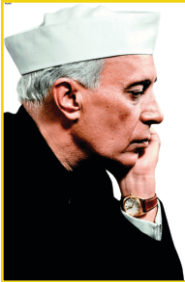




## Bimonthly Journal of Jawaharlal Nehru University



*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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## Interview with Prof. Yogendra Singh, Professor Emeritus



**Mushtaq:** How and when did your association with JNU begin? How has your experience been over the years?

**Prof. Singh:** My association with JNU began in 1971, I was invited as a Professor of Sociology at JNU School of Social Sciences (SSS), which at that time was located in the Vigyan Bhawan Annexe. There was no individual centre existing at the time because ordinances necessitated recruitment to centres by a Head of Department (HOD). I was appointed as the HOD of the Centre for The Study of Social System (CSS) and then I started the process of recruitment of the faculty. I remained HOD for a period of six years. Following this period, we on our own accepted, and began to implement the policy of rotation of the Heads among the Professors and Associate Professors (in the absence of professor).

Once the faculty was appointed, the process of formulation of course structure and the modes of teaching were finalized. The course structure, was diverse and flexible to the launching of the programme and it also offered the scope for students to take up courses in other Centres and Schools of the University. The normative principle was to ensure interdisciplinarity both in curriculum and the nature of methodology.

My experience with JNU, over the years, has been very satisfactory. I was given full freedom to explore and formulate curricula and methodology of teaching. As it happens, over the years, the process of formulation of curriculum and the method of teaching, have been institutionalized and to that extent, it tends to be less flexible, compared to the past. But on the whole it is satisfactory.

**Mushtaq:** You have been with the University since almost the beginning, How do you feel JNU has changed over these years?

**Prof. Singh:** Over the years, there have been changes, particularly, in the sphere of admissions and the nature of student-teacher relationship. Originally, the role of students in both the admission policy and their participation in determining the course structure and teaching methods was made contributory. Student Faculty Committees (SFCs) were formed in each centre to look after it. The idea was to keep the Union activities of students at the university level and their role in the centre's policy

on teaching and research separated. Students insisted on rejection of this policy. It led to conflict and finally culminated in students gheraoing the Rector, a senior faculty and Registrar at the former's residence.

The university has undergone major changes since the agitation that the university faced in 1983. The faculty-student committees were abolished. All admission at the undergraduate level was centralized by the university by introducing the process of All India Admission Test (AIAT) at various centres in the country. The role of the students union in the formulation of teaching programmes, etc. was withdrawn. However, some centres including the CSS have devised their own informal system of sharing such policies and discussing them with the body of students at the end of the academic year.

**Mushtaq:** You have been part of faculties in Universities in India as well as abroad. How do you think JNU is different from these places?

**Prof. Singh:** JNU compares well, when we look at it from the perspective of several foreign universities, both with respect to teaching and research. However, over the years, the flexibility in these matters has been compromised, particularly, because of the policies of University Grants Commission (UGC) which insists on a large measure of uniformity. Despite this, JNU continues to have students from all over the country and all sections of society, among its faculty as well as students. The enrichment of academic exposure and acceptance of social and cultural diversity continues to be reinforced by the residential character of the university and the co-curricular activities in the hostels and outside in the campus.

**Mushtaq:** Being Professor Emeritus, do you have certain goals and a vision for JNU and in particular, for the Centre for the Study of Social Systems?

**Prof. Singh:** I consider that the contribution of Professor Emeritus rests essentially on his/her playing a role-model by achieving distinction in the domains of teaching and research. The goals and visions for the future of the university and of a specific centre is essentially orientated in consonance with the traditions of excellence pursued by the university and the centre. Professor Emeritus is a title (not an office) that is conferred upon the faculty members in recognition of a teacher's contribution to teaching and research in the univer-

## In Conversation with.....

sity. Even though most Centres have provided office accommodation to Emeritus Professors, there is no binding rule for this and in many cases, professors may not be in residence in Delhi, so it may not be required. However, on the whole, the institution of Emeritus professorship has been well with the university, in intra-faculty relationships and in promotion of academic aspiration and innovations in the domain of knowledge.

As a Professor Emeritus, I consider I have a role in the future development of the programmes and research orientations of the Centre by monitoring its growth. The role would be of a contributor to its research and teaching, especially where the experience of the past is essential. It must be remembered that a Professor Emeritus is a retired Professor and as such, his/her role cannot be equal to that of a Professor in office. Nevertheless, his/her contributions would remain valuable and effective through the recall of past challenges and innovations in teaching and research, to meet with the emergent requirements.

**Mushtaq:** Any special memory associated with JNU that you would like to share with the readers?

**Prof. Singh:** Since I lived in the campus for about 30 years, there are bound to be myriads of memories and episodes. There are memories of cohesive campus life through community participation in parties, both cultural and co-curricular and also lifestyle activities, particularly, the exchange of culinary traditions. Since JNU attracts students from all over the country, the diversity of lifestyle in dress, cooking and ceremonial activities are bound to be exchanged and shared all the time. Interaction with the students from the hostels, and faculty members staying on campus was in the past intense and continual. Students freely approached Professors for consulta-

tion and exchange of teaching and research material. They visited the residences of Professors quite often. Such visits by students were welcomed by the faculty across different departments. This tradition has weakened.

Sometimes, though rarely, humorous situations would emerge. I remember, particularly, the story of Professor K.J. Mahale's pomeranian pet dog, who bit, several times, his neighbour Professor C.P. Bhambhari, a known Marxist. The dog also bit several of the leaders of the students' union, who came to visit Professor Mahale, for official activities of the students' union, led by the Marxist Students Federation of India. He repeatedly bit such students and gained notoriety and began to be nicknamed as, "the dog who bites only the Marxists". It got wider circulation in newspapers to the amusement of people within the university and outside. Several Delhi newspapers published this story as it was an episode of unusual sensibility and entertainment.

**Mushtaq:** Any message you would like to give the student community of JNU in particular?

**Prof. Singh:** I would always recall my relationship with JNU for its promotion of dialectic of reasoning and critical appreciation of ideas and events. Embedded in the Nehruvian ideology of humanism and compassion, the JNU ideological tradition, promotes the culture of continual criticism and self-criticism of the prevailing norms and values of society. This tradition has been promoted in JNU, both in the areas of teaching and research. It is singularly useful in formulating the valuable epistemology and methods of research and teaching in social sciences. My message would be that this tradition must be continued.

## Movements & Appointments

### New Appointments/Deans/Directors/Chairpersons

- ◆ Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, Centre for Canadian, US and Latin American Studies, School of International Studies as Rector – I.
- ◆ Prof. Satish Chandra Garkoti, School of Environmental Sciences, as Rector – II.
- ◆ Prof. Rana Pratap Singh, School of Life Sciences as Dean of Students for a term of three years.
- ◆ Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva as Director, Europe Area Studies Programme in the Centre for European Studies, for a period of two years.
- ◆ Prof. Savita Pande as Director, Pakistan Area Studies Programme in the Centre for South Asian Studies, School of International Studies, for a period of two years.
- ◆ Prof. A.P. Dimri, School of Environmental Sciences as Chief Proctor, for a period of two years.

