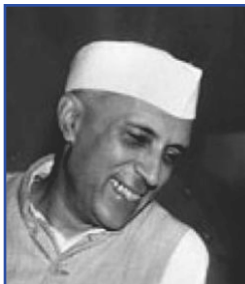




Bimonthly Journal of Jawaharlal Nehru University



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

Jawaharlal Nehru



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

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

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



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

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In Conversation with....

An Interview with Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Vice Chancellor, JNU



JNU NEWS: Welcome to JNU. The first thing we would like to know is how you feel about this transition from being a 'Scientist' to being the 'Vice Chancellor' of this University, which is an exclusively administrative job?

VC: As a scientist and technologist, during the last several decades my life has revolved around mentoring students, teaching and research. As a Vice Chancellor, I now see myself playing multiple roles as a mentor, an educator, a facilitator, a conflict resolver, a resource mobilizer and also a risk taker. It would be my endeavour to be the most accessible VC to all in the campus—students, staff and faculty.

JNU NEWS: Are you planning to take any academic role in the University as well?

VC: I am passionate about teaching and research. This provides me an opportunity to mentor my students and see them grow into positive contributors to the society. Therefore, even after taking over as the VC of JNU, I am continuing to teach and guide my PhD students at IIT Delhi. Three days in a week, I teach from 8.00-8.50 AM at IIT Delhi and soon after that I am back in JNU. During weekends, I spend time with my PhD students.

JNU NEWS: So, what are the major targets you have in mind for JNU?

VC: We need to explore close collaborations with other higher educational institutes, in India such as IITs and abroad, to carry out more collaborative research. Emphasis needs to be put on research for Indian needs and starting of new master's programmes in technology in different areas such as IT and renewable energy resources. India needs job creators not job seekers. Why not we start a post-graduate program which focuses on entrepreneurship so that students get trained in how to launch and sustain start-ups?

We also need to focus on (i) generating solar energy to meet JNU energy requirements, (ii) reducing power

consumption by using solid-state lighting, (iii) water harvesting (need to collect every drop of rain water that comes into JNU) and (iv) reuse of treated waste water for non-drinking applications.

I would like to have an external audit of all the academic and administrative procedures to improve the University's functional efficiency.

JNU NEWS: What do you think can be done in the short and long terms to preserve the traditions and ethos of JNU?

VC: To retain its national character, it is important to reach out to the prospective students across the country, particularly the north eastern states. I would like to look at means to make JNU known among the prospective students. We must create and preserve an environment in which the JNU community can freely and fearlessly debate and discuss various issues that affect our country. I am a strong believer of freedom of expression as enshrined in our constitution. However, I also put equal emphasis on the fundamental duties defined by the Indian constitution. We must also ensure that multiple opinions are respected and nurtured. No single opinion should dominate over the others if we want to build a strong and progressive JNU.

JNU NEWS: One of the problems that the students are facing today is the conditions and scarcity of hostels. Many of the hostels are not maintained well and are falling apart. The facilities are not good at all. They have problems from 'no hot water' to 'no water' at all. Have you looked into such issues so far?

VC: This is very unfortunate. We have a serious shortage of staff quarters and hostel accommodation. We are looking at various ways of raising funds to rectify the situation. Considering the fact that many poor students join JNU, I would like to seek the support from our alumni in meeting the hostel requirements in addition to knocking the doors of various ministries for providing funds. We have also started constructing some new hostels using pre-fabricated structures to partially meet the immediate

In Conversation with....

student accommodation issues. I want to emphasize that we also need to run the hostels more efficiently by introducing various measures which we are examining.

JNU NEWS: What is your academic vision for JNU? What would you like to achieve during your tenure of five years as the Vice Chancellor of JNU?

VC: I will strive to improve the learning environment by promoting excellence among teachers and students. There have been significant changes in the pedagogical approaches. Teaching should be more learner specific than teacher specific. A strong ethical and spiritual connection should be the basis for education. We should also improve the research output and bring global recognition to JNU through enhanced research culture. I will make efforts to provide access to better research facilities to the younger faculty.

I will proactively put my efforts to attract the best talent to fill the faculty positions. We need to shorten our appointment procedures and proactively identify prospective candidates and encourage them to apply.

While JNU is strong in Social Sciences, it is also important to establish close links with industry since JNU has several basic science faculties whose research can lead to innovative products or processes for human welfare. JNU is such a huge campus, why not we have a technology incubation center and help young entrepreneurs to start companies in the areas of expertise that JNU has.

JNU has several courses which can be extremely useful to students across the country. JNU can make a repository

of these lectures as online videos. Perhaps JNU can partner with NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning) and make these video lectures available to students across the country. This is another way of reaching out to the prospective students.

JNU NEWS: How do you perceive JNU's social role in future?

VC: An important characteristic of JNU is its inclusive nature. Students of JNU come from different social, economic and regional backgrounds including a large number of differently abled students. I think JNU, its faculty and students should be known for their scientific and social contributions and it should not be in the news for the wrong reasons. While being aware of the problems our country faces, students of a university should be more focused on the strengths of this country so that we can build a better India.

JNU NEWS: How would you compare the campus environment of JNU and IIT Delhi, the two premier academic institutions?

VC: The intrinsic characteristics of students at IIT Delhi and JNU are the same - inquisitive, passionate about learning and determined to succeed in life. However, unlike many other institutes, JNU is a happening place. Everyday different seminars and workshops take place and frequently ambassadors, University Presidents, delegations from different countries visit our campus making JNU a vibrant place. As compared to IIT Delhi, JNU is a huge campus with a natural forest. This makes living on JNU campus very interesting.

Early life: My father worked as a teacher in a small village school and my mother had never gone to a school. I was witness to how my parents braved the economic hardships to educate me. I used to walk long distances in the city to reach the college since I could not afford other modes of travel. Adversities in my early life only strengthened my resolve to succeed.

Academic life: I studied in Telugu medium government schools until I went to the University in Hyderabad. My lack of English medium education up to 12th standard did not deter me from getting a first rank in the University. I then moved to IIT Madras where I finished my Master's and PhD degrees in Electrical Engineering.

Professional Experience: After PhD, I worked at University of Waterloo for three years before returning to India. I have been a part of the IIT system for more than three decades both as a student and faculty. Teaching, research and mentoring students are my passion.

Hobbies: I like being fit. I enjoy jogging and doing fitness exercises. One of my hobbies is to walk long distances along with my wife Lakshmi.

Movements & Appointments

New Appointments/Deans/Directors/Chairpersons

- ◆ Prof. Riddhi Shah as Dean, School of Physical Sciences, for a period of two years.
- ◆ Prof. D.K. Lobiyal, School of Computer & System Sciences as Director and Member Secretary in Internal Quality Assurance, Cell for a period of two years.
- ◆ Prof. Girish Nath Jha as Chairperson, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, for a period of two years.
- ◆ Prof. G. Vijayachandra Naidu, as Chairperson in the Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, School of International Studies, for a period of two years.
- ◆ Dr. Urmimala Sarkar Munsri, Associate Professor, School of Arts & Aesthetics as Chairperson in Gender Sensitization Committee Against Sexual Harassment, for a period of one year.
- ◆ Prof. Pradip Kumar Datta as Professor in the Centre for Comparative, Politics & Political Theory, School of International Studies.
- ◆ Dr. Dhanmajiri Makarand Sathe as Professor in the Centre for Economic Studies & Planning, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Dr. Sushama Maddipati Murty as Professor in the Centre for International Trade and Development, School of International Studies.
- ◆ Dr. Sapna Ratan Shah as Associate Professor in the School of Computational and Integrative Sciences.

- ◆ Dr. Teiborlang T. Kharsyntiew as Assistant Professor in the Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies.

◆Administration

- ◆ Ms. Rashmi Gaur as Senior Assistant in Administration Branch—I.

