

Cultural Club Activities – April, 2017- March, 2018

| Date | Event | Venue | Organised by |
|----------------|---|--|------------------------|
| April, 1 | Rang Rasiya Photography contest & workshop | SL 2 Committee Room | Photography Club |
| April, 3 | Executive Comm. Meeting | DSW | CAC |
| April, 10 | Talk & Discussion | SIS 2 Committee Room | Literary Club |
| April, 12 – 19 | Rang Bayaar | Convention Centre | Drama Club |
| April, 14 | Debate Competition | Committee Room, SL | Debating Club |
| April, 14 | Visit to an NGO | Munirka | UNESCO Club |
| Aug, 14 | Film Screening (Gandhi) | SAA | Film Club |
| Aug, 19 | Film Screening (Lakshay) | SAA | Film Club |
| Aug, 25 | Film Screening (Mangal Pandey) | SAA | Film Club |
| Aug, 18 | JNU & SPICMACAY Orientation Programme | Convention Centre | JNU Clubs |
| Aug, 18 | JNU & SPICMACAY Koodiyattam Dance | Convention Centre | JNU Clubs & SPICMACAY |
| Aug, 26 | Nature Walk (Sanjay Van) | Sanjay Van Qutab Minar | Nature & Wildlife Club |
| Aug, 31 | JNU & SPICMACAY Rajan&Sajan Mishra (vocal) | Convention Centre | JNU Clubs & SPICMACAY |
| Sep, 17 | Documentary Film Screening | Convention Centre | Nature & Wildlife Club |
| Oct, 9 – 14 | Virasat (Musical prog./ Workshops) | Convention Centre/ Teflas, KC Complex | JNU Clubs & SPICMACAY |
| Oct, 12 | Days of Russia | SLL&CS – II | JNU Clubs / CRS |
| Oct, 19 – 22 | Trek to Kheer Ganga | Himachal | Nature/ Wildlife Club |
| Feb, 18 | JNU Annual Cultural Fest – Melange | Convention Centre Lawns | IHA / JNU Clubs |
| Feb, 24 | JNU & SPICMACAY Bombay Jayashree (vocal) | Convention Centre | JNU Clubs & SPICMACAY |
| March, 19 | Public Lecture – Human Trafficking | Convention Centre | Literary Club |
| March, 22 | Poster Making Competition – World Water Day | SLL&CS – II | Nature & Wildlife Club |
| March, 25 | Book Release – Jivan Ka Ganit | Convention Centre | Literary Club |

JNU Photography Club

April 1st

JNU Photography Club organised a photography workshop by eminent photojournalist Sondeep Shankar at New SL Committee Room. A photography contest on the theme '*Rangrasiya*' was conducted and the winners were awarded at the workshop.

JNU Literary Club

April 10th

JNU Literary Club organised a 'talk & discussion' on '*Indian Classical Aesthetics*' by Prof. Dhananjay Singh from CES, SL&CSS on April 10th, at SIS Committee Room.

JNU Drama Club

April 12th – 19th

This year JNU drama club is organising the 6th edition of 'Rang Bazaar' from 12th April 2017 to 19th April 2017 at 9 p.m. Convention Centre, JNU. With tremendous enthusiasm. These evenings will be filled with 8 theatrical performances by IPTA, Wings, Sansaptak, Jumbish, JNU Drama Club, Bhikhari Thakur Rang Mandal, Sehar, Bollygrad and Bahroop.

JNU UNESCO Club

April 12th

Meet with NGO. The UNESCO club of Jawaharlal Nehru University organised a visit to Combined Action for Progress, an NGO that aims to serve the society in an inclusive manner while promoting peace, equity, participation, awareness, good governance and inclusive growth. The objective of the visit was to understand the ground reality regarding the degree of awareness for education among the children living in slum areas.

JNU Clubs & SPICMACAY

Aug, 18

The university recently collaborated with SPIC MACAY and organized a SPIC MACAY orientation programme on 18th August 2017. This event did not only lay the foundation of SPIC MACAY JNU Chapter but can also be seen as a major milestone on the university's way to cultural rejuvenation on the campus. It marked a welcome to all the freshers on the campus & encouraged them to participate in the cultural enhancement of themselves. Presentation by JNU cultural clubs' & SPIC MACAY along with a beautiful Koodiyattam performance marked the event.

