



*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. It 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.

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# Vice-Chancellor's Speech....

## Excerpts from Vice-Chancellor's Speech Delivered on December 8, 2017 at the University Court Meeting

On behalf of the University and on my own behalf, I assume great privilege to welcome you all to the 45th meeting of the JNU Court. Our warm welcome to the Chancellor, Dr. Vijay Kumar Saraswat, who is Chairing this annual meeting for the first time. I also welcome the Honourable Members of Parliament and all distinguished Members present here for sparing their valuable time to participate in the deliberations of this meeting. The Chancellor has visited the University on a few occasions. The interactions during these visits have been very encouraging and motivating. We look forward to the continued support and guidance of the Chancellor, Hon'ble Members of Parliament, all distinguished Members of this University body, all my colleagues and staff.

On this occasion, I would also like to put on record our deep appreciation and gratitude to Prof. K. Kasturirangan, former Chancellor, who completed his 5-year term in March this year. Prof. Kasturirangan's remarkable leadership in conducting the proceedings of the University Court and being available all the time in guiding us will be remembered for many years. He was a true guide, philosopher and inspiration to me, always providing valuable and well-meaning advice for taking research pursuits of the University to a higher level. His positive approach to resolving complex issues was exemplary. We cherish his regular visits to JNU interacting with teachers and students freely and giving each one of them a patient hearing.

Before highlighting achievements of the reporting period, I would like to introduce my team of officers. Professor Chintamani Mahapatra, a Professor in the Centre for Canadian, US & Latin American Studies, School of International Studies is Rector-I; Prof. S.C. Garkoti, School of Environmental Sciences is Rector-II; Professor Rana Pratap Singh, a Professor in the School of Life Sciences, is the Rector-III, Prof. Umesh Ashok Kadam, a Professor in the School of Social Sciences, is the Dean of Students; Professor Kaushal Kumar Sharma, School of Social Sciences is the Chief Proctor; Prof. Pramod Kumar is Registrar; Prof. Heeraman Tiwari is the acting Finance Officer, Dr. H. Sharma is Controller of Examinations; Prof. Milap Punia, School of Social Sciences is Director of Admissions and Dr. Ramesh Chandra Gaur is the University Librarian. Deans of Schools and Chairpersons of Special Centres are other functionaries.

Now, on behalf of the Executive Council of the University, I have great pleasure in placing before you the **47th Annual Report** for the period 1 April 1, 2016 to 31 March, 2017 in fulfillment of the requirements of Statute 12(1) of the University's Act and Statutes. The Annual Accounts for the year 2016-17, Revised Estimates for 2017-18 and Budget Estimates for the year 2018-19 are placed on Table for kind perusal of the Members.

### Hon'ble Members are aware that:

- The University is primarily funded by the UGC and receives both plan and non-plan grants.

- The University utilized 100% of the 12th 5-year plan funds released till 31 March, 2017. The university had requested for allocation of Rs.1143.99 crores as funds for 13th Plan grants but UGC allocated only Rs. 247 crores, as per brief details given in graphs below:

Now, I move to the regular proceedings:

The major achievements and activities of the University during 2016-17 have been elaborated in the Annual Report. Valuable suggestions of the Members are welcome.

In this connection, I would like to make a brief presentation on some of the achievements/activities and new initiatives. Most of these are available on the university website which are updated on day-to-day basis.

I would also like to inform that the Finance Committee and the Executive Council in the recent meetings have approved, in principle, to implement the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission in the University subject to final orders of the UGC. Preparatory work is underway and we hope that it would be completed by the time the formal notification is received to facilitate quicker implementation.

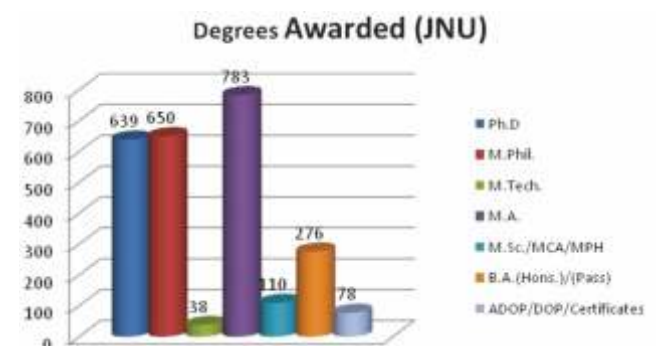
### Faculty Output:

The combined output of the faculty during 2016-17 amounted to the following and as illustrated in the School-wise histograms.

• Books	128
• Chapters in books	330
• Papers/Articles in Journals	996
• Participation in Seminars/ Conferences/Workshops	1936
• Lectures delivered (outside JNU)	1024
• No. of national / International Seminar/ Conference/ workshops organized.	328
• No. of National/ International Awards/ Honours/ Fellowships	161

### Degrees / Certificates Awarded:

The details on number of Degrees/Diplomas/ Certificates awarded during the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 are given below:



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**Students:** Details of students' strength on the rolls of the University are given in the Annual Report placed on Table. Total students' strength as on 31 August, 2016 was 8732. The strength after this year's admission (2017-18) is 8082. This figure is after the departure of annual pass-outs. Details of international students is given below:

Continental distribution of GSP students	
Region	PERCENT
Asia and Oceania	17%
Africa	12%
Eastern Europe	8%
Latin America	12%
North America	27%
Western Europe	36%

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Govt. of India presently awards eight short Term Merit cum Means Fellowship to the GSP students. The fellowship covers tuition and living expenses in India for semester and has enabled several needy foreign students to come to JNU

## Admissions:

The JNU entrance examination for admission to various programmes of study for the academic year 2017-18 was conducted at 81 Centres in 53 cities located in 30 States/Union Territories. In addition, the University also conducted the Combined Entrance Examination for Biotechnology for admission to M.Sc. (Biotechnology); M.Sc.(Agri.) / M.V.Sc. Biotechnology and M. Tech. (Biotechnology) programmes on behalf of participating universities. The statistical information is detailed below:

## New Programmes Introduced: 2016-17

1. M.Phil./Ph.D. in Comparative Politics and Political Theory
2. M.Phil./Ph.D. in North East India Studies.
3. Ph.D. under the Visvesvaraya Fellowship Scheme for Electronics and IT.
4. M.A. in International Relations and Area Studies.
5. B.A. (Hons.) 2nd year in Pashto.

## 2017-18

1. M.Phil./Ph.D. in Kannada.
2. M.Sc. in Chemistry.
3. M.Tech in Statistical Computing (Data Science).
4. M.Tech in Nano-science & Nano-electronics.
5. PG Diploma in Big Data Analytics.
6. Certificate of Proficiency in Sanskrit and Computational Linguistics.
7. Certificate of Proficiency in Pashto

## Creation of New Schools/Centres:

1. School of Indian Languages.
2. Special Centre for Disaster Research.
3. School of Engineering.
4. School of Management and Entrepreneurship.
5. Upgradation of Special Centre of Sanskrit Studies to the level of a full-fledged School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies.
6. Special Centre for E-Learning.

## Central Library:

JNU Central Library has been renamed as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Central Library.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Central Library procured 999 Print Books, 15 e-Books and JSTOR e-Books collection. Accepted 1091 Print Books as a gift under complimentary collection. 36 Online JNU Subscribed Databases, 22 Online Databases through INFLIBNET, 61 subject specialized Online Journals and 213 print journals. 51 Print Newspapers and 48 Print Magazines

## Readers' Services

- 2073 new members were registered including faculty, staff and trainees of Academic Staff College.
- 793 scholars were given temporary membership for consultation and reference
- Library issued 2163 No Dues Certificates to users
- 77878 Circulation Transactions during the period of one year
- 690 Books received from Delnet and 498 Books issued to Delnet for inter Library Loan Services
- New Entry authentication system implemented

## Programmes Organized

- Book launch and Discussion 02
- National and International Seminar/ Workshop/Conferences 02
- Training and Orientation Programs on Library Resources and Tools 12
- Book Display and Exhibition 02
- Lectures and other events 05

## Communication and Information Services (CIS):

- Maintenance of central ICT Infrastructure applications on JNU Private Cloud Services
- 24x7 availability of JNU Website and Intranet Portal to provide access to IT Infrastructure and Applications
- Presently, around 15,000 nodes are connected on the JNU Network (Intranet Channel), which is being served by Servers, Storage, Switches, Routers, resilient network design and Network Security devices by Communication and Information Services.
- Deployment of WiFi facility in hostels and strengthening the existing Wifi facility in the Academic Complexes, deployment of the largest WiFi Project of 2000 nos Access Points among all the institutes/universities of India

## e-Governance Initiatives

In-house Developed Softwares:

- Student Life Cycle Management Software (Post Admissions, Semester Registration, Hostel Allotment, No Dues Clearance, Result Processing etc.) under JNU EduERP initiatives
- Thesis tracking and Management Software Expanded
- Health Centre Pharmacy Inventory Management Software
- Research Project Management Software
- Helpdesk Management Software- Implemented for CIS and Engineering Branch
- Online Feedback Software – Implemented for Security Section

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- Implemented Online Recruitment software for Teaching and Non-Teaching Posts
- House Allotment System
- Health Centre OPD Appointments
- Online Minutes of Executive Management Implementation of Software procured/arranged from NIC
- Implemented eOffice Suite in the University
- Implemented Online Consumable request Management – OCRMS Software
- Implementation of GeM
- Implemented eProcurement System
- CCTV Cameras
- Biometric Based Attendance System
- National Academic Depository
- JNU Online Admissions
- NIRF
- Central University Portal

## Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN):

**GIAN approved courses:** Under this Scheme, funds are provided by MHRD, Govt. of India. Many courses have been sanctioned hosted by JNU faculty from different Schools and conducted by foreign faculty of different universities.

## Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs):

- Some of our faculty have created e-Contents for their course work under the ePathshala scheme of UGC.
- JNU faculty is also willing to offer existing courses 'online' under MOOCs, which is a very important way of imparting quality 'online' education. As stated earlier, the University has approved, in principle, creation of a Special Centre for E-Learning (SCEL) in which faculty Members from various Schools offering online courses would be associated as concurrent faculty. A Committee has been set up to work out a frame-work and other modalities.

## Global Studies Programme:

The Global Studies Programme (GSP), CSSS, JNU, has entered the fifteenth year in 2017 and the Centre for the Study of Social Systems has been a founding member of this intercultural MA programme that spans 5 continents. The programme has succeeded in blending the autonomy of participating institutions in various locations while retaining a broad curricular structure in the social sciences.

## Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Study:

- Set up nearly fifteen years ago, around 200 scholars from all over the world have come to the JNIAS.
- During the period under report, JNIAS offered 20 Fellowships to academics from around 13 countries. The Fellows interacted with various Centres/Schools of the University and also took part in the Seminar Series at the institute organizing more than 22 events/ activities.

## Sports Activities:

- Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cricket, Chess, Football, Volleyball, Tennis, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Weight Lifting, Power Lifting, Bench Press, Best Physique, Mountaineering & Trekking and Yoga.
- Coaching facilities on regular basis
- Tournaments: Inter Hostel and Inter School competitions, JNU Championships and Inter University Sports
- Regular friendly cricket matches
- Encouraging students to participate in State and National/ International level sport competitions.

## Health Facilities:

- Specialized OPDs in field of Medicine, Cardiology, Dental, Skin, Orthopedics, Psychiatry, Eye, ENT and Gynecology run at the Health Centre. Besides this, Homeopathy OPD also functions at the Health Centre.
- Students, Retired Employees and their dependents are provided medicines free of cost as per rules.
- Psychological counseling is also provided by two counselors at the Health Centre to help the patients to cope up with stress.
- Health Centre takes active part in Integrated Pulse Polio Immunization Programme which is run by Govt. of NCT of Delhi, by immunizing children below the age of 05 years.
- A 24x7 Ambulance service is also provided to the community. An Ambulance with life support equipment is kept at the old wing of the Health Centre which is managed by paramedics. At night a doctor with paramedic is also available. The other ambulance is a patient transport ambulance.
- Store and Pharmacies of Health Centre have been computerized.
- In all 63003 total number of patients inclusive of Students/Retired Employees and others visited the morning and evening OPD at the Health Centre during the year 2016-2017.

## Cultural Activities:

JNU has students from different regions of the country and abroad bringing with them a repertoire of regional cultures and customs. They tried to present their indigenous talents, in the various events organized through the year under the aegis of the Cultural Committee of the University. There are nine Clubs: Debating, Drama, Film, Fine Arts, Literary, Music, Nature & Wild Life, Photography and UNESCO.

- The Cultural Clubs also organized a SPICMACAY programme where (Late) Habib Tanvir's directorial play 'Rajrakt' was performed.
- Basant Utsav was held on 18 February 2017 to showcase the traditions of craftsmen from all over India.

## UGC-Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC):

During the year under report, the Human Resource Development Centre has tried to encourage participants to develop multi-

disciplinary approaches and finer understanding and skills. To this end, the Centre organized 4 Orientation Programmes, 6 Refresher Courses and 1 Short Term Course/Workshop with 185, 275, and 37 participants respectively.

## **Institutional Ethics Review Board (IERB):**

The university has an Institutional Ethics Review Board (IEFB) for bringing greater responsibility, transparency and accountability into research involving 'human subjects'. It reviews the research proposals submitted by the faculty members and also the M.Phil/Ph.D research involving human participants. During the year, IERB held and reviewed a total of 35 research proposals. An annual conference was held in February, 2017 on "ICMR Draft National Ethical Guidelines".

## **Memorial Lectures:**

- G. Parthasarathi Memorial Lecture by Prof. U. R. Rao, Chairman, ISRO-DOS on "India's Role in Space, the Ultimate Frontier" on 16th September, 2016
- Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lecture delivered by Sh. Sher Bahadur Deuba, President, Nepali Congress and Former Prime Minister of Nepal "Democracy and Progress in the Asian Century" on 06.11.2016.
- K.R. Narayanan Memorial Lecture by Ambassador Lalit Mansingh, Former Foreign Secretary titled "India's Role in Space, the Ultimate Frontier" on 30 November, 2016.
- Prof. P.N. Srivastava Endowment Lecture by Dr. G. Sathesh Reddy, Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri and Director General, Missiles & Strategic Systems, DRDO on "Advances in Indian Defence R&D" on 21 September, 2016.

## **International Collaboration:**

A large number of universities from all over the world are seeking academic collaboration with JNU. This is essential for pooling and exchange of information, for sharing of experiences, resources and research findings. With the advancement of communication technology, the global internet exchange provides us a great opportunity to help students better equip themselves with knowledge and skills. During the year under report, 15 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and 7 Agreement of Cooperation (AoC) were signed with various foreign Universities/Institutions:

## **Activities of Various Cells:**

Activities of IPM, AIRF, Linguistic Empowerment Cell (LEC), Mathematical Empowerment Cell, IQAC etc., are reported every year in this august body. These initiatives can in other words be termed as Skill Development Schemes or Kaushal Kedhres because of their significance and the important role these Cells are playing in empowering the students. I would like to report their activities and achievements to update the Members.

## **I. IPM CELL**

### **Patents (2016-2017)**

1. Total Indian Patents Filed:	08
2. Total PCT Applications filed:	02
3. Total International Patents filed:	02
4. Total Foreign Patents granted:	05
(2 US+1 EU+1 China +1 Philippines)	

## **II. Advanced Instrumental Research Facility (AIRF):**

Advanced Instrumentation Research Facility (AIRF) is a specialized research facility which now houses about 25 sophisticated state-of-the-art instruments with various supporting/basic facilities.

- It provides a central facility of advanced sophisticated state-of-the-art instruments for research in the areas of physical, environmental, biological, allied and inter-disciplinary sciences.
- Gives intellectual support/inputs on data retrieved from analyses. Provides assistance to the users for designing future experiments.
- Provides training through short-term courses/ workshops/ seminars/ tutorials/ hands on training for the users on the applications of advanced sophisticated instruments.
- Trains the existing in-house staff members in the latest developments and updates on the applications of emerging technologies.

During the past year (April, 2016 - March, 2017) nine workshops and training programmes have been conducted which created awareness among the research community for the effective utilization of research facility leading to the substantial increase in the number of efficient users. The workshops and training programmes are conducted to provide efficient and trained professionals to maintain a pace in the development of research in the country. The increased manpower has helped in maintaining the smooth functioning of the facility. During the past year the number of publications as the quality of the research publications has improved substantially. The support through DBT-fund towards the maintenance of sophisticated instruments has brought about a marked reduction in down time of the instruments and has henceforth substantially boosted the qualitative use of the facility. These efforts have motivated researchers to explore the facility and get benefitted by it.

## **Achievements of AIRF**

- AIRF has more than 3,000 users coming from different parts of India.
- AIRF is involved in assisting the research activity of around 600 students from different Science Schools of JNU.
- Approximately Rs. 86 lakh revenue was generated during the said period
- Atomic force microscope (AFM) with Confocal Raman spectroscopy was installed in October 2016

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- Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (FESEM) and FESEM based e-beam lithography was installed in October 2016
- TEM samples Preparation Lab for Physical Sciences/ Material Science (Ion Milling installed in October 2016)
- Nine workshops and training programmes were conducted during this period

### III. Linguistic Empowerment Cell:

Linguistic Empowerment Cell (LEC) is a unique capacity building system evolved by JNU to empower the students, a very heterogeneous population, coming from different sections of the society and remote regions of the country. It caters to the linguistic needs of these students who may find it hard to cope with their regular programs in their respective schools and centres primarily for reasons of language. The focus of LEC courses is mainly on English language. Approximately 2800 students have benefitted so far from various programs organized by LEC since its creation in 2011.