Retirements & Resignations

- ◆ Prof. S.K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor, JNU.
- ◆ Prof. Kulbhushan Warikoo, Centre for Inner Asian Studies, School of International Studies.
- ◆ Prof. Alok Bhattacharya, School of Life Sciences.
- ◆ Prof. Dhanmajiri Makarand Sathe, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Shri Karanvir, Senior Laboratory Assistant, School of Life Sciences.
- ◆ Shri S. Mitra, Cook, Jhelum Hostel.
- ◆ Shri Bishamber, Junior Operator, School of Computer & System Sciences.
- ◆ Shri Dilbagh Singh II, Security Guard, Security Branch.
- ◆ Shri Bhagwan Das, Sanitary Guide, Estate Branch.
- ◆ Smt. Sushila-I, Sanitary Guide, School of Physical Sciences.

New Programmes of Studies Introduced for the year 2016-17

Sl. No.	School	Centre	Programme
1.	School of Social Science	North East India Studies Programme	M.Phil./Ph.D. in North East India Studies introduced from Monsoon Semester 2016-17
2.	School of International Studies	Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory	M.Phil./Ph.D. in Comparative Politics and Political Theory introduced from Monsoon Semester 2016-17
3.	School of International Studies	----	M.A. in International Relations and Area Studies introduced from Monsoon Semester 2016-17
4.	School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies	Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies	B.A. (Hons.) 2nd year in Pashto introduced from Monsoon Semester 2016-17
5.	School of Computer and System Sciences	----	Ph.D under the Visvesvaraya Fellowship Scheme for Electronics and IT

Movements & Appointments

JNUTA Elections 2016 – 2017

Complete list of elected teachers for JNUTA 2016 – 2017

Shri Ajay Kumar Patnaik	President
Shri Ishtiaque Ahmed	Vice-President
Shri Ashish Agnihotri	Vice-President
Shri Bikramaditya K Choudhary	Secretary
Smt. Jyoti Bhosale	Joint-Secretary
Smt. Nupur Chowdhury	Joint-Secretary
Shri Khurshid Imam	Treasurer
School Representatives	
Shri Sachidanand Sinha	SSS
Shri Surajit Mazumdar	SSS
Shri S. N. Malakar	SIS
Shri Amitabh Singh	SIS

Shri Anil Kumar Singh	SLL&CS
Shri Sonu Saini	SLL&CS
Shri D. K. Lobiyal	SC&SS
Shri Braham Prakash	SAA
Shri S. Gourinath	SLS
Shri Jayant Kumar Tripathi	SES
Shri Balaji Birajdar	Special Centres
Executive Council JNU	Shri Vinay Kumar Ambedkar is declared elected for the post of member, Executive Council, Assistant Professor Category (Interim)
GSCASH, JNU	Shri Avinash Kumar Shri Pracheen Kumar Smt. Urmimala Sarkar Munsri

Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar is JNU Vice-Chancellor



Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, has joined as twelfth Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi on 27 January, 2016. He is currently on leave from Indian Institute of Technology Delhi where he is a Professor with the Electrical Engineering Department. He obtained his MS (EE) and Ph.D (EE) degrees from the Department of Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India. From 1991 to 1994, he did post-doctoral research at Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. He was the Chief Investigator of the Nano-scale Research Facility (NRF) funded by DeITY, Government of India. He was also the Chief Investigator of the Center of Excellence for Nanodevices and Systems funded by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. He received the 2013

Award for Excellence in Teaching (in large class category) from IIT Delhi. He works in the area of Nanoelectronic Devices, Nanoscale Device modeling and simulation, Innovative Device Design and Power semiconductor devices. He has published extensively in the above areas with four book chapters and more than 200 publications in refereed journals and conferences. Six patent applications have been filed based on his research. He has guided several PhD students. Many of his undergraduate students and M.Tech students are co-authors of his international publications. He has authored two books along with his students in the area of Nanoelectronics; one from CRC Press (Taylor and Francis) and the other from Wiley, UK. He is on the editorial boards of several International journals.

He is a member (PT) of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

He is a Fellow of Indian National Academy of Engineering, The National Academy of Sciences, India, and The Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers, India. He has been awarded the 29th IETE Ram Lal Wadhwa Gold Medal for distinguished contribution in the field of Semiconductor device design and modeling (31 October 2006). He has received the first ever ISA-VSI TechnoMentor Award given by the India Electronic & Semiconductor Association to recognize a distinguished Indian academician and researcher for playing a significant role as a mentor and researcher.

He is a Distinguished Lecturer of IEEE Electron Devices Society selected to speak in the area of Nanoelectronics and a recipient of 2008 IBM Faculty award in recognition of professional achievements.

Achievements/Awards



- ◆ **Prof. Pushpesh K. Pant**, Former Professor, School of International Studies, has been awarded Padma Shri by the Government of India, for his contributions to higher education and academic research.



- ◆ **Prof. C. Upender Rao**, Chairperson, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies has been selected for the ICCR's foreign chair of Sanskrit and Buddhist Studies at Cambodia for one academic year w.e.f. 19-2-2016.



- ◆ **Prof. N. J. Raju**, School of Environmental Sciences has been elected as IAMGIGC councilor. International Association for Mathematical Geosciences (IAMG) nominating Commission has elected "Prof. N. Janaradhana Raju as special IGC Councilor for the 2016-2020 IAMG council body". The International Geological Congress (IGC) will be held in India in the year 2020.



- ◆ **Prof. Joy L.K. Pachuau**, Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences was awarded the Sneh Mahajan Prize for the Best Book in Modern Indian History published during the years 2012-14, for her book 'Being Mizo: Identity and Belonging in Northeast India' (OUP: 2014), by the Indian History Congress at their 76th Session held at the University of Gaur Banga, Malda, 27-29 Dec., 2015.



- ◆ **Dr. Deepak Gaur**, Associate Professor, School of Biotechnology, has been elected as a member of the prestigious Guha Research Conference (GRC). GRC is an esteemed scientific conference series that has as its members many noted Indian scientists and whose membership involves a stringent and competitive process.



- ◆ **Mr. Sumit Saurabh Srivastava**, Ph.D. Research Scholar, CSSS / SSS, has been awarded the prestigious Professor M.N. Srinivas Memorial Prize 2015 by the Indian Sociological Society, New Delhi for his paper titled "Disciplining the 'Desire': 'Straight' State and LGBT Activism in India" which was published in the Sociological Bulletin [63 (3), September – December, 2014, pp. 368-385], during the inaugural of 41st All-India Sociological Conference (27 – 29 December, 2015) organized by the Department of Sociology & Social Work, Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, KIIT University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Campus Activities

Memorandum of Understanding Signed between Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) Mussoorie and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) New Delhi

On request from LBSNAA, Mussoorie, the Academy training the Civil Servants (IAS) for granting recognition to 02 years Masters Degree in Public Management Programme to trainees of the Indian Administrative Services was approved by the Academic Council and Executive Council of the University in its meeting on 30 October – 20 November, 2015 and 20 November, 2015 respectively.

Accordingly, a MoU has been signed on 07.01.2016 between Prof. S.K. Sopory, VC, JNU and Shri Rajeev Kapoor, Director, LBSNAA

with the objective to establish framework for cooperative institutional relation to encourage and promote cooperation in the area of the capacity building of the public officials.

Both the parties will endeavor to carry out exchanges and cooperative activities under this MoU comprising of (a) award of degree of Masters in Public Management to Officer Trainees of the Indian Administrative Service; (b) the exchange of faculty in the areas of Public Administration, Law, Economics, Geography, Indian History & Culture, Political Science and

International Relations; (c) exchange of best practices in the area of training and development; and (d) any other exchanges

and cooperative activities that may be jointly decided upon by the Parties to further the objectives of this MoU.