The evening started with the welcome address by Prof. Meeta Narain, Cultural Coordinator, JNU who appraised the audience of the nine major cultural clubs present on the University – Literary, Photography, Fine Arts, Debate, Nature & Wildlife, Music & Dance, UNESCO, Drama and Film Club and their objectives. She along with her faculty colleagues of different clubs – Dr. Sudesh Yadav, Dr. Ishtiaque Ahmed, Dr. Gautam Jha and Dr. Sheetal Sharma welcomed the SPIC MACAY team

on the campus – Shri Arun Sahay (National Chairperson) & Ms. Usha Ravichandaran (Chairperson, Delhi & NCR) spoke of the aim of SPIC MACAY. A brief presentation was done by students of ten cultural clubs that are in operation in JNU campus, highlighting particularly the events that had taken place during last semester. The SPIC MACAY team of volunteers gave a presentation of their activities. This was followed by high tea.

Now was the time for the biggest attraction of the evening, a wonderful Koodiyattam performance by an internationally renowned artist, Mr. Sooraj Nambiar. A recipient of Ustad Bismillah Khan, YuvaPuraskar of Sangeet Natak Akademi, the artist initiated Koodiyattam at the age of 10 and has performed in countries like Japan, South Korea, Sweden, the Netherlands, Finland, Germany and Switzerland. Mr. Sooraj was accompanied by other eminent artists like Mr. Kalamandalam Rajeev and Mr. Kalamandalam Narayanan Nambiar, who play the instrument- Mizhavu and the make-up artist, Mr Ganesh Krishna. A form of Sanskrit theatre, Koodiyattam, which literally means ‘dancing together’ is a 2000 year old dance form and is officially recognized by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. The audience was left mesmerized by the stunning dance form, full of graceful hand movements and spell- bounding facial expressions by a man wrapped in colourful costumes and ornaments. The performance was highly appreciated by one and all present in the audience.

The programme concluded by vote of thanks by Prof. Meeta Narain. The Vice-chancellor, JNU - Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Prof. Satish Chandra Garkoti, Rector II, JNU and Prof. R. P. Singh, Rector III, JNU felicitated the artists. The cultural committee extended its gratitude to the Vice-chancellor of JNU for initiating the SPIC MACAY chapter on JNU, which not only unveiled different art forms to a larger public but also offered an opportunity to the country’s youth to get exposed to the richness of Indian classical music and dance and to be able, therefore, to develop an admiration and appreciation for this invaluable intangible heritage of our nation. The JNU Cultural Clubs Committee is highly thankful to all those who extended their support for making this event a success. The University undoubtedly looks forward for many more events of a similar kind on its way.

JNU Clubs & SPICMACAY

August 31, 2017

The Cultural Clubs, Dean of Students Welfare, IHA in collaboration with SPIC MACAY organized Hindustani Classical Vocal Recital by World Renowned artists Pt. Rajan and Sajan Mishra Chaurasia ji at the Convention Centre, Jawaharlal Nehru University. The programme was attended by the Vice – Chancellor, JNU, Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar along with Rector I and II, Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra and Prof. S. C. Garkoti.

The programme started with an Introduction to the artists by Prof. Meeta Narain, Cultural Coordinator, JNU who welcomed the audience and thanked the SPIC MACAY Team to bring in famous artists on the JNU campus, which enriched the cultural atmosphere of the University.

Pt. Rajan and Sajan Mishra are part of a 300-year-old lineage of khyal singing of the Banaras gharana, who have been performing to audiences all over Indian and the world for many years. Their music is marked by an unequally reposeful exposition of the raga balanced with aesthetic tension generated through delicate handling of rhythm. The intricate creative process make their rendering both academically rich and melodically abounding. While executing intricate Tanns and Sargams, their wide ranging mellifluous voice, combine with masterly command over the technique, enables them to translate their highest flight of imagination into sublime music. They are today the foremost exponent of the Banaras Gharana of singing. Music that religiously observes the purity of raga, gifted with rare sensitivity, Pts. Rajan-Sajan mishra’s compositions reflect a high regard of

literary content, which brings out their subtlest intended emotions and carry an instant appeal with the audience. They have extensively toured all over the world. Many times to U.S.A., whole of Europe, Singapore, Sri-Lanka and countries in Middle-East, Doha, Qatar, Dubai etc. They have given whole night concert in Royal Albert Hall (London) Lincoln centre in U.S.A. They have also received most respectful honour as citizenship of Baltimore city of U.S.A.

The performance by the artists reflected their deep understanding and love for music which they portrayed through the Raga Malhar as the evening was marked by heavy rains. Despite this the hall was full of music lovers and praised the performance. They were accompanied by Ustad Akram Khan on Tabla and Ustad Jakir Dholpuri on Harmonium, who also received a standing ovation by the audience.

Organized under the banner of SPIC MACAY – VIRASAT SERIES, the musical evening was highly appreciated and the University looks forward to organizing more such programmes.

JNU Clubs & SPICMACAY

Oct, 9 – 14

That is how JNU-SPIC MACAY chapter has come into being. After inviting many eminent artists to the campus, the university organised a week-long program “**VIRASAT 2017**” from 9 Oct-14 Oct, 2017 which is dedicated to artists like Sayeeduddin Dagar, M Balmuralikrishna, Kishori Amonkar, Rehmat Khan Langa and certain others in recognition of their invaluable contribution to further enrich the country’s intangible heritage.

Under this program, apart from a series of performances by some widely renowned artists, different workshops were also organised throughout the week in order to promote a culture of participation on the campus. These four workshops, ranging from dance (Kathak) to theatre, Hindustani vocal and calligraphy, caused a stir in the campus and managed to attract not less than 40 students per workshop. All the four instructors, who were called, are not only fine artists with worldwide recognition but also proved to be highly patient and dedicated *gurus* during this experience. The lessons started with a group of highly enthusiastic students who had started registering themselves a week and a half before the program started. The workshops took place at Teflas (Student’s Activity Centre).

The first day (9 Oct) of the event started with an inauguration program when the excitement was at its peak and where we were all prepared to welcome the instructors of various workshops as well as the participants, in the presence of the co-ordinator of JNU Cultural Committee, Mrs. Meeta Narain, the faculty incharges of various clubs: Prof. Ishtiaque Ahmed and Prof. Sudesh Kumar Yadav. We felt highly privileged to welcome the instructors: Pt. Rajendra Gangani (Kathak), Pt. Sarathy Chatterjee (Hindustani vocal), Anuradha Kapoor (theatre) and Qamar Dagar (calligraphy), whose presence was appreciated with a token of thanks. During the inauguration, the people present inside the hall were from a variety of backgrounds, ranging from little kids to university students, professors, instructors, artists etc. But the only thing common amongst them was ‘their love for art’.

On the same evening, an internationally recognized great Indian classical dancer, Smt. Geeta Chandran, was invited by JNU and the SPIC MACAY team collectively, to enlighten our soul with her beautiful hand movements, amazing footwork and eye movements of extreme finesse. She was welcomed with the lighting of lamp in the presence of the university Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M. Jagdeesh Kumar and the three proctors. **Smt. Geeta Chandran** is not only an Indian Bharatnatyam dancer and vocalist, but is also the founder and President of Natya-Vriksha Dance Academy. Besides being conferred with the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Puruskar, she was awarded the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian honour, in 2007, for her contributions in the field of art.

She was also accompanied by other artists (instrument players) on the stage. The impact of her performance was not limited to its aesthetic sense but was able to take the audience along on a sublime journey into the world of art. It was interesting to see such an overwhelming response from the side of the audience, as the auditorium was flooded with people.

The following day, 10th Oct, adds another memorable episode to this chapter. The great Indian classical singer, **Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar**, accompanied by other artists (instrument players) was able to create a magic with his spell-bounding performance. Few among the audience were even found seated, in an entirely relaxed posture and closed eyes. Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar is an Indian classical singer of the dhrupad genre and the son of dhrupad singer Ustad Nasir Faiyazuddin Dagar. He is a widely recognized artist at international level and was awarded with the Padma Shri in 2010. The performance was highly appreciated by the VC, the proctors and the dean of the university. The entire event retained an aura of relaxation, calmness and mesmerisation.