#### Main Courses Offered:

- English Language Courses to cater to the academic needs of JNU students. Every semester the two levels of English Language Course conducted are:
- Basic Communication Courses
- English for Academic Purposes

#### Other Courses Offered:

- English for Official Communication:
- Basic Hindi for Non-native Speakers:
- Sanskrit for Beginners:
- English Classes for wards of JNU SC/ST Staff

#### LEC Workshops 2016-2017:

- Intensive workshop on EAW: Mind Mapping for Academic Writing from 6-7 April, 2016.
- English for Academic Writing: From Synopsis to Thesis Writing from 29 June to 12 July 2016
- LEC actively participated in the JNU Open House held on 21 November, 2016.
- Annual Sign Language Workshop titled "Bridges in Communication: Indian Sign Language for Linguistic Capacity in Our Community" 20 – 21 January, 2017.

#### Future Plans:

- To train Foreign Diplomats (from Third World Countries) in English language by agreeing to offer 14 weeks programme under ITEC project initiated by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi.
- To begin different level of credit courses for students to empower them linguistically.

- To further strengthen Indian Sign Language (ISL) course as a full time program of LEC.
- Design and introduce Online ISL MOOC courses

### IV. University Placement Cell (UPC):

- The University Placement Cell has been re-activated and the Cell has done well in a very short time by collating some data, though more needs to be done. Our focus is to strengthen this important activity.
- The UPC page has been put prominently under students section on JNU web site.
- An MoU has been signed between JNU and M/s. Monstercollege to provide a web platform highlighting vacancies as per location, profession, subjects, salaries, etc.
- The Placement Cell has received campus recruitment request from governmental, non-governmental, and private organisations.
- The University is in the process of developing Innovation and incubation centres to help in developing the students for entrepreneurs.

### V. Mathematical & Computational Empowerment Cell (MCEC):

A fair degree of competence and skill in the application of mathematical, statistical and computational frameworks have become indispensable for pursuing advanced academic research in any discipline. Recognizing this fact, JNU established a Mathematical and Computational Empowerment Cell (a university-level programme) in Monsoon Semester 2012. The Cell works directly under the university's administrative control, like a facility. It is headed by a Coordinator, who is advised by a committee of members from different schools of the university.

The M&CEC offers courses (Basic & Advance levels) on:

- (1) Mathematics
  - (2) Probability & Statistics
  - (3) Computational Techniques and Data Analysis
- including training in the use of appropriate software & packages for the benefit of students, faculty members & staff of JNU.

#### New Courses offered:

- Basic Mathematics
- Graph Theory for Non Mathematicians
- Signal and System, Fourier series, Fourier transform, Laplace transform. Free for all JNU Community.

### VI. Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC):

The main objective of IQAC is to promote measures for institutional functioning towards quality enhancement through internalization of quality culture and institutionalization of best practices in the university. To meet this objective, IQAC has been able to focus on the followings issues

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- Recruitment and promotion related issues.
- API related issues
- Preparation of AQAR and NAAC related activities

Towards this end, IQAC has focused on the following broad activities:

- (i) to develop a quality system for conscious, consistent and catalytic programmed action to improve the academic and administrative performance of the University.
- (ii) to promote measures for institutional functioning towards quality enhancement through internalization of quality culture and institutionalization of best practices.

## JNU Alumni Affairs Cell and Alumni Association of JNU (AAJ):

The Alumni office organized a number of activities during the year, to develop Alumni Network of JNU. It included the following:

- A lecture titled "Renewable Energy: A Paradigm Shift in India" was delivered by alumni Sh. Upendra Tripathy, Secretary, Ministry of New Renewable Energy, Government of India, 29 August, 2016
- Alumni Affairs Office organized a seminar "Women Entrepreneurs and Innovators on Entrepreneurship with Empowerment", in the Committee Room of the JNU Convention Centre, 19 April, 2017
- Efforts are being made to make website interactive to all alumni
- AAJ Historians meet: Among the series of Alumni Association of JNU (AAJ), events the first event of this year was AAJ historians meet held on 29th January, 2017. The theme of this event was History of Our Times.

The aim and objective are to foster close bonds among JNU alumni across the globe as also between the JNU alumni and the University, who are spread over across the country and abroad holding key positions. At present, 7 Members of Parliament are JNU alumni; two are holding ministerial positions. JNU takes pride in the achievements of its alumni.

## Equal Opportunity Office (EOO):

Equal Opportunity Office (EOO) is the first of its kind in the country to aid and advise students belonging to marginalized sections including the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes, minority communities, persons with disabilities, etc. pursuing various programmes of study.

Additional facilities made available to visually/ physically impaired students during the year include the following:

- Angle Daisy Player: 90 to all Visually Impaired Students
- Laptops: 90 to all Visually Impaired Students
- Wheelchairs: 15 (for Physically challenged students)
- Locker facility to all visually / physically challenged students on demand

Equal Opportunity Office acts as Complaints Redressal Mechanism and

setting up of University Level Anti-Discrimination Committee to check cases of discrimination. The Chairperson of the Anti Discrimination Committee also acts as the Anti-Discrimination Officer.

## Internal Complaints Committee (ICC):

Gender Sensitization Committee against Sexual Harassment has been reconstituted as Internal Complaints Committee in compliance with UGC Regulations, 2015 as notified by MHRD in its Gazette Notification dated 02.05.2016. These Regulations are mandatory for all Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) in the country and are statutory in nature. Since the constitution of ICC, it has organized a number of orientation and sensitization programmes.

## Important Events:

- **Pandit Hridya Nath Kunzru Memorial Lecture Series, 2016:** The School of International Studies organized the prestigious Pandit Hridya Nath Kunzru Memorial Lecture Series, 2016 from 4-9 April, 2016. This series of lectures is the most prestigious outreach programme of SIS.
- **National Workshop on Earthquakes and Landslides: Addressing Administrative and Technological Challenges in Building Community Resilience:** Trans-disciplinary Disaster Research Programme JNU-NIDM in collaboration with the Manipur University organized a three day workshop on "Earthquakes and Landslides at Imphal, Manipur between 9-12 April, 2016
- **Earth Day:** The School of Environmental Sciences organized the Earth Day on 22 April, 2016. The theme was "Caring mother Earth" to provide a common platform for all those who are directly or indirectly involved in nurturing mother earth.
- **International Day of Yoga, 2016** by organizing a Yoga Workshop on the standard protocol approved by the Ministry of AYUSH from 17 – 20 June, 2016 followed by International Day of Yoga (IDY) programme on 21 June, 2016 with the participation of faculty, students and staff with great enthusiasm.
- **Ethnography of the Marginalized: A Critical Inquiry:** The Centre for the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion, SSS, organized a research workshop successfully to highlight the relevance of ethnography to the study of marginalized groups, communities and spaces; to understand the links between ethnography and theoretical production of knowledge; and to critically analyze ethnography as a process that not just explores marginalization but also intervenes in the lives of its subjects using its powerful academic 'gaze'.
- **Confocal Microscopy and Living Cell Imaging:** Advanced Instrumentation Research Facility (AIRF) organized a two-day workshop on "Confocal Microscopy and Live Cell Imaging" during 11-12 August, 2016.
- **Renewal Energy: A paradigm shift in India:** Sh. Upendra Tripathy, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable-Energy (MNRE) Govt. of India, an Alumni of JNU, delivered an address

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on the challenges and prospects of India's renewable energy requirements on 29 August, 2016.

- **Short Term Hindi Course for the students of Daito Bunka University (DBU):** Centre for Japanese Studies, SLL&CS, conducted a Short Term Hindi Course for the students of Daito Bunka University (DBU) from August 31 to September 16, 2016 under an agreement between JNU and DBU.
- **Sanskrit Centre celebrated Sanskrit Week 2016** on the theme Yoga and Ayurveda in the Education System from 19-23 August, 2016 to mark the celebrations of Sanskrit week 2016.
- **A special lecture on "Right to Information & Strengthening Democracy"** was organized on Right to Information and Strengthening Democracy on 4 October, 2016. Central Information Commissioner, Prof. M. Sridhar Acharyulu, spoke about the importance of RTI and its relevance in a premier university like JNU.
- **Celebrated Teachers' Day** on 5 September, 2016 by organizing various activities.
- **State of Japanese Literature in India Translations:** The Centre for Japanese Studies (CJS), SLL&CS organized a two-day International Seminar on 26-27 October, 2016 on "State of Japanese Literature in Indian Translations: Reception and Appreciation of Selected Literary works in Original and Translations."
- **A Workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility in India: Incentives and Effectiveness** was jointly organized by CITD, SIS and Prof. Madhu Khanna, University of Illinois on 8 December, 2016.
- **Rock Climbing Programme under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Scheme of UGC/MHRD:** A team of 18 JNU students, selected after rigorous physical fitness training, participated in a 3-day basic Rock Climbing Programme from 13 to 15 December, 2016 at Dhauj, Haryana.
- **3rd International Research Workshop in Cloud Computing** was organized by School of Computer and Systems Sciences on 22-23 December, 2016.
- CSRD, SSS conducted a **Social Economic Field Trip in Nagaon district of Assam** for M.A. students from 29 December, 2016 to 12 January, 2017 to initiate the students to social economic realities at a grass-root level across different socio-economic and cultural backdrops.
- **154th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda:** JNU celebrated the 154th Birth Anniversary of modern monk of India, Swami Vivekananda, who flashed in the world the indomitable spirit of India, her power of spiritualism and, most importantly, instilled scientific temper in Indian thought on 12th January, 2017.
- **Renaming the Central Library as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Library** and unveiling the Bust of Dr. Ambedkar.
- **Interdisciplinary exchange of Russian Culture:** An event on the rich cultural heritage of Russia and India titled "Interdisciplinary exchange of Russian Culture, an SAA and CRS Collaboration was held on 10 February, 2017.

