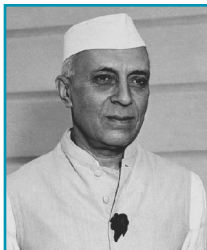




Bimonthly Journal of Jawaharlal Nehru University



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.

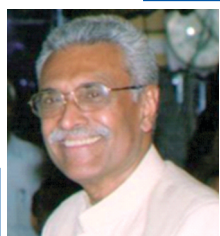
Contents

◆ In Conversation with.....	2-3
– An Interview with Prof. T.K. Oommen (Prof. Emeritus)	2
◆ Movements & Appointments	3-5
◆ Achievements/Awards	5-6
◆ Campus Activities	6-10
– Arabic Club of CAAS presents the Arabic Play 'The Boat of	6
– लोगों की व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता	7
– CAAS organizes Second Shah Waliullah Memorial Lecture	7
– संतगुरु रविदास पर दो दिवसीय	8
– उर्दू की हिफाजत हम सब की	9
– Renowned Scientist Prof. Govindjee's	9
– First International Yoga Day	10
◆ Community Corner	11
– जेएनयू में परायापन प्रतीत नहीं होता	11
◆ Seminars/Conferences	12-19
– Training Workshop on 'Molecular Biology Techniques in Health	12
– Round Table Discussion on	12
– Association of Borderlands	13
– National Seminar titled "Synergy Building in Indo-US Relations:	14
– 'समकालीन हिन्दी उपन्यास:	14
– Three Days workshop in JNU on 'Illusions and Delusions: Gender	15
– CSSP Talk on Open Access in the Past, Present and Future of	16
– The 6 th Annual P. N. Srivastava	16
– CSSP Talk on Reflections on the	17
– Labour Migration in Tajikistan by Prof. Khojamohammad Umarov	18
– Discourse on Challenge and Response as Faced by	19
◆ From Our Archive	20
◆ Our Publications	21
◆ Alumni Corner	21-22
– An interview with Mr. T. Ranganath, Business Consultant, New Delhi	21
◆ Photo Gallery	23-24



In Conversation with....

An Interview with Prof. T.K. Oommen (Prof. Emeritus)



Shubhra: How and when did your journey with JNU begin? How has your experience been here over the years?

Dr. Oommen: I am one among the early 'joiners' of JNU. I joined the faculty as early as in July 1971. The number of faculty members, the size of student population as well as Karamcharis were limited at the formative stage. This facilitated close interaction and intimacy among the members of JNU community.

In the school of Social Sciences where I joined M.Phil and Ph.D courses were started first. The orientation was interdisciplinary and the emphasis was on innovative research. M.A courses which focused on teaching started subsequently. As the first vice-chancellor G. Parthasarathi observed, JNU's mission was to cope with the crisis of irrelevance in Indian higher education. This implied that the university should explicitly contribute to the ongoing process of building a democratic and multi-cultural India.

The politicization, particularly of students, was a marked feature of JNU since its inception. In India, student organizations function as appendages and tributaries of political parties. The prominent among the student organizations in JNU in the 1970s were those associated to Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Communist Party of India (Right). The Congress-affiliated student association, the National Students Union, was weak. Although the faculty too had an association it was not formally affiliated to any political party. However, there was a large segment of faculty believed to be sympathetic to left parties which caught the attention of Indian Parliament and the faculty had to provide the information about their background several times.

I was associated with hostel administration as Warden and Provost and later as Dean of Student Welfare, jocularly referred to as Dean of Student Warfare. Viewed retrospectively I regret that I had accepted these responsibilities which earned for me many enemies among students but hardly any friends in the administration.

Shubhra: How do you see JNU having changed over the years that you have been here?

Dr. Oommen: As the University started growing in size and complexity its overall ethos too changed. In the beginning the numbers of Schools and Centres within them were limited. Subsequently not only new Schools were established but new Centres were added to the old schools. As the 'idea of JNU' spread and became visible, thanks to an explicit all-India policy

of recruiting students and an implicit understanding of recruiting faculty and Karamcharis from all over India, the JNU community became a mini-India. I retired in 2002 that is more than a decade ago. Therefore I cannot make an informed observation about the changes occurring latterly. But based on my continued informal interactions I get the impression that the initial rigour in teaching is on the decline. Similarly the devotion to do research keeping 'nation-building' in mind seems to be dissipating because of the distraction wrought by globalization which facilitates a large number of collaborative projects across several countries often at the cost of teaching and India-centric research.

Ideological diversification within the campus is also obvious. At the initial stage JNU was perceived as an institution with substantial leftist leaning. It was often observed informally that CPI(M) was in power in four locales in India: West Bengal, Kerala, Tripura and JNU. Prof. Nurul Hasan the Education Minister of India on being asked while at Paris whether there were leftist universities in India as in France, reportedly answered: 'Yes', there is one: Jawaharlal Nehru University'. However over the years campus politics have diversified. Not only that an ultra-left thrust emerged, with the prominence gained by All India Students Association but also a right-ward stance crystallized with the increasing visibility of Akhil Bharat Vidyarthi Prarishad. The emergence and temporary flourishing of 'Free Thinkers' which was/is ideologically akin to socialist parties (although denied) and the persistence of National Students Union is also evidence. The persisting tendency to score political points by student organizations often adversely affect good governance with a focus on academic excellence. It seems the biggest beneficiary of student politics in JNU is CPI(M). In the last one decade the General Secretary of the party was a former student of JNU and in the present decade also it is an alumni of JNU.

Shubhra: Sir, you have been part of faculties and researches across universities and institutes including University of California, Australian National University, Maison des Sciences de L'homme, Paris, as well as closer home, National Law School, Delhi University and many more. How do you think, JNU is different (if at all) from these other places?

Dr. Oommen: It is true that I have been associated with a large number of educational institutions, both foreign and Indian. But the nature of my association with these institutions varies vastly from my association with JNU, where I worked for little over three decades. Therefore comparing my experiences across these institutions is not tenable. Let me elaborate:

In Conversation with....

I started my teaching career at the Delhi School of Social Work where I taught for seven years an interdisciplinary course entitled 'Man and Society' drawing from the disciplines of Sociology, Economics and Political Science. Teaching Sociology at JNU is comparable only with my teaching assignment at the University of California but that was only for one semester. My association with National Law Schools of India at Bangalore, Calcutta and Hyderabad were/are not related to teaching or research but only governance that is, as a member of Executive Councils and/or General Councils. At all other places I was doing research without any teaching responsibility.

My longest association as a researcher was with three institutions in addition to the ones you have listed. These are: (1) Wissenschaftszentrum, Berlin (Germany), (2) Institute of Advanced Study, Budapest (Hungary) and (3) the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences, Uppsala (Sweden). My stay at all these institutes was highly rewarding but I will confine my remarks to the Budapest experience for two reasons. First, it was my longest stay outside JNU and second, Hungary is not an 'advanced' country like U.S.A, U.K, Germany or Sweden and hence more comparable with India.

As a Senior Fellow I was required to make only one presentation during the course of my stay of ten months. But I was expected to be present and participating when fellow Fellows make their presentations, at the most two of them in a month. The rest of the time I could do work on the theme I chose. The most fascinating experience was that related to the library. Each Fellow had a table and s/he can pick up books and keep them at their respective tables under intimation to the library assistant assigned to him/her. If additional books were required the researcher should give a list and they were procured not only from other libraries in the same city but also from libraries outside the country. I could get books from Vienna (Austria) and London (U.K). In the course of my stay of ten months at Budapest I produced a manuscript titled: Citizenship, Nationality and Ethnicity: Reconciling Competing Identities, published by Polity Press, Cambridge.

I don't think this experience can be compared with that at JNU when one is engaged in full-time teaching. However, by

establishing specific Centres for research where those on sabbatical leave can be attached such productive engagements are possible.

Shubhra: Being a Professor Emeritus, do you wish certain goals and/or visions this University and more specifically your School should adopt?

Dr. Oommen: JNU should be a Centre of excellence in teaching and research with special reference to the economically deprived, socially backward, culturally stigmatized and ecologically disadvantaged. To a large extent this was implicit in the initial vision of JNU as an institution accelerating the process of 'nation-building'. Production and dissemination of knowledge divorced from the needs and aspirations of the vast majority of Indian citizens would remain an artificial entity which cannot grow. I think it is an imperative to view production and dissemination of knowledge from bottom-up as against the prevailing proclivity to view it from top-down. To put it pithily, knowledge should be a tool of social transformation and not an instrument of perpetuating vested interests in society.

Shubhra: A message you would like to give to the student community in general and of JNU in particular?

Dr. Oommen: One cannot think in term of JNU, for that matter any university, independent of its student population. Be that as it may, my message for JNU students is that they should fully avail of the privileged opportunity at their disposal. Work hard and hard during your stay at JNU, whether you want to become an academic, administrator, artist or activist.

The question that JNU should ask is: knowledge for what? And, in the final analysis knowledge should be produced and disseminated for creating an equitable, just and peaceful world. For this it is necessary to nurture a cosmocentric as against the prevailing homocentric perspective. In a cosmocentric universe, human beings, the biotic entities and material elements should co-exist in harmony. For this, knowledge producers drawn from material sciences, life sciences and human sciences should collaborate and co-operate. I hope JNU can provide the required leadership in this context in the years and decades to come. This is my message.

Movements & Appointments

New Appointments/Deans/Directors/Chairpersons

- ◆ Dr. Balkrishna Champat Vaidya as Professor in the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament, School of International Studies.
- ◆ Dr. Dwaipayan Bharadwaj as Professor in the School of Biotechnology.

- ◆ Dr. Narender Kumar as Professor in the Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Dr. Varalakshmi Chaudhry as Associate Professor in the Linguistic Empowerment Cell, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies.

Movements & Appointments

- ◆ Dr. Anand Ranganathan as Associate Professor in the Special Centre for Molecular Medicine.
- ◆ Dr. Amitabh Singh as Associate Professor in the Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies, School of International Studies.
- ◆ Dr. Suneel Kateriya as Associate Professor in the School of Biotechnology.
- ◆ Dr. Satyamurti as Associate Professor in the Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies.
- ◆ Dr. Chirashree Dasgupta as Associate Professor in the Centre for the Study of Law & Governance.
- ◆ Dr. Jyoti Dinesh Rao Bhosale as Assistant Professor in the Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory, School of International Studies.

Administration

- ◆ Ms. Anamika as Systems Analyst in School of Computation and Integrative Sciences.
- ◆ Smt. Swaran Manjusha Hembram as Technical Assistant in Animal House, School of Life Sciences.
- ◆ Ms. Harshita Golani as Stenographer in Engineering Branch.

Retirements & Resignations

- ◆ Prof. R. K. Kale, School of Life Sciences.
- ◆ Dr. Rohan D'Souza, Assistant Professor in the Centre for Studies in Science Policy, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Shri Satvir Singh, Assistant Librarian, Central Library.

- ◆ Dr. Bishwanath Thakur, Documentation Officer, Centre for Russian, Central Asian Studies, School of International Studies.
- ◆ Shri Yogesh Kumar, Senior Assistant, Administration Branch – I.
- ◆ Shri Hrusikesh Das, Sr. Technical Assistant, Language Lab Complex, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies.
- ◆ Shri K. H. Subramaniam, Semi Professional Assistant, Central Library.
- ◆ Shri Nawal Kishore Rai, Wireman, Engineering Branch.
- ◆ Shri Ramesh Kumar, Plumber, Engineering Branch.
- ◆ Shri Dhani Ram, Driver, Engineering Branch.
- ◆ Shri Dharwan Singh, Security Guard, Security Branch.
- ◆ Shri Bhoj Raj, Security Guard, Security Branch.
- ◆ Shri Ram Gopal, Sanitary Guide, Brahmaputra Hostel.

