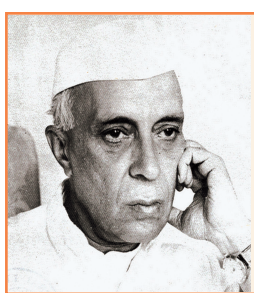




Bimonthly Journal of Jawaharlal Nehru University



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.



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
- An Interview with Poet Chris Mooney-Singh 2
- ◆ Movement 3
- ◆ Achievements/Awards 4
- ◆ Campus Activities 5
- Art Exhibition -'Jashn', Celebrating Life 5
- Programme on "GIS Application in Hydrogeology" 5
- ◆ Seminar/Conference 6-17
- The Genie is Awakened in JNU 6
- International Symposium on Endocrinology and Reproduction: 9
- Workshop on "Differently Abled Community in Higher" 10
- "Construction and Contours of Crises in Health Care" 10
- "Epidemiology" Lectures by 11
- International Conference on "Understanding Schopenhauer" 11
- Special lecture "The (Im) possibility of Development Studies" 12
- जेएनयू में अनामिका द्वारा अपने उपन्यास-अंशों का पाठ और परिचर्चा 13
- निःश्रेयस : परम लक्ष्य की ओर 13
- International Seminar on "People, Culture And Goods in" 14
- International Seminar on Language Education: A Bridge between" 16
- Seminar on Contribution of Kerala Muslim Scholars in Arabic" 16
- ◆ Our Publications 17
- ◆ Alumni Corner 18
- An Interview with Dr. N.R. Mohanty, Faculty, (JIMC) 18
- ◆ Photo Gallery 19



In conversation with.....

An interview with poet Chris Mooney-Singh who performed his poetry recently in JNU.



Bhoomika: When did you start performing poetry? When did this idea occur to you?

Mr. Singh: I was interested from young in music, had a rock band in school days and used to write protest songs. Much later, I became interested in Indian classical and devotional music and also the ghazal tradition and its performative side. I first

experimented with singing English ghazals. From there I combined some theatre techniques and started my first poetry ensemble in Australia. Much later in Singapore, I resumed the performative work after years in India performing Gurmat Sangeet, observing folk poetry styles in Punjab like the Dhadi tradition and Sikh ballad singers. In 2003 I started Poetry Slam in Singapore after researching it in the USA. From there, I found my way through a combination of hosting shows, performing widely in schools and the general public and teaching. The learning process continues....

Bhoomika: During your performance, you mentioned somewhere that the way poetry is being taught in schools and colleges is very suffocating and damaging in nature. Keeping this in mind, what do you think is the future of poetry going to be?

Mr. Singh: Poetry is an atomic cockroach. It will survive any holocaust like the resilient insect better than other art forms that require technology, large scale production work and funding. Poetry can be memorized and it can be transmitted ear to ear. Don't worry about poetry. It is tougher than we think and will survive just one century of misguided teachers.

Bhoomika: As a poet-activist, what methods do you employ to spread the message of poetry?

Mr. Singh: I think poetry from morning to night. I promote poetry full time and feel lucky to be able to do that independently. I write and encourage others by example and now train fellow poets to do the same. We organize and provide platforms for writers. Overall, I avoid poets who are 'me-centred' and work 99% of the time with those younger. Share what you know and they will give back love. It's a cycle that perpetuates and energizes one's life.

Bhoomika: How receptive have you found young school children to this approach? How stable has been their positive response to poetry in your experiments?

Mr. Singh: 100,000 young students mostly have been through my non-profit company's (Word Forward)

programmes. Each year 60 teams (300 or so students) compete in our school poetry slam National Finals. You can see <http://litup.sg> and its online festival for more information.

Bhoomika: Could you name some of your favourite poets?

Mr. Singh: It has changed over the years. First, it was the Romantic period poets, especially Blake and Shelley, then it was Tagore and Yeats. Then 20th Century American, Spanish language poets (Neruda and Vallejo in translation). After that, I continued to read as widely as possible. Now I read a lot of work on the Net. At the moment, I am back to UK and Australian contemporary work.

Bhoomika: It would be interesting to know what prose does a poet like you read.

Mr. Singh: I read it all. Patrick White was an early influence. Also, a good deal of French and Russian novelists - Balzac, Flaubert etc., some Russians.

Bhoomika: Your experience of India has been very intense. What are your best memories about India?

Mr. Singh: Listening to Qawwali and Nizamudim Auliyah, performing Shabad Kirtan all over Punjab, living in a grass hut on the Ganga in UP, travelling in 4 wheel drives in the mountain regions up North, sitting in a village near Amritsar researching and supervising unemployed village youth to learn to make musical instruments like the rabab.

Bhoomika: Do you read any poems by Indian poets?

Mr. Singh: I did, back in the mid to late nineties. English language writers such Nissim Ezekiel, Gieve Patel, Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, Eunice DeSouza, Adil Jussawala, Imtiaz Dharker and others who I met personally in those days on early visits to India and many more. So many new talented writers have come up and I need to catch up.

Bhoomika: Which poetic and performative traditions of India other than Ghazal fascinate you?

Mr. Singh: The mystical element. Sikh/Sufi/Bhakti traditions interested me greatly because of my interest in meditation.

Ghazals also have an historical connect to the troubadour love poetry that influenced Western literature through the Moors in Spain.

Bhoomika: Being a Sikh, I'm sure you have spiritually experienced the power of Shri Guru Granth Sahib. But how do you feel about it as a poet?

Mr. Singh: There are two kinds of poetry: the spiritually-inspired and the intellectually-driven forms. All world scriptures and bodies of knowledge use the higher utterance of

In conversation with.....

poetic language to communicate the highest truths and sentiments. I see Shri Guru Granth Sahib in the same light. What is unique about it for me is that it is both an ocean of the highest mystical love poetry, an inter-linguistic and inter-faith text aiming to bring together the cream of the bhakti period, including 900 plus shabads/padas of Kabir Ji with the overall Nirgun perspective of godhead. It brought Hindu, Muslim and Sikh sentiments together at a time of acrimony and ignorance. That remains for me a model of how to proceed in this millennium. I am a Sikh because Sikhism means respect for all ways of life and thinking. That is post-modernist philosophy from 500 plus years back.

Bhoomika: How would you describe your JNU experience?

Mr. Singh: I was touched by the openness of the students to 'play' with me with poetry, but also respectful of a sense of seriousness and quite deep understanding of aesthetic and literary matters in the group.

Bhoomika: What message would you like to give to the students of JNU?

Mr. Singh: Your education is an adventure, but it is up to you to define your 'way', your path through what might seem like an academic jungle. Learning is exciting, but always remember that sharing of your knowledge in the future is even more rewarding - either as an academic or an industry professional. Learn now, give back and keep the cycle of life turning. We are lucky to have the privilege of studying. Becoming a post-modern 'pundit' comes with responsibilities. Never be greedy. Become a clear well others can draw from.

Bio

Chris Mooney Singh is full-time literary arts organiser, book publisher, facilitator and performer. He has been the recipient of grants from The Singapore National Arts Council and has traveled to many international festivals and events to perform poems along with his original music. He has recorded and produced 3 poetry and music fusion CDs including 'Living in the Land of the Durian Eaters'. His latest book 'The Laughing Buddha Cab Company' came out in Singapore in 2007. His new collection 'The Bearded Chameleon' is due for a mid-year release in both Singapore, India and Australia.

Movement

New Appointments

Administration

- ◆ Shri Dilbagh Singh as Welder-cum-Blacksmith, Engineering Branch

Retirements/Resignations

- ◆ Prof. S.A. Rahman, Centre of Arabic and African Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies
- ◆ Smt. Asha Verma, Section Officer, Collaboration Unit
- ◆ Dr. Mallikarjun Shakarad, Assistant Professor, School of Life Sciences
- ◆ Smt. Kusum Lata Sharma, Professional Assistant, Central Library
- ◆ Smt. D.K. Randhawa, Professional Assistant, Central Library
- ◆ Shri Sardar Singh, Security Assistant, Security Branch
- ◆ Shri Harkesh Sharma, Security Guard, Security Branch
- ◆ Shri Tara Chand, Library Attendant, Central Library
- ◆ Shri Ram Karan, Office Attendant, Despatch Section

Jawaharlal Nehru University Staff Association

President	:	R.K. Khurana
Vice-President (Class III)	:	Amar Singh Yadav
Vice-President (Class IV)	:	Santosh Singh
General Secretary	:	Gufuran Khan
Joint Secretary (Class III)	:	Awadh Prasad
Joint Secretary (Class IV)	:	Khushal Singh

E.C. Members

Anand Mani Joshi	Mohd. Hanif
Azad Singh	Krishan Dev
Girdhari Lal	Om Parkash Kataria
Kedar Singh	Phool Chand
Kedar Singh-II	Puran Singh Negi

Achievements/Awards



◆ **Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya**, Vice-Chancellor has been honoured with the "Mother Teresa Lifetime Achievement Award" for the year 2010. These awards are presented by the Mother Teresa International Award Committee, Kolkata to eminent personalities in India and abroad who have practically served the mankind in their own capacity during their long life.

◆ **Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya**, Vice-Chancellor received the "Indian Excellence Award" which was conferred on him by his Excellency, the Governor of West Bengal in recognition of his academic excellence, during the 33rd Annual International Conference on Oriental Heritage organized by Indian Institute of Oriental Heritage, Kolkata during February, 2010.



◆ **Prof. Makarand R. Paranjape**, Centre for English Studies, SLL & CS, has served as the Chair of the Jury for Europe and South Asia of Commonwealth Writers Prize from 2007-2009, and has been invited again to judge the final round of the Prize, to be awarded in April in New Delhi, as the local member of the Jury.



◆ **Dr. C. Upender Rao**, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, JNU alongwith two others-Khenpo Kalsang Gyaltsep of Tseehen Kunchab Ling Temple, seat of His Holiness Sakya Trizin in the United States, and Professor Ani Kunga Chodron of the George Washington University has been selected by Khyenste Foundation for a translation project

The three institutions are collaborating on a Proof of Concept translation of The Sutra of the Meeting of the Noble Father and Son, for the Buddhist Literary Heritage Project.