# Movements & Appointments

- ◆ प्रो. देवेन्द्र कुमार चौबे, भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र, भाषा साहित्य और संस्कृति अध्ययन संस्थान, को दो वर्ष की अवधि के लिए जेएनयू के हिन्दी अनुभाग के बतौर सलाहकार नामित किया गया है
- ◆ Prof. Rizwanur Rahman as Chairperson, Centre of Arabic & African Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies for a period of two years.
- ◆ Prof. Rakesh K. Tyagi, Special Centre for Molecular Medicine as Provost, Poorvanchal for a period of two years.
- ◆ Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Director, Communication and Information Services as Nodal Officer to upload the information pertaining to the JNU on the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) portal to get University's benchmarking performance ranked under the ACU ranking system.
- ◆ Dr. Shandar Ahmad as Professor in the School of Computational and Integrative Sciences.
- ◆ Dr. Rosy Singh as Associate Professor in Centre for German Studies, School of Language, Literature & Cultural Studies.
- ◆ Dr. Smita Sirker as Associate Professor in the Centre for Philosophy, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Dr. Sandip Kumar Mishra, Associate Professor in the Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies.
- ◆ Dr. Pavel Chakraborty as Assistant Professor in the Centre for International Trade & Development, School of International Studies.
- ◆ Dr. Aprajita Kashyap as Assistant Professor in Centre for Canadian, US & Latin American Studies, School of International Studies.

## Administration

- ◆ Dr. Pramod Kumar as Registrar in the University.

## Retirements & Resignations

- ◆ Prof. Arun Kumar Attri, School of Environmental Sciences.
- ◆ Shri Gufran Khan, Junior Assistant cum Typist, Central Library.
- ◆ Shri Pehluddin, Junior Assistant cum Typist (Caretaker), School of Life Sciences.
- ◆ Shri Roshan Lal, Wireman, Engineering Branch.
- ◆ Shri Gagan Singh, Wireman, Engineering Branch.

# Achievements/Awards



- ◆ The contribution of **Prof. Alok Bhattacharya**, School of Life Sciences, has been selected for the Visitor's Award for Best Research, 2016. The award was presented by the Hon'ble President of India on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre auditorium.



- ◆ The contribution of **Prof. Rakesh Bhatnagar**, School of Biotechnology, has been selected for the Visitor's Award for Best Innovation, 2016. The award presented by the Hon'ble President of India on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 at the Rashtrapati Bhawan Cultural Centre auditorium.



- ◆ **Prof. Dinesh Mohan is on the elite list of "highly cited researchers 2015" for the second time in a row**  
Prof. Dinesh Mohan, School of Environmental Sciences from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, has been selected for the prestigious "Thomson Reuters 2015 list of Highly Cited Researchers". This is the second time in a row that he has been selected as a highly cited researchers. Professor Mohan published over 100 articles and received more than 14,500 citations with a factor of 47.



- ◆ **Prof. Girish Nath Jha**, Professor, Computational Linguistics and Chairperson, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies has been awarded the Kashmir Education Culture and Science Society (KECSS) Felicitation Award-2016 for the revival and development of Sharada Script. He received the award on 26 February, 2016.

# Achievements/Awards

## Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) is ranked as country's third best university

On 4 April, 2016, the Union Human Resource Development Minister released the 'India Rankings 2016'. This first-of-its-kind indigenous ranking framework for higher educational institutions has named the top 100 Indian universities and also Engineering, Management and Pharmacy institutes.

As per the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) is ranked as country's third best university.

## Centre for the Study of Social Systems (CSSS), JNU

The Centre for the Study of Social Systems (CSSS), JNU has been ranked number 51 in the world this year (2015-16) in the QS World rankings by subject. The Centre has moved up by 7 points since last year and thereby has achieved the distinction of being the country's best sociology department for two consecutive years. The Centre is one of the largest departments of sociology in India with a faculty strength of 19 and a student body of around 450. About 35 students are awarded M. Phil. degree and 25 students submit their doctoral thesis every year on a range of socially relevant themes.

The Centre also houses a Chair in the name of Dr B. R. Ambedkar, sponsored by the Ministry of Social Justice, Government of India, which supports and conducts activities relating to the intellectual contributions of Babasaheb Ambedkar and provides scholarships to students from SC/ST sections for research work.

**V. Sujatha, Professor and Chairperson,  
Centre for the Study of Social Systems  
Co-ordinator, Global Studies Programme  
School for Social Sciences**

## Report of JNU Visually Impaired Student who won 3 gold medals in Delhi State Para Athletics Meet, 2016

Nidhi Mishra, a visually impaired student of M. Phil, 2nd Semester, SSS, has won 3 gold medals in T-11 category (100m, Shot put, Discus Throw, all 3 gold medals) in the 8th Delhi State Para Athletics Meet held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi on 27 and 28 February, 2016. It is notable that she has repeated her remarkable achievement this year too. She has also qualified the NQS (National Qualifying Standards), which

made her qualify for the National games in Panchkula in last week of March 2016. It is note worthy that she has been training hard under the aegis of the sports office, which has been providing her all possible support.

**Vikram Singh, Assistant Director  
JNU Sports Office**

## Report of the National Para-Athletics Meet held at Panchkula, Haryana from 26 – 30 March, 2016

Nidhi Mishra, M. Phil 2nd semester student, School of Social Sciences, won 4 medals (B-1 category) in the National Para-Athletics Meet 2015-16 held at Panchkula, Haryana from 26 – 30 March, 2016 (Gold medals in Shot Put and Discus throw each, Silver medal in 100m, Silver medal in 4x100m relay). She improved on her last year's performance, and won 3 gold medals in the 8th Delhi State Para Athletics Meet 27 – 28 February,

2016. She also qualified the National Qualifying Standards to be eligible for National participation. Sports Office provided her all possible technical and logistic support. We wish her success in her quest for the ensuing Paralympics in Rio, Brazil this year.

**Vikram Singh, Assistant Director  
JNU Sports Office**

## JNU wins prizes at the Pusa Horticulture Show, 2016

The Horticulture Branch participated in the Pusa Horticulture Show, 2016 organized by the Delhi Agri-Horticultural Society, Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi. The

show was held at the Genetics Division, IARI, Pusa, New Delhi from 27 – 29 February, 2016. This Competition was open to all exhibitors, like Government or Non-Government Agencies,

# Achievements/Awards

Institutions, Private Organizations, Embassies. Hotels, Clubs, Nurseries and Individuals from all over Delhi and New Delhi. The entries submitted for the gardens in the Vice-Chancellor's Lodge, Aravali Guest House, the Administration Building, the Office of the Dean of Students & the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance were inspected on 24 February, 2016 by a Judging Committee from IARI (Pusa). The Horticulture Branch was awarded the following Prizes at the above show, in March 2016-

1. D.A.H.S. Challenge Cup - for the Best Medium Private Garden in Delhi and New Delhi in a Government Allotted Accommodation was awarded to the garden in the Vice-Chancellor's Lodge.
2. D.A.H.S. Challenge Cup- for the Best Large Public Garden in Delhi and New Delhi (Developed by any Govt./Non-Govt. agency) was awarded to the Dean of Student's Garden.

3. D.A.H.S. Challenge Cup- for the Best Small Public Garden in Delhi and New Delhi (Developed by any Govt./Non-Govt. agency) was awarded to the garden in the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance.
4. D.A.H.S. Challenge Cup- for the Best Mini Garden attached to Institutions, Embassies, Hotels and Clubs in Delhi and New Delhi was awarded to the garden at the Aravali Guest House.

We take this opportunity to congratulate the Horticulture Branch of the Engineering Department. The above achievement could not have been possible without the great effort put in by all the Malis/Staff throughout the year. We thank the higher authorities for their complete cooperation, motivation and timely guidance. We will continue to do better in future also.