Executive Council vide resolution No. 6.3 has constituted a Committee consisting of the following members to examine the possibility of Alumni involvement in governance of the University like membership of Executive Council, Academic Council and Board of Studies.

1. Prof. Prasenjit Sen, Rector-II – Chairperson
2. Prof. B.C. Tripathy, Dean, SLS – Member
3. Prof. G. Mohan Gopal, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Contemporary Studies, New Delhi – Member

AAJ- EC Election: 2014-16

The following candidates have been declared elected for a period of two year (2014-16) for various posts:

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. | Prof. Devendra Choubey | - | President |
| 2. | Mr. Rajesh Kumar | - | Vice President |
| 3. | Mr. Pranav Kumar | - | General Secretary |
| 4. | Prof. Meeta Narain | - | Joint Secretary |
| 5. | Dr. M. M. Kunju | - | Treasurer |

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|---|------------|
| 6. | Prof. D. K. Lobiyal | - | EC Members |
| 7. | Mr. Praveen Kumar Verma | - | EC Members |
| 8. | Dr. Ganpat Teli | - | EC Members |
| 9. | Dr. Anisur Rahman | - | EC Members |
| 10. | Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jha | - | EC Members |
| 11. | Mr. T. Ranganathan | - | EC Members |

JNU Officers' Association

The JNU Officer's Association is a recognized association of Jawaharlal Nehru University comprising of all Group – A Officers of the University.

As per its constitution, the members of the Association elect five Office Bearers, five EC members and two GSCASH

members (one male and one female) for the tenure of one year. The main aim and objectives of the Association are to protect the democratic rights and to promote the interest of its members in particular and that of University community in general.

Movements & Appointments

The following officer bearers, EC members and GSCASH Representatives have been elected for tenure of one year with effect from 17 April, 2015:

Mr. Jagdish Vidyarthi	- President
Mr. Shankar Dhar	- General Secretary
Mr. S. C. Sharma	- Vice – President
Mr. B. S. Rawat	- Joint Secretary
Mr. Mohd. Tariq	- Treasurer
Executive Committee Members	- Mr. Satyendra Kumar, Mr. Manoj Kumar Manuj, Mr. Ravi Kant Sinha, Dr. Sajjan Singh and Mr. S. K. Panigrahi

GSCASH Representatives - Dr. Manorama Tripathi & Mr. Dharam Pal

The Office of the Association is located near the Railway Reservation office in JNU. The telephone number of the Association's office is 011-26738736 and email address is jnuo.jnu@gmail.com. The JNUOA is also affiliated with the national bodies representing the Central University/ Universities and Colleges like All India Universities Officer's Association/Confederation. All associations of other Universities/academic institutions and JNU community are welcomed to JNU community are welcomed to JNU Officers' Association.

With full cooperation of its members, the JNU Officers' Association has been working relentlessly for the welfare of its members as well as for the prosperity and development of the University since its inception.

Achievements/Awards

JNU Sociology Department makes it to global top 100 lists

The QS World University Ranking by Subject 2015 recently published, India has secured 107 places across the 36 subject tables, including the six new disciplines for 2015 architecture, arts and design, business studies, dentistry, development studies and veterinary science. JNU sociology department, namely, the Centre for the Study of Social Systems has been ranked under top 100 sociology departments in the world and the best in the country.



- ◆ **Prof. Jayati Ghosh**, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, selected to receive the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award for Distinguished Contributions to Development Studies for 2015. The award will be presented on 21 November, 2015.



- ◆ **Dr. Nandita Saikia**, Assistant Professor, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences has been invited to serve as a member of the International Union for Scientific Study of Population's Scientific Panel on Lifespan extension with Varying cause of death Trajectories. The IUSSP is the most established worldwide body of demography and Population studies since 1928.



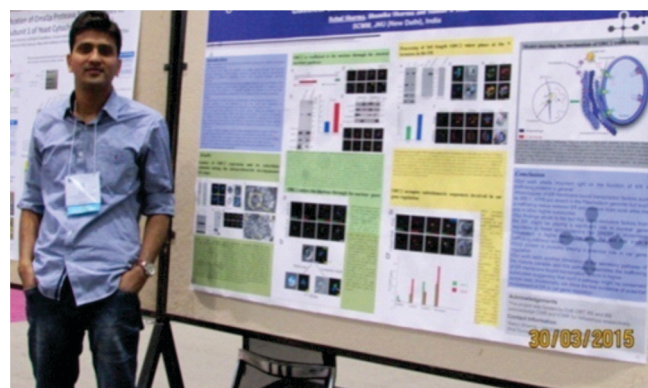
- ◆ **Dr. Vijay Pal Yadav**, Assistant Professor, SES has been selected as one of the founder members of Indian National Young Academy of Science (IN-YAS) for a period of five year (up to 31 Dec. 2019). Dr. Yadav has also been nominated as one of the member of the core committee of IN-YAS.

Achievements/Awards

Rahul Sharma receives the prestigious ASBMB Graduate/Postdoctoral travel 2015

Rahul Sharma, a PhD student at the Special Centre for Molecular Medicine, JNU has recently received a prestigious travel award from the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) worth 1000USD.

This award was given to him to attend an international conference called Experimental Biology - 2015 which was recently held at Boston (USA). This honour was given to him on the basis of his scientific project "Identification of a novel trafficking pathway exporting protein to the nucleus via classical secretory pathway in *Plasmodium falciparum*". In this work, Rahul has discovered a unique trafficking pathway in the malarial parasite where he has shown that a protein can also be constitutively trafficked to the nucleus from the Endoplasmic reticulum/Golgi secretory pathway. This award



made him a part of ASBMB's professional development program where he was able to network with some of the finest scientists from around the world. These networking and other scientific sessions immensely benefitted Rahul.

Campus Activities

Arabic Club of CAAS presents the Arabic Play 'The Boat of Development'

The Cultural Wing of the Arabic Club of Centre of Arabic and African Studies (CAAS/ SLL&CS) staged a play in Arabic language (The Boat of Development) on 11 March, 2015, at the Auditorium 1 of the JNU Convention Centre. A large number of audience enjoyed the evening with some of the guests coming from some other universities of the country. The play and the actors received huge appreciation from none other than the famous Egyptian scenarist and film director and director of the National Center for Film Production in Egypt Mr. Mohammad Abdul Aziz Al- Fatuh, who was the chief guest on the occasion. It all began with the introductory remarks by the Chairperson of the Centre (CAAS), Prof. Mujeebur Rahman who welcomed the guests and highlighted the day's event. He drew audience's attention to the importance of staging such a cultural program. The general secretary of the Arabic Club at the Centre, Mohammad Salim, a Research Scholar, gave a brief account of the Arabic Club (Al- Nadi Al- Arabi) its different wings, their goals and ambitions for the future. He thanked the teachers at the Centre for their relentless efforts to help the students grow and develop and especially the chairperson of the centre Prof. Mujeebur Rahman who brought the idea of establishing a students' club at the centre to fruition. Later, Miss Anjali Sharma, a performer in the play gave a brief introduction about the play which was followed by presentation of the play which lasted 40 minutes.

The play, The Boat of Development, (Safinanatul Izdihar) gave its message loud and clear; No country can truly develop without removing the dangerous barriers of fascism, caste discrimination, communalism, socio-economic inequalities and intolerance. The script, direction and music and sound were all done by the students themselves. Noteworthy in the play is the fact that almost half of the actors knew no Arabic but the delivery of dialogue in Arabic was impeccable and flawless. The play received huge rounds of applause from the audience. At the end of the play, Mahmood Asim, a research scholar of the Centre and assistant director of the play introduced the group and its actors.

It is to be noted here that the same group presented the play at the National Arabic Theater Festival held in Chennai at the beginning of March, 2015 received critical appreciation from the judges consisting of known film actors and directors from the film Industries in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

The chief guest of the occasion Egyptian Scenarist and Film Director Abdul Azizi Fatuh highly appreciated the performance of the actors. He said that he felt as if he was in an Arab country watching an Arabic play. He also spoke about the huge popularity of Indian films in Egypt.

Campus Activities

Later, former Dean of SLL&CS and senior Professor at the Centre (CAAS), Prof. M.A. Islahi, expressed his happiness and encouraged students to continue such programs in future. Prof. Basheer Ahmad Jamali and Dr. Qutbuddin of the Centre applauded the efforts put in by the centre chairperson to conduct such kind of cultural events. Notable among the audience were the Cultural Counselor Embassy of Egypt Prof.

A.M.A. Abdur Rahman, professors from other universities and a large number of students and research scholars from JNU and beyond.

**Mohammad Salim (Ph.D.) &
Mahmood Asim (M.Phil.)**
Centre of Arabic and African Studies, SLL&CS

लोगों की व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता और अधिकारों का पूर्ण ज्ञान होना चाहिए

जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय में इन्स्टीट्यूट ऑफ सोसाईटी फॉर सोशल रीफॉर्म्स (ISSR) के अन्तर्गत "जीने का अधिकार और व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता" (Right to Life and Personal Liberty) के शीर्षक से एक सिम्पोजियम का आयोजन किया गया जिसकी अध्यक्षता प्लानिंग कमीशन ऑफ इंडिया के पूर्व सदस्य डॉ. सय्यदा हमीद एवं दिल्ली अल्पसंख्यक कमीशन के पूर्व चेयरमैन कमाल फारूकी और प्रसिद्ध अधिवक्ता जे.एच.जाफरी ने विचार व्यक्त किया। प्रोग्राम के आरंभ में डॉ. सय्यदा हमीद ने कहा कि देश के रहने वाले आम लोगों को अपनी व्यक्तिगत आजादी और अपने अधिकारों के बारे में ज्ञान न होने की वजह से अक्सर लोगों को परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ा है, इसलिए ये जरूरी है कि लोगों को अपनी व्यक्तिगत आजादी और अधिकारों के बारे में पूर्ण जानकारी होनी चाहिए। डॉ. हमीद ने इस सोसाईटी के काम की तारीफ करते हुए सोसाईटी के कन्वीनर मि. मंसूर आलम को इस मानक कार्यक्रम के आयोजन पर मुबारक बाद पेश की और कहा कि यह एक ऐसा शीर्षक है जिस पर सेमिनार सिम्पोजियम और कॉन्फ्रेंस के अलावा एक आंदोलन चलाने की आवश्यकता है।

मि. कमाल फारूकी ने स्टील अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया की तारीफ करते हुए कहा कि सेल (SAIL) ने इस तरह के बेहतर और कारगर प्रोग्राम को आयोजित करने में अपना सहयोग प्रदान किया जो प्रशंसा के योग्य है। उन्होंने हाशिमपुरा कल्लेआम का मामला उठाते हुए कहा कि दो दहाई तक मजलूमों ने अदालत से इंसाफ की उम्मीद लगाए रखी लेकिन इनके हिस्से में क्या आया?



