



Bimonthly Journal of Jawaharlal Nehru University



A University stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason, for the adventure of ideas and for the search of truth. It stands for the onward march of the human race towards ever higher objectives. If the Universities discharge their duties adequately, then it is well with the Nation and the People.

Jawaharlal Nehru



The symbol is a graphic statement which stands for international academic exchange and onwards search of knowledge for the betterment of human being.

The overlapping circular segments of the design denote global interaction, creating a flame emitting enlightenment, this flame emerges out of the traditional Indian 'diya' (lamp)-a source of Light, Understanding and Brotherhood.

The design is also representative of the rose-bud closely associated with the name of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.



JNU News is a bimonthly journal of Jawaharlal Nehru University. It serves to bridge the information gap and tries to initiate constant dialogue between various constituents of the University community as well as with the rest of the academic world. Views expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily of JNU News. All articles and reports published in it may be freely reproduced with acknowledgment.

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In Conversation with.....

An Interview with Prof. H.S. Gill, (Professor Emeritus)



Manjari: How and when did your association with JNU begin? How was your experience here over the years you were here?

Prof. Gill: I joined JNU in 1984. It was a pleasant surprise. The Indian universities I knew of were closeted houses. JNU

was a fresh air. Beautiful and brilliant girls, handsome and intelligent boys all around, vibrating with youth and very progressive ideas, celebrating freedom of expression and research. The beginning of the year for them was a bit different. Boys and girls who came from small town Bharat brought with them the baggage of their respective attires and attitudes. But it never took long to be merged in the mainstream JNU culture. By the end of the first semester, the girls were already following the JNU dress code and behaviour. The boys took a little longer. They had other psychic problems also but with patience and friendly advice they too followed the straight and the narrow path. As the years passed, the friendships grew. The thresholds of caste, creed, region and language were crossed and the companionships were formed with all kinds of permutations and combinations. Of course, even amongst the JNU faculty there were numerous such examples.

JNU is a very progressive university. While another central university in the city is a citadel of conservatism, JNU has always been avant-garde in ideas, both political and social. The elections of the students and teachers, year after year, show this trend very clearly.

The political interference in Indian universities is a norm. In JNU no such thing can ever happen. The prime ministers, from Indira Gandhi, Morarji Desai to Manmohan Singh all had a taste of this revolutionary protest. Once during the silver jubilee celebrations, the Vice-Chancellor invited the President of India. Fortunately for him, he was advised by his wise officers not to visit the university, for the proper JNU welcome awaited him with no holds barred. In Indian universities the convocation is a huge affair. Enormous amount of money is wasted during these absolutely useless celebrations, with welcome arches for the political masters and their cronies. There is no such thing in JNU. The students get their degrees from the offices of their schools without any fanfare.

As a teacher I could teach anything, devise my lectures anyway I wanted. As students could opt for some courses outside their specific disciplines or centres, I used to have students from practically all centres of Social Sciences in my courses on Lévi-Strauss, Foucault, Althusser, Merleau-Ponty, Lacan etc. It was a

wonderful experience. My exams were also quite unconventional but I never had any problem with the administration. In the Indian universities, there is the norm of five questions in three hours with very strict vigilance. My exam always consisted of only one question and unlimited time and place without any supervision. The answer was supposed to be short, precise and very logically argued. It was no use copying or repeating what is written in some books. It was supposed to be based on the student's personal discourse. It worked. Initially the students thought it was very easy, very soon they realised that this absolute freedom was far more difficult to handle. The main point of this narration is that in JNU one could do all this and get away with it without the administration ever questioning such methods.

A couple of times I was the Chairperson of my Centre. I did not like signing papers. The senior clerk did all the routine things without bothering me, and every member of the faculty was authorized to sign any student card or any other paper. I do not know whether such an administrative act was correct but nobody ever asked me to follow the normal routine of wasting all my time in signing useless papers. Again, this is possible only in JNU.

I personally believe that the institution of Chairpersons be abolished and there should be no office for every centre. All administrative work should be handled by the School office, which by the way, should be headed by an assistant registrar. Professors are supposed to be engaged in research and teaching. They should not be given any administrative work. The office of the university should be headed by a registrar who should be appointed for her/his administrative competence and not for academic qualifications. All decisions should be taken by specific committees of the professors. After that, it is the headache of the administration. Professors are not administrators.

If we follow this recommendation, which I know very well, will never be followed, there are too many clashing interests, but there is no harm in day-dreaming. If this proposal is accepted, the professors will work in a friendly, amicable atmosphere as there would be no coveted administrative offices to run after. They would spend more time in research and teaching instead of going through useless files. The clerical staff of the university will be reduced to one-third of what it is today. There would be harmony and peace in every aspect of the academic life of our great institution that is JNU. What I propose is nothing new. Most of the European universities follow this tradition.

In Conversation with.....

Manjari: You have been with JNU since 1984, in various roles and capacities. How do you feel this university and campus have changed over the years you have been here?

Prof. Gill: It is getting better and better. There are more hostels, more facilities and more research funds. Whenever I visit, I hear some complaints but this is normal. That is how it should be, to criticise, to protest is the very heart of any university.

Manjari: You started your career in France, moving to Patiala and then JNU, and then of course back. What made JNU different from all these institutes and places?

Prof. Gill: Of course, JNU is different in every respect. There is no university in India or abroad like this. But the problem with JNU is that its image is better than what it really is. As a result, the most brilliant students from all over the country come here. During my fifteen years at JNU, every year the students' standard was considerably improved. This facilitated the task of the teachers. A student with good BA (Hons.) was the right head and heart to venture into unknown intellectual domains. They could easily follow my most complex theoretical propositions in semiotics, conceptualism and existential structuralism. While this accords well with the quest of the students, one is not sure of the emerging faculty but one should never comment on one's colleagues.

Manjari: As a Professor Emeritus, do you feel there are certain facets that the university as a whole needs to adopt or to change?

Prof. Gill: JNU was supposed to be an inter-disciplinary institution. Unfortunately, in practice, this ideal is not followed. It is because even when the nomenclature of traditional department is abolished, the centres have become hermetically sealed units. Probably, it is due to the fact that a number of faculty members have experience only of their old institutions

Movements & Appointments

New Appointments/Deans/Directors/Chairpersons

- ◆ Prof. Pradeep Kumar Das, Centre for Linguistics, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies as Chief Coordinator, Linguistic Empowerment Cell, for a period of two years.

- ◆ Dr. Mohita Bhatia, Assistant Professor, Centre for the Study of Discrimination & Exclusion, School of Social Sciences as Coordinator, Linguistic Empowerment Cell, for a period of two years.
- ◆ Prof. R.K. Kale, School of Life Science as Part Time Chief Vigilance Officer, w.e.f. 1 January 2015 to 31 May, 2015.

Movements & Appointments

- ◆ Dr. Pawan Kumar as Professor in the School of Biotechnology.
- ◆ Dr. Pawan Kumar Joshi as Professor in the School of Environmental Sciences.
- ◆ Dr. P. Puneeth as Associate Professor in the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance.
- ◆ Ms. Sandesha Rayapa as Assistant Professor in the Linguistic Empowerment, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies.
- ◆ Dr. Debabarta Pal as Assistant Professor in the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Dr. Nupur Chowdhury as Assistant Professor in the Centre for Law & Governance.
- ◆ Dr. Ghazala Jamil as Assistant Professor in the Centre for Law & Governance.

Administration

- ◆ Shri P. Nagesh Rao as Senior Assistant in Administration Branch-III.
- ◆ Shri Sahiini Lana as Senior Assistant in Administration Branch-I.
- ◆ Shri Anand Singh Bisht as Senior Assistant in Internal Audit, Finance & Account Department.
- ◆ Shri Nilesh Kumar Dutta as Senior Assistant in Administration Branch-II.
- ◆ Shri Mukesh Kumar as Senior Assistant in SC/ST/OBC Cell.
- ◆ Shri Bhaskar Lenka as Senior Assistant in Confidential Cell.
- ◆ Ms. Sunita Toppo as Personal Assistant in Finance and Accounts Department.
- ◆ Shri Moveen Kumar as Personal Assistant in Central Library.
- ◆ Shri Sunil Kumar as Personal Assistant in under posting, Admin I.
- ◆ Shri Ramesh Chandra Veshvakarama as Assistant Engineer (Elect./Mech.) in Engineering Branch.
- ◆ Shri Pankaj Singh Parihar as Junior Engineer (Electrical) in Engineering Branch.
- ◆ Shri Yogesh Kumar as Professional Assistant in the Central Library.
- ◆ Shri Heigrujam Manglem Singh as Assistant Archivist in Archives on Contemporary History of India.
- ◆ Ms. Rashmi Sinha as Technical Assistant in School of Environmental Sciences.

- ◆ Ms. Saloni Ladwal as Stenographer in the Centre for Japanese Studies, School of Language, Literature & Cultural Studies.
- ◆ Ms. Priya Rao as Stenographer in Office of the Registrar.
- ◆ Shri Anil Kumar Yadav as Stenographer in the Centre of the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Shri Kaleem Ullah Khan as Stenographer in the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Shri Gajraj Vishwakarma as Laboratory Attendant in School of Life Sciences.

Retirements & Resignations

- ◆ Prof. Vaishna Narang, Centre for Linguistics, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies.
- ◆ Prof. Mridula Mukherjee, Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Shri Sohan Lal, Joint Registrar, Evaluation Branch.
- ◆ Smt. Sneh Dawar, Personal Assistant, Centre for Japanese Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies.
- ◆ Shri Hawa Singh, Senior Assistant, Inter Hostel Administration.
- ◆ Shri Yogesh Kumar, Senior Assistant as Section Officer in the Export Inspection Council of India, New Delhi.
- ◆ Shri Lal Singh Bisht, Assistant, Estate Branch.
- ◆ Shri Shan Mohammad, Technical Assistant, School of Environmental Sciences.
- ◆ Shri Umesh Babu, Technical Assistant, Sport Office as Yoga Teacher cum Performer at New Cultural Wing, Beijing, China Through Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Azad Bhawan, Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi.
- ◆ Smt. Om Vati Bhagat, Junior Assistant – Cum Typist, Language Lab Complex, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies.
- ◆ Shri Mohan Singh, Gestetner Operator, Administration Branch-III.
- ◆ Shri Jhabbar Singh, Gestetner Operator, Cash Section.
- ◆ Shri Rampal Singh, Anti Malaria Worker, Health Centre.
- ◆ Shri Ram Khilari, Sanitary Guide, Sabarmati Hostel.
- ◆ Smt. Prem Vati, Sanitary Guide, Ganga Hostel.
- ◆ Shri Sant Ram, Safaikaramchari, Sanitation Cell/ Estate Branch.