- **Mid-term meeting 2017 of IFLA-RSCAO** and one day seminar on "New and Innovative Library in & formation Services: Central Library, JNU in collaboration with Regional Standing Committee on Asia and Oceania of International Federation of Library Associations organized its Mid-Term Meeting 2017 and one day seminar during 20-22 February, 2017.
- **National Science Day** organized along with DST on 28 February, 2017.
- **Celebration of The Wall of Valour** under the aegis of Vidya Veerta Abhiyan, an initiative of MHRD, Govt. of India
- **1st Open Day of the University "Jan-Jan JNU (जन-जन जेएनयू)** on 21 November, 2016 to showcase JNU contributions to the school children which can serve as a source of inspiration for carrying out their career as future researchers, academicians and engines of social change. The 2nd Open Day was celebrated this year on 27 October, 2017.

## Engineering Department:

Brief details of activities/major achievements of Engineering Department during 2016-17 (from 01.04.2016 up to 31.03.2017) are given below:

### A. Projects Completed during above period:

1. 500 KLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) near Saraswatipuram.
2. Fire Alarm & Protection System for Central Library, School of Environmental Sciences & School of Life Sciences.
3. Horizontal extension of Hostel block at Old CRS Building.
4. Vertical expansion of Study Block to convert into the hostel at Old CRS (Old SPS).
5. Construction of footpath on right hand side from East Gate to Admin. T-point.
6. 100 KWP Solar Photo Voltaic Power plant for Admn. Block & SSS-III

### B. Projects in Progress:

1. Installation of barrier free lifts in Academic & administrative Buildings-
  - a. Lifts installed in –
    - i) Godavari Kaveri and Periyar Hostels 01 Each
    - ii) Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies: 01 Nos
    - iii) Centre for Law and Governance: 01 Nos.
    - iv) Admin Building (East Wing): 01 Nos.
    - v) Admin Block (West Wing): 01 Nos.
    - vi) School of Life Sciences: 01 Nos.
  - b. Lifts installation in progress-
    - i) Admin Building (West Wing): 01 Nos.
    - ii) School of Physical Sciences: 01 Nos.
2. Repairs / relaying of Bituminous road:



- Internal road of Paschimabad and Main Road.
  - Internal road of Uttrakhand & Dakshinapuram and towards CGHS dispensary
  - Road from Yamuna Hostel to Ring Road T-point, Internal roads of HRDC & JNIAS.
  - Internal road towards Brahmaputra Hostel and old Poorvanchal area, Poorvanchal Bus terminal to Mahanadi Hostel
- Vertical expansion of SPS Building.
  - Construction of Temporary dormitories near Tefla, Narmada and Lohit Hostel.

### C. New projects in the planning stage:

- Roof top 1 MWP (1000 KWP) Solar Plant Volcanic power plant for Academic Area.
- Providing & Fixing 350 Nos. LED (40-45 Watt) compound lighting to replace existing 70 Watt High Pressure Sodium Vapour lighting in the Uttrakhand & Dakshinapuram area, JNU.

### D. New Construction Projects still awaiting approval /pending from local authorities:

- Construction of New Hostel (Shipra-II) to accommodate 752 Students.
- Construction of Trans-disciplinary Academic Building.
- Expansion of Advance Instrumentation Research Facility (AIRF) building.
- Construction of Barak Hostel to accommodate 419 (approx.) students with the monitory support of Department of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), Govt. of India.

### Horticulture Department:

- A Plantation Drive was taken up in JNU Campus during 2016-17 in Dakshinapuram, Roadside, CSLG, Type-III, North Gate, Damodar Hostel, Animal House, SCMM, SBT etc. and a total of 239 trees and a total of 2740 shrubs were planted.
- The University has constituted a Committee of experts in landscaping, horticulture, forestry etc for preparing a Plantation Master Plan for the entire JNU Campus

### New Initiatives:

- Creation of R&D Cell.
- Established a Chair in Odia Language in the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies funded by Government of Odisha. Now, there are 17 Chairs; 9 functional and for remaining 8, search process for appointment is underway.
- To institute annual Alumni Award to honour distinguished alumni of JNU.
- CIS has activated Knowledge Management System (KMS) module of eOffice for JNU students. Now, the students with disabilities can access students' related circulars/ documents/ notifications, etc. through URLs.
- JNU Entrance Examination advanced:- For admission to

academic session 2018-19, the entrance examination will be held from 27th 30th December, 2017 instead of middle of May 2018.

- Start-Up India Programme: Some faculty have taken interest in start-up India programs and have submitted proposals in this regard.
- Remedial Classes: The Centres/Schools conduct Remedial Classes for SC/ST/OBC (Non-creamy layer) minority community students as per UGC Scheme.
- Creation of Professional Development Fund (PDF) in Project Cell to put PI's share of university over head charges in this fund which can be used by the faculty member concerned till his/ her retirement from the university.
- Installation of Mother Dairy Kiosk at Poorvanchal.
- Online applications for setting up of Incubation Centres under Atal Innovation Mission - "Atal Incubation Centres" and Scale-up support to establish Incubation Centres.
- E-governance initiative has progressed very well. Most of the work is being done through this system. The focus is now to make its usage 100%.
- Review meeting of Hon'ble HRM with Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities (6th October, 2016) on the following:
  - Improvement in the Quality of Education
  - Improvement in Research
  - Internal Resource Generation
  - Student Centric initiatives
  - E-governance initiatives; and
  - Kaushal Kendras/ outreach programmes.
- Developed a system to make all payments through electronic / digital mode and also acceptance of payment through this mode for the services. All the licensees of shops, kiosks and dhabas in JNU have been advised to use digital payment facilities for all kinds of sale/ purchase of goods and services instead of cash transactions.

### Ranking:

- HRD Ministry released the first ever list under the National Institutional Ranking Framework in 2016. In the universities section, Jawaharlal Nehru University was ranked 3rd after Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai.
- JNU was awarded the Best University status under the Visitor's Award for the Best Central University, 2016.
- As per THE WEEK- Hansa Research Survey 2016, JNU holds 2nd rank among the top multi-disciplinary universities at the all India level for the second consecutive year, 2015 and 2016.
- NAAC team visited JNU during 9-11 October, 2017 for 2nd cycle of JNU's accreditation. JNU has been awarded the highest grade of A++. This is the second consecutive highest grade since the University applied for NAAC accreditation in 2012.

I may add that it is our endeavour that JNU continues to achieve greater intellectual eminence in its journey. A transparent

## Vice-Chancellor's Speech....

administration is our focus and we are committed to provide an enabling work culture. However, I would like to underline that promoting excellence in research requires a blending and tailoring of a variety of strategies and techniques to an institution's unique culture and environment. JNU is unique in that sense because it attracts students and teachers from all parts of the country.

I would like to thank the Chancellor for all valuable guidance, support and motivation. Sincere thanks to the Honourable Members of Parliament for their understanding and recognition of the University's position on various matters; and to all my faculty colleagues, officers, students and support staff for their unstinted support. Their inputs and suggestions have great value to work upon and improve the functioning of the University.

Before I conclude, I would like to mention that in the last meeting of the Court, I had apprised this august body about the disappearance of Najeeb Ahmed, a student of the University from his hostel on the night of 15 - 16 October, 2016. The entire JNU

community expressed pain and anguish over his sudden disappearance. I made a special appeal through this august body and through other means that Najeeb should return wherever he is, and resume his study. I would like to underline the fact that we did everything possible to trace him with the help of Delhi Police but all our efforts were in vain. Now, the matter is with the CBI and the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi is monitoring the progress in this regard regularly. On behalf of the University and on my own behalf, I would once again appeal and hope for the safe return of Najeeb.

Finally, I am sad to say that in recent past, three precious lives have been lost: two former Vice-Chancellors, Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya and Prof. P.N. Srivastava; Sh. P.N. Sharma, former Registrar and Coordinator (Evaluation); and some faculty colleagues and staff. Their contributions to building JNU have been immense, admirable and well-known. On behalf of this august body, I would like to pay respectful homage to them.

Thank you all once again.