सुप्रीम कोर्ट के सुप्रसिद्ध वकील जे.एच. जाफरी ने विस्तृत बातचीत करते हुए खेद व्यक्त किया कि लोगों को जीने के अधिकार और व्यक्तिगत आजादी से कोई दिलचस्पी नहीं है जब कि अक्सर लोग इस अज्ञानता के कारण परेशानियों में मुक्ता हो जाते हैं।

प्रोग्राम का संचालन मुजाहिद असरफ ने किया। इस अवसर पर बड़ी संख्या में छात्र-छात्राएँ एवं अध्यापकों के साथ-साथ सोसाईटी के अन्य सदस्य मु. फिरोज़ अन्सारी, शुभम कुमार, मेहरे आलम, इश्तियाक अहमद, मो. साजिद, अब्दुल रहमान, राफे, कमाल सोनू कुमार इत्यादि भी उपस्थित थे।

**मनसूर आलम
पीएच.डी. स्कालर
भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र**

CAAS organizes Second Shah Waliullah Memorial Lecture on 18 March, 2015

The Second Shah Waliullah Dehlavi Special Memorial Lectures were held on 18 March, 2015. Prof. Obaidullah Fahad, Department of Islamic Studies, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, delivered his lecture on "Contemporary Relevance and Significance of Shah Waliullah Dehlavi". In his lecture he elaborated on the significance of Shah Waliullah Dehlavi's thought in the present times. Shah Waliullah Dehlavi, a towering intellectual, writer, philosopher in the 18th Century

India has been a source of inspiration for most of the intellectual and religious fermentation that has taken place during the 19th and 20th centuries in India. He clearly spelt out that today Muslims need his ideas and wisdom for their upliftment more than anybody else. The second speaker on the occasion H.E. Ahmad Mohammad Ahmad Abdur Rahman, Cultural Councilor and Director of Cultural Bureau, Egypt Embassy, delivered his lecture on "Media and intellectual

invasion". In his erudite lecture he spoke about how media is invading the mindscape of the people and changing the perceptions through their sheer force and penetration. He said that media is very powerful today and is a double-edged weapon. Media should serve the society and should not be sued as weapon by the rulers and the media houses for their petty gains. The lectures were organized with funding from the university.

On this occasion the second issue of the Annual Refereed Journal of the Center "Arabic Studies" was released by the Dean of the School Prof. Vaishna Narang, Former Dean, Prof. M.A. Islahi, and the two sparkers. Dean Prof. Narang in her speech appreciated the activities of the centre.

Mujeeb Rahman
Associate Professor

Centre of Arabic and African Studies, SLL&CS

संतगुरु रविदास पर दो दिवसीय अंतर्विषयक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी का आयोजन

विगत दो-तीन दशकों में आए सामाजिक और राजनीतिक परिवर्तनों ने विचार और चिंतन की प्रक्रिया को बदला है। विशेष रूप से सामाजिक अस्मिता से सम्बन्धित प्रश्नों ने आलोचना के संसार को गहराई से प्रभावित किया है और हाशिये के समाज से उन जुड़े प्रश्नों पर विचार और संवाद करने के लिए, जो अभी तक बहस के दायरे से ओझल रहे हैं, अध्येताओं, आलोचकों और विचारकों को आकर्षित किया है। आलोचना और साहित्य की दुनिया में आए इन बदलावों के परिणामस्वरूप साहित्य का नए सिरे से मूल्यांकन होने लगा है। इससे भक्ति साहित्य भी अछूता नहीं है। इस कारण कबीर, रविदास आदि के व्यक्तित्व और कृतित्व से जुड़े नए आयाम सामने आये हैं। ये बातें 23 से 24 मार्च, 2015 तक भारतीय भाषा केंद्र की ओर से आयोजित हुई दो दिवसीय संत रविदास जी पर केन्द्रित अंतर्विषयक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी में उभरकर आईं।

संगोष्ठी का उद्घाटन करते हुए सुलभ इंटरनेशनल के संस्थापक और समाजशास्त्री डॉ. विन्देश्वर पाठक ने कहा कि संत रविदास ने जाति की अपेक्षा कर्म को प्रधानता दी और यह भी बतलाया कि निम्न जाति में जन्म लेने वाला मनुष्य उच्च जाति में जन्म लेने वाले मनुष्य से किसी भी दृष्टि में कमतर नहीं है। इसलिए रविदास ने जहाँ एक ओर जातिवाद का कड़े शब्दों में खंडन किया, तो वहीं दूसरी ओर अपने पेशे और जाति का उल्लेख करने में किसी भी तरह का संकोच नहीं किया। राजीव गांधी केन्द्रीय जनजाति विश्वविद्यालय, अमरकंटक के कुलपति प्रो. टी. वी. कट्टीमनी ने संत रविदास की रचनाओं का विश्लेषण जातिप्रथा उन्मूलन के सन्दर्भ में किया। उन्होंने बतलाया कि रविदास हमें बताते हैं कि जब तक समाज का कोई भी वर्ग भेदभाव का शिकार रहेगा, तब तक हम समतामूलक समाज के स्वप्न को यथार्थ में नहीं बदल सकते हैं और न ही समाज में व्याप्त विद्रुपाताओं से छुटकारा पा सकते हैं।

समाजशास्त्री प्रो. विवेक कुमार ने भारतीय सामाजिक संरचना पर प्रकाश डालते हुए संत रविदास के महत्त्व का प्रतिपादन किया। उन्होंने बतलाया कि संत रविदास का संबंध समाज के साधनहीन वर्ग से था। अतः उनके द्वारा उत्पादित ज्ञान के सरोकार उच्च वर्ग के द्वारा सृजित किए गए ज्ञान से पूर्णतः भिन्न

थे। प्रोफेसर चौथीराम यादव ने निर्गुण आन्दोलन की उपादेयता के सन्दर्भ में संत रविदास की विशिष्टता को रेखांकित किया। उन्होंने बतलाया कि भक्ति आन्दोलन एक सामाजिक परिवर्तनकारी आन्दोलन था, जिसके अग्रदूत कबीर और रविदास थे। इन दोनों का सम्बन्ध बनारस से था।

दलित चिन्तक चन्द्रभान ने कहा कि हमें आज भी बेगमपुरा की संकल्पना बहुत आकर्षित करती है। कारण यह है कि इसमें ऊँच-नीच, जातिवाद, वर्ण व्यवस्था का अभाव है। साथ ही सभी को आर्थिक स्तर पर भी बराबरी का अधिकार दिया गया है। उनका चिंतन किसी एक जाति, समुदाय और वर्ग के लिए नहीं था, बल्कि उसमें सम्पूर्ण विश्व की चिंता साफ झलकती है। उद्घाटन सत्र के अगले वक्ता सुनील सरदार थे। उन्होंने संगीतात्मक शैली में स्वरचित और गीतकार शैलेन्द्र के चुने हुए गीत प्रस्तुत किए और उन गीतों के माध्यम से ही संत रविदास की प्रासंगिकता के विषय में समझाया। उन्होंने कहा कि संत रविदास जिस बेगमपुरा का आदर्श प्रस्तुत कर रहे थे, वह प्रेम की नींव पर आधारित था।

सत्र की अध्यक्षता भाषा, साहित्य और संस्कृति अध्ययन संस्थान की अधिष्ठाता प्रो. वैष्णा नारंग ने की। उन्होंने कहा कि संतगुरु रविदास का समय अनेक प्रकार की विषमताओं में उलझा हुआ था। उस समय चारों तरफ वर्ण-व्यवस्था, जाति-पाँति, ऊँच-नीच का बोलबाला था। परिणामतः निम्न वर्ग के लोग सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक एवं आर्थिक रूप से हाशिए पर रहने को मजबूर थे। संत रविदास ने समाज में फैले शोषण, भेदभाव और आडम्बर का विरोध करते हुए लोगों को एहसास कराया कि जब सभी मनुष्य एक ईश्वर से उत्पन्न हुए हैं, तब किसी मनुष्य को जन्म के आधार पर श्रेष्ठ और किसी को निम्न कैसे कहा जा सकता है?

धन्यवाद ज्ञापित करते हुए प्रो. देवेन्द्र कुमार चौबे ने कहा कि संत रविदास का दर्शन सभी प्रकार के पूर्वाग्रहों और संकीर्णताओं से पूर्णतः मुक्त है। आज अधिकांश समस्याओं का समाधान इसलिए नहीं हो पा रहा है, क्योंकि अधिकतर व्यक्ति सामाजिक प्रगति के साथ अपनी सोच बदल नहीं पाते हैं और पूर्वाग्रहों के कारण

Campus Activities

उत्पन्न होने वाले मतभेदों के चलते एक-दूसरे के परस्पर विरोधी बन जाते हैं। उन्होंने कार्यक्रम में आए अतिथियों का भारतीय भाषा केंद्र की ओर से धन्यवाद भी दिया। इस संगोष्ठी में उद्घाटन सत्र के अलावा आठ तकनीकी सत्र भी आयोजित किये गए, जिनके माध्यम से संगोष्ठी के प्रस्तावित 22 से अधिक विषयों पर देश-विदेश से आए लगभग 400 प्रतिभागियों ने अपने

शोध-पत्रों का वाचन किया। साथ ही सत्रों में उपस्थित श्रोताओं ने वक्ताओं से प्रश्न भी पूछे। इस संगोष्ठी में छात्रों ने बड़ी संख्या में भागीदारी की।

दीप कुमार मित्तल
भारतीय भाषा केंद्र

उर्दू की हिफाजत हम सब की जिम्मेदारी



जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय में सरकारी व गैर-सरकारी विभागों में उर्दू के इस्तेमाल के संभावनाओं एवं कार्यक्षेत्र के शीर्षक पर गोष्ठी (सिम्पोजियम) का आयोजन।

जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय के स्कूल ऑफ लैंग्वेज एण्ड कल्चर स्टडीज-1 बिल्डिंग के कमेटी रूम में इन्टेलेक्चुअल सोसाइटी फॉर सोशल रिफॉर्मर्स (ISSR) के अन्तर्गत “सरकारी व गैर-सरकारी विभागों में उर्दू के इस्तेमाल के इमकानात व मवाके” के शीर्षक से एक गोष्ठी (सिम्पोजियम) का आयोजन किया गया। इस अवसर पर विशेष अतिथि और अल्पसंख्यक भाषा विज्ञान के कमिशनर प्रो. अख्तरुल्लाह वासे ने अपने विचारों को व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि उर्दू से हमारा सांस्कृतिक संबंध है। इसकी हिफाजत हमें खुद करनी है। सरकारी विभागों में उर्दू के प्रगति के संभावनाओं पर बातचीत करते हुए उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि आप चाहेंगे तो जरूर उर्दू अनुवादक रखे जाएंगे परन्तु इसके लिए हमें ईमानदारी से अपना दायित्व निभाना होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि भूतकाल में उर्दू अनुवादक रखे गये थे किन्तु काम न होने के कारण इनसे उर्दू के बजाय दूसरा कार्य लिया गया। इसलिए आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि हम सरकारी व गैर-सरकारी कार्यालयों में उर्दू में आवेदन दें क्योंकि ये हमारा अधिकार है। उन्होंने खेद व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि हमारे अन्दर

कमी है कि हम अधिकार के लिए खुद नहीं लड़ते हैं बल्कि हम अपने दायित्व दूसरों पर डाल देते हैं। उन्होंने आगे यह भी कहा कि उर्दू के विकास के लिए हमें वैश्विक बनने के बजाए ज़मीनी बनना होगा, इसके लिए आवश्यकता है कि हम ज़मीनी सतह पर उर्दू के विकास के लिए कार्य करें।