Achievements/Awards



- ◆ **Prof. Shashiprobha Kumar**, former Chairperson, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, received the President's Certificate of Honour in Sanskrit for the Year 2014.



- ◆ **Prof. Alok Bhattacharya**, School of Life Sciences has been declared the winner of The Aryabhata Bedal (2015) award. The Medal will be presented at the Annual/Anniversary General Meeting during 2015 or at a General Meeting of the Academy.



- ◆ **Prof. C.K. Varshney**, Professor Emeritus, School of Environmental Sciences (JNU), has been accorded honorary title of Distinguished Adjunct Professor by Asian Institute of Technology, (AIT), Bangkok. Professor Varshney was also invited to give a Key Note address on "Food Security: Challenge and Opportunity" at the Vth International Conference on Plants and Environment (ICPEP-5) held from 24-27 February 2015, at the National Botanical Research Institute(NBRI), Lucknow.



- ◆ **Dr. Pritam Mukhopadhyay**, Assistant Professor, School of Physical Sciences has been nominated for Swarna Jayanti Fellowship for the year 2013-2014 by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.



- ◆ **Shri Kh. Siile Anthony**, Deputy Registrar as Director (Human Resource Development and Employment) in Government of India, Ministry of Development of NE Region, Northern Eastern Council Secretariat, Nongrim Hills, Shillong.

8 JNU Students participated in the 7th Delhi state Para athletic Meet held at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium from 14 to 15 February, 2015. The medals won (8gold, 3 silver and 4 bronze) in different events are as per follows:

The medals winners: Shaikh Mohammad Kaish, M.A., CPS, Long Jump – Silver; Sachin Kumar Chandel, M.A., CPS, 100 m – Bronze & 200 m - Gold; Raghavendra Mishra, M.A, SC SKT.S, 400 m – Bronze & 800 m – Bronze; Pragya Deora, M.Phil, CSSS, Javeline – Gold; Nidhi Mishra, M.A., CHS, 100 m – Gold, Shot Put – Gold, & Discus – Gold; Reena, M.Phil, CPS, 100 m – Gold, 200 m – Gold, Long Jump – Gold; Jyoti Singh, M.Phil, CPOD, Discus – Silver.

JNU Badminton team's achievement in Spartech 2015

The JNU women's Badminton team -- Pragya Tripathi (Pre- PhD, SCMM), Swati Kumari (MPhil, CSSP/SSS), Swati Sharma (PhD, SCMM) -- defeated Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR 2-0 to win the Team Gold in the **IIT, Delhi Sports Festival "Spartech 2015"** held from 27 February- 2 March, 2015.

Our Men's Badminton team -- Bhupendra Kumar, M.Phil, CSR/S/S, Manish Kumar, M.Phil, SES, Ravindra Kumar, PhD., CFFS/SLL&CS, Sumeet Tsering, MPhil, SES won the Team Bronze defeating Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR 2-0.



Campus Activities

World Arabic Language Day Celebrated at CAAS/ SLL&CS

World Arabic Language Day was celebrated at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on 26 December, 2014. The event was organized by the Centre of Arabic and African Studies, JNU in collaboration with All India Association of Arabic Teachers and Scholars in the Committee Room, SLL&CS.

The United Nations (UN) observes 18th December every year as the World Arabic Language Day since it was on this day that Arabic was recognized as one of its official languages in 1973.

Welcoming the delegates and participants, Professor Mujeebur Rahman, the Chairperson of the Centre and convener of the event, spoke about the ways of improving the standards of Arabic teaching and learning in India. He also sought support from the Government of India and the governments of Arab countries for the promotion of the language.

Egypt's Ambassador to India, Hatim Tajuddin chaired the function, attended by diplomats, scholars and students. Prof. Vaishna Narang, Dean of the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, JNU, delivered the Key note address. In his presidential remarks, H.E. the Ambassador of Egypt, Hatim Tajuddin spoke in glowing terms about the deep historical and civilization bonds between India and the Arab world. He stressed the need for deepening academic and cultural cooperation between the two countries. On his part, he also promised full support and cooperation for the teaching and learning of Arabic in India, besides widening of areas of cooperation between two governments.

Speaking on the occasion, Abu Mazin al-Masoudi, In-charge, League of Arab States Mission in India, shed light on the contributions of Indian scholars to Arabic language and literature.

'Arabic teachers and scholars in India have made significant and unforgettable contributions to Arabic language and literature, and they are continuing to work for the development of Arabic language in the country,' added al-Masoudi.



The Chief Guest, Prof. S. K. Sopory, Vice-Chancellor, JNU, expressed happiness over the activities of the centre and said: 'Such literary events and activities enhance the prestige of our university.'

Professor Noman Khan, Head of the Department of Arabic, University of Delhi and President of All India Association of Arabic Teachers and Scholars highlighted the importance and necessity of the Association and outlined its aims, objectives and future plans.

Notable among the audience were the Mr. Noori Al-Malki, Director, Arab Cultural House in India, Prof. A. M. A. Abdur Rahman, Cultural Councilor, Egyptian Embassy, Dr. Mazin, Professor Emeritus Shafique Ahmad Khan, Cultural Councilor, Yemen Embassy, diplomats from several embassies and teachers and scholars from other universities and colleges in Delhi.

On the occasion, an essay-writing competition was held for the students and prizes were distributed by the V.C. and H.E. Ambassador Hatim Tajuddin. The prizes included cash and Arabic Calligraphy plaques given by the Ambassador of Egypt in India. He also gifted the chairperson 30 Arabic books on Arabic literature.

Md. Akram Nawaz
Centre of Arabic and African Studies, SLL&CS

A series of lectures/programs organized by the CAAS/SLL&CS.



Lecture by the Vice Chancellor of Zaituna University, Tunisia.

The Vice Chancellor of Zaituna University, Tunisia, the Oldest University in the Arab world, Prof. Abdul Jalil Salim, visited the centre and delivered a

lecture on 21 November, 2014, on "The Role of Abdul Aziz Al-Thalibi in introducing India to the Arab Africa". He spoke at length on Al-Thalibi's connections and fascination with India. Al-Thalibi is a towering figure in Modern Tunisia. In fact, he is one of the key builders of Modern Tunisia and is highly revered as an ideologue, philosopher and statesman. He visited India

Campus Activities

twice and wrote extensively on India. Prof. Salim likened his writings on India to those of Alberuni's writings on India. According to him, Al-Thalibi's writings on India are considered one of the earliest and most credible sources of information about India in Tunisia. According to him, Thalibi was a true friend of India.



Leading Iraqi Poetess and Novelist shares her experiences as an Expatriate writer

Noted Arab Iraqi poetess, short story writer and Novelist, Wafa Abdur Razzaq, visited the Centre on 9 February, 2015 and delivered a lecture on "Phantasy in contemporary Arabic fiction". Wafa Abdur Razzaq has been living in London and writing about her experiences as an expatriate Arab writer living in a western metropolis. She elaborated on the 'Phantasy' widely used by her in her novels. She is a prolific writer and poet. She has penned more than 35 books in poetry and fiction. Some of her novels have been translated into other languages and have received critical appreciation. She has been honored with several awards and prizes globally. She is arguably one of the finest female voices in Arabic poetry. She expressed happiness at her interaction with the students and promised all help and support to the students and teachers.



Noted Egyptian Literary critic Prof. Shareef Al-Jayyar interacts with the students of CAAS

Noted Egyptian writer, critic and Assistant Director of National Book Authority of Egypt, and Professor of Criticism and Comparative Literature in Beni Swaif University, Egypt visited CAAS/SLL&CS on 18 February, 2015 and delivered a lecture on "Contemporary Literary Scenario in Egypt". In his lecture, he dwelt upon the recent developments in Arabic Novel and Short Story in Egypt. He said that Arabic novel has come of age with the Nobel laureate awarded to Naguib Mahfouz and his contemporary novelists. The literary scenario of Egypt in particular and the Arab world in general is abuzz with very powerful, innovative and creative writers and Modern Arabic literature has fully encompassed the literary trends and developments taking place in the West. Later, he promised that as Assistant Director of Egyptian Book Authority, he would try his best to help the students of the centre with books and references and other material necessary for research. He was accompanied by His Excellency, Cultural Councilor of the Egyptian Embassy, Ahmad Muhammad Ahmad Abdur Rahman, who also spoke on the occasion and introduced the speaker.

Mujeebur Rahman
Associate Professor
Centre of Arabic and African Studies, SLL&CS

JNU-World Bank Book Talk on Addressing Inequality in South Asia

JNU Central Library in association with the World Bank India organized a Book Talk on 26 February, 2015 at JNU Convention Centre. This talk was delivered by Dr. Martin Rama, Senior Economist, World Bank (WB). He is also co-author of a recent book entitled "Addressing Inequality in South Asia", published by the World Bank Group in 2014. This book is part of South Asia Development Matters book series and freely downloadable from WB Open Knowledge repository. This Book Talk began with welcome address by Dr. Ramesh C. Gaur, University Librarian, JNU and opening remarks by Mr. Sudip Mozumder of World Bank India. The session chair Professor C.P. Chandrasekhar of CESP, SSS introduced the speaker as a distinguished economist working on Asian socio-economic futures and challenges. Dr. Rama began his talk with situation analysis of South Asian countries, explaining key socio-economic indicators, particularly those related to the current targets of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (UN-MDGs). Then he examined the trends in multiple dimen-



sions of inequality, analyzing the drivers of inequality, and identifying the policies for shared prosperity in South Asia. Equipped with several charts and maps from the book, the speaker spoke about some glaring facts about South Asia, e.g., Government revenue in South Asia is low compared to the rest of the world; South Asian countries rely less on income taxes and more on trade taxes; much public spending goes into

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energy subsidies; electricity subsidies favour the better-off; development spending per person is lower in poorer states and districts; spending on health is mainly out of households' pockets; spending on social protection in South Asia is lower than in other developing countries.