दशहरापर्व

विश्वविद्यालय के सरस्वती पुरम परिसर में इस वर्ष दशहरा पर्व आवास कल्याण समिति की देख रेख में धूम धाम से मनाया गया. समिति के अध्यक्ष श्री जगदीश प्रसाद के अनुसार पहली बार समिति के अंतर्गत इस पर्व का आयोजन किया गया इस पावन अवसर पर मुख्य अतिथि विश्वविद्यालय के कुलपति प्रो. सोपोरी के कर कमलों द्वारा बुराई के प्रतीक रावण, कुम्भकरण तथा मेघनाद के पुतलों का दहन किया गया।



14वां राज्यस्तरीय योग आसन प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन

स्टेट योग एवं स्पोर्ट्स एसोसिएशन द्वारा दो दिवसीय राज्य योग प्रतियोगिता 2015-16 का आयोजन जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय के खेल परिसर में दिनांक 19-20 दिसम्बर 2015 को संपन्न हुआ। राज्य योग एवं खेल संघ (स्टेट योग एवं स्पोर्ट्स एसोसिएशन) के साथ मिलकर राज्यस्तरीय प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया। जिसमें लगभग 300 छात्र-छात्राओं, अध्यापक एवं कर्मचारियों ने भाग लिया। इस प्रतिस्पर्धा में स्त्री-पुरुष और बच्चों ने बढ़चढ़ कर भाग लिया। इस प्रतिस्पर्धा की मुख्य सूत्रधार रेक्टर-1, प्रो. सुधापई की अहम भूमिका रही जिन्होंने राज्य स्तर पर करवाने का सुझाव दिया। इसका उद्घाटन सम्माननीय रेक्टर - 2 प्रो. प्रसेनजीत सेन एवं डॉ. सुधीर कुमार आर्य (संस्कृत अध्ययन केंद्र के सहायक आचार्य) के कर कमलों से आरंभ हुआ। प्रातः 10.00 बजे से सांय 4.00 बजे



तक दूसरे दिन प्रातः 11.00 बजे से दोपहर 3.00 बजे तक इसका समापन हुआ। इसके समापन समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि डॉ. आलोक मिश्रा, (अध्यक्ष, ब्रेन बिहेवियर रिसर्च फाउंडेशन तथा किशोर न्याय बोर्ड के विशेष न्यायालय में न्यायधीशों के पूर्व सदस्य) एवं सेवा संस्थान, रोहिणी दिल्ली के प्रधान, समाज सेवी श्री कुलदीप राज द्वारा पुरस्कार वितरण किया गया जिसमें 50 से 60 वर्ष आयु ग्रुप में जेएनयू के डॉ. दीपेन्द्र नाथ दास का तृतीय स्थान रहा एवं जेएनयू की ही अंतरराष्ट्रीय अध्ययन संस्थान के दक्षिण एशियाई अध्ययन केंद्र की पीएचडी छात्रा श्रीमती श्रद्धा ऋषि, का 20-30 आयु ग्रुप में द्वितीय स्थान प्राप्त किया और जेएनयू के ही कर्मचारी वर्ग से श्री नवनीत की धर्म पत्नी श्रीमती राधिका कृष्णन ने तृतीय स्थान प्राप्त किया 40-50 आयु ग्रुप में।

इस प्रकार दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के अनेक कालेजों और दिल्ली के लगभग 70 स्कूलों से आये छात्र-छात्राओं ने योग आसन प्रतियोगिता में हिस्सा लेकर प्रतियोगिता को सफल बनाया।

अंत में जेएनयू योगकेंद्र के योगाचार्य डॉ. अजय शास्त्री ने आगंतुकों का हृदय से धन्यवाद किया और साथ में सम्माननीय कुलपति महोदय का संदेश भी सुनाया। कुलपति जी ने आश्वासन दिया कि भविष्य में इस प्रकार की योग प्रतियोगिताओं का कार्यक्रम करवाते रहेंगे। योग जीवन जीने की एक कला है, योग एक अनुशासन है। यह विद्यार्थियों के लिए अति महत्वपूर्ण है। भविष्य में भी इस प्रकार के कार्यक्रम राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर आयोजित होते रहेंगे।

डॉ. अजय कुमार शास्त्री
योगकेंद्र, खेलपरिसर, जेएनयू

Campus Activities

The Afghan Visiting Professor who served JNU for 13 years earlier, is back to the campus again

Professor A. K. Rashid, an eminent scholar of Pashto and Dari, served as Visiting Professor between 1995 to 2008 in the Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies and had been instrumental in establishment of Pashto and Dari in the centre, has again joined the Centre in the same capacity after a gap of eight years. When he had joined, Pashto was taught just as a Certificate course, but due to his unflinching efforts it progressed to the advanced level teaching, and recently graduation classes of Pashto were initiated, a first in the country. Prof. Rashid's works are widely published and recognized in Afghanistan, Iran and India. He is a leading poet, story-writer and novelist of Afghanistan. Some of his works have also been translated into Hindi and Urdu. He has also worked widely on the Indo-Afghan cultural relations, and has translated Sanskrit poet Kalidasa's works Meghaduta and Vikramorvasi into Pashto and Dari. National Hindi Directorate also completed its project of Hindi-Pashto Dictionary under his supervision and guidance. Nonetheless, his most erudite works are Gandhi's Life and struggle and his Doctoral thesis on Iqbal and Afghanistan. During 2008 to 2014, while serving as the Cultural Councilor of Afghanistan in India, he successfully established healthy relations with different universities of India, and facilitated the admission of more than fifteen thousand students of various disciplines to different institutions of India. In the year 2012, he received the prestigious SAARC Literary Award in



recognition of his contributions. He was also instrumental in establishing Hindi-Urdu department in the Nangarhar University, where more than two hundred students studying the languages. Mrs. Ajit Kaur, the noted Panjabi writer and the president of SAARC Foundation while giving away the award aptly summarized his works as having "done a significant job to introduce the Indian and Afghan Cultures to the people of the two countries."

**Akhlaque Ahmed, Assistant Professor
Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies,
SLL&CS**

Prof. Sopory, VC, JNU, Inaugurates Remedial Classes for General Awareness at SLL & CS

Professor S. K. Sopory inaugurated the Third Batch of the Remedial Classes on General Awareness on September 02, 2015 in Room no 133 of SLL&CS New Building, JNU. The program was organized by CAAS/SLL&CS.

The Remedial classes on general awareness and subjects like Mathematics, Geography, General Science, English etc were started in 2012 by the center for students from weaker sections of the society especially for madrasa background students in order to qualify them in these subjects to help them join the mainstream and prepare better for future. The program is coordinated by Dr. Md. Akram Nawaz, Assistant Professor at the center. Dr. Akram introduced the objectives of the program, Prof. Mujeeb Rahman, Chairperson of CAAS thanked the volunteer students who have been teaching free of cost in a noble spirit of social service. Prof. Sopory in his speech lauded the center for such a useful capacity building program and said that the program served the vision and ideals of JNU



of inclusive growth and capacity development of the weaker sections of students. The program was attended by faculty members of the centers besides teachers and students from many centers.

**Mohd. Akram Nawaz
Assistant Professor
Centre of Arabic and African Studies, SLL&CS**

World Arabic Language Day Celebrated in JNU

Center of Arabic & African Studies, JNU in collaboration with Embassy of Egypt in New Delhi and All India Association of Arabic Teachers and Scholars celebrated the World Arabic Language Day on December 18, 2015 in a colorful program attended by a large number of scholars, teachers and students. The United Nations observes the World Arabic Language Day every year on December 18, marking the day when Arabic was recognized as one of its official languages in 1973.

Introducing the program, Prof. Mujeebur Rahman, Chairperson of the Centre spoke about the objectives of the program and ways of improving the standards of Arabic teaching and learning in India. He also sought further support from Government of India and the Arab World for the promotion of the language.

Dean SLL&CS, JNU, Prof. Rekha Rajan chaired the function. Ambassadors of six Arab countries namely Egypt, UAE, Sudan, Yemen, Libya and Embassy of the League of Arab States and high level diplomats of several countries attended the program. Delivering presidential remarks Prof. Rekha Rajan expressed her happiness at attending the magnificent program. She said that she was positively struck by the presence of ambassadors of six Arab countries and many other diplomats which spoke volumes about their concern for Arabic language. Earlier, inaugurating the program, Rector Professor Prasenjit Sen, lauded the efforts of CAAS in organizing such a big event which saw the presence of so many ambassadors, diplomats, students and teachers.