**Sunil Kumar, Horticulture Officer  
Engineering Department**

## Presentation in UGC: Performance Evaluation Report HRDC-JNU

UGC-HRD had called a meeting of HRDC directors on 23 April, 2016 at IIM-Lucknow, Noida Campus. All the directors were asked to bring a "Performance Evaluation Report from the time of inception and the Future Vision". The JNU Performance Report and future vision (<http://www.jnu.ac.in/HRDC/>) were appreciated by the Vice-Chairman UGC and the Joint Secretary, UGC and the report was highlighted as the "Model Report". The Director, HRDC-JNU, R. Madhubala was asked to send the JNU report to all other HRDC's.

**Rentala Madhubala, Professor  
School of Life Sciences**



## Campus Activities

### साहित्य लोगों को सहिष्णु बनाता है—उदय प्रकाश

साहित्य सिर्फ कहानी नहीं कहता है, वह लोगों को सहिष्णु और संवेदनशील बनाता है। हो सकता है कि सहिष्णु बनाने की यह प्रक्रिया बहुत ही छोटे स्तर पर हो। ये विचार चर्चित लेखक उदय प्रकाश ने व्यक्त किए। वे जवाहर लाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय के एल्युमनी एसोसिएशन का तीसरा सालाना व्याख्यान दे रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि साहित्य अपने समय की अर्थव्यवस्था भी समझाता है। उपन्यास की अवधारणा पर बात करते हुए उदय प्रकाश ने कहा कि यूरोप में भले ही उपन्यास की अवधारणा मध्यवर्ग से जुड़ी हुई हो लेकिन एशियाई देशों में यह किसानों की अर्थव्यवस्था को अभिव्यक्त करने वाली विधा है। अपने व्याख्यान में उन्होंने वर्तमान समय में लेखक की असुरक्षा के प्रसंग पर कहा कि आज हमारी भाषा में लेखक का हिस्सा कम हो गया है। यह चिन्ताजनक स्थिति है और इसी के कारण समाज में लेखक के हालात



# Campus Activities

पर कोई खास ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता है। अपने जे.एन.यू. के दिनों को याद करते हुए उन्होंने यहाँ की अंतरानुशासनात्मक अध्ययन की प्रशंसा की। एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष देवेन्द्र चौबे ने कहा की उदय प्रकाश कहानी कहने की शैली में तो अनूठे हैं ही, लेकिन उनके कथा संसार की संवेदना इतनी व्यापक है की समाज का कोई तबका उससे नहीं छुटता है। उन्होंने एसोसिएशन की गतिविधियों का परिचय भी दिया।

एसोसिएशन के उपाध्यक्ष राजेश कुमार ने धन्यवाद ज्ञापित करते हुए उदय प्रकाश के साहित्य की प्रासंगिता बताई। व्याख्यान के बाद हुई परिचर्चा में मनिन्द्र नाथ ठाकुर, दुर्गाप्रसाद गुप्त, अखलाक आहन ,जैनेन्द्र कुमार सहित कई लोगों ने भाग लिया।

देवेन्द्र चौबे, अध्यक्ष  
एसोसिएशन

## Our Guest

### An interview with Prof. Katharina Michaelowa, Political Economist, University of Zurich, (Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Study Fellow)



**JNU News: May I request you to please share your research interests and the work that brought you to India?**

**Prof. Michaelowa:** My research is on development economics and politics in a broad sense, ranging from the analysis of social policies in individual countries to the analysis of

international negotiations. Some of this work is directly based on information we have for India, like one of the projects I have been working on during my stay at JNU, namely the analysis of old-age pension (mis)targeting. Another topic I have been working on here is related to the international climate negotiations in which India is, of course, a major player. But my work in this area goes beyond a specific study of India.

**JNU News: Do you see any distinction in carrying forward a research work in India and in your country?**

**Prof. Michaelowa:** It is obvious that work directly related to India benefits a lot from a longer stay in the country. This provides the opportunity to obtain many helpful comments and suggestions through exchanges with local colleagues, and the possibility to create new contacts, and strengthen existing research partnerships. Moreover, the stay in India allowed me to carry out a number of relevant interviews with policy makers, senior civil servants, activists and other people with relevant insights into my field of research.

**JNU News: How conducive have the arrangements at JNIAS been to support your research activities?**

**Prof. Michaelowa:** Even for research not directly related to India, JNIAS provides a wonderful place to work. Colleagues at JNU cover a wide range of topics in their own research and fruitful collaboration is possible in many fields.

Moreover, JNIAS is simply a calm place where one can advance one's research agenda without external disturbances, which is a rare privilege. The fellows' studio-apartments are all equipped with desks and have internet access that usually works pretty well. Moreover, the office team has always been helpful with printouts, scans and the like if required.

**JNU News: How do you manage your time with diverse activities like research, meeting deadlines and making some free time for yourself?**

**Prof. Michaelowa:** Given that my time here did not involve teaching and only very few administrative duties related to my home university, time management was easier than usual. However, free time remained a rare commodity.

**JNU News: What do you like to do in your free time?**

**Prof. Michaelowa:** I visited friends and also did quite some sight-seeing starting in Delhi itself with the Chausath Khamba in Nizamuddin area on which my attention was drawn by an exhibition at JNU's School of International Studies.

The Mehrauli Archaeological Park right next to JNU is also an interesting place to visit. But I also went to see some places a bit further off, such as the Golden Temple in Amritsar, which is a truly beautiful place.

**JNU News: The regular JNIAS Fellows' Seminar Series gives you opportunities to interact with the JNU students. What is your opinion about the campus and its students?**

**Prof. Michaelowa:** JNU Campus is a very lively place, with numerous activities going on - more than one can follow. Critical thinking is encouraged and students like to discuss. I believe that this spirit is crucial for academic research and provides a very fruitful learning environment.

## Our Guest

**JNU News:** We saw many of you joining several other events on campus with a lot of enthusiasm - be it participation in different festivities like Holi or the teach-ins on campus at the Freedom Square. How has the experience been?

**Prof. Michaelowa:** It is nice to experience such a campus life - even if I have personally not taken place in so many events.

**JNU News:** Tell us something about your own University and the nature of facilities you get there, the kind of research work that it is renowned for?

**Prof. Michaelowa:** The University of Zurich is a large university covering many disciplines - a bit like JNU. Similarly as in JNU, there are also always a lot of interesting things going on at the same time. Facilities are very good, but we do not have a nice campus like JNU and many parts of the university are scattered in the city due to considerable lack of space in the city centre where the university was originally built. It is renowned for research in many fields and ranks around place 50 in world university rankings like the Shanghai ranking. Its former professors include 12 Nobel laureates including Albert Einstein and Wilhelm Konrad Röntgen.

**JNU News:** What are the research options, facilities or opportunities available for a scholar from India at your university?

**Prof. Michaelowa:** Existing programmes are usually for Indo-Swiss research cooperation in general and not university specific. But the basis is typically some joint research project between scholars from both universities. On this basis, funding can be obtained for research, but also for the exchange of scholars between the two countries. To facilitate this research, seed money grants funded jointly by the Swiss National Science Foundation and ICSSR, Delhi, have been offered on about an annual basis. In addition, individual departments usually have some freedom to invite visiting scholars as external lecturers. The funding then comes from the department.