◆ **Mr. Subir Rana**, Research Scholar, Centre for School of Social Sciences was selected in the 2nd Edition of the 4 Month Fellowship Programme of the International course titled "Applied Anthropology in Development Processes" in La Sapienza, Universita Di Roma from October, 2009 to February 2010. The Programme was hosted by the Department of Sociologia and Comunicazione and sponsored by Ministero Affari Esteri, Cooperazione Italiana, Italy. He was also selected for Sir Ratan Tata Trust Library visiting Full-Time Fellowship 2009-2010 sponsored by the School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University, West Bengal. The Grant is given to the School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University, for the project entitled 'Building Resources in Women's Studies'.



◆ **Ms. Nidhi Puri**, Research Scholar, School of Life Sciences received the ABC 2010 Young Investigator Award for her poster presentation entitled "Analysis of physico-chemical properties of substrates of ABC and MFS multidrug transporters of pathogenic *Candida albicans*", at the 3rd FEBS Special Meeting on "ATP-Binding Cassette Proteins: From Multidrug Resistance to Genetic Diseases" held from 27 February to 5 March, 2010 in Innsbruck, Austria.

◆ **Mr. Gautam Kumar**, Research Scholar, School of Life Sciences, has been awarded Best Poster Award at Indo-US Bilateral Workshop on Plant Genomics in Crop Improvement, CCS Haryana Agricultural University & Michigan State University, USA.



Jawaharlal Nehru University participated in Pusa Horticulture Show 2010 organised by Delhi Agri-Horticultural Society in the lawns of Genetics Division, IARI, Pusa New Delhi on 06-07 March 2010, which is an open competition for all exhibitors from Delhi and New Delhi. JNU submitted 7 entries for various types of gardens. Accordingly, a judging committee from IARI, Pusa inspected the 7 gardens of the University on 26 February 2010.

It is a matter of immense pride that the University was awarded 6 DAHS Cups with 1) the VC Lodge selected the Best Medium Private Garden in Delhi and New Delhi in a Government allotted accommodation; 2) the Best Small Private Garden in Delhi and New Delhi in Government allotted accommodation and 3) the Best Mini Private Garden in Delhi and New Delhi

in a Government allotted accommodation; 4) the Aravali Guest House Garden being awarded the Best Mini Garden attached to institutions, Embassies, Hotels and Clubs in Delhi and New Delhi; 5) the Garden in front of the Administration Building being given the Best Large Public Garden in Delhi and New Delhi and 6) the Garden of Dean of Students Welfare Office being the Best Small Public Garden in Delhi and New Delhi. The above could become possible mainly due to the consistent efforts put in by the entire Horticulture unit with appreciable cooperation from Engineering and Finance Departments. The contribution of all the Malis is laudable. The Horticulture Branch also acknowledges the ceaseless encouragement and cooperation of the higher officers of the University.

Campus Activities

Art Exhibition - 'Jashn, Celebrating Life'



For the first time in recent history of JNU, Kaveri Hostel organized a JNU level Art Exhibition 'Jashn, Celebrating Life' as part of its annual hostel night celebrations. The Art Exhibition was inaugurated by Prof. V.K. Jain, Registrar and Dean of Students in the presence of Dr. Soumen Chattopadhyaya and Dr. Satyabrata Pattnaik, wardens of the Kaveri Hostel. Seven

professional and amateur artists of JNU participated in the exhibition displaying their works of traditional art, fine art, tribal art and modern art. The exhibition showcased the works of Dr. Sheetal Sharma (CES/SIS), Siddarth Tripathi (CES/SIS), Sharmistha Sinha (CESP/SSS), Urmila Unnikrishnan (ZHCES/SSS), Shakti Prasad Srichandan (CES/SIS), Gunjan (CRS/SLL&CS) and 7 year Old Ketyusha Das, the daughter of Dr. Preeti Das (CRCAS/SIS). One of the attractions of the exhibition was the painting 'Lord Neptune' by Shakti Prasad Srichandan, which was earlier showcased at an International Exhibition on Indo-EU Cultural Relations, Prague, Czech Republic and Artslant Gallery, New York. The exhibition which spanned for two days attracted the JNU community in large numbers. All the artists were felicitated on the occasion of Kaveri Hostel cultural night.

**Ashok Kumar Karna, President
Kaveri Hostel**

Programme on "GIS Application in Hydrogeology and Environmental Geology"

The School of Environmental Science organized a short term training programme of three days on "GIS Application in Hydrogeology and Environmental Geology" by Dr. Wolfgang Gossel, a renowned expert in the field of Hydrogeology and Environmental Geology, presently working at Martin Luther University, Halle, Germany.

The three days programme, which was also the first major academic event of the year of the school started with the inauguration by Prof K.G Saxena, Dean, SES, in the presence of Dr. N.J. Raju, organizer of the programme, and Dr.Gossel. Dr Raju introduced Dr. Wolfgang Gossel and highlighted the importance of GIS tool in the study of various aspects of environmental studies to the audience.

Keeping an eye on the available required facilities for the workshop, only 15 participants for the programme were selected by a committee in the school after a close scrutiny of the curriculum vitae of the aspiring candidates from the SES and CSRSD, application from who had been invited by Dr. Raju through a widely publicized circular. However, at the inception of the programme, conceding to the great enthusiasm and interest of other research and M.Sc. students for the programme, Dr. Raju accommodated more than 25 interested candidates for the programme. Dr. Raju coordinated the whole workshop with the aim of providing the knowledge of GIS and

its application in the hydrogeology and environmental geology to the young budding research scholars of the SES and CSRSD. The Programme schedule designed by Dr. Raju with the help of Dr. Wolfgang Gossel was a good example of the best possible management of the time in order to cover those areas of the GIS which are generally needed by the students in their research work.

Dr. Gossel delivered the lectures followed by labs sessions on all the three days on various topics ranging from Introduction of GIS to use of GIS as a tool in the 2.5 D and 3D interpretation, vulnerability mapping and risk assessment for different natural disasters. From the very first day of the programme students started interacting with Dr. Gossel and he in turn left no stone unturned to quench their thirst for knowledge. The three days of the workshop saw very enthusiastic participation of students with undiminished intensity and liveliness.

Finally the programme concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Raju to the Dean of the School for his cooperation, JNU administration for their financial assistance, and to Dr.Gossel and participants for their best cooperation and enthusiastic participation in the programme.

**Ankur Goyal, Research Scholar
School of Environmental Sciences**

Seminar/Conference

The Genie is Awakened in JNU

The Centre of Arabic and African Studies, School of Language Literature & Culture Studies, hosted an International Symposium on "Reception of the Arabian Nights in World Literature" in Jawaharlal Nehru University. The inauguration of the Symposium was held in the Auditorium of the School of Arts and Aesthetics in which Professor G.K. Chadha, CEO South Asian University, was the Guest of Honour; Dr Kapila Vatsyayan, M.P. Rajya Sabha and Chairperson IIC Asia Project was the Chief Guest; Prof. B.B Bhattacharya, Vice Chancellor JNU, presided over the inaugural session and Prof. G.K. Malik of Kashmir University delivered the keynote address. Prof. Syed Ahsanur Rahman, Chairperson CAAS, while welcoming the guests, delegates and participants of the Symposium from India, Afghanistan, Algeria, Bulgaria, France, Malaysia, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey expressed his gratitude to them for responding to the invitation of the Centre of Arabic and African Studies, JNU. He spoke about the rich heritage of Arabic Studies in India since the advent of Arabs as traders to the subcontinent and Islam gave wide popularity to Arabic in the region. He appreciated the efforts of the Government of India and several Indian academic institutions to promote the subject but regretted that Arab embassies do so little for the promotion of Arabic in India. Ambassadors of 22 Arabic speaking countries to New Delhi were invited to the Symposium, but no one turned up. Dr. Rizwanur Rahman, the Director of the Symposium introduced the theme of Reception of the Arabian Nights in World Literature to the learned audience. He said that 'Arabian Nights' is a classic not only in the annals of the Arabic literature but it is looked upon as a literary heritage of the world'. It was in the fitness of the things to invite delegates from 12 countries including India at JNU to deliberate on the 'Reception of 'Arabian Nights' in the literature of the world' and also to strengthen the academic and cultural relations between India and other countries. Dr. Syed Akhtar Husain, Associate Professor in the Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies, read the Message of Shri. M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India, in which His Excellency hoped that the "Symposium would go a long way in strengthening the age old cultural and historical relations between Arabia, Turkey and Iran and India". Dr. G. R. Malik, an eminent scholar of Kashmir University, Srinagar, delivered the keynote address of the Symposium and called the impact of the 'Arabian Nights' as the Spell of Infinity. The learned speaker cast his spell upon the audience of the Symposium and he discussed the cumulative effect of the Arabian Nights on French, English, American, and Indian English literatures. He beautifully showed the radiance of 'Arabian Nights' cutting across Europe and reaching the English Channel. He rightly quoted George Eliot, a great admirer of the East that the East was the land of the morning.

According to Dr. Malik, 'Arabian Nights' are universal and timeless motives whose threads are inseparably interwoven by the collective consciousness of several races". In the tenth century of the Christian era, its nucleus began to swell in size and in the following three to five countries divers hands developed the tales in the present form of Alf Laila wa Laila (One Thousand and One Nights). The Nights created the image of the Orient as an exotic, magical and fantastical East ever exuding warmth and imagination. But the dominant concept emerged out of the pages of the Nights that echoes the message of the Quran: "There is no power and no virtue but in God the Most High, the Supreme".

Professor G.K. Chadha was the patron of the Symposium in the true sense of the term. He sincerely encouraged the organizers to host the Symposium and also conceded to their request to attend the function as the Guest of Honour. He aptly quoted the Urdu couplet: "Bahot shauq se soon raha tha zamana; Ham hi sogaye dastan kahte kahte" (People were listening to the stories but I fell to sleep which telling the tales to them). He found many similarities between the 'Arabian Nights' and the Indian classics namely the stories of the Panchtantra, Ramayana and the folk tales of the Frontier Hari Singh Nalwa or Vikram Baital. Professor Chadha in his address touched upon the humane aspects of the 'Arabian Nights' and wished the participants to have very good academic deliberations in the three day 'Symposium'. Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan, an institution in herself, graciously gave academic and organizational succor to the international gathering of the scholars. She was glad to find organizations like Sahitya Akademi, ICSSR, ICHR, ICCR, NCPUL, IIC-Asia Project and the Ministry of Culture, Government of India supporting the Centre of Arabic and African Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University to continue the ongoing Asia dialogue. She saw through the prism of the single text of 'Arabian Nights' the whole trajectory of the Asian dialogue in which India, Persia, Arabia, Turkey and China all were closely interlocked with each other. The text of 'Arabian Nights' reinforces the child in man and takes him to the land of genii where he can watch diverse forms of human behavior.