Chief Guest H.E. Hatem Tajeldin, Egypt's Ambassador to India spoke at length about India-Egypt relations and India's contribution to Arabic Language and literature. He also



highlighted his embassy's constant endeavors to support academic and cultural programs in Indian universities. Guest of Honor Dr. Mohammad Salamawi, the well-known author and General Secretary of the Arab Writers' Union delivered the Key note address on the World of Naguib Mahfouz. Dr. Syed Hasnain Akhtar represented the All India Association of Arabic Teachers and Scholars on behalf of the president and spoke about the objectives and activities of the Association.

Urdu translation of Nobel Laureate Naguib Mahfouz's classic novel "Al-Qahira Al Jadida" (Naya Qahira) done by Prof. M.A. Islahi of the center was also released on the occasion. Prof. Islahi dwelt on his association with Naguib Mahfouz while living in Cairo and his experiences with the translation. At the end of the program, a beautiful cultural program of folk dance was presented by an Egyptian folk dance troupe.

Mohd. Akram Nawaz
Assistant Professor
Centre of Arabic and African Studies, SLL&CS

AAJ-Gujarat, Daman & Diu Chapter Meet in Rajkot

The first and inaugural meet and get-together of the alumni of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) - Gujarat chapter was organized in Rajkot on 9 January, 2016. The venue was very scenic, green and picturesque Seasons hotel. The Gujarat chapter of the Alumni Association of JNU (AAJ) was formally founded in the illuminating presence of all India President of AAJ, Prof. Devendra K Chaubey. More than 30 alumni working in different parts of Gujarat participated in the inaugural meet.

JNU is not only university, but also a centre of excellence; it upholds the democratic and inclusive tradition of India - this thought arose in the meet of the JNU Alumni - Gujarat Chapter in a discussion on "The Role of JNU Alumni in Indian Society". Many alumni, coming from different professions and walks of life expressed their thoughts on the role of the alumni in the development of society.

After the symposium, the Central Panel of AAJ-Gujarat Chapter was also nominated and endorsed by the alumni in the august presence of National President of AAJ Prof. Devendra K. Chaubey. The central panel includes Shree Binod K. Singh (President), Dr. Jaya Prakash Pradhan (Vice President), Dr. Umesh C. S. Yadav (General Secretary), Dr. Nisha Sengar (Joint Secretary) and Dr. Sanjay K Jha (Treasurer).

In the meet, the AAJ Gujarat chapter's 1st (6 member) Executive Committee was constituted comprising of Shree Mohan Jha, Dr. Kishore Jose, Dr. Gopalji Gopal, Dr. Dhananjay Rai, Dr. Saurabh Sharma and Ms. Namrata Kilpady Mishra.

It was also proposed by the alumni and indorsed by all that this chapter should also include Daman & Diu and therefore the chapter was renamed as "AAJ-Gujarat, Daman & Diu Chapter".

Campus Activities

Before the end of the meet, some of the alumni reminisced about their time and memories in JNU campus.

The next alumni meet of this chapter was tentatively scheduled for Sunday, 10 April, 2016 in Ahmedabad/Gandhinagar.

जेएनयू कुलपति का विदाई समारोह

जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय के लोकप्रिय कुलपति प्रो. सुधीर कुमार सोपोरी का कार्यकाल समाप्त होने पर इनके सम्मान में इंटेलेक्चुअल सोसाइटी फॉर सोशल रिफॉर्मर्स की ओर से एक विदाई समारोह का आयोजन स्कूल ऑफ सोशल साइंस, सभागार-1, जेएनयू में किया गया। कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ संगठन के संयोजक मनसुर आलम ने किया। उन्होंने संगठन का संक्षिप्त परिचय कराते हुए कहा कि प्रो. सोपोरी एक सच्चे इंसान हैं, और उन्होंने अपने कार्यकाल में विश्वविद्यालय को बाहरी असामाजिक तत्वों से हमेशा महफूज रखा। अपने विवेक और दूरदर्शी सोच से विश्वविद्यालय को नित नए मंज़िल तक पहुँचाने में हर मुमकिन कोशिश की। इन्होंने विश्वविद्यालय के हर एक छात्र के साथ एक अभिभावक की भूमिका निभाई। इन्होंने विश्वविद्यालय का बेहतर कुलपति होने की एक मिसाल पेश की।

भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र के मौजूदा अध्यक्ष प्रो. अनवर पाशा ने प्रो. सोपोरी की मकबूलियत की वजह बयान करते हुए कहा कि हमारे बीच प्रो. सोपोरी एक दूरदर्शी और गैर जानिबदार व्यक्ति हैं। इन्होंने नाजुक और बेहद पेचीदा मामलों को बड़ी खूबसूरती के साथ हल किया। इन्होंने हर काम विश्वविद्यालय की भलाई और हित के लिए किया।

प्रो. अनवर पाशा के अलावा प्रो. एस.एन. मालाकार, प्रो. आनंद कुमार, प्रो. आदित्य मुखर्जी, प्रो. बी.सी. त्रिपाठी, प्रो. आर. महालक्ष्मी, पूर्व चीफ प्रॉक्टर पी.सी. रथ, वर्तमान चीफ प्रॉक्टर प्रो. कृष्ण कुमार इत्यादि ने प्रो. सोपोरी की बेहतर कारकर्मिणी को जम कर सराहा।

गुलाम अख्तर ने इस अवसर पर एक कविता भी पेश की, जो प्रो. सोपोरी की खूबियों पर आधारित थी। इसके अलावा इस

The central panel and the executive committee thanked the organizers of the first ever meet and all the participating alumni.

**Devendra K. Choubey, Professor
Centre of Indian Languages, SLL&CS**



विश्वविद्यालय के वरिष्ठ छात्रों और शिक्षकों ने अपने-अपने ख्यालात का इज़हार किया। आखिर में कुलपति प्रो. एस.के. सोपोरी ने बेहद जज्बाती अंदाज़ में खेताब करते हुए जेएनयू के सभी छात्रों, कर्मचारियों एवं शिक्षकों का शुक्रिया अदा किया। जिन्होंने हर मोड़ और कदम पर उनका साथ दिया। साथ ही विश्वविद्यालय से विशेष लगाव का जिक्र भी बड़े ही जज्बाती अंदाज़ में किया। प्रो. सोपोरी के विश्वविद्यालय से जाने से जो दूरी पैदा हुई, इसे भरना असंभव है।

इस अवसर पर बड़ी संख्या में विश्वविद्यालय के छात्र, शिक्षक और कर्मचारी उपस्थित थे। मुजाहिद अशरफ, रौशन किशोर, डॉ. अजमल, दीपक यादव, इश्तियाक अहमद, ईशान, शुभम कुमार खासतौर से काबिले जिक्र हैं।

**मनसुर आलम
पी.एच.डी. छात्र, भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र
भाषा, साहित्य और संस्कृति अध्ययन संस्थान**

Seminars/Conferences

2nd International Union of Radio Science-Regional Conference on Radio Science (URSI-RCRS -2015)

School of Environmental Sciences organized "2nd International Union of Radio Science-Regional Conference on Radio Science" (URSI-RCRS 2015) in collaboration with the Indian National Committee for International Radio Science Union (INC-URSI)

and Indian National Science Academy (INSA) in Jawaharlal Nehru University during 16-19 November, 2015. Radio Science covers a broad area of research, namely, Electromagnetic Metrology, Field and Waves, Radio Communications Systems

Seminars/Conferences



Release of abstract book. (Left to Right) Dr Paulraj R, Convener, URSIRCRS2015, Prof. Prasenjit Sen, Rector, JNU; Dr. A.S. Kiran Kumar, Chairman, ISRO, Prof. S. Ananthakrishnan, General Chair, URSIRCRS-2015.

and Signal Processing, Electronics and Photonics, Electromagnetic Environment and Interference, Wave Propagation and Remote Sensing, Ionospheric Radio and Propagation, Waves in Plasma, Radio Astronomy and Electromagnetic in Biology and Medicine. URSI is the only international body that brings together people from diverse area under the same umbrella and makes their interdisciplinary collaboration successful. India is a strong partner in the URSI body and plays a leading role. Hence, it is entirely appropriate that the conference is held at periodic intervals to bring together scientists and engineers from Asia and African regions. The main aim of the conference was to bring all the radio scientist of neighbouring countries together to share their scientific views of radio science.