## Movements & Appointments

### New Appointments/ Deans/ Directors/ Chairpersons

- Prof. Girish Nath Jha as Dean, School of Sanskrit & Indic Studies (Sanskrit evam Prachyavidya Adhyayan Sansthan) for a period of two years.
- Prof. Dhananajay Singh, Centre for English Studies, School of Language Literature and Culture Studies as Associate Dean of Students-I, for a period of two years.
- Prof. Dinesh Mohan, School of Environmental Sciences as Director, Advanced Instrumentation Research Facility (AIRF), for a period of two years.
- Prof. T.V. Vijay Kumar, School of Computer and Systems Sciences as International Students Advisor, for a period of two years.
- Prof. P.A. George as Chairperson, Centre for Japanese Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, for a period of two years (w.e.f. 1 August, 2017)
- Prof. Dhir Sarangi as Chairperson, Centre of French and Francophone Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies, for a period of two years.
- Prof. Ashwini Kumar Mohapatra as Chairperson, Centre for West Asian Studies, School of International Studies, for a period of two years.
- Prof. Ummu Salma Bava as Chairperson, Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies, for a period of two years.
- Dr. Mazhar Asif as Professor in the Centre for Persian and Central Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies.
- Dr. Hemant Ritturaj Kushwaha as Assistant Professor in the School of Biotechnology.
- Dr. Abhisheka Bansal as Assistant Professor in the School of

Life Sciences.

- Dr. Vandana Mishra as Assistant Professor in the Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory, School of International Studies.
- Dr. Usha Mina as Associate Professor in the School of Environmental Sciences.
- Dr. Amit Kumar Mishra as Assistant Professor in the School of Environmental Sciences.
- Dr. Birendra Nath Prasad as Assistant Professor in the Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences.
- Dr. Anuja as Assistant Professor in the Centre for the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion, School of Social Sciences.
- Dr. Pranav Kumar as Assistant Professor in the Centre for the Study of Discrimination & Exclusion, School of Social Sciences.
- Dr. Jaikhlong Basumatary as Assistant Professor in the Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, School of International Studies.

### Administration

- Shri Rakesh Kumar Yadav as Assistant Director in Sports Office.

### Retirements/Resignations/Voluntary Retirements

- Prof. Anil K. Dhingra, Centre of Spanish, Portuguese, Italian & Latin American Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies.
- Prof. Mondira Dutta, Centre for Inner Asian Studies, School of International Studies.
- Shri Prakash Rawat, Senior Assistant, Bill Section – III.
- Shri Amarendra Kumar, Professional Assistant, Central Library.
- Shri Shankar Dutt, Assistant, Jhelum Hostel.
- Shri Dev Raj Singh, Technical Assistant, School of Computer

# Movements & Appointments

and Systems Sciences.

- Shri. Girender Singh, Library Attendant, Centre for the Study of Discrimination And Exclusion, School of Social Sciences.

## Notifications

The Vice – Chancellor has constituted a Committee regarding the matter of forwarding of applications of faculty members, including retired faculty members, for award of UGC-BSR Fellowship, JC

Bose Fellowship, etc. and other related issues:

1. Prof. Atul Kumar Johri, SLS - Chairperson
2. Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, SC&IS - Member
3. Prof. A.L. Ramanathan, SES - Member
4. Dr. Heeraman Tiwari, CHS/SSS - Member
5. Dr. Rupesh Chaturvedi, Director (R&D) - Member

# Achievements / Awards



**Prof. Sharad K Soni**, Chairperson, Centre for Inner Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University has been awarded Bharat Vikas Award at an event organized by Institute of Self Reliance in the

Press Club, Bhubaneswar on 19 November, 2017.



**Dr. Poonam Mehta**, School of Physical Sciences, has been awarded Bharat Vikas Award from the Institute of Self Reliance, Bhubaneswar.

**Prof. Deepak Sharma and Prof. Supriya Chakraborty** from the School of Life Sciences have been elected as Fellows of the

National Academy of Sciences, India.



**Dr. Gajendra Pratap Singh**, Assistant Professor, School of Computational and Integrative Sciences, JNU, New Delhi has been awarded Young Scientist Award-2017 for his contribution and achievement in the field of Petri Nets and Graph Theory in the 3rd Annual Research Meet-ARM 2017 organized by Centre

for Advanced Research and Design-CARD of Venus International Foundation on 11 November, 2017 at Radha Regent, Chennai, India.

**Prof. Sanjay K Bhardwaj**, Centre for South Asian Studies, SIS has been selected as a Fellow 2018 on a US State Department Programme, Study of US Institute on National Security Policy Making, hosted by University of Delaware, United States of America (USA).

# Campus Activities

## JNU Cultural Committee, IHA with SPICMACAY organized VIRASAT 2017

Jawaharlal Nehru University has joined hands with SPICMACAY (The Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth), a voluntary youth movement which promotes intangible aspects of Indian cultural heritage. That is how JNU-SPICMACAY chapter has come into being. After inviting many eminent artists to the campus, the university organised a week-long program "VIRASAT 2017" from 9 – 14 October, 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 workshops took place at Teflas (Student's Activity Centre).

The first day (9 Oct) of the event started with an inauguration program welcoming the instructors of various workshops – Pt. Rajendra Gangani (Kathak), Pt. Sarathy Chatterjee (Hindustani vocal), Anuradha Kapoor (theatre) and Qamar Dagar (calligraphy) – as well as the participants, in the presence of the co-ordinator of JNU Cultural Committee, Prof. Meeta Narain, the faculty incharges of various clubs: Prof. Ishtiaque Ahmed and Prof. Sudesh Kumar Yadav.

On the same evening, an internationally recognized Indian classical dancer, Smt. Geeta Chandran, enlightened 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 rectors. Smt. Geeta

## Campus Activities

Chandran is not only a 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 Puraskar, she was awarded the Padma Shri in 2007, for her contributions in the field of art. 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.



On the following day, 10 October, the great Indian classical singer, Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar, accompanied by other artists (instrument players) was able to create a magic with his spell-binding performance. 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, and other officials of the university.

The third day was the time to lend ears to the strings of the musical instrument Santoor, played by none other than Pt. Bhajan Sopori, an Indian instrumentalist born in Srinagar, renowned 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 performance gracefully struck the right chords!

On the following day, the time had come to celebrate the richness 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. 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.

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.

For 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 festivals, 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 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 USA, UK, Canada, Switzerland, Finland, France, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Dubai, Muscat, Doha etc. He not only extended his 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 pre-registered students, finally attracted the maximum number. The workshop was conducted by Anuradha Kapoor, former Director of the National School of Drama, New Delhi. She has directed many plays in India and abroad. Also, she has written widely on 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 to a

# Campus Activities

session of meditation that has unique healing powers.

On the final day, a certificate distribution ceremony was organized, where 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 todas, foot works 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 the 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 continue in the future as well, we would like to thank the university and the entire SPIC MACAY team, for giving us an opportunity to not only be a part of it but also to organize such events!

**Meeta Narain, Coordinator  
Culture Activities Committee**

## Report of Rock Climbing Programme 2017 at Pachmarhi, M.P.

A team of 18 JNU students selected after rigorous physical fitness training participated in a four days "Basic Rock Climbing Programme" from 12 to 17 December, 2017 at Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh. The programme comprised numerous adventurous activities including rock climbing, rappelling, jumming, valley crossing as well as treacherous trekking through the dense forest of Satpura Tiger Reserve (STR). The group left JNU for the programme on 12 December, 2017 and reached Pachmarhi on 13 December morning.

On day one, after the basic introduction with instructor-cum-guide, the team started its journey. After having breakfast, the team left base camp to Sangam. After returning from Sangam, the team had lunch at Bharat Scout and Guide. In the afternoon, the team left for a historical place called "Pandav Caves". After dinner a bonfire was arranged to share the first day's experience. On days two and three, the team completed climbing, jumming (single and double jummer) and rappelling. The team woke up at 5:30 in morning, did one hour physical training, i.e. running amidst the

rocky area, which was fun for many of the participants as this was a new experience for them. After breakfast the group moved for climbing at 9:00 am. 18 participants climbed around 15 metres rock face. Later on, the team came back for lunch. After lunch, the group moved for rappelling around 15 metres. Dinner was served followed by a feedback session for the whole day's activities. The group dispersed at 10:30 pm for sleep. On day four, the last day of the basic rock climbing programme, to the group enjoyed by spending more time on sightseeing. Keeping this in mind the group woke up at 6:30 in the morning, did yoga followed by one hour physical training. After breakfast, the team left for Chauraghat. For the team this was the most thrilling day as the team trekked around 15 km through STR, and climbed around 1500 stairs to Chauraghat. Nobody even cared for lunch because everyone was boosting up their partners. The team had their lunch in the forest and returned to the camp at 4:00 pm. As the group started the return journey, we were overwhelmed by emotions and bid goodbye to an unforgettable experience. A few of our friends faced temporary blisters, sprains and strain but proper medication and rest helped them to recover in a few hours. Our group returned happily to JNU on 17 December, 2017.

**Suresh Das, Convener  
JNU Mountaineering Club**

## JNU's School of Biotechnology Devises Methodology For Water-Based Herbicides

JNU is known for cutting-edge research in various fields of science and technology. Recently, its prestigious School of Biotechnology has devised a methodology by which herbicides used in agriculture can be prepared simply by the use of water instead of organic solvents.

Herbicides, used to kill unwanted plants or weeds among the crops, is widely used in the field of agriculture. However, its preparation requires variety of organic solvents in large volumes that are used to remove or filter-out impurities. These organic solvents are not only costly but are also the cause of pollution to the environment. The impurities once dissolved in organic solvents are hard to separate and causes harm to the environment when discharged untreated.