Seminar/Conference

She maintained that the text of the 'Arabian Nights' was a floating text in medieval times and it traveled from India through the Silk Route of Afghanistan, Persia, Turkey and ultimately became a fixed text in Syria, Egypt and Baghdad, and hence it was called the 'Arabian Nights'. Dr. Vatsyayan believes that the Nights is a well structured corpus in which a child talks to an adult and asks about the fundamental question of morals in the stories. She thanked the Centre of Arabic and African Studies JNU for "including the drop out of the academia" in the Symposium. Professor. B.B. Bhattacharya in his presidential remarks appreciated the efforts of the organizers to host the International Symposium on the world classic Thousand and One Nights' Reception in World Literature and recommended the young students of literature to read the classic again and again. He saw in the Nights, the cross culture not talking of clash of civilization but reinforcing the values and morals of the Panchtantra, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata in the Middle East.

Dr. Basheer Ahmad, on behalf of the Centre, proposed a vote of thanks and acknowledged the support and cooperation of the above named sponsors and all the guests, delegates, staff members, participants for attending the inaugural session of the Symposium. Dr. Mujeebur Rahman who was conducting the inaugural function, invited the audience for luncheon hosted by the Dean of the School in honour of the guests and delegates of the Symposium.

In the afternoon, the first, second and parallel sessions were held in Arabic and Persian. Prof. Noman Khan of Delhi University and Prof. Shafique Ahmad Khan of Jamia Millia Islamia presided over the sessions in which Dr. Amin Yusuf Auda of Jordan, Dr. Sara Jouini Hafiz of Tunisia, Professor Shazli of Egypt, Dr. Zaim Khenchouli of Algeria and a host of scholars presented their papers on Sufism & Arabian Nights; Symbols of Asian Civilization; Impact of Arabian Nights on Hans Christian Anderson and Sufic Voyages of Sindbad, the Sailor. The Persian sessions were very lively in which Dr. Abul Qasim Radfar of Tehran; Prof M.S. Niazmand, Dr. Syed Akhtar Husain and Dr. Ishtiaque Ahmed were in the Chair. The Persian perspective, historical dimensions and literary merit of the 'Arabian Nights' were discussed in Persian by Dr. Husain Yameen of Kabul University, Mrs. Mandana Mangeli, Dr Nasrullah Farooq of Islamic Azad University, and Mrs. Mehri Shah Hosseini, an independent scholar and poet from Tehran. The sessions ended with a vote of thanks.

Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan hosted the third, fourth, fifth and the sixth academic sessions of the Symposium in the Annex Auditorium, IIC, New Delhi. Prof Yusuf Siddique of the University of Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan, presided over the academic session in which five papers were presented. The first speaker of the session, Dr. Muzaffar Alam discussed nine stories of Alf Laila that were

adapted by Kamil Kilani, a modern Egyptian writer of Arabic, as children's literature. Dr. Ashfaque Ahmad of Silchar University, Assam, spoke on Women in Islamic Society: A Study based on the Arabian Nights. He underlined the value of fidelity and discussed extra marital sexual relationship in his paper. Mirza Nehal Beg, Regional Director of IGNOU at Srinagar Centre deliberated upon the Impact of the Arabian Nights on Sufism. Mr. Arshadul Qadri, Assistant Professor of Persian, University of Lukhnow talked about the Genesis of Sindbad nameh in the Arabian Nights. He believed that the name Sindbad nameh itself was of Iranian origin. It was translated into various languages of the world and through story -tellers found its way into the Arabian Nights.

Prof. Shankar Basu, Dean SLL&CS, JNU chaired the fourth session of the Symposium in which Prof. Nasar Shakeel Roomi discussed the 1001 Nights' Reception in Russia and traced the influence of the classic upon Pushkin and Tolstoy. Ms. Janashruti Chandra, Assistant Professor in the Centre for Japanese, Korean and North East Asian Studies treated the process of 'Reception of the Nights in Japan'. Dr. Alka Jaspal of the Centre of Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Latin American Studies presented her article on 'Arabic Influence on Medieval Spanish Literature: A Case Study of Kalila wa Dimna. Dr Hasnain Akhtar of Allahabad University, drew the attention of the learned audience to the 'Reception of the Nights in Urdu Literature'. In this session topics mostly pertaining to renderings of the Arabian Nights into or their influence upon various languages, literatures and cultures were clustered together. The fifth session was chaired by the doyen of scholars Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan. In her session Professor Jean Jaques Thibon of Blaise Pascal University, France discussed, the presence of 'Sufism in Arabian Nights'. Mr. S.Ausaf Ali the founder member of Hamdard University was called upon by the Chair to comment upon the erudite paper. Mr. Ali remarked that during the Abbasid period when the embryo of the nights was developing, Baghdad was a vibrant centre of Sufism. Therefore, one could admit the Sufic presence in 'the Nights' and indeed Prof. Thibon's paper added a new dimension to the study of the 'Arabian Nights'. Dr. Ali Fuat Bilkan, Vice Rector THOBB University, Ankara Turkey presented the translations of the 'Nights' in Turkish language from the 15th to 20th century. Most of the translations of the 'Nights' are available in the Ottoman Turkish. Prof. Sadiq of JNU was requested to comment on the paper. Prof. Sadiq appreciated the effort of the speaker and said that the 'Arabian Nights' had enriched Turkish language and literature not only in the Ottoman period but also during the Republic. Dr. Kaseh Abu Bakr of Malaysian National University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia made her presentation on '1001 Nights in Malaysian Literary and Cultural Traditions'. She traced the deep influence of Arabic, Persian and Sanskrit on the Malaysian language, literature and culture and said that there

Seminar/Conference

were 4000 manuscripts about Arabian Nights in Malaysia. She teaches the 'Nights' to improve the language proficiency of students of Arabic studies in her University and maintained that the 'Nights' was the 'Harry Potter' of its time. Dr. Syed Akhtar Husain of Centre of Persian & Central Asian Studies, JNU spoke on the 'Reception of the Nights by Richard Burton'. The speaker said that Burton had really worked hard on the translation which he had admitted in these words: "I have carefully sought out the English equivalent of every Arabic word." Burton was a legend, knowing 29 languages including Arabic. His translation of the 'Nights' into English had enriched English literature. Perhaps, the story of 'Araby' by James Joyce could be a by-product of Burton's translation of the 'Arabian Nights'. Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan concluded the session with her brilliant presidential remarks that the stories of the 'Nights' swelled from 270 to 1001 with the march of time. The 'Nights' oral tradition encouraged the performance of puppetry in Turkey and theatre art in Malaysia. The single text of the 'Arabian Nights' assumed universal popularity and some gave a Sufic reading into the text which is a dimension of the Asian civilization, thus fusing the profane and the sacred together in this International Symposium. The sixth session of the 'Symposium' was presided over by Mr. S. Ausaf Ali in which four papers were presented. Prof Ismat Mahdi, Dr. Sevim Ozdemir, Prof Kafeel Ahmad Qasmi and Prof Nizamuddin were the speakers of the session. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Ausaf Ali said that actually there were 600 stories in the 'Arabian Nights'. The Arabs had learnt numerical from Indians and the figure 1001 denoted huge numbers and thus the huge number of the stories came to be known as '1001 Nights'. Indeed the stories in the 'Nights', like the 'Aesop's Fables', contain morals and wisdom as well. Prof Ismat Mahdi spoke about modern Sherazade and she analyzed the space given to women through the Nights in Arabic literature. Dr. Sevim Ozdemir discussed '40 Vazirs' Stories in Turkish Literature' and found them as the representation of the 'Forty Thieves' of the 'Arabian Nights'. Prof. Kafil discussed the Oriya translation of the classic and Prof. Naziruddin talked about the 'Reception of the Nights in the Culture and Literature of Kerala'. Mr. Ausaf Ali concluded the session with his presidential remarks that the world at large

had contributed to the growth of the classic and India was the first country to publish the first printed edition of the '1001 Nights'.

The seventh, eighth and the valedictory sessions of the symposium were held in SLL&CS, JNU. Prof. Zubair Ahmed Farooque of Jamia Millia Islamia and Prof. Jean Jacques Thibon chaired the sessions and Prof M.A. Jinabade presided over the seventh parallel session in which papers in Urdu were presented. The discussions in these sessions were exclusively in Arabic and Urdu in which the literary, historical and spiritual dimensions of the 'Nights' were underlined by the scholars. The valedictory session marked the end of the three days' international symposium. Three representative delegates: Prof. Ben Ameer Taufik of Tunisia, Prof. Ahmad Abdul Quadir Shazli of Egypt and Dr. Abdallah Bahloul of Tunisia expressed their remarks about the Symposium. Prof. Taufik was overwhelmed with joy to see the warm Indian response to the 'Arabian Nights' and noted that two vital issues-Gender and Islamic Culture-evolved out of the 'Symposium'. He was full of appreciation in the manner the three days' Symposium was organized by JNU. Prof. Shazli elaborated upon the Indo-Arab relations through the ages and said that the word 'Hind' (India) was very dear to the Arabs and the 'Arabian Nights' was an important link between India and Arabia. He congratulated the organizers and sponsors of the 'Symposium' for strengthening this link between India and various countries. Dr. Bahloul, on behalf of all the Indian and foreign delegates, expressed thanks to the Centre of Arabic and African Studies for organizing the 'Symposium'. He said that the Centre had provided an opportunity to the delegates to interact with different scholars from various countries of the world and also with the students of Arabic Studies and promoted interdisciplinary interactions in JNU. Dr. M.H. Karimi, Councillor, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, New Delhi was the Chief Guest on the occasion and spoke about the rich cultural heritage of India, Arabia, Iran, Afghanistan and Turkey and looked upon the 'Arabian Nights' as the cultural heritage of Asia. Professor Syed Shahid Mehdi, Vice President ICCR, presided over the function. He praised the Centre of Arabic & African Studies for hosting the 'International Symposium' in a very orderly manner and promoting the academic and cultural relations of India with Asian, African and European countries.