The conference commenced with an inaugural session on 16th November, 2015, and the inaugural lecture was given by Dr A. S. Kiran Kumar, Chairman, ISRO and the abstract book was released by Prof. Prasenjit Sen, Rector II, JNU. Welcome address was given by Prof. I S Thakur, Dean, School of

Environmental Sciences, JNU. Dr S Ananthakrishnan, General Chair of the Conference gave the overview of the conference and Dr. Paulraj R, Convener of the Conference, delivered the Vote of thanks.

There were three general lectures: First general lecture was given by Dr. Yahia Antar, Royal Military College of Canada & Queen's University, Canada. He spoke on "Antenna near Field theory: A New Fundamental Approach and its Impact on Antenna Systems and other Electromagnetic Applications". Second general lecture was delivered by Dr B K Das, IIT Madras. He spoke on "Silicon Photonics Devices for High-Speed Optical Interconnects". Third general lecture was given by Prof Janos Lichtenberger, Eotvos University, Hungary. He talked about the "Role of radio waves in the dynamics of Space Weather".

In addition, there were two evening public lecture delivered by Dr. Amitava Sen Gupta, CSIR-NPL. Dr K Kasturirangan, Chancellor of JNU, delivered Dr. A. P. Mitra memorial lecture on "Space Science in India: some reminiscence and prospects".

To accommodate all the participants there were three parallel sessions. There were around hundred oral presentation and fifty poster presentations. Six scientists participated in the Young Scientist Award competition. Fourteen research scholars participated in Student Paper Competition. The papers presented were high quality research papers pertaining to radio science.

The conference ended with the valedictory function where awards and certificates were distributed to the winners and closing address by the General Chair Dr. S. Ananthakrishnan and vote of thanks by the Convener of the conference, Dr. Paulraj R.

Paulraj R
Associate Professor
School of Environmental Sciences

2nd International Research Workshop in Cloud Computing

Consequent to last year, School of Computer and Systems Sciences organized 2nd International Research Workshop in Cloud Computing (RWCC-2015) on 22-23 December, 2015 at Convention Centre, JNU.

Cloud computing has recently emerged as one of the buzzwords in the IT industry. Numerous IT vendors are promising to offer computation, storage, and application hosting services and to provide coverage in several continents, offering service level agreements (SLA) backed performance and uptime promises for their services. While these "clouds" are the natural evolution of traditional data centers, they are distinguished by exposing resources (computation, data, and applications) as standards-based Web services and following a



"utility" pricing model where customers are charged based on their utilization of computational resources, storage, and

Seminars/Conferences

transfer of data. They offer subscription-based access to infrastructure, platforms, and applications that are popularly referred to as IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service), PaaS (Platform as a Service), and SaaS (Software as a Service).

Eminent Researchers from India and abroad attended and demonstrated their research pursuits in the area of Cloud Computing. First day of the Workshop was delighted with few distinguished talks. Prof. Rajkumar Buyya, Professor of Computer Science and Software Engineering and Director of the Cloud Computing and Distributed Systems (CLOUDS) Laboratory at the University of Melbourne, Australia gave a keynote address on Innovative Solutions for Deployment of Big Data Applications on Computing Clouds. Dr. K Raghavendra, Senior Scientist, ISRO, Hyderabad, India, demonstrated on some Cloud Computing Programming Models, Thread, Task and Map Reduce. Dr. Yogesh Simmhan, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India delivered on Leveraging Cloud Computing for Big Data Platforms followed by a talk on Issues and Challenges in Cloud Dependability Modeling by Prof. A.K. Tripathi, Indian Institute of Technology BHU, Varanasi, India.

Next Day of the workshop opened with a talk by Dr. Bhuvan Uргаonkar, Penn State University, USA on Reducing Peak Power Costs in Cloud Data Centers. Hands on training session was organized by Mr. Anupinder Singh of Superwits Academy, Ludhiana, India. First he gave an Introduction to CloudSim and its architecture followed by simulating various scenarios using Cloudsim. In this, he elaborated on how to test various research models developed for Cloud using CloudSim.

Overall, the topics that have been covered in the workshop are as follows.

- Technologies for creating Cloud Computing Environment on a Network of Computers
- Tools for building Cloud applications
- Initiating innovative R&D projects in Cloud computing

**D.P. Vidyarthi, Professor &
Zahid Raza, Associate Professor
School of Computer & Systems Sciences**

Special lecture on Diving into the Lake: On the Necessity, Joy, and Anxiety of (Re) Translating Tulsidas' Rāmcaritmānas by Prof. Philip Lutgendorf

The Centre of Indian Languages, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies arranged a special lecture on Rāmcaritmānas of Tulasidasa by Prof. Philip Lutgendorf, Professor of Hindi and Modern Indian Studies in the University of Iowa's Department of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literature on 13 January, 2016.

During his very articulating lecture, Prof. Lutgendorf said that 'The epic retelling of the Rāmāyana composed in ca. 1574 AD by the poet Tulsidas, in the dialect of Hindi known as Avadhi, has long been considered one of the most sacred and beloved texts of the North Indian Hindu tradition. It has also, through nine complete English renderings, become one of the most translated works of pre-modern Indian vernacular literature'. Continuing his lecture, he also briefly introduced the epic and some of its notable features as a work in the larger "Ramayana tradition." He then reflected on some of the difficulties that it

presents for the translator into English, discussed why he has undertaken a new translation at this time, and shared some examples his approach.

Chairing the talk, noted poet and critic Prof. Ashok Vajpeyisaidthat 'Rāmcaritmānas is the single most popular book in India, that is read and worshipped by the people, belongs to all sects, for over four centuries. This epic has greatly appealed equally to the rich and the poor, the educated and the illiterate, the old and the young and the scholar and the common man'. 'Keeping in mind people's ever increasing quest for the epic, this unique English translation of the Rāmcaritmānas by Prof. Philip Lutgendorf along with Tulsidas's original text will help scholars, as the translator had maintained the intrinsic richness of the original,' Prof. Vajpeyiaddded.

**Syed Mohd. Anwar Alam, Chairperson
Centre of Indian Language, SLL&CS**

JNU-TRCSS Launched South Asia Sustainability Hub & Knowledge Network (SASH&KN)

JNU-TRCSS (Transdisciplinary Research Cluster on Sustainability Studies) in association with the ERSC STEPS Centre in the United Kingdom launched the South Asia Sustainability Hub & Knowledge Network (SASH&KN) on 28 January, 2016 at India International Centre. SASH&KN aims at the development of a network of institutions and people to

work together to explore pathways to urban sustainability in South Asia. It was followed by launching of the Friends of Sustainability which gives a new platform for different actors to come together to discuss and work towards the goals of sustainability, and more particularly towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs)

Seminars/Conferences

(2016-2030). The launch events were followed by a conference on 'Pathways to Sustainable Urbanization' on 29-30 January in JNU. The SASH&KN joins with five other hubs around the world which are located in China, Africa, Latin America, North America and Europe.

Former international civil servant Mr. Nitin Desai chaired the launch event. The speakers of this session were Pranav N Desai (JNU), Dinesh Abrol (JNU), Fiona Marshall (STEPS Centre), Ian Scoones (STEPS Centre), Sunita Narain (CSE New Delhi), and journalist P. Sainath.

Pranav N Desai, Project Director JNU-TRCSS, welcomed the esteemed guests and participants and introduced the Chair Nitin Desai and other speakers. He contemplated his visions and enthusiasm for the launch of Sustainability Hub, focussing on the need for hybrid knowledge platforms where one can access the knowledge freely. Pranav Desai believed that it is not only the government and industry that is responsible for sustainability but also the universities and academics as well. He also mentioned the purpose of a knowledge network is to provide a broad and free access to scholars or people who are interested in sustainability issues which will be enriching and provide a common understanding of the concept. He extended his thanks to all the participants and requested the Chair to take on further.