इस अवसर पर गेस्ट ऑफ ऑनर और भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र के वर्तमान चेयरमैन प्रो. एस. एम. अनवर आलम (अनवर पाशा) ने कहा कि संस्कृत को हुकूमत की सहायता प्राप्त है और इसके बावजूद भी यह भाषा विकास नहीं कर पा रही है, इसकी प्राथमिक समस्या यह है कि ये आवामी सतह पर लोकप्रिय नहीं है। अगर उर्दू को बाकी रखना है तो सरकारी सतह के साथ-साथ सांस्कृतिक सतह पर भी कार्य करना होगा। इन्होंने आगे कहा कि उर्दू हमारी सांस्कृतिक और धर्मनिरपेक्ष मान्यता की पहचान है। हमें इसे बचाने के लिए आगे आना होगा और उर्दू की लड़ाई हमें खुद लड़नी होगी। इन्होंने यह भी कहा कि हम अपने भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र में भी अब आवेदन उर्दू में मंजूर करेंगे।

इस से पूर्व सोसाइटी फॉर सोशल रिफॉर्मर्स (ISSR) के कनवीनर श्री मंसूर आलम ने सोसाइटी का परिचय कराते हुए उर्दू के अधिकार के लिए सबको एक जुट होकर सरकार से अधिकार दिलाने की बात कही है। प्रोग्राम के अन्त में उपस्थित सभी अतिथियों एवं श्रोताओं का शुक्रिया अदा किया। इस अवसर पर सोसाइटी के सदस्य मेहरे आलम, मु. फिरोज अन्सारी, इश्तियाक अहमद, शुभम कुमार, एहसान तैय्मी, मो. साजिद, अब्दुल रहीम, प्रतीक कुमार सिन्हा, अब्दुल रहमान और मोजाहिद असरफ के साथ-साथ अधिक संख्या में शोध छात्र-छात्राएँ एवं शिक्षक इत्यादि उपस्थित थे।

मनसूर आलम
पीएच.डी. स्कालर
भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र

Renowned Scientist Prof. Govindjee's visit to School of Biotechnology

Govindjee, Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois, USA, was invited by the School of Biotechnology (SBT), JNU, as a Visiting Scientist for three months during the winter semester. Prof.

Govindjee is a world famous scientist who has devoted many decades to teaching and popularizing the area of photosynthesis across the globe and is popularly known as

Campus Activities

'Mr. Photosynthesis'. Prof. Govindjee has a long time association with JNU as he was the thesis advisor of Late Prof. Prasanna Mohanty of the School of Life Sciences (SLS) and has visited JNU on many occasions, both formal and informal. SBT is initiating a Master's course in Plant Biotechnology. Therefore, to have a short course on photosynthesis by none other than Prof. Govindjee was considered to be an essential first step for our students. During his stay at JNU, Prof. Govindjee taught the basics of photosynthesis to M. Sc. students from both SBT and the School of Life Sciences (SLS). His unique style, enthusiasm, breadth of knowledge and dedication earned him the affection and respect from the students who flocked around him at all times. He freely gave his time to students and also donated several books to the school libraries of both SBT and School of Life Sciences (SLS). His non-conventional style of teaching outside the classroom in the form of a drama on the Z-scheme of photosynthesis, performed by M. Sc. students, helped them understand the electron transport processes in photosynthesis in an interactive way. With this kind of approach, he ensured that the students do not easily forget this complicated pathway and understand the intricacies and complexity of the electron transport and how herbicides inhibit this process. Apart from this, he asked students to make presentations on any area of photosynthesis and provided his constructive comments and criticism to each student in a way that was a lesson in the art of positive criticism to many.

In addition to his classes on photosynthesis, he taught English writing skills. While these classes were primarily for Pre-Ph.D students, Ph.D and M. Sc. students also attended these



lectures. His vast experience as author and editor of many books and papers clearly showed in his lectures and also benefited the faculty who attended these lectures.

Prof. Govindjee has a keen interest in the history of science and he is the Editor of the 'historical corner' of the international peer-reviewed journal 'Photosynthesis Research'. He uses this interest very effectively in his lectures by weaving seamlessly stories and personal anecdotes about many famous scientists in the field, thus making his lectures extremely interesting even for those not working in the area of photosynthesis. Govindjee's use of props and drama as a teaching tool makes a lasting impression on students. His generosity, humility and friendliness was evident during the lunch he hosted for his class. The event was attended and enjoyed by students and faculty of SBT and SLS, JNU.

Swati Tiwari
School of Biotechnology

First International Yoga Day

Keeping in view the importance of Yoga in today's life, Yoga Kendra was set up in Jawaharlal Nehru University on 5 February, 1999. Practicing Yoga in the Yoga Kendra is a voluntary regular routine for JNUites under the able guidance and instruction of Dr. Ajay Shastri and it has already become part of everyday life. The University had organized the following two programmes on the occasion of First International Yoga Day:

On the occasion of First International Yoga Day, a 5-day special camp (entitled: Tanaav Mukta Jeevan Yog ke Saath) was organized in JNU Yoga Kendra from 15 to 19 June, 2015. In which, around 200 participants from different age groups, including students, faculty, staff and residents enthusiastically participated. They practiced various Yoga asanaas, pranayam, banda, etc. under the supervision of Dr. Ajay Shastri, Yoga Teacher, to make their life pleasant with stress free mind and healthy body. On the concluding day, the certificates were

distributed to the participants by Prof. Sudha Pai, Rector of the University.

Another one hour special programme was organized by the Dr. K.B. Usha, Programme Coordinator, National Service Scheme in association with the JNU Yoga Kendra to celebrate First International Yoga Day on 21 June, 2015. The theme of the programme was "Yoga for Health and Well Being". More than 100 persons including children, staff, faculty, students and other members of JNU community participated in the session. This session was followed by a tree plantation drive led by Prof. B.C. Tripathi, Dean, School of Life Sciences and followed by an exhibition of paintings and posters made by the children of the campus on the occasion of World Environment Day held on 5 June, 2015 for promoting awareness regarding conservation and protection of our environment.

**Dr. K.B. Usha, Coordinator, NSS &
Dr. Ajay Kumar Shastri, Yoga Teacher**

जेएनयू में परायापन प्रतीत नहीं होता



जेएनयू परिसर में 'मदान केमिस्ट' का नाम किसी के लिए भी अपरिचित नहीं है। यह हमारे विश्वविद्यालय की दवाईयों की एकमात्र दुकान है। इसके संचालक **लक्ष्मीनारायण दुआ** ने जेएनयू को पिछले चार दशक में निकट से देखा है।

इस अंक में हम उनके द्वारा जेएनयू में गुजारे गए दिनों के विषय में जानने की कोशिश करेंगे। हमारे लिए उनसे यह बातचीत की है **दीप कुमार मित्तल** ने।

प्रश्न : आपका जेएनयू में सफर कब और कैसे शुरू हुआ?

लक्ष्मीनारायण दुआ : जेएनयू में मेरी यह दुकान सितम्बर 1975 में खुली उससे पहले मैं लाजपत नगर में अपने अंकल की दुकान पर काम करता था। वहाँ हमें जेएनयू के एक कर्मचारी से ज्ञात हुआ कि जेएनयू में मेडीकल की दुकान खाली है। आप वहाँ आवेदन कर सकते हैं। उसके बाद मुझे यह दुकान आवंटित हो गई और तब से मैं जेएनयू से जुड़ा हुआ हूँ। जब हमने यह दुकान शुरू की तब मैं 21 वर्ष का था। उस समय यहाँ पर तीन-चार दुकानें और थीं। ये चालीस साल पुरानी बातें हैं। उस समय विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में छात्र, शिक्षक और कर्मचारियों की अपेक्षा अधिक थे।

प्रश्न : जेएनयू के बारे में आप कुछ बताएँ?

लक्ष्मीनारायण दुआ : देखिए, जेएनयू की अपनी दुनिया है। यहाँ कोई भी व्यक्ति यहाँ के जीवन से अलग नहीं रह सकता है। मैंने यहाँ दुकान भले ही दवाईयों की खोली थी, लेकिन शुरुआत में दुकान का स्वरूप बहुत कुछ भिन्न था। उस समय दुकान का समय शाम को 5-9 के मध्य था और उस समय छात्र हमसे दवाईयों के अलावा रोजमर्रा की आवश्यक वस्तुएं जैसे— बिस्कुट, नमकीन, दूध, साबुन, बल्ब आदि भी मंगवाते थे। यह सिलसिला 78 तक चला उसके बाद कर्मचारियों और छात्रों के आग्रह के कारण मैं सुबह और शाम दुकान खोलने लगा और छात्रों के लिए आवश्यक वस्तुओं की आपूर्ति करने लगा। इसके बाद जेएनयू में दो साल के लिए यहाँ 'जीरो ईयर' घोषित हो गया। ये दो साल पूरी तरह बोरियत से भरे थे। उस समय यहाँ से छात्र घर चले गए थे। इस प्रकार मैं काफी वर्षों तक दवाईयों के अतिरिक्त छात्रों के उपयोग में आनेवाली वस्तुएं बेचता रहा। जैसे-जैसे यहाँ दूसरी दुकानें खुलती गईं वैसे-वैसे हमने उन वस्तुओं की आपूर्ति करना बंद कर दिया। तो आप कह सकते हैं कि जेएनयू में मेरी भूमिका केवल एक दवाई विक्रेता की ही नहीं रही है। इतने वर्षों में मैंने देखा है कि यहाँ के छात्र आम-आदमी के साथ भी सम्मानजनक व्यवहार करते हैं।

प्रश्न : जेएनयू की सबसे बड़ी विशेषता क्या है जिसे आप बताना चाहेंगे ?

लक्ष्मीनारायण दुआ : जेएनयू की सबसे बड़ी विशेषता है कि यहाँ आपको परायापन प्रतीत नहीं होता है। यहाँ छात्र, शिक्षक, कर्मचारी और विक्रेता आपस में एक-दूसरे से अलग-थलग नहीं रहते हैं और न ही उनके मध्य कोई कृत्रिम विभाजन होता है। हम सभी यहाँ एक परिवार की तरह रहते हैं। इस विषय में आपको एक संस्मरण सुनाना चाहूंगा। यह बात लगभग 38 पुरानी है। उस समय मेरे सिर में दर्द होता था, मैंने इसका काफी उपचार करवाया, लेकिन मुझे कोई विशेष लाभ नहीं हुआ। एक दिन यह बात मैंने प्रो. मुनीस रजा को बतलाई। उन्होंने मुझे अपने घर बुलाया और अपने बेटे से मिलवाया। जो एम्स में चिकित्सक थे। मेरी बात सुनकर उनके बेटे ने मुझे एम्स बुलाया और विभिन्न जाँच करने के बाद बोले कि मुझे लगता है आपका यह दर्द दांतों के कारण होता है। लेकिन मुझे थोड़ा संदेह है। इसलिए वरिष्ठ चिकित्सक से सलाह लेनी पड़ेगी। उसके बाद वे मुझे वरिष्ठ चिकित्सक के पास लेकर गए, उसने भी यही रोग बतलाया। फिर मुझे वे ही दंत विशेषज्ञ के पास लेकर गए और उपचार के बाद मेरा सिर दर्द खत्म हो गया और फिर कभी भी नहीं हुआ। इस उदाहरण से हम समझ सकते हैं कि जेएनयू परिवार का अर्थ क्या है।

जेएनयू से जुड़े हुए मुझे 40 वर्ष बीत चुके हैं, लेकिन मेरे मन में किसी भी छात्र, कर्मचारी के प्रति कोई शिकवा नहीं है। छात्रों और कर्मचारियों का मुझे भरपूर सहयोग मिला। यही कारण है कि मुझे दूसरे स्थानों पर भी दुकान खोलने के ऑफर मिले लेकिन मैं जेएनयू छोड़ने में असमर्थ रहा।

प्रश्न : अब आपको जेएनयू कैसा लगता है?