Dr BS Balaji, Associate Professor at JNU's School of Biotechnology, who first conceived and worked on the idea of using water in herbicide preparation instead of organic solvents, said that in his process the waste products are washed away and removed using water instead of organic solvent. Also, the whole process is more pollution free. He was assisted in his work by one of his students, Neha Dalal, who was then student of MSc Biotechnology, now a researcher at IIT-Bombay.

"Approximately five times more volume of organic solvents is required as compared to water in the preparation of the same amount of herbicide. Using water is not only a cost effective measure but also the whole process is pollution free as compared

## Campus Activities

to using organic solvent," said Dr BS Balaji.

"25 litres of water will cost maximum 60 rupees while same amount of organic solvent would cost around Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,000," he said. This would highly reduce the cost of herbicide production thus making it available to the farmers at much cheaper rate. However, what is required is its large scale production at industrial level.

Balaji told that he has applied for "provisional patent" at the "Indian Patent Office" and meanwhile is also trying to scale up with industries for its large scale commercial production. "We have to take it from Lab to industry," he added.

**B. S. Balaji, Associate Professor  
School of Biotechnology**

## Seminars/Conferences

### 'Indigenous Peoples in Québec: New Perspectives, New Voices'

The Canadian Studies Programme of the Centre for Canadian, US and Latin American Studies, School of International Studies, JNU, in association with Le Bureau du Québec à Mumbai and Université de Montréal organized a screening and discussion of films on Québec on 8 November, 2017 at the Convention Centre JNU. The programme was titled 'Indigenous Peoples in Québec: New Perspectives, New Voices' and was the result of the initiative taken by Professor Emeritus of the University of Montreal and Visiting Professor at the Centre, Prof. Marie Mc Andrew and coordinated and organized by Dr. Priti Singh from the Canadian Studies programme of JNU. This was a follow up of the film screenings that have been organized twice in JNU on different themes.



Prof. Marie Mc Andrew welcomed the audience to the film screening with a map of Québec which highlighted the presence of native/indigenous settlements in Québec. She stated how the native issues came to the forefront in Québec in 1975. Prof. Abdul Nafey welcomed Director-Consul Dominic Marcotte of Le Bureau du Québec à Mumbai who also graced the event with his presence and thanked him for helping in hosting the screenings on this theme of interest. Prof. Nafey discussed the contribution of the Canadian Studies programme to the intellectual capital of the country. Director-Consul Dominic Marcotte addressed the crowd by giving a brief introduction to Québec. He talked about the cultural and religious diversities that are similar in Québec and India. He shared his delight in being part of the film screenings and spoke about the indigenous peoples in Québec, which were the theme of the film festival. An action plan has been developed by Québec for the development of Inuits and First Nations. This was followed by the Chairperson of the Centre, Prof. Vijayalakshmi highlighting how the Canadian Studies programme from its

inception had been quite active and how since Professor Mc Andrew's affiliation with the Centre, dissemination of knowledge on Québec has grown.

Three films were screened with an introduction for each film given by Prof. Marie Mc Andrew and followed by a short discussion. The first movie that was screened, *Le Peuple Invisible/The Invisible Nation* (2007), critically revisits the forgotten history of unequal relationships between the white settlers and the Algonquins in Northern Québec and illustrates their constant resistance to oppression. It was the winner of the Best Documentary at the Jutra Awards.

The second movie, *Avant Les Rues/ Before the Street* (2016), focused on current conflictual identities. It tells the story of a young Atikamekh who experiences the redemptory power of his return to healing rituals and community practices. This movie was winner of the Best Canadian Feature Film at the Whistler Film Festival and the Discovery Award of the Directors Guild of Canada.

The third movie, *Ce Qu'il Faut Pour Vivre/ The Necessities of Life* (2008), set in the 1950s vividly explores the cultural shock of an Inuit hunter brought to Québec city to cure his tuberculosis and the touching relationship he develops with a French Canadian nurse and a young urbanized Inuit boy. It was winner of the Most Popular Canadian Feature Film at the Montreal Film Festival Awards.

The festival concluded with Professor Mc Andrew thanking everyone for making the event a success.

**Tripti Chowdhury, M.Phil  
Canadian Studies Programme, SIS**

### International Conference "Russian Studies: Changing Dimensions in Literature & Culture, Language & Translation"

The Centre of Russian Studies, School of Language Literature & Cultural Studies, JNU, in collaboration with ICSSR (Northern Regional Centre) organised an International Conference to mark 70 years of Indo-Russian diplomatic relations from 9 to 11 November, 2017. The International Conference "Russian Studies: Changing Dimensions in Literature & Culture, Language & Translation" was organised with an aim to address the developments in the sphere of Russian language, its learning and teaching, past these 70 years.

The conference began on 9 November, with a welcome note by Prof. Ranjana Banerjee of CRS, SLL&CS, followed by an

# Seminars/Conferences

introduction to the Conference by the Chairperson of Centre of Russian Studies, and the Director of the International Conference,



Prof. Meeta Narain. The inaugural address was given by our esteemed guests Prof. Rajendra Dingle (Dean of SLL&CS, JNU), Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar (Vice Chancellor, JNU), Prof. Girish Nath Jha (Director, International Collaboration, JNU), His Excellency Mr. Nikolay Rishatovich Kudashev (Ambassador of the Russian Federation to India), and Mr. Igor Pilipenko, representative of His Excellency Mr. Vitaly A. Prima (Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to India). The keynote address was given by Prof. Purushottam Agarwal (former member, Union Public Service Commission & Professor, CIL, JNU). Dr. Sonu Saini (Assistant Professor, CRS, SLL&CS) presented the vote of thanks.

A plenary session and 16 academic sessions, including more than 60 research papers, were carried out during this conference, with topics of wide gamut pertaining to all the aspects of Russian language. These topics were largely divided under three branches: linguistics, literature and translation. Interesting additional

sections were those of language teaching and learning in the backdrop of ever growing technology, globalization and its effects in India and Russia, the changing dimensions observed in the field of literature and culture, language and translation, their impact on society and relations between the two societies. 70 years of Indo-Russian Diplomatic Relations serve as a milestone on how these diversified issues are being handled to preserve the long existing relation.

The Conference provided a platform for discussion and exchange of views by scholars from India, Russia and other countries. It provided an opportunity to explore and get acquainted with the new approaches, trends and methodologies encompassing Russian studies. The changes in the socio-political situations and technological advancements, world over, have led to a paradigm shift in the teaching and learning process.

Day 1 of the conference ended with a cultural performance by the students of CRS, SLL&CS. The students had put up a play in Russian Srezal, based on the story of a renowned Russian writer Vasily Sukshin. The play was well received by the audience, and the artistes were felicitated by the Director of the Conference, Prof. Meeta Narain. Day 2 of the Conference ended with an evening dedicated to the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of India-Belarus Diplomatic Relations, 500th Anniversary of Belarusian book printing and Francysk Skarnya's work, and 135th birth anniversary of Belarusian poets Yanka Kupala and Yakub Kolas. Poems and songs of these poets were recited and sung by the students of CRS, and participants from Belarus. The performances depicted the rich cultural heritage of Belarus, leaving behind an unforgettable impression on the audience. In addition to these performances a photo exhibition was put up, depicting the strengthening India-Belarus Diplomatic Relations, by Dr. Nagendra Sreenivas, Assistant Professor, CRS, SLL&CS) and students of CRS, SLL&CS, JNU.

The International Conference was a positive step towards the unfolding of these changing dimensions, in the field of literature and culture, language and translation studies. Interaction of scholars from the fields was an enriching experience for all the participants. The international conference played a significant role in integrating communities through language, literature, and translation and their diversified functions. The conference served as a unique opportunity to engage with research scholars of different countries to deliberate on continuing studies in these spheres.

**Meeta Narain, Professor  
Centre of Russian Studies, SLL&CS**

## Nehru Memorial Lecture 2017

JNU organized the annual Nehru Memorial Lecture 2017, which was delivered this year by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the internationally renowned teacher of peace and wellness. Earlier lectures in this series were delivered by acclaimed personalities like Shri Dalai Lama, President APJ Abdul Kalam, President Pranab Mukherjee. Welcoming the speaker and the audience Prof. R.P. Singh, Rector-III, said Guru Ji Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's discourses and interventions have brought about peace in many troubled regions of the world,

Columbia, Iraq and Spain being only but a few examples. In his inaugural address, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, told the audience how JNU was happy to have a person like Sri Sri Ravi Shankar who has worked only to promote peace: "from Kashmir to Columbia, poverty-stricken regions of Africa to Pakistan, Guru Ji has reached out to all only to generate peace." Prof. Jagadesh Kumar also highlighted the fact why mental peace and physical fitness create a healthy symphony among India's youth for energizing the speed of growth and prosperity of our country. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar drew the audience's attention towards inner peace and wellness which can be achieved by control over mind through appropriate meditation. This practice has been a singular gift of India to world peace and human prosperity: "Peace evades us when we refuse to recognize diversity, and undermine difference ... when one allows inner consciousness to sleep."