Dinesh Abrol explained how trans-disciplinary research began at JNU by the formation of TRCSS in the last year. Four Centres of School of Social Sciences in JNU namely, CSSP, CSRD, CSMCH and CISLS are joining with STEPS Centre with hope for knowledge production and engaging in both theory and practice, in the domain of sustainability. He also pointed out that JNU is the suitable place for knowledge production concerning contestations. He concluded by saying that universities are going to be an active player in engaging with the social realities and for that they need to be transformative.

Fiona Marshall emphasised that South Asia Sustainability Hub is an important landmark in the widening and deepening of collaborative efforts on sustainability through its links with the global network of hubs in South Asia and beyond. She felt very delighted to be able to play a smart part in the making of this hub and expressed her enthusiasm and support to the hub.

Ian Scoones talked about the STEPS Centre and the relevance of the emerging hub network for sustainability studies. The STEPS Centre has been working for the past ten years in the UK by the funding from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and other organizations. The STEPS Centre has been building the partnership with institutions in many countries, including JNU and others in India. The focus of this continuous engagement with these partners has been to think about issues around sustainability and sustainable development. The aim of these hubs, he said, is to be the 'go to' place for research collaborations and training, and policy advice and support on sustainability in the respective regions. With the launch of this hub, it is the hope that there is substantial research to back up and ensure an



equitable representation of South Asian voices in the international debates on sustainability which are going to dominate the international discourse in the coming years. Along with the research, the hub also aims to come up with new ideas and practices that can be taken up as part of both global and local responses to the massive sustainability challenges of our times.

Sunita Narain expressed her excitement about the launching of the South Asian Sustainability Hub and said that such an initiative is the need of this hour. She said that we are facing new challenges of sustainability and for a country like India it is necessary that we recognize our sustainability politics and practices. She described that when Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) began in the field of environment they had though they had a practice of environment and sustainability that would somehow suit the needs of a country like India. But it hasn't. She opined the environmental debates in India needed a rethinking concerning affordability and inclusiveness as the hallmarks of sustainability. There is also need to look beyond the city to understand what is happening in India, and we need to do all that with policy. She said that what we need is information, knowledge action continuum and she hopes that the hub emphasizes this about sustainability debates.

P. Sainath structured his talk around the linear dominant notion of the inevitability of urbanization and the assumptions behind that; which makes one question the sustainability of these assumptions. Giving examples of Amravati in Chennai, mega building city complexes in Mumbai (Maharashtra), Britain and China, he emphasized David Harvey quote that the cities that are being envisioned are not for the citizens to live-in but for the rich and builders to invest-in. These assumptions which are there since the industrial revolution, and which keep on tying history to a linear path of urbanization, include- the urban is always better than the rural, agricultural practices are insufficient and inefficient for a countries growth and meeting food demands of an ever growing population, industrialization is the only way to generate employment. He said that the problematic of all these assumptions is manifested through the current state of crisis in which our cities are today. Affordable housing is a serious crisis worldwide. Cities are supposed to be inclusive, but these cities are displacing thousands and thousands of farming families as they take up their land and livelihood on the promise of a pension which is less than the NREGS wages for a month. The assumption behind the failing existing agricultural practices points to corporate farming as the only solution.

Seminars/Conferences

The launch session concluded with the thoughtful remarks of the chair, Nitin Desai. He highlighted that the term sustainability has been a part of various reports and agendas even in the past even in the United Nations it was restricted to languages; it was merely reflected from an environment perspective and not had any context to development. He asserted that sustainability has also to incorporate rural development, to provide equitable distribution of resources for poor. Applauding the initiative of JNU, in collaboration with

STEPS, Mr Desai said the issues of sustainability cannot be addressed by the political systems in isolation and JNU can be helpful in bringing in diverse stakeholders ranging from academicians, researchers, practitioners and policy makers, to have a dialogue over different discourses and narratives pertaining to urbanization and environmental sustainability.

**Pranav N Desai, Professor,
Centre for Studies in Science Policy, SSS**

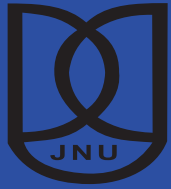
Report: 153rd Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda & National Youth Day

The 153rd birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and National Youth Day, were celebrated at Lecture Hall 3, Convention Centre, JNU with fervour and gaiety. Several events were conducted based on Swamiji's ideas and teachings. This programme was organized jointly by the National Service Scheme (NSS-JNU) and the Vivekananda Study Circle (VSC-JNU). It was attended by several distinguished guests from JNU as well as Nivedita Vidyamandir, IIT Delhi and VSC Vasant Kunj. Faculties and students from various schools (School of Life Sciences, School of Computational and Integrative Sciences, School of Biotechnology, School of Physical Sciences, School of Computer & Systems Sciences, Centre for Studies in Science Policy and Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies) gathered to pay homage to the great Indian philosopher and saint. Around 120 participants and 20 volunteers were present during the event. Ms. Poonam Kudaisya from Public Relation Office and Professor Shyamal K. Goswami, Dean of Student also attended the function. The programme began with the chanting of Vedic hymns from the Taittiriya Upanishad (Yajurveda) performed by the VSC members, followed by Swamiji Vandana (Murtamaheshwara Stotram) sung in chorus. The function was inaugurated by lighting of the lamp by the esteemed guests. Bhajgovindam (Moha Mudgara), a devotional composition by Adi Shankaracharya, was performed by Ms. Niharika and Ms. Shipra, highlighting the importance of Bhakti. A prayer of Rabindranath Tagore (Rabindra Sangeet), Satyamangala Premomoy Tumi, was performed. It was followed by Surdas & Brahmananda Bhajans sung by Mrs. Sunetra Ghatak. The newsletter entitled "Vivekjagrati" was released by Pravrajika Divyanandaprana, Principal, Nivedita Vidyamandir, Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, New Delhi and Prof. Shyamal K. Goswami, Dean of Students, JNU. The newsletter, consisting articles written mainly by students and professors, was edited by Dr. Arpita Mitra and designed by Mrs. Swagata Mukherjee Bhattacharya. The panel discussion themed "Idea of Acceptance" was chaired by Professor

