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Department of English

Faculty of Humanities

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Graphic Novels

A guest lecture on “Graphic Novels” was held on 24th March, 2025 in the department of English at Kanya Gurukul Campus, Haridwar. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Shweta Awasthi, Assistant Professor, Uttarakhand Sanskrit University, Haridwar. The lecture aimed to highlight the literary and critical facets of Graphic novels. Students of B.A, M.A and research scholars attended the session.

Dr. Awasthi started the lecture by tracing the history of graphic novels and their evolution from a casual art form to a much sought after literary genre. In the initial stages, graphic novels were a hybrid version of comic books and texts. Over the course of time, graphic novels became the voice of the marginalized sections of society. Authors like Art Spiegelman used graphic novels for literary journalism. His novel *Maus* talks about the atrocities of Holocaust.

During the lecture, Dr. Awasthi analysed graphic novels from several literary lenses such as structuralism, decontamination and logocentrism. She underscored the fact that in the contemporary era, graphic novels talks about complex themes such as trauma, war, violence politics and identity in a way which makes them accessible to a wider audience.

Dr. Awasthi also talked about the rising trend of graphic novels in India. She focused on the graphic novels of Amruta Patil, a renowned graphic novelist whose works deals with reimagination of Indian epics. The lecture focused on Patil's most celebrated works- *Aranyaka*, *Sauptik* and *Adi Parva*.

The lecture provided students new insights about graphic novels and their relevance in the contemporary era. The lecture concluded with an interactive question-answer session.