The Q&A session that followed was lively. The session chair and audience discussed several issues related to the facts and

Community Corner

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जवाहर बुक्स स्टोर का नाम जेएनयू परिवार के किसी भी सदस्य के लिए अपरिचित नहीं है। यह जेएनयू में किताबों की सबसे पुरानी दुकान है। जवाहर बुक्स स्टोर के माध्यम से हमारे विश्वविद्यालय में पुस्तकों की आपूर्ति करते हुए श्री अशोक कुमार मजूमदार को चार दशक से अधिक समय बीत चुका है।

जेएनयू न्यूज के इस अंक के लिए प्रस्तुत है v' kkl dɛkj et ɔnkj से nh dɛkj feɪky की बातचीत।

ç' u %æ ki dkl Qj dc vʃdSsk gɣk

v' kkl dɛkj et ɔnkj %जेएनयू के साथ मेरा संबंध बहुत पुराना है। जब इस विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना हुई तब मैं बेर सराय में रहता था। उस समय मैं जेएनयू के सामने जमीन पर पुस्तकें लगाकर बेचता था, जब जेएनयू डाउन कैम्पस में चलता था। जेएनयू में तब केवल एक ही सेंटर था, 'सेंटर फॉर रशियन स्टडीज'। इसकी स्थापना प्रो. चक्रवर्ती ने की थी, जो दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय से आए थे। यह केंद्र 'इंडो सोवियत कल्चर' विभाग के अधीन था। फिर 1970 में मुझे जेएनयू में किताबें बेचने के लिए एक पास जारी हुआ और मैं घूम-घूमकर किताबें बेचने लगा। उस समय यहाँ पाठ्यक्रम में मास्को की किताबें लगी हुई थीं। पास जारी होने की कहानी बहुत ही रोचक है। एक दिन सीएसआरडी के प्रो. मुनीस रजा जो उस समय यहाँ के रेक्टर थे, मेरी दुकान पर आए और उन्होंने आंद्रे की किताब डवलापमेंट ऑफ कैपिटलिज्म मुझसे माँगी। मैंने उन्हें यह किताब दी तो वे हैरान रह गए। उन्होंने मुझसे उस किताब के लेखक के बारे में थोड़ा-सा जानना चाहा तो मैंने उन्हें आंद्रे के व्यक्तित्व और कृतित्व के बारे में जो भी जानकारी थी बतला दिया। यह देखकर वे दंग रह गये और मुझसे बोले कि मैं इस किताब को पिछले कुछ दिनों से खोज रहा हूँ, किन्तु यह मुझे कहीं भी नहीं मिल रही थी। अगर आप चाहें तो जेएनयू में भी अपनी किताबें बेच सकते हैं। जेएनयू में प्रवेश के लिए पास बनवाने के लिए आप हमारे कार्यालय आ जाएं। मैं उनके कार्यालय गया और 24 घंटे की अवधि में मेरा पास जारी हो गया। उस समय प्रो. रजा ने मुझे दूकान खोलने के लिए तीन हजार रुपये

भी दिए। मेरे लिए यह तीन हजार आज के तीस लाख के बराबर हैं। तो इस तरह मेरा सफर जेएनयू के साथ शुरू हुआ।

ç' u %æ ki dhLeɪr; kæst su; vɔk Lo: i dSkgS bl dSckj æad ʈ cr kbZs

v' kkl dɛkj et ɔnkj %जेएनयू भारत का सर्वश्रेष्ठ विश्वविद्यालय है। यहाँ शुरू से ही गंभीर और अच्छे शिक्षक और छात्र रहे हैं। दोनों का ही व्यवहार साधारण मनुष्य के प्रति दोस्ताना था। आज भी यह परम्परा कायम है, चाहे आज पहली पीढ़ी के शिक्षक यहाँ न रहे हों। आजकल जेएनयू में जो शिक्षक हैं उनमें से अधिकांश ने अपनी उच्च-शिक्षा यहीं प्राप्त की है। वे भी रिटायर्ड होने लगे हैं। ऐसे ही एक शिक्षक प्रो. तुलसीराम जी थे। उन्होंने अपना शोध कार्य जेएनयू से ही पूरा किया था और यह शोध (द कम्यूनिस्ट मूवमेंट इन ईरान) नाम से पुस्तकाकार रूप में मेरे ही यहाँ से प्रकाशित हुआ। यह उनकी पहली किताब थी। उस समय एक सेंटर था 'सेंटर ऑफ सोवियत स्टडीज' उसमें प्रो. जफर इमाम और डॉ. आर.आर. धवन आदि पढ़ाते थे। इसी सेंटर से तुलसीराम जी ने अध्ययन किया था।

छात्र राजनीति जेएनयू का एक दिलचस्प पहलू है। यहाँ के छात्रों ने अपने माध्यम से राजनीति की एक अलग मिसाल पेश की है। उस समय छात्रसंघ के चुनावों में एआईएसएफ और एसएफआई को सफलता मिलती थी। दोनों साथ में चुनाव लड़ते थे। एकाध प्रसंगों को छोड़ दें तो शुरुआत के लगभग तीस साल तक छात्रसंघ पर इन दोनों दलों का ही कब्जा रहा। लोग मार्क्सवादी विचारधारा को पसंद करते थे। जब मैं पुस्तकों की प्रदर्शनी लगाता था तो मार्क्सवादी किताबें ही सबसे ज्यादा बिकती थीं।

ç' u %æ c vki dkt su; vʃSkyxrkgS

v' kkl dɛkj et ɔnkj %समय की रफ्तार के साथ-साथ जेएनयू में भी बदलाव आये हैं। इतने वर्षों में हमारे समाज में बहुत कुछ बदला है जिससे जेएनयू भी अछूता नहीं है। सबसे बड़ा बदलाव तो यह दिखाई देता है कि पहले के छात्र किसी भी विषय को गम्भीरता से समझना चाहते थे और बहुत अधिक पढ़ते थे। लेकिन आजकल छात्रों का झुकाव कॉम्प्यूटेशन के अनुरूप पढ़ाई करने में है। अब हम किताबों की प्रदर्शनी लगाते हैं तो अकादमिक

किताबों की बहुत अधिक बिक्री नहीं होती है, जबकि पहले ऐसी ही किताबें बिकती थीं। आजकल किताबें तो वही छात्र खरीदते हैं, जिनका जेआरएफ है। हाँ, एक बदलाव यह भी आया है कि पहले अंग्रेजी की किताबें बहुत अधिक बिकती थीं, अब हिन्दी की किताबें भी काफी अधिक बिकने लगी हैं। लेकिन इन बदलावों को समय के साथ जोड़कर देखना चाहिए। आजकल अच्छा रोजगार हासिल करना एक बड़ी चुनौती है। फिर भी जेएनयू एक अच्छा विश्वविद्यालय है।

मैं यहाँ लगभग 45 सालों से हूँ। मैंने देश के लगभग सभी प्रसिद्ध विश्वविद्यालयों में किताबें बेची हैं, प्रदर्शनी लगाकर या दूसरे तरीके से; लेकिन एक बड़ा फर्क जो मुझे दिखाई दिया वह यह है

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Two - day National seminar of Young scholars organized by the Center of Arabic & African Studies (CAAS), SLL&CS on 1-2 November 2014

In order to explore the rich contribution of Indian scholars to Arabic studies and to generate interest among young scholars, the Centre of Arabic and African Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, organized a two- day national seminar of young scholars on “Arabic studies in India: Achievements and Expectations” between 1st and 2 November, 2014.

The inaugural session was held on 1 November, 2014 at the Arts & Aesthetics Auditorium, JNU. Professor Mujeebur Rahman, Chairperson of the Center welcomed the delegates, teachers, scholars and participants. Dr. Md. Qutbuddin, the Director of the seminar, outlined the goals and objectives of the conference. A large number of scholars and students from JNU and other universities across India attended the session.

Dr. Zafrul Islam Khan, noted Indian Islamic thinker, Arabic scholar and editor of English Monthly The Milli Gazette delivered the keynote address. In his erudite and scholarly address, he dwelt on the deep historical and civilizational ties between India and the Arab world and the huge contribution made by Indian Scholars to the different branches of Arabic sciences in India.

On this occasion, a video presentation was made by Mr. Kareem Adli from Turkey on the esteemed Arabic Magazine Hira published from Turkey, one of the key sponsors of the event.

Prof. M.A. Islahi, Dean, SLL & CS, also addressed the session and highlighted the contribution of the Centre in the field of research and teaching of Arabic Language and Literature and appreciated the organizers for organizing such a wonderfully thought out seminar which was unique in many ways.

Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ahmed Abdel Rahman, Cultural Counselor & Director of Cultural Bureau, Embassy of Arab Republic of Egypt, New Delhi, graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Praising the services of Indian scholars, he acknowledged their extremely valuable contribution to the development of Arabic Language and Literature and assured that the Cultural Bureau, Embassy of Arab Republic of Egypt was ready to support the development of Arabic Language and Literature in India.

Professor Sudha Pai, Rector I, and Chief Guest for the session, appreciated the idea of a students' seminar. She also appreciated the activities of the Center. She offered her full support for such programs in future also.

Professor S. K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor, presided over the function. He expressed his deep appreciation of the wonderfully organized students' seminar and called it the need of the hour. Dr. Rizwanur Rahman proposed the vote of thanks.

The academic sessions were held in the Committee Room, SLL&CS and the Committee Room, SLL&CS Annexe building on 1



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November, 2014. On 2 November, 2014, parallel sessions were held in the Committee Room and Lecture Hall, JNU Convention Center. 60 research papers were presented by the scholars of different Indian universities and colleges from across India in 10 academic sessions spread over two days on different aspects related to the theme of the seminar. The sessions were attended by students and research scholars from JNU, DU, JMI and other universities and were characterized by lively debates and discussions.

The seminar was successful in many ways. All the participants

Colloquium on Philosophy, Language and the Political: Reevaluating Poststructuralism

To deliberate on the thought and practice of Poststructuralism that flourished in the last five decades, an International Colloquium on Philosophy, Language and the Political: Reevaluating Post-structuralism was held at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on 10 December, 2014. The academic event was supported by JNU, L'Institut Français, New Delhi, ICSSR (Northern Region), New Delhi, and ICPR, New Delhi. Welcoming the participants from within and outside India, Franson Manjali, the main coordinator, briefly presented the context and the relevance of the colloquium. The inaugural session was chaired by Ayesha Kidwai, Chairperson of Centre of Linguistics. Marc Crépon of École Normal Supérieure, Paris, delivered the inaugural lecture, *The Invention of the Idiom: The Event of the Untranslatable*. Crépon's paper focused on the relevance of the idiom in the context of the use, ordinary or scholarly, of language, and on being sensitive about all the elements that have historically sedimented in it. The paper dwelt on the task of displacing and overcoming them as part of the singularity of one's ethico-political existence. Crépon's main point of reference was Derrida's seminal work, *Monolingualism of the Other, OR the Prosthesis of Origin*.