He was pleased to know that forty-two papers were presented in eight sessions and three papers were taken as read and there was participation of twelve countries in the 'Symposium'. Finally, Dr. Rizwanur Rahman, Director of the 'Symposium' proposed a sincere vote of thanks.

**Syed Akhtar Husain, Associate Professor,
Centre of Persian & Central Asian Studies,
SLL&CS**



International Symposium on Endocrinology and Reproduction: Molecular Mechanism to Molecular Medicine

The Special Centre for Molecular Medicine (SCMM) organized an "International Symposium on Endocrinology and Reproduction: Molecular Mechanism to Molecular Medicine" and the 28th meeting of the Society for Reproductive Biology and Comparative Endocrinology (SRBCE). The symposium was co-organized with National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW), New Delhi. The major aim of the symposium was to have eminent speakers discuss their exciting achievements and also to encourage young scientists, researchers and students to participate, discuss and promote research and teaching in the areas of 'Reproduction and Endocrinology'.

The symposium began with the 'Welcome address' by the organizing secretary, Dr. Rakesh K. Tyagi, SCMM, JNU. The event was formally inaugurated by the Patron-in-chief, Prof. B. B. Bhattacharya, Vice Chancellor, JNU. Prof. S. K. Maitra, President of the SRBCE delivered the introductory lecture followed by a keynote address by Prof. Deoki Nandan, Director, NIHFW. Vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. M. M. Aruldas, Secretary, SRBCE.

Three full days of symposium and deliberations covered a broad range of topics falling under the theme of symposium and comprised of sessions on Molecular Medicine, Nuclear Receptors in Health and Disease, Endocrine Disrupters and Reproductive Toxicology, Stem Cells and Reproductive Biology, Endocrine-related Cancer, Infertility and Reproductive Technologies, Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism, Invertebrate & Vertebrate Endocrinology and Reproduction.

The success and popularity of the symposium was evident by a huge participation of more than 300 teachers, scientists, young researchers and students from various academic institutions. Forty five universities and forty four institutes from India, USA, Iran, UK, and Singapore participated in the event. Senior scientists and active researchers who have made significant contributions in the above areas were invited from various universities as well as from Indian basic and medical institutes of national and international repute. The overwhelming response that the symposium received was evidenced by an entry of 120 selected abstracts. Papers were presented by participants belonging to India as well as from various countries giving it a true international colour. In addition to debates/discussions/brain storming sessions under the major thematic areas, selected platform and poster presentations by young scientists, post-doctoral fellows & students were the highlights of the symposium. Each day had exclusive time for posters and oral presentations which made an interesting viewership as well. The main focus and effort was to have vibrant scientific sessions that kept everyone abreast with the recent advances in 'Endocrinology and Reproduction'.

Different sessions of the symposium were chaired by eminent scientists and dignitaries including Prof. I. T. Huhtaniemi, Prof. M. A. Akbarsha, Prof. Kasturi Datta, Prof. Bandana Chatterjee, Prof. K. Murlidhar, Prof. A. V. Ramachandran, Prof. M. M. Aruldas, Prof. M. M. Misro, Prof. Chimay K. Mukhopadhyay, Dr. Suman K. Dhar, Prof. Maheep Bhatnagar, Prof. S. K. Maitra, Dr. Subeer S. Majumdar, Dr. Selvaraj G. Nataeaja, Prof. Rashmi Kaul, Dr. Franccis Sunny, Prof. K. Balasubramanian, Prof. Oommen V. Oommen, Prof. Sivabasaiah, Prof. N. Srinivasan, Dr. T. Shivanandappa and Dr. J. Arunakaran from different universities and institutes. The papers presented highlighted a number of issues and updates related to 'Reproduction and Endocrinology'. The symposium started with an exciting plenary lecture by an eminent and senior scientist of India, Prof. G. P. Talwar, the former founder-director of National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi. He stated the importance of immunological approaches towards prostate cancer. There were seven plenary lectures that were delivered by Prof. Samir Bhattacharya, Prof. Bandana Chatterjee, Prof. I. T. Huhtaniemi, Prof. Oommen V. Oommen, Prof. Kasturi Datta, Prof. Chandana Haldar and Prof. M. A. Akbarsha. In addition there were seventeen invited lectures, eight oral presentations, eleven short platform presentations by students and post-doctoral fellows that gathered equal attention from the audiences in all the sessions. Out of all the posters (101) and oral presentations (11) that were presented by young researchers, three students received the Prof. N. J. Chinoy award for best oral presentation and four students were given the Prof. N. J. Chinoy award for best poster presentation.

This year's 'Scroll of honour' from SRBCE was presented to renowned scientist Prof. Oommen V. Oommen for his lifetime contributions in teaching and research in the areas of 'Reproduction and Endocrinology'. Prof. Chandana Haldar gave a memorable account on his life-time contribution to the field of science. Dr. S. T. Dheen, from National University of Singapore was nominated this year for SRBCE's 'Fellowship in Reproduction and Endocrinology (FRE)'.

The concluding session was devoted to the analysis of highlights and recommendations for future course of action in the field of 'Endocrinology and Reproduction' by a panel. Not only the invited speakers but the whole audience comprising the students, young researchers were also given the opportunity to share their views and suggestions towards the symposium. The event concluded with 'vote of thanks' to all special invitees, participants and volunteers and funding agencies for their contribution and encouraging response to the success of the symposium. The symposium ended with the high-tea and post-symposium tour to selected places

**G. Mukhopadhyay, Professor
Special Centre for Molecular Medicine**

Seminar/Conference

Workshop on "Differently Abled Community in Higher Education: Reservation and Financial Policy"

The family of Jawaharlal Nehru University Disabled Persons Association (JNUDPA) has been celebrating World Disability Day every year since its establishment in the year 1992.

One day workshop entitled as "Differently Abled Community in Higher Education: Reservation and Financial Policy" as an extension of celebration of World Disability Day. The workshop was financed and supported by the Equal Opportunity Cell (EOC) of JNU.

In the beginning, Prof. Milapchand Sharma, the Co-Advisor, EOC, and Sh. Jit Singh, Nodal Officer, EOC, greeted the participants on behalf of JNU. They also presented the work done by EOC in 2009 for a disabled friendly campus.

The focus of the workshop was highlighted by the Chief Guest, Mr. Javed Abidi, Honorary Director, National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP), who in his address said, "we have to be united and have to fight for our rights. The mandate for disability in the 11th five year Plan is reflected in the Union Budget. This is a small victory for the disability sector which has long been demanding implementation of the chapter on disability in the XIth Five Year Plan".

Prof. Deepak Kumar, ZHCES/SSS, as the Chief Speaker, also emphasized, "the traditional and negative outlook of the society and the government towards disabled persons' reservation must be changed." Prof. Kumar hoped for the commencement of Disability Study Centre in JNU for providing a direction to the governmental policies related to the welfare of challenged community.

Issues traditionally overlooked in most discourses by and about Disabled were stressed by a special guest, Dr. Navneet Sethi, CES, SLL&CS. While concurring with the affirmative ideology at the core of reservation policies, Dr. Sethi, observed that, "Our efforts to create meaningful lives for ourselves can



be effective and long lasting if we also give respect to our bodies and develop active, personal and community programs and regimens for healthier bodies. If we are fighting against prejudices about disability, then our battles have to be fought with our wills as well as our bodies. We must organize consciousness raising workshops for making ourselves healthier within the parameters of our existing challenges".

Representatives of Family of Disabled (FOD), a registered not-for-profit organization were present to introduce the work, history, objectives and achievements of FOD. FOD has developed projects like Apna Rozgaar, Beyond Limits and Gyan Path.

The workshop concluded with a unanimous proposal for setting up a specialized Centre for Disability Studies in JNU, in accordance with the provisions laid out by UGC.

The Vice President of JNUDPA, Mr. Pintu Kumar, moderated the proceedings of the workshop. Sh. Md. Tarik, the General Secretary of JNUDPA took care of the management of the workshop. In conclusion, Dr. Maitra gave the vote of thanks.

**S.S. Maitra, President,
JNU Disabled Persons Association**

"Construction and Contours of Crises in Health Care" a paper reading session by Prof. K.R. Nayar

The Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, School of Social Sciences, organized a paper reading session by Prof. K.R. Nayar on "Construction and Contours of Crises in Health Care". Professor Nayar discussed the depiction of health crises in the international and national context by undertaking a systematic review of papers published between 1986 and 2009 and highlighted the dynamic linkage between societal crisis and health service system crisis. He argued that neo-liberal policies have impacted negatively on the poor in different

countries especially with regard to health care accessibility and availability. The paper concluded that crises depictions within the health services indicated a larger societal crisis. Based on the review, Professor Nayar advanced a tentative theorization of crisis in health care.

**Rama Baru, Chairperson, Centre of Social
Medicine and Community Health, SSS**

"Epidemiology" Lectures by Prof. Oilver Razum

Professor Oilver Razum, Head, Department of Epidemiology and International Health, School of Public Health, Bielefeld University, Germany delivered two lectures on "epidemiology" on 4 and 5 March, 2010. In the first lecture, he delineated the seminal contribution of John Snow during the cholera epidemic in London in the nineteenth century. He also discussed the

pitfalls in causal thinking in epidemiology. In the second lecture, he discussed the methodology of outbreak exercise during epidemics and conducted an outbreak exercise with the participants.

Rama Baru, Chairperson, Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, SSS

International Conference on "Understanding Schopenhauer through the Prism of Indian Culture: Philosophy, Religion and Sanskrit Literature"

A two day International conference on "Understanding Schopenhauer through the Prism of Indian Culture: Philosophy, Religion and Sanskrit Literature" was organized at JNU by the Special Center for Sanskrit Studies, jointly with the Indian Division of Schopenhauer Society and the Schopenhauerian Research Center of the University of Mainz, Germany. Distinguished Schopenhauerian scholar Prof. Matthias Kossler, the President of the Schopenhauer Gesellschaft, was present amongst others on this occasion.