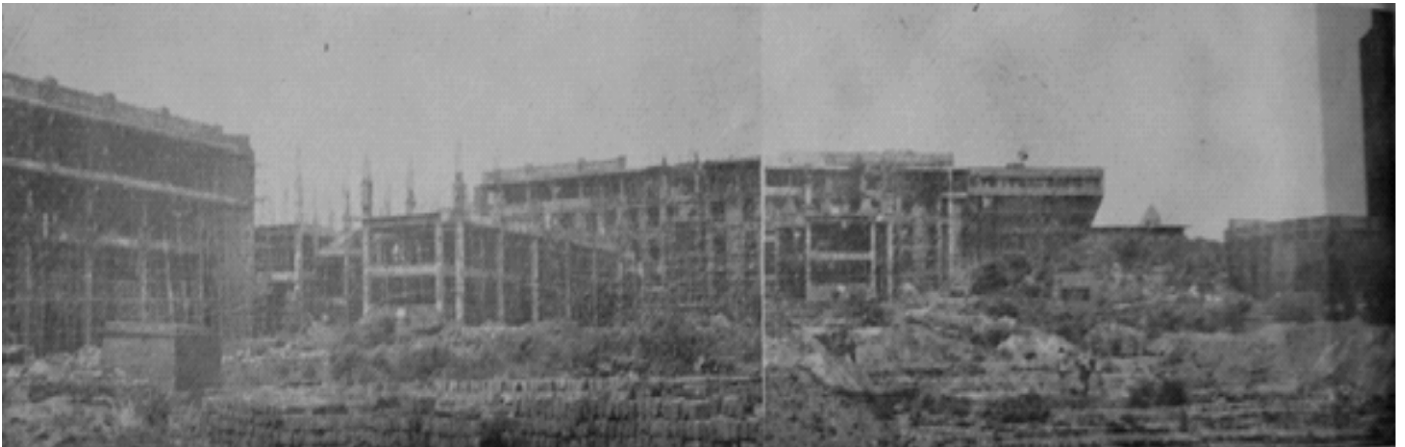


Anirban Chakraborti, Professor and Dean, School of Computational and Integrative Sciences, JNU. Professor Birendra Nath Mallik (Professor of Neurobiology, School of Life Sciences, JNU) addressed the audience on the neurological aspects of the process of acceptance focusing on the scientific analyses and differences between acceptance and tolerance. Pravrajika Divyanandaprana Mataji delivered an inspiring lecture based on Swamiji and his various philosophies with several interesting real-life examples and situations. Dr. Anil Kumar Singh (NSS, Coordinator) shared his views and ideas on Swamiji's teachings. Two of the JNU PhD scholars, Ms. Kiran Sharma and Ms. Prachi Singh, also talked about definition of acceptance and its importance in their lives. The panel discussion was followed by several thought-provoking questions from the audience. Several soulful and melodious songs were then sung by famous artist Shri Bishnumurari Chattopadhyay (Champak Sir), famed All-India Radio artist. The programme was concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Jaydeep Bhattacharya (Assistant Professor, School of Biotechnology, JNU) and Ms. Prachi Singh (Secretary, VSC), followed by tea. A bookstall was also set up exhibiting several books based on Swami Vivekananda's teachings and philosophies.

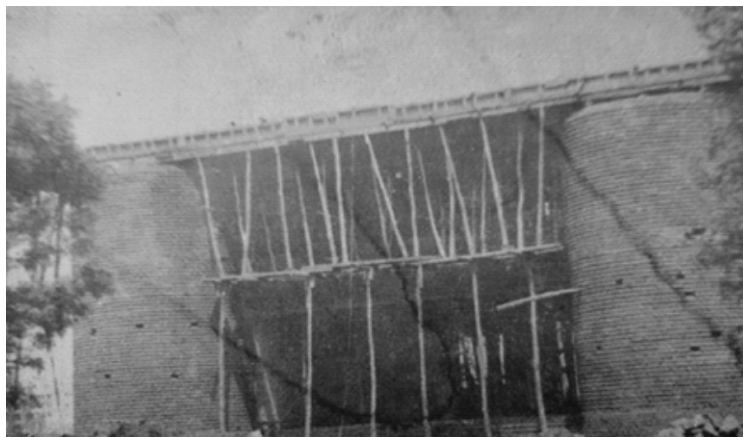
**Anirban Chakraborti
Professor and Dean
School of Computational & Integrative Sciences**



JNU NEWS



The Changing Skyline of JNU Campus, August, 1988

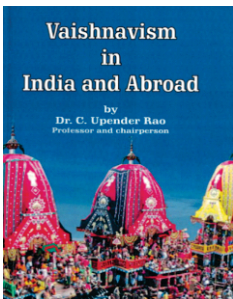


Karamchari Club Building, August, 1988

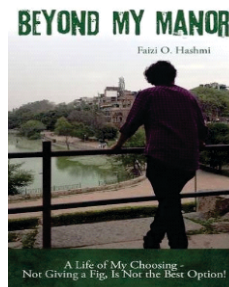


Transit House, August, 1988

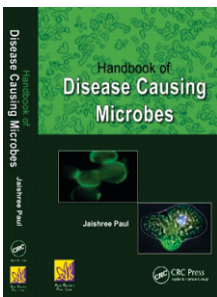
Our Publications



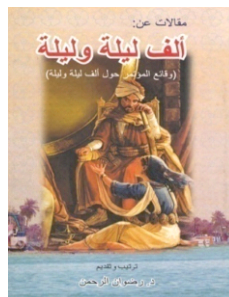
“**Vaishnavism in India and Abroad**” by Prof. C. Upender Rao, Chairperson, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, published by Eastern Book Linkers. ISBN No. 9788178542881.



“**Beyond My Manor: A Life of My Choosing - Not Giving a Fig, Is Not the Best Option!**” by Faizi O. Hashmi, Indian Administrative Service Officer, Publisher: Partridge Publishing India, ISBN: 9781482848243



“**Handbook of Disease Causing Microbes**”, written by Dr. Jaishree Paul, UGC Research Scientist 'C' (Professor), School of Life Sciences, published by Ane Books Pvt. Ltd. ISBN No: 9789385462054.



“**Maqalaat an Alf lailah wa Lailah**” (in Arabic) edited by Prof. Rizwanur Rahman, Centre of Arabic and African Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies published by Rosewood Books, New Delhi. 2014. ISBN 81-925611-9-4

Alumni Corner

Interview with Mr. Anurag Mishra, OSD, IIMC



Mushtaq Anjum: How and when did your association with JNU start. Tell us about your days in the University.

Mr. Mishra: I did my BA from Lucknow University in 1979. At that time, the exams were getting delayed at State Universities and

the situation was not much conducive academically. So I came to Delhi, and got admission for MA at Delhi School of Economics as well as Centre of Economic Studies and Planning (CESP), JNU. I choose CESP because I got the hostel. That was an enriching decision, which made my life what I am today. This was my journey to JNU.

Mushtaq Anjum: How is JNU today different from the time you were here?

Mr. Mishra: I would not like to compare because JNU is an Institute, which lives with the time.

At the moment, I am not much aware about JNU. But being in Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) that is itself in JNU Campus, I visit the University some times and still it is a good place. I was a topper in Lucknow University and was a good and bright student in JNU as well. If we talk about faculties of that time, in Economics, Krishna Bhardwaj (political economy) Utsa Patnaik, Prabhat Patnaik, Sheela Bhalla, Ramprasad Sengupta, Amit Bhaduri and many more who imbibed in me a thinking process. If I were in Lucknow, I would have probably topped there but JNU taught me the process to come to conclusions. And on top of that, it sensitized me to care for those who are at the margins of our society and institutions, those who are neglected, and those whom the administration does not even acknowledge, and that is what JNU is. In my career in Indian Information Service, I have been to many universities abroad and to my mind comes the Oxford. When I was OSD to Uma Bharti I had gone there. As you know, Oxford University only comprises the colleges. I looked around, and I told Ma'am, JNU was and JNU is no less than Oxford. In my 32 years of civil service career, JNU has taught me that only with

the application of mind you acceptor reject a proposal. Neither acceptance nor the rejection should be without the application of mind. You are not the one who will always tow the line; you are not always the one who signs on dotted lines. Instead of that, you will give your mind. I have given my views and opinion on any subject in different governments, and ministers, and finally my views were considered in taking decision by competent authorities.

Mushtaq Anjum: How did you choose civil service over academics, as a large number of JNUites are known to prefer academics?

Mr. Mishra: I remember, when I passed out from JNU in 1981, I headed straight to Tilonia to Aruna Roy and Bunker Roy team. I was with them for three months in Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan and Research Centre. Miss Roy told me, “Mr. Mishra, you go, do something and come back”. I still remember, I had told Ms. Roy (who herself was an IAS and had quit later) that ma'am once you go into the system, it becomes very difficult to come out. She said that you are young, must look at the other side, only then you can decide whether you are really choosing in coming to us. And as things went, I never went back. (Yes within the service, I have always cared for the marginalized sections of society). So I came and started teaching economics at the Department of Humanities at IIT Delhi, then I went to Sri Ram College of Commerce, and taught there.

As for choosing Civil Services over academics is concerned; there is a typical North Indian mentality to see one's children as officers and for teaching you do a good Ph.D., but it is not necessary that you get into a good college like in the DU. Because of these reasons I chose civil service. In 1984 I cleared Indian Information Service and that was the completion of my journey, but when I look back I do feel that teaching could have been a better option for me. But again, no regrets.

Mushtaq Anjum: As a civil servant you must have worked with colleagues from JNU and from other institutions in India; what difference did you find between them?