This was followed by twelve sessions in which 23 scholars presented papers. The first of these had Paul Patton, University of New South Wales, Sydney and Aniruddha Chowdhary of IAS, Shimla, speaking. Patton's paper *Poststructuralism and Political Normativity: The Case of Deleuze*, addressed the common criticism against poststructuralist thought, that it did not pay attention to the normative principles relating to contemporary society and government. Patton argued that, though this criticism has some relevance in relation to Deleuze and Guattari's *Anti-Oedipus* and *A Thousand Plateaus*, it overlooked the sense in which there is a formal normativity implicit in Foucault, Derrida and Deleuze's own works and that the later works of Deleuze and Guattari engaged directly with explicitly political concepts and norms that make up liberal constitutional states. The second paper, *Singular History: Finitude, Temporality and*

Historicity in Early Heidegger by Chowdhury, explored the notion of historicity, central to the argument of Heidegger's *Being and Time*. He contended that finitude and singularity remained inseparable in Heidegger's analysis of historicity and historical repetition.

The second session began with a paper by Rustam Singh, Eklavya Institute, Bhopal, entitled *Not This, Not That, Maurice Blanchot and Poststructuralism*. Blanchot, according to him was at the very center of the Poststructuralist movement and this could be seen in the former's views on language, the work, and the fragmentary.

The last session of the day had papers by Achia Anzi, JNU, who discussed Michel Foucault's essay "This is not a Pipe" that interprets the famous painting by the Belgian artist René Magritte. His paper titled *This is (not) a pipe*. Offered a reading of Foucault's essay, intended to be a critique of modern art with reference to Magritte's painting. He highlighted the significance of the painting "This is a Pipe" by British graffiti artist Banksy that challenges Magritte's painting. Jean-Luc Nancy's live video talk titled *Jou's Anniversaire! "Scenes of Inner Life"* for the Tenth Anniversary of the Death of Jacques Derrida attempted to show how sexuality works in Derrida's philosophical thinking, mainly with reference to the latter's *work Glas*. He discussed how the coming-to-oneself or the self-affection is closely related to the coming to sex as *différance* to itself. The question-cum-discussion session that followed Nancy's paper could adequately bridge the spatial distance between his speaking from Strasbourg and the audience listening to him in JNU, New Delhi.

The second day of the colloquium began with the session that comprised papers by Samir Gandesha, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, and Manas Ray, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata. Gandesha's paper, *Jacques Derrida: The 'Good European'*, focused on Derrida's reading of Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil*, where Nietzsche refers to "We Good Europeans". He pointed the significance of Derrida's

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reading in the wake of his joint letter with Habermas in May, 2003, calling for a genuinely “European” public sphere. In the next paper, Gandhi: Antiliberal, or a Departure Within Liberalism? Reflections on his Theatre of Truth, Ray argued that Gandhi was deeply modern and a democratic thinker as against the prevalent notion of Gandhi's anti-westernism. He also contended that though Gandhi made religion the highpoint of his politics, it did not divert him from liberal modes of subject-formation.

In the next session, Soumyabrata Choudhury and Milind Wakankar spoke. With reference to the “norm of equality” declared by B.R. Ambedkar in 1927 for the first time in Indian history and relating it to the time of the French Revolution, Choudhury, in his paper The French Revolution of Indian History: Notes on Comparative Politics and Incomparable Events, analyzed the idea of the event raising the structural and originary question of the sense in which an event happens for the first time, and yet provoked thought and imagination that constitute it as a concept. Wakankar, in his paper, Religion after Religion: Plato after Badiou in the Light of Modern Indian Thought (Aurobindo, K. C. Bhattacharya, Bedekar) attempted to lay the groundwork for a political theory of the wound in the wake of primitive slavery (race, caste), where he juxtaposed Derrida/Sallis with Badiou's reading of Plato.

In the seventh session of the colloquium, Sukalpa Bhattacharya of NEHU, Shillong and Ranu Uniyal from Lucknow University emphasized the commendable role played by Hélène Cixous in understanding the question of the feminine with regard to writing. Bhattacharya in her paper Body-Reparation-Invention: Cixous and Derrida on “Feminine Writing,” explored Cixous' work in relation to Derrida's, with focus on the notion of the feminine and writing. She also showed how Cixous's thought on feminine writing has a decent ring effect that expresses female fluidity that rebels against masculine economy. Uniyal in her paper “Somewhere There Must be People Who are Like Me”: Reading Hélène Cixous, examined the notion of identity and belonging and the irresolvable ambivalence that continue to dominate Cixous's thought and writing.

In the next session, François Cusset of University of Western Paris, Nanterre, Prasenjit Biswas of NEHU, Shillong, and Arup Chatterjee of JNU, presented their papers. In his paper, 'Can a Toolbox Go to War?' The Political Legacy of Poststructuralism, Cusset discussed poststructural thinkers' antiprescriptive and antitotalizing stances as that which fit in addressing today's global fuzzy and political situation. Aiming to interconnect certain works, he referred to three key notions namely, friendship, becoming, and vitalism discussed by Derrida, Deleuze and Guattari, and Nietzsche, respectively. Biswas's paper Foucault and Derrida on Truth and Meaning: A Semantic, Political and Ethical Reappraisal, was centered on the ideas of



justice, subject, truth, and meaning. Biswas juxtaposed Derridean and Foucauldian positions on justice and subject. He also elucidated Derrida's conception of truth primarily as a minimal avowal of justice in the constitutive powerlessness of oneself as a 'third party'. In his paper, Remembering the “The Purloined Letter” from the Event Horizon: Letters to My Love of Travel, Chatterjee pointed to the need for revisiting to the Edgar Allan Poe's story “The Purloined Letter” in understanding the debate between Derrida and Lacan that unfolds in a series of letters. He wanted to show how language and travel could be brought together to understand Being through the notion of travelogy.

The first session of the third and final day had three papers. Anup Dhar of Ambedkar University, Delhi, raised the pertinent question “What it is to reevaluate poststructuralism?” His paper, Cryptonomy: Deconstruction, Psychoanalysis, Politics, was concerned with the question of the political in psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic or the crypto-analytic that is addressed in Derrida's “Geopsychoanalysis” and the rest of the world. In her paper, The Body of Knowledge: Notes on the Stigmatext, Sandhya Devesan Nambiar of Delhi University, investigated the category of the “animal called man”, in which she posited the particular category as a problem. She closely followed and discussed Derrida's views in his “The Animal that therefore I Am” and “The Beast and the Sovereign.” In this context, she highlighted the Heideggerian notion of Mitsein and the Deleuzian idea of becoming-animal. Meanwhile, providing an alternative reading of Derrida, Sourav Kargupta, of CSSS, Kolkata, in his paper, Deconstruction after Marx, or two ways of thinking an Outside, touched upon the theoretical placement of the preface in both supplementing and pre-empting the text. With regard to the Marxian 'use-value' he viewed how both Jacques Derrida and Gayatri Chakravorty-Spivak read the Marxian 'use-value' and its implications in their own works on deconstruction.

The tenth session of the colloquium, which comprised papers by Anirban Das, CSSS, Kolkata, and Siby K. George, IIT, Mumbai. Analyzing a fundamental opposition between the inductive mode of reasoning active in empiricism and the irrefutable logic of deductions of Reason, Das, in his paper, The Science Question in Poststructuralism: Ethics and Politics of

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the Real, addressed the question of how faith and scientific knowledge remain intertwined. In reading this relationship through Derridean perspective, he discussed the questions of the being human and its relations to the generality of the structure of writing and of the trace. George's paper Constitutive Theories of Language and the Politics of Change, explored the constitutive theory of language in which word and being are considered to be intertwined, where responsive power of language is emphasized. Analyzing this idea with reference to Heidegger and Levinas, the paper argued that the ethically ambiguous dimensions of the politics of change can be understood only when the meaning comes from the other.

In the first paper of the post-lunch session of the final day, entitled Learning to Live with Specters: Hauntology, Memory and Language in Specters of Marx, Vinod K. Kalidasan, of Central University of Kerala, Kasargode, dealt with the idea of haunting and memory in relation to the question of history, with reference to Derrida's Specters of Marx. He examined how memory plays a crucial role in the process of haunting and mourning. Highlighting the significance of Derridean analysis of knowledge in relation to the idea of secret, in his paper, Of Shame and Censure: A Deconstructive Account of Knowledge, Debaditya Bhattacharya, Central University of Bihar, Patna,

tried to show how the politics of shaming attempts to regulate the production of knowledge as an event of otherness. Dealing with the idea of shame in relation to the moral history of shame and its conflation with the theologico-legal ethic of guilt, he explained that feeling of shame is a default predicament of every event of self-knowledge. In the last paper of the colloquium, Wounding the Self: Writing the Other, Sanjay Kaushal and Nimmi Nalika (co-authors) of JNU, discussed the repressive and violent nature of any sort of totality that creates closures in terms of Self, and insisted on the necessity of opening up of the self to the other as an ethical exigency.

The concluding session of the colloquium was conceived as a forum for discussing the task of taking up roles and responsibilities in the academic domain to address the various issues that have been simmering in our world in relation to humanity. Several participants spoke on the necessity of opening up of all the closures that create powerful, resistant, and repressive totalities that are at work in our socio-political, religious, educational and economic domains.