A large number of foreign scholars from Germany and UK and many scholars from all over India assembled at the of Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, JNU during 4-5 March, 2010 to pay their tribute and respect in memory of the first significant Western Philosopher who carried the wisdom of the Upanishads and the Buddhist ideas to the Western world. Schopenhauer was deeply influenced and overwhelmed by the Indian Philosophical thought and he considered Upanishads "the solace" of his life and solace of death" too.

Welcoming the audience, Dr. Aarti Barua, Director of the Indian Division of the Schopenhauer Society, briefly talked about the purpose of the conference and Professor S.R. Bhatt, Professor Emeritus, DU, gave a thematic introduction about the seminar. Inaugurating the seminar, Honorable Prof.

Vachaspati Upadhyaya, Vice Chancellor, Shri Lal Bahadur S.R. Vidyapeetha, New Delhi, paid high tribute to Schopenhauer in his inaugural speech. Expressing deep regret that Indian scholars so far have failed to give due recognition to Schopenhauer's contribution in popularizing Indian philosophy in the West, Prof. Upadhyaya highly appreciated the efforts taken by the SCSS and IDSS towards giving due recognition to Schopenhauer. He appreciated that the new generation of Indian scholars have recognized the void and are trying to fill it by creating an awareness about Schopenhauer's contribution amongst us. He said that the bridge Schopenhauer built to connect Indian metaphysics with Western ontology should now be strengthened.

Professor Matthias Kossler, President of Schopenhauer Gesellschaft, Germany, Professor Sankar Basu, Chairperson, Special Center for Sanskrit Studies, JNU, and Professor Shashi Prabha Kumar from the same Center, and Dr. Stephan Dreyer, Director of Max Mueller Bhawan, delivered special speeches on the occasion where a large number of distinguished participants and students were present to pay respect to Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860) on the occasion of his 150th death anniversary. A special tribute was paid to Schopenhauer by garlanding his photo which was specially brought from Germany for this occasion. Dr. S.K. Shukla, coordinator of the conference on behalf of Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, proposed a vote of thanks in Sanskrit which had the audience spell bound.

In the valedictory session of the Conference Prof.T.S. Kulkarni, Chair in Hindu Studies of Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, delivered a special lecture and Mr. Ramen Deka, MP, also expressed his views.

Smt. D. Purandeswari, Honorable Minister of State, MHRD, was the chief guest in the concluding session of the



Seminar/Conference

conference. She congratulated the centre for organizing this special event which marks a new chapter of Indo-German relations. The honorable minister also formally released a book "Gandhi and Grant: Their Philosophical Affinities" edited by Aarti Barua and Published by Academic Excellence, New Delhi. She delivered a brilliant speech comparing George Grant with Mahatma Gandhi on the issues of technology and modernism with particular reference to Gandhi's "Hind Swaraj" and Grant's "Lament for a Nation".

On behalf of JNU, Professor V.K. Jain, Registrar, welcomed the Honorable Minister and Prof. Sankar Basu, Chairperson of the Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, explained the various activities being undertaken by the Centre and Prof. S.P. Kumar, advisor for the conference, thanked all those present on the occasion on behalf of the Centre.

**Sankar Basu, Chairperson
Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies**

Special lecture "The (Im) possibility of Development Studies"

Prof. Stuart Corbridge, Head, Development Studies Institute London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom, delivered a special lecture on "The (Im) possibility of Development Studies" on 5 March, 2010 at the School of Arts and Aesthetics Auditorium. The public lecture was part of his visit to the Centre for Study of Regional Development as a visiting scholar under the Centre for Advanced Studies Programme of the centre. The public lecture was preceded by a series of lectures in the centre on various issues of development in an inter-disciplinary framework.

The theme of his lecture was the relevance of Development Studies as a discipline in the contemporary context for understanding the problems of developing societies. As he explained, "Development Studies is commonly understood to be committed both to a principle of difference (the Third World is different, hence the need for separate field of Studies) and a principle of similarity (it is the job of development policy to make 'them' more like 'us'). This double commitment has led to important challenges to the intellectual standing of the discipline and/or its object of study, development".

Despite the fact that the field of Development Studies has been painted in recent years as irrelevant, teleological, and colonial

in intent, masculinist, dirigiste and/or a vehicle for depoliticization and the extension of bureaucratic state power, Stuart argued that there are social and economic problems in poor countries, as in all countries, and that these problems must be addressed by particular forms of government and non-government intervention, the effects of which cannot always be anticipated. Governmentality is not something that can be escaped from, at least not if a person, group or country wants to participate in generalized forms of production, exchange and rule and following from this we need to understand and constantly challenge the particular forms of governmentality that are sponsored in its name. He further proposed that 'the responsibilities of critique' should not be reduced to the oppositional, nor should deconstructive forms of criticism be elevated above other forms of critique, whether radical (free market or Marxist), pragmatic or apparently non-judgemental. Development Studies might be under sharp attack, but it should not be put on the defensive simply because of its commitments to difference and sameness. What matters is the way in which these commitments are combined, not the fact that they are made at all.

While recognizing the urgent need for Development Studies to be critical and at times oppositional, Stuart Corbridge argued that an allied commitment to public polity-making can be taken as a sign of maturity. Development, and Development Studies, should be understood as sets of social practices, or technologies of rule, the organization and effects of which need to be contested and subjected to political and scholarly review.

The lecture was chaired by Prof. G.S. Bhalla, Emeritus Professor at CSRD.

**G.S. Bhalla, Emeritus Professor
Centre for Study of Regional Development, SSS**



जेएनयू में अनामिका द्वारा अपने उपन्यास के अंशों का पाठ और परिचर्चा

जेएनयू के भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र की ओर से आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में हिंदी की मशहूर रचनाकार अनामिका ने अपने सद्यःप्रकाशित 'दस द्वारे का पींजरा' और 'तिनका तिनके पास' उपन्यासों के चुने हुए अंशों का पाठ किया। उन्होंने अपनी रचना प्रक्रिया के बारे में बताते हुए कहा कि मैंने दो-तीन पीढ़ियों को समझने के क्रम में ही कलम उठाई है और चरित्रों के माध्यम से उसे सृजित करने का प्रयत्न किया है। हमारा हृदय अकेला नहीं रह सकता, अतः उसे अनेक चरित्रों के माध्यम से इन उपन्यासों में समझने की कोशिश की गई है। इसके बाद उनके उपन्यासों पर परिचर्चा का भी आयोजन किया गया। जिसमें प्रो. रामबक्ष, राजकिशोर, प्रो. सुबोध नारायण मालाकर, वैभव सिंह, अनुराधा आदि ने भाग लिया।

वरिष्ठ चिंतक राजकिशोर ने अनामिका के उपन्यासों का महत्व प्रतिपादित करने वाले दो प्रमुख तत्वों का जिक्र किया – हृदय की वापसी की घोषणा और समुदाय की खोज। राजकिशोर ने उपन्यासों में विचारों के महत्व पर भी जोर दिया और कहा कि वैचारिक उपन्यास को उपन्यास न माना जाना दुख की बात है। केवल नाटकीयता लाना ही लेखक का काम नहीं है। समय के साथ लेखक की संवेदना बदली है तो पाठक की संवेदना भी बदलनी चाहिए। पाठकीय व आलोचकीय संस्कार भी बदलने चाहिए। मानव हृदय को विचारों ने ही करुणामय बनाया है।

इस अवसर पर वरिष्ठ आलोचक व भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र के प्रोफेसर रामबक्ष ने कहा कि अनामिका अपने पाठकों के स्वभाव से परिचित हैं। इसलिए वे बीच-बीच में उन्नीसवीं सदी से फलांग लगाकर 21वीं सदी में आ जाती हैं। समय की सीमा को छोड़ देती हैं। उन सब मनुष्यों को पात्रों के रूप में मिलवा देती हैं, जिनका हमने इतिहास पुरुषों के रूप में नाम सुना है। एक समकालीन गंध के साथ केशवचंद्र सेन, मैथिलीशरण गुप्त चले आते हैं। बीते जमाने के साथ का ट्रैजिक संबंध मन को छू जाता है। प्रो. रामबक्ष ने कहा कि ये उपन्यास एक लय में चलते हैं। इस तय को साधना, इसको पाना, इसे पकड़े रहना बड़ा श्रम साध्य काम है। इस 'लय' को, इस तान को उपन्यासकार कई बार तोड़ता है, बदलता है। लय बदलनी पड़ती है अन्यथा उपन्यास में एकरसता आ सकती है। अनामिका ऐसा प्रयोग नहीं कर पाती। उनके उपन्यास की टोन निश्चित है। प्रो. रामबक्ष ने अपने वक्तव्य में स्त्रीवादी साहित्य पर सवाल उठाते हुए कहा कि आखिर क्या कारण है कि किसी स्त्री ने किसी पुरुष नायक का चित्रण नहीं किया। पुरुषों ने तो महान स्त्री-पात्रों का

सर्जन किया है। कालिदास की शकुंतला, प्रेमचंद की धनिया, निर्मल वर्मा की लतिका, हजारीप्रसाद द्विवेदी की भट्टिनी, निपुणिका या रेणु की कमला आदि। लेकिन महिला रचनाकारों के सारे पुरुष-पात्र खंडित दिखाई देते हैं। प्रो. रामबक्ष ने इसी क्रम में अनामिका के दोनों उपन्यासों का बारीक विश्लेषण किया।

जेएनयू में अंतरराष्ट्रीय अध्ययन संस्थान के प्रोफेसर सुबोध नारायण मालाकर ने साहित्य को इतिहास का दर्जा दिलाने के कोशिशों के पीछे के निहितार्थ को समझने पर बल दिया।

परिचर्चा में भाग लेते हुए युवा आलोचक वैभव सिंह ने अनामिका के उपन्यासों का महत्व बताते हुए कहा कि इनमें पहली बार आधुनिक युग के चरित्र के इतनी बेहतर प्रस्तुति की गई है। लेकिन इनमें इतिहास से थोड़ी छेड़छाड़ भी की गई है। शिवानी ने दलित स्त्री और मध्यवर्गीय की साहित्य में जगह संबंधी समस्या की ओर इशारा किया।

इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय के डॉ. देवशंकर नवीन ने गद्य में कवयित्री का स्वभाव झलकना अनामिका के गद्य की विशेषता बताई। इग्नू के ही डॉ. राजेन्द्र पांडेय ने कहा कि यह महत्वपूर्ण नहीं है कि आप कितना मौलिक लिखते हैं, बल्कि महत्वपूर्ण है कि आप ज्ञात को भी कितने नए रूप में प्रस्तुत करते हैं। इस उपन्यास में प्रेमचंद, रेणु, जैनेन्द्र सभी की झलक दिखती है।