लक्ष्मीनारायण दुआ : आज मैं 60 वर्ष का हो गया हूँ और जब यहाँ आया था, तब मेरी आयु 21 वर्ष की थी। उस समय छात्र मुझे भैया कहकर संबोधित करते थे और आज मुझे अंकल कहकर बुलाते हैं। इस तरह मैंने 'भैया' से 'अंकल' तक का दौर जेएनयू में देखा है। इन वर्षों में जेएनयू में काफी कुछ बदला है। आज पहले की तुलना में छात्रों की संख्या बहुत अधिक है। आज के छात्रों में सहनशक्ति का अभाव दिखाई देता है। अब सभी छात्रों को पहचान पाना संभव नहीं है पुराना स्टाफ अब लगभग रिटायर्ड हो चुका है। इसके साथ ही कुछ समस्याओं की ओर आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा। केसी शोपिंग काम्प्लेक्स में जन सुविधाओं का नितांत अभाव है। पानी तक की व्यवस्था नहीं है। यहाँ पर छात्र बड़ी संख्या में धूम्रपान करते हैं। इससे यहाँ कार्य करने वाले लोगों को समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ता है। इनके समाधान के लिए भी जेएनयू प्रशासन को कदम उठाने चाहिए। इन सब के बावजूद जेएनयू देश का प्रतिष्ठित विश्वविद्यालय है।

Training Workshop on 'Molecular Biology Techniques in Health & Medical Sciences'

Special Centre for Molecular Medicine (SCMM) has been in the forefront in training young scientists, clinical and non-clinical, who wish to either pursue careers in basic medical research or spend short periods in research during their clinical training. To expand the endeavour in this direction, a workshop on “Molecular Biology Techniques in Health & Medical sciences” was organized during 11 – 12 February, 2015 at SCMM to give a hands-on-training in the state of the art Molecular/Cell Biology techniques relevant to the areas of Molecular Medicine.

Out of a total of 170 applicants, ten applicants were selected. These candidates were from Medical Sciences background (MBBS/MD/MVSc). The areas covered for the training in this workshop included i) Use of Next Generation Sequencing (NGS), ii) PCR Techniques, iii) Fluorescence Microscopy and Confocal Microscopy in health and diseases.

The workshop was held over a period of two days at SCMM. The first day was dedicated to the NGS, its application and data analysis with major emphasis on human health and diseases. The lectures were delivered by scientists from Thermo Fisher

Scientific, Gurgaon. The second day was spent on hands on training and demonstration on PCR techniques and Fluorescence and Confocal Microscopy. These sessions were conducted by Prof. Suman K. Dhar and Prof. Rakesh K. Tyagi respectively.

After successful completion of the workshop training, certificates were given to all the trainees during the valedictory ceremony of the Sixth National Symposium on 'Frontiers in Molecular Medicine' that was organized by SCMM in continuation with the workshop on 13 – 14 February, 2015.

Overall, the feedback from the participants was very positive. The participants experienced a wonderful learning time during the training period at SCMM. They expressed their interest to participate in more such events in the near future. They were also interested to do collaborative research work with SCMM in future.

SCMM on its behalf acknowledged ICMR-CAR, UGC-SAP and Thermo Fisher Scientific for partial financial support for the event.

Suman K. Dhar, Professor
Special Centre for Molecular Medicine

Round Table Discussion on Unfolding Development Potential of North-East Region

The Centre for Studies in Science Policy (CSSP), in association with Ministry of Development of North East Region (DoNER), Government of India and the NGO Binning, organized a Round Table Discussion on “Unfolding Development Potential of North-East Region: Sustainability and Policy Perspectives” on 2 March, 2015 at JNU Convention Centre. In his welcome address Prof. S.K. Sopory, VC of JNU, informed the audience that purpose of this round table discussion was to keep abreast with research programmes carried out in the university specially focusing on North-East (NE) region. JNU has established the North East India Study Programme (NEISP) – a university level programme, which aims at developing multi-disciplinary perspective in understanding North East India and its neighbouring areas.

In this panel discussion, the panelists from different schools of JNU conveyed perspectives from the point of views of their respective schools. DoNER Joint Secretary A.M. Singh spoke about the future possibilities of NE region in terms of strengthening border and interstate trade, rural entrepreneurship, agricultural marketing, adventure and eco-tourism, and skills development of NE youths. He then informed the audience about the new initiatives of DoNER and other union ministries

operating in a matrix pattern in close collaboration with DoNER. He explored the possibilities of better border trade with neighbouring Southeast Asian countries, which is expected to be strengthened after establishing a successful regional integration paradigm led by Asian Development Bank and other intergovernmental agencies. Former Director NEISP Dr. Bhagat Oinam emphasized the need to change the security paradigm of development in NE and the welfare approach of development packages. He then highlighted needs for strengthening linkages between academia and practitioners in social and cultural studies areas. He also mentioned that there is disconnect between the academics and the government, which needs to be bridged and they should engage each other. Prof. V. V. Krishna of CSSP highlighted public policy perspectives of the region. He also noted that there is a need of documenting grassroots and frugal innovations, which are available in plenty in the region. He then mentioned that many CSSP research scholars are now working in interdisciplinary research documenting informal innovation systems in the region, and also other research studies related to science, technology and society. He then mentioned that a sustainability hub is established at CSSP and inputs from the region will be regularly taken. Prof. Milap

Seminars/Conferences

Punia of CSRD highlighted his experience in rolling out geospatial and geographic information systems in the region, while Prof. Ashwani Pareek of School of Life Sciences narrated his experience in conducting biological and environmental research studies and collecting field data from the region.

DoNER Minister Dr. Jitender Singh in his address welcomed the panelists and assured his fullest support in futuristic research on NE region and NE people engaging academics located in other parts of the country. He then mentioned that the academic potential of NE is under exploited, that is why DoNER Ministry will collaborate with JNU to support various academic research studies focusing on NE region. He also

assured his support in completion of JNU's NE hostel, which anyway gets support from DoNER Ministry. He reminded NE students studying in JNU: You should go back as JNU empowered youth, but not as a JNU brand, to serve the local communities and to empower them. The round table discussion concluded after a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Rajbeer Singh of CSSP. 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

Association of Borderlands Studies and Jawaharlal Nehru University Joint Round Table on “Border Studies in India”

The Round-Table conference was inaugurated with opening remarks by Chairperson of the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament (CIPOD), on 5 March, 2014. Prof. Swaran Singh welcoming the Association of Borderlands Studies (ABS) to the Centre and the School for an interaction with CIPOD students and faculty. This was followed by an introduction of (ABS) by the incumbent President of the ABS, Prof. Martin Van der Velde of the Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands. The President introduced the office-bearers accompanying him (Dr. Jussi Laine, Executive-Vice Secretary, ABS; Prof. Akihiro Iwashita, President Elect, ABS) and other members of the delegation including Prof. Paul Ganster, one of the founding members of the ABS from the San Diego State University, California. The President highlighted the presence of borders in both the political and social spheres of life as they manifest themselves through the lens of the state and society with ramifications for both of them. He argued that the Association's relevance for India and the wider sub-continent is immense as India shares its land and maritime boundaries with seven neighbouring countries and has border disputes with many of them ranging from proper demarcation to hard territorial disputes.

The first working session was chaired by Prof. Swaran Singh with the first speaker being Dr. Krishnendra Meena, Assistant Professor at CIPOD/SIS. Dr. Meena highlighted the importance of borders from the perspective of the borderlanders, a deviation from the norm of borders being looked at from the perspective of the state. His case study juxtaposed the state-centric view of the borders with narratives of three farmers whose agricultural landholdings are located across the fencing on the India-Pakistan border in western sector in two

states of India: Punjab and Rajasthan. The narratives were reflective of the dilemma being faced by these farmers who carry out their main occupation of agriculture at the interface of the two countries. On the one hand, the narratives relate to the everyday problems they face at the border and on the other, they demonstrate their allegiance to the country by arguing that the armed forces are present at the borders for the security and safety of their country. Dr. Jussi Laine of the University of Eastern Finland highlighted the evolving theoretical aspects of borders with respect to how borders are understood as multifaceted social institutions rather solely as formal political markers of sovereignty. The presentation shed light on the different areas of conceptual change that can be assumed to have concrete impacts on the ways borders both condition and are conditioned by different institutions and actors.

The second academic session features three speakers namely Prof. Akihiro Iwashita from Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan, Dr. Swargajyoti Gohain from Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kanpur and Ms. Shubhi Misra from CIPOD/SIS. The three papers presented were reflective of the diverse backgrounds of the presenters where in Prof. Iwashita highlighted the geopolitical salience of Borders in Eurasia with special focus on borders of Central Asia. The presentation also took stock of the emerging field of Border Studies in Japan. Dr. Gohain's sociological perspective added to the session with a focus on the Monyul region in West Arunachal Pradesh in India. She tried to show how military settlements as well as practices or renaming local place names map Monyul as Indian space, while marking it as discontinuous with cross-border circuits. Shubhi Misra brought to the session a popular

Seminars/Conferences

geopolitical perspective on borders to the proceedings with her focus on “Depiction of Borders from the Cinematic Lens”. The paper focused on how popular cinema addresses the geopolitical and geographical assumptions and notions vis-à-vis borders.

The Round Table conference came to a conclusion with a vote of thanks by the Seminar Convener Dr. Krishnendra Meena.

**Krishnendra Meena, Assistant Professor
Centre for International Politics,
Organisation & Disarmament, SIS**

National Seminar titled “Synergy Building in Indo-US Relations: Issues and Challenges in the Coming Decade”

A national seminar titled “Synergy Building in Indo-US Relations: Issues and Challenges in the Coming Decade” was organized by the Centre for Canadian, US & Latin American Studies, School of International Studies on 12 – 13 March, 2015 in Committee Hall – I, Convention Centre, JNU.

Indo – US relations have acquired a new momentum in the last few years. United States and India have moved from their historic estrangement to deep engagement. They have elevated their relations on all fronts and have explored bold initiatives in aviation, space, and energy cooperation. Economic cooperation too forms a significant area of growing bilateral ties.

In the past few years, relations between India and the United States have been carefully nurtured, with the expectation that this bilateral relationship has the potential to become one of the world's strategic pivots and improve prospects for global peace and prosperity. Such perceptions have been strengthened after the visits of Indian Prime Ministers to the US and the US Presidents to India. Joint statements have emphasized the priority India accords to the US which is perceived as a principal partner in the realization of India's rise as a responsible, influential world power. Equally important, the statements reveal how US recognized India's rise a friend and partner is in US interest. Vision statements for strategic partnership have not only provided a roadmap to strengthen and deepen

cooperation but they also show a commitment to take the relationship forward despite difficulties and divergences that might arise.

The objective of this Conference is to assess how much continuity and change will characterize the strategic partnership of US and India based on the logic of an increased Indian engagement with the world that is bound to grow as India actively pursues its interests in the world.

The Conference aims to probe the emergent political equations between Washington and Delhi in order to understand the imperatives and constraints that propel the US and India towards wider and deeper cooperation and provide policy inputs. It aims at exploring how this multi-faceted strategic partnership tackles the issue of converging or diverging strategic and economic interests, given the remarkable expansion and growth of the bilateral relationship since the inaugural Strategic Dialogue in 2010.

This Conference is an initiative to bring together experts from academia, think tanks and practitioners, in order to discuss the emerging nuances of a rapidly maturing strategic partnership of global dimensions between the US and India.

**K.P. Vijayalakshmi, Professor
Centre for Canadian,
US & Latin American Studies, SIS**

‘समकालीन हिन्दी उपन्यास: सह—चिंतन’ विषय पर ज.ने.वि., नई दिल्ली में राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी

भारतीय भाषा केंद्र, ज.ने.वि., नई दिल्ली की ओर से प्रो. ओमप्रकाश सिंह के संयोजन में आयोजित दो-दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी ‘समकालीन हिन्दी उपन्यास: सह—चिंतन’ (1990–2014) का दिनांक 13 मार्च 2015 को सफलतापूर्वक शुभारंभ हुआ। कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत में अतिथियों का स्वागत करते हुए प्रो.ओमप्रकाश सिंह ने इस संगोष्ठी की पूरी परिकल्पना स्पष्ट की। इसके पश्चात प्रो.नामवर सिंह ने अपना उद्घाटन वक्तव्य दिया। बहस के लिए समय सीमा निर्धारित करने और उपन्यासों

का विधिवत चुनाव करने के लिए उन्होंने आयोजकों को बधाई दी। उपन्यास के क्षेत्र में नए प्रयोग के लिए उन्होंने तीन उपन्यासकारों— विनोद कुमार शुक्ल, सुरेन्द्र वर्मा, मनोहर श्याम जोशी को अपने वक्तव्य में महत्व दिया। कार्यक्रम के विशिष्ट अतिथि थे— श्री अशोक वाजपेयी, जिन्होंने उपन्यास विधा के बारे में पश्चिम के विद्वानों की दृष्टि पर विचार किया। इसके अतिरिक्त उद्घाटन सत्र में चर्चित कवि केंदारनाथ सिंह ने विभिन्न वादों पर अपना मत रखा। प्रो. अजय तिवारी ने समकालीन उपन्यास

Seminars/Conferences

को समझने के दो प्रमुख आयामों— सोवियत संघ के विघटन और भूमंडलीकरण के संदर्भ में अपनी बात रखी और प्रो.रामबक्ष ने उपन्यास विधा के समक्ष आए संकटों पर चिंता जाहिर की। भारतीय भाषा केंद्र के अध्यक्ष प्रो. अनवर आलम के धन्यवाद ज्ञापन के साथ सत्र की समाप्ति हुई।

कार्यक्रम के पहले दिन के प्रथम एवं द्वितीय सत्र में बीसवीं सदी के अंतिम दशक में हिन्दी उपन्यासों के संदर्भ में बातचीत हुई। इन दो सत्रों में प्रसिद्ध कथा आलोचक श्री वीरेन्द्र यादव ने कमलाकांत त्रिपाठी के पाहीघर, प्रो. दुर्गाप्रसाद गुप्त ने सुरेन्द्र वर्मा कृत मुझे चाँद चाहिए, डॉ. विभास वर्मा ने मनोहर श्याम जोशी के उपन्यास हरिया हरक्यूलिस की हैरानी, प्रो. सुरेन्द्र प्रताप ने गिरिराज किशोर के उपन्यास पहला गिरमिटिया, प्रो. अमरनाथ ने मैत्रेयी पुष्पा के चाक, डॉ. रामसुधार सिंह ने गीतांजलि श्री के उपन्यास हमारा शहर उस बरस, डॉ. रणजीत साहा ने कमलेश्वर के कितने पाकिस्तान और डॉ. सुधा सिंह ने अलका सरावगी के उपन्यास कलिकथा: वाया बाईपास पर अपना वक्तव्य रखा। प्रथम सत्र की अध्यक्षता जाने माने आलोचक प्रो. मैनेजर पांडेय ने की। उन्होंने अपने वक्तव्य में यह स्वीकार किया कि चयनित कालखंड लेखिकाओं के उपन्यासों का दशक है जो साहित्य में नई दृष्टि और प्रवृत्तियाँ लेकर सामने आईं। दूसरे सत्र की अध्यक्षता की – प्रो. निर्मला जैन ने। उन्होंने विस्तार से इस सत्र के सभी उपन्यासों पर अपनी राय रखी और निर्मल वर्मा के उपन्यास 'अंतिम अरण्य' उपन्यास पर अलग से विचार किया। इस उपन्यास को उन्होंने एक विचारवान व्यक्ति की मृत्युबोध की रचना माना। प्रथम सत्र का संचालन किया प्रो. देवेन्द्र चौबे ने और द्वितीय सत्र का संचालन किया श्री विद्याशंकर सिंह ने।

14 मार्च 2015 को आयोजित प्रारंभिक दो सत्रों में इक्कीसवीं सदी के महत्वपूर्ण उपन्यासों पर विचार विमर्श हुआ जिसमें

राधेश्याम सिंह ने संजीव कृत सूत्रधार, सुधीर प्रताप सिंह ने मनोहरश्याम जोशी की क्याप, विवेकानन्द उपाध्याय ने मंजूर एहतेशाम की बशारतमंजिल, बजरंग बिहारी तिवारी ने श्रीलाल शुक्ल की राग—विराग, सत्यपाल शर्मा ने रणेन्द्र के उपन्यास गायब होता देश, जितेन्द्र श्रीवास्तव ने अखिलेश के निर्वासन, विनोद तिवारी ने कैलाश वनवासी कृत लौटना नहीं है और गोपाल प्रधान ने अमरकांत कृत इन्हीं हथियारों से पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किये। तीसरे सत्र की अध्यक्षता करते हुए प्रो. रविभूषण ने आखिरी कलाम उपन्यास के माध्यम से हमारे समय को समझने में बरती जाने वाली सावधानियों पर विचार किया और चौथे सत्र की अध्यक्षता करते हुए प्रो. चंद्रकला त्रिपाठी ने धर्मांतरण के प्रश्न पर गंभीर बहस की। इन दो सत्रों का संचालन क्रमशः डॉ.शीतांशु एवं डॉ.कमलेश वर्मा ने किया।

कार्यक्रम के आखिरी सत्र में हमारे समय के उपन्यासों के बारे में महत्वपूर्ण रचनाकारों ने अपने विचार रखे। इस सत्र में प्रो. गंगाप्रसाद विमल, प्रो.वरयाम सिंह, प्रो रामबक्ष और भगवानदास मोरवाल ने अपने वक्तव्य रखे। सत्र की अध्यक्षता चर्चित कथाकार काशीनाथ सिंह और संचालन डॉ. कामेश्वर प्रसाद सिंह ने किया। उन्होंने विस्तार से हमारे समय के कथा साहित्य की समीक्षा की। निश्चय ही अपने स्वरूप में यह सत्र समकालीन रचनाधर्मिता को समझने में महत्वपूर्ण रहा। संगोष्ठी में उपन्यास के ढाँचे से लेकर, उसमें आए परिवर्तनों और वर्तमान समय में उसकी सार्थकता जैसे मुद्दों पर विस्तृत बात—चीत हुई। संयोजक के धन्यवाद ज्ञापन के साथ संगोष्ठी की समाप्ति हुई।

स्नेहसुधा, आकृति चंद्रा
भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र

Three Days workshop in JNU on 'Illusions and Delusions: Gender Intelligence and Self' for JNU Students, Book Exhibition and Exhibition of Goods made by Differently-abled Children.

The Group of Adult Education, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, organized the second series of Workshop for Social and Emotional Capacity Building among JNU Students for three days from 13 – 15 March, 2015 in Committee Room, SSS-I. The Workshop was titled 'Illusions and Delusions: Gender Intelligence and Self.' The Workshop was full of interesting activities and energetic sessions and included discussions about movies, social media, literature, analysis of historical and current facts and events. Through various exercises like role plays, poster making, drawing, poetry, story-telling and sharing of personal experiences, students were encouraged to question their existing notions and perspectives about gender and think and rethink in a objective manner. The Workshop was conducted by Ms Vinita Satija (Practicing Psychologist and Consultant with Indian

Institute of Management, Ahmedabad) and Mr. Rushi Bakshi (Consultant and faculty with IIM, Ahmedabad and a person with 35 years of experience in the field in different organizations including the Dutch Embassy).

The Workshop was inaugurated by the Dean of School of Social Sciences, Professor Aditya Mukherjee. While addressing the participants, Professor Mukherjee stressed that there are gender-related issues in the campus and we need to address them for excelling in our goals. He said that the beginning of solving our problems would be with the acceptance of the fact that all of face such issues and are incompetent to tackle with them without understanding the other gender appropriately. The organizer of the event and the Director of the Group of Adult Education, Dr. Ajay Kumar explained how our personal

Seminars/Conferences

and professional lives are affected by gender-related problems and how important it is to address them to achieve our goals. The Workshop was accompanied by a book exhibition and an exhibition of goods made by differently-abled children from Handicapped Children Rehabilitation Association, a Delhi-based NGO for helping differently-abled children.

The Workshop was attended by 50 participants. Most of the participants said that the Workshop gave them novel ideas and facts to ponder upon and brainstorm and altered their perspectives about gender relationships to a great extent.

**Ajay Kumar, Director
Group of Adult Education**

CSSP Talk on Open Access in the Past, Present and Future of Scholarly Publishing



The Centre for Studies in Science Policy (CSSP) organized a lecture titled "Open Access in the Past, Present and Future of Scholarly Publishing" on 25 March, 2015 as part of CSSP Special Lecture Series. The lecture was delivered by Professor Michael Eisen, a professor of Genetics, Genomics and

Development at University of California, Berkeley, USA. The session chair Dr. Saradindu Bhaduri of CSSP introduced the speaker as a lead biologist at UC Berkeley and an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He works primarily on flies, and his research encompasses evolution, development, genetics, genomics, chemical ecology and behaviour. He is a strong proponent of open science, and a co-founder of the Public Library of Science (PLOS).

In this lecture Dr. Eisen described his journey into reforming world's scientific publishing, and more particularly the genesis of open access movement in the west. In 2000 Dr. Eisen joined his former postdoctoral advisor Patrick Brown and Nobel Prize winning cancer researcher Harold Varmus in launching PLoS in 2003. PLoS is a San Francisco based non-profit advocacy organization and a publisher dedicated to making the world's scientific and medical literature a freely available public

resource. PLoS aims to eliminate the subscription based model that dominates the US\$10 billion per year scientific and medical publishing industry, which denies access to the results of publicly funded research to students, teachers, physicians and countless others who would benefit from access to latest scientific and medical discoveries. This alternative model aims to replace the subscription-based model with an 'Open Access' model that makes all published papers immediately and universally freely available. To establish the viability of this model, PLoS has launched a series of open access journals, beginning with PLoS Biology in 2003. Its journals have become highly successful (PLOS One, launched in 2008, is now the largest scientific journal in the world, and published close to 31,500 articles in 2013) and PLoS has become a major force in reforming scientific publishing.

The lecture concluded after a flow of comments by the experience researchers and a Q&A session with the audience comprise of research students. Audience of this talk was curious about the perceived challenges in open access publishing, particularly on sustainability and affordability of authors-pay model while dealing with researchers and research funders in the developing countries. 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**

The 6th Annual P. N. Srivastava Endowment lecture

The 6th Annual P. N. Srivastava Endowment lecture was held on 7 April, 2015 in the JNU convention center. The speaker was Dr. Radhakrishnan, Former Chairman of Space Commission/ Secretary of Department of Space/ Chairman of ISRO. ISRO's recent achievements have been the pride of India and Dr. Radhakrishnan drew a full house, as students, faculty and staff

across many departments gathered eagerly to attend his lecture.

The lecture was a fascinating tour through the implications and potential of space technology. Dr. Radhakrishnan started by discussing the space economy that reaches across 40 countries and is estimated to be of several 100 billion USD in

Seminars/Conferences

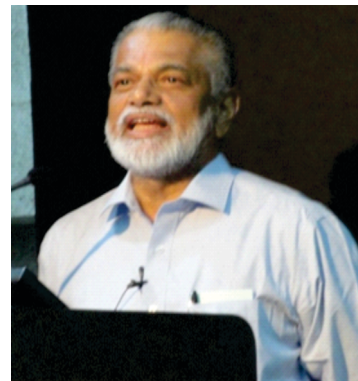
value. India is one of the leaders in this space economy. Currently, ISRO's satellites have diverse applications such as for communication, weather, remote sensing and navigation. Dr Radhakrishnan highlighted two hallmarks of India in the space sector: low cost space missions and indigenous development. In particular, he emphasized that only 10% of the parts for ISRO's mission were developed outside of India. Dr Radhakrishnan also laid out the future vision for space, including human-robot space exploration and international synergy in space missions.

Finally, he paid tribute to the legacy of Vikram Sarabhai and the teamwork culture of ISRO that has fostered an environment of excellence and persistence.

There was a generous amount of time for a lively question and answer session, with questions ranging over details of the

Magalyaan mission, to ISRO's work culture, and how ISRO's successful innovation strategies could be adapted to other sectors of the Indian economy.

All in all, the entire program was a tremendous success and the audience came away with a deeper insight into the implications of space technology and economics and the impact it has on our lives.



**Subhasis Ghosh, Dean
School of Physical Sciences**

CSSP Talk on Reflections on the Political Economy of Diagnostic Innovation

The Centre for Studies in Science Policy (CSSP) organized a lecture titled "Blockbuster Diagnostics? Reflections on the Political Economy of Diagnostic Innovation" on 7 April, 2015 as part of CSSP Special Lecture Series. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Stuart Hogarth of Department of Social Science, Health and Medicine at King's College London, UK. The session chair Dr. Madhav Govind of CSSP introduced the speaker as a scholar working on history of medicine domain. Dr. Hogarth later shifted to work at the interface between medical sociology, bioethics and science and technology studies. In 2012 he was awarded a Wellcome Trust fellowship to conduct a three-year comparative study looking at how DNA patents have affected the development and adoption of HPV tests for cervical cancer screening in the USA, UK and India. Building on this project he is now leading the development of a new research group within the department focused on the molecularisation of oncology. His work combines empirical research in a political sociology framework with normative analysis of public policy and commercial strategy. He maintains a blog Genevalues.wordpress.com.

In the first part of this Lecture, Dr. Hogarth discussed the consequences of and expectations from the Human Genome Project in diagnostic innovations. A decade after completion of the Human Genome Project, major public and private investments continue to fuel expectations that 'omics'-based diagnostic tools will unleash a biomedical revolution, redefining disease taxonomies, transforming clinical practice and revitalising the diagnostics industry. However, there is

considerable uncertainty about how public policy should steer this new wave of diagnostic innovation. Much of that uncertainty revolves around three questions: what sort of clinical evidence do we need before a new diagnostic test enters medical practice; who should generate that evidence, and how can we ensure it is rigorously evaluated?

In this talk he suggested that three inter-related trends characterize contemporary diagnostic innovation: the corporatization of R&D; the emulation of pharmaceutical industry business models and marketing strategies, and regulatory expansion. Using cervical cancer screening as a case study, he described how development of the Pap smear in the first half of the twentieth century was led by the public sector (NGOs, academic scientists, government agencies) and contrast this with the development of a rival molecular technology in the late twentieth century: DNA diagnostics for Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). The HPV testing market has been dominated by a single company – Digene Corporation, in



Seminars/Conferences

part because of a legal monopoly on HPV DNA patents, and in part because early-mover advantage has meant that the major clinical studies of HPV testing were conducted using their proprietary technology. The lecture concluded after a flow of comments by the session chair, vibrant discussion by the experience researchers and Q&A session with the audience comprise of research students. 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

Labour Migration in Tajikistan by Prof. Khojamohammad Umarov

Prof. Khojamohammad Umarov, Head, Department of Macroeconomic Research of the Institute of Economic Studies, Ministry of Economy and Trade, Republic of Tajikistan, Dushanbe is currently the Visiting Professor under the UGC Area Studies Programme attached to the Centre for Inner Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. One of his lectures held on 6 April 2015 discussed 'Labour Migration in Tajikistan'.

He began by stating how following soviet disintegration, Central Asia faced severe difficulties and challenges to transform into a democratic republic. Five independent countries emerged besides many others in Central Asian region as a result of the soviet breakup. One of the major challenges that hit Tajikistan was the labour migration which is now a serious threat to the country's development. All the Central Asian republics face labour migration but not to the extent that Tajikistan faces. The most important factors leading to migration as elaborated by Prof Umarov include:

- A high level of poverty
- Massive Unemployment created due to closure of post-soviet factories
- Poor economy and weak industrial factories in Tajikistan
- Disturbances created as a result of the Civil War, which lasted till 1996 followed by large scale migration

Besides these factors, the recent economic crisis after 2000 also contributed further, to the massive migration from Central Asian countries like Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Nevertheless, Tajikistan is the worst hit. Prof. Umarov stated that if we look into the level of poverty the average salary varies from 80.9 USD per month depending upon sector to sector. The highest is in the banking sector that is 313.4 USD, while health is only 56 USD, education is 58.6 USD, and agriculture is 24.1 USD. Mainly the labour migrates to Russia



and also Kazakhstan to some extent. Sixty percent of the migrants of Tajikistan belong to the agricultural sector and almost 80 percent who have migrated to Russia and Kazakhstan are villagers. The impact of this hits Tajikistan acutely leading to a severe deficit of workers in the Tajikistan villages. In these villages agriculture is the main component of their livelihood. So now agriculture is facing a serious deficit of laborers. As a result the government has started to organize labour bazaars from time to time to meet this deficit. Prof Umarov stated that the country's deteriorating economy and the huge impact that the civil war has left behind has resulted in the massive immigration during the year 1996.

The economy of Tajikistan is still below the subsistence level and is not able to meet the demands of essential commodities in daily lives hence migration continues at a rampant pace. Prof Umarov also stated that the statistics show the total income of a Tajik family as 750 somoni per year which is equivalent to 512 USD per year. The country is now classified as the world's lowest income holder, which in turn creates soft grounds for recruitment into terrorist organizations. The year 1996 was a result of immigration to various countries like Pakistan Afghanistan, UAE and other Central Asian republics. Those who immigrated to neighboring countries including Russia at the time of civil war never returned. Another important fact is that majority of the immigrants in Russia and Kazakhstan are illegal, only 8 percent are legally staying there. Now Russia is quite aware of the fact and it has imposed strict

Seminars/Conferences

laws for migrant laborers such as, one must have knowledge of the Russian language, must know the history of Russia, its culture, music and painting. Moreover 70 percent of the Tajik men that leave for Russia end up having a Russian wife and get settled in Russia itself. Another 30 percent married Tajiks have extra wives in Russia. Due to this, the divorce rate is getting higher as the men take a divorce over the telephone. At present there are 4,00,000 unmarried girls below 35 years of age in Tajikistan. The women have also started migrating as they are not able to find a groom for themselves. Many government initiatives by Tajikistan have been taken. A 'fatwa' was issued but no one cares about the 'fatwa' that is issued by the government. Tajikistan's economy is now highly dependent on the remittances received from migrant laborer. A total salary remittances to the tune of 4.6 billion USD in 2013, was transferred by official banks. Another 1.2 billion USD from Russia to Tajikistan comes by hawala, like the food import to Russia from Tajikistan.

Forty percent of immigrants are seasonal workers who work from March/April to September/October, where in a total of 5.8 billion USD hawala comes from the Tajik diaspora. From

this seven 7 percent remittances are transferred to consumer goods. The total income from migrants is almost 7 billion USD which is almost 60 percent of the entire income of total Tajik economy, but the problem lies in the fact that no one sends money home; instead 70 percent of them want to get Russian citizenship and buy property there itself. Russia on the other hand has also given concessions as regards to buying of property. Out of the 7 billion USD earned by the Tajiks, 2 billion USD goes to China for buying cheap goods enhancing the economy of China. Around 57 percent of the Tajik immigrant workers work in various construction sectors in Russia. But the disruption came when most of the construction work stopped due to Ukrainian crisis leaving Tajik migrants totally jobless. Russia is now facing huge economic sanctions from the west. This has resulted in a reduction of remittances from Tajik workers back home. Remittances were reduced from 4.6 to 1.7 million USD due to many Tajiks becoming jobless. On the other hand Tajikistan too has nothing better to offer. Thus the problems are now multifold.

Sanchita Chatterjee & Pooja Kumara
Centre for Inner Asian Studies, SIS

Discourse on Challenge and Response as Faced by Contemporary Youth in the Context of Indian Culture

A meeting of the students, teachers and public was held in the SSS-1 Auditorium of JNU on 22 April, 2015. The topic of discussion was "Challenge and Response as Faced by Contemporary Youth in the Context of Indian Culture". Prof. S. K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor JNU was the Chief Guest. Dr. Sopory said the topic of discussion is very relevant. Modern youth facing the crisis of identity while striving for personal happiness, he should make effort so that others are also happy. Indian culture has taught this down the ages he said. In course of his address as Chief Speaker Sri Jatindra Nath Mohanty, Secretary, Satsang Vihar, Delhi said apart from various challenges faced by human beings, there are also challenges in the lives of plants and animals. But they face such challenges of survival instinctively, naturally, normally and effortlessly where as human being has to struggle, strive and make effort to face the challenges. Challenges are broadly external and internal. From birth till death there are multiple challenges from family, environment, career, competition, diseases, profession, poverty, culture, religion, science and technology etc. But the internal challenges are more formidable such as anger, hatred, jealousy, ego, intolerance, inferiority complex and many. So far youth is concerned, it is

not time of life but a state of mind, a quality of imagination, vigour of the will, and appetite for adventure over the love of ease. As far as children are concerned, they have a future no past; with regards to older people there is mostly a past no future but a youth stands at the crossroad of past and future. Youth is the prime time of life. A young person needs to be harmonious, integrated, balanced and disciplined. Only by practicing right kind of concentration and meditation as prescribed by a powerful spiritual guide. The multidimensional Indian culture has provided such inspiring human ideals down the ages, Sri Mohanty said. After his presentation he interacted with the audience. Sri Abhimanyu Behera PhD scholar of JNU gave welcome address. Ms. Rinchen gave introductory. Dr. Mahesh Ranjan Debata conducted the proceedings. Sri Saroj Kumar Mohanty presented the opening song. Sri Jaydeep Pati a PhD scholar of BHU proposed vote of thanks. Sri Kalyan Mandal of JNU, Dr. Dibya of AIIMS, Dr. Prabhakar, Dr. Sambit co-opted.

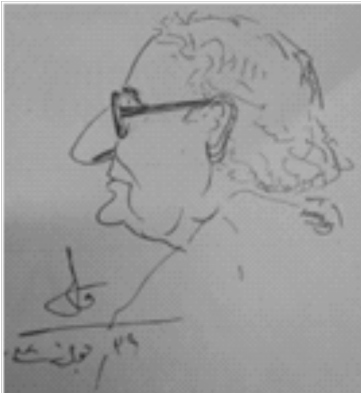
Abhimanyu Behera
Doctoral Research Scholar
Centre for Russian & Central Asian Studies, SIS

From Our Archive



A discussion on "Crisis in Indian Culture" was held at JNU in September, 1987. The picture shows from left Prof. Namwar Singh noted poet, Amrita Pritam and well known writer Kamleshwar.

- January, 1988.



The opposition leader of Pakistan Khan Abdul Wali Khan, son of the Frontier Gandhi, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was in India in June. He visited JNU during his stay in Delhi. Our Cartoonist M. Shahbaz made his sketch and got his autograph.

- January, 1988.



Smiles of a Winner Ms. Renu Bhagat. M. Phil Scholar of the School of Social Sciences who topped the Civil Service Examination (Women's category) this Year.

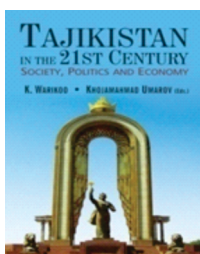
- July, 1988.



Anurag Jha reciting a Ghazal. Ajay Jha is on table while Mahendra Sisodia is playing harmonium.

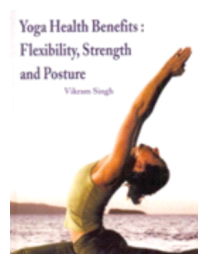
- May, 1988.

Our Publications



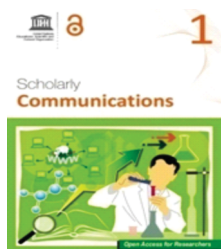
“Tajikistan in the 21st century: Society, Politics and Economy”

edited by Prof. K. Warikoo, Centre for Inner Asian Studies, SIS and Khojamahamad Umarov, published by Pentagon Press. ISBN: 9788182748217



“Yoga Health Benefits: Flexibility, Strength and Posture”

by Dr. Vikram Singh, Assistant Director, Physical Education, published by DK Agencies (P) Ltd. DK-241631. ISBN: 9788192920436.



“Scholarly Communications [Open Access for Researchers, 1]”

by Anup Kumar Das, Centre for Studies in Science Policy, School of Social Sciences. Published by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Paris, ISBN: 9789231000782.

Alumni Corner

An interview with Mr. T. Ranganath, Business Consultant



Aastha: How did your association with JNU begin?

Mr. Ranganath: Unlike many, I did not come here because I had heard about JNU. As a reasonably good student and a sports person, the Economics department of my college where I had done my graduation in Punjab, was keen that I pursue my PG

there along with a sports scholarship. However it was my father who felt that JNU would be a better place for me to do my PG. That's how I applied in JNU, and got through in CPS. Having said that, joining this university has been one of the best decisions of my life, for which I have my father to thank.

Aastha: What role did JNU play in your life?

Mr. Ranganath: My student years were one of the best phases of my life. I finished my MA in 1979 and moved on to take a job in the Private sector. But destiny brought me back to JNU. My wife, who was also an ex student, got an offer from SIS and we chose to move back to Delhi. We therefore live on the campus now. My experiences in JNU have offered me lessons I cherish to this day. Settle disputes by debate & discussion (rather than fists), Learn to share and give (not just take), Understand that someone else's point of view could have depth, meaning and relevance, That one is not always

right, are some of the things I learnt. JNU has also provided me an environment to think freely beyond defined boundaries. In short, I learnt some very important lessons about life.

Aastha: How is JNU different from other universities?

Mr. Ranganath: During my time, JNU had less than three thousands students. This meant that you got to know most people by face if not by name. Students came from all over the country from diverse socio economic and cultural backgrounds. This resulted in understanding the diversities of cultures and outlook. Faculty/Student ratio was good and interaction between Teachers and Students was warm, quite informal and symbiotic.

Infrastructure was new and rudimentary. The terrain was like that of a semi desert. Trees planted then took 20 odd years to become the green haven it is today. Yet, there was an adventurous spirit that pervaded all our activities whether going up campus for lunch or going to the Priya Cinema at night ending with bun anda and chai.

The next best thing about the university was the sense of security. The safety that this campus provided to the students, especially girls, was exceptionally good and remarkably, even today such a safe environment can hardly be found anywhere else in the country.

Aastha: Would you like to say something about the changes that have come in JNU?

Mr. Ranganath: I have quite a long association with JNU and have witnessed many changes in the past few years, especially in the student politics here. I was a 'Free Thinker' which however did not mean I was apolitical.

Talking about changes, most are associated with the natural progression of things. More hostels, more students. New schools, new library, sports complex etc. From limited hangouts and menus like Nimbu pani, chai & bun anda, hot samosas & sweet chutneys to multiple full menu, multi cuisine eateries!

Technology has changed things too. From painstaking & laborious research for coping with academic rigor and finishing term papers to easy access to information on the net. From multi dimensional thinking to unidirectional career focused action....yes things have changed. Some for better and some for worse.

Aastha: Would you like share something about your experience related to campus life?

Mr. Ranganath: Well, I believe that education goes beyond books. Mingling and interacting with people, sharing their experiences and indulging in discussions only broadens your outlook and adds to your persona. Thus, after library hours, a cup of tea with friends at night, in Kashi Ram Dhaba was part of life back then and helped us foster understanding build bonds (some for life) and learn from each other.

Aastha: What would you like to say about JNU?

Mr. Ranganath: I consider myself to be privileged to have had the opportunity to study and live the campus life. As students, we got some of the best faculty in the country to teach us. The rigor of the curriculum was such that one gets glued and I guess it is the same even now. It was not about going to attend lectures in order to mark attendance and fill the classroom space. We used to attend classes regularly with

the intention of gaining more and more knowledge. The system here provides you everything in order for you to learn and grow. How and what you want to take from it, depends on you. Moreover, the revolution was always around the corner!

Aastha: What changes would you like to bring in JNU?

Mr. Ranganath: Well, being a sports person, I would like to improve the sports facilities. Another important thing which is not taken care of is its environment. JNU has a huge and beautiful campus. With the increase in the student population, it is becoming difficult for the sanitation workers alone to maintain cleanliness. There is an urgent need to initiate cleaning drives that involve students as well. I also believe that curriculum should be designed to better align students with the job market. Student placement cells should be made more active in all schools.

Aastha: Would you like to share your experience as an EC member of AAJ? What are the upcoming programs of Alumni Association of JNU (AAJ)?

Mr. Ranganath: The motto of AAJ is to bring JNU alumni together and work on various issues related to JNU. However, it is a tough task to build contacts with all the alumni as we don't have the old records which are needed for their details. However, we are trying our best to bring in more and more people so that AAJ functions more actively. From time to time, AAJ plans to organize discussions/talks/seminars and other interactive events and will focus on the participation of the youth and reaching out to the Alumnus Diaspora.

Aastha: Would you like to give any message to the students of JNU?

Mr. Ranganath: I would like to remind all JNU students that they are the privileged ones who have got the opportunity to be a part of JNU. Thus, they should utilize any opportunity to contribute to their alma mater by doing some good for the university, society and the country even as they move on in life.

O B I T U A R Y



Shri Abhishek Kumar Singh, M.A. 3rd Semester, Centre for Philosophy, School of Social Sciences
Passed Away on month of June.

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

Public Relations Officer

Public Relations Office

Room No. 102, Administration Block,
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi – 110067

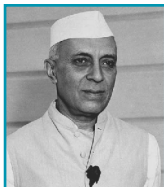
Please attach a passport size photograph also

Photo Gallery



1. Special Centre for Molecular Medicine organized a Training Workshop on 'Molecular Biology Techniques in Health & Medical Sciences' on 11 – 12 February, 2015. Photo shows: Faculties of Special Centre for Molecular Medicine with Staff Members & Students.
2. Centre for Studies in Science Policy, SSS organized a 'Round Table Discussion on Unfolding Development Potential of North-East Region' on 2 March, 2015. Photo shows: Prof. S.K. Sopory, Vice-Chancellor; Dr. Jitender Singh, DoNER Minister with other Faculty Members.
3. Centre of Arabic and African Studies, SLL&CS presents the Arabic Play 'The Boat of Development', on 11 March, 2015
4. भारतीय भाषा केंद्र द्वारा प्रो. ओमप्रकाश सिंह के संयोजन में दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी 'समकालीन हिन्दी उपन्यास: सह-चिंतन' (1990–2014) का दिनांक 13 मार्च 2015 को आयोजन किया गया। चित्र में: प्रो. ओमप्रकाश सिंह, भारतीय भाषा केंद्र, प्रो. अनवर आलम, अध्यक्ष, भारतीय भाषा केंद्र, प्रो. नामवर सिंह, भारतीय भाषा केंद्र, श्री अशोक वाजपेयी, विशिष्ट अतिथि, प्रो. रामबक्ष, भारतीय भाषा केंद्र, और अन्य चर्चित लेखक।
5. The Group of Adult Education, SSS, organized three days workshop on 'Illusions and Delusions: Gender Intelligence and Self' on 13 – 15 March, 2015. Photo Shows: Faculty Members with Students of Centre.
6. Centre for Russian & Central Asian Studies, SIS organized a Discourse on Challenge and Response as Faced by Contemporary Youth in the Context of Indian Culture, on 22 April, 2015. Photo shows: Chief Speaker Sri Jatindra Nath Mohanty, Secretary, Satsang Vihar, Delhi; Dr. Mahesh Ranjan Debata, Centre for Inner Asian Studies School of International Studies and Prof. S. K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor.





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।

—जवाहरलाल नेहरू



7

7. संतगुरु रविदास पर भारतीय भाषा केंद्र द्वारा दो दिवसीय 'अंतर्विषयक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी' का आयोजन दिनोंक 23 से 24 मार्च, 2015 को किया गया। चित्र में: डॉ. विन्देश्वर पाठक, संस्थापक, सुलभ इंटरनेशनल और समाजशास्त्री।
8. Celebration of First International Yoga Day.
9. A 12 Member delegation headed by Prof. Dr. Achara Phanurat, Acting President from Surindra Rajabhat University, Thailand visited JNU on 25 May, 2015 for signing of Memorandum of Understanding between JNU and Surindra Rajabhat University, Thailand. Photo shows: Prof. Varun Sahni, Chief Advisor, International Collaboration; Prof. S. K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor with members of delegation.



8



9

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Chairperson: Prof. Rakesh K. Tyagi, SCMM, **Members:** Prof. Devendra K. Choubey, CIL/SLL&CS, Prof. Babu Thaliath, CGS/SLL&CS, Dr. Shobha Sivasankaran, CF&FS/SLL&CS, Dr. Indivar Kamtekar CHS/SSS, Ms. Ritu Nidhi, CIS, **Member Secretary:** Ms. Poonam S. Kudaisya, PRO
Designed by: Ms. Sanghamitra Goswami, Photos by: Sh. Vakil Ahmad

Published by Poonam S. Kudaisya, Public Relations Officer for and on behalf of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi-110067,
Tel.: 011-26742601, 26704046, 26704017, WEBSITE : <http://www.jnu.ac.in>