Sanjay Kaushal and Nimmi Nalika
Centre for Linguistics, SLL&CS

Socio-economic Field Study in Varanasi district of Middle Ganga Plain

Especially in the works of Dubey, Ghurye, Mukharji, A. B., Mukherjee, R.K., Srinivas, specific villages were studied and regional rural life reconstructed and analysed, during the 1960s and 1970s. Over four decades of centralized planning and subsequent opening up of market in 1990s has brought about several irreversible changes across Indian villages. Keeping this in mind, the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences decided to choose 'Rural Transformation' as the broad theme for the field study this year. Specific focus was on the changing land-use and social structure in the villages of Middle Ganga Plain. A group of 39 students under the supervision of Dr. Bikramaditya K. Choudhary conducted the study in the district of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh between 31 December, 2014 and 15 January, 2015. The field study was a part of the compulsory course work RD and is has been conducted every year for the last 35 years. Three villages were selected for the purpose of this study. These two villages viz. Tilmapur and Sandaha are going to be the part of Varanasi Development Authority. The village Bhandaha Kalan is taken as a typical village for the purpose of regional reference. The students learnt about socio-economic conditions of the people, the livelihood opportunities, the level of diversification in rural employment, the nature of changing social relations and implications of these. One of the villages



close to Varanasi is witnessing almost complete transformation from village life to urban sprawl. The village has now turned into an urban sprawl owing to unplanned and haphazard outward growth of Varanasi city. Almost 90 per cent of the village has undergone change in its land-use i.e. from agriculture to build-up. The land owners sold the land to the new settlers, who wanted to be urban dwellers and chose Varanasi as their destination either after their retirement across different locations in the country or just wanted to shift and start living in the urban area due to relatively better infrastructure. The majority of the residents are migrants from nearby districts of Uttar Pradesh or the border district of Bihar. Social segmentation remains the most remarkable feature of the

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'would be ward' of Varanasi Municipality. Eyeing quick cash, the landowning Brahmins started selling their land to the new migrants for the purpose of construction of houses. The interesting feature remains that land close to the dalit basti located at the village periphery was sold. In the beginning, it was ensured that the land was sold primarily to Brahmins of different categories from nearby districts; service class buyers belonging to other upper castes like Kayasths and Rajputs were second on the priority list. The urban areas of the Middle

Ganga Plain, thus, remain rooted in the kinship-based morphology. No sign of urban society as understood by Simmel, Lewis and others of the Chicago School is witnessed here as far as the social structure is concerned.

Bikramaditya K Choudhary
Assistant Professor

Centre for the Study of Regional Development, SSS

Exhibition Dissensus: Indian Testimonies



PC Joshi Archives on Contemporary History, JNU organized an exhibition entitled "Dissensus: Indian Testimonies" from 9 - 24 January, 2015 in the lobby, School of Social Sciences building III. The exhibition was curated by Prof. Janaki Nair and funded by the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, South Asia. The exhibition consisted of text, photography, audio and video materials and newspaper clippings on four themes: (1) movement against the Silent Valley Hydro electric Project in Kerala, (2) the boosa incident and dalit movement in Karnataka, (3) the Mathura Rape Case and the subsequent changes in law and (4) movements for the Right To Information Act in India.

The exhibition focused on the concept of dissensus: it was developed by Jacques Ranciere to counter the idea of politics as consensual, managing a population, and as an affair of the government. This exhibition extended the term dissensus to focus on those moments in the Indian context which have elevated and altered political discourse, have changed laws to provide justice to the disadvantaged and hitherto ignored social groups, and have encouraged creativity in ways that were unanticipated and unplanned. The focus here was on the enduring shifts in ways of thinking, analyzing, writing, indeed being that were enabled by the disruptive potential of dissensus.

Four such moments were discussed. The post independence assurance and conviction about "development as progress" was called into question in the campaign against the Silent Valley Dam project in the 1970s and 1980s. Unsettling

challenges to a proud and long established literary culture were unexpectedly raised in the boosa earthquake in 1970s Karnataka and led to the development of a new critical aesthetic. The flash that revealed the impossibilities of justice for many under the rule of law, was the case and campaigns following the rape in Mathura. Finally, the moment emerged in the 1990s when the people inserted itself between the government of documents, and documents of governance, to reveal, expose, and thereby to question that which had rendered them speechless, in the movement for a Right To Information.

All of these moments had no final closure, but did produce unthinkable, even unexpected, effects. There is every sign that these moments, full of promise and contradiction, as well as their effects, will be buried/forgotten in the rewriting of the republic's history. This places an ethical responsibility on an archive such as the P.C. Joshi Archives on Contemporary History, JNU. Such an archive must not stifle or appropriate these moments of dissensus. It must reveal, both politically and aesthetically, the multiplicity and the precariousness of innovation.

The exhibition was opened by Prof. Sudha Pai, Rector, JNU on 9 January, 2015 at 3.00 pm at the Ground floor lobby, School of Social Sciences III building, JNU. Prof. Sucheta Mahajan, Chairperson, PC Joshi Archives on Contemporary History, JNU and Prof. Janaki Nair, curator of the exhibition, as well as Dr. Carsten Krinn, Resident Representative Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Delhi participated in the event.

The exhibition communicated new and unforeseen possibilities within the field of politics; it also urged students to ask new questions of their academic disciplines in that light. The responses of students and faculty, indicated that the exhibition elicited awareness of other political experiences that have not been given their due place in the genealogy of the Indian present. The exhibition was both appreciated and critiqued. Some people criticized it inadequately unpacking the conceptual world of the four movements, while others saw it as saturating the viewer with information. Limitations of time

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prevented the realization of the full subversive potential of the narratives. Nevertheless, the exhibition was an interesting experiment with how we may place these moments in the context of contemporary Indian history using the tools of social science research. In the words of one of the students, it was an

effort to combine the methodological rigour of social science research with new styles and practices of display.

Inugurthi Narasaiah
Deputy Director
Archives on Contemporary History

International Conference on Disability Studies in India: Reflections on Future

The term disability refers to socially ascribed meanings to diverse human conditions having different types of physical and mental impairments over life course in different cultural contexts. In India and much of South Asia, disability is largely seen as a product of cultural impediments such as beliefs and stereotypes as well as structural barriers like poverty, lack of development, illiteracy, unemployment and caste, class and gender asymmetry. Persons with disability (PWD) are marginalized in education, employment, health, mobility and other significant life areas.

It is in this context that the Centre for the Study of Social Systems (CSSS), School of Social Sciences (SSS) organized a two-day International Conference on 'Disability Studies in India: Reflections on Future' on 6–7 February, 2015. Among its objectives was to deliberate on the historical beginnings of disability studies programs in the Indian context & to examine the links between State, disability rights movements, disability studies and civil society organizations in a comparative framework. The Conference was very well attended by research scholars, academicians, activists & PWDs and was thematically divided into eight sessions to address various concerns of Disability within the framework of academia, law and legal frameworks, gender dimension and its pedagogical explorations. Out of these, there were two sessions, which focused on Disability Studies in Academia specifically and discussions on interdisciplinary lines took place. In general as well, the Conference had people from various disciplines in attendance. All in all 23 papers were presented apart from a vibrant and academically stimulating Panel Discussion which took place at the end of the Conference.

On the Inaugural Day, Professor V. Sujatha (Chairperson, CSSS/SSS) delivered the welcome address wherein she highlighted the fact that there has been a close interaction between the disability rights movement and academia and the former became more accepted to the general public through the latter. Professor Aditya Mukherjee (Dean, SSS) the chair of the session reinstated the link between rights based movements and academic engagement and cited JNU as a significant example of this tradition. The multi-layered theme of the conference was introduced by Professor Nilika Mehrotra who as the Convener of the Conference underlined the need to



rigorously document and strengthen academic networks so as to build a cohesive body of literature depicting the South Asian reality of disability studies. Professor T. K. Oommen carried forward the inaugural session and outlined shortcomings in defining disability at the regional, national and global level institutions. His classification of 'aggregate collectivity' and 'organic collectivity' in the context of disability argued the need to include social disability, deviance along with physical impairment in defining 'disability'. Finally, the inaugural session was addressed by Professor Amita Dhanda, the keynote speaker. While disagreeing with Professor Oommen's distinction between 'aggregate collectivity' and 'organic collectivity', she propagated the importance of intersectionality and lived experiences in contesting the dominant systems of knowledge which label the 'disabled' as deficits. Professor Nilika Mehrotra proposed the vote of thanks in the end of the inaugural session.

During the Conference various important themes related to the disability studies emerged. It was observed by many that the state needs to take a more proactive stand not only in terms of defining & determining the various axioms of disability and the disabled for the purpose of welfare monetary approach; rather the various machineries of the state itself should be more sensitive towards the rights & entitlements of People with Disability. Subsequently, another important issue of concern was put forth by the proponents of Universal Design / Designing within the framework of architecture. It advocated for certain modifications in the existing design of buildings so as to make them more accessible to People with Disability. In a major way, some of the papers linked disability within the

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theoretical schema of inclusion and exclusion and thus located the same in hierarchical social order characterized by limited accessibility and availability of resources. Coming to the problematic scenario of the gendered dimension of disability, it was highlighted that there is an urgent need to develop and sustain support structure within the society as the disabled women are more prone to violence and abuse both in the private as well as public spheres of life. Similar expressions were noted when the need and process of establishing & documenting PWDs along with disability studies in academia was highlighted and argued for. It was argued that such a task requires both sensitivity and empathy on the part of both the teacher & the student.

Papers were also presented on 'mental state of order' and how due to a lack of understanding of it by the society, it tends to isolate these people. More than often the viewpoint of both the state and society is so intensely panopticon that incidents of the mental state of order are made subservient to the medical inquiry. For this, the issue of both physical & mental disability needs to be reworked and practiced by both the civil society (NGOs) & the state.

Three Days workshop in JNU on social and emotional capacity building and free personal counseling to students by a panel of six expert psychologists

The Group of Adult Education, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, organized a three days Workshop from 19 – 21 February, 2015 on “Social and Emotional Capacity Building” to help students tackle stress and emotional problems that affect their career and day to day life. For the first time in the history of JNU, a panel of six expert counselors was invited to give free counseling to students to tackle such problems. JNU Rector, Professor Sudha Pai, inaugurated the Workshop and spoke about the common emotional and stressful situations that haunt students today. According to her, scarcity of employment opportunities and resulting pressure to get jobs, interpersonal relationships between males and females and consumption of alcohol are three major problems that adversely affect student life nowadays. The Director of the Group of Adult Education and the organizer of the event, Dr. Ajay Kumar emphasized that a positive attitude and individual initiatives are the essential elements of a successful career. However, he highlighted the increasing amount of arrogance among students, lack of commitment, plagiarism and unwillingness to work harder in academics as the major hindrances in the path of a successful career of today's youth. Dr. Arvind Mishra from the Zakir Hussain Centre for Educational Studies, JNU, pointed out that understanding



oneself is the beginning and end of capacity and competency building. The motive of the workshop was to enable students to build up their capabilities and lead a happy, stress-free life. The expert panel consisted of Mrs. Jyoti Uplenchwar (Vice-President, Positif), Dr. Arvind Mishra, Dr. M.G. Shanawaz, Mr. Abdul Mabood and Ms. Brijender Graewal.

Several stress management exercises – both physical as well as mental, and free guidance and counseling were the primary attractions of the Workshop. Apart from that, theoretical discussions about discovering one's innate potential and capabilities and several group activities were conducted to encourage participants to synergize their innate potential.

