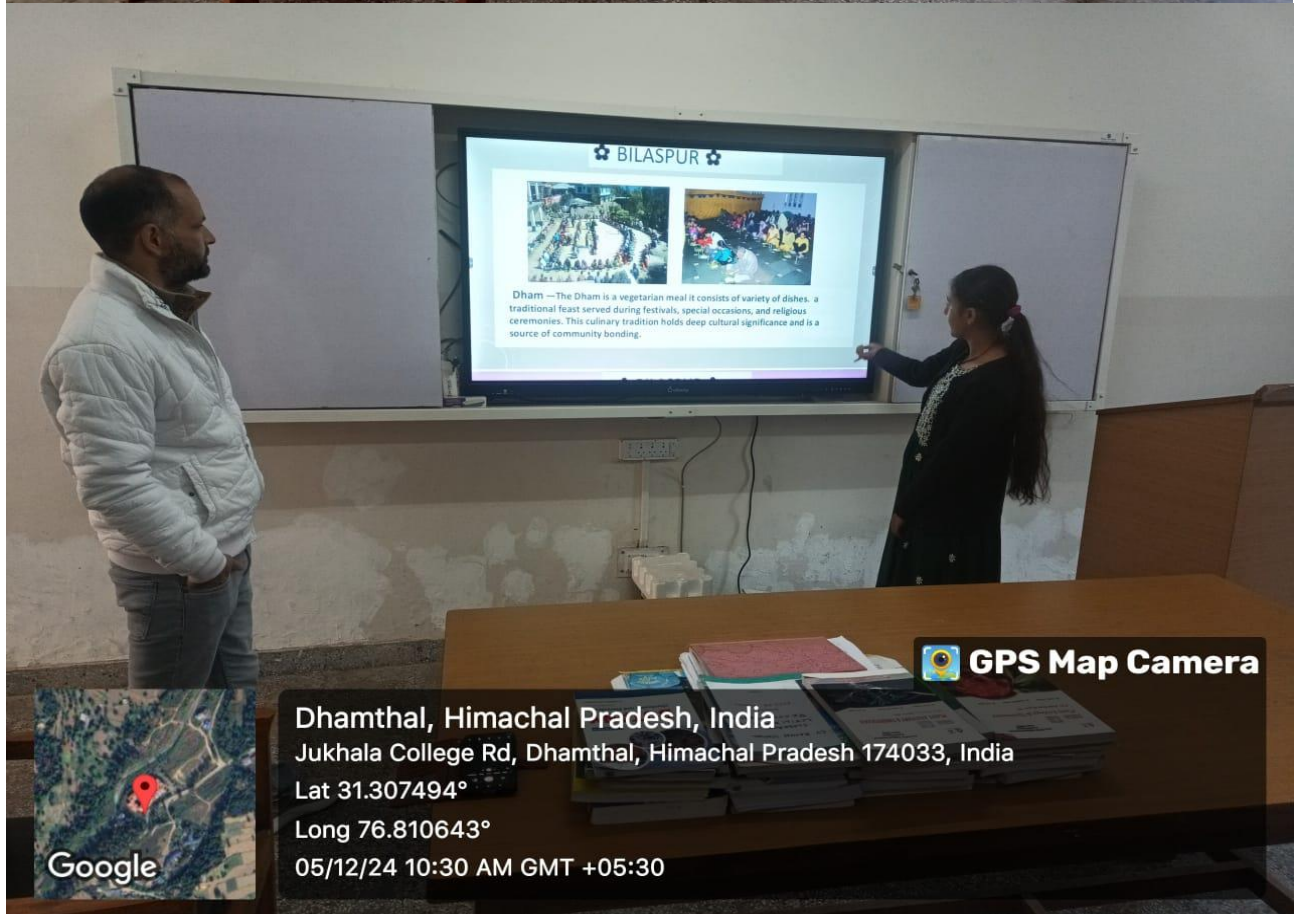