Later in the evening, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar also held a discourse in JNU before an audience of over 5000, including JNU students, teachers, and other invited dignitaries from various universities and organizations, where he said that to bring about inner harmony, peace and prosperity we should, "spiritualise the politics, socialize the business and secularise the religion." The audience was enthused to see Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, who addressed the gathering and said: "I may not have studied in this campus but I do have a JNU degree; I am a graduate of National Defence Academy. And I am informed that a programme of this magnitude has not been held in JNU in a long time." In his opening address Vice Chancellor, Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, said, "This evening belongs to our students." Rector-III R.P. Singh said: "Time is very precious in our life and if we share it with others that would be a very important gift. And Guru Ji is kindly sharing with us today his precious time. What could be a greater gift than that?"

The evening's programme ended with Sri Sri Ravi Shankar guiding a meditative session for the audience and showing how mental peace and physical wellness can be synergized and pooled together for a healthy society. This session was preceded by a youth concert by Vikram Hazra.

**R.P. Singh, Rector - III  
Jawaharlal Nehru University**

## **Babasaheb's Role in Nation Building**

"Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar suffered the worst torments of misconceptions of the Indian society, but he never let personal angst and anguish dominate while creating the constitution of India." This was said by Dr. Ram Shankar Katheria, Chairman, National Commission of Scheduled Castes, at an event organized to commemorate the death anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar. On 6 December, 2017, a grand programme was organized by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Central Library on the occasion of Bodhisattva Babasaheb Ambedkar's Mahaparinirvan Diwas.

The programme began with Bhante's prayer chantings to the Buddha. Thereafter, continued the conference on "Babasaheb's Role in Nation Building." Renowned speakers from the field of administration, politics and academia articulated their views to

an informed and enthusiastic audience. While elaborating upon the many aspects of Babasaheb, Prof. Ram Shankar Katheria illuminated the audience on the great contribution of the beloved leader in the field of education, and appreciated the University for organizing the event.

He also appreciated the University Library for opening an Independent section for books on literature and philosophy by Dr. Ambedkar and students' theses on his works. He as well said that in the coming year, on April 14, the University should organize an even grander celebration of the birth anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar, and the Government of India would provide all possible assistance towards it.

While presenting the Keynote Address, Dr. Vijay Sonkar Shastri, the former Chairman of the National Commission of Scheduled Castes, enlightened the audience with various historical facts not known to people at large. He presented numerous details to emphasize that without knowing the thoughts of Babasaheb, it was impossible to know not only the Dalit, Tribal and Marginalized communities, but the very development of human societies as a whole was unthinkable without it.

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, Shri Rajinder Kashyap emphasized, by citing examples from Babasaheb's books, that he should be seen as the Messiah for the Marginalized and the Dalits.

The Chief Guest at the event Shri Rajesh Diwakar, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, argued that for his great contribution, Babasaheb should be given an even higher recognition than Bharat Ratna. He should be indeed conferred Vishwa Ratna, he said.

In his Welcome Speech, Prof. Vivek Kumar, said that by following the fundamental principles of the Indian constitution created by Babasaheb, India's great progress and development could be achieved. In the social context, he presented Babasaheb as a liberator of not only the Untouchables, but that of the entire humankind.

In his remark as the Chair of the event, Prof. Rana Pratap Singh, Rector-III, JNU, said that in all Indians live a part of Babasaheb, and stressed that if every Indian is able to awaken the Babasaheb in her/him, our country will speedily progress far ahead of the foremost countries of the world.

Dr. Ramesh Chandra Gaur, the Librarian, showed to the audience a significant documentary made by the Library on Dr. Ambedkar. While delivering the Vote of Thanks, Dr. Rajesh Paswan, thanked the whole University community, Teachers' Association, Staff Association, Officers' Association and all other members of the campus for their support and encouragement. He said that for Babasaheb's pen was the mightiest, and emphasized that the Babasaheb Section of the Library should be enriched to give a fitting tribute to the great leader.

In this programme, the whole university community, family members of the employees took active part, and kept listening till the last moment. With great joy, Prof. Sudhir Kumar, the compere, said with pride, appreciating the packed hall that this was the first Parinirvan Diwas of Babasaheb organized by the JNU administration in the history of the University, and resolved that in



## Seminars/Conferences

the future, on 14 April and 6 December, the University should continue to celebrate the legacy of Babasaheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

**Ramesh C. Gaur, Librarian  
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Central Library**

### Two day workshop on 'Data Analysis Using SPSS'

A two-day workshop on 'Data Analysis Using SPSS' was organized by the Mathematical and Computational Empowerment Cell, JNU during 7-8 December, 2017. This workshop focused on Statistical Data Analysis using Statistical Package for Social Sciences. In this workshop, we received 42 participants from all over the India. The resource person Prof. C.P Gupta, Delhi University gave training to the participants through SPSS software to analyse real life data from different areas.

The workshop team members were Prof. Anirban Chakraborti (Cordinator, MCEC) and Dr. Gajendra Pratap Singh (Faculty &



Convenor). The chief guest Prof. R.P. Singh (Rector-III, JNU) encouraged and motivated the researchers to understand the importance of statistics and mathematics in day-to-day life. Other faculty members present were Prof. Andrew M. Lynn (Dean, SCIS, JNU), Prof. Subbarao Naidu, Prof. BK. Kanuaji.

**Gajendra Pratap Singh, Assistant Professor  
School of Computational and Integrative Sciences**

## Alumni Corner



**Dr. Abdul Qayum**, IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), Tawang, Department of Environment & Forest, Government of Arunachal Pradesh

**Hamid Raza: How and when did your association with JNU start? Tell us about your days in the University.**

**Dr. Qayum:** I was fortunate to be part of JNU by securing admission in the Pre-Ph.D/Ph.D programme in

Computational Biology & Bioinformatics of the School of Computation & Integrative Sciences (SCIS) of the University in July-2010, incidentally at Rank 1. It was little difficult to convince the interview board during the Pre-PhD admission that how a Civil Engineering graduate can do something significant in the field of Bio-informatics and how JNU is a better place of research than IITs. Somehow, the interview remained satisfactory and a beautiful journey of 4 years began. I was allotted one Research Supervisor for mentoring the work and my initial days due to some unseen reasons were not so good, but after nearly a year; a beautiful expedition full of learning, knowledge, enthusiasm began with Prof. Andrew Lynn, who not only guided me fantastically on GIS based mapping of natural resources, traditional knowledge and anti-malarial plants towards identification of malarial hotspot, but shaped my thought process and as results dozens of research papers were produced. I was fortunate in presenting a research paper at an international conference in London during Dec 2012 which was fully funded by Dept of Science & Technology, Govt of India and my own alma mater.

Initially, I was in Lohit Hostel in the vicinity of the famous Mughal Darbar and had fantastic environment for academic and non-academic pursuits. My roommates Nitish, Iqbal bhai, Prakash, Amit Singh etc. were very supportive. Later, I was moved to the seniors' hostel Brahmaputra – a hub of researchers. My best days remind me of the JNU hostel nights; attending lectures/presentations of eminent speakers, social workers and

activists and having discussions ranging from current developments in science, research ethics, strategy for publications etc. to various national affairs with my lab-mates over cups of tea in the evening, this I especially miss and wish to live it again!

**Hamid Raza: How is JNU today different from the time you were here?**

**Dr. Qayum:** In every visit to the capital city, I never fail to visit the lush green campus to have at least a cup of tea at Ganga Dhaba, Library or SSS-canteen. Someone nicely said 'Once a JNUite, is always a JNUite'. I have noticed the campus is much crowded now; intake has greatly increased; new hostels have come up. Though the number has gone up but I feel the bonding between researchers has gone down. Change is an essential part of any institution, in fact it is inevitable and JNU has changed in a way that it can accommodate the academic, personal and professional needs of many. The Convention Centre has come up, which may be categorized as a state of the arts building. The contribution of JNU was once again recognized by the Hon'ble President of India. It was extremely unfortunate that JNU was critically accused as the hub of anti-national elements in the recent past though it has bagged the Visitor's Award the same year for the best central university in the country. It was judged on various parameters such as student-faculty ratio, research output, university ranking, and patents filed, etc. Despite so many false attacks, it has come victorious.

I have found the young students highly motivated, focused yet much vocal for various causes be they social, personal or academic.

**Hamid Raza: How did you choose Civil Services over academics, as a large number of JNUites prefer academics?**

## Alumni Corner

**Dr. Qayum:** Before coming to JNU, I was a student at IIT Delhi, and then at IIT Kanpur and wished to appear for the most prestigious services of country, but despite full fledged preparation I chose to raise academic qualification along with the preparation, in which the 'Dholpur House' of JNU Library played a key role. The library was a hub of likeminded people, which not only motivated me internally but the interactions were full of knowledge and information on varying subjects.

Civil Services offer you a multi-dimensional approach to a particular problem of society where you can directly contribute to the ease and development of poorer sections of our society. Certain decisions taken on time, and subsequent actions done bring a lot of relief to the common people. I always wanted to contribute towards nation building by becoming part of various decision making processes. For me, a career in academics was plan B.