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More than 50 participants attended the Workshop. Most of them told that the workshop was quite helpful for them in dealing with stress, tensions regarding professional as well personal life, and improving concentration during studies and research. Students who went for personal counseling con-

Two-Day Seminar-cum-Workshop on “the Role of Linguistics in Mother-Tongue Education in a Multilingual Classroom”

21 February, 1952 unveiled the tremendous importance of language in the life of a nation. As students in one corner of the world martyred themselves clamoring for the respect and recognition due on their mother tongue, the world awoke to a reality about the vast impact of language upon one's identity and the socio-political consciousness. Thus was born International Mother Language Day, primarily to commemorate Bangladesh's historic “Bhasha Andolan” but also to celebrate the innumerable native tongues spoken all across the globe, regardless of any hierarchy. In that very spirit the Students of the Centre for Linguistics, JNU every year organizes an event to highlight issues/challenges that are faced by Mother Languages in these hegemonical times. This year IMLD was observed by the students of the center for Linguistics, with the support of ICSSR and JNU across three days wherein each day ushered a distinctive flavor to the celebration of the large repository of languages & Culture that India collectively calls mother tongue. To mark the rich linguistic diversity of India and reimagine the power politics of language, the theme this year IMLD celebration revolved around the status of mother tongues in the domain of education. Beginning on the 20th of February and panning across to the 22 February, IMLD 2015 comprised a cultural evening, a day long graduate seminar and a day long workshop.

On the 20 February, 2015 the students of JNU brought together a beautiful mélange of performances from different regions of the world and needless to say, in a variety of languages. From Bengali songs to Rajasthani folk dances, from Malayalam songs to Syrian dances the evening saw a flurry of delightful performances.

The day long graduate seminar titled 'The Role of Linguistics in Mother-Tongue Education in a Multilingual Classroom' intended to critical evaluation of State and non-State policies on mother tongue and multilingual education in India. On the 21st of February the Graduate Seminar started with welcome note from a PhD student of the center Sujoy Sarkar who explained in detail the students motivation in organizing the event, followed by this Prof Ayesha Kidwai, Chairperson, Center for Linguistics delivered the inaugural address. Prof Rama Kant Agnihotri's Keynote address outlined the various historical and theoretical junctures of Multilingual education in



India. His paper discussed in detail the shortcomings present in current multilingual education models and gave pointer that the young scholars should be looking at to resolve these issue. Apart from the keynote the student organizer have also invited distinguished experts from the field of linguistics and education: Prof Minati Panda (ZHCE, JNU) Dr. Mukul Priyadharshini (DU) Dr. Anjali Naronha (Ekalvya, Bhopal) to deliver plenary talks on the current trends in Multilingual Education in India. Followed by this the day saw successive paper presentations and discussions addressing the inherent inequality found in the mother tongue textbook and ways to overcome such blemishes using the tools of language (linguistics in general, sound, grammar and meaning system of the educational material under study, in particular). Scholars from all across the country presented papers concerning the various issues that arise in vernacular teaching. Some of the areas covered by the various presentations were Looking out for grammatical themes in school texts, Evaluating the efficacy of primary level Bengali text books like Pata Bahar, Kutmb Katamb, using bilingual modes, Socio-economic class and its influence on public school textbooks.

The second day of the conference was dedicated to a workshop that explored the role that Linguistics, and linguists, can play in remedying these inequalities by fostering mother tongue education in the domain of a multilingual classroom. The workshop began with an orientation to the workshop. During the orientation Dr. Dripta Pipali (Asst. Prof. CU) made the participants aware of the errors that are common in a multilingual classroom; Dr. Girdhar Rao (Asso. Prof. APU) outlined the importance of proverbs as tool for language teaching in a

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Multilingual classroom; Dr. Mukul Priyadashani (DU) highlighted the NCERT attempts in tackling the challenges of a Multilingual classroom; Prof Ayesha Kidwai (JNU) outlined the major concerns that a linguist should pay attention to in language education; and Dr. Tanmoy Bhattacharya (DU, & Workshop leader) presented a sample analysis of the class 4 MP Hindi textbook and gave pointers to various issues in the text that has to be resolved. He also spoke of the inclusive character of the multilingual education model and discussed in detail the potential of these tools to foster a inclusive society. After the workshop orientation participants were divided into seven linguistics groups namely NCERT-Hindi, Rajathani-Hindi, MP-Hindi, Bangla1, Bangla2, Dravidian group (Tamil, and Malayalam), Meitei, and one multilingual theme based group: Proverb group. Each group had a workshop monitor who guided the young scholars through theirs tasks. Each group took a certain text/theme from the given languages and analyzed it from the perspective of mother language teaching in multilingual perspective. After 4 hrs of intensive workshop each group gave a presentations highlighting the loopholes and the concerns about the texts/themes they analyzed and

CSSP Lecture on Use of Wireless in War and Empire in Early 20th Century



The Centre for Studies in Science Policy (CSSP) organized a lecture titled "Invisible Waves: Use Wireless in War and Empire in Early 20th Century" on 27 February, 2015 as part of CSSP Special Lecture Series.

In this talk Dr. Saxena narrated use of wireless technologies in the colonial states and during the 1st and 2nd World War. It is interesting to note that the wireless technologies started to interest the British colonial state in the late nineteenth century. It captured the imagination of the imperial powers even more dramatically during the Russo-Japanese War in 1904-05. Wireless had certain inherent characteristics that made its use expedient but devious. Since it was air borne it was considered useful for establishing communication over sea and recommended itself for use during war. However, wireless was an ambiguous weapon as it encroached upon both

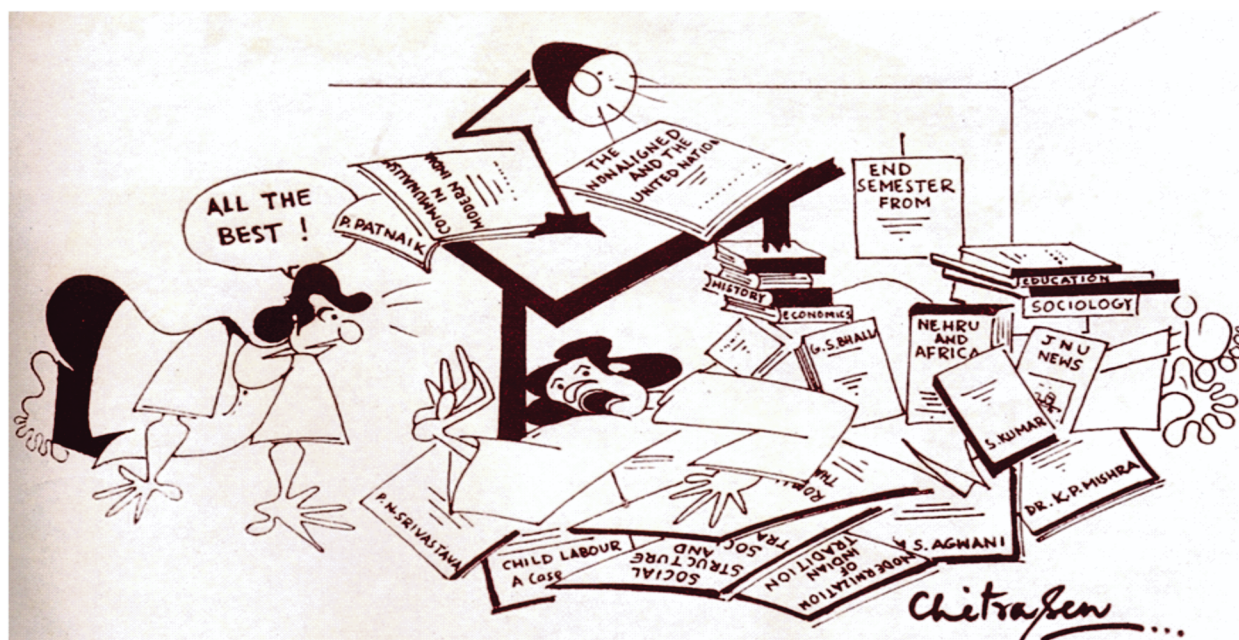
sovereign spaces and international conventions of war. It challenged the limits of politically carved territories simply by being 'up in the air'. There was constant experimentation with new wireless systems across the world but their reliability and efficiency remained questionable. International commercial concerns, imperial interests and scientific innovation converged with wireless as they did for other communication technologies. Any company, irrespective of its place of origin, could cater to the universal imperial market. Hence, the wireless experienced an international effort to regulate and facilitate its uses. To a large extent these early manipulations tried to limit rather than enhance the various strengths of the wireless. In this talk speaker then analysed the dilemmas posed due to induction of wireless in naval warfare and in gathering news from the battlefield for the first time. She also looked at the context of military, scientific and commercial developments in the international arena that shaped these conflicts with reference to wireless. The lecture concluded after the comments of session chair, a vibrant discussion and Q&A session with the audience. Audio recording of this event is now available at www.mixcloud.com/cssp_jnu/, an open access audio channel maintained by CSSP, JNU.