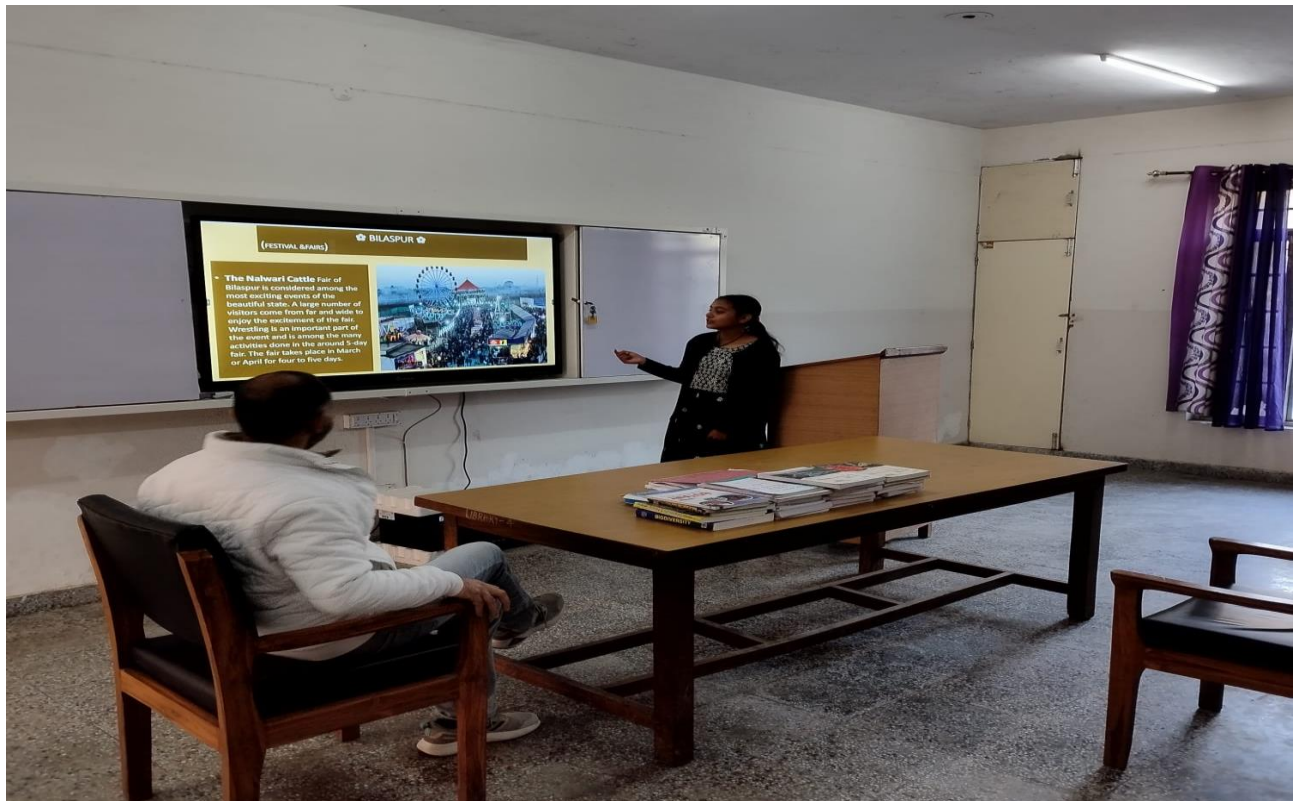
Day 1: December 5, 2024