**(Prof. Katharina Michaelowa, Political Economy and Development, Institute of Political Science, University of Zurich & Center for Comparative and International Studies (CIS), Affolternstr. 56, CH-8050 Zürich)**

## Seminars/Conferences

### The XXIV Krishna Bharadwaj Memorial Lecture

For the last 23 years, School of Social Sciences (SSS), in coordination with Centre for Economic Studies and Planning (CESP), has been organizing one of the most distinguished lecture series of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), the Krishna Bharadwaj Memorial Lecture (KBML). This lecture series is organized in the loving memory of the founder of the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Prof. Krishna Bharadwaj. Prof. Bharadwaj was an eminent economist and taught at University of Bombay, Stanford University (USA), University of Cambridge, Delhi School of Economics and then at Jawaharlal Nehru University, where she was instrumental in laying the foundation of the CESP and was the first chairperson of this centre. Her writing "a review of the famous treatise of Perro Sraffa" and work "Production Conditions of Indian Agriculture", are very famous among many others. She won many distinctions, including the V.K.R.V. Rao Prize (1979) and the UGC National Professor (1979). She was a skilled classical singer as well. She died on 8 March, 1992 after a short illness.

The school has been able to bring an amazing lineup of prominent scholars of different streams to the campus since the



inception of the lecture series. The first Krishna Bharadwaj Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. Romila Thapar in 1993 and most recently we were delighted to hear from Prof. Akeel Bilgrami, Sidney Morgenbesser Professor of Philosophy, Prof. Committee on Global Thought; Director, South Asian Institute, Columbia University in the evening of 11 January, 2016. The lecture was chaired by Prof. C.P. Chandrasekhar, the Dean, School of Social Sciences, and coordinated by Prof. Praveen Jha, the Chairperson, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning.



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After attending a book launch function at U Cicago Centre in Delhi, Prof. Bilgrami arrived at the overflowing auditorium with more than 500 enthusiastic audiences, which included students, present faculty members, emeritus/emeriti professors, and other distinguished scholars from JNU and several reputed institutions across Delhi.

The event started with an announcement by Professor Jha regarding five awards which are usually given on the day of the lecture for the excellent performances in M.A. courses at the centre. A. N. Bhat Memorial Prize, Ranjan Roy Memorial Prize, and other three awards as a part of Memorandum of Understanding of the centre with Export Import Bank of India were given to Leila Gautham, Anila Tarannum, Kalyani Chaudhuri, Leila Gautham, and Diksha Langthasa respectively. Ranjan Roy Memorial Prize is given since 1992 to honour the memory of a brilliant student of the Centre. Ranjan Roy was all set to join university of California (USA) for his Ph.D in 1991, but, unfortunately, on 6 May, 1991 he departed for his heavenly abode after a brief illness. Similarly, A. A. Bhat Memorial Prize is given since 1998 in memory of a distinguished faculty member of the Centre who died in 1990. Their parents constituted the prizes in honour of their son so that other young scholars may be encouraged to reach the heights that A. N. Bhat and Ranjan Roy aspired for.

In the welcome note, Prof. Chandrasekhar remembered Prof. Bharadwaj as one of the early faculty members of the School who was responsible for establishing the Centre, creating its rules and norms, and excellence in higher academic standard for which the School and the Centre are known for. He expressed his gratefulness to Prof. Bilgrami who spared some time from his other important engagements in his visit to India to deliver this lecture. "Besides being a philosopher and engaging in discussions of issues in Philosophy, Prof. Bilgrami is known to bring to bare his analytical mind to understand the issues of contemporary social and political reality. He has worked substantially on Gandhi and his relevance today", Prof. Chandrasekhar said.

Professor Bilgrami spoke eloquently and at length on the topic "Rationality and Alienation". He started with a very critical examination of an extremely widespread assumption, "what has

happened in Europe or the West must inevitably happen in the rest of the world". He said, "It is an assumption that we take on trust. Though no one has ever known when it was proved and certainly no one knows how it helps us to live better. So, this is superstition of the modernity."

He also engaged with Prof. Prabhat Patnaik's argument of "spontaneous tendencies" related to the nature of capital. He said, "If the very late Marx and Gandhi about India are right, nothing of the kind of determinism that Patnaik is describing is true of the onset of capital. It may be that the form of determinism Patnaik describes may be true as part of logic of capital itself and the logic, therefore, of modernity. But, it is not a logic that runs through history and it does not, in fact, apply to the onset of the capital".

Focusing on Locke's account of social contract theory, he argued that two conditions are necessary to make a rational outcome. First, the privatization, the principles and the arrangements to live by have made us better off. And second, they were freely chosen. Later, he contrasted Locke's argument with that of Winstanley and concluded that the Lockean privatization was not social contracted rationally. He discussed at length Hardin's "tragedy of the commons", too.

He concluded the lecture with an argument "if you are in an unalienated society, it does not occur to you to ask what if I did this and somebody else did not? That question does not surface; it is just silenced out of the existence. That is what unalienatedness is. But if individual self-governance is frame worked in this way, seeing the world's normative demands from larger point of view than ours, then it is much more likely to cohere with equality than it was in the previous enlightenment paradigm. If this is right then game theory is a higher order symptom of alienation".

After the conclusion of the lecture, a bright-eyed group of students, full of inspiration and questions, followed Professor Bilgrami into the high tea event.

**Chandan Kumar Sharma**  
**M.Phil. Student**

**Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, SSS**

## The Third Shah Waliullah Dehlavi Annual Memorial Lecture

The Third Shah Waliullah Dehlavi Annual Memorial Lecture was held on 10 February, 2016 on at 212 Committee Room, SLL&CS, JNU. Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, noted Islamic scholar and recipient of several national and international awards for his efforts to promote peace in society, delivered the special

memorial lecture on "Living in Peace and Harmony in a Multicultural World". The lecture was attended by a large number of students and teachers from the university.

Introducing the lecture and the speaker, Prof. Mujeebur Rahman, Chairperson of the Centre of Arabic and African

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Studies, JNU said that the Shah Waliullah Dehlavi Memorial Lecture series was started by the Centre in 2013 by Prof. A. Bashir Ahmad, the then Chairperson who took a number of initiatives to rejuvenate the academic atmosphere at the Centre. So far three editions of the lecture series have been successfully held. He added that the idea behind launching the lecture series in memory of Shah Waliullah Dehlavi was in the first place to draw inspiration from the academic brilliance of Shah Waliullah who was arguably one of the greatest reformers and scholars of Islam in India.

In his speech, Maulana Wahiduddin Khan described Shah Waliullah Dehlavi as one of the greatest Muslim scholars imbued with academic brilliance and forward looking, positive approach. He lauded the role and contribution of JNU in promoting the values of multiculturalism, tolerance, free speech, debate and discussion, and respect of others. He stressed the need to promote values of multiculturalism and peaceful co-existence in society. He emphasized that Islam is a religion of peace and harmony, drawing examples from the life of Prophet Mohammad who is regarded as a Messenger of peace. Responding to a question on the rights and duties of



minorities in India, he simply brushed aside the notion that Muslims are a minority in India, as according to him, Muslims are equal citizens having equal rights and obligations. He asserted that there is no place for violence in Islam.

The lecture was attended by a huge number of students and teachers from across the varsity. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. M. Aslam Islahi.