Mr. Mishra: Not to be biased towards civil servants from JNU or looking down upon the other civil servants, fellow colleagues who come from other colleges or universities, but generally speaking a very broad difference can be drawn between the two. Whenever I have met civil servants from JNU and officers from other places, something about the JNU alumni leaves a mark. JNU teaches you two things at least: one, the acceptance

or rejection of an idea only when you apply your own mind to it; and second, don't always look at the centre page which everyone does but look closely at what is at the margins. That is the difference between civil servants of JNU and the civil servants of other places. But this is a generalization. I am sure officers from other universities are very good as well.

Mushtaq Anjum: Any memory of your JNU days that you would like to share with us?

Mr. Mishra: In JNU, at that time, there was scarcity of water on campus. I remember there was a teachers and students march on the issue of water shortage. A typical slogan was being raised “Paani Chahiye, Paani do warna Kursichhod do” (Need water, Give us water, otherwise resign), that was one. I wrote a letter to my sister that this is the university where even for water you can hold a procession.

There was a culture of public meetings in the dining hall where eminent speakers of the countries used to deliver lectures on different topics. I have heard some of the best speakers from varied parties like Madhu Dhanda vate, Pramila, Sarla Gopalan and Madhulmay etc. There was the culture of handwritten pamphlets in the mess after dinner. International and national issues were covered in these pamphlets with different perspectives and ideologies. The JNUSU election was very unique. In comparison to other universities like Lucknow, it used to be very peaceful and non violent. Elections were fought in JNU on the basis of ideas, and through debates and discussion, not money or muscle power. Election materials like posters were written by hand and were put up at designated places.

We used to decide when the exams would be conducted. There was no set pattern for the exams. Once in Amit Bhaduri's Class, he gave us just one question and we could not complete it in the stipulated three hours time, and he simply asked us to submit it later and just slip the answer script under his door, if he was not to be found in his room. I think there is no other university with such liberal views.

Mushtaq Anjum: JNU has always been famous for its dissent and protests and stand against the status quo, how was this culture of protest at your time?

Mr. Mishra: Any protest is a very good platform to voice your opinions. But in JNU protests were never violent. At my time there was an issue against Bakaya Committee report that was widely debated among the students and a lot of protests were

Alumni Corner

called on the issue. In my view protest is a form of putting forth a view but there is no scope of disturbing the academic activities or violence. A lot of protests used to be there and even teachers participated hand-in-hand with students on different issues.

Mushtaq Anjum: Any message you would like to give to our readers?

Mr. Mishra: JNU does not believe in messages and dictates. JNU believes in discussions and moving together. JNU doesn't believe in preaching. JNU believes in understanding each other. If I give a message here, I would only repeat myself from before. Keep that corner stone, the plank of JNU in deep, move further, evolve your selves, create new ethos. So when the JNU students pass out, they should be proud of JNU.

Obituary



The Centre for Political Studies and the School of Social Sciences held a memorial meeting on January 22, 2016 at 11 a.m. in the Committee Room of SSSI to remember the lives and works of Padma Bhushan Awardees Lloyd and Susanne Rudolph of the University of Chicago. Prof. Susanne Rudolph passed away on December 23, 2015, and Prof Lloyd Rudolph too passed away soon after on January 16, 2016. Prof S.K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor, J.N.U. and Prof. C.P. Chandrasekhar, Dean, School of Social Sciences, J.N.U. attended the meeting and paid their rich tribute to them. Other speakers included Profs Asha Sarangi, C.P. Bhabri, Sudha Pai, Balveer Arora, Niraja Gopal Jayal, Imtiaz Ahmad, Philip Oldenburg, George Matthew, and Anand Kumar. Each of the speakers remembered their unique intellectual partnership, scholarly contributions to the discipline of Political

Science and the field of South Asian Studies over the last six decades both in the US academia and India. The meeting was attended by a large number of students and faculty members across the centres of the School of Social Sciences of JNU.



Prof. Deepak Kumar, Former Professor, School of Physical Sciences passed away on Sunday, 24 January, 2016

We extend our condolences to the bereaved families.

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

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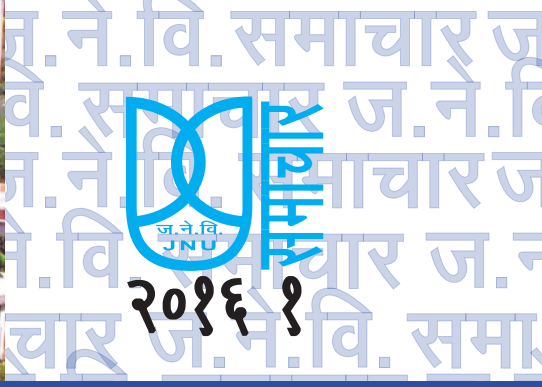


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6

1. Vivekananda Study Circle, JNU and the NSS, JNU jointly organized a Panel Discussion entitled "Swamiji's Idea of Acceptance and Message for Youth" on 12 January, 2016.
2. A 6 members delegations led by Mr. Dai Qiping, Deputy Director General of GPDE, from Guizhou Province, PR China, visited JNU on 12 January, 2016. Photo Shows: Prof. Varun Sahni, Chief Advisor, International Collaboration; Prof. S.K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor with Members of Delegation.
3. A 6 member delegation headed by Prof. Alexandra Hughes, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Global Engagement, University of Westminster, UK, visited JNU on 14 January, 2016. Photo Shows: Prof. Prasenjit Sen, Rector-II, Prof. Ira Bhaskar, School of Arts and Aesthetics with Members of Delegation.
4. School of International Studies organized a Farewell Party for Prof. S.K. Sopory, felicitated new faculty members of the SIS & unveiled the photograph of Late Prof. Bimal Prasad with all faculty, students and staff on 18 January, 2016.
5. A 3 member delegation led by Vice Rector for Culture and External Cooperation from University of Porto, Portugal, visited JNU on 18 January, 2016. Photo Shows: Prof. Varun Sahni, Chief Advisor, International Collaboration; Prof. Prasenjit Sen, Rector-II with Members of Delegation.
6. University has purchased disabled friendly AC Mini Bus funded by Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on 20 January, 2016. Photo caption: Prof. S.K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor; Prof. Manu Mittal, Chief Advisor, Equal Opportunity Office; Prof. Bupinder Zutshi, Registrar with Official from BHEL.



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

—जवाहरलाल नेहरू

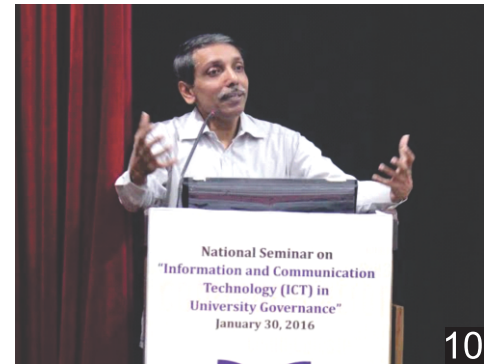


7. Farewell party by Equal Opportunity Office to Vice Chancellor, S.K. Sopory on 21 January, 2016. Photo Shows: Prof. S.K. Sopory with Students.

8. केन्द्रीय पुस्तकालय द्वारा आयोजित "हमारे समय का साहित्य" संपादक – प्रो. देवेन्द्र चौबे पुस्तक के लोकार्पण कार्यक्रम का आयोजन दिनांक 21 जनवरी, 2016 को किया गया। चित्र में: डॉ रमेशचन्द्र गौर, पुस्तकालयाध्यक्ष, प्रो. एस. के. सोपोरी, कुलपति, प्रो. देवेन्द्र चौबे, भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र, एवं अन्य उपस्थित अतिथिगण।

9. Prof. S.K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor with newly appointed Vice Chancellor, Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar and other officials hosting the National Flag on the Republic Day at the Academic Complex, JNU, on 26 January, 2016.

10. Communication and Information Services organized a Inaugural Ceremony of National seminar on "Information and Communication Technology in University Governance" on 30 January, 2016. Photo Shows: Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Vice Chancellor.



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