Anup Kumar Das
Documentation Officer
Centre for Studies in Science Policy, SSS

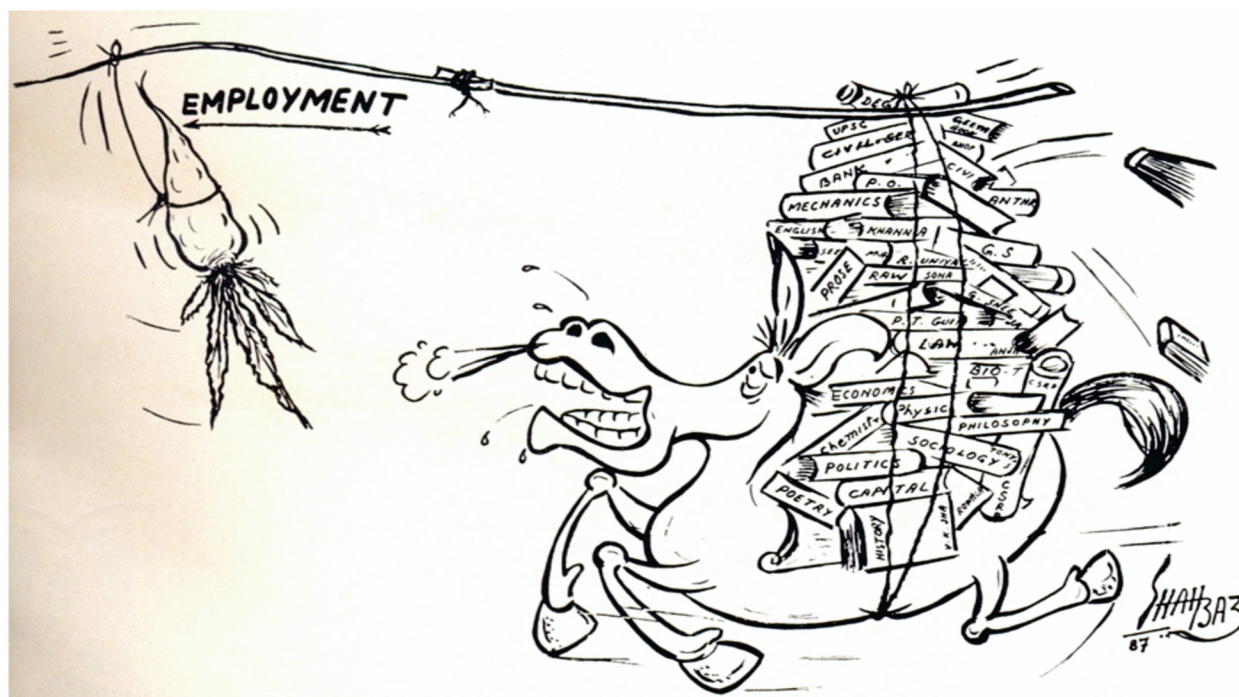


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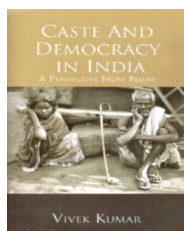
End Semester Preparation, May, 1987



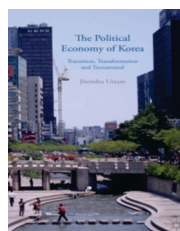
The Employment Carrot, August, 1987



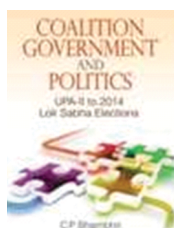
Our Publications



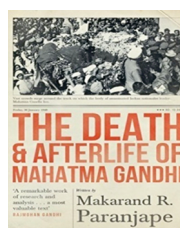
“Caste and Democracy in India,” a Perspective from below, edited by Dr. Vivek Kumar, Associate Professor, Centre for Study of Social Systems, SSS, published by Gyan Publishing House. ISBN: 9788121212243.



“The Political Economy of Korea” Transition, Transformation and Turnaround, edited by Dr. Jitendra Uttam, Assistant Professor, Korean Studies, SLL&CS, published by Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN: 9781137451231.



“Coalition Government and Politics” UPA-II to 2014 Lok Sabha Elections, edited by Prof. C. P. Bhambhri, Distinguished Scholar, JNU, published by Shipra Publications, Delhi. ISBN: 978-817541-692-5.



“The Death & Afterlife of Mahatma Gandhi”, edited by Prof. Makarand R. Paranjape, Centre for English Studies, SLL&CS, published by Vintage Books, Random House India. ISBN: 978-81-8400-XXX-X.

Book Release

Book Release of JNU Faculty Members at the India International Centre

IIC-Asia Project and Primus Publication organized the book release event of Essays on the Arabian Nights on 26 February, 2015 at 6.30 pm in the Lecture Room II of IIC Annex, New Delhi. It was chaired by Mr. Soli J. Sorabjee, President of IIC and the new arrival was released by Professor Harish Trivedi of University of Delhi. The two editors of the volume, Dr. Rizwanur Rahman and Dr. Syed Akhtar Husain, Professor, G.C. Tripathi and Prof. Irene J. Winter, William Dorr Boardman Professor Emerita, History of Art and Architecture, Harvard University were the speakers on the panel.

At the outset Mr. Soli Sorabji acknowledged that Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan was the spirit behind the venture of this latest Asia Project publication and deserved special thanks. He asked Prof Harish Trivedi to release the book which Soli Sorabji preferred to call Thousand and One Nights. Harish Trivedi commended the Asia Project publication as truly Asian or Pan Asian as the volume contained the reception of the Nights in all the parts of Asia. He particularly noted the Arabian Nights in Indian languages namely Tamil, Malayalam, Urdu and Sanskrit. He observed that the Nights originally stemmed from Sanskrit in late ancient period and was rendered into Sanskrit again in the late medieval period of Indian history thus forming a full circle. He was amused to read the reception of the Nights in the Far-East Japan and noted that like the

magic carpet it travelled into various climes and countries of the world. But the most important aspect of 1001 Nights was its narrator Sherazade giving birth to three children which deterred the King from killing her and allowing the literary narrative theory of nextismto remain in vogue in the world of literature.

The next speaker on the panel Dr. Syed Akhtar Husain seconded the proposal of Soli Sorabji to call the Arabian Nights as 1001 Nights and observed that there were never 1001 stories in the Nights. It was a metaphorical way of presenting the innumerability of the stories in the literary corpus which was edited and printed at Fort William College, Kolkata and Bulaq in Egypt. He also interpreted the paintings of Rabindranath Tagore on the cover page of the book. The third speaker on the panel Dr. Rahman gave the detailed account of the receptions of the Nights in Arabic literature and said that there were even untold stories of Sherazade in the modern Arab World.

The fourth speaker Dr. G.C. Tripathi gave the graphic presentation of the Nights in Sanskrit and Hindi literary traditions and discussed the Essays on the Arabian Nights in the Indian context of history, linguistics and culture.

The last speaker on the panel was Professor Irene J Winter who had spent years in Iran and Iraq in her excavation work. She had brought the copy of Arabian Nights published in 1930, which her mother gave her to read. Professor Winter appreciated the efforts of Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan for bringing the academicians from Harvard, JNU and other universities in the orbit of the Asia Dialogue and realising the aims and objectives of the Asia Project successfully. Essays on the Arabian Nights is one of the fruitions of the Project in which the trajectory of the Asian Dialogue could be pleasantly heard. Different nations- the Indians, Persians, Arabs, Chinese etc. all played their role in the evolution of human saga and stories which we read in 1001 Nights today.

Dr. Jain, proprietor of Ratnasagar Publication proposed a vote of thanks and particularly thanked Mr. B.N. Verma of Primus Book for his efforts to bring the volume in an elegant and impressive form.

Nadeem Akhtar
Research Scholar
Centre for Persian and Central Asian Studies



An interview with Geeta Tyagi, Performing Artist



Shubhra: How and when did your association with JNU start? What was your first impression of the campus?

Geeta: My association with JNU started way back in 1989 when I had applied for admission into BA Languages. I qualified for admission into Persian and Chinese languages. I was literally confused with both the

difficult options that I had. Finally, I opted for Chinese.

I was born in Dehradun where I had my primary school education. Unlike today, it was a small town where it was possible to know nearly everyone by face. My father who was serving in Military Engineering Services was transferred to distant locations every 3-4 years. This gave me an opportunity to visit a few other places, though only small ones. Coming to a metropolitan city like Delhi was a major step heading for a change in my life. On my arrival to JNU, I was allotted Godavari Hostel. Unlike Delhi proper, JNU appeared to be a class apart, green and sparsely populated. Students were brilliant, politically conscious and articulate. Hailing from a small town I initially felt the divide. Gradually, subsequent to my participations in mess discussions, moving around in campus with friends and spending time in dhabas helped me absorb the culture shock. I got several opportunities to watch street plays, meet artists and eminent personalities from different spheres of life. All these activities helped me pull myself from the cocoon that I was living in. At the end I can say that JNU moulded me into a confident girl. It was here where I realized how successful a society could be if gender bias is eliminated and all are treated at par. One could actually lead a happy, uncomplicated and progressive life, exemplifying 'simple living high thinking'.

Shubhra: What has been the trajectory of your career since you left JNU?

Geeta: At the very first I must admit that had I not been in JNU I would not have been where I am today. JNU does not produce professional theatre artists but has the capacity to sow seeds for such talents. Our teacher Prof. Tan Chung at the 'Centre for Chinese Studies' was perhaps the most admired teacher. Other than routine teaching he used to involve us in viewing some of the best Chinese movies. Prof. Tan Chung used to elaborate and discuss in depth the subject of the movies, actors in films and their performances. So, my realization of the importance of subjects of acting/theatre began in a Chinese class. Also, at these times understanding the language was secondary for me and what impressed me most was usually the analysis and the performance of the actors. I must say that the quality of Chinese movies that he selected for students were high and realistic in content. Also, during my stay in JNU I watched many street plays and could immediately connect myself to them. My fascination for theatre turned intense and I started dreaming of pursuing it as a hobby. During this phase I also started visiting and exploring the Mandi House area. I realized that the National School of Drama (NSD)

was a dream place for training into theatre-related careers. After my graduation I applied for admission into NSD. I needed a couple of recommendation letters with the application. For one recommendation I was suggested to request Prof. Namvar Singh. I was aware of his stature and had been hesitant for some days before going to him. While making the request for the recommendation letter I must have sounded rather meek. While I was making the request he was observing me. On hearing me he said (in Hindi) 'itni dheemay bologi to natak kaise karogi'. I had no response but got the message from his words. To this day I am grateful to Prof. Namvar Singh for his words of wisdom, encouragement and recommendation.

Subsequent to the initial screening of applications I was called for the next level of screening at NSD. After a rigorous three-day selection process I was fortunate to get admission into NSD. My selection for specialization in 'acting' implied a good ranking. This was the beginning of a new phase of my struggle and there was no turning back.

After completing my training at NSD, I worked at the NSD repertory for some time where I did some lead roles in plays like Romeo Juliet, Charuvak, Abhigyaan Shakuntalam etc. I also had the good fortune to work with directors like Habib Tanvir, Prasanna, Robin Das, Anuradha Kapoor, Devraj Ankur, Waman Bendre, Intiaz Ali and the like. I can recall doing a rather small role in a play directed by Habib Tanvir. While watching one of his rehearsals he called me and enquired if I would be interested in doing a role. I readily agreed to it. My only role in the play was to be picked up by someone who would emerge from the crowd, lift me and move away from the scene. Too small a role but it was exciting as this was my first play and that too with someone like Habib Tanvir.

Eventually I moved to Mumbai and auditioned to work in TV serials. Alongside I also spent some time doing theatre. Did several plays with eminent artists including Pankaj Kapoor, Supriya Pathak, Jaya Bachchan. Some of these plays like Maa Retire Hoti Hai and Doctor Mukta directed by Ramesh Talwar were performed in many cities of India and abroad for several years. My passion for theatre still continues.