Theme: Folk Culture – Cultural Tapestry of Bilaspur – Folk Dance, Songs & Cuisine

Presenter: Simran (B.A. English)

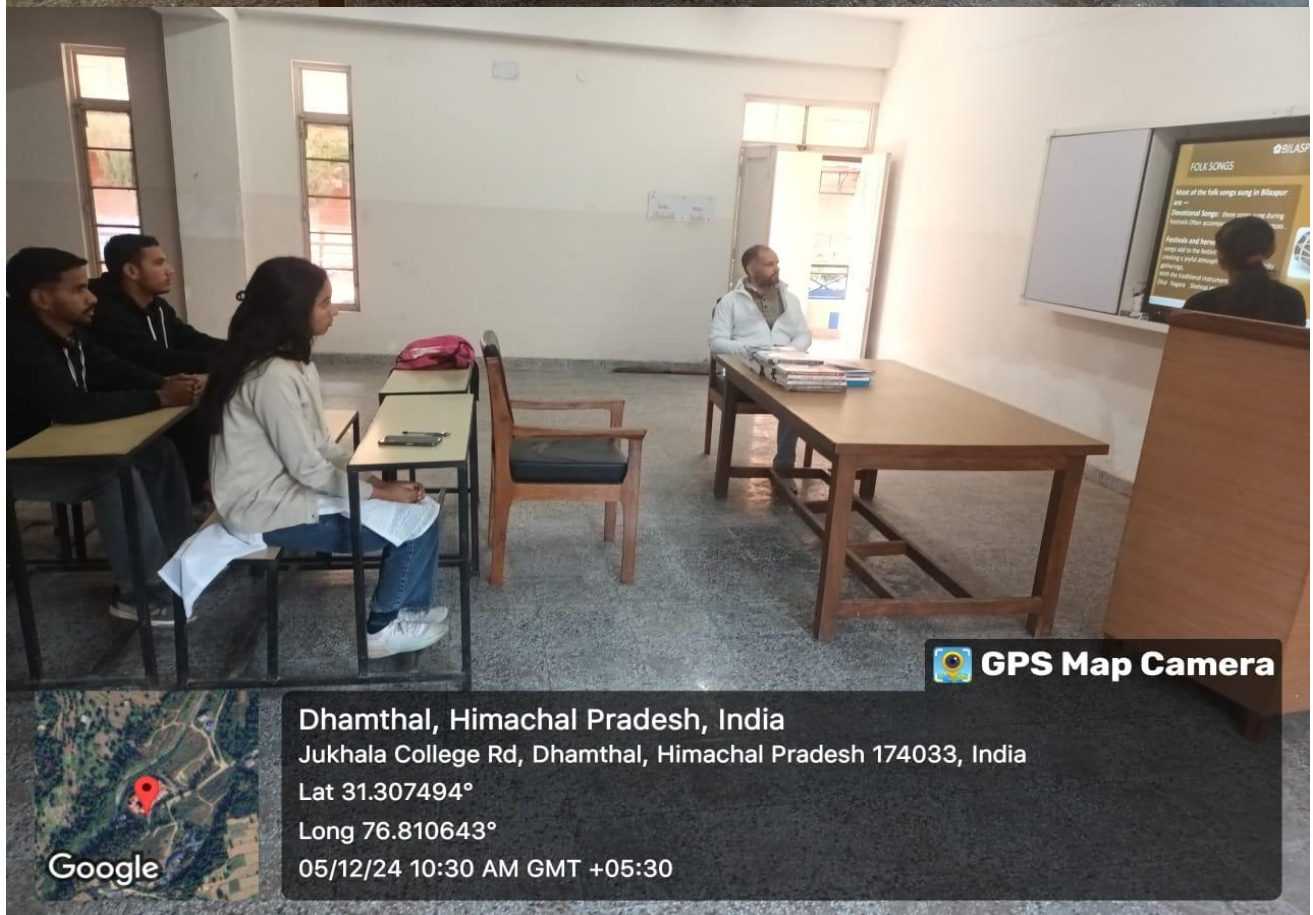
Simran opened the session with an engaging presentation covering traditional folk dances, regional folk songs, and local culinary traditions of Bilaspur. She provided a cultural overview of how these forms are intertwined with seasonal and religious festivals and performed during local gatherings and fairs. Dishes like Dhotu Dal, Chana Madra, and Babru were described with contextual links to community and ritual practices.





Dhamthal, Himachal Pradesh, India
Jukhala College Rd, Dhamthal, Himachal Pradesh 174033, India
Lat 31.307494°
Long 76.810643°
05/12/24 10:30 AM GMT +05:30

 **GPS Map Camera**



Day 2: December 6, 2024

Theme: Historical and Heritage Sites

Presenter: Harish Thakur (B.A. English)

Harish explored the historical significance of Bilaspur, focusing on notable sites such as Gobind Sagar Lake, Bhakra Dam, Naina Devi Temple, and the remnants of the Old Bilaspur Town submerged during the dam's construction. He provided insights into the socio-political history and architectural heritage that continues to influence the region's identity.