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

## Workshop on Borders in Global South

The Political Geography Division of the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament, School of International Studies organized on 19 February, 2016 a workshop titled "Borders in Global South". It was organized as a part of the University with Potential for Excellence-II scheme of the University Grants Commission. The larger UPE-II project is titled as "Border Theory and Globalization: Perspectives from the South". The project began in May 2015 and in two years, it aspires to look at various theoretical strands in border studies and examine whether the existing theories in border studies are applicable to borders in the Global South and specifically in South Asia. Borders in South Asia have a deep colonial imprint and that is not reflected in the theories emanating from the West. The workshop began with a keynote address by Brig. Gurmeet Kanwal (Adjunct Fellow, Centre for International and Strategic Studies, Washington DC) who spoke on the topic "Managing India's Borders" and focused on the salient aspects of the Indian governments' efforts over the years on border management. Brig. Kanwal highlighted the porosity of India's borders with its South Asian neighbours and claimed that there is a lack of coordination of various agencies involved in border management. The Indian

Army which is often held responsible for India's borders, he argued, does not have border management as its primary objective and there are other para-military forces like the Border Security Force and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police which have been mandated with the task of managing and patrolling India's borders and resisting any transgression, incursion and infringement at the borders. Prof. Rajesh Rajagopalan chaired the inaugural session.

The first working session focused on theoretical aspects of borders and border studies wherein Dr. Sanghamitra Misra, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Delhi University highlighted the historical fallacies which plague the borders in the South Asian region. The imprint of arbitrary demarcation of borders through the Radcliffe Line at the time of India's independence, she emphasized has left indelible marks on the communities residing at the borders. The local identities which, had been hitherto taken for granted and were manifest in the local culture were ruptured through the creation of these borders. The speaker further emphasized that the forgotten concept of 'Zomia' manifest through the work of James C. Scott is significant to establish North-East India as part of the large

tract of highlands extending from Southeast Asia to the Tibetan plateau. It was argued that the people of this large tract, owing to the topography, were able to evade efforts by imperial powers to tax them and therefore to be not governed. Dr. Krishnendra Meena of CIPOD/SIS in the same session provided an overview of theoretical aspects of borders and bordering. The diffusion of borders at various locations other than the periphery of the state formed the major part of his presentation. The impact of the recent phase of globalization on borders as they are transformed through economic, political and social mobilities and the various ways in which borders are practiced at unusual sites formed the basis of the presentation. Dr. Archana Negi of CIPOD/SIS chaired the session.

The next session focused on two specific issues related to borders in South Asia. Malay Pramanik, a research scholar of CIPOD in his paper presented the unique case of management of the trans boundary ecosystem of Sundarbans through a GIS based analysis of livelihood vulnerability of the population living there owing to climate change. Mr. Prashant Negi, Assistant Professor, Dr. KR Narayanan Centre for Dalit and Minorities Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia's work provided an explanation of how borders are instrumental in shaping of identities and local orders in the Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh. Gaurav

Kumar, a research scholar at the Political Geography Division of the Centre presented a part of his thesis work and laid emphasis on the ancient geographical imagination of India. Interpreting western conceptions of territoriality, he argued that religion played an important role in Indian conceptualizations of the space through its various religious shrine locations, which were situated in different parts of the country and to achieve 'moksha' one had to carry out the parikrama of all of them in a particular pattern. Prof. BC Vaidya chaired the session.

The last session invoked the role of cinema in creating geopolitical imagination and creation of dominant political knowledge through the same through a paper titled "Spaces, Cinema and Dominant Political Knowledge: An inter-textuality". In the same session, Dr. Tsheing Chonzom Bhutia highlighted the importance of Tibet and the international attention it has generated over the years and its impact on diplomatic relations between India and China. The workshop ended with a vote of thanks to the presenters and the audience.

**Krishnendra Meena, Assistant Professor  
Guest Editor, International Studies  
Centre for International Politics  
Organization and Disarmament, SIS**

## International Workshop on Territoriality, Citizenship, Migration and Global Governance

A one and half day international workshop organised by Jawaharlal Nehru University in association with the University of Edinburgh, U.K. was held on 24 – 25 February, 2016 at the Convention Centre of JNU. The workshop covering wide ranging issues of contemporary significance brought in researchers from both the universities to discuss and exchange ideas under the broad theme of Territoriality, Citizenship, Migration and Global Governance. The participating Centres from JNU included the Centre for Political studies (CPS), the Centre for the study of Law and Governance (CSLG) and the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament (CIPOD). Prof. Asha Sarangi, Convenor of the workshop, highlighted in her welcome address that in JNU, teachers and fellow researchers were seen as co-equals in the pursuit of knowledge and a workshop like this was an apt opportunity for the entire (research) community to explore new areas of research collectively. Prof Varun Sahni, director of the Office of International Collaboration that funded this workshop, in his

inaugural address, welcomed the team from University of Edinburgh and emphasized the need to develop partnership between these two universities. In his inaugural address, he also drew attention to the new and emerging areas of research on the central themes of the workshop. Dr. Wilfred Swenden, Co-Covenor of the workshop from the University of Edinburgh, welcomed the participants and hoped that collectively the workshop could propose a set of compelling questions to enhance the possibility of collaborative research between JNU and UoE. Three theme-wise sessions were held on day one, beginning with Territorial Politics and Federalism chaired by Prof. Jo Shaw of UoE. Five faculty presentations were made in this session on issues of linguistic territorialism, sub-nationalism, federalism and transnational law. The presentations by Dr. Wilfred Swenden and Prof. Asha Sarangi exclusively dealt with the issues of linguistic states and the language policy in India. While Dr. Swenden's paper attempted to assess the Indian approach of dealing with diversity, through India's

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language policy in a comparative perspective, Prof. Sarangi analysed the problematic of territoriality around the language issue and whether the creation of linguistic states was an attempt to accommodate or institutionalize diversity. Dr. Papia Sengupta's presentation raised the issue of autonomy of space and linguistic diversity taking the form of discrimination in certain cases. Dr. Asanga Welikala discussed sub-state nationalism in the wider context of South Asia and interrogated the idea of national pluralism alongside the issue of plurinational politics. The last presenter of this session, Dr. P. Puneeth explored the impact of transnational law on the federal scheme and also suggested that, given India's tremendous diversity, federalism was the best model. The second session on the theme of 'Citizenship and Migration' chaired by Prof. Jayati Srivastava also had five thought-provoking presentations. Prof. Jo Sha+w in her paper on political citizenship talked about de-ethnicisation and re-ethnicisation of citizenship in new and old states, followed by Dr. Sophia Woodman's presentation on her research on citizenship and mobility in contemporary China. Dr. Delwar Hussain, referred to the specific examples from Bangladesh, and shared the constraints that the socio-religious minorities were subjected to in South Asia. The next two presentations by Prof. Anupama Roy and Prof. Shefali Jha engaged with the changing landscapes of citizenship in India and the issue of transnational spaces and migration of women for work in the Asian context. The last one-hour post-lunch session on the theme Global Governance and International Political Economy engaged scholars with three faculty presentations and was chaired by Prof. Asha Sarangi. While Prof. Jayati Srivastava debated about the idea of legitimacy of global governance from the grassroots, Dr. Archana Negi presented an assessment of institutional transformations and governance structures in International Political Economy. The final paper of the session was a joint work by Dr. Deborah Menezes and Dr. Kanchana Ruwanpura titled, 'Infrastructure imaginaries: reviewing the nexus between Governance, Environment and Development in South Asia'. Each session was followed by intense discussions and interjections, enabling the presenters to further sharpen their arguments.

The second day was devoted exclusively to the students' presentations with research scholars from three participating Centres of JNU sharing their research findings. The second day had three sessions, with two presentations each on the same themes as the previous day, all by Ph.D students. In the first



session on territorial politics, power point presentation was made by Anushree (CPS) on the issue of redefining federalism in the context of per formative politics of the state leaders, followed by another presentation from the Centre, Kunwar Siddarth Dadhwal on Samyukta Maharashtra Movement in India. Next session on Citizenship and Migration, brought out the issues of identities vis-a-vis migration. While Khatija Sana Khader of CIPOD shared her field experience during her research on the Siddi and Hadrami communities of Hyderabad, Anindya Dutt Gupta widened the scope for research on adivasis in eastern India from the perspective of education and labour migration of two communities in West Bengal and Jharkhand. The last session had presenters from CIPOD on the theme of global governance. The first presentation of this session by Vishal Sagar covered three international organisations namely, G7/8, G20 and IMF to interrogate informal groups in global economic governance. The last presentation by Bagisha Suman engaged with the burning issue of political economy of fair trade, citing evidences from India. The students with their power point presentations and pictures from the field, raised significant questions and received feedback for present as well as probable areas for future collaborative research. The next one hour was devoted to engaging discussions with research scholars about their presentations and further steps for research collaboration between the two distinguished Universities- JNU and UoE. The workshop was a great success in terms of exchange of ideas and possibility of inter-connectedness between various themes being worked upon by scholars in both the Universities, to further enrich the discipline of Social Sciences and International Relations.

**Anushree**  
**Ph.D Research Scholar**  
**Centre for Political Studies**

## XIX Antonio Binimelis Memorial Lecture and the Conferment of Awards for Academic Excellence



The XIX Antonio Binimelis Memorial Lecture was organized at the Centre of Spanish, Portuguese, Italian & Latin American Studies on 1 March, 2016. This year's lecture was delivered by Dr. Carlos Varona, Director of Cervantes Institute, New Delhi. The topic of the lecture was *La lengua y la cultura española e hispana en el escenario mundial* and was attended by a large gathering of students, faculty members from JNU, AMU, Jamia Millia Islamia, IGNOU, Instituto Hispania and the representatives of the diplomatic missions of Spanish speaking countries. His Excellency Mr. Méntor Villagómez, Ambassador of Ecuador in New Delhi and Her Excellency Mrs. Magdalena Cruz Yábar, Chargé d' Affaires, Embassy of Spain, New Delhi were the Guests of Honor. Prof. M.

Jagadesh Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University formally welcomed the guests before the lecture and Prof. Rekha V. Rajan, Dean, SLL&CS and Prof. Anil K. Dhingra, Chairperson and Convenor of the program also addressed the gathering. The Rafael Iruzubieta Award for the student securing the highest CGPA in M.A. Spanish consisting of a citation and a cash prize of Rs. 50,000/- was won by Shruti Agnihotri and the Irene Pelaez de Iruzubieta Award consisting of a citation and a cash prize of Rs. 45,000/- was won by Nupur Manasi. The Juhi Prasad Award for the girl student securing the highest CGPA in B.A. Spanish consisting of a citation and a cash prize of Rs. 2,000/- was won by Pavitra Bawa.

The Award winners (Shruti Agnihotri, Nupur Manasi and Pavitra Bawa) with the Guests of Honor H.E.Mr. Méntor Villagómez, Ambassador of Ecuador and H.E. Mrs. Magdalena Cruz, Chargé d' Affaires, Embassy of Spain, New Delhi, Dr. Carlos Varona, Director, Cervantes Institute, New Delhi and Prof. Anil Dhingra, Chairperson, CSPILAS.

**Mayuresh Kumar, PhD Scholar  
Centre of Spanish, Portuguese,  
Italian & Latin American Studies, SIS**

## Beyond Equality: Class and Culture among the Urban Naga Youth from Nagaland

A lecture was delivered by Andreas Kuchle from the Institute of Social Sciences/ Institute for Asian and African Studies at Humboldt-University Berlin, Germany on 7 March, 2016. The title of his presentation was *Beyond Equality: Class and Culture among the Urban Naga Youth from Nagaland*.

Focusing on class, youth and economy in Nagaland, the lecture tried to show that Bourdieu's theory of class reproduction does not generally apply to Nagas. Rather, locality, gender and specific cultural practices have a major influence on class membership. The lecture was based on his own survey results. He showed that the economy in Nagaland is still primarily based

on agriculture, and the private sector continues to play a very minimal role. In this regard, the lecture brought out the contemporary challenges of urban Naga youth. Further, with expansion of higher education, there is also a rise in occupational aspirations beyond the agrarian sector. Out migration of youth was shown as one of its consequences. The lecture ended with an overview of such major challenges of economy and economic transition in Nagaland, and how the Naga youth are trying to cope with such challenges.

**Rakhee Bhattacharya, Associate Professor  
North East India Studies Programme, SIS**

## Two-day National Seminar "POLY-16" organized by the Special Centre for nanosciences

The Special Center for Nanosciences organized a two-day National Seminar "POLY-16" on 9 - 10 March, 2016. It was attended by more than 60 participants drawn from 14-institutions. It was inaugurated by Prof. P. Sen, Rector-II, who

welcomed the participants and gave a brief overview of academic activities of JNU. The speakers were from IIT Madras, IIT Roorkee, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Delhi, Delhi University, DRDO, University of Kalyani, Jamia Millia Islamia, Amity University, and

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JNU. The initial remarks were made by Prof. H. B. Bohidar, Conference Convenor, who elucidated the importance of polymer in soft matter science, biology, and in particular, its emerging applications in medicine. He also drew the attention of the participants to the challenges lying ahead. Dr. A. Ghosh of IIT Delhi was the keynote speaker of the conference. He shared his latest research which was a blend of polymer science and nanoscience. The first invited speaker was Prof. A.K. Mishra of IIT Madras who discussed the fluorescent spectroscopy as a tool to probe the dynamics and kinetics of physicochemical reactions. Prof. K. C. Gupta of IIT Roorkee shed light on the recent advances in polymer chemistry, Dr. D. S. Bag of DRDO, Kanpur introduced and convinced the novel self-healing gels as efficient future material.

The next session was dominated by applications of polymeric materials in the world of electronics, electrochromism, magnetic properties and gas sensing. Dr. Amarjeet Kaur of DU

elucidated some remarkable applications of such smart polymer materials. The use of novel polymer based materials in biology and agricultural sciences is an emerging area of research that promises to hold many novel applications as smart materials; this was the theme of the next session. These aspects were lucidly addressed by Dr. M. Islam of University of Kalyani. The following session was dedicated to the use of polymers in nanotechnology for clinical diagnostic. Dr. Nisha Pawar of IIT Kharagpur described the therapeutic applications of various nanomaterials. Dr. P. R. Solanki of JNU, systematically outlined the possible use of nanotechnology in sensing bioanalytes, cell imaging, and diagnostics.

The next day, Dr. P. Venkateshu of DU proved how the Hoffmester's series was not obeyed while interacting with proteins. Dr. Rajan Patel of Jamia Millia Islamia discussed the broad spectrum use of various ionic liquids in protein properties and enzymatic actions. Dr. Nikesh Gupta of JNU showed the biological invitro and vivo experiments of their core shell and hollow gold nanoparticles. These days witnessed lively, and engaging discussions on multiple facets of polymers in nanotechnology. Three best oral presentation poster prizes were won by Ms. Akansha of DRDO, Kanpur, Ms. Pinki Chakraborty of DU, Ms. Nidhi Joshi of JNU. The Seminar ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. K. Rawat, Co-convenor.

**H. B. Bohidar, Seminar Convenor  
Special Center for Nanoscience**

## Workshop on Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (EPR) Spectroscopy

Advanced Instrumentation Research Facility (AIRF) & DBT-Builder Programme jointly organized a workshop on "Electron Paramagnetic Resonance Spectroscopy" on 11 March, 2016 at AIRF. A new Bruker EMX MicroX EPR spectrometer has been procured by DBT-Builder Programme and has been added to AIRF for the benefit of research scholars from JNU as well as other universities. This facility has diverse applications in all fields of sciences including physical, chemical, life sciences, allied and interdisciplinary fields. A total of 15 Ph.D. students participated in the workshop and benefitted from the lectures delivered by Prof. Jitendra K. Bera, Senior Professor of Chemistry at IIT Kanpur and practical demonstration was carried out by Dr. Veena Singh, IIT Kanpur. Prof. Rajiv Bhat, Co-coordinator, DBT-Builder Programme, Prof. Rakesh K. Tyagi, Director AIRF, Prof. Vibha Tandon & Prof. Pritam Mukhopadhyay, Faculty in-charge of EPR facility, Dr. Akanksha

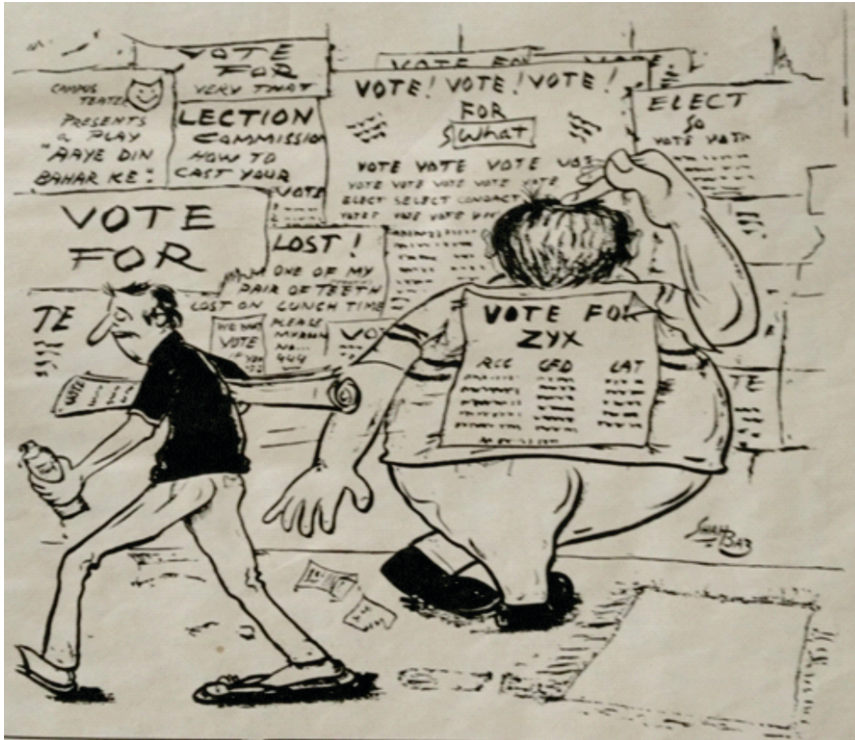


Sharma & Dr. Smita Sundaram, Instrument in-charge were instrumental in conducting the workshop.

**Akanksha Sharma  
Research Associate  
Advanced Instrumentation Research Facility**



# JNU NEWS

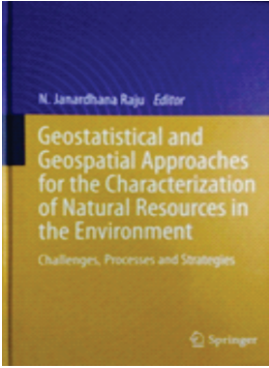


November, 1986



December, 1986 (End Semester Bouncer)

# Our Publications



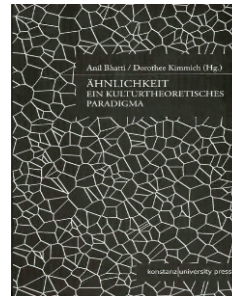
“**Geostatistical and Geospatial Approaches for the Characterization of Natural Resources in the Environment**” **Challenges, Processes and Strategies**, edited by Dr. N. Janardhana Raju, School of Environmental Sciences, Published by Springer International publishing. ISBN No: 978-3-319-18662-7



“**Hamare Samay Ka Sahitya**” Edited by Prof. Devendra Choubey, Centre of Indian Languages, SLL&CS, Published by Praksahan Sansthan, New Delhi, ISBN No: 978-81-7714515-1



“**Sanskrit Studies Vol. 4, Samvat 2071-72 (CE 2014-15)**”, Edited by Prof. C Upender Rao, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, published by D. K. Printworld Pvt. Ltd. ISBN No: 9788124608371.



“**Ähnlichkeit. Ein kulturtheoretisches Paradigma**”, edited by Prof. Anil Bhatti, Professor Emeritus, Centre of German Studies, along with Dorothee Kimmich, Professor for Neure Deutsche Literatur at the University of Tübingen, and published by Konstanz University Press, Konstanz, Germany. ISSN (Print) 0340-4528

# Alumni Corner

## Interview with Prof. Hemant Joshi, Professor & Writer, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Delhi



**Mushtaq:** When and how did your association with JNU start?

**Prof. Joshi:** I came to JNU in 1973 when JNU was in the initial stages and people were not much aware of JNU. I was in

Madhya Pradesh and had my education there. After schooling, I went to IIT-BHU. I was not much interested in engineering so after one year I came to JNU and took admission in integrated course of BA+MA in French language. While giving the Viva in JNU, one of the

Professors named Françoise Bhattacharya suggested that I first complete my BSc and then come to JNU. I said that I did not come here to take her suggestion, and that I had come for admission. After that I thought that I would not get admission there due to my behavior, but surprisingly I got admission and this was my first experience with JNU. They admitted me despite my protest.

**Mushtaq:** What was your first impression of JNU?

**Prof. Joshi:** JNU of that time was very different. There were only 250 to 300 students and the student-teacher ratio was very close. It was initial stage of JNU and was situated



at Ber Sarai which is called 'old campus' now. The land had been allotted to JNU and the new campus was being built. After four month of my admission, I got a room in Kaveri Hostel, the first hostel built in new campus. It was a new starting to my life as well as to the university. It was like a small JNU family with teachers, students and other employees. That was a very unique experience that I had.

### **Mushtaq: How was the political culture of JNU at that time?**

**Prof. Joshi:** There were a lot of political activities. Main students organizations were NSUI, SFI and AISF, but in 1973 a new political group was founded called 'Free Thinkers'. Free Thinkers was basically an anti-left group. It became an umbrella organization of all anti-left forces in JNU. Besides these organizations, there were many other small organizations within left and right. The best thing that was started at that time that is still practiced in JNU was that the elections were not fought on money or muscle power. Posters were made by hand and pasted in the campus. It was very creative.

### **Mushtaq: Were you also involved in politics in JNU?**

**Prof. Joshi:** My political journey there was very unique. I remain affiliated and disaffiliated with different organizations. For a long time, I was a left thinker and a politically driven individual. I used to be involved in heated arguments with many activists. It helped me understand the left politics deeply. And I always felt that there were shortcomings in left politics that needed to be changed. In my Centre also, I was very active and there used to be heated political arguments with my teachers. But it never impacted my academics. It was very interesting that nobody was victimized because of her/his political thinking or activism.

### **Mushtaq: How did your career shape up after JNU?**

**Prof. Joshi:** When I was in the French department, I had bad experiences as well as good experiences. After completing MA in French I felt that I needed to change the Centre and then I took admission in the Linguistics Centre and completed my PhD from there. I had the option of choosing academics or joining any organization as a linguistic expert like statistical institutes etc. When the question of a job arose, I wanted to do something new and drift from the usual field. I was affiliated with the radio from my student days and used to read news on All India Radio. I also used to translate and have translated many books and poetry from French to Hindi. Then I was affiliated with technical translation with Rail India Technical Economic Service Ltd. It was taking contracts in French speaking countries. I was a translator there and also felt that I participated in nation building also. I have learned the languages of journalism, translation and literature as well. After PhD, I applied in JNU, DU and Indian Institute of Mass Communication and I was selected in IIMC. IIMC was my first choice because I thought that I would learn something new there. After that I have been working on the role of language in media. I have not yet written any book on this topic, but I am presently working on one. I will share in this book my thoughts that my experience with media and language have taught me. I have been working here as a researcher all these years and have developed an understanding that I will share in the book.

### **Mushtaq: It is said that JNUites have a passion for social service and they take special interest in it. How much do you agree with this and what is the contribution of JNU to social service?**

**Prof. Joshi:** Responsibility towards society and patriotism are things to be felt from inside. Humans are social beings and they must make a positive contribution to society. When a university is established, the country expects it to become the best university and contribute to nation building. When JNU was established by Indira

## Alumni Corner

Gandhi, it was thought to be a UNESCO acclaimed university. We were not talking only of national recognition, but also of international recognition. The departments of foreign languages and international study were established to connect with the world. Allahabad used to be the centre of IAS aspirants and most of the civil servants used to come out from Allahabad University. Gradually JNU took that place. Today, from diplomacy to national security, bureaucracy to academics, JNU students are serving the nation and the world. JNUites have been facing protests always because of their non-conformist attitude. They are not the people who toe the traditional line, instead they pave their own way and that has been the uniqueness of JNU from the beginning.

**Mushtaq:** How satisfied are you with the JNU of today?

**Prof. Joshi:** JNU is still different and the best when compared to other universities. There is always a need for change and I hope that the university brings in positive

changes that are good for the institution. There is need to increase the quality of teachers. In view of the new situation, there is need for new policies also. JNU has a fine base and it can built a bright future on that base. We cannot seal ourselves from the outside world, but we can save ourselves from the bad things of the world outside.

**Mushtaq:** Any message for the JNU community and especially language students on the basis of your experience.

**Prof. Joshi:** The departments of languages should not be limited to languages. It should connect with the culture, politics and society of that language speaker. Students should not limit themselves to the learning of the language; they should expand their horizon by learning other things. Language is only the medium of learning. Interdisciplinarity has been the specialty of JNU and students should learn in that way. Every subject has its own importance but no subject can progress without associating itself with other subjects.

## Obituary



Shri Giren Chandra Baishya, Mali, Animal House, passed away on Tuesday, 15 March, 2016.

Shri Ved Pal, Office Attendant, Administration Branch-II, passed away on Saturday, 19 March, 2016.

Shri P. Tanti, Mess Helper, Periyar Hostel, passed away on Saturday, 23 April, 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](mailto:pro@mail.jnu.ac.in), [pro@jnu.ac.in](mailto:pro@jnu.ac.in) or [poonamskudaisya@gmail.com](mailto:poonamskudaisya@gmail.com)

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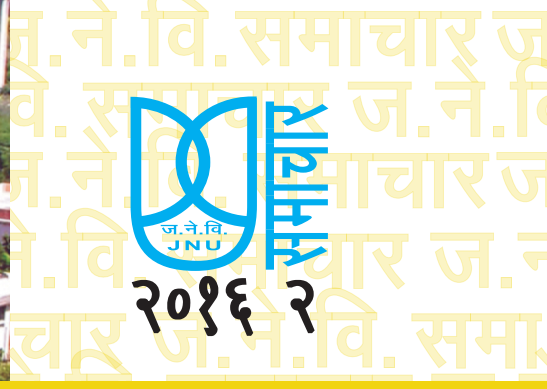
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# Photo Gallery



1. A delegation from Ural Federal University Russia led by Prof. Victor A. Koksharov, Rector, Ural Federal University, Russia and Sergey A Lagutin, Third Secretary Embassy of the Russian Federation visited JNU on 10 March, 2016. Photo shows: Prof. Meeta Narain, Centre of Russian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies; Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Vice Chancellor; Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, Rector; Prof. Victor A. Koksharov, Rector, Ural Federal University, Russia and Sergey A Lagutin, Third Secretary Embassy of the Russian Federation
2. Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences organized a National Seminar on "Ambedkar and Modernity" on 17 - 18 March, 2016. Photo shows: Prof. V. Sujatha, Chairperson, Centre for the Study of Social System, SSS; Prof. T. K. Oommen, Professor Emeritus; Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Vice Chancellor with others invited Guests and faculty members.
3. An MoU was signed between JNU and All India State Bank officers Federation and its affiliate Organizations on 21 March, 2016. Photo shows: Prof. Archana Prasad, Centre for Informal Sector & Labour Studies, SSS; Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Vice Chancellor; Dr. Hanuman Sharma, Controller of Examination with an Officer of All India State Bank.
4. NSS, JNU organized a lecture-cum-health talk on "Tobacco related diseases: Prevention and cure" by Prof. (Dr.) K. Shrinath Reddy, Eminent Cardiologist & President, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) on 4 April, 2016. Photo shows: Dr. Anil Kumar Singh, NSS Coordinator; Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Vice Chancellor; and Prof. (Dr.) Shrinath Reddy, Eminent Cardiologist & President, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI).
- 5&6. विश्वविद्यालय के उद्यान विभाग को 28 मार्च, 2016 को विभिन्न उद्यानों तथा गमलों की सजावट हेतु पुरस्कार प्रदान किये गये। फोटो में: उद्यान विभाग के माली, कर्मचारी एवं जनेवि के अन्य पदाधिकारी।





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. A 4 member delegation led by Prof. Jean-Francois Pinton, President, ENS de Lyon from Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France visited JNU on 13 April, 2016. Photo shows: Prof. Varun Sahni, Chief Advisor, International Collaboration; Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, Rector and Prof. Jean-Francois Pinton, President, ENS de Lyon from Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France along with members of delegation.
8. A delegation led by Prof. Abdul Tawab Balakarzai, Vice Chancellor, Kandhar University Afghanistan visited JNU on 25 April, 2016. Photo shows: Prof. Varun Sahni, Chief Advisor, International Collaboration; Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, Rector and members of delegation.
9. School of International Studies & Centre for Study of Society & Secularism, Mumbai, organized Sixth Dr. Asghar Ali Engineer Memorial Lecture on "Dr. Ambedkar and Democracy" by Prof. Christophe Jafferlot, Professor, Indian Politics & Sociology, King's India Institute, London, and Research Director, Centre national de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris, on 28 April, 2016. Photo shows: Prof. Anuradha M. Chenoy, Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies, SIS; Prof. Gopal Guru, Professor, Centre for Political Studies, SSS and Dr. Irfan Ali Engineer, Director, Centre for Study of Society & Secularism, Mumbai.
10. The Alumni Association of JNU (AAJ) welcomed its new patron - JNU's Vice Chancellor, Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar and bid farewell to its previous patron, Prof. Sudhir K. Sopory, former VC, JNU on 29 April, 2016. Photo shows: Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Vice Chancellor and Prof. Sudhir K. Sopory with Members of AAJ.



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