अनुराधा ने कहा कि अनामिका के उपन्यास मुख्यतः स्त्री विमर्श का उपन्यास है। इन्होंने अपने उपन्यासों में स्त्री भाषा का प्रयोग किया है। कुछ ऐसे शब्द हैं, जिनका कोई विशेष अर्थ न होने पर भी पंक्ति में आने पर संबंधित अर्थ ध्वनित कर देते हैं। अनामिका ने अपने उपन्यासों में इतिहास का बहुत रचनात्मक उपयोग किया है। उपन्यास की घटनाएं स्त्री पात्रों के अनुसार चलती हैं। इन उपन्यासों में कठिन परिस्थितियों को भी सहज भाव से कहने की कला है।

परिचर्चा में भावना, वीरेन्द्र आदि विद्यार्थियों ने भी भाग लिया। इस अवसर पर डॉ. गोविन्द प्रसाद, दिलीप मंडल, सोम गोस्वामी, गंगा सहाय मीणा आदि भी उपस्थित थे। कार्यक्रम में बड़ी संख्या में छात्रों ने भाग लिया।

**मीता सोलंकी, भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र,
जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय**

निःश्रेयस : परम लक्ष्य की ओर

भारतीय दर्शन एवं संस्कृति के प्रचार-प्रसार हेतु समर्पित स्वायत्त न्यास "निःश्रेयस : परम लक्ष्य की ओर" द्वारा नई दिल्ली स्थित संस्कृत-भवन सभागार में 'डॉ. जगन्नाथ विद्यालंकार व्याख्यानमाला' के अन्तर्गत "आधुनिक भारतीय विचारक" विषय की शृंखला में महात्मा गाँधी एवं स्वामी विवेकानन्द पर विद्वानों ने अपने विचार रखे।

प्रो. मकरन्द परांजपे ("आंग्ल-भाषा विभाग, ज.ने.वि." विषय -

महात्मा गाँधी) एवं डॉ. नरेन्द्र कोहली ("प्रख्यात हिन्दी उपन्यासकार" विषय - स्वामी विवेकानन्द), को मुख्य वक्ताओं के रूप में आमन्त्रित किया गया था। मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में डॉ. रमाकान्त गोस्वामी (महासचिव, अखिल भारतीय संस्कृत-साहित्य-महासम्मेलन) को आमन्त्रित किया गया था। प्रो. शंकर वसु (डीन, भाषा साहित्य और संस्कृति अध्ययन संस्थान तथा अध्यक्ष विशिष्ट संस्कृत अध्ययन केन्द्र, ज.ने.वि.) तथा विभिन्न विश्वविद्यालयों के प्रख्यात विद्वान एवं शोध-छात्र कार्यक्रम में उपस्थित थे। कार्यक्रम का शुभारम्भ,

Seminar/Conference



दीपप्रज्वलन एवं डॉ. सुषमा चौधरी के द्वारा किए गए मंगलाचरण द्वारा हुआ। कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता प्रो. अमिता सिंह (अध्यक्षा – विधि एवं अभिशासन अध्ययन केन्द्र, ज.ने.वि.) तथा संचालन ज.ने.वि. के विशिष्ट संस्कृत अध्ययन केन्द्र की आचार्या एवं निःश्रेयस न्यास की संस्थापिका तथा प्रबन्ध-न्यासी प्रो. शशिप्रभा कुमार ने किया।

महात्मा गाँधी को एक विचारक एवं आदर्शपुरुष के रूप में स्थापित करते हुए प्रो. मकरन्द परांजपे ने गाँधी जी द्वारा लिखित हिन्द-स्वराज को आधार बनाकर उनके विचारों को प्रांजल एवं प्रवाहमयी हिन्दी भाषा में श्रोताओं के समक्ष स्थापित किया। यह उनका हिन्दी भाषा में प्रथम व्याख्यान था जिस पर सभी ने उन्हें साधुवाद दिया। उन्होंने आज के भौतिक मशीनी-युग की दुर्बलताओं को बताते हुए इस विषय में गाँधी जी के तेन त्यक्तेन भुंजीथा : के आदर्श एवं उपदेशों को विभिन्न घटनाओं के माध्यम से प्रस्तुत किया। उन्होंने कहा कि आज के समय की माँग गाँधीवादी बनने की नहीं अपितु उनके मार्ग का अनुसरण करने की है। उनके मार्ग का अनुसरण करके ही हम सम्पूर्ण जीवजगत् में समरसता ला

सकेंगे तथा एको देवः सर्वभूतेषु गूढः का अनुसरण करते हुए प्रकृति से तादात्म्य स्थापित कर सकेंगे

द्वितीय वक्ता डॉ. नरेन्द्र कोहली ने अपनी तेजोमयी वाणी के द्वारा स्वामी विवेकानन्द के अद्वैतमय जीवन की महत्त्वपूर्ण घटनाओं की दुर्लभ जानकारी देते हुए स्वामी जी के दर्शन एवं विचारों को श्रोताओं के समक्ष हस्तामलकवत् स्थापित कर दिया। सम्पूर्ण वातावरण विवेकानन्दमय हो चुका था। उन्होंने बताया कि नरेन्द्र (स्वामी विवेकानन्द) के अन्दर ईश्वर को खोजने की उत्कण्ठा किस हद तक विद्यमान थी। यही कारण था कि वे राम कृष्ण परमहंस के शिष्य बने तथा भारतीय वैश्विक संस्कृति के महान् ध्वजवाहक के रूप में उन्होंने सम्पूर्ण विश्व विशेषकर पश्चिम में भारतीय संस्कृति एवं विचारों का डंका बजाया। कोहली जी ने स्वामी जी के अद्वैत-सिद्धान्तों का बड़े ही सुन्दर ढंग से प्रस्तुतिकरण किया। चारित्रिक शुद्धता पर बल देते हुए उन्होंने बताया कि स्वामी जी का मानना था कि चरित्र-निर्माण ही राष्ट्र-निर्माण है।

अपने संक्षिप्त एवं सारगर्भित भाषण में सभाध्यक्षा प्रो. अमिता सिंह जी ने कहा कि दोनों वक्ताओं ने जीवन की व्यावहारिकता का इतना बढ़िया व्याख्यान किया कि भूत एवं वर्तमान के मध्य सेतु स्थापित कर दिया। उन्होंने इस कार्य के लिए न्यास को धन्यवाद एवं शुभकामनाएं प्रदान की। अन्त में प्रो. शंकर वसु एवं न्यास की संस्थापिका प्रो. शशिप्रभा कुमार ने इस सफलतम कार्यक्रम के लिए सभी आगन्तुकों का आभार व्यक्त किया। आशा है कि न्यास भविष्य में भी इस तरह के नियमित कार्यक्रम करता रहेगा जिससे जिज्ञासुओं को भारतीय दर्शन एवं संस्कृति के विविध पक्षों पर प्रामाणिक जानकारी प्राप्त हो सकेगी।

विश्वेश, शोध-छात्र,
विशिष्ट संस्कृत अध्ययन केन्द्र, ज.ने.वि.

International Seminar on "People, Culture And Goods in Motion: India-Arab Maritime Historical Relations"

The Centre for West Asian Studies, School of International Studies, in cooperation with the India Art Cultural Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia University, organised an International Seminar on "People, Culture and Goods in Motion: India-Arab Maritime Historical Relations" from 3-4 March, 2010.

The origin of India's maritime contacts with the Arab world pre-dates even the genesis and spread of Islam. Islam's rapid spread, however, fostered it tremendously. It is almost obvious that this relation might have been organized sometimes before first century AD and that its origin was linked to the flourishing trade of the South Western Coast of India dominated by Arab traders. The recent archaeological excavations in Pattanam (Kerala) have brought forth a variety of tangible evidences for South India's trade links with the Arab World from first millennium BC. The Indian Ocean was then a complex region with extensive inter-regional economies and cultural exchanges. It was a locale of interaction for four major

civilizations: the Perso-Arabic, the South East Asian, Indian and Chinese. Europeans were the later entrants into this confluence of civilizations. Cultural interactions, of course, had made headway in this more liberal framework of trade. Thanks to a sort of globality, there were deep, underlying cultural and material commonalities across these civilizations in areas such as food, agriculture, clothing and a plethora of other themes. During the first millennium BC, Romans, Greeks, Arabs, Persians, Arabs and the South Asians were the pioneers, who by land and sea, began to integrate the trading economies of the West, South and South East Asia. The wide trade network bounded by the Pacific at one end extending all the way to the Mediterranean at the other, constituted the foundation of an 'oriental global economy' during the later centuries. India held an all-important position in this oriental globalization as this region remained to be pivotal in the exchange of goods and ideas between the East and the West and maintained strong

Seminar/Conference

trade links with all the great empires of the period-Abbasid-Baghdad, Byzantine-Constantinople, the Holy Roman Empire, Moorish-Cordoba, and Zanzibar etc. The cultural results of these linkages also varied enormously. The long-distance trade in essentially high-value goods (like spices) spurred a number of factors that operated in promoting the cultures. Another salient feature of the development of maritime trade was the migration of substantial merchant communities from widely dispersed lands. The trading diasporas were actually universal phenomena throughout the Indian Ocean region, since the long distance trade necessitated a situation in which the trading communities had to settle for long period of time in the terminal points of trade. With such inalienable diasporas, the seaborne trade of ancient, medieval and early modern period had contributed to the embedding of all 'local' cultures in a given structural framework. With the migration of Indians to the Gulf countries, Indo-Arab relations, for more than half a century, have been on a distinct historical trajectory. Thanks to migration, the region has witnessed a series of diverse yet shared movements that profoundly have changed the social and economic relations. Migration has produced new styles of religious consumptions, novel forms of cultural practices, especially in places like Kerala. Most obviously, this slice in Indo-West Asian relations is more divergent and more fragmented, marking the mosaic-like appearance of several new socio-cultural phenomena. However, these transformations are not reflected adequately either by the local scholarship or by the others. And it is in the context of this great traffic of people, goods and ideas that we organized our Seminar.