Day 3: December 7, 2024

Theme: Cultural Identity through Folk Tales, Legends and Crafts in Bilaspur

Presenter: Rimjhim

She analyzed Bilaspur's cultural heritage through traditional crafts like weaving, embroidery, and woodwork, along with its rich folk tales and legends. These traditions, passed down through generations, help preserve local identity. Folk stories often inspire designs in crafts, reflecting deep cultural ties. She emphasized the importance of this heritage in maintaining community continuity. However, industrialization and migration pose serious threats to their survival.





Day 4: December 9, 2024

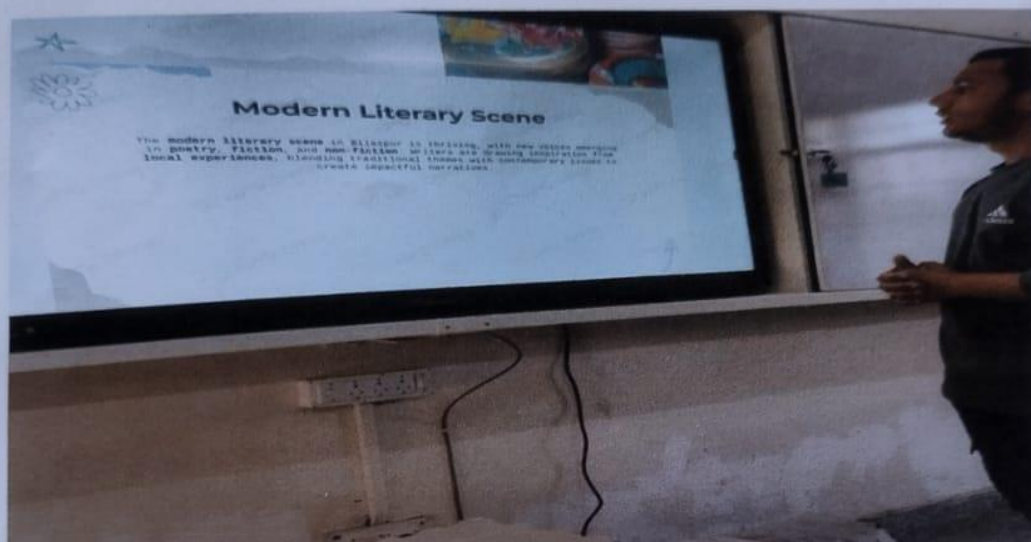
Theme: Art, Craft, Festivals, and Cultural & Literary Heritage

Presenter: Vikram Sharma (B.A. English)

Vikram Sharma wrapped up the series with an insightful presentation on Bilaspur's visual arts, traditional crafts, festive traditions, and literary legacy. He discussed local art forms like bamboo craft, clay pottery, and wool weaving as carriers of cultural memory and identity. His exploration of regional festivals revealed their role in fostering communal bonds and spiritual expression. Vikram also touched upon storytelling and folk literature that enrich Bilaspur's cultural fabric. He emphasized that these practices are deeply rooted in everyday life, not just artistic expression. He concluded by advocating for grassroots efforts to protect and sustain this living heritage.







Reflections

Faculty members appreciated the initiative for its interdisciplinary approach.

Students expressed a desire for similar explorations into other districts of Himachal Pradesh.

It was suggested to compile the presentations into a student journal or digital archive for future reference.

A potential heritage field trip to Bilaspur was proposed to deepen practical exposure.

Conclusion

This four-day series of student presentations successfully shed light on the folk literature and cultural wealth of Bilaspur District, Himachal Pradesh. It bridged academic inquiry with community knowledge and contributed significantly to the students' intellectual and cultural development. The Department aims to continue this initiative as a regular part of its engagement with regional cultures and literature.

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