**Hamid Raza: As an IFS officer you must have worked with colleagues from JNU and from other institution in India. What differences do you find between them?**

**Dr. Qayum:** Having witnessed a great diversity in the campus, a JNUite always thinks in a larger perspective, where the societal component in each decision making process has larger stakes. The exposure to various non-academic events of JNU enabled us in thinking for the downtrodden people 'first' and it broadened the horizon. It gave us insight into how decision taken in the Govt offices will benefit or affect the poor and tribal population.

I have felt many differences especially among people of science and social sciences backgrounds. One class of people are mostly results oriented, while others always care about the means, how it will affect the people who require such policy intervention the most!

**Hamid Raza: Any memory of JNU days that you would like to share with us?**

**Dr. Qayum:** It was so beautiful that I wish to return! I have always liked student Dharnas for the right causes, pakaudi sessions at Sabarmati Dhaba, guest speakers in the hostel mess, parchas on

the mess table during dinner, presidential debate during election time etc. In fact, these parchas and guest-speaker sessions were of great use in UPSC preparation. I always remember 'Dholpur House' of the Library, staying in it for 12-13 hours from dawn to late night and sometime till as late as 3-4 AM. Everything seems so beautiful today.

My best friend and my wife Akanksha was also a Doctoral student of the Centre of West Asian Studies, SIS, JNU; we had a fantastic time both academically and in the personal spheres. The University funded her recent trip to a conference in Kobe, Japan for her works on 'Syria-European Union Relations'.

**Hamid Raza: Any message you would like to give to our readers?**

**Dr. Qayum:** JNU is very often labelled as a communist hub, but I feel more than leftist ideology, it should be identified with rationalism and open debates. We must protect the pristine beauty of the campus. If you ask any JNUite what JNU gave them, they will tell you it broadened their perspective, introduced them to ideas, even dissenting ones, introduced them to the world of pluralism, prepared them for competition, gave them self-confidence and ability of public speaking, and fired them up with the dream of making a just India. It made them realise that dissent could be a virtue. In addition, JNU gave them networks of bureaucrats, journalists, writers, artists, translators, activists, professors, heads of important institutions, and many politicians of national repute. Anyone who understands success would know the importance of networks. JNU has given its education a national character by imbibing different aspects of Indian society.

The recent developments were very saddening, JNU is the most beautiful campus not only in terms of flora & fauna but in terms of allowing different cultures, systems, races and nationalities to grow and flourish equally. The kind of support we receive from our professors and the opportunity of free hands-on research is simply unmatched. Having been to both, I believe technical institutions make the learner a machine, while JNU transforms them into human beings – human beings who care about their society, people and 'values' at large.

## Obituary



**Prof. C.N. Chakravarti:** The Centre of Russian Studies (CRS) remembers with gratitude the Founder Director of the Institute of Russian Studies, Prof. C. N. Chakravarti, who left for his heavenly abode on 9 November, 2017. Prof. C. N. Chakravarti's name is synonymous with the Russian Language Programme as his entire life was dedicated to the promotion of Russian Studies in India.

Having started his career by teaching Russian at the Department of Modern European Languages at Delhi University, he rose to the position of heading the Department after which he became instrumental in setting up the Institute of Russian Studies (IRS) in 1965. As the Founder Director of the Institute he played an important role in promoting Russian Studies. He held several prominent positions when IRS became a part of JNU in 1969 and was renamed as the Centre of Russian Studies.

He was Chairperson, CRS; Dean of School of Languages from 1975 to 1978; Dean of Students Welfare from 1983 to 1985 and a hostel warden too.

As a pioneer of Russian Studies, he contributed towards the writing and teaching methodologies of the language. Not only was he a conscientious, meticulous and an ardent promoter of the language, but was a simple, genuine and a loving person who guided several generations of students and teachers. He was the first recipient of the PUSHKIN MEDAL in 1979, given for promotion of Russian Language, which made his name equally renowned in the erstwhile USSR, where his books and his personality became an inspiration for both Indian and foreign students.

He will be deeply missed by the Centre of Russian Studies, the vacuum created by his demise will never be filled, but he will forever be living with us through his books and vision, which will continue to pave the path for generations to come. The Centre of Russian Studies salutes to Prof. C. N. Chakravarti, the pioneer of Russian Studies in India and we are sure that his rich persona will continue to guide us in the years to come.

# Obituary

## Prof Ritoo M. Jerath



The CRS also fondly remembers its dear colleague Prof. Ritoo M. Jerath who left us on 20 November, 2017. Prof. Ritoo M. Jerath has been an indispensable part of the CRS family as her entire life was dedicated to the Russian Studies programme. Her association with CRS started in 1976 when she joined the 5 year Integrated MA Programme for learning Russian. She served as a faculty of CRS since 1990 and rose to heading the Centre as the Chairperson of the Centre from 2014-2016.

Prof. Jerath was a multifaceted person, having deep interest in not only academic pursuit, but also in promoting culture, aesthetics, theatre and in taking up issues related to gender. She was extremely popular amongst her colleagues and students and was admired for her deep sense of beauty, which manifested in each and every deed of hers – whether it was the up keep of her office or her dress, style, and visualization of projects in hand.

As a Russian literature expert, Ritoo always aspired to instill confidence in her students and encouraged them to be realistic and creative in their disposition. She was always ready to share her knowledge, give suggestions and advise any and every one who approached her for guidance. Her relationship with the office staff members was also exceptional as she tried to inculcate in them the qualities of meticulous and qualitative approach towards work.

Prof. Ritoo M. Jerath was an iconic figure, who will be deeply missed by the entire Centre of Russian Studies fraternity – students and staff. She will be remembered not only for her contribution to Russian Studies but also to related disciplines and will remain a role model for generations to come

## Dr. Vijay Pal Yadav



School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University remembers its dear colleague Dr. Vijay Pal Yadav, who left us on 24 November, 2017.

The sudden demise of Dr. Vijay Pal Yadav at the age of 37 years has been a tremendous loss to the scientific community. He had distinguished himself as a Ph.D. scholar in S.E.S. (2005-2011), and his brilliant work in Molecular Parasitology was published in prestigious journals, including Nature Communications in 2012. For this novel work he was awarded the coveted Young Scientist medal from the Indian National Science Academy (INSA). He joined S.E.S. as an Assistant Professor in 2012 and initiated work on microbial diversity in aerosols using metagenomic approaches. He was one of the founder members of Indian National Young Academy of Sciences (INYAS) and participated actively in INYAS activities till the end. Apart from his scientific acumen, Vijay was extremely popular amongst students and colleagues as he was

always ready to lend a helping hand. He had the practical knack to come up with solutions to any problems. Perhaps this was how he achieved so much in his short life, in spite of severe congenital disability. His life will remain an inspiration to all who had the fortune to know him closely.

## Prof. Edward Rodrigues



Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, remembers its dear colleague Prof. Edward Rodrigues, who left us on 13 December, 2017.

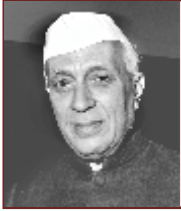
He began his academic journey at in 1979 JNU as a MA Sociology Student. Thereafter he chose to join St. Xavier's College in Mumbai as a young faculty.

He left the college after creating a generation of sensitive and mature students, joined the University of Mumbai, and eventually in 2013, he came back to JNU as a Professor at CSSS/ SSS, JNU. He loved this place, its pluralism, its political vibrancy, and its critical traditions. It was not surprising that within a couple of months, he emerged as one of the most revered teachers in the JNU circuit; students were fascinated by his engaged teaching; and political activists loved his passionate argumentations. First, his rigorous reading and his deep engagement with Marxism, Dalit studies, critical theory, cultural studies and educational philosophies took him to a high level of intellectual sophistication. Second, his commitment to students was truly remarkable. He would work on each student, think of his or her academic development, reading culture and writing style. And third, he was honest, bold and straight forward. Diplomacy was not his cup of tea. This independence was his creative surplus. No fixed political dogma could absorb him. He was always experimenting, growing, evolving.

Prof. Edward Rodrigues was an iconic figure, who will be deeply missed by the entire Centre for the Study of Social Systems fraternity - students and staff. He will be remembered not only for his contribution to Centre for the Study of Social Systems but also to related disciplines and will remain a role model for generations to come.

- Shri Shiv Singh Bhandari, Mess Helper, passed away on Friday, 3 November, 2017
- Shri Brahm Prakash-II, Safaikarmchari, passed away on Monday, 27 November, 2017
- Shri Sunil Kumar, Mess Helper, passed away on Saturday, 11 October, 2017

*We extend our condolences to the bereaved family.*



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

जवाहरलाल नेहरू

### 13<sup>th</sup> Nehru Memorial Lecture



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Published by: **POONAM S. KUDAISSYA**, *Public Relations Officer* for and on behalf of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi-110067, Tel.: 26742601, 26704046, 26704017, JNU Website: <http://www.jnu.ac.in>

Printed by: **MAXCOMM INDIA PVT. LTD.**, C-17, Patparganj Industrial Area, Delhi-110092, Phone: 011-43631789, Mob: 8750454545