Some of the prominent serials where I played lead or central roles included Kunti (title role), Balika Vadhu, Punar Vivaah, Doli Armaano Ki, Apne Mere Apne, Swarg, Chaand Chupa Badal Mein, Abhigyaan Shakuntalam, Ek Boond Ishq, Dreamgirl etc. Cannot recall the names of all but I must have worked in more than two dozen serials with major roles.

Shubhra: Being an actress, tell us about the role JNU has played in developing your thought process and eventually your choice of career.

Geeta: Not only academically, culturally also JNU is a very rich institution. It not only shows you the off-beat career options but also encourages you to dare and make alternative choices. Before coming to JNU I had no big dreams. For too long I only watched everyone in silence. I saw teachers & students interacting in such a friendly ambience. The classes had no attendance registers. Most of the cultural and political activities or discourses were held

only post dinner. We could stay out of our hostels as long as we wished and without being questioned for late hostel entries. I would come across some girls smoking over a cup of tea just like boys. Not that I appreciated smoking but all this did suggest the immense sense of freedom within the campus that disappeared once we were out of these boundaries. Soon I realized that this level of freedom does teach us to be responsible for our actions. My decision to take up acting as a career emerged from JNU, nurtured in NSD and fulfilled in Mumbai.

Shubhra: What are the most rewarding and most challenging aspects of your career?

Geeta: The most rewarding part of my career is that 'my hobby is my profession'. I couldn't have asked for more. I am happy that from nowhere I am at a place where I had wished to be, and living with my aspirations with a great sense of fulfillment. Challenges in such a career are obvious, as one never knows when a better and more talented person will arrive and replace you. Again, one must be

Obituary

Can Shylock be wicked in Germany?



Günter Grass always wrote against the grain and, as his poem on Israel and Iran shows, he was ready even to take on Germany's collective guilt over the Holocaust

Germany's "conscience keeper", Günter Grass, is no more. He was one of those thinkers who rattled the general sense of political correctness in Germany by his poetic outbursts. The Nobel laureate was

well known for his candid and provocative formulations on several political and social issues. He always considered himself a nonpartisan political author. His inopportune remarks at times caused embarrassment among the political and diplomatic circles. In the 1960s, he campaigned for the Social Democratic Party but later withdrew from the party because of disagreements over its asylum policies.

There is, however, a blot attached to his biography, which provided for a controversy in 2006, and which his adversaries used as an offensive to denigrate him. Grass confessed in his autobiography to being a member of Hitler's dreaded Waffen SS ("Protection Squadron") as a 17-year-old towards the end of World War II. This remained, as he said, one "residual blemish" that haunted him throughout his life. During one of his several visits to India in the 1970s, he was invited to Jawaharlal Nehru University, where I interviewed him. The students intervened and confronted him with his membership of the SS. He openly admitted that it was due to the naiveté of his adolescence.

He also created a controversy in India by writing a travelogue, "Tongue Showing" (1988), diarising the experiences of his stay in West Bengal with bizarre descriptions of poverty and squalor of the slums and public life of Kolkata.

Grass wrote a poem, "What Must Be Said", in 2012 about the strained relations between Israel and Iran. He accused Israel of threatening Iran with a preventive nuclear strike and endangering world peace. This sparked sharp reactions in diplomatic and political circles and unleashed vociferous public debates in Germany and elsewhere in Europe. "The atomic power Israel is endangering the already fragile world peace," declared Grass in his poem, which appeared a few years ago in a German and an Italian newspaper. In the light of the current US-Iran nuclear deal, this poem may get a new dimension.

His poem has a different character. One has to understand the historical background of the present day German mindset. Against this background the poem gets its ideological dimension. It has conjured up the spectre of old memories of anti-Jewish animosities of the Hitler era. After World War II, certain taboos have been ingrained in the German psyche and consequently in their political behaviour. The Germans avoid making any negative public statement against Israel because of the "collective guilt" over the Jewish genocide perpetrated by the Nazis.

This sense of guilt burdens the German mind even 70 years after World War II. Therefore, any criticism of Israel or any oblique remark about the Jews is often seen as anti-Semitism. A laughable example of an inverted philosemitism in Germany was seen in a

Obituary

discreet ban on the staging of *The Merchant of Venice* in German theatres till the early 1970s, when the celebrated Jewish actor Gustaf Gruendgens offered to play Shylock. At the end of the play there was a TV debate on "Can Shylock be wicked in Germany?" in which Grass also participated. This has been the part of a political instrumentalisation of the collective guilt in Germany.

In the post-war German political discourse on the Holocaust, "the Jew" and "the foreigner (Ausländer)" have been instrumentalised xenophobically. Grass's accusations against Israel, therefore, embarrassed the entire German political leadership, which had kept a discreet silence about its military support to Israel, since the facts interwoven in the poem (the Israeli nuclear armament and the supply of German submarines to Israel) could not be unequivocally denied.

Grass blames himself for having remained silent for too long. In his poem, the then 84-year-old poet criticizes the proposed delivery of one more nuclear submarine "from my country" to Israel. But at the same time he hastens to evince his bond with the Jewish people and his solidarity with the Jewish state of Israel. But he condemns the Israeli nuclear policy, particularly when Israel claims the right to a first nuclear strike with the aim of "eliminating the Iranian people". In Iran, the poet says, nuclear weapons are only an unconfirmed suspicion, reminding of the US army's futile search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. "Why am I just now, aged and with the last ink, saying that the nuclear power Israel is endangering the already fragile world peace?" asks Grass.

Grass also points out that Israel does not allow any international scrutiny of its nuclear potential, something the Western world does not talk about. Now, when Germany is to "deliver another submarine to Israel", Grass declares, "I no longer keep silent, because I'm disgusted with the hypocrisy of the West." Grass takes pains to point out that he is "burdened with guilt" for having kept silent all these decades.

As for the literary merit of the text, many dismissed it superficially as "a rather dumb agitprop poem". Apparently many observers described Grass's craving for being wrongly accused as "post-war

German masochism". But others surmised that the poem was not so innocent. It attempted to break the protected taboos about Israel in Germany. And such a task could only be achieved by Germany's enfant terrible. Only Grass had the penchant for talking of the uncomfortable truths at the risk of being accused of anti-Semitism.

Interestingly, the Israelis are cool about the Grass poem, though they had declared Grass persona non grata and denied him entry to Israel. That they downplayed the matter politically has more to do with the fact that no less a person than Grass wrote about Israel as a nuclear power with submarines supplied by Germany that could eventually fire atomic weapons. Curiously, that it has atomic weapons has neither been denied nor confirmed by Israel.

In his poem Grass warns of a possible Israeli attack on Iran and the unforeseeable consequences of total annihilation of the Iranian population. In a candid formulation, he describes how the Western world is protecting Israel. An Israeli air strike on an Iranian nuclear plant could have uncontrollable consequences for the entire region. It could plunge West Asia into a cycle that could be disastrous for Israel itself.

But the poem, whatever its worth as a literary piece, has succeeded in debunking the hypocritical ideology of political correctness in European politics. It opens the Pandora's box of unanswered questions. Why should Israel be the only state in West Asia to be exempt from international scrutiny? Why does Jerusalem implicitly assume the very rights it denies its neighbouring countries? The nuclear armament of Israel itself should also be addressed in such debates. Grass keenly perceives in all these issues the moral responsibility that Germany should shoulder.

Unwittingly, Germany is getting trapped in this controversy, since Chancellor Angela Merkel has made her country's responsibility for the security of Israel explicitly clear. Should Germany support a war against Iran or warn Israel against military action? And how justified would it be for Germany to deliver submarines to Israel that could be armed with atomic warheads? These questions raised by Grass are crucial and need to be debated.

**Pramod Talgeri, Former Professor
German Studies, SLL&CS**

ShriTej Singh, Khalasi, Engineering Branch Passed Away on Sunday, 1 February, 2015

We extend our condolences to the bereaved family.

JNU News welcomes contribution about Alumni Achievements/Awards. Please write to pro@mail.jnu.ac.in, pro@jnu.ac.in or poonamskudaisya@gmail.com

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Photo Gallery



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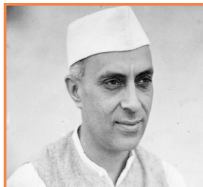
1. The University organized a felicitation function on 16 March, 2015 for Officers/Staff Members of the University who retired between July 2014 to January 2015. Photo shows: University Officials with the retired employees.
2. A Mock Fire Drill was conducted at the multi-storey dwelling units, Paschimabad, JNU on 17 March, 2015 by the JNU Security Department to create awareness among the residents about the fire prevention, fire fighting & evacuation.
3. A delegation from Jing Normal University, China, visited JNU on 26 March, 2015. Photo shows: (from left) Prof. Binod Khadria, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, SSS; Prof. Minati Panda, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, SSS; Prof. Vaishna Narang, Dean, SLL&CS; Prof. Varun Sahni, Chief Advisor, International Collaboration; Prof. Prasenjit Sen, Rector-II; Dr. Hemant Adlakha, Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, SLL&CS with Madam Chuansheng LIU, Chancellor, Jing Normal University, China with others member of delegation.
4. विश्वविद्यालय के उद्यान विभाग को 26 मार्च, 2015 को विभिन्न उद्यानों तथा गमलों की सजावट हेतु पुरस्कार प्रदान किये गये। फोटो में: प्रो. सुधीर कुमार सोपोरी, कुलपति; प्रो. सुधा पाई, कुलदेशिक; डॉ. संदीप कुमार चैटर्जी, कुलसचिव एवं अन्य पदाधिकारी।
5. Jawaharlal Nehru University Officer Associates (JNUOA) Organized 1st Cultural Event at Auditorium-I Convention Centre on 29 March, 2015. Photo shows: JNU Officers' Association with other members.



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विश्वविद्यालय की विशेषताएँ होती हैं; मानववाद, सहिष्णुता, तर्कशीलता, विचार का साहस और सत्य की खोज। विश्वविद्यालय का काम है उच्चतर आदर्शों की ओर मनुष्य जाति की सतत यात्रा को संभव करना। राष्ट्र और जनता का हित तभी हो सकता है जब विश्वविद्यालय ठीक से अपने दायित्वों का निर्वाह करें।

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6. विश्वविद्यालय के कर्मचारी संगठन द्वारा खेल कूद परिसर में दिनांक 12 से 14 मार्च 2015 तक खेल कूद प्रतियोगिताओं का आयोजन किया गया। खेल कूद प्रतियोगिता एवं पुरस्कार सम्मेलन की कुछ छायाचित्र।



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