Prof. Y.K. Tyagi, Dean, SIS, chaired the inaugural session and H.E. Dr. Mohamed Abdul Hamid Higazy, Ambassador of Egypt in India, delivered the Keynote Address, Shri Syed Shahid Mahdi, Vice President ICCR, New Delhi and former VC, Jamia Millia Islamia, delivered the Presidential Remarks while Prof. A.K. Pasha, Director, Gulf Studies Programme, CWAAS, SIS, gave the introductory remarks and welcomed the participants; Prof. P.C. Jain, Gulf Studies Programme, proposed vote of thanks.

The themes covered in the seminar included: 1) Historical Linkages and Cosmopolitan Networks, 2) Trade and Exchange of Goods 3) Merchants and Scholars in Motion and 4) Migration and Cultural Convergences. There were eight working sessions during which thirty two papers were presented. Foreign scholars like Prof. Omar Khalidi (MIT, Boston, USA), Prof. Gamal Hagar, (Alexandria University, Egypt), Dr. El Syed Mekkawi (Egypt) participated in the seminar enlightening with their deep understanding of the issues. Indian participants were from Delhi, Aligarh, Mysore, Bangalore, Kerala, Mumbai, Chennai among other places.

Prof. A.B. Sawant (Mumbai University), Dr. Omar Khalidi

(MIT,USA) and Prof. Gamal Hagar (Egypt) presented their papers in the first session under the theme 'Historical Linkages and Cosmopolitan Networks'. Prof. Mohammed Gulrez, Director, Centre of West Asian Studies, AMU chaired the session. Dr. VS Sheth, Ex-Director, Centre for African Studies, Mumbai, chaired the second session in which Dr. Fazal Mahmood (CWAS, AMU), Dr. El Syed Mekkawi, Menufiya University, Egypt, and Dr. Rafiullah Azmi (CWAS, JMI) presented the papers under the theme 'Historical Linkages and Cosmopolitan Networks'.

In session three, the theme was on 'Trade and Exchange of Goods'. H.E. Sheikh Humaid Bin Ali Sultan Al Manni, Ambassador of Oman in India, chaired the session and the paper presenters were Dr. Faisal Ahmed, New Delhi, Mr. Shelly Johny (CWAAS, SIS, JNU), Dr. Najaf Haider (CHS, SSS, JNU), Dr. Pius M.C. Melenkandathil (CHS, SSS, JNU), Dr. J. Rajamohamad (Chennai). The fourth session was on the theme 'Trade and Commerce Issues'. Prof. Shamir Hasan, Ex Chairman, Centre for West Asian Studies, AMU, chaired the session and the paper presenters were Prof. M. Gangadharan (Kerala), DR. Javed A. Khan (JMI, New Delhi), Dr. L. Swamy (Mysore), Dr. Mohammed Shafi (Bangalore) and Dr. Mohamdul Haq, Ex-Director, Centre for West Asian Studies, AMU, Aligarh.

The second day of the seminar was held in Tagore Hall, India-Arab Cultural Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. The fifth session under the theme 'Merchants and Scholars in Motion' was chaired by Prof. P.C. Jain, GSP, CWAAS, SIS. Dr. Mohd. Azhar (AMU), Prof. A.K. Pasha, Dr. Omar Khalidi, (MIT, Boston, USA) Rejeesh Kumar, (CIPOD, SIS, JNU) presented the papers. Dr. El Sayed Mekkawi, Egypt, under the theme Merchants and Scholars in Motion chaired the sixth session with Ms. Sima Baidya (JNU), Dr. Sheikh Mastan (Bangalore University), Sh. Gurusiddaiah (Mysore University) and Anju J. (CWAS, JMI), presenting the papers, Dr. A.B. Sawant, Ex Director, Centre for African Studies. Mumbai University chaired the seventh session under the theme 'Migration Concerns'. Prof. P.C. Jain (JNU), Kundan Kumar (JNU), Dr. M.H. Ilias (IACC, JMI, New Delhi), Dr. Anisur Rehman (ASC, CWAS, JMI), and Prof. M.A Saleem Khan, Ex-Director, Centre of West Asian Studies, AMU, Aligarh, presented the papers.

The final session was chaired by Mr. Ishrat Aziz, Ex-Ambassador, MEA, New Delhi, and the theme was on 'Cultural Convergences'. Dr. Aftab Ahmed (IACC, JMI), Dr. Mukhtar Alam (CAS SIS, JNU), Dr. Suhaib Alam (JMI) and Dr. Mohd. Ajmal (JNU) presented papers.

The seminar was well attended with over 100 participants and a vibrant interaction after every session immensely enriched the discussion.

Seminar/Conference

This was the first international conference organized by the School of International Studies on the maritime historical relations between India and the Arab World. It not only attracted well known scholars in the field but experts from Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences, JNU presented papers for the first time in SIS thereby initiating greater interaction among different Centres/Schools in JNU. Also, for the first time JNU was successful in cooperating with another well established centre like India-Arab Cultural

Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi to make the conference a success. Some diplomats based in Delhi attended the seminar. The most important goal was to sensitize SIS students about the importance of India's historical maritime relations with an important region in the neighborhood.

**A. K. Pasha, Professor
Centre for West Asian & African Studies, SIS**

International Seminar on Language Education: A Bridge between Language and Culture

The Centre for Japanese, Korean and Northeast Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, JNU jointly organized an International Seminar titled "Language Education: A Bridge between Language and Culture" with Japan Foundation, New Delhi and The Centre for Japanese, Waseda University on 12-13 March, 2010 in JNU.

Prof. R. Kumar, Special Advisor to VC, JNU, graced the occasion and delivered an insightful Inaugural Address. He released a book titled "Japanese Studies: Changing Global Profile, edited by Prof. P.A. George, by presenting copies of the same to Mr. Nao Endo, Director Japan Foundation New Delhi Office and Prof. Hosokawa Hideo, the keynote speaker from Waseda University, Tokyo. The book is an edited volume of research papers presented at the International Conference titled "Changing Global Profile of Japanese Studies: Trends and Prospects" held at JNU in March 2009.

Prof. Sankar Basu, Dean, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies delivered the welcome speech. The Keynote Address was delivered by Prof. Hosokawa Hideo, visiting faculty at the Centre for Japanese, Korean and Northeast Asian Studies, from Graduate School of Japanese Applied Linguistics, Waseda University, Japan.

Prof. P.A. George, the Seminar Convener, briefly introduced the seminar to the audience. The Centre chairperson Prof. Manjushree Chauhan, welcomed the guests and speakers of the Inaugural Session by presenting bouquets. The inaugural session concluded with the vote of thanks given by the Seminar Coordinator Ms. M.V. Lakshmi.

The Seminar was divided into seven Academic sessions covering areas such as new teaching methodologies to introduce Culture into the Language Classroom, Linguistics, Classroom activities, Evaluation methods and Selection and reading of Literary and non-literary texts as culture texts among others.

There were a total of twenty-seven paper presenters in the seminar. They included faculty members, research scholars and students from Waseda University, Japan; English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad; Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University.

**M.V. Lakshmi, Associate Professor, Centre for
Japanese, Korean & Northeast Asian Studies,
SLL&CS**



Seminar on Contribution of Kerala Muslim Scholars in Arabic and Islamic Studies

Students of Centre for Arabic and African Studies (CAAS) conducted a one day Arabic seminar on "Contribution of Kerala Muslim scholars in Arabic and Islamic Studies" on 25 March 2010. Fourteen scholars presented papers on different areas of the subject in the seminar which consisted four sessions including the inaugural. In the inaugural session, which was presided over by Dr. Mujeebur Rahman, Hasan Zakariya Hamad (Palestine) delivered the inaugural address. Dr.

Rizwanur Rahman, Dr. Quthbuddin, Muhammed Dua'd (Yemen) and Muhammed Gazzali (Nigeria) spoke in the session. In his presidential address Dr. Mujeebur Rahman noted that it was a bold and praise-worthy initiative on the part of students to come up with a great academic venture.

The seminar was arranged in four sessions including three in Arabic and one in English. Accommodation of modern

Seminar/Conference

disciplines in the writings of Muslim scholars, Anti-Colonial and Sufi Writings, Islamic Law and Jurisprudence and Socio-Cultural Development of Kerala Muslims were the titles of the session respectively. In each sessions scholars from different Arabic and African countries participated as chief guests. All

Sessions of the seminars were marked by the dynamic interactive inputs by the participants and audience.

**Mohammed Shafi. KP, Research Scholar
Centre of Arabic and African Studies, SLL& CS**

Our Publications

Book Release

"Himalayan Frontiers of India: Historical, Geo-Political and Strategic Perspectives" K.Warikoo, JNU, Routledge, London and New York, 2009

This book deals with the historical, geopolitical and strategic perspectives on the Himalayan frontiers of India in a manner that provides a holistic and updated view of the developments in and across the Himalayas in Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet and their implications for India. The book starts with a detailed study of India's trans-Himalayan trade with Central Asia through Kashmir and Ladakh during the period 1846-1947, followed by an analysis of the 'Great Game' on Kashmir frontiers, with particular focus on the Gilgit dimension of the Kashmir frontier. Subsequently, the book moves on to analyse the new strategic and political challenges faced by India in the security of its Himalayan frontier. Two chapters devoted to the Gilgit-Baltistan region draw attention to both the strategic dimensions and the ground situation in this trans-Himalayan frontier. Two separate chapters, one tracing the evolution of Ceasefire Line and LoC into a border and the other explaining

the problem of cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly its jihadi context, round up the study of Indian frontier state of Jammu and Kashmir. The book progresses to present a fresh outlook on the linkage between Tibet, Tibetan refugees and the security of India's Himalayan frontiers, followed by a discussion of the issues and problems related to India-Nepal open borders. India-Bhutan relations and its imperatives for Indian security are analysed in detail. The problems of illegal migration, smuggling of arms and drugs and security of the north-eastern frontiers of India are discussed next. The book is rounded with a final chapter evaluating the role of science, technology, modern air surveillance and remote sensing as a means to ensure the security of India's Himalayan frontiers.

K. Warikoo Director, Central Asian Studies Programme, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and author of several books on Kashmir, Central Asia and Afghanistan, is the Founder Editor of quarterly journal Himalayan and Central Asian Studies, which is being published since 1997.

