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History of

The Department of Library and Information Science

The Department of Library and Information Science (formerly the Department of Library Science), University of Delhi, was established in 1946 through the efforts of two eminent academicians and practicing librarians, Dr. S. R. Ranganathan (1892–1972) and Prof. S. Das Gupta (1912–1966). Widely regarded as the Father of Library Science in India, Dr. S. R. Ranganathan played a pioneering role in laying the foundation of systematic library science education in the country. The Department occupies a unique and distinguished place in the history of Library and Information Science (LIS) education in India. It was associated with the first Padma Shri in Library Science, conferred in 1957, which also marked the first Padma Shri recognition for the University of Delhi. Another historic distinction was its association with the appointment of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan as National Professor in 1964, further strengthening the Department's academic stature and national prominence. The Department also holds the rare distinction of being associated with four Padma Shri awardees and the first National Tagore Fellow, reflecting its enduring legacy of academic excellence and leadership in Library and Information Science education.

One of the Department's most significant contributions has been its role in nurturing academic leadership in LIS education across India. Notably, twelve distinguished alumni played foundational roles in establishing or strengthening fifteen major LIS departments and institutions across the country, including Prof. Jagdish Sharan Sharma at Panjab University, Chandigarh and the University of Jammu; Prof. N. K. Sharma at Kurukshetra University, Haryana; Prof. Prem Singh at Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak; Dr. Hakam Singh at Punjabi University, Patiala; Dr. H. S. Sengar at Dr. Harisingh Gour University, Sagar; Prof. A. P. Srivastava at Vikram University, Ujjain; Prof. M. R. Kumbhar at Karnatak University, Dharwad; Prof. S. R. Gunjal at Gulbarga University; Prof. M. Bavakutty at Pondicherry University, University of Calicut, and Kannur University; Prof. K. A. Isaac at the University of Kerala; Prof. Parbir Roychowdhury at Jadavpur University, Kolkata; and Prof. J. C. Binwal at North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong. These achievements collectively reflect the Department's enduring legacy and its far-reaching contribution to the growth and advancement of Library and Information Science education in India.

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