The third day was the time to lend ears to the strings of an ancient Indo-Persian musical instrument – Santoor, played by none other than **Pt. Bhajan Sopori**, an incredible santoor player. Pt. Sopori, an Indian instrumentalist born in Srinagar, is considered as the cultural link between Jammu and Kashmir and rest of India not only because of his invaluable contribution in the field of art but also because he runs a music academy called *SaMaPa* (Sopori Academy for Music and Performing Arts), which is actively involved in promoting Indian classical music. He was also accorded Jammu and Kashmir State lifetime achievement award in 2016. The objective of such performances is not limited to entertainment but extends to an attempt to create awareness among people, for example, about a historically and culturally significant musical instrument as santoor, which is not only the national musical instrument of Iran but is also native to Jammu and Kashmir. And yes, the performance gracefully struck the right chords!

On the following day, the time had come to celebrate the richness of one of the most prolific, Japanese Film Industry. The evening was reserved for the screening of the legendary film “**Rashomon**” directed by Akira Kurosawa. Besides winning awards such as the Golden Lion in the Venice Film Festival and the Academy Honorary Award, the movie is known for marking the entrance of Japanese cinema onto the world stage. The screening followed a small discussion about the importance of the film and the appreciation it got at the international level, by Prof. Dhananjay Singh, faculty in the Centre of English Studies in JNU. He was given the JNU Cultural Committee memento as a token of thanks by the Cultural Co-ordinator and the faculty incharges of clubs. Interestingly, despite the fact that the timings of the screening were overlapping with the common dinner timings in the campus, the audience remained glued to their seats till the end. With its beautiful cinematography, talented actors and twisted plot, no wonder *Rashomon* is now considered as the greatest crime film ever.

Parallel to these performances and film screening, the four workshops were flooded with participants from different age-groups. The workshop sessions started at 4pm and lasted for two hours.

The dance workshop started with the question- “What is Kathak?” as was asked by the guru **Pt. Rajendra Gangani** who was also accompanied by his students. Pt. Gangani is an Indian Kathak dancer known for his innovative style and technical wizardry. He is one of the leading practitioners of Jaipur Gharana style of Kathak who has also received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2003. The participants were able to learn multiple things, ranging from mudras to footwork, eye movements, facial expressions and also some small sequences like Ganesh Vandana, teen taal etc.

“Within a span of just five days, we were able to learn a whole range of interesting things...It was indeed a great experience!” – Such were the words of a girl from the university pursuing bachelors

in language who attended the calligraphy workshop. The university had the privilege to have **Mrs Qamar Dagar**, a renowned calligrapher. Inspired by her spiritual and calligraphy guide Hazrat Amir Abdullah Khan, she started working since the early nineties in Hindi and Urdu scripts using alphabets/letters as art material giving visual interpretation to a chosen theme. Her work has got exhibited in many fests, including The Sacred Arts Festival (Delhi), Sufi Rang Festival (Ajmer Sharif), Inner Path Buddhist Festival (Delhi) etc. Also, as founder Director of Qalamkaari Creative Calligraphy Trust, she has organised and curated International Calligraphy festivals in Delhi and Jaipur. Since there were participants ranging from 4-40 years of age she started the workshop from the very basics.

Another workshop that attracted many participants was that of Hindustani vocal which was taking place under the guidance of **Pt. Sarathi Chatterjee**, one of the foremost Hindustani classical vocalists in India. The unique musical expression in his singing is a beautiful blend of the elements of two different gharanas: Benaras and Kirana gharana. After receiving his initial training from his father, Prof Arun Kumar Chatterjee, a highly respected and accomplished representative of Kirana gharana, he continued his musical 'sadhana' under the guidance of the celebrated vocalists Pandit Rajan-Sajan Mishra of the Benares gharana. Apart from organizing workshops around the world, he has performed in different countries: USA, UK, Canada, Switzerland, Finland, France, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Dubai, Muscat, Doha etc. He not only extended his basic knowledge about classical singing but also motivated the students towards this, throwing some light on the importance of this art form amongst the youth.

The theatre workshop, which strangely had the least number of students pre-registered, surprisingly attracted maximum number. The reason to this overwhelming response is known to everyone: **Anuradha Kapoor**. Former Director of National School of Drama, New Delhi she has directed many plays in India and abroad. Also, she has written widely on the theatre and her book- Actors, Pilgrims, Kings and Gods: the Ramlila at Ramnagar was highly appreciated. She is also one of the founding members of Vivadi, a working group of painters, musicians, writers and theatre practitioners, which was formed in 1989. She has conducted theatre making and workshop sessions in Korea, Germany (Berlin), UK (London) and Japan, among others. Many participants compared their experience of the workshop a session of meditation that has unique healing powers.

On the Finale, a certificate distribution ceremony was organized by the Cultural Committee, which followed a high tea. Also, the participants were asked to share their experiences about the workshop. The Convenors of different clubs gave a brief presentation about their respective workshops while extending gratitude towards their *gurus* who were also part of the ceremony. This was followed by performances by the Hindustani vocal and Kathak groups. Besides presenting *Teen Taal*, which comprises of *todas*, footworks and *Gad Bhava*, the Kathak group also presented a short piece of *Katha* prepared by the students themselves.

During the vote of thanks, one could easily notice those gloomy expressions on our faces as this lovely week-long journey had come to an end. In the hope that the series of such events will remain incessant in future as well, I would like to thank the university and the entire SPIC MACAY team, for giving us an opportunity to not only be a part of but also to organize such events!

JNU Clubs & CRS

Oct, 12

The Centre of Russian Studies organised a cultural festival "Days of Russia in India" on October 12, 2017 to mark 70 years of Diplomatic ties between India and Russia.

The event focused on providing a platform to undergraduate as well as postgraduate students to highlight their abilities in various fields. They got an opportunity to test their knowledge of the subjects studied –grammar, translation, literature and culture.

During this cultural festival the Olympiad, competitions on Essay Writing in Russian, Painting Competition on topic related to 70 years of Indo-Russian Diplomatic Relations and the Poetry Recitation Competition in Russian were organised. The creative competition on Translation of the text from Russian into English/Hindi was also organised. As there was a huge response from the students, the competitions were held in Two Rounds. The First Round was an elimination round and the second was the Final Round. Students highlighted their excellent knowledge and skills in various competitions.

The Short Documentary on “My Centre of Russian Studies”

The organising committee included a new type of competition i.e. Short Documentary Film (duration 5-10 minutes) in Russian language made by the students on topic “My Centre of Russian Studies”. The video clips were made independently by the students without any teacher’s or professional’s help. The students recorded various locations of the Centre as well as of the Campus through their mobile phone camera and made interesting films on the CRS. The clips may be seen on YouTube at the following links:

Film 1: <https://goo.gl/iDFDL9> made by Avi Panwar, Karan Verma, Ananya Anant

Film 2: <https://goo.gl/81ZG9M> made by Vikas Kumar Singh, Gargi Ghosh, Shashikant Kumar, Vishal Patel

Olympiad

The Olympiad on Russian Language, Literature and Culture was an Inter-University Competition and organised at three levels. Teams of three students each from six institutions such as University of Delhi, Jamia Millia Islamia University, Institute of Russian Language-RCSC, IGNOU, Amity University-Noida, Amity University-Gurgaon and Jawaharlal Nehru University participated in the Olympiad at various levels. The following were the divisions and areas of the levels:

Levels of Olympiad

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Olympiad- Competition Level I | Quiz – | Students from B.A. I year, Certificate/Diploma / Intensive Advanced Diploma Course participated The questions were from Russian Grammar (Nominative, Prepositional, Accusative case), Alphabet, nouns, numerals, adjectives, basic sentences, basic geography (name of city, river, mountains, etc), Name of famous personalities. |
| Olympiad- Competition Level II | Quiz – | Students from B.A. II/III year, Advanced Diploma, M.A I year participated The questions were from Russian Grammar (All cases), numerals, sentence structure, Cultural Heritage, History, etc. |
| Olympiad- Competition Level III | Quiz – | Students/scholars in M.A II, M.Phil/PhD participated The questions were from Russian Grammar (Morphology, Lexicology, Syntax) Research Methodology, Literature 19 th and 20 th century, Cultural Heritage, History, etc. |

Apart from the above competitions there were some performances of group songs in Russian prepared by students of the Centre. About 80 students and their 20 teachers from above mentioned

six institutions participated in this cultural programme. The winners of various competitions were facilitated with Gold, Silver and bronze medals and certificates by the Chairperson Prof. Meeta Narain and the guest from Embassy of Russian Federation in India Ms. Nana Mgladze. The Days of Russia in India was a big success and academic and cultural exposure for the students of the CRS, which encouraged them to participate in such events in future as well. The programme concluded by the Russian Food festival at CRS organised by the Embassy of Russian Federation in India and Centre of Russian Studies at SLL&CS. The Russian pancakes-bliny with honey, apple-pies, Russian salads and vegetable with Indian tea were the highlights of the menu at the festival. This food festival was also a big success.

Cultural Committee, Office of Dean of Students, IHA, JNU

Feb, 18

The cultural committee, office of the Dean, IHA, and JNU organized the annual cultural fest this year, "JNU Mélange" which was a great success. As the name suggests, it was an amalgamation of both the national and international cultural activities. The Fest was organized under the guidance of Dean of Students, Prof. Umesh Ashok Kadam and the Cultural Coordinator, JNU Prof. Meeta Narain along with the other members of the cultural committee and students conveners of the various clubs on the campus.

The program was divided into two parts – the morning sessions consisted of various events like the photography workshop, the Open mic session, art exhibition, an interactive session with the members of the NGO,"MUSKAN" which works on Drug de-addiction and many international performances. Also the program was followed by a number music and dance programs performed by the students of music and dance club.

JNU is one place that has been known for its space of freedom and rationality. We in JNU believe in a culture that provides a proper space to express oneself. JNU MELANGE has been the perfect example of the different cultures of our nation as well as of the other countries such as Korea, Russia, Spain and many more.

The cultural club of JNU, worked hard to make this program a success. The respective conveners of the clubs had their stalls of the club which showcased their creativity. The Nature and Wild Life Club displayed a very interesting exhibition of their events and the Photography Club also displayed its work. The Fine Arts Club had a large number of paintings to be displayed and creative work done by the students in form of diaries, calendars, note books etc. There were 10 stalls from the Dastakari Haat Samiti which were of immense creativity, showcasing work done on glass painting, madhubani, kite making, pottery and paper mache products.

The whole idea of the event was to showcase the vibrant cultures, to learn, to express and to enjoy. We had a very amazing dance performances by the students of the Center for Korean studies representing the Korean culture. We also had a few programs from the center for Russian studies depicting the culture of Russia. Also we inaugurated the program with a very graceful performance of Bharatnattiyam. The stage also rocked by the little kids of the UNNOTICED, an organization run by the students of JNU which takes care of the children of the construction workers, laborers and staffs of JNU.

We also had an open mic session in association with "Your Quote" where the students recited their own compositions. We also organized a photography workshop by Mr. Atul kumar Jaiswal who actually provided some very important insights of photography. He has remained an ardent photographer and recently one of his photo got selected to be showcased at the Portugal Art exhibition. This workshop certainly enhanced the interest of the students in photography. Almost 60 students attended the work shop.

The evening program was a cultural event which had a talent show, exhibiting the regional dresses from the four corners of India. This was a big success and was followed by regional dances from these corners of India. This, too, was an enlightening programme.

The JNU Melange was a big success and the entire cultural clubs with their students volunteers need to be congratulated – Anupriya, Apporva, Prashant, Lakhyajit and others worked hard for putting up a good show. The faculty Incharge under the guidance of Prof. Meeta Narain worked round the clock for the same. Dr. Sudesh Yadav, Dr. Poonam, Dr. Bhaswati, Dr. Neerja and Garima, Dr. Arihant were always ready to take up the various tasks. The Engineering, Horticulure and other departments of the University helped in making the event a success.

The event was inaugurated by Rector III, Prof. Rana Pratap Singh and by the Dean of students, Prof. Umesh Ashok Kadam, the evening programme by the VC, Prof. M. Jagdeesh Kumar and many other esteemed dignitaries from JNU. They congratulated the Cultural Committee for organizing this big show. The JNU Melange was attended by the faculties of the university, their families, students and staff of the university.

JNU Cultural Committee & SPICMACAY

Feb, 24

JNU had the pleasure of having "Bombay Jayashree" amongst us in association with the JNU Spic Macay chapter on Feb 24th, 2018. Her magical voice was really a boon to hear. We witnessed a huge crowd for this musical evening. The academy award nominated vocalist made us realize, how soothing her voice can be.

"Bombay" Jayashri Ramnath is an Academy Award nominated, Indian Carnatic music vocalist and music composer. She is a disciple of violin maestro Lalgudi Jayaraman. She has performed at various festivals and venues all across India and in over twenty different countries. Jayashri worked with Ang Lee on his motion picture, Life of Pi. She performed the lyrics for "Pi's Lullaby", which was nominated for the 2012 Oscars in the Best Original Song category. She has also composed music for actor Revathi's films Verukku Neer and Kerala Cafe. In 2004, Jayashri composed music for Silappadhikaaram, a dance drama commissioned by the Cleveland Cultural Alliance. Another dimension of music which Jayashri is focused on is in exploring the therapeutic and healing value that music can generate. She has been working closely with institution like Kilikili, Sampoorna in Karnataka and Sankalp in Tamil Nadu which care for autistic children. This domain is a matter of serious engagement for Jayashri and her students. Some other institutions that Jayashri has worked with include: The Banyan Chennai (rehabilitation of homeless/mentally challenged women), Vasantha Memorial Trust (cancer patients), Stepping Stones Orphanage Home, Malaysia, Multiple Sclerosis Society of India, Bangalore and more.

We are very thankful to Spic Macay for providing us with the opportunity to have such an eminent artist amongst us. Many students, faculties including the Vice-chancellor attended the program. The artists were facilitated by the VC. After the program, there was a small question-answer session for the music enthusiasts. A great interaction took place between the students and the artists which delighted the audience more. Bombay Jayashree spoke about her training and experiences.

The program was a grand success with the entire cultural team of JNU working in coordination and under the guidance of the Cultural Coordinator, Prof. Meeta Narain and the faculty members - Dr. Bhaswati Sarkar, Dr. Sudesh Yadav, Dr. Arihant kumar and the student coordinators, Anupriya, Apoorva, Prashant, Lakhyajit, Rohit and Vipin.

We all had a great time working as a team and hearing to “Bombay Jayashree” and look forward to many more programmes in future.

Literary Club

March, 19

JNU Literary Club successfully completed its proposed 'Public Lecture' in 2 sessions titled 'Human Trafficking in India & State-Civil Society Interface' and 'Political Activities and Associated Violation of Human Rights' on 19th of March, 2018 in association with National Human Rights & Crime Control Bureau.

The panel in the first session had representation from all 3- State, Civil Society and Academics. Whereas Prof Mondira threw light upon the theoretical aspects of Human Trafficking, Dr Meeran Borwankar spoke of the real life hurdles that she had to face while being a law enforcer. Shri Rakesh Sinha ji, in the 2nd session, spoke of the necessity to decolonize Indian mind, micro narrative and inclusiveness.

Nature & Wildlife Club

22nd March, 2018

JNU Nature & Wildlife Club in association with IHA successfully organised the poster making competition to observe the International water Day . The main objective of the event was to raise awareness regarding environmental protection, especially water among the university students and to seek their view point. Students from different schools of the university participated and made beautiful posters. After finishing , Professor incharge of the Club , Dr. Sudesh Yadav with his speech threw light on world water Day. It was then followed up by prize distribution by Pof. Meeta Narain , Cultural club coordinator and Dr. Sudesh Yadav. The JNU Nature & Club would like to sincerely thank IHA and Cultural club coordinator for the sheer cooperation and support which made the event a success.

Literary Club

March, 25

JNU LITERARY CLUB in association with Indic Academy successfully concluded its proposed book launch event, titled 'जीवन का गणित: परिचर्चाओं का विमोचन', of 'JIWAN KA GANIT-A Poetry Collection by Anikul' on 25th of March. Indic Academy seeks to build an intellectual, Cultural and Spiritual Renaissance based on Indic civilizational thought. Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi ji, Hon'ble MP from New Delhi, graced the event as Chief Guest. The guests of honour included Novelist & Consulting Editor, Swarajya Prof A Ranganathan, Former editor National Affairs, Swarajya, Shri Surajit Dasgupta ji, Author Lt. Col. (Rtd) Manish Jaitley ji and Prof Rajesh Paswan ji from CIL, JNU, New Delhi. Meenakshi Lekhi ji recited poem 'Naxalwaad' from the book and congratulated the Author Anikul.

Prof. Meeta Narain

Coordinator, Cultural Committee