List of Publications

School of Social Sciences

- Ecology and health: A system Approach APH, 1998 K.R. Nayar CSMCH
- Public Health and Poverty of Reforms: The South Asian Predicament, New Delhi, Sage Publication, K.R. Nayar, CSMCH

School of Languages, Literature and Cultural Studies

- Another Canon: Indian Texts and Traditions in English. London: Anthem Press, 2009, Makarand R. Paranjape, CES
- Altered Destination: Self, Society and Nation in India. Anthem Press, 2009, Makarand R. Paranjape, CES
- Sacred Australia: post-secular considerations. Melbourne:

Clouds of Magellan, 2009; New Delhi: Aditya Prakashan, 2010, Makarand R. Paranjape, CES

- Sarojini Naidu: Selected Poetry and Prose, 2nd rev. ed., New Delhi: Rupa, 2010, Makarand R. Paranjape, CES
- Translation and Culture : Indian Perspectives, New Delhi, Pencraft International 2010, GJV Prasad, CES
- Indian English and 'Vernacular' India : New Delhi, Routledge, 2010, Makarand R. Paranjape and GJV Prasad, CES
- श्रेष्ठ कहानियाँ (वरियाम सिंह संधू) आधार प्रकाशन, 2009, संपादन और अनुवाद—चमन लाल, भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र
- अंधेरे में सुलगती वर्णमाला (सुरजीत पातर की साहित्य अकादमी पुरस्कार प्राप्त पुस्तक का हिंदी अनुवाद) साहित्य अकादमी, 2010, अनुवाद—चमन लाल, भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र

Alumni Corner

An Interview with Dr. N.R. Mohanty, Faculty, Jagran Institute of Mass Communication



Bhoomika: When did you join JNU?

Prof. Mohanty: I joined JNU in the momentous year of India's history, 1977, when a non-Congress government came to power at the Centre for the first time. The ferment was visible in the JNU Campus. The students were debating, day and night, the Guilty

Four responsible for the excesses in the campus during the Emergency. Sitaram Yechury was the Student's Union president. We saw him being heckled at the general body meeting for seeking to protect some of the top officials of the administration. He had to resign when the resolution that he proposed was defeated in the GBM. It is a different matter that he won again in the ensuing student's union election.

I came to JNU only on the persuasion of a close friend who desperately wanted to be a part of this prestigious university. We studied together at Khallikote College which was part of Berhampur University in Orissa. I did my B.A. (Hons) in English Literature; my friend was a student of political science. He naturally applied for the Centre for Political Studies. I had made up my mind to pursue higher studies in Berhampur itself. My friend wanted me just to accompany him to Delhi, as he was going there for the first time. It did not cost money as the university was reimbursing the train fare and providing accommodation in the campus during the written test and interview. But there was no post-graduation course in English literature in JNU at that time. So my friend asked me to apply for CPS. I did, but with little hope that I would be called for the test. To my surprise, the call came. I qualified in the written test. In the interview board Prof. Sudipto Kaviraj asked me questions on Romanticism in English poetry, Victorian prose and the like. I got selected but unfortunately my friend did not. He shifted to Hindu College and again tried to persuade me to come there. But I was already smitten by JNU. I stayed put.

Bhoomika: What were your first impressions about this University?

Prof. Mohanty: Right from the day one, I was hitched to student politics. It was so different from the ambience from which I came. Back there too SFI and AISF were the leading groups in student politics, but most of their members, barring a few honourable

exceptions, were criminal elements. In JNU, the SFI and AISF controlled the student's union but they represented a democratic political culture. I did not join them because I could not come to terms with their ideological defence of Stalinism. I, along with like-minded students, formed a campus-based organisation called Students for Democratic Socialism (SDS). In alliance with another campus-based organization Free Thinkers, we launched a campaign that student politics must be freed from the shenanigans of party politics outside. Our slogan was: for us, students' union is not a seat of power, but an instrument of struggle. It appealed to students; we swept the polls in 1982-83.

We waged one of the biggest democratic struggles for the defence of student power in 1983. Though I was expelled that year, I am still convinced that I led the movement true to my conscience, undeterred by any external influence.

Bhoomika: How did the shift to journalism come about?

Prof. Mohanty: My career in journalism was an accident. When Gorbachov was visiting India and the communist parties were lukewarm in their responses, I felt a strong urge to expose the doublespeak. I wrote a piece, but didn't know where to send it. A friend suggested that I submit it to TOI as we were TOI readers then. I and my friend went all the way to ITO to submit the article, though we had little hope that it would see the light of the day. I didn't know anyone there. But the article appeared the very next day. I was on cloud nine. I quickly wrote another piece and went to TOI again. This time I found out that Chandan Mitra was in charge of the page. I went up to him. Though I met him for the first time, he spoke to me warmly and told me that he liked my article immensely. Due to his encouragement, I wrote almost two dozen articles in quick succession. He then offered me a job. He arranged a meeting with the then editor, Dileep Padgaonkar, who gave his concurrence. The final approval had to come from the owner, Sameer Jain, who welcomed me to the TOI family after an hour-long grilling. That is how my journalistic career began.

Bhoomika: How has JNU shaped your worldview vis-à-vis your profession?

Prof. Mohanty: I have pursued the same values in journalism that JNU instilled in me: to remain true to oneself and to remain prepared to face adversities for upholding the democratic principle. As a mass communication educator and administrator, I am trying to instill the same values in my students, even today, in this age of crass commercialisation.

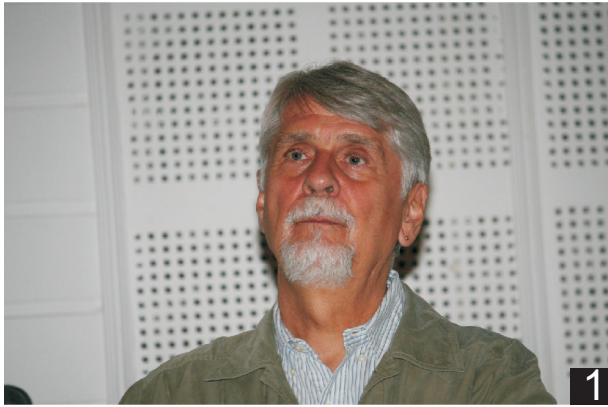
Obituary



❖ Shri Prakash Chand Pandey, Farash passed away on 8 March, 2010

We extend our condolences to the bereaved family.

Photo Gallery



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1. Jawaharlal Nehru University organised a lecture under Seminar Series Programme on "The Aryan Invasion Controversy: Linguistic, Archaeological and Genetic Perspectives" on 15 March, 2010. Photo shows Prof. H. H. Hock, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, USA, delivering the lecture.
2. Centre for International Legal Studies, School of International Studies, organised a round table discussion on Asian Perspectives of International Law "Transnational Perspective: A Cognitive Framework of International Law in The 21st Century" on 5 March, 2010. Photo shows (from right) Dr. V. G. Hegde, Associate Professor, CILS, Prof. Yogesh K. Tyagi, Dean, School of International Studies, Prof. Onuma Yasuaki, Distinguished Professor, Meiji University Japan, and Prof. B. S. Chimni, CILS.
3. A U.S. President's delegation led by Prof. Thomas Dawning, University of Iowa, U.S.A. visited JNU on 8 March, 2010 and met Prof. R. Kumar, Special Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor. Photo shows (from left) Prof. H. S. Shiva Parkash, Dean, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Prof. R. Kumar, and Prof. Thomas Dawning alongwith member of the delegation.
4. A two member delegation from Essex University, U.K. visited the University on 30 March, 2010 and met Prof. B. B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor for signing a MoU between two Universities. Photo shows (from left) Prof. Martin Henson, Dean of International Development, University of Essex U.K.; Prof. Colin Riordan, Vice-Chancellor, University of Essex, U.K.; Prof. B. B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor, JNU and Prof. R. Kumar, Special Advisor to V.C.
5. Centre for Indian Languages, School of Language, Literature & Cultural Studies organised a book reading and discussion session. Photo shows Ms. Anamika, well known writer addressing the audience.
6. A three member delegation from Russia visited JNU and met Prof. R. Kumar, Special Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor on 5 March, 2010. Photo shows (from left) Prof. R. Kumar; Prof. R. B. Rybakov, Hon'ble Chairperson, Dialogue Eurasia Plat Form, Mr. Ismail Tas, General Secretary Dialogue Eurasia Plat Form, Mr. Ali Sami Yildirian, Coordinator in Russia and Director General of Dialogue Eurasia Plat Form



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7. Mr. Jose Santander, Cultural Counsellor of Argentina Embassy in India visited JNU during Spanish festival organised by CSPIL&S, SLLCS on 7 March, 2010. Photo shows (from left) Dr. Aparajit Chattopadhyaya; and students of the Centre welcoming Mr. Jose Santander.
8. A five member delegation from the University of Lund, Sweden, led by Prof. Eva Akesson, Pro Vice-Chancellor, visiting JNU and met Prof. R. Kumar, Special Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor on 27 April, 2010. Photo shows (from right) Prof. R. Kumar; Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor, JNU; Prof. Eva Akesson Pro. Vice-Chancellor, University of Lund, Sweden; Ms. Marianne Granfelt, University Director; Prof. Anders Axelsson, Dean, Faculty of Engineering (LTH) and Prof. Ann-Katrin Backlund, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences.
9. Prof. John Packer, Director, Human Rights Centre, University of Essex, United Kingdom, delivered a lecture on "Human Rights" at School of International Studies, on 27 April, 2010. Photo shows Prof. R. P. Anand Emeritus Professor, School of International Studies welcoming Prof. John Packer, Director, Human Rights Centre, University of Essex, U. K.
10. A delegation led by Prof. Glyn Davis, Vice-Chancellor, University of Melbourne, Australia visited JNU and met Prof. B. B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor, JNU on 27 April, 2010. Photo shows Prof. R. Kumar, Special Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor; Prof. B. B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor, JNU; Prof. Susan Elliott, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement); Ms. Jacyl Shaw, Manager, Project and Business Development; Prof. John Webboam, Deputy Director of Australia India Institute; Mr. Vinod Mirchandani, Country Manager (India).



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Designed by Ms. Sanghamitra Goswami, Mobile No.: 9868033788, Photos by : Sh. Chinmay